

# REPORTER

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Locally owned and independently operated.

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## Healthcare challenges continue

*Long-term trends in the labor market and a surge in demand make it hard to meet growing demand for care*

Leaders from across MaineHealth, northern New England largest integrated health care network, said recently that they expect capacity challenges for the region's healthcare industry to persist in the months ahead and asked for understanding from patients and support from the community and policy makers.

Andrew Mueller, MD, chief executive of MaineHealth, said much of the challenge can be traced to a workforce shortage that has been building for some time, and he talked at length about the need to train more clinical professionals. He also said other factors are making it harder for health care providers to keep up with demand at this time.

"We're still battling, just a really hot pandemic. We're seeing the largest numbers of hospitalized patients since the pandemic began, right now," said Mueller.

In addition, Mueller said, many patients who understandably delayed care are now arriving at MaineHealth hospitals much sicker, putting greater demand on the organization's care team. Mueller also noted that the ongoing labor shortage is not just impacting MaineHealth, but health care organizations across the region. That in turn is making it hard to transition patients out of the hospital to skilled nursing facilities and to behavioral health facilities.

Mueller said that, while departures from the health care workforce over the state of Maine requirement to be vaccinated against COVID-19 will have some impact in the short-term, the real challenge is with overall long-term trends in the labor

*(Continued on page 12)*



The Bonny Eagle Girls' Cross Country Team came in first place at the Southern Maine Regional Cross Country Championship on Oct. 23. From left are the seniors, Hannah Stevens, Delaney Hesler and Emmaline Pendleton. (See related SPORTS story on Page 7) COURTESY PHOTO



Seven-year-old Audree Coolidge, tying up her scarecrow at a scarecrow-making event held in Porter on Oct. 17. (See related story on Page 6) PHOTO BY CYNTHIA MATTHEWS



Sarah Castle was recently selected for Smithsonian National Zoo Teacher Advisory Council. COURTESY PHOTO

## Local teacher to work with Smithsonian National Zoo

BY JOANNE BARGIONI

Sarah Castle of Waterboro is "super excited" to be selected to participate in the Smithsonian National Zoo Teacher Advisory Council. Castle teaches at Sanford Pride Elementary School as a Resource teacher and Special Education teacher. She has been educating children for 30 years and has spent the last six years at Pride Elementary, (formerly Willard Elementary).

The Smithsonian National Zoo Advisory Council says "it takes professional development to the wild side!" The Zoo was seeking new members to serve on the Teacher Advisory Council beginning in the fall of 2021. The 2021 - 2022 Council was expanded to include educators nationwide for grades pre-K to eight. Members of The Smithsonian National Zoo Teacher Advisory Council serve for a period of one year and will participate in four virtual council meetings in November, February, May and August. They will serve in an advisory role to assist with the development of new education programs and resources and help create the next generation of scientists and conservationists. Castle will share feedback about activities and materials with Zoo educators. She will act as the Zoo

*(Continued on page 11)*

**Spectrum is hiring!**  
Customer service representatives  
for our Spectrum Mobile department!

**Start Date: December 7**  
Apply at [jobs.spectrum.com](https://jobs.spectrum.com) or Text "REP" to 97211  
**HIRING EVENT** at 901 Washington Ave., Portland  
**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 3 from 10am-7pm**

**PAID TRAINING:** 5 weeks, Tuesday-Saturday 11 a.m.-7:30 p.m. • **STARTING PAY:** \$18.00/hour, plus shift differential for shifts that start after 11 a.m.  
**BENEFITS:** Medical, Dental, Vision, 401 K w/ 6% company match, Retirement plan, Discounted employee cable, internet & phone package (must live in service footprint), Accrued paid vacation, personal days, annual paid holidays, accrued paid sick time, and annual tuition reimbursement of \$5,250.

# Community Calendar

EMAIL NON-PROFIT EVENT LISTINGS TO: NEWS@WATERBOROREPORTER.COM



**THE HAUNTING THE PARSONSFIELD SEMINARY** "Dead and Breakfast" Oct. 29 & 30 from 6:30-9 p.m. (last arrival). Located at 504 North Road (160 S) Parsonsfeld. Cost is \$20. Ages 12 and under are \$5. Masks are required.

**THE LIGHTING OF THE PUMPKINS & TRUNK OR TREAT** Shapleigh Recreation Committee is holding their annual Shapleigh Community Lighting of the Pumpkins and "Trunk

or Treat" on Friday, Oct. 29 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Shapleigh Commons on Back Road. The committee is also looking for pre-wrapped candy donations. To sign up for a "trunk" email shapleighrecreation@gmail.com. This is a free event and all community members are encouraged to bring your carved pumpkins to Shapleigh Commons, or come to view the jack-o-lanterns, and enjoy music, fun, decoration, and lots of treats.

**TRUNK OR TREAT** Saturday, Oct. 30 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at Curtis Lake Church, 38 Westview Drive, Sanford. Curtis Lake's annual Trunk or Treat event on the night BEFORE Halloween. Our parking lot will be decked out with decorated trunks with loads and LOADS of candy.

**TRUNK OR TREAT** Come get lots of candy and explore a huge variety of brilliantly decorated trunks at the Hollis Trunk or Treat 2021 on Oct. 31 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. The church is located at 388 Hollis Road, Hollis Center.

**FLIGHT OR FRIGHT** at Pilots Cove Cafe on the Sanford Airport this Halloween, Oct. 31 from 2-4 p.m. Kids can enjoy a trip out onto the tarmac to trick or treat from airplane, to biplane, to helicopter, to gyrocopter and more! Meet some local pilots, see some very cool aircraft and give the kids a memory they won't forget! 199 Airport Road, Sanford.

## COMING EVENTS

**THE ORIGINALS PRESENT MRS. MANNERLY**, a comedy by Jeffrey Hatcher, Oct. 28, 29, 30. Saco River Theatre, 29 Salmon Falls Road, Bar Mills. Tickets \$15 at www.sacorivertheatre.org.

**TAKE-OUT BAKED BEAN & CHOP SUEY SUPPER - LAST ONE FOR 2021** The First Congregational Church is hosting a take-out baked bean supper on Saturday, October 30th, the last one for 2021, from 4:30-6:00pm at the church, 141 North St., Kennebunkport. Church volunteers will offer two types of home baked beans, American Chop Suey, hot dogs, rolls, and cole slaw, topped off with a slice of homemade pie. Church members are hoping that everyone will enjoy the meals as they have in the past, but safely at home. Exact change is required: adults and children age 12 and up \$8.00 per person, and children under 12 \$5.00 per child. For more information, you may call the church office on Tuesdays at 967-3897 or visit www.firstchurchkennebunkport.org.

**CROCKFEST** The Acton Public Library will be hosting their 6th Annual Crockfest on Saturday, Nov. 6, from 5 to p.m. at Barn Lights, 189 Hopper Road in Acton. If you would like to enter your favorite chili or chowder recipes, just fill in the Crockfest Registration form at www.acton.lib.me.us and register by Oct. 26. Forms and payments can be mailed to the library, 35 H Road, Acton, ME 04001, or drop it off in person. Registration fee is \$20 and the prize for the best dish is \$50. If you prefer to eat and judge

the contest the fee is \$8 with a maximum of \$30 per family. Tickets for eating and judging will be available at the door.

**A VETERANS REMEMBRANCE** Sanford Maine Stage Theatre will present "a salute to our veterans in song" on Thursday, Nov. 11 at 7 p.m. The performance will be held at the Nason Theatre, 457 Main Street in Springvale. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Performers will sing the songs of the American Revolutionary War, the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korean Conflict, Vietnam, and the ending of the Afghanistan War. All veterans who can, should wear either their uniform or their military hat. This is an evening of remembrance... We thank you for your service! By donation only.

**WATERBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY FESTIVAL OF TREES** at the Grange Hall at 31 West Road in Waterboro on Nov. 19, 20, 26 and 27 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Nov. 21 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Nov. 28 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Over 20 area businesses are donating fully decorated, pre-lit Christmas trees with an abundance of unwrapped gifts underneath. After paying a \$2 donation to get in (children 12 and under are FREE), you will have the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets: \$1 each; \$15 for 20 tickets (.75 each); \$30 for 50 tickets (.60 each); \$55 for 100 tickets (.55 each); or \$100 for 200 tickets (just .50 each). The more tickets you buy, the less each ticket costs, and the more chances you have to win a tree! Drop a ticket (or several) into the bucket in front of any tree you are interested in winning! If your ticket is drawn on the final Sunday, you win the tree with all of its decorations and all of the gifts underneath! There will be trees with kids gifts, outdoor gifts, games, camping gear, patriotic items, and so much more!

## ONGOING EVENTS

**KNOW SOMEONE IN PRISON OR JAIL?** "Individuals don't go to prison alone, their families go also." Rose's Room is a support group for family and friends of incarcerated loved ones, where everyone is welcomed, loved, and equally respected! Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 6:30 - 8 p.m. in Sanford/Springvale location, Bishop Cote Hall, 10 Payne Street, Springvale (Facebook at "Rose's Room").

Massabesic Lions monthly dine-in or take-out **BEAN SUPPER** the 2nd Saturday of every month, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Lions Regional Medical Center building, 813 Main Street, Waterboro. Adults \$8. Children 5 to 12 \$5, 4 and under No Charge. Kidney and Pea Beans, Chop Suey, Ham, Hot Dogs, Coleslaw, "Our Homemade" Biscuits, variety of yummy Desserts.

The Acton- Shapleigh Lion's Club **MONTHLY PANCAKE BREAKFAST** the first Saturday of every month. The price is \$7, which includes pancakes (plain or blueberry), scrambled eggs, sausages, toast, orange juice, beans, and coffee, tea, and milk. The breakfast will be served from 8 to 9:30 a.m. at the Acton Town Hall, 35 H Road. All are welcome.

Buxton Centre Baptist Church, 938 Long Plains Road, Buxton, weekly **SOUPER SENIORS SOCIAL**. Gather for conversation, cribbage, puzzles, and other games, every Monday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with a free lunch served at 11:30 a.m. Adults of all ages are welcome. Masks are not required, but we encourage people to be considerate of the health of others.

The Sanford Unitarian Church will be bringing back their monthly **CORNER CUPBOARD** held on the third Saturday of every month. This is a non-food, essential item pantry from 10 a.m. until noon at 5 Lebanon Street, Sanford. We ask that you please wear a mask and bring your own bag.

**NOTICE TOWN OF SHAPLEIGH**  
Shapleigh Town Hall will be closed for **VETERANS DAY** **THURSDAY, November 11th**

**STORE OPEN 7 DAYS**  
**5:30 A.M. to 8 P.M.**  
Kitchen closes at 7:30 P.M.

**24-HOUR GAS, DIESEL & OFF-ROAD DIESEL**

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FOR DOGS AND CATS

FREE\* vaccines for pets over 12 weeks of age  
\*Donations are encouraged

All pets **MUST** be leashed or in a carrier.

**All are welcome!**

To receive a 3-year vaccine, you must bring your pet's previous rabies certificate or vet records with you. Otherwise, your pet will receive a 1-year vaccine.

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 6th**  
9 am - 12 pm  
**LYMAN TOWN HALL**

FMI: (207) 292-2424
11 S. Waterboro Rd. Lyman

## LETTERS

**Historical society rebuilding the past**

The Arundel Historical Society has been busy during the pandemic as we work on the Burnham farmhouse to rebuild and restore it to its 1790's vintage. The building is a center chimney cape with a two-story addition. It was relocated to the Society's "North Chapel Common" site in 2012. The sills, joists, and sub-floor of the main house and the "el" were replaced in 2018-20 at considerable expense financed with money raised through our events and other fundraisers as well as generous donations from our supporters. The roof and colonial trim along the eaves and gable ends were replaced this August with the materials and labor donated by Weirs Motors and Zuke Roofing. We are enormously grateful for those donations as well as the expertise and professionalism on the part of Bob Zuke and his crew, including Roger Laflamme.

As we get into fall, the AHS will be hosting a few events and we ask for your support so we can continue our efforts. We will be participating in the KKA Chamber of Commerce Halloween Drive-thru at Weirs Motors on Friday, Oct. 29 from 4 to 6 p.m. Halloween treats [no tricks!] will be handed out to children as they

go by. On Election Day, Nov. 2, the Society will continue our Bake Sale tradition at Town Hall from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 27, brings us to Weirs Motors once again as we participate in the KKA Chamber of Commerce "Pajama Shopping Day." From 8 a.m. until noon we will host a bake sale, plant sale, and White Elephant sale. Some of our favorite crafters will also be in attendance. Our "Reindeer Games Raffle" tickets will be available at all of these events, so if you haven't had a chance yet to "take a chance," we can help you out then!

As always, we look forward to seeing you and appreciate your support.

— Jake Hawkins, President of the Arundel Historical Society

**Thanks to Sen. Collins**

It was recently announced by Senator Susan Collins' office that she was able to secure \$4.6 million in funding in the Fiscal Year 2022 Labor Appropriations bill to support training for jobs in heritage Maine industries like logging, seafood manufacturing, agriculture and wind energy industries.

If the budget bill is approved, nearly \$1 million of the funding is earmarked for Southern Maine Community College to help the campus acquire a mobile welding training lab for use at all seven community colleges.

Considering the growing need for welders, this would be a tremendous investment. We need more skilled workers in Maine, and to make that happen, we need investments like this one. Please join me in thanking Senator Collins for her support.

— David Woodsome  
Maine State Senate District 33

**WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?**

Write to us at:  
[news@waterboro-reporter.com](mailto:news@waterboro-reporter.com)

**Online burn permits now free of charge**

LD 268, "An Act To Eliminate Online Burn Permit Fees for All Areas of the State," sponsored by Senator Jim Dill, took effect at midnight on Sunday, Oct. 17, when open burning permits obtained online became free of charge. The online burn permit system is made possible by the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's Maine Forest Service. Burn permits are available at [www.maine-burnpermit.com](http://www.maine-burnpermit.com), required by law, and are valid for 24 hours. Handwritten burn permits may also be obtained through local fire departments and town offices.

**Common Open Burn Permit Questions**

*Why are Maine's open burn permits limited to 24 hours?*

The daily fire danger rating ([www.maine-fireweather.org](http://www.maine-fireweather.org)) could change after 24 hours, and online burn permits become invalid if the fire danger rating becomes high, very high, or extreme. Fewer days of burning will also lower the number of escaped debris burns. Escaped debris burns are the state's top cause of wildfires.

*Why can I only burn after 5 pm and before 9 am unless it's raining?*

Over 90% of all wildfires in Maine occur between 9 am and 5 pm when the temperatures are warmest, the wind picks up, and the relative humidity drops. Since the "wait to burn until after 5 pm" policy was enacted, there has been a significant decrease in escaped debris burns. It is unlawful to allow your brush pile to burn

between 9 am and 5 pm unless there is steady rain or the ground is completely covered by snow.

*Can I request an online burn permit on a Wednesday for the upcoming weekend?*

No, you have 24 hours to complete your burn. This requirement is because the weather could change, and the predicted class day could increase high fire danger.

*Can I still get a handwritten burn permit from my local Town Fire Warden at no cost?*

The online burn permit system was designed to provide a convenient way to obtain a burn permit from your computer or cell phone. You can still get a handwritten burn permit from your local Town Fire Warden for free. If you live in an unorganized township, you can obtain a handwritten burn permit from the nearest Maine Forest Ranger station or Regional office without charge.

*Can this system be used to request campfire permits for authorized permit sites?*

No, this system is only for burning brush, wood debris, and grass/agricultural fields. Contact the nearest Maine Forest Service Regional office for information on obtaining campfire permits.

*Do I still need to have a hard copy of the online burn permit at the burn site?*

Not having a printed and authorized permit at the burn violates title 12 S 9321.

*What if I am unsure of what is allowable to burn in my burn pile?*

The guidance for allowable open burning in Maine is posted on the Maine Forest Service website. Please refer to the webpage

or call the Maine Forest Service or your local fire department for more information. In general, you cannot burn trash, paint, metal, plastic, or pressure-treated wood (i.e., anything that creates unhealthy smoke).

## BRIEFS

**College news**

Sofie F. Irons, of Limerick, was named to second honors on the Clark University Dean's List. This selection marks outstanding academic achievement during the Spring 2021 semester.

The following local students were named to the University of Maine at Fort Kent Dean's List for the Spring 2021 semester, including full-time and part-time students: Mary-Jo Smith of Waterboro; Cerissa Robinson of Buxton; Natasha McCrum of Lyman; Julie Shea of Hiram; Patricia Conway and Allison Laverriere of Dayton; Kaela Godwin of Sanford; Erica St. Cyr of Springvale; Jennifer Gray of Lebanon and Kristen Poore of North Berwick.

The following local students were named to the Spring 2021 Dean's List at Husson University: Stephanie Howe of Limerick, enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Paralegal Studies program; Daniel R. Hess of Hollis Center, enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Audio Engineering with a concentration in music production program; and Bailey Marie Miller of Dayton, enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

## EMPLOYMENT

**Northern Light Home Care & Hospice** has per diem opportunities for RNs and LPNs to support our COVID and Flu Immunization Clinics in multiple locations throughout the state.

Visit [northernlighthealth.org/careers](http://northernlighthealth.org/careers) or text "Clinics" to 207-506-0033 for more information.

 Northern Light Health

**Town of Acton Nomination Papers**

Nomination papers for the following seat will be available in the Town Clerk's office beginning at 3:00pm on Thursday, October 28, 2021 and must be returned no later than 4:00pm on Friday, November 12, 2021 with a minimum of 25, but no more than 100 signatures of registered Acton voters.

The election will be held on  
**Tuesday, December 14th, 2021**

Board of Selectmen, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor  
Term to Expire June 2024  
(Edward Walsh's resignation)

Questions regarding nomination papers should be directed to the Town Clerk @636-3131, ext 401 or [jroux@actonmaine.org](mailto:jroux@actonmaine.org)

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## ALFRED

Allison Williams

awilliams@waterbororeporter.com  
324-5823

### Selectmen's Meeting of Oct. 12

The three selectmen were present plus Fred Holt, Jim Allaire and Joyce Wood. Meeting was called to order and then into executive session at 3:03 to discuss Personnel Matter, to discuss applications and interviews for applicants for the position of Administrative Assistant. At 3:18 p.m. meeting called out of order. All were in agreement to wait for Mr. Palminteri before making a final determination on a candidate. The meeting was reconvened at 3:30 and after a brief discussion a motion was made to hire the candidate with the most municipal experience, Karla Bergeron Wilcox. Second was made by Rich Pasquini and all voted in favor. An engagement letter was approved and signed by the Board.

The board reviewed the October 5, 2021 minutes of the selectmen's meeting and all voted to accept them as presented. Mr. Pasquini moved to accept and sign the warrants as submitted. All voted in favor and they were signed by all. Motion was made by Mr. Dochtermann to accept and appropriate funds as submitted by the treasurer. A \$100 donation to the Brothers Beach Committee was submitted and all voted in favor.

Under old business Mr. Pasquini reported he is continuing the process of reviewing and making potential changes to the ordinances pertaining to town road acceptance. Under new business quotes from Atlantic Leasing on cost of pump replacement and options for the cylinder were discussed. After discussion a motion was made to purchase the pump and repair the cylinder. All voted in favor.

The Town Clerk's and Tax Collector's end of month reports were read. After explanation of a tax abatement a motion was made to approve and sign as submitted, and the forms were signed by all. The supplemental Tax Warrants were also reviewed and signed. After explanation the CRS Community Certification on all new buildings and substantial improvements constructed in the flood hazard area submitted by the Code Officer Jim Allaire were approved by all.

At 4 p.m. Bids were opened for Map 2, Lot 4-B. Gerard Bergeron was present. Two sealed bids were given to the Chair and then to other board members who read them aloud. The bid from Nellie Bergeron was \$1,400 and from William and Joan Roberts was \$1,000. All agreed the final decision would be made at the next night's meeting.

Two residents met with the board with concerns/complaints about barking dogs, increase in trash and rats. The matter was discussed with the code officer. The selectmen agreed to look further into this. The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

### Selectmen's Meeting of Oct. 13

The three selectmen, also Fred Holt and Joyce Wood, were present at the October 13 selectman's meeting. Fred Holt presented the specs for the summer mowing. After the board reviewed and after final discussion a motion was made and seconded to approve the specs as written and to place the notice to bid on the contract in the paper for two weeks and to place on the town's web site. Two bids for town property, Map 2, Lot 4-B, which were opened at the October 12 meeting, were discussed. A motion was made to accept the bid for \$1,400 given by Nellie P (Roberts) Bergeron and to move forward with the deed transfer.

Three solid waste contracts that have been in process for a time were presented by Fred Holt. Some questions were discussed. Motion made by Mr. Dochtermann, seconded by Mr. Pasquini to approve and sign all contracts as written. ECOMaine for Waste Handling Agreement, ECOMaine for Recycling Services Agreement and Troiano Waste Services for Containerized Waste Disposal. All voted in favor and the contracts were signed.

Letters to all applicants to the position of Administrative Assistant were approved and signed.

Dave Shorette, Purdy Powers & Company, CPA, met with the board to go over the Audit Re-

port for the year ending June 30, 2021. Details on highlight items were discussed by Mr. Shorette, questions answered and reviewed the letter to the selectboard.

### Here and there

The Masons held a ham supper this past week-end to benefit the Old Corner Church at the corner of West Road and Federal Street. Many people attended and enjoyed a very delicious meal.

Ray Graber reports he saw a young bull moose down by Shaker Pond. The huge flock of geese continues to visit Shaker Pond so they apparently are not yet ready to fly South.

## LYMAN

### Swim lessons starting Nov. 1 at YMCA

Lyman Parks and Rec is offering swim lessons in conjunction with the Sanford-Springvale YMCA starting the week of Nov. 1 with registrations now open.

Cost is \$35 per child, once a week for 7 weeks. There are lesson times on Mondays and Wednesday evenings as well as a parent-child class on Wednesday. For more info, email [parksandrec@lyman-me.gov](mailto:parksandrec@lyman-me.gov) for an application, that you will mail in with payment to Sanford-Springvale YMCA, 1 Emile Levasseur Drive, Sanford.

## NEWFIELD

C.J. Pike

fudgecupboard@yahoo.com  
793-8760

### Drive-thru supper at historical society

Newfield Historical Society at 64 Elm Street, Newfield, will have a Drive-thru supper with homemade corn chowder or chili, salad and dessert for just \$8 per person. This is a drive-thru only supper on Saturday, Nov. 6, from 4 to 6 p.m. Proceeds to go towards heating and electricity bills.

### Happy birthday!

Birthday wishes go out this week to Julian Michael Smith, and Karen Tarbox.

### Meetings

Newfield firefighters work session Nov. 2 at the Public Safety Building, 85 Water Street at 7 p.m.

The Comprehensive Planning Board monthly meeting Nov. 3 at the West Newfield Town Hall at 23 So. Effingham Road, at 7 p.m.

Newfield Planning Board Nov. 3 at the West Newfield Town Hall at 23 So. Effingham Road, at 8 p.m. following the comprehensive planning board meeting.

Northern York County Rod and Gun Club will meet Nov. 5 at the clubhouse at Lewis Hill Road; the directors will meet at 6:30 p.m. and members will meet at 7:30 p.m.

## ACTON

### Halloween Pet Parade

Grand Paws Pet Salon, 16 Mann Road, Shapleigh and Life-Stage Productions, 275 Sam Page Road, in Acton are sponsoring a Halloween Pet Parade and Costume Contest on Oct. 31 at 11 a.m. in Friendship Park (beside the Acton tennis courts) directly across from 259 Sam Page Road. Prizes for 1st and 2nd place will be awarded. For more information, contact Terry Minihan at [tminihan@gmail.com](mailto:tminihan@gmail.com).

### Pop Up Shop

South Acton Baptist Church, 803 Milton Mills Road is holding a Pop up Shop with free used toys and games on Saturday, Nov. 6, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. If you have something to donate you can contact Terry Minihan via Facebook or email at [tminihen@gmail.com](mailto:tminihen@gmail.com) or call 603-817-8610 prior to the event.

- By Joanne Bargioni

## TOWN OF ALFRED

### Voting Location Change

For the November 2, 2021 General Election, the Town of Alfred will be voting at **OAK STREET BISTRO** located at 3 Oak Street in Alfred. Polls will be open from 8AM-8PM

## TOWN OF ALFRED

### PUBLIC HEARING

NOVEMBER 9, 2021 - 4:30 P.M.

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held at the Alfred Town Hall, County of York, State of Maine at 4:30 P.M. on Tuesday, November 9, 2021 in accordance with Title 30, Sec 2451-2460, M.R.S.A. Said hearing being on the 2022 permit applications for the following owners to operate or maintain automobile junkyards/scrap metal yards:

- Daney's Auto Salvage - Swetts Bridge Road
- J&J Auto Salvage - Jordan Springs Road
- Morin Steel - Stone Road
- Airtech Management - Mountain Road
- Roland's Motor Sales, Inc. - Sanford Road
- Jalbert's Auto Sales - Mountain Road

Any persons having any objections to the granting or issuance of said permits shall appear and show just cause.

Board of Selectmen, Town of Alfred

**TOWN OF LYMAN**  
Notice of scheduled Public Hearing  
Lyman Board of Selectman  
11 South Waterboro Road, Lyman, ME 04002  
The Lyman Board of Selectman will hold a public hearing on **Monday, November 8, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.** to be followed by the regular meeting of the Board of Selectman.  
The public hearing is to present information and to allow for public comment regarding remote participation/zoom for public hearings and meetings.

**REPORTER**  
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# Vote Yes on Question 1 to Ban CMP's Corridor

## It's a Bad Deal for Maine

Nearly all the power goes to Massachusetts

Mainers get as little as 9 cents off their monthly bill

Maine's leading environmental groups oppose CMP's Corridor

CMP's Corridor would clear-cut 53 miles of undeveloped forest

### The Facts About Question 1 & CMP's Corridor

80,000 Mainers put Question 1 on the ballot to ban CMP's Corridor.

It doesn't give politicians new power.

It's only retroactive to the time CMP signed an illegal lease in 2014.



**Voting Yes on Question 1 Bans CMP's Corridor**  
**Voting No on Question 1 Lets CMP Build Its Corridor**

Paid for by Mainers for Local Power, 84 Marginal Way, Suite 600, Portland, Maine 04101

# Making scarecrows

By CYNTHIA MATTHEWS

On Sunday, Oct. 17, the Sacopee Valley Health Center (SVHC) Community Outreach Committee provided frames, hay for stuffing, and a huge selection of hats, scarves, shirts, jackets, vests, skirts, dresses, pants, gloves, ties and more to for local kids to make their own scarecrows on the lawn of the Porter Town Hall. The Health Center sponsored the event, "trying to focus on being active, and getting outside," said Committee Member and President of the SVHC Board of Directors, Judy Ingram of Parsonsfield.

The Riverside Methodist Church Men's Group made the original frames for the scarecrows, and Chris Rand from SVHS Maintenance makes sure the frames are ready to be used again each year. The various items for "dressing" the scarecrows come from the Clothing Barn at the Riverside Methodist Church. "They are items that didn't sell or there were duplicates," Ingram explained. The hay for the "stuffing" was donated by Connie Wood from West Farm. Participants were asked to bring a milk jug for the head/face.

"We learn something new every year," said Sandy Tate of Hiram, SVHC Board and Community Outreach Committee member. "The first year, pumpkins were used for the heads," Tate explained, "but they were too heavy

and fell off/over. Milk jugs work great!" And for years, the hats often blew off. "We learned to staple them to the milk jugs," said Tate. They also learned not to put too much hay into the "bodies" of the scarecrows. "When it rains, the hay gets wet and heavy, and causes the scarecrow to fall over," Tate added.

For Calvin Rivard, 7, of Porter, this was his 2nd event. Calvin added a scarf to his scarecrow, since winter is coming. "I wanted him to be silly," he said.

This was not Audree Coolidge's first scarecrow. Audree, 7, from Parsonsfield, picked out a fall dress and declared, "This is going to be me!"

Gordon Leavitt, 9, of Parsonsfield has been coming every year. This year, he wanted to make a friendly scarecrow, and a safe one, so his scarecrow has a mask. Gordon added a bit of tape on the mask on the chin, "cuz like masks at school, they can fall down."

Another young man made a "masked monster" scarecrow, using a mask on the head of his scarecrow, and his sister made a scarecrow bride.

This was the 15th year of the Scarecrows on Parade event. Unfortunately, the Health Center was not able to hold the event last year, and was so happy to be back again this year. There were not as many kids coming out as there have been in years past. That may have



9-year-old Gordon Leavitt stuffing his scarecrow at a scarecrow-making event held in Porter on Oct. 17. Above, the scarecrows 'on parade' in front of Porter Town Hall. PHOTOS BY CYNTHIA MATTHEWS

been due to COVID and missing last year, or it may be because the event was held on the raindate, Sunday, rather than on Saturday, as originally scheduled. In any case, it was a fun event for all involved. Scarecrows on Parade will be on display at the Porter Town Hall at least until Halloween, if not a little after. When they do come down, all materials

will be recycled, or will go back to next year's scarecrow stash. "The Town has been happy to have them up," said Ingram, "and we appreciate them for allowing us to use their front lawn."

If you want to see the Scarecrows on Parade, take a drive out to the Porter Town Hall, across from Sacopee Valley Health Center, at 71 Main Street, Porter.

(See additional photo on Page 1)

# SPORTS



## FOOTBALL

### Gridiron gang bounces Biddo 26-14 win punches playoff ticket

Massabesic's varsity football team spoiled Biddeford's senior night festivities with a solid 26-14 win on Friday, Oct. 22. The win pushed the Mustangs record to 2-6 and gave them the seventh seed in their nine-team South B division. The 1-7 Tigers took the final playoff slot. Biddeford led 14-12, but quarterback Collin Scully hooked up with Jake Raymond (five catches for 134 yards) on a 40-yard TD pass to put the Mustangs ahead to stay. Scully, who passed for 198 yards, sealed the win with a late 7-yard touchdown run. Sean Wakefield ran for a touchdown and had 10 tackles on defense. Ethan Masse had seven tackles.

The Mustangs are scheduled to visit #2 Kennebunk (6-2) for a first round playoff game on Friday, Oct. 29. The Rams beat Massabesic 47-7 on Oct. 15.

- By Michael DeAngelis

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# SPORTS

## CROSS COUNTRY

### Scots third at XC regional

Bonny Eagle's men turned in their best performance ever at a regional cross country meet with a third place spot at the annual regional championships held Saturday, Oct 23 in Cumberland. Portland was first with 99 points and neighbor S. Portland was second with 111. The Scots posted 120, well ahead of fourth place Marshwood at 165. Senior Andrew Sirois was the top finisher for the Scots, coming in 12th place. Sophomore Tyler Gilbert was 17th and classmate Rowan McDonald was 22nd. Another sophomore Xavier Lemieux was 25th and freshman Harrison Dunne was 44th. Head coach TJ Hesler was thrilled with the performance: "A great day for Bonny Eagle with the girls first and the boys...pretty sure their

best finish ever." The Scots will head to Belfast Saturday, Oct. 30 for the state championships.

### Cloutier solid at XC regional Mustangs 10th

Luke Cloutier ran a 17:49.78, good for 13th place at the annual cross county regional championships held Saturday, Oct. 23 in Cumberland. The Mustangs finished in 10th place from among the 17 competing schools and Cloutier's time was better than 103 other starters. Ian Sampson, a junior, chipped in with an 18th place finish for Massabesic. The top 30 finishers (Cloutier and Sampson among them) and top seven schools will compete on Saturday in Belfast for the state title.

— By Michael DeAngelis



**A team effort**

The Bonny Eagle Girls' and Boys' Cross Country Teams with coaches at the Southern Maine Regional Cross Country Championship on Oct. 23. The girls were first and the boys were third. COURTESY PHOTO

## CROSS COUNTRY

### Lady Scots dominate XC regional

By MICHAEL DEANGELIS  
Sports Editor

Delaney Hesler was first and teammates Abby Thibodeau (2nd) and Emmaline Pendleton (3rd) followed close behind, lifting Bonny Eagle's cross county team to a dominant win at the Southern Maine Regional Cross County Championships held Saturday, Oct. 23 at the Twin Brook Recreation Park in Cumberland.

The Scots were heavy favorites entering, having crushed the field in just about every regional or state event over the last few seasons. Hesler, a senior, led the pack with an 18:52.82 and sophomore Thibodeau finished in 19:40.12. Pendleton, also a senior, was seven seconds behind Thibodeau, but the trio had no one else

join them in the under 20-minute club on the rugged course in Cumberland. Nearly 100 participated.

Head coach Mike Bursleson liked what he saw and was asked if it was as easy as the results looked, "we've been led by our three seniors and they've been excellent, but our sophomores, everyone, is just super right now and when we run like this, well, yes they're making it seem easy."

The Scots finished with a stunning and puny 27 points. Marshwood was well back with 71 and Falmouth was third with 119. Bonny Eagle brought the maximum allowable amount of runners to the event: seven; with the rules allowing for counting five of the seven runners. The Scots would still have taken home the gold without the services of both Hesler and Thibodeau as their back five

runners were superb like the rest of the unit. Senior Hannah Stevens was 10th, sophomore Meseret Day was 11th, sophomore Allie Hesler was 12th and sophomore Kallie Warner was 23rd.

Hesler, whose dad coaches the boys varsity cross country unit that took bronze and whose sister Allie was 12th spoke about the family feeling. "It's fun to have Allie there, and dad, the whole team is a family. We obviously want to win regionals and state's, the goal since freshman year has been to win the class A state title as seniors."

With their display of riches, one that will be live when they head to Belfast on Saturday, Oct. 30, that goal seems very reachable.

(See related photo on Page 1)

## FIELD HOCKEY

### Mustangs dump Westbrook

By MICHAEL DEANGELIS  
Sports Editor

Charlie Anderson had a hat trick and the Jacobs' sisters combined for seven points, lifting Massabesic's varsity field hockey team to a first round playoff win, 9-2, over Westbrook on Friday, Oct. 22. The Mustangs jumped ahead 3-0 after one period of play. Anderson opened the scoring and Sydney DeSimone added goal to make it 2-0. Micaela Jacobs assisting on both scores. Anderson made it 3-0 off a nice feed from Emily Jacobs that ended up being the winning goal.

Lexi Dyer made it 4-0 early in the second period and Micaela pushed it to 5-0 before the Blue Blazes chopped into the lead with the final two scores of the first half.

The hosts scored the next four goals to ice it. McKenzie Nason banged home two consecutive goals (Emily helping on one) and Mary Duffy put the Mustangs ahead by six, 8-2. Anderson closed the scoring and finished off her hat trick late.

The Mustangs (13-2) were scheduled to host Falmouth (10-4) in a quarter final playoff match on Wednesday, Oct. 27 at 7:00 p.m. after the Reporter's deadline. Massabesic topped visiting Falmouth 3-2 back on Sept. 24. The Mustangs won their first nine contests of the season then dropped two of their next three before righting the ship (cleaning up the coral?) and winning their next three by a combined 21-2. The third win was the Westbrook preliminary round playoff game.

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# A Frightful Night on Old Route 77

BY C.J. PIKE

Gus was driving down old Route 77 when all of a sudden the car engine sputtered and died. It was a dark, rainy night and he did not want to get out and walk, but it was looking like he might have to, rather than sit in the car until some traffic came by.

He got out his cell phone and tried calling AAA, but was not getting any service way out there in the country.

He would have been home by now, but the meeting lasted much later than expected, so it put him behind. "I'll bet my wife is worried," he thought to himself.

The first hour went by, and he had not seen even one car, but kept trying to call both AAA and his wife.

The rain came down hard, beating on the roof of the car, pounding like it was trying to get in.

Finally, he decided to get out and walk. It was at least 4 miles to the main highway, but he thought that he could make it. He grabbed the slicker out of the back seat, put it on and started out.

The first mile went by fast, but

as he walked along, he thought that he heard something behind him, following along splashing in the puddles. He turned around to look, but saw nothing.

"Guess I'm just hearing things," he muttered to himself, and kept walking.

Then, suddenly, he felt a sharp pain in his leg and the blood spurted out in every direction and ran down his leg. He looked around, "What the hell hit me?"

But, nothing was nearby, so he called out, "What do you want?" There was no knife or anything there, and nothing stuck in the leg, but the pain was excruciating.

"What the hell hit me?" He said again.

He ripped up part of his shirt and tried to wrap it around his leg to stop the bleeding. It still hurt, but he hobbled along, and tried to stay on his feet.

As he was about halfway to the highway, something grabbed him and dragged him down to the ground. He fought back, but didn't even know what he was fighting, as he couldn't see anything at all. Whatever it was, it was stronger than him, but it was a completely invisible vicious spirit. He felt a

sharp pain in his back that crippled him; he was on his knees but at that point, he just collapsed onto the ground. He was being dragged, but wasn't able to resist at all. Nothing about this whole thing made any sense; he was scared, angry, and just bewildered. It was a frightful night for Gus, that's for sure.

When they arrived at the tree, the final blow went right through his heart and poor old Gus was dead by dawn. For whatever reason this thing had against him, Gus had no clue and never had a chance.

At 6 a.m., his wife was out of her mind with worry, and started calling his cell phone. When she didn't get an answer, she paced the floor, back and forth, several times. She dialed the number over and over, but it went right to voice mail.

"What is going on?" She wondered to herself.

Finally, at 8 a.m. she decided to call the police to see if they had heard anything.

They showed up about 20 minutes later, and then went out to search for him, driving around all of the roads coming into town and going out of town.

He was a well-known man in town, so the chief sent a couple of

cruisers out to look for him.

Cruiser #1 took the main roads and drove around, and Cruiser #2 took the back roads, including Route 77; and the chief drove south to see if he could find anything.

The deputy drove along the route, carefully looking at everything, until he came to an open space with an old tree several feet back from the road. It was there that he saw Gus, hanging from the tree with a rope around his neck. One half of his leg had been ripped off and one of his arms was missing. As the deputy walked closer, he could see that Gus's eyes had been dug out, and the flesh on his body was half eaten and just hung there in large pieces, as if the attacker had just left.

There were no marks on the ground around the tree, so the deputy couldn't figure out what or who had attacked Gus.

He called Cruiser #1 and the chief in to take a look; the three of them just stood there in complete shock and disbelief.

Days later, the Sheriff conducted a complete investigation, which did not turn up any reason why Gus had been the victim of the attack or who attacked him. And to this day,

people still wonder why Gus died out on Route 77. After that, the road was hardly ever used anymore, and eventually it was closed; no other incidents were ever reported

The Sheriff never told Gus's wife what happened, to spare her the trauma and anguish. He felt that the details of the gruesome scene would scare her and he was probably right. It was best that she did not know. "Poor ol' Gus," he thought to himself. "Whatever happened out on that road, will stay out there. There's no need for people to know the truth."

The Sheriff and the deputies were haunted by it for years after that, wondering just what was out there that took Gus's life. But they never spoke of it, not even between themselves.

It was the strangest thing that ever happened in the area, and there were just no answers at all. There was just one thing that they knew for sure, whatever it was, it wasn't human.

Even though nobody ever saw it, the three of them knew that it was a very evil creature that did those horrible things to Gus. That alone was scary enough for three grown men to witness and they never forgot it.

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# “Requiring COVID-19 vaccinations will keep health care workers and their patients alive.”

— GOV. JANET MILLS



If you have to go to the hospital, or into a nursing room, or your loved one does, you have the absolute right to expect that you will receive high quality care and that you will be safe.

That means health care workers taking care of you will be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and other contagious diseases.

We decided to require health care workers to be vaccinated against COVID-19 for three basic reasons:

To protect our health care system’s ability to care for people by making sure health care workers stay healthy and on the job;

To protect the health of those in Maine who are most vulnerable to the virus who happen to be in a hospital, nursing home, or other health care facility;

And to protect the health and safety of all Maine people, patients and health care workers alike.

You know, just as vaccinations defeated small pox a hundred years ago, and with vaccine, we rid the world of polio, so with vaccines will we defeat the COVID-19 pandemic.

That’s why COVID-19 vaccine was added to the vaccines for polio and mumps and others as a requirement for employment in Maine’s health care facilities. And now vaccination rates have risen rapidly among those health care workers.

This is great progress that protects front-line health care workers and the health and lives of people in their care, and that safeguards Maine’s health care capacity.

Unfortunately, seems like we’re facing two pandemics sometimes. There are two pandemics at work here – one is the pandemic of COVID-19, the deadly virus that’s taken more than 1,000 lives in Maine. The second seems to be the pandemic of fear and disinformation.

Among other things some people have dishonestly claimed that Maine people would die as a result of requiring vaccinations for health care workers.

That’s an insult to every Maine person who has lost their life to COVID-19, especially those who contracted it from a health care worker who chose not to get vaccinated.

In fact, it is this policy that will keep health care workers and their patients alive.

As of Oct. 12, more than 6,000 health care workers have tested positive for the disease and more than 350 health care setting outbreaks have been reported.

The same folks who criticized a vaccination for health care workers have also said that we should provide a testing alternative.

Sounds simple, but the science doesn’t back that up.

The Delta variant – which is much easier to pass on – can reproduce in just 24-48 hours so weekly testing doesn’t pass muster. And the most accurate tests

take at least 24-48 hours to come back, which means daily testing doesn’t cut it either.

The Maine Hospital Association, the Maine Health Care Association, nursing homes, hospitals, all support our policy because they know it is the best way to protect workers and patients and residents and to prevent our health care system from being overwhelmed, thus preventing you from getting health care.

I am also committed to addressing the problem of workforce from the bottom-up. We’ve had a workforce shortage in health care for more than a decade now, and we’re tackling that head-on.

The Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan for instance that was approved by the Legislature has just taken effect and that will allow us to invest millions in health care workforce needs and training and expansion of facilities and critical industries across the State of Maine will get help.

Maine is one of the most high-

ly vaccinated states in the nation against COVID-19, but we are also seeing a surge of the more dangerous and highly transmissible Delta variant and that’s causing infections, serious illness, hospitalizations, and deaths, almost entirely among those who have not gotten vaccinated.

We’ve got a lot of work to do. Getting vaccinated – which I think is the collective responsibility of Maine people and it’s something that more than one million of us have already done and something that Pope Francis calls “An act of love”– it’s the best and most effective way out of this pandemic. And the courts have agreed.

I continue to urge those who haven’t already rolled up their sleeves please do so and get your shot.

You can get COVID-19 vaccines all across the state. Just visit [Maine.Gov/Covid19/Vaccines](http://Maine.Gov/Covid19/Vaccines) or call 1-888-445-4111.

Please stay safe.

—Originally aired as a radio address on Oct. 22.



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*Board of Selectmen*

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TEACHER

(Continued from page 1)

ambassador in her school by disseminating information to colleagues and providing teacher feedback to Zoo educators. Castle will have the opportunity to work with the other educators and to be an integral part of conservation education, and receive professional development contact hours towards license recertification if needed.

Castle saw the application to join the Council on social media and felt she would like to try something different. As her daughter was now in college, she wanted to “keep her mind busy.” She is also working on a Masters’s degree in Special Education and is the owner/instructor of CastleSwim, where she has taught customized swimming lessons to all ages in the summer for the past 35 years.

Castle said she always liked animals and conservation, and this prompted her to send in her application for the position. Part of the application was to name your favorite animal and why you would like to join the Council. Castle chose the monkey as her favorite animal as she finds them exotic and intelligent. This was also the affectionate nickname she gave to her daughter when she was a child. She stated on her application that she had been an educator for 30 years and wanted to bring a new curriculum to her students and was excited when she received an e-mail back from the Smithsonian National Zoo Advisory Council that she was chosen to participate. Castle is very enthusiastic about undertaking this unique opportunity.

# York County Extension Association Annual Meeting

The 2021 Annual Meeting of the York County Extension Association will be held on Nov. 9, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. This meeting will be held in both in person at the Downs Conference Room at 15 Oak Street, Springvale, and via a remote Zoom option. Email [elizabeth.clock@maine.edu](mailto:elizabeth.clock@maine.edu) to request the Zoom link to join us via phone, computer, or tablet. Those attending in person will be seated 3 feet apart for your safety and required to wear masks.

The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a short business meeting followed by the Boots to Bushels presentation by Anne Devin. Details on the presentation are below:

## UMaine Cooperative Extension’s Maine AgrAbility – Boots-2-Bushels

Presented by Anne Devin, Colonel USMC (retired), Owner-Operator Chase Stream Farm

Boots-2-Bushels is a 9-month comprehensive, hands-on beginning farmer education and training opportunity sponsored by UMaine Cooperative Extension’s Maine AgrAbility. Anne will discuss the impetus behind this program that started as an answer to needs identified by military veterans and is now expanding into a course for all beginning farmers. Using the “5 F’s” of farming risk: Family, Farming, Finances,

Fitness, and Future, the Boots-2-Bushels program focuses on considerations for building a successful farm business.

For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Elizabeth Clock at 324-2814 or 800-287-1535 (in Maine), or email her at: [elizabeth.clock@maine.edu](mailto:elizabeth.clock@maine.edu).

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*economy. It is the only entity in our state that touches every aspect of the Maine Food System, where policy, research, production, processing, commerce, nutrition, and food security and safety are integral and interrelated. UMaine Extension also conducts the most successful out-of-school youth educational program in Maine through 4-H.*

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# Obituaries



## Brenda Hillsgrove

Brenda Hillsgrove, 70, of Newmarket, New Hampshire passed away on Saturday, Oct. 23, 2021 after a lengthy illness.

Brenda was born November 25, 1950, in Sanford, Maine the daughter to the late Richard Rowe, and Marion (Yates) Rowe and was raised in Sanford. Brenda spent many summers on Mousam Lake with her family at their lake house, where she spent many hours on the lake, perfecting her water-skiing skills.

Brenda attended, and graduated Sanford High School. She then went off to earn her CNA Certificate, where she began her extensive career working as a CNA, in which she helped people at various nursing homes.

Brenda married the love of her life in 1976, Richard P. Hillsgrove Jr, in which they shared 40 years of marriage. A proud mother and grandmother, Brenda loved spending time with her family, and grandchildren. She loved crafting, enjoyed knitting, crocheting, and quilting as well as reading. She spent many hours in her flower garden, in which she took immense pride in. Brenda absolutely adored her four-legged companions. She was an avid Red Sox fan. When televised, you always knew right where to find her.

Brenda was preceded in death by her husband, Richard P. Hillsgrove Jr in 2016. Her parents Richard and Marion Rowe.

She is survived by her son Telly R. Hillsgrove, her daughter Kylee S. Robinson, son-in-law Eric M. Robinson, grandson Liam M. Robinson, granddaughter Makenzie A. McLaughlin, great granddaughter Stella M. McLaughlin, brothers Glenn Rowe and Scott Rowe, as well as many friends and family.

A graveside service will be on Thursday, Nov. 4, 2021 at 11 a.m. at Oakdale Cemetery, 127 Twombly Rd, in Sanford.

To leave a message of condolence for the family, visit [www.autumngreenfuneralhome.com](http://www.autumngreenfuneralhome.com). The Autumn Green Funeral Home is respectfully handling arrangements.



Brenda Hillsgrove

## Vera M. Colby

Vera M. Colby, 82, of Limington died at her son's home in Hiram on October 24, 2021 with loving family by her side. She was born in Norway, Maine on February 19, 1939 a daughter of Raymond and Marion (Millett) Damon and was educated in Norway and Standish schools. She was married to the late Henry Colby Sr. for 47 years.

Vera worked at both Limerick Footwear and Northland Shoe in Fryeburg for several years. She went on to work over 25 years at G.T.E. Sylvania in Standish until her retirement. She was a long time member of the Red Hatters Club in Standish.

Vera was very talented at quilting, sewing and crocheting. She made blankets for all of her family over the years. She also liked playing cards and games, especially bingo. She enjoyed going to local baked bean suppers, and also liked to travel. She will be sadly missed by her large, loving family and many friends.

Besides her parents and her beloved husband Henry, she is predeceased by her five siblings and a granddaughter, Lindsey Colby. Vera is survived by her six children: Henry Colby Jr. and his significant other Gloria Hewey of Limington, Andrew Colby and wife Ann of Limerick, Cheryl Ring and husband Jim of Newfield, Joe Colby of Limington, Jeff Colby and wife Rosalie of Hiram and Steven Colby and wife Kathleen of Limington. Also 16 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren, many nieces and nephews and a large extended family.

An hour of visitation will be on Friday, Oct. 29, from 12 to 1 p.m. immediately followed by a funeral service at 1 p.m. at the Poitras, Neal and York Funeral Home, 71 Maple Street, Cornish. Burial will follow at Highland Cemetery Annex in Limerick. Online condolences may be expressed at: [www.maineFuneral.com](http://www.maineFuneral.com)



Vera M. Colby



## HEALTHCARE

(Continued from page 1)

market. Mueller presented data that showed that infections and quarantines related to COVID-19 have been a significant challenge for the health care system and that vaccination was the right way to keep care team members, patients and communities safe.

"It's very clear to us that the vaccine mandate really helps to protect and preserve our workforce," said Mueller, who added that having the full care team at MaineHealth vaccinated is not only consistent with what is best for patients and the community, but supports the organization's vision of 'Working together so our communities are the healthiest in America.'

Joel Botler, MD, chief medical officer of Maine Medical Center, shared that the state's largest hospital is seeing unprecedented demand. This is resulting in ongoing evaluation of, and rescheduling of some, non-emergent procedures at the hospital. Also, the MMC Emergency Department has been on frequent "diversion" in recent weeks, meaning that only life-threatening and other critical cases are taken in and others are directed elsewhere for care.

Cindy Wade, R.N., president of LincolnHealth in Damariscotta and Boothbay Harbor, said her rural hospital network is straining under the increased demand and the shortage of workers. She said in her hospital there is a particular challenge with patients who need care in a nursing home but can't find a space due to the labor shortage impacting skilled nursing services.

Wade also urged people with non-life-threatening concerns to use LincolnHealth's urgent care center in Boothbay Harbor rather than the hospital Emergency Department in Damariscotta. She said that even if someone has to drive a bit to get to Boothbay Harbor, they are likely to get care and be home sooner than if they sought similar care in the Emergency Department.

The health system leaders asked patients and communities to do their part in mitigating the capacity challenges for providers.

Mueller urged people to get vaccinated against COVID-19, noting that the sickest COVID patients are those who are not vaccinated.

The leaders also stressed the importance of seeking out the best venue for care. Across the health system hours have been extended for walk-in care, urgent care and at doctor's offices to help take the pressure off Emergency Departments.

MaineHealth is taking a number of steps in response to the capacity issues, including:

- Forming a work group specifically targeting capacity. The work group uses a "capacity dashboard" that enables them to see on a daily basis where beds are available across the health system and where patients can be appropriately transferred to receive the best possible care.

- Reducing non-emergent procedures, evaluating them day-to-day depending on capacity.

- Expansion by the MaineHealth Medical Group of outpatient access, including extending primary care, walk-in, urgent care and telehealth hours to help reduce the strain on Emergency Departments.

- Placing an emphasis on supply chain efforts to ensure the health system has the right equipment to keep everyone safe.

- Creating incentives to add staff, including a \$61 million market adjustment to pay across the system in August and still higher increases for some of the most difficult positions to fill, making sure that wages are competitive. The system also significantly increased the employee referral bonus.

- Continued investment in training programs for critical positions, working both internally and with community partners to promote these opportunities. Longer term, the health system will be investing nearly \$5 million next year in partnership with

community colleges and institutions of higher learning to build a workforce pipeline into the future.

The leaders also touched on other steps that can be taken to help alleviate the capacity challenges.

Mark Fourre, MD, president of Pen Bay Medical Center and Waldo County General Hospital in Rockland and Belfast, noted there were three important priorities for the community and policy makers that would help improve the situation. One of those is reimbursements and programing for behavioral health, which is being felt today in the form of patients who are having a mental health crisis filling emergency department beds over many days. "That is a long standing problem made worse today," said Fourre.

Fourre also noted that investment in local EMS companies and other patient transport services as well as reimbursements for long-term care services at nursing homes have also lagged, and the failure to invest in those services is making the current situation much worse.

Additionally, Mueller said the recent investments in supporting training and education for health care workers announced by Maine Gov. Janet Mills were positive steps forward, and he said hoped that the initiative will be followed by a permanent investment in expanding the state's capacity for training nurses and other health care professionals.

Mueller also had one additional ask of the community on behalf of the entire MaineHealth care team, which is to continue to appreciate and respect the difficult job health care workers are doing.

"One of the other things that we need you to do is just be patient, and recognize we are all working hard to ensure we get everyone cared for in a timely manner. I can't say it enough; we have the most amazing care team," said Mueller. "We have true heroes on the front lines."

A recording of the Oct. 26 news conference can be found online at <https://vimeo.com/639191738/4cef5efbcb>.

There were two charts presented during the news conference. One showing COVID-19 absences among MaineHealth care team members over time and another showing the number of vacancies among the MaineHealth care team over time. Copies of those charts with the spread sheets showing the data points used to make them are at <https://assets.mainehealth.org/share/B87C425A-BB89-4B30-AE405F6DBA362B67/>.

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