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REPORTER

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From York County Audubon



Chickadees in the face of climate change

The closest relative of the black-capped chickadee – Maine's state bird – is the Carolina chickadee. The geographic ranges of these sister species overlap just a little, along an east-west line extending from New Jersey to Kansas. In the narrow zone of overlap, the two species hybridize frequently.

Bob Curry, his students from Villanova University, and various collaborators have studied chickadee hybridization at multiple Pennsylvania sites for more than a quarter century. Dr. Curry will discuss highlights of this work, including methods and findings. The research program has combined intensive field study of chickadee breeding biology and investigation of behavioral interactions in the nonbreeding seasons. Because the two species are so similar, the research has also relied heavily on genetic analysis.

A point of emphasis throughout has been the northward movement of the hybrid zone: Carolina chickadees have advanced rapidly at the expense of black-caps, while interbreeding along the way. Although Carolina chickadees will not join us in Maine in the immediate future, the presentation will provide general information about chickadee biology along with food for thought about some underappreciated consequences of climate warming.

Bob Curry has been studying chickadees for decades, and one of his particular focus areas has been the relationship between Black-capped and Carolina Chickadees, and their

(Continued on page 3)



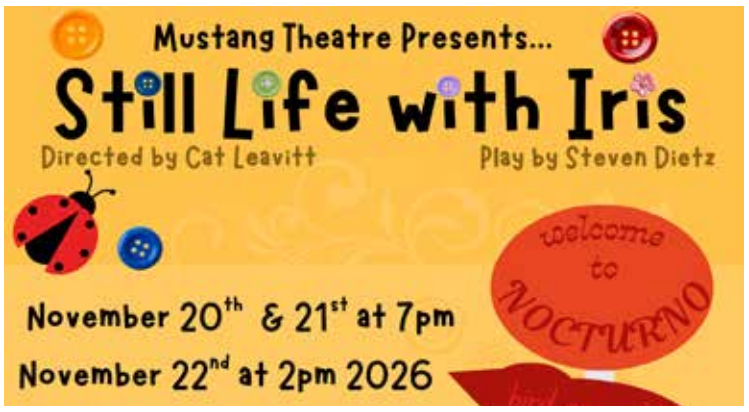
Mustang Theatre will perform 'Still Life with Iris' on Nov. 20, 21 and 22 at Massabesic High school. COURTESY PHOTO

Behind the Curtain

A look at Mustang Theatre's upcoming production

Massabesic High School will present its fall full-length play on Nov. 20-22. Over the past two months, Massabesic High School's theatre troupe has been working incredibly hard on their upcoming fall production, *Still Life with Iris*. The story follows a brave young girl, Iris, from the fantastical world of Nocturno, where they make all the things for the real world at night. Iris finds herself on a journey to recover her past. Along the way, she meets an eclectic cast of characters. The play explores how our past defines us and how rigid thinking can limit one's life. With a colorful cast of characters and wildly absurd villains, this play is sure to delight audiences of all ages. When attending the show, you may only see the performers on the stage, but theatre truly is an all-hands-on-deck activity.

Beginning in September, Massabesic High School students could audition for the show, and those interested in crew were encouraged to join the group. The theatre troupe is almost entirely student-run. Students design the costumes, props, lights, sound, makeup, and hair. They build their own sets, sew their own costumes, paint their own props, and create everything audiences see on stage with lots of hard work and passion.



These crews are also run by students. The costume crew is led by Lydia DalPra, the props crew by Ace Horgan and Dale Simmons, the set painting crew by Bailey Eggleston, and the makeup and hair crews by Zoe Coleman and Jennah Poretta. In addition to these crews, the production heavily relies on its two stage managers, Zoe Anthony and Hunter Cushman.

The troupe meets three to four times a week for about three months while balancing the busy life of a high school student, as well as a social life. While every student works incredibly hard, none of this would be possible without the director, Catherine Leavitt. She has been directing for Mustang Theatre for thirteen years and also teaches in the art department at the high school. Leavitt teaches a Theatre Arts class, where the students help out with some of the props in the show.

Behind every costume, prop, set piece, and line delivered on stage are countless hours of dedication from students who genuinely love what they do and would be absolutely thrilled to see a packed theatre for their upcoming shows.

If you are interested in seeing the show and supporting local theatre, the performance dates are as follows: Nov. 20 and 21 at 7 p.m., and Nov. 22 at 2 p.m. Admission is free, but donations are accepted. Snacks and treats will be available for purchase, as well as some merchandise.

Come support the school, live theatre, and the amazing cast and crew of *Still Life with Iris*.

– By Zoe Coleman
Mustang Theatre, Vice President

From York County Government

Citizen Police Academy

Ever wonder how police investigations take place? Or how law enforcement calls for service move from dispatch to deputies in the field?

What about Constitutional Law? And what types of incidents spark the decision to call out the SRT – the regional Special Response Team?

Those topics and many more are part of the annual York County Sheriff's Office Citizen Police Academy, and while the program commences in January, the deadline to apply is Dec. 25. A maximum of 25 people will be accepted.

"This is a free, 10-week program for community members who want a real look at law enforcement in York County — not a TV version of it," said Deputy Matthew Cummer, the program administrator.

Classes include patrol operations, traffic stops, crime scene work, communications, constitutional law, use of force, K9 and SRT, jail operations, investigations, and more. There are hands-on nights, including mock traffic stops, virtual reality scenario training, and a ride-along opportunity.

The classes are popular – in fact, one individual who joined the citizen academy for both the 2025 and 2026 offerings went on to apply for a deputy vacancy at YCSO and was hired.

The Citizen's Police Academy provides regular citizens an opportunity to see firsthand the inner workings of the York County Sheriff's Office," said York County Sheriff William L. King, Jr. "This presents us with an opportunity to explain what things are done and why. It gives citizens a perspective of the work we do and how it is accomplished. We at the sheriff's office also consider this an opportunity for us – we get to meet with and engage with folks who live in communities across the county."

Classes are 5:30-8:30 p.m. begin Thursday Jan. 7 at York County Regional Training

(Continued on page 4)

NEW EVERY THURSDAY!
LOCAL news, events and faces from your community.



Community CALENDAR

Email non-profit event listings to: news@waterbororeporter.com

COMING EVENTS

HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR The YMCA Trafton Senior Center is holding a holiday craft fair. Admission is free, and the event will feature local crafts, hot dogs, hot soup lunch, cookie boxes, and more. The event will be held on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 9 to 2 p.m. at the YMCA Trafton Senior Center, 19 Elm St., Sanford. For more information, call the Trafton Center at 457-0080.

BAKE SALE AND GIFT BASKET RAFFLE Saturday, Nov. 14 at the West Newfield Congregational Church, 1078 Maplewood Road, West Newfield, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Basket estimated value is $162. Raffle Tickets $2 each or 6 for $10.

Historical Society of Newfield presents **LETTERS TO SANTA**, Nov. 15 from 1 to 3 p.m. at 64 Elm St., Newfield. All are welcome to write their wish list to Santa.Hot Cocoa and cookies will be served. Free event, bring a stamp if you can, donations gladly accepted but not required.

AUDUBON SOCIETY EVENT "Moving on up: Relationships between Black-capped and Carolina Chickadees in the face of Climate Change, with Bob Curry" is being presented by York County Audubon at the Wells Reserve and via Zoom, Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 7 p.m. featuring the chickadee, our state bird. For complete information, visit yorkcountyaudubon.org.

SPREE OF TREES EVENT AND CRAFT NIGHT on Wednesday, Nov. 18, at 5:30 p.m. at the Springvale Public Library, 443 Main Street. The Spree of Trees runs from Dec. 3-6 at the Memorial Gym, 678 Main Street, Sanford, and the Springvale library is excited to get the tree ready. Join them in making gingerbread house ornaments and a star garland. Make some and take some home for yourself. All supplies will be provided. Bring a friend if you wish.

FESTIVAL OF TREES at 31 West Road, Waterboro, to benefit Waterborough Historical Society, Friday, Nov. 20 and 21 from 10-7, Sunday, Nov. 22 from 10-6, Friday, Nov. 27 and 28 from 10-7 and Sunday, Nov. 29 from 10-4.

CORNISH REPUBLICANS will be meeting at the Cornish Town Hall on Monday, Nov. 23, at 6 p.m. The town hall is located at 17 Maple Street in Cornish. E-mail: Info.CornishRepublicans@proton.me FMI.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR Nov. 27 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Buxton Centre Baptist Church, Rte 22, Buxton. Craft and Bake Sale and a table for children to shop at.

GRAYSON'S LEGACY CRAFT FAIR will be held on Saturday, Nov. 28, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Sanford Memorial Gym, 678 Main Street. There will be over 40 unique vendors, and Santa will appear from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. There will be face painting (price depends on style, etc.), plus free Pokémon cards and free kids' winter hats.

Parsonsfield Seminary, 6th annual, **DECK THE HALLS**, Formerly Festival of Trees Friday Evening Preview Dec. 4 from 6 to 8 p.m. with live music, Wassail and nibbles Saturdaym Dec. 5 & 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 6 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission Friday evening $15 Saturday & Sunday $5 tickets at the door. Under 12 Free. Parsonsfield Seminary 504 North Road. Parsonsfield, ME. Questions? Call 603-452-4725.

CHRISTMAS MARKET PLACE at the Bar Mills Community Church 13 Hermit Thrush Drive Buxton, Friday, Dec. 4, from 2 to 7 p.m. Handmade Crafts, Breads, Baked Goods, Pickles, Fresh Holiday Greens & Wreaths, home made desserts, snacks for your pets, and a wide variety of hand made gifts for you to choose from. Homemade grab and go meals to conveniently heat and serve at home: chicken pot pie, mac and cheese, and a variety of soups and desserts for you to enjoy. FMI contact Judy at 929-5555.

HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR Bonny Eagle Middle School, Saturday, Dec. 5 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Benefiting Best Buddies, 92 Sokokis Trail, Buxton.

LIMERICK CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING ceremony Saturday, Dec. 5, at 5 p.m. at the Band Stand on Main Street. Hosted by the Limerick Research Club. Bring Flashlights.

FREE PICTURES WITH SANTA Following the Tree Lighting - Saturday, Dec. 5, at 5:30 at the Limerick Brick town hall, enjoy hot cocoa and cookies, free prize drawings for kids and write letters to Santa. Hosted by the Limerick Historical Society

"SOUNDS OF THE SEASON" to be held at the Bar Mills Community Church 13 Hermit Thrush Drive, Buxton on Sunday, Dec. 6. This event of Christmas Joy is presented by churches in the Bar Mills, Buxton and Hollis area. Please join us as we celebrate the joy and light of Christ's birth!

LET'S EAT!

FREE COMMUNITY DINNER Public Welcome at the Goodwins Mills Advent Christian Church, 503 Goodwins Mills Road on Route 35 from 4:30-6 p.m. NOV. 21: Chicken/Turkey Casserole, Mashed Squash, Cranberry Sauce, Rolls & Pies.

BEAN SUPPER Sat, Nov 21, from 4 to 6 p.m., St. Matthew's Knights of Columbus will host a Bean Supper at 19 Dora Ln. Menu: beans (2 types), hot dogs, sliced ham, coleslaw, casseroles, bread, drinks & dessert. Adults - $12; Children 6-12 - $6; Children 5 & under - free; Families - $30.

FOOD PANTRY EVENT: PMP CAN JAM 2, Sat, Nov 21, 5 to 9 p.m., Peppermill Tavern. Please bring non-perishable food pantry items for chances to win prizes donated by local businesses. All food donations will be given to the Limerick Food Pantry.

TIRED OF TURKEY? TRY OUR DELICIOUS HADDOCK SUPPER BUFFET Saturday, Nov. 28 at 5 p.m. at Living Waters Church, Parker Farm Road, Buxton. Suggested donation: $12 Adult, $5 Child, $24 Family.

The Acton-Shapleigh Lion's Club **MONTHLY PANCAKE BREAKFAST** the first Saturday of every month (Next on Dec. 5). $7 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 Shapleigh Community Center at 24 Back Road, Shapleigh, next door to the Shapleigh Town Hall.

COMMUNITY CUP Tuesdays 9 to 10 a.m. Free coffee, donuts and conversation at Southern Maine Agency on Aging at 21 Bradeen Street, Springvale.

COFFEE HOUR every Wednesday from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Hiram Arts Center, 8 Hancock Avenue, Hiram. Come for coffee, conversation, companionship, and community.

COMMUNITY CAFÉ at Southern Maine Agency on Aging, 2nd and 4th Friday, at 21 Bradeen Street, Springvale (Use the entrance on Bodwell Ct.) and the 1st and 3rd Wednesday at Mayflower Place, 27 Mayflower Drive, Sanford. Call 396-6500. Suggested donation $8.

The **CORNER CUPBOARD** which offers personal care, paper, cleaning, household, and baby items to anyone in need, is open the 3rd Saturday of each month at the Sanford UU Church, 5 Lebanon St., Sanford, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Bring your own bag.

ST. THERESE FOOD CLOSET open every Thursday from 12 to 2 p.m. at 66 North Ave., Sanford, directly behind the St Therese Church in the gray trailer.

ST. MATTHEW CHURCH FOOD PANTRY at 19 Dora Lane, in Limerick open every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to noon and the first Monday of the month from 6 to 7 p.m. FMI call 793-2244.

ACTON FOOD PANTRY at 59H Road open the first Monday of the month (next on July 6) 9:30-11 a.m. and 4-6 p.m. Lower level of Congregational Church, 59 H Rd. FMI 977-0228.

WATERBORO COMMUNITY PANTRY 26 Townhouse Road, East Waterboro. Open the first Tuesday of month from 4 to 7 p.m. all other Tuesdays from 1 to 4 p.m. Donations needed!

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Wednesday - Chris Leavitt
Thursday - Ross Gregor Adam
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* Become a Celebrity Bartender for Charity (stop in for details)
* Ugly Sweater Contest Dec. 11
Celebrate at 38 West! Host a holiday party or special gathering. Call or stop in to chat!

WEEKLY SPECIALS
NOVEMBER 2026
STARTS MONDAY NOVEMBER 2, 2026
• LUNCH SPECIALS READY IN THE WARMER BY 11 AM
• DINNER SPECIALS READY IN THE WARMER BY 4 PM
MONDAY
LUNCH - AMERICAN CHOP SUEY $8.00
BBQ RIBS WITH WHITE RICE $8.00
SOUP - TRADITIONAL CHILI $6.50
DINNER- LAZY MAN'S CHICKEN KABOBS $9.00
TUESDAY
LUNCH - SHEPHERD'S PIE $9.00
SOUP - PASTA FAGIOLI $6.50
DINNER- CHICKEN PARM OVER PASTA $10.00
WEDNESDAY
LUNCH-BBQ TOPPED MEATLOAF DINNER SERVED W/ CORN & MASHED POTATOES $9.00
SOUP - WEEKLY ROTATING OPTIONS
DINNER - HONEY GARLIC CHICKEN OVER RICE $9.00
THURSDAY
LUNCH - TRADITIONAL LASAGNA & CHICKEN SPINACH ALFREDO LASAGNA $9.00
SOUP - CORN CHOWDER $6.25
DINNER- POT ROAST W/ POTATOES & VEG $10
FRIDAY
LUNCH - BBQ PULLED PORK SANDWICH $6.25
SOUP - FISH CHOWDER $8 MAC & CHEESE $6.00
DINNER- BURRITO BOWL $9.00
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Have your pet's picture taken with Santa and his Elf!
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(CASH & CHECKS ONLY. NO CREDIT CARDS.)
All proceeds collected will go to a local family in need.
Coffee & Hot Cocoa
Shop our retail for the 4-legged friends and pet lovers in your family!
We will not be open for appointments and NO food or Pharmacy pick-ups.
Pets do not need to be patients here to come for photos.

PARSONSFIELD: The Maine Hermit has moved inside! Saturdays and Sundays, 10 AM - 3 PM. Follow the signs. Route 25 to 251 Devereux Road.

SANFORD/SPRINGVALE



Sanford/Springvale Beautification Program

Next summer's blooms are being planned now. On Oct. 10 and 17, Emilee Mathieu and Sam LaPenta of Sundial Nursery, joined forces with Bridget Salantri to complete this year's Sanford Springvale Beautification Program at the Route 4 Roundabout and in front of the flagpole at the Sanford Memorial Gym. Emilee and Sam donated and helped install Black-eyed Susans at these locations. The plants will flower next July through September, creating a bright and welcoming atmosphere at both locations.

The Sanford Springvale Beautification Program looks forward to next year's initiation of Sanford neighborhood clean-ups. If you are interested in enlisting your neighborhood in a clean-up, e-mail bsalantri@gmail.com.

Pictured are, from left, Emilee Mathieu and Sam LaPenta.
COURTESY PHOTO

CHICKADEES

(Continued from page 1)

evolving territories. He became a professor at Villanova University in 1991, and now serves as a Professor Emeritus. One further note: he has recently migrated to Maine himself, and we're delighted to welcome him to our birding community.

This program will be presented at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 17, at the Wells Reserve at Laudholm. The entrance to the parking area is off Skinner Mill Road in Wells. Note that while we normally host our programs in the Mather Auditorium, that room may be under construction on that date. If it is, the program will be moved to the Gallery in the Coastal Ecology Center, directly behind the barn. Please check our website before then for the latest update.

The program will be free and open to all ages, and no registration is required for attending the program in person. It will also be live-streamed via Zoom. To view it via Zoom, you'll need to register in advance. To do so, go to this event on our website, www.yorkcountyaudubon.org, and click on the registration link in the post for this event. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

We hope you can join us for this entertaining and inspiring presentation, either in person, or, if not, via Zoom!



Representative John Eder held a Halloween Bash on Oct. 28 at Oak Street Bistro to raise money for heating fuel for elderly neighbors in need. Of the $2,000 raised, $1,700 was distributed to Alfred's Fueling February program and the remaining $300 went to Top it Off Oil to distribute among their most needy elderly customers. Plans for a winter fundraiser are underway.
COURTESY PHOTO

TOWN OF ALFRED

Notice of Special Town Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Alfred will hold a **Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.** at the Alfred Town Hall, Second Floor, to consider the following warrant articles:

Article 1 – Fire Department Apparatus
To see if the Town will vote to authorize borrowing up to $750,000 for the purchase of a new E-One Spartan/Rescue Pumper.

Article 2 – Fire Department Equipment
To see if the Town will vote to appropriate $55,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund for the purchase of one new Zoll Zenix Monitor/Defibrillator.

Article 3 – Alfred Senior Food Assistance Fund
To see if the Town will vote to accept funds for the Alfred Senior Food Assistance Fund to provide food assistance to eligible senior residents of Alfred experiencing food insecurity.

Article 4 – Town Ordinances
Shall an ordinance entitled "Ordinance to Approve, Codify, and Enact Various Revisions to the Code of the Town of Alfred" be enacted?

Residents are encouraged to attend and participate in this important Town Meeting.
– Town of Alfred, Board of Selectmen

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TOWN OF ACTON

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Acton Planning Board will hold a **Public Hearing** on Thursday, November 19th, 2026 at 6:00pm *for the Discussion of Proposed Amendments to the Town of Acton Zoning Ordinance in relation to State of Maine LD Bills 1829 & 2173*.

This Public Hearing will be held in person at the Acton Town Hall, 35 H Road. For more information please contact the Land Use Department (207) 636-3131 ext. 410.

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From York County Government

Cleaves tapped as county's director of strategic initiatives, special projects

Arthur "Art" Cleaves will be taking on a new role with York County government – designed to advance programs like coastal resilience along with other initiatives with a countywide benefit – upon his retirement from emergency management on Jan. 1.

York County Commissioners voted unanimously to name Cleaves as Director of Strategic Initiatives and Special Projects at their Wednesday, Nov. 4 meeting.

It is a new position and is funded through grant dollars, not the annual county budget.

Commissioners began discussing current and future county endeavors in August, well before Cleaves' Oct. 21 announcement of his pending retirement as Director of York County Emergency Management Agency.

The new role involves advancing initiatives that have been authorized, funded, or partially developed but have not reached full implementation or operational capacity, according to York County Manager Greg Zinser.

"I can think of no one more suited to this endeavor than Art Cleaves," said Zinser. "He has vast knowledge and the passion for the work, and he is well known and respected from Maine to Washington."

The position involves development of the program from the ground up, along with carrying out the mission.

Cleaves will coordinates resources, partnerships, administrative processes, and operational planning to bring initiatives to successful completion, according to the job description. Initial responsibilities include coordinating coastal resiliency initiatives, project management and oversight for Congressionally Directed Spending awards, oversight of emerging county programs and services, and more.

Cleaves noted that one focus of his new role is to continue to work with coastal communities to help see to it that additional resiliency efforts – beyond programs that helped stem the damage following a pair of punishing coastal storms in early 2024 – come to fruition, among other endeavors.

"There are a lot of good reasons try to help the towns in southern Maine," he said, "And York County is a big economic driver for the whole state."

Cleaves said he appreciates York County government's forward thinking – citing their decision to use federal ARPA and other funding for construction of the York County Regional Training Center that is up and running, and the York County Recovery Center, poised to open in the first quarter of 2027.

County officials say they appreciate Cleaves, who came to the agency in 2015 after stints as administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's New England region, director of the Maine Emergency Management Agency and the state's Homeland Security office. Previously, he had retired at the rank of colonel after 30 years with the Maine Army National Guard.

In an interview following the announcement of his retirement from his role as director of York County EMA, Cleaves said, in part, that he "wants always to contribute."

County officials note Cleaves' new role ensures that he will – to the benefit of York County as a whole.

– By Tammy Wells, York County government media

POLICE ACADEMY

(Continued from page 1)

Center, 79 County Way (a right off Layman Way, which is off Route 4) in Alfred. Graduation takes place March 12 at the annual YCSO Awards Ceremony.

Applicants must be 18 or older, have no felony arrests, and agree to a basic background check. To register, visit https://www.yorkcountymaine.gov/rtc and click on the link *Training Schedules and Opportunities* then scroll down to January to see the *Citizens Police Academy* listing with a link to register.

– By Tammy Wells, York County government media

SPORTS

FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

Scots advance with 35-20 win over Mustangs

Bonny Eagle broke open a 14-13 halftime lead with a dominant second half that lifted them to a 35-20 win over visiting Massabesic in the opening round of the playoffs on Friday, Nov. 6. Not surprisingly, Lucas Klehn was the difference. The senior quarterback had two second half rushing touchdowns and he sealed the win with a late interception while on defense. The Mustangs ran the ball well, especially early, as Alex Harriman pounded his was to 114 yards on 32 carries.

The Scots (9-1) will head to Saco to face Thornton Academy (10-0) for the Class A South Championship on Saturday, Nov. 14 at 1 p.m. The two foes faced off in a regular season contest just two weeks ago with the Trojans winning for the seventh consecutive time, this time by a 49-14 margin.

The North matchup pits #1 Oxford Hills against #3 Windham. Bonny Eagle faced both during the regular season and came away with lopsided wins in both. The Trojans faced neither.

– By Mike Deangelis Sports Writer

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TOWN OF WATERBORO

PLANNING BOARD
Notice of Public Hearing

The Town of Waterboro Planning Board will hold a public hearing at the Town Hall on Wednesday, November 18, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of this hearing is to receive public comment on the proposed 120' monopole wireless telecommunications facility with a secured 50'x 50' compound located at 87 Thyngs Mills Road, Map 13 Lot 14-002A.

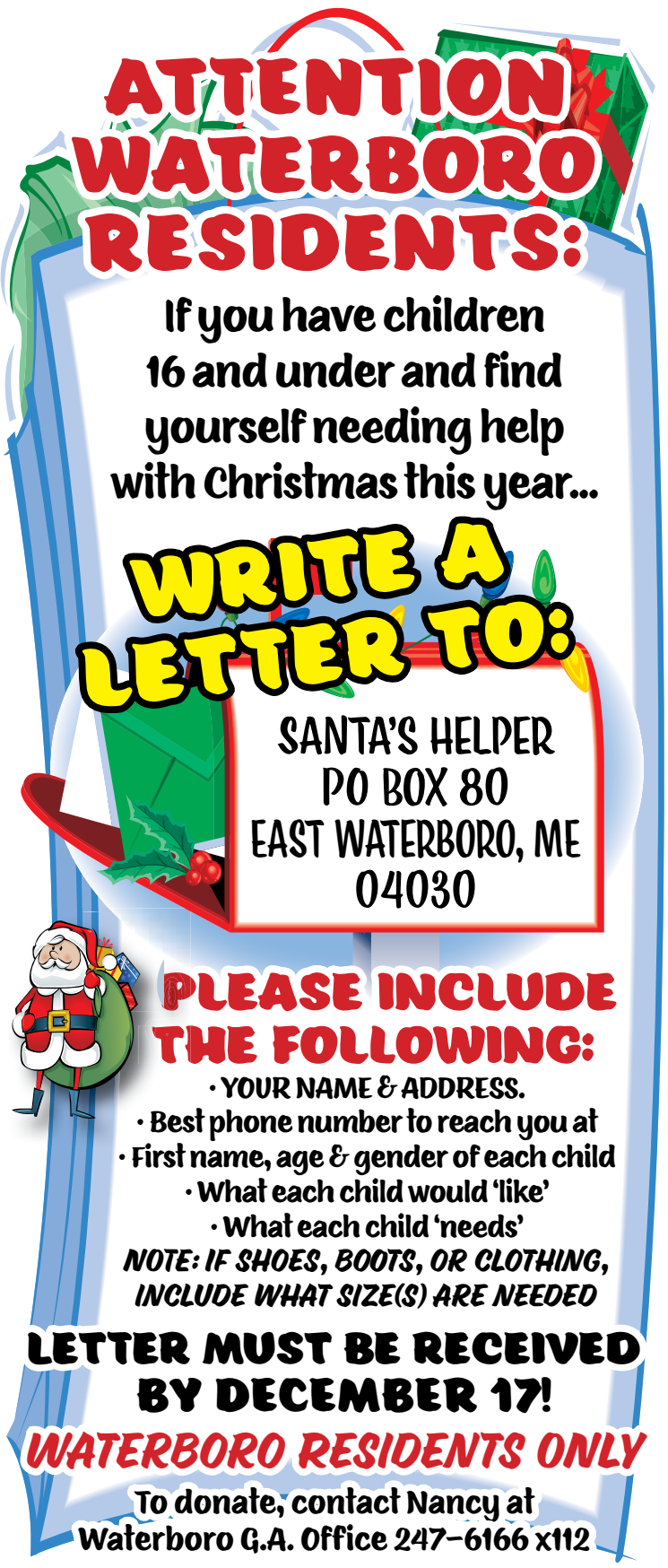
A copy of the application is available at the town offices or at www.waterboro-me.gov.

To participate in the Public Hearing, the following options are available:
- Send in a letter to the Town of Waterboro Planning Board – 24 Townhouse Rd, E. Waterboro, 04030
- E-mail achute@waterboromaine.gov with a letter.

Please contact the Department with any questions at achute@waterboromaine.gov or 207-247-6166 ext. 121.

DATE: Wednesday, November 18, 2024
TIME: Public Hearing 6:00PM
LOCATION: 24 Townhouse Road, W. Waterboro

– Rebekah Higgins, Chairman



WANT TO SHARE YOUR SPORTS PHOTOS?

EMAIL TO: news@waterbororeporter.com

ACTON/ SHAPLEIGH

Joanne Bargioni
joannebargioni@gmail.com

Shapleigh food drive

The town of Shapleigh is holding a food drive benefiting the Shapleigh Food Pantry. The requested Thanksgiving basket items are canned vegetables, cranberry sauce, stuffing mix, gravy, and boxed instant potatoes. Donations can be dropped off at the Town Hall, 22 Back Road, during normal business hours. They are accepting nonperishable and unexpired goods.

Acton Public Library

The Acton Public Library, 35 H Rd., has changed the day of Story Hour from Wednesday to Friday. Join them on Friday from 10 to 11 a.m. Come meet other caregivers while the children make new friends.

Obituaries

Joseph Michael Maxfield

Joseph Michael Maxfield, 55, of Hollis, was born on Jan. 10, 1971 in Portland, the son of Nancy Maxfield, and the late Joseph M. Martin.


Joseph Michael Maxfield

Joe had a way of drawing people in without even trying. There was something easy and magnetic about him. Kids and dogs would just find him. He had a warmth about him that made people feel safe.

He was a man of the ocean, a scuba diver and underwater welder who graduated from the College of Oceaneering. He spent his life working beneath the surface of the thing he loved most. He even spent time as an extra on the set of Planet of The Apes in 2001, but the ocean was more than work to him. He once said that when his time came, he wanted to go back to it so he could give back to what had given him so much.

Above everything else though, he was a father. Joseph, Andrew, Julia and Michael were the center of his world. He was incredibly proud of each of them and loved them endlessly. His mother, Nancy taught him that love and pride by showing him this throughout his whole life. His dad, Dennis, led by example in how to be a good man, parent, brother, and friend. These traits are why Joe was who he was.

Music was always playing somewhere nearby, AC/DC was his favorite, the soundtrack to a life lived with grit and a sense of adventure. He was the kind of person who made ordinary moments feel special just by being in them.

Joe left us on Nov. 4, but the things that mattered most to him- his kids, his family, the ocean, and people who loved him – didn't go anywhere. They stay. And in that way, he's still here.

A celebration of life will be held at his daughter Julia's home on Nov. 14 at 1p.m. at 61 Natures Way in Steep Falls.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Chad E. Poitras Cremation and Funeral Service, Buxton, www.mainefuneral.com

Debbie Normand

Debbie Ann Normand (Whitehouse), 63, passed away on Nov. 5, 2026.


Debbie Normand

Debbie was born on Aug. 10, 1963, in Sanford, to Flora Ayers (Stuart). She was a woman who treasured her family and friends and found joy in the little things that made life special. Her kind heart was clearly demonstrated in her passion for nursing and caring for people in the comfort of their own homes.

Debbie had many interests throughout her life, including modeling, camping, and collecting coins. She enjoyed spending time with the people she loved most. Whether sharing laughter, smiles, or making memories with family, friends, and her grandchildren, those moments meant everything to her.

One of Debbie's favorite pass times was collecting coins. She would often remind those around her to save their quarters and dollars because they were worth a lot. From now on, whenever a quarter catches your eye, take a moment to think of Debbie. A little piece of her memory that will continue to live on in everyday life.

She was predeceased by her mother, Flora Ayers (Stuart), and her brother, Bruce Benvie.

Debbie leaves behind her two beloved children, Christopher Vachon of Florida and Tiffany Normand of Kittery. She also leaves behind her cherished grandchildren, Sean Vachon, Shealynn Normand, Kayden Normand, Riley Normand, Carter Normand, Alexis Vachon, and Zakara Stewart, along with her precious great-grandchild, Phoenix Stewart. Her brother Brian Whitehouse, and sisters Elizabeth Melanson, Nancy McKenney, Pam Johnson, Denise Gouin, Wanda Sellner, April Durgin, and Tricia Veilleux.

A Celebration of Life will be held at The Alfred Parish Church on Nov. 21, 2026 at 1 p.m.

To share a memory or leave a message of condolence, visit www.bibbersautumngreen.com.

Arrangements are in the care of Bibber Memorial at Autumn Green, 47 Oak St, Alfred, ME 04002.

Claire V. O'Clair

It is with heavy hearts that the family of Claire Virginia O'Clair announces her passing on Nov. 5, 2026, at the age of 92.


Claire V. O'Clair

A lifelong resident of Sanford, she was the daughter of Cecelia (Cabana) and Napoleon Fagan. She was a graduate of St. Ignatius High School with the class of 1952.

She was predeceased by her husband, Frederick O'Clair, her brother, Patrick Fagan, Sister-in-law, Irene and Daughter-in-law, Barbara Connolly.

Surviving family members include her daughters, Donna Burbank of Sanford, and Bette Burbank and her partner Maggie Thomas of Kittery, granddaughter, Alix Burbank of Lebanon, Brother-in-law and Sister-in-law, Richard and Janet Burbank, as well as many nieces and nephews.

There will be no calling hours. A graveside service will be held in the spring.

To share a memory or leave a message of condolence, visit www.bibbersautumngreen.com.

Arrangements are in the care of Bibber Memorial at Autumn Green, 47 Oak St, Alfred, ME 04002.

(More on page 7)

Board of Appeals
TOWN OF SHAPLEIGH
Public Hearing Notice

The Shapleigh Board of Appeals will be holding a PUBLIC HEARING at the Shapleigh Community Building on Monday, December 7, 2026 at 7:00 pm for the following:

A REQUEST FOR AN ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL OF THE CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S JULY 8, 2026 REVOCATION DECISION, WHICH REVOKED A BUILDING PERMIT ISSUED TO THE APPELLANTS ON MAY 26, 2026.

Ref. Shapleigh Zoning Ordinance §105-71C(1)

PROPERTY LOCATED AT:
Shapleigh Tax Map 35, Lot 29 (380 Cedar Drive)
APPLICANT: Matthew and Heidi Genest

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NOTICES

NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE

MAINE WASTE DISCHARGE LICENSE / MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT APPLICATION

Please take note that, pursuant to 38 MRSA, Sections 413 and 414-A, Shy Beaver Trout LLC of Hollis intends to file a wastewater discharge permit application with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The application is for the discharge of 1.5 MGD of fish hatchery water to Wales Pond Brook in Hollis, Maine.

The application will be filed on or about December 13th, 2026, and will be available for public inspection at DEP's Augusta office by request during normal business hours. A copy may also be seen at the municipal offices in Hollis.

A request for a public hearing or request that the Board of Environmental Protection assume jurisdiction over this application must be received by the DEP, in writing, no later than 20 days after the application is found acceptable for processing, or 30 days from the date of this notice, whichever is longer. Requests shall state the nature of the issue(s) to be raised. Unless otherwise provided by law, a hearing is discretionary and may be held if the Commissioner or the Board finds significant public interest or there is conflicting technical information.

During the time specified above, persons wishing to receive copies of draft permits and supporting documents, when available, may request them from DEP. Persons receiving a draft permit shall have 30 days in which to submit comments or to request a public hearing on the draft.

Public comment will be accepted until a final administrative action is taken to approve, approve with conditions or deny this application. Written public comments or requests for information may be made to:

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DEADLINE:
Tuesday, Nov. 17

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WEEKLY CIRCULATION 8,000

OBITUARIES

(Continued from page 5)

Diane Snow

An artist, a dreamer, a farmer, and a life beautifully lived.

Some people simply live life. Others turn it into a work of art.

Diane Snow, 70, of Limerick, passed away peacefully on Nov. 6, 2026, at her beloved Yellow Farm, with her two daughters, Christine and Ashley, and her life partner, Eric Peterson, lovingly by her side. It was a fittingly peaceful farewell in the place she had filled with so much life, creativity, laughter, and love.



Diane Snow

Diane lived a magically charmed life, filled with creativity, adventure, laughter, music, animals, and an extraordinary love for the people around her. An award-winning artist, farmer, poet, musician, gifted chef, and self-proclaimed "screwball," Diane had a remarkable ability to make the ordinary feel extraordinary. Her life was as colorful and imaginative as the artwork she created, and she leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and beautiful memories.

Born on Oct. 14, 1956, Diane grew up in Scarborough, Maine, where she spent her early years playing sports, traveling across the country, and enjoying life near the ocean. As a child, she especially cherished the time she spent on her family's dairy farm in Lewiston, Maine. Those early experiences fostered a lifelong connection to animals, agriculture, and the simple joys of farm life — passions that would eventually become such an important part of the world she created at Yellow Farm.

She graduated from Scarborough High School in 1975 before continuing her education at the University of Southern Maine, where she earned a degree in Marine Biology. Her connection to her hometown remained strong throughout her life. Most recently, she created a special piece of copper artwork depicting Scarborough's retired mascot for her 50th high school reunion, which was then reproduced on T-shirts for her fellow classmates.

An incredibly talented and award-winning artist, Diane built a life around her passion for creating. Her artwork took her across the country to renowned equestrian events, including the Rolex Horse Show, the National Morgan Horse Show, Cowboy Christmas, and countless others. Often, her daughters, Christine and Ashley, accompanied her on these adventures. What might have been ordinary business trips became unforgettable journeys filled with sightseeing, discovery, and memories — from Niagara Falls to museums celebrating Native American heritage and countless landmarks in between.

Her artistic talents knew no boundaries. She worked in watercolor, pen and ink, and countless other mediums, transforming everything from canvas and glass to hollowed gourds and even a moose scapula into works of art. She explored beadwork, knitting, stained glass, weaving, and whatever new creative pursuit caught her imagination. She was a lifelong student of art, always eager to learn from other artists and expand her abilities.

Much of Diane's artwork was inspired by the world she created around her. Yellow Farm itself appeared in countless pieces, from its historic buildings and peaceful landscapes to the everyday scenes of farm life she treasured. Her paintings were more than beautiful representations of a place; they were personal reflections of the home she loved and the life she had built there.

Horses were one of Diane's greatest lifelong passions. Over the years, she loved and cared for many, each with a special place in her heart. She immortalized them all through her artwork, capturing their individual beauty, personalities, and spirit. Alongside her horses, her beloved Great Pyrenees — the famous "Big White Dogs of Yellow Farm" — became recurring subjects in her creations. Through her art, the animals she cherished would always remain part of Yellow Farm's story.

Just as much as she loved learning, Diane loved teaching. At her beloved Yellow Farm, she welcomed friends and family for paint nights, encouraging everyone to discover their own creativity. She also offered more advanced classes, generously sharing her knowledge and experience with aspiring artists. To Diane, art was never something to keep to herself. It was something to share, celebrate, and pass along.

Diane was also a beloved presence in Limerick's local business and arts community. She opened a storefront on Main Street called The Runaway Cowgirls Hideout, a charming gallery and shop where she proudly showcased the creations of local artists alongside her own. Diane believed deeply in supporting her fellow artists and often spent more time promoting their work than her own. Their successes brought her genuine joy, and she was always eager to help others find an audience for their talents.

The Runaway Cowgirls Hideout was a reflection of Diane's spirit and the many influences that shaped her. She felt a deep connection to her Native American heritage while also being drawn to the independence, adventure, and romance of cowgirl life. These passions found their way into her artwork and, later in life, into the poetry she wrote. The shop was as full of personality as Diane herself, often watched over by Mac, one of the beloved "Big White Dogs of Yellow Farm," who became a familiar fixture among visitors.

Eventually, Diane brought The Runaway Cowgirls Hideout home to Yellow Farm, transforming the farmhouse's Great Room into a gallery filled with artwork, creativity, and community. She enthusiastically participated in local events such as the Snowflake Trail, opening her home and gallery to hundreds of visitors over the years. For Diane, sharing art was never simply about selling something. It was about connecting with people, celebrating creativity, and inviting others into her world.

Yellow Farm was never simply where Diane lived. It was an extension of who she was. A little world of her own making, filled with creativity, laughter, animals, gardens, music, and an ever-changing collection of people who found their way through its doors. It was a place where imagination was encouraged, where there was always room for one more at the table, and where visitors often arrived as strangers but left feeling like family.

Diane had a particularly deep affection for the history and character of Yellow Farm, especially its farmhouse and barn, dating back to 1750. She lovingly referred to the property as her "old tired farm," but where others might have seen weathered boards, aging beams, and endless projects, Diane saw beauty, history, and possibility. She took immense pride in restoring and caring for the old farmhouse and barn, always mindful of preserving their natural beauty, original character, and historical integrity. She believed the imperfections were part of what made the farm special. For Diane, restoring Yellow Farm was never about making something old look new; it was about honoring everything that had come before while giving it new life.

And in true Diane fashion, she couldn't resist adding a little of her own artistry to the home she loved. Above the fireplaces, she hand-painted murals depicting scenes of life around Yellow Farm, capturing the animals, landscapes, and everyday beauty that inspired her. These paintings remain a lasting and deeply personal mark on the historic farmhouse — a beautiful reminder that while Diane worked so lovingly to preserve the farm's history, she also became an inseparable part of its story. The farm was, in many ways, one of her greatest and most personal works of art.

For years, Diane hosted "Music Behind Yellow Farm," a beloved potluck gathering that brought local musicians, friends, and neighbors together for evenings of music, food, laughter, and revelry. She had a genuine curiosity about people and the world, and she delighted in bringing people together, whether they had known each other for decades or had only just met.

Diane also had a remarkable green thumb and a deep appreciation for growing her own food. Her gardens were another expression of her creativity and love of the land. In recent years, she developed a particular passion for growing garlic, carefully tending to her crops, harvesting and drying the bulbs, and enthusiastically sharing the fruits of her labor. Much like everything else at Yellow Farm, her garlic was never just for herself. Anyone who stopped by was likely to leave with a bundle of homegrown garlic and perhaps a few gardening tips to go along with it.

She was also an extraordinary cook and baker. Inspired by her grandparents and mother, and largely self-taught, Diane developed a talent in the kitchen that became legendary among those fortunate enough to experience it. She even turned her passion into a business venture, offering homemade prepared meals. But for Diane, cooking was always about something more than food. Feeding people was one of her greatest expressions of love. No one ever left Yellow Farm hungry, and rarely did anyone leave empty-handed. There was always a bag of homemade preserves, leftover dessert, fresh garlic, or some other delicious treasure pressed into their hands on the way out.

Her love for animals was just as boundless. Throughout her life, Diane opened her home and heart to horses, ponies, dogs, cats, ducks, chickens, cows, turkeys, and countless other creatures. She found joy in caring for them and sharing the rhythms of farm life with those around her.

And then there was "the big white dog at Yellow Farm."

Over the years, Diane shared her life with three beloved Great Pyrenees dogs, each becoming part of the farm's story and identity. She spoke fondly of "the big white dog at Yellow Farm," a familiar and cherished presence that found its way into so much of her artwork. These gentle giants became more than beloved companions; they were part of the magic of Yellow Farm, immortalized through Diane's creativity and forever woven into the place she loved.

Among her greatest joys were her grandsons, Liam and Eli. Diane treasured every opportunity to introduce them to the wonders of Yellow Farm — teaching them how to raise chicks, collect eggs, feed and ride horses, and appreciate the animals and nature around them. She shared her art supplies, musical instruments, imagination, and endless encouragement, giving them the freedom to explore, create, and simply be themselves. And, of course, there were her famous haystack cookies, which she loved making especially for Liam and Eli. Like so many things Diane did, those sweet treats were another way of showing her love, creating simple traditions and memories her grandsons will carry with them forever.

Diane's laughter was infectious, her sense of humor unforgettable, and her spirit wonderfully unconventional. She proudly called herself a "screwball," never taking herself too seriously and always finding a reason to laugh. She had a special gift for making people feel welcome, safe, loved, and filled with joy. Whether through a home-cooked meal, an unexpected gift, a shared song, or a hilarious story, she made the people around her feel that they belonged.

Alongside her beloved life partner, Eric Peterson, Diane created a warm and welcoming home at Yellow Farm. Together, they made it a place where people could gather, stay awhile, share a meal, and feel like family. Their life together was filled with the animals, friendships, creativity, and simple pleasures that Diane cherished so deeply.

Diane is survived by her loving life partner, Eric Peterson; her daughters, Ashley Rondeau and Christine Snow, and Christine's husband, Danny Lassiter; her cherished grandsons, Liam and Eli Lassiter; her sister, Marie Murphy; and her beloved animals, including her dog Chef, horses Summer Moon and Keeley, and her many cats.

She was predeceased by her parents, Teresa and Robert Murphy; her brothers, Dicky Murphy and Bobby Murphy; and her sister, Joann Murphy.

It is difficult to capture a life so full in just a few words. Diane was an artist in every sense — not simply because of the beautiful things she created, but because of the way she lived. She turned meals into celebrations, strangers into friends, ordinary objects into art, and a farmhouse into a place where memories were made.

Her greatest masterpiece was the life she created and the love she shared.

Yellow Farm will always hold pieces of Diane — in the gardens she tended, the garlic she grew, the artwork she created, the animals she loved, and the laughter that once filled its rooms. Her paintings above the fireplaces will continue to tell the stories of the farm she treasured, while the horses and big white dogs she so lovingly painted will live on through her art.

And while the world is a little quieter without her laughter, her spirit lives on in every brushstroke, every song, every shared meal, every seed planted, and every person who was lucky enough to find their way to Yellow Farm.

May we honor Diane by living a little more colorfully, laughing a little louder, welcoming one more person to the table, planting something beautiful, and never letting anyone leave without something sweet for the road.

A celebration of Diane's life will be held at her beloved Yellow Farm in the spring. In true Diane fashion, family and friends will gather for a potluck cookout, live music, laughter, and the sharing of memories — just the way she would have wanted it. Additional details will be shared in early May 2027."

Online condolence messages can be submitted at the Chad E. Poitras Cremation and Funeral Service, East Waterboro website, www.mainefuneral.com.



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