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REPORTER

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VOLUME 24, ISSUE 44 • PO Box 75, North Waterboro, ME 04061 • 247-1033 • www.waterbororeporter.com • THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2026

Sanford High School Theater Company presents 'Peter and the Starcatcher' Nov. 13-15

Before Neverland, before Captain Hook, and before a boy named Peter Pan, there was an adventure waiting to happen.

Sanford High School Theater Company will present "Peter and the Starcatcher" at the Sanford Performing Arts Center, located at 100 Alumni Blvd., Sanford, on Friday, Nov. 13 and Saturday, Nov. 14 at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 15 at 2 p.m.

Starring Jaiden Mann as Peter Pan and featuring 45 students in the cast and crew, this Tony Award-winning play takes audiences on an imaginative journey filled with pirates, shipwrecks, unlikely heroes, and a mysterious treasure called starstuff. Along the way, an orphan known only as Boy and a determined young girl named Molly help set the stage for the familiar world of Peter Pan.

The production's creative team includes Artistic Director Brett Williams, Backstage Director and Costume Designer Kristie Baker, and Lighting Designer Jeff Perry.

"Anyone who knows Peter Pan will love discovering how his story began," said Williams. "There's so much humor and imagination in this play, and our students bring a wonderful energy to it. It's a great opportunity to come out and enjoy live theater and support our talented students."

Tickets are $18 for adults, $14 for seniors and free for students. Tickets are available at www.SanfordPAC.org or by calling 207-206-1126.

SANFORD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



Black Stache (Jack Van Gieson) gives a nameless orphan (Jaiden Mann) the name Peter in Sanford High School's production of 'Peter and the Starcatcher' Nov. 13-15. PHOTO BY BRETT WILLIAMS



A grand opening!

Willow, a Corgi from North Waterboro, was admiring the variety of dog bones for sale during the grand opening of the new Tractor Supply store in Waterboro. PHOTO BY KERRY DEANGELIS



Lexie Green, of Alfred, with her mini donkey, Lewy. Green had her 'Mini Funny Farm' on display, including a mini highland cow and mini cow, at the grand opening of the new Tractor Supply store in Waterboro on Oct. 24. PHOTO BY KERRY DEANGELIS

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



FROM YORK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Historic documents intrigue visitors

Old maps, old deeds, old documents: really old - 1733 old. Its enough to make a history lovers heart go pitty-pat. And it did earlier this month when several members of a Bonny Eagle Adult Education class braved a prolific fall rainstorm to see for themselves some of the sorts of historical material that helps shape how we live today.

Some came to the historic York County Court House in Alfred (built 1806, with a rebuild of the center portion in 1934 following a fire) with a particular interest in maps, others in deeds, and still others with all of it – including admiring the stately courtroom used for trials for many, many years.

Rita Bradbury's interest in old documents and maps is entwined with her passion for ancestor-hunting.

"I'm embedded in genealogy. I drove by a cemetery and it called me," she said of how she became involved in family research.

Cemeteries are still calling the former longtime librarian of the Buxton Hollis Historical Society, and she is a regular contributor to Find A Grave, a vast online collection of cemetery listings that includes names and photos of headstones of those buried there.

York County Records Management Specialist Andrew O'Neill and York County Registrar of Deeds Nancy Hammond took attendees on a tour. The county-owned York County Court House building was for many years the home of York County Superior Court, but no longer serves that purpose – the state judicial branch consolidated the district and superior courts into a new state building in Biddeford in 2023. The building in Alfred is home to the registries of deeds and probate, the York County Probate Court, York County Co-operative Extension Agency and others.

O'Neill explained the process he's currently undertaking to prepare some of Maine's oldest documents – carefully unfolding paper tri-folded for many, many decades, and humidifying and flattening the pages so they can

(Continued on page 8)

Community CALENDAR

VETERANS DAY IS NOV. 11



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

COMING EVENTS

STAND UP AND SING FOR AMERICA Join us for a sing along featuring Patriotic/Christian songs. Ice Cream and Beverages to follow. Saturday, Nov. 7 at 905 Main Street, Sanford at 6 p.m.

YORK COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE will meet on Wednesday, Nov. 11 at Alfred Town Hall, 16 Saco Road. Doors open at 6 p.m.; business meeting is from 6:30-8 p.m. The meeting will focus on review of the 2026 midterm results. YCRC candidates winning their election will have an opportunity to address the meeting. All registered Republicans welcome. FMI: YCRCsecretary@yorkgop.org, (508) 523-9197.

Historical Society of Newfield event presents **VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCE** on 11th day of the 11th month at 11 a.m. to be held at the veterans stone at the Town Office in Newfield on 66 Water Street. Please join us in thanking our veterans.

Historical Society of Newfield event, immediately following the Veterans Day Observance: **COMPASS OF REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY** at the 64 Elm Street. Historical Society building. Several new river stones will be inducted along with associated biographies that capture how each citizen has contributed to our community. Refreshments will be served.

The Sanford Veterans Memorial Committee has announced plans for its annual **VETERANS DAY EVENTS** on Wednesday, Nov. 11. The public is welcome at all events. Committee members will gather at the memorial in Central Park at 9 a.m. to place a wreath. They will then travel to the gazebo in front of Walgreens in Springvale for a wreath-laying at 9:30 a.m. At 11 a.m., the ceremonies will begin at the Memorial Gym, 678 Main Street, Sanford. Paul Auger will serve as Master of Ceremonies. Following the indoor ceremonies, attendees will be invited to come outside for a wreath-laying.

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.

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.

LET'S EAT!

PUBLIC TURKEY DINNER on Saturday Nov. 7 from 4:30-6:30pm at the St Thomas School cafeteria on 69 North Avenue in Sanford. Turkey, squash, mashed potatoes, stuffing, dessert and all the fixings. $15 per person and $10 for children under 12. POC Ray Sargent at 207-324-7589.

The Shapleigh Community Center, 24 Back Rd., is holding a **CHILI AND CHOWDER COOK-OFF** on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 12 to 2 p.m. Bring your best batch of homemade chili or chowder. Prizes will be awarded to the top three People's Choice winners. The charge is $10 per attendee at the door. Proceeds benefit the Shapleigh Fuel Assistance Fund. Contact Penny to register and enter your recipe at 207-636-2844 ext.5 or email at officeassistant@shapleigh.net.

The Acton-Shapleigh Lion's Club **MONTHLY PANCAKE BREAKFAST** the first Saturday of every month (Next on Nov. 7). $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.

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.

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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Host your family, friend, or office holiday party or any special gathering with us. Call or stop in to chat!

Keywood Manor Activities Council
CRAFT FAIR & BAKE SALE
Saturday, Nov. 7, 9am-2pm
85 Pools Crossing Rd., Alfred

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

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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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HOLIDAY Craft Fair
at Newfield Historical Society Building
64 Elm Street
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Nov. 6, 7 & 8
9:30am-3pm

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*some exclusions apply, no double discounts

SHAPLEIGH

Joanne Bargioni
joannebargioni@gmail.com

Spooky night in Shapleigh

The air carried the unmistakable crispness of Halloween on Oct. 31, when families gathered in the parking lot of the Shapleigh Community Center for the annual trunk-or-treat festivities. The chilly night did not seem to bother the enthusiastic trick-or-treaters dressed in their favorite costumes.

Hosted by Shapleigh Recreation, the event had been gaining momentum all month. Candy was donated, and those arriving to participate brought trunks and cars packed with even more treats, all decorated with Halloween themes. By dusk, the parking lot had been transformed into a safe place for trick-or-treating.

Vehicles lined the parking lot; each decorated with care and creativity to reflect Halloween night. Spooky themes such as ghosts, cobwebs, witches, and jack-o'-lanterns set the tone, but one truck stood out: a pirate ship, complete with pirates circling the "ship."

A refreshment table offered hot chocolate and water, giving everyone a warm break from the chilly evening.



A Pirate Ship sails into Shapleigh Community Center parking lot for Trunk or Treat. PHOTO BY JOANNE BARGIONI

Community spirit was evident, with local farms, businesses, and residents contributing to the event, including the Shapleigh Fire Department, Shapleigh Rescue, and the Sheriff's Department, all gathered to enjoy a night of spooky fun.

As night settled in, the parking lot glowed with lights, laughter, and the soft rustle of costumes. Children traveled from trunk to trunk, collecting their Halloween goodies.

It was the kind of night that made you appreciate small-town living and the community spirit that came together to provide an enjoyable, safe evening for all.

EMAIL YOUR ADVERTISEMENTS BY TUESDAY TO:
ads@waterbororeporter.com

Reunited In Concert: The Grassis and Joyce Painter Rice celebrate the holidays

The members of First Congregational Church, 141 North Street, Kennebunkport, are delighted to announce and welcome the return of some of their favorite musicians for a concert of Christmas classics, carols, and holiday songs.

On Sunday, Nov. 29, at 2 p.m., former music director Joyce Painter Rice will accompany the Grassi family on violin. The Grassi sisters, Sophia, Antonia, Christiana, and their mother, Megan, are all accomplished musicians who grace our community with their talents.

Joyce's legacy, aside from being the church's former music director, is her enthusiasm and commitment for First Church's 1854 E. & G. G. Hook Organ. The organ was successfully refurbished during Joyce's tenure.

Mark your calendars for this special holiday musical event. All are welcome and donations are always appreciated.

First Congregational Church is located 1.5 miles south of the Seacoast Trolley Museum where Log Cabin Rd. becomes North St., next to Arundel Cemetery, and the Kennebunkport Historical Society. From Kennebunkport's Dock Square area take Spring St. to a left on Maine St. to North St. and follow North St. to First Congregational Church on the right.

For directions or more information, you may call the church office at (207) 967-3897. The church's website is www.first-churchofkennebunkport.org.

Regional School Unit #57

Invitation to Committee candidates:

RSU 57 is embarking on an important Enrollment and School Facility study during the 2026-2027 academic year. We will be reviewing historical and projected enrollment trends, school facility capacity, condition, and utilization, academic programming and instruction, transportation needs, and other relevant data as we develop and consider recommendations to improve efficiencies and maximize learning opportunities for all students.

As a first step, the RSU 57 School Board is forming an **Enrollment and School Facility Usage Planning Committee**, composed of fifteen voting members, with each community fairly represented. Membership on the Committee will include:

- Three community members (each from different municipalities)
- Three RSU 57 School Board members (each from different municipalities)
- Three municipal officials (each from different municipalities)
- Three teachers (each from different municipalities and different levels)
- Three school administrators (each from different municipalities and different levels)

We invite anyone interested in serving on the Committee to send an email to Ms. Callie Russell, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent (callierussell@rsu57.org) by Friday, November 13th to have their name placed in the pool of applicants. Selections will be made to provide for balanced representation throughout the district by Friday, November 20. The email should include:

- Full name
- Town of residence
- Affiliation to RSU 57 (employee, graduate, parent, community member – list as many as apply)
- Reason for applying (one paragraph, 5-7 sentences)

Potential Committee members are asked to ensure they can attend evening meetings on the following dates as part of their commitment to this process:

- December 1, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- January 28, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
- February 3, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- March 2, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- April 7, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- May 5, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- June 2, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

We want to assure you that every member of the RSU 57 community will have multiple opportunities to engage in this work, as we will be holding a Community Forum and school-based Faculty Forums, as well as conducting a community-wide survey during this process. The Study Committee will also be making monthly reports at RSU 57 School Board meetings, and all meetings of the Committee will be held in public.

We look forward to working with our communities as we seek to understand how best to serve our students in the coming years.

Sincerely,
Stephen D. Marquis
Superintendent, Regional School Unit #57

Contact me with any state related questions.
(207) 283-5729
John.eder@maine.legislature.gov
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SPORTS

FOOTBALL

Scots slam Spartans, Mustangs fall to Trojans

Host Bonny Eagle rolled to a 57-20 win over Sanford in its final regular season game on Friday, Oct. 30. The two teams posted opposite records with the Scots finishing at 8-1 and the Spartans at 1-8. Host Massabesic was shutout 37-0 by unbeaten Thorton Academy (8-0) on the same evening.

The Mustangs will travel to neighbor Bonny Eagle for a first-round playoff contest on Friday, Nov. 6 at 7 p.m. The Scots beat Massabesic 27-14 in game three of the regular season. They finished 6-3, with their other loss coming to South Portland. Quarterback Lucas Klehn from Bonny Eagle leads the state with 23 touchdowns.

CROSS COUNTRY

Cross Country State Championship

Scot men fifth

Senior Parker Moore finished in twelfth place to help Bonny Eagle to a fifth-place finish at the annual Class A Cross Country Championships held on Oct. 31 at Cony High School. Thornton Academy won the team event with Portland second and Scarborough third. Over 100 runners participated.

Mustang ladies sixth

Senior Corinne Shank's sixth-place finish led Massabesic to sixth-place in the team event at the Class A Cross Country Championships held on Halloween at Cony High School. Junior Abigail Gilley came in 14th. Hampden academy was first with Falmouth second and Portland third. Just under 100 girls ran.

– By Mike Deangelis
Sports Writer

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State of Working Maine 2026:

Protecting workers from Artificial Intelligence

State of Working Maine 2026 examines how artificial intelligence could reshape workplaces across the state and calls on policymakers to ensure technological change benefits workers, not just powerful corporations and investors and identifies practical steps to safeguard workers and share the benefits of technological progress.

The report finds AI's future effects remain uncertain, but the risks are familiar: job displacement, weakened worker power, intrusive surveillance, discrimination, and widening inequality. Maine's overall exposure is similar to the nation's, with office support, production, transportation, retail, and customer service among the occupations most affected. Yet current adoption remains limited: in mid-2026, one in four employed Mainers used AI at work multiple times a week, and only 55% of users reported increased productivity.

The report suggests Maine does not need to predict AI's exact trajectory to act and urges Maine lawmakers to pair innovation with accountability. Progressive taxation, strong labor standards, worker organizing rights, and meaningful oversight can ensure AI-driven gains support public investment and broadly shared prosperity rather than greater corporate concentration. Lawmakers can set clear rules now so workers share in productivity gains, corporations pay their fair share of taxes, and no handful of companies or individuals gains too much power over wages, working conditions, public policy, or the economy.

Key findings

• Exposure does not automatically mean job loss. AI may complement workers, replace tasks or jobs, or raise profits without increasing pay. Policy choices will determine who benefits.

• Disruption may be concentrated. There is no evidence yet of broad AI-driven unemployment in Maine, but technology firms, call centers, early-career workers, and particular communities show warning signs.

• Unchecked AI could deepen inequality. Productivity gains may flow disproportionately to owners and investors, especially when workers lack bargaining power.

• Corporate control creates workplace risks. AI-enabled surveillance, biased employment decisions, algorithmic wage-setting, worker-data misuse, and digital replicas can erode privacy and accountability.

• Historic transitions show the need to act early. Even when technological change benefits the economy overall, displaced workers and communities can face severe and lasting harm.

Policy solutions

• Track and manage displacement: Require employers to disclose AI-related layoffs, protect safety-critical and public-interest jobs from full automation, and create a durable rapid-response program for affected workers and communities.

• Strengthen the safety net: Expand unemployment insurance eligibility, duration, and wage replacement; recognize education and retraining as qualifying activity; and improve access to food assistance and affordable health coverage.

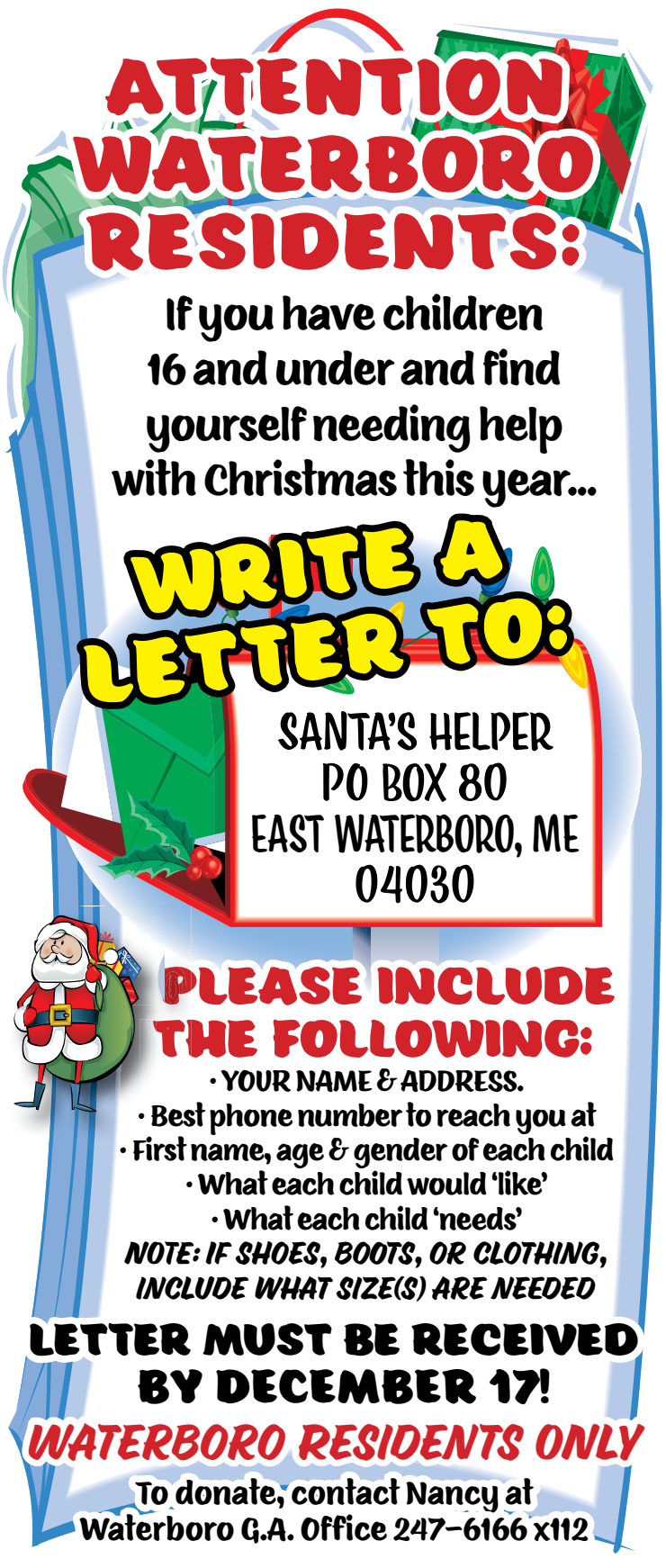
• Invest in education: Adequately fund Maine's public colleges and expand affordable higher education and retraining for displaced and at-risk workers.

• Set enforceable workplace AI rules: Limit surveillance, ban algorithmic wage-setting, require impact assessments and human review of employment decisions, protect employee data, and require consent before using a worker's voice, likeness, or work to create a digital replacement.

• Protect platform workers and worker voice: Prevent employee misclassification, guarantee minimum pay and paid leave, and strengthen collective-bargaining rights.

• Hold corporations accountable: Ensure large corporations, technology companies, and wealthy investors pay fair taxes on AI-driven profits and digital services; remove tax incentives that reward replacing workers with machines; and implement policies to prevent corporations from accumulating too much economic and political power.

Read State of Working Maine 2026 at mecep.org/sowm2026.



Uniformed Service and Overseas Voters results for federal and governor races

Secretary of State Shenna Bellows has announced the Uniformed Service and Overseas Voters unofficial Election Night results for the Nov. 3, 2026 General Election:

Governor
Bennett, Rick (I) – 208
Charles, Robert (R) – 373
Pingree, Hannah (D) – 4237
Declared write-ins – 0
Blank – 55

U.S. Senate
Collins, Susan (R) – 473
Jackson, Troy (D) – 4350
Declared write-ins – 0
Blank – 53

Congressional District 1
Pingree, Chellie (D) – 2721
Russell, Ronald (R) – 176
Blank – 31

Congressional District 2
Dunlap, Matthew (D) – 1731
LePage, Paul (R) – 211
Declared write-ins – 0
Blank – 8

Uniformed Service Voter:
• Active duty military and their dependents (U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps)
• Coast Guard
• Commissioned corps of the U.S. public Health Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
• The Merchant Marine
Overseas Voter:
• U.S. citizen living outside of the United States who was qualified or would be qualified to vote in their place of residence in Maine prior to leaving the U.S.

TOWN OF ALFRED

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Monday, November 9, 2026, at 6:00 pm at Alfred Town Hall, 16 Saco Road, Alfred

Notice is hereby given that the Alfred Board of Selectmen will hold a **Public Hearing on Monday, November 9, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Alfred Town Hall** to receive public comments regarding the following articles to be considered at a SPECIAL TOWN MEETING:

1. Purchase of a Rescue Pumper:
Shall the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to borrow a sum not to exceed $750,000.00 for the purchase of a new E-One Spartan Rescue Pumper?

2. Purchase of a Monitor/Defibrillator:
Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of $55,000.00 from the Capital Improvement Fund for the purchase of one new Zoll Zenix Monitor/Defibrillator?

3. Alfred Senior Food Assistance Fund:
Shall the Town vote to accept any and all funds associated with a new account entitled "Alfred Senior Food Assistance Fund" for the purpose of providing food assistance to senior citizens who reside in the Town of Alfred?

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

All interested members of the public are invited to attend and provide comments.

– Board of Selectmen

Q&A BUY THE BOOK

with Jennie Robertson Bryant

By Shelley Burbank

On Oct. 28, Limerick's SelkiePub Bookshop owner, Jennie Robertson Bryant, published her novel entitled *Mercy*. The book tells the story of Isla, a woman deeply committed to helping her struggling, working-class city of Scottsville. As she fights the "rich snobs" of the local city council, Isla encounters a variety of characters, including a homeless man, a corrupt businessman, and a dreamer, and each provides a unique perspective about society and her town. All the while, Isla struggles to come to terms with her own actions and values, as well.

The author, who publishes her work under the name Jennie Robertson, has been enamored of books and reading her entire life. Though she didn't study creative writing while attending college at Moody Bible Institute, she's read numerous books about the writing craft and has been a prolific reader in general, a trait she feels is more influential to her development than any formal training in the craft.

Robertson began her publishing career with articles in publications like MaryJane's Farm, Broken Pencil, and Oh Reader magazines as well as essays in anthologies, blogs, and outlets like Thinking Outside the Sandbox and Literary Mama. In 2020 Jennie began to publish zines on her own, primarily focused on her love of folklore.

This past summer, in June 2026, Jennie opened her pop-up bookstore on Main Street in Limerick and hopes to keep it going into the winter months. She answers, here, a few questions about her writing aspirations and the inspiration for her novel, *Mercy*, published by her own imprint also called SelkiePub. The book can be ordered on Amazon, Barnes & Nobel, or purchased at the SelkiePub Bookshop or at other indie bookstores by request.

How long have you been a writer? I have "always" been a writer. I made books to sell at my dad's bookstore before I learned to write. I was a little dictator (see what I did there?)

Have you always wanted to be a novelist? Yes, I always wanted to write fiction–short stories, novels, etc.

Which writers have most inspired you? Brace yourself for a rather diverse list: JRR Tolkien, CS Lewis, Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Louisa May Alcott, LM Montgomery, Nathaniel Hawthorne (who said women shouldn't write, thereby breaking my heart, but hey, nobody's perfect.) Special shout out to fellow Maine authors Monica Wood and Carolyn Chute, whose books reflected a Maine that resonated with me deeply. I'm sure I am forgetting so many others!

Where did you get the inspiration for* Mercy*? How much is inspired by your own experiences?

I was born in Sanford and I always thought it was kind of ugly, but then after college I had a job and no car, so I walked 45 minutes each way to and from work. It gave me a chance to think about and observe Sanford, and I eventually found it interesting, especially the old mills. That was when I came up with the original version of one of the main characters. Nothing is true (except for two family anecdotes that I asked permission to include), but it's all based on processing life – real sorrows, joys, frustrations, hopes, temptations, forgiveness, just not real circumstances. Some of the places are real places. One character's voice was based on one that I heard over a partition in a pizza joint one night. I guess all books are made out of such scraps, consciously or unconsciously.

How long did it take you to write this book? Ten years from the time I started typing, not counting the years of fermenting in my mind.

Why did you decide to start your own publishing company rather than seeking a traditional publishing contract? I went to a writing conference 17 years ago where they talked about the changing face of publishing, how even with a traditional contract, writers were having to do most of the marketing themselves. I also read over and over how few authors were picked up by traditional publishing houses. I didn't want 132 rejection letters. I also thought I wanted complete creative control–in retrospect, I could have let a publishing house decide a few things! I don't like the idea of a few giant companies controlling which ideas get made public. They still have most of the advantages, but at least I can have my little shout out into the universe.



Local Limerick bookshop owner and author, Jennie Robertson (Bryant), holds a copy of her newly published novel, MERCY, which came out this month from her own imprint SelkiePub.
PHOTO BY SHELLEY BURBANK

What do you hope readers will take away from them after reading this book? 1. That people are both beautiful and broken. These exist together, in each body, each soul, and we need to acknowledge both to treat each other tenderly, wisely, mercifully, and justly. 2. What's the answer to poverty and despair? "Maybe there isn't a good answer. Maybe the world and people are too messy for that. Maybe it doesn't take City Hall; maybe it takes each person doing their best to truly value and nurture the few individuals that they can make a difference for." 3. Moments matter when they contain tiny kindnesses or thoughtless cruelties. 4. It's easy to call other people "monsters" (see: Facebook community pages.) It's a lot harder to admit that you've done wrong.

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TOWN OF HOLLIS

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Hollis Planning Board is holding a PUBLIC HEARING Tuesday, November 17, 2026 at 7 PM in the Hollis Meeting Room, 34 Town Farm Road, Hollis, ME 04042

To review the proposed ordinance, *"Town of Hollis Ordinance Establishing A Temporary Moratorium on Data Centers"* which will be voted on at the Special Town Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 8, 2026 at 7PM.

The proposed ordinance can be viewed at the Town Hall and on our website www.hollismaine.org. The public is welcome to attend the hearing in person or virtually. If you are unable to attend and want to submit comments prior to the hearing, please e-mail: planningboard@hollismaine.org. Written comments can be submitted to the Hollis Town Hall during regular business hours or by mail to: Hollis Planning Board, 34 Town Farm Road, Hollis, ME 04042.

– Heather Sullivan, Planning Board Chair

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Obituaries

Lawrence (Larry) Gordon Roberts

Lawrence (Larry) Gordon Roberts, 93 of Shapleigh passed away Oct. 26, 2026, with his family by his side.


Lawrence (Larry) Gordon Roberts

He was born on July 15,1933, the son of Lester and Ertie (Turbin) Roberts. He grew up in "The Gore" of Alfred and when his father died when he was age 14, he went to help on the Gile farm in Alfred for $5/week plus room and board. This is where he learned his hard work ethic that served him well for the rest of his life.

When he graduated from high school in 1953, he enlisted in the Air Force taking basic training in New York and staying for two terms before returning home to Maine in 1961.

He loved to tell stories of his years in the Air Force. One story he told was when he was in Thule Greenland in 1957 where it was 48 degrees below zero and he was out working on aircraft engines because someone put the wrong oil in their plane and it froze up. Another thing he frequently shared was when he was stationed in Illinois and his first child was due to be born. He had some time off and decided to drive home to Maine even though he wasn't supposed to be more than 100 miles away from Base. He made it home to see his first daughter, Holly, born then hurried back to base. He also told of being sent to Tourane Indochina to service planes that the French borrowed for the war and being shot at trying to land and takeoff at the base.

When he returned from the service, he started his own business doing excavations, foundations and septic systems. He became very well known in the local home building network around southern Maine for his dedication, attention to detail and hard work. He also plowed roads for Alfred and Shapleigh in Southern Maine for many years.

He was always willing to help anyone out that he could from working on lawnmowers, mowing lawns, tilling gardens, plowing driveways or even just providing general knowledge on the best way to fix something. He could fix pretty much anything.

He loved to just go for rides and lots of times ending up at Cole Farms in Gray where he became well known to the staff there. He loved going out to eat and never missed a chance at a good bowl of ice cream or some fried seafood.

His favorite fall pastime was going to the fairs and watching the horse pulling. He would often see the same people at the fairs and form friendships with many of them that lasted for years. His favorites fairs were Cumberland and Fryeburg.

He is survived by his daughters Holly Roberts of Wells and Lisa Welch of Saco, his companion of more than 50 years, Lorene Nash of Shapleigh, niece Jennifer Ivey of Alfred, Grandchildren Sarah (Josh) Hebert, Tyler (Cassie) Brock, Deanna (Becky) Vigliotta, Heidi (Jim) Sherman, great-grandchildren Caleb, Jacob, Summer, Jocelyn, Maya, Aleea, Dylan, great-great grandchild Forrest.

He was predeceased by his parents, brother Lester Roberts, sisters Harriet Hall, Janet O'Gara, Katherine Roberts, and daughter Jane Roberts.

A graveside service will be held for family and friends on Nov. 20, 2026 at 11 a.m., located at Evergreen Cemetery, Alfred.

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

*The family of **Jennifer Leigh Gerrish** would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our friends, neighbors, and the entire community for the overwhelming love and support shown to us during our recent loss.*

To everyone who sent flowers, prepared meals, made donations, offered kind words, or simply kept our family in your thoughts and prayers, please know how much it has meant to us. Your generosity and compassion have brought us comfort during an incredibly difficult time.

We are truly blessed to be part of a community that comes together, lifts one another up, and reminds us that we are never alone in times of sorrow.

*From the bottom of our hearts, **THANK YOU**!*

With gratitude,
The Gerrish and Champion Families

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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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HISTORICAL DOCS

(Continued from page 1)

be scanned for eventual online viewing. The online link will sport a search function and display the original document along with an AI-generated summary of what it contains.

He noted that in the earliest days of York County, formed in 1636, York County Commissioners also conducted legal proceedings and that is why some of the county's earliest records are with the state archive in Augusta.

O'Neill spoke of how property boundaries were sometimes described – like "the old barn that burned," or "the sawdust pile," as landmarks in petitions by residents to county commissioners asking them to build new roads – appropriate perhaps for the year in which they were written, but very challenging 300-400 years later.

O'Neill and Hammond began offering tours to York County adult education classes in 2025.

Students – and the education director from Bonney Eagle Adult Education pronounced it fascinating.

"We're excited to offer this opportunity," to our communities, said Cherie Goranites, Bonny Eagle Adult Education Director. She said the event was her first look at the interior of the historic courthouse.

Attendees perused copies of deeds hundreds of years old – including one where a native American conveyed a piece of land to an early settler. They examined maps, and other old documents encased in protective coverings to help preserve them.

"I think at this moment in time the rule of law and how that works is very important, and I find myself looking back to history for that kind of stability," said adult education class member Veronica Hartman.

Adult education directors throughout York County who would like more information about courthouse tours may contact O'Neill at: AMONeill@yorkcountymaine.gov.

– By Tammy Wells, York County government media



York County Records Management Specialist Andrew O'Neill, left, and York County Registrar of Deeds Nancy Hammond, right, showing a visitor some historic deeds. PHOTO BY TAMMY WELLS, YORK COUNTY GOVERNMENT MEDIA

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