

# REPORTER

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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## Breaking ground for first women veterans' monument in Maine

By JOANNE BARGIONI

On Saturday, April 18, under a bright and sunny afternoon sky, a ceremony was held to mark the groundbreaking of Maine's first monument dedicated to women veterans. The event took place at the Southern Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery, at 83 Stanley Road in Springvale. Linda Smilie, of the Southern Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery Association (SMVMCA) opened the program by honoring women who have served in the military; past, present, and future.

The monument depicts a woman soldier in silhouette. This was intentionally done so that the viewer of the monument could envision themselves. Described on the monument are the words, "In Honor Of All Women Who Served In The United States Military." At the bottom of the monument are the emblems of the US Armed Forces. The monument

when completed will represent the combination of years of effort, spearheaded by Smilie, who, despite never having served in the military has deep personal ties to the Armed Forces through many family members. Smilie worked closely with the late Ray Parent, whose mentorship and partnership were instrumental in bringing the vision of a Women Veterans' Monument to reality. Unfortunately, Parent passed away before the project's completion, but the monument stands as a tribute to that shared dedication. Over 5 years since inception, when completed the monument will measure 70 inches wide and 42 inches high. It is positioned facing east of the Committal Center directly across from the POW/MIA memorial.

During the ceremony, Smilie also took time to recognize Gold Star families in attendance to honor the mothers and fathers who have lost loved ones in military service.

*(Continued on page 4)*



Groundbreaking of the Women Veterans' Monument at the Southern Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Springvale on April 18. From left, Linda Smilie, Jeff Pooler, Kevin Warden, Noreen Parent, Renee Fournier and Dick Langlais. PHOTO BY JOANNE BARGIONI

## Multi-use drill tower provides realistic training for first responders

Firefighters dressed in boots and heavy protective gear made their way up five stories and into the steel drill tower, and they made it look easy.

After about 20 minutes, heavy black smoke began to emerge from various windows of the structure, and firefighters – all instructors with years of firefighting experience, commenced to put it out.

The drill tower is among the key components of the York County Regional Training Center – the new multi-discipline first responder center for instruction off Route 4 in Alfred. It was used for fire instruction on that sunny, brisk spring day, but its function is broad.

"Law enforcement special response teams can use it for build-

ing clearance, 'officer down' rescue, hostage rescue and threat recognition scenarios," said Roger Hooper, the longtime York County Fire Administrator named Director of the YCRTC last fall. "EMS can use it for patient extrication from restricted access areas and moving patients through staircases. Firefighters can do live fire training, confined space rescue, high angle rescue, search and rescue operations, building ventilation and standpipe operations."

All of the fire instructors taking part in the recent exercise know how to fight fires. What they were learning on that late March day was how to operate the burn rooms within the tower so they can conduct live fire programs for

*(Continued on page 6)*



While the drill tower on the grounds of York County Regional Training Center in Alfred may be used for any number of first responder scenarios, on a recent day fire instructors were using the 5-story structure so they can, in turn, train students on how to safely extinguish fires. PHOTO BY TAMMY WELLS, YORK COUNTY GOVERNMENT MEDIA

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**LOCAL NEWS, EVENTS AND FACES FROM YOUR COMMUNITY!**

**COMING EVENTS**

**BIRDING TALK AT THE LIBRARY** Aaron Thibault will present a talk about "Birding Beyond Your Backyard" at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 25. Join us for this free program at the Limerick Public Library, 55 Washington Street, Limerick.

Parsonsfield Seminary (Par Sem) will be holding the annual **YARD, BOOK AND BAKE SALE** Saturday May 2, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. rain date Sunday May 3, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at 504 North Road (route 160) North Parsonsfield. Nonprofit. All proceeds go to maintaining and restoring the buildings.

Hollis Center Public Library **BOOK, BAKE & CRAFT SALE** at Hollis Center Church, 388 Hollis Road, Saturday May 2, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Interested in participating, contact Heidi Lynch for more information: Helynch2@gmail.com or (207) 391-9727.

**BOOK SIGNING** Sean Grimes, a local author and member of our writing group, will be having a book signing on May 6, a Wednesday night, from 5-7 p.m. at the Hollis Center Pubic Library, 14 Little Falls Road, Hollis Center. For more info visit [www.hollis-centerpubliclibrary.org](http://www.hollis-centerpubliclibrary.org) or call 207-929-3911.

**HISTORICAL PROGRAM** WWII Maine soldiers buried in the Netherlands in the Margraten Cemetery are not forgotten. Soldiers' graves are adopted and cared for by grateful Holland citizens. Program hosted by the Limerick Historical Society on May 7 at the Congregational Church at 7 p.m.

# Community CALENDAR

Email non-profit event listings to: [news@waterbororeporter.com](mailto:news@waterbororeporter.com)

The Buxton Garden Club is holding its **ANNUAL PLANT SALE** on Saturday, May 9 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the parking lot of the Dennett, Craig & Pate Funeral Home at the corner of Rt 4A and Rt 202 in Buxton. There will be perennials, native plants and house plants available for sale. New this year - Fairy Garden Kits.

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEWFIELD ONLINE SPRING AUCTION** May 12-18. Many great items and gift certificates for many of the local businesses. View the auction now and register to participate by visiting <https://HSoN2026.auctria.events>. Your support will help with the maintenance of historic buildings and introduce technology so that they can record their presentations and catalog artifacts for ease of access. All are welcome and for more information you can email: [NewfieldHistorical@gmail.com](mailto:NewfieldHistorical@gmail.com).

**CALLING ALL QUILTERS.** The Bar Mills Community Church is having their semi annual quilt show on Saturday, August 2 from 9-2. If you would like to display a quilt please call Judy @ 207-929-5555. There will be vendors and lunch that day.

**LIMERICK HISTORICAL CRAFT FAIR** July 18 from 9

a.m.-3 p.m., vendors wanted. Space inside or outdoors available. For more information visit <https://www.limerickmainehistorical.org>.

**CALLING ALL QUILTERS.** The Bar Mills Community Church is having their semi annual quilt show on Saturday, Aug. 2 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.. If you would like to display a quilt, call Judy at 207-929-5555. There will be vendors and lunch that day.

**COMMUNITY GARDEN BEDS AVAILABLE** Would you like to grow vegetables or flowers but have no room or inadequate sunshine? Waterboro Community Garden has beds available for rent for Waterboro residents. Applications available at Waterboro Town Hall. Email: [garden@waterboro-maine.gov](mailto:garden@waterboro-maine.gov) for more information.

**LET'S EAT!**

**FREE COMMUNITY DINNER** Public Welcome at Goodwins Mills Advent Christian Church, 503 Goodwins Mills Road on Route 35. Serving 4:30-6 p.m. **MAY 16:** Pork Shoulder, baked potatoes, carrots and green beans, rolls and apple or fruit crisp. **JUNE 20:** Cookout, hamburgers and hot dogs, macaroni salad and baked beans, chips, rolls and cupcakes.

**HADDOCK SUPPER BUFFET** Saturday, April 25 at 5 p.m. at Living Waters Church, Parker Farm Road, Buxton. Suggested donation: \$10 Adult, \$5 Child, \$20 Family. We will offer the option of take-out containers for those who do not want to come inside for seating.

The Acton-Shapleigh Lion's Club **MONTHLY PANCAKE BREAKFAST** the first Saturday of every month (Next May 2). \$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.

**BEAN SUPPER** Massabesic Lions monthly dine-in or take-out the 2nd Saturday of the month (next on May 9), 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Lions Regional Medical Center, 813 Main St. Waterboro. Adults \$10. Children 5 to 12 are \$7, kids 4 and under are free. Kidney and pea beans, chop suey, ham, hot dogs, coleslaw, "our homemade" biscuits and a variety of desserts.

**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!

**NEWFIELD FOOD CUPBOARD AND VILLAGE FRIDGE** are open and available to all 24/7/365 at the Newfield Community Church, 643 Water St. (Route 11), outside the side entrance facing the town office. Donations welcome. FYI 229-9245, [newfieldcc@gmail.com](mailto:newfieldcc@gmail.com).

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.

**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.

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

**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 am to noon and the first Monday of the month from 6 to 7 p.m. FMI call 793-2244.

**SANFORD KIWANIS & SANFORD SPRINGVALE ROTARY PRESENT**



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*All proceeds benefit local youth programs and community initiatives supported by Kiwanis and Rotary.*

**Sign up or learn more:**  
[www.kiwanisofsanfordmaine.org](http://www.kiwanisofsanfordmaine.org)  
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[events@kiwanisofsanfordmaine.org](mailto:events@kiwanisofsanfordmaine.org)



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# Sale



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Hollis Center, ME 04042



**ONGOING EVENTS**

**ADULT COED VOLLEYBALL** every Wednesday night at the Line School, 818 Water Street, West Newfield, from 7 p.m.-9 p.m. Questions? contact Dan McAllister at 247-8857.

**NEWFIELD MUSIC JAMBOREE** Town Hall, 23 So. Effingham Road, 1st Saturday of the month May-October. Summer hours 6 to 8:30 p.m. Free, open to public. Spectators welcome. All family friendly music. FMI call 468-1491.

**RED HAT LADIES** Women 50+ Enjoy Comradery, Card Games, Meals Out, Bowling, Mini Golf, Movies etc. Tuesday Card Games at 12:30 p.m.: Pay Me & Scat. Bring a snack to share. We take turns meeting at member's homes; you are not obligated to offer your home. FMI Diane Dunn 207-229-6135.

**CRIBBAGE CLUB** Wednesdays, from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Lyman Community Library. All ages, all skill levels. FMI: 207-499-7114.

**WRITING GROUP** opened to all levels and genres. Meetings first and third Fridays of the month, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Hollis Center Library, 14 Little Falls Road. Call 929-6817 FMI.

**CHESS MATES** at Limerick Public Library, 55 Washington Street, Limerick. Play chess with old or new friends 2nd Wed each month at 6 p.m. **DROP-IN LEGO BUILD** every Tuesday at 3 p.m. and Sat. at 10 a.m. FMI-793-8975 or limericklibrary.org. Enjoy building a creation with our LEGO collection.

**SHAPLEIGH CRAFT GROUP** is held every second Wednesday of the month from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Shapleigh Community Center, 24 Back Road. All crafters are welcome whether you knit, crochet rug hook, embroider, etc. you are welcome at this group. You can bring some of your projects for a show and tell if you wish.

# Maine nonprofit distributes free mental health kits to schools statewide

## Stay; For Life equipping Maine classrooms with student resource kits – 49 free kits still available

Stay; For Life, a Maine-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to men's mental health awareness and suicide prevention, today announced that its Giving Tuesday and 2025 End-of-Year fundraising campaign significantly exceeded expectations, raising \$7,868.09 against a \$5,000 goal. The funds are being used to provide free Student Resource Kits to elementary, middle, and high schools across the state of Maine, at no cost to schools.

The original fundraising goal of \$5,000 was set to fund 50 kits. The overwhelming generosity of donors made it possible to fund 80 kits - 30 more than anticipated. Distribution began in February, and 31 kits have already been delivered to schools. 49 kits remain available, free of charge, to qualifying Maine schools.

"We created these kits in response to feedback from school counselors throughout Maine," said Angela Whitten, Executive Director and Co-Founder of Stay; For Life. "However, another commonality is that while school counselors want these resources for their students, they don't have the budget to purchase them.

Stay; For Life desperately wanted to supply them free of charge to schools, so we dedicated our Giving Tuesday and End of Year fundraising efforts to be able to do just that."

Kits are available one per school, while supplies last. Requests must be made by a current school staff member, with permission from school administration prior to shipment.

**ABOUT THE STUDENT RESOURCE KITS:** Each kit contains 50 sets of printed and tangible materials, developed with the assistance of mental health professionals, designed to empower both students and educators to recognize signs of mental health struggles and connect with help. Separate kits are available for elementary schools and middle/high schools, with age-appropriate content for each. Items include 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline cards, self-care resource materials, mental health information guides, awareness wristbands, and more.

**ABOUT STAY; FOR LIFE:** Founded in August 2022, Stay; For Life is a grassroots nonprofit that has grown rapidly to become a recognized voice for mental health awareness in Maine. The organi-



Stay; for life intermediate student kit. COURTESY PHOTO

zation has distributed more than 150 Comfort Boxes to families who have lost loved ones to suicide, reached an estimated 4,000 individuals in its first year, and worked with close to 100 Maine schools to deliver critical mental health education to students and staff. Its Stay; Man to Man Peer Support

Groups, which are free weekly gatherings for men, now operate at two locations in Maine. Trent's Tree, the organization's signature holiday mental health initiative, expanded to 15 locations in 2025, including the University of Maine at Orono and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery.

Join me May 12th, 6pm @ Alfred Town Hall.  
 (207) 283-5729  
 John.eder@maine.legislature.gov  
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## TOWN OF ALFRED PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**Monday, May 4, 2026, at 6:30 pm at Alfred Town Hall, 16 Saco Road, Alfred**

In preparation for the June 13, 2026, Town Meeting warrant, a public hearing will be held to address proposed ordinance changes which would add, amend or replace various provisions of the Code of the Town of Alfred regarding:

- Zoning 160-14 Definition – Amend language for: Adult Day Care Program. Home-Based Business, Rock Quarry, Removal of Automobile Graveyards/Junkyards and Subsurface Sewage Disposal System
- 160-119 Delete all language within Section 160-119 Automobile Graveyards/Junkyards
- 160-145 Land Use Permit Required – Add language related to outstanding violations on property.
  - Land Use Table – Rock Quarry not allowed in any district
- Ordinance to Amend Various Provisions of the Code of the Town of Alfred to Remove Board of Appeals' Jurisdiction to Review Planning Board Decisions and to provide a Direct Right of Appeal to Superior Court
  - Readoption of the Code of the Town of Alfred, as previously adopted by Article 9 of the June 22, 2005, Special Town Meeting; along with all ordinances and regulations of a general and permanent nature adopted since that date; together with a change of numbering, formatting and stylizing thereof and incorporation of revisions indicated in the Code Adoption Ordinance and Schedule A, and the entire text of which is set forth in the Final Draft of the Code of the Town of Alfred
- Subdivision – Amended Ordinance: The Town of Alfred shall not accept any new road or right-of-way created through the subdivision process as a public way. This applies only to new subdivisions approved after June 13, 2026

**Additional information regarding the proposed changes is available for review on the Town's website at [www.alfredme.gov](http://www.alfredme.gov) and at the Town Clerk's Office in the Alfred Town Hall during regular business hours.**

**WOMEN VETERANS**

(Continued from page 1)

She then invited members of the official groundbreaking team to step forward. The team included Jeff Pooler, Superintendent of Cemeteries in Maine; Renée Fournier, a former member of the Gold Star Family Board; Noreen Parent, daughter of co-designer Ray Parent; Kevin Warden, Vice-Chairman of the SMVMCA, Dick Langlais, Chairman of the SMVMCA and Smilie who serves as Chair of the Monument Committee and co-designer of the monument.

Smilie also expressed gratitude to Eric Doyle, Supervisor of the Southern Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery, and Daniel Bryant a staff member at the cemetery as well as past members of the Gold Star Monument Committee, including Lil Charron, Lorna Harris, Renee Fournier, and Johnathan Kelly.

Funding for the monument has been secured through proceeds from the former Gold Star Family Board and the Bradford Hoffman Honor in Stone Ride. This annual ride is a fundraiser held in Maine to raise money for installing monuments at the SMVMC. It supports the installation of stone

monuments that are not funded by the federal or state government. The Ride will be held at Iron Tails Saloon, 559 ME-109, Acton on May 17. The plan is to have both the Women Veterans' Monument and Gold Star Family Bench installed by May 17 to coincide with the Ride.

A symbolic highlight of the ceremony was the use of gold-colored shovels for the groundbreaking. Smilie explained that a gold shovel signifies a fully funded project while other shovel colors indicate that additional funds are still needed.

For members of the former Gold Star Family Board, a special future bench was unveiled during the ceremony. The bench is engraved "In Honor of Gold Star Families" with a gold star emblem. This was a great surprise to all members of the former Gold Star Family Board, further emphasizing the day's focus on remembrance, gratitude, and lasting honor for those who have served and sacrificed.

*On a personal note, this monument was particularly poignant to your humble reporter and family as our daughter, Christine Bargioni, T.Sgt. USAF (Retired) is a woman veteran. Thank you, all veterans, for your service!*



Picture of the Women Veterans' Monument to be installed in the Southern Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Springvale.



Picture of Gold Star Families bench to be installed near the Women Veterans' Monument. PHOTOS BY JOANNE BARGIONI

**SANFORD**

**Community invited to reimagine collective liberation**

*Starting April 30*

The Center for Radical Transformation is proud to present 'Transformation Underground', a five-week salon series designed to foster critical dialogue, shared learning, and collective imagination. Hosted at the Louise B. Goodall Public Library, this series draws inspiration from Paulo Freire's concept of conscientização—the practice of developing critical awareness of social and political contradictions.

Through guided discussions, readings, and participatory practices, 'Transformation Underground' will explore systems of oppression while cultivating possibilities for more just and liberated ways of living. Participants will engage with themes such as mutual aid, gift economies, and collective liberation, building both understanding and community along the way.

The series will take place on Thursdays from 5 to 7 p.m. on April 30, May 7, May 21, May 28 and June 4. All sessions will be held at the Louise B. Goodall Public Library in Sanford at 952 Main Street, Sanford.

Community members of all backgrounds are encouraged to attend. While registration is not required, it is strongly encouraged in order to access preparatory materials and resources. To register, visit <https://lbgoodall.org> or email [bugeauhearttm@gmail.com](mailto:bugeauhearttm@gmail.com).

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**TOWN OF SHAPLEIGH PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Select Board of the Town of Shapleigh hereby gives notice that they have ordered, pursuant to 30-A M.R.S. §2528(4)(C), that a shortened nomination process be used to fill a vacancy on the Select Board (2 year term).

**THE SCHEDULE FOR NOMINATIONS WILL BE AS FOLLOWED:**

- 1) Nomination papers will be available beginning April 22, 2026
- 2) Signed nomination papers must be returned to the Town Clerk's by the close of business on May 5, 2026

**Any questions regarding the nomination process shall be directed to the Town Clerk at 207-636-2844 ext. 1.**

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# Maine author visits Limerick library

By SHELLEY BURBANK

Maine crime writer, Kate Flora, recently spoke to a roomful of delighted readers at the Limerick Public Library. Flora, who writes mystery, thrillers, true crime, and romantic suspense, talked about her early love of books and libraries which eventually led to a writing career that has spanned decades.

“When I was 11, I got the supreme privilege of being the librarian’s assistant,” she said, describing her upbringing in Union, Maine. She went on to study law and worked in the District Attorney’s office for a few years until one day she had what she described as “a traffic light epiphany.” She’d been working on a case about “blistered paint on a tennis court.” At that point, she decided to quit law and “turn to a life of crime.” Crime writing, that is.

In 1994, Flora broke into publishing with her Thea Kosak mysteries. This was the era when authors like Sara Paretsky and Sue Grafton pioneered into the male-dominated “hardboiled detective fiction” landscape with their female private investigators, V.I. Warshawski and Kinsey Millhone. Although Flora’s

character isn’t a law enforcement professional (which makes her, technically, an amateur sleuth), she is a professional consultant for schools, not a cupcake-baking busybody or a snoopy old lady of the Agatha Christie cozy mystery type. Thea proved popular, and Flora wrote 11 books in the series from 1994 until 2021.

Over the years, Flora followed many literary interests where they led, including true crime. *Finding Amy*, a book about the disappearance of a Amy St. Laurent, was written with Portland Police Department Deputy Chief Joseph K. Loughlin. First published in 2006, the story recounts the investigation into the murder of the young woman who disappeared from the Old Port one night in 2001.

Flora has since written romantic suspense novels and thrillers, as well as a police procedural mystery series. Some of her popular and more recent titles, in addition to the Thea Kosak series, are the ongoing Joe Burgess police procedural series; a true story collection *A Good Man with A Dog* with game warden Roger Guay; *Burn the Diaries and Run*, a political thriller; and *Teach Her*



Maine true crime, mystery, and thriller author, Kate Flora, left, spoke to readers and signed books at the Limerick Public Library on April 18. PHOTO BY SHELLEY BURBANK

*a Lesson*, a thriller about a teacher accused of a crime.

Though publishing continues to provide challenges as well as new opportunities, Flora says you have to believe in stubbornness and in the passion for writing. She finds community with other writers in organizations like Sisters in Crime and Mystery Writers of America, and she remains open to following her literary interests even if that

means trying a new genre and not sticking with a certain type of book just because that’s what has sold in the past.

Most important is discovering a story she wants to tell. “I absolutely love storytelling,” she told the crowd at the library. “What I really like to do is write books.” And with 28 books and counting, she certainly has.

Kate Flora is the recipient of

several prestigious awards: the Lifetime Achievement Award from New England Crime Bake; the Lea Wait Award; the Public Safety Writers Award; the Maine Literary Award; and she’s been a finalist for major mystery organization awards: the Edgar, Anthony, Agatha, and Derringer awards.

To learn more go to the author’s website at <https://kateclark-flora.com>.

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**TRAINING CENTER**

*(Continued from page 1)*

fire students. It was a “teach the teacher” exercise.

The tower, manufactured by Draeger, an international firm whose US base is in Houston, Texas, is five stories and made of recycled steel shipping containers. It sports 12 compartments where instructors can engineer any number of scenarios to prepare students for real-world work. Components of firefighting – ventilation, heat management, door control – and a lot more can be facilitated using the drill tower.

“We’re learning a lot about fire behavior and dynamics,” said Lindsay Hunt, lead instructor in the firefighter 1 and 2 programs, and deputy fire chief at Ross Corner Fire Company. “This is called a ventilation controlled building, so students can see things in a safer, cooler environment.”

And while they were useful, the drill tower is a huge step up from makeshift units or donated buildings firefighters have used for training for years.

Sanford firefighter-paramedic Ryan Gaudreau, live fire instructor and technical rescue coordinator for the training center, noted the drill tower’s multiple floors, with each of the containers sporting 2-3 “rooms,” like an apartment. Before a fire is lit inside for training, there’s a walk-through, he said, so firefighters can keep track of doors, tripping hazards, where the windows are, and more.

Old Orchard Beach Deputy



Fire instructors prepare to enter the drill tower on the grounds of York County Regional Training Center in Alfred on a recent day to train on use of the facility so they can train others. The drill tower, made of recycled shipping containers, is also a training tool for law enforcement, EMS, and other first responders. PHOTO BY TAMMY WELLS, YORK COUNTY GOVERNMENT MEDIA

Fire Chief Travis McDonald, a live fire instructor and the RTC’s Fire Training Coordinator who is developing the standard operating procedures for conducting live fire training events, said the live exercise was the culmination of the training session for fire instructors.

And while most people unfamiliar with firefighting would not

likely think about how something like opening a door could impact a blaze, it can, McDonald noted – by opening doors at certain times, “we can change and effect the behavior of the fire,” providing a variety of learning scenarios.

“Timing can make a difference,” said David McLean, a retired Dover NH firefighter and longtime SMCC fire service in-

structor who oversees instructor professional development at the training center, observing operations that day.

As the black smoke emanating from the drill tower turned white – a signal, McLean noted, that firefighters were applying water to the blaze inside, he voiced the thoughts of many who were working and learning at the scene that day.

“It will better prepare students to meet the demands of the job,” he said.

Training schedules for law enforcement, fire, ems, corrections, 911/communications – all manner of first responders, are available at: <https://www.yorkcountymaine.gov/rtc>.

– By Tammy Wells, York County government media

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# Knights of Columbus' Tootsie Roll Drive benefits local schools



From left, Tom Hawley, three students, SAD 55 Special Education Teacher and Coach Lindsey Bridges and Bill Heaney.



From left, Tom Hawley and RSU 57 Special Education Director Tim O'Connor.



From left, Lee Ann Young (SAD 6 Special Services) and Bill Heaney. COURTESY PHOTOS

St. Matthew Knights of Columbus Council 8868 recently presented checks to three school districts in the area. The funds will be used to support their Special Olympics Programs. These programs help children with physical and other challenges.

This year each district was given a check for \$1,709.15.

The Grand Knight, Tom Hawley, and council members Bill Heaney and Richard Sevigny, presented the checks to the program directors of each school.

Accepting these checks were Lindsey Bridges, SAD 55 Special Ed teacher and coach, Tim O'Connor, RSU 57, Special Education Director, and Lee Ann Young, SAD 6, Special Services.

The money was raised through the Council's Annu-


al Tootsie Roll Drive held in August at various businesses. During this drive, people may donate to the program and indulge their sweet tooth!

Every year we enjoy the challenge and camaraderie of raising funds to help this worthy






cause. It takes many volunteers and community involvement to make this a success and we THANK YOU very much. We hope to see many of you again next summer!

- Bill Heaney, Knights of Columbus

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# Earth Day Clean-up

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### Students hold Earth Day Clean-up

In honor of Earth Day (April 22), members of the Waterboro Homeschool Organization (WHO) came together to give back to their community by cleaning up Friendship Park in Waterboro. This annual tradition, typically held close to Earth Day, fell right on the holiday this year, making the effort even more meaningful. Children of all ages worked alongside their families to help restore the space. Volunteers picked up trash throughout the park, cleared away sticks, pinecones, and leaves, and helped improve the overall appearance of the grounds. Playground structures, tables, and benches were washed, and extra care was taken to fill in sand holes near the slides to ensure a safer play area for all. The event gave students a hands-on opportunity to learn about environmental responsibility, teamwork, and service. The WHO hopes to continue this tradition for years to come, encouraging others in the community to take part in caring for shared spaces.

COURTESY PHOTO

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The Town of Acton is an EOE and reserves the right to reject any and all resumé. Position shall remain open until a suitable candidate is selected.

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Obituaries

**Jeremiah Eugene Grady**

In the quiet hours of April 13, Jeremiah passed away peacefully in his favorite chair, finding rest just after his loving wife, Kathy, had fallen asleep.



Jeremiah Eugene Grady

Jerry was born April 30, 1949, at the Maine Eye and Ear Center in Portland. His parents, Joseph and Mary Grady had no idea what they were in for.

After terrorizing everyone at Deering High school, Jerry worked as a bartender and at The Brass Rail. Soon after he met Kathy. They were married May 9th, 1975, and gave birth to their son Jeffrey in 1983. He had some neat jobs throughout the years and always worked so hard at whatever he did. The Brass Rail had some great stories I loved hearing about! He worked for years at a Plywood Ranch. One of his favorite jobs was L.L. Bean, where he made some really great friends.

His favorite job turned career was working for Plummers Hardware in Waterboro. He looked forward to going into work everyday, mostly to talk to people. He was really proud of being a member of the Big Buck Club, and a member of the One That Didn't Get Away Club, where he received the Distinguished Anglers Award. And of course, he was proud of his high scores on his favorite computer game, Peggle! He would spend hours trying to perfect every level and beat his high scores.

He had 3 brothers, Ricky, Micky, and Freddy. They had all passed years ago. Jerry had loved them all, and missed them incredibly. He was speaking to them before he fell asleep the night he passed away peacefully.

Jerry is survived by his loving wife, Kathy, his 2 loving sisters, Mary-Lou, and Patty. He loved you both. Jerry also leaves behind his son and daughter-in-law, Jeffrey and Casie, along with his cherished granddaughter, Willow. We love you, Dad.

A Celebration of life in Jerry's honor will be held at the Waterboro Grange Hall from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 25 at 31 West Road, Waterboro. This gathering is open to all who wish to attend. Please feel free to stop by and share a story or a special memory. To honor Jerry's memory, we ask that you consider a donation to the 'Helping Kathy Stay in the Home She loves' fund in place of flowers. Your support means the world to us.

Online condolences can be submitted at the Chad E. Poitras Cremation and Funeral Service—East Waterboro, website, [www.mainefuneral.com](http://www.mainefuneral.com).

**Patsy J. Harmon**

Patsy J. Harmon, 88, of Waterboro, died peacefully on April 16, 2026.



Patsy J. Harmon

Patsy was born on Sept. 26, 1937, in Weston, Missouri (the way she pronounced it) to Joseph H. Stephens and Imogene D. Savell. She was the youngest of eight children, and her parents died when she was about 12 years old. Patsy went to Massachusetts to live with her oldest sister. Patsy married Bradford Harmon on Feb. 21, 1959.

Patsy attended nursing school and became a registered nurse. She worked at several Massachusetts hospitals, as well as at Goodall Hospital in Sanford. She liked working in surgery, but pediatrics was her favorite, and she spent the last 20+ years working in an OB/Gynecologist office. Nursing was very important to her, and she kept her license active even after retirement and into her 80s.

Patsy loved gardening and flowers (she would say all flowers were beautiful). She enjoyed traveling and had a goal of seeing all 50 states. She was able to see all but Hawaii and Alaska. Patsy enjoyed a cruise through the Caribbean, where she swam with dolphins and stingrays, and was disappointed that she could not parasail at age 72 due to mechanical issues.

Known for her extreme sweet tooth, love of seafood, and coffee all day, Jeopardy and Wheel of Fortune were a nightly must. Christmas was her favorite holiday; she shopped all year and was known for her giving spirit.

Patsy was preceded in death by her husband, Bradford, in 1999. She is survived by her children, Sheryl Harmon and her husband, Paul Gilson, Brad Harmon, Dawn Harmon, Ellen Vollor and her husband, Larry; 5 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 26, at Bibber Memorial at Autumn Green (47 Oak St.) in Alfred. Private burial will be at Pine Grove Cemetery South in Waterboro.

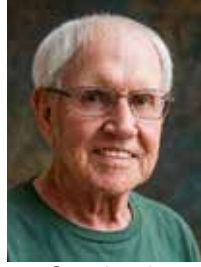
Memorial contributions may be made to the American Lung Association or the Emma and Bruce Willis Fund for dementia research and caregiver support.

To share a memory or leave a message of condolence, visit [www.bibbersautumngreen.com](http://www.bibbersautumngreen.com).

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

**Gary Lewis Hartford**

Gary Lewis Hartford, 75, of Waterboro, passed away peacefully



Gary Lewis Hartford

into the arms of Jesus at the Gosnell Memorial Hospice House on April 20, 2026, surrounded by those who loved him dearly. Gary now resides in heaven and has been reunited with his mom and dad, Lewis and Jeannette Hartford, whom he adored and cared for until their deaths in 2000 and 2015.

Following high school, Gary enlisted in the United States Army and proudly served his country in Pleiku, Vietnam. While serving in Vietnam, Gary was exposed to Agent Orange and was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer, which he battled bravely for the last six years.

Gary also worked for Prime Tanning for 24 years and at Domino's Pizza until he retired.

Three years ago, Gary met his partner and best friend, Jo Beaubien Pelletier. Together, Gary and Joe enjoyed many adventures, including a trip to Las Vegas. Gary's family would tell you that meeting Jo gave Gary the three happiest years of his life, and they will forever be grateful for the love and care she gave to him during this difficult cancer journey.

Gary also enjoyed getting together with family and friends, going to Foxwood with his friends, taking his dog Willy Nelson for a ride to The Milk Room, and going for coffee with his nephew Greg, whom he called his "best buddy".

Gary was predeceased by his Mom and Dad, Lewis and Jeannette Hartford, and most recently, his good friend of 50 years, Jack Zuk.

Gary is survived by his partner and best friend, Jo Beaubien Pelletier and their dog Willy Nelson, brother Barry Hartford and his wife Elaine, sister Susan Seaman and husband Mike, and brother Steve Hartford and wife Tina.

Gary is also survived by his nieces and nephews Lori Nohr and husband Gabe and their children Landon, Lahna, and Vaughn; Kevin Hartford and wife Holli and their children Cassidy and Caydence; Dave Hartford and son Levi; Jeff Dumont and wife Amy and their children Emma, Brynn, Jasmine, Casen, and Carmyne; Greg Dumont, Ryan Hartford, and Shawn Hartford; step-nephew Michael E. Seaman and wife Sitara; and step-niece Elizabeth

Walbridge and husband Tim.

The family wishes to thank the Emergency Room Staff at the Biddeford SMHC facility and the staff at the Gosnell Memorial Hospice House for their kind and compassionate care given to our loved one during this difficult time.

Per Gary's request, a private burial will take place at the Southern Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Springvale.

To share a memory or leave a message of condolence, please visit Gary's Book of Memories Page at [www.bibbersautumngreen.com](http://www.bibbersautumngreen.com).

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

**Lorraine C. Sevigny**

Lorraine C. Sevigny, 102 years of age, of Springvale, passed away on April 19, 2026.



Lorraine C. Sevigny

Lorraine was born on Nov. 9, 1923, to Joseph and Delima (Dubois) Thibeault.

In 1942, Lorraine met Ernest G. Sevigny and were married on May 8, 1943. Lorraine and Ernest went on to raise 16 children together, (10 girls and 6 boys), which included 2 sets of twins.

She will be sorely missed by all. She was a caring and loving Mom, Mémère, Grandmémère and Aunt. She attended local schools. She loved to cook, sew and made a lot of our clothes. She taught her daughters to be very good cooks. She enjoyed going up Northern Maine on "the 7E Island" where her husband built their camp. Holidays were always very busy. She so loved her visits from her children; there was always standing room only! Mom always said she wanted 4 children and had 4 times that amount, always saying she would not change it. She loved us all. She wanted to live to reach 100 and she succeeded. She was a devout Cath-

olic, attending Notre Dame Parish in Springvale, and later St. Thérèse of Lisieux Parish in Sanford.

Lorraine was pre-deceased by her husband, Ernest G. Sevigny (August 7th, 1999), parents Joseph (Delima) Thibeault, Siblings, Gerard (Betty) Thibeault, Aldege (June) Thibeault, Robert (Lucille) Thibeault).

She was also pre-deceased by her brothers and sister-in laws, Omer (Juliet) Sevigny, Albert (Lucille) Sevigny, Francis (Alberta) Sevigny, Roger (Annette) Sevigny, Alma (Giles) D'Orvilliers, Clarie (Robert) Allaire, Aurora (Renauld) Beland, Irene Martel, and Bertha (Charles) Lavertu, granddaughter, Diana Alice Roy, and son-in law, Brian R. Emard.

Lorraine is survived by her children, Richard (Ruth) Sevigny, Laurence (Gayla) Sevigny, Stella (Bertrand) LaCharite, Elaine (Thomas) Drummey, Rebecca (Richard) Doucette, Brenda (Raymond) Roy, Edwin (Elaine) Sevigny, Frederic (Joy) Sevigny, Constance (David) Shelley, Janet Emard, Janice (Brian) Paul, Andrew (Linda) Sevigny, Mitchell (Michele) Sevigny, Margaret (Stephen) Caron, Christine Rodriguez, and Corinne (Kenneth) Plante.

She is also survived by 40 grandchildren, 86 great grandchildren and 4 great great grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Visiting hours will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at Black-Heald and Walker Funeral Home, 580 Main Street, Springvale, Maine.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Thursday, April 30 at St. Thérèse of Lisieux Parish, North Avenue, Sanford Maine.

Consider donating to the American Cancer Society in memory of loved ones lost, St. Thérèse of Lisieux Parish Building Fund, 66 North Avenue, Sanford, ME 04073 or Wentworth Hospice Care, who gave our mother extraordinary care, at 9 Andrew's Avenue, Somersworth, NH 03878.

Submit your letters, recipes, photos, poems & stories to: [news@waterboro-reporter.com](mailto:news@waterboro-reporter.com)

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