

REPORTER

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Locally owned and independently operated.

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 14

PO Box 75, North Waterboro, ME 04061 • 247-1033 • www.waterbororeporter.com

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2022

A blooming business

New flower shop open in Limerick

By CYNTHIA MATTHEWS

There's a new shop in town, with a local owner as familiar with the town as she is with flowers. Jen Richardson of Cross Street Flowers & Botanical Gifts is the former owner of Nature's Way Greenery in Limerick. Richardson had been at Nature's Way for 25 years, owning it for 12 of those years. Richardson sold the business in 2019 and left to return to her first love, working at the Ossipee Trail Garden Center in Gorham, where she first began her gardening career. "I love it there," she said.

While doing Christmas decorations at J.P. Carroll's on Main Street (the former Sanford Institution for Savings building), Jim and Sean Carroll approached Richardson and asked her if she would consider opening a flower shop in their new building across the street. They had purchased the former Hungry Hollow Restaurant building, and wanted to fill the space. Richardson thought about it for a bit. The Carrolls take care of everything, and do it well. The restaurant would be in soon.



Owner of Cross Street Flowers & Botanical Gifts, Jen Richardson, in her new Limerick shop. PHOTO BY CYNTHIA MATTHEWS

She would be renting, not owning, and would be operating as a florist, not a garden center... "Seems easy in comparison." And she was in! The shop opened just before Valentine's Day.

Cross Street is the small street off Main Street between J.P. Carroll Fuel Co.'s office and the for-

mer Hungry Hollow Restaurant. "Most people didn't even know Cross Street was here," Richardson said, and that's why she used the name of the street in the shop name. Everyone will know where it is now!

Richardson still uses some of the same local flower suppliers

she used before, such as Hope Hollow Designs, and the flower farm in Buxton. Richardson said she is still friendly with her competitors. "We trade supplies a lot!" she said. She added that she uses some of the same vendors as before for her gifts and cards. "I'm trying to do more local goods," she added. Just ask when you walk in the shop, and she can tell you what products are locally made.

One thing is for sure, the shop has been busy. Prom season is coming, as well as graduations, and Richardson is getting ready for the big holidays coming up: Easter, Mother's Day and Father's Day. And she has already taken bookings for a few weddings! "People in Limerick have been incredibly welcoming," Richardson mused. "It's humbling, really. I didn't know they missed me so much."

Stop in to see Richardson Wednesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There's a big parking lot across the street behind J.P. Carroll's, and Oh My Dog Grooming is right next door.

Pingree votes to decriminalize marijuana at the federal level

On April 1, Congresswoman Chellie Pingree (D-Maine) and the U.S. House of Representatives passed one of the most comprehensive marijuana reform bills ever introduced in the U.S. Congress. The Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement (MORE) Act decriminalizes marijuana at the federal level and aims to correct the historical injustices of failed drug policies that have disproportionately impacted communities of color and low-income communities by requiring resentencing and expungement of prior cannabis convictions. This will create new opportunities for individuals as they work to advance their careers, education, and overall quality of life. The MORE Act also ensures that all benefits in the law are available to juvenile offenders.

"In the first year of sales, Maine's legal recreational cannabis industry brought in \$60 million, offering the state much-needed tax revenues during a critical time of economic recovery from the pandemic. But because marijuana remains criminalized at the federal level, legal proprietors have had to contend with numerous hurdles that other industries do not. With marijuana decriminalized on the federal level, burdensome legal hurdles that hinder the industry's growth will be removed and these entrepreneurs won't be treated as if they are operating outside of the law," Congresswoman Pingree said. "The criminalization of marijuana has predominantly affected Black Americans - creating sometimes-lifelong barriers to jobs, education, and housing. The MORE Act takes vital steps to correct many of the injustices in America's racially motivated drug policies. As a cosponsor of the MORE Act, I proudly cast my vote to decriminalize marijuana today so we can support our communities, strengthen our state economies, and uplift those who have been affected by our failed 50-year War on Drugs."

The MORE Act:

- Decriminalizes marijuana at the federal level by removing the substance from the Controlled Substances Act. This applies retroactively to prior and pending convictions, and enables states to set their own policy without threat of federal intervention.

(Continued on page 5)



Mustang Theatre placed second at a recent Regional One Act Festival held at Kennebunk High School for their performance of *Our Town* by Terry Wayne Gabbard. Brianna Keller, class of 2025, was awarded an All Festival Cast Award for her role as Stanley and Aiden Harris, class of 2022, was awarded an All Festival Cast Award for his role as Corey. COURTESY PHOTO

NEW EVERY THURSDAY!

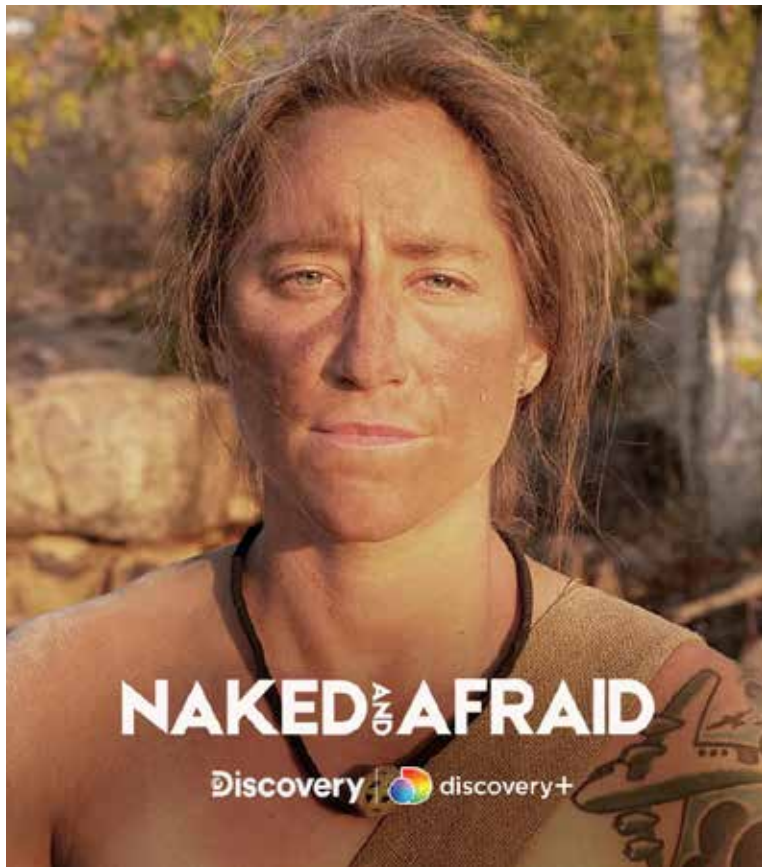
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Community CALENDAR

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



Charlene (Cheeny) Plante, a graduate from Sanford High School's Class of 2008, is a contestant on the Discovery Channel show 'Naked and Afraid.' Her episode will air this Sunday, April 10 on the Discovery Channel at 8 p.m. There is a local watch party live on the big screen at Pilot's Cove Cafe in Sanford, located at 199 Airport Road. COURTESY PHOTO

COMING EVENTS

FREE COMMUNITY EGG HUNT and Pictures with the Easter Bunny on Saturday, April 9 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the town fields on School Street in Alfred (across from the Alfred Fire & Rescue Building). All children from area towns are invited. Hunt starts at 11 a.m., followed by pictures and games until 2 p.m. Sign up ahead of the event so we can ensure we have enough for every child at <https://lauraslegacyoflove.com/2022-easter-egg-hunt/>.

SHOP YOUR WINTER BLUES AWAY CRAFT FAIR on Saturday, April 16 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Alfred Parish Church, 8 Kennebunk Road. There will be 20 vendors and proceeds from table sales and raffles will be donated to Maine Children's Cancer Program.

YORK COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE MONTHLY MEETING Wednesday, April 13 in the Auditorium on the 2nd floor of Alfred Town Hall, 16 Saco Rd. Doors open 6:30 p.m. Business meeting 7 to 8:30 p.m. Guest Speaker James LaBrecque, CMS, Flexware Control Technology. FMI contact communications@yorkgop.org or 468-2395.

Saco River Theatre



Jennifer Porter and Gerald Davis star in 'Humble Boy'

THE ORIGINALS PRESENT HUMBLE BOY, a play by Charlotte Jones, April 22, 23, 24, 28, 29, 30 at the Saco River Theatre, 29 Salmon Falls Road, Bar Mills. Tickets are \$15 and for sale online at www.sacorivertheatre.org.

Three Rivers Land Trust is holding a **GUIDED TOUR** of the 0.8-mile Goat Hill trail in Acton on April 23 at 9 a.m. for those interested in visiting the trail and learning more. The summit of Goat Hill rises 161 feet above the parking area on H Road in Acton. When complete, the trail will allow hikers of all abilities to access the summit picnic area and these scenic views. For more information about the trail or the upcoming hike, reach out to Development Director Ruth Gutman at ruth@3rlt.org or call/text Executive Director Cheri Dunning at (207) 358-9695.

PRE-MOTHER'S DAY JEWELRY SALE at Alfred Parish Church, on the Green in Alfred, Saturday, April 23, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Huge selection of all new items, including accessories,

at 65% off retail prices. Baked goods also available for purchase.

BLUEGRASS CONCERT Southern Rail welcomes spring with their exuberant blend of upbeat bluegrass and riveting vocals at the acclaimed Sanford Springvale Historical Museum on Saturday, April 23 at 7 p.m. Doors open 6:45 p.m. at 505 Main St., Sanford. Tickets are \$15 (free for under 18). Available at the door or by reservation, 324-2797 or www.Sanfordhistory.org.

ONLINE AUCTION Over 100 online auction items are now available for viewing at springvalelibrary.org. Starting April 8 you can bid on fun items such as tickets to the Mainers, Maine Botanical Gardens, Maine Renaissance Faire, and Children's Museums, a scenic plane ride, fire truck ride to school, weekend at Wells Beach, YMCA and martial arts school memberships, yoga, wine tastings, golf, bowling, fine art and crafts, specialty gift baskets, and restaurant gift cards. There are also practical items such as ratcheting tie-downs, a pop-up greenhouse, loam, a fire pit, car washes, haircuts, and massage. Bidding is from 9 a.m. April 8 until 5 pm April 17. Pick up what you win on April 18 or call the library to arrange a time. FMI call 324-4624.

ONGOING EVENTS

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

The Acton- Shapleigh Lion's Club **MONTHLY PANCAKE BREAKFAST** the first Saturday of every month. \$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 Acton Town Hall, 35 H Road. All are welcome.

WATERBORO COMMUNITY PANTRY 26 Townhouse Road, East Waterboro. Open the first Tuesday of the month from 4-7 p.m. all other Tuesdays from 1-4p.m. Donations can be dropped Saturdays 2-4 p.m. or if non perishable there is a drop box on the porch FMI call 247-7789.

The Acton- Shapleigh Lion's Club **MONTHLY PANCAKE BREAKFAST** the first Saturday of every month. \$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 Acton Town Hall, 35 H Road. All are welcome.



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From *The Clarion*

The latest issue of *The Clarion*, the Brother's newsletter, announces Br. Ted Letendre will be celebrating 25 years since his ordination by the Most Rev. Joseph Gerry, O.S.B. who was bishop of the Portland Diocese at the time. A tribute to Brother Ted was printed in *The Clarion* at the time, and was reprinted this month. It was also his 82nd birthday.

Also, the boost from the Christmas appeal for the building project in South Sudan was announced. The building appeal at Christmas amounted to \$4000.

Jewelry Sale

Alfred Parish Church will be hosting a pre-Mother's Day jewelry sale on Saturday, April 23 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. It will include a huge selection of all new jewelry and some accessories at 65% off retail prices and gift bags and boxes will be available. Some of the proceeds will be allocated to support the church's monthly community dinners to go. There will also be baked goods for purchase. This is a great opportunity to find a special gift for Mother's Day or any other occasion at a great discount. The church is located at 8 Kennebunk Road.

New Century Club

Barbara and Alfred Carlson are hosting the New Century Club

on Monday, April 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the Alfred Shaker Museum. Barbara will be the speaker and explain "How Rug Braiding Became My Passion." (The former announcement that the speaker would be Marjorie Anderson was incorrect.)

Return of the geese

The Canada Geese that frequent the shores of Shaker Pond seemed to hang around a long time in the fall. I began to feel they were reluctant to start the long flight – to wherever that was. And then one day they were gone. We have looked for them this spring – again they arrived when we were not looking for them – not the 100-plus flock, but about 15 at last count. Now we will watch for the others which usually number approximately 200. If anyone knows just where they go (Canada?) I wish they would tell us.

When I had stopped looking for them, they arrived – not the 100-plus, but enough of them to celebrate their arrival.

Seed library

Something new at the library is the Parson's Memorial Library (PML) Seed Library. Fully registered patrons may reserve seeds before visiting. Give back by either bringing back seeds from what you have grown; bringing in different seeds (1 new packet = 5 envelopes); or donating a small fee. You may still participate even if you are not a patron.

Story hour

Storyhour at Parsons Library is Tuesday, April 12 at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome.

BRIEFS

York County EMA and York County Chiefs' Association earn award

The Maine Fire Protection Services Commission presented the York County Emergency Management Agency (YCEMA) and the York County Chiefs' Association (YCCA) with a Best Practices Award. The award was presented in recognition of the standing Incident Management Team (IMT) that is jointly operated by the YCEMA and YCCA. The standing IMT is a cooperative effort by the EMA, fire, police, schools, and private industry to organize and manage the response to emergency situations and crisis events.

The York County IMT has been in existence for nearly 8 years and has been activated for various events, such as storms, forest fires, and lost persons. Most notably, the IMT assisted the Berwick Fire Department following the line of duty death of Captain Joel Barnes in 2018. More recently, it organized and executed the COVID-19 vaccination efforts for first responders in 2020 and several public clinics in early 2021.

The award was presented at the Maine Fire Chiefs' Conference on March 24.

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CHAPTER 13

The death rattle, the last touch

Now I was at least dressed and my purse packed. "Yes, I might need Bob's important papers and my Bible, yes, my unused floss," I said to Sadie dog while I waited for Kathy to come to drive me to the hospital. "I better call the church. 'Bob is in the hospital. It doesn't look good. Would you please put him on the prayer chain?'"

Next, I called Freddy, Bob's best buddy. "Oh, Freddy, Bob's at the Biddeford hospital. He is in terrible shape. Please have the Bible study pray for him," I begged.

When I arrived at the emergency room, many of Bob's Bible study buddies, some of his coffee-loving, kitchen friends, and a deacon from our church were already there. Two pastors, the one who married us and one from the Thursday morning all-you-can-eat Bible study fest, were also there. What an amazing group, all circling the gurney; some standing in upright, military positions, some heads bowed, praying that their friend would make it, some dabbing a slight tear, some daring to hold Bob's chilly hand. Both pastors prayed out loud while the rest of us, too bashful to pray in front of others, hung our heads in hope that there would be a miracle.

A doctor said, "We'd like to give him some morphine."

"Oh, no you don't! You are not going to kill him off like a dog!" I almost hollered having seen that done to Natalie and my precious ex-mother-in-law.

"We'll take out the breathing tube and see how he does," the head doctor said. "He will probably die then."

Bob didn't die then. God chose to let good, old Bob survive for another thirty hours, maybe for my benefit and a final chance to bond, for the benefit of Bob's beloved buddies, and for God's purposes to be fulfilled.

Bob was wheeled to the second floor. More friends arrived, chit-chatting, hoping to relieve the tension, the sadness. "What a friend and an inge-

nious engineer. He could rig up about anything," said John, one of Bob's bosses from a local manufacturing plant. For me, the afternoon dragged hopelessly on. Bob's death rattle got louder and louder. His lips were cracking and bleeding. I was scared. I do not want Bob to die but there is no way to fix a massive brain bleed. Since I found him thirty hours before, only once when he grasped my wrist tightly and I had to pry his still strong fingers off did I feel any connection. Why did I rush to get loose? That was the last time Bob touched me.

At the other end of the hospital hall, about two hundred feet away, patients and visitors could hear Bob's, "Rattle, rasp, rattle, rasp, rattle, rasp." I finally agreed to the extra morphine the nurse suggested.

"Bob, please forgive me," I whispered as I leaned towards his left ear so the people around the hospital bed could not hear. I swabbed his cracked, bloody lips with the solution the nurse left. No relief. The rattle continued. I sinned against this man, my husband. After the first year of marriage, Bob barely tolerated me and my desperate need for a nice, normal nest. Every day was strifeful as I tried to make Bob honor his commitment to finishing my colonial palace. My angst about all the special stuff he continued to bring home and my pure frustration with Bob's not getting rid of the massive amount of clutter he already had was not only stressful for me but also for poor old Bob. Escaping to Tractor Supply or Chester's or his Thursday morning Bible study with his green Stanley Thermos full of Folgers was his way of coping.

Perfectionism was a big problem for Bob. It was his nature to not finish

much of what he started. I made it a worse problem for us both by trying every means I could conjure up to make him complete the tasks he had started. No, the green Stanley Thermos left the house but not his home. Bob found other places to call "home", where he was loved, admired, and accepted as were his messy truck, duct tape Dickie pants, long-winded but interesting stories, and his trashed cellar full of the beloved tools he used to mend or create necessary stuff for his friends.

As I sat beside Bob's hospital bed waiting for his death rattle to stop, I remembered what a nurse told me as I waited next to Natalie, Bob's good friend, while she took her last gasps. The nurse said, "Her feet will turn blue. That will mean the end is near." I kept uncovering Bob's callused, pale, purple-veined feet with their ragged, uncut toenails, the same feet I had taken the Smartwool socks from hours earlier. Gradually his feet went towards blue. I had seen Bob's feet many times, unlike the rest of his body.

He had foot problems. One Christmas, as a gift, I gave Bob a visit to the podiatrist and bought him new orthotics. He went because I was paying. He did not want to spend his money. "My orthotics are only about ten years old. Why would I want new ones? These are still fine, still... got a little life left," he said. His last steps were taken in boots with black duct tape circling the toes to keep the soles on. At least I tried. He left behind three pairs of brand-new L.L. Bean Hunting Boots and a three-hundred-dollar pair of work boots.

Now what?

— Author Carol E. Niles
lives in Dayton

Send your comments to
cphil@securespeed.us

Town of Acton Siding Request for Proposals

The Select Board are currently seeking bids to complete the Siding on the Municipal Building. Please contact the Town Administrator for a copy of the request or it can be found online at www.actonmaine.org.

DEADLINE TO BID IS APRIL 27, 2022.

Town of Acton Public Notice

The Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 6:00pm to Review the Proposed Amendments to the Town of Acton Zoning Ordinance to be voted on at the Annual Town Meeting on June 18, 2022. This meeting will be held in person at the Acton Town Hall, 35 H Road.

Copies of the proposed amendments are available at the Towns Clerk's Office or they can be viewed online at www.actonmaine.org.

For more information, please call 636-3497 ext. 409

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

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OPINION

Choices

Tell me you've never made a mistake - bounced a check; blew an anniversary or even ended a marriage. Did you know statistics show 30 to 60 percent of all married couples cheat at least once on their spouses. What about your taxes? You ever cheat on them? You ever been pulled over for speeding? Bet you love the cost of registering your vehicle. Especially when times are tough. You're living paycheck to paycheck. Cuss quietly, the 'Statie' writing the ticket because you're operating a vehicle with an expired registration sticker for the last four months.

C'mon. You expect me to believe you've no regrets. Like you've never done anything wrong even if some of those regrets were made with the best of intentions driven by a belief those actions were the best of choices. Maybe they were even the only choices, regardless of how bad they now appear to have been when looking back at the choices made and the paths chosen leading you up to this very moment.

You're human. You have to have regrets, like doctors inadvertently contributing to the entire opioid crisis, or the police officer with his knee on the back of an offender for just a little too long. Did you know there's a Priest from Massachusetts in a Maine State Prison, for the kind of choices blackening the eyes of the Church? You think maybe Doctors and opioids have something to do with our lack of trust in the medical field? I'll bet Will Smith wishes he could take back that slap.

Many of us simply make crimeless choices, the kind of choices tongue lashes are made for. Or maybe you made the kind of decision paving a path to civil court, or even worse - you ended up in Criminal Court. Maybe you spent some time in the York County

Jail for drug use, or criminal speeding or domestic violence. You're hustled in through the back door. Nobody says, 'say cheese,' and ink pads have gone the way of the Teletubbies, but the cell is unchanged; the mattress thin and the food? It's as tasty as the guilt and shame many inside feel, express. When it's time to go, they go. It's all they think about. Get out and get back to hopefully making the kind of choices that keep you from such a miserable stay at a county all-inclusive. As a matter of fact, they are so anxious to get out, they don't even remember to grab what they brought in.

The law, or at least the legal document one signs regarding one's personal property, says facilities in the State of Maine can dispose of abandoned property if unclaimed by the owner after 30 days. This is just something facilities choose to do, but life is all about choices and the Sheriff of York County, William King has chosen to make an honest effort to track down, reach out; contact those whose property is in storage at YCJ. "I just can't see throwing it out," Sheriff King explains. "I have birth certificates, photo albums, baby pictures; cards of encouragement from loved ones. They should have their things."

If you or someone you know spent a little time at YCJ contact the jail at 207-459-2205, leave a name and have some patience. Someone will get back to you. Many of those the jail has reached have signed clothing over to area shelters. Books have been donated to facility libraries. In a way, those who have needed help are helping others and it's hard to find fault in choices like that. Maybe you or someone you know is in a position to lend Sheriff King a hand. It's not like snitching. It's more like, you know - making a choice.

— Jon Simonds, North Waterboro

TOWN OF WATERBORO

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Waterboro Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, April 19, 2022 beginning at 6:00 p.m.** to receive public comment regarding a Special Amusement Permit for the "York County Blues Festival" scheduled to be held August 20, 2022 at Friendship Park on Old Alfred Road. All Public Hearings are aired on the local cable station SRC-TV Channel 5 or 1302 and live streamed on the Town's website.

Questions and comments may be emailed up to the day before the meeting to the Administrative Assistant at waterboro@waterboro-me.gov and will be addressed during the meeting.

TOWN OF WATERBORO

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Waterboro Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, April 19, 2022 immediately following the first public hearing scheduled at 6:00 p.m.** This public hearing is to receive public comment regarding a change to the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance Section 15 (O) and all associated definitions relating to the section. All Public Hearings are aired on the local cable station SRC-TV Channel 5 or 1302 and live streamed on the Town's website.

Questions and comments may be emailed up to the day before the meeting to the Administrative Assistant at waterboro@waterboro-me.gov and will be addressed during the meeting.



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FUJITSU

YCCAC's Executive Director to step down

Claudette Dupee, York County Community Action Corporation's (YCCAC) Board President, announced that current Executive Director, Barbara Crider, will be stepping down later this summer after 12 years in the role. The Board is launching a search for new leadership, intending to make the transition by Sept. 1, 2022.



Barbara Crider

YCCAC has been operating in York County since 1964, providing a range of educational, health and social services across York County. During Crider's tenure, the organization has grown in size and has diversified

its program offerings. According to Dupee, over the past dozen years, the organization has weathered some challenging times of high community need. "One of the first challenges we faced when Barbara took over as Executive Director was helping families make it through the Great Recession, when unemployment reached 9 percent." More recently, the organization has mobilized its resources to address the COVID-19 pandemic. YCCAC helped thousands of people across the county to safely quarantine by deliver-

ing food and medicine, provided Personal Protective Equipment to businesses, conducted vaccine clinics and managed a "swab and send" testing site in partnership with the Maine CDC. Dupee says the organization prides itself on being nimble, and having the capacity to re-focus and help communities meet emerging needs, even those like a recession or a pandemic. In 2012, YCCAC opened Nason Health Care in Springvale, which now provides primary care, dental services, and behavioral health treatment to nearly 10,000 patients. Since then, the organization has focused on integrating their social service and health

care resources so that people can achieve and maintain a full sense of well-being. "Our Board understands that financial security and good health are two sides of one coin. If you are unhealthy, it is very difficult to work and earn an adequate income. And too often, people living in poverty lack access to quality health care." YCCAC's unique blend of health and social services sets it apart from similar organizations. "We have become a national leader in addressing the social drivers of health," according to Dupee. The Board is working with Barb Wentworth, former long-term executive at United Way of York County, to find its next lead-

er. "We believe our best years are ahead of us, and that we will continue playing an important role in making York County a healthy, vibrant place to live," said Dupee. "We're grateful for the growth we have had under Barbara's leadership, and we are committed to finding a new Executive Director who will help us build on this strong foundation." The posting for the Executive Director position including how to apply may be found on the organization's website at <https://yccac.org> and by clicking the green "YCCAC Jobs" button on the home page. Review of complete applications received via email only will begin on April 29.

MARIJUANA

(Continued from page 1)

- Requires federal courts to expunge prior convictions, allows prior offenders to request expungement, and requires courts, on motion, to conduct re-sentencing hearings for those still under supervision.
- Authorizes the assessment of a 5% sales tax on marijuana and marijuana products to create an Opportunity Trust Fund, which includes three grant programs:
 - The Community Reinvestment Grant Program: Provides services to the individuals most adversely impacted by the War on Drugs, including job training, re-entry services, legal aid, liter-

acy programs, youth recreation, mentoring, and substance use treatment.

- The Cannabis Opportunity Program: Provides funds for loans to assist small businesses in the marijuana industry that are owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.
- The Equitable Licensing Grant Program: Provides funds for programs that minimize barriers to marijuana licensing and employment for the individuals most adversely impacted by the War on Drugs.
- Opens up Small Business Administration funding for legitimate cannabis-related businesses and service providers.

- Provides non-discrimination protections for marijuana use or possession, and for prior convictions for a marijuana offense:
 - Prohibits the denial of any federal public benefit (including housing) based on the use or possession of marijuana, or prior conviction for a marijuana offense.
 - Provides that the use or possession of marijuana, or prior conviction for a marijuana offense, will have no adverse impact under the immigration laws.
 - Requires the Bureau of Labor Statistics to collect data on the demographics of the industry to ensure people of color and those who are economically disadvantaged are participating in the industry.

The MORE Act has the support of a broad coalition of civil rights, criminal justice, drug policy, and immigration groups, including: the Drug Policy Alliance, Center for American Progress, ACLU, Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), Human Rights Watch, Immigrant Legal Resource Center, Law Enforcement Action Partnership, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, NORML, Sentencing Project, Students for Sensible Drug Policy, UndocuBlack Network, and Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA). In the 116th Congress, Pingree and the House of Representatives passed the MORE Act by a bipartisan vote of 228 to 164,

marking the first time a Congressional chamber had voted to decriminalize marijuana. Since the 2016 referendum legalizing recreational consumption of marijuana in Maine, Pingree has fought to create clear federal pathways for legalized states. Pingree was an original cosponsor of the MORE Act, as well as the SAFE Banking Act, which would permit federally-insured financial institutions to work with marijuana-related businesses in legalized states. Read more about how Pingree supports Maine's cannabis economy here. After the 2020 election, 35 states including Maine have legalized either medical or recreational use of cannabis.

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This individual must have a minimum of a Class B driver's license (Class A preferred) with a clean driving record. Applicant must be willing to undergo random drug and alcohol testing and be able to lift up to 75 lbs.

The applicant must be qualified to operate a chain saw, as well as a light loader, and a back hoe operator and be able to perform multiple manual tasks including shoveling, raking, cutting and chipping brush, road patching, as well as minimal asphalt paving and building/property maintenance. Mechanical skills are a must as this job will require operating mowing and brush chipping equipment that requires constant maintenance.

The applicant must be available to work extra hours as weather events or local emergencies dictate all year long during evenings, weekends and weekdays under sometimes stressful conditions. Winter work may require snow removal/sanding 24 hours per day 7 days per week as needed.

This job will require multitasking as the applicant will be required to work part-time at the transfer station and part-time at other duties as required by the Public Works Department.

Rate of pay will be determined by the applicant's qualifications. Health insurance and retirement contributions are included. Application forms are available at waterboro-me.gov under forms and documents. Please submit a separate cover letter and completed application form to the Administrative Assistant at waterboro@waterboro-me.gov or mail to 24 Townhouse Road, East Waterboro, ME 04030. All applications will be reviewed as received. The position will remain open until filled.

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The Reporter is published on Thursdays, 50 weeks per year.
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Theodore "Ted" Joseph Kryzak Jr.

Theodore "Ted" Joseph Kryzak Jr., age 66, passed peacefully on March 26, 2022, due to complications of traumatic brain injury, caused by a fall earlier this year.



He was born in Natick, Massachusetts on May 24, 1955, son of the late Theodore and Pauline (Keefe) Kryzak. After graduating from Newton High School, he became an electrician, and he worked at naval bases in Hawaii and Portsmouth, NH.

Ted then pursued a career in teaching, with his technical background and love of farming leading him to find a passion for teaching and learning in non-traditional school settings. He was voted Maine Agriculture Teacher of the Year in 2010.

He was deeply dedicated to his town, serving on the School Committee in 2009. From 2010 - 2016 he served on the Board of Selectman. Since 2018 he has been Maine State Legislator proudly serving Acton, Lebanon, and parts of Shapleigh. During his tenure, he served on the Taxation, Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry Committees.

Ted loved reading, camping, horseback riding, and his Collie dogs.

He is survived by siblings Patricia Kryzak, Anthony Kryzak, and Pamela Vaccari, all of Massachusetts and predeceased by sister Gail Lang. Ted also leaves behind his four children, Cassie Kryzak, John Kryzak, Heather Kryzak, and Jesse Kryzak, and his three grandchildren.

A celebration of life was held April 2 at the Acton Town Hall. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Neighbors Helping Neighbors, an account established with Ted's support as a Selectman to help Acton residents with unforeseen situations in their life. Donations payable to: Town of Acton N.H.N., In Memory of Theodore J. Kryzak Jr., 35 H Road, Acton, ME 04001.

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

Social Security Administration reopens field offices for first time in over two years

Following repeated advocacy by U.S. Senator Susan Collins, the Social Security Administration (SSA) has announced that their field offices will resume in-person services, including for people without an appointment, on April 7. Last week, Senator Collins wrote to SSA Acting Commissioner Kilolo Kijakazi, urging her to immediately reopen the SSA's field offices, which have been closed for more than two years.

The SSA's Maine offices are located in: Auburn, Augusta, Bangor, Portland, Presque Isle, Rockland, Saco and Waterville.

"For more than two years, the suspension of in-person services by the Social Security Administration has created significant hassles and barriers for Maine seniors," said Senator Collins. "This long-overdue decision will allow the millions of Social Security beneficiaries across the country - especially seniors in rural areas who do not have reliable telephone or Internet access - to promptly access Social Security resources and benefits."

Senator Collins has repeatedly urged the Biden Administration to transition federal workers back to in-person operations to address the widespread lack of responsiveness and accessibility across the federal government. In November 2021, she joined a group of 42 Senators in sending a letter to the heads of the Office of Personnel Management, the General Services Administration, and the Office of Management and Budget, calling on them to bring federal workers back to offices. Additionally, in December 2021, she joined a group of 15 Senators in pushing the SSA to immediately reopen its field offices.

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Work for Yourself @50+: Thursday, April 28, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Gain the knowledge, support, and resources you need to make informed decisions about working for yourself and take the right first steps toward successful self-employment.

For the full schedule of upcoming classes and to sign up, visit bit.ly/NVMEClasses or call toll-free in Maine: 800-442-2092.

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SPORTS



At left, Coach Bre Sanderson addresses the squad prior to the title game at the Dover Ice Arena. At right, the Nor'Easter girls team after their win. COURTESY PHOTOS

Local girls 14U hockey team wins Bay State tourney

By MICHAEL DEANGELIS
Sports Editor

Biddeford Youth Hockey's 14U Nor'Easter Girls team

wrapped up an excellent 17-1-3 regular season with a victory at the New England Bay State Tournament held Feb. 25-27 at the Dover Ice Arena.

The Nor'Easters won the final 4-0 over Casco Bay, completing an undefeated run throughout the event while outscoring opponents 15-2. Mariah Villandry recorded

three shutouts in goal.

The Biddeford 14U Nor'Easter team members are: Mckenna Buchanan, Olivia Chaplin, Emily Finch, Alexa Hubbard, Cordelia

Kane, Avery Kurkky, Avery Larsen, Madelyn Nichols, Gabryella Phelan, Bella Robinson, Ashley Sanderson, Kayleigh Soucy, Mariah Villandry and Emily Lacasse.

Mainers name 2022 assistant coaches

Manager Nic Lops of the Sanford Mainers announced today the two new assistant coaches for the 2022 season.

Tommy Gardiner will help with hitting and defensive positioning, while Nick Siegel will serve as the pitching coach. Both coaches are entering their first year with the Mainers.

"I'm very excited to welcome Nick and Tommy to our coaching staff this summer," Lops said. "Both guys bring a strong work ethic with good knowledge of the game."

Gardiner joins the Mainers after an impressive four-year career with the University of Maryland. While in College Park, Gardiner mainly played second and third baseman. In his final season, 2021, he started 43 games while driving in 29 RBI's

on 37 hits, which ranked fourth and fifth on the team respectively. He displayed excellent patience drawing 29 walks, which was the second highest mark among the Terrapins.

Siegel will come over following his first season at Fitchburg State as an assistant coach. He began his coaching career at Souhegan High School as a pitching coach in 2020. Along with coaching, he is the Director of Data & Analytics for the Showcase League, which is a fall league that features some of the best New England high school baseball talent. Siegel played at both Plymouth State and Southern Connecticut State during his collegiate career. He is Driveline Pitch Design Certified.

With the season a couple months away Lops is looking forward to having both

coaches alongside him.

"Our players will be very fortunate to work with them every day," Lops said.

For more information regarding the 2022 Mainers season, visit sanfordmainers.com.

By Matt Scalzo
Sanford Mainers' Director of Broadcasting & Media



Tommy Gardiner



Nick Siegel

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