

REPORTER

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025

York County Food Pantry now under county control

York County Food Pantry will continue to operate at 5 Swett's Bridge Road in Alfred, opening to the public as usual on Tuesdays and Fridays from noon to 3 p.m.

The food pantry, until recently a program of the private nonprofit York County Shelter Programs (YCSP), will be operated in a partnership between York County Government and the county's charitable arm, the nonprofit First County Foundation. FCF was formed in 2024 to enhance two county government projects – a first responder training center and substance use recovery center – with a forward look to support future endeavors across the county. And although YCSP has closed the adult shelter, with other shelters they operate to follow, the county government and FCF is forging ahead as a unit to operate the pantry.

"There will be no hiccup," said York County Manager Greg Zinser of the food pantry operation. He said people who use the pantry can expect it to continue. "There is no intent to change any distribution."

York County Commissioners on May 7 unanimously voted to authorize Zinser to take necessary steps to run the pantry, and to use \$25,000 in contingency funding for its operation through the end of the current fiscal year on June 30. They agreed to appropriate \$100,000, pending York County Budget Committee approval, for the fiscal year that begins July 1.

"We're glad to be able to help people in York County. We don't want our residents to go hungry," said York County Commissioners Chair Richard Dutremble. "That is why we allocated funding for

(Continued on page 5)



"I had a lot of happy and relieved pantry customers on Friday (May 9) when they learned we were staying open."
– ROB BOYD, YORK COUNTY
FOOD PANTRY COORDINATOR

York County Food Pantry coordinator Rob Boyd said pantry clients were happy when he informed them the pantry, which had been operated by York County Shelter Programs Inc., would stay open and be operated through a partnership between York County Government and First County Foundation.
PHOTO BY TAMMY WELLS, YORK COUNTY GOVERNMENT



New owners of the Shapleigh convenience store, Your Store Next Door, Penny and Bruce Wakita. PHOTO BY JOANNE BARGIONI

New owners have reopened Shapleigh convenience store

BY JOANNE BARGIONI

Your Store Next Door, located at 566 Newfield Road in Shapleigh held a soft opening on April 25 and is officially open for business with a new name.

Penny and Bruce Wakita are the new owners of the convenience store, formally called "Country Goods and Groceries." The Wakitas decided that the community needed to have a local convenience store back. The former store had been up for sale and vacant for a long-time leaving residents and vacationers without anything nearby.

The Wakitas purchased the property on July 24, 2024, and construction began in January. The building was totally gutted, and new fixtures and features were added to the store.

The inside of the store is very modern with granite counter tops and a grab-and-go food station with a microwave. Penny Wakita hopes to complete a new kitchen, which will serve take-out pizza

and sub sandwiches initially. They hope to have tables outside with outdoor seating and are hoping to open the kitchen in July.

The store also features a Red Bull infusion station where you can add different flavors to customize your Red Bull drink, and "this is proving very popular," said Wakita.

There is a 'Beer Cave' where beer is stored in a refrigerated room and they offer a wide selection of beers. They also offer Shain's Ice Cream.

Your Store Next Door now has 24-hour pay-at-the-pump gas pumps which is a big improvement. At pay-at-the-pump, the gas pumps are always available whether the store is open or closed by using a debit or credit card without ever having to go into the store.

A lottery system will be coming next week hopefully Friday, and they have gained approval for hunting and fishing licenses and boat, ATV, and snowmobile registration.

Currently, the Wakita family is running the store, but trainees are coming in next week.

The YSND convenience store has an area for hardware and an automotive section. For the fishing enthusiast, they also offer live bait and some fishing needs. Wakita says "Ideas are ever evolving."

They chose the name "Your Store Next Door" as the Wakitas referred to the store that was there previously as 'the store next door' and since this is a community store, they named it Your Store Next Door. The residents of this community greatly appreciate the opening of the store.

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Community CALENDAR

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

COMING EVENTS

PLANT SALE/PENNY AUCTION/WHITE ELEPHANT AND CRAFT FAIR Saturday, May 17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Old Congregational Church, 48 Main Street in Limerick. The Craft Fair and White Elephant Sale will be downstairs and breakfast and lunch will be served out of the kitchen. Breakfast will be sausage gravy over biscuits, oatmeal and fresh homemade English muffin toast. Breakfast meal deal for \$5 and lunch meal deal for \$8 (sandwich, chips and a drink). Sponsored by the Limerick Historical Society.

ANNUAL PLANT, BAKE AND GREEN ELEPHANT SALE Saturday, May 17 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the First Congregational Church of Buxton, Tory Hill Meetinghouse. Lots of plants...annuals, perennials, herbs and more. Baked goods and a green elephant table with a variety of used pots, garden tools, lawnmowers, spreaders, etc. This year offering a variety of general lawn sale items as well. Don't forget to save room for one of the famous hot dogs and a beverage. Located at the junction of Routes 112 and 202, look for the signs, this is a rain or shine event!

SPRING FEVER FEST PLANT SALE Saturday, May 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at The New School, 38 York Street, Kennebunk. Organic veggie, flower and herb seedlings, native plants and seeds will be for sale at great prices. Fun for the whole family with live music, lawn games and free crafts for kids. Local experts will host workshops. Student-built brick oven will be cranking out delicious pizza and Kennebunk's own Treat Truck will be providing the sweet delight you'll need after perusing the plants.

"BIRDS, BIRDERS AND BIRDING IN YORK COUNTY" presented by York County Audubon at the Wells Reserve and also via Zoom, Tuesday, May 20 at 7 p.m. Join YCA Board member Britney Fox Hover and other birders as they discuss all aspects of birding in York County. For complete information, please visit yorkcountyaudubon.org.

BLOOMS, BOOKS & BAKE SALE on Memorial Day, May 26 by the Hiram Cultural Center. Sale starts at 10 a.m., and will pause at 11 a.m. for the town Memo-

rial Day ceremony. Plants of all kinds, books for all ages, and plenty of delicious treats, lunch & drinks for sale. Proceeds benefit the programs and services provided by Soldiers Memorial Library and the Arts Center at 8 Hancock Street, Hiram.

PERENNIAL, BAKED GOODS, & YARD SALE Saturday June 7, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Cressey Road Christian Church, Route 25 and Cressey Road, Gorham. All Church yard sale, cherished possessions and perennials. FMI: lindcabin@gamil.com.

ACTON PUBLIC LIBRARY'S ANNUAL BOOK, PLANT AND PIE SALE Saturday, June 14, 9 a.m. to noon at the library at 35 H Road, Acton. New this year to the sale is the raffle of items from local artists and businesses. The library is asking for donations of divided perennials and houseplants or extra seedlings. They are also accepting book donations at this time. Call the library at 636-2781 for more info or check out their website at www.acton.lib.me for more guidelines on book donations.

LET'S EAT!

BEAN SUPPER Saturday, May 17, from 4 to 6 p.m., St. Matthew's Knights of Columbus will host a Bean Supper at 19 Dora Lane. Menu: beans (2 types), hot dogs, sliced ham, coleslaw, casseroles, bread, drinks & dessert. Adults \$12; Children 6-12 \$6; Children 5 & under are free; Families \$30.

FREE COMMUNITY DINNER May 17, 2025 4:30-6 p.m. at the Goodwins Mills Advent Christian Church, 503 Goodwins Mills, Route 5, in The Mill by the water. Menu is pork roast, baked potatoes, cooked carrots, green beans, brownies, rolls and beverages.

CHOCOLATE SUNDAY The Friends of Parsonsfield Seminary presents its 16th annual Chocolate Sunday. Enjoy chocolate covered fruit, cakes, pies, ice cream sundaes and more. Served buffet style on Sunday, May 18 from 2 to 4 p.m. \$14 per person, \$5 for 10 and under. Route 160 (504 North Road). Non-profit, tax exempt organization. FMI call (207) 625-8360 or (603) 539-5233.

BEAN SUPPER Massabesic Lions monthly dine-in or take-out the 2nd Saturday of the month, 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.

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FREE COFFEE & CAFE MARADERIE Every Sat 8 a.m. at Archie's Strike & Spare bowling alley, 135 Federal Street (Route 25) Kezar Falls. Free coffee for Veterans and family members. A great chance to meet other Service Members in the area, kick back, talk, maybe make a friend, and build a community. Breakfast pizza available for purchase.

MONTHLY COFFEE HOUR FOR OLDER ADULTS with Massabesic Adult and Community Education. Every third Tuesday of the month, 1 to 2 p.m. at Massabesic Lions Club, 813 Main Street, Waterboro.

Hiram Community Center's **ROAST BEEF SUPPER** first Saturday of the month at 5 p.m. (doors open at 4:45). Same low price of \$15 for adults and \$12 for kids 12 and under. This is a major fundraiser for the Hiram Community Club, volunteers that run the Hiram Community Center. They buy the best beef, roast it the day of the supper, and carve it in front of you. They do all the cooking. They bake the pies. They serve water and a cold drink (lemonade in summer) at the tables. Coffee is available. Visit with friends and make new ones at 14 Historical Ridge (off Main Street, Route 117) adjacent to the Great Ossipee Museum.

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. **NEW LOCATION:** The breakfast is from 8 to 9:30 a.m. at the new Shapleigh Community Center at 24 Back Road, Shapleigh.

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 can be dropped Saturdays 2 to 4 p.m. or put non perishable in drop box on the porch. FMI 247-7789.

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.

YORK COUNTY FOOD PANTRY is open to the public at 5 Swett's Bridge Road in Alfred on Tuesdays and Fridays from 12 to 3 p.m. operated by York County Government's nonprofit, First County Foundation.

SEND YOUR NON-PROFIT CALENDAR LISTINGS TO: news@waterbororeporter.com.

Thank you for reading!

LETTER

Waterboro's Contract Deputy program up to the voters

By York County Sheriff William L. King

On June 10, the Waterboro ballot will include a referendum question threatening the continuation of Waterboro's contract deputy program. Waterboro has contracted policing services with the Sheriff's Office for more than 20 years. Deputies have a solid relationship with the town.

Waterboro is the fastest growing community in York County. Its 8,000 community members enjoy a great quality of life, secure in the confidence that the Sheriff's Office provides outstanding law enforcement services at a minimal cost.

Sadly, the Select Board has recommended that the referendum question on retention of the contract deputy program, "ought not to pass." In other words, the Select Board has recommended defunding policing services for Waterboro.

The general operations of the York County Sheriff's Office are funded by property taxes, most of which come from the larger coastal municipalities in York County. Those communities have their own police departments. The sheriff's office has 29 sworn positions. Seven of those are funded by towns and by RSU 57. The sheriff's office depends upon town contracts to

provide focused patrol services to larger York County towns like Waterboro and Arundel. Some county commissioners – and I cannot fault their reasoning – believe that the towns which rely on the sheriff's office, rather than police departments, for law enforcement should pay a little extra for their policing services.

One Select Board member opposed the contract deputy program because he believes the town is being "taxed twice" for the service. Most of the members agreed, and the vote to recommend defunding the police passed.

Waterboro is a busy town that needs focused policing services. The calls for service during the last three years were 5,703 in 2022, 5,089 in 2023, and 5,289 in 2024.

Not all calls for service require a rapid response; some are routine assignments. Even when traveling with the normal flow of traffic, a deputy has generally been able to respond to a Waterboro call within 15 minutes. Without the contract deputy program, Waterboro will be just one of nine towns that we are patrolling, and I venture to

guess that our response time will be much greater, given that circumstance.

When I meet with community groups, I often hear that traffic enforcement is a priority for Waterboro's residents. Last year, deputies stopped well over 1,000 vehicles for violations and responded to 235 automobile crashes, many of them with personal injuries.

When I was first elected sheriff in 2014, our enforcement priorities in Waterboro were unsolved burglaries, home invasions, and robberies. Residents would return home to find their homes burglarized. Today, it is rare to find an unsolved burglary because we've either imprisoned the bad guys or they chose to relocate!

The Uniform Crime Rate is a national indicator of the effectiveness of a police agency. Our officers exceed and oftentimes double the national average of solving crimes and recovering stolen property. Currently, when I hear about speeding cars, I think back to the time when hardworking Waterboro residents were hesitant to leave their homes to go to work, fearful of what they

would find when they returned at the end of the workday.

We are much more than a police department in Waterboro. I recall the horrible crash at the Cozi Corner Restaurant when almost the entire force, even deputies who were off duty, responded to assist. When the Gorham Savings Bank was robbed, detectives, our law enforcement managers, and deputies tracked the bad guys into the town of Buxton where they were identified and subsequently arrested.

Our sheriff's deputies take special pride in what their diligence has accomplished in the town of Waterboro, where many reside or frequently shop. Many are your neighbors.

We are an exemplary law enforcement agency, the first sheriff's office to attain an MLEAP Certification. Many of our deputies have won national as well as state awards. They are an outstanding group of professional law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line every day.

I urge every Waterboro resident to vote in the June 10th election and to support the continuation of the York County Sheriff's Office contract deputy program.

TOWN OF ALFRED

Absentee Ballots are available for the June 10, 2025 ELECTION OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS ALFRED WATER DISTRICT TRUSTEE RSU#57 BUDGET REFERENDUM

- One (1) Selectmen, Assessor & Overseer – Three (3) year term
- One (1) Director of RSU#57 – Three (3) year term
- One (1) Alfred Water District Trustee – Three (3) year term

Registered voters or immediate family members may request an absentee ballot in person, in writing, or by phone. Voters with an Ongoing Absentee Status will automatically get their ballots mailed to them. If you are interested in this option, please call the Town Clerk for more information, or visit Alfredme.gov.

The last day to obtain an Absentee Ballot is Thursday June 5, 2025 unless the voter qualifies for "Special Circumstances."

POLLS WILL BE OPEN June 10, 2025 from 8:00AM-8:00PM upstairs in the Town Hall, 16 Saco Road, Alfred

The Registrar of Voters will be available M-Th 8:15-4:30 to register voters. You may also register on the day of election. Please bring a photo I.D. and proof of residency.

TOWN CLERK OFFICE PO Box 850, 16 Saco Road, ALFRED, ME 04002 (207) 324-5872 x204 • Shewitt@alfredme.gov



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TOWN OF WATERBORO

PLANNING BOARD Notice of Public Hearing

The Town of Waterboro Planning Board will hold a public hearing at the Town Hall on **Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** The purpose of this hearing is to receive public comment on the proposed **Waterboro Crossing Site Plan Amendment** for a 3,487 sf. two unit commercial building (Physical Therapy Office and a Pizza Sub Shop) and a 21,930 sf. Tractor Supply store. A copy of the application is available at the town offices or at www.waterboro-me.gov.

To participate in the Public Hearing, the following options are available:

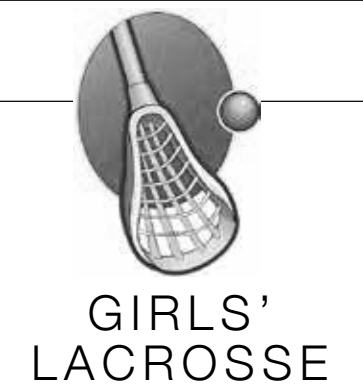
- Send in a letter to the Town of Waterboro Planning Board – 24 Townhouse Rd, E. Waterboro, 04030
 - E-mail achute@waterboromaine.gov with a letter
- Please contact the Department with any questions at achute@waterboromaine.gov or 207-247-6166 ext. 121.

DATE: Wednesday, May 21, 2025

TIME: Public Hearing 6:00PM

LOCATION: 24 Townhouse Road, W. Waterboro

– Rebekah Higgins, Chairman



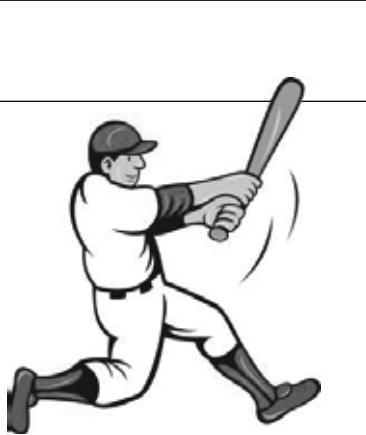
Spartans win fifth
Sanford pounded visiting Deering 18-2 on Friday, May 9 for their fourth consecutive win and fifth in six games this season. The Spartans beat Biddeford 13-5 and Bonny Eagle 12-2. They began the win streak on April 24 with a 10-4 triumph over Westbrook. Sanford won its opening game of the year against the Scots 7-6. Their lone loss was to Traip Academy 11-10. The 2-4 Scots have wins over Noble and Lake Region.

Mustangs win fourth
Massabesic picked up their fourth win of the season, edging host Cape Elizabeth 12-11 on Tuesday, May 13. The Mustangs (4-4) fell to unbeaten Marshwood 15-6 on May 9.

Rams edge Scots
Kennebunk broke a 1-1 tie with single runs in the fifth and the sixth help them capture a 4-2 win over visiting Bonny Eagle on Tuesday, May 13. The Rams outhit the Scots 5-4. Bella Hanson led Bonny Eagle with two hits and a run batted in. She pitched six innings, striking out five and giving up three earned runs. On Thursday, May 8 the Scots won 20-0 over Falmouth. Sophie Sawyer Leah Story and Reese Bryant each drove in three runs for Bonny Eagle who sits at 4-3.

Mustangs top Tigers
Massabesic scored four times in the fifth to help pace a 9-4 win over visiting Biddeford on Monday, May 12. Ella Gerrish, Kendal Pelletier and Baylee Wright each drove in two runs. Pelletier had three hits and swiped two bases for the 3-2 Mustangs who scored five times in the sixth to blow the game open.

Mustangs stomp Scots
Massabesic broke a 1-1 tie with a four run fifth to help lift them to a 6-1 win at Bonny Eagle on Tuesday, May 13. The result left both clubs at 2-5 at the midway point of the season. Noah Bryan (1-2, 3R, 4SB) and Cam Bradbury opened the fifth with consecutive bunt singles. Parker Soule-Bryan knocked both runners in with a single and the Mustangs picked up a run on an RBI single from Emmett Carroll and another on a throwing error to move ahead 5-1. Soule-Parent got his third hit and third RBI in the sixth and he closed out the win with an inning of scoreless relief. Brady Batson went the first six, yielding five hits while fanning seven. The day before, at Gorham, Massabesic fell 3-1. The Rams broke open a tie game with two runs in the fourth. Each team managed seven hits. Noah Bryan had three.



Spartans split with Portland/ South Portland
Sanford banged out 12-runs on 11-hits led by Scott Robitaille's three-hit four-run performance to help pace a 12-1 win at Portland on Monday, May 12. The Spartans scored two in the first, four in the second, one in the fourth and five in the fifth. Robitaille, who had a single, double and triple, drove in three and stole a base. Sanford fell to host South Portland 3-0 the next night. The loss left them at 4-3. Noah Corliss had two hits.

- By Mike DeAngelis

ONGOING EVENTS

ADULT COED VOLLEYBALL every Wednesday night at the Line School in Limerick from 7 p.m.-9 p.m. Questions? contact Dan McAllister at 247-8857.

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

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

TODDLER STORY TIME at Kezar Falls Circulating Library, 2 Federal Road, Kezar Falls, Wednesdays at 11 a.m. What to expect: A story with a short activity and a bit of music time. Geared toward ages 1-3 but all ages and abilities welcome. Open Tue. 2:30-7 p.m., Wed. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Thu. 2:30-5 p.m. and Sat. 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

BUXTON TOPS The Buxton Chapter (0175) of the non-profit group Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) Support Group meets every Thursday morning at 8:45am for weigh-in and meeting at Buxton Center Baptist Church (back door entrance), 938 Long Plains Rd., Buxton. FMI call Christy at 329-1020.

LIMERICK TOPS The Limerick Chapter 208 meets every Thursday at 4 p.m. at St Matthew Catholic Church at 19 Dora Lane (off Route 11) Limerick. Call Kathy Harriman at 727-3729 with questions.

SANFORD TOPS The Sanford Chapter 0113 meets every Wednesday night at 5:45pm at the New Beginnings Church (bottom floor), 181 Grammar Road, Sanford. For more info call Linda Rose at 206-6234.

TOPS SANFORD 0207 at the Willard School 668 Main St. Weigh in from 9-9:45 a.m. on Fridays with the meeting to follow. For more info call Valerie Fecteau at 324-4808 or Judie Berry at 247-5211.



PLACE YOUR AD TODAY!
ads@waterboro-reporter.com
247-1033

TOWN OF HOLLIS PUBLIC NOTICE
ATTENTION RESIDENTS:

Hollis Annual Town Meeting, MSAD #6 School Board Director at-large, MSAD #6 District Budget Validation Referendum June 10, 2025

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS HOURS:
The Registrar of Voters office will be open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Registrar of Voters will be available to correct any errors, correct a name or address on the voting list, and accept new enrollment. To register to vote please, bring proof of your identity and proof of Hollis residency with you. A person who is not registered to vote may not vote in any election.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS:
Absentee Ballot requests are now available for the Hollis Annual Town Meeting being held on Tuesday, June 10, 2025. Absentee Ballots may be requested **until June 5, 2025 at 4p.m.** by calling (207)929-8552 ext. 18, or at the Hollis Town Clerk's Office. It is recommended to call and request your absentee ballot before May 30, 2025 to allow extra time for mailing of your ballots. **Absentee Ballots must be returned to your municipality's drop box by the close of polls at 8 p.m. on June 10, 2025.**

ABSENTEE VOTING (early voting) will be available at the Hollis Town Hall, 34 Town Farm Road, Hollis, ME 04042, during regular business hours.

JUNE 10, 2025, VOTING will be held at the Hollis Center Church, 388 Hollis Road, Hollis, ME 04042. **The Hollis Annual Town Meeting** will open at 6:45 a.m. to act on article #1, to elect a moderator.

POLLS OPEN AT 7A.M. AND CLOSE AT 8P.M.

Hollis Registrar of Voters (207) 929-8552 ext. 18.
Hollis Town Clerk, Hollis Town Hall,
34 Town Farm Road, Hollis, ME 04042

DO YOU HAVE SPORTS PHOTOS TO SHARE?

EMAIL TO: news@waterbororeporter.com to be published on our Sports Pages!

TOWN OF HOLLIS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Hollis Select Board will be holding a **PUBLIC HEARING Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 7PM at the Hollis Community Building, 35 Town Farm Road, Hollis, ME 04042**

To review a license renewal application for an **Adult Use Cannabis Retail Store** submitted by **Shane Ward – Maine Only, LLC, 321 Hollis Road, Hollis, ME, 04042.** The public is welcome to attend. Meeting information is available on the Town's website www.hollismaine.org.

TOWN OF HOLLIS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Hollis Select Board will be holding a **PUBLIC HEARING Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 7:00PM** at the Hollis Community Building 35 Town Farm Road, Hollis, ME 04042

To review all secret ballot warrant articles, proposed ordinances and ordinance changes for the HOLLIS ANNUAL TOWN MEETING to be held on June 10, 2025.

The warrant articles, proposed ordinances and ordinance changes can be viewed at Hollis Town Office or on our website www.hollismaine.org. The public is welcome to attend. Additional meeting information is available on our website calendar.

- Posted by the Hollis Select Board

YORK COUNTY

FOOD PANTRY

(Continued from page 1)

the food pantry and have assumed its operation.”

The food pantry was located at YCSP’s main campus on Shaker Hill in Alfred from its formation until 2018, when it moved to the county-owned building at Swett’s Bridge Road. The building and most utilities were provided to the agency by the county government as a courtesy, without charge.

“The closure of the nonprofit shelter’s food pantry would be a monumental loss and create further strains on local municipal resources,” said Commissioner Justin Chenette. “No Mainer should go hungry.”

On a recent day, pantry coordinator Rob Boyd was surveying the shelves. A shipment of food had come in earlier in the day, and he was expecting another before the next opening day.

The pantry operates like a market, where those who come for food browse for the items they need. At times, like during the Covid pandemic, the pantry had operated a drive-thru, where boxes were prepacked for clients, but food allergies and the like meant some of the food handed out went to waste, Boyd noted. This way, folks make their own choices, avoiding items they can’t eat.

Some shelves were marked with the number of cans or boxes that shoppers were invited to take. Some had no limits, it all depends



York County Deputy Manager and Human Resources Director Linda Hutchins-Corliss survey the produce shelves at the York County Food Pantry with pantry coordinator Rob Boyd. York County Government and First County Foundation partnered to assume operations of the pantry after the private nonprofit York County Shelter Programs Inc. announced the demise of the shelters it operated, along with the pantry and other entities. PHOTO BY TAMMY WELLS, YORK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

on how much is available, Boyd noted. Shelter volunteers hand out meat, poultry, fish and the like.

How much food do folks get? Well, depending on the choices they make, Boyd said a weekly visit yields enough food for 1-2 people for four or five days. He estimated that the pantry sees 100 to 130 boxes of food go out the door each day the pantry is open.

During the summer and fall, local farms are generous with their produce donations. Area supermarkets donate produce, meats and some dry goods year around, said Boyd. The pantry is a mem-

ber of Good Shepherd Food Bank, and also receives some commodities from The Emergency Food Assistance Program, a federal government initiative known as TEFAP. The most recent shipment contained dry milk, macaroni and cheese packets, several varieties of canned beans, canned collard greens and more.

“I had a lot of happy and relieved pantry customers on Friday (May 9) when they learned we were staying open,” said Boyd.

The pantry helps feed residents from across York County and is open to all. “We don’t turn

anyone away,” Zinser noted.

The pantry operates with the help of volunteers who stock shelves, escort customers around the pantry, pick up food from donors, and more. Those looking to help in that way may contact Boyd at 207-289-9668 or: rlboyd@yorkcountymaine.gov.

Those considering making a financial contribution may contact Rachel Stansfield, who works with First County Foundation, at 207-459-7055 or at: restansfield@yorkcountymaine.gov.

– By Tammy Wells, Media Specialist for York County Government

BRIEFS

Free community plant exchange in Sanford

Join Sanford’s free Community Plant Exchange on Saturday, May 24, from 10 a.m. to noon at Eldredge Lumber, 1787 Main Street, Sanford. All plants must go before noon. Bring your extra plant divisions, seeds, cuttings, and house plants. Exotic invasive plants in the State of Maine will not be accepted. For more info call Bridget at 267-261-2122.

Perennial and herb plant sale in Newfield

A sale to benefit the volunteer Unique Maine Farms project will take place rain or shine at the Doyle Family Farm at 515 Garland Road in West Newfield, on Sat. May 31 and Sun. June 1 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Over 200 varieties of perennials and herbs will be available for sale. Cash or checks accepted. Find a listing of the plants and their prices at: www.doylefamilyfarm.com.

Waterboro library book, bake and plant sale

Put June 21, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., on your calendar for the Waterboro library’s annual summer book, bake and plant sale. If you are interested in supporting the fundraiser with books, baked goods or plants you’re ready to divide, contact Brigit McCallum at bmccallum@waterboromaine.gov. Come on June 21 and bring bags to fill with good stuff!



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TOWN OF SHAPLEIGH

Absentee Ballots

**Absentee ballots for the June 10, 2025
RSU #57 Budget Validation Referendum
are now available in the Town
Clerk's Office.**

**Requests for a mailed ballot can be
made by telephone or ballots may also
be picked up at the Clerk's office by the
voter or immediate family member.**

**Deadline to request an absentee ballot is
Thursday, June 5, 2025
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Three Rivers Land Trust hosts annual meeting

Featuring Native Plant Trust and New Trail Collaboration

Three Rivers Land Trust is pleased to invite the public to its Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 17, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the land trust office at 235 Swetts Bridge Road in Alfred. This year's event will highlight an exciting partnership with the Native Plant Trust focused on expanding trail access and celebrating native plant conservation.

The meeting will begin with a brief business meeting and update on the land trust's work, followed by a special presentation by Erik Sechler, Ecological Programs Coordinator at Native Plant Trust (NPT). As NPT celebrates its 125th anniversary this year, Sechler will share highlights from the organization's ongoing ecological programs and conservation initiatives across New England.

Sechler will also speak about the upcoming accessible trail project at the Harvey Butler Rhododendron Sanctuary, which will be generously funded by a \$100,384 grant from the Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program, requiring matching funding and volunteer work.

This new trail will connect the Trust's Sanford Community Forest with the Sanctuary making it easier for people of all abilities to experience the natural beauty of the Sanctuary, home to an impressive five-acre stand of great rosebay (Rhododendron maximum), which is extremely rare in Maine, and at the northern extent of its range.



Close up of rhododendron bloom.

"Native Plant Trust is very excited for this conservation collaboration to connect trails with Three Rivers Land Trust," said Sechler. "We would like to increase NPT's local presence within the community and share the natural wonder of Butler Sanctuary and the Rhododendron maximum population with more people."

Following the presentation, guests are invited to enjoy refreshments, conversation, and a native seed planting activity, which attendees can bring home to plant in their own gardens.

All are welcome to attend this free event and learn more about how local conservation partners are working together to protect, connect, and share the region's natural heritage.

Three Rivers Land Trust is a membership-supported organization dedicated to building reciprocal relationships to land through conservation, recreation, and education in Acton, Alfred, Lebanon, Shapleigh and Sanford/Springvale. Anyone interested in volunteering in October or on future dates, should get in touch with the land trust at info@3rlt.org or by calling (207) 538-9619.

More than a century ago founders organized what is now called Native Plant Trust to stop the destruction of native plants. Today, as native plants face the greatest wave of threats since the last mass extinction, Native Plant Trust is still a national leader in native plant conservation, horticulture, and education.

Named for the Little Ossipee, Salmon Falls, and Upper Mousam Rivers, Three Rivers Land Trust holds conservation easements to protect farms, forests, and wetlands, and maintains preserves, which provide public access to recreation and hunting.



Visitors at the Harvey Butler Rhododendron Sanctuary in Sanford. PHOTOS BY THREE RIVERS LAND TRUST

Waterboro Community Garden beds available now for 2025

Peas are up and there are still a couple of beds available at Waterboro Community Garden for Waterboro residents. Have you tried to garden at home but shade or deer and their friends have made it difficult? If so, you can join with other gardeners, newbies and experienced alike, and plant in full sun at the community garden!

A bed may be rented for a fee

of \$25 with an additional \$10 security deposit for the first year. Gardeners plant vegetables and flowers and maintain their own bed, engage in volunteer tasks that help maintain the entire operation and have the option to assist with the Pantry Garden that supplies produce for Waterboro Community Pantry. Water, loam and compost are provided.

Anyone interested can get more information by emailing bmccallum@waterboromaine.gov or by going online to the Town of Waterboro website, then to Boards and Committees, and then Community Garden. Click on the link for Garden Plot Application 2025 Package for information about being part of the garden and an application.

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New Adult Day Program in Springvale!

SMAA's Adult Day Programs are geared toward older adults with Alzheimer's and other dementias. For more information or to schedule a tour of our Biddeford or Springvale locations, contact us at **207.396.6508** or ngarrity@smaaa.org.



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



'102 Years of Broadway' is playing at the Sanford Performing Arts Center on Saturday, May 31. COURTESY PHOTO

Broadway tunes take the stage in Sanford

Step into the spotlight with “102 Years of Broadway,” the highly anticipated sequel to last season’s hit, “101 Years of Broadway,” brought back by popular demand. Showtime is 7 p.m. Saturday, May 31.

Organized by the acclaimed Neil Berg, this extraordinary musical revue celebrates over a century of Broadway’s greatest hits with a cast of five Broadway stars. Enjoy iconic songs from legendary shows like Les Misérables, West Side Story, and The Phantom of the Opera, alongside the timeless music of Rodgers and Hammerstein, Cole Porter, George Gershwin, Kander and Ebb, and Andrew Lloyd Webber. Praised as “The very best Broadway concert ever!” and “A knockout from the very first song,” this show promises a vibrant mix of unforgettable melodies and spectacular performances.

Immerse yourself in the magic of Broadway as Neil Berg’s vision delivers a show described as “A Bruce Springsteen concert for the Broadway set.” With brilliant choreography, dazzling costumes, and a cast that perfectly captures Broadway’s rich history, “102 Years of Broadway” offers an extraordinary night of musical brilliance. Whether you’re a life-long fan or new to the stage, this revue provides a captivating journey through theater’s enchanting world, celebrating both classic and contemporary Broadway.

Tickets are \$37-\$51, with discounts for seniors, students, military veterans and season subscribers. For reservations, call the box office at (207) 206-1126, or visit in person Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m.-noon or visit <https://sanfordpac.org/bway>.

BUSINESS NEWS



Otto Pizza open in Sanford

Otto Portland in Sanford hosts open house

Otto Portland’s new pizza restaurant located at 1299 Main Street in Sanford cut the ribbon for their open house ceremony on April 27. Employees, friends and the Sanford Springvale Chamber welcomed the new restaurant to Sanford. Pictured from left are Remon Geris, Kevin Remon, cutting the ribbon is one of Otto Portland’s top patrons Gary Traynham, Chamber President Rick Stanley, Karen Hebb (Town Square Realty), Brian Conlin (Otto Portland Business Partner), Al Hebb (Town Square Realty) and Otto General Manager Mr. Roux. COURTESY PHOTO



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BIDDEFORD

Khmer
New Year
gathering

Supporting the well-being of our community – especially our elders – remains a core part of Khmer Maine’s mission. This April, our elders had a special opportunity to come together and celebrate. In partnership with the Southern Maine Agency on Aging, Khmer Maine hosted a Khmer New Year gathering for elders at the Agency’s Biddeford office.

More than twenty Cambodian seniors from the area came out to enjoy food, music, and each other’s company. The celebration included traditional New Year’s treats and a chance for everyone to share blessings for health and happiness. In a touching moment, each elder was presented with a bouquet of fresh flowers – colorful daisies, carnations, and roses – symbolizing the blossoming of a new year and the appreciation for our elders’ wisdom and leadership in the community.

The room was filled with laughter, stories of past new years in Cambodia, and even a bit of singing. It was a joyful event that left everyone smiling. Bringing our elders together in this way not only helps combat social isolation, but also honors them as the keepers of our culture and history. We plan to continue these gatherings to ensure our seniors stay connected and active.



Khmer Maine elders and community members celebrate the Khmer New Year at the Southern Maine Agency on Aging in Biddeford. The group poses with bright bouquets of flowers presented to each elder, symbolizing gratitude and blessings for the new year. It was a heartwarming gathering that closed out April with smiles and cultural pride. COURTESY PHOTO

If you have any questions or would like to get involved or support any of the initiatives mentioned, email marpheen@khmer-maine.org.

KHMER MAINE is a nonpartisan, community organization working to improve the quality of life and the social and economic well-being of Cambodians in Maine through cultural exchange, community building and civic engagement. Khmer Maine also partners to support members of Maine’s Southeast Asian and Pacific Islander communities and strives for solidarity with Black and Indigenous communities in Maine.

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SANFORD

Every Friday from 4 to 5 p.m., citizens of Sanford, Springvale, Shapleigh, Alfred, Wells and beyond are standing together on Main Street at Central Park in Sanford. They’re demonstrating their concerns about changes being made in Federal Government policies and services. Newcomers are welcome.

PHOTO BY DAVID AGAN

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Press releases? Photos?

If your business has news to share with the community, we'd love to hear from you!

Send your submissions to:
news@waterbororeporter.com

LETTERS

Profits over quality?

I spent close to 30 years in Human Resource management. Among my key responsibilities was the recruitment of employees, all the way up to management; along with providing the best wages and benefits the company could afford.

Senior management and owners gave priority to customer service by providing the highest quality products and services to their customers. They believed in the mission and vision of the organization.

Somewhere, along the line, something went terribly wrong. Now the focus is on profits, not quality or customer service or even the value of employees.

I was once told, by a boss, that "we own you." With a wife and three children, I quit the next day.

Look at the growing number of recalls of food and products it's downright scary!

We are hiring managers who are not trained, and they are hiring workers who are not qualified; AND they are not training them to provide quality.

Whatever happened to focusing on the mission and vision of the organization and its responsibilities to its customers? Whatever happened that we no longer recognize employee contribution to the company or train them? Praise, recognition and reward go a long way to earning loyalty and pride in their jobs.

I place a lot of the blame on Human Resource Management for not holding management accountable. I always believed that my obligation to my employer was to hold management accountable to do what was morally, ethically and legally responsible, even if it meant placing my job on the line.

— John Lemire
North Waterboro

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Candidates should have basic computer skills and be able to draft letters and work with spreadsheets.

Duties will include and are not limited to issuing permits, performing site inspections, enforcing state and municipal ordinances, and maintaining accurate records.

Candidates must commit to getting certified and pass the certification exams in required disciplines; plumbing, subsurface waste disposal, building, shoreland, etc... if not already certified, within one year of employment.

This position will remain open until a suitable candidate can be hired. You must complete an application which is available at <https://townofhiram.org> or you can pick up one at the Town Office.

AN APPLICATION CAN BE SENT TO:
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Town of Hiram, C/O Deputy Clerk,
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The Waterboro Public Library is accepting applications for a part-time Assistant Director; (18.5-19.5 hrs/wk) Starting wage is \$20.25/hour. Application and full description is available on the Town of Waterboro website www.waterboro-me.gov and will be accepted until the position is filled. E-mail a cover letter, resume, and three references to Julie Hoyle, at jhoyle@waterborolibrary.org or send to: Library Director, 187 Main Street, East Waterboro, ME 04030.

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WEEKLY CIRCULATION 10,000

Obituaries

Roberts S. Shaw Jr.

On April 25, 2025, Heaven gained a wonderful soul as Bob passed away peacefully at Leominster Hospital surrounded by his loved ones. He was born on May 15, 1953 to his parents Jacqueline and Robert Shaw. Bob was a simple man who worked hard his entire life. For several years he worked with his family at Shaw's Hardware in Sanford. After moving to Massachusetts, he worked as a Cook and then as a School Custodian and School Bus Driver. He enjoyed seeing people happy and would do anything to accomplish that. One of the things he enjoyed doing was traveling with his daughter Lindsey. They took many random, spur of the moment trips together. He enjoyed camping, cooking and often loved going to the beaches in Maine and seeing his favorite sister Pam and his big brother Steve. He enjoyed the simple pleasure of being a family man and having the opportunity love and see his granddaughters Anjali and Adaline grow. They were his pride and joy and loved every minute of spending time with them while spoiling them. When Bob wasn't with family, he would be sitting down at his favorite diner, the Savory Skillet, enjoying good company.

By many, Bob will always be honored, loved, missed, and remembered as the amazing father, grandfather, brother and friend that he was. He is survived by his daughter Lindsey Shaw and her partner, Lyle Hager, two beautiful grandchildren, Anjali Marion and Adaline Marion, his sister Pamela (Andrew) Bors and brother Stephen (Linda) Shaw and their respective families.



Robert S. Shaw Jr.

His Celebration of Life will be held on Thursday, May 15 at 2 p.m. at Johnson's Restaurant in North Berwick.

Almon Guy Williams

Almon Guy Williams quietly passed away Wednesday, April 30th, 2025, joining his wife, Allison. He was born on Nov. 10, 1932 to Joy and Natalie Williams in Littleton. He grew up with his 3 brothers and 1 sister. He enjoyed sharing stories of living in northern Maine, attending a one room schoolhouse, his father working on the railroad, trips into town on the train, and picking potatoes.

In 1950 he moved to Boston to attend college and worked as an Orderly at Peter Brent Brigham Hospital so he could pay for his tuition. While working at the hospital, he met the love of his life, Allison. He knew immediately and when he got home, he told his roommate that he had met his future wife. It took 4 years of persistent courting before she finally said yes. They were married on October 10, 1954 (and were married over 70 years).

In 1953 he was drafted into the Army and served until October 1955 with honorable discharge. In 1956 he fulfilled his dream of owning a farm when they moved to Alfred and raising his family (2 daughters and a son). He was known for raising chickens, strawberries, raspberries, and sheep. In February of the early 70's he almost lost his dreams when the barn burned losing all but a few sheep. True to Alfred Community spirit, people were immediately present providing support. He remembered the 4-H club had raised money to help rebuild. He had not realized just how much of an impact he had made on the



Almon Guy Williams

community. It took a few years to regroup and rebuild. In 2000, they made the decision to close that chapter in their lives, and transition into "retirement". He began to establish his craftsmanship of wooden boat restoration, canning chairs, cooking, restoring the Red School House, working that the Alfred Museum and so much more. His second biggest passion was music. Whether playing his autoharp for the Sunday school, nursing homes, Alfred Festival Day, or any gathering. Almost every night he would play once the kids went to bed...always ending with "good night Irene".

Not only will he be missed by his family, but the community as well. Although his music has become silent, the wish is others will find ways to continue supporting each other with kindness.

Almon was preceded by his parents, his daughter Alise Williams, his son Adam Williams, his granddaughter Nicole LeBoeuf, and his brothers Erland and Richard. He leaves behind daughter April Kate Vansandt and husband James, Granddaughters Andrea Daney and husband Aaron, Gwenyth Vansandt and significant other Trent McLaughlin; great grandchildren Trent LeMay and Aria LeBoeuf; his brother Albert and wife Marie, his sister Lois and his very dear exchange daughter Sabrina Roters (in Germany); and the community of Alfred.

A joint celebration of life for he and his wife will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 18, 2025 at the Alfred Parish Church.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to "Daisy's Children" mission through the Alfred Parish church, Alfred Red School house, or charity of choice.

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

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

Judith Dale Provencher

Judith Dale Provencher passed away peacefully at home on May 8. She was born at Westbrook Hospital on Oct. 23, 1950, the daughter of the late Kenneth Woodbrey Sr and Dorothy Sargent Woodbrey.



Judith Dale Provencher

Judy grew up in Steep Falls and attended Bonny Eagle High School. She worked at local mills through her younger days and married Robert Provencher on March 23, 1968 with whom she had two children, Lori and Scott. They bought a home on Spur Road in Cornish and lived there for 49 years until downsizing and moving to North Waterboro in 2021. While her kids were in elementary school she worked at the Nike Shoe Factory in Sanford until its closing in 1985. She took advantage of the education program provided by Nike and attended Andover College where she obtained an associate's degree in business. She was quickly hired by Hanover Insurance where she retired from in 2015. Soon after retirement, she started having health issues and later was diagnosed with non-alcoholic, cirrhosis of the liver. With these complications, she continually battled to gain weight.

Judy was predeceased by her younger sister Diane Glidden. Surviving siblings are her older sister Dotty & the late Eddy

Provencher, Kenneth & Beverly Woodbrey, and Barry & Kathy Woodbrey. Surviving children and grandchildren include: her daughter Lori and her husband Mark of Porter; granddaughter Amanda Mudgett and husband Tyler and Great grandchildren Maverick and Gracelyn; a son, Scott and Jen Provencher of Old Orchard Beach and grandchildren Riley, Vivienne, and Brady (great grandchildren Jaxon and Hudson).

Judy loved to go shopping with her two sisters Diane and Dotty. When Diane passed, she kept up the tradition with Dotty of shopping and looking for the best lunch. Her latest find was a lobster roll from Bob's Seafood in North Windham, which she raved about. Judy cherished her friendship with her former coworker Betty McKown of Scarborough. She also cherished her niece Susan Lawrence with whom she had a strong bond.

She leaves behind her husband Bob of 57 years and their dog Abby. The family thanks everyone for their condolences. Judy's wishes were not to have funeral services. Instead, she prefers an intimate gathering that will be announced to family and friends when a suitable place, date and time becomes available.

Services will be private amongst her family.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Chad E. Poitras Cremation and Funeral Service, East Waterboro. Online condolence messages can be submitted at www.mainefuneral.com

(More obituaries on page 12)

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Obituaries

(Continued from page 11)

Michael David Peavey

Michael David Peavey passed away suddenly on March 2, 2025.

Mike, as he was known to family, friends, and coworkers, he was born on Dec. 12, 1956 in Bangor. Mike was predeceased by his dad, Daniel Peavey,



Michael David Peavey

his mom, Eleanor Durgin, and his sister, Brenda Purcell. Mike is survived by his wife Karen Peavey of Shapleigh, his stepdad Stanley Durgin Jr. of Saco, and his brother Steven Peavey and Steve's wife Theresa Peavey of Wallingford, CT, and a brother-in-law, Thomas Lavigne of Berwick.

Mike had five children: Robert Keenan of Lebanon, and his wife Jackie and their children Bryant, Allyssa, and Mariah; Heather Pisapia of Reading, Massachusetts, and her husband Anthony and their children Hailey, Ava, and Anthony;

Kathleen Nye of Windham, Connecticut, and her husband Bobby and their children Jarrod, Jacob, and Jordan; Michelle Grondin of Rochester, New Hampshire, and her fiancé, Adam Thurber, and their children, Brandon and Meadow; Jennifer Winakor of Oakdale, Connecticut, and her husband Kevin and their daughter River. Also, nephews, nieces, and great-grandchildren.

Soon after his birth, the family moved to Connecticut where he lived until moving to Shapleigh. Mike was the perfect height, 6 feet 5 inches tall, for school sports and playing sports! By the time he finished high school, he'd had one major knee surgery. As a young man, Mike really loved cars, fishing, and music. He played in the marching band in high school. He tells a story about him playing the largest horn in the band and says he was selected because he was the only kid big enough to carry it, play it, and March at the same time. LOL.

Soon after graduating from high school, Mike joined the Navy. Upon discharge from the Navy, he began a 42-year career with Pratt & Whitney, working his way up the ladder in Quality Control. Mike spent much of his career at P&W traveling all over the world

"trouble shooting" and inspecting manufactured parts. At one point, he travelled so frequently that he kept a sleeping cot and sleeping bag in his office, often to "catch a quick nap before catching another flight to another country. Mike enjoyed the challenges that went along with airplane manufacturing and often would look up in the sky and identify an airplane and would say, "Babe, my name is on that engine"! He really loved what he did!

He enjoyed being able to help folks through his woodworking and to repair a broken heirloom meant as much as the challenge of creating something new. He would donate pieces to local charities and sell his pieces at local fairs. There was no such thing as too much wood in Mike's shop. He called his business Cantdog Woodworking, named after a logging tool that his great-grandfather had invented.

Mike's great loves were family, friends, his church, and woodworking. Mike wore "many hats" at his church. He was treasurer for many years, chair of the Property Committee, and an all-around historian. Everyone at church knew that if they had a problem or question, calling Mike was usually their best bet!

There will be a Celebration of Life held for Mike at The Acton Congregational Church at 59 H Road in Acton on Saturday, May 17 at 11 a.m., with a reception to follow in the church's Fellowship Hall. If you feel moved to make a gift, please send a donation to The Acton Congregational Church with "Mike Peavey Memorial Fund" in the memo line. The mailing address for the church is P.O. Box 28, Acton, Me. 04001

All arrangements are being handled by J.S. Pelkey and Son Funeral Home.

Harold Clifton Smith

Harold Clifton Smith, 102, passed away on April 28, 2025, at his home in Buxton. But for the three years he served in the Army during World War II, he was a lifelong resident of the Saco River Valley.

Harold was born to Zenas M. Smith and Florence (Brown) Smith at the homestead of his grandparents, Andrew Jackson Smith and Mary (Martin) Smith, less than half a mile from the house where he spent the last 49 years of his life. Though his parents suffered the devastating loss of their home twice, by fire, during the dark, early years of the Great Depression, Harold's stubbornly positive view of life was not a casualty of the flames. He worked hard on the family farm, attended the one-room Shadigee and Dearborn Hill Schools, and graduated from Buxton High a year ahead of his contemporaries, in 1939.

On July 1, 1941, he joined Company D in the 103rd regiment of the Maine National Guard in Westbrook. On March 11, 1942, three months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the regiment was activated for federal service and left Portland by train destined for Camp Blanding, Florida. The soldiers would complete their rigorous training there, and in North Carolina and Louisiana before being deployed to the Pacific Theater.

The men departed San Francisco on Thursday, Oct. 1, 1942. Over the next three years, they would see action in New Zealand, New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, the Russell Islands, and New Zealand. As they embarked upon war, the regiment was united under the motto "To the Last Man." Harold could not have guessed that, in the fullness of time, he would live to become that man.

On Jan. 19, 1945, while they were both on leave, Harold wed Lavon Jackson, of Carthage, Mississippi, a member of the inaugural cadre of Navy Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, the "WAVEs." They had met during Harold's training in the South. After they were discharged, later that year, they established their home in Buxton. They remained married for more than half a century, until her passing in May, 1998.

In the first, scuffling years of the young couple's life together, as their children were born, Harold took work with a State Highway Road Maintenance crew and then tried his hand at chicken farming, raising birds for Cohen Brothers, a Massachusetts company. But on Oct. 1, 1951, he landed permanent employment as postmaster of the West Buxton Post Office, then located in the historic Moderation Falls section of town, straddling the Saco. He would serve in that position for the next 34 years.

A meticulous carpenter and craftsman, he devoted much of his spare time over those three decades to restoring the house he and Lavon acquired in 1949, the former home of the Elder Abner Flanders, first minister of the Buxton Center Baptist Church, of which Harold was a member.

After he retired from the post office, on March 9, 1979, he augmented his pension for a few years as a salesman at Wickes Lumber Company and Hillside Lumber Company, both in Westbrook, retiring for good in 1985. He spent his retirement years enjoying a wide range of hobbies. He was an avid reader, seldom spending a day without his nose in a book for at least a few hours. He loved puttering in his well-equipped, if cluttered, workshop, producing all sorts of things, from the practical to the eccentric. He was also an inveterate collector, who took enormous pleasure in restoring old machines to functionality.

It was often said of Harold Smith that to know him was to have a friend. A highly gregarious man and noted raconteur, he was, indeed, quick to engage others wherever he went.

Over the course of his long life, he was a member of many organizations. As a young man he was active in the Knights of Pythias and the Buxton Grange, and he was a founding member of the Men's Garden Club of Buxton. He was a lifelong member of the Buxton High School Alumni Association. And even as he neared the end of his life he maintained his memberships in the Maine Antique Power Association and Post 130 of the American Legion, in Bar Mills. In recent years he was a colorful

– and competitive – participant in weekly cribbage competition at the Buxton Center Baptist Church's Monday Senior Social.

As self-effacing about his personal achievements as he was quick to applaud those of others, he was nonetheless deeply proud of his military service, his family and what he had made of himself after a very modest start in life. As the years passed and he could look back on his life with the sagacity of autumn, he derived comfort from having been a member of what Tom Brokaw called "The Greatest Generation," people of "towering achievement and modest demeanor" whose character was forged "in their formative years when they were participants in and witness to sacrifices of the highest order."

Harold is survived by his daughter, Rebecca, of Buxton; son Jim and his partner, Sue Mullaney, of Rockfall, Connecticut; grandson Ryland Charronsmith, of Bangor; sister Sylvia Allen, of Westbrook; and numerous cousins and friends.

There will be no services at this time. A Celebration of Life is planned for later this year.

Memorial contributions can be made to Buxton Center Baptist Church, 938 Long Plains Road, Buxton, Maine 04093; and Northern Light Home Care and Hospice Foundation, P.O. Box 679, Portland, ME 04104.

Frances Elaine Landry

Frances Elaine Landry, 71, of Acton, passed away in the comfort of her home on April 28, 2025. She was born on Oct. 31, 1953 in Sanford. She grew up in Alfred and remained close to her roots, spending her entire life in the southern Maine area.



Frances Elaine Landry

Daughter of Robert and Barbara Leslie, Frances graduated from Massabesic High School and later married Donald L. Landry, in the summer of 1985. Together they built a life grounded with simplicity, and care for others.

Frances was deeply connected to the natural world and passionate about homesteading. She had a gift for finding hidden treasures at a bargain. She found joy in growing flowers, bird watching, and discovering the natural beauty around her. Frances was always ready to lend a hand or a listening ear to anyone that needed it. Within her native circle, she was affectionately known as "She Who Listens," a name that reflected her quiet strength, compassion, and wisdom.

She is survived by her brother David, sister Beverley, her devoted husband Donald, daughters Hattie and Renee, son David, and granddaughter Esther.

Frances will be remembered for her gentle spirit, her generosity, and her unwavering kindness for her family and friends.

A celebration of her life will be held at the family residence in Acton on Sunday, May 18. All who wish to attend are welcome from 12-4 p.m. A private burial service will be held the following day at Southern Maine Veterans Cemetery in Springvale.

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