



REPORTER

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Interview with a mermaid

By CYNTHIA MATTHEWS

Perhaps you have been swimming at Watchic Lake, or maybe Sokokis Lake, and thought that you had seen something swimming in the water. You probably brushed it off, thinking it was nothing. But you may have had an encounter with a freshwater mermaid!

Yes! There are mermaids that walk among us! Our local mermaid calls herself Demelza. Her name means strong fortress by the sea. Like most mermaids, she likes to keep her identity a secret. But this reporter had a chance to

sit down with her at her home on land in Limerick to talk about mermaiding.

On land, our local mermaid's name is Joni Alexis. Around town, she is known as a multimedia/performing artist. This is her mermaid story. "My father was a green beret in the Army," she told me. "He taught me to swim in the ocean." And she obviously loved it! She became a competitive swimmer, and won competitions through the US Master's Swimming Association – she showed me her medals! From there, she went on to become a Red Cross

(Continued on page 2)



Limerick resident Joni Alexis enjoys swimming as a mermaid she calls Demelza. COURTESY PHOTO

Tree planted for Robin

By C.J. PIKE

A small group of people gathered on Monday, June 17, at the Line Elementary School in Newfield to plant a tree in memory of Robin Stinson, the wife of the school's principal Tim Stinson, who passed away this past February. Mr. Stinson wanted to keep the ceremony small to remember his wife, so there were just a few invited on the lawn in front of the school. Attending were Newfield Selectman Shelly Gobielle, Nichole Hubbard, Paul Colwell, RSU 57 Superintendent Larry Malone, School Board member Jodi Laine, Vicki Adams, Limerick Selectman Dottie Richard, Anastasia Ferguson and Stinson's administrative assistants Christina Winn and Mary Jo Burcham.

The tree had actually been planted a little earlier that morning by Derek Welch, who also mowed the lawn to get the space ready for the ceremony.

Gobielle introduced everyone as they gathered around the tree. Then she said that we wanted to have this ceremony for Tim in honor of Robin, to show him, and their two children Emily and Tyler, that they are loved and supported by both communities. "As this flowering cherry tree continues to grow, it is a living tribute to a beautiful and generous spirit. May each new leaf grow and blossom in Robin's memory. Thank you Tim for all you do for our children. This is just a small gesture we can do for you and your family."

(Continued on page 3)



From left, RSU 57 Superintendent Larry Malone, Vicki Adams, Nichole Hubbard, Dottie Richard, Line Elementary School Principal Tim Stinson, Shelly Gobielle, Jodi Laine, Bruce Colwell, Christina Winn, Anastasia Ferguson and Mary Jo Burcham at Line Elementary School on June 17 after a cherry tree was planted in honor of Mr. Stinson's wife Robin who passed away on Feb. 25. PHOTO BY C.J. PIKE

New deputy for Shapleigh-Acton



Deputy Sheriff Gregg Sevigny. PHOTO BY JOANNE BARGIONI

By JOANNE BARGIONI

Welcome to Gregg Sevigny, our new Deputy Sheriff for the Shapleigh-Acton area. He replaces Officer Dan Shaw who resigned recently. Officer Sevigny has only been on the job here in Shapleigh-Acton for the past two weeks but he is excited to get to know the residents.

Officer Sevigny grew up in Sanford. After graduating from Sanford High School he was interested in going into the military, but instead went to Southern Maine Community College for Criminal Justice and realized he would like to pursue a career in law enforcement. After graduating

(Continued on page 3)



Massabesic High School graduated 201 students on Thursday, June 13 at the Cross Insurance Arena in Portland. See pages 4-6 for more graduation coverage. PHOTO BY KERRY DEANGELIS

MERMAID

(Continued from page 1)

certified Life Guard, and a Swim Coach. Always looking for a new adventure, she then tried kayaking and white water rafting. She's always swimming. "I'll swim every day that I can," she said.

Demelza swims at Watchic Lake in Standish, Limington Rapids, and sometimes around Boy Scout island on Sokokis Lake in Limerick. "I just want to play around at the beach," she exclaimed. "It is a get away from human chaos." Motorboats are the enemy, she said. Sometimes they go too fast and don't watch for other things in the water. When she feels danger, she has to swim closer to shore, to the shallow waters to escape. Fish, trout especially, come right up to her. Loons, too. "As a freshwater mermaid, turtles are my special friends," she said. Once, when swimming in Ogunquit, she had an encounter with a shark! "It's so fun," she said. "They don't bother me!"

One day, while swimming at Watchic Lake, some kids spotted her. Soon she heard, "There's a mermaid in the water!" Parents who were in rafts came out to see her, and eventually, she swam in to shore. Kids came to greet her and ask her questions. Some parents asked her if she would do birthday parties. She had never really thought about it before, but... "Sure," she said.

On land, Alexis had training in ballet, and danced Off Broadway in the show Chicago. She also used to do singing telegrams. Performing as a mermaid has just brought all these aspects of her life together. "I love it!" she beamed.

Then, one day, on Facebook,



Demelza out of the water, at home in Limerick. PHOTO BY CYNTHIA MATTHEWS

she found a "pod" – a group of mermaids in Oregon that swim together. They are athletes, who swim together with mermaid tails and mermaid names, and teach others how to swim like mermaids. Demelza thought it would be nice to create a pod here, and have others to swim with.

To become a mermaid, Demelza said that one needs to have athletic ability, confidence in the water, and upper body strength. One also has to be able to float on your front and back, to tread water for 60 seconds, swim about 25 yards, and hold your breath underwater. You don't have to have a tail – you can buy one at www.finfun.com.

If you are interested in joining Demelza and creating a pod here in Southern Maine, or if you are interested in hiring her for your event, call 793-8951 or email her at seacastlepottery@aol.com. Demelza added, "Mermaids on land are all different shapes and sizes. They blend in, and maintain their secret identity."

Major Mustangs take tourney opener

By MICHAEL DEANGELIS

Katherine Hanlon gave up just one hit and Massabesic's 10-12 year-old softball All-Stars got all the runs they'd need in two-run bottom of the first to pace an easy 10-0 win over South Berwick/Rochester (SBRELL) in the opening game of the District 4 Little League Championships held Monday, June 17 in South Berwick.

Kendall Tetu led off the bottom of the first with a double and she stole second with after an out. Ella

Donovan knocked in Tetu with a single and she scored the second run later in the inning on a wild pitch.

Massabesic added two more in the second when Felicia Proctor knocked in Candice Daigle with a groundout and Tetu tripled in Eliza Rodgers, who had walked, to make it 4-0.

Hanlon dominated on the mound. She struck out 8 of the 19 batters she faced over five innings, walked none and allowed just two balls to leave the infield. And 43 of her 59 pitches were strikes.

Massabesic put the game away with a five-run third. Donovan led off with a double, stole second and scored on a wild pitch. Ava Gerrish

singled with one out, stole second and moved to third on wild pitch. Katelyn Boissonneault slammed a triple driving in Gerrish and she made it 7-0 after racing home on a passed ball.

With still only one away in the inning catcher Candice Daigle singled and scored, and Ali Thibodeau walked and scored, as Massabesic batted around while boosting the score to 9-0.

Boissonneault scored in the bottom of the fifth and the mercy rule was enacted, ending it.

The District 4 age 10-12 (majors) softball tourney is double elimination. The following teams are participating: Biddeford, Kennebunk/Wells, Massabesic, Saco, SBRELL and York.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

OPEN HOUSE at the Academy, Sat., June 22, 9 am - noon at Limerick Academy Building. Tour this school built in 1880, see former Odd Fellows room upstairs, ring the bell purchased

by students of the Academy. See historical society collections, learn about the Limerick Historical District. Check the Tree of Limerick families. Your name may be on a leaf!

CALLING ALL QUILTERS! The Evergreen Quilt Guild will meet on Monday, June 24 from 6-9 p.m. at St. David's Episcopal Church, Route 1, two miles south of Kennebunk Village. Evergreen Quilters usually meet the 4th Monday of each month except July and December, and the 3rd Monday of May. Newcomers are always welcome.

WATERBORO HISTORY is the category for the July 11th "So You Think You Know Waterboro" quiz show of the Waterborough Historical Society, celebrating its 50th year. Dennis Abbott will fire multiple choice questions to contestants Rebekah Higgins and Brenda Parks who have volunteered to have their knowledge of Waterboro history tested. It begins at 7 p.m. at the Grange Hall, 31 West Road, South Waterboro. The public is invited, and refreshments will be served. For more information, call Dianne Holden at dlh508@live.com.

EMAIL NEWS@WATERBORO REPORTER.COM

Limerick Public Library

BOOK SALE

55 Washington Street, Limerick

The annual book sale will be held in the library during regular library hours, beginning Saturday, June 22nd continuing through Wednesday, July 3rd at 5:00 p.m. (or until most books are sold.)

Fill a Bag for \$5.00!

Library Hours

Monday: 1-5p.m.; Tuesday: 9a.m. - 6p.m.
Wednesday: 9a.m. - noon & 3 - 8 p.m.
Friday: 1-5p.m.; Saturday: 9a.m.-1p.m.



Sunshine Trail

SATURDAY, JULY 6

Limington, Limerick and Newfield along Routes 11 & 5

Join your friends from the Snowflake Trail on a unique summer shopping experience!

A group of locally owned shops have come together to provide a summer open house experience. Hop on the trail and enjoy local craft-brewed beer, hand-made artisan-style chocolates, pure Maine Maple syrup, small batch honey-sweetened jams, and ice cream. Admire the handiwork of local quilters, potters, florists and explore for unique gifts and antiques.

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A CHANCE TO DANCE

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A Chance To Dance is a dance program designed for dancers with Autism and special needs.

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\$125 for 4 weeks.



ALFRED

Allison Williams

awilliams@waterbororeporter.com
324-5823

Town meeting

It was probably the most agreeable Town Meeting on record. Only 56 Alfred residents attended and it was over before noon with positive votes on all articles. As a result, the increase from the prior year will be \$301,287.56. Two bond issues will conclude with the last payments in 2020. John Cook, who has served as moderator 38 years, also served as moderator this time.

One book, one school

When you step into Alfred Elementary School you cannot miss the dragon in the hall. Or the castle. They both are the result of the book the classes are reading – “The Water Course.” Those in K through 5 are reading the same book and you can guess what it’s all about. Grades K through 5 created the art work.

On June 17, the Seacoast Science Center in Rye, N.H. was visited by the first grade families and participated in the Coastal Critters program. This program focuses on the adaptations rocky shore plants and animals enabling them to live with constantly changing tides, salinity and temperatures. The students were able to observe and hold the live animals. Students ate lunch there.

Field Day commenced on June 19 with the 5th grade assisting with supervising the younger classes. There was also promotion practice for the 5th grade and on Thursday they went bowling. The Seacoast Touch Tank arrived on June 20. The annual variety show was held Friday the last day of school.

Museum speaker

On Wednesday, June 26, a particularly interesting program will be presented in the Alfred Shaker Museum at 7 p.m. Craig Grossi, a former Marine doing intelligence work in Afghanistan, while on patrol discovered a stray dog following him so he gave him some beef jerky. This was the beginning of a long relationship. Eventually Grossi got Fred (the dog) home to Virginia. Grossi wrote about their adventures in “Craig and Fred” in which they helped each other recover from that troubled place.

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Summer reading

The 2019 summer Reading Program begins Tuesday, June 25. This is for all children through age 12. Special programming takes place on Tuesday mornings at 10 and concludes Aug. 8 with a special celebration.

Free Sanford Mainers tickets are available while they last, 2 adult tickets per family, sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Also available are ½ price tickets to the Children’s Museum in Portland, also provided by the Friends of the Library.

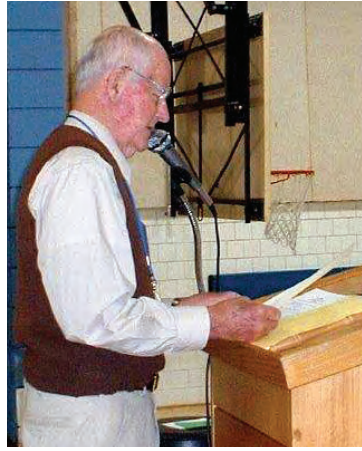
The newest books at the library include “The Big Kahuna” by Janet Evanovich; “The Body in the Wake” by Katherine Hall Page; “Cara Moira” by Thomas Harris; “The Queen Bee” by Dorothea Benton Frank; “Sea Stories” by William H. McRaven “Pioneers” by David McCullough, “Lightning Sky” by Rebecca George, all three non-fiction; “Much Ado About Lewrie” by Dewey Lambdin; “The Tubman Command” by Elizabeth Cobbs; “Demigods and Magicians” by Rick Riordan (young adult).

The Parsons Community Library Survey will help the library plan for the future, how it can grow and improve. Printed surveys are available at the library and Alfred Town Hall or at www.surveymonkey.com/r/pm2019 and will help the library learn how it can best meet the needs of the community.

“Mysteries by Maine Authors” series presented by Parsons Memorial Library and the Waterboro Public Library continues with the next meeting Monday, July 1 at 6:30 p.m. at Parsons Memorial Library. The current title is “A Show of Hands” by David Crossman. Call the library to register and come in to pick up a copy of the book. This program is offered to Maine libraries through the Maine Humanities Council in partnership with the Maine State Library.

Calling all bookworms

A sneak preview is being offered at Alfred Festival on July 19 from 4 to 7 p.m. at Parsons Memorial Library. For \$3 you can have first choice of the books being offered and a \$25 gift ticket from the Bistro. Also the chili-chowder contest will take place that day and the penny raffle at the Parish Church.



John Cook observed his 38th year as moderator of the Alfred Town Meeting this past week.
PHOTO BY ALLISON WILLIAMS

NEWFIELD

C.J. Pike

fudgecupboard@yahoo.com
793-8760

TREE PLANTED

(Continued from page 1)

Gobielle got the idea of doing something for him, and talked it over with the other selectmen in town. After that, she approached Dottie Richard, the Limerick selectman to get their ideas on it, so that both towns would be involved. They put it in motion by purchasing a flowering cherry tree from O’Donal’s Nursery in Gorham.

Principal Stinson said that his daughter wanted something that blossomed, because her Mom loved flowers. This tree will grow to about 25 feet tall, and will blossom every spring.

Robin had been a 6th grade teacher at Saco Middle School, teaching English and Reading, for the past 22 years. The school honored her by putting in a granite bench and reading area in her memory, on their lawn. According to those who knew her, she was a kind and caring person. Her children are Emily and Tyler; and Emily graduated from Massabesic High School this year.

Stinson appreciated the tree and thanked everyone for it and for coming down. For years to come, the tree will be a reminder of Robin, a wife, mother, daughter, and friend, whose life ended too soon.

NEW DEPUTY

(Continued from page 1)

from college, he started working part-time as a patrolman in Berwick, and then was hired full-time and worked there for three years. Following Berwick he was employed by the Sheriff’s Office working zone patrol, then became the Arundel contract Deputy and he had that position until he began working for the towns of Shapleigh and Acton.

Officer Sevigny lives in Lebanon with his wife Marissa and son Ezra. “I’m honored to be selected as contract deputy and I enjoy meeting the people of the two

towns and helping them,” said Sevigny. He says he tries to balance his role as a deputy along with his desire to please people.

Most of his work involves traffic stops or accidents and you may see him as he patrols the roads where he spends the majority of his day. He has an office at the York County Sheriff’s Office in Alfred where he files his paperwork, but if you need him you can call the YCSO Dispatch Center at 324-1113 and they will get in touch with him or you can email him a gmsevigny@york-countymaine.gov. Remember in an emergency to always dial 911.

Bean Supper time

It’s that time again, when Bean Suppers are held at 19th Century Curran Village at 70 Elm Street, and the first one will be held on Saturday, June 29. It will be in the old Sandwich Shop from 5-7 p.m. and is \$10 per person or \$8 for seniors. On the menu are beans, hot dogs, sausages, salads, desserts, and beverages. This is how bean suppers used to be, with all the fixins’.

How Newfield voted

On the recent RSU #57 school budget validation, which was held on June 11, 83 Newfield voters said no and 25 said yes.

Happy birthday!

Birthday wishes this week go to: Tita Pease, Phil Burbank, and June Goodfield.

Happy anniversary!

Rob and George Ayers; and Andy and Sandy Plette will celebrate their anniversaries this coming week.

Meetings

Newfield Firefighters training session - June 25, at the Public Safety Building at 85 Water Street in West Newfield at 7 p.m.

Tea Time - June 26, at the Newfield Village Library at 637 Water Street at 3 p.m.

Boy Scout Troop #329 - June 26, at the Brick Town Hall, at 19 Main St., Limerick at 6:30 p.m.

Curran Village news

19th Century Curran Village has met its’ \$5,000 fundraising challenge from an anonymous donor with matching funds raised from individual donors, bringing the amount of donations to \$10,000. Another \$5,000 fundraising challenge has been pledged, and if they we match it with donations of \$5,000 by Oct. 31, that would be \$20,000 in total! Help then to meet this goal by donating now. Donations can be made to Pay Pal or mail them to: P.O. Box 107, Orrington, ME 04474, or by credit card by phone: 745-4426. They wish to thank everyone for their support.

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Massabesic High School Class of 2019

SCHOLARSHIPS

The following scholarships and awards total over \$100,000:

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• Casey D. Irish

Connor Allaire
• United Technologies Corporation

Kathryn Bacon
• Shapleigh Community Day
• Acton-Shapleigh Lions

Hope Binette
• Howard & Constance Bennett Memorial
• Massabesic Lions Club-in Memory of Betty Morrison
• New Century Club
• Thomas K. & Carol Benvie

Aaron Brown
• Massabesic High School Choral
• David H. Roberts Memorial
• Wilma Thyng Memorial

Brendan Byther
• Donald Vermette Memorial

Ivalani Callahan
• American Legion Brown Emmons Post 134
• Casey D. Irish
• Massabesic Lions Club-in Memory of Spero Therianos

Savannah Caron
• Empire Beauty School

Hailey Champagne
• Mitchell Institute

Dylan Charlton
• U Maine Farmington

Jessica Clark
• Michael R. O'Brien Family Memorial
• Culinary Arts

Abigail Cloutier
• Donald J. Dutremble Memorial
• Etta Collins Memorial
• Lyman-Dayton Lions Club
• U Maine Farmington

Emily Davison
• Howard & Constance Bennett Memorial
• Sanford-Springvale Rotary Club

Sarah DesVergnes
• Sanford Institution for Savings
• Skills USA

Owen Easley
• Tyler/Grandmaison MELMAC
• U Maine Farmington

Emily Fletcher
• Nason College Alumni Association

Marissa Goodwin
• Springvale Knights of Columbus/Springvale Social Club
• Lyman Elementary PTC
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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE MAINE WATERWAY DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION ACT APPLICATION

Please take notice that Ledgemere Hydro, LLC, of Morristown, New Jersey located at 65 Madison Avenue, Suite 500; 207-509-1489, is intending to file an application with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for a permit and Water Quality Certification pursuant to the provisions of the Maine Waterway Development and Conservation Act and the Federal Clean Water Act, Section 401. The application is for concrete spot repairs on the Ledgemere Dam spillway. The existing access road, located on the river right, will be used to access the dam. No trees will be cleared to gain access to the dam. The work will take place in Limerick and North Waterboro, Maine. The Maine DEP application will be filed on or about June 28, 2019 for public inspection at the DEP's offices in Augusta during normal working hours. A copy of the application may also be seen at the municipal offices in North Waterboro and Limerick, Maine.

A request for a public hearing or a request that the Board of Environmental Protection assume jurisdiction over this application must be received by the Department, in writing, no later than 20 days after the application is found by the Department to be complete and is accepted for processing. Public comment on the application will be accepted throughout the processing of the application.

For Federally licensed, permitted, or funded activities in the Coastal Zone, review of this application shall also constitute the State's consistency review in accordance with the Maine Coastal Program pursuant to Section 307 of the federal Coastal Zone Management Act.

Written public comments may be sent to the Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Land Resources, 17 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333.

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