

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Legion auction for scholarships

The American Legion Charles C. Lilly Post 149, 181 Jefferson St. in Waldoboro, will hold a benefit auction to raise funds for annual scholarships for deserving area children seeking higher education. The auction will be held Friday, Aug. 31. Preview is from 2 to 5:30 p.m. with auctioneer Lawrence Trueman of LT Auctions starting the auction at 5:30. This will be catered by the Legion Kitchen. Auction items include a cord of wood, gift certificates, antiques, general household items, furniture, collectibles, tools and Christmas items. If interested in donating or for more information, call Dawn at 975-2420.

River Festival

Medomak Valley Land Trust's sixth annual River Festival will take place Saturday, Sept. 1 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Cider Hill Farm, located at 72 Medomak Terrace in the village. The free festival features local food vendors, a vegetable contest, music from Steelin' Thunder, boat building, a critter corner and touch tank for kids, and farmers, artisans, and conservation groups from throughout the watershed. Boat rides down the Medomak River will be available from noon to 2 p.m.

A 5K road race starts at 8 a.m. from the Waldoboro Recreational Complex, located at the intersection of Main Street and Percy Moody Road, adjacent to the doctor's office. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m.; registration forms are at www.medomakvalley.org.

Cider Hill Farm, the River Festival venue, is located in the fields behind the intersection of Main Street and Medomak Terrace. Parking for the festival is available at the Pine Street landing and in other village parking lots. On-site parking is available at the farm for those needing assistance. For more information call 832-5570 or email mvlvt@midcoast.com.

Civil War contributions

The Warren Historical Society monthly meeting program continues to recognize the Civil War sesquicentennial with a talk at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 4 that reflects on Warren's contributions to the field of war from 1861 to 1866. The talk is the result of an investigation that initially focused on names of veterans listed on Warren's Civil War monument, but has since expanded into greater discoveries and mysteries. The WHS has collected data on several of the Warren men who served in the war, which will be discussed during the talk. If anyone knows about their Civil War veteran relatives from Warren, come and share. The talk is free and open to the public at the Dr. Campbell House, 225 Main St., Warren. For more information call 273-3351.

Smoothie demonstration

Chef/nutritionist MiMi McGee will lead a smoothie-making demonstration with samples of non-dairy milks and two types of smoothies, designed to introduce residents to methods for weight loss and improved health through proper diet and nutrition, on Tuesday, Sept. 4 at 10:30 a.m. at Spectrum Generations, 61 Park St. in Rockland.

There is a requested \$4 donation for the smoothie demo. McGee is an instructor with the Food for Life program, a collaborative effort of physicians, researchers and nutritionists that have joined together to educate the public about the benefits of a healthful diet for weight management

and disease prevention. To register, contact Spectrum Generations at 596-0339 or knox@spectrumgenerations.org.

Field trip follows talk on shorebird migration

Shorebird Migration in Maine will be the topic for the Friends of the Weskeag meeting Saturday, Sept. 8. Lindsay Tudor, wildlife biologist and coordinator of the Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Department's Migratory Shorebird Program, will describe the life history of shorebirds and the critical role Maine's coast plays during shorebird migration. She will also discuss conservation efforts in Maine for these global travelers. Meet at 1 p.m. at the Wessaweskeag Historical Society in South Thomaston (across the street from the Keag Store) for an overview and brief discussion, followed by a field trip to the new trail and observation platform at the R. Waldo Tyler Wildlife Management Area on Buttermilk Lane. Bring binoculars. For more information call Vivian Newman at 691-2120.

Technology coordinator graduate certificate

Courses in University of Maine's first-in-state educational technology coordinator graduate certificate program will be available online this fall and can be accessed through University College at Rockland. For more information call 596-6906 or visit online.maine.edu/online-programs/.

Created to meet the professional development needs of educators who seek to incorporate new technologies into their classrooms, the 15-credit certificate program includes knowledge of methods and strategies for applying technology to student learning as well as research on implementation of technology. Students will learn the social, ethical, legal, and human issues surrounding the use of technology in PK-12 schools, policies and procedures regarding the implementation of a technology infrastructure, and how to develop a vision for the comprehensive integration of technology.

Landowner Appreciation Cleanup Day

Maine forest rangers are organizing a Landowner Appreciation Cleanup Day to be held Saturday, Sept. 15. The day has been set aside for people who recreate outdoors in Maine to show their appreciation to landowners who allow free access to their land. Participants will help properly dispose of illegally discarded items at dump sites and discourage further dumping on these sites. Volunteers are urged to call 800-750-9777 to offer their assistance.

Kayaking with the dolphins

Experience nature up close and personal on a guided kayak tour from Port Clyde Kayaks. Join Georges River Land Trust for this trip Saturday, Sept. 8 at 2 p.m. Tickets to the event benefit the Georges River Land Trust and are \$65 for land trust members and \$70 for non-members. Tickets must be purchased in advance online at www.grlt.org/revelryevents.html or by calling 594-5166. The trip is limited to 18 people. (Rain date is Sept. 9 at 2 p.m.) On the 2.5-hour tour there is a good chance participants will see seals, porpoises, osprey and bald eagles.

Pacifist Kelly speaks on war in Afghanistan

BY JULIETTE LAAKA

THOMASTON — Kathy Kelly, a peace activist from Chicago, was in Maine last week to speak on the war in Afghanistan, including a presentation at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Rockland Aug. 23. "I'm very grateful to be in touch with activists here," she said.

Kelly said witnessing the impoverishment of others inspired her peace activism. "I was quite isolated in the Hyde Park area," she said. "So when I made a change and moved to the poorest area on the North Side, I realized these were people I liked and felt fond of — they weren't just this clump, the poor — they were my neighbors."

The nuns that taught Kelly as a child also significantly influenced her lifestyle. "The nuns never got paid anything or seemed interested in acquiring personal wealth. They lived simply and shared everything," she said. "I should really be grateful to those young women."

In 1981, Kelly, a teacher, requested that her employer drop her salary below a taxable income in an effort to not contribute to military funding.

Kelly co-coordinates Voices for Nonviolence, a campaign to end U.S. military and economic warfare. She has spent time in war-torn countries outside of the Middle East such as Bosnia and Haiti to provide aid and work toward peaceful resolution.

Kelly has been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize twice, in 2000 and 2001.

Kelly has traveled to Iraq 26 times to supply Iraqi peoples with basic supplies such as medicine and food, disobeying a U.S.-imposed economic sanction.

In 2003, Kelly lived in Baghdad with native families and met with American military at the onset of the occupation. Kelly remembers one soldier telling her it was too dangerous for her to be in Iraq. "It was a lot more dangerous when you were bombing us," she replied. "He looked at me like he was puzzled and his buddy said, 'What she means is we were the ones dropping the bombs on them.'"

Kelly said sometimes there is a disconnect in war — especially with more mechanized forms of weaponry.

She said living with families in Iraq during the American invasion was "excruciatingly painful," recalling expressions of sheer agony on a mother's face when bombing would start.

"She would have a child in each arm and try to get down to the bomb shelter, which was



Peace activist Kathy Kelly. PHOTO BY: JULIETTE LAAKA

four steps down on a prayer mat." Kelly described the bombs making "ear-splitting blasts and sickening thuds."

"There is such dismay when you're in a hospital and a family comes rushing in with their loved ones in their arms and people are bloody and dismembered and they were just sitting and having lunch together."

While at the hospital, Kelly was sitting with a woman who was sobbing with grief and Kelly attempted to console her. The woman spoke enough English to communicate that she didn't know how to tell her young nephew — who lost both arms in an explosion — that he was the only surviving member of his immediate family. The aunt was now his only relative.

The injured Iraqi boy's name is Ali Abbas. "His picture went all around the world with these two stumps and this very innocent face," said Kelly.

Abbas is now a British citizen and said he wants to work for peace. "The heroism and bravery of the young ones who survive these wars but have trauma still somehow manage to say, I don't want revenge or retaliation, I want to live without wars."

Afghanistan is also a young country; a United Nations statistic from 2008 reported 65 percent of the population is under 25.

Kelly is critical of the United States stance on disallowing Iraqi or Afghan citizens visas to enter the country between the ages of 15 and 30 unless they are students. "Yet, every one of them is eligible as a target for one of our drones," she said. "That's all it takes, to be that age and an Afghan male."

she said.

Kelly said it troubles her when Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and former Secretaries Madeleine Albright and Condoleezza Rice appear on films seen by millions saying they are concerned for Afghan women during a time of war, showing female soldiers cradling babies in refugee camps. "If they really cared about those babies, they may have sent a blanket or two," she said.

Kelly describes the war in Afghanistan as inscrutable — costing enormous sums of money that sometimes is distributed to people the U.S. is trying to fight against and also causes Afghans to join the Taliban.

She added that although the U.S. has the best-trained and most professional warriors in the world, they have not been able to overcome fighters indigenous to the area that are protecting their land.

A young Afghan woman recommended a "make friends, talk, build" approach rather than the U.S. "fight, talk, build" strategy propagated by Clinton.

"That may at first seem to be hopelessly naive, but why not start with trying to seek out negotiations with all of the warring parties to at least call for a cease fire?"

Kelly explained it's difficult for Afghans to trust people who have invaded them including "Russia, the United States, Pakistan, Iran — there are so many countries involved," Kelly said, adding the U.S. should be paying reparations costs.

"Although the United Nations hasn't been perfect, you have to start somewhere," she said, adding that promoting unarmed solutions that don't rest on threat and force as well as trying to understand grievances is recommended by young people she meets through the Afghan Peace volunteers.

"The U.S. will spend trillions on what does not bring us security," she said.

Kelly acknowledged some small countries, such as Cuba, are able to aid other countries with water purification projects, and added that Cuban doctors are legend for their humanitarian efforts. She hopes the United States will begin to redirect military effort to help solve global social and environmental issues. She added that Americans are willing to help.

"I think average Americans want to be that way and want their children to be that way," she said.

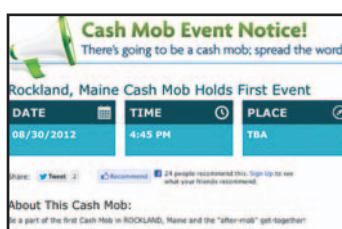
Courier Publications reporter Juliette Laaka can be reached at 594-4401 ext. 118 or via email at JLaaka@courierpublicationsllc.com.

Suggest a location for Rockland Cash Mob

Cash Mob Rockland is the first in Maine to invite the community to nominate businesses and vote on which one will be "mobbed."

"It's a simple, fun concept," said Gordon Orme, the Cash Mob Rockland organizer and founder of ourMidCoast.com, a new website promoting locally owned, independent businesses. "A group gathers, each person with at least \$20 to spend, and 'mobs' a local independent business. It's a good opportunity to meet new friends and support the community economy, definitely a worthwhile endeavor."

Orme said people can vote at CashMob.com or email him at Gordon@ourMidCoast.com to



suggest a downtown business to be "mobbed."

The Rockland Cash Mob is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 30 at 4:45 p.m.

Everyone will be encouraged to socialize at the "after-mob" get together at a nearby tavern or restaurant. For more information visit Facebook.com/CashMob.ourmidcoast and www.ourMidCoast.com.

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 Fri., Sept. 7, 4:30-7:00; Sat., Sept. 8, 9:00-11:00

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