

# Gorham Times

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Gorham, Maine  
FOUNDED 1736

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## Council to Consider “Disorderly House” Ordinance

Sheri Faber

In response to ongoing friction between the three fraternities in the Village and their neighbors, the Town Council has asked the Ordinance Committee of the Council to consider developing an ordinance such as one that Portland has which defines “disorderly houses” and can require the owner of the property to meet with representatives of the community to address the problems. The neighbors of the fraternity houses have made repeated calls to the police about excessive noise, disorderly conduct, fighting, malicious mischief, and the like.

Such an ordinance will likely be connected to the number of times the police are called to the building in question to deal with issues such as loud noise and music, fights and intoxicated people. The building owner might be required to find ways to eliminate the problems and to take specific steps to address the problems.

If the problems are not resolved, the community would be able to post the

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## Economic Woes Strain Municipal Finances

Bill Ambrose

The Town of Gorham’s Municipal financial situation is being impacted by the nation-wide economic recession. Town Manager David Cole has instituted a hiring freeze and has asked his department heads “not to spend on anything not absolutely necessary.”

Gorham receives its municipal revenue from various sources. By far the largest amount comes from the property tax, which remains relatively stable from year to year. The next largest revenue source is the vehicle excise tax, which is estimated to bring in \$2,475,000 for the current fiscal year. So far, this source is on track, although it is subject to residents purchasing and registering new vehicles, as well as cur-

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## Pledge to Be Recited At GHS

Student Council Proposal Not Accepted by School Committee *Gorham Times Staff*



“Regardless of how anyone feels about reciting the pledge, there was a general feeling of surprise and disdain that the School Committee suspended the process of taking public comment, especially since this is an issue centered on supporting American values.”

—David Hochheiser  
GHS Student Council Faculty Co-Chair  
and teacher of American Studies

GHS now has a flag in every classroom; the School Committee recently voted in favor of the pledge being recited daily once mid-term exams are complete.

## School District Responds To State Funding Reductions

Ted Sharp

The State of Maine is projecting approximately \$150 million less than originally budgeted in anticipated tax revenues for the current (FY09) State budget. Given that the State is also projecting a substantial loss, in FY10 & FY11, it is imperative the Gorham School Department develop measures to respond to the short and longer term reductions (actual & anticipated) in State funding. The State has already acknowledged that it could face an \$800 million deficit over the course of the next biennium.

Given the present loss of tax revenue for FY09, Governor Baldacci has assigned cuts to various departments of State government, directing department Commissioners and Directors to implement cost-savings measures equal to the loss of State funds for their respective organization. The Department of Education was instructed to cut General Purpose Aid (GPA), which is a state subsidy for various school districts, by \$27 million. This means a \$324,522 reduction to the Gorham School District.

Recently Baldacci proposed further reductions of approximately \$27 million in both FY10 and FY11. If the same formula is applied by the Department of Education to secure that reduction, Gorham would lose, at a minimum, \$325,000 for each of those years. If the Governor’s proposals are approved by the Legislature, every school district in Maine will be making significant reductions in personnel prior to school year 2009-2010. The school department previously eliminated 23 positions (approximately \$970,000) for the present (FY09) budget to be in alignment with the Town Council directive to all town departments, that there would be no increase in the local property tax.

The current recession and financial crisis represent the most serious threats to private and public institutions since the post depression years of the 1930s, requiring creative, substantive, and thoughtful planning to protect the integrity of teaching, learning and support services throughout the District. The Administration, as well as the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

After learning that Gorham High School (GHS) had not been reciting the Pledge for approximately 30 years, Superintendent Ted Sharp proposed that the opportunity to recite the Pledge of Allegiance be allowed in each classroom or over the intercom. The School Council voted against this proposal last month.

The School Council met again on Jan. 7 and developed a new proposal to bring to the School Committee for approval. By a vote of 14 to 4, the proposal was approved to open the auditorium at 7:35 a.m. to allow students and faculty the opportunity to recite the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:40 a.m. before the start of class at 7:50 a.m.

However, the School Committee chose not to accept the School Council’s proposal at their monthly meeting held Jan. 14. A motion was made and approved by a 6 to 1 (Garrard) vote to recite the Pledge in the classroom each day during announcements. School Committee member Jim Hager opposed the Student Council’s proposal, stating that allowing students to recite the Pledge in the auditorium and then return to class may allow students an excuse to be late for class. Kathy Garrard was the only council member to vote for the new proposal brought forth by the School Council. She felt the student’s proposal had more weight since they were in the school each day. The public was not allowed to make comments on this issue.

Chris Record, the Principal of GHS, said he was very pleased the Superintendent and School Committee gave them the opportunity to work through this issue. He said after some discussion at the council meeting, there were some members who felt the Pledge should be said in class as it’s the “patriotic thing to do.” Others wanted to provide a space so the “controversy wouldn’t come into the classroom and divide them.” In the end, Record said the proposal was “a good compromise. As we see in all government, both in Washington and Augusta, it’s what happens in democracy, and whether it’s the best decision, I’m not sure.”

Abbie Tanguay, a senior and student

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### Deep Freeze '09

With the ice storm and recent sub-zero temperatures, it seems that winter has a firm grip on Gorham and much of Maine. But there is a bright spot amidst all of this crazy weather; Spring is only 56 days away!



Photo credit: Martha F. Harris



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## Letters to the Times

Letters to the editor must be signed with a first and last name, typed or e-mailed and include a phone number. Submissions should be original to the *Gorham Times* and less than 300 words. Letters are solely the opinion of the writer and not of the *Gorham Times*. They are published at the discretion of the *Gorham Times* and are subject to editing.

### Dear Gorham Times,

Last Wednesday the School Committee made the decision to institute the Pledge of Allegiance at Gorham High School. In doing this, the Committee ignored the advice of the School Council and in effect adopted Superintendent Ted Sharp's initial proposal. As both a student and a member of the School Council, I know first hand that this action has only caused anger in the school. The School Council's recommendation represented an effort to keep the school together. There was a feeling that Mr. Sharp's proposal would serve only to breed divisiveness in the school. GHS is now more politically charged than ever. But the issue is no longer about the Pledge. It is about the flippant attitude of the School Committee.

The Committee can not be allowed to disregard the Council. The Council is the only outlet for students to have any input on the policies enacted that affect them. Unfortunately, with Wednesday's decision the Committee validated the underlying fear of the student body, that the Committee feels no obligation whatsoever to heed the advice of the Council. The School Committee needs to understand one thing: Every school day the students at GHS make the decision to go to school and to pursue an education. School is the place where students grow and learn, and as students we have a right to decide what sort of environment we want to learn in. The School Council is the only way we have to express that right. But it seems that instead of respecting that right, the Superintendent and the Committee would rather give us a civics lesson. Seemingly, they would rather waste the School Council's time, having us deliberate over two meetings the fate of the pledge proposal because it would be a good lesson in democracy. In a true democracy everyone gets a vote, but in this situation the only opinions that have had any sway are those of forces outside the school. The people who have a vested interest in the school, the people who spend so much of their time there, the people who actually care about what goes on in the building, have been ignored. That is not democratic. It is something else all together.

### Frustrated and Irreconcilable, Aaron Bartlett

### Dear Gorham Times,

It is with much pride and pleasure that we write this letter of thanks. We want to share with the community the incredible outpouring of compassion that was apparent at Narragansett School.

On December 4 we sent a letter home via backpacks asking if any family was in need of assistance, or whether any family wished to provide gifts or make contributions to this effort. Families were assured that names would be kept confidential. The number of families who donated cash, checks, or toys overwhelmed us, and we heard from several families who requested help. Several staff members volunteered to organize the giving and receiving. A 'clothesline of mittens' was created in the Staff Room listing children's ages, appropriate sizes and toys. Staff members selected "mittens," bought and wrapped the items, and brought them in.

A second letter was sent to homes reminding people to let us know if they were in need or if they could help. Again

we got a response from people in need and people able to donate. A total of \$1760 was raised and spent on Hannaford and Wal-Mart gift cards. Thirteen families including twenty-eight children were assisted. The look on their faces as they picked up their goodies was all the thanks we needed! Very special appreciation goes to the following that helped us make this such a success. We are grateful for your support and compassion and we are indeed fortunate to be part of such a generous and supportive community!

- The Gorham Fire Department for gifts and money
- The Bookworm who provided a book for each child
- The United Methodist Church who supplied oil for three families
- The GHS National Honor Society who adopted one family
- The GHS Student Council who provided a food basket
- The Narragansett Staff for time spent purchasing, sorting, wrapping, and worrying
- And the many families who sent in toys and money.

### Sincerely,

Polly Brann, Assistant Principal  
 Brad Smith, Principal

### Dear Gorham Times,

This past week at Gorham High School has been an educational one, to say the least.

Our principal, Mr. Record, came over the intercom on Thursday to inform us of the School Committee's decision: every day during announcements, we would be led over the intercom in the Pledge of Allegiance. I was shocked. I had attended a School Council meeting earlier in the week. Their proposal was to allow a space for the Pledge to be recited every morning by those who wanted to. It was passed overwhelmingly by the Council, 15 to 4. I had thought that was the end of the story.

It seems it was not, however. The School Committee did not make the slightest compromise to accommodate the decision of the School Council, a group which is representative of the will of the school. The School Council deliberated through three meetings over this issue. Next week, they are meeting to discuss weighted grades, another issue that will go through the School Committee for a final decision.

The lesson I learned this week at Gorham High School was not one in math or English. It was in hypocrisy, that of those who would demand we say the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag, while refusing to uphold the fundamental principle America was founded upon: democracy. It is up to us to make sure that that is not a lesson in how the real world works.

Shanti Flagg  
 Gorham, ME 04038

## ENERGY MATTERS

### The Ice Storm

Bruce Webb

*Editors note: Energy Matters is a new column you will see periodically in the Gorham Times. While this is an introductory article, future articles will focus on a specific topics such as selecting a furnace for your home.*

During the recent ice storm, I was again reminded how fortunate we are to have a highly reliable source of electrical energy. This time, I personally lost power for only 36 hours—a minor inconvenience compared to the ice storm of '98, when we were without power for 10 days (others Gorham residents power outages varied in duration). That's a long time to be without water to flush the toilets (the biggest deprivation), take showers, or be without the marvels of lights, appliances, central heating, entertainment, the Internet and all the other electrical gadgets that we use.

These experiences have both positive and negative aspects. To adapt, we melted snow to flush toilets and used our woodstoves to stay warm and heat water for washing. We dragged out our propane camp stoves for cooking, fired up the Coleman lanterns, fished out the candles, and rummaged through the house for flashlights. We read and talked, candles flickering, amongst the stillness of a house without the constant hum of machinery.

When the power returned, we were thrilled to get back to "normal" but also a bit saddened by our sudden return to the modern-paced way of life. We realize how spoiled we are by the easy availability of electrical power—something that most people in the world do not enjoy. We also realized how our lifestyles could change radically as world energy supplies

become more vulnerable, highly expensive, and less dependable.

Our typical American lifestyle depends on energy that is cheap, reliable and widely available, but events of the past few years suggest a future where this we may not always be the case. The disruption of our energy supplies—whether caused by economics, conflict, politics, supply shortages, terrorism, or weather related events like the ice storm—are real possibilities.

The essence of the problem is our high dependence on fossil fuels for our energy—ranging from the generation of our electrical power, fuel for our transportation, and heating for our homes—to such a degree that any slight hiccup in the availability or delivery of energy can have grave consequences for all of us. This doesn't even begin to address the negative impact of climate change caused by burning these fuels, which will only accelerate.

Ice storms, high fuel prices, long gas lines, and brownouts help remind us of the importance of energy conservation, encourage us to reduce our dependence on vulnerable energy supplies and reinforce the necessity of finding alternate sources of energy that will help release us from dependence on fragile sources and help mitigate the effects of climate change. We need to change our lifestyles in a positive direction by altering the way we create and use energy otherwise, the ice storm will serve as rehearsal for a future not of our choosing. Melting snow to flush toilets is not something that any of us wants to contemplate over the long term.

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**Sports** jeffpike@bwservices.net  
**Features** ckck5@maine.rr.com  
**Of Interest** gtimes@maine.rr.com  
**Calendar item** gtimes@maine.rr.com  
**Advertising** gtimes@maine.rr.com or 839-8390  
**School News** lesliedupuis@gmail.com

**OFFICE HOURS**  
 Tuesday 10-12 or call for an appointment.  
 If coming to office, please call ahead 839-8390.

The *Gorham Times* is a free volunteer-run community newspaper distributed every other Friday to more than 100 pick-up sites throughout Gorham.

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 Ad deadline for February 20 issue is February 11.

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# Where Are They Now?

Bruce Webb

Sitting in the Gorham Grind, sipping coffee on a cold winter's day, Dan Masterson is a world away from the coffee bars of Damascus, Syria. Despite the wide differences in these two worlds, Dan is focused on understanding them both and finding the commonalities between them.

Dan graduated from Gorham High School in 2002 and attended Bates College in Lewiston, where he majored in political science. The events of 9/11 had fired his interest in the Middle East, and he jumped at the opportunity to spend his junior year studying Arabic and political science at American University in Cairo, Egypt.

During the 10 months he lived in Cairo, Dan learned enough Arabic to feel comfortable navigating his way around the region and traveling to Jordan, Lebanon, Israel, and Syria by bus and car. Did he feel any sense of danger traveling in an area not known as being friendly to Americans? Masterson laughs at the question. He was yelled at once by a Danish woman who made some "nasty comments" about his nationality, but he was warmly treated by everyone else. The Syrians, in particular, couldn't have been friendlier and he was well received everywhere.

Dan observes that people in the Middle East have great admiration for American culture and are eager to learn more about our country. His ability to speak Arabic really helped him make connections with the local people, who rarely meet Americans and get their ideas about our culture through movies, television and other media. Movies such as American Pie and Bad Boys are especially popular there but provide distorted views of violence and sexuality in this country.

After returning home and graduating from Bates, Masterson worked with a researcher at Harvard University on a new book about the United Nations. He returned to the Middle East in 2007 to work on a UN project in Syria and to advance his language skills. After spending time in Syria, he traveled to Yemen for more intensive work in Arabic. He chose Yemen because it offered him a unique opportunity for language immersion not possible in a more modern city like Damascus. Unlike Syria, with its constant bombardment of media and exposure to English, Yemen tends to be more culturally isolated, which offered a good opportunity to speak Arabic exclusively for two months.

In Yemen, Dan spent four hours a day with a private tutor in concentrated Arabic lessons. The rest of the day, he spent hanging out in coffee bars with his tutor and friends, and exploring Sana'a—the Capital. "It was total immersion in the language and culture of the country with few opportunities for distraction," recalls Dan. "It was intense but my language skills really developed, and I enjoyed seeing a culture that is relatively traditional by our standards." The downside of the experience was that he really missed the stimulation of friends and the familiarity of his own culture. Masterson is the son of Althea and Bob Masterson.



Photo credit Althea Masterson

Dan Masterson reflects on his experiences in the Middle East.

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# It's a Celebration!

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As our thank-you, please join us on Saturday, February 7th, from 9 a.m.-12 noon for our **Grand Opening Celebration**. Ribbon cutting at 10 a.m. Bring your friends and family to see our new building and expanded space.

**Thank You Gorham!**

**Gorham Food Pantry**  
 P.O. Box 547  
 Gorham, ME 04038

# municipal

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

### School Committee Votes For Pledge

Stacy Sallinen

Chairman Dennis Libby began the Jan. 14 School Committee meeting by reminding the audience they were here to conduct school business. Any disruptive audience member would be removed from the chambers. Due to the high number of people in attendance, consideration and action on reciting the Pledge of Allegiance at Gorham High School was moved to the beginning of the agenda.

Superintendent Ted Sharp addressed the committee and audience about his rationale for having the School Council take up this issue. After the Committee accepted a motion to recite the Pledge of Allegiance each day in the classroom, Chairman Dennis Libby thanked everyone involved in bringing the petition forward and acknowledged people's passion for the issue. Kathy Garrard also thanked Suzanne Ennis and the School Council and said it was a great learning experience for her.

Sharp reported on the following:

- Letters were sent to parents stating school thermostats are now set at 68 degrees during school hours and 65 degrees after school and on weekends in an attempt to save money.
- Mike Sanborn, Director of Nutrition, assured Sharp that recalled peanut butter was not being used in the schools.
- Sebago Educational Alliance Dine and Discuss meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2009.
- A minor school bus accident occurred. Eleven students were on board, no injuries were reported.

- The district is getting ready to float a bond to prepare for the closing on the new elementary school property in mid February.
- School Committee Orientation is scheduled for Jan. 21, 2009.

In other business, The School Committee discussed the following:

- Playground equipment at Village School has been removed. The new equipment will be installed in the spring. The equipment upgrade at White Rock will be delayed until the spring due to weather.
- Gerry Durgin, along with the school principals, updated the Committee on K-12 Athletics and Activities. Each principal discussed different activities offered in their school and showed the correlation between activities and academics.
- A second reading of the Athletic Policy was presented and sent back to the Policy Committee. After some discussion, adding references about Commitment to Learning, Code on Conduct, Learning Results and Wellness may be noted in the next reading of the policy.
- Budgets for FY10 and FY11 are still being worked on as there are still too many unknowns with the possibility of additional Department of Education cuts.
- A motion was made and approved 7-0 to accept FY10 Vocational budgets.
- A motion was made and approved 7-0 to appoint Kathy Garrard to the Recreation Advisory Board.

## CLERK'S CORNER

### Gorham Boards and Committees Need Volunteers

Christina A. Silberman



Are you interested in ways to serve your community? Citizen volunteers are needed to serve on the Town of Gorham boards and committees. The Town Council Appointments Committee will meet to review applications for appointments in February. Please consider volunteering your time to serve on one of these boards or committees: Parks & Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Recreation Advisory Board, Zoning Board of Appeals and Board of Sewer Appeals, Gorham Cable Television Committee, Recycling Committee, Fair Hearing Board, Board of Health, Board of Assessment Review, Gorham Economic Development Corporation, and the Board of Trustees for the Baxter Memorial Library. Please visit the Town website at [www.gorham-me.org](http://www.gorham-me.org), and click the link on the left side of the home page for boards and committees to download an application or get more information. You may also visit the office at 75 South Street or call 222-1670 for more information.

The Department of Animal Welfare requires that veterinarians submit copies of rabies certificates for vaccinations administered to all dogs. The town office where the dog resides is then sent a copy of the certificate to ensure the dog is licensed. The

Town has received many copies of rabies certificates from the Department of Animal Welfare for dogs in Gorham that have not been licensed. If you do not license your dog, and the town has received a copy of the rabies certificate for your dog, the Animal Control Officer will be notified and you will be subject to being summonsed for keeping an unlicensed dog.

To avoid a late fee, dog licenses are due by Jan. 31. The fee is \$6.00, for a spayed or neutered dog, and \$11.00 for all other dogs processed through the Town office. A late fee of \$15.00 will be charged for all dog licenses paid between Feb. 1 and March 31. The late fee will increase to \$25.00 on April 1.

When licensing a dog, bring the dog's current rabies certificate and the neutering certificate if one is not already on record. For your convenience, the Town of Gorham participates in online dog licensing for which there is an additional \$1.00 fee. Please visit our website at [www.gorham-me.org](http://www.gorham-me.org) and click the link on the home page (a green box) that says "online dog licensing."

*The Town Clerk's office is located on the first floor of the Gorham Municipal Center, 75 South St. Stop by or call Christina Silberman at 222-1670 for more information.*

## CHIEF SHEPARD REPORTS

### Grand Jury Indictments

The January Grand Jury returned the following indictments:

- Abbas Alhamdany, 38, of Gorham was charged with aggravated trafficking in crack (with priors) by the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency.
- Paul Curran, 54, of Gorham was indicted for aggravated criminal mischief, terrorizing, criminal threaten-

ing with a weapon, obstructing governmental administration and disorderly conduct by the Gorham PD.

- Domestic violence assaults appear to be on the rise, probably due to the recent holidays and the economy.



### Bartlett to Chair Committee on Maine's Energy Future

Marc Malon

State Senate Majority Leader Phil Bartlett (D-Cumberland) was appointed by Senate President Libby Mitchell to chair the new Joint Select Committee on Maine's Energy Future.

"Volatile energy prices have created tremendous opportunity to utilize Maine's abundant resources to promote sustainable energy, lower prices for consumers and create jobs," said Bartlett.

The new Committee was created by Senate President Libby Mitchell and House Speaker Hannah Pingree to develop a long-term plan to move Maine towards energy independence. The bipartisan legislative

committee is comprised of five Senators and twelve Representatives.

"Now more than ever we must find ways to strengthen Maine's economy," added Bartlett. "One of the best opportunities before us is the development of green collar jobs by supporting energy efficiency, renewable energy and targeted research and development." The Committee is expected to consider legislation to increase energy efficiency and conservation, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote economic development

**STATE OF MAINE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF**  
**TRANSPORTATION**

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROJECT**  
**IN**  
**GORHAM**  
**REGARDING**  
**Installation of a Flashing Beacon at the**  
**intersection of**  
**Route 25 and Dingley Springs Road**

The Maine Department of Transportation is seeking public input regarding the proposed project to install a flashing beacon in Gorham. Construction is anticipated to begin in the Spring or Summer of 2009 and will be completed in 2009. A Plan of the proposed work is available for inspection at the Gorham town office.

Any inquiries regarding this project may be directed to Jim Mansir, Project Manager, Maine Department of Transportation, Traffic Engineering Division, Child Street, 16 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0016. Telephone (207) 624-3620. TTY telephone (207) 287-3392

Project Identification Numbers: PIN 15671.00, STP-1567 (100)X

# living

COMPILED BY CHRIS CRAWFORD

## HEALTHY LIVING

# Healthy Body, Healthy Mind: The 2009 Fitness Resolution Solution

Stacey Coleman



**W**e have all said, "This is the year I will lose weight, and this time, I'll keep it off." Each New Year, millions of Americans rush to the gym with furious ambition and jump on the treadmill. About two weeks later they get distracted, and lose focus and motivation. They find other things to do, make excuses, and soon that goal is not as important as crashing on the couch to watch a favorite TV show, bowl of ice cream in hand. It doesn't have to be this way. You can make a change that will last. Here are some tips to keep you on track:

- **Set reasonable and specific goals.** Several small goals can lead to one big specific goal. Discuss your goals with family and friends. Write them down to clarify what you want to accomplish, then post them on your bathroom mirror or refrigerator as a reminder.
- **Think of this as a long term lifestyle change and not just as a short term fix.** Include all aspects of a healthy lifestyle: nutrition, fitness, and mental health. Many people say "I am going on vacation in four weeks and want to look my best." Although this is a great short term goal, the real idea is to make a lifestyle change so you will never have to "cram" to get healthy and fit again.
- **Start slow and be patient.** The truth is you probably did not become unhealthy overnight; it took years, so don't expect results overnight. Small changes will add up over time and you will see results in the end.
- **Find a workout buddy or try a group exercise class.** Husband and wife teams are a great way to spend time together and stay fit. Mothers, spend time with your teen and be a great role model too. You will be far more likely to persevere with a buddy than going it alone.
- **Stick to it.** There will be days or weeks you are pressed for time and your goals take a back seat. It is OK, stick to it. The biggest reason people

don't keep a resolution is not that they slip and fall, but that they don't get back up. Plan ahead for how you'll deal with setbacks. Nobody's perfect. Forgive yourself and get back on track. Choose activities that you enjoy and keep it fun.

- **Set a schedule and track your progress.** Set an exercise schedule in your calendar for the next three months; if your schedule changes, adjust your exercise to a more convenient time. Plan meals weekly, create a grocery list and stick to it. Having a plan for meals will save you from fast food disasters and save money, too. Evaluate and your progress. If your plans or goals need updating in order for you to reach them, then do so. Measure your progress. It will give you something to look back on and be proud of.
- **Reward and Celebrate.** The joy in resolutions is in the journey. Accept that this will be an ongoing process and celebrate yourself. Reward yourself as you reach short term goals, but be sure the rewards are not detrimental to your success, i.e. chocolate cake doesn't help you lose weight. Buy a new CD, or gym clothes; go to a movie, etc.
- **Seek professional advice.** There are many trained professionals to help you with goal setting, fitness instruction, and nutrition. Certified Personal Trainers are educated and ready to help you reach your health and fitness goals.

*Stacey Coleman is a NASM certified personal trainer and owner of the Gorham Fitness Studio. Stacey has a B.S. in Health and Fitness and 10 years of professional field experience in personal training, group fitness, sports conditioning, and recreation management. Stacey can be reached at 239-0602.*

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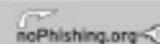
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# school

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## GHS Creates Classroom Libraries

Josie Tierney-Fife, GHS English Dept.

As part of a school-wide commitment to deepening the literacy lives of students, Gorham High School recently purchased five classroom libraries (about 85 titles each) for participating English teachers. Research demonstrates that reading a high volume of self-selected texts helps people of all reading levels improve their analytical reading skills, broaden their vocabulary, and increase their grasp of English grammar.

The classroom libraries include both contemporary and classic novels, chosen for their ability to appeal to and inspire a wide range of students. Titles range from Christopher Paolini's *Eragon*, to John Krakauer's *Into Thin Air*; from Jodi Picoult's *My Sister's Keeper* to Laurie Halse Anderson's new historical fiction, *Chains*. Teachers can use the libraries to support struc-

tured free-choice reading units, but they and students can also access them at any time for more informal reading.

In the few weeks since the books have hit the classroom shelves, participating teachers have reported increased voluntary reading among students of all levels. Several teachers have also reported loaning out books to students who otherwise rarely read; the books were requested without prompting. We are excited to see how the libraries may impact teaching and learning as the year goes on.

If you are interested in donating used books that you think would appeal to high school readers, or funds to help us develop the classroom libraries project, please contact Debbie Stirling at 222-1100.

## ORDINANCE FROM PAGE 1

property against occupancy. Currently, Gorham does not have such an ordinance.

Ardith Keef, a long-time resident of Preble Street supports such an ordinance. She states, "The ordinance is the only thing that will effectively contain an avalanching social blight in Gorham. Neighbors can sue, but that only results in money judgments and injunctions.

The guests of the fraternities would not be subject to any injunction granted, as the court would have no jurisdiction over them. This means that Gorham needs this Ordinance. An Ordinance would corral the unlawful and protect the lawful. Right now landowners and law enforcement are all hobbled because there is no noise or nuisance ordinance."

## CORRECTION

In our Exploring Preschools article on the Gorham Cooperative Preschool, the phone number was listed incorrectly. The correct number is 839-4706.

## All That is Needed is a "Little" Participation

Suzanne Roberge

Moms and dads of Gorham, do you have an only child who would like a big brother or big sister? Or how about a son or daughter that might be living in a very large family looking for that close friend to talk with after a long hard day at school? With the collaboration of Gorham High School, the Gorham Rec. Department and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of So. Maine there is an established program in Gorham which allows the cultivation of such an important relationship in any child's life to be created.

In August 2006, Richard Verre, Coordinator of Site Based Programs for Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Southern Maine, approached Debbie Stirling, a GHS advisor, about working together on a site-based program specific to the elementary schools in Gorham. The two began immediately working with Becky Waters and Thom Courtney, social workers within the schools, to help identify the students in grades K-5 who might be interested in having a big brother or sister for the day, otherwise known as "Littles."

Interviewing for the "Bigs" (the GHS students) began and over time they found the response overwhelmingly positive. There was very thorough and tedious interviewing and training that took place. For the Bigs it was an application, two references, an hour interview and a homework project assignment related to the position. After that was completed they were subjected to a group interview and review. Once appointed, they are trained on mentoring, confidentiality, social issues, communication and consistency. Verre further elaborated about the expectations from the Bigs

by explaining, "Inconsistency creates a negative impact due to such high expectations from each Little. We insist upon communication of any absences or change of plans that might happen with the Littles and the Bigs. The Bigs learn lessons in responsibility and giving back through this program."

Debbie Stirling, who has been overseeing the matches since 2003 within the schools says, "The stories are very rewarding and the relationships are long lasting." Stirling's husband has been a Big for many years and she has seen first-hand the success that comes from these relationships. "For many Littles it is a special friend, someone to build self-esteem and help teach better choices."

This year the program currently needs 3-4 more children (K-5) to match with the remaining Bigs to make 10 matches. The high school currently has approximately 15 Bigs on a waiting list, therefore the program has a potential of 20 matches next year.

The Bigs arrange to meet at the "After the Bell" program at the Old Robie School at Little Falls, where they meet with their Littles for an afternoon of games, laughter and good conversation until the end of day. These are site-based programs so they do not leave the school. Many Bigs and Littles are matched so successfully they continue meeting for years. If you are interested in having your child, who is currently in grades K-5 and a participant in the After the Bell program to be a part of this program, please call Richard Verre at 773-5437 for more information. All they need is a "Little" participation for a lot of "Big" hearts.

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## All Women Welcome at the GWA

Linda Morris

The Gorham Women's Alliance (GWA) is part of the Gorham Business and Civic Exchange (GBCE). The group started in 2006 with four areas of focus: community outreach/service, self improvement/inspiration, legal/financial issues (specifically for women), and career/educational development.

The hope is to reach out to all members of the community. It is not just a professional networking group, it is available to all women and provides support through all stages of their lives, from young womanhood/students to motherhood and beyond, and into the senior years. Women's roles in society are multi functional and quite varied and often change many times; the group recognizes and honor this by providing a forum to come together to share, support, and spread goodwill in the community.

Recently a Holiday fundraiser/com-

munity support event raised money and donations of food to provide 12 local families in need with a full Thanksgiving basket of food, supplies, and even some toys for the younger children of the families. The GWA received the names of the families in need from the Gorham Food Pantry.

The GWA holds approximately four events per year. The next event's topic will be an educational forum on home based and alternative businesses, ways to thrive in a tough economy. There will be speakers and some experts available for a round table Q & A session, along with local "vendors" displaying their products/services. Look for more information in the *Gorham Times*.

Meetings are monthly and new members are always welcome. There is no cost to join. FMI Linda Morris at 749-7319 or [lmorris520@yahoo.com](mailto:lmorris520@yahoo.com).

rent ones.

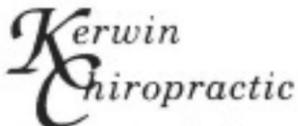
Other revenue sources are much more dependent on the overall economic climate. Cole believes that "most towns are experiencing a non-property tax shortfall." For example, building permits contributed \$514,879 to the municipal coffers in 2006. For the present 2008-09 fiscal year, this source is estimated to bring in only \$220,000. Interest on the Town's investments has shown a decline since 2007, and various fees are producing less revenue.

The State of Maine has a revenue-sharing program in which 5.1% of the state's total sales tax income is shared with all the municipalities. Gorham's share of this largess is projected to be \$1,300,000. If the state's sales tax income declines, which seems likely, then there will be less revenue to be shared with the towns and cities.

Although Gorham seems to be holding its own right now, Cole stated that the "revenue picture is certainly a concern for us."



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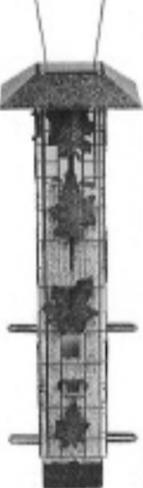


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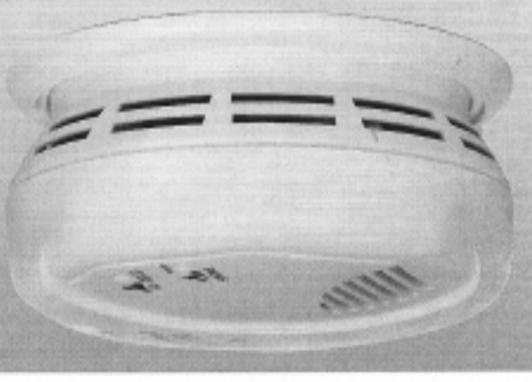
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# sports

COMPILED BY JEFF PIKE

## in the Zone

**Girls Track** – The GHS girls indoor track team started the season with a 4-1 record at press time and with five athletes qualifying for the State Meet: Junior **RACHEL WILKINSON** in the 1 mile and 800 meters; Junior **KELSEY REX** in the 1 mile and 2 mile; Senior **SARAH MCCULLOUGH** in the 1 mile and 800 meters; Junior **EMILY SOUTHARD** in the triple jump; and senior **SIQBHAN BOLINGER** in the shot put.

**Boys Track** – The GHS boys indoor track team started the season with a 4-0 record at press time led by junior **CAM STEVENS**, who had the league's best times in the Senior 600 meters (1:20.6) and the Open 800 meter (2:06.7). The team also announced its captains: Seniors **MIKE GREATOREX** and **ROB MAREAN** as well as junior **CAM STEVENS**.

**Girls Basketball** – at press time, GHS girls basketball sophomore **NATALIE EGBERT** was first in Western Maine Class A for most three-point shots, having scored 17 on the season.

**Boys Basketball** – Junior **ALEX GRAVES** led the GHS boys basketball team in scoring in all three games of a recent three-game winning streak vs. Noble, Bonny Eagle and Kennebunk. He averaged 17.3 during the streak – highlighted by 20 points vs. Kennebunk Jan. 9.

**Boys Hockey Alumni Game** – 29 current and former GHS hockey players participated in an Alumni Hockey Game Dec. 26 with the odd-year graduating team defeating the even-year graduating team, 8-4. Playing for the odd-year team were current seniors **DAVID GUSHEE**, **IAN RYAN**, and **JAKE VIEL** (2009), **DONNY GEARAN** and **BRENDAN RYAN** (2008), **ALEX DAHMS**, **PETER MATHIEU**, **JUSTIN GRANDMAISON** and **CHRIS ROOP** (2007), **GRANT GUSHEE** (2005), **RYAN ROUSEAU** (2003), **ANDREW PORTWINE** (2002), **ERIC ROUSEAU** (2000), **JOE DAHMS** (2001) and **JON PORTWINE** (1997). Playing for the even-year team were **DJ HANSON**, **NATE CLINCH**, **KEVIN BOUCHER**, **MATT ROBERTS** and **JEREMY RANDALL** (2008), **BEN LILLY** and **MARK SCHMIDT** (2006), **ADAM TANGUAY** (2004), **PETER PALOMAKI** (2003), **ERIC TANGUAY**, **GREG GUIMOND** and **JEREMY SMITH** (2002), **ERIC PALOMAKI** (2000) and **KORY STEVENS** (1996). Brothers were moved among the teams so that they could play on the same team.

**Boardercross** – Cortlandt Dunn, GHS Freshman, and Alex McCarthy, GMS 8th grade, placed at two back-to-back USASA Maine Mountain Series Boardercross races held at Sugarloaf on 1/17-18. Dunn earned a 2nd and 5th place and McCarthy ranked 2nd and 3rd.

## GHS Boys Hockey

Jeff Pike

The GHS Boys Hockey Team is off to a roaring start this season as the team won its first six regular-season games while outscoring opponents over that span, 44-15. The streak was capped by an exciting 3-2 overtime win January 3 against South Portland, which was undefeated heading into the game. But the streak came to an end during the next game, January 8 – a tough, 5-4 loss against Portland.

But the outlook remains promising for the Rams. In its last three games the Rams have defeated Bonny Eagle, Noble and Mt. Ararat by an aggregate score of 22-4 to improve its regular-season record to 9-1 at press time. At press time, the Rams were ranked second in the Western Maine Class A Heat Point Standings.

Head coach Jon Portwine is in his first year as head coach after eight years as an assistant coach. He also played hockey for GHS, graduating in 1997. "Our success has not come as a big surprise," Portwine said. "We also played well last year but against a tougher schedule so it was not reflected in our record. Looking at this year's schedule, which is easier than last year, we're about where I thought we would be."

Portwine feels the key to this year's



Photo credit Sue Holloran

Playing for the GHS boys varsity hockey team this year are, lying down, (l to r): Mike Bowring and Nate Holloran. Front row: Steven Broy, Kyle Braley, Jake Viel, Anthony Soto, Travis Alves and Connor Smith. Back row: head coach Jon Portwine, Tim Hardy, Ian Ryan, David Gushee, Elliot Bidwell, Spencer Violette, Kenny Estes, Justin Bahr and assistant coach Mark Schmidt. Missing: Sean Grandmaison.

success is teamwork. "Playing as a team has helped us improve, and we're working towards becoming even better at teamwork come playoff time," he said. "We have had some bumps such as the loss against Portland, where we realized we can't play short-handed (four of Portland's five goals came on power plays). We need to remain disciplined because when

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

## GHS Winter Sports Preview Part III

Jeff Pike

The GHS boys and girls ski team now have their seasons underway with both teams led by head coach Tim Sullivan. Following are the previews of each team. The previews of the other GHS sports teams appeared in the last two issues of the *Gorham Times*.

### Boys Ski Team

**Head Coach:** Tim Sullivan, entering his second year as head coach.

### Returning Skiers From Last Season:

Seniors Garrick Adolf, Austin Arena and Luke Van De Krol; Junior Mike Walsh; Sophomores Nathan Lemieux and Tom Moutinho.

### New Skiers Expected To Have An Impact:

Junior George Grant; Freshmen Kellen Adolf and Tom Petty.

**Coach's Comments:** "The team is still developing with nine racers on the team this year," said head coach Sullivan. "Each skier improved each week last season, and I expect the same this year. The teams in the SMAA are strong, including last year's state runner-up, Windham, so we will ski against some stiff competition each race. This will help us prepare for the state meet in February where we should improve on last years results. Lemieux and Grant led the way in our first race with a strong runs, and the team

should continue to improve this year."

### Girls Ski Team

**Head Coach:** Tim Sullivan, entering his second year as head coach.

### Returning Skiers From Last Season:

Seniors Jennie Wiacek, Ally Platts, Julianne Farrar, Taylor Sullivan and Emily Hamblen; Junior Katie Smith; and Sophomore Emma Alden.

### New Skiers Expected To Have An Impact:

Seniors Chelsea Clark, Meagan Strout and Ellen Footer; Sophomore Kelly Donaldson; Freshman Danielle Rivard.

**Coach's Comments:** "We have 12 racers this year, and last season the team routinely finished second at SMAA events," said head coach Sullivan. "We also placed two skiers in the top 25 at the state meet, so this season should be even more successful. The SMAA league is wide open as defending state champion Marshwood graduated many of their stronger skiers to leave the door open for us to move into the top spot. But strong competition from other teams will mean the girls will have to be on top of their game each week. We saw strong finishes in the first race of the season by Sullivan and Wiacek to set the pace for the season."

## This Weekend's GHS Varsity Sports Line-Up

### Friday, January 23

7 p.m. – Girls Basketball vs. Massabesic at GHS gym  
7 p.m. – Boys Basketball at Marshwood

### Saturday, January 24

9:35 a.m. – Girls Indoor Track vs. Bonny Eagle and South Portland at Portland Exposition  
3:00 p.m. – Cheerleading – Multi-Team Competition at August Civic Center  
4:50 p.m. – Girls Hockey vs. Scarborough at Cumberland County Civic Center  
7:30 p.m. – Boys Track vs. Bonny Eagle and South Portland at Portland Exposition

For up-to-date schedules of all GHS sports, visit [www.digitalsports.com](http://www.digitalsports.com)

## sportsEtcetera

**Special Olympics Maine Winter Games** – January 25-27 at Sugarloaf in Carrabasset Valley. Nearly 500 Special Olympic athletes will compete. For more information visit [www.specialolympicsmaine.org](http://www.specialolympicsmaine.org) or call 879-0489.

**Girls Lacrosse League** – YourSpace will host a high school girls lacrosse league starting February 24. Cost is \$75/player. For more information, call 839-6767.

**Boston Bruins Trip** with Gorham Recreation. 2/28. FMI 222-1633.

# Rachele Burns

Solange Carpenter

Senior Rachele Burns had an amazing career at GHS playing a starring role in soccer, basketball and softball from the beginning of her career as a freshman through her senior year. Her high school career was cut short recently with a knee injury that has required two surgeries and is forcing Burns to miss the entire basketball and softball seasons. Through it all, she still managed to earn a basketball scholarship to the University of Maine at Orono where she will play next fall.



Senior Rachele Burns has enjoyed four spectacular years in Gorham High School athletics while playing soccer, basketball and softball. During her freshman year, she was First Team All-Conference in all three sports. In basketball, she was also the team MVP and received All-State Honorable Mention. As a sophomore, Burns again received First Team All-Conference in all three sports as well as All-State in all three sports. During the softball season, she also received the Defensive Player of the Year award. As a junior, Burns took her accomplishments in soccer to an even higher level as she earned awards across the board: Maine's Soccer Player of the Year and the state's Gatorade Player of the Year as well as First Team All-Conference, All-State, All-New England, and All-American. But during the basketball season in January 2008, Burns suffered a season-ending injury. It required her to also sit out the entire spring softball season. But she was able to come back for soccer in the fall of her senior year and led the girls team to yet another Western Maine Championship (her fourth) while receiving First-Team All Conference recognition and the Costello Award given by officials. At the end of the soccer season, doctors discovered Burns' knee had not healed properly. She underwent a second knee surgery and has thus been forced to miss the entire basketball season

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Photo credits Jason Tanguay

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## GHS Boys Hockey FROM PAGE 8

the games are close, we can't afford to play short-handed."

In addition to improved teamwork, Portwine said the team has done a great job transitioning to a new head coach and are responding well to new strategies and systems. Offensively, the first line of seniors David Gushee and Ian Ryan along with junior Spencer Violette has led the way by posting numbers better than any line in the state. Through Jan 19, the three had combined for 42 goals and 35 assists. Recently, however, Ryan suffered a forearm injury that could be serious. The team is waiting to find out how much time he'll miss. Defensively, senior Jake Viel and junior Justin Bahr

along with junior goalie Mike Bowring and freshman goalie Nate Holloran (who alternate each game), have limited teams to 2.40 goals per game.

Looking ahead, Portwine expects Gorham to finish somewhere in the middle of the playoff seedings. Gorham could finish with one of the best records in Western Maine Class A, but several other teams have stronger schedules, which makes it possible for them to finish higher in the HEAL Point Standing. "But our focus will be on teamwork," Portwine stressed. "If we can continue to play as a team and avoid penalties, we should be in good shape."

## RACHELLE BURNS FROM PAGE 9

currently underway, as well as the upcoming softball season. But Burns still has a lot to look forward to as the University of Maine at Orono has offered her a scholarship to play basketball after graduation from GHS.

Burns recently took a few minutes to answer some questions from the *Gorham Times*:

**Favorite subject in school:** Chemistry and Physics.

**Sport you enjoy playing the most:** I enjoy them all – basketball, soccer, and softball.

**What are your strengths in sports?** My

hard work, determination and teamwork.

**What area are you trying to improve in the most?** In all three sports, I think I could work on getting my quickness back.

**Who has had the most positive influence on your sports career?** My Dad and Coach Zarrilli.

**What are your top two highlights of your athletic career?** Scoring the winning goal in the soccer State Championship my sophomore year and being a part of a new team and new state championship for soccer each year that I have been in high school.

**What advice would you offer to a youngster just starting their sports career?** Hard work and dedication pay off. And don't ever lose sight of your dreams – always stick with them. Nothing is impossible – you can accomplish anything you set your mind to.

**What accomplishment outside of sports are you most proud of?** Being in the National Honor Society and making the GHS honor roll.

**Favorite ice cream flavor:** Cookies and Cream or Moose Tracks.

**Favorite movie:** Coach Carter, Mamma Mia, Finding Nemo and Miracle – those are some top favorites.

## Boston Bruins Trip with Gorham Recreation

**Boston Bruins vs Washington Capitals — Saturday, Feb. 28th**  
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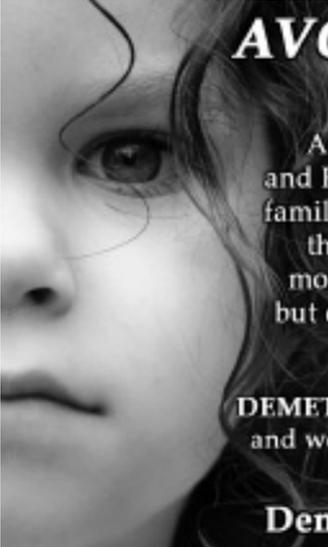


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# community



Debora (Cuffey) Laughton of Scarborough, and Gregory Cuffey of Newfield proudly announce the engagement of their daughter, BETHANY CUFFEY (GHS '03) to BEN SIEMEN. Siemen, a mechanical engineer for Irving Equipment, is the son of Judith Siemen of Cambridge, MA and Kenneth Siemen of Shirley, MA. Cuffey, a graduate of USM with a degree in Criminology, is Property Manager for Weston Associates. A September 2009 wedding is planned.

## graduations

**ELIZABETH DAMON** (GHS '05), has graduated from the UMaine Honors College with high honors, receiving a BA in psychology with a minor in dance. She is the daughter of Duane and Pam Damon and granddaughter of George and Ruth Ayers, all of Gorham.

## dean's list

**SAMANTHA ADAMS** (GHS '00), has been named to the 2008 fall Dean's List at the University of New England in Biddeford. Adams, a political science major, is the

daughter of Jeanine and Sanford Chesley of Gorham and Larry and Nancy Adams of Kennebunk.

**SPENCER SEIFERTH** (GHS '07), was named to the 2008 fall semester Dean's List at Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston. Seiferth, an Electro/Mechanical Engineering major, is the son of Kurt and Lisa Seiferth of Gorham.

**ADAM MACDONALD** (GHS '07), has been named to the Dean's List at the University of New England in Biddeford. MacDonald, a pre-pharmacy major, is the son of Patti and Joe MacDonald of Gorham.

**SARAH RUDOLPH** (GHS '06), has been named to the Dean's List at Providence College in Providence, RI. She is the daughter of Bruce and Anna Rudolph of Gorham.

## of interest

**Morgan Dental Care of Gorham** is hosting a day of FREE dental care on Saturday, Feb. 14 as part of the national organization program - Dentistry from the Heart. Dr. Ted Morgan and Dr. Amanda Rockwood are offering their dental services for free to anyone who cannot afford dental care. Starting at 8 a.m., both dentists will treat as many patients as they can on that day. To receive care, patients must register before Feb. 9, 2009. FMI, visit [www.dentistryfromtheheart.org](http://www.dentistryfromtheheart.org) or pick up a form at Morgan Dental Care, 94 Main Street., Gorham.

**Cressey Road United Methodist Church** in Gorham will host a Life Line Screening on Wednesday, Jan. 28. Ultrasound screenings for carotid artery disease, abdominal aortic aneurysms and other vascular diseases will be offered for only \$139. FMI, call 1-800-395-1801.

**The Gorham Garden Club** will hold a meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 7 p.m. at O'Donal's Nurseries, County Road, Gorham. Jeff O'Donal will present a program on Plant Propagation. The public is welcome.

**Enjoy free food and fellowship** with others in your community on Monday, Jan. 26, 6 p.m. at First Parish Church, Gorham. The Gorham Ecumenical Council is serving up a free commu-



**CAROL CURRAN** received her PhD in Psychology from Union Institute and University. She is married to Al Curran and mother of Rachelle, Sally and Nilaya. Curran was a therapist in private practice in Gorham for many years where she currently resides.

nity dinner to all families, seniors, and singles...All are Welcome.

**Save the date! Gorham Marketplace** – March 28, 2009. Costello Field House, Gorham. FMI, 892-5515.

**Saving Money @ Your Library!** In keeping with the financial theme this month, the Baxter Memorial Library will host a special family event with Gorham Savings Bank on Monday, Jan 26 at 6 p.m. The topics covered will include The Importance of Regular Savings, How to Start Saving and How Interest Works. FMI, 839-5031. On Jan. 28, 6-8 p.m. the Library will host Jodi Lemeiux of WealthWorks University. The program provides attendees with simple tools to create a solid financial future. Space is limited; contact the library at 839-5031 to reserve your seat.

**The Portland String Quartet with pianist Laura Kargul** will perform Feb. 8, 3 p.m. Corthell Concert Hall, USM Gorham campus. Laura Kargul joins the Portland String Quartet in a concert commemorating the 40th anniversary of the PSQ. The PSQ's program includes Mozart's String Quartet in G Major, K387; Walter Piston's String Quartet No. 1; and the sweepingly romantic Piano Quintet by Cesar Franck. (\$15 / \$10 / \$5) Snow date Monday Feb. 9 at 7:30 p.m.

## close to home

**Leavitt's Mill Free Health Center** is pleased to announce the relocation of the health cen-

ter to 63 Main Street in Bar Mills, Maine effective March 16, 2009. The health center has served the local community from its Narragansett Trail location for 5 years, providing free primary care health services to more than 900 persons with no insurance. New location and contact information: Leavitt's Mill Free Health Center, 63 Main Street, P.O. Box 47, Bar Mills, ME 04004 Telephone: 207-929-6455. Fax: 207-929-6459, Email: [mail@leavittsmill.org](mailto:mail@leavittsmill.org).

**The Schoolhouse Arts Center** at Sebago Lake will present a Winter Variety Show the weekend of Jan. 30 and 31. FMI 642-3743.

**Saint Joseph's College education majors** will offer a Bedtime Stories Program for local children on Wednesday, Feb. 11 from 6 – 7:30 p.m. with the theme being Valentine's Day. Kids in grades K-3, are invited to wear their pajamas and join SJC elementary education students for some reading, learning and fun while munching on snacks! This event is free. FMI, 893-7723.

**USM's Abromson Center on Bedford Street in Portland will host College Goal Sunday** on Jan. 25 at 2 p.m. This free event will provide parents and students of all ages with assistance in completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form required for all state and federal financial aid programs, including loans. Attendees are encouraged to bring their most recent tax information. FMI, call FAME 1-800-228-3734.

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## PLEDGE FROM PAGE 1

member of the council, voted against the Student Council's new proposal. "I'm still for saying the Pledge, but I didn't like it being segregated in its own room." She said she would have recited the Pledge in the morning if the proposal had passed, as long as she arrived at school by 7:40 a.m. Tanguay felt the early time would have been an issue for some students since they "don't get here until they absolutely have to be here."

Lauren Cunningham, a senior and Co-chairman of the Student Council, voted for the new proposal. "I have nothing against the Pledge of Allegiance in any way, shape or form." When asked how she felt about the Committee's decision, she said she was "disappointed that the public's opinion weighed in more than the school's opinion" Cunningham said

she was prepared to address the School Committee to clarify how the school felt about the issue.

Two faculty members of the Student Council, Susan McCarthy, a Mathematics teacher, and Darren Panagakos, a Social Studies teacher, both voted for the student proposal. McCarthy felt the student council reached a "solution that would upset the least amount of people."

David Hochheiser, GHS Student Council Faculty Co-Chair and teacher of American Studies described the general feeling the day after the decision. "Regardless of how anyone feels about reciting the pledge, there was a general feeling of surprise and disdain that the School Committee suspended the process of taking public comment, especially since this is an issue centered on supporting American values."

# Braving Frigid Ocean Temperatures in Winter for Fun!

Jeff Pike

The Shiers Family (l to r) Jordan, Cole, Darren, Lisa and Hallie (in front) support Special Olympics with family flair. Missing from photo, Delaney.



Photo credit Delaney Shiers



Photo credit Lisa Bird

Dylan Weeks, Paddy Owens and Noah Bird warm up after a very chilling jump into the ocean.

While the temperature on January 1 was well below freezing, hundreds of crazy people still jumped into the ocean for the 21st Annual Lobster Dip to benefit the Maine Special Olympics. The Lobster Dip was held at Old Orchard Beach in front of the Brunswick Hotel. Without taking the wind chill into consideration, the temperature never went above 8 degrees, which made the ocean feel warm and toasty at a cool 34 degrees.

Gorham had quite a few residents in attendance. Village School fourth graders Noah Bird, Paddy Owens and Dylan Weeks took the plunge. Together, Bird, Weeks and Owens raised over \$1300. "People are continuing to send money to us in their name" stated Lisa Bird, Director of Public Relations for Special Olympics Maine and Mom to Noah. "We are all extremely proud of them." Bird is no stranger to the dip having plunged two years ago but stated "it was much more fun this year because I had my friends with me." He believes next year will be even better. "We are going to join the "Team" category and try to get a whole bunch of friends to join us. We already have a few who said they would do it."

Special Olympic Coach for Gorham, Lisa Shiers, and family were in also in attendance, but took the more sane route by remaining dry. For the Shiers, this is truly a family affair. Lisa's daughter, GHS Junior Jordan Shiers, Miss Teen Maine USA, counted down to the crowd before they took the chilling plunge. Lisa's son, Cole, has participated in Special Olympics for 8 years being the recipient of many medals. Other Shiers family members braving the beach were husband/dad Darren, and daughters Delaney and Hallie who have been Cole's personal cheerleaders for the last eight years.

Jordan Shiers, who has volunteered with Special Olympics for many years, has been selected to go to the World Special Olympic Games in Boise, Idaho in February as part of the Global

Youth Summit Council. Jordan has been paired up with a Maine athlete; the two of them will work together with about 300 other teens from across the globe. The council will develop ways to improve acceptance and tolerance among the mentally and physically challenged and both are eager to work to implement new strategies into their communities.

This was a record breaking year for the Dip which rose over \$50,000 for the first time ever. Special Olympics Maine is a year round athletic training and competition program for people with intellectual disabilities of all ages. In Maine there are over 3,000 athletes who participate. If you interested in participating in the 22nd Lobster Dip next New Years Day, please contact Special Olympics of Maine at 879-0489 or visit [www.specialolympicsmaine.org](http://www.specialolympicsmaine.org).

## STATE FUNDING FROM PAGE 1

school-based leadership teams, District faculty, staff, and the three unions will all need to contribute their best thinking and some of their resources to this endeavor.

Outlined is the short-term response to the loss in FY09 GPA funding of \$324,552, or 2.0%, of the total funding for Gorham of which is \$16,372,203.74.

Shorter Term Conservation/Cost Reduction will include a freeze on the FY09 Budget on all but essential discretionary spending. The approved FY09 Budget contained approximately \$1,228,402 of discretionary funds (funds that are not fixed costs) that are dedicated to the resources and programs that advance District work, often "consumables." Currently \$625,722 of that money has been expended leaving \$602,680. It is the Districts' intent to use as much of that amount as possible to achieve the imposed loss of \$324,552 in FY09. See the side bar for a breakdown of reductions by school and cost/center.

It is particularly difficult to make budget reductions of this magnitude during the school year. Our intent was to avoid any reductions in staff, which was achieved. While the loss of the discretionary funds that support instructional and other operational expenses present a serious challenge for all of us, this is a better way to address the reduction, than having to eliminate positions. Educators are creative people by nature and we are all using our experience, expertise, and skills to work as we move forward.

Other initiatives include:

All school buildings thermostats were reduced two degrees (to 68). During periods when school is not in session, thermostats will be set for 65 degrees. All settings are controlled by the Office of Facilities Management and cannot be changed at any of the schools or their component parts.

• Elimination of all Field Trips other than those funded by non-District budgeted funds. The cost of transportation (fuel and driver) to be paid

from those non-District funds.

- Use of electronic communication and programs wherever possible to reduce the use of paper; when using paper (writing & copying) use both sides.

As we now work to develop the FY10 Budget for the School department, we are considering longer-term options designed to sustain a K-12 comprehensive educational program during a serious economic downturn, indeed, during the worst recession since the 1930s!

### Discretionary account reductions by cost center:

- White Rock School, \$14,000
- Narragansett School, \$45,000
- Village School, \$48,000
- Middle School, \$53,750
- High School, \$81,639
- Superintendent's Office, \$12,000
- Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment, \$19,500
- Technology, \$7,000
- Adult Education, \$6,000
- Special Services, \$23,127.90
- Facilities Maintenance, \$8,500
- Athletics, \$2,500
- Federally Funded Instructional Salaries, \$3,535.10

### TOTAL reductions Discretionary account reductions by cost center:

- White Rock School, \$14,000
- Narragansett School, \$45,000
- Village School, \$48,000
- Middle School, \$53,750
- High School, \$81,639
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- Special Services, \$23,127.90
- Facilities Maintenance, \$8,500
- Athletics, \$2,500
- Federally Funded Instructional Salaries, \$3,535.10

Total reductions listed = \$324,552

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# the blotter

**Village School** reported an opossum outside the kitchen door that appeared to be hovering there. Animal went under one of the portable classrooms.

collect on the check.

**Main Street caller** reported seeing a male subject in the parking lot actively using illegal drugs.

**Liberty Lane caller** learned that their daughter had a party while they were out of state. There were items missing from the house and caller believed that the items were taken during this party.

**Wards Hill Road caller** reported a vehicle off the road and reported driver and occupants had fled on foot.

**Caller reported a purse** was stolen from their car in the Burger King parking lot.

**Caller reported a stroller** with a microwave in it sitting on the side of the road.

**Newell Street caller** reported that someone tried to break into their residence while they were home. They noticed that the sliding doors were pushed in.

**Nason Road caller** requested to speak with an officer regarding someone who walked onto their property sometime last night, up to a window in their garage, then walked onto the neighbor's property, then off into the woods.

**Caller requested to speak** with an officer regarding having received threatening messages from an acquaintance. The threats were to caller and their family. Caller was advised to seek protection order from the Court.

**Fillion's Way caller** reported a vehicle parked illegally. Owner was unable to make it up the road to their home as it had not been plowed.

**Deering Road caller** wanted to speak to an officer regarding third-hand information on a missing high school student.

**Hannah Drive caller** reported someone smashed a window in their house when they left the premises.

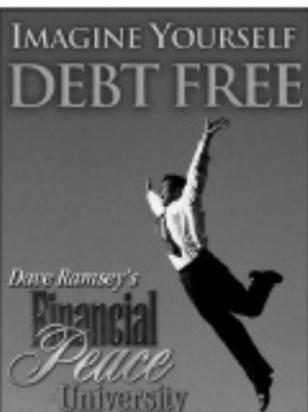
**Caller requested to speak** with an officer regarding the theft of their medication.

**New Portland Road caller** reported a possible burglary in progress. House was in foreclosure and items were being removed from the shed.

**Gray Road caller** reported a suspicious vehicle in the area containing a mattress and sleeping bags. Vehicle appeared to be unoccupied.

**Libby Avenue caller** reported that a subject from a yard services company entered their garage and threw their business card on the floor. They felt this was suspicious as their house was the only one the subject entered.

**Railroad Avenue caller** requested assistance with a bounced check from a contractor. Caller had tried several times to



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# on the calendar WHAT'S HAPPENING

## SATURDAY, JAN. 24

- District 1 Festival, Noble High School in Berwick, 3 p.m. start for vocal groups.
- Bean Supper at the Bungalow, 5-6 p.m. Rt. 22/Broadturn, \$5/under 3 are free!

## MONDAY, JAN. 26

- Community Dinner at the First Parish Church, 6 p.m., Free food, fellowship and fun! All are welcome!
- Saving Money at your Library with Gorham Saving's Bank, 6 p.m. Baxter Memorial Library. FMI, 839-5031.
- Gorham Community Chorus, Mondays 7:00 -9:00 pm. Spring session begins. No audition necessary. Village School Gorham. 642-3238, 839-4970 FMI
- Kindergarten Switch.

## TUESDAY, JAN. 27

- Gorham Garden Club Meeting, 7 p.m., O'Donal's Nurseries, County Road, Gorham. Public Welcome.
- Pre-School Story Time, ages 3-5 yrs, 9:30 a.m., Baxter Library. FMI, 839-5031.

## WEDNESDAY, JAN. 28

- Scrap Booking Workshop, 12-3 p.m. Baxter Library. For all ages, children

under 8 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required. FMI, 839-5031.

- Early Release for grades K-12.

## THURSDAY, JAN. 29

- Baby & Me, songs and lap time for ages birth - 18 months. 9:30 - 10 a.m. Baxter Library. FMI, 839-5031.
- Toddler Time, activities for ages 18-36 mos., 10-10:30 a.m., Baxter Library. FMI, 839-5031.
- Baxter Memorial Library Sewing Club, grades K-adult, 2-4:30 p.m. FMI, 839-5031.

## MONDAY, FEB. 2

- Planning Board Meeting, 7 p.m. Municipal Center, 75 South St.
- Gorham Community Chorus, Mondays 7:00 -9:00 pm. Spring session begins. No audition necessary. Village School Gorham. 642-3238, 839-4970 FMI

## TUESDAY, FEB. 3

- Town Council Meeting, 7 p.m. Municipal Center, 75 South St.

## WEDNESDAY, FEB. 4

- New Elementary School Building Committee Meeting, 6 p.m., Municipal Center Conference Room, 75 South St.

The Gorham Ecumenical Food Pantry is open every Thurs. at St. Anne's Church from 9-11 a.m. and the second Wednesday of each month from 5:30-7 p.m. Open to anyone in need of food from Gorham.

## 12TH ANNUAL GORHAM MARKETPLACE

# Reach 3,000 Customers at One Time!

### Join these exhibitors

- Ameriprise Financial
- C.E. Carl Insurance Agency
- Carter's Auto Service
- Casco Federal Credit Union
- Connolly Financial Services
- Dance Studio of Maine
- Gorham Country Club
- Gorham Massage & Wellness
- Gorham Savings Bank
- Maine Total Technology
- Moody's Collision Center
- Phillips Body Shop
- PoGo Realty
- Silpada Jewelry
- YourSpace

Showcase your products and services to the more than 3,000 attendees at the 2009 Gorham Marketplace. Shoppers will sample food from our area eateries, enjoy local talent, receive cost savings on "show specials," sign up for vendors' prizes, and have a chance to win lots of cash. Other features include:

- A New and Improved Floor Plan
- More Accessible Parking
- An Expanded Food Court

For questions or to register, call Dede Perkins at 892-5515 or visit [www.gorhambusiness.org](http://www.gorhambusiness.org)

Register before  
Jan. 31st and  
Save \$25



Saturday, March 28, 2009  
USM Costello Field House  
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

SPONSORED BY GORHAM BUSINESS & CIVIC EXCHANGE

# CLASSIFIEDS

## MUSIC LESSONS

**VOICE AND PIANO** lessons at my Gorham studio. BA in Music Ed. \$22 per half hour. Call Paul 839-4628.

**PIANO LESSONS** in my Gorham home. \$20 half hour. 25 years experience. Call Mrs. K, 939-9104.

## SERVICES

**RESTORE YOUR OLDER HOMES** to their former glory inside and out with the experience of Keogh and Company. See display ad on page 14.

**INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR PAINTING.** Specializing in older homes. Low rates, quality work. Free estimates. Call Dave Hall at 929-4469.

**HOUSEKEEPER.** Residential or commercial. Hourly or flat rates. Excellent references. [kazakshaw@hotmail.com](mailto:kazakshaw@hotmail.com)

**CLEANING POSITION** sought by local woman. Weekly and every other week. References available. Call Pat after 2 p.m. 839-6827.

**WINTER PLOWING,** sanding and snow removal. Call 615-3663 or 839-4604.

**ROOF RAKING** Prevent water damage from ice dams. Fees by storm or season / Fully Insured / Senior Discount. Call: 650-9796.

## FOR SALE

**BRAND NEW queen pillowtop mattress** complete set, in plastic, warranty \$130. Call 396-5661.

**Complete 5pc living room set**—microfiber—all new for \$575 call 396-5661

**\$220 King 3pc mattress set.**

factory sealed w/warranty 899-8853.

**King Sleighbed with mattress set** new in packaging \$475 must sell 396-5661.

**Twin/full mattress and box.** Never used \$120 call 899-8853.



### Office Space Available

The Old Richardson Place Professional Offices located at 510 Main Street, has 775 sq. ft. 3-room suite available on second floor.

Call Beth at 839-4200 for more information.

We're not just old cars!

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## Enter the Health Care Profession CNA Classes

Information Night January 28, 2009

From 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Class cost of \$850

In conjunction with Gorham Adult Education

The Gorham House  
50 New Portland Rd.  
Gorham, ME 04038

For more information about the CNA Class call  
Angel Burnham (207) 839-5757 ext 149

### Gorham House - Senior Community

- A very rewarding career - caring for the elderly
- Flexible Hours - great for mothers or college students
- Extra pay on evenings, nights and weekends
- Work with a great team of professionals
- Choose a career that makes a positive difference in someone's life

### Delivery Person Needed!

The Gorham Times team is looking for a delivery person to pick up the paper in Biddeford every other Thursday, and bring back to Gorham. Must have a vehicle that can fit 84 bundles of papers. There is a small stipend to cover expenses, payable after each delivery. If you know of anyone, or would like more information, please call 839-8390 or e-mail [gtimes@maine.rr.com](mailto:gtimes@maine.rr.com)

# FULL SPEED AHEAD



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SAME GREAT FOOD,  
SAME GREAT PEOPLE!**

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BRINGS A GREAT NEW BEER.**

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FULL THROTTLE  
DOUBLE IPA  
Available as our  
mid-winter seasonal in  
4 packs and on draft  
in ME, MA & soon NH**



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**We use our 22-Step Healthy Touch® Deep Cleaning System every visit!**

### Kitchen

- Clean sink
- Clean appliance exteriors
- Clean inside microwave
- Clean range top
- Damp wipe cabinet doors
- Clean counters
- Hand wash floor
- Load dishwasher

### All Rooms

- Pick up and straighten
- Dust sills, ledges, wall hangings
- Remove cobwebs
- Dust/vacuum furniture
- Vacuum floors, carpets
- Vacuum stairs
- Vacuum under beds
- Change linens, make beds
- Empty trash



### Bathrooms

- Clean sinks, counters; change towels
- Clean, disinfect toilets, tubs, showers
- Hand wash, disinfect floors

### Windows

- Clean entry window, one set of patio door windows
- Clean window over kitchen sink

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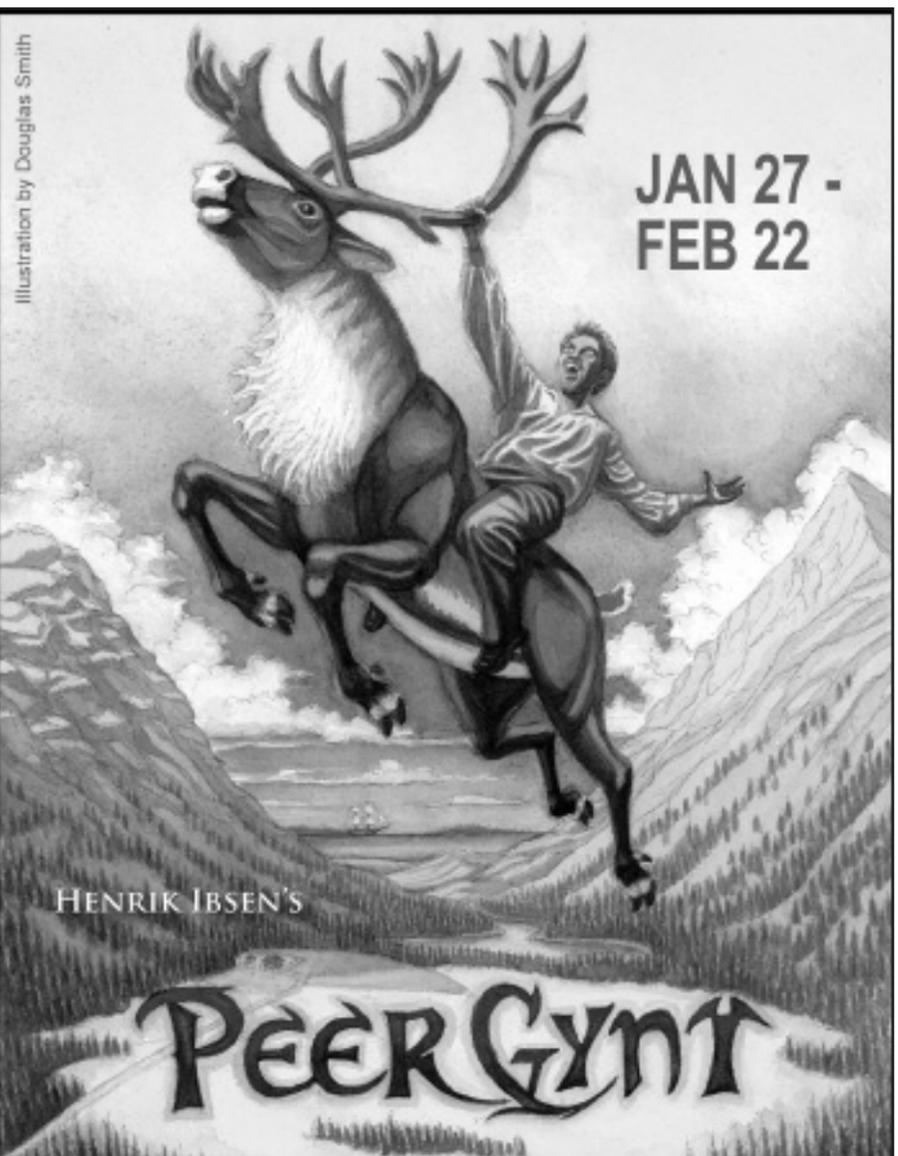


Illustration by Douglas Smith

**JAN 27 -  
FEB 22**

HENRIK IBSEN'S

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