

Gorham Times

A FREE BIWEEKLY NEWSPAPER

VOLUME 15 NUMBER 7

TOWN OF
Gorham, Maine
FOUNDED 1736

APRIL 3, 2009

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School District To Eliminate Positions

Stacy Sallinen

In a special meeting held March 25, the Gorham School Committee voted 7-0 to eliminate positions within the district for the 2009-2010 school year. Superintendent Ted Sharp was quick to note the Reductions in Force (RIF) were not due to job performance, but a change in local conditions.

Sharp's preliminary FY10 budget excluded 14.7 Full Time Equivalents (FTE), or 20 positions, resulting in a savings of \$712,530. These positions include Ed Techs and a Secretary. Teaching positions eliminated include a Computer Technology and English Teacher at the High School, a Computer Technology Teacher and Math Specialist at the Middle School, 2 Classroom Teachers at Narragansett, and an Art and Physical Education Teacher at Village. A Speech Therapist and a Crossing Guard will be retiring and not be replaced. White Rock Principal Margaret Evans, also retiring, will not be replaced until the new school is open, resulting in short term savings.

Sharp commented the teacher to student ratios will still be good, ranging from 18 to 25 students per teacher, depending on the grade. Classes with 25 students will have fulltime Ed Tech Support.

The number of eliminated positions was initially higher, however, the district was able to decrease the number based on several factors. The \$340,000 General Purpose Aid (GPA) curtailment, announced earlier in the year by the Department of Education, may be restored and a FY08 Fund Balance can be applied. A reduction in anticipated expenses, including Unemployment Compensation savings and health insurance, also played a role.

There were additional expenses such as legal services, an additional Ed Tech Support to assist a larger class, restored RIF's and the need for a Technology Support position to assist in the Maine Lap Top Initiative (MLTI) at the Middle and High School. The MLTI is expected to cost the district \$213,000.

Another hit to the budget occurred when the Town Council eliminated

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Marketplace 09



Photos Credit Martha T. Harris

Over 70 businesses and thousands of visitors attended Gorham Marketplace '09 on March 28, 2009 at Costello Field House. The annual event was one of the largest ever and featured a popular kids' area run by Life Church, terrific food, local talent, vendor prizes, demonstrations, and three cash giveaways. Due to the event's continued popularity, plans are already underway for Gorham Marketplace, 2010!

Berke Convicted on All Counts

Sheri Faber

James Berke, 46, formerly of Gorham, was convicted of six counts of gross sexual assault, three counts of sexual exploitation of a minor, three counts of unlawful sexual contact and one count of violation of privacy. At the trial, the prosecution showed portions of the videotapes which showed Berke engaging in sexual acts with two girls. Six of the counts are class A felonies for which the maximum sentence is 20 years but can be increased to 30 years if there are extraordinary circumstances. Berke waived his right to trial by jury but it took the presiding judge less than five

"The world our children live in today is not the world their parents lived in. Predators like Berke have trained themselves in skills, trickery and deceit in order to lure, deceive and prey upon children in our communities. Pay attention people...your children are in danger."

—Sgt. Dana Thompson, Gorham PD

minutes to find Berke guilty on all 13 counts brought against him. He is being held without bail.

Gorham Police Officers initially went

to Berke's home in March 2008, after receiving a phone call from the mother of three children who had allowed her children to spend time with Berke and to sleep over at his home. Her 14 year-old daughter discovered a videotape Berke had made of her seven year-old sister. Berke was arrested after police reviewed tapes seized with a search warrant. Police also took computer related items which were turned over to the Maine Computer Crimes Task Force (MCCTF) for review. MCCTF members spent countless hours reviewing thousands of hours worth of materi-

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Two new ways for us to reach the community—two new ways for you to win! Drawings will be held April 15 and we will contact the winners by e-mail and on our Facebook page. Good luck!

Letters to the Editor

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,

This letter is to all of the residents of Gorham:

Thank you seems so inadequate for the gift of a new home for the Food Pantry.

Thanks to all of you, we are better able to serve the families in Gorham who are in need of a little extra help during a rough time in their lives. To the churches of Gorham and the Ecumenical Council who founded, funded and sustained this endeavor, you are a blessing. To the businesses that donated money, goods, time and talent, the building is a showcase. To the children of Gorham, the shelves have goods on them because of you. To the citizens who donated monies, time and talents, we are truly grateful for your help. To the town council and town, county and HUD officials, you were an answer to prayer. To the wonderful

Executive Board of the Pantry, led by Paul Willis, how can thank you be enough for all your hard work, late nights, 100's of e-mails, and meetings upon meetings?

As we continue to serve the citizens of Gorham, we can promise you that no one is turned away from our door and each household that comes to us is treated with dignity and respect.

I am in awe of the support the Pantry has received over the last 11 years. The compassion that is shown by the town of Gorham is matched in very few places. We are blessed with a very caring town and its people.

I cannot say anything else except "Thank You."

*Fran Thurston Doucette
Director, Gorham Ecumenical Food Pantry*

NEWS FROM AUGUSTA

Supporting Long-Term and Community-Based Care

Phil Bartlett

Maine's population is one of the oldest in the country, and it is getting older. Now, more than ever, our state needs cost effective services. Limited resources make it even more important to enhance services that are critical to our citizens who want to remain in their homes and communities. Our proportion of elderly residents is expected to continue to grow, creating a demand for the expansion of services for elderly and disabled citizens.

One way to improve these services is to expand home and community-based care, which is less-costly to the State than residential care or nursing facility care. Not only do such services save us money and time, they also help people do what they want: to stay at home as long as possible.

Last Fall I was honored to co-chair, alongside Senator Margaret Craven of Lewiston, the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Long-Term Home-Based and Community-Based Care. The 11-member commission, which included legislators from both parties and representatives from the medical and nursing communities, was charged with developing a blueprint for the expansion of home and community-based services in our state.

The commission held comprehensive meetings and received input from all of the affected stakeholders, including care-providers, consumers and advocates for senior citizens. Through that process we developed concrete recommendations that are contained in a Bill that I am co-sponsoring with Senator Craven.

The Bill would create a unified budget for long term care services and supports for the elderly and adults with physical disabilities, and specifically funds aging and disability resource centers in the Area Agencies on Aging, family caregiver support services, and social services such as Meals on Wheels. Significantly, the bill would reduce waiting lists for home and community-based services, which have been growing and could skyrocket in years to come. The bill would also provide funding for essential home and community-based services.

These proposals were made unanimously by our bi-partisan commission and will save Maine money in the long-run. It is important for the Legislature to act on these measures. They bring greater fiscal discipline to our health care system, but most important - they will allow people to get the care they need in the comfort of their own home.

Sen. Phil Bartlett
(207) 839-7827, 1-800-423-6900
phil@philbartlett.com
Rep. Jane Knapp
(207) 839-3880, 1-800-423-2900
RepJane.Knapp@legislature.maine.gov
Rep. Linda Sanborn
(207) 839-4664, 1-800-423-2900
RepLinda.Sanborn@legislature.maine.gov



quick clicks

Around Town

■ **Bruce Rouillard and Duane Dreger have bought the IOOF building** (corner of School Street and College Avenue). Once renovations are completed, they and plan to use it as an Ethical Leadership Development Center.

■ **Vacancies remain on the Cable Television Committee**, Recycling Committee, and Board of Assessment Review Committee. If you are interested in volunteering your time to any of these committees please contact the Town Office at 222-1671.

■ **The Tree House Café is closed** due to construction debris and plans to re-open as soon as possible.

■ **Unemployment figures for Jan. 2009 was 5.9% for Gorham** compared to Jan. 2008 when it was 3.5%. The family poverty rate is 5.1%.

The Gorham Times welcomes two new Board members



David Willis and Katie O'Brien recently joined the Gorham Times Board of Directors.

Willis, a lifetime Gorham Resident is currently employed at Willis Real Estate. He is involved in many local activities and serves on the Gorham Business and Civic Exchange Board of Directors. He is the Chair person for their Golf Scramble and has coached Gorham Rec. Basketball 5/6th Grade and Gorham Travel Basketball 6th grade. Willis received a Business degree from UMO, is on the Portland Board of Realtors and is a member of First Parish Congregational Church.

O'Brien is Vice President & CFO - Casco Federal Credit Union, the owner of Mighty Key Consulting and is also on the Board of Directors for Gorham Business and Civic Exchange where she co-chaired the Gorham Marketplace 2009 and was treasurer of New Year Gorham. O'Brien received a Bachelor of Science in Business from USM and a CUNA Management Business Degree from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She is a member of the Credit Union National Association and is a Certified Financial Counselor. Married to Dennis O'Brien, they live in Gorham and have one daughter, Bailey.

Gorham Times

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Project Blessing

Jackie Francis



Photo Credit Peggy MacWilliams

The Project Blessing trailer located at the LifeChurch holds some of the many home basics needed for making the transition from homeless to having a home. This project requires many volunteer hours and support since the goods turn over quickly.

Homelessness does not discriminate. Children, as well as the elderly, are all part of the astounding statistics that make up the population of the dispossessed in Maine. On any given night in the Portland area alone, estimates show over 300 are people homeless. Recognizing this crisis, LifeChurch, a non-denominational Christian church in Gorham, chooses to be part of the solution by connecting with the needy through their mission called Project Blessing. This volunteer organization provides "home basics to individuals and families making a transition from homelessness to housing," says volunteer coordinator Peggy MacWilliams.

Project Blessing was the brainchild of church member Karen Evans, a life-long advocate for the homeless. Evans recognized a "gap in the system," says MacWilliams, and presented her idea to the church eight years ago and the mission was formed. "There are agencies that provide food and shelter for the homeless, but there's also a need for costly everyday household items when moving from a shelter to an apartment," says MacWilliams.

Project Blessing has approximately 50 volunteers working from a trailer located behind the church. The 10 x 40 foot trailer is constantly being restocked, organized and replenished with donated household items. Some of these donations are clean sheets and blankets from area hotels that have to be sized, re-folded and labeled by volunteers, while many dishes, plates, pots and pans are purchased or donated from various yard sales. MacWilliams says many volunteers choose to do the "leg work" for the mission by shopping these sales all year long. Bottles of dish soap and shampoo, razors and toothbrushes are often purchased in bulk from area discount stores.

Each week volunteers pack boxes to fill the 'wish lists' provided by case managers from over 20 social service agencies in the greater Portland area. 'Wish lists' can include kitchen items varying from can openers to frying pans, bath basics ranging from toilet paper to shower curtains and bed

basics such as pillows and blankets. Food and clothing are not accepted for donation due to time and space constraints.

Helping an average of 10 families per week, Project Blessing receives no government funding and relies solely

on the generosity of donations. Consumable goods such as dish soap, deodorant, shampoo and paper towel are always in demand along with towels and pillows. "Project Blessing has drawn in volunteers from all walks of life," says MacWilliams, "and it's gratifying to help where there is a real need."

Project Blessing believes in the overall message of the Bible: Love the Lord and love your neighbor. If you would like to donate gently used or new items, contact Peggy MacWilliams at 636-7370 or projectblessing@hotmail.com or LifeChurch at 839-6354 (located on Elkins Road in Gorham).

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Excessive Force Charge Sustained Against Gorham Officer

Sheri Faber

Adeliberating for seven hours, a federal jury found that Gorham Police Officer Michael Coffin used excessive force in arresting Steven Johnson following a traffic stop in January 2006. The jury also found that Officer Dean Hannon committed assault and battery against Johnson but only awarded \$5,000 in compensatory damages and \$10,000 in punitive damages against Coffin. Officers Michael Nault and Benjamin Moreland were found not guilty of all charges.

On the night of January 18, 2006, Officer Coffin pulled over a car driven by Donald Spearin, Jr. following a brief chase. Coffin arrested Spearin for OUI and handcuffed him and put him in the cruiser. Coffin testified that Johnson, who was known to the police, had interfered with his arrest of Spearin and that Johnson had swung at him and had punched Officer Hannon in the eye. Neither of these actions by Johnson was within range of the video camera which was running in the cruiser. Two other officers, Nault and Moreland arrived on the scene and all four struggled to subdue Johnson. Johnson denied hitting any of the officers and said his actions while on the ground were only to protect himself. Attorney Edward Benjamin, who represented the officers, may renew a motion he made during the trial asking the Judge, U.S. Magistrate John Rich, to rule for the officers as a matter of law saying they should have been entitled to qualify for immunity, as police officers have leeway in making judgments in situations that require split second decision making.

This is the first excessive force

complaint to go to trial since Chief Ron Shepard took office in 1995. Chief Shepard and Lt. Chris Sanborn reviewed the videotape which shows the officers striking Johnson but also shows that Johnson is resisting arrest throughout the incident. There will be no consequences for any of the four officers from the Gorham PD as Shepard and Sanborn concluded they were acting within Gorham Police Department policy. Maine Municipal Association, which serves as an insurer for Maine towns, will pay the compensatory damages and the legal fees for Johnson's lawyers. Officer Coffin will be responsible for the \$10,000 in punitive damages unless there is a successful appeal.

At the time of Johnson's arrest, he was charged with two counts of assault, refusing to submit to arrest and obstructing governmental administration. Johnson entered a plea of Nolo Contendere to refusing to submit to arrest. A Nolo Contendere plea means he neither admitted nor disputed the charges but entering this plea has the same effect as pleading guilty. Had he pled guilty to the charges, it might have negatively impacted this suit. Gorham Police have no record of Johnson having sustained any documented injuries in the incident.

Chief Shepard noted that "I realize that the jury had a tough job to do but I don't think they recognized the difficulty of restraining a person who is struggling and resisting arrest". He expressed his disappointment that all four officers were not exonerated.

CHIEF SHEPARD REPORTS Gorham Police Department Applies for Stimulus Grants



The Gorham Police Department is applying for funds from two stimulus grants. One would provide approximately \$42,000 in funds for the purchase of public safety equipment. The second for approximately \$180,000 would fund the costs of an officer (salary and benefits) for three years with the community guaranteeing the officer's salary for the fourth year.

The Grand Jury made the following indictments in February and March: Amanda Payne, 27, of Buxton was charged with aggravated forgery and being a habitual offender by the Gorham PD; Lourdes Watson-Carter, 30,

of Gorham was charged with theft (with priors) by Westbrook PD; Christopher Jensen, 24, of Gorham was charged with possession of Oxycodone by Westbrook PD; Kristin Johnson, 40, of Gorham was charged with theft by Portland PD; Clifford Perkins, 25 was charged with 6 counts of burglary, 6 counts of thefts (with priors), 2 counts of theft by receiving (with priors) and forgery by the Windham and Gorham PD's. He was also charged with burglary, theft and criminal mischief by the Cumberland County Sheriff's office.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT APRIL 3, 2009

Concerns with Route 114 Speed Limit

Christine Ludwiczak

The March 3 meeting kicked off with an open forum for the public. Hans Hansen took advantage, expressing his gratitude to Public Works for their efforts on sidewalk and roadway cleanup.

Rich Johnson, 24 Laurel Pines, spoke as well, stating his concern with the 50 mph speed limit along Route 114. He noted safety being an issue particularly after Weeks Road, going toward the bypass, and would like the town to review further.

Several items were addressed during the meeting:

- Councillor Miner reported on the Finance Committee's February meeting. He confirmed that the audit is complete; non-tax revenue is down and revenue sharing is on track. Building permits and interest on investments are down though, and currently there is an approximate \$200,000 gap in the 2009/2010 fiscal year budget with flat funding.
- The Secretary of State's office has certified four referendums that will go out to voters in November. One of those referendums, the excise tax referendum, would cost in excess of \$1 million to the Town of Gorham.
- Susan Gendron reported on the stimulus package. She explained that the current concern in Augusta is all this money will go toward jobs, instead of money saving items, leaving a signifi-

cant gap between what is available come 2011.

- School Committee Chairman, Dennis Libby, provided an update of the budget development process, as well as how the federal stimulus package may impact the town.
- Councillor Moulton reported that the Capital Improvements Committee met in February, and have placed items on the April agenda to help make Gorham Village more pedestrian and parking friendly.
- The Council voted to declare, as policy, all Gorham Town recreation fields, parks and playgrounds free of tobacco, and in addition, that proper signage stating so be posted.
- The Council approved a new liquor license for Tree House Café/Church Banquet Center, as well as the renewal of the liquor license for Gorham Country Club.
- Also approved was order to eliminate the Middle School Facilities Impact Fee from the Land Use and Development Code, pending amendments to the proposal.

To view additional items addressed or results from this meeting in its entirety, please visit the Town of Gorham website at www.gorham-me.org/Public_Documents for posted minutes, or view on local access television, GoCAT channel 3.

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SENIOR CARE

Stepping Safely into Spring

Bill Jenks

Assault and other forms of violence against the elderly get a lot of media attention these days, but falls, usually in the senior's own home or yard, are the leading cause of fatal and nonfatal injury in persons 65 years and older.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention reported that in 2005, about 5.8 million persons over the age of 65 fell. Of those, about 1.8 million required treatment in an emergency room, and more than 433,000 were hospitalized. The same CDC report showed that nearly 16,000 people over 65 died as the result of injuries from a fall.

Falls are also the number one reason for admission to a skilled nursing facility. Even when such injuries are minor, they can seriously affect older adults' quality of life by inducing a fear of falling, which can lead to self-imposed activity restrictions, social isolation, and depression.

The good news is that by paying attention to exercise, medications, vision and home safety, the risk of life-altering falls may be reduced.

Lack of exercise leads to muscle weakness which increases the risk of falling in a vicious cycle in which lack of exercise makes it all the more difficult to begin to exercise. Resistance can be high ("I don't need this"), motivation low ("I don't want this") and personal supervision is often required ("I forgot to do it"). Exercises in Tai Chi or yoga that improve balance and coordination are thought to be very helpful.

Some medications can make people sleepy, dizzy or otherwise mentally impaired. Therefore, all medications need to be reviewed with one's doctor to see whether they are current and necessary and whether they have any potential impact on mental and physical function. Since multiple doctors are often involved, a good approach is to take all medications, including over-the-counter and dietary herbs and supplements, to a trusted pharmacist to be checked not only for obvious neurological impact but also for potential drug interactions.

Poor vision, a common impairment as we age, is an obvious contributor to the risk of falling. Eyes must be checked regularly not only for visual acuity, but also for glaucoma, cataracts, diabetes, high blood pressure and other serious conditions. Don't overlook bright lighting, well-distributed throughout the living space.

Last, but by no means least, is home safety. Some hazards can be eliminated through a one-time fix and some require ongoing monitoring. For many seniors, one of the biggest problems is clutter. It's easy to trip over papers, books, magazines, clothing, shoes and anything else that may be left on the floor. These hazards require frequent attention. Small

throw rugs are another potential problem and should either be removed or fixed to the floor (with double-sided tape for example) so they don't move, bunched up or slip on a smooth surface. Non-slip mats in the bathroom and shower are critical as are grab bars.

Falls may seem to be relatively benign, but clearly, they can have serious consequences, especially for older adults. A little awareness and vigilance can go a long way toward reducing fall risk. Good information can be found in resources like the Southern Maine Agency on Aging's "Matter of Balance" and Gentiva Health Services' "Safe Strides" fall prevention programs.

For more information about Home Instead Senior Care, contact Bill Jenks at 839-0441 or visit www.homeinstead.com.



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Photo credit: Leslie Dupuis

Lauren Cunningham, a senior at GHS, has been selected to receive the 2009 Principal's Award. The award, sponsored by the Maine Principals' Association, is given in recognition of a high school senior's academic achievement and citizenship.

Principal Chris Record commented, "Lauren is an outstanding student and leader at Gorham High School. She holds numerous leadership positions in multiple student organizations and she carries a high GPA. However, most importantly, she is a kind person to all students and staff. She is a tremendous role model and I am so proud to honor her in this way."

Lauren will attend an Honors Luncheon at the Spectacular Event Center in Bangor on April 4 with other honorees and their principals. During the luncheon, the students will be recognized with the presentation of an individual plaque and the awarding of five \$1,000 scholarships in the names of Horace O. McGowan and Richard W. Tyler, former Maine principals and executive directors of the Association.

The Principal's Award is presented in more than 140 Maine public and private high schools by member principals of the MPA, the professional association which represents Maine's school administrators.

Local Students Selected for Honors Band

Leslie Dupuis

GMS is pleased to announce that the following eighth-grade students have been chosen to participate in the John Philip Sousa National Honors Bands (New England Region) at The Bromfield School in Harvard, MA on April 23-25: Shea Ahearn, trumpet; Arthur Lockman, trombone; Justin Reyes, euphonium; Michael Sullivan, Jr., baritone saxophone

The festival is open to the most outstanding woodwind, brass, and percussion players from Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont in grades 7-12.

Over 1,200 schools in New England were invited to recommend students for this special event and approximately 250 students were selected from the many applications received.

The John Philip Sousa Foundation offers many dynamic programs to support the cause of wind band music around the country. The National Honors Band program has been in existence for many years and has created outstanding opportunities for some



Photo credit: Mike Ahearn

GMS Honors Band: (l to r) Michael Sullivan, Jr., Justin Reyes, GMS Band Director Kim Mathieu, Shea Ahearn and Arthur Lockman are on their way to Harvard, MA during April vacation.

of the most competent high school musicians to come together and make music in the finest band setting. The

weekend festivities will conclude with a concert on April 25 at 3:00 pm. FMI www.worldpath.net/~treynold/sousa/

Free Refresher Math Course

Mary Whited

Parents of elementary school-aged children usually feel secure helping their children with math assignments. However, as children advance, parents often become less confident in their ability to help their children.

To provide an extra boost of confidence, Sylvan Learning is offering a free refresher workshop entitled, "Forgotten Math for Parents," for parents, grandparents and extended family members wishing to restore their math skills.

"Many parents want to help their children with math homework, but when they sit down and work with

their child, they do not feel comfortable with their own skill level or have forgotten key math concepts that are necessary for their child's academic success," says Anthea Thorpe, Director of the Sylvan Learning in South Portland "Understanding math is crucial to a child's success, as mastering algebraic concepts inherently leads to success in high school mathematics and eventual success in college and a career. The 'Forgotten Math for Parents' seminar will help adults revive their long-lost math skills so they can become a better resource for their children during homework time."

This interactive, 75-minute seminar

will review key math concepts introduced in 6th through 8th grade. Participants can choose areas they need to review. Whether it is learning how to use a graphing calculator or brushing up on exponents, linear equations or fractions, there will be a pre-algebra or algebra station to fit your needs. Additionally, each participant will be given a listing of math resources to help your child conquer his or her math homework. The event will be taped by the community access TV station (GoCAT) and played later for those who cannot attend.

The seminar will be held April 9, 7 - 8:30 p.m. at the Gorham Municipal Center conference room. To register, or FMI, contact South Portland Sylvan Learning at 773-6424. For directions to the Gorham Municipal Center contact the Gorham Recreation Dept at 222-1630.

Child Development Services of Cumberland County conducts screening of children suspected of having a disability who may require special education services on an ongoing basis. If you, or families with whom you work, would like to refer a child for screening, please contact:

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Recognized for Volunteer Service

Debbie Stirling



Jason Badeau, a junior at GHS, has been honored for his exemplary volunteer service with a state-level Certificate of Excellence from the 2009 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program. Presented annually by Prudential Financial, in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), this award honors young people across America for outstanding community service activities. Jason's volunteer activities were judged to be in the top 10% in the State of Maine.

Jason also received a President's Volunteer Service Award from the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation. This award recognizes Americans who have volunteered significant amounts of their time to serve their communities and their country.

Jason earned both awards as a result of his local leadership efforts in the GHS Key Club and his regional leadership efforts in raising money for the Kiwanis Operation Holiday Cheer program.

"Jason is an outstanding young man. He is an excellent example for students and staff at GHS. We are proud of him," said Principal Chris Record.

ROAD FUNDING FROM PAGE 1

Gorham Town Manager David Cole commented, "With federal funding continuing to dry up on these roads, it basically means that in the future these roads are either going to deteriorate significantly or the tax payers in Gorham will have to take on a much, much larger share of the costs unless the federal government reverses itself and starts accepting responsibility for essentially their road network."

Cole also expressed concern for all road funding explaining that, "Traditionally road funding comes from the gas tax, but with Mainer's driving more fuel efficient cars the tax collected for repairs and rebuilding is going to shrink even more." Of Gorham's 3.1 miles of Collector roads that need rehabilitation, the estimated cost is \$6.4 million dollars, averaging \$2.06 million per mile. The 3.1 miles makes up only up only 2.2% of all of Gorham's 141 miles of roads.

Only 6% of the Economic Recovery money went toward transportation and of that very little went to Maine as it is ranked 48th in the nation for road funding.

BERKE FROM PAGE 1

A second search warrant obtained by GPD specifically authorized the seizure of 25 video tapes which were reviewed by Det. Dana Thompson. The tapes documented Berke in a variety of criminal acts and he was re-arrested and has been incarcerated ever since. Berke had videotaped himself sexually abusing two children, ages four and seven. Among the items recovered from the residence were memory cards, thumb drives, cameras, floppy disks, hundreds of DVD's and videotapes, negatives and film along with a 500 milliliter bottle of chloroform.

Thompson worked with many members of the Gorham PD on this case including Sgt. Robert Mailman, Det. Lawrence Fearon, Det. Sears Edwards and Officers Michael Coffin, Brent Frank, Todd Gagnon, Dean Hannon, Ted Hatch, Robert Henckel and Brian Key as the amount of material that needed to be reviewed was so extensive.

Thompson, now a Sgt. with the Gorham PD, advises families that "the world our children live in today is not the world their parents lived in. Predators like Berke are actively seeking children in every single community

across America. They have trained themselves in skills, trickery and deceit in order to lure, deceive and prey upon children in our communities. Pay attention people...your children are in danger."



Jeff Vischan
SVP, Director of
Bank Administration

Q: How do banks set interest rates, and why are they different?

A: Banking is much like a manufacturing plant that purchases raw materials, creates a product, calculates the costs to manufacture that product, adds in a profit margin and then sells the product.

Banking's "raw material" is money, which is generated through various types of deposit accounts. With these deposits, banks then make various types of loans to consumers and businesses. The pricing for these loans is determined by combining a fair price for the deposit, overhead cost to operate the bank, and a profit margin.

Generally, banks will pay depositors higher rates for longer term deposits (CD's), and conversely charge borrowers higher rates for longer term loans due to the risk of fluctuating interest rates over time.

Banks also typically have varying types of overhead expenses—personnel, buildings, technology, etc. Those that can best minimize operating expenses are usually able to gain pricing advantages for their customers.

Profit margins will also affect customer pricing, based upon the profit objectives of the bank. Large banks that are owned by stockholders are expected to generate acceptable profits for their shareholders. Smaller mutual community banks, such as Saco & Biddeford Savings, have no stockholders and are therefore able to often offer better rates to their customers.

These are just a few of the factors that determine pricing of banking products. We also encourage you to look beyond price when selecting a bank as your financial partner. While pricing is a major consideration, you should also choose a bank that is committed to service, convenience and trust.

For more information about this or any other banking topic, please call or visit us at one of our convenient locations, or contact us via email at askthebanker@sbsavings.com.



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sports

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GHS Winter Athletic Achievement Awards



Girls and Boys Basketball: Front row from left to right: Mia Rappola (Most Valuable Player), Kayleigh Ballantyne (Coaches Award), and Kristi Brown (Most Improved Player). Back row: Mason Roy (Best Defensive Player), Ryan Luxton (Most Improved Player) and Ben Moody (Coaches Award).

Photo Credit Bruce MacLeod



Girls and Boys Hockey: Front row from left to right: Ashley Martin (Most Valuable Player), Caitlin Caldwell (Most Dedicated Player), and Kat Whitehead (Most Improved Player). Back row: Tim Hardy (Most Improved Player), David Gushee (Most Valuable Player), and Ian Ryan (Coaches Award).

Photo Credit Bruce MacLeod



Girls and Boys Track: Front row from left to right: Rachel Wilkinson (Outstanding Performer), Kelsey Rex (Most Improved), and Emily Southard (Most Improved). Back row: Justin Bolinger (Coaches Award), Mike Greatorex (Most Improved), and Cam Stevens (Most Valuable).

Photo Credit Bruce MacLeod



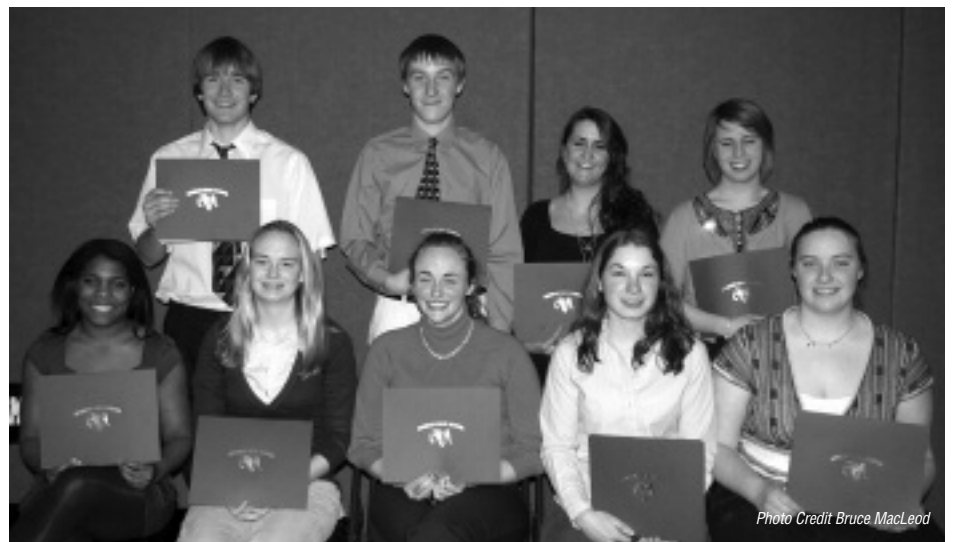
Skiing and Cheering: Left to right: Jennie Wiacek (Top Female Skier), Tom Moutinho (Top Male Skier) and Allie Platts (Coaches Award). Missing from photo were Coaches Award recipients for Cheering—Thea Bass and Chandra Wilson.

Photo Credit Bruce MacLeod



GHS Winter Sports SMAA All-Conference Awards: Front row, from left to right: Kelsey Rex, Girls Track (All-Conference in the Open Two Mile); Rachel Wilkinson, Girls Track (All-Conference in the Senior 800, Open 600 and Open 1 Mile); Mia Rapolla, Girls Basketball (All-Rookie Team); Taylor Sullivan, Girls Skiing, (All-Conference); Jennie Wiacek, Girls Skiing (All-Conference); and Siobhan Bolinger, Girls Track (All-Conference Senior Shot Put). Back row: Zach Spiers, Boys Basketball (All-Rookie Team); David Gushee, Boys Hockey (All-Conference); Alex Graves, Boys Basketball (Honorable Mention); Spencer Violette, Boys Hockey (Honorable Mention); Justin Bahr, Boys Hockey (All-Conference); Missing are Cam Stevens, Boys Track (All-Conference 400 meters – set state record with time of 54.2); Carissa Dvilinsky, Cheering (All-Conference); Chandra Wilson, Cheering (Second Team); Shanice Mitchell, Cheering (Second Team); Ashley Martin, Girls Hockey (Second Team); and Caitlin Caldwell, Girls Hockey (Second Team).

Photo Credit Bruce MacLeod



GHS Winter Sports SMAA All-Academic Awards: Front row, from left to right: Thea Bass, Cheering; Ashley Martin, Girls Hockey; Chelsea Clark, Girls Skiing; Jennie Wiacek, Girls Skiing; and Siobhan Bolinger, Girls Track. Back row: Garrick Adolf, Boys Skiing; Justin Bolinger, Boys Track; Allie Platts, Girls Skiing; and Julianne Farrar, Girls Skiing. Missing: Brianna Holloran, Girls Hockey. Missing from photo are Rachel Fogarty, Girls Basketball; Luke Van de Krol, Boys Skiing; Chris Sawtelle, Boys Track. Missing from the photo are Cam Stevens, Boys Track (All-Conference 400 meters – set state record with time of 54.2); Carissa Dvilinsky, Cheering (All-Conference); Chandra Wilson, Cheering

Photo Credit Bruce MacLeod

in the Zone

All-State Honors: Juniors Cam Stevens and Rachel Wilkinson were named to the Maine Sunday Telegram All-State Boys and Girls Indoor Track teams respectively. Stevens was named to the team's Middle Distance category by setting a state record in the Class A 400 meters. He also ran the anchor leg of the GHS 800 meter relay team, which also took first at the Class A State Meet. Wilkinson was named to the team in Distance category for her second-place finish in the Class A mile and third-place finish in the Class A two-mile. She was also Maine's highest finisher in the one mile at the New England track championships.

College Student-Athlete: Emma Deans (GHS '07), a sophomore on the University of Maine at Farmington field hockey team, was named to the National Field Hockey Coaches Association Division III National Academic Squad. The squad recognizes those student-athletes who have achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.30 or higher through the first semester of the 2008-09 academic year.

Snowboarders to Compete in National Championship. Two local snowboarders, GHS freshman Cortlandt Dunn (at right, bottom) and 8th grade student Alex McCarthy (at right, top) have qualified for and will compete in the USASA National Championship held at Copper Mt., CO.

Dunn, who is currently ranked #2 in Maine, will compete in the Youth Men Boarder Cross. McCarthy is also ranked #2 in Maine in the Breaker Boys Boarder Cross and #3 in Maine for Slopestyle and will compete in both events.



Photos credit Wolf Boarding Photos

Alex McCarthy



Cortlandt Dunn in the lead on right.

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A Free For All



Photo Credit Anthony Alfiero

Several Gorham students from grades four through nine participated in the annual Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest that took place at GHS in January. One of the winners, sixth-grader Abigail Hamilton, went onto to win the regional contest as well as the State title. Appearing in the picture at left are all of the Gorham winners, from left to right: Jeanette Villanueva, Abby Hamilton, Phil Holmes, Steve Burns, Dennis Cloutier, Elliot Spiers and Ryan Berton.

SCHOOL FROM PAGE 1

impact fees resulting in a revenue loss of \$200,000 for the district. In addition, there will be no increase in the mill rate from FY09 to FY10.

There will be variables for the FY10 budget until the Department of

Education determines how much GPA will be available to the district (late March). It is also unknown how much Stimulus Package money will be available.

Details are still being worked out. The School Committee is expected to make a decision at their next meeting, April 8, 7 p.m. Additionally, the School

Committee reviewed plans for an extended-day kindergarten program to provide additional help to students in certain learning areas. Gorham is also in the early stages of exploring a pre-kindergarten program for 4 year-olds.

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community



LEIGH and SARA ESTY (GHS '04) stood in disbelief and euphoria after they danced on the New York City Ballet stage for the most critical audiences in the world. "A life-long dream was fulfilled," said mom, Jane Esty. Through tearful eyes, the girls talked about the rush they felt, the celebrities they met, and confidence they gained throughout the week-long experience. Residing in Miami Beach, FL., the Esty twins have been employed by Miami City Ballet since 2005 touring the country and the state of Florida.

of interest

Gorham Adult Education will offer a Boating Safety Course which meets requirements for state and national certification, on Tuesdays, April 7 thru May 26. \$45 for 7 sessions. An Ornamental Gardening Basics class is offered on April 6 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. \$10 fee. FMI, 222-1095 or www.gorham.maineadulted.org/

The Gorham Lions Club will hold a 5K Road Race in downtown Gorham on Saturday, April 4 starting with a one-mile race for kids at 8:30 a.m. followed by a 5K race for teens and adults at 9 a.m. \$15 registration fee. Proceeds will benefit community scholarships. FMI, 839-6349.

Gorham High School will host this year's Masterwork Concert at the MPAC featuring the GHS Chamber Singers along with five local high school chamber choirs on April 4 at 4 p.m. Vivaldi's Gloria will be performed. \$5 admission.

There will be a Hand Crafting Justice Sale of Fair Trade handcrafts and gifts on, April 4 from 9-2 p.m. and April 5 from 12-2 p.m. at First Parish Congregational Church, Route 114, Gorham.



ASHEY EARL (GHS '11), received two platinum awards for her lyrical solos at the Turn it Up Dance Competition held recently in Massachusetts. A sophomore at Gorham High School, Earl dances four days a week at the Dance Studio of Maine and received High Score for the overall competition.

Pine Tree # 27 Masonic Order of Eastern Star (OES) will hold an open installation of officers April 6, 7:30 p.m. at the Masonic Hall on Cressey Road in Gorham. All are welcome. FMI, 839-3209.

The Gorham Woman's Club will meet on Thursday, April 9 at 12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the First Parish Congregational Church. Refreshments served, followed by program and meeting. This month's program includes GHS Art Show and Youth Leadership Conference. All guests are welcome. FMI, call Marie Woodbrey 839-4213.

The Baxter Memorial Library is honored to announce that the family of the late Eleanor Van Voorhis (1924-2008) has donated much of her collection of gardening books to the Baxter Memorial Library. This wonderful collection will be on display at the library during the month of April. FMI, 839-5031.

Rock-Off 25 Nineteen original high school bands from across Maine competed in the final Rock-Off contest in hopes of winning \$1,000 and grabbing the ultimate Rock-Off title of "Best Young Band in the State of Maine." A Gorham High School Band "Crossed Out" was one of the five finalist picked to perform in the Rock-Off Showcase on April 19 at the McAuley Performing Arts



Gorham businesses teamed up at the recent Portland Flower Show and won 4 awards including "Best Of Show." The winning exhibit, "The Nourishing Journey, From the Mountain to the Sea," was as a partnership between Landmarcs Landscaping and O'Donal's Nursery. This was the second time Landmarcs has won "Best Of Show" Award and the first time for O'Donal's. Inset: (l to r) Irene Brady Barber of O'Donal's Nursery, Marc Herrick of Landmarcs Inc., and Jeff O'Donal of O'Donal's Nursery.

Center, Portland. Crossed Out is fine-tuning their stage presentation and getting their act together but they need your help. To vote for Crossed Out, text "crossout" to 21321.

Easter Services 2009 services. Visit www.gorhamtimes.com/html/other.html#easter for a full list, services, and other information. Anchor Missionary Fellowship, Cressey Road United Methodist Church, First Parish Congregational Church, UCC, Galilee Baptist Church, Grace Bible Church, LifeChurch, Little Falls Baptist Church, Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, St. Ann's Episcopal Church, St. Anne's Catholic Church, South Gorham Baptist Church, United Church of Christ at North Gorham, West Gorham Union Church.

GHS SPRING CLEAN UP & BOTTLE DRIVE by GHS Track and Field Program, along all major roads in Gorham with bottle drop-offs being brought to GHS. Sat. 4/11 9am - noon. Funds raised will be used to buy new uniforms and warm-ups. Families could also place bottles/ cans at the end of driveways or drop off at GHS between 9 and noon. FMI Jason Tanguay, 222-1100 or jason_tanguay@gorham.k12.me.us

BENEFIT FOR MICHAUD FAMILY A benefit dance/silent auction will be held on Saturday, April 25th at Your Space, Route 202, Gorham to assist the family of Ann Letarte-Michaud. In February of this year Ann was diagnosed with Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, a very rare degenerative neurologic disease. Ann lost her fight against this disease on March 24th, but we can help win the battle. A portion of the proceeds from this event will go to the Cure CJD Foundation to support research of this devastating disease. We are still seeking



The following BFA students in the USM Art Department will display their work at the USM Art Gallery for this year's senior thesis exhibit April 17-May 10: **COLIN FEENEY**, digital art and printmaking; **TOM PLACEY**, drawing and painting; **DEVIN PLATTS**, painting and **ANDREW COFFIN**, painting and sculpture. Opening Reception, April 17, 6 p.m. Gallery hours are 11-4 p.m., Tues-Fri. and 1-5 p.m., Sat. and Sun. Admission is free. FMI, 780-5008.

donations for the silent auction. Tickets are \$15 each. BYOB. Ice and light snacks will be provided. For tickets or to make a donation please contact: Judy Boucher, 839-2878, or Michelle Dame, 642-2215.

The Bill Bennett Silent Art Auction Mr. Bennett was a math teacher at GHS, who passed away from cancer, after battling the disease fiercely. Donations are welcome, including artwork. April 16, 6:30-9:00 p.m., Gorham High School auditorium. All proceeds go to benefit this scholarship fund. Additional donations: please send to Gorham High School, 41 Morrill Avenue, Gorham ME, 04038 ATTN: Susan McCarthy.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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Fraternity to Hold Bone Marrow Drive

Delta Chi—A Year of Community Service Bradley Grady

Over the past year, the brothers of the Delta Chi Fraternity, Gorham State Chapter, have been busy with service projects throughout the community, and are planning more events for the upcoming spring.

Last spring they held a Bone Marrow Drive in association with DKMS America (a German based bone marrow lab) and the Save Giovanni Foundation at USM's Gorham campus. Over 120 donors participated which is six times greater than the national average. A second drive is planned for April 23 from 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. in the Brooks Student Center on USM's Gorham campus and is open to the public.

In October, members participated in a three-mile walk hosted by the American Diabetes Association. The Delta Chi Fraternity was ranked 10th for most money raised to help find a cure for diabetes.

At Christmas the group worked with TD BankNorth to provide underprivileged children with Christmas gifts. With only a few days to spare, 20 kids had not yet found a sponsor to purchase Christmas gifts for them. Delta Chi adopted all 20 and bought toys from their lists.

The V Foundation for Cancer Research is the preferred charitable organization of the Delta Chi Fraternity. The local chapter has planned a 3 on 3 basketball tournament for May 2 at the USM Fieldhouse in Gorham. Of the money raised, 100% will be donated to the V Foundation. This tournament is open to everyone in the community.

Along with the community service, the Delta Chi brothers have not lost sight of the reason that they attend college. The Gorham State Chapter had nearly a 3.0 grade point average (B average) last semester. If you have any questions about community service

projects, or if you have a project that you may want the brothers of Delta Chi to participate in, contact: Thursdayscoming@msn.com.

COMMUNITY FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

dean's list

DEANNA MCLAUGHLIN (McAuley High School '08), has been named to the Dean's list at Stonehill College in Easton, MA. Majoring in political science, McLaughlin just returned from a HOPE mission trip to Honduras where she worked at an all girls school and medical clinic in Guatemala. McLaughlin is the daughter of Lisa McLaughlin and her husband Anthony Molodozon of Gorham.

close to home

Bar Mills Community Church in Buxton along with Southern Maine Agency on Aging will hold a training program for family caregivers of people with disorders causing dementia like Alzheimer's disease. Classes will be held Tuesdays: April 28, May 5, 12, 19, 26 and June 2 from 1:30 - 3:30 PM. There is no charge to participate. FMI, contact Kate Dulac, 1-800-427-7411 x558.

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the blotter

Main Street caller reported a male subject running down the road after shoplifting an item from a local store.

Samantha Drive caller advised a vehicle had been parked in front of their house for about 20 minutes. Vehicle had a flat tire and was waiting for AAA.

Lucina Terrace caller reported that their spouse was intoxicated and had refused to let them leave.

Preble Street caller reported an intoxicated male subject was threatening residents. Subject made threats to burn the building down and to return with guns.

Gray Road caller reported that they just woke up to find handprints on the window. There were no signs of forced entry and nothing was missing.

Cummings Road caller stated that their father was hollering at everyone for no reason and was creating a disturbance.

Mosher Road caller reported receiving two bad checks. Checks did not meet parameters for prosecution. Caller was advised what they needed to do.

Ossipee Trail caller reported that two male subjects were in the middle of the road arguing, in what appeared to be an incident of road rage.

Elkins Road caller reported a suspicious male subject carrying something.

Caller reported that while they were at the high school, a teen driver hit their vehicle and drove off.

Sebago Lake Road caller stated they were followed home early in the morning and upon going out later found a live bullet at the end of their driveway.

Libby Avenue caller reported a scam involving three goats they were selling through Craig's List.

Fort Hill Road caller reported that as it looked as if someone shot through their vehicle window, with the bullet going through the side window and out the windshield.

Officer assisted a taxi driver with intoxicated passenger who wouldn't leave the cab or pay the fare. There was some confusion as to the correct address at which to drop the passenger.

Longfellow Road caller requested to speak with an officer regarding damage done to the underside of their car when they ran over a bunch of snow that someone put in the road.

Caller reported that it appeared that a building near the river at Shaw Park had been broken into.

Massachusetts man was arrested on Preble Street for disorderly conduct and being minor possessing liquor.

Nicole's Way man was arrested on Dingley Spring Road and charged with eluding an officer, OUI, criminal speeding (30+ mph over the limit) and operating after suspension.

Following a traffic stop, a Pennsylvania man was arrested for furnishing liquor to a minor and possession of a suspended license.

Buxton man was arrested for OUI, violating conditions of release and operating after suspension.

Gray Road caller reported that they just woke up to find handprints on the window. There were no signs of forced entry and nothing was missing.

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on the calendar WHAT'S HAPPENING

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

■ USM Visual Arts Series with artist Lucinda Bliss, 1 p.m. Burnham Lounge, Robie-Andrews Hall, Gorham. Free and open to public. FMI, 780-5008.

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

■ Spring Supper at West Gorham Union Church, 5 p.m. \$7/\$4 under 12.
■ Hand Crafting Justice Sale, 9-2 p.m. First Parish Congregational Church.

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

■ Hand Crafting Justice Sale, 12-2 p.m. First Parish Congregational Church.

MONDAY, APRIL 6

■ Planning Board Meeting, 7 p.m. Municipal Center, 75 South St.
■ Parent Information Night for incoming fall Kindergarten class, 7 p.m., White Rock School. FMI, 222-1050.

TUESDAY, APRIL 7

■ Pre-School Story Time, ages 3-5 years, Baxter Memorial Library. FMI, 839-5031.
■ Free Tax Service for all ages, Baxter Memorial Library, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Returns are prepared by IRS certified consultants. FMI, 839-5031.
■ Town Council Meeting, 7 p.m., Municipal Center, 75 South St.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

■ School Committee Meeting, 7 p.m. Municipal Center, 75 South Street.

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

■ Baby and Me, ages 0-18 mos, Baxter Memorial Library. FMI, 839-5031.
■ Toddler Time, ages 18-36 mos, Baxter Memorial Library. FMI, 839-5031. ■ Gorham Woman's Club Meeting, 12:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall at First Parish Cong. Church. FMI, 839-4213.

FRIDAY, APRIL 10

■ Gorham/Westbrook TRIAD meeting, 9 a.m. at the Westbrook Public Safety Building. FMI, Officer Ted Hatch at 839-5581 ext. 279 or Officer Inger Cyr at 854-2531.

TUESDAY, APRIL 14

■ Pre-School Story Time, ages 3-5 years, Baxter Memorial Library. FMI, 839-5031.
■ Free Tax Service for all ages, Baxter Memorial Library, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Returns are prepared by IRS certified consultants. FMI, 839-5031.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

■ Baby and Me, ages 0-18 mos, Baxter Memorial Library. FMI, 839-5031.
■ Toddler Time, ages 18-36 mos, Baxter Memorial Library. FMI, 839-5031.
■ Kiwanis Club Lunch Meeting, Pinecrest Bed & Breakfast, Noon - 1 p.m. FMI, 839-8944.
■ Early Release for grades K-5

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

■ Conferences for grades K-5.
■ USM's BFA Exhibit opening reception, Art Gallery, Gorham Campus, 6 pm., Free and open to the public. FFMI, visit www.usm.maine.edu/gallery

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. Located in the portable building behind St. Anne's Church.

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- Empty trash



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- Hand wash, disinfect floors

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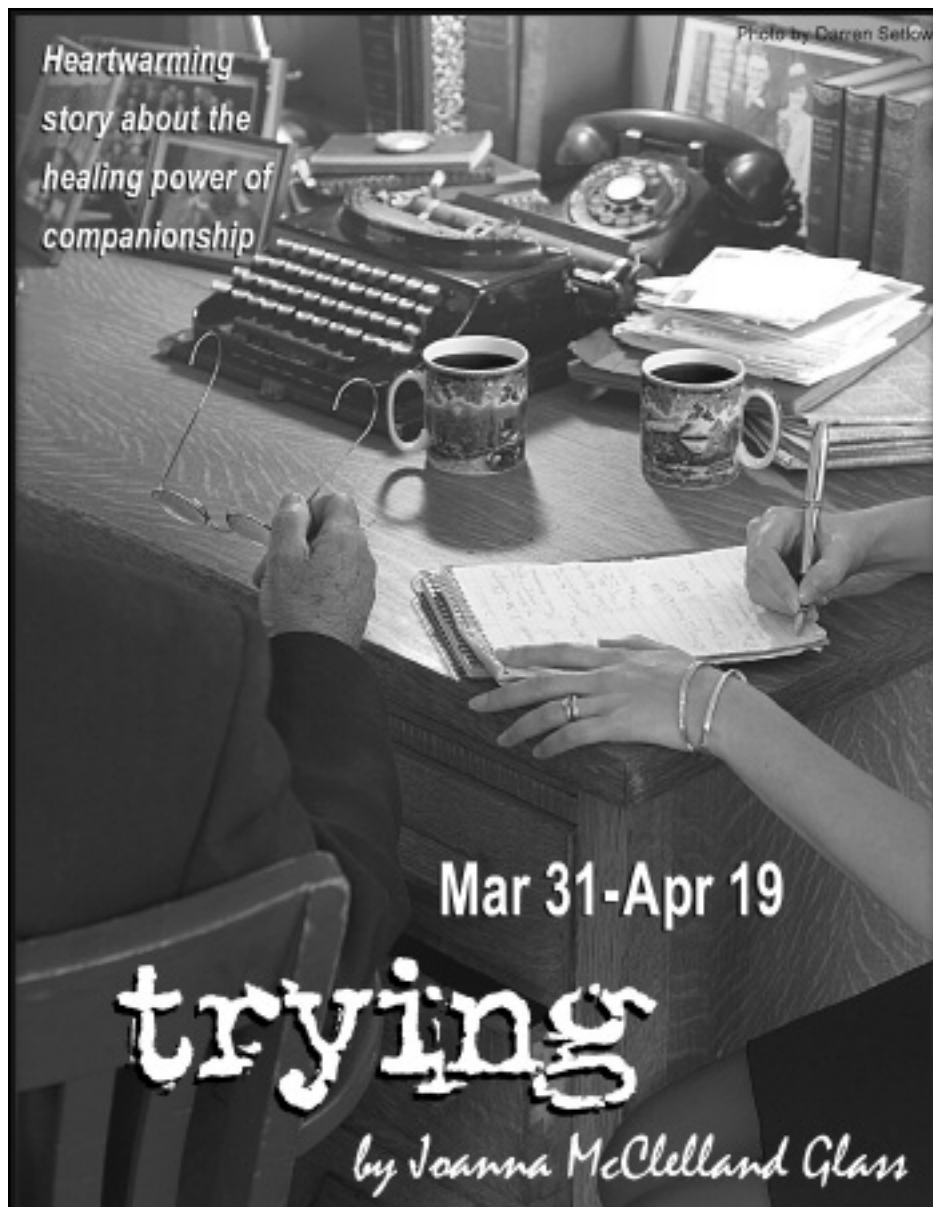
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