



Gorham Times

A FREE BIWEEKLY NEWSPAPER

VOLUME 17 NUMBER 4

TOWN OF
Gorham, Maine
—FOUNDED 1736—

FEBRUARY 18, 2011

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Reverse 911 System Used in Gorham

Bill Ambrose



Photo credit Bill Ambrose

Public Safety Software Specialist John Moran administers the Reverse 911 system for Cumberland County.

When gasoline was erroneously mixed with kerosene in the tanks of the Lampron Lil' Mart at the intersection of Routes 237 and 202, Gorham Fire Chief Bob Lefebvre knew it was imperative that purchasers were immediately warned about the potential risks of using the contaminated fuel. In addition to notifying the local radio and television stations, Lefebvre also set in motion the procedure known as Reverse 911.

Lefebvre credits the timely notification with averting a possible tragedy. Since gasoline is lighter than kerosene, it floats on the top of the mixture. Therefore, the heater or furnace using the mixture would draw the kerosene from the bottom of the tank first. Eventually, the appliance would begin to draw in the gasoline, resulting in a fire or explosion.

Reverse 911 is a targeted phone messaging system administered by the Cumberland County Regional

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Residents who do not have landline phones can register their cell phones to receive Reverse 911 calls by clicking "CityWatch Enrollment" at www.cumberlandcounty.org/ccrcc.

GHS Girls' Basketball Knocks-Off McAuley For First Time

Jeff Pike

After consecutive losses against South Portland and Sanford in late January, the GHS girls' basketball team went on a five-game winning streak. The crown jewel came February 5th in a 37-27 win over previously undefeated and top-ranked McAuley High School, a team that Gorham had never beaten since moving to Class A during the 2005-2006 season. After trailing by four points at the half, Gorham held the Lions to just seven points in the second half to earn the win.

Leading the way for the Rams all season has been senior Mia Rapolla who is second in the conference in scoring, first in steals, and among the lead leaders in rebounds, three-pointers and free-throw percentage. Rapolla was recognized at halftime of the McAuley game as one of nine Maine girls named to the McDonald's All-American High School Basketball Team. She was also named Player of the Week by the Portland Press-Herald

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



Photo credit Rich Obrey

Pure Joy: The GHS girls' basketball team celebrates after defeating McAuley High School, 37-27, February 5 at the GHS Gym. This was the first conference loss of the season for top-ranked McAuley, and it was first time the Rams had defeated the Lions since moving to Class A during the 2005-2006 season.

Blocked Front Door Problem for Rescue

Sheri Faber

In the early hours of February 12, an unoccupied house on Jane Street in the Sanborn subdivision that runs between Dingley Springs and Shaw's Mill roads was all but destroyed by fire. The unoccupied house, owned by a woman in Pennsylvania, had been leased to a family who moved out in early January. The next-door neighbor noticed the flames, but by the time the fire department arrived, the roof was caving in and fire was showing in every window on the second floor.

Following the burn pattern, it was determined that the fire started in a fluorescent light in the pantry area. Neighbors reported that some lights in the house had been left on. The house is very badly damaged; the two-car garage, the room above, and the ell were saved.

According to Chief Lefebvre, snow had not been cleared from the front door and other means of egress making firefighters unable to attack the fire immediately. Like many capes,

stairs leading to the second floor are by the front door. If access to the front door is blocked, anyone living there probably would not have been able to get out of the house. Chief Lefebvre pointed out that blocked entrances are also a problem for rescue personnel, as they often use the front door to get someone out on a stretcher. He recommends that in addition to any side entrances, residents make should ensure the front entrance is shoveled as well.

SAVE THE DATE

Gorham Founders Festival will be held during Memorial Day weekend, May 27 through May 30. The multi-day event will include concerts, performers, rides, and various local vendors. For more information, visit www.gorhamfoundersfestival.com.



Photo credit Martha T. Harris

Gorham Sightings

Do you know where this photo was taken? Become part of the new visual trivia discussion on Facebook (www.facebook.com/GorhamTimes). The location of the sighting from the 2/4 issue was the front door at White Rock School. Log on to Facebook to enter your best guess for this picture.

inside the Times

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www.gorhamtimes.com



NEWS FROM AUGUSTA

Available Credits and Programs Can Reduce Tax Bills

Sen. Phil Bartlett

As we head into the coldest month of the year, it is also time to brace ourselves for tax season. While it is rarely fun to fill out tax forms, the good news is that there are many available resources to help people lower their tax burden. Every year, too many Maine residents complete their tax returns but miss out on the federal Earned Income Tax Credit, which can save up to \$5,657. The good news is that help is available. Two organizations, CASH (Creating Assets, Savings and Hope) Maine and the AARP (American Association of Retired Persons), have partnered to provide free IRS-certified volunteer tax preparers to qualifying households.

CASH Maine is a collaboration of eight statewide coalitions, comprised of 50 non- and for-profit partners, working together to help working Mainers make the most of their money. CASH Maine offers free tax preparation to qualified filers during the tax season, and connects residents to financial education resources, including home

buying workshops, Family Development Accounts (FDAs) and credit counseling. Interested citizens can call 2-1-1, a free call, or visit www.cashmaine.org for more information.

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a federal tax credit designed to provide tax relief for working Mainers by supplementing their income and helping families make ends meet. Since it was created in 1975, the EITC has proven to be enormously successful; keeping much needed money in the hands of working families. It was estimated in 2004 that the EITC provided more than \$30 billion in tax relief for working families.

So who qualifies? Families with an income below approximately \$34,000 to \$41,000 (depending on marital status and the number of children in the family) are eligible for the EITC. Also, low-income workers without children who have incomes below approximately \$13,000 (\$16,000 for a married couple) can receive a small credit. For more details or to see if you or anyone you know would qualify, you can reach out to CASH Maine or the AARP.

To sign up for this free service, gather all tax statements from income received in 2010 (W-2, 1099, 1098, SSA and unemployment), have social security cards available for each person to be claimed on the tax return, and contact CASH Maine to schedule an appointment.

I would recommend that anyone interested in getting help should call to schedule an appointment right away. Even if you do not qualify for this service, they may help find an alternative. There is nothing sadder at this time of year than hearing stories of people taken advantage of by unscrupulous tax preparers who cause people to lose money.

If you would like assistance navigating through the legislative process or state government, please call my office in Augusta at 287-1515. You may also e-mail me through my website at www.mainesenate.org/bartlett and click on the contact form link.

Sen. Phil Bartlett, (207) 839-7827, (800) 423-6900, phil@philbartlett.com

around town

Ossipee Trail Motor Sales opened a second location at 176 Narragansett Street called Planet Wholesale Auto. FMI call 839-2244, or visit www.planetwholesaleauto.com.

ADD MAINE BONDS TO YOUR INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO.

An issue of Maine tax-free bonds has become available. If you have \$5,000 or more available in the next few weeks, please call today.

Bonds may be subject to state, local or the alternative minimum tax.

Before investing in municipal bonds, you should understand the risks involved, including credit risk and market risk. Bond investments are also subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of bonds can decrease, and the investor can lose principal value if the bond is sold prior to maturity.

Edward J Doyle
Financial Advisor

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Gorham, ME 04038
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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

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 less than 300 words. Letters are solely the opinion of the writer and not that of the Gorham Times. They are published at the discretion of the Gorham Times and are subject to editing.

Dear Gorham Times,

Never have I felt more grateful and truly blessed than the day I opened the issue of the Gorham Times and saw the many ads congratulating me on my 30 years of business. Thank you to all my friends and fellow merchants for your kind thoughts and words. I owe my success to you, the wonderful community of Gorham, that I call with pride my home. It was my greatest pleasure to be able to give back to the community through Neighbors Helping Neighbors One Slice at a Time. Your generous support during the campaign was overwhelming. 38 years ago as I stepped off the plane at Logan Airport, never did I imagine the wonderful life that awaited me.

Thank you, my friends, thank you, Gorham. I am truly honored and humbled.

Angelo Sotiropoulos,
Gorham House of Pizza



Dear Gorham Times,

We're writing to thank the members of Delta Chi fraternity in Gorham for an amazing, and greatly appreciated job shoveling out our driveway following Wednesday's (2/2) big storm. Delta Chi has been offering snow shoveling services in special circumstances (e.g., paths to oil tanks, mail boxes) for senior homeowners in Gorham, and a friend, knowing we were driving home from a week-long road trip Thursday night, called Delta Chi about clearing enough space for us to get our car off the road. We got home around 1 a.m. on Friday, expecting to shovel an hour or two. Instead we found our complete driveway shoveled out, including a wide path to both our front and our side doors! So, THANKS, Delta Chi (our backs thank you, too!)

Mike and Meg Nobel

GorhamTimes

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E-mail: gtimes@maine.rr.com
www.gorhamtimes.com

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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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 sallinen1@myfairpoint.net

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. or call 839-8390 for an appointment.

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Business Manager Sandra Wilson
Design/Production Jeannine Owens
Police Beat Sheri Faber
Staff Writers Bill Ambrose
Sherrie Fontaine
Jackie Francis
Sarah Gavett-Nielsen
Stacy Sallinen
Robin Somes
Features Chris Crawford
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Ad deadline is the Wednesday of the week prior to issue date. Go to www.gorhamtimes.com and click on the advertising link for schedule.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Gorham Times takes all reasonable care to prevent errors and disclaims all legal responsibility for any such errors, omissions, or typographical errors. The Gorham Times will print corrections if notified within 48 hours. Photos will be returned if provided with a stamped, self-addressed envelope. We reserve the right to refuse publication of unsolicited materials. All submissions are subject to editing. Opinions expressed in the Gorham Times do not necessarily reflect those of the staff or publishers.

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A Letter to the Community

Dear Gorham Friends,

On January 11 our family suffered the tragic loss of our son and brother, Timothy Stickney. Timothy was a young man with Autism who touched the lives of everyone he met. Though we are still struggling to come to terms with this loss, we have been truly blessed and humbled by the overwhelming support from the Gorham community. The incredible outpouring of love and caring we've experienced from our friends and acquaintances, and from people we have yet to meet, has helped us through these difficult days. It has inspired us and lifted our faith in humanity.

We are so fortunate to live in a place where neighbors care for each other. There are simply too many angels of the Gorham community to mention all by name, but we would like to specifically thank several town organizations.

To the Gorham Fire & Rescue and Police Departments, thank you for your heroic actions responding to Timothy's accident.

To the Gorham High School Hockey Team, led by Gerry Durgin and Coach Jon Portwine, thank you for the tribute at your January 15 game. We, along with many family members and friends who attended, were touched by your kindness and generosity. We will always remember the way you led the procession at Timothy's funeral service as well, for it reminds us of the joy Timothy took in being the team's manager.

To Matthew Murray and the Chamber singers, we so appreciated having your amazing voices grace Timothy's service. Your beautiful performance lent comfort and will never be forgotten.

To Ted Sharpe, Chris Record, Karen Rohrbacher and all of the teachers and administrative staff of the Gorham School Department, thank you for helping us honor Timothy's memory during his memorial and funeral services. We have always known that Timothy was a special kid, but we did not fully perceive the extent of his impact on our community—until now.

Finally, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the students of the Gorham School District. You consistently treated Timothy well throughout his entire academic career. So many of you befriended Timothy and kept him safe. It was clear that Timothy thoroughly enjoyed school, and your random acts of kindness are a big part of the reason he did. This was likely the first time some of you young men and women have attended a funeral or memorial service, and we thank you all for being brave, being there, and choosing to honor Timothy's memory.

*With Thankful Hearts,
The Stickney Family
Chris & Melody, Julie,
Morgan, Katie*

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municipal



Chief Shepard Reports

Sears Edwards, who joined the Gorham Police Department in 1999 and was promoted to detective in 2008, has been promoted to sergeant, replacing Robert Mailman who recently retired.

The grand jury returned the following indictments in February:

- Kayla Connolly, 27, of Gorham was indicted on two counts of misuse of credit ID on charges brought by Windham Police Department.
- Brandy Debrienza, 37, of Gorham was indicted for theft (with priors) on charges brought by Westbrook Police Department.
- Richard Earles-Mitchell, 28, of Gorham was indicted for possession of oxycodone, five counts of misuse of credit ID and theft (with priors) on charges brought by Windham Police Department.
- John Forbis, 42, of Warren was indicted for OUI (two priors), aggra-

vated habitual offender, violation of license restriction, and failure to give correct identifying information on charges brought by Gorham Police Department.

- Donald Johnson, 64, of Carson was indicted for theft, two counts of forgery, misuse of credit ID, and two counts of attempted theft on charges brought by Gorham Police Department.
- Timothy Rosario, 31, of Gorham was indicted for eluding, criminal speed, operating after suspension, unregistered motor vehicle and violating conditions of release on charges brought by the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office.
- Joshua Staples, 22, of Gorham was indicted for theft and criminal mischief on charges brought by the Windham Police Department.

Volunteer to Adopt a Fire Hydrant

Sherrie Fontaine

The Town of Gorham Public Works Department has recorded 63.9 inches of snow to date this winter season, which includes 17 measurable snowstorms - more than double the storms from last year. While the calendar might show only 32 days until the first day of spring, winter storms can continue well into the month of April. Good news for skiers and snowboarders, but an unwelcomed forecast for the town's fire and rescue department. Following each major storm, it is the responsibility of the Gorham Public Works' crew to clear snow from hundreds of fire hydrants. According to Fire Chief Lefebvre, depending on how busy his department is in responding to rescue calls, it can take 2 to 3 days to complete the snow removal process, which requires substantial paid man-

power hours, taxing the already limited fire department budget.

To assist the town, the Chief asks Gorham residents to participate in the "Adopt a Fire Hydrant" program. This program, in place for the past 10 years, asks residents to clear snow a minimum of three feet around hydrants located in front of their homes or businesses. For those interested in participating in this program, please contact Chief Lefebvre at 839-6762. Although notification is not mandatory, the Lefebvre sues volunteers' contact information to thank them at the end of the season. With another storm in the forecast, the Fire and Rescue Department looks forward to your help.

REFRESHING PAWS
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839-5547

KATHY WOOD, MGR.

Town Council Report

February 1, 2011 Robin Somes

Chairman Matthew Robinson opened February's Town Council Meeting. In addition to Chairman Robinson, panel attendees included Councilors Brenda Caldwell, Philip Gagnon Jr., Matthew Mattingly, Noah Miner, Michael Phinney, John Pressey and Town Clerk Christina Silberman.

Councilor Gagnon reported the success of initial efforts on planning the new Founders Day Festival. The recently formed Town Fair Committee raised \$5,000 above the seed money. Additional donations and participants are still needed for planning and carrying out this event.

Councilor Phinney reported that the Fraternity Ordinance will soon be presented to the Council and further discussion regarding the Windmill Ordinance is planned before being directed to the Council.

Councilor Pressey reported that the Appointments Committee is seeking applicants for vacancies on town boards and committees. The application deadline was February 4 and the Committee met to review applications on February 7.

Councilor Caldwell reported that the Finance Committee met and discussed financial reporting, now changed due to new software.

Councilor Miner reported on the Ecomaine Board of Directors. They are paying off the single sort recycling machinery lease early. In addition, he reported the Gorham Land Trust and the Conservation Commission is interested in discussions with the Ordinance Committee on the transfer of development rights. He also said the Capital Improvements Committee, Gorham Economic Development Corporation and Gorham Business Exchange met on how the community can improve Gorham business.

Town Manager David Cole reported that he presented Linda Straw with a service pin in honor of her 20 years of service at the Baxter Memorial Library.

Chairman Robinson reported the following:

- Boy Scout troop members were in attendance as part of their efforts towards merit badges.
- The public has communicated the admirable job the Public Works crew has been doing with snow removal.
- A recent meeting with Town Manager David Cole, Councilor Caldwell, USM President Selma Botman and USM Director of Public Affairs Bob Caswell was held where discussions included sharing services and other measures to optimize cost effectiveness.
- School Committee Chairman Dennis Libby reported the following:
 - The School Department has a spending freeze on all but essential items due to Governor LePage's

proposed supplemental budget that includes a curtailment to General Purpose Aid for K-12 education.

- Fiscal Year 2012 budget efforts continue and were released February 16. A full day budget workshop will be held March 5.
- Rose Marie South resigned from the School Committee after 10 years of dedicated service.

A Land Use and Development Code amendment was proposed to allow farm animals within the Urban Residential District. The Council voted 7-0 to amend the proposed order and send it to the Ordinance Committee for review.

In other actions, the Council:

- Voted 7-0 to amend the Land Use and Development Code to prohibit the Bernard P. Rines and other limited access highways from being used to meet street frontage requirements.
- Voted 7-0 to ask the Capital Improvements Committee to review the concept of a cross-town bicycle/pedestrian trail, starting at the roundabout intersection of Narragansett Street/Rte 202 and Bernard P. Rines Highway/Rte 112 and following the former Sanford and Eastern Railroad right-of-way to Westbrook.
- The proposed name for the new elementary school, "Great Falls Elementary School," was approved 6-1 (Phinney).
- Voted 7-0 to authorize Gorham to participate with Cape Elizabeth, Scarborough, Standish and Naples for a grant to support a staff person from the Family Crisis Services Agency to provide a joint Police Intervention Collaboration program for domestic abuse.
- Voted 7-0 to endorse Gorham School Board's support of more competitive health insurance options to Maine schools to lower costs while maintaining quality health care.

Winter Boxscore

17 Winter Weather events
63.9 inches total accumulation
(as of 2/8/11)

Courtesy of Gorham Public Works Dept.

living

SENIOR CARE

How Do You Know When It's Time to Stop Driving?

Bill Jenks

Probably the biggest fear as we age is the fear of losing our independence. For many people, the biggest symbol of independence is the ability to drive - to get up and go wherever and whenever we want, without relying on someone else to take us. But the cruel fact is that as we age, things change and driving a car may no longer be safe or prudent. It is crucial that seniors themselves, their health care providers, and their family members become aware of conditions that can impact older adults' ability to drive safely.

Obviously, safe driving depends on the ability to see clearly. Many things can compromise good eyesight, including macular degeneration, cataracts and glaucoma, all of which become more common as we age. Other age-related conditions can affect one's ability to drive, including arthritis, slower reflexes, reduced flexibility, COPD, Parkinson's disease and congestive heart failure. Many medications commonly prescribed to older people can also impair safe driving. Age-related cognitive impairment can negatively impact driving. In fact, the American Academy of Neurology recommends that adults diagnosed with even mild dementia or Alzheimer's disease not drive at all and that older adults with mild cognitive impairment (often a precursor to Alzheimer's) be evaluated every six months.

Still, having one or more of these conditions will not necessarily convince a senior to willingly give up their car keys. Here are some clear signs that indicate someone's driving ability may have declined to the point where it is time to stop:

- Difficulty turning, especially when backing up and making left turns
- Difficulty maintaining concentration
- Slower responses to unexpected situations
- Incorrect signaling
- Inability to park appropriately
- Misjudging distance: hitting curbs, mailbox, or garage
- Increased agitation or irritation when driving
- Failure to notice traffic signs or hazards
- Near misses or actual accidents, including seemingly minor "fender benders"
- Driving at unsafe speeds (too fast or too slow) or "riding the brake"

- Moving into the wrong lane or difficulty maintaining lane position
- Confusion at exits
- Getting lost in familiar places
- Ticketed moving violations/warnings
- Failure to stop at stop signs or red lights
- Mistaking the gas and brake pedals
- Stopping in traffic for no reason

If any of these warning signs sound familiar, it is time to discuss your concern with your loved one. Keep the following points in mind to help make it a positive, constructive, non-threatening conversation:

- Be empathetic. Imagine how you would feel if you were in your parent's place.
- Make it clear that your concern is for the safety of your loved one and others on the road.
- Build a case. Keep a record of traffic tickets, fender-benders, or other incidents.
- Arrange an open meeting with concerned family members to help - not confront - the driver.
- Keep communications honest, open, and non-accusatory.
- Plan a gradual curtailment of driving - for example, no children in the car, no highways, no driving above 45 miles per hour.
- Agree on circumstances that will signal when it is time to totally give up the car keys.

Many older adults fear if they surrender their driver's license, they will be stranded without any means of transportation, so it's extremely important to thoroughly research other transportation options that will preserve their independence before speaking with them. Giving up driving is a big deal, but it does not have to be the beginning of the end.



Bill Jenks serves on the Board of Directors of the Maine Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, and is the owner of Home Instead Senior Care, which provides non-medical home care for seniors.

Got a Green? Call Now.

Call 222-1660
Feb. 18 at 3 pm
Topic: Composting

Call-In to GoCAT's "Friendly Green Fridays" show and get your "green" questions answered.

Gorham's Recycling Committee and Gorham Trails Land Trust sponsor "Friendly Green Fridays"—a call-in show on recycling information and green topics.

Send your suggestions for topics to gocat@gorham.me.us

Feb 18 topic: composting

Call Friday at 3 p.m. — 222-1660.

If you are not a Time Warner Cable Customer, the programs will be video streamed live from the Town's website. DVD's of program will be available at Baxter Library.





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school

GMS Rocks the House

Julia Plante and Allison Sinnett, GMS students



Photos credit Stacy Sallinen

GMS teachers rocked the house in the final act of the talent show. Dancing to “All the Single Ladies” are Mr. Morton, Mrs. Pastore, Mr. Rand and Mr. Palmer. Anne Kelly sang “Dynomite.” Jordann Thomas played the harp.

Students and teachers at Gorham Middle School let their talent shine at the school talent show on January 27.

Some of the acts included Peter Mahoney, a seventh grade student who danced to Ghostbusters; the GMS Glee Club singing “Airplanes” by B.O.B; and a performance by Haley Williams. The final act, which consisted of teachers performing the Evolution of Dance, drew many cheers from the crowd. These are only a few of the acts and all of them were spectacular!

Everyone who participated in the talent show practiced for a week after

school. Not all of the talent was on the stage. Some of the most important figures were the light and sound crew. They really helped it operate and they had dazzling lighting effects to enhance the show. There were three showings, two during school hours and one afterwards.

Proceeds from the talent show benefited the History Club at GMS. Overall, the show was spectacular and we cannot wait for the next one.

A video of the teacher’s Evolution of Dance can be found on YouTube by using the following link: <http://youtu.be/uFnwyIJ2PMU>

Second grade students from Narragansett School performed their musical “Noteworthy Americans.” The review of American history provided an opportunity for Molly Murray, Sadie LaPierre, Gracie Forgues and Anneka Bryant to speak about equal rights. During the performance, students also paid a powerful tribute to veterans in the audience by saluting and dedicating a song to them.

GHS Holds Gorham Idol Contest

Cassandra Martel



Photo courtesy of Gorham High School

Gorham Idol, a spinoff of the hit Fox television show “American Idol,” was held on January 14 to raise money for graduation of Gorham High School’s sophomore class.

Jenny Pinkelman (middle) and Ryan Doughty (right) hosted the show, while Mr. Schwanda, Ms. Smith and Kati King served as judges. Many contestants showed up to compete, including Jessica Coffin, Lindsey Chadburn, Jeanette Villanueva (left), Courtney Burns, Madeleine Gotschlich, Marissa Rush, Lia Van

de Krol, Chloe Gray, Stephanie Farrington, and Molly Stewart. The crowd voted for their favorite contestant to make it to the final round, and the judges chose the winner.

Jeanette Villanueva was crowned winner of Gorham Idol with her rendition of “What Can I Say” by Carrie Underwood and “Bleeding Love” by Leona Lewis.

Gorham Idol was run by Meaghan Gilbert, class secretary; Cassie Martel, treasurer; and Darice Plumer.

honor roll

Catherine McAuley High School—Second Quarter Honor Roll 2010-11

Grade 9 – Honors
Stephanie Hillman

Grade 10 – Honors
Anna Richard

Noteworthy Americans



Photo credit Martha Harris

School Committee Report

February 9, 2011 Stacy Sallinen

At the February School Committee meeting, Superintendent Ted Sharp reported the following:

- Town Council Chairman Matthew Robinson sent a letter to Sen. Phil Bartlett, Rep. Linda Sanborn and Rep. Jane Knapp asking for their assistance in eliminating the MEA trust monopoly for healthcare coverage.
- Gorham High School and Middle School were noted as two of the top ten highest performing schools in Maine in a study conducted by the Center for Educational Policy, Applied Research and Evaluation at the University of Southern Maine. The study used a three-year average of composite scores on state assessments, a two-year average of meeting proficiency above the state average, and a graduation rate above the state average.
- The FY12 school budget will be rolled out in a School Committee workshop scheduled for Wednesday, February 16 at 7 p.m.
- GOCAT's School Talk program recently featured Janet Williams of the Gorham Educational Foundation.

School Committee Chairman Dennis Libby said the new elementary school is now officially named Great Falls, as approved by the Town Council in its February meeting. Libby also recognized the second grade students' musical performance, and was moved by their tribute to veterans.

Under the program review portion of the agenda, Athletic Director Gerry Durgin discussed student activities and athletics. Gorham is the second smallest school in Western Class A for enrollment. While it creates challenges in competing against schools with significantly larger enrollment, Gorham does not struggle to find participants for the numerous activities and sports it offers. Durgin said that Gorham has tremendous community support for its programs, and he is proud of students' good sportsmanship-like conduct.

Durgin explained that the National Federation of State High School Associations, which governs high school athletics, is looking to minimize head injuries, including the possibility of eliminating contact in athletics from the shoulders up. While Gorham has an Impact Program for football, boys' and girls' ice hockey, soccer and other programs that are more likely to have head injuries, it is unclear of how this potential change may effect athletics for Gorham or other schools.

In addition, Durgin reported that the SMAA, of which Gorham is a member, voted to allow football to move to a competitive schedule model. This change would allow students to achieve more success in competition by tiering schools within each class, and schools would still be allowed to play long standing rivalries.

Durgin thanked the School Committee for the opportunity to work with wonderful students and schools. He reminded the committee that students should not lose the

importance of social skills since technology has become a driving force. Durgin will be retiring at the end of the school year.

The School Committee voted to accept the resignation of committee member Marie South, whose career path no longer allows her to participate. South has served on the committee for the past ten years, and several members expressed gratitude for her years of service and dedication. Janet Williams, who previously served on the School Committee, was appointed to fill the vacant seat starting in February. The School Committee voted to ask the Town Council to hold a special election in June, when an elected member would fill the seat for the remainder of the unexpired term.

school notes

Poetry State Finals

Ian Hawkes (GHS '11) was one of the top five finalists on the Poetry Out Loud Competition and will be competing in the state finals in Lewiston on March 11 against nine other students. He was chosen from a field of 22 contestants.

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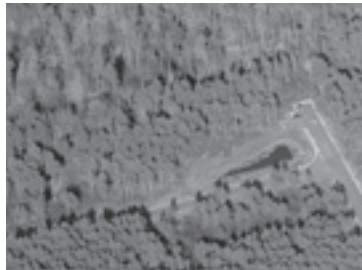
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Elephant's Graveyard One Act Play at GHS

Eileen T. Avery

Gorham High School presents George Brant's one act play, *Elephant's Graveyard*, on February 18 and 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the McCormack Performing Arts Center. *Elephant's Graveyard* is the true tale of the tragic collision of a struggling circus and a tiny town in Tennessee. Set in September of 1916, the play combines historical fact and legend, exposing the deep-seated American craving for spectacle, violence and revenge.

As punishment for killing one of its handlers, Mary, an elephant in Spark's World Famous Shows, was hung like a human criminal and executed. Brant's mesmerizing script explores in horrific detail the real-life lynching of a circus elephant. *Elephant's Graveyard* was originally produced as a full-length play at the University of Texas at Austin in 2007. The play received the Keene Prize for Literature, the David Mark Cohen National Playwriting Award and a Best New Play citation from the Austin Critics Circle.

Elephant's Graveyard is Gorham High School's entry into the Maine Principals' Association State Drama

Competition. This year, Gorham students will be traveling to Morse High School in Bath to compete at the Regional Competition on March 11 and 12. There will be almost 80 class A and B schools competing throughout the state over the Regional Festival weekend. Qualifying schools will go on to compete at the State Competition on March 25 and 26.

Elephant's Graveyard features seniors, Ian Hawkes, Sarah Kennedy, Megan Mitchell, and Joshua Plummer. Juniors include Adam Bourgault, Nathaniel Dombek, Katelyn DiLorenzo, Lincoln Gray, Lia Van de Krol, and Quincy Owens. Sophomores Maxwell McNally, Kristin Nelson, and Merrill Porterfield. And rounding out the cast are freshmen Joseph Lambert, Kevin Lombard, and Collin Young.

Performances are in the McCormack Performing Arts Center at Gorham High School on February 18 & 19 at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$6 for general admission and \$4 for students and seniors. Tickets will be available at the door.



Photo credit Eileen T. Avery

Clockwise from left: Maxwell McNally as the Tour Manager, Sarah Kennedy as the clown, Ian Hawkes as the Ringmaster, Nathaniel Dombek as the Trainer, Katelyn DiLorenzo as Ballet Girl, and Joseph Lambert as the Strongman.

Communications Center, located on High Street in South Windham, in the vicinity of the Windham Correctional Center. On January 27, when Lefebvre called the county dispatch center, he requested the message be delivered to all the phone numbers in Gorham, Windham, and Standish. This way, he believed, most purchasers of the dangerous combination would be reached.

Cumberland County's Director of Emergency Communications Bill Holmes, oversees the Reverse 911 system as a part of the county dispatch center. The Reverse 911 capability is provided free of charge to all the municipalities in the county, including those that maintain their own dispatch facilities.

The January 27 calls, which began at 4:45 p.m., were targeted to reach 24,494 landlines in the three towns. The process took approximately one and a half hours to complete. The recorded notification left a message on home answering machines and voicemails; however, if the call was not picked up or if the line was busy or connected to a fax machine, the call did not go through.

Holmes considers a 50 percent rate of completion to be a success. Other reasons for failure include incorrect or out-of-service numbers, as well as phones on new roads that have not been placed on the maps used by the

system. Holmes says his center receives approximately 10,000 updated phone numbers for the county every week for use in the regular 911 emergency system.

The Reverse 911 system relies on the computer software package CityWatch to perform the calling procedure. CityWatch is headquartered in Bloomington, Minnesota, where the actual calls are made through the company's phone system. John Moran, the public safety software specialist for the county, administers the complex CityWatch system, which requires constant updating and fine-tuning. Moran has also trained other personnel at the communications center to become proficient with the software.

Cumberland County initially purchased the CityWatch software through a two-year \$35,000 grant. It now purchases the software using tax money from the county's municipalities. Reverse 911 is used by some communities for specific targeted communications. For example, Westbrook notifies firefighters about general alarm fires, and Portland uses the system to apprise residents about such things as postponed trash collections. Portland pays the county \$7,000 for its increased use of Reverse 911. Gorham and other communities in the county are not charged; their regular tax payments cover the expense.



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sports

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Gorham Native Among Top Miami

Marathoners: GHS '87 graduate Ted Coffin ran the Miami Marathon January 29 and finished 94th out of 22,000 runners with a time of 3:07.

First In Giant Slalom: GHS sophomore Marissa Roberts won the giant slalom February 4 during a multi-team meet with a time of 1:07.89 at Shawnee Peak. Senior Tom Moutinho placed ninth in the boy's giant slalom with a time of 1:12.89. Roberts also paced third in the slalom during a multi-team meet January 28 with a time of 1:40.15.

New Girls' Indoor Track Record: Junior Sarah Perkins set a new GHS school record January 15 at the Portland Expo in the Sr 45 yard hurdles with a time of 6.7 seconds, breaking a record set in 1989 by Kelly Frazier. GHS junior Leanna Dalfonso was chosen as the Sr. Division Athlete of the Meet February 5 in a multi-team meet at the Portland Expo vs. Scarborough, Windham and Westbrook. Dalfonso won the 800 meters with a time of 2:34.60.

UMaine-Orono Student-Athletes Honored: Four GHS graduates were among the 239 student-athletes recognized for their success in the classroom by the University of Maine at Orono. Rachel Wilkinson ('10) was honored as a Rising Star for earning a 3.0 or better in her first semester. Rachele Burns and Molly Folan (both '09) received a bronze medal (for first year receiving the award) while Kelsey Wilson ('07) received a gold medal (for third year receiving the award). Wilson was also one of seven female student athletes nominated for the "M" Club Dean Smith Award, presented to the top female scholar-athlete with outstanding academic and athletic achievement, citizenship and community service.

Gorham gymnasts from left to right, Annie Acker-Wolfhagen, Nina Greenwood, Rachael Stewart, Isabelle Muehle, and Gretchen Muehle.



Photo credit Susan Greenwood

Gorham Gymnasts Place High at Events

Throughout New England: Five Gorham gymnasts competing for the Maine Academy of Gymnastics in Westbrook have fared well in competitions this season. Nina Greenwood, a sixth-grader at Gorham Middle School who competes at Level 7, earned three first-place finishes in the balance beam at the Boston Classic, New Hampshire Winter Carnival, and the Maine Academy Meet. She was also third overall at the Maine Academy Meet. At the Maine State Sectional Meet February 5-6, Greenwood finished second on the balance beam, floor exercise and all-around. Gretchen Muehle, a fourth-grader at Village School who competes at Level 6, finished third in the floor exercise at the Winter Carnival Meet and second at the Maine Academy Meet. At the Maine State Section Meet, she placed second on vault and uneven bars as well as third on balance beam and all-around. Rachel Stewart and Annie Acker-Wolfhagen, seventh and sixth graders respectively at Gorham Middle School, both compete in the prep-optional novice division. Stewart finished second on uneven bars and third all-around at the Winter Carnival. At the Maine State Sectional Meet, she placed first on beam, bars, and all-around; second in the floor exercise; and third in the vault all-around. Acker-Wolfhagen finished second on uneven bars at the Winter Carnival and then placed second on beam, third on bars, and third all-around at the Maine State Sectional Meet. Isabelle Muehle, a sixth-grader at Gorham Middle School, placed second on the vault (Level 6) at the Maine State Sectional Meet.

Balanced Scoring Attack and Shared

Shutout: In a 6-0 win for the GHS boys' hockey team over Windham/Sacopee Valley on January 30, 12 Rams players earned a goal or an assist while junior Nate Holloran and freshman Justin Broy split the game in net to earn the shutout.

Heartbreaker for GHS Girls' Hockey: The GHS girls' hockey team lost a heart-breaking game to Cape Elizabeth. The Rams were winning 2-1 with 1:30 left, only to lose 4-2 in the closing seconds. Against tournament-bound Cheverus, Gorham tied the game at 1-1 in the third period but eventually fell 3-1. Senior goalie Carissa Farwell, a student at Bonny Eagle, posted 42 and 38 saves respectively in the two games. And with two goals in the Cape Elizabeth game, the team's leading scorer, sophomore Rachel Litif (also a Bonny Eagle student), notched four two-goal games on the season.

All-American Girl



Photo credit Rich Obrey

McDonald's All-American: GHS senior Mia Rapolla is one of nine girls' high school basketball players from Maine nominated to the McDonald's All-American High School Basketball Team. Rapolla is among the top 800 nominees from across the U.S. who competed to fill 24 positions on the nationwide girls' team that will compete in an East vs. West showdown March 30 in Chicago. Rapolla is pictured above with GHS athletic director Gerry Durgin receiving her award.

sports Etc.

Baseball Clinics: The USM baseball staff will hold clinics on February 20 and February 26 in the Costello Field House on the Gorham campus. Pitching and defense sessions run from 9 a.m. to noon, and hitting sessions run from 1 to 4 p.m. The cost of each session is \$35 or the full day for \$60. All proceeds help fund the Huskies annual spring trip, and players ages 8-18 are welcome. FMI contact Coach Flaherty at 780-5474.

Softball Clinics: The USM softball team will host two softball clinics to assist with fundraising. A March 6 clinic is scheduled for players in grades 3-8, and a March 12 clinic is scheduled for players in grades 9-12. Both clinics include two sessions: pitching and defense from 9 to 11:30 a.m. followed by hitting and base running from noon to 3 p.m. The

fee for each session is \$30.00. For players attending both sessions, the fee is \$50.00. Clinics take place at the USM Costello Field House on the Gorham campus. Each participant should bring a glove and sneakers (no cleats allowed). Personal bats and helmets recommended but will be made available. FMI, contact Bonny Brown-Denico at 780-5519 or bbdenico@usm.maine.edu.

Team Jukado Demo Night: March 4, American Legion Post, 300 Conant Street, Westbrook. Shows begin at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. with raffle drawings at 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$5 with all proceeds to benefit Team Jukado Competition members. Children ages four and up will perform martial arts. FMI call 854-9408.



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Girls entering grades 6-12, July 10-14

Swish Shooting Camp

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Girls Team Swish

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GHS Weekend Varsity Sports Line-Up

Saturday, February 5

6:30 p.m. Boys Hockey vs. Cony @ USM Gorham Campus Arena

All games subject to change. For up-to-date schedules of all GHS sports, visit www.digitalsports.com

GHS Winter Freeze Frame



Above: GHS junior Sarah Perkins finished second in the girls' indoor track high jump after clearing 4 feet, 8 inches January 29 in a multi-team meet at the Portland Expo.



Right: GHS junior Jesse Orach raced to a 20-second win in the boys' indoor track two-mile race during a multi-team meet January 29 at the Portland Expo.



Above: GHS sophomore Marissa Roberts competes in the giant slalom at Shawnee Peak January 26.

Girls' Basketball FROM PAGE 1

on February 8 for scoring 67 points in three wins during the previous week.

But as head coach Laughn Berthiaume stresses, the Rams' success has been a total team effort—keyed by a strong team chemistry. The team chemistry has been building as the year progresses, and with each win the chemistry grows stronger. “The players realize how their strengths contribute to the team and how much they depend on the strengths of the other players to succeed as a team,” Berthiaume said.

Among the leading team contributors, Berthiaume points to the defensive contributions of sophomores Kristen Ross and Lexi Merrifield, who have both been solid in the middle. Senior Natalie Egbert has helped push the ball in transition and is attacking the basket consistently. Junior Audrey Adkison has sparked the team off the bench with her speed and ability to change the pace of the game.

Other key contributors include senior Alyssa Clark, a solid starter all season who scored 11 key points in the team's 58-43 win over Windham on February 8. Freshman Jessica Rexrode directs the offense as the point guard, where she has started since the beginning of the season and has executed plays consistently. Mary Redmond, a sophomore, has been ready when called upon off the bench.

“Our losses against South Portland and Sanford gave us the experience of being in close games, which helped us learn how to execute down the stretch during the last part of our season,” Berthiaume said. “Our success depends largely on our energy, how aggressively we play defense, and our rebounding.”

Gorham finishes the regular season with an impressive 14-4 record and ranked third Western Maine Class A. At press time, the Rams were waiting to find out the date of their first tournament game and their opponent. “The tournament should be very balanced so we will face tough competition no matter who we go up against,” Berthiaume said.

Berthiaume stresses that every player on the roster is making valuable contributions: “The effort in practice from the backups who push the regulars has been instrumental in our success. Unfortunately fans don't have an opportunity to watch practice so the sacrifice made by those individuals goes unnoticed to people outside of our circle. It is certainly recognized within our team and by our coaching staff. This is a very close group that has done an exceptional job accepting roles and putting the team ahead of individual accomplishments.”

community



Photo credit Rich Obrey

During halftime of the February 11 Red Claws game on Gorham Night, students from the Dance Studio of Maine performed for the crowd. Several other Gorham groups performed as well, and individuals from Gorham competed for prizes. The Red Claws won the game, 90-80, over Springfield, Mass.



The Verizon Foundation Volunteer Incentive Program awarded North Gorham Public Library a grant of \$750 in recognition of Bert Gilman's volunteer service. A Senior Technician with Verizon Business, Gilman donated more than 50 hours to the library in 2010 making the library eligible for the award. (L-R) president of the library Board of Trustees Janice Labrecque, librarian Kathy Corbett and Bert Gilman.

ENGAGEMENT

Crystal Badeau, daughter of Marc and Margo Badeau of Gorham, is happy to announce her engagement to Daniel J. Moore of Auburn, Maine. An October 2011 wedding is planned.

GRADUATIONS

Kevin Plowman of Gorham received a B.S. in General Studies with a concentration in Human Services through Saint Joseph's College. Plowman is a commercial vessel examiner for the U.S. Coast Guard.

DEAN'S LIST

Jason Badeau (GHS '10) was named to the President's List at Thomas College in Waterville for maintaining a 4.0 grade point average for the semester.

Casey Bernier (GHS '07) was named to the Dean's List at Keene State in Keene, NH.

Kyle Donaldson (GHS '05) was named to the Dean's List at St. Lawrence University

in Canton, NY majoring in Mathematics.

John Adkison of Gorham was named to the Dean's List at Harding University in Searcy, AR.

Aaron Hill (GHS '92) was named to the Dean's List at the University of Maine School of Law.

John Phinney (GHS '10) was named to the Dean's List at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, PA. Phinney is majoring in political science and is the son of Michael Phinney and Susanne Mierins Phinney.

Courtney Smith of Gorham was named to the Dean's List at Saint Michael's College, Colchester, VT majoring in Elementary Education and Religious Studies. She is the daughter of Jonathan Smith and Cynthia Smith-Tanguay.

Luke Tanguay (GHS '10) was named to the Dean's List at Suffolk University in Boston majoring in Interior Design. He is the son of Liz and Peter Tanguay.

William Tebbetts (GHS '10) was named

Brenda Caldwell (left) has assumed the

responsibility of being the new treasurer at the West Gorham Union Church.

Pam Benware (right), the outgoing treasurer of WGUC, is moving to Vermont to be closer to her children and grandchildren.



to the Dean's List at McPherson College in Kansas.

The following students were named to the Dean's List at the UMaine Orono:

Alexander Bailey, Justin Bolinger, Matthew Cota, Megan Hamilton, Blake Lambert, Annie Ledoux, Thomas Mathieu, Liam Nee, Logan Nee, Kara Sarver, Samantha Shulte, Jennifer Stoult, Chantal-Marie Tijssen, Whitney Tulloch, Kelsey Wilson and Linda Wong.

The following students were named as Presidential Scholars at UMaine Orono: **Nicole D'Andrea, Courtney Hawkes and Bailey O'Brien.**

The following students were named to the Dean's List at the University of New Hampshire: **Crystal Doyle**, High Honors; **Erikka Lewis**, Highest Honors; **Nellika Stirling**, Honors and **Kristina Zarrilli**, Highest Honors.

OF INTEREST

The Gorham/Westbrook TRIAD, composed of community people working with seniors and law enforcement officers, meets the second Friday of every month alternating between the Westbrook Safety Building (odd months) and Gorham Town Hall (even months) at 8:45 a.m. To learn how you can help senior citizens in your community, call David Garthe 839-5407 or Doris Ames 839-2948.

Gorham/Westbrook TRIAD in conjunction with DELTA CHI Fraternity at USM will offer FREE snow shoveling (paths to oil

tanks, mailboxes, walkways) for seniors in Gorham and Westbrook. FMI, call Grace Bryant 839-6418, Mary Vetterline 839-7707 or Fred Collins 854-8327.

Gorham High School Class of 1961 will have their 50th Class Reunion this summer. Please call 839-4540 or 409-6011 to provide information on the following five classmates: Joyce Beutte Kimball, Judith Beutte Dubay, Gary Randall, Holly Ruel and Camil Tanguay.

USM's Annual Job Fair, Tuesday, Mar. 15, is open to all employers hiring full-time, part-time or seasonal jobs. As a participating employer, you will meet prospective employment candidates while giving your organization greater visibility at USM. Students from all areas attend this event as well as USM alumni. FMI, call Maggie Guzman 228-8471 or write mguzman@usm.maine.edu

USM School of Music faculty member Keith Crook, showcases his own compositions followed by Schubert's Quartet for Flute, Guitar, Violin and Cello in a concert Friday, Mar. 4, at 8 p.m. in Corthell Concert Hall, USM Gorham. \$15/\$10/\$5. FMI, 780-5555.

Live GOCAT call-in shows every other Friday sponsored by Gorham Recycling Committee and Gorham Trails Land Trust at 3:00 p.m. or available at Baxter Library on DVD for check out. The first show (1/21/11) was on Recycling Plastics featuring Eco-Maine's (formerly RWS) Missey, hosted by former Recycling Chair

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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Dress in Blue on March 4

Compiled by Karen DiDonato



Photo courtesy of Valerie Wiacek

Dress in Blue Day was a heartwarming success in 2010. Valerie Wiacek, cancer survivor and Dress in Blue Day host, said she was moved and surprised to have so many participants—not only Narragansett School, where she is an Ed Tech, but also from White Rock School. Pictured are staff members from both schools with Wiacek seventh from the left in the second row.

Valerie Wiacek, a nearly three-year colorectal cancer survivor, is raising awareness of colon cancer by a hosting a “Dress in Blue Day” event on Friday, March 4 throughout the town of Gorham. Last year, she and over thirty members of the staff at Narragansett and White Rock schools held a similar event. The hope for this year is to spread awareness all through the entire town of Gorham. Wiacek is challenging people to dress in all blue, but any amount of blue clothing will raise awareness and encourage people to talk to others about the importance of colon cancer screenings.

Every ten minutes a life is lost to colon cancer. The American Cancer Society estimates that 142,000 new cases of colon and rectal cancer were diagnosed in 2010. Dress in Blue Day

is designed to get people talking about the disease while stressing the importance of timely colon cancer screening.

Although many people may consider colon cancer an embarrassing topic of conversation, talking about the importance of being screened can save lives. According to Wiacek, “you can’t ignore the symptoms when you know something is wrong.” Through recommended screenings, this cancer can be caught early when treatment is most effective — or even prevented altogether when pre-cancerous polyps are detected and removed. Talking with your doctor about colon cancer is essential to ensuring optimal screening, prevention and early detection, and treatment. For more information, please visit www.ccalliance.org.

Of Interest FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Bob Frazier. The next show, hosted by Former Chair Bob Frazier, is Friday Feb. 18, 3:00 p.m. and is about composting, featuring Bob Burns, Gorham’s Public Works Director. At 3:30 p.m. the Gorham Trails Land Trust will discuss the Gorham Cross Town Trail featuring Sandra Mowery, Zoning Administrator.



Fraternity members of Delta Chi have been shoveling snow in Gorham for senior citizens this winter. Gorham photographer Martha Harris snapped a picture of Cody Berkowitz and Craig Rousseau cleaning off her deck.

Maine Entrepreneurship Week will connect with the popular 2011 Engineering Expo, to be held on Saturday, Feb. 19, 9 a.m. to noon, at the USM Field House in Gorham. FMI, visit www.eweekmaine.org

Gorham Lions Club will hold their annual 5K road race on Saturday, April 2. FMI call Paul Weeks 839-3631.

Want a great read?

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legal notice

The Gorham School Department plans to destroy special education records of former students who were born on or before December 31, 1984.

Parents, guardians and/or former students may obtain their records on or before June 1, 2011. Proper identification will be required in order to obtain the records.

For more information, please feel free to contact the Gorham Special Services office at 222-1002.

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the blotter

Hot Tub Disappearance

A child called 911 reporting he couldn't find his parents. The parents were in the hot tub.

New Portland Road caller reported there was an injured seagull in the parking lot.

Files Road caller reported a mail carrier was bitten by a dog.

Farrington Road caller reported the theft of firewood from their woodpile.

Little River Drive caller reported that a woman hit caller in the face during a custody swap.

Caller reported there was a horse running around on Queen Street.

Caller reported that they believed the safe at the carwash had been stolen.

County Road caller reported that used tires were stolen from the rear of the store.

Two callers reported a man running in front of a car on Brandon's Way. They thought it was suspicious since it was late.

McLellan Road caller reported multiple vehicles off the road with others coming over the hill not knowing vehicles were off the road and in the roadway.

Jane Street caller reported there were loose dogs in the area that try to attack when they go for runs or let the children out to play.

Caller reported that two juveniles stole a hat from the store.

Caller reported a tractor-trailer stopped in the roadway at the intersection of South Street and County Road. Driver said the vehicle was dead.

Line Road caller reported they witnessed a male chasing a female with a knife.

Caller reported they hit a turkey on South Street; it did quite a bit of damage to their vehicle.

Rust Road caller reported that a male had broken the door down and was being abusive.

Dana Street caller reported that a neighbor's dog is allowed to run loose and defecates daily on their lawn. Caller has tried to speak with neighbor.

Gray Road caller reported a suspicious male in a vehicle with out-of-state plates who was at their home reading their power meter.

Mahlon Avenue caller reported receiving strange calls three to four times per day.

Gateway Commons Drive caller reported that a salesperson came to their residence and tried to sell them "free" home security systems.

Caller reported a sign in the middle of the road that drivers could not easily see until they ran over it.

North Gorham Road caller reported an empty kayak in the middle of the pond. It was considered a loose boat.

Gray Road caller reported suspicious activity in the area. Subject was sleeping in their vehicle.

Daniel Street caller reported a suspicious vehicle in the area. Subject stated they were looking for a vehicle listed on Craigslist.

Gray Road caller reported a male subject who was yelling, screaming, and punching holes in walls. A family member was trying to calm the subject.

Caller requested to speak with the School Resource Officer regarding their teenager.

North Gorham Road caller reported a suspicious individual in the area. Subject was out coyote hunting.

Main Street caller reported a disabled vehicle in the area. Operator was just texting.

Caller reported that their vehicle was stuck in the car wash.

DID YOU KNOW?

North Street Garage Once One-Room Schoolhouse

Sherrie Fontaine



Photo courtesy of the Maine Historical Society

The Whitney School on North Street as it was originally intended.

In 1948, despite the common use of the school bus, Gorham was one of the few towns to still operate small, rural, one-room schoolhouses. In the following years, these obsolete schools were replaced. Of the nine schoolhouses, some have since been torn down or destroyed by fire. The remaining buildings have been given new purposes. The Elmwood School on South Street now functions as the Lion's Club, Levi Hall School on Standish Road in North Gorham as a place of worship, Frederick Robie School at Little Falls and the original White Rock School are both now used for community functions. Each of these buildings continues to be a gathering place - similar from their use as a school.

Whitney School, pictured above, located at 11 North Street, was the last of the one-room schoolhouses to close. It remains intact and unlike the other existing old schools, its current use is far from its original purpose. Built in 1927, it was the quintessential one-room schoolhouse. Typical of the times, a potbelly stove provided the only source of heat. Fired up by a neighbor each morning before the school children arrived, it would be their responsibility to keep the fire tended throughout the day. Thelma "Timmy" Sanborn served as the school's last teacher. She fondly recalls the close-knit ties she had with her students; it was more a sense of an extended family than a schoolroom. Doug Brown was Sanborn's

student in 1956 and spoke of the congenial atmosphere of the school and how the older students helped the younger children.

When asked of any drawbacks to the small school, both teacher and student were quick to answer - the outhouses. There were two outhouses connected at the back of the school by covered walkways. According to Brown, in cold weather no one would be accused of hanging around in the bathroom. In addition the outhouses were hornet-houses. Sanborn remembers one young student returning from the outhouse with swollen arms from being stung. As for the matter of not having running water, Brown pointed out that there was running water—of sorts. "Whoever got to school first had to run across the street to a neighbor's house and fill a large stoneware crock for the day's water supply."

The school closed in 1963, the year Village School was constructed. Elmer Maye purchased the land and building after they stood unused for three years. Maye had the school removed from its foundation and rotated so the back of the school faced the road. He added double doors and used the building as a garage. A new house was then constructed on the existing foundation.

Today anyone driving on North Street would not know this garage, still owned by Elmer Maye, had once been a one-room schoolhouse. Did you know?

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what's happening

MONDAY, FEB. 21

- Food Pantry, 6-7 p.m. St. Anne's Catholic Church parking lot.
- Food & Fellowship Ecumenical Meal Program, noon, Windham Hill UCC, 140 Windham Center Rd, Windham. Free. Everyone welcome. FMI, 892-3769.

TUESDAY, FEB. 22

- Income tax preparation by IRS certified tax counselors, 9-12 p.m., Gorham Rec. Dept. All ages with income below \$75,000. Free. Call for an appointment, 839-7439.
- Story Time Marathon, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Baxter Library. FMI, 839-5031.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 23

- Pet Rocks, 10 to 2 p.m., design and decorate. Baxter Library. FMI, 839-5031.

THURSDAY, FEB. 24

- Juggling for Beginners, 10 a.m. & 2 p.m., Baxter Library. FMI, 839-5031
- Sewing Club, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., Baxter Library. FMI, 839-5031.
- Gorham Food Pantry, 9-11 a.m. St. Anne's Catholic Church parking lot.

SATURDAY, FEB. 26

- Bean Supper at the Bungalow, Rt. 22/ Broadturn Rd., 5-6 p.m. \$5/under 3 free! FMI, 839-6972.

MONDAY, FEB. 28

- Food & Fellowship Ecumenical Meal Program, noon, Windham Hill UCC, 140 Windham Center Rd, Windham. Free. Everyone welcome. FMI, 892-3769.

The Gorham Ecumenical Food Pantry is open at St. Anne's Church every Thurs. from 9-11 a.m.; the second Wednesday of the month from 6-7 p.m.; and the third Monday of the month from 6-7 p.m. Open to anyone in Gorham in need of food. Located in the building behind St. Anne's Church, Main St.

TUESDAY, MAR. 1

- Income tax preparation by IRS certified tax counselors, 9-12 p.m., Gorham Rec. Dept. All ages with income below \$75,000. Free. Call for an appointment, 839-7439.
- Gorham Cancer Prayer and Support Group, 7 p.m. Cressey Road United Methodist Church. FMI, 839-311.
- Town Council Meeting, 7 p.m., Municipal Center, 75 South St.

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 2

- North Gorham Public Library, Babies in the Library, ages 0-3 yrs, 10-11 a.m. FMI, 892-2575.

THURSDAY, MAR. 3

- Gorham Food Pantry, 9-11 a.m. (St. Anne's Catholic Church parking lot).
- Baby & Me, birth-18 mos., 9:30 a.m., Baxter Library. FMI, 839-5031.
- Toddler Time, ages 18-36 mos., 10 a.m., Baxter Library. FMI, 839-5031.
- North Gorham Public Library, Story Hour for ages 3-5 yrs, 9:30-10:30 a.m. FMI, 892-2575.

FRIDAY, MAR. 4

- Spotlight Concert Series, "Crook vs. Schubert," 8 p.m., Corthell Hall, USM. \$15/\$10/\$5. FMI, 780-5555.

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Moving Sale! Saturday, 2/26 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday 2/27 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Location: 54 Running Springs Road in Gorham.

Public Comments Sought in USM Accreditation Process

The University of Southern Maine (USM) will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit on April 10-13 by a team representing the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

The Commission on Institutions of Higher Education is one of seven accrediting commissions in the United States that provide institutional accreditation on a regional basis. Accreditation is voluntary and applies to the institution as a whole. The Commission, which is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, accredits some 240 institutions in New England.

USM was last reviewed in 2001 and for the past two years has been engaged in a process of self-study, addressing the Commission's Standards for Accreditation. A copy of this self-study report is available at <http://usm.maine.edu/accreditation>.

During its April visit, the evaluation team will gather evidence that USM's self-study is thorough and accurate. The team will recommend to the Commission a continuing status for the institution. Following a review process, the Commission itself will take the final action.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the institution to:

**Public Comment on the University of Southern Maine
Commission on Institutions of Higher Education
New England Association of Schools and Colleges
209 Burlington Road, Suite 201
Bedford, MA 01730-1433
E-mail: cihe@neasc.org**

Public Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution. The Commission cannot settle disputes between individuals and institutions, whether those involve faculty, students, administrators, or members of other groups.

Comments will not be treated as confidential and must include the name, address, and telephone number of the person providing the comments.

Public Comments must be received by April 13, 2011. The Commission cannot guarantee that comments received after that date will be considered.



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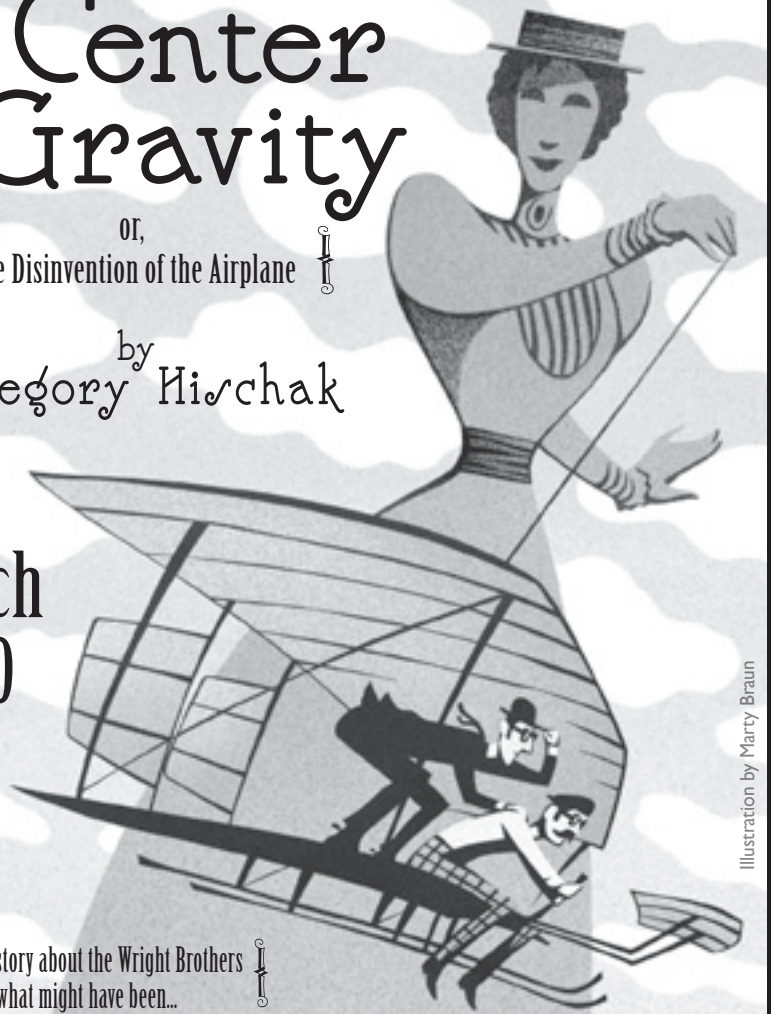


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