

Gorham Times

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SINCE 1995—A FREE, VOLUNTEER-RUN, BIWEEKLY COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Spire & Ice: A Multi-Annual Event



Photo courtesy of Facebook

BY JACOB ADAMS
Staff Writer

The first annual Spire & Ice event kicked off at Spire 29 on the Square on Friday, January 16. The patrons braved the cold temperature to try the drinks that were exclusive to the outdoor ice bar.

The bar, sculpted of ice and lit from inside, featured twin drink "luges" on either side. (Contrary to popular belief, this particular ice luge is not an Olympic event—it is more of a long open-face funnel for drinks.)

Due to the frigid air, many folks found themselves inside warming up on the dance floor or getting cozy with a group in the photo booth.

While Friday's turnout was a bit sparse due to the numbing weather, nearly 200 people attended the event the following day.

For more information about future events, including next year's second annual Spire & Ice event, email Spire 29 on the Square at info@spire29.com or call 222-2068. Spire 29 is located at 29 School Street in the former Methodist church.

Loss of Revenue Sharing to Impact Gorham's Budget

BY SHERI FABER
Staff Writer

Among the proposals Governor Paul LePage has put forth for the State of Maine is one that would eliminate revenue sharing with cities and towns in Maine.

By law, Maine's cities and towns are to receive approximately five percent

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Superintendent Search Yields One Finalist

BY GORHAM TIMES STAFF

On January 21, approximately 70 people attended the public forum at Gorham Middle School to introduce Superintendent of Schools finalist Heather Perry, 41, to replace Ted Sharp, who is retiring on June 30 after 11 years as Gorham's superintendent.

There were 17 applications for the position, five of whom were interviewed by the Superintendent Search Committee.

After initial interviews, Perry was chosen as the only finalist to be brought forward to the full School Committee. The process will continue with further reference checks and site visits to her district.

The School Committee considers Perry their preferred candidate and will continue with the due diligence aspects of the process just as they would if there were more than one finalist.

"When the School Committee first determined our search process, we decided to take the month of January to fully consider any and all finalists. We are still on that schedule," said Dennis Libby, chair of the School Committee and also chair for the Search Committee. Perry's candidacy is on the agenda of the February 11 School Committee meeting.

"I applied for the position," Perry said, "because I have wanted to come to southern Maine because of all the opportunities in the area and because of all the good things that I've heard about the Gorham School system."



Photo credit Roger Marchand

As part of the superintendent search process, the Gorham School Committee has announced Heather Perry as its sole finalist.

Seventeen people at the public forum asked questions regarding how Perry views punishment, the pledge of allegiance, gifted and talented programs, arts, budget preparation, testing, and other areas. In response to one question, Perry said, "I am a supporter of the arts and I see art as being a must." Later she added, "I plan on doing a good deal of listening before making any recommendations for changes."

Perry is currently the Superintendent of Schools in Regional School Unit

(RSU) 3, one of the top three geographically largest school units in the state. RSU 3, based in Unity, serves approximately 1,500 students in rural Waldo County, compared to Gorham's current enrollment of 2,648 students as of October 1, 2014.

Previously, Perry served as the Superintendent of Schools for Union 60 in Greenville (which comprises the five towns of Greenville, Shirley, Beaver Cove, Willimantic, and Kingsbury Plantation), MSAD 12 in Jackman/Moose River, and in the West Forks Municipal School Unit.

Before becoming a superintendent, Perry served as principal at Fort O' Brien Elementary School (MSAD 77) in Machiasport; teaching principal at Bay Ridge Elementary School (MSAD 77) in Cutler; grades six through eight social studies teacher at Elm Street School (MSAD 77) in East Machias; grades six through eight classroom teacher at Bay Ridge School; and Title I, educational technician I at Bay Ridge School—all in Washington County.

Perry received a Bachelor of Art in History from the University of Maine at Machias and a Master of Educational Leadership from the University of Maine. She is currently working on her doctorate in the field of educational leadership at the University of Maine.

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Committee Appointments of Gorham's Legislators

BY ROGER MARCHAND
Staff Writer

State Representatives Andrew McLean and Linda Sanborn, along with State Senator Amy Volk, have been appointed to key positions on the Legislature's policy committees.

Representative McLean has been appointed House chair of the Transportation Committee, on which

he previously served as a member. Representative Sanborn will continue her role on the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee, which is charged with budget writing and oversight. State Senator Amy Volk has been appointed as Senate chair of the Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development

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Historic Covered Bridge Damaged, Shut Down

Babb's Bridge, a covered bridge originally built in 1840 then replaced in 1976, has been shut down indefinitely due to an accident, possibly caused by a snowplow, on the Windham side. Inspectors are working to determine if the integrity of the structure was compromised. The 79-foot bridge spans the Presumpscot River between the towns of Gorham and Windham.

GHS Cheerleading Squad are Western Maine Class A Champions!

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Tax Reform Key to Improving Maine's Budget

By SEN. AMY VOLK

On Friday, January 9, Governor LePage unveiled his budget proposal for fiscal years 2016-2017. The unveiling of a budget by the Governor is the first step in what is a months-long process. What the Governor puts forward is only a proposal; the proposal then heads to the Legislature's Appropriations Committee, which spends the next few months delving into details, crunching numbers, and negotiating a final budget agreement. The budget the Appropriations Committee creates is what lawmakers vote on in the House and Senate. Because Maine's fiscal year starts on July 1, a budget must be passed by that date.

The proposal submitted by Governor LePage this year has many bold initiatives, most notably reforms to Maine's tax system. While there is certainly disagreement about the best way to go about it, many people agree that Maine's current tax system is outdated and far too complicated.

As a native Mainer and small business owner myself, I agree that our state's future prosperity depends upon becoming more competitive, not only in New England, but nationwide. During the last legislative session, I was a founding member of a bipartisan group of lawmakers that crafted a proposal to reform Maine's tax system. Unfortunately, that bill did not get far

into the legislative process. With this budget, however, some of the ideas contained in the so-called "Gang of 11" proposal will see the light of day and lawmakers will have the chance to work with the details and crunch the numbers at the committee level. Even if some of the ideas don't make it into the final budget, having these discussions is important for the State. We must explore many ideas before we reach the best solutions.

One idea laid out by Governor LePage is lowering the income tax while making certain increases to the sales tax. Maine is obviously a tourist destination, but it is also home to many part-time residents. One of the tax reform goals is to collect more revenue from those populations. These changes are offset by enhanced property tax, income and sales tax credits for lower income and/or elderly filers.

As proposed, the top marginal individual income tax rate would be reduced from 7.95% to 5.75% by 2018. Eliminating the tax on military pensions is also proposed, as is the reduction of the top corporate income tax rate from 8.93% to 6.75%. According to the Tax Foundation, Maine ranks ninth highest in both of these taxes among the states.

The budget also contains a proposal to repeal the estate tax, something many other states have done or are in the process of doing. In a state like Maine, where many people

are land rich and cash poor, eliminating the estate tax can be a huge help to preserving family businesses, particularly farms.

From here on out, all eyes will be on the Appropriations Committee. The public will have a chance to testify, other policy committees will sit in on discussions in Appropriations when needed, and a budget will be crafted. It could very well look quite different than Governor LePage's initial proposal, but my hope is that it does contain tax reform that modernizes Maine's revenue stream, benefits working Mainers, and helps our business community to thrive, resulting in an increase in good paying jobs which will keep our young people close and draw others to our state.

If you'd like to read more about the Governor's budget proposal, you can do so at <http://www.maine.gov/budget/>. I found the Tax Foundation's analysis enlightening as well. You can read that at <http://taxfoundation.org/article/maine-gears-serious-tax-reform-conversation> or email me directly for the link at Amy.Volk@legislature.maine.gov.



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Letter to the Editor

Letters must be less than 300 words, signed with a first and last name, typed or e-mailed and include a phone number. 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* Editor:

I attended the 5th Annual Martin Luther King Day Candlelight Observance in Gorham, which was truly a thoughtful and lovely ceremony. This was the first year the Gorham High School Civil Rights Team held this event. We should be proud of these dedicated and involved young people. We should also thank one of Gorham's "behind-the-scenes" community stars. Peggy Marchand's guidance and support helped these young people produce a wonderful program with meaningful readings. I hope the Civil Rights Team continues this annual event, and I urge everyone to mark their calendars to attend next year.

Cathryn Falwell

Dear *Gorham Times* Editor:

I am writing to thank the Gorham EMT's for their proficiency. In 2011, I fell from a ladder and with their expert training they know how to transport me without causing more damage. In 2013, when my companion had heart problems, they arrived quickly. More recently he had pneumonia with fever. Whatever the problem, they know how and what needs to be done. Thank you. Carole & Ron Willowdale

Observance by Candlelight



Photo credit Roger Marchand

On Monday, January 19 over fifty people attended the candlelight observance in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day at the gazebo in front of the Municipal Center. This was the fifth year this event has taken place, and the first year it was sponsored by Gorham High School's Civil Rights Team. Those attending were asked to bring donations of non-perishable food items for Gorham's Ecumenical Food Pantry.

Thank you, Emily Lewis

Due to the tight schedule that often comes along with being a high school senior, Emily Lewis recently stepped down from her role as intern with the *Gorham Times*. Working with Emily has been a delight and a pleasure. She brought a smile to production meetings and met all challenges and deadlines with the same cheery disposition. Her articles were informative, timely, and well written. In the fall Emily plans to attend Northwestern University.



Photo courtesy of Gorham High School

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Gorham Times

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Mother/Daughter Hikers Complete Thru-Hike of Appalachian Trail

By CHRIS CRAWFORD
Staff Writer

According to the Appalachian Trail (AT) website, each year somewhere between 2 to 3 million visitors hike some portion of the trail. Only a tiny fraction hike the entire trail in one continuous hike and an even smaller percentage of those thru-hikers are women. This year, mother/daughter hikers, Julie McPherson and Kali St. Germain, triumphantly reached the top of Mt. Katahdin-St. Germain on August 14 and McPherson on December 14. They joined the elite club of thru-hikers known as 2,000-milers.

The trip was St. Germain's idea. After graduating from GHS in 2013, she wanted to take a year off to hike the AT before starting college. She was going to hike with a friend, but when her friend changed her plans, her mother stepped in. After almost a year of preparation, McPherson and St. Germain left Springer Mountain, Georgia on March 1, 2014.

When asked what it was like spending such concentrated time with her daughter, McPherson said, "Kali and I have always had a good relationship, but on the trail, I didn't want to be her mom." But of course she still worried, "If Kali didn't show up at a shelter before dark, I was ready to go find her, but I didn't. I became more confident as time went on and knew she would be okay," McPherson added. St. Germain agreed, "It was really fun hiking with her for the first half." Because St. Germain had to be finished by mid August in order to start college and McPherson was not in a rush, the pair parted ways about mid way through.

McPherson and St. Germain had some practical advice as well as encouragement to share with anyone thinking about hiking the AT. "Even if you are nervous, go anyway. I told myself that if I wasn't enjoying it after two or three weeks, I could just go home," said McPherson.

In preparation, they did some reading about the trail. McPherson found plenty of information on the web, including whiteblaze.net and appalachiantrails.com. She recommends bringing along the "AT Guide - AWOL on the Appalachian Trail." Although she found that it was not always accurate for elevations, it did provide good info about towns along the way. St. Germain did less prep, but enjoyed reading "Becoming Odyssea: Adventures on the Appalachian Trail," about the woman who holds the record for the fastest time anyone has thru-hiked the AT. St. Germain said, "I talked to a few other people who had hiked the AT; I got the gear that I guessed would suit the climates and let my mom worry about the details."

McPherson recommends not carrying too much weight. Initially, her pack weighed about 29 pounds, growing to about 33 pounds going through the Great Smoky Mountains. By May, her pack was about 22 pounds and during the summer, it whittled down to about 15. "You quickly learn what you need and what you can do without. You can also add items as you go along if you feel

you need them," she said. A typical day began with an early breakfast and hitting the trail by 6:30 or 7 a.m. Most days McPherson hiked by herself, overcoming the fear she had at the beginning of the trip. As she settled into the hike, she left the worries of everyday life behind. "Trail time is different than regular time," she said. Time slowed down and she did too, often taking time to stop and enjoy the solitude and beauty. "Sitting on a ledge looking at the view and just taking it all in brought me such a sense of peace," she said.

The AT offers many challenges and interesting encounters, including a hamstring injury for McPherson about three months in that slowed her down on the up hills. Because McPherson hiked at a slower rate than St. Germain, as she hiked into the fall, the cold and

"When you're on the brink of exhaustion but you know you need to make it those few more miles and, when you do, the self accomplishment is unlike any other feeling,"

KALI ST. GERMAIN



Photo credit Julie McPherson

Gorham's mother/daughter Appalachian Trail hikers pictured at Harpers Ferry, almost half way through their journey. Pictured from left to right using their trail names are: Wrong Leg, Half Moon (Kali St. Germain), Mama Bear/Tiny Giant (Julie McPherson) and Rambo. St. Germain finished the hike with Wrong Leg in mid August and McPherson finished with Rambo in Mid December.

snow were very difficult. "I had a hard time keeping warm. My hamstrings got really cold, but my good friend Anton lent me some great insulated shorts. They really helped a lot," she said. McPherson found that kilts were very comfortable for hiking, too.

St. Germain said that while she felt prepared for the challenges, it was more a question of the challenges being much harder than she expected. "The temperatures, the bugs, the hunger, and everything else are all very small problems, but it takes five times the effort to get past them once you've been hiking 20 miles day after day and all you want to do is to sleep comfortably with a full stomach," she said. She added that the trail can teach you some incredible things. "When you're on the brink of exhaustion but you know you need to make it those few more miles and, when you do, the self accomplishment is unlike any other feeling," she said.

The wildlife could offer some interesting challenges, too. One day, a dog joined McPherson for a couple miles. When they came upon a rattlesnake stretched across the trail, the snake showed no sign of moving, even when McPherson asked it politely. She reluctantly detoured around it, hoping that none of its friends were hiding in the brush. The dog then nonchalantly

walked right past the snake on the trail.

In addition to the natural beauty, the trip was full of unique experiences and interesting people. "You might hike with someone for only a week or two, but it feels more like six months. You get to know people rather quickly," said McPherson. St. Germain agreed the best part of the trip was the people. "You meet people from everywhere and anywhere. They are the ones that make the trail worthwhile because without crazy characters to keep your mood up along the way, the trail can be a very lonesome and grueling experience," she said.

Part of the fun is that everyone chooses an interesting trail name, or has it chosen for them. St. Germain was Half Moon, and McPherson was Mama Bear and then later, Tiny Giant. Another character, with the trail name of Fresh Ground, sets up a little café-type place at different points along the way and makes food to share with hikers who greatly appreciate his efforts of a hot meal.

Final advice from McPherson, "Make the hike what you want it to be. That might mean not hiking with the people you started with. Even if hiking isn't your thing, find out what feeds your soul and do that." St. Germain agreed, "Hiking is all about the smiles, not the miles."

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Looking Down Causes Headaches

BY MIKE SMITH

Headaches are often just a mild nuisance. A couple of aspirin or a good night's sleep will usually take care of the problem. When headaches occur on a daily or weekly basis, it is probably a good idea to visit the family doctor to figure out what might be going on.

There are many different types of headaches. The most common is related to muscle tension in the neck and upper back. These are often brought about by stress, poor posture, or a whiplash kind of injury. After consulting a family physician, these headache sufferers are often referred to physical therapy. These folks can often be helped with some basic tips, some hands-on work and a regime of exercise.

It is important to figure out when the headaches are most often occurring and what may be triggering them. Many times they are associated with daily posture, perhaps at the computer, or by sleep posture at night.

The muscles in the back of the neck, upper back and shoulders often get tight and fatigued with life's daily use. The adult head weighs approximately 10 pounds. Muscles can manage this weight if the head is sitting directly on the shoulders i.e. in "good posture." However, for every 10 degrees of motion of the head forward, the neck muscles have to produce 10 more pounds of force to keep the head balanced. If the head is tipped forward a great deal, then the muscles must produce up to 50 to 60 pounds of force to control the positioning. This produces a great deal of tension and requires a lot of muscle energy.

A recent study by a physician at Johns Hopkins verified these outcomes. The physician was prompted to make the study because so many people he encountered carried their heads down while using tablets, laptops and smart phones. He found that chronic forward head positioning can lead to headaches but also to degeneration of the joints and discs in the neck, which leads to further complications.

This kind of head fatigue can cause tight muscles and "knots" in the muscles. Since many of these muscles are attached to the back of the head and scalp, the nerves in these soft tissues can get irritated and easily lead to headaches.

Of course, not all headaches are due to musculoskeletal and postural issues. Many occur because of chemical and hormonal issues that need to be addressed with the family doctor. Needless to say, migraines are an entirely different issue to be

It is important to figure out when the headaches are most often occurring and what may be triggering them. Many times they are associated with daily posture, perhaps at the computer, or by sleep posture at night.

addressed with the family doctor or with a neurologist.

Moms can be frequent headache sufferers and they often attribute their condition to stress. This is not surprising considering they often have hectic schedules, balancing duties of childcare, home-

making, and often jobs, as well. Many of these women are left with little time to take care of themselves, much less to get proper exercise or even a good night's sleep. All of this can lead to fatigue of the neck muscles and cause headaches.

Basic forms of exercise, such as walking, can be very helpful. Lying down with a heating pad under the neck and shoulders for 20 to 30 minutes gets the weight off the muscles that support the head and gives them a break. Shoulder and upper back exercises can also help, as these areas may be weak and exercise helps build strength and endurance. Posture is 50% strength and 50% habit. Good postural habits will reduce neck and back fatigue and headaches related to stress.

There is no doubt the explosion of portable computers of all kinds has led to a near epidemic of headaches. If you don't believe it, look around you—in a doctor's waiting room, in the aisle at the supermarket, or even on street corners—and see where many people's heads are pointed. Most often, it is down, in a position that is a headache waiting to happen.

Mike Smith is a physical therapist and athletic trainer and owner of Village Physical Therapy on Main Street in Gorham.

Committee Appointments CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Committee, and is also a member of the Judiciary Committee.

Maine is one of two states with Legislative joint standing committees. Each standing committee is comprised of members of both parties based on membership numbers in either the House or Senate. This enables legislators from both bodies to work together in developing policies and legislation. Each committee has a Senate chair and a House chair chosen by the Speaker of the House or the Senate President. The chair has to have demonstrated knowledge in the focus area of the committee, show leadership skills, and be able to work with both political parties. The chair is responsible for scheduling bills to be heard, running public hearings and work sessions, and getting legislation through the respective chambers.

The Transportation committee, of which McLean is the

House chair, oversees policy relating to the Department of Transportation, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and the Maine Turnpike Authority, as well as aviation, highway and bridge infrastructure, and railroads. It has jurisdiction over a biannual budget of approximately \$1.4 billion, which is mainly funded through gasoline tax revenues. This tax money can be used only for bridges and roadwork and does not go into the general fund. McLean stated, "Even though the amount seems substantial, the budget to repair deficient or functionally obsolete roads and bridges is under-funded by \$180 million annually."

"The committee's work is critically important for our state—not only for keeping people safe but also for ensuring that Maine businesses can be successful," said McLean. "We have a lot of work to do to bring our transportation system into the 21st century, and I look forward to taking on this new role as we continue to work on policies that strengthen our infrastructure and support our economy."

"I'm thrilled to continue working on the Appropriations Committee," said Sanborn. "Drafting and passing a smart and balanced budget is the primary responsibility of all legislators." She also stated the appropriations committee has always been a body that works

toward a unanimous vote to present to the legislature. Sanborn feels that otherwise there would be difficulty in getting it passed by the full House and Senate. At this time, the committee is hearing from department heads about their needs for the upcoming budget. Tax reform is going to have a major impact on the budget so the committee will be spending a good deal of time going over all aspects of any changes being presented. "The budget is a moral responsibility that needs to benefit all Mainers."

Senator Volk is the Senate Chair of the Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development Committee. This committee deals with the Department of Labor; wage and hour laws; working conditions, including health and safety; workforce development; unemployment compensation; workers' compensation; labor relations; collective bargaining; Workers'

"We have a lot of work to do to bring our transportation system into the 21st century, and I look forward to taking on this new role as we continue to work on policies that strengthen our infrastructure and support our economy."

REP. ANDREW MCLEAN

Compensation Board; Maine Labor Relations Board; business regulation, including automobile and fuel sales; professional and occupational licensing; retail pricing; franchising; advertising; credit law (business related); consumer protection; Maine State Housing Authority; affordable housing; homelessness; Finance Authority of Maine (FAME); economic planning and development agencies; venture capital and trade programs; opportunity zones; import competition; product marketing; research and development; technology commercialization; technology transfers; tourism; and defense facility. This very diverse sub-committee was two committees until it was made into one during the 125th Legislature. Volk said the committee will deal with the minimum wage during this legislative session. A law allowing random drug testing of hospital employees is also under study. Right to Work, and Fair Share legislation will also be issues during this legislative session. Volk said she hopes "there will be less rancor during this legislative session than in the past two."

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JANUARY 5, 2015
Planning Board Results

By SHERI FABER
Staff Writer

The Planning Board recommended that the:

- Town Council approve a conditional zoning district for 10 Preble Street to allow a two- or three-unit residential and/or office use.
- Town Council approve a request by Shaw Brothers to change the current zoning district for six lots on Mosher Road from suburban residential to industrial.
- Planning Board ordinance committee review allowing a residential garage as a principal use in a rural district.
- Town Council approve amendments to the Land Use and Development Code to revise sight distance requirements.

Planning Board Ordinance Committee review separate requests by Barry King and Christopher Brassbridge to allow specific commercial uses consistent with previously approved South Gorham contract zones.

The Planning Board also:

- Granted preliminary approval to a request by Peter and Kathryn Mason for a three-lot development transfer overlay subdivision with four dwelling units at 258 Main Street.
- Discussed site plan review for construction of the new police station and a renovated fire station on the site of the current public safety building.
- The Planning Board plans to hold a joint meeting with the Westbrook Planning Board on February 17 in the Town Council Chambers.

@YOUR LIBRARY

New Library Cards Have Arrived @ Your Library

By PAMELA TURNER
Director, Baxter Memorial Library

The Baxter Memorial Library is pleased to announce that the new library cards have arrived. They come with both a great new look and added options like a wallet-sized/key tag combination pack. In addition, you may begin the application process online from any internet-ready computer or device. We also have application stations at the library and would be happy to assist you at the main desk.

Everyone will need to complete and sign a new application form in order to make the switch to our new cards but... there is no rush. We ask that you please apply by June 1 for uninterrupted access to your library account. Your current card will remain valid until June 30 or the current expiration date, whichever is sooner.

To apply for a new card or to update your account, please go to www.baxterli-

brary.org to access the application form. After that, simply visit the library at your convenience with a valid photo identification and proof of address to sign the form and pick up your new card. As always, students through twelfth grade may use their school and grade as ID/proof of residence. Children under the age of 13 will need to have a parent/legal guardian sign his or her application form.

Current non-resident patrons will simply be getting a new card; the form mentions our annual fee but if you have already paid, don't worry, you won't be asked to pay again until your current membership year concludes.

Keep in mind, everyone will need to update their account by June 30 and everyone signing up for a card or renewing their current card needs to be present to finish that process, even children.

For more information, please contact the library at 222-1190 or pturner@msln.net.

Grand Jury Indictments

The Grand Jury returned the following indictments in January:

Terence Bean, 56, of Windham, was indicted for violating sexual offender registration on charges brought by Gorham Police Department.

Ryan Bell, 27, of Gray, was indicted for criminal OUI and possession of a

firearm by a prohibited person on charges brought by Gorham Police Department.

Nicholas Whitten, 19, of Gorham, was indicted for aggravated criminal mischief on charges brought by South Portland Police Department.

Clerk's Corner

By JENNIFER ELLIOTT

The Town Clerk's Office wants to thank several Gorham businesses and residents for their generous Christmas help to adopt families that needed a little extra to get through the holidays this year. We also received several generous donations to our Fuel Fund, which is available year round to assist Gorham residents with this season's heating fuel. We are very thankful we have such caring residents and businesses that stepped up to help. To contribute to this year round account, send a check made out to Town of Gorham c/o the Town Clerks Office to 75 South Street, Gorham, ME 04038.

The final push to get dogs registered for 2015 is on; the deadline is January 31. Owners can register online at www.gorham-me.org or by visiting the Town Clerk's Office during open businesses hours, Monday through Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., and Friday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please note that on February 1 the \$25 late fee imposed by the state goes into effect on top of the dog registration.



Jennifer Elliott can be reached by e-mail at jelliott@gorham.me.us or by phone at 222-1674.

Real Estate Transfers June 2014

Location	Buyer	Seller	Price
5 Dyer Road	Morrison, Jeffrey G &	Leslie, Edward & Patricia	\$212,000
264 County Road	How, Jasmine &	John Peters, LLC	\$288,830
23 Daniel Street	Larrivee, Cole O.H.	Rocque, Clifford	\$145,000
30 Boulder Drive	Peeples, Bruce	Stiver, John & Kimberly	\$219,500
29 Sebago Lake Road	Benson-Sargent, Wendy S	Meggison, Charlotte Trust	\$190,000
335 Sebago Lake Road	Cote, Adam M	Plowman, Joshua	\$171,750
185 Huston Road	Giroux, Mark	Hunnewell, Jennie	\$236,000
71 Wood Road	Penley, Alston &	Walker, Azilda	\$199,000
11 Ridge View Lane	Lacroix, Bethany G &	Gleason, Phillip & Stacy	\$256,000
4 Tammys Way	Eads, Tyler	Alvarez, Heather & Jason	\$429,000
3 Taylor Way	Vickery, Benjamin A	Mitchell, Rhonda	\$200,250
293 Flaggy Meadow Road	Bartholomew, Robert A &	Minard, Gerald & Mary	\$215,646
20 Lombard Street	Pike, Jennifer	Kilborn, Heather & David	\$186,500
75 Quincy Drive	Collins, David A &	Kiel, John & Rachel	\$260,000
28 Plummer Road	Copeland, Lee W &	Ridgemont Properties Maine, LLC	\$367,500
3 Marathon Avenue	Roberts, John C &	Blaikie, Adam & Assoc. LLC	\$263,610
7 Rainbow Lane	Morgan, Elisha J &	Sibley, Donald & Anna	\$245,000
22 Glenwood Avenue	Stickney, Karen June &	Cyr, Phyllis	\$213,853
16 Keene Drive	Sanfino, Nicholas A	Sawyer, Edwin & Christine	\$311,000
175 Sebago Lake Road	Zloccki, Gabriella E	Jourdan, Bethany	\$150,000
133 Mosher Road	Blake, Erin E	Gorham Builders Realty Trust	\$344,000
12 Plummer Road	Lauzon, David M	Worrall, Dennis & Debotrah	\$140,000

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Superintendent Search CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Perry currently sits as the president for the Kennebec Valley Superintendent's Association, president for the Maine Small Schools Coalition, and is a member of the Maine Superintendent's Association State-wide Legislative Committee and Certification Committee. She is also a graduate of the Maine Development Foundation's Educational Leaders Experience, Alpha class. She also currently sits on the Board of Good Will-Hinckley and has recently been asked to join

the Board of Directors for Jobs for Maine's Graduates.

In the past, she has served as vice president of the Piscataquis County Economic Development Council; trustee for the Moosehead Historical Society; and chaired the National Rural Trust Finance Policy Committee.

Perry is also a wife and proud mother of a college freshman.

If Perry is chosen to fill the superintendent position, look to a later edition of the Gorham Times for further information.

GHS Moves Past Traditional Gender-Colored Gowns

BY AVERY ARENA
GHS Staff Writer

On January 21, the Gorham High School (GHS) School Council voted on a proposal to change the graduation gown colors.

The proposal was written because not all students were comfortable with the current system. Traditionally at GHS, males wear maroon gowns and females wear white gowns.

The intention of the proposal was to bring unity to the graduating class, not dividing them with two gown colors. Additionally, many felt there was no reason in the 21st century to separate genders during graduation.

After midterms, the auditorium began filling up with students and staff wanting to provide input on the matter. Co-Chairs Darren Panagakos

and Muhammed Khan opened the floor for discussion from the students who represented multiple sides of the topic.

After a half an hour of public comment, School Council members discussed and then voted against the original proposal to change the graduation gown colors from maroon and white to a single color.

Members then considered and approved a proposal to move to three colors (maroon, white, and black); allowing students to choose from the three colors without having gender as a factor. This proposal passed with an overwhelming majority.

School Council is a group comprised of ten students (representatives from each grade level and two student council members) and ten staff members. Proposals, submitted through an online form, are discussed and voted on by members. A two-thirds majority is required to approve a proposal.

USM Student-Athlete Programs Reaching the Community



Photo credits Andrea Morrell

Matt Verrier (left), a USM student enrolled in the NCAA Champs Life Skills course last fall, had the opportunity to be a mentor to first grader Johnny Richards. Scott Delano (right), also enrolled in the course, mentors fourth grader Emilio Shaw both in the classroom and on the court during gym.

BY ANDREA MORRELL
School Coordinator

Beginning this academic year, many University of Southern Maine (USM) student-athletes participated in community outreach programs with students at Great Falls Elementary School.

Under the direction of Assistant Athletic Director for Student Development Meredith Bradley-Bickford, USM student-athletes have worked with elementary students through either a peer-mentoring program or being part of the Husky Pen Pal program.

Fifteen student-athletes, enrolled in the NCAA Champs Life Skills course this fall, served as mentors to elementary aged children at Great Falls. This is the second year USM students have worked with children at the school.

The participating student-athletes spend 90 minutes each week doing

a variety of activities with their "buddy" including: reading, writing, arithmetic, and physical education while serving as positive role models.

According to Bradley-Bickford, the NCAA course focuses on five areas, one of which is community service learning. When Great Falls Principal Jane Esty was at Village School, before the K-5 transition, Bradley-Bickford worked with Esty to have the student-athletes run a recess program at Village called "organized play" that ran five days a week.

When Esty moved to Great Falls, it became harder to continue with the "organized play" because the school was not within walking distance of USM.

Bradley-Bickford met with vice principal Becky Fortier and together they created the mentor program with the understanding that many students might benefit from a positive role model.

Bradley-Bickford said her student-athletes, through this program, find they like giving back and learning about the community. "A lot of my students continue on and visit with their students. They are continuing this semester and it's not mandatory as part of the curriculum," she said.

This fall Matt Verrier, a fifth-year criminology major with a coaching minor, took the course and mentored Johnny Richards, first-grader in Michelle Lesperance's classroom. He said he helped Richards with whatever he was doing in the class-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Feeling like you paid too much in taxes this year?

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3. Tax-advantaged college savings accounts. Contribute or gift to a college savings plan for your children or grandchildren.

*May be subject to state and local taxes and the alternative minimum tax (AMT).

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Cultivating Better Awareness of Gender Issues, Language

By SCOTT A. CAULFIELD
GHS Social Studies teacher

This fall, the Gorham High School (GHS) Civil Rights Team presented a short program to the school during advisory period to help build awareness of how everyday language affects people who identify as LGBTQAI+ (Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, intersex, and asexual).

The program included: a dramatic monologue, read by senior Krista Boylen, on the impact of sexual slurs and insults not only to the person targeted, but on those around them; a short skit performed by Evan Scott, Morgan Brown, Anne Kelly, Doris Beane, Will Selens, Nikki Sawyer, Chris Hayward, Emma Pierce, Kayley Mason, and Kirsten Perry on the different approaches people take and the language they use when meeting or speaking with those who identify their gender differently; and finally a guest speaker, Devin Eiskamp, who spoke as an LGBTQAI+ student attending GHS.

Julia Plante served as the program facilitator; the stage manager was Allison Sinnett; and photography was done by Brandon Pierson.

The program gave the audience an insight into a sensitive topic, which was highlighted when the moderator asked the audience how many knew an LGBTQAI+ student and almost everyone raised their hand.

The presentations also provided students with multiple ways to view the



Photo credit Scott Caulfield

Krista Boylen narrated this fall a Gorham High School Civil Rights presentation, put on for the entire school during advisory period, which generated a lot of productive discussions amongst students about LGBTQAI+ students.

issues involved using a combination of humor, personal voice, and dramatization.

This event was the final in a series of consciousness-building efforts within the month of October, LGBT History Month.

The Civil Rights Team, advised by faculty member Rachael Grady, is part of state-wide organization that trains and facilitates students in school civil rights issues, and offers resources to assist in making schools safe places for all students to learn. It welcomes all students, and encourages dialogue on a large number of school-wide issues at the student level. All are welcome to attend meetings or join and help out.



Photo credit Scott Caulfield

Pictured from left to right performing the GHS Civil Rights Team skit are: Evan Scott, Kirsten Perry (standing), Morgan Brown, and Chris Hayward.

Grandma's Attic Treasures
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*Grandma's Attic Treasures Studio is located at the
sign of The Colonel's Lady, 82 South Street (Route 114)
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GHS Students Discover Digital Storytelling



Photo credit William Sedlack

Pictured from left to right are the nine juniors and seniors who make up the Digital Storytelling class at GHS: Amanda Butler (senior); Mallory Campbell (junior); Nicole Caruso (junior); GraceAnn Burns (senior); Allison Sinnett (junior); Hailey Bryant (junior); Julia Plante (junior); Maeve Terry (junior), and (front row) Humza Khan (senior).

By GRACEANN BURNS
senior at Gorham High School

Gorham High School (GHS) has recently been putting an emphasis on teaching students how to become effective 21st century communicators.

The school is providing students with the tools to achieve this goal through a multitude of classes. One new class, Digital Storytelling, focuses on effective and appropriate uses of social media and technology to report on current events and popular culture, all through a new website, Treeworthy.org.

"Treeworthy," the high school's news online and culture magazine for the 2014-15 school year, is run through Digital Storytelling, taught by GHS technology integrator William Sedlack, and is comprised of nine juniors and seniors who have all shown an interest in journalism or writing.

The class first started when principal Chris Record began talking to Sedlack, who has a background in history and English, about the possibility of a class focused around social media and the proper uses of it.

"I had kind of started planning it and I didn't think a class with people learning how to use Twitter would catch on, so I started planning this class around being an English elective...and creating a place where students have a safe place to explore the possibilities of social media while also being a journalist," said Sedlack.

And so Digital Storytelling was created. Students run the website, updating it weekly with television, movie, and music reviews as well as

fitness tips and a featured athlete of the week, all under the supervision of Sedlack.

"I really don't believe journalism is dead; it's just changing. I think there are incredible opportunities for people to tell other stories, which is why the class is Digital Storytelling. What draws me in is the relaying of stories for a better understanding of the world around us," said Sedlack.

Students also participate in a weekly podcast recorded and posted on their SoundCloud account (SoundCloud.com/tree-worthy) every Thursday. The podcast works as a weekly criticism of popular culture. Students discuss both their weekly television and music reviews, as well as discussing a pre-assigned news article from earlier in the week.

On top of their weekly culture reviews, the students are currently working on their midterm project, which is to write a longer, in-depth article about something that interests them. Their topics range from the art scene in Portland to pre-game rituals used by different basketball teams.

Each student's final product will have different elements of multimedia incorporated into the article, such as photographs and video interviews recorded by the students.

Sedlack said, "The students have been really amazing. They have really jelled as a class." He describes the group as supportive of each other, inquisitive and willing to go above and beyond. "I have students asking me to do extra articles, extra reviews just for fun not even for extra credit," he said.

School Notes

Gorham High School's National Honor Society is collecting gently used jeans for youth experiencing homelessness as part of the national Teens for Jeans Campaign.

This campaign is in partnership with Areopostale and DoSomething.

org, a non-profit organization for young people and social change.

If you would like to donate, jeans can be dropped off at the Gorham High School main office during school hours.

Volunteering to Make a Difference in the Life of a Senior

By HALEY THOMPSON
eighth-grader at GMS

Since the start of the school year, Gorham Middle School students in Mrs. Whitaker's Alternative Education classroom have been volunteering at the Inn at Village Square, an assisted living facility in Gorham.

The students play games with the residents such as cribbage, Skip-Bo®, and Yahtzee®. In addition to playing games, the students offer to paint nails or simply talk.

To spread holiday cheer, students made Thanksgiving cards for the residents and decorated their doors and shelves with a Christmas theme. The students will continue to volunteer each month until the end of the year.



Photo credit Derek Grayson

Dorothy Getchell (left) and Marilyn Cowan (right), residents of Inn at Village Square in Gorham, display one of the doors decorated by Mrs. Whitaker's students.

Science is Great at Great Falls

Great Falls Elementary recently hosted a full school Mad Science assembly with all its students wearing their "I put the Great in Great Falls" t-shirts.

Photo credit Becky Fortier



Gorham Youth Football is excited to announce head and assistant coaching opportunities! If you are interested in coaching football at the youth level (8th grade and under), please submit an application to Andy Hager (coachhager61@gmail.com), Gorham High School Head Football Coach, no later than February 14th.

- Grizzlies (7th & 8th grade)
- Jr. Grizzlies (5th & 6th grade)
- Cubs (3rd & 4th grade)
- Jr. Cubs (1st & 2nd)

Bring your football knowledge and love for the game to the Gorham Youth Football program. Application deadline is February 14th. You may visit our website for the application at www.gorhamfootballboosters.com

*Must have prior coaching experience.

GHS Winter Sports Highlights

COMPILED BY JEFF PIKE
Sports Editor

Girls' Basketball: 12-2 and ranked fourth Western Maine Class A at press time, the Rams were averaging 53 points per game while holding opponents to 37. **Emily Esposito** is leading the way—averaging 17 points, 8.5 rebounds and 3.7 steals per game. **Abby Hamilton** is second on the team in scoring at 9.0 points per game and leads the way with 18 three-pointers. **Kaylea Lundin** is first assists per game at 2.8 while **Kristen Curley** is shooting 66% from the floor and 63% from the three-point line. The team earned a huge 53-48 win January 19 over Thornton Academy, which entered the game with just one loss. Gorham overcame a 13-point deficit in the third quarter and scored 38 points in the second half—two points more than Thornton Academy had allowed in any entire game all season. Esposito scored 19 point in the second half and finished with 25 points and 12 rebounds.

Boys' Hockey: The team's record was 8-2-1 at press time, and the Rams were ranked fourth in Western Maine Class B. Senior defenseman **Andrew Schmidt** was named the Western Maine Class B Defenseman of the Month for December while sophomore goalie **Noah Bird** was named Co-Rookie Player of the Month. **Carl Baer** scored four goals in the team's 11-0 win over Leavitt on January 19.

Boys' Basketball: Ranked fifth in Western Maine Class A at press time with a 10-4 record, the Rams have been led in scoring by **Tyler Bernaiche**, **Nick Thibeault**, **Sam Kilborn** and **Billy Ruby**. Kilborn and Thibeault were also leading in rebounding while **Cody Elliot** was leading the team in assists. Bernaiche and Billy Ruby were leading in steals.

Boys' Indoor Track & Field: The Rams record was 6-5 at press time. Freshman **Luke Gowen** was undefeated and had earned the league's leading time in the junior 200 meter dash. During the team's January 17 meet vs. South Portland and Biddeford, **Jesse Southard** (1 mile and 2 mile) and **Ethan Orach** (junior 800 and junior high jump) both won two individual events.

Girls' Indoor Track & Field: Through four regular-season meets, the team's record was 7-4. Five team members participated in the prestigious Dartmouth Relays January 9-11 against athletes from New England, New York and Quebec. The sprint medley relay team of **Kayleigh Smith**, **Abby Perkins**, **Kristin Benson** and **Anna Slager** finished 10th out of approximately 30 teams. Slager also finished eighth out of 60 participants in the one mile run while Hayley Bickford finished sixth in the 1-mile race-walk. The most recent team qualifiers for the Maine State Class A Meet include Perkins in the pole vault and 200 meters, and **Bridget Rossignol** in the pole vault. They join six other teammates that previously qualified. Overall, the eight team members have qualified for 18 individual events.

Girls' Hockey: With one game to go in the regular season, the Rams held the sixth and final playoff spot in Western Maine with a record of 8-9.

Skiing: The boys' and girls' teams opened their season on January 9th at Shawnee Peak with the boys placing second and girls finishing third in the multi-team meets. Among the individual competitors, the boys were led by **Nate Roberts** (3rd) while **Emma Christakis** (7th) paced the girls.



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Western Maine Class A Champions!



Courtesy photo

The GHS cheerleading squad is enjoying a very successful competition season including winning the Western Maine Class A Championship on January 26. The team also placed first in the Maine Cheerleading Competition and the SMAA Conference Championship as well as a second-place finish in the Shriner's Invitation earlier in January. The team now moves onto the Class A State Championship February 7 at the Augusta Civic Center. Team members pictured above, front row from left to right: Michaela Desrosier, Kaylee Boyd, Julia Smith, Caroline Smith, Meghan Yaskula, Kelly Aube and Rachel Jean. Middle row: Allyson Webber, Meredith Dvilinsky, Ashley Aceto, Erika Dvilinsky, Sally Aube, Brooke Hall and Alexis Shaw. Back row: Lauren Nagy, Hannah Meserve, Kara Doane, Mykaila Rush, Jamie Carter and Kate Curley. Missing from the photo are team members Katie Baker and Tommi-Kate O'Neil.

Gorham Grad Completes First Marathon



Colleen Ward (GHS '11) completed her first marathon on January 11 in the Walt Disney World Run in Florida. Ward, who previously had completed two half marathons in Maine and ran cross country during her junior year in high school, turned in a time of 5:46:31. She is currently in her senior year at UMaine-Farmington.

Courtesy photo

sports Etc.

Next GHS Boosters Meeting: The Gorham Boosters meet the second Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the GHS Library. The next meeting takes place February 9. Anyone wishing to help can contact gorhamboosters@gmail.com.

Upcoming GHS Varsity Sports Events

Friday, January 30

5:00 p.m. Girls' Skiing Multi-Team Meet @ Shawnee Peak
 5:00 p.m. Boys' Skiing Multi-Team Meet @ Shawnee Peak
 5:00 p.m. Boys' Swimming vs. Portland @ Riverton School
 5:00 p.m. Girls' Swimming vs. Portland @ Riverton School
 6:00 p.m. Girls' Basketball vs. Windham @ GHS
 7:30 p.m. Boys' Basketball vs. Windham @ GHS

Saturday, January 31

6:00 p.m. Boys' Hockey vs. Yarmouth @ Travis Roy Arena

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

On-Target Shooters



Photo credit Anthony Alfiero

Six Gorham basketball players won their respective age-gender groups at the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship held January 24 at GHS. Pictured above from left to right: Thomas Nelson (13-year-old boys); Jacqui Hamilton (12-girls), Mason Laskey (11-boys), Zachary Beaumont (12-boys), Amber Bretton (9-girls) and Bryce Lumbert (10-boys). In the back row are Mark Andrews-Grand Knight and Mike Chabot-Youth Director of the Knights of Columbus. Each winner advances to the district finals to be held in February with hopes of advancing the state finals in March. Photo credit Anthony Alfiero

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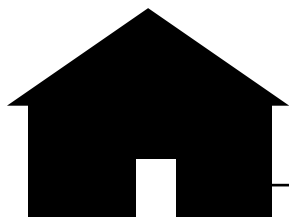
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USM Student Athlete Program CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

room. Verrier enjoyed helping him with writing first thing in the morning.

"He helps me put in the right letters for some words. Writing is my favorite thing. I have a German Shepherd, Reg, and I get to make new tricks for him in my stories," said Richards.

Emilio Shaw, fourth grader in Laurie Tibbitts' classroom, buddied this fall with Scott Delano, a freshman USM finance major with a minor in coaching.

"He's fun. He plays the games in gym. He does math games with me. He's helping me stay focused because I'm not good at getting my work done. I just don't pay attention when the teacher is around. The one-on-one is what is helpful," said Shaw.

"With coaching you really need to learn about an abundance of different personalities. Dealing with younger kids, you can help develop their minds. They look forward to seeing you," said Delano.

Because of the success with the mentor program and due to the fact that the class is only offered once a year, Bradley-Bickford decided to incorporate the pen pal program to students at Great Falls as well.

"More and more of our youth need positive reinforcement," said Bradley-Bickford.

Eighty-six student-athletes are presently enrolled in the Husky Pen Pal program. Again, under the supervision of Bradley-Bickford and Fortier, USM student-athletes exchange biweekly letters with third graders throughout the academic year.

This new athletic department initiative has a minimum goal of five letters sent during the fall semester and another five during the spring semester. On May 1, after the final letter is exchanged, USM student-athletes will host a "Meet and Greet" with their pen pals in which the third graders will take a field trip to the Gorham campus, have lunch with the student-athletes, and tour the campus.

"My goal is to have every third grader in Gorham have a pen pal at USM," said Bradley-Bickford, who is hoping to meet that goal by the fall of 2015.

Contact Bradley-Bickford, mbickford@usm.maine.edu or (207) 780-5997, for further information on these programs or other ideas on how to connect student-athletes with the Gorham community.

Perennial Place Has Grand Opening



The former elementary school at White Rock has been completely transformed into housing for people 55 years and older. Perennial Place at White Rock, located at 10 North Gorham Road, held an open house January 16. As seen in the photograph, Jon Smith, president and owner of Great Falls Construction, speaks to Sen. Amy Volk in the brightly painted hallway of the newly finished Perennial Place at White Rock. Cindy Smith, vice-president of Great Falls Construction, shown in the background walking down the hall, played an integral role in the project. According to Jon Smith, "It was an idea she had a few years ago and she put her touches on the entire project including all of the selections." While the building has a fresh look to it, it still has some original millwork from the original school. Smith met the challenges of converting an old school into a welcoming residence for seniors. Each unit is denoted with a painting of various flowers. At press time, only four units were still available. For more information, see advertisement below.

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Taylor Hansen (GHS '12), Lasell College, Communications
Spencer LaPierre (GHS '13), Bryant University, Finance
Aaron LaPorte (GHS '11), Lasell College, Marketing
Paige Lemieux (GHS '14), Bryant University, Marketing
Michael Lubelczyk (GHS '13), Hamilton College
Victoria Parker (GHS '12), University of Rhode Island
Hannah Shorty (GHS '10), University of Rhode Island
Alexandra Sturtevant (GHS '12), Delaware Valley College
Rachel Lloyd-Taylor, University of Hartford
Evelyn Viernes (GHS '13), High Point University
Seth Wing (GHS '11), Bryant University, Finance

OF INTEREST

A **Baked Bean supper** will be held on **Saturday, Feb. 7** at the **White Rock Community Club**, Wilson Road, Gorham, from **4:30-6 p.m.** The menu includes two kinds of baked beans, hot dogs, coleslaw, potato salad, macaroni and cheese, homemade biscuits and pies, punch and coffee. \$8 adults, \$4 children 6-12; free for children 5 and under.

Gorham Savings Bank presents LaunchPad, a competition to help fund the growth of Maine business. Maine business owners, creators, inventors, and entrepreneurs can compete for \$30,000 by submitting a viable business proposal by Mar. 1, 2015. Five finalists will pitch their idea at the live LaunchPad Competition on June 18, 2015. FMI, Launchpad@gorhamsavingsbank.com

The Gorham Woman's Club will meet on Thursday, Feb. 12 at the **First Parish Congregational Church** in Gorham with refreshments at **12:30 p.m.** followed by a presentation on Elder Abuse Awareness. February is GO RED for women's heart health month. Wear something red to remind us to take care of our hearts.

ON-GOING EVENTS

Free Income Tax preparation for all ages by IRS certified tax consultants on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Anne's Church, 299 Main St., Gorham. Sponsored by the AARP foundation. Call for an appointment (207) 699-4280.

A **Support Group for Living and Eating Healthy** will take place every Wednesday evening from 6-7 p.m. at Martin's Point Healthcare, 510 Main St., Gorham. FREE and open to the public every week. This not-for-profit group is not affiliated with Martin's Point. FMI, call Pauline 839-2092.

The Gorham Food Pantry, located at 299-B Main St. (parking lot of St. Anne's Catholic Church), is open every Thursday morning from 9 to 11 a.m. and the second and fourth Wednesday of every month from 6 to 7 p.m. Free for Gorham residents in need. FMI, 222-4351 or visit www.gorhamfoodpantry.org.

The Lakes Region Senior Center, White Rock Grange at 33 Wilson Road (off Rt. 237), is a great place for daily socializing, independent activities and good conversation with Mahjong lessons on Monday; poker, crafting and card games on Tuesday; Chair Yoga with a Nutrition and Weight Support Group on Wednesday; and Bingo on Thursday. FMI, call Cheryl 892-9879 or Blanche 892-5604.

The Gorham Medical Closet, located at the Municipal Center, 75 South St., is free and available to Gorham residents in need of portable wheelchairs, hospital beds, shower seats, commodes, walkers, canes and more. FMI, call 839-4579, 839-3630 or 839-3936.

USM NOTES

The USM School of Music will kick off the **Spring 2015 Faculty Concert Series** with **"Return of the Maine Bones: Mark Manduca and Friends,"** at 8 p.m., **Friday, Jan. 30**, Corthell Concert Hall, Gorham campus. \$15/\$10/\$5. FMI, 780-5555.

The USM Art Department and Art Gallery will present a **USM Faculty & Alumni Invitational through March 1, 2015** at the USM Art Gallery, Gorham campus. FMI, www.usm.maine.edu/gallery.



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Gorham Historic Preservation at Work

BY NOAH MINER
Staff Writer

In May of 2014, the Town Council organized the eight-member Gorham Historic Preservation Committee consisting of two town councilors and six citizens.

Over the past several months, the committee has been busy in pursuit of its mission: "The mission of the Gorham Historic Preservation Committee is to promote and preserve historic places, buildings, and neighborhoods, strengthening the cultural and economic vitality of the Gorham community. In support of this mission, the Historic Preservation Committee will identify buildings that have historic and/or cultural significance, produce an inventory of such properties, and determine how these properties may be affected by state and local ordinances. The Committee will evaluate and recommend whether the town of Gorham should develop a Historic Preservation Ordinance or Commission, and provide an appropriate recommendation to the Town Council."

Guest speaker Deb Andrews, Historic Preservation manager from Portland, shared her knowledge of the issue and how the city of Portland manages historic properties. The committee is in the process using the expansive records compiled by the Gorham Historical Society in order to inventory historic buildings within the community. The committee is look-

ing at several other communities, comparable to Gorham, to learn how they chose to preserve their historic properties.

Currently there are four historic districts in Gorham, including the Great Falls Historic District near Little Falls, the Gorham Campus Historic District (including portions of USM), the Gorham Historic District (encompassing College Avenue and School Street), and the South Street Historic District. Properties within these historic districts are given official recognition for their historic and cultural importance. Properties in these districts may be eligible to Federal rehabilitation tax credits. For more info on Historic Districts, visit the Maine Historic Preservation Commission at <http://www.state.me.us/mhpc/index.shtml>.

The Gorham Historic Preservation Committee will hold a public meeting on Thursday, Feb. 12 in the Town Council Chambers to communicate its progress and solicit public feedback from the community regarding historic preservation. The meeting will provide an opportunity for members of the public to learn more about the efforts of the Historic Preservation Committee, discuss what aspects of historic preservation are important to the community, and provide input regarding the future of historic preservation in Gorham. If you are interested, but are unable to attend, forward your comments to Committee Chair, Councilor Bruce Rouillard at brouillard@gorham.me.us.

Loss of Revenue CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of the sales taxes collected by the state through revenue sharing. According to Town Manager David Cole, "This has been a partnership that has existed for many years and recognized, in part, that towns provide many State services at the local level because it is more efficient."

If the law were followed, Gorham would receive about \$1.6 million. In 2013, that amount was reduced by half causing the town to raise taxes by \$1 per \$1,000 of assessed value, which raised the tax rate from \$16.30 to \$17.30. Last year revenue sharing was reduced further to \$715,000.

The Legislature approves a budget every two years and in the budget for next year, the Governor has announced his intention to eliminate revenue sharing altogether. Among the proposals LePage is suggesting as a means for towns to make up for this loss is to require non-profits to pay property taxes on properties with an assessed value over \$500,000. Non-profits are currently exempt from paying property taxes and many smaller communities will not have any non-

profits from which they can receive tax revenue.

Gorham has seven qualifying non-profits: Goodwill Industries of Northern New England (two properties), assessed value \$4,772,800; Village Square Housing (two properties), \$5,815,700; So. Maine Community Recreation Center (Gorham Sports Center), \$1,303,000; Hill Street Terrace Housing (White Birch Lane), \$969,200; Avesta Housing (Ridgewood), \$818,100; Masonic Building Corp. (Cressey Road), \$526,400; and Port Resources (five group homes), \$732,400. The non-profits would be taxed on 50 percent of the value of their property over \$500,000 and, according to the proposed formula, Gorham would receive a total of approximately \$95,000 from these non-profits.

The Town Manager noted the trade off would amount to an additional loss of \$620,000 and likely lead to reduced services, higher property taxes or some combination of both.

One possible way for towns to cut costs would be to consolidate services. Gorham currently shares some services with other towns and with Cumberland County, but Cole pointed out that consolidating services does not always save money. Over a 10-year period, the Town of Gorham considered four different options for dispatch before joining with Cumberland County to form the Cumberland County Regional Communications Center, in a move that was both cost effective and met the needs of the town.



Many thanks to the businesses and individuals below, who supported the 2014 Gorham Educational Foundation Adult Trivia Bee with sponsorships or in-kind donations! The money raised from this event will be used to fund projects and programs in our Gorham schools. Thanks also to all of those who donated auction items, volunteered to help with the event, and to those of you who attended the event!



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For more information about the work of Gorham Educational Foundation, and how you can get involved, email us at gorhamef@gmail.com, or visit us on the web at www.gorhamef.org. Information is also shared on our Facebook page! Like us to get updates!

the *Courtesy of the Gorham Police Department*



Scary Fireworks

A report of shots fired on Heather Way was someone with a permit setting off fireworks.

Suspicious person on Main Street was looking through ashtrays for cigarette butts.

A tractor-trailer driver pulled over on the bypass was changing a front headlight.

Suspicious people on North Gorham Road were the owners of the construction company at that site.

Owner of a trailer on Chestnut Circle wanted to change the locks on the trailer as several squatters had been there in the past.

Officer checked on a man running on the bypass. He was jogging on the side of the road.

Officer checking on the well being of a Flaggy Meadow Road resident learned from a neighbor that the person was out of state with family members.

Following an accident on County Road where the vehicle went off the road, the driver was arrested for OUI.

Officer responded to a call about a vehicle driving slowly on Ossipee Trail. Driver was elderly and driving cautiously because it was nighttime.

Mercier Way man was arrested for OUI.

Officer called rescue for someone bitten by a tick.

Person on County Road was arrested for possession of hypodermic apparatus, violating conditions of release and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Scarborough man was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia. He was arrested again the following day and charged with violating conditions of release and possession of hypodermic apparatus.

Subject ran out of gas and left vehicle on the side of the road with the keys in it.

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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JAN. 29

- Baby and Me with books and movement, 9:30 a.m., birth-18 mos., Baxter Memorial Library.
- Toddler Time, 10 a.m., ages 18-36 mos., Baxter Memorial Library.

FRIDAY, JAN. 30

- 5TH Annual Gorham's Got Talent, 6:30 p.m., Gorham Middle School.

SATURDAY, JAN. 31

- Super Saturday: Fit Kids, 11-11:30 a.m., Fun and Fitness, Baxter Memorial Library.

MONDAY, FEB. 2

- Green Gorham Meeting, Gorham Savings Bank Office, 6:30-8:30 p.m. All are welcome. FMI, 892-6000.

TUESDAY, FEB. 3

- Free Income Tax preparation, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., St. Anne's Church. Call for appointment, 699-4280.
- Gorham Cancer Prayer and Support Group, 6 p.m., Cressey Road United Methodist Church. All are welcome. FMI, 321-1390 or 839-3111.
- Pre-School Story Time, 9:30 a.m., ages 3-5 years, Baxter Memorial Library.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 4

- Early Release grades K-12.
- Town of Gorham Senior Lunch Program, St. Anne's Church. 12-1:30 p.m. \$4pp. FMI, 839-4857.

THURSDAY, FEB. 5

- Start the New Year off right! Come join the Gorham Business Exchange and network with other Gorham businesses. Renew some friendships and make some new connections. Hosted by Gorham House from 5 -7:30 p.m., 50 New Portland Road, Gorham.

SATURDAY, FEB. 7

- Baked Bean Supper, White Rock Community Club, 4:30-6 p.m. \$8/\$4 ages 6-12/Free 5 and under.

TUESDAY, FEB. 10

- Free Income Tax preparation, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., St. Anne's Church. Call for appointment, 699-4280.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 11

- Town of Gorham Senior Lunch Program, St. Anne's Church. 12-1:30 p.m. \$4pp. FMI, 839-4857.

THURSDAY, FEB. 12

- Gorham Woman's Club Meeting, 12:30 p.m., First Parish Congregational Church. Elder Abuse program.

THURSDAY, FEB. 12

- SAVE THE DATE. The Gorham Business Exchange will be having a Breakfast Learning Meeting, "Creating a Profitable Future" presented by Stephen Menhennitt of Menhennitt Performance Alliance. Thursday, February 12 from 7:30 - 9:00 a.m. at Gorham Savings Bank Operation Center, 10 Wentworth Drive. Members \$15.00 and Non-Members \$20.00 - Register online at: www.gorhambusiness.org.

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

- SAVE THE DATE. The Gorham Business Exchange will be having a Breakfast Learning Meeting, "Widening the 'Net' - The InterNet that is" presented by Judi Jones principal of InfoHarbor LLC. Thursday, March 5 from 7:30 - 9:00 a.m. at Gorham Savings Bank Operation Center, 10 Wentworth Drive. Members \$15.00 and Non-Members \$20.00 - Register online at: www.gorhambusiness.org.

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 Gorham Middle School, 106 Weeks Rd.
 Gorham Savings Bank Office, Wentworth Drive
 St. Anne's Church, 199 Main St.
 Cressey Road United Methodist Church, 81 Cressey Rd.
 White Rock Community Club, 34 Wilson Rd.
 First Parish Congregational Church, 1 Church St.

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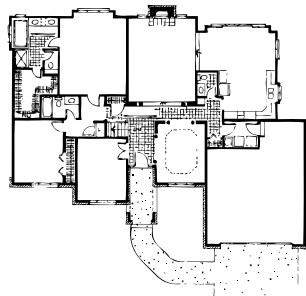
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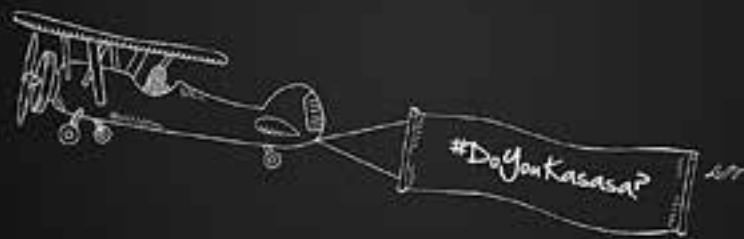
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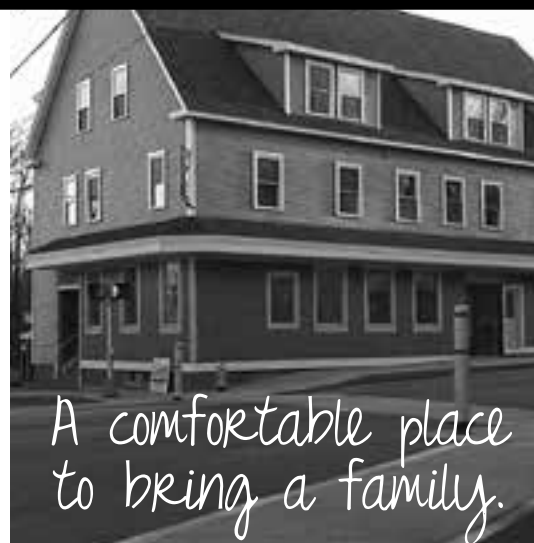
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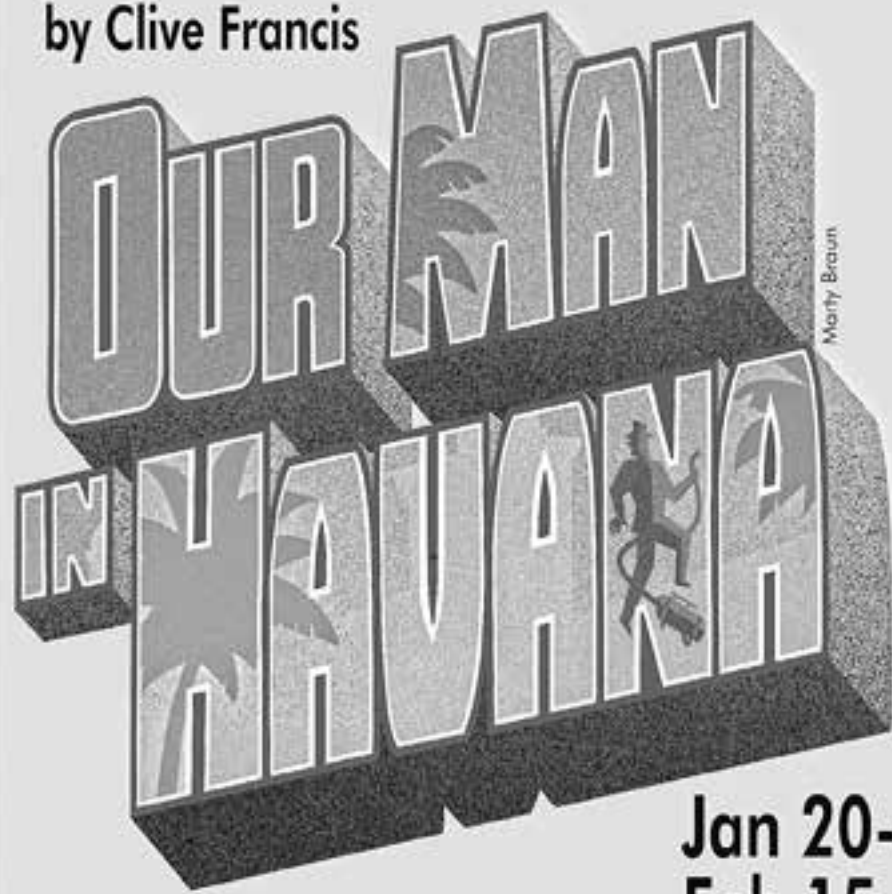
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