

Gorham Times

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A Free, Not-for-Profit Newspaper Serving Gorham Since 1995

Jim Boyle Elected State Representative

Kathy Corbett, Staff Writer



Photo Credit: The Boyle Family

Jim Boyle, newly elected representative for Maine Legislative District 27, and his wife Sue Durst, a real estate agent.

Elected to the Maine Legislature in a special election on January 11, Jim Boyle thanked voters of Gorham and Scarborough “for turning out to vote on a day that started out at five degrees and ended up one below zero.”

Boyle, who served one term as state senator seven years ago, decided to run for District 27 representative when Kyle Bailey resigned in October. “In about ten weeks I talked with hundreds of voters,” he said, “and I appreciate all the feedback I received.”

A Democrat, he won 57% of the vote in a three-way race. He was sworn in on January 18 and will fill the remaining year of the two-year term.

Boyle, 63, graduated from the University of Maine in 1981 with a B.S. in forest management. “I worked as a forester in the North Maine woods early in my career, did some surveying, and then started my environmental consulting business in 1996.”

He is the owner of Environmental Permitting & Inspection, LLC. Boyle served as president of the Maine Association of Wetland Scientists and is on the Board of the Efficiency Maine Trust.

In Augusta he will “look to support bills related to pandemic safety, renewable energy, energy efficiency, improvement to child protective services, and tribal sovereignty.”

“Because of the beautiful woods, fields and water, we moved to Gorham from South Portland twelve years ago,” Boyle said. He and his wife Sue Durst live in a log home on the Presumpscot River with two dogs and a cat. He has two children and two step children. Four grandchildren live within 50 miles of Gorham. “Most of our free time includes them,” he said. “We have a little dock on the river and spend a lot of time on the water.”

Memories of Gorham Country Club

Gorham Times Staff



Photo Credit: Thank you to Willis Real Estate

At the end of December, in an email to members, the owners of The Gorham Country Club announced the decision to close the club. Owners, Harold and Kathy Hawkes have made the decision to retire.

“The last two years with the pandemic have been a challenge for us all. The uncertainty of whether or not we were going to be allowed to open led to operating under all new guidelines which were challenging for everyone ... This has given us reason to pause and reevaluate our business,” they said.

Also mentioned in the email

to members is that the proposed Turnpike Spur will possibly affect some of the holes of the course.

Known as “Maine’s Friendliest Golf Course” the 180-acre course at 93 McLellan Rd has been a gem of the Gorham community for nearly 60 years. Decades of memories made on the grounds at various events shine a spotlight on the legacy the Hawkes have built.

If you would like to share your memories of your time spent at Gorham Country Club, please send photos and captions to gorhamtimes@gmail.com.

Special Election Results

Gorham Times Staff

Voters in ward 1-1 and 1-2 cast ballots to elect a state representative to fill an unexpired term. The three candidates ran to replace Kyle Bailey who resigned the position.

Below is the breakdown of how Gorham voted on November 2. The asterisk denotes the overall winner. For more detailed voting information by ward, please visit <https://www.gorham-me.org>.

DISTRICT 27 REPRESENTATIVE:
James Boyle 807*
Suzanne Phillips 67
Timothy Thorsen 542

Construction Update on Rte 25



Photo Credit: Roger Marchand

Construction workers are installing drainage pipes for a hayfield at Shaw Brothers Foundation’s Cherry Hill Farm on Route 25. According to Jon Shaw, the hayfield will be part of a working farm located at the end of the adjacent access road. One of the farm’s two barns will be the old Mosher Barn now being renovated for installation later this year.

GHS Presents Into the Woods

Michael Lortie, Musical Producer

Live musical theater is returning to the stage in the auditorium at Gorham High School. Costumes and sets have been designed and created. Music, script lines and movements have been memorized and rehearsed. “Into the Woods” is almost ready.

Tickets may be reserved by calling 839-5754 and are also available at the door. Shows are scheduled for February 4, 5, 11 and 12 at 7:30 p.m. and February 6 and 13 at 2:30 p.m. Ticket prices are \$12 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors, age 64 and older.

Masks must be worn at all times inside the school building.

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FIRST TEAM IS PRESENTED WITH ROBOTICS CHALLENGE
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Policy on News from Augusta: The Gorham Times asked our three state legislators from Senate District 30, House District 26 and House District 27 to provide us with "News from Augusta." We publish their articles on a rotating basis. The submissions are devoted to updates of legislative and administrative news, proposed and passed bills and laws, and developments and events that are of interest and have an impact to Gorham residents. The Gorham Times reserves the right to edit the submissions and it further reserves the right to reject any submission, in its sole discretion.

Looking Ahead to Our New Session

Sen. Stacy Brenner

Wednesday, Jan. 5, marked the first day of the second regular session of the 130th Maine Legislature. Lawmakers from across the state once again traveled to the State House in Augusta to formally kick off our work for the coming months. The day is largely a ceremonial one that signals the start of a new session, but nevertheless we arrived refreshed and ready to work on behalf of our constituents who sent us to represent them.

For me, being in the State House always serves as a good reminder of the gravity of the work we do and the ability we have to make positive changes in people's lives. Now that the Legislature has formally begun its session, I wanted to take a look forward and share with you what the coming months will look like.

Firstly, I wanted to go over some key structural differences that exist in the second session as compared with the first. Most notable is this session's length; unlike the first session which typically runs from January until June, the second session is scheduled to adjourn in April, and has come to be referred to as the "short session" because of that.

The focus of our work will also be narrower. As opposed to the first session where legislators can submit bills on any topic ranging from small to large issues, the Maine Constitution dictates that the second session be reserved for budgetary matters, legislation of an "emergency" nature, and

bills that were introduced in the previous year but still require additional work.

Legislative committees have also begun meeting, and the work quickly got moving at full speed. As the Senate Chair of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, I'm responsible for setting the agenda and schedule for the committee, along with my co-chair, Rep. Ralph Tucker, of Brunswick. We'll be working on a wide range of issues once again this session, from out-of-state waste that comes into Maine, to advancing the Maine Won't Wait climate action plan, to water quality standards. We've also already held a public hearing for a bill that I sponsored to help coastal homeowners afford their flood insurance amid rising water levels. I'll make sure to keep you updated as this legislation progresses.

I also serve as a member of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee, where we will continue the critical work to ensure that every Mainer, no matter where they live or how much money they make, can access the prescription medications and health care that they need.

Like last year, committees will start the year by conducting their work remotely over Zoom. During the first session, this new virtual format actually turned out to benefit everyday Mainers the most. As opposed to previous years when someone would have to plan their day around a drive to Augusta,

whether it be 20 minutes or 3 hours, in order to share their thoughts on a proposal, now anyone can testify during a public hearing from the comfort of their own home. We saw evidence that people were taking advantage of this new ability last session, with record numbers of people participating in public hearings. The legislative process is at its best when we get as much input as possible from around the state. All committee meetings are also live streamed and archived at www.legislature.maine.gov.

As the session goes on, I will continue working to keep all of my constituents up to date on the happenings in Augusta. In addition to monthly columns, I send email updates that you can sign up for by visiting www.mainesenate.org. You can also visit my Facebook page at www.facebook.com/stacy.brenner.maine. And as always, if you have a question, comment or just want to make your voice heard, you can send me an email at Stacy.Brenner@legislature.maine.gov or call my office at 287-1515.



Stacy Brenner is serving her first term in the Maine Senate, representing Senate District 30, which includes Gorham, part of Buxton, and part of Scarborough. She is the co-owner of Broadturn Farm in Scarborough and is also a certified nurse-midwife.

Letter to the Editor

Letters to the Editor must be fewer than 300 words, signed with a first and last name, typed or e-mailed and include a phone number. The Gorham Times reserves the right not to publish letters that include personal attacks or inflammatory language. 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 Residents:

Please go to <http://www.gorham-me.org> and sign up to receive email notices for new ordinances the Planning Board and Town Council are proposing.

Why? Pretty soon, your neighborhood could go from quiet and peaceful to bordering a neighbor that can host parties, concerts, fairs, festivals and weddings for up to 250 guests, as well as

other recreational events. The Town Council and Planning Board are considering a zoning change to the rural area called Agritourism that will permit "farms" to host an unlimited number of such events per year without a permit. Unfortunately, the ordinance is so broadly written that anyone who sells a few eggs, flowers, or vegetables would qualify as a "farm". In this regard, the ordinance doesn't have an acreage or income requirement, or require "farms" to comply with detailed performance standards imposed on other town businesses.

Some argue that Gorham "farmers" need to host these events for supplemental income so they won't sell their land for development. If that's the case, the ordinance should have an acreage requirement reasonably related to that

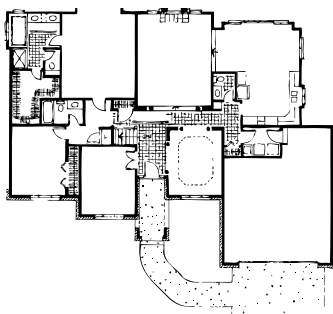
goal, like 25. Moreover, true agricultural landowners already have reduced property taxes, and may participate in a number of federal grant and monetary programs through the US Department of Agriculture.

"Farms" that host weddings under the ordinance will easily generate \$5000 to \$15,000 revenue per event. With no limit on events, a neighboring "farm" could easily host 30 weddings per year. Ask yourself, should a select few landowners be allowed to bypass requirements that other businesses and residents have to meet under the pretense of saving green space from house lots? Keep in mind that if you want to shoot fireworks on your own land or have a campfire, you have to get a permit.

Make your voice heard!
Charlie Pearson, JD

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Gorham Times

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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. 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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The Gorham Times would like to express condolences to the Shaw Family for the passing of Thomas Shaw. He will long be remembered as a good friend and neighbor, a strong family man, and for his many accomplishments and contributions in Gorham and beyond.

Gorham Schools Suspend Contact Tracing

Heather Perry, Superintendent

The Maine Department of Education in collaboration with the Maine CDC announced that school systems with universal masking policies may suspend contact tracing in their schools in order to allow schools to re-allocate resources in more effective ways.

The Gorham School Department has suspended its processes for contact tracing. Our School nurses are working together to create a FAQ sheet with a clear outline of recent changes as they have been coming fast and furious.

1. PLEASE STILL CONTINUE TO REPORT POSITIVE CASES TO SCHOOL NURSES AND/OR SCHOOL ADMIN. Although we will no longer be conducting contact tracing protocols, we must still report daily case numbers to the Maine CDC and on our school website.

2. If positive cases are within a household, we will still uphold the recent changes to the SOP which require household close contacts to quarantine for 5 days past the most recent positive in the household. Currently, this applies to both vaccinated and unvaccinated students, however we are closely monitoring the data and are considering adjusting this to just unvaccinated household members after the current surge subsides.

3. We are still BinaxNow testing for students who become symptomatic during the course of the school day. Again, the primary rule of thumb here is that if a child is sick, please do not send them to school to be tested. We are only allowed

to use our tests for the specific purpose stated above. If a student is experiencing 1 common symptom or 2 uncommon symptoms, they should remain home, and you can consult your PCP or reach out to your school nurse for more specific recommendations.

4. We will no longer be sending out DAILY close contact letters and/or community letters. We will maintain our website with up to date information regarding active cases.

5. We will still be requiring that our core COVID-19 protocols are followed in school, and strongly encouraged outside of school. Those are:

- Stay home if you are sick
- Wear a face covering
- Wash/Sanitize hands frequently
- Keep your distance when you can

In closing, I truly appreciate the flexibility, patience, understanding, and support from each of you as we continue to navigate these still uncharted pandemic conditions together.

The past three weeks have been full of all kinds of ups and downs. I suspect this will be the last "big" change in the SOP for a while, and I strongly suspect that our current surge in positive cases will abate relatively soon as well.

I am in continual awe of the hard work and dedication of our staff and even more of our parents for their focus on our children. There is no harder job right now than to be a parent, and our Gorham parents continue to excel and shine brightly. PROUD TO BE A RAM!

A Group Effort to Save Sassy

Christie Paul, Gorham Times Editor

Sassy the Springer Spaniel was missing for 18 days in December. During that time, news of her was often shared in the Gorham, Maine Facebook Group. The list of those attempting her rescue was quite extensive, and it came down to group cooperation and determination to bring Sassy home.

Breeder Maura Doyle has 33 years of experience breeding and training Springer Spaniels. Among Doyle's requirements for a prospective owner, their homes must have fenced-in yards.

For 7 years, Sassy lived with Doyle's life-long friend Kathleen and her parents. Then, in March of 2021, Kathleen's father passed away. Two weeks later, so did Kathleen.

After her friend's passing, Doyle took Sassy back into her custody. She recognized that Sassy needed to be placed in a similarly comfortable home, where she could continue her domesticated life.

"My co-breeder shared an email looking for an older dog for an elderly man — a similar situation to what Sassy had been living with for 7 years," she said.

On December 9, the man and his daughter met Doyle and Sassy. She told them that if it wasn't working out to please contact her and she would come get Sassy. They said they would, then Sassy hopped right into their car and off they went.

On December 12, a previous client from Kittery sent Doyle a flyer from Maine Lost Dog Recovery, curious if it was one of the breeder's Springer Spaniels. Sure enough, it was Sassy.

It turns out the folks who had just



Photo Credit: Pawz Unlimited LLC

Sassy, in the trap, being carried to safety.

Tips from Maine Lost Dog Recovery and Pawz Unlimited LLC

Each runaway situation is different.

Hang flyers immediately.

Call animal control and local animal shelters.

Stay calm.

Most people instinctively call out to the dog, but dogs are in fight or flight and often won't recognize their owner. Chasing, calling and loud noises may drive the dog further into danger.

Never chase a lost, scared dog.

Contact a recovery program.

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Employment Practices Liability Claims on the Rise

Ethan Johnson

COVID-19 is having an impact on employment practices liability insurance (EPLI). Claims involving retaliation are expected to continue to increase as employees return to the workplace. EPLI policies are designed to cover legally obligated employer losses related to discrimination, harassment, retaliation and wrongful employment decisions.

Data from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) shows that EPLI claims alleging retaliation have increased every year since 2003, with 37,632 workplace retaliation claims filed in 2020. The claims are typically filed in conjunction with discrimination or wrongful termination allegations.

The EEOC anticipates a rise in whistleblower claims from employees bringing forward concerns about health and safety in the workplace. Such claims may include employees concerned about exposure to COVID-19 due to unsafe working conditions or situations where employees allege they were wrongfully denied a request for leave or workplace accommodation.

The cost to defend and settle retaliation lawsuits has increased considerably in recent years, and the EEOC doesn't anticipate that trend slowing down. With more workers bringing forth COVID-19-related legal actions, businesses are eager to purchase EPLI policies. However, the shift in the market has resulted in higher policy retention, premium increases and new exclu-

sions specific to COVID-19 exposures, and EPL insurers have started scaling back coverage.

Businesses can be proactive in mitigating EPL claims by:

Distributing an employee handbook — The handbook should contain the company's equal employment opportunity policy and provide employees with steps for reporting discrimination or harassment.

Developing a code of ethics policy — Avoid ethical violations by developing and implementing a code of ethics and sharing it with all employees. This can help reduce an employer's exposure to punitive damages.

Instituting handbook auditing procedures — Keep the handbook up to date on the latest law changes by having an audit procedure in place.

As employees return to the office, employers should review their EPL coverage and take proper precautions to avoid EPL claims. To ensure your business is ready for any issue that may arise, stay in contact with your local independent agent.



Ethan Johnson of Chalmers Insurance has over 19 years of experience in the industry. A USM graduate, he is passionate about helping people and giving back to his local community of Gorham, where he lives with his family.

Grand Jury Indictments 12/21

Derek Doherty, 41, of Westbrook was indicted for aggravated trafficking in scheduled drugs (fentanyl), unlawful possession of scheduled drugs (fentanyl) and criminal OUI on charges brought by Gorham PD.

Charles Doughty, 39, of Gorham was indicted for harassment by phone or electronic communication device and violation of conditions of release on charges brought by Windham PD.

Michael Fenton, 74, of Gorham was indicted for theft by unauthorized taking on charges brought by South Portland PD.

Nicholas Lorman, 23, of Bedford, NH was indicted for gross sexual assault, patronizing prostitution of a minor (knew under 18) and patronizing prostitution of a minor

on charges brought by Gorham PD. Jordan Owen, 18, of Portland was indicted for two counts of unlawful possession of a scheduled drug (fentanyl), and operating after suspension on charges brought by Gorham PD.

Dylan Sanphy, 21, of Gorham was indicted for terrorizing with a dangerous weapon, terrorizing, hunting or shooting from a motor vehicle and discharging a firearm near a residence on charges brought by Cumberland County Sheriff's Office.

Matthew Tscharmier, 33, of Gorham was indicted for unlawful possession of scheduled drugs (fentanyl), and leaving the scene of an accident with property damage on charges brought by Gorham PD.

Arrests, November

Male, 39, of Porter was arrested for failure to appear, violating conditions of release, operating with license suspended/revoked, and being a fugitive from justice.

Line Road man, 18, was arrested for domestic violence criminal threatening and domestic violence assault.

Westbrook man, 18, was arrested for operating a vehicle without a license and OUI.

Fryeburg man, 36, was arrested for OUI.

Gray Road man, 47, was arrested for operating while license was suspended/revoked and violating conditions of release.

Portland man, 27, was arrested for failure to appear.

Westbrook man, 31, was arrested for OUI, and aggravated trafficking in scheduled drugs.

Naples man, 27, was arrested for OUI (alcohol).

Westbrook man, 63, was arrested for OUI (alcohol) and criminal speed (30+ mph over limit).

South Portland man, 23, was arrested for operating a vehicle while license was suspended or revoked and failure to register a vehicle.

Florida man, 49 was arrested for OUI (alcohol).

Planning Board Results 1/3/22

A proposed amendment to the Land Use and Development Code to require phased build outs of subdivisions was discussed and referred to the Town Council with a recommendation to adopt.

A proposed amendment to the Land Use and Development Code to allow for agricultural event centers and agricultural tourism was discussed and referred to the ordinance committee.

A proposed amendment to the Land Use and Development Code regarding the Village Expansion District was discussed and referred to the Town Council with a recommendation to adopt.

A request for approval to relocate the existing driveway of Maide for You at 222 Narragansett Street and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

SUPPORT LOCALLY OWNED BUSINESSES

Mike Smith, MSPT, ATC

Feel The Difference

Jennifer Danley, DPT

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We would also like to shout out to one of Gorham's own, Debbie Bryant! She's been a great addition to our office since this summer and we are very lucky to have her as part of our team.

The New Year is here and we'd love to welcome new patients to our office. We are a family friendly dental office, with our full services listed on our website.

Gannett Drive Dental participates with Northeast Delta Dental and we submit all dental insurance claims for our patients as a courtesy. We have the capability of taking 3D x-rays with our own Cone Beam as another aid in proper diagnosis. Our staff also utilizes a 3D digital scanner that replaces physical impressions to help us attain a very high level of dental care.

Please search Gannett Drive Dental on google to learn more about our office and staff. We look forward to welcoming you to our office and assisting you to reach your oral health goals.

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High speed fiber Internet now available in 2,800 locations throughout Gorham

OTELCO has completed its Fiber-to-the-Premise (FTTP) network in portions of Gorham and is pleased to announce that service is now available in approximately 2,800 locations.

“It’s important for more Gorham families to have another internet option and I’m particularly excited that we now have fiber as a choice.”

-Marnie Grumbach
OTELCO Customer

Service is available immediately and OTELCO is actively scheduling installations. Interested residents can visit otelco.com/gorhamgotfiber to learn more and sign up for priority installation.

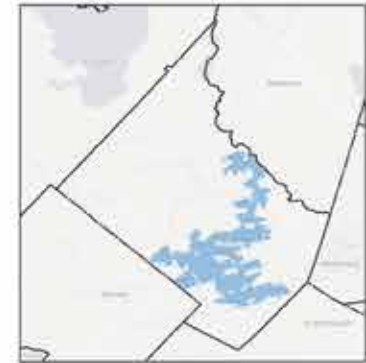
Packages are available starting at \$59.95 for 150 Mbps, \$69.95 for 500 Mbps, or \$79.95 for 1Gbps. OTELCO also offers service to businesses with a 100 Mbps basic package at \$99.95 that allows for up to two added phone lines with unlimited long distance for \$20 each. For larger businesses or those with more complex needs, the OTELCO B-to-B sales team is happy to consult to develop customized solutions to meet the individual needs of any company.

So, what is Fiber Optic Internet?

Fiber Optic Cable is made up of many hair-thin strands of glass that use light pulses to transmit data. It’s important to understand that fiber was designed specifically to send and receive data while DSL and Cable (both made of copper wire) were initially designed to carry telephone and TV signals respectively. Over the years, providers, OTELCO included, have modified phone and Cable TV networks to deliver data, but today, neither have the capabilities to meet our ever-growing demand for connectivity.

Unlike copper wire, fiber transmission doesn’t deteriorate over long distances. Fiber also offers symmetrical bandwidth which means that upload and download speeds are the same; neither DSL nor Cable have that capability so download speed is faster than upload. Anyone who has been telecommuting for work or using videoconferencing for remote schooling knows that upload speeds have become extremely important.

Marnie Grumbach, who recently began the process of upgrading to OTELCO’s fiber Internet in her Gorham home, conveyed her excitement over the availability of fiber in her neighborhood: “Like so many people, over the past two years our family has seen firsthand what it’s like to have multiple people working or attending school online at the same time. It’s not only frustrating when we have a slow connection, but it severely impacts how productive I’m able to be. My entire family is looking forward to a reliable Internet connection that’s twice as fast as what we previously had. It’s important for more Gorham families to have another option and I’m particularly excited that we now have fiber as a choice.”



Fiber Internet buildout area

OTELCO has an interactive map to help Gorham residents see if their location is part of the build. Visit otelco.com/gorhamgotfiber to learn more and register to be among the first to get connected to the new network. All Gorham residents are encouraged to register even if they are not part of the initial project area. OTELCO utilizes this information in planning future builds and coverage may be expanded if there is an overwhelming response.

ABOUT OTELCO

Otelco Inc. provides wireline telecommunications services in Alabama, Maine, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Hampshire, Vermont, and West Virginia passing more than 67,000 locations. The Company’s services include local and long-distance telephone, digital high-speed data lines, transport services, network access, cable television and other related services. It also provides competitive retail and wholesale communications services and technology consulting, and managed services. For more information, visit the Company’s website at www.otelco.com.



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Alyvia Caruso 'Coming on Strong' in Track & Field



Photo Credit: Amanda Landry

Alyvia Caruso, seen here competing in a hurdle event, continues breaking her own records. Recently, Caruso competed at the Virginia Beach High School relays. She earned first place in the triple jump by a jump of 35 feet 4.75 inches. That jump puts her in 2nd place overall in the State of Maine. Watch out for this track and field stand-out in her remaining competitions as a senior.

For the Gorham Girls' Ice Hockey Team, Good Times Are Here Again

Katie Brown, Sports Editor

Coach Mary Vaughan shares, "This year we are grateful for every time we have together as a team. For example, last night I had the team practice outside. It was very cold but we didn't have to worry about wearing a mask or ice time." The ice hockey program is getting creative and that is fine with them.

Coach Vaughan emphasizes that this group is up for anything and is super supportive of each other. "Playing in frigid weather, and making it to these practices with everything else they are juggling in their lives is a testament to this team."

Gorham, along with several other districts in the state, is a co-op team. Some teams have up to six area towns to make up one team. The Gorham ice hockey team is representative of three districts including Fryeburg, Massabesic, Bonny Eagle, and one player on exchange from Italy.

Some games will be blowouts and others will be more challenging, especially when they play a team twice. Coach Vaughn explains, "It's very hard to beat a team twice. When we play York again, they will know our strengths



Team picture 2022

Photo Credit: Amanda Landry

this time around, that will be a tight matchup. Some programs are really strong this year, some have dipped. Scarborough is one program doing really well. The vibe around the league this year is everyone is just happy to be playing."

At Falmouth recently, Gorham and Falmouth played a hard-fought game. Despite the penalties, it was a great match-up with several tremendous plays on both sides. Gorham ended with a 4-1 loss. Gorham is now ranked 5th, just under Falmouth. It was two good teams fighting it out.

Coach Vaughn shares, "Being a USM alum and being back at our

home rink has been incredible; I have a lot of gratitude."

Being a co-op team, these friendships are uniquely special. "The seniors have experienced a bizarre high school experience with COVID. Athletes have really struggled to get back to 'normal', and I am really impressed with this group, sticking it out. Our seniors along with team captains, Sadie Dyer, Anna Provost, and Cadence Howard continue to set the tone and make it such a fun time to be at practices." These meaningful connections are making a difference.

Playoff spots and home ice will be determined in the near future.

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FIRST Team is Presented with Robotics Challenge

Michael Lortie, School News Editor



Photo Credit: Lori Arsenalt, Website Mentor for Team FIRST

FIRST(R) Robotics Team 172 (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is composed of 37 students this year. There are students from Falmouth (26), Gorham (10) and students from other schools. Of the 37 students, eight are girls.

The team has 13 mentors who lead the different subteams and about 22 additional adults who help. Mentors are made up of school employees and parents in fields like engineering, programming, business, and mechanics. Michelle Moutinho of Gorham and John Kraljic of Falmouth are the team coaches.

The Falmouth and Gorham high school robotics team allows students, mentors, and their family members to work toward a common goal of

designing, building, marketing, and operating a competitive robot in a business-like environment while supporting the ideals of FIRST. Students work side-by-side with professional mentors and parents to design, build, and program a 125-pound robot in a six week build season, with additional clinics and post-season events occurring throughout the year.

This past weekend, the 2022 challenge, "Rapid React," was announced to all FIRST Robotics teams. Unlike past years, where some Maine teams would gather together to view the announcement, it was done with just the team to reduce risks. The next step is to develop a plan to address the game challenge.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

School Records Notice

The Gorham School Department plans to destroy special education records of former students who were born between January 1, 1995 and December 31, 1995.

Parents, guardians and/or former students may obtain their records on or before June 3, 2022. Proper identification will be required in order to obtain records.

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

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School Committee Meeting 1/12/22

Kathy Corbett, Staff Writer

At the January 12 School Committee (SC) regular meeting Superintendent Heather Perry reported on Maine Department of Education (MDE) and CDC changes in school quarantine policies. She advised following the district website for updates on COVID policies.

Perry also announced that OSHA standards on vaccination and testing are being reviewed and any new laws will be in effect on March 18.

She reported that the district has added 15 new substitutes over the last month. The two training classes were filled and another is scheduled.

Six students from the Narragansett Civil Rights Team gave a presentation on their goals and projects. They want to make everyone feel welcome. They

made banners for the school that promote their goals of accepting everyone and celebrating differences.

Brian Jandreau, Gorham High School (GHS) principal, introduced Assistant Principal Christina Cifelli and four GHS counselors and social workers who are working to implement a new program for alternative learners.

The SC voted last year to eliminate the old program and the team developing a vision and goals for a new approach gave an update on their progress and challenges. They reported that in addition to needing academic support, many students have social and emotional needs. Their three-tier plan is designed to make students feel safe

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

GMS Alternative Education Program Seeking Donations

Heather Whitaker, Alternative Education Teacher, Gorham Middle School

The Gorham Middle School Alternative Education Program is in need of outdoor clothing that can be used by students for winter hiking, snowshoeing, skiing or snowboarding, and winter outdoor learning.

Currently they are in need of: base layers (not cotton), insulated winter boots, neck-ups and fleece layers.

Sizes range from children's XL to adult XL. Shoe sizes range men's and

women's 5-10.

Items do not need to be new. They CAN be used. Donations may be dropped off at the Gorham Middle School during school hours. Cash donations can also be made and will be used to purchase items at Goodwill or the LL Bean Outlet.

For further information please contact Heather Whitaker at heather.whitaker@gorhamschools.org.

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School Committee Report

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

and comfortable while helping them have a successful educational experience to prepare them for a career or college.

Superintendent Perry gave a progress report on the Little Rams initiative to provide early childhood education for children from birth to five years in cooperation with existing local providers such as daycare facilities and community organizations.

Perry gave a COVID data summary for the first three weeks of December showing 523 K-5 students and 32 staff impacted. This includes quarantined individuals as well as those staying home or sent home with symptoms. The figures for grades 6-12 were 143 students and 20 staff. A full report is available on the district website.

Darryl Wright reported that the finance committee is close to getting a new contract for custodial services. They are also looking at providing additional social/emotional resources. Bids are coming in for the Gorham Middle School heat pumps. He also said that committees from the Town Council and SC have received the report on the town's facilities from the outside evaluators.

The Anti-Racism Committee recommended that there be a review of the K-12 social studies curriculum with the assistance of a consultant.

The SC voted (4-0, Perkins, Brockman, Gagnon absent) to approve three policies, one on public participation at School Committee Meetings and two others. Changes to policies on use of physical restraint and seclusion and on standards for ethical and responsible behavior were made to reflect legislative changes.

A Group Effort to Save Sassy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

adopted Sassy listed her on Craigslist as "free to a good home," so Sassy had been picked up by someone in Gorham. This resident didn't have a fenced-in yard, and when they let Sassy out without supervision, she ran off.

Doyle and a friend raced to Maine from Cape Cod. When they arrived, they met the father of the Gorham resident and most recent owner of Sassy. They went to Gorham PD to speak with the Animal Control Officer, then Doyle went to Sassy's last known location, where she searched for three hours. After no success, Doyle contacted Pawz Unlimited.

"There had been recent sightings," said Pawz Unlimited owner, Erica Monk. "When that happens we will put a trap in the area and a live game camera that sends text updates so no animals are left in the trap."

For five days, the trap was in a neighborhood where Sassy had last been seen. There was talk of Sassy being hit by a car. When a dog is in bodily danger due to high traffic areas, a long-time missing or injured, Pawz Unlimited will use a tracking dog, such as Seamus, specifically trained for search and rescue.

Seamus followed Sassy's scent to the USM trails. During the search, he tracked her to a dangerous incline that was too icy to navigate. The search was then called off. Later, Pawz Unlimited approached from the opposite side to avoid the climb, and fresh evidence of Sassy was found.

Pawz Unlimited received a call that Sassy had been seen on a turf field at USM. The trap was placed nearby in the woods.

Later, as a man was walking in the woods with his dog, the dog started playing with Sassy. The man, an avid



Photo credits: Pawz Unlimited LLC

Pictured above: Alex Costantino, Erica Monk, Tami Monk and Maura Doyle with Sassy, celebrating her safe return.

Pictured below: Seamus, trained by Erica Monk for search and rescue, followed Sassy's scent to where she was eventually found.

hunter, was able to track Sassy to where she had been sleeping. The trap and cameras were moved near that location. Later the next day, Sassy was found in the trap.

Sassy was immediately taken to an emergency vet and assessed. It turns out she had not been hit by a car, but she did have mild frostbite and had lost about 16 pounds.

"Pawz Unlimited was amazing," said Doyle. "They were in constant communication with me. They even bought a drone for this rescue." USM Public Safety and Maintenance staff were also extremely helpful. Many were involved in Sassy's rescue, from Seamus the rescue dog to the folks updating Facebook with sightings.

Sassy is now living a safe, happy, healthy and loved life with the woman who contacted Doyle about the missing dog flyer. A group effort indeed.



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Town Council Report 1/5/22

Jacob Adams, Town Council Reporter

Tina Ruel, of Joseph Drive addressed the closing of the Gorham Country Club and hopes that the future of the land will stay intact as much as possible.

Councilor Hartwell reported that the Ordinance Committee met Dec. 21 and discussed multi-family housing standards and the South Gorham Crossroads District. Both items are on tonight's agenda. They hope to start looking at additional zones that are in the Comprehensive plan for rezoning soon.

Councilor Phillips reported that the Facilities Committee met last month and finished discussing the full overview of the Town/School facilities study. She also reminded citizens that winter sand is available at Public Works. Councilor Phillips congratulated Larry Irish from Public Works on his recent retirement and thanked him for his many years of service.

Councilor Wilder-Cross thanked the many committee members who put together the 14th Annual New Year's Eve Gorham Celebration. She congratulated everyone involved including the many performers, volunteers and very generous sponsors. She also reminded residents that the Appointments Committee is still accepting applications for many boards and committees for the new year. You can apply on the Town's website or stop by the Town Clerk's Office for an application.

Councilor Kuech thanked the many people involved in New Year's Eve Gorham and mentioned she enjoyed the fireworks display. She also reported that the Little Rams Committee met on Dec. 16 and heard a wonderful pre-

sentation from Gorham Kindergarten Teachers. Their next meeting will be held on Jan. 20.

Chairman Pratt acknowledged that the local blood banks are critically low on supply and asked residents to please donate if possible. He also requested that residents stay off of local ice skating rinks until the ice is fully frozen.

Town Council issued an Adult Use Marijuana License to Corey Harmon, of White Pine Farms LLC, located at 32 Sanford Drive. The property is owned by Mike Heath. (6 years)

A Medical Marijuana License was issued to Michael Barris, of B's Trees LLC, located at 7 County Road, Building A. The property owned by 7 County Road LLC. (6 years)

Town Council adopted a revised administrative error that reflects the current Gorham Industrial Park as a no discharge zone. (6 years)

Town Council forwarded amendments to the Land Use & Development Code to the Planning Board, for public hearing and comment. (6 years) The full amendments can be found online at <https://www.gorham-me.org/town-council>

The Ordinance Committee's recommendation that no action be taken with regards to adopting a winter maintenance of sidewalks ordinance was accepted. (6 years)

Christine Hume resigned from the Board of Appeals, and the Council thanked her for her years of service on the Board. (6 years)

Town Council approved the Cumberland County Hazard Mitigation

Plan as presented by Cumberland County Emergency Management. (6 years)

Winter maintenance on sidewalks was authorized for the following:

- College Avenue: 730 feet
- Chick Drive: 410 feet
- Bouchard Drive: 580 feet
- Acorn Street: 550 feet

(6 years) Town Council amended the Revolving Loan Fund Program and Procedures to allow for loans up to 25-years for borrowers with a qualifying SBA-504 loan through a partner lending institution. (6 years)

The full minutes can be found at www.gorham-me.org/node/49/minutes

Planning Committee Report

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

to expand the parking and to convert the garage to a tanning salon was approved with additional conditions of approval.

Gorham Bike and Ski requested approval of a two story 7150 sq. ft. building with parking lot, patio and dumpster. The two story mixed use building will include one residential dwelling unit, a retail store and a restaurant. An accessory building will include a garage and a residential dwelling unit. The site plan was approved with conditions of approval.

A request to construct a 150 ft. extension to Country Lane was approved with conditions.

A request for approval to construct an 875 ft. private way to serve two lots to be constructed off Ira Drive was discussed and tabled.

FIRST Team is Presented with Robotics Challenge

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

According to Coach John Kraljic, "The next day we held a 3-hour 'brainstorming event' to generate ideas on how the team feels we should solve this year's challenge. This session includes 'problem definition' and 'needs definition' when we attempt to identify not only what the game is about, but also how we want to address the challenge."

Some of the questions that came up this year included, High goal versus low goal? How can we earn the most ranking points? While hanging from a bar is important during the end game, how much should we try to do (there are four different hanging bars)?

Input from the entire team is then turned over to the design team, the group of students who actually design the robot. The plans developed by design are then turned over to the mechanical subteam, the group of students who actually machine and assemble the parts into the final robot.

As the mechanical team works, the electrical team starts to wire the robot, and then the programming subteam programs it for driver control, and also for the autonomous period of the game. During competitions, the drive team manipulates the robot during each match.

It is truly a team effort with each group playing a part. The team is looking forward to an exciting and successful season culminating in competitions and demonstrations in March and April.



Julie Chandler



Mike Griffin



Peter Mason



Benjamin Taylor

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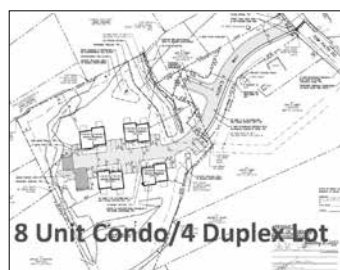
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Spruce Swamp Rd \$85,000 - 4.61 acre building lot located on a quiet country road just over the Buxton/Gorham town line. Features a small pond and some gradual knolls that enhance the landscape and offers an elevated building site.



GORHAM \$619,900 - Includes the approvals and infrastructure for this 8-unit condo development, Little Falls Condominiums. Gorham Sand & Gravel will complete the project with excavating the foundations, base pavement, loam and seed.



GORHAM \$250,000 - 26 acres accessed from Freedom Drive, a 13-lot neighborhood consisting of substantial new homes. Enjoy nature and wildlife right from your doorstep. The seller has installed the driveway access and cleared a building site. Public water at street.



UNDER CONTRACT
HOLLIS \$485,000 - Sunlit open floor plan with cathedral ceilings over the kitchen, dining & living rooms. Enjoy the gas fireplace while relaxing in the living room or while hosting a family dinner. Private master bedroom with a full bathroom and double closets.



SOLD
184 Fort Hill Rd \$322,000 - 3BR/1 bath home with garage on .8 ac lot. Fireplace, wood floors, shed & finished basement included in this Standish ranch



SOLD
44 Patio Park Ln \$95,000 - Very desirable 55+ community in Gorham. Excellent location to all points. This Fleetwood features sunny kitchen & dining area, spacious LR, 1.5 baths & open concept living. Large deck, paved drive & storage shed.



GORHAM \$299,900 - 27.38 acres conveniently located off Huston Road. The boundary survey is already completed. This acreage would be ideal for your next development or private homestead. Public water is available at the street.



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Jonathon Gray, Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, New Hampshire
Elyssa Johnson, University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont
Evelyn Kitchen, Assumption University, Worcester, Massachusetts
Amelia Kratzer, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Massachusetts
Caitlin McCutcheon, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Massachusetts

OF INTEREST

For over 25 years, the Gorham Food Pantry has served the needs of the hungry in Gorham. The Pantry was founded and is sustained by the efforts of many local churches, schools, businesses, generous donors and hundreds of active volunteers. Thanks to a very supportive community, hope is provided to our neighbors in need. There are many ways to give. Learn more at sites.google.com/view/gorhamfoodpantry. Pantry hours are Thursday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

The Gorham Lions meet at the Moody's Community Room on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. for the months of January, February, and March. The next meeting is Tuesday, January 25.

A Virtual Memoir Writing Workshop via Zoom will be presented by the West Buxton Public Library beginning Wednesday, January 26 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Registration is required: lindcabin@gmail.com.

Maine teens and children will have the opportunity to participate in a week-long Catholic youth program (grades 1-12) dedicated to teaching the Gospel and deepening love for God and the Church through learning, activities, and fun. "Totus Tuus" will be presented in ten Maine communities during summer 2022. To apply or to view the 2022 Team Teaching Packet, visit www.portlanddiocese.org/vocations/teach-totus-tuus. The deadline to apply for a teaching position this summer is Feb 7.

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Gorham Memorial Post 10879 meets next on Tuesday, Feb 8 at 5:30 p.m. in the Gorham Fire Department Training Room, 270 Main St. For more information, please contact the post at vwfpost10879@gmail.com.

SENIOR NOTES

The Gorham Medical Closet, operating at the Municipal Center, 75 South Street, is free and available to Gorham residents in need of wheelchairs, shower seats, commodes, walkers, canes,

crutches and more. Hours are by appointment only with one of the volunteers. If you don't reach a volunteer, leave a message and they will return your call. FMI, call Gerry Day at 839-3859.

PUBLIC SUPPERS

Haddock Supper Buffet at Living Waters Church, Parker Farm Road in Buxton at 5 p.m. on Saturday, January 29. Suggest donation: \$8 Adult, \$4 Child, \$20 Family. Take-out option and hand sanitizer available, face masks suggested for those who are not vaccinated.

The St. Anne's Knights of Columbus will hold a Pre-Pay Drive-Through Fish Dinner on Friday, January 21, 2022, from 5 to 6 p.m. at St. Anne's Church in Gorham. Dinner includes baked haddock, mashed potatoes, coleslaw, peas, a roll, and dessert for \$12. FMI, visit www.gorhamknights.org or call 207-550-1320.

LIBRARY NEWS

The North Gorham Public Library, serving Gorham and Standish since 1897, is located next to the fire barn at the corner of Standish Neck Road and North Gorham Road. The library serves the surrounding community with a focus on fiction for adults and children, although most any book is available through inter-library loan. The library has WiFi service and computers for patron use. The library is open on Mondays from 3 – 5:30 p.m., Wednesdays from 6 – 8 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Home Delivery and contact less parking lot pickup are also available. Visit north-gorham.lib.me.us, and facebook.com/northgorhampubliclibrary/.

Baxter Memorial Library has two ways to read online with your library card. CloudLibrary and ComicsPlus are both available to all Baxter Memorial Library Cardholders! CloudLibrary contains a wide range of ebooks and audiobooks for all ages, and ComicsPlus offers thousands of digital comics, graphic novels and manga. Also, if you've ever wanted to search for buried treasure, library card holders are now able to borrow a metal detector for 1 week. All you have to supply is the 9volt battery. Or, if you'd rather search the stars at night, you can borrow the new Library Telescope for a week thanks to Jennifer & Alexander Klein's donation.

The BML Book Club will be discussing "The Bone Fire" by SD Sykes at 10 a.m. on Thursday, January 20, and "the Boys in the Boat" by Daniel James Brown at 10 a.m. on Thursday, February 3, both in the Schneider Room. Masks are required in all municipal buildings. FMI, baxterlibrary.org, or 222-1190.

USM NOTES

Collaborating with Gorham Rec, USM Huskies Dept. of Athletics begins a week-long series of events in celebration of National Girls & Women in Sports Day on Monday, Jan 31. For the final day of the celebration, Huskies Athletics is hosting its Fabulous Fun Fair & Festivities from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at USM's Hill Gym. The week of events will include student athletes from Gorham Middle School, Village Elementary, Great Falls, and Narragansett Schools. Open to girls (K-8), participants may join USM athletes for relay races, minute-to-win-it games, and more. Masks must be worn by all participants. Event schedules and information at tinyurl.com/2p8njums. Registration is required for each event, and COVID-19 protocols and precautions must be adhered to. For questions, contact Kim Turner, (207) 253-9665, kmtturner@maine.edu.



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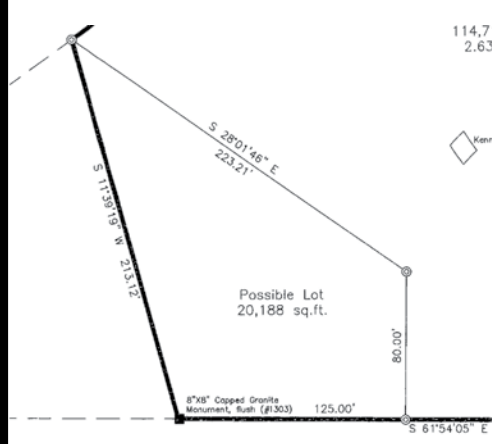
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Man was criminally trespassed from Walgreens for being loud and making threats.

Dingley Spring Road caller was disgruntled as neighbors have a very loud, aftermarket exhaust on their vehicles. Caller said it was deafening when they drove by his house and he wanted the officer to make them remove it from their vehicles. Officer explained he could stop the vehicle if they saw or heard a violation but could not make the person remove it from their vehicle. Caller was dissatisfied with the officer's response. Caller would not give the officer the address of the problem vehicles, nor say what time they were usually on the road. He did not want to answer any questions.

Deering Road caller reported a burglary.

Man sleeping in his vehicle on Main Street told the officer he was on his way home from work and was tired so he had stopped to rest.

Fort Hill Road caller wanted to donate money to the Police Department.

Animal noise reported on Joseph Drive was coyotes in a field behind the school.

Carl Lane caller wanted to provide some information concerning a land dispute on Carl Lane involving three siblings. Caller

was advised this is a civil issue and the Police Dept. would not be involved.

Old Dynamite Way caller reported a possible stray cat showing up. Officer asked if she fed the cat and she said she had. She was advised not to feed the cat or it will continue to show up. She was advised if it continued to show up after she stopped feeding it, the Animal Control Officer would be informed.

Officer was dispatched to Hannah Drive for a possible disturbance. Male was escorted to the end of the driveway as he had called for a taxi. The confrontation had happened because the woman thought the man was cheating on her. Officer waited for the taxi to arrive and then left.

Tow Path Road caller thought she heard the doorbell ring twice that morning but when she looked outside, no one was there. Area was checked several times and no one was found walking around.

Two roommates on Sebago Lake Road had an argument over being rude. Parties were separated for the evening.

Officer noticed two people in a vehicle at the Park 'n' Ride with the motor running for a couple of hours. Driver said they were just leaving. Officer asked to check to make sure the driver was okay to drive. Officer checked and the results were negative. Nothing else was suspicious.

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20

Baxter Memorial Library, Book Club, Schneider Room, 10 a.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21

Knights of Columbus Pre-Pay Drive-Through Fish Dinner, 5-6 p.m., 207-550-1320

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25

Baxter Memorial Library Snow Pant Stories (ages 2-5), 10-10:30 a.m., dress warm!
 Gorham Lions Club meeting, Moody's Community Room, 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26

West Buxton Public Library Virtual Memoir Writing Workshop on Zoom, 6:30-8:30 p.m., lindcabin@gmail.com

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29

Living Waters Church Haddock Supper Buffet, 5 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Summer Youth Music and Theatre Camp registration opens, usm.maine.edu/music/summercamps

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Baxter Memorial Library, Book Club, Schneider Room, 10 a.m.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

VFW Memorial Post 10879 meeting, Fire Department Training Room, 5:30 p.m.

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USM Summer Youth Music and Theatre Camps, a week of music, theatre, friends, and fun for grades 5-12 on the USM Gorham campus. Online registration opens February 1 at 9 a.m. Register early. Some sections fill quickly! usm.maine.edu/music/summercamps, loria@maine.edu, 780-5142.

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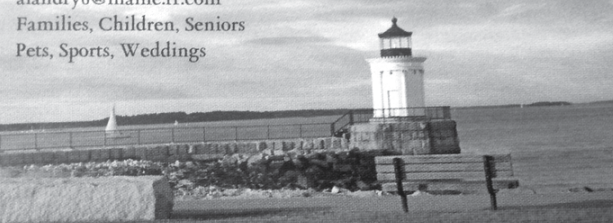
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4²⁹
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Sale Starts Sunday Jan. 23rd - Saturday Jan. 29th

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