

Volume 29 Number 3 | February 2, 2023 A Free, Not-for-Profit Newspaper Serving Gorbam Since 1995

# **Tony Shalhoub Helps USM Announce Next Steps** for Center for the Arts

John Ersek, Staff Writer



Photo credit: Gorham Times Sta

Tony Shalhoub talks about his days as a student in the USM Department of Theatre, and his support of the new Center for the Arts on the Portland campus.

Multi-award winning actor Tony Shalhoub recently returned to southern Maine on Jan. 26 where he was the main focus of a press conference and arts campaign event held on the University of Southern Maine (USM) Portland campus. Shalhoub, who is a 1977 graduate of the USM Department of Theatre, helped announce the latest developments in USM's on-going efforts to build a new Center for the Arts on the Portland campus. This proj-

ect will include the relocation of the Dr. Alfred and Suzi Osher School of Music, currently based on the Gorham campus, which will be housed in a new multibuilding use on the Deering Avenue side of the campus.

Shalhoub was

ing his years in Maine and who he still remembers fondly, including retired professor Thomas Power, who was in the audience.

Significantly, Shalhoub announced a \$500,000 matching challenge grant from Dan Crewe, a retired music industry executive, who is the chairperson of USM's Great University campaign. The campaign will help to fund the building project, as well as scholarships, and investments in uni-

Multi-award winning actor Tony Shalhoub, who is a 1977 graduate of the USM Department of Theatre, helped announce the latest developments in USM's on-going efforts to build a new Center for the Arts.

presented as the new honorary the project as a response to Dan chair of the building campaign, an Crewe's challenge. assignment which he enthusiastically accepted, saying he will help the campaign in any way he can, as a "spokesperson, cheerleader, or whatever is needed".

versity programs in both Portland and Gorham. Dan Crewe now resides in the Portland area and was also present at the event. Shalhoub soon added his own dramatic news, saying that he would personcontribally ute \$150,000 to



Photo credit: Corev Haskell, USM Foundation

Tony Shalhoub, Chana Wingard, musical theatre student at USM and Ed Reichert, musical theatre vocal coach. Wingard, accompanied by Reichert at the keyboard, opened the press conference with the song, "Feelin' Good," composed by Anthony Newley and Leslie Bricusse for the Broadway musical, "The Roar of the Greasepaint - the Smell of the Crowd."



USM President Jacqueline Edmondson speaks about the new Center for the Arts.

Chancellor Malloy commented

**POETRY CORNER** 

Shalhoub spoke at length in praising the high quality of the '70's theater program at USM, which was then known as UMPG (University of Maine at Portland-Gorham). He named several professors and fellow students who helped him dur-

Also speaking at the event were Jacqueline Edmondson, the president of USM, and Dannel Malloy, the chancellor of the University of Maine System. Dr Edmondson said that since she is now a Gorham resident, she will be sad to see most of the music program leave the Gorham campus, but she will be pleased to see such a significant arts building added to the Portland campus.

nat the Great University Campaign has already raised \$44.5 million of its \$46 million goal, but may need to raise a bit more, due to pandemic related increases to construction costs.

The university has stated that it is currently planning for the Departments of Theatre and Art programs to continue to be based on the Gorham campus, though music, theatre, and art will continue to have some presence on both campuses.

### February Sings

by Dave Thompson Narragansett School Ed Tech

February sings, 'Rise! Rise!'

Oh, such a Prelude as this! The tolling, thus.

For it is Another's chorus That will soon chime, 'Ring! Ring!'

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**ALPINE SKI TEAM** FINALLY ON THE SLOPES PAGE 7

Policy on News from Augusta: The Gorham Times asked our three state legislators from Senate District 30, House District 109 and House District 110 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.

# Breaking Down the Biennial Budget

#### Rep. Mo Terry

With the first session of the 131st Legislature in full swing, my colleagues and I have turned our attention to over 2,100 bills that have been submitted for consideration. Many of them will pass, hopefully, lots of good ones, and some will fail or be amended as we solicit input from various stakeholders, including members of our communities via the public hearing and work session process.

Several bills will also be absorbed into the biennial budget. Crafting this budget is an incredibly important part of what we do in the first regular session of each Legislature and plays a critical role in shaping the direction of our state in the months and years to come.

For some background, the state budget is the sum of all enacted bills with a fiscal impact, meaning those that will cost money. The Maine Constitution requires the governor and the Legislature to submit, enact and approve a balanced budget. Unlike the federal government, we cannot exist in a deficit, so we need to find a way to pay for every commitment that we make to the people of Maine.

The budget process begins when the governor releases her biennial budget proposal, which is sent early in the legislative session as a bill to the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee. Early last month, the governor released her proposal. Moving forward, the governor, state departments and agencies, the Legislature, publicinterest groups and the public will all work to finalize the bill. The final budget will include not only elements of the governor's proposed budget, but also other enacted bills that require funding.

This session, I am pushing to ensure that the budget works to improve the lives of all Mainers, including by ensuring that housing is a priority, we continue to fully fund the state's share of public education costs, we offer meaningful support for working families and provide property tax relief for more Mainers.

Crafting this budget is an incredibly important part of what we do in the first regular session of each Legislature and plays a critical role in shaping the direction of our state.

The governor's proposal includes many of these provisions, but there are certainly areas where we will continue to negotiate. Her proposal maintains our public K-12 education funding, continues to offer free community college for eligible students, expands Pre-K and invests in behavioral health, care for older Mainers and improvements to the child welfare system while also bolstering property tax relief and offering more support for retirees. Beyond these items, it also invests in building Maine's infrastructure and offers some money to continue to address PFAS contamination, among other things. This is a great starting place, and I look forward to finding opportunities to continue to address our state's housing and workforce needs as the biennial budget process unfolds.

If you are interested and able to get involved, I encourage you to do so! There are several ways members of the public will be able to weigh in on the budget and other legislation this year. Folks will now be able to testify on legislation both remotely and in person at the State House, making government more accessible to people from every corner of our state. The Legislature's website, which you can access at https:// legislature.maine.gov, has numerous helpful resources, including a full schedule of public hearings, an online form to sign up to testify live before a committee, a complete database with the status of all legislation that has been submitted and a livestream of the House chamber on days we are in session.

As always, if you have any questions or need support in navigating the legislative process, government programs or anything else, please reach out!



Rep. Maureen "Mo" Terry, D-Gorham, is serving her fourth term in the Maine House of Representatives. She is the House majority leader, where she serves as head of the Democratic caucus. Outside of her

legislative work, Rep. Terry is a chef and small business owner. Contact her at maureen.terry@ legislature.maine.gov.

**Gorham Times** 

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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.

## **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 as space allows and are subject to editing.

#### To the editor:

In response to the recent Gorham Times article about School Policy and FOAA Controversy, I find it sad that precious tax dollars, which should be used to help our children develop the skills and abilities necessary to thrive in a complex and changing world, are being used instead to pay lawyers to address "culture war" battles.

Education has become one of many flashpoints in the on-going dialogue in our country. So be it. However, we must remember how lucky we are to have teachers and administrators who show up every day with a commitment to providing an excellent education so each and every child can learn what they need to know to thrive in the work and cultural environment they will soon inherit. As a result of my own children's experiences in the Gorham schools and as a former member of the Gorham Town Council, I learned quite a bit about our educational system. A teacher is key to defining the quality of the educational experience our children receive. Teachers create learning opportunities and manage the flow of children throughout a school day, attend meetings, supervise extra-curricular activities, talk with parents after school and then correct homework and make lesson plans for the next day. We

should be in awe of what they do.

Each child is different with different needs. Each parent is different with different perspectives. And each teacher has different strengths. Each teacher must manage a very complex environment. Let's not make it harder for them.

Questioning curriculum and philosophy is part of who we are as Americans, but let's remain civil and remember that our educational system is a major component of what has made our country and our people great.

Thank you, teachers and administrators. Please keep up the good work for all our children! landmarks that mark this history.

My hope is that Gorham will become known as a hub for high-quality educational opportunities for students who come from our region, Maine communities, and other communities across our country and around the world. Great cities are grounded in great universities, and Gorham is no exception.

In the years ahead, the University of Southern Maine will rise to new heights as a vibrant and vital educational hub for growth and development in our region, in part because of the strong relationship we have with Gorham. Public higher education is essential to a democratic society, and USM is committed to providing accessible, affordable, and excellent educational opportunities to our students and to those in our communities. We look forward to deepening our commitment to Gorham as a "college town" that provides living-learning opportunities for our students. Our new degree programs in industrial engineering and education, along with our longstanding commitments to nursing, social work, and the arts, will further opportunities for students and the quality of life for those in our region.

NICK KIPDY

To the editor:

Over the past seven months, I have come to sincerely value the place and history the University of Southern Maine has in the Gorham community. I have been warmly welcomed by education and business leaders, local elected officials, and my new neighbors. Gorham is a wonderful place to live and work.

Gorham has a long history as a place that values education, from the Gorham Academy and the Gorham Normal School, which evolved to the University of Southern Maine. It has been terrific to see the Gorham Academy renovations underway, to learn about the arboretum on our campus, and to see the various

Jacqueline Edmondson, Ph.D.

Send your letter to: editor@gorhamtimes.com 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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# **Interview with Superintendent Perry**

#### John Ersek, Staff Writer

During a recent interview, the Gorham Times asked Gorham School superintendent Heather Perry to comment on the FOAA requests (Freedom of Access) recently made to the school department. She was also asked for her reaction to reports indicating that these requests have come from individuals who are opposed to certain policies and materials, mostly related to diversity, inclusion, and gender identity.

Perry pointed out that there have been 38 FOAA requests during the current school year, while the department received 25 requests during the 2021-2022 school year. Prior to that, there were typically one to two per year. She stated that each request must be fulfilled according to law, despite the increased costs to the department.

She was also asked about whether the current critical environment may be affecting the quality of students' and teachers' experiences in the classroom, as well as the ability to retain dedicated teachers.

Superintendent Perry replied that while the current polarized political climate may be challenging for public schools, she believes that a core role of public schools is to ensure that all children feel welcomed in a safe and supportive environment, regardless of their beliefs, race, socioeconomic status, background or gender, and that policy can place schools in a difficult spot when questioned by outside interests.

Still, Perry said she feels confident that the Gorham schools are on the right track with their current policies, that the schools are doing what is required, as well as doing what is best for the students. She added "I try to look at the bigger picture, like maintaining the trust of the community."

When asked about her top concerns, she replied "What's most concerning is the seeming effort to make people mistrust public education. It's very concerning, because public schools are a cornerstone of our democracy."

Perry said she believes there will always be those who disagree with the schools' policies, making clear the school staff should continue listening respectfully to parents and others when they present concerns, though they might not agree with all requests.

When asked about whether the schools should comply with parents' requests to remove parts of the curriculum, Perry said "we're a public school, and we have specific [state] standards that we're supposed to meet. We have to educate every student, and we have to create an inclusive environment for every student. That's what we do."

On the topic of whether teachers should do more to avoid controversial topics, Perry replied that to help students become informed adults, the teachers' responsibilities include facilitating developmentally appropriate classroom discussions, including controversial topics and a variety of viewpoints, teaching important skills such as critical thinking and problem-solving.

When asked whether there is anything the Gorham school system can do to shield teachers from being attacked on social media, Ms. Perry

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR ADVERTISERS & FRIENDS OF GT! YOUR SUPPORT HAS KEPT OUR COMMUNITY PAPER GOING SINCE 1995. commented "It is a reflection of our current society."

She went on to observe that it is inevitable that teachers and administrators will sometimes become the subject of negative online comments, due to the nature of today's social media climate, but nevertheless public school educators must continue focusing on meeting the needs of children.

Superintendent Perry cited a recent survey that the department completed using the "Thought Sharing" app, including 1,099 Gorham students, 530 parents, and 124 staff. She said the results overwhelmingly support the school department implementing an atmosphere of welcoming, diversity, and inclusion, providing a link: https:// gorhamsuperintendent.blogspot. com/2022/12/december-2-blog-post. html.

She also mentioned that she and the assistant superintendent conducted a "Listening Tour" in October and November of 2022. She wrote about the results in her Dec. 2, 2022 blog post.

Think good thoughts. Do good things. Let's teach this to our children.



How do woodchucks greet their parents?

With hogs and kisses.

Why was the groundhog upset about his home?

He was having a bad lair day.

Where do ill groundhogs go?

The hogspital

What did the French groundhog see when he woke up?

His château.

## **Graphic Designer**

Are you a graphic designer? Do you know Adobe Creative Cloud, Dropbox, and Google Drive? Do you have an interest in Gorham, how a small, local, volunteer-run paper operates, and have some extra time? We'd love to talk to you about being our designer.

### **Volunteer Distribution Person**

The *Gorham Times* is still seeking a distribution person to take over our "Western Route" - 120 papers to 12 businesses, along Ossipee Trail (Route 25). This is a great opportunity to meet interesting people and learn about community organizations.

Contact us for more information about volunteering. gorhamtimes@gmail.com or editor@gorhamtimes.com



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## Worried About Inflation? Consider These Moves

Last year reminded us that

inflation needs to be reckoned

with as you work toward your

financial goals. But how you

respond to inflation will depend

somewhat on your stage of life.

#### Jessica Szafranski, Contributing Writer

As you know, inflation was big news throughout 2022. Whether it will continue in 2023 is anybody's guess. Looking even further ahead, here's how you can account for inflation in your long-term plans.

Many experts predict that inflation will cool off this year, though there are no guarantees. The high inflation of last year is thought to have been caused by some unusual factors, such as a spike in the demand for consumer goods as the world came out of the COVID-

19 pandemic, which led to supply chain issues. Also, the war in Ukraine drove up oil prices, increasing the cost of manufacturing and shipping and driving up the price of wheat and other commodities.

In any case, last year reminded us that inflation needs to be reckoned with

as you work toward your financial goals. But how you respond to inflation will depend somewhat on your stage of life. So, here are some suggestions to consider.

If you're still working, contribute more to your retirement plans. If you can afford to put more money away in your IRA and 401(k), you may want to do so. The more resources you'll eventually have available in retirement, the better protected you are against the rising cost of living.

Adjust your portfolio objectives with your financial professional. Using tools such as "hypothetical" illustrations, a financial professional can show you some different paths you might take with your investments, given different rates of inflation. So, for example, if you feel that inflation may be higher for a longer period than you once thought, you could request a hypothetical showing how you might need to adjust your investment mix to achieve your longterm goals, given your risk tolerance and time horizon. If you're already retired, consider part-time work or consulting. Once you retire from your career, it doesn't mean you can never do any paid work again. If you've accumulated years of experience and expertise, you could use your skills as a consultant. Also, many part-time jobs are available for retirees. With the added income from employment, you may be able to delay taking withdrawals from your retirement accounts and other investments, possibly extending their longevity.

Once you turn 73 (starting in 2023), though, you will need to begin taking money from your 401(k) and traditional IRA.) Delay taking

Delay taking Social Security. You can begin taking Social Security when you're 62, but

your monthly checks will be substantially bigger if you wait until your full retirement age, which will likely be between 66 and 67. (You could even wait until 70, at which point your monthly benefits will max out.) Of course, the ability to delay taking Social Security depends on whether you can afford it, but it may be possible if you work longer than you once planned or if you work part time in retirement. But even if you do need to take Social Security before your full retirement age, your payments will be adjusted annually for inflation - in fact, for 2023, benefit checks will rise 8.7% over 2022. We'll always have to deal with some level of inflation — so it's a good idea to be prepared.



Jessica Szafranski is a Gorham-based Financial Advisor specializing in retirement planning, investing & saving for education. This article is published with permission from Edward lones

GHS GRAD NEWS: If you, your son, or daughter are GHS graduates, we would like to share your achievements in the Gorham Times. Contact Chris Crawford at ckck5@icloud.com.

## Happy Groundhog Day

**Punxsutawney Phil** 



My first weather prediction as the official Groundhog Day prognosticator occurred on Feb. 2, 1887, at Gobbler's Knob, Pennsylvania when my buddies in the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club declared me to be the one and only true meteorological rodent in America. Several other copycat towns falsely claimed to have a groundhog weatherman of their own, like Birmingham Bill or Staten Island Chuck, but they are imposters.

So here's the truth about this special day. Feb. 2 marks the mid-way point between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox and has been celebrated for thousand of years before yours truly was even involved. The day was called Candlemas Day and involved the doling out of candles in order to make it through the last dregs of winter. The legend states, "For as the sun shines on Candlemas Day, so far will the snow swirl in May." After a time, early Germanic people began using an inferior species of hedgehogs exiting from their dens to celebrate this significant mid-way point of winter.

Image by Stefaan Van der Biest from Pixabay

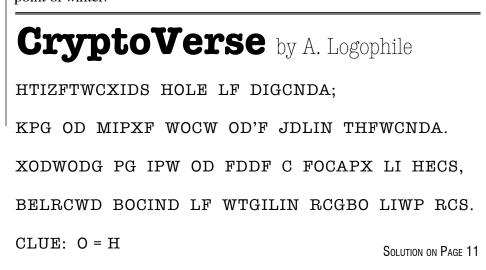
Later, descendants of these Germans immigrated to America, settled in Pennsylvania and continued the tradition, although they had to switch from using second rate hedgehogs to superior groundhogs which were plentiful in the Keystone State whilst hedgehogs were neither.

Tradition came to decree that if an intelligent groundhog, like myself, comes out of its burrow and sees its shadow on a sunny day, it is wisely knows that six more weeks of Winter will follow. On a cloudy day, with no shadow, I surmise that Spring will come early.

FYI, a groundhog typically weighs 12 to 15 pounds and lives six to eight years. We eat vegetables and fruits, and whistle when we're scared or looking for a mate. Thus we are sometimes called whistle pigs, except for me, as I am named after French King Phillip who ruled in Spain, which is very confusing.

Groundhogs are great tree climbers and swimmers. Our outer fur feels

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## Town Council Report Jan. 3

Maggie Norris, USM Student Intern

The Gorham Town Council met on Tuesday, Jan' 3, 2023. The meeting began with an acceptance of the minutes of the Dec. 6, 2022, Regular Town Council Meeting.

Open public communications began with an expressed request for a YMCA in town, specifically for the use of a public pool and childcare program. No further public comments were made.

The Town Manager's report included updates on sand availability for storms, including the new limitation put in place. He reported that a new town engineer has recently been hired.

The School Committee report began with talk of the new education apprenticeship being offered to those interested in entering the education field. Updates were also given on the increase in the special education student population and the K-5 autism enrollment and K-5 functional life skills program. The reported demand for school bus drivers remains to be an issue.

Public hearings were held to hear comments on:

Item #2023-1-3, a proposal for action to consider a resignation from the planning board. Proposed Order #23-6 passed 7-0.

Item #2023-1-4, a proposal for action to consider an appointment to the planning board. Proposed Order #23-7 passed 7-0.

Item #2023-1-5, a proposal for action to re-appoint a registrar of voters. Proposed Order #23-8 passed 7-0.

Item #2023-1-6, a proposal for action to set a workshop for the month of March to review planning services available through GPCOG. Amendments were made to the item to change the month of review to April, and the Proposed Order #23-9 passed 7-0.

Item #2023-1-7, a proposal for action

to consider authorizing the issue of a bond that was approved by voters on November 8, 2022. Proposed Order #23-10 passed 7-0.

Item #2023-1-8, a proposal for the action to consider authorizing an abatement of taxes for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 tax years. Proposed Order #23-11 passed 7-0.

Item #2023-1-9, a proposal for action to consider amending the LUDC to allow for reduced setbacks in the Gorham Village Districts. Proposed Order #23-12 failed 6-1.

Item #2023-1-10, a proposal for action to consider a housing authority. Council Siegel expressed his concern for affordable housing. Discussion was mainly concerned with senior housing and workforce housing. Proposed Order #23-13 passed 7-0.

Item #2023-1-11, a proposal for action to consider changing the names of urban residential expansion districts. Proposed Order #23-14 failed 6-1.

Item #2023-1-12, a proposal for action to consider accepting a recreation access easement. Discussion was focused on the time limitations placed on accessible trails possibly causing accidental trespassing. Proposed Order #23-15 passed 7-0.

Item #2022-12-3, a proposal for action to consider accepting the recommendation of the Ordinance Committee to utilize a vendor to adjust ordinance language to be gender neutral. Proposed Order #23-16 passed 7-0.

Item 2022-10-11, a proposal for action to consider amending dog kennel standards in the Land Use & Development Code. Proposed Order #23-17 passed 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m. The complete minutes and meeting video can be found at gorham-me.org/.

## **Public Works Reminders**

Kelly Meslin, Public Works Department

Please put trash out by 7 a.m. on the day of collection. There will be no changes to trash schedule the week of President's Day (Feb. 20). Recycling is accepted in the silver bullets, but no household trash, construction debris, furniture, or hazardous waste. Winter sand is available, 2-5 gallon bringyour-own buckets per weather event. Driver/Operator opening, apply online at gorham-me.org (click on employment). No parking on any public road or easement from Nov. 1 to May 1, midnight to 6 a.m., or during parking bans. Do not plow/shovel snow into the roadway. Sidewalks are plowed as soon as possible, but clear, safe roadways are the priority. Snow removal will occur as time allows after a storm.



# **Clerks** Corner

#### Laurie Nordfors, Town Clerk

The holiday season has come and gone and we now look forward to a new year. I would like to thank the numerous businesses and families in Gorham who helped the less fortunate and adopted a family for Christmas. The outpouring of generosity was overwhelming.

This year we helped 14 Gorham families (12 adults and 34 children) have a happy holiday. We also have had a number of generous donations to our Towns Fuel Fund. I am so proud to live and work in such an amazing Town.

Now that the snow has fallen and

the true winter season is here, it's time to get out and enjoy the Maine winter. Fishing licenses are available for purchase online or at the Town Clerk's office as well as snowmobile licenses. We also have sno-goers maps to help enjoy the many snowmobile trails in Gorham.

As spring inches near, all motorcycle registrations are due in March. Get in early to re-register those bikes and dream about taking that early spring ride.

As always, please call the Town Clerk's office with any questions, (207) 222-1670.

## **Grant Opportunity**

#### Town Manager's Office

The Department of Community Development is pleased to announce a new competitive matching grant opportunity for Gorham businesses. The program provides a 50% match up to a total of \$5,000 for projects improvements. addressing facade public efficiency, and energy accessibility. The deadline for applications is Feb. 24. The application is published on the Town website and posted on Facebook.

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The Gorham School Department plans to destroy special education records of former students who were born between JANUARY 1, 1996 AND DECEMBER 31, 1996.

Parents, guardians and/or former students may obtain their records on or before June 2, 2023. Proper identification will be required in order to obtain records.

For more information, please feel free to contact the Gorham Special Services office at (207) 222-1002.



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## Gorham School Committee Report for Jan. 18

Michael Lortie, School News Editor



credit: Erin Eppler, Principal, Narragansett Scho

Narragansett Student leaders prepare to address the Gorham School Committee. Pictured (L-R): David, Tyler, Greta, Nola, Mika, and Jacob with teacher advisors, Ms. Cataldo and Mrs. Whitney

The Gorham School Committee met for their monthly meeting on Jan. 18, 2023. Members Daryl Wright and Anne Schools were not present.

Superintendent Heather Perry spoke on four topics of interest. First, the continued monitoring of the physical health of students and staff and the procedures that are required by the State of Maine. If daily absenteeism reaches 15%, it must be reported to the state for an investigation and a status report. She continues to encourage good health practices and procedures as determined by families and staff needs.

Secondly, the budget process for the 2023-2024 school year is underway with principals and school leaders meeting with the central office staff to review all budget lines. The number one priority in the process is how these items will benefit students. She also noted the new software program that is being implemented and the extra work being done by Hollis Cobb and Andy Hager in the business department. Finally, she mentioned the Little Rams report which is being widely shared by the school district, and the plans that are underway to implement the recommendations.

The Narragansett Student Leaders presented to the committee on the support they are offering to the school. The group of five fifth graders spoke about their passion for helping the school and the younger students. They talked about the code of conduct and the importance of being good role models with their words and actions. Some of the "jobs" that they are doing include dismissal helper, spirit day organizer, classroom helper, recess helper, art room helper, offering responsibility tips to classrooms and "read-alouds" with Kindergarten and First Grade students. One of their activities involved making stuffies and sharing them with students who had not brought one with them for a spirit activity. They

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

## Great Falls School Celebrates Book Character Day





Photo credit: Becky Fortier

School Librarian/ Media Specialist, Jessie Mason and Kindergarten Teacher, Amy Brassard show their Great Falls School spirit by dressing as characters from their favorite children's books.

Photo credit: Becky Fortie

Kindergarten students, Nadine Esmiller and Rumi Kebdani dress as Pikachu book characters as part of a spirit day at Great Falls Elementary School

## Gorham High School's One-Act Play

Lucia Holloway, GHS Student Intern

This March, Gorham High School (GHS) is putting on a one act play called, The Terezin Promise. The play is set during World War II era at a camp called Terezin located in the now Czech Republic. A group of teenagers have vowed to save all the art they have made before the Nazi's destroyed evidence of Jewish life. The play is a very motivational piece about survival and hope.

Actress Amelia Olaru says, "Although Terezin was a very terrifying place it shows the world that people found beauty in the ugliness. Terezin wasn't a concentration camp where people were sent to death, it was a camp full of artists and musicians who taught others their craft.

We can now see pieces of art hung up in museums showing that although this war was traumatic and separated so many families, people continued to find the good. It truly goes to show how much art can do for people. These pieces show us, and future generations, that art is carried on through time and will always be here to show humans the beauty of life even in the worst of times."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9





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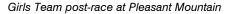
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## SPORTS Alpine Ski Team Finally on the Slopes

Katie Brown, Sports Editor





It's hard to believe with the back-toback snowstorms in the past few days, that the ski team had to wait several weeks to get back to a consistent training schedule at their home course, Pleasant Mountain (formally Shawnee Peak). Most of the 18 Ski areas in Maine opened in late fall. Sunday River and Sugarloaf opened on November 20 due to the cold snap. This was an encouraging sign for the Alpine ski team; the early season for these skiers being notably nostalgic, the first tracks carved and the athletes eager to get back on the slopes.

But then, following the initial opening, the conditions deteriorated quickly with unseasonably warm temperatures throughout the month of December. This bumped the Gorham Ski Team from practicing on the mountain to many "extra" days of dryland workouts in the month of December. Coach Munkacsi kept his team motivated by encouraging his athletes to stay patient and focused and to continue pushing themselves. The options included weight training, and getting to a mountain with open trails on the weekends.

The Gorham Girls and Boys competed in their first race on Jan. 20 at Pleasant Mountain, two weeks out from the original schedule. Individually,



Photo courtesy of Coach Munkacsi and Tim Spear

four athletes on the boys side placed in the top 15 out of 44 athletes from Falmouth Windham, Cheverus and Marshwood.

Seniors who placed in the top 15 include; Owen Ballard (4th) Trent Stevens (6th), Sam Munkacsi (7th), and Ryker Spear (14th). These athletes have been consistent top 10 individual SMAA finishers throughout their high school careers. On the girls side, Sophomore Brooke Stevens placed in the top 20 out of 44 athletes. Gorham placed second in team results.

With mother nature cooperating, these ski athletes couldn't be happier. Jan. 24 the team will head back to Pleasant Mountain for SL training. Jan. 25 they will compete in their second SLALOM Race of the season and again on Jan. 27.

Coach added, "The training focus will continue to focus on getting new edges to engage at the top of the turn, as in start the new turn at the exact same instant as finishing your last turn."

It means a lot to these athletes to be able to do what they train and love to do.

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Boys Team post-race at Pleasant Mountain

Photo courtesy of Coach Munkasci and Tim Spear



Both Teams enjoying a post-race moment. These athletes have 3 races next week!

### GHS alumni, do you own a business in Gorham?

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#### **OF INTEREST**

International Holocaust Remembrance Day was commemorated on Friday, Jan. 27, 2023.

Signs of Winter Walk - Join the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust on Saturday, Feb. 4 at 10 a.m. for a family-friendly Winter Nature Walk on the Hawkes Preserve trail in Gorham. This will be a great chance to see the forest and the Presumpscot River in the winter and learn about things like animal tracks and identifying trees. Everyone who attends will receive an Animal Tracks of Greater Portland laminated pocket card to keep for future adventures. The participants will split into two groups, one for families and one for adults, so the program is designed for all ages. This event is free, but space is limited, and registration is required at www.prlt.org/events.

Forest Playgroup: Story Walk at Hawkes Preserve - Join Presumpscot Regional Land Trust and the Forest Playgroup on Wed., Feb. 8 at 9:30 a.m. for a winter story walk adventure at Hawkes Preserve in Gorham. Enjoy this wooded meander through the woods with views of the Presumpscot River and a story along the way. This event is for families with kids ages 2-5, siblings are welcome. Children must attend with a parent or guardian. The walking portion will be approximately a mile in total, on a wooded path with a modest hill. RSVP for this event at https://www.prlt.org/events

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Gorham Memorial Post 10879 will meet next on Tuesday, Feb. 14 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fire Department Training Room, 270 Main St. For information contact the post at vfwpost10879@gmail.com.



The Gorham Lions will meet at the Moody's Community Room on Tuesday, Feb. 14 at 6 p.m. FMI: Ken Aldrich, (207) 929-9182.

Gorham Rec's Walking Club takes place Monday through Friday from 8 to 9 a.m. in Shaw Gym (75 South St, Gorham). This free program allows residents a safe space to walk indoors during the winter months. 16 1/2 laps around the gym is equal to 1 mile. If you have any questions regarding the program please contact Jennifer Kenneally at jkenneally@gorham.me.us.

#### **NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS**

The Gorham Food Pantry, located at 299-B Main St. (parking lot of St. Anne's Catholic Church) is open every Thursday morning from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and is free for any Gorham resident in need. FMI, 222-4351, visit https://www.gorhamfoodpantry.org or message us on Facebook at Gorham Food Pantry Friends.

The Gorham Medical Closet located at the Municipal Center 75 South St is free and available to Gorham residents in need of wheelchairs, shower seats, commodes, walkers, canes, crutches and more. Hours are by appointment with a volunteer. Call Gerry Day at (207) 756-2210 and she will connect you with a volunteer.

The Mission of Hope Clothes Closet is open the first and third Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at Cressey Road United Methodist Church on Cressey Road to anyone who needs clothing. They have all types and sizes, and many winter coats.

#### **SENIOR NEWS**

The Lecky Brown Senior Center at First Parish Church has reopened after the COVID-19 hiatus. Gather for Cribbage on Mondays at 10, all levels are welcome. Several different versions are being played. Join the Originals guest speaker program on Wednesday at 10 a.m. Upcoming; Dinner at Lost Kitchen, stained glass in Florence Italy, local author Kevin Hawkes, Guide Dogs, FIRST Robotics and more! Stay tuned for more upcoming events and activities. Contact Lisa Becker at Leckybrowncenter@gmail.com for more information.

Senior Meal Site is held on Wednesdays at 12 p.m., St. Anne's Church, 299 Main St. Social time begins at 11:30 a.m. Suggested donation is \$4. Meal site is closed if school is closed or delayed due to such reasons as weather. For updates on the meal and dates open/closed, visit gorhamrec.com or call 222-1635.

Gorham/Westbrook/Windham TRIAD will meet Wednesday, Feb. 8 at 11 a.m. at the Gorham Police Department. The speaker will be a pharmacist from Hannaford. All are welcome to attend.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Send short news and information items that would be Of Interest to the whole Gorham Community to Ioriaam@gmail.com



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#### Happy Groundhog Day CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

coarse like a German Shepard and our inner layer is soft and warm as a bunny. Two sharp upper and lower teeth are prefect for chewing through tree roots when we dig burrows. While I am a model citizen and mild mannered, my handlers know its best to wear chainmail gloves. I see my doctor and dentist regularly. I once had a cavity from eating too many oat and honey granola bars and not enough veggies and fruits.

When groundhogs hibernate in the late fall, our body temperature drops significantly, heartbeats slow from 80 to five beats per minute and we can lose 30 percent of our body fat, just like that. Eat your hearts out. In February, we males emerge from burrows to look for a mate (not to predict the weather, because only I can do that) before realizing it's more sensible to wait underground until the weather really improves.

Thanks to the 1993 movie starring my buddy, Bill Murray, "Groundhog Day" has come to mean something that is repeated over and over. For that to happen, I receive a magical elixir that will supposedly keep me alive forever. My wife Phyliss is not so lucky.

We live in a charming climatecontrolled burrow connected to the Punxsutawney Memorial Library, where we greet our fans every day. We are warm and well fed and thus do not hibernate like ordinary wild groundhogs.

When I travel, I go first class in a plexiglass container on my very own custom bus, called The Groundhog Bus which takes me to gigs at schools, parades and professional sporting events where I appear as the guest of honor.

So Happy Ground Hog Day. Winter is halfway over, unless you live in Maine. But then again, maybe this year is a little different. Love, Phil

#### Gorham School Committee Report CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

demonstrated great courage in talking to a group of adults about their empathy and compassion.

Superintendent Perry also spoke about her annual goals and the fiveyear strategic plan for the school system that has been developed. There are many areas that are being addressed, as 35 of the action steps for this year have either been completed or are underway, as well as a clear pathway to attack the others.

Dr. Brian Porter provided an Assessment Data Review for the school system. The schools use a series of formative and summative tools to assess where students are and what next steps are needed for continued growth. The Gorham School System primarily uses the NWEA, which is administered two or three times yearly, to monitor student growth and to universally screen students for remedial support. Using the grade level scores for NWEA, they are able to review trends, areas of concern, and progress. Although there have been

some impacts on learning noted due to the pandemic, recent data shows that for most grades and students, the gap is narrowing and progress is being noted.

The school committee discussed a resolution to support a statement of support of LGBTQ+ students and staff in the Gorham Schools. This resolution was first proposed in November and has been reviewed, word-smithed, and adjusted at two workshop meetings. The school committee resolution was initiated by committee member, Stuart McCallister, not because the Gorham Schools have not always been welcoming to all, but as a clear statement of support to all members of the school community. The resolution was approved (5-0) and Mr. McCallister read the approved resolution.

As required by state statute at this time of year, the annual election of the superintendent was approved by the committee by a unanimous vote of attending members.

#### Gorham High School's One-Act Play CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

The Terezin Promise is inspired by a true story. Students working on the play have also commented that the play has been challenging to connect with characters from this time period who have gone through so many traumatic events.

Zackary Waters, another actor in the one-act play comments, "My hope

for the play is that we do the people that we are portraying justice, and share an authentic story and interpretation of history of the people in the Terezin ghetto."

The show does not have a set date vet but will run in March of this year and compete in the State of Maine Regional One-Act Festival.

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#### **Community** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

#### **PUBLIC SUPPERS**

The St. Anne's Knights of Columbus will hold an in-person Lenten Fish Dinner on Friday, Feb. 24, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at St. Anne's Church in Gorham. Dinner includes baked haddock, mashed potatoes, coleslaw, peas, a roll, beverage, and dessert for \$12. Pay at the door. No takeout service will be available. In-person fish dinners will continue every Friday in March. FMI, visit https://www.gorhamknights.org.

#### **LIBRARY NEWS**

Join the youth services program at the Baxter Memorial Library for weekly discovery time. Family discovery time is held on Tuesdays at 10 a.m., baby discovery time is held on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m., and toddler discovery time is held on Thursdays at 10 a.m. All services are held in the youth services program room. Baxter, a standard poodle therapy dog, will be visiting the library on the first and third Tuesday of the month, visit or call the library to sign up for time with Baxter. The book club will be discussing "The Fifties" by James Gaines on Thursday, Feb. 9 at 10:15 a.m. An early release day program will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 15 at 12:30 p.m. A Pokemon Tournament will begin Wednesday Feb. 22 at 10 a.m. Beginners welcome! Find out more at https://baxterlibrary.org/.

At the North Gorham Public Library, weekly story time with songs and crafts is open to children and their caregivers at 10 a.m. every Wednesday. The library is open on Mondays from 3 – 5:30 p.m., Wednesdays from 10 – 11:30 a.m. and 6 – 8 p.m., Thursdays from 3 - 5:30 p.m., and Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Visit http://www.north-gorham.lib. me.us/ and https://facebook.com/northgorhampubliclibrary/

#### **UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE NOTES**

The Art Gallery's current exhibit displays works by Kate Cheney Chappell and Annie Lee Zimerle that spans book arts and other primarily 2D mixed-media. The central themes of the exhibition, called "Hidden Stories," are identity and loss. The colorful and engaging artworks speak to resilience. Learn more at https://usm.maine.edu/gallery/hidden-stories/

The USM Summer Youth Music and Theatre Camps registration is now open, with five unique summer camps in band for outgoing grades 5-12, and chorus and theatre for outgoing grades 7 to 12. FMI, pricing and registration information: https://usm.maine.edu/ music, and select Youth Programs from the menu.

In the Osher School of Music, Ed Reichert's Winter Musical Theatre Studio Recital is free and open to the public on Sunday, Feb. 5 at 2 p.m. The Osher Concert Band will be joining with the Westbrook High School Band for a free concert on Tuesday, Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. On Feb. 9 and 10, the Visiting Artist Series features composer and pianist, Richard Pearson Thomas in a two-day residency featuring student composers and singers. The master classes are free and open to the public, and includes an evening concert with the visiting artist at the piano as OSOM singers bring his music to life, followed by premieres of piano/ vocal works of the OSOM Composition Program. Tickets to the evening concert are \$15 general, \$10 seniors, students, USM employees and alumni. FMI: https://usm.maine.edu/ music/events.





GORHAM'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1995

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Gloria Street caller reported six young adults or teenagers were walking through people's backyards and woods. They had been headed towards Standish and were long gone.

Shaw's Mill Road man brought his daughter into the Police Department as she felt unsafe at home. She elected to stay at a friend's house for the night.

Caller reported a vehicle speeding on Huston Road. Vehicle was now stopped in front of his residence. Operator was looking for his glasses.

A man took a cab to George Street and didn't pay so the cab driver called the police. Officer told the man he needed to pay so the man got the money and paid.

Halter Lane caller reported a theft. It turned out to be a civil issue between a couple who had broken up and couldn't come to an agreement on whose property belonged to whom.

Caller at the trailhead on Olde Canal Way reported he had come across an area in the woods where someone had field dressed a deer. Call was referred to the Maine Warden's Service.

Caller reported two people arguing in Hannaford parking lot. Couple advised Officer they were arguing over a seatbelt but that everything was okay. They were warned not to yell and to try and keep their argument quiet.

Ossipee Trail caller wanted to know her rights in getting a tenant removed as the tenant does not pay rent. Caller wanted to go into the woman's room and pack her things to make eviction easier. She was told that if there was no lock on her door and the woman had not paid rent or any bills, that it was her house, and she could go in and pack up the woman's things.

Officer stopped to check on the well-being of a girl walking onto Blueberry Lane. She had just been dropped off from a Halloween party.

Officer told a man to call back the next time he saw someone suspicious in the area or on his property, not after the man was gone from the area.

The clerk at a business on Ossipee Trail noticed two vehicles in the side lot. It was a man and a woman and they were just talking. Officer moved them along.

Officer was able to unlock a vehicle for a customer on Cumberland Farms on County Road.

Officer responded to a call about a male possibly fighting a female at the Park & Ride off South Street. Only the man was present when the officer arrived. He told the officer there was no issue and he was on his way to work.

Pheasant Lane caller reported his wallet was missing. Officer advised that it had been turned in at the Police Station and he could come pick it up.



**Gold and Silver Bullion other Collectibles. Cash Paid** 

#### CALENDAR

#### **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2**

Baxter Memorial Library Toddler Discovery Time (18mos-3yrs), 10 - 10:30 a.m. Sewing Club (7 and up), 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4**

Mission of Hope Clothes Closet, Cressey Road United Methodist Church, 9 a.m. to Noon' Signs of Winter Walk, Hawkes Preserve Trail, 10 a.m., Register at prlt.org/events.

#### **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5**

Osher School of Music, Ed Reichert's Winter Musical Theatre Studio Recital, Corthell Concert Hall, 2 p.m., Free

#### **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7**

Baxter Memorial Library

Family Discovery Time (ages 2-5)

Baxter Digs Reading! 3:30 – 4:30 a.m. (sign up in advance for 15 minutes) Author Visit, Philip W. Mason discusses his book, "Compassion for Life," 6 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Forest Playgroup: Story Walk at Hawkes Preserve. 9:30 a.m., RSVP required, prlt.org/ events

Gorham/Westbrook/Windham TRIAD, Gorham Police Department, 11 a.m. Senior Meal Site, St. Anne's Church, 12 p.m.

#### **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9**

Baxter Memorial Library Toddler Discovery Time (18mos-3yrs), 10 - 10:30 a.m. Book Club: "The Fifties" by James Gaines Sewing Club (7 and up), 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

#### **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14**

VFW Gorham Memorial Post 10879 meeting, Fire Department Training Room, 5:30 p.m. Gorham Lions meeting, Moody's Community Room, 6 p.m. Baxter Memorial Library Family Discovery Time (ages 2-5) Baxter Digs Reading! 3:30 – 4:30 a.m. (sign up in advance for 15 minutes)

### **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16**

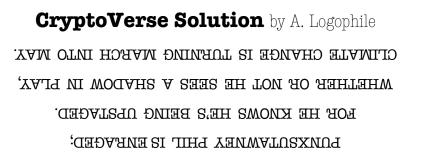
#### Baxter Memorial Library

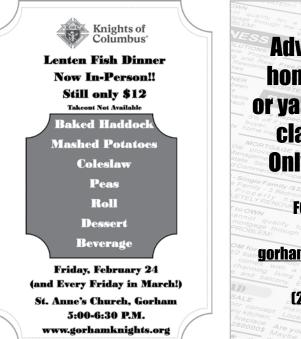
Baby Discovery Time (birth-18mos), 10 - 10:30 a.m. Slime Time Early Release Day Program (ages 8 – 18), 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

### CLASSIFIEDS

SMALL DOG CARE - We offer a safe haven for small dog breeds in our ranch home with a fenced backyard dog safe home with leather furniture. NO crates or gates here. This is just a home away from home. We offer affection, play time and socialization. Fully insured, 16 years of experience. Located in Standish. Pups must be current with vaccinations. Only 4 dogs allowed at a time. Discounts offered for pups staying longer than 10 days. Contact Lorie text or call 207-838-0132 www.petsittinginmaine2.com

**USM Summer Youth Music and Theatre Camps** registration is now open. Register early. Find information at https://usm.maine.edu/osher-school-music/youth, email loria@maine.edu, or leave a message at (207) 780-5142.





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