Teresa and Jeffery Joyce brought their granddaughter Kiki along to cast their ballots at Great Falls School. Most voters wore masks. The few who opted not to were asked to use a separate booth.

Gorham Promotes Business Support

Kevin Jensen, Gorham’s Economic Development Director, is committed to attracting new retail business and letting businesses know that the Town of Gorham will help with their plans in conjunction with the Gorham Business Exchange and the Gorham Village Association, all of which are “dedicated to people having great shopping experiences in the village and the joy of supporting small businesses.”

Jensen feels the town has not been business friendly in the past and is working to change that through open and improved communication. The Town of Gorham has established a revolving loan fund for small businesses which can provide up to $150,000 per business with competitive rates. Gorham is particularly concerned about providing assistance to the business community during the pandemic.

Jensen cited a number of new and expanded businesses in the Village area. Upscale Maine Home Furnishings outgrew its space in the Village Mall next to Goodwill and moved to a new location on South St. next to Amato’s. K.h. designs Custom Handmade & Refinished Furniture, an online business formerly located in Georgia, has moved in to the space formerly rented by Upscale Maine Home Furnishing.

Both of the specialty alcoholic beverage stores, Hops and Vines and Bier Cellar, are doing well as custom beers are quite popular in Maine.

Gorham will have an ad in Maine Biz Fact Book, an annual book published this month, promoting Gorham as an attractive place to live, work and play, as well as showing support for the community and the benefits of shopping in a small town. A study was done and will be implemented over the next few months to update parking in the Village, with the goal of improving parking, expanding the number of parking spaces, and making it easier for customers to access local businesses.

The Role of School Resource Officers in Gorham Schools

HEATHER PERRY
Superintendent of Schools

Our experiences with School Resource Officers (SROs) have been very beneficial since the beginning of the program back in the early 80’s. Pooch [Officer Wayne Drown] set a standard for all other SROs to model - and to be honest, that’s exactly what we’ve tried to do over the past almost 40 years. Where other schools in the country may use SROs solely for safety and law enforcement purposes, that has NEVER been the case here in Gorham. Here, we focus on relationships first.

Our SROs play important roles as teachers, coaches, counselors, and then (and only then) as police officers. Our SROs build strong relationships with students and their families. Students often will go to SROs to ask legal advice about situations they are involved in or that their family may be dealing with. Our SROs attend field trips, conduct summer team building and leadership activities like hiking and camping, and they facilitate week long camps for our elementary students. They teach in our classrooms, often alongside of our drug and alcohol counselors and other student support services staff.

All Gorham schools are restorative in practice and often include SROs only to help counsel and educate students (not to summon or arrest a student unless it is unavoidable). Oftentimes, patrol officers refer matters related to students to our SROs who can take a more restorative approach in order to AVOID formal involvement in our legal systems. Our school administration
Dear Editor,

I would like to thank Officer Sanborn of the Gorham Police Department for answering some parking related questions in our neighborhood. Our conversation continued, however, covering various topics until an emergency call ended our discussion.

The following morning Officer Sanborn called me back to make sure all my questions had been answered, which they had. We fell into conversation again and this time he shared how the department is working on a program that allows kids to experience the great outdoors—rock climbing, canoeing, hiking, etc.

This brought me back to Biddeford High School in the mid-1970s and three years of participation in my own school’s Outing Club. I too hiked, canoed, and rock climbed, all because of the Outing Club. Experiences in the natural world are invaluable, especially for young people. Nothing better than to breathe in fresh air, meet new friends, and get out of the house.

Thank you, Officer Sanborn, for sharing a positive and unique way in which the Gorham Police Department participates in our community.

Tina Ruel

Dear Editor,

As a registered Republican, I often lean towards voting for that party because it seems to be one with nature. It’s difficult to get a call from a friend or neighbor who’s struggling with their taxes or family or someone who’s been devastated by a death. But it hasn’t been without challenges. The impact on our economy has been significant. It’s heartbreaking to hear about people who have lost their jobs or are struggling to stay afloat. These businesses are owned by and employ our friends and neighbors. It’s also difficult to get a call from a legislator is not taking votes in the district.

We’re facing a public health crisis that has caused us to forgo social activities, spend our daily routines, created new opportunities, and discovered significant economic distress. This is not only the health and safety of others but our own. Stacy’s special rate is among the lowest in the nation, and it’s because of the cautious approach leaders have urged us to recognize our own life, from work to breathe in fresh air and meet friends.

Dear Editor,

We are always here to help you. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to us by calling 287-1515 or 287-1430. We reserve the right to edit the submissions and it further reserves the right to reject any submission, in its sole discretion.

Debra Sanborn

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.


This year began like most others, but it wasn’t long before we had to choose a challenge unlike any we have seen in more than 100 years. None of us have experienced a pandemic of this magnitude. There are no easy answers for any of the challenges we’re facing. The public health crisis has caused us to forgo social activities, spend our daily routines, created new opportunities, and discovered significant economic distress. This is not only the health and safety of others but our own. Stacy’s special rate is among the lowest in the nation, and it’s because of the cautious approach leaders have urged us to recognize our own life, from work to breathe in fresh air and meet friends.

Dear Editor,

We’re Still Working for You, Even if We’re Not in Augusta


However, being able to assist folks in need is one of the most fulfilling parts of our job. Over the last three months, we have worked with countless constituents to resolve their unemployment claims and help them find the resources they need to get by. We’re constantly working with the Department of Labor to resolve stalled or hung-up cases. Maine’s troubled unemployment system was unprepared for this kind of event. Legislation is being prepared to address the systemic problems and create some significant changes.

Even though the Legislature adjourned early in March, our work didn’t stop. On top of helping constituents, our committees have begun to meet again, with social-distancing protocols, of course. We’re committed to working with other state agencies to chart a path forward and get feedback from Mainers about where aid is most needed. The Legislature is exploring returning in August for a special session to continue its work in March, and pass measures to help the people of Maine.

When the economy effectively shut down in March, many businesses in Gorham and across the state struggled to remain open; they have continued to struggle even though restrictions have slowly been lifted. We’ve heard from business owners about the process, and we’ve been committed to helping them find solutions for their individual challenges. We’ve found that they all have the same goal: to reopen in a way that keeps both their workers and their customers safe. Last month, as Junction Bowl and MyFit24 were contemplating their re-opening, we asked Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development Heather Johnson, to come to Gorham to speak with us about the importance of individualized re-opening plans for businesses. Commissioner Johnson spent several hours talking with business owners and helped them come up with plans to re-open safely.

There is no playbook for this pandemic, and the process has been far from perfect. There is no question, however, that our diligence has saved lives. It will take us all working together and sharing ideas to get through this pandemic. Much of the work of a legislator is not taking votes in the State House, but advocating for constituents who need help. So even if we’re not in Augusta, we want you to know that we are still here; working for you, your family, and your business. If you have questions, concerns or ideas, please don’t hesitate to reach out to us by calling 287-1515 or 287-1430. We are always here to help you.

AROUND TOWN

The Town Clerk’s Office has transitioned back to serving the public, no appointment necessary, during normal business hours from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday. FMI, visit www.gorhamme.org.

The Town of Gorham secured approximately $75,000 in State Cares Act Funding which will be used to help promote social distancing and protective functions.
Freelance Writer and Digital Nomad

Chris Crawford
Staff Writer

During this lengthy quarantine, many of us have been getting used to working remotely. But for Elisabeth (Elisa) Doucette (GHS ’98), this is old hat. For the past 10 years, she has been working from locations around the world as one of the early pioneers in location independent entrepreneurship.

A writer, editor, and entrepreneur, Doucette is the owner and executive editor of her online business, Craft Your Content (CYC). She and her talented remote team offer online support in editing, writing coaching, and content management for professional writers and solopreneurs.

Being a digital nomad gives her the freedom to run her online business from pretty much anywhere in the world, which is fortunate because she loves to travel, looking for “great stories to live and interesting tales to share.” She has lived and worked from locations in Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Northern Thailand, the Czech Republic, Mexico, Quebec, the island of Lesvos in Greece, and Scotland.

Doucette has an impressive list of publishing credits to her name including The New York Times, The Boston Globe, Forbes, Yahoo! Small Business, and The Huffington Post among others. Her short stories have been published in numerous literary magazines and websites, and she has been a guest speaker on a variety of radio shows and podcasts, including her own popular podcast Writers’ Rough Drafts.

While Doucette’s career path has admittedly been unorthodox, she is in no way unfocused or laid back about her work. She is creative, independent, and driven to succeed. Her unconventional way of thinking enabled her to become an innovator in the field of online writing and digital entrepreneurship.

Doucette describes her early career path as meaningful. She was an again-off-again student at the University of Maine in Orono, first as a Music major, then as a dual Classics and Creative Writing major with a minor in Latin.

During her junior year, Doucette took a temporary position at Acadia Insurance and then spent several more years working her way up at State Farm Insurance. She advanced from licking envelopes to becoming responsible for helping more than 60 State Farm Agencies across Maine with their training, marketing, and sales goals. Doucette credits her mentor, Michelle Grondin Raber, owner of the State Farm agency in Scarborough with teaching her how to be a leader and business owner. “Her constant mantra when making decisions was: ‘Just do the right thing.’”

She entered the world of freelance writing and entrepreneurship while attending an insurance conference in 2009. The presenter of a session about online writing and digital entrepreneurship.

Elisa Doucette is comfortable working from anywhere in the world as owner of Craft Your Content.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Letters to the Editor

candidate. Typically, I search for the best candidate in any given position and vote for them, regardless of party affiliation. The animosity, political bias and embarrassing state of politics today has made me reject the current status quo and search for a path to improve government for us all. This year, I am voting Kyle Bailey for State Representative, the Democratic candidate, because he’s thoughtful, practical, civil, and he’ll be a strong voice for all in Augusta.

As a time when we’re so deeply divided as a state and a nation, we need leaders like Kyle who care passionately about improving all lives and who are focused on solving problems, not on scoring points, pointing fingers, or kicking the can down the road.

I believe, Kyle is independent-minded and has old fashioned common sense. He has demonstrated political courage by taking on leaders of his own party to champion bold reforms to Maine’s laws creating opportunity and a more vibrant democracy. A vote for Kyle is a vote for bipartisan leadership that will bring positive change to Gorham and our state.

As an entrepreneur and business owner, Kyle knows the challenges of managing a team of people and meeting payroll for the week. He’ll be a strong voice for small business in the State House. When he was on the school committee, Kyle worked for common sense balanced budgets and advocated for policies that opened new doors of opportunities for Gorham’s students while not breaking the bank. He’ll do the same in Augusta.

Please consider voting Kyle Bailey for State House on November 3. To learn more about Kyle Bailey, visit his website at BaileyForMaine.com or facebook.com/BaileyForMaine.

Charlie Hamblen

Residential

Spacious, bright and modern one- & two-bedroom units available! The building boasts a roof deck, new appliances, garbage disposal, on-site laundry, parking, and ample common room space on each floor.

Commercial

Come join professionals working in the heart of the Gorham Village. Design your own brand-new space which includes a dedicated floor and common first floor lobby space, elevator access, generous sunlight with 360-degree windows and ample on-site parking.

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Offering TRIPLE LOBSTER DINNER for $24, includes drawn butter and coleslaw
★ STEAMERS $14
★ NEW APPETIZER! Fresh SCALLOPS baked in our own lobster sauce $13
★ Fried whole belly CLAMS, SCALLOPS, SHRIMP, and fresh HADDOCK
★ LOBSTER MAC AND CHEESE - so delicious!
★ CURBSIDE PICK UP IS HERE TO STAY. Order and pay over the phone, assigned times for pick-up, stay in your vehicle, we will deliver to your vehicle when your order is ready!
Get Out and Explore with Literacy Scavenger Hunt

DEB TANGUAY
BML Preschool Outreach Coordinator

Baxter Memorial Library is proud to announce its first Literacy Scavenger Hunt, recently placed behind Narragansett Elementary School on the Claire Drew Trail. The project, in conjunction with ASPIRE Gorham and the Littlest Learners Program, is comprised of a welcome sign and twelve other signs along the one-mile loop. Signs are made of repurposed wood and feature wood-burned alphabetical letters and drawings of items visitors could find along the trail, or at least in nearby nature.

The idea behind the project was to encourage Gorham families to get out and explore the town in a safe way, perhaps discovering an area they’ve never explored, all while improving early literacy skills. The easy/moderate trail, maintained by the Town, is ideal for walkers, runners, and cyclists.

Visitors simply note the signs as they go about their recreational business, or they can choose to participate in the Literacy Scavenger Hunt by doing a variety of extension activities, including but certainly not limited to:

- Feel The Difference
- Did You Know?
- We Have adjusted our schedule and treatments to better serve and protect our patients during this time.
- If you have an orthopedic problem, you can come directly to PT. No referral needed.
- Your out of pocket expenses may be less with us than treatment at a hospital based clinic.
- We are the only 100% locally owned and operated PT clinic in Gorham.

839-9090 | 347 Main Street, Gorham

Baxter Memorial Library Expands Services

COURTESY OF BML

Interlibrary loan has returned to the library. While there may be longer transit times due to continued safety precautions and quarantine procedures, the library is back to receiving interlibrary loans on our regular, five day a week schedule.

Patrons are once again welcome to come in and look for books, DVDs, etc. in both our Adult and Youth Services departments. The following rules and restrictions are currently in place:

- Masks are required for browsing. If you don’t have a mask or can’t wear one, library staff is happy to retrieve items and curbside service remains available.
- Patrons are asked to maintain six foot social distancing between themselves and other patrons. Please, only one patron/family per aisle at a time.
- Capacity is limited to 15 patrons per floor and patrons are asked to make selections in a timely manner.
- Computers, photocopier, and fax services are not available for public use at this time. We do have wireless printing available and staff can assist in making photocopies or sending faxes.
- Patrons are asked to limit contact with the collection. Unwanted items can be placed on the quarantine table.
- Hand sanitizer is available throughout the building.

Hours remain somewhat limited due to reduced staffing: Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Wed: 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Closed on Saturday and Sunday.

Summer Concert Series

July 28: Delta Knights
August 4: Don Roy Trio
August 11: Joan Kennedy Duo

All concerts will be held at the Robie Softball Field (28 Ball Park Rd) from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Parking is available at Gorham High School or Gorham Municipal Center. Bring a picnic, a blanket or chair, and enjoy the show. FMI, concerts may be moved inside to Shaw Gym in the event of rain. Watch the Gorham Rec facebook page or website for details.
Thompson Promoted to Lieutenant

The Gorham Police Department (GPD) held a swearing-in ceremony for the promotion of Lieutenant Dana Thompson on June 17. Thompson joined the GPD in 1994. He has held the positions of Patrol Officer, Detective, Sergeant and Detective Sergeant. Thompson will now be in charge of the Patrol Division of the GPD. Police Chief Chris Sanborn said, “Over the course of his career, Lieutenant Thompson has been a dedicated, hard-working employee who has been an invaluable asset to the Gorham Police Department and the community we serve.”

Planning Board Results

JULY 6, 2020

Kaspazk Landholdings, Inc.’s request for approval of 60 duplex condominum units, phases 4-6 at Pheasant Knoll Condominium subdivision, was approved.

A proposed amendment to Section 1-11 to allow storage facilities in the Roadside Commercial District was recommended to the Town Council (with Planning Board changes) for approval.

A proposed amendment to Hans Hanson’s Contract Zone and a portion of the lots located in the Stargazer Subdivision to allow age-restricted dwelling units, mixed use buildings and a drive-thru in the rear of the building and to exempt the project from the road standards and to remove the New England architectural requirements was sent to the Town Council and recommended for approval.

Design Dwellings, Inc.’s request for approval of Natalee Place with 22 condo units and a commercial unit on a 5.32 acre parcel on Main Street was discussed and postponed.

A commercial unit on a 5.32 acre parcel on Main St. was discussed and postponed.

A request for approval of Landslide Lane, a proposed gravel private way to serve 26 lots located at 20 Landslide Lane, was approved.

Gorham’s New Curbside Collection Contractor

COURTESY OF BOB BURNS

Public Works Director

The Town of Gorham’s new curbside contractor, Casella Waste Inc., began curbside collection on July 1. There will be no changes to the trash and recycling curbside collection or the PAY (Pay As You Throw Program) currently being utilized at this time. The Town trash bags or tags will continue to be required. There will be no changes to the trash pickup schedule or holidays observed.

Trash will still need to be curbside by 7 a.m. on your scheduled pickup day.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the new curbside collection contractor, Casella Waste, please reach out to the Department of Public Works at 802-364-99 or, if Casella Waste directly at 464-0049.

Planning Board Reports Results

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Fire Chief Robert Lefebvre finished his last day with the Gorham Fire Department on July 17 after 36 years and a career spanning 51 years in fire service.

School Dept. Works to Develop New Anti-Racism Policy

The Department of Education has launched a new Anti-Racism Policy Committee to develop a policy to be presented to the SC for consideration in September. The purpose of the policy is to prevent discrimination, harassment, and bullying in schools and to promote a positive and inclusive learning environment. The committee is made up of educators, administrators, and community members who will work to develop a comprehensive policy that addresses the needs of all students.

The Role of School Resource Officers in Gorham Schools

School Resource Officers (SROs) play a unique role in schools, serving as a bridge between the school community and law enforcement. SROs are typically trained in both education and law enforcement and work closely with school staff and students to promote a safe and supportive learning environment. They help maintain a secure environment, provide support to students, and respond to crises. SROs are trained in conflict resolution, de-escalation techniques, and crisis intervention, as well as in the legal rights and responsibilities of students.

In Gorham, SROs work closely with school staff to address a variety of issues, including behavioral problems, discipline referrals, and mental health concerns. They also provide support to students who may be experiencing difficulties at home or in their personal lives. SROs are often called upon to assist with school safety issues, such as threats, bullying, and other incidents that may pose a threat to the safety of students, staff, and the community.

SROs are an important component of the school’s emergency response plans and are trained to respond to a wide range of emergencies, including active shooter incidents. They work closely with law enforcement agencies to ensure that students are protected and that incidents are handled in a manner that is both effective and respectful.

In conclusion, SROs play a vital role in ensuring the safety and well-being of students in Gorham Schools. They are an integral part of the school community and work closely with school staff, students, and parents to create a safe and supportive learning environment. The Gorham School Department is committed to developing a comprehensive policy that acknowledges the value of SROs in schools and provides guidance for their continued support in the community.
NOTE: Due to remote distance learning and grading procedures, Gorham Middle School did not provide a final year-end honor roll.
This year marks 25 years since Senator George Mitchell established the Mitchell Scholarship program. Recently graduated valedictorian, Madisen Sweatt, was named the 2020 Mitchell Scholar from Gorham High School (GHS). She will receive $2,500 for each year of college for up to four years, totaling $10,000. The GHS Mitchell Scholar is further recognized as the Ott Family Pioneer Scholar. This recognition is annually given in honor of David Ott and his family, longtime supporters of the Mitchell Institute who have deep connections to the Gorham community. Normally announced on Scholarship Night, the Mitchell Institute extended the application deadline from May 1 to June 1 due to COVID-19.

Gorham Times Staff

The Gorham Republican Committee announced eighth grader Aislyn McLean as this year’s winner of the Madison Prize for Written Excellence. This essay contest was open to all Gorham Middle School (GMS) students who live in Gorham. This year there were entries from 37 talented and thoughtful students answering the question: “Is the United States a Republic or a Democracy? Explain Why Our Form of Government is Better.” Entries were scored on knowledge, clarity of ideas, and persuasiveness. One winner and two runners-up were selected by the Committee. The first-place winner was awarded a $250 scholarship and the runners-up each received a scholarship of $100.

In competition with many strong contenders, eighth graders Logan Vail and Moortada Beshir were this year’s runners-up. The scholarships are typically awarded in person at the GMS Spring Assembly. This year, due to coronavirus, GMS principal Quinton Donahue hosted a Facebook Live event on May 21 to announce the winners.

The committee would like to thank the GMS staff for its support and all the students who participated for their hard work and their passion for knowledge.
A Distance Learning Success Story

CYNTHIA REMICK
Narragansett Elementary School Principal

During a conversation with Narragansett Elementary School families, the question was asked: “What has been going well during the distance learning period?” The response from one family was a true success story.

“This situation has probably been one of the best things that’s ever happened to him,” said Alyssa West of her son, fourth grader Jeremy West. “He’s kept up with his schoolwork, but he has pretty much taken control of his own learning, completely unprompted/unguided by us; and he has been keeping himself busy this whole time.”

While West’s family has helped him to use power tools and the sewing machine safely, he has been completely self-directed in his learning. Following is a list of some of the things West accomplished during the last two months of remote distance learning at home: began a bird watching book; made pillows with a sewing machine; sewed doll-sized items for his sister; made a wallet and case for his needles; made terrariums and self-contained ecosystems; built a lean-to shelter; created a mini golf course; made his own tomato cage; built a toy pontoon; tried to make ink out of charred wood; learned to siphon water through a hose; grew corn from a kernel in a wet paper towel in a cup; looked up instructions and sewed his own mask (he even figured out how to use an old t-shirt for an elastic); grew flowers and planted his own flower garden with flower boxes made out of pallets, learned how to set up a pool, filter system, and test with strips; bought a book about foraging and found (and tried, with supervision) blunt leaf dock; made “rock buddies” and wrote an accompanying document to send to his cousins and friend. “What he’s been able to learn on his own is irreplaceable,” said West. “It’s like a switch flipped in his brain, and he just started engaging himself.”

The mission of the Gorham Schools is to prepare and inspire – West certainly exemplifies this.

Jeremy West, a fourth grader at Narragansett Elementary School, learned to use a sewing machine to make pillows and masks, along with many other self-directed accomplishments during his distance learning time at home this year.

“This situation has probably been one of the best things that’s ever happened to him,” said Alyssa West of her son, fourth grader Jeremy West.
Gorham Staff Who Retired During Quarantine

Compiled by Andrea Morrill
School News Editor

As the 2019-20 school year wrapped up during the global pandemic, the Gorham School Department said goodbye to a number of its staff during quarantine, making it a memorable one for these staff.

Sylvia Hawkes is retiring from Narragansett Elementary School after working for Gorham Schools for the past 33 years. Her introduction to the Gorham School Department came when her daughters, Lisa and Nicole, attended White Rock Elementary School and she served as a parent volunteer.

She began her career at White Rock as a one-on-one ed tech in December of 1987. She worked in that role for eight years in several multi-age classrooms. She loved her job there, the staff she worked with, the students, and their families but opportunity knocked.

In 1995, she moved to the Little Falls Kindergarten Center as the administrative assistant. She found joy working in a building filled with just kindergarten students. The staff there formed a tight bond and still get together today. When the Kindergarten Center closed in 2003, she transferred to Narragansett where she again loved working with the staff, students, and their families.

“I’m very fortunate to be able to say that I have always loved my job and enjoyed getting up and going to work,” said Hawkes. The most rewarding part of her career has been all her friends and acquaintances that she has made and the challenge and learning she would gain every day from her students.

In retirement, she plans on spending more time with her family and her granddaughter Ella. She also hopes to work with parents of Iraqi war vets who have lost their children after they have come home. Additionally, she will be ready and willing to substitute teach.

Sherry Russo is retiring from her role as assistant kitchen manager at Gorham Middle School (GMS), a role she had held for the past two years. Prior to that she worked at Village Elementary School. She has worked in the Gorham School Nutrition program for the past 36 years. She started in September of 1985 at Gorham High School (GHS). After three years, she became the manager at GHS for many years.

When the new middle school was built, she moved there and was the manager there for many years.

“I have to say some of my best memories are the high school and middle school. The ladies that I worked with were so much fun and we had some really fun, good times. The job was fun back then and you really looked forward to going to work every day,” said Russo.

A 1973 GHS grad, Russo has worked in every school in the district and has loved working with the older students and the little students, making their lunches every day.

It was also nice to see her children and grandchildren go through the school system. She will miss the ladies that she has worked with for all these years, past and present. They work so hard everyday to get everything done. She will also miss a lot of the teachers that she got to know so well.

Since her retirement earlier this year, she sold her home in Gorham and moved to Savannah, Georgia, where her daughter and her husband live. She loves it in Savannah but she will be coming back to Maine to visit her sister, and she will be checking in on everyone in the kitchens to say hello.

She graduated in 1978 from the Brockton Hospital School of Nursing. In 1996, she attended the University of Maine at Farmington and graduated in 2000 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Community Health Education.

The most rewarding aspect of her job is helping students master a health skill that they can use for life, such as learning how to calculate carbohydrates for insulin doses, or learning how to properly use an asthma inhaler.

“I enjoy taking advantage of teachable moments that happen in the nurse’s office and seeing the smiles from a student when they learn something brand new,” said Merrill.

She will miss the funny stories she has heard over the years from the students, especially the K-5 students, who really tell it like it is. She will also miss working with students and families and the friendships she has made over the years.

In retirement, she plans to spend more time with her family traveling and catching up on her reading list.

Cindy Muehle is retiring as a resource room teacher for grades 3-5 at Great Falls Elementary School, a role she has been in for the past four years.

She has worked in the Gorham Schools for 25 years. Prior to her current role, she was the alternative education teacher at Village Elementary School for one year and the instructional strategist for eight years. Additionally, she was the behavior program teacher for eight years at Village. During her first four years at Gorham she served as a long-term special education substitute and special education ed tech from 1995-2000.

She attended Cazenovia College for early childhood education; SUNY at Plattsburgh for elementary education, and the University of Southern Maine for special education and educational leadership.

“The most rewarding part of my career has been watching my students grow emotionally and cognitively, and celebrating these accomplishments with me,” said Muehle.

She will miss her amazing co-workers and the challenge and learning environment.

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 11
Deb Stirling is retiring as the principal’s secretary at Gorham High School (GHS), after 15 years in this role and supporting three different principals. Hired in 1989, she worked as a substitute in all the Gorham Schools, adult education, special education, and at the Central Office. In 2000, she began working at the high school as the attendance secretary in the main office.

Prior to working in Gorham, she was a typist for graduate students, ran her own catering company, and waited tables in numerous restaurants. She also worked as support staff in a large public relations firm, at the Maine Correctional Center, and at UNUM.

She graduated from an all-girls’ high school in Cleveland, Ohio then attended college in Middlebury, Vermont. She spent one year of college living abroad, first studying the culture in the mountains of Colombia, living with a local family, and then attending the Middlebury School of Madrid.

“Since I love being of help, this was the perfect job for me. Being able to assist students, faculty, and parents was so rewarding. I loved that I learned new things all the time – both educationally and professionally,” said Stirling.

She loved working with such a great administrative team and such a smart, creative, and fun-loving faculty. The best part was working with enthusiast students in all their teenage glory.

She will miss the daily interaction with the GHS community and the action-packed, stimulating and high-energy pace of the high school’s main office.

In retirement, she plans to sleep late, volunteer at her grandsons’ preschool and in the community-at-large, spend more time with family and friends, travel to explore, continue to learn, read, and pursue her hobby of quilting.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Michael Laurenson, Gorham High School Latin teacher; Laura Melvin, bus driver; and Ray Legende, Maintenance Dept., also retired this school year but were unable to be reached for comment.

Gorham Times Staff Who Retired During Quarantine Continued from Page 10

Deb Stirling
Principal’s Secretary at Gorham High School
Since 1995 — A FREE, Biweekly Community Newspaper | July 23, 2020 | gorhamtimes@gmail.com | Gorham Times | 11
**Freelance Writer and Digital Nomad**

Continued from Page 3

online marketing suggested starting a blog as a personal brand. She thought, “Maybe I should do that. I haven’t written and published anything since I was in my early 20s.” While recovering from an illness, she started her blog. “Within a few months, I had amassed a small following, and my pieces were being carried on sites like Interview Careerist and Yahoo’s Shine Network,” she said.

Doucette’s freelance journalism career moved forward in earnest when she pitched her idea for a new digital weekly online column about dating and relationships called The Single Slice to Maine Today and Portland Press Herald. A month later, she was head-hunted by Forbes Magazine to be among the first writers for their new (at that time) online contributor format. Here she started writing her online syndicated column, Shattering Glass. Later that year, she accepted a position as the local Bar Guide review-er at the Portland Press Herald.

In 2011, while writing a piece for her Forbes column about remote work, and how freelancing and contracting were the wave of the future, she inter-viewed a man who ran an online community for people who were building online businesses. She became one of the first members to join. She eventually sent them a proposal about strategical-ly building a content marketing brand and managing an online community. In a letter, “Part of my compensa-tion was room and board at their villa in Bali, Indonesia. I moved there in January of 2012, and have been traveling ever since.”

Doucette’s most recent work loca-tion was a little closer to home. She was the inaugural Writer in Residence at the Captain Nichels Inn, a historic bed and breakfast on Penobscot Bay in Searsport, Maine. The owners, Dawn and Cassidy Ginz, want the inn to serve as a haven for authors. Doucette used her time there to draft several articles and to work on a nonfiction book proposal. She also helped the owners with their content and market-ing plans.

Doucette shared fond memories of two GHS teachers, Latin teach-er, Michael Lawrenson and former Principal John Drisko, who taught a special seminar grounded in philosophy. She said it taught her about, “Debates and passion projects and an understanding for the collective sociology of people around you. It was a way to think of the world beyond the limited life of a suburban high school.”

Doucette keeps a hefty work sched-ule, but in her limited spare time she enjoys reading, practicing yoga infre-quently, and cooking new meals when she’s not too exhausted from work. She has a lengthy Netflix and Amazon Prime watch list and has been a champingship quiz team member on five continents.

Because she is abroad so much, Doucette does not have a real home base, but stays with friends or family in between trips. She is currently in Gorham with family, planning to stay for the arrival of a new nephew this summer, before hopefully traveling back to Aberdeen, Scotland for the Fall where she consults with the city and local businesses about improving their content and digital marketing.

Doucette is the daughter of Fran Thurston-Doucette (former Director of the Gorham Food Pantry) and Paul Doucette (GHS ’70), and the sister of Amy (Doucette) Gagnon (GHS ’04)

She can be reached via her website craftyourcontent.com or via email at elisa@craftyourcontent.com.

Sports Etc.

The University of Southern Maine announced that it was canceling all sports through the end of 2020 in response to the coronavirus outbreak.

**A Marathon of a Challenge**

Continued on Page 13

**GHS Fall Sports Update**

Continued from Page 3

**Destiny Cook**

Sports editor

The plans for the 2020/2021 school year remain unknown at this time, and with that, the fall sports season continues to hang in the balance.

According to Tim Spear, Gorham High School (GHS) Athletic Director, the major deciding factor will be whether school opens for in-person instruction.

“If we are not in school, and instead, doing academic work virtually, then it would be impossible for us to begin fall sports in a traditional fashion,” he stated.

Spear said GHS is still planning for a 24-hour project, Calvin Cummings (GHS ’22) spearheaded the event after seeing similar challenges elsewhere. His fellow teammates Bailey Wentworth, Ali Peterson, Reed Henderson, and Josh Lehmann (all GHS ’21) jumped at the idea.

While the challenges Cummings saw involved running one mile every hour, he tweaked the plan to run a 5K every three hours, building in more rest time. When the group realized they would be just shy of a marathon, they added on 1.4 miles to reach that goal.

The team got started at the Cherry Hill Trails behind Sebago Brewing on Lower Main Street. Peterson said they did a mile warm-up, their first 5K, and a 0.4 mile cool down. After getting breakfast at Mr. Bagel, they went to the high school track and ran the second 5K of the day. Lehmann then had to split off from the group to go to work but ran a 10K on his own so he was on schedule to complete the challenge with his teammates. The team traveled to Otter Pond for the third 5K and back to Shaw Park for the fourth 5K. While the day was rest of the group, armed with snacks and energy drinks, prepared for the rest of their day.

The MPA (Maine Principals Association) allowed for “non-sport specific” workouts starting July 6. Spear said the guidelines were very specific and put in place to conduct the workouts as safely as possible.

The SMAA (Southwestern Maine Activities Association), which includes Gorham, voted unanimously that those schools would not begin workouts on July 6. Furthermore, the SMAA decided teams would not begin until at least August based on updated information.

So for now, fall sports athletes will have to continue waiting on the side-lines to hear if and when they can move forward and participate in their respective sports.

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Memories of an 80’s Sandlot Kid

Destiny Cook
Sports Editor

Memories are a funny thing. They come to you when you least expect it and they can take you back in the blink of an eye. Recently, a Snapchat from my son prompted such a memory for me. He and a few friends were at a half field taking turns hitting softballs to each other, and they were having a blast. I was immediately launched back to the summer of 1983.

Back then I was a scrawny, 13-year-old latchkey kid. I had three brothers, two very close in age to me and one who was nine years younger. My older brother Wes, who is three years older than me, was my chaperone and gave me freedom to roam. My brother Jaison is my Irish twin, only 11 months younger, and was usually close at my heels. While we had different interests at times, we did a lot together with our friends.

We had what you might call a “posse” in our neighborhood. Many kids were close in age to the three of us and we were your typical 80’s kids. When we would go outside to play, we didn’t come in until our mothers yelled our names (in order of our birth) for dinner. As a group we would trudge to our homes, usually filthy, and extremely disappointed we didn’t get to finish whatever it was we were doing.

My brothers and I loved to throw a ball around. We had some spots on our front lawn where we would play pickle with our neighbors for hours on end, or we would just have a good old filthy, and extremely competitive and each of us would whip the ball as hard and fast as we could until it felt like our arms would fall off.

I feel so fortunate when something triggers a happy childhood memory. When I look back on my 50 years, at times I can’t believe how fast it has gone and that I’ve been able to do. Reflecting on special times in our lives is certainly a gift to share. Whether it’s with our old friends reminiscing of days gone by, or with our children who I can only hope will look back on happy times in their lives and share them with their own children one day.

As corny as it was, my senior yearbook quote was from Styx’s “Come Sail Away.” It went like this: “I look to the sea. Reflections in the waves spark my memory. Some happy, some sad. I think of childhood friends and the dreams we had.” I’d say that clocks it pretty well.

Destiny Cook reminisces about her younger days with her brothers Wes and Jaison.

A Marathon of a Challenge

Gorham Times

hot and humid, the group was able to cool off in Wentworth’s pool or by jumping in the river at Shaw Park. Wentworth said the 80-degree weather was definitely a challenge because it was difficult to stay hydrated.

Wentworth added that they are forced to contend with torrential downpours. For the night runs, which included a 11 p.m. 5K at the Narragansett Trails and a 2 a.m. 5K at USM, Reed said they stuck to in-town neighborhoods and places they knew. Again, the weather was a factor as they had to contend with torrential downpours.

The team’s challenge ended at Pine Point Beach with a 5 a.m. run.

I would force upon my own children one day on a softball field right before we went to high school. We would go on to play together for three years and were close until her passing in 2015.

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The team’s challenge ended at Pine Point Beach with a 5 a.m. run.

Peterson said they were rewarded with a perfect stretch of weather for the final leg of the challenge. All agree that the pandemic has really brought a damper to many things, including school and sports. Wentworth added that they are fortunate to participate in a sport that can be practiced on their own, but said they rely on the motivation and encouragement of their teammates. After time apart early on, she and Peterson began running together again.

Cummings also acknowledged it is hard to run alone. By getting the group together for this challenge, he hoped it would make them all feel a bit better. Lehmann said an event like this brings the sport back to life for him as it has been challenging to stay motivated during this unusual time. As for Henderson, he just hopes they get to start the season.

All five said they would take on another challenge and encourage others to try it as well. There was much they enjoyed about their 24 hour challenge - mainly just spending time together and exploring different places to enjoy their sport.
COMMUNITY

GRADUATIONS

Emily Daft, BS Biology, Rockhurst University, Kansas, Missouri
Joseph Gallant, BA cum laude, Criminal Justice, Norwich University, Northfield, Vermont
Joseph Moutinho, BS Chemical Engineering with high distinction, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, Massachusetts
Cameron Smith, BA cum laude, Management, Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts

PRESIDENT’S LIST

Nolan Brown, Husson University, Bangor, Maine
Jeremy Byrd, Husson University, Bangor, Maine
Colby Sturgis, Bryant University, Smithfield, Rhode Island
Melanie Wright, Husson University, Bangor, Maine

DEAN’S LIST

Erin Arey, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
Molly Arey, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
Connor Bell, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
Ben Bellantoni, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York
Aaliyah Bimay, Thomas College, Waterville, Maine
Abby Biegel, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
David Blattstein, University of Maine at Farmington, Farmington, Maine
Lindsey Boylen, University of Maine at Farmington, Farmington, Maine
Andrew Brown, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
Deleane Burns, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
Makenna Canty, University of Maine at Farmington, Farmington, Maine
Emily Chapin, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
Jackson Crockett, University of Maine at Farmington, Farmington, Maine
Shawn Crosby, Husson University, Bangor, Maine
Brandon Cummings, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
Courtney Cushing, Curry College, Milton, Massachusetts
Angela Darling, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
Brandon Desjardins, Bryant University, Smithfield, Rhode Island
Kara Doane, University of Maine at Farmington, Farmington, Maine
Allysa Dolley, University of Maine at Farmington, Farmington, Maine
Lauren Edwards, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
Travis Emerson, College of Natural Science, Orono, Maine
Abigail Enck, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama
Riley Ferrigan, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
Gabby Gagne, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
Marissa Gallant, Husson University, Bangor, Maine
Sophia Hendrix, University of Maine at Farmington, Farmington, Maine
Cameron Holmes, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
Kerlyn Jobidon, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
Mia Kaufman, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
Whitney King, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, Rhode Island
Braden Kuscela, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
Nash Lambert, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
Eric Lane, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
Mitchel LeTourneau, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
Thomas Light, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
Griffin Lord, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
Drew Meader, Thomas College, Waterville, Maine
Maddie Mitchell, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
Hailey Morrill, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
Emily Murray, Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, New Hampshire
Katherine O’Donnell, University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire
Ethan Orach, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
Nicco Pappalardo, Thomas College, Waterville, Maine
Kyle Peoples, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
Taylor Perkins, University of Maine at Farmington, Farmington, Maine
Emma Pierce, University of Maine at Farmington, Farmington, Maine
Karla Pillisbury, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
Maize Pitman, University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire
Lauren Poirier, Thomas College, Waterville, Maine
Hunter Poltras, Bryant University, Smithfield, Rhode Island
Brad Rior, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
Simon Roussell, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
William Ruby, University of Maine at Farmington, Farmington, Maine
Callie Russell, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, Rhode Island
Jonathan Scribner, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, Massachusetts
Dayna Shaw, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
Kayla Stickleyn, Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, New Hampshire
Colby Sturgis, Bryant University, Smithfield, Rhode Island
Lisa Suleiman, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
Logan Swift, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
Haley Thompson, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
Christopher Tucker, Bryant University, Smithfield, Rhode Island
Erin Wentworth, University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire
Brooke Woodbury, University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire
Bruce Wyatt, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
Siena Zerillo, Saint Anselm College, Manchester, New Hampshire
William Zidle, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York

HONORS LIST

Emilia Shields, Husson University, Bangor, Maine
Karen Stemm, Husson University, Bangor, Maine

OF INTEREST

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Gorham Memorial Post 10879, will meet on Monday August 11th at 5:30 p.m. Any interested veterans may contact the post at vfwpost10879@gmail.com for location and membership information.

The Lakes Region Senior Center located in Little Falls, Gorham, is seeking someone to be the editor and publisher of their monthly newsletter. The retiring editor is willing to assist the new editor learn what is required and how it has been done. Computer and supplies will be provided. You do not need to be a senior to apply. If you like working with a computer and have an interest, please call the Center’s president, Jeanne, at 207-572-4042 or 732-425-0604.

On the morning of June 28, Chris Joy, his son Sam, and his neighbor, Scott Brydon, had just completed a bike ride along the Frazier Trail. As they rode back through the parking lots behind Robie field, they happened upon a very friendly deer. About 25 feet away, the deer was not at all concerned with their presence. They stayed and watched it snack hungrily on acorns as several other folks stopped their morning runs and bike rides to observe the beautiful animal, finding it quite extraordinary how relaxed and tame the animal was.

Rocky Railway Virtual Vacation Bible Camp will take place Wednesday mornings July 29 - August 26 from 9-10 a.m. on Cresey Road United Methodist Church’s Facebook Page and YouTube Channel. This will be an abbreviated version of VBS offered to you in the comfort of your home. Sessions will be recorded and can be viewed at another time. Open to all ages. Register on-line at https://vbspro.events/cresseyroad2020 to receive emails with links, activity pages and parent letters. There is no cost but donations are accepted. FMI contact Lori at 839-3111or creseyroadumc@gmail.com.

LIBRARY NEWS

North Gorham Public Library is once again open to the public. Library hours are Monday’s 3-5:30, Wednesday’s 6-8 and Saturday’s 10-1. Home delivery and parking lot pickup is also available.

Check the calendar for lots of activities at the Baxter Memorial Library, including the Librarian Grab-Discovey time (you never know which Youth Services staff member will be performing) and Earth Toddlers with Ms. Dani on Facebook, Baby and Preschool Yoga with Ms. Heidi on Zoom, Scavenger Hunt created by Mr. Jeff on one of Gorham’s beautiful trails, a Braided Rag Rug lesson with Ms. Deb, a virtual concert with Mr. Jeff and cooking with with Ms. Deb. Find the schedule in the Calendar and on the Library’s website. Learn more at baxterlibrary.org or by phone at 207-222-1190.

[Image 418x705 to 774x972]

For any questions or comments, please call the Library’s director, Karen Stemm at 207-572-4042.

[Image 418x62 to 770x351]

[Image 418x390]
Couple of months.

St. address. They had not lived there for a couple of months.

Biddeford Police asked for an address to contact the owner of the cows. They had escaped across the river into Windham and Westbrook. Officer attempted there were issued a criminal trespass notice and wanted him trespassed from the property. He did not work at that business and they were not familiar. After checking recent calls for service at that address, it was determined that the caller had filed a thorough report with another officer.

Officer responded to a noise complaint on White Birch Lane. Woman told officer man was trying to get his money back from a family member who had borrowed it and was yelling at them in the parking lot. When speaking to officer, he was also yelling and walking toward officer. He was given a disorderly conduct warning. The following day police received another call from White Birch Lane and man was charged with disorderly conduct.

Two juveniles who admitted to yelling at people on Parker Hill Road were issued harassment orders and their parents were informed.

Cows were loose in the Smith Road area. They had escaped across the river into Windham and Westbrook. Officer attempted to contact the owner of the cows.

Carnation Drive caller reported a scam. He would be sent two new phones and would send his and his wife’s back when they were delivered. He agreed but then became suspicious and called the provider who said this was a scam. New phones were delivered but man did not send old phones. He was instructed to take a new one to phone provider and have them figure it out. He did not suffer any financial loss and was advised to monitor his personal info.

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Biddedford Police asked for an address check on two females who gave a Preble St. address. They had not lived there for a couple of months.

Caller reported someone claiming to be a police officer in New Jersey told her she needed to send money to bail out her grandson. She did not have a grandson and was wondering if it was a fraudulent call. Caller called the number and said he was a police officer and they hung up. It was definitely a fraudulent call.

Officer responded to Sebago Lake Road for a domestic disturbance. Male and female were intoxicated and got into a verbal argument. Both were given disorderly conduct warnings.

At the request of Public Works, a vehicle was towed from Rainbow Lane that had been parked there over a week. The owner kept saying it would be removed soon.

Male was refusing to leave Main St. business. He did not work at that business and they wanted him trespass from the property. He was issued a criminal trespass notice and asked to leave.

Gray Road caller saw a bright light coming and a very large plane flew over his house close to the tree tops. He was concerned that the plane was flying so low. No one else reported this incident.

Burnham Road caller had questions about daughter’s boyfriend who would not stop contacting her. Mother was advised it was up to her daughter to decide if police should intervene and that was not the case.

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Put our EXPERIENCED Team to work for you today!

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Buyer Specialist

Carol Petersen
Client Care Manager

Dennis Chadbourne
Marketing Director

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