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GHS Student Isaiah Whitehead Wins 2025 Congressional App Challenge

Gorham Times Staff



Photo from Gorham High School

Congresswoman Chellie Pingree's office recently announced that

GHS student Isaiah Whitehead is the winner of the nationwide 2025 Congressional App Challenge for her congressional district, District 1, which includes Cumberland, Kennebec, Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, and York Counties.

The Congressional App Challenge is the most prestigious prize in student computer science. Its goal is to inspire young people to engage in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) by writing code. The program has grown since its inception in 2013, when 197 middle and high school students competed. This year 13,830 student participants from all corners of the U.S. representing every congressional district across the country vied for the honor.

Pingree said, "The Congressional App Challenge demonstrates the tal-

ent and creativity in classrooms across Maine. Every student who submitted an entry took an idea from concept to code, and that is no small feat." She believes that Isaiah's app rose to the top because it was practical, intuitive, and genuinely useful. "His app, Calculation Salvation, gives people of all ages a fun way to strengthen their math skills and build confidence. Isaiah should be incredibly proud of this achievement. Congratulations to him and to every student who stepped up to compete this year," she added.

Whitehead's app is an arithmetic tool designed for people of all ages to practice their math skills. It's ideal for brain exercises as well as boosting overall cognitive function. Whitehead said, "I created Calculation Salvation to provide a system that sharpens the mind through arithmetic in a

way that is both simple and intuitive, as well as practical and multifunctional." He was inspired to create this app because he thought many brain games and particularly math-based exercise techniques are not easy to use. He made ease of use a priority in his app. "Despite adding six expandable distinct game modes to play, I focused on making sure the user experience was straightforward and inviting to actually use," he said.

Winning apps from each district will be displayed and recognized at an event in Washington, D.C. this spring. For more information, visit <https://www.congressionalappchallenge.us/> which has information for teachers and good info for interested students. Preregistration for students who would like to participate in the 2026 competition will be available soon.

USM Begins Construction of New Art Building

John Ersek, Staff Writer



An artist's rendering of the new art building under construction on the USM Gorham campus.

In November, the trustees of the University of Maine System approved a plan to begin construction of the new art department building on the University of Southern Maine's Gorham campus, which is the first new building to be constructed on the campus since 2006. The ceremonial groundbreaking took place

on Jan. 11. Great Falls Construction is in charge of the \$15,000,000 project and expects the building to be completed by the summer of 2027.

Besides classrooms and faculty offices, the new building will feature studios for sculpture, ceramics, drawing, design, photography and wood-

working, as well as a digital lab and some outdoor production spaces.

Many of the art department's programs are currently housed in the lower level of Robie-Andrews Hall and several other buildings. The university has stated that the trustees' decision was based on a realization that the art department's current facilities no longer meet the needs of students or its programs.

The current design allows for the building itself to act as a canvas, with large-scale installations visible through the glass facades, as well as exterior surfaces that can accommodate art installations and murals.

WBRC Inc. designed the 36,000-square-foot building, which will utilize a pre-engineered metal system in order to maximize program space, while staying within the budget. Approximately 24,000 square feet of the building's area will be completed during the initial phase. The remaining 12,000 square feet of expansion space will be completed at a future date.

In a recent university press release, Kelly Hrenko, professor of art education and associate dean of the College of

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Ellie Sato To Run For State Senate

Gorham Times Staff

Maine State Representative Ellie Sato (D-Gorham) has announced her candidacy for State Senate in District 30, per a Jan. 21 press release from her office. Representative Sato seeks to succeed State Senator Stacy Brenner, who is currently serving her third senate term and has reportedly indicated that she will not run for re-election.

"I am honored to have had the opportunity to work with her in Augusta," Sato said. "I aim to represent the towns of Gorham and Scarborough with the same integrity and compassion that Senator Brenner embodies."

Sato currently represents House District 109, which comprises part of Gorham. A first-generation American, she is the first Japanese American to serve in the Maine State Legislature and, if elected, would be the first Asian American to serve in the State Senate.

Elections for Maine state legislators will take place on Nov. 3.

Supporting our Immigrant Neighbors

Rep. Ellie Sato

It is saddening and disturbing to see the injustices being committed by the federal government against the immigrant community, not just in our state, but across the country. Immigrants here in Maine have contributed much to our economy and communities. Many have escaped violence and persecution and are working to achieve the same goal as those who were born here: to build a better life for themselves and their families.

What we are seeing on our news-feeds every day is a lack of due process. Many incidents of immigration enforcement have been conducted without due process, and with a disregard for constitutionally protected rights. As a result, our community members are not going to work, not going to school, and not going to doctor's appointments because of the fear of being disappeared. It harms all of us when a part of our community does not feel safe living their lives freely.

That's why this session I'm sponsoring legislation, LD 2106, An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review, which would require federal law enforcement to obtain judicial warrants signed by a judge in order to access sensitive locations, including public schools, public health facilities, public libraries, and daycares, to conduct

immigration enforcement. This legislation would strengthen current constitutional protections against unlawful search and seizure by ensuring that due process is being followed here in Maine. It would protect the rights and safety of workers in these facilities as well as those receiving services, including children going to school.

However, protecting our community falls on every one of us. Following the ongoing events in Minneapolis, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has been increasing their presence here in Maine. It's critical for everyone to know their rights, and how to respond when raids or arrests happen, both as bystanders and as friends and family.

Regardless of immigration status, all individuals have rights and protections under the U.S. Constitution. You have the right to deny federal agents access to your home, unless they present you with a judicial warrant that has been signed by a judge in a court of law. If detained, you have the right to ask an ICE officer, "Am I free to leave?" You also have the right to remain silent and not answer questions. You can tell an immigration officer, "I choose not to say anything."

As many of us have seen, exercising your rights won't guarantee that ICE will respect them. Therefore, it's important to

stay calm, and not run away or resist arrest. For more information, I would encourage you to follow this link to useful resources provided by the ACLU of Maine: <https://www.aclumaine.org/preparingforice/>.

While it may seem that the focus of immigration enforcement will be in more urban areas of our state, this does not mean that we won't experience indiscriminate enforcement here in Gorham. We must be prepared. In honor of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we must remember his sage words: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

You can contact me by email at Sato@legislature.maine.gov or by phone at 207-287-1430 if you need assistance navigating state services. Please don't hesitate to reach out, even just to introduce yourself. I can best represent our community by hearing about the issues you care about.



Rep. Ellie Sato, D-Gorham, is serving her first term in the Maine House of Representatives and is a member of the Legislature's Judiciary Committee.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor must be fewer than 300 words, signed with a first and last name, and hometown. 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. Anonymous letters are published at the sole discretion of the Editor.

To the Editor,

The Town Council recently voted to sell 93 acres on Main Street to Amazon. The Amazon proposal to the Maine Department of Transportation is estimating this could be conservatively anywhere from 700-900 vehicles coming and going on Main Street, heading in all directions.

An article in the Portland Press Herald on Jan. 7 highlighted crashes in Gorham. That article stated that in the past 3 years there have been 27 crashes at Gray and Mosher Roads, and 17 each at Libby Avenue and New Portland Road, and Libby Avenue and Main Street. The town's road infrastructure is not set up to handle this added vehicle volume. We will only see an increase in crashes and injuries to pedestrians and bicyclists. It's a recipe for disaster.

This Amazon warehouse will also ruin any peace and quiet currently enjoyed by the residents of Shamrock Drive and Gateway Commons. The constant noise of trucks and vans idling and backing up 7 days a week, 24 hours a day will destroy that. In addition to the noise, the Amazon property will be lit up 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Light pollution and noise pollution will ruin these 2 neighborhoods, and at what cost?

Under our current property tax bills for this year, the tax mil rate is \$14.80. If that new facility is assessed at \$15 million (for comparison the Nappi Distribution facility is assessed at \$11.2 million), property tax bills would decrease by less than

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Around Town

The staff and writers of the Gorham Times recognize readers' concerns about current events affecting their lives.

As a bi-weekly publication, we are limited in our ability to provide timely, in-depth coverage of these important events. Therefore, we recommend that readers monitor the local daily news sources in print, radio,

TV, and online, along with government-issued statements, to stay updated. We appreciate the desire of Gorham residents to be an engaged and informed community.

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The Gorham Times takes all reasonable care to
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Upcoming Advertising

Deadlines

February 4

February 18

March 4

Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, stated, "Beyond supporting our academic mission, this facility will strengthen the cultural life of our campus and neighboring communities. It will create a dynamic hub where students, visiting artists and community members can connect through exhibitions, workshops and shared creative experiences."

In addition, USM president Jacqueline Edmondson recently stated that "the arts are central to who we are at USM," adding that "the arts provide a strong foundation, helping develop additional skills like empathy and creativity, which are valued by many employers."

Visit the USM Art Department online at <https://usm.maine.edu/art>.



Photo Credit: Benjamin Joseph

On Sunday Jan. 11, a group of administrators, faculty and community members took part in the ceremonial groundbreaking for the new USM art building. The construction site is near the intersection of Campus Drive and Fort Hill Road. Pictured here left to right are: Janna Ahrndt, assistant professor of art; Dr. Kelly Hrenko, associate dean, College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, professor of art education, Art Department, University of Southern Maine; Dr. Jane Kuenz, dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, University of Southern Maine; Hannah Barnes, Art Department chair, associate professor of art; Dr. Jacqueline Edmondson, president, University of Southern Maine; Dannel Patrick Malloy, chancellor, University of Maine System; Trish Riley, Board of Trustees, University of Maine System; Annie Lee Zimerle, coordinator, Kate Cheney Chappell '83 Center for Book Arts, associate professor of art.

LETUCE BE HEALTHY

Crispy Baked Boursin with Spicy Honey

- Boursin cheese (garlic herb recommended, but any flavor would work)
- Flour
- Panko breadcrumbs (you MUST use panko in order to get the cheese crispy enough)
- 1 egg, beaten
- Salt & pepper
- Spicy honey, also called hot honey
- Chopped rosemary

Preheat your oven to 420 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Set out 3 bowls: fill one with a little flour, one with panko that's also been seasoned with salt & pepper, and one with a beaten egg.

Take your Boursin cheese out of the foil and place into the flour, making sure all sides are covered well. Dust off the excess, dip into the egg, and then dip into the panko. Again, very important to cover all sides.

Carefully place Boursin on the baking sheet and place it into the oven. Bake for 20-25 minutes or until crispy brown. If needed, broil for a minute or so to get the outside browned. Once out of the oven, drizzle with spicy honey and garnish with chopped rosemary. Enjoy with your favorite crackers.

Questions about the recipes can be e-mailed to Barbara Schneider at btsme21@gmail.com

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Snowfall Hits Gorham

Roger Marchand, Gorham Times Photographer



Photo Credit: Roger Marchand

Nate Frazee, of South Street, helped out some neighbors by snowblowing their driveway.

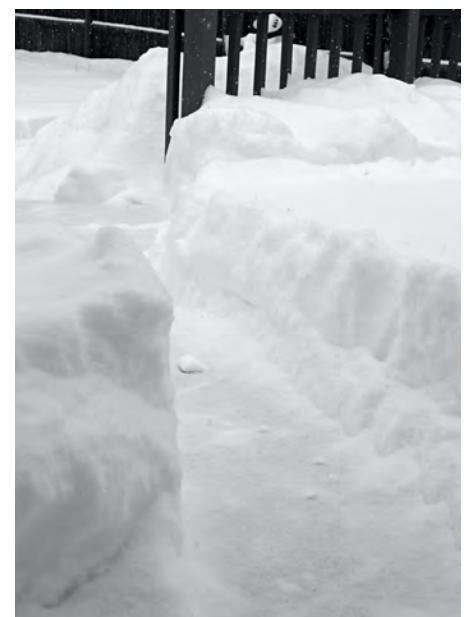


Photo Credit: Roger Marchand

A shoveled path on the back deck showed the depth of the latest snow storm.



Photo Credit: Roger Marchand

Pine trees captured the snowflakes making a winter wonderland.

POETRY CORNER

Snow and Ice

By Lori Arsenault, written during the Jan. 25 snowstorm

I'm grateful for the cold.
The cold makes the snow light and fluffy.
I'm grateful for the snow.
The snow makes our summer water.

I'm grateful for the water.
The water gives the fish a home,
And us a drink
To satisfy our thirst.

I'm grateful for my home.
Everyone should have a home.

I'm grateful for my car,
All covered with snow tonight,
Soft and fluffy snow
That's easy to brush away
Even when it's deep.

It's getting pretty deep.

I'm grateful for my plow shovel,
So I can shovel the driveway every hour.
I'm grateful for the snowblower,
That I'll take out in the morning to finish
the job.

I'm grateful for my friends and neighbors,
No matter who they are.
They should not be brushed off
Like the light and fluffy snow.
They are people. All of them.

Even though they are made mostly of water,
They are people. All of them.

Yes, we are all made of mostly water,
And a lot of other things.
It's the truth.
Look it up.

I'm grateful for PitStop Fuels, here in town.
They filled my oil tank yesterday without
me having to ask.

I'm grateful that Maine Needs didn't accept
my old pillows yesterday,
So, I can stuff them in the windows to make
the house a little warmer tonight.

It's good to be warm
When you're made mostly of water.

I wish everyone was warm enough.

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Where Has Your Family Physician Gone?

Mike Smith, Contributing Writer

You may have noticed or not that several family physicians (PCPs) have left the medical practice you rely on. More than a few in the greater Portland area have left in the last few years. As a physical therapist, when I send my patient evaluation to their PCP, I often discover that their doctor is no longer at the practice. Some have retired, particularly since Covid, but many have moved to other medical practices in greater Portland. Often the move has to do with salary and benefits. PCP salaries are low in comparison to the cost of educating a doctor, which can be more than \$400,000 just for medical school education. We also know there is pressure on every provider in our healthcare system to see as many patients as possible, leading to a high rate of burnout among PCPs and other providers.

Other PCP doctors have moved into concierge service, where there are two main players: Direct Primary Care (DPC) and MDVIP. Both of these national organizations have been around for 25 years and are growing in popularity. They act as the business support for a practice. Both require a patient to pay a subscription to the doctor. It can be either a monthly or yearly fee. The cost can be \$100 to \$120 per month depending on age and demographics. The patient still needs to carry insurance coverage in case of significant testing, procedures and treatment.

PCPs appreciate this model as it gives them more autonomy within their practice and more time with their patients. Outside concierge services, a PCP in the larger medical systems in this area can have between 1200 and 1400 patients under their care, too many to be easily managed and the reason why a patient may see a PA or nurse practitioner as the first step in their care. Patients often object to the lack of continuity of care this model provides.

On the other hand, a DPC or MDVIP doctor needs only about 400 patients to

sustain their practice and make a good wage on the monthly fees. Even though some of the money goes to the business entity for support and overhead, the doctor still makes a better salary.

Unfortunately, there is a dearth of PCP doctors both regionally and nationally, which makes access to healthcare challenging, particularly in rural areas.

We cannot begrudge a medical doctor for making a better living with less stress. The issue is that access becomes more difficult for the individual who cannot afford the better access to a medical provider. The concierge model continues to perpetuate the reality that money buys you better healthcare.

I have talked with several docs and their reason for choosing the concierge model makes perfect sense. They want to provide better care to their patients and spend more time evaluating the patients and make more money while continuing to do what they love to do. Many have explained that they feel that they can provide approximately 90% of what their patients need on a yearly basis, including proper bloodwork and medications, and they are on call for the consumer.

Healthcare is expensive and there are many factors contributing to the costs, especially the battle between insurance companies and the large medical establishments. When patients want to discuss their frustration with healthcare, my response is often, "Don't forget that healthcare is a business," and consumers are sometimes caught in the middle.



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

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CLUE: T = V

SOLUTION ON PAGE 11

Pet Bedding

Dr. Linda Mulski, Contributing Writer

This is a narrow topic that widens as it is contemplated. My young dog recently tore up the cover of an expensive LLBean bed that we had owned for several years. Enjoying a challenge, I repaired it satisfactorily and it went unmolested for about five months, then suddenly was thoroughly shredded. At this point, I gave up on the cover and wrapped the orthopedic foam in a few blankets. No further issues for a few weeks. Foam and covering blanket were destroyed after several days in the kennel. Not wanting to deal with an intestinal foreign body, everything was trashed.

My previous dogs have been very considerate of their bedding. Apart from a small nibble, blankets had been respected. We temporarily went with layered bedding. I felt bad for our geriatric Chinook, and started looking at dog beds. Interesting fact: they are MUCH cheaper after the holidays. I looked at indestructible beds... they look like a great opportunity to break human toes, and the older dog has a tendency to dig (which reviews suggest leads to destruction). I settled on another orthopedic foam bed, in a color that matches the couch. It was in place for less than 12 hours when the young dog nibbled the piping and removed a tenth of it (very discreetly). I covered this bed and went in search of repellent sprays, and enforced more crate use. So far, after using "YUCK" spray, the bed is holding up, and the geriatric dog is looking really comfortable.

I have since asked several friends about pet bedding and their preferences. The answers are completely

dependent on the beasties in question. They range from NONE!!! for the inveterate chewer, to magnetic beds purported to decrease arthritis. Consistent themes include comfort for the respective pet, ease of passing eaten components without surgical intervention, safe (non-toxic) materials, ethical sourcing and manufacturing, compostability, and reasonable pricing.

This applies to all species of pet or companion animal from mouse to horse. We also tend to discuss the aroma of the bedding; pine and cedar smells good to us humans, but the aromatic amines can be harsh on delicate lung tissue. Colorful bedding can look more pleasing, but we should ideally try and remove artificial dyes from our environment.

I was surprised by the variety of opinions and preferences. Bottom line is that we all feel and act better when we are well rested. Comfort is important. I hope that you and your pets rest well.



Linda Mulski, VMD, veterinarian, has worked in Maine for the past 33 years. She and her husband, Tom Niedermeyer, VMD, own the Animal Hospital of South Gorham, where a wide variety of pet species are welcome. They have raised six daughters (all proud "Maine-iacs").

The Cast of the GHS Spring Musical Rehearses

Joshua Hurd, GHS Director



Photo Credit: Joshua Hurd

The talented cast of "Something Rotten" is hard at work preparing for opening night. Performances are on Fridays and Saturdays: Jan. 30, Jan. 31, Feb. 6 and Feb. 7 at 7 p.m., and Sundays; Feb. 1 and Feb. 8 at 2 p.m.. Tickets are available at the GHS website. Don't miss this wonderful show.

Ordinance Committee

January Meeting

Sally Fay, Staff Writer

The town's Ordinance Committee met on Monday, Jan. 12, with all three members (committee chair Seven Siegel, Lou Simms, and Kelly Dearborn) in attendance. The following business was addressed:

Amending the fire suppression systems ordinance to allow for one- and two-family unit exemptions based on minimum lot size and distance from fire suppression water sources (referred by the Town Council on Oct. 7, 2025): A motion was passed to bring updates to the existing fire suppression ordinance, adding an exemption for gift lots for one- and two-family dwelling units, to the February Town Council meeting for review (3 Ayes).

Review of Gorham's wastewater ordinance to allow for private clus-

tered wastewater systems (referred by Town Council on Jan. 2, 2024): A motion was passed to send the item back to the Town Council with a recommendation for no action (3 Ayes).

Review of a proposed University District for the parcels occupied by the University of Southern Maine (referred by Town Council on Sept. 3, 2024): Discussed.

The committee plans to continue to discuss the fire suppression ordinance and University District proposal at the next meeting, as well as potentially reviewing form-based code and the restriction of large-scale data centers, pending staff updates.

Complete Ordinance Committee agendas and minutes can be accessed at <https://www.gorham-maine.gov/ordinance-committee>

Gorham School Committee

Meeting Jan. 14, 2026

Michael Lortie, School News Editor

The Gorham School Committee met for their monthly meeting on Jan. 14, 2026. All seven members were present and they approved the minutes of the regular meeting of Dec. 10 and the special meeting of Dec. 16. (7-0)

There were three presentations during the meeting. The first was a group of five GMS students presenting the Second Step Program. Second Step is an evidence-based SEL (Social Emotional Learning) program that helps students to process feelings and to make good decisions. GMS principal Lucas Witham believes that the program, funded entirely by a grant, has led to better attendance and fewer disciplinary issues at the school.

The second, a review of the National Honor Society (NHS), was introduced by Principal Brian Jandreau and NHS advisor Luci Bowers. Four NHS officers presented their work this year, including organizing a blood drive, participating in a community giving tree, peer tutoring, organizing a bake sale and providing activities for the advisory groups. NHS is based on the pillars of scholarship, leadership, service and character. Forty-two members, who each submitted an application with evidence of these four pillars, were inducted this year.

The third presentation, an overview of Mental Health / Student Emotional Learning services in the Gorham school system, was presented by special education director Kathy Hamblen. She reviewed the important work of the school counselors and social workers in assisting students with

communication skills, decision-making and dealing with stress, conflicts, social issues, grief and trauma. In addition, dealing with adolescence and career and college readiness are added primarily in the upper grades.

Superintendent Heather Perry continued her review of the State of the Schools Report with a summary of readiness skills for entering ninth graders, which include reading and math scores, academic grades, attendance, community service, career exploration and extracurricular activities. She also stated that the school department is conducting a planned review of federal IDEA funds and announced kindergarten information night in March and the availability of pre-k applications at this time.

Each committee member had the opportunity to report on their recent experiences and observations. Each subcommittee reported out on their most recent meetings and upcoming goals.

As part of their ongoing review of school department policies, the committee approved a second reading of a new policy, Temperature Standards for School (EBBD). (7-0) They also conducted a first reading of five policies: Student Use of Vehicles During the School Day (JLIE), Motorized Vehicles on School Property (JLIF), School-Community Relations (KA), Parent Involvement in Title I (KBF) and Cell Phones and Other Personal Electronic Devices in Schools (JICJ).

You're in the Know. GorhamTimes

Clerk's Corner

Laurie Nordfors, Town Clerk

The holiday season has ended, and we look forward to the new year ahead. Thank you to the many businesses and organizations, including Lake Region Energy, R.J. Grondin, ODAT (Howell Labs), Maine Metal Buildings, USM, O'Donal's Nursery, North Gorham Church and the Gorham Town Clerk's Office for their generosity in adopting families for the holiday. Together we provided a joyful holiday for 15 Gorham families (44 children). We also received numerous contributions to the town's fuel fund throughout the year. I am so proud to live and work in a community that is truly remarkable.

The Town Council Appointments Committee is accepting applica-

tions for upcoming vacancies on town boards and committees. Visit www.gorham-me.org and select "Boards and Committees" to learn more and to apply online. Forms are also available at the Town Clerk's Office. Completed applications must be submitted by Jan. 29, 2026.

Dog licenses expired on Dec. 31. The Town Clerk's Office has received rabies vaccination records for Gorham dogs and some dogs remain unlicensed. Owners who fail to license their dogs may be subject to enforcement action. Licenses must be renewed by Jan. 31 to avoid a \$25 late fee. Online licensing is only available through Jan. 31.

AARON CHADBOURNE





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School Ad Content Guidelines

Our school reserves the right to edit ads per our guidelines. Please make sure all submitted materials are appropriate for school publication.

How are the ad prices determined and what is the money used for?

Recognition ad prices are determined by our school. Revenue from recognition ads helps the school create a better, more affordable yearbook.

How is the ad deadline determined?

The ad deadline is set by our school based on the production schedule for the yearbook.

Can I create my student's ad on my mobile device?

Yes, yearbook ads can be created online from both desktop and mobile devices.



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Building Community Beyond the Classroom at Village Elementary

Alicia Sotir, Art Teacher, Village School



Photo Credit: Alicia Sotir

Teachers and families enjoy breakfast together at Village School.

Village Elementary School has recently launched grade-level Family Breakfasts, inviting students, families, and staff to begin the school day together in a welcoming and meaningful way. Designed to strengthen the connection between home and school, these gatherings give families the opportunity to share a meal while experiencing daily school life alongside their children.

Thus far, families from fifth grade, second grade, and first grade have participated. Fifth graders described the breakfasts as a positive and memorable experience, sharing that they

enjoyed having their adults present and appreciated the chance to laugh and start the day together. Students noted that the breakfasts helped bring the community closer, allowed them to introduce friends to their families, and gave them a sense of pride in showing adults where they eat each day. One fifth grader shared, "It was fun being able to share a part of my life with them." Parents also shared that the breakfasts provide a valuable opportunity to connect with teachers in a relaxed, informal setting outside of the classroom, helping to strengthen relationships and open lines of communication.

The Family Breakfasts are made possible through the dedication of Village Elementary's cafeteria staff, who go above and beyond to provide food and refreshments for attending families. Their efforts help create an inviting atmosphere where students feel comfortable, supported, and excited to start the day—many simply described the experience as "awesome." The breakfasts feature a variety of foods, including fresh fruit, juice, milk, fresh-baked breads and muffins, and yogurt. Village Elementary looks forward to continuing this initiative with additional grade levels, further strengthening the sense of connection that defines the school community.

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SPORTS

Atticus Whitten Committed To Play At The Coast Guard Academy

Katie Brown, *Sports Editor*



Atticus Whitten running towards the end zone

Senior standout Atticus Whitten has accepted an offer to play football and attend the United States Coast Guard Academy (USCGA), located in New London, Connecticut. He was recruited by coach JB Wells as a linebacker. Whitten is a three-time All-Conference selection in both football and basketball. He is the GHS football program's all-time leader in tackles.

His varsity football coach,

Sam Morrison, shared, "He grew as a leader each and every season and carried much of the captain / leadership roles this season."

Morrison continued, "He was always reliable and did a great job for the program. I think he leaves some younger kids wanting to grow into being the next linebacker or #0 here at GHS. He grew a lot in many different ways in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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GORHAM
FAIRWAYS

Atticus Whitten CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

his time in the program and I am super excited to follow his college career."

Whitten has dedicated himself in the classroom as well as in the community. Whitten volunteered many hours with the local youth sports program, as part of a push to build up the culture of football again in Gorham. For quantitative fans... Whitten ended his football career at GHS with over 300 career tackles as an inside linebacker. His coaches added, "He impacts the game in all three phases and has versatility in strength, speed and fluid motion.

He reads opposing offenses very well from the inside linebacker position." His junior year he had 32 catches for 355 yards and 4 touchdowns on the offensive side of the ball, plus 97 tackles with 8 for loss, 2 forced fumbles and 1 blocked kick as a defender. He also averaged 32 yards as punter and 7 extra points as the place kicker.

Whitten is currently in the middle of his senior season of basketball, and will be starting his football career at USCGA in the fall. Whitten plans to study marine engineering or naval architecture.



Atticus Whitten with his teammates

Photo Credit: Colleen Heal

Update on Amazon in Gorham

Gorham Times Staff

According to Andrew Gobeil, director of the Office of Communications and Creative Services at the Maine Department of Transportation, "At this time, MaineDOT has not received a completed Traffic Movement permit application from Amazon. Once received, MaineDOT has 30 days to schedule a public scoping meeting to address safety issues. MaineDOT will produce a press release and coordinate with local municipal governments to inform the public about the meeting."

Seabrook Technologies, representing Amazon.com Services LLC, has recently issued a Public Notice of Intent to File for "an amendment and transfer with the approvals granted to the for-

mer applicant, Core X Complete Maine Regional, LLC to the current applicant," which is Amazon.com Services LLC. The notice indicates that "A request for a public hearing... must be received by the Department in writing no later than 20 days after the application is found by the Department to be complete and accepted for processing." A public hearing may or may not be held at the discretion of the Commissioner or Board of Environmental Protection. Public comments on the application will be accepted throughout the processing of the application. To submit a public comment with the DEP, go to the DEP website: <https://www.maine.gov/dep/publications/is-public.html>

Update on ICE in Gorham

Gorham Times Staff

As of the time of this printing, we know of two people detained in Gorham, but have no other details. Gorham Police con-

firm that they have no information about these detentions, and no association with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

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Kaylen Kepler, University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire
Amanda Morin, Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York
Eliot Verry-Gardella, University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire

OF INTEREST

VFW Gorham Memorial Post 10879 extends sincere appreciation to the Gorham community for its continued support and contributions. This fall's successful cleanup efforts in support of our nation's heroes reflect the generosity and spirit of our town. The post is also exploring a spring cleanup as another service opportunity and welcomes participation from local high school students seeking to support veterans while earning community service hours. More details will be shared soon. FMI: Jake Bauder, (207) 607-0370, vfwpost10879@mail.com.

The Friends of the Presumpscot River will hold a major visioning session on the health, restoration and future uses of the Presumpscot River and its watershed. This is an opportunity for the public to learn about and offer input toward future needs and directions. Participation is free and open to the public, Monday, Feb. 2, session one, 2:30 - 5 p.m., session two, 6:30 - 9 p.m., Westbrook Community Center, Spruce Room, 426 Bridge St. Westbrook. FMI, to register, and to complete survey, contact Michael Shaughnessy, smallbirdsfly@gmail.com, or (207) 329-5042.

The Gorham/Westbrook/Windham TRIAD meeting will be held Wednesday, Feb. 11 from 11 a.m. to noon at the Gorham Police Department. The topic this month will be domestic abuse in older adults. The speaker will be Rebecca Hobbs from Through These Doors. TRIAD meetings are open to the public. All are welcome; bring a friend.

Gorham Seniors Co-op meets weekly at 34 School Street in Gorham, Mondays at 10 a.m. for Games and Puzzles, and Wednesdays at 10 a.m. for Coffee and Conversation. Seniors from Gorham and neighboring communities are welcome. For more information visit: gorhamarts.org/seniorscoop.

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

The Gorham Medical Loan Closet is available to Gorham residents in need of medical equipment temporarily. Wheelchairs, walkers, canes and scooters are just some of the items avail-

able. The closet is only open Monday through Thursday, and only by appointment. Call Carol Robinson at (207) 400-7171.

The Gorham Medical Closet is available to Gorham residents in need of medical equipment. The closet also accepts CLEAN donations. They are open Monday through Thursday by appointment only. Due to health issues, please do not call Gerry Day but call Carol Robinson at (207) 400-7171 or Anne Murphy at (207) 671-5971 and they will assist you.

The Mission of Hope Clothes Closet is open the first and third Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to noon at Cressey Road Christian Church on Cressey Road to anyone who needs clothing. The closet also takes donations of clean clothing, and now has all types and sizes of winter clothing. Share a cup of coffee with the staff while you browse.

The Gorham Food Pantry, located at 299-B Main Street (parking lot of St. Anne's Catholic Church), is open every Thursday morning from 10 a.m. to noon and is free for any Gorham resident in need. FMI, (207) 222-4351, visit www.gorhamfoodpantry.org or contact the director at director@gorhamfoodpantry.org.

SENIOR NEWS

The Senior Meal Site at St. Anne's Church takes place weekly on Wednesdays at noon, 299 Main Street. 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 <https://gorhamrec.com> or call (207) 222-1635.

PUBLIC SUPPERS

Living Waters Church on Parker Farm Road in Buxton will have a Haddock Supper Buffet on Saturday, Jan. 31 at 5 p.m. Suggested donation is \$10 adults, \$5 child, \$20 family. Take out containers are an available option.

LIBRARY NEWS

The North Gorham Public Library is a small, non-profit community library, looking for a dedicated volunteer with experience in fundraising and grant writing. Supporting North Gorham and Standish, the library is open Monday 3 - 6 p.m., Tuesday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 - 6 p.m., Thursday and Friday closed, Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sunday closed. FMI: libng@north-gorham.lib.me.us. Sign up for the library's email weekly newsletter.

Baxter Memorial Library offers many reading events each week. On Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 6 p.m., Heather Perry, superintendent of schools, will hold the "Community Forum: Our Schools, Our Future." Check the calendar in this issue for what's coming up soon at the library. Children under the age of 8 require adult supervision. Library hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Mondays and Fridays, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays, and closed on Sundays. FMI: (207) 222-1190.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

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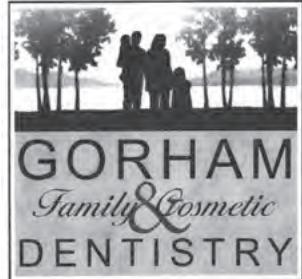
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Of Interest CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE NEWS

The University of Southern Maine Art Gallery has announced the opening of the 2026 Juried Student Exhibition. Open to students across all majors at the University, the Juried Student Exhibition fosters student preparation for professional art settings and processes, provides feedback from art professionals in the community, and exposes their work to a wide range of viewers. During the opening reception, cash prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd-place Best in Show and three Honorable Mention awards. Discipline Awards will also be presented at the reception to Art majors who excel within their disciplines. Judging the show are: Rosalba Breazeale, artist, educator, and studio director at 205 Ocean Ave studios, and Raquel P. Miller, artist living and working in Biddeford, Maine. The show is sponsored by University Credit Union, Portland's Artist & Craftsman Supply, Hunt's Photo and Video, and Casco Bay Frames & Gallery. The 2026 Juried Student Exhibition is open through March 24th.



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CALENDAR

Thursday, Jan. 29

Baxter Memorial Library, Toddler Storytime, 10 - 10:30 a.m.

Town of Gorham, Finance Committee Meeting, 3:30 p.m.

USM Art Gallery, 2026 Juried Student Exhibition opens, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 2

Town of Gorham, Planning Board Full Board Workshop, 5:30 p.m., Planning Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Feb. 2, Friends of the Presumpscot River, major visioning sessions, 2:30 and 6:30 p.m., FMI and register at (207) 329-5042.

Tuesday, Feb. 3

Baxter Memorial Library, PreK & Kindergarten Readiness Storytime, 10 - 11 a.m.

Baxter Memorial Library, Dogs Dig Reading, 4 - 5 p.m.

French Language Discussion Group, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 4

Baxter Memorial Library, Baby Storytime, 9:30 - 10 a.m.

Thursday, Feb. 5,

Baxter Memorial Library, Toddler Storytime, 10 - 10:30 a.m.

Baxter Memorial Library, Library Trustees Meeting, 6 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 9

Town of Gorham, Ordinance Committee Meeting, 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 10

Baxter Memorial Library, PreK and Kindergarten Readiness Storytime, 10 - 11 a.m.

Baxter Memorial Library, Dogs Dig Reading, 4 - 5 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 11

Baxter Memorial Library, Baby Storytime, 9:30 - 10 a.m.

Baxter Memorial Library, Teen Advisory Board Meeting, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Baxter Memorial Library, Be a Bower Bird - a Collage Crafternoon, 1 - 3 p.m.

Send calendar items, public service announcements and events to Lori Arsenault, public service coordinator: loriaam@gmail.com

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Courtesy of the Gorham Police Department

the blotter

GPD received a report that a tent under the powerlines by Woodspell Road had been knocked over and the caller was worried someone may be deceased inside. This tent has been there for months and is known by most of the department at this point. Examining the tent, it appeared largely abandoned and with no one inside. While not clean, it appeared that no one was living in it anymore. Officer informed the caller before having to leave for another call.

Met with a woman on the side of the road who stated she was walking to New Hampshire. At her request, officer gave her a ride to Cumberland Farms in town.

GPD received a delayed report of a tan pickup swerving erratically on Gray Road heading towards town. Officer was nearby and searched the area with negative contact.

A citizen came into the Police Department and wanted to report fraud with getting passports. Dispatcher was able to confirm that it is a third party site, and not a scam, and explained that to her. Nothing further at this time.

A driver reported seeing an older woman passed out behind the wheel of a blue SUV before waking up and heading into Gorham. No further description was given and the caller could not follow. Officer searched the area to no success. Someone called in because he randomly started receiving someone else's mail

again. The old roommate was identified but caller had not spoken to him in years and did not understand why it was being sent to his house. Officer advised him to write a narrative explaining why he called and to contact the postmaster for further help. He was also told to write "return to sender" on the mail and put it back in his mailbox.

Did not see the cow in question. Must have gone in the barn.

An officer was dispatched to speak with a citizen in reference to an orange Subaru parked on College Avenue. Officer spoke with the owner and he will be moving the vehicle.

An officer was dispatched to locate a vehicle swerving all over the road. The officer had no contact with the vehicle.

Officer checked on a vehicle where the operator appeared to be passed out. Officer made contact with the driver who had just ordered food and was watching a video on his phone.

Vehicle pulled over with its hazards on. Operator said he was having an issue with his vehicle; however, he was able to fix it and was able to drive from the scene.

Another operator was contacting AAA. Vehicle was well off the road. He was advised to call if he needed further assistance.

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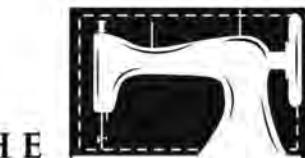
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