

# Gorham Times

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

## Officials Celebrate Completion of Energy Storage Facility

John Ersek, Staff Writer



Photo Credit: Courtesy of Plus Power

Ceremonial ribbon cutting marks completion of Cross Town energy storage project. From left to right, participants include Joshua Gale, VP and GM, Power & Energy, Cianbro; Naveen Abraham, CEO, Plus Power; Maine Governor Janet Mills; Dan Burgess, Acting Commissioner of the Maine Department of Energy Resources; and Kevin Jensen, Economic Development Director, Town of Gorham.

At a Feb. 11 ribbon-cutting ceremony, Plus Power based in Houston, Texas, celebrated the recent completion of its Cross Town Energy Storage facility. Located on over five acres of land between the Gorham Industrial Park and the Mosher's Corner area on Route 25, the 175-MW-battery facility is now the largest project of its

kind in New England, and one of the largest in the Northeast. The location was chosen primarily because of its proximity to CMP's Mosher's substation.

Cross Town's connection to the ISO New England grid went online and was fully operational as of Nov. 29, 2025. According to Plus Power, the Cross Town facility has continued to operate as planned, such as during recent extreme cold weather events and during a large late January snowstorm.

As a utility-scale battery project, Cross Town is designed to store excess electrical energy from the grid at times when customer demand is lower and renewable energy production is higher. At times of peak demand, Cross Town's batteries will release electricity into the grid in order to maintain and balance the flow of electrical energy. By absorbing intermittent energy spikes (such as from renewables), projects like Cross Town enhance the reliability of the power grid, lessening future energy price increases, while helping to make renewable

energy more reliable and economical.

Governor Janet Mills spoke at the ceremony. She said, "Today, Maine welcomed the largest energy storage project of its kind in New England, delivering real cost savings and reliable power for Maine. This project will help lower electricity costs by reducing the need for costly fossil fuels when the grid is strained, as we've seen during recent extreme cold weather. I congratulate the Town of Gorham and Plus Power on this significant achievement that will deliver lasting savings and reliability for Maine people."

Speakers from Plus Power and others cited Maine's leadership on battery storage policies, which led Plus Power to build this 175 MW / 350 MWh facility in Gorham, part of the State of Maine's goal of building 400 MW of battery energy storage by 2030. (This is related to the state's efforts to achieve 90% renewable energy use by 2030 and 100% by 2040.)

Plus Power officials have also cited Maine-based Cianbro Corporation's

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## GHS Presents One-Act Play "The Yellow Wallpaper"

Michael Lortie, School News Editor

Gorham High School is presenting the one-act play "The Yellow Wallpaper" for three performances before competing in the regional one-act festival. Performances are scheduled for Friday, Feb. 27, Saturday, Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, March 1 at 2 p.m. It is a 40 minute play and admission is five dollars.

### CAST:

Elle Woodman	Jane
Carmen Thibault Cardiff	Eleanor
Leila Schmoyer	Jenny
Alex Tukey	John
Logan Mills	Frank
Alexandria Gossen	Dorothy
Sadie Woodman	Woman In the Wall 1

Isla Rutherford

Sophie Proulx

### CREW:

Student Director	Isabelle Smith
Stage Manager	Gillian LaChance
Assistant Stage Manager	Dexter Vance
Light Board Operator	Max Lampron
Sound Board Operator	Daniel LaBarge
Stage Crew	
	Rigel Arlet, Seamus Bailey, Finley Caban, Zack Carlson, Fiona Lane, Link Mathews, Rhett Miller, Mitchell Neff, Jacob Palmer, Katelyn Pyle, Amara Vincent, Loretta Vo, Noah Williams

Woman in the Wall 2  
Woman in the Wall 3

### PRODUCTION:

Theater Director	Joshua Hurd
Production Manager	Jocelyn Miller

Costume Designer	Diane Beliveau
Technical Director	Joseph Strout
Set Builder	Matt Bourgoin



Elle Woodman



Isla Rutherford



Leila Schmoyer



Alex Tukey



Alexandria Gossen



Carmen Thibault Tardiff



Logan Mills



Sadie Woodman



Sophie Proulx

Photos from Gorham High School

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# Standing Tall Against ICE Threats

Sen. Stacy Brenner

This past year, more than ever before, I feel the word "unprecedented" has lost much of its weight. Not because it is being employed in error, but rather because nearly every day brings a new unprecedented federal experiment testing our rule of law and the strength of our democratic institutions.

It's hard to know where to look in such a political climate. In fact, it can be hard to look at all. We are prone to shutting down when inundated with a constant stream of shocking headlines — which, in many cases, seems to be precisely the point of the Trump Administration's actions.

Federal immigration enforcement has been both a major contributor to, and beneficiary of, this noise, stoking fear and division in communities like ours across the country. When it should be safeguarding civil rights and protecting access to justice, the federal government has actively threatened public safety and due process. In its quest to meet quotas, ICE has cast a wide net reaching far beyond those accused of wrongdoing, targeting lawfully present asylees, refugees, naturalized citizens and U.S. born residents without regard for their legal rights.

At a moment defined by fear, however, our community did not shut down. It filled me with hope to see neighbors

support neighbors by organizing grocery deliveries, safe rides, school drop-off patrol groups and other resources for those more vulnerable to profiling by ICE.

Just as local communities stood up in the face of federal threats to Mainer's rights and safety, so too must the State. We began this year in the Legislature with a major step forward as LD 1971 was passed into law, focusing resources on promoting public safety by limiting the context in which local law enforcement can support and interact with federal law enforcement. Though the law will not officially take effect until this summer, Maine State Police have been following it since early January.

The legislature is actively considering several other bills poised to protect rights and safety in the face of a sweeping federal commitment to mass detainment and deportation. Rep. Ellie Sato of Gorham's LD 2106, for example, would require federal law enforcement to obtain a judicial warrant signed by a judge before accessing a sensitive location or confidential record. The bill would strengthen constitutional protections against unlawful search and seizure in key community spaces like schools, hospitals and libraries — protections the Trump Administration rescinded early last year.

Also on the docket is LD 2176, which aims to improve timely access to legal representation in immigration detention proceedings. Without representation, Mainers who are profiled and detained under aggressive immigration enforcement sweeps have limited ability to assert their rights and challenge the lawfulness of their detainment. The bill would make clear that a person deprived of rights under the Maine Civil Rights Act in the course of an unlawful immigration detention can seek remedies, including compensatory damages and attorney fees.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to advance these urgently needed protections for public safety and due process — because our communities are better off for the rich contributions of all who call Maine home.



*As always, you can contact me at Stacy.Brenner@legislature.maine.gov or (207) 287-1515 for help navigating state services or to share questions, comments and concerns.*

## 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.

## IT Expert on Why We Can't Tell What's Real Online

Gorham Times Staff

As a young child growing up in Gorham, Sean Edwards played outside, rode his bike with the other kids in the neighborhood and dug tunnels in the snowbanks. "Then some time in high school, we got broadband," he notes ominously.

Edwards graduated from Gorham High School in 2006, and he says that if you include high school internships, he's touched computers professionally for over two decades. These days he helps connect the computer systems of Fortune 100 companies.

Edwards recalls that in his earliest days online, he spent his time starting arguments in AOL chatrooms. "Mac vs. PC. Computer vs. gaming consoles. Bill Gates vs. Steve Jobs. I wasn't picky about the topic as long as people were arguing," he says. "This type of behavior is called trolling."

As internet access evolved, Edwards discovered what he calls "a dreadful website that you should never visit," where he found "images too graphic to describe in a community newspaper. There, I learned that irony and sarcasm are a cheap and versatile defense mechanism. That website has so many manipulated images that it becomes a meme: 'This looks [photo] shopped. I can tell from some of the pixels and from seeing quite a few shops in my time.'"

Edwards shares his firsthand experiences as a way of sounding an alarm. "I want people to understand the depth of my sincerity when I say that in the year 2026 and beyond, I cannot help you distinguish fact from fiction online," he warns. "Your Facebook feed

is not a representation of reality. Your news homepage is only showing you the stories that you want to see. Every action you take online is measured and tracked, and the content you see is purely based on whether the platform thinks you're likely to like, comment or watch. The internet is awash in propaganda, AI-generated slop, and people like me who are just trying to make you mad for the fun of it."

In short, Edwards says, "the internet does not care for the truth."

Edwards considers modern society to be in a state of epistemological crisis. At one time, he says, we may have disagreed on our priorities, but we basically agreed on the facts of the world. "Now, huge swaths of the population are exposed to such vastly divergent information environments that the most basic truths of reality seem to be up for debate. They aren't," he adds, "but that doesn't seem to stop anybody from debating anyway."

Yet Edwards shares that amidst the backdrop of this perilous internet landscape, some things remain unquestionably true: "the events in our town, the ones you see in the real world with your own eyes, the stories your neighbors tell you about what happened in their own lives. You can read about these events in your local community paper, published every two weeks by your own neighbors, using their real names and email addresses."

*Sean Edwards has joined the Gorham Times staff as IT manager.*

## Gorham Times

BRINGING THE NEWS TO ALL OF GORHAM  
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# Robie Park Winter Update

Gorham Times Staff



Photo Credit: Courtesy Town of Gorham

In fall of 2025, the Robie Park site underwent grading as well as the installation of electrical and playground equipment. As warmer weather approaches, rubberized playground surfacing will be installed. The park will remain closed to the public for the public's safety until the project is complete.

## Bellows Addresses Election Integrity at Gorham Gathering

Sally Fay, Staff Writer



Photo Credit: Dennis Boyd

Program speakers Patti Dubois, Beth Allen, and Shenna Bellows (l-r) field an audience member's question about Maine's election safeguards.

On the evening of Feb. 11, upwards of 100 people gathered at Gorham's First Parish Congregational Church to hear Maine Secretary of State Shenna Bellows and others speak about the state of free, fair, and secure elections in Maine. Organized by Indivisible Cumberland County, the program focused on the state's election processes and constitutionally guaranteed voting rights. Beth Allen, co-executive director of the Maine Votes / Maine Voters Network; and Patti Dubois, a member of the Committee for Safe and Secure Elections, as well as Waterville, Maine's municipal clerk and member of the Maine Town & City Clerks' Association, rounded out the speaker list. Following informative presentations about the state of election integrity in Maine, the speakers fielded more than a dozen questions from audience members. Although many citizens voiced concerns about voter suppression and federal overreach, Secretary Bellows, a Democratic candidate for governor in 2026, emphasized her faith in the mechanics of voting in Maine and challenged the audience to raise their voices on policy issues and to exercise their right to vote.

## Energy Storage CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

efforts in project engineering, procurement, and construction as being essential to the development of the facility. "Plus Power is proud to operate another landmark facility in New England and further strengthen power reliability in the region," said Naveen Abraham, chief executive officer of Plus Power. "We look forward to continuing our partnership with ISO New England as our facilities demonstrate the unique capabilities of battery energy storage systems."

The industrial-scale storage capacity of Cross Town is enabled by 156 large storage containers, which are each filled to capacity with lithium phosphate batteries. Currently, Plus Power is developing 11 gigawatts of projects in roughly 20 states. The only comparable large battery storage facility operating in New England is the 150 MW

Cranberry Point facility in Carver, Mass.

Cross Town's location enables it to ease congestion at the Mosher substation and facilitate the transmission of wind power from Northern Maine and hydro power from Quebec, Canada, to meet demand in Southern Maine and the Boston area. Cross Town will also help ISO New England make up for the power capacity lost by retiring gas-powered plants and other reduced capacity. During the recent frigid cold weather in January and February, Cross Town and Cranberry Point were both fully online to help ISO New England balance energy flow and reduce peak power costs.

The 156 units at Cross Town feature Sungrow's PowerTitan battery storage systems, which are considered highly suited for performing efficiently in Maine's dynamically changing climate.



Photo Credit: Courtesy of Plus Power



Photo Credit: Courtesy of Plus Power

Aerial photos of the new Cross Town Energy Storage facility, located at the end of Hutcherson Drive, in the industrial park across from the Mosher's Corner area of Route 25.

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**Gorham Times**

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# Action Plan to Avoid a Scam

Wendy Bowen, Contributing Writer

Scams are becoming more sophisticated, faster and more convincing, making an action plan essential. Knowing how to respond to suspicious messages, calls or offers in advance reduces the risk of making a rushed decision.

An action plan removes the pressure scammers rely on. Instead of reacting to urgent threats or “too good to be true” promises, consumers can follow clear steps: pause, verify and seek a second opinion. That brief pause can help prevent financial loss.

A strong scam-prevention plan includes three steps to help identify red flags quickly. Unexpected requests for personal information, demands for immediate payment or instructions to keep a situation secret are common warning signs. When these occur, the plan should prompt you to stop engaging and report the attempt. Write the steps down and keep them in a visible place, such as on a refrigerator.

Step one: Identify the signs of a scam. Scammers often claim there is a problem. They may say you owe money to the government or pose as a bank representative warning that your account has been compromised. They create urgency to limit time for careful thinking and often demand payment through gift cards, wire transfers, cryptocurrency or payment apps. Money sent using these methods is difficult to recover.

Step two: Pause if you feel pressured. Talk with someone you trust before taking action. Create a short contact list of people you know personally, such as family members, friends or neighbors, and let them know you may

contact them if you suspect a scam.

Step three: Keep verified contact information available. Maintain a list of phone numbers for companies you regularly do business with, including banks, credit card issuers, utilities and online retailers. Use only contact information from reliable sources, such as account statements, official websites, receipts or the back of your cards. This ensures you can reach a legitimate company if you are concerned about your account.

An action plan also builds confidence. Protecting yourself does not require technical expertise, only preparation. Knowing whom to contact, how to verify information and when to disengage reduces the risk of financial and emotional harm.

As scams continue to evolve, preparation remains one of the most effective forms of protection. You can find an easy-to-use Action Plan worksheet on the Federal Trade Commission’s Consumer website at [consumer.gov/scams-identity-theft](http://consumer.gov/scams-identity-theft). They also offer many resources on how to protect yourself and others from scams and identity theft.



Wendy Bowen is marketing manager at Casco Federal Credit Union.

# The Independence Decathlon

Stan Skolfield, Contributing Writer

Most adults do not fear getting older. They fear losing independence. That is the day your body starts voting “no” on normal life. Walking through an airport without your joints barking. Getting up off the floor without a plan. Trusting your balance on an icy sidewalk. Carrying groceries in one trip. Lifting a suitcase overhead. Climbing stairs without feeling wrecked. That is not “just aging.” That is the day your body becomes the limiting factor in your life.

Adults should train with a simple goal: to stay capable for decades. It’s not about getting in shape, or sweating or chasing a number on a scale or steps on your watch. Make training for real life your goal. That’s where the idea of the Independence Decathlon comes in.

Longevity physician Peter Attia focuses on health span, not just lifespan. In his book *Outlive: The Science and Art of Longevity*, Attia makes a simple case. Do not train for short-term goals like summer. Train for your last good decade, the decade where you still want to move, travel, play, carry things, and live on your own terms.

Attia calls it the “Centenarian Decathlon.” The concept is straightforward. Choose the real-world tasks you want to be able to do in your final decade, then work backward to build the strength and capacity you will need. He calls this “back casting.” The logic is hard to argue with. Your brain and ambition may still be strong at 70, but if your body cannot support your life, your world gets smaller.

Here is a practical version I call the Independence Decathlon. These 10 abilities tell you whether your training is preparing you for real life.

Hike one to two miles on uneven ground. Think of trails, hills, vacations, hunting, and long walks.

Get up off the floor using no more than one arm for support.

Pick up a 30-pound child, or an awkward object, from the floor.

Carry grocery bags for several blocks. Lift a suitcase overhead.

Balance on one leg for 30 seconds.

Climb several flights of stairs without getting crushed.

Open a stubborn jar. Jump rope, or hop and skip, for 30 seconds.

Move well enough to enjoy an active sex life.

If that list made you think, “I am not sure I could do all of that,” good. That is not a reason to feel bad. It is a reason to pay attention. Awareness creates action. For the biggest return on your training time, the cornerstone is strength. Not strength for ego. Strength for function. When people lose independence, it is rarely because they did not stretch enough. It is because they do not have enough strength reserve to handle normal life. Stairs become a problem. Knees and hips start dictating decisions. Picking things up feels risky. Falls become catastrophic instead of inconvenient.

Strength gives you margin. And margin is everything. Here is a money analogy that lands with a lot of people. Strength training is compound interest for your body. Every session is a deposit. Consistency is your monthly contribution. Gradually getting stronger is the growth rate. Mobility and joint care are risk management. Independence later is the retirement payoff. The earlier you start, the more the compounding works in your favor.

The goal is not to “work out.” The goal is to stay capable, so you can keep doing what you love, on your terms, for decades.



Stan Skolfield is the owner of Skolfield Sports Performance, a comprehensive athlete training facility dedicated to getting athletes to the

next level. He has been training athletes from 7 years old to the pros for over 25 years.

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SOLUTION ON PAGE 11

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# School Committee Meeting, Feb. 11, 2026

Michael Lortie, School News Editor



Photo Credit: Becky Fortier, Great Falls Principal

Great Falls students Rumi, Zetty, Charlie and Maeve, who presented at the School Committee Meeting

The Gorham School Committee met for their monthly meeting on Monday, Feb. 11, 2026. Chairperson Nicole Yeo-Fisher called the meeting to order and there were five members present (absent: Paulette Tateishi, Eric Thistle). The committee approved the minutes of the Jan. 14 Regular Meeting and the Jan. 28 Workshop Meeting.

Four students from Great Falls School presented Part 2 of the GF Connection Time. This program is designed to strengthen relationships, model restorative practices, build community and provide disability awareness. The activities include read-aloud books, art projects and opportunities for meaningful conversations with students from other grades. In the fall, Part 1 reviewed the community circles that are integral to these lessons. Rumi, Zetty, Charlie and Maeve shared books and artwork from their lessons.

Assistant Superintendent Quinton Donahue announced that the preliminary budget draft was available on the Gorham School District website and that there would be weekly presentations and reviews with the School Committee, beginning with a question and answer discussion on Feb. 23.

Mr. Donahue continued the superintendent's review of the State of the Schools Report, which is available on the school website. He presented the "metrics for success" and highlighted statistics for the graduated class of 2025. He also stated that Governor Janet Mills' budget is proposing a budget increase to the school general fund, and that Mills hopes to increase teacher salaries in the state and provide funds for retrofitting school buses with additional safety

devices. She has also proposed a "Bell to Bell" ban on cell phones, which will need to be approved by the legislature.

The following teachers have been nominated for Teacher of the Year: Delainey Kein, Allison Stanley, Kelly Tole, Heather VanLuling, Natasha Jordan, Susan Ferris, Karen Lyford, Sarah Drury, and Stephanie Ramons. The teachers must decide to take the next step for the process to continue.

Each school committee member had an opportunity to report on recent events. Committee member Mia DeSanctis said that with all of the news and recent events that it is easy to "get stuck." She is trying to focus on gratitude and doing good. Committee member Michelle Littlefield congratulated community members standing up for others and examples of the code of conduct that she has witnessed in the community. Member Jeffery Ballard congratulated the students involved in "Something Rotten" and also commented on good student behavior that he had witnessed. Chairperson Nicole Yeo-Fisher commented on the budget process and that the committee will meet each Monday in March to review. These meetings will be livestreamed and available to be viewed later on the school website.

The committee approved (5-0) a second reading of four policies: Student Use of Vehicles During the School Day (JLIE), Motorized Vehicles on School Property (JLIF), School-Community Relations (KA) and Parent Involvement in Title I (KBF). They approved (5-0) the School Committee goals and approved (5-0) the 2026-2027 school calendar, both of which had been reviewed in a workshop meeting.

# New Alert System for Cumberland County

Cumberland County EMA

On Friday, Feb. 20, the Cumberland County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) adopted new emergency notification systems. These systems alert visitors and residents in the county of emergencies that impact their homes or other locations.

According to the press release, the Rave Alert system, powered by Smart911, allows residents or visitors to register their addresses with the county. When a disaster impacts that address, they can receive a call, text or email to alert them and provide important instructions. 911 Director Melinda Fairbrother-Dyer notes, "This system creates the ability to make participating residents more informed. Having the capability to get information out quickly and put it directly in the hands of those who need it can make a world of difference."

This system replaces the CodeRed

system that had previously been used. Anyone wishing to continue to receive alerts must subscribe to the new Rave Alert system. The county has set up a dedicated webpage to sign up, or call (207) 893-2810.

The system differs from other systems that 'ping' cell phones, Emergency Management Director Michael Durkin explained: "Tying alerts to an address is a strength because the system allows you to enter multiple addresses. You can put your home, work, a camp, your children's bus stop, any location that matters. That flexibility is important." He went on to note the system is often used by out-of-state caretakers.

For additional information and to sign up please visit: [https://www.cumberlandcountyme.gov/departments/regional\\_communications\\_center/emergency\\_alert\\_notifications.php](https://www.cumberlandcountyme.gov/departments/regional_communications_center/emergency_alert_notifications.php), or call (207) 893-2810.

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# Nothing Brings People Together Like Whoopie Pies

RainaLee Cooper, School Nutrition Director



Photo Credit: RainaLee Cooper

Days can be hectic, and it's not always easy to leave the classroom or office, so Anne Tarbox, GHS's cook, delivered whoopie pies around the high school (pictured with Barbara Quinn-Gagnon.)

The Gorham School District's nutrition department recently strengthened relationships and the school community as staff gathered to celebrate Whoopie Wellness. The event was designed to promote social wellness

and strengthen relationships among staff members, because wellness is about more than just nutrition and fitness; it's also about community. Gorham's nutrition professionals work hard every day to fuel students

with the nutrients they need for active learning, and this celebration was a small way to recognize their dedication while bringing colleagues together.

How lucky are our students to attend school in a district built on a foundation

of connection and togetherness? When adults build strong relationships, it creates a positive, supportive environment for students to learn and grow.

Strong bonds truly build bright futures.



Photo Credit: RainaLee Cooper

Meanwhile, we couldn't forget everyone at Central Office! Village's cafe assistant, Kelly Shaw, and the Nutrition Department's administrative assistant, Diana Blanchard, delivered to the Central Office. Here they are with Assistant Superintendent Quinton Donahue.

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**SPORTS**

# GHS Indoor Track & Field Championships

Katie Brown, Sports Editor



Photo Credit: Jeff Crider II

Girls relay team in action at states

The Class A boys and girls indoor track championships took place at the USM Fieldhouse in Gorham on Feb. 16, highlighting competitive performances where numerous athletes achieved qualifying standards for the state meet across various running and field events.

The Gorham Rams had several athletes on both the boy's and girl's sides who successfully competed in the Southwesterns to qualify for the States. As a team in the Southwesterns, the boys placed third and the girls placed sixth, putting them in good contention.

Conference champions included sophomore Tessa White in both hurdles and long jump and Jack Cyr in the 400 meter run and the relay teams. Antoine Dube, Kevin Munyaneza, Evan Hall and Jack Cyr broke the school record in the 4x400 event. The boys sprint medley team took home first place: Colton Jenkins, Isaac Vail, Adam Auricchio, Tyler Olson and the Junior 4x200 team of Carter McGonagle, Wyland Herrick, Liam Rice and Brayden Logan.

Other top scorers in dual races at the SMAAs include Adam Auricchio, who placed second in the 400 meter and 4th in the 200 meter; Whitney Varney, 3rd in hurdles and third in the triple jump; and Taylor Chadburn, fourth in the 55 meter and eighth in 200 meter. Rounding out the 2 mile race, Owen Cummings placed third and Harry Crider fourth.

Both teams had a period of preparation following their postseason qualifications before competing in the state

championships. The Rams reached the podium in several events. Teammates Jack Cyr and Antoine Dube took first and second in the 400 meter race. Other key results: Boy's relay teams placed second in the 4x200m and fourth in the 4x800m. On the girl's side, Tessa White placed sixth in the 55m hurdles.

Coach Tanguay shared on social media a great sentiment with congratulations to both the boy's and girl's teams for the hard work, dedication and perseverance of all the athletes who put in the effort all season long.



Photo Credit: Jeff Crider II

Tessa White at States in the long jump



Photo Credit: Jeff Crider II

Teammates Jack Cyr and Antoine Dube in the 400m

# Gorham High School Cheerleading Team: Up and Coming in Class A

Larissa Moore, GHS Student Intern

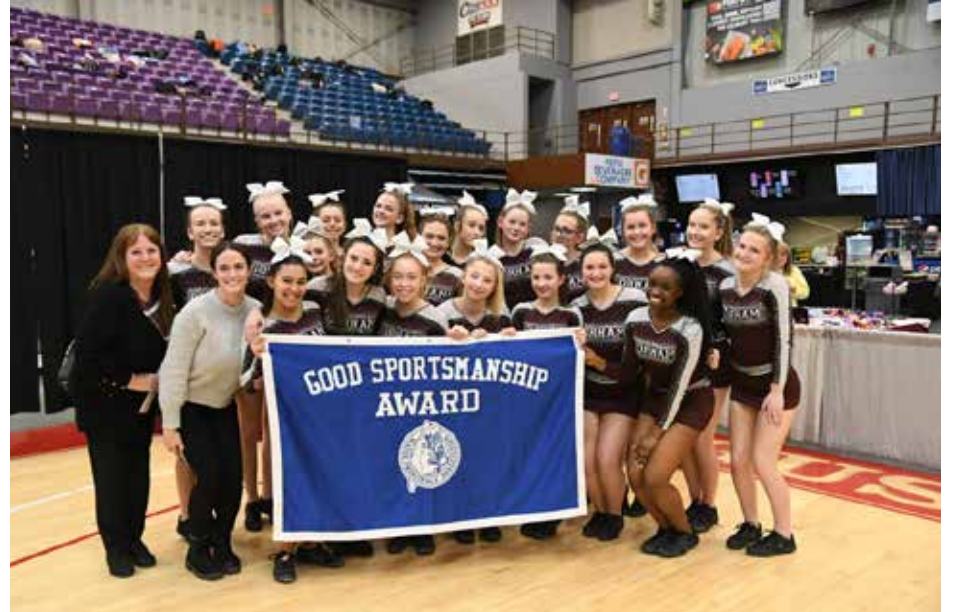


Photo Credit: Midcoast Photo

Gorham High School cheerleading team wins the Class A-South Sportsmanship award.

On Feb. 7, the Gorham High School cheerleading team made the trip to Augusta for the Maine State Cheerleading Championships. Even with only five returning athletes, the Rams had a very strong season.

Their season began back in late November, when they started putting their routine together. Ever since then, the team practiced six days a week, working to perfect their skills. Day in day out, the athletes showed up so they could work their way to the top of Class A.

They hosted their very own competition at GHS on Jan. 17, where they debuted their routine. This year at their annual Rampage competition, they placed third out of 11 teams. The following week, the GHS cheerleading team was supposed to attend the SMAA cheerleading competition. Unfortunately the competition was cancelled due to a severe snowstorm. Instead, the MPA decided to host the competition virtually. All Class A-South teams had the opportunity to submit a video of their routine, and get scored by the normal panel of judges.

On Jan. 29, the Rams were titled the 2026 SMAA champions. They beat 11 other teams, making this their first SMAA win since 2017.

Coach Julie Dvilinsky-Hobart said, "You think about all the hard practices, the corrections, the moment where you push them because you know they're capable of more. To be the 2026 Southern Maine Conference champions made all of it worth it. I couldn't have been more proud."

The team went on to regionals at

Sanford High School on Jan. 31. Here they had an outstanding performance, but were against very tough competition. Gorham ended up placing fourth and qualifying to go to the Maine State Cheer Championships in Augusta.

The week before states, the girls trained every day and improved their routine for their final performance. Coach Hobart explained, "It comes down to reps and trust. We do things over and over until it becomes second nature, so when the pressure is on, they can rely on their training and each other."

When the day of states came, they were ready to put out their best routine yet. Not only were they competing against Class A-South, but they were also against the highly competitive Class A-North. The Rams hit a perfect routine, and they finished in sixth place out of the 16 teams that qualified.

Along with that, the Gorham High School varsity cheerleading team was presented with the Class A-South sportsmanship award. The last time the Rams were given this award was back in 2014. This award truly honors the team for their passion for the sport, and their kindness towards their competitors.

2026 was a monumental season for Gorham, and the future looks even brighter. "It's been a journey. There were years that they tested us, and moments where it would've been easier to walk away, but Coach Erika and I never gave up. We believed in what this program could be. Watching these athletes spring go back to the top makes everything worth it," Coach Hobart said.



## COMMUNITY

### DEAN'S LIST

Ryan Morrill, University of Tampa, Tampa, Florida

First Parish Church will host a public meeting, "Proposed Amazon Warehouse in Gorham," on Thursday, Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. Hear from local experts and community voices on key topics, including traffic and infrastructure impacts, tax revenue, alternative development strategies, and working conditions for Amazon employees. Community members will have time to ask questions and share concerns. RSVP is optional, but helpful.

RSVP here: <https://tinyurl.com/5n7ydh5r>

First Parish Church will hold a screening of the film "Dakota 38." on Friday, Feb. 27 at 6 p.m., 1 Church Street. The title refers to the hanging of 38 Dakota tribesmen during the presidency of Abraham Lincoln. The film tells the moving story of a dream by a Native spiritual leader in 2005 that results in an arduous, extraordinary trip of healing and reconciliation for a group of Native Americans. Local film-maker Silas Hagerty will be in attendance and will lead a discussion afterward.

### NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

The Gorham Medical Closet is available to Gorham residents in need of medical equipment. Wheelchairs, walkers, canes and scooters are just some of the items available. The closet also accepts CLEAN donations. They are open Monday through Thursday by appointment only. 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 <https://www.gorhamfoodpantry.org> or contact the director at [director@gorhamfoodpantry.org](mailto:director@gorhamfoodpantry.org).

### SENIOR NEWS

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: <https://www.gorhamarts.org/seniorscoop>.

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 will have a Haddock Supper Buffet on Saturday, Feb. 28, 2026 at 5 p.m., Parker Farm Road in Buxton. Suggested donation: \$10 Adult, \$5 Child, \$20 Family. There is an option of takeout containers for those who do not want to come inside for seating.

The Gorham Knights of Columbus are hosting Lenten Fish Dinners Fridays, Feb. 20 through March 27, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at St. Anne Church. Enjoy baked haddock, mashed potatoes, coleslaw, peas, rolls, dessert, and a beverage—all for just \$15 for adults, \$8 for kids. New this year, kids pizza meal is free, and \$8 for adults. Take-out is available, and credit cards are accepted. For more information, contact [Gorhamkofcfishdinners@gmail.com](mailto:Gorhamkofcfishdinners@gmail.com).

### 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: email [libng@north-gorham.lib.me.us](mailto:libng@north-gorham.lib.me.us). Sign up for the library's email weekly newsletter.

Baxter Memorial Library offers many reading events each week. 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.

Send calendar items, public service announcements and events to  
Lori Arsenault, public service coordinator: [loriaam@gmail.com](mailto:loriaam@gmail.com)

The Gorham Times acknowledges the lands and waters of the Dawnland, where we live and do our work, as the unceded homelands of ancestral peoples indigenous to these places. We honor them. We acknowledge the difficult truths of our nation's period of colonization as well as the healing work that remains for us to do.

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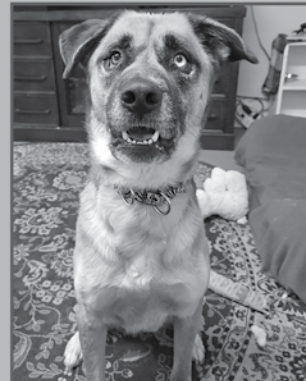
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**Gorham MAINE**

2/26 Affordable Housing Committee Meeting, 11 a.m.  
3/2 Planning Board Meeting, 7 p.m.  
3/4 Finance Committee Meeting, 3:30 p.m.  
3/9 Ordinance Committee Meeting, 3:30 p.m.  
3/17 Conservation Commission Meeting, 7 p.m.  
3/19 Capital Improvement Projects / Economic Development Committee Meeting, 11 a.m.



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## CALENDAR

### Thursday, Feb. 26

Baxter Memorial Library, Toddler Storytime, 10 - 10:30 a.m.  
Baxter Memorial Library, Book Group, "Call Your Daughter Home, by Deb Sear, 10:15 a.m.  
First Parish Church hosts public meeting about proposed Amazon warehouse, 7 p.m.  
USM Athletics home game, Women's Basketball vs. TBA: LECT\* (Semi-Final) TBA  
USM Athletics home game, Men's Basketball vs. TBA: LECT\* (Semi-Final) TBA

### Friday, Feb. 27

First Parish Church, screening of "Dakota 38," 6 p.m.

### Saturday, Feb. 28

Baxter Memorial Library, RPG Club, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
USM Athletics home game, Men's Ice Hockey vs. TBA: LECT\* TBA  
USM Athletics home game, Women's Ice Hockey vs. TBA: LECT\* TBA  
USM Athletics home game, Men's Basketball vs. TBA: LECT\* (Finals) TBA  
USM Athletics home game, Women's Basketball vs. TBA: LECT\* (Finals) TBA  
USM Athletics home game, Women's Lacrosse vs. Worcester State University at noon

### Tuesday, March 3

Baxter Memorial Library, Preschool and Kindergarten Readiness Storytime, 10 - 11 a.m.  
USM Athletics home game, Women's Lacrosse vs. Husson University at 4 p.m.  
Baxter Memorial Library, Dogs Dig Reading, 4 - 6 p.m.  
Baxter Memorial Library, French Language Discussion Group, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
Baxter Memorial Library, Lakes Region Senior Center Art Exhibit Reception, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, March 4

Baxter Memorial Library, Baby Storytime, 9:30 - 10 a.m.  
Baxter Memorial Library, Dungeons and Dragons, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.  
Baxter Memorial Library, Author Event: Kristine Delano, 6 - 7 p.m.

### Thursday, March 5

Baxter Memorial Library, Toddler Storytime, 10 - 10:30 a.m.  
Baxter Memorial Library, Trustees Meeting, open to the public, 6 p.m.

### Tuesday, March 10

Baxter Memorial Library, Preschool and Kindergarten Readiness Storytime, 10 - 11 a.m.  
Baxter Memorial Library, Dogs Dig Reading, 4 - 6 p.m.  
Baxter Memorial Library, Dungeons and Dragons, 4 - 5 p.m.

### Wednesday, March 11

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

\*LECT=Little East Conference Tournament


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# the blotter

A Tracphone was found on the side of New Portland Road near Gorham House and the cemetery. It had evidently been left out in the elements and probably through the last snow storm, as it was in the snowbank. It appears to be non-functioning and had water in the charging port. Officer checked with Gorham House and they did not have any reported missing phones. The owner is unknown at this time. The phone is being kept in the station for now.

Officers were dispatched to a residence for a report of someone walking out back of the property wearing all black. The caller said that it looked like someone was running across the back yard into the woods, when no one should be there. Officers walked to the back yard and saw no fresh foot prints in the snow and only saw tracks from wildlife. Advised caller to call back if they saw someone again.

Received a call in reference to a road rage incident caller was involved in with a Hyundai gray sedan. Officer was out of position and had it transferred over to Scarborough PD where they were headed.

Caller stated there was a vehicle all over the road headed towards Scarborough. Officer was out of position at the time, but did check the area with negative contact. The information was passed on to Scarborough PD.

A caller wanted to talk about the operation of a patrol vehicle that he saw. He does not wish to file a complaint.

Officer was dispatched to an attempt to locate for a silver minivan driving around 60-65 mph on County Road from Buxton into Gorham. Officer drove around the area and had no contact with the vehicle.

Officer stopped to check on a vehicle that had run out of gas. Was able to get it in a driveway while he waited for a friend to fill up the tank.



Caller stated he found a loose dog on Flaggy Meadow Road. It was a black-and-white husky with a purple collar, no tags. Officer arrived on scene at Flaggy Meadow Road where the dog was being held in the fenced-in backyard. Officer was informed by another officer that the dog lived up the road. Officer returned the dog to the owner and told him that he needs to license his dogs with the town.

Caller saw a male walking through her yard. It was confirmed to be the USPS deliverer.


Caller stated that sometime during lunch a vehicle had clipped his passenger-side mirror. There was a black piece of the mirror that was broken off, but he did not witness the accident. Officer checked the Morrill Avenue parking lot as well as the video and could not see the accident.

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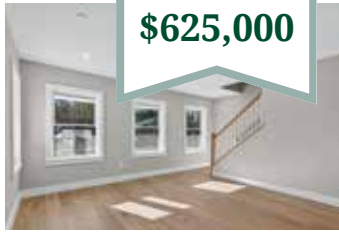
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