

# Gorham Times

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A Free, Not-for-Profit Newspaper Serving Gorham Since 1995 - Celebrating 30 Years

## Babbs Bridge Reopens

Gorham Times Staff



Photo credit: Maine Department of Transportation

"MaineDOT crews finished repairing Babb's Bridge on the Gorham/Windham line yesterday. In addition to repairing the structural damage done when an overloaded truck crashed through the bridge last summer, our crews also replaced the bridge deck and decorative doors." Maine DOT

## A Few Words About Your Silver Bullets

Gorham Times Staff



Photo credit: Courtesy of Gorham Public Works

A recent post on the Gorham Public Works Department Facebook page said, "Thank you for the hockey stick, pot, pan, cutting board and nightstand (no drawers, that's a bummer) but they do not belong at the silver bullets, aka the recycling containers at Public Works, and neither do bags of trash or dryers..."

The post continued, "Not only does the crew have to take time out of their scheduled duties to clean this area up but it also hinders the contractor hauling the containers who now has to take extra time to move items out of the way, and it's just wrong. Please do the right thing."

The Facebook message contained a collection of cute emojis like smiles, frowns, happy faces and other symbols, along with some humorous language, but it's still a serious message hoping to reach those who still mistake the silver bullet area on the Public Works grounds as the town dump. It is not.

The silver bullets provide a place to recycle certain items, and they are clearly marked. To find out how to responsibly dispose of other unwanted items check out Ecomaine's Recyclopedia at <https://ecomaine.org>

The Department's message concluded with, "Before just tossing something, you could see if there is a need in the community for the item you no longer want or need. Anyone can also drop off gently used, in working condition, items at most Goodwill or Salvation Army locations."

Facilities for drop-off are:

Riverside Recycling  
910 Riverside Street, Portland  
207-797-6200

Casella Transfer Station  
594 County Road, Westbrook  
207-805-3511

If you still need some help, give us a call, we'd be happy to help. Call (207) 222-4950 or email [dpw@gorham.me](mailto:dpw@gorham.me)

## MTA Releases Turnpike Connector Poll Results

John Ersek, Staff Writer

In summer of 2024, the Maine Turnpike Authority hired Peak Insights, a marketing company, to conduct an opinion poll regarding local public attitudes toward the planned Gorham Connector project. The Turnpike Authority released the results of the poll to the public in late January.

350 people were interviewed by phone over a three-day period in mid-August. All were residents of the cities and towns in York and Cumberland Counties which were believed to be the most affected by the turnpike expansion.

The marketing firm divided the cities and towns that it polled into three groups.

"Tier One" communities are those which the Connector route would directly pass through. These are: Gorham, Scarborough, South Portland, and Westbrook.

"Tier Two" communities are those whose residents are most likely to see their commute times improved by the completion of the Connector project. These are: Buxton, Dayton,

Hollis, Limington, Standish, and Windham.

"Tier Three" communities also have a certain number of residents whose commute times would be improved, but not as high a percentage as Tier Two. These are: Limerick, Lyman, Portland, Saco, Sebago, and Waterboro.

Here are some of the top findings from the poll: A majority of overall respondents expressed opposition to the Connector project (44%), while 40% supported it at some level.

Residents of the four core communities of Gorham, Westbrook, Scarborough, and South Portland opposed the project by 48% to 40%.

Respondents from more rural Tier Two opposed the project, by 54% to 32%.

Respondents from Tier Three favored building the Connector, by 44% to 37%.

Regarding their general opinions about the Maine Department of Transportation, 52% of respondents said they had a favorable opinion, 14% had a negative opinion, and 34% did not express an opinion.

Regarding their general opinions about the Maine Turnpike Authority, 49% of respondents said they had a favorable opinion, 18% had a negative opinion, and 33% did not express an opinion.

68% of respondents rated roads in their local area as fair to poor, while 31% rated the roads as good or excellent.

34% of respondents said they commute by car to work or school somewhere in Greater Portland three or four days per week; 16% commute one to three times per week, and 50% do not commute weekly.

49% of respondents described the commuter traffic conditions that they typically experience as "moderate and tolerable"; 35% described conditions as "heavy and frustrating"; and 11% described traffic as "light and easy".

49% of Respondents in Tier One described commuter traffic as "heavy and frustrating", compared with 35% in Tier Two, and 29% in Tier Three.

61% of respondents agreed with the statement "We might need to build new roads to improve traffic flow, but we also need to find alternative ways for commuters to travel."

19% agreed with "We need to build new roads to improve traffic flow."

16% agreed with the statement that "We need to stop building roads."

When respondents were presented with the statement and question "Traffic engineers estimate that commuters could save at least 10 minutes one-way on the Gorham Connector. Does that change your opinion?"

86% agreed with "No, that doesn't matter to me"

6% agreed with "Yes, saving 10 minutes each way a day is a benefit worth having"

3% agreed with "Maybe, but I'd need more information."

By a margin of 63% to 28% respondents

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

**NARRAGANSETT MURAL**  
**PAGE 6**

**inside the Times**   **GOCAM** 

**2 Augusta 4 Living 5 Municipal 6 School 7 Sports**

**9 Community 10 Calendar 11 Blotter**

**GMS & GHS HONOR ROLL**  
**PAGE 8**



Policy on News from Augusta: The Gorham Times asked our three state legislators from Senate District 30, House District 108 and House District 109 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 on Gorham residents. The Gorham Times reserves the right to edit the submissions and it further reserves the right to reject any submission, at its sole discretion.

# Laying the Foundation for Maine's Future

Sen. Stacy Brenner (D)

As civil rights activist Malcolm X said, "Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs only to the people who prepare for it today."

Like many in our community, I was shocked by the latest National Assessment of Education Progress Report showing how Maine students are performing at the lowest levels in decades. Data shows that Maine fourth and eighth grade students are below the national average in test scores in math and reading over the last several years. These reports don't show that our students are failing, rather it shows that, in a complex, post-pandemic world, we are failing to keep up with the challenges our students face. We must be preparing our students for success—and that starts with the buildings we send them to.

Maine's school buildings reflect decades of wear and tear. Districts struggle with leaky roofs, outdated heating systems and challenges accommodating new technology and safety standards. It is difficult to foster an environment for successful learning when building upkeep isn't meeting current needs. The newly formed Governor's Commission on School Construction has been tasked with reviewing school construction needs throughout the state and finding new

solutions for increasing equity and overall impact. The Commission will be searching for alternative funding models and ways to increase the rate of construction and renovations in Maine schools. The Commission is expected to release its findings to the Legislature in April.

We have outdated school infrastructure from Kittery to Fort Kent. The latest report produced by the Maine Education Policy Research Institute highlights the status of state policies and practices for funding school facilities and ways to maintain Pre K-12 schools to meet the safety and learning needs of students and staff. The report highlights the inefficient funding structure for new capital projects and school renovations. Schools that seek assistance may wait years, or even decades, before they move up the priority list. Maine's current school funding model also places a strong reliance on local funding and the community's ability to fund a school or project.

The state must work with communities to find a unique solution to how we fund new schools. In a time when there is a housing crisis and every community is tasked with participating in the development of new units of housing to meet the demand, we need to

recognize that updating and expanding school infrastructure to meet the increase in population is essential. It cannot all fall on the backs of property taxpayers.

I am a firm believer that a quality education is the foundation for a successful future. Let's invest in our future by ensuring up-to-date facilities meet the needs of Maine students in a changing world. We need sustainable funding sources that are equitable and prioritizes students. They say it takes a village to raise a child, let's work together to ensure every child in our state has an accessible and safe school to attend.



*If you have questions, ideas or comments throughout the legislative session, please feel free to contact me at Stacy.*

*Brenner@legislature.maine.gov or my legislative office at (207) 287-1515. You can also follow my Facebook page at Facebook.com/SenatorStacyBrenner for more frequent updates.*

## Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor must be fewer than 300 words, signed with a first and last name, typed or e-mailed and include a phone number 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,

Last week, I sent out an e-newsletter highlighting some of my top priorities for this legislative session, which includes lowering costs for working families here in Gorham. Family budgets just aren't going as far as they used to, and it's become harder for many in our community to make ends meet. In response to a reader, I wanted to use

this opportunity to expand on some of the initiatives that my Democratic colleagues and I will be pushing for this year.

The first is providing more meaningful property tax relief for families. One way to do this could be by expanding the Property Tax Fairness Credit, which allows Mainers to receive a portion of their property tax bill back if their bill is more than 4% of their income. The Legislature increased the maximum credit for those 65 or older from \$1,500 to \$2,000 in 2023, and we should look at increasing it again. Second, we should increase the state child tax credit, which puts money directly back into the pockets of working families. The current credit, which is \$300 per child, has already helped lift hundreds of Maine kids out of poverty. Expanding the credit would help families with young kids build their lives here and make it easier for them to afford basic necessities like groceries.

Finally, we should expand eligibility for energy assistance programs like LIHEAP. Too many Mainers are struggling with the rising costs of heat and electricity, and the Legislature should step up and increase

access to programs that help Mainers get by.

I'll also be fighting for a fairer tax structure that makes millionaires and billionaires pay their fair share, so working families don't have to pick up the slack. Of course, all these initiatives depend on the state budget, which we are working on.

Ellie Sato, State Representative, HD 109, Representing part of Gorham

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The Gorham Times is seeking a volunteer to take over our compact, walkable in-town distribution route, delivering 300+ papers to 20+ locations (many in the same buildings). Route is roughly a square bounded by Main Street, Mechanic Street, Railroad Avenue, and Elm Street. This is a great opportunity to meet interesting people and learn about community organizations.

Contact us for more information.  
gorhamtimes@gmail.com. (207) 839-8390.

BRINGING THE NEWS TO ALL OF GORHAM  
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Ad deadline is the Wednesday of the week prior to issue date. Go to gorhamtimes.com and click on the advertising link for schedule.

### EDITORIAL POLICY

The Gorham Times takes all reasonable care to prevent errors and disclaims all legal responsibility for any such errors, omissions, or typographical errors. The Gorham Times will print corrections if notified within 48 hours. We reserve the right to refuse publication of unsolicited materials. All submissions are subject to editing. Opinions expressed in the Gorham Times do not necessarily reflect those of the staff or publishers.

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### Upcoming Advertising

#### Deadlines

**March 5**  
**March 19**  
**April 2**  
**April 16**



# Baxter Library Director Describes Privacy Policy

John Ersek, Staff Writer

James Rathbun, the director of the Baxter Memorial Library, has outlined the library's stance on various privacy issues, including the policy on how the library would respond to record requests from law enforcement agencies.

A Gorham Times staff writer recently contacted Rathbun for his comments, after the writer became aware that other local libraries have recently issued updated privacy guidelines in response to reports of local government officials in other states receiving record requests from federal immigration authorities.

Rathbun stated that the Baxter Library does not currently have a specific policy on record requests from federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents (ICE). However, he made it clear that the town of Gorham and the library already have a policy which requires any outside government agency (including law enforcement) to provide a search warrant signed by a

judge if they are requesting any confidential town records. This policy applies to the library as a department of town government.

While he has never received any such request, Rathbun said that if he ever receives an ICE request for confidential library records, he said he would immediately seek the advice of the town's attorney, to determine which records could legally be shared (and in what manner).

Rathbun went on to state that the list of the library's patrons is considered private and confidential, and that a patron's name or address would not be disclosed unless it was specifically approved by the town attorney based on a search warrant.

Likewise, Rathbun stated that any government agency requesting circulation records on specific patrons would have to deal with the same requirement (a search warrant that is signed by a judge). He also mentioned that the library does not maintain long-term circulation records on specific patrons.

## MTA Poll Results CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

said they would not be more likely to support the Connector proposal if the project included investments in transit, bike lanes, and other alternative modes of transportation.

Among those who opposed the project, here are the top reasons people gave for stating that they opposed the Connector:

38% were concerned that property owners could be forced to sell their land at market rates to accommodate the project.

27% expressed concern about the

environmental impacts on the area.

16% stated they didn't yet have enough information on the project.

15% felt that the Connector would add to urban sprawl in the area.

A majority of respondents did not approve of a hypothetical scenario in which property owners affected by the project's construction said they were "good with it."

68% said that would not influence their opinion; 28% it would influence their opinion.

# Just Do It, Give an Hour

JoAnn Leib, Staff Writer

If the time has come for you or a young person you know to at least think about being more active—in your family, your community or your world, read on. You can start by asking yourself when the last time was that you took action as a Gorham citizen or a sports fan, a music lover, a neighbor, a parent or a student. When did you last ask, "what's happening?" with the goal of joining the action?

Active participation in the community can take many forms. You can walk more often. You can volunteer: schools, hospitals, libraries, animal shelters and senior centers always welcome volunteers. Or you can donate, join or advocate: think sports-related or political and religious and spiritual affiliations. Make a commitment to chat with your neighbors or attend town meetings and follow local politicians on social channels. Identify issues and talk about them. Sign an online petition, shop locally to keep money and small vendors in Gorham, use your time, resources and skills to improve this area. Organize a clean-up. Attend community events. Get engaged socially—there are websites for that too. Engage productively for the common good.

The websites here are a cross-section designed to start you on the journey of becoming more active in your life and in Gorham, prompted by Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen's observation: "A community is like a ship; everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm."

<https://golocalinteractive.com/> offers how-to information on medium-to-larger-scale community engagement

<https://civiced.org/> looks to promote an enlightened and responsible citizenry

<https://www.generationcitizen.org/> focuses on student participation in local civic policy. Fellowships offered.

<https://citizensandscholars.org/> Promotes student engagement and leadership. Fellowships offered.

Youth Helping America is a group that promotes student volunteerism.

<https://www.meetup.com/> and <https://www.heylo.com/> are online platforms that help people find and create local groups and events.

<https://exrx.net/> has a huge database related to health and exercise.

<https://www.cdc.gov/> has the latest information on health and disease.

<https://www.titlenine.com/> highlights quality workout clothes.

<https://www.eatright.org/> has very reliable nutrition facts and tips.

<https://odphp.health.gov/> is a great guide to physical activity produced by U.S.H.H.S. Department.


<https://www.masterclass.com/> ABCmouse and Instructure.com are widely-used educational websites for adults and children offering both free and fee-based materials.

Make friends, build networks, have fun.



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# Financial Considerations When Changing Jobs

Jessica Szafranski, Contributing Writer

Are you changing jobs soon? If so, you'll obviously be interested in your new salary - but you'll also want to look at other financial considerations.

Here are some of the most important ones:

If you had a 401(k) plan through your previous employer, you'll need to decide what to do with it once you've joined a new employer. If you just cash it out, you'd pay taxes and possible penalties. You could leave your 401(k) with your previous employer, if allowed, and if you have been happy with your plan's performance. Or you could move your 401(k) into your new employer's plan, which might be a good choice if the new plan has lower fees and attractive investment options. Be sure to ask whether the new employer offers matching contributions. Finally, you could roll over your old 401(k) into a traditional IRA, which would give you more investment choices.

If your new employer offers a health savings account (HSA) as part of a high-deductible health plan, you may want to take advantage of it. Your contributions are made with pre-tax dollars, your earnings generally grow tax deferred and your withdrawals are tax free, as long as they're used for qualified medical expenses. Plus, you can carry unused funds through retirement, when you can still use them for qualified medical expenses. Your employer might also offer a flexible spending account (FSA), which can pay for a variety of health care costs, such as deductibles, co-payments and co-insurance. Generally, if you're contributing to an HSA, you can't fund an FSA in the same year, except for a limited purpose FSA.

You'll want to ask your new employer if there's a waiting eligibility period to enroll in its benefits plan — health insurance, dental, vision, and so on. If so, you may need to get COBRA coverage for a few months to stay in your old plan, unless you can be added to a spouse's plan. When you go on your new employer's health care

plan, make sure you know what it covers. Depending on your situation, you might want to add supplemental health insurance.

When you leave a job, your employer-sponsored life insurance will end, unless you have the option to convert your group term life policy into an individual permanent cash value policy. So, you'll want to be sure your new employer offers at least the same insurance coverage as your old one. But you should also determine whether the group policy offered by your employer is sufficient for your needs. Depending on several factors, such as your income, spouse's income and family size, you may need to supplement your employer's policy with an individual term life insurance policy.

Review your new employer's benefits package carefully to see what's available. Many employers offer tuition reimbursement for their employees, and some even provide college planning assistance for employees' children. For example, your employer might offer matching contributions to a tax-advantaged 529 education saving plan, which can be used for college, some K-12 expenses and some trade/vocational school programs.

Changing jobs can provide an opportunity to expand your career, learn new skills and broaden your social network. And it can certainly be financially rewarding, too — so make sure you know all the benefits involved.



Jessica Szafranski is a Gorham-based Financial Advisor specializing in retirement planning, investing & saving for education. This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

plan, make sure you know what it covers. Depending on your situation, you might want to add supplemental health insurance.

## March Eclipses

Chris Crawford, Features Editor

Eclipses are big this month, with two occurring: one total lunar and one partial solar. A "Blood Moon" total lunar eclipse will begin on the evening of March 13, lasting six hours into the early morning hours of March 14 in its entirety. With good weather, we will have front row seats. The moon will appear to glow orange-red as it passes through Earth's shadow.

In reality, a "Blood Moon" and an eclipse are actually the same thing. About two to three "Blood Moons" occur in a typical year. The moon appears red because shorter, blue wavelengths of light from the sun are scattered outward when Earth passes between the sun and the moon, and Earth's shadow is cast on the moon. This allows longer red wave lengths to dominate. Other factors such as dust or moisture in the Earth's atmosphere can also affect the color of the moon.

In addition to a total and partial lunar eclipse, a third type, a penumbral eclipse can

occur when the moon passes through the penumbra, which is the outer, faintest part of Earth's shadow. These are difficult to see as the moon becomes only slightly darkened.

All of North America, (except for Alaska), Central and the Western half of South America will be able to see the total lunar eclipse from start to finish. In our part of Maine, the moon will rise in the east at 6:19 p.m. on March 13 and will set at 7:02 a.m. on the morning of the 14th, according to <https://www.timeanddate.com/>, a cool website where you can plug in a location and a date and find out moon rise and set times.

On Saturday, March 29, 2025, a partial solar eclipse will be visible from the extreme eastern parts of the Northern Hemisphere at sunrise, if the weather is clear.

Lunar and Solar Eclipses for 2025 (depending on location)  
 Mar 13-14 - Total Lunar Eclipse  
 Mar 29 - Partial Solar Eclipse  
 Sep 7-8 - Total Lunar Eclipse  
 Sep 21 - Partial Solar Eclipse

**Daylight Savings Time**  
 Begins on the second Sunday in March, (Mar. 9) set clocks ahead one hour at 2 a.m. local standard time

# Eating Disorders: What You Need to Know

Janet Steady MS, RND, LD and Alison Swiggard, MS, RND, LD, Contributing Writers

Balanced nourishment supports growth, health, and good conditioning. But for millions of people, this fundamental need becomes a battleground. According to the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, an estimated 28.8 million Americans will experience an eating disorder in their lifetime. Even more alarming, one person dies every 52 minutes as a direct consequence of an eating disorder.

If eating is such an innate human need, how does it become so complicated? What exactly is an eating disorder? Not everyone who participates in dieting will develop an eating disorder, but everyone who has an eating disorder participates in dieting first. Eating disorders (EDs) are serious mental health conditions influenced by a combination of biological, psychological, and social factors. They are influenced by genetics, neurology, and cultural norms. Our drive to feel safe and accepted in a world obsessed with appearance can push people toward disordered eating behaviors as a means of coping.

Our society objectifies bodies, assigns value based on shape and size, and fuels billion-dollar industries—like diet, beauty, and fitness—that exploit the pursuit of the 'ideal body.' No wonder people develop complicated relationships with food when the odds are heavily stacked against us.

Eating disorders don't discriminate. They affect people of all genders, ages, races, religions, ethnicities, sexual orientations, body shapes, and sizes. Marginalized communities— including BIPOC and LGBTQ+ individuals— often face additional barriers to accessing the quality care.

Another complicating factor is the variety of different types of eating disorders, each with its own set of symptoms and diagnostic criteria, including anorexia, bulimia, binge eating disorder, ARFID (Avoidant Restrictive Food Intake Disorder), OSFED (Other Specified Feeding or Eating Disorders), pica, and rumination disorder. Each disorder presents differently. Recognizing the diversity in eating disorder experiences is crucial to understanding and supporting those affected.

When you consider the complexities of an individual's unique lived experience, it's clear that there is no one-size-fits-all treatment. Please don't say "just eat" to someone with an eating disorder, because

there is no simple solution. This phrase also minimizes the deep and often painful struggles that accompany EDs. It suggests that recovery is a matter of willpower, ignoring the fact that eating disorders are complex mental health conditions.

For many, eating is linked to intense fear, anxiety, and guilt. Their relationship with food is shaped by distorted thoughts, sometimes making even the smallest meal feel overwhelming. Being told to "just eat" can feel dismissive, reinforcing shame and isolation.

Here's what to do instead: Listen without judgment, encourage professional help, be patient, and avoid focusing on food or weight. Eating disorders are impacted greatly by diet culture, beauty culture, fitness industries, and even the medical model — which often perpetuate weight stigma under the guise of pursuing health. Social media can amplify these harmful messages, causing profound cumulative effects. These rigid rules of these industries condition people to associate the act of eating with guilt and undermine health, growth, and personal development.

It's time to reclaim your right to nourish. Nourishment isn't just about meeting physical needs — it's about fostering a deeper connection with your body and building meaningful relationships through the shared joy of food.

The goal in eating disorder treatment is to begin to build pleasure-based eating and movement patterns that help an individual spend precious time and energy "living and not restricting."

Using a collaborative approach, individually tailored treatment is guided by assessment, bolstered by coordination of care with other providers, includes meal planning and support, and also body image work.

Treatment aims to create a culture that embraces a broader definition of health and nutrition—one that supports people of all identities, cultures, genders, ages, shapes, and sizes while addressing serious mental health concerns, including eating disorders, in a meaningful way.

Janet Steady MS, RND, LD and Alison Swiggard, MS, RND, LD are among a group of six registered dietitians with CV Well Being of Gorham.

## CryptoVerse by A. Logophile

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CLUE: Y = A

SOLUTION ON PAGE 11



## School Committee Report, Feb. 12

Kelli Deveaux, Staff Writer

Gorham School Committee welcomed two new members to their ranks on Wednesday, Feb. 12. Lola Vance, a sophomore at GHS, joined as the second student representative to the committee, and Jaci Reynolds has been appointed to fill the seat left vacant by the resignation of Stewart McCallister until a special election can be held in June.

Catherine Paul, an English teacher at GHS, was joined by seven current and former students who explained the history and work of the BEE Club, a school group that is responsible for the care, maintenance and harvesting of five beehives located in Robie Park. The group began in 2021 after a student's Extended Learning Opportunity with a local landscaper opened her eyes to the benefits of beekeeping. The group sells the honey, makes lip balm, and has collaborated with multiple agencies and organizations to build and promote the program and benefits of beekeeping. Committee members praised the group and wanted more information on how to purchase the highly coveted honey and lip balm products.

The three staff members of the newly re-established alternative education program at the high school shared the philosophy and structure of their program that is currently serving 9th and 10th graders. With a focus on building a sense of community that helps the students explore their interests, passions, and real-world events as they are happening, students shared personal testimonials as to the impacts of the program in a heartwarming video. The team and GHS administrators hope that a proposed additional math teacher in the school's budget request will allow the program to expand to also support 11th and 12th grade students next school year. Committee members praised the program and their clear impact on the lives of the students.

Gorham's team of three multi-language learner (MLL) specialists reviewed the continued increase in the

number of multi-language learners in Gorham this school year. Last year there was a much-needed position added in the spring to address the sharp rise in the number and needs of MLL students. The team noted the added position has been very beneficial for ensuring support for the students and their teachers who are trying to provide content education to them. When asked by a committee member, the specialists estimated that currently 25 languages other than English are the primary language for the students they serve.

School Committee members offered appreciation and updates for the work being done by assistant principals to address attendance issues, the cast and crew of GHS's production of "Little Shop of Horrors," the peer recognition program at the middle school, as well as the readathons at the elementary schools. The committee continues to work on their communication goal of concise, easily located information, and is working with the town council to explore capital improvement needs and the development of a fiscal sustainability plan and metrics by which to measure their success.

Assistant Superintendent Quinton Donahue directed committee members to the monthly administrative reports, publicly available online. He noted that the Maine Department of Education has released their initial calculations for the state's annual contributions for education. Gorham stands to see an increase in state funding, due in part to the expansion of Pre-k programming and a concerted effort of the community to ensure families completed the free/reduced lunch forms that are used to determine disadvantage and subsequent funding.

The school committee will begin hosting weekly budget workshops in the superintendent's conference room on the second floor of the municipal building each Monday evening in March, beginning at 7 p.m. The public is welcomed and encouraged to attend.

## Student Developed Survey Informs Anti-Racism Committee's Next Event

Kelli Deveaux, Staff Writer



Gorham School Committee's Anti-Racism Committee, created in 2021 and composed of parents, staff, students, community members and school committee members, has a goal of listening to and learning from students and their perspectives to inform the committee's work. To that end, at the request of the Anti-Racism Committee, GHS Student Council members worked with district administrators to develop and administer a voluntary survey of their peers to learn their thoughts on school culture and climate in Gorham. Over 1200 students grades 5 thru 12 took the voluntary survey, approximately 70% of all students in that grade span. Questions asked students to rate their response to statements with a scale of strongly disagree, disagree, neither agree or disagree, agree, strongly agree. Students who rated questions strongly disagree/disagree were given an opportunity to explain further their opinions. While 82% of students noted there were lots of ways in which to be involved in school outside of classroom activities, 12% of students do not believe their peers are demonstrating the Code of Conduct which includes respect, honesty, courage, compassion and responsibility, while participating in co-curricular activities. 21% of students do not believe their peers demonstrate the Code of Conduct in the classroom, and 35% report the same failure of their peers when using social

media, texting or other online platforms. One surprising result was that for nearly every question, 20%-40% of the students answered neither agree nor disagree, raising questions for those reviewing the results. Did students genuinely have no opinion, were they apathetic, unsure of the meaning of the question or the answers, or not feeling empowered to provide a response? Additional follow-up with volunteer focus groups will try to dig into this more. Student perceptions of whether their voices mattered in their school varied, however suggestions for ways to improve student experience in Gorham Schools focused on listening to students more, better support for student mental health, and more strongly addressing issues of bullying. Students suggested providing more mental health awareness and support, focusing on understanding and appreciating differences, and ensuring all students feel safe and supported. Students from the GHS Student Council were present to review the survey results with the Anti-Racism Committee at their January meeting. In response, the Anti-Racism Committee is planning their 3rd annual Community Eat and Learn Event for March 10, 5:30 - 7 p.m. at GHS. The event is open to all parents, students and staff, and will focus on the power of empathy in an education setting, and what we can all do to build empathy in ourselves and our community.

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SCHOOL

# Narragansett School Mural

Michael Lortie, School News Editor



Photo Credit: Roger Marchand, Staff Photographer

The entire entrance wall of Narragansett School is a mural by noted artist Dahlov Ipcar. It consists of three sections; forest animals, farm animals and ocean animals, with a focus on Maine.

In 1987, while their children were students at the Narragansett School, Gorham residents, Peggy Marchand and Linda Webb often admired the murals outside the cafeteria painted by the artist, Dahlov Ipcar. These colorful murals depicting ocean, farm and forest animals were painted on panels 106 feet long and were completed as part of the State of Maine's Percent for Art program, which requires that a portion of each school construction project be dedicated to artworks within the building project.

During that time, Peggy decided to contact Dahlov Ipcar to ask questions about the mural. She and Linda went to visit Ipcar at her home and were able to interview the artist about her life and art. They were able to record the interview with a borrowed movie camera, which Linda quickly learned how to use.

Peggy described the experience in this way, "Dahlov Ipcar was friendly and gracious and seemed happy to talk about the Narragansett School murals. She made it clear she'd thoroughly enjoyed every step of turning the new school's fresh but empty walls into vibrant scenes children could love. She revealed that she didn't like art school instruction and was mostly self-taught and preferred to pull animal shapes and the geometric forms that anchored

them out of her real-life observations and imagination, creating her own unique style. Her use of color, whether it was in her studio, her books, or on our mural, always feels joyous and exciting."

Recently Georgia Humphrey of GOCAM (Gorham Community Access Media) collaborated with Peggy and Linda to create a video of the interview that serves as an artist profile, featuring information about Ipcar's life and her description of the process in creating the artwork at Narragansett School.

Georgia describes the purpose of the video as "Stewardship...a way to make sure people are aware of this magical piece of art. GoCAM Gorham Community Access Media has always strived to find unusual and historic topics that are pertinent to the Citizens of Gorham." The video may be viewed with a special link created by GOCAM:

<http://bit.ly/IpcarGorham>.

Dahlov Ipcar died in 2017 at the age of 99. She lives on through her beautiful and distinctive artwork including the mural at the Narragansett School. This mural is truly a community treasure. Peggy continued, "The thousands of Gorham kids who went to Narragansett School know and love how Dahlov Ipcar painted the murals just for them, but really, the murals are an irreplaceable town treasure, a gift for us all!"

## Concerns About Changes In the Dept. of Education

Gorham Times Staff

In her bi-weekly Superintendent's blog on Feb. 7, 2025, Heather Perry addressed concerns over a potential executive order from the Trump administration aimed at dismantling or significantly reducing the Federal Department of Education. While this has raised questions about possible impacts on Gorham schools, it's important to note that although the executive branch can alter how departments operate, it cannot cut funding tied to laws passed by Congress. Programs like IDEA (Special Education) and ESEA (Title I) are protected and require congressional action to change their funding.

With recent events, there may also be similar questions or concerns regarding President Trump's recent threat to withhold all federal funds from Maine unless the state amends its Human Rights Act to remove gender identity as a protected class.

While such a move will likely face legal challenges, the same principle applies—federal funds allocated by Congress for specific purposes cannot be withheld or altered by executive order alone.

Parents and educators should continue to monitor these developments closely as they unfold.

# Village School Reads

Stacey Sawyer, Village School Counselor



Photo Credit: Stacey Sawyer

Village School students finished their two-week read-a-thon with OVER 200,000 minutes read. Thank you to the students, families, and greater school community for sharing in our love of reading. The school's "Learning Beyond the Classroom" activities are funded through this project and we appreciate all of the support!

Mrs. Griffiths 4th grade class, pictured here, won with overall high minutes, led by their classmate Charlotte.)



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# Connolly, Gammon Standouts at Track and Field Championships

Katie Brown, Sports Editor



Griffin Gammon at the #1 podium

Photo Credit: Jason Tanguay

The Southwestern Maine Activities Association (SMAA) championships held on Feb. 8 was nothing short of success. Coach Jason Tanguay shared, “both teams performed better than expected and many new qualifiers were added to the state roster. The girls outperformed their seeds in both the junior and senior divisions across many events and ended

in an impressive fourth place, surprising themselves and many teams in the league.”

Senior Ashley Connolly finished first in the SMAA meet in the 55, 200, 400 and 4x200 relay, earning Athlete of the Meet for the SMAA. Her times include 7.46 in the 55m, 27.07 in the 200m and 100.70 in the 400m respectively. According to coach Christina Stone,



Ashley Connolly all speed at the state meet

Photo Credit: Catherine Cote

Connolly also claimed the 55m win at the track & field State championship with a time of 7.32, a career personal record (PR), and also earned second place in the 200 with a career PR.

The senior 4x200 relay comprising Emily Fadrogon, Abby Rogers, Piper Forgues and Connolly placed first in a dominating performance at

the SMAA conference championship.

Griffin Gammon placed first in the senior division high jump, tying a 39-year record and breaking the GHS school record with a jump of 6'8". The boys team also finished better than expected landing a sixth-place finish. Congratulations to these athletes and to the rest of the Rams teams during Playoff time.

## Gorham Takes Next Step in School Construction Process

Kelli Deveaux, Staff Writer

As the next step in Gorham School Department's hope to be awarded state funding for school construction projects, a site team visit by the Maine Department of Education (MDOE) will take place on March 3-4. A team that will advise the MDOE's Major Capital School Construction Team in their selection of projects to receive funding will tour the campuses and facilities of Village Elementary School, Narragansett Elementary School, and Gorham High School.

The highly competitive process through which state funding is allocated begins with a call for applications and requires school districts to submit detailed analyses and plans for consideration. The application period is opened roughly every 6-10 years and is based on funding availability within the school construction program as approved by the legislature.

With increasing costs and rising demands to replace Maine's aging school buildings, the state has seen a reduction in the number of projects it can fund in each cycle. In the 2004-2005 cycle, 20 projects received approval. In the 2010-2011 cycle, only 16 projects were approved, in 2017-2018, the number of approved projects dropped to 9.

Gorham submitted three applications in August 2024, among over 100 appli-

cations statewide that were received by MDOE for consideration. Across Maine, 53% of school buildings currently in use were built prior to 1970. While Narragansett was built in 1981, Village Elementary was constructed in 1962 and Gorham High School was originally constructed in 1958.

Over the years, in order to meet growing needs or address health and safety concerns, all three have been added onto, either with the use of modular classrooms or renovations, but the analyses required as part of the application made clear that there are still costly issues Gorham needs to address.

The review and selection process by the MDOE team and consultants takes about a year, during which sites will be visited and each project application will be ranked and prioritized, using variables that weigh criteria including imminent need, health and safety risks, and the readiness of a community to build.

The State Board of Education grants final approval of any projects and works closely with MDOE's Major Capital School Construction Team to ensure building projects meet requirements such as site minimums and code compliance, and include efficiencies like school consolidation or specific heating and cooling considerations, with a goal to reduce taxpayer costs in the future.

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# Gorham Middle School Second Quarter Honor Roll

## 6th High Honors

Sophie Allen  
Abel Chase  
Nora Emler  
Abigail Hooper  
Chloe Matta  
Corlyn Ogden  
Sylvia Ouellet  
Amelia Palme  
Julia Shaffer  
Christopher Shaw  
Elise Varney  
Sophie Watson

## 6th Honors

Elliot Arturo  
Aidan Berthiaume  
Samuel Blake  
Autumn Blodgett  
Avery Britton  
Tamsen Burton  
Greta Caiola  
Brady Carlson  
Lucas Carlson  
Lillian Cary  
Paige Charland  
Renee Cherry  
Madelyn Cohen  
Noelle Cole  
Daniel Contente  
Margot Coolong  
Nathan Corkum  
Kellan Cote  
Aubrey Cotta  
Mia Crockett  
Alexander Croteau  
Jack Cuneo  
Savannah Curran  
Addison Davis  
Kylie Delaney  
Yanamarie DiVico  
Flynn Doyle  
Owen Dube  
Lillian Eastman  
Laura Eaton  
Am'ellie Esmiller  
Mia Fisher  
Baylee Gesner  
Elizabeth Golden  
Scout Gulliver  
Takoma Hansen  
Hadley Harriman  
Noah Haskell  
Nola Higgins  
Taylor Hinkley

Johann Hirwa  
Benjamin Ho  
Amelia Holston  
Olivia Hunter  
Kayden Irish  
Emily Karlonas  
Caroline Keith  
Caroline King  
Benjamin Knight  
Ella Knight  
Jasmine Koo-Kepka  
Colette LaChance  
Myles Lachance  
Lula Lacroix  
Mason LaPlaca  
Isabella Laplante  
Autumn Laughlin  
Bentley Levasseur  
Andrew Lyford  
Evan Marsh  
Zoe Marsh  
Braeden McAdams  
Grace McHenry  
Lowell Messer  
Jack Miles  
Makaria Miller  
Aryana Mills  
Tadhg Moriarty  
Graycen Morin  
Evelyn Morris  
Maria Muanza  
Harper Nash  
Venna Nelson  
William Norton  
Solomon Olney  
Julia Palmer  
Avery Passmore  
Reid Peary  
Reid Peck  
Gavin Pfendt  
Jordy Pigeon  
Evelyn Plowman  
Orion Provencal  
Harper Prunier  
Charlotte Rochette  
Holden Russell  
Isabelle Rutherford  
Sophia Santiago  
Hailey Schadow  
Chester Schmidt  
Nolan Schmoyer  
Taylor Schools  
Grace Schucker  
Troy Schuehle  
Nikolas Shinay

Henry Simoneau  
Carlsen  
Emily Spagnoli  
Jack P Sprague  
Lila St Jean  
Delaney Stacy  
Ella Stuart  
Piercelyn Tibbetts  
Kiptyn Vail  
Robert Vanmeter  
Lucinda Vo  
Peyton Warner  
Wesley Waters  
Austin Webb  
Everett Wells  
Ada White  
Jacques Wichmann  
Lucy Williams  
Jackson Williamson  
Hannah Wilson  
Emily Woods  
Luke Woods  
Meyer Zaninelli  
Jackson Zinchuk

## 7th High Honors

Jacob Allen  
Michael Brockman  
Daphne Capponi  
Quinn Cuneo  
Moaeen Elnimier  
Benjamin Emerson  
Lyla Exley  
Lana Hatfield  
Evan Holland  
Hannah Kimball  
Cecelia Lewin  
Palmer Madden  
Reece Marchand  
David Marks  
Quinn McAdams  
Adeline McCrillis  
Greta McDowell  
Reagan Nash  
Molly Penley  
Avery Peters  
Reid Stevens  
Rose Stovers  
Henry Walsh  
Luke Williams  
Kayla Wolfe  
Riley Young

## 7th Honors

Nola Albert

Avery Allen  
Grace Allen  
Zaynalabidin  
Almukhtar  
Cirrus Arlet  
Cash Baker  
Ethan Barney  
Daisy Bean  
Cole Bennett  
Helen Bernier  
Logan Berry  
Robert Brockman  
Lawren Burton  
Ethan Butler  
Andrew Cabral  
Priya Cameron  
William Carriere  
Isabelle Castillo  
Max Castonguay  
Devi Clark  
Jackson Coffin  
Cameron Connolly  
Ryan Craig  
Eleanor Damon  
Leah Dargie  
Aerilyn De Los Reyes  
Matthew DeRice  
William DeVinney  
Eli Dobson  
Kelton Doucette  
Ava Duchaine  
Connor Duchaine  
Lexi Finck  
Ava Fiorito  
Mackenna Flagg  
Minjee Flanders  
Lila Fortier  
Sophia Gill  
Veronica Gomes  
Julia Gordon  
Maggie Greenlaw  
William Haase  
Charlotte Hahn  
Bennett Hall  
Emilee Hamblen  
Philip Hanken  
Chloe Hatch  
Graham Hebert  
Fiona Herrick  
Thomas Holland  
Mason Hopkins  
Khane Horten  
Emma Howe  
John Hutchins  
Nina Joy

Vega Kaldrovich  
Keegan Karcanes  
Boden Kennedy  
Andrew King  
Annabelle Klipple  
Audrey Krebs  
Bayleigh Lamb  
Ava Lambert-Adams  
Kylie LeMay  
Charles Livingston  
Cayden Lowberg  
Keegan Maxim  
Lia Mazza  
Clara McBride  
Lillian McCarthy  
Pierce McDermott  
Grace McPherson  
Benjamin Miller  
Hunter Miller  
Reid Minichiello  
Leela Morris  
Evelyn Morton  
Kerrigan Nadeau  
Travis Neily  
Tenley Normand  
Piper O'Keefe  
Samuel Otis  
Charles Paradis  
Hayden Parenteau  
Alanna Pellegore  
Joshua Perez  
Owen Perkins  
Riley Peters  
Kylie Plaud  
Mason Plowman  
Maci Pratt  
Lincoln Prunier  
Brianna Quang  
Evelyn Quinn  
Elijah Ritz  
Alden Rofe  
Jayne Rowles  
Jillian Roy  
Dakota Sagastume  
Tyler Sampietro  
Caroline Sargent  
Jenna Schlicher  
Christopher Scott  
Michelle Shaw  
Rosie Simpson  
Finleigh Sirois  
Paysleigh-Jean Spiller  
William Sundik  
Elliot Talbot  
Jattana Thach

Ella Todd  
Shylah Tracey  
Cassiella Veliz  
Willow Verry-Gardella  
Brooklyn Walker  
Maddilyn Walker  
Caleb West  
Nathan Williams

## 8th High Honors

Matilda Arturo  
Carter Bourgoin  
Carson Brown  
Brianna Carlo  
Lauren Chadburn  
Taylor Chadburn  
Quaid Cossitt  
Parker Cyr  
Briggs Downing  
Emelia Frederick  
Kaleigh Garand  
Abigail Gow  
Logan Hall  
Alia Herrick  
William Hjort  
Lillian King  
Jessica Loiseau  
Sophia Marquis  
Madison Milligan  
Grace O'Hara  
Jayden Olson  
Jacob Palmer  
Leila Schmoyer  
Chloe Schuehle  
Samuel Springer  
Hannah Symanski  
Emma Tremblay  
Emily Watson  
Sophia Webster  
Amelia Winkler  
Kate Woods

## 8th Honors

Eva Alden  
Sarina Alden  
Camryn Allen  
Joshua Allison  
Finnegan Bailey  
Aidan Beardsley  
Keagen Beaulieu  
Jason Bennett  
Riley Benoit  
Brauneck Blanchard  
Elizabeth Bradshaw  
Ashton Brethauer

Magnus Brown  
Addison Bunch  
Logan Burns  
Sophia Burns  
Benjamin Cahill  
Ruby Carnahan  
Alina Clark  
Lucy Cole  
Dexter Copeland  
Henrietta Copperberg  
Chase Cote  
Colin Crockett  
Abigail Cyr  
Jacobey Cyr  
Nolan Delaney  
Addison Dougherty  
Quinn Dougherty  
Lauren Drenski  
Grace Dudley  
Jacklyn Dunbar  
Kaleb Dyer  
Josephina Faria  
Colby Fernald  
Ella Ferrante  
Aidan Foley  
Layla Forastiere  
Andrew Fortier  
Braden Foster  
Benjamin Fredette  
Gabriella Friedlund  
Violet Gain  
Shekinnah Gakunzi  
Anabelle Gasbarrone  
Bradley Genovese  
Matthew Golden  
Evelia Gonzalez  
Levi Heath  
Ashyr Herrick  
Timothy Hodgdon  
Keelyn Hunt  
Nolan Hurder  
Mia Johnson  
Tycho Joslin  
Fiona Keay  
Jackson Keene  
Hunter Keniston  
Natalie Kenny  
Damona Kim  
Daniel Koo-Kepka  
Shelby LaChance  
Breanna Lampen  
Kaiden Laughlin  
Theodore Leconte  
Jeremy Levesque  
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Annie Lorfano  
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Brody Marchand  
Kaidan Marchand  
Samuel Martin  
Tessa McBride  
Mason McDonald  
Harper McManus  
Naomi Medd  
Max Moreno  
Maliyah Morgan  
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Abdalla Nasr  
Yoan Kent  
Ndayishimiye  
Samantha Page  
Dominic Peyton  
Emma Plummer  
Kendra Poulin  
Ezekiel Provencal  
Wesley Quang  
Mia Rand  
Gavin Reed  
Carmella Richards  
James Rock  
Lucien Roy  
Charles Sands  
Lucy Sandstrom  
Ava Scott  
Ellis Scott  
Alexia Serunjogi  
Ethan Shaffer  
Caroline Shaw  
Devan Skinkle  
Emma Spiller  
Carter Sprague  
Isaac Sprague  
Dominic Steller  
Alexander Sundik  
Aloe Swanson  
Charlotte Taylor  
Carmen Thibault  
Tardif  
Hailey Tracy  
Grayson Turner  
Viannah Vercoe  
Loretta Vo  
Elijah Waterman  
Tristan Wells  
Zoe Whitehead  
Harper Winkley  
Caleb Yaeger  
Kayden Yahm  
Ruthie Zaninelli

# Gorham High School Second Quarter Honor Roll

## 9th Grade High Honors

Stephen Connolly  
Bryn Cunningham  
Camden Curtis  
Charlotte Deveaux  
Owen Eling  
Oliver Emerson  
Sophia Emerson  
Anna Faatz  
Julia Giguere  
Nara Holland  
Shania Isimbi  
Madelyn Leeper  
Sophie MacIsaac  
Lucy Mason  
Abigail McCrillis  
Carter McGonagle  
Connor McHenry  
Abe Palme  
Alina Senasy  
Dexter Vance  
Wyatt Walker  
Maggie Weeks  
Tessa White

## 9th Grade Honors

Ahmed Abdulzahra  
Mahasin Ahmed  
Grace Amadon  
Clover Bayly-Schram  
Aspen Blair  
Jacob Braziel  
Jared Burt  
Jensen Burton  
Myka Bush  
Sophia Caban  
Zackary Carlson  
Ty Caron  
Haley Chandler  
Bayla Clark  
Lia Collins  
Doria Crockett  
Tucker Curtis  
Beckham Dezdel  
Oliver Dennis  
Luella Dolley  
Velina Doucette  
Jesse Doyle  
Grant Emerson

Jack Feldhaus  
Alexander Fernandez  
Clara Foinoia  
Abrie French  
Gianna Gakunzi  
Bailey Grimard  
Isabel Hamann  
Neve Hanley  
Annabelle Hatch  
Kayleigh Hatfield  
Elijah Head  
Henry Hofmann  
Sydney Ireland  
Toren Johnson  
Caroline Jones  
Luke Jones  
Gabriella Kenne  
Madison Kinder  
Anneka Kuntz  
Alexander LaBarge  
Piper LaClair  
Fiona Lane  
Mackenzie Maheux  
Adelina Martin  
Olivia Mason  
Ireland Mathews  
Drew McManus  
Allison Mero  
Jennifer Miner  
Lillias Mooers  
Yanis Munyaneza  
Floride Ngandu  
Precieuse Ngandu  
Kian O'Sullivan  
Amanda Olaru  
Grant Peters  
Kasey Plaud  
Nolan Plummer  
Sophia Proulx  
Ian Quinn  
Grayson Randall  
Elle Rector  
Kenneth Reed  
Aliza Rickett  
Jackson Rousseau  
Christopher Rumery  
Isla Rutherford  
Aaron Samara  
Abram Sargent  
Nora Schucker

Finnegan Senatore  
Sophia Soule  
Addison-Shane Spiller  
Parker Thibault  
Mackenzie Thompson  
Jade Tibbetts  
Whitney Varney  
Cooper Warner  
Peightyn Waterman  
Jeremy West  
Sawyer Wheaton  
Trent Whitaker  
Nikolai Wilkins  
Ryleigh Wing  
Dominic Woods

## 10th Grade High Honors

Ryan Bachner  
Zachary Bourgoin  
Luna Button  
Kayleigh Carlo  
Sheila Casco  
Harvey Crider  
Hazel Dolley  
Maia Downing  
Antoine Dube  
Jordyn Fotter  
Evan Hall  
Kailey Hanscom  
Anna Johnson  
Lucas Lane  
Maxwell Lodgek  
Emily McLean  
Elliana Miers  
Drew Milligan  
Larissa Moore  
Elsie Moreno  
Ishami Munyaneza  
Evelyn Prather  
Jasmine Radjabova  
Madison Rogers  
Lauren Roy  
Milo Saucier  
Isabelle Smith  
Annabelle Vail  
Aylla Vaughn  
Cooper Whitehead  
Isaiah Whitehead  
Henri Wichmann

## 10th Grade Honors

Fatimah Almukhtar  
Landan Ancil  
Rigel Arlet  
Seamus Bailey  
Fatima Beshir  
Sara Brawn  
Preston Brown  
Collin Bunch  
Lillian Burgos  
Kimarrah Cajuste  
Piper Cathcart  
Harrison Crider  
Owen Cummings  
Chloe Cyr  
Jack Cyr  
Liam Delaney  
Bennett Deveaux  
Erica Donnelly  
Lindsay Farquhar  
Hunter Finck  
Annabelle Gilman  
Eli Gow  
Eddie Grimard  
Everett Hurder  
Claire Kennedy  
Sean Kenny  
Daniel LaBarge  
Madeline Lampron  
Sofia Lembarra  
Brandon Levesque  
Destiny Lewis-Keller  
Audrey Livingston  
Hannah Manchester  
Hannah Martel  
Kylie Martorano  
Jack Mesires  
Tyler Morey  
Haylie Nicely  
Anna Nichols  
Cael O'Sullivan  
Samuel Ottoson  
Astrid Daily Alfaro Perez  
Molly Peters  
Keaton Pollard  
Sydney Quimby  
Rowen Reed  
Madison Sampietro  
Jack Sellick  
Max Shvets

Cecelia Sloat  
Nevaeh Spiller  
Abigail Stevens  
Lucas Stover  
Owen Todd  
Isaac Vail  
Lola Vance  
Charlotte Wallace  
Kaitlyn Wallack  
Sarah Wilson

## 11th Grade High Honors

Hope Barney  
Kaleigh Bauer  
Gianna Berthiaume  
Mia Dodd  
Logan Doughty  
Isaiah Eling  
Amelia Gephart  
Madison Hatch  
Kimberly Herzog  
Tabitha Lavigne  
Tamia Lema-Santellan  
Hanna Logan  
Derek Luo  
Lorisse Matta  
Eleanor Morgan  
Rebecca Neumann  
Tyler Olson  
Jacqueline Parenteau  
Isabel Phinney  
Elizabeth Springer  
Haley Vickery  
Tobias Wane

## 11th Grade Honors

Ali Abdulzahra  
Jackson Altham  
Abigail Baker  
Jay Banks  
Lily Beardsley  
Miles Brenner  
Abigail Buckelew  
Bria Bush  
Aiden Cahill  
Addison Campbell  
Eli Castles  
Cole Chasse  
Jocelyn Clark

Grayson Cole  
Andrew Collins  
Lena Cooley  
Aubriana Cossitt  
Grace Cunningham  
Cameron Cyr  
Zoe Dellinger  
Ava DeVinney  
Bryce Dipietrantonio  
Kasey Downes  
Aaron Dumais  
Laurel Emerson  
River Engelter  
Griffin Gava  
Katherine Gephart  
Sophie Giberson  
Alexandria Gossen  
Ayden Hale  
Charles Hall  
Keilla Inteyiteka  
Benjamin Keil  
Reece Leclerc  
Eben Lorfano  
Tessa McNally  
Maya Moores  
Stella Moores  
Winni Moreland  
Liam O'Hara  
Jayden Perez  
Madison Phean  
Natalie Pouliot  
Terra Rioux  
Gracen Roberts-Locke  
Shawn Rumery  
Ruby Soule  
Carson

## Southvongnorath

Graham Staples  
Joshua Strout  
Lilith Svoboda  
Thomas Sylvia  
Taylor Tenuta  
Sawyer VonderHaar  
Claudette Wesse  
Adia Wezowicz  
Atticus Whitten  
Natalie Wilkins  
Elle Woodman  
Preston Zwart

## 12th Grade High Honors

Laura Burt  
Abigail Capponi  
Abigail Chamberlin  
Ashley Connolly  
Katelyn Cyr  
Lucia Dubail  
Gwyneth Dubail  
Taylor Ernest  
Mason Finck  
Hadley Foster  
Lauren Fredette  
William Johnson  
Kuba Kaczmarek  
Kathryn LaPierre  
Alyssia Manchester  
Kayla McLean  
Lindy Moreland  
Amanda Morin  
Timothy Nagle  
Amelia Olaru  
Payson Plummer  
Abraham Rabbani  
Sarah Rosingana  
Victoria Sands  
Jacob Shvets  
Natalie Smith  
Owen Spers  
Julie Stevens  
Brooke Stevens  
Denali Tetrault  
Payton Thibodeau  
Madison Tibbals  
Lily Tukey  
Vanessa Walker

## 12th Grade Honors

Sofia Andrade  
Harrison Baber  
Brett Barney  
Emily Beal  
Derek Beck  
Teagan Brown  
Ana Alonso Carcedo  
Zachary Chandler  
Christopher Chesebro  
Riley Chubbuck  
Aspenelle De Los Reyes

Cecelia Delloso  
Finnian Dermody  
Anastasia Dolley  
Patrick Downey  
Andre Dube  
Gavin Edwards  
Emily Fadrigon  
Aryana Flett  
Piper Forgues  
Griffin Gammon  
Cameron Gasbarrone  
Ava Googins  
Viktoria Halushchak  
Bailey Hatch  
Ethan Heady  
Finn Henderson  
Lucia Holloway  
Violet James  
Sophie Kaczmarek  
Jack Karlonas  
Brooke Kazimer  
Nicholas Kim  
Adam Lembarra  
Rebekah Libby  
Benjamin Mason  
Chafek Matta  
Samuel Mero  
Natalie Miner  
Emma Miramontes  
Kayleigh Mitchell  
Ryan Morrill  
Wyatt Nadeau  
Jimena Perez Massa  
Diego Perez McLeod  
Julia Reed  
Abigail Rogers  
Roxy Rovin  
Celia Roy  
Mina Sayed  
Ella Senatore  
Casey Skolfield  
Alison Smith  
Dylan Taiani  
Logan Wilson  
Alauna Worden



# COMMUNITY

## PRESIDENT'S LIST

Molly Murray, Keene State College, Keene, New Hampshire

## DEAN'S LIST

Benjamin Tukey, Keene State College, Keene, New Hampshire

## UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE

Curan Bassingthwaite	Kelly Curran	Casey Kovacs	Kaleb Reed
Harleigh Boyce	Amber Decker	Julia Kratzer	Jordan Rinker
Steele Boyce	Abigail Decrow	Ryan Kratzer	Kate Russell
Grace Brooks	Tessa Dol	Nevin Libby	Erin Sands
Madison Brown	Julia Edwards	Erica Lynn	Gabrielle Sawyer
Logan Butler	Isabelle Emerson	Ashley McBreairty	Elizabeth Shelby
Erin Castonguay	Asa Farley	Grace McLellan	Gianna Smith
Sierra Caulkins	Taylor Farr	Emma Milholland	Hannah Spickel
Brandon Chhoeung	Sam Farr	Talon Moody	Eli Stockford
Ryan Cook	Sarah Flanders	Sara Mower	Anna Turner
Jules Cooper	Olivia Gobel	Paige Perreault	
Ryan Cooper	Isabel Kimble	Abigail Pettengill	

## OF INTEREST

Cricket Comforts Gathering to create pillowcases for the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital on March 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The Old Robie School, 668 Gray Road in Gorham. Children must be accompanied by an adult. FMI contact Heidi, CricketComforts@yahoo.com

The Town of Gorham is seeking a qualified firm to conduct a Feasibility Study for Sewer Distribution in South Gorham until 1 p.m. on Wednesday, March 19, with a pre-proposal meeting at the site on Tuesday, Feb. 25. Learn more at the Town of Gorham website.

University of Maine Cooperative Extension is hosting online information sessions for adults interested in becoming Maine 4-H volunteers. The informational sessions are free; registration is required on the program webpage. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Jennifer Loble, jennifer.lobley@maine.edu, (207) 255-3345.

Winter Wildlife Walk will be held on Saturday, March 1, at Pride Preserve in Westbrook, sponsored by Presumpscot Regional Land Trust. Maine Naturalist, Joan Lundin, will lead participants on an exploration of Pride Preserve, searching for signs of animals including tracks and tell-tell signs of winter meals. Attendees will receive an Animal Tracks of Greater Portland laminated pocket card to keep for future adventures. Pride Preserve features a 3.5-mile trail network through forests and wetlands which offer a very remote, quiet, wilderness-like experience. The program, designed for all ages, will be split into two groups (one for families-best for ages 8 and up; and one for adults). The family program will cover similar themes to the adult program, and also will include a guided scavenger hunt of the preserve. The family program will be from 10-10:45 a.m. and the adult program will be from 10 a.m. to noon. This event is free, but space is limited, and registration is required. Register at [www.prlt.org](http://www.prlt.org) under Events>

The Gorham Anti-Racism and Equity Committee will be hosting an Eat and Learn Event titled "a focus on EMPATHY" at GHS on Monday, March 10 from 5:30 – 7 p.m. This will be an opportunity to talk about the positive impact of empathy on education.

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Gorham Memorial Post 10879 will be meeting on Tuesday, March 11 at 5:30 p.m. at the Gorham Fire Department's Training Room located at 270 Main Street, Gorham, ME 04038. FMI: Jake Bauder, (207) 607-0370, [jake.bauder@icloud.com](mailto:jake.bauder@icloud.com).

UMaine Extension is offering an introduction to the "Backyard Composting Webinar" from 5:30 – 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11 via Zoom, register with Carrick Gambell by March 10 at (207) 691-1238, and "Gardening in a Changing Climate" from 6 – 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12. Contact Rebecca Gray (207) 356-1348. Cost for both is on a sliding scale.

New Ventures Maine offers free online workshops and classes in career building, entrepreneurship, and financial education in February and March. Learn more at <https://newventuresmaine.org/>

## 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 available. The closet is only open Monday thru Thursday, and only by appointment. Call Gerry Day at (207) 756-2210 or (207) 839-3859

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 spring and summer 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](http://www.gorhamfoodpantry.org) or contact us at [director@gorhamfoodpantry.org](mailto: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.

The Lecky Brown Senior Center meets for games and cribbage on Mondays from 10 a.m. - noon. Wednesday's Guest Speaker program, the Originals, begins with coffee at 10 a.m. then presentation to begin at 10:30 a.m. All welcome, 3rd floor First Parish Church. FMI: [leckybrowncenter@gmail.com](mailto:leckybrowncenter@gmail.com)

## PUBLIC SUPPERS

Cressey Road Christian Church is having a Bean Supper on Saturday, March 8 from 5 – 6:30 p.m. (second Saturday every month) Route 25 and Cressey Road.


White Rock Community Clubhouse Public Homemade Bean Supper, eat in or take out. \$10 adults, \$5 under 12. Follow on <https://www.facebook.com/whiterockcommunityclub>, 34 Wilson Road, Saturday, March 1, 4 – 5:30 p.m.

## LIBRARY NEWS



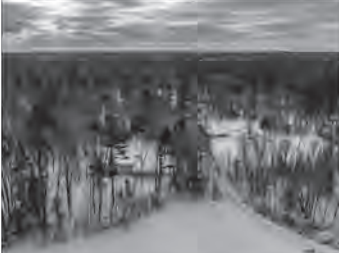


The North Gorham Public Library is open Monday and Wednesday, 3 – 6 p.m., Tuesday 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Wednesday 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 3 – 6 p.m., Thursday and Friday closed, Saturday 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Sunday closed. Story Hour is every Wednesday 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.


Baxter Memorial Library events are listed in the Gorham Times Calendar, and at the Library website, <https://baxterlibrary.org/>. Library hours are Monday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (207) 222-1190.


CONTINUED ON PAGE 10




**(207) 839-3300** **pogorealty.com**

				
<b>BUXTON \$139,900</b> You don't have to worry about costly monthly park fees & park rules when you own this home, on a paved public road. Offers eat-in kitchen open to living room, two bedrooms, full bathroom and washer/dryer. Covered side porch, storage shed, metal roof, Miller furnace and newer laminate flooring throughout. Flat and level yard with ample paved parking. All systems are in working order. Right of way to Bonny Eagle Pond.	<b>BUXTON \$629,900</b> Brand new colonial offering 4-bedrooms, 2.5 bathroom and a 2-car garage all on a 3.15-acre lot. You'll love this sunlit open floor plan. The kitchen with island and pantry closet is open to the dining room & front living room. A handy mudroom drop-zone has direct access to the garage and a half bath which completes the 1st floor. On the 2nd level you'll find the primary ensuite with double closets, 3-additional bedrooms, a full bath & 2nd floor laundry.	<b>GORHAM \$1,140,000</b> A rare find offering 33-acres with a 2586sqft home, 30x50 4-stall horse barn plus a pad-dock tucked away on at the end of a private way. The options are endless! This charming home features a quartz kitchen open to dining room with wood burning fireplace, living room with a woodstove, sunlit den finished with pine floors, 1st floor primary suite with cathedral ceilings, double closets & a private bath. A full bath with laundry is conveniently located in the breezeway which has direct access to the 2-car garage.	<b>SCARBOROUGH \$300,000</b> Great Scarborough location... Investors take notice of this opportunity on almost 1 acre. This Cape style home will need some sweat equity, foundation work and buyer will need to hook-up to public water & sewer, per the City. Features include kitchen, dining area, living room, bedroom and full bath, along with unfinished space that can be added to the square footage. Bring your own creative ideas. Being sold AS-IS.	<b>STANDISH \$595,000</b> Now under construction! This 3-bedroom/2.5-bathroom colonial with 2-car garage is nicely located in desirable Woodbrey Heights. You'll love this sunlit open concept featuring a leathered granite kitchen, stainless steel appliances, hardwood floors throughout the first floor and 1st floor laundry. The full daylight walkout basement is perfect for future expansion or for storage. The private rear deck overlooks the backyard which abuts over 41 acres of protected open space.

  
Julie Chandler

  
Mike Griffin

  
Peter Mason



**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE NEWS**

USM announced that the School of Business has extended its business accreditation with Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), making it one of only five accredited institutions in northern New England.

On Feb. 13, the 2025 Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education named USM as one of 216 institutions to meet its standards for Research Colleges and Universities (RCU). Carnegie bases its classifications, in part, on each institution's annual amount of research spending, which is largely funded by public and private grants and contracts. Their research extends into such fields as public policy, composites engineering, biological sciences, and more. The innovations and efficiencies detailed by USM researchers have led to economic benefits locally and across the country.

**Stacey Hassapelis (1968-2024)**

Stacey Eva Thompson Hassapelis, born on April 9, 1968, in Portland, ME, passed away on Sept. 10, 2024. A beloved mother, sister, and friend, Stacey was known for her kind heart and selfless nature. Stacey found joy in traveling and crafting, but nothing brought her more happiness than spending time with her children, Richard and Anastasia Thompson, of whom she was immensely proud. Stacey is survived by her father, Peter Hassapelis; her son, Richard Thompson II; her daughter, Anastasia Thompson; and her cherished niece, Ashlee Townsend.



**AARON CHADBOURNE**



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**CALENDAR**

- Thursday, February 27**  
Baxter Memorial Library, Adult Art Night "Zentangle," 6 – 7 p.m.
- Friday, February 28**  
Osher Wind Ensemble Chamber Winds & Percussion, Corthell Concert Hall, 7 p.m.
- Saturday, March 1**  
Presumpscot Regional Land Trust's Winter Wildlife Walk at Pride Preserve in Westbrook. All ages, 10 a.m. to noon.  
USM Athletics Home Game: Men's Lacrosse vs. New England College, 1 p.m.  
Osher Musical Theatre Recital, "Defying...Gravity!" Corthell Concert Hall, 2 – 4 p.m.
- Sunday, March 2**  
Osher School of Music  
Callie Brennan, violin and Laura Kargul, piano, Corthell Concert Hall, 2 p.m.  
Voice Studio Recital, students of Mary Bastoni, 5 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 4**  
Baxter Memorial Library  
Preschool Storytime, 10 a.m.  
Baby Storytime, 9:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, March 5**  
North Gorham Public Library Story Hour, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
- Thursday, March 6**  
Baxter Memorial Library  
Toddler Storytime, 10 a.m.  
Morning Book Club, "One Puzzling Afternoon" by Emily Crichley, 10:15 a.m.  
Library Trustees Meeting, 6 – 7 p.m.  
Osher School of Music, Voice Masterclass with Visiting Artist Nicholas Phan, 3:30 p.m.
- Friday, March 7**  
USM Athletics Home Game: Women's Lacrosse vs. Bridgewater State, 1 p.m.
- Saturday, March 8**  
Cressey Road Christian Church Bean Supper, Rt. 25 and Cressey Road, 5 – 6:30 p.m.
- Monday, March 10**  
GHS Eat and Learn Event, "EMPATHY" at GHS, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.  
Osher School of Music, Piano Masterclass with Visiting Artist Conrad Tao, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 11**  
Baxter Memorial Library, Preschool Storytime, 10 a.m.  
USM Athletics Home Game: Men's Lacrosse vs. Maine Maritime Academy, 4 p.m.  
VFW Gorham Memorial Post 10879 meeting, Fire Department Training Room, 5:30 p.m.  
UMaine Extension "Backyard Composting Webinar," 5:30 – 7 p.m., via Zoom (207) 691-1238.
- Wednesday, March 12**  
Baxter Memorial Library, Baby Storytime, 9:30 a.m.  
UMaine Extension "Gardening in a Changing Climate," 6 – 7:15 p.m., (207) 356-1348.  
USM Athletics Home Game: Women's Lacrosse vs. Saint Joseph's College, 6 p.m.

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

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the Courtesy of the Gorham Police Department  
**blotter**

Officer received an email complaint regarding the dogs at South Street barking all day for two days straight.

Officer gave a caller a Havahart (TM) to catch a cat.

State Street caller was afraid that another party would be at the residence while she was picking up her belongings. When officers arrived at the residence the other party was not on scene. Officer stayed for the allotted time, 15 minutes, and informed her that if the other party does arrive to call us back and an officer would return. It was all set.

Millett Drive caller made contact in regard to someone in another building harassing her about getting off the bench that she sits on in front. Officer informed her to avoid as much as possible, and if it keeps occurring to call us when it happens so that the other party could be identified.

Officer checked around Ossipee Trail for the report of a loose dog. Officer did not find anything, so officer checked Pam's Way and located a dog there. Homeowner advised that it was probably his dog that had wandered off into the woods. The dog in question is licensed and up to date on his vaccinations.

Longfellow Road caller asked if there were any reports made about her, and officer advised her there were not.

Old Dynamite Way Caller found a cat with no collar sitting outside her door, begging to be let in. Caller did not recognize the

cat, and it appeared to be an outdoors cat. It was described as small and being mostly black in color with only minor splotches of white. Caller had already put it up on Facebook and notified the Lost Cat Society of Maine. Caller was also willing to hold onto it for another day and take it to the ARL herself when they next open.

Dispatcher received a call from the GPD lobby phone in which the caller told them to contact an officer and that there was no emergency before hanging up. Officer checked the lobby and parking lot and no one was there. Detective Hinkley checked the cameras, and no one entered the front lobby or parking lot at all that morning. It is unknown then how dispatch received a call from the lobby.

Shelby Drive caller advised he was going to be target shooting today, Sunday, to get ahead of any complaints. No police action

County Road and South Street. Subject was involved in a road rage incident and wanted to tell an officer about it.

Main Street. An individual came into the GPD to report that she received a threatening email telling her to send money to a bitcoin account. The email had a PDF attached, telling her that she had been caught visiting porn web sites and to send money. Officer has seen these emails before and notified individual that this was a scam and to delete the email. Individual did not give any money or respond to the email at all.

**CryptoVerse Solution** by A. Logophile

OUR SENIORS: JULIA, LINDY, PAVTON AND VANESSA,  
 WHEN A STAR GRADUATES, UP COMES A SUCCESSOR,  
 GO TO AUGUSTA GAMES OR WATCH THEM ON TV.  
 GHS GIRLS ARE AGAIN IN THE STATE BALL SPREE,

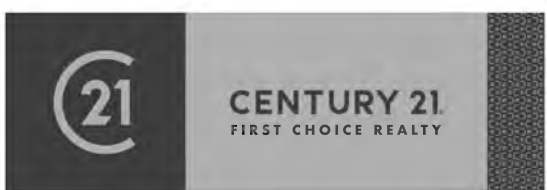


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**REALTOR KELLEY'S PUP OF THE MONTH:**

**YUKON!** It has been 1,210 DAYS....  
 1,210 days Yukon has been seeing his friends find their families and go home while he is still waiting to find his forever home. Our weekly volunteers always ask, why is Yukon still here? He just can not catch a break.  
 Yukon is around four years old and is our longest term resident. This playful boy has tons of energy and would love to be someone's side kick! Yukon would be a fantastic hiker, bike runner, or snuggle companion. Despite his age, Yukon is a goofy puppy that is so loveable. He loves to tilt his head to the side to ask for jaw scratches and will attempt to lick your face the whole time! Yukon would do best in a home that will remind him of his manners and would spoil him as he would do best as a single animal. Yukon would be happiest with a tall fenced in yard and lots of toys! Yukon LOVES people but due to some of his puppy behaviors we would recommend 13+ for children.



To find out more information about Yukon please visit [www.harvesthills.org](http://www.harvesthills.org).

Mention prior to closing & 5% of my real estate commissions generated from this ad will be donated to Harvest Hills Animal Shelter

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\*Valid 2/28/25 through 3/15/25. Community fee regularly priced at \$3,000. Must take financial responsibility by 3/15/25. Only available to private-pay move-ins. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Offer based on room availability. Move-in subject to applicable statutes and regulations. Other terms, conditions and restrictions may apply. Reach out to Gorham House for additional information.



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