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"For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light."

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After Months of Turmoil, County Adopts \$11.6 Million Budget Without Drama

Paul Sylvain

Despite months of dueling rhetoric, proposals, counterproposals, and threats of apocalyptic cuts and massive layoffs in public safety operations, Washington County Commissioners and the Budget

Advisory Committee on Dec. 17, settled on a kinder, gentler 2026 county budget, totaling just under \$11.6 million. At \$11,586,126, the budget sent back to the BAC, following an hour-long work session by commissioners on Dec. 17, represents a slight reduction

of \$215,694 from the \$11.8 million county budget passed by the BAC on a split 6-5 vote on Dec. 3. Still, the 2026 county budget represents a 17.3% increase over the 2025 budget adopted a year ago.

(continued on page 6)

Gardner Earns Certification, Strengthens Baileyville Police Force



Baileyville Police Chief John Preston has announced that the department's newest officer, Emmitt Gardner, has successfully completed 18 weeks of intensive training at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy and is now a fully certified, full-time police officer for the Town of Baileyville and the State of Maine. Gardner's hiring also brought the department to full staffing, a status it has maintained since he joined the force, even prior to attending the academy. Pictured with Officer Gardner (center) are Officer Mackenzie Hewitt, Sgt. Matt Vinson, Chief Preston, and Officer Danny Borden. (BPD photo)



WCCC Celebrates First Graduating Class of Nursing Program



Lindsey Redimarker is kissed by her young son, Brentlee, after he and her husband honored her at WCCC's inaugural Nursing Program Pinning Ceremony on Dec. 18. Read more details on page 9. (Photo by Jayna Smith)

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Students Find Perfect Presents at CES Santa Shop

Jayna Smith
jayna@calais.news

dents at Calais Elementary School enjoyed a festive and meaningful shopping experience this month as they searched for the perfect gifts for family members at the annual Santa Shop.

Now in its second year, the Santa Shop was organized by the CES Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) and gave students the opportunity to purchase affordable gifts for their loved ones, with each item priced at just 25 cents. New and gently used items donated by the community were displayed throughout the “shop,” offering a wide variety of choices for the young shoppers.

The Santa Shop was open to students on December 15, 16, and 17. As they browsed the tables, students were filled with excitement, carefully selecting special gifts they knew would bring smiles to parents and siblings. The joy was evident as children proudly held their chosen items, eager to surprise the people they love.

Adding to the festive atmosphere, older students assisted with gift wrapping, ensuring each purchase was ready to be placed under the tree. The experience not only encouraged the spirit of giving but also helped students practice thoughtfulness and generosity, all while raising money for the playground fund.

PTO volunteers expressed gratitude to the community for its continued support of CES students and the school. “Thank you for spreading so much joy and helping our students shop with big smiles for the people they love,” organizers shared.

Learn more about the CES PTO by following the group on Facebook.



Dugan Kellenberger, a fourth grader, searches for the perfect gift at the Santa Shop. (CES PTO photo)



Claire Cole, grade six, was among the many older students who helped wrap gifts. (CES PTO photo)



Ana Davis, first grade, was happy to find gifts at the Santa Shop. (CES PTO photo)



Camdyn McLean, first grade, is excited to deliver gifts to family. (CES PTO photo)



Sawyer Rogers, second grade, is all smiles after finding gifts for loved ones at the Santa Shop. (CES PTO photo)



Fifth graders Justice Bishop and Jacoby White volunteered to assist and wrap at the Santa Shop. (CES PTO photo)

Holiday Spirit Finds Its Way to Alexander Cemetery



A wreath appeared last week at Alexander Cemetery, a quiet reminder of the generosity and community spirit that define small-town life. The thoughtful gesture is appreciated by many.



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Commissioners Act on SCEC, Downeast Wind Contract

By Paul Sylvain

Sunrise County Economic Council Executive Director Charles Rudelitch met with the Washington County Commissioners at the commissioners' Dec. 11 meeting to present and discuss various contracts SCEC has with the county.

First up was a contract SCEC has had for at least the past decade to do general economic development work in the county. "This is separate from the contract the county has with SCEC to help administer the TIF [Tax Increment Financing loan program]," Rudelitch said, noting, "So there have been two contracts in place."

Rudelitch told the commissioners that the present contract for economic development services is paid for out of the county's general revenue. However, that contract was set to expire on Jan. 1, and Rudelitch presented a new contract, which he said, "Changes it to a contract that includes general economic development work, as well as support for the administration of project management around Downeast Wind."

According to Rudelitch, the new contract would only be paid for out of community benefit funds from Downeast Wind. "If for some reason in the future Downeast Wind didn't make a payment, we would just work to wind down this contract as quickly as possible," Rudelitch said.

According to its website, Downeast Wind is a 126-megawatt wind energy project consisting of 30 wind turbines located in Columbia and adjacent Unorganized Territories in the county, "operating and generating enough homegrown Maine

clean energy to power more than 37,000 average homes each year."

The existing contract, which ended three weeks early with the commissioners' unanimous vote to approve the new contract, cost \$24,000. The new contract, replacing it, is for \$50,000.

District 1 Commissioner Billy Howard questioned the executive director about whether any new businesses had been brought to the county through SCEC's efforts, to which Rudelitch replied that SCEC is working "with a few hundred people" who are interested in starting new businesses or have small businesses already up and running. Howard observed wryly, "It's pretty quiet on that front, then."

Reading from a document provided by SCEC, District 2 Commissioner Chairman David Burns remarked, "So the third bullet says you assist in securing and administering grants. How often does that happen with us?"

"With the county itself?" asked Rudelitch, before admitting, "Very rarely. A lot of what we do is to bring grants for economic development work in the county. The county is part of what built us through the years, through support for our endowment. One of our jobs is to bring in money from outside of the county into the county."

With that, Burns, Howard, and District 3 Commissioner Courtney Hammond approved the new services contract with SCEC.

That was followed by a partially related, lengthier discussion on what Rudelitch called a "community benefit agreement reallocation proposal" with Downeast Wind.

Referring to a one-page summary of the current payment allocation and the proposed changes in how the funds would be allocated under the new plan, the SCEC executive director pointed out that the county had received a first-year payment from Downeast Wind in October totaling \$842,720.

The projected annual payment of \$338,640 in April 2026 "is kind of representative of the next 19 [annual] payments that the county is going to receive under this agreement going forward, as the amounts are outlined in the current agreement," Rudelitch said.

The summary sheet also reflected that the county stands to receive nearly \$7.3 million over the span of 20 annual payments during the lifetime of the contract. "So what's on the top half of the page is what happens if nothing changes with the allocation of the funds — if there is no renegotiation of the agreement," Rudelitch said.

"The grant committee, a few days ago, met to talk about the proposal to renegotiate the agreement with Downeast Wind," Rudelitch explained. "This comes out of some discussion at the [county's] budget committee meeting a week or two back. Several of you commissioners mentioned a desire to be able to use the money for capital investments in some of the buildings and equipment that the county is maintaining. And so the grant committee discussed this proposed allocation."

The executive director stated that the proposed changes have not yet been shared with Downeast Wind. "The process that I am suggesting is one to see if this is on the right track,

and if there are any [other] changes that need to be made or we are considering," Rudelitch said, suggesting he could return at the commissioners' Jan. 14 meeting, "Then make a single proposal to Downeast Wind on how to re-allocate the money moving forward."

Rather than bombard Downeast Wind with numerous piecemeal reallocation requests, the company is requesting everything be rolled into "a single ask from the county that covers all the changes the county wants to make," said Rudelitch.

Continuing, he said, "There are two major changes between the current allocation and the proposed allocation. A minor one is that it would include emergency and capital investment funds with the help and emergency services line item into a single fire and EMS-related services and or capital investments allocation."

The current agreement shows separate lines of \$50K for the Emergency & Rescue Capital Fund and \$20K for Health & Emergency Services. Under the proposed revised allocation, they would be combined with a single, total allocation of \$70K.

"The amounts haven't changed," said Rudelitch. "It's \$50,000 and \$20,000, and would still be \$70,000 a year. That just gives commissioners more freedom on how to allocate the money, depending on what the needs are, recognizing the agreement will last for almost another 20 years. There

will be lots of changes in what the particular needs are in any particular year."

He went on to say the other major change is that, under the new proposal, the current allocation line for a scholarship fund, another line for a small business loan fund, and the Watershed Management & Infrastructure line, would be eliminated and then combined into a new "investments and county infrastructure to conserve energy, increase resilience, and or reduce operating cost" category. As Rudelitch put it, "Essentially it becomes a capital account for the county's buildings and other infrastructure."

"I think I'm good with this, but we need to be able to use some of this money for our own facilities, for improvements to our own facilities," Commissioner Howard said.

Burns followed by asking Rudelitch, "So we're committed to this for 20 years?" "Yes," replied Rudelitch. "This is a 20-year agreement that just began in October." He added that the agreement "can be changed as many times as the county and Downeast Wind agree to it. In this case, Downeast Wind said they'll consider it, but just make it a single ask."

Rudelitch is expected to meet with commissioners again at their next regular monthly meeting, on Jan. 14, to shore up the proposed adjustments in the contract before they are presented with Downeast Wind for consideration.

Calais Lions Club Completes 52nd Santa's Helper Campaign

The Calais Lions Club has recently finished its 52nd Santa's Helper campaign. Started by the club in 1973, it is the longest-running holiday charity program of its kind in the state.

This year, the club hand-delivered \$14,290 to 147 Children in 67 families in the greater-Calais and Baileyville areas in the form of \$50 food vouchers and \$75 gift vouchers — one per child — redeemable solely at local businesses.

Money was raised for the program by solicitation of local businesses and individuals,

year-long efforts by the club fundraising, and by other entities that have entrusted the Calais Lions to see their monies distributed efficiently, fairly, and locally.

The club will perform a full review of its coverage area in 2026. Areas historically understood by the club to be covered by a redundant program will be examined to ensure those in need are receiving this help. This may augment and expand the solicitation areas, as well as provide assistance for additional Washington County families and children.

The Lions Club would like to thank all who gave to the program this year, as well as those who attended a comedy show, bought tickets, a hot dog, or otherwise lent their time, business, or resources to further the program.



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We are curenly in the process of updating the website and it will be down into the new year. We thank you for your patience and we understand and apologize for the inconvenience.

Governor Mills Radio Address

Merry Christmas and
Happy Holidays, Maine

It was the night of December 24, 1914, mere months into World War I, and a light dusting of snow was falling on the battlefield. Men in trenches on both sides of the front started singing Christmas carols, a surprising source of joy on a cold winter’s night during a war. And as morning broke on Christmas Day, the soldiers cautiously met in the No Man’s Land between their two armies, lowering their weapons to share a meal with each other, even though they were enemies just the day before.

The Christmas Truce, as it came to be called, would never be repeated. But it is always remembered as a moment of shared humanity and hope.

This year has been difficult for many, and I know that some folks may be struggling this holiday season. Some people may be on active duty, unable to be home for the holidays. Some may be having a hard

time making ends meet, never mind buying gifts for friends and family. Some may not have close friends or family nearby to celebrate with. Some may be mourning the loss of a loved one who’ll be missing from their table. Some may even be worried about disagreements with loved ones in this time of divisive national politics.

This holiday season, may we hold our family and friends, neighbors, and loved ones close, and may we be grateful for the gift of our time together. May we remember that for all our differences as people of many backgrounds and beliefs, there’s a lot more that we have in common as people who share this beautiful state.

And may we reflect on the many reasons we have to hope that the New Year in our state will be bright. Creative people in innovative industries across Maine are inventing new products to make our state more

competitive and to make it an even greater place to live, work, and raise a family. For the first time in generations, people are moving here to start new careers, drawn by a quality of life unlike anywhere else in the world. Every day, people who once dreamed of starting a new business, of going to college, of starting a family are able to make those dreams a reality because our economy is strong, our schools are affordable, and our communities are safe. We have challenges that we’re trying to solve, like the high cost of living, but we also have strengths that other states simply don’t have, including the many talented people who call Maine home.

This holiday season, people of all faiths will be spreading a message of generosity and goodwill, of hope and happiness, and of peace for themselves and for all.

Whether you’re gathering in a home warmly lit by the candles of a Menorah to celebrate Hanukkah, or by the lights on

a tree to celebrate Christmas, or some other tradition, or if you’re gathering with friends, family, and neighbors just to celebrate the end of another year, I want to wish you personally and all Maine people, a happy holiday season filled with joy and with love. Let’s thank our first responders also, because they’ll be on duty all through the holidays. And let’s honor the sacrifice of service members and their families who keep us safe. And let the same hope of soldiers who sang Christmas carols a century ago to bring light to a moment of darkness, uplift and unite us again.

So from my family to yours, I wish you a Merry Christmas. And to Maine’s Jewish community, Happy Hanukkah.



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Freedom Studies

BY JONATHAN REISMAN
Opinion

Providential Reflection

The recent events at Brown, including the Keystone Cops investigation, were cause for reflection on both my time in Providence almost 50 years ago and the subsequent academic career that an Ivy League graduate degree enabled. I spent every fall from 1973 to 2021 on a New England college campus (Colby, Brown, Bryant, Wheaton, University of Maine at Machias). I can't say that I'm particularly proud of American higher education. The retreat from meritocracy and free speech in favor of identity politics, diversity, equity, and inclusion has made a mockery of Brown's "Veritas" motto. Throw in a dollop of antisemitism, and you pretty much have the current campus situation.

Veritas (Truth) seemed to be the last thing the hapless Brown

investigators were pursuing. Included amongst the areas of investigatory malpractice/misinformation:

- What the shooter shouted out. Reports of "Allahu Akbar" remain unconfirmed.
- Publicly identifying and detaining an erroneous person of interest.
- Failure to explain the lack of video records, or why Brown campus camera locations were broadcast to the public.
- The cumulative effect of the investigative malpractice, misinformation, and delays may well obscure the motive and connections of the shooter.

I started at Brown in the Fall of 1977 as an economics graduate student after graduating from Colby with majors in economics and environmental studies. I was a teaching assistant leading once-a-week

study/review sessions, first for big Principles of Economics (Macro and Micro) courses, and later for Environmental Economics. My review sections were usually in the Barus and Holley Engineering building, which was physically close to Robinson Hall, which housed the economics faculty and graduate students.

Key thoroughfares on the Brown campus included Waterman and Prospect Streets, but most of us lived off Hope (Street). In my last year at Brown, one of my econ professors decamped to Europe and gifted his recently married graduate assistant with a house-sitting assignment. I started teaching at area schools near Brown and was hired by the University of Maine at Machias in 1984.

When the news of the Brown

shooting broke nearly simultaneously with the ISIS-inspired Chanukah attacks at Bondi Beach in Sydney, Australia, I feared that antisemitism would connect the events. The investigatory malpractice does not lead to competence confidence, and in fact, breeds distrust and conspiracy theories. The apparent suicide of the shooter and continued lack of investigatory transparency will only make this murkiness and consequent lack of trust worse.

One thing I remember from Brown circa late 1970s — we had a large number of Iranian graduate students in both economics and engineering, courtesy of the alliance between the Shah of Iran and the U.S. and Iranian oil wealth. When the Shah was toppled and the Ayatollah's Shia Islamic believers took American hostages, the

Iranian graduate students started to disappear. When Ronald Reagan was elected and took office in 1981, the hostages were returned, and the process of replacing Iranian graduate students with other foreigners, principally Chinese today, accelerated. In 2026, the question is what group of foreign students will American higher education exploit to replace the Chinese students/cash cow?

Jon Reisman is an economist and policy analyst who retired from the University of Maine at Machias after 38 years. He resides on Cathance Lake in Cooper, where he is a Statler and Waldorf intern. Mr. Reisman's views are his own, and he welcomes comments as letters to the editor here or to him directly via email at jreisman@maine.edu.

VFW Post #9779 Announces Voice of Democracy Winner

Jayna Smith
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Pastor Bobby Oliver of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #9779 has announced that Maggie O'Rourke is this year's local winner of the VFW Voice of Democracy (VOD) competition.

Each year, the VFW sponsors two youth essay contests: Voice of Democracy, an audio-essay competition for high school students in grades 9-12, and Patriot's Pen for students in grades 6-8.

This year's VOD theme was "How are you showing patriotism and support for our country?" Students were required to submit a recorded reading of their essay lasting between three and five minutes.

The Voice of Democracy program, established in 1947, gives high school students the opportunity to express their views on democratic ideals and principles through a recorded essay.

O'Rourke is a senior at Calais High School and received a \$100 cash prize for her local win. Her winning essay has

been forwarded to the District level for judging. If selected as the District winner, her entry will advance to the state competition.

Second place honors went to Lena Chambers, who received \$75, while Cassidy Morrison earned \$50 for third place.

The Voice of Democracy program is one of the VFW's premier scholarship competitions, with nearly 26,000 high school students nationwide competing annually for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives.

Letters to the Editor and Opinion Pages — Reminder to Readers:

Readers are advised that Letters to the Editor and opinion letters often blend verifiable facts with personal opinions, contested political interpretations, selective framing, and rhetorical contrasts. They should therefore be approached with careful attention to sourcing, precision, and the clear distinction between evidence and rhetoric. Readers are encouraged to remain skeptical of arguments that claim exclusive ownership of truth while condemning others for alleged falsehoods. Always research claims independently to determine where the truth lies, as such certainty is often bolstered by selective framing rather than direct proof and can reflect the very biases it critiques. In today's polarized media landscape, cultivating intellectual humility and cross-checking claims fosters a truly informed citizenship far better than the persuasions of passionate convictions. We call this wisdom, and everyone should want to have this virtue.

The Calais Advertiser Letters Policy: Letters to the Editor:

We reserve the right to publish or not publish a letter. You must be a paid subscriber — print or digital. We may edit for taste, clarity, and length. Letters that are potentially libelous, slanderous, or written with harmful intent will be rejected. We do not publish form letters, petitions, quotations, or anonymous letters. Please limit letters to roughly 300 words, and send by email to letters@calais.news, by fax to 207-454-3458, or by mail to The Calais Advertiser, 23 Church Street, Calais, Maine 04619. We prefer letters that beget letters — that offer sound opinions on current events, editorials on the community, city, state, and federal matters. Please include your full address and phone number; however, your address and phone number will not be included if/when published.

"When once a Republic is corrupted, there is no possibility of remedying any of the growing evils but by removing the corruption and restoring its lost principles; every other correction is either useless or a new evil."

-Thomas Jefferson



Pictured are Calais Middle/High School Principal Dean Preston, VFW Post #9779 Commander Bobby Oliver, English teacher Mrs. Lori Ellis, VOD winner Maggie O'Rourke, VOD third place winner Cassidy Morrison, and VFW member Richard Stevens. Lena Chambers, second-place winner, is absent from photo. (CMHS photo)

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What's Up, Calais?

Jayna Smith - jayna@calais.news

Calais Fire Chief Billy Lee reminds residents to ensure their chimneys are clean and ready for use this season. He also urges everyone to keep all exits clear of snow and ice so occupants can safely evacuate and first responders can access buildings in the event of an emergency. Additionally, Chief Lee cautions that generators and furnaces produce carbon monoxide; generators should always be kept outside, furnaces should be properly cleaned, and homes should be equipped with a carbon monoxide detector.

The WindowDressers community build will take place in Calais from January 24-30. These low-cost window inserts help reduce drafts, save energy, and lower heating bills. I personally know someone who uses these inserts and has noticed a drastic difference in comfort and heating costs. To learn more or sign up, visit www.windowdressers.org or call 207-596-3073.

Jo's Diner & Pizzeria once again hosted a successful Grammar for Giving Contest this year. High school juniors and seniors from Woodland and Calais High Schools were invited to participate for the chance to direct one day's restaurant proceeds to the charity of their choice, as well as win a cash prize and Jo's gift certificate for themselves. On Monday, December 15, all sales from the day — over \$4,500 — were donated to the Blue Devil Fund, the charity selected by contest winner Olivia Turner.

Send me your news, your shout-outs for good deeds done, or your well wishes to give, and I'll be sure to share them here. Until next week, I hope you stay well, stay safe, and be happy, and have a very Merry Christmas and joyful holiday season!



Calais City Council

Jayna Smith - jayna@calais.news

On Thursday, December 18, 2025, the Calais City Council met for its regular meeting, with Mayor Marcia Rogers presiding over Councilors Ed Moreside, Mike Sherrard, Elery Beale, Pete Foster, Bill Quinn, and James Macdonald.

What follows is a brief summary of the meeting, with the full meeting available for viewing on the City of Calais's Facebook page.

All consent agenda items were approved. City Manager Mike Ellis then delivered his report, thanking all who helped make this year's Calais Lioness Christmas Parade a success. He also recognized the Calais Middle/High School Student Council for hosting a charity Christmas party on December 17 that benefited the less fortunate. Ellis expressed condolences to the family of long-time city employee Ron Gallant, who recently passed away, and announced upcoming committee meetings, noting that the newly formed Recreation Committee will meet on January 8, 2026, at 5 p.m., followed by a meeting of the Economic Development Committee on January 22, 2026, at 5 p.m.

In committee reports, it was noted that the finance committee met prior to the council meeting to review and discuss the county budget. Regarding the school, councilors were informed that student tuition rates have increased — \$700 at the high school level and \$300 at the elementary school level — and that the principal is developing a comprehensive capital improvement plan for the facility.

Under new business, Councilor Sherrard made a motion to pay the city's share of the 2025 Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) in the amount of \$381,450.59. The funds will be drawn from

the designated fund balance of \$970,091, with the understanding that cash and accounts receivable, as well as expenditures, will be closely monitored over the next four months. If necessary, funds may be transferred from other accounts to address any shortfalls. The motion passed unanimously.

The council next unanimously approved the 2026 water budget, followed by the appointment of City Councilor Mike Ellis as the city's voting delegate to the Maine Service Center Coalition.

A public hearing was then scheduled for January 22, 2026, at 6 p.m. to consider a medical marijuana license renewal for The Higher Class.

Fire Chief Bill Lee requested permission to apply for two fire service grants — a forestry grant and the federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) — both of which were unanimously approved.

City Manager Ellis expressed his intent to fill the vacant public works driver/operator position, which received unanimous approval.

The council then discussed free holiday dump days, which will be held this year on Saturday, December 27, and Sunday, December 28.

The meeting concluded with unanimous approval for municipal offices to close at noon on Wednesday, December 24, and for employees to receive a paid day off on Friday, December 26.

The next regularly scheduled Calais City Council meeting will be on Thursday, January 8, 2026, beginning at 6 p.m. These meetings are held in the council chambers at the city building and are open to the public. They are also live-streamed on Zoom and the city's Facebook page.

Ribbon Cutting Marks Major Housing Addition for Baileyville



Members of the St. Croix Valley Chamber of Commerce joined CMHI Property Management for a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the opening of a newly renovated apartment complex at 76 Summit Street in Baileyville, formerly People's United Methodist Church. Pictured are (front) Chelsie Kerr, Lisa Thornton, and David Daggett, representatives of CMHI Property Management; Baileyville Code Enforcement Officer Jamie Bohanon; (back) Ken Thomas, CMHI representative; Megan Smith of First National Bank (a Chamber of Commerce member); Darrin Constant, CMHI representative; Baileyville Town Manager Chris Loughlin; and Chase Smith of First National Bank. The building has been completely transformed into modern apartments featuring high-end amenities, including video intercom security systems, adding much-needed housing to the community. For more information, one can call 207-454-7196. (SCVCC photo)

Adopts Budget (continued from page 1)

As noted by BAC Chairman Brian Schuth, the final budget rings in about \$800,000 less than the first version of the budget it received from the commissioners to begin the 2026 budget process back in September.

Over the course of the ensuing two-and-a-half months, the BAC managed to whittle it down to the \$11.8 million budget the BAC sent to the commissioners for consideration at their Dec. 11 meeting. Commissioners promptly rejected it and returned it to the BAC, saying deeper cuts need to be made from patrol deputies, jail, and emergency dispatch budgets, all administered by Sheriff Barry Curtis.

Meanwhile, in October, District 2 Commissioner Chairman David Burns proposed not only leaving three vacant patrol deputy positions unfilled through 2026, but also pushed to lay off an additional three deputies, plus other staffing cuts for the jail and dispatch.

BAC Vice Chair Ben Edwards sided with Burns and then went a step further, proposing that additional patrol positions be chopped from the budget. His suggestion met with a firestorm of objections from some members of the BAC, the public, county employees, and Sheriff Curtis. Curtis responded on Dec. 12 by posting a scathing attack on Burns and Edwards on social media, while pleading his case for public support to not cut public safety beyond the currently vacant positions.

At some point between Dec. 12 and the joint BAC and commissioners budget meeting on Dec. 17, something changed. Instead of what was expected to be a lengthy, hotly contested

meeting to revisit and revise the BAC's budget, rejected by the commissioners nearly a week earlier, several soft cuts were passed and put forward to the BAC for a vote. There was only a brief discussion before the BAC voted in agreement with the commissioners, and the 2026 spending package was passed without fanfare or drama.

In the end, one additional vacant patrol deputy position will not be filled in 2026, resulting in a cut of \$96,509. Another \$5,000 from the uniforms allowance and \$7,000 from fitness incentives, related to the deputies, were also cut. Another \$75,000 was chopped, following a decision not to replace one of the department's cruisers. One probate position was removed, while the finance director was changed from part-time to full-time at about \$77,000. Other deductions included a 0% pay increase for non-union employees, amounting to a \$23,000 savings, and a \$2,000 cut in cell phone stipends.

Most of the line item cuts were passed by 2-1 votes, with Burns and District 1 Commissioner Billy Howard supporting the revisions and District 3 Commissioner Courtney Hammond opposed.

BAC member Lewis Pinkham called the final version of the budget "the best option" for maintaining services in 2026. In the end, even the budget's toughest critic — Edwards — conceded that he agreed with Pinkham. Said Edwards, "I agree with Lewis, although I am disappointed that we didn't get more serious [about making deeper cuts]. Even though I would like to keep fighting, we should accept this budget as-is."

Schuth, meanwhile, stated

for the record that if the 2025 tax anticipation note (TAN) is not paid, the outstanding balance would become part of the budget's tax bills. Municipalities that pre-pay their portion of the TAN would, however, be exempt.

The BAC followed Edwards' comments by voting 9-2 to approve the budget, as revised by the commissioners. The BAC offered no further adjustments before voting on it. Crystal Galina and Wayne Jones were the only two BAC members to vote against the budget.

Commissioners Howard, Hammond, and Burns reconvened moments after the BAC finished their business and voted unanimously to adopt the budget as passed by the BAC. While he voted to do so, Howard said he was doing so "reluctantly." Howard's remark was not surprising, considering that he has been lobbying to make much more decisive and "meaningful" cuts to the budget since last spring.

Burns said afterwards that commissioners spared the county further public safety cuts in light of plans to possibly move funding for some of the patrol deputies from the general county budget and into the county's Unorganized Territories budget. Burns admitted it could take several months to work something out and put it into play, but noted that he and Howard had only recently learned that several other Maine counties are already doing that.

The county's fiscal year ends on Dec. 1, though commissioners have also put towns and the public on notice that they will be shifting the county's fiscal year to align with the state's and most municipalities — one of the root causes of this year's shortfall — in the years to come.

Community Events Calendar

FOOD, MEALS & THRIFT SERVICES

Irene Chadbourne Ecumenical Food Pantry, 513 Main St., Calais: Mondays: 3 - 5 p.m.; Thursdays: 10 - noon; Fridays: 1 - 3 p.m.

First Thursday of the month: Free luncheon for seniors 65 and older, Church of the Open Bible, 1222 Airline Road, Alexander, noon.

Saturdays, New to You, the Christ Church in Eastport thrift store, open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

There will be no public breakfast or supper at the Dennysville-Edmunds Congregational Church in January.

ARTS & EXHIBITS

Mondays

Monday Night Music Circle, Cobscook Institute, 6 to 8:30 p.m. Bring an instrument or your voice, or just come to listen. Join online or in person. FMI, 207-733-2233.

Tuesdays

Knitting group, Pembroke Library, 10:30 a.m. Bring a lunch and a project to work on.

Wednesdays

First Wednesday of the month: Chat n' Sew, Woodland Baptist Church, Baileyville, 11 a.m. to about noon. Business meeting 1-3 p.m. FMI, steroixquilters.com.

Wednesday Morning Knitters at the Calais Free Library, 10-noon, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month. All skill levels welcome. FMI: 207 454-2758.

Third Wednesday of the month: Chat n' Sew/Workshop, Woodland Baptist Church, Baileyville, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. FMI, steroixquilters.com.

Wednesdays, 2:30 p.m., Artful Conversations (online), a weekly Zoom chat about art and artists. Register to join at www.eastportgallery.com/artful-conversations.

Thursdays

Chancel Choir rehearsals, choir room of parish hall in Dennysville, 3:15 p.m. Dennysville Choir will assemble at 4 p.m. in the main room of the parish hall. FMI, 796 3905.

Thursdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m., World and Contemporary Dance Group, Eastport Arts Center. All welcome; \$5/person donation appreciated.

Thursdays, 5-6 p.m., Just Dance, freestyle dance group, Eastport Arts Center. All welcome; \$5/person donation appreciated.

Saturdays

Every third Saturday of the month, Nature Walk, Moosehorn NWR, Baring, 9-11:30 a.m. FMI, 207-904-7023.

Sundays

Sundays, 1-2 p.m., Tai Chi with Valerie Michael, for older teens and adults, Eastport Arts Center. \$5 to \$15 donation per class, no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

Supeqi Ehpick Drum group meets at the Woluhke Center, Pleasant Point, 2 to 4 p.m.

BINGO

Sundays

Lubec American Legion Post 65, 500 County Rd., Lubec, 2 p.m., doors open at 1 p.m. Refreshments available. Must be 18 to attend.

Mondays

Knights of Columbus, Council 149, 3 Park St., Calais. 6 p.m., doors open at 4 p.m.

American Legion Post 59, 92 Front St., Pembroke, through December, 6 p.m., doors open at 5 p.m.

Tuesdays

American Legion Post W.T. Wren Unit 23, 98 Main St., Baileyville, 6 p.m., doors open at 4 p.m. Concessions available.

Sundays

Spednic Club, 63rd Ave., Baileyville. 4 p.m., doors open at 2 p.m. Refreshments available.

KIDS' EVENTS

Tuesdays

Calais Area Playgroup, Main Street Memorial Park, Calais, 10 a.m. FMI, call or text 207-263 5270.

Thursdays

Calais Free Library Home-school Thursdays from noon to 2 p.m., elementary age and up, FMI: 207 454-2758.

Fridays

Wiggles and Giggles for kids up to age 5, Calais Free Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Story, songs, craft, and playtime. FMI, 207-454-2758.

Saturdays

First Saturday of the month, Lego Saturday, Calais Free Library, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Legos are supplied. Ages 5 and up. FMI, 207-454-2758.

Third Saturday of the month, 4-H club, Calais Free Library, 10:30 a.m. to noon. All ages welcome. FMI, 207-454-2758.

Sundays

Music and Movement, Woodland Elem. School, 1-2 p.m. for ages 2-4.

Please join us in song to help celebrate the birth of our King! Rehearsals at Bible Island, Sunday mornings at Dennysville-Edmunds Congregational Church, 10 to 11 a.m. Presentation date is Dec. 21 at 11 a.m. All ages welcome!

SUPPORT GROUPS

Sundays

AA Meeting: Downeast Group, Downeast Recovery

E-mail calendar items to events@calais.news by 8 a.m. Tuesday to be included in that week's edition. Yard sales/benefits need to be paid ads, as do town and other such notices.

Support Center, 11 Free St., Machias, 7 p.m.

AA Meeting: Head of the Tide Group, Grace Christian Church, 10 Leighton Point Road, Pembroke, 7:30 p.m.

Mondays

Sunrise Opportunities Prevention Council's Parenting in Recovery Support Group, 11:30 a.m. via Zoom. Learn how substance abuse impacts parenting and focus on repairing and restoring your relationships. FMI, 207-263-5270.

AA Meeting: Alcoholics Only Group, Personal Residence, 90 Boardman St., Calais, 7 p.m.

AA Meeting: Milbridge Group, Congregational Church, 10 Bridge St., Milbridge, 7 p.m.

AA/NA meetings, Woluhke Center, Pleasant Point, 6 p.m.

Tuesdays

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) 228 Baileyville, Baileyville Municipal Building, 9 a.m. All are welcome.

Addiction Recovery Meeting, St. Croix Valley Calvary Chapel, 658 Main St., Calais, 6 p.m. FMI, Jason Olsson, 857-452-8258.

Parenting in Recovery Support Group, Downeast Recovery Support Center, 311 Main St., Calais, 12-1 p.m. FMI, 207-255-8273.

AA Meeting: Crossroads Big Book Meeting, Grace Chapel, 10 Leighton Point Road, Pembroke, 7 p.m.

AA Meeting: Indian Township Meeting, Indian Township Meal Site, 8 Kennebasis Road, Indian Township, 7 p.m.

Wednesdays

Parenting in Recovery Support Group, Downeast Recovery Support Center, 11 Free St., Machias. 12-1 p.m. FMI, 207-255-8273.

AA Meeting: Pleasant River Group, Faith United Methodist Church, 444 US Rt. 1, Columbia, 7 p.m.

AA Meeting: Brown Bag Meeting, Calais United Methodist Church, 849 Main St., Calais, noon.

Thursdays

AA Meeting: Machias Valley Group, St. Aidan's Church, 72 Dublin St., Machias, 7 p.m.

AA Meeting: Bridge of Friendship Group, St. Croix Historical Society, 527 Main St., Calais, 7 p.m.

Thursdays, Group called Kikihtasultine (let's heal together), 6 to 7 p.m., Woluhke Center, Pleasant Point.

Fridays

AA Meeting: Eastport Step Meeting, Senior Center, 9 Boynton St., Eastport, 5:30 p.m.

AA Meeting: Keep it Simple Group, Passamaquoddy Health Center, 401 Peter Dana Point Road, Princeton, 7 p.m.

AA Meeting: Downeast Group, Downeast Recovery Support Center, 11 Free St., Machias, 7 p.m.

Saturdays

AA Meeting: Buy Time

Women's Group, Downeast Recovery Support Center, 11 Free St., Machias, 10 a.m.

AA Meeting: Women's Meeting, St. Aidan's Church, 72 Dublin St., Machias, 10 a.m.

AA Meeting: Moosebec Group, St. Aidan's Episcopal Mission, 36 Dublin St., Machias, 7 p.m.

MEETINGS

Mondays

Third Monday of the month, American Legion Post 23, Main St., Baileyville, 6 p.m. All veterans welcome. FMI, Commander Kenny Young, 207-427-9058.

Wednesdays

Free coffee and doughnuts, Pembroke American Legion, 8-10 a.m. Public is welcome.

Second Wednesday of the month, American Legion Cobscook Post 59, along with Sons of the Legion and Auxiliary, 6 p.m. Potluck begins at 5 p.m.

Third Wednesday of the month from April - Dec.: St. Croix International Garden Club meets and welcomes

new members of any gardening skill to tour gardens and learn skills from others. FMI: 454-3696.

Thursdays

First Thursday of the month, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Boyd Smith Mitchell Memorial Post 9779, Calais Veterans Center, 255 Main St., Calais, 6 p.m.

Third Thursday of the month, Calais American Legion meeting, Calais Veterans Center, 255 Main St., Calais, 6 p.m. All veterans welcome. FMI, Commander Dennis Brown, 207- 214-4410.

Saturdays

Men's Ecumenical Breakfast and Bible Study Fellowship, Woodland Christian Fellowship (formerly Woodland Baptist Church), 8:30 a.m.

OTHER EVENTS

Tuesdays and Thursdays, Social Security Administration Satellite Service, Calais Free Library, 10 a.m. to noon. No appointment required, just walk in. FMI, 207-454-2758.

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Need your event listed in our calendar?
E-mail us, events@calais.news

UMaine Researchers Strengthening Mental Well-being Among Downeast Seniors

As an emergency medical technician in Machiasport, Hannah Maker has witnessed how chronic stress and isolation affect the well-being of older adults in Washington County, where population health falls below the state average. That’s why she joined an initiative from the University of Maine to connect seniors in the area, including Passamaquoddy Tribal elders, with resources to improve their physical and mental health.

The Downeast Population Health Initiative aims to reduce isolation and long-term emotional stress from persistent challenges like anxiety, poverty, and food insecurity, all of which can lead to chronic illness and heightened risk of early death among seniors. Through the initiative, community health workers meet with older adults to identify needs, reduce distress, and strengthen community connections. Workers connect with seniors in person and through a digital platform run by the Community Caring Collaborative (CCC), a partner for the initiative.

Since joining the research team in September 2024, Maker has collected data and helped her colleagues form partnerships with local service providers. She has also deepened the team’s understanding of what it’s like to age in Washington County.

The initiative recognizes that health is shaped not only by medical factors but by community hardships, relationships, dignity, and access to trusted support. As a result, the team’s efforts focus on the whole-person and whole community experience of aging. Maker said she thanks this research project for her understanding of patient care.

“You have to get to know your patients and get to know their circumstances to treat them individually,” said Maker. “When you are taking care of patients, you are looking at all of their symptoms, not just their disease.”

Led by School of Nursing faculty Jordan Porter and Kate Darling, the team began planning in early 2024 using a community-engaged research

approach, avoiding solutions that don’t work in the unique contexts of rural communities. They also recruited doctoral nursing students Bif Churchill and Cynthia Cushing and Maine Top Scholars Olivia Pelkey and Leilani Welsh to assist.

Early conversations with the CCC and survey and focus-group data revealed dignity, connection, and emotional safety are central themes, forming the foundation for the initiative’s design.

“It feels so life-giving and powerful because it’s really connecting with a lot of people because it is truly meeting the unique needs of older people in our community,” Porter said.

The research team implemented a social care pathway in partnership with the CCC’s Connection Initiative platform and tailored it to the needs of older adults in Washington County, whether it be for food, housing, education, mental or physical health. Community health workers conduct surveys with older adults and submit resource requests through the CCC to connect them with local resources. After extensive training to ensure interactions feel relational rather than transactional, the team began collecting and evaluating data.

The team is now interviewing older adults and community health workers and administering measures of distress, loneliness, and social connection. Maker and an interdisciplinary team of undergraduate and graduate researchers will review the interview transcripts and evaluate whether the pathway reduces distress, strengthens connection, improves time-to-resource access, or even decreases crises, such



Hannah Maker

as emergency medical services. They will also analyze how older adults and community healthcare workers connect on the platform.

The initiative builds relationships between the older adults in Washington County and their community, ensuring they have people to reach out to in times of distress.

“The unique approach of this project is dignity is an intervention,” Porter said. “Meeting an older adult with presence, respect and emotional steadiness during a moment of distress helps regulate the nervous system, builds trust and opens the door to connection.”

Maker shared that participating in the initiative has helped

her feel more connected to her community and able to give back to the people she personally knows in a meaningful way.

“It feels great to be able to do something for my community and make a difference to the people I personally know,” Maker said.

The Downeast Population Health Initiative is funded by the Maine Community Population Health Initiative, a grant program of the Maine Medical Association’s Center of Quality Improvement committed to supporting the health of Maine communities through research and community-based health interventions.

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Ricky Cruz

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51						52			53			

Created by Ricky Cruz

ACROSS

1 Gets ready
6 National economic stat.
9 Piece of fan writing, shortly
12 Garcia of "M.O.D.O.K."
13 "The 1% Club" host Mack
14 Altar words
15 Game show hosted by Colin Murray
17 "Ridiculousness" host Dyrdek
18 Amphion's wife
19 Spice Girl who is a panelist on 20-Across
20 Performance competition series on NBC
23 Stay off the radar
25 What Blue Oyster Cult needed more of on "SNL"
28 Going wild
31 Eerie
32 Radical, say
33 Brit's large weight
34 Muniz of "Malcolm in the Middle"
35 "Willy Wonka" character Mike
37 Ave. alternatives
38 "Happy _____"
40 Shaquille of "Inside the NBA"
43 Add _____

DOWN

44 "American Bandstand" host
48 Demon in Japanese folklore
49 Nail, as a test
50 Malfunction
51 HBO _____, formerly _____, formerly HBO _____
52 _____ Moines, Iowa
53 "Rizzoli & _____"

Solution to Last Week's Puzzle

D	A	B				T	T	S		S	O	N
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Boggle® BrainBusters!

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

H	L	A	N
E	E	R	S
I	R	N	I
P	G	H	A

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SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

Level 1 2 3 4

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					3		1	
5								4
	4		8					
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8	9	4	5	2	3	1	6	7
5	1	6	7	9	4	8	2	3
3	2	7	1	8	6	9	4	5
4	3	9	6	5	7	2	8	1
6	8	1	9	3	2	5	7	4
2	7	5	8	4	1	6	3	9

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit sudoku.org.uk

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WCCC Celebrates First Graduating Class of Nursing Program

Jayna Smith
jayna@calais.news

It was a day of celebration at Washington County Community College on Thursday, December 18, as the college held the first-ever Nursing Program Pinning Ceremony, marking a historic milestone for both the institution and the region. Nine students graduated as the inaugural class of WCCC's Associate Degree in Nursing program.

WCCC President Susan Mingo welcomed guests, faculty, graduates, and their families, thanking the nursing faculty and staff for their dedication and recognizing their "commitment, mentorship, and student success that's evident" in the graduates and in the foundation of the program itself. She also acknowledged the families and friends who supported the students throughout their education. "As president of this college, I could not be more proud of what this moment represents," Mingo said. "This ceremony reflects what is possible when students, educators, legislators, health care partners, and community work together with a shared purpose."

Faculty members Kayli Condon and Anne Perry offered remarks before student speaker Ryleigh Andrews addressed the audience. Andrews reflected on the challenges and rewards of the program, the long hours of hard work, and the friendships formed along the way. She thanked the nursing faculty for their patience, leadership, and encouragement, and spoke warmly of her classmates. "I couldn't have asked for a better class," she said, noting the support and bond shared among the group.

Awards were then presented by faculty members Perry and Condon. Gabrielle Jackson and

Colby Stoker received the Excellent in Clinical Skills Care award, Lindsey Redimarker was honored with the Compassionate Care/ Humanistic Approach award, and Ryleigh Andrews received the Leadership and Potential for Leadership award. Following the awards, the graduates collectively recited the Nightingale Pledge, affirming their commitment to ethical practice, compassionate care, and professional integrity, before being pinned by family members.

Faculty member Crystal Donovan delivered the closing remarks, offering words of wisdom and encouragement to the new nurses. She reminded graduates that they have learned to think critically, act with precision, and carry themselves with confidence, but emphasized that their compassion and resilience were just as important. "You have proven yourselves to be exactly what this world needs," Donovan said, adding that the world needs their kindness, strength, and courage as they move forward in their careers.

Washington County Community College's nursing program is one of the newest academic offerings in the college's more than 50-year history. Developed in response to critical workforce shortages in Downeast Maine, the program was launched after several years of planning, faculty recruitment, and state approval. WCCC laid the groundwork through health occupations coursework before welcoming this first cohort of nursing students. The inaugural pinning ceremony marked a significant milestone, celebrating not only the achievements of the first graduating class but also the arrival of newly trained nurses into Washington County's healthcare system.



Washington County Community College's first nursing graduates following the inaugural pinning ceremony: Shayliegh Saumer, Nicole Howland, Mary Cling, Colby Stoker, Gabrielle Jackson, Ryleigh Andrews, Lindsey Redimarker, Summer Woodruff Bolstridge, and Tiffany Jo-el Crowe. (Photo by Jayna Smith)



Faculty member Kayli Condon congratulates Colby Stoker with a hug as she presents him with the Excellent in Skills in Care award. (Photo by Jayna Smith)



Nicole Howland receives her pin from her mom, Susan Storey. (Photo by Jayna Smith)



Graduate Ryleigh Andrews reflects on the class's journey while giving the student address. (Photo by Jayna Smith)



Faculty member Kayli Condon embraces graduate Gabrielle Jackson after presenting her with the Excellent in Skills in Care award. (Photo by Jayna Smith)



Tiffany Jo-el Crowe is pinned by her parents, Terri and Jeff Crowe. (Photo by Jayna Smith)

Congratulations!



Happy New Year 2026

from your team at
The Calais Advertiser



At *The Calais Advertiser*, we have the hardest working team, which strives to bring all the local news each week to our readers. We thank the team for their continued dedication. We also thank our wonderful paperboys who work hard to keep readers informed with consistent deliveries each week. Their dedication is a life experience we will remember and value.

One of the greatest assets to all in Washington County is the willingness of so many to lend a helping hand. We are a tight-knit community, and we look out for each other.

We are extremely grateful for our experience and the love that everyone has shown to us and the newspaper. Thank you for your support as valued readers and subscribers of your venerable newspaper, and we hope to continue to bring you the news of your community for many, many years to come.



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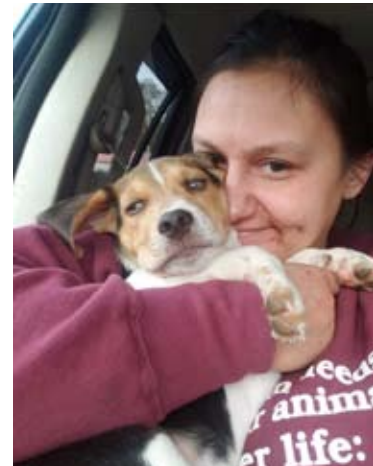
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Columnist



Diane Lyon
Dining with Diane

2026, here we come! Best wishes and Happy New Year to all!

Sports

Award-winning sports coverage!



At the game against Narraguagus last week Junior Gavin Berry drives in for a layup. (Photo by Jayna Smith)



Junior Evan Monk drives between two defenders on his way to the basket. (Photo by Jayna Smith)

Dragons Take One of Two Last Week

Jayna Smith
jayna@calais.news

The Woodland Dragons, coached by Troy Alley, hosted the Narraguagus Knights on Thursday, December 18, coming away with an 87-63 victory. The win evened Woodland’s record at 1-1, while the Knights fell to 3-2.

The Dragons then traveled to East Millinocket on Saturday, December 20, to face Schenck, narrowly losing 58-56. Schenck improved to 4-1 on the season, while Woodland dropped to 1-2.

On the girls’ side, the Lady Dragons had two games scheduled, but both were postponed.



Junior Brayden Dana powers toward the basket. (Photo by Jayna Smith)



Senior Jace Roussell soars for two points. (Photo by Jayna Smith)



Junior Logan Depriest brings the ball up the court. (Photo by Jayna Smith)

WCCC Accepted as Member of Yankee Small College Conference

Washington County Community College (WCCC) has been officially accepted as a member of the Yankee Small College Conference (YSCC), marking a significant milestone in the continued growth and expansion of the College’s athletics and student engagement programs.

The YSCC is a Division II conference in the United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA) that consists of two-year and four-year schools from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York State. The YSCC is a respected intercollegiate athletic conference comprised of small colleges that emphasize competitive athletics, academic excellence, and student development. Membership in the conference provides WCCC student-athletes with expanded opportunities for regional competition, collaboration, and leadership development.

WCCC’s acceptance into the YSCC aligns with the College’s recent investments in athletics and campus life, including the expansion of intercollegiate sports offerings, facility improvements, and increased opportunities for student leadership and engagement. Conference membership will allow WCCC teams to compete against peer institutions while maintaining a strong focus on academic success and student well-being.



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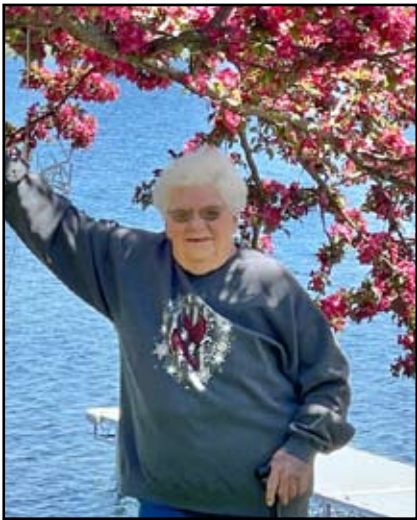
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Obituaries

Evelyn “Spot” Thornton
Evelyn “Spot” Thornton, 89, of Baileyville, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on December 16, 2025. Born August 25, 1936, to Walter and Isabel Welton, sister of Donald Welton and Marion Welton.
Spot lived a full and spirited life, known for her humor, warmth, and boundless love for her family. She worked many jobs throughout her life, but most fondly remembered her time as a security guard at Woodland Pulp.



A proud Sox fan, she supported her Boston Red Sox through the good times and bad. And just as avidly, she cheered her grandkids on at their local basketball and baseball games. She was so proud to watch her great-grandchildren continue the tradition of competing in the sports she loved.
She was an avid bowler, quick-footed dancer, and contributing voice to any fireside singalong. She knew her way around a card table and held her own at many family game nights lasting long into the night.
Her contagious smile and infectious laugh made her the heartbeat of every gathering.
Outside of her love for sports, she had a deep connection with Mr. Steve Harvey and spent many hours participating in Family Feud, which you could hear clearly across Pleasant Lake.
Spot had a deep affection for animals — sneaking treats to family dogs, leaving food out for wandering critters, and even inviting a stray cat into the house this past winter. Every animal had a place in her lap and in her heart.
Those who knew her will remember her as someone who cherished life’s simple pleasures — a good dance tune, a friendly game, a laugh over a coffee brandy or two, and every moment spent surrounded by loved ones.

Spot is survived by her daughters, Candy Robb, Terri Wormell and husband Paul, Susan MacArthur and husband Kevin, all of Alexander; as well as her cherished grandchildren, Angela Robb and partner Amanda of Key West, Tony Robb and wife Carissa of Falmouth, Josh Thornton and wife Jenn of Calais, Tiffany Gilman and husband Darren of Baileyville, Todd Wormell of Key West, Kacie Ling and husband Jaime of Hampden, and Sean MacArthur and fiancé Jessie of Bangor; and great-grandchildren, Luke, Logan, Bre, and Taylor Gilman of Baileyville, Kennedy and Kaelen Robb of Falmouth, Kenzie Roberts, Sadye Cottrell and Ben Goode of Calais, and Kendall Ling of Hamden, all of whom she adored immensely.
She will be joined in Heaven by her family and friends awaiting their reunion, including her first husband, Norman Moholland, lost tragically early in life, and her infant daughter.
She will be greeted by the love of her life and doting husband, Derl Thornton, for a spin around Heaven’s dance floor, a brandy with son-in-law Philip Robb, and a warm embrace by her mom, dad, brother, and sister, Narnie, who she faithfully became the ears and voice for throughout her life.
A celebration of Spot’s life was held on Thursday, December 18, 2025, and a funeral service on Friday, December 19, 2025, both at Mays Funeral Home, 26 Church St., Calais. Burial followed in the Woodland Cemetery, Baileyville.
Spot fiercely loved her family and lived her days with joy, laughter, and a spirit that will never be broken. The matriarch of her family, she leaves behind a legacy and a storybook never to be forgotten.



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Kenneth A. Berry
Kenneth Arnold Berry, known affectionately to all as Kenny, passed away surrounded by his loving family at the Maine Veterans Home in Bangor on Monday, December 15, 2025, at the age of 83. Born on August 29, 1942, in Portland, Maine, to Max and Alberta (McArthur) Berry, Kenny’s life was marked by service, dedication, and the pursuit of joy in simple pleasures. Raised in Alexander and a graduate of the Calais Memorial High School, Class of 1960. After graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. His service saw him stationed as military police, guarding B-52 planes in French Morocco and at Dow Air Force Base in Bangor.
Kenny’s love story began on July 6, 1963, when he married his high school sweetheart, Karen Small. Their journey together was one of shared dreams and unyielding support. After his service, he continued his dedication to his country by serving in the Maine Air National Guard. He then embarked on a career at St. Croix Paper Co., later known as Domtar, where he initially worked as a boiler operator before retiring from the control room after 40 years of service in 2004. A testament to his hard work, his career was marked by a commitment to excellence and a deep sense of responsibility.
He had a love for the outdoors, as he enjoyed fishing, hunting, snowmobiling, 4-wheeling, and doing trail work. When not at Dunkin Donuts, sharing stories and laughter over coffee with friends, he could be found working on the Calais Waterfront walkway, ensuring others had a beautiful place to enjoy. His countless hours of hard work earned him the Calais Community Service Award. A sports enthusiast, he was a strong supporter of the Red Sox, Celtics, and the New York Giants. He and Karen were able to travel, enjoying vacations to many Caribbean Islands, Nashville, and Hawaii. Kenny was a member of the Quarter Century Club and the Woodland Spednic Club, where he bowled on the men’s league for many years.
Kenny’s life was filled with love and laughter, particularly when surrounded by his family. He leaves behind his loving wife, Karen Berry; two children, whom he was very proud of, Paula Hutchinson and her husband Steven, and Darren Berry and his wife Josie; two granddaughters who affectionately called him Giggy or Giggster, Taylor and Mikayla and her husband Alex; great-grandchildren Adasyn and Chloe; sister Maxine Cookson and husband Charlie; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was predeceased by his parents, Max and Alberta; his brother Richard; and his sister, Ellen Mallar.
A Celebration of Life will be held in the spring, with burial to follow with military honors in the Calais Cemetery. Arrangements are by Mays Funeral Home & Cremation Services. In lieu of flowers, donations in Kenny’s memory may be made to either PAWS Bravehearts, 368 South St., Calais, ME 04619, for his love of animals, or to the Maine Veterans Home in Machias, 32 Veterans Way, Machias, ME 04654, in honor of the Angels who went above and beyond in their loving care.
We invite you to share your memories of Kenny, upload photos, and offer condolences at www.MaysFuneralHome.com. Let us remember him not as we lost him, but as he lived — a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend whose legacy of love, service, and joy will continue to inspire all who knew him.



Obituaries

Harold “Tony” Wallace
Harold Anthony “Tony” Wallace passed away on December 14, 2025, at the age of 69. He was born in Calais, Maine, on July 31, 1956, to Harold Bruce Wallace and Frances (Culligan) Wallace. A true son of Calais, Tony’s life and work were as eclectic and colorful as the man himself. He illuminated the community as a film projector operator for the State Theater for many years. Following that, he served as a cook at the Bottling Plant and further broadened his horizons as a general contractor. However, of all his roles, his favorite was being a father.
Tony had a knack for seeing beauty in the ordinary. His love for bottle and rock collecting led him to unearth many treasures, symbolizing his eternally optimistic outlook towards life. His artistic soul found expression through his skilled carving, jewelry making, and painting. Many of his carved canes and business signs continue to adorn the Calais area, a testament to his creative legacy. Tony’s love for music, traveling, cooking, and his gentle fondness for pets, particularly dogs and cats, defined his lively spirit. As a Past Master of St. Croix Lodge No. 46 A.F. & A.M., Tony’s dedication to service was evident.
Those who were fortunate enough to be part of Tony’s life will forever remember his vivacious spirit and loving heart. He is survived by his three daughters, Deni Wallace of Calais, Becky Higgins of Columbus, OH, and Alaina Scheuchzer and husband Andrew of Bucksport; his surrogate son, Joseph Rundin and wife Courtney of Pittsfield, MA; his grandchildren, Tristyn Croman, Michael Higgins Jr. and companion Lindsey, Righley Daniel, and Leif and Lyra Scheuchzer; four great-grandchildren, Briella, Isaiah, Paisley, and Kaison; two brothers, John and William Wallace; the mother of his children and dear friend, Linda Rundin; his best friend Charlie Russell; and his nieces, nephews, and friends.
A celebration of Tony’s life will be held at a later date. Arrangements are being handled by Mays Funeral Home & Cremation Services. We invite all who knew and loved Tony to share their memories and upload photos to his memorial page at www.MaysFuneralHome.com. Your stories will serve as a comforting tribute to a man who lived his life with passion and warmth, and whose legacy will continue to inspire us.



Merry Christmas!

Obituaries

Trevor Gordon Hold

Trevor Gordon Hold, 50, went home to be with the Lord on December 19, 2025 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Trevor was welcomed to the world on May 28th, 1975 in Calais, ME to Elston “Greg” and Shirley Hold. He was in a hurry to be born, arriving three weeks before he was due, and he never stopped being in a hurry. As a boy, he was always doing something. He loved to be outdoors, building a bike or going water-skiing. He never let anything keep him down, which continued to be true throughout his life. From a young age, he knew one of his passions in life was helping and caring for others. At age 12, he helped out at a local nursing home and was presented the Volunteer of the Year award. He graduated from Woodland High School as a CNA and went on to graduate college with a degree in radiography. Trevor also had his own business as a contractor for many years before going to work for Spectrum. No matter what he was doing, he was always passionate and proud of the work he did.



Trevor also had a huge passion for racing, whether it was watching NASCAR or being on the track himself. He had a need for speed. At age 19, he and his father bought a race car to compete at Speedway 95 and soon formed their own team, Boyz n I Racing. Many memories were made on and off the track with whole racing crew. Over the past few years, he reignited his passion for racing with his daughter, Eden, and nephew, Lucas, racing go-karts. He looked forward to every weekend they got to race together. He even earned the name “Uncle Vroom” from his nieces and nephews.

Even during Trevor’s battle with cancer, it was rare that he would sit still. He was always finding something to do; a project around the house, a trip to take, a friend or family member in need of help. His selflessness only grew after his diagnosis. His main concern was making sure all those around him were okay, all while he was fighting the most unimaginable battle. His strength, courage, and gratitude for each day on earth were an inspiration to all who knew him and crossed his path. He was a family man and a proud father who wore his heart on his sleeve, never afraid to show his emotions. He had a heart of gold, a zest for life, and a strong sense of humor. Through stubbornness, determination, and a combination of confidence and skill, he was able to accomplish anything he set his mind to.

To quote Trevor in his final weeks with us: “Don’t worry about me. I get to go to glory, and I can’t wait to see you there.”

Trevor is predeceased by: grandparents, Elston Hold, Atwood and Mary Merrill, Gordon and Marlene Lord; his father, Greg Hold; his sister, Christina Hold; his uncle, Ricky Lord; nephews, Jacob Hold and Malcom Ross; and niece, Ashlee Gallant.

Trevor is survived by: his wife, Tova; his children, Carson, Delayne, Grayson, Valerie, Tristen, and Eden; his mother, Shirley; brothers, Jamie and wife, Sam; Brett and wife, Ann; sister-in-law, Eustacia Landrum and husband, Nick; brother-in-law, Houston and wife, Amber; his pets including beloved cockatoo, Charlie; and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held 2 p.m. Saturday, December 27, 2025, at the Calais United Methodist Church, 849 Main St., Calais. Burial will be held at a later date. Arrangements by Mays Funeral Home & Cremation Services. We invite you to share your memories and photos of Trevor on his memorial page at www.MaysFuneralHome.com. Let us remember him as he was – full of life, laughter, and love. Your shared stories and pictures will serve as a comfort to his family and friends and as a lasting tribute to his beautiful spirit.

CA000013251

Devotional

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Pastor Bobby Oliver, Baring Baptist Church

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” is a beautiful Christmas song that most churches sing every Christmas season. But what’s the story behind it? To answer that, we have to go back to 1865.

A man named Phillip Brooks was pastoring a church in Philadelphia. He wrote it specifically for his Sunday school children, but when it was printed in the Sunday School Hymnal six years later, the song quickly became popular.

But where did he get the inspiration for this song? Before he wrote the hymn, he went on a special trip to the land of Israel. On Christmas Eve, he was traveling on horseback between Jerusalem and Bethlehem. That certainly made the experience more authentic for him, since Mary traveled on the back of a donkey on her way to Bethlehem with Joseph. As they traveled, the people he was with pointed to the fields and told him that they believed that field was the very field where the shepherds were keeping their flock when the angel appeared to them. As Phillip Brooks observed the fields, he noticed that there were still shepherds there,

taking care of their flocks. Once again, it made the experience more authentic for him.

At 10 p.m., he went to a worship service. But what was so special about this particular Christmas Eve service was that the church he went to was built on top of the spot where they believe Jesus was born. The service was so special that he lost track of time, and it was 3 a.m. when the service was finished.

As nice as it would be for you and me to go to Bethlehem and see those areas ourselves, we don't need to because the same Jesus who was born there 2000 years ago is the same Jesus whose presence is here for us today. He came down to Bethlehem full of love, knowing He was destined to die on the cross for the sins of the world. He continues to love us today, and because He came, we get to enjoy a relationship with Him, and it’s a relationship that we’ll have with Him for all of eternity.

I’m so thankful that He chose to come down to Bethlehem 2000 years ago, and we can look forward to that day when He returns for us in all His glory.

May God bless you, and Merry Christmas!

Historic Christmas Photos



Christmas Concert at St Anne’s.



Ware Knitter Christmas party.



Woodland Boy Scouts Christmas party. See two more photos on page 16.

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Catholic Parish**



**Weekend Mass
Schedule**

SATURDAY

- St. Joseph Church - 51 Washington St., Eastport, 4 pm
- Pleasant Point - To be announced

SUNDAY

- Immaculate Conception Church - 31 Calais Ave., Calais, 8:30 am
- St. James Church - 60 Summit St., Baileyville, 10:30 am


Confession Times

- Immaculate Conception Church, Calais
Friday 4:30-5:20 pm • Sunday 7-7:45 am
- St. Joseph’s, Eastport: Saturday, 3-3:45 pm
- St. James, Baileyville: Sunday, 10-10:20

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Community News

Princeton

Sandra Smith

A reminder from the town office that dogs need to be licensed by the end of the month. There is a \$25 fine for dogs that are not licensed. The current license fee is \$6 for spayed/neutered dogs and \$11 for all non-altered dogs. Note, an up-to-date rabies certificate is needed for licensing.

This past Tuesday was the regularly scheduled meeting of the select board. Members attending were vice-chair Steven Cilley, Shain Phelps, and Micah Diffin. Vice-chair Steven Cilley moderated the meeting. Treasurer Donna Worden reported that the late notices for the 2023 taxes had been mailed out. Also she reported that the town office cannot accept debit/credit cards at this time due to

a software upgrade that does not interface with the computer system. The computer company is working on a solution to this issue. Another change is requested for the electronics recycling. All TVs need to be put in recycling boxes. As animal control officer, Steven Cilley reported he is working with state senators and representatives to initiate a bill to require a minimum size lot when housing farm animals. Currently, there is no town ordinance or state one which can result in cruel conditions for farm animals. There was a bill for the repair of the garage door at the sand storage building. There was a notification that the architect overseeing the roof repair to the school is requesting more funds. The school board will be addressing

this issue. This is my overview of the meeting. The exact meeting minutes are available at the town office.

Thursday was the monthly meeting of Downeast Broadband Utility in Calais. Downeast Broadband Utility is a collaborative local utility similar to our Eastern Maine Electric Co-op. This network of fiber lines is owned by Calais, Baileyville, Alexander, Indian Township, Cooper, and Princeton. Pioneer Broadband of Houlton has a contract with DBU to use the fiber network. They provide services to these communities for high speed internet and phone. What this means is fully-functional access to the internet without slow downs and the ability to purchase streaming services for selective programing at a viable cost, rather than paying for 100 extra channels that are of no interest. Why a fiber network: the availability of phone landlines is on the decline and the same is happening with cable tv. Fiber network is the replacement for these services. Contact Pioneer

Broadband to set up service: pioneerbroadband.net or call 1-866-335-1254.

Unfortunately, the Parks & Recreation’s Home Decorating Contest for homes in Princeton, Big Lake Township, Indian Township, Waite, and Talmadge was cancelled. The extreme wind and rainy weather the night of judging was a concern. Also, the group was surprised to learn that no one had signed up. The contest was initiated a few years ago to encourage local homeowners to add a bit festive fun to the holiday season.

My friend Jo-Anne Cannell from Indian Rock Camps in Grand Lake Stream called to report that she was very grateful to Eastern Maine Electric Co-op for getting her power restored on Saturday. Because she is somewhat remote and a sporting camp, she had called to make sure that they knew that she was at camp and needed her service restored. They were helpful in every way and she truly appreciated them making sure she had her service back.

On a personal note, I realized that this is the last edition of the paper for 2025 and my last column for the year which is number 493 for me. There have been so many activities that I have written about and many times I have been fortunate enough to be able to participate in these inspiring community events. I look forward to another fulfilling year for the community and the many wonderful activities already being planned.

December 22-Jan. 4 - Princeton Elementary School Winter Break

December 24-25 - Princeton Town Office and Princeton Public Library Closed

January 1 - Princeton Town Office and Princeton Public Library Closed

To send me news, just drop me a note princetonnews@outlook.com or give me a call after 10 a.m. at 796-2261. Note that my deadline to submit the column is 2 p.m. on Mondays.

Alexander

Cassie Oakes

The special town meeting that was held on December 15th at the school was fairly well attended. Skip Colson was elected as moderator. County Commissioner Billy Howard was in attendance, answering questions from the crowd for well over an hour. At the end of the meeting, it was decided that the Town of Alexander would pay their portion of the county tax anticipation note of \$120,033.93, with a vote of 33 yes and 13 no. It was also

decided that the funds would come from the unassigned fund balance with a vote of 32 yes and 6 no.

At the end of the December 15th meeting, it was announced that town clerk/tax collector/treasurer Kristy Crawford had resigned her position at the last selectboard’s meeting, effective January 1st. Kristy received a round of applause. She has been an asset to the town and will be greatly missed. I am sure we all wish her the best of luck in her new endeavor.

The Grange met for their

final meeting of 2025. The evening included a potluck supper, conversation, laughter, and a fun gift exchange. The Grange will open back up for business in April, so stay tuned for what they may have planned.

If you are a Wreath Across America wreath purchaser, I’d like you to know that they are having a matching fund program until December 31st. If you would like to make your money stretch and help your local cemetery, now is the time! This can be done online; just make sure you do cemetery specific to get the biggest bang for your buck.

The next meeting of the Breakneck Mountain Snowmobile Club is on January 6th, 6:30 p.m., at the club house on the Cooper Road.

“Coffee and” continues at the clubhouse every Monday from 7 to 10 a.m. Stop by and say hi, and maybe make it your New Year’s resolution to check it out.

There will be an afternoon of cribbage at the clubhouse, hosted by Kim Rendell and Bob Moraisey, on January 3rd, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Food will be available for purchase. For more information, contact Kim at 904-8894.

This week was a bummer for me as I woke up with a headache, sore throat, and a stuffy nose on Monday, so if you know me, that means I’ll be sick all week. So, true to form, I stayed home from FBC all week resting up and drinking lots of fluids. Tuesday night, I participated in my online

Zoom Strive Christmas-themed social. Wednesday, I was well enough to attend the Grange’s Christmas party, but Thursday and Friday were back to low-key days at home. The most exciting thing was losing power for about five hours on Friday. Thankfully we have a generator. Saturday was supposed to be Caroling, but due to the wind, it was postponed until Sunday. Fingers crossed that happens so I can get out of the house once again.

How was your week? You can send news my way through Facebook Messenger or email me at cassieoakes1986@gmail.com. I greatly appreciate everyone for their contributions to this column. Until next time, stay safe!

Legals / Notices

Public Notice-Calais Transfer Station Free Household Trash Disposal Days

Residents will be able to dispose of household trash free of charge on Saturday, December 27th and Sunday, December 28th.

This pertains to regular household garbage only. Fees for the disposal of all other items remain in effect.

CA000013250

Town of Baileyville Annual Municipal Election NOMINATION PAPERS AVAILABLE

Nomination papers for the following vacancies may be picked up at the Baileyville Town Office Monday through Friday 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Town Council - 3 year term - 1 position
School Board - 3 year term - 2 positions

Papers must be returned to the Town Office not later than 4:00 p.m. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2026.

The Town of Baileyville’s Annual Municipal Election will be Monday, March 23, 2026. The Town Meeting for the Town and School Budgets will be at a later date.

Dec. 25, 2025, Jan. 1, 2026

CA000013245

Historic Christmas Photos

Christmas trees at the railroad yard in back of Calais station waiting to be shipped south.



Baring Christmas card.



Community News

Grand Lake Stream

Mike Remillard

It's Monday, December 15, and it's cold. We are due 20-degree temperatures with 10-15 mph winds all day. So, I'm guessing it was 10 degrees with the wind chill. I bet that everyone who can is burning wood tonight. Half the coming week is to be winter-like, with it then getting warmer and warmer, and on Friday, 52 degrees is due. Rain is due on one of the warm days this week. We now have 6 inches of snow. I just hope we still have snow next Monday.

I missed the special town meeting about the prepayment of Washington County taxes before the year's end. A county manager was present and answered all questions. I heard it was a very good meeting, and well attended by 22, with

four non-GLS residents/non-voters. It was voted to prepay our taxes. This avoided paying our taxes, eventually, plus a penalty. This newspaper's well-experienced reporters have written maybe one hundred stories about the county running out of money and how its towns now must solve the problem. Some stories were nearly a full page long. The newspaper stories reveal many ideas from many officials, and its reporters covered a lot of these scenarios.

It's Friday, and we should get ready for the rain, 50 mph winds, and 50-degree temperatures. We still have 6 inches of snow out there. It was 44 degrees when I woke up this morning.

I got this sad news while having my morning tea at the store. Brenda Williams' husband,

Tommy, passed away early this morning. Both were vacationing in Florida for the winter. Tommy was a good neighbor and an excellent baker. He could bake just about anything, and he would bring some of his accomplishments to the Pine Tree Store, where Brinda would let us sample them. He retired from the mill about five years ago. He and Brenda spent a lot of time in the summer at Elsmore Landing, where they had their lot set up just right. Tommy would help other campers as much as he could. He will be missed by many.

The rain made driveways icy and slick. Laurie and I had to sand the Colonial. We were very careful, but we all know what could happen when sanding a downhill-facing, wet, and ice-covered driveway. I tend to sand in front of me, and then step on that area. We were only sanding for 5 minutes when I decided to step into the rain-water-filled, slushy drainage ditch. It wasn't slush. In the air I went, and then I landed on my pelvis/tailbone area really hard. My head must have whipped,

because my brain felt like it was rattled, but I never hit my head on the ground. I just lay there for a minute, and then when I felt water flowing into my pants, I tried to stand up but couldn't. So, I just rolled out of the ditch. Laurie got me to my feet. I instantly got a headache. Plus, I couldn't walk too well. An hour later, the headache went away, and then my eyeballs hurt slightly now and then for another hour. Now my butt only hurts when I get up from sitting. I'm sure I'll be sore in the morning, and then almost fine the following day.

While cooking supper, I looked out my rain-spattered kitchen window at my thermometer. It was tough, but I may have read 58 degrees. The wind gusts are a dangerous 40 mph. The power has gone out six times now. My good old Generac is working fine. Tall trees are whipping around. By supper time, small branches were all over the road. People were talking about the December storm that we had two years ago. It took some people 4 hours to drive 3 miles and get home, so most of us

headed home today after lunch. It actually did happen again. At supper time, halfway down Water Street, a tree came down across the road. Our Big Lake friends couldn't get home. Enter Danny and Les for the rescue. That wind is howling.

It's Saturday morning, and when I opened my window shutters, I saw the bad news. All the snow is gone. I feel sad for the snowmobilers. My Generac was still running. So, power must have been out all night. It was 28 degrees, and cold weather is due for another week. A little snow is due. I'm glad I went for that one rough snowmobile ride last week. Power came back on around 4 p.m. So, GLS was without power for 22 hours.

I'm going to stop thinking about all the work and cook a turkey on Christmas. Maybe keep it a little simpler by cooking an acorn squash, no turnips. We'll see. I hope you all have fun and eat too much. Merry Christmas, everyone!

Thank you for taking the time to read about what happens in this special little town. mikeremillard42@gmail.com.

Perry

Suzanne Leone

Happy belated birthday wishes go out to Gail Manzo, who celebrated her birthday on December 15. I hope your birthday was full of loved ones, laughter, and relaxation!

On December 14, the third Sunday of Advent's message was "Finding Joy." Brooke and Nick Raye lit the Pink Joy Candle. Pastor David Peterson baptized Martin Dore. Two former North Perry pastors—Revered David Grainger and Pastor David Peterson—were at the Sunday service.

Staff and students at Perry

Elementary School have been busy, with 7th-grade and 8th-grade students making Christmas ornaments with and reading with preK and kindergarten students. Students took a trip to Sweeties Downeast, gingerbread men cookies were decorated, and the elf was up to mischief by attempting to blend in with holiday door decor and hanging out on top of a basketball hoop. He is a brave, silly, active little elf.

December 14 marked the last day of the 2025 season at The Christmas Forest LLC of Maine. Due to the weather taking a toll on the show, it closed earlier this year. They are hoping to pack

up some displays to minimize damage. The three ladies who worked the ticket booth, concessions, and toy shops gave up their salaries for the 2025 season to help keep kids' admission prices at \$5. Thank you to these three ladies with hearts of gold. Many thanks go out to everyone who attended the 2025 season.

Starting December 24 until January 2 at 10 a.m., Mayree's Flowers and Gifts staff will be closed so they can enjoy some much-needed time off.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas full of love, laughter, loved ones, and Christmas miracles!

Emerald Ash Borer Spreading Across Maine

The invasive Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) continues its rapid spread across Maine, with 44 new towns reporting confirmed detections so far this year, more than triple the number added in 2024.

Maine Forest Service entomologist Mike Parisio noted that most expansion has occurred in Oxford County, though several "satellite infestations" have appeared in places like Bar Harbor and Belfast, suggesting new, unconnected outbreaks. Parisio believes the surge in detections may stem from both exponential population growth of the insect and increased public awareness, and he urged Mainers to watch for signs of infestation this winter.

Residents can help by keeping an eye out for dying ash trees, particularly those showing heavy woodpecker activity and piles of freshly stripped bark on top of the snow, strong indicators of EAB damage. Suspected sightings can be reported through the Maine Forest Service website. Parisio added that the state is intensifying its preservation efforts, including releasing predatory wasps, preserving ash tree seeds, and applying insecticides to select groves in hopes of protecting Maine's ash population for the future.

You can report infections at https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest_health/invasive_threats/eab/index.shtml

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• AMHC in Machias: 800-244-6431 or 255-0996

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• National: Call the National Suicide Prevention Line at
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Wildlife Photos

Please email to editor@calais.news



Female cardinal in Baring Pt. (Photo by Courtney Erskine)



Dark eyed junco and a male cardinal in Baring Pt. (Photo by Courtney Erskine)



Eagle in Princeton. (Photo by Donna Melanson)



Squirrel in Princeton. (Photo by Donna Melanson)



Pileated woodpecker in Princeton. (Photo by Donna Melanson)



Grosbeaks in Princeton. (Photo by Donna Melanson)



An almost all white deer in Princeton. (Photo by Donna Melanson)



A doe with an almost all white deer in Princeton. (Photo by Donna Melanson)



Grosbeaks in Robbinston. (Photo by Lisa Jackson)



Deer in Robbinston. (Photo by Norma Galligan)



Dining with Diane

This is a nice, easy way to make wonderfully flavored chicken wings. It would be nice for a New Year's appetizer or for the Chinese New Year on February 17, 2026. Delicious enough and easy enough for any time. Do yourself a favor and spray your baking rack well, and make sure your baking dish is lined with sprayed foil for easy clean up.

CHINESE HOISIN WINGS

- ¼ c. Chinese hoisin sauce
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 2 t. freshly grated ginger
- 2 T. soy sauce
- 2 T. sesame oil

1 lb. chicken wings, separated & tip removed
Combine everything in a large bowl and mix well to coat the chicken. Put it all into a large plastic bag and refrigerate for at least 2 hours or overnight. Place wings on a rack in a baking dish lined with foil. (I did not use a rack and just laid the wings on a sprayed foil-lined pan. You will get a better all-around crisp if you use a rack.) Bake at 350 for 35-45 minutes or until cooked through.

NOTE: Save your wing tips in the freezer for making chicken stock another time.

Tom, the Office Cat



Merry Christmas!

The Grinch Visits Woodland Elementary School!



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*If one of your loved ones is serving overseas please let us know
and we will send their copy in US Military Mail Service (MPS)*

Image by Nikki from Pixabay