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Community Generosity Shines at 11th Annual Stuff the Bus Event

Jayna Smith jayna@calais.news

The Baileyville Police Department marked the 11th year of its beloved Stuff the Bus event on Saturday, November 29, once again showing the generosity of local residents.

The Christmas gift collection effort — launched in 2015 by now-retired Baileyville Police Chief Bob Fitzsimmons — supports children of all ages throughout the region. This year's campaign stretched across multiple locations, including Calais Walmart, Marden's, and, new this year, food drive stations at Tradewinds and Calais IGA. The expanded reach resulted in another impressive outpouring of donations from the community.

(continued on page 2)



Baileyville Police Sgt. Matt Vinson, Chief John Preston, and WCSO Cpl. Matt Carter, along with K9 Tango, at Saturday's Stuff the Bus event, where local generosity once again filled the bus with gifts for area children. (Photo by Jayna Smith)

Two Previously-Deported Illegal Aliens Caught Working at Calais Paving Company

U.S. Border Patrol agents arrested two Mexican illegal aliens earlier this month when they were found working for a paving company in Calais after having previously been deported from the country.

According to court documents, Calais Border Patrol Agent Matthew Crews was patrolling on the afternoon of November 11 and spotted what appeared to him to be a work crew loading paving equipment.

He noticed that, as he was driving by in his marked ve-

hicle, two of the workers appeared to be alarmed and were dressed in a manner typical of Central American immigrant workers.

Crews parked a few blocks away to observe the workers and saw the two suspicious individuals passing him in a white Ford F250 truck, appearing nervous.

He conducted a traffic stop without incident and told the vehicle's occupants that he was conducting an immigration inspection.

(continued on page 3)

\$500 Gift to Pantry Doubled Through Pratt Match Drive



Jan Tollison and Laurel Perkins of the Calais Lioness Club present a \$500 donation to Erika Pratt and Ian Pratt for the Irene Chadbourne Ecumenical Food Pantry. The Pratt dealership is currently running its annual donation-match campaign, matching all contributions to Washington County food pantries up to \$10,000 through December 24. Those wishing to donate may give to the pantry of their choice and drop off a check directly at the dealership for it to be matched. (Photo by Jayna Smith)

FAMILY DAY AT MINGO'S December 6th Dom-5pm LOS SHATTUCK RD - CALAB, NE

Area Christmas Activities

 Dec. 5: Lioness Christmas Parade, 6 p.m.
 Dec. 6: Baileyville Christmas Parade, 5 p.m.
 Dec. 6 Kids Christmas Party hosted by Calais Fire Association, 9 a.m. to noon

• Dec. 6: Cookie Sale, St Anne's Episcopal Church, 8 to 11 a.m.

• Dec. 7: Princeton Parks & Rec Tree Lighting, 6 p.m.

• Dec. 12-14: Feztival of Trees, WCCC

Young Baker Makes Tails Wag in Calais

Jayna Smith jayna@calais.news

At just ten years old, Calais resident Cora has already stepped into the world of entrepreneurship — and her new business is off to an impressive start.

A natural dog lover with a passion for baking, Cora began by making homemade treats for her family's dog, Gronk. "I gave the treats to my dogs and my family's dogs," she explained. "I also gave some to my mom and dad's co-workers who have dogs, and they loved them and asked for more."

From there, an idea began to take shape. Every business needs a name and a logo, and Cora designed both herself. "I came up with the design because I love to draw my dog," she said. "If I had a bakery, I'd want her to be the main focus of the logo. I wanted the name to sound like dogs are welcomed, so I chose Bark's Bakery."

(continued on page 3)



Young entrepreneur Cora, 10, poses with her dog Honey and the homemade Bark's Bakery treats she created and now sells at Calais Ace Homecenter, all while sporting the logo she designed herself.





Members of Red Knights Maine Chapter 5 make their annual stop at the Stuff the Bus event, delivering a generous donation to support local children. (BPD photo)

Stuff the Bus (continued from page 1)

First started as "Fill the Cruiser," the initiative quickly outgrew its name. In its inaugural year, one police cruiser wasn't nearly enough to hold the volume of donations. By the day's end, two trucks and two trailers had been filled to capacity. The event was renamed Stuff the Bus in 2016 to better reflect the scale of community support.

Volunteers play a crucial role each year, often battling challenging weather conditions to make the event possible. This year was warmer for the crews than in recent years, with temperatures lingering in the low 30s. Despite the frigid weather, helpers remained steadfast in their mission.

Stuff the Bus collects far more than toys. Donated items also include warm clothing and essential hygiene products such as toothbrushes, deodorant, soaps, and shampoo. These contributions help ensure that children not only receive something fun for the holidays, but also items that support their well-being.

What truly sets Stuff the Bus apart is its simple, barrier-free approach. Families do not have to fill out applications or submit sensitive personal information. Instead, they simply arrive during distribution times — this week from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Baileyville Town Office.

The Baileyville Police Department expressed gratitude to all who donated to the event, as well as to the day's volunteers, including Woodland High School JMG teacher Ms. Brittany Goding and students, Downeast Credit Union Baileyville staff, and Jamie Bohanon.



Down East Community Hospital Birth Announcement

Allison and Andrew Caplin, of Whiting, are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Callum Michael Caplin. Callum was born on November 24, 2025, weighing 6 lbs. 13 oz. and measuring 20 inches.





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Illegal Aliens

(continued from page 1)

After the driver showed him a Maine-issued commercial license, Crews determined that he was a U.S. citizen. During his interaction with the driver, he observed that the passengers, whom he had previously noted as suspicious, appeared increasingly nervous.

One passenger, identified as Alfredo Gonzalez-Pelaez, handed Crews a Mexican consular ID card, while the other, Isidro Gonzales-Pelaez, claimed that he left his ID at home.

Crews ordered the driver to wait and told the passengers in Spanish to exit their vehicle. Alfredo attempted to tell Crews, in poor English, that they were U.S. citizens, but, according to court documents, he appeared shaky when speaking.

The Border Patrol agent warned them to tell the truth, and Alfredo reportedly admitted that they had illegally crossed into the U.S. via the Tijuana/California border and that they had been living and working in Maine without any immigration documents.

Crews took both men into custody, and they were transported to the Border Patrol station in Calais for processing.

Agents took the suspect's fingerprints digitally and reportedly determined that Alfredo had previously been deported from California in 2012 and had been convicted of entry without inspection.

Isidoro's fingerprinting reportedly revealed that he had been previously deported in 2006 from Texas and had also been convicted of entry without inspection.

The criminal complaint did not name the company found to be employing or contracting labor to illegal immigrants and gave no indication that the business would be investigated for the practice.

This story was originally published by The Maine Wire *on Nov.* 26, 2025. Written by Seamus Othot.

Young Baker

(continued from page 1)

What may surprise people is just how long Cora has been planning. She says she started working on her business idea at the age of six — and her ambitions are already impressive. Someday, she hopes to open her own bakery with both indoor and outdoor seating, a place where dogs can safely play, "kind of like a dog park," while dogs and their owners can enjoy her baked goods.

She also carries with her some wise guidance from her grandmother: "Don't bite off more than you can chew," advice Cora says reminds her not to overwhelm herself as she grows her business.

Bark's Bakery treats can now be purchased locally at Calais Ace Homecenter. "We were in Ace, and I told Ryan [Case] about my dog treats," Cora said. "I gave him a bag for his dogs, and he offered to let me sell them there."

Seeing her treats on the shelves has been exciting, but a little nerve-wracking, too. Cora admits she was nervous at first to find out what people would think, but she has already had to restock inventory. Next on her list is possibly creating a Facebook page to share new items, updates, and ordering options.

Her advice for other kids thinking about starting a business is simple but solid: start small, and don't overwhelm yourself, and, of course, she reminds everyone, "You should always treat dogs respectfully."



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On Rural Health Day, November 20, Baileyville Medical Center held an Open House so guests could explore the new facility, meet the team and learn about the services offered. (CCH photo)

Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over: Deterring Drunk Driving This Winter Holiday Season

From December 10, 2025, through January 1, 2026, the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety, in coordination with the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and law enforcement agencies across Maine, will intensify efforts to stop impaired driving and protect the traveling public. This initiative supports the national winter holiday high-visibility enforcement campaign, Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over.

As with other festive seasons, the winter holidays are a time when alcohol-impaired-driving crashes and fatalities increase. During the 2022-2023 holiday season, there were seven fatal crashes involving alcohol impairment, which resulted in 11 fatalities.

"Driving impaired is illegal, dangerous, and never acceptable," said Highway Safety Coordinator John Roma. "Law enforcement officers across Maine will be out in full force to stop impaired drivers and keep our roads safe. We urge everyone to make responsible choices and help protect themselves and others throughout the winter holiday season. Drunk driving crashes are preventable when road safety is a priority for all."

The Maine Bureau of Highway Safety Director Lauren Stewart reminds drivers to plan ahead if they intend to consume impairing food or drink. Stewart says, "If you feel different, you drive different." Do not wait until after consuming to figure out how to get home — impairment affects judgment and decision-making. Before heading out, secure a designated sober driver or arrange a taxi or rideshare.

If you find yourself unable to drive, give your keys to a sober driver who can get you home safely. If a friend has been drinking and plans to drive, step in — take their keys and help them arrange a sober ride. Anyone who sees a suspected impaired driver should contact local law enforcement immediately or dial 911.

For more information on the risks of Impaired Driving, please visit https://www.maine.gov/dps/bhs.



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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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Mainers Can Now Renew REAL IDs Online

More than 70,000 REAL ID driver's licenses are due for renewal in the next year, Maine Secretary of State Shenna Bellows said in a press conference announcing the state's new online renewal portal Nov. 18. With this new online REAL ID service, most Maine residents with an expiring REAL ID will no longer need to visit their local BMV branch to renew their identification. AAA branches can now also help Mainers renew their REAL ID.

Customers who are up for renewal in the coming weeks should check out the online services at the Secretary of State's website, and can cancel an existing in-person appointment if they have one through the cancellation instructions in their appointment confirmation email or text, so that their reserved time will be made available to someone who may need it.

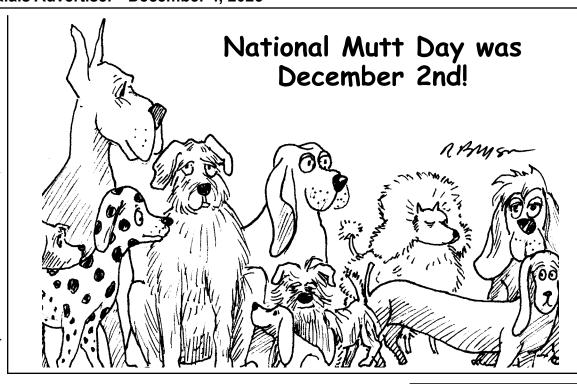
"If you are planning to travel by plane over the winter holidays and need to renew your REAL ID or obtain one for the first time, we urge you not to wait — go online or visit your local BMV soon," said Cathie Curtis, the deputy secretary of State for Bureau of Motor Vehicles. "We have seen record-breaking number of customers visiting our offices since early summer, and we hope that launching the ability to renew your REAL ID online at this time will help ensure that everyone who needs a REAL ID to travel this winter has the option to get one."

As of May 7, 2025, travelers are required to present a stateissued REAL ID, passport/passport card, or other TSA-compliant identification to fly commercially as well as to enter select federal

Maine residents with an active non-commercial license, motorcycle license, motor-driven cycle restricted license, or a Maine ID card — now including REAL ID — may use the online service at https://apps1.web.maine.gov/online/bmv/dlr_v2/ to process a renewal or replacement of their driver's license or ID card. You will need to know your Social Security number and provide a valid credit card to complete the online transaction.

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CALAIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Non-Emergencies/Dispatch: 1-800-432-7303



BAILEYVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

63 Broadway, Baileyville Business Line: 207-427-6203

Non-Emergencies/Dispatch: 207-427-6992

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Governor Wills Radio Address

This Holiday Season, Support Maine Small Businesses

Well, with the Thanksgiving holiday last week, and with Christmas and Hanukkah coming right up, we're in the full swing of the holiday season already. I know that Maine people are looking forward to enjoying time with friends and family this time of year. I am as well. But hey, if you haven't finished your holiday shopping yet — and you'd be pretty much ahead of the game if you have — or if you're a bit of a last-minute shopper like I am, I want to take the opportunity to encourage you to shop local this holiday season here in Maine.

Maine is home to more than 150,000 small businesses. That's 99% of all businesses in our state. Many of them are retail businesses that sell local Maine-made products, and these businesses and their producers are the cornerstones of our downtowns, the employers of our friends and family

members, and a big driver of our economy. They need your business. I guarantee you, no matter who you're shopping for, you can find the perfect gift made right here in Maine and sold right here in Maine.

And if you need a little inspiration or information, our state's Maine Made program is a great place to start. All you have to do is visit MaineMade. com. That's MaineMade.com.

From work boots and outdoor accessories at Trader Joe's Outfitters in Presque Isle — not the grocery store chain — to handmade flower arrangements at Fiddleheads in Cape Elizabeth, to sundries at the 5&10 General Store in Winter Harbor, to a knitting and wine shop rolled into one at Fiber & Vine in Norway, to sneakers at New Balance in Skowhegan, all kinds of great things are produced right here in Maine.

And did I mention Raye's

Mustards in Eastport? Or Marin skincare products developed right at our university research labs? Our online MaineMade. com guide is a good resource for you to find local products that are made and sold all across our state. Check it out!

It may be tempting to go for convenience over craftsmanship this holiday season, but our gift guide will help you find some pretty meaningful and interesting gifts. Something for everybody.

Personally, I'm going to be visiting some of my favorite independent bookstores to find the perfect books for friends. Sherman's up and down the coast, the Briar Patch in Bangor, Devaney Doak & Garrett in Farmington — all great places to find special books for special people. I also plan to go to the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens to see their holiday light show, Gardens Aglow, and do some shopping in Boothbay

Harbor, and maybe Ogunquit, and maybe Kennebunkport.

And I'll probably stop by Reny's in my hometown of Farmington to find, well, almost anything.

When you buy local, you'll make somebody you care for feel special with a unique gift. You'll also support Maine's small businesses and the thousands of people they employ, and you'll strengthen our economy. You'll be helping people who make these things, and helping their communities remain vibrant as well.

I hope you'll join me in supporting Maine's small businesses this year.

And as always, be sure to check on your neighbors and be kind to one another this season and every season.

This is Governor Janet Mills wishing you a happy, healthy holiday season.

M to F: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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Tacedom Studies

BY JONATHAN REISMAN

Al Anxiety: Innovation and Creative Destruction

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is much in the news these days as an innovation that will enhance productivity across the board while causing significant disruption and resource reallocation decisions in labor markets. AI requires significant increases in electricity generation for data centers — increases that the climate alarmists have previously worked assiduously to prevent. The promise of AI is so alluring that the climate alarmists have partially recanted their apocalyptic narrative, and all manner of electric generation is being welcomed or at least considered — nuclear, coal, natural gas, solar, and wind. Thirty years of climatista policies to raise the price of energy and ration its use were unceremoniously dumped in favor of AI cheerleading. Competition with China is often dragged out as a reason we must go full steam ahead.

Creative Destruction is the economic analysis of innovation developed by Austrian-American economist Joseph Schumpeter. Two of his intellectual heirs won the Economics Nobel Prize this year for their work on the causes and consequences of innovation. Creative Destruction holds that technological innovation (like industrialization, oil and gas use, the internet, and now AI) disrupts paradigms and systems, causing massive resource reallocations from "old" (destruction) sectors to "new" (creation). Innovation causes both growth and chaos. Growth potential stirs entrepreneurial and political spirits and optimism. Chaos potential stirs

AI has the potential to enhance productivity across the board. That includes cyber warfare, cyber hacking, and identity theft, but also cybersecurity. AI also has the potential to enhance innovation itself — by directing research and development strategies and initiatives and applying brute force data analysis. President Trump just signed an executive order to harness AI innovation for national security, health care, energy, and medical research. Innovation causes both growth and chaos. AI can multiply all three — innovation, growth, and chaos.

AI anxiety is likely to increase as creative destruction layoffs spread across the economy. AI can be both a substitute for human labor (destruction/chaos) and/or a complement (creation/growth). Being an

Al complement as opposed to a substitute is likely the best strategy to avoid innovation irrelevance and unsustainability. Easy enough to state in general, but hard to implement in practice.

Consider the task of producing a weekly opinion/ politics/policy column. I could explicitly use AI to research facts and data. This is using AI as a complement to enhance productivity. Or my publisher could use AI to produce the column. After a few iterations/ model training/corrections, AI-generated Freedom Studies might be quite good, without the human foibles and drama. There is no rational reason to be anxious

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.

Republican Radio Address

Maine Republicans Can't Afford to Fall Prey to Our Own Echo Chamber

Lauren LePage

For too long, American politics has drifted toward tribalism. Democrats talk to Democrats, Republicans talk to Republicans. Look no further than the successful election of Jay Jones as Attorney General in Virginia. His vile remarks calling for political violence against a Republican lawmaker were met with electoral success. This is a wake-up call for those of us in blue states. We must build coalitions broader than our own echo chamber if we want to win.

Independents are the voters who actually decide elections in Maine, and often, they are left wondering whether or not we see the issues they care about. They are tired of partisan outrage. They want relief.

As Republicans, we believe in lower taxes, responsible spending, ridding government waste, and working for the taxpayer. If we want to win statewide, we have to make our case in a way that resonates with a broader coalition. People are feeling the squeeze of Maine's affordability crisis, which lies squarely at the feet of Maine Democrats who have been in power for almost eight years.

Ask any Mainer their number one issue, regardless of political affiliation: Everything costs too much. Electricity rates are high, property taxes are skyrocketing, housing costs are driving generations out of home ownership, and health insurance premiums are headed for double-digit increases. This didn't happen by accident. The affordability crisis is the direct result of policies pushed by Maine's liberal elite.

Take electricity. Instead of focusing on affordable power sources, Democrats doubled down on green mandates that punish ratepayers and reward special interest groups. The result? Soaring electricity bills that are completely unaffordable for most Maine families, especially those in rural Maine.

Health insurance? Augusta has layered regulation upon regulation, driving insurers out of the market and leaving families with fewer choices at higher prices. Maine doesn't need more bureaucracy. It needs competition, flexibility, and radical transparency. Patients should come before politics, always.

Property taxes are a crisis. The public school system is costing more year after year, but test scores are plummeting. More money, worse results. Can you imagine getting paid more for producing less?

And housing, the most heartbreaking for younger Mainers. Democrats are imposing nonsensical green mandates that have increased the costs of building dramatically. Young families can't buy homes, seniors can't downsize, and workers can't live near their jobs. Unless we address the underlying cost of housing, the dream of owning a home will be shattered for genera-

If we don't win in November, we won't win again. Even worse, we won't be able to fix the cultural issues plaguing

our state. Extreme woke-ness is destroying institutions. However, the vast majority of voters won't cast their ballot on these issues. They will vote with their wallets. We need to meet voters where they are at: Affordability.

Most of the conservative dialogue on social media is not aimed at winning elections. It's aimed at preaching to the choir. We celebrate social media reactions, viral videos, and confuse likes with persuasion. I've worked in Maine politics for 15 years, and if there's one lesson worth repeating, it's this: social media outrage does not translate to votes on Election Day. If we want to win, the messaging battle starts now — even in the midst of competitive primaries.

(continued on page 9)

Opinion

Golden, Bipartisan Group of Congressmen Call for Release of Fuel Assistance

Lawler (NY-17), and Chris Pappas (NH-1) called on started in many parts of the country, we agree that there United States Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to release funds for fuel assistance through the Low Income Heating Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Their letter follows.

Dear Secretary Kennedy,

As the federal government resumes the administration of essential programs, we write to you regarding the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). We appreciate the agency's notification that LIHEAP funds should be received by LIHEAP recipients by the end of the month, especially as parts of the country begin to experience colder weather and temperatures below freezing. It is vital that LIHEAP funds are delivered as quickly as possible to the nearly six million households that rely on this assistance.

As you know, states typically receive their LIHEAP allocations in early November following the beginning of the fiscal year in October. This four-week delay between appropriation to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and disbursement to states is usually attributed to the amount of time it takes HHS to calculate each state's apportionment of LIHEAP

Editor's Note: Last week, Reps. Jared Golden, Mike funding. Given that the heating season has already are disbursed rapidly. is no time to waste. If the HHS does not marshal all available resources to get LIHEAP funds out the door, it risks putting households across the U.S. in jeopardy of not receiving heating assistance in time.

> The risk is especially great for households that rely on home heating oil or propane to warm their homes. While many states include moratoriums on utility shutoffs during winter months, they cannot require independent heating oil or propane suppliers to continue deliveries without payment before or upon delivery.

> In the agency's notification to LIHEAP Grant recipients and stakeholders, HHS noted that the Office of Community Services' (OCS) would use special authority to release the funds. Should the agency require additional action from Congress to ensure these funds are disbursed expeditiously, we request that you notify us without delay.

> Additionally, we request that HHS take the follow-

Continue to carry out all necessary steps to accelerate the typical four-week timeline for LIHEAP disbursement.

Tap additional staff as needed to ensure that funds

Maintain regular contact with LIHEAP recipients about expected timelines for release of funds and any estimated delays as soon as possible.

If disbursement is expected to be delayed past November 30, 2025, as indicated by the agency, we request that HHS immediately distribute an initial, upfront portion of LIHEAP funds to all states to allow households to receive benefits as soon as possible, followed by the disbursement of remaining funds no later than December 10.

We continue to have serious concerns about the LIHEAP program's capacity to operate effectively without dedicated staff. We urge you to ensure that necessary personnel and resources are in place to support LIHEAP's continued success.

We urge you to do everything possible to distribute LIHEAP funds to states and families without delay. With home heating costs expected to rise faster than inflation this winter, families should not have to choose between staying warm and other essential items like food, medication, or rent. We appreciate your attention on this urgent matter and stand ready to support the agency in assisting the American people.

What's Up, Calais?

Jayna Smith - jayna@calais.news

The Lioness Christmas Parade will take place this Friday evening, December 5, beginning at 6 p.m. The parade will start near South Street, travel along Main Street, and conclude at Union Street. This year's Grand Marshals are the dedicated volunteers of the Irene Chadbourne Ecumenical Food Pantry, who will lead the



procession in a vehicle generously provided by Pratt.
Wabanaki Culture Center, 39 Union Street, invites the community to the 3rd Annual Wabanaki Winter Market this Friday, December 5, from 4 to 8 p.m. Visitors can shop for unique handmade items, enjoy delicious baked goods, and experience the warmth of Wabanaki culture during the holiday season. The market once again falls on parade night and coincides with Moonlight Madness events happening across town. For more information, contact Lynn Mitchell at (207)

On Saturday, December 6, St. Anne's Episcopal Church at 29 Church Street will host its annual cookie sale from 8 to 11 a.m., or until everything is sold out. Boxes of delicious homemade cookies will be ready to take home for just \$10.

Also on Saturday, December 6, the Calais Fire Association will welcome families to its beloved Christmas Party with Santa from 9 a.m. to noon.

Mingo's Tree Farm at 405 Shattuck Road will celebrate its 23rd annual Family Day on Saturday, December 6, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Guests can warm up by the fire with hot chocolate, explore the tree maze, play games, and take part in a festive scavenger hunt. Pre-cut Christmas trees will be available, or families can head into the fields to find and cut their own perfect tree.

The Calais Free Library will host its annual adult craft night on Friday, December 12. This popular event typically fills up quickly. For details or to register, call the library at 207-454-2758.

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.



Dr. Karen J. **Delaney**

254 South Street, Calais (207) 454-2350

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Student Views 👅



Woodland Student Seeks Community Input for Upcoming Business Idea

Jayna Smith jayna@calais.news

Woodland High School junior Ethan Barnett is taking his first steps into the world of entrepreneurship through the school's JMG program, and he's asking the community to help shape his business idea.

Barnett recently launched a survey (available at tinyurl. com/JMGsurvey) to help him learn what services or products local residents would find useful or enjoyable. He said the goal is to "get an idea on what the community might be looking for in a business and what might sound like a fun service I can provide," and it's all stemming from The Money Makers Showdown, presented to JMG students.

The Money Makers Showdown gives the students tools, mentorship, and a stage to bring their business idea to fruition. Over nine months, the students will learn from entrepreneurs and business leaders, while developing their own business plan and finally pitching their idea to a panel of judges, much like the television show "Shark Tank.'

Barnett has been brainstorming several possible business ventures. His top ideas include crafting wooden ornaments or other small handmade items, offering guided hiking experiences for those who are new to the activity, and providing window-washing services for homes and vehicles.

"Ornaments or wood creations would be handmade things people might like to buy to decorate," Barnett explained. "A hiking advisor would help people who might not hike that often get into hiking or experience it, and window washing is important for vehicles and sometimes house windows tend to get dirty and need to be cleaned."

Barnett said he joined the JMG business showdown because it sounded enjoyable and offered a valuable learning opportunity. "I have learned so far that a business can be many different things," he said. "It could range from something like selling cool wooden spoons to something like a food

business. I hope that I can learn some skills and maybe try to have my own business.'

While Barnett has long been interested in owning a business, he noted he never knew where to begin. Now, with support from his teacher, Ms. Brittany Goding, and mentors in the program, he feels encouraged to work toward that goal.

Barnett expressed his appreciation to those who take the time to complete his survey and offer feedback. The community's input, he said, will help guide his next steps as he prepares for the competition.

The Money Makers Showdown is made possible by JMG, Junior Achievement, Machias Savings Bank, Maine Street Business Building, and Washington County Community College.

Barnett said the survey is quick and easy to complete, and he appreciates anyone willing to take a moment to share their thoughts. The link is available at tinyurl.com/JMGsurvey, and community feedback will play an important role in helping him shape his business idea.

WES Students Make **Thanksgiving** Dinner



Last Tuesday, Mrs. Cook's second graders celebrated Friendsgiving. They worked together to set up their room; made turkey, pumpkin pie, mashed potatoes, gravy, and corn; and enjoyed their meals with rolls and butter that they churned themselves that morning. Before they dug in, they recited this toast: "There are good ships and there are wood ships, the ships that sail the seas, but the best ships are friendships, and may they always be!" (WES photo)



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FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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.

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, stcroixquilters.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, stcroixquilters.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 Ehpicik 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, 6 3rd 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 Homeschool 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 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

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.

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 n m

bridge, 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.

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

Free Tech Support with recTuesdays 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.

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

December 5, 6, & 7: 9th Annual Wesley's Tree Festival, University of Maine at Machias Reynolds Athletic Center. 12/5 4 to 8 p.m., 12/6 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., 12/7 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

December 5: Lioness Christmas Parade, 6 p.m. FMI and application, email calaisriverview@gmail.com.

December 6: Cookie sale, St. Anne's Episcopal Church 29 Church St., Calais, 8-11 a.m. Price:\$10. All cookies are pre-boxed.

December 6: 23rd Annual Family Day at Mingo's, Shattuck Road, Calais, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lots of activities.

December 6: Pembroke Elem. PTC presents their Christmas Craft Fair, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Raffle, food & gifts.

December 6: Baileyville Christmas Parade, 5 p.m. FMI, Jamie Bohanon, 207-214-3349.

December 6: Kids Christmas Party hosted by the Calais Fire Association, 9 a.m. to noon.

December 6: DECU Auxiliary's Holiday Craft Fair, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Rose M. Gaffney School, Machias. Proceeds benefit the scholarship fund and the DECH Light a Life initiative.

December 7: Princeton Parks & Rec and Fire Station Tree Lighting, 6 p.m.

Calais American Legion meet & greet has been re-scheduled to Dec. 10, 6 p.m. at Fitzgerald's Tavern, Calais.

Calais Police Report for November

Submitted by Chief David Randall

November 10 - Female, 46, Calais, summonsed for Unlawful Possession of Scheduled Drugs.

November 18 - Male, 26, Baileyville, arrested on OUI (Drugs).

Baileyville Police Report for November

Submitted by Sgt. Matt Vinson

November 7 - Francis Lawless, 28, of Baring, was arrested and charged with Operating after Suspension.

November 12 - John Lawless, 35, of Baring, was arrested and charged with Theft, Eluding a Police Officer, and Driving to Endanger.

November 26 - Victor Mahar, 25, of Waite, was arrested and charged with Assault and Violation of Conditions of Release (Bail).

The Baileyville Police Department had 141 calls for service in the month of November.

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

Around the County



Kingfish Maine Future May Hinge on Legislative Approval

Nancy Beal

A newly erected sign on Route 187 in Jonesport, a bit north of Greenwood Cemetery, announcing that Kingfish Company is coming, lends hope to its supporters but promises no start date. The company, a subsidiary of its parent plant in the Netherlands, plans to use 94 acres on Chandler Bay to put in a \$100 million land-based fish

farm to raise finfish known as yellowtail for the American table

From its introductory days in late 2019, Kingfish has provoked opposition from groups affiliated with the owners of the Roque Island archipelago located across the bay from the Kingfish site. After nine meetings with the town's planning board (many held in the high school gym because of the doz-

ens of participants and onlookers) and two board of appeals sessions, the town finally gave approval in November 2022.

That was not the end of legal wrangling, however. Kingfish faced several legal challenges to licenses granted by the state, prevailing in them all. One more is still under consideration, however: a request by Roque Island-affiliated Eastern Maine Conservation Initiative

(EMCI) that the Maine Department of Environmental Protection upgrade the classification of the waters of Chandler Bay from SB to SA. Because of the ban on taking and returning water for commercial use in Class SA waters, a successful challenge would bar Kingfish from using the waters of Chandler Bay for their much-advertised recirculating aquaculture system (RAS) and thus put them out of business before they could begin.

But the DEP declined to grant EMCI's request.

"Chandler Bay's watershed includes a variety of land uses including 2.4% conserved land, agriculture, developed areas, and areas with forestry

activities," wrote the DEP in its decision. "Given these factors, the Department's position is that Chandler Bay does not meet statutory requirements for Class SA water, including the high bar as an 'outstanding national resource."

That is not the end of EMCI's pleading, Kingfish said in a mid-November email. The reclassification request will go to the Joint Standing Committee on Environmental and Natural Resources in the first quarter of 2026, where it will be reviewed and sent on to the full legislature sometime later next year. If the DEP's recommendation prevails through those levels, then the new sign could signal "Shovels ready!"

Beals Selectmen Wrestle with Town's Share of County Debt

Nancy Beal

In their regular biweekly meeting Nov. 25, Beals selectmen tackled the problem presented to all county towns within the past two months: paying its share of Washington County's tax anticipation note (TAN) with Machias Savings Bank. That share is \$185,070 and must be paid to the county

by Dec. 31. Paying towns are relieved of paying future interest on any unpaid portion of the TAN's principal.

Four options were discussed: #1 – taking no action and addressing the matter at town meeting next March; #2 – borrowing the amount from a bank and repaying with interest over a period of years; #3 – paying the amount from "undesignated"

funds" or surplus, leaving the town with insufficient funds to meet financial obligations from Jan. 1, 2026 until 2026 taxes start to come in (late summer); or #4 – asking voters to allow the selectmen and treasurer to borrow unexpended funds in certain categories. The fourth option, the board said, could affect the town's ability to pay its bills until 2026 tax money

started coming in, and it would reduce the availability of surplus that could potentially be used to reduce 2026 taxes.

Selectman Daniel Davis said he had conferred with the town's treasurer (Terry Beal) and its auditor and learned that around \$195,000 could be accessed in option #4, if the boat excise tax account (\$93,000) could be tapped. Additionally, approximately \$189,000 in 2025 taxes remains unpaid.

This number usually goes down as lobster rebates, which many fishermen rely on to pay their taxes, are paid out by lobster buyers this month.

The selectmen will present the options at a public hearing at 6 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 11, in the town office, followed by a special town meeting at 6:30, at which townspeople will decide which of the four options to take.

New Bluebird on the Rise





Thanksgiving Day was just another workday for this crew, installing roof trusses and outer wall panels on the recently framed Bluebird Motel on Outer Dublin Street in Machias. The new construction is going up on the exact footprint of the sections of the motel that went up in flames last year on Christmas Eve. (Photos by Paul Sylvain)

Downeast Salmon Federation Welcomes New Director of Development and Communications

Downeast Salmon Federation (DSF) is pleased to announce the appointment of Ashleigh Tucker Pollock as its new Director of Development & Communications. Pollock brings over a decade of nonprofit leadership experience, including fundraising, strategic communications, and organizational development.

Pollock's connection to the region is personal and longstanding. Having spent summers on Beddington Lake and learning to fly fish on the Narraguagus River as a child, the restoration of wild Atlantic salmon holds deep meaning for her and her family, who reside in Washington County.

Pollock joins DSF from The Music Hall in Portsmouth, NH. There, she managed special events and corporate partnerships, served as chief of staff, and concluded her tenure as associate executive director, leading cross-departmental teams, overseeing major projects, and guiding initiatives to strengthen the organization and support long-term sustainability.

In her new role at DSF, Pollock will lead fundraising and communications efforts by expanding philanthropic partnerships, strengthening donor relationships, and providing strategic communications support for DSF's programs, projects, and special campaigns.

"I've followed and admired the good work that DSF has been doing for years," states Pollock, "and now to be officially part of the team, I couldn't be more elated and honored to help advance DSF's mission by building the relationships and resources that fuel this critical conservation work."

Pollock joins a dedicated board of directors, long-tenured Executive Director Dwayne Shaw, newly appointed Chief of Staff Carla Ganiel, and a highly skilled staff working to restore wild searun fish populations, revitalize river ecosystems, and strengthen coastal communities throughout eastern Maine.



Agound the County



75 Years On, Helen's Endures with An Eye to the Future

Will Tuell

With a legacy as rich as its creamy fish chowder, Helen's Restaurant in Machias has spent 2025 celebrating its seventy-fifth year in business, serving up home-cooked meals to customers old and new, Julie Barker, one half of the husband-and-wife duo that owns the iconic Machias eatery, said in a Nov. 25 interview as waitresses bustled to keep up with a hungry late-lunch crowd. Barker reflected on the iconic eatery's humble roots, her and husband David's commitment to honoring founder Larry Mugnai's legacy, the family ties that have forged much of the Machias mainstay's diamond jubilee, and a glimpse at what the future holds for a restaurant that is synonymous with the county seat.

"It's taken me down quite a memory lane," Barker, who met her husband David when the couple worked at the original Helen's across from Machias Savings Bank on Main Street, when the couple worked there as teenagers 44 years ago, recalled. "It's quite a bit of history for the town, and for us personally. Every day is a day to celebrate that 75 years."

The original Helen's, owned by Larry and Helen Mugnai, opened its doors in May 1950, Barker said, and contrary to popular opinion, was named after Mugnai's wife, Helen, not longtime employee Helen Gooch, or, Barker joked, herself, as some customers have speculated over the years.

"Larry was a character," Barker said, recalling the Mugnais. "He was always fun [to be around]. We worked with him until he retired at the age of 86. David and I never worked with Helen, and we only met her a handful of times."

After a quarter century in business, Mugnai sold Helen's to Bob and Joan Carter of Marshfield, who eventually relocated the restaurant to its current location overlooking Machias Bay. The couple would ultimately build a hotel and event center on the same footprint, selling the restaurant to Joan Carter's sister and brother-in-law, Judy and Gary Hanscom. Mugnai, Barker said, stayed on until 1994 when he retired after 44 years with the restaurant.

When the Hanscoms retired in 2008, Judy's son, David Barker, who had managed the restaurant for his mother and stepfather, took the reins with his wife Julie, who has also worked for the family business in various capacities over the years.

"It's like anything in life, it's changing and evolving with the times," Barker said. "I know that's difficult for some people. Having a vision for something, and trying to be true to the history is what we've tried to do. I always tell people when they say that it doesn't look like the

old one, I jokingly say that I couldn't find that kind of 1970s panelling in stock. So did Main Street. Main Street was totally different. And I know when Joan and Bob moved [Helen's] from Main Street to this location, people had a very difficult time with it. People will say that it's not the same, and it isn't, it's 50 years later."

Barker reminisced about the cataclysmic fire that levelled Helen's in 2014 and how the greater Machias community rallied behind her, David, their family, and their employees, stating that a lot of memories were lost in the blaze — including many of the photos she and her husband would have used to mark the restaurant's 75th year in business - but that she is still touched to this day that so many were in her corner and offered support as the family rebuilt from the rubble in less than a year.

"I still have some remnants of PTSD from that," Barker said of the fire. "It was a difficult thing for sure to deal with, [but] we had so much support, people were great, and we were able to save that money that people donated. We had our accountant put it aside, and when everyone's unemployment ran out in January of the next year, we were able to pay them until we reopened in May. So that money went to great use, and we were very thankful to the Lingley girls for setting that [GoFundMe] up. It's one of those things that if you're a Dowenaster — or even if you're from away — that people will say that they remember where they were when Helen's burned down and there was nothing there.'

For all the trauma the 2014 fire caused the Barkers, Helen's staff, and the broader Machias community, Barker confessed that the COVID pandemic was much worse from the standpoint that it has forever changed how the small, hand-to-mouth family business operates.

"COVID was much worse than the fire," Barker said. "We've never rebounded from that. I don't know where people went, if they're still at home. I don't know what happened. We have on our website and Facebook that we're hiring. We've tried several times to reopen on Monday, and we're just not able to do it," she said, adding that she bears no ill will toward the restaurant's current staff and is very appreciative of the work they do to keep the eatery serving up a mix of Helen's standbys and new dishes. "Our staff is very happy having two days off, and they stay year after year, so we're very blessed that way. We have amazing people that work here. and we're happy that they're

When asked about the challenges she has hiring new workers, Barker said that people don't want to work nights or weekends, and that many also

have kids involved with school activities and sports, which sends them in search of more traditional job opportunities.

"I think having reliable transportation — we have some people that travel here from Baileyville, Jonesport, Columbia Falls — it's a lot for them to travel and to do it [make the commitment to work at Helen's]," she said, adding. "Housing also is a factor. Affordable housing close to the restaurant, that's another issue."

Challenges aside, Barker could not imagine life without Helen's, saying that the restaurant is so woven into her and her husband's lives that even when they do get away for a day here or there, she worries about her staff, the restaurant, and what is going on back at the business because she and David have been at it so long.

"You're never off," she said.
"Once in a while, we'll take off and go out of town, and something always happens. And you wake up in the middle of the night, and you worry about staff, customers you know that have been in the hospital. It's a lot emotionally to do, but you can't be crippled by all of that, and learning how to process all of it as the other owners learned is just something you have to do."

Barker said that when the couple first made the decision to buy the restaurant from David's mother, he was all in, but she was hesitant, given how it had consumed the lives of its previous owners. But she is glad they made the decision to do so as she could not imagine life without Helen's today.

"I am grateful that my husband and I do it together," she said. "I know a lot of people couldn't work with their spouse, and honestly, I started working here at 15. He was working here at the time, so we have worked together since we were 15 years old. We spend a lot of time together, and we still like each other, which I know is rare and a huge blessing!"

Still, Barker admits a day will come when she and David will sell the restaurant, though she confesses that she'll probably follow in its original owner's footsteps and stay on as long as she can.

"My husband definitely sees the future and retirement," Barker said. "I don't know how my brain will ever stop. I understand why Larry Mugnai stayed until he was 86 years old, even though he wasn't the owner. And I will probably be the same way because I love it; I love being here and being around people, even [with] the criticism and the negativity. You have to work through that, but it's still wonderful." Helen's Restaurant of Machias has been serving fresh home-cooked meals to diners for generations. The eatery, known the world over for its famous fish chowder and signature blueberry pie, opened in May 1950 under the ownership of Larry and Helen Mugnai, on Lower Main Street before moving to its present location in 1983. Helen's was purchased in 1976 by Marshfield residents Bob and Joan Carter, who sold it to Joan's sister and brother-in-law



Helen's Restaurant of Machias has been serving fresh home-cooked meals to diners for generations. The eatery, known the world over for its famous fish chowder and signature blueberry pie, opened in May 1950 under the ownership of Larry and Helen Mugnai, on Lower Main Street before moving to its present location in 1983. Helen's was purchased in 1976 by Marshfield residents Bob and Joan Carter, who sold it to Joan's sister and brother-in-law in 1988, who in turn sold it to nephew David Barker and wife Julie in 2008. The restaurant burnt to the ground in 2014 and was rebuilt by May 2015. (Photo by Paul Sylvain)

in 1988, who in turn sold it to nephew David Barker and wife Julie in 2008. The restaurant burnt to the ground in 2014 and was rebuilt by May 2015. (Paul Sylvain photo)

Although she does not know when she and David will hand over the reins, their daughter, Rianne, and her husband have indicated they would be interested in carrying on the Helen's legacy.

legacy.
"We are talking about that [retirement] and our daughter and her husband have expressed interest in that, so when the time comes, that's probably what will happen," Barker said. "They have four young boys, and it's a lot to take on, but David and

I would be here to support them when that time comes. Part of me feels nervous for them too, that they'd like to do that, because I know how I have dealt with it—lots of sleepless nights, working when you'd like to be at one of your grandkids' ballgames, it's a sacrifice."

Barker concluded by saying that the restaurant plans to conclude their diamond anniversary later this month with a series of 75th anniversary specials beginning Dec. 16, encouraging patrons around the corner, across the state, or beyond to stop in and celebrate with the family that has made Helen's a Machias mainstay.

Republican

(continued from page 5)

Every Republican legislator, candidate, activist, and volunteer must take our message, the affordability message, outside our own circles. Talk to independents. Talk to working families. Talk to people who haven't voted Republican in years but are exhausted by the cost of living and open to someone who will finally fight for them. Tell them why prices are so high in Maine. It's not because of President Trump. It's because of Maine Democrats.

Affordability is OUR issue. We have a good story to tell.

We have solutions. We can't afford to only talk to each other. The stakes are too high. This is our moment to break out of the echo chamber, speak boldly, and lead with the issue Mainers care about most: making this state affordable again.

If we do that, and if we do it aggressively, Maine will be ready to elect Republican leadership again.

Lauren LePage is Maine's National Committeewoman to the Republican National Committee.

This op-ed originally appeared in, and is published with permission of The Maine Wire — www.themainewire.org.

















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Area Christmas Parades

December 5: Lioness Christmas Parade, 6 p.m.

December 6: Baileyville Christmas Parade, 5 p.m.

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818 Cooper Highway, Cooper: A 12x40 mobile home with well & septic on a large lot with .92 acre & 100' shorefront, easy access off of Route 191. A great get-a-way! \$239,000



kitchen & living, the second floor has an open loft bed. 2 car garage with a 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom apartment on the second floor with open kitchen & living all sitting on 1.7 +/- acres. Easy access to the property & also to the water. \$549,000



is not finished but could accommodate a 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home, this is a 3-story home with some water views with a new metal roof in 2024. Home is

5 Burns Place, Eastport: A newly built home in the center of town. The inside a blank slate for all of your ideas! \$199.000

41 Hickory Lane, Alexander: A lakeside cottage on Pleasant Lake just a few feet from the water's edge featuring 100' +/-

shorefront with 2-bedrooms, 1-bathroom, big deck, fire-

place, & storage shed! Easy

year-round access & easy lake

access! \$349,000





2 Clark Street, Eastport: One of the most unique homes in Eastport, literally on the water's edge with 297' of shorefront with direct private access, looking directly across to Campobello, Cheery Island with the light house, Indian, Deer & Dog Islands. Home features 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms & spacious living areas, with a full basement. \$774,900



shorefront with big open views! Also includes an attached in-law suite featuring 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, & open kitchen & living room. \$799,000 4525 Airline Road,

Wesley: A 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom home on Route 9 with .83 of an acre all open, access to miles of ATV trails, also a big hunting & fishing area. \$119,000



155 Pine Drive, Grand Lake Stream: A beautiful year-round home on the

edge of Big Lake with no expense spared on the craftmanship, featuring 3-bedrooms, 3-bathrooms, open kitchen, dining & living room, enclosed

porch/game room, 5 bays of garage space, sitting on 4.6+/- acres with 209'

& wildlife. Also has a pulldown bed for guests & private mooring for your boat. Move in ready! \$450,000 17 Indian Road, Eastport: 13 +/- acres on Passamaquoddy Bay featuring 500' +/- of nice shore-front expansive water views.

12 Dochet Lane, Robbin-

ston: A 1-bedroom. 2-bath-



M7 L19 Old Crawford Road, Cooper: 210 +/acre wooded lot with fields & a camp on a slab, all open concept with loft & woodstove. The property has a dug well & no power. A great getaway or off grid living. Very nice property! \$259,000



142 Destiny Bay Road, Cutler: 3.5 surveyed acres on Destiny Bay Road with 266' shorefront & power at road side. A great home site or summer cottage in a little coastal village. \$120,000

\$419,000



Lot 12 Hayward Point Road, TWP 26: 1.50 acres with 238' shorefront, power at site, driveway & 2 bedroom septic design. A little over 2 miles off of Route 9 Wesley. A great get-a-way or home site, great location for hunting or ATV-ing. \$99,900



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Award-winning sports coverage!

Local WA Student-Athletes Sign Commitment Letters for Collegiate Athletics



Meadow Rohde, daughter of Marc and Abbie Rohde of Robbinston, has committed to play softball for Simmons University in Boston. Simmons competes at the NCAA Division III level. (WA photo)

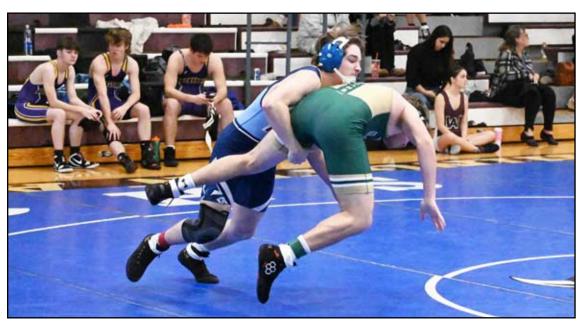


Colby Moholland, son of Tom and Cindy Moholland, of Robbinston, has committed to play baseball at University of Maine in Orono. UMaine competes in NCAA Division I. (WA photo)

Calais Wrestling at WA Preason Round Robin



Coach Spencer McCormick, Bradley Walton, Rhys Dilio, Chase Scott, Josh Crews, Ashaliegh Sukowski, Destiny Holmes, Caiden Seelye, and Manager Cecelia Mcgouldrick. (Submitted photo)



Caiden Seelye, 3rd place. (Submitted photo)



Ashaliegh Sukowski, 2nd place. (Submitted photo)



Bradley Walton, 3rd place. (Submitted photo)



Rhys Dilio, 3rd place. (Submitted photo)



Josh Crews, 2nd place. (Submitted photo)





Award-winning sports coverage!

Local High School Hoop Season Outlook

Phil Stuart

The 2025-2026 high school basketball season is underway with Washington County teams playing in three divisions once again. The Maine Principal's Association (MPA) kept the five-class system but made a special division, Class S, or U-100, for the state's smaller schools with under 100 students. This should benefit schools like Shead and Jonesport-Beals.

Deer Isle Stonington is the largest school in this division, while Shead ranks second in enrollment. The Tiger boys have a veteran team that gave opponents trouble last year and may fare well after being reclassified. Jonesport-Beals has always been a tournament team in Class D, so there is no reason to think they won't be more competitive in Class S. Machias, Narraguagus, and Woodland dropped down from Class C to Class D, which is

probably a better fit in the long run because Dexter, Mattanawcook, and Central will remain in C.

Class D will be very competitive with Bangor Christian, Hodgdon, Madawaska, Fort Fairfield, and Schenck. Narraguagus will be the largest school, enrollment-wise, in Class D. Locally, Machias should be the team to beat in boys' Downeast with four starters returning. The Bulldogs lost a lot of their bench strength last year and will look to get help from younger players. Woodland lacks in size, but the Dragons feature two of the top-scoring guards Downeast.

Narraguagus is coming off a rough season, but an excellent group of sophomores and juniors should help turn things

around and get the Knights into the top eight.

Washington Academy is moving down from Class B to Class C. The Raiders have a really solid senior class and should benefit from this move. They won't have to deal with Hermon, Ellsworth, MDI, Old Town, and Presque Isle anymore, but the Class C field is pretty solid with Orono, Caribou, Mattanawcook Academy, and Foxcroft Academy.

Calais probably got the short end of the stick by remaining in Class C. The Devils were just over the cutoff by a few students. Calais should be solid in both boys' and girls' basketball. Both teams return with a lot of veteran players.

The Washington Academy boys should be able to get on the Cross Center floor for the first time in several years, while the Lady Raiders will find things a bit tougher due to huge graduation losses. In Class D girls, Penobscot Valley, the defending state champ, will be back with a strong team. The Machias girls, although small in numbers, are optimistic about the upcoming season. The Bulldogs do not have a senior on the team. They lost three starters, but should be able to fill that void.

The Woodland, Shead, Narraguagus, and Jonesport-Beals girls should all be comparable within the county. They all have some returning players, which should provide some exciting matchups. Another team in Class D worth watching will be the Patriots of Bangor Christian. They got two transfers from Central and may be able to challenge the Howlers of PVHS.

Deep playoff runs have not happened much for Downeast teams in recent years, which may be the case this season. Regardless of how the teams end up in February, the 2025-2026 season promises to be an exciting one, and area fans will have a lot of great games to look forward to.



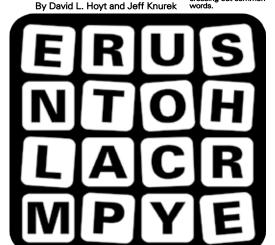
Vining with Viane

This is a simple soup to put together, and the crockpot makes it even easier. Nice to use up that leftover Christmas ham bone. Delicious! Don't forget to serve this with nice, crusty bread or homemade croutons.

CROCK POT HAM & BEAN SOUP

1 lb. dry white beans, navy or great northern 1 meaty ham bone 2 carrots, diced 2 ribs celery, diced 1 onion, diced 2 cloves garlic, my option Pinch black pepper 1 bay leaf 6 c. water

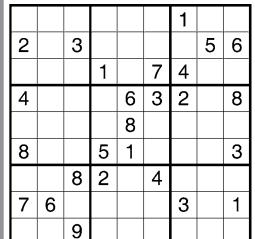
Put beans in a large pot and cover with water. Bring to a boil and boil one minute. Remove from the heat, cover, and let sit for an hour. Drain and proceed with the recipe. I always spray my crock pot to make cleanup easier. Add ham bone and remaining ingredients, including precooked, drained beans, to the crockpot. Cook on LOW for 8 hours. About 2 hours before the end of cooking time, remove the ham bone to a plate. Let sit for 10-15 minutes. Remove the meat from the bone and discard bone and any fat and waste. Place the meat back in the cooker and finish cooking. This is a good point to taste test for adding salt if needed. Mine didn't need any extra salt. Makes 6-8 servings.



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4	3	8	7	2	1	9	5	6	sudoku.org.uk	

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THE TV CROSSWORD

by Ricky Cruz

Created by Ricky Cruz

ACROSS

Wide pit
 Joplin's "Maple Leaf ____

9 Airport grp.

12 Benjamin of "Andor" 13 Breslin of "Scream Queens"

15 Secretive

Place¹ 17 2000s Superman series

19 Rodriguez of "Never Have I Ever"

24 Leader of the Smurfs 27 British house-hunting series,

when tripled 30 Anime series "_

31 "Well..." 32 "Cobra

33 '60s spy comedy series

35 Seniors' grp. 36 Worry about, say

37 Make mistakes

39 Competition series where eliminated contestants are

"evicted" __ Hospital"

Solution to Last Week's Puzzle O T T S C A B N O O B T A N A COWABUNGA THERESIDENCE S M O G G O L O W F A B I A N D A T S U N S P A N K H E R E U R B E P I C R A C E I Y A M W H A T I Y A M G O L D E N A G E A N I

48 Push aside

49 "___ Makeover: Home Edition" 50 Healed

51 "The Simpsons" catchphrase 52 Mountain ____

53 Some language class exams

DOWN

Basics, so to speak
 Horror film "___ Stoker's Dracula"
 Folk character Baba ___
 Melina Kanakaredes's "CSI: NY"

role 5 Do. as one's hair

6 Malek of "Mr. Robot" Tesfaye, a.k.a. The Weeknd

8 Jacobs of "Invincible"

9 Dropout cast member Yang 10 Pop's daughter

11 The A of IPA

11 Ine A of IPA
14 "The ____ British Bake Off"
18 Cartoon role for Gina Rodriguez
and Mindy Kaling
21 "Morning Joe" cohost Brzezinski

22 Wild pig

23 Scissor sound

24 Milk caps, familiarly 25 From the start

26 Davidson of "Bupkis"
28 US national anthem contraction

29 Appeal (to) 31 "Phew!"

34 Swordfighting option 35 Sibling of D.W. on PBS Kids

38 "The Dukes of Hazzard" sheriff

40 "Squid 41 Used a whistle

42 Spanish "hour" 43 Stuntman Knievel

44 Cincinnati MLB team

45 Certain diploma equivalent

46 Prefix with skeleton 47 To the ___ degree

Obituaries

Joseph G. Nott

Joseph George Nott, 55, left us too soon on November 26, 2025. Born in Calais, Maine, on July 17, 1970, Joseph, or as he was fondly known, Joe, was the cherished son of Paul and Yvonne Nott. His 55 years of life, though short, were packed with remarkable experiences and stories that will continue to inspire generations to come.

Joe's journey was a testament to his resilience and versatile talents. After graduating from high school, he served his community



as a volunteer firefighter and Game Warden for Pleasant Point. He then shifted gears, serving as a police officer for Indian Township before returning to academia. Joe studied building construction at Washington County Community College, an experience that further sharpened his practical skills. His sense of duty and bravery led him to enlist in the Maine Army National Guard, where he served as a cannon crewmember. Joe's service took him far from home, with two deployments to Iraq under his belt. Yet, his spirit was never dampened. He found joy in simple pleasures, like going for car rides in search of wildlife, and was well-known for his quick wit that could lighten any mood.

As we mourn Joe's departure, we also celebrate the love and kinship he fostered. He is survived by his wife, Kimberly Leighton Nott; his children, Amber Tafelski and husband Cameron and Chandler Nott; his stepchildren, Matthew Record and companion Hope Socobasin and Lisa Record and companion Chris Bouchard; and his grandchildren, Kayson Tafelski, Jaxon, Paige, Maci, and Izzy Record, Angel MacArthur, and Aries Bouchard. He also leaves behind his three sisters, Rikki Wentworth and husband Bill, Patty Passetto, and Joanne Kienzle; many nieces, nephews, and cousins; and his ever-faithful canine companion, Sunny. He was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Jay Phillips; and his cousin and best friend, Julie "Juge" Mitchell.

Visitation was held on Monday, December 1, 2025, at Mays Funeral Home, 26 Church St., Calais. A graveside service with military honors followed at the Pleasant Point Tribal Cemetery. Arrangements are by Mays Funeral Home & Cremation Services. In lieu of flowers, donations in Joe's memory may be made to Aroostook House of Comfort, P.O. Box 867, Presque Isle, ME 04769

To honor Joe's memory, we invite you to share your cherished stories, photos, and messages on his memorial page at www.MaysFuneralHome.com. His light may have dimmed, but through our shared memories, Joseph G. Nott will continue to shine brightly.

ST. ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 29 Church Street, Calais • 454-8016 Rev. Sara Gavit, Rector stannes04619@gmail.com Sunday Holy Eucharist - 10 a.m. • Facebook Live Streamed Sunday School for school-aged children at 10 a.m. Masks are optional while inside the building.

Handicap Accessible - No nursery provided - All are welcome!

St. Kateri Tekakwitha Roman 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 430-5:20 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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Ernest D. Grohs

Ernest D. Grohs passed away on November 27, 2025, at the age of 76. Ernest, or Ernie as he was affectionately known, was surrounded by the unwavering love of his wife, Beverly, and his sons, Dave and Steve.

Born on May 6, 1949, in Waterbury, CT, Ernie was the son of Ernest O. Grohs and Helen (Yvasauskas) Grohs. After graduating from Wilby High School in 1967, he bravely answered the call to serve his nation, fighting in the Vietnam War. He was honorably discharged in 1969, being recognized for his valiant service with a Bronze Star Medal with V and Oak Leaf Cluster. This experience shaped Ernie, instilling in him a quiet resilience that he carried throughout his life. His career as a manufacturing engineer allowed him to utilize his remarkable problem-solving abilities and creativity, specializing in CNC technology. He had an uncanny knack for designing and constructing specific tools for various projects, often at home.



Ernie's retirement years were spent in Big Lake Township, Maine, where he continued to dedicate his time and skills to serving his community and the Sunrise Christian Church. Known as "Mr. Fix It," he enjoyed using his skills to help family and friends tackle any task brought to him. His love for his family was immeasurable, and he cherished every moment spent with them. An avid motorcyclist, hunter, and fisherman, Ernie also enjoyed the intellectual stimulation of challenging projects. His optimism was infectious; his favorite phrase being, "It's going to be OK," and somehow, it always was.

Ernie is survived by his devoted wife of 57 years, Beverly (Wilcox) Grohs; his sons, David (Allie) Grohs and Stephen (Debbie) Grohs; his beloved grandchildren, Ben, Evan, Leah, Caio, and Gustavo; and his great-granddaughter, Jordyn. He was predeceased by his parents, Ernest and Helen, and his sister, Ellen.

Arrangements by Mays Funeral Home & Cremation Services. A memorial page has been established at www.MaysFuneralHome.com, where we invite you to share your memories of Ernest and upload photos that celebrate his life. It is in these shared stories and images that we can continue to remember and celebrate the beautiful life of Ernest D. Grohs.

Devotional

Justin Harvey, Calvary Chapel of St. Croix Valley

In our corner of the world, the stark contrast between a festive holiday season and unfriendly weather provides a backdrop to consider the true reason for giving thanks. Rich or poor, we must acknowledge God's hand in our lives.

No one has the power to control the circumstances around them. We cannot control the position of the Earth relative to the sun. We cannot control the movement of the moon and its resulting tides. We cannot control the actions of other people or whether they will behave reasonably. We cannot even control our own eyelids (except for a few seconds) before those little muscles overwhelm our will to keep them open. With so little control that we exercise, it is worth examining how God is deserving of our giving of thanks for so many favorable opportunities that come our way.

Perhaps you grew up in a wealthy household and were afforded many luxuries. You may be tempted to attribute your good fortune to a series of beneficial decisions made by your parents. Conversely, you may have been brought up with a very challenging set of circumstances, whereby you may seek to lay blame on the adults around you for a bevy of obstacles that seem to lie in your path. In either instance, there is a disappointing outcome when you ignore the role and relationship that God intends to have in your life.

According to His wise oversight, God has allowed you to be in the exact situation you are in so that you might turn to Him. Though He does not delight in selfishness, conceit, neglect, or abuse, God will allow people to go through different seasons to help them see their need for Him. In 1Timothy 6:17-19 we read, "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life." Riches may indeed be a benefit if used correctly, but a certain curse

Those who have not been blessed with material things often have an easier time seeking aid and support from the Almighty. James 2:5 says, "Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath provided to them that love him?" The Lord Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.' (Matthew 5:3) Without controversy, the poor in spirit are more often derived from those who are poor in wealth also.

No matter the situation, God must be at the center of your life if you are to experience the fullness of purpose and blessing in it. Our attention must be directed toward Him and His love if we are to understand what is going on around us. Riches may lead to disappointing boredom and depression if they are spent in self-centered ways. Similarly, I will drown in a sea of despair and worry if I focus on what I lack and never turn my attention heav-

We are instructed in James 1:17, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom shadow of turning." It makes sense for us to agree with and perform what is encouraged in Psalm 100: "Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting: and his truth endureth to all generations." Let us honor God's working in our lives with thankfulness to Him.

In Loving Memory

David Spear McCullough

In memory of David McCullough, our previous Grand Lake Ŝtream columnist. David passed November 25, 2024.



Community News



It was a somewhat less active week at the library, but the Storytime program for the Pembroke School students, including those who live in Dennysville, was lots of fun, although there weren't quite as many children as usual. Miss Sam is now serving as the primary leader for the sessions, and it's always interesting to see what a new leader brings to this time with books and crafts. In light of the coming Thanksgiving day, she shared two delightful books: Turkey Trouble by Abby Klein and Bear Says Thanks by Karma Wilson, and the craft was creating a slice of pumpkin pie.

Although, due to the holiday, the children from the Edmunds School weren't able to come to the library on their usual Thursday, we did have a momentous happening two days later: the first-ever Saturday open hours from noon to 3 p.m. Samantha Stewart, aka Miss Sam, is now our newest volunteer librarian. Our present open hours are now Mondays 4-7 p.m., Tuesdays and Fridays 1-4 p.m., and Saturdays noon-3 p.m., except for being closed for official holidays, inclement weather, and unexpected occurrences.

Finally, with the new month comes again First Friday Tea at the Library beginning at 3 p.m. Although our numbers are usually fewer when "People From Away" have gone away, it's a lovely, relaxing way to end the week and help launch a new month, no matter how many are there to enjoy interesting and companionable conversations, accompanied by various teas and tasty treats! Onward to Friday!



Miss Sam working with students on creating a slice of pumpkin pie. (Submitted photo)

Robbinston Meteorological Summary for November 2025

Edward Mekelburg

November's temperatures were near normal. The monthly mean temperature of 37.3 degrees was 0.2 degrees below normal. Maximum temperature was 58 degrees on the 10th and 11th, while the minimum was 22 degrees on the 30th. There were 24 days with minimums 32 degrees or below. There were 821 heating degree days or 3 above normal. Total since July stands at 1440 or 165 below normal.

Total precipitation of 4.27 inches was 1.14 inches below normal. This was the sixth consecutive dry month. Total since January stands at 43.92 inches or 5.56 inches below normal. Maximum daily amount was 1.45 inches on the 10th. There were I~ days with measurable precipitation. An unusual feature was the long wet spell of 10 days (3rd-12th). This has been exceeded only by 11 days in January,1999 and December,

Total snowfall of 2.9 inches was 1.3 inches below normal. Total for the season so far of 2.9 inches was 1.6 inches below normal. Greatest daily amount was 2.0 inches on the 17th. There were 3 days with measurable snowfall and 5 days with an inch or more on the ground. Maximum snow depth was 3 inches on the 17th.

The monthly mean barometer was very low at 29.78 inches. This beat the old November record of 29.82 inches set in 2002! Highest barometer was 30.56

inches on the 30th, while the lowest was 28.93 inches on the 16th. There were the 17th. The monthly mean barometer was very low at 29.78 inches. This beat the old November record of 29.82 inches set in 2002! Highest barometer was 30.56 inches on the 30th, while the lowest was 28.93 inches on the 16th. There were 3 days with minimum barometric readings below 29 inches! Mean relative humidity was 82.6 per cent; lowest humidity was 49 per cent on the 7th. Prevailing wind direction was southwest with an average speed of 3.3 miles per hour. Maximum wind velocity was 42 miles per hour from the west southwest on the 4th. There was one day with maximum velocities 40 miles per hour or more. There were 6 clear days, 4 partly cloudy days, and 20 cloudy days. Daytime sky cover averaged 73 percent. Dense fog occurred on the 27th. The drought continued on. It was rated as D3 (severe) early in the month, but was reduced to D2 (moderate) after the long wet spell. However, water tables remain quite low.

AUTUMN (Sep.-Nov.): Mean temperature 49.7 degrees or 1.5 degrees above

normal. Precipitation 11.60 inches or 3.82 inches below normal. Snowfall 2.9 inches or 1.6 inches below norma1.

Historical Cold Weather Note: On November 30,1875 (150 years ago), the temperature at Eastport plummeted to minus 13 degrees with temperatures barely getting above zero during the day. This is by far the lowest temperature ever seen for the month of November in this area!

November Weather Extremes From 1994 (32 years) Warmest November: 41.8

degrees in 2006 Coldest November: 33.4 de-

grees in 1997 Maximum Temperature: 73

degrees on November 10,2020 and November 5-6, 2022 Minimum Temperature: 5 de-

grees on November 22, 2018 Wettest November: 9.48 inch-

es in 2018 Driest November: 2.63 inches in 2001 and 2023

Maximum Daily Amount: 3.32 inches on November 3,

Greatest Storm: 3.87 inches on November 3-4, 2007

Snowiest November: 17.5 inches in 1997

Least Snowiest November: trace in 2003,2006, and 2009

Maximum Daily Amount: 11.0 inches on November 23,

Greatest Snowstorm: 11.0 inches on November 23, 2011

Maximum Snow Depth: 11 inches on November 23, 2011 and November 20-21, 2018

Highest Barometer: 30.97 inches on November 26, 2015 (record for any month)

Lowest Barometer: 28.58 inches on November 22, 2005

Maximum Wind Velocity: 57 miles per hour from the west on November 7, 2001

Outdoors in Maine V. Paul Reynolds



The Moose Hunt

If you do it yourself, a Maine moose hunt is markedly different from a deer hunt, at least for me. This year's permit was only the second moose tag that I have drawn since the moose lottery began many years ago. Yup, Maine moose permits, as a rule, are few and far between. That makes them all the more precious. So you want to do it right, you want to prepare, plan and persist to maximise the odds in every possible way that you can.

You are excited and full of anticipation, and, if you are like me, there is some anxiety, some pressure, to not screw up.

The hunt did not start well. In my Yeti cooler, somewhere between Ellsworth and the Indian Hill Trading Post in Greenville, my double-batch of delicious homemade venison stew slithered its way outside the glass container when it broke en route. What a mess, and what a setback if you enjoy eating as much as I and my crew. Lesson learned: Always transport your camp stews in plastic containers, not glass.

But we didn't go hungry. Most of our hunt crew are exceptional camp chefs, especially Winterport outdoorsman Greg Goodman, who compensated for my lost venison stew with a knock-your-socks-off beef stew of his own creation.

My cow permit was for a so-called Adaptive Unit hunt in WMD 4A, which is a postrut hunt that is known to be a lower-odds hunt because the mating is over and the critters are dispersing deeper into the hardwoods for some intense pre-winter foraging. Experts advised getting into the woods, off the roads, and still hunting, not unlike a deer hunt, which is what we did for the first three days.

Our other hunt crew, Josh Cottrell and Joel Smith, killed a cow in a clear-cut the first day. Also on Day One, I and my sub-permittee, son Scott, spotted a cow in the hardwood at about 70 yards. We had a clear shot, but there was one problem. Posted on a large beech tree between us and the moose was a yellow sign: "Access with Permission Only." We did not take any shots. We left the area exasperated and asked

ourselves, "How can this be? No hunting signs in the Great North Woods?" Our Onyx App did indicate private land. The owner had a right to post. Bad break. We moved on.

On Wednesday night, after three days of walking the twitch roads and clearcuts, with nothing to show for it except a few deer sightings, we were beginning to worry, to furrow our brows with the tired moose hunter's "Thursday sweats."

New strategy. Heater hunt. What the heck, try driving the back country side roads and hope for a break. I had an ace in the hole, and, although an area I had scouted earlier in the fall was a bit of a drive, it had some pretty decent sign. We got up extra early, and at first light, we were driving the back roads slowly and doing the methodical search for Waldo's jet black profile among the hardwoods, dark stumps, and tangled thickets.

Suddenly at 7 a.m.: MOOSE! A large cow bolted from the brush from right to left and got swallowed up by the rustcolored ferns and beech whippets. Son Scotty, with better eyes and faster reflexes than I. bailed out of the truck and had his .270 loaded and to his shoulder before the elder permittee was even free of the truck and locked and loaded.

The cow had stopped about 50 yards into the woods, and, according to Scotty's account, only the critter's head was visible in his scope. I could not see the big animal.

POW! As agreed beforehand, whoever has the shot takes it, and he did. A head shot by my sub-permittee put the animal down where it stood, within 50 yards of the road. It was just about the largest cow moose that I had ever seen. After some celebratory hugs and happy small talk, we set about to dry dress and quarter up our kill. Frankly, the most difficult part of the field dressing was trying to locate the ovaries as earnestly requested by IF&W biologists. It was not as easy as it looked on the IF&W training video. We learned later at the tagging station that a majority of hunters were apparently unable to fulfill the IF&W request for the ovaries.

(continued on page 18)

The author (foreground) and his son Scott, his subpermittee, who actually shot the moose. (Photo by Greg Goodman)



Community News

Grand Lake Stream

Mike Remillard

It's Sunday, November 23. Believe it or not, the sun doesn't work anymore. We have had many days where it almost rained, by the looks of passing storm clouds. It would be really nice if we had one day of sun.

Remember, on Sunday, December 7, at 1 p.m., Downeast Lakes Land Trust, DLLT, will have a Wreath Making and Cribbage Tournament at the GLS schoolhouse. The wreath making is a yearly event here in GLS. I've attended it before. I like a simple full evergreen branch, where I then add a red ribbon and a few other decorations, like pine cones. Others make traditional-looking wreaths. All wreath-making supplies will be supplied by DLLT. A cribbage tournament will also take place. Get your cribbage-plaving friends together and join in the fun. There will be light refreshments. Feel free to just visit, hang out, and enjoy the event.

Later that December 7 day, at 5:30 p.m., also at the GLS schoolhouse, there will be a "Lighting of the Christmas Trees Ceremony." I was at the

bulletin board yesterday and noticed 30 wrapped up Christmas trees lying in the ball field. Today, I bumped into Cathy Shamel at the store and got the news. The Strumming Bobcats will be performing seasonal classics. The event will have light refreshments. I have not taken part in three years, but I do remember that it's a joyful event. You're amongst friends, talking and laughing. There is organized singing, and the trees come to life when Bill throws the switch. Tears will come to your eyes. It's a very good seasonal get together.

It's Wednesday, November 26, and it's raining. I went to Calais yesterday and picked up everything I needed for my Thanksgiving meals. I never planned to cook a turkey this year. I planned to have eggfu-young and crab-ran-goo for lunch, tacos at 3 p.m., and Swedish meatballs for 6 p.m. Then, one of my sisters delivered a pork pie. I was tweaking my menu when Brinda came up with the idea of opening the schoolhouse, having townspeople cook different dishes, and everyone getting together for one big turkey meal. So, that's the latest. Last I heard, 50 people are planning to attend.

I have some hummingbird news. Some of you already know this. They could live for five years. They can remember your house and feeder setup. To me, that means the ones that migrate through remember your setup and will stop. We should be ready for them in early spring. If they like your setup, they will pick a favorite feeder and defend it by trying to keep other hummingbirds away. They remember what flowers you grow and pick a favorite flower, over and over again. They know when that flower will regain nectar again. We all know they like red flowers best, but I bet the shape of a deep-throated flower in almost any color would attract them. They also prefer flowers to feeders. This past season, I didn't plant any flowers in the ground. I bought five hanging flowering plants that attract hummingbirds. With my two feeders, they will remember this. I'll update my setup with better attracting hanging plants and my rain-proof perch idea.

The two inches of snow that we had 10 days ago are finally gone. Today, we had rain and 52-degree temperatures. I actually was able to finish leaf blowing the three small remaining leaf-covered areas at the Colonial. Hunters, property owners, and workers will be able to travel dirt roads safely.

Happy Thanksgiving! We had a nice sunny day of 48 degrees. I uncovered my wood pile in hopes it would dry after all the bad weather that we have been having. I did cook tacos and all the fixings for lunch. It was good. At 3:30 p.m., 50 of us usuals assembled in the schoolhouse for our turkey meal. Brinda, Sharon Brunner, and Linda Evans had the hall all set up with cafeteria tables in a nice, long U shape. Each table was covered with a white tablecloth, with butter, salt, and pepper spaced generously. There were four tables of all kinds of Thanksgiving foods, I'm guessing four turkeys, each in an aluminum pan, and cut up nicely. Mike Betz smoked one turkey, and it came out great. Most families brought their favorite side dish. There were many traditional and nontraditional dishes to try. I sat with the Betz family. Cheryl had 93year-old Joyce Brown sit with us. On the other side of the table were three-year-old Hayes and little Marshall performing. Joyce enjoyed watching the kids with Mike and Brooke teaching and controlling them. I stuck mostly to a traditional turkey meal and a different side dish or two. The taste of white meat, dark meat, gravy, salt, and mashed potatoes with butter was fantastic. Glen made caramelized baby onions. I took two to be polite because I don't like boiled onions. I was amazed when they melted in my mouth. I wish I had taken

and the different dishes were amazing. I would have liked to have gone back for more, but couldn't. I had to save room for the two tables of desserts. Nancy Betz made her famous pecan pie. I have not had it in 5 years, and it is still famous. Nancy used to sell them at the Election Day Bake Sale. She would put one aside for me to buy when I came in to vote. There were probably 10 types of pies, four types of cookies, three types of brownies, cheese, crackers, thick salami sausage, and more. Brinda set up everyone with a to-go box. It was an all-around good event. Fun was had by all. Thank you, GLS, friends, and all event helpers that I did not mention.

Deer hunting season is over. The store tagged 72 deer. In 2024, they tagged 70. They say in the old days, the store would tag 150 deer. However, in some of those days, you could shoot a buck or doe.

Winter is here. Starting Tuesday, and going through Saturday, nighttime temperatures due are 4 to 18 degrees, with daytime temperatures running 21 to 35 degrees. During this time, we are also due for three snowfalls of various depths. I've lit my fireplace twice so far. With these temperatures, I'll light it four or more times this week. Stay warm.

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

Perry

Suzanne Leone

I hope everyone had a beautiful Thanksgiving full of loved ones, good food, and fun.

On November 25, Perry Elementary School staff and students enjoyed a Thanksgiving meal at lunchtime. Many thanks go out to all who made this possible, especially Shawna and Cindy, who prepared the delicious meal.

November 30 marked the 23rd anniversary of my Dad's passing. I hope everyone who can and wants to has a loving relationship with their father or father figure. I would give anything to have a second,

just one second, with my dad. Losing my dad taught me at a young age that life is short and unexpected and to never take the time on earth with the people in my life for granted.

On December 3, there will be a school committee meeting at the elementary school, beginning at 6 p.m.

Fresh-cut Christmas trees are available for purchase at The Strawberry Patch.

Sweet Swirls by Londyn at The Polar Treat is pleased to announce that 100 orders for her ice cream pie and cake marathon were placed and fulfilled. These sweet treats were available for Thanksgiving or

just because, and featured a variety of Christmas toppings and flavors. Londyn sold these to benefit The Christmas Forest LLC of MAINE. This cause is deeply connected to the hearts of Polar Treat employees, with a special tribute to Londyn's grandmother, Helen Kilby, who passed away some time ago. Thank you to everyone who purchased these treats for a fantastic cause.

On November 28, my mother, sister, my niece, nephew, and I ventured into the Christmas Forest LLC of MAINE, and we had the time of our lives. I loved Darth Vader. I didn't want to leave; I could have spent the night, so magical.

more. The amount of food

Keep your eyes on Mayree's Flowers and Gifts Facebook page for announcements and pictures of beautiful centerpieces and wreaths you can give as gifts or display in your home for the Christmas season.

On November 29, members of North Perry United Methodist Church decorated the church for the Advent season. All are welcome for Sunday service, which begins at 10:30 a.m.

On December 30, beginning at 6 p.m., Downeast Charcuterie will be hosting a Sip & Craft: Savory Chalets at Horn Run Brewing Longacre Beeryard & Event Venue. This will be a night of hands-on charcuterie chalet. Seats need to be reserved by December 24. Email contact@downeastcharcuterie. org for more information.

Legals / Notices

Alexander Special Town Meeting

December 15, 2025, 6:30 p.m. Alexander Elementary School Gym

NOTICE

The Town of Crawford, ME will be holding a special town meeting on Dec. 9 at 6 p.m.

The purpose is discussing and voting on an article to pay Crawford's share of the TAN re-payment of \$32,942.17

Crawford Town Selectmen

/s/ Troy Wallace

Meddybemps News & Musings

Linda Baniszeski

Only 21 more days until Christmas! It always seems to creep up on us so quickly.

Happy birthday wishes to Lisa Lord on December 7 and Jason Gibson on the 10th.

Pearl Harbor Day, December 7. always brings to mind the "greatest generation" and all it contributed to our way of life. They truly saved America from enemies who were determined to destroy us. People at home also helped the war effort by doing without certain foods and necessities so they could go to the war effort. It is the first time an army of women worked in aircraft factories and other industries supporting the war effort while the men were away fighting. Of course, there were women ferrying aircraft from factories to airfields, and we cannot forget the military nurses serving near war zones

and on hospital ships. It was an unselfish population that cared more about America's future than their own temporary comforts. Certain current generations can learn a lot from them.

Thanksgiving festivities were bountiful in our area. These are sincerely caring and generous communities in Washington County and throughout Maine. It was heartwarming to see the results of giving and preparing something for others.

Please share your news with LBaniseski@myfairpoint.net or phone 454-3719.

There is a book, "365 Hymns

and Their Stories," that was my Mom's book. Each hymn includes the story of the writer and often the circumstances of their life. One of my favorite "Sunday School" songs in the book is "Count Your Blessings." Part of it says, "Count your blessings, count them one by one, Count your many blessings, see what God has done." It is a wonderful way to begin each day. Thankfulness that we woke up to experience the many blessings that each new day brings.

Blessings of the Christmas season to all!



days

December 4, 2025

Community News

Alexander

Cassie Oakes

There will be a special town meeting on December 15 at 6:30 p.m. at the school concerning the county tax. There are three articles on the warrant: one to choose a moderator for the meeting; one to see if the town would like to pay \$120,033.93 — Alexander's portion of the 2025 tax note; and one pertaining to Article 2, which, if it passes, determines where the funds would come from, possibly from the undesignated fund balance.

Please keep your calendars marked for Alexander Grange's Community Christmas Party on December 6 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Grange Hall on the Cooper Road. Santa will be there to meet with local children, and there will be ample time for

photos with Santa. Each child will also receive a goodie bag. This free event is made possible by the generosity of your neighbors, friends, local businesses, and the Alexander Grange. Everyone is welcome.

There will be a Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Veterans Monument at the municipal building on December 13 at noon. For more information, contact Lenny Hanson or Dale Holst.

Darlene White Harvey is once again in the hospital after another back surgery on November 20 for another break. Word is that she is doing well but still has some pain. Donna is happy to be back in Washington County! This time, she went to Maine Med in Portland. They had to take out all the hardware from the first surgery and put all

new hardware in from her neck all the way down her spine. Donna loves getting mail. Her address is Marshall's Health Care Facility, Donna Harvey, 16 Beal Street, Machias, ME 04654. If you are in the area, please stop in to say hi. Donna will probably be there for a few more weeks.

Don't forget about All Saints United Methodist Church Christmas Bazaar happening on December 13 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you aren't in the know, All Saints United Methodist Church was formerly known as Calais United Methodist Church and is located at 849 Main Street in Calais.

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving! I had a very busy week full of all kinds of activities for me, my family, and friends. It began on Tuesday when I attended Eastern Area Agency on Aging's Community Cafe, where we enjoyed a yummy turkey dinner with all the fixings, even a special treat of pumpkin pie. Then, we were all treated to handheld

mincemeat pies made by Carol Anne Davenport, pumpkin cake made by Rhonda Oakes, and a cranberry cheesecake made by Elizabeth McVicar. That same day, I helped a group of wonderful ladies and a couple of helpful gentlemen who lugged and tugged for us as we decorated All Saints United Methodist Church for the Advent season, which started on Sunday, November 30. It was still Tuesday, and I had my online Strive Class. Wednesday arrived, and it was off to the Frank Beckett Center, where we celebrated a delicious ham dinner with all the fixings and a choice of apple pie or pumpkin pie for dessert. Thursday, Thanksgiving day, Mom, Dad, and I ventured to Monticello to celebrate with Carlos and his shared-living provider, Mike. They prepared a lovely turkey dinner with all the fixings. Then we brought Carlos home with us for a few days. While Carlos was here, we had two movie nights. Mom and Carlos did a little Black Friday shopping

in Calais. Saturday was really a day of cooking, baking, and candy making, all holiday all day! On Sunday morning, we all attended Breakfast Church at All Saints United Methodist Church, where we all pitched in to make a delicious breakfast, and before leaving, we added a few final touches to the decor and lit the Advent candles. But alas, the weather did not hold out for Sunday night's Singspiration at Bethel Chapel in Talmadge, so we stayed home safe and sound. Carlos's little bit of holiday stay with us got cut short due to an impending snowstorm in the middle of the week. We were all sad to see him head back and are already looking forward to his next visit.

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!

Princeton

Sandra Smith

The town office has been busy with planning the special town meeting, as well as working on the impact of the Washington County budget shortfall. Also, plan ahead and note that the town office will be closed on both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. It will be open on Friday, December 26

The library will not be having story hour this month because of all the other ongoing activities. However, Cindy Lou will be getting dressed up and having her own tree. In appreciation of all the patrons, there will be a drawing for a gift basket. Everyone visiting the library starting December 1 will have a ticket put in for the drawing.

Parks & Recreation committee members Ian Clements and I withstood the wind and cold temperatures to put the lights on the ever-growing-taller spruce tree at Legacy Square. Time was running out for the annual tree lighting this coming Sunday. We only hope the lights are not blown off in the predicted northeaster.

Also, for anyone wanting to enter the Parks & Recreation's Home Decorating Contest, it is time to think about it. Registration needs to be done by 6 p.m. on December 18, and judging will be on December 19. Participants can register on the Parks & Rec. Facebook page or by calling 207-619-1466.

Pioneer Broadband has been busy around town providing installation of internet/phone service on Princeton's fiber network. For more information, the Pioneer Broadband website is www.pioneerbroadband.net. You can also call them at 1-866-335-1254.

A reminder that Princeton Parks & Recreation and the Princeton Fire Department's Annual Christmas Tree Lighting at Legacy Square is this Sunday, December 7, starting at 6 p.m. Following the lighting, everyone is invited to the fire station for cookies and cocoa. There will be a Lego kit drawing, a selection of free books donated by the library, and, of course, a chance to visit Santa Claus. Cookies can be dropped off around 5 p.m. at the fire station, or if you need to drop off earlier, you can do so here at the Bellmard, but call ahead.

This Tuesday, December 9, is the Annual Christmas Concert at the Princeton Elementary School. The program starts at 6 p.m.

December 7 - Princeton Parks & Rec and Fire Station Tree Lighting, 6 p.m.

December 9 - Princeton Elementary School Christmas Concert, 6 p.m.

December 19 - Princeton Parks & Rec Home Decorating Contest Judging

December 22-Jan. 5 - Princeton Elementary School Winter Break

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

To send me news, just drop me a note at 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.

Special Town Meeting

The Town of Princeton held a special town meeting on Monday, December 1, to vote for Washington County's Request for Assistance with the TAN (Tax Anticipation Note) payment. Select board members attending were Steven Cilley, Shain Phelps, Micah Diffin, and Ryan McIver. A total of 15 residents, one nonresident, and the town officials participated in the meeting.

Town clerk Sue Lawless read the warrant, and Denise Hill was voted in as moderator. Town treasurer Donna Worden gave an overview of the issue. Basically, the county's fiscal

year operates from January to December. Princeton, as well as many other communities, operates July to June 30. Usually the town pays the county assessment on September 1. The county is requesting that the prepayment be made by December 31. If the payment is not made then, the amount will be added to the 2026 assessment in addition to interest. The payment that the town needs to currently pay would be \$112,540.55, which would

come from the undesignated surplus.

After the overview, the warrant was open for discussion. Some of the points made by one resident was concerns that it was either "fraud or incompetence" on the county's part and there needed to be a caveat added to any payment regarding an investigation into this issue. Another resident asked if the payment was made, how will the funds go back into the general fund? There was

a suggestion to add an amendment regarding accountability, but that would have meant another town meeting.

Subsequently, the moderator asked for a vote to approve the warrant and then asked for a vote against it. The majority vote was against Washington County's request for the TAN payment.

Following the meeting, select board vice-chair Steven Cilley stated that "Princeton is a leader, not a follower."

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Send resume and interest to publisher@calais.news No calls please.

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- AMHC in Machias: 800-244-6431 or 255-0996 • Eastport Healthcare: 853-6001, offices in
- Machias and Eastport • National: Call the National Suicide Prevention Line at 1-800-273-8255, chat online at suicidepreventionlifeline.org/ chat, or text CONNECT to 741741 for completely anonymous
- State: 1-888-568-1112 is the Maine Crisis Line, open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

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Lubec Elementary School is Hiring!

text chat.

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Applicant must be Proficient in the Use of Technology, Specifically the Zoom Platform. Duties Include the Setup of Equipment, Managing the Zoom Platform During the Meeting, and Supplying a File of the Recording.

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EMAIL TO: info@sunrisecountyschools.com

Position will be filled when suitable candidate is found

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Outdoors

(continued from page 15)

One of the hunt crew made the observation that we paid our dues, and we did hunt hard before getting a break. Earlier in the fall, when I was chatting with a moose guide I know, he said, "Oh, you have a tag for the Adaptive Unit Hunt, huh? You might as well just go ahead and buy a beef critter.'

Thankfully, we disproved his cynicism. Lady Luck was riding with us. Successful moose hunts, I am convinced, are akin to deer hunts in that it takes a blessed blend of both sheer luck and good strategy to close the deal.

What a memory that hunt! It reminds me again that Maine is a special place if you love the outdoors, and our iconic moose is such an integral resource in our natural tapestry.

The author is editor of the Northwoods Sporting Journal. He is also a Maine Guide and host of a weekly radio program, "Maine Outdoors," heard Sundays at 7 p.m. on The Voice of Maine News-Talk Network. He has authored three books. Online purchase information is available at www.sportingjour-

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Wildlife Photos Please email to editor@calais.news



Pileated woodpecker in Robbinston. (Photo by Cheryl Stabinski)



Gray fox and a skunk in Princeton. (Photo by Donna Melanson)





Porcupine in Baring (Moosehorn). (Photos by Susan Leone)



Squirrel and porcupine in Princeton. (Photo by Donna Melanson)



Geese in Crawford. (Photo by Deborah Choate)



Downy woodpecker in Baileyville. (Photo by Meliza Monk)



Cardinal in Baileyville. (Photo by Meliza Monk)

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Dr. Karen J. Delaney

254 South Street, Calais (207) 454-2350

Exciting News from Dr. Karen J. Delaney, DDS!

We are thrilled to announce the expansion of our office with the addition of a new provider, Dr. Kelly Delaney.

With Dr. Kelly joining our team, we are broadening our Dental Hygiene and Sedation offerings to better serve our growing community. Dr. Karen Delaney, who first graduated from Dental Hygiene School in 2009 before becoming a dentist, will now also be seeing dental hygiene patients to help meet the needs of our ever-expanding practice. Our mission remains the same: to provide compassionate, high-quality dental care for every patient who walks through our doors. With our expanded team and services, we look forward to caring for your smile for years to come!

Still accepting new Dental Hygiene patients. Call today to join our dental family!

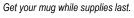
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Do you want to take Tom, the Office Cat, home with you?!

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Tom, the Office Cat



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