

The Bucksport Enterprise

VOLUME 29, NUMBER 16 • April 16, 2020 • BUCKSPORT, ME 04416 • \$1.00



Schools closed; optimism persists

Class of '20 will be feted

BUCKSPORT AREA – The local schools, like most across the country, will remain closed through the rest of the academic year.

That's the reality, but it is far from the whole story.

The local school administrators are prepared to do whatever it takes to see that the Class of 2020 does not walk away from their graduation unheralded.

Later this month or early next, there will be a plan developed to cover everything from the distribution of the yearbooks to the scores of scholarship awards to the actual treasured diplomas.

Interviews of James Boothby, the superintendent of schools, and Josh Tripp, the principal of Bucksport High School, contained multiple assurances that what can be done will be done.

Some of the options are extremely innovative. Those options won't be speculated on nor will not be spelled out here now because everything is subject to change. As Tripp observed, "we don't know what's going to happen in two weeks, let alone two months."

The planning of the various commencement activities will begin after the traditional spring break because, "everyone needs a few days off" to let things settle.

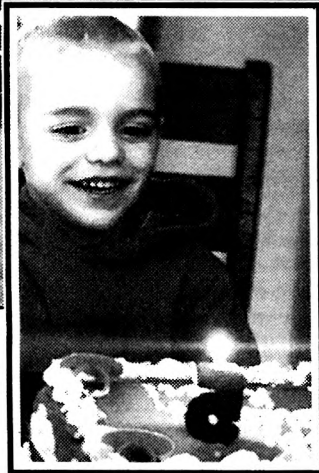
"We'll try to be thoughtful. . . . It won't be perfect, but it will be a shared effort to do things right," Tripp said. He said the seniors' opinions will be sought as part of the planning.

In the meantime: There will be a yearbook. It's now at the print shop. How it will be distributed is up in the air, but Tripp said the students will get it if he has to deliver each copy personally.

- All of the spring sports have been nixed.
- Remote learning classes and the weekday deliveries of food to any student in the four-town RSU 25 district who requests one will continue. Arrangements are being considered for a summer food program.
- The RSU 25 School Board will meet via an electronic hook-up on Tuesday evening.

PLEASE SEE SCHOOLS, PAGE 8.

THE BUCKSPORT ENTERPRISE
105 MAIN STREET
BUCKSPORT, ME 04416



'Happy birthday'

When you're turning 5 and you can't have a birthday party with your friends, like during a pandemic, sometimes the party has to come to you. And so it did for Ryker Cohen as he stood outside his Thomas Street home last week as three police cruisers and three fire trucks passed by, their horns tooting and sirens blaring, all amid many shouts of "Happy birthday!" Ryker is the son of Richard and Ashley Cohen.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE COHEN FAMILY

Bucksport's aid starts to flow

BUCKSPORT AREA – As crews all over the region were replacing downed wires and cutting up fallen trees and limbs in the aftermath of a late-winter snowstorm, others were trying to put their lives and communities back together as the fallout from the global pandemic continues.

The Maine-wide state of emergency provisions - originally to expire on yesterday (4/14) - on Tuesday were extended for a month to May 15.

At mid-week, there were 20 confirmed deaths in Maine attributed to COVID-19 and over 720 persons tested positive for the disease. There were 19 cases reported in Hancock County.

Thousands of Mainers were finding themselves unemployed or underemployed. Most still were awaiting the \$600-per-person boost in unemployment benefits from an unemployment system that continues to be deluged with new applications.

As many small local firms struggled to carry on some semblance of their businesses, the first 47 of the two monthly Town of Bucksport checks for

\$600 each were disbursed since last week, and eight more will go out today (4/16). The total: 55 checks totalling \$28,550.

The checks are available only to firms based in the town, because municipal money is being used to cover them.

More applications were being received this week.

Meanwhile, earlier this week 45 \$150 food cards were distributed. Each successful applicant could use the card at Hannaford Bros. or Tozier's Variety.

More applications are being processed this week. Details and the applications for both programs are on the town's website: www.bucksportmaine.gov.

The payments from the town's reserves for "rainy day expenses" won't impact the tax rate, Town Manager Susan M. Lessard said.

The Town Council has authorized using up to \$115,000 for the initial round of grants.

That sum is being supplemented by a \$60,000 gift from Andrew and Shelby (Hawes) Silvermail of Illinois. Both graduated from Bucksport High School.

Pursuing peace amid fear and despair

BUCKSPORT AREA - The resurrection of Jesus Christ and the onset of Passover were observed here, as always, but while the traditional

rites were unchanged, many of those who marked the day did so with a renewed fervor.

The faithful and, yes, even some of the not-quite-so-faithful, turned on their TVs or fired up their computers to watch the electronic images of local pastors and distant church leaders lead them in the familiar prayers.

One older Orland resident ventured out at 5:30 a.m. on the crisp Sunday morning to participate in her own Easter sunrise service. A lifelong friend pulled up next to her car. They traded muffins through open windows and, keeping their distance, watched the sun rise, offered silent prayers and then motored back to their homes.

The newscasts reported on the

latest COVID-19 casualties - 19 in Maine as of Easter - and the jaw-dropping statistics flowing in from around the globe on those who had succumbed and those who were fighting the microscopic organism that was doing so much physical, emotional and economic damage.

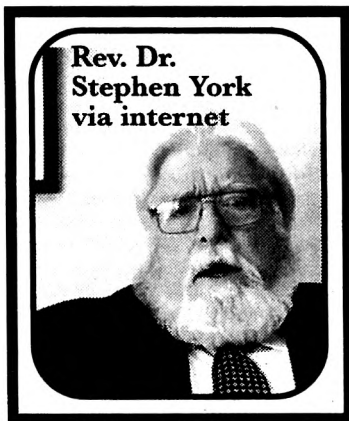
The same newscasts chronicled the millions of jobs lost, showed videos of food lines and the understandable hand-wringing over an international lack of protective gear.

In Bucksport, a few parked in the Methodist lot for a service. Others heard the pastor of the Elm Street Congregational Church speak of the wonders that occur wherever two or three are gathered, even if only by their computers.

Out on Silver Lake the occupants of a single boat sought solace with a tranquil, morning on the water. A couple of joggers, each running against the oncoming traffic made brief distant contact across the Millvale Road as they passed.

In some parts of this region, people remained without power, the residue of over 250,000 electric meters which had stopped registering. Others coped with the latest late-winter snowstorm, firing up snowblowers or chain saws as the situation warranted. Being April, the wet snow melted as fast as it had come.

Most of the area though was eerily silent, for a gentle peace now had blanketed a troubled land.



ENTERPRISE PHOTO BY SANDY HOLMES

IN THE WORKS

FOOD AVAILABLE - The school bus deliveries of foods to all students in the four RSU 25 towns continues, regardless of family income or whether they attend the RSU schools.

On Friday (4/17), additional food-stuffs are being offered to help tide everyone through the traditional spring vacation week ahead, when the school staff is off. To order the extra food, parents or guardians need to place an order at the regular ordering number -307-8008 - before 3 p.m. today (4/16).

CANCELED - The Bucksport Bay Area Chamber of Commerce has pulled the plug on this year's festival. Also canceled is the summertime Wednesday on Main entertainment and education series in downtown Bucksport. (See

Page 3.)

NOT CANCELLED - State Rep. **Richard Campbell** of Orrington isn't ready to throw in the towel on the plans to stage a sail-in event here in July. In fact, it's "full speed ahead" with the **Four Port Loop** tall ships sailing event to mark the state's Bicentennial, he said this week.

THINKING POSITIVE? - The Town of Bucksport this week has advertised for bidders to repair the municipal swimming pool. The request is posted in today's *Enterprise* (Page 2), and was sent to some would-be bidders.

The deadline for quotes is April

29, and the town manager has called a special town meeting for the next day to award the contract. While the town is asking to have the pool ready by this year's swimming season, it remains to be determined if there will be a public swimming season this year.

HOUSING REHAB - Town officials still are processing the surveys recently sent to all home owners, but the project is taking a backseat to other more-pressing issues related to preserving current public services during the pandemic. Work on determining what, if any, government aid may be available for essential repairs also depends on a review of what state and federal pro-

... Tidbits gleaned from the news

grams may be available when the Town Council is prepared to act.

Homeowners are being encouraged to submit the surveys if they haven't done so already.

OOPS! - As more and more groups turn to "virtual meetings" - gatherings of individuals via individual internet hook-ups -, sometimes even those don't work out either. Last week's "virtual coffee half-hour" sponsored by Main Street Bucksport for area business people bombed out. The group's executive director lost her internet service - and, indeed, her electricity - at her home in the Town Site.



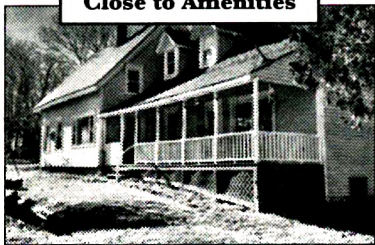
Two Rivers Realty, LLC

169 US Route 1 PO Box 875
Bucksport, ME 04416
Phone: 469-9930
Email: tworiversrealtyoffice@gmail.com
www.tworiversrealtyme.com



Two Rivers Realty continues to serve you from home, and wishes all our friends & neighbors safety and good health!

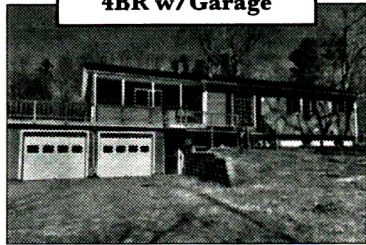
Close to Amenities



Bucksport—This charming and adorable New Englander has 3 BR, and 2 BA. Good size eat in kitchen. A covered porch for those relaxing evenings in the summer. Master is a great size, and you have your own jetted soaking tub. 2 car garage, w/ a carport at end offers ample storage. Within walking distance to downtown shopping, and restaurants, all on a large 1/2 acre lot.

Call Damon Holmes 207-460-1600 \$134,900

4BR w/ Garage



Bucksport—Complete with many great amenities, this spacious 4BR/2BA ranch sits on a large 2.93 acre lot with bright sunny yard. The interior features a custom birds-eye maple kitchen complete with island, breakfast nook & detailed corian counters. The living room offers the warmth of a wood stove as well as the efficiency of a heat pump w/ double doors overlooking the front yard. A first-floor master suite with enclosed porch, rooftop deck and 3 additional bedrooms. This home offers plenty of storage, with a full walk-out basement, oversized two-car garage w/ lean-to storage bay, work space & additional boat storage building.

Call Dan Burpee 207-735-5337 \$207,500

3BR 2BA w/ Pool & Garage



Orland—Spacious & well-maintained 3 BR 2 BA split level home. This special property has many amenities for comfortable living, including 3 well-landscaped acres, private heated in-ground pool, basketball court, central air, auto generator, pond, surround sound, 2 fireplaces, central vac, island, pantry & more! Large, insulated and heated attached garage w/ space for 4 cars and bonus room above. First floor bedrooms & full bath provide for one-floor living. Separate entrance to lower level for possible in-law suite or at-home business already has a fully set up hair salon. Excellent location near shopping, golf, walking trails & marina also offers seasonal views of the Penobscot Narrows Bridge & Observatory and is less than an hour to Acadia National Park & Bar Harbor. Adjacent business & commercial property with 7 acres, large shop & multiple garages also available.

Call Kathy Coogan 207-632-5246 \$299,900

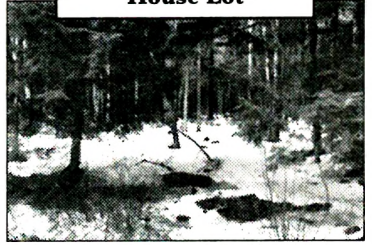
Prime Business Location



Orland—Special business & prime commercial property with 7 acres near the intersection of US Route 1 and State Route 46 w/ excellent visibility, large shop & multiple garages. Currently an automotive garage business, the facility and acreage is adaptable to many other uses. Large insulated & heated 4480 sq ft wood frame, steel-sided building offers 22' high ceiling in center, two 14 x 14 garage doors & office area. Separate building offers 3080 sq ft with 4 additional 12' garage doors. Property has its own separate well and septic, though town water and sewer are now available. Adjacent 3 BR 2 BA home on 3 acres with in-ground pool and attached garage is also available. (See combined commercial & residential listing MLS 1442509)

Call Kathy Coogan 207-632-5246 \$450,000

House Lot



Sullivan—A nicely wooded, affordable lot in well established subdivision in Sullivan, Maine. This lot sits on just under an acre of land and is only a half hour to Ellsworth. This lot has been surveyed and soil tested. Ready for your new home plans!

Call Kyle McGeechan 207-249-0049 \$12,000



Orland: Contemporary with 3-4 bedrooms, 2 full baths, open floor, plan great for entertaining, 28x29 huge family room with wood stove. Sliding door to 3 season glassed in sun room. Pool room is 48x26 heated indoor, inground pool, hot tub & full bath for added fun! Beautifully landscaped yard. 2 car attached garage! Take note Workshop 24x18 has an electric subpane! Call for showing today!

\$235,000



Bucksport: Great investment property in excellent condition! Ready to move in with your business on the main level and live on the second floor in your 3-4 bedrooms, large kitchen, dining room area. New windows, beautiful character with stain glass window in front of building. Natural gas heat. Lots of parking. Views of the Penobscot River! Schedule a showing today!

\$250,000



Holden: Spectacular views at this 4 bedroom colonial situated on 5.03 country acres. Spacious and fully appointed kitchen with open floor plan to dining room and living room. Wander out on your back deck to enjoy the wildlife, garden and the views. Full walk-out basement ready for you to finish! 2-car attached garage. Call to see today!

\$334,500

The market is still moving!
Call for a **FREE** market analysis and list now!



Better Homes and Gardens
REAL ESTATE

THE MASIELLO GROUP

Elaine Pelletier, Broker
207-852-4021
epelletier81@gmail.com

Travis Pelletier, Assoc. Broker
207-807-7641
travispelletier@midmaine.com
Office: 207-942-6711

Health center gets nearly \$600,000

BUCKSPORT — The Bucksport Regional Health Center has gained almost \$600,000 as part of the national effort to join in the fight to stem the COVID-19 pandemic.

A dozen-and-a-half health centers in Maine shared in almost \$12.9 million made available by the federal government to increase screening and testing for the highly contagious virus. The money also can be used to buy medical supplies and increase the use of telemedicine techniques such as distance visiting with patients via computer images, and telephone consultations. The

local health center is getting \$598,790.

The money is coming from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration. That agency is getting the cash through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. That measure - overwhelmingly approved in the Senate by members of both parties - provides \$2 trillion to protect the health and the livelihoods of Americans during the COVID-19 pandemic, including \$1.32 billion for community health centers.

JAY — The Androscoggin mill, until recently owned by Verso Paper, was the scene of a major explosion yesterday (4/15) afternoon. State Police

Jay mill ripped by explosion

reported there were no injuries reported, but a massive response was launched because of the severity of the blast. The governor delayed the daily briefing on the coronavirus so public safety officials could concentrate on the emergency in Jay. However, that briefing was held late yesterday afternoon. Verso sold the Jay mill and one other paper mill to a Pennsylvania-based firm in February for some \$400 million.

PUBLIC NOTICE



Town of Bucksport Bid Request Tim Emery Pool Interim Repairs

A. GENERAL

The Town of Bucksport, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed Bids for the Tim Emery Municipal Pool Interim Repairs. The work includes repairs to the existing swimming pool.

B. OPENING OF BIDS

The Awarding Authority at the following location will receive sealed Bids:

Town of Bucksport
50 Main Street
P.O. Box X
Bucksport, ME 04416

All bids must be received by April 29, 2020 at 4 PM

Bids shall be submitted on the prescribed bid forms provided by the Authority.

C. AVAILABILITY OF CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS will be emailed to all potential bidders in PDF format. Contact Susan Lessard at slessard@bucksportmaine.gov or by calling 207-469-7368 to receive a set of Documents.

Only parties receiving Documents will be recorded on the Plan Holder List and will receive addendum if issued.

D. BID PROPOSALS

A one hundred percent (100%) Performance Bond will be required from the successful Bidder.

E. CONTRACT AWARD

Upon receipt of bids, the Awarding Authority must determine, from information submitted on the Bid Form Attachments, whether the apparent low bidder is responsible and can be awarded the Contract.

The Awarding Authority reserves the right to waive any informalities in, or to reject any and all bids if it is determined to be in the public interest to do so.

No bidder may withdraw his bid within thirty (30) days after the opening of the Bids.

Susan Lessard, Town Manager
Town of Bucksport

04/16/20

The Bucksport Enterprise

It's a wicked good read!

More and more of your neighbors are subscribing.
Maybe you should, too.

☐ New ☐ Renewal

Name _____

Mailing address _____

Town _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Credit Card Information:

MasterCard Visa Discover

Number _____ Exp _____

Yearly fee: In Maine \$33 plus NEW 5.5% Sales tax: \$34.82

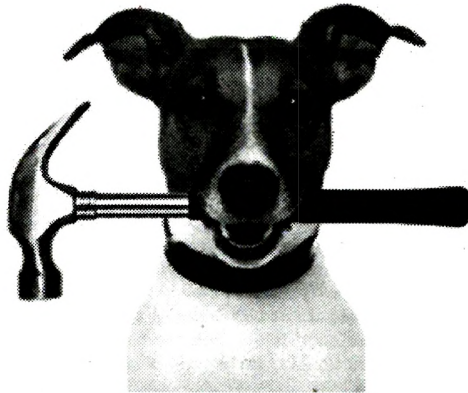
Out of Hancock Cty Seasonal \$35 plus 5.5% sales tax: \$36.93;

Outside Maine \$38

Send your credit card information or check, made payable to:

The Bucksport Enterprise, PO Box 829, Bucksport, ME 04416
or call (207) 469-6722 • email: theenterpr@aol.com

Contractors —
Package your protection with us!
Liability, W-Comp,
Biz tools & vehicles



**Roland
 Grindle
 Insurance
 Agency**

**159 US Rte 1,
 Bucksport ME
 469-3623**

www.GrindleInsurance.com

"If we're not your insurance agency, we should be."

**GRINDLE
 GROUND SERVICES**

Commercial Customers:
**Contact us today & discuss parking lot
 sweeping and spring cleanup at your
 business location, coming up soon!**

Accepting new lawn mowing accounts!

To stay safe and social distance, let's talk remotely!
**CALL, TEXT, or EMAIL for a free quote & to
 schedule work!**

207-478-3545

Chris Grindle | chris@ggsmaine.com

Friends & Family

CANCELLED - Noting the decision was made "with deep regret," **Paula Kee** this week pulled the plug on the 2020 season of the **Wednesday on Main** (WOM) downtown arts and education series.

As with most of the events in this area, the decision is the result of the continuing impact of the COVID-19 virus pandemic.

Observed Kee, "These cancellations add to the pain felt by our performers, our venue owners and businesses who benefit from the weekly gathering of attendees at these events, who would have been celebrating WOM's sixth season. We thank our sponsors and The Town of Bucksport for their continuing support." She also thanked everyone who has attended and assisted in the past. Now, Kee wants to spearhead, "the plans that are to go forward with abandon in 2021."

*www.bucksportwom.com, or FMI
 Paula Kee at (207) 266-7999*

COUNTING SHEEP TALE? - Someone lost their sheep on the Silver Lake Road but a local police officer saw to it that they came wandering home, no doubt with their little tails wagging behind them.

SHIP SHAPING UP - Like kids at Christmas, the folks at the **Maine Maritime Academy** (MMA) are happy to report the first of a new round of training ships are being built at the navy yard in Philadelphia.

Instead of refitting no-longer-needed U.S. Navy castoffs, the nation's maritime schools will get new ships designed especially for their needs. While the first two ships are spoken for, the MMA is in line to replace the aging *T/S State of Maine*, long a landmark at its pier in Castine.

**Send us your
 'Friends & family' news**

- Annual meeting rescheduled -

**Our 80th Annual Meeting will be held
 via videoconference
 at 4:00 P.M.
 on Friday, April 24.**

**Please contact the credit union at
 info@seboardfcu.com
 to receive information on how to
 join the meeting.**

1.800.639.2206



www.seboardfcu.com



**SEABOARD
 FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**



JOHN R. CROOKER INSURANCE AGENCY



PERSONAL & COMMERCIAL INSURANCE SINCE 1928

Our friendly agents represent over 25 different companies. With all those choices we can often find you great coverage at a reasonable price. 3 licensed agents are ready to help you understand insurance and ensure your assets are protected.

Auto, Boat, Commercial Liability, Home, ATV, Rental Property, Motorcycle, Snowmobile, Artesian, Contractor, & Umbrella Policies available.

No Appointments needed, Phone quotes are welcome.
 Service is our specialty

6 Elm Street, PO Box 1400

207-469-3152 (PH)

Bucksport, Maine 04416

207-469-0625 (FX)

website: www.jrcrooker.com email: diane.mcguire@jrcrooker.com

OSBORNE'S PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.

Taking care of our customers for 27 years!

Note Important Changes:

**We are available to our customers during our
 normal business hours by phone to schedule
 services, or if you need to pay bills,
 or have any questions.**

**The Office and Showroom are currently unavail-
 able to the general public until further notice.
 There is a locked drop box for checks outside
 the office door for your convenience.**

**We will let you know as soon as there
 are any changes.**

Bucksport

Hours: Mon-Fri. 7:30 am - 4 pm

Ellsworth

15 Heritage Park Road Bucksport, ME 04416

105 High Street, Ellsworth ME 04605

Ph: 469-6225 • Fax: 469-1923

Ph: 412-0401 • Fax: 412-0403

visit our website @ Osborneservices.com • or Email: osbornebv@aol.com

Mailing: PO Box 1718, Bucksport, ME 04416



The links that bind

The current discombobulation of traditional methods of communication underline the vital need to come up with a national high-speed internet network accessible to all.

The idea has been batted about for years, and championed by - among others - Maine Sen. Angus King - but the implementation of high speed service remains too slow.

The access to the most-modern communications technology is most-needed in two highly different sectors of our society: those in urban cores who cannot afford even modest computers, let alone, the monthly service charges, and those of us who reside in the more rural areas.

Our nation's youth would benefit if all, not just some, had access to the laptops that in recent years have so benefited Maine's middle and high school students. If we can ship \$200 laptops overseas to third world nations we should be able to do the same here.

Similarly, access to high speed internet service would be an economic catalyst for areas of this country now held back by a lack of such service - at any price.

As the pandemic has demonstrated, there are advantages to being spread out in small, caring, supportive communities. Many in this country are craving the opportunity to earn their futures in such places. While this is not to advocate for wholesale migrations to turn the more rural areas into new suburban sprawl, there are broad sections of this country that are atrophying from a lack of new, young residents and fresh employment opportunities.

High speed internet improvements are being made across the country. The federal government is looking to make long-needed improvements in our infrastructure. That infrastructure is not just the tangible: roads, airports, and rail lines. Our critical infrastructure now includes better, faster links in telecommunications and these cannot come soon enough as we seek to reclaim our shell-shocked economy.

A polisher of words

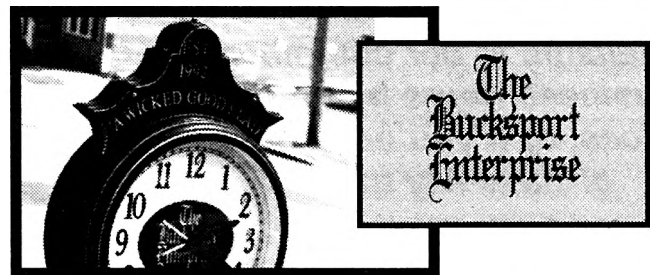
In a very small town you don't always have to use names. . . . the poet who dwelled and flourished by the river . . . the mischievous fellow who launched the great Orland raft race, featuring most anything that floated, at least for a time . . . the quiet man who observed keenly, and then often commented in print on most anything that fell within his extremely broad and eclectic range of interests . . . the Quaker who lived as he worshipped . . . the perennial grower of all things good, beautiful and, often, tasty.

David Llewellyn Davis was no hermit, living there at the end of the seldom-traveled gravel section of the narrow, dead end road that parallels the Narramissic River as it meanders through Orland. Some how, some way, he always knew what was going on in the world, be it global, national, anywhere and everywhere in Maine or eventucked away in the hills and hollows of his favorite place in the world. More particularly in that place was the home he and his wife, Virginia ("Ginny," to most) had built, overlooking the usually tranquil river. And he stayed attuned to it all, even when he had not ventured from his doorway because of some lingering malady.

That house was no hideaway, no Walden-like rustic cabin retreat; it simply was a fine contemplative spot from which to ponder the world and its many wonders and mysteries. People came, and people went, but most who paused for a while, left savoring the minutes or hours they spent there.

The gentlest of men, Davis appreciated the sanctity of silence, and the beauty of conveying complex thoughts and feelings succinctly in tightly crafted poem.

David Llewellyn Davis passed from us this month, but he left far more than his name to remember him by.



Periodicals postage paid at Bucksport, ME 04416
— USPS #009997 —

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Bucksport Enterprise*, Post Office Box 829, Bucksport, ME 04416-0829.

Advertising — The publisher reserves the right to reject or cancel any advertisement. Advertisers assume liability for the content of their ads and any claims arising from their advertising.

Contact *The Bucksport Enterprise* — (207) 469-6722 • email: theenterpr@aol.com • Mail: 105 Main Street, P.O. Box 829, Bucksport, ME 04416.

Don Houghton
Editor & Publisher

Sandy Holmes
General Manager

LETTERS . . . to the editor

The good, the bad, the ugly

This letter is to bring up some things I think need to be said. We are all in the midst of hard times physically, mentally, and financially.

I would like to start with the good or actually the great, which is our current Town Manager Susan Lessard.

When things started going bad she got right on top of them, doing some incredible things; not the least of all giving to every household that is out of work a means to put food on their table. She also made it possible for homebound elderly to have meals delivered. And the biggest thing is the \$150 to households of the people that have lost their jobs.

Now, the bad, or the not-so-good. We have a certain town councilor or maybe more than one, that wanted to drag their heels a bit, to make sure as it was quoted, "to dot all the 'I's' and cross all the 'T's'".

Certain things have to occur and occur fast, and feeding our neighbors (voters) as fast as possible. As we discuss "letters" — to the councilor or plural: stop the petty games and help the people. We are the ones that are in charge of the "X" next to your name at the next election.

Now, for the ugly. We are in some very bad times. We need to do things for ourselves and each other. We have been told things and they seem to take forever to happen.

I am typing this letter on Easter Sunday. Has anyone out there seen their stimulus check yet? I haven't. Now, the state goes and shuts down whatever the federal government didn't and forgot to realize that the amount of claims would skyrocket and the unemployment system could not handle the volume. If we look at what we have gotten from our town, state and federal governments, which one or which person has helped us the most and the fastest.

If you enjoyed your Easter meal, remember more than likely where it came from.

Joseph Ruddock
Bucksport

Honoring the helpers

Mr. Rogers has his famous saying about looking for the helpers in times of trouble. Well, if he were looking today he would see Colleen Dodge at the Bucksport Senior Center. A smile can be heard in her voice as she takes the phone order for your meal.

Meal orders have now tripled thanks to that generosity of [Town Manager] Susan Lessard and the Bucksport Town Council. Even as Colleen's workload now has tripled her smile remains. It is important to note Colleen is a volunteer and continues to work three times as hard because she is a person that truly knows what kindness means. If ever there was an angel masquerading as a person, it is Colleen. We must also thank all of the helpers that prepare the meals and deliver the meals to seniors' doors. Our wonderful cooks - Judy Chandler, Ruth Ginn and Glenn Redman.

All are working three times as hard too. Also the compassionate delivery drivers - John and Celeste Majek, Gary Newbegin, Cary Comtois, Charlotte Snowman, Patty Gray, Michelle Rhodes and Jim Morrison.

Even though times are bleak know there is a very bright spot in the form of the wonderful woman answering the phone at the Senior Center.

Thanks, too, to all of the others working and volunteering their time to provide love and safety to our seniors in the form of a warm meal.

Thank you,
William Foster, Director,
Bucksport Senior Center, Bucksport

Spreading hope

You might want to give some people some hope:

I went for a short ride the other day and what I saw did my heart good. A man was out raking his yard from the winter debris.

The leaves of tulips were pushing up through

the ground, no flowers yet, but getting there.

People were out walking there dogs, staying 6 feet apart and waving to each other as they passed. They even stopped to talk to one another from a very safe distance, the width of the roadway.

I even went next door to check on the cemetery from the winter damage. The birds were singing, wild rabbits were hopping around and I saw a fox.

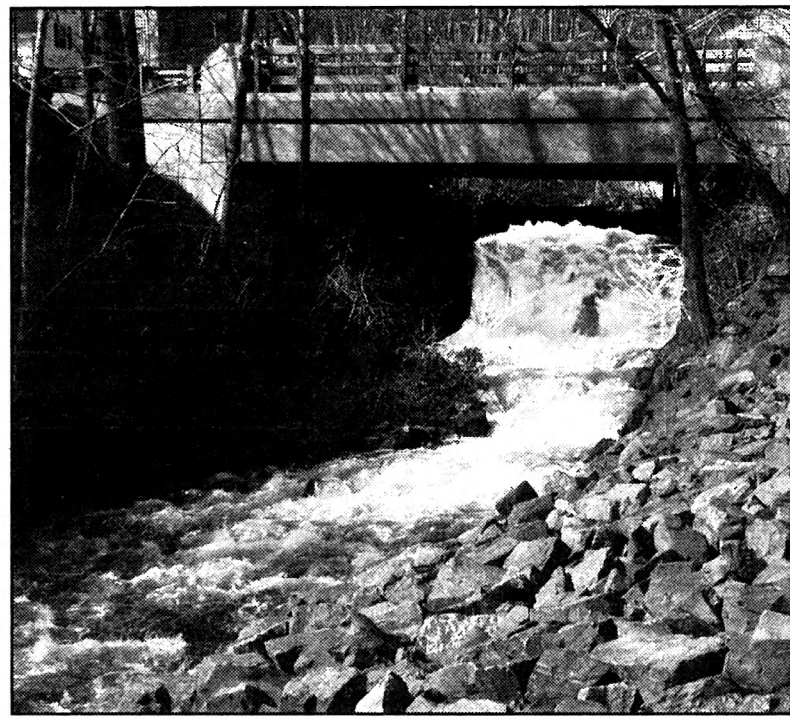
Things will get back to normal, folks, just do your part, stay safe and use common sense. Check on the elderly, do their shopping for them, maybe even cook a meal and leave it outside on their step, just show you care and that we are in this together. Most of all, say a prayer every day and never give up hope.

Elsie Nester
Orland

Missing Bucksport

We just finished reading the March 26 edition (our mail is sent weekly so we're always behind) and we wanted to be first to thank you for being there and putting out a much-needed newspaper, especially now.

There are so many messages of support and



THE OLD MILL STREAM gushes its way toward Bucksport Bay. Silver Lake, the town's water supply, is rising to near its capacity. *Enterprise photo by Sandy Holmes*

solidarity coming from our community during this difficult time -- it's wonderful.

We are very proud of the new Town programs to support residents and businesses. We are "Bucksport Strong!"

As you might guess, we're staying put in Sarasota until the end of April, when we will make a decision about returning home. We're hoping for the first week of May.

We are so grateful to have, so far, escaped COVID-19.

Our families, friends and colleagues are healthy; that's what matters most. May it be so with you all. We miss being there.

The summertime "Wednesday On Main" programming in Bucksport is very much up in the air at this moment, and I will be making a decision on the 2020 season in a month.

Frankly, it looks less than promising based on the current state of affairs. We shall see.

Sending you our best regards and sincerest thanks for all you do.

Paula and David Kee
Sarasota, FL and Bucksport



We were wrong

BUCKSPORT — The crucial word "no" was inadvertently dropped from an item in last week's *Enterprise* about U.S. Postal Service deliveries. The final sentence in that item should have read, "There currently is NO evidence that COVID-19 is being spread through the mail, according to the postal service." We thank the local post office for last week calling attention to our mistake.

OBITUARIES

David Llewellyn Davis, 1926 - 2020

ORLAND — On Friday, April 3, 2020, David Llewellyn Davis died peacefully in his home in Orland.

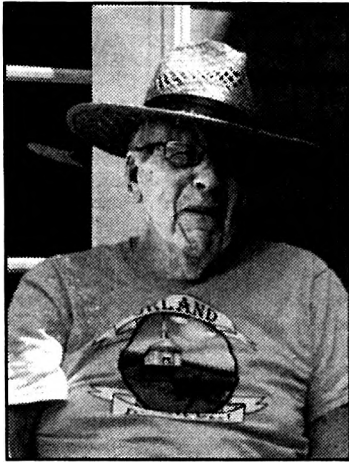
He was born on Nov. 25, 1926 in Auburn, NY, the son of Janet L. Bridgeman and W. Frederick R. Davis.

Dave spent his childhood and most of his teen age years in the Finger Lakes region of the Empire State.

Close to the end of his education at Auburn High School he joined the U.S. Army. After completing his basic Army training he traveled with his unit to Germany, where he served in the Army of Occupation at the end of the war. Upon returning home, he headed north to Bucksport, where he took a job at the St. Regis Paper Co.

Dave had a cousin who lived in Orland next door to Virginia Soper. Dave and Virginia met and they were married for over 70 years. They built a house along the banks of Narramissic River in Orland, residing there for the rest of their lives.

Dave left the paper mill after over 20 years and went to work for University of Maine Cooperative Extension in community development, where he worked until retirement. Dave always had been a dirt farmer at heart, and upon retiring he and Ginny started a successful greenhouse business. Open from dawn until



David Llewellyn Davis

dusk in the summer, they ran it until they decided it was time to rest a bit.

Resting for Dave was pursuing his love of poetry. He wrote many poems and published, *Ready to Be Surprised*, a collection of his poems.

For over 60 years Dave was active in community organizations, the Grange, Masons, the Orland church, Orland Historical Society and Bucksport Bay Area Chamber of Commerce. He also was elected and served several times as an Orland selectman.

He was scoutmaster of Troop 102 for 11 years. The boys in his troop, who now are men, still remember the good times they had with Dave and the life lessons they learned.

By faith a Quaker, Dave was instrumental in starting a Friends Meeting in Orland. His faith was exemplified in every day life beside the peaceful Narramissic, where he was a consummate practitioner of patience, and always was strong and steady.

Dave always was ready to lend a helping hand. He touched many lives. He will be missed by all who knew him.

A service for David will be held at a later date. The time and place will be published once the service is scheduled.

David Wayne Spooner 1960 - 2020

BUCKSPORT & SEBASTIAN, FL — David W. Spooner, 60, died unexpectedly on April 10, 2020 at the Sebastian River Medical Center.

He was born on March 13, 1960 in Bangor, the son of Ialda J. (Clair) Raymond and Carroll O. Spooner.

David graduated from Bucksport

High School in 1978. He worked in construction for most of his working years. He was active in the Veterans of Foreign Wars and currently was the auxiliary president of the Sebastian branch. He loved to golf, the feel and sounds of the ocean and sports of all kinds.

He leaves behind two children with former wife, Paula Spooner: Brad and his wife, Jessica, with their son, Knox, from

Arlington, TX and Brittney and her husband, Daniel Santora with their son, Paxton, from Walker, LA.

He has two siblings, Lynn S Coombs and her husband, Melvin, with their three children of Orrington and

Greg C Spooner and his wife, Judy, of Mariahville and a step-mother, Gail Spooner of Bar Harbor. He also is remembered by two special friends, Lucia Jandreau of Vero Beach, FL and Larry Susdorf of Sebastian, FL.

He is predeceased by both of his parents.

There will be a celebration of life and burial in July.



David Wayne Spooner

Joyce Marylin (Spooner) Burrill 1932 - 2020

BANGOR—Joyce M. Burrill, 87, died on April 10, 2020 at an area nursing home.

She was born on Sept. 11, 1932 in Perham, the daughter of Sigrid M. Akerson and Cecil O. Spooner.

Joyce graduated from Bucksport High School in 1950 and immediately joined the U.S. Air Force. Joyce served her country for four years.

In 1953, she married Gerald Wotton of Blue Hill.

She continued to work for the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in New York as a secretary in various departments. Joyce and Gerald raised a family of six boys in New York. As her children reached school age, Joyce returned to work at the Stewart Field Army Recruiting Office until 1973, when she returned to West Point and continued her career until her retirement in 1992.

Gerald passed away in 1984, and in 2002 Joyce married a high school sweetheart, Richard Burrill.

She was predeceased by her husbands, her parents and four siblings: Carroll Spooner of Bar Harbor, Helen Bennett of Bucksport, Erlene Harding of Bar Harbor and Erwin Spooner of Bucksport.

Joyce loved to volunteer, helped in the part-time care of foster infants, was an officer for the American Legion and a life member of that group.

She liked pictures, shopping, crafts and travelling. She travelled often in later years of her life, often with a niece, nephew or grandchild along for the fun!

She leaves behind six children; Eric Wotton and his

wife, Ann, of New York, Mark Wotton of New York, John Wotton and his wife, Karen, of Florida, Norman (Cecil) Wotton of New York, Ronald DePew of New York and Fred DePew of New York; nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She also leaves three siblings: Esther Weston of Bucksport, Donald and wife, Donna, of Bucksport, and Peter and wife, Ellen, of Orrington; and a sister-in-law, Gail Spooner of Bar Harbor and many nieces and nephews.

A graveside service with military honors will be held at 11 a.m. on July 11, 2020, at the Riverview Cemetery in North Bucksport. Those who want to remember Joyce in a special way may make gifts in her memory to The Travis Mills Foundation, 747 Western Ave., Suite 1, Manchester, ME 04351.

Condolences to the family may be expressed at BrookingsSmith.com.



Joyce M (Spooner) Burrill

Sally J. Nason, 1938 - 2020

ORLAND - Sally J. Nason, 81, passed away on Wednesday, April 8, 2020, at her home.

The daughter of Fred R. and Dorothy G. (Johnson) Dunham, she was born in Brewer on Nov. 22, 1938.

Sally retired on Dec. 31, 1999 after 28 years of working at the Bucksport paper mill. She was a member of the Rebekahs for over 50 years, and truly enjoyed the sisterhood of special women. Sally had a beautiful soul and deeply cherished her friends and family, keeping them close to her heart.

She is survived and will greatly be missed by her loving family: her sister, Thelma Dunham; her children; Cindy Jones and husband John, George Nason, daughter-in-law Laura and husband Gary; grandchildren: John Jones Jr. (Nicole), Sally Pearce (Jay), Shawn Jones, Mike



Sally J. Nason

Nason, Dan Nason (Courtney), Jennifer Nason (Jeff) and Melanie Hafford; great-grandchildren: Bryce (Kelly), Tyler, Lexi, Regan, Brandon, Kyle, Ethan, Brianna, Destiny and Piper; brother-in-law Raymond Wardwell (Skip) and sister in law Lorna Nason; as well as many nieces and nephews who were all were special to her.

In addition to her parents, Sally was predeceased by her husband, Clarence; son Richard; great-grandson Dominic; and her siblings George, Mary, Charlie, David, Ruth and Grace.

A celebration of Sally's life will be held at a later date when conditions allow.

Arrangements are by the Mitchell-Tweedie Funeral Home and Cremation Services in Bucksport

• www.mitchelltweedie-young.com •

J.E. ('Jef') Fitzgerald, 1959 - 2020

BUCKSPORT - J.E. ('Jef') Fitzgerald, Bucksport's former assessor who last August became the chief planner for the City of Ellsworth, died on Saturday. He was 60.

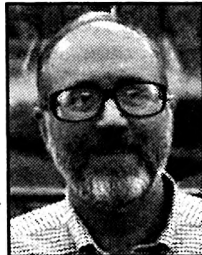
Fitzgerald, who served Bucksport for roughly eight years, before returning to Ellsworth for what one person described as his "dream job," that of helping to shape that community's future.

During his tenure here, Fitzgerald was known for his easy, cooperative manner, his honesty and his commitment to serving each taxpayer and the town the best way he could. He also was the quiet catalyst in the development of the latest update of Bucksport's Comprehensive Plan and the glue that

held together the group of volunteers serving on the BucksportNEXT community group.

He also was known for his uncanny ability to succinctly explain complex tax issues in laymen's language. That proved invaluable when dealing with taxpayers and town officials.

Comments and condolences may be left on his son Peter Fitzgerald's Facebook page.



J.E. ('Jef') Fitzgerald



**Mitchell-Tweedie
Funeral Home**
28 Elm Street
Bucksport
469-3177

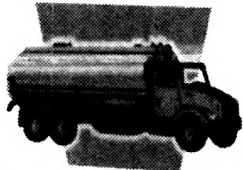
Young Funeral Home — Searsport 548-2545

✱
All local all the time!
**The Bucksport
Enterprise**
✱

BookStacks

bucksporthbookseller@gmail.com
Books, Magazines, Newspapers, Cards & Gifts,
Fine Wine and Pretty Good Coffee
FREE Wi-Fi 24/7 • 469-8992
Andy Lacher, Owner
Open 7 days a week

GENE BASS CASH FUEL LIHEAP MEMBER



Locally owned & operated
for over 5 years

Now delivering to the
Castine Area

469-2373

BUCKSPORT

JERRY'S HARDWARE Route 1, Bucksport



Check out our new
PET CENTER

Leashes, toys, food and more!

We are now open

7 days a week

from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

And best of all, friendly employees!!

207-469-2451

Unique Gifts & Shopping
Fun Classes Art Parties
info@LighthouseArtsEducation.org
207-702-9135



L-GHITHOUSE
ARTS & EDUCATION
A Beacon for Creativity

86 Main St, Bucksport
Temporarily closed due to COVID-19
Check out Facebook & website for
upcoming classes & tidbits about art!
More will be added from our artists to
share some fun art activities.
Stay tuned!
www.LighthouseArtsEducation.org

Christopher Jerome
BPI Certified * Vendor, Efficiency Maine
christopherjerome38@gmail.com
Quality * Experience * Competitive Prices

(207) 322-3627

PO Box 1393

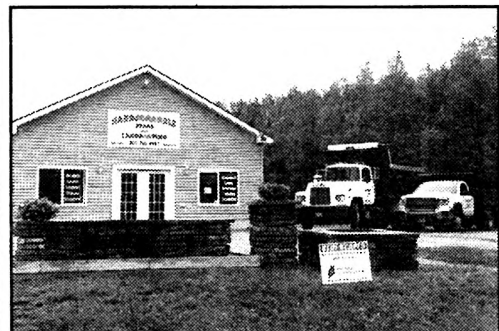
Bucksport ME 04416

CJ Insulation

Warming homes, from our family to yours.

Hardscrabble Stone and Landscaping, LLC.

Landscaping Construction & Design
Commercial and Residential



- Stonework
- Mulch
- Lawn installs
- Driveways
- Loam
- Gravel
- Granite
- Stone
- Blue Seal Feeds

Septic Systems & Excavation

136 U.S. Highway 1, Verona Island, ME 04416

Office: 207-702-9161

Cell: 207-479-2931

HOURS: Mon-Thurs 7am -4 pm • Fri 7am - 5 pm

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

FOR RENT -APARTMENTS

BUCKSPORT — Two-bedroom apartment. Off-street parking. River view. washer-dryer hook-up.. First month's rent and security deposit. 944-1000. ufn

BUCKSPORT — Spacious living room and large bathroom. Ground level. Private, off-street parking. Light and airy. Trash and snow removal included. \$600-a-month. (207) 479-1822 ufn

FOR RENT — OFFICES

BUCKSPORT — Office space. Two rooms office w/ bath. Privacy, riverview. Off-street parking. Trash pick up. Snowplowing \$400-a-month. 479-1822. ufn

FOR SALE — Firewood

FIREWOOD — Cut, split and delivered to Bucksport and nearby towns. Stubbs Family Firewood. 469-3725. ufn

GIFTS

NEWS FLASH! Give The Bucksport Enterprise. It arrives every week all year long to remind the recipient of your thoughtfulness. The Enterprise accepts most major credit cards. 469-6722.

HELP WANTED

CRMAs - Looking for two CRMAs. Full-time. for the Jed Prouty. If interested, contact Beth or Liz at (207) 902-1220 or (207) 952-0241. Please call ahead. 4/23

PAINTING SERVICES

LINDSEY'S HOUSEPAINTING/ Interior and exterior. Professional housepainting. Windows, glazing and more. Free estimates. (207) 479-0124 or e-mail housepainting20@hotmail.com. 4/30

STORAGE

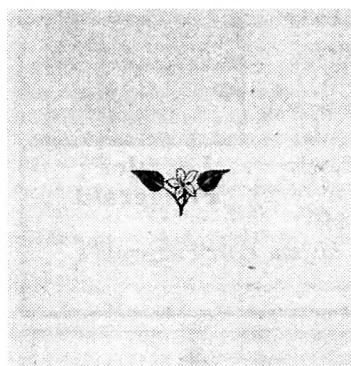
TODDY POND STOR-ALL — Special rates. New, clean and well-maintained 5 by 5 or 10 by 20 square-foot, locked spaces. Call 469-6131 or 469-2482 for rates. ufn

YOUR AD HERE

CLASSIFIED ADS — The first 20 words are \$8 per week. We offer reduced rates for repeated ads. Call 469-6722 for details. Most major credit cards are accepted. ufn

BACK ISSUES

MISS AN ISSUE? — Previous issues of the Enterprise sometimes are available at the office at 105 Main Street, Bucksport. ufn



You can't hide
A GNAT
in the Enterprise

BIG JAY TREE SERVICE

207-702-9012

Licensed & Insured • Free Estimates



Jason Emery Bucksport, ME
Certified Arborist, B.S. Environmental Science

Planting • Pruning
Diagnosis

Hazard Tree Removal
Experienced Climber
Storm Clean-up
Tree Risk Assessment
& Management
Wood chips/mulch

Est. 2005

TAX PREPARATION SERVICES

Kim Burgess

(formerly Gonzales Tax Services)

207-469-3230

60 School House Rd, Orland ME 04472

Same fast and affordable service

FT. VIEW VARIETY

Carter's Citgo Verona Island 469-0004

NEW menu items & 'To go' meals!

New items weekly: Beef stew, soups, sandwiches
Desserts: Choc. cake/cheesecake by slice



NOV

Sorry, closed until May 1

Friars' Brewhouse

Taproom, Restaurant, & Bakery

Saturday's Church-less Church Supper

9 X 13 pan of Beef Lasagna,

A loaf of garlic bread,

and an assortment of dessert pastries

\$35.50 / Call to order on Mon. - Fri. between 11:00 and 2:00.

We have Friars' Brewhouse Howlers of 'Beer to Go!'

OPEN TUES. - SAT. from 11:00 until 2:00
84 MAIN STREET / TEL: (207) 702 - 9156

Dental Associates

of Bucksport & Ellsworth

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS OF ALL AGES

With our two convenient locations and caring family atmosphere, we offer our patients the most up-to-date technology in cosmetic and general dentistry.

www.dental-associates.com

11 Mechanic Street
Bucksport, ME 04416
(207) 469-6191

325 Main Street
Ellsworth, ME 04605
(207) 667-7117

WERU COMMUNITY RADIO

89.9 FM BLUE HILL • 99.9 FM BANGOR



PROVIDING DIVERSE MUSIC, ALTERNATIVE NEWS
AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMMING.

Listener Supported • Volunteer Powered
A Voice of Many Voices

Office: (207) 469-6600 Studio: (207) 469-0500
E-mail: info@weru.org Webcasting: www.weru.org



Good to Go

Family-Style Meals-Packed to Travel
Wed.-Sat. -- April 15 - 18
Call after 2 p.m. for pickup
between 4-7 p.m.

207-469-3963

63 Main St. Bucksport ME

www.macleodsrestaurant.com

Salads

\$6.95/\$9.95/\$12.95 (feeds 4)
Mixed Garden or Caesar

Soups & Crocks

MacLeod's Tomato Bisque
\$3.95/\$6.95/\$11.95 (qt.)
Haddock Chowder
\$6.95/\$10.95/\$14.95 (qt.)

BUCKSPORT'S BEST BURGER

\$11.95
Connor's NE/SW
Bacon Burger \$12.95

CHICKEN NACHO KITS

Ready for your oven \$11.95

Grilled Teriyaki Salmon

Fresh salmon filet marinated in
house made ginger teriyaki.
Pineapple rum glaze. Served
with rice pilaf and creamy slaw.
\$19.95

George's Chicken & Cheese Corn Chowder

Quart w/salad for 2 and Katie's buttermilk
biscuits \$18.95

Spaghetti & Meatballs

Our house made meatballs & marinara
w/garlic bread \$14.95/\$8 add'l servings

Chicken or Black Bean Burrito

w/kale slaw \$14.95/\$8 add'l servings

Baked Mac & Cheese

\$14.95/\$8 add'l servings

Thai Noodles w/Sesame

Peanut Sauce

\$14.95/\$8 add'l servings
Add chicken \$3 or shrimp \$5

Baked Meatloaf

w/mashed potatoes, gravy & today's veg
\$16.95/\$9 add'l servings

MacLeod's BBQ Ribs

w/oven fries & slaw \$16.95
\$9 add'l servings

Please call for our Daily Steak,
Seafood and Dessert Specials

PUBLIC SAFETY LOGS

Booked at jail

ELLSWORTH – A 39-year-old Blue Hill woman, was arrested early Sunday afternoon in Bucksport on a variety of motor vehicle offenses.

She was booked at the Hancock County Jail later in the afternoon.

Mary Louise Nevells, 39, of 770 Ellsworth Road, was stopped on Main Street, and charged with driving while under the influence of alcohol, refusing to stop, speeding at more than 30 miles above the posted limit, driving so as to endanger and refusing to submit to arrest.

She later posted bail and was released.

Alerted by the Hancock County sheriff's office, a Bucksport police officer spotted Nevells passing along U.S. Route 1, near the Hannaford Bros. supermarket, and pursued her onto Main Street.

Accidents - Deer

BUCKSPORT - Breanna Hamby, 23, of Orland struck a deer on on the River Road. She reported the accident to police about 8 p.m. on April 8.

Accidents - Other

BUCKSPORT – These accidents were listed:

• Justin Clapper, 26, of Bucksport failed to negotiate a curve on the Millvale Road and his vehicle went off the pavement. An estimated

\$4,000 in damage resulted. The accident was reported about 6:30 p.m. last Thursday (4/9).

• Vehicles being driven by Sharon Melkanson, 70, and Patricia Gray, 59, both of Bucksport collided on the River Road about 3:30 p.m. April 8. The two were headed toward downtown when a third motorist braked suddenly to avoid a dog and the accident resulted, police said.

• Vehicles operated by Courtney Lorrain 30, and Amanda Burgess, 33, both of Orland, collided on U.S. Route 1 about 9:15 a.m. on Saturday.

Summonses

BUCKSPORT – These court summonses were issued here recently:

• Megan Phinney, 33, of Bucksport was given a ticket for allegedly driving 20 miles an hour above the posted limit. She was stopped on the Millvale Road about noon on April 7.

• Merri-Beth Bumpus, 41, of Brewer was cited for allegedly driving a vehicle on U.S. Route 1 about 9:45 a.m. on Sunday with an expired registration.

Weekly statistics

BUCKSPORT – There are no public safety statistics on file again this week. There was at least one fire run, a grass fire on Jacob Buck Pond Road in the afternoon on April 6.

The animal control officer reported he has two dogs and a cat ready for adoption. Call 469- 7951 for the details or to arrange a visit.

Business DIRECTORY

APPLIANCES

DAYCOR • CROSELEY • FIVE STAR • VENT A HOOD • GENERAL ELECTRIC • WHIRLPOOL • MAYTAG • KITCHEN AID • ASKO • Miele • MARMEL • J-SHUNK EATOR • BROAN • SCOTSDALE

BROWN APPLIANCE
EST. **B** 1976
MATTRESS

SERVICE IS OUR MOST IMPORTANT PRODUCT

Reasons Customers Shop at Brown Appliance:
Reliable, professional & fast customer service
Over 40 years locally owned & operated
Knowledgeable, honest & friendly service team

Beds, Refrigerators, Ovens, Washers, National Brands
Find them all right here!

207 667-4629
311 High Street, PO Box 669, Ellsworth, ME 04605
Hours: Mon-Sat 8-5
www.brownapplianceandmattress.com

Financing Available to Qualified Buyers!

WOLF • JENN-AIR • MAGIC CHEF • FISHER & PAYKEL • PREMIER • BROAN • MAYTAG

OIL FURNACE SERVICE

Midnight Oil Burner Service

Master License/Fully Insured

Home Heating Installation
24 Hour Emergency Service
Preventative Maintenance
No Service Contracts

207-991-2708

Serving Bucksport
& Beyond

Chuck Breidt

CONSTRUCTION & REMODELING

WARDWELL CUSTOM CARPENTRY

New Construction
Roofing Decks
Free Estimates



Remodeling
Additions
Fully Insured

Over 20+ Years Experience
207-570-5655

SMALL ENGINE GEAR & REPAIR --SNOWTHROWERS--

Side by Sides • ATVs

Bob's Small Engines

SALES & SERVICE
ECHO • HUSQVARNA
B.C.S. TILLERS

474 RIVER ROAD
BUCKSPORT, MAINE 04416
PHONE 469-2042

SCRAP METAL/RECYCLING

Corey Recycling
New 70' Truck Scale-State Certified
Buying all scrap metal

mcoreyrecycling@aol.com
825-3595

494 Brewer Lake Rd, Orrington ME 04474

CONSTRUCTION & REMODELING

Serving the Greater Bucksport-Orland area

T. K. Sampson

Contractor, New Construction,
Remodeling, Carpentry

P.O. Box 1456 Bucksport ME 04416
207-469-0777 207-479-6618

Quality Work at a Reasonable Cost Since 1980

Senior Center luncheons

BUCKSPORT — The Bucksport Senior Center on Outer Broadway is continuing to offer its free luncheons three times each week, but only by home deliveries or pick-ups at the door.

The meals are for those of any age. To order one or more, call 469-3632 before 9 a.m. on the day of the meal and specify delivery or pick-up.

While the center on Outer Broadway remains closed, a volunteer will bring meals to the front door for those ordering in advance.

Telephone messages can be left at 469-3631 – any time of the day.

Here are the menus:

Friday, April 17 – Baked ham, mashed potatoes, carrots and whoopie pie.

Monday - April 20 – No meals– Patriots' Day.

Wednesday, April 22 – Shepherd's pie with gravy, hamburger, carrots, mushrooms, mashed potatoes and lemon tart.

Friday, April 24 – Turkey with gravy, stuffing and cranberry sauce, salad, brownie.

Be wary

All Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefit payments will continue to be paid on time during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Every recipient also should know there are scammers trying to take advantage of the pandemic to trick people into providing personal information or payment via retail gift cards, wire transfers, internet currency, or by mailing cash, to maintain Social Security benefit payments or receive economic impact payments from the Department of the Treasury.

The government personnel do not make such calls, or ask for such information by telephone.

**THE
BUCKSPORT
ENTERPRISE**
GIVING AREA COMMUNITIES
AN INDEPENDENT VOICE!

– Schools

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The board will consider - and, probably approve - the distance learning programs for all students for the remainder of the year.

The members also will take up the thorny issues of how to manage the budget for the remainder of the current fiscal year, which ends on June 30, as well as the preliminary planning for the next school year.

Supt. Boothby said the state of aid to the schools remains in a state of total flux so some of the information needed to fine tune the next budget may not be available until the very last minute.

Still, he said RSU 25 is in comparatively good shape thanks to several hundred thousand dollars of last-minute aid allocated last year.

Like many of their counterparts across the nation, the local school administrators and teachers have been stymied by the inability to reach all of the students because not everyone has a

computer.

Thanks to the state program initiated a number of years ago, the fifth graders through seniors all were able to take home their school-issued laptops, but the youngsters in the lower grades do not all have access to the internet.

This has resulted in problems in using some distance learning efforts.

The problem is especially acute in portions of some large urban areas and in rural regions.

Tripp, the principal at the high school, said the faculty wants to work with all of the families to encourage home efforts to keep up recently learned skills that need to be maintained through regular use.

Many of the teachers are offering electronic office hours, allowing them to be in touch with parents, guardians and students, either via computer links or telephone calls. The RSU 25 is encouraging the use of these contacts until classes can be resumed.

GOT YOUR CHECK?

U.S. Department of Treasury expects a "large majority of eligible Americans will receive economic impact payments within two weeks."

Those who do not get them can go to IRS.gov to see "get my payment." If you filed a 2018 or 2019 tax return and did not receive a stimulus payment, have your tax return information available to use at the "get my payment" site.

Those who have successfully filed for unemployment benefits will be receiving an additional \$600 payment on top of the usual one. Some of these payments are being held up because some states are unable to keep up with the pace of the unemployment claims being filed.

www.cdc.gov
or
www.maine.cdc.gov
for official information
on COVID-19 virus

Did-ja-know?

• The owners of the **Ming's Garden** restaurant donated food to the local food delivery program for adults. The food went immediately from the restaurant and became a welcome part of some of the fare delivered to local homes.

• Earlier, the owner of the **Bucksport House of Pizza** donated some pizzas and they, too, were much-appreciated by those who soon devoured them.

• Town Manager **Susan M. Lessard** and her husband, **Dan Bartlett**, last Friday (4/10) delivered meals to residents of the Gardner Commons and Knox View apartments. Town Councilor **James R. Morrison** has delivered some of the meals for the past three months. Over the last three weeks, the **Bucksport Senior Center** program has roughly tripled the number of meals to more than 100-a-day. Each meal is now being delivered or made available at the door to the center. Reservations are required. The three-a-week lunches are available to those of all ages and incomes. The \$6-a-meal fee is being waived for Bucksport residents.

– Pastoral comments –

Reflections on 'These trying times'

In an essay, "The Crisis" published on Dec. 23, 1776, Thomas Paine wrote these memorable words during the Revolutionary War, "These are the times which try men's souls." His sentiment is easily applicable in 2020.

For people who were born after the Great Depression and World War II, the present life-threatening condition of the world, the nation, and our community is unprecedented. COVID-19 is an unseen, destructive enemy. People are dying at home here in Maine, as well as world-wide.

The Bible is a book which depicts the human condition. It does not promise to be an insurance policy preventing problems and offering quick fixes, coupled with slogans which are often presented in the religious world today. Story after story, throughout the Bible, depicts people in crisis, pain, suffering, and death. It is also a book in which many of the well-known characters question God. Their painful questions are similar to the ones being asked by people of all religious and non-religious traditions. Here is a sample of such questions from the Book of Psalms 13:2-3a:

*2 How long must I endure trouble?
How long will sorrow fill my heart day and night?
How long will my enemies triumph over me?*

*3 Look at me, O Lord my God, and answer me.
Restore my strength; don't let me die....*

The stories of the Bible reveal that there is an ever-present God who will help us to cope with life's difficulties. One of the oldest books in the Bible, The Book of Job, that great epic poem offers a story of how one man, Job, came to learn that despite losing everything, he was able to go on and eventually recover and pick up the broken pieces of his life.

In this time of crisis, we are afforded time to focus. Survival is the first instinct and an important one. Beyond that, caring for each other, checking in with the vulnerable in the community, and giving generously of ourselves, our time, talent, and treasure, will go a long way in helping us to get through "...the times that try men's souls."

– DR. STEPHEN YORK, MINISTER
ELM STREET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF BUCKSPORT

*The Bucksport Enterprise invites the clergy in this area to
share words of comfort and counsel during this period
of global stress.*

FROM THE MARGINS of the editor's notebook

Together, we can build a 'ballfield'

Several decades ago, after a particularly rough winter, the superintendent of schools on Block Island was in the midst of his daily shave. There, as he looked into the mirror and saw himself, it hit home: "The kids are getting on my nerves..."

Then, just as quickly, it hit him again, and he finished his thought, "...so we (the adults in the school) must be getting on their nerves, too."

At the island's single school that morning, the superintendent, who served as the principal and was one of the seven teachers on the staff, called a special assembly. The 76 students trooped into the too-small cafeteria in the basement.

At this point, the man in charge told them what he'd learned while shaving, and he offered a solution. "Let's call off all classes for two days and build that ball-

field the town has been talking about for years, the one that hasn't got built."

"How do you build a ballfield?", queried one of the younger students. "I don't know," the superintendent replied, "I've never built one before. But there must be a book somewhere. We can look it up."

At the start of the next school week, the ballfield-building began, the older students showing the younger ones how clever they were. The older students wielded handsaws and hammers and built a proper backstop. The four lines of lime were laid in the newly raked soil, now lined with string, miraculously came together to form a diamond just like the one in the book. The younger students brought their little red wagons to school to haul gravel and then bags of grass seed.

"You know, when a kid plants grass

seed, they don't walk on the grass... and nobody else would dare to either."

At this time of massive numbers of deaths and suffering across the globe, millions of jobs lost amid so much uncertainty reigns, we all need to build new "ballfields".

Some are personal... a garden out back to grow vegetables, a long-neglected flower bed brought back to inspire new life, family day trips to open spaces with full social distancing, errand-running for those unable or understandably concerned about venturing out, setting aside chunks of time each day to do good things or, at the least, ponder and reach out to ease the plight of others.

As a community of communities, we need to personally take charge and launch new initiatives amid our self-enforced distancing. We desperately need ventures

that bring us together.

We are constantly reminded of the sometimes big things small groups of two or three have accomplished in such a short time, linked only electronically, but linked nonetheless.

Forced to think about tangible essentials - food, medicines and even toilet paper, we - like our forbears - can do two things at the same time. We also can consider what we can do for our own spirits, our physical and spiritual well-being.

The current challenges will impact us for a long time, and we need to adapt and find ways to build together the links that endure.

It's time to build ballfields, to fashion our own four lines of string into another of those miraculous diamonds of hope.

To all who provide essential services to us...

THANK YOU!

The residents of Bucksport, Orland, Prospect and Verona Island