

The Bucksport Enterprise

VOLUME 30 - NUMBER 8 • FEBRUARY 25, 2021 • BUCKSPORT, ME 04416 • \$1.00

OPINION

BUCKSPORT
in a box?

- Page 4 -



MUSEUM . . .

to honor paper, those who made it!

BUCKSPORT - For more than eight decades - four generations - of papermakers trooped through the gates and the "guard shack" at the now-defunct paper mill. At each change of shift 24 hours a day, 365 days a year they arrived and they departed, many toting their heirloom lunch basket to fortify themselves as they labored.

Now, that small brick building will become a place to revisit a major chunk of the history of this region. It will be dedicated to honoring those who kept the huge machines turning out millions of tons of paper that ranged from newsprint to the break-through glossy stock upon which colorful images could be printed on both sides without one side "bleeding through" to the other. The museum is being purchased for \$1 by the Bucksport Historical Society from Bucksport Generation, L.L.C., the local affiliate of a company based in Chicago.

The sale will provide a tax deduction for the seller.

The development of the museum depends on the pace of support the society generates.

While the local history preserving group already has a lot of mill memorabilia, it will seek more as it embarks on a fund-raising effort to transform the small mill landmark - one of the two original buildings still stand-

ing - into a true museum.

The plans include hiring a museum expert to guide the transformation.

Among the artifacts already in the society's collection is the

huge scale-model of the entire mill commissioned by a former owner.

There, arrayed on the interlocking panels is every detail from the soaring smokestacks to the railroad crossing gate next to the guardhouse.

The roughly 2,000 square-foot, single-story brick structure beside the tracks at the main entrance to the mill on River Road will showcase what it took to make millions of tons of paper that too, through the decades, found its way into homes around the globe. Printed on that paper was everything from Time magazine to catalogs for L.L. Bean and Victoria's Secret. Some of that paper was squirreled by away small boys and men perusing Playboy magazines.

The mill, dating from 1930 atop its close in December, 2014, once even had its own custom-designed barges to float rolls of paper to Chicago for use on the presses of Time magazine. The mill began with a huge generator, also floating on a barge and was updated many times and still produces power when it's needed on the electrical grid.

PLEASE SEE MUSEUM, PAGE 5.

Mill guardhouse given to historical society, to preserve major chunk of local history.

RSU 25 seeks return to running own buses

BUCKSPORT - The RSU 25 School Board this week took the first step toward operating its own school buses, starting next fall.

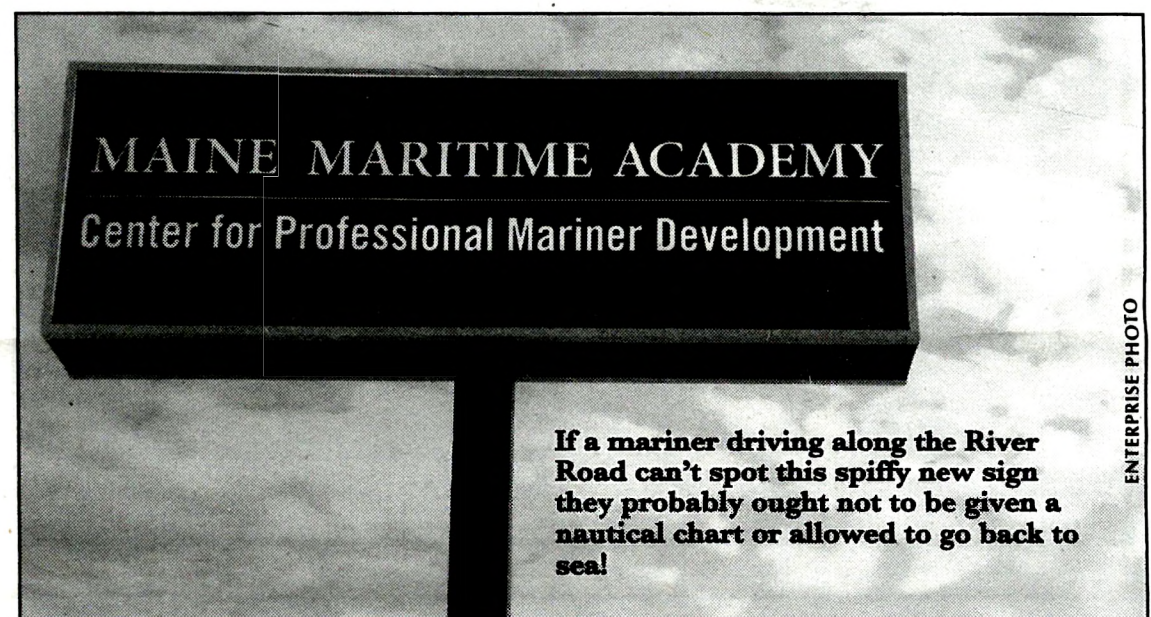
While in recent years the RSU has contracted with First Student for the required transportation, a proposed 32.3 percent increase in the cost over the next five years proved the catalyst for considering the purchase of a fleet of 18 buses.

It also launched an effort by four school districts, including the one here, to move ahead on forming a collaborative to coordinate the bus operation for all four.

Supt. of Schools, James Boothby, predicts there will be significant savings, perhaps in excess of \$400,000 over the next five years. He's been watching sharply escalating transportation costs for at least eight years. He briefed the local school panel on its options, and the board gave its support unanimously when asked to make what Boothby termed the "go/no-go decision."

Under the proposed arrangement, the existing drivers are likely to transfer to the collaborative's payroll with the same or better compensation. The buses this year cost the RSU \$1,076,000. That's a sixteenth of the entire school budget. First Student's bid for the next five years - the only one received - would see that number rise to \$1.42 million by 2026, and that does not include the fuel. Four firms were contacted, two responded and only First Student actually submitted a bid.

PLEASE SEE BUSES, PAGE 6.



Orland seeks candidates

ORLAND - Nomination papers soon will be available for those who want to seek public office in the next election.

Up for grabs is:

- A three-year term on the Board of Selectmen, Selectman Edward Rankin Sr., has not indicated if he plans to seek another term. The post also includes service as the traditional post of "overseer of the poor."

- Assessor - This three-year post currently is filled by Sara Bair.

- RSU 25 School Board member, a two-year position now held by David Burgess, who plans to seek another term.

- There are two seats on the Fish Committee on this year's ballot. The seats now are held by Peter Robshaw and Jay Clement.

The nomination papers will be available shortly at the Orland Town Office from Tuesday through Friday, from 9 a.m. until noon and from 1 to 5 p.m. On the third Thursday of each month the office also is

open evenings from 6:30p to 8 p.m. The completed papers must be returned to the Town Office by 5 p.m. on Friday, April 9.

Also, the Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing at 7 p.m. next Thursday (3/4) on a renewal application filed by Gordon Lanpher for an automobile graveyard and junkyard permit. The permit is for the business Lanpher now operates on the Castine Road.

IN THE WORKS . . . Tidbits gleaned from the week's news

SUN POWER Ameresco Inc., based in Framingham, MA, apparently has been preparing for months to launch a solar farm on the former mill site off the River Road. They reportedly have reached an

agreement with the American Iron & Steel affiliate that owns the property. The firm apparently came in under the radar, only approaching town officials a couple of weeks ago, for they will need a zone change and other local approvals before moving ahead.

(Most solar farms require government federal and/or state subsidies to be viable. See article about how a Belfast firm is doing it on Page 7.)

Ironically, town officials earlier this month scuttled two years of planning to entice a developer to put a solar farm on nearly 30 acres atop the long-closed landfill off Central Street.

BUILDING A WALL takes a lot of meetings. The latest session on what to do about the failing outfield wall at the varsity ballfield off MacDonald Street will be held tonight (2/25) at 6 p.m. The virtual session may be viewed on local Cable Channel #1303 or via the internet at townhallstreams.com and selecting Bucksport. Questions or Comments may be submitted to slessard@bucksport-maine.gov before or during the meeting or question and comments may be called in at 469-7368 during the meeting.

MAINE SAIL SET! - Capt. Gordon 'Mac' MacArthur will serve as master of

the *T/S State of Maine*. With over 30 years of experience, the Maine Maritime Academy alumnus will command the school's flagship, which is scheduled to set off on its overseas training cruise as usual this summer.

Most recently, MacArthur was a senior dynamic positioning officer for Diamond Offshore Drilling. Prior to that MacArthur was chief mate and master with Seadrill. He was aboard the previous *State of Maine* (when it was the *USNS Upshur* for the 1989 training cruise. After a stint away, he returned to the academy in 1998 and graduated with the Class of 2000.

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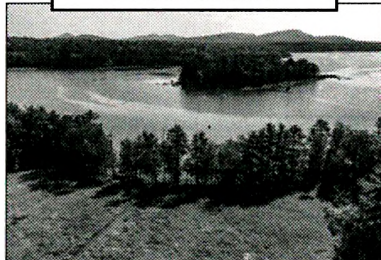


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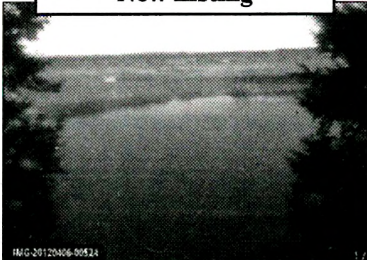
Price Reduced



Franklin—Lovely waterfront building lot with sweeping views of Taunton Bay! Driveway through the trees is already in and an open field area has already been cleared. Property is nicely sloping with easy access to the shore. Additional shared deeded access for residents at the end of the point offers another special place to launch a kayak, enjoy a picnic lunch or just sit and enjoy the view. Power pole is just up at the road. Convenient to Ellsworth, Bar Harbor, Acadia National Park and other points in Downeast Maine. An excellent site ready for your Maine home!

Call Kathy Coogan 207-632-5246 \$89,500

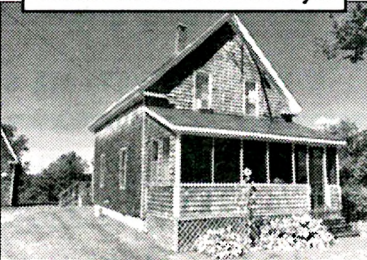
New Listing



Mariaville—Private wooded lot of 6.8 acres with frontage on Graham Lake with driveway, drilled well, electric and septic already in place. Build your dream home or special vacation getaway on this quiet and peaceful setting and watch the stars and satellites overhead away from the city lights. Conveniently accessible to Bangor, Ellsworth and other points in Downeast Maine and less than an hour to Acadia National Park. Possibility of separating off 2 acres located across the road. (Abutting property also listed MLS 1482409. Both lots used to be one property.)

Call Kathy Coogan 207-632-5246 \$99,500

Under Contract in 2 Days!



Searsport—This well maintained classic Maine Cape offers many updates. Its layout features a bright kitchen with morning sun, large dining room, first floor bath w/laundry, living room w/3BR incl. master on the 2nd level. This home also has a screened front porch, deck, 2 acres of rolling fields & charming New England style barn. From an efficient propane heating system to newer drilled well, this home is ready for you!

Call Dan Burpee 207-735-5337 \$147,500

New Listing



Prospect—This 5+ acre lot has road frontage on Rt. 174, and on the Shore Road. Property would be perfect for that daylight basement home, with seasonal views of the Penobscot River.

Call Damon Holmes 207-460-1600 \$35,000

Building Lot



Stockton Springs—This 2.0 acre wooded lot offers a private location yet convenient to Belfast & Bangor not far off Route 1A. Lot is fairly level with rock wall along road side. Neighboring driveway/right of way runs alongside the north boundary. 2020 taxes are less than \$300 per year!

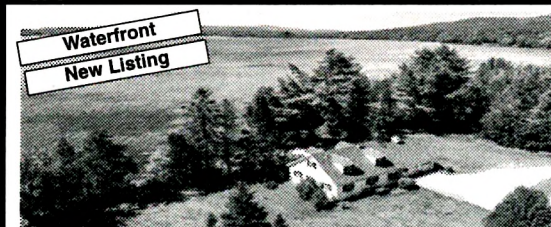
Call Dan Burpee 207-735-5337 \$19,900



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Mark Eastman, Wendy Carpenter, Daniel See, & Lorrinda Connolly.



Orland—Discover Alamoosook Lake! This 3 bedroom 2 Bath Cape sits about 50' from the water with 96 feet of sandy frontage. Nice sunny lot with plenty of room for entertaining and a garden. Lovely views of the lake from much of the home while benefiting from some elbow room from the neighbors. Expansion possibilities exist! Recent improvements include a new generator for the unexpected and fresh exterior paint. Great location within an hour of Acadia National Park or Camden Hills. Motivated seller!

Listing Agent: Mark Eastman \$389,900



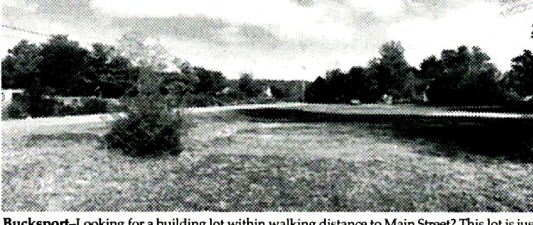
Orland—Lovely Cape in Orland Village! This 3 to 4 Bedroom 1 Bath home is within walking distance of the Orland Community Center and only 5 minutes from Bucksport. Amenities include first floor laundry, an eat in kitchen, storage shed and potential for a first floor bedroom. Nice corner lot with room for the kids to play. Motivated Seller!

Listing Agent: Mark Eastman \$149,900



Bucksport—Looking for a large tract of land within 20 minutes of Bangor? This 147 acre tract has a woods road in place and has harvestable pulpwood available. Great area for recreation pursuits or a kingdom lot for your new home. Come take a look!

Listing Agent: Mark Eastman \$175,000



Bucksport—Looking for a building lot within walking distance to Main Street? This lot is just under an acre and is cleared with public water available at the street. Bring your building plans and ideas. This is a rare lot located in the village of Bucksport. Walk to the movies, diner or take a stroll on the waterfront.

Listing Agent: Mark Eastman \$48,000

Building camaraderie via joysticks!

BUCKSPORT – In a bid to build camaraderie and team skills among young people, the RSU 25 has embarked upon “Esports”. RSU 25 is fielding a team to take a “byte” out of the competition from other schools in Maine. The playing field: video games! The extracurricular activity is being coached by Dylan Pointer. The high school team will compete - yes - virtually.

BUILDING ACTIVITY

BUCKSPORT – Here are building, land use and plumbing permits issued by Luke Chiavelli, Bucksport's code enforcement officer:

- 32 Main Street, to Dino Kisamitakis to replace a foundation wall and slab at the Bucksport House of Pizza shop.
- 222 Turkey Path, to Valerie Hovey to build a 12 x 16 foot addition, Nov. 9.
- David Chambers, 90 Baxter Boulevard, to David Chambers to install a 28 x 60 foot double wide mobile home, Nov. 16.

- 86 Baxter Boulevard, to David Chambers to install a 28 x 44' foot double wide mobile home, Nov. 16.
- 90 Baxter Boulevard, to David Chambers to build a 26 x 28 foot garage, Nov. 16.
- 418 Millvale Road, to Davenport Rentals to install a 14 by 46 foot mobile home and a 10' x 12' Storage Building, Nov. 20.
- 81 Baxter Boulevard, to James and Terry Dolley to install a 14 by 76 foot mobile home, Nov. 19.

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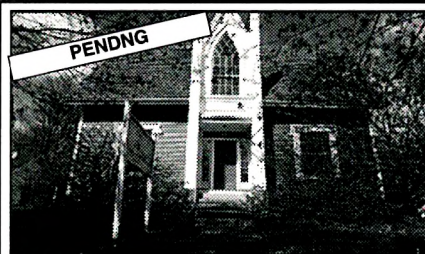
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Seasonal \$35 plus 5.5% sales tax: \$36.93;

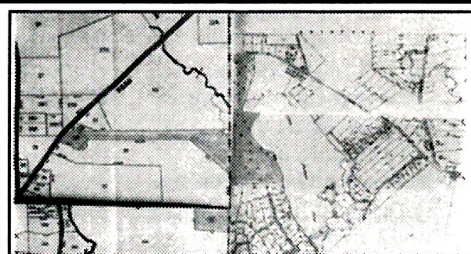
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Hudson/Corinth: Great opportunity with this 215 acre parcels. Combinations of waterfront on Little Pushaw with small rundown cabin, great for hunting land. Property is located both in Hudson and Corinth. Great building spots in both Hudson and Corinth. Property in Hudson and Corinth are being sold together. \$99,000

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Friends & Family

DEAN'S LISTS: Here are the latest dean's lists:

University of Maine at Farmington – Katelyn Cloutier of Bucksport made the high honors list. Aubrey Merritt earned an honors designation and **Grayson Treece** received high honors. Merritt and Treece reside on Verona Island.

SPRRRRINNG! A reader has reported "spring must be coming" for "the starlings are coming through." Of course, that reader resides in St. Petersburg, FL so some adjustments must be made in her prognostication while the least among us hunker down on what most hope is the downhill side of another Maine winter.

IN WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. **Jared Golden**, this area's congress-

man, has been named vice chairman of the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee.

The move provides Golden with an elevated role on the subcommittee, which oversees naval contracts for shipbuilding at the Bath and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, as well as other shipyards across the country.

BACK IN BUSINESS! — The interior spaces of the **Blue Hill Public Library** have reopened on a limited basis.

People can go inside for limited services and browse the shelves for up to 30 minutes per day.

The library also is continuing to offer curbside services and patrons are being encouraged to take advantage of the service for book pick-up, printing and more.

IN THE SCHOOLS — These personnel decisions were ratified by the **RSU 25 School Board** earlier this week:

• As previously announced, **Gary Moulton**, the director of facilities and maintenance, will retire at the end of this school year. He will begin by using his accumulated leave time.

• **Delores Craven**, an educational technician III in the special education program, is retiring after 28 years with the school system.

• **Sarah Bissonnette** has been hired as a full-time educational technician III.

On the coaching front:

• **David Gross** will direct the wrestling program at the Bucksport Middle School, and **Shawn Costigan** is his assistant. **Casey Pelletier** will serve as a volunteer with the program.

• **Matthew Sargent** is serving as a volunteer with the robotics program at the high school.

"THE CLAIN" Despite a bit of very temporary confusion, the auditorium at the **Bucksport Center for the Performing Arts** will be named the **Peter D. Clain Auditorium**.

The **RSU 25 School Board** endorsed the name on Tuesday, and the **Bucksport Town Council** is expected to do the same tonight (2/25).

The councilors held up their final vote when concerns were raised the center, which was built with Bucksport money, retain its name. However, no councilor seemed to have any problem with honoring the late drama and Spanish teacher with a plaque inside the auditorium.

Clain was among those who pushed for building the center.

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Moving ahead

Letter to the Town Council:

It appears you may be gently shutting the door on the Penquis agency's efforts to acquire the town-owned empty lot at 27 Main Street for free, but you're still open to considering another site for the Bangor agency's 40-or-so apartments for older people.

EDITORIAL

That seems a wise choice, for what Main Street needs more than anything is foot traffic, people bringing life to what traditionally has been the center of the community. Now, for a variety of factors - ranging from shopping on the internet to Covid-19 concerns to the trend toward mega-stores - the street often seems more a ghost town movie set than a bustling hub of a thriving community.

As a result, we'd again like to suggest 27 Main Street become that hub, a place where people - both local residents and visitors - will want to go. The lot is large enough for six or eight very small shops - the kind that artisans and crafts people desperately need to showcase their talents and wares. Perhaps it could be one building with multiple entrances, a sort of "Downeast Sampler" of goods you'd have to scour the region to find, brought here in one place: downtown Bucksport.

The lot also is large enough for "Bucksport in a Box", a professionally designed place to show off the town's attractions and its history. The box would include a large-screen "electronic jukebox". Push the buttons and you'll see Andy Lacher explaining why he built his book shop here, a town official talking about free lots in the industrial park or, perhaps, an introduction to the Farnham brothers or Jennie May Shontell (*Don't know 'em? Google 'em!*) Or a snippet from the wondrous miles of videotape and film stored in the vault behind The Alamo.

The clips need not be broadcast quality. Indeed, Bucksport is about real people doing real things, not slickly repackaging things for those easily bedazzled.

Put a piece of our antique fire apparatus in the "box" for a month or two. Make it Santa's headquarters for the holiday (*Take your own selfies for free*). Leave it lit until at least 9 p.m.

With some work, the embankment at the west end of the lot - an impediment to other development) can become a natural amphitheater for 30 to 50 spectators for events like "Wednesdays on Main" or impromptu jam sessions organized by high school students on Saturday afternoons.

Give the whole lot a professionally executed 19th century maritime theme, tucking a nice restroom or two behind the door of what appears to be a "warehouse." Add gas lights, for the gas line already runs along the sidewalk.

The thing doesn't have to be built all at once. Just have a schematic plan, and build it as the resources permit. Best of all, it can be built by and for those who reside here.



A fish fly?

This eagle has just done what eagles do, and now is looking back to be certain his prey has not fallen from his talons. Obviously, it hasn't. Yum-yum!

PHOTO BY
RICK MCHALE

— Arthur: His legacy endures —

Why anyone would go to journalism school to learn what we do, either in print or on television, I haven't a clue. Like most older news people I know we learned what we needed by finding those who were better at something than us, and then watching and listening to them very closely.

Frankly, I learned more from:

- Selling baby pictures to women who weren't buying;
- Driving a cab in a small town where tipping wasn't discouraged, for tips seldom were offered.

Working the night and overnight shifts at a tag factory. (*Ask me about the literally millions of Prestone antifreeze labels I proudly produced.*)

... but wait, this column is about Arthur.

Arthur was the oldest of the old-school reporters still clinging to their jobs when I started in this business. A new cadre of fresh-from-college types were, unceremoniously, ripping the doors off their hallowed newsrooms. The newbies were people like me, whippersnappers who knew nothing about much except we must be better than those old duffers. After all, some of them never graduated from high school.

Meanwhile, Arthur prowled the streets of Woonsocket, RI, the city of his birth, as he had done for decades. He worked alone on the day shift, the way he liked it. The whippersnappers arrived at about 4 p.m.

There was something very special about Arthur. He knew he could hardly write a decent postcard. For years, writing wasn't a big part of his job description.

Arthur was what the very old timers in the ink-stained world of newspapering called, "a leg man." Leg men did not write. They went to the scene, took it all in, and then, back in the office, they called the "re-write man" who made sense of the leg man's cryptic observations.

Arthur, however, had a gift: He knew he couldn't

write, but he could take photographs with the best of the best. First with the venerable Speed Graphic with the popping, too-hot-to-handle flash bulbs, he later bought his own 35-mm camera. He knew the future.

Arthur's photos regularly pushed the staff photographers' images out of the paper; they were that good, and nearly all taken within the eight square miles that is Woonsocket. The staff photographers started butchering Arthur's work, cropping the shots as if they were wielding cleavers. Arthur's negatives littered the dark room floor.

Arthur counter-attacked. He got a local photo studio to process his film, and then put the finished prints and the negatives on the bus to Providence so the editors could behold the full photo frame, not the clumsily cropped and hastily printed ones.

More than once I asked Arthur to cover an event I could not get to, and Arthur agreed. He just said he wouldn't write it. I immediately discovered what a true leg man he was. I could ask him anything, and he'd have the precise answer. More importantly, he would give me answers to questions I did not ask, knowing the additional information was vital to a good article.

Arthur had a reputation for being a crusty curmudgeon; some even thought he didn't like people. Not true. Arthur saw photos and news where others saw nothing. Many afternoons, I'd start work by huddling with Arthur, sometimes tapping out a outline or a few paragraphs to accompany his work. "Make this thing sizzle", he'd say. In the process Arthur offered many tips that generated great stories. He knew he couldn't write those articles, but if I executed his idea well enough, the next day I'd get the newspapering equivalent of a cookie: "Good job, kid!"

— DON HOUGHTON

From the margins of the editor's notebook

LETTERS... TO THE EDITOR

Look at all the options

To the Editor,

I am not against the town leadership, I am just having a difficult time understanding the direction and vision that the town leaders have for Bucksport.

A lot of our Town tax money was spent a few years ago for a comprehensive study. Where are the results? Now, two more studies are being done. One proposes that banners should be hung outside stores. Like the one's the Friars hang, or Huckleberries does or the antique store display when they are open? It's already being done, and it's going to be a proposal?

A request for the town to sell part of the town parking lot on Franklin Street for use as a parking area for occupants of a rental apartment house? Why sell, rent the spots, and give the proceeds each month to a different business on Main Street.

We have lost about a dozen businesses on Main Street over the last few years. I can't imagine Bucksport without BookStack's, or The Alamo or MacLeod's, or no pizza or Chinese restaurant. Yet, in Orland, a Sandy's Saloon is going to open. A

very large building is going up, if they also offer food and eventually music on weekends, who is going to suffer, we will.

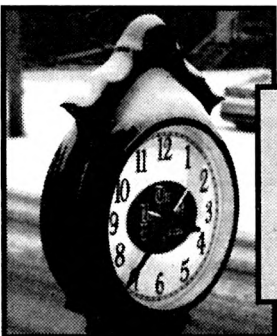
I begrudge no one their rewards. The town's taxes are going to make a few employees, millionaires over the next ten years, from the town Manager to the newly created public safety director and the two assistant chiefs. We have a director of economic development, and we are still having surveys over what to do.

Now it's being proposed to, possibly, buy the Masonic Temple, at \$200,000 to expand the town office. If more space is needed, in the age of digital storage, the building next door was open to be bought a few years ago. We have a large empty building where a business just closed. Use that.

Offer the Spring Fountain Motel to Penquis as an alternative to the empty lot on Main Street. Let them refurbish the rooms and offer them as apartments. Penquis stated that their apartments will start at \$800-a-month.

I volunteer for a family assistance program, and a lot of elderly, since they worked years ago when wages were minimal, receive less than \$800 from Social Security each month.

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Don Houghton
Editor & Publisher

Sandy Holmes
General Manager

— LETTERS...CONTINUED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4.

So are Bucksport's elderly already priced out? Meanwhile the management and investors in the Penquis project will reap the benefits.

I have an idea. A few years ago I approached, a school, and offered a rowing scull, you know, the ones that are used by colleges to have inter-school meets. The idea was to have school competitions on Silver Lake.

Get people to come into town. It can be competitions between classes, or schools or schools in different Town's. Bucksport vs. Orland, vs. Orrington vs. Brewer and so forth. If Camden can have a toboggan championship, and it works, why

can't we try.

Silver Lake has a lot of road frontage for spectators. Each meet, let a different restaurant in Town use a community truck stand and sell their food. Post it on facebook, get the newspapers to come in and cover the events.

It may not work, but you know what, neither are these repetitious studies. They are only making someone else money. The way I see it, at least four rowing sculls are needed. I'll chip in for Bucksport.

Hey, I think I just created a useable logo for the town. You know like the last survey we paid for suggested.

Joseph Davanzo
Bucksport

Thank you, firefighters

To the Editor:

The local fire department/departments and public service individuals who came to assist us here at the Knoxview Apartments Jan. 27 when a fire broke out on the second floor deserve our utmost appreciation for the selfless service rendered to us that night. Within minutes from the sound of the alarms in our hallways, they were here. It was amazing to watch how they respond-

ed like clockwork... everyone responding instantly and automatically.

How comforting it was to see the familiar faces of Chief Sean Geagan and Pastor Peter Remick moving among us.

You all put your lives on the front line in so many ways, Thank you. We are grateful! Bucksport is, indeed, fortunate for your service.

Pearl Swenson,
Knoxview Apartments tenant
Bucksport

— Papermakers' museum

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.

Begun as the Seaboard Paper Co., the mill went through a series of owners through the years but, in the end, succumbed because its final owner determined it could not compete with those paper firms which had greater efficiency, thanks to investing in more modern equipment.

The closing cost the jobs of some 500 salary and hourly workers. Two decades earlier, there were more than three times that many jobs.

The mill's demise had been predicted for many years before it finally occurred.

That the mill survived as long as it did is testimony to the paper people here who, through experience, could spot the signs of an impending failure by sensing the sounds being emitted from the various pieces of equipment. They performed minor miracles on the increasingly ancient machinery with the mechanical equivalent of duct tape and chewing gum.

Veteran employees told of their ancestors working at the mill, and how they joined the operation the week after they graduated from Bucksport High

School.

They also spoke of how each generation hoped the next owner would improve both the place and the working environment.

The names on the signpost on River Road changed and the mill managers came and went. Some of those managers were revered; others weren't.

Now, it's up to the historical society folks to build on the long-shared vision that such a long run and such dedication ought not to go undocumented.

The backers hope their vision of a permanent repository of papermaking gear and lore will bring all sorts of paper mill memories out of storage. They want to encourage the former mill employees and their families to share what each has saved.

Some of the items are personal treasures, and the museum is seeking to make them permanent community treasures. Others may be personal stories recorded for those who otherwise don't know what a true paper mill did, let alone the people who powered it.

Bucksport Generation L.L.C. and the other firms already occupying portions of the former mill are committed

to helping place the papermaking history on their doorstep. The others on and around the site now called Mariner's Way are Maine Maritime Academy Center for Professional Mariner Development, and Whole Oceans LLC, which is developing an on-shore project to raise Atlantic salmon. Together they're providing the historical society with the easements needed to develop the museum.

The museum project has been spearheaded by Gary Bagley, the present vice-president of the historical society.

Anyone interested in working on the project planning, donating items or making a gift to the effort is being asked to contact Pat Ranzoni at pranzoni@aol.com or Gary Bagley at garybagley3@gmail.com.

Orland writes off old personal property taxes

ORLAND — Orland's selectmen unanimously have had to write off \$2,605 in uncollectible personal property taxes, a fairly modest accumulation going back seven years.


The seven writeoffs range from \$8.60 in 2014 to \$1,220.

One firm owed taxes dating back to 2009 through 2014.

MMA deemed 'military friendly'

CASTINE — The Maine Maritime Academy (MMA) has earned a 2021-2022 Military Friendly® School designation.

The honor is based on public data and responses. Over 1,200 schools participated in the 2021-2022 survey, and 747 earned the designation. "We are extremely proud to receive this designation again," says Kelly Gualtieri, director of admissions and enrollment Management at the MMA. "We provide a welcoming environment for service members."



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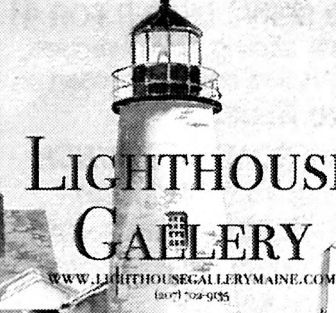
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— School buses

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Boothby contacted his counterparts and the chairman of the school committees in the nearby communities to gauge the interest in forming a transportation collaborative.

All - Orrington, Hancock and and Lamoine - will be considering buying and operating their own buses from a central point the superintendent described as being, "wicked near" Bucksport.

A special School committee meeting will be held on March 21 to move the bus project along. The project is being fast-tracked because the school system must have a transportation program in place by August.

ORDERING BUSES

The buses are being sought for delivery by Aug. 21. If enough new buses cannot be found, the bus provider must deliver used buses until the new ones arrive.

Specifically, Boothby is looking at 18 for RSU 25, 13 of them new and five used, as he does not want to be replacing the entire fleet at about the same time.

He estimated the going price for a 77-passenger school bus at about \$93,500.

A 53 percent state subsidy is available to the local RSU for purchase of its buses, although

this money will only be paid after the first year that the buses are in use.

RSU 25 and the other districts also may qualify for additional federal aid, for new school buses are among the purchases eligible for reimbursement.

While there will be an initial outlay in the first and second year, saving should start to kick in and the net result will be major savings for each of the participating districts.

MORE TO COME?

Boothby also held out the possibility of forming an "educational service center" among the participating districts to gain more savings through group purchasing for other routine necessities.

Boothby said that while the local First Student personnel have been cooperative and accommodating, he has some major concerns about the direction the bus company appears to be going.

The Orland-based garage is part of a national firm, which itself is part of a conglomerate of transportation services based in the United Kingdom.

While the RSU 25 contract recently represented 25 percent of First Student's business in Maine, that's but a flyspeck on the organizational chart as one moves up the line.

Boothby also cited the canni-

balization that has been going on in school busing, in which small firms get absorbed into larger ones, only to be swallowed up by even larger companies.

By running their own buses, Boothby said the district will have more flexibility in how it uses its buses. Now, the district pays fees to shuttle teams and students to destinations other than from home to school and back again.

The RSU already is providing the tax-exempt fuel for the buses and, if the new deal takes effect, it can eliminate the profit that companies like First Student must reap for its shareholders.

The schools also will be immune to a strike threat, for First Student is governed by federal labor union regulations, while the school district is not.

However, the superintendent made it clear the drivers will not suffer under the change. They will continue to earn more than \$20-an-hour after the first year on the job.

The drivers also can qualify for additional bus runs when field trips and other destinations are being scheduled, Boothby said.

Good drivers are hard to find, in part because of the odd hours they work, and recruiting and retaining the present ones is a priority, Boothby said.

Here & there in RSU 25...

BUCKSPORT - RSU 25 has literally picked up millions of dollars in additional aid, part of the federal and state efforts to soften the impact of taking Covid-19 precautions and trying to get students back in the classroom as soon as possible.

When the schools shut down about a year ago, the staff turned to, ordering and then installing everything from new desks and chairs to plastic shields and other personal safety

items. They ordered many gallons of germ-killing liquids and the dispensers for them.

The current budget remains just about one target with sufficient money left to finish the school year, the school board was told this week.

While the food service is down about \$20,000, that's better than the budget anticipated when it was adopted last fall.

The meals program at the

Senior Center is doing well, thanks to steady patronage.

Local students will not be participating in the annual Skills USA competition, but a more local series of events are planned at the vocational school in Ellsworth.

There also will not be the typical series of robotics competitions, but two high school teams still have produced some "awesome" robots.

FOR OLDER READERS...

NEED A RIDE to a medical or dental appointment?

If you're 60 or older are eligible for Maine Care, you can get a free ride any weekday to sites in Bucksport, Bangor or Ellsworth.

Just call 464-0012 at least 24 hours in advance to schedule an appointment.

The service is being provided by the Town of Bucksport and Downeast Community Partners.

Any questions? Call the Bucksport Bay Healthy Communities Coalition at 469-6682.

WANT TO LEARN the fundamentals of using a computer?

The Southern Maine Agency on Aging has launched a "tech pal program" in which trained volunteers assist older adults in getting connected to the internet. Many are learning the internet helps them with tele-health needs, combats social isolation, taking classes and provides opportunities to connect with family and friends.

For more information about

getting involved please email Doug at dwilson@smaaa.org or, if you're not yet into the internet, call him at 396-6506.

Senior Center MENUS

BUCKSPORT - Here are the menus for the take-out and delivered meals offered three times a week by the Bucksport Senior Center. The meals are \$6 each and are available to anyone within ten miles of the center, regardless of age or income. Call 469-3632 before 9 a.m. on the day of the meal.

• **Friday, Feb. 26** - Spaghetti and meatballs, garden salad, garlic bread and lemon tarts.

• **Monday, March 1** - Salisbury steaks, mashed potato, peas and sliced strawberries.

• **Wednesday, March 3** - Ham, scalloped potato, peas & carrots and fresh pineapple chunks.

• **Friday, March 5** - Shepherd's pie, roll and cookie.

• **Monday, March 8** - Baked haddock, rice pilaf, green

beans and a whoopie pie.

• **Wednesday, March 10** - Chicken alfredo, broccoli, dinner roll and brown sugar & cinnamon sliced apples.

• **Friday, March 12** - Lasagna roll ups, salad, garlic bread and ice cream.

• **Monday, March 15** - Oven baked chicken, potato salad, peas and a cookie.

• **Wednesday, March 17** - Pot roast, mashed potato, corn and cupcakes.

• **Friday, March 19** - Mild chili, corn muffins and lemon cake.

• **Monday, March 22** - Chicken tenders, mashed potato, green beans and sliced strawberries

• **Wednesday, March 24** - Turkey casserole, dinner roll and apple pie.

• **Friday, March 26** - Pulled pork sandwich, cole slaw and a brownie

• **Monday, March 29** - Chop suey, salad, garlic bread and banana cake.

• **Wednesday, March 31** - Chicken divan, corn muffins and fruit.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Orland Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on the application of Gordon Lanpher for an Automobile Graveyard/Junkyard Permit on Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Orland Town Office, 25 School House Road, Orland, Maine 04472.

02/25/21



Town of Orland
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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Town of Orland has nomination papers available for the following positions:

- Selectman and Overseer of the Poor 3 years
- Assessor 3 years
- RSU 25 Board Member 2 years
- Fish Committee Member 4 years

Nomination papers are available at the Orland Town Office Tuesday- Friday, 8a-12p & 1p-5p; and the 1st and 3rd Thursday evenings each month from 6:30p-8p.

Completed papers must be returned to the Town Office by 5pm Friday, April 9, 2021.

02/25/21

**REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS**

Main Floats Reconstruction
Bucksport Marina
Bucksport, Maine

The Town of Bucksport is accepting sealed bids for the following project until 5:00 p.m. on April 1, 2021 (Thursday). An informational pre-bid meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 10, 2021.

The Main Floats Reconstruction project includes all materials, labor and equipment necessary for and reasonably incidental to the replacement of the 10 Main Floats at the Bucksport Marina located at 88 Main Street.

Bid packages are available from:

Town of Bucksport
Mike Ormsby, Harbor Master
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50 Main Street, Bucksport, Maine 04416
Tel: (207) 469-8186
E-mail: mormsby@bucksportmaine.gov

02/11-03/04/21

**Part Time Executive Director**

Main Street Bucksport, a Maine Downtown Center and Main Street America Affiliate Program is a non-profit organization located in Bucksport, Maine. We are a volunteer organization dedicated to building a more vibrant and sustainable downtown Bucksport. We are in need of an outgoing, personable, organized, enthusiastic individual who can coordinate, recruit, and lead a group of volunteer citizens as they work towards the organization's mission. The work is stimulating, challenging and rewarding as Bucksport continues its progress into the future.

Experience in any of the following is desired: economic development, event management, grant writing, organizational fundraising, website maintenance, marketing, and non-profit administration. This is a part time position with a flexible, mostly self-determined schedule. The Executive Director is expected to maintain a work schedule that averages 20 hours per week over the course of a year. A detailed job description can be found on our website, mainstreetbucksport.org. The salary is \$25,000 annually and does not include health insurance. Please submit a resume to:

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02/25/21

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Belfast company gets \$11.1 million for solar project

BELFAST – Perkins Road Belfast Solar LLC, will receive \$11.1 million to refinance a short-term loan used to build a 7.0 megawatt, direct current, ground-mounted solar project here.

The money is coming from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In addition to the guaranteed loan, the project will be financed by a borrower contribution of \$120,065 and a tax equity investment of \$6.4 million.

The project has interconnection and net energy billing agreements in place with the Central Maine Power Co., and is expected to produce 8,829,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity in the first full year of operation, and three jobs paying an average of \$30 per hour.

Morrison seeks transportation service review

BUCKSPORT – James Morrison wants his fellow town councilors to take another look at the town's transportation services, especially those serving older people.

Housing may not be the top priority; it may be transportation, he said at a recent council meeting.

The town pays \$100 for one-morning-a-week taxi service that often serves only three or four people, taking each to several destinations. It also offers free rides to medical and dental visits for those whose incomes qualify for the service.

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PUBLIC SAFETY LOGS

Drug-related deaths, suicides increasing?

BUCKSPORT – Fifty eight Mainers died of drug overdoses last month, including at least two in the Bucksport area.

The number of suicides also has risen in recent weeks, both in Maine and in this area.

While the number of drug cases still may be small compared with larger communities across the nation, the increased use of fentanyl-laced drugs and heroin is clear, local law enforcement officials say.

Anxiety, depression and the Covid-19 lockdowns are keeping people from many once-normal daily social interactions.

This seems to be taking a toll, especially on those prone to depression or broad mood swings. The impact also has been seen in both older and younger people.

The RSU 25 schools are stepping up their efforts to help those in the upper grades recognize possible problems within themselves or their friends.

While the Bucksport Middle School has had information about suicide and depression in its curriculum for a number of years, it now is beginning to introduce age-appropriate education on the subject into lower grades.

Todd West, the principal of the school, briefed the RSU 25 School Board on those efforts this week. He said the material, which previously was introduced in the eighth grade now is being started in the seventh, and he and his staff believe the time has come to adapt the program for those in the sixth grade.

The lockdown of society as a whole is being strongly felt by young people, he noted.

The recent storms have delayed the signs of spring approaching, and that may be also a factor in keeping people from venturing out or resuming their ordinary activities.

People need and want to get back to their favorite places where they're surrounded by nature, one local paramedic observed.

March also can be a difficult month for some, especially if the weather keeps people inside. This year, the need to observe Covid-19 precautions has compounded that for those with anxiety or mood disorders.

The police also are urging those who use non-prescribed drugs to be extra cautious for drugs once rare here are becoming increasingly common.

The police and emergency personnel are encountering fentanyl mixed in with other drugs, a deadly combination.

Arrests listed

ELLSWORTH – These arrests involving Bucksport-area residents or incidents were logged at the Hancock County Jail:

• Dawn Marie James, 47, of 11 Mountainside Lane, Bucksport was booked about 4 p.m. on Saturday after arriving at the jail as the result of a court sanction.

• Corey A. Crowley, 29, of 272 Southern Bay Road in Penobscot was booked into the jail about 5:30 p.m. on Feb. 17 as the result of warrants. He was being sought to answer charges of an alleged assault in Bucksport and reportedly using force to resist arrest, driving while under the influence of alcohol, failing to stop for a police officer and driving after having his license revoked after being ruled an habitual offender.

• Kelley E. Robbins, 18, of 1869 State Route 46 in Bucksport, was admitted to the jail about 6:15 p.m. after being arrested for allegedly participating in a domestic assault on Pond Street in Bucksport. She was arrested there about 4 p.m. After posting bail, she was released.



Compiled from official reports and interviews with police and fire personnel.

Accident logged

BUCKSPORT – A woman reported her vehicle was struck while it was parked in the lot at Hannaford Bros. supermarket on U.S. Route 1. The accident was reported about 2:45 p.m. last Thursday (2/17). The vehicle was struck by a snowplow on a truck being operated by James Davis, 52, of Orland, resulting in an estimated \$800 worth of damage, according to police.

Firefighters aided

BUCKSPORT – The Maine Forest Service has come through with \$2,200 to buy radios, nozzles, sections of hose, safety glasses, foam and coats.

The town is matching that amount, as required under the Forest Service's volunteer assistance program.

The radios alone run \$570 apiece, while the turnout coats, \$305 each.

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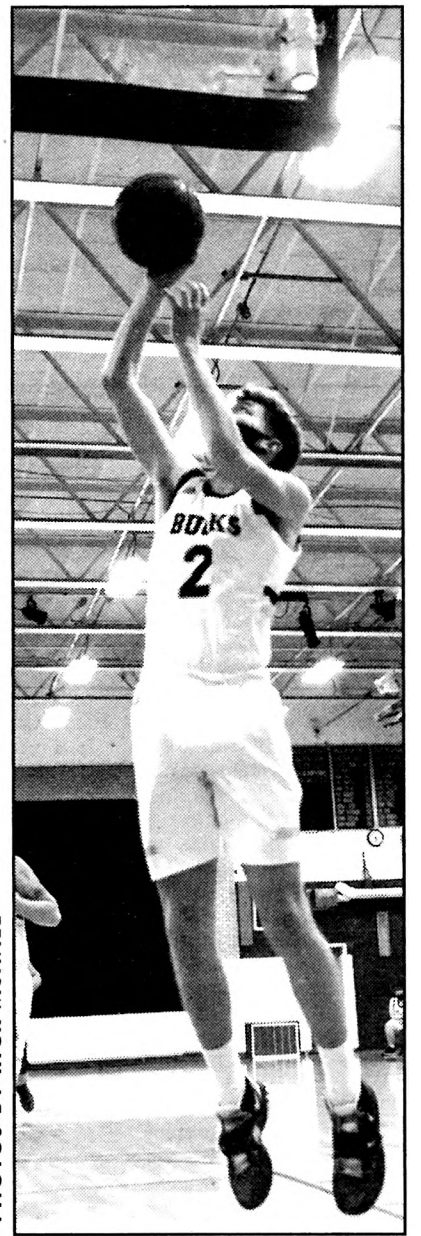
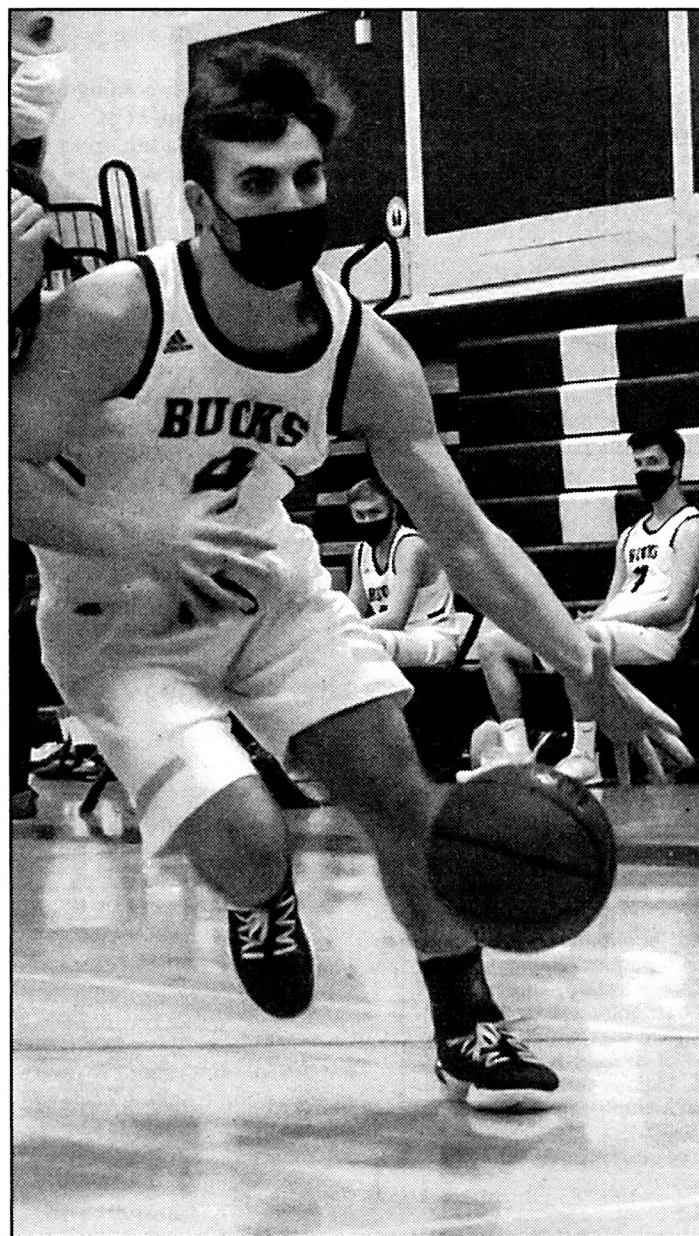
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GOLDEN BUCK SPORTS

BELOW LEFT: Senior Logan Stanley drives the lane and gets two points for the Golden Bucks BELOW RIGHT: Caden Blackwood led the Bucks to a 54-29 win over Searsport. Caden finished the night with 14 points.



PHOTOS BY RICK MCMALE