

## Tragedy averted? Last motel tenant agrees to seek medical treatment

BUCKSPORT – The conditions had to be seen to be believed when the door to the room of the last tenant was breached last Thursday (4/22) with the man's permission.

The tenant, a veteran of the Vietnam conflict, had lived in the Spring Fountain Inn for over 15 years. He continued to live there without electricity or water after the management of the motel ordered the utilities to be shut off.

The man, whose name will not be published here, was unable to leave his chair in a corner of his room when police officers, Luke Chiavelli, the code enforcement officer, and a representative of Adult Protective Services checked on his well-being.

Chiavelli said he's haunted by the thought of what might have happened had they not gone there.

After talking with Deputy Chief David Winchester through the locked door, the man agreed to let the inspection team in, but was unable to do so by himself. A key was found, but because of a chain bolt inside, the door could not be opened more than a few inches. The door then was forced, and the resident agreed to be taken to the Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor Hospital by local ambulance.

While he was evaluated and treated, he was not admitted and remained in the emergency room overnight.

The man told a doctor he had not bathed in two years.

By Friday afternoon, Winchester, Town Manager Susan M. Lessard and others thought they had an agreement the man



**THESE are the conditions under which the last resident of the Spring Fountain Inn, - a Vietnam-era veteran - was living when he was removed last Thursday (4/22).**

would be admitted to the Maine Veterans Hospital at Togus.

However, over the weekend, that arrangement fell through, and the veteran remained in the emergency room.

On Monday, local officials reached out again to many agencies and officers, including those of the state's two senators,

A new deal was struck, and the man was sent via taxicab to Augusta, where Togus officials lodged him at a local motel. On Tuesday, he was to be evaluated for possible admission to Togus.

For years, the veteran has lived a reclusive life at the local motel, apparently having problems that some said were the result of service-related post-traumatic stress disorder.

Meanwhile the owner of the property has been told, "a professional cleaning company that is trained to deal with this type of situation is required to go in and remove the hazardous waste" by Monday or the town will hire it done and add it to its lien.

The cleaners are to remove some of the personal items in

the room and turn them over to the town for safekeeping until they can be returned to their owner. The owner, Asad Khaqan of New Jersey, also was sent photos of the man's room.

Chiavelli wrote the owner, "We don't believe he was able to leave the chair he was sitting in, and therefore we believe that there is human waste in and amongst the piles of trash."

Lessard and Chiavelli said they were amazed at how difficult it's been to get the services the veteran so desperately needs.

### Several may be interested in buying motel

BUCKSPORT – Potential developers have toured the Spring Fountain Inn with an eye to gutting it out for redevelopment, perhaps for apartments.

The current owner has until May 9 to appeal the Town Council decision to secure the property after declaring it a health and safety hazard.

While the code enforcement officer was prepared to order the now-empty building be demolished after that deadline passes, that idea now is on hold until the details of a possible sale are received and reviewed.

The town still would have the right to raze the place if a new buyer does not step forward.

## Twenty minutes of fireworks: \$5,000?

BUCKSPORT – The Friends of Fort Knox have asked the Town of Bucksport for up to \$5,000 to help sponsor a roughly 20-minute show of fireworks over Bucksport Bay this summer.

While the show was scuttled, as was the Bucksport Bay Festival last year, in part because of the Covid-19 pandemic, efforts are underway to stage the

aerial show again.

The Bay Festival all but died since the sponsoring chamber of commerce folded last year.

This year it's not clear what the fireworks will celebrate, if they are held at all. The Town Council is continuing to review the request while it awaits more specific information.

Originally the fireworks began

as a Friends of Fort Knox project, one enthusiastically promoted by the late Leon Seymour, the executive director of the Friends and an avid fireworks fan.

Later, through its support of the Bay Festival and the former chamber of commerce, the town apparently began picking up part of the tab.

## In the works . . . Tidbits gleaned from news

**MAKE BUCKSPORT BEAUTIFUL!** – At the urging of Town Manager Susan M. Lessard the Town Council has endorsed Saturday, May 15, as, "Make Bucksport Beautiful Day." Everyone's invited to get trash bags and latex gloves at the Town Office building, and then clean up the roadsides anywhere in town. The highway crew will pick up the bags on May 17. As an incentive, there'll also be coupons for free soft-serve ice cream cones. The rain date is Sunday, May 16.

*The project should cost less than \$1,000, Lessard suggested.*

**RAISES?** – Most town

employees tentatively will get 3 percent raises in the budget for 2021-2022. A few will get slightly more..

**BIG BUCKS** – The Town Council tonight will be reviewing the tentative RSU school budget for 2021-2022. It also will take a close look at the town's reserve accounts for major projects and programs.

**READYING TO VOTE** – Town Clerk Jaob Gran plans to purchase new voting booths to replace those that have begun to show their age.

**SOLAR PROJECT** – A public hearing will be held

Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Offices. The "solar farm" project is being proposed on three lots off the River Road.

**PLEASE SEE IN THE WORKS, PAGE 6.**

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**Colin  
Simpson**

PHOTO BY RICK McHALE





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**Monroe**—Secluded 47 acres parcel with 600 +/- feet of water frontage on the Marsh Stream. Ideal land for your own private camp or home site or just for recreation. Enjoy hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, ATVing etc. Property was cut in past 2 years. Only 30 minutes to Belfast.

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Ocean's Edge Realty wants to congratulate Lorrinda Connolly on recently passing the exam for her Associate Broker's license. If you are considering buying or selling this year please give Lorrinda a call to discuss your real estate needs.

**New Listing**

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**Listing Agent: Lorrinda Connolly \$189,900**

**Pending**

Beautiful Contemporary home with frontage on the Orland River. This 3/4 Bedroom, 3 Bath home was constructed in 2010 and sits on a 3 acre lot. Enjoy open concept living with windows that flood the great room with light when it is most needed. The home affords complete privacy without a neighbor in sight and yet minutes to the village of Bucksport. The finished basement provides space to entertain with an attached patio or use the expansive deck for warm weather gatherings. Claim additional living space above the garage. High speed internet is on site for those look to work remotely. Discover peace and quiet on Leaches Point!

**Listing Agent: Mark Eastman \$459,000**

## Here's the RSU budget timetable

- **Wednesday, May 12, 6 p.m.** – RSU 25 School Board to hold special session to adopt final budget to be recommended to the voters.
- **Tuesday, May 25, 7 p.m.** – Voters from four RSU 25 member towns to review budget at a public meeting, and then vote on it.
- **Tuesday, June 8,** during regular polling hours – Voters will gather at the traditional voting sites in each town to cast ballots on whether or not to accept the budget as presented.

## EVENTS MEETINGS

HISTORY BUFFS – The Bucksport Historical Society will meet at 12 p.m. at the Edward K. Arey Community Center at 1160 River Road in North Bucksport. The session will be on the ground floor of the building, and all Covid restrictions will be in place. The public

is welcome.

## PUBLIC MEAL

TAKE-OUT BEAN SUPPER – The East Orrington Congregational Church is offering a traditional take-out bean supper from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$8. [eoccme.com](http://eoccme.com), or 825-3404.

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## Friends & Family

**GETTING BACK** to normal? – While the Covid-19 guidelines will be observed, the Womens’ Guild at the **Elm Street Congregational Church** will hold a coffee hour and light luncheon after the regular Sunday service this weekend.

**RSU PERSONNEL** – Here are the latest personnel decisions ratified this week by the **RSU 25 School Board**:

• Retirements and resignations – **Hayden Ciomei**, a math teacher at the Bucksport Middle School, and **Kali McGeachen**, a pre-kindergarten teacher. Also, among the support personnel, **Lauren Greenlaw**, a special education technician; **Calla Jordan**, an administrative assistant and secretary at the middle school; and **James Brawn**, district computer maintenance technician.

• **Heather Bullock** was hired as a

special education teacher  
• **Tara Woods** and **Arthur Morrison** will coach the spring drama productions.

Nine teachers were given continuing contracts: **Chantel Brouillard**, **Kent Burnham**, **Michele Davis**, **Jon Geagan**, **Mary Lou Hurd**, **Dorothy Jones**, **Lorraine Lugdon**, **Ron Provencher** and **Tara Ring**.

• Thirteen teachers were approved for second year probationary contracts at both the middle and high schools. Another 13 were supported for third year probationary contracts.

**WITH BAITED BREATH?** Fisherpeople are watching the progress on the installation of a new **fishing pier** to replace the old one near the Veterans Memorial in downtown Bucksport.

The Gardner Concrete Co. has begun the \$90,000 project (or



FISHING PIER  
will be upgraded.

PHOTO BY SANDY HOLMES

roughly \$100,000, if you add in the consulting engineering work).

**AHOY, THERE!** – Local officials are working on a regional effort to bring at least one tall ship - the **Santa Maria** - to Bucksport on July 17, the day Maine Maritime Academy’s vessel **Bowdoin** will be in port, The tentative plans call for projecting a firm on the sails of the **Bowdoin** in the evening.

The project, scuttled last year after the outbreak of Covid-19, will be part of a three-day event, beginning July 16 in Bangor/Brewer and concluding in Searsport on July 18. Searsport had to cancel its celebration of its 175<sup>th</sup> year because of the pandemic, this year is hosting its “75 + 1 celebration”

All of the arrangements are subject to approval by the leaders of the four communities.

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# Let us breathe!

ATTN: Gov. Janet Mills

Please talk with your counterparts in New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Connecticut. The governors of those states - a bi-partisan group - have consulted scientists, too. Their conclusion: it's safe to open all of outdoors, and start moving things inside back toward a pre-Covid normal.

Tomorrow, the long-reluctant governor of Massachusetts will loosen his Covid restrictions, and on Tuesday our president began the process of doing the same.

It's not just businesses suffering; it's everyday people being kept from activities that are good for the body, soul and psyche. And for what? The confusion among the so-called experts on all things Covid continues to deliver mixed messages. At the core is the vice of government control of everyday lives continuing to tighten.

We're told to get our vaccine shots, and then told the shots don't matter, for we must continue to wear masks. We're told to wear masks everywhere, including inside restaurants except when we eat or drink. Does Covid distinguish between those who eat and those who don't wear masks only to doff them when nobody's watching.

What's the science that keeps Maine masking and unmasking while nearby states lure us to come to their outdoor festivals and attractions, and ours remain closed or heavily regulated.

Governor, tell us why we must continue to hold Zoom meetings and treat one another as if we all are infectious petri dishes awash in Covid. Nobody expects a magic bell to ring, signalling the risk of Covid is over. Still, to keep Maine in a constant state of fear deserves an explanation.

## Firing fireworks?

The Town Council is considering whether to spend up to \$5,000 for an up to 20 minute fireworks show over Bucksport Bay this summer. A decade-or-more ago the annual boom-filled extravaganza was a gift to the town from the Friends of Fort Knox, in part because the then-executive director, the late Leon Seymour, loved fireworks. Over time, the Town of Bucksport began contributing to the cost, in part to support the annual Bucksport Bay Festival.

The Bay Festival appears to be all-but-defunct, along with the chamber of commerce that staged it. Who benefits from a fireworks show when it's not part of a larger celebration? And at a time when many good causes must be denied small sums, \$5,000 would aid another group.

Perhaps some year someone will stage an all-class Bucksport High School reunion weekend, with anyone who ever attended the school in a parade? Or an old-fashioned Fourth of July parade and an evening band concert in the gazebo? Those would be worth torching some big bangs to celebrate our collective return to post-Covid normalcy.



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Don Houghton  
Editor & Publisher

Sandy Holmes  
General Manager

### THE WAY IT WAS . . . 1830s on

### Getting to the other side

In the days of long ago, the Couillard family of Bucksport Centre, ran a ferry across the Penobscot River to Winterport.

Joshua Couillard was a land grant veteran of the Revolutionary War and his descendants lived on the land, and ran the ferry, a necessity if one needed to cross the river. This would have been in the 1830's to the 1840's.

Couillard is buried in the Old Methodist Cemetery with his wife. No markers to honor their graves.

The famous circuit rider minister Jesse Lee would hold a sermon in the Winterport Methodist Church. Then, he'd cross the river on the ferry and preach in the Old Methodist Church in Bucksport Centre.

In 1873 the Winterport and Bucksport Ferry Co. was incorporated by Bucksport Centre residents, including Kilburn, Atwood, Rich and Curtis.

**In this photograph of the steamer *Cambridge*, across the Penobscot River, is the ferry house and landing, a little over 400 yards away. In back, on the hillside, is Bucksport Centre. Very little of this once-important crossing remains. Only the road down to the landing, and remnants of the landing itself remain on the shore.**

From the first day of May to the last day of November the ferry brought passengers back and forth in all kinds of weather. They used steam power for the larger wagons and cargo. They used horse teams to draw the ferry across the river, by driving up the steep graded road to the Bucksport Center Railroad Station. Those returning would be hauled back across from the Winterport side.

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— EMERIC SPOONER

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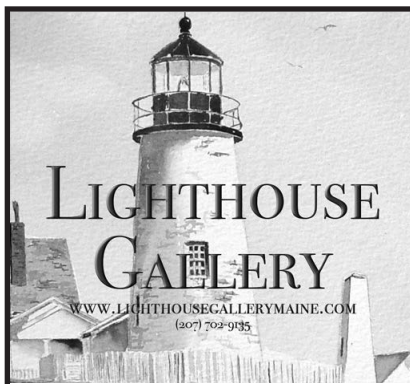
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## Senior Center News

### 'GOOD MORNING, BUCKSPORT!'

BUCKSPORT – So far about 15 people have signed up to receive friendly weekly "check-in" telephone calls to assure that all is well.

More volunteers also are needed to make the calls.

Check with the Bucksport Bay Healthy Communities Coalition for more details, or to sign up.

The free service is aimed at making it safer for those living alone to stay right where they are.

### LUNCHEON MENUS

BUCKSPORT –

Here are the \$6 take-out and delivered meal menus offered to all, regardless of age or income, by the Bucksport Senior Center. Call 469-3632 before 9 a.m. on the day of the meal to order one or more meals..

• **Friday, April 30** – Chicken pot pie, stuffing and a whoopie pie.

• **Monday, May 3** – Baked haddock, rice pilaf, peas and whoopie pie.

• **Wednesday, May 5** – Salisbury steak, mashed potato, mixed veggies and cupcakes..

• **Friday, May 7** – Chop suey, garlic bread, garden salad and a cookie.

• **Monday, May 10** – Roast pork, mashed potato, green beans and pudding.

• **Wednesday, May 12** – Ham, mac & cheese, baby carrots and Hawaiian cake.

• **Friday, May 14** – Meatloaf, baked potato, mixed veggies, and a brownie.

• **Monday, May 17** – Baked beans, hot dogs, coleslaw & biscuit, and lemon bar.

• **Wednesday, May 19** – Chicken pot pie, stuffing, cranberry sauce and a cookie.

• **Friday, May 21** – Lasagna roll ups, garlic bread, salad and fresh fruit.

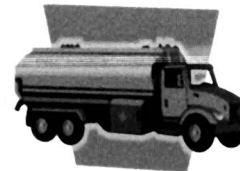
• **Monday, May 24** – Mild chili, corn muffins and a cookie.

• **Wednesday, May 26** – Chicken alfredo, snap peas, dinner roll, and chocolate tart.

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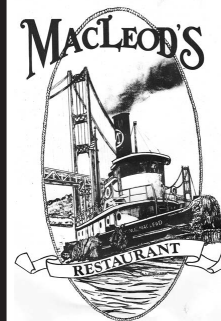
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— OBITUARY —

**Neil Karl Nightingale, 1955 - 2021**

BUCKSPORT – Neil Karl Nightingale died on April 12, 2021 at his home.

He was born on Feb. 9, 1955 in Houlton, the son of Richard Irvine Nightingale and Bianca “Mary” (Martelli) Nightingale.

Neil was predeceased by both of his parents and the love of his life, Ellen (McAllian) Nightingale.

Neil spent his formative years in Houlton, where he loved to hunt and fish with his grandfather, great-uncles and his dad. The family moved to Prospect, and Neil graduated from Bucksport High School.

He joined the army and was honorably discharged. His career was as an industrial painter with Chicago Bridge and Iron, a job which took him all over the world.

Neil had a mischievous nature, a nomad’s heart, and a quick wit. He had the gift of being able to connect with all types of people easily, making friends all over the world.

Neil was a kind and loving person who had family and many friends who loved him. He always was available and willing to lend a hand or help someone in need. His caring and loving nature had no bounds. He was an amazing man, son, brother and husband. He will be remembered with love and missed dearly.

He is survived by his sisters, April Nightingale and her partner Jeff Tardiff of Prospect, and Lisa Hickey and her husband Dan of Norridgewock; and two nieces of whom he was inordinately proud, Kayleigh Hickey of Fairfield and Kelsey Hickey of Lewiston.

A celebration of his life will be held on July 10, 2021 at the Bucksport Country Club from 2 to 4 p.m.

Condolences and memories can be shared at the Mitchell Tweedie Funeral Home’s website [mitchelltweedie-young.com](http://mitchelltweedie-young.com)

• **mitchelltweedie-young.com** •



**Police log**

**Equipment damaged**

BUCKSPORT – Police are looking into the damage of some construction equipment left behind the House of Pizza on Main Street as part of a renovatiuon project underway there.

**Food drive aided**

BUCKSPORT — The police helped pass out food to those who needed it. The distribution was done outside the Bucksport Community Concerns’ food pantry.

**Cats abandoned**

BUCKSPORT – The effort continues to round up the last of the several cats left behind by residents of the now-closed Fountain Inn.

Two of the cats were taken to the municipal animal shelter this week.

**Suspect a scam?**

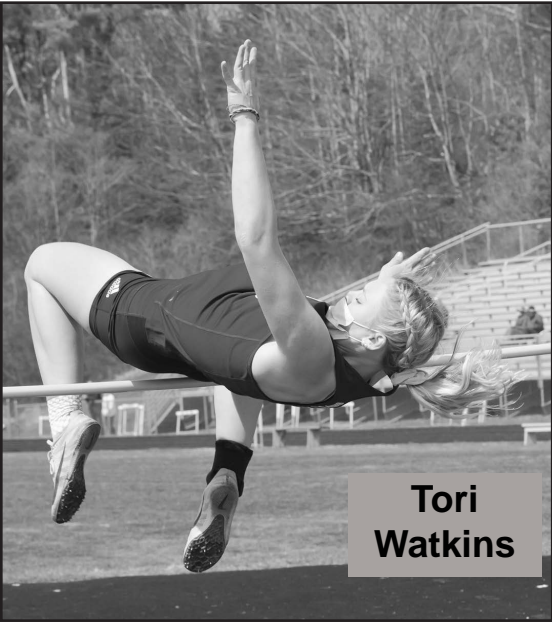
BUCKSPORT – Concerned about a possible scam? Call the police at 469-7951 and ask for either Deputy Chief David Winchester or Sean Geagan, the director of public safety.

GOLDEN BUCK SPORTS

**Lady Bucks now 2-0 for season**

BUCKSPORT — Bucksport High’s Lady Bucks softball team is 2-0 for the season, having easily downed the girls from

Sumner High.  
The score: 17-0.



**Tori Watkins**

IN LAST FRIDAY’s track competition, Tori Jenkins, above, topped the bar at 4’11” – her personal best. Addie Morrison, right, won the 400K. On Page 1, Colin Simpson won the long jump, leaping 19’11”.



**Addie Morrison**

SPORTS PHOTOS BY RICK MCHALE



# - PUBLIC SAFETY LOGS

## Two from Verona face drug charges

VERONA ISLAND – A sheriff's deputy's stop of a vehicle here very early last Thursday (4/11) resulted in two local residents facing drug charges.

Arrested were Katie Lee Kenney, 39, and Mitchel Edward Tilley, 28, both of 22 West Side Drive, Verona Island. Both were charged by

Sheriff's deputy Dakota Dupuis with violations of their release in earlier cases and illegal possession of scheduled drugs. Tilley, the driver, also was charged with operating without a license.

The two were taken to the county jail in Ellsworth.

## Orland man held

BUCKSPORT – Cody W. Ames, 35, of 57 Cedar Swamp Road, Orland was arrested

about 1:30 a.m. on Saturday for allegedly failing to be in court to respond to an earlier charge. Officer Robert Findlay made the arrest on Main Street about 1:30 a.m. on Saturday.

## Accidents listed

BUCKSPORT – Randy Murray, 64, of Houlton was injured when he lost control of his vehicle on State Route 46 about 7:30 p.m. on April 20.

About a half hour later, a Dedham Fire Department vehicle at that location rolled into a parked truck owned by Paul Rabs of North Bucksport, causing minor damage.

## Deer struck

VERONA ISLAND – Dan Joy, 56, of Bucksport was driving south on US. Route 1 about 9 p.m. on April 19 when he struck a deer. Joy was not hurt, but his pickup truck sustained some damage, according to Sheriff's deputy Daniel Harlan.

ORLAND – Jeffrey Wright, 63, of Ellsworth hit a deer while driving on the Castine Road early last Friday (4/23) morning. His vehicle received some front end damage.

## Child abuse

BUCKSPORT – An alleged domestic child abuse case reported last Thursday (4/22) by the district attorney's office remains under investigation.

## Fraud alleged

BUCKSPORT – A 20-year-old Bucksport man was defrauded of "a substantial sum of money" when he fell for a scheme in which someone posed as a drug enforcement agent and demanded the cash to avoid an arrest.

The fraud case was reported on the morning of April 10.

## Summonses

BUCKSPORT – These court summons were issued:

- Alexander Roldan, 22, of New Britain, CT was stopped about 10 a.m. on Saturday. after he apparently was speeding.

- William Mann, 44, of Milo was cited for an alleged liability insurance infraction after being stopped about 5:15 p.m. on the Mast Hill Road Saturday (4/24).

- Taya Philbrook, 19, of Princeton was given a speeding ticket about 5:30 p.m. on Thursday (4/22) after being clocked driving 64 miles an hour in a section of State Route 46 posted for no more than 45.

- Danny Bridges, 23, of Bangor was ticketed for an alleged liability insurance infraction. He was stopped on the River Road, 2 p.m. on April 19.

- Jonathan Hidalgo, 27, of Liberty was issued a ticket for driving without a license on Sunday.

## Dog bite

BUCKSPORT – An accidental dog bite was reported last Wednesday (4/21) afternoon.

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GREENHOUSES

WISWELL FARM GREENHOUSE –

Opening for season on Saturday (4/24). 109 River Road, Orrington. Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sundays 2 a.m. to 4 p.m. Gift certificates available. 989-7546. 6/10

WOOLY RIDGE GREENHOUSE–348 Betts Road, Orrington – Opening for season on Friday, April 30. 825-3438. 5/13

HELP WANTED

WANTED TO HIRE: Need a server and line cook. Will train. Immediate opening. Apply in person at Glenn’s Place, 214 US -1, Bucksport. (207) 702-

9412

BOAT INSPECTOR. Toddy Pond, 4/29  
Orland launch. May 28 through Sept. 6. 9- 27 hours-a-week. \$15/hour. Information at toddypond.org Must have own transportation. Seniors welcome. Contact Lucy at (207)-266-3212. 4/29

ABOVE & BEYOND BUILDERS is seeking a full-time carpenter. Job will include all aspects of carpentry. Transportation a must. Pay depends on experience. Call (207) 610-3674 for more info. 5/7

BUCKSPORT HOUSE OF PIZZA is looking for cooks and waitresses. Experience preferred, but willing to train right individuals. E-mail information to bhoph207@gmail.com, or please stop in.

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– IN THE WORKS . . . Continued

CONTINUED FROM PAG 1E.

The Penobscot Narrows project requires the Town Council to endorse contract zoning for the site.

RSU’s BUSES ‘R’ US?– The administration and the School Board are laying the groundwork to get back into the bus business late this summer. Together, they are drafting a series of policies governing everything from the rules for the school bus drivers to conduct by the students riding the buses. The policies should be ready for adoption shortly.

The RSU will be seeking to hire many of the drivers who drove the same routes for First Student in recent years. Good drivers are hard to find, and experienced safe drivers are considered golden in the current jobs market.

MAIN STREET BUCKSPORT – The group seeking to bolster the local economy and nurture community projects has renewed its annual request for support from the town. The group recently hired Mary Lenor as its second executive director.

ANOTHER TALL SHIP – Efforts were made to bring the *Oliver Hazard Perry*, a tall ship sailing out of Rhode Island, to Bucksport on July 17, but the vessel previously was booked to be elsewhere. But now local officials are trying to get the ship to make a port visit here the following week.

Also on the nautical front, American Cruise Lines is continuing to advertise its Maine Coast ports of call this summer, and the list continues to include Bucksport. While a number of ports remained closed to the small cruise ships as a result of Covid and other concerns, it appears the Bucksport visits are still on.

PRIDE EVENTS The Bucksport Pride group’s plans for a series of events to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community tentatively are on the May 6 Town Council agenda. However, as of yesterday (May 28), the group had not detailed what it wants the councilors to consider.

AD  
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HELP WANTED

Mitchell-Tweedie Funeral Home is looking for Funeral Attendants at both of our locations in Bucksport and Searsport. This is on an at need basis. Applicant must be dependable and flexible. Must be a people person and be compassionate. Must be available nights, weekends, and holidays. You must have a reliable vehicle and hold a valid and clean driver’s license. Applicant must pass a background check that is required to receive a Maine State Attendants License. Must work well with others. Job descriptions may include:

- Assisting in removals
- Assisting in Visitations or Funeral Services
- Transporting of remains throughout Maine and Massachusetts.
- Clean vehicles
- Be able to lift.
- Any other tasks set forth.

If interested, please e-mail, or call Al Levesque or Amy Kneeland at mtfh@myfairpoint.net or 207-469-3177.

04/15/21

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BUCKSPORT TOWN COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

DATE OF HEARING: Tuesday, May 4, 2021  
TIME: 6:30 P.M.  
LOCATION: Bucksport Town Office, 50 Main Street

INTERESTED PARTIES MAY SUBMIT ORAL OR WRITTEN COMMENTS CONCERNING THE FOLLOWING:

A proposed Contract Zone titled “Penobscot Narrows Solar Contract Zone”, to allow a five megawatt solar farm on property identified as Lot 3 & 5 on Town Tax Map 01 and as Lot 5 on Town Tax Map 36. The Contract Zone is subject to a written agreement between the Town and the property owner, Bucksport Mill, LLC. A copy of the agreement may be viewed at the town office or on the town’s website, bucksportmaine.gov.

04/22,29/21