

The Bucksport Enterprise

VOLUME 31 - NUMBER 6

• BUCKSPORT, ME 04416

FEBRUARY 10, 2022

Taking a bite out of CRIME

BUCKSPORT – Actually Axel is not much of a biter; he's more of a crime-fighter and peace-keeper.

The Bucksport Police Department this week took ownership of the police dog, and now Axel and his handler, Officer Matthew Schmidt, are getting to know one another. They will work as a team on all sorts of assignments. The training of both Axel and Schmidt will continue next month.

Some of those tasks are serious: from helping in searches to tracking down felons; while others are educational like introducing the dog to young school-children as part of safety training sessions.

The dog, acquired and trained with money from a Cambridge, MA-based foundation, will ride in his own specially equipped cruiser, the one bearing the "K-9" insignia. Schmidt, who picked up the dog from a training center in Connecticut this week, reports Axel is incredibly well-trained and behaved. However, the dog is not a house pet, even though he will reside at Schmidt's home. First and foremost, he - like all officers - is trained to carry out his police duties: protecting, serving and keeping the peace.



OFFICER
Matthew
Schmidt and
his new K-9
companion.

Morton fails to pass salt

Towns scramble for sand and salt

BUCKSPORT – The storms were not the problem. However, finding the sand and salt needed to treat the roads was another story, indeed.

Running low on salt after the earlier bad weather, a week ago Monday, the Bucksport Highway Department ordered another shipment from its supplier, the Morton Salt Co. operation in Searsport.

Then, nothing happened. No phone calls of explanation and, more importantly, no salt.

That's when the local department found virtually everyone was either out or nearly out of salt, and Morton - which holds a state contract on behalf of many communities, including Bucksport - remained mum.

Calls went unanswered.

Then, word came that there was salt in Portland. A trucking firm went to get some of it, only to be turned away while a ship filled with the stuff was being unloaded.

What to do?

Bucksport, declaring Morton had breached its state contract, turned to New England Salt, also in Searsport.

That firm's salt - \$20 -a-ton more-expensive than Morton's - began to arrive in Bucksport

highway yard on Tuesday and yesterday (2/9). Still more is expected today (2/10).

All in all, Bucksport will be paying about \$20-a-ton more for 500 tons of salt this winter. (Morton's salt was roughly \$50-a-ton and New England's price is more like \$70-a-ton.

Mixed with sand, the material was ready for the storms that were already being predicted on the weather maps.

The town briefly curtailed its offer of free treated sand at the Town Garage to all residents. The practice will resume just as soon as the road crew is assured it has enough of the now-precious commodity to treat the roads.

It's too early to say if any of the extra expense can be recovered as a result of Morton's failure to deliver. Town Manager Susan M. Lessard said she's not happy with the firm. Morton may have lost a customer.

Gravestones to be repaired, relocated

BUCKSPORT – The preparations have dragged on for months but progress apparently now is being made on resolving problems with gravestones in three cemeteries.

The Town Council tonight (2/10) will be asked to hire Thomas A. Stevens Cemetery Restorations in Newcastle to finally return a dozen ancient gravestones to the old Methodist burial ground 917 River Road.

The same firm has agreed to reset and repair similar monuments damaged by a falling tree that toppled into the Oak Hill Cemetery and do the same

with stones vandalized in the private Moulton Cemetery near the Dedham line..

And, in return for \$10,400, the Newcastle firm expects to have everything ship-shape by Memorial Day.

An effort to draw competing bids only surfaced one other quote: \$100 per hour from Grave Stone Matters in Hoosick Falls, NY.

The drawn-out deliberations and accompanying confusion over how best to deal with the town's old and sometimes-neglected cemeteries has the town manager considering a review of the annual municipal budget to

cope with the myriad issues that accompany the maintenance of neglected burial plots.

The stones now being returned to the Methodist burial site were placed flat on the ground at the nearby Riverview Cemetery. That was done after an then-abuttor to the Methodist plots wanted all vestiges of the cemetery removed from the view from the windows of his home, and the then-town manager got the town crew to do just that.

Once the stones are returned, the area will be cordoned off, and a historical marker will be added.

Fire destroys Bucksmills Road home

BUCKSPORT – The fire marshal's office was called in after an early morning fire last week gutted a home at 1403 Bucksmills Road

Efforts to determine the fire inspectors' findings were not immediately successful.

Local fire officials referred all questions about the nature of the fire to the state agency.

The home was unoccupied when the fire first was spotted about 2:45 a.m. on Feb. 2 by Sgt. Darrin while on a routine patrol.

The property, which is valued for tax purposes at just under a quarter of a million

dollars; is considered a total loss.

The home with an addition and garage, a porch and a breezeway was estimated to be some 3,300 square feet in size. It is owned by Chao Chang of New York City.

The main portion of the house already had collapsed into the basement by the time the first firefighters arrived.

The scene is in one of the most-remote parts of the town, and finding, pumping and trucking water was a major firefighting issue. In the end, the crews used a hydrant at School and Central streets, and a number of tankers shuttled the water to the scene,

according to Deputy Fire Chief Michael Denning.

The home is an estimated 500 feet off the paved roadway, but the drive was plowed and firefighters had no problem gaining access to the scene.

Firefighters from Castine, Dedham, Orland, Orrington, Penobscot, and Surry, assisted the local fire department.

The weather at the time was cold, but not nearly as some of the low temperatures the area has experienced in recent days. There were no injuries, Deputy Chief Denning reported.

New Orland fire tanker passes muster

ORLAND – Probably to nobody's surprise, less than three dozen voters turned out last Thursday (2/3) and agreed to purchase a \$350,000 fire engine.

The Special Town Meeting: Article 2 passed with a vote of 27. Later this year the firefighters will take delivery of a Pierce Pumper truck.

The old pumper it will replace has been taken off the front line when it comes to responses because of increasing safety concerns.

The money for the truck is being taken from the firefighters' capital reserve account.

THE BUCKSPORT ENTERPRISE

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

RAIL OR TRAIL? – Now that the deal in which railroad giant CSX will buy the tiny Pam Am Railway is to take place in April, local officials again are looking at what might be done with the rail line that links the former paper mill with Bangor. The only active rail yard left in Hancock County, some of the rails already have been pried from their ties and carted away.

Richard Rotella, the director of community and economic development, is looking into possible sources of cash to convert the right-of-way into a rail trail for bicyclists and walkers. Others warn that if the promised Whole Oceans salmon plant doesn't materi-

alize, a potential buyer might want to have the rail access to the industrial site maintained. The town also is interested in acquiring the rail spur along the waterfront.

CAPTURING THE SPIRIT – The Town Council is about to present the 2022 "Spirit of America" award which recognizes people or groups that make the community a better place to live and work. The most-likely candidates at this point are Andy and Shelby (Hawes) Silvernail of Lake Forest, IL, - Bucksport High graduates who through the years have aided Bucksport with many projects.

OPENING – There's a vacancy on the Bucksport Community and Economic Development Committee as a result of the passing of Frank Dunbar in December. Richard Rotella, the development director, is accepting applications for the post.

TO THE RESCUE – The Town Council has given \$5,000 to the Main Street Bucksport organization to help the civic group weather a cash flow problem, caused in part by cutbacks in raising money during the pandemic.


PLEASE SEE IN WORKS, PAGE 2




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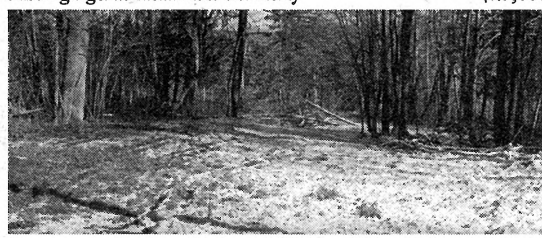


Many Possibilities!  <p>Bucksport - Unique historic building adaptable to many uses. Located +/- 1/2 hour from Belfast, Bangor, Blue Hill, Ellsworth. Built near the turn of the century w/many period architectural elements. Large open meeting hall, kitchen, large parking lot, new furnace installed 2014. Originally a school, has been Masonic Hall for over 40 years. Some interior work needed or build out a new use such as living spaces, offices, retail, etc. Create your vision in a town that is energetically rebuilding itself!</p> <p>\$199,900 Kathy Coogan 207-632-5246</p>	SOLD  <p>72 Heritage Park Bucksport</p> <p>\$99,500 Damon Holmes 207-460-1600</p>	List Now!  <p>Beat the Spring Rush!</p>	Buyer Wanted  <p>Bucksport - Situated on 3.52 acres in town Bucksport, this 3 bedroom 1 bath home has plenty of room for growth & is in need of modern updating. 1st floor laundry for convenience, screened porch for summer enjoyment & wood stove for a classic Maine feel. With some updating & fixing of structural issues it could be the house of your dreams! Price reduced to \$129,900 MOTIVATED SELLER!</p> <p>\$129,900 Doug Burpee 207-735-5366</p>	SOLD  <p>201 School Street Bucksport</p> <p>\$89,900 Dan Burpee 207-735-5337</p>
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Mark Eastman, Wendy Carpenter & Lorrinda Connolly



 <p>Bucksport - This is a large, 24+ acre lot practically in town. It borders the Bucksport Middle School, and reaches down to Bayview Avenue. The lot has just been removed from tree growth. There is so much potential for this lot.</p> <p>Listing Agent: Wendy Carpenter \$79,000</p>	 <p>Bucksport - Build your new home nestled in the woods on this conveniently located building lot where a home once stood only a short distance from downtown Bucksport. This wooded 1.00 acre lot offers 168' of road frontage with a drilled well and septic on site. There is also a dug well for your gardening needs as well as a shed. This lot is less than 5 miles from either the Jacob Buck Ford Boat Landing, Williams Pond or Silver Lake. Commute to Belfast, Ellsworth or Bangor in only a 1/2 hour. Come take a look at this lot for your new home today!</p> <p>Listing Agent: Lorrinda Connolly \$29,000</p>
 <p>Building Lot</p> <p>Bucksport - Looking for a spot to build your dream home? This 7ac parcel has frontage on Route 46 and is located just down the road from Hancock Pond. It is possible that some gravel could exist on the property. Come take a look!</p> <p>Listing Agent: Mark Eastman \$35,700</p>	 <p>Prospect - Looking for a quiet place to build a house? This nearly 5 acre lot is located on a dead end road in Prospect, only minutes to downtown Bucksport and a short commute to Bangor or Belfast. This sloping lot has the potential for a walkout basement and potential seasonal water views. The parcel has frontage on Devereux Stream with some the potential to catch sea running brook trout! Come take a look!</p> <p>Listing Agent: Mark Eastman \$49,900</p>

– IN THE WORKS . . .Continued

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.

The vote was 3-2 with Councilors James Morrison and Daniel Ormsby opposed. Other councilors said they backed the gift as a one-time request to keep the group afloat, but would be wary of doing so in the near future.

TRUCKIN' – The Town Council is expected to approve a Highway Department request to buy a 3030 Freightliner 108SD dump truck with a plow. The vehicle price - from Freightliner of Maine - includes a \$25,000 trade-in for the department's existing truck..

Two other bids for 2023 International 607 trucks were received for \$154,000 after a similar trade-in; and \$188,592 with no trade-in allowance. The highway director recommended the Freightliner bid because the department has had good experience with Freightliners in the past. The truck is to be purchased under a three-year lease arrangement.

JUST A TEST! – Police and

Council to debate a mask advisory

MASK OR NOT? – The Town Council tonight (2/10) will consider a resolve that “encourages” everyone to wear masks in “public indoor settings as recommended by the Center for Disease Control.

The same resolve encourages residents and visitors to respect the choice of local businesses which may or may not require masks for public entry.”

It notes that in Maine wearing masks in public is recommended “but not a mandate.”

RSU 25 officials collaborated on a “lock down” drill at the Bucksport Middle School last Tuesday, Feb. 1. The drills are staged periodically as a safety precaution.

The Bucksport Enterprise

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FRIENDS & FAMILY

RE-ELECTION NOMINEES – Two long-time directors of the Bucksport-based **Seaboard Federal Credit Union** are up for re-election this year: **Wendy Haslam** and **Tony Manzo**.

Haslam has been on the board for a dozen years, and served as the secretary-treasurer of the credit union for two years. The director of institutional research at the Maine Maritime Academy, she is a former employee at the Verso Paper Co.

Manzo, a director of the credit union for 19 years, has served as the chair of the board for 15. He is the controller of the Old Town Canoe Co., and worked at Verso Paper for 17 years.

The credit union will hold its annual meeting on Friday, April 25, but many of the details remain unsettled because of the continuing pandemic. The session might be held virtually, according to the initial reports.

Others are eligible to seek a seat on the board, but nominations are not

accepted at the annual meeting. Candidates must file their intentions prior to the meeting.

HONORED – The **Town Council** has completed its presentations to public safety employees who played roles in saving two lives.

Police Officer **Gerald Lowe** was recognized for his response as part of a team to a potential suicide from the Edward Thegan Memorial Bridge linking Bucksport and Verona Island.

And Captains Pamela Payson and John Gaveleck were cited for responding from their homes during their off-duty hours to assist with a crew that is thought to have saved the life of a man in severe medical distress. The others involved in the two incidents were honored at an earlier council session.

ON BOARD – Having been endorsed by the **Community and Economic Development Committee**,

Larry Wahl tonight (2/10) is expected to be formally appointed to that panel by the Town Council.

FLASH! – Soon there will be new flashing electronic speed monitoring signs installed on Miles Lane. The result of a number of complaints and near-accidents along the road to the Miles Lane and Middle schools, the sign will be mounted on a pole and be activated by each passing vehicle.

Those who fail to heed the warning and obey the speed limit could find a ticket in their future.

YARD SALES – There are yard sales, and most come and go within a day or two. Now, **Luke Chiavelli**, the town's code enforcement officer, is asking the Town Council to consider what might be done to curb "permanent tag sales," those set up and run for days, weeks or even months.

Chiavelli is not backing any particu-

lar proposal, but wants the councilors to understand why it is hard to respond to those who believe the lengthy display of all sorts of stuff prominently on a lawn may be detrimental to the neighborhood.

MASKING UP! – New masks received from the government have been delivered to the RSU 25 school system, the Bucksport Senior Center and the Highway Department.

The masks were delivered to the Police Department, and then distributed to the various sites.

Supt. of Schools **James Boothby** reported this week there are no plans to relax the mask-wearing policies within the RSU 25 schools until state and federal authorities opt to change the rules.

APPOINTED – Sean Geagan, the public safety director, is a new member of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee of the **Maine Chiefs of Police Association**.

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Peace officers

The local police found themselves involved in a very serious discussion about naming their new "K-9" dog. More than 20 names were suggested, and a fair amount of research went into the deliberations.

In the end, the canine (or "K-9 unit," if you prefer) will be called Axel. Why Axel, you ask?

EDITORIALS

It turns out Axel is a male name of Scandinavian origin meaning "My Father is Peace."

The police, being "peace officers," knew they had a winner, so Axel, the sole Bucksport Police Department K-9 unit, now has a name befitting his duties.

The department also wants folks to view Axel as an agent of peace, not a potentially dangerous canine bent on attacking anyone. But one word of warning to would-be felons: Axel knows when to bark and when to bite.

Let's get growing!

Kudos to the folks who presented a detailed plan for a community garden. Kudos, too, to the town manager and the Town Council for their support of the idea.

Here's hoping the garden can be placed adjacent to the Gardner Commons apartments on Elm Street, for that site offers plenty of parking, a nearby playground for the gardeners' tots and a convenient, in-town location. The plan has been well thought-through, and benefits from insights gleaned from other community gardens.

One suggestion: Perhaps a small section could be set aside for raised bed gardening so that some of the older folks who reside at the Gardner Commons easily can re-experience the energizing exercise of dipping a trowel into the earth or harvesting a plump, juicy, non-store-bought tomato.

Hopeful sign of the times

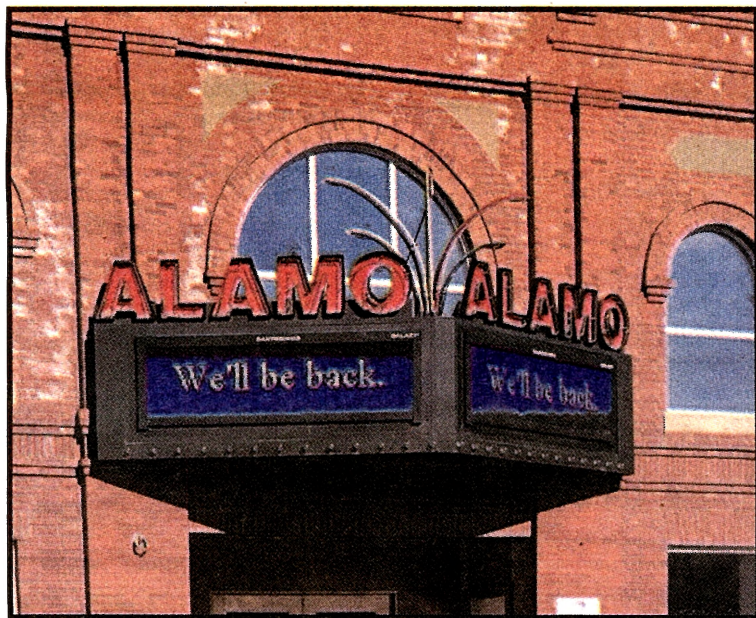
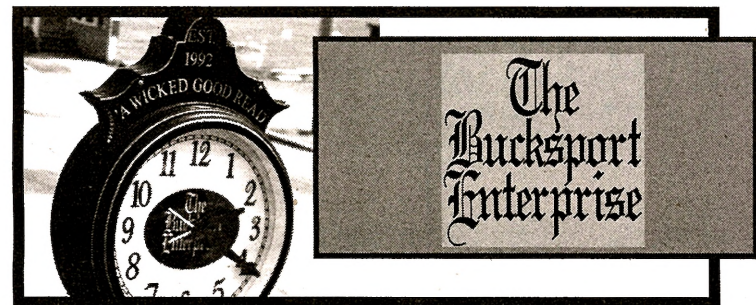


PHOTO BY SANDY HOLMES



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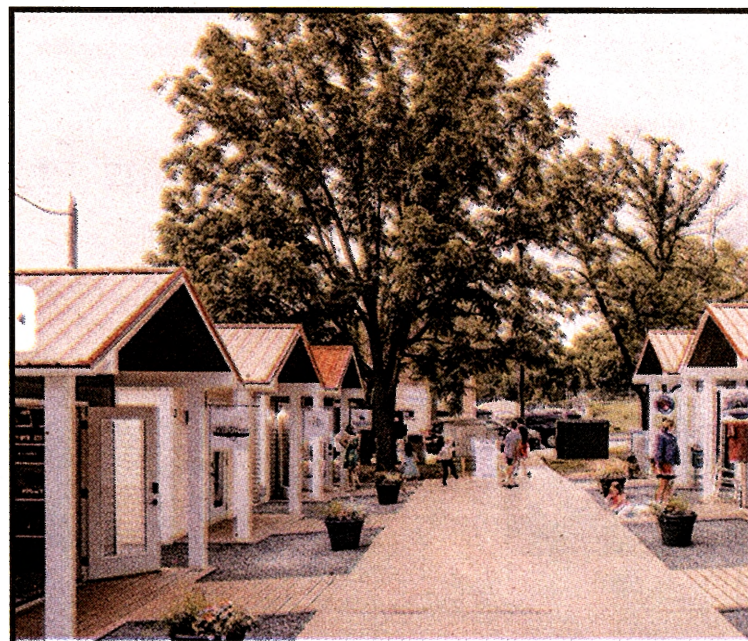
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The Shoppes at Bucksport?

WOULD AN IDEA THAT WORKS IN ILLINOIS AND MICHIGAN WORK IN MAINE?



THE SHOPS in Batavia, IL only operate seasonally and on weekends, but a majority of the businesses have prospered and gone on to lease or buy permanent retail spaces in downtown Batavia.

It's clear that some Bucksport officials still are holding on to the hope that some well-heeled investor will come out of the woodwork to snap up the town's 1.3-acre vacant lot at 27 Main Street. While waiting for that to happen, here's a potential way to put that lot to productive use, either temporarily or permanently:



BATAVIA, IL — This community just may hold the key to rejuvenating downtown Bucksport, and it's neither expensive nor complicated. Three years ago, the local Maine Street Batavia committee was casting about for a way to breathe new life into the business district.

The group settled on a solution that already had been tested by Main Street businesses in Michigan. They suggested building eight very simple 12 by 12 foot, non-winterized, seasonal seasonal shops on a 110 by 160 foot piece of property.

(They would have suggested more, but they were wary lest the project did not work out. They even "overbuilt" the shops so that in the event they didn't succeed they could be moved to another site.)

The idea drew "a ton of support" from City Hall, the community and the existing business owners who desperately wanted to see more pedestrian traffic downtown.

The goal, however, was not a temporary one; it was to encourage the development of businesses that would need to grow into "bricks and mortar" spaces nearby. In just its first two years, the Boardwalk shops have become a permanent part of Batavia's downtown retail landscape.

Built with the aid of volunteers and with some donated materials and labor, the Boardwalk shops at Batavia were born. The cost: just under \$105,000, according to Robert Hansen, a Batavia businessman who volunteered to coordinate the construction effort. Each of the shops was fabricated indoors and then erected on the Boardwalk site. Even the local high school shop class pitched in to panel two of the shops, which then were transported to the Boardwalk.

The first year the Boardwalk idea drew 35 applications from artisans, craftspeople and others seeking to launch small weekend ventures. The shops were open Friday through Sunday from June through September.

Did it work? It sure did, for more shops had to be added the second year, and the applications for the spaces far-exceeded the number available.

More importantly, seven of the eight original shops operators opted to seek out - and, in some cases, built brick-and-mortar locations in Batavia. Last year six of the ten businesses on the Boardwalk did the same, having prospered even during the pandemic, as customers seemed to appreciate the chance to buy locally produced, hand-crafted items.

The first year the small shops had total revenues of \$360,000 and last year the total was \$420,000, according to the sales tax data. That's not bad for tiny, three-day enterprises.

To keep things smoothly rules were set up to cover all of the operating details, from a panel to

assure that only quality items are sold and that shop selections "complement rather than conflict" with existing businesses, according to Lucy Gamm, the volunteer manager of the Boardwalk shops. Each applicant had to file a business plan, have legal tax status and meet other criteria to assure the shops are being operated professionally and not just as an outlet for someone's hobby.

There's more information and videos available on the internet, detailing how the BATAVIA, IL Boardwalk shops operate.

THE BATAVIA project is an offshoot of the Batavia Main Street organization, an affiliate of the national Main Street America Program.

The Batavia site is less than a third of the size of the empty lot at 27 Main Street in Bucksport, leaving plenty of room for the rest of the site to be developed for community activities. These could range from a venue for the summertime farmers' markets to a small natural amphitheater built into the slope at the rear of the site for performances, such as those organized by Bucksport's Wednesday on Main cultural arts program.

And while the Batavia shops have a somewhat spartan appearance, a design for Bucksport could feature a facade more in keeping with a New England maritime-oriented motif. Instead of a boardwalk, why not celebrate Bucksport's colorful maritime past? They also could open at Christmas time, with Santa in attendance.

The front of the shops could feature a dock-like structure cordoned off to allow the shopkeepers to display some of their wares outside in good weather.

With a natural gas line already running right past the lot, adding a few gaslights would not seem a wickedly expensive addition, but one that would add a special atmosphere to visiting that portion of Main Street in the evening.

The Town of Bucksport already has invested some \$300,000 at 27 Main Street, two thirds of that to acquire the property and write off unpaid utility bills. The rest went to clear the site, demolish a fire-ravaged structure and restore utilities accidentally severed in a right-of-way to an abutter property.

Building The Shoppes at Bucksport could be a long-term investment in the town's downtown — as well as an incentive for Bar Harbor-bound traffic to make the turn to find some of the best products and art that people in this area can produce.

In Batavia, the pop up shops fostered everything from a mens' boutique to an organic farm store operated by homesteaders in a nearby community.

— DON HOUGHTON

OBITUARY

Lester S. Thompson, 1936 - 2022

MONROE – Lester S. Thompson quietly passed away on January 27, 2022 in Belfast after a short illness with his loving family by his side.

He was born on Dec. 21, 1936 in Belfast to Marjorie and Charles Thompson of Prospect. He attended schools in Prospect, Winterport and Bucksport before enlisting in the U.S.

Navy, where he served for 20 years, retiring as senior Chief hull repair technician (E-8) in 1974.

After retirement he lived in Monroe where he worked as a self-employed carpenter and a longshoreman for ITO in Searsport. He also was a Registered Maine Guide and spent many enjoyable



Lester and Gertrude Thompson

days guiding bird hunters.

He was predeceased by his wife Gertrude Gibbs, whom he married in 1985; a beloved step-son Ronald Modon; and two daughters-in-law, Barbara Fowler and Katherine Tweedie.

He is survived by his brother Steve Hathaway and his family of Prospect; a daughter-in-law Janice Modon of Stonington, CT; a granddaughter Carrie Modon and family of Mystic, CT.; a grandson Steven Modon and his wife Tracy and twin grandsons Cade and Ryan. He also is survived by two sons-in-law, Ronnie Fowler and family of Dedham, and Bruce Tweedie and family of Thorndike.

A service and committal will be in the spring.

Arrangements by the Mitchell-Tweedie Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Bucksport.

• www.mitchelltweedie-young.com •

Listing problem properties Strategy set to curb violations

BUCKSPORT – The building inspector is making a list and he'll check it at least twice, all to set priorities in dealing with the owners of sheds, houses, barns and other structures with serious building code issues.

Luke Chiavelli, the code enforcement officer, this week said in an interview, he's been surprised by the number of structures that have obvious issues. Many seen by simply driving by.

His list will allow him to prioritize the structures that are the most-dangerous or decrepit, and each will be dealt with.

Meanwhile, Chiavelli remains hamstrung by the lack of court action on several situations that have been identified for months now.

The largest of these is the Spring Fountain Inn at 196 U.S. Route 1. A Jan. 27 visit found, "very little work had been done" on what the Town Council more than a year ago declared, "a dangerous building."

The recent flooding from broken pipes has been "cleaned up and dried out" and the water line has been capped rather than repaired.

While Chiavelli listed a number of repairs here and there throughout the motel, including the installation of better

locks, he also found two sprinkler heads had been installed over the boilers without a permit by a person not licensed to do such work.

Here is Chiavelli's status reports on other structures:

• 1861 State Route 46 – This property has been foreclosed on by the town and even eviction notices, effective Dec. 10, have been delivered, but the house remains occupied. Now, it's up to the town's lawyer to get the residents out of the house.

• 14 Hawes Way – An empty mobile home with code issues has been sold and will be removed once weather conditions permit.

• 4 Noel Way, off MacDonald Street – The owner, Curtis Wood, and his tenant, Cody Ames. The exterior remains a mess with the remnants of what appears to be a permanent yard sale. Curtis said he has no plans to evict Ames until at least this summer.

• 69 Franklin Street – While Chiavelli considers the building salvageable with extensive repairs, one of the four apartments had to be vacated when it was deemed unsafe. The woman who lived there with her children still is seeking an apartment.

LETTERS . . . to the editor

Trains, games – and politics

To the Editor:

One hundred and sixty miles an hour; two hundred miles per hour; Bullet trains; high-speed rail.

Wouldn't it be nice "being able to travel, 200 miles per hour from Bangor to Portland to Boston"?

Wouldn't it be nice to be competitive with Europe and China? Yes, it would if we could just get Republicans in line with supporting a competitive America.

The Trump administration announced it was going to announce Infrastructure Week several times a year it seems, but never quite could get around to it. Lots of words, but never any funding for real projects.

In fact, the last time Republicans backed a significant infrastructure bill was in the 1950's. Since then, it's been No. No. Never. But opposition has never stopped a Republican from claiming authorship.

In 2016 Vice President Joseph Biden announced a \$2.45 billion loan to Amtrak to upgrade its service. Why a loan? Republican opposition to a Federal investment. In Biden's Infrastructure Bill (which was supported by 13 of 213 Republican votes in the House and 19 of 49 Republican votes in the Senate with U.S. Sen. Susan Collins a "Yes" committed \$66 Billion for rail projects of which \$22 billion would go to improving the Northeast Rail Corridor, permitting further speed improvements and extension of the corridor. That's more than words.†

Meanwhile, it's not worth it to look up the political dealings of President Biden's children, but it is former President Trump's children. They were advisors to the president and participated in many of the conspiracies that originated in the

Oval office.

Jonathan Albrecht
Penobscot

Celebrating Bucksport

To the Editor:

The Hancock County Democratic Committee's January program highlighted Bucksport, selected by USA Today as the Best Small Coastal Town in 2021.

Listening to those involved in re-energizing Bucksport and rebuilding its economic foundation, after the mill closed in 2014, one theme stood out. This town has heart. Its actions show love, care and support.... of neighbors, businesses, old, young, private, public.

This isn't surprising when one considers how long the people of Bucksport have worked together for the benefit of all. Long before the mill closed, town government, RSU 25, the Senior Center, local nonprofits and Bucksport Bay Healthy Communities with its multitudes of committed and engaged volunteers collaborated to do what no one person or one group could do alone. This is even how Bucksport got its dental and health centers.

As President Joseph Biden said after visiting Pittsburgh's collapsed bridge, "The bottom line is this: It takes all of us working together — all of us working together to get this done."

Joyce Schelling
Orland

At the Capitol; another viewpoint

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to Rev. Charles Stephens' letter to the editor headlined, "Silent Republicans?" (2/3). For the record, the United States is not a "democracy" but a "democratic constitutional republic". Our

founders wanted a government that protected the rights of the minority from the will of the majority; in other words, one that limits the power of the federal government.

The tone of Rev. Stephens' letter did not seem written out of love or concern for others but instead was vitriolic in nature, calling out "Trump supporters" as "domestic terrorists". Anyone can carry a Trump flag or wear a MAGA hat and call themselves "Trump supporters".

My husband, who is a U.S. Army veteran and a retired police officer of 30 years, and I wonder where Rev. Stephens is getting his information. We watched videos of Capitol police removing the barricades and waving in the people into the capitol building. They even opened the door and escorted the people in as if giving them a tour.

We saw the video of Ashlie Babbitt, an unarmed woman veteran, murdered by a Capitol police officer. I ask you, Rev. Stephens, where is her justice?

And where is the resolution to condemn domestic terrorism that took place all across this nation where cities were burned, businesses were vandalized and burglarized and some even lost their lives to these "peaceful protestors".

When will we see our political leaders courageously condemn and seek arrest warrants for their fellow lawmakers for inciting what Don and I commend, not condemn, our fellow Republicans for not supporting this resolution. The measure is full of misinformation, lacking factual substance. We are proud of those that saw through the deceptive verbiage.

May God bless the USA.
Rhonda and Donald Loncto
Fletchers Landing

Ambulance runs over two a day

BUCKSPORT – Bucksport's emergency medical personnel handled 77 ambulance runs last month, including providing their services at a fatal accident on the River Road.

The Fire Department also handled 29 calls for service, issued nine on-line fire permits and conducted four inspections and license reviews.

Deputy Fire Chief Michael Denning reported 817 calls for the first seven months of the fiscal year, putting the department

on track for some 1,400 calls for the full 12 months.



Thank You

We want to thank you for your 25 plus years of dedication and service to the Bucksport Post Office and to all of your customers. We also want to say a huge and special Thank You, to Shirley's sister, Norma Gray for all of her help. A special thank you also needs to go out to Jamie Thomas, along with Dicky Nevells, both of them have kept the mail jeeps going over the years and is much appreciated! Now you both can enjoy your retirement! We love you both!

Thank You

Thank you from the family of Frank Dunbar for all the thought, prayers, donations, cards and special expressions of condolences on his passing on Christmas. The Lord received a special birthday present.

We hold a special place in our hearts for his customers, family and friends. There will be a service held sometime later this spring.

Thank You,
Jackie, Diana, Molly and Family



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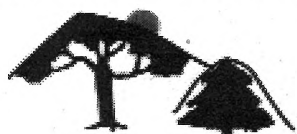
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Public Safety LOGS

Snow, ice, & cold – crimestoppers!

BUCKSPORT – The weather - including a genuine Nor'easter - put the damper on many of the activities that ordinarily draw police attention here.

On Tuesday morning, an 18-wheel tractor trailer skidded sideways down an incline on State Route 46.

A dump truck hauling a trailer skidded at nearly the same location.

Then a pickup truck and an SUV went out of control on the slick surface.

However, there were no injuries despite the mayhem that resulted.

For more than a week there have been numerous reports of vehicles that slid off roads. While others parked on road-sides had to be towed to allow roads and parking lots to be plowed.

However, the number of incidents was - like the thermometers - way down during the past week.

Arrest reported

BUCKSPORT – The investigation by Sgt. Darrin Moody of an incident at about 3:30 a.m. last Thursday (2/3) at the Irving convenience store on U.S. Route 1 resulted in the arrest of Kevin Grass, 51, of Newport. Grass was wanted for allegedly failing to be in court on another charge. He was taken to the Hancock County Jail in Ellsworth.

Summonses

BUCKSPORT – While the police issued a number of warnings to motorists, there were no court summonses listed in last week's police log.

Accident - Deer

BUCKSPORT – Dead deer were found by the side of State Route 46 about 8:15 a.m. on Feb. 2, and along the Mast Hill Road about 5 a.m. on Thursday (2/3).

Accident - Other

BUCKSPORT – These accidents were reported on area roads:

• Michael Larrabee, 60, of Orland slid a vehicle off the Bucks Mills Road 6:15 p.m. on Friday (2/4).

• A vehicle being driven by Oscar Jose Gonzales, 20, of Cooper City, FL went off State Route 46 about 3:45 p.m. on Jan. 30.

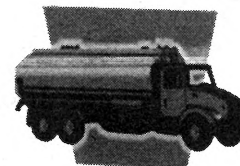
• Jesse Burns, 23, of Veazie lost control of his vehicle on the River Road about 7 p.m., on Jan. 30.

Missing anything?

BUCKSPORT – The Bucksport Police Department has a drawer filled with items that have been found at various places around town in recent weeks. Perhaps you'll find your missing item at the Public Safety Building on Franklin Street.

People also can call 469-7951 to report lost or missing items.

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Silver Lake

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Free State of Maine Fishing Day

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All fishing laws must be honored

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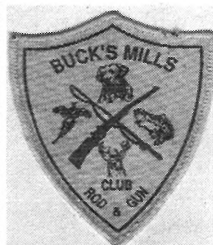
Entry fee: \$2 Child (15 years & under)
 \$5 Adult, \$10 Family

\$200 cash & prizes off entry tickets
 @ weigh-in (3 pm) *Start 7am

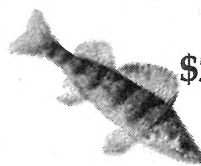
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The Orland Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing regarding the Liquor License application submitted by Alamoosook Lakeside Inn on Thursday, February 17, 2022, at 7:00 pm, at the Orland Town Office, 25 School House Road, Orland, Maine 04472.

02/10/22

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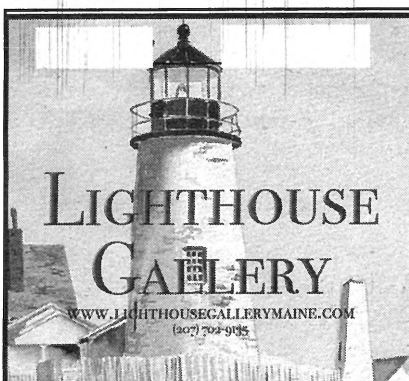


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Each time you dine you earn an entry for the quilt or a chance to win the quilt. The winning entry will be drawn on Valentine's day.

MENUS

BUCKSPORT - These \$6 meals will be served at the Bucksport Senior Center on Outer Broadway and can be ordered by anyone, regardless of age or income. The meals can be reserved by calling 469-3632 before 9 a.m. on the day of the luncheon.

- Friday, Feb. 11 - Chop suey, garlic bread, garden salad and pudding.
- Monday, Feb. 14 - Baked chicken, macaroni salad, corn and cake.
- Wednesday, Feb. 16 - Soup and sandwich, pickle spear and a cookie.
- Friday, Feb. 18 - Manicotti, dinner roll, salad and chocolate cream pie.
- Monday, Feb. 21 - NO MEAL
- Wednesday, Feb. 23 - Sliced turkey with gravy, mashed potato, mixed veg, cranberry sauce
- Friday, Feb. 25 - Chicken tenders, french fries, carrots and bread pudding.
- Monday, Feb. 28 - Pork tenderloin w/gravy, mashed potato, snap peas and ice cream.

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Northern Light Health

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Events

Each Wednesday

• **FOOD PANTRY** – The Bucksport Community Concerns Food Pantry is open every Wednesday from 9:30 to 11:30 p.m. and on the second Monday of the month, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The pantry is on the lower level of the Elm Street Congregational Church.

Thursday, Feb. 10

LINCOLN DINNER – The Hancock County Republican's Lincoln Day dinner will be at 6 p.m. at the Ellsworth VFW Hall, (419 Main Street, Ellsworth) This is a potluck dinner and everyone is asked to bring some food to share. Joe Marshall will offer his declamations of 2 of Lincoln's speeches and the speaker will be former U.S. Rep. Bruce Poliquin, who is running again for that post. There will be a 50/50 raffle to benefit the VFW and a silent auction. There is no cost for the dinner. Sandi04472@gmail.com

Thursday, Feb. 17

DEMOCRATS – The Hancock County Democratic Committee will host a Zoom program that will feature two topics: introduce the party's state Senate District 7 candidate, Shenna Bellows, Bellows will run in the June 14 special election seeking to fill out the unexpired term of Luchini. This Senate candidate will have been chosen at a special Democratic caucus attended only by Democratic voters in Senate District 7 on Saturday, Feb. 12. The program also will will next address the disinformation circulating about elections in Maine. Shenna Bellows, Maine Secretary of State and a Hancock County native, will respond to questions about the 2020 and 2022 elections.

People can register at <http://www.hancockdems.org> and register no later than noon on Wednesday.

In the libraries

Buck Memorial

• **NEW HOURS** – The Buck Memorial Library has new hours: Tuesday 10 to 4; Wednesday & Thursday 10 to 6; Friday 10 to 4; and Saturday 10 to 2.

Wednesdays & Thursdays

• **STORY HOUR** is held every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. and on Thursdays at 4 p.m.

Throughout February

FEBRUARY is "Love Your Library Month" so, visit the library to learn how you can help support Buck Memorial as we plan our first Summer Reading Program called "Oceans of Possibility".

Tuesday, February 15

PENOBSCOT historian Carol Dana will be doing a Zoom presentation at 6 p.m. Check the library's website for the details.

Blue Hill Each Monday

• **MAGIC THE GATHERING** – From 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. teens and tweens play Magic the Gathering in the Blue Hill Public Library. Magic the Gathering is a strategy trading card game that features an array of fantasy creatures, spells, enchantments and more to help players overcome their opponents.

This is a casual and fun opportunity for players of all experience levels to get together and test out various decks. Decks of cards are provided, or participants can

bring their own card collections. Castine math and science teacher Josh Snow will be on hand to help new players and provide guidance. The program is free.

• **BEYOND LABELS** – A discussion group meets each Monday from 10 to noon as a hybrid, on-line and in-person program. New members are welcome to join the round table discussion of foreign, national and state/local issues.

Information about the topics can be found at <https://beyondlabels.ustiger.net/>.

Each Tuesday

• **Salut! French** – A French Conversation group "Salut!" continues to meet each Tuesday at 2 p.m.. All are welcome to join Library Director Rich Boulet and Youth Services Librarian Claire Malina for weekly conversations via Zoom. New topics are posted on the library's web calendar each week.

Each Thursday

• **CHECK MATES** – All are welcome to join the Blue Hill Chess Enthusiasts Thursdays from 5 to 8 p.m.. All experience levels are welcome for friendly games. Participants are also invited to play with the Blue Hill Chess Enthusiasts anytime on-line. Visit lichess.org and search for the group Blue Hill Chess Nuts to join in.

Each Thursday

• **KNITTERS** of all levels of ability are invited to meet in the library's Main Room every Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. All are welcome to work on knitting projects, get help, or even to start their knitting journey. Kids are welcome too!

Through March 31

• **ART SHOW** – A Changeable Landscape by Marcia Stremelau: The show includes artists books and screens,

inkstand and watercolors.

In Brown Hall

Monday, Feb. 14

• **SCOTTISH DANCING** resumes in the large meeting room in Brown Hall from 5 to 7 p.m. Interested? Call group leader, Dawn Little at 702-9294. New participants and observers are welcome.

Tuesday, Feb. 15

• **BOOK TALK** - meets from 7:15 - 8:30 p.m. in the Community Meeting Room. This week's discussion: "Fidelity", by Wendell Berry titled, *Pray Without Ceasing*.

Wednesday, Feb. 16

• **ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS (AA)** meets weekly at 7 PM. For more information, call Bill at 610-2249. In addition, AL-ANON is moving to a Zoom meeting for February.

Friday, Feb. 11 & 18

• The Monthly Brown Bag Luncheon with Dr. Stephen York meets at noon to 1 p.m.. Please RSVP to the church office.

Thursday, Feb. 17

• The Gathering meets in the Conference Room with Dr. Stephen York at noon to 1 p.m. to design a community garden for 2022.

Thursday, Feb. 17 & Friday, Feb. 18

• Volunteers will work on the Buck Memorial Library project on cataloging seeds from 10 a.m. until Noon.