



Patriots coverage, B1

# JOURNAL

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Don't miss Massabesic's high school sports poster inside!



TAMMY WELLS/Journal Tribune

Thomas Proia of Alfred confers with attorney Patrick Gordon Thursday at York County Superior Court in Alfred. He was found guilty on seven counts and not guilty on three.

## Proia found guilty on seven counts

Sentencing to come later

By TAMMY WELLS  
Senior Staff Writer

ALFRED— Thomas Proia, on trial at York County Superior Court for a litany of charges relating to a gun shooting incident inside and outside his home Oct. 19, was found guilty on seven charges Thursday and not guilty on three others.

Proia will be sentenced by Justice Wayne Douglas at a later date.

He was convicted of domestic violence reckless conduct, domestic violence assault, endangering the welfare of a child, and two counts of attempted gross sexual assault involving incidents at his home, as well as aggravated assault and criminal mischief involving

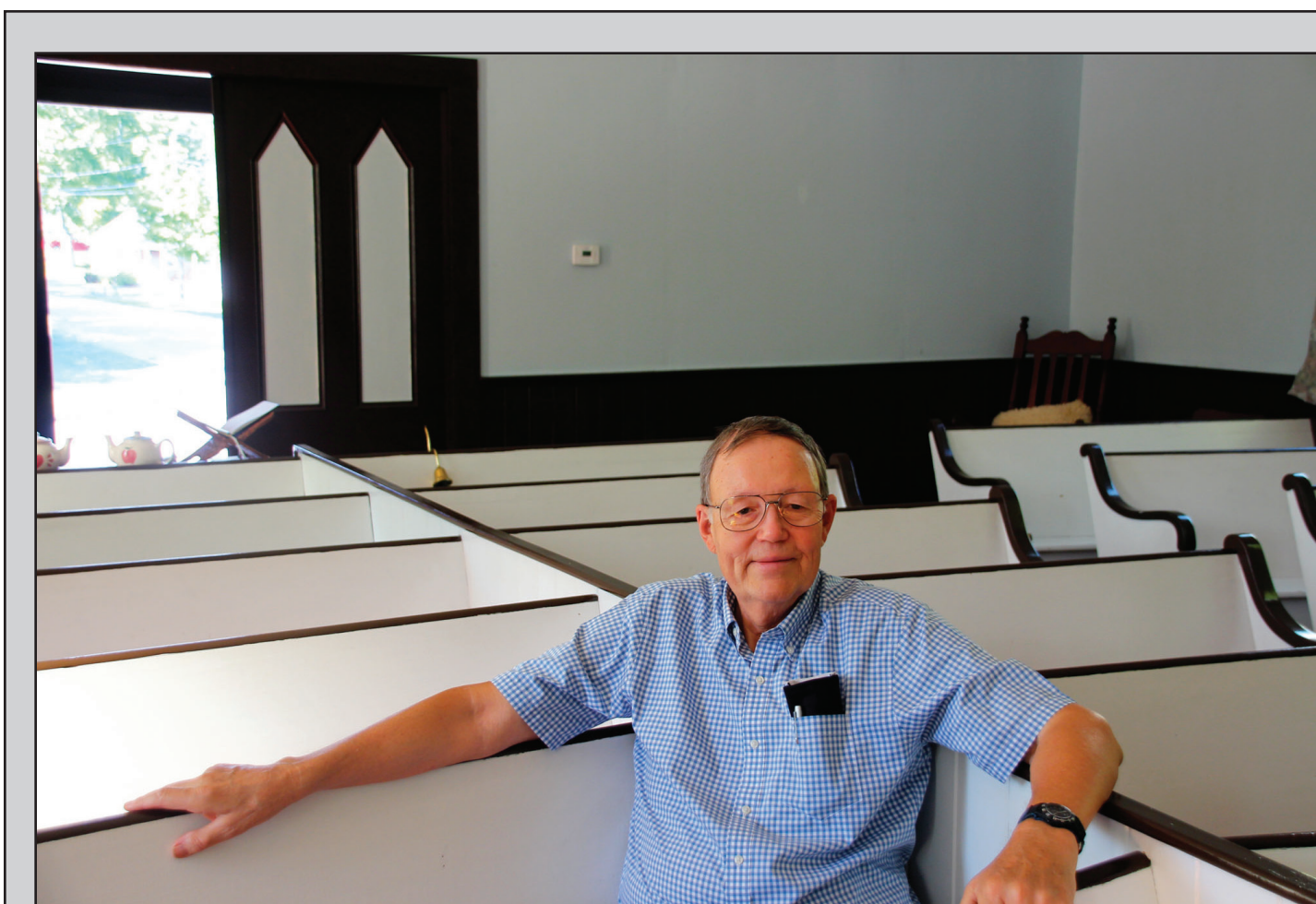
a neighbor.

He was found not guilty on charges of trafficking in marijuana, refusing to submit to arrest and reckless conduct with a dangerous weapon involving a rock-throwing incident at a neighbor's window.

Proia's defense claimed his client was in an "abnormal condition of the mind," as applied under Maine law, on

Oct. 19 when he began feeling paranoid, delusional and thought someone was following him. Proia returned from shopping at Wal-Mart in an agitated, paranoid state and ran upstairs to the attic of his home at 280 Sanford Road and grabbed two AR-15 rifles, according to a recitation of the facts of

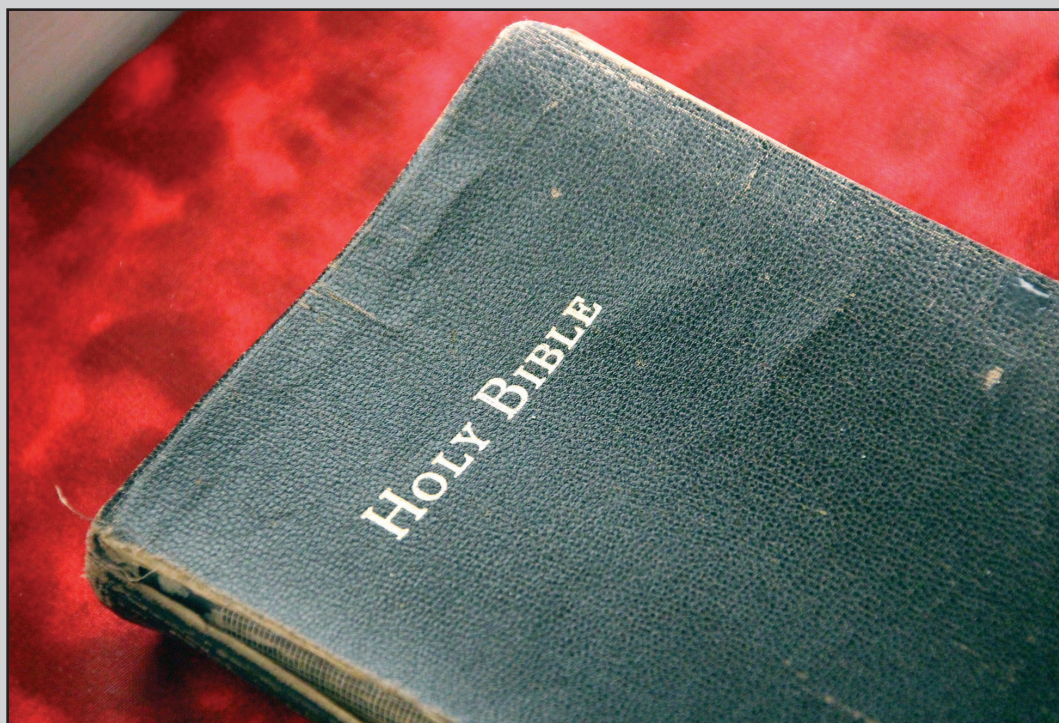
See Proia Guilty  
PAGE A3



### Old church is new again for Newfield congregation

The Newfield Community Church has purchased the 1870 church building adjacent to Newfield's municipal offices on Route 11 and will host a dedication ceremony at 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 11. Trustee and treasurer Stephen Manchester talked about the church building and the congregation in an interview Monday. Closed a year ago by the Methodist congregation, the congregation has been busy getting the church ready for the first public service on the 11th.

TAMMY WELLS/Journal Tribune



## A call to worship

### Newfield Community Church dedication set for Sept. 11.

By TAMMY WELLS  
Senior Staff Writer

NEWFIELD — On Sept. 11, at 5 p.m., the doors of the old church building next to the municipal office on Route 11 will be opened, and the community — both those at home and farther afield — will be invited to step inside.

The Newfield Community Church, for-

mally, the Community of Faith and Fellowship, is dedicating the church building that day.

Until a year ago, area Methodists worshipped there. But the church was closed, and vacant until recently.

Now, the congregation, which formed in 2002 and has been meeting in a private home in recent years, has a building to call their

own, and the community is invited to join in.

Newfield Community Church is an affiliate of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches. Member churches are self-governing. The Newfield congregation had its early meetings in private homes and from 2004-2012 rented space from the Methodist congregation at the church building, until

financial issues caused church members to meet again in members' homes, said trustee and treasurer Steve Manchester. With the purchase of the building, they've made an investment.

While the church building dates to 1870, it came to Newfield after the fire of

See Newfield Church  
PAGE A3

## Commission narrows to seven sites for new county courthouse

By LIZ GOTTHELF  
Staff Writer

ALFRED — A commission charged with recommending a location for a proposed new York County Courthouse will later this month tour seven possible sites with the hope of coming up with a suggested site by November.

The commission, which is comprised of local legislators, county officials, judges, attorneys and others, met at York County Courthouse Thursday afternoon.

Later this year, the group will make its recommendation for a location for a new court building to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court. The proposed new 133,000 square foot building would be designed to consolidate the functions of four courts in York County — the three district courts in Biddeford, Springvale and York, and York County Superior Court at the York County Courthouse in Alfred.

The commission was formed as a result of legislation sponsored by Democratic Sen. Linda Valentino of Saco that also provides \$65 million to build the facility.

The commission is looking for a property with seven buildable acres, space for 300 parking spaces and a building footprint of 30,000 square feet.

The state received 27 property offers, said Maine Supreme Judicial Court Associate Justice Thomas Humphrey, chairman of the commission. Offers were accepted through Monday.

The 27 options were reviewed by architect Philip Johnston, who has overseen other court projects in the state and local businessman Ted Scontras who has a background in real estate. The two came up with seven recommendations which

See Courthouse  
PAGE A3

## GOP, Democrats meet to discuss governor's conduct

By MARINA VILLENEUVE  
Associated Press

AUGUSTA (AP) — State legislative leaders met Thursday to discuss Republican Gov. Paul LePage's obscene tirade against a Democratic legislator but remained at odds over what to do about it.

Worries about the statewide November election, the future of LePage's reform agenda and what the state constitution has to say about possible punishments for LePage is making it unlikely he would face any legislative punishment anytime soon.

Democrats continued calling for LePage's impeachment or resignation on Thursday, even suggesting Republican state Senate President Michael Thibodeau wouldn't be a bad replacement as governor. Thibodeau said impeachment of LePage is not going to happen.

LePage last week left state Rep. Drew Gattine an obscene voicemail and then said he wished it were the 1820s so they could duel and

LePage could point a gun at him. LePage apologized, saying he believed Gattine had called him a racist, which Gattine denies.

LePage said on Tuesday that he wouldn't rule out resigning but later said he wouldn't resign.

Republican House Minority Leader Ken Fredette repeated a position he took earlier this week, that his caucus is against LePage's conduct but doesn't support holding a \$43,000-a-day special session at taxpayers' expense to consider punishing him. Fredette also said the state constitution doesn't allow lawmakers to

See Governor  
PAGE A3

## UNE introduces "all gender" to campus

By ALAN BENNETT  
Staff Writer

BIDDEFORD — The University of New England has updated its policies and facilities to now include "all gender" bathrooms on both its Biddeford and Portland campuses, university staff said Thursday.

The decision, said Richard Anderson-

Martinez, director of the Office of Intercultural Student Engagement, comes as the university and colleges across the nation work to improve their inclusivity policies to better address student needs and more accurately represent their current student populations.

"A lot of what we're

trying to do is make the campus as accessible to as many people as possible," Anderson-Martinez said. "This is certainly a structural or facilities-wise thing, but there's definitely programmatic dialogue as well."

See All Gender  
PAGE A2

### INDEX: 16 PAGES

Local/Region	A3
Community	A4
Opinion	A5
Comics	A6
TV/Puzzles	A7
Sports	B1-3
State/Region	B4
World/Nat'l	B5
Classifieds	B6-8



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**Publisher's note:** Due to technical difficulties, Wednesday's and Thursday's editions of the paper were late. The issues have been resolved and papers should now be delivered at their normal time. We apologize for the inconvenience and thank you for your patience.

**All Gender**

FROM PAGE A1

The university converted its 57 single-occupancy restrooms to “all gender” facilities after it conducted an audit of spaces and university officials agreed the restrooms were the same.

The only difference, Anderson-Martinez said, were their labels, with some marked “unisex” or “gender neutral,” as well as the traditional “men” and “women.”

“They’re identical, the only difference was signage. We felt it was a pretty easy change,” Anderson-Martinez said. “We found we just had a really inconsistent way of talking about this.”

The bathrooms opened as the university welcomed students back to campus this week. Anderson-Martinez said the decision to label the bathrooms as “all gender” was primarily semantic.

“Gender neutral” negates someone’s identity, it takes it away,” Anderson-Martinez said. “What we’re doing is being more conscious of gender than the balance of male and female. We’re honoring the idea that there’s more than just two (genders).”

“It provides language for our students are looking for nowadays,” he said.

It also provides the language the federal government is now using to discuss sex and gender. In May, UNE received a “Dear Colleague” letter issued by the U.S.

Departments of Education and Justice that clarified the ways in which sex and gender should be addressed on college campuses.

“The Departments treat a student’s gender identity as the student’s sex for purposes of Title IX and its

implementing regulations. This means that a school must not treat a transgender student differently from the way it treats other students of the same gender identity,” the DOE and DOJ said in their new guidelines, which were issued in May.

The guidelines effectively equate sex and gender identity, Anderson-Martinez said, protecting students from discrimination if they identify as transgender or something else other than male or female.

“We still felt that it was appropriate for us to move on this,” Anderson-Martinez said regarding all gender bathrooms.

The university does not keep statistics on how many transgender students are enrolled at the university, primarily for privacy purposes, but Anderson-Martinez said he knows a handful personally and that there are a few among the newly-welcomed freshman class.

The creation of all gender restrooms comes as the university has introduced gender-inclusive housing at its campuses. Students previously were roomed together based on their university gender marker, either male or female.

Following recommendations by the school’s Gender Inclusion Committee, under the Division of Student Affairs, students this fall will have the option to room with other students who identify as another gender.

“Students are allowed to share a room with anyone and gender is no longer a factor in that. All they have to do is make a request to our housing office,” Anderson-Martinez said.

Students have always

been able to submit such requests, Anderson-Martinez said, and students have always had the option of living with different genders in suite-style dorms, just not in the same room.

“It doesn’t really require students to ‘out’ themselves, and it’s consistent with our policy already in place,” he said. “We’re removing some of the barriers and obstacles for our students they may face in spaces where they live.”

Anderson-Martinez did say the school has received pushback for its policy updates, mostly online from parents who are concerned about their children’s privacy and safety in spaces shared by all genders.

“We have had questions raised, almost exclusively on Facebook and primarily by parents, about showers,” and other shared spaces, Anderson-Martinez said. “We’re not making any student live in an environment they don’t want to.”

Anderson-Martinez said all suite-style dorms already have single-occupancy showers, and in first-year dorms, which have traditional shower stalls, single-occupancy showers are an option.

“When we wrote these policies it wasn’t to isolate anybody, it’s the exact opposite, it’s to make sure these students have the same access to services as everybody else,” Anderson-Martinez said. “We have students across the university who are starting to feel more emboldened to share who they are and come forward.”

— Staff Writer Alan Bennett can be contacted at 282-1535, ext. 329 or abennett@journaltribune.com.

# Hermine hits Florida coast as first hurricane in a decade

By **JOSH REPLOGE** and **BRENDAN FARRINGTON**  
Associated Press

CARRABELLE, Fla. — Hurricane Hermine made landfall in Florida’s Big Bend area early this morning as the first hurricane to hit the state in more than a decade.

The Category 1 storm hit just east of St. Marks around 1:30 a.m. EDT with winds around 80 mph, according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center. Hermine later weakened to a tropical storm as it moved farther inland.

Projected storm surges of up to 12 feet menaced a wide swath of the coast and an expected drenching of up to 10 inches of rain carried the danger of flooding along the storm’s path over land, including the state capital Tallahassee, which hadn’t been hit by a hurricane since Kate in 1985.

As of 5 a.m. EDT today, Hermine was weakening as it moved into southern Georgia, the Hurricane Center said. It was centered about 20 miles west of Valdosta, Georgia, and was moving north-northeast near 14 mph.

After pushing through Georgia, Hermine was expected to move into the Carolinas and up the East Coast with the potential for drenching rain and dead-

ly flooding.

In Florida’s Pasco County, north of Tampa, authorities said flooding forced 18 people from their homes in Green Key and Hudson Beach. Pasco County Fire Rescue and sheriff’s deputies used high-water vehicles early today to rescue people from rising water. They were taken to a nearby shelter.

The last hurricane to strike Florida was Wilma, a powerful Category 3 storm that arrived on Oct. 24, 2005. It swept across the Everglades and struck heavily populated south Florida, causing five deaths in the state and an estimated \$23 billion in damage.

Many took no chances with Hermine.

Tallahassee resident Tom Duffy, 70, said Thursday that he planned to reserve a hotel room for tonight in the neighboring state of Alabama if downed trees caused the kind of power outages he expected. The city government tweeted there were about 70,000 power outages reported around the capital city early this morning.

“We’ve dodged bullet after bullet after bullet,” Duffy said, but added that Hermine has taken “dead aim” at the city, where blustery winds sent trees swaying before dawn.

In Carrabelle, on the coast just 60 miles southwest of Tallahassee, Courtney Chason was keeping an eye on the storm surge as docks and boat houses were slowly being battered as the storm approached late Thursday.

“I’ve never seen it this high, it’s pretty damn crazy. I’ve been in this area for 30 years but I’ve never seen it like this,” Chason said. “I hope it doesn’t get any higher, we need lots of prayers.”

Residents on some islands and other low-lying, flood-prone areas in Florida had been urged to clear out. Flooding was expected across a wide swath of the marshy coastline of the Big Bend — the mostly rural and lightly populated corner where the Florida peninsula meets the Panhandle.

Florida Gov. Rick Scott warned of the danger of strong storm surges, high winds, downed trees and power outages, and urged people to move inland.

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**Briefly**

**No opinion on Sweden’s lobster ban request**

PORTLAND (AP) — An arm of the European Union has delayed issuing an opinion on a request from Sweden to deem American lobsters an invasive species in much of Europe.

Sweden wants the European Union to ban imports of live American lobsters into EU nations. Sweden says 32 of the crustaceans were found in the country’s waters earlier this year, and that they are a

threat to native crustaceans.

**Report: ME has highest obesity rate in NE**

PORTLAND (AP) — A new report on obesity shows that Maine continues to be the heaviest state in New England.

The report by the Robert Wood Foundation and the Trust for America’s Health found that 30 percent of adults were obese last year in Maine, where the whoopie pie is the state treat and the blueberry pie is state des-

sert. That ranked 24th in the country.

In New England, New Hampshire was second at 26.3 percent, followed by Rhode Island at 26 percent, Connecticut at 25.3 percent, Vermont at 25.1 percent and Massachusetts at 24.3 percent.

The report based on state-by-state data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention isn’t all bad. It found that obesity rates dropped in four states, increased in two and were stable in the rest.

**BIDDEFORD AREA FORECAST** **AccuWeather.com**

TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Clear ▼ 54°	Mostly sunny and pleasant ▲ 75° ▼ 52°	Variable cloudiness ▲ 73° ▼ 55°	Cloudy ▲ 70° ▼ 60°

**Today’s Forecast**

**Tide Report**

**Kennebunkport:**

Day	Time	High	Time	Low
Fri.	12:19 a.m.	9.3	6:32 a.m.	-0.2
	12:45 p.m.	8.8	6:45 p.m.	0.2
Sat.	1:00 a.m.	9.7	7:10 a.m.	0.0
	1:23 p.m.	9.3	7:26 p.m.	0.3

**Old Orchard Beach:**

Day	Time	High	Time	Low
Fri.	12:12 a.m.	10.0	6:20 a.m.	-0.3
	12:37 p.m.	9.4	6:34 p.m.	0.1
Sat.	12:52 a.m.	9.8	6:58 a.m.	-0.1
	1:15 p.m.	9.4	7:14 p.m.	0.2

**Marine Forecast**

Eastport to Merrimac River  
Wind northwest 4-8 knots tonight. Seas 1-3 feet. Clear. Wind southeast 4-8 knots tomorrow. Seas 1-3 feet. Visibility clear. Wind west 3-6 knots tomorrow night. Seas 1-2 feet. Partly cloudy. Sunday: Wind east 4-8 knots. Seas 1-3 feet. Visibility clear. Sunday night: Wind east 7-14 knots. Seas 3-6 feet. Rather cloudy. Water temperature: 59.

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2016

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Biddeford-Saco Country Club



**CITY OF BIDDEFORD**  
**Notice to the Citizens of Biddeford**

The City Clerk’s Office is now taking **ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS** for the upcoming November 8, 2016 State General (Presidential) Election and Municipal Referendum Election.

**ALL registered voters may vote in these Elections.**

You may vote absentee by requesting a ballot by telephone (284-9307) or by coming into the City Clerk’s Office during the business hours of Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

You may also go to: <http://www.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl> and request an absentee ballot electronically.

Absentee ballot requests must be received by the City Clerk’s Office by 7:00 p.m. on **Thursday, November 3rd, 2016**, unless special circumstances exist. There will be no absentee voting on Friday, November 4th or Monday, November 7th.

