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75¢



ALAN BENNETT/Journal Tribune

Day 1 down, only about 9½ months to go

Biddeford High School freshmen board the bus after their first day of classes Wednesday. Today, the Class of 2020 will be joined by the school's sophomores, juniors and seniors as they begin the 2016-2017 academic year.

19th century Willowbrook shutting down

Artifacts to be offered to other museums

By TAMMY WELLS
Senior Staff Writer

NEWFIELD — Nineteenth Century Willowbrook Village, which has offered folks an interactive glimpse of rural life in the 1800s for 47 years, will close for good Oct. 10.

Board of Trustees President Douglas King said the museum of farm life started by his parents in the 1970s is closing due to financial considerations.

"Willowbrook's Board of Trustees is working with a select number of nonprofit museums in Maine to relocate and give new life to as much of Willowbrook's collections as possible," said King in a statement issued Wednesday night.

Since 1970, when Donald and Marguerite "Pan" King opened Willowbrook



TAMMY WELLS/Journal Tribune

Nineteenth-century Willowbrook Village, off Route 11 in Newfield, plans to close permanently Oct. 10. The 10-acre village offers visitors a glimpse of life in rural Maine from the mid-1800s to about 1920.

as a museum, more than 430,000 school children and others have strolled through the 10-acre village, located on Elm Street. Many rode on the 1894 Armitage Herschell carousel. In recent years, some took part in mid-winter ice harvests or attended classes on knife-

making. Visitors marveled at the vast array of farming tools, household implements, and other artifacts that showed how life used to be.

Donald King first lived in Newfield in the 1960s and purchased the 1813 Durgin Homestead. He began to

see farms that had operated for generations disappear, one by one. He bought farm implements and carriages, sleighs, black-smithing tools and more, amassing a collection his son, in an earlier interview, said connects

See Willowbrook
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Gov. LePage apologizes, won't resign

Senate president to poll GOP caucus on possible action

FROM STAFF and WIRE REPORTS

AUGUSTA — Republican Senate President Mike Thibodeau on Wednesday said he's struggling with whether Gov. Paul LePage is taking enough responsibility for an obscenity-laced email he left for Westbrook Democrat Rep. Drew Gattine last week.

LePage apologized to the lawmaker Wednesday morning and later told reporters he will not resign, though he had suggested he might consider that option the previous day.

LePage said he and his family will seek spiritual guidance.

"I'm not an alcoholic. I'm not a drug addict. I don't have mental issues," he said. "What I have is a backbone, and I want to move Maine forward."

Thibodeau said he'll poll his caucus and talk to Democrats to see if "this is the end" for any possible punishments for LePage.

The Senate president said "any one of us" would be unemployed after leaving such a voicemail.

The Republican leader of the state House, Ken Fredette, late Tuesday said LePage is accepting responsibility for his actions, and he urged lawmakers to focus on November elections and LePage's reform agenda.

Maine GOP Chairman Rick Bennett said the governor's words, though "politically and socially unacceptable," are not an impeachable offense under the state constitution.

Closer to home, Republican Sen. David Woodsome of Waterboro said he is saddened and dismayed to have seen the recent events with LePage unfold as they have.

In a social media posting Wednesday morning, before LePage's news conference,

See LePage
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Resident plans to file assault charge against selectmen chair

Incident involves chairman 'putting hands' on Limerick man

By TAMMY WELLS
Senior Staff Writer

LIMERICK — Stephen Malmude said Wednesday he plans to file an assault charge against the Board of Selectmen Chairman Roland "Sonny" LePage in connection with an incident at Monday's selectman's meeting. During the meeting LePage approached the podium and placed his hand on Malmude's arm as he was speaking.

Malmude was later escorted from the building by a sheriff's deputy at the request of selectmen. After Malmude left, the three selectmen voted unanimously to expel Malmude from their meetings for six months, LePage said Wednesday, though he said he's not certain that can happen.

The incident was filmed

by resident Andrew Ready and is on the internet at YouTube. The video, sent to the newspaper by Ready, shows Malmude stepping to the podium and starting to speak about a snowmobile club ground lease.

"Steve, we are not going there," LePage is heard to say as he gavels.

The video shows LePage stepping to the podium and placing his hand on Malmude's arm. Malmude who was gripping the podium, took a couple of steps sideways. LePage said "you are done," grabbed the microphone and then walked away, as Selectman John Medici called for a five-minute suspension of the meeting, the video shows. LePage, following a vote, is

See Limerick Selectman
PAGE A3

Natural gas expansion for Saco moving according to plan

By LIZ GOTTHELF
Staff Writer

SACO — A natural gas expansion project that when completed will provide about 1,000 homes and businesses access to the fuel is on track.

The project, which began in the spring, will be completed in three phases over three years.

"We're doing very well, as far as the project is concerned," said Alec O'Meara, spokesman for Unitol

Corporation natural gas company, Tuesday afternoon.

Work on the first phase of the project, which will cover the downtown area from Elm Street to Pepperell Square and north to Beach Street and part of the Industrial Park Road area should be completed by mid-September, said O'Meara.

See Natural Gas
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LIZ GOTTHELF/Journal Tribune

Construction work on a natural gas expansion project at Storer Street in Saco Tuesday afternoon.

Biddeford's UNE has science-inspired artist-in-residence program

By ALAN BENNETT
Staff Writer

BIDDEFORD — The University of New England announced Wednesday it will be hosting an artist-in-residence at the university for the fall semester.

UNE will host Kim Bernard, an artist and instructor at the Maine College of Art, this fall in its College of Liberal Arts and

Sciences, the university said in a statement.

The program is intended to help students explore the not-always apparent connections between the arts and sciences through a workshop-style approach.

Bernard, who holds a master of fine arts from Massachusetts College of Art and Design, was formerly the artist-in-residence

in the physics department at Harvard University. A sculptor by trade, Bernard's work is most often kinetic, or moving, and typically explores movement as a form of art in and of itself.

"That's where the physics comes in," Bernard said Wednesday. "Physics

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Artist and instructor Kim Bernard stands among her piece, "Wave Phenomena."

SUBMITTED PHOTO/
Courtesy of Kim Bernard

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UNE Artist

FROM PAGE A1

is movement, it explains movement, it's the research of movement."

As an artist-in-residence, Bernard will develop science-inspired works of art and help students integrate the arts into their science-related work, or vice versa.

Bernard said the two topics are often seen in opposition to each other, but that's not necessarily the case.

"Both art and science are investigations into the nature of reality and they're not as different as they might appear to be," she said. "The creative process is not so unlike the scientific method. If you give ... individuals an opportunity to experience science with their hands, it's much more memorable. It's so much more interactive; It's an experience rather than just studying something abstractly."

The ultimate goal of the program is for Bernard and students to work collaboratively on a piece of art to be installed somewhere on the university campus. One of Bernard's pieces,

"Wave Phenomena," had previously been installed in the Biddeford campus' art gallery.

Bernard said she is particularly interested in waves and imagines she will work with students to create a large, three-dimensional net comprised of cords woven from plastic bags found along the beach. The piece would be suspended and would serve as a study of waves and motion.

That project, she said, would encompass many different disciplines, from environmental studies to mechanics, physics, design, fabrication and sustainability.

"There's an experience for the students where they can come meet with me, we'll do it together, install it someplace on campus, and it becomes this interactive wave-like structure that can simulate wave behavior," Bernard said.

Throughout the fall semester, Bernard will host three interdisciplinary workshops on the relationship between science and the arts, and will hold open office hours during the week for students to meet with her.

Her first collaborative art project, she said, will involve tattoos made from henna, a dye derived from a tropical plant. The dye must be mixed with lemon juice and essential oils to become activated, Bernard said, and so it can offer students a lesson in chemistry. Once the dye is placed on the skin, students can learn about biology while tattooing their friends.

And while Bernard won't be teaching a class, specifically, she said her roles as a mentor and collaborator will allow students to broaden their horizons and think creatively in whatever work they set out to do.

"It's an opportunity for students to engage in the creative process, and in doing so they'll learn about making, the experience of making things, but they'll also be exposed to something in the realm of science," she said. "I hope that what they will come away with is having bridged a gap between disciplines that they might not have seen a relationship with before."

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

Limerick Selectmen

FROM PAGE A1

heard to say off camera, "The meeting is suspended vote. Call the sheriff's department."

In a telephone interview Wednesday, LePage said Malmude "does the best he can to interrupt any meetings he attends."

"I reached for the podium and probably touched him. I haven't watched the video," said LePage. "If I did (touch him) I apologize. My objective was to move the microphone away."

Later, after Malmude was escorted from the building, Medici then moved to expel Malmude for six months, with Joanne Andrews, a member of the Board of Selectmen, seconding the motion and LePage voting with the majority, LePage said.

"To be honest, I am not sure we can keep him out because it is a public meeting," said LePage. "And I for one don't want to keep anyone out and I am sure my colleagues are of the same thought — not looking to exclude anyone. But you have to understand this is our meeting and we run the meeting the way it needs to be run. All he had to do was sit down."

Malmude said it was the first time in more than three decades anyone had "put their hands on me."

"He's wrong in what he (LePage) did," said Malmude. "He almost pulled the podium down. He was gripping and pulling my arm and I actually have a charley horse in my shoulder."

Malmude said he's always told the same thing, "You're disturbing business as usual." He said he is preparing

a statement for the sheriff's office and will file an assault charge.

LePage said the Limerick Board of Selectmen have a public comment period as do many municipalities during their meetings. He said the issue Malmude wanted to discuss had been dealt with and signed the previous week, had been voted in Town Meeting and discussed by two previous selectmen's boards.

"He just persists and drags this on," said LePage.

According to Maine's Freedom of Access law, all public proceedings must be open to the public and any person must be permitted to attend a public meeting.

— Senior Staff Writer Tammy Wells can be contacted at 324-4444 (local call in Sanford) or 282-1535, ext. 327 or twells@journaltribune.com.

Natural Gas

FROM PAGE A1

Crews will be working until winter to hook up new customers.

O'Meara said there are more than 50 residents or businesses who have committed to be natural gas customers or are finalizing the details.

"That's great for this stage, because most people aren't looking at (getting natural gas service) until after Labor Day. For better or worse, that's when people realize winter is coming,"

said O'Meara.

For updates on roadwork related to the natural gas expansion project, go to unutil.com and click on the Saco Expansion tab.

Prior to the start of the expansion, there was limited access to natural gas in the city. Many city officials have touted the expansion as a move that will benefit the city.

"Our growing community will benefit from access to natural gas services," said Mayor Roland Michaud in a written statement earlier this summer. "Not only will

more of our current residents and businesses have the opportunity for this affordable heating option, but we are confident that it will help attract new businesses to Saco."

O'Meara said among the benefits of natural gas is that it's cheaper than heating with oil and is a cleaner source of energy than oil and therefore better for the environment.

— Staff Writer Liz Gotthelf can be contacted at 282-1535, ext. 325 or egotthelf@journaltribune.com.

HOB receives national accreditation

FROM STAFF REPORTS

BIDDEFORD

— Downtown nonprofit organization Heart of Biddeford has received national accreditation as a Main Street America program, Executive Director Delilah Poupore announced in a statement Tuesday.

HOB now joins more than 1,000 communities across the country in the Main Street America network who have leveraged more than \$65 billion to build stronger communities through preservation-based economic development.

"Heart of Biddeford's revitalization efforts build on the work of many before us, and happen in partnership with the municipality, the business community, hundreds

of committed citizens, and our partnering organizations," Poupore said.

HOB partners with the city and its businesses, property owners and residents to foster economic development and improve the downtown area by supporting existing businesses and attracting new ones.

Every year, the Maine Downtown Center evaluates HOB's performance with respect to its efforts for building comprehensive, sustainable revitalization while building partnerships throughout the community. In addition, the MDC evaluates Main Street organizations on their abilities to maintain an operating budget, track progress and preserve historic buildings.

Poupore touted the city's downtown district's growth in recent years, but did acknowledge that development can't happen overnight.

"Downtown revitalization in a former mill town often feels like two steps forward and one step back, especially considering we're basically in competition with online and big box retailers," she said.

But Poupore also said recent successes in local business development is evidence of Biddeford's continued growth and reassurance that the city is making progress.

"There's a movement building here," Poupore said. "And Heart of Biddeford is proud to partner with so many to foster the revitalization of this beautiful city."

To learn the scoop subscribe to the beat

FROM STAFF REPORTS

BIDDEFORD

— City officials on Tuesday announced the launch of the city's new electronic newsletter, which they say will better inform residents about what's happening in City Hall.

The first issue of the Biddeford Beat was launched on the city's website on Monday. City Manager Jim Bennett said the newsletter is a more accessible way to disseminate information to the public than the city has done in the past.

"At the core, I personally believe that most citizens would make the same decisions as the City Council (as well as other committees of the City), if they had the same information," Bennett said in the newsletter's first issue. "With that understanding, the City will strive to find better ways to provide citizens with timely and accurate information."

Announcement of the newsletter comes as there is increased public concern

over the city's activities, from the allocation of city funds to announcements of proposed zoning changes, including from residents of Biddeford Pool who have said they feel uninformed about the proposed shoreland zoning ordinance changes currently being evaluated by city officials.

The first issue of the Biddeford Beat alerted residents about decreased lifeguard coverage as September approaches, and informed them about a new before and after school program for kids in kindergarten through fifth grade, sponsored by Biddeford Parks and Recreation.

The issue also announced the city has received a \$5,000 matching grant from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission to fund a window replacement project for City Hall, and that the city has received a \$31,000 dividend check from the Maine Municipal Association for its commitment to workplace safety.

"While the City website provides a lot of information, it is not the easiest to navigate through without municipal government knowledge," Bennett said in a statement. "We believe the 'Biddeford Beat' will provide valuable information for the community in an easy to read format."

The weekly newsletter will be posted to the city's website each Monday. Individuals may also opt to receive the newsletter through email by subscribing on the city's website's homepage, biddefordmaine.org, or emailing a subscription request to newsletter@biddefordmaine.org.

"We hope in some small way, the information will make you feel a little more connected with Biddeford," Bennett said. "Whether you have lived here since birth, moved here in the last year, just work in the area or Biddeford is your hometown, we want you to be proud of the community."

Briefly

Biddeford man charged for criminal speeding

FROM STAFF REPORTS

BIDDEFORD

— A Biddeford man is out on bail following his arrest early Wednesday morning in Biddeford for traveling 69 miles per hour over the speed limit.

Biddeford Police arrested John Gaudet, 36, shortly after midnight Wednesday after they say he was traveling 124 mph in an area of Pool Street marked 55 mph in his 2017 Chevrolet Camaro.

Gaudet was arrested on charges of criminal speeding and taken to the Biddeford Police Department, where was able to post \$400 bail.

Gaudet is scheduled to appear in court on Oct. 26.

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