



A new restaurant at 49 Main Street in Lincoln, called "49 Maine," opens to the public Jan. 1. The restaurant features contemporary American cuisine and pizza cooked in a wood-fired pizza oven. (Photo by Ben Meiklejohn)

RSU 67 dismisses social studies teacher

By Ben Meiklejohn

LINCOLN – The Regional School Unit 67 Board of Directors voted unanimously at a Dec. 17 meeting to dismiss social studies teacher Derek Brewer.

The action came after an executive session was held pursuant to Title 1, § 405(6)(E) to "consult with an attorney." Immediately after returning to public session, Chairperson Rebecca Hanscom made a motion to dismiss the teacher from employment by the district.

The statutory authority cited for the executive session allows for consultation with an attorney "concerning the legal rights and duties of the body."

The board did not indicate in their motion to enter executive session that they would discuss the dismissal of an employee, nor was a statutory authority cited referencing that the dismissal of an employee would be discussed in executive session.

When introducing the motion, Hanscom read a prepared statement.

"On Sept. 11, 2025, one day after Charlie Kirk was assassinated, Mattanawcook Academy social studies teacher Derek Brewer told one of his freshman social studies classes that, number one, he didn't care that Charlie Kirk had died, and number two, he found it ironic that Charlie Kirk was shot, referencing a video clip that he had seen where Charlie Kirk stated that a few people had to be shot in order to protect Second Amendment rights.

"Mr. Brewer's conduct constituted using the classroom as a personal forum in direct violation of policy IMB - Teaching About Controversial-Sensitive Issues... Mr. Brewer used his classroom as a personal forum to express his political views not related to the curriculum. Mr. Brewer communicated his own views to the students without emphasizing the need to keep an open mind, base judgment on known facts, look closely at facts to evaluate them in terms of the subject and be ready to change one's opinion, should new facts come to light.

"Mr. Brewer did not ensure a wide range of information and did not present a balance among many points of view," Hanscom continued. "Mr. Brewer did not present students to opt-out of being subjected to his views. Mr. Brewer's statements, made so close in time to an emotionally

charged event in our history, were upsetting to a substantial segment of Mr. Brewer's students and resulted in substantial disruption to the school community. Mr. Brewer has demonstrated a total lack of professional judgment in making the aforementioned comments and he has refused to take responsibility for, or acknowledge, the consequences of his actions, including the substantial disruption it has caused to students and the school community.

"Mr. Brewer's conduct has led to the school community's loss of confidence in Mr. Brewer's ability to teach students as demonstrated by the following."

Hanscom referenced in her statement that following the Sept. 11 incident, 17 families had disallowed their children from attending Brewer's class and that law enforcement had to be called on Sept. 12 "for assistance with a group of angry parents who came to the school to protest and demand that Mr. Brewer be fired."

That same day, said Hanscom, 99 students were marked with unexcused absences or early dismissals. Several families have also pulled their students out of the district entirely since the incident, to homeschool their children instead, she added.

"Mr. Brewer is unfit to teach and his services are unprofitable to RSU 67... Mr. Brewer is dismissed from employment with RSU 67 effective immediately," Hanscom concluded her statement on the motion.

Directors offered no discussion on Hanscom's motion, which was approved unanimously.

Auditor and certified public accountant James Wadman provided a report to the board on an audit of the budget for the district's 2025 fiscal year, which ran from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

Wadman reported that the district had received more than \$2.5 million in federal funds in the last fiscal year, 40% of which was for federal grant programs.

In a summary of financial highlights, Wadman reported that the combined ending fund balance for the fiscal year was nearly \$7.63 million, of which more than \$5.44 million is the general unassigned fund balance, or "surplus."

Wadman explained that the district has carried a surplus of \$5.3 to \$5.4 million in the last three fiscal years. Wadman compared the district's surplus to other

See RSU 67 Page 3

Passadumkeag Planning Board to hold first meeting

By Ben Meiklejohn

PASSADUMKEAG – A newly formed planning board in Passadumkeag is scheduled to hold its first official meeting on Jan. 8 at 6 p.m. at the Passadumkeag Town Office.

The board currently comprises five local residents – Sergio Batista, Ellie Clark, Sara Dow, MaryLee Mottram and Carol Nichols – but may have up to seven members, including up to two non-resident members, according to the town's ordinance.

Batista said in a release that the town is actively seeking volunteers to fill the remaining two seats, and plans to meet monthly

on the second Thursday of each month.

"Public participation is welcome, whether you would like to share ideas, ask questions or simply listen," Batista noted in the statement. "No special knowledge or experience is needed to attend – curiosity and care for the town are enough."

Batista said the board plans to develop a comprehensive plan for the town – "a long-term guide that helps shape decisions about housing, land use, infrastructure and community development."

"The planning board will also work closely with the select board to review and update town ordi-

nances in accordance with state guidelines," stated the notice.

"Most importantly, the planning board wants to hear from residents about what matters most to them and what they feel is needed to support the town's future. Community input is a vital part of this process."

Residents interested in getting involved, looking for more information or who have questions, are encouraged to contact the planning board directly by email at passadumkeagplanboard@outlook.com, by calling the town office at (207) 732-5111, or by attending the board meeting in person Jan. 8.

"We look forward to working together to help guide Passadumkeag's future," said Batista.

Few arrests during holiday week, scams still prevalent

By Ben Meiklejohn

LINCOLN – Lincoln Police Department arrested three people in the previous week, Detective Stewart Jacobs reported to Lincoln News on Monday.

Justin Jacques, 45, a transient from Lincoln who was recently arrested on Dec. 17 for a probation violation, was served on Dec. 22 at 1:02 p.m. at Penobscot County Jail, where he remains confined, with a charge of violating a protection order. Jacobs said the charge is a result of Jacques

making calls from jail to the protected person.

Another person whom the department had investigated for violating a protection order – Dylan Henderson, 24, of Brewer, was arrested Dec. 23 at 12:28 p.m. with the help of the Brewer Police Department, who located Henderson. Jacobs said the investigation resulted from Henderson sending texts and social media communications to the protected individual.

On Dec. 28 at 3:12 a.m., Sgt.

Michael Winslow arrested Lance Hanson, 18, at the corner of Maine Street and Lee Road, for operating under the influence.

Jacobs said Winslow "observed the vehicle on Main Street come in contact with the curb (surrounding the monument) and the vehicle bounced up in the air as it went up the curb, narrowly missing the monument."

Jacobs reported that the department continues to receive complaints about online or telephone scams.

"We always want to restate the

See POLICE Page 2



Classified.....	18-20	BBB	9
Pet Page.....	10	Katahdin Region	11-16
Public Notices.....	5	Sports	17-18
Card of Thanks/Obits	9	Tea Pail	18
Coming Events.....	6-7, 16	Opinions	6

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