Established in 1836

The Calais Advertiser

Published way Downeast

Like us on Facebook @TheCalaisAdv

"For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light."

VOL. 191, NO. 20 MAY 14, 2026
© 2026 The Calais Advertiser Inc.
$1.50 (tax included)

Stars and Stripes Forever Day: May 14th

Commemorates the first public performance of John Philip Sousa's famous march on May 14, 1897.

AMERICA 250

United States Semiquincentennial

July 4, 2026

Drainage, Surface Issues Spark Discussion Over Calais Ballfield

Jayna Smith
jayna@calais.news

Longstanding concerns surrounding the condition of the high school baseball field at the DiCenzo Athletic Complex have resurfaced this spring as players, parents, coaches, and community members continue to question drainage issues, field surface conditions, and long-term maintenance planning.

The field, which serves Calais junior high and high school baseball teams and is maintained by the recreation department, has for years developed a reputation as one of the wettest fields in the area. Home games are frequently delayed, moved, or switched to opponents' fields due to conditions.

Former recreation director John Rogers said the field was built in a naturally wet area and that a stream runs beneath portions of the site, though he noted it was not necessarily constructed "over a swamp" as is sometimes claimed locally.

Rogers said that during his time as recreation director, drainage improvements were limited primarily to trenching near the field side of the complex. He was unaware of any major drainage overhaul to the outfield itself.

Current assistant high school baseball coach Toby Cole, who served as recreation director from 2011 to 2014 following Rogers' tenure, echoed concerns about the field's long-term drainage limitations.

"Water needs gravity to move," Cole said. "Left field along the third base line is one of the lowest areas on the field."

Cole noted that drainage work has been attempted in various areas over the years, including along the third base line and between the baseball and softball fields, but said the overall water issue has largely remained unchanged.

(see BALLFIELD, page 7)

Historic Holmes Cottage Preparing for Summer Visitors



Daffodils in bloom frame the historic Holmes Cottage, the city's oldest landmark. Read more details on page 3.(Photo by Jayna Smith)

They're Back!



A female hummingbird in Princeton. (Photo by Donna Melanson)



Eastport Municipal Airport Lease Dispute Raises Concerns Among Hangar Owners

Jayna Smith
jayna@calais.news

Questions surrounding expired leases, unpaid fees, and future development plans at the Eastport Municipal Airport have created tension between city officials and several private hangar owners after the City of Eastport issued notices requiring some structures to be removed from airport property.

According to Eastport City Manager Brian Schuth, six letters were sent to hangar leaseholders on April 23. Three involved leases that expired in 2023, while three others involved leases considered delinquent due to several years of unpaid fees. Annual lease payments were reportedly $280.

The notices gave some leaseholders 30 days and others 60 days to vacate the property and remove their hangars, depending on the status of the lease. The letters also informed recipients that portions of the airport property are expected to be impacted by future apron expansion plans included in the airport master plan.

During a May 5 meeting of the airport advisory committee, Schuth stated that any of the six leaseholders who wish to remain at the airport should contact him to discuss new agreements and potential timelines for relocating hangars.

"I will say that again: if any of the six leaseholders wishes to remain at the airport, they should meet with me immediately, and we will draft a new lease for a new hangar location," Schuth said during the meeting.

Some hangar owners and airport supporters argued the situation largely stems from communication failures by the city. Airport advisory committee member Ron Rosenfeld said he believes much of the confusion resulted from the city changing its billing procedures without adequately notifying leaseholders.

(see AIRPORT, page 3)

Calais 8th Graders Turn Fundraising into Community Effort

Jayna Smith
jayna@calais.news

The Calais eighth-grade class has been actively fundraising throughout the school year to support their upcoming class trip, with community-driven events still ahead.

The next major fundraiser will be a community yard sale scheduled for May 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Calais Elementary School. Donations for the sale are currently being accepted, with the exception of clothing. Items may be dropped off at Calais Elementary School during school hours or the morning of the event.

Community members who would like to sell their own items may also reserve a space for a $20 fee. In addition, the Eastern Star organization will be selling baked goods during the event. Any remaining items after the sale will be donated to the Hokey Pokey Fair yard sale held next month.

Fundraising efforts have been ongoing throughout the year and have included a variety of successful events and drives. Students participated in several raffles, including a prize calendar supported by local businesses, a fall basket raffle, a Super Bowl sofa raffle featuring a loveseat donated by Rent-A-Center, and a recent money draw. Additional efforts included a well-attended fall craft fair, concessions sold at middle school sporting events, a prize bingo and family fun night, as well as seasonal sales such as Christmas wreaths from Mingo's, Little Caesars pizza kits, Valentine's candy grams, and a community bottle drive.

Also coming up, planned for June 6, is a community cleanup day organized by Joe Moses. During this event, students will assist local residents with spring yard work at no cost to the residents.

(see 8th GRADERS, page 2)

Student News

8th GRADERS

(continued from page 1)

"The area we are going to focus on for our community volunteerism is yard work for elderly folks who have difficulty raking up their lawns and putting out their spring furniture amongst other things," said Moses.

Students will be compensated at $15 per hour for their work, with wages funded through community support. Pratt Chevrolet has generously committed up to $1,000 per student, and Downeast Credit Union has also pledged to match contributions in support of the initiative. All funds raised through these business contributions will go toward the class trip.

Citizens of Calais wishing to have the students help in their yards can call 207-214-5880 and leave a message with name, address, and phone number. Moses said it will be done on a first-come, first-served basis.

The culmination of these efforts will support the eighth-grade class trip scheduled for June 15-18, with 22 students participating. The trip itinerary includes a stop at Hilltop Fun Center in Somersworth, New Hampshire, followed by a day in Boston, featuring visits to the New England Aquarium, Quincy Market, and a haunted trolley tour. Students will also spend a day at Six Flags and conclude the trip with a stop at Rockingham Mall on the return home.

The variety of fundraising efforts not only helps offset trip costs but also provides students with opportunities to engage with their community and build teamwork throughout the school year.

Spring Highway Cleanup in Calais

Saturday, May 16, 2026 from 8:00 am - Noon

For the fourth year in a row, SCA-Calais Rotary Club will be picking up litter in Calais and in the Moosehorn.

If you'd like to stretch your legs and join us, meet us at 8 am at the basketball court in Milltown at the intersection of North and South Streets at 8 a.m.

And join us after for a pizza lunch! For more information, visit our FB page @calaisrotary or call 952-0262.



CA00013478

SUNRISE
EYE CARE
50% OFF FRAMES
4 DAYS ONLY!
MAY 18TH – MAY 21ST
4 PARK STREET
CALAIS, ME
OFFER CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH INSURANCE DISCOUNTS
CA00013464

Maine Legislative Scholarship Fund Taking Applications Through June 1

The Maine Legislative Memorial Scholarship Fund (administered by FAME) provides up to $1,000 awards to one student from each of Maine's 16 counties who is attending or planning to attend an eligible in-state college, university, or technical school. It is open to high school seniors and current postsecondary students, and selection is based on academics, community involvement, financial need, recommendations, and a short essay.

For the current cycle, the application deadline was extended to June 1, 2026, and all materials must be submitted or postmarked by that date to be considered. After submission, recipients are selected in the fall, with awards typically disbursed after the student completes their first semester of college.

In short, it's a competitive county-based scholarship that recognizes service and achievement while supporting Maine students staying in-state for higher education.

For more info, visit: https://www.famemaine.com/fame_scholarship/maine-legislative-memorial-scholarship-fund/

2026 Perloff Air Rocket Invitational





Woodland Elementary School competed in the 2026 Perloff Air Rocket Invitational at Perry Elementary School on May 15. Students learned how to design and print 3D rockets through Tinkercad that were of different styles and lengths. There were seven challenges in the competition, in which target distances and rocket styles changed. (WES photos)

Dr. Reza Namin Named 2026 NASS Excellence in Power Leadership Nominee

Dr. Reza Namin, Superintendent of Maine Indian Education (MIE), has been named a 2026 Excellence in Power Leadership nominee by the National Association of School Superintendents (NASS) in the Districts Under 2,500 Students category. Dr. Namin will be honored alongside fellow nominees at the NASS Annual Conference, scheduled for October 7–9, 2026, at the Seabird Resort in Oceanside, California.

The NASS Excellence in Power Leadership Award recognizes superintendents whose vision, courage, and steady leadership have produced measurable results for students, staff, and the communities they serve. Dr. Namin is one of only ten superintendents nationwide selected in this category from a competitive pool of nominees.

"I am deeply honored by this recognition, which truly belongs to the students, families, educators, and tribal leaders of the Penobscot Nation and the Passamaquoddy Tribe," said Dr. Namin. "Serving Maine Indian Education is the privilege of a lifetime. Every decision we make is grounded in respect for tribal sovereignty, cultural identity, and the limitless potential of our Wabanaki students."



Dr. Namin leads a tribally controlled education agency serving three Wabanaki PK–8 schools: Indian Island School (Penobscot Nation), Indian Township School (Passamaquoddy Tribe at Indian Township), and Sipayik Elementary School (Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point). MIE operates under the dual jurisdiction of the federal Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) and the Maine Department of Education.

Town Hall Meet & Greet

with Republican Candidates

May 19 • 6 p.m.

WCCC (Calais) Assembly Room

Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

CANDIDATES THAT WILL BE THERE:

- **Candidate for Governor Ben Midgley**
  "Common Sense, Bold Maine Leadership"
- **Maine Senate candidate Billy Bob Faulkingham**
- **Maine House candidate Matt McIntyre**

Moderated by House Candidate Artie Mingo

CA00013477