\$2.75

ICENNEBEC OURNAL Maine's Oldest Newspaper | Founded in 1825

CentralMaine.com

An edition of Central Maine Sunday

Wedding caterer suddenly cancels deals, leaving couples scrambling

The Office of the Maine Attorney General confirmed 17 complaints in the past two months against Bangor-based Simply Catered by Bethany, which said it is currently unable to provide refunds.

By CHRISTOPHER WHEELOCK

Couples across the state say a Bangor-based wedding caterer has failed to follow through on her promises, leaving them out thousands of dollars and scrambling to find food and drinks on their big day.

Bethany Marie Gregory, doing business as Simply Catered by Bethany

and more recently Vistas and Vows, has over the past few months been the subject of an outpouring of complaints from brides, their families and vendors.

The Office of the Maine Attorney General confirmed that 19 complaints have been filed against Gregory since 2024. Nine were filed last month and another eight so far this month.

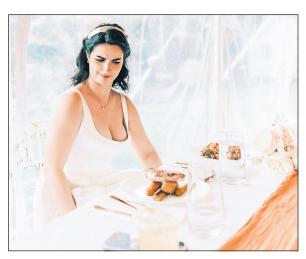
The office said it could neither comment further nor confirm the existence of an investigation.

On Sept. 5, Gregory canceled her remaining weddings through an email to clients, some of whom had weddings planned for this month.

dings planned for this month.

"The last few months we have had

Please see **CATERER**, Page A6



Kayla Cannon grimaces after being served her wedding day dinner Oct. 5, 2024, in Bangor. She and her husband are among the couples who say they are out thousands of dollars after a Maine wedding caterer failed to provide the food and service promised. (PHOTO COURTESY KAYLA CANNON)

September 16, 2025

Today is the 259th day of 2025. There are 106 days left in the year.

Today in history: On Sept. 16, 1893

On Sept. 16, 1893, the largest land run in U.S. history occurred as more than 100,000 white settlers rushed to claim more than 6 million acres of land in what is now northern Oklahoma.

Also on this date:

In 1810, Catholic priest Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla called on his parishioners to join him in a rebellion against Spanish rule, marking the beginning of the Mexican War of Independence.

In 1908, General Motors was founded in Flint, Michigan, by William C. Durant. In 1974, President Gerald R. Ford signed a proclamation announcing a conditional amnesty program for Vietnam war deserters and

draft evaders.

In 1982, the massacre of more than 1,300 Palestinian men, women and children at the hands of Israeli-allied Christian Phalange militiamen began in west Beirut's Sabra and Shatila refugee camps.



| B5 | Advice/TV |
|----|---------------|
| B1 | Business |
| D5 | Classified |
| B4 | Comics |
| B4 | Crossword |
| C5 | Deaths |
| C1 | Local & State |
| A4 | Opinion |
| D1 | Sports |

Volume 201, Number 198



© Copyright 2025 Maine Trust for Local News



Bruce Gordon, 81, is among the Marsh Brook Estates residents asking Sanford to do something about lot rent increases. Gordon says he's paying \$600 a month, nearly double what it cost when he moved in five years ago. (DEREK DAVIS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

Rent control being considered as Maine mobile home park costs soar

By RACHEL OHM Staff Writer

SANFORD — Bruce Gordon moved into Marsh Brook Estates hoping it would be somewhere he could enjoy retirement. And while the 81-year-old did retire briefly in 2022, he's now a school bus driver.

"I went back to work for a few hours (per week) because of the economy and the park rent, and now I'm back to a lot of hours," he said.

Rent for his lot at the manufactured housing park recently increased by \$75. He's now paying \$600 per month, nearly double the rate he paid when he

Sanford joins a growing list of communities struggling with lot rent increases at mobile home parks. In some cases, rents have gone up after parks are purchased by out-of-state companies.

moved in five years ago.

The increases have residents in the park — which is for older adults, including many on fixed incomes — worrying about how they'll be able to continue to afford living there. One resident is

moving out because she can't manage

the higher bills.

City and state officials have taken notice. The Sanford City Council is expected to consider an emergency ordinance on Tuesday that would put in place a 90-day moratorium on mobile home lot rent increases while staff work on developing long-term regulations.

If approved, Sanford would become the latest community in Maine to take steps toward limiting lot rent increases at manufactured housing and mobile home parks.

Please see **RENT**, Page A3

SCARBOROUGH

Assistant principal who died in car crash remembered as dedicated coach, friend

By DANA RICHIE and GILLIAN GRAHAM Staff Writers

Classes at Scarborough High School were canceled Monday after an assistant principal and youth hockey coach died over the weekend in a car crash.

Friends and mentors remembered Jake Brown, a Lewiston native, as a hard worker who always gave his all, a hockey fanatic who devoted himself to the game and a loving husband who lived to make his wife laugh.

Brown, 34, of Scarborough, died in a crash after fleeing a traffic stop along Interstate 295 in Cumberland on Saturday night, Maine State Police

Please see **CRASH**, Page A6



Then-Scarborough boys hockey head coach Jake Brown during a practice in 2018. Brown died in a car crash Saturday after fleeing a traffic stop on I-295 in Cumberland, according to police. (GREGORY REC/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

Charlie Kirk vigil at Bowdoin called off over potential threat

By KATIE LANGLEY
Staff Writer

Bowdoin College canceled a vigil for Charlie Kirk, the conservative activist and influencer killed at a Utah campus last week, due to a report of an "external threat" linked to the event.

In an email sent to Bowdoin students and employees just before the vigil was set to take place Sunday night, associate vice president for safety and security Bill Harwood said the Bowdoin College Conservatives event would be canceled "out of an abundance of caution."

"In the past 15 minutes, we were informed by the Maine State Police of external threats connected to the event," Harwood said in the email sent at 7 p.m. Sunday.

Please see **VIGIL**, Page A3