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# LOCAL & STATE

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Wednesday, August 4, 2021

Portland Press Herald

SECTION B

## Haystack crafts school featured among architectural elites

The labyrinth of buildings overlooking Penobscot Bay is named one of the 25 most significant works of postwar architecture in the world.

By **JOHNNY LIESMAN**  
Staff Writer

On the snowy New Year's Eve of 1984, Portland-based artist Lissa Hunter climbed over a large metal chain blocking the entrance to the Haystack Mountain School of Crafts and continued on foot down the snow-covered road.

An art student at Indiana University, Hunter had heard for years about the summer crafts school and the magical labyrinth of wooden cabins and art studios that sit

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quietly among the trees on Deer Isle and look over the other islands of Jericho Bay. The place had a lure that rippled through the art world, and one chain indicating that the school was closed for the winter wasn't going to keep Hunter away. "There are so many buildings in the

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Designed by architect Edward Larrabee Barnes over 60 years ago, the Haystack Mountain School of Crafts in Deer Isle is on a list that includes the Seagram Building in New York and Sydney Opera House in Australia.

Photo courtesy of Audi Culver

## STEADY ON THE JETTY



Shawn Patrick Ouellette/Staff Photographer

Colton Schaal of Hartford, Vt., crosses the jetty at Camp Ellis in Saco after a day of fishing while on vacation Tuesday. Wednesday looks partly cloudy with highs in the 70s before rain moves in overnight. **Forecast details, A12**

## Gorham man pleads not guilty to charges in Jan. 6 riot

By **DENNIS HOEY**  
Staff Writer

A Maine man facing multiple criminal charges for his alleged role in the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol pleaded not guilty to the charges during his appearance Monday in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C. Nicholas P. Hendrix, 34, of Gorham is facing four misdemeanor charges connected to the insurrection that placed the lives of the members of Congress, as well as the vice president of the United States, in danger. Hendrix pleaded not guilty Monday at a video-conference to the charges of unlawfully entering the Capitol, disorderly and disruptive conduct in a restricted government building, violent entry and disorderly conduct in a Capitol building, and illegal parading or demonstrating in a Capitol building, according to documents filed in U.S. District Court.

Hendrix is the third man

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## ART AND CULTURE FESTIVAL

## Portland celebrates welcoming nature with 'The Walk' for refugee children

By **BOB KEYES**  
Staff Writer

Portland will celebrate its refugee communities and its reputation as a welcoming city with A Message from Away, an art-and-culture festival that begins with a free concert at 6 p.m. Wednesday evening on the Eastern Prom and continues at 12:30 p.m. Thursday with a downtown parade from Monument Square to Ocean Gateway.

At Ocean Gateway, the festival will culminate at 2 p.m. Thursday with a live video-link performance of "The Walk," an ongoing international festival featuring Little Amal, a 12-foot-tall puppet of a refugee girl who represents the perilous journey of all displaced children. Little Amal is appearing across the Middle East and the United Kingdom throughout the year to call attention to the plight

It's estimated that 15,000 refugees live in Maine – about half of them children. Unlike immigrants, who come by choice, refugees are displaced by war, natural disaster and persecution.

of refugee children and will appear on a large screen at Ocean Gateway thanks to a web of international friendships and artistic collaborations.

During her remote appearance in Portland, Little Amal will interact with refugees from Maine. The Portland festival is a group effort involving New York-

based Remote Theater Project, Creative Portland, Mayo Street Arts, Greater Portland Welcoming Center and Portland Ovations.

Reza Jalali, executive director of the Greater Portland Immigrant Welcome Center, estimated that 15,000 refugees live in Maine, or about one-third of the population of new Mainers. Of those refugees, about 7,500 are children, he said. Unlike immigrants, who come to the United States by choice, refugees are displaced by war, persecution and natural disasters.

"Anything that helps to educate the larger community about the situation of refugees, and particularly refugee children, we welcome that," said Jalali, an Iranian Kurd and himself a ref-

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## Man pleads guilty to assault that led to death of co-worker

By **MEGAN GRAY**  
Staff Writer

A construction worker from Massachusetts pleaded guilty to aggravated assault and will serve 18 months in prison for the punch that killed his longtime friend and co-worker last fall.

Robert Clarke of Braintree and Elliott Fama of Wilmington both came to Maine in October for a construction job. Police said Clarke hit Fama in the head during what appeared to be an argument over a cigarette behind the Howard Johnson hotel in South Portland. Surveillance footage shows that Fama immediately lost consciousness, fell backward and struck his head on the curb. He died days later at Maine Medical Center. He was 44 years old.

Clarke, 36, originally was charged with aggravated assault, but a grand jury indicted him on a manslaughter charge after Fama passed away. He appeared at the Cumberland County Superior Court in Portland on Tuesday



**ELLIOTT FAMA**  
died from a brain injury

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Staff photo by Ben McCanna  
Robert Clarke of Braintree, Mass., listens to statements by the victim's family Tuesday. He will serve 18 months in prison.

## Lost cemetery with graves of veterans rediscovered in Augusta



Joe Phelan/Kennebec Journal

Some of the graves belong to members of the Deniston family, including Robert Deniston, who fought in the Revolutionary War.

By **KEITH EDWARDS**  
Kennebec Journal

AUGUSTA — A cemetery with some 45 gravestones lost to time in dense woods off Riverside Drive was recently rediscovered, and contains the graves of both Civil War and Revolutionary War soldiers.

The gravestones date to at least 1801 and the last internment took place there, city officials believe, in 1910. But until recent deed and other historical research, the city had no record it even existed.

Among the graves are one of Robert Deniston, a Revolutionary War veteran, whose slate stone remains upright and in remarkably intact and legible condition. Another is the marker of Henry Lyon, a Union soldier

The overgrown and long-neglected cemetery – with no roads or paths leading to it – was found by a couple looking to buy a house.

who fought in five Civil War battles with the 3rd Maine Infantry Regiment before he was killed at the Battle of Gettysburg. His granite headstone has toppled over and broken into pieces.

The overgrown and long-neglected cemetery – with no paths or roads leading to it – was rediscovered by Augusta resident Justin Vogel. Vogel and his wife, Amanda, were considering

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LOCAL & STATE

Price tag to ease Brunswick street’s congestion could be in the millions

By C. THACHER CARTER  
*The Times Record*

Town officials are weighing how to ease congestion on one of Brunswick’s most heavily traveled roads, but those solutions may come with a hefty price tag. A transportation engineer presented the first recommendations last week about how to solve traffic congestion issues on Pleasant Street, a roughly 2-mile segment of Route 1 linking Interstate 295 and downtown Brunswick.

There are also five high-crash locations on Pleasant Street that fall within the scope of the town’s project, which, according to Maine Department of Transportation Communications Director Paul Merrill, resulted in 83 crashes during 2020.

High-crash locations or segments are areas that, in a three-year period, have eight or more crashes and a higher frequency of crashes than the state average for similar locations, according to the transportation department.

The speed limit from the I-295 interchange to downtown Brunswick decreases from 65 mph to 50 mph to 35 mph. According to Brunswick Chief of Police Scott Stewart, there are six oversized 35 mph signs to slow drivers. In 2019, the annual average daily traffic for the

Tens of thousands of vehicles travel Pleasant Street daily, and it was the site of dozens of crashes in 2020.

Pleasant Street area was between 25,000 and 30,000 vehicles.

The town hired Tom Errico, a transportation engineer with T.Y. Lin International, to guide the project. The first recommendation included adding left-turn lanes at key intersections on Pleasant Street, such as with Church Road and River Road, to prevent cars that are turning left from blocking traffic behind them.

“Congestion will be improved significantly with those left turn bays,” Errico told the town council last week. “It’ll be a much safer intersection by doing so.”

It is unclear whether the town or state would front the costs for road improvements.

Early cost estimates for left-turn lane projects range from \$1.1 million to \$1.3 million, and a recommendation for additional turning lanes around Stanwood and Mill streets was estimated at \$2.1 million.

Another recommendation included adding five differ-

ent connector roads off or nearby Pleasant Street that, according to Errico, could help service businesses, improve bicycle access and improve overall traffic flow in the area.

Estimated costs of the connector roads ranged from \$250,000 to \$1 million, with one example being a road that could provide access to the Cumberland Farms store, Amato’s and McDonald’s from the northern rear of the businesses.

A bicycle lane for the one-way section of Pleasant Street connecting Mill and Maine streets also was recommended, estimated at \$250,000.

“This is just a feasibility study. Nothing that’s discussed tonight is going to start getting built tomorrow,” Town Engineer Ryan Barnes said.

A new fire station also is under construction at the corner of Pleasant and Webster streets. Fire Chief Kenneth Brilliant told The Times Record in February that he did not anticipate traffic problems at the new station, as the department will have the ability to control intersections remotely.

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WALK

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ugee. “They are invisible, and they are on the edge of any society they are part of. This parade and the other events, to me they celebrate the generosity and grace with which Portland has welcomed and adopted so many refugees from so many countries and helped rebuild their lives – or in my case, start their lives all over again.”

Alexandra Aron, producing artistic director of Remote Theater Project, has wanted to work in Portland for several years, since one of her board members, Dr. Julia Brock, an OB/GYN and robotic surgeon at Maine Medical Center whose patients include many new Maine residents, told Aron about Portland’s welcoming nature. “I knew Little Amal wasn’t walking anywhere near the States, but I thought there must be some way we could create a remote interaction with her,” Aron said. “Instead of doing something in New York, I thought that maybe Portland was a place I should focus on, where the impact could be a little bit

greater.”

Aron connected with the artistic director of “The Walk,” the Palestinian playwright Amir Nizar Zuabi, with whom she had worked before to set up the video link, and then with Creative Portland to brainstorm ideas for a Portland festival.

It begins with a free concert by Syrian-born and New York-based composer and musician Kinan Azmeh and his City Band at 6 p.m. Wednesday at the bandstand at Fort Allen Park on Portland’s Eastern Prom overlooking Casco Bay. The festival continues at 12:30 p.m. Thursday at Monument Square with “Parade with Us,” a walk in support of immigrants and refugees that will continue to Ocean Gateway for a 2 p.m. performance of “The Walk.”

As part of “The Walk,” the Pihcintu Multinational Immigrant and Refugees Girls’ Chorus will perform, along with musicians of the Portland Symphony Orchestra and Kinan Azmeh’s City Band, who will accompany new Mainers reading letters they have written about their journey.

Azmeh, a clarinetist whose music includes shades of jazz and classical, is a collaborator on Yo-Yo Ma’s

Silkroad project and was scheduled to appear as part of Portland Ovarations’ international music series, but his performance was postponed because of the pandemic.

“He is such special musician, both in terms of his musicianship and also how he has been part of a global conversation and a global community of people who are thinking about how music can bring people together,” said Aimee Petrin, executive and artistic director of Portland Ovarations. “He is an artist who has been in our orbit for many years, and we are really excited about presenting him. This opportunity just seemed like an obvious, natural way to do it.”

Aron called Portland “heroic” for its efforts to make newcomers feel welcome. “What Portland has been doing for a long time now is not known enough about in the rest of the country. It’s incredible what Portland is doing in terms of opening its arms to refugees and asylum seekers. They are figuring out a way to help people settle and get what they need. I am blown away by the city.”

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PLEA

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for his plea and sentencing.

The Maine Attorney General’s Office agreed to dismiss the manslaughter charge as part of Clarke’s agreement. His total penalty was 10 years in prison, but Superior Court Justice Thomas McKeon suspended all but 18 months of that sentence, in keeping with the agreement between the parties. He also ordered restitution of more than \$6,000 in funeral expenses and three years of probation.

At the hearing, Clarke sobbed as he apologized for his actions. He called Fama “my buddy” and said he wished he could take back what he had done.

“I honestly didn’t mean to hurt him,” he said. “It was just stupid, and I’m sorry.”

Fama’s parents and wife also spoke tearfully about the pain they felt during the days he spent on life support at the hospital.

“When we found out it was a friend and co-worker who did this to Elliott, it was gut-wrenching,” Patricia Spurr, his mother, said.

His wife displayed photos of him smiling at his wedding, setting up a Christmas tree with his stepsons, dressed in a hot dog costume and celebrating holi-

days with his family.

“We were his priority,” Laureen Fama said. “There wasn’t a day that went by that he didn’t put others before himself.”

McKeon described the man’s death as the tragic consequence of a reckless action, and he told the family he was grateful for their testimony.

“Anyone who has their priorities straight knows they have accomplished something in life if they have left behind a loving family, and Mr. Fama clearly has done that,” he said.

Assistant Attorney General Bud Ellis described the evidence from police interviews and surveillance footage from Oct. 28. Two cameras behind the hotel captured the incident, although there was no audio in the recording.

He said Fama and Clarke were part of a four-person crew that drove up from Massachusetts for work in Scarborough. They had dinner and drinks at a nearby restaurant, and then they went behind the hotel to have a cigarette. The police report says none of them appeared agitated or animated.

Ellis said Fama first pushed Clarke, who moved backward and sat on the stairs. Clarke then stood and lunged at Fama, but the punch he threw missed.

Another foreman from their crew stepped between them, and Ellis described their verbal altercation as “bantering or bickering.” Then Clarke threw a left hook around the man standing between them and connected his fist with Fama’s jaw.

“Elliott was immediately rendered unconscious,” Ellis said. “When you see him go down, he basically goes down flat, like a boxer knocked out on his feet.”

One man in the group called 911. Ellis said an officer’s body camera captured Clarke telling someone on the phone that he and Fama had been arguing over a cigarette. Clarke initially told a detective he didn’t remember much about the incident, and that it was just two buddies messing around. When the detective told him he watched the surveillance footage, Clarke said he remembered reaching around the foreman.

“Mr. Clarke said he believed he was trying to grab Elliott but not hit him,” Ellis said. “He realized once he went down that he had in fact injured him and he was really hurt.”

Clarke will report to begin his sentence on Nov. 3, the eve of the one-year anniversary of Fama’s death.

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