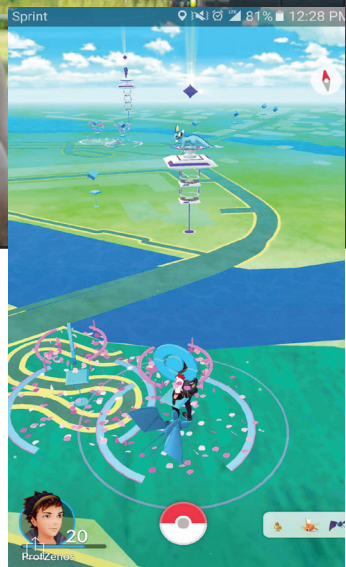


LIZ GOTTHELF/Journal Tribune

Above: James McLaughlin, left, and Mikkael Pierce play "Pokemon Go" at Mechanics Park in Biddeford late Wednesday afternoon. Right: Mechanics Park in Biddeford, as it looked from the "Pokemon Go" game on Branden Ouellette's phone Wednesday.



They walk the walk, make the call

'Pokemon Go' isn't just a hot fad — it's a way to get off the couch

By **LIZ GOTTHELF**
Staff Writer

BIDDEFORD — If you've been near Mechanics Park recently, you've most likely seen them.

Heads down, phones in hands, staring intently at something on their screens and appearing to wander around a bit.

They're searching for something. Something that's not real.

The small riverside park on Water Street is a "Pokestop" in the "Pokemon

Go" game, the biggest phenomenon to hit mobile devices since "Flappy Bird" and cat videos. Well, since "Flappy Bird," anyway.

Here's how it works: The "Pokemon Go" app is downloaded onto a smartphone or tablet for free, although virtual items to assist game play can be purchased. Players create an avatar — a computer character — which is then displayed on a map.

The map shows locations of Pokestops, like

Mechanics Park, where players earn "pokeballs" to capture Pokemon, the cute little monsters made popular 20 years ago in a game for the Nintendo Game Boy System.

Players walk to different locations to find where the Pokemon are located. When found, the Pokemon appear on the screen, allowing the player to fling a pokeball at them.

On the screen, that is. Not in real life.

The game was released in

the United States on July 6, and uses augmented reality: technology that superimposes a digital facade onto the real world.

"This is the local hot spot," said 24-year-old Ryan DellaCioppa, who was among a group of gamers sitting on the gazebo steps playing the game at Mechanics Park around noon Wednesday.

There were about a

See Pokemon Go
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UNE receives \$2.2M grant to study autism, cerebral palsy

By **ALAN BENNETT**
Staff Writer

BIDDEFORD — Just days after announcing it is the recipient of a \$2.5 million grant to improve rural health care in Maine, the University of New England announced on Thursday it has also received \$2.2 million in federal funds to train students new ways to treat children with autism and other developmental disabilities.

The five-year grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration will create the state's first Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) program in partnership with Maine Behavioral Healthcare and Maine Medical Center.

LEND will allow UNE masters and doctoral stu-

dents in various fields to gain the skills necessary to help children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder and complex cerebral palsy.

According to Dr. Eileen Ricci, associate clinical professor in UNE's College of Health Professions, the grant will benefit higher-level graduate students in multiple fields.

"The common denominator is, they have an interest improving the life of children with neurodevelopmental disabilities," Ricci said Thursday, noting that students may come from the areas of social work, occupational therapy and many others.

"It's also (for) educators: people in special education, public health and people who are interested in policy making," she said.

As part of the grant, trainees will receive a \$15,000 stipend in exchange for 300 hours of training, Ricci said. Training will include a mixture of typical classroom lectures, face-to-face time with patients, and travel across the state to observe resources already available to patients.

According to Ricci, who is the LEND project coordinator for the grant, students from UNE's masters and doctoral programs will train at either Maine Medical Center or Maine Behavioral Health, each of which has been designated a clinical site. Studies relating to cerebral palsy will take place at MMC, and MBH will train students studying autism.

Curriculum for the grant includes experiential learning, such as "parents as experts" conferencing,

which puts parents in control of their children's well-being, Ricci said.

"Parents know best what (their children) need, and parents need to support other parents. It's not just the health professional coming and acting as a know-it-all expert," Ricci said. "It's really the parent saying, 'I know my child best, and this is how you can help.'"

LEND project co-director Dr. Matthew Siegel, who is also director of developmental disorders at MBH, could not be reached for comment at press time.

In a press release, Siegel said the grant is "a major opportunity for Maine graduate students and early career professionals to receive top-notch train-

See UNE Grant
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NY woman killed while crossing turnpike on foot

FROM STAFF REPORTS

KENNEBUNK — A New York woman was struck and killed Wednesday night while walking across the Maine Turnpike in the area of the Kennebunk service plazas. Kelly Genito, 37, of

Cairo, New York, was struck by at least three vehicles and killed instantly in the passing lane on the northbound side around 10 p.m., according to Maine Public Safety spokesman Steve McCausland. Police said one of the

vehicles that struck Genito was driven by 59-year-old Christopher Manos of Lincoln, who called 911 immediately to report the accident.

See Turnpike Death
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Bastille Day attack leaves 84 dead in Nice, France

By **CIARAN FAHEY**
and **ELAINE GANLEY**
Associated Press

NICE, France — A large truck plowed through revelers gathered for Bastille Day fireworks in Nice, killing at least 84 people, including two Americans, and sending others fleeing into the sea as it bore down for more than a mile along the Riviera city's famed waterfront promenade.

The driver was killed by police and no one immediately claimed responsibility for the Thursday night attack on France's national holiday, which rocked a nation still dealing with the aftermath of two attacks in Paris last year that killed a total of 147 people.

"Terrorism is a threat that weighs heavily upon France and will continue to weigh for a long time," Prime Minister Manuel Valls said after an emergency government meeting today. "We are facing a war that terrorism has brought to us. The goal

of terrorists is to instill fear and panic. And France is a great country, and a great democracy that will not allow itself to be destabilized."

The truck plowed into the crowd over a distance of two kilometers (about 1.2 miles), a lawmaker said, and broadcast footage showed a scene of horror up and down the promenade, with broken bodies splayed on the asphalt, some piled near one another, others bleeding onto the roadway or twisted into unnatural shapes.

Some tried to escape into the water, Eric Ciotti, a lawmaker for the region that includes Nice, said today, giving new details of the horrifying last minutes of the attack.

"A person jumped onto the truck to try to stop it," Ciotti told Europe 1 radio. "It's at that moment that the police were able to neutralize

See Nice Attack
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PUC hearing addresses new landline law

By **TAMMY WELLS**
Senior Staff Writer

SANFORD — Residents of Sanford and Springvale who have the most basic landline telephone service through FairPoint won't see changes in rates or terms of service for a year as a result of deregulation approved by the Legislature in the last session.

That service, called Provider of Last Resort, includes basic flat-rate service within a basic calling area, according to the Public Utilities Commission.

That information and more was laid out to about two dozen residents and local officials Thursday at a PUC hearing to inform residents of the changes, which are poised to go onto effect in late August.

Sanford and Biddeford

are two of the seven large municipalities that will be affected by deregulation in this initial round. The five others are Portland, Lewiston, Bangor, South Portland and Auburn.

A similar hearing will be held at Biddeford City Hall at 6 p.m. July 28.

After the year is up, FairPoint could, if it so chooses, raise rates and change service terms without the oversight of the PUC, because the utility will no longer be regulated, and is only required to give 30 days' notice to make changes. Consumers also have the option of choosing another carrier.

On Thursday, some asked about the availability of

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OOB hopes to have new fire chief by fall

By **LIZ GOTTHELF**
Staff Writer

OLD ORCHARD BEACH — While its former fire chief awaits trial on an arson charge, Old Orchard Beach is in the process of interviewing candidates to replace him.

The town manager hopes to have a new person in place sometime this fall.

Former Fire Chief Ricky Plummer resigned on May 15. Two days later, the Town Council appointed William Farley as interim fire chief. Farley, an Old Orchard Beach resident, has more than 45 years of fire service experience in Old Orchard

Beach and Falmouth combined.

At the time of his resignation, Plummer was on administrative leave after being arrested on May 7 on an arson charge. He is accused of starting a brush fire on April 15 that spanned about 40 acres in the Jones Creek marsh area.

Plummer is scheduled to appear at York County Superior Court on Sept. 8, according to court records.

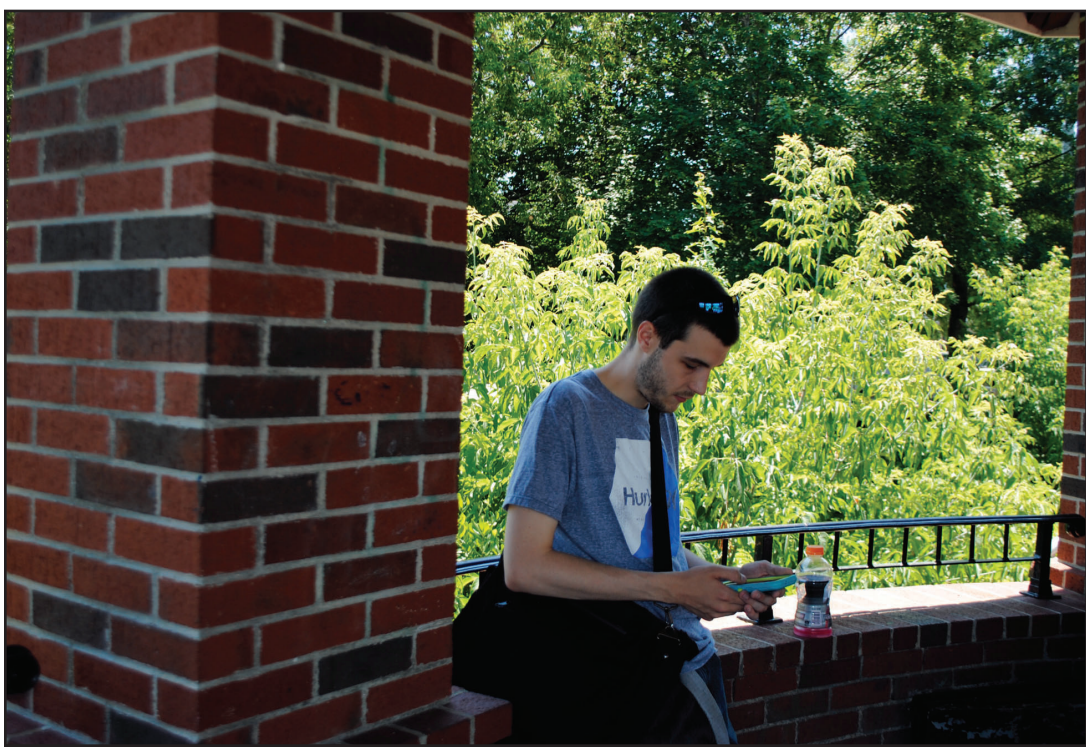
Town Manager Larry Mead said Thursday that the town had received 40

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LIZ GOTTHELF/Journal Tribune

Branden Ouellette plays "Pokemon Go" at Mechanics Park in Biddeford on Wednesday.

Pokemon Go

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dozen people at the park playing the game, and Branden Ouellette, 25, noted that on a recent night, there were over 35 players. Another time, someone brought coffee and doughnuts to share with others. "Families come and play it ... all kinds of people from all walks of life," he said.

For the most part, none of the gamers had met before playing the game. However, there was an obvious camaraderie, with people sharing tips and friendly ribbing each other.

"The day it launched is the day I started," said Ouellette. "I love this game, because it actually got me out of my apartment."

Ouellette said he typically would socialize online, but now he's found himself out and about. In four days, he walked about 40 miles, he said.

A jaunt out to play "Pokemon Go" can take hours, so Ouellette makes sure to pack a bag with essentials – drinks to stay hydrated, candy and food to ward off hunger, and a power brick to recharge his phone when the battery dies.

"You've got to have a power brick," he advised.

DellaCioppa, who delivers pizza, said getting off work in the early hours of the morning caused him to become somewhat of a hermit. Like Ouellette,

"Pokemon Go" has gotten him outside more, and the game bridges the gaps between a lot of cliques, he said.

"This has definitely brought a lot of people together," DellaCioppa said.

For people in their 20s, like Ouellette and DellaCioppa, part of the appeal of the game is the nostalgia aspect, as they remember playing "Pokemon" on Nintendo systems during their childhood.

For 22-year-old Mikkael Pierce, who has been a Pokemon fan since he was 6 years old, "Pokemon Go" is a dream come true. Pierce was sitting in the shade at Mechanics Park Wednesday late afternoon playing the game with his husband, 34-year-old James McLaughlin.

Pierce said one of the fun aspects about the game is that you can play it anywhere, and the location affects what kind of Pokemon you can find.

"It also forces you outside," he said.

McLaughlin agreed. He now finds himself walking to the post office or on different errands instead of driving, just so he can play "Pokemon Go."

McLaughlin did not play "Pokemon" previously, but said he found the concept of augmented reality interesting. He decided to try the game out – and 10 minutes later, he was hooked.

"I was ready to go on

Pokemon adventures and catch them all," he said.

McLaughlin said he really likes the interactive aspect of the game, and that it requires the player to walk around outside and not just sit on the couch.

"I play pretty much anytime I have free time," he said.

All players interviewed said they see the game as more than a passing fad, although Pierce and McLaughlin said they've mused whether people will be trampling through snow in the winter to catch Pokemon.

Some area police departments are giving out safety tips after seeing many young people wandering around with their phones.

The Sanford Police Department posted something on Facebook, advising people that city parks close at midnight, cemeteries close a half hour before sunset, and the city curfew is midnight for those under 18.

"While walking on sidewalks and roadways, look up every few seconds so that you don't fall into a hole, hit a car, utility pole, step on an animal, etc.," posted Sanford police.

— Staff Writer Liz Gotthelf can be contacted at 282-1535, ext. 325 or egotthelf@journaltribune.com. The Associated Press contributed to this story.

The states that have LEND programs have services that are higher quality than states that don't have those programs," Ricci said. "They have this comprehensive interprofessional training that they're offering to the leaders in the field, and these young professionals then rise up to those professional positions."

"It's not a quick fix," Ricci said, noting that the grant is just beginning its five-year run. "Things in Maine will not change overnight. But it's a step in the right direction."

The grant comes days after the university

announced it received \$2.5 million to partner with Penobscot Community Health Care to improve primary health care in rural parts of Maine.

As part of that grant, UNE students in the medical, pharmacy and physician's assistant fields will train at PCHC locations to study skills such as health literacy, oral health care and shared decision-making between patients and health care providers.

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Police believe Genito was talking on her cell phone when she was struck, and that she had also crossed the busy highway earlier in the evening. The couple delivered items to Lewiston and Medway before pulling into the southbound plaza about 6 p.m., McCausland said. The husband received

a summons on a charge of violating a protection order that had been filed against him by his wife, McCausland said.

The couple have three children, and Genito returned to his home early this morning to be with them after talking to police, McCausland said.

Jay Kelley and Scarborough Fire Chief Mike Thurlow has screened the applicants and is conducting initial interviews, said Mead.

Follow-up interviews with the finalists will be conducted by Mead, who will make an appointment that must then be confirmed by the Town Council.

Mead hopes to bring his recommendation for a new fire chief to a council vote in August so a new chief can begin in September or October.

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

Backers of Maine GMO label law miffed at Congress compromise

By PATRICK WHITTLE

Associated Press

PORTLAND —

Supporters of a Maine law called for rules for labeling foods that contain genetically modified ingredients say they are let down by federal legislation.

The U.S. Senate bill, passed last week, would compel companies to disclose when foods contain genetically modified ingredients, or GMOs, via a text label, a symbol or an electronic code that is readable by a smartphone. The bill, which pre-empts Maine's law, passed the U.S. House on Thursday.

Maine crafted its law in January 2014 to require GMO labels if five contiguous states, including Maine, pass labeling laws. Supporters of Maine's law said it is stronger than the federal standard, which they said fails to hold companies who don't comply accountable.

"This definitely does not line up with what we planned for the state," said Heather Spalding, deputy

director of the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, which has pushed for GMO labeling for years. "The more they try to hide and obfuscate, the angrier the public is going to be."

Supporters of the federal standard include members of the food industry who have long opposed GMO labeling as well as some groups that have called for it, such as the Organic Trade Association. U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., chairman of the Agriculture Committee, has said the rules will provide consumers with more information about safe products.

Roberts brokered the compromise in part to pre-empt the possibility of a patchwork of state laws regarding genetic engineering and food. Vermont's law, the first in the nation, went into effect on July 1.

The federal law also pre-empts a drive in the Maine statehouse to remove the trigger provision that requires adjacent states to also pass their own laws.

Connecticut has a law similar in place.

Maine's U.S. senators, independent Angus King and Republican Susan Collins, voted against the Senate bill, as did Vermont's senators, independent Bernie Sanders and Democrat Patrick Leahy. Maine Republican Rep. Bruce Poliquin and Democratic Rep. Chellie Pingree also voted against it in the House.

But Maine state Sen. Peter Edgcomb, a Republican who grew up on a farm, said a uniform federal law could ultimately benefit the public by preventing the cost of a patchwork of labeling laws from being passed to consumers.

"And this is what we heard from grocers, and many who sold food," said Edgcomb, who sits on a legislative agriculture committee.

Edgcomb also cited the overwhelming scientific consensus that genetically modified food products that are currently on the market are safe to eat.

Landline Service

FROM PAGE A1

alternatives. Kiera Finucane, a consumer adviser with the Office of the Public Advocate, said traditional landline service is offered by GWI and Pioneer Telephone, and there are an array of wireless telephone providers.

That competition in the marketplace is a driver for the deregulation.

Another 15 municipalities are poised for deregulation over the next 20 months. In York County, the affected communities include Kennebunk in February, Old Orchard Beach in August 2017 and Kittery in February 2018.

Consumers who live in communities surrounding Sanford and Springvale won't be affected, even though they may have the same exchange numbers like 324 or 490, said Jeff McNelly, director of the telephone division of the PUC.

According to PUC senior utility analyst Rich Kania, FairPoint's basic service is the only service provided by the company that is currently regulated by the PUC; the remainder was deregulated in 2012.

"What is the public benefit of the deregulation?" asked Sanford City Manager

Steve Buck.

Kania said the Legislature felt there is enough competition in the marketplace that the level of protection offered to consumers by regulation is no longer needed. He estimated that 50 percent of consumers no longer have landline service.

Buck said he's concerned that deregulation might lead to abandonment of copper lines and rights of way as the company advances its fiber optics. He pointed out that deregulation of railroads – and the giving up of rights of way some years ago – now has some wishing the rights of way were still in place, and in some cases are difficult to reacquire.

Andrea Boland, a Democratic candidate for the Maine Senate and a advocate for cell phone safety, asked about choices.

"Are (customers) guaranteed to continue to have the choice for landlines?" she asked.

According to literature provided by the PUC, the law no longer requires FairPoint to offer Provider of Last Resort services to the seven communities after August.

However, McNelly said, both the PUC and the Federal Communications Commission would have to

approve any abandonment of landlines by FairPoint. Finucane said the new law makes it more difficult for FairPoint to "abandon, walk away or degrade their service."

"We have no intention of taking away basic service," said Sarah Davis, a Fairpoint representative. "We want all the customers we can get."

Davis said there are no rate increases planned "in the foreseeable future."

State Rep. Anne-Marie Mastraccio (D-Sanford) asked about programs for low-income residents.

Davis said provisions for those customers under a federal program called Lifeline as well as a Maine discount remain in place.

An AARP representative asked about those who maintain basic landline service to update medical devices like pacemakers should a rate increase occur.

"We felt these individuals wouldn't suffer," because of the discount programs available, said Sen. David Woodsome, Senate chair of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee that heard the bill.

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Woman charged with felony theft

FROM STAFF REPORTS

BIDDEFORD — A woman remained at York County Jail in Alfred this morning following her arrest Wednesday in relation to an attempted shoplifting incident at the Hannaford Supermarket in Biddeford.

Donna Moran, 53, of Biddeford, was arrested Wednesday on charges of felony theft after she reportedly tried to conceal items and was seen snuffing propellant from whipped cream cans inside the store, police said.

Deputy Chief JoAnne Fisk was not available for a formal statement regarding the incident, but did say Moran has been arrested in the past for allegations of theft.

A representative from

Hannaford declined to comment, and it is not known what items Moran attempted to steal from the store.

Moran was also summoned for being in possession of drug paraphernalia. Information as to what type of paraphernalia Moran had was not immediately available.

Moran is being held at the jail for \$500 cash bail, and is scheduled to be arraigned today at 1 p.m.

Man released from jail, caused evacuation

FROM STAFF REPORTS

BIDDEFORD — A man has been released from York County Jail in Alfred after his arrest Wednesday on charges of unlawful possession of scheduled drugs in an incident that led to the evacuation of the Biddeford office of the Department of Health and Human

Services.

Corey Hutton, 24, of Elliott, was released on \$500 bail from the jail on Thursday after being arrested at the Rite Aid drug store in Biddeford the previous day. According to Biddeford police, Hutton left a bag in the corner of the DHHS lobby before leaving the office, leading to evacuation of the space for a suspicious package.

DHHS staff said they saw Hutton enter Rite Aid next to DHHS, where he told police the bag was full of items for his child, and that he had an appointment at DHHS later that day.

DHHS confirmed Hutton had an appointment, but police found suboxone and a hypodermic needle on him, and he was subsequently arrested.

Jail officials also said they do not have information regarding a court date for Hutton.

Turnpike Death

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Genito had been with her husband, a long-haul truck driver, who was sleeping in the cab of his tractor-trailer at the southbound service plaza when the crash took place, according to McCausland.

Fire Chief

FROM PAGE A1

applications for the position – mostly from New England, but also from other parts of the country.

A hiring committee made up of Mead, Farley, Human Resource Manager Fran Beaulieu, Town Councilor