

The Hermon Connection

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Legendary Hermon Bus Driver Retires

Jackie Overlock of Hermon retires after 46 years as a bus driver

Article & Photos by Jodi Hersey

Jackie Overlock has been on the road most of her life. The 78-year-old bus driver has spent 46 years transporting children to and from school in Hermon. Along the way, Jackie's had the privilege of driving her children, grandchildren and even her great granddaughter to school. However, Hermon's most well known driver decided in September it was finally time to hand over the keys and ease on down the road into retirement.

"It's hard to get done something you enjoy," Jackie said. "I wouldn't be doing it this year if it wasn't for my husband having an operation and him needing me."

Jackie and her husband Cliff were Hermon High School sweethearts. This year the couple celebrated 60 years of marital bliss. However, before Cliff, there was another man in Jackie's life – her dad. She watched him drive a school bus for many years before she too, decided to get behind the wheel.

"My dad got me the job back in 1975," Jackie recalled. "He was a bus driver. When he got the head custodian job at Hermon High School, I took his place on the job and then I went up on the big bus and I've been there ever since."

Throughout her career, Jackie's always driven bus number 3. Her boss, Facilities and Transportation Director Jason Davis, said Jackie is one of a kind.

"She has transported generations of families for the town of Hermon," Jason shared. "It has been great having her around to help show others what it is like to enjoy what you do and take great pride in it."

Jackie's decision to get done this fall was one she did not take lightly given the COVID pandemic, workforce shortages, and schools everywhere in need of teachers, substitutes and drivers.

"I hated to leave because it's hard to get bus drivers, everyone is hurting," Jackie explained. "But my husband needs me. And he and I like to go to the fairs and ball games and it's time we do things like that and enjoy our life."

Once Cliff has recovered from surgery, the couple also plans to tackle some much needed home repairs they've put on the back burner.

Jackie's coworkers, the schools and the community wish her all the best.

"We are lucky to have great employees like Mrs. Overlock," Jason said. "Jackie will be missed by all in the district."



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If you have a news story or article for publication in the next edition of *The Hermon Connection*, please send it to: scottwl@hermonmaine.gov
Deadline for submissions: December 22, 2021

From the Town Manager

WINTER IS COMING: Winter weather is unpredictable and at times dangerous. Driving this time of year requires extra caution and attention. Be safe and enjoy the season. Gardner Construction is responsible for plowing most of the municipal roads and streets from Fuller Road to I-95. Fuller Road intersection toward Union Street and all of the side streets and roads off of Union Street are maintained by The Town of Hermon Public Works. If you have questions regarding plowing please call Ralph Shaw, Public Works Foreman @ 570-6494.

Mailboxes are the responsibility of the property owner and they must be installed within USPS standards. The Town assumes no liability for mailboxes damaged during winter plowing operations.

TAX BILLS – the Town has once again kept the current mil-rate @ 11.99 per thousand dollars of property taxes. For every dollar raised .71 cents goes to the school department, .11 cents goes to Penobscot County and the other .18 cents goes to municipal operations such as fire, law enforcement services, public works, code enforcement, etc. I would like to thank Michael Chammings, Finance Director and Josh Berry, Assessor for putting together this year's tax commitment - it was great to see the teamwork required for this important part of our operation.

ELECTION- Town Clerk Kristen Cushman and her staff have done an excellent job on the November election. This election, at the time of this writing, has been a respectable voter turnout and request for absentee ballots. I would like to thank all who participated in this event.

VETERANS DAY!- On behalf of the Town Council I want to thank our veterans for their sacrifice and service to our country. The Town will be observing Veterans Day on Thursday, 11 November 2021.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!- I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a great fall!



On behalf of the Town of Hermon Town Council and Staff we wish you all a great Fall! Stay safe everyone!

Contractor Spotlight....

Witham's Paving is well known in the area for providing high quality residential and commercial paving for its customers. Andy and Deanna also give extraordinary effort to improving the community by organizing club activities for Penobscot Snowmobile Club. From fundraising to membership drives their contributions are appreciated by the communities they serve. Hermon recently completed a Veteran's monument project relying on their expert advice and installation of asphalt at the project.

The Town of Hermon appreciates the Witham's effort and for all the work they assist with when we need a finishing touch by a professional staff!

David Murphy and his crew are fixtures in the landscape and property maintenance business providing services year round including snow removal and lawn/garden care programs for residential and commercial accounts. Alex Wren, a lead employee at the company devised a method for the improvements at the Veteran's Park Project that lead to a quality outcome for the facility. His assistance and the work he and David gave will be enjoyed by all who access the park to visit the site. Murphy's Lawn Care also services our industrial park entrances, Town office garden areas and the Soldier's Monument at Patricia A. Duran school.

The Town of Hermon appreciates the exceptional service Murphy's Lawn care provides!

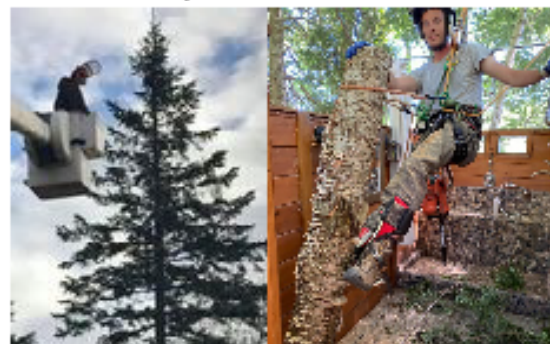
<https://murphyslawncarellc.com/>

Chris Cousins is always trying to find ways to serve the community. Offering school supplies to those in need, assisting with community clean up efforts and donating a portion of the roadside flag install effort each year for Hermon is appreciated. Recently, his crew collaborated with the Town of Hermon, property owners and MDOT to cure a major safety project at the corner of Route 2 and Bog road. The project can be added to his resume as one more challenge handled professionally resulting in a successful outcome for everyone involved.

Chris will be working this fall to complete cemetery work and clearing trees in the right of way to increase safety for all using our roadways!

<https://www.facebook.com/Cousins-Tree-Service>

For more information on community projects contact the Hermon DECD office at 848-1010 or SPerkins@Hermon.net





On Thursday, October 14th, Hermon High School senior girls soccer player Sydney Gallop scored her 106th career goal. This total surpasses Alex Allain Class of 2018, for the all time record at the school. Syd's total goals scored has not been determined yet

as the girls soccer program will enter the playoffs as the number 1 seed.

Congratulations Sydney.

This is an outstanding achievement and a testament to your hard work and commitment to soccer.



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Hermon JROTC

Image Taken by 207 Photo

Article Written by: Cadet Second Lieutenant Hailey Welch

COVID-19 set the Hermon Football team off on a rough start, with their first home game being three weeks later than originally planned. They came back to the field on October 1st. The Hermon Hawk JROTC Battalion presented The Colors before the game. The Cadets who presented the colors also are members of the Hermon football team, a Hermon High tradition. "I think it's great that we are giving multiple Cadets who are on the football team an opportunity to do something so patriotic," said Cadet Toby Doyon. Color Guard is all about presenting our Nation's Colors in preparation for the National Anthem being played. Cadet Landon Ryan said that he "felt honored to be picked by Major Fortier and First Sergeant Jenkins to honor our Nation as part of the Hermon Hawk Battalion as well as the Hermon Football Program." The Hermon Hawk Battalion continues to be the only Battalion in



Maine to do something so special. In an interview, Cadet Alec Smith said, "JROTC is a big part of the school and the community. I'm happy I got the opportunity to present The Colors, as well as represent the Hermon Hawk Battalion and the Hermon Football program." The Colors were presented by Cadets Alec Smith, Tristan Emerson, Landon Ryan, Job Johnson, and Toby Doyon (left to right). These Cadets portray the main mission of JROTC: motivating young people to become better citizens.

Hailey Welch
Cadet Second Lieutenant
Hermon JROTC Public Affairs Officer

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Penobscot Snowmobile Club Newsletter

What an eventful and successful summer we have had as we finish up and head deep into fall. We are busy selling raffle tickets for our snowmobile raffle, if you would like to purchase tickets online you can visit the Sled Hermon Facebook page or email: g5tunerguy@gmail.com for info on how to purchase tickets and get in on a chance to win a 2022 Skidoo Renegade Sport 600EFI. The tickets are \$50 a piece but we are only selling a total of 400!!! Great odds and we are closing in on the finish line as sales have really picked up! Get yours now before they are gone! We are happy to announce that we have chosen our dates for our two truck pulls for next season. The first truck pull of our season will be on July 23rd. We will be having a test and tune event on June 4th which will also be open to the public. The Kevin Call Jr. Memorial Truck and Tractor Pull will be our final event on September 17th 2022. We look forward to seeing some new faces at the events next season. We are also gearing up to collect our sponsors for those pull events soon. If you own a business and would like to sponsor one of our events please email Andrew Jackson at g5tunerguy@gmail.com. We are getting geared up and hitting the trail work for the season. We have an eager group of High School kids that need their community service hours that will be lending us a hand this fall. We have also started bush hogging some of our grassy section of trails. We definitely will be fighting wet and soft ground this preseason. Stay tuned for more news in the future!

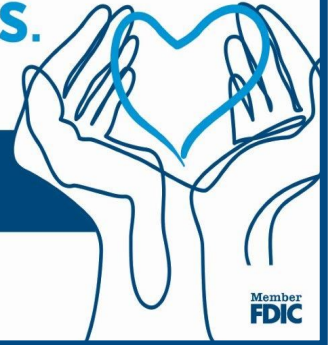
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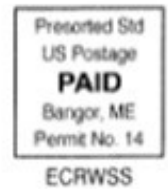
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Postal Customer

November 25 & 26, 2021 - Closed for Thanksgiving and day after

December 24, 2021 - Closed for Christmas

December 31, 2021 - 2022 Dog registration final due date

December 31, 2021 - Closed for New Year's Day

February 1, 2022 - \$25.00 per dog late fee starts

Dog License

DOGS: 2022 dog tags are available as of October 15, 2021.

Residents who need vet care or rabies for their animals should make their appointments NOW for 2022 licensing. Information has been communicated by the State Vet Association that they are experiencing a vet shortage / lack of remote clinics and resources.

Please license your dog before January 31. The State of Maine demands a \$25.00 late fee for any dog renewal license after 1/31/2022. Go to https://apps1.web.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/dog_license/index.pl to license a previously registered dog or a new dog online.

If you no longer have a dog to license please let us know here at the Town Office at 848-1010.

\$25 late fee, per dog, will be in full effect in 2022 for dog tags after 1/31/2022!