

ing said, which gets slippery pretty quick," he said.
He called in the crew at 3:30 a.m. and, by 10:30 that morning they had

to the emergency room for a medical issue unrelated to road maintenance.
The remaining crew continued
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Industries lays off 6

Contracts will bring those workers and more back soon



Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority bus is suspended in air in March before being refurbished at the Maine Military facility on the former Loring Air Force base. Once the axles and larger parts are taken out, according to Loring Industries, structural welding and upgrades begin.

Contracts are finalized. These contracts being negotiated, Loring is unable to say when work will begin anew and how many workers will be laid off.

Loring Industries was founded in 2015 to help bring and expand business in northern Maine and assisted the Maine Military Authority in a project to renovate 32 buses for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority. When that project ended in late 2018, MMA laid off over 50 employees and

eventually folded. Loring Industries continued to work on other projects, however, and McCabe said in early 2018 that once contracts for additional projects were finalized, he would ideally hire back as many former MMA employees as he can.

Councilors OK \$119,420 for River Road

By Chris Bouchard
Staff Writer

CARIBOU — City councilors voted 5 to 2 Monday night to approve paying \$119,420 to DuBois & King, LLC for engineering services related to reconstruction of the River Road.

Rain and runoff severely cracked and damaged the pavement and undermined about a quarter mile portion of the roadway in the spring of 2018. While the Federal Emergency Management Agency denied requested funding to move or reconstruct the road, the city has since authorized temporary measures that included paying rent for residents to move out of their affected homes, buying some of the affected properties, and temporarily shoring up part of the damaged area to allow one-way traffic.

Last October, the consulting engineering firm of DuBois and King presented the city with four options to fix the road, and

the councilors have selected the one that involves moving the road east of its current location, further from the Aroostook River. This option is the least expensive of the four at \$1.2 million and involves demolishing three homes that have been purchased by the city.

Under the agreement the councilors approved Jan. 14, DuBois & King will perform a topographic survey; design and provide reconstruction specifications; obtain environmental permitting; and, in consultation with city officials, assist with the construction bidding process; provide general and construction administration, and provide technical oversight and quality assurance.

Before the vote, City Manager Dennis Marker advised the councilors that in order to complete the project this summer, the engineering work would
Turn to Page 2, RIVER ROAD

Director Message for '19

Based on community changes that should ideally be and unnoticeable,

people have said they did not know a new director," he said. "Which, for reasons that the service is not normal is to not make changes. We're just to do better each



Workers have finished with the asbestos abatement at the Sincovec building in Caribou and removed an outer foam layer that looked like brick, exposing the actual brickwork underneath. The building, seen here on Jan. 11, should be demolished by spring, according to RSU 39 administrators.

Staff photo/Chris Bouchard

'The end of an era'

Turn, Wade to EMS services Caribou, P.I.

ine, when it's only three
tes out of Caribou, so
ntract with Presque Isle
didn't make sense,"
er said.

ie said the process of
king out which city will
ond to which areas of
hburn and Wade were
y simple, and based on
proximity to the nearest
on.

We worked with the 911
atch office in Houlton
mapped everything out,"
said. "It was pretty easy."
hile both towns are
king with the two cities,
ner said residents still
e the option to call Crown
ulance directly if they
ose.

In addition to potential-
ly faster response times, the
change also will save the
towns roughly \$1,500 per
year, Turner said.

The arrangement officially
started on Jan. 1, with Cari-
bou councilors having ap-
proved Washburn's \$9,700
contract for ambulance ser-
vices in November.

The contracts are just for
ambulance services. The
Washburn Fire Department
will continue to serve the
communities of Washburn,
Wade and Perham.

"It's just an experiment,
or a work in progress, at this
point," Turner said, "and we
have high hopes that it's go-
ing to go well."

River road

Continued from page 1

have to begin in January
so the city could obtain the
most favorable construction
bids in March or April.

He also acknowledged
concerns that some thought
the city should wait un-
til after the spring thaw to
better assess the situation
before taking action. He
added that if the engineer-
ing work and design phase
were postponed until May,
there was a possibility that
construction bids still could
be obtained by August and
construction completed be-
fore next winter.

However, Marker also
stated that "the primary
concern with this amount
of delay is the availability
of contractors near the end
of the 2019 construction
season after their seasonal
work plans have been set."

Diane Gove, a Caribou
resident who lives on the
River Road, urged coun-

cilors during the public
comment portion of the
meeting to move sooner
rather than later. She said
some late changes in the
scope or specifications
of the project could possi-
bly still be addressed
before construction and
that waiting too late in
the season might also
add to the overall cost of
the project.

Councilor Joan Theri-
ault motioned to accept
the agreement and, with
the motion on the floor,
Mayor Mark Goughan
suggested waiting un-
til May to see if the
road's condition wors-
ens. He said that if the
road continues to move
this spring, then "by all
means, we could put it
out to bid." He added
that he does not believe
there will be a problem
finding contractors later
in the year.

"I do believe the Riv-

er Road should be re-
paired," he said. But
he said he also "would
like to have more op-
tions before we spend
\$120,000."

Deputy Mayor Nicole
Cote said that while she
is able to see both sides,
it is important to start
early as the bid process
is lengthy, and she sug-
gested not immediately
awarding a contract af-
ter soliciting bids, as the
scope could be adjusted
if necessary.

"I know it doesn't take
care of the \$120,000,"
she said, "but at least it
puts us in a position to
make a decision and not
have our hands tied later
in the year."

Councilors in the end
voted 5-2 to authorize
the funding for DuBois
& King to proceed, with
Goughan and Councilor
Hugh Kirkpatrick op-
posed.

Port cuts ours

ne adjustment was
e following a "review
raffic and operations"
n effort to "better align
ices and resources,"
ording to the release.
s change will help
tter allocate resourc-
to nearby locations in
ine that have a need for
itional staffing during
h volume time peri-

Travelers arriving at the
nestone port of entry
side the hours of op-
tion will be directed
the border station in
ghboring Fort Fair-
ld, which will continue
operate 24 hours a day,
ven days a week.
The release did not in-
cate any changes at any

Shutdown impacts trips, local families

By Jen Lynds
Staff Writer

HOULTON — Sha-
ron Mason of Houlton had
hoped to spend the Christ-
mas school break traveling
with her three children to
the various historic sites in
Washington, D.C.

"It was a spur of the mo-
ment trip that we started
talking about when we got
all of our family members
together at my grandparents
house in New Hampshire.
We were sitting around with
my children and my sisters
and brothers, and we real-
ized that a number of the
younger children had not
seen the historic sites, such
as the Lincoln Memorial and
the Washington Monument,"
she said. "We talked about
taking a road trip, maybe
even taking a few extra days
and traveling to some of the
Civil War sites such as Get-
tysburg."
Reluctantly, she said Mon-
day, they cancelled their trip



AP Photo/Jeff Chiu

A woman walks past trash piled next to a garbage bin at Ocean Beach in San Francisco, Thursday, Jan. 3, 2019. Nonprofits, businesses and state governments across the country are paying bills and putting in volunteer hours in an uphill battle to keep national parks safe and clean for visitors as the partial U.S. government shutdown lingers.

this summer."

At the same time, she not-
ed, President Donald Trump's
statement in an interview last
week that the shutdown could
last months longer if he did

to officials from the federal
Department of the Interior.
Garbage has piled up at Cali-
fornia's Joshua Tree National
Park, on the National Mall
in Washington, D.C., and in

esque Isle said Monday that
she is working to scale back
expenses even more for her-
self and her three children,
as their father, who works
for the Department of Agri-
culture in Idaho, is "burning
quickly through his savings"
after being furloughed.

"I work and he has some
savings, but he didn't expect
the shutdown to begin with,
let alone for it to go on for
this long," she said. "Thank-
fully he is a good carpenter,
so he has been able to bring
in some extra cash there,
but to hear the president on
the news projecting that this
could go on another month
or even a year? To me,
that is infuriating. There is
no need for this stalemate
when lives and families are
at risk."

A number of Native Ameri-
can tribes also are being hit
hard by the shut down. The
federal government funds
or provides many services
to the tribes, including cru-