

Verizon to buy Yahoo for \$4.8 billion

BY MALATHI NAYAK
REUTERS

NEW YORK — Verizon Communications Inc. said on Monday it would buy Yahoo Inc. core internet properties for \$4.83 billion in cash, marking the end of the line for a storied Web pioneer and setting the stage for a big new internet push by the telecom giant. Verizon will combine Yahoo's search, email and messenger assets as well as advertising tech-

nology tools with its AOL unit, which it bought last year for \$4.4 billion. Verizon, the No. 1 U.S. wireless operator, has been looking to mobile video and advertising for new sources of revenue outside the oversaturated wireless market.

The deal came after activist investors led by Starboard Value LP lost faith in Yahoo Chief Executive Officer Marissa Mayer, who was hired in 2012, and forced what became a protracted sale process.

Yahoo, founded in 1994, was a dominant player in the early days of the internet, but has long lost its leadership position in internet search and advertising to Google, Facebook and others.

Mayer said on a conference call with investors that she planned to stay at Yahoo through the deal's close. Marni Walden, head of product innovation and new business at Verizon, will head the combined internet unit and said no decisions had yet been made

on the management team.

Verizon could combine data from AOL and Yahoo users in addition to its more than 100 million wireless customers to help advertisers target users based on online behavior and preferences.

"Yahoo gives us scale that is what is most critical here," said Walden, adding that the company's audience will go from the millions to the billions. "We want to compete and that is the place we need to be."

Mayer, in an interview with Reuters, said she still saw a "path to growth" for Yahoo, especially in mobile. "What's exciting about the Verizon transaction is that it brings us back to growth sooner," she said. She said she was "open-minded" about a possible role with the combined companies.

Yahoo is still one of the largest properties on the internet, with hundreds of millions of customers using its email, finance and fanta-
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LINDA COAN O'KRESIK | BDN

People chat recently in Gary and Sharon Cresswell's newly opened Airline Brewing Co., a British-style pub decorated with more than 30 original Vanity Fair illustrations from the late 1800s, in Ellsworth.

British beer invasion

Amherst brewers open Old World pub in Ellsworth

BY BILL TROTTER
BDN STAFF

The British have arrived in downtown Ellsworth.

Gary and Sharon Cresswell may live and brew beer in the northern Hancock County town of Amherst, but the style of brews they are serving at their newly built pub on Main Street are decidedly of British origin.

And, blimey, do they ever have an Old World space to pour them in.

On the corner of Main and Hancock streets, with the name Airline Brewing Company painted in gold letters high above the door, is one of the most English-looking pubs to be seen this side of Boston.

Flower boxes are mounted high on the brick upper facade above new black-painted exterior woodwork lined with gold trim. Inside, small tables and low sturdy stools are dotted along the cushioned bench seating that encircles the cozy space, and more than 30 Vanity Fair illustrations are mounted in rows on the walls.

While it does have a light food menu, one of the more telling examples of the type of establishment the Cresswells are operating is what it doesn't have: a television.

Ray Edgar, who the Cresswells hired as their head brewer in December 2015, said the purpose of the new pub is twofold: it is meant to showcase Airline's British styles of beer but also is intended to be a gathering spot where people come to have a pint and interact with each other.

"No telly, no celly," Edgar quipped, add-



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Gary (left) and Sharon Cresswell stand in front of their recently opened Airline Brewing Co. in Ellsworth.

ing cellphones to the list of devices the Cresswells don't want distracting their customers.

The new tavern, where only beers by Airline and guest brewers will be available, is not the first along Main Street to evoke European pub culture. Finn's, a popular Irish-themed pub across the street, recently had its facade redone and painted bright red, but it wasn't originally built to look the part. It opened in a former diner in 2009.

The Airline Brewing space, the prior occupants of which have included a bakery and various retail shops, was reduced to an

empty brick shell this past spring when its prior interior was torn out. Everything put in place since then over the brick walls, both inside and out, has been meticulously selected and installed to bring the Cresswells' faithful vision of an English pub to life.

And with that vision, they are bringing to Ellsworth their experience of having run the former Square Tail Brewing in Amherst over the past two years.

Gary Cresswell, who grew up in England in Huddersfield, Yorkshire, and Sharon Cresswell, who hails from east Texas, got
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Cure kids of 'nature-deficit disorder'

BY RUSS VAN ARSDALE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NORTHEAST CONTACT

Parents concerned that their youngsters are spending too much time in front of screens have a place to turn: the great outdoors.

The places where many Maine people feel most at home

CONSUMER FORUM

may offer the best antidote for what The New York Times called "the fully automated child." Many of our children are or seem to be so disconnected from the natural world that they've been branded as sufferers of something called "nature-deficit disorder."

That's not a real medical condition. The man who coined the term, writer Richard Louv, contends that a strong connection with the natural world has all kinds of benefits, including mental sharpness, lower levels of obesity, boosting overall health and simply having fun. Louv writes in several books that getting ourselves into natural settings is critical to our healthy growth and development.

Many who have studied the erosion of recess in schools will argue that time spent outdoors in addition to classrooms offers a balanced education. In the book "Balanced and Barefoot," Angela Hanscom, a pediatric occupational therapist, wrote that she had been seeing more and more young patients who could not tolerate wind in their faces, had poor balance or lack of coordination or who cried or got upset in unfamiliar situations.

Hanscom wrote that lots of movement is the key to counteracting those problems. "I discovered that movement through active free play — particularly in the outdoors — is absolutely the most beneficial gift we as parents, teachers and caregivers can bestow on our children ..." (emphasis hers).

Louv and Hanscom have found that their messages resonate with people and groups across the country. Schools, civic groups and volunteers from numerous organizations have set up environmental education programs for young people of various ages. Summer camps are bustling with young people running headlong into nature, many for the first time.

Groups in many states have joined a coalition called "No Child Left Inside" or NCLI. The goal is to get kids outside, moving as they need to, interacting with nature as they learn about it and themselves.

Portland Water District is among the 35 Maine members of NCLI. The district's Sarah Plummer coordinates educational offerings of the district. "Getting kids connected to nature from a young age is important," she told me. "It fosters a love and respect of the environment."

And some classroom teachers must be wondering, "Why not here?"

Recess times have been shortened to put more emphasis on academics. When children fidget, we tell them to keep still. Hanscom argues that when children are inactive, their brains tend to shut
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Change proposed to law that blocks energy rebates

BY DARREN FISHELL
BDN STAFF

PORTLAND — A group of Democratic legislators is seeking to "correct" a bill aimed at lowering energy costs for energy-intensive manufacturers but not those connected to the northern Maine electrical grid.

Rep. Robert Saucier, D-Presque Isle, said Friday he would introduce a bill to allow businesses from Aroostook and Washington counties to ask regulators for rebates the law makes available

through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

The Maine Public Utilities Commission ruled last week that the law as written includes only the ISO New England power grid, largely leaving out Aroostook and Washington counties.

In May, a representative of McCain Foods in Aroostook County submitted comments to the commission that expressed concern that McCain and other northern Maine businesses could not gain access to the potential energy savings.

"Given that the intent of the act is to reduce electricity rates for Maine businesses that suffer from high energy costs, there is no reason why McCain and other good northern Maine manufacturing businesses [that] create good Maine jobs should be shut out in the cold from financial relief just because they happen to be located in Aroostook County rather than Cumberland or York County," Sarah Tracy, an attorney for McCain, wrote in comments to regulators in May.

The Regional Greenhouse Gas

Initiative has power generators in nine states bid on carbon emissions credits, with proceeds distributed back to states mostly to help pay for energy efficiency programs. The cost paid by generators is reflected in customers' power bills.

In their order, regulators wrote that the language of the law is clear, with the proceeds intended to help reduce the premium energy-intensive manufacturers pay related to the cap-and-trade system.

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