

Baxter Memorial Library Creates New Bee and Butterfly Discovery Garden



GORHAM -- What started with a wish for a few milkweed plants and a desire to talk to children in the community about the importance of local pollinator plants now has become Baxter Memorial Library's new 1,400 sq. ft. Bee and Butterfly Discovery Garden.

BML staff applied for and received a generous grant from the Maine Public

Library Fund this spring, and soon plans began to take shape. The Department of Public Works initially cleared the space and brought in fill. O'Donal's then provided a personalized on-site assessment of the area and designed a garden plan, recommending numerous plants and shrubs known to attract both bees and butterflies. With the help of several large compost,

mulch, and plant deliveries, as well as the generous donations of both plants and labor from several members of our community, the Garden currently comprises over 40 types of plants. It includes commonly known butterfly bushes, coneflowers, and bee balm, as well as perhaps lesser-known plants such as hyssop, wild burgenot, and joe pye weed. The space provides a variety of sensory offerings, featuring plants of different heights, colors, scents, textures, and even sounds. It also contains a bird bath, a handful of low-bush blueberry bushes, as well as both woodchip and stepping-stone paths, which visitors are encouraged to enjoy at their leisure.

The next time you're returning your library books or even just walking through the village, take a few minutes to swing by and take a peek at the new Bee and Butterfly Discovery Garden!

In the near future, the Garden will include a sign, designating the space and providing some introductory information about the importance of pollinators in our community. BML hopes to add seating stumps for children to use during programs, perhaps some local art, and a bench for rest and relaxation, as well.

For more information or to inquire about volunteer opportunities, please call BML at 222-1190. They do ask that members of the community communicate with them before leaving any garden contributions.

Gorham Food Pantry Serves Community in Challenging Times

GORHAM -- The Gorham Food Pantry is reminding the community that though the holidays can be joyful for many, the holidays can be challenging for others. The Pantry invites any Gorham resident in need to utilize its services. Its mission is to provide food to Gorham residents in need at no cost. They are committed to addressing hunger needs in an environment that fosters community, dignity, and compassion.

The Gorham Food Pantry accepts the following as proof of residency: Current Section 8 / Subsidized Housing Document; Current SS / SSDI / DHS Document; Current utility bill.

The Gorham Food Pantry would like community members to know that it respects client privacy and acknowledges how difficult it can be to ask for assistance. After showing proof of residency and completing the client intake form on the client's first visit, the client

will sign in confidentially at the front desk and have a seat in the waiting room. When it is the client's turn to shop, a volunteer will greet them. With a shopping cart, bags, and a quantity guideline sheet based on family size, the two will work their way through the Pantry, making individual choices based on preferences and needs. The client picks the foods and brands that they want - the options are not all decided for the client. Offerings may vary from month to month, but clients always will find a variety of choices, including canned goods, dry goods, fresh produce, frozen meats, breads, and basic toiletries and household items. The Pantry strives to provide clients with many healthy food and meal options.

Because the face of hunger is ever changing, the Pantry's clients include single people, couples, parents with young children, large families, senior citizens, men, women, young and old, those

struggling to get by on fixed incomes, the unemployed or under-employed, veterans, the sick and handicapped who cannot work, as well as individuals who just can't make ends meet. All clients have one thing in common: they are hungry or face some hunger challenges in their lives.

The Pantry would like potential clients to understand the Pantry does need to collect some personal information on their client intake form for funding purposes. The Pantry depends on clients to be truthful and asks clients to be as accurate as possible with the information they provide. The Pantry will keep informa-

See **Food Pantry**, page 14

New Year Gorham 2021 Program Information



GORHAM—Gorham Parks and Recreation is excited to announce that New Year Gorham is ON! Over the past several months, the NYG committee has been planning, adjusting, recruiting volunteers, and inviting top-notch entertainment to welcome 2022 with hopeful anticipation!

The committee is planning in-person activities for kids and performances geared for young families, for seniors and for in betweens! Here's a preview of what to expect:

GHS Cafeteria: New Year Gorham Café 5-8 p.m.

Shaw Gym: Wild Life Encounters (three shows beginning at 3 p.m.); Mad Science (three shows beginning at 3 p.m.); Gail Strattard; and other surprises.

GHS Gym: Dance Studio of Maine 4 p.m.

GHS Performing Arts Stage: Don Roy (Acadian Fiddling) beginning at 5 p.m. GHS Music performances beginning at 6 p.m.; Antonio Rocha (storyteller extraordinaire) beginning at 7 p.m.; Matt Roberts (magic and more) beginning at 8 p.m.

GHS Athletic Field: Fireworks at 9 p.m.

In order to provide a safe and fun event, all activities will follow CDC guidelines.

Where to buy \$5 admission wristbands: Hannaford in Gorham (99 Main Street); Baxter Memorial Library (71 South Street); Gorham Recreation Department (75 South Street - packages available for families of five or more @ \$25). For More information please visit: <https://www.gorham-me.org/new-year-gorham-committee/pages/2021-program-information>

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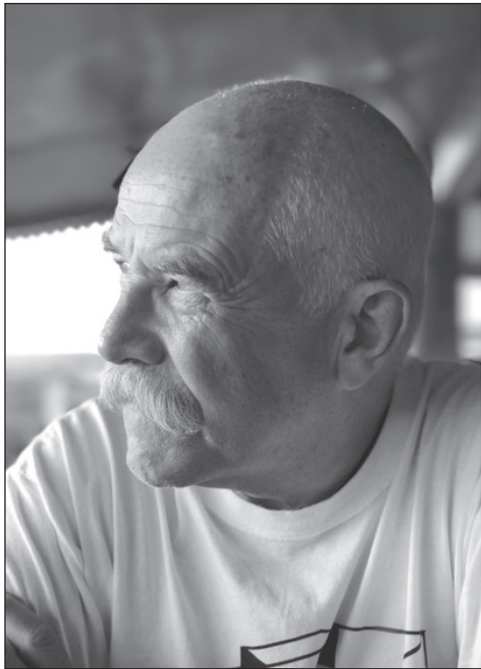
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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

McCreight receives Maine Craft Artist Award



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TIM
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The Maine Crafts Association (MCA), a statewide nonprofit organization that builds upon Maine's rich craft traditions by nurturing a vibrant, supportive, inclusive craft community and strong individual craft artist practices, has named artist, author, and educator, Tim McCreight of Harpswell, Maine as a 2021 recipient of the MCA Maine Craft Artist Award.

The award recognizes McCreight's commitment and dedicated career of service to the craft field, as well as his high proficiency in the technical understanding of many aspects of fine craft.

In 2009, the Maine Crafts Association began to annually honor individual Maine craft artists in recognition of their exceptional bodies of work and contributions to the field.

The award bestows prestige and acknowledgment, conferring upon the artist's work a distinguishing mark of excellence.

The award juror is guided by these benchmarks: excellence in craftsmanship, inspired design, a singular voice or style, and a career of service to the field. The 2021 awards were selected from many deserving peer nominations by MCA

Founder, Carolyn Hecker. Carolyn served as Executive Director for more than a decade, establishing the MCA as a statewide organization and network of craft artists. Since founding the MCA in 1983, Carolyn has remained involved and supportive of the organization and craft artists throughout Maine.

Perhaps most widely known as a leader in craft publishing, McCreight has produced over twenty highly respected texts dedicated to the technique and design of metalsmithing and jewelry making. His works are known for their comprehensibility and clarity, including *The Complete Metalsmith*, known as a staple text in most metals' education programs. The text is widely revered by developing students and accomplished craft artists alike. His publishing company Brynmorgen Press, founded in 1985, produces texts on a wide variety of craft media, written by renowned makers within the field. Additionally, McCreight has created several videos dedi-

cated to teaching techniques and has developed apps for mobile devices to connect with the modern maker.

Dedicated to furthering the education of younger generations of metalsmiths and designers, McCreight has taught full-time for over 25 years at institutions including Maine College of Art & Design. He has taught hundreds of workshops throughout the United States, as well as internationally, including Canada, Japan, Mexico, and the United Kingdom.

McCreight has served on several leading boards of directors including Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, the American Craft Council, and our own Maine Crafts Association. He has also served as the presiding member of the board of the Society of North American Goldsmiths.

In addition to his long-standing career as an author, craft educator, and board member, McCreight is the co-founder of the Toolbox Initiative, a nonprofit program to correct the imbalance of resources

affecting the jewelers and craftspeople in West Africa. The program accepts and distributes donated tools and uses funding to purchase harder to acquire tools for distribution to makers.

In a conversation about the award recipient, Hecker voiced her deep appreciation for McCreight and his career, stating, "Tim McCreight is a legend in craft, in Maine of course, but far beyond. His work, creative voice, and craftsmanship are only outshone by his own expansive career in education, leadership in developing precious metal clay as a craft medium, and his admirable Toolbox Initiative. His deep dedication to the field, the artists, and the medium is seemingly endless and generously shared through his books, his initiatives and as an educator. I'm grateful to have the opportunity to honor his legacy in this way, through the Maine Crafts Association, where I witnessed the beginnings of his incredible career as a peer and friend."

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Healthcare Access Reduced as Result of Vaccine Mandate



By Nathan Wadsworth

Four weeks ago, Central Maine Health Care approached a bipartisan group of legislators

to sound the alarm. Unless something was done to change the Governor's healthcare worker vaccination mandate, Mainers would see a reduction in healthcare access.

In the weeks that followed, we have continued to see other healthcare systems come forward and announce reductions in services or, in the case of some nursing homes, outright closure.

This week, we have moved past the deadline and the full consequences from Governor Mills forcing healthcare systems to fire providers, rather than allowing them to get tested, are only beginning to be felt.

Maine General Health announced they have lost just under 200 employees.

The President and CEO of the Maine Health Care Association, which represents nursing homes, said that five nursing homes and one assisted-living facility have closed. This means fewer beds available in our hospitals since hospitals have no place to discharge patients. The association anticipates that Maine nursing homes will ultimately lose up to 10 percent of their workforce.

According to the non-partisan Maine Policy Institute, since July, Maine has lost an esti-

mated 10 percent of all healthcare workers.

In May, according to the CDC Healthcare Worker COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard, there was a total of 73,593 healthcare staff both vaccinated and unvaccinated. By September, that same dashboard reported 64,470 healthcare staff both vaccinated and unvaccinated which is a difference of 9,123 healthcare staff.

As the CDC reports data from October, we will begin to learn more about the impact this policy is going having on Mainers' access to healthcare.

See Mandate, page 12

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Guest Column: When Our Students Model Kindness, It Is Hard Not To Follow!



By Gorham Superintendent Heather Perry

Before I go too far in sharing this specific story, I want to be clear that these are just two ex-

amples (of many) within our schools of how our students are modeling for all of us how to be kind to one another. I don't have space enough to share all the stories...so I thought just a few examples might do the trick!

At Village Elementary School, Mrs. Hurd's third grade class has created a "Kindness Garden." Students "planted" this garden as part of their learning on the topic of empathy. Students wrote phrases and words of kindness for anyone experiencing a difficult emotion. In addition to

the garden, there is an envelope of flowers that students (or staff) may "pick" and take with them to brighten their day! The students' hope in creating this garden is that the walk to pick their flowers and the positive messages contained in the garden will help a student (or staff) turn around their day if they need it! The students will periodically be replenishing the flowers as needed. What a cool idea!

Another great example of our students modeling kindness (and again, one of many around this

district) is the recent sock drive led by Narragansett students to benefit the Maine Homeless Veteran's Alliance. These students have collected and are now ready to donate 547 pairs of socks, 28 hats, and 16 pairs of gloves to this awesome cause helping our Veterans in need across the state.

As I walk around the district and see our K-12 students focused on kindness and empathy and the other important aspects of our District Code of Conduct (Respect, Honesty, Courage, Compassion,



and Responsibility), it is hard not to follow their lead! I know I will keep trying! I encourage us all to do the same!

Gorham Says Farewell and Congratulations to Employees, Robert Burns and Deborah Buker



GORHAM -- On Thursday, December 2nd, Gorham Public Works staff hosted a surprise farewell gathering at the Little Falls

Activity Center honoring outgoing Public Works Director Robert Burns. Bob will begin his new position on Monday, December 6th



with the Town of Windham as Assistant Town Manager. The Public Works staff are grateful for Bob's commitment and service of 18 years to the Town of Gorham, and wish him much



success in his new role. On Friday, December 3rd, patrons, volunteers, Friends of the Baxter Memorial Library (BML), BML Board of Trustee members, Town staff, and



BML staff congratulated Deborah Buker, on her retirement after 33 years in her position. Library Director James Rathbun shared sentimental words and thanked Deborah for

her years of dedication. The Library staff also thanks Debbie for her immeasurable contribution to the library and community. Congratulations to Debbie – the staff wishes Debbie a blissful retirement!

UMaine Extension Offers Virtual 4-H Dog SPIN Club

Orono — University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H is offering a Virtual 4-H Dog SPIN (SPecial INterest) Club. This will be a short-term, special interest club that will meet virtually once a month from January until June. The first

meeting is at 9 a.m. on January 22nd.

The club, which will focus on all things dogs, is open to Maine youth who are between the ages of 9 and 18 by December 31st, 2021. Participants do not need to own a dog; they just need to be enthusias-

tic about learning more about them. The club also is looking for adult volunteers who would be interested in helping plan activities. Participants do not need to be knowledgeable about dogs, just willing to help out.

The registration

deadline is January 7th. For more information on the club or to register, visit the Virtual 4-H Dog SPIN Club page. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact 207-942-7396 or email sheila.norman@maine.edu.

Special Election

GORHAM -- There will be a Special Election on Tuesday, January 11th, 2022 for District 27 (Ward 1-1 and 1-2). This Special State Election has been scheduled due to the resignation of Kyle R.

Bailey. District 27 covers a portion of Gorham and Scarborough. For more information, please visit <https://www.gorhamme.org/home/news/notice-special-election-january-11-2022>.

Gorham WEEKLY

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Seniors Not Acting Their Age

Attean Pond Surf & Turf



By Ron Chase

A surf and turf is one of my favorite fall escapades. It combines three of my preferred activities: kayaking, mountain hiking, and camping. This year was exceptional because I was doing it with my son, Adam.

After considering various options, I decided to return to Attean Pond near Jackman. The intent was to kayak around the pond and climb Attean and Sally Mountains over a two day period. I had attempted to accomplish the same goal with two friends six years earlier with only partial success. Stormy weather prevented an ascent of Sally Mountain on

the second day.

Adam and I began planning the expedition in early October. Uncooperative weather and his work schedule prevented us from realizing our objective until November. By then, the days were shorter and temperatures much colder. That probably explained why no one else wanted to join us. Veterans of many two-person outdoor adventures in all four seasons, we were undeterred.

The weather forecast for our two-day excursion was cool and sunny, but strong headwinds were predicted on day one. Our plan was to be at the Attean Boat Landing on the

eastern end of the pond just after sunrise in hopes of avoiding the most intense gales. When we arrived, the westerly wind velocity already approximated 10 miles per hour, and contrary to the forecast, showers were in the area. A brilliant rainbow was a good omen.

An old-timer who was probably a few years my junior was securing boats at the dock. After doubtfully looking us over, he observed, "There's going to be a big blow out there today, hope you boys know what you're doing." Assuring him that we had a strategy for dealing with the wind, we hurriedly loaded our kayaks.

We did, in fact, have a game plan to minimize the impact of the wind. Instead of heading directly into the westerly gusts, we were going to paddle southwest for a long mile through a congregation of islands assuming they would provide some protection. From there, we would proceed directly to the south shore. We calculated that the northwest angle of the shoreline would allow us to continue to our western destination relatively unimpeded by the anticipated "big blow." We were right and so was the old-timer. While we encountered minimal resistance, substantial breaking waves were observed in the middle of the pond that would have been impossible to navigate.

Our campsite at sandy Hodgman Beach was idyllic. The trailhead for the path to one of the two Attean Mountain summits was a short distance to the left. The Attean Mountain Trail can only be accessed by water. After setting up camp, Adam and I began the trek. While the narrow, seldom-used trail is well-marked, blowdowns and rugged terrain provided a very challenging climb, particularly the steep boulder strewn summit cone. Our reward was glorious views of the pond and surrounding mountains. A bushwhack to the second summit was very unappealing so we decided to forego what appeared to be a substantial ordeal.

We returned to the campsite with sufficient time to gather firewood and prepare for dinner while there was still daylight. The chilly evening ended with a colorful sunset and the following morning



began with an even more spectacular sunrise. After a quick breakfast, we packed our kayaks and navigated northerly towards Sally Mountain in calm waters.

Prior research indicated the trailhead for Sally Mountain began at Sally Beach Campsite on the northeast shore of the pond. An alternative access entails hiking west for about two miles from the Attean Road in Jackman along the Canadian Pacific Railway tracks. We easily located the campsite which was situated on a sandy beach.

A prominent sign identified the beginning of our hike. Another well-marked trail, this one was in excellent condition. The path began with a gentle incline and then climbed more steadily to the start of a rocky west leading partially exposed ridge. We enjoyed period-

ic views while negotiating ledges on the elongated escarpment before arriving at the open summit. There were wonderful vistas of the island-congested Attean Pond and the lakes and mountains of western Maine and southern Quebec.

We returned to Sally Beach Campsite to discover a welcome tailwind for our paddle to Attean Pond Boat Landing. The old-timer wasn't around to witness our safe arrival.

The author of "The Great Mars Hill Bank Robbery" and "Mountains for Mortals - New England," Ron Chase resides in Topsham. His latest book, "MAINE AL FRESCO: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine" will soon be released by North Country Press. Visit his website at www.ronchase-outdoors.com or he can be reached at ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net.

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Cancer Resource Center forced to cancel signature fundraiser



Photo from Cancer Resource Center of Western Maine of previous years' Turkey Trot 4 Hope 4K Run/Walk.

The Board of the Cancer Resource Center of Western Maine (CRCofWM) announced that it has cancelled the 2021 Turkey Trot 4 Hope 4K Run/Walk, their annual signature fundraiser, due to the recent COVID-19 variant surge and precautionary measures needed to keep cancer patients, adults, and children safe. "Funds

raised from this signature event are critical to our mission of providing programs, resources, and support to cancer patients in western Maine," said Judy Stone, Board

President. "Last year, this event raised nearly \$20,000 to help cancer patients in Oxford county and its surrounding towns. Cancelling this event was necessary; however this lack of income will place a significant impact on our budget. We can't depend solely on grant funding to stay open."

The center has expanded services and programs from its initial beginnings as a place where patients and caregivers could drop in to chat with a volunteer, get information from the lending library, participate in creative art projects or obtain comfort items and wigs. "Because of grant funding, we now have a part-time, on-site, oncology social worker who meets with patients and families to identify and

solve any barriers they face," said Diane Madden, executive director of the CRCofWM. So far in 2021, we have assisted over 100 cancer patients and caregivers from all over western Maine. Because of generous grant funding from the Maine Cancer Foundation over the past two years, we have been able to provide gas cards and Hannaford food cards to help patients get to their cancer treatments in Portland, Lewiston and Boston, and so they can afford healthy foods and vegetables to supplement the essential foods they receive at local food pantries. We have also been able to offer emergency financial assistance for specific needs as well as free weekly virtual and in-person wellness programs, support groups,

and complementary therapies."

Gene Benner, CRCofWM Board Member and Chair of the Turkey Trot 4 Hope is hopeful that local communities will still make a donation to the Center to help them get through this tough year. "We have sent letters and donation envelopes to former sponsors and participants from past Turkey Trot 4 Hope to share how the Center has been supporting cancer patients and families in western Maine and how their continued support at this difficult time is crucial."

Tax deductible donations to the Cancer Resource Center can be made via credit card on their website at www.crcofwm.org or sent via mail to: CRCofWM, PO Box 263, Norway, Maine.

Collins moves for National Homeless Children Month

U.S. Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Joe Manchin (D-WV) led 12 of their colleagues in introducing a bipartisan resolution recognizing November as National Homeless Children and Youth Awareness Month to bring attention to the children and youth experiencing homelessness across the country. In the United States, more than 1.4 million students experienced homelessness during the 2018-2019 school year. In Maine, approximately 2,500 students experience homelessness each year.

"Growing up is challenging enough without young people having to worry about where they will sleep each night. Without the proper support, these children are at risk of dropping out of school and

are in greater danger of exploitation. We must make sure our nation's homeless youth have the same opportunity to succeed as their peers," said Senator Collins, Ranking Member of the Housing Appropriations Subcommittee. "Our bipartisan resolution raises awareness for this critical issue and recognizes the hard work being done by businesses, organizations, schools, and volunteers to prevent youth homelessness."

"Every child deserves to have a roof over their head and a warm place to sleep at night. Unfortunately, that is not the case for more than 9,500 children in West Virginia and over a million children across the country. We must address this heartbreaking issue," said Senator Man-

chin. "In February, I introduced the bipartisan Emergency Family Stabilization Act to create an emergency funding stream to address children, youth and families experiencing homelessness. In March, I successfully fought to include \$800 million in the American Rescue Plan for school systems to identify and assist homeless students in their schools. I'm proud to join my bipartisan colleagues in designating November as National Homeless Children and Youth Awareness Month to bring awareness to this dire issue and work to address homelessness among children and youth."

"Youth and child homelessness is a national crisis requiring a new approach that centers the needs of our youngest cit-

izens. NN4Y applauds that Senators from both sides of the aisle have come together in support of this Senate Resolution. Through a cross-system approach, we can end child and youth homelessness in Ameri-

ca," said Darla Bardine, Executive Director, National Network for Youth. "Children and youth living without a home suffer trauma, inequity, and instability, yet remain largely out of sight. Amer-

ica's promise of 'opportunity for all' requires seeing and prioritizing children and youth who experience homelessness - a large, yet often hidden population. I am pleased at this federal

See Homeless, page 12

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Arts & Entertainment

Goat Yoga



WESTBROOK -- Ashley Flowers Yoga and Smiling Hill Farm continue to offer Goat Yoga -- part yoga, part goat snuggling, all smiles! This is a class which is open to all-levels and is beginner friendly, where you can enjoy mama and baby goats romping around the pen with you while you practice yoga.

Picture taking, laughing, and goat petting are all encouraged!

Bring a mat/towel or practice on the grass. Each session starts with 15 min of goat snuggles, followed by an hour of yoga, completed with another 15 minutes of goat holding and snuggling. There is also the option to

grab some tasty treats from the Ice Cream Barn while you're at the farm.

Classes are held Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Smiling Hill Farm, located at 781 County Rd (Route 22), Westbrook, ME 04092. For more information, see Ashley Flowers Yoga on Facebook.

Maine Music Society Chorale's Triumphant Return to Singing

LEWISTON -- The Maine Music Society Chorale, directed by Dr. Richard Nickerson and accompanied by pianist Bridget Convey, will present its holiday concert, *A Season of Celebration*, at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 11th and at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 12th at the Gendron Franco Center in Lewiston.

This will be the first concert since the holiday performance of December 2019 -- two long years ago. The Chorale's triumphant return to singing will include many familiar works featuring Robert Shaw's *Many Moods of Christmas, Suite #3* and Michael John Trotta's *Gloria*.

Celebrating the holiday season with the MMS Chorale has become a beloved tradition in the L/A area, and you won't want to miss the highlight of the concert season. Its 48 volunteer singers from within and around the L/A community have been enthusiastically rehearsing for weeks and are ready to make this a performance

to remember.

Come usher in the season by celebrating time-held traditions while creating new ones. This family-friendly concert promises to bring out the memories, spirit, celebration and magic of the holiday season.

All performers and volunteers are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Audience members 12-years or older must provide proof of vaccination against COVID-19 or a negative authorized COVID-19 test result for admission, and all attendees must be masked while in the Franco Center. This policy is for our collective health and safety, and will remain in effect until further notice.

For details and tickets, go to www.mainemusicsociety.org or by calling the business office at 207-333-3386. MMS encourages you to purchase your tickets ahead of time.

Ticket Information:
 Adult - \$22*; Senior - \$20*; Student - \$10*
 Children under 12: free when accompanied



New Artistic Director, Dr. Richard Nickerson.

by an adult

Group rates: 20% off price before handling fee for ten or more tickets to the same performance purchased at the same time.

* Handling fee: \$2 per ticket

The Maine Music Society thanks season sponsors Hardy, Wolf & Downing and the Ladd Foundation and the Event Co-Sponsors Austin Associates and Cornerstone Wealth Planning for making this concert possible.

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Maine International Film Festival Opens Submissions



WATERVILLE, ME – The Maine Film Center (MFC) has opened submissions for the 25th annual Maine International Film Festival (MIFF). The festival is scheduled for July 8-17 and will be hosted at Railroad Square Cinema, the Waterville Opera House, and online.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the festival, which was founded in Waterville in 1998. Festival organizers are planning for a full-sized festival, which screens approximately 100 films over 10 days and hosts guest filmmakers and audiences from Maine and around the world. Throughout the festival, filmgoers enjoy the best of American inde-

pendent, international, and classic cinema, including several works that might not otherwise be screened in Maine.

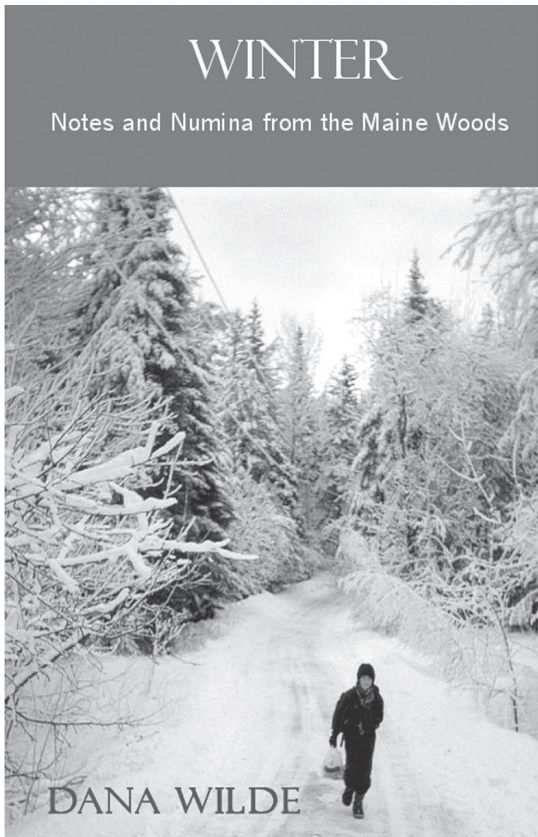
“MIFF has garnered a reputation for showcasing a wide range of films every year, including works by emerging and established Maine filmmakers, and the best new and restored releases of American and world cinema,” said Mike Perreault, executive director of MFC. “We’re honored to have a robust and dedicated fan base of film lovers who have supported us since the beginning, and we love growing our community each year with audiences and filmmakers from far and wide. We’re

excited to be at work crafting our 25th anniversary festival.”

New this year, MIFF introduces the Tourmaline Prizes—named for Maine’s state gem—which are two juried awards recognizing the best Maine-made films of the festival. At the closing night of MIFF, a \$5,000 prize will be awarded to the best feature film, and a \$2,500 prize will be awarded to the best short film. To support the local filmmaking community by offering a low-cost means of entry, eligible filmmakers can receive a 50 percent discount on submission fees. More information is available via the “Submit” link at MIFF.org.

The Maine Film Center brings world-class independent film to Central Maine through Railroad Square Cinema, the only Sundance Art House Project cinema in Maine and the annual Maine International Film Festival, a 10-day celebration that attracts filmmakers and film aficionados from around the world, and by delivering impactful, accessible film exhibitions and education programs. MFC firmly believes that art and culture have the power to enrich lives, strengthen community bonds, and serve as an economic engine. MFC is a division of Waterville Creates. For more information visit MaineFilmCenter.org.

Dana Wilde’s Winter Publication



Dana Wilde’s beautifully articulated perspective of Winter in Maine is shared in this new publication.

North Country Press is pleased to announce publication of “Winter: Notes and Numina from the Maine Woods” by Dana Wilde. In winter, snow and ice are everything. Or used to be, until the last few years when the effects of climate change have become plain to see. In this new collection of writings, a companion book to Summer to Fall, Dana pieces together frosty images of pre-winter stillness, the disappearing and reappearing sun, the depths of snow, the dog of March, and the once and future climate, where Maine winters turn out to be a climatological barometer. This book of funny, worried, thoughtful, poetic essays will help readers keep warm through to spring. “Winter: Notes and Numina from the Maine Woods” by Dana Wilde is a softcover that spans 234 pages. To or-

der, contact North Country Press pnewell@northcountrypress.com, call 207-948-2208, or visit www.northcountrypress.com. It is also available through Ingram and online book sellers.

Dana Wilde lives in

Troy, Maine, and writes the Backyard Naturalist column which appears regularly in the Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel newspapers. He has been a college professor, editor, Fulbright scholar, and NEH fellow.

His writings have appeared in a wide array of publications, including The Working Waterfront, The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction, North American Review, The Maine Entomologist, and many others.

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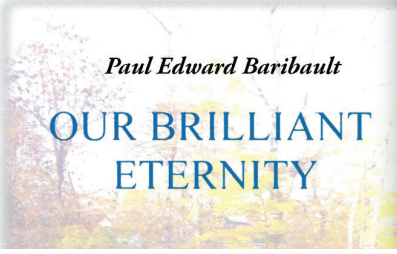


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You Don't Need to wait until Spring or Fall to go Hunting Again...



There are several open hunting seasons through the fall and winter months! Targeting a new species is an exciting challenge to learn something new, an opportunity to spend more time outside, create memories with friends and family, and to secure delicious table fare. You may even find a shed deer or moose antler. Here are a few hunting opportunities to try:

Ruffed grouse

When people think of ruffed grouse season, they often think of peak fall foliage and warm fall days, but this season is open until December 31st. Ruffed grouse is a great target species for beginner hunters, and there are fewer hunters in the month of December, providing plenty of opportunity and snowy views. Try walking brushy trail edges near beech scrub or softwoods, or along streams.

Ruffed grouse and bobwhite quail season is September 25th - December 31st, 2021.

Muzzleloader hunting for deer

Muzzleloader season increases harvest opportunity if you haven't tagged out already. As the snow falls and there are fewer hunters in the woods, hunters can feel as if they have a hunting paradise to themselves. This is also usually a great way to practice tracking skills. Before you go, remember to purchase a muzzleloader permit.

Muzzleloader statewide: November 29th - December 4th, 2021.

Muzzleloader in WMDs 12, 13, 15-18, 20-26, 29: December 6th -11th, 2021.

Gray squirrel

For new, young, and food-motivated hunters, gray squirrel is an excellent opportunity and (surprisingly) good table fare. It's a high-speed hunt and good practice for improving shooting skills. Gray squirrels are common and plentiful, so it's a great way to build confidence as a hunter.

Gray squirrel season is September 25th - December 31st, 2021.

Snowshoe Hare

One of the enjoyable aspects of hunting in the winter is the ability to easily see fresh animal tracks in the snow! Grab a pair of snowshoes and hire a guide, who may have a trained dog, for an enjoyable winter hunt, or try to find hare located in brushy areas and softwoods stands.

Snowshoe hare season is September 25th, 2021 - March 31st, 2022 in all Wildlife Management Districts with the exception of Vinalhaven Island, Knox County which has a season end date of February 28th, 2022.

Predators

Maine predator seasons are long, providing hunters ample opportunity. Calling is a popular tactic for luring in wary predators. Many seek the help from a registered Maine guide where bobcats are typically hunted using hounds.

Bobcat: December 1st, 2021 - February 21st, 2022

Fox: October 18th, 2021 - February 28th, 2022

Coyote Night Hunt: December 16th, 2021 - August 31st, 2022

Coyote: Year-round
Other season dates:
Migratory game birds: various dates
Pheasant: September 25th - December 31st, 2021
Raccoon: October 1st - December 31st, 2021
Skunk, Opossum: October 18th - December 31st, 2021

Coyote, Woodchuck, Porcupine, Red Squirrel:

No Closed Season for Hunting

Not sure where to start? Consider hiring a registered Maine guide. Maine guides are happy to hunt with hunters of all backgrounds, experience levels, and ages. There are tons of great blogs and videos online; never be afraid to ask questions, or ask to join a friend.



Send all items for What's Going On to the Editor. Deadline is Friday by five.

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Helping Maine Families Stay Warm This Winter

By: Sen. Susan M. Collins

A recent report that inflation has hit a 30-year high confirmed what the American people have been feeling in their wallets for months. The soaring cost of virtually everything, from gasoline to groceries, is a growing crisis that affects families across our nation.

One of the most alarming increases is in the cost of heating oil, which is up by approximately 60 percent nationally from this time last year. I have heard from many Mainers who are worried that they will not be able to afford to heat their homes given this increase. The average price of heating oil in Maine currently is \$3.16/gallon, compared to \$2.11/gallon this time last year.

Unfortunately, the cost is expected to rise. The U.S. Energy Information Administration is predicting that families

that heat primarily with propane, natural gas, or heating oil could spend significantly more on their heating costs this winter, including spending up to 94 percent more for households that use propane.

While the amount of heating oil a household uses varies greatly, a typical Maine household will spend nearly \$1,000 more this year on home heating oil. This is a 50 percent increase from last year. Maine is disproportionately affected by this rise in cost since 60 percent of Maine's households use fuel oil as their primary energy source for home heating, compared to only four percent of households nationally.

I have long championed the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program that helps low-income families pay their energy bills. Maine was awarded more than \$35 million in LIHEAP

funding in early November. Given the current state of energy markets and the lingering economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic – and in preparation for the cold weather season – I am pleased that this funding appropriated by Congress has been distributed.

Nationwide, an estimated 5.3 million households received assistance with heating and cooling costs through LIHEAP in 2020, including 33,000 households in Maine. This federal funding is particularly critical this year given that the average cost of home heating will be unaffordable for so many low-income American households.

In addition to supporting LIHEAP, I continue to advocate for improving energy efficiency to permanently reduce heating costs. Earlier this year, I introduced the bipartisan Home Energy Savings Act to encourage energy-ef-

ficient improvements for homes. This bill would help lower energy costs as well as carbon emissions by expanding and extending a tax credit.

As one of the 10 Senators who negotiated the bipartisan infrastructure package that was signed into law in November, I advocated for the inclusion of \$3.5 billion for the Weatherization Assistance Program. This bill funds energy efficiency upgrades for the homes of low-income families to help them reduce their energy bills.

For every dollar invested by the Weatherization Assistance Program, \$4.50 is generated in combined energy savings and non-energy benefits such as job creation.

I have also taken other actions to address the skyrocketing cost of energy. These include leading a bipartisan letter to President Biden urging his administration to increase domestic energy production as well as to release inventory from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and the Northeast Home

Heating Oil Reserve. Furthermore, I have opposed the administration's policies that have exacerbated energy supply issues, such as shutting down a key pipeline project to bring oil from Canada to the United States.

Families and seniors should not have to make the impossible choice between paying for heat and paying for food or medicine. I will continue to work to alleviate the serious hardships many Mainers may experience this winter.

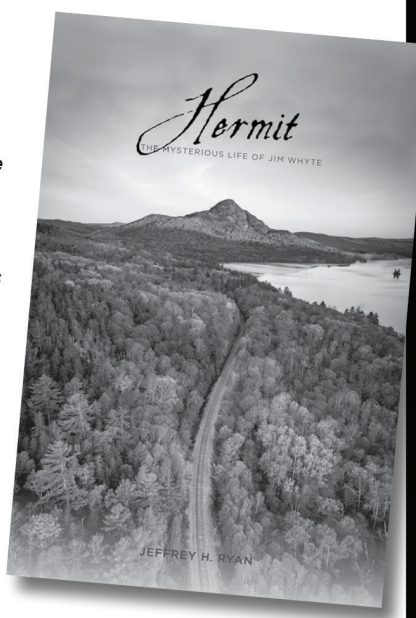
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 — George Smith, Bangor Daily News

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Mandate

Continued from page 2

For now, we know that reductions in available healthcare workers are causing patients seeking care to be diverted, turned away, or having to wait extended periods of time for the medical procedures they need.

Delays in ambulatory services potentially compromise the health of us all.

Since the healthcare system was already overworked and understaffed before the Governor's mandate, the situation will only get worse. The burden on the remaining health workforce has increased, and there is concern that employees will burn out and leave for other jobs. Ultimately, Mainers will be seeing their healthcare systems having to do even more with less.

Even before we start-

ed hearing from Maine's health providers, legislative Republicans were calling out the burdens placed on hard working Mainers by state and federal mandates.

These burdens are painful to people just trying to make ends meet and go about their daily lives. The response from the Governor is an unwillingness to change and adjust policy to get the state out of the way.

The consumer price index has risen 5.4 percent in just 12 months.

The average gasoline price in Maine is now \$3.38 a gallon, an eight year high.

The federal Energy Information Administration projects that people will pay an average of 43 percent more for heating oil and 47 percent more for propane than last winter.

People are experi-

encing price increases, and are paying more for food, housing, automobiles, goods, services and everyday staples.

Supply chain issues continue to lead to shortages and delays of items that are readily available in normal times.

The Democrats in charge appear to be unable or unwilling to address these and other challenges that directly affect our daily lives.

People across the country recognize that the increased presence of government in our daily lives is not resulting in things getting better.

Maine has a proud commitment to local control, where our citizenship is supposed to mean more than paying taxes and voting; it is a commitment to make our towns and communities the best they can be. It is a commitment to self-government. We need

to reaffirm that commitment and reduce the interference from the state inserting itself into our daily lives.

We should protect access to healthcare, we should empower parents in the education of their children, and we should incentivize work, not punish it.

Legislative Republicans will continue to respectfully advocate for these and other policies that improve the lives of all Mainers.

Representative Nathan Wadsworth serves as the House Republican Lead on the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities & Technology. Rep. Wadsworth has a degree in Economics from Montana State University. Previously he served on the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee. Rep. Wadsworth makes his home in Hiram.

Homeless

Continued from page 5

recognition of their plight, and hope it is the first of many steps in supporting their needs, resilience, and success. I look forward to continuing to work with youth, families, advocates, businesses, community members, and policymakers to ensure that every child and youth has the opportunity to thrive," said Barbara Duffield, Executive Director, SchoolHouse Connection.

The COVID-19 pandemic has compounded children and youth homelessness with high unemployment, unstable living conditions, and job insecurity – resulting in higher rates of children, youth and families experiencing homelessness. The COVID-19 pandemic also kept many students at home during the 2020 school year, and schools struggled to track those

students experiencing homelessness.

The resolution was supported by SchoolHouse Connection, National Network for Youth, First Focus for Children, National Association of School Psychologists, AFT, National Association of Secondary School Principals, Family Promise, National Alliance to End Homelessness, National Low Income Housing Coalition and Opportunity Starts at Home Campaign.

In addition to Senators Collins and Manchin, the resolution was supported by Senators Ron Wyden (D-OR), Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Chris Coons (D-DE), Gary Peters (D-MI), Mazie Hirono (D-HI), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Maggie Hassan (D-NH), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and Jack Reed (D-RI).

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Maine Home Values Increased in Past Months

Lower-than-normal inventory combined with high demand for single-family existing Maine homes led to a 10.94 percent decline in sales across the state in October 2021 compared to October 2020. Maine Listings today released statistics indicating a 10 percent price increase over that same time period. The median sales price (MSP) for existing single-family homes reached \$308,000 in October compared to \$280,000 one year ago. The MSP indicates that half of the homes were sold for more and half sold for less.

"Despite the lower sales volume numbers compared to 2020 for each month from July through October, demand remains extraordinary for Maine's residential real estate," says Aaron Bolster, Broker/Owner of Allied Realty in Skowhegan and 2021 President of the Maine Association of REALTORS. "Available for-sale inventory is significantly low—56 percent below the pre-COVID levels of October 2019. In October of 2019,

the market had a 4.5-month supply of for-sale inventory. In October 2021, we experienced a 1.8-month supply. Buyers are quickly purchasing homes that are new to the market."

Nationally, sales of single-family existing homes dipped 5.8 percent in October 2021 compared to October 2020. According to the National Association of Realtors, last month's national MSP of \$360,800 reflects an increase of 13.5 percent. October sales in the regional Northeast declined 13.8 percent compared to October 2020, while the regional MSP rose 6.4 percent to \$379,100.

"Overall, 2021 continues to be strong for single-family existing home sales," says Bolster. "For January – October 2021, sales are 5.54 percent higher than January – October 2020, and 11.41 percent higher than January–October 2019. The sales years of 2019 and 2020 were record-breakers for Maine. With a strong finish this year, 2021 will be another."

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GORHAM –Tentative Recurring CIP Meeting. Room TBD at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 16
GORHAM –Tentative Board of Appeals Meeting Council Chambers at 6:30 p.m.

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

Tuesday, December 21
GORHAM –Tentative Recurring Town Council Workshop Council Chambers at 6:30 p.m.

Friday, December 24
GORHAM –Municipal Center, Administrative Offices & Library closed in observance of Christmas.

Wednesday, December 29
GREENE – “What Do Animals do in Winter?” program from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at 303 South River Road, Greene.

Friday, December 31
GORHAM –Municipal Center, Administrative Offices & Library closed in observance of New Year’s Day.

WinterKids Announces Maine Schools Competing in the Fifth Annual WinterKids Winter Games in 2022

The 5th annual WinterKids Winter Games begins in the new year, with 22 schools competing statewide to win a total of \$50,000 for their schools. The Winter Games is a four-week series of challenges in outdoor physical activity, nutrition, family engagement and winter carnival starting January 17th, 2022 and ending on February 11th, 2022. This is also an Olympic Winter Games year. The first annual WinterKids Winter Games began in conjunction with the 2018 Olympic Winter Games.

The winning school will receive \$10,000, second place will receive \$7,500 and third place will receive \$5,000 in school-wide prize ceremonies. All competitive schools will receive a cash prize based on how they finish.

During the last school

year, WinterKids offered an adapted, play-along version of the Winter Games to accommodate remote and hybrid learners. This model was so popular, the organization is offering it again this year. Altogether, 4,000 children and 340 teachers will participate in the competitive track of the Winter Games for a chance to win cash, while an additional 6,000 students and 100 teachers will play along and receive incentives and a chance to win weekly prizes.

“We are thrilled to offer a fun, active way to engage all kids in outdoor learning throughout the winter,” said Julie Mulkern, WinterKids Executive Director. “This year, the Winter Games is focused on the Olympic Winter Games within the context of celebrating winter through outdoor physical

activity, nutrition, family engagement and winter carnivals,” said Mulkern.

Embracing outdoor learning helps to counteract the negative effects of excessive screen time, particularly for those in elementary school. WinterKids provides resources for both teachers and parents to get their kids outside and active. There is also a WinterKids Winter Games Facebook group for resource sharing and downloadable activities on the organization’s website at www.winterkids.org.

Let the Games begin! *WinterKids is the nonprofit organization that helps children develop healthy lifelong habits through education and fun, outdoor winter activity. The organization delivers innovative outdoor programs for families, schools and communities. Winter-*

Kids’ Major Community Sponsor is L.L.Bean. WinterKids’ Supporting Sponsors are Agren, CMP, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, WEX, and WMTW 8 and The CW. The WinterKids Winter Games are made possible with support from Hannaford Snack Pals, Backyard Farms, Aroma Joe’s, Subway, MMG Insurance, and Kittery Trading Post. Learn more at WinterKids.org

Send all items for What’s Going On to the Editor. Deadline is Friday by five.

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Food Pantry
Continued from page 1
tion private and safe, and asks that clients respect other clients’ privacy by following the Confidential Sign-In procedure.
The Pantry may be visited once (1 time) per month, but clients can contact the Pantry if needs are greater than that. A typical visit to the Pantry will provide approximately one week’s worth of groceries.
Anyone in need is encouraged to contact The Gorham Food Pantry, located at 299 Main Street in Gorham. The Pantry is open from 10 a.m. to noon on Thursdays. For more information, see <https://sites.google.com/view/gorhamfoodpantry/home> or call 207-222-4351.

Best Source for Arts, Music and Theater! Your Hometown Paper.

Send all items for Names & Faces to the Editor. Deadline is Friday by five.

ATTENTION:
THE MEMBERS OF WHITE ROCK GRANGE ARE NOT ONLY FARMERS

WANTED: PEOPLE WANTED WITH NEW IDEAS AND COMMITMENT



The Grange located in Gorham at 33 Wilson Rd. (off rte 237) is inviting you to join us at any meeting the first Friday of the month at 7 PM.

Folks willing to put their generous hearts and open hands to raise all of their neighbors and community is the goal of the Grange since 1876. The Grange is an inclusive nonprofit organization. Local activities include but not be restricted to crafts, music, suppers, display at the Cumberland fair and quilts for veterans. Our agenda and focus is at the local level determined by the members themselves. The historical Grange Hall is the perfect building and location for doing any craft. Handicapped accessible, heat, hot water, and full kitchen.

Dues are \$26 per year.

Facebook /Gorham White Rock Grange #380 Web/ mainestategrange.org The White Rock is called Subordinate grange. Use right column to locate.

Ph/ 207-839-3946 leave a message.

Please Join Us!

Classified Ads

AUTO FOR SALE

2013 Chevy Equinox Nice, clean, 4 cyl. All wheel drive 177,002 miles. Four new tires. Call 207-786-9849 (Stempladder Company). Can be seen on Uncle Henry's or Craigslist.

AUTOMOBILE STORAGE

Seeking Classic Car Storage

Got unused garage bay? I'm looking for year-round storage for a classic car. My preference is a location near the center of Gorham. Please text or leave a message: 207 415-2463.

BOOKS

"To College or Not to College" is the question and this book has the answers. Check it out: www.authorcaseybill.com.

Book lovers and bookstores: looking for unique and eclectic books? Check out author Casey Bell: www.authorcaseybell.com.

BUSINESSES FOR SALE

Working small engine/ outdoor Power equipment business.

Parts inventory B&S, Kohler, Tecumseh, MTD, Ariens, Toro and more. Special tools and equipment. Good opportunity to expand or add to your business. Call Glen 207-655-4635 daytime for more information.

POEM 2 BY ANGEL STARCHILD

Jesus is Lord. It's the cry of the Christian. It all began, with a miraculous mission. We are his servants, and he is our Lord. To all of the world, we are preaching his word.

ESTATE SALE

Estate - Garage
Safe environment - one seller with mask and gloves. By appointment only. One to two people. We maintain ten feet

apart. Two bedroom sets, double and queen - wicker 5 pieces - Bench with microfiber cushion. Two living room chairs. All plus more. All priced low for quick sale. (207) 883-0808

FOR SALE

Cutting Boards

I have many different sizes of wooden cutting boards made from maple, oak, walnut, cherry, poplar and ash in different designs. Priced from \$10 to \$25. Would make very nice gifts. Call me at 207-577-2724.

HAIR SERVICES

Hair at Home! Can't get out to the hair salon? We'll come to you anywhere in the L/A area! We offer services in the privacy of your own home. Great rates. Excellent service. Call cell phone 754-9805 or 782-1271.

HEALTH & FITNESS

DO YOU HAVE CHRONIC KNEE OR BACK PAIN?

If you have insurance, you may qualify for the perfect brace at little to no cost. Get yours today! Call 1-800-217-0504.

I WOULD LIKE TO BUY YOUR HOME

I purchase in any condition, AS-IS. I can close in as little as 21 days. Not a realtor. No realtor fees and I pay all typical closing costs. Call for a hassle-free, all cash offer. Ben 207-200-6071.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

207-375-4627
Aluminum walkers 2 wheels folds \$20 each. 1-3-wheel walker folds \$60.

2 wheelchairs \$75 each. 1 Transport chair new \$100. Extra wide walker 4 wheels seat, hand brakes, and basket \$100. Several canes @ \$10 each.

PAINTING

Stempladder Enterprise Painting Co. Interior & Exterior. Drywall repair, paint and wallpaper. Pressure washing. Insured. 20+ years in business 207-786-9849.

SENIORS

In Home Care

Visiting Angels - non-medical assistance living. Serving Lewiston/Auburn and surrounding areas. Providing light housekeeping, meal prep, personal care, errands/outings. Call for FREE in-home consultation. (207) 740-9100.

LEWISTON SENIOR CITIZENS TRIPS FOR 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C. - APRIL 7 - 13, 2022

Trip includes 7 days and 6 nights - 10 meals - Two guided tours of Washington, D.C. memorials. Evening guided tour of Memorials and Monuments. Admission to New Bible Museum. Tram ride through Arlington National Cemetery, admission to George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and so much more. Price is \$749.00 per person double occupancy with a \$75.00 due upon signing.

NASHVILLE SHOW TRIP - JUNE 11-19, 2022

Trip includes 9 days and 8 nights - 14 meals - Grand Ole Opry Show - Nashville Nightlife Dinner Theater - Guided tours of Nashville and Belle Meade Historic Site & Winery. Admission to the Country Music Hall of Fame. Admission to the Grand

Ole Opry behind the Scenes Tour. Admission to Madame Tussauds Wax Museum. Price is \$1,025. per person double occupancy with a \$75.00 deposit due upon signing.

MACKINAC ISLAND - SEPTEMBER 10 - 18, 2022

Trip includes 9 days and 8 nights - 14 meals - Guided tour of Mackinaw City - Visit to Mackinaw City. Visit to Mackinac Island including a guided Carriage Tour. Boat ride through the Soo Locks and free time and sightseeing in Sault Sainte Marie. Admission to Colonial Michillmackinac. Price is \$899.00 per person double occupancy with a \$75.00 deposit due upon signing.

WHITE MOUNTAIN HOTEL AND RESORT - DECEMBER 4 & 5, 2022 -

Trip includes 1 night lodging - 3 meals (Grand Sunday Brunch) - 2 different entertainment shows, Austrian Sleigh Ride through Jackson Village, Chocolate Tour, shopping and much more. \$100.00 deposit due upon signing. Total price not available at this time.

For questions and detailed information on these trips, please call: Claire - 207-784-0302 or Cindy - 207-345-9569.

WANTED

Odd jobs and Gig work

Retired teacher and counselor looking for odd jobs and Gig work. Trained and experienced in babysitting, Petsitting, senior/adult care and cleaning. Contact: Missy 207-253-9762 or allinoneservices1@yahoo.com

Classified Ads

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AD INFO: _____

NUMBER OF WEEKS TO RUN: _____

Fryeburg Academy Candlelight Concerts

THE LEURA HILL EASTMAN PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

COVID-19 PROTOCOL: IN ORDER TO KEEP OUR DOORS OPEN, FACEMASKS ARE REQUIRED INSIDE THE BUILDING AT ALL TIMES

Fryeburg Academy Candlelight Concerts

December 12, 2021
4:00 & 7:00 pm

FEATURING THE
FRYEBURG ACADEMY
CHORUS AND BAND

Free Admission
Reservations required to attend
Visit website for more details



18 BRADLEY ST, FRYEBURG, ME - 207.544.9066 - FRYEBURGACADEMY.ORG/PAC - BOXOFFICE@FRYEBURGACADEMY.ORG

FRYEBURG — The Fryeburg Academy Band and Chorus will present the annual Candlelight Concerts on Sunday, December 12th at 4:00 and 7:00 at the Leura Hill Eastman Performing Arts Center. As

always, this is a free community event, but reservations are required to attend due to limited seating. Visit www.fryeburgacademy.org/pac to make reservations, or call the box office at 207-544-9066. In order

to keep our doors open, facemasks are required inside the building during all events. The LHE/PAC is located at 18 Bradley Street in Fryeburg, Maine on the campus of Fryeburg Academy.

\$273 Million in Unclaimed Property that could belong to You

Maine Treasurer, Henry E.M. Beck wants to remind Mainers that the Office of the State Treasurer is holding hundreds of millions of dollars in unclaimed property that may belong to them. Unclaimed property consists of money and other financial assets that are considered lost or abandoned when an owner cannot be located after a specified period of inactivity. It includes items such as bank accounts, uncashed checks, life insurance policies, unpaid wages, stocks and dividends, refunds, and safe deposit box contents. Unclaimed property does not include real estate, animals or vehicles. Mil-

lions of dollars are turned over annually to the state of Maine by entities who cannot locate the owners. There is no fee charged to process your unclaimed property claim.

The total unclaimed funds in Maine 1979-2021 are \$274.4 million as of June 30. The total number of accounts available is over 4.0 million. Cash that has been received for FY21 7/1/20-6/30/21 was \$31.4 million. The number of claims paid for FY21 7/1/20-6/30/21 was 28,601 claims: \$16.7 million. The average claim amount was \$585.00. The largest personal claim paid for year 2021 for July 1,

2020 to June 30 2021 was \$377,400.00. Just go to www.maineunclaimed-property.gov and search by your name.

The Office of the Treasurer of State is established in Article V, Part Third of the Constitution of the State of Maine. The core duties of the Treasurer's Office are debt management, cash management, trust fund administration and unclaimed property administration. Other major tasks assigned to the Treasurer are directorships on many of Maine's quasi-governmental debt issuing agencies and distributions under the Municipal Revenue Sharing Program.

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