

Gorham Fire Department Participates in Ice Water Rescue Training



GORHAM, ME (February 19, 2022) -- This morning members participated in a joint training with the Standish Fire Department in an Ice Water Rescue

at Shaw Park. The training consisted of victim removal, self-rescue, and rope rescue techniques. The temperatures began to fluctuate and ice conditions weaken. This

type of training will ensure our personnel will be ready to quickly and safely effect a rescue if needed. Great job today everyone!



Happenings at Baxter Memorial Library

GORHAM, ME (February 26, 2022) – Baxter Memorial Library continues to offer great opportunities for kids. Check them out:

March Story Adventures (ages 2-5)

March Story Adventures (2yrs-5yrs), Tuesdays 10:00-10:30am

Join Ms. Heidi and Mr. Jeff for an outdoor story time that features stories, singing, dancing and playing! We encourage all participants to come prepared for our changeable Maine weather by layering, bringing hats, gloves or mittens, and maybe even a blanket to cover your laps.

Masks recommended when social distancing isn't possible.

Program is geared toward families and caregivers with children 2 through 5 years old.

Kids Book Club (Virtual) (Ages 9 – 12)

Join Mr. Jeff for a virtual book club geared towards 9 – 12 year olds. We will be reading a chapter book that will tug at your heart strings (especially if you love animals). It is a thrilling story about friendship, loyalty, and belonging. Our first Zoom meeting will be on March 9th from 5:00 – 5:30PM. Call or visit the library before March 9th to reserve your spot and grab a copy of the book. Read at your own pace before our follow-up discussion on March 30th from 5:00 – 6:00PM.

Registration is limited to 10 readers. Please call the library at 222-1190 to reserve a spot or if you have any questions.

March Movement Take and Make Kits

Visit the library to pick up a March Movement Take and Make kit. The librarians have put together a fun kit for incorporating movement into your day. In each bag is a calendar, a pen, stickers, a READ sports bracelet and suggestions to get you moving.

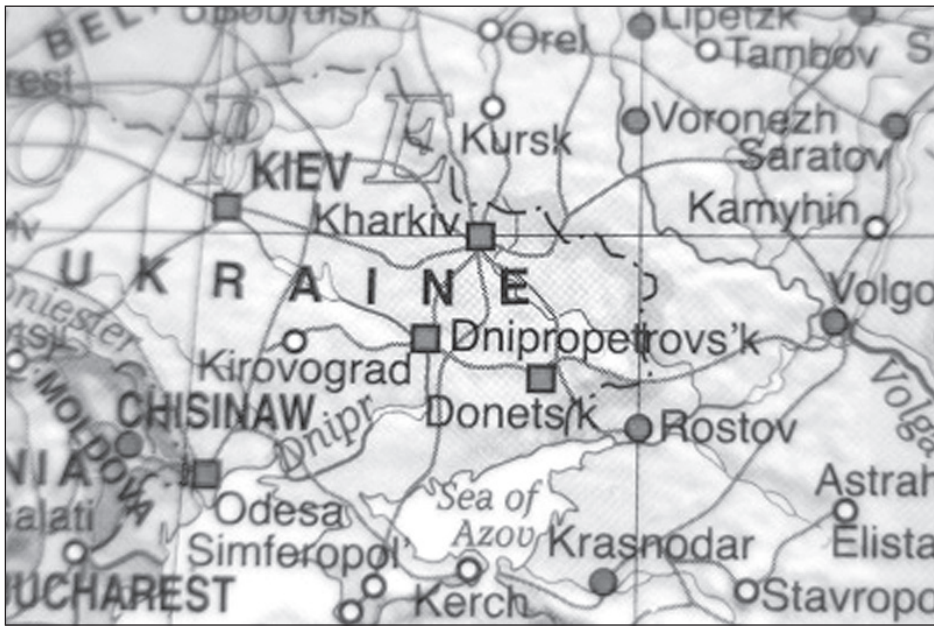
Let's Move in Libraries – New Fitness Kits

Youth Services has added two fitness kits to our Let's Move in Libraries collection. The fitness kits include: a speed and agility ladder, a beaded jump rope, a skip ball, a stopwatch, and a fitness log. Patrons can check out the new fitness kits in addition to the ones we currently circulate that contain everything you'd need to do yoga at home, bird watching, and dog training.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Donating to Help Ukraine Relief Activi-



ties

Better Business Bureau EASTERN MA, ME, RI & VT (February 24, 2022) – News reports of Russia’s attack on Ukraine may encourage concerned individuals to reach out and help victims affected by the conflict.

Before giving, go to BBB’s Give.org for tips on how to best help

Ukraine relief activities. Among other things, it notes that not all relief organizations will be able to provide timely assistance unless they already have a presence in Ukraine. For additional advice as well as a list of BBB Accredited Charities (i.e., meet all 20 BBB Charity Standards) raising funds to help, visit tips for donating to Ukraine relief. (BELOW)

As the Russian invasion of Ukraine has begun, concerns grow about current and potential emergency needs of the Ukraine people. Generous donors want to help by supporting charities that are raising funds for assistance. BBB Wise Giving Alliance offers the following tips for donors to consider along with a list of BBB Accredited Charities that have announced

Ukraine-related activities or plans on their websites.

We certainly encourage generosity to help the people in Ukraine and that also meet the BBB Standards for Charity Accountability.

Can the charity get to the impacted area? Not all relief organizations will be positioned to provide relief quickly. See if the charity already has a presence in Ukraine.

Should you send clothing and food? Local drives to collect clothing and food to send overseas may not be practical as the logistics and timing to deliver and disperse such items will be challenging. Relief organizations are better equipped to obtain what is needed, distribute it effectively and avoid duplication of effort.

Does the relief charity meet BBB Charity Standards? You can verify a charity’s trustworthiness by viewing an evaluative report completed by BBB Wise Giving Al-

liance. See the list provided below of charities that are soliciting for relief assistance for Ukraine and that also meet the BBB Standards for Charity Accountability.

Is the charity experienced in providing emergency relief? Experienced disaster relief charities are the best bet to help deliver aid as soon as possible. New entrants may have difficulty in following through even if they have the best of intentions.

Are you considering crowdfunding appeals? If engaging in crowdfunding, it is safest to give to someone you personally know and trust, and review the platform’s policies regarding fees and distribution of collected funds. If the crowdfunding request is from a charity, check out the group by visiting Give.org. Keep in mind that some crowdfunding sites do very little vetting of individuals or organizations that decide to post for relief assistance. Sites that take secu-

rity measures will usually provide descriptions of these procedures.

Does the appeal make exaggerated financial claims such as “100% will be spent on relief.” Charities have fundraising and administrative expenses. Any charity claiming otherwise is potentially misleading the donating public. Even a credit card donation will have a processing fee.

The following nationally-soliciting charities are BBB Accredited (i.e., they meet the 20 BBB Standards for Charity Accountability). Their respective websites indicate that they are either currently raising funds for assistance efforts in Ukraine or preparing for needs that could arise if conflict results in population displacement.

- Catholic Relief Services
- Direct Relief
- GlobalGiving
- International Rescue Committee
- Save the Children

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New Ventures Maine Launches Mini-Grant Competition

MAINE, STATE-WIDE (February 24, 2022) — New Ventures Maine (NVME) has announced open applications for the Spring 2022 Marketing Mini-grant competition.

The NVME Marketing Mini-grant program aims to strengthen access to markets for micro-businesses by supporting the development of marketing tools, materials, and activities. NVME will award cash mini-grants—up to \$1,000 per region in six defined regions—to mi-

croenterprises for marketing projects through a competitive application process. Applications are due Friday, May 6, 2022.

Eligible applicants include individual micro-business owners, business partners, or groups of business owners. Businesses apply to the region in which they are based (see below for details).

Application criteria include: 1) Five or fewer full-time equivalent employees; 2) sales in the current calendar year; and 3) gross annual sales of no more than \$150,000.

New Ventures Maine’s mini-grants support new or expanded business marketing and promotion. Winning

grants must be matched by a 25% contribution which can come from business profits, personal funds, or other sources.

Regions and contacts are defined for the NVME Mini-grant program as follows:

Aroostook County - Karin Petrin, 768.9468, karin.petrin@maine.edu

Kennebec & Somerset Counties – Jean Dempster, 621.3434, dempster@maine.edu

Sagadahoc, Lincoln, Knox and Waldo Counties plus businesses located in the towns of Brunswick and Harpswell – Jenn Dobransky, 386.1664, jenn.dobransky@maine.edu

cataquis, Hancock and Washington Counties – Karin Petrin, 768.9468, karin.petrin@maine.edu

Cumberland and York Counties – Gigi Guyton, 799.5025, gigi.guyton@maine.edu

Androscoggin, Oxford and Franklin Counties – Karleen Andrews, 557.1885, karleen.andrews@maine.edu

Marketing Mini Grants are sponsored in part by Norway Savings Bank, Katahdin Trust Company, and Kennebec Savings Bank.

For more information, contact the region representative listed above or visit the New Ventures Maine website.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Superintendent's Update



By Gorham Superintendent Heather Perry
GORHAM, ME
(February 18, 2022) --

Happy Friday to everyone and best wishes for a positive beginning to your February breaks! By the time we return, February will be pretty much a thing of the past and we'll be quickly on to March already! The school year is certainly flying by, and even with our challenges, we certainly have much to celebrate! As usual, I'll begin this blog with a "snapshot" of our students doing what they do best - learning! And oh, by the way - having fun while doing it!

These nine photos each blog post are truly just a snapshot of what occurs in our schools daily. I remain so very proud to walk through our schools and to see the incredible learning that is going on in our classrooms. I look forward to continuing my walk-about after the February break! Now on to the information update...

ONGOING 2022-2023 SCHOOL CALENDAR DISCUSSIONS

I've seen some recent "chatter" in social media land regarding our initial (and still very much ongoing) discussions about the 2022-23 school calendar. The first draft of the calendar was presented to

the School Committee on Wed. night, 2/16 for their very first look to begin our annual discussions. What is likely getting folks' attention this year a bit more than in years past is that our first draft calendar is requesting that we move to having Early Release Days each Wednesday throughout the School Year. This request would move us from our current 8 Early Release days that are typical each year to a new number of 36 Early Release Days.

The biggest reason for this initial request is NOT THE SAME as why we have requested additional early release days this school year. This school year was all about substitute coverage and basically just working to make the school year manageable for our teachers. Due to our incredible community members stepping up to the plate, we have worked hard to resolve this issue (at least for now) and have moved from what was just 25 substitutes on our roles to now a total of 88 substitutes. An incredible job for sure, and we thank our new substitutes for helping us to begin to lift a significant burden from the plates of our teachers!

The reason for the early release request for THIS COMING YEAR is

NOT about substitutes. Instead, it is about the need for PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TIME for our teachers in areas (to be frank) that we have had to neglect a bit in order to simply be present for our students during this most difficult school year.

If there is one thing we have learned throughout the Pandemic it is that we need time with teachers to train them if we are going to ask them to do things differently. We can't ask them to "do more" without finding a way to "increase time" to do it. For this coming year, we are greatly concerned about our ability to do all that will be asked of us, again, without additional time for our school and district leaders to work with staff in real time. We will continue to experience the following challenges in the coming year:

- * Addressing academic learning gaps of students created by the Pandemic.

- * Significant increase in mental health and SEL (Social/Emotional Learning) needs of students created by Pandemic. We need to continue to increase the capacity of our staff to work with students through aspects of Trauma Informed Teaching and Learning, as well as Restorative Practices. This requires significant and ongoing professional development opportunities and time for staff. This will begin to expand Tier 1 Social Emotional interventions made possible by regular ed staff members in an effort to lighten or "diffuse" the increased needs of students that is currently landing on our affective services support staff at each school such as social workers, school counselors and other support services providers.

- * Significant increase in mental health and SEL (Social/Emotional Learning) needs of staff creat-

ed by the Pandemic. We need to address concerns related to "the Great Resignations" that we see beginning to happen across schools even right here in Gorham by:

- Making the job more "doable" for our teachers
- Providing more support to our youngest teachers by bolstering our induction and retention programs.

- Providing time for us to support our support staff - i.e., training time needed for learning facilitator program, training time needed to onboard new bus drivers, etc.

- * All this while still also trying to push our district forward in other important areas such as:

- DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) work (training, curriculum review, implementation of new practices, etc.)

- SEL (Social/Emotional Learning) work (training and assessment of effectiveness of programs using data).

- Aspire Gorham (continued emphasis on embedding programs into existing curriculum, coordination of programming, strengthening "out of school" or extended learning opportunities (ELO's), and strengthening partnerships for things like apprentice programs, internship programs, etc. with a focus on ensuring all students K-12 have embedded "real world" learning experiences into their regular learning.

All of this work takes time, precious, precious time. We can't add days to the calendar without significant financial impact so we must get this additional work done within our existing calendar. The only real way to do that is to add additional early release days.

Now, will we wind up with a school calendar that has an early release day each Wednesday? Per-

haps, but perhaps not. We are still very early in our discussions which will include administration presenting additional details and information to the School Committee and the School Committee asking lots and lots of additional questions and ultimately deciding upon what is that best balance moving forward.

I hope you have heard the word "balance" before. It is an important word that we have been focused on here in Gorham as we have worked through the past two years of a global Pandemic TOGETHER. We know and understand the burden that early release days or other non-school days place upon our families. We also understand that when we have early release days that that reduces overall instruction time for students. What we seek when we consider these changes is to find that all important BALANCE between minimizing these potential negative impacts while maximizing the potential positive impacts. Yes, for each early release day there is a reduction of about 2 hours of instruction time. HOWEVER, there is also an increase of 2 hours of professional development time for teachers that we use to strengthen our overall practices and to focus in on better meeting the needs of our children. Yes, we want our children's needs met, and we want to move our schools forward to be the best possible schools they can be to support our children but we can't do that without our incredibly talented staff feeling confident in what they are doing or honoring the time they need to learn

new skills to help make these moves.

I have full faith that with continued conversation about our proposed calendar for 2022-23 we will wind up with that correct balance for our community. The School Committee will be meeting again to discuss the 2022-23 School Calendar at their March 9 regular meeting. I would encourage folks to please feel free to share your thoughts and opinions with me, or with School Committee members via email and/or to come to the meeting on March 9 to share your thoughts during public comment. The Gorham School Committee ALWAYS welcomes the thoughts and ideas from our community. It is the sharing of these thoughts/ideas that make us the strong community that we are!

My email address is: heather.perry@gorhamschools.org. You can find our School Committee member's email addresses on our website. Please address emails to the School Committee to School Committee Chair, Anne Schools and know that although you may only get a response from one of us, all School Committee members read your emails.

THANK YOU!
 RECENT ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MAINE CDC RE: SOP, TESTING, & MASKING

On Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2022 the Dr. Shah and the Maine CDC announced an initial change in our SOP that may likely pave the path towards optional masking by mid March. As you are likely aware, the conversation about mask-

See Superintendent, page 11

Gorham WEEKLY

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Remembering the 60th Anniversary of Flying Tiger Line Flight 739

C O L U M B I A FALLS, ME (February 22, 2021) — 60 years ago on March 16, 1962, Flying Tiger Line Flight 739 (FTLF 739) was on a secret mission sanctioned by President Kennedy, to fly to Vietnam. This secret Vietnam reconnaissance mission went missing and no trace of the plane or its passengers have ever been found. Onboard were 93 United States Army soldiers and 11 civilian crewmembers.

On Wed., March 16 at 12pm ET/9am PT, Wreaths Across America will be streaming a live event to remember and commemorate the 60th anniversary of Flying Tiger Line Flight 739. The event will be streamed LIVE on WAA's

Official FB page and on Wreaths Across America Radio which can also be heard via the iHeart Radio app, or by downloading it at the App Store or on Google!

Very little is known about what happened to FTLF 739 and its crew and passengers, and due to the circumstance surrounding this mission, the names of those lost have not yet been added to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. However, today many families and loved ones of these heroes still fight to have their loved ones recognized for their contributions to our freedom and our shared history.

Presently, the only monument that bears the names of these almost for-

gotten American heroes was erected by a private citizen, Wreaths Across America founder Morrill Worcester, on the tip land in Columbia Falls, Me., where the 60th anniversary commemoration event is being held.

"When I first heard the story about this mission, I was shocked to learn that nothing has been done for these families," said Morrill Worcester. "I said that day, that we would do something to make sure these people are honored and remembered, and to hopefully give some closure to these families."

The inscription on the monument reads:

"Missing in action; Presumed dead. Flying Tiger Line Flight 739 went

missing on March 16, 1962, with 93 U.S. Army soldiers on board. These men and their flight crew perished in what would become one of the biggest aviation mysteries out of the Vietnam War era.

THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES AND WHO REMAIN MISSING ARE INSCRIBED HERE SO THAT THEY WILL BE SAID ALOUD AND THEIR MEMORY WILL LIVE ON."

Presently, this private memorial is the only recognition that the heroes of FTLF 739 have ever received for their shared sacrifice to our nation. However, that can change. Senator Gary Peters (MI) introduced Senate Bill 2571

which is supported by Senators Blackburn (TN), Stabenow (MI), and Shaheen (NH). This bill which is presently sitting in the committee for Energy and Natural Resources seeks to have these long-forgotten heroes added to the list of names on the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington D.C.

"As an Army Veteran who has had the privilege of serving alongside so many amazing patriots serving in our special operations and intelligence communities I know we may never have the opportunity to share the full story of these men's sacrifice," said Joe Reagan, Director of Military and Veteran Outreach for Wreaths Across America. "This should not stop us

from providing their families, and all Americans the opportunity to honor their service by saying their names in our nation's Capital. Adding their names to the Vietnam wall alongside their 58,318 Brothers and sisters who made the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam War is a fitting tribute to these men and a reminder to all of us that our freedom is oftentimes secured by men and women who serve in silence."

If you support our nation's veterans and want to see American heroes recognized for their significant contributions to our freedom, please write your Senator and ask them to add the names associated with FTLF 739 to the Vietnam War Memorial.

Pine Tree Camp Welcomes Back Overnight and Day Campers This Summer: Virtual Open Houses Scheduled in March

ROME, ME (February 22, 2022) – Pine Tree Camp's traditional summer overnight week-long camp sessions and summer day programming return this June, bringing

Maine kids and adults with disabilities back to camp for a much-needed time of friendship, fun, and freedom to explore.

Pine Tree Camp is Maine's only American

Camping Association-Accredited camp for people with disabilities. Tucked along the shore of picturesque North Pond in Rome, Pine Tree Camp's barrier-free setting and

professional staff ensure that outdoor activities like swimming, fishing, kayaking, boating, hiking, biking, archery, and even camping in a tent under the stars are completely accessible to all.

Parents and caregivers are invited to join a virtual open house to learn more about Pine Tree Camp's summer plans.

What: Pine Tree Camp Virtual Open House

Hosted by Dawn Willard-Robinson, Camp Director and Mary Schafhauser, Assistant Camp Director

When: 1) Returning Campers' Session, Friday, March 4 – Noon, Register at this link: <http://tiny.cc/March4> 2) New Campers' Session, Tuesday, March 8

– 7:00 PM, Register at this link: <http://tiny.cc/March8>

Why: Virtual Open House attendees will have the opportunity to learn about Pine Tree Camp's summer programming, including: -Virtual tour -Meet the team -Activity highlights -Covid-19 safety protocols: What to expect -Live Q & A

Learn more about Pine Tree Camp's summer programming at this link: <https://www.pinetreesociety.org/children-and-families/pine-tree-camp/>

More about Pine Tree Camp: Every year, hundreds of Maine children and adults with disabilities arrive at Pine Tree Camp in Rome and their lives are transformed. Driving down the camp road,

campers enter a world that is barrier-free, leaving behind the confines of their disability thanks to the camp's 285-acre, fully accessible, year-round campus. Campers actively participate in all the activities for which Maine is famous – kayaking, boating, fishing, hiking and biking – experiencing freedom and independence. Since 1945, Pine Tree Camp has welcomed all who could benefit, regardless of their ability to pay.

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

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20th Annual ‘State of Tobacco Control’ Report Highlights the Need to Restore Funding to Maine’s Tobacco Control Program and Protect Youth from Flavored Tobacco Products

AUGUSTA, ME – (January 26, 2022) – The American Lung Association’s 20th annual “State of Tobacco Control” report, released today, reveals significant progress in the work to end tobacco use, but products like e-cigarettes and other flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes, create concern for losing another generation to nicotine addiction. The report finds that although Maine earned mixed grades, it maintained one failing grade on flavored tobacco products.

The “State of Tobacco Control” report evaluates state and federal policymakers on actions taken to eliminate tobacco use, the nation’s leading cause of preventable death. The report recommends proven-effective tobacco control laws and policies to save lives. The 2022 “State of Tobacco Control” reveals that the country has made substantial progress in advancing tobacco control policies over the past 20 years, including comprehensive smoke-free laws in more states,

increased tobacco taxes across the nation and more Americans with access to treatments to help them quit smoking through state Medicaid programs.

Here in Maine in the last 20 years, lawmakers have made significant strides to reduce tobacco use, including a robust clean indoor air act that protects people from secondhand smoke and strong cessation benefit and services to help tobacco users make a quit attempt. However, there is more work to be done. The adult smoking rate is still 16.5%, and the high school tobacco use rate is 33%. Today, smoking costs the State over \$811 million and over 2,300 Maine lives annually.

“Over the last 2 decades, we have seen considerable progress in Maine. However, tobacco use remains our leading cause of preventable death and disease, taking an estimated 2,390 Maine lives each year,” said Lance Boucher, assistant vice president for state public policy for the American Lung Association in Maine. “Last year we saw

the budget for the Maine Tobacco Control program cut by \$5 million, which will have an enormous impact of Maine’s ability to address the youth e-cigarette epidemic. By restoring funding and removing all flavored tobacco products from the shelves, our legislators stand to make a real difference in the lives of our youth, by keeping them from a lifetime of nicotine addiction.”

Maine’s Grades

“State of Tobacco Control” 2022 grades states and the District of Columbia in five areas that have been proven to prevent and reduce tobacco use and save lives. Maine received the following grades:

Funding for State Tobacco Prevention Programs – Grade C

Strength of Smoke-free Workplace Laws – Grade A

Level of State Tobacco Taxes – Grade C

Coverage and Access to Services to Quit Tobacco – Grade A

Ending the Sale of All Flavored Tobacco Products - Grade F

This year’s report

noted the need for Maine policymakers to restore funding for tobacco prevention and quit smoking programs. An investment in prevention is especially important given the ongoing youth vaping epidemic.

“Despite receiving over \$187 million from tobacco settlement payments and tobacco taxes, Maine only funds tobacco control efforts at 60% the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended level. The Lung Association believes the State’s tobacco related revenue should be used to support the health of our communities, and to prevent tobacco use and help people quit, and not switch to e-cigarettes. These programs are also critical for helping to end tobacco-related health disparities,” said Boucher.

In addition to tobacco program funding, the report also highlights the importance of refocusing on ending the sale of all flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes in the State of Maine. According to the 2021 National Youth

Tobacco Survey, more than two million high school and middle school students use e-cigarettes, and over 80% of those kids use flavored e-cigarettes. In addition, menthol cigarettes continue to be the major cause of tobacco-related death and disease in Black communities, with nearly 81% of Black Americans who smoke using them. Ending the sale of flavored tobacco products, including menthol, will not only help end youth vaping, but will also help address the disproportionate impact of menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars have on many communities, including Black Americans, LGBTQ+ Americans and youth.

“In Maine 1 out of every 3 High School Students is using tobacco – and we know that kids follow the flavors. Ending the sale of all flavored tobacco products in Maine is key to ending youth tobacco use. We call on Governor Mills and legislators in Augusta to prohibit the sale of all flavored tobacco products, including menthol.” said Boucher.

Federal Grades Over-

view

“State of Tobacco Control” 2022 also grades the federal government in five areas:

Federal Government Regulation of Tobacco Products (2022 grade – D)

Federal Coverage of Quit Smoking Treatments (2022 grade – D)

Level of Federal Tobacco Taxes (2022 grade – F)

Federal Mass Media Campaigns to Prevent and Reduce Tobacco Use (2022 grade – A)

Federal Minimum Age of Sale for Tobacco Products to 21 (2022 grade – I*)

* The Incomplete grade is for the FDA being more than 18 months overdue in publishing the final Tobacco 21 regulations as required by statute.

Boucher concluded, “In 2022, Maine needs to redouble its efforts to pass the proven policies called for in ‘State of Tobacco Control’ to help end tobacco use. We cannot afford to wait 20 more years and allow another generation to suffer from tobacco-caused addiction, disease and death.”

UMaine Research Connects Rising Temperatures With Browntail Moth Resurgence

MAINE (February 18, 2022) – Over the past few years, browntail moths have been an itchy scourge to Maine’s residents and visitors. New research shows that with climate change, the problem is only going to get worse.

The browntail moth is an invasive pest that feeds on the foliage of a variety of deciduous tree species and causes acute skin and lung irritation to the people who encounter them. Since it was introduced to Maine in 1904, browntail moth outbreaks have ebbed and flowed, but the recent outbreak of browntail moths that started around 2018 has reached a scale that Maine hasn’t experienced in over 70 years.

A team of researchers from the UMaine School of Biology and Ecology, and the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry set out to see whether warming temperatures caused by climate change could have played a role in the severe outbreak. Their study compared predictive statistical models of 23 years of annual browntail

moth defoliation estimates for Maine to the climate data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) over the course of that same time period.

According to their results, published in the journal Environmental Entomology, climatic factors — particularly rising late summer and early fall temperatures, and spring precipitation — are significant predictors of browntail moth population outbreaks. Warmer falls result in more mature populations going into and then coming out of their overwintering shelters in the spring.

The Maine Forest Service’s surveys over the past two years have also shown continued spread of the browntail moth into northern and western areas of Maine.

Eleanor Groden, UMaine professor emerita of entomology and principal investigator of the study, says that the researchers explored management strategies that target the caterpillars in their winter webs. Groden’s colleagues — in-

cluding Angela Mech and Philip Fanning at the School of Biology and Ecology, as well as Barbara Cole in the Department of Chemistry — continue to investigate promising techniques for management of this pest, like using synthetic pheromones to confuse moths during mating season and testing bioinsecticides that specifically target the browntail moth with reduced impacts on other species in the ecosystem.

The browntail moth isn’t the only invasive species in Maine that has benefited from the warming climate. In fact, some of the browntail moths competitors have also been expanding as a result of climate change, and the quality of the plants that they feed upon has been waning as well. Because of this, researchers say that it is difficult to predict what will happen with browntail moths in the future.

“These are important studies, as our current warming climate trends suggest that we will continue to be facing this menace at least in the near future if not longer,” Groden says.

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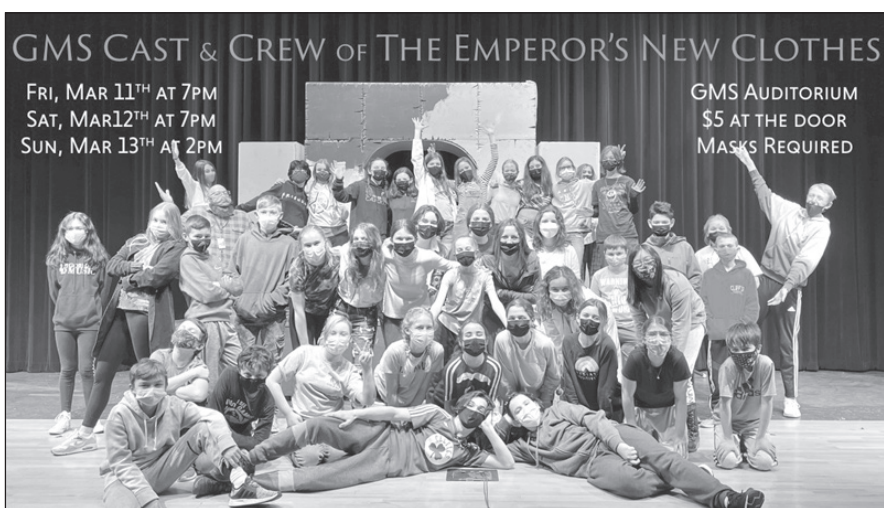
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Arts & Entertainment

Gorham Middle School to Put on *The Emperor's New Clothes* Musical



GORHAM, ME (February 23, 2022) -- Check out this great performance of *The Emperor's New Clothes*, put on by Gorham Middle School. The musical will be performed at GMS Auditorium.

Performances are Friday, March 11 at 7PM; Saturday, March 12 at 7PM; and Sunday March 13 at 2PM. Tickets are \$5 at the door and masks are required.

GORHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL PRESENTS...

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MASKS ARE REQUIRED

The Great Maine Bike Swap Returns—with Two Locations



PORTLAND, ME (February 15, 2022) -- The Bicycle Coalition of Maine has announced the dates for their Great Maine Bike Swap, which includes two separate locations—one in Lewiston and one in Gorham—in 2022.

“We are thrilled to introduce two new bike swaps in two new locations,” BCM Event Manager Emily Lozeau said of the consignment-style sales event. “And we are so pleased to bring back our partnership with the University of Southern

Maine.” The first 2022 Swap will be held on the USM campus in Lewiston on Sunday, April 24. The second Swap will be held on the USM campus in Gorham on Sunday, June 12.

The Bike Swap was traditionally held on the USM Portland campus, but ongoing renovations to the Sullivan Gym have necessitated a move elsewhere, the BCM says.

After a pandemic pause in 2020, the event temporarily moved to Kennedy Park in 2021.

“We hope the location changes will offer even more people a chance to buy and sell used bikes,” said Lozeau. “A lot of folks in Lewiston and Gorham commute to school and work by bike, and it’s been hard for them to find affordable bikes during the continuing bike boom and shortage.”

The Gorham event will also ensure people in the Greater Portland area will still have a nearby location to buy road and mountain bicycles, as well as gravel bikes, kids’

bikes, hybrids, tandems, and more.

As per the COVID policies of both USM and the BCM, all attendees age 12 and over must show proof of full vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test administered by a testing provider within the last 48 hours.

Additionally, all attendees are required to wear a mask inside USM buildings. Visit bike-maine.org/events/bike-swap/ for more details, to register a bike for sale, or to sign up as a volunteer.

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Educate Maine Releases Annual “Education Indicators” Report

PORTLAND, Maine (Thursday, February 17, 2022) – Educate Maine released its ninth annual “Education Indicators for Maine” report today. The annual report examines Maine’s education system in-depth, using indicators to measure access, participation, and performance of Maine students from early childhood through postsecondary education. The report provides data on what is working well and where investments in Maine’s education system are needed to ensure that every Maine person reaches their highest educational potential.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2021 called for a special version of Education Indicators. In addition to data reflecting the pandemic’s impact, the 2021 report added measures seeking a better understanding of the “whole student.” With a lesser focus on test scores, new indicators measured student well-being, and access and participation in postsecondary education oppor-

tunities beyond 2- and 4-year college, such as career and technical pathways and Adult Education.

“The pandemic has shined a light on what educators have known for a long time: there are many important factors that influence student success, such as mental health, nutrition, and high-speed internet access,” said Educate Maine Executive Director Jason Judd, Ed.D. “This year’s Education Indicators report helps us better understand the ‘whole student.’ The report also calls attention to important indicators related to the health of Maine’s early education and child care system, how Maine is serving different groups of students, and to additional higher learning pathways. Altogether, the data provide a more holistic look at the full education pipeline and the complex needs of all Maine learners within it to help guide where Maine may need to make additional investments.”

Key data points in the 2021 Education Indi-

cators report include:

Enrollment, diversity, teacher shortages, and internet access:

Maine public school enrollment increased by 684 students in 2021 after dropping by 7,862 students between 2019 and 2020.

Maine schools are more diverse than Maine’s population, comprising 13% students of color.

At least 14% of students had trouble accessing high-speed internet at home when the COVID-19 pandemic arrived in Maine, (more often related to cost than to infrastructure).

Roughly 6% of Maine students did not have a reliable device at home prior to the pandemic.

Student well-being:

1 in 5 Maine high school students reported experiencing four or more Adverse Childhood Experiences. The rate is higher for girls than for boys.

1 in 4 Maine middle school students and nearly 1 in 3 high school students reported feeling sad or hopeless for two weeks or more (2019 data).

59% of middle school students and 57% of high school students in Maine report feeling like they matter in their community (2019).

Early learning:

Maine pre-K enrollment dropped from 47% to 35.6% in the pandemic.

71% of Maine children under 6 have all available parents in the workforce.

22% of Maine children live in a childcare desert.

Approximately one third of Maine 4-year-olds are enrolled in public pre-K.

The average cost of full-time, center-based infant care in Maine is \$11,700 per year.

Maine childcare providers are struggling to retain qualified staff.

The median wage for kindergarten teachers in Maine (\$53,270) is more than twice the median wage of early childhood educators (\$24,030).

Secondary, post-secondary, and adult education:

There are 9,164 students participating in 27 career and technical education centers and regions across Maine.

The Maine high school graduation rate has been steady at 87% over the past five years.

79% of economically disadvantaged students graduate from high school on-time compared with 95% of their higher income peers.

College enrollment rates declined from 60% in 2019 to 55% in 2020 among Maine students as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

College persistence rates declined from 67% to 63% between 2019 and 2020.

The college completion rate was relatively steady between 2019 and 2020 (63% to 64%), as most students were able to finish out the school year in the Spring of 2020.

938 adults received a high school credential (diploma or HiSET) through Adult Education programs in the 2020-21 school year.

53% of Maine adults hold a degree or credential of value – a precursor to skilled employment with family-sustaining wages.

“Although we still do not know the full impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the data in the 2021 Education Indicators report help provide a clearer picture of Maine’s current education system challenges,” added Judd. “Maine schools, employers and policy makers are committed to addressing these challenges to improve and strengthen Maine’s education system and build a better future for all Maine people as we continue to navigate through the pandemic.”

This is the second year the Education Indicators report is available in a web format that allows for readily accessible data points on education in Maine, more timely updates to the indicators, and additional information on how readers can learn more and take action.

For the full 2021 report, please visit educationindicators.me.

Maine’s 2022 Fishing Laws Now Available

Being a responsible user of the Maine outdoors means staying informed of, and complying with, the current laws and rules.

It's easy, just visit mefishwildlife.com/laws, where you can find the laws and answers to frequently asked questions.

New Special Season Code “A” definition:

Starting on January 1, 2022 there is a new definition of the Special Season Code “A”: Open to ice fishing and open water fishing from Jan 1 – Dec 31. The purpose of this new definition is to clarify that waters containing Special Season Code “A” are open to year-round fishing. The old definition essentially allowed

the same thing, but the way it was described was cumbersome, and it used a combination of various special season codes and dates. This new definition is designed to be clearer and easier to understand. If the water you wish to fish has the Specials Season Code “A” – you can ice fish or open water fish year-round. You’ll find the “A” season code primarily in the North Zone and it is used on waters containing warm water fisheries (perch, pickerel, etc.) or on several put-and-take stocked brook trout waters. (Note – gear restrictions or special length and bag limits may still apply.)

Fishing Laws Online Angling Tool (FLOAT):

Check out the Fishing Laws Online Angling Tool (FLOAT), a map-based online tool to give you a quick and easy way to see which of Maine’s thousands of inland waters have special fishing laws.

No cell coverage on the water? No problem.

Just visit mefishwildlife.com/laws and browse by activity. Before you head to the water, follow these instructions to save an offline law book or quick reference guide to your mobile device, save a copy to your computer or print the pages you need for reference.

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Fishing Responsibly with Live Baitfish

Anglers baiting their hooks are the last line

of defense stopping the spread of unwanted species. Therefore, educated anglers can play a large role in preventing the spread of unwanted species. Always check fishing regulations to ensure live baitfish/live smelts are allowed to be used in that water. At the end of the day or if putting on fresh bait, never put old bait in the water body. Dispose of it on land or in the trash. Never dump your bait bucket where fish could get into the water. Always dispose of unwanted baitfish on land or in the trash.

Ice Safety

Remember to always use extreme caution when venturing onto Maine’s waterways. Accessing

lakes and ponds should be avoided unless you can be certain of ice conditions by checking ice thickness. Before stepping out, use a chisel or auger to test ice thickness in several places. Remember that ice seldom freezes uniformly and conditions are always changing and can vary from one location to the next. Ice that forms over flowing water and currents, especially near streams, bridges and culverts, can be particularly dangerous. Before you head for a day of ice fishing, ALWAYS tell someone where you are going and when you will return.

Please enjoy the Maine outdoors safely and responsibly!




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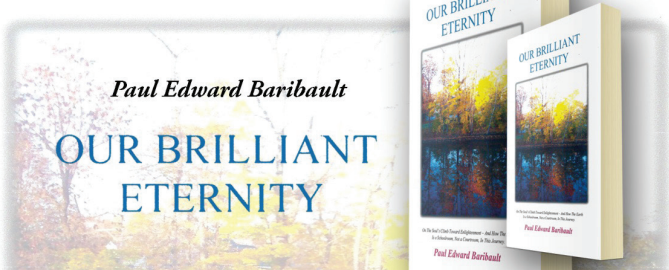
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Gorham Recreation Department Runs Camp for February Break 2022

GORHAM, ME week, Gorham Recreation Department ran open gym on Tuesday (2/22) and Thursday (2/24) for kiddos to come in and play/burn off energy!



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Superintendent
Continued from page 1

ing has once again heated up across our country. Recently some New England states have moved from mandatory masking policies to recommended masking policies. Some states such as Vermont are looking to make masking optional based upon specific metrics such as community vaccination rates or case rates while others are simply looking to drop the mandate and make masking optional without any additional requirements. These decisions are being made state by state and Maine is no different than others in wrestling with this difficult question.

On that same day (Feb. 16) Dr. Shah met with Superintendents from across the state to share information and to hear from us what we are seeing on the ground and what our ideas are for moving forward. Dr. Shah was very receptive and open to these discussions. At the conclusion of the meeting, The Maine CDC announced it would release guidance around mask wearing in schools.

The following guidance was discussed, and it was determined that required masking in schools will be in place for at least a week following the end of February break. The guidance says:

Maine CDC is ex-

panding access and encouraging all families to take advantage of the free test kits that are available to Maine families. Testing before returning to school after the vacation is recommended. Further information on how to get testing kits mailed to homes will be provided.

Contact tracing will be uncoupled from universal masking in the SOP. The SOP document will make it clear that while schools can opt to continue contact tracing, they are no longer required to, regardless of mask wearing policies.

Masking will remain a requirement in the SOP for any positive cases of COVID-19 returning to school/work in the 5-10 day window after confirmed diagnosis or symptom onset.

Maine CDC is carefully monitoring federal CDC's words on making changes to masking recommendations for school settings. In the event that there are no changes next week, and if there is a continued positive trend related to COVID case counts in Maine, CDC will begin Maine specific conversations that could establish plans for moving toward a masking optional recommendation for schools.

It should be noted that the federal transportation requirement for masks is currently in effect until

March 18, including for school buses. Any changes to this timeline would have to come from federal CDC.

At this time, pooled testing will continue to be supported by the state.

You can get your free test kits by accessing this blog online and clicking the link (and yes, this one works - I tried it!)

So what does all this mean? Let me break it down for you...

FIRST - the Maine CDC continues to follow the federal CDC to recommend masking remain in place in public schools, at least until after the February break. At that time, during the first and second week in March the Maine CDC will be tracking the data and meeting with School Superintendents. As long as data indicates it is safe to do so they will likely make a recommendation to allow schools to move to optional masking by the mid part of March.

TO BE CLEAR - THE GORHAM SCHOOLS WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW MAINE CDC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UNIVERSAL MASKING UNTIL SUCH A TIME AS THEY CHANGE THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS THROUGH THE SOP. I know it's been a long two years, but we have followed these recommendations from the beginning and it has served us well so

we will continue to do so. I fully expect the Maine CDC to adjust the SOP sometime in mid March based on data.

SECOND - it is important to note that they will be tracking data to help make this determination. If you want to do something to help make sure this change can occur, I'd STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU to reach out to the free testing site or use other resources available to you to test your students on Saturday or Sunday before they return to school on Monday. There will be lots of opportunities for exposures to take place over the February

break, and the more we can keep these potential exposures from spreading when school reopens after the break the better our data will look! So once again, we'd strongly encourage folks to use a home test kit to test children before returning to school on Feb. 28.

THIRD - Assuming data looks good and the Maine CDC adjusts its SOP to make masking optional in our schools by mid March, we will need to have a School Committee meeting to make that final determination. We will be prepared to hold a special meeting if necessary to make that adjust-

ment as quickly as possible. The Gorham School Department has always followed Maine CDC recommendations, so if those recommendations change, we will act quickly to align practices to the adjusted SOP.

FOURTH - Just because masking MAY become optional by the end of March does not mean our schools will drop all other safety protocols. Our main goal has been and will continue to be ensuring the safety of our students. As has been the case from the beginning, we have utilized a layered safety approach and we *See Superintendent, page 16*

Cabin fever got you down?

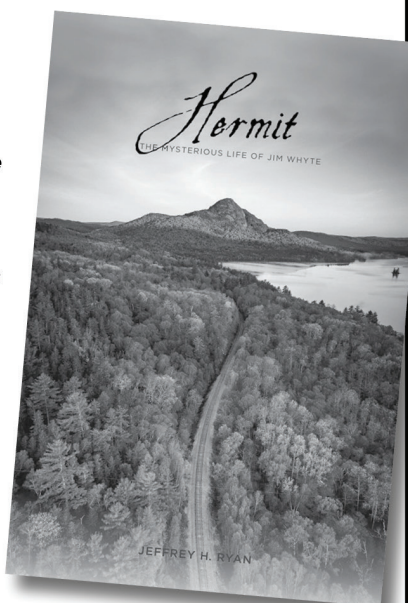
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— George Smith, Bangor Daily News



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GORHAM LITTLE LEAGUE

Field Funding Campaign

The Gorham Youth Baseball & Softball Association is making a large capital investment to provide updates and add fields to accommodate practice and game schedules:

- Develop 2 fields at White Rock
- Purchase seasonal fence for Shaw Park
- Repair dugouts and fencing, build storage centers
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Free Psychosis Detection Webinar Offered by UMaine Rural Integrated Behavioral Health In Primary Care

MAINE (February 16, 2022) -- The University of Maine Rural Integrated Behavioral Health in Primary Care (RIBHPC) Training Program will offer a free, live webinar about early detection of psychosis from 10:30 a.m.–noon on Friday, April 1.

The webinar is: “Screening for Early Emerging Mental Experi-

ences (SEE ME): A model for early detection of psychosis within integrated primary care.” Despite the prominence of primary care in the prevention of serious and chronic physical health conditions, its role in the early detection of and intervention in major mental health conditions has been peripheral, particularly in the

U.S. Screening for Early Emerging Mental Experiences (SEE ME) is a three-stage psychosis screening, triage and engagement model designed to address this in U.S. integrated care settings.

The webinar will be presented by Kristen Woodberry, faculty scientist at Maine Medical Center Research Institute and

research assistant professor at Tufts School of Medicine, and Whitney Taggart, behavioral health clinician at Midcoast Pediatrics. The workshop will cover the arguments for and against psychosis screening within integrated care; the stages of the SEE ME model; and the skills that mental health clinicians embedded in primary care can employ

to improve early detection and intervention in serious mental health conditions. It will also offer a chance to hear directly from individuals with lived experience of psychosis and a behavioral health clinician involved in the Maine feasibility project.

Register for the webinar online. A certificate of attendance will be pro-

vided to participants. For more information, contact Dyan Walsh, dyan.walsh@maine.edu.

This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$1.48 million.

Maine Delegation Announces \$28 Million to Expand Broadband Services Across Rural Maine

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 25, 2022) – U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King and Representatives Chellie Pingree and Jared Golden announced

that Maine will receive \$28 million to expand broadband services across the state. This funding was provided through the U.S. Department of Commerce’s National

Telecommunications and Information Administration’s (NTIA) Broadband Infrastructure Program and authorized through the bipartisan COVID-19 relief bill

that was signed into law in December 2020. The Maine Delegation wrote a letter in support of the project.

“As one of the most rural states in the na-

tion, Maine has unique challenges in providing high-speed, affordable broadband access to all citizens. The lack of broadband reliability that plagues Mainers restricts their ability to compete in a 21st century economy and to utilize educational, health, and other important public services,” said Senators Collins and King and Representatives Pingree and Golden. “This substantial funding to expand broadband access to nearly 15,000 Maine residents will help make rural communities a more viable place to live, work, and raise a family.”

The ConnectMaine Authority is a public instrumentality of Maine state government whose mission is to facilitate the universal availability of broadband to all Maine households and businesses and help them understand the valuable role it can play in enriching their lives and helping their communities thrive. Since its inception,

the partnership-based community broadband planning program has helped over 200 communities work to expand broadband access.

The ConnectMaine Authority Statewide Broadband Infrastructure Project will deploy last-mile qualifying broadband in rural Maine. This project will connect nearly 15,000 Mainers in 11,746 households across 24 rural, unserved Maine communities to high-speed Internet service and advance their economic competitiveness.

NTIA’s Broadband Infrastructure Program was established by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 to provide competitive grants to partnerships between a state, or one or more political subdivisions of a state, and providers of fixed broadband service to support broadband infrastructure deployment to areas lacking broadband, especially rural areas.



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Local Residents Make Dean’s List at Wentworth Institute of Technology

BOSTON, MA (February 15, 2022) Grassroots Newswire -- The following local students have made the dean’s list at Wentworth Institute of Technology for the Fall 2021 semester.

Mikaela Estes of Auburn, ME

Brodi Farinas of Lewiston, ME

Thomas Worden of Minot, ME

Andrew Pulsifer of Topsham, ME

Wentworth Institute of Technology: Founded in 1904, Wentworth Institute of Technology is a nationally ranked university offering career-fo-

cused education through bachelor’s and graduate degree programs in areas including engineering, architecture, computer and data science, life sciences, management, and design. Its 31 acres are situated in the Fenway neighborhood of Boston, Mass., within walking distance of several leading cultural, educational, sports, and medical hubs. Wentworth is known for its emphasis on career preparation for students through its leading co-op programs, hands-on learning approach, and alignment with 21st-century workforce needs.

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Mar 5.
GORHAM -- 4:30-5:30PM Bean Supper To Go; Pre-order Required; White Rock Community Clubhouse, 34 Wilson Road, Gorham

\$20 for double or \$10 for single orders. Meal includes kidney & pea beans, coleslaw, potato salad, macaroni & cheese, biscuits, hot dogs and a dessert bar. Please, pre-order by Wednesday, March 2. Call Fran at 892-9521.

Mar. 7
GORHAM -- 6:30pm Joint Town CIP & School Facilities Committee Meeting, Zoom

Mar. 7
GORHAM -- 7pm Planning Board Meeting Council Chambers

Mar. 8
GORHAM -- 7pm Conservation Commission Meeting Conference Room A

Mar. 9
GORHAM -- 7pm School Committee Meeting Council Chambers

Mar. 9
LEWISTON -- Androscoggin Retired Educators will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at The Green Ladle in Lewiston. The Green Ladle is located at Lewiston High School's Regional Technical Center at 156 East Avenue in Lewiston. The cost of the meal is \$15.50 per person. The meal will be Chef's Choice. The speaker for this meeting will be Japheth Els, AARP Maine Outreach Di-

rector. He will talk about various AARP programs designed to assist our age 50+ community along with ways that AREA members can become involved in the local community. Dues are \$10 per person, \$6 for a non-educator spouse. Those members 85 years old and older do not need to pay dues. Send luncheon reservation to: Crystal Ward, 171 Montello Street, Lewiston, Maine 04240.

Mar. 9, Ap. 6, Ap. 13
LEWISTON -- 3:30PM, Lewiston Public Library, MAKE ART WITH ARTVAN ArtVan will be providing an in-person hands-on creative art program in the Children's Department of the Lewiston Public Library for children ages 5-14 (ages 5-8 must be accompanied by an adult) for self-expression, personal growth, and fun. Free. All art supplies will be provided. 513-3133; www.LPOnline.org

Mar. 15
GORHAM -- 8am Ordinance Committee Meeting TBD

Mar. 15
GORHAM -- 6:30pm Town Council Workshop Council Chambers

Mar. 16
GORHAM -- 8am Gorham Economic Development Corporation Meeting

Conference Room A

Mar. 16
LEWISTON -- The Ladies of St Anne Sodality, Prince of Peace Parish will be having a general membership meeting on March 16 at 6 PM. at the Parish Hall 607 Sabattus St. The doors will be opened at 5:30. After a brief business meeting, there will be a Stand Up Bingo. Save a date for the upcoming Card Party to be held on April 6 at 6 PM. Tickets will be available at the March 16 meeting for \$5 or by contacting Anita 782-4516. Refreshments will be served by Flo Marquis.

Mar 17.
LEWISTON -- Care Partner Support Series – Five Sessions to Change: virtual webinars presented in conjunction with Positive Approach® to Care, the international program led by founder Teepa Snow. This class is designed to educate and connect care partners of a person living with dementia. Participants must agree to attend all five sessions, as well as an introductory program, and have appropriate internet access. Thursdays, March 17-April 14th, 5:30 – 7 pm, SeniorsPlus, 8 Falcon Road, Lewiston, ME 04240
Registration required: call 1-800-427-1241 or email gnelson@seniorsplus.org

Mar. 17
GORHAM -- 6:30pm Tentative Recurring Board of Appeals Meeting, Council Chambers

Mar. 17
GORHAM -- 6:30pm Tentative Recurring CIP Meeting TBD

Mar. 19
LEWISTON -- 11:00am-1:00pm IN-PERSON program at the Lewiston Public Library Children's Department: GRAPHIC NOVELS TO THE RESCUE! Join the Lewiston Public Library Children's Department for an in-person program celebrating graphic novels. This program will take place on Saturday, March 19, 2022 from 11:00am-1:00pm in Callahan Hall on the 3rd floor of the library. No registration is required for this program, and it is free and open to all kids up to age 12 and their families. Costumes are encouraged but not required. Stop in anytime between 11:00am - 1:00. Activities (until supplies last) will include making comic strips, masks and capes, and posing in front of the cityscape backdrop for photos!

Mar. 21
LEWISTON & AUBURN -- 5:30 PM – 6:00 PM, on Zoom, Lewiston Public Library & Auburn Public Library: TOUGH TIMES: FROM HAVING A BAD DAY TO DYSTOPIAN APOCALYPSE Art has always helped get us through difficult times. In this presentation, the Museum Of

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Bad Art explores some of the ways artists react to disasters small and large, real and imagined. Free. Registration is required. The Zoom link will be posted to the Library website and Facebook prior to the event. You can also register by contacting Donna Wallace at dwallace@auburnpubliclibrary.org or 207-333-6640 ext. 4. 513-3135; www.LPOnline.org

Mar. 28
GORHAM -- 5:30pm Finance Committee Meeting TBD

Mar. 29
LEWISTON -- 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM, on Zoom, Lewiston Public Library: MAINE STATE MUSEUM LISTENING TOUR AT LPL The Maine State Museum is seeking community input to find the stories and broader themes that resonate with and reflect the many voices, interests, and identities of the people of Maine. There will be a series of discussions in

different communities across the state from which the participants' responses will inform the museum's ongoing work. The Lewiston Public Library will be hosting one of these virtual discussions so that the people of Lewiston have an opportunity to weigh in. Free. Space is limited - registration is required. 513-3135; www.LPOnline.org

Apr. 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17
Community Little Theatre (CLT) presents Disaster!, a new musical comedy with hit songs from the 1970s and plot elements reminiscent of disaster cult films. Performances at 7:30 p.m. on April 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, and 16; and at 2:00 p.m. on April 10 and 17. Call 207-783-0958 or visit BOX OFFICE | [laclt-1](http://laclt-1.com) for tickets and information. Please visit at <https://www.laclt.com/covid-19-protocols> for information on safety protocols.

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!

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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.

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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.

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CC Island Cleaning Company. Seasonal, Air B&B, homes. Cleaning with care. Call for a quote. Denise (207) 420-4952.

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

Wood boiler - Must go! \$2,500.
Alternate heating carbon steel wood boiler. Purchased in 1996 for \$6,800. New door seal, bricks, blanket, and silicone card bead. Includes cycle timer and plumb fittings. 1,400#. Model E100 wood gun. Can be lifted directly into your trailer. GORHAM. (207) 222-2755.

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

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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

WOOD

Firewood

16 inch cut and split dry hardwood. Three pallets \$375 - approximately one cord. Six pallets \$600 - approximately two cords. Free kindling. Dun Roamin Tree Farm LLC, 75 Dyer Road, Lewiston. Call Ed (207) 577-5878.

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Superintendent
Continued from page 11

will continue to do so. IF/ When this change occurs, masking will still be optional so that anyone that wishes to wear a mask may do so without fear of ridicule. Our Code of Conduct will be followed. We will also continue to emphasize hand sanitization/washing protocols. We will continue to ensure our air exchange and ventilation systems across our buildings meets requirements set by the state. We will continue to encourage physical distancing when possible, we will continue to utilize air purification systems in our cafeterias and we will continue to encourage outdoor learning experiences whenever Maine's weather permits.

OVERALL - We realize that whatever happens after the break, whether the Maine CDC moves to optional masking or not - there will be folks who are "happy" about that and folks who are perhaps even a little "fearful" about that. This has been a long two years with emotions running high in all kinds of directions. With a significant potential change on the horizon, it is normal to feel all kinds of emotions. I would urge people to step back and pause. To think about how we have navigated these difficult times **TOGETHER** since March of 2020. Since that time we have followed Maine CDC recommendations. We have worked to ensure a layered strategy is in place to make sure our community and our children are safe. We will con-

tinue to do so. Two years ago we didn't have vaccinations. We didn't have widespread access to testing. We were just learning about the importance of physical distancing and proper air ventilation. We now have far more tools to keep our children and our community safe than we ever have and if the Maine CDC makes a move to making masking optional in our schools after the February break, those tools will still exist.

We would encourage continued patience and vigilance as we move closer towards making this Pandemic an Endemic here in Maine. We will continue to keep you informed every step of the way as new information comes out and, as always, encourage you to reach out with your questions directly.

LEAD WATER TESTING RESULTS FOR OUR SCHOOLS

Over the past few weeks you have gotten individual email messages from me regarding lead water testing results in our schools. The State of Maine now requires that all schools in Maine test their water annually for lead and report said results to the public. At this time, we have received back all first round testing results for our schools and have communicated those to you directly. These results include clearly outlined action steps and timelines for mitigation strategies if any of our results were higher than the state benchmark.

You can find all testing results with these outlined plans on our district

website. Please go to www.gorhamschools.org and then scroll down under news and announcements to the link with our Lead Testing results. Click there and you can view all information for all five schools. We will keep this information updated as some of our schools will require additional rounds of testing.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to our Facilities Director, Norm Justice at norm.justice@gorhamschools.org

READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

Read Across America day will be upon us after the break. This year it falls on Wed. March 2, 2022. Many of our schools will be celebrating the joys of reading throughout the whole week and we encourage our families to do the same! What can you do as a parent to add to the fun? Check out some cool ideas by accessing this blog online for links.

Parents can check out the Read Across America Website. And you can check out our Diverse Books Read Aloud Classroom space created by our very own teachers for some ideas on Diverse book selections too by going here: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/15Ta_jez3DjMs-sHzQpz-K8YVMR-V1QfVhU-2J858dDLH0/edit#slide=id.p

Whatever you do, big or small...the point of this day is to just have fun reading! So, whatever you do - make it fun and have a great time with your children and books - and know

we'll be doing the same in our schools!

ASPIRE GORHAM NEWSLETTER

Our Aspire Gorham Newsletter is ready to view! Check it out! Lots of great information and some details on our Baxter Library partnership called our "Little Learners" project. Bet you didn't know we partnered with Baxter Memorial Library for this awesome program! Read the newsletter to learn more! Here's the link!

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KKd5VU-vyoJ0Wp-SgAvxcMN-srKz-MWKBZ/view?usp=sharing>

GHS ONE ACT PLAY COMING SOON!

GHS will be presenting White Room of my Remembering on Friday March 11 and Saturday March 12 at 7:30PM. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$10 for adults.. Art for the flyer was done by 9th grader Alauna Worden. NICE JOB! See you at the play!

GORHAM OUTDOORS SNOWHOLD BIATHALON EVENT

Looking for something to do near the end of the February break? Check out this event hosted by the Gorham Outdoors Club - a snow hold biathlon! Sounds cool...what is it. Check the link below to learn more and to sign up to participate!

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-fun-outdoor-biathlon-incorporating-snowshoeing-and-cornhole-tickets-270993628237>

www.eventbrite.com/e/a-fun-outdoor-biathlon-incorporating-snowshoeing-and-cornhole-tickets-270993628237

LOOKING FOR OTHER WINTER ACTIVITIES IN MAINE DURING THE BREAK?

Just thought I'd share this great resource from the state of Maine for winter activities across the state that might be of interest to folks as we launch into the February break...check out the link below to see some of what our great state has to offer!

<https://visitmaine.com/things-to-do/winter-activities>

That's it for this blog, other than a reminder that once we return from break, things will begin to "heat up" for spring activities. We have our Kindergarten

Parent night on March 1, we have our 9th grade family night on March 2, and much much more! Best place to keep up with all the activities is on our website (www.gorhamschools.org). Once there you can click on each school to view their calendar of events!

I wish you all the best and will blog again on March 4!

Let's make sure we don't forget to have some fun and play whenever the opportunity arises! It's good for our brains and its good for our souls! Have a great break!

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

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