

## Many Maine Rural Youth Want to Stay Rural, UMaine Research Says

**ORONO, ME (May 16, 2022) --** Rural areas centered around the forest industry have faced uncertain economic times. Global competition, coupled with the decline of print media and national recessions, have decreased the demand for traditional paper and lumber products. While some forest-dependent communities have thrived in transitioning to focus on industries like nature-based tourism rather than manufacturing, others have stagnated — and, with that, have struggled to convince their youth to stay.

New research co-authored by Jessica Leahy, professor of human dimensions and natural resources at UMaine, shows that when it comes to keeping rural youth in forested rural communities — like the ones prevalent throughout Maine — fostering connections to the land and community may be even more important than simply providing jobs in the area.

In the study published in the journal *Community Development*, researchers analyzed over 2,000 survey responses from middle and high school youth from traditionally forest-dependent communities in greater Piscataquis County, Maine, and Coos County, Oregon. The survey looked at the subjects' perceptions of their schools and community, connection to the outdoors and educational aspirations. They compared data to the students' desired future residential location — specifically, whether they planned to stay in a rural area or move to a nonrural area.

Overall, rural youth with more positive perceptions of their communities and a stronger attachment to outdoor places were more likely to want to live in a rural place in the future. Higher educational aspirations were associated with students being less likely to want to live in a rural place than a nonrural place.

School perceptions, extracurricular involvement, academic grades, income and demographics like gender, race or ethnicity did not have a statistically significant relationship with youth residential aspirations. No significant differences in residential aspirations were found be-

See *Rural*, page 14

## Portland Observatory Reopens for Summer



**PORTLAND, ME (May 20, 2022) --** The Portland Observatory is reopening for the season Saturday, May 28th and we couldn't be more excited! Here's the low-down on what you need to know for your visit.

For the months of May and June, the Observatory will be open:

9AM-4PM, Thursday - Monday for

timed, guided tours; 5PM-8PM Tuesday - Wednesday evenings for self-guided sunset tours. Access to the Observatory will be by pre-purchased tickets only.

Up to 10 visitors will be allowed on each timed tour. Guided tours take approximately 45 minutes and include plenty of time at the top to enjoy the view!

Tickets MUST be purchased in advance.

The Observatory is owned by the City of Portland, and at this time masks are required in all city-owned properties, regardless of vaccination status.

The gift shop is open, but please be prepared to pay with a card.

HAVE FUN!

## Stop Browntail Moth Hitchhikers

**AUGUSTA, ME (May 16, 2022) --** The Maine Forest Service asks everyone to check cars, trucks, boats, bikes, ATVs, and other vehicles for wandering browntail moth (BTM) caterpillars. Now through late June, BTM caterpillars become expert hitchhikers. When they catch a ride, BTM may set up house in a new area and cause irritation to people and destroy foliage on trees and shrubs at their new location.

If a BTM caterpillar is discovered before leaving an already infested area, it may be left on-site or destroyed. If found after leaving the infested area, the caterpillar should be eliminated. The best method to kill a BTM caterpillar is to move them to a plastic bag or another container, freeze them or soak them in a bucket of soapy water before disposing of them in the trash.

Reduce the chances of picking up browntail by avoiding parking and storing materials and equipment near infested

trees.

About browntail moth (BTM)

BTM is an insect of forest and human health concern accidentally introduced into Somerville, MA, from Europe in 1897. By 1913, the insect spread to all New England states and New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Since then, populations of this pest slowly decreased due to natural controls until the 1960s, when the

BTM was limited to Cape Cod and a few islands off the Maine coast in Casco Bay.

Maine is experiencing a BTM outbreak. The caterpillars are found in patches along the Maine coast and more than 60 miles inland from the western Maine border to the New Brunswick border, with the greatest concentrations in mid-coastal Maine and the capital region.

### Browntail Moth Alert

Look Before You Leave!

Browntail caterpillars can hitchhike on vehicles and equipment

- ✓ **Avoid** parking near infested trees
- ✓ **Inspect** vehicles and equipment
- ✓ **Remove** browntail before you leave, being careful to avoid increased exposure to their hairs

### Browntail caterpillars

- Have irritating hairs
- Are brown and hairy with two orange spots by the back-end
- When they wander (late May through June), have broken white stripes



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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## Healthy Living for ME Announces Free Workshops in June

**MAINE, STATE-WIDE (May 26, 2022)** -- Mainers are invited to register for Healthy Living for ME's free summer workshops which begin in June. The workshops that are now open for registration include A Matter of Balance, Living Well for Better Health, Better Health Now, Living Well with Chronic Pain, and Living Well with HIV+.

Mainers who are caregivers or supports for individuals living with conditions addressed in these workshops are also invited to participate. Healthy Living for ME also welcomes referrals from healthcare providers; these evidence-based workshops can help patients manage and prevent conditions before they become more serious or result in emergency situations.

"The workshops we are offering this summer address a variety of health conditions and concerns. Mainers who deal with these health issues can benefit not only from the information presented in the

workshop, but also from being a part of a supportive group of people who may be in a similar situation. If you think you could benefit from one of our June workshops, please call us to ask any questions, or to register," said Jen Paquet, Training Manager of Healthy Living for ME.

The schedule and details for Healthy Living for ME's June workshops are as follows:

**A Matter of Balance (in-person)** - This workshop will be held at the Alford Youth & Community Center in Waterville beginning June 6, 2022. Topics covered include practical strategies to reduce fear of falling and increase activity levels.

**Living Well for Better Health (in-person)** - There will be three sessions of this workshop offered; the first begins on June 7, 2022 and will be held at SeniorsPlus in Lewiston. The second begins on June 16, 2022 and will be held at the Caribou Wellness Center in Caribou. The third begins on June 22,



2022 and will be held at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham. The workshop helps participants deal with ongoing conditions such as diabetes, COPD, arthritis, and high blood pressure. Topics covered include: handling frustration, fatigue, pain and isolation; appropriate exercise for maintaining and improving strength, flexibility, and endurance; appropriate use of medications; communicating effectively with family, friends, and health professionals; nutrition; and evaluating new treatments.

**Better Health Now (by phone)** - This work-

shop will begin on June 9, 2022. It is designed to help those living with chronic conditions, including heart disease, arthritis, diabetes, or other conditions. Participants in this workshop receive a toolkit in the mail and work with a leader either by themselves or in small groups. Topics covered during the workshop include: techniques to deal with frustration, fatigue, pain, and isolation; appropriate exercise for maintaining and improving strength, flexibility, and endurance; appropriate use of medications, communicating effectively with family, friends, and health profes-

sionals; nutrition; and how to evaluate new treatments.

**Living Well with Chronic Pain (in-person)** - This workshop will be held at the Alford Youth & Community Center in Waterville beginning June 16, 2022. It is designed for people who are dealing with persistent pain such as back pain, post-surgical pain, headaches, and other ongoing pain. Topics covered include: dealing with frustration, fatigue, isolation, and poor sleep; appropriate exercise for maintaining and improving strength; appropriate use of medications; communicating effectively with family, friends, and health professionals; nutrition; pacing activity and rest; and evaluating new treatments.

**Living Well with HIV+ (online)** - This workshop will be offered virtually beginning June 16, 2022. It is designed for individuals managing HIV and their caregivers/natural supports. Topics covered include medication management; techniques to deal with frustration, fear,

fatigue, pain and isolation; communicating effectively with family, friends, and health professionals; sex, intimacy, and disclosure; nutrition; evaluating symptoms; advanced directives; and decision-making. Program participants make weekly action plans, share experiences, and help each other solve problems they encounter in creating and carrying out their self-management program.

For virtual workshops, participants who do not have the necessary technology may be eligible to borrow an iPad from Healthy Living for ME in order to participate.

Registration is required for these workshops. Please contact Healthy Living for ME at 1-800-620-6036 or info@healthylivingforme.org for more information and to register. You can also register via our website, www.healthylivingforme.org.

To learn more about these and other workshops offered by Healthy Living for ME, visit www.healthylivingforme.org

## Volunteers Prepare To Welcome 400+ Underserved Youth to Camp

**POLAND, ME (May 21, 2022)** -- More than 40 volunteers traveled to Poland, Maine this past weekend to donate their time and resources to help Agassiz Village (AV), a non-profit overnight summer camp serving low-income youth from under-resourced communities, get ready to welcome over four hundred children and teens this summer.

From Friday, May 20 to Sunday, May 22, volunteers from across New England worked on cleaning, painting, landscaping, and small renovation projects, including the creation of a dedicated space for an on-site social worker to

better meet the social and emotional needs of youth impacted by the pandemic.

Agassiz Village opens its doors to volunteers for one weekend every spring to prepare for the camp season. The support and help AV receives from volunteers is critical, as it allows the non-profit organization to direct more time and funds into its programs. Agassiz's programs, which include an overnight Social Emotional Learning (SEL) focused summer camp and a new year-round college/career readiness intensive for teens, are provided at low or no-cost to low-income children from under-re-

sourced Maine and Massachusetts communities. In 2022, the volunteers will also be joined by OCBA Landscape Architects, a renowned consulting firm working with AV to develop a Facility Master Plan, a long-term plan to provide youth with state-of-the-art facilities that align with the camp's vision and mission.

"We had over 40 volunteers this past weekend and are so grateful for the amazing outpouring of support. Without our many, dedicated volunteers it would just be impossible for our small staff to prepare to open camp," said Lisa Carter, Executive

Director.

In 2022, Agassiz is holding in-person overnight camp sessions from July 4th-15th, July 18th-29th, and August 1st-12th, and will host a total of 432 children, a 50% increase from 2021.

"Last summer, kids came back to camp after a very difficult year and a half. School closures, lack of social interaction, possible financial instability at home, fewer health care touch points...it all took a toll. That's why we know it's critical we reach even more kids with our summer program and our year-round program for teens in 2022," said Carter.

Thanks to a robust set of health and safety measures, Agassiz successfully operated three full sessions of camp in

2021 without a single case of COVID-19. AV will continue to follow all CDC and local health department guidelines in 2022, and is planning to uphold rigorous health and hygiene protocols, including symptom monitoring, pre and post-arrival COVID-19 testing, enhanced cleaning, and expanded outdoor activities.

*ABOUT: Agassiz Village is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to prepare kids for life's journey by providing opportunities, in a summer camp environment, to develop and practice leadership and life skills that will impact their*

*futures in education, family, career, and in their communities. Founded in 1935 by Harry E. Burroughs, founder of the Burroughs*

*Newsboys Foundation, to serve as a haven for children from under-resourced communities. Agassiz Village has remained true to its original goal of making a transformative overnight camp experience accessible for children of all backgrounds. Agassiz Village is a 325-acre residential summer camp located on Thompson Lake in Poland, Maine. Our programs are an investment in the future, to inspire and enable all children, especially those who need our support the most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible leaders. www.AgassizVillage.org*

*For further information, contact: Lisa Carter, lcarter@agassizvillage.org, 781-860-0200 ext. 1006*

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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## Superintendent's Update

**By Gorham Superintendent Heather Perry**  
**GORHAM, ME**  
**(May 27, 2022)** --

There is lots to talk about this week...so I'm going to start with my usual "snapshot" of the great things happening in our schools since my last blog and then get right to it. There are several IMPORTANT updates in this article so I encourage you to breeze through the headlines and read in more detail those items that jump out to you! By the way, I didn't have enough space to put all the awesome pictures from our schools these past two weeks, so you should definitely check out our social media sites for more!

Now on to the informational pieces...

### RECENT TRAGIC EVENTS IN TEXAS

It is difficult for me to put into words the range of emotions I feel after what occurred earlier this week in Texas when an 18 year old male walked into an elementary school and shot and killed 21 people which included 2 teachers and 19 students. My hands shake as I type those words. I know all of you as parents and school staff feel the same range of emotions. For me, anger and outrage are at the top of the list. This is followed very quickly by sadness and extreme empathy for what the families and community impacted by this latest shooting are going through right now as everyone tries to make sense of this senseless act of violence.

I want you to know that I am confident in saying that our schools are as safe as they can be right now. I also want you to know that none of us are taking for granted or minimizing the seriousness of these recent events and the need to deeply review our safety protocols. The safety of our school is a constant conversation.

Here's what we cur-

rently have in place to keep our children safe while at school:

\*. Strong Crisis response plans. We have a district wide plan, and then each school has what we refer to as their individual "Gold Plans" that are reviewed annually, practiced and shared with all first responding organizations in Gorham. These plans are reviewed annually by our School Committee as required by law.

\*. Strong safety frameworks through use of our A.L.I.C.E protocols that are action oriented and flexible to meet the needs of each unique crisis situation where an active shooter may be involved. All school staff are trained on the use of these protocols in collaboration with the Gorham Police Department. Students across grades K-12 also receive specific training in how to follow A.L.I.C.E. protocols in these situations.

\*. Locked doors - ALL of our exterior doors to all of our schools are locked at all times during the school day. Individuals who wish to enter our schools must enter through a specific designated entrance. Entrance systems involve two doors. Visitors are "buzzed" into the building only after they have checked in with front office staff, stated their name and purpose for being in the school. Individuals who enter our school must then check in with office personnel before being let into the school itself. Individuals either have their own badges, or are provided a visitor badge so that staff know they are ok to be in the building. Staff are trained to ask anyone not having an identification badge to stop them and ask why they are there.

\*. Security Cameras - We have many security cameras across our schools. All of these cameras are linked to monitor-



ing systems at each main office so that personnel can continually monitor individuals inside of our schools, as well as key areas outside of our schools. In the event of an emergency, the Gorham Police Department can access our cameras to see live feeds to help them inform their response.

\*. SRO's - We have one SRO assigned full time to Gorham Middle School and another assigned full time to Gorham High School. Additionally, we have one SRO assigned to the three Elementary Schools. Because of this level of staffing and our incredible partners at the Gorham PD, we know that our response time to any emergent situation is under 2 minutes. All SRO's are specifically trained in our ALICE protocols. Our SRO's form a strong link between the safety of our community and the safety of our schools. Communication is strong.

\*. Strong Training and Collaboration - Over the course of the past several years we have conducted many trainings in collaboration with our local and county wide first responders that range from table top exercises to full scale active shooter trainings located at our schools and conducted with live

actors. These trainings help us to smooth out communication protocols, command structure protocols and the enormous responses that would occur with hundreds of personnel in the event of an actual active shooter event.

\*. Strong Communications Plan - All of our school admin. and other designated staff have radios that are equipped to communicate directly with each other and with local first responders in the event of any crisis situation. Admin. are trained in how to utilize the radios and we do a radio check weekly to ensure radios remain fully functional. We have specific plans to communicate with each other and with families in the event of a crisis. We practice these plans often and each time we have to utilize them (recent examples include the natural gas leak at Narr. or the need to evacuate the school due to a threat of violence at GHS earlier this year) we review practices to tweak and tighten them up for the next potential need to utilize them. We have a strong team of school leaders and community leaders (GPD and GFD) who are in constant contact monitoring the safety of our schools and community.

The overview of our

crisis response plan framework can be found on our website, and I have linked it online for your reference. Please know that the current plan is being fully reviewed and prepared for a full update for the coming year. There is MUCH MORE under that framework document, but we do not communicate that information publicly because we want to ensure those that may be thinking of violent acts towards our schools do not have too much information. These more detailed plans are confidential for that purpose.

This is a nice segue into what we need to continue to do moving forward to ensure our schools remain as safe as they can be for our students. Please know what I share below is not an all inclusive list. As we constantly review information and understand existing conditions, we continue to constantly work to improve our planning. In other words - this work is never "done" and if done well...is constantly evolving and adjusting.

Immediate next steps to continue to focus on school safety in Gorham include:

1. Continued focus on improving our mental health and SEL support services across our schools. Our current proposed FY 23 budget increases these services across grades K-12. We will do well to continue to prioritize in these areas as there is no doubt that there is a direct link between school shootings and the mental health needs of those perpetrators of these acts of violence.
2. Finalizing our re-

view and revisions to the current comprehensive crisis plans. Much of this work has already been done behind the scenes, but we need to put it all on paper and get the formal revisions out to the public for the summary information that you all need to know our plans are current and up to date.

3. Continued Professional Development and training. Ensuring all new staff and auxiliary staff (such as substitutes) remain up to date on our trainings. Making sure we keep the conversation at the forefront of thinking for all staff, so we are constantly thinking through the lens of safety.

4. A focus on improved reporting mechanisms - We've done well to communicate with our staff, students and families the rule of "see something - say something". This is often how we are made aware of potential threats that we then follow up with swiftly. However, more could be done in this area to ensure everyone feels comfortable reporting things to either our schools or to the Gorham PD even if they think it may be minor. It is these early notifications systems that can be very effective in preventing tragedy.

5. Work with Local and state leaders - to better understand what schools actually NEED to be safe. Simply throwing more money at the purchase of "things" like bullet proof glass or kevlar vests isn't really the answer. Unfortunately, for the sake of taking action, this is often what is done. When one

See Superintendent, page 11

## Gorham WEEKLY

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## ‘Walk the Working Waterfront’ Returns to Commercial Street

**PORTLAND, ME (May 27, 2022)** – Sample kelp at Harbor Fish from Atlantic Sea Farms. Tour the Portland Fireboat and vessels from the US Coast Guard. Experience a tuna dissection with the Gulf of Maine Research Institute. Go behind the scenes at Luke’s Lobster buy station on Portland pier. There is no better day to immerse yourself in Portland’s vibrant and diverse ocean economy than Saturday, June 4th.

Now in its 7th year, Walk the Working Waterfront (WTWW) encourages visitors from near and far to experience the piers and wharves of Commercial Street in unique ways. This free-to-attend, self-guided walking tour occurs on the first Saturday of June each year, from 11-3, and stretches from Becky’s Diner all the way to Casco Bay Lines. Along the way, walkers will find dozens of interactive stops and nearly 50 businesses sharing stories about the work they do.

“After a necessary break due to the pandemic, we’re thrilled to welcome Walk the Working Waterfront back to our event lineup for 2022,” said Cary Ty-

son, Executive Director of Portland Downtown. “This event gives visitors intimate access to the working waterfront and enhances the community’s understanding of the important role this infrastructure plays on the local economy.”

Jonathan Labaree, Chief Communications Officer at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute added, “Increasingly, a lack of waterfront access for marine businesses is one of the major challenges facing working waterfronts in Maine, throughout New England, and around the world. In order to preserve and protect working waterfronts for generations to come, it’s so important to celebrate the local businesses that power our blue economy — so we’re thrilled to support this event again this year.” The Gulf of Maine Research Institute will play a central role in this year’s event, offering two tuna dissections, hands-on displays, and facility tours. Participants will also find the WTWW Information Station on the greenspace behind its facility along with the starting point for two historical waterfront walking tours led by Portland’s Waterfront Coordi-

nator, Bill Needelman.

Walk the Working Waterfront’s management was handed over to the New England Ocean Cluster (NEOC) in 2019 after 5 successful years under the leadership of John Spritz during his time at Growing Portland. Chris Cary, its COO said “the NEOC is excited and thankful to be working with community members and stakeholders to ensure it continues each year in an authentic and productive way.”

*About Walk the Working Waterfront:*

*Walk the Working Waterfront is a free-to-attend, community-built, self-guided walking tour created to give visitors unique access to the people and businesses that comprise Portland’s ocean economy. The 2022 event will occur Saturday, June 4, from 11-3, spanning between Becky’s Diner and Casco Bay Lines. Maps can be picked up at businesses along the waterfront starting the week of 5/31, and at the event’s information station located behind the Gulf of Maine Research Institute on Commercial Street starting at 1000 on Saturday, June 4. For more information, please visit [walktheworkingwaterfront.com](http://walktheworkingwaterfront.com)*

## Maine REALTORS Host Statewide Collection Drive

**MAINE, STATE-WIDE (May 23, 2022)** – The Maine Association of REALTORS will host a statewide Diaper Product Collection Drive to give back to our local communities. From June 6-8 over 50 real estate companies from York to Machias will open their doors as drop-off locations for diaper or diaper-related product collection. With rising costs, the demand for these essential products has only grown, and the need is widespread.

The Maine Association of REALTORS is comprised of 6,200 REALTOR members and

375 affiliated industry partners representing each of Maine’s 16 counties. In a collaborative effort of seven different local REALTOR associations: York County Council of the Maine Association of REALTORS, Greater Portland Board of REALTORS, Maine Commercial Association of REALTORS, Mid-Coast Board of REALTORS, Kennebec Valley Board of REALTORS, Mountains to Shore Board of REALTORS and the Greater Bangor Association of REALTORS, this event is the first of its kind to be done statewide by Maine REALTORS.

REALTORS are invested in the communities where they live and serve, are often involved in local activities, and are now joining forces for this statewide diaper drive. After collection, REALTOR volunteers will caravan the products to dozens of community non-profits organizations across Maine to be distributed to families in need. A list of drop-off locations and the community non-profits being supported can be found at the Maine REALTORS website: <https://www.maine-realtors.com/> and on page 10 of this week’s edition. Please join us!

## Maine State Music Theatre Opens ‘The Sound of Music’ on June 8

**BRUNSWICK, ME (May 24, 2022)** – Maine State Music Theatre opens one of the world’s most beloved musicals, Rodgers and Hammerstein’s The Sound of Music June 8 – 25. A story about finding a place in the world and connecting with family, The Sound of Music’s themes are just as universal as its music is memorable.

The inspirational story follows an ebullient postulate who serves as governess to the seven children of the imperious Captain Von Trapp, bringing music and joy to the household. But as the forces of Nazism take hold of Austria, Maria and the entire Von Trapp family must make a moral decision.

Featuring a trove of cherished songs, including “Climb Ev’ry Mountain,” “My Favorite Things,” “Do Re Mi,” “Sixteen Going on Seventeen” and the title number, “The Sound of Music,” won the hearts of audiences worldwide, earning five Tony Awards and five Oscars. Music by Richard Rodgers, lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II, book by Howard Lindsay

and Russel Crouse. Original story based on “The Trapp Family Singers” by Maria Augusta Trapp.

The Sound of Music features Hanley Smith as Maria in her MSMT debut and MSMT alumni Will Ray (Les Misérables; Footloose) as Captain Von Trapp. Smith has starred in many regional productions, including Les Misérables, Venus in Fur, Murder on the Orient Express, and The Sound of Music at the Fulton Theatre. Ray has been seen on Broadway and in national tours of Les Misérables, Finding Neverland, and Little House on the Prairie.

The rest of the cast includes Blake Hammond as Max, Beth Kirkpatrick as Mother Abbes, Katie Sina as Elsa, Taylor Quick as Liesl, and Austin Phillips as Rolf. Local young actors playing the rest of the Von Trapp children are Jaden Nicita, Sophia Scott, Gregory J. Trapp, Jr., Kate Walters, Lily Philbrook, and Josie Marzilli.

Performing as nuns and ensemble is Jill-Christine Wiley, Jane Abernethy, Em-

ily Bartley, Mikayla Jane Clifford, Ciara L. Neidlinger, Marcine G. Sopko, Danielle Vayenas, Megan Walz, Chana Wingard, Jonathan Bryant, Kyle Laing. Swings include Brooke Taylor Cottrell and Preston Karp.

The creative team for The Sound of Music includes Marc Robin (Director/Choreographer), Ben McNaboe (Music Director), Ruchir Khazanchi (Assistant Music Director) Anthony Lacoskie Jr. (Costume Designer), Kevin S. Foster II (Wig Designer), Paul Black (Lighting Designer), Michael Schweikardt (Set Designer), Shannon Slaton (Sound Designer), and Mark Johnson (Stage Manager).

The show is sponsored by Great Impasta and Bath Savings Institution. The premier sponsors are Oceanview at Falmouth, Highland Green, and Cumberland Crossing.

Performances take place at the Pickard Theater, 1 Bath Road, Brunswick, Maine. For tickets, visit [www.msmt.org](http://www.msmt.org) or call (207) 725-8769.

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## USDA Offers Funding Flexibility Amid Formula Shortages

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 25, 2022) – In its continued efforts to get formula to families in need, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is encouraging state agencies and their infant formula manufacturers to consider seeking temporary flexibility in their infant formula contracts to allow WIC participants to purchase alternate sizes, forms, or brands of infant formula during the current shortage.

State agencies have contracts with one of three manufacturers to provide specific formula to WIC infants who are partially or fully formula fed. To maximize access for WIC participants, USDA is recommending state agencies, Rickett Mead Johnson (RMJ), and Gerber work together to consider temporarily allowing alternate brand formulas. To help make this financially feasible, USDA is quickly leveraging the new Access to Baby Formula Act signed by President Biden and will cover the additional costs of alternate brand formulas in states that have contracts with RMJ or Gerber, if the contracted size, form, or brand of formula is unavailable. In states with Abbott contracts, Abbott is currently covering that cost difference.

“Responding to the infant formula shortage has been – and will continue to be – a team effort. We encourage states and their formula manufacturers to work together to maximize access

to infant formula for WIC participants, and USDA will provide the funding to make that possible,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. “WIC families are depending on us for the vital nourishment their babies and children need to thrive. We cannot let them down.”

WIC participants under 12 months of age consume an estimated 56% of infant formula in the U.S. Approximately half of all state agencies have contracts with Abbott, which voluntarily recalled several formula products in February. Though RMJ and Gerber were not subject to the recall, WIC participants in some states in contracts with the companies are beginning to have difficulty finding their typical formula in stock due to the lengthy closure of a major Abbott facility. USDA previously provided waivers flexibility to allow WIC state agencies to provide alternate sizes, forms, and brands of formula, if permitted under their contract, and is now taking action to ensure it is a financially viable option for all states.

Since the recall was first announced, USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service has been working tirelessly to ensure WIC participants and stakeholders have the information they need to keep infants safe. The agency immediately provided guidance to WIC state agencies and, within days, offered flexibilities, including waivers to help

them respond to the impacts of the recall. In the months since, FNS has been providing ongoing assistance and support to help states put those flexibilities to best use and adapt to the rapidly-changing situation, approving well over 200 waiver requests to date.

The department continues to work closely with HHS and FDA and the administration to support WIC through this challenging time and contribute to a swift end to the shortage. Recent actions include:

**C o o r d i n a t i n g** cross-government to rapidly transport safe specialty formulas into the country for babies with special medical needs through Operation Fly Formula. The first shipment arrived in the U.S. on May 22 with 132 pallets of a crucial specialty formula; the second is expected to arrive today with 114 pallets of another specialty formula, also in high need.

Calling on states to take advantage of all available WIC flexibilities that could help those they serve. Since May 13, when USDA wrote to state health commissioners on this issue, 33 new waivers have been requested and approved, with all 50 states now offering at least one flexibility to help WIC families get the formula they need.

Engaging directly with WIC stakeholders including holding multiple listening sessions to better understand current needs and concerns.

## Memorial Day Weekend Marks the Start of the Boating Season



### MAINE, STATE-WIDE (May 25, 2022)

-- With more people heading out to enjoy a day of boating or fishing, it is more important than ever to be a responsible boater to keep you and everyone on the water safe. Here are a few reminders:

“Headway Speed” means the slowest speed at which it is still possible to maintain steering and control of the watercraft. You must operate a watercraft at “headway speed” while:

Within 200 feet of any shoreline, including

islands.

Within a marina or an approved anchorage in coastal or inland waters.

This law was designed to keep everyone on the water safe, reduce erosion, and to help protect wildlife such as loons that nest on the shoreline.

When towing someone on water skis, a surfboard, tube, or another device, ALWAYS have a responsible person at least 12 years of age in a position to observe the towed person(s) continuously, in addition to the boat operator. The person(s) being

towed must wear a life jacket.

You are responsible for your wake. Always pay attention.

Be respectful of others. Give other boaters, swimmers, and anglers plenty of space and always drive at a reasonable and prudent speed for conditions, congestion of other boats, and wildlife.

ALWAYS wear a life jacket. If you think you will have time to put it on after you are in the water, think again.

Stay alert! Never drink and boat.

### What do you think?

We strongly encourage Letters to the Editor, Op/Eds, columns or any other submissions from our readers. Agree with us or another columnist? Disagree? Write to us and let us know!

Email all submissions, including name, address and phone number, to the editor.

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# Arts & Entertainment

## BDA Launches a Summer Adirondack Chair Project



**BRUNSWICK, ME (May 26, 2022)** -- The BDA Design Committee created the Have A Seat Adirondack chair project to bring a unifying spark of joy to Downtown Brun-

wick. Brunswick community businesses, local artists, and community organizations have come together to create an environment downtown that invites tourists, local shop-



pers, families, and others to stop, sit and smile.

Where the project came from:

The Have A Seat project is the result of the right people at the right time coming together around an idea. The BDA Design Committee has been searching for a project to brighten the hearts and faces of those who come to downtown Brunswick this summer and the timing was perfect. Rob Biggs, the recent Saco Main Street Executive Director and new board member of the Brunswick Downtown Association, suggested a painted Adirondack chair project as he had successfully completed a similar project in Saco. A subcommittee was formed, and the project was just a matter of taking a good and proven idea and making minor adjustments to work in Downtown Brunswick. The project was announced

at the Annual Meeting in March and the committee was up and running.

The unfinished Maine made Adirondack chairs were purchased from two sources. The Maine State Prison Showroom in Thomaston supplied 23 chairs from solid Ash that fold and have wheels. The chairs were expertly crafted by inmates at the prison. Twelve additional chairs constructed of Eastern White Cedar were delivered by Maine Adirondack Chairs in Vassalboro.

Once painted, sealed and reconstructed, the chairs will be placed downtown from June to September 25. They will be secured and placed in pairs. A large tag will be affixed to each chair with the sponsor logo, artist information and chair auction link.

The birch tree chair is the most recent Maine Street art contribution by



Brunswick artist and resident Karl Saila. "I was raised in the world of saunas with cold dips into a lake or snow drift and the love of birch tree groves. The birch tree is symbolic of my [Finish] family heritage."

Local artist Robert Sansonetti painted the chair sponsored by Mare Brook Farm and owners Ryan and Courtney Ravenscroft. Bob found inspiration from their brilliant summer blooms. "The image I painted is a beautiful bouquet from the wonderful Mare Brook Farm, an amazing source of the most

beautiful Maine-grown flowers, herbs, and other lovely plants!"

Tracy Johnson, who is a goldsmith, took a 'spring break' to paint a chair for Keith Field Goldsmith. She focused on a single image that was bold, beautiful and spoke to their trade. "I hope this chair will inspire people and spread joy in downtown Brunswick."

Visit the BDA Have A Seat Chair Auction website for more details, photos of completed chairs, artist bios, chair sponsors, and a Have A Seat Adirondack Chair location map.

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# Popcorn, Candy, and Soda - Oh My!

**LEWISTON/AUBURN and GORHAM, ME (May 24, 2022)** -- Popcorn has gone hand in hand with movies for almost 100 years! The delicious snack started as a way for theaters to provide affordable snacks during the Great

Depression. Once it caught on it was clear, popcorn was here to stay.

The salty treat pairs well with soda - another national favorite. Do you prefer candy or popcorn when you go to a film? These days, with discounted com-

bos you might as well get both!

Did you know? At most cinemas, the "butter" is actually completely dairy free. The "artificial butter flavor" is usually an oil - most commonly soybean oil. So if you have a dairy

allergy no need to skip that butter!

**COMING SOON**  
**Watcher - JUNE 3rd** - As a serial killer stalks the city, Julia - a young actress who just moved to town with her boyfriend - notices a mysterious stranger

watching her from across the street.

**Jurassic World: Dominion - JUNE 10th** - Four years after the destruction of Isla Nublar, dinosaurs now live - and hunt - alongside humans all over the world. This fragile balance

will reshape the future and determine, once and for all, whether human beings are to remain the apex predators on a planet they now share.

Congratulations to our May Hidden Popcorn Winners - Peg, Larry, Katherine & Joe!

## EdGE Summer Camp Registration Opens Across Downeast Locations

**CHERRYFIELD, ME (May 23, 2022)** - Maine Seacoast Mission opens registration for EdGE summer camps on April 19. Conducted across three locations this year, EdGE offers five weeks of camp to students in kindergarten up to 8th grade. From June 27 to July 29, EdGE summer camps will take place at:

The University of Maine at Machias for students who attend Rose M. Gaffney Elementary School.

D.W. Merritt Elementary school for students who live in Columbia, Columbia Falls, Addison, Jonesport, and Beals.

Milbridge Elementary School for students who live in Harrington, Cherryfield, Deblois, Beddington, and Milbridge.

EdGE Director Isaac Marnik explained, "We're excited to offer three locations for EdGE families and students. The intent is to make camps more convenient to get to."

Students sign up by

the week and register for as many weeks as they wish. "We'll have regular EdGE activities to choose from such as STEM, the arts, and physical activities," says Isaac. Each week, Over the summer, campers will have multiple opportunities to visit the ropes course on the Mission's Downeast Campus in Cherryfield.

EdGE Summer Camps are managed by the Mission's EdGE coordinators, part-time afterschool staff, and community

members. "We expect to return to pre-pandemic attendance, so we're opening in full force. We're looking forward to a great summer," he said.

Camps are \$30.00 per student per week with available scholarships. EdGE Director Isaac Marnik said online EdGE summer camp registration opens April 19 on the Mission website, <https://seacoastmission.org/downeast/edge/>. For help with registration please call (207) 546-4466. Some

scholarships are available for families in need of financial assistance. Please contact Maria Wight at (207) 546-4466 for details.

Rooted in a history of compassionate service and mutual trust, Maine Seacoast Mission seeks to strengthen coastal and

island communities by educating youth, supporting families, and promoting good health. We offer healthcare, education, food, shelter, and spiritual support by land and by sea. For more information, please visit <https://www.seacoastmission.org/>

## The Art of Monson: A Bicentennial Celebration

**MONSON, ME (May 25, 2022)** -- Monson Arts - an art center and artist residency program located in Monson, Maine - hosts the Monson Historical Society's exhibition in continuation of bicentennial celebrations of Monson. Carl Little, curator, writer and art critic, was hired to work with the creative community, carefully selecting works that represent a wide array of creative residents and visitors of Monson.

The work on display

ranges from paintings by Alan Bray, John Bozin and Sarah Faragher; photographs from Todd Watts, Bernice Abbott and Frank Sherburne; sculptural objects by Gemma Gascoine and Ed Hoover; and slate artifacts from the early 20th century. Each artist lives in or is deeply connected to Monson. Glenn Poole, the president of the historical society and Monson native says, "We are so proud to present this exhibition and catalogue showcasing so many gifted art-

ists". Monson has always been a home for artists of the North Woods, and that will be commemorated with a catalog of the exhibition available at the Historical Society and Gallery.

The Art of Monson: A Bicentennial Celebration is on view from May 25th through October 31st, 2022. An opening will take place May 27th, 4:30 - 6:30pm. On July 16th, Carl Little will give a talk about the exhibition at 2:00pm during Summerfest celebrations. The

Monson Arts Gallery is located at 8 Greenville Road, Monson Maine and is open Wednesday through Sunday 10:00am - 5:00pm.

Monson Arts was founded in 2018. Their mission is to provide time and space for creative work through residencies, workshops, and educational partnerships. Visit [monsonarts.org](http://monsonarts.org) to learn more about all of their programs.

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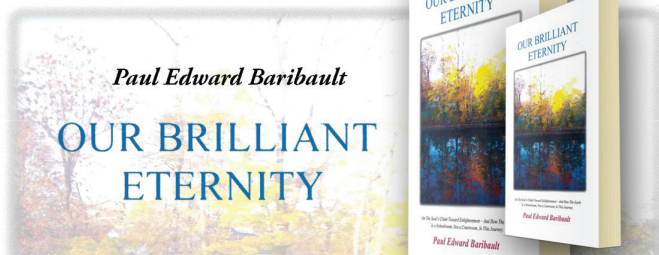
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## CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

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Bags fly at 12:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Outdoor Learning and Education Center at 151 Stetson Rd. Auburn

**COST:** \$50 per team (2 players)

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**TO REGISTER YOUR TEAM, VISIT THE YMCA OR CALL 207-795-4095**

For more information, please contact Marcie Hird at [mhird@alymca.org](mailto:mhird@alymca.org)

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To get updates during the tournament, register your team on your smartphone using the Scoreholio app.\*  
[app.scoreholio.com](http://app.scoreholio.com)

Search for "YMCA Kids to Camp Cornhole Tournament"

\* This app is simply for day-of updates. You must ALSO register with the YMCA to be entered into the tournament.

YMCA of Auburn-Lewiston | 207-795-4095 | [www.alymca.org](http://www.alymca.org) | 62 Turner St. Auburn, ME 04210

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## Spindleworks Premieres on Netflix

**BRUNSWICK, ME (May 25, 2022)** -- If you've enjoyed the quirky food and travel show "Somebody Feed Phil" on Netflix, we've got another reason for you to enjoy it this season -- Spindleworks!

Phil Rosenthal, whose prior TV work includes "Everybody Loves Raymond," visited our Brunswick studio last Labor Day weekend in the middle of his Portland, Maine episode shoot. He

and his crew met the artists and Senior Program Manager Brian Braley, watched art-in-the-making, and explored the WhatNot Gallery. Then it was out for ice cream at nearby Dog Bar Jim.

Brokering the partnership was Spindleworker Anna McDougall, who reportedly had been urging her cousin Phil to come visit the studio for quite a while.

Season 5 of "Some-

body Feed Phil" premieres on Netflix and all 5 episodes will be available immediately. So check out the Maine episode and our Spindleworks artists, who fed Phil with their own creativity and joy.

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

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# Maine Realtors Diaper Drive June 6th - 8th

## 2022 Diaper Drive

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| Berkshire Hatheway, 473 Center St  | Auburn, ME          | Kezar Realty, 224 Main St                        | Lovell, ME           |
| Maine REALTORS 19 Community Drive-- <i>larger size diapers, size 5,6,7</i> | Augusta, ME         | TBA  | Machais, ME          |
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| Realty of Maine - 458 Main St  | Bangor, ME          | Riverside Realty, 152 River Rd                   | Mexico, ME           |
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| William Raveis, 1 Oak St,  | Boothbay Harbor, ME | Lakes Region Realty, 55 Emery Mills Rd           | Shapleigh, ME        |
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## Collection Sites Statewide

# June 6th-8th

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Send all items for Names & Faces to the editor.

Deadline is Friday by five pm.

**Superintendent**  
*Continued from page 3*

looks historically at school shootings, at the core are often mental health issues and/or human error in not following existing safety protocols. More often solutions lie in the more complex areas such as increased mental health services or in funding to provide more frequent and deeper prevention and response training.

I know this was a lot of information. I am sure many of you may be overwhelmed. I apologize. It is an overwhelming topic.

In closing I just want to say that first and foremost - if you have any questions about safety protocols and what the schools have in place or do not have in place, I encourage you to reach out to your school's principal or to myself to get those answers. As parent/guardians you need to know your children are as safe as they can be when they come to our schools. If you have additional ideas, I also encourage you to reach out to these same folks to share. It is only as a COMMUNITY working together that we can prevent this kind of violence in our schools. Finally, I want to leave you with the knowledge that our school leaders and staff care tremendously about keeping our students safe. We do

not take these things lightly and have not been "desensitized" to these tragic events over time. Safety remains at the forefront of our thoughts.

We LOVE and care for the children of this community. The images of those 19 young faces haunts us all. We are constantly and actively continuing to seek ways in which we can improve our safety practices. We remain committed to continuing to do so.

**CURRICULUM TRANSPARENCY**

I have been thinking a lot recently about this issue and I want to make sure that families know that we want you to understand what is, and sometimes just as important, what is not being taught in our schools.

Public schools have always been placed in a tenuous position when it comes to times in our history of political strife and division. What is or is not taught in our schools can become a lightning rod with families feeling very strongly on opposing sides of complex societal issues. Public schools serve all students with all kinds of different backgrounds, viewpoints and perspectives and it is this diversity of thought that is often such a vibrant and exciting part of our learning each day. While pub-

lic schools honor and care for each individual child in our care, it is our responsibility to teach all children. This means that the needs of the "whole" at times can outweigh the needs of the "few". A dichotomy indeed, but one I believe public school systems (at least in Maine where I've been for 26 years now) do a masterful job of balancing.

Citing directly from our district's policy IJJ (Instructional and Library Materials Selection Policy) it states that:

*"the School Committee recognizes that the final authority as to what materials an individual student will be exposed to rests with that student's parents or guardians. However, at no time will the wishes of one child's parents to restrict his/her reading or viewing of a particular item infringe on other parents' rights to permit their children to read or view the same material."*

By reading that I hope you can understand the complexity of our public schools trying to navigate student learning, particularly in our current society where so many things are divisive. As public schools we try to remain balanced and open to constructive thought and discourse. Always with an eye on teaching students how to criti-

cally think, ask questions, find facts to inform their thoughts and then learn to think for themselves. This is our ultimate goal, to "Prepare and Inspire" our children to be thoughtful, informed citizens who determine their own path and continue to learn, question and grow to lead the next generation in our communities.

All this being said - although individual parents may not be able to determine exactly what is or is not taught (as that is ultimately the role of the state and local school committee) that is not to say that parents/guardians should not be well informed of what is being taught. Families may agree or disagree, but access to this information is important. Our schools share this information in lots of ways.

First and foremost, I want to make sure that families know you can access ALL of our specific content area and grade level learning standards on our website. This document is there for all to see. Now, to be clear, this document is a listing of the outcomes for learning (i.e. skills) we wish to see our student's demonstrate across all grades and subject areas. How our teachers work with students to demonstrate that learning may vary significantly, especially at the older grade

levels where we have fewer core curriculum series.

When you click on that document - you may likely be overwhelmed. It is a lot of information. But I encourage parents to do so, and to read through the various standards and performance indicators that are there. It really does give you a strong sense of the topics and content that is covered across each grade.

Another great resource to know what is being taught in our schools is your own children. I used to love watching "Leave it to Beaver" growing up (I know that dates me a bit). But there is something to be said for that nightly dinner table conversation that asks your child: So what did you learn about today? Now granted, for some students that may result in an immediate response and for others you may have to "dig" a little more but what a great conversation to have daily with your children and what a great way to hear "from the source" what is happening in our schools.

I also encourage families to reach out directly to teachers. Teachers often share information proactively, but if specific questions come up they are there to ask. Our teachers are incredible professionals who love to talk about what our children are

learning.

Then if you have further questions, our building leaders are there to ask as well. Our Assistant Principals and Principals are also here to help families navigate getting these important questions answered.

Ultimately, if parents have specific concerns and have very strong feelings about materials being taught there are several processes outlined in our policies that you can follow. These policies have very specific steps and we take each one seriously to ensure that ultimately the right outcomes are reached in that delicate balancing act I described above.

I would also mention that parents/guardians have the right to utilize the Freedom of Access Act (FOAA) to make specific requests for information of our public schools. These rules are governed at the state and national level and you can learn more about them on our website. In the Gorham Schools, our FOAA "officer" is Rhonda Warren, located in my office. She is a great person to direct questions to if you have them about what FOAA is or how to utilize it. Her email address is rhonda.warren@gorham-schools.org. We will be placing more information on this important Act and See Superintendent, page 16

# 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
- Add infield mix and relevel current fields
- Acquire tarps and field maintenance equipment
- Add scoreboards

VISIT: [GYBSA.COM](http://GYBSA.COM) FOR MORE INFORMATION, INCLUDING DONATION LEVEL REWARDS

VISIT: [tinyurl.com/GYBSA-DONATE](http://tinyurl.com/GYBSA-DONATE) or

MAIL TO: GYBSA, PO Box 176, Gorham, ME 04038

GYBSA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) tax deductible contribution

# Women's Ride Returns on June 4 in Locations Across Maine

**PORTLAND, ME (May 16, 2022)** -- The Women's Ride will take place on Saturday, June 4, in at least 16 different communities across Maine, the Bicycle Coalition of Maine (BCM) announced Monday.

"After receiving overwhelmingly positive feedback last year, we're excited to bring back this statewide Women's Ride format in 2022," said Bicycle Coalition of Maine Event Director Colleen Donohoe. "And we truly appreciate the generosity of our presenting sponsors,

Northern Light Health and Norway Savings Bank, for making it possible."

The BCM says the format is intended to make the ride as accessible as possible to as many women as possible.

The Women's Ride is open to all self-identifying women—including femme, transgender, and non-binary—and will feature road, gravel, and mountain bike options with difficulty levels ranging from beginner to seasoned.

Rides have thus far been confirmed in August-



ta, Belfast, Carrabassett Valley, Falmouth, Gorham, Lewiston, Madawaska, Orland, Orono, Portland, South Portland, Thomaston, Topsham, Westbrook,

Winter Harbor, and Yarmouth.

Although any bike shop, bike club, or individual can host a ride, all leaders, sweeps, and other

riders must be women.

"We want to provide an event where all women of all riding types and skill levels can feel welcome and comfortable riding in a group setting," Donohoe said.

In preparation for the Women's Ride, the Coalition invites women to register for a fix-a-flat session on May 25 and an urban biking class on June 1. Both classes are free, and will be held at the BCM's office at 38 Diamond Street in Portland.

Following the June 4 Women's Ride, the Co-

alition will be holding additional group rides—dubbed the "Women's Ride Summer Series"—every other Wednesday in the Greater Portland region. More details will be shared in early June. These rides are also sponsored by Norway Savings Bank and Northern Light Health.

Registration for the Women's Ride is pay-what-you-can, with a suggested donation of \$35.

Interested women can find more information and register for the June 4 Women's Ride at: [bike-maine.org/womens-ride/](http://bike-maine.org/womens-ride/).

## Yard & Tack Sale to Benefit Skyline Farm, North Yarmouth



A sampling of the items that will be for sale at Skyline Farm. Photo by Pamela Ames

**NORTH YARMOUTH, ME (May 23, 2022)** -- Come shop & Tack Sale at 95 The Skyline Farm's Yard Lane, North Yarmouth, on

Saturday, June 4, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., and support a local nonprofit. Skyline's Visitor Center and outdoor tent will feature furniture, household goods, gardening items, seasonal decorations and more! Horse items include saddles, bridles, blankets, and equestrian clothing.

Skyline Farm Car-

riage Museum will be open during the sale so people can view the current exhibit, "Town and Country: Rocking and Rolling Down The Lane".

For more information, see Skyline Farm's Facebook page or email inquiries to [info@skylinefarm.org](mailto:info@skylinefarm.org). Skyline Farm is a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization.

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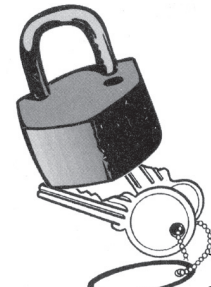
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**Starting Ap. 7 and every  
1st and 3rd Thursday  
through June**

**LEWISTON** -- 1st & 3rd Thursdays from April-June, 4-6pm at the Lewiston Public Library: **TEEN TABLETOP RPGS.** Calling all adventurers and explorers! LPL Teen will be hosting a series of one-shot tabletop roleplaying games, in person in the teen lounge on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month from 4-6pm, from April-June. Supplies will be provided – just bring yourself and your creative mind! Each drop in session will feature a different one-shot tabletop RPG, run by game master Hallie. No previous RPG experience is required. This program is intended for teens ages 13-19. For more information, contact the Adult & Teen Services department at 207-513-3135 or [lpference@lewistonmaine.gov](mailto:lpference@lewistonmaine.gov), or go to [lplonline.org/events/teen-tabletop-rpgs/](http://lplonline.org/events/teen-tabletop-rpgs/)

**May 4 and every  
Wednesday**

**GORHAM** -- 10:00am Weekly story time has resumed at the North Gorham Public Library! Storytime is open to children & their caregivers. Join us weekly for stories, songs and crafts every Wednesday at 10am. 2 Standish Neck Rd, Gorham ME. or check) at the door, 207-846-5378, or <http://www.midcoastsymphony.org> for details. Under 18 and college students are free.

the chance to Live, Learn and Recover. Deb York began An Angel's Wing in 2017 and has been helping our community since.

**June 4**

**AUBURN** -- The Maine Iris Society announces its upcoming Iris & Spring Flower Show being held on Saturday, June 4th from 130pm to 4pm at the Auburn Middle School, 38 Falcon Dr, Auburn. Admission is free and will feature a sale of Potted Perennials and Irises. Bare-Root Iris Rhi-

# Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

zomes will also be available for \$1 each.

**June 4-26**

**FREEPORT** -- **CARAVAN OF DREAMS**, written and directed by Stephen Legawiec; presented by Ziggurat Theatre Ensemble and the Desert of Maine Center for Arts and Ecology. Opens: June 4 and continues through June 26. Held at Desert of Maine; 95 Desert Road; Freeport, ME 04843. Parking is available in the Desert of Maine lot. For tickets, see <https://caravanofdreams.eventbrite.com> or call (207) 854-8882. General Admission: \$25.00; Seniors/Students/veterans \$20.00; Kids 17 or under: \$5.00.

**June 6**

**AUBURN** -- The Auburn Art Club will meet on Monday, June 6 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the Park Avenue Methodist Church in Auburn. The program will feature an 1870 school. Scholars will be using slates, quill pens, intellectual and mental arithmetic, and preparing their declamations. A box lunch, including bottled water, chips, and dessert will be provided by the club. Closer to the date the president will e-mail members with more information concerning the lunch. All members are invited to attend.

**June 6**

**GORHAM** -- 8:30am Gorham Village Alliance Meeting Council Chambers

**June 6**

**GORHAM** -- 7pm Planning Board Meeting Council Chambers

**June 7**

**GORHAM** -- 6:30pm Regular Town Council Meeting & Public Hearing on proposed municipal budget Council Chambers

**June 8**

**GORHAM** -- 7pm School Committee Meeting Council Chambers

**June 8**

**AUBURN** -- The Knight House/Downing Shoe Shop will be open 1-4 on Wednesday, June 8. Free tours and fun for everyone.

Contact person is Penny Jessop 784-0586. The Knight house/Downing Shoe Shop is located at the north side of the Garden Hilton Hotel on the West Pitch of the Falls in Auburn, Maine. AHS's was founded by the DAR in 1923 and its purpose is to promoting the study of the history of Androscoggin County and its citizens and preserving in its archives, records, relics and mementoes of that history. Located on the third floor of the Androscoggin Court House at 2 Turner St in Auburn.

**June 9**

**LEWISTON** -- The Sampson Southern Maine Squadron AFB Veterans will be having a get together June 9th at noon-time Thursday at the Governors Restaurant in Lewiston. Sampson was once a Naval Training Base 1942-1945 but was used as an Air Force Training Base 1950-1956. All veterans are welcome. FMI email [wvmtk-wkr1933@gmail.com](mailto:wvmtk-wkr1933@gmail.com)

**June 9**

**SKOWHEGAN** -- 8:30am – 4:30pm Build Maine Event – Conference Day The Maine Spinning Mill, 7 Island Avenue, Skowhegan

**June 10**

**GREENE** -- Former Maine Park Ranger and author, Tim Caverly, presents "48 Hours With a Wilderness Ranger" on Friday, June 10th at 2 & 7 PM. The Araxine Wilkins Sawyer Memorial, 371 Sawyer Road, Greene. Free admission!

FMI call 946-5311, visit [sawyer-foundation.com](http://sawyer-foundation.com) or [www.facebook.com/sawyer.foundation1937](http://www.facebook.com/sawyer.foundation1937)

**June 11**

**FALMOUTH** -- Dino Day! June 11<sup>th</sup> from 11:30-12pm ; 3-3:30pm. Visit with Jurassic Jo's Dinos for a special meet & greet! Activities, giveaways and more! All ages welcome! A free event hosted by Flagship Cinemas in Falmouth, Maine. Link: <https://fb.me/e/2F1AtfhON>

**June 14**

**GORHAM** -- 7am – 8pm Election Day

**June 14**

**GORHAM** -- 7pm Conservation Commission Meeting Conference Room A

**June 16-19, 23-26**

**AUBURN** -- The L/A Community Little Theatre presents the classic comedy You Can't Take It With You, one of the most popular and successful plays of modern times. Show dates are June 16-18, 23-25 at 7:30 p.m., and June 19 and 26 at 2:00 p.m. Visit the website at ([laclt.com](http://laclt.com)) for more information or to purchase tickets.

**June 25**

**AUBURN** -- The Knight House/Downing Shoe Shop will be open 1-4 on Wednesday, June 25. Free tours and fun for everyone.

Contact person is Penny Jessop 784-0586. The Knight house/Downing Shoe Shop is located at the north side of the Garden Hilton Hotel on the West Pitch of the Falls in Auburn, Maine. AHS's was founded by the DAR in 1923 and its purpose is to promoting the study of the history of Androscoggin County and its citizens and preserving in its archives, records, relics and mementoes of that history. Located on the third floor of the Androscoggin Court House at 2 Turner St in Auburn.

**July 13**

**LEWISTON** -- Wednesday, July 13, 5:30 to 6:30

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**Rural**

*Continued from page 1*

tween high school students who perceived their local economy as getting worse and those who perceived the economy as staying the same or improving, either.

Notably, Maine's rural youth were more likely to want to live in a rural place than study subjects from Oregon.

"We suspect that students in Piscataquis County want to live in a rural place when they grow up because of the cultural emphasis on rural living in Maine. Oregon is also more urban overall," says Leahy, who co-authored the article with researchers from Oregon State University, University of Alaska Fairbanks, University of Georgia and James Madison University.

The researchers concluded that rural forest-dependent communities concerned about the

sustainability of their communities may better retain or attract rural youth by focusing on community attributes and connections to the outdoors. Policies are often developed to recruit young workers to rural locales, but without fostering attachments, simple economic incentives are not enough to keep them there.

"Piscataquis County is doing all the right things by having lots of outdoor opportunities and groups like the Piscataquis County Soil and Water Conservation District and Appalachian Mountain Club who encourage youth to get outdoors. There's also a focus on positive community attributes through their economic development efforts, the new ice arena and in-town programming for youth. They're headed in the right direction to encourage youth to stay in their community or return at some point in the future," Leahy says.

p.m. Couture Room, Lewiston Public Library. **READ ME BOOK DISCUSSION:** "SIGH, GONE," BY PHUC TRAN. Join us to discuss the nonfiction selection for this year's Read ME statewide summer reading program. Copies available to borrow. Advance registration required at 513-3135 or [lpference@gmail.com](mailto:lpference@gmail.com).

**August 24**

**LEWISTON** -- Wednesday, August 24, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Couture Room, Lewiston Public Library. **READ ME BOOK DIS-**

**CUSSION:** "BENEFICENCE," BY MEREDITH HALL. Join us to discuss the fiction selection for this year's Read ME statewide summer reading program. Copies available to borrow. Advance registration required at 513-3135 or [lpference@gmail.com](mailto:lpference@gmail.com).

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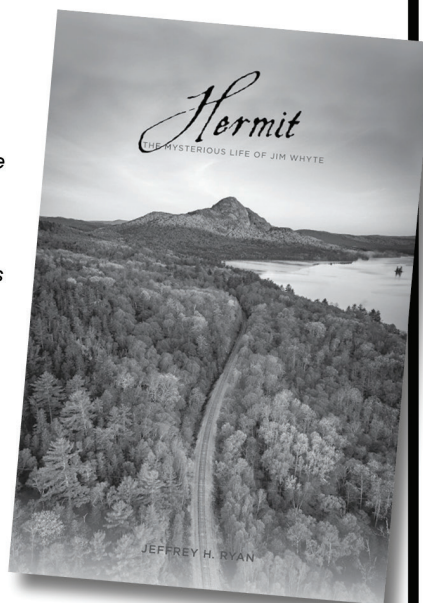
*"Ryan is an excellent storyteller, and this tale is as good as any novel, especially since it's based on real people and real events."*

— Bill Bushnell, *Bushnell on Books*

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— George Smith, *Bangor Daily News*

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Dues are \$26 per year.

Facebook /Gorham White Rock Grange #380 Web/ [mainestategrange.org](http://mainestategrange.org) The White Rock is called Subordinate grange. Use right column to locate.

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**Trip - June 18-26, 2022** - Trip includes 8 nights lodging and 14 meals, guided tours of Nashville and Belle Meade Historic Site & Winery. Admission to the Country Music Hall of Fame and the Grand Ole Opry behind the Scene Tour. Includes a show at the Grand Ole Opry and the Nightlife Dinner Theater. Price is \$1,025.00 pp double occupancy and admission to all venues and bus driver tip.

#### Hobo Train - Meredith, NH - September 21, 2022

- Enjoyable 2 hour ride on the Winnepesaukee Scenic Railroad. While on board, enjoy a turkey dinner from Hart's Turkey Farm with all the fixings. Price is \$85.00

and includes bus, train ride, turkey dinner and bus driver tip. Deadline to sign up is August 12, 2022. Purchase tickets at the Lewiston Senior Citizens' office at 65 Central Avenue.

#### Flag Hill Distillery and Winery in Lee, NH

**- October 11, 2022** - Lunch at Warren's Lobster House in Kittery and an afternoon tour and tasting at Flag Hill Winery. Time for shopping after the tour. Price is \$83.00 per person which includes the bus and tip for the driver, lunch, and tour and tasting at the winery. Purchase tickets at the Lewiston Senior Citizens Office at 65 Central Avenue, Lewiston.

#### Ogunquit Playhouse for the play "CLUE"

**- October 16, 2022** - Clue is a fast paced hilarious whodunit comedy. After the show we will go to Cracker Barrel in South Portland for dinner on your own. The price is \$90.00 and includes bus, show and driver tip. Purchase tick-

ets at the Lewiston Senior Citizens' office at 65 Central Avenue.

#### Mackinac Island Trip - September 10-18, 2022

- Trip includes 9 days and 8 nights - 14 meals - Guided tour of Mackinaw City - Guided Carriage Tour in Mackinac Island. Boat ride through the Soo Locks with free time and sightseeing in Sault Saint Marie, visit to Mackinaw Crossing and "Michigan's Little Bavaria" and much more. A \$75. deposit is due upon signing up. Price is \$899. pp double occupancy. Make checks out to Diamond Tours and mail to Claire Bilodeau.

#### White Mountain Hotel & Resort - December 4 - 5, 2022

- Trip includes 1 night lodging - 3 meals including the Grand Sunday Brunch. Two different entertainment shows, Austrian Sleigh Ride through Jackson Village with a Jingle Bell Chocolate Tour. Stop at the Christmas Tree Shop and Lunch at Polly's Pancake Parlor. A

\$100 deposit is due upon signing. Price is \$369. pp double occupancy which includes tips.

For more information about any of our trips, please contact Claire Bilodeau (207)784-0302 or Cindy Boyd (207-345-9569.

## TRAVEL

Diamond Tours bus trip: Memphis Tenn - 11 days 10 nights. August 12-22. \$1,129. Includes motel, tour of Memphis, Memphis Area Casino and much more. Call your tour guide now. Fern (207) 312-8408.

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**NUMBER OF WEEKS TO RUN:** \_\_\_\_\_

# GHS Recognizes National Honor Society Seniors



## Superintendent *Continued from page 11*

sharing the information requested from folks for all to see as a means of additional transparency later this summer.

One of my recent “lessons learned” (of many) is that it is important for our schools to do a better job of making sure parents know how to ask these important questions and get this important information so that you don’t feel “un-welcomed” in doing so. It is often when people are unsure of how to ask these important questions that they feel perhaps barriers exist in them doing so. I am committed to improving our services in this area moving forward. You will see this reflected in my upcoming goals for

the 2022-23 School year and in my current and future communications to families. If you have specific ideas on how you think we can do a better job at strengthening our transparency in this area, please feel free to email me at [heather.perry@gorhamschools.org](mailto:heather.perry@gorhamschools.org). **THANK YOU!**

### FY 23 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

There are TWO key steps that remain in the approval of our proposed FY 23 budget:

1. Town Council Vote on June 7 (meeting will be held in council chambers starting at 6:30 p.m.).
2. Public Budget Validation Referendum Vote on June 14 (this will be a vote to either approve

of the budget passed by Town Council on June 7 or to not approve the budget passed by Town Council on June 7).

There is always much fluidity in this process, especially at this time of the year. The School Committee passed the proposed budget on April 13, but the Town Council can make changes to that proposed budget at their meeting on June 7. It really is important to follow along to know what you will be voting on on June 14 because it can change significantly between those two meetings.

In an effort to try and simplify the proposed FY 23 budget (as passed by the School Committee), I’ve created the “one pager”. This one pager takes what

**FLAGSHIP CINEMAS**  
*Premium*

## JOIN US for DINO DAY!

**Saturday, June 11**  
11:30-12:00 & 3:00-3:30

Photo ops with  
Jurassic Jo's Dinos,  
activities, & giveaways.

All ages welcome.




is a 350 page document for the School Committee, and a 200 page document for the Town Council and attempts to put all the highlights in one place. Please review and know that if you want more details, you can find that and more on our website to learn more.

### UPCOMING GHS GRADUATION DETAILS

This is information taken from Principal Jandreau’s newsletters to students and families. Just wanted to make sure folks had all the details so you can join in to support our Seniors as they end one “chapter” in their future stories and begin to write the next!

#### Senior Walk:

GHS seniors will participate in our annual “Senior Walk” across all of our K-8 schools. This will take place on June 10, starting at around 9:00 a.m. I will “facebook live” the event from the district’s facebook account if folks are interested in following live!

#### The Graduation Ceremony

Each graduate will receive 8 tickets for family and friends.

Seniors must be at the high school by 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 12th. They will meet in the gymnasium for last-minute preparations. They should be wearing caps and gowns and all other regalia (e.g. stoles and cords).

Parking along the GHS Stadium Field will not be permitted from Saturday, June 12th at 7:00 p.m. until Monday, June 14th at 7:00 a.m. Any vehicle parked along the Stadium Field during this time frame will be towed at the expense of the vehicle’s owner.

Access Road will be closed from the GHS Parking Lot to Narragansett Street (Route 202) beginning at 2:00 p.m. on

June 12th and extending through Graduation.

Parking will be extremely limited! There are only 240 parking spots on the GHS campus. Anyone planning to attend Graduation should make arrangements to carpool, to park off campus and walk, or to park at Gorham Middle School and utilize a shuttle service that we will be running between GMS and GHS. The shuttle service will begin at 2:30. It will begin again following the ceremony to transport people back to GMS.

The gates to enter the GHS Stadium will open at 2:30 p.m. for individuals with disabilities and 3:00 p.m. for everyone else. Only those with a ticket will be allowed to enter. For security reasons, backpacks or other large bags will not be permitted; handheld, personal bags may be searched prior to entering.

Seating will be on a first come, first served basis. There will be a section reserved for people with disabilities and a section reserved for staff.

Sign language interpreters will be stationed to the side of the stage closest to GHS; if you require this service, please sit accordingly.

Masks will not be required for graduation.

Restrooms will be available at the snack shack. Food will not be available.

Graduation will be streamed live. We will be sharing links for the live stream soon:

Gorham High School, as are all school facilities, is a tobacco-free zone. Please refrain from bringing any tobacco products, including cigars, on campus. Police will take notice.

Note: There is a “rain date” for the same outline above on Monday, June 13 if the ceremony is rained

out on Sunday, June 12.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATING CLASS OF 2022! GO RAMS! OUR LITTLE LEARNERS COLLABORATION REPORTS SUCCESS!**

The “Little Learners” Literacy Program is a collaboration between the Gorham School Department and Baxter Memorial Library, funded in part through our Aspire Gorham work! This program brings high quality literacy programs to our early childhood care providers (centers, family based, etc.) via outreach programs throughout the course of the year.

So far this year, the program has served 954 local pre school aged children! Report is outlined below and if you want to learn more, feel free to reach out to Heidi Whelan at Baxter Memorial Library! We are so very proud of this partnership!

### SUMMER READING PROGRAM - BAXTER LIBRARY

Speaking of our incredible partnerships with Baxter Library...I wanted to make sure to share information on their summer reading program! Please check out their website to learn more!

I have so much more that I could share, but this is probably enough for now! My next blog will be the last for the 2021-22 School Year. Remember:

- Last student day June 13, 2022 with students being dismissed at half day.

- Check out our school websites and social media posts to keep up with end of year activities!

Have a great Memorial Day Weekend!

**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR GORHAM VETERANS**, most especially to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms!

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