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Thursday
December 8, 2022

Acadia Insurance Volunteers at Gorham Village Elementary



Acadia Insurance "JA Day" Volunteers – (back left to right) Michael Bartnick, Matt McManus, Tim Bath, Ryan Capponi, Amy Spinney (front left to right) Jim Kane, Ashlyn Ciampa, Simone Grimes, Tom Ter Horst, and Emily Hultgren.

WESTBROOK, ME (November 29, 2022) – Volunteers from the Wesbrook Maine office of Acadia Insurance, a Berkley Company® (Acadia), recently volunteered with the Junior Achievement (JA) of Maine for "JA Day" at Village Elementary in Gorham, ME, working with fourth and fifth grade students on Nov. 22, 2022.

"JA Day" is a one-day presentation of Junior Achievement's programs and a unique opportunity to reach an entire school of children at one time. By recruiting and training volunteers for this program, "JA Day" can reach every child at every grade level over the course of just four hours

Junior Achievement's (JA) mission is to inspire and prepare young people to succeed. The inspiration piece comes from community volunteers who not only deliver JA's lessons but share their experience. In the process, volunteers serve as role models helping to positively impact young people's perceptions about the im-



Acadia Insurance "JA Day" Volunteers – (back left to right) John Elias, Simone Grimes, Luke Saffian, Allie McKenna, Steve Mathiasen (front left to right) Matt McManus, Madison Lemieux, Tear Lemieux, Rachel Derosier, and Emma Coombs.

portance of education as well as critical life skills.

"Junior Achievement is grateful for the commitment and partnership from Acadia Insurance to deliver JA learning experiences to elementary students at Village Elementary," said Junior Achievement of Maine President and CEO Michelle Anderson.

Students learned about necessary skills for future success; they also had the opportunity to dive into hands-on activities that connect classroom learning to the real world delivered by Acadia volunteers. Thanks to the power of mentorship, students will learn firsthand from Acadia volunteers who have life and work experience to share, helping to bridge education and local workforce.

"Helping students understand the

importance of financial literacy at a young age can help position them for greater financial success later in life," said Simone Grimes, chief financial officer, Acadia and member of the Junior Achievement of Maine Board of Directors. "Through our work, we are able to present the diverse career opportunities that exist within the insurance industry and share an avenue to a successful and prosperous career upon graduation," Grimes said.

"We are grateful to Junior Achievement for creating this multi-day experience for our students," said Jodi Mezzanotte, principal, Village Elementary.

"By having local business leaders come into our classrooms and teach JA programming, it generates excitement and increases engagement which has endless benefits for our students and our staff."

Maine Finance Authority Awards Evergreen CU



FAME Acting CEO Carlos Mello presents Lender At Work for Maine award to Jere Shaw, Vice President and Senior Commercial Officer, of Evergreen Credit Union.

(November 30, 2022) -- Evergreen Credit Union received the Lender at Work for Maine Award by the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME) in the category for lenders with less than \$1.5 billion in assets. This past year, FAME partnered with Evergreen on 12 loans to Maine companies totaling approximately \$7 million. This helped to create 34 Maine jobs and retain an additional 132 jobs. Evergreen Credit Union is the 5th largest in the state based on asset size, serving six counties in Southern Maine. Forbes recently named the credit union to their Best-In-State Credit Unions 2022 for Maine.

Winter Gear at United Methodist's Clothes Closet in Gorham

GORHAM, ME (December 1, 2022) -- The Cressey Road United Methodist Church Clothes Closet at 81 Cressey Road is open first and third Saturdays of each month from 9 to 12 noon for anyone in need to select from any clothing we might have. We have a selection of sizes and brands for everyone. We have winter coats, boots etc. also. Feel free to drop in. We also take donations.

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Page 2 Thursday, December 8, 2022

Newsmakers, Names & Faces

UMaine Study: Difficulty in Addressing Student Mental Health

ORONO, ME (November 28, 2022) -- Educators in Maine's rural schools are struggling to meet the mental and emotional needs of their students due to a lack of resources, and institutional support, according to a new study from the University of Maine.

In education around the world, there is a tension between meeting institutional goals like fiscal efficiency, literacy and numeracy while also meeting the emotional needs of students. That tension can be heightened in rural communities due to fractured, distant social service networks and the declining economic well-being of many communities.

Even so, the need to address the emotional and mental needs of students in schools is greater than ever. In addition to adverse childhood experiences like neglect, abuse, mental illness, family issues and exposure to systemic adversity like poverty and racism, disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic have further exacerbated the need for trauma-informed

practices for students.

Biddle, Catharine associate professor of educational leadership at the University of Maine College of Education and Human Development, led a study analyzing focus group discussions with 110 rural Maine educators from 12 schools at various grade levels. Participants were asked questions about teacher-student relationships, the relationship between the school and the community, as well as strengths and challenges related to supporting student learning and healthy development.

Biddle framed her study through a lens of critical rural theory, which draws attention to the ways in which the purpose, activities and effects of education; the role of schools as institutions in a community; and the implicit assumptions in institutional and policy logics differ for nonurban areas. For example, professional norms and expectations within schools in rural areas may not be the same as those in cities; the diminished political economy of rural plac-



es may impact educational policy; and the teacher's themselves may have a different relationship to a rural community than they would in a city.

"Critical rural theory helps to highlight the ways in which our current educational system was not designed with rural schools in mind. Funding that relies on district capacity to write grants, narrowly defined credentials that ignore the many hats rural teachers must wear, and inadequate teacher support systems for those in our most remote schools are all examples of spatial inequities in education," Biddle says.

The teachers in the study described the increasing pressure on student achievement, dwindling financial resources within their districts and little institutional attention to the changing student needs around stress and mental health. Teachers

saw many ways in which stress directly interfered with their ability to address the curriculum, including rising student anxiety related to economic insecurity, such as hunger or transiency, or personal adversity such as parent death (often from substance use), removal from the home and placement with temporary caregivers or other family members.

The teachers also cited a lack of formal training in addressing these issues, and frequently worried that, in the absence of training, they were actually harming children through their lack of knowledge about childhood adversity.

To tackle these issues in light of the lack of institutional support, teachers described individual acts outside of their regular job descriptions, some that may even defy existing schools policies. Some of these actions includ-

ed small gestures, such as hugging students even in schools that had policies against such engagement, to significant forms of resistance, such as refusing to engage with mandated reporting systems or issues around documentation because they are seen as doing more harm than good.

"I think one of the most surprising findings was how conflicted teachers felt about mandated reporting," Biddle says. "Clearly, more research is needed here to understand why some rural educators may not want to report and how the dynamics of mandated reporting play out in small communities."

Addressing students needs was found to come often at a great emotional cost to teachers, contributing to more burnout in the profession, but also sometimes at a financial cost to teachers, as they discussed keeping supplies to meet students' basic needs in their classrooms, including clean clothing, snacks, toiletries and other necessities

The teachers in the study couldn't agree on

exactly what changes are needed to help them better address their students increased emotional needs, but their responses clustered around three key themes: adequate resources to achieve the high expectations laid out by the state; a broad base of community supports for families; and, finally, a model of teaching and learning that recognizes humanity.

Biddle hopes that the insights from this study may contribute to better designed policy to address both teacher burnout and childhood adversity in Maine's rural communities.

"Teachers were clear: school is about so much more than achievement for young people," Biddle says, "Children and youth need to feel that they are appreciated as people by the adults around them, that they need adequate mental health supports, and that our current staffing solutions are not meeting those needs."

The study was published in the journal The Rural Educator in Volume 43, Number 4, in 2022.

New England Sports Review with Karver Jordan

Patriots Fall in Close Battle with Rivals

(December 2, 2022) -- The Patriots fell to the Buffalo Bills Thursday night, December 1. Overall, this was an average game for the Patriots.

The offense from the Patriots would come out flat; there would be no momentum going into the game. 2nd-year quarter-back Mac Jones would go 22/36 for 195 yards with a touchdown pass, and no turnovers. Overall, this was an excellent game for

Jones, and this is something the Patriots need to build off for the future of the organization. The Patriots found a "Diamond in the rough" with their star rookie Marcus Jones. Jones would have the only touchdown for the Patriots on Thursday night.

What the Patriots' offense will have to improve is the play calling. The Patriots can move the ball at points during the game. The Patriots' offense

gets going and then stalls out. Another improvement needed is the offensive line. Mac Jones was getting tossed around like a rag doll.

Thursday night, the Patriots' defense would do an alright job but not great stopping the young quarterback Josh Allen. Allen would go 22/33 for 223 yards with two touchdown passes. Josh Allen would get strip sacked by the Patriots' Joshua Uche.

The Patriots, however, could not find a way to slow down Bills' rushing attack. Rookie James Cook of the Bills would have 14 carries for 64 yards. Devin Singletary, the other Bills' runningback, would have 13 carries for 51 yards with a touchdown.

What the Patriots' defense will need to improve is the tackling. The Patriots will need to get better at tackling if they want to push for a playoff spot.

Another improvement that needs to be made is overall better play calling on defense too.

Overall, the Patriots' performance was underwhelming. On December 12th, the Pats will visit the Arizona Cardinals.

Karver Jordan, class

Karver Jordan, class of 2024, is a sports writer for Freeport High School. Karver enjoys playing football and baseball, as well as hunting and spending time outside. Karver

loves writing about sports and is looking to pursue it as a career. Thanks for reading!

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces Collins, King Announce \$200K to Cumberland County Sherriff's Office

WASHINTON, D.C. (December 1, 2022) U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King announced that \$746,562 has been awarded to emergency service providers in Cumberland, Knox, and Waldo counties to enhance their ability to safely respond to mental health crises. The funding will also help to divert more mental health calls to the appropriate service providers. This funding was awarded through the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Response Program.



"When Mainers experience a mental health crisis, it's important they can get quality and efficient assistance. Too often the only option available is to call 911 – this creates a missed opportunity to connect these individuals with long-term treatment services, and it puts unnecessary strain on law enforcement officers who

are overwhelmed with calls and may not have the appropriate training for these types of situations," said Senators Collins and King in a joint statement. "We welcome this important funding, which will help local law enforcement agencies to do their jobs more effectively, strengthen resources for individuals with

mental health or substance use disorders, and promote public safety."

\$203,319 will help the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office address a dramatic increase in mental health-related services, which have risen from 220 calls in 2019 to 648 calls in 2021. A significant number of these calls are for repeat subjects, thus putting a significant strain on the resources of the agency to answer routine calls for service. The Cumberland County Sheriff's Office believes that an embedded mental health professional would provide targeted assistance to persons with mental health disorders by directing the individuals to local resources.

\$543,243 will help support ongoing efforts in Knox and Waldo counties to reduce encounters between law enforcement officers and those suffering with behavioral health issues. The funding will be used to expand the Co-occurring Community Connection (CCC) Project, which promotes effective strategies to identify and reduce the risk of harm to individuals with mental health and substance use disorders, propose interventions that have been shown to reduce recidivism, and improve access to treatment services.

Red Cross: Donations Help Most Vulnerable

PORTLAND, ME (November 28, 2022) — 2022 has been a year of crisis for families in Maine and around the world — from extreme climate disasters to global emergencies like the conflict in Ukraine to the first-ever national American Red Cross blood crisis.

"Whether a crisis is felt by an entire community or a single person, it turns lives upside down — especially for the most vulnerable," Stephanie Couturier, CEO, American Red Cross Northern New England Region said. "This holiday season, join us to provide help and hope for people in need during future emergencies by making a financial donation or by giving blood or platelets."

On Giving Tuesday and during the holidays, visit redcross.org to make a financial donation or an appointment to give blood or platelets for patients in the U.S. Individuals can also register for volunteer opportunities in their area. Right now, there is a high priority need for volunteers to join our Maine Disaster Action Team to assist families after local emergencies like home fires, seasonal floods and damaging storms. We are



American Red Cross

also seeking dedicated volunteers to assist as Blood Donor Ambassadors at our mobile blood drives. Ambassadors register blood donors, maintain the canteen area and thank our donors for giving the gift of life

RESPONDING TO DISASTERS OF ALL SIZ-ES This year's extreme disasters in the U.S. are clear examples of the increasing frequency and intensity of the climate crisis. So far in 2022, 15 billion-dollar disasters have upended lives across the country — more than twice the number of billion-dollar disasters that struck annually two decades ago.

For these and tens of thousands of other disasters in Maine and across the country, Red Cross volunteers have worked 24/7 to provide shelter, food and care. In 2022, 50 Maine volunteers deployed to 91 natural disasters including

Hurricane Ian.

In Maine, Red Cross volunteers have also provided relief and comfort after home fires and other local disasters. Since January, the Red Cross Home Fire Campaign, working with community partners, has installed 766 smoke alarms and helped make 256 Maine homes safer. Our goal is to help ensure no one faces a crisis of any size alone.

HELPING FAM-ILIES AFFECTED BY GLOBAL EMERGEN-CIES Internationally, the conflict in Ukraine has forced millions of people to flee for their lives. With such vast needs, the American Red Cross has provided financial donations and international crisis responders to support the global Red Cross network's response on the ground, which spans more than a dozen neighboring countries to deliver food, shelter, medical care, emotional support and other critical aid for displaced families.

Meanwhile, the American Red Cross has also provided financial support to the ongoing hunger crisis in Africa. Overall this year, as part of the world's largest humanitarian network, the American Red Cross provided humanitarian aid in more than 108 countries. Here in Southern and Mid-Coast Maine, Red Cross international efforts included re-

connecting 2 international families and educating 32 youth and adults in International Humanitarian Law.

OVERCOMING THE FIRST-EVER RED CROSS BLOOD CRI-SIS In January 2022, the Red Cross experienced its worst national blood shortage in over a decade, due to ongoing collection challenges and varied hospital demand during the pandemic. Patients in need of lifesaving blood transfusions relied on an outpouring of support from hundreds of thousands of generous blood donors to overcome the crisis.

Beyond national headlines, the need for blood is constant, as one in seven patients entering a hospital will need a blood transfusion. Every day, Red Cross blood donors are the lifeline for car accident victims, parents with complicated childbirths, individuals battling can-

cer and people with sickle cell disease. Make an appointment to give blood or platelets this holiday season by visiting RedCross-Blood.org.

PROVIDING SUP-PORT FOR PERSON-AL EMERGENCIES In Maine, Red Cross workers have helped people through other personal emergencies too, whether it was: connecting a loved one with a deployed service member during a family crisis or training people to provide CPR for those suffering from cardiac arrest. In 2022, Service to the Armed Forces supported 87 military families with emergency messages and provided 494 critical community services to veterans in need from York to Franklin counties.

Visit RedCross.org/ NNEHoliday for more information about how the Red Cross of Northern New England helped people in Maine in 2022.

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Out and About

Jay Staples Sings for Schooner Estates



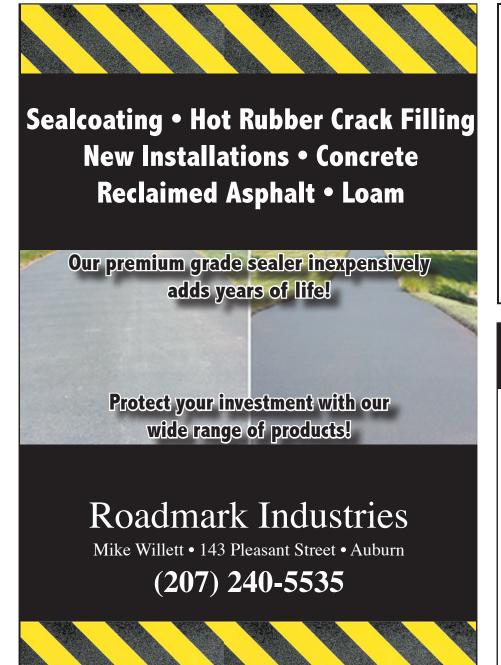
Jay Staples, vocalist and keyboard artist, sings Christmas Songs at his Santa Clause performance at Schooner Estates Retirement Community in Auburn last Thursday afternoon to a full house in the Village Green. (Rachel Morin Photo)

By Rachel Morin

Jay Staples, vocalist and keyboard artist entertained at a full house in the Village Green theater space at Schooner Estates Retirement Community this past Thursday afternoon. Wearing his bright red Santa Clause outfit from head to black boots, he was the picture of joy and happiness and his robust tenor voice filled the large room with the Christmas songs we remember so well from our childhood.

Jay is a master entertainer, and as he opened his arms wide during his songfest, much to our delight, he introduced several little dance steps he added to the Christmas songs as he sang along. The audience loved this new adaptation and showed their delight with more applause.

At the conclusion of his performance, Jay let us in on a little secret. He is returning for a New Year's Eve Celebration performance at Schooner Estates! More applause!



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Statewide Christmas Card Contest Winners Named

PORTLAND, (December 1, **2022**)---Bishop Robert Deeley is pleased to announce the winners of the Diocese of Portland's Christmas Card Art Contest, conducted by the diocese's Office of Development (winning artwork, captions below/larger size images available).

All Catholic school and faith formation students throughout the diocese were invited to participate in the contest. Each submission featured original creations by the artists reflecting a passage from Scripture, with one winner selected from each of the following grade groups: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. This month, the winners' creations will appear on the Christmas cards that will be sent to 2022 Catholic Appeal do-

The contest has received hundreds and hundreds of entries since its inception in 2017.

The contest winners

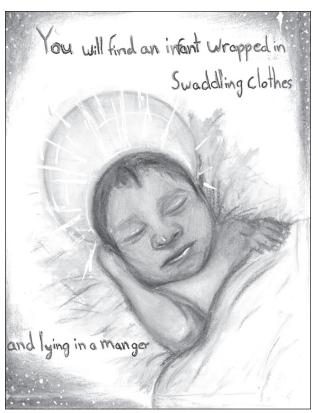
Kindergarten-Grade 2: Nataleigh Poirier of Saint Dominic



Grades 3-5: Valerie Saba of St. Brigid School in Portland



Grades 6-8: Ella Brown of Holy Cross School in South Port-



Grades 9-12: Saima Gombar of Good Shepherd Parish in

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\$800K to Support Refugee Mental Health Services in Maine

WASHINGTON, D.C. (December 1, 2022) - U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King announced that Spurwink has received \$800,000 to support their ShifaME Trauma Systems Therapy for refugees. The funding was allocated through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Center for Mental Health Services. This federal funding will help to expand the trauma therapy capabilities of ShifaME, Spurwink's refugee service provider. The organization currently offers case management and counseling services to refugees across the state.

Academy in Lewiston

"No community is immune from mental health crises, but refugees SENATOR SUSAN



who fled violence, disasters, or persecution in their home countries often experience unique traumas in addition to the challenges of adjusting to a new life in the United States," said Senators Collins and King in a joint statement. "Spurwink provides vital support to Maine's refugee population, and this funding will help the dedicated staff expand access to mental health services for youth and families."

"Spurwink is grateful for the ongoing commit-

ment of Senators Collins and King, and SAMH-SA, to support our critical work with refugees in Portland," said Eric Meyer, President & CEO of Spurwink. "Refugees contribute to a thriving economy in Maine and add a richness to our community, and our team is committed to working with them on a path to better health."

The Spurwink Refugee Mental Health Project is a multi-tiered mental health promotion model used to improve access to

trauma-informed mental health services for refugee children and adolescents in Maine. The project is based on work with the Refugee Trauma and Resiliency Center at Boston Children's Hospital and multiple partners in Maine including schools, community providers and immigrant and refugee-led organizations. The initiative includes broad-based prevention and community resilience building, community-based skill-building groups for youth, and

intensive home-based family therapy for those with significant mental health needs.

Spurwink's project will increase access to effective trauma-focused services for participants by improving community awareness of the trauma-related needs of refugee youth and increasing acceptance of mental health services among refugee families.

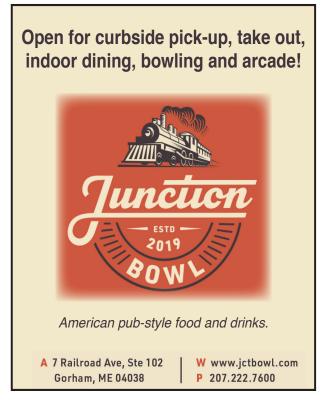
As a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, in fiscal year 2022, Senator Collins helped secure a \$394 million increase to expand mental health research, treatment, and prevention programs.

> Best Source for Arts, Music and Theater!

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Atlantic Dance Arts Hosting Parent's Night Out

GORHAM, ME (December 1, 2022) -- In need of a Parent's Night Out? Join us Saturday, December 17th 6-9pm for a fun night

at Atlantic Dance Arts! Drop off the kids and enjoy a night to yourself. We'll be playing games, watching https://www.atlanticmovies, and eating pizza!

This event is a fundraiser for our Performance Team! Pre-registration is required: dancearts.com/events



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Casco Bay Wind Sym-Sounds of the Season," Night Before Christmas" School.

ME an annual musical cele- and "The Grinch Redux." (December 1, 2022) - bration of holiday classics. Special guest Matt

Sounds of the Season will be held December 10 at phony will be performing LeBerge will narrate "The 2PM at Gorham High



Thursday, December 8, 2022 Page 7

Maine International Film Festival Opens Submissions



Co-directors Daniel Quintanilla (pictured) and Jessamine Irwin won the inaugural Tourmaline Prize for best Maine-made Short Film for their film "Le Carrefour (The Intersection)" in 2022.

WATERVILLE, **ME** (December 1, 2022) The Maine Film Center has opened submissions for the 26th annual Maine International Film Festival (MIFF). The Festival, scheduled for July 7-16, 2023, will be hosted at the Paul J. Schupf Arts Center, which will be the new home for the Maine Film Center in downtown Waterville.

For the second year, MIFF will offer Tourmaline Prizes, named for Maine's state gem, which are juried awards recognizing the best Mainemade films of the festival.

On the closing night of MIFF, a \$5,000 prize will be awarded to the best feature film, and a \$2,500 prize will be awarded to the best short film. Filmmakers interested in submitting work should specify that their film that was made in Maine in their submission forms. (Films that tell stories about Maine but were not at all produced in Maine are not eligible for the prize).

In 2022, director Henry Spritz won the inaugural Tourmaline Prize for best Maine-made Feature Film for his film "Sunner," and co-direc-

tors Daniel Quintanilla and Jessamine Irwin won the inaugural Tourmaline Prize for best Mainemade Short Film for their film "Le Carrefour (The Intersection)."

Films meeting these qualifications may be submitted for 50% off normal submission fees. To receive a discount code, email miff@mainefilmcenter.org. Please allow up to 3 business days for a response, particularly when approaching a submission deadline.

This year's submission deadlines are listed below.



Director Henry Spritz won the inaugural Tourmaline Prize for best Maine-made Feature Film for his film "Sunner" in 2022.

January 3, 2023

Regular Deadline: February 18, 2023

Deadline: Late March 18, 2023

Extended Deadline: April 4, 2023

About the Maine Film Center

The Maine Film Center (MFC) brings world-class independent film to Central Maine through Railroad Square Cinema, the only Sundance Art House Project cinema in Maine and the annual Maine International Film Festival, a 10-day celebration that

Earlybird Deadline: attracts filmmakers and film aficionados from around the world, and by delivering impactful, accessible film exhibitions and education programs. MFC is a division of Waterville Creates. For more information visit Maine-FilmCenter.org.

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

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Page 8 Thursday, December 8, 2022

Boy Scouts Build Birdhouses for Gorham



GORHAM, ME (November 21, 2022) -- Gorham Pack 85 and Gorham Maine Boy Scout Troop 73 are working together to create birdhouses to put up in

town. This was an idea from one of our Den Chiefs, 6th grader Zeke Provencal. He brought it to our Pack annual planning meeting this summer and then we worked to-

gether to make this happen.

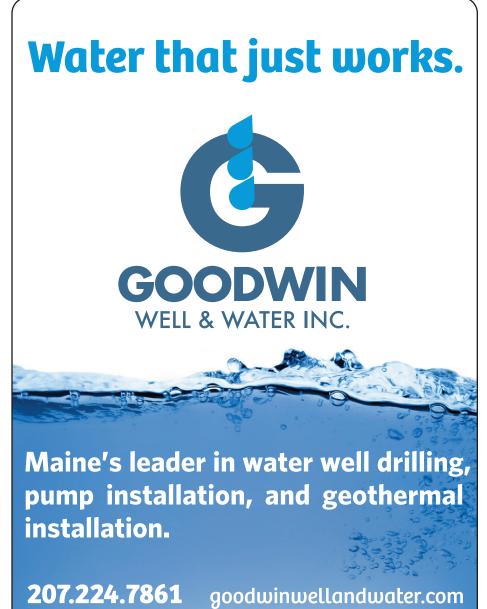
We had three cub dens (5th grade AOLs, 4th grade Webelos, and 3rd grade Bears) build the bird houses in late October and early November and bring them to our pack meeting last week. Then all the kids in the pack met and painted them together. We had more than 30 Kindegarten to 5th grade cub scouts and 3 den chiefs on this project.

Zeke will organize a group of Troop 73 scouts to put them up soon.

Thank you to all the Pack 85!

cub scouts and parents of Pack 85 and the Scouts of Troop 73 for their help with this project.

Great Job Zeke and Pack 85!



Support the Gorham Food Pantry the Easy Way



GORHAM, ME (December 2, 2022) -- Holiday shopping is upon us! Did you know that you can help support the Gorham Food Pantry every time you shop on Amazon.

com? When making purchases, log in via smile. amazon.com, log into your account and select the option to "Select" your charity, and choose Gorham Ecumenical Food Pantry.

For every purchase you make, Amazon makes a small donation to the Pantry, and those donations add up. Thanks for helping us help our neighbors here in Gorham!

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.

Thursday, December 8, 2022

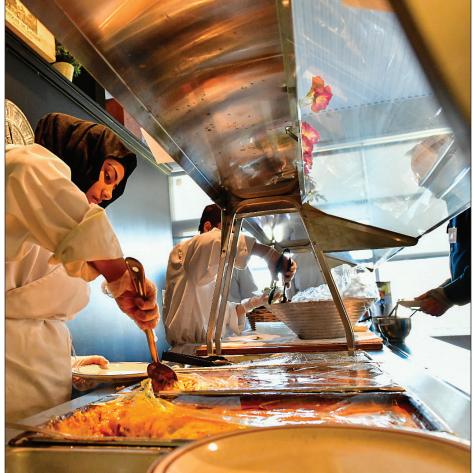
Girls on the Run Presents to Westbrook-Gorham Rotary

GORHAM, ME (November 30, 2022) -- Girls on the Run is inspiring girls to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum which creatively in-

tegrates running. Speaker Anne Merkel presented to the Westbrook-Gorham Rotary about the organization's inspiring story at the Rotary's lunch meeting. See www.girlsontherun-

tegrates running. Speaker <u>maine.org</u> for more infor-Anne Merkel presented mation.

The student chefs of the Westbrook Regional Vocational Center Culinary Program provided a great lunch yet again.





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Androscoggin Home Healthcare + Hospice Hosts Chair's Reception



LEWISTON, (December 2, 2022) - Androscoggin Home Healthcare + Hospice hosts its first annual Chair's Reception as a way of saying "thank you" to the donors, sponsors, board members. and volunteers from the previous year in the spirit of the holiday season of

'We've seen over 16,000 patients this year, navigating about 3,800 patients a day that we're helping through healthcare across this state. 260,000 times, one of our clinicians has walked into

somebody's home here in Maine, 28% growth since 2019" said Ken Albert, President, and CEO of Androscoggin. "There is a need for sure. You are investing in a need, and we appreciate that we do our work with volunteers. We cannot do that without the support of the community."

Similar to Androscoggin's Annual Meeting, guests listened to stories and witnessed instances of their gifts in action, while enjoying refreshments Androscoggin's among greatest supporters.

Albert remarked, "I



want to thank you very much for supporting our mission. We cannot fulfill our mission without the support of the community, and our donors are just essential to that. When I say donors, I mean people

who donate their time and talents. Regardless of how you support us, you are ambassadors in the community, and we highly appreciate that," highlighting the value of the contributions to the organization.

Auburn Rings In The Holiday Season

cember 2, 2022) -- The City of Auburn invites residents and visitors to spend this holiday season in the heart of downtown Auburn. This year's exquisite 40' city Christmas tree – a blue spruce that was generously donated by the **Auburn Housing Authority** - has been decorated with care by the team at Auburn Public Works. It will be illuminated on Thursday, December 8 at 6:00PM to the delight of spectators at the city's annual tree lighting event, officially kicking off the holiday season in beautiful downtown Au-

The Auburn Business Association will be on hand at the tree lighting, offering free cocoa and donuts, as well as free mittens and gloves. The tree lighting event will feature our very special guest, Santa Claus, who will arrive at Festival Plaza escorted by the Auburn Police, Fire, Public Works, and Recreation Departments.

It will also mark the grand opening of the city's inaugural Christmas Shopping Village. This very special shopping experience is Auburn's version of a European Christmas market, with tiny shops nestled around the Christmas tree. There will be six new vendors each week, offering unique, local gifts & products. The Village shops will be open from 4:00 - 8:00PM on the evening of the tree lighting.

ficially" open on Saturday, December 3 at 3:00PM. Following the tree lighting on December 8, the Village will be open each Thursday and Friday from 4:00 to 8:00PM and on Saturdays from 10:00AM to 3:00PM, with several more appearances by San-

For a complete The Village will "of- schedule and a list of vendors, visit www.goauburn. me/christmas-village.

The Edward Little High School Grandstand Club will be among the Shopping Village vendors. This non-profit organization will be set up at the Village all month, selling hot cocoa, coffee, and delicious snacks to help support student athletes in

"Blessing of the Bambinelli" Set for Lewiston

MACHIAS, (December 1, 2022)---A wonderful tradition, originating during the papacy of Pope St. John Paul II, will be renewed at several Maine churches on December 11, the third Sunday of Advent. All children and families are encouraged to bring the Baby Jesus from their nativity sets at home for a "Blessing of the Bambinelli" to remind all of the joyous event of Jesus' arrival in the manger.

In Rome, families fill St. Peter's Square on Gaudete Sunday (the third Sunday of Advent) for the blessing of the Gesù Bambino, the 'little baby Jesus.' On this day, the children bring from home their Christ-child figures, their bambinelli, in hands, in pockets, in backpacks,



from their own family nativity scenes. Then, during the noontime Angelus address, the Holy Father invites all to hold up their bambinelli for a special blessing of the Christchild figures, the children, and their families. Upon returning home, the figure is set safely out of sight for the remainder of Advent until happily placed

rival of Christmas.

The blessings in Maine will be offered at:

Lewiston, Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, 122 Ash Street; Sunday at 7 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Lewiston, Holy Family Church, 607 Sabattus Street; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Lewiston, Holy Cross Church, 1080 Lisin the crèche with the ar- bon Street; Sunday at

"We invite young and old, children and adults, to participate in this powerful witness to our celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. The nativity scene is a school of life where we can learn the secret of pure love and joy," said Fr. Daniel Greenleaf, pastor of Prince of Peace Parish in

Skelton Taintor & Abbott, Androscoggin Title Company Donate

(November 28, 2022) Staff members and Attorneys at Skelton Taintor & Abbott and Androscoggin Title raised Company \$2,372.00 in 2022 by donating money to wear jeans on Fridays. That

LEWISTON, ME money was dispersed to support charities that the dren's Hospital team chose.

- 1. Hope Haven
- 2. Root Cellar
- SPCA/Greater Androscoggin Humane Society
- 4. Local food pantry Good Shepherd

5. St. Jude Chil-

- 6. Center for Wisdom's Women
 - 7. Safe Voices
 - 8. March of Dimes

The team will continue to raise money through this donation program in 2023.



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Apply for Market Garden Training with UMaine Extension

ORONO, (November 28, 2022) University of Maine Cooperative Extension is offering a comprehensive nine-month hybrid (online and in-person) training program for all beginning farmers. Participants will acquire the knowledge, skills and abilities required to successfully grow produce for smallscale private or commercial fruit and vegetable operations. Online training begins Jan. 17, 2023. The program continues twice-monthly through

the end of September and includes farm field days throughout the growing season.

Boots-2-Bushels: Boot Camp for Market Gardeners will cover topics that include soil health and crop planning; notill production; vegetable and fruit production: food safety; integrated pest management; tools and equipment; marketing and farm economics; and more. Subject matter experts from UMaine Extension, Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association and local farms will serve as instructors. Participants will earn a certificate of com-

Registration is open to all beginning farmers; priority will be given to veterans, their family members and farmers with a disability. The \$150 fee includes course materials and in-person farm visits. For out-of-state veterans who cannot attend the farm visits, the registration fee is reduced. For more information and registration instructions see the program webpage. Space is limited and registration closes on Dec. 14. To request a reasonable accommodation, contact Anne Martin, 207.944.1533; anne.martin1@maine.edu.

Boots-2-Bushels is a project of Maine AgrAbility, a federally funded program that addresses health, safety and injury prevention on the farm, on the water and in the forest.



Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mission of Hope Clothes Closet Offers Free Clothes



GORHAM, ME (November 1, 2022) -- The Mission of Hope Clothes Closet is located at the Cressey Road United Meth-

odist Church at 81 Cressey Road & Route 25. We offer FREE clothes of all kinds and sizes to those in need. Feel free to drop by. We are open from 9 AM to 12 noon on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month. If you have an emergency, you can call 839-3111.

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

Medicare Scams: Tips from the FTC, Maine SMP

MAINE, STATE-WIDE (December 1, 2022) -- SeniorsPlus, Western Maine's designated Area Agency on Aging, has been asked to pass along information about Medicare scam alerts.

The Maine Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP), a national program fighting fraud and abuse in the Medicare system, would like to pass on a few tips from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) on how to avoid becoming a victim of a scam.

People on Medicare — and those who aren't - are regularly targeted for scams. You might have gotten a call saying something like "Hello, this is Medicare calling. Your coverage is about to be canceled." Every year during open enrollment season (and plenty of other times too), scammers pretending to be from the government call trying to steal your money and your personal information. Here's what to do:

Hang up. If someone calls claiming to be affiliated with Medicare, asking for your Social Security number or bank account information to get a new card or new benefits, that's a scam. Period.

Never give personal information to a caller claiming to be affiliated with Medicare. You can't trust your caller ID. Scammers can make these calls look like they're coming from the government even when they're not. Before you give out any personal information, make your own call to 1-800-MEDI-CARE to check it out.

Report the call. Report these impersonators at 1-800-MEDICARE and ReportFraud.ftc.gov. The more we hear from you, the more we can help fight scams.

Another scam is related to Medicare Part D, which is an optional prescription drug insurance program for people on Medicare. You pay a monthly premium to an insurance carrier for your Part D plan. In return, you use the insurance carrier's network of pharmacies to buy your prescription medications. To protect people, the law is very specific about how Medicare prescription drug plan providers conduct themselves.

Medicare Part D plan representatives may enroll you on the phone only if YOU call them. To be on the safe side, call Medicare first to check out any pro-

vider you may be tempted to contact. The number to call is 1-800-MEDI-CARE (1-800-633-4227) and the TTY number is 1-877-486-2048. The Medicare phone line is open 24 hours a day. The government does not recommend any particular prescription drug plan — it simply verifies that a provider is legitimate.

Anyone who contacts you about Medicare Part D without you seeking them out first is likely a scammer. Don't share your information, and don't pay them.

Medicare Part D providers may come to your home only if you've invited them. Don't talk to anyone who comes to your door with unsolicited offers of drug coverage. The law says prescription drug benefit companies can't visit your home unless you've given them permission.

To report suspected Medicare fraud, contact your local Senior Medicare Patrol Program at 1-877-353-3771. To learn more about Medicare Part D and the plans available in your area:

Call 1-800-MEDI-CARE (1-800-633-4227) or visit Medicare.gov.

\$30K \$30K

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 FOR MORE INFORMATION, INCLUDING DONATION LEVEL REWARDS



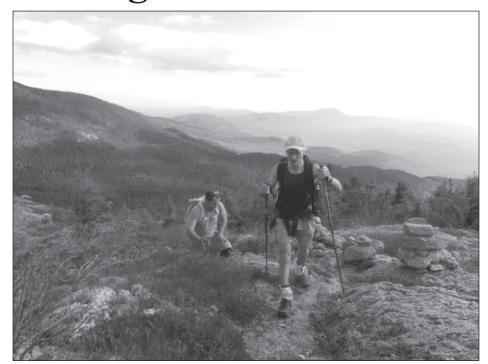


VISIT: tinyurl.com/GYBSA-DONATE or MAIL TO: GYBSA, PO Box 176, Gorham, ME 04038

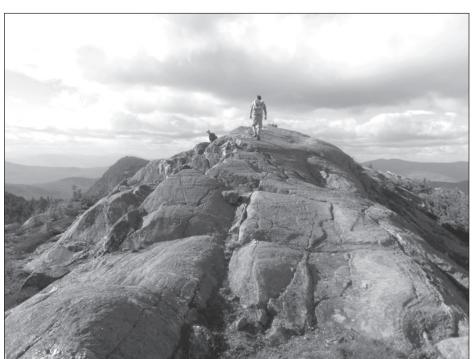
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Seniors Not Acting Their Age

Hiking Little Jackson and Tumbledown Mountains



Climbers ascend a ridge on Little Jackson Mountain



Huge boulders are negotiated on Tumbledown Mountain's North Peak

By Ron Chase

A trek on Little Jackand Tumbledown Mountains is the second-best mountain hike in Maine. How do I know its second best? I read it in my book, Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine.

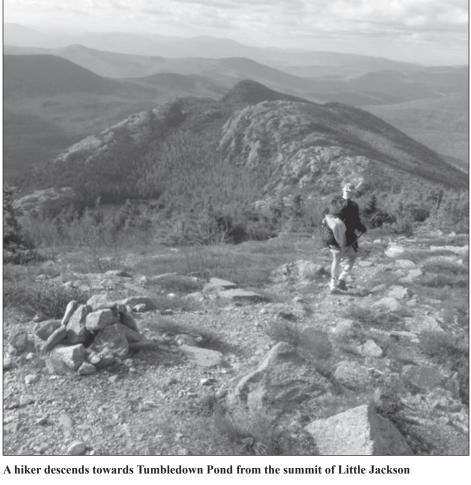
Seriously, with the exception of Mount Katahdin, I can't think of any mountain hike in Maine

that exceeds Little Jackson and Tumbledown for majestic beauty. Several of the peaks in Acadia National Park certainly rival it. Bigelow and Saddleback Mountains are wonderful hikes. The Traveler Loop in Baxter State Park is truly exceptional. However, when I weigh the benefits of each, Little Jackson and Tumbledown is my choice.

Given my fondness

snow during previous ex-

for the dynamic mountain duo, I try to hike them each fall when the breathtaking autumn colors can be appreciated in a bug-free environment. Located in the mountains of western Maine, the mercurial pair is notorious for stormy fall weather. I've experienced gusty winds, frigid temperatures, ice pellets, and



Given my history with tumultuous weather on Little Jackson and Tumbledown, I watch for an outstanding forecast before planning a hike. I recently identified the perfect day with light winds and warm temperatures predicted, and absolutely no chance of frozen precipitation. When I announced a Penobscot Paddle & Chowder Society trip, my son Adam and longtime mountaineering friend Brent Elwell agreed to join me.

Accessing tle Jackson Trailhead is a chore. From the Byron Notch Road in Weld, would be hikers need to drive the rough Morgan Road for about a mile to an area where there is limited parking. Shortly after leaving the trailhead, Tumbledown Mountain's Parker Ridge Trail departs on the left.

The weather was exceptionally warm, sunny, Maine's most extraordiand calm when the three of us met at the trailhead early in the morning. Since my companions were much younger than me, I asserted my senior citizen prerogative and set the hiking pace.

We began in a predominantly hardwood forest and immediately encountered a minor disappointment; most of the leaves had fallen and cluttered the trail. Fortunately, some colorful foliage remained. Crunching through leaves, we soon passed the junction for Parker Ridge Trail, our anticipated return route.

After hiking steadily

up for a couple of miles, we entered a conifer forest shortly after passing Pond Link Trail, which connects with Tumbledown Pond. The path steepened before we emerged above tree line at a junction between Jackson and Little Jackson Mountains. Little Jackson and Tumbledown on our minds, we decided to forego the less scenic but taller Jackson Mountain. From there, we enjoyed glorious views for much of the remainder of the day.

After proceeding over two steep exposed escarpments, we climbed steadily up an elongated sloping ridge towards the top of Little Jackson while savoring a panoramic vista of Webb Lake and Mount Blue in the east. A refreshing southwest breeze greeted us at the barren summit.

A short distance beyond the summit cairn, we encountered one of nary views. Appearing directly below us was picturesque Tumbledown Pond surrounded by the three alpine peaks of Tumbledown Mountain

We descended on an unmarked path that weaves precipitously down towards the mountain tarn. Nearing the pond, we turned right and soon began climbing steeply up huge rounded boulders to the summit of North Peak, at 3090 feet the highpoint on Tumbledown. From the top, several trekkers were spotted on East Peak; the first hikers we'd seen.

Our intent was to traverse a densely wooded col to West Peak. Lacking an obvious route, we accidentally bushwhacked to East Peak. Next time, we'll substitute a compass bearing for overconfidence.

Distinctive East Peak is similar to North in character. After scrambling up several steep ledges to the impressive summit, we descended gigantic granite slabs towards Tumbledown Pond, another marvelous Maine view.

Unlike most of our trek, the shore of the pond was bustling with activity. After exchanging trail information with other hikers, we ascended prominent Parker Ridge, where the last of the magnificent views were embraced.

Dropping ly down, sore knees announced the consequence of the fourth significant descent of the day. The gentler gradient on lower Parker Ridge Trail was a welcome relief for tired muscles and aching joints while luxuriating in the satisfaction of having completed the second best mountain hike in Maine.

Ron Chase resides in Topsham. His latest book, "Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine" is available at www.northcountrypress.com/maineal-fresco or in bookstores and through online retail-His previous books "The Great Mars Hill Bank Robbery" and "Mountain for Mortals -New England." Visit his website at www.ronchaseoutdoors.com or he can be reached at ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net



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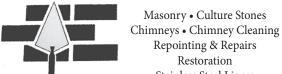
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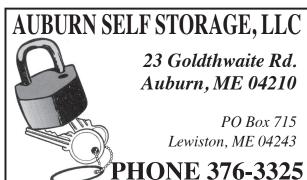
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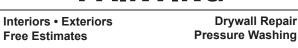
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December 10

RAYMOND -- The beloved annual "Hawthorne House Christmas Party" will be held on Saturday, December 10, at 6 p.m. at Nathaniel Hawthorne's Boyhood Home, located at 40 Hawthorne Road in Raymond. A donation of \$5.00 per adult is requested. Although walkins are welcome, reservations are encouraged for planning. You may make a reservation by emailhawthorne@maine. rr.com or calling or texting Becky Tracy at (207) 329-

The festivities will begin with cocktails at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m. Attendees are asked to please bring a favorite culinary creation: an appetizer, main dish, bread, rolls, or dessert, along with serving spoons. They are also asked to please put their name on dishes and utensils. The cocktail hour and dinner

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

will be BYOB, with guests asked to bring any alcoholic beverages or special mixers they might like. The Hawthorne House will provide setups of ice and standard mixers. The festive evening will conclude with the singing of all-time favorite Christmas carols.

December 13

AUBURN -- At 2pm Alan Elze will present "Executive Order 9066," the last program in this year's collaboration between LA Senior College and the Auburn Public Library. Auburn Public Library, 49 Spring St. Auburn, ME in the Androscoggin Room on the ground floor.

In 1942, 127,000 Japanese Americans, many of whom were American citizens were incarcerated. Their crime? Living on Public Library: MAINE-

the West Coast. They were incarcerated in internment camps (read concentration camps) in desolate areas of the US. They were held because they looked different from the majority of Americans. Very few German-Americans Italian-Americans held, as they didn't stand out. How it happened and what were the results? That's what we will look at. Alan Elze has taught extensively at Senior College, since 2005, teaching over 75 classes on a wide variety of subjects. Please join us at the Auburn Public Library!

December 15

LEWISTON -- 3rd Tuesdays from September-December 2022, 3-5pm at the Lewiston

TRANSNET TEEN TA-**BLETOP TUESDAYS**

This fall, LPL Teen and MaineTransNet Youth are joining up to host monthly tabletop roleplaying sessions, on the 3rd Tuesday from 3-5pm in person in the LPL teen space. All supplies will be provided and no previous RPG experience is required – just bring yourself and your creative mind!

This program is open to teens ages 13-19.

For more information, contact the Lewiston Public Library Adult & Teen Services Department at 513-3135 or LPLReference@lewistonmaine.gov. www.LPLonline.org

December 17

BUXTON -- Free Christmas Concert with the Westbrook City Band

Family friendly event featuring seasonal favorites and a sing-along, held Saturday, December 17, 2022 at 2:00 PM. North Congregational Church,

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December 22 LEWISTON

Throwback Thursday Movie Matinee will be happening at The Lewiston Public Library in Callahan Hall on 12/22/22 from 4-6PM. The event listing can also be found on our website at https:// lplonline.org/events/ throwback-thursday-movie-matinee-home-alone/

> December 24 BUXTON -- Free to

the public! Turkey Dinner - Saturday, December 24 2022 - 5:00 pm at Living Waters Church, Parker Farm Road, Buxton. Christmas Service immediately following dinner.

Please note: We will offer the option of takeout containers for those who do not want to come inside for seating. Wearing of face masks for those who are not vaccinated is suggested. Hand sanitizer is available for those who wish to use it.

Maine DHHS Awarded \$13.8M Grant to Protect Public Health

AUGUSTA, ME (December 2, 2022) — The Maine Department of Health and Human Services announced today the award of \$13.8 million by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (U.S. CDC) to invest in Maine's critical public health infrastructure and public health workforce over the next five years. The award is part of \$3.14 billion the U.S. CDC is distributing

to bolster public health departments across the country.

The additional federal funds provide an opportunity to build on Governor Mills' ongoing investments in Maine's public health workforce and services to promote and protect the health of Maine people and commu-

"This award allows the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) to sustain and add positions that will continue to be critical in the years to come and invest in the longterm health and safety of Maine people," said DHHS Commissioner Jeanne Lambrew and Maine CDC Director Nirav D. Shah. "We thank the congressional delegation for supporting this federal funding that builds on Governor Mills' revitalization of Maine's public health infrastructure?

"The last several years have shown the need for a robust and resilient public health infrastructure system to support Maine people and our communities," said U.S. Senator Angus King and U.S. Representative Chellie Pingree. "This grant will help the Maine Department of Health and Human Services recruit and retain additional public health staff and strengthen or-

ganizational systems. Thanks to this investment from the American Rescue Plan, the state can take steps to minimize the gaps in health care access between rural and urban communities as well as prepare for and respond to any future public health emergencies."

This five-year grant will support existing and expanded public health positions in key areas, including

infectious disease, maternal and child health, chronic disease and injury prevention, environmental health, local public health, and access to health care services. The funding will also support Maine CDC's planning and reaccreditation efforts, allowing the agency to dedicate resources toward developing infrastructure and communications systems to better serve Maine people.





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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.

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LEWISTON SENIOR CITIZENS TRIPS FOR 2022

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

Trip includes 1 night lodging and 3 meals, including the Grand Sunday Brunch, 2 different entertainment shows, Austrian Sleigh ride through Jackson Village with a Jingle Bell Chocolate Tour. Stop at the Christmas Tree Shop and Lunch on Sunday at Polly's Pancake Parlor. A \$100 deposit per person is due upon signing. Price is \$369 pp double occupancy.

Spotlight on San Antonio, Texas - April 2-6, 2023

Trip includes 5 days, 4 nights lodging, 3 breakfasts and 2 dinners, visit to two UNESCO world heritage sites, visit to the Mission San Jose, visit to the ALAMO, boat ride along the Paseo del Rio known as the River Walk, National

Museum of the Pacific War and so much more.

Reflections of Italy - October 9 - 18, 2023

Trip includes 10 days, 9 nights lodging, and 12 meals, including Rome, Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel, St. Peter's Basilica, Assisi, Perugia, Cortona, Florence, Michelangelo's DAVID, Chianti Winery & Cooking Class, Venice, St. Mark's square, boat ride to Murano Island, Milan and much more.

Virginia Beach, Colonial Williamsburg & Historic Norfolk - May 22 - 27, 2023

Trip includes 5 nights lodging and 8 meals, guided tour of Colonial Williamsburg, narrated Norfolk Naval Base Harbor Cruise, admission to the Nauticus & Battleship Wisconsin, visit to Mariner's Museum and Park, admission to Virginia Beach Aquarium & Marine Science Center and free time on Virginia Beach and the Virginia Beach Boardwalk. A \$75 deposit pp is due

when signing up. Price is \$809 pp double occupancy and includes bus driver's tip.

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

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Sip Hot Cocoa & Hear Polar Express at Gorham's BML

cember 1, 2022) -- Toot toot!! Our annual holiday event is back! This year you will have two ways to participate.

You can throw on your

p.j.s and come to the library December 14th at 6:00pm to listen to Conductor Jeff read "The Polar Express" by Chris Van Allsburg. Hot the video of Conductor

small memento. This is an all-ages program with no registration required.

You can also view children will take home a Express" anytime between

Dec 9th - Dec 26th. If you choose the remote viewing, don't forget to stop by the library Dec 9th - 17th for your take home kit of a candy cane, bell, ticket and packet of cocoa. (all ages)

(December 1, 2022) -Gorham has a medical loan closet which is open to all Gorham residents for any medical item that we have.

It is free. Call Gerry Day

at 839-3859 or 756-2210 to

make an appointment with

a volunteer. Open M-F. by appointment only from 8:30 to 4pm.

Medical Closet Serves

Gorham Residents

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