

Westbrook's WinterFest Sure to Entertain this Weekend



WESTBROOK, ME (February 17, 2023) -- WinterFest is back! We're adding some fun new activities and surprises.

The 30 foot inflatable slides, petting zoo, horse and wagon rides, bounce houses, face painting, S'mores station, music and many other scheduled performances are also back this year. Updated information will be added to the website in early

February including the schedule of events. Join us March 4th at Riverbank Park from 8AM to Noon!

Discover Downtown Westbrook is seeking sponsors and volunteers for this event. Please email abby@downtown-westbrook.com to volunteer or for more information on sponsorship.

<https://www.downtownwestbrook.com/winterfest/>



Westbrook WinterFest

Saturday March 4, 2023

Raindate: March 5

Schedule of Events

10 AM - 12 PM	Frank 107.5 FM
10:15AM - 10:55AM	K9 Demonstration
11:00 - 11:40AM	River Rescue Demo
11:00 - 11:55 AM	Zumba class
11:50AM - 12:40PM	Fire Hula Hooper
12:50PM - 1:50PM	Juggler

ALL DAY (10 am to 2 pm)

Inflatables Slides	Caricatures
Synthetic Ice Rink	Horse & wagon rides
Inflatable Bounce Houses	Photo Booth
Jumbo Lawn Games	Petting Zoo
S'mores	Mini Makers Market
Music	Art, Henna, and Face Painting

WinterFest Sponsors

WinterFest Vendors

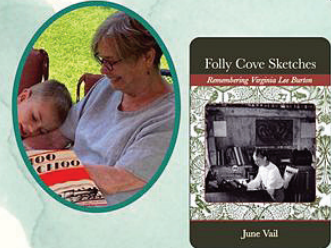
PRIZES FOOD FUN GAMES

10 AM to 2 PM at Riverbank Park

Scan for WinterFest Map

Gorham's BML Celebrates Women's History Month Authors

Women's History Month Authors at Baxter



March 8, 6 pm: June Vail on Artist Virginia Lee Burton June's new memoir, *Folly Cove Sketches: Remembering Virginia Lee Burton*, paints a warm, honest portrait of her great-aunt, Virginia Lee Burton, author and illustrator of beloved children's books *Mike Mulligan and his Steam Shovel* and *The Little House*. Vail vividly recounts how living as a teenager with her great-aunt Jinnee broadened her awareness and motivated unforeseen life choices.

71 South Street
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www.baxterlibrary.org
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GORHAM, ME (February 23, 2023) -- Did you know that Virginia Lee Burton, author of such classic children's books as *Mike Mulligan and his Steam Shovel*, and *Katy and the Big Snow*, has family ties to Gorham? Come hear about her roots and more from her great-niece,

author and professor June Vail! June Vail's new memoir, *Folly Cove Sketches: Remembering Virginia Lee Burton*, is available through the library catalog and will also be for sale at the event courtesy of The Bookworm and Maine Authors Publishing!

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

CRCofWM Gifted Patient Comfort Baskets

NORWAY, ME (February 23, 2023) -- Staff from the Norway Center for Health & Rehabilitation presented the Cancer Resource Center of Western Maine with beautiful patient comfort baskets on February 17th in recognition of Random Acts of Kindness Day. Staff and residents held a

month-long drive to fill multiple baskets with a variety of personal care products such as shampoo, toothbrushes, soaps and lotions, as well as cleaning supplies, writing journals, socks and other personal items to help make life a little easier for patients living with cancer.



Left to right: Lora Parker, Heather Jackson, Katherine Hatch, Falishia Ward

“We are very grateful for the generosity and efforts of the staff at the Norway Center for Health & Rehabilitation,” said Diane Madden, the Executive Director of the Cancer Resource Center of Western Maine. “It is obvious that a lot of thought and love went into making each basket.”

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

\$19M to Address Contaminants in Maine Drinking Water

BOSTON, MA (February 13, 2023) – Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced \$18,914,000 from President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to address emerging contaminants, like Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in drinking water in Maine. This investment, which is allocated to states and territories, will be made available to communities as grants through EPA’s Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities (EC-SDC) Grant Program and will promote access to safe and clean water in small, rural, and disadvantaged communities while supporting local economies.

smallest and most vulnerable communities from these persistent and dangerous chemicals.”

“Today’s grant announcement is one significant step in EPA’s comprehensive PFAS Roadmap to support our state partners as we aggressively tackle PFAS in drinking water, protect public health, and provide critical information quickly and transparently,” said EPA New England Regional Administrator and Co-Chair of EPA’s Council on PFAS David W. Cash. “This funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will target resources to small or disadvantaged communities most in need of assistance and will speed up our important work reducing PFAS and other emerging contaminants in drinking water, especially in communities that are challenged by lack of capacity and funding.”

“Maine is a leader in addressing PFAS contamination, but there is a lot more work left to do,” said Governor Janet Mills. “Maine people deserve safe drinking water and these Federal funds will be instrumental in helping my Administration identify PFAS contamination across Maine and take steps to mitigate it.”

“Maintaining access to clean, reliable drinking

water is essential to protect the health of the public, our environment, and the economy,” said U.S. Senator Susan Collins. “Americans should be able to have confidence that the water from their faucets is safe to use. Although Maine is home to some of the cleanest sources of water in the country, the increasing prevalence of pollutants like PFAS require action to keep our drinking water pure. Senator Shaheen and I co-authored the provision that includes this funding as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and I am pleased to see the implementation of these resources to protect water supplies in Maine.”

“Maine people deserve clean, safe, and healthy water,” said U.S. Senator Angus King. “This significant new investment from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will help address the PFAS contaminants in our water and protect the long-term health of communities across the state. There is still more work to be done, but this funding is an important first step and a great example of the game-changing investments of the bipartisan bill.”

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests \$5 billion over five years to help communities that are on the frontlines of PFAS

contamination reduce PFAS in drinking water. EPA announced the funds for Maine as part of an allotment of \$2 billion that can be used to prioritize infrastructure and source water treatment for pollutants, like PFAS and other emerging contaminants, and to conduct water quality testing.

EPA is also releasing the Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities Grant Implementation document. The implementation document provides states and communities with the information necessary to use this funding to address local water quality and public health challenges. These grants will enable communities to improve local water infrastructure and reduce emerging contaminants in drinking water by implementing solutions such as installing necessary treatment solutions.

Today’s actions represent a significant milestone within the Biden-Harris Administration’s commitments to combat PFAS pollution and safeguard drinking water, and specifically EPA’s October 2021 PFAS Strategic Roadmap. Under the Roadmap, EPA is working across the agency to protect the public from the health impacts

of PFAS. EPA has taken a number of actions to deliver progress on PFAS including:

Proposing to designate two PFAS as CERCLA hazardous substances. If finalized, this will be a critical step toward increasing transparency around releases of PFAS and holding polluters accountable for cleaning up their contamination.

Releasing drinking water health advisories. Acting in accordance with EPA’s mission to protect public health and keep communities and public health authorities informed when new science becomes available, the Agency issued drinking water health advisories for four PFAS.

Laying the foundation to enhance data on PFAS. This included an order under EPA’s National PFAS Testing Strategy requiring companies to conduct PFAS testing, and nationwide sampling through the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule for 29 PFAS in public drinking water systems.

Expanding the scientific understanding of PFAS. The Agency issued more than 30 scientific publications by EPA researchers and released EPA’s PFAS Thermal Treatment Database.

Translating the latest science into EPA’s

cross-agency PFAS efforts. This included updating EPA’s contaminated site cleanup tables, developing new PFAS methods and conducting toxicity assessments, and issuing draft national recommended water quality criteria to protect aquatic life.

Continuing engagement with the public. EPA’s PFAS work was informed by public webinars, stakeholder meetings, Congressional testimony, and engagement with EPA’s federal advisory committees.

In addition to this new grant, EPA is also working to propose a PFAS NPDWR in the coming weeks. The draft proposed rule is currently undergoing interagency review and EPA will issue the proposed rule for public comment when it clears the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The agency anticipates finalizing the rule by the end of 2023. Together, with today’s announcement, these actions highlight EPA’s commitments outlined in the PFAS Strategic Roadmap to protect public health and the environment from the impacts of PFAS. They also illustrate the benefits of investing in water—protecting public health and the environment, addressing key challenges facing communities, and creating jobs.



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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Gorham High School Presents *The Terezin Promise*

GORHAM, ME (February 20, 2023) -- It's the end of World War II, and the Terezin transit camp is about to be liberated by allied forces. A group of young Jewish prisoners has to decide whether to attempt escape or to find and rescue the hidden art and writing of the thousands of children who passed through Terezin on their way to extermination camps like Auschwitz. Based on a true story. See it Friday, March 3 at 7:30 pm, Saturday March 4 at 7:30pm, and Sunday, March 5 at 2:00pm.

GHS Theater Presents
The Terezin Promise
by Celeste Raspanti

Friday, March 3 at 7:30pm
Saturday, March 4 at 7:30pm
Sunday, March 5 at 2pm

Tickets Sold at the Door
\$5 Students (K-12) \$10 Adults

Gorham Girls, Check Out Flag Football this Spring

PORTLAND, ME (February 24, 2023) -- If your daughter is looking for something fun to do this spring, Maine Girls Flag Football is the perfect league for her! Registration for the spring season in Maine's oldest and largest all girls flag football league is now open. Girls from grades 2-12 are welcome, regardless of experience or skill level. This is an inclusive, welcoming league where the players and coaches truly care for one another. So come join Maine's premier girls flag football league! We're located in Portland, but the league is open to girls from all towns, including Gorham! Maine Girls Flag Football is proudly affiliated with NFL FLAG.

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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.

Dinner is Served by St. Anne Knights of Columbus of Gorham

GORHAM, ME (February 23, 2023) -- It's that time again! Baked haddock dinner, with peas, mashed potatoes, coleslaw, dinner roll, drink, and a dessert! Adult dinners \$12; Children 6-12 years old: \$6; Children under 5: free; All ages cheese pizza dinner: \$8. Fridays from February 24 to March 31, 2023 at St. Anne, 299 Main St, Gorham from 5-6:30pm.

Local Author Talk
with Anne Weber

North Gorham Public Library
April 26, 2023 at 6:30pm

A PENCIL IN HIS POCKET - a historical fiction based on the early life of Irish artist, John Mulvany. Set in the 1840's from the family farm in famine Ireland to the Erie Canal and the 1850's in New York City. This story follows John as he makes his way across the Atlantic, works as a tow boy on the Erie Canal and spends his winters earning his keep as he pursues his dream of becoming an artist.

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

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Seniors Not Acting Their Age

Mosquito Mountain is better than the Name



Red blazes marked the route on the Mosquito Mountain Trail



A hiker enjoys a view of Moxie Pond and Moxie Bald Mountain from an overlook on Mosquito Mountain



The summit of Mosquito Mountain provides panoramic vistas of the surrounding area

By Ron Chase

Mosquito Mountain has a very unappealing name. I don't like mosquitoes or black flies and do my best to avoid them when participating in outdoor activities. After decades of scrupulous plotting and scheming, I've become quite adept at eluding the nasty little bloodsuckers. And, I can say with great certainty that mosquitoes will not be encountered on Mosquito Mountain near West Forks in January.

My son, Adam, is living in the West Forks area this winter, so we decided to use the opportunity to complete some winter mountain hikes in the vicinity. Two mountains

have particular appeal for us: Moxie Bald and Mosquito. Both located near Moxie Pond, we've ascended them several times in non-winter months, but never in the winter.

Access to both peaks is via rough dirt roads and the trailheads are often difficult to reach in winter. Adam confirmed that Troutdale Road, which travels along the west shore of Moxie Pond, was plowed to Mosquito Mountain Trailhead and there was space to park at least two vehicles. Recent snowstorms and other complications had rendered Moxie Bald a mountain too far.

The skies were gray,

temperatures cold, and winds breezy when we met at Mosquito Mountain Trailhead. Varied weather consisting of gusty winds and partly sunny skies with the chance of snow showers was the forecast for higher elevations. Although a relatively short outing, the trail had not been broken so we anticipated a serious workout. Sources differ on the actual length but we estimated our roundtrip trek to be in the range of 3.5 miles, perhaps a little longer. Snowshoes were definitely required and we decided to carry micro spikes in the event ledges in the summit area were ice-covered.

We found the trail

breaking strenuous. A thick layer of crust covered about a foot of powdery snow with hard-packed snow and ice under. Each step required breaking through the crust, sinking deep into the snow, gaining traction, and then taking the next step. There are lots of benefits to being a Dad. One of the best is winter hiking with a much younger son who insists on doing most of the trail breaking. Adam did the lion's share on our excursion.

Initially, we hiked through a sparse mixed hardwood and softwood forest. Glimpses of blue sky were encouraging. We were wishfully hoping for exceptional views in the summit area. The trail steepened as we entered a dense conifer forest under a spectacular canopy of snow-covered spruce trees. Although trail finding was difficult in some areas, welcome red blazes reassured us that we were on track.

A huge overhanging boulder alerted us that we were nearing the impressive Mosquito Mountain ledges. The gradient increased to precipitous. Progress slowed as gaining traction with our snowshoe claws was

very difficult on an icy under-surface. Our exertions were rewarded with some relief as we proceeded to a boulder-strewn area where the trail leveled off.

As we approached an east facing overlook, the trail again rose abruptly. Fortunately, the clouds diminished and partly sunny skies greeted us on arrival. The barren, expansive escarpment offered phenomenal views of Moxie Pond and the mountains beyond. Our next mountain objective, prominent Moxie Bald, dominated the landscape on the opposite side of the pond.

Renewing the quest, deep crusted snow, icy sections, blowdowns, and a short, near vertical ascent hindered our advancement. We considered switching from snowshoes to micro spikes but the conditions were so varied neither alternative was consistently a good choice.

We lost the trail in a baffling array of blowdowns. Bushwhacking upwards through a thick stand of stunted spruce trees seemed the best strategy. Our perseverance finally paid dividends when we emerged onto a succession of open ledges. A hard-packed snow surface

was ideal for snowshoeing to the summit where outstanding panoramic vistas were gratifying compensation for our efforts.

Donning parkas was necessary to protect from frosty winds while taking a break for photos and snacks. Ominously, dark clouds were approaching from the west. By the time we gathered packs and began our descent, snow showers enveloped us. Despite worsening visibility, we found an improved route around the blowdowns. Our trail breaking during the climb facilitated an easy return.

Moxie Bald is next on our winter bucket list. Mosquito Mountain deserves a better name.

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

Maine Home Prices up and Sales Ease in January

AUGUSTA, ME (February 21, 2023)—Sales of single-family existing homes in Maine continue to be affected by rising mortgage interest rates and a smaller number of available homes for sale. Maine Listings announced a 34.99 percent sales decrease in January 2023, compared to January 2022. The median sales price (MSP) for homes sold in January 2023 reached \$325,000, an increase of 11.21 percent over January 2022. The MSP indicates that half of the homes were sold for more and half sold for less.

"In most communities

across Maine, buyers need more for-sale housing inventory," says Carmen McPhail, 2023 President of the Maine Association of REALTORS® and Associate Broker at family-owned United Country Lifestyle Properties of Maine with offices in Lincoln, Bangor and Lubec. "Compared to pre-pandemic January 2020, Maine has just over 2,100 homes for sale statewide—3,700 fewer homes for sale in January 2023."

According to the National Association of Realtors, sales nationwide declined 36.1 percent comparing January 2023 to

January 2022. The MSP for those homes in January 2023 reached \$363,100, up 0.7 percent from January 2022. Regionally, sales in the Northeast dipped 35.9 percent in January 2023, while the regional MSP increased 0.3 percent to \$383,000.

"The sales numbers for January are impacted by the scarce for-sale inventory, recent upward adjustments to mortgage interest rates, and the end of year holiday season," added McPhail, "There's no need to wait until spring to place your home, camp or land parcel on the market; qualified buyers are searching now."

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Systems Engineering Helps Fund Catholic Charities Telehealth Suite

PORTLAND, ME (February 22, 2023) – Systems Engineering, a 100% employee-owned security-focused IT services company in Portland, Maine, has donated funding to help equip a new telehealth suite at Catholic Charities Maine (CCM) Behavioral Health Network’s (BHN) Fairfield office.

CCM’s Behavioral Health Network provides comprehensive, multi-disciplinary services for individuals with a mental health diagnosis, substance use disorder, and/or behavioral disorder. With services in Portland, Fairfield, Augusta, Auburn, and Brewer, CCM’s BHN served more than 1,500 adults and children in 2022.

“Maine is experi-



CCM’s CEO Steve Letourneau (far left), Communications & Development Director (fourth from left), and Reed Westgate (fifth from left) were presented a check from System’s Engineering’s Joey Hooper, Kevin Cloutier, Kent Goodrow and Michael Gray to help fund a telehealth suite that was recently completed at the CCM Behavioral Health Network in Fairfield Maine.

encing a severe shortage of behavioral healthcare services, and that’s especially true of medica-

tion management, which plays a critical role in the continuum of community-based mental

health support,” said Jeff Tiner, CCM’s chief clinical officer, who noted that the lack of access

to qualified prescribers can create six-to-nine-month-long waitlists in Maine. “For individuals dealing with serious and persistent mental illness, this can be a devastating delay in effective, coordinated treatment. We are so grateful to our partners at Systems Engineering for this targeted funding.”

“We recognized the critical need for CCM to extend their mental health services to individuals across Maine. The employee-owners at Systems Engineering were proud to support CCM’s telehealth suite initiative and celebrate their use of technology to reach patients in underserved communities,” Matt McGrath, CEO & President at Systems Engineering.

CCM’s BHN suc-

cessfully implemented telehealth services in southern Maine when the COVID pandemic began. Creating an additional telehealth suite at the Fairfield office has meant that current prescribers in Portland can support CCM’s Behavioral Health Network clients remotely in this underserved area. System’s Engineering’s generosity will result in a long-term, cost-effective solution for comprehensive, integrated care among one of the most vulnerable populations served by CCM.

“Thankfully, telehealth is here to stay, and we see the Systems Engineering telehealth suite fulfilling a vital need for many years to come,” Tiner said.

Collins Supports Hard-Hit Businesses, Rural Communities

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 23, 2023)–U.S. Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) introduced the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) Reauthorization Act of 2023. The bipartisan legislation will extend the authorization of the NBRC and support job creation and community development in the most economically vulnerable parts of rural Maine and the Northeast. The bill is co-sponsored by Senators Angus King (I-ME), Maggie Hassan (D-NH), Bernie Sanders (I-VT), and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY).

The NBRC is a federal-state partnership that was created by Congress in 2008 to help alleviate economic distress and encourage private sector job creation throughout the northern counties of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York. In Maine, the NBRC can invest in economic and in-

frastructure projects in the following counties: Androscoggin, Aroostook, Franklin, Hancock, Kennebec, Knox, Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, Waldo, and Washington. The NBRC Reauthorization Act would make Lincoln County newly eligible to receive these funds.

“The Northern Border Regional Commission serves as a critical resource for many counties in Maine, making investments to promote job growth, improve infrastructure, and boost local economies,” said Senator Collins. “I have long supported funding for this important program, and as the Vice Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, I’m proud to join Senator Shaheen in this effort to reauthorize the NBRC for another ten years. The critical investments supported by the NBRC will help to ensure that northern border communities have the tools they need to prosper.”

“Since its creation,

the Northern Border Regional Commission has been an essential source of support for communities across Maine – helping to create good-paying jobs, support small businesses, and strengthen local economies,” said Senator King. “The NBRC’s proven track record of success is a powerful example of how effective partnerships between Congress, local governments, and the private sector can fuel the long-term prosperity of our state. Reauthorizing and expanding the NBRC is absolutely critical for Maine, and I hope it can be done in a speedy, bipartisan fashion.”

Building on the Senators’ previous efforts, the NBRC Reauthorization Act would strengthen the NBRC by reauthorizing the Commission for another ten years. The bill encourages business retention and expansion, invests in public infrastructure, and promotes tourism across the region. To address unique

challenges facing rural workforces, the bill invests in projects that expand rural access to child care, health care, and affordable housing needs. The bill also broadens NBRC’s ability to award grants to projects and activities to address the opioid epidemic and other substance use disorders impacting the region.

Specifically, the NBRC Reauthorization Act of 2023:

Reauthorizes the NBRC for ten years and increases the annual appropriation cap from \$33 million to \$50 million for the first five years, and \$60 million for the following five years.

Adds Lincoln County, ME, and Merrimack County, NH, to the list of counties eligible to receive funds from the NBRC.

Reauthorizes the State Capacity Building Grant Program, which was established in 2018 to further strengthen investment in local high-impact

projects. This program provides additional funds to regional economic and community development organizations that support business retention and expansion, infrastructure development and job creation.

Improves the region’s climate resilience by enabling NBRC to support projects that address the vulnerabilities of transportation and other public infrastructure assets to climate change.

Expands opportunities for community development projects that address unique challenges facing the region’s rural workforce by:

Broadening the NBRC’s ability to fund projects that invest in childcare and health care needs. This includes projects to attract, train and retain qualified health care or childcare personnel. The legislation also directs the Commission to emphasize projects to combat substance use disorders

from opioid and methamphetamine use.

Providing the NBRC the ability to support projects that facilitate the construction or rehabilitation of housing to meet the needs of families and individuals in the region.

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Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner to Support Westbrook Lions Club

WESTBROOK, ME (February 24, 2023) -- Join us at Westbrook American Legion Post 62 for a traditional corned beef & cabbage dinner! All funds raised by the Westbrook Lions Club go directly back to our community!

Adults: \$12, Children: \$5.
Westbrook American Legion is located at 17 Dunn St.

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Maine Receives \$6.5M in LIHEAP Funding

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 22, 2023) – Today, the Administration released a total of \$1 billion in funding for LIHEAP that was secured by U.S. Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), the Vice Chairman of the Appropriations Committee; Senator Jack Reed (D-RI); and Congressman Jared Golden (D-ME) in the 2023 government funding bill that was signed into law in December.

Earlier this month, Senators Collins and Reed led 32 Senators in

sending a letter to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra to urge the immediate allocation of the remaining emergency LIHEAP funds.

Senator Collins and Congressman Golden announced that the State of Maine will receive an additional \$6,531,152 of supplemental funding for LIHEAP through this distribution. The \$6,531,152 awarded to Maine today is in addition to the \$42.5 million that was allocated

to the state in November.

“This week’s snowstorm is another reminder that we are still in the heart of winter. Many Mainers, particularly low-income families and seniors,

are struggling with the high cost of energy to keep their homes warm,” said Senator Collins. “I strongly advocated for these increased funds and pushed for their swift release to help prevent vulnerable Mainers from having to make the impossible choice between paying for

heat and paying for food or medicine.”

“I am pleased to join Senator Collins in delivering this much-needed help to thousands of Maine families,” said Congressman Golden. “This funding is a crucial lifeline to get them through the remainder of the winter heating season.”

“This latest infusion of federal LIHEAP funding will help keep home energy costs more affordable for those in need. In addition to easing the strain on household budgets, it

also provides an economic boost for local small businesses that supply home heating fuel to customers with fixed or limited incomes,” said Senator Reed.

Many Northeast residents have seen a significant increase in their utility bills this winter, with residential electricity prices in some states forecast to rise over 60 percent, propane up 40 percent, and natural gas prices up nearly 30 percent.

LIHEAP is administered by states and ac-

cessed through local Community Action Agencies. Eligibility for LIHEAP is based on income, family size, and the availability of resources. Senior citizens and those receiving Social Security Disability or SSI benefits are encouraged to apply as early as possible, but applications will be open to everyone through spring of 2023 — or until the funding is exhausted. More information on how to apply can be found at <https://www.mainehousing.org>

MEMIC Seeks Applications for Horizon Scholarship program

PORTLAND, ME (February 17, 2023) – Children or spouses of workers injured on the job may benefit from an annual MEMIC scholarship program now entering its 22nd year.

The MEMIC Group is accepting applications for its Harvey Picker Horizon Scholarship Program, founded in 2001 to offer tuition assistance to children and spouses of workers who were seriously injured at work. MEMIC has awarded more than \$242,000 in Horizon Scholarships to 49 students since the program’s inception.

Last year, the pro-

gram benefited two brothers from Florida, a University of Maine student, and a woman who was completing her undergraduate degree when her father was injured at work and, as she said, “my life took a 180-degree turn.”

MEMIC Group President and CEO Michael P. Bourque said the 2022 recipients shared a dedication to turning around steep challenges by going to work part-time, helping at home, and often putting their own educations and careers on hold.

“Personally, I greatly admire the grit, sacrifice, and tenacity it takes for a young person to put

the health and well-being of a stricken family member above their own aspirations,” Bourque said. “We are enthusiastic about helping reward those sacrifices with our Horizon Scholarship program, and thrilled to help turn around a tough situation with funds that assist them in continuing their higher educations.”

The scholarship is named for former Camden, Maine, resident Harvey Picker, a renowned physicist, educator, philanthropist, and advocate for education. In 1992, Picker was appointed by then-Gov. John R. McKernan as a

member of the Blue-Ribbon Commission on Workers’ Compensation, which led to the formation of MEMIC. Picker also served as a member of the MEMIC Board of Directors.

Bourque noted that many Horizon Scholarship recipients who witnessed a family member suffer injury or temporarily lose employment went on to use their awards to pursue careers in health care and injury management. “It’s clear the impact the injuries have had on them as people,” he said. “To see Horizon Scholarships provide a positive counterweight

to that impact is gratifying to all of us here at MEMIC.”

“We recognize workers’ compensation can cover medical treatment and a percentage of lost wages but cannot entirely eliminate the stress and strain an injury can cause a family,” Bourque said. “We hope our Horizon Scholarships for higher education help fulfill the aspirations of those whose lives have been disrupted as a result of a workplace injury or death.”

Applicants must complete the application by April 28, 2023, to be considered for a schol-

arship of up to \$10,000. To be eligible, the related injured worker must have been working for a MEMIC policyholder at the time of injury. Applications are reviewed by a selection committee for financial need, academic performance, community involvement, other life experiences, and future promise. Students must be attending or planning to attend an accredited college or university.

For more information and to request a copy of the application, call 1-800-660-1306 and say “Horizon Scholarship” at the prompt, or visit memic.com/horizon.

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Gorham PD, Sullivan House Raise \$1900 for Maine Special Olympics

GORHAM, ME (February 23, 2023) -- The Gorham Police Department would like to thank Sullivan House Bakery, Sgt. Moreland, SRO Somlinsky, SRO Gagnon, Off. Dean Hannon, Off.

Crawford and the Maine Special Olympians that show up on February 12th to help decorate and sell cookies. As a result of the fundraiser, we were able to raise over \$1,900.00 for Maine Special Olympics.



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



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Beloved & Enchanting *Into the Woods* Comes to Gorham Stage



Molly Scott (Cinderella) and cast in rehearsal. Picture by Noli French @FrenchsFotos.

GORHAM, ME (February 23, 2023) -- The USM Department of Theatre, in collaboration with the Osher School of Music, brings Sondheim's & Lapine's modern classic *Into the Woods* to life in this lavish & enchanting production.

Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine weave together everyone's favorite storybook characters in this Tony Award-winning modern classic. The Baker and his wife wish to have a child, Cinderella wishes to attend the King's Festival, and Jack wishes his cow would give milk. The Baker and his wife launch a journey into the woods that

sets everyone on the path to getting their wish. But the consequences of their actions return to haunt them with disastrous results. Everyone must band together to survive and create a new world for themselves.

For director Elizabeth Carlson, what makes *Into the Woods* compelling is its focus on community. "It's about how we live together and what we owe to each other and all the impossible decisions and inevitable mistakes we make in our relationships to one another. This play refuses to offer the easy answers we want from a fairy tale, and that is what makes it a rich landscape for exploration;

we see these characters wrestle with the consequences of their decisions and actions and it allows us to see a complexity that we recognize in our own world."

For musical director Edward Reichert, his love of *Into the Woods* runs deep, "It is one of my favorite Sondheim musicals because it resonates with me in so many ways. Themes of family, community, life, love, and loss will be brought to life. *Into the Woods* has become a timeless classic and we look forward to sharing this fantastical tale with a new generation."

This production



Will McPherson (Jack) with Milky White in rehearsal. Picture by Noli French @FrenchsFotos.

will feature the talents of more than 20 musical performance and theatre majors on stage. Behind the scenes, the props, costumes, lighting, and set are all constructed by students and recent alumni under the direction of USM Theatre's skilled faculty.

This kind of community is just what director Elizabeth Carlson feels the play is about, "It's been gratifying to see the way that all the students involved from actors to designers to stage managers have taken responsibility for this show enthusiastically and collectively. I believe that learning to work in community is how we can enact a more just world, which is an idea that lives at the core of this show. You'll see some incredible work, onstage and off, from a group of

immensely talented USM students."

Into the Woods runs March 3-10th. All performances take place on the USM Gorham campus at Russell Hall. Appropriate for ages 12 and up. Content advisory: This show contains mild violence, comedic gore, and brief allusion to sex.

Into the Woods -- Music & Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim; Book by James Lapine; Directed by Elizabeth Carlson; Musical Direction by Ed Reichert; Presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI); Sponsored by Norway Savings Bank.

March 3-10. March 3, 4, 8, 9, 10 at 7:00 PM. March 5 at 2:00PM. March 10 at 10:00AM.

Ticket Prices: \$22 for Adults; \$16 for Se-

niors, USM employees and Alumni; \$10 for Students/Youth

Special group pricing available. See below for contact information.

To purchase tickets, or for more information, visit USM Theatre online at <https://usm.maine.edu/departments-theatre/>, or call the USM Theatre Box Office at (207) 780-5151.

Those needing special accommodations to participate fully in this program, contact Janice Gardner at (207)780-5289 or janice.gardner@maine.edu. Hearing impaired: call USM's telex / TDD number (207)780-5646

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Area Students Earn Awards, Make Deans' Lists

Lisbon Resident Earns Award from WGU

Elaine Law of Lisbon, Maine has earned an Award of Excellence at Western Governors University Leavitt School of Health. The award is given to students who perform at a superior level in their coursework.

Local Student Named To Dean's List At Northern Vermont University

Madison Roy of Lewiston, a student at Northern Vermont University in Vermont, was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2022 semester. Students who achieve between a 3.50 and 3.99 semester average are placed on the Dean's List.

University of Maine announces fall 2022 Dean's List

The University of Maine recognized 3,010 students for achieving Dean's List honors in the fall 2022 semester. Of the students who made the Dean's List, 1,983 are from Maine, 957 are from 45 other states and 70 are from 25 countries other than the U.S.

To be eligible for the Full-time Dean's List, a student must have completed 12 or more calculable credits in the semester and have earned a 3.50 or higher semester GPA. Students who have part-time status during both the fall and spring semesters of a given academic year are eligible for Part-time Dean's List. They must have completed 12 or more calculable credits over both terms and have earned a combined GPA in those terms of 3.50 or higher.

Please note that some students have requested that their information not be released; therefore, their names are not included.

MAINE STUDENTS (by County/Town)

ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY

Auburn: Will Cassidy, Lydia Celani, Esther Chen, Addison Chute, Wesley Clements, Chantal Cyr, Mia Emond, Natalie Garcia, Weston Hartley, Jordy Jimenez, Storm Jipson, Nevaeh Longchamps, Gabe Lovering, Mai Luu, Karla Mendoza Yanes, Noah Morgan, Annabelle Pendleton,

Samantha Poirier, Audrey Prentice, Evan Saltis, Caroline Tracey, Jameson Treadwell, Gwenneth Turgeon

Durham: Alexa Harvey, Sam Laroche, Bailey McGee, Alyssa Myron, Amanda Myron, Caleb Thurston

Greene: Jenna Boucher, Jaidyn Negley

Leeds: Cameron Duguay, Eryn Ryan, Meg Webber

Lewiston: Connor Androlewicz, Gordon Beckwith, Avery Greco, James Greenwood, Gabriel Labonte, Hunter Landry, Katie Laslie, Olivia Lee, Jacob Metivier, Sydney Roy, Matt Virgin, Aaron White

Lisbon: Adia Couombe, Levi Levesque

Lisbon Falls: Jacob Card, Timber Mattson, Amelia Mooney, Sarah Moreau, Benjamin Shambarger

Livermore: Jonathan Brenner, Abby Castonguay, Drew Delaney, Grace Harmatys

Livermore Falls: Wes Brinegar, Joby Byrd, Caleb Corlett

Mechanic Falls: Alex Emery, Jordyn Kohtala, Sierra Pomerleau, Elizabeth Tibbetts

Minot: Nick Allen, Alyssa Gagne

Poland: Zach Bragdon, Riley Day, Maia Ferguson, Sofia Hartley, Lucas Kelly, Keenan St. Pierre, Bree Storer

Sabbatus: Anna Beach, Autumn Chadburn, Renee Pickard, Maggie Ryder, Sadie Waterman

Turner: Tamra Benson, Noah Brown, Malloory Casey, Nik Krebs, Zach Madison, Oren Shaw, Everet Varney

Wales: Seth Allen, Brynn Emond, Morgan Inman

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Bridgton: Sabrina Lopez, Matthew Mayo, Fiona Murphy, Olivia Thompson

Brunswick: Rae Bamberger, Isak Carney, Cameron Daly, Liam Doherty, Chappy Hall, Alec Hess, Henry Johnson, Elizabeth Koval, Charlotte MacMillan, Riley McAllaster, Kian Murray, Connor Ney, Malloory Palmer, Abby Powers, John Schroeder, Lea Scrap-

chansky, Alex Sharon, Desiree Tanner, Keldan Van Leer, Matt Yost

Cape Elizabeth: Nathan Brame, Anna Hayes, Isaac Hayes, Nathaniel Holmes, Owen Labesky, Katie Ledoux, Grace Leschey, Nick Leschey, Lilia Membrino, Luke O'Kelly, Dylan Palmore, Mae Rayner, Sawyer Richard, Mary Isabelle Wisell

Casco: Anna Yates

Chebeague Island: Hannah Birkett

Cumberland Center: Brody Ackor, Grant Allard, Elizabeth Bein, James Davenport, Amelia Greenlee, Molly Hale, Aaron Howell, John Kearney, Tim Lester, Mike Marchessault, Luke Marsanskis, Olivia Marsanskis, Natalie Mullin, Aidan Pardue, Alexandra Peary, Ana Penza-Clyve, Mason Pitcher, Ahmed Saleh, Kim Steinman

Cumberland Foreside: Emma Abbott

Falmouth: Gretchen Barney, Holly Barney, Cameron Birks, Mason Canon, Cassidy Castillo Parkman, Garrett Daniels, Seth Dixon, Will Emanuel, Gabi Esmond, Gretchen Favreau, Fiona Ferrell, Isabelle Haggan, Will Johnson, Mitchell Kelley, Ash Lane, Jacob Lorenzo, Rhys Lowry, Jacob Marks, Maddie Marks, Zach Morrill, Matisse Moser, Ellie Nash, Liv Neuhauser, Max Peters, Ben Potter, Megan Sauberlich, Dominic Severino, Violet Singer, Ezra Stillman, Joseph Thorpe, Reilly Tucker, Deacon Waitkevitch, Sarah Wentworth

Freeport: Kaleb Barrett, Samuel Broadbent, Andrew Burns, Nate Davis, Bennett Joseph, Caitlin Keliher, Madison Landry, Robert Landry, Parker Landsbergen, Kerry Lefebvre, Katie Morrissey, Emily Perilla, Margaret Perrotta, Renxuan Qiu, Samuel Robinson, Hunter Towne, Isabella Wolotsky

Gorham: Arius Ahmad, Dan Bachner, Aidan Bell, Connor Bell, Gisele Berry, Maddy Berry, Allison Bishop, Haley Burns, Colby Christakis, Sadie Cyr, Hannah Dimick, Lauren Edwards, Abby Enck, Ben Fecteau, Reed Henderson, Charles Hubbard,

Riley Johnson, Sophie Kaufman, Josh Labrie, Allie Light, Ian Luciano, Nolan McCullough, Madison Michaud, Abigail Miller, Dylan Morrell, Jillian Morrill, Allie Myles, Anna Nault, Ava Pitman, Molly Rathbun, Ashley Ricker, Simon Rousnel, Chloe Russell, Thomas Sallinen, Camden Sawyer, Jackson Smith, Nick Strout, Julia Sturgis, John Sutton, Logan Swift, Sam Waggoner, Nicole Walker, Bruce Wyatt, Mackenzie Yaskula, Megan Young, Jacob Zelmanow

Gray: Amelia Cobb, Nicole Cobb, Nico Curcio, Alex Farrington, Colin Harris, Wyatt Kenney, Darcy MacLean, Kyle Martell, Jaida Patterson, Lindsay Pierce, Cameron Roberge, Liza Sturgis, Lauren Testa, Emma West

Harpwell: Riley Lapointe, Clare MacDonald, Sean Roberts

Harrison: Aedan Bryant, Sadie Hooker

Naples: Erik Christiansen, Joseph Jensen, Justin Lees

New Gloucester: Tyler Amos, Cam Andrews, Katherine Arsenault, Abby Bouchard, Mchale Bourne, Bradan Craig, Alicia Credit, Troy Dexter, Wyatt Fessler, Jasmine French, Blake Knedler, Keagan Rice

North Yarmouth: Simon Bourgeois, Dakota Cochran, Aidan Hayes, Nate Ingersoll, Diana Kimball, Aidan Michaud, Claire Mulligan, Kit Rafford, Katie Simmons, Blake Turner, Patrick Young

Peaks Island: Eddie Sylvester

Portland: Basam Abdulhay, Israk Ayasin, Calvin Benider, Eli Bigelman, Lilly Braun, Zach Broome, Gavin Callahan, Hope Carroll, Eric Christopher, Peter Clukey, Chloe Croce, Will Cunningham, Kaitlyn Currie, Ben Curtis, Chloe Delano, Elizabeth Drelich, Olivia Duong, Alexiis Fiore, James Fletcher, Haley Foreman, Laini Frager, Emily Freedman, Eva Griffiths, Emma Hallee, Elliott Hooper, Ryan Howell, Matthew Keast, Megan Keast, Evan Leonard, Jake Loranger, Spencer Matteo, Hagen Myers, Kelly Nguyen, Mackenzie O'Donnell, Ian Ramsden, Riley Rheault, Sydney Robinson, Livia Serappa, Bay Smalley, Kathleen Spear, Johnny Sylvain, Alec Troxell, Lam Zimet

Raymond: Colby Di-

onne, Isabel Dionne, Calie Fielding, Niall Gushue, Sarah Hare, Cady Kluck, Nathan Plummer, Emma Taggart

Scarborough: Zachary Alofs, Jalyssa Beason, Sydney Bloom, Isabella Cook, Tehya Esposito, Kaylee Faherty, Julia Freeman, Callynn Gendreau, Gabriella Giftos, Katherine Gross, Wyatt Harris, Tatum Hayward, Aaron Kazilionis, Jake Kingdon, Emily Labbe, Olivia LaChance, Peter Martin, Morgan McGarry, Josh Medeiros, Evan Morgan, Emily Murray, Jared Nelson, Ryan O'Leary, Connor Oliver, Jasmine Olshin, Emily Patashnik, Finn Pedersen, Aidan Peters, Eliot Pomerleau, Stephanie Ross, Abby Roy, Katherine Roy, Justyn Sears, Dan Smith, Cassidy Streeter, Jayson Thatcher, Amy Topchik, Ellie Walker, Allison Weymouth, Trey Wright

Sebago: Sam Porter

South Portland: Carson Blake, Sam Brown, Jack Brownstein, Aileen Campbell, Calvin Comeau, Jack Crain, Luca Desjardins, Lauren DiBiase, Anna Eugene, Michael Feely, Aallyyah Ferreira, Anna Folley, Josh Frank, Jake Goodwin, Aidan Gorneau, Emily Hobbs, Ben Hoyt, Abby Huchel, Daniel Joy, Moise Kalonji, Alexander Kaurin, Chloe MacVane, Maegan Murphy, Shannon Murphy, Meghan Perry, Mia Quint-Wood, Sydney Sherburne, Caleb Viola, Jackson Wilson, Elizabeth Withers

Standish: Maggi Bradford, Emily Byrne, Aubrey Denico, Vincent Lin, Jazmyne Mejias, Zachariah Oja, Kayla Raymond, Jack Tracy

Steep Falls: Paige Bois, Serena Greene, Koby Johnson

West Baldwin: Teagan

Meggison, Michael Murphy, Dylan Shields

Westbrook: Moayed Awad, Casper Cowan, Devin Cyr, Zachery Fecteau, Sam Foley, Maddie Herbert, Desiree Hodgkins, MacKenna Homa, Nathan Jacobs, Maxim LaPlante, Josie LeBlanc, Anthony Maguire, Kaitryn Pitt, Jeremy Slaven, Mia Stamey, Sarah Turmel, Alessandra Vasquez, Lily Webber

Windham: Monica Agneta, Octavian Anghel, Alex Baur, Chloe Boyes, Ben Chouinard, Emily Cormier, Connor Cummings, Avery Dube, Samuel Dubuc, Brendan Dunphy, Dylan Gorman,

Alissa Halloway, Julia Hills, Molly Hodgkins, Dianna Ingersoll, Estella Inman, Katherine Lewis, Sydney Nangle, Dean Preston, Avery Rolfe, Isabella Sernyk, Sarah Talon, Maddie Williams

Yarmouth: Phil Bock, Graden Caulfield, Cooper Hogan, Adam Levinson, Camden Olson, Owen Tull

Wales Resident Named to Dean's List for Fall 2022 Semester

Saint Anselm College has released the Dean's List of high academic achievers for the first semester of the 2022-2023 school year. To be eligible for this honor, a student must have achieved a grade point average of 3.4 or better in the semester with at least 12 credits of study which award a letter grade.

Mark W. Cronin, Dean of the College, announced that Dominique Michaud, a biology major in the class of 2023 from Wales, ME was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2022 semester at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire.

A total of 471 students representing 21 states and 6 countries were named.

Endicott College Announces Local Dean's List Students

Endicott College, the first college in the U.S. to require internships of its students, is pleased to announce its Fall 2022 Dean's List students. In order to qualify for the Dean's List, a student must obtain a minimum grade point average of 3.5, receive no letter grade below "C," have no withdrawal grades, and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits for the semester.

The following students have met these requirements:

HOMETOWN, STATE; NAME, MAJOR(S), PARENTS (if listed)

Auburn, ME; Olivia Lee, Architectural Studies, daughter of Xin Lee and Shung Lee

Lewiston, ME; Amelia Fortin, Events Management and Marketing, daughter of Julie Fortin and James Fortin

Kayne V. Wentzheimer of Lisbon one of 26 Saint Michael's College students, alumni published in national peer-reviewed neuroscience journal

Kayne V. Wentzheimer of Lisbon, a member of the Saint Michael's College class of 2022, was one of 26 students and alumni listed as authors of a peer-reviewed paper on neurodegenerative diseases published by The Journal of Comparative Neurology in December 2022. The paper was the result of research funded by a grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences at the National Institutes of Health.

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In Her Presence Co-Founder to Discuss Empowering Immigrants

PORTLAND, ME (February 23, 2023) -- Women of the Chamber returns for its second installment of this season on March 9th at the Children's Museum & Theatre of Maine. Join us for an

evening of food, drinks, and impactful conversations with Claudette Ndayinahaze Co-Founder and Executive Director of the women's non-profit, In Her Presence (IHP). Learn how IHP empowers immi-

grant women and families to achieve English language competency, career goals, and financial stability. After the presentation, there will be an opportunity to network with IHP program participants.



Claudette Ndayinahaze
Co-founder, Exec. Director
In Her Presence

Women of the Chamber at the Children's Museum



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Travis Mills Foundation Celebrates Vietnam-era Veterans

AUGUSTA, ME (February 23, 2023) -- If you or a loved one are a Vietnam-era Veteran, the Travis Mills Foundation is holding a free event to celebrate these brave men and women on March 29. Registration ends March 3.

Vietnam Era Veterans and one guest are invited to a FREE full-service breakfast, program and ceremonies held at Augusta Civic Center, starting at 9 a.m., Wednesday, March 29, 2023. This event is being held to thank all Vietnam era veterans for their service and sacrifice. RSVP by March 3, 2023, to this FREE event: give.classy.org/vietnamveteranbreakfast

Welcome Home

Vietnam Era Veterans Breakfast

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Who: Vietnam Era Veterans and one guest
 What: FREE full-service breakfast, program and ceremonies
 When: 9 a.m., Wednesday, March 29, 2023
 Where: Augusta Civic Center, 76 Community Drive, Augusta, ME
 Why: To thank all Vietnam era veterans for their service and sacrifice
 How: RSVP by March 3, 2023, to this FREE event; give.classy.org/vietnamveteranbreakfast

Or scan to sign up!

US Army SSG (Ret.) Travis Mills is an ardent supporter of our Vietnam Era Veterans. SSG Mills and the Travis Mills Foundation Team are honored to hold this event as a way to say 'Thank You' and 'Welcome Home' to those who served during the Vietnam War.

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Parents Should be at the Center of Their Children's Education

Guest Column by Sen. James Libby

As a parent of two teens, I face the same responsibility that other parents have in raising children. Generations of Americans before us formed the societal structure we have today, and parents have always been at the focal point of their children's lives.

And with some exceptions that come from being human, most Maine parents provide a positive impact on the growth and development of their children every day. That's the way it should be.

Parents today face challenges that my grandparents couldn't have even imagined. From smartphone addiction to online predators, we face a host of issues that are unfortunately a product of our society.

But issues with our educational systems shouldn't be one of them.

However, it's become apparent that some people are trying to shift the space occupied by parents. A small minority feel they should be at the center of the child's life instead of the parent. Unfortunately, a few school board members, wayward school administrators and even some lawmakers who don't hold school officials accountable enable this activist mindset.

And more parents than ever are wondering if schools are withholding information about controversial policies or even about their own child. From age-appropriate content and the curricula taught in classrooms to information about whether your child is having a mental conflict,

common decency and societal norms demand that parents are kept involved and informed.

I am concerned with these and other recent trends that have appeared in education over the past five years. From lower standardized test scores to a system that limits choices for parents, there is a great deal of work to be done.

According to the "Nation's Report Card," Maine public school students have now fallen below the national average in math scores for fourth-graders and are at the national average for eighth-graders. In both cases, experts consider the results to be below proficiency. Maine was above the national average in these scores just a decade ago.

Results in English have experienced a sim-

ilar downward trend in Maine. During the COVID-19 years, Maine's English proficiency declined at a greater rate than the nation.

Unfortunately, the Maine Department of Education wants to again change the standardized test that just allowed me to provide you with that scientific data. They want to move the goalposts.

So what's the answer here? I believe competition provides a roadmap to help Maine experience a rebirth in our educational systems. For example, studies have shown that students perform better in states where parents have multiple options of where to send their kids.

Harvard economics professor Caroline Hoxby's often-referenced 2003 study presented evidence on three parental choice reforms: vouchers in Milwaukee, charter schools in Michigan and charter schools in Arizona. In each case, her findings confirmed that public schools improved when they were exposed to competition.

But offering more

options to parents is not the law in Maine. Instead, school systems can monopolize instruction by establishing geographic districts that control access and funding. Yet competition in most areas of life drives economies, fosters innovation, and leads to maximizing success in personal and professional development. Education is no different.

Today, states such as Arizona, Iowa, West Virginia and others have adopted parental choice policies where per-pupil funding generally follows the student and parents can choose between competing schools. I have introduced a bill this session that is modeled after Arizona's law.

Under this bill, your child could attend any school of your choice without the permission of the sending school's superintendent and your tax dollars would follow your child. We have nine charter schools in Maine where students can attend at no additional cost to families and an array of private schools at all levels of cost and specialty.

It's too late for me -- my son has chosen public school and my daughter is nearing completion at a private school. But I'd love to give Maine parents more options that best suit their situation.

Parental choice is a significant policy statement that differentiates Republicans and Democrats in Maine. It's time we put parents back where they belong -- enjoying the wonderful blessings of family.

Senator James Libby represents the communities of District 22. He previously served in the Maine Senate during the 117th and 118th Legislatures after serving two terms in the Maine House of Representatives. He is the Senate Republican Lead for the Legislature's Education Committee and the Taxation Committee

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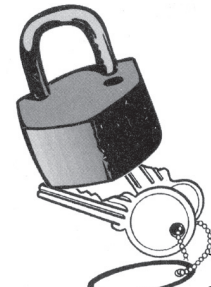
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Gorham Invited to “Eat and Learn” Event

GORHAM, ME (February 24, 2023) -- Please join Gorham School Department for an “Eat and Learn” event coming up on March 14! Join fellow community members as we eat and learn about the ongoing efforts to enhance equity in all of Gorham’s schools within the district! Check out the flyer for more information AND RSVP via the link provided TODAY!



EAT AND LEARN

A Community Gathering with Food and Education

Join your fellow community members as we eat and learn about the ongoing efforts to enhance Equity in all of Gorham’s schools within the district. We will hear from students, student groups, educators, and staff who are focused on these key practices.

MARCH 14TH (PIE DAY!)
5:00 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.
GORHAM HIGH SCHOOL

RSVP at www.eventbrite.com
“Eat and Learn”

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

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

March 4
GORHAM -- Public Bean Supper at White Rock Community Clubhouse, 34 Wilson Road, Gorham on Saturday, March 4, 4:30-6:00pm

Eat in or take out, no pre-orders. Meal includes baked kidney & pea beans, coleslaw, potato salad, macaroni & cheese, biscuits, hot dogs and dessert. Wearing of masks for those who are not vaccinated is suggested.

\$10 adults, \$5 under 12 Follow us on Facebook for updates: facebook.com/whiterockcommunityclub

March 6
AUBURN -- The March meeting of the Auburn Art Club will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, March 6th at the Park Avenue Methodist Church in Auburn. Hostesses for this meeting are Marie Steele, Sharon Beaudoin, and Sharon Cresci. The program will be announced.

All members are invited to attend.

Every 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Monday starting

March 6
LEWISTON -- PROGRAMS FOR HOMESCHOOL FAMILIES, held

the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Monday 11:15am-12:30pm starting March 6th, 2023 at the Lewiston Public Library Children’s Department

Homeschool families, are you looking for opportunities to have fun and socialize with other homeschool families? LPL will be offering activities for homeschool families in the Children’s Department the first three Mondays of each month from 11:15am-12:30pm. The activities will be a Homeschool Video Game Social on March 6th, a Homeschool Lego Club and Curriculum Swap on March 13th, and a Homeschool Storytime and Craft on March 20th.

This program is free and recommended for homeschool families with children of all ages. No registration is required. Contact info. 513-3133, LPLKids@lewistonmaine.gov

March 8
LEWISTON -- The March meeting of the Androscoggin Retired Educators’ Association will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at the Green Ladle at Lewiston High School.

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Our speaker for this meeting will be Miles Felch from the Bethel Gem Museum who will present a slide show of the work and activities conducted at the museum.

Reservations for this meeting should be sent to David Wing, 42 Hatch Hill Road, Greene, ME 04236. The cost of the meal is \$18 and will be Chef’s Choice. Please make checks out to AREA, to be received by March 1.

March 8 and Wednesdays
LEWISTON -- TEEN YOGA, Wednesdays, March 1-March 22, 3:30-4:30pm at the Lewiston Public Library:

The Lewiston Public Library will be hosting a 4 week yoga series for teens in March 2023. Classes will be held at the library on Wednesdays 3:30-4:30pm from 3/1/2023 to 3/22/2023 in the 2nd floor IDEA Lab. Practice will

focus on simple breathing and mindfulness techniques as well as gentle movement.

For more information contact the Adult & Teen Services department at 513-3135 or lpference@lewistonmaine.gov.

March 10
LEWISTON -- Fill the Plate Breakfast to benefit Meals on Wheels of SeniorsPlus from 7 am – 9 am at Hilton Garden Inn Riverwatch, Auburn. Tickets: \$25 per person (\$30 at the door); available at www.seniorsplus.org or by calling 207 795-4010. Seats are limited. Advance registration encouraged.

A breakfast to benefit the Meals on Wheels program of SeniorsPlus, the Western Maine Agency on Aging, will honor Auburn resident Eloise O’Neill with the Ikaria Award for outstanding contributions toward improving the lives of older adults



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

DONATE TODAY!

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Men's Dress Coats almost new - One London Fog, dark tan size 42 R \$50, one 3/4 length with zip in lining - tan \$40. 1 pair new Timberland work boots size 9W \$50. Call 207-782-4228

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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Turboclean Powerbrush Pet Pro carpet cleaner. Brand new. Used once. Asking \$80. Call 893-8851. Gorham.

Back Hoe

Back hoe Attachment for tractor. 3 point hitch, category two, 12 foot long \$3,500 . 782-5539

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Recumbent bike with heart & mileage monitor \$75. Lt oak coffee table with 4 glass panes & shelf. Call 782-1456

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SENIORS

LEWISTON SENIOR CITIZENS TRIPS FOR 2023

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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vate Lewiston gym, in-home options available. Call Mike Phelan for more information. 207-577-8777

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Stock Shelves for Gorham Food Pantry Friends' 40 Cans for Lent

GORHAM, ME (February 20, 2023) -- As we head into Lent (Feb 22), Food Pantry Friends encourages you to consider taking part in "40 cans for Lent" to support your neighbors using the Pantry. You

can drop items off in the bin at the pantry as you collect them, or you can drop them all off on April 8th. Here are a few ideas: Mac & Cheese in boxes; Cereal cold & hot (packets of oatmeal); Ramen noodles (not cups);

Pasta Sauce 20-24 oz; Baked Beans; Chef Boyardee canned pasta; Cans of tuna or chicken; Soups.

Thank you for your support, and for helping to feed your neighbors here in Gorham!

Gorham Gears up for Donut Dash



GORHAM, ME (February 23, 2023) -- The Donut Dash is a run on the trails at Cherry Hill Farms with donuts from Eighty8 Donut Cafe. You can choose to run a 5-mile competitive race, where you eat all 12 of your donuts at the halfway point before the continuing race,

or a 2.5-mile recreational race where you eat your donuts at the end of the race. The Mini Monster Dash is a 1-mile race with 6 donuts and is perfect for little ones. Sign up as an individual for the full Donut Dash experience, or as a team and share the donut commitment. Up for a chal-

lenge? Try to complete the donut dash in less than an hour. Sprinkle some fun in the run and wear a creative costume!
Event Schedule:
7:00am - Check-in begins
8:00am - Mini Monster Dash
9:00am - Donut Dash

Boothbay Harbor Police Department

We are accepting applications for new and experienced officers. These benefits listed are for the full-time position (s). Also hiring reserve officers starting at \$30.00/hr.

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- ME PERS 2C (25 years / no age requirement.)
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Job description: Under general direction from the patrol sergeant and in accordance with established policies and procedures, incumbent assumes responsibility for the protection of life and property, through enforcement of laws and ordinances. Work normally consists of routine patrol, preliminary investigation, answering complaints, and traffic enforcement. Please visit The Town of Boothbay Harbor website to access application.

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