

Faculty Concert Series at USM Gorham Campus



GORHAM, ME (March 10, 2023) -- Osher School of Music faculty members Robert Lehmann, violin, and Thomas Parchman, clarinet, present an evening of collaborative contrasts. Unusual instrumental combinations are at the center of a program filled with dazzling colors and textures. The program includes Sea of Grass, Ocean of Sky, for violin, clarinet and piano by American composer Edward Knight (b.

1961); Contrasts for violin, clarinet and piano by Hungarian composer Béla Bartók (1881-1945); and a concerto for violin, piano, and string quartet by French composer Ernest Chausson (1855-1899).

Professors Lehmann and Parchman will be joined by pianist Chiharu Naruse, violinists Mia Bella D'Augelli and Tracey Jasas-Hardel, violist Kimberly Lehmann and cellist William Rounds.

Tickets are \$15 general, \$10 students, seniors, USM employees and alumni. This live performance takes place at Corthell Concert Hall on our Gorham campus on Friday, March 24 at 7:30 p.m.

For those needing special accommodations to participate fully in this program, contact the Music Box Office at (207) 780-5555. Hearing impaired: call USM's telex / TDD number (207) 780-5646.

Gorham Adult Ed Offers 'Just Once Guitar for Busy People'

GORHAM, ME (March 10, 2023) -- Have you ever wanted to learn the guitar but simply find it difficult to find the time? In just a few hours you can learn enough about playing the guitar to give you years of musical enjoyment. This crash course will teach you some basic chords and get you playing along with your favorite songs right away. Bring your acoustic guitar. Class limited to 9 students. Students age 13+ are welcome. Don Pride is a professional musician, teacher and composer who plays throughout the United States. He is a member of the Portland Jazz Orchestra and leads The Don Pride Band. Don teaches at the University of Southern Maine, St. Joseph's College, the Portland Conservatory of Music and in his private studio.

Wed., 3/29, 6-8:30PM, Gorham Middle School, \$59.

Get Outside, Gorham! Take in Nature, Hike Tidewater Farm

FALMOUTH, ME (March 10, 2023) -- Join a Maine Master Naturalist for a hike at Tidewater Farm. Park on Farm Gate Road near the University of Maine Cooperative Extension sign. This is a special time of year to visit Tidewater as the elvers may be running. Plan to wear boots! All walks are free and open to the public. Email Rebecca at rdugan@falmouthlandtrust.org or call 207-200-5488 to register.

Details: Saturday, March 25, 2023 1:00 PM - 2:15 PM EST; Presumpscot Point Road, Falmouth, ME 04105. Park at the corner of Presumpscot Point Rd and Farm Gate Road near the University of Maine Cooperative Extension sign.

MaineCF Scholarships Available for Gorham, Area Seniors

PORTLAND & ELLSWORTH, ME (March 10, 2023) — The Maine Community Foundation (MaineCF) offers more than 1,000 scholarships available to graduating high school seniors, graduate students, and adult learners pursuing myriad areas of study and professional certifications.

In 2022, MaineCF awarded \$2.8 million in scholarships to more than 1,000 students, including older, nontraditional students who returned to school. MaineCF offers both long-term support for adult learners seeking degrees and short-term scholarships for certification or licensing.

A new scholarship this year will support graduating Maine seniors pursuing a degree in engineering. The application deadline for the K. William Wiseman Engineering Scholarship is May 1.

The William J. Murtagh Scholarship



for Graduate Preservation Studies is a new scholarship for students pursuing graduate-level degrees in the areas of archaeology, architecture, landscape architecture, art history, museum studies, construction arts and sciences, architectural history, history, planning, preservation law, building conservation and other related fields. The scholarship honors Murtagh, who was considered one of the world's leading historic preservationists.

This spring, MaineCF will travel across the state to host workshops during which students and families can learn

more and apply for scholarships.

For more information about MaineCF's scholarships, to apply for a scholarship, or find a workshop near you, visit www.mainecef.org.

The Maine Community Foundation brings people and resources together to build a better Maine through strategic giving, community leadership, personalized service, local expertise and strong investments. To learn more about the foundation, visit www.mainecef.org.

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

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Collins Questions Intelligence Officials on Threats, COVID

WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 8, 2023) – Today at the annual worldwide threats open hearing, U.S. Senator Susan Collins questioned the top leaders of the U.S. intelligence agencies about the long-term national security repercussions of the Biden Administration's chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021, which resulted in U.S. military hardware falling into the hands of terrorists. Senator Collins also probed the intelligence community's conflicting conclusions regarding the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Directing a question to Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) Director Lieutenant General Scott Berrier, Senator Collins listed the billions of dollars' worth of military as-

sets were left behind in Afghanistan, including ammunition, communications equipment, and at least 16,000 pairs of night vision goggles, 167 aircraft, and 2,000 vehicles.

"My concern is that all of these assets could be useful in launching a terrorist attack on the United States or on one of our allies," said Senator Collins. "Given the continued chaos in Afghanistan and presence of terrorist groups that want to harm the United States—[groups] that have made no secret about harming us or our allies—what is the intelligence community's assessment on the counterterrorism threat to the United States' homeland and our allies—particularly one launched from Afghanistan?"

"From our perspec-

tive at the Defense Intelligence Agency, certainly our reach and grasp into that nation since the fall of the government has eroded over time, but we still have some access," responded General Berrier. "And I would say, based on what we know right now from the threat of al Qaeda, they're trying to survive, basically without a real plan to at least or intend to attack the West anytime soon. And I would say that ISIS-K poses a bit of a larger threat, but they are under attack from the Taliban regime right now. And it's a matter of time before they may have the ability and intent to actually attack the West at this point."

"That dovetails very closely with the Defense Intelligence Agency," added National Security Agen-

cy Director General Paul Kakasone. "We see the same challenges across the IC with some of our collection. But we do see a challenge, ISIS-K, in Afghanistan right now as they battle the Taliban."

Senator Collins also questioned Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines on the origins of COVID.

"We know that 6.5 million people have died, that trillions of dollars have been lost in economic activity," said Senator Collins. "We also know that had we known early on the origin of COVID, we might have well have been able to change the trajectory and been better prepared for future pandemics. We've heard the FBI Director today say that the most likely explanation is a laboratory

incident. We know that the Wuhan whistleblower who first raised alarms was silenced by the Chinese government and later died of COVID. We know, as your statement says, that Beijing continues to hinder the global investigation, resist sharing information and blames other countries. Those are not the actions of an innocent party. We know that the Department of Energy has changed its assessment to say that the most likely cause is a laboratory incident. I just don't understand why you continue to maintain on behalf of the intelligence community that [a natural cause and a lab leak] are two equally plausible explanations. They simply are not."

Director Haines responded: "I share your frustration with the fact

that China hasn't been more cooperative on this issue to provide intelligence that would be of use to the scientists and others who work on these questions. There are four elements plus our National Intelligence Council that assess with low confidence that the infection was most likely caused by natural exposure to an infected animal. So, the IC remains divided on this issue. We have the FBI, as you noted, that sees it as more likely that it's a lab leak and has done that with moderate confidence. And the Department of Energy has changed its views slightly with low confidence. It says that a lab leak is most likely, but they do so for different reasons than the FBI does. And their assessments are not identical."

Wayne Douglas Sworn in as Associate Justice



Gov. Mills swears in Justice Wayne Douglas as an Associate Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court.

AUGUSTA, ME (March 10, 2023) – Joined by members of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court and others at the State House, Governor Janet Mills today swore in Wayne R. Douglas as Associate Justice of

the Maine Supreme Judicial Court.

Justice Douglas joins the Supreme Judicial Court after more than two decades of service as a member of the Maine Superior Court and the Maine

District Court. His nomination to the Court was overwhelmingly approved by the Maine State Senate and the Legislature's Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

"The Maine Supreme

Judicial Court will benefit from Justice Douglas' sharp legal mind, measured temperament, and dedication to the fair and impartial administration of the law," said Governor Janet Mills. "I congratulate Justice Douglas on joining our state's highest court, and I am confident that he will be an outstanding Associate Justice."

"As an Associate Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court, I will carefully consider each case, treat all with courtesy and respect, and administer justice in a fair and impartial manner, as I have done throughout my more than two decades on the bench," said Justice Wayne R. Douglas. "I am honored by and grateful for the trust Governor Mills and the Legislature have placed in me to serve the people of Maine."

Justice Douglas, of Old Orchard Beach, was first nominated to the Maine District Court by former Governor Angus King in 2002 and reappointed by former Governor John Baldacci in 2010. In 2015, former Governor Paul LePage appointed Douglas to the Maine Superior Court.

During his time on the Superior Court, Douglas has presided over the York County Treatment and Recovery Court, which provides judicially monitored supervision and treatment to individuals with criminal charges who are committed to addressing their substance use disorder and mental health issues. He also initiated a Mental Health Docket in York County to expedite consideration of cases involving people experiencing mental health issues.

Prior to his appointment to the Judicial Branch, Justice Douglas served as Chief Legal Counsel to former Governor King and as Associate Commissioner of the former Maine Department of Mental Health. Prior to entering public service, Justice Douglas spent more than a decade in private practice at Pierce Atwood in Portland.

Justice Douglas, 71, is a graduate of the University of Maine School of Law and received his undergraduate degree from Bates College. He lives in Old Orchard Beach with his wife and has two adult children.

Governor Mills nominated Justice Douglas on February 1, 2023. Justice Douglas is Governor Mills' fifth nomination to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court since taking office.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Big Brothers Big Sisters Moves Bowl for Kids' Sake to Hallowell



BRUNSWICK, ME (March 10, 2023) – Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bath/Brunswick is thrilled to announce it will hold its annual Bowl for Kids' Sake fundraiser this year despite Brunswick's Yankee Lanes – where the event has been held for decades – being purchased and closed for bowling. The organization has moved the event to Spare-time Bowling in Hallowell, just 30 minutes from Brunswick and 40 minutes

from Bath. "We are sad that our local lanes have closed, but the event is such a big part of our fundraising for the year that we decided to utilize the Hallowell location," says Executive Director Carol Marquis. "We are excited to work with the new venue and continue the yearly tradition of having a great time with our community members." The 2023 event will be the same as it has always been, aside from its



Maine State Music Theatre's team at BBBS of Bath/Brunswick's Bowl for Kids' Sake. L-R: Susie Sharp, Kat Kacinski, Carol Marquis, and Jen Blackstone.

new location, and will take place on Saturday, May 6, with two-hour bowling sessions from 10 AM to 6 PM.

Community members and businesses can help kids in Brunswick, Harpswell, and all of Sagadahoc County by forming a team

(of 4-5 people) to raise donations to support one-to-one mentoring relationships and celebrate their success with a fun day of

bowling! Donations raised through Bowl For Kids' Sake have an immediate, positive, and life-lasting effect on the lives of youth aged six through young adult and their families! All proceeds from this event support community outreach projects, volunteer recruitment and assessment, volunteer training and matching, and ongoing support of every Little, Big, and their family. The event is sponsored by Coastal Maine Pediatric Dentistry, Bath Savings Institution, Dead River Company, Bill Dodge Auto Group, and Atlantic Federal Credit Union. To learn more and to register, visit www.bbbsathbrunswick.org or call (207) 729-7736.

First Round is On Us at Kegs & Issues!



A Conversation with Erin Ovalle

March 29th, 2023 | 4:30 - 6:30pm
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KEGS & ISSUES

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MAINE LIFE MEDIA

Register at Portlandregion.com

PORTLAND, ME (March 10, 2023) -- Join Kegs & Issues for a conversation with Erin Ovalle, owner of Maine Life Media and host of several TV shows airing throughout New England. Hear about her motivation for launching her original show, the growth of her production company, and what's on

the horizon for the future. Erin will also unveil an exciting new project she is undertaking in conjunction with the Maine business community.

Artisan Market Coming to Robie Gym in Gorham this Weekend



Artisan Market March 18th, 9-3pm 42 South Street Gorham Maine

GORHAM, ME (March 10, 2023) -- Join Maine Micro Artisans for our monthly Artisan Market at the Robie Gym! This market is filled to the max!

These markets are always a feast for the eyes. You'll find a premium selection of handmade goods including: Metalworks Jewelry; Mosaics; Woodworking; Handmade

Soaps; Pet Products & Gear; Stained Glass; Artwork; Macrame; Plushies; Home Décor; Gourmet Tea. Come on out and see us!

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BHS Players Present *ANYTHING GOES* (2022 Revision)



Cast photos taken among the sawdust and unfinished set pieces during a set build day in February.



The cast of *ANYTHING GOES*.



Main characters Billy Crocker (Jaden Nicita) and Reno Sweeney (Marguerite Benham)

BRUNSWICK, ME (March 7, 2023) – The Brunswick High School Players (BHS Players) is proud to announce their spring musical, “*ANYTHING GOES* (2022 Revision).” *ANYTHING GOES*, a musical, with music and lyrics by Cole

Porter, is the story of mad-cap antics aboard an ocean liner bound from New York to London. The cast of over 40 from Brunswick High School will delight you with song and dance numbers (including tap!), romance and laughter on the high seas in this

popular show.

Directed by Linda Gardiner, with Music Director Ashley Albert, Orchestra Director Brandon Duras, and Producer Michael Millett, the show will be performed on Thursday, March 23rd through Saturday, March 25th at Crooker Theater at Brunswick High School. Shows will be at 7:00 PM on Thursday, Friday, and

Saturday and 2:00 PM on Saturday. Tickets are available in advance online and at the door (subject to availability) for \$17 for adults, \$12 for seniors/students. For tickets visit www.showtix4u.com/events/BHSPlayers

BHS Players thanks its generous season sponsor Maine Steamer Trunk Company for their support.

BHS Players production of *ANYTHING GOES* is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Tams-Witmark LLC (www.concordtheatricals.com). *ANYTHING GOES* includes Music and Lyrics by Cole Porter, Original

Book by P.G. Wodehouse & Guy Bolton and Howard Lindsay & Russel Crouse. New Book by Timothy Crouse & John Weidman.

FMI on BHS Players visit: <https://sites.google.com/brunswicksd.org/brunswickhighschoolplayers/home>

Legislation Aims to Bolster Integrity in Election System

AUGUSTA, ME (March 8, 2023) – Senate Republicans unveiled legislation during a press briefing on Tuesday to help bolster confidence and integrity in Maine’s electoral system. The bills, ranging from voter identification requirements to chain-of-custody measures regarding Maine’s absentee ballot process, aim to

reverse a decline in voter trust over the past decade.

According to Sen. Matt Pouliot, R-Kennebec, who introduced LD 34, “An Act to Require a Person to Show Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting,” the role of government should be to improve voter trust instead of being one of the factors contributing to its decline.

He cited a Gallup poll that indicates an overwhelming 80% of Americans favor voter ID requirements.

A recent University of New Hampshire Pine Tree State Poll issued last month showed nearly two-thirds of Mainers also want it.

“Whether voter fraud or impersonation exists isn’t the question here, ac-

tually – a few cases over the years prove that it does,” Pouliot said. “Our job as lawmakers is to minimize the risk of it, which is really our job with any of our governmental processes.”

Ripping off a list of at least 11 instances where identification is needed in Maine, from starting a job and buying alcohol to even opening a bank account, Pouliot said having an ID to vote should be no different.

“Thirty-five states require voter ID. Two more, Nebraska and Ohio, are currently implementing it,” he said. “Maine’s Perceptions of Electoral Integrity index scores have consistently ranked in the top 10 in the country. Let’s be number one.”

Sen. Trey Stewart, R-Aroostook, said a major component contributing to the lack of electoral trust stems from a new phenomenon that has been occurring across the country involving billionaires like Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg. Dubbed “Zuckerbucks” to describe the concept of private donations to fund official government electoral operations, Zuckerberg’s nonprofit Center for Tech and Civic Life funneled \$350 million to 2,500 local

election departments in 47 states including millions of dollars to cities in Maine.

“Now, conveniently these funds typically flow to pockets and hubs of folks that share the same ideology as Mr. Zuckerberg, namely urban liberal areas,” he said, adding Zuckerberg’s firm sent hundreds of thousands of dollars to cities like Portland, Lewiston and Bangor to help bolster turnout. “I don’t have an issue with increasing voter turnout, but why does it have to be in the most urban areas that also have a strong trend line of voting for Democrats.”

The top 10 list of municipalities that received funding are:

- City of Auburn - \$259,076
- City of Augusta - \$145,237
- City of Bangor - \$272,104
- City of Bath - \$144,315
- Town of Cumberland - \$155,000
- City of Lewiston - \$272,519
- Town of Orono - \$159,025
- City of Portland - \$284,584
- City of Saco - \$159,540
- City of South Portland - \$205,938

Total spent in Maine - \$3,577,320

For Sen. Jeff Timberlake, R-Androscoggin, who is the Senate Republican Lead for the Legislature’s Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, the issue of public confidence in Maine’s election system has less to do with whether fraud exists or not but rather the controls the State has in place to prevent it.

“Regardless of whether you believe election fraud is rampant in Maine or elsewhere, it does exist. It might be large or it might be small, such as the case with two students who were charged in Orono,” Timberlake said. “But we can’t live in a vacuum with our head buried in the sand hoping it will never happen. That is just unreasonable.”

Citing the need for businesses to deploy risk management and internal control measures for everything from employee theft to OSHA safety regulations, he said state government is no different when it comes to planning for potential fraud.

“Whether fraud happens is not what this is about,” he said. “Our responsibility is to put commonsense protections in place to manage the risk of just once.”

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Seniors Not Acting Their Age

Revisiting the Penobscot River Trails in Winter



A Nordic skier on the Penobscot River Trail in Grindstone



A hiker descends a hill on the Seboeis Riverside Trail



Penobscot River Trail on a clear day

By Ron Chase

The Penobscot River Trails (PRT) are exceptional in winter. Created by Butler Conservation Foundation (BCF), they consist of a network of ski and snowshoe trails along the East Branch of the Penobscot River in Grindstone and a scenic snowshoe path on the Seboeis River a few miles west of Shin Pond.

Since my wife, Nancy, and I enjoyed outstanding skiing and snowshoeing at the impressive PRT system in Grindstone last year, we resolved to return again this winter. Last fall, I hiked the latest BCF creation, Seboeis Riverside Trail, for the first time and wrote a column about that premiere hiking experience. The prospect of visiting them both for a two-day Valentine's Day vacation was very appealing.

The weather wasn't completely accommodating when Nancy and I arrived at the PRT facility in Grindstone. The skies were gray with moderate winds and there was a chance of sprinkles or mixed precipitation. Despite the less than stellar forecast, several vehicles were in the parking area.

Nancy planned to snowshoe while I hoped to ski. I prefer extended ski trips. The PRT offers one of the longest and best in Maine. The approximately

sixteen mile loop trip travels north along the river and then returns via a more direct route on Tote Road Trail. That was my optimistic goal assuming the snow conditions cooperated.

An outing at the PRT begins by signing in at the luxurious Visitor Center which includes a woodstove, communal area, and bathrooms. There is no trail fee and skis, snowshoes, poles and boots are available for a donation.

My optimism was well-founded as trails were nicely groomed and the tracks fast, perfect for a long distance ski. A classic skier, I began my trek on Silver Maple Trail. A little over three kilometers led to a junction with Riverside and Tote Road Trails. I chose Riverside.

The hilly, winding Riverside Trail travels adjacent to the river for over eleven kilometers to Long Meadow Warming Hut. The challenging route is double tracked facilitating convenient two-way traffic. Skiers can choose shorter loops by taking any of four link trails that connect with Tote Road.

Light freezing rain commenced at about the same time I met two skiers traveling south near Link 2. The friendly couple was confident the precipitation

would soon end. Their cheerful prediction proved accurate. They were the only skiers I met during my outing.

Following about a two-hour workout, I arrived at the distinctive warming hut situated at the top of a hill in an open field. On a clear day, Mount Katahdin can be observed from the elegant structure. Alas, not on this cloudy afternoon.

I stopped for a snack and added Glide to my skis for the generally downhill cruise south to the Visitor Center. My return featured a spate of exhilarating double poling to end the day. Nancy reported excellent snowshoeing on Long Logan Loop and Silver Maple Trails.

Early the next morning, we drove north from Medway through Patten and Shin Pond to the Seboeis Riverside Trailhead on Grand Lake Road on a seasonably warm, sunny day. Two BCF workers, Chad Day and Nick Dickerson, were in the parking lot when we arrived. Chad departed on snowshoes carrying a chainsaw for trail maintenance. Nick left for a drive to a separate trail where he would transport equipment and building materials by snowmobile to the Snowshoe Lodge located two miles downriver.

The trail surface was



An impressive metal suspension bridge spans Shin Brook on Seboeis Riverside Trail

packed by previous hikers and superb for snowshoeing. We hiked the well-designed path along the ice and snow-covered river through a mixed hardwood and softwood forest. Chad had cleared blowdowns in two locations.

After a long mile, a portage sign indicated we had arrived at Grand Pitch, where the river flows through a spectacular gorge. A spur trail led to an overlook. Prominent Sugarloaf Mountain could be discerned farther downriver.

Soon after, we crossed an impressive metal suspension bridge that spans

Shin Brook. Easy snowshoeing continued to Snowshoe Lodge, another BCF masterpiece. Nancy and I stopped for a break at the hut and enjoyed a conversation with the busy BCF workers who were finishing construction of a shed that will be used to store emergency equipment and tools.

Our return on the picturesque rolling trail was a delight. The four mile roundtrip trek was completed in about three hours. The entertaining excursion is a must for outdoor enthusiasts who want to experience a new and unique wilderness adventure. Five addi-

tional miles of trail extend beyond the hut for those seeking a more substantial expedition.

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

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Arts & Entertainment

JobsInME to Hold ME Career Fair, Seeks Exhibitors

PORTLAND, ME (March 10, 2023) -- ME Career Fairs are back by popular demand — live and in person! JobsInME, a leading resource for Maine employment advertising, is proud to present the ME Career Fair! For more than 20 years we've provided job seekers with real, quality jobs online. With our

popular ME Career Fairs, we also bring you the opportunity to meet face-to-face with recruiters from some of the best companies in Maine. Job seekers, pre-register now. It's fast and free — and allows you to quickly check in with your ticket at the event and avoid registration forms at the door. Employers, if you

are interested in registering as an exhibitor, contact our sales team at 877-374-1088 or email sales@jobsinme.com
Details: Tuesday, April 4, 2023 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM EST at 1230 Congress St., Portland, ME 04102, Portland Clarion Hotel, 1230 Congress St., Portland, ME.

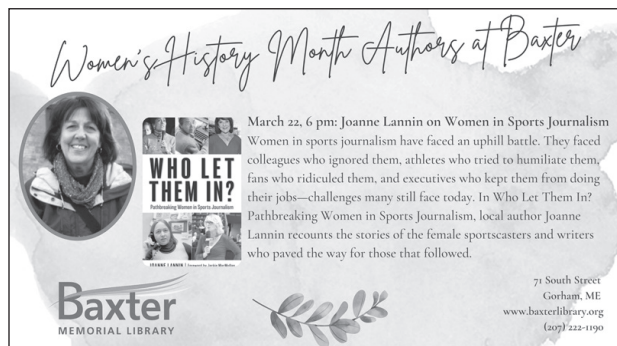
Gorham Rec Covers Rental Skates at St. Patrick's Day Open Skate

GORHAM, ME (March 10, 2022) -- Join Gorham Recreation Department Friday, March 17th from 1:00pm-3:00pm

for a special St. Patrick's Day Open Skate at USM Ice Arena! \$5/Adults \$3/Students. Gorham Rec will be providing FREE skate

rentals (limited quantities) and hot coco. We will also be giving away prizes for Best St. Patrick's Day Attire!

Local Author to Discuss Women in Sports Journalism at Gorham's BML



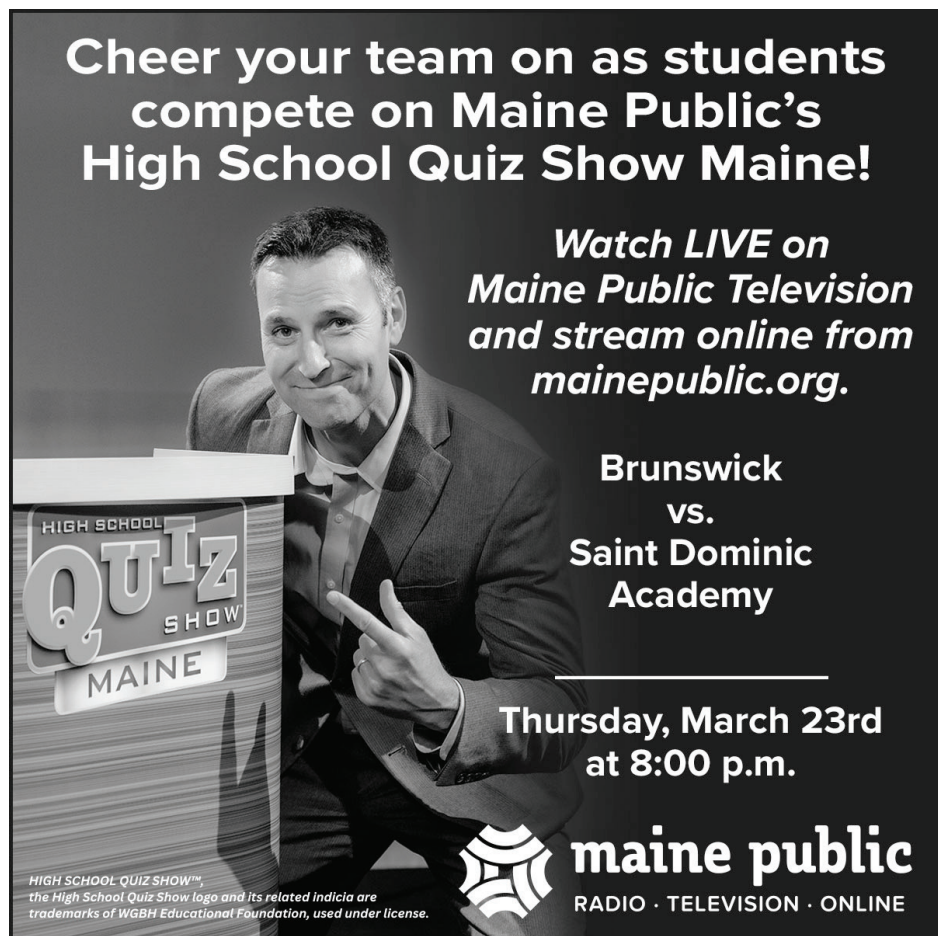
Women's History Month Authors at Baxter
March 22, 6 pm: Joanne Lannin on Women in Sports Journalism
Women in sports journalism have faced an uphill battle. They faced colleagues who ignored them, athletes who tried to humiliate them, fans who ridiculed them, and executives who kept them from doing their jobs—challenges many still face today. In Who Let Them In? Pathbreaking Women in Sports Journalism, local author Joanne Lannin recounts the stories of the female sportscasters and writers who paved the way for those that followed.

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Brunswick vs. Saint Dominic Academy

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Grants Available to Nonprofits Serving Vulnerable Communities

PORTLAND & ELLSWORTH—Non-profit organizations that serve disadvantaged, underserved or vulnerable communities may be eligible for grants from the Maine Community Foundation's (MaineCF) Frances Hollis Brain Foundation Fund.

The Brain Foundation Fund awards grants to nonprofits that focus on early childhood care and education; extended-day learning; community clinics and oral-health initiatives; food security; people experiencing homelessness; and legal services. Organizations must serve communities in Auburn, Bath, Biddeford, Brunswick, Greater Portland, Lewiston, Saco and/or Sanford, or have a statewide mission in the fund's focus areas. This year, priority will be given to organizations or projects that address challenges or needs in early childhood education.

In 2022, the Brain Foundation Fund awarded 27 grants totaling \$174,130.

The 2022 grantees include:

Maine Resilience Building Network, Manchester, for programming that promotes the healthy development of children

Milestone Recovery, Portland, to support the

transition from long-term homelessness to permanent housing

Tree Street Youth, Lewiston, to design an early-childhood program for preschool-aged children.

For all recent grants and for more information about the fund, visit www.mainecef.org. The application deadline is April 1.

For more information, contact Program Officer John Ochira at 207-412-0837 or jochira@mainecf.org.

The Maine Community Foundation brings people and resources together to build a better Maine through strategic giving, community leadership, personalized service, local expertise and strong investments. To learn more about the foundation, visit www.mainecef.org.

2022 Grants

Cedars Nursing Care Center, Portland, for oral exams, dental X-rays and kits for long-term care residents and rehabilitation patients: \$10,000

Coastal Enterprises, Brunswick, to help asylum-seekers start or grow businesses: \$5,000

Episcopal Diocese of Maine, Portland, to provide feminine hygiene products to asylum seekers and others with low incomes:



The Greater Portland Immigrant Welcome Center, a 2022 Brain Foundation Fund grantee, facilitates access to food-assistance programs and provides nutrition classes. Photo courtesy Greater Portland Immigrant Welcome Center

\$7,500

Greater Portland Family Promise, to find affordable housing and provide ongoing mentorship to families experiencing homelessness: \$7,500

Greater Portland Immigrant Welcome Center, to facilitate access to food assistance programs and provide nutrition information: \$5,000

Hope Acts, Portland, to support asylum seekers with housing, support services and English classes: \$10,000

Hurricane Island Outward Bound School, Camden, to send four middle-school students from Lewiston-Auburn's Boys

and Girls Club to a summer Outward Bound course: \$5,000

Laudholm Trust, Wells, to introduce female, first-generation Mainers attending Portland High School to science and nature in Maine and careers possible in those fields: \$4,000

Locker Project, Portland, to provide low-income families with reliable access to healthy, fresh food: \$5,000

Maine Equal Justice, to help Mainers access food, health care and housing through legal assistance: \$5,000

Maine Family Planning, Augusta, to provide

affordable and accessible sexual and reproductive health care to low-income patients: \$5,000

Maine Resilience Building Network, Manchester, for programming that promotes the healthy development of children: \$10,000

Mainly Teeth, Portland, to provide dental care to uninsured or under-insured patients: \$10,000

Mayo Street Arts, Portland, for a no-cost, after-school arts program for students living in low-income neighborhoods in East Bayside: \$5,000

Mercy Hospital, Portland, for a two-year program for women recovering from substance-use disorder: \$8,000

Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program, Brunswick, to provide food to those facing temporary or chronic food insecurity: \$5,000

Midcoast Literacy, Bath, to provide one-on-one tutoring for 35 children in Bath and Brunswick: \$5,000

Milestone Recovery, Portland, to support the transition from long-term homelessness to permanent housing: \$10,000

Portland Stage Company, to expand its K-12 education programs: \$5,000

Preble Street, Port-

land, to provide meals, increase food access, and nutrition while supporting a sustainable food system: \$5,000

Susan L. Curtis Charitable Foundation, Portland, for low-income children to attend Camp Susan Curtis at no cost: \$5,000

Sweetser, Saco, to provide access to mental and behavioral health services to uninsured and uninsured children: \$5,000

The Opportunity Alliance, South Portland, to provide client assistance through its Homeless Youth Services program: \$5,000

Through These Doors, Portland, to provide safety planning, emergency shelter and basic needs to victims and survivors of domestic abuse: \$5,000

Tree Street Youth, Lewiston, to design an early-childhood program for preschool-aged children: \$10,000

Trinity Jubilee Center, Lewiston, to provide shelter, food and diapers and facilitate access to medical care, housing, and employment: \$10,000

YWCA Central Maine, Lewiston, to provide preschool-aged children food services that are designed to build healthy relationships with food and prevent childhood obesity: \$7,130

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Renovations Underway at USM's Academy Building in Gorham



A roofer takes a break from laying new shingles on the Academy Building to check his equipment.

GORHAM, ME (February 8, 2023) -- The building at the University of Southern Maine where art students hone their painting skills might also be the building most in need of a paint job. And that's just the beginning of the renovation work underway at the Academy Building in Gorham.

"We love that building. Love, love, love that building. We're very fond of it. And we're very grateful to have it as a classroom space," said Hannah Barnes, Chair of the Art Department. "It's just a really unique building. The light is really beautiful which we, as painters, love."

Before joining the University faculty, Barnes taught art in cramped spaces that she described as

more suitable for dental offices. The high ceilings and old-fashioned charm of the Academy Building were a welcome change. She incorporated that affection into her instruction, assigning students to recreate the architectural details around them in their paintings.

The building's long history also has its drawbacks. Centuries of Maine weather can take a toll on even the best craftsmanship. As the foundation settles, chilly drafts and rainwater burrow through the gaps in the wooden framing.

"Our main priority right now is to make the building weathertight," said John Souther, Executive Director of Facilities Management.

Construction began last summer with the goal

of finishing most of the major renovations to the building's exterior in time to welcome back students for the start of the 2022 fall semester. The "to do" list included new roofing, new siding, and fresh paint. The work followed the recommendations laid out in a report by the architectural and engineering firm Artifex.

The roof came first and went mostly according to plan. But once crews turned their attention to the siding on the northeast façade, they soon realized that they'd need more time and money to complete all the repairs that were needed.

The façade is crowned with a gable that creates a pathway for rainwater along the roof and down the front of the building, rotting away the wooden clapboards from top to bottom. The damage included erosion of the stonework at the base of the entryway.

The project was originally budgeted at close to \$500,000. Between the new revelations and the rising cost of construction materials, the Board of Trustees decided to allocate more funds, bringing the total up to \$1.3 million.

"It was not unexpect-

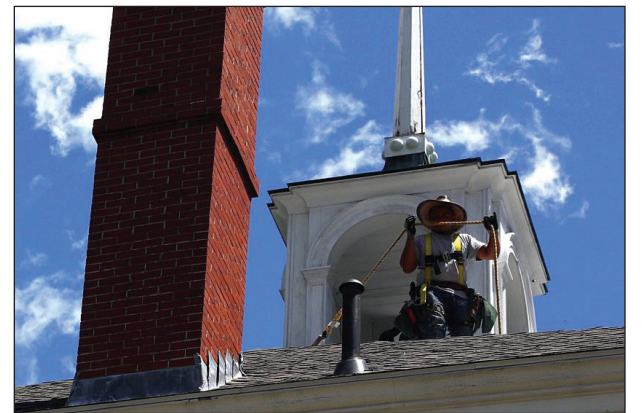
ed," Souther said. "We were hoping we wouldn't have to spend this much more. But it's the right thing to do to bring the building where it needs to be."

The builders poured fresh concrete to replace the crumbling masonry. That work required the removal of the classical Greek-style columns that framed the front door and supported the second-floor balcony. A temporary steel frame is holding it all together for now.

With the subsequent removal of the old clapboard from around the entryway, it became clear the project wouldn't be finished on its original timetable. So, up went a plastic canopy that sealed off the entire front of the building to protect the exposed studs and allow work to continue on a smaller scale through the winter.

The pace of work will once again pick up with the arrival of milder weather in the spring. Souther is confident repairs will go more quickly on the other three sides of the building, having seen no further signs of major water damage. A fresh coat of white paint over the new clapboard will likely finish the project over the summer.

The historic status of the Academy Building adds another complication to the renovation process. It dates back to a 1909 lease agreement. The State of Maine paid the Trustees of Gorham Academy \$1 to occupy and maintain the



A roofer retreats from the edge of the Academy Building to check his equipment near the central cupola.

building for 999 years. But the deal was conditional upon the building "always retaining the same architectural design and proportions."

After 120 years, the crew working on the current renovations is still bound to that lease. They try to use the original materials whenever available. With lead paint, for example, that's not possible for health reasons. Even as they switch to latex paint, finding just the right match of color and finish remains a priority.

The lease was updated in 1967 to make the University of Maine System (UMS) the building's primary caretaker, subject to all of its preservation requirements. While other parts of campus have seen several cycles of demolition and reconstruction, the Academy Building endures. It's now the oldest UMS building still in use for its original purpose as an educational center.

"This is a very historical building," said Kelly Dearborn, Archivist

for the Gorham Historical Society. "This IS the university system in Maine. This is where it started, this building. So, any other thing that comes after that started right there, at that building."

From its perch on the hill overlooking School Street, the Academy Building is one of the defining landmarks of Gorham. It's a wooden frame structure built in the Federal style, spanning an area 50-feet long by 40-feet wide, and standing two stories tall. A bell that once called students to classes resides in a cupola that rises from the center of the roof.

Local builder Samuel Elder completed construction in 1806 with land and money from the leading families in town. Students who could afford to attend received secondary-level instruction. They gathered in a single room spanning the entire first floor. The first class was open to boys only, with girls joining in later years.

"The people that were
See **Renovations**, page 16



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Maine State Ballet Presents “Alice In Wonderland”



FALMOUTH, ME (March 10, 2023) – Don’t be late! Journey down the rabbit hole with Alice and the White Rabbit as Maine State Ballet presents “Alice in Wonderland.” Meet Tweedle Dee and Dum, the clever Knave of Hearts and sly Caterpillar. Enjoy

tea with the eccentric Mad Hatter and witness the antics of the Queen of Hearts, her deck of dancing cards and experience a feisty (Maine) Lobster Quadrille. Adrienne Pelletier and Brooke Sowerby share the role of Alice in following Emma Davis

as the unpunctual White Rabbit. Michael Hamilton’s Caterpillar partners with Rachel Paradis in the Garden of Flowers. Glenn Davis and Arie Eiten return as the Mad Hatter and Knave of Hearts. Longtime crowd-favorite Juliette Lauzier-Bridges commands the stage as the Queen of Hearts. Choreography by New York City Ballet Alumni and Artistic Director Linda MacArthur Miele. Sets and costumes by Costume Designer Gail Csoboth. Lighting by Fred Bernier.

Performances run three weekends at MSB’s in-house “Lopez Theater” – Friday March 24 – Saturday April 8
Tickets \$21-29, with discounts available for seniors & children, at mainestateballet.org and 207-781-3587.



Family Caregivers in Maine Provide 2.9 Billion in Unpaid Care

PORTLAND, ME (March 7, 2023) — The unpaid care provided by the 166,000 caregivers in Maine is valued at 2.9 billion, according to new state data available in AARP’s latest report in the Valuing the Invaluable series www.aarp.org/valuing. This is a 700,000,000 increase in unpaid contributions since

the last report was released in 2019. The report highlights the growing scope and complexity of family caregiving and highlights actions needed to address the many challenges of caring for parents, spouses, and other loved ones. “Family caregivers play a vital role in Maine’s health care system, wheth-

er they care for someone at home, coordinate home health care, or help care for someone who lives in a nursing home,” said Noël Bonam, AARP Maine State Director. “We want to make sure all family caregivers have the financial, emotional and social support they need, because the care they provide is

invaluable both to those receiving it and to their community.” AARP Maine is fighting, and will continue to fight, for family caregivers and the loved ones they care for. Right now, AARP is urging state lawmakers to support Paid Family Medical Leave because caring for a loved

one shouldn’t mean losing pay—or even one’s job. Maine’s family caregivers provide critical support and often do so while juggling a full or part-time job. The stress of balancing both can be daunting. Lack of workplace support can even result in individuals quitting their jobs or experiencing negative

health outcomes. Read the full Valuing the Invaluable report www.aarp.org/valuing for national and state-by-state data on the economic value of unpaid care by family and friends. Resources and information on family caregiving are available at aarp.org/caregiving.



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Senator Collins Attends Can-Am Crown Sled Dog Races



FORT KENT, ME (March 6, 2023)—U.S. Senator Susan Collins attended the Can-Am Crown International Sled Dog Races in Fort Kent, where she delivered remarks prior to the 250-mile race. Hundreds of spectators also attended the 30th annual event.

“The Can-Am Crown is about international

friendship and the spirit of competition. It also is about the spirit of this great community,” said Senator Collins. “Here in Fort Kent, countless volunteers, generous sponsors, host families, and so many others have joined together to make this great event possible.”

The Can-Am Crown International Sled Dog Race hosted three rac-

es with a total purse of \$39,000: a 30-mile race, a 100-mile race, and the well-known 250-mile race. The 250-mile race is a qualifier for the Iditarod and the Yukon Quest.

Known as the Iditarod of the East, Can-Am Crown International Sled Dog Race is one of the most challenging dog sled races in the country.

UMaine Lifts Student Covid-19 Vaccination Requirement

STATE HOUSE (March 10, 2023) – Maine House Republicans issued the following statement today:

“We applaud the University of Maine System’s decision to abolish the requirement that all students be vaccinated against Covid-19 in order to access Maine’s publically-funded

University System. In light of what we now know about Covid-19, we appreciate the UMS decision to change a policy that has prevented countless numbers of students from pursuing a higher education without preventing the spread of Covid, or placing others at risk. Our members have been tireless advocates for

the principle that the decision on whether to vaccinate against Covid-19 with an experimental vaccine, with no associated legal liability, is a personal choice. We encourage everyone to conduct a risk/benefit analysis with their doctor and to make use of the increasing availability of scientific information on this topic.”

Talk to Cover Innovations In Food Waste Reduction

ORONO, ME (March 8, 2023)—The Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions at the University of Maine will host a talk, “Stepping up to the Plate: Innovations in Food Waste Reduction” on Monday, March 20 at 3 p.m.

Wasted food is a solvable challenge that could lead to positive environmental and social impacts, and there is a wide range of solutions that are ripe for adoption that can help us achieve our national and international goals of cutting food waste by 50% by 2030. ReFED’s Angel Veza will discuss some of the current barriers to food waste reduction faced by individuals and companies, the latest innovations designed to address these barriers, and what’s needed to help these solutions grow their impact.

ReFED is a national nonprofit dedicated to ending food loss and waste across the U.S. food system. Angel Veza serves as their senior manager of



capital, innovation, and engagement, working to catalyze adoption of top food waste solutions. She originally worked in the education field teaching underserved communities. After working with students for seven years, Veza received her Grande Diplome at the French Culinary Institute and worked through New York City’s top restaurants, including Morimoto, two Michelin-starred Atera and foodservice companies like Compass Group. During that time, she witnessed the significant amount of food being wasted in the hospitality industry and decided to work with the Food Waste team at World Wildlife Fund. As an expansion of that, she worked in supply chain and led strategic sourcing and procurement with a focus on food waste

reduction at Manhatta Restaurant, part of Danny Meyer’s Union Square Hospitality Group in New York City.

All talks in the Mitchell Center’s Sustainability Talks series are free and are offered both remotely via Zoom and in person at 107 Norman Smith Hall. Registration is required to attend remotely; to register and receive connection information, see the event webpage.

Please note that face coverings are required for all persons attending Mitchell Center Sustainability Talks.

Updates for this event will be posted to the event webpage. To request a reasonable accommodation, contact Ruth Hallsworth, 207.581.3196 or halls-worth@maine.edu.

Sen. Collins: Stop Exacerbating Asylum Seeker Housing Crisis

WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 10, 2023) – At the request of officials representing Portland, U.S. Senator Susan Collins sent a letter to Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, urging DHS to halt sending asylum seekers from the southern border if they lack a verified destination address. DHS’s practice of facilitating the movement of asylum seekers without confirming that the destination city has resources available to accommodate new arrivals has caused Portland’s social services to reach the breaking point. This has created a crisis for asylum seekers, as well as for unsheltered Mainers. Last week, Senator Collins met with Maine House Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross in her Washington, D.C., office to discuss this issue.

“State and local officials have reported to me that many asylum seekers in Portland identified mu-

nicipal government addresses—including social services offices or emergency shelters—as their ultimate destination when they first arrived at the southern border,” Senator Collins wrote. “Those individuals were allowed entry into the country, and in many cases were provided with transportation to Maine, without any confirmation by DHS as to whether the locations identified can accommodate these individuals.”

“As a result, the City of Portland—a city with a population of fewer than 70,000—is currently sheltering approximately 1,100 people per night and is under constant pressure to expand emergency shelters and other services, with the only alternative being to turn away vulnerable individuals, families, and children. Perhaps most troubling, the surge of asylum seekers in Maine now means that housing facilities are beyond

capacity and Mainers in need of shelter have nowhere to go,” Senator Collins continued. “I request that, going forward, DHS verify all destination addresses prior to allowing entry into the country, thereby ensuring that asylum seekers have a safe, reliable destination, and that municipalities are not stretched beyond capacity.”

“Maine communities have done their part to assist asylum seekers in need, but these communities are strained far beyond their capacity,” Senator Collins concluded. “Allowing additional asylum seekers to travel to Maine without confirming that these individuals will have a place to sleep is irresponsible and could lead to a tragedy. I urge you to take immediate action to prevent that from happening.”

Senator Collins also asked Secretary Mayorkas to respond to a series of questions to better understand how DHS facilitates the transportation of asylum seekers.

Last month, Senator Collins introduced the Asylum Seeker Work Authorization Act of 2023, which would shorten the waiting period before asylum seekers are eligible to receive work authorizations.

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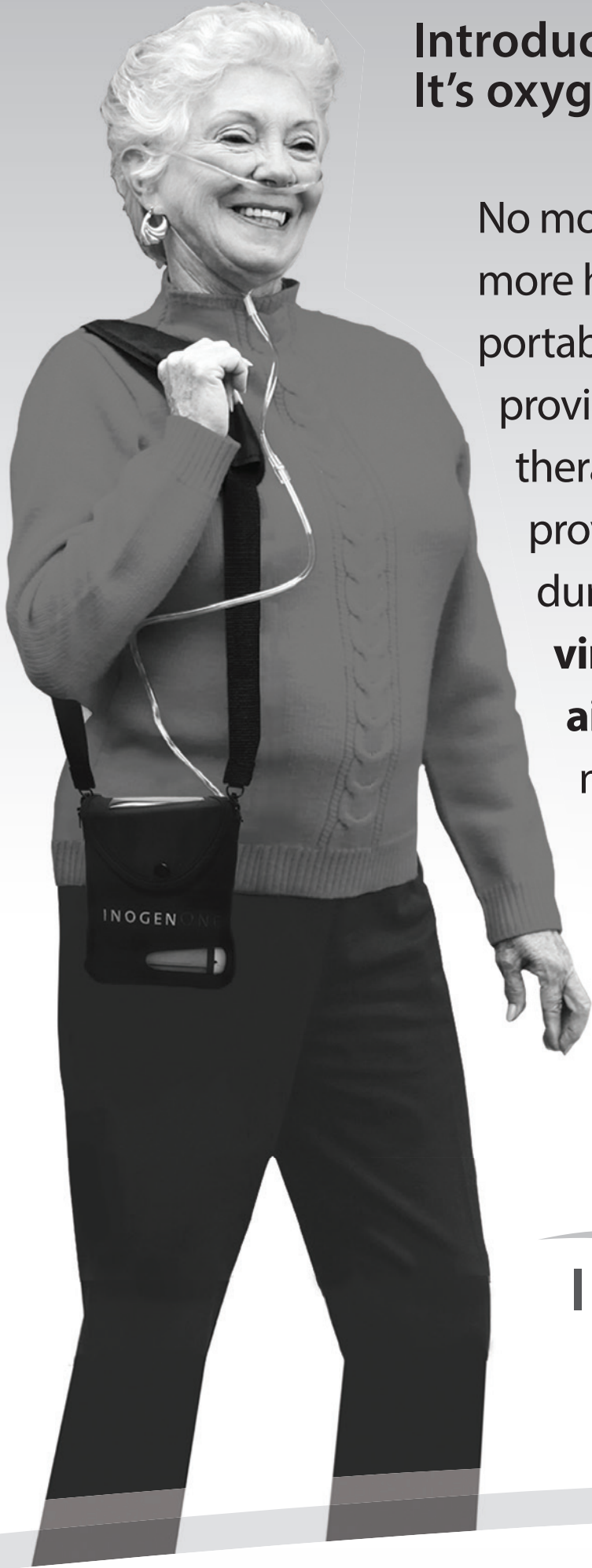
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DHHS Promotes Continued Health Coverage

AUGUSTA, ME (March 6, 2023) — The Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is launching a new public service campaign this week to promote continued health insurance coverage with regular Medicaid (MaineCare) eligibility and enrollment operations set to resume in April, as required by federal law.

The “Stay Connected to Stay Covered” campaign urges MaineCare members to update their contact information so the Department can reach them about renewing their coverage and to be on the lookout for their renewal form, which must be filled out and returned to avoid a gap in coverage. The campaign includes a communications toolkit available for partners to download and a paid advertising campaign, which includes radio advertising, a social media campaign, and digital advertising.

“It’s important that MaineCare members make sure their contact information is up to date so we can reach them with critical, timely information,” said DHHS Commissioner Jeanne Lambrew. “We want to prevent Maine residents who are eligible for MaineCare from losing their family’s coverage and ensure those who aren’t

know about their affordable coverage options.”

In March 2020, the federal government temporarily suspended certain Medicaid requirements to help prevent people from losing their health coverage during the pandemic, even if their circumstances changed during that period. This is known as the “continuous coverage requirement.” People who would otherwise lose eligibility due to increased earnings, change of family status, or other reasons have remained covered by Medicaid for needed care during the pandemic.

Until recently, the end date for the continuous coverage requirement was tied to the end of the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE). In December 2022, Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, which separates the continuous coverage requirement from the COVID-19 PHE and sets a fixed end date of March 31, 2023.

This federal law requires all states, including Maine, to check who is still eligible to receive Medicaid coverage. Regular MaineCare redeterminations will resume in April. This will be the first time some of Maine’s MaineCare members will be required to go through this “redetermination”

process, which was routine prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. All members must complete a renewal to see if they are still eligible and all states must disenroll individuals no longer eligible for coverage. The federal government calls this process the “unwinding” of the continuous coverage requirement.

States will have 12 months to initiate redeterminations for all enrolled members and 14 months to complete them.

The Department projects that approximately 420,000 Mainers will be enrolled in MaineCare by April 2023. With assistance from experts from the national State Health Access Data Assistance Center, the Department estimates that 65,000 to 90,000 members may lose their MaineCare coverage by the end of the redetermination process because they are no longer eligible or did not complete the renewal process. However, national estimates for Maine indicate that 90 percent of these individuals have or will be able to receive other coverage through sources like CoverME.gov or employer-based insurance. These numbers are estimates and will likely change over time based on many factors, including the broader economic

landscape.

What MaineCare members can do NOW:

Visit MyMaineConnection.gov to set up an account and update your contact information, so MaineCare can reach you when it’s time for you to renew your coverage.

Alternatively, members can call 1-855-797-4357 and select 1 to update their contact information via phone, without having to wait for a specialist.

When it’s time for renewal:

Be on the lookout for an envelope with a blue block. This will be the MaineCare renewal form that members need to complete and return: If it’s blue, it’s time to renew!

Members who have opted to receive electronic noticing on My Maine Connection will not receive an envelope with a blue block. They will receive a text or email alert to visit www.MyMaineConnection.gov when it is time for them to renew.

Members can also update eligibility information on My Maine Connection – this may be a quicker and easier way for many members to complete renewal.

For most MaineCare members, DHHS will restart renewals over a

12-month timeframe based on the member’s regular annual renewal timeline. For example, if the household was originally due for renewal in July 2021, the household renewal will be due in July 2023. Generally, if a household with a July renewal does not return the renewal by July 31, 2023, MaineCare will close their coverage effective August 30, 2023.

DHHS is working to minimize the number of people who lose their coverage during the unwinding process by partnering with organizations and stakeholders in communities across the state to let people with MaineCare know that changes are coming and what they need to do to stay covered. The Department will send mail, text message and email reminders to all members regarding the need to complete renewals and has contracted with more than a dozen Community-Based Organizations across the state to spread the word. Messaging includes references to the unique appearance of the special renewal envelopes which will feature a distinctive blue block.

In the summer of 2022, DHHS launched an updated and improved version of its online application portal, called My

Maine Connection (MyMaineConnection.gov). On this site, members can update their contact information, check their renewal date, and complete a prepopulated renewal.

Additionally, individuals found ineligible for MaineCare during their renewal process because of income or other reasons will have their account transferred automatically to [CoverME.gov] CoverME.gov, Maine’s state-based Health Insurance Marketplace. These consumers will receive formal notices about the referral from both the DHHS Office for Family Independence and CoverME.gov. CoverME.gov will also conduct targeted outreach to those consumers via postal mail, email, and phone and plans to offer an extended 90-day Special Enrollment Period for consumers losing MaineCare. Additional federal financial assistance has been extended through 2025, meaning most consumers will qualify for help paying for premiums for plans at CoverME.gov.

The Department will provide updated MaineCare enrollment data on a quarterly basis.

More information, including the toolkit and FAQs, is available at mainecare.gov/unwinding.

KFC Makes College Opportunities Accessible for Employees

(March 9, 2023) – The KFC Foundation, in partnership with Western Governors University (WGU), has announced that KFC restaurant employees* will have the opportunity to receive 100 percent paid tuition when attending WGU to earn their degree.

Through this partnership, KFC restaurant employees can choose from more than 60 different bachelor’s and master’s

degree programs and certification programs across Business, Information Technology, Education and Healthcare. The KFC Foundation program is non-competitive, meaning every eligible employee who applies and enrolls will get tuition coverage. Access to this opportunity is available beginning day one on the job for restaurant employees. WGU also offers rolling start dates every month, so KFC

restaurant employees have the flexibility to enroll at any time and begin online courses as soon as they’re ready. Maine has 17 KFC restaurants.

“Every year we look for new ways to support and enhance the lives of KFC restaurant employees,” said Emma Horn, Executive Director of the KFC Foundation. “What better opportunity to be able to offer team members than a flexible college de-

gree program from Western Governors University that can fit seamlessly into their schedule. The program at WGU is perfect for someone who may not have enough hours in the day to balance a traditional college experience on top of a full- or part-time job and other life priorities.”

Western Governors University is an accredited online university dedicated to making higher education accessible for as many people as possible. It is the leading academic institution where students learn and advance through competency-based education, rather than semester completion. As soon as a student masters the skills in a course and proves them through rigorous assessment, they progress in the program. Competen-

cy-based education works particularly well for learners in the workforce, giving them control over the pace of how and when they learn and may save them time progressing through the degree program.

“Completing a degree program can change lives, families and communities,” said Rebecca L. Watts, who oversees operations in Maine as the Northeast region vice president of Western Governors University. “But not everyone has the same access to education. Time, location and cost are some of the biggest barriers keeping our neighbors—especially those already in the workforce—from attending college. We’re proud to partner with the KFC Foundation to address those obstacles and

expand pathways to opportunity for KFC restaurant employees.”

KFC restaurant employees interested in the WGU program can go to kfcfoundation.org/wgu to learn more, and those interested in working at a KFC restaurant can visit kfc.com/careers for more information about available job opportunities in their area.

*To be eligible for the KFC Foundation’s programs, one must be employed at a KFC restaurant participating in the KFC Foundation’s Annual Franchise Donation Program and in good standing. Must maintain employment while taking advantage of these programs. Some restrictions may apply. See KFCFoundation.org for details.

References to “KFC” refer to corporate and independently owned KFC restaurants. KFC Corporation has no involvement in hiring decisions, orientation, staffing or the setting of wage rates and benefits for employees of independently owned and operated franchised locations. Benefits vary by location.



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Wednesdays through March 22

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 lplpreference@lewistonmaine.gov.

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

March 16
WILTON -- "Medicare Made Simple" class, presented by SeniorsPlus, an introductory class on Medicare held from 3-5pm at SeniorsPlus, 284 Main St., Suite 10, Wilton. Free. Register by March 9 by calling 207-795-4010.

March 18
LEWISTON -- GREAT FALLS FORUM: NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN MAINE AGRICULTURE 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM, Callahan Hall, Lew-

iston Public Library This Great Falls Forum panel will explore what they believe are the greatest challenges—and opportunities—for Maine agriculture as 2023 continues to get underway.

Free. Bring your bag lunch. The Zoom link will be posted to the Library website and Facebook prior to the event. 513-3135; www.LPLonline.org

March 18
NEW GLOUCESTER -- Lunne-Hunnewell Amvets Post #6, Rt#100,

New Gloucester, ME: Bean Supper Night

Doors at Open at 4:00 P.M. and Start Serving at 5:00 P.M. Menu: Baked Red Beans, Pea Beans and Chop Suey; Coleslaw, Bisquit's and Assorted Pies; Coffee, Tea and Punch. Cost=\$ 10.00 dollars Adults, \$ 5.00 dollars For Children under 12, and 5 years under "Free"

March 18
LEWISTON -- The Midcoast Symphony Orchestra presents "Tried and True, Plus a Newer Crew" with guest conductor Hiroya Miura. The performance, which features Florence Price's beautiful and jazzy Symphony No. 3, is on March 18 at 7:00 p.m. at the Riverside-Franco Center, 46 Cedar St., Lewiston. For info and tickets visit <https://www.midcoastsymphony.org/tickets> or call 207-481-0790. Tickets \$24.50 (advance) \$25 (cash or check) at the door. Under 18 and college students with ID are free.

March 18
AUBURN -- Androscoggin Historical Society is announcing the first event of their Calendar year. The Genealogy Workshop will feature local author Denis Ledoux and "Turning Memories into Memoirs" as a tool to help with genealogy as well as preserving those

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precious family memories.

The event will take place March 18 at 1 pm at the Auburn Public Library Community Room. This annual event is held in conjunction with the Mary Dillingham-Burnt Meadow Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and members will be on hand to answer questions or help with research.

March 21
LEWISTON -- Construction/Manufacturing/Trades Hiring Event in honor of Rosie the Riveter Day on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 from 10:00am-noon at the Lewiston CareerCenter, 5 Mollison Way, Lewiston. Bring your best self and speak with multiple employers all offering great job opportunities! The event is free and open to the public. For a list of participating employers, visit: <https://www.mainecareercenter.com/locations/jobfair.shtml?id=10431889>

Fridays March 24 through April 28

WILTON -- Opening Minds through Art, Education Center of SeniorsPlus at 284 Main St., Wilton

Through a series of classes, OMA engages students with dementia in creating free-wheeling art. Contact SeniorsPlus, at 207-795-4010, edcenter@seniorsplus.org.

March 25
GRAY -- First Congregational Church of Gray, Saturday Night Church Supper, 5:00 PM at the Parish House, 5 Brown Street, Gray. Handicapped Accessible. Meals are single sized and are \$10.00 each. Please pay at the door. The Menu includes: Variety of Casseroles and Salads, Baked Pea Beans, Red Hot Dogs, Breads, Assortment of Desserts and Beverages. 207-657-4279

Boothbay Harbor Police Department

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Please visit The Town of Boothbay Harbor website to access application.

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

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Renovation

Continued from page 8

able to go to school because of this building that would not normally have been able to go to school was pretty phenomenal, especially back in the 1820s and the 1830s," Dearborn said.

The first phase of the building's life ended in 1877 as declining enrollment led to the academy school's closure. The next few years saw the open space around the Academy Building transform into the campus of the state-run Gorham Normal School. What began as a post-secondary training center for teachers eventually developed into the University of Southern Maine.

The Normal School's occasional use of the Academy Building as overflow space became habitual. That relationship was formalized by the lease agreement of 1909. A major

renovation project, led by noted architect John Calvin Stevens, spruced up the building for its new caretakers. One of the biggest innovations was the addition of indoor flush toilets.

The next renovation of a similar scope wouldn't occur until the project currently underway. During the intervening century, work was limited to mostly routine maintenance and basic upgrades to comply with safety codes.

The Artifex report included a lengthy inventory of potential interior renovations, some of which would bring the building in line with modern lighting and plumbing standards. Those changes will need to wait for further funding. The current assignment and its funding will end when the exterior repairs are done.

"It's a big commitment," Dearborn said. "You have to balance the cost to the history. And sometimes those don't al-

ways meet."

Dearborn floated the idea that the University might consider celebrating the Academy Building's restoration by opening it up for public tours. Lifelong neighbors who previously kept their distance could get an up-close look at the craftsmanship that landed the building on the National Register of Historic Places.

Speaking for the Art Department, Barnes welcomes community engagement. The Academy Building periodically hosts open studio events to give students a wider audience for their creations. Visitors may come for the history, but Barnes invites them to stay for the art.

The creative process continued alongside the construction process. Classes never stopped despite the hammering on the other side of the walls. Builders took pains to avoid any disruptions, even



A steel frame holds up the balcony after the support columns were removed for repairs.



Water damage necessitated the removal of the stone steps leading up to the front door.

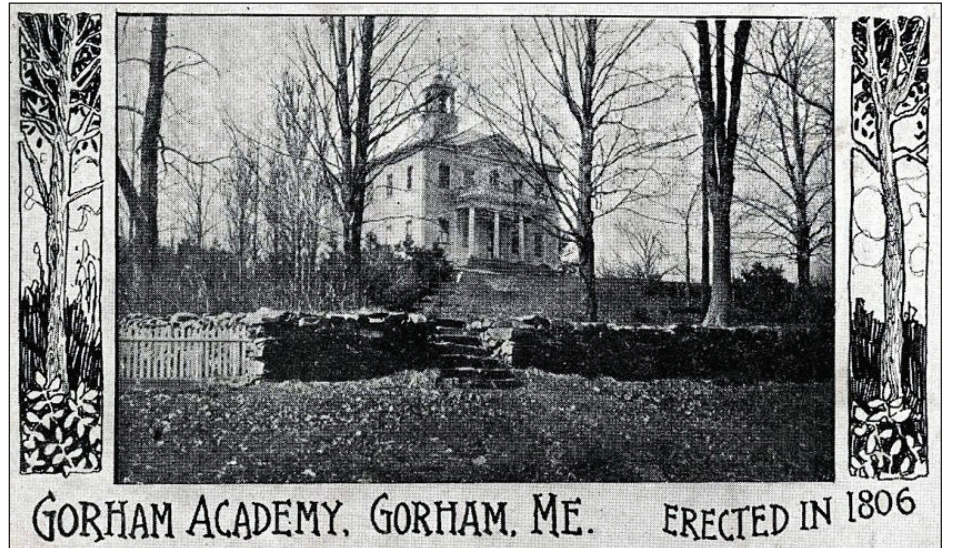


Photo of the Academy Building from a postcard dated 1905. (Courtesy: Libby Bischof Gorham Campus Postcard Collection, Special Collections, USM Libraries)

rearranging their workflow to avoid blocking a stairway to the second floor. That dance will contin-

ue for a few months until crews pack up their scaffolding and go home. "We're just really ex-

cited to see it complete," Barnes said. "And I know, for the students, it will be a point of pride."



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