

## Help Send Gorham Middle School Odyssey of the Mind to Worlds!



**GORHAM, ME (April 1, 2023)** -- On March 25th, five middle school teams competed in the Odyssey of the Mind State Tournament, and four out of the five teams placed in their division. The 8th-grade team earned 1st place in Classics...The Walls of Troy and the 7th-grade team came in 2nd place. A 6th-grade team

came in 2nd for the vehicle problem, and another 6th-grade team came in 3rd for the performance problem. The teams that came in 1st and 2nd place qualify to attend World Finals. These students have worked very hard over the last several months, and being invited to this competition is a great accomplishment. World Finals is taking place from May 23rd-28th and is at Michigan State University.

Odyssey of the Mind is an international educational organization that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten to college. Students work on long-term and spontaneous problems requiring dramatic presentations, creative props, structural devices, and verbal solutions. Participants build self-confidence and skills for life through problem-solving, creative thinking, and teamwork. The program's

goal is to engage students in their learning. A unique aspect of Odyssey is that no one can provide assistance in the actual solution, including coaches; everything the team brainstorms, designs, creates and builds comes from their imagination and talent.

The 8th-grade team would love the opportunity to compete at World Finals this year! Our goal is to raise \$10,000 to pay for the transportation, registration, room and board fees for the students who will be attending. We can give these students a wonderful and unforgettable educational experience with charitable donations from our wonderful Gorham Community. The following link can be used to make a donation: <https://gorhamschools.revtrak.net/odyssey-of-the-mind-msu/>

Thank you so much for your support!

## Goodwill CEO Steps Down after 20 years



**GORHAM, ME** — Goodwill Northern New England's President and CEO, Rich Cantz notified the Board of Directors of his decision to leave his role later this year after a 20-year career with the nonprofit.

"Working for such an impactful organization has been a dream, and I'm proud of the work we've done. After two decades with Goodwill, it's time for a change. It's time to write my life's next chapter," Cantz said. "This has been such a hard decision, but now is the right time as the organization is on very solid footing, strong and full of momentum. Because of my fantastic Goodwill teammates, I know that will continue."

Cantz joined Goodwill in 2003 as the Director of The Goodwill Fund. Over the years, he has held various positions of increasing scope in the areas of advancement, program development and public policy including Senior Vice President, Strategic Development and Public Policy. Cantz was promoted to President and CEO in July 2018.

In his time with Goodwill, Cantz helped develop the Job Connection Model of workforce services. He saw the traditional model of offering career advising, resume support, and job training weren't enough for the people in the most need of services. Cantz helped bring in "life navigators" who support the workforce participants with the life challenges that often get in the way of a stable career; things like mental health, transportation, childcare, a history of substance abuse, and more. Under Cantz's leadership, this new model

See Goodwill, page 14

## Gorham's Laura McDowell Leads Growth Basics for Business



**Laura McDowell**  
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**PORTLAND, ME (April 8, 2023)** -- Are you and your team 100% on the same page with where your business is going

and how you're going to get there? If not, don't worry - you're not alone! But your business will be more profitable, sustain-

able, and a lot easier to manage when you are. This webinar will cover a high-level review of the 6 Key Components of your business, followed by a closer look at a valuable tool that you can use right away to help get your team aligned and focused. Register at <https://web.portlandregion.com/events>

Laura McDowell is a Professional EOS Implementer, working with entrepreneurial leadership teams to help them gain clarity on their vision, execute that vision with discipline and accountability, and build healthy teams.

Over the course of her career, Laura has held roles in marketing, sales, HR, and management, supporting a wide variety of clients in different industries. She loves being able to build relationships while providing tools and coaching that help people run better businesses and live better lives.

Laura has certifications in training, marketing, and HR, and is a volunteer mentor for the Maine Center for Entrepreneurship, and a Vistage Trusted Advisor. She lives in Gorham with her husband, daughter, and two cats (who make frequent appearances on her Zoom calls).

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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## First Lady Dr. Jill Biden visits SMCC

**SOUTH PORTLAND, ME (April 8, 2023)** – First Lady Dr. Jill Biden, alongside U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona, visited Southern Maine Community College (SMCC) Wednesday, April 5, as part of the Biden-Harris administration's "Investing in America" tour to highlight how the current administration's economic policies are benefiting hardworking Americans across the country.

Other notable figures in attendance at the event were U.S. Representative Chellie Pingree, Maine Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development Heather Johnson, Portland Mayor Kate Snyder, and Mayor of South Portland Katherine Lewis. Maine Governor Janet Mills was scheduled to appear with Dr. Biden but could not do so after recently testing positive for COVID-19.

Dr. Biden visited SMCC to highlight how career-connected learning and workforce training programs are central to the Biden Education Pathway and to recognize the positive impact of Maine's Free College Scholarship. Dr. Biden's tour put the spotlight on the importance of investing in programs that prepare high school and community college students for jobs created by the President's "Investing in America" agenda.

"We're extremely honored to have Dr. Biden and Secretary Cardona visit our South Portland Campus," SMCC President Joe Cassidy said. "We're proud to showcase SMCC as an epicenter of innovation that provides multiple educational pathways for Mainers from around the State. With workforce

needs at an all-time high, SMCC is dedicated to using education to meet those needs head-on. Our talented faculty and staff help students achieve their goals, ultimately filling vital employment needs that benefit the entire State economy. Add in Maine's investment in the Free College Scholarship, bringing in a whole new generation of students that might not otherwise continue their education, and it's clear that we're living our mission to help improve the lives of our students and the communities they live in and love."

Maine Governor Janet Mills and the Legislature enacted Maine's Free College program in 2022 to help Maine high school graduates from the Classes of 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 attend community colleges essentially for free. In the fall of 2022, the Maine Community College System (MCCS) saw an increase in enrollment of 12%. SMCC was right at that mark, with a 10.5% increase. More than a third of the incoming 2022 class were Free College students.

While Governor Mills couldn't attend, she did send thanks and highlighted the free college program. "While I am unable to join our visiting dignitaries in person, I am excited to welcome the First Lady and Secretary Cardona to Maine," Mills said in a statement. "My Administration's free Community College initiative and other crucial investments from the Biden-Harris Administration are providing important new opportunities for Maine people to get a high-quality education at little or no cost that allows them to take good-paying

jobs in rewarding careers – a win for our students, for our employers, and for our economy."

The tour began at the Johnson Automotive Technology Center (JATC), visiting with Automotive Technology Chair Ruth Morrison and her students. Dr. Biden and Secretary Cardona met with Arielle D'Haiti, who demonstrated how she uses diagnostic tools to analyze EV systems.

Dr. Biden asked D'Haiti about encouraging others to enter the auto tech field. "When I meet people, I tell them it's possible to do what I do at any age. I'm a little older than a typical first-year student," D'Haiti said. "I love to see other women in trades and it was exciting that Ruth was my teacher because I was nervous about entering the field. It's been such a great opportunity and I've learned so much."

Dr. Biden and Secretary Cardona then moved over to second-year student Griffin Simmons and SMCC Electrical Vehicle Repair Training graduate Alex LaFortune, who showed the group how to do a power test on a used hybrid battery to ensure the energy flow was efficient.

Both Simmons and LaFortune discussed their hopes of using what they have learned in their careers. "I have an internship lined up as a technician at a dealership in the short term, and long term down the road I'd love to open my own shop and work on EV's," Simmons said. "I'm really excited to take this class. It's the only EV class in Maine." LaFortune discussed how he enjoyed helping to convert a 1960s Volkswagen Beetle to electric at his job in Biddeford,

Maine. "I'm hoping I can get my hands on more interesting projects like that to get more experience," LaFortune said. "SMCC got me on my feet and helped me make a career out of my passion for cars, especially VWs."

Dr. Biden noted this type of education is a critical component of the Biden-Harris administration's educational goals. "This is really what the President has put into his budget, for manufacturing, infrastructure, and clean energy," Dr. Biden said. Secretary Cardona added, "In the education budget there is a request for career-connected learning to do more of this. We really understand how important this (type of training) is for our schools and for economic development."

Program Chair Morrison was happy to share her students' stories. "It was incredibly exciting to show off the groundbreaking technology our students are accessing to learn skills that will help them transform the automobile industry," Morrison said. "I love connecting with my students and supporting them to succeed. Much of this is centralized around aligning them with internships that help them explore areas of the industry they may want to pursue while providing a pipeline to meet the employment needs of our business partners."

Following their visit to the Automotive Center, Dr. Biden and the team made their way to SMCC's Precision Machining & Manufacturing Lab to visit program chair John Bolduc and his students. First up was Thomas Golden, who demonstrated a Computer Numerical Machine

(CNC) that can manufacture incredibly intricate machine parts instantly. Golden even let Dr. Biden start the process of making an engraved plaque that the students would later present to Dr. Biden.

Golden stressed Maine's Free College Scholarship was key to his success at SMCC. "I was very grateful to have this opportunity, taking a lot of pressure and weight off my shoulders," Golden said. "I've been able to save money for my future. It's changed my life."

Secretary Cardona made note of Maine's Free College success. "Maine is doing this really well and we are trying to do this (type of program) all across the country in the President's budget," Cardona said.

Program Chair Bolduc spoke about the tremendous growth the program has had over his years at SMCC. "When I started 20 years ago, it looked like a military installation here. We changed all the technology and managed to get a variety of equipment, so our students can leave here with the skills to go into any type of shop," Bolduc said. "Industry partners like Pratt & Whitney, General Dynamics, Sig Sauer, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, and Bath Iron Works helped this program evolve. They're all members of our advisory board, so everything we've done here is with their guidance, including adjusting our curriculum so our students can have that real-world experience needed in today's workforce."

Dr. Biden and Secretary Cardona moved to the shop's five-axis milling machine demonstrated by Patrick Sheehan and

Samantha Bock. Sheehan went into detail, showing the process of milling a part and how the pieces are tilted and milled. Bock spoke to the group about her desire to work in a field with different challenges. "I graduated SMCC with a Criminal Justice degree, but I decided it wasn't what I wanted to do at this point in my life," Bock said. "I wanted to work with my hands, so I came to this program after meeting John (Bolduc). It's a lot more hands-on, and interactive and fun."

Dr. Biden wrapped up the visit by expressing her gratitude. "We want to thank you all for your time, enthusiasm, and energy. We truly appreciate it."

For more information about SMCC, visit [www.smccME.edu](http://www.smccME.edu). Southern Maine Community College (SMCC) is Maine's largest and oldest community college. Founded in 1946, SMCC offers courses at its South Portland, Brunswick, and Online campuses and community satellite locations. SMCC has among the lowest tuition and fees in New England and offers more than 40 degree programs.

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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## Be a Husky Helper at the Huskies' April Home Games in Gorham

**GORHAM, ME (April 6, 2023)** – University of Southern Maine students in the BUS 300 Entrepreneurial Thinking class and Huskies' Athletics will be hosting Husky Helper Food & Hygiene Product Drives throughout the month of April at select Husky home games. Drives will be held at Saturday's men's lacrosse game, the men's lacrosse game on Saturday, April 15, the baseball and softball games on Saturday, April 22 and the baseball game on Monday, April 24. The two lacrosse games will start at 1 pm, baseball will play at noon and 3 pm on the 22nd with softball playing at 1 pm and 3 pm and the baseball

game on Monday, April 24 will start at 7 pm.

As part of a class project, USM students Ryan Gregory (Accounting major), Pat Geary (Sport Management major), Hannah Smith (Business Management major), Meylinde Cortes (Accounting major) and Nicole Nappi (Business Management major) previously coordinated and hosted a successful drive in February at the Huskies' basketball doubleheader and hope to continue the success with the upcoming drives.

"In February we were able to raise a solid amount of money and collect a lot of food items to give back to the communi-

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<b>SATURDAY, APRIL 22</b> BASEBALL & SOFTBALL 12 & 1 PM	<b>MONDAY, APRIL 24</b> BASEBALL VS BOWDOIN 7 PM

#LEADTHEPACK #GOHUSKIES

ty. We want to thank USM Athletics, staff, and fans for helping us run a successful raffle for a great cause," said Geary. "Husky Helpers and the BUS 300 class also wants to

thank Al Bean and Christina Cracolici personally for all the time and effort they have put in to help our group."

Husky friends and fans are asked to bring

non-perishable food items and hygiene products for donation. Donated items will be given to the USM Food Pantry and Preble Street Resource Center.

Tasked with finding a

local or regional issue and addressing that issue using an entrepreneurial mindset – with the end goal being to add value while making a social impact – the group members landed on food insecurity and homelessness.

In addition to the food and hygiene product drive, Husky Helpers will also be raffling off Southern Maine apparel with proceeds going to both the USM Food Pantry and Preble Street Resource Center. Raffle tickets are \$1 per one entry, \$5 for 10 entries.

Remember, bring your donation items to one of the games to help support a good cause and cheer on the Huskies.

## The Nordica Trio Commemorates Armenian Remembrance Day

**PORTLAND, ME (April 4, 2023)** – The Nordica Trio will be performing live in concert at

the Portland Conservatory of Music (PCM) on Sunday, April 23, 2023 at 2:00 PM. The Armenian Cul-

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Moreover, the CD will include works by Armenian composers and the Bartok "Contrasts". Looking ahead, recording sessions are planned for August, 2023.

On Sunday April 23rd, the Nordica Trio will perform works by Armenian composers (Aram Khachaturian, Alexander Arutiunian and Alan Hovhannes) plus the world premiere of a piece composed for the Nordica Trio using Armenian themes by composer Titus Abbott. As aforementioned, the concert is in support of Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day, observed each year on April 24 to commemorate the 1.5 million Armenian victims of the 1915 genocide by Ottoman Turkey.

For more information, please contact Raffi DerSimonian at 207.756.0916 or raffi@dersimonian.com.

To reserve tickets to the live concert at the Portland Conservatory of Music on April 23rd, please visit portlandconservatoryofmusic.org.

**THE NORDICA TRIO**  
 Sunday, April 23rd, 2023 at 2PM  
 Portland Conservatory of Music  
 Karen Beacham, clarinet | Graybert Beacham, violin  
 Martin Perry, piano

Presented in partnership between the Armenian Cultural Association of Maine and the Portland Conservatory of Music in commemoration of Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day.

Featuring works by: Arutiunian, Hovhannes, Khachaturian, and a world premiere of an Armenian-inspired piece by Titus Abbott.

www.PortlandConservatoryofMusic.org | www.armeniansofmaine.com

tural Association of Maine (ACAME) is co-presenting the concert with the PCM as part of an initiative to share and expose the vibrant music of other cultures with the Portland community. Furthermore, the program will include specific pieces in commemoration of Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day. A limited number of tickets are available for sale by visiting portlandconservatoryofmusic.org.

Tickets for the April 23 concert will be sold for \$20 advance, \$25 door, and \$5 student rates. Advance ticket sales will end at Noon (12:00pm) on April 23rd, 2023. More-

over, the remaining tickets will be available at the door on a first come, first served basis.

In addition, on Tuesday, April 18 at 7pm all are invited to participate in a virtual conversation (register via Zoom) with the Nordica Trio hosted by Carolyn Nishon, Executive Director of Portland Symphony Orchestra and Board Member of ACAME.

The Nordica Trio brings together a beautiful harmony of violin, clarinet, and piano music performed respectively by Graybert Beacham, Karen Beacham, and Martin Perry. Since its debut in

1993, the trio has been enthusiastically received by audiences in Maine and beyond. Moreover, this concert will additionally feature a world premiere of an exciting new work, inspired by Armenian folk music, written for the Nordica Trio by Maine composer and PCM Jazz Studies Director Titus Abbott.

Recently, the Managing Director of Somm Recordings in the United Kingdom approached the trio to record a CD for its label. The Managing Director was particularly impressed with a live recording of the Nordica Trio's performance of Bela Bartok's "Contrasts."



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# Senate Republicans Discuss Response to Vaccine Mandates



Sen. Eric Brakey, R-Androscoggin, flanked by Senate Republican Leader Trey Stewart, R-Aroostook, talks about a physical therapist in Aroostook County who worked at a nursing home during the height of the pandemic, contracted COVID-19 and successfully returned to work within two weeks. A year later, he was fired for being unvaccinated due to the vaccine mandate despite his natural immunity. (Photo courtesy of Senate Republican Office/Mike Fern)

**AUGUSTA, ME (April 7, 2023)** – During a press briefing on Wednesday, Senate Republicans discussed the overwhelming response lawmakers had from the public during a series of hearings on Monday in front of the Legislature's Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. The hearings, which began at 10 a.m. Monday morning, didn't end until over 12 hours later on Monday night.

The public hearings involved six bills submitted by Republicans that would reestablish religious and philosophical exemptions for schoolchildren and healthcare workers,

and prohibit mandatory immunizations with any vaccine that is operating under an Emergency Use Authorization issued by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

In all, nearly 500 pieces of testimony were submitted to the committee with about 87% of them in favor of the proposed legislation. From doctors and parents to healthcare workers and firefighters, scores of people showed up to testify virtually and in person, which led to a long day for both committee members and those waiting to testify.

According to Senate Assistant Republican Leader Lisa Keim, the

stories shared by witnesses were heartbreaking and followed common threads, mostly around the loss of liberties and even their jobs when legislation was passed in 2019 that took away the non-medical exemptions.

"As Republicans, we are here to stand in support with the droves of people who came out to speak and really plead that their freedom of conscience be restored," she said at the briefing. "They shared agonizing stories of lost educational opportunity and lost livelihoods."

The Oxford County Republican said the removal of the exemptions

has been too high a price for some families to pay, especially in the pursuit of what many have considered a flawed premise for the vaccines to begin with.

"The problem with mandates is that they force Maine people to rely on big pharma and the government to make their healthcare decisions," Keim said.

Sen. Marianne Moore, R-Washington, said the state's healthcare workforce needs workers and barriers at both the state and federal level are prohibiting prospective nursing students who are unimmunized against COVID-19 from being able to enroll in nursing programs. The federal rules, put in place by the Biden Administration in 2021, require any institution that accepts Medicare or federal funds to comply with the COVID-19 vaccination mandate unless they have an exemption at the state level, which Maine abolished.

"Maine is one of six states that does not have any non-medical exemptions. It's not good, it's not fair," she said. "And when you start looking at the CMS rules, they date back to November 5th of 2021."

For Sen. James Libby, who serves on the committee that heard the 12 hours of testimony, many of the stories were poignant and emotional but one in par-

ticular stood out.

"I thought that one of the really compelling pieces of testimony came from a Portland firefighter who was fired from their job and they had 10 years of experience. They were previously covered by a religious exemption, but it was taken away," he said.

The Cumberland County Republican said other stories ranged from a pulmonary bedside nurse to a paramedic from Phillips who had a daughter and had to move to Texas to work despite a desire to stay in Maine. And when it comes to the vaccine mandate for schoolchildren, he said having no non-medical exemptions is discriminatory.

"How is it that tiny Maine should be different and not allow any exemptions when these kids travel and they intermingle and they're obviously exposed to other children? If you break it down that way, and you think about okay, what is the reason that we have this rule in place, I find it to be discriminatory," Libby said. "I think it's pure discrimination because some people don't like the people who are saying, 'We deserve a religious exemption from these vaccines.'"

Sen. Eric Brakey, R-Androscoggin, said the premise that vaccine advocates have used to justify the mandates has shifted

over the years, especially when the initial reason of preventing the spread never quite panned out. This led to outspoken critics of the mandates whose posts were either labeled as misinformation by social media companies or removed from the platforms entirely.

"There has never been a compelling scientific basis for COVID-19 vaccination mandates as public health policy. You had very highly regarded epidemiologists, folks at institutions like Harvard, Stanford, Oxford universities who spoke out early about this; and what happened to them?" he asked. "They were blacklisted on Twitter. They were censored because they were undermining the political consensus around these vaccination mandates."

Citing a physical therapist in a nursing home in Aroostook County who he said worked at the height of the pandemic, the therapist eventually contracted COVID-19 and eventually went back to work. A year later? He was fired for not having the vaccine despite the fact that he had natural immunity.

"One year they're heroes, and the next year they're being summarily fired from their jobs and told 'You're not welcome back,'" he said. "And now we have a healthcare worker shortage."

## King Urges Continued Medicare Coverage of COVID-19 Tests

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (April 5, 2023)** -- As America regains its economic footing while recovering from the pandemic, the Office of U.S. Senator Angus King (I-Maine) announced that Senator King joined a letter to Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra urging continued access to and affordability of at-home testing. In the letter, King and his colleagues urge HHS to continue providing Medicare coverage for rapid, at-home COVID-19 tests after the public health emergency expires on May 11.

"Easy access to testing with quick results has prevented the spread of COVID-19, reduced severe infection, and enabled many Americans to resume normal life...Ending Medicare coverage for at-home COVID-19 tests could undo much of this progress and make it harder for Medicare beneficiaries to obtain accurate and timely information about their health. For ex-

ample, without coverage under Medicare, many older Americans will not be able to afford to pay out-of-pocket for these critical tests and simply won't test," the Senators wrote.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Senator King urged the private and public sectors to work together and maximize supply chain efficiency of healthcare and medical supplies. In 2021, Senator King met with top Biden administration officials and emphasized the need to establish a strong vaccine distribution system, and pressed General Gustave Perna, Chief Operating Officer of Operation Warp Speed, on plans to distribute COVID-19 vaccines to Americans and opportunities to strengthen and streamline the process. Senator King also worked to negotiate the American Rescue Plan which provided critical funding for vaccine distribution efforts, in addition to helping states and communities survive the economic

toll of the pandemic. Last year, he stressed the need to continue exercising the Defense Production Act (DPA) authorities to boost domestic manufacturing of critical COVID-19 resources when demand wanes to ensure the country can respond to unforeseen pandemic developments in the future, and he similarly urged the administration recently to better address domestic capacity to manufacture supplies for future response to infectious disease threats.

U.S. Senators Bob Casey (D-PA), Ron Wyden (D-OR), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Kyrsten Sinema (I-AZ), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Jack Reed (D-RI), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Ben Cardin (D-MD), Bob Menendez (D-NJ), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Tina Smith (D-MN), Tim Kaine (D-VA), Mark Kelly (D-AZ), and Mark Warner (D-VA) also signed onto today's letter to Secretary Becerra.

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# Seniors Not Acting Their Age

## Baxter State Park Winter Expedition Part I: The Adventure Begins



A Baxter State Park winter expedition requires hauling a heavy sled into the park



A team of climbers pause on North Traveler Ridge to obtain an updated forecast; a storm is coming



Climbers on North Traveler Ridge

By Ron Chase  
A winter expedition into Baxter State Park begins months in advance. Last November 1st, Allen Gaskell and I traveled to Baxter State Park headquarters in Millinocket to participate in the winter reservations lottery. Our goal was to obtain a six-day reservation at the South Branch Pond bunkhouse in the northeastern sector of the park. Allen's name was drawn and we secured the cabin for the second week of March.

The eight bunks in the cabin were quickly filled with six additional experienced mountaineering and skiing friends that included my son, Adam. Seniors were well-represented by four retirees; three of us well into our seventies.

I reserved a cabin at Matagamon Campground just outside the park for the night before the excursion began. In deference to my arthritic hips, we hired the

campground to shuttle our gear by snowmobile as far as permissible on the park Perimeter Road. Our plan was to haul the gear with sleds for the remainder of the trek to South Branch Pond.

Eight exuberant participants met at the Matagamon Winter Trailhead on a partly sunny, cool morning. For most winter park undertakings sleds, snowshoes, skis, and micro spikes are necessary. After the snowmobile and trailer departed with our sleds and gear, most of us elected to ski the approximately ten miles to South Branch Pond Road. Allen's GPS measured the total journey to the pond to be 12.4 miles.

Initially, the trail was a bit icy as we skied west on rolling terrain towards distinctive Horse Mountain on a fast irregular surface. The snow softened as the temperature rose en route to the South Branch Pond Road junction where

our gear and sleds were waiting.

Everyone discarded skis and donned micro spikes for the rigorous haul on South Branch Pond Road. We pulled heavy loads steadily uphill for most of the trek before enjoying a delightful downhill cruise to the cabin, located at the northern end of Lower South Branch Pond. With lofty peaks on both sides, the picturesque pond has the character of an inland fjord.

After settling into the bunkhouse, some of the younger members departed to break trail part-way up North Traveler Mountain. We seniors took advantage of the quiet time to bring in firewood, start the woodstove, and collect drinking water from an open section at the outlet of the pond. All water has to be purified.

During dinner, plans were made for the following day. Five of us decided to attempt a climb of

North Traveler Mountain with the prospect of completing the famed eleven-mile Traveler Loop. The demanding trek consists of North Traveler, Traveler, and Peak of the Ridges, all three-thousand foot peaks with daunting forested saddles between. Complicating our objective, a winter storm was predicted to arrive sometime during the day and the hikers had reported trail-finding problems on North Traveler.

Cool temperatures, gray skies, and a hard-packed trail surface greeted us the following morning as we began our quest. Some of us chose to start with micro spikes while others favored snowshoes for the very steep initial ascent of North Traveler. All wore snowshoes at higher elevations.

Progress was slow ascending the precipitous, sometimes intimidating, route to an exposed prominence. Pausing on the

rocky crag, we obtained an updated weather forecast relating unfavorable news; a winter advisory was in effect starting mid-afternoon. Phenomenal views were accompanied by increasingly gusty northeast winds as we proceeded up a partially exposed ridge. Possible storm clouds were observed over the summit of Traveler.

The impressive ridge is interrupted by two densely wooded areas. We lost the trail for a short time in a magical white birch forest and again in a stand of stunted spruce trees. After a futile search in the latter, we finally elected to bushwhack straight up to the barren summit.

Winds were gusting but the clouds over Traveler had cleared. Two in the group decided to continue on the loop while three of us chose to return.

Following our tracks provided for a much more efficient descent. We converted to spikes and care-

fully negotiated down the steepest section. Our two companions reached the summit of remote Traveler but were forced to turn back without completing the loop due to long delays trying to find the trail.

Snow started to fall as Allen grilled steaks in a snow pit. After a delicious meal, we hunkered down wondering what the northeaster and the new day would bring.

Ron Chase resides in Topsham. His latest book, "Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine" is available at [www.north-countrypress.com/maine-al-fresco](http://www.north-countrypress.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.ronchase-outdoors.com](http://www.ronchase-outdoors.com) or he can be reached at [ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net](mailto:ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net)

## UMaine Extension 4-H Offers Shark Learning Opportunity

ORONO, ME (April 8, 2023) — University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H will offer an online special interest 4-H club on the science of sharks for youth ages 9-18, 4-5 p.m. on Tuesdays, May 16-June 6. Required registration for this special interest, or

SPIN, club closes April 25. The 4-H Shark Club will cover topics such as types of sharks, how sharks search for food, how they exist in the ocean with other creatures and sharks' swimming patterns and habits along the Maine coast. Kyle Oliviera, a UMaine

Ph.D. student, will lead the program.

The club is free; limited to 10 participants. Register on the event webpage to receive the link and at-home materials. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact 207.581.8206;

[sarah.sparks@maine.edu](mailto:sarah.sparks@maine.edu). Additional information also is available on the Extension 4-H Virtual Learning webpage. The 4-H Shark Club is supported by the National Science Foundation award #OIA-1849227 to Maine EPSCoR at the University of Maine.



A shark off the coast of Cape Cod courtesy University of Maine / Kyle Oliviera



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# Arts & Entertainment

## Medieval Arts & Sciences Event Comes to Gorham

**GORHAM, ME (April 4, 2023)** – The local chapter of the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA) will be holding a full day of workshops focused on the arts and sciences of the Middle Ages.

The event, titled “Spring’s Inspirations,” will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday April 15, at the First Parish Congregational Church, 1 Church St., Gorham.

SCA members will be leading lessons on a variety of subjects from the time period, including:

- Drop Spinning
- Heraldry
- Knitting 101
- Pomander Making
- Games of the Middle Ages
- Renaissance Dancing
- Historical Swordplay
- Flint-and-Steel Fire Starting
- Brick-Stich Embroidery, and more!

The event is open to the public, but an attempt at wearing clothing that roughly passes for the Middle Ages is required; a limited amount of loaner costumes will be available. Cost is \$20/adult, \$10/ages 6-17; 5 and under free. Lunch is included.

For more information, visit [malagentia.eastkingdom.org](http://malagentia.eastkingdom.org) or email [info@malagentia.eastkingdom.org](mailto:info@malagentia.eastkingdom.org).

*The Society for Creative Anachronism*



*(SCA) is an international non-profit educational organization, with an estimated 35,000 participants worldwide. Our purpose is to promote the research and re-creation of pre-17th century skills, arts, combat, culture, and to encourage participation in events, demonstrations, as well as other educational activities and presentations to enrich the lives of our community members.*



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# Collins Delivers Remarks at NEOA Portland Conference

WASHINGTON, D.C. (April 7, 2023) – U.S. Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, delivered remarks at the New England Educational Opportunity Association (NEOA) conference in Portland. During her remarks, Senator Collins highlighted the importance of TRIO programs and the need for continued support for educational access.

NEOA, an organization of professionals

focused on promoting equal educational opportunities in higher education through programs like TRIO, advocates for access to and success in postsecondary education for low-income individuals, first-generation college students, and students with disabilities. The organization has over 300 members throughout the six New England states. TRIO programs provide individualized counseling, advising, and other crucial supports to help ensure that un-



deserved students have equal access to a college education.

“As Co-Chair of the Congressional TRIO

Caucus, I have been a longtime champion of these invaluable programs that help students get the support they need

to prepare for, succeed in, and graduate from college,” said Senator Collins. “When we lend a hand to those who have the motivation to pursue higher education but lack the means, they give back to their communities and move our states and our nation forward.”

Senator Collins has been a long-time advocate for educational access, and her efforts have been instrumental in securing record high appropriations for TRIO programs. The fiscal

year 2023 Appropriations bill included \$1.19B for TRIO programs – a record high. Since the 116th Congress, Senator Collins has been the lead sponsor of the Educational Opportunity and Success Act, which reauthorizes and improves the federal TRIO programs.

During the NEOA conference, Senator Collins’ Legislative Director, Katie Brown, was awarded the Shirley Chisholm Award for her commitment and support of TRIO and Gear Up Programs.

# Red Cross Installs 168 Free Smoke Alarms for Local Families

CAMDEN, ME (APRIL 1, 2023) — Today American Red Cross of Northern New England volunteers and staffers alongside the Camden, Rockport and Rockland Fire Departments installed 168 free smoke alarms for families during a Sound the Alarm home fire safety event throughout Camden, Rockport and Rockland.

“We are grateful to everyone who supported today’s Sound the Alarm event to help keep our neighbors safe from home fires,” said Sophi Piconi, Red Cross Central and Mid Coast Maine Chapter executive director.

“Home fires are a constant threat in our community, accounting for most of our disaster responses. Today’s efforts will make a lasting difference to help save lives and protect those who are most vulnerable.”

MAKING LOCAL HOMES SAFER Patsy Towle is among the local residents who received free smoke alarms through today’s Sound the Alarm event, where Red Cross volunteers and members of Camden, Rockport and Rockland Fire Departments also shared information on the causes of home fires, what to do if a fire starts and how to create an

escape plan.

Towle signed-up after realizing her own smoke alarms were far past their 10-year expiration date – and had not been functioning due to old batteries. New, working smoke alarms throughout her home are providing much needed peace of mind.

“It makes me much more comfortable. I haven’t been able to change the batteries in the old ones. I am getting older and it’s harder for me to reach up and do things or get on a step ladder. I can now stay in my home longer. I am planning to live to be 100. So now I figure

I’m safer,” said Towle, 88, of Camden.

SAVING LIVES FROM NATION’S MOST FREQUENT DISASTER Home fires are the nation’s most frequent disaster, claiming seven lives (mostly children and the elderly) every day across the country – and injuring more than 30. But working smoke alarms can cut that risk of dying in a home fire by half. Here in Maine, the Red Cross responded to 274 home fires in 2022, assisting 948 Mainers. So far this year, the Red Cross has provided critical support to 261 Mainers following 78 home fires – 28

of those fires were in Central and Mid Coast Maine.

This Sound the Alarm event is a critical part of the national Red Cross Home Fire Campaign, which has helped save at least 1,664 lives — including 11 in Maine (8 in Farmingdale and 3 in Old Town) — since launching in October 2014. Locally during this time, the Red Cross of Northern New England and local partners have installed more than 17,703 free smoke alarms and made more than 5,616 households safer across the state.

Visit [redcross.org/EndHomeFiresNNE](http://redcross.org/EndHomeFiresNNE) to

learn more, sign-up for your free smoke alarm(s) or make a donation to the Red Cross to help people prepare for, respond to and recover from home fires.

This work is made possible thanks to generous financial donations from regional partners.

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

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# Town of Gorham to Hold 2023 Spring Brush Drop Off

GORHAM, ME Spring Brush Drop Off: cial drop off. No stumps will be accepted. Leaves & grass (April 4, 2023) -- 2023 Residents only, no commer-

clippings accepted in the designated area throughout the season. Please do not leave bags behind.

When: Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>  
Time: 8 am to 12 noon  
Location: 80 Huston Rd.

**2023 Spring Brush Drop Off**

Residents only, no commercial drop off. No stumps will be accepted.

Leaves & grass clippings accepted in the designated area throughout the season. Please do not leave bags behind.

**When: Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**Time: 8 am to 12 noon**  
**Location: 80 Huston Rd.**

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### ASPIRE GORHAM

**ENGLISH X** in two weeks!  
ENGLISH X is designed to expose students to people who use the skills and knowledge gained in English class in their career and community life. It is an opportunity for students to explore their career interests and network with professionals. On Thursday, April 13th and Friday, April 14th, students will participate in a session of their choice during their English class.

### UPCOMING CAREER EXPLORATION

<b>CORPORATE LAW</b> Thursday, April 13th PERIOD 2 & 3 HOST: MS. T-F	<b>FICTION WRITING &amp; LAW</b> Thursday, April 13th & Friday, April 14th PERIOD 2, 3, 5 & 7 HOST: MS. HATCH	<b>SCREENWRITING</b> Thursday, April 13th & Friday, April 14th PERIOD 1, 3, 5, 6 & 8 HOST: MS. ALLEN	<b>INVESTIGATION &amp; DETECTION</b> Thursday, April 13th PERIOD 1 HOST: MS. HATCH	<b>JOURNALISM NEWSPAPERS</b> Thursday, April 13th & Friday, April 14th PERIODS 1, 3, 5, 7 & 8 HOST: MS. STONE
<b>ADVOCACY</b> Friday, April 14th PERIODS 7 & 8 HOST: MS. T-F	<b>FICTION WRITING &amp; dance</b> Thursday, April 13th & Friday, April 14th PERIOD 2, 3, 5 & 7 HOST: MS. PAUL	<b>FILM &amp; TV PRODUCTION</b> Friday, April 14th PERIOD 5 & 7 HOST: MR. CHABOT	<b>TV JOURNALISM</b> Thursday, April 13th & Friday, April 14th PERIOD 1, 3, 5, 6 & 7 HOST: MS. ZARRILLI	<b>STRATEGIST BUSINESS &amp; LIFE</b> Thursday, April 13th & Friday, April 14th PERIOD 1, 2, 6, 7 & 8 HOST: MS. STEIN
<b>ACTING</b> Thursday, April 13th & Friday, April 14th PERIOD 2, 3, 6 & 7 HOST: MR. PATTERSON	<b>STATE POLITICS</b> Thursday, April 13th & Friday, April 14th PERIOD 7 & 8 HOST: MS. WYATT	<b>BROADCAST JOURNALISM</b> Friday, April 14th PERIOD 5, 7 & 8 HOST: MS. BOWERS	<b>IMMIGRATION LAW</b> Friday, April 14th PERIOD 1, 2 & 3 HOST: MS. WYATT	<b>REAL ESTATE</b> Thursday, April 13th PERIOD 2 & 3 HOST: MR. CHABOT

**MORE INFO AT [aspiregorham.live/SessionChoices](https://aspiregorham.live/SessionChoices) SIGN UP AT [aspiregorham.live/signup](https://aspiregorham.live/signup)**



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# Town of Gorham Announces 2023 Street Sweeping Schedule

GORHAM, ME (April 1, 2023) -- Public Works has started with rough street sweeping and will start with scheduled street sweeping as weather and snow melting permit. Please see the Town website for full route information. Updates to the schedule will be made public as soon as the dates are determined. If you have any questions, please contact Public Works at 222-4950 or dpw@gorham.me.us

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# MOFGA Offers Support for Maine Farmers Impacted by PFAS

**MAINE (April 8, 2023)** – When the ubiquity of PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl) chemical contamination of farmland in Maine made headlines last winter, the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA) jumped into action. Partnering with the Maine Farmland Trust (MFT), MOFGA created the PFAS Emergency Relief Fund and provided much needed financial assistance to farmers irrevocably impacted by PFAS contamination, developed farmer programs to offer technical support, and advocated for policy changes to “turn off the tap” on PFAS in Maine.

“We saw our communities step up in a truly tremendous way,” says

Meghan Metzger, director of development and membership at MOFGA. “Within four months of the creation of the PFAS Emergency Relief Fund in early 2022, this specifically-designated fund had reached over \$1 million and was able to meet the very immediate needs of impacted farmers throughout Maine.”

A year out from the start of the Emergency Relief Fund, MOFGA and MFT have distributed over \$876,000 in critical funds to affected farmers for income replacement, wellness support, PFAS testing reimbursements, and infrastructure grants. MOFGA’s farmer programs team has been involved in many one-on-one conversations



around how best to support the diversity of farms and farmer needs, offered educational resources, and developed collaborative research partnerships to better understand the long term uptake of PFAS in forages.

Maine is in a leadership position that it never asked for, but the state has become a model for addressing PFAS contamination and advocating

for public health related to PFAS. While MOFGA and MFT will continue to administer the PFAS Emergency Relief Fund in coordination with the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF), both MOFGA and MFT continue their organization-wide work on farmer support, community education, and policy change on both the state and federal level.

On March 28, in a special check presentation ceremony, representatives from the newly-formed Five County Credit Union made a \$20,000 gift divided evenly between MOFGA and MFT to support their ongoing efforts combating PFAS contamination of Maine’s farmlands

and waters. “This is a long-term problem, which will need a long-term solution. The gift from Maine Harvest Solutions supports the critical work ahead and helps us keep our eyes focused on the future,” says Sarah Alexander, MOFGA’s executive director. “We are building national partnerships and awareness to share lessons learned here in Maine, foster nationwide change and advocate for collective justice for agricultural communities.”

Funders of MOFGA’s PFAS work include Bangor Savings Bank, Belfast Community Co-Op, Broad Reach Fund, Donald A. Pels Charitable Trust, EarthSea Fund, Elmina B. Sewall Foundation,

Falling Leaf Charitable Fund, Farm Aid, Grandy Organics, Haslett Family Charitable Fund, Henry P. Kendall Foundation, Lee Charitable Gift Fund, Maine Harvest Solutions, Muddy Boots Fund, Nina June Restaurant, Rosemont Market & Bakery, Quimby Family Foundation, Whitehead Foundation, and over 900,000 individuals across the country and around the world who made a gift to the PFAS Emergency Relief fund through MOFGA’s partnership with The Lost Kitchen creator Erin French.

Learn more about MOFGA’s PFAS work at [mofga.org/advocacy/take-action-on-pfas](http://mofga.org/advocacy/take-action-on-pfas) or [mofga.org/advocacy/take-action-on-pfas](http://mofga.org/advocacy/take-action-on-pfas).

# \$62.2M for Drinking Water Infrastructure Upgrades in Maine

**BOSTON, ME (April 5, 2023)** – Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced \$62,283,000 to Maine to fund essential drinking water infrastructure upgrades through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). Thanks to a \$6 billion boost from President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, EPA is increasing the investments available to rebuild the nation’s water infrastructure.

“Every community deserves access to safe, clean drinking water,” said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. “Thanks to President Biden’s historic infrastructure investments in America, we have an unprecedented opportunity to revitalize America’s drinking water systems, support the Biden-Harris Administration’s goal of removing 100% of lead pipes across our country, and protect communities from PFAS pollution.”

“EPA is very grateful

to the Biden Administration and to the Congress for making possible the investments we are now making to upgrade drinking water infrastructure throughout New England, but especially to ensure that historically underserved communities are getting the investments and environmental protection they deserve. This funding will provide benefits for Maine communities for generations to come and represents an investment in our children and grandchildren, making sure they have access to clean and healthy drinking water,” said EPA New England Regional Administrator David W. Cash.

“Maine families deserve infrastructure that provides clean drinking water and protects them from storms and flooding,” said Senators Susan Collins and Angus King and Representatives Chellie Pingree and Jared Golden. “Today’s announcement is an im-

portant step to ensure that Maine communities have the funding to improve wastewater and stormwater infrastructure. After the incredible storm we faced in December and the many challenges we face to remove toxic chemicals from our drinking water, this grant funding will help Maine make long overdue water infrastructure improvements. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law has already made a huge difference for people across Maine, and this latest round of direct funding will add to these benefits—keeping Maine communities safe while protecting our local environments.”

The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to strengthening the nation’s water infrastructure, while providing significant resources to address key challenges, including climate change, emerging contaminants like per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and cybersecurity.

The DWSRF allotments to states are based on the results of EPA’s 7th Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment (DWIN-SA). The survey, which is required by the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act, assesses the nation’s public water systems’ infrastructure needs every four years and the findings are used to allocate DWSRF grants to states. The drinking water utilities need \$625 billion in infrastructure investments over the next 20 years to ensure the nation’s public health, security, and economic well-being.

At the direction of Congress, EPA’s 7th Drinking Water Assessment, for the first time included survey questions focused on lead service lines and is projecting a national total of 9.2 million lead service lines across the country. This best available national and state-level projections of service line counts will help advance a unique opportunity to em-

ploy a separate lead service line allotment formula for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law DWSRF Lead Service Line Replacement Funding that is based on need. Almost \$3 billion of the funding announced today will be provided specifically for lead service line identification and replacement, taking a key step toward the Biden-Harris Administration’s goal of achieving 100% lead free water systems.

President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is investing over \$50 billion in water and wastewater infrastructure improvements across the country between FY 2022 and FY 2026. In its second year of implementation, \$6 billion of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding will be available to states, Tribes, and territories through the DWSRF. Of that funding, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will invest \$3 billion in lead service line identification and improvement, \$800 million

to address PFAS and other emerging contaminants, and \$2.2 billion in other critical drinking water system improvements. Additionally, approximately \$500 million will also be available through the DWSRF annual appropriations, established by the Safe Drinking Water Act.

EPA is committed to ensuring every community has access to this historic investment and has centralized increasing investment in disadvantaged communities within its implementation. The implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law calls for strong collaboration, and EPA continues to work in partnership with states, Tribes, and territories to ensure that communities see the full benefits of this investment. In addition, EPA is strengthening its water technical assistance programs to support communities in assessing their water needs and apply for their fair share of this historic investment.

# \$500K to Protect Maine’s Vulnerable Species, Habitats

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (April 4, 2023)** – U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King today announced that the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife will receive

\$564,939 to support conservation and stewardship for vulnerable and at-risk Maine species. The funding was awarded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s State Wildlife Grant (SWG)

Program and will go towards Maine’s Wildlife Action Plan that works to evaluate the health of wildlife populations and identify opportunities to conserve species and vital habitats.

“Maine’s wildlife carries immense cultural and economic significance to our state, and it is crucial that we do everything we can to protect our threatened and endangered species before it is too late,” said Senators Collins and King. “From bumblebees to Blanding’s turtles, this funding will accelerate the recovery of vulnerable species and help

conserve the habitats on which they depend. We look forward to seeing the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife use this federal funding to protect our state for current and future generations.”

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife will use the federal funding to evaluate, study, and conserve Maine’s vul-

nerable species. It will build on current Department projects, like those to conserve butterfly, flower fly, and bumblebee populations, and improve the availability of nesting habitats for endangered freshwater turtles.

This year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will distribute \$56.5 million to state fish and wildlife agencies throughout the country through the SWG Program. The SWG Program aims to recover endangered species and help prevent others from listing under the *Endangered Species Act* (ESA). This funding comes nearly 50 years after the passage of the ESA, which has been critical in protecting Maine’s imperiled wildlife and fish.



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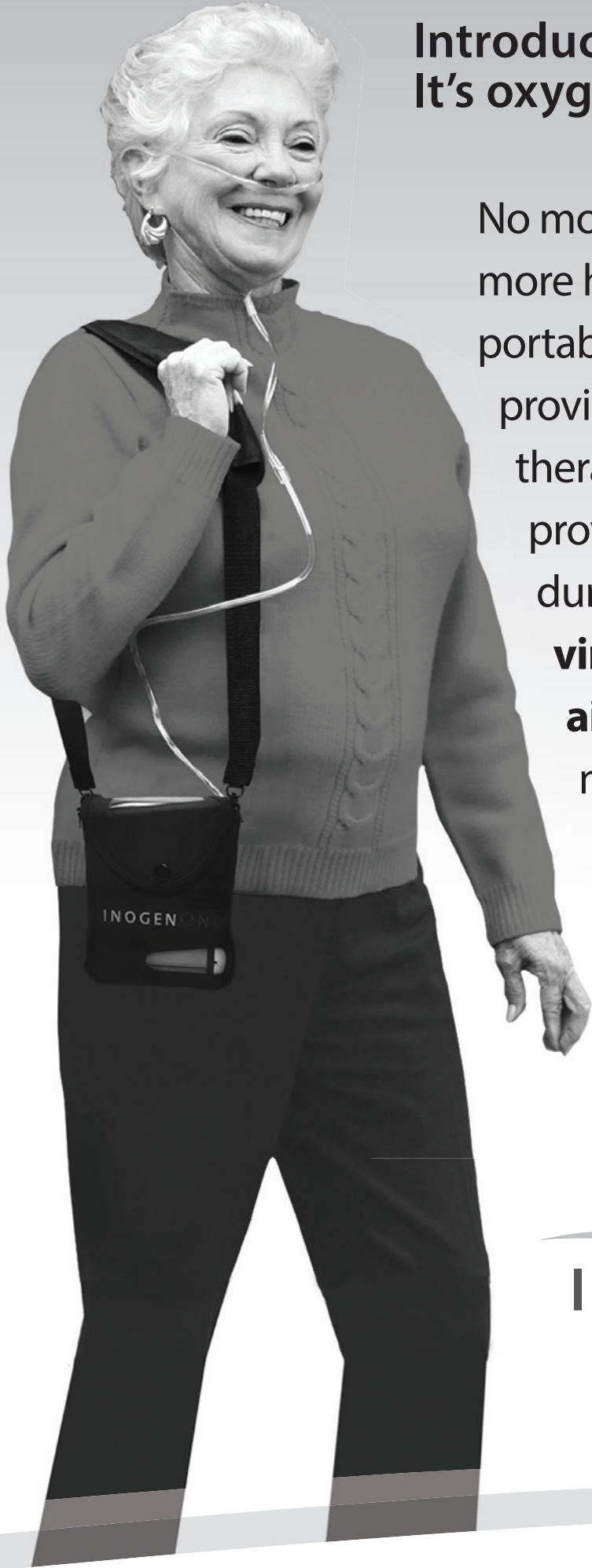
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# Campaign for Justice Announces 2023 Leadership Team

**AUGUSTA, ME (March 30, 2023)** – 2023 looks to be another challenging year for Mainers. Skyrocketing inflation, an uncertain economic future, an ongoing housing crisis and more factors continue to push more at-risk individuals into a tight spot. Maine’s civil legal aid providers help as many as they can, but resources don’t allow them to help everybody. The Campaign for Justice, the annual fundrais-

ing campaign to the Maine Bar, aims to ease the gap between existing need for civil legal aid and current funding.

Since 2004, the Campaign for Justice has worked collaboratively with Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic, Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project, Legal Services for the Elderly, Maine Equal Justice, Pine Tree Legal Assistance, and Volunteer Lawyers Project to raise money from local

attorneys and judges.

The 2023 Campaign kicks off this spring with a goal to raise \$660,000 this year. As an endeavor that is almost entirely volunteer led with a team of over fifty people, it will be a tremendous effort.

The Campaign is pleased to announce its leadership team for 2023:

Tim Pease is a partner at Rudman Winchell in Bangor. Tim has over twenty years of experience

representing clients in areas like labor, employment, land use, and environmental issues. In his many years of practice, Tim has been general counsel to multiple counties, municipalities, and the regional electric utility. Tim is a Maine native who graduated from the University of Maine. After completing his undergraduate degree, he served in the Air Force before earning his law degree from the University of Seattle.

David Abramson is counsel at Verrill in Portland. David is a talented litigator known for his work in family law, where he focuses on areas like custody and equitable division of assets. David also works in the sports law arena, where he has represented dozens of athletes in contract negotiations and endorsements. David is a certified Player Agent with the MLB Players Association. He also serves as a Fellow of

the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and as a founding member of the American Academy of Certified Financial Litigators.

The Campaign for Justice is administered by the Maine Justice Foundation. Founded in 1983, MJF is a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring justice for low-income and vulnerable Mainers. FMI: [www.campaignforjustice.org](http://www.campaignforjustice.org)

# Outdoor Equity Fund Awards \$300K to Expand Outdoor Access



More Women+ Surf in the March 2023 issue of *Downeast Magazine*

**MAINE (April 6, 2023)** -- Maine’s first-ever Outdoor Equity Fund is awarding \$300,000 to organizations that advance outdoor access, learning, and experiences for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. This new grantmaking fund was created by the Nature Based Education Consortium (NBEC) and is implemented as a partnership between NBEC and Maine Initiatives. The Outdoor Equity Fund’s inaugural cohort of grantees includes ten organizations whose work focuses on issues ranging from Indigenous land stewardship, food and storytelling, surf and water access for women, immigrant health and well-being, and so

much more.

While Maine’s Outdoor Equity Fund is new, the reasons for its creation are well-documented. Maine is a state known for its outdoor landscapes: breathtaking coastlines and dense forests. But a large majority of people of color in the state live in nature deprived areas in Maine, according to a report by the Center for American Progress—while only about a quarter of white people in the state live in nature-deprived areas. This is a significant disparity. The benefits of being in nature are many, including improved physical and mental health outcomes. Likewise, the consequences of nature deprivation are

real, and exacerbate existing inequalities formed by generations of systemic racism.

The Outdoor Equity Fund, which has a low-barrier application process, aims to increase opportunities for nature-based learning and improve safe, equitable access to outdoor spaces for Wabanaki people, Black people, Indigenous people, and people of color (BIPOC) in Maine, unceded Wabanaki Territory. The fund seeks to address a variety of barriers that communities of color face when it comes to accessing the outdoors, and works to strengthen the existing leadership of BIPOC organizations while building relationships and sharing

knowledge.

Grounded in community voice and engagement, the Outdoor Equity Fund is rooted in the practices of participatory grantmaking: the simple idea that decisions about funding should be made by the communities served. This community-led approach runs deep, and centers the importance of trust and relationships. By design, the Outdoor Equity Fund is informed, advised, and guided by a Community Advisory Committee of leaders within the nature-based learning ecosystem in Maine. A dedicated BIPOC Grantmaking Advisory Committee reviewed proposals and collaboratively selected the grantees.

“One wonderful thing about the Outdoor Equity Fund is that the process creates its own ecosystem. Each step becomes an opportunity to grow and deepen relationships,” said Anthony Jackson, Equity & Organizing Coordinator of the Nature Based Education Consortium.

The Outdoor Equity Fund’s ten grantee organizations listed below will each receive a grant of \$30,000 over three years in general operating support. Over the course of the next three years the cohort will share knowledge, build relationships, and connect with a well-established and well-resourced outdoor learning network, with support from the Nature Based Education Consortium and Maine Initiatives.

Bomazeen Land Trust

Bomazeen Land Trust enables the Abenaki/ Wabanaki people to renew caretaking and stewardship roles in lands and waters that have spiritual, cultural, or historical significance to the Abenaki/ Wabanaki people.

ECO-BIPOC/Third Place

The Third Place organizes community and cross-sector networks to build social and professional connections for Black Mainers.

Intercultural Community Center

The Intercultural Community Center (ICC) supports and improves the lives of immigrants and refugees by providing educational, health, social opportunities and resources.

Journey ONEderland

Journey ONEderland works to liberate Afro-Indigenous people in Maine and beyond by strengthening relationships between people and the earth through healing retreats, art, science, and outdoor recreation.

Juneteenth Downeast

Juneteenth Downeast exists to give people of the African diaspora a place to connect, and opportunities to replenish that which was taken away, whether through connection to the land, the water, to resources, or to each other.

Maine Association of New Americans (MANA)

MANA is an immigrant-led organization that promotes social and personal empowerment of immigrants through: Raising awareness of individual and collective trauma and how they affect our lives; Expanding people’s resilience building strategies by exploring various resources; Providing trauma-aware, multilingual transportation services to address social determinants of health; Connecting people with their peers across cultures.

More Women+ Surf

More Women+ Surf is a women-led surf organization in Maine breaking down socio-economical, physical, and emotional barriers to create surf and water access for underserved individuals.

Somali Bantu Community Association

Somali Bantu Community Association’s mission is to provide vital transitional services, advocacy, and food production that empowers members of the refugee community to uphold cultural identity and economic well-being to thrive in their new life here in Maine.

Tender Table

Tender Table celebrates Black and Brown community in Maine by connecting and honoring identities, traditions, joy, resilience, and fight for collective liberation through storytelling and food.

Wabanaki Youth in Science

Wabanaki Youth in Science’s mission is to inspire and support persistence in the sciences for Native youth by providing long-term education opportunities that integrate Indigenous ecological knowledge with western science.

Read more about the Outdoor Equity Fund at <https://maineinitiatives.org/grantmaking/our-grants/outdoor-equity-fund>, including the Request for Proposals. The Outdoor Equity Fund is accepting donations to support future cohorts of grantees.

For more information, please contact Anthony Jackson [anthony@nbecosortium.com](mailto:anthony@nbecosortium.com).

*Maine Initiatives is a community-based foundation supporting greater social, economic, and environmental justice in Maine through informed, intentional, and collective philanthropy. Our core programs are Grants for Change, the Immigrant Led Organizations Fund, the Outdoor Equity Fund, The Giving Project, and MaineShare.*

*The Nature Based Education Consortium (NBEC) is a diverse, multi-sector network of organizations and individuals focused on building support for equitable access to outdoor spaces and learning opportunities for all Maine youth. NBEC believes that all Maine youth deserve the opportunity to learn in ways that connect them to their community and the natural world.*



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**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.

**April 14-15**

AUBURN -- Pop-Up Estate Sale, 8:30am - 3pm. Art and antiques - cash only! Lunch @\$6. First Universalist Church of Auburn, 169 Pleasant St. Parking; accessible. FMI Ginstar38@aol.com

**April 15**

NEW GLOUCESTER -- Lunne-Hunnewell Amvets Post#6, Rt#100, New Gloucester, Maine Bean Supper Night

The Post#6 Doors Open. At 4:00 P.M. And Start Serving At 5:00 P.M. Menu: Baked Red Kidney Beans, Pea Beans, Red Hot Dogs, Coleslaw, Bisquit's and Assorted Pies, Coffee, Tea and Punch.

Cost=\$10.00 Dollars for Adults, \$5.00 Dollars for Children; Under 12 and 5 Years Under "Free"

**April 22**

GRAY -- First Congregational Church of Gray Saturday Night Church Supper, Saturday, April 22, 2023 @ 5 P. M. at the Parish House, 5 Brown Street, Gray

# Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

Handicapped Accessible. Meals are Singled-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.

Phone # day of the supper - 657-4279.

**April 25**

LEWISTON -- Tuesday, March 14 at 5:30 PM at the Lewiston Public Library: "WHAT IF COMMUNITY IS THE KEY TO OUR RESILIENCE?" DISCUSSION PROJECT

The Lewiston Public Library will host a three-session Discussion Project on March 14, April 4, and April 25. The program, entitled "What if community is the key to our resilience?" will focus on The Water Knife by Paolo Bacigalupi, Vigil Harbor by Julia Glass,, and Parable of the Sower by Octavia Butler.

Free. Books provided. Space is limited and registration is required. Contact info. 513-3135, lpreference@lewistonmaine.gov; www.LPLonline.org

**May 6**

WESTBROOK -- Prides Corner Communi-

ty Church, 235 Pride St. Bean Supper \$10 per person: Two kinds of baked beans, mac and cheese, ham, coleslaw, bread and brownie. Eat in at 5:00PM or Take Out from 4:30-5:30PM. Call 207-415-9260 to reserve your individual meal today.

**Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays**

LEWISTON -- Total Strength and Balance, Day/time: Mondays, 11-11:45 a.m.; Day/time: Wednesdays, 11-11:45 a.m.; Day/time: Fridays, 10:15-11 a.m. Instructor: Linn Morin, Certified Trainer. Cost: See below. Location: Education Center, 8 Falcon Road, Lewiston

Participants will gain physical and neuro-muscular strength, as well as balance to improve activities of daily living. Lighter weights or soup cans, a basic bouncing ball, and some tubes are used in this seated exercise class. Water is recommended during the class. Check with your physician prior to any exercise class. These classes are in person and masks are required. To register or for more info, call Linn at 523-9055. Cost is covered by most supplemental Medicare insurances, call Linn for more details.

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**Goodwill**  
*Continued from page 1*

of holistically supporting clients received national funding from the US Department of Labor.

And, like other companies, Goodwill was under immense pressure during COVID 19. With Cantz's leadership, Goodwill Northern New England was able to keep over 1,600 employees working and hundreds of clients receiving services.

"Rich is a strong and effective leader, and we are sad to see him leave," said Pete Groth, Goodwill Northern New England Board Chair. "As CEO, he has led this organization with great care, and is leaving Goodwill in great shape to move forward in our goal of moving 10,000 people into stability by

2027. We will be looking for a leader just as strong as Rich to continue our work."

Goodwill's Board of Directors will begin a search for its next President before Cantz leaves to ensure a smooth transition. The organization runs 29 stores, 18 group homes that serve adults with disabilities, two brain injury clinics, workforce programs that serve more than 15,000 people a year, LifeWorks community supports for adults with disabilities, a commercial cleaning business and more. Goodwill also has more than 1,500 employees and has been working toward becoming an employee-first organization.

"We need a leader who cares deeply about Goodwill's mission to invest in people who need support achieving their life and work goals. It's a broad mission that includes disability, workforce, and

sustainability work all under one nonprofit," Groth said. "We have some big shoes to fill."

*Goodwill Northern New England is a nonprofit social enterprise in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. Our revenues fund our mission to invest in people who need support to achieve their work and life goals. Goodwill NNE's programs include workforce training programs, 18 group homes that support adults with disabilities, active community supports for adults with disabilities, AmeriCorps programs, business-cleaning services, and Goodwill NNE operates two brain injury clinics to help people get back to their lives after a brain injury. Of course, our stores also embody our mission to support the Earth through re-use, while offering good jobs and free supports to all sorts of people. For more information visit GoodwillNNE.org.*

## 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:

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#### 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.

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# Support Gorham Students with Hannaford Helps Schools

**GORHAM, ME (April 8, 2023)** – Gorham Schools is participating in Hannaford Helps Schools! Each year, based on our community’s involvement in this great program, we earn money that goes toward student and staff incentives, including money that is used to give scholarships each year to seniors. See the Hannaford Helps Schools Letter below for more information:

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so excited and thankful for your continued partnership.

This year we are launching some exciting program changes that will better support all participating schools. Each School Dollar printout will include a QR code that shoppers can scan to donate their School Dollars. The QR code will bring them to our online redemption website where they have the option to also download the Hannaford Helps Schools app. Downloading the app is not

required but it stores their information and school choice, making redemption even easier.

We will continue to have a collection tower in the stores, but we will no longer have school-specific collection envelopes. All School Dollar printouts collected in stores will be compiled and evenly distributed amongst all participating schools. This money will be added to the school-specific online donations and the top 200 schools that raise the most

money will also receive a \$1,000 bonus check!

To participate, look for the shelf tags in stores or the apple symbol on our website product pages on more than 800 participating products that will help earn money for your school.

Shoppers get 3 School Dollars for every 4 participating products they purchase. They can deposit their School Dollars in the collection tower at their store to donate to all participating schools, or scan



the QR code on the School Dollar printout to download the Hannaford Helps Schools app. From there they can donate them directly to any participating school of their choice.

Please visit the Hannaford Helps Schools web page for additional information and resources.

Thanks,  
Hannaford Helps Schools

# The MaineBiz Business Leaders of the Year Announced

**PORTLAND, ME (April 5, 2023)** – The MaineBiz Business Leaders of the Year Awards recognizes Maine leaders for outstanding performance and

contributions by business leaders who set the standard of doing business in Maine. This year, MaineBiz will be awarding nine leaders under new categories!

Lifetime Achievement Award: Dana Connors, Retired president and CEO of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce Entrepreneur of the




Year Award: Margo Walsh, Founder MaineWorks  
New Mainer Leader of the Year Award: Amina Hassan, Founder and executive director of Her Safety Net Nonprofit  
Leader of the Year Award: Travis Mills, Founder of Travis Mills Foundation  
Innovator of the Year Award: Habib Dagher, Ex-

ecutive director of the UMaine Advanced Structures and Composites Center  
Industry Leader of the Year Award (High Education Category): Leigh Saufley, Dean of Maine Law  
Industry Leader of the Year Award (Hospitality Category): Tim Harrington, Chairman, Atlantic Hospitality Partner, Kennebunk-

port Resort Collection, and Partner of Batson River Brewing and Distilling  
Industry leader of the Year Award (Real Estate Development Category): Tom Watson, Founder/Chairman of Port Property  
CEO of the Year Award: Drew Lyman, President of Lyman-Morse Boatbuilding Inc.

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