

Gorham fundraiser to benefit local organizations



Run Like A Dog, LLC | sprintbreatherest.com is working with Giving Tree of Maine as they host their Annual Fundraiser on Saturday, SEPTEMBER 2, 2023, at The Galilee Baptist Church, located at 317 Main St., Gorham, ME, from 9:00 am –

2:00 pm.

The Fundraiser will include vendors, Crafts & Yard Sale, as well as a 50/50 raffles & silent auction. Breakfast & lunch will be available for purchase.

Run Like A Dog, LLC | sprintbreatherest.com is donating “furry friends” gift baskets for the silent auction, dog products & accessories to the ARLGP, as well as donating 5% of All in-person Sales on the day of the event to the Giving Tree of Maine.

Giving Tree of Maine was founded by Julia Swett, Class of 2019 graduate of Bonny Eagle High School, and daughter

to Melissa Swett. Julia started this organization to benefit those in need in the communities throughout Maine by “Raising Awareness One Box at A Time.” Julia is now an R.N. at Orlando Healthcare in Florida and her younger sister, Braedyn Swett, is learning the ropes to run the organization.

Founder & CEO of Run Like A Dog, LLC | sprintbreatherest.com, Mary Sauschuck, was contacted by Melissa Swett to donate to the event. After learning about the Giving Tree of Maine, Sauschuck decided to not only donate to this worthy organization but promote the event as well.

Gorham: Disney on Ice is on its way!



PORTLAND, ME (August 4, 2023) -- Disney On Ice presents Mickey’s Search Party is bringing the magic to guests through dynamic moments that take place on the ice and in the air. This adventure delivers compelling storytelling through multi-leveled production numbers so be prepared to join this magical search and help unlock an epic journey when Disney On Ice presents Mickey’s Search Party delivers an unforgettable experience at the Cross Insurance Arena from December 21-24, 2023.

Disney On Ice Preferred Customers can purchase advance tickets starting today to get the best seats available before tickets go on-sale to the general public on August 8th. Fans can still sign up to become a Disney On Ice Preferred Customer and get exclusive access to the pre-sale offer code.

Embark on a quest with Mickey Mouse and pals as they follow Captain Hook’s treasure map for clues to find Tinker Bell after he attempts to capture her magic.

Journey across the Marigold Bridge with Miguel from Disney Pixar’s Coco into the magnificent and mystical Land of the Dead and discover a vibrantly colorful performance with skeletons atop sway poles dancing over the audience in a beautiful cultural celebration of family.

Travel to the wintry world of Arendelle and sing along with Elsa as video

projection creates a kaleidoscope of crystals to help build her ice palace.

Witness Belle lift into the sky as the enchanted chandelier comes to life high over the ice.

Demonstrate the power of teamwork when Buzz Lightyear, Woody and Jessie recruit the Green Army Men for a daring rescue in Andy’s room.

Laugh hysterically as the hilarious pirates flip, tumble, and twist on tumble tracks, stilts and more in an effort to showcase their talents for Captain Hook.

Sail away with Moana on her daring voyage across the ocean and bravely encounter the fiery wrath of Te Ka.

And make memories with your whole family during Aladdin and The Little Mermaid as the search party becomes an all-out magical celebration.

WHEN: Thursday, December 21 6:00 PM Friday, December 22 12:00 PM & 4:00 PM Saturday, December 23 10:30 AM, 2:30 PM & 6:30 PM Sunday, December 24 12:00 PM

WHERE: Cross Insurance Arena – One Civic Center Square, Portland, ME 04101

TICKETS: Family friendly ticket pricing available – tickets can be purchased online at Ticketmaster.com or in-person at the venue Box Office. *Ticket pricing is subject to change based on market demand.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Masses in Spanish now offered in eight Maine communities

PORTLAND, ME (August 16, 2023)—Regular Masses in Spanish are now being offered in eight Maine communities, and the Diocese of Portland's Office of Hispanic Ministry has also announced a special healing service in Lewiston on August 25. Currently, Masses in Spanish are celebrated in:

Augusta, St. Monica Chapel, 5 Kendall Street, Every Saturday at 5:30 p.m.

Brewer, St. Teresa Church, 425 S. Main Street, Every Sunday at 1 p.m.

Cherryfield, St. Mi-

chael Church, 51 Elm Street, First Sunday of the month at 1 p.m.

Lewiston, Holy Cross Church (Rivier Adoration Chapel), 1080 Lisbon Street, Every Saturday at 6 p.m. (livestreamed at www.princeofpeace.me)

Pittsfield, St. Agnes Church, 238 Detroit Street, First and Third Friday of the month at noon.

Portland, Sacred Heart Church, 65 Mellen Street, Every Sunday at 1 p.m.

Sanford, Holy Family Church, 66 North Street, Second and Fourth Sunday of the month at 5 p.m.



Skowhegan, Conference Room at Kyes Motel, 137 W. Front Street, Every Saturday at noon.

A healing service in Spanish will be held on Friday, August 25, at

6 p.m. at Holy Family Church on 607 Sabattus Street in Lewiston. The theme of the entire gathering is healing, from the celebrant to the music to the participants to prayer

teams. Every situation is different but most involved say they receive an increase in awareness of Jesus being present and bringing peace and renewed strength.

Funded largely by the annual Catholic Appeal, the Office of Hispanic Ministry assists the Hispanic community living and working in Maine by offering Masses in Spanish and sacramental preparation, including marriage and baptismal preparation; faith formation for adults and children; education on social service support in the state; and help to

individuals and families in becoming more involved in parish life. With the Latino community in Maine estimated at more than 20,000, the need for outreach has never been greater.

If you or someone you know might benefit from the services of the Office of Hispanic Ministry, please contact Fr. Michael Seigny, OFM Cap., at 207-705-3752; Sister Elsa Telón, RSR, at 207-618-2156; Rosario Starratt at 207-312-4716; Sister Miriam Maradiaga, RSR, at 207-838-1584, or José Pérez at 207-653-5609.

Win a dream vacation in Paris, help end hunger in Maine



NEWCASTLE, ME (August 18, 2023) -- Veggie to Table is hosting its 2nd annual French Sweepstakes with a grand prize of a week's stay in a gorgeous Paris apartment. All donations will help ensure that no one in our community will go to bed hungry or have to choose between buying food or paying rent. The farm grows top-quality organic produce and flowers to donate to local people experiencing hunger and needing joy.

As 43% of Maine students rely on school meals each day—helping to end hunger is vital. In its first four seasons, Veggie to Table has grown and donated 44,500+ pounds of farm-fresh organic produce and gifted over 45,000 joyful flowers.

Founders, Erica Berman and French husband Alain Ollier, moved to Maine in 2012, after many years in Paris. They have hand-selected these French-inspired prizes:

Grand Prize: A week-long stay for two in a gorgeous Paris apartment with balcony and panoramic views, restaurants, exclusive guided tours, and more

Runner-up prizes include:

- A weekend in Montreal
- A year-long online French pastry course & Copy of the book French Pastry Made Simple
- A Le Creuset Signature Flame Orange 3.5 Quart Sauteuse

A signed, limited edition print of Benoit Paris (or any of the Paris Collection) by former New Yorker editor and cartoonist John Donohue & so much more

Help end hunger in Maine: Enter the Sweepstakes; Donate to Veggie to Table; Connect with us to learn more

The Sweepstakes runs until Sept 18. Winners selected on Sept 22.

Enter here: <https://veggietotable.rallyup.com/paris-sweepstake>



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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Cumberland, Westbrook authorize C-PACE Loans

AUGUSTA, ME (August 24, 2023) – The Efficiency Maine Green Bank today congratulated the Town of Cumberland, the City of Augusta, and the City of Westbrook for being the first municipalities in the state to adopt an ordinance authorizing the use of Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) loans in their communities. The ordinance was passed in Cumberland on July 10, in Augusta on July 20, and in Westbrook on August 21. The Efficiency Maine Green Bank also announced it recently has added the first registered capital providers to its new C-PACE program and is keen to see more Maine municipalities and lending institutions participate.

A C-PACE program provides access to loans for commercial property owners interested in undertaking energy efficiency and clean energy improvements on their buildings. The investment is recovered through savings on the consumers'

energy bills. In 2021, the Maine Legislature enacted L.D. 340, An Act to Allow for the Establishment of Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Programs (The "C-PACE Act"). The C-PACE Act authorizes the Efficiency Maine Trust to establish a C-PACE program.

"We congratulate Cumberland, Augusta, and Westbrook for making C-PACE loans available in their communities," said Michael Stoddard, executive director of Efficiency Maine. "This provides a very attractive pathway for businesses to finance energy improvements, such as upgrading to heat pump systems for heating and cooling in their buildings. We strongly encourage more of Maine's municipalities to adopt this ordinance so their local businesses can also take advantage of this initiative. Municipalities and lenders interested in joining the program can find more information at the Efficiency Maine website."



"Energy costs have been rising and energy efficiency investments can be prohibitively expensive for commercial property owners," said Keith Luke, economic development director for the City of Augusta. "By using the C-PACE program, commercial property owners can access financing at typically lower rates and over a longer term than with conventional business loans."

Three capital providers have registered for the program, including Nuveen Green Capital and Counterpointe Sustainable Real Estate.

"We are thrilled to be able to provide C-PACE financing for commercial real estate projects in Augusta, Westbrook, and Cumberland," said Mike

Doty, senior origination director for Nuveen Green Capital. "We believe that the continued expansion of this cost-efficient financing mechanism in the great state of Maine will lead to the increased inclusion of sustainability measures in CRE projects – which will not only benefit local economies – but also the environment."

"CounterpointeSRE looks forward to serving Mainers by providing C-PACE capital toward energy savings improvement projects that benefit the common good," said Michele Pitale, managing director of PACE Finance at Counterpointe Sustainable Real Estate.

Maine's C-PACE program was launched in the spring of 2023. A C-PACE mechanism uses

a loan from a capital provider to pay for the upfront costs associated with energy efficiency or renewable energy improvements. The loan is secured by a property tax assessment with an associated lien on the subject property, allowing financing for a longer term and the ability to transfer the repayment obligations to a subsequent owner of the property. The consumer-friendly terms of C-PACE financing are intended to enable more extensive building retrofits beyond what may be possible with traditional financing.

Before the Efficiency Maine C-PACE Program can accept loan applications, Maine law requires that interested municipalities and capital providers must opt in to participate in the program. In the meantime, developers, contractors, and commercial property owners who are interested in pursuing a C-PACE project can review the program documents and reach out to their municipalities to in-

quire about the status of a C-PACE ordinance in their towns. More details about Efficiency Maine's C-PACE Program can be found at <https://www.efficiencymaine.com/c-pace/>. Interested parties also can email C-PACE@efficiencymaine.com or call 866-376-2463.

Efficiency Maine's C-PACE Program is part of the Efficiency Maine Green Bank, which offers a suite of financing initiatives to support energy projects to help Maine's homes and businesses lower their energy bills and reduce their carbon emissions. These financing initiatives are designed to drive private capital into market gaps for energy efficiency and clean energy equipment and services. They are an important complement to the Efficiency Maine's other incentives for residents and businesses. Information about the Efficiency Maine Green Bank can be found at <https://www.efficiencymaine.com/green-bank/>.

MaineHealth Awarded \$12.9M Center Grant Renewal by the NIH

PORTLAND, ME (August 4, 2023) – The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has awarded MaineHealth a five-year, \$12.9 million renewal of its Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) in Metabolic Networks grant. The funding will advance research infrastructure for the study of metabolic diseases, including obesity, diabetes, osteoporosis and lipid and energy imbalances.

This grant renewal will allow the MaineHealth Institute for Research (MHIR) to build upon the success of its COBRE, which was established through a five-year, \$11 million NIH grant in 2017. In the first five years of the COBRE, MHIR researchers studied how metabolically active tissues,

including fat, bone and the brain, use energy and control overall metabolism in the body, and how this is altered during disease.

In these next five years, researchers will study the impact different kinds of fat tissue may have on diabetes, how bariatric surgery to treat metabolic disease affects bone health and the effects of night shift work on gestational diabetes during pregnancy and beyond. As these researchers obtain independent grants, new opportunities will become available to support additional investigators who study metabolic diseases that are prevalent in Maine and across the country.

"Our goal is to make new discoveries that can serve the health and medical needs of our commu-

MaineHealth

nities, while continuing to recruit and support the research careers of junior investigators," said Lucy Liaw, PhD, faculty scientist at MHIR and the principal investigator for this grant. "We do that by providing a strong advisory and mentorship network for our researchers and high quality shared scientific resources. This foundation launches the career of faculty researchers, who create opportunities for our workforce and train the next generation of researchers."

Four investigators who began their careers with funding through the COBRE now lead their own grant-funded re-

search: Katie Motyl PhD, Aaron Brown PhD, Michaela Reagan PhD – all at MHIR – and Christine Lary, PhD, a research associate professor at the Roux Institute at Northeastern University and adjunct faculty scientist at MHIR.

"Being a project leader on the COBRE helped me to develop lifelong collaborations with outstanding scientists and taught me the value of team science," Motyl said. "Working together as a group, the COBRE team accomplished much more than we could have if we were all working independently."

The grant renewal will continue to develop

the careers of young scientists. The program also brings state-of-the-art molecular, cellular and physiological technologies to research communities at MaineHealth and across the state.

"We are grateful for the support of the NIH Institutional Development Award program, which funds Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence," said Elizabeth Jacobs, MD, Vice President for Research at MaineHealth. "The work done at this COBRE is central to our mission of improving the health of our patients and communities by providing high-quality affordable care, educating tomorrow's caregivers and researching better ways to provide care."

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Seniors Not Acting Their Age

A Traverse of Megunticook Lake



A kayaker paddles across Norton Pond

By Ron Chase
In my opinion, Megunticook Lake is one of the most picturesque lakes or ponds in Maine. The lofty cliffs of Mount Megunticook rise abruptly from the eastern shore. A multitude of islands and small peninsulas populate the 1,300 acre lake providing a myriad of opportunities for exploration by kayak or canoe.

The largest body of water in Knox County, Megunticook Lake is surrounded by Lincolnville, Hope, and Camden. The lake is a very popular venue for boaters and fishermen. Norton Pond in Lincolnville connects with Megunticook from the north.
In mid-July, my wife, Nancy, and I decided to organize a traverse

of Norton Pond and Megunticook Lake. An email to several boating friends resulted in three of them electing to join us. They would be paddling canoes while Nancy and I chose to navigate solo lake kayaks.
The five of us met at Norton Pond Boating Landing in Lincolnville on a hot steamy sunny day with light winds. After

unloading our boats and gear, we drove two shuttle vehicles to a boat landing on the southeastern shore of Megunticook Lake in Camden. Our paddling journey would approximate five miles in distance.

The Norton Pond landing was a bustling place; two children's groups were returning to the ramp in canoes and kayaks when we launched. Others were swimming and sun bathing. Several fishermen were active in the area.

Paddling two solo kayaks, a solo canoe, and a tandem canoe, the five of us passed several camps as we navigated west across the pond. At the terminus, we negotiated under a bridge and through a narrow passageway that connects with Megunticook Lake.

Emerging into expansive open water on Megunticook, we were immediately impressed with the remarkable view of Mount Megunticook that dominates the landscape in the southeast. A maze of islands and peninsulas cluttered the northern sector of the lake as we progressed. The proper route was unclear. After consulting with maps and a GPS, we elected to travel towards the western shore.

During our attempt to find the correct passage through the bewildering assortment of islands, we temporarily lost our way. Following an accidental circumnavigation of a tiny island, we located the proper channel that led down the far western side.

A rugged shoreline with intermittent cliffs was on our left as we progressed south. I was searching for a favorite picnic spot I had visited during a previous outing. Alas, it was occupied. Just beyond, a group of exuberant youngsters were jumping from cliffs and swimming along the shore. We found a quiet alternative rest spot in a shaded cove on Fernald Neck.

Fernald Neck is a large peninsula that extends out into much of the central part of the lake. Undeveloped and home to a significant forest of mature hardwoods, hemlocks, and pines, the 285-acre preserve offers several picnic areas and three hiking trails. Access is possible by either boat or land.

Turning east at the southern end of Fernald, we were greeted with a truly exceptional view



Boaters leave a narrow passage between Norton Pond and Megunticook Lake



After turning Fernald Neck paddlers head east towards Maiden Cliff



Paddlers search for a route in the islands of Megunticook Lake

of spectacular Maiden Cliff and the Mount Megunticook massif. When hiking Ridge Trail high on the mountain, one can enjoy wonderful panoramic vistas of the lake below. Our markedly different perspective from the water offered a captivating contrast.

Advancing closer to Maiden Cliff, we observed technical climbers nearing the distinctive white cross at the top of the escarpment. The imposing vertical cliffs towered over us for the remainder of our voyage.

We completed the thoroughly enjoyable excursion cruising south along the eastern shore of the lake to the busy Route 52 Landing. Only a handful of Maine paddling adventures can compare with

the breathtaking beauty we experienced during our traverse of Norton Pond and Megunticook Lake.

My book, *Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine* includes three more stimulating lake or pond trips.

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.ronchase-outdoors.com or he can be reached at ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net

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Emergency law aims to halt spread of aquatic invasive species

AUGUSTA, ME (August 11, 2023) -- To reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species in Maine, a law was passed by the Maine Legislature that requires boaters to take specific actions to encourage water to drain from their watercraft prior to entering a water body or leaving a launch site (PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 190). Aquatic invasive species are any fish, wildlife, or plant species that spreads to a water body where they do not naturally occur. These species are often transferred to new locations on watercraft, watercraft trailers, and other equipment associated with water recreation, and they impact the health of our waters, fish, and wildlife.

Effective June 16th, 2023, boaters are now required to do the following: Prior to entering a water body and when preparing to leave launch sites, boaters are required to remove or open any devices designed for routine removal/opening (for example, hull drain plugs, bailers, live wells, ballast tanks) to encourage draining of areas containing water (excluding live bait containers). This must be done in a way that does not allow drained water to enter any inland water of the state.

This puts into law what the Clean, Drain, Dry educational and outreach campaign has already been



encouraging boaters to do. By ensuring that all boaters are draining water when it is from a different source than the inland water body they are about to enter, the risk of spreading aquatic invasive species including some that are not always visible by eye, to new areas is drastically reduced. Similar laws are already in effect in more than 20 other states, including neighboring New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York. This law will limit the spread of aquatic invasive species we already have in Maine while proactively limiting potential for the introduction of aquatic invasive species that would be new to the state such as quagga mussels and the spiny water flea.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What aquatic invasive species should I be worried about in Maine?

An aquatic invasive species is any fish, wildlife, or plant that is known to spread to water bodies they are not native to. To name just a few already in Maine, this includes species like northern pike,



black crappie, rusty crayfish, variable-leaf milfoil, brittle naiad, and banded mystery snails.

Why do we care about the spread of aquatic invasive species?

Aquatic invasive species can often have irreversible negative impacts on our water bodies, the outdoor recreation they support, and native fish and wildlife species. The modifications that occur in our natural systems when new aquatic invasive species are introduced disrupt natural ecological processes, can threaten human health & safety, and result in costly, not always successful mitigation efforts.

Where should I drain my watercraft?

Away from any inland water body to prevent direct draining into a water body. Watercrafts should NOT be drained on the boat launch ramp. Since the transfer of aquatic invasive species to new areas within a water body can worsen the infestation, especially in high traffic

launch areas, the preferred practice is to prevent direct draining back into the water body even when leaving the water body.

What does encouraging draining of a watercraft entail?

Boaters shall remove or open any hull drain plugs, bailers, valves, live wells, ballast tanks and

other devices designed for routine removal or opening and closing to encourage water to drain from areas containing water. Containers holding live baitfish for personal or commercial use are exempted from these requirements.

What is considered a watercraft?

“Watercraft” means any type of vessel, boat, canoe, or craft capable of being used as a means of transportation on water, other than a seaplane. This includes motorboats, sailboats, paddle craft (canoes, kayaks, standup paddleboards, etc.)

How else can I help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species?

In addition to drain-

ing water, boaters should clean off visible aquatic plants, animals, and mud from watercraft, motor, trailer, and equipment before leaving water access. Fines can be up to \$2,500 for transporting any aquatic plant. All equipment should also dry before entering another water body.

What if I keep my watercraft on one water body and don't visit other waters?

The new law was written in a way that allows watercraft to still operate bilge pumps to remove rain and lake water that may have entered their watercraft while on that water body, providing the watercraft met the requirement of the new law prior to launching.

What do you think?
 We strongly encourage Letters to the Editor, Op/Eds, columns or any other submissions from our readers.
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Arts & Entertainment

Maine State Ballet's holding Nutcracker auditions

FALMOUTH, MAINE – Maine State Ballet holds open auditions on September 8-9 at its Falmouth studio for its annual Nutcracker performance. Dancers at least 8 years old are invited to participate. More information is at mainestateballet.org.

Staging and choreography is by New York City

Ballet Alumni and Artistic Director Linda MacArthur Miele. Sets and costumes by Costume Designer Gail Csoboth. Robert Lehmann conducts the Maine State Ballet Orchestra.

Performances run two weekends at Portland's Merrill Auditorium November 24-December 3, 2023.



Amtrak Downeaster transports half a million riders in FY2023

PORTLAND, ME (August 11, 2023) – The Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority (NNEPRA) announced today that the Amtrak Downeaster transported 516,723 passengers in fiscal year 2023 (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023), exceeding a half million annual riders for the first time since FY19. Ridership has been steadily rising and the trend is projected to continue. Preliminary reports indicate record-breaking ridership in July.

“It is very rewarding to see Downeaster ridership continue to grow across all markets, trains and stations,” noted Natalie Bogart, NNEPRA Deputy Director. “The results are particularly impressive given that Massachusetts track construction required more than 400 trains to op-

erate limited service last fiscal year.”

The Amtrak Downeaster transported a diverse cross section of riders including business travelers, tourists, families and students as well as 4,500 passengers with disabilities, more than 2,000 bicycles and nearly 1,000 pets. Customer satisfaction remained high with train comfort, cleanliness, and crew friendliness among the best rated service elements.

Amtrak Downeaster ticket revenue of \$10.42M in FY23 was the highest in the service's 21-year history with a record-breaking average fare per passenger of \$20.17. The fifty-percent discounts available to children, seniors and disabled passengers were expanded or streamlined during the year to simplify

the customer reservation process.

The Amtrak Downeaster makes five round-trips daily between Brunswick, ME and Boston North Station, MA servicing 10 communities in between, including a seasonal stop in Old Orchard Beach. Trains sell out regularly, so book early to assure seating and best available fares. Information and reservations are available at AmtrakDowneaster.com.

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

Pie bake-off, beekeeping talk held in Falmouth

FALMOUTH, ME (August 25, 2023) — University of Maine Cooperative Extension in Cumberland County will host an Open House and Annual Meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 6, 5 to 7 p.m., at the UMaine Gardens at Tidewater Farm, 200 Presumpscot Point Road.

The public is invited to learn about Extension's work, explore the gardens, hear a short presentation by local beekeeper Peter Richardson and participate in a King Arthur's Flour Pie Bake-Off. Presentations begin at 5:30 p.m. Light refreshments



Photo courtesy University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

and locally-made ice cream will be provided. No registration required. For more information or to request a reason-

What do you think?

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Computer Science Showcase features local student projects

AUGUSTA, ME (August 18, 2023)—Students and educators from 40 districts across Maine will participate in the Maine Department of Education’s (DOE) Second Annual Computer Science Education Showcase at the Collins Center at the University of Maine on Thursday. The showcase will highlight innovative computer science education programs and projects in schools across Maine, with hands on, interactive exhibits. The exhibits will feature a variety of computer science education projects, including robotics, artificial

intelligence (AI), 3D design, coding, augmented reality/virtual reality (AR/VR), data science, cybersecurity, and more.

Maine continues to lead on computer science education and is the only state to provide interdisciplinary computer science education to all pre-K through grade 12 students in the state. This summer, more than a thousand students from across the state will participate in the Maine DOE’s Maine Learning Technology Initiative (MLTI) Student Conference. Students had access to more than 40 sessions that engaged

them in essential computer science skills and knowledge, including animation, AI/machine learning, AR/VR, audio editing, CAD/3D Design, robotics, coding, and video game design. More than a dozen of the sessions were led or co-led by students. And Nearly 100 educators from across the state attended a multi-day institute in July, focused around computer science education. Educators spent two and a half days engaging in sessions and collaborating to integrate computer science into their classrooms and upcoming school year ac-

tivities. Topics included Robotics & Programming, Coding & Hardware, Augmented & Virtual Reality, and much more.

The Showcase will also feature a panel discussion on computer science education and how Maine is paving the way for students and teachers to be successful in the world of computer science, featuring DOE staff, educators, students, and industry partners. Student and Educator Projects From:

- Augusta Schools
- Bangor Public Schools
- Bar Harbor Schools

- Brewer High School
- Brunswick Schools
- Cape Elizabeth Schools
- East Range CSD
- Gardiner Area Schools
- Hermon Public Schools
- John Bapst High School
- Leeds Central School
- Maine Academy of Natural Sciences
- MSAD 04
- MSAD 11
- MSAD 17
- MSAD 24
- MSAD 27
- MSAD 4
- MSAD 52
- MSAD 75

- Nobleboro Public Schools
- Portland Public Schools
- Princeton Public Schools
- RSU 04
- RSU 05
- RSU 12
- RSU 13
- RSU 19
- RSU 22
- RSU 25
- RSU 26
- RSU 67
- South Portland Public Schools
- Vassalboro Public Schools
- Veazie Public Schools
- Waterville Schools

\$35M to improve fish migration in Maine

WASHINGTON D.C. (August 25, 2023) — Today, U.S. Senator Susan Collins announced that the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT), the Maine Department of Marine Resources (MDMR), and the Passamaquoddy Tribe have received a total of \$35,119,271 through the U.S. Department of Transportation’s (USDOT) Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) program. This program, established through the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), will

assist with the replacement of road stream culverts in fifteen communities located across Maine. Senator Collins, Vice Chair of the Senator Appropriations Committee, was part of the core group of 10 Senators who negotiated the text of the IIJA.

“The culverts identified for replacement through this project are undersized and negatively impact the passage of native migratory fish, including the endangered Atlantic Salmon,” said Senator Collins. “By replacing these undersized

culverts, we are not only enhancing the health of our aquatic habitats and ensuring safer infrastructure for pedestrians and motorists, but also safeguarding the long-term sustainability of Maine’s fishing heritage.”

“This funding will help address fish passage and infrastructure needs at priority locations in Maine,” said MaineDOT Commissioner Bruce Van Note. “We are grateful to Senator Collins for recognizing that the projects we have selected are worthy of these funding awards.”

The funding is allocated as follows:

Franklin County - \$9,237,600 to replace 7 crossings that are barriers to one or more anadromous fish species native to the Sandy River Region of Maine.

Kennebec County, Lincoln County, Sagadahoc County - \$8,945,221 to replace 7 structures that are barriers to one or more anadromous fish species native to Central Maine, including Atlantic Salmon.

Washington County, Waldo County -

\$9,195,000 to replace 9 crossings that are barriers to one or more anadromous fish species native to Downeast Maine, including Atlantic salmon.

Towns of East Machias, Perry, and Pembroke - \$7,741,450 to replace four municipal road-stream culverts that are barriers to one or more anadromous fish species native to Downeast Maine, including Atlantic salmon, rainbow smelt, river herring, and American shad.

Earlier this year, Senator Collins sent a letter to Transportation Sec-

retary Pete Buttigieg in support of the Maine DOT and Maine DMR grant request.

The bipartisan infrastructure law is expected to deliver approximately \$2.5 billion to Maine over its first five years of enactment for critical broadband, transportation, energy, and environmental projects. Since 2009, when Senator Collins became a member of the Appropriations Committee, she has helped to secure more than \$1 billion in competitive transportation grants for the State of Maine.

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Rosary rally and procession held in Gorham



testament to the knowledge that God is with us.”

The procession began at Gorham High School, continued down South Street to the intersection with Main Street, and then concluded at St. Anne Church, where the rally was held. The group sang and carried a statue of Our Lady of Fatima as they walked the one-and-a-half-mile route.

GORHAM, ME (August 18, 2023)—As the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary took place last Tuesday, dozens of people, including Bishop Robert Deeley, participated in a Rosary procession and rally

in the town of Gorham on Saturday, August 12. “This is a beautiful devotion to the Blessed Mother. It is important at times to be public with our faith,” the bishop said. “The procession and that manifestation of faith is a

“It’s to honor Our Lady, especially in advance of her feast day, the Feast of the Assumption [August 15]. It’s a wonderful public witness,” said S. R. Clark from Gorham, who participated in the procession and rally. “It seemed as though there were many bystanders or homeowners peering out and showing interest, and so we trust Our Lady will help bring them closer to Jesus.”

“I have children, and the world is changing so fast in the wrong direction, and Our Lady of Fatima warned us about that,” said Mary Fallon of Durham. “There is no way out of it except through Our Lady’s help. That is the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the reason I’m here. I want to be part of that.”

“Maine and the country need Fatima. We need prayer, so we wanted to come to be part of it,” said Mary Landry of Westbrook.

“People will see something, and they’ll

toot. A lot of people will do that, but they don’t have the courage to come out. In numbers, you are strong. You have to show up. You just have got to do it,” said Donald Landry, Mary’s husband.

Once at St. Anne Church in Gorham, a rally was held outside on the church lawn. The bishop led the opening prayer, after which a number of prayer intentions were raised up, including for the people of Maui impacted by the devastating wildfires, for the protection of all vulnerable children, for those suffering from cancer and other ailments, and for an end to abortion.

After singing “Immaculate Mary,” those present then joined in praying the Angelus, the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Divine Praises, and other prayers.

Rosary rallies are held monthly at St. Anne Church in Gorham from May to October to commemorate the six ap-

pearances of the Blessed Mother to three children in Fatima, Portugal, in 1917. The rallies were started by the group Maine Needs Fatima back in 2017, the 100th anniversary of the apparitions.

Maine Needs Fatima is working to bring Our Lady of Fatima’s message to more parish communities around Maine. Rallies are planned for both Gorham and Gray on September 16, and in October, the Month of the Holy Rosary, rallies are scheduled in Cape Elizabeth, Gorham, and Gray on October 14, with more expected to take place. Maine Needs Fatima also offers home visitations with the statue of Our Lady of Fatima. For more information, visit www.maineneedsfatima.org.

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



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Red Cross investing Maine, local service delivery

PORTLAND, ME (August 1, 2023) — The American Red Cross is pleased to announce a once-in-a-generation project to modernize humanitarian service delivery to better meet the needs of Mainers now and for years to come.

The exciting \$3.6 million dollar investment in the future of the Red Cross will provide critical upgrades to Maine's most productive blood donor center. The building, located at 524 Forest Avenue in Portland, was built in 1900, purchased by the Red Cross

in 1981, and has yet to undergo a major renovation in 42 years. Yet this location serves as a critical artery to ensuring a safe, resilient blood supply.

"The need for blood is constant. It does not stop for summer vacations, the holidays or a natural disaster. Patients are depending on us to deliver lifesaving blood at a moment's notice. This investment will not only position us to better answer that call, but will foster a vital hub for our more than 600 Maine volunteers who carry out our humanitarian mission

every day – a mission that provides hope and comfort to Mainers during their darkest hours," said Steve Thomas, Red Cross executive director, Southern Maine Chapter.

Twenty-seven Maine hospitals and treatment centers count on the Red Cross to deliver lifesaving blood at a moment's notice. Every day, the Red Cross must collect 152 pints of whole blood to meet patient demand. The Portland Blood Donor Center collects 75% of all platelets donated in Maine – and is the only Red Cross plasma donation lo-

cation in the state.

This sweeping renovation project will transform Portland's blood donor center, streamline Red Cross community blood drive operations and unite all Red Cross lines of service – from community preparedness and disaster relief to Biomedical Services, Training Services, Service to the Armed Forces, International Services and Volunteer Services – under one roof. Construction will be carefully executed to ensure minimal disruptions to service delivery.

This project is gen-

erously supported by \$871,000 in federal funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration, made possible through bipartisan support, in the Fiscal Year 2022 Appropriations process, and remains open to additional community support.

To fulfill its humanitarian mission, the Red Cross needs strong partners and advocates. We are grateful for the support of Senator Collins, Senator King, Maine's entire federal delegation and community partners as we embark on this project. Without them,

this initial phase would not be possible.

"Every two seconds, when someone in the U.S. needs blood, the Red Cross is there to meet that critical need," said U.S. Senator Susan Collins. "It was an honor to visit the dedicated staff at Red Cross today, and I will continue to support any and all efforts to improve and expand their vital, lifesaving work."

For additional information on how you can support the Portland modernization project, email supportNNE@red-cross.org.

New Director at Rufus Porter Museum of Art and Ingenuity

BRIDGTON, ME (August 4, 2023) -- The Rufus Porter Museum of Art and Ingenuity is pleased to welcome its new Executive Director Blainor McGough of Gorham.

Blainor is a longtime contributor to the Maine arts scene as a musician, DJ, performing artist, curator, and founding Executive Director of Mayo Street Arts in Portland from 2009-2021.

At Mayo Street Arts McGough curated the Center's music, theater, and visual arts exhibits, while implementing arts and community initiatives drawing together artists, youth, and diverse cultural communities of East Bayside.

Founded in 2005, the Rufus Porter Museum of Art and Ingenuity, located in Bridgton, Maine, features the life and times of a 19th century New En-

glander; artist and inventor, Rufus Porter (1792-1884). Porter is known in the folk art community for his miniature portraits and landscape murals found in early homes throughout New England.

While at Mayo Street Arts, McGough commissioned a mural for the theater's proscenium, Moons of Pluto, 2013, by Patrick Corrigan, and an exterior building mural, Welcome Mural, 2020, by Alexis Iammarino.

The Rufus Porter Museum is in the midst of a capital campaign to build a new barn on its Main Street campus in downtown Bridgton that will display landscape murals of the Rufus Porter School along with inventions and curiosities of Porter's era. The organization has raised 1.3 million of its 1.6 million goal to date, and the



post and beam construction phase of the project is slated to begin August 14.

"The Rufus Porter Museum of Art and Ingenuity is at a turning point in our history" said Therese Johnson, President of the RPM Board of Trustees. "We are thrilled to welcome Blainor as our new Director as we launch the next phase of art and community right in the heart of Downtown Bridgton."

A native of Maine, Blainor lives in Gorham with her husband Brian

Arlet and their 2 boys ages 10 and 14. Blainor received her BA in Communications/Media Studies in 2002 from the University of Southern Maine, is an avid gardener, and races vintage motorcycles with the United States Classic Racing Association.

During her tenure at Mayo Street Arts McGough established RAD, an award-winning arts literacy program for immigrant youth; TAN, a traditional artist network for New Mainer artists awarded by the National Endowment for the Arts; and was instrumental in forming The

Ideals (formerly known as The Ideal Maine Social Aid and Sanctuary Band), Portland's premier activist marching band; and SLAP, a women's philanthropic arm-wrestling league.


Under McGough's leadership MSA received the 2019 Stand for the Arts Award, for level of community outreach and engagement, ability to create inclusive access to artistic programming, and innovative approach to arts education and skills development, and the 2018 Metamorphosis Award, honoring visionary arts leaders of Maine making change for youth,

who have a proven track record of sustained, philanthropic success.

In 2021 during the C-19 Pandemic, McGough and gallerist June Fitzpatrick launched the MSA Pop-up Gallery, featuring artists Richard Wilson, Michel Droge, William Manning, Christopher Patch, Patrick Corrigan, Noriko Sakanishi, Justin Richel, Shannon Rankin, and Patt Franklin.


Blainor worked most recently at Maine Historical Society in Portland Maine as Grants Specialist and is a big fan of MHS and Maine History.

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Red Cross: Steps to help students stay safe

PORTLAND, ME (August 24, 2023) — Soon students will head back to school, some entering the classroom for the first time. The American Red Cross Northern New England Region offers ten ways to help make sure your student is safe as they head back to school for the upcoming year.

“There are some special steps parents of younger kids should take, especially if they have youngsters going to school for the first time,” said Stephanie Couturier, American Red Cross Regional CEO, “They should make sure the child knows their phone number, address, how to get in touch with their parents at work, how to get in touch with another trusted adult and how to dial 911. And teach

them not to talk to strangers or accept rides from someone they don’t know.”

Here are more steps to follow to help your child stay safe:

If your student rides a bus to school, they should plan to get to their bus stop early and stand away from the curb while waiting for the bus to arrive.

Students should board the bus only after it has come to a complete stop and the driver or attendant has instructed them to get on. They should only board their bus, never an alternate one.

All students should stay in clear view of the bus driver and never walk behind the bus.

Cross the street at the corner, obey traffic signals and stay in the crosswalk.

Never dart out into

the street or cross between parked cars.

If children go to school in a car, they should always wear a seat belt. Younger children should use car seats or booster seats until the lap-shoulder belt fits properly (typically for children ages 8-12 and over 4’9”), and ride in the back seat until they are at least 13 years old.

If a teenager is going to drive to school, parents should mandate that they use seat belts. Drivers should not use their cell phone to text or make calls and avoid eating or drinking while driving.

Some students ride their bike to school. They should always wear a helmet and ride on the right, in the same direction as the traffic is going.

When children are

walking to school, they should only cross the street at an intersection, and use a route along which the school has placed crossing guards.

Parents should walk young children to school, along with children taking new routes or attending new schools, at least for the first week to ensure they know how to get there safely. Arrange for students to walk to school with a friend or classmate.

DRIVERS, SLOW DOWN!

Drivers should slow down as children head back to school. Know that yellow flashing lights indicate the bus is getting ready to stop and motorists should slow down and be prepared to stop. Red flashing lights and an extended stop sign indicate the bus is stopped

and children are getting on or off.

Motorists must stop when they are behind a bus, meeting the bus or approaching an intersection where a bus is stopped. Motorists following or traveling alongside a school bus must also stop until the red lights have stopped flashing, the stop arm is withdrawn, and all children have reached safety. This includes two and four-lane highways. If physical barriers such as grassy medians, guide rails or concrete median barriers separate oncoming traffic from the bus, motorists in the opposing lanes may proceed without stopping. Do not proceed until all the children have reached a place of safety.

PREPARE FOR EMERGENCIES Know

what the emergency plan is at your child’s school in case a disaster or an unforeseen event occurs. Develop a family emergency plan so everyone will know who to contact and where to go if something happens while children are at school and parents are at work. Details are available at redcross.org/prepare.

TAKE A FIRST AID CLASS Learn and practice first aid and CPR skills by taking a course so you can help save a life. Download the free Red Cross First Aid app for instant access to information on handling the most common first aid emergencies whether it be before, during or after school. You can find it by searching for ‘American Red Cross’ in your app store or at redcross.org/apps.

MaineCF grants available for land conservation, access



ELLSWORTH & PORTLAND, ME (August 11, 2023) – The Maine Community Foundation (MaineCF) offers two funding opportunities for organizations and projects dedicated to helping Maine people access and connect with the outdoors.

MaineCF’s Maine Land Protection grant program provides general support grants to organizations and projects that build strong connections between people in Maine and our land and water through land acquisition, conservation and easements. Grants from the Conservation for All program invest in organizations and projects that pro-

vide access to the outdoors for all Maine people.

In 2022, Maine Land Protection awarded five grants totaling \$153,600. Two additional grants totaling \$20,000 were made by donors with advised funds at MaineCF.

MaineCF launched the grant program in 2020 and has awarded more than \$1 million to 29 projects. The Maine Land Protection grant program provides grants for land acquisition or land conservation easement projects that build strong connections between people in Maine/ Wabanaki territory and its land and water.

2022 grantees include:



Friends of Haystack Mountain was awarded a 2022 Maine Land Protection grant to conserve a 57-acre parcel in Montville for public recreation. Photo courtesy Friends of Haystack Mountain

Friends of Haystack Mountain, to acquire 57 acres in Montville, which includes recreational trails and blueberry barrens

Land in Common, to purchase 105 acres in Greene: 70 will be returned to Wabanaki care, 22 will be added to an existing agricultural ground lease, and 13 will become

long-term ground leases for new BIPOC land stewards

Trust for Public Land, to purchase 24 acres in Portland to create the North Deering Park.

Last year, the Conservation for All grant program awarded 12 grants totaling \$153,000. An additional seven grants total-

ing \$34,400 were made by donors with advised funds at MaineCF. Conservation for All focuses on programs and projects that help create equitable access to the outdoors, clean air and clean water.

2022 grantees include:

Land in Common, to collaborate with commu-

nities directly impacted by injustice on projects that create land access for affordable housing, foodways, ecological stewardship, social transformation, joy, and liberation

Maine GearShare, to increase its inventory and break down barriers for people who can’t access gear

Women for Healthy Rural Living, for its Outdoor Women Lead program.

The deadline to submit proposals for both grant programs is Sept. 15. For more information, eligibility requirements and to submit a proposal, visit www.mainecef.org.

For more information, contact Program Officer Stephanie Cesario, scenarios@mainecef.org or 207-412-0824.

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.

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St. Mary’s Bank Foundation awards \$5K to Stepping Stones

MANCHESTER, NH (August 9, 2023) — St. Mary’s Bank Charitable Foundation has awarded \$5,338 to Stepping Stones, Greater Nashua’s only drop-in center for homeless, unaccompanied youth aged 25 and under. The grant award will enable Stepping Stones to provide two youths with six months of services, some of which will include food, clothing, and access to a

shower and laundry.

“Stepping Stones provides a vital service to a segment of the population that is underrepresented and often forgotten,” said Ken Senus, St. Mary’s Bank CEO. “We applaud and support their critically important mission.”

Established in 2020, the Foundation ensures St. Mary’s Bank can sustain “a high level of community giving for the long term.”

“An investment in Stepping Stones directly reflects our broader philanthropic areas of concern,” added Senus.

According to Zach Paoone, development and communications coordinator for Stepping Stones, the grant supports their goals to help young people plan their career, educational, and housing goals.

“We depend on funds

from charitable organizations to provide this safe haven as more youth turn to our new transitional housing that opened this past spring,” he said.

Since 2020, Stepping Stones has helped more than 130 young people with nowhere to go access food, clothing, showers, laundry, mail, and lockers. To learn more about Stepping Stones, visit steppingstonesnh.org.

Tonight! Local photography illustrates stories of addiction



Wiscasset resident Lucia Droby and her son, Jon Burns, who is in addiction recovery. "I'm one of the lucky mothers," she says, "my son is alive and in recovery." View this and other 'Lights of Lincoln County' portraits by Charles Richards during Wiscasset Art Walk, Thursday, Aug. 31, 5-8pm. (Charles Richards photo)

WISCASSET, ME (August 25, 2023) – Charles Richards did not start his working life as a professional portrait and wedding photographer. He was a paramedic for eleven years and a police officer for 8 of those years. Finally leaving public safety after a diagnosis of PTSD, Richards found refuge and healing in the fascinating world of cameras. Last spring, Richards saw a request on Facebook for volunteers, including photographers, from a community initiative called 716 Candles. He signed on to the project and now has an exhibit,



Wiscasset's Taylor family lost Alex Taylor to drug overdose in 2020 at the age of 19. In the photo, from the 'Lights of Lincoln County' exhibit, his step-sister, Chelsea Taylor (l) and his mother, Deb Taylor, hold his photo with the refrain, "You are deeply loved," which became a shared sentiment throughout the community after his passing. Photos from the exhibit by Charles Richards, part of the 716 Candles Project, will be on view during Wiscasset Art Walk, Thursday, August 31, 5-8pm. (Charles Richards photo)

'Lights of Lincoln County', circulating through the area. Part of the exhibit will be on display during Wiscasset Art Walk on Thursday, August 31, 5-8pm. The 716

Candles Project is a collaboration between Healthy Lincoln County and Damariscotta artist Peter Bruun and includes many other volunteers for whom ex-



Bath photographer Charles Richards' collection of portraits of people affected by addiction, Lights of Lincoln County, is part of the 716 Candles Project and can be viewed during Wiscasset Art Walk on Thursday, August 31, 5-8pm. (Aasha Edwards photo)

periences around addiction are a life-changing theme. "Lights of Lincoln County" illustrates these experiences through photographic portraits. Events throughout Lincoln County, centered around International Overdose Awareness Day on August 31, use the arts and storytelling to acknowledge loss, honor recovery, and enhance addiction awareness and empathy. For details: www.716candlesproject.wordpress.com

Photographer Richards is not in recovery himself, but he did watch close family members struggle with addiction, and, as a



Portrait photographer, Charles Richards, photographed people experiencing the affects of addiction for Lights of Lincoln County, a part of the 716 Candles Project. A segment of the exhibit will be at Wiscasset Art Walk, Thursday, August 31, 5-8pm (Aasha Edwards photo)

paramedic, he saw "just about everything" associated with drug use, so "the 716 Candles Project really hits home," he said. Going through treatment for his PTSD, Richards explained, gave him an understanding for the stigma around drug use. While he decided to be open about his trauma and healing experience, he saw others denying and hiding their trauma history and behaviors which, he said, led them to self-treating with alcohol and drugs to suppress

the anxiety and memories associated with PTSD.

Similarly, "people are afraid to reach out because of the stigma (associated with drug use)," he said. "Not sharing stories and talking about addiction only adds to the problem and puts more stress on people. The problem is not going away soon, so the more people can talk about their experiences publicly, the better the outcome."

Richards' portraits of local people living on some part of the addiction continuum are in black and white. He believes "this helps draw the viewer into the image and the emotion in the photo. I hope it brings awareness and lowers the stigma of it."

Visitors can view portraits from the 'Lights of Lincoln County' exhibit and talk with some of the people featured in the photos during the Wiscasset Art Walk on Thursday, August 31, 5-8pm.

For more information about Wiscasset Art Walk and 716 Candles, visit www.wiscassetartwalk.org or email to wiscassetartwalk@gmail.com. Wiscasset Art Walk is a program of Wiscasset Creative Alliance.



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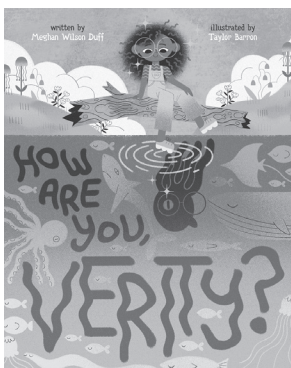
MACHIAS, ME (August 11, 2023) – A neurodivergent child interacts with their neighbors to discover the true meaning behind greetings and salutations.

When people say “How are you?” are they really asking or just saying hello? Verity, who is neurodivergent, plans an experiment to figure this out.

Verity is bubbling with excitement about an

upcoming school field trip to the aquarium! When neighbors ask, “How are you?” Verity shares their excitement and fascinating facts about sea animals. Their older brother John kindly suggests that the question “How are you?” is actually a greeting and not an invitation to share so much. Verity plans an experiment to find out if their brother is right.

But when the trip to



the aquarium is canceled, Verity is heartbroken.

When people ask “How are you?” what should they say then?

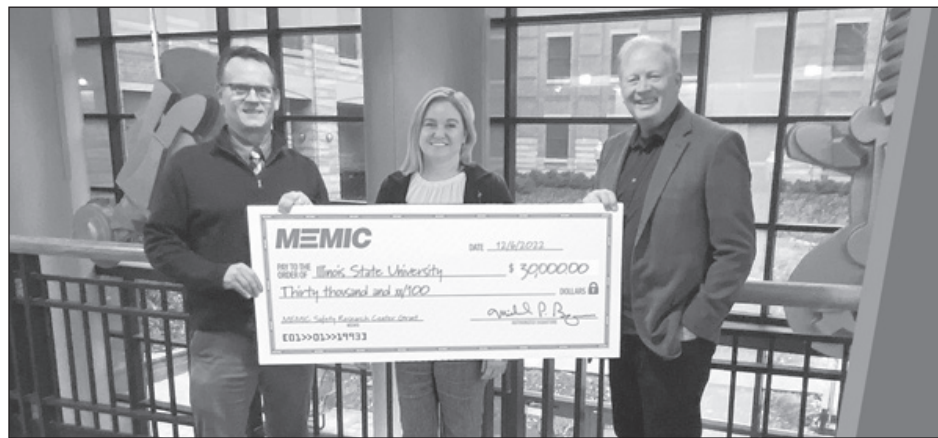
Readers will come for the lesson on social pragmatics, but stay for the happy infodumping about sea life with neighbors.

Meghan Wilson Duff wanted to be a marine biologist when they were younger, but somewhere along the way they got distracted by trying to figure out other people

and became a psychologist. They write books for children. How Are You, Verity?, illustrated by Taylor Barron and released by Magination Press in August 2023 is their first published book. They are a faculty member in the Psychology & Community Studies program at the University of Maine at Machias. Prior to teaching, they worked as a child and family therapist and ad-

olescent addictions treatment provider. Meghan is a member of the Society for Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI), Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance (MWPA), and a Schweitzer Fellow For Life. They are a Maine Writing Project Teacher-Consultant and part of the National Writing Project's Writers Council. (www.meghanwilsonduff.com)

MEMIC seeks workplace safety research proposals



PORTLAND, ME (August 25, 2023) – The MEMIC Safety Research Center is accepting applications for a grant of up to \$30,000 to engage in research that makes a positive impact on workforce safety and health.

This is the third round of grants offered by the MEMIC Safety Research Center, created in 2021 to facilitate understanding and prevention of occupa-

tional injury and illness in partnership with MEMIC staff, policyholders, and academia. Funding in the 2023 round is available to researchers from higher education institutions in the United States and its territories.

MEMIC Group President & CEO Michael Bourque said the grant program's third year will add to beneficial workplace safety research begun in 2021.

“We are excited to continue the program and see it flourish,” Bourque said. “MEMIC Safety Research Center grants are an opportunity for researchers to intensively examine workforce safety challenges, gain high-profile publicity for their work, and create positive change for the American workforce in partnership with MEMIC. Research generated by this program will be integrat-

ed with the work of expert MEMIC Loss Control professionals who are continuously implementing real-time safety solutions.”

The MEMIC Safety Research Center made its first-ever award in 2021 to a faculty team at Indiana University of Pennsylvania's Department of Safety Sciences investigating ways to limit slips, trips, and falls in the workplace. In 2022, a research team at Illinois State University began MEMIC-funded research into how wearable technologies can best benefit workers.

“The MEMIC funding is essential as we strive to keep new technology at the forefront of our research, giving us the opportunity to understand how new technology can be used to address a historically problematic hazard on construction sites,” said

Dr. Wanda Minnick, lead researcher for the Indiana University of Pennsylvania team. “This type of applied research is fundamental in developing interventions to minimize the likelihood of slips, trips, and falls.”

The MEMIC Safety Research Center was launched as part of The MEMIC Group's mission to make workers' comp work better with compassion, trusted partnerships, and relentless commitment to workforce safety. By working closely with policyholders over the past 30 years, MEMIC safety experts have reduced the probability of occupational injuries and illnesses by directly observing, collecting, and analyzing data to identify the root causes of injuries and provide practical preventive solutions.

Proposals for 2023 MEMIC Safety Research

Center grants must be submitted online via the proposal submission form by Oct. 20. Grants will be awarded in November.

Funded projects must be completed within two years, and results disseminated through peer reviewed journals or via published thesis or dissertation. Updates on research progress must be provided on a semi-annual basis. Proposals must indicate short- and long-term impacts to workforce safety and health.

Visit [memic.com/research-center/published-work](https://www.memic.com/research-center/published-work) for more information about The MEMIC Safety Research Center and a full description of application requirements. Visit <https://www.memic.com/research-center/published-work> to view a list of peer-reviewed articles published by members of MEMIC's Loss Control Department.

Maine push to shut down illegally operated marijuana businesses

WASHINGTON, D.C. (August 24, 2023) – Maine's Congressional Delegation is pushing the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to shut down illegally operated Chinese marijuana growing operations in Maine. In a letter to Attorney General Merrick Garland, Senators Susan Collins and Angus King, and Representatives Chellie

Pingree and Jared Golden ask the DOJ to address the illegal growing operations run by foreign governments or entities.

The letter comes in response to media reports indicating that there could be 270 suspected Chinese illegal marijuana growing operations in Maine worth an estimated \$4.37 billion.

“Maine state law

permits marijuana use in certain circumstances, and the Maine Office of Cannabis Policy (OCP) provides oversight,” wrote the Maine Delegation. “OCP is responsible for licensing, compliance, and general oversight of both medical marijuana use and recreational use, and it consults with other state agencies—including the Department of Agri-

culture, Conservation and Forestry; the Department of Health and Human Services; the Department of Labor; and the Department of Public Safety—on rulemaking related to their areas of expertise.”

The Maine Delegation continued, “These reports of illegal growing operations within the state are alarming, and we are writing to request additional information about what the DOJ is doing to address this situation. We request answers to the following questions: What is the DOJ doing to address illegal growing op-

erations, including illegal growing operations that are run by foreign governments or entities? How are the profits from these illegal operations being returned to the country of origin? These reports identify Chinese ownership. Is the DOJ aware of this alleged Chinese ownership or any other foreign involvement in these operations? Please provide any additional information about the memo identified in these reports, including who produced it, when the information contained in the memo was first obtained, and

what actions have been taken in response? What action is the DOJ taking to swiftly shutdown any illegal marijuana growing operations in the state of Maine?”

The Cannabis Legalization Act, passed by voters in 2016, established a regulatory framework governing adult cannabis use in Maine. The legislation specifies regulations for tracking cannabis plants and product, enforcement and compliance, health and safety data, labeling and packaging, and licensing and fees.



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Aug 31

AUBURN -- The Maine Iris Society will hold its Annual Siberian & Daylily Auction on Saturday, September 2nd at the United Methodist Church which is located at 439 Park Avenue in Auburn, ME. The auction begins at 1:00 pm and will be held outdoors, weather permitting. Attendees may wish to bring their own lawn chairs for more comfortable seating. Admission is free and open to the public.

Sept 2

GORHAM -- On Saturday, September 2nd, starting at 1:00 pm at the United Methodist Church, 439 Park Avenue in Auburn, the Maine Iris Society will hold its annual auction of Siberian irises and daylilies. All are welcome.

Sept 2

BAR MILLS -- DAVID MALLETT - at Saco River Theatre, 29 Salmon Falls Road, Bar Mills, ME, Sept 2 at 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$15 General Admission at www.sacorivertheatre.org or call 207-929-6473 for reservations.

Sept 6

BAR MILLS -- MARIA MULDAUR'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF "MIDNIGHT AT THE OASIS" - at Saco River Theatre, 29 Salmon Falls Road, Bar Mills, ME, Sept 6 at 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$15 General Admission at www.sacorivertheatre.org

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

theatre.org or call 207-929-6473 for reservations.

Sept 8

LEWISTON -- Opening Minds through Art (OMA) art show Friday, September 8, 2023 from 1-3 p.m. SeniorsPlus, 8 Falcon Road, Lewiston, ME. The public is invited to an art opening in the Lewiston headquarters featuring OMA artists and their art. Free. Contact SeniorsPlus at 207-795-4010, edcenter@seniorsplus.org.

Sept 8

LEWISTON -- 10:00am at the Lewiston Public Library: BABY'S 1ST MASTERPIECE - MESS-FREE PAINTING Help your baby create a mess-free masterpiece. Free. No registration required. Recommended for caregivers and their children ages 3 months-12 months. 513-3133; www.LPLonline.org

Sept 13 and 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month

LEWISTON -- MAKE ART WITH ARTVAN 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month, 3:30PM starting September 13th

ArtVan will be providing hands-on creative art program in the Children's Department of the

Lewiston Public Library for children ages 5-14 (ages 5-8 must be accompanied by an adult) for self-expression, personal growth, and fun.

Free. All art supplies will be provided. 513-3133; www.LPLonline.org

Sept 14

AUBURN -- Job-InME is hosting a Career Fair that is Free to job Seekers at the Hiton Garden Riverwatch on Sept 14, 2023 from 3-6 PM. Some of the best companies in Maine will be there looking to hire!

Oct 21

WESTBROOK -- Annual Holiday Craft Fair and Silent Auction

Where: Prides Corner Community Church, 235 Pride St. Westbrook, ME 04038

When: October 21, from 9AM to 3PM

Handmade crafts, baked goods and very popular silent auction items featuring sports memorabilia, game tickets, themed gift baskets, fabulous items and gift certificates! SILENT AUCTION ENDS AT 2PM.

Oct 28, 29

LEWISTON, TOPSHAM -- "Soulful Expressions" Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023, 7:00 p.m. - Franco

Center, Lewiston; Sunday, Oct. 29, 2023, 2:30 p.m. - Orion Performing Arts Center, Topsham

Jan 20, 21

LEWISTON, TOPSHAM -- "Song & Dance Music from Around the World" Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024, 7:00 p.m. - Franco Center, Lewiston; Sunday, Jan. 21, 2024, 2:30 p.m. - Orion Performing Arts Center, Topsham

Mar 23, 24

LEWISTON, TOPSHAM -- "A New Artistic Mélange" - Emily Isaacson, Guest Conductor Saturday, Mar. 23, 2024, 7:00 p.m. - Franco Center, Lewiston; Sunday, Mar. 24, 2024, 2:30 p.m. - Orion Performing Arts Center, Topsham

May 18, 19

LEWISTON, TOPSHAM -- "Cityscape, Seascape, Soundscape" Saturday, May 18, 2024, 7:00 p.m. - Franco Center, Lewiston ; Sunday, May 19, 2024, 2:30 p.m. - Orion Performing Arts Center, Topsham

Every 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Monday

LEWISTON -- PROGRAMS FOR HOMESCHOOL FAMILIES, held the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Monday 11:15am-12:30pm starting March 6th, 2023 at the Lewiston Public Library Children's Department

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

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

Second and fourth Thursdays

LEWISTON -- YOUTH TRADING CARD GAME CLUB held from 4 PM to 5 PM at the Lewiston Public Library. Join the Youth Trading Card Game Club

to play, learn, trade, and compete with your peers! Games include Pokémon, Magic: the Gathering, and more. All skill levels are welcome. Library staff and volunteers will be available to teach new players and coach developing ones. Free. For kids & teens ages 8-18. 513-3133; www.LPLonline.org

Wednesdays

LEWISTON -- Knitting Group, Dates: Wednesdays, Time: 4:30-7:30 p.m., Facilitator: SeniorsPlus Staff, Location: Education Center, 8 Falcon Road, Lewiston

Join our knitting group to work on your own project, learn from others, and socialize. Classes are free, unless noted. SeniorsPlus is fully accessible. Hearing assistive equipment is available upon request. For more information or to register, call us at 207-795-4010 or visit seniorsplus.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:

- 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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RTT Rider named PATH Intl. 2023 Adult Equestrian of the Year



RTT Rider Debbie Hutchinson stands with her equine partner Paxton

WINDHAM, ME (August 11, 2023) -- Riding To The Top Therapeutic Riding Center (RTT) is thrilled to announce that Debbie Hutchinson has been named the 2023 Adult Equestrian of the Year by the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.). Debbie has ridden at RTT for the past 3 years partnered with RTT's mare, Paxton. Debbie has had MS for over 30 years and she struggles with balance and spasticity that impacts her walking,

but as Debbie says "when I'm riding Paxton, I don't have MS." Not only has riding helped her physically, it has also given Debbie a new support network through the staff and volunteers at RTT.

As RTT Program Director, Kate Jeton puts it, "From her first entry to our center, Debbie's grit and determination were as obvious as her wide smile. She has formed an amazing bond with her horse and without assistance is able to walk and trot, modulating rhythm and pace and

creating bend in her horse's body, in spite of not being able to effectively use her right leg. Her feel for her horse is obvious and her elation is infectious."

"As an international voice in the equine-assisted services (EAS) industry, PATH Intl. has a responsibility to recognize individuals and equines that symbolize our celebration of ability, optimism, diversity, and a shared love of equines," Alyson Thrasher, PATH's Membership and Education Representative, wrote. "Exceptional equestrians who join in the excitement offered by EAS are a testament to the power of the horse to change lives. Debbie Hutchinson is an outstanding representative of the PATH Intl. adult equestrian community."

Debbie's riding team is in full agreement with PATH Intl.'s decision. "I've had the pleasure of working with Debbie for several years. She performs her pre-ride warm up with tenacity, enthusiasm, and determination to assure a successful lesson. She deals with the stress of her condition daily, but when she is sitting high on her horse, her focus is on establishing a close



Janis Childs, Susan Layton, Kate Jeton, Clayton Peters, Debbie Hutchinson, Paxton, Jen Robinson

connection with her horse, achieving horsemanship skills, and the pure joy of riding. Her constant smile says it all," team member

Susan Layton says.

To learn more about Debbie's journey, visit Riding To The Top's YouTube page at youtube.com/

user/ridingtothetop to see Debbie and team member, Janis Childs, give the keynote speeches at the 2022 Triple B.

Clothes Galore at Gorham's Mission of Hope Clothes Closet

GORHAM, ME (April 29, 2023) -- The FREE Clothes Closet at Cressey Road Church (Mission of Hope Clothes Closet) is open to all who need Fellowship, Friendship and Clothes. We are located at 81 Cressey Road, Gorham, and we are open on the FIRST and THIRD Saturday of each month from 9 o'clock AM to 12 Noon.

We focus on clothes and accessories (gloves, scarves, hats, etc.) and welcome your donations during our operating hours. Clean clothes in good shape help the most, as they go right out to help people locally or in nearby communities. An attempt is made to have season appropriate clothes available to you. After we have displayed them for a

time, they are donated to serve the people in need in Ukraine.

In addition to helping folks find clothes, we want to spend time with you! There are tables to sit, talk and to share a cup of coffee and usually a goodie with volunteers or others. Come see us! You might make a new friend. All are Welcome!

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