

Gorham launches new matching grant program



to businesses in three distinct sectors using a competitive grant application process. At least one grant will be awarded to a business or farm in each of the following three target sectors:

- Agriculture;
- Manufacturing & Skilled Trades;
- Retail & Food Services;

A total of \$45,000 in funding was allocated by the Gorham Town Council for the creation of the new grant program. The program is made available to businesses and farms currently operating in Gorham on commercial and agricultural property located in the Town of Gorham.

In support of the new program, Gorham Savings Bank will provide \$10,000 in additional funding as a "Hometown Match" that will go towards meeting the match requirement for one or more grant recipients.

"Gorham Savings Bank is truly pleased to provide this Hometown Match to our community—one in which we've been rooted for more than 150 years," said Becky Winslow, SVP, Director of Community Relations & Development at Gorham Savings Bank. "We are dedicated to being a force for good and work hard to help local businesses thrive, from supporting startups through our LaunchPad small business competition, to contributing to impactful initiatives like this one."

"This is the type of grant program our

business community has been asking for," said Gorham Town Council Chairperson Lee Pratt. "The goal is to provide the type of funding they need to make their own decisions on what's best for growing and expanding their business in Gorham."

Eligible uses for grant funding under the program include a single, non-recurring procurement in excess of \$10,000 for durable goods, IT needs or related services, and may include upgrades to building or property that directly benefit business operations. There is no minimum grant amount, however, the primary objective of the program is to support transformative growth in business operations through capital expenditures.

Details about the grant program and how to apply are available either on the Town's website or by contacting the Department of Community Development.

The deadline for submitting an application is Friday, November 17, 2023.

"As a Town, we continue to develop ways to support our local business community, based on the needs expressed by the business owners themselves," said Kevin Jensen, Economic Development Director for Gorham. "I'm excited to learn what ideas Gorham businesses and farms have to grow and expand their operations using funds made available through this program."

Mortgage team expands into Cumberland Co.



GRAY, ME (September 15, 2023)

-- Maine State Credit Union is pleased to announce the addition of a mortgage lender at its Gray location at 25 Portland Road. Meghanne Nadeau has joined the team and is available to help all local Mainers with their home loans and mortgage needs.

"We are excited to have Meghanne join the team in Gray," said Nicole Hotchkin, Vice President, Mortgage Lending. "She loves sitting with people, helping them navigate the mortgage process and getting them into the home of their choice."

Maine State Credit Union offers a variety of home loans, including loans for mobile homes, and has home equity loans and lines of credit. They service all their mortgages locally out of the Augusta location.

"I am excited to be part of the team in Gray," said Nadeau. "I am passionate about helping and guiding people through the entire home buying process. At times, it can be overwhelming; being in Gray will allow me to help people face-to-face and hopefully ease some of the stress they may be facing."

Meghanne has been with Maine State Credit Union for over a year, and when she is not helping people get into the home of their dreams, she is exploring Maine and taking photos of its remarkable landscape.

To learn more about the Maine State Credit Union's mortgage team and its products, visit MaineStateCU.org or stop by our Gray Branch at 25 Portland Road and speak with Meghanne.

GORHAM, ME (September 29, 2023) -- The Town of Gorham announced today the launch of a new matching grant program aimed at providing a boost to help local businesses and farms grow and expand into new areas of operation with a one-time purchase of a capital item or service. These single, one-time procurements will help grantees accelerate plans for growth, and create opportunities for expansion, entrepreneurship, and job creation in Gorham.

The Capital Expenditure Matching Grant program provides 50% reimbursement of a capital item, service or site expansion project, up to a maximum award of \$15,000. The program will award grants

Help the Town make Gorham awesome!

GORHAM, ME (September 29, 2023) -- October is National Community Planning Month. Planning is the process of envisioning, mapping, or otherwise conceiving of how a community will look, grow, and define itself, and much of what makes Gorham, Maine a special place has been the result of decades of careful planning. From where you live, to how you commute, to the type of home you live in, planning helps shape the community around us.

Did you know Gorham has many different plans? Thank you for your help in creating all of them! We couldn't do it without you.

Ask The Planners Day

Please join us for sweet treats on October 12th, 2023, between 9:00am and 3:00pm, to ask the planners about the plans Gorham has in place.

We have a long history of community planning. Check out our planning history at the Town's website.

Ways to participate in Community Planning Month

Ask the Planners Day! October 12th 9am - 3pm

Scavenger Hunt

BINGO

Crossword Puzzle

Word Search



Submit games and puzzles with name, email and phone number to the Planning Office to enter to win one of two gift bags!

Library Must Reads

Stop by the Baxter Memorial Library for the following planning must reads and great suggestions for your book club!

A Better Way to Zone by Donald Eliott

Changing Maine by Richard Barringer Conservation Design for Subdivision by Randall Arendt

Design with Nature by Ian L. McHarg Economic Development: What Works on the Local Level, National League of Cities

Growing Greener by Randall Arendt Local Planning: Contemporary Principles and Practice edited by Gary Hack, et al. Nature Friendly Ordinances by James McElfish, Jr.

People Habitat by F. Kaid Benfield

Planners on Planning by Bruce McClendon and Anthony Catanese

Rural by Design by Randall Arendt

Silent Spring by Rachel Carson

Smarter Land Use by Karl Kehde

The Death and Life of Great American Cities by Jane Jacobs

The Geography of Nowhere: The Rise and Decline of America's Man-Made Landscape by James Howard Kunstler

The Next American Metropolis: Ecology, Community, and the American Dream by Peter Calthorpe

The Small Town Planning Handbook by Daniels, Keller and Lapping

The Smart Growth Manual by Duany, Speck Lydon

Walkable City by Jeff Speck

For Kids:

What do people do all day? By Richard Scarry

Metropolis by Benoit Tardif

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

MDF recognizes leaders in helping Mainers thrive and prosper

HALLOWELL, ME (September 28, 2023) — Maine Development Foundation (MDF), is thrilled to announce our 2023 Champion Award winners. These awards recognize exemplary leadership toward economic improvement and systemic change necessary for each and every Mainer to thrive and prosper.

“These awards honor individuals, organizations, and businesses who are involved day in and day out in innovative and critical work that is helping Mainers, thrive, prosper, and realize all that they aspire to,” says Yellow Light Breen, MDF’s President and CEO. “Each of our awardees is leading actionable and scalable efforts that help drive systemic change toward a

more equitable, inclusive Maine economy and ensure Maine continues to be a great place to live and work for all.”

MDF proudly bestowed the following awards before an audience of 200 during “Aspire: Unlocking the Potential of Maine to Thrive and Prosper,” MDF’s 45th Annual Meeting & Champion Awards Celebration held yesterday at the Hilton Garden Inn in Bangor:

2023 William F. King, Jr., Downtown Champion Award to Phyllis Young, Ret. Board Chair, Heart of Ellsworth, for her tireless advocacy and strategic leadership that has helped diversify and grow both the culture and economy of her beloved hometown of Ellsworth. This



CONNECTING PEOPLE & STRATEGIES TO DRIVE MAINE’S ECONOMY

includes countless hours of hands-on volunteering and mentoring dozens of community leaders and entrepreneurs.

2023 Champion of Education and Workforce Development to Inclusion Maine and Exec. Dir. Humza Khan for creating a safe space in the form of their annual conference where Mainers can connect and explore how to be truly equitable and inclusive. Participants come away equipped to implement policies, procedures, and programs that instill a sense of belonging and are helping grow Maine’s work-

force. 2023 Champion of Rural Economic Development to LP Building Solutions and Ryan Bushey, Dir. of HR & Safety, for a steadfast commitment to growing Maine’s forest economy and the workforce it needs now and for decades to come. Ryan is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion and is a member of the FOR/Maine Coalition Steering Committee, Aroostook Partnership, Houlton Rotary, as well as a steadfast supporter of the region’s career & technical education programs.

2023 ICL Dis-

tinguished Alum Award to Tony Payne, V.P. of External Affairs with MEMIC, and a member of ICL’s Beta Class, for his career-long commitment to an equitable, inclusive Maine culture and economy. Tony serves on numerous boards, in mentoring roles, and volunteers in hands-on projects aimed at cross-cultural, multi-generational growth for Maine’s workforce and communities.

2023 Kenneth M. Curtis Leadership Award to Claudette Ndayinazahaze, Exec. Dir. of In Her Presence, a Portland-based nonprofit working to lift language barriers and support the career trajectory and financial stability of immigrant women and their families. Claudette is a member of Lead-

ership Maine’s Allagash Class and serves on numerous boards and advisory councils for economic development organizations across the state.

2023 President’s Award to the University of Maine System for its wholistic approach to making affordable, quality education and career training available to every Mainer, and for its systemic efforts to incubate and support Maine entrepreneurs, businesses, and industries.

The event also featured a stirring and inspirational Keynote Speech by artist Charlie Hewitt of the Hopeful Project.

To find out more about the broad range of programs, coalitions, and initiatives MDF leads, go to mdf.org.

Early fall enrollment up 18% at Maine’s community colleges

AUGUSTA, ME (September 1, 2023) — Early fall enrollment is up 18 percent at Maine’s community colleges, boosted by a new scholarship for recent high school graduates, expanded programs, and an easing of pandemic-related restrictions.

“The Free College Scholarship is unleashing a new generation of skilled college graduates who are fast-tracked to join the workforce — which Maine businesses desperately need right now — or transfer seamlessly to a four-year college,” said David Daigler, president of the Maine Community College System (MCCS). “People want to learn new skills and pursue their dreams, but money can hold them back. This shows what investing in people hungry for an education can do.”

Community college enrollment nationwide dipped dramatically during the pandemic, with a 17

percent decline in 2020, according to National Student Clearinghouse data. The Free College Scholarship, which started last fall, was intended to re-engage people whose high school and early college experience was disrupted by COVID, particularly since most community colleges serve higher percentages of first generation and lower income students.

The increase in community college students is expected to result in more transfer students going to four-year colleges. MCCS, which has a long-standing block transfer agreement with the University of Maine System (UMS), is actively expanding program-level transfer agreements with individual UMS colleges and other colleges in Maine to capitalize on the influx of students and provide clear academic pathways so students can seamlessly transfer to a four-year college.

Another factor boosting enrollment is a surge of interest in short-term workforce programs that take less than a year to complete and have invigorated overall campus activity at Maine’s community colleges. Some students enrolled in either short-term or degree programs are cross-enrolling to expand the breadth and depth of their education. At Washington County Community College, residential and commercial electricity student Brandon Vinal decided to enroll in a short-term workforce program in fiber optics.

“I saw an opportunity to push myself,” said Vinal, who completed his electrical degree program this spring and is enrolled this fall in the electromechanical instrumentation technology program. Vinal wants to eventually be a licensed master electrician.

Maine’s community colleges have vastly ex-

panded short-term workforce training in recent years due to major investments from the Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan and the Harold Alfond Foundation. In the last year, over 12,000 people enrolled in short-term workforce training programs, up from nearly 3,000 in the previous year. More than 24,000 Mainers are expected to complete short-term training through Maine’s community colleges between 2022 and 2025.

Fall enrollment was also boosted by adding more than 200 seats to the colleges’ nursing programs statewide. The colleges also lifted pandemic-related restrictions, including the student COVID-19 vaccination requirement and limiting residence halls to one student per room.

The early enrollment figures do not include high school students enrolled in Early College programs

or students in short-term workforce training programs. Official fall enrollment figures are calculated on October 15. Final fall enrollment is likely to greatly increase after Early College students are added and because, unlike four-year colleges, community college students traditionally continue to enroll right up to the first day or in the first few weeks of classes.

This is only the second academic year with the Free College Scholarship, which was proposed by Governor Janet Mills in early 2022 and enacted by the Legislature a few months later. In July, the scholarship was extended to the Classes of 2024-25 under the budget passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Mills.

“The scholarship has been very successful in attracting people who didn’t go right off to college in 2020 and 2021. We’ve also seen a big increase in adult

learners who earned their Hi-SET during the qualifying years,” said Dr. Janet Sortor, vice president and chief academic officer for the system.

“Across the state, we hear from high school counselors, parents, and the students themselves that many of these Free College students simply wouldn’t have gone to college otherwise. It finally put a great education within financial reach.”

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Camden National Bank celebrates employees

CAMDEN, ME (September 21, 2023) – Camden National Bank is proud to announce the 14 employees recognized at its annual employee appreciation event. The Commitment Awards honor a select group of employees who demonstrate and serve as role models of the bank’s vision and core values, and who provide outstanding work, excellent customer service, and a dedication to promoting inclusion and belonging in the workplace.

“We are delighted to celebrate our stakeholders’ devotion to our values, and their efforts to go above and beyond to support our customers and each other,” said Greg Dufour, president and chief executive officer of Camden National Bank. “I’m incredibly fortunate to work with so many talented experts, passionate problem-solvers, and community champions. These individuals, along with all our stakeholders, truly represent this year’s theme of

“Superheroes.” Camden National Bank’s 2023 award winners are:

Officer of the Year:
This is the most prestigious officer award, given to someone who demonstrates a remarkable commitment to Camden National Bank.

Brandon Plourde, Vice President, Financial Planning & Analysis Manager, Camden

Stakeholder of the Year:
This is the most prestigious stakeholder award, given to an employee who demonstrates a remarkable commitment to Camden National Bank.

Kendra Bergelin, Commercial Administration Team Leader, Rockport

Bob Daigle Award for Achievement:

The Bob Daigle Award for Achievement is a special accolade given to an employee who has made a significant contribution to positive change

and innovative solutions at Camden National Bank.

Justin Keller, Assistant Vice President, Business Intelligence Analyst, Rockland

Commitment Awards
These awards recognize employees who continuously go the extra mile to provide exceptional service and dedication to their role and the core values of Camden National Bank.

Garrett Alofs, Audit & SOX Compliance Officer, Portland

Sydney Cough, Digital Banking Specialist, Rockport

Victoria Foust, Commercial Loan Administrator Team Leader, Rockport

Meaghan Hayden, Mortgage Loan Officer Assistant, Massachusetts

Heidi Lawson, Assistant Banking Center Manager, Blue Hill

Viktorie Mathiau, Sales & Service Program Manager, Camden

Marvin “Larry” Merritt, Facilities Associate, Ellsworth

Nashelee Monroy, Customer Care Expert, Rockport

Greg Sirois, Retail Regional Director, Northeast Region

Lori Theriault, Relationship Banker Swing, Bangor

Genna Williamson, Retail Education Specialist, Rockport

These 14 award winners continuously live out Camden National Bank’s “Vision and Core Values” in the impressive work they do to make a difference for its customers, employees, and communities. The employee culture they represent is the foundation of the Bank’s success and its rank in the top 20 of U.S. banks on Forbes’ “2023 World’s Best Banks List” for the third consecutive year, recognition as a Customer Experience (CX) Leader by independent research firm Greenwich Associates, and as one of the “Best Places to Work in Maine” for the third consecutive year.



Some of the 2023 Commitment Awards winners pose with President & CEO Greg Dufour. Back row (L-R): Marvin “Larry” Merritt, Greg Sirois, Genna Williamson, Nashelee Monroy, Garrett Alofs, Lori Theriault, Greg Dufour. Front row (L-R): Heidi Lawson, Sydney Cough, Viktorie Mathiau, Victoria Foust.

Volunteer awarded for work with therapeutic horseback riding

WINDHAM, ME (September 15, 2023) – Janis Childs was named Daily Point of Light Award by Points of Light, a non-partisan, global nonprofit organization that inspires, equips and mobilizes millions of people to take action that changes the world. Janis received this recognition for her volunteer work at Riding To The Top Therapeutic Riding Center in Windham. Janis’ ability to relate to people of all ages, her dedication and her caring personality are traits that have served her well professionally and in her many volunteer roles over the years. As a retired USM faculty member (School of Nursing), Janis is no stranger to service—whether it was working with her patients as a young nurse, educating future nurses in her role at USM or giving of her time and talent as a volunteer. In addition, to her countless hours at RTT, she formerly served as a volunteer with the Coast Guard Auxiliary for many years.

Many kids dream about having a pony at some point or another, and Janis was no different. She loved horses and often begged her parents to get one. With her father in the military, her family wasn’t in a position to bring along livestock every time they moved to a different base. But that didn’t stop Janis from putting a saddle on her bicycle with a tail off the back and a rubber horse head on the handlebars.

“When I was looking at retirement, I knew that I wanted to do something to be involved with my community,” she said. “And there happened to be an article in the newspaper about Riding To The Top.”

Riding to the Top (RTT) owns a 50-acre farm and provides equine assisted services to children and adults. The interaction between horse and rider is designed to improve health and well-being but, as Janis would soon find out, also provides unbridled joy to clients and volunteers alike. The idea of work-



(L to R) Neil Bush, Points of Light Chairman of the Board; Janis Childs; Jennifer Sirangelo, Points of Light President and CEO

ing with horses and young riders seemed perfect, and after an initial visit, she was hooked. Janis has been volunteering at RTT for the last 12 years. During this time, she has assisted with nearly every aspect

of the organization—from barn chores, to leading horses and sidewalking in lessons, to helping with RTT’s carriage driving program, to assisting with special events and projects and serving as a member of

RTT’s Board of Directors for nine years.

“We almost get more out of it than the riders. They’re such an inspiration, and the horses are just magnificent. It’s really an honor to be there,” Childs said.

The Daily Point of Light Award uplifts individuals who lead, lend support and take action for causes they care about on their path to leading a fully engaged civic life. The award is given five days a week as Points of Light honors individuals creating meaningful change to meet community needs, efforts that often lead to long-term solutions and impact social problems in their local communities.

President George H.W. Bush was the first president in American history to institute a daily presidential recognition program from the White

House, conferring 1,020 Daily Point of Light Awards on citizens and organizations making a difference in other people’s lives and solving community problems. Points of Light continues this recognition and now has more than 7,500 honorees to date.

“The Daily Point of Light Award recognizes those who saw something they wanted to improve in the world, then through their time, talent and efforts, began making those improvements,” said Diane Quest, Interim President and CEO at Points of Light. “We’re pleased to honor Janis for her amazing work.”

Janis continues to inspire others with her work and hopes to show others they can make a difference in their communities too.

To learn more about Janis’s work, visit <https://tinyurl.com/JanisChilds>.

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Seniors Not Acting Their Age

Kayaking Rugged Campobello Island



Kayakers enter a narrow channel on the east side of Campobello Island



A paddler approaches Liberty Point



Visitors at Mulholland Point Lighthouse watch kayakers pass

Our multi-day adventure vacation on Campobello Island in New Brunswick was winding down. Ten of us had shared several hiking, biking, and sea kayaking outings in the area while camping on the island at Herring Cove Provincial Park.

Stormy weather had restricted our activities to short hikes and bike rides on the previous day. My wife, Nancy, and I also completed a tour of the Roosevelt Cottage in Roosevelt Campobello International Park for the first time in 50 years; this time without at 10-month old infant. We had a wonderful informative guided tour through the historic home

on Friar's Bay.

Two days earlier, we had discontinued a sea kayak trip on the eastern coastline due to potentially hazardous conditions. Instead of continuing around sometimes treacherous Liberty Point on the southeastern end of the island we had suspended our voyage at Herring Cove Beach. Our new objective was to launch at Herring Cove and navigate the remainder of the east shore, all of the southern end, and part of the west coast as far north as Friar's Bay.

We needed a favorable weather forecast and the sea kayaking gods delivered. Sunny skies, warm temperatures, calm

seas, light winds, and a chance of patchy fog were forecast.

Seven of us endeavored to complete the planned excursion in solo kayaks. Three members of the group opted to bike the Roosevelt Park Carriage Roads instead. They thoughtfully agreed to drop us off at Herring Cove and leave a shuttle vehicle at Friar's Bay. The voyage was on.

Ominously, an offshore fog bank appeared to be moving towards us when we departed from Herring Cove. After traveling south along the extended beach, we passed Raccoon Beach and Con Robinson Point before

connecting with a continuum of jagged precipitous cliffs.

Patchy fog drifted closer to shore as we journeyed along a succession of towering rock formations. On two occasions, we negotiated through narrow passages between the escarpments and huge offshore boulders. Since Liberty Point was the next major landmark, the thickening fog was a concern.

Fortuitously, the fog lifted and sunny skies provided a clear view as we approached Liberty Point. Arriving at approximately high tide, waters were calm as we passed between the precipice and gigantic Sugar Loaf Rock. Maneuvering around the potentially hazardous headland was accomplished without complications.

Our Liberty Point concerns behind us, light winds and gentle waves were welcomed as we kayaked along the south shore. Lower and Upper Duck Ponds were quickly passed and calm seas experienced turning Cranberry Point into Lubec Channel. Shortly after, we landed on Fox Farm Beach for a lunch break. The warm sandy beach provided the ideal location to lay back and relax in the sun.

After departing Fox Farm, a forceful outgoing tide slowed our progress as we passed a small lighthouse in the center of the channel. Moving close to shore to avoid the most powerful waves, we crossed under the FDR International Bridge.

Just beyond, we entered Lubec Narrows adjacent to Mulholland Point Lighthouse. Discontinued in 1963, the distinctive light is now part of Roosevelt Park. Several visitors, including the cyclists in our group, waved as we paddled past.

Rugged Friar's Head was the next significant promontory. Navigating around the head, we cruised into expansive Friar's Bay. The dark red Roosevelt Cottage was observed high on an embankment overlooking the bay.

The tide was out exposing perhaps 100 yards of beach when we arrived at our planned destination. Fortunately, most of the beach had a gravel base with minimal mud. We doubled up to carry our kayaks ashore completing an exceptionally scenic paddle of the eastern half of Campobello Island.

For most of us, the kayak voyage was the last significant outing of our

memorable Downeast vacation. When we gathered around the campfire that night, we had an abundance of notable tall tales to reminisce about.

Typical of our group, new adventures were a major topic of conversation. The possibility of an extended visit across the Bay of Fundy to Grand Manan Island next year is a popular choice. The rugged island is home to more spectacular cliffs, a variety of challenging sea kayak trips, and several stimulating hikes and bike rides.

My book, *Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine* narrates eight more exciting sea kayak excursions along the coast of Maine.

Ron Chase resides in Topsham. His latest book, *"Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine"* is available at www.northcountrypress.com/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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\$4.3M for Maine Head Start

WASHINGTON, D.C. (September 8, 2023) – Today, U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King announced that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has awarded Kennebec Valley Community Action Program (KVCAP) a total of \$4,275,384 for its Head Start and Early Head Start Programs. The grants are being awarded through the DHHS Administration for Children and Families.

"Early investments in education are critical for future generations of Maine people," said Senators Collins and King. "Head Start lays the foundation for

lifelong learning, fostering cognitive and social development in young children. Our continued investments in these programs reflect our dedication to the future accomplishments of children throughout Maine."

KVCAP is a non-profit community action program which offers Head Start and Early Head Start programs in Kennebec and Somerset Counties. Its programs promote school readiness and provide a wide range of services to help achieve economic and social self-sufficiency and strengthen the lives and welfare of children and families in Maine.

Head Start was estab-

lished in 1965 to promote school readiness and provide a comprehensive array of health, nutritional, and social services to eligible four- and five-year-old preschoolers and their families. Head Start services include early learning, health, and family well-being. This funding supports local agencies that provide Head Start services across the country.

Senators Collins and King have been longtime advocates for Head Start Programs across Maine. Most recently, they secured more than \$6.5 million for Maine Head Start Programs in Oxford and Franklin Counties.

Dirigo Reads provides books for Maine first graders

BANGOR, ME (September 8, 2023) – Dirigo Reads, a program that aims to put a book in the hands of every Maine first grader each month during the school year by 2025, is announcing the addition of 17 schools to the program, bringing the number of schools served by Dirigo Reads to more than 100, covering about 1/3 of first grade public school students in Maine.

“We are so excited to introduce more schools, more communities, and more families to Dirigo Reads,” said Dan Cashman, co-founder of Dirigo Reads. “There are 16 new communities being added to the program, spread over

15 counties in Maine. They range from large schools like the Kate Furbish Elementary School in Brunswick with 180 first graders, to smaller schools like the Palermo Consolidated School in Waldo County with nine first graders. The geographic footprint of this year’s additions is large, and we couldn’t be happier to see it touch so many parts of Maine.”

Dirigo Reads’ mission is to improve the health and wellbeing of children in Maine through literacy and share a little optimism along the way. This is accomplished by giving first graders in participating schools a brand new book to keep during

every month of the school year. Last year, Dirigo Reads distributed nearly 29,000 books to the eighty-six schools involved in the program. Over four school years, Dirigo Reads has distributed about 55,000 books to first graders in participating schools.

“This year, we have spent the last several months making some structural, behind-the-scenes changes to the program, to ensure it is sustainable for many years to come,” said Cashman. “But the heart of the program remains the kids, and ensuring they have their own home library at the end of their first grade year with ten new books. The thank

you letters we receive from kids, parents, and teachers alike are beyond heartwarming. That’s why this program will continue to thrive.”

With the new schools being added this year, Dirigo Reads has completed its first full coverage of a county. By adding Milo Elementary School, the program is now providing new books to all first graders in Piscataquis County.

Communities participating in Dirigo Reads for the 2023-2024 school year are listed below (schools that participated the previous year are italicized):

A n d r o s c o g g i n
Auburn, Mechanic Falls
Lisbon (New)

C u m b e r l a n d
Portland, Brunswick (New)
Dirigo Reads founding Dirigo Star partner is Machias Savings Bank.

Additional partners of Dirigo Reads include Sutherland Weston, Bangor Savings Bank, the James and Betty Jacobs Charitable Trust, Casella, Northern Light Health, PCHC, Cross Insurance, Changing Seasons Federal Credit Union, Woodlands Senior Living, Hannaford, Versant, and The First, with additional partners set to be announced later this month.

“The partners involved with Dirigo Reads have made a difference in the lives of first graders,”

said Cashman. “Support from partners in the business community is an absolute must for this program to continue to serve first graders in Maine.”

There are about 11,600 first graders enrolled in Maine public schools. With the additional schools for 2023-2024, there will be more than 850 new students added to the program, serving around 3,800 kids, or about 33% of first graders in Maine.

Schools and businesses interested in being a part of Dirigo Reads should visit www.DirigoReads.org and click on “Contact,” where a form is available to submit all necessary information.

NRCM: Conservation Continues to Drive Economic Growth

Press Release by Natural Resources Council of Maine

AUGUSTA, ME (July 28, 2023) — This year’s legislative session was another demonstration of Maine’s continued leadership on clean energy, with a signature bill that boosts offshore wind and continued momentum on measures that will help achieve Maine’s climate action goals while reducing energy costs, creating jobs, and enhancing the resilience of local communities.

Lawmakers also passed new laws aimed at protecting the rich array of wildlife in Maine and providing sorely needed support for local redemption centers by modernizing the popular Bottle Bill.

The state’s leading environmental advocacy organization, the Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM), praised Governor Janet Mills and lawmakers for coming together to strengthen the health of Maine’s communities by contributing to a clean environment for

years to come.

“Maine’s strong conservation ethic continues to define our way of life and drive economic growth,” said NRCM CEO Rebecca Sanders. “Thousands of Mainers spoke up and took action to protect our environment, strengthen the resiliency of local communities, and accelerate a more equitable clean energy future. Legislators listened to these voices by passing exciting new policies that recognize Maine’s environment and economy are inextricably linked.”

The following actions during the 2023 legislative session will strengthen Maine’s environment for future generations:

BUILDING MORE AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE CLEAN ENERGY SOURCES

Launched a new clean energy industry for Maine by directing the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to procure 3GW of responsibly developed offshore wind in the Gulf of Maine by 2040, with strong standards for good-paying jobs, pro-

tecting wildlife, increasing equity, and supporting Maine’s commercial fishing industry.

Supported new offshore wind port development with strong labor standards and \$12 million budgeted for deep-water port infrastructure that will result in billions of dollars in private sector investment and thousands of new jobs.

Authorized the Northern Maine Renewable Energy transmission line, which is expected to deliver 1000 MW of wind power to the New England energy grid. Directed the PUC to pursue contracts for additional renewable energy to ensure that the transmission line is fully utilized.

Promoted development of solar energy farms to repurpose land no longer usable for traditional agriculture, including farmland impacted by PFAS contamination. The PUC is directed to pursue a competitive procurement of large-scale solar energy projects on such lands, with the likelihood of adding hundreds

of additional megawatts of clean energy to the grid.

Reformed Net Energy Billing to continue momentum on small and medium-sized solar projects that lower costs for local schools, towns, businesses, and homeowners. Directed state government to access existing federal funding to deliver savings to low- and moderate-income residents.

Invested in the Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium, ensuring that scientists, state regulators, fishermen, and other stakeholders continue working together on strategies for responsible offshore wind power development in Maine.

EXPANDING ACCESS TO HEALTHIER TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

Reinvigorated Maine’s public transit system by strengthening the role of the state to support local transit operators, employers, commuters, and state climate goals. Expands the Public Transit Advisory Council to include a broader array of

rural and urban stakeholders and requires biennial reporting on transit needs and solutions. Substantial increase in transit operating funds provided in biennial budget (\$5 million/year instead of ~\$1.2 million).

Added electric bikes (e-bikes) to the Efficiency Maine rebate program to provide Mainers with an affordable transportation option for reducing carbon pollution and avoiding using cars for short trips.

Authorized the Department of Transportation to develop 31 miles of the Mountain Division Trail between Standish and Fryeburg by removing State-owned inactive railroad track and building a 10-foot-wide multi-use trail, subject to funding and permitting.

SAVING MONEY BY CONSERVING ENERGY

Created a Green Schools Program and staff leadership at the Department of Education to support schools that want to invest in clean energy technology and energy effi-

ciency projects. Also helps schools leverage significant new federal funding opportunities, from clean school buses to new clean energy opportunities.

Transferred \$2.8 million to continue the Maine Housing low-income heat pump program, which was slated to run out of funding due to record energy costs and LIHEAP funding needs this past winter.

A MORE ACCOUNTABLE, EQUITABLE ELECTRIC GRID

Improved transparency of political spending by utilities with tighter reporting requirements, adding lobbying, grassroots lobbying, unapproved educational spending and contributions to charities, political action committees, and trade associations to the list of expenses that utilities cannot charge to ratepayers.

Encouraged advanced energy storage by directing the Governor’s Energy Office to develop a Maine Energy Storage Program to procure up to 200 MW toward a state goal of

See NRCM, page 12



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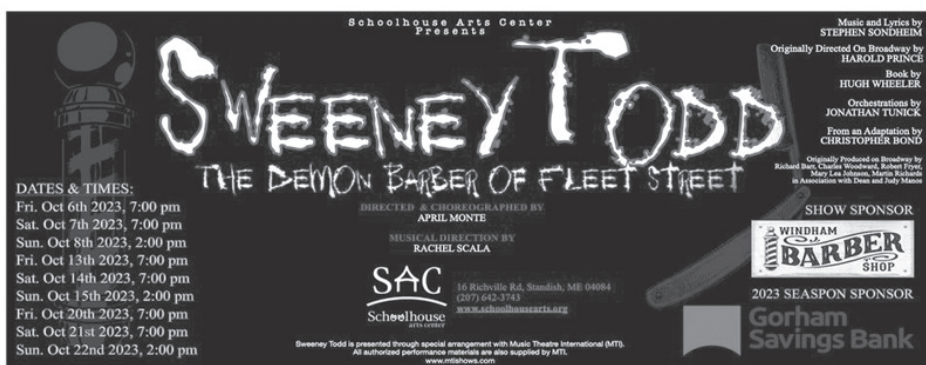
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Arts & Entertainment

The demon barber of Fleet Street is coming to town



STANDISH, ME (September 29, 2023) -- Sweeney Todd has become a bloody, worldwide success since being awarded eight Tony's, (including Best Musical), for its Broadway premiere. Stephen Sondheim's and Hugh Wheeler's (A Little Night Music, Pacific Overtures) tasty, thrilling, theatrical treat has simultaneously shocked, awed and delighted audiences across the world.

From October 6-22, Schoolhouse Arts Center at Sebago Lake will perform this thrilling musical. MTI (Music Theatre International) has given this show an "R" rating. Please be aware of adult/violent content. Tickets available at Schoolhouse Arts Center at Sebago Lake's Facebook page.

An infamous tale, Sweeney Todd, an unjustly exiled barber, returns to nineteenth century London, seeking vengeance against

the lecherous judge who framed him and ravaged his young wife. The road to revenge leads Todd to Mrs. Lovett, a resourceful proprietress of a failing pie shop, above which, he opens a new barber practice. Mrs. Lovett's luck sharply shifts when Todd's thirst for blood inspires the integration of an ingredient into her meat pies that has the people of London lining up... and the carnage has only just begun!

Field day at Tidewater Farm scheduled for Oct. 14

FALMOUTH, ME (September 29, 2023) -- University of Maine Cooperative Extension will host a field day 10 a.m.-noon on Saturday, Oct. 14 at the UMaine Gardens at Tidewater Farm, 200 Presumpscot Point Road.

Come experience the Gardens at Tidewater Farm, learn about UMaine Extension's work, ask gardening

questions and participate in hands-on demonstrations with Extension staff and Master Gardener Volunteers. Demonstrations begin at 10:30 a.m. Child-friendly activities will be provided. No registration required.

Learn how to put gardens to bed with an emphasis on practices that support wildlife during the winter months. Additional activities

include a hands-on demonstration of how to take a soil sample for testing, amend soil based on the test results and protect soil going into the winter months.

For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, visit the Tidewater Farm Events webpage or contact Pamela Hargest, pamela.hargest@maine.edu; 207.949.4524.

"Queen of Boston Comedy" to perform this weekend



PORTLAND, ME (September 29, 2023) -- Christine Hurley loves what she does, making people laugh! Christine is Matt Siegel's (Kiss108's "Matty in the Morning Show") favorite comedian! She has performed several times at the Boston Garden for Denis Leary's "Comics Come Home" show that supports the Cam Neely Cancer Foundation! You have seen Christine on Nick at Nite's "Search for America's Funniest Mom Contest," season 9 of the "The Great Food Truck Race" on the Food Network and "America's Got Talent!"

Christine Hurley is a regular at Aruba Ray's Comedy Club in Aruba, the Montreal Comedy Festival, the Laugh Factory in Las Vegas and every comedy club, restaurant and fraternal hall in New England!

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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Maine to participate in student, educator wellbeing initiative

MAINE (September 8, 2023) -- The National Governors Association (NGA) selected Maine as one of five states to participate in a new initiative launched to bolster the mental health and wellbeing of students and school staff. Through this initiative, the NGA will support the implementation of the BARR (Building Assets, Reducing Risks) model at 71 schools across Maine. BARR is a research-backed model focused on strengthening relationships, reducing high-risk student behavior, and improving academic achievement.

Maine will receive technical support from the NGA and their national and state partners and engage in peer learning op-

portunities with the other states chosen for the initiative, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oregon, and Wyoming.

"We know that there's still a lot of work to do to get over the tremendous impact the pandemic had on student and educator mental health and wellbeing, and we are thankful to the National Governors Association for their leadership on these issues and for including Maine in this critical initiative. Their selection of Maine is a testament to our commitment to support the mental health and wellbeing of students across the state," said Maine Education Commissioner Pender Makin. "The Maine Department of Education is doing everything we can to strengthen the

wellbeing of all students and educators because it's foundational to student and school success. That's why we've invested in the BARR model because it's so focused on relationships and can be tailored to meet the unique needs of our schools to help all students and educators thrive."

"Maine has been a frontrunner with BARR implementation since 2010. I am thrilled to continue our partnership with Commissioner Makin and the Maine Department of Education to bring BARR services to thousands more students in the state. This exciting initiative by the National Governors Association will strengthen our joint efforts, and BARR Center is honored to be Maine's choice in this en-

deavor," said BARR Center Founder and Executive Director Angela Jerabek.

As the school year begins, 71 Maine schools from every region of the state begin their first year of implementation of the BARR model. They join 15 Maine schools that have previously implemented BARR. The BARR model strengthens relationships between educators and between students and educators and utilizes real-time data to support students based on their strengths and connections to school. BARR aligns with the Maine Department of Education's whole student approach focused on ensuring all students are healthy, safe, engaged, supported, challenged, and prepared. Federal emergency re-

lief funding supported the expansion of the BARR model in Maine schools.

Studies show that the BARR model results in increased student engagement, reduced chronic absenteeism, a 40 percent reduction on average in failure rates after one year of implementation, increased student achievement rates, and a reduction in high-risk student behavior and substance use. BARR reports that the effects are strongest for male students, students of color, students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, multilingual learners, and students with disabilities. Educators report increased job satisfaction and higher levels of collaboration after implementing BARR.

Noble High School

first implemented BARR with half of its 9th grade class in 2014. By the end of the first semester, BARR students had missed roughly half as many days of school as non-BARR students and the school expanded BARR to include all students. Bucksport High School's graduation rate increased by more than 15 percent after implementing BARR.

BARR is one of several initiatives offered by the Maine Department of Education (DOE) to support student and school staff health and wellbeing and can all be implemented to build off one another to build safe, supportive, and healthy learning environments. You can learn more on the Maine DOE website.

Contract Awarded to Build Destroyers at Bath Iron Works

WASHINGTON, D.C. (August 4, 2023) – U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King, along with Representatives Chellie Pingree and Jared Golden, announced today that Bath Iron Works (BIW) has been awarded a contract to build three additional DDG-51 Arleigh Burke-class destroyers. The contract is part of the Navy's 5th DDG-51 multiyear procurement (MYP) au-

thorized by Congress. The contract also supports the potential for five additional ships, as BIW continues to work to deliver DDG-51s on time and increase production to 1.5 ships per year in the coming years. U.S. Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro – who attended Saturday's christening of the USS Harvey C. Barnum, Jr. at BIW – notified Senators Collins and King and Representa-

tives Pingree and Golden of the award.

"Today's award of three DDG-51s is a testament to Navy's confidence in the hardworking and highly skilled men and women at BIW who have earned the reputation that 'Bath built is best built,'" said Senators Collins and King along with Representatives Pingree and Golden in a joint statement. "We are pleased that

this contract will provide a stable foundation to the shipyard for at least the next five years and ensure our sailors – and country – have the ships they need to keep the nation safe. In addition, as BIW continues to work to deliver DDG-51s on time and increase productivity in the coming years, the contract includes the potential for additional ships and more work."

Senator Collins is

Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee as well as the Ranking Member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, and Senator King is a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee. Representative Pingree is a member of the House Appropriations Committee, and Representative Golden is a member of the House Armed Services Committee. The Appropriations

Committees are responsible for the allocation of funds for destroyers, while the Armed Services Committees authorize their purchase.

The contract was awarded after the Maine Congressional Delegation authorized and appropriated the funds for the construction of DDG-51 Arleigh Burke-class destroyers. BIW then competed to receive this contract.

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Fragments of Epic Memory opens at Portland Museum of Art



Leasho Johnson (Jamaica, born 1984), Jaw bone (man looking back at the cane fields), 2019, charcoal, watercolor, distemper, acrylic, oil stick, oil paint on canvas, 24 × 30 × 1 3/4 inches. Art Gallery of Ontario. Purchase, with funds from Friends of Global Africa and the Diaspora, 2021. © Leasho Johnson. Photo AGO. 2021/30

illuminate the complexities of personal experience.

From the streets of Jamaica to the shores of Trinidad and Tobago, *Fragments of Epic Memory* connects, contextualizes, and complicates historical depictions of the Caribbean region as a place for colonial profit and tourist pleasures. By combining historical and contemporary materials, the exhibition transforms stagnant and biased narratives into multifaceted and revelatory ways of understanding the region's history. *Fragments of Epic Memory* re-centers the narrative from the dynamic perspectives of the Caribbean diaspora.

Captivating contemporary works from leading artists of Caribbean descent are placed in dialogue with more than 100 photographs from the Art Gallery of Ontario's Montgomery Collection of Caribbean Photographs, which document the emergence of photography alongside the unfolding of emancipation. The

Montgomery Collection includes over 3,500 historical images from 34 countries, and primarily focuses on the aftermath of enslavement in the region. British emancipation in the Caribbean (1838) coincided almost exactly with the invention and proliferation of photographic technologies (1839), and this unique collection provides a visual archive of colonialism, evoking new ways to consider the region's histories and cultures.

Photographs, paintings, and video installations by a multigenerational group of artists such as Sandra Brewster, Vanley Burke, Christopher Cozier, Jeannette Ehlers, Nadia Huggins, Leasho Johnson, Ebony G. Patterson, Peter Dean Rickards, Paul Anthony Smith, and Rodell Warner, engage with legacies of slavery, environmental decimation, and ongoing colonial power dynamics, ultimately platforming Caribbean perspectives. Each piece comes together in a multifaceted presentation of the



Unknown, Emancipation Day, Jamaica, August 1, circa 1895, two gelatin silver prints, 11 9/16 × 9 7/16 inches. Art Gallery of Ontario. Gift of Patrick Montgomery, through the American Friends of the Art Gallery of Ontario Inc., 2019. Photo © AGO. 2019/2704.

PORTLAND, ME (September 29, 2023) -- *Fragments of Epic Memory* is an immersive encounter with the Caribbean and its diaspora that vividly intertwines past and present, memory and myth, and continuity and change, creating a testament to the enduring power of art to il-

Caribbean as a site of cultural exchange and self-determination. *Fragments of Epic Memory* is as much an exploration of what was lost as what has survived.

"The exhibition title *Fragments of Epic Memory* comes from a Nobel address given by the Saint Lucian poet and writer

Derek Walcott," says curator Anjuli Lebowitz. "It has been incredibly influential in thinking about how such a vast region can be summarized or be connected when you have so many island nations with their own distinct cultures, and yet, are always grouped together. He talks about the

fragments that have come together from all over the world to create the Caribbean into a whole."

Through these fragmented glimpses, we are reminded that our collective memory is an interwoven tapestry of existence, connecting us in ways seen and unseen.

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A NEW BEGINNING!



As of August 1, 2023, "Cressey Road United Methodist Church" in Gorham, Maine, is becoming "Cressey Road Christian Church", a Global Methodist Church. After an extensive period of deep prayer, much communication and soul searching, the congregation of our church has voted to join with this new movement of Methodist Christianity.

We would like to invite you to visit us and see that our congregation loves and welcomes all as we focus on Jesus and the truths of God's Word. 81 Cressey Rd, Gorham, ME

If you are interested in knowing more about why we made this change or just about who we are as a church, please contact us at 207-839-1111 or email us at: crdcc.office@gmail.com

"Love the Lord, Love Each Other, Serve the World"

Maine Cabin Masters star Ashley Morrill launches new décor line



covers quickly freshen up a space, and can be easily switched out with different designs to dramatically change up the look of any room,” Ashley explained. “The Rustic County pillow covers will be featured in the new season of Maine Cabin Masters, and you’ll see them transforming spaces in our upcoming reveals starting this fall.”

“After years of designing with Maine Cabin Masters, I wanted to create something that is 100% from me. I love the show and will always be part of it, but I also wanted to branch out and do my own thing,” Ashley continued. “With Rustic County, I’m sharing my art with my fans, allowing them to bring the cabin experience – and part of the show – into their own homes.”

“Rustic County is a women-owned, run, and empowered business. Ashley loves hanging out with the guys on the show, and now she’s also enjoying working with her close girlfriends on her long-time dream of launching a home decor brand,” said Rachael Harwood, friend and Rustic County design consultant. “It’s so cool to see Ashley and her closest friends using

their superpowers – design, branding, business, marketing, and social media – to launch and run this spectacular business that we’re all so wildly excited about.”

“Ashley is amazingly talented and wildly creative. She has an eye for design, a passion for art, and a fun, relatable style. People love her on the show, and since we announced this new company on social media, and it was recently featured in People Magazine, people have been overwhelmingly positive, enthusiastic, and supportive. They’re so happy about bringing her products home, and they can’t wait to shop for Rustic County pieces and wear our awesome new merch,” said her longtime friend, Kat Antonioli, who helms Rustic County’s marketing, branding, web design, and e-commerce side of the business, making it easy for people to interact with the company and shop online.

“Ashley has a large, loyal fan base that has been asking her to design luxury home goods and she has delivered! She’s creating gorgeous, high-quality, sustainable home décor products that people can use to decorate their own spaces. People are inspired by what she



does on her show, and now Rustic County allows anyone to achieve Maine Cabin Masters looks without spending a lot of money or doing a ton of work,” added close friend and business manager, Steph Hayward.

Ashley will be designing the entire Rustic County product line, and all the brand’s items will get their beautiful, unique aesthetics from Ashley’s original artwork.

While Rustic County’s throw pillow covers are already available to purchase, the company plans to release additional products

– including tea towels, note cards, and more – later this year.

The entire Rustic County team, which has grown to include Julie Belantuoni, social media superstar, and Christian Musson, brand ambassador and merchandising wizard, is working tirelessly and passionately to bring this rustic, cabin-chic product line to the fans.

For more information, home décor inspiration, and to purchase products, please visit Rustic County’s website, Facebook, and Instagram.

MANCHESTER, ME (September 29, 2023) – Ashley Morrill, star of the popular Magnolia Network reality television show Maine Cabin Masters, has launched Rustic County, a beautiful new home décor line inspired by Ashley’s true loves: nature, florals, and the beauty of Maine.

Now, fans of Maine Cabin Masters – and fans of stylish, upscale home décor – can shop Ashley’s pretty, high-quality, rustic-chic

items from her new website. The first product from the new Rustic County line – beautiful floral and Maine-themed throw pillow covers – are available online, along with Rustic County merch, including t-shirts, trucker hats, koozies, stickers, and gift cards. More products will be available shortly.

“I’m excited to introduce the first Rustic County products, throw pillow covers, which are simple, easy pieces that can make a really big impact. Our pillow



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Maine Hosta Society to hold fall meeting

AUGUSTA, ME (September 29, 2023) – The Maine Hosta Society (MHS) will hold its Fall Meeting on Saturday, October 14, 2023, at the Buker Center Augusta Parks and Recreation which is located at 22 Armory Street in Augusta. The business meeting will commence at 10:00 am. This will be an opportunity for members to provide input on preferred activities and to assist The Board in planning for next year. Members will also review and approve a slate of new MHS officers. Following the business meeting our guest speaker, Bob Solberg, will give a presenta-

tion at 11:00 am. Members and guests are encouraged to bring a lunch and stay through this informal, predictively enjoyable session.

The MHS is excited about this upcoming meeting with guest speaker, Bob Solberg. Bob is the owner of Green Hill Farm in North Carolina and is one of the top hosta hybridizers in the country. He has served the American Hosta Society in many capacities and is co-founder of the American Hosta Growers Association. He has received an impressive number of awards, including the coveted Eunice Fisher Distinguished Hybridizer

Merit Award and the Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award. Bob has introduced more than 100 hosta cultivars, many of which are well-known and well-loved. Some of these are ‘Guacamole’, ‘Orange Marmalade’, ‘First Frost’, ‘Curly Fries’, and ‘Sharped Dress Man’. Bob is also a talented presenter. He recently delivered an impressive keynote address at the 2023 American Hosta Society national convention held in Iowa. We are delighted that Bob has agreed to come to Maine, and we strongly urge you all not to miss his presentation.

This event of FREE and open to the public.



One of the beautiful hosta gardens located in Shelburne, NH on the property of Josh & Susan Labonville, MHS members. PHOTO CREDIT: Carol Foster

September designated “National Recovery Month”

WASHINGTON, D.C. (September 29, 2023) – U.S. Senators Angus King (I-Maine) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) earlier this week introduced a bipartisan resolution designating September as “National Recovery Month.” The Senators’ resolution comes as overdoses are rising across the nation. The resolution specifically recognizes the many challenges contributing to growing substance use disorders and the need for more community resources to reduce barriers to treatment and destigmatize substance abuse.

Overdose deaths in 2022 were up 50% when

compared to pre-pandemic numbers, with communities across the country losing nearly 110,000 loved ones – including 716 in Maine, a record for the state.

“To anyone suffering from substance use disorders, your communities and loved ones are here for you – we see you and we want to help,” said Senator King. “I know the last few years have not been easy. We as a nation are still recovering from the effects of the pandemic, which caused hardships for all Americans and led to an alarming increase in mental health disorders. On top of that, the growing presence

of fentanyl, which was responsible for nearly four out of five overdoses last year in Maine, is escalating the already severe opioid epidemic. During this year’s National Recovery Month, we must recommit ourselves to supporting those struggling with addiction. We must also provide more resources to address our nation’s opioid epidemic, increase mental health services, and strive to become more compassionate. Together, recovery is possible.”

“Substance abuse affects far too many West Virginians, and drugs—especially killer opioids like fentanyl—remain a seri-

ous threat to public health across our country,” Senator Capito said. “I have been a constant supporter in the fight against substance abuse and helping those affected by it onto the road to recovery. I am proud to join my colleagues in designating September as National Recovery Month to raise awareness and help educate more people about treatment options and support efforts for those in recovery. This is a critical component of the spectrum of solutions needed to save lives and fight back against the scourge of addiction.”

In 2021, there were approximately 20,900,000 adults in the

United States suffering from alcohol or drug addiction. It’s estimated that the total cost to the country from substance abuse disorders, including the costs of healthcare, lost productivity, and involvement of the criminal justice system, was \$1,470,000,000 in 2020 – though no dollar amount can adequately convey the devastating loss of life.

This year, Senator King introduced two pieces of legislation to prevent new FDA approvals of Opioids, establish new treatment facilities, recruit new healthcare providers, and expand support programs for those suffering

from addiction, including babies born with neonatal abstinence syndrome. Senators King and Capito have consistently worked on a bipartisan basis to address America’s tragic substance use disorder epidemic. Along with their annual designation of September as “National Recovery Month” they have joined on efforts to improve telehealth, create a better approval process for opioids, and to support mental health outreach.

A companion resolution has been introduced in the House by Representatives David Trone (D-MD), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), and Annie Kuster (D-NH).

Washburn Norlands Living History Center welcomes visitors

LIVERMORE, ME (September 29, 2023) - The Washburn Norlands Living History Center in Livermore, Maine is excited to announce that their 50th fall season is off to a great start. Between Living History Days, School Field Trips, Site Tours, Farm-to-Table Meals, and more, the Norlands has something for everyone. Their fall season lasts from September 16 until November 19.

“Our fall season showcases the best of the Norlands, where the 19th century comes alive. From the farm to the school to the main house to the library, visitors experience Maine in a place where the hands

of time turn slowly,” said Renee Bonin, President of the Board of Trustees.

The Norlands is the home of the Washburn family estate. It is a place that bears witness to the humble beginnings of this remarkable Livermore family who became one of America’s great political dynasties. The Washburn family remains active in the operations of the Washburn Norlands Foundation.

Every Saturday, the Norlands holds Living History Days from 10am - 4pm where their historical interpreters will take you back to the 1870s with telling stories of Livermore, cooking in the Farmer’s Cottage,

sewing in the main kitchen, visiting with the barn animals, holding school in 1870, discovering treasures in Library and touring of the Washburn family’s summer home. If you are lucky, the preacher may come through to deliver a short historic sermon in their 1828 Universalist meeting house. On nice days, they play games on the lawn too and welcome visitors to hike the historic carriage trails. During the week, the school field trips that so many Mainers remember are booking fast.

The Norlands Sampler program gives history lovers of all ages hands-on experience with the

activities children did in the 1870s. Their Norlands Sampler program includes many of the activities from Living History Days.

New this season, the Norlands is also hosting five Farm-to-Table meals, ranging from Suppers in the Barn to a brunch and a dinner in the Mansion. They showcase Livermore farmers at these popular events. They are also once again open for weddings and private parties with unique opportunities throughout the site.

Additionally, Tuesdays - Fridays, the Norlands Historic Site Tours at 11am and 2pm. These are perfect for those who want to learn

more about the Washburn Family and have an interest in historic properties and artifacts. Visitors are asked to pre-book these tours online.

“Welcoming people to our family’s homestead since 1808 and working to preserve and present our collections is an experience like no other. Descendants from all ten Washburn brothers and sisters have stepped forward this year to ensure the Norlands will remain open for years to come,” said Ashley Heyer, a trustee and descendant of Elihu B. Washburn. “Any day you visit, there is a good chance that you will meet one of our family members from around the

world.”

To visit the Norlands, you can purchase tickets online at norlands.org. Advance purchase admission is \$12 for adults, \$8 for children 3-13 and \$40 for a family of 5. For more information and to inquire about field trips and private events, please email programs@norlands.org.

Our Farm-to-Table Meal schedule is as follows:

October 15 - Brunch in the Mansion Dining Room 10:30 - 2:30

October 28 - Maine Bean Supper in the Barn 5:30 - 7:30

November 10 & 11 - Veterans Day Dinner in the Mansion 5:00 - 9:00

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NRCM

Continued from page 5

400 MW of energy storage capacity by 2030.

Contracted for a design proposal for a distribution system operator to optimize markets, operations, and investments in Maine's grid to achieve the state's climate and clean energy goals.

Appointed an expert ombudsman to improve grid access for distributed energy resources. The point person at the Public Utilities Commission will provide information to anyone seeking interconnection to the grid, help track and mediate disputes with the utilities, and convene working groups as needed to streamline the integration of solar and storage across Maine's distribution grid.

FOSTERING MORE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Increased state investment to \$3 million a year for the state's Community Resilience Partnership Program and added program management capacity. The Community Resilience Partnership provides grants and technical support to Maine commu-

nities planning for climate resilience and emission reduction projects, with more than 140 cities, towns, and tribal governments already participating.

Provided \$80,000 to the Department of Environmental Protection to enhance coastal monitoring programs, which are crucially needed for data collection programs the state needs to respond to and manage climate impacts.

Invested \$7.5 million in the State Infrastructure Adaptation Fund to support municipal culvert grants, as well as planning and matching dollars to leverage federal resilience, adaptation, and culvert grants.

IMPROVING RECYCLING AND REDUCING TOXIC POLLUTION

Modernized Maine's Bottle Redemption Program with a new law that simplifies the program, making it more efficient, while incorporating technology advances and investments to expand the use of refillable containers.

Saved jobs and businesses that are critical to the Bottle Bill by passing emergency legislation to increase the handling fee to 5.5 cents, up a penny

from when the fee was last increased in 2020, with an additional increase to 6 cents per container on September 1.

Acted to reduce mercury pollution and save energy by prohibiting the sale and distribution of new mercury-containing light bulbs starting in January 2026.

PROTECTING THREATENED WILDLIFE AND CLEAN WATER

Provided additional protection for Common Loons from lead poisoning from fishing gear by banning painted lead jigs weighing one ounce or less or measuring two-and-a-half inches or less in length, starting in September 2024.

Added eight species to Maine's Endangered and Threatened Species Lists, providing more protection to the Bank Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Bicknell's Thrush, Blackpoll Warbler, Saltmarsh Sparrow, tricolored bat, Ashton's cuckoo bumble bee, and marginated tiger beetle, which all have experienced significant population declines.

Provided initial funding for the Lake Water Quality Restoration and Protection Fund to help

protect lakes at risk from algae blooms and authorized the Fund to receive funding from other public and private sources.

Provided \$33 million for Resilient Water Infrastructure Programs, which will serve as state matching funds for federal drinking water and wastewater programs – providing a significant boost to community health, water quality, and the environment.

Approved changes to Maine's mining law in response to interest in new minerals that had not been accounted for in the current law. The Department of Environmental Protection will develop rules to protect water quality by requiring extensive sampling and analysis of certain types of ore, such as lithium-containing minerals, in advance of any possible mining activities to prove that the ore is inert, as well as water quality monitoring to ensure that the sampling accurately determined that extraction would not pose a risk to water quality or human health.

"As the legislative session came to a close, Maine's environment once again emerged as a big

winner," said NRCM Advocacy Director Pete Disheim. "Passage of the offshore wind bill may long be remembered as one of the most consequential actions Maine has ever taken to generate clean energy and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, but lawmakers also passed many other significant measures that reinforce Maine's brand as a state that balances our environment and our economy."

Many of the bills enacted in the 2023 legislative session were priorities of Maine's network of non-profit public health, environment, and social service organizations, including groups that comprise the Environmental Priorities Coalition.

Corporate lobbyists were also pushing several proposals to undermine Maine's progress toward a clean energy future and healthier communities. Legislators came together to defeat bills that would have:

Terminated Maine's ban on single-use plastic shopping bags.

Blocked the development of offshore wind power that will provide Mainers with more afford-

able, reliable clean energy.

Limit local choice by preventing towns from adopting policies that save money, conserve energy, and reduce reliance on expensive oil and gas.

Implemented the most aggressive rollback of solar energy in the country by undermining community projects currently underway to save money for towns, schools, local businesses, and homeowners.

Eliminated the Public Utilities Commission's mandate to act on climate and hold utilities accountable for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

For the second session in a row, legislation that would have advanced tribal sovereignty for the tribes in Maine was delayed or defeated due to opposition from Governor Mills.

"The environmental community remains a steadfast supporter of the Wabanaki people's quest for full sovereignty so they can be treated as fairly and equitably as every other tribe in the nation," said NRCM CEO Rebecca Sanders. "Achieving full sovereignty is a moral imperative that we will not give up on."

Maine WWII civil air patrol volunteer receives highest honor

BANGOR, ME (August 29, 2023) – The family of the late 2nd Lieutenant Oscar E. Shevannel, CAP, was presented with a Congressional Gold Medal at the Maine Wing Civil Air Patrol annual conference and banquet on Sept. 2.

Shevannel, of Portland, served as an observer and supply officer at Base 19, CAP Coastal Patrol from Aug. 1942 until Aug. 1943. Following his service in Civil Air Patrol, Shevannel enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1944 and served at the Treasure Island Supply Depot in San Francisco.

The World War II Members of the Civil Air Patrol were awarded

the Congressional Gold Medal on May 30, 2014 in recognition of the "unpaid volunteer members of the Civil Air Patrol [who] during World War II provided extraordinary humanitarian, combat, and national services during a critical time of need for the Nation," via Public Law 113-108.

"This extraordinary national service set the stage for the post-war CAP to become a valuable nonprofit, public service organization chartered by Congress and designated the Auxiliary of the United States Air Force that provides essential emergency, operation, and public services to communities, States, the Federal Gov-



al patrol bases, including two in Maine - Base 19 in Portland and Base 20 in Bar Harbor. From 1942-1943, these bases patrolled the waters off of the Atlantic and Gulf coasts from Maine to the Mexican border with armed aircraft, thwarting submarine attacks and safeguarding shipping lanes. Civil Air Patrol volunteers continued to serve throughout the entirety of WWII.

"It is with great pride that we present this Congressional Gold Medal honoring the legacy and service of Lieutenant Oscar Shevannel and all of the men and women of Civil Air Patrol during WWII," said Maine Wing Commander Colonel Blain Cote, CAP. "2nd Lt. Shevannel's selfless dedication to his dangerous work as an aerial observer is a testament to his courage and patriotism and it is my privilege to join

with our national and region commanders to honor him on behalf of Civil Air Patrol and our grateful nation."

The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian honor in the United States, alongside the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Since the award's inception in 1776, 185 Congressional Gold Medals have been awarded to individuals and institutions in national appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions. Civil Air Patrol National Commander Major General Edward D. Phelka, Northeast Region Commander Colonel Everett Hume, and Col. Blain Cote were in attendance to present the medal to Shevannel's children, Joe Shevannel and Julie Barker, along with other Shevannel family members.

ernment, and the military."

In direct response to German submarine activity along the East Coast in early 1942, Civil Air Patrol established 21 coast-



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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

Oct 7, Nov 4, Dec 2, Jan 6, Feb 3, Mar 2, Apr 6, May 4

WESTBROOK -- Prides Corner Community 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.

Oct 7

GORHAM -- Public Bean Supper at 34 Wilson Road, Gorham, White Rock Community Clubhouse on Saturday, October 7, 4:00-5:30pm. Eat in or take out! Homemade baked kidney & navy beans, coleslaw, potato salad, macaroni & cheese,

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

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

Oct 12

LEWISTON -- The Southern Maine Squadron SAFBVA will be having the last get together of the 2023 summer schedule at noontime October 12 at the Governors Restaurant in Lewiston. The summer schedule will resume in May 2024. Veterans of all branches and their guests are welcome to join. FMI call 207-657-4909 Bob Sawyer or email wwmk-wkr1933@gmail.com

Oct 14

AUGUSTA -- The Maine Hosta Society will hold its Fall Meeting on Saturday, October 14, 2023 at the Buker Center Augusta Parks and Recreation which is located at 22 Armory Street in Augusta. The business meeting will commence at 10:00 am, followed by a presentation by our guest speaker, Bob Solberg, of North Carolina. Members and guests are encouraged to bring a lunch and stay through this informal, predictively enjoyable session. This event is free and open to the public.

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 24

VIRTUAL -- Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous is holding a virtual public information meeting that is open to anyone interested in finding out more about FA. Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 24, 2023. Meeting Time: 9:00 am

Please contact Kathy C. 207-233-4541 for zoom information or for more information.

Oct 27 - Nov 5

AUBURN -- Community Little Theatre presents the musical comedy The Drowsy Chaperone. When a die-hard theatre fan plays his favorite cast album, the

characters come to life in this hilarious musical farce! A loving sendup of the Jazz Age musical that features one show-stopping song and dance number after another. Show dates are October 27, 28, November 2 & 3 at 7:30 p.m., and October 29 & November 4 & 5 at 2:00 p.m. All performances at CLT on 30 Academy Street in Auburn. Tickets and more information at www.lact.com

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

Oct 28

GRAY -- First Congregational Church of Gray Saturday Night Church Supper Saturday, October 28, 2023, @5:00 P. M. at the Parish House, 5 Brown Street, Gray

Handicapped Accessible. Meals are single-sized and are \$10.00 each. Please pay at the door. The Menu includes: Variety of Casseroles & Salads, Baked Pea Beans, Red Hot Dogs, Breads, Assortment of Desserts & Beverages.

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Jan 20, 21

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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

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

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

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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Farm visits, career exploration for area teens with 4-H



ORONO, ME (September 29, 2023) — University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H is offering its Ag Ambassador program this fall.

The program, open to all Maine teens ages 14-18, focuses on career exploration through farm and production visits around the state and provides opportunities to build relationships with industry professionals. The Fall 2023 cohort will meet virtually 3:30-5 p.m. on Oct. 18 and 25 and Nov. 1 and 15. The program also features 3 on-farm meetings on Oct. 21, Nov. 10 and Dec. 2. For a full schedule, visit the program website.

With the shrinking number of formal agricultural programs in high schools, students are lacking opportunities to learn

about local food systems and discover careers in agriculture. The 4-H Ag Ambassador program aims to help teens from all walks of life discover a future in agriculture and connect with other young people with similar goals.

Youth involved in this program will have opportunities to pursue their interest in agriculture and explore career pathways. This includes mentoring in post-secondary opportunities, as well as investigating current issues related to food systems, livestock, crop sciences, aquaculture, climate change and equitable access.

This program is open to all Maine youth; 4-H membership is not required for participation. Register on the program website by Oct. 11.



4-H'ers explore career paths while visiting the Witter Farm dairy herd during the April 2023 on-campus Teen Ag Symposium. Photo courtesy of University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

To request reasonable accommodation, please contact extension.4haglead-

ership@maine.edu or call 207.622.7546. Receiving requests for accommoda-

tions at least 10 days before the program provides a reasonable amount of

time to meet them, but all requests will be considered.

MaineCF scholarships available for adult learners



PORTLAND & ELLSWORTH, ME (September 29, 2023) —

Adult learners returning to school may be eligible for scholarships from the

Maine Community Foundation (MaineCF).

Eligible scholarship recipients will receive a one or two-year certificate or four-year degree at the end of the program and meet one of the following requirements: be over the age of 25, work full time while enrolled in

school, have dependents, be financially independent, have not received a standard high school diploma, or delayed college

enrollment.

In 2022, MaineCF awarded 267 adult learner scholarships totaling nearly \$540,000.

The deadline for applications is Nov. 15. For complete guidelines and to apply, visit www.mainecef.org/scholarships.



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