

Tree lighting at Gorham's White Rock Community Clubhouse

GORHAM, ME -- The White Rock Friendship Club is hosting the 39th Annual Tree Lighting at the White Rock Community Clubhouse located at 34 Wilson Road on Sunday, November 26th at 4:30pm.

Listen to the reading of the Christmas

story. Sing Christmas carols while sipping hot cocoa around the Christmas tree.

Santa will arrive on a White Rock Fire Station fire truck!

See <https://www.facebook.com/events/3161492787493713> for more info.



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!

Public bean supper coming up in Gorham

GORHAM, ME -- On Saturday, December 2, from 4:00-5:30pm, stop by White Rock Community Clubhouse at 34 Wilson Road, Gorham for a tasty home-made meal.

Eat in or take out! Homemade baked

kidney & navy beans, coleslaw, potato salad, macaroni & cheese, biscuits, hot dogs and dessert.

\$10 adults, \$5 under 12

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Maine organizations receive grants for America Recycles Day

BOSTON, MA – In conjunction with America Recycles Day, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that two New England organizations are among 25 selectees to receive a portion of \$33+ million in Recycling Education and Outreach (REO) grants. These grants, which are part of President Biden’s Investing in America agenda, a key pillar of Bidenomics, will expand recycling infrastructure and education for waste management systems across the region.

The local awardees are ecomaine, located in Portland, who were selected to receive \$2 Million for a project called “An Effort to Increase Maine’s Recycling Rate Through Outreach to Stakeholders of Multi-Family Dwelling Units;” and Northeast Resource Recovery Association, located in Epsom, N.H., to receive \$440,000 for a project called “Recycle Right North Country.”

“Today, on America Recycles Day, we are putting historic recycling

investments into communities, made possible by President Biden’s Investing in America agenda,” said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. “Two years ago today, the President signed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and with it, unleashed unprecedented funding to enable Tribes and communities to update recycling and composting infrastructure, while also advancing education programs to increase recycling rates and reduce waste.”

“Addressing the climate crisis requires many thoughtful and creative solutions. These two projects designed to expand recycling efforts will make a big difference helping Maine and New Hampshire to increase recycling rates and improve sustainability for our communities,” said EPA New England Regional Administrator David W. Cash. “The Recycling Education and Outreach grant projects will help inform the public about local recycling and composting programs and focus on increasing collection rates

and decreasing contamination of recycling streams across the nation.”

The group ecomaine proposes to increase the recycling rate in Maine via a targeted pilot with dedicated educational outreach programming and single-sort recycling strategies in multi-family dwelling units, where access to participation traditionally has been limited. Outreach to residents and property owners, informational materials, social media, and increased access to recycling solutions will help to divert more recyclable material from Maine’s landfills.

Recycle Right North Country will increase residential recycling rates and decrease recycling contamination in thirty disadvantaged, rural, and low-income North Country, NH communities by providing education to both residents and solid waste facility operators. A nine-month campaign will consist of four objectives: Resident Outreach, In-Person Education, Train the Trainers

programming, and a culminating Recycle Right North Country Summit.

Nationally and locally, these recycling grants will help tackle consumer confusion and outdated recycling infrastructure, the largest barriers to proper recycling. Thanks to President Biden’s historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which was signed two years ago today, EPA was provided the largest recycling investment in 30 years that is funding these two new programs.

These grants reflect the Biden-Harris Administration’s commitment to tackling environmental justice and the climate crisis. Many communities with environmental justice concerns carry a disproportionate environmental and human health burden from waste disposal. As part of President Biden’s Justice40 Initiative, 74% of the funding allocated in the REO grants will benefit underserved and overburdened communities. Increasing recycling is also an important way to reduce pollution

because natural resource extraction and processing make up half of all global greenhouse gas emissions that drive the climate crisis. Recycling reduces the need to extract resources such as timber, water, and minerals for new products.

To learn more about the Recycling Education and Outreach funding, please visit: EPA’s Recipients and Selectees webpage.

America Recycles Day

November 15 marked both the 39th America Recycles Day, the second anniversary of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and the second anniversary of EPA’s National Recycling Strategy. The National Recycling Strategy was the first in a series of EPA strategies devoted to building a circular economy – one that reduces material use, redesigns materials, products, and services to be less resource intensive, and recaptures “waste” as a resource to manufacture new materials and products.

To build upon the

goals of the recycling strategy, EPA released the Draft National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution for public comment in April. The Draft Strategy outlines steps to reduce pollution during production, improve management of plastic materials throughout product lifecycles, and encourage actions to keep plastics out of national waterways and the environment. Future strategies will address food waste and electronics.

EPA also recently announced over \$105 million for the selectees of the historic SWIFR grants for states and communities. These improvements will support a circular economy, help lower greenhouse gas emissions, as more efficient waste management systems are key to reducing energy consumption and the need for raw materials, while rebuilding our nation’s infrastructure, powered by well-paying jobs that don’t require four-year degrees.

Visit EPA’s website to learn more ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

Art in Architecture unveiled at Madawaska Land Port of Entry



BOSTON, MA - The newest addition of the U.S. General Services Administration’s (GSA) Art in Architecture (AiA) Program, Stella, by Ralph Helmick Sculpture, has been installed at the new Madawaska, Maine Land Port of Entry.

The artwork - a five pointed star rooted in Acadian heritage stands 35 feet high and 17 feet across - can be seen from a distance by visitors when entering Madawaska, Maine, over the new international bridge onto Four Corners Crossing - the new street

named by Madawaska residents through a GSA contest.

Stella can also be experienced up close with access from Main Street, Mill Street and Four Corners Park. At night, the artwork is illuminated offering those crossing through the new port a commanding view. At the same time, the artwork’s lighting design adheres to the International Dark Sky Association’s (IDA) Dark-Sky Compliance to ensure thoughtfulness to the surrounding community and environment.

The five-pointed star design is commonly found on barns and homes around Aroostook County and was depicted on Maine’s original state flag designed in 1901.

“The GSA Art in Architecture program brings local, state and federal entities together with artists to create unique pieces that highlight the vibrancy of the community and federal architecture,” Francis Thomas, Regional Administrator for the New England, Northeast and Caribbean Regions, said.

The GSA AiA Pro-

gram oversees the commissioning of artworks for new federal facilities nationwide. Through the AiA program, GSA reserves one-half of one percent of the estimated construction cost of each new federal building to commission project artists. These artworks enhance the civic meaning of federal architecture and showcase the vibrancy of American visual arts. Together, the art and architecture of federal buildings create a lasting cultural legacy for the people of the United States.



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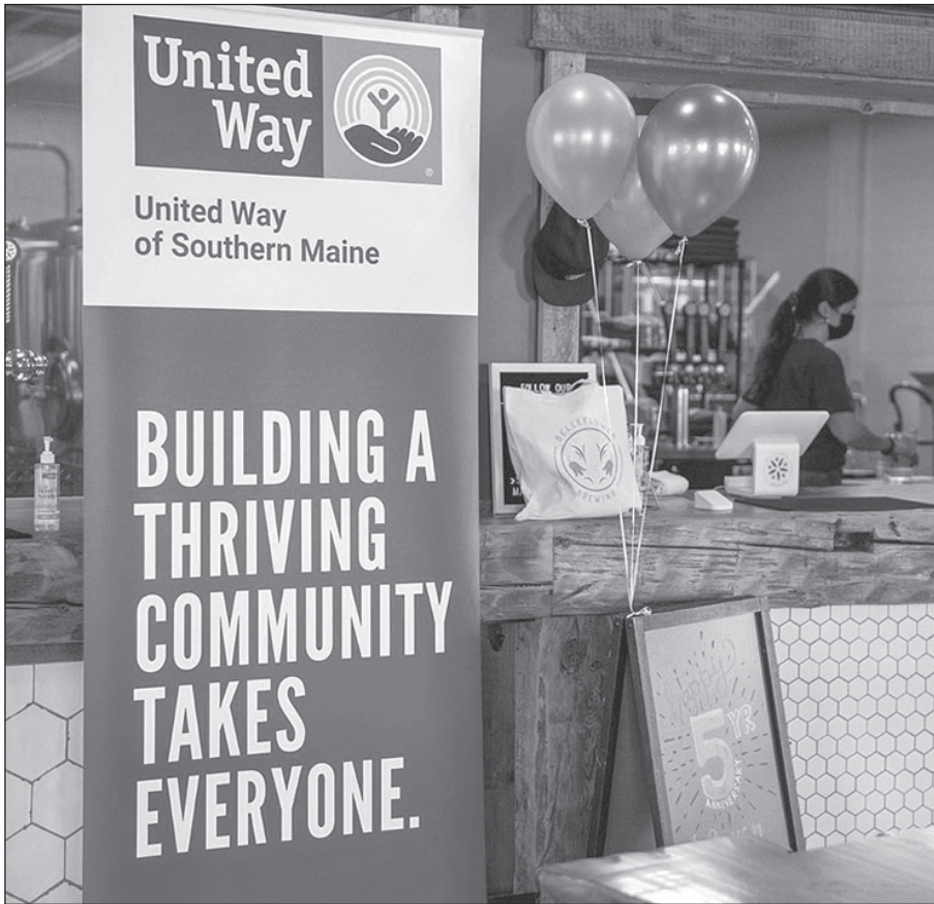
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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Brick & Beam invests \$125K in local afterschool programs



PORTLAND, ME — United Way of Southern Maine’s (UWSM) Brick & Beam Society has invested \$125,400 in four afterschool programs to increase access

and help build systemic equity. Brick & Beam Society (B&B) is a giving circle of UWSM that focuses on early childhood learning and STEAM programming for

historically underserved communities from birth through 8th grade.

The investments include: \$47,400 to Our Place

Portland for Youth Mentorship Groups + Family Advocacy Services. The program will engage middle school students as Mentors-in-Training for younger youth with a small stipend and provide afterschool programming that includes STEAM activities, field trips, meals and snacks. Our Place Portland will also provide advocacy services for caregivers and host events to engage the broader community.

\$28,000 to Gateway Community Services, Maine for Project STRIVE (Support Toward Refugee and Immigrant Voices and Education), which provides accessible, free, and well-rounded academic support for high-need students in grades 5-8 in Westbrook.

\$25,000 to Portland Community Squash (PCS)’s Rally Portland. Rally Portland is an afterschool program for students in 6-12th grade that provides squash lessons, food, enrichment, academics, and wellness.

\$25,000 to Boys & Girls Clubs of Southern Maine’s South Portland programs to enrich afterschool programming.

“Our continued partnership with United Way’s Brick & Beam Society helps us overcome the biggest barriers to afterschool access, including affordability and transportation,” said Barrett Takesin, executive director at PCS. “Thanks to their sustained support, Rally Portland can continue to be one of the most accessible afterschool programs in the state.”

Out-of-school programs are uniquely positioned to provide impactful learning experiences for youth that blend fun, learning, and social-emotional growth. This is especially important for students who may be struggling with anxiety, depression, trauma, food insecurity, and homelessness. In a recent survey of parents and caregivers conducted by United Way of Southern Maine in partnership with the Portland Regional Chamber of

Commerce, 44% of respondents expressed a need for increased access to afterschool programming for their children.

Partnerships with out-of-school time organizations are part of a larger effort by Brick & Beam Society to elevate its focus on literacy and STEAM to build systemic equity that result in positive academic, development, and social outcomes.

Brick & Beam Society investments are funded through member contributions and decided on by member volunteers. Investments support early childhood education with a specific interest in STEAM and literacy programming for kids from historically underserved communities in Southern Maine and are aligned with UWSM’s goal to provide every child in Southern Maine with quality early learning experiences.

To learn more about United Way of Southern Maine and Brick & Beam Society, visit uwsme.org.

Concord Group announces Bailey Lallier as Underwriting Director

BEDFORD, NH — The Concord Group Insurance Companies is pleased to announce Bailey Lallier has joined the company as Underwriting Director, overseeing Personal Lines and Commercial Lines Underwriting.

Bailey began her career at Auto-Owners Insurance as an Associate Underwriter, advancing to a number of roles with increasing responsibility. Most recently, she served as Regional Director of Auto-Owners’ Little Rock Region. Bailey holds a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Business Administration degree from Appalachian State University in North Carolina, and has also earned the Associate in Underwriting and As-



The Concord Group Insurance Companies hired Bailey Lallier to serve as Underwriting Director. Bailey will oversee the company’s Personal and Commercial lines Underwriting.

sociate in Insurance designations.

“Having Bailey lead The Concord Group’s Underwriting operations will provide dedicated leadership support while advancing our integra-

tion with Auto-Owners’ practices and operational efficiencies,” said Mike Nolin, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for The Concord

Group. “We are excited to have Bailey join our team and look forward to our continued underwriting success under her leadership.”

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

Send all items for Names & Faces to the editor. Deadline is Friday by five pm.

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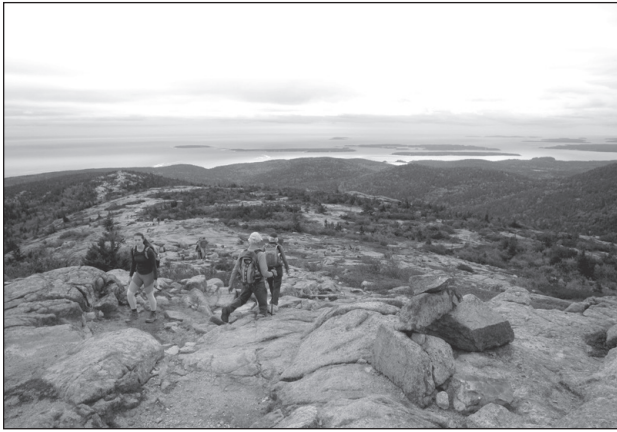
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Seniors Not Acting Their Age

Climbing a Cadillac of a Mountain



Spectacular views of eastern Penobscot Bay can be seen from South Ridge Trail on Cadillac Mountain



Hikers stop at Eagle's Crag on South Ridge Trail



Crowds embrace the views at the summit of Cadillac Mountain

Cadillac Mountain on Mount Desert Island is the source of many superlatives. At an elevation of 1,532 feet, it is the tallest mountain along the eastern seaboard of the United States. According to Wikipedia, the commanding prominence is the highest point within 25 miles of the shoreline of the North American continent between Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia and Mexican peaks south of the Texas border. During fall and winter, the crest of Cadillac is first to see the nation's sunrise.

Rugged majestic beauty and incredible views make Cadillac one of the premiere New England mountain hikes. However, for mountaineering purists there is a

dark side, a paved road to the top. After an arduous ascent, weary hikers are often greeted by a carnival-like atmosphere when completing the climb. If one wants to avoid the incongruous environment, a winter expedition when the road is closed is an alternative. An interesting snippet of Cadillac history, a cog railway took visitors to a hotel at the summit in the late 19th century. The hotel burned and the train was sold and transported to another consequential New England peak, Mount Washington.

Three major hiking routes lead to the crown of Cadillac: North and South Ridge Trails and Gorge Path. Numerous additional passageways

interconnect with these. All provide remarkable panoramic vistas of the 16 nearby granite-dominated peaks, surrounding islands, and the glaciated coastal landscape.

For many years, the Penobscot Paddle & Chowder Society (PPCS) has held a fall gathering on Mount Desert Island. While the underlying purpose is to conduct its annual business meeting, the location is chosen because it offers a multitude of exceptional outdoor activities that include mountain hiking, biking, sea kayaking, flatwater paddling, canoe races, and more.

Again this year, the PPCS scheduled its annual meeting and several outdoor events on Mount Desert Island over a 3-day

period in early October. I announced a climb of Cadillac Mountain via the South Ridge Trail on the first day of activities.

A few days before the planned events, a complication arose. Tropical storm Phillippe was hurtling north off the coast of the eastern United States and predicted to make landfall in Maine on the day of my planned Cadillac Mountain hike. I rescheduled the outing for the day after the storm.

Phillippe was late arriving. Many of us found entertaining abbreviated activities to fill the time. I completed a bike ride on the Acadia National Park Carriage Roads and then my wife, Nancy, and I went for walks in Asticou Gardens and on the Carriage Roads. When Phillippe finally appeared, it struck with a vengeance. Heavy rains and winds caused power outages on much of the island.

By midmorning the following day, the rain had subsided. The hike was on.

Eight of us met at the South Ridge Trailhead on Route 3 near the entrance to Blackwoods

Campground. Although the rain had ended, thick clouds, dense fog, and strong winds lingered. My promised non-stop spectacular views during the hike did not appear likely. I was concerned about a possible mutiny.

Dressed for damp, windy weather, we departed on a wet trail in a heavily-wooded area. As we ascended, the clouds and fog diminished. Partial views were available as we progressed over ledges on Eagle's Crag. From this point on, most of the trail to the summit is an exposed granite ridgeline. When clear, the path offers marvelous views.

After about a mile, we dropped steeply to Featherbed, a tiny scenic mountain tarn. The gusty winds increased as we climbed precipitous ledges back onto the ridgeline. The skies partially cleared, the sun came out, and the views were spectacular.

Shortly after passing West Face Trail entering from the west, we advanced close to Cadillac Mountain Road. Angling northeasterly into a wooded area, the most

rugged terrain of the day was ahead. Soon emerging into the open where crowds of tourists were exploring the summit, we joined them to embrace the phenomenal vistas.

Our return on the South Ridge Trail was a delight. We benefited from glorious panoramic views of the islands of eastern Penobscot Bay for much of the descent. Despite an inauspicious beginning, the trek lived up to our high expectations.

My book, *Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine* relates nine more mountain hikes including several winter ascents.

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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Shop local this holiday season

AUGUSTA, ME – The U.S. Small Business Administration Maine District Office is encouraging Mainers to shop small, shop local and dine local November 25th in celebration of Small Business Saturday® and during the holiday season. This year marks the 14th annual Small Business Saturday, held the day after “Black Friday” to help capture a larger piece of the holiday season consumer spending and help small businesses get patrons through their doors. With the holiday season approaching, Small Business Saturday is an opportunity to celebrate and support Maine’s many downtown and Main Street businesses. In recognition of Small Business Saturday, the Maine District Office visited businesses in Skowhegan and Waterville this week to talk with them about their plans for the holiday shopping season, and how the SBA can assist them in pursuing their plans.

Over the course of the day on November 16th,

the SBA visited businesses including Joe’s Flat Iron Café, the Bankery and Skowhegan Fleuriste, Key Appliance, Maine Grains, Crooked Face Creamery, and Thrifty Chic in Skowhegan along with representatives from the Skowhegan Chamber and Main Street Skowhegan. In Waterville, the group visited Friends Consignment, Main Street Provisions, Holy Cannoli, Loyal Biscuit Co., Old Soul Collective, and finished up with a stop at the Bixby Café.

“Every year our office visits businesses ahead of Small Business Saturday, and every year it is always amazing to hear about the great things going on in Maine’s downtowns and Main Streets. Whether it’s an entrepreneur kicking off the revitalization of their downtown, or a business supporting local non-profits, these stories remind us of the importance of shopping local,” said Diane Sturgeon, SBA’s District Director for Maine. “And if we happen to find some great gifts and treats for

ourselves along the way, that’s just a bonus,” she added.

“As local champions of Small Business Saturday and Skowhegan’s Shop Small Week, we were thrilled to host the SBA and showcase our locally owned businesses,” said Kristina Cannon, President & CEO of Main Street Skowhegan. “Skowhegan has such a collaborative business community, and so many of our small business owners have unique and heartwarming stories to tell about how they started their business and why they chose this great community. We loved being able to share those stories with representatives from the SBA, as it highlights how special Skowhegan truly is. We hope shoppers will come out during the holiday season—and always—to support our great local businesses.”

President Biden’s Investing in America economic agenda continues to deliver for small businesses and entrepreneurs across the country. Under

the Biden-Harris Administration, the United States has experienced a historic small business boom and the state of the economy is strong.

Founded by American Express® in 2010 and officially cosponsored by the SBA since 2011, Small Business Saturday is a day dedicated to supporting the diverse range of local small businesses that create jobs, help boost the economy, and enhance neighborhoods nationwide. According to American Express, the projected total reported spending among U.S. consumers who shopped at independent retailers and restaurants on Small Business Saturday last year hit a record high with an estimated \$17.9 billion, and 72 percent of shoppers strongly agree they will continue to shop small throughout the holiday season because of the impact it has on their local community.

To learn more about Small Business Saturday, visit the SBA’s dedicated website at www.sba.gov/saturday.



SBA New England Regional Advocate Louis Luchini (left) speaks with Skowhegan Chamber of Commerce CEO Maygan Dunlap (right) during the tour of downtown Skowhegan businesses



SBA Maine District Director Diane Sturgeon (right) speaks with Matt Dubois (left), owner of the Bankery and Skowhegan Fleuriste about the revitalization of Skowhegan’s downtown

Express Employment launches “No Franchise Fees”

OKLAHOMA CITY— Express Employment Professionals, the leading global staffing provider franchise, announced plans to expand the brand throughout the U.S. by introducing, for the second year, a limited-time development incentive for new franchise owners. Effective immediately, Express will waive the franchise fee in 40 target markets across the country, as opposed to the typical \$40,000 required in its previous sole offering.

This incentive comes at an impressive time for Express. The recent release of its 2022 Franchise Disclosure Document demonstrates the average annual sales for a franchise

in its first year is \$1.08* million, and continues to grow with \$6.4* million in average annual sales in its second year and \$7.1* million in its fifth year, which further solidifies the staffing company as a valuable investment opportunity for prospective franchisees.

As the number-one global staffing franchise, Express Employment Professionals is an essential part of the communities it serves. Express is currently seeking qualified entrepreneurs to help the brand grow its presence nationwide, and has identified the following local markets as part of this special incentive program:

- Augusta, ME
- Portland, ME

“With 2022 being

Express’ highest grossing year on record, the ongoing growth and success of the brand remains evident. We are excited to waive initial franchise-fees in these markets so new franchise owners can take advantage of this valuable investment opportunity in communities that would benefit from our proven approach to staffing,” said Vinny Provenzano, Vice President of Franchising at Express Employment Professionals. “Provided with multiple avenues of support to count on, Express enables franchise owners to be successful in fulfilling the brand’s mission of helping job seekers find work and helping businesses find qualified employees. We look forward

to jumpstarting these efforts in new areas with this attractive development incentive.”

At Express Employment Professionals, franchisees help pair job seekers in their local community with the jobs of their dreams – all while achieving their own. The staffing company boasts more than 860 franchise locations in five countries across the globe, employing 579,000 associates who help job seekers find the right job for their skills and qualifications. This past year, Express set new milestones with sales skyrocketing and awarded 45 franchise development agreements, including locations in British Columbia, Ontario, Texas, and

California.

Express’s long-term goal of putting a million people to work annually is at the heart of its company’s vision: to help as many people as possible find good jobs by helping as many clients as possible find good people. Express continues to be recognized as a leading global staffing provider and standout franchise concept. Most recently, the brand has received World-Class Franchise certification from the Franchise Research Institute for the 18th consecutive year. This year alone, Franchise Direct recognized Express as its 10th top franchise and Franchise Business Review ranked Express as one of its top franchises for 2023.

Express was also recently designated the top staffing franchise in Entrepreneur Magazine’s Franchise 500® list for the 12th consecutive year and the top 50 overall.

To learn more about franchise opportunities with Express Employment Professionals, contact Vinny Provenzano at vinny.provenzano@expresspros.com or www.expressfranchising.com.

* For territories open more than 24 months, average sales in 2022 were \$6,497,275. For territories open more than 60 months, average sales in 2022 were \$7,194,784. First-year offices averaged \$1,080,407 annual sales according to Item 19 in the Franchise Disclosure Document.

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Give blood in Cumberland County, get “Elf” socks

PORTLAND, ME— For many, watching the classic holiday movie “Elf” has been a heartwarming tradition for 20 years. This November, the American Red Cross is encouraging people to add a new tradition as the holiday season begins: Spread cheer with a blood or platelet donation.

Donations are critical to the blood supply as the holiday season draws near – a time when blood donations often decline. Donors of all blood types are urged to give, especially type O blood donors and those giving platelets.

To celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the film “Elf,” and create holiday cheer, all who come to give Nov. 10-30 will receive an exclusive pair of “Elf” + Red Cross socks, while supplies last. For more details, visit RedCrossBlood.org/Elf.

It feels good to give a gift to someone else that truly means something. Those wishing to help patients receive lifesaving transfusions can book a blood or platelet donation appointment by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-

800-733-2767).

Upcoming blood donation opportunities Nov. 10-30:

- Cumberland Falmouth 11/24/2023: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., The Episcopal Church of St. Mary, 43 Foreside Rd Gray 11/24/2023: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., American Legion Gray, 15 Lewiston Rd Harrison 11/25/2023: 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., United Parish Congregational Church of Harrison and N. Bridgton, 77 Main Street Scarborough 11/29/2023: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Saint Maximilian Church, 150 Black Point Rd South Portland 11/28/2023: 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Eastpoint Christian Church, 345 Clarks Pond Pkwy Westbrook 11/28/2023: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Westbrook Community Center, 426 Bridge Street Yarmouth 11/24/2023: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Saint Bartholomews Episcopal Church, 396 Gilman Road
- How to donate blood
 A blood donor card



or driver’s license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Another way to support the lifesaving mission of the Red Cross is to become a volunteer blood donor ambassador at Red Cross blood drives. Blood donor ambassadors help greet, check-in and thank blood donors to ensure they have a positive donation experience.

Amplify your impact – volunteer!

Volunteers can also serve as transportation specialists, playing a vital role in ensuring lifesaving blood products are delivered to nearby hospitals. For more information and to apply for either position, contact or visit redcross.org/volunteertoday.

A Christmas Carol

adapted by Christopher Schario



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Girl Scouts empowers tomorrow's leaders



BANGOR, ME — Two hundred attendees took part in the 15th Annual Transforming Leadership Conference (TLC) hosted by Girl Scouts of Maine (GSME) at the University of Maine at Orono on November 4th. TLC is an opportunity for Girl Scout members and non-members alike to connect with one another, engage in hands-on activities, and build leadership skills through various 60-minute workshops led by topic experts.

“This year’s ‘Confidently You’ themed Transforming Leadership Conference was the Girl Scout mission in action! Girls leading the way in every way. I left feeling so optimistic and confident that

these girls will certainly make the world a better place,” says Donna Watson, Chair of the GSME Board of Directors.

The conference was open to all adults, Girl Scout members and non-members in grades 6-12, looking to broaden their interpersonal and knowledge-based skills. Over a dozen workshop topics ranged from subjects such as STEM, self-care, financial literacy, global issues, outdoor navigation, meditation, cooking, and so much more. At the conference, GSME also successfully trained 14 adults in Youth Mental Health First Aid, contributing to a total of 83 adults trained and certified by GSME in 2023.

During the adult workshop, “Raising Amazing Girls: Navigating Feelings,” co-facilitator and GSME troop leader, Courtney Evans focused on teaching volunteers how to maneuver various emotional responses within troops and service units, especially within high stress environments.

“I cried at the Transforming Leadership Conference. After facilitating a lecture, which opened with checking in on everyone to see how they’re doing after the horrifying events in the last week, we ended on journeying to joy. [...] What a beautiful, inspirational, and powerful event. Our leaders are amazing—and they are all

volunteers,” says Evans.

For one attendee, Molly Graham, Transforming Leadership is a place for career path inspiration. Graham, now Girl Scout Adult who has attended the conference since she was in sixth grade, says she decided on her major and college only after attending a financial literacy workshop at the very same GSME event years ago.

“I found my passion here [...] My second time coming to the leadership conference, KeyBank offered a personal finance course and after talking to the presenter, I went home, looked into it, and really liked what I was reading. Now that’s what I’m going to UMaine for,”



says Graham

To stay up to date with other exciting GSME events on our website, and don't forget to mark your calendar for next year's Transforming Leadership Conference.

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



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Get festive with Extension's wreath making workshop



FALMOUTH, ME — University of Maine Cooperative Extension is hosting a wreath making workshop from 1-2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 2, at the UMaine Gardens at Tidewater Farm, 200 Pre-sumpscot Point Road.

The workshop will offer participants the opportunity to unleash their creativity and craft their own unique holiday balsam fir wreaths to adorn their homes or give as gifts. Participants will assemble them using a single-faced, 10-inch easy clamp ring, which can create a wreath

of up to 22 inches in size. They can also incorporate ribbons, ornaments, pinecones and decorations into their wreaths.

Experienced instructors will provide attendees with step-by-step assembly instructions and share valuable tips and techniques for creating stunning wreaths. The workshop is suitable for all skill levels, from beginners to experienced crafters.

"We are thrilled to offer these DIY Wreath Making Workshops as a fun and festive way for people to get into the hol-



Photo courtesy of University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

iday spirit," says Pamela Hargest, horticulture professional with UMaine Ex-

ension. "Wreath making is a timeless tradition that allows individuals to ex-

press their creativity and add a personal touch to their holiday decorations.

We can't wait to see the beautiful wreaths that our participants will create!"

Participants are encouraged to bring their own gardening gloves and any additional decorative elements they may wish to incorporate into their wreaths.

Space for the workshop is limited, registration is required. The program fee is offered on a sliding scale of \$25-\$35, with all proceeds supporting the educational mission of the gardens at Tidewater Farm.

For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, visit the program webpage or contact Hargest, pamelahargest@maine.edu; 207.949.4524.

Still time to bid on WinterKids License to Chill silent auction

WESTBROOK, ME—WinterKids, the non-profit organization dedicated to helping children stay active, healthy, and happy during the winter months, is in the midst of its annual License to Chill Silent Auction. The auction officially opened on November 13 and will run through December 7 at 7:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

This exciting event will lead into WinterKids'

12th Annual License to Chill community fundraiser at Après, marking the official kickoff to another busy winter season. This year, WinterKids has assembled a remarkable selection of premium goods and services generously contributed by Maine and New Hampshire businesses. The diverse array of items up for bidding includes outdoor equipment and sporting goods, apparel



and outerwear, health and fitness memberships, delicious food and beverage experiences, home decor,

and much more.

With the holiday season fast approaching, many of these items are perfect for gift-giving, making the silent auction an ideal opportunity for early holiday shopping. Contributing businesses to the License to Chill Silent Auction include well-known names such as L.L. Bean, WMTW, Agren, Sidecountry Sports, Bird & Co., Winterstick Snowboards, Sugarloaf, Adventure Bound White-water Rafting, Kittery Trading Post, and Portland Pie Company. The generous support of these businesses has made it possible for WinterKids to offer a broad and impressive range of items for auction. There will also be options to donate to Lewiston/Auburn community funds.

The License to Chill Silent Auction allows participants to bid on and win some incredible products and experiences, all while supporting WinterKids' mission to help kids across Maine enjoy being healthy, active, and vibrant in the outdoors during the winter season. Every dollar raised through this auction will directly benefit WinterKids programs.

"We are thrilled to host the License to Chill Silent Auction once again and are grateful to the incredible businesses that have come together to make this event possible," said Sterlynn Marx, Events and Sponsorships Manager at WinterKids. "By participating in the auction, you will have the opportunity to treat yourself or someone you love, and at the same time, you'll be giving the gift of winter fun and outdoor activity to children across Maine!"

Bidding in the License to Chill Silent Auction opened on November 13 and will close on December 7 at 7:30 p.m. Eastern Time. The closing

of the auction will coincide with WinterKids' live community fundraiser at Après in Portland, providing a perfect opportunity for bidders to join in the festivities, which will include guest emcees Blake & Kelly from Coast 93.1, music by TJ Swan, S'mores donuts by Eighty8 Donut Cafe, drinks by Après, food by Meet on the Street, charcuterie by Charcuterie, door prizes, and more.

To browse the catalog of silent auction items, place bids, buy tickets, and learn more about both the WinterKids License to Chill Silent Auction and Live Celebration, please visit <https://winterkids.org/licensesetochill/>.

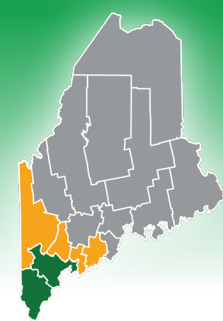
The 12th Annual WinterKids License to Chill is presented by Mt. Abram Ski Resort & Bike Park. Snowman Sponsors are Kittery Trading Post and PTC, and Snowball Sponsors are Acadia Insurance, Chalmers Insurance, Charcuterie, Eighty8 Donut Cafe, ReVision Energy, and Sidecountry Sports.

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Unitarian Universalist Church to host annual Holiday Fair

BRUNSWICK, ME — The spirit of the season awaits you at the ever-popular Holiday Fair at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick. The aroma of delicious soups and baked goods and the sound of live music will welcome shoppers. The beauty of handmade creations of ven-

dors and crafters will decorate the sanctuary. Freshly created holiday wreaths will add their fragrance in the lobby. Everyone is sure to discover an unexpected perfect find in the White Elephant room and at the used tool table. The room with gently used jewelry will once again be filled with

treasures. New this year, the Kids' Creation Station, run by church youth, will entertain young visitors.

UUCB is located at 1 Middle Street, Brunswick, ME at the corner of Pleasant and Middle where the Holiday Moose will welcome you on December 2 from 9:00-2:00.

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Festival of Trees supports local Children's Dyslexia Center

PORTLAND, ME -- Opening weekend for the Portland Children's Dyslexia Center's Festival of Trees is this weekend, Friday, Saturday, & Sunday November 24th, 25th, & 26th at 415 Congress Street, next to Portland City Hall. Open 10-8:30 Friday & Saturday and Sunday 10-5.

Listen to holiday music, wander among over 30 beautifully decorated Christmas trees. You might even get to bring one home!

There will be a Craft Fair, an LL Bean Gift Card Raffle with \$1,000, \$750 & \$500 prizes, a 50/50 Raffle drawn on Nov. 26th and December 3rd...AND a Silent Auction!

Visit with SANTA on December 1st, 5:30-

8:30pm & on December 3rd, noon-5:00pm
Admission: Adults: one-on-one tutoring of children with Dyslexia at the Portland Center.
Proceeds support free one-on-one tutoring of children with Dyslexia at the Portland Center.



Learn to grow native plants from seeds



Photo by Pamela Hargest of University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

FALMOUTH, ME — University of Maine Cooperative Extension will host a growing native plants from seeds workshop from 10-11:30 a.m. on Dec. 9 at the UMaine Gardens at Tidewater Farm, 200 Presumpscot Point Road.

Led by experienced horticulturists, the workshop will explore various topics, including sowing and transplanting techniques, protecting seeds from critters and dividing plants in the spring. Attendees will also learn about the benefits of using native plants in landscaping, their role in supporting local ecosystems and why from late fall to early winter is the perfect time to start planting native seeds outdoors.

During the workshop, participants will have the opportunity to

get hands-on experience and take home two containers with the seeds they plant.

Space is limited, registration is required. To sign up, visit the program webpage. The program fee is offered on a sliding scale, \$5-\$15, with all

proceeds supporting the educational mission of Tidewater Farm.

For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, visit the UMaine Extension website or contact Pamela Hargest, pamela.hargest@maine.edu; 207.949.4524.

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DHHS recognizes Maine adoptive families

AUGUSTA, ME—The Maine Department of Health and Human Services’ (DHHS) Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) is recognizing November as National Adoption Month by highlighting the vital role that adoptive parents play in creating safe and stable homes for Maine children. In 2022, 413 children in Maine were adopted and provided

permanency by resource (foster), kin and adoptive parents. The theme of National Adoption Month this year is “Empowering Youth: Finding Points of Connection,” which emphasizes the importance of providing opportunities and services that connect youth to their backgrounds to support meaningful permanent relationships.

Connecting youth to their roots helps them to build a strong identity. “During this season of gratitude, we give special thanks to those who open their homes to provide safe and loving families for Maine children,” said DHHS Commissioner Jeanne Lambrew and OCFS Director Todd Landry. “Working with community partners, we’re

connecting Maine people who want to adopt with children who will complete their families. We encourage anyone interested in adoption or fostering to take the next step and reach out to A Family for ME to learn more.” The majority of adoptive families have served as resource families for the children prior to adoption. In 2022, 41 percent of chil-

dren placed in foster care were placed with kin. OCFS partners with A Family for ME to recruit new adoptive and resource families. A Family for ME provides prospective parents with information regarding licensing, training, and the process overall, including live information sessions. DHHS also partners with Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine

to provide ongoing support and resources for adoptive and resource families, and with Community Health and Counseling to provide liaison services and clinical support for adoptive and foster families. Those interested in exploring adoption and fostering may contact A Family for ME at (844) 893-6311 or AFamilyforMeMaine.org.

Maine authors join together for Lewiston

OCEAN PARK, ME - Maine Authors for Lewiston, an informal group of more than 70 Maine authors, have banded together to support the victims of the recent tragedy in Lewiston. The group has organized a series of 10 book signings, all free and open to the public, so that people can purchase books and meet the authors. There will be fiction writers, children’s book authors, non-fiction writers, and po-

ets among the participants. This is a wonderful opportunity for Maine book-lovers to support local authors, but, most importantly, to help our fellow Mainers as they begin to heal and recover. All of the participating authors have agreed to donate all, or most, of their proceeds from these events to help the healing and recovery efforts in Lewiston. All are volunteering because they care.

The authors are scheduled to appear at the following venues in the coming days: Curtis Memorial Library (Brunswick) - Saturday, November 25, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Ellsworth Public Library - Tuesday, November 28, 2023, 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Lewis T. Graves Memorial Public Library (Kennebunkport) - Tuesday, No-

vember 28, 2023, 2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Baxter Memorial Library (Gorham) - Thursday, November 30, 2023, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. Belfast Public Library (Belfast) - Saturday, December 2, 2023, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Patten Free Library (Bath) - Wednesday, December 6, 2023, 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. McArthur Public Li-

brary (Biddeford) - Thursday, December 7, 2023, 4:30 p.m - 7:00 p.m. Auburn Public Library - Saturday, December 9, 2023, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Camden Public Library - Thursday, December 14, 2023, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Lewiston Public Library - Saturday, December 16, 2023, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. The libraries have

generously donated space to the cause as they, too, support those impacted by the senseless tragedy. The Maine writing community is a small, but vibrant, part of Maine culture. Some writers have been personally impacted by the events in Lewiston, others simply care deeply about Maine and their fellow Mainers. Most do much of their writing in and about Maine. All want to help.

Over \$3.5M for Maine environmental justice projects

BOSTON, MA — Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced over \$3.5 million to fund six projects across Maine that advance environmental justice as part of President Biden’s Investing in America agenda. The organizations, which EPA has selected through its Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving Cooperative Agreement and Environmental Justice Government-to-Government programs, will use the funds to ensure disadvantaged communities that have historically suffered from underinvestment have access to clean air and water and climate resilience solutions in alignment with the Biden-Harris administration’s Justice40 Initiative. Thanks to President Biden’s Inflation Reduction Act—the largest climate investment in U.S. history—this funding is a part of the largest investment ever announced under these two longstanding EPA programs. This is the first in a series of environmental justice grant announcements the agency will announce before the

end of the year. “No President has invested more in environmental justice than President Biden, and under his leadership we’re removing longstanding barriers and meaningfully collaborating with communities to build a healthier future for all,” said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. “Together, these community-driven projects will improve the health, equity, and resilience of communities while setting a blueprint for local solutions that can be applied across the nation.” “EPA strongly believes that historically disadvantaged and overburdened communities must have a place at the table as we work toward climate and environmental justice. Successful environmental justice programs are built with community collaboration, common goals, and community empowerment,” said EPA New England Regional Administrator David Cash. “Across New England, these selectees are poised to catalyze lasting change and make a profound difference, bringing cleaner air and water to

their communities, combating climate change, creating green jobs, and improving environmental health. We eagerly anticipate the enduring impact the grants in Maine will have in our region, advancing our common goal of environmental justice.” “Mainers from the coast to the mountains are already experiencing the impacts of climate change. As the Gulf of Maine warms and more frequent extreme weather events affect our fisheries, farmers, and businesses, federal investments are critical to not only mitigating the climate crisis but making our communities more resilient to its impacts,” said Congresswoman Chellie Pingree (D-Maine). “From strengthening working waterfronts and developing a clean energy workforce to improving environmental public health and advancing environmental justice, these significant investments made possible by the historic Inflation Reduction Act will go a long way in helping our overburdened communities and will also help Maine achieve our climate goals.”

“Keeping Maine’s environment healthy not only benefits our great outdoors, but also strengthens our local communities and businesses,” said Congressman Golden (ME-02). “This set of EPA grants will boost severe weather resilience, reduce pollution, and improve food security for families all across the Second District.” The grants announced today deliver on President Biden’s commitment to advance equity and justice throughout the United States. The two grant programs directly advance the President’s transformational Justice40 initiative to deliver 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain federal investments to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution. The Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving (EJCPS) Program EPA’s EJCPS program provides financial assistance to eligible organizations working to address local environmental or public health issues in their communities. The program builds upon President

Biden’s Executive Orders 13985 and 14008, creating a designation of funds exclusively for small nonprofit organizations, which are defined as having 5 or fewer full-time employees, thus ensuring that grant resources reach organizations of lower capacity that historically struggle to receive federal funding. Eleven of the organizations selected for EJCPS this year are small nonprofit organizations, receiving over \$1.6 million in total. EPA EJCPS grant selections in Maine: Gulf of Maine Research Institute in Portland, Maine has been selected to receive \$500,000 for building capacity for disadvantaged working waterfront communities to engage constructively in offshore wind development in the Gulf of Maine. United Charitable has been selected to receive \$500,000 for supporting the ReTreeUS project in Auburn, Maine to work with 11 partner organizations to develop 8 food forests, providing benefits such as improvement of public and environmental health, while serving communities with high rates of food insecurity. Maine People’s Resource Center in Bangor, Maine has been selected to receive \$500,000 for a community-led program to invest in the workforce development necessary to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants through clean energy projects. Center for an Ecolo-

gy-Based Economy in the Western Maine Foothills Region has been selected to receive \$150,000 for increasing community resilience across municipalities, schools, and public land through education, planning and technical assistance. Environmental Justice Government-to-Government (EJG2G) EPA’s EJG2G provides funding at the state, local, territorial, and Tribal level to support government activities in partnership with community-based organizations that lead to measurable environmental or public health impacts in communities disproportionately burdened by environmental harms. EPA EJG2G grant selections within Maine’s boundaries: The Penobscot Indian Nation has been selected to receive \$1,000,000 for installing a minimum of 150 heat pumps in Tribal housing units and private housing units occupied by Tribal citizens with the greatest need – elderly, veterans, and families with young children. Greater Portland Council of Governments has been selected to receive \$886,014 for assisting communities in creating and implementing action steps to respond to climate change with a special focus on addressing energy insecurity and climate adaptation for underserved, disadvantaged, and rural populations in Cumberland and York Counties in Maine.

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DHHS distributing \$8.5M to Maine municipalities

AUGUSTA, ME— The Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) announced today that it will distribute \$8.5 million in one-time funding to municipalities and Tribal Nations next week for General Assistance (GA) costs. This funding, proposed by the Governor and enacted in the biennial budget by the Legislature, will help Maine cities, towns, and Tribal communities offset an historic increase in demand related to the COVID-19 pandemic, higher housing costs, and inflation for the cost of food and other necessities supported through this safety net program. The distribution amounts are based on each municipality's GA costs for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2022.

"General Assistance is a critical temporary support for Maine people, but reforms are needed in order to ensure the long-term sustainability of the program and to preserve its core mission of supporting basic needs for a short period,"

said DHHS Commissioner Jeanne Lambrew. "This funding will help Maine communities offset increased costs as we continue our work with partners to improve the program into the future."

The Department is committed to working with cities, towns, Tribes, and community partners on long-term reforms to sustain GA and return to its original mission of providing temporary support as a last resort. To that end, DHHS held listening sessions in the spring and summer and posted a report reflecting the views and recommendations gathered. It has initiated some reforms this fall, including work to streamline the GA application, improve training, and develop a better data collection system to improve program administration and reporting.

Developed as a program of last resort over 40 years ago, GA provides temporary assistance to cover basic needs when individuals are not eligi-

ble for other programs or those programs are insufficient. Assistance is provided through vouchers for basic needs such as food, housing, and medication. GA is administered by municipalities and Tribes and overseen by DHHS, which reimburses 70 percent of eligible costs. Maine is one of 25 states that operate a GA program.

Costs for GA increased three-fold between SFY 2019 and 2023, from \$13 million to \$43 million, including both the state and municipal shares. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and rising housing costs caused the temporary housing component of GA to increase over tenfold, from \$2 million in SFY 2019 to \$26 million in SFY 2023.

Some of this increase also relates to a policy change in recent years (PL 2019, Ch. 515), which expanded the definition of a "qualifying emergency" to include homelessness and allows reimbursement for costs exceeding regular

program maximums. The Mills Administration also implemented a 2015 law (PL 2015, Ch. 324), which extended GA to those lawfully present or pursuing a process for immigration relief.

To address needs in the current fiscal year through June 2024, the biennial budget passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Mills includes a one-time, lump-sum supplemental payment of \$8.5 million, to be allocated based on their past GA claims.

Of this, \$3 million is for unanticipated fiscal and operational costs of GA related to various programs that began in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency and are now ending. Its intent is to offset past costs as Maine transitions away from these emergency programs. DHHS also proposed budget language – not accepted by the Legislature -- that would have set maximum hotel costs equal to those

of other federal programs to help limit GA costs.

Another \$5.5 million is for forward-looking costs that address projected municipal and Tribal obligations. Municipalities and Tribes have flexibility in the use of the \$5.5 million and are encouraged to use the funds for purposes that reduce the need for GA in the first place, such as administrative and infrastructure costs for shelters, recovery residences, transitional and affordable housing options, and preventing loss of housing.

While DHHS received an extra \$7.5 million in the biennial budget for the State's share of GA costs, that funding will cover only recent, high GA costs. It will not sustain higher costs moving forward.

Based on SFY 2022 spending, the City of Portland is receiving \$7.46 million, or 88 percent of the total \$8.5 million. The next highest share is South Portland with \$156,000. A table with the full distribution is attached.

This is the second year in which the Mills Administration has provided additional support to municipalities and Tribes for GA. The SFY 2023 supplemental budget allocated \$10 million for the purpose of a one-time supplemental payment to help offset unanticipated fiscal and operational costs of GA during the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds were distributed during the week of August 15, 2022, proportionally based on municipalities' share of GA costs incurred during SFY 2021.

Under current law, municipalities pay out GA assistance to eligible individuals and bill the state for 70 percent of their costs. Municipalities set maximums overall and for different categories of support. Benefits are based on period of up to 30 days that starts with the initial date of application and individuals may reapply each month. Eligible applicants receive a maximum benefit amount per month based on their need and income.

Prepare for the winter season with these tips

PORTLAND, ME – Consolidated Communications, Inc. (NASDAQ: CNSL), a leading broadband and business communications provider, is ready for the upcoming winter season, taking steps to prepare response plans and other protocols in the event of severe weather in its service areas.

"Winter storms are a yearly occurrence in our community, and when severe weather impacts our customers, ensuring the reliability of services for our customers is our top priority," said Ryan Whitlock, senior vice president, operations at Consolidated. "We continually monitor weather patterns and have rigorous emergency response protocols for a va-

riety of potential challenges. Our teams stand ready to respond when needed. Connectivity is vital for our customers and our communities, and we're ready for winter weather."

Consolidated encourages customers and local residents to prepare as well, including:

Plan to stay warm, by winterizing your home making sure you can heat your home safely before winter; stay indoors if temperatures could cause frostbite and hypothermia.

Pay attention to weather reports and storm updates; research and sign up for local emergency warning systems.

Stock up on emergency supplies including bottled water, non-perishable



food, a battery-powered radio, flashlight, batteries and a first aid kit.

Review information from local resources, including Maine Emergency Management Agency.

Early season storms, when wet and heavy snowfall can cause damage to trees, typically have the potential to cause the most disruption to service. In the event of severe impacts from winter storms, Consolidated is prepared to address customer needs while ensuring their safety and

the safety of its employees. Consolidated teams prepare for the potential storms and severe weather that can impact service reliability and dependability, including by:

Ensuring all back-up power supplies and generators are fully operational;

Ensuring availability of fuel for both fleet and emergency generators during and after a storm;

Taking inventory of supplies, including copper and fiber cables, needed for plant and network res-

toration and supplementing where necessary;

Increasing staffing in areas projected to be impacted;

Placing emergency network supplies throughout company facilities; and

Double-checking all safety equipment and supplies that are in place.

During a storm or severe weather event, commercial power outages may interrupt Internet and network services, which are dependent on electricity. As electric service providers begin restoring power, they typically prioritize emergency responders and hospitals ahead of other customers. The company encourages customers to be prepared for interruptions in Internet service

that may be related to commercial power availability.

Recent upgrades to fiber-optic infrastructure in some areas will also be of great benefit amid cold and wet conditions. Fiber-optic cables are more resilient to rain and snow than copper cables since they transmit light signals instead of electrical signals. This resiliency is just one of the benefits that fiber optic infrastructure can provide to a community.

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



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Nov 24
BUXTON --
MULTI-CRAFTER SALE
 Friday, November 24 from
 9-2 at 938 Long Plains Rd,
 Buxton, ME

Nov 25
BUXTON -- Tired of
 Turkey? Try our delicious
 Haddock Supper Buffet -
 Saturday, November 25,
 2023 - 5:00 pm at Living
 Waters Church, Parker Farm
 Road, Buxton. Suggested
 donation: \$10 Adult, \$5
 Child, \$20 Family. Please
 note: We will offer the op-
 tion of takeout containers
 for those who do not want
 to come inside for seating.
 Wearing of face masks for
 those who wish is optional.
 Hand sanitizer is available
 for those who wish to use it.

Nov 25
BATH -- 7:30 PM
 - 9:30 PM the Chocolate
 Church presents Pat Col-
 well & The Soul Sensations
 Motown Christmas (R&B,
 Holiday). Ticket Prices: \$20
 ADV | \$22 DOS. A beloved
 tradition here at the Choc-
 olate Church Arts Center!
 Pat Colwell and the Soul
 Sensations bring down the
 house with a powerful mix
 of Motown and Memphis
 soul music that's guaran-
 teed to get the party started.
 Get your tickets at chocolat-
 echurcharts.org

Nov 25
BAR MILLS -- ER-
 ICA BROWN AND THE
 BLUEGRASS CONNEC-
 TION - at Saco River The-
 atre, 29 Salmon Falls Road,
 Bar Mills, ME, Nov 25 at

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

7:30 pm. Tickets: \$15 Gen-
 eral Admission at www.sacorivertheatre.org or call
 207-929-6473 for reserva-
 tions.

Nov 27
AUBURN -- Anime &
 Manga Club 4 PM-5 PM at
 Auburn Public Library. Dis-
 cuss and watch your favor-
 ite anime, or share manga
 with the rest of the group,
 while enjoying some tasty
 snacks.

Dec 1
LEWISTON -- from
 10:00am - 11:30am, the
 Lewiston Public Library
 Children's Department will
 be offering the program
 Little Footprints Keychain
 Keepsake. During this pro-
 gram, caregivers and their
 young children will be able
 to create a keepsake featur-
 ing the unique footprint of
 their child. The program is
 recommended for kids ages
 birth to 5 years and their
 caregivers. Siblings are also
 welcome to attend. Free. In
 person. All material will be
 provided.

Dec 2, Jan 6, Feb 3,
Mar 2, Apr 6, May 4
WESTBROOK --
 Prides Corner Commu-
 nity 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.

Dec 4
LEWISTON -- "The
 Lost Art of Tea Leaf Read-
 ing Workshop" in Callahan
 Hall on the third floor of
 the Lewiston Public Library
 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Dec 4
LISBON FALLS
 -- The Knights of Colum-
 bus Council 10019 will
 be sponsoring a dedicated
 blood drive in memory of
 Tracy Sautter on Decem-
 ber 4th at the parish hall
 of Holy Trinity church 67
 Frost Hill Avenue Lisbon
 Falls from 1:00 PM to 5:30
 PM to make an appointment
 please call 1-800-733-2767
 or visit RedCrossBlood.org
 and enter: HTC

No walk-ins accepted;
 must make an appointment.

Dec 6
LEWISTON -- Author
 talk with Clif Travers at the
 Lewiston Public Library at
 5:30 PM. The event listing
 can also be found on our
 website at <https://lplonline.org/events/author-clif-travers-to-speak-at-lpl/>

Dec 11
LEWISTON -- From
 3:30pm-5:00pm, the Lew-
 iston Public Library Chil-
 dren's Department will
 be offering the program

Kids' Collage Picture
 Frames. During this pro-
 gram, kids will be able to
 create a unique collage
 picture frame using a vari-
 ety of materials, including
 old books, graphic novels,
 wrapping paper, and embel-
 lishments. The program is
 recommended for kids ages
 6-12. Kids under 8 must be
 accompanied by a caregiv-
 er.

This activity is free,
 all materials will be provid-
 ed, and there is no registra-
 tion required.

Dec 11
LEWISTON -- Vis-
 it with Daniel Tiger at the
 Lewiston Public Library
 on Saturday, December 9th
 at 11am in Callahan Hall.
 This event is in partnership
 with Maine Public Radio
 and PBS Kids. Registration
 required on Eventbrite:
<https://tinyurl.com/2vd4k-ftu>
 If you previously regis-
 tered for the canceled event,
 you DO NOT need new
 tickets for this event. You
 are still registered. Free. In
 person.

Dec 13
LEWISTON -- Hiring
 Event on Wednesday, De-
 cember 13th from 10:00am-
 noon at the Lewiston Career
 Center, 5 Mollison Way,
 Lewiston. Bring your best
 self and speak with multi-
 ple employers all offering
 great job opportunities!
 This event is free and open
 to the public. For a list of
 participating employers,
 visit: <https://www.maine-careercenter.com/locations/>

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Jan 20, 21
**LEWISTON, TOP-
 SHAM** -- "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 Cen-
 ter, Topsham

Mar 23, 24
**LEWISTON, TOP-
 SHAM** -- "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, TOP-
 SHAM** -- "Cityscape,
 Seascape, Soundscape"
 Saturday, May 18, 2024,
 7:00 p.m. - Franco Center,
 Lewiston ; Sunday, May
 19, 2024, 2:30 p.m. - Ori-
 on Performing Arts Center,
 Topsham

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

LEWISTON -- PRO-
 GRAMS FOR HOMES-
 CHOOl FAMILIES, held
 the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Mon-
 day 11:15am-12:30pm
 starting March 6th, 2023 at
 the Lewiston Public Library
 Children's Department

Homeschool fami-
 lies, 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 Homes-
 school Storytime and Craft
 on March 20th.

This program is free
 and recommended for ho-
 meschool families with
 children of all ages. No reg-
 istration is required. Contact
 info. 513-3133, LPLKids@lewistonmaine.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

VISIT: GYBSA.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION, INCLUDING DONATION LEVEL REWARDS

DONATE TODAY!

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SENIOR TRIPS

APRIL 11 - 19, 2024 - THE FRENCH RIVIERA – Trip includes 9 days, 7 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches and 3 dinners. Lodging for 7 nights in the same hotel. Highlights are Nice, Food Tour & Tasting, Nice Flower Market, Monaco, Monte Carlo, Grasse, Cannes, Saint-Honorat Island & Wine Tasting, Villa Ephrussi de Rothchild, St. Paul de Vence and much more.

MAY 11 - 19, 2024 - BILTMORE ESTATE & ASHEVILLE, NC - Trip includes 8 nights lodging including 4 nights in the Asheville area, 8 breakfasts and

6 dinners and a guided tour of the Asheville, North Carolina area. We will have a full day visit to the spectacular Biltmore Estate, America's largest privately owned home. We will visit the Biltmore Village that connects the estates present and past and provides a place for dining, shopping and historical exhibits. We will also visit the Antler Village and winery. We will tour the Blue Ridge Parkway along the way. A \$75.00 deposit per person is due when signing up. Price is \$1,245.00 pp double occupancy which includes all entrance fees, meal tips and bus driver tip.

JUNE 15 - 23, 2024 - WESTERN CANADA'S ROCKIES, LAKES & WINE COUNTRY - This trip includes 9 days and 8 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 3 dinners. Highlights of this trip are Calgary, Albertan BBQ, Banff, Bow Falls, Lake Louise, Revelstoke Railway Museum, Okanagan Valley, Vineyard Dinner and Wine Tasting, Stanley Park, Granville Island and much more. Call Claire or Cindy for more information.

OCTOBER 6 - 14, 2024 - NOVA SCOTIA, PRINCE

EDWARD ISLAND & NEW BRUNSWICK – Trip includes 8 nights lodging, 8 breakfasts, 1 lunch, and 6 dinners. You will have a guided tour of Acadia National Park, Halifax, Peggy's Cove & Lunenburg. We will visit King's Landing Historical Settlement and have a guided tour of Prince Edward Island including Anne of Green Gable's Home. We will have admission to the Hopewell Rocks and you will visit the Waterside Town of Saint John, New Brunswick and much more. A \$75.00 deposit is due when signing up. Price is \$1,639.00 per person double occupancy and this includes all entrance fees, meal tips and bus driver tip.

If interested in any of these trips or upcoming trips, please contact Claire Bilodeau at 784-0302 or 576-8604 or Cindy Boyd at 345-9569. If we are not available, please leave a message and we will call you as soon as we can.

SUPERVISED EXERCISE

Fit to Function, individualized exercise programming promoting function

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Town of Gorham: Take advantage of Domestic Trade grant program

GORHAM, ME – The Office of Business Development’s Domestic Trade has funding available for Maine’s businesses operating in target industries to build capacity for increased sales of products and services. The focus is to support businesses with efforts to drive sales through sales channel support, trade shows, marketing strategy, technical assistance/capacity building, and other trade assistance. The following industries are eligible for support:

- Agriculture – Food and Beverage
- Clean Energy
- Construction
- Seafood and Aquaculture
- Forestry and forest products

Information Services
Logistics - Transportation and Warehousing
Manufacturing (including wholesale)
Retail (including wholesale)
Eligible Industries
The program, being administered by the Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG), is open for applications, and the grants are open to businesses in pandemic-impacted industries across the state for activities that are directly related to increasing market reach and expanding sales activities. Applicants are encouraged to review all materials available on the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development

ELIGIBLE INDUSTRIES

<p>CLEAN ENERGY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewable Power Generation • Power Line Construction • HVAC Contractors • HVAC Equipment Manufacturing • Engine, Turbine & Power Transmission Manufacturing • Plumbing, Heating, and Air-conditioning Equipment & Supplies Wholesalers 	<p>FORESTRY & FOREST PRODUCTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forestry & Logging • Wood Product Manufacturing • Paper Manufacturing • Wooden Furniture Manufacturing • Paper & Wood Product Wholesalers 	<p>AGRICULTURE, SEAFOOD & FOOD MANUFACTURING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crop and Animal Production • Fishing and aquaculture • Support Activities for Agriculture • Food & Beverage Manufacturing • Grocery & Beverage Product Wholesalers
<p>ADVANCED MACHINERY & METALS MANUFACTURING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fabricated Metal Manufacturing • Machinery Manufacturing • Transportation Equipment Manufacturing • Machinery & Metals Wholesalers 	<p>BIOMEDICAL MANUFACTURING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical Devices Manufacturing • Medical Equipment Manufacturing • Pharmaceutical Manufacturing • Biomedical Equipment and Pharmaceutical Wholesalers 	<p>LOGISTICS, TRANSPORTATION, AND WAREHOUSING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Passenger, Commercial, Industrial and Freight Transportation • Warehousing and Storage • Logistics Consulting Services • Packaging and Labeling Services
<p>MANUFACTURING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durable Manufacturing: Goods that have an average life of at least three years (cars, furniture, equipment, electronics, appliance, etc.) • Nondurable Manufacturing: Goods that have an average life of less than three years (food, paper goods, disposable products, clothing, etc.) 	<p>CONSTRUCTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Construction – Residential, Commercial, Infrastructure • Contractors • Construction Supply Wholesalers 	<p>INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telecommunications • Software and Internet Publishing • Information Services • IT equipment Wholesalers
<p>RETAIL TRADE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Retail Trade, including Non-store Retailers and E-Commerce • Makers, Artisans, and Crafts Products 	<p>GPCOG GREATER PORTLAND COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS</p>	

(DECD) grant program website at <https://www.maine.gov/decd/domestic-trade/grants>. Technical assistance is available by emailing domestictrade@gpcog.org or at 207-387-2919.

Santa to get a merry & bright welcome in Wiscasset Village



Santa will be arriving in Wiscasset Village on Dec. 1 where he'll be visiting with children in the 78 Main St. POP-UP. (Bob Bond photo.)

WISCASSET, ME – Help welcome Santa to his Wiscasset Village Workshop on Friday, Dec. 1, from 5 to 7pm. Santa will be arriving via a Merry & Bright Light Parade – cars, trucks, and ATVs lit and decorated for the season. When Santa arrives in the Village after parading around town, the evening’s festivities begin! Children waving light wands will guide him down the sidewalk to his local workshop in 78 Main St. On the way, will Santa stop to pet the sheep, take them for a walk, or feed them a snack? If not, young visitors will take on the woolly task.

Once inside, Santa’s

charge is to nestle into his throne, fluff up his lap, open his ears, and be ready to listen to the deepest desires of his gathered fans. He, of course, is brimming with patience and jolly good cheer. The children, when not chatting with Santa, will be busily sipping cocoa, munching treats, and tasting s’mores. They may choose to color or make paper garlands to take home for the family tree; and the herd (of sheep) are waiting for them just outside.

For anyone wanting to wave to Santa as he parades through town, merrily and brightly, the cavalcade begins at 5pm on Churchill St., crosses Rte.

27 to Hooper St., turns right on to Federal St., then takes a left onto Main St. (Rte. 1), and finally a right onto Water St. The parade goes around the block and drops Santa off at the corner of Middle St. and Main where children wait to escort him to his workshop door at 78 Main St. And Marketfest family fun is launched!

For more information and calendar details, visit www.wiscassetholiday-marketfest.com

The Major Sponsors supporting Wiscasset Holiday Marketfest’s free community activities are Carriage House Gardens, First Federal Savings & Loan, First National Bank, J. Ed-

ward Knight & Co., Jodie’s Restaurant, Midcoast Federal Credit Union, Red Bull Antiques, Red’s Eats, Rock Paper Scissors, Sherri Dunbar/Tim Dunham Realty, Water St. Kitchen & Bar, and Wiscasset Ford with additional support from BIRCH Home Furnishings & Gifts, Bradbury Art & Antiques, High Tide Printing, IndustrialME, M.W. Sewall, Old and Everlasting, Sprague’s Lobster, and Water Lily Flowers and Gifts.

Wiscasset Holiday Marketfest is a partnership between Wiscasset Creative Alliance and Wiscasset Area Chamber of Commerce.



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