

## **Gorham Public Works** builds new sand shelter

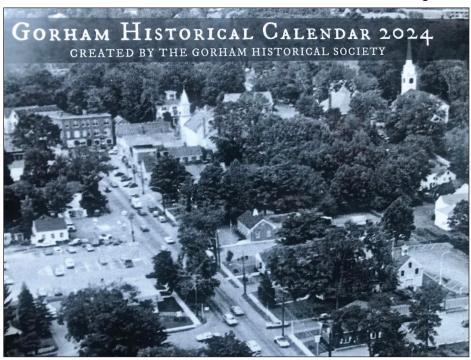
GORHAM. ME -- Check out the new sand shelter for Gorham residents built by some really talented Public Works crew. The whole silver bullets area is getting a facelift and looks awesome, quite the upgrade!

Remember sand is for Gorham residents ONLY. 2 buckets per weather event and you will need buckets and a shovel.

Questions? Call the office at 222-4950 or email us at dpw@gorham.me.us



## Pick up your Town of **Gorham calendars today!**



Calendars are now on sale at Gorham Town Clerks Office and Baxter Memorial Library!

# **Volunteers needed for New Year Gorham**

GORHAM, ME -- The New Year Gorham (NYG) Committee is seeking volunteers to help with the specific tasks below on December 31st:

Decorating between Noon and 2pm Children's Crafts between 3:30 and 5:30pm

Staffing for Admission tables for an



## Win big with Gorham Lions **Club's "Prize-A-Day"**

GORHAM, ME -- Who wants to have and share some exciting fun to kickoff 2024 as well as support your local, national, and world-wide communities? For only \$10, you can buy a Gorham Lions Club "Prize-A-Day" calendar for multiple chances to win one of many amazing prizes drawn daily during the entire month of

January 2024. That's 31 chances to win!

This is a great holiday gift idea for a friend, loved one and for yourself! Get your calendar(s) today at one of these locations: Plummer's Hardware, 57 Main St., Gorham, at the Gorham Lions Christmas Tree Sales outside Plumber's Hardware, or by calling Ken at 207-929-9182.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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	\$50 Gift Certificate	Taste of Maine gift basket by	\$50 Gift Certificate	Doggie Basket	\$40 Gift Certificate	\$50 Gift Certificate to Hannaford
	Junction Bowl	Sherrie Benner	O'Donal's Nursery	by Doggie Door	MK Kitchen	Tickets to Saco Rive
		Group				Theatre
7	8	9	10 Makeup Bag by Erin	11 Gift Basket	12 \$25 Gift	Bosch orbital
\$50 Cash Carters Auto	\$25 Gift Certificate	\$50 Gift Certificate	Flett	by Brown Dog	Certificate	sander by Ware
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	Bakery	Hardware	Oak & Ember		Pizza	Subbia
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\$50 Cash	\$25 Gift	\$20 Gift	United States Flag	Doggie Basket	\$25 Gift	\$25 Gift Certificat
Hillside Lumber	Certificate Gorham House of	Certificate	and Pole by Gorham Flag	by Doggie Door	Certificate Lucky Thai	Hops & Vine
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21	22	23	24	25 Descie Becket	26	\$35 Gift
\$50 Cash Carters Auto Service	\$25 Gift Certificate Bookworm	18 Holes and a Cart by Sunset	\$50 Gift Certificate	Doggie Basket by Doggie Door	Assorted Wine and Spirits Basket	S35 Gift Certificate
		<b>Ridge Golf Links</b>	by Plummer's	b) 005510 0001	by Willis Real	Nail Xperts
			Hardware		Estate	
Tickets to the Tate House Museum						
	29	30	31			
	Makeup Bag by	\$25 Gift	\$45 Gift			
House Museum						

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hour between 3:30 and 8:30pm (training provided)

Thomas Hasbrouck (trhasbrouck@icloud.

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Please contact NYG Coordinator com) if you can help make New Year Gorham the best it can be!



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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## Easier, electronic access to duck hunting permits for Mainers

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Senator Angus King, Vice-Chair of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, celebrated the Congressional passage of legislation that will streamline the duck stamp process for Maine hunters. The bipartisan Duck Stamp Modernization Act of 2023 will provide access to the stamp on smartphones to help more people enjoy waterfowl hunting, remove barriers to getting outdoors, and increase revenue for conservation programs funded by stamp sales. The legislation passed the Senate in July and now heads

the President's desk for signature into law.

"From Bean Boots to Old Town Canoes, generations of Maine people have pioneered innovations to make getting outdoors easier. Decades later, this same commitment still drives sportsmen and women across our state and is the guiding principle of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus," said Senator King. "The Duck Stamp Modernization Act of 2023 embraces 21st century technology to make the great outdoors more accessible than ever. I'm proud that Congress was able to work together on a bipartisan basis to continue making recreational activities a simpler pursuit for all."

All waterfowl hunters at or over the age of 16 must possess a current signed Federal Duck Stamp, along with state licenses and permits, to hunt legally. The Duck Stamp Modernization Act of 2023 builds off a successful pilot program in 28 states that offer E-Stamps for 45 days of hunting. Along with the digital access, physical Duck Stamps would still be available for purchase from the post office and other authorized retailers.

The legislation is also cosponsored by Senators John Boozman (R-AR), Joe Manchin (D-WV), Roger Marshall, M.D. (R-KS), Tom Carper (D-DE), Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) and Bill Cassidy, M.D. (R-LA). Companion legislation was introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressmen Garret Graves (R-LA) and Mike Thompson (D-CA).

The legislation is backed by a number of leading conservation and wildlife organizations including the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus and Ducks Unlimited.

As Chairman of the Senate National Parks Subcommittee and Vice-Chair of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, Senator King is among the Senate's loudest voices encouraging outdoor recreation. Last year, he pressed the Biden administration on two of his top priorities for the National Park Service (NPS): securing enough funding for necessary park maintenance and ensuring sufficient staffing of America's greatest treasures. Senator King also helped lead the passage the Great American Outdoors

Act (GAOA) into law; the legislation includes the Restore Our Parks Act and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Permanent Funding Act. The historic legislative package continues Senator King's career-long focus on conservation efforts, dating back to his work prior to running for elected office through his years as Governor and his service in the Senate. Over the course of his time in the Blaine House, Governor King was responsible for conserving more land across Maine than all Governors before him combined.

## Maine CDC releases student health survey results

AUGUSTA, ME – The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) announced the release of 2023 Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey (MIYHS) data showing promising progress on changing youth attitudes towards use of vaping products.

Data collected in the spring of 2023 show that 16 percent of Maine high school students reported vaping at least once in the previous 30 days, down from a high of 29 percent in 2019. The percentage of students who said they had ever used an e-vapor product also declined, from 45 percent in 2019 to 30 percent in 2023. These trends reflect efforts at the national, state, and local levels to educate youth about the dangers of vaping and to restrict youth access to addicting e-vapor products. The Maine CDC's statewide "Don't Get Sucked In" online and social media campaign launched in 2019 to provide teens with facts about vaping, as well as free, confidential, non-judgmental support to prevent, reduce, or quit use of vape products.

The 2023 MIYHS results also show an increase in students who report connections to caring adults at school and in the community. This year, 77 percent of high schoolers indicated they have at least one teacher who cares and supports them, up from 73 percent in 2021. The number of students reporting support from adults other than their parents was also up by 7 percent from 2021 results, with 2023 data showing 54 percent of students feeling that support.

According to the latest MIYHS data, mental health struggles remain a significant challenge for Maine youth. Over one-third of high school students reported feeling sad or hopeless for two or more weeks in a row, such that they stopped participating in some usual activities in the last



Maine Department of Health and Human Services Maine Department of Education

year; 33 percent of middle make hear school students indicated that they had experienced such episodes of sadness and hopelessness in their The

lifetime. "This data is an important tool to help us gauge whether Maine youth are feeling supported by the adults in their lives, and gives us a measurable sense of how they perceive and engage with potentially risky, unhealthy behaviors," said Director of the Maine CDC, Dr. Puthiery Va. "Crucially, these survey results also help guide our work with partners in schools and communities to provide education and resources to Maine's middle and high schoolers to

Education make healthy decisions and feel supported as they navigate the turbulent pre-teen and teen years."

The Maine CDC works with community partners to train middle and high schools in the Sources of Strength model, an evidence-based program proven to increase positive connections between youth and adults. These programs focus on supporting youth mental health, including helping students develop skills and relationships that can protect them from future substance misuse and unhealthy behaviors.

The MIYHS survey is a collaboration between the Maine CDC and the Maine Department of Education (DOE), conducted biennially since 2009. Its purpose is to identify emerging trends facing youth by quantifying the health and related behaviors and attitudes of 5th through 12th graders using direct student surveys tailored to each age group. All public middle and high schools in Maine are invited to participate in the survey, which is administered during the spring of odd-numbered years.

To find out more about MIYHS and view more 2023 results, please visit https://www.maine. gov/miyhs/.

Resources for Youth:

NAMI Maine's Teen Text Support Line is a free, confidential resource for youth from 13-23 years of age availably daily from 2pm-10pmEST. Staffed by trained support specialists 18-24 years old. Text Us at (207) 515-8398. For tips and information, visit https://namimaine.org/ teentextline/

If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis, call or text 988 to reach the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. The 988 Lifeline responds 24 hours a day, seven days a week to calls, chats or texts from anyone who needs support for suicidal, mental health, and/or substance use crisis, and connects those in need with trained crisis counselors. Individuals can also dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support.

The Trevor Project's mission is to end suicide among LGBTQ young people. The Trevor Project provides LGBTQ youth with 24/7 crisis counseling via phone, text, and chat. Call (866) 488-7386 or text "START" to 678-678. Learn more at The Trevor Project and find resources for parents and teachers.

Get free and confidential support related to vaping at vapefreemaine. com. Sign up to quit or call or text for help.



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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces **2024 Coffin Family Law Fellow announced**

CUMBERLAND CO, ME -- The Maine Justice Foundation is pleased to announce that University of Maine Law School Juris Doctor Candidate, Haley Brazier, has been selected as the 2024 Coffin Family Law Fellow.

The Frank M. Coffin Family Law Fellowship provides legal representation in family law matters to clients who have qualified for pro bono assistance through the Volunteer Lawyers Project. Named after Frank M. Coffin, Senior Judge on the First Circuit Court of Appeals, the project supports attornevs based in the Portland. Maine offices of Pine Tree Legal Assistance. Coffin Fellowship attorneys work for and are based at Pine Tree Legal Assistance's Portland office for two years. To date, the Coffin Fellows have worked on a remarkable 2,117 cases on behalf of low-income individuals in Cumberland County who had no other legal aid resources available to them. Brazier will be the 28th Coffin Fellow. Originally from Res-

ton, Virginia, Haley received her B.A. in Anthropology and French from the University of Vermont. After living in France for a year teaching English, Haley moved back to New England and started off her public interest career as an AmeriCorps VISTA for two years at the City of Portland Office of Economic Opportunity. After she was regularly confronted with the various legal challenges that many disadvantaged Portlanders were facing, Haley decided to go to law school at Maine Law. Once a law student, Haley quickly found her passion in family law after interning at Pine Tree's Lewiston office after her first year of school. Pine Tree's work further confirmed her desire to continue working



Celebrating 40 Years

for legal aid services, resulting in her working as a student attorney at Maine Law's Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic for the past year. With experience in legal issues ranging from family law, juvenile law, and immigration, Haley is very passionate about the success and well-being of all her clients and Maine's communities. Haley says, "I am thrilled to be a Coffin Fellow, a role in which I can continue work in family law and toward my passion of ensuring all Mainers have access to quality legal services. I am equally honored and excited to work alongside Pine Tree staff and attorneys who are



#### Donate

such amazing and fierce advocates."

The Fellowship was launched in 1998 with the generous support of Portland area Law Firms. There are 20 participating firms in the program including Berman & Simmons, P.A.; Bernstein, Shur, Sawyer & Nelson, P.A.; Cloutier, Conley & Duffett P.A.; Curtis Thaxter LLC; Drummond Woodsum; Eaton Peabody; Gideon Asen LLC; Irwin & Morris; Jensen Baird Gardner & Henry; Marcus Clegg; McCloskey, Mina, Cunniff & Frawley, LLC; Murray Plumb & Murray; Norman, Hanson & DeTroy, LLC; Perkins Thompson, P.A.; Pierce Atwood LLP; Preti, Flaherty, Beliveau & Pachios, LLP; Roach Ruprecht Sanchez & Bischoff, PC; Robinson, Kriger & Mc-Callum; Thompson Bowie & Hatch LLC; and Verrill.

"For decades, the Coffin Fellowship has played a critical role ensuring access to justice for thousands of Mainers in need. A lasting and impactful legacy of one of Maine's greatest legal and leadership luminaries, Judge Frank Coffin, the fellowship is also a testament to the generosity and commitment to helping those in need by the many leading Maine law firms who underwrite it annually. The Interview Committee was exceedingly impressed with Ms. Brazier's dedication to family law and access to justice and believe she will serve many Mainers in need and the legacy of the fellowship with distinction,"

notes Michelle Draeger, Executive Director of the Maine Justice Foundation, and member of the Coffin Fellowship Hiring Committee. Other members of the Hiring Committee are Joan Fortin of Bernstein Shur, Gigi Sanchez of Roach Ruprecht Sanchez & Bischoff, Elizabeth Stout, Executive Director of the Volunteer Lawyers Project, Caroline Y. Jova, Family Division Manager, Administrative Office of the Courts, State of Maine Judicial Branch, and Lucia Chomeau Hunt, Directing Attorney at Pine Tree Legal Assistance. Ms. Brazier will begin her two-year fellowship in the fall of 2024.

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The Maine Justice Foundation, founded in 1983 as the Maine Bar Foundation, is the state's leading funder of civil legal aid and is committed to ensuring access to justice for all Mainers. Find us online at www.justicemaine.org.

## Free ice fishing day honors local Veterans and their families



STANDISH, Wildlife, Operation Ray of in Standish.

ME sacrifice. This event will ing chair. There will be a Inland Fisheries and be held at the Otter Ponds warming hut at the event location. Note: A fishing use of fishing equipment, bait and a very memorable experience.

Participants are welcome to bring their own equipment.

To reserve a spot or to gain additional information, Contact James Martel, Operation Ray of Light 207-233-1332 operationrayoflight@gmail.com This will be first

come first serve event as slots are limited. Event Coordinator: Game Warden Peter Herring (207) 557-0389 or peter.herring@maine.gov

Sponsored in partnership by Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Operation Ray of Light and Portland Water District

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Parking will be at Johnson Field located at 89 Chadbourne Road in Standish. Participants will be shuttled to and from the event location from there.

YOU WILL NEED: proper attire for the weather conditions and a fold-

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# Defense bill passes, supports Maine jobs

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senator Angus King (I-Maine), a member of the Senate Armed Services and Intelligence Committees and Veterans Affairs Committee, hailed the bipartisan Senate passage of the Fiscal Year 2024 National Authorization Defense Act (NDAA) — which will strengthen America's national security, support our men and women in uniform, and boost Maine communities through the dozens of businesses that serve the military's technological and manufacturing needs.

The vote was on the final defense legislation after months of bicameral negotiations, and includes a number of provisions that Senator King backed, including: support for veterans, two Arleigh Burkeclass destroyers that Bath Iron Works (BIW) can compete to build, provisions to address the security threats posed by artificial intelligence, and stronger measures to prevent illegal drugs from entering the country. It is now headed to the House of Representatives, where swift bipartisan passage is expected.

"For over six decades, Congress has put aside partisan differences to improve America's national security and support our servicemembers. I'm proud that we could continue the tradition this year to pass an annual defense bill that will make our nation — and our state - safer and stronger," said Senator King. "As our global community faces some of its greatest challenges, the bill makes important investments in our military's greatest asset – its people. We have a responsibility to serve our men and women in uniform just as they serve us, and this bill lives up to that obligation with the largest pay raise in more than 20 years and assistance for our military's spouses. The legislation also supports good-paying jobs in Maine communities, particularly through its funding for shipbuilding at Bath Iron Works and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. These funds will help the shipyards plan their futures, continue to build the highest-quality ships, and maintain the submarine fleet that our Navy needs to accomplish missions across the globe.

"There are many more important provisions in this legislation — including steps to modernize our nuclear arsenal, fight the opioid epidemic, and deter Chinese aggression," continued Senator King. "All told, this year's NDAA will make our country safer, strengthen our economy, and support the men and women who serve in our military."

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 includes King-backed provisions to:

INVEST IN MAINE SHIPBUILDING AND INSTALLATIONS. The FY24 NDAA authorizes two DDG-51 Arleigh Burke-class destroyers and \$780 million advance procurement of an additional DDG to be purchased next year that Bath Iron Works can compete to build.

This legislation also supports critical Maine National Guard facilities and authorizes \$544 in funding for Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNSY) modernization efforts – including their Dry Dock extension that will allow PNSY to increase its capacity to maintain the Navy's submarine fleet.

FUND MAINE INNOVATION AND SMALL BUSINESSES. This legislation supports Maine-driven research and development in the Arctic training capacity, composites development and 3D printing, munitions, F135 engine upgrades, mass



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SUPPORT AMER-ICA'S SERVICEMEM-BERS AND MILITARY SPOUSES. The FY24 NDAA includes Senator King's Military Spouse Employment Act which will help military spouses find remote work in the federal government while their spouses serve in the armed services. Recruiting and maintaining a high-caliber, all-volunteer force also continues to be a high priority. This legislation includes a 5.2 percent pay increase for military and civilian personnel, the highest pay raise in over 20 years for the military and over 40 years for civilians.

The months and years after separation from the military remain a challenge for our veterans. The FY24 NDAA adds the Department of Labor to the Department of Defense -Veterans Affairs Joint Executive Committee partnership that will ensure full collaboration and synchronization between these three critical agencies that assist transitioning servicemembers and veterans searching for fulfilling employment in civilian life.

IMPROVEHOUS-INGASSISTANCEFORMAINE'SCOASTGUARD.This legislation

includes critical oversight on Department of Defense programs that support Coast Guard members, including how the Department funds housing allowances and how the Department supports change of duty station moves.

DETER CHINESE AGGRESSION. It's no secret that the People's Republic of China has emerged as America's primary competitor, as the only nation with the intent and the capability to mount a sustained challenge to the United States' security and economic interests. The FY24 NDAA continues to focus on the longterm strategic competition with China by investing in contested logistics capabilities forward, pacific-based training and exercises, key regional partnerships, and other forward-based systems and installations needed to quickly blunt Chinese aggression if needed.

MODERNIZE CRITICAL NUCLEAR DETERRENTS. As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, Senator King is a Congressional leader working to modernize the nation's nuclear triad and address the threats posed by new hypersonic weapons. From the B-21 Raider to the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent to a tactical sea-launched capability, the bill continues to build capability and capacity. This year's bill also includes significant investments in preventing proliferator states and terrorist groups from developing or acquiring Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD).

ADDRESS EVOLV-ING ARTIFICIAL IN-TELLIGENCE CAPA-BILITIES. This legislation includes a Senator Kingled provision to evaluate technology, including applications, tools, and models, to detect and watermark generative artificial intelligence. This provision would allow the DOD to better identify and detect deep fakes and false information created by bad actors employing AI technology.

COMBAT ILLEGAL DRUG TRAFFICKING. The opioid crisis continues to hit close to home, killing two people in Maine every single day. This legislation supports plans to counter fentanyl trafficking and counter transitional organized crime.

SUPPORT RE-CRUITING IN THE NORTHEAST: This legislation includes a Senator King-led provision encouraging the DOD to focus America's recruiting efforts on remote geographic areas lacking military infrastructure and presence.

TRAIN THE MAINE NATIONAL GUARD. This legislation provides our Maine National Guard funding from training and new infrastructure to operational deployments.

## John Lewis Civil Rights Fellowship Act included in NDAA

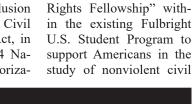
tion Act (NDAA), expect-

ed to pass before year's

end. The legislation will

create a "John Lewis Civil

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Susan Collins and a bipartisan group of her colleagues celebrated the inclusion of the John Lewis Civil Rights Fellowship Act, in the Fiscal Year 2024 National Defense Authoriza-



rights movements abroad.

"Congressman John Lewis was a civil rights icon who changed history at great personal sacrifice and whose unwavering commitment to nonviolent activism serves as an example for future generations," said Senator Collins. "In 2015, I was honored to be among those who joined him in Selma to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Bloody Sunday March that he led. By supporting the study of nonviolent civil rights movements around the world, this new fellowship would honor and carry forward his legacy." The Fulbright Program is the largest U.S. international exchange scholarship, sending over 370,000 young Americans abroad since its creation in 1946. The John Lewis Civil Rights Fellowship would promote studies, research, and international exchange in the subject of nonvio-See NDAA, next page

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# **NDAA ensures national security**

WASHINGTON. **D.C.** – U.S. Senator Susan Collins, Vice Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, announced that the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which authorizes \$841.4 billion for military and national security programs at the Department of Defense and \$32.4 billion for the Department of Energy, passed the Senate by an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote of 87-13. The annual defense bill authorizes spending levels and sets policy for the military and critical national defense priorities. The legislation, which passed the U.S. House of Representatives today, now heads to the President's desk to be signed into law.

"Every year for the past six decades, Congress has fulfilled one of their most important responsibilities—ensuring our national security—by passing the NDAA," said Senator Collins. "This legislation addresses the national security threats facing our nation today and supports the brave men and women of our armed forces. Additionally, the NDAA will support hardworking Mainers at BIW, PNSY, Pratt & Whitney, and elsewhere across the State, who make invaluable contributions to our defense."

The NDAA also includes a number of provisions Senator Collins strongly advocated for that will benefit Maine:

Support for BIW. The NDAA authorizes \$4.2 billion for two Arleigh-Burke Destroyers in FY24 and \$784 million for advanced procurement of two additional ships in FY25. The NDAA also includes a provision Senator Collins authored that supports the use of multiyear contracting authority to improve industrial base stability. This modified authority ensures DOD considers industrial base stability, not just projected cost savings, when awarding contracts.

Support for PNSY. The NDAA authorizes \$544.8 million for the fourth increment of the Dry Dock #1 military construction (MILCON) project at PNSY. Senator Collins, Vice Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, announced in June that she secured this funding in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies (Mil-Con-VA) Appropriations Act, which passed the Senate last month. The NDAA also extends direct hire authority for certain DOD personnel, including shipyard technicians, through FY2025. This direct hire authority is critical to ensuring PNSY can continue to hire qualified technicians that are critical to shipyard operations.

Support for Defense Contractors in Maine. The NDAA authorizes funding to procure a total of 83 F-35 jets. It also authorizes the procurement of 15 CH-53K helicopters. Pratt & Whitney's North Berwick facility manufactures the F135 engine for the F-35s, and Hunting Dearborn in Fryeburg has made important contributions to the F-35 and CH-53K program for years.

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Support for Maine Air National Guard. The NDAA authorizes \$7,420,000 million to complete a new Maine National Guard Vehicle Maintenance Shop in Saco. Senator Collins secured this funding in the FY 2024 Milcon-VA appropriations bill that passed the Senate in November.

Support for U.S. Troops. The NDAA supports a 5.2% raise for servicemembers and DOD civilians.

## **Op Ed: National defense bill – Good for America, great for Maine**

By Senator King

For over sixty years, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) has passed Congress with strong bipartisan majorities - as the House and Senate come together to put America's defense first. While the headlines from the national outlets will often talk about priorities like the Pentagon budget and protecting democracy abroad, the bill has an outsized impact on our neighbors in Maine.

Maine people are well aware of the hard work of our shipbuilders at Bath Iron Works (BIW) and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNSY) who provide our Naval fleet with next-generation destroyers and submarines. These ships are vitally important

as we navigate a world that's getting more complicated - and dangerous. In this year's NDAA, there is authorization for two DDG-51 Arleigh Burkeclass destroyers and a \$780 million advance on another DDG destroyer that BIW can compete to build, along with a half a billion dollars for PNSY modernization efforts like its dry dock extension. So this funding is more than a win for national defense. This funding is a win for Maine people, guaranteeing jobs in our state for people providing for their families and supporting our local economy. And that's just the be-

And that's just the beginning of what the NDAA means for Maine. There are projects and plants and personnel located in all corners of our state that – to quote the preamble to the constitution – "provide for the common defense," while supporting our own community.

From a big picture perspective, there are over 12,000 hard-working military personnel in Maine, and the \$850 million they earn through their work is an enormous driver for the state's economy. This doesn't even include our biggest defense contractors like BIW and Pratt or the hundreds of small businesses in Maine that are working on a contract basis to supply parts and machinery for our national defense. Altogether, the \$3.6 billion in dollars' worth of contract work done statewide assists our country in a variety of ways - while providing an enormous

boost statewide.

There are dozens of great stories of Maine businesses working to make a difference for our countrycompanies that unite tightknit communities around a shared, patriotic mission. Lewiston is proud of having the largest tungsten metal factory in the nation, a refurbished Philips lighting facility, that contributes high-quality steel to the military. In Aroostook County, another business is taking strides in advancing America's newest defense and commercial space systems. A plant in Biddeford provides parts and components that are used in every single surface-to-air missile the Pentagon has in its arsenal. A woman-owned machine shop in Gorham manufactures parts and

technology that are used in high-tech platforms across the service branches. There's even an invaluable statewide partnership at Eastern Maine Development Corporation that provides training and technical assistance to Maine small businesses so they can find, win and perform on Pentagon contracts.

Every Maine person who works at these facilities – or the dozens of other businesses statewide – are a part of the NDAA story. They are in the front of my mind as I work with my colleagues on the Armed Service Committee each year to put this bill together.

Even if you're outside of the military, this bill will improve everyday life for all Maine people. As we continue to fight the opioid crisis plaguing our communities, the NDAA has a key provision that allows the Pentagon to assist law enforcement to fight drug traffickers to cut down on this deadly threat that's costing too many lives.

So while I'm proud of the military investments made in this year's defense bill, the bipartisan way it passed through Congress, and the 5.2% pay increase for military members, I'm also pleased by the everyday impacts it will have for the men, women and children of Maine.

Bottom line: not only is the National Defense Authorization Act a patriotic bill to strengthen America at home and abroad, it is also a source of state pride for Maine.

#### NDAA

Continued from previous page

lent movements that established and protected civil rights around the world.

U.S. Representative Nikema Williams, who now represents Lewis' longtime congressional district in Georgia, and Representative Nancy Mace introduced companion legislation in the House of Representatives. This legislation was

also cosponsored by Senators John Hickenlooper (D-CO), Tim Scott (R-SC), and Jon Ossoff (D-GA).

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# **Carolyn Plummer**

@The Portland Media Center Saturday, December 30th, 2023 Show 8:00p 516 Congress St, Portland **\$20 online | \$25 @door** pmc1230.eventbrite.com

comedy

No Alcohol at venue Many bars in walking distance (Adult Show)

**Night with Maine Celtics** 



GORHAM, ME --Gorham Community Night at the Maine Celtics is here! Friday, February 2nd

at 7pm against the Grand Rapid Gold! Each ticket purchase includes a free Maine Celtics hat! Doors

open at 6pm. Special ticket pricing online at https:// fevo-enterprise.com/event/ Gorhamrecreation

## **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!

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

#### gorous Tenderness

a winter solstice concert December 21st, 5:30-7pm, rain date 12/22

Shaw Cherry Hill Farm | Gorham

follow @vigorous.tenderness for more details

PORTLAND. ME -- Headliner Carolyn Plummer pulls material from the hum-drum, day-to-day monotony of the life of everyman; and she does it well. To Carolyn the monumental is easy... it's our existence

that's so hard, yet so ridiculous. Some women look in the mirror and complain that they aren't pretty enough, not rich enough, not young enough. Carolyn gives her reflection the finger. Saturday, December

30, 2023 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM EST at 516 Congress St., Portland, ME 04103 All proceeds go to the Lewiston-Auburn-Area Response Fund Tickets: http:// pmc1230.eventbrite.com

Featuring Mark Turcotte

**Julie Nye** 

TURDAY NIGHT VIBES

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## Model legislation published to help reduce gun violence

WASHINGTON – The Justice Department published two pieces of model legislation for states to consider to help address the continuing epidemic of gun violence affecting communities across the country. The model legislation is drawn from commonsense gun-safety statutes already on the books in a broad cross-section of states.

First, the Department published model legislation to help states craft appropriate requirements for securing firearms kept in residences and vehicles

and to ensure that those firearms do not fall into the hands of children, teens, and prohibited persons. Second, the Department published model legislation to help states craft appropriate requirements for the prompt reporting of lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement. The resources for states announced today follow model legislation on extreme risk protection orders first published by the Justice Department in June 2021.

"Whether stolen from lawful gun owners or found by children and teens, unsecured firearms are responsible for thousands of injuries and deaths across our country each year," said Deputy Attorney General Lisa O. Monaco. "We cannot resign ourselves to losing our neighbors, our loved ones

— even our children to misuse of firearms that could have been kept safely out of reach. The model legislation announced today provides states with new tools to improve the safety of legally-owned firearms and reduce the tragic toll of gun violence in our communities."

Empirical evidence

shows that the secure storage of firearms saves lives. Keeping firearms and ammunition locked has been associated with a lower risk of firearm injuries for children and teens in homes where guns are stored. Safe storage protects both minors and adults by preventing unintentional shootings and decreasing the risk of gun suicides, gun thefts, and criminal discharges of firearms. Based on similar laws already on the books in over a dozen states, the model secure-storage legislation will help additional states craft laws to reduce

the risks associated with unattended firearms.

Every year, thousands of firearms are lost or stolen out of vehicles, businesses, and private homes. The timely reporting of lost and stolen firearms allows police to develop investigative leads and identify patterns that might indicate the involvement of illicit firearms traffickers. Based on similar laws already in effect across 15 states and D.C., the model theft/ loss-reporting legislation will help additional states craft laws to ensure prompt and responsible engagement with local law enforcement.

These model bills provide a framework that will help more states enact sensible gun-safety laws. Both pieces of model legislation are accompanied by detailed commentary that will make it easier for states to assess various policy options and select appropriate requirements, notices, and penalties. The Justice Department encourages states to consider adopting their own versions of this model legislation to ensure safer communities across the country.

## Army IG to conduct investigation on Lewiston Shooting

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King and U.S. Representatives Chellie Pingree and Jared Golden announced that the U.S. Army Inspector General (IG) will conduct a formal, independent investigation into the events leading up to the October 25 mass shooting in Lewiston. "The Army is committed to diligently investigating all facts and events related to the Army involving SFC Card in the months and days before he committed these heinous acts," Under Secretary of the Army Gabe Camarillo wrote in a letter. "The Secretary of the Army has requested the Army Inspector General to conduct an independent investigation to ensure that the Army takes corrective actions where appropriate. In response, the Army IG has instructed her team to immediately begin preparing to conduct this investigation."

"We are pleased that the Inspector General of the Army has responded to our requests and has begun preparations to conduct an independent investigation into the events preceding the Lewiston shooting," the Maine Delegation said. "A thorough investigation into what happened, and what could have been done differently, could help prevent future shootings. This independent review by the Army Inspector General will be an important part of understanding the events

that took place before that horrific night. The survivors, families affected, and members of the surrounding communities deserve nothing less."

On November 2, Senators Collins and King sent an initial letter requesting an independent Army IG investigation into the facts and events leading up to the shooting. Maine's Congressional Delegation followed up with another letter pressing for this investigation.

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

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## **\$22K to local winners of Leaders & Luminaries Awards**



Heather Abello/Hearty Roots

From left are Jamie Bowden, marketing manager, Camden National Bank; Lisa Katz, secretary of the board, Hearty Roots; S. Carson Harvey, board member, Hearty Roots; Chris Prentice-Popken, board member, Hearty Roots; Heather Abello, treasurer of the board, Hearty Roots.



Kathie Marquis-Girard/Percival P. Baxter Foundation for Maine's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children

From left are Ian Swanberg, treasurer of the board, Baxter Foundation; Karoline Ellis, digital communications specialist, Camden National Bank; Owen J. Logue, president of the board, Baxter Foundation; Jennifer Champion, banking center manager, Camden National Bank; Kathie Marquis-Girard, vice president, Baxter Foundation; Karen Hopkins, executive director, Baxter Foundation.

## Join Our Community... Join Our Board

Branch Locations Portland South Portland Windham Naples Scarborough (Coming Soon) **CAMDEN, ME** – Camden National Bank is pleased to announce the winners of the 2023 Leaders & Luminaries Awards and provide \$22,000 in grants for their respective nonprofit organizations.

The 2023 honorees include the following board members: Heather Abello of Hearty Roots, Dottie Chalmers Cutter of the Institute for Family-Owned Business, Kathie Marquis-Girard of the Percival P. Baxter Foundation for Maine's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children, and Jamie Plourde of the Children's Discovery Museum of Central Maine. In addition to these \$5,000 grants, a \$2,000 Spotlight Award was presented to Vera Rand Roberts of New Hope Midcoast.

Camden National Bank honors nonprofit board members who demonstrate innovative thinking and outstanding governance to advance their organization's mission and impact. Since 2011, Camden National Bank has donated \$242,000 to 63 Maine nonprofits through the Leaders & Luminaries Awards presented to board members who exhibit exemplary leadership skills, execute strong strategic and financial plans,

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Evergreen Credit Union seeks experienced business owners, strategic/community leaders, and senior managers to join our volunteer\* Board of Directors. Share your knowledge, collaborate with our leadership team, and help our credit union grow and positively impact our communities. and are passionate about their organization's long-term growth.

"Nonprofits strengthen our communities by supporting education, health, social services, and the arts-and none of this would be possible without strong leadership at the top," said Renée Smyth, chief experience and marketing officer of Camden National Bank. "It's an honor to recognize these five outstanding board members for effecting positive, long-lasting change throughout the state of Maine."

Donations were funded through the bank's private charitable foundation, The Bank of Maine Foundation.

2023 Leaders & Luminaries Awards winners: Heather Abello, Trea-

surer of the Board, Hearty Roots (Bristol, Maine)

Hearty Roots' inclusive year-round programs support resilience and wellness by offering outing clubs, teen retreats, in-school therapeutic adventures, pop-up camps, and coastal expedition programs to children in Lincoln County and Knox County, Maine. Hearty Roots promotes physical activities like campfire building, hiking, biking, and skiing, while also offering a social-emotional curriculum that inspires kids to dig a little deeper, reflect on their actions, and allow themselves to take chances. As a board member, Abello has been critical to Hearty Roots' recent growth, including adding a licensed master social worker to the group's staff, updating and aligning the organization's numerous foundational documents, and being a top fundraiser. She is also praised for her fearlessness in dissenting, expressing concerns, and offering innovative solutions. As a result, the number of youth served, the number of staff employed, and the operational budget have all doubled under Abello's tenure.



Dottie Chalmers Cutter/Institute for Family-Owned Business

From left are Jamie Bowden, marketing manager, Camden National Bank; Barbara Raths, director of treasury management & government banking, Camden National Bank; Dottie Chalmers Cutter, chair of the board, Institute for Family-Owned Business; Elliott Barry, commercial banking market manager, Camden National Bank; Catherine Wygant Fossett, executive director, Institute for Family-Owned Business.



Jamie Plourde/Children's Discovery Museum of Central Maine

From left are Nancy Smith, banking center manager, Camden National Bank; Jackie Dalton, board member, Children's Discovery Museum; James LaLiberty, president of the board, Children's Discovery Museum; Jamie Plourde, vice president of the board, Children's Discovery Museum; Emily Bessey, museum engagement coordinator, Children's Discovery Museum; Caitlin Walker, programs director, Children's Discovery Museum.



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\*No fundraising involved. Must live in one of the the six counties listed above.

Dottie Chalmers Cutter, Chairwoman of the Board, Institute for Family-Owned Business (Portland, Maine)

The Institute for Family-Owned Business (IFOB) is committed to supporting, strengthenempowering ing, and family-owned businesses throughout Maine. This support includes providing unique information, resources, programs, and networking opportunities that enable Maine's business-owning families to prosper and achieve their fullest potential. Chalmers Cutter was nominated for her ability to navigate

Vera Rand Roberts/New Hope Midcoast

From left are Vera Rand Roberts, president of the board, New Hope Midcoast; Rebekah Paredes, executive director, New Hope Midcoast, Terri Tooley, treasurer of the board, New Hope Midcoast.

her organization—and, in turn, Maine businesses through the pandemic that shuttered many companies. As chair of the IFOB, she has also been instrumental in keeping her fellow board members engaged, energized, and utilizing their respective skills while adjusting and updating the organization's mission, strategic plans, and web-

site, as well as continuing to recruit new, high-performing board members.

Kathie Marquis-Girard, Vice President of the Board, Percival P. Baxter Foundation for Maine's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children (Falmouth, Maine)

The mission of the Percival P. Baxter Foun-See Luminaries, next page

#### Luminaries

Continued from previous page dation for Maine's Deaf and Hard of Hearing children is to benefit, support, and enhance programs and services for kids with hearing loss in Maine and their families, while also providing professional development training for the colleagues with whom they work. In addition to being a solid leader, Marquis-Girard's commitment to the Percival P. Baxter Foundation clearly goes above and beyond what is expected of most board members. She

is spearheading the formation of a new three-year strategic plan. Her family served as hosts for two deaf students from Portland High School's Deaf Education program. And she even took it upon herself to learn American Sign Language. Aside from her work with the Percival P. Baxter Foundation, Marquis-Girard is a retired high school assistant principal, she serves on the board of the Maine Cancer Foundation, she has participated in every Tri for a Cure event, and she is a breast cancer

survivor.

Jamie Plourde, Vice President of the Board, Children's Discovery Museum of Central Maine (Waterville, Maine)

For nearly 30 years, the Children's Discovery Museum of Central Maine has invited kids and families to play, learn, and grow. Formerly based in Augusta, the museum now encourages children to explore their world, make friends, gain confidence, and problem-solve from their location in Waterville, which opened in the board is a testament to the power of returning to one's roots and using one's talents to uplift a community in need. While serving as vice president, she has primarily focused on one of the museum's most significant needs, buildings and facilities, by forming a committee to oversee the museum's expansion project and every detail that goes into the construction. Always willing to assist where needed, Plourde has also helped helm the organization by taking on some

2020. Plourde's tenure on

leadership tasks usually designated for the executive director.

2023 Spotlight Award winner:

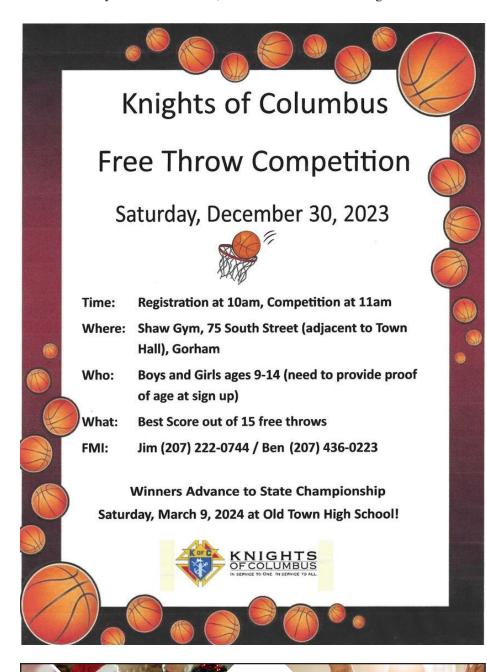
Vera Rand Roberts, President of the Board, New Hope Midcoast (Rockland, Maine)

New Hope Midcoast is the Regional Domestic Violence Resource Center in Midcoast Maine. Since 1981, their staff has been serving individuals affected by domestic abuse, dating violence, and stalking. By educating and empowering communities, New Hope Midcoast supports a more just and effective response to domestic violence and abuse. The process is one of walking with someone, advocating, being flexible to change, and being resourceful. Roberts' leadership style as board president incorporates all these skills and abilities. She was also credited for outstanding providing guidance to the executive director, especially during the pandemic, when the number of domestic violence incidents skyrocketed.

## **Gorham student nominated to US Military Service Academy**

WASHINGTON, **D.C.** — U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King announced their nominees to the United States Military Academies. To be considered for Members of Congress. an appointment to a service academy, applicants must be nominated by an authorized nominating source, which includes

Admission to the United States Coast Guard Academy, also a federal service academy, does not require a congressional nomina-



tion.

"We are proud to have the honor to nominate such an impressive group of Maine students to our nation's distinguished service academies," said Senators Collins and King in a joint statement. "The young people we have nominated have earned this honor through a commitment to strong scholarship, leadership, and character."

The following area students from Maine have received nominations as candidates to the military academies from Senators Collins and King:

United States Air Force Academy - Colorado Springs

Colby Ting, Yarmouth, Yarmouth High School

Powers, Matthew Turner, North Yarmouth Academy

Patrick Delaney, Gorham, Gorham High School

Sofia Mavor, Yarmouth, Yarmouth High School

Tyler Bartick, Frye-Fryeburg High burg, School

United States Merchant Marine Academy -**Kings Point** 

"Tadd" Addison Nelson, Bath, Cheverus High School

Aidan McAuslin, Yarmouth, North Yarmouth Academy

Brady Kezal, Saco, Thornton Academy

Unites States Military Academy - West Point

Ashley Houde, Saco, Thornton Academy Brady Kezal, Saco,

Thornton Academy Caden Dufour, Turn-

er, Hebron Academy Max Kennedy, South Portland, South Portland High School

United States Naval Academy - Annapolis

Ashley Houde, Saco, Thornton Academy

Brady Kezal, Saco, Thornton Academy

Wardrop, Brooke Scarborough, Scarborough High School

Colby Ting, Yarmouth, Yarmouth High School

Cora Birknes, Yarmouth, St. Andrew's School

Landry, Daniel Portland, Deering High School

Emily Donlon, Saco, Thornton Academy

Nathaniel "Cole" Gorsuch, Falmouth, Falmouth High School

Ryder Owens, Buxton, Bonny Eagle High School

Sean Allen, Cumberland, Greely High School

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## Seniors Not Acting Their Age A Climb of Elusive Moxie Bald Mountain



Hikers enjoy exceptional views from ledges above tree line on Moxie Bald

Last winter, my son, Adam, and I completed a very stimulating climb of Mosquito Mountain near Moxie Pond in western Maine. From the summit, we enjoyed a spectacular view of Moxie Bald Mountain, a peak that dominates the opposite side of the pond. The wonderful view motivated a planned ascent of the exposed pinnacle later in the winter.

Accessing the trailhead for Moxie Bald is a challenge, especially in winter. Despite several tentative plans to climb the barren summit last winter, we were unable to make the necessary arrangements to overcome the obstacles.

For us, hiking begins in earnest when fall arrives. Rather than wait for the complications winter brings, Adam and I decided on an early November Moxie Bald trek while the roads were free of ice and snow. Climbing Moxie Bald has been something of a family affair over the years. My wife, Nancy, and I have completed the hike several times. A couple of decades ago, my oldest son, Eric, and I backpacked to the summit where we enjoyed a starfilled night on top. This would be the first attempt for Adam and me.

We met in West Forks on a cool, breezy partly sunny day. Driving northeast on Lake Moxie Road, we experienced a surprising encounter. In a heavily wooded sector, a furry four-legged creature was ambling across the road. Slowing the vehicle for a closer view, the tufted-ears and small tail were unmistakable; it was a Canadian lynx. The big cat quickly disappeared into the woods before either of us could find a camera. The rare sighting was a positive omen for our upcoming adventure.



Narrow elevated ledges near the summit seem like a "highway to heaven"

Arriving at Moxie Pond, we turned right onto Troutdale Road. The rough narrow dirt passageway was initially in fair condition. The surface worsens traveling farther south on the former railroad bed, as flooding has severely eroded a lengthy segment of road. Careful maneuvering was required in our all-wheel drive vehicle.

The Appalachian Trail (AT) provides the only trail access to Moxie Bald. The AT crosses Troutdale Road a little beyond the southern-end of Moxie Pond. The water level in that low lying area was too high for hiking. We continued to a junction on the left and followed a rutted rocky road northeasterly to another higher elevation AT crossing.

We began our trek in a predominantly hardwood forest with the trail engulfed in recently fallen leaves. Although the path was mostly dry, there were a few wet areas that needed to be skirted. Gaining elevation, we entered a dense stand of conifers on a granite surface that was ideal for hiking.

The AT separates after a couple of miles. A right turn leads to the summit while traveling left bypasses the peak. Angling right, we progressed steadily upwards towards the top. Gigantic boulders clutter the path in several locations. Open ledges provided us with exceptional views of the mountains to the west.

We emerged onto a continuum of narrow elevated ledges that seemed like a highway to heaven. The views were phenomenal in all directions as we persisted to the summit. Although windy, we donned parkas and paused to embrace the fabulous 360 degree vistas.

I pointed out the a climb if we wanted to grassy spot where Eric return before dark. North

 A hiker on the summit of Moxie Bald

and I erected our tent many years ago. In a perfect world, he and Nancy would have been there to share the moment.

From the summit, we had a clear view of impressive North Peak. Although remaining daylight was limited due to the recent time change, we decided to attempt an ascent.

Based on our research, it appeared the most efficient route was to return to the junction and follow the bypass east to North Peak Trail. We completed the partial descent and began our search.

Alas, our efforts were unsuccessful. We followed the rolling path to where the bypass reconnects with the AT without any sign of North Peak Trail. Viewed from open ledges, the barren summit appeared to be at least a mile away. There was insufficient time to complete a climb if we wanted to return before dark. North Peak would have to wait for another day.

During our drive out after completing the trek, we resolved to attempt another North Peak ascent in the near future. Maybe we'll get a second glimpse of the lynx.

My book Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine narrates nine more exceptional mountain hikes around the state.

Ron Chase resides in Topsham. His latest book, "Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine" is available at www.northcountrypress.com/maineal-fresco or in bookstores and through online retailers. His previous books "The Great Mars are Hill Bank Robbery" and "Mountains for Mortals -New England." Visit his website at www.ronchaseoutdoors.com or he can be reached at ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net

## Winners of SBA Lender Awards announced

AUGUSTA, ME -The Maine District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration has announced the top SBA lenders for Fiscal Year 2023. The annual SBA Lender Awards will be presented on Friday, January 26th in a ceremony at the Hilton Garden Inn in Freeport. As part of the ceremony, the 2023 cohort of the SBA's THRIVE program in Maine will also be recognized for their accomplishments.

demic-era loan programs and refocused on the traditional SBA lending programs, our Maine based lending institutions have stepped up to support the recovery of small businesses all across the state," said Diane Sturgeon, District Director for the SBA Maine District Office.



the SBA and its lending partners in Maine made a total of 511 loans totaling over \$163 million through

U.S. Small Business Administration

es compared to fiscal year 2022.

The SBA will honor all of its partner lending Lender in Maine.

Bangor Savings Bank approved 11 504 3rd Party loans, totaling over \$4.3 million, making them the overall Leading 504 3rd Party Lender in Maine.

Maine Community Bank approved 25 7(a) loans and 5 504 3rd Party loans, totaling over \$15.3 approvals totaling over \$1 million in Fiscal Year 2023.

A STAR Award Recipient will also be announced at the ceremony. This award is presented to a lender who has gone above and beyond to increase access to capital for small businesses and

"As we've transitioned away from our pan"While we appreciate the efforts each of our lenders has made, we would like to use this opportunity to show special recognition to those who truly stand out," Sturgeon added. In Fiscal Year 2023,

its main loan programs, the 7(a) Loan Guaranty Program, the 504 Loan Program, and SBA Microloan Program. This represents an increase of nearly one hundred loans made to Maine's small business-

institutions in Maine, with special recognition for the top lenders in several categories.

TD Bank approved 79 7(a) loans, totaling over \$6.5 million, making them the overall Leading 7(a) million, making them the overall Dollar Volume Lender in Maine.

Evergreen Credit Union approved 3 504 3rd Party loans totaling over \$2.8 million in Maine, making them the Leading SBA Credit Union lender.

Granite State Development Corporation was Maine's Leading Certified Development Company (CDC) in both numbers and total dollars, approving 54 504 loans for more than \$35 million in Fiscal Year 2023.

Northern Maine Development Commission was Maine's Leading SBA Microlender, with 52 loan ensure that SBA products are fully available to their clients.







# Songs, dances from around the world with MSO



Meet the Instruments (photo credit Heather Linkin)

#### TOPSHAM, ME —

The Midcoast Symphony Orchestra (MSO), conducted by Rohan Smith, continues its 34th concert season with a concert entitled "Song and Dance Music from Around the World" that will be performed at the Franco Center in Lewiston on Saturday, January 20th at 7pm, and at the Orion Performing Arts Center in Topsham on Sunday, January 21st at 2:30pm.

The MSO performs the same repertoire of pieces at both concerts which consist of toe tapping tangos and familiar melodies bound to have the whole family humming long after the concert is over. The MSO will be joined for the concerts by guest artist Philip Lima, a baritone who has appeared as a soloist with the Boston Pops and over 70 orchestras, choral societies, and concert series across the United States, in addition to singing leading operatic roles in Germany and for regional American opera companies.

Along with the concerts, the weekend will also feature two enrichment events as part of the MSO's "More with Midcoast" series. Intermission at the Franco Center concert on January 20th will feature a performance by the Edward Little Jazz Band, and the concert on January 21st at the Orion will be preceded by a free "Meet the Instruments" event during which time people of all ages can try their hand at using many of the orchestra's instruments for themselves

Complete concert and ticket information is available at midcoastsymphony. org. Short season tickets for the three remaining MSO concerts are now available for \$60. Individual tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. All concert tickets are free for students ages 18 and under, or for college students with ID. Audiences are encouraged to purchase tickets in advance online or by calling the box office at (207) 481-0790.

"Song and Dance Music from Around the World" continues a yearlong celebration of the 20th

course will be on the basics

of honey bee biology and





#### EDWARD LITTLE HS JAZZ BAND

Edward Little Jazz Band (photo credit Fotogenyx, USA)

season of long-time MSO Music Director Rohan Smith. The concert begins with two animated Latin rhythms from Argentina and Mexico: Astor Piazzolla's "Libertango, and "Huapango," by José Pablo Moncayo. These shorter pieces will be followed by Aaron Copland's suite of eight songs entitled "Old American Songs" which will feature Mr. Lima. Many audience members will recognize these catchy medleys.

The next pair of compositions are both by European composers. "Thunder and Lightning Polka" is a lively piece by Johann Strauss, Jr., and the three songs from Des Knaben Wunderhorn (The Boy's Magic Horn), by Gustav Mahler, also showcase Mr. Lima's rich voice.

The concert concludes with familiar arrangements from Leonard Bernstein's West Side Story, one of Broadways' most treasured musicals.

To encourage audiences of all ages to attend this family friendly concert, the MSO is offering a limited number of complimentary tickets to parents accompanying children under 18 to either performance. its audiences an enrichment series entitled "More with Midcoast." The January concert weekend features a different event in each venue.

The Franco concert on Saturday, January 20th will feature the Edward Little Jazz Band performing at intermission. The Edward Little High School Jazz band consists of 15 student musicians and is directed by Bill Buzza, who is in his 31st year of teaching instrumental music in public schools. The band's repertoire represents a variety of jazz styles including funk, swing, blues and big band. At the last two state jazz festivals, the band was recognized with Bronze medal ratings for their performances.

At the Orion Performing Arts Center, the MSO will offer the popular "Meet the Instruments" event at which audience members of all ages can try their hand playing the various instruments featured in the symphony's performance. This event will take place before the concert beginning at 1:30 in the gym at the Mt. Ararat Middle School where the Orion is located. Interested members of the public may attend this free event without purchasing a concert ticket. The Midcoast Sym-



Page 11

Baritone Philip Lima (photo credit Susan Wilson)

munity orchestra founded in 1990. Started as a chamber orchestra, there are now more than 80 members. The MSO performs a full range of orchestral literature from the classical to modern periods with four regular concerts each season at the Franco Center in Lewiston and the Orion Performing Arts Center in Topsham. A community-based organization, the orchestra draws players and audiences from south of Portland to Rockland along the coast, and inland from Augusta to the Lewiston-Auburn area. Its members all volunteer their time to practice and perform with the Midcoast Symphony. Under the baton of Rohan Smith, the orchestra continues to attract ever more professional-caliber musicians and award-winning guest artists.

The MSO also offers phony Orchestra is a com-

## **Beekeeping workshop series in Cumberland County**

FALMOUTH, ME — University of Maine Cooperative Extension in Cumberland County is offering its annual series of beekeeping workshops with multiple sessions available for beginners and experienced keepers starting Jan. 4.

The five-week beginners course is for beekeepers with less than one year of experience and will be offered twice: Jan. 4-Feb. 1, with a snow date of Feb. 8, and Feb. 15-March 14, with a snow date of March 2. Classes for both sessions will be held 6:30-8:30 p.m. every Thursday.

beekeeping. It is designed for individuals who are considering buying their first hives, those in their first year of beekeeping and those with a couple of years of experience who want to enhance their skills and knowledge. It will be held at the UMaine Regional Learning Center, 75 Clearwater Drive, Ste. 104. The course will be taught by experienced EAS certified master beekeepers Jacky Hildreth and Peter Richardson and master beekeeper in training Lindy Allen.



Attached photo courtesy University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

which includes the cost of The Advanced Apiary

signed for experienced beekeepers who have 5-8 hives and a minimum of 3 years of experience. The course will consist of five Zoom classes to be held 7-8:30 p.m. every Wednesday Jan. 10-Feb. 7.

The course will explore various advanced topics, including overwintering hives; disease; pest identification and management; mite monitoring, treatment and management; swarm management and queen rearing. It will be led by EAS certified master beekeeper Erin Evans. The fee is \$75; the recommended ate-level Artificial Swarming and Swarm Management Course will be held from 6:30–8:30 p.m. Feb. 14 and Feb. 21. Topics include swarm biology and behavior, how to prevent and manage swarming in colonies, traps, lures and retrieval. Evins will also lead the course, which will be held at the UMaine Regional Learning Center. The fee is \$35.

The two-session, intermedi-

Visit the program webpage to register or learn more. To request a reasonable accommodation, contact Jason Lilley, jason.lilley@

## **Commissioner meets with Westbrook future teachers**

#### WESTBROOK, ME

Commissioner Pender Makin met with the inaugural class of the Future Teachers Academy at Westbrook High School. The Academy allows students to explore the teaching profession while still in high school. The experience includes a faculty-directed seminar to explore issues around teaching and education and field-based experiences in school settings. Students spend time every week with a host teacher

and prepare and teach their receive mentoring support own lesson plans. once they graduate, oppor-

Students in this initial cohort are gaining classroom experience in first grade, fourth grade, fifthgrade physical education, ninth-grade science, and ninth-grade social studies.

The Academy provides students with handson experience in Westbrook classrooms to explore the ins and outs of teaching, college credit, and a special diploma certificate. Students will continue to

receive mentoring support once they graduate, opportunities for student teaching while in college, and the promise of an interview for a Westbrook teaching position when they are ready to pursue their career in education.

The Westbrook Teachers Academy is a fantastic example of Maine "grow your own" efforts to build and sustain the teacher workforce and nurture the passion that students have for teaching.



## Page 12 **AARP** warns of holiday shopping fraud

PORTLAND, ME—A new 2023 AARP Fraud Watch Network-TM report is highlighting the ways criminals target consumers during holiday season. A majority (80%) of U.S. consumers say they have experienced some type of fraud this year – many of which ramp up over the holiday shopping season. These holiday shopping scams have increased from last year's report, from receiving fake notifications about shipments, to online ad scams, and more.

"The concerning findings from our annual survey are that fraud is on the rise and that knowledge about how to stay safe from fraud is dropping," said Kathy Stokes, AARP Director of Fraud Prevention Programs. "Education plays an important role in combatting fraud, but we can't educate our way out of what is now a rampant issue."

This year, significantly more consumers plan on shopping online compared to the last two years. Fraudsters often place fake ads online and across popular social media sites for steep discounts on the hottest items, for example.

Use of peer-to-peer payment services has increased significantly for a second year in a row. A large majority of respondents shared they do business via P2P apps - such as sending money to businesses they have no previous relationship with. In the unfortunate event of fraud, these apps provide little protection to affected consumers.

Gift cards continue to be popular gift options, with 66% of those surveyed planning to purchase them this holidav season. However, 27% of consumers have experienced either giving or receiving a gift card with no value on it. "Criminals have oldschool ways of manipulating cards hanging on retail racks and high-tech ways of searching online for cards with balances and draining them," Stokes shared. "It may be safest to purchase a gift card directly from the card issuer's website."

In a 10-question fraud knowledge quiz that was again part of this year's AARP survey, most respondents failed with only 28% of respondents able to answer 7 or more questions correctly. We need to home in on some key protections by educating consumers that:

Retailers will never request your login information to provide customer support.

Credit cards offer the most consumer protections of any payment method.

Regularly accepting operating system upgrade prompts on your device is important, as some updates are to patch known fraud vulnerabilities.

It's risky to do a web

search for a company's customer support network because criminals buy ads impersonating those companies. Check billing and credit card statements for customer service, use the number on the back of your credit cards, or go directly to the company by typing in their web address, like www.aarp.org.

To read the full report and learn more visit: www.aarp.org/holidayscams2023

AARP Fraud Watch NetworkTM is a free resource that equips consumers with up-to-date knowledge to spot and avoid scams, and connects those targeted by scams with our fraud helpline specialists who provide support and guidance on

what to do next. Anyone can call the helpline at 877-908-3360. AARP Fraud Watch NetworkTM also offers free, facilitated peer discussion groups that seek to provide emotional support for those experiencing fraud; and advocates at the federal. state, and local levels to enact policy changes that protect consumers and enforce laws.

In Maine, trained volunteers are available to give free local presentations (in-person or online) in addition to hosting a virtual call the second Thursday of the month for anyone interested in learning about the latest scams. Free scam awareness booklets are also available.

## **CDC urges vaccination against flu, COVID-19, RSV**

AUGUSTA, ME The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) encourages Maine residents to get vaccinated against COVID-19, influenza (flu), and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) ahead of this season's holiday gatherings. Vaccination remains the best way for Maine people to protect themselves, their friends, and relatives this holiday season and will help limit the spread of respiratory viruses at gatherings this winter.

Everyone age 6 months and older is eligible for the updated COVID-19 and flu vaccines. The RSV vaccine is recommended for adults 60 and older, for pregnant people, and children under age 1. The flu, COVID, and RSV vaccinations may be administered at the same time. Vaccinations against COVID, flu, and RSV are extremely effective at preventing severe illness, including hospitalization and death.

As of December 12, 2023, 85 patients across the state were in the hospital with COVID-19, including nine in critical care and four on a ventilator. As of that date, 210,891 Maine people have received an updated COVID-19 vaccination, including 119,852 vaccinations given to people aged 65 and older.

For the week ending December 9, 14 patients were hospitalized with influenza in Maine. So far this year, 396,592 Maine people have received their annual flu vaccine.

Health providers are not required to report hospitalizations or total vaccinations for RSV to Maine CDC.

"As we head into the winter, we want to remind Maine people that vaccination against COVID-19, the flu, and - if you're eligible -RSV remains the best gift to yourself and your loved ones this holiday season," said Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention Director Dr. Puthierv Va. "Vaccination and other precaucommon-sense tions, including testing for COVID-19, helps keep our families and communities particularly individuals who are older or immune compromised - safe during this season of travel and get-togethers." Earlier this fall,

the U.S. government relaunched its program to allow every U.S. household to place an order to receive up to eight free COVID-19 rapid tests delivered directly to their homes. Visit covid.gov to order your free at-home tests to ensure that your family has rapid tests on hand in case you are feeling sick. Early detection of COVID-19 enables treatment and limits the spread of the disease to others. No payment information is required — both the tests and shipping are free - and the tests will be delivered through Amazon approximately one to two weeks after ordering. The tests require a quick swab inside each nostril, with results available within 15 minutes. The tests can be used on any individual older than two.

Vaccinations are available by appointment at most pharmacies and are covered either through health insurance or through the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Bridge Access Program. You may also call your health care provider to see if they are offering vaccinations or holding walk-in vaccine clinics.

Later this month, the Maine CDC will launch a campaign to remind Maine people to get vaccinated for COVID-19 and flu. In addition to getting vaccinated, people can take the following steps to reduce the spread of illness:

Stay home when you are sick

Wash your hands

Cover your coughs and sneezes

Increase airflow and ventilation, when possible Avoid close contact with people who are sick

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth Clean and disinfect

surfaces and objects

For more information:

Visit the Maine "COVID-19: CDC's Maine Data" page to learn more about trends Maine

Visit the Maine CDC's "Influenza" page to learn more about the flu in Maine, including weekly influenza surveillance reports

Visit the U.S. CDC's page on RSV for more information about RSV

Visit the U.S. CDC's page for more information on how to protect yourself and loved ones from the flu, COVID-19, and RSV

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

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Send all items for Names & Faces to the editor.

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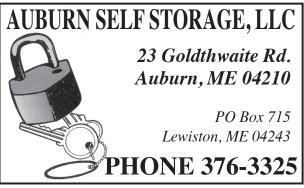
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#### Dec 24

BUXTON -- FREE Turkey Dinner with all the fixings! Sunday, December 24, 2023 - 5:00 pm at Living Waters Church, Parker Farm Road, Buxton. There will be a short Christmas Eve service following the dinner. Please note: We will offer the option of takeout containers for those who do not wish to sit inside.

#### 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.

#### 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 Center, Topsham

Libertango - Astor Piazzolla

Huapango - José Pablo Moncayo

Old American Songs - Aaron Copland (with Philip Lima, Baritone)

Thunder and Lightning Polka - Johann

# Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

#### Strauss, Jr.

Three Songs from Des Knaben Wunderhorn (The Boy's Magic Horn) - Gustav Mahler (with Philip Lima, Baritone)

Symphonic Dances from West Side Story -Leonard Bernstein

Tickets are \$25 in advance for adults; \$30 at the door. All concerts are free for students 18 and under or college students with identification.

A limited number of free tickets for parents accompanying children under 18 are available - call 481-0970 for more details

For more information visit MidcoastSymphony. org, call 207-315-1712, or e-mail info@midcoastsymphony.org

#### Jan 27

GRAY -- First Congregational Church of Gray Saturday Night Church Supper on Saturday January 27, 2024 @ 5:00 at the Parish House, 5 Brown Street, Gray. Handicapped Accessible

Meals are Singled-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

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. - Orion Performing Arts Center, Topsham

#### Every 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday

LEWISTON -- PRO-GRAMS FOR HOMES-CHOOL 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@lewistonmaine.gov

#### 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month

LEWISTON --MAKE ART WITH ART-VAN 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 2nd and 4th Thursdays

LEWISTON --YOUTH TRADING CARD GAME CLUB held from 4 PM to 5 PM at the Lewiston Public Library. Join the Youth Trading Card Game Club to play, learn, trade, and FLAGSHIP CITIETTAS *Premium Premium* entertainment *at affordable prices!* VISIT ONE OF OUR FIVE MAINE LOCATIONS! AUBURN 1 FALMOUTH 1 WELLS 1 WATERVILLE 1 THOMASTON WWW.FLAGSHIPCINEMAS.COM

compete with your peers! Games include Pokémon, Magic: the Gathering, and more. All skill levels are welcome. Library staff and volunteers will be available to teach new players and coach developing ones. Free. For kids & teens ages 8-18. 513-3135; www.LPLonline.org

Wednesdays

L E W I S T O N -- Knitting Group, Dates: Wednesdays, Time: 4:30–7:30 p.m., Facilitator: SeniorsPlus Staff, Location: Education Center, 8 Falcon Road, Lewiston

Join our knitting group to work on your own project, learn from others, and socialize. Classes are free, unless noted. SeniorsPlus is fully accessible. Hearing assistive equipment is available upon request. For more information or to register, call us at 207-795-4010 or visit seniorsplus.org. Best Source for Arts, Music and Theater! Your Hometown Paper.

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



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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 Rothcild, 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 with a guide and stops 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.

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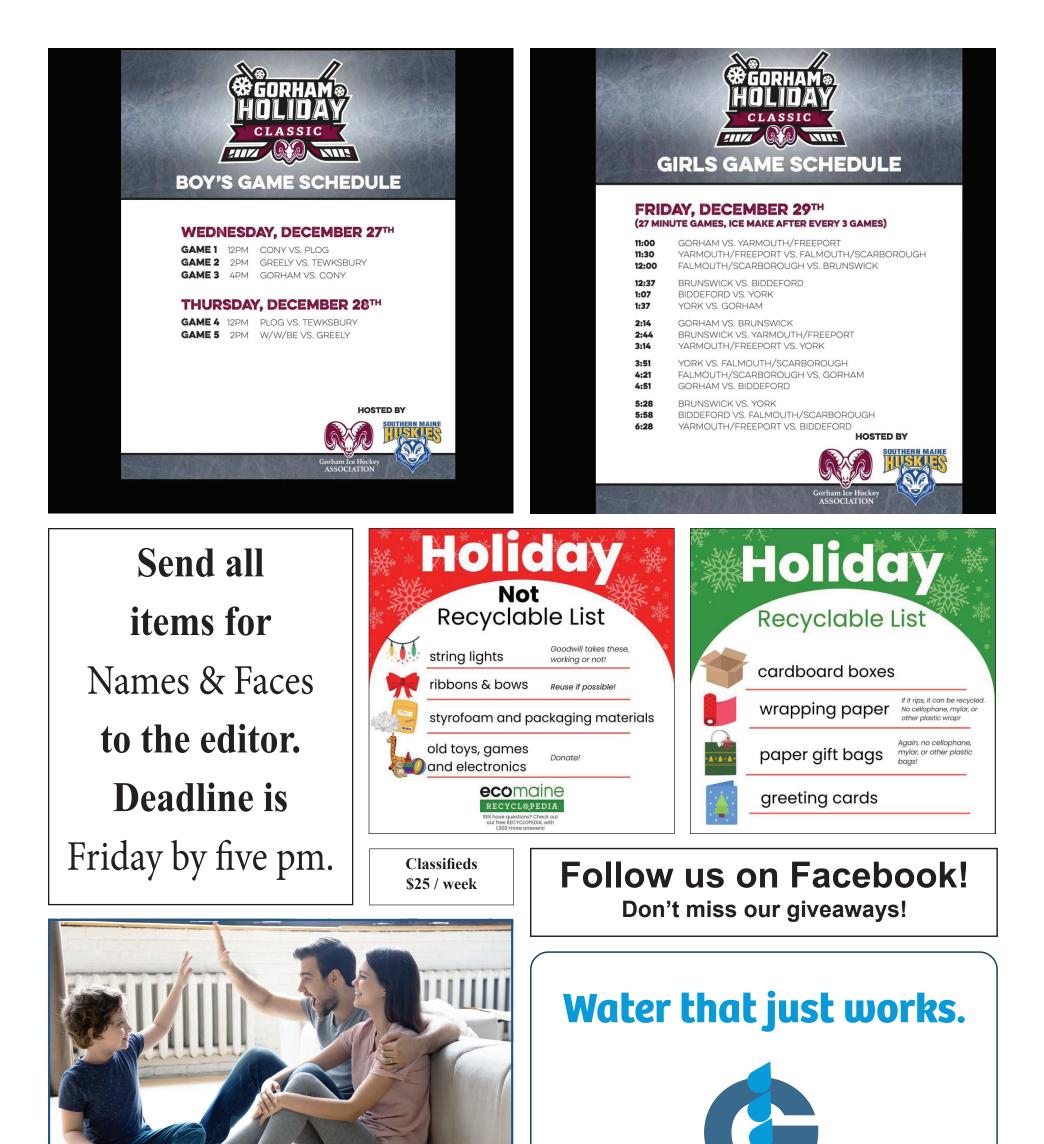
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