

Gorham officer receives award for life-saving efforts



GORHAM, ME -- On January 17, the Gorham Police Department Command Staff had the pleasure of attending an awards ceremony at the Saco Police Department. Officer Aaron Erickson received a life saving award for his heroic

assistance in an incident where he saved the life of a suicidal male. Please join me in congratulating Officer Erickson on his great work and his well-deserved award.

Chief Sanborn

Gorham public Pre-K program applications are open

GORHAM, ME -- Applications for the Gorham's Pre-K Program will open on Monday, January 1st. Gorham families with children who will be 4 years old by October 15, 2024 are encouraged to apply for FREE half-day Pre-K!

Our Pre-K program is conducted at Narragansett School and is open to all

Pre-K-aged students in Gorham. (If you reside in the Great Falls or Village district, your student will attend Narragansett for Pre-K.) Transportation will be provided for students enrolled in the program. Please contact Theresa Connolly at 222-1295 if you have any questions or need assistance completing the application.

Gorham Fiscal Sustainability Committee looking for volunteers

GORHAM, ME -- The Town Council Appointments Committee is seeking citizen volunteers (one community member and one business owner) to make up the new Fiscal Sustainability Committee.

How to Apply

Please complete the application on the Town's website and send to Town Clerk Laurie Nordfors at lnordfors@gorham.me.us. For assistance with questions, please email or call Mrs. Nordfors at 222-1670.

Committee Purpose

To understand the existing financial landscape for the Town of Gorham and the Gorham School Department; to evaluate the future financial landscape, and to use this knowledge to make recommendations for how to maintain sustainable taxes while continuing to manage the present and future growth of our community over the next five to 10 years.

Member Expectation/Time Commitment

Monthly or every other month meetings of 1.5 hours each, with initial meeting tentatively scheduled for February 2024.

Reading/research between meetings. Membership

The committee will consist of 18 members plus one facilitator. Visit the committee page to view the committee make-up.

Deliverables

Development of a series of recommendations to the Town Council and School Committee for how to reduce costs (or mitigate continued cost increases) through efficiencies.

Development of a series of recommendations to the Town Council and School Committee for how to increase revenues that will offset direct taxpayer expenses at both the municipal and school levels.

Development of a series of recommendations to the Town Council and School Committee for how to improve communications between various stakeholder groups within the community of Gorham to aid in understanding current and future financial limitations moving forward.

Timeline

The work of this committee will begin in February of 2024 and will be targeted to start impacting the development of the Fiscal Year 2026 budgets at both the municipal and school levels in Gorham.

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!

Gorham community invited to enjoy winter at Stevens' Farm

GORHAM, ME -- Stevens' farm would like to welcome the community to use their land for sliding, tubing, snowboarding etc. As you turn into Great Falls School you will see a hill and ranch on the right. This is farm land, please take all

trash with you.

You are welcome to park to the left on Pit Rd. Enjoy! Please wave to gram in the window, she loves to watch

Activities at your own risk. Considered recreational by our insurance.

Follow us on Facebook!

Don't miss our giveaways!

GORHAM SCHOOL DEPARTMENT PUBLIC PRE-K NOW ENROLLING FOR THE 24/25 SCHOOL YEAR

Gorham families with children who will be 4 years old by October 15, 2024 are encouraged to apply for FREE half-day Pre-K!

- Our Pre-K program is conducted at Narragansett School and is open to all Pre-K aged students in Gorham. (If you reside in the Great Falls or Village district, your student will attend Narragansett for Pre-K.)
- Transportation will be provided for students enrolled in the program.

3 EASY STEPS TO APPLY

1. COMPLETE THE PRE-K APPLICATION
◦ (SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW OR FOLLOW THE LINK)
2. SIGN UP FOR A SCREENING APPOINTMENT AT THE END OF THE APPLICATION.
3. ATTEND SCREENING ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH.

Click the link or scan the barcode to apply. Please call 222-1295 if you need assistance completing the application.

[PRE-K APPLICATION LINK](#)



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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

High levels of radon detected in 36.5% of Maine homes

MAINE – Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer and the “State of Lung Cancer” report reveals that it is detected at high levels in about 36.5% of homes in Maine. During January for National Radon Action Month, the American Lung Association in Maine is urging everyone to help save lives by testing their home for radon and mitigating if high levels are detected.

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas emitted from the ground. Radon is odorless, tasteless and colorless, and can enter a home through cracks in floors, basement walls, foundations and other openings. Radon can be present at high levels inside homes, schools and other buildings. It is responsible for an estimated 21,000 lung cancer deaths every year and is the lead-

ing cause of lung cancer in people who have never smoked.

Here in Maine about 36.5% of radon test results equal or exceed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) action level of 4 pCi/L, according to the Lung Association’s “State of Lung Cancer” report.

“Radon in homes is more common than you think. In fact, high levels of radioactive radon

gas have been found in every state but most places in the country remain undertested, so this isn’t something that should be taken lightly. Exposure to radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States,” said Lance Boucher, director of advocacy for the Lung Association. “Testing for radon is the only way to know if the air in your home is safe. The good news is

that it is easy to test. Do-it-yourself test kits are simple to use and inexpensive.”

After high levels are detected, a radon professional should install a radon mitigation system, which is easy and relatively affordable. A typical radon mitigation system consists of a vent pipe, fan and properly sealing cracks and other openings. This system collects radon gas from underneath the foun-

dation and vents it to the outside. Contact your state radon program for a list of certified professionals in your state. Some state health departments offer financial assistance or low interest loans for radon mitigation.

Learn more about radon testing and mitigation at Lung.org/radon and take the Lung Association’s free Radon Basics course at Lung.org/Radon-Basics.

AFA’s Teen Alzheimer’s Awareness Scholarship opens

NEW YORK – High school seniors impacted by Alzheimer’s disease can earn up to \$5,000 for college through the Alzheimer’s Foundation of America’s (AFA) Teen Alzheimer’s Awareness Scholarship Contest. Students can enter the contest by visiting www.alzfdn.org/scholarship.

“You’re never too young to make a difference in the lives of others, and teens are showing that every day in the fight against Alzheimer’s disease,” said Charles J. Fuschillo, Jr., AFA’s president

and CEO. “Teens across the country are helping to care for loved ones with Alzheimer’s, volunteering at care settings, raising awareness, and even conducting scientific research. We encourage them to share their stories through this scholarship contest.”

“Through the stories and struggles of many teens impacted by Alzheimer’s disease, it is our hope a new generation will use their experiences to bring awareness on the impact of the disease and advocate for more care-

giver support and research in the years to come,” said Stephanie Evans Ariker, AFA’s Director of External Relations.

College-bound high school seniors are invited to apply for the scholarship by submitting an essay (1,500 words maximum) or submitting a video (four minutes in length or less), describing how Alzheimer’s disease has impacted their lives and what they have learned about themselves, their family and/or their community through their experience with Alzheimer’s. En-

tries can be submitted by visiting www.alzfdn.org/scholarship. The deadline for submissions is April 1, 2024, at 5:00 pm ET. Students already attending college are not eligible to participate.

Experiences that students can write about include:

Having a loved one with Alzheimer’s disease or another dementia-related illness

Helping care for someone with Alzheimer’s disease or another dementia-related illness

Volunteering or

working in a care setting that serves individuals with dementia

Raising Alzheimer’s awareness in their school or community

Conducting Alzheimer’s research

The first-place winner receives a \$5,000 scholarship. Additional prizes awarded for runners up and honorable mentions. More than \$428,000 in college scholarships have been awarded since the program’s inception.

Alzheimer’s disease affects millions of families across the United States.

More than 6 million Americans currently live with Alzheimer’s disease, a number projected to more than double by 2060, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

AFA is able to provide scholarship funds through the generous support of charitable donors. Individuals wishing to support this and other programs and services for families affected by Alzheimer’s disease can do so by visiting www.alzfdn.org/donate or calling AFA at 866-232-8484.

State parks see decline in use, anticipate upward trend for 2024

AUGUSTA, ME - The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry’s Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL) Director Andy Cutko announced a slight decline in visitation to Maine State Parks during 2023, with 2.93 million visitors spending time at the bureau’s 48 state parks and historic sites (2.64 million day-use visitors and 291K campers). While visitation fell below the record-breaking years of 2022 and 2021, with 3.28 million and 3.3 million visits, the slight 2023 de-

crease was attributed to poor weather. Maine State Parks welcomed 319K campers in 2022 and 315K in 2021. Despite this decrease, BPL anticipates a continued upward trend in visitation.

“The parks are an amazing value, and we thrive because of the talented staff who welcome millions of outdoors enthusiasts who love and care for these treasured places,” stated Cutko. “Another and lesser-known contributor to our success are the many partnerships that continue to emerge,

such as our work with L.L. Bean, which provides loaned equipment stored in “Beach Boxes,” Maine Cancer Foundation and Impact Melanoma sunscreen dispensers, collaboration with Trail Monster on bike, snowshoe, and running races, and the Portland Museum of Art “Art on the Trail” installations.”

The BPL is infusing \$50 million in Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan investments in Maine State Parks. Completed projects include improved roads at Sebago Lake, Peaks-Ken-

ney, Camden Hills, Rangeley Lake, and Lily Bay State Park, a renovated bridge at Reid State Park, and numerous equipment purchases. Ongoing architecture and design work includes park entrance stations, washrooms and plumbing improvements, campsite redesigns, and much more.

Maine State Park Camping Reservation Center Opening February 1

On February 1, starting at 9 a.m., BPL will accept reservations for Lily Bay State Park and Seba-

go Lake State Park. (The storm date if state offices are closed is February 2.)

On February 6, starting at 9 a.m., BPL will accept reservations for All parks. (The storm date if closed is February 7, 2024)

The BPL Campground Reservation Center accepts phone and online reservations for all 12 Maine State Park campgrounds.

Book camping reservations online (@ www.CampWithME.com) and reach the camping reservation call center by call-

ing (800) 332-1501 from a Maine (207) area code, or (207) 624-9950. Seasonal reservation call center hours are 9:00 to 4:00, Monday to Friday, excluding holidays.

Group Campsite and Picnic Shelter Reservations are by phone only and begin February 1, 2023. Find park phone lines, instructions, and fees on BPL’s Group Camping and the Group Shelters web pages.

Campers are encouraged to Read the Reservation Tips and FAQs before reserving.



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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Patrick Dempsey to attend Sugarloaf Charity Summit

CARRABASSETT VALLEY, ME – Actor and founder of the Dempsey Center, Patrick Dempsey will attend the 24th Annual Sugarloaf Charity Summit, Sugarloaf's premier fundraising event, on Saturday, January 27, 2024. He will join in the events all weekend long representing the Dempsey Center, a beneficiary of this year's event. The Annual Sugarloaf Charity Summit provides an opportunity for

Sugarloafers, old and new, to join forces in the fight against cancer by participating in fundraisers including the Charity Challenge, a ski event where participants fundraise to earn incentives and exclusive prizes. The Summit also features off-mountain activities such as Raffle for a Cure to win a 2-year season pass to Sugarloaf, a charity gala, raffle and live auctions. The funds raised will go to support three organizations that help

Mainers facing cancer: Martha B. Webber Breast Care Center, Maine Cancer Foundation, and the Dempsey Center. Over the past 23 years, the Charity Summit has raised over \$3.5 million for Maine charities. This year event organizers aim to exceed \$400,000 through collective fundraising efforts. For more information on the Charity Summit, please visit www.sugarloafcharitysummit.org.



Patrick Dempsey poses with participants of the Sugarloaf Charity Summit.

ClimateWork Maine announces new Board of Directors



PORTLAND, ME - ClimateWork Maine appointed a new slate of talented, dynamic, and experienced Board Members to grow the organization and help support Maine businesses in a carbon-constrained economy. We are pleased to announce the following board members: Michael Arsnow, Manager Sustainability,

MaineHealth Laney Brown, Vice President, Sustainability, Avangrid Henry Clauson, Northeast US Regional Director, Ramboll Les Fossel, Founder & Owner, Restoration Resources, LLC John Gardner, Senior Engineer, Warm Springs Consulting

Kathie Summers Grice, Managing Principal, Dirigo Partners Shawn Hunter, Founder & President, Mindscaling Sandra Klausmeyer, Senior Vice President, Corporate Communications and Strategies Manager, Bangor Savings Bank Neil Kiely, President & CEO, Androscoggin Bank Stephen Kosacz, Founder & Former President, AutoWorks, Inc. Bob Martin, Managing Partner, Strategic Equity Partners, LLC Zoe Malia, Environmental Sustainability Manager, Allagash Brewing Co. Jeremy Pare, Professor, Duke University/UNE Don Parent, Principal, Parent Technology Group George Parmenter, Health & Sustainability Lead, Hannaford Supermarkets Alex Pine, Consultant, VEIC Tom Ruff, Founder & CEO, Orange Bike Brewing Andy Shepard, Fundraising/Community Development, Saddleback

Mountain Nova Tower, Partner & Real Estate Broker, Waypoint Brokers Collective Jared Wildwistle, Business Climate Action Program (BCAP) Manager, Gulf of Maine Research Institute Emily Wood, Program Developer, Climate Justice and Environmental Resilience, CEI Arthur Woolverton, Northeast Regional Leader, Siemens Energy & Performance Services ClimateWork Maine's new board members bring invaluable insights to help provide support, education, and connections to Maine busi-

nesses of all types, sizes, and geographic locations. Areas of expertise include education, energy, engineering, finance, real estate, recreation, technology, and more. According to Board Chair, Doug McKeown, "This strategic expansion and enhancement will help us better serve Maine's businesses in their actions to develop and implement robust climate solutions, ultimately driving growth in the state's economy." These professionals join the Founding Members of the ClimateWork Maine Board, including: Alan Caron, Founder, President, Blue Loon Lakefront Homes

Doug McKeown, Chair, Former Chair of Woodard & Curran Board of Directors Lydia Covert, Vice Chair, Corporate Sustainability Director, Unum Kevin Gildart, Treasurer, Retired Executive Kristina Egan, Executive Director, Greater Portland Council of Governments Eric Fitz, Co-founder, Amply Energy Barry Woods, Senior Director of eMobility, Revision Energy Businesses interested in working with ClimateWork Maine should contact Jeff Marks, Executive Director at jeff@climateworkmaine.org.

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Seniors Not Acting Their Age

An Exciting Opening Day at Rangeley Lakes Trails Center



A classic skier passes a winding stream on Lower Pipeline Trail at Rangeley Lakes Trails Center



The snowshoeing is excellent on Tote Road Trail



A Nordic skier climbs Lower Pump House Road

By Ron Chase
We'd been waiting for a couple of weeks for Opening Day at Rangeley Lakes Trails Center. I wanted to ski and my wife, Nancy, planned to snowshoe. December 9th was the magical day. A phone call confirmed that many of the ski trails were groomed for classic and skate skiing and snowshoe trails packed by snowmobile.

The exceptional Rangeley Lakes Trail system is situated at the foot of Saddleback Mountain. They receive copious amounts of snow each winter. As a result, it's one of our favorite winter sports destinations.

The trails are maintained by the Rangeley Lakes Cross Country

Ski Club. The dedicated members do a masterful job of keeping the trails in the best possible condition while operating a yurt where passes are purchased.

When we arrived early on a cool partly cloudy day, some vacant parking spots remained in the lot adjacent to the yurt. Additional space is available in an overflow parking area across the street. The helpful yurt manager confirmed she had skied the Tote Road Trail earlier and it was in good condition. She also informed us that another volunteer was out grooming trails and had reported that Bridge Trail was scratchy in places. As far as she knew, the snowshoe trails were fine, but

asked Nancy to report back on her findings. We were ready to ski and snowshoe.

A classic skier, I began skiing on Tote Road while Nancy left on Snowshoe Alley. The Tote Road classic tracks were groomed to perfection. I glided effortlessly east in a scenic wintry setting.

After reaching a major intersection at the end of Tote Road where four trails meet, I continued straight on Bridge Trail. As predicted, the snow pack was thin which prevented the groomer from setting tracks for classic skiing. However, there was sufficient snow to climb the gradual circuitous incline to View Trail.

View Trail lived up to its name furnishing excep-

tional views of the peaks of the Saddleback Mountain Range. Snow conditions were excellent for a steady ascent to the highpoint. However, the descent on the western slope was rough in spots and required careful maneuvering to avoid a fall. An old man in fear of injury, I held a snowplow for much of the steepest section.

At the bottom of the hill, View Trail joins Lower Pump House Road. Turning right on Lower Pump House, I began an easy climb past a side trail on the left which connects with Hoffman Run to the north. Persisting uphill to the top, a stimulating descent followed to the eastern end of Hoffman Run. The approximately one mile Lower Pump-house/Hoffman Run Loop was the best skiing of the day. I added to the entertainment by skiing the loop twice.

While I was contemplating my next trail choice at the Hoffman Connector and Lower Pumphouse junction, several skiers converged there. All expressed excitement and enthusiasm with the arrival of

opening day.

I followed another skier double-poling downhill on Lower Pumphouse to Lower Pipeline Trail. We should have paid closer attention to the guidance provided at the yurt; the northern portion of Lower Pipeline was ungroomed. We alternated packing a route on the partially broken path until crossing a bridge where the trail was again groomed and tracked. Skiing next to a winding open stream with Saddleback Mountain as a backdrop was remarkably scenic.

Upper Pipeline Trail begins at the Tote Road/Bridge Trail intersection. The straightforward path ascends steadily uphill for about a mile towards Saddleback Mountain. The benefits of a potential climb seemed worth the effort. When I met a skier enjoying a thrilling ride down, that was all the incentive needed to push on. After completing the strenuous undertaking, I experienced the most exhilarating downhill ski of the day.

Several cheerful skiers were encountered when I returned to the yurt on

Tote Road. Shortly before arriving, I met Nancy finishing her trek. She too had enjoyed an invigorating outing.

Rangeley Lakes Trails Center has some of the finest Nordic ski and snowshoe trails in Maine. We anticipate returning this winter for more exciting adventures. "Do a snow dance," encouraged the yurt manager when we departed.

My book, *Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine* includes two more Nordic Ski trips and several winter mountaineering expeditions.

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

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2024 Lunar New Year Celebration coming up

CAPE ELIZABETH, ME -- The Chinese and American Friendship Association of Maine (CAFAM) will ring in the Year of the Dragon, Saturday, February 24, 2023, at the Cape Elizabeth High School, 345 Ocean House Road, Cape Elizabeth, ME.

This always popular

and exciting event is in its 33rd year and is the oldest and largest Lunar New Year celebration in Maine.

Performance by a professional arts group, Boston Chinese Folk Art Workshop, (CFAW Boston) the performance is called 龙行天下迎甲辰 (The Dragon Strides Across the World, Ush-

ering in the Year of Jia Chen), which will include traditional Chinese music, drumming, and dance. This performance begins at noon. First come, first served seating.

The Bangor Chinese School will also perform a dragon dance and a harvest dance, as well as teaching calligraphy.

There will be a Chinese Cultural Village: Open from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with crafts for kids, vendors, and more. The village will also be open during performance intermission.

Chinese food from the China Xpress Restaurant will be available beginning at 11:00 a.m.

Admission prices: Adults \$15, Children 12 to 5 \$5, Children under 5 Free. The discounted price for CAFAM members is \$10 for adults. Tickets are available in advance from Eventbrite.com. Day of event tickets: Only cash or check. No credit or debit cards! .

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Sponsored the Chinese and American Friendship Association of Maine (CAFAM). For more information go to www.cafam-maine.org.

WinterKids to host “ski free” days

WESTBROOK, ME – WinterKids, a non-profit organization dedicated to getting children outside and active in the winter months, is thrilled to announce two upcoming “ski free” days, providing unforgettable winter sports experiences for over 160 youth in collaboration with Augusta Recreation Dept, Lost Valley, Boys & Girls Club of the Border Towns, Micmac tribe, Healthy Peninsula, and BigRock Mountain.

Web Link: <https://winterkids.org/blog/winterkids-to-host-two-ski-free-days-expanding-access-to-winter-sports-for-local-youth/>

Date: Saturday, February 3, 2024

Location: BigRock Mountain, Mars Hill

Partnerships with Boys & Girls Club of the Border Towns and Micmac tribe in the greater Presque Isle area, and Healthy Peninsula in Blue Hill: More than 110 students will have an exciting day filled with skiing, snowboarding, and trail adventures at BigRock Mountain. WinterKids is committed to providing lift tickets, rental equipment, and lessons for all attendees.

“We are thrilled to partner with Augusta Recreation Dept, Lost Valley,



Boys & Girls Club of the Border Towns, Micmac tribe, and Healthy Peninsula to offer these ‘ski free’ days for the youth in our community. WinterKids believes in the transformative power of outdoor winter activities and aims to break down barriers that may prevent children from experiencing the joy of skiing and snowboarding,” said Julie Mulkern, Executive Director at WinterKids.

“Augusta Parks and

Recreation was pleased to be part of the WinterKids Ski Trip to Lost Valley on Sunday, January 21st, 2024. Working with WinterKids was an easy process that brings outdoor education and enjoyment together in a way that warms our hearts! We are anticipating great ski conditions and students are excited to have an immersive experience in learning how to ski! Thank you for this opportunity to share our love for outdoor edu-

cation!” said Kelli Gilzow Stowell, Program Coordinator at Augusta Parks and Recreation.

These events align with WinterKids’ mission to promote healthy, active, and vibrant kids through outdoor winter fun. WinterKids supports all winter kids from first timers to avid weekend warriors being active outdoors, but we especially like introducing new kids to winter sports in Maine. WinterKids estimates that approximately 50% of the participants will be brand new to skiing and snowboarding. WinterKids would like to extend a special thank you to Lost Valley and BigRo-

ck for supporting our mission and making these ski trips happen.

For more information about WinterKids and its initiatives, please visit <https://winterkids.org>.

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\$10M in literacy grants for Maine schools

The Mills Administration announced a \$10 million literacy grant opportunity for schools to support the development, expansion, and enhancement of evidence-based core literacy instruction and targeted interventions for Maine students. These literacy grants through the Maine Department of Education (DOE) are intended to build the capacity of year-long, core literacy instruction for all students and support core literacy instructional components, including phonics, phonemic awareness, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

Grant funds can be used by schools to compensate educators for participating in evidence-based literacy professional learning opportunities and internal instruction and program review processes, for professional learning opportunities on evidence-based literacy practices, to train instructional coaches, and to purchase evidence-based literacy materials.

“Literacy is a foundational skill that enables students to thrive in school, work, life, and as citizens in our democracy. This investment in literacy will help schools and educators provide all stu-

dents in Maine with evidence-based core literacy instruction and interventions. It’s an investment in the future of our state,” said Maine Education Commissioner Pender Makin.

The grants were developed following the work by a Maine DOE workgroup of literacy specialists to analyze early literacy programs in Maine to understand better which assessment measures, programs, resources, evidence-based practices, and educator supports have yielded strong student growth. The Maine DOE workgroup created recommendations,

which were provided to the Maine Legislature in December 2022. This \$10 million grant initiative was designed out of LD 1526, which was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor, to increase student reading proficiency in Maine.

“The literacy grant the DOE is providing is giving schools the opportunity to participate in the much needed and requested professional development around the science of reading. These funds will allow us to provide vital training in this area and the opportunity to pur-

See Literacy, page 7

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Arts & Entertainment

MCPKids! announces cast of "The Pale Pink Dragon"

MONMOUTH, ME -- The Monmouth Community Players, along with MCP Marquis Sponsor Great Falls Federal Credit Union, MCP-Kids! Sponsors Community Credit Union, Mills Family Monmouth Lights, Indie Stage Music, and Media Sponsor Turner Publishing are thrilled to announce the cast of their MCP-Kids! musical, *The Pale Pink Dragon*. The *Pale Pink Dragon* is a musical fairy tale written by Phyllis McCallum, with music by Jean Tandowsky and lyrics by Prue Holden. The production is led by Josie French as Director and Music Director. Rounding out the team are Kayla Newmeyer as Assistant Director, Ken Mansur as Choreographer, Debby Mansur as Costume Lead, Amy Hamlin as Props Lead, Kyle Mansur as Stage Manager, Alex Lally as Sound Designer and Op-

erator, and Danny Gay as Producer and Set/Lighting Designer.

The Kingdom of Caladar is in an uproar. Princess Pinkie has disappeared, a dragon lurks in the forest, and it is presumed that he has devoured the princess. Gallant Prince Hal, his bumbling squire and the King, the pompous chamberlain and Pinkie's fierce white cat set out to destroy the dragon. Will the dragon be defeated and the Princess saved? Will the evil queen, bratty princess and Witch win out in the end? Come to the show and find out!

The cast features: Sophia Pinard, Audrey Blake, Brenda Butler & Breann Nagle of Monmouth; Avery Hamlin, Oliver Hamlin, Emily Hamlin, Alice Mercik & Mackenzie Blackwell of Wales; Makenzie Allen, Lucy MacLeod, Iana Helczyk-Postole, Kai Helczyk-Postole, Ender



The Cast of the Pale Pink Dragon ~ Front: Kai Helczyk-Postole, Luke Gaspary, Breann Nagle, Mackenzie Blackwell, Sophia Partridge, Alice Mercik, Arya Iannotti, Sophia Pinard, Audrey Blake, Brenda Butler and Emily Hamlin; Back: Mark Sylvester, Ender Gaspary, Dorothy Gaspary, Oliver Hamlin, Lucy MacLeod, Makenzie Allen, Iana Helczyk-postole, Ronan Sawyer and Avery Hamlin

Gaspary, Dorothy Gaspary & Luke Gaspary of Auburn; Mark Sylvester & Ronan Sawyer of Winthrop; Sophia Partridge of Rome; Arya Iannotti of Leeds.

The *Pale Pink Dragon* will play at the his-

toric Cumston Hall in Monmouth February 23-25, 2024. Performances will be at 7pm on 2/23, and matinee 2pm shows on 2/24 and 2/25. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students and seniors. The *Pale Pink Dragon* is produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Inc., Englewood, Colorado. For more information, or to purchase tickets, please email the theater at mcpboxoffice@gmail.com, call them at (207)370-9566, or purchase tickets online at www.monmouthcommunityplayers.org.

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A portion of these proceeds will go to the CLT Eastman Family Scholarship Fund to benefit high school seniors going on to study Performing Arts.

Literacy

Continued from page 5

chase classroom materials for literacy instruction. In RSU14, this means we can train more staff than we budgeted for using local funds. We are grateful to have this opportunity to support our staff,” said Christine Hesler, Director of Curriculum for RSU14. “The Maine DOE literacy grant is a great opportunity for many districts to reach their goal of all students becoming readers. Through providing professional development, purchasing additional resources and materials that are focused on research-based literacy strategies, this goal is attainable. These funds will supplement the financial investment districts already commit to literacy instruction,” said Deb McIntyre, Executive Director of the Maine Curriculum Leaders Association.

The grants also build off extensive efforts by the Mills Administration to strengthen child literacy skills in Maine, including investing \$10 million through the Governor’s Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan to create and expand pre-k programs across Maine. In 2022, the Maine DOE released, Literacy for ME 2.0, a revamped state literacy plan grounded in research-based literacy practices and organized around key components central to building comprehensive literacy programs.

Recognizing the vital importance of foundational literacy development and in response to school system inquiries related to early literacy program development, the Maine DOE and a team of Maine educators and educational partners, developed guidance to support School Administrative Units in

designing and implementing systematic and explicit early literacy instruction. This guidance is designed as a supportive tool for early elementary educators, administrators, and literacy leadership teams to reflect on current practices and to potentially adjust educational design to support high-quality and evidence-based early literacy learning for all PreK to Grade 3 students. The Maine DOE also provides interdisciplinary instructional programming and resources around literacy for pre-K, kindergarten, and first grade.

The Maine DOE has obtained a preschool development grant through the federal government to support professional learning in birth through grade three literacy practices grounded in science and the Department is working to secure access to on-de-

mand literacy modules that cover a wide variety of literacy content grounded in science for elementary educators, including content related to brain development, instructional practices connected to the essential components of reading and writing, dyslexia, and multilingual learners.

Last month, the Mills administration expanded the state’s partnership with Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, with 4,500 eligible Maine children currently receiving free, high-quality, age-appropriate books through the program. The Maine DOE recently announced a partnership with I’m Your Neighbor Books to provide Welcoming Libraries to 16 schools across Maine, with each library containing 60 books featuring stories of immigrant families and the diversity of America. The Maine DOE also hosts the

Read to ME Challenge every February to encourage adults to read aloud to children and Read to Ride Summer, a contest that qualifies students who read at least 500 minutes over the summer a chance to win one of 48 donated bikes and helmets.

The DOE has also created several literacy-related educator groups, for educators and education organizations across Maine to share and develop resources and guide the state’s literacy work, including the State Literacy Team, Maine Association for Improving Literacy (MAIL) Network, State Dyslexia Advisory Group, Screening Project & Dyslexia Plan, and the Higher Education Pre-Service Literacy Faculty Group. These groups also share information, facilitate text studies, and offer training related to dyslexia aware-

ness, the Science of Reading, the neuroscience of the reading brain, systematic and evidence-based Tier I instruction to lower special education referral rates, support for striving readers, alignment and collaboration between general and special education for IDEA, and inclusive literacy instruction for students identified as having specific learning disabilities.

Literacy grants will be allocated to school administrative units (SAUS) and Education in Unorganized Territory (EUT) schools based on a formula model and the Maine DOE will be contacting SAUs & EUT directly through the Grants4ME platform with more information about their participation in the literacy grant program. Federal emergency relief funding was used to support these grants.

\$120K in MaineCF grants to support transportation programs

PORTLAND & ELLSWORTH —The Maine Community Foundation’s (MaineCF) has awarded \$120,000 to nonprofit organizations that provide transportation services to Mainers. MaineCF’s Maine Charity Foundation Fund awarded

\$91,000 to 14 organizations and another \$29,000 was awarded to four organizations by donors with advised funds at MaineCF.

The Maine Charity grant program supports organizations that provide transportation services to people in Maine with lim-

ited or no access to transportation, including New Mainers, older people, people experiencing homelessness, those recovering from substance use disorder and survivors of domestic violence.

2023 grantees include:

Neighbors Driving Neighbors, to expand rider, driver, and destination outreach and increase capacity to meet demand for rides.

Age Friendly Saco, for its transportation program that helps residents access essential services: \$5,000

Bucksport Bay Healthy Communities Coalition, to offer free, bimonthly excursions for older people: \$1,000

Healthy Acadia, to develop a transportation program for under-resourced community members to access healthcare

appointments and social support services: \$10,000

Intercultural Community Center, for transportation for New Mainers to access education, health and social services: \$5,000

Knox County Homeless Coalition, to hire a
See MaineCF, page 10



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Sen. Collins meets with local fishermen after storm

WASHINGTON, D.C. - This week, U.S. Senator Susan Collins met with a group of fishermen, including members of the New England Fishermen's Stewardship Association, at her office in Washington. During the meeting, the fishermen discussed the damage to Maine's working waterfronts following recent storms. The group included fishermen from Friendship, Harp-

swell, Saco, South Bristol, Southwest Harbor, Swan's Island, Portland, and Cape Elizabeth.

"I met with a hard-working and resilient group of fishermen and women who provided a firsthand account of the damage they have seen at working waterfronts up and down Maine's coast and across New England following the recent storms," said Senator Col-



lins. "We discussed how the federal government, in partnership with the State of Maine, can help to ensure our coastal communities retain their working waterfronts for generations to come."

Senator Collins and her staff were joined at the meeting by staff members from the offices of Senator Angus King and Representatives Chellie Pingree and Jared Golden.

Norway Savings Bank food drives assist Gorham pantry

GORHAM, ME- During February, the Gorham and Standish Branches of Norway Savings Bank will celebrate Valentine's Day with month-long food drives to benefit local food pantries and, in the spirit of the month, spread love throughout the community.

To help, participants can drop nonperishable food items off at either branch during business hours:

Gorham Branch
65 Main Street
Mon. - Thu., 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Fri., 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sat., 8:30 a.m. to noon

Donations for Gor-

ham Food Pantry
Standish Branch
88 Ossipee Trail East

Mon. - Thu., 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Fri., 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sat., 8:30 a.m. to noon

Donations for Standish Food Pantry

There is a special need for boxed macaroni and cheese, Ramen noodles, peanut butter, baked beans, canned pasta, canned soup, canned vegetables, tuna, chicken, coffee, tea, and cocoa, but all non-perishable food items will be gratefully accepted.

"Norway Savings Bank views initiatives like these as its responsi-

bility," said Dan Walsh, President and CEO of Norway Savings Bank. "At all of our branches, efforts to confront challenges being faced by community members are in the forefront of planning and operation. The Bank believes that our communities work best when we all work together, and these food drives are another way we can engage our customers in joining us to help many in need."

For more information or to discover additional ways to assist, call the Gorham Food Pantry at 207-222-4351 and the Standish Food Pantry at 207-358-0359.



Previous food drive at Standish Branch.

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Gorham Middle School starts Baking Club, seeks donations

GORHAM, ME -- The new Baking Club at Gorham Middle School is seeking community support. The response from students has been overwhelming, with over 20 eager participants each week. Faced with the challenge of managing a large group and assigning responsibilities, advisor Angela Gospodarek opted for a creative solution – “Mug Meals.” Each student receives a personalized recipe card, guiding them through the process of creating their own delightful “Mug Meal” or “Mug Snack” in a mug, utilizing the microwave for efficiency in the bustling kitchen.

Gospodarek writes: While embracing the joy of baking, we’re also delving into essential aspects such as kitchen safety, making healthy choices, exploring baking trivia, and, true to my passion, incorporating a touch of science. We’re unraveling the mysteries behind

yeast, understanding the role of bacteria, exploring the concept of gluten, and discussing lactose intolerance.

However, sustaining the provision of ingredients for this enthusiastic group on a regular basis poses a challenge. Rather than burdening the students with financial requests, I’m reaching out to the community for support. Here’s my “wish list,” which can be purchased off of Amazon at https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2J6H-FBNZQE00H?ref=wl_share AND/OR gently used items as you clean out your kitchen or visit Goodwill are more than welcome!

- storage containers for sugar/flour
- measuring cups
- measuring spoons
- microfiber cloths
- Dishcloths
- storage tote for easy transportation (keeping my classroom clutter-free)
- dish sponges



dish soap
ziplock/sandwich baggies

Additionally, if you’re inclined to contribute, Hannaford gift cards for groceries are greatly needed! You can mail gift cards to me at school Gorham Middle School, 106 Weeks Rd, Gorham, ME 04038 or drop off with the middle school office staff.

In the upcoming week, our focus will be on OATMEAL, offering students a choice among three distinct recipes. Alongside our culinary endeavors,



we’ll explore cooking and baking terminology and engage in some captivating cooking trivia.

A heartfelt thank you for your generous support!



Meagen Belanger joins Fontaine Family Team



MAINE -- Fontaine Family - The Real Estate Leader is proud to announce Meagen Belanger as the newest addition to their growing Scarborough team. As an esteemed real estate sales agent, Meagen is making waves in the industry, bringing her unique blend of expertise, dedication, and community-driven spirit to the forefront of the Southern Maine real estate market.

Meagen grew up in Farmington, NH and is a proud graduate of Farmington High School. She then pursued higher education at Park University in Cherry Point, NC, where she earned a bachelor’s degree that laid the foundation for her successful career in the dynamic world of real estate. With a background in data analysis and a keen understanding of effective communication, Meagen seamlessly translates her skills into the real estate arena, ensuring that her clients benefit from a strategic and insightful approach to property transactions.

Currently residing in Buxton, ME, Meagen is not just a real estate professional but a proud member of the community she serves. Living with her husband, Zach, and two

delightful daughters, Nevaeh and Amelia, Meagen loves painting and nature walks with her family. The Belanger family also includes two furry companions, Roscoe and Daisy, adding a touch of warmth to their household.

Meagen’s commitment to providing unparalleled service to her clients goes beyond the transactional aspects of real estate. She understands that buying or selling a home is a significant life event, and her personalized approach ensures that each client receives the attention and care they deserve throughout the process.

Whether you are a first-time homebuyer, a seasoned investor, or looking to sell your property, Meagen Belanger is your trusted partner in navigating the Maine real estate

landscape with the help of the Fontaine Team. Her passion for helping clients achieve their real estate goals, combined with her analytical skills and effective communication, sets her apart in the industry. For real estate opportunities with Meagen Belanger, she can be contacted by phone at 603-953-3775 or

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MaineCF

Continued from page 7

second driver to extend its transportation service hours: \$10,000

Maine Association of New Americans, to increase capacity for its transportation program that serves immigrants, asylum seeker and refugee families: \$5,000

MSAD #52, for a rideshare program for immigrant students: \$2,500

Neighbors Driving Neighbors, to expand rider, driver, and destination outreach and increase capacity

to meet demand for rides: \$10,000

Penquis Community Action Program, for free transportation for older people in Penobscot and Piscataquis counties: \$5,000

People Plus, to expand capacity of its Volunteer Transportation Network to connect older adults to essential services and programs: \$10,000

Preble Street, to strengthen transportation access for Florence House clients to meet casework and housing goals and pro-

vide enrichment opportunities that positively impact wellbeing: \$7,500

Town of Windham, to provide transportation options to the community: \$5,000

Veterans Inc., to provide transportation for older veterans or veterans with disabilities to access housing, employment and other opportunities: \$10,000

Western Maine Transportation Services Inc., for workplace and dialysis transportation: \$5,000

2023 grants from donor-advised funds:

MSAD #52, for a rideshare program for immigrant students: \$2,000

United Recovery Fund, to provide transportation for Mainers re-entering the workforce after criminal justice involvement and/or are in early recovery from a substance use disorder: \$10,000

The Progress Center, to expand Children's In-Home Supports that serves children with developmental disabilities, mental health diagnoses and learning disorders: \$10,000

Safe Voices, to pro-

vide transportation assistance to survivors of domestic abuse, sex trafficking, and sexual exploitation in Androscoggin, Franklin, and Oxford counties: \$7,000

The Maine Charity Foundation was established in 1921. In September 1993, its assets were transferred to the MaineCF, where it became a competitive grant program. Over the years, the grant program criteria and priorities have changed to meet the needs of Mainers. In 2023, the fund broad-

ened its scope to include organizations that provide transportation services for those with limited or no access to transportation.

For more information about the fund, visit www.mainecharity.org.

The Maine Community Foundation brings people and resources together to build a better Maine through strategic giving, community leadership, personalized service, local expertise and strong investments. To learn more about the foundation, visit www.mainecharity.org.

OPEI offers 12 tips to help prepare ahead of storms

MAINE -- The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI) reminds home and business owners that it's important to make sure you have the right outdoor power equipment on hand and are prepared before a storm.

"Across the country, we're seeing weather events that are more significant and more frequent. These present real challenges to homeowners and businesses. Thankfully, outdoor power equipment is here to help. There is a product and power source for every need and to address every scenario," said Kris Kiser, President and CEO of OPEI. "At all times of the year, it's important to keep your outdoor power equipment in working order, to have the right fuel on hand, and to know where your safety gear is. Get prepared now,

so you are ready."

OPEI offers the following tips:

Make a list of what you need to clean up. Survey your property. Consider the damage a storm might cause and make a list of what tools might be needed for repairs. You might need a chainsaw, pole pruner, water pump, portable generator, snow thrower, or utility vehicle.

Take stock of your outdoor power equipment. Make sure equipment is in good working order. If needed, take your equipment to an authorized service center for maintenance or repair.

Find your safety gear. Avoid the scramble for sturdy shoes, safety goggles, hard hats, reflective clothing and work gloves, which should be stored in an accessible area with your equipment.



Review the owner's manuals for your equipment. Read product manuals to ensure you know how to operate your equipment safely.

Have the right fuel on hand. Fuel stations may be closed after a storm, so it's important to have the proper fuel for your equipment. Store your fuel in an approved container. Use the type of fuel recommended by your equipment manufacturer. It is illegal to

use any fuel with more than 10% ethanol in outdoor power equipment (for more information: www.LookBeforeYouPump.com).

Use common sense when using outdoor power equipment. After the storm, take time to think through a strategy for clean-up efforts, and use the appropriate equipment for the job. If necessary, call a professional landscape contractor or tree

care service.

Keep batteries charged. Make sure batteries for your equipment are fully charged in advance of a storm, and only use manufacturer-approved charging systems. Keep a couple of extra batteries on hand to keep equipment running.

Trim trees safely. Keep both feet firmly on the ground, and observe the safety zone, which means keeping bystanders and power lines (those above you and any that might have fallen down) at least 50 feet away from your work area.

Ensure portable electric generators have plenty of ventilation. Generators should never be used in an enclosed area or placed inside a home or garage, even if the windows or doors are open. Place the generator outside and away

from windows, doors, and vents that could allow carbon monoxide to come indoors. Keep the generator dry, and make sure you have adequate lengths of extension cords. Before refueling, turn the generator off and let it cool down.

Drive utility vehicles (UTVs) with caution. Keep the vehicle stable and drive slowly. Do not turn the vehicle mid-slope or while on a hill.

Be aware of others. Keep bystanders, children and animals out of your work area. Do not allow other people near outdoor power equipment when starting the equipment or using it.

Listen to your body. Storm cleanup can be draining. Do not operate power equipment when you are tired, drink plenty of water and take regular breaks.

MaineCF grants available to statewide nonprofits

PORTLAND & ELLSWORTH —Non-profit organizations and projects that support statewide initiatives may be eligible for grants from the Maine Community Foundation's (MaineCF) Community Building Grant Program.

The grant program invests in local projects and organizations that help build strong communities. In 2023, 22 nonprofit organizations were awarded grants totaling \$203,371. Donors with advised funds at MaineCF awarded 11 additional grants totaling \$95,000.

The Community Building Grant Program

supports projects and organizations that invest in people, engage with the people served, and strengthen community resources. Applicants must identify how the organization or project invests in people's skills, knowledge and/or well-being. They will also be asked to explain how they engage the people served in the design, delivery and/or evaluation of the work. The grantmaking committees are also interested to learn which community resources are being strengthened.

Nonprofit organizations and projects that serve three or more counties are eligible to



Maine

Community Foundation

apply for statewide funding from the Community Building Grant Program. Organizations and projects that serve only one county should apply to their county funds.

Last year's statewide grantees included:

Hardy Girls Healthy Women, to expand the Feminist Action Board,

a free program for high schoolers

Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project, to expand legal immigrant services for asylum seekers

Maine Youth for Climate Justice, to stipend youth leaders, increase staff capacity and expand programming.

For a full list of 2023 Community Building grants by county, visit www.mainecharity.org/recentgrants.

The Community Building Grant Program is MaineCF's largest grant program. It is one of the only grant programs in the state that supports a broad range of inter-

est areas, including arts, education, environment, economic development and human services.

The grant program offers two types of funding: project grants and general support. Project grants are only available to larger organizations for new projects. General support grants are geared towards smaller organizations and this flexible funding may support new, expanding or ongoing programs as well as operational needs.

Learn more about Community Building Grant Program qualifications and the application process at www.mainecharity.org/communitybuilding.

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TurfMutt's tips for enjoying your yard, a winter wonderland

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – Spending time outside in your own backyard and community green space – backyarding, as the TurfMutt Foundation calls it – is good for you no matter what time of year. When winter hits and the temperatures drop and the days get shorter, it just takes a little more creativity to turn your yard into an outdoor oasis.

“Our living landscapes transform when our yards and parks are covered with white snow,” says Kris Kiser, President & CEO of the TurfMutt Foundation, which advocates for the care and use of our backyards, community parks and public green spaces. “Mutt Mulligan the TurfMutt and I really enjoy

spending time outside even when it's cold and snowy. We just have to prepare properly for it and plan ahead.”

Here are the TurfMutt Foundation's suggestions for turning your backyard into a winter wonderland:

Take cues from your dog. Most dogs love to play in the snow because it offers new smells to sniff out and a new layer to dig through. Lace up your winter boots and enjoy your yard with your family, including your dog. Snowballs make for an excellent game of fetch. If you get enough snow, you can even create an obstacle course for your furry friend. Using a snow thrower will make quick work of the task and can provide a clear

path for your pup to do his “business,” too.

Light it up. Create a welcoming ambience that draws your family outside by stringing lights in your trees and shrubs and on your patio. You can also add lanterns and solar and battery operated candles around your yard to bathe your outdoor space in sparsely, inviting light.

Add warmth. Being comfortable in the wintertime is all about temperature. Firepits are an excellent choice to add warmth, and they create an opportunity to gather around to make s'mores or tell stories. Patio heaters and outdoor fireplaces are another option to warm up your outdoor living room. For

an added layer of comfort, set out a basket of blankets, along with packets of hand and toe warmers.

Create snow activities. Lure your family outside by creating winter-themed activities that are fun for all ages. Snowball fights, snowman building sessions, a game of freeze tag, and even tic-tac-SNOW are just a few ways to make a game of being outside this winter.

Attract wildlife. Throughout the year, your yard is an important part of the connected ecosystem, linking nature to the man-made world of our neighborhoods. Support wildlife in the wintertime by adding bird and squirrel feeders to your trees and patio. Then

observe the kinds of wildlife that visit your yard and how they are different from other seasonal wildlife.

Involve your community. Who says neighborhood block parties can only happen in the summertime? Create community this winter by inviting your neighbors to participate in a Winter Wonderland Block Party. You can host a snowman building contest or snowball competition and serve hot chocolate to warm up.

Explore community green space. Take your winter backyarding into the community by exploring your neighborhood parks and other community green spaces. Take a nature walk to identify the wildlife you

can spot in the wintertime. Or lace up your snowshoes or cross-country skis to explore the winter landscape. Grab the other kids on your block or in your building and hit the sledding hill at the community park. The options are endless!

Dress for success. As the saying goes, there is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing choices. Remember to bundle up and wear layers when you head outside this winter. You will also want to keep your pet safe by monitoring their time outside and removing the snow from under their bellies and in between their paw pads before heading back inside. Remember, if you are cold, your pet probably is, too.

MaineCF awards \$470K to Maine environmental initiatives

PORTLAND & ELLSWORTH, ME — The Maine Community Foundation (MaineCF) has awarded \$469,623 to 25 conservation initiatives around the state.

The foundation's Maine Land Protection grant program awarded \$127,199 to three nonprofit organizations and donors with advised funds at MaineCF awarded an additional \$105,000 to three more organizations. In total, the grants will conserve nearly 2,600 acres.

2023 Maine Land Protection grantees include:

Coastal Mountains Land Trust, to acquire 119 acres in Waldo

Hearty Roots, to secure 400 acres in Bremen for mindful recreation

Somerset Woods Trustees, to acquire 75 acres in Anson on the Carrabassett River for public access and protection of four endangered and threatened species.

MaineCF's Conservation for All grant program awarded \$186,034 to 13 nonprofit organizations that build strong connec-

tions between Maine people and its land and water. Donors with advised funds at MaineCF awarded and additional \$51,390 to seven nonprofit organizations.

2023 Conservation for All grantees include:

Downeast Institute, to engage youth in outdoor activities that focus on sustaining natural resources and stewardship of land and water

Intercultural Community Center, to provide outdoor access to New Mainers through education and nature-based learning activities

Maine Association for New Americans, to provide immigrant youth recreation opportunities through outdoor retreats.

The Fund for Maine Land Conservation grant program started in the early 1990s. In 2018, MaineCF closed the Fund for Maine Land Conservation grant program and in its place created two new land conservation grant programs: Conservation for All, which offers general support and Maine Land Protection, which offers support for land acquisi-

tions and easements.

For more information, visit www.maine.cf.org/mlp and www.maine.cf.org/c4a.

2023 Conservation for All grantees:

Downeast Institute, to engage youth in outdoor activities that focus on sustaining natural resources and stewardship of land and water: \$15,000

Friends of Katahdin Woods and Waters, for the Katahdin Learning Project that connects area youth to nature, community and career pathways through place-based education programs: \$14,000

Intercultural Community Center, to provide outdoor access to New Mainers through education and nature-based learning activities: \$15,000

Kindling Collective, to expand its gear library and programming to engage queer people in outdoor activities and increase their access to nature: \$15,000

Land in Common, to create secure, affordable, lifetime access to land with and for Maine's BIPOC community: \$15,000

Maine Association for New Americans, to provide immigrant youth recreation opportunities through outdoor retreats: \$15,000

Maine Community Integration, for “Sprout Lewiston,” a hands-on ecology education program for New Mainer youth in partnership with Maine Audubon: \$15,000

Maine Youth for Climate Justice, to expand the Outing Club and Food Sovereignty Cohort: \$10,034

Piscataquis County Soil and Water Conservation District, for land and trail maintenance and to expand access to community forests: \$15,000

Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative, to expand capacity: \$15,000

Western Maine Addiction Recovery Initiative, for a Recovery Outings program to connect people in recovery and those affected by substance use disorder through recreation: \$12,000

Wild Seed Project, to partner with Portland schools to create Indigenous plant landscapes: \$15,000

Women for Healthy Rural Living, for Outdoor Women Lead, a program that strengthens women's

and girls' confidence in the outdoors: \$15,000

From donor-advised funds:

Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition, for a year-round, afterschool nature club for middle schoolers: \$2,600

Climate Change for All Educators, to train Maine educators in lesson plan creation for the Maine Education Hub: \$15,000

Community Conservation Initiative, to educate and empower Black immigrants and asylum seekers in environmental and ecological stewardship: \$15,000

Friends of Katahdin Woods and Waters, for the Katahdin Learning Project that connects area youth to nature, community and career pathways through place-based education programs: \$1,000

Friends of L.C. Bates Museum, for outdoor community activities that use museum resources for environmental learning experiences: \$1,290

Hearty Roots, to improve youth mental wellness through outdoor programming: \$7,500

Somali Bantu Community Association, to provide land access, culturally appropriate livelihood development and increased food security to immigrant

families: \$10,000
2023 Maine Land Protection grantees:

Coastal Mountains Land Trust, to acquire 119 acres in Waldo: \$38,600

Hearty Roots, to secure 400 acres in Bremen for mindful recreation: \$50,000

Somerset Woods Trustees, to acquire 75 acres in Anson on the Carrabassett River for public access and protection of four endangered and threatened species: \$38,599

From donor-advised funds:

Blue Hill Heritage Trust, to conserve the Bridges property on the Bagaduce River: \$5,000

Greater Lovell Land Trust, to purchase 1,350-plus acres of forest and 4 miles of Kezar River frontage: \$50,000

The Trust for Public Land, to create and protect 446-acre Rumford Community Forest for recreation, habitats and sustainable forestry: \$50,000

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



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Jan 25
LEWISTON --
THROWBACK THURSDAY MOVIE MATINEE

Our fifth event is Thursday, January 25, 2024, from 4 to 6 p.m. in Callahan Hall and will feature a movie open to all age groups. Come enjoy the sequel to the 90s classic that got us all quacking on ice and rooting for Team USA. Some snacks will be provided but patrons are welcome to bring their favorite movie treats along with them. 513-3135; www.LPLonline.org

Jan 26

AUBURN -- Thinking in the Box: Let's Make Comics! from 3 PM - 4 PM - Teen Space, Auburn Public Library

Have you ever wanted to make your own comic? If you're unsure what to write, not sure how to produce your comic or if you're interested in how comics are made, stop by the Teen Space and get some ideas!

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 Single-sized and are \$10.00 each. Please pay at the door. The Menu includes: Variety of Casseroles, & Salads, Baked Pea Beans,

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

Red Hot Dogs, Breads, Assortment of Desserts & Beverages

Jan 27

BUXTON -- Try our delicious Haddock Supper Buffet - Saturday, January 27, 2024 - 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 option 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.

Jan 27

LISBON FALLS -- Dine In/Take Out Bean Supper Saturday, January 27th from 4:30pm - 5:30pm or SOLD OUT at Lisbon United Methodist Church, 14 School Street, Lisbon Falls, ME. Sponsored by the Methodist Women;

Adults \$9.00. Menu: Pea Beans, Hot Dogs, Potato Salad, Cole Slaw, dinner roll and a slice of pie!

FMI-Gwen Rioux 353-6814
Jan 31
AUBURN -- Anime & Manga Club from 4 PM - 5 PM - Teen Space, Auburn

Public Library

Join us in the Teen Space to watch anime, read manga and share your fanart with fellow fans. While we have plenty of manga in the stacks, feel free to bring some of your own to share with the group!

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.

Feb 4, 7, 8, 9, 10

MAINE -- DaPonte String Quartet Concerts in February. Program: Beethoven String Trio in D Major, Op. 9 no 2, Francaix String Trio & Arensky Quartet No. 2 in A minor, Op. 35 for violin, viola and 2 cellos with guest artist, cellist Fred Edelen. Tickets and additional information available at www.dapontequartet.org

Sunday, February 4, 2:00 pm, St. Columba's Episcopal Church, Boothbay

Wednesday, February

7, 7:00 pm, Union Hall, Rockport

Thursday, February 8, 7:00 pm, Jewish Community Alliance, Portland

Friday, February 9, 7:00 pm, Nordica Hall, University of Maine, Farmington

Saturday, February 10, 2:00 pm, Lemont Hall, Brunswick

Feb 5

LEWISTON -- TAROT 101 WORKSHOP AT LPL

The Lewiston Public Library will host a Tarot 101 Workshop on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, from 5 to 6:30 pm in The Jeanne Couture Room. The Tarot 101 Workshop will feature the return of Kate Sheridan, a.k.a The Laundress. This workshop is free and open to both teens and adults. Registration is required and the link to sign up can be found on the Lewiston Public Library's website under events.

Please bring your own 78-card deck and something to take notes with you to the program. 513-3135; www.LPLonline.org

Mar 23, 24

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

May 18, 19

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

Every 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Monday

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

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

a Homeschool Lego Club and Curriculum Swap on March 13th, and a Homeschool Storytime and Craft on March 20th.

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

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GORHAM LITTLE LEAGUE

Field Funding Campaign

The Gorham Youth Baseball & Softball Association is making a large capital investment to provide updates and add fields to accommodate practice and game schedules:

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- Purchase seasonal fence for Shaw Park
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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 Rothschild, 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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Tonight: Maine Outdoor Film Festival presents Havana Libre

PORTLAND, ME -- In Cuba, where people fled en masse from Fidel Castro's regime, surfing and other water activities have been banned for decades. Today, surfing exists in a murky legal gray area and is viewed with suspicion by the Cuban authorities.

Despite these challenges, a group of passionate Cuban surfers is determined to carve out a place for surf-

ing in the country's culture of athletic excellence. Frank is one of the most established surfers and to many the best surfer on the island. Yaya is a community leader and surfer who has made it her mission to ensure that the next generation can surf freely. When surfing is announced as an official sport for the Tokyo Olympics, they see their chance to bring their sport out of the

shadows and on to the world stage. What follows is a tale of underground surfers building their own boards from scratch, dodging the authorities as they travel the island looking for the perfect wave, and attempting to legitimize their passion by persuading the Cuban authorities to field an Olympic team.

When Frank is invited to participate in a qualifi-

er event out of the country, he must decide whether to compete, which would mean embarking on an illegal journey and risking permanent separation from his wife and newborn baby. Yaya is similarly torn when she is invited to participate in a surf symposium in Hawaii. Havana Libre is a story of people following their passion at great danger to themselves and ultimate-

ly begs the question: what would you risk to chase your dreams?

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in a surf symposium in Hawaii. Havana Libre is a story of people following their passion at great danger to themselves and ultimately begs the question: what would you risk to chase your dreams?

Gulf of Maine Research Institute, 350 Commercial Street Portland, Maine 04101 7:00 PM - 11:59 PM on Thu, 25 Jan 2024

Citizen volunteers needed for Gorham boards & committees

GORHAM, ME -- The Town Council Appointments Committee is seeking citizen volunteers for various boards and committees to serve a 3 year term. The board and committee vacancies available are as follows:
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GORHAM ECO-

NOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION- 3
CONSERVATION COMMISSION - 2
BOARD OF APPEALS - 1
BOARD OF TRUSTEES - BAXTER MEMORIAL LIBRARY - 2
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMIS-

SION - 2
FAIR HEARING BOARD - 1
BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW - 1
REVOLVING LOAN FUND COMMITTEE - 2
BOARD OF HEALTH - 1
If you are interested in applying to serve on any of Town board and/

or committee, or for more information, please visit the Town Clerk's Office. To apply, please complete and submit a Committee Volunteer Application available online. You may also contact the Town

Clerk's Office at 222-1670 or email the Town Clerk Laurie Nordfors at Inordfors@gorham.me.us. Applications will be accepted through January 26, 2024. The Appointments Committee will schedule short

informal interviews with applicants starting in February and the Town Council will appoint applicants at their March meeting. Applications will be accepted until January 26, 2024.

Fontaine
Continued from page 9
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