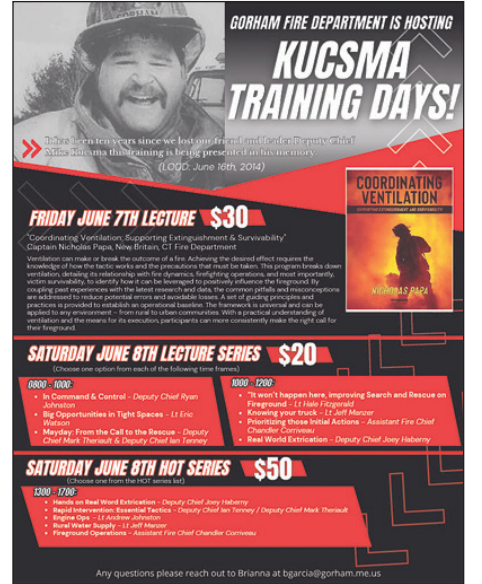


Gorham MS Cheerleaders take 1st place, finish season undefeated



GORHAM, ME -- Congratulations to the Gorham Middle School Cheerleaders for their first-place win. They also had the highest score of the entire competition. They are ending their season undefeated.

Gorham Fire Dept. announces Kucsma Training Days



GORHAM, ME -- Gorham Fire Department & Cumberland County Fire Attack School are announcing the first annual Kucsma Training Days, which will be hosted June 7th - June 8th.

Join us for the Friday night kick-off lecture with Captain Nick Papa "Coordinating Ventilation: Supporting Extinguishment & Survivability" and/or join us Saturday for a day full of training including two different lecture series and an afternoon of HOT Classes.

Our goal is flexibility, you are welcome to pick and choose the times, and classes you can attend. Make sure to register early to secure your spot!

Registration is open!

Story Hour at North Gorham Public Library

GORHAM, ME -- We at the North Gorham Public Library are delighted that Paula Boyce is now leading our Wednesday story hour. Paula, a Standish resident, a first-grade teacher and now teaches education and literature courses at St. Joseph's College and the University of Southern Maine. Paula has always loved reading to

children, and most recently, she and her husband Doug have been bringing their granddaughter Grace to our story hour.

For her first book, she chose "a beautiful little book called Happy Winter". The children also made pretend snow angels and played with bubbles. Paula has lots of great ideas for upcoming story hours. Children will not only get to hear a story they'll also get to make a craft and have some play time.

Join the fun every Wednesday morning from 10:30 to 11:30. Check our Facebook page every week to see what book Paula will be reading.



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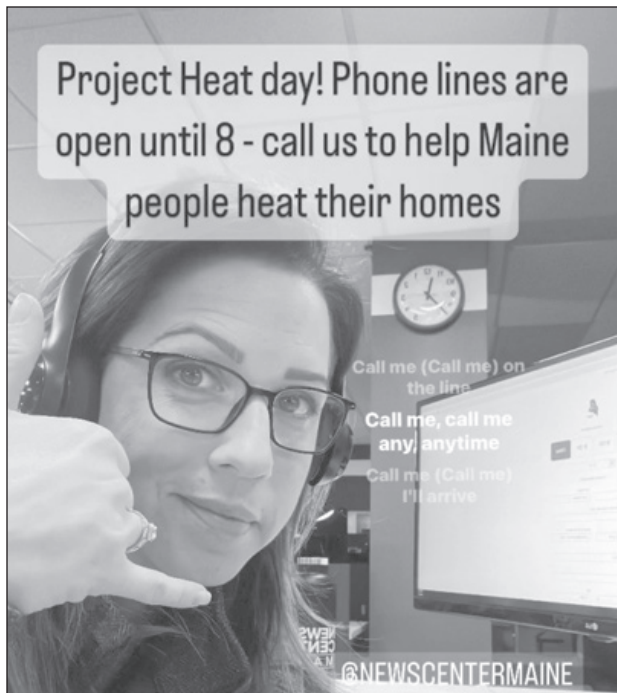
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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

News Center Maine Telethon keeps Mainers warm this winter



News Center Maine's Amanda Hill gets ready to take calls during The Project Heat Telethon Noon Power Hour



PORTLAND/BANGOR, ME -- NEWS CENTER Maine held its annual statewide Project Heat Telethon on January 25 to raise money in support of the Keep ME Warm Fund. In just one day the telethon secured more than \$280,000.

Keep ME Warm is a partnership of the seven United Ways in Maine and

ten Community Action Programs (CAPs). It is the only statewide program that provides emergency heating assistance and support to low-income households and local organizations throughout Maine.

As of this writing, NEWS CENTER Maine's 2024 Project Heat Telethon has accepted donations and pledges from individual



News Center Maine's Caroline LeCour on the Project Heat Telethon phone bank

donors and sponsors totaling \$294,459. United Ways of Maine anticipates funds

will serve more than 749 households for heating assistance.

CMH goes red for American Heart Month



LEWISTON, ME -- Central Maine Healthcare (CMH), which includes Central Maine Medical Center (CMMC), Rumford Hospital and Bridgton Hospital, is seeing red this

month. The team at the Central Maine Heart and Vascular Institute (CMHVI) asked CMH team members to wear red on Feb. 2, National Wear Red Day, to raise

awareness and help eradicate heart disease among women. They will continue to wear red on every Friday in February, which is American Heart Month.

CMHVI is comprised

of vascular surgeons, cardiothoracic surgeons and cardiologists who perform cutting-edge procedures and lead their Maine community in the prevention of heart and vascular disease.

"Wearing red is one of many great ways to bring attention to cardiovascular health," said Michael Berlowitz, MD, chief of CMHVI. "Heart disease is the second leading cause of death in Maine, yet it is so often preventable with the life choices we can all make. American Heart Month is a great time to bring attention to cardiovascular health."

The public is invited



to stop by the heart booth across from the Central Maine Medical Center coffee shop this month to learn about different heart health

topics, including:
CPR
Nutrition
Blood pressure checks
Exercise and mental health

MaineCare rate reform to reimburse, support Mainers

AUGUSTA, ME — Today, the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Maine Hospital Association announced an agreement to reform hospital reimbursement rates to improve the health of Maine people.

Under the proposal, which will be included in the forthcoming supplemental budget proposal, every medical center in the

state is estimated to receive roughly the same or higher reimbursement, based on information available in the fall of 2023. This proposal applies to all hospitals except for four psychiatric hospitals that are categorized differently under Medicaid.

Hospitals would become the latest major service area to undergo MaineCare's award-winning process to ensure payment

methodologies are data-driven, fair, consistent, informed by the public, and sufficient to promote access to quality care. The MaineCare rate reforms support high-quality health care for more than 400,000 Maine people and fair and sustainable reimbursement to Maine's health and social services providers, including hospitals.

Under the agreement announced today, hospi-

tals would see improved reimbursement because the payments will better align with Medicare — a more consistent and fair approach to paying for outlier costs that relate to patient need — improved outpatient rates to encourage more community-based care when possible, and improved transparency

and uniformity for similar hospitals across the reimbursement system as a whole. The agreement maximizes the available funding under federal payment limits and is subject to approval by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

"This agreement helps MaineCare to move

away from outdated and arbitrary rates and toward a uniform and fair system at a time when existing sources of ongoing revenue alone are not enough," said DHHS Commissioner Jeanne Lambrew. "We thank the Maine Hospital Association and its members for their partnership

See *MaineCare*, page 5

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Local schools receive climate education grants

AUGUSTA, ME—The Maine Department of Education (DOE) awarded \$1.8 million in climate education professional development grants to support partnerships between 14 school administrative units (SAUs), schools, and community organizations to strengthen climate education opportunities for students across Maine.

Grant funding will allow educators to learn from experts and organizations that have created, sustained, and grown outdoor and environmental education opportunities and programs that are tailored to their local region's assets and needs. Educators will be able to bring what they've learned back to their classrooms and schools to expand innovative and engaging climate education opportunities to more Maine students.

"These grants provide Maine educators and schools with the tools, resources, and partnerships they need to provide students with engaging, hands-on climate and environmental education. From the mountains to the coast, Maine has enormous natural resources for students to explore and learn from so they can be effective environmental stewards and leaders," said Maine Education Commissioner Pender Makin.

School Union 93, Central High School in Corinth, Fryeburg Academy, Greenville Consolidated School, Saco, Biddeford and Dayton Schools, RSU 12, and Vinalhaven and North Haven Schools all received grants in this first round of funding. They plan to engage in the following programming:

All five schools in School Union 93 will partner with Maine TREE and the Woodlawn Museum this spring on interdisciplinary climate education instruction, a district-wide climate education plan, and professional learning about Project Learning Tree for Pre-K through 8th grade students.

Central High School will partner with Hironudo Wildlife Refuge to run professional development programming on Pushaw

Stream. Teachers will learn about forest ecology, macroinvertebrate sampling, as well as receiving Educational Trip Leaders and Wilderness First Aid certifications. These will all be combined to enable Central High School teachers to guide students on and around the Pushaw Stream waterways.

Fryeburg Academy will partner with a wide range of community-based organizations throughout the Western Maine Region and New Hampshire, with teachers working with partners individually and in small groups to design projects and curriculum for students in and out of the classroom.

Greenville Consolidated School will partner with the Rural Aspirations Project to create elementary and middle school place-based science maps, align their curriculum, and design middle school climate intensive units.

Saco, Biddeford, and Dayton Schools will collaborate with the Ecology School, with one cohort of teachers meeting virtually during the spring to cover climate change-specific content areas and align them with the curriculum and a teacher institute in June that will bring together teachers from all three schools to cover climate change content and design curriculum for the fall.

Sheepscot Valley RSU 12 educators will participate in a three-day professional development workshop with community partner Friends of Cobboossee Watershed. Educators will adapt and align existing watershed-specific curriculum with school standards and develop a rich foundation of region- and lake-specific environmental and climate content knowledge for use in the classroom.

Teaching Resilience: Professional Development for Climate Curricula is a program Vinalhaven and North Haven Schools have designed with community partner Hurricane Island Center for Science and Leadership. This program will build teacher capacity and curriculum for both

schools to engage meaningfully with local community partners on student projects.

"Teachers of School Union 93 are excited to collaborate with community partners to develop and deliver a professional development program to educate teachers on climate change, its impact on the environment and surrounding peninsula, and how to instruct students to explore climate-related topics. This work will result in a Union-wide climate education plan that will serve as an everlasting resource for the schools on the peninsula," said Dawn McLaughlin, Assistant Superintendent of School Union 93.

"Maine (TREE) is ecstatic to work with School Union 93 to bring climate and forest-based education to schools on the Blue Hill Peninsula. This collaboration between the School Union, Maine TREE, and Woodlawn Museum will provide a long-lasting impact on the students in the region and provide a model for how to develop regionally designed climate education programming for students in rural parts of Maine," said Logan Johnson, Executive Director of the Maine Timber Research & Environmental Education Foundation (Maine TREE).

"Although educational research shows that an interdisciplinary and project-based approach offers many advantages, especially when it comes to the study of global issues such as climate change, there are significant challenges to meaningful implementation in the classroom, coordination across the faculty, and engagement with the community. At Fryeburg Academy we immediately recognized the value of this grant for closing some of those gaps," said Dylan Harry, Director of Outdoor Learning and Research Center at Fryeburg Academy.

"Teaching students about the environment that they live in is vital. Part of that teaching comes in the

form of climate education. Climate changes greatly impact each and every one of us in one way or another. Having the opportunity for hands-on, experiential learning brings these issues to the forefront for students. I am excited to work with a team of local experts, both environmental and educational, on designing a curriculum that brings more awareness of Climate Change and its impact on our lakes, ponds, and rivers to the students," said Jana Diket, Middle School Teacher at Windsor Middle School.

"The Friends of the Cobboossee Watershed is really pleased to be partnering with RSU 12 and the Maine State YMCA Camp on this Climate Education Professional Development. With the challenges we are experiencing due to the effects of climate change, we are excited to bring together educators from across the region to form a network for ideas and best practices. Utilizing the watershed lands and waters as the classroom brings the power of experiential and hands-on teaching pedagogy into the hands of the teachers on the front lines," said Tom Mullin, Executive Director of Friends of Cobboossee Watershed.

"RSU 64 in Corinth is

excited and grateful to have received funding to provide professional development to our staff through the Climate Change Grant offered by Maine DOE. We will be holding training in Wilderness First Aid and for the certification as an Educational Trip Leader for up to 20 of our staff and from RSU 34 as well. This is a critical need for us because we have a very active outdoor community in our towns and we want to capitalize on those interests by opening the door to water-based activities for students," said Dr. Rad Mayfield, Principal of Central High School.

"The Climate Education Professional Development Partnership offers our schools an amazing opportunity for teacher collaboration and student learning. Vinalhaven School, North Haven School, and the Hurricane Island Center for Science and Leadership will all work together, thanks to the financial support from the [Maine DOE] Office of Innovation. I look forward to seeing the project implementation in the coming months," said Monte Selby, Superintendent of Vinalhaven School.

Maine continues to be a leader in outdoor learning and climate education. The Maine DOE's Rethinking Responsive Education Ven-

tures (RREV) initiative, funded through a \$16.9 million federal grant, has supported the expansion of outdoor education classrooms, programs, professional learning, partnerships, and spaces across the state. Schools across Maine utilized federal relief funding to expand outdoor learning spaces and programs. Governor Mills' Maine Outdoor Learning Initiative has provided thousands of Maine middle and high school students with coastal and inland forestry learning and career exploration opportunities during the summer. The Maine DOE recently hired a Climate Education Specialist to support and expand this work with educators, schools, and community partners across the state.

The grant initiative was designed out of LD 1902, which was passed by the Legislature in 2022 and signed by the Governor to establish a pilot program to encourage climate education in Maine public schools. Priority was given to communities historically underserved by climate education, socioeconomically disadvantaged communities, and interdisciplinary, place-based, and project-based learning activities. A second climate education RFA will be announced early in 2024.

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Seniors Not Acting Their Age

Howe Hill - the Little Camden Hill



Hikers cross a rugged bridge on Rheault Trail



Rheault Trail passes through a blueberry barren nearing the top of Howe Hill



A giant rock marks the summit of Howe Hill

By Ron Chase
The Camden Hills are a wonderful place to hike. I began trekking in the scenic coastal mountain range with friends and family when I first moved to the mid-coast area almost fifty years ago.

Like most hiking enthusiasts, we started out climbing Mounts Megunticook and Battie in Camden Hills State Park. Outings to Bald Rock, Ragged, Spruce, Pleasant, and Bald Mountains soon followed. Although my wife, Nancy, and I now live more than an hour away, returning to the hills several times each year is a regular part of our outdoor routine. The phenomenal views they offer of the surrounding peaks

and nearby Penobscot Bay never get old.

After years exploring them, I thought I knew all the trails and summits in the Camden Hills. When friends, Diane and John Stokinger, invited me to join them for a trek on Rheault and Hodson Trails, I had never heard of either. I was also unfamiliar with Howe Hill, a small summit situated at the top of Rheault Trail in the approximate center of the Camden Hills. Intrigued with the prospect of a new hike with the company of good friends, I enthusiastically accepted their invitation.

The trailhead is located on Molyneux Road in Camden just a few miles

from the downtown area. We met at a small parking area on the north side of Molyneux Road on a cool cloudy day. A large Coastal Land Trust sign next to the parking area marks the beginning of the trail network and a kiosk with a map of the Hodson Preserve and Rheault Trail is a short distance away.

We began hiking on Rheault Trail, marked with blue blazes, in a mature predominantly hardwood forest. Soon, the path joins Sucker Brook immediately below a scenic waterfall. The turbulent whitewater freshet is the site of a former historic mill.

Proceeding adjacent to the brook in an easterly direction, we soon crossed

a rugged wooden bridge. Shortly after, we passed over another well-built bridge and began climbing steadily up a narrow serpentine path to the junction with Hodson Loop Trail on the left.

A thin blanket of snow covered much of the surrounding terrain as we continued northwesterly on Rheault Trail in a sparsely wooded area. Several interconnecting stone walls in this sector of the preserve are evidence of working farms in centuries past.

Persisting diagonally upward along a southwest-facing slope, we emerged onto a steep open field on the south shoulder of Howe Hill. The remainder of the ascent continues through a managed blueberry barren where the trail transitions to a wide path that appears to be the remnants of an old farm road. Signs in the area warn hikers to remain on the trail.

The road turns left and we progressed easily uphill while enjoying a view of distinctive Bald Mountain in the west. Angling right, the path led more steeply to the top where a giant rock engraved with the Howe family name marks the summit. This is a remarkable location situated between

Mounts Megunticook and Battie in the east, Hatchet Mountain north, and Bald Mountain west. Glimpses of Penobscot Bay could be seen south. The three of us agree this is one of the most scenic locations in the Camden Hills.

Following a pause to embrace the wonderful views, we gradually descended to Hodson Loop Trail junction on the right. We decided to explore the loop traveling clockwise. The lower level passes an ancient apple orchard that was likely part of the erstwhile Hodson farm. Soon after, the path curves right and rises moderately before continuing adjacent to a venerable stone wall in a stand of tall hardwoods.

After finishing the one-half mile loop, we returned on Rheault Trail to the Molyneux Road trailhead. Hikers in search of an easier trek than climbing the taller Camden Hills or looking for a less time-consuming shorter outing should consider this excellent hike. John measured the distance of our trip to be about 3.5 miles on his GPS, a little longer than the signage indicates. We completed the picturesque journey in about two hours traveling at a moderate pace.

My book, *Maine Al*

Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine narrates nine hiking expeditions around the state, many in winter.

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

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Free classes help Mainers achieve career, business, financial goals

AUGUSTA, ME—New Ventures Maine will offer free workshops and classes statewide in February in three program areas: career, business and financial education. Workshops and classes are designed to help people in Maine gain the skills, knowledge, and confidence to build a career, start a business, and manage money.

The full class schedule is updated frequently

and is accessible online.

Classes include online, daytime, evening and self-paced options in the three program areas (partial list):

Build Your Career My Next Career Move: Self-paced. Online.

Assess your skills, interests, and experiences and relate them to career options. Work at your own pace; complete by April 29, 2024.

Changing Jobs: Finding Work that Fits: Thursdays, Feb. 29 – March 14, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Online. Are you considering a job change? This online class designed for women will help you identify work options and benefits that align with your interests, skills, and values. Three 60-minute sessions.

Start a Business Grow Your Business Online (GYBO): Self-

paced. Online. Gain the skills, knowledge, and confidence to create a compelling web presence & website for your small business. Work at your own pace; complete by June 30, 2024.

Exploring Self-Employment: Wednesday, Feb. 21, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Online.

This workshop covers the pros and cons of owning your own business, the steps needed for start-

up, the major elements of a business plan, and the many resources available to help you succeed.

Business Success – Your Marketing Strategy: Thursday, Feb. 22, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Online. This workshop provides a framework so that you can create your marketing strategy for your business.

Manage Your Money My Money Works: Thursdays, Feb. 22 –

March 21 (5 sessions), 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Online. Gain the skills and confidence you need to stretch your money, pay your bills, reduce debt, save, plan for retirement, and set personal financial goals with a plan to achieve greater financial stability.

To learn more and choose a class that's right for you, visit newventures-maine.org or call 207-621-3440.

MaineCare

Continued from page 2

in developing and supporting this proposal that meets our shared goal of improving the health and quality of care for Maine residents."

"This proposal provides our members with needed Medicaid rate increases at a critical time," said Steve Michaud, President of the Maine Hospital Association. "Drawing down additional federal Medicaid dollars helps hospitals and their caregivers, eases the burden of escalating costs on Main-

ers and businesses who are paying for care, and helps the Maine economy at the same time. We thank the Department of Health and Human Services for its partnership in developing this plan that supports the health of Maine people."

Specifically, the set of initiatives in the supplemental budget:

Support MaineCare rate reform for hospital inpatient and outpatient services by investing \$90.3 million in federal and state dollars in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025, starting July 1, 2024;

Finance most of this rate investment by increasing the hospital tax rate from 2.23 to 3.25 percent, raising \$29.5 million in SFY 2025, starting January 1, 2025, to complement the Federal share of these MaineCare (Medicaid) payments; and

Add \$2.5 million of General Funds to the \$6.3 million already in the FY24-25 biennial budget to help with rate reform, including for a transitional payment to assist York Hospital, which has a unique grandfathered funding structure, in mov-

ing to the new system consistent with all other acute care hospitals in the state. This payment to York Hospital is targeted, based on data shared with hospitals, to total \$5.6 million annually for the next five years.

As part of rate reform, the plan would repeal both the tax on and supplemental payment to critical access hospitals effective December 31, 2024 while adjusting cost reimbursement from 109 to 104.5 percent starting on July 1, 2024.

Additionally, the budget proposal would

direct that net hospital tax revenue be directed to the "Medical Care – Payments to Providers" program in the Department of Health and Human Services to be used for MaineCare hospital payments.

The agreement builds on MaineCare payment improvements to behavioral health providers, Federally-qualified health centers, and for inpatient psychiatric and substance use care, which was implemented in July 2023 with a similar transition payment to Northern Maine Medical Center.

The Department's sweeping and unprecedented plan to transform MaineCare (Maine's Medicaid program) rate setting from a fragmented, often outdated and arbitrary approach into a coherent, streamlined and data-driven system is well under way. The plan is a culmination of Governor Mills' directive to DHHS on her first day in office to expand MaineCare and develop a plan to make the health coverage program for low-income people more accessible, affordable, and sustainable.

UMaine Extension offers virtual "Recipe to Market" workshop

ORONO, ME -- University of Maine Cooperative Extension will offer an online workshop for entrepreneurs and farmers interested in starting a home-based, specialty food business in Maine from 9 a.m.–noon on Feb. 21.

Recipe to Market is a multidisciplinary program intended to introduce participants to key topics an aspiring entrepreneur needs to consider before starting a food business. Topics include the specialty food industry, business basics, an overview of the product development process, licensing and regulations, and food safety. Products that may be discussed include canned shelf-stable products — like jams,



Photo courtesy University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

jellies, preserves, baked goods, condiments, salsas, sauces or dessert sauces — fermented foods, dry mixes, candies and confections.

During the half-day workshop, industry experts and successful food entrepreneurs will share experiences and provide valuable insights

and tips for success. Instructors for the program include UMaine Extension professor emeritus Louis Bassano; professor emeritus of economics and Extension Jim McConnon; and Extension food science specialist, professor of food science and director of UMaine Food Testing Services

Beth Calder.

The "Recipe to Market" workshop is part of Extension's commitment to supporting local food businesses and promoting economic development in the community. By providing aspiring food entrepreneurs with the necessary skills and knowledge, Extension aims to foster a thriving local food economy.

The fee for the workshop is \$45; registration is required. The workshop will be recorded for registered participants and available for a limited time.

For more information and to register visit the program webpage. To request a reasonable accommodation, contact Melissa Libby Babcock,

melissa.libby1@maine.edu; 207.581.2788 or 800.287.0274 (Maine only).

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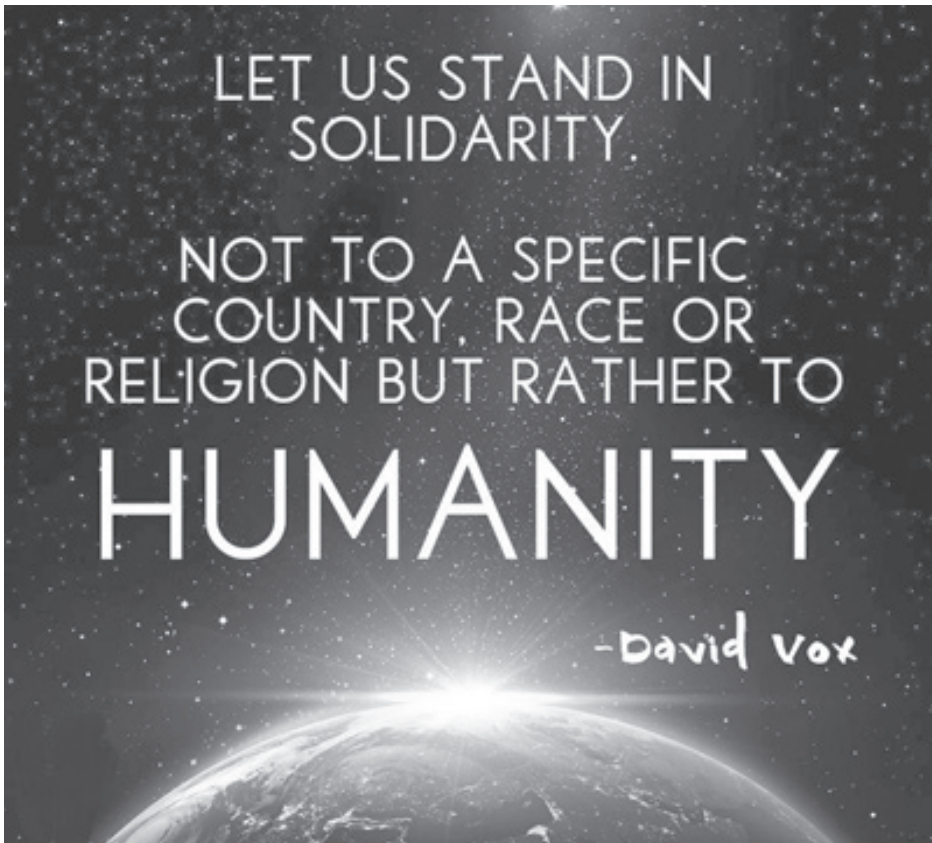
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Arts & Entertainment

Interfaith service: Solidarity with suffering in the Middle East



BRUNSWICK, ME -- The Brunswick Area Interfaith Council (BAIC) is pleased to announce an interfaith service in response to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. As faith leaders from a variety of backgrounds, we feel a need to speak out and strive together for an end to suffering. If your heart is breaking (as ours are), if you find yourself bereft

of hope or isolated, please consider joining us as we come together in solidarity with one another and with all who are suffering. The interfaith service will include readings, prayers, wisdom, and music from our various traditions, and is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, February 28th, at 4:00 pm at Fellowship Hall in Pilgrim House (of First Par-

ish UCC, directly across the street from Bowdoin College). (Snow date: 4 pm on the 29th.) The service will last approximately 1 hour, followed by a time of fellowship with Middle Eastern snacks to highlight a common connection shared through food in the region. Registration is free but required for security purposes. Visit <https://rb.gy/t967ip>.

About BAIC

The Brunswick Area Interfaith Council (BAIC) is a non-sectarian, not-for-profit agency committed to fostering understanding, respect, and cooperation among diverse faith traditions in the Brunswick area. Through collaborative efforts, BAIC promotes the religious life and spiritual, moral and social welfare of our larger Brunswick Area community.

Make fairy lanterns, friendship bracelets with Gorham's BML

GORHAM, ME -- Check out the great offerings with Baxter Memorial Library in Gorham: Children's Author Talk and Craft Tuesday, February 20th 10am Join us for a reading of *A Princess Heart* by Janine Salevsky. Followed by a SUPER FUN craft that ties in with the sweet message of the book. We

will be making solar powered fairy lanterns. Only 40 spots are available. Please call or visit Youth Services to sign up. Trains in the Program Room Wednesday, February 21st 10am Drop in any time between 10:00am-12:00pm to play with trains in the program room. We will have books about trains

on display and train coloring sheets to bring home! Make a Friendship Bracelet Thursday, February 22nd 10am Drop in any time between 10am and 12pm to make a bracelet! Make one for yourself and make one to give to a friend. All ages are welcome. Small pony beads will be used.

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

Maine agencies receive funding to combat local homelessness

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, U.S. Senator Susan Collins, Vice Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, announced that 15 organizations and state agencies in Maine have been awarded a total of \$20,850,852 to support housing assistance to homeless individuals and families, as well as those fleeing domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. This funding was provided through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) Program.

“Too many Mainers

will be forced this winter to go without having a safe place to eat, sleep, and call home,” said Senator Collins. “As Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I was pleased to champion these substantial investments that will address the urgent needs of vulnerable populations in Maine, helping to ensure our neighbors have access to the necessary support to regain stability and independence.”

The grant funding is allocated as follows:

The State of Maine - \$12,256,655
 Preble Street (Port-

land) - \$2,451,945
 Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (Augusta) - \$1,802,995
 City of Bangor - \$1,231,588
 Maine State Housing Authority - \$1,230,524
 Community Care (Bangor) - \$803,937
 Through These Doors (Portland) - \$336,282
 New Beginnings (Lewiston) - \$164,339
 Safe Voices (Auburn) - \$161,580
 Volunteers of America: Northern New England (Brunswick) - \$159,800
 Penquis C.A.P. (Ban-

gor) - \$100,000
 Kennebec Behavioral Health (Waterville) - \$54,720
 OHI (Bangor) - \$47,190
 Community Housing of Maine (Portland) - \$33,014
 Tedford Housing (Brunswick) - \$16,283
 Last January, Senator Collins announced that the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill she co-authored was signed into law as part of the year-end omnibus funding package. The legis-

lation allotted more than \$3.7 billion in funding to help design and implement local solutions to end homelessness, including through programs like the CoC Program.

In November, Senator Collins introduced the Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act of 2023 with Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL). This bipartisan legislation would reauthorize key federal grant programs to provide states with funding to help thousands of homeless young people nationwide.

The CoC Program

is designed to promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; to provide funding for efforts by non-profit providers, States, and local governments to quickly re-house homeless individuals, families, persons fleeing domestic violence, and youth while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness; to promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and to optimize self-sufficiency among those experiencing homelessness.

New probation officer to serve Androscoggin County



Maine DOC Honor Guard presents the Colors at the Probation Officer Swearing-In Ceremony. POs Carrigan Levesque, William Towle III, and Stephen Sebestyen in the front row. Photo by Tim Sardano, MDOC

AUGUSTA, ME – The Division of Adult Community Corrections (ACC) at Maine Department of Corrections (MDOC) welcomed four new Probation Officers (PO) at a swearing in ceremony on February 2, 2024,

in Augusta. Probation Officer Brenda Jennings, Region 2, Skowhegan Probation Officer Carrigan Levesque Region 3, Caribou Probation Officer Stephen Sebestyen, Region 2,



PO Jennings receives her badge and certificate from Regional Correctional Administrator Adam Silberman as RCA Robert LaPlante and Director Susan Gagnon look on. Photo by Tim Sardano, MDOC

Lewiston Probation Officer William Towle III, Region 2, Augusta The four POs recently completed an eight-week training academy and will work with a Field Training Officer for the next six

months while taking on cases in service to their respective communities.

Probation Officers are critical to the rehabilitation and redemption of their assigned clients. Their work involves supervising and



PO Towle receives his badge and certificate from Regional Correctional Administrator Silberman, with RCA Kim Carson, Director Susan Gagnon, and Commissioner Randall Liberty. Photo by Tim Sardano, MDOC

managing clients assigned to MDOC or released to the community; assessing clients’ risks and needs; counseling and supervising clients while on probation or other forms of community release; preparing

pardon and pre-sentence investigation reports for the court; and performing interstate compact duties and participating in the formulation and oversight of community reentry release plans.



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CASH Greater Portland offers free tax preparation services

PORTLAND, ME – CASH (Creating Assets, Savings, and Hope) Greater Portland has launched free tax preparation services for the 2024 tax season. Households that earned \$64,000 or less in 2023 and meet all eligibility requirements can get their taxes filed for free with the help of an IRS-certified volunteer.

Taxpayers can also learn about programs in their community that can increase their income, reduce debt, and build savings. 9% of households in Cumberland County live below the Federal Poverty Level, while another 28% are ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed). ALICE earns more than the FPL but still

struggles to afford the high cost of living in our community. 53% of people under 25 in Cumberland County are also ALICE.

CASH Greater Portland offers four free and convenient options for filing taxes.

Option 1—In-Person Appointment: Schedule an appointment for in-person services at United Way of

Southern Maine’s Portland office by visiting uwsme.org/taxseason or calling 207-347-2335 and leaving a message with your name and phone number.

Option 2—Fully Virtual Service: Visit getyourrefund.org/gpmaine to start the online intake process. Answer a series of questions, upload documents, receive phone calls from the CASH team, and e-sign before the return is e-filed.

Option 3—Online DIY: File taxes independently (with access to helpline support) at myfreetaxes.com.

Option 4—Scan & Go: Visit a Scan & Go Site to pick up an intake packet and return to have documents scanned into

GetYourRefund. A list of Scan & Go sites is available at uwsme.org/taxseason.

Through services like free tax preparation, CASH Greater Portland empowers people to achieve long-term financial stability, build assets, and thrive—not just survive. In 2023, CASH Greater Portland filed 526 federal and state tax refunds and returned \$740,043 in federal tax refunds to the community. Filers saved an estimated \$122,304 in tax preparation fees.

CASH Greater Portland is supported in part by United Way of Southern Maine.

About CASH Greater Portland

CASH Greater Portland is a partnership of community non- and for-profit partners working together to help empower individuals and families to achieve long-term financial stability. Since 2004, we have offered free tax preparation to qualified filers during tax season; helped employers bring financial education tools to their employees; and educated hard-working families and individuals about programs in the community that can increase their income, reduce debt, and build savings. CASH is a year-round resource, providing outreach and education about ways you can make the most of your money. Cashmaine.org



YOU ARE INVITED!

GORHAM CODE OF CONDUCT COMMUNITY TABLE TALKS



WHO: All parents/guardians and community members who are interested in contributing to our “refresh” of our School’s Code of Conduct should consider attending.

WHAT: Two Community Table Talk Events. During these events we will share themes of information we have gathered thus far via surveys and focus group meetings via a gallery walk exercise and then ask participants to provide additional feedback and context to sharpen our work!

WHERE: Gorham Middle School Library

WHEN: Participants can attend EITHER Feb. 6, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. or Feb. 26, 2024 at the same time and location!

RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

Honesty

compassion

COURAGE

Please come share your important feedback in our process to “refresh” our Gorham Schools Code of Conduct. Our current Code of Conduct is 20 years old and we want our “refreshed” Code to last another 20 years! With your help we can accomplish this goal!

Reminder from Gorham Economic Development Corporation

GORHAM, ME -- Important notice for those who have not requested forgiveness or begun repayment of your pandemic Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Forgivable Loan or Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL):

WHAT IS HAPPENING: If borrowers have not begun payment or requested forgiveness, the loan balance could be referred to Treasury for collection.

WHY THIS MATTERS: A referral to Treasury will result in a significant fee being added to your loan, garnishment of future wages, Social Security benefits, and tax refund. Defaulting on a government loan could severely impact credit and is very difficult to undo.

TAKE ACTION NOW: Visit SBA’s PPP Direct Forgiveness Portal at <https://directforgiveness.sba.gov> or call 1-877-522-2692. If you got a PPP loan and think it might have been forgiven (but aren’t sure), it’s important to check - you should

have received something in writing from your lender. For EIDL loans, contact 1-833-853-5638 or COVIDeIDLservicing@sba.gov. If you are unable to pay, you NEED to contact the SBA to arrange a Hardship Accommodation Plan.

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



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Join the Nation of Lifesavers, go from bystander to lifesaver

PORTLAND, ME — During February — American Heart Month — the American Heart Association, the leading voluntary health organization devoted to a world of longer, healthier lives for all, is urging all Maine families to learn the lifesaving skill of CPR. With more than 350,000 people experiencing cardiac arrests outside of a hospital, including 23,000 children, CPR is a critical skill that kids as young as 9 years old can learn.¹²³

Joining the Nation of Lifesavers, an American Heart Association initiative focused on doubling the survival rate of cardiac arrest by 2030 is easier than ever with many learning options available to families. In Maine, families can take an online CPR course, learn and practice Hands-Only CPR with a CPR Anytime®

Training Kit, watching a 60-second video to learn Hands-Only CPR, or find a Heartsaver™ certification course near them.

“If you are called to respond in a cardiac emergency, knowing CPR may save the life of someone you love,” said Brian Shankey, executive director for the Association in Northern New England. “We are committed to extending the chain of survival in Maine through education because the power to save a life is in each of our hands.”

There are three main types of CPR: Traditional, Child and Infant and Hands-Only.

Traditional CPR is the method that combines chest compressions 2 inches in depth at the rate of 100-120 beats per minute with two breaths.

Infant and Child CPR is similar to traditional



CPR but has some key differences. Child CPR is performed with chest compressions at the depth of two inches with one or two hands, followed by two breaths. Infant CPR is performed with chest compressions at the depth of 1 1/2 inches with two fingers, followed by two breaths and repeat.

Hands-Only CPR is chest compression-only CPR and has been shown to be equally effective as traditional CPR in the first

few minutes of emergency response. involves two simple steps that anyone can learn from a 60-second video available at heart.org/handsonlycpr.

Step 1: Call 911

Step 2: Push hard and fast in the center of the chest

The Association is committed to turning a nation of bystanders into lifesavers. The multi-year initiative will ensure teens and adults can learn about CPR and AED use, share that

knowledge with friends and family and engage employers, policymakers, philanthropists and others to create support for a nation of lifesavers. The long-term goal: to ensure that in the face of a cardiac emergency, everyone, everywhere is prepared and empowered to perform CPR and become a vital link in the chain of survival.

CPR, especially if performed immediately, can double or triple a car-

diac arrest victim’s chance of survival — which is key since about 90% of people who suffer out-of-hospital cardiac arrests die.⁴⁵ For more information on how to join the Nation of Lifesavers this February, visit heart.org/nation.

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

Follow us on Facebook! Don’t miss our giveaways!

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 Satur-

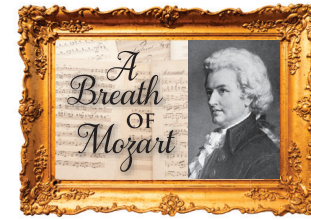
day of each month from 9 o’clock AM to 12 Noon.

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!



This concert features two glorious works accompanied by strings to recognize our Golden Jubilee season: Mozart’s *Coronation Mass, K. 317*, and Michael John Trotta’s *For a Breath of Ecstasy*.

Sat., March 16 • 7:00pm
Sun., March 17 • 2:00pm
FRANCO CENTER • LEWISTON

Tickets: 207-333-3386 or mainemusicsociety.org

PRESS RELEASE

Orchard Ridge Farm
GORHAM, MAINE

Maine Micro Artisans and Orchard Ridge Farm presents their 2024 Festivals!

The Apple Blossom Festival

May 4th & 5th

10 am - 4 pm Daily

Proudly Presented by: **Orchard Ridge Farm**

Our first is “The Apple Blossom festival”
May 04, 2024, 10:00 AM – May 05, 2024, 4:00 PM
Gorham, 236 Sebago Lake Rd, Gorham, ME 04038, USA

Join Orchard Ridge Farm and Maine Micro Artisans for a celebration of spring. The Apple Blossom Festival will feature makers from our talented community as well as, food trucks, games, face painting and more! This two-day festival is an excellent way to spend the weekend with your family. Have a great family photo taken, sample local foods & indulge in handmade excellence.

Don’t forget to visit the craft table at the seating area to make something great! The crafting table will be appropriate for ages 4+ (with direct supervision, please)

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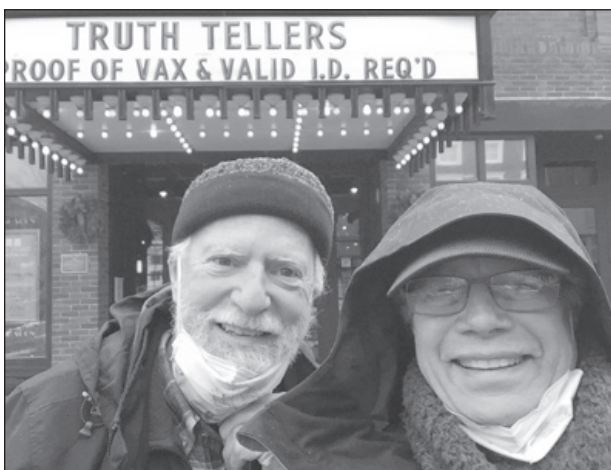
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Maine filmmaker's TRUTH TELLERS to broadcast nationally



by American Public Television and will be broadcast by the WORLD Channel on February 29 at 2pm. See the trailer: <https://vimeo.com/kanelewis/truth-tellers2024>

TRUTH TELLERS asks "what defines a great American?" Through Maine artist Robert Shetterly's 275 portraits of Americans - his "models of courageous citizenship"-

we learn about the fearlessness of those defending democracy, fighting for racial justice, indigenous rights, and the youth battling changing climate -- some of the most pressing issues of our time. These "Americans Who Tell the Truth" teach us about the moral courage it takes to protect our country's founding ideals. www.americanswhotellthetruth.org

Two other Mainers featured in the film are: Maulian Dana, Penobscot Nation Ambassador; and Sherri Mitchell, Indigenous rights attorney and author of Sacred Instructions, a collection of ancient indigenous wisdom.

Also featured in the film are current and historic, well known and lesser known courageous Americans including those fighting for racial justice: John Lewis; Fannie Lou Hamer; Bree Newsome; Zyahna Bryant; Reggie Harris; Bayard Rustin; Rev. Lennox Yearwood; Frederick Douglass; Rev. Lennox Yearwood; Sojourner Truth; and the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Environmentalists include: Bill McKibben; Kelsey Juliana; and Bill Bigelow.

Shetterly and the film have received accolades across the nation for

his project including these words from journalist and political commentator, Bill Moyers: "I am an ardent fan of Robert's work and of the man himself. He is the Diogenes of our time, searching for truth in the work of his subjects. He has become an invaluable chronicler of 21st century America. ... Congratulations with this important film."

The film will bring new and wider attention to the importance of speaking truth to power, to have the courage to build a society where all people are respected, where hatred is rejected, where embracing diversity is the source of our strength.

The film is fiscally sponsored by the Union of Maine Visual Artists, a not for profit educational organization. www.theumva.org

Scholarship opens for Maine students pursuing higher ed

CHERRYFIELD, ME—Maine Seacoast Mission is now accepting scholarship applications for the 2024-2025 academic year. Applications can be submitted until Friday, March 29. Mission Scholarships are open to graduating high school seniors, and adults who have completed the HiSET or GED, who live in Washington County, eastern Hancock County, or on a Maine outer island served by the Mission.

Since 1918, the Mission has awarded almost \$3 million to more than 3,500 students from Maine's outer islands and Downeast coastal communities. For the 2023-2024 academic year, 75 Mission Scholars received \$211,500 in scholarships. 72% of those Scholars attended a college in Maine and 46% of the Scholars attended a University of Maine campus or a Maine community college. Each year approximately 20 new scholarships are awarded.

In addition to offering financial support, the Mission provides guidance throughout each Scholar's transition to college and



Maine Seacoast Mission



Mission Scholar Sofie Dowling - Studying at Mount Desert Rock research station with the College of the Atlantic

during their academic career. Moira, a current Mission Scholar who graduated from Charles M. Sumner



Mission Scholar Taylor Wiberg - in the lab at Smith College

Learning Campus says the Mission staff "were always happy to chat with me if I had any questions, connect me with resources that might help my academic career, and show their support in little ways that mattered." Oliveri adds, "The Mission offer regular workshops for our Scholars once they enter college, on topics

ranging from time management to graduate school."

For more information on schools and to apply, visit <https://seacoastmission.org/downeast/scholarships>. For inquiries about Scholarships, email scholarships@seacoastmission.org or call (207) 814-8546.

Rooted in a history of compassionate service and mutual trust, Maine Seacoast Mission seeks to strengthen coastal and island communities by educating youth, supporting families, and promoting good health. For more information, please visit <https://www.seacoastmission.org/>

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

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MASS POOR PEOPLE'S & LOW WAGE WORKER'S MORAL MARCH TO STATE HOUSE ASSEMBLIES, A PART OF 40 WEEKS OF MASSIVE VOTER MOBILIZATION ACROSS THE US
MARCH 2, 2024 GATHER AT 10 AM ASSEMBLY AT 11 AM
This is a RESURRECTION, not an INSURRECTION!
A DAY OF NATIONALLY-COORDINATED, SIMULTANEOUS DIRECT ACTION IN 31 STATE CAPITALS!
31 States Mobilizing for March 2nd
JOIN US IN BUILDING A 3rd RECONSTRUCTION BY DEMANDING:
- abolishing poverty as the 4th leading cause of death in the US
- a living wage (\$15+)
- full voting rights
- no more voter suppression
- worker's rights & labor rights
- healthcare for all
- affordable, adequate housing
- an end to gun violence, profit & proliferation
- clean air & water
- environmental justice
- fully-funded public education
- just immigration laws
- an end to systemic racism, white supremacy & the extremist political agenda
There are more than 135 million poor & low-wage people in the nation living back-to-back 140 million in 2019 because of ending Covid relief!
Activate 85 million poor & low wealth eligible voters!
Bishop William J. Barber, II
Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis
National Co-Chairs
Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival
poorpeoplescampaign.org

CDC announces possible Hepatitis A exposure in Westbrook

AUGUSTA, ME — The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) has identified a case of hepatitis A in a Westbrook food service worker. Hepatitis A is a contagious liver disease caused by the hepatitis A virus. It can spread through person-to-person contact or by consuming contaminated food or water.

The individual worked during their infectious period at Legends Rest Taproom and Paper City BBQ, both located at 855 Main St., Westbrook during the following dates:

- January 14
- January 17-21

January 24-28
January 31
February 2-4
Anyone who dined in or ordered takeout from these locations during these dates could be at risk for hepatitis A infection. The proprietors are working closely with the Maine CDC, and there is no concern about ongoing exposure outside of these dates.

You can prevent getting hepatitis A with a vaccine, and those exposed to hepatitis A can avoid getting sick if they get the vaccine within 14 days of the exposure. The hepatitis A vaccine is a two-dose series. After one dose, at

least 94 out of 100 people become immune to the hepatitis A virus for several years. Getting the second dose ensures long-term protection.

Individuals who were potentially exposed should:

Discard any leftover food bought at Legends Rest Tap Room and Paper City BBQ during the dates listed above.

If eligible, get vaccinated.

If you ate or drank from these restaurants during these dates, get a hepatitis A vaccine within 14 days of the last time eating or drinking there.

If more than 14 days

have passed, people who have not previously been vaccinated may still get the vaccine at any time to protect against future exposures.

Individuals who worked in the restaurants during these dates should get a hepatitis A vaccine within 14 days of their last date worked.

Ask your health care provider if you need hepatitis A immune globulin (IG) in addition to hepatitis A vaccine; certain people may need both.

If you are already vaccinated for hepatitis A, you are already protected. You do not need to get any

additional hepatitis A vaccine doses now.

If you ate, drank or worked at these restaurants during any of these dates, watch for symptoms of hepatitis A for up to 50 days from the last day you were there. If you experience any of the symptoms listed below, seek medical attention.

- feeling tired
- low or no appetite
- stomach pain
- nausea
- diarrhea
- dark-colored urine
- jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes)
- fever
- joint pain

Symptoms begin to show 15–50 days after exposure to the virus and can range from mild to severe. People who get very ill may need to go to a hospital and their symptoms can last several months. Most children younger than 6 years old have mild or no symptoms.

Cases of hepatitis A in Maine have remained elevated since an initial increase in 2019. People at increased risk of becoming infected should protect themselves with a hepatitis A vaccine. For more information on hepatitis A, visit www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hav/.

MCHPP partnering with local providers to expand meal offerings

BRUNSWICK, ME -- Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program (MCHPP) announced a collaboration between its Soup Kitchen and three local organizations to provide free meals to members of the greater Brunswick community. "We are excited to expand our partnerships with other local nonprofits in a way that can benefit service users across all four agencies," said Heather Ardivson, MCHPP's Program Director.

Beginning March 4th, The Gathering Place will offer bagged lunches, made by MCHPP volunteers, to its visitors on Mondays and Thursdays while People Plus is offering their members a warm soup, prepared in MCHPP's kitchen, on Mondays. "These collaborations bring back a chance for folks to sit and enjoy a meal together at a community location they are comfortable in," notes Ardivson.

MCHPP's third partner in this effort, Independence Association, will offer bagged lunches to its service users as well as members of the community on Thursdays beginning on February 29th. "We are thrilled to work with MCHPP in helping provide options for healthy food to people in the Brunswick area. This is not only an opportunity to further build upon the diversity of MCHPP, but it is also a way to support people

with disabilities in making a meaningful contribution to our community. We look forward to the relationships and connections we anticipate arising from this partnership," shared Brett Bulmer, the agency's Acting Executive Director.

With partner organizations serving lunches that MCHPP staff and volunteers have prepared in advance, the agency shared that they will be able to save significant resources by closing their Food Ac-

cess Center, located at 12 Tenney Way, to the public on Mondays and Thursdays beginning in March 2024. "Collaboration and careful stewardship of our financial resources are both key tenets of MCHPP's most recent strategic plan. Changes like this help us accomplish both of those goals while continuing to improve food access for members of our community. I'm grateful to have such strong community partners with whom we can

collaborate so effectively." remarked Executive Director Hannah Chatalbash.

More information about these changes, including hours and locations of daily lunch options, can be found on MCHPP's website. Anyone with questions about meeting their food needs through this service change is encouraged to contact MCHPP Program Director Heather Ardivson at harvidson@mchpp.org or 207-725-2716 x305.

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please contact julia.wareham@gorhamschools.org for questions

Norway Savings Bank food drives assist Gorham pantries

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 Gorham 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 noo-



Previous food drive at Standish Branch.

dles, 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 responsibility," said Dan Walsh, President and CEO of Norway Savings Bank.

"At all of our branches, efforts to confront challenges being faced by community mem-

bers 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.

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

Follow us on Facebook! Don't miss our giveaways!

Connector Road between Gorham & Maine Turnpike announced

PORTLAND, ME - A specific location for a regional connector road between Exit 45 on the Maine Turnpike and the Gorham Bypass of Route 114, south of Gorham Village, was announced today by area municipalities in partnership with Maine Turnpike Authority (MTA) and Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT).

Fueled by direction from the Maine Legislature and joint municipal/agency agreements with Gorham, Scarborough, Westbrook,

South Portland, and MaineDOT, MTA has been working on plans for this connector for multiple years. The need for such a connection has been part of regional transportation conversations for over two decades. MTA has been meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection since 2014, with increased engagement since 2019 in preparation for the required environmental review.

Because toll revenue

will fully fund the connector's construction and ongoing maintenance, no taxpayer dollars will be required to make the road a reality.

In terms of mapping the specific alignment the road will take, MTA started with determining the two endpoints of the connector: Turnpike Exit 45 in South Portland at one end, and the junction of the Gorham Bypass with Route 114, south of Gorham Village, on the other end. The criteria used to determine the route in between heavily depended on

skirting as many environmentally sensitive areas as possible and avoiding negative effects on homes and businesses.

Area municipalities have long awaited this connector road and are helping to host and facilitate the public outreach program. Tom Hall, Scarborough Town Manager, indicated they will shortly be at the point where direct public feedback is desirable. A project website is immediately available for public access, showcasing a

background video, FAQs, project updates, and, most importantly, an easy-to-access format for the public to comment and ask questions 24/7.

The first public meeting for this project will take place in March in Gorham. The meeting will provide multiple opportunities to learn about the project, ask questions, and make comments. The meeting will be available virtually for those who cannot or do not choose to travel. More details on the public meeting will be

available several weeks prior to the meeting date.

Hall noted that over the past 18 months, meetings and conversations have taken place with landowners and with the municipalities and agencies that have signed multiple Memorandums of Understanding regarding the connector and other key transportation and environmental stakeholders. Hall added, "Many good early conversations have taken place, and we now look forward to broadening the dialogue."

Norway Savings Bank promotes eleven employees

NORWAY, ME---At Norway Savings Bank, we are proud of our organizational culture. It fosters the support to achieve great things for our customers, communities, and one another. We recognize the Bank as a place where each person's unique gifts and strengths shine through. Norway Savings Bank is pleased to announce the recent promotion of eleven employees:

Talley Estes, Assistant Vice President, Commercial Administration Team Lead, started her career at Norway Savings Bank in 1989. She has worked in the commercial department for her entire 35-year career at the Bank. Talley is known for her professionalism, high level of customer service, knowledge of HMDA, CRA, flood insurance and for her willingness and availability to support her team, all reasons she's been a recipient of the Team Player and Communication culture awards.

Beth Garza, Assistant Vice President, Loan Operations Servicing Assistant Manager, joined Norway Savings in 2015 as a Customer Service Representative in the Bank's Norway branch. Beth transitioned to the loan servicing team in 2017 and was promoted to Loan Operations Assistant Manager in 2021. Beth enjoys the technical aspects of loans servicing, solving

problems, and supporting loan operations team members and the Retail team. She is actively involved in various culture activities, projects and committees throughout the Bank. Beth is committed to continuing her education and leadership skills. She is a member of the NSB Leadership Lab and recently enrolled in the Business Management Banking program at Saint Joseph's College of Maine. Beth also serves as the President of the Board for Oxford SACC Childcare.

Jessica Lilly, Vice President, Applications Analyst III, started her career at NSB in 2007 as a teller in the Bank's Naples branch. While in the branch, Jess received several promotions, working her way from teller to Assistant Branch Manager. In 2016, Jess began working with the commercial team as a Credit Analyst I. Due to her strong organizational skills, sharp critical thinking skills and technical aptitude, she was selected as a key resource to help onboard a new origination platform for the commercial department and, in 2019, she was promoted to Sageworks Administrator, AVP. In 2022, Jess led the implementation of one of the Bank's most-complex systems and has won several awards during her tenure at the Bank.

Corey McEntyre, Assistant Vice President, Software Engineer III, joined the Bank in 2013 as Mainframe Operator in the IT department. His previous career as a system administrator and programmer helped him adapt quickly to the Bank's computing environment. Corey's attention to detail and knack for problem solving have supported him in automating the majority of the Bank's core system processing. Corey enjoys giving back to his community and can be found having lunch with students at a local elementary school each week.

Christine McMann, Vice President, Applications Analyst III, joined Norway Savings Bank in 2008 as a Core Application Analyst on the loan servicing team. Christine has since become the Bank's subject-matter expert for all core-related loan products. Christine is currently leading efforts to bring automation, efficiencies and training to the operations teams while continuing to develop her skills with the tools used to automate business processes. Her ability to analyze systems and processes, troubleshoot, and test are valuable strengths that her colleagues and vendors appreciate. Christine has received a number of accolades for her work, including the prestigious Employee of the Year Award.

Kerry Millett, Vice President, Facilities & Purchasing Manager, started his career at Norway Savings Bank in 2022 as Assistant Vice President, Facilities and Purchasing Manager. His extensive management background has allowed him to apply his skills and background to build strong relationships with fellow NSB employees and become a trusted colleague. Since joining the Bank, Kerry has successfully completed a number of certifications to aid in his role. Kerry has developed strong relationships with vendors who maintain and improve the Bank's facilities and is active in the Bank's ESG initiatives.

Duncan Mixer, Assistant Vice President, Commercial Lender, joined NSB in 2021 as a Commercial Portfolio Manager based at the Bank's Congress Street location. Immediately after joining Norway Savings, Duncan became an integral member of the Bank's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Forgiveness Support Team. He supports a number of commercial lenders on a daily basis and assists the indirect lending team in analyzing the financials of the dealers with which the Bank partners. Duncan has a degree in Finance and Business from the University of Maine, along with a risk and credit background in the banking industry. He also serves on the advisory council for New Ventures Maine.

Dylan Mooney, Vice President, Senior Investment & Treasury Officer, came to NSB in 2019 as the

VP, Asset Liability Management, Planning and Budgeting. Since joining the Bank, Dylan has become a trusted resource for his knowledge of the economy and investments while leading the Management Asset Liability Committee (ALCO) and supporting the daily treasury and liquidity management of the Bank. Dylan leads the Bank's budgeting process and maintains rolling forecasts throughout the year to ensure the Bank is staying on course. Dylan is a University of Maine at Orono graduate, and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance, a minor in Political Science, an M.B.A. in finance and an M.A. in Economics.

Jennifer Piper, Vice President, Compliance & Risk Officer, began her career at Norway Savings Bank in 2018 as a Compliance Specialist and was promoted to AVP, Compliance & Risk Officer by the end of 2019. During her time at Norway Savings Bank, Jenn has contributed her time and support to many internal initiatives and monitors the progress of many compliance regulations as they move through the regulatory process. Jenn has participated in the Bank's Manager Bootcamp program and enjoys volunteering with others from the Bank in the Oxford Hills Chamber of Commerce annual Christmas Parade.

Brian Siebert, Vice President, Commercial Loan Officer, joined Norway Savings Bank as a Commercial Credit Analyst in 2017. His

strong work ethic and positive "can-do" approach helped him earn a promotion to Commercial Portfolio Manager in 2019 and then to AVP, Commercial Lender of the Naples/Bridgton market in 2021. Over the years, Brian has led the charge in many department initiatives and has continued to develop and service many large complex relationships as he has grown into his role. He is very active in the community of Naples as an EMT and member of the board of directors for the Southern Maine Youth Hockey Association.

Shannon Smith, Assistant Vice President, CRM & Marketing Database Specialist, started her career in 2017 at Norway Savings as Customer Relations Representative at the Bank's Standish branch. In 2018, she was promoted to the CRM Administration in the marketing department where she was instrumental in implementing the Bank's Customer Relationship Program. Shannon participates on several Bank committees and task forces. In 2022, she graduated from the American Bankers Association (ABA) School of Bank Marketing & Management and earned the Certified Financial Marketing Professional (CFMP) designation. In 2023, Shannon became the CRM & Marketing Database Specialist, providing reports and analytics for all marketing campaigns and survey results. Shannon also serves as a board member for the school that her children attend.



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Calendar

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Feb 15

AUBURN -- Tween Craft Club 2/15 from 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM - Teen Space, Auburn Public Library

Tween Craft Club is a time to learn something new! Learn our craft of the month or bring your own project to work on. Crafters of any experience are welcome!

Feb 18

BRUNSWICK – FOCUS ON PALESTINE: A COMMUNITY EVENT with Fateh Azzam speaking on “Palestinians and (non) Citizenship” and including Palestinian Poetry, Live Middle Eastern & Palestinian Music, Debke Line Dancing, Debke Line Dancing and excerpts from the Gaza Monologues written in 2010 by Gaza teenagers and performed by Maine students. <https://www.uubrunswick.org/events/focus-on-palestine-a-community-event/>

Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick, One Middle Street, 2:00-4:30

Feb 20

AUBURN -- Healthy Relationships: SAPARS Drop In 2/20 from 2 PM - 3:30 PM - Teen Space, Auburn Public Library

February is healthy relationships month! SAPARS is stopping by the Teen Space for a drop in session for anyone looking for information on healthy

relationships, consent, and resources that are available to you.

The Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Services serves Androscoggin, Franklin and Oxford counties by educating communities and supporting victims/survivors of rape, child sexual abuse and other forms of sexual violence. They work to prevent and eliminate sexual violence and rape and to promote healing and empowerment for everyone affected by all forms of sexual harassment.

Feb 20

AUBURN -- Button Making 2/20 from 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM - Teen Space, Auburn Public Library

Hang out in the Teen Space and learn how to make your own buttons. Create your own designs and decorate your jacket, backpack, and more. Supplies and snacks included.

This program is a part of the Lewiston Public Library/Auburn Public Library Teen Mental Health & Support series. This series will run throughout 2024 and offer programs to help teenagers get information and resources on emotional and mental

wellness, offer creative outlets for feelings and build community. These programs are run concurrently between LPL and APL with the same or similar community partners.

Feb 21

AUBURN -- Anime & Manga Club 2/7 and 2/21 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 21

AUBURN -- Dungeons & Dragons 2/21 from 3 PM - 5 PM - Teen Space, Auburn Public Library

Come to the Teen Space for a D&D adventure in a fantasy world! Open to beginners and experienced players alike. Come with a character sheet (level 1-3) or use one that we provide.

Feb 22

AUBURN -- Tween Anime Club 2/22 from 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM - Teen Space, Auburn Public Library

Stop by the Teen Space to watch and talk about your favorite anime, draw or color and enjoy snacks with your friends! Snacks included.

Feb 23

AUBURN -- Thinking in the Box: Let's Make Comics! 2/23 from 3 PM - 4 PM - Teen Space, Auburn Public Library

Have you ever wanted to make your own comic? If you're unsure how 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!

Feb 24

BUXTON -- Try our delicious Haddock Supper Buffet - Saturday, February 24, 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.

Feb 24

GRAY -- First Congregational Church of Gray Saturday Night Church Supper, Saturday, February 24, 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, Red Hot Dogs, Breads, Assortment of Desserts & Beverages

Feb 24

LISBON FALLS -- Dine In/Take Out Bean Supper Saturday, February 24th 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

Feb 27

AUBURN -- Teen Space Craft Club 2/13 and 2/27 from 4 PM - 5 PM - Teen Space, Auburn Public Library Whether it be cro-

cheting, drawing, origami or something else entirely, The Teen Space Craft Club serves as a time to work on any arts and crafts related projects, share advice and learn something new. Crafters of any experience are welcome!

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.

Mar 11

AUGUSTA -- Monday March 11 at 6:30 PM Denis Ledoux will present a program based on his new memoir French Boy / A 1950s Franco-American Childhood at the Augusta Public Library.

GORHAM LITTLE LEAGUE

Field Funding Campaign

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

- Develop 2 fields at White Rock
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- Acquire tarps and field maintenance equipment
- Add scoreboards

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