

USM Gorham campus opens new studio, presents War of the Worlds

GORHAM, ME -- The War of the Worlds: The 1938 Radio Script by Howard E. Koch will be the first radio theatre produced in University of Southern Maine Department of Theatre's new audio studio. Live performances, a listening party, and a WMPG broadcast are all part of the fun.

Beginning this semester, the USM Department of Theatre will regularly record radio theatre in its new audio studio as part of its educational offerings. The creation of the audio studio is thanks to the generous donation of equipment by Marie Reuilard, wife of the late William Dufres, local narrator



Hannah Smith, Mike Lawrence (student performers). Photo by Noli French @Frenchsfotos

and audiobook producer, and his business partner Fred Greenhalgh, a Maine-based audio pioneer.

For the inaugural production in the studio, USM Theatre chose The War of the Worlds: The 1938 Ra-

dio Script for its iconic status in the world of radio theatre. Based on the book by Orson Welles and adapted by Howard E. Koch, the original broadcast from New York's Mercury Theatre in 1938 had some ter-

rified listeners convinced that an actual alien invasion of Earth was taking place. USM's production is directed by Liz Carlson and with music production by Robin Miller and Jacob Lane, students at the Osher School of Music.

For Director Liz Carlson, working in a new audio studio with students who are new to voice acting has been an unbeatable educational experience, "Being in the new recording studio has been such a glorious adventure. I have been so impressed with the students' abilities to create characters and worlds with nothing but their voices. It's been affirming to have the students' work met

with professional equipment and meticulous editing and sound design by our producer Brooks Desrosiers and sound designer, Andrew Johns. It's a great introduction to the students of the myriad opportunities in voiceovers and voice acting, giving them experience in the process and confidence in their abilities."

And she believes audiences will love this script, "The play itself is an iconic piece of Americana, it's structured in such a way that keeps an audience on their toes. As we've worked on this piece we've tried to both honor the history of it as well as bring our own energy and

identity to the work: so it feels simultaneously of its time and as though it could really be happening now."

The War of the Worlds will be presented live March 7 & 8th at 7pm as a staged reading with full sound effects at Russell Hall on the USM Gorham campus. On March 22nd, audiences can enjoy a free listening party of the finished production on the 2nd floor of the McGoldrick Center on the USM Portland campus at 7pm or tune into WMPG for the broadcast. Food, drink, trivia, and more will be part of the fun.

Tickets & Reservations
See **Studio**, page 8

Town of Gorham seeks proposals for open space, trails master plan

GORHAM, ME -- The Town of Gorham is soliciting proposals from qualified consultants interested in providing planning services in support of developing an open space and trails master plan. The scope of the project is to draft an open space and trails master plan that will act as a guide to elected and appointed town officials by identifying high priority areas and properties to protect, acquire or use for conservation and agricultural purposes, and provide an overall trail planning document outlining new connections, design guidelines, and provide recommendations to resolve conflict and create a variety of experiences. The project scope also includes providing land stewardship guidance for

existing agricultural properties, open space lands, identifying opportunities to expand connectivity between open space assets and neighborhoods, as well as outlining programs, ordinances, and partners that could be instrumental in securing the future of the identified and preserving high priority areas.

In recognition of the Town's historic past on agricultural and natural resource based economies, forecasted commercial and residential development needs, trends, and pressures in Southern Maine, and in anticipation of impacts of a changing climate and natural resource disturbances, the Town of Gorham seeks the development of an open space plan to help guide and prioritize future opportunities for

open space preservation, protection of critical wildlife habitat and corridors, recreation access, and agricultural preservation. The open space plan will serve as both a stand-alone planning document and as the primary information tool for natural resource management and resilience strategies expected to be adopted in a future Comprehensive Plan (anticipated for 2026).

Project Goals
If successful, the Open Space plan will:

Identify open spaces, forests, riparian habitat, and agricultural lands important to the residents of Gorham for their capacity to provide a range of ecological and public services including but not limited to climate change resilience, public recreation

access, economic sustainability, rural aesthetic and protection from development, water quality, habitat and wildlife corridor protection:

Establish a town wide strategy for land conservation and preservation;

Plan for establishing new or formalizing existing access to passive recreational areas and balancing public access and types of uses with sustainable management practices;

Plan for formalizing links to and between new and existing assets to ensure access;

Identify regional partnerships and opportunities to help in the preservation of land;

Guide and prioritize capital investments and identify funding opportunities including public/private

partnerships; and

Be a tool for coordinating town-wide projects, policies, trail recreation, and programs related to open space preservation and management.

Identify existing trails and identify potential network development.

Through this RFP, the Town is requesting qualified consultants submit recommended approaches to develop an Open Space Plan. A final scope of work will be negotiated with the selected consultant based on responses to this RFP.

Project Budget

The expectation is that this work can be done for less than \$75,000.00 to include investment in communication and engagement with citizens.

The final budget and scope will be negotiated

with the selected firm.

Submission Information

All consultants interested in submitting a proposal must provide a written notice of their intent to submit an RFP to the Community Development Department by 5:00 p.m. on March 14, 2024. The notification of intent must include the name, address, telephone number and email of the project manager responsible for the RFP submission. The purpose of this notice is so that the Town can ensure that all potential respondents are included on any updates or modifications to this RFP and answers to questions submitted by the questions deadline. Notifications of Intent will be accepted by Thomas Poir-

See **Trails**, page 8

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Magic Bus: The Who tribute band coming to Franco Center

LEWISTON, ME— Magic Bus, The Who tribute band based in Portland, Maine, will bring their show to the Franco Center at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 9. The Who, one of rock's most iconic bands, made the charts in 1964 with their hit song, "Can't Explain." That was the beginning of their amazing journey. Still performing more than 50 years later, The Who can be heard in commercials, television theme songs and on the radio.

Magic Bus, the tribute band, captures the sound and feel of The Who. "We'll take you on a tour of the rock band's discography, covering songs from 'My Generation' to 'Who Are You.' We also perform select songs from the rock operas 'Tommy' and 'Quadrophenia,'" said Paul Bessa, the Roger Daltrey role-player of the tribute band.

Bessa (vocals, piano, guitar, harmonica) comes

from New York and now lives in Portland, Maine. His introduction to music began with drums at the age of 15 after which he taught himself piano and guitar. He's played in several rock bands and grew up listening to Led Zeppelin, the Beatles and other iconic bands. In 1997, he got a recording contract in Hollywood for his own music. Today, he gives vocal lessons and performs the music of The Who. His vocal style sounds like Daltrey's and with Bessa's talent on acoustic guitar, keyboards and harmonica, each song is rich with sound.

Andy Pappas plays the part of Pete Townshend on guitar and vocals. His love for classic rock began at an early age. Listening to Elton John as a young boy sent him on a musical journey, later becoming fully immersed in the classic rock genre. His main influences include Deep Purple, Yes, Van Halen, and Rush.



Portland-based The Who tribute band, Magic Bus, is coming to the Franco Center March 9. Tickets are available at 207-689-2000 and www.francocenter.org/shows. The Franco Center is at 46 Cedar St., Lewiston. Photo: Magic Bus via Facebook.

Pappas eats, sleeps, and breathes everything rock music. His passion for guitar started at the age of 12, and he was performing in a band by 13. A self-taught musician, his passion for The Who and his musical talent fit the role of Pete Townshend. His life's mission is to keep classic rock alive and well.

"Mike Merservey was born with drumsticks

in his hands," according to the musician's online bio. After his parents gave him his first drum he has been raising chaos from day one. Playing in bands and traveling to six states and two countries, Meservey honed his musical skills. Hearing Who tunes all his musical life, he now takes on the high-profile part of drummer Keith Moon. Meservey has studied Moon's drum-

ming and has said, "It's an ongoing process. Keith is like a big band drummer in a rock band. You can't appreciate his genius until you learn his unpredictable style."

Rich Pierpont on guitar and vocals, steps up to the part of Who bassist John Entwistle. Musical talent runs in Pierpont's family. His many times great-grandfather wrote "Jingle Bells," and his father was in a competitive barbershop quartet. After not getting blessed with any of those particular musical genes, luckily there was a bass clef gene still kicking around, he said. Band members say Pierpont has "an ear for music and 10 nimble fingers. With blisters under callus, and grooves in his fingertips, it's back to the future, flirting around the octaves emulating the great 'Thunder Fingers.'"

Listen to the band's music here: <https://magicbustour.com/audio-videos/>

Doors and cash bar open at 6 p.m. Concert starts at 7 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at www.francocenter.org/shows or by phone at 207-689-2000. Tickets can also be purchased in person at our box office between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Tier 1 tickets in advance are \$30 and at the door: \$35.

Tier 2 tickets in advance are \$25 and at the door: \$30.

Season Underwriter is Maple Way Dental Care; Media Sponsors are Sun Journal, Turner Publishing, Uncle Andy's, Bennett Radio Group. Show sponsors are Dirigo Federal Credit Union; Lawn Guard; Norway Savings Bank; and Platz Associates.

The Franco Center is at 46 Cedar St., Lewiston. Parking is available in the mill lot. The building is handicap accessible on the Lincoln St. Alley side.

A breath of Mozart

LEWISTON, ME -- The Maine Music Society Chorale will present *A Breath of Mozart* at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 16, and at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 17, at the Franco Center in Lewiston.

Our classical concert will feature two glorious works accompanied by a Chamber Orchestra.

The performance begins with Mozart's *Coronation Mass, K.317* which was composed in 1779 when he was 23. It was often used for celebrations in the Court of Vienna making it the perfect piece to recognize our Golden Jubilee season.

The lively and energetic rhythms are truly engaging and often have a

sprightly, dance-like quality. The Coronation Mass will highlight the talent of our own soloists throughout.

During the second half, you will be transported to a dream-like realm as you listen to the romantic strains and lyrics of *For A Breath of Ecstasy*, a new work by the modern composer Michael John Trotta. This seven-movement setting of Sara Teasdale's love poetry was commissioned to celebrate the centennial of her winning the first Pulitzer Prize in Poetry in 1918 for her collection titled *Love Songs*. Teasdale was an American lyric poet who published seven volumes before her death at the age of 48. A string quartet and oboe

provide a haunting, melodic accompaniment to Teasdale's beautiful, poignant poetry.

Michael John Trotta, is an exciting current American musical conductor and composer who has appeared at Carnegie Hall three times since 2014. The MMS Chorale has performed his music several times now, and is always challenged and engaged by his artistic renderings of beautiful texts. *For a Breath of Ecstasy* is no exception, and we are sure you'll share our emotional response.

The Maine Music Society Chorale, under the direction of its Artistic Director, Richard Nickerson, has been rehearsing for weeks and is ready to



MMS Chorale at December 2023 concert with Director Richard Nickerson. Photo by Jared Morneau.

make this an incredibly moving performance that will be remembered for years to come!

Tickets are available online at www.mainemusicsociety.org or by calling our business office at 207-333-3386.

MMS encourages you to purchase your tickets early.

Tickets:

Adult - \$27*; Senior - \$25*; Student - \$15*

Children under 12: free when accompanied by an adult.

Group rates available for 10 or more tickets to

the same performance purchased at the same time. Call our business office: 207-333-3386.

* Price includes all handling fees

The Maine Music Society thanks its season underwriters Hardy, Wolf & Downing and the Sun Journal, Foundation sponsor The Ladd Foundation, and the Event Sponsor Platz Associates for making this concert possible.

The Maine Music Society Chorale is an auditioned, mixed-voice community chorus based in Lewiston-Auburn. Led by

Maine Music Society Artistic Director Dr. Richard Nickerson, the 75+ voice chorale has distinguished itself with an ever-evolving level of excellence and professionalism. Founded as the Androscoggin Chorale in 1972, the group's diverse repertoire reflects its desire to advance the cultural heritage of Central Maine, to explore a broad range of musical genres — contemporary, musical theatre, classical, opera, oratorio — and to provide its members with opportunities to experience their love of singing.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

NBRC announces \$4M in strategic forest economy investments

MAINE -- At its winter meeting, the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) approved over \$4 Million in new awards to six projects as part of the Forest Economy Program (FEP). The Commission has prioritized investments that support the regional forest-based economy and the industry's evolution to include new technologies and viable business models across the four-state NBRC region of Maine, New Hampshire, New York and Vermont. The six organizations receiving funding include:

University of Maine (Orono, ME) – \$745,869: This project aims to accelerate the transition from plastics to more sustainable, recyclable, and biodegradable forest-based packaging in the consumer product sector. This will be achieved through rapid prototyping and the development of a pilot scale production of high-value molded pulp products.

Our Katahdin (Millinocket, ME) – \$1,000,000: Awarded funds will be used to sup-

port critical water infrastructure needs, which support ongoing efforts to revitalize the 1,400-acre former Great Northern Paper mill site in Millinocket.

Vermont State University and Smokey House Center (Lyndon and Danby, VT) – \$995,146: This collaborative project will develop a Forest Innovation Hub to support commercialization and innovation in the northern forest region. Funding will also support the launch of a pilot project at the Smokey House Center to showcase the economic and ecological benefits of building with regional wood products via the design of prototypical timber structures.

VT Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (Montpelier, VT) – \$565,641: The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR), in partnership with key collaborators, will use funds to support Phase One the Vermont Forest Future Strategic Roadmap. Project goals include the development of MyForestWorks, a collaborative

outreach effort to educate communities about the benefits of wood energy, forest management, and wood products; and the creation of a Vermont Forest Innovation Cooperative, envisioned as a network of education, applied research, manufacturing, and industry professionals working to support emerging forest-based businesses and entrepreneurs.

Paul Smith's College (Paul Smiths, NY) – \$1,000,000: Funds will support essential wastewater infrastructure improvements on its rural campus in Franklin County, New York. This critical investment will help strengthen the institution that houses one of the country's premier forestry programs.

The Research Foundation for SUNY (Albany, NY) – \$148,856: This project will complete Whole Building Lifecycle Analysis assessments for six or more mass timber buildings in the NBRC territory and the Northeast. The result will provide forest industry businesses with a clear evaluation of their

forest products in the carbon economy.

"A thriving forest economy is critical to the success of rural communities across the region, which is why the Commission has made a strategic decision to elevate this sector in our grant making. We are excited to announce these investments in innovative projects that will contribute to growth of the forestry industry," said NBRC Federal Co-Chair Chris Saunders.

"UMaine is committed to addressing sustainability challenges, and we are very proud of the fact that we can leverage our heritage forestry industry to accelerate the transition from plastics to forest-based packaging. This project will also contribute to the growth of our capabilities in the Advancing Manufacturing sector that will impact the state of Maine, and beyond," said University of Maine President and UMS Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation Joan Ferrini-Mundy.

"On behalf of the

Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR), I am thrilled to learn that our proposal to the NBRC, which aims to support the implementation of the recently completed Vermont Forest Future Strategic Roadmap and also bolster the Regional Forest Products Industry, has been funded. With this generous support from the NBRC, Vermont FPR and our forest sector partners will be able to implement the strategies and actions contained within the Roadmap to strengthen, modernize, promote, and protect Vermont's forest products sector and broader forest economy," said Oliver Pierson, Director, Forests Division, VT FPR.

"We are very grateful to the NBRC for their support as we work to better quantify the environmental benefits of durable wood products from managed forests, and help the landowners and forest in-

dustries benefit from their important contributions to our economy and environment," said Paul Crovella of The Research Foundation for SUNY.

The funds for this program, and all NBRC programs, are available thanks to the support of the Congressional Delegations of all four NBRC states: Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont. The Commission anticipates announcing the availability of funds for a spring 2024 FEP round in the near future. NBRC's Timber for Transit program, geared towards organizations and communities interested in utilizing wood in transportation infrastructure, as well as the Commission's flagship Catalyst Program, will accept pre-applications through March 15. For more information and additional announcements about NBRC programs, please refer to www.nbrc.gov.

Clothes galore at Gorham's Mission of Hope Clothes Closet

GORHAM, ME -- 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 our local second-hand shops.

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!

Maine airport terminals receive funding

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Susan Collins, Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriation Committee, announced that three Maine airports will receive a total of \$18,024,800 to make critical infrastructure improvements. This funding comes from the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA)

Fiscal Year 2024 Airport Terminal Program. Senator Collins was one of 10 senators to negotiate the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which provided \$5 billion in funding for the FAA's Airport Terminal grant program. U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg called Senator Collins to inform her of

Maine's awards.

"Maine's airports are vital pieces of our state's transportation network that promote job creation and economic development.

See [airport](#), page 14

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



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WHY PEOPLE CHOOSE CHAMPOUX INSURANCE



Jonathan Knowlton
Licensed Agent

Jonathan Knowlton joined Champoux Insurance Group in February as an Account Executive, with 20 years of experience in the insurance and investment field. After graduating from Thomas College with honors, he went to work for MetLife as a personal financial representative. From there he worked for Allstate insurance and within 3 years, had opened his own agency on Sabattus Street in Lewiston. Jonathan closed the agency after 13 successful years. Making sure clients are educated about the risks they face and protecting them with auto, home, and life insurance products has always been important to him; local families truly are in good hands with him. Jonathan lives in Auburn with his wife and son and enjoys ice fishing, ATVing, hiking, growing hot peppers and volunteering with the Boy Scouts. Champoux Insurance Group welcomes John to our Team.



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Renewable Energy Grant application assistance available

Bangor, ME – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development is inviting grant applications from organizations to provide hands-on assistance to agricultural producers and rural small businesses applying for Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) funding. REAP provides grants and loans to help farmers and small business owners expand their use of wind, solar and other forms of clean energy and make energy efficiency improvements. The REAP Technical Assistance Grant (REAP TAG) program just

announced is for organizations that intend to provide support to REAP applicants. USDA has allocated \$250K for REAP TAG in Maine this fiscal year.

“REAP offers Maine agricultural producers and small businesses a way to have more control over their energy costs,” said USDA Rural Development Maine State Director Rhiannon Hampson. “We want to ensure that all eligible businesses can apply, whether in our heritage farming and maritime industries or among the diverse businesses that sustain Maine’s rural towns.

These grants for organizations that provide technical assistance are one way we can make it easier for applicants to compete for our REAP grants. Access to efficient, green energy options means cost savings for businesses and a cleaner environment for all Mainers.”

Eligible recipients for these grants include state, Tribal or local governments; land grant colleges and universities; electric cooperatives; and nonprofit organizations. Recipients may use the funds to:

Help rural agricultural producers and small

business owners apply for REAP funding.

Provide information on how business owners and agricultural producers can improve the energy efficiency of their operations and use renewable energy technologies and resources.

Conduct required energy assessments and audits.

Help agricultural producers and small business owners with planning construction and development of renewable energy or energy efficiency projects.

Assist with the completion of environmental reports and/or documenta-

tion required for submittal of applications.

This program works alongside REAP to create new economic opportunities, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and make energy more affordable for American families. Together, these programs will boost the long-term resiliency, reliability, and affordability of renewable energy systems in Maine. This assistance is made possible by President Biden’s Inflation Reduction Act, the nation’s largest-ever investment in combating the climate crisis.

The 2023 Maine REAP TAG recipients were the Sunrise County Economic Council, Pecos Wind Inc., and Sustaine Inc. Current applications must be submitted by March 15, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. ET. For additional information and submission details, see page 12815 of the Feb. 20 Federal Register. Find answers to frequently asked questions online at this link: <http://tinyurl.com/bde82vnr> or contact Katrina Shaw, RBCS Maine State Energy Coordinator (katrina.shaw@usda.gov or 207-990-9129) for further information.

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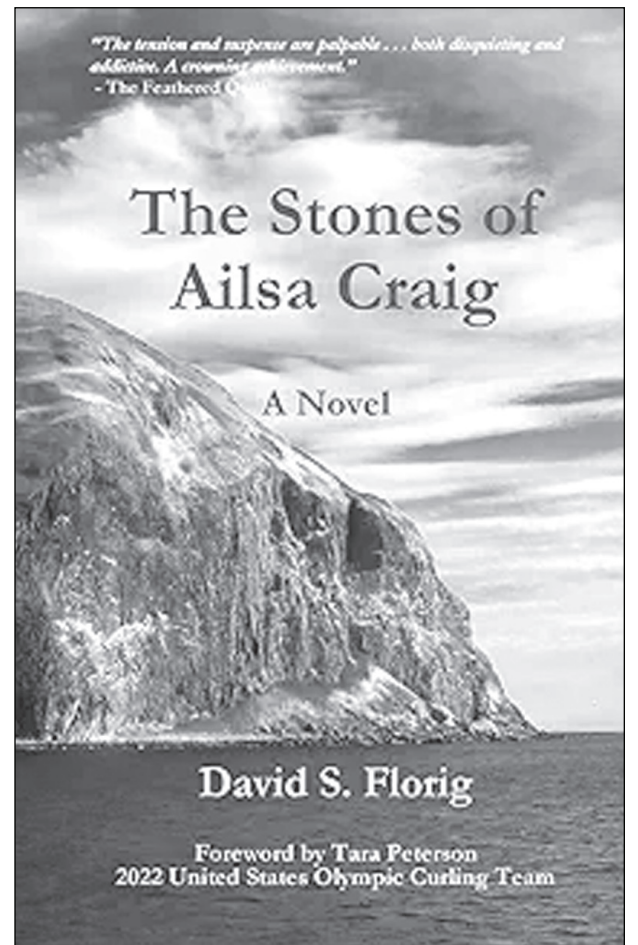
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Maine curler pens mystery about the great Scottish sport

OCEAN PARK, ME - Maine author David Florig announces the release of his debut novel, *The Stones of Ailsa Craig*. Set in present-day Belfast, Maine and 1880s Scotland, the novel is a sometimes dark look into one man’s loss, loneliness, and obsession with vengeance and justice. *The Stones of Ailsa Craig* is centered around the ancient Scottish sport of curling and features a Foreword by Olympic

curler Tara Peterson. Although curling provides the context, the novel is for fans of both historical fiction and mysteries. The book launch and speaking tour are timed to coincide with the beginning of the curling season in Maine.

In a nutshell, this is the story of *The Stones of Ailsa Craig*: Confucius once said, “Before you embark on a journey of revenge, dig two graves.” Confucius was wrong. A widower at fifty years old, a lost, lonely, and increasingly obsessed man seemingly finds salvation in the ancient Scottish sport of curling, until it unexpectedly takes him down a much different and darker path. A path through present-day Belfast, Maine; 1880s Scotland; and to the remote, volcanic island of Ailsa Craig, home to the finest curling stone granite in the world and former home to tens of thousands of marauding brown rats. A path that was revealed to him after seeing a single, 130-year-old photo-



graph. What else could he do but embrace his calling after seeing that picture and learning the truth?

David Florig is the

past-president of the Pine Tree Curling Club in Portland, Maine, as well as a member of the Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance.

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Seniors Not Acting Their Age

Cold and Blustery Burnt Mountain

By Ron Chase

My son, Adam, and I made several attempts to plan a climb of Burnt Mountain in Carrabassett Valley over a two month period. At every juncture, our competing schedules interfered. Finally, on Sunday, January 21st, we were able to connect. There was a downside, powerful winds and frigid wind chills were forecast. After some deliberation, we decided to pack for extreme conditions and give it a try.

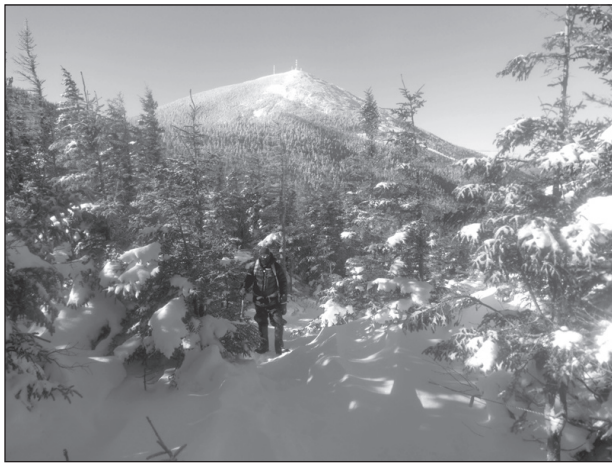
Located a short distance east of Sugarloaf Mountain, Burnt Mountain, also known as Burnt Hill, is little brother to its taller companion. Situated in a mountainous region, the 3,595 foot peak is often overlooked by hiking enthusiasts. The 5.5 mile out-and-back hike entails about 1,900 feet of elevation gain and the extensive barren summit cone provides remarkable 360 degree views. Scaling the boulder-strewn alpine zone is usually an exciting challenging endeavor since it's frequently covered with ice and windswept snow in winter.

Since we were anticipating severe above tree line conditions, significant consideration was given to how we dressed and what was selected for gear. Each of us carried snowshoes, micro spikes, emergency gear, a down parka and pants, a headlight and spare batteries, energy food, plenty of water, and additional layers of clothing. We were prepared to survive the night if necessary.

Skies were clear and temperatures in single digits when we met at the trailhead on the northwest side of the mountain. The



Adam Chase struggles to keep his balance in gusty winds at the summit of Burnt Mountain



Leaving tree line, there is a spectacular view of Sugarloaf Mountain

excursion began on an unexpectedly positive note; previous hikers had broken trail in about a foot of new snow leaving a hard packed surface on which to hike. Unknown was whether the trail was broken to tree line and what was required for footgear in the alpine zone. We decided carrying the added weight of snowshoes was the prudent choice as post holing in deep snow is exhausting and time-consuming.

We began the trek following a narrow path in a mixed hardwood and conifer forest. Sheltered from the worst of the wind, we were comfortable while proceeding along a partially frozen mountain stream. Blow-downs were skirted in a

couple of areas and two precarious stream crossings were cautiously negotiated.

After a short mile, we traversed two downhill ski trails and began climbing more steadily. When a precipitous wooded escarpment was encountered, the path angled right and rose more gradually. Once the vertical gradient was circumvented, we turned left and progressed upward through steep terrain in a dense conifer forest.

Sparse stunted tree growth indicated we were nearing tree line. Clamorous winds were gusting above. We halted in a protected area to prepare for the blustery arctic environment.

Hooded parkas were



The alpine zone on Burnt Mountain was covered with ice and windswept snow

donned and hand warmers activated in anticipation of harsh wind chills. Unsure of what to expect for surface conditions, we began in bare boots. Entering the turbulent world, a spectacular view of Sugarloaf Mountain was an immediate reward.

The inhospitable landscape was a bewildering combination of ice, hardened snow, and exposed rock which left no ideal choice for footwear. Snowshoes were unnecessary and an impediment in the gusty winds so we left them behind. Experiencing difficulty maintaining stability wearing just boots, we quickly affixed micro spikes.

The summit is about a half mile above tree line. Although problematic on bare rock, micro spikes were otherwise invaluable. The wind was primarily behind us as we guardedly ascended trying to avoid a fall. The two most significant difficulties were keeping our balance in the formidable winds and locating cairns

camouflaged with ice and snow.

We persisted over a steep rugged incline that appeared to be the top. Alas, it was a false summit. The large summit cairn was now visible a few hundred yards farther up. We labored on.

Arriving at the pinnacle, we briefly removed our mitts to take a few quick photos. We spent perhaps two minutes embracing the wonderful views before beginning our return. Persevering into an icy headwind, we reminded one another that the descent in the alpine zone was the most hazardous part of the trek.

Our careful return to tree line was thrilling but otherwise uneventful. Exuberance was overflowing during our easy hike down. We shared a high elevation report with three climbers who were heading up. Well-prepared, they expressed confidence.

My book, Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in

Maine narrates nine more mountain hikes, including several stormy winter excursions.

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 ronchase-outdoors@comcast.net

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

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Arts & Entertainment

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GORHAM, ME -- Time, Taste and Tradition... At Merrifield farm will be Celebrating Maine Maple Sundays 41st Anniversary, It's a Sweet Tradition on Maine Maple Sunday Weekend March 23rd & 24th from 9am to 4pm.

Pancake Breakfast (seating outside) includes pancakes and sausage (served all day), also maple baked beans and hot dogs.

Available at the Coffee Shed: Maple hot&iced

coffee and sweet treats!

Activities: Boiling Demo, Blacksmith, 4-H exhibitors with Oxen, Wagon Rides, Live Music, and more. Can't forget to have your picture taken with our 'Sugar Bear'. Visit our "Back in the Day" Museum- A unique look at Maple Sugaring, Logging, Farming and Ice Harvesting. Over 1800 Sq. ft. of Maine Traditions. (Ticket Purchase Required)

Products Include: Pure Maine Maple Syr-

up, Maple Cotton Candy, Maple Candy and Fudge, Maple Coated Nuts, Whoopie Pies, Needham's, Maple Soft Serve Ice Cream, Canned Goods, Preserves and More!

Visit our Facebook for more details!

If you have any question, please feel free to contact us at 207-415-3001 or 207-415-3002, or message us on Facebook.

Thank you, Lyle, Jo-Ann, Lexi and Molly Merrifield Farm

Tour Maine Needham Company and try out the packing process

Tour of the Maine Needham Company

Wednesday, March 6
8:30-11:00am JUST 3 SPOTS LEFT!
Saco, ME

Learn the history of the Maine Needham while running them through the production & packing process. Afterwards, take them with you and enjoy!

\$5 registration fee + \$5 admission (day of)

Register at www.WestbrookCommunityCenter.org

SACO, ME -- Join the Westbrook Community Center for a tour of the Maine Needham Company in Saco on Wednesday, March 6, at 9am.

The tour includes a brief history of Maine Needhams, how the company started, what they've done since, and what they're working towards. You'll have the opportunity

to run a couple of Needhams through the production and packing process and, afterwards, take them with you.

*Please note that guests are required to be mobile and can tolerate wearing food-safety gloves and a hair net.

Our mini-bus will depart the Westbrook Community Center at 8:30am,

and return after the tour, at approximately 11am. The tour runs 9am-10am.

Fee = \$5 advance registration fee + \$5 day of for tour admission (paid by registrant)

Don't wait! Capacity is limited to just 14 people. Register today under the Special Events tab in the catalog at www.WestbrookCommunityCenter.org

See **Needham**, page 9

Entertaining and thought-provoking for couples of all ages.

SECRET HOUR

BY JENNY STAFFORD

March 15-24

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GHS DREAM FACTORY

Pancake Breakfast

When?
Saturday, March 9th

From 9-11AM

Dream Factory is the largest wish-granting organization for kids who are critically or chronically ill. Our goal is to help raise money to make these kids wishes come true!

Wear your favorite PJ's

Tickets are sold at the door: \$5 a person

Where?
Gorham Middle School Cafeteria
(106 Weeks Rd, Gorham, ME)

DREAM FACTORY OF MAINE
Portland Chapter

MLCA donates \$10K to help coastal communities rebuild

KENNEBUNK, ME – The Maine Lobster Community Alliance (MLCA), a non-profit based in Kennebunk whose mission is to foster thriving coastal communities and preserve Maine’s lobstering heritage, announced today that it is donating \$10,000 to the Working Waterfront Support Fund. The fund was estab-

lished following January’s devastating storms and historic flooding that caused widespread destruction and millions of dollars of damage in communities up and down the Maine coast. MLCA is working with other fishing and working waterfront partner organizations including the Maine Lobstermen’s Association



(MLA), Maine Coast Fishermen’s Association, Maine Marine Trades Association, New England Fishermen’s Steward-

ship Association, and the Maine Lobstering Union to survey the damage and determine how the Working Waterfront Support Fund can be most useful. “Lobstermen can’t get to work if they don’t have access to working waterfront,” said Amber-Jean Nickel, president of the MLCA. “Right now, so many hardworking families

who live in our coastal communities are suffering and trying to pick up the pieces. We are confident that the state and federal government will eventually provide financial resources to help the rebuilding, but we anticipate that the Working Waterfront Support Fund can provide not only a little bit of help today, but also a little bit of hope.”

MLCA also announced that it is selling special “Preserve and Protect” merchandise for anyone interested in helping to support the rebuilding process. Proceeds from the sale of this merchandise will support the Working Waterfront Support Fund. Products can be found here: <https://www.mlcalliance.org/category/protect-preserve>

Student loan repayment counseling with NVME

AUGUSTA, ME – New Ventures Maine (NVME) staff will now offer free Student Loan Repayment Counseling in addition to classes and coaching in financial education. Student Loan Repayment Counseling is for individuals who are struggling to repay student loans or: have a loan that is past due or in default

need assistance choosing a repayment plan want to learn about debt consolidation have questions about loan forgiveness programs Individuals can schedule a repayment counseling session in person, online via Zoom, or by phone by contacting NVME at 207-621-3440 or info@newventures-maine.org. Student Loan Repay-



ment Counseling will also include information related to taxes, such as determination of eligibility for the Maine Student Loan

Repayment Tax Credit (SLRTC). Individuals paying off student loans may be eligible for a Maine Student Loan Repayment

Tax Credit (SLRTC) of up to \$2,500 annually when all of the following apply: you earned an associate, bachelor’s, or graduate degree after 2007 from an accredited Maine or non-Maine community college, college, or university you have a certain amount of earned income you live in Maine you file a Maine individual income tax return The new free service

is made possible in part by a grant from the John T. Gorman Foundation. Five NVME staff who are experienced in providing financial education completed training with the Institute of Student Loan Advisors in order to provide student loan borrowers with student loan repayment options such as income-based repayment plans and public service forgiveness plans.

Extension 4-H workshop explores Maine’s April solar eclipse

MAINE -- The University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H program is offering a free online workshop for youth ages 9-18, focused on the upcoming solar eclipse in April. The workshop will be held Thursdays from 4-5 p.m. March 21-April 11. Maine is set to experience a full solar eclipse on April 8, providing a once-in-a-lifetime oppor-

tunity for residents of the state. A total solar eclipse occurs when the Sun, Moon, and Earth align in a direct line, resulting in a darkened sky and various atmospheric changes. During the eclipse, the center of the Moon’s shadow will hit the Earth, creating a unique and awe-inspiring phenomenon. The 4-H workshop will delve into the science behind solar eclipses, of-

fering hands-on experiments to help participants understand the phenomenon better. The workshop will also explore how youth can contribute to NASA’s data collection efforts during the eclipse in Maine. To culminate the workshop, a ‘Solar Eclipse Extravaganza’ will be held on April 11th, allowing participants to reflect on their experience of view-

ing the solar eclipse. Participation in the workshop is free; space is limited to 15 participants. Registration closes March 1. Registered participants

will receive a link to access the workshop online and will also be provided with at-home materials. To register visit the

program webpage. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Sarah Sparks, sarah.sparks@maine.edu, 207.581.8206.

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Studio
Continued from page 1

tions To purchase tickets or for more information, visit USM Theatre online at usm.maine.edu/theatre, or call the USM Theatre Box Office at (207) 780-5151.

The War of the Worlds Live Event on March 7 & 8 at Russell Hall, USM Gorham campus Tickets: <https://a.purplepass.com/events/279976>

\$18 for Adults
\$14 for USM Faculty/Staff/Alumni

\$12 for Seniors 65+
\$8 for Students/Youth

The War of the Worlds Listening Party at McGoldrick Center, USM Portland Campus, is free. Please RSVP online.

Those needing special accommodations to participate fully in this program, contact Janice Gardner at (207)780-5289 or janice.gardner@maine.edu.

Hearing impaired: call USM's telex / TDD number (207)780-5646



Lucious Finston-Fox, Ellie Backman, Noam Albion (student performers). Photo by Noli French @Frenchsfotos



Liz Carlson (Director), Brooks Desrosiers (Producer). Photo by Noli French @Frenchsfotos



Emma Graffam, Sophie Urey, Nicole Bilodeau (student performers). Photo by Noli French @Frenchsfotos

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Trails
Continued from page 1

ier at tpoirier@gorham.me.us.

To be considered, proposal submissions must include four (4) hardcopies and one (1) digital copy of the complete submission packet in a searchable PDF format. All submissions must be received by the Community Development Department by 5:00 p.m. on April 11, 2024. No late submissions will be considered.

This RFP is also available on the Community Development Department page on the Town's website at <https://Gorham-maine.org/community-development/> or by contacting Thomas Poirier in the Community Development Department at tpoirier@gorham.me.us.

Free Responsible Beverage Server training offered

PORTLAND, ME -- The City of Portland Public Health Division is offering the next FREE in-person Responsible Beverage Server (RBS) training on March 12!

RBS training is state-approved and designed to educate owners, managers and servers on best-serving practices and

state laws. Included will be tips for recognizing intoxicated patrons and avoiding illegally selling alcohol to underage youth. Space will be limited!

When: Tuesday, March 12, 2024
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Where: Health and Human Services Training Room

100 Oak Street, Portland ME

For questions, or to register, please fill out this Google Form: <https://forms.gle/V5FcoL-6wQ7FxUzsa6>

You can also ask questions or register by contracting Jiffy Kelley-Young at jkyoung@portlandmaine.gov



The City of Portland Public Health Division is offering a **FREE** In-Person Responsible Beverage Server (RBS) training. RBS training is state-approved and designed to educate owners, managers and servers on best-serving practices and state laws. Included will be tips for recognizing intoxicated patrons and avoiding illegally selling alcohol to underage youth.

Space is limited

WHEN: Tuesday, March 12, 2024
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

WHERE: Health and Human Services Training Room
100 Oak Street, Portland, Maine

Responsible Beverage Server Training

For Portland On-Premise Licensees

Certificate provided upon completion



For questions or to **REGISTER**, please fill out the Google form in the caption or contact Jiffy Kelley-Young (jkyoung@portlandmaine.gov)

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Checkout Westbrook's Winterfest 2024 this weekend

WESTBROOK, ME
-- Westbrook's Winterfest 2024 is Saturday, March 2, 2024, 10 AM to 2 PM at Riverbank Park (Rain date Sunday, March 3rd)! Winterfest 2024 will feature many of the same activities and events including performances, free s'mores, petting zoo, ice carving, photo booth, food trucks, BBQ from the American Legion & Rotatory Club, inflatable slides, snow-shoeing, & more!

Event schedule:
10 AM - 12 PM | Frank 107.5 FM
10:15 AM - 10:55 AM | K9 Demonstration
11 AM - 11:40 AM |



Needham

Continued from page 6
brookCommunityCenter.org.
Questions? Please contact Caroline O'Brien, Program Coordinator, by e-mail at cobrien@westbrook.me.us or by phone at 207.854.0676, ext. 5276.
For more information about the Maine Needham Company visit: <https://www.maineneedhams.com>

River Rescue Demo
11 AM - 11:55 AM |
Zumba Love with Beth and Zumba with Meaghan
11 AM - 2 PM | Sub
Zero Ice Carving Demo
12 PM - 12:40 PM |
Fire Hula Hooper Amelia Aglow
1 PM - 1:45PM | Juggler Showtime Steve Corning

2024 Engineering Week EXPO is this weekend in Gorham



and economy, and to the growth of your organization. That's why inspiring the best and brightest young minds to engineering and technology careers is a critical mission of the Maine Engineering Promotional Council through our annual E-Week EXPO. The Expo will be held at University of Southern Maine Field House - Gorham, Maine from 9 am to 2 pm. In attendance will be Maine's top engineering firms, engineering schools, educators, government agencies, industry, and engineering societies.

Bring the family and let them see all the exciting places that their math, science and communication skills can take them.

GORHAM, ME
-- The 2024 Maine Engineers Week Exposition will be held at The University of Southern Maine Field House in Gorham, Maine.

National Engineers Week was initiated to publicly promote the work and contributions of our nation's engineers. During this week, engineering professionals have a unique opportunity to increase public awareness of the positive contributions engineers make to their communities, to this nation and to the world. National Engineers Week has grown to involve tens of thousands of engineers in a variety of community outreach activities, including technology exhibits and presentations of student scholarships.

In Maine, Engineers Week has been celebrated through an annual E-Week Banquet and EXPO, where

engineers, educators, and students have gathered for hands-on activities and workshops to learn about engineering and what engineers do.

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Local educators, MEA fight for pay raise at State House



Senator Joe Rafferty speaks to MEA members Thursday Morning at the State House

AUGUSTA, ME - Maine Education Association (MEA) members from around the state gathered Thursday to urge legislators to fund pay increases for teachers and education support professionals to help address the urgent educator shortage crisis.

“Right now, in February, school districts across the state have still been unable to fill critical positions—in some districts, there are dozens of vacancies,” said Grace Leavitt, MEA Board President.

The event follows Wednesday’s Appropriations and Financial Affairs committee hearing, where members and MEA President Grace Leavitt testified, urging legislators to include funding for LD

974 and LD 1064 in the supplemental budget. Both bills are aimed at raising pay for teachers and school staff and passed through the Education and Cultural Affairs committee with bipartisan support.

Representative Michael Brennen, D-Portland, Education and Cultural Affairs Committee Chair, echoed Leavitt’s remarks. “These two bills need to be a priority for the legislature; for the last two years, we have heard countless testimonies in front of the Committee about the challenges our educators face.”

“As an educator and coach, I know that kids need healthy food to fuel their day, whether that’s studying or competing in sports. When we get more

local foods into our school cafeterias, kids get better access to meals that taste good and give them the nutrients they need,” said Sen. Joe Rafferty, D-Kennebunk, who co-chairs the committee. “The reality is, not every district has the capacity to cook every meal from scratch. Thankfully, there are great businesses in our state that are ready to partner with schools to feed our kids. This bill is a great win for students and our economy.”

Both bills have received bipartisan support from the Education committee, “If we want a productive workforce and good citizens, we must invest in public education and public schools. The Republicans on the Educa-

tion Committee are proud to join our Democratic colleagues on the Committee to pass both bills and we hope the Legislature will continue working to find a path to fund both proposals,” said Senator Jim Libby, R-Cumberland.

MEA members Jim Handy, Ed Tech at Robert V Connors Elementary School, and Kendrah Willey, a first-year teacher in RSU 68, shared these challenges through their firsthand experiences of working at understaffed schools and recruiting young educators the press event on Thursday.

“I have classmates graduating with their education degree but choosing not to use it because the amount of time, dedication,

and effort that we put into teaching is not reflected in our pay,” stated Kendrah Willey.

“I work in a resource room with over 40 students,” said Jim Handy. “We currently have dozens of open ed tech positions in the Lewiston School District where I work, and we struggle to find applicants.”

Senator Teresa Pierce, D-Cumberland sponsored LD 1064 to increase teacher salaries also recognizes the challenges that districts across Maine face to hire and retain qualified educators. “School districts across

Maine are struggling to hire and retain qualified teachers. We know a major part of the problem is low pay that hasn’t kept up

with the cost of inflation. Raising pay to keep pace with both the cost of living and the pay in surrounding states is critical to making sure our students have the best education possible, so they can become the leaders of tomorrow. Investing in schools and educators means investing in Maine’s future,” Senator Pierce said.

The MEA remains committed to working with legislators to secure funding for both bills. “It is critical that we do more to attract and retain quality educators to work with our students in Maine. LD 974 and 1064 will go a long way towards doing just that,” said Leavitt. You can learn more about both bills at bit.ly/3SH420H.



MEA President Grace Leavitt surrounded by members, urges legislators to prioritize funding for educator pay increases.

Saco Bay Marine secures \$27K REAP Grant

BANGOR, ME – Senator Angus King joined USDA Rural Development Maine State Director Rhannon Hampson to meet with business owners, local officials, and marine science experts at Saco Bay Marine in Biddeford. The boatyard’s owners, Sean Tarpey and his son Matt Tarpey, inspired the meeting with their work to transition the business to renewable energy and to champion other innovative green technologies for waterfront businesses. At the event Director Hampson recognized the boatyard for securing a \$27,800 USDA Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) grant.

Sen. King and Director Hampson anchored a roundtable discussion that included Senator Henry

Ingwersen (Maine District 32), Biddeford Mayor Marty Grohman, representatives of the state’s congressional delegation, Luke’s Lobster co-founder Ben Conniff, Dr Charles Tilburg of the University of New England, and Island Institute staff. viewed Saco Bay Marine’s new rooftop solar array and examples of innovative “blue technology” that were on display.

The discussion focused on evolving green energy options for commercial vessels, especially the potential to replace diesel engines with electric engines. As the Maine commercial fleet begins to transition to electric propulsion, training a workforce to maintain the new equipment will also be critical. Roundtable participants

identified these as potential areas for increased public/private partnerships. Another frequent subject was the series of winter storms that recently devastated the Maine coastline and fishing industry, increasing the sense of urgency around climate change mitigation efforts.

“By transitioning to renewable energy, businesses like Saco Bay Marine can help slow the pace of climate change, which has had an outsized impact on the working waterfront,” said Director Hampson. “We can look to our past for the inspiration needed to get this job done. Maine can help lead the maritime industry in adopting ‘blue technology’. Today Senator King and I had a chance to meet with businesses, state and local

leaders, policy makers, and industry stakeholders. It’s truly an exciting time for one of our critical heritage industries, with so much innovation happening right here at home being supported by the Inflation Reduction Act. When it comes to green energy for the blue economy, our state motto applies: ‘Maine leads.’”

Following the discussion, the visitors moved outside to view Saco Bay Marine’s new rooftop solar array and examples of innovative “blue technology” that were on display. Senator King and Director Hampson recognized the boatyard’s work to transition to solar energy and to help develop other green technologies for heritage marine businesses. In his remarks, Sen. King noted

that the company’s work to research and develop electric commercial boat options heralds a time of change for Maine and for the country. “This all comes together right here, right now, in Biddeford, Maine,” he said.

Saco Bay Marine LLC is a Maine company with deep roots. It is the corporate parent of Rumery’s Boatyard, founded more than 60 years ago. Now owned by the Sean and Matt Tarpey, the company offers boat storage, maintenance and repair, and boatlift and crane support. Saco Bay Marine secured a REAP grant in 2023 and completed installation of a 19-kilowatt, roof-mounted solar voltaic system. The system will generate most of the business’s energy needs (amounting to the equivalent of two homes taken off the grid in terms of reduced carbon emissions).

The boatyard is also home to startup companies Maine Electric Boat Company and Marine Solar Technologies, both led by Sean’s son Matt Tarpey. Maine Electric Boat offers vessels for the commercial market. The company also

invests in research and development to develop electric outboard engines suited to Maine’s commercial fleet. Through Maine Electric Boat’s partnership with Flux Marine, and with assistance from Island Institute, one such boat is in use at Pendleton Yacht Yard on Islesboro. This vessel (the Take Charge) was on display at the Biddeford meeting.

After viewing the electric boats and other technology on display, the event participants talked about the role such a business can play in the local economy. Maine is poised to lead in “Blue Tech” innovation, which has the potential to lift other sectors at the same time. Commercial boatowners may save significant amounts of money and downtime as they transition to electric motors. Communities may soon be able to access real-time water quality data thanks to solar buoys. And in the meantime, grants for renewable energy installations remain available competitively to rural Maine businesses and agricultural programs through USDA’s Rural Development.

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NEWS CENTER Maine collects coats, toys for local kids



Brian Yocono and David Guildford help to fill a Salvation Army van with coats and toys from The Coats and Toys Wish List



Chris Costa and Anne Baldrige help fill a truck with items from the Coats and Toys for Kids Wish List



NCM morning report team with a viewer in Sanford on Coats and Toys for Kids Day

PORTLAND-BANGOR, ME – In just over one month, more than 14,000 coats, 3,860 toys, and \$16,111 were donated to The Salvation Army during NEWS CENTER Maine’s 41st year of Coats and Toys for Kids campaign. The campaign started in mid-November collecting gently used coats and new toys at Hannaford and Shaw’s stores. NEWS CENTER Maine also offered donors the option to purchase a new coat or toy from The Coats and Toys for Kids Wish List and have it delivered directly to the Salvation Army.

All items were distributed statewide to help Mainers stay warm this winter season. Money from the

donations was given to nine Salvation Army locations to purchase more coats and toys to help their communities. Toys were distributed throughout Maine to families in need during the holiday season. Coats, blankets, hats, gloves, and snowsuits have been and will continue to be distributed throughout the winter months.

NEWS CENTER Maine was able to hold its one-day, live kick-off event, Coats and Toys for Kids Day on December 2, 2023, sponsored by Maine Savings Bank. Mainers once again stepped up and donated coats and toys to help fellow Mainers. NEWS CENTER Maine crews were live at Pratt Abbott in Portland, Hannaford

in Augusta and Sanford, and Shaw’s in Auburn and Bangor.

“We’ve all been children,” Salvation Army’s Ted Tressler stated. “We know what Christmas morning feels like. For those who have – it’s a wonderful time. For those who have not – not so much.”

NEWS CENTER Maine not only thanks the viewers who made donations or purchases for the campaign, but also appreciates Pratt Abbott Cleaners for cleaning all the gently used coats, PepsiCo for distributing the coats and toys boxes, and Hannaford and Shaw’s for hosting the collection boxes in its stores.

Coats for Kids was

originally designed 41 years ago by The Salvation Army. NEWS CENTER Maine became a partner seven years later helping to collect coats for Maine families who cannot afford a warm winter coat.

In November of each year, donation boxes are placed in the NEWS RELEASE Hannaford Supermarkets and Shaw’s stores across the state. In 2004, NEWS CENTER Maine also saw the need for toys during the holiday season and expanded the program to Coats and Toys for Kids.

All the coats are cleaned and stored by Pratt-Abbott Cleaners and the Salvation Army distributes the coats and toys. PepsiCo has assisted this



NCM talent and employees helping to collect coats and toys in Auburn on Coats and Toys for Kids Day

great effort by donating and delivering the boxes to Hannaford Supermarkets and Shaw’s stores.

By estimation, NEWS CENTER Maine has collected more than 869,000

coats - all of which have helped to keep Maine children warm. Since 2004, they have collected 85,910 toys to distribute to those in need during the holiday season.

Andrei Vile joins Fontaine Family Team



PORTLAND, ME -- Fontaine Family - The Real Estate Leader is proud to announce Andrei Vile as the newest addition to their growing Scarborough team. Andrei is setting a new standard in the Southern Maine real estate landscape, combining his passion for community, strategic mindset, and unparalleled dedication to redefine the property transaction experience.

A proud native of Peaks Island, Andrei’s roots in Maine run deep.

After graduating from Cheverus High School, he continued his academic journey at Beloit College in Wisconsin, where he earned a degree in Psychology. This educational background provides Andrei with a unique perspective, enabling him to understand the intricacies of the human experience in the often complex world of real estate.

Before embarking on his real estate journey, Andrei served as an investor services representative, where he played a pivotal role in onboarding new clients. As the first line of contact for clients or hedge funds, he facilitated the subscription

and redemption of funds per client instructions, ensuring compliance with guidelines and providing a seamless experience for his clients.

Currently residing in Portland, Maine, Andrei is not only a distinguished real estate professional but a dedicated member of the community he calls home. His commitment to understanding the needs and aspirations of his clients is matched only by his passion for fostering strong, lasting relationships. Outside of his professional life, Andrei is an avid golfer, particularly during the summer months. While he may have labeled himself a soccer player in his young-

er years, his transition to golf reflects his adaptability and commitment to personal growth.

Andrei Vile’s clients benefit not only from his comprehensive understanding of the real estate market but also from his ability to navigate transactions with precision and care with the help of the Fontaine Team. His commitment to excellence, coupled with his friendly demeanor and passion for the community, make him the go-to real estate professional in the Portland area. For real estate opportunities with Andrei Vile, he can be contacted by phone at 207-807-6050 or email andrei@fontaineteam.com.



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Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

Mar 2
GORHAM -- Public Bean Supper, White Rock Community Clubhouse, 34 Wilson Road, Gorham on Saturday, March 2, 4:00-5:30pm

Eat in or take out, no pre-orders. Meal includes baked kidney & pea beans, coleslaw, potato salad, macaroni & cheese, biscuits, hot dogs and dessert. \$10 adults, \$5 under 12 Follow us on Facebook for updates: facebook.com/whiterockcommunityclub

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.

Mar 14
LISBON FALLS -- There will be a blood drive at the Lisbon United Methodist Church, 14 School Street, Lisbon Falls, Maine on Thursday, March 14th from noon to 4:30pm. To schedule an appointment

call 1-800-RED-CROS and use sponsor code LISBON UMC

Mar 22
LEWISTON -- Fill the Plate Breakfast to benefit Meals on Wheels of SeniorsPlus 7 am – 9 am at Hilton Garden Inn Riverwatch, Auburn. Tickets: \$30 per person (\$35 at the door); available at www.seniorsplus.org or by calling 207 795-4010. Seats are limited. Advance registration encouraged.

A breakfast to benefit the Meals on Wheels program of SeniorsPlus, the Western Maine Agency on Aging, will feature a keynote by Maine humorist Gary Crocker and will honor Lewiston resident Lucy Bisson with the Ikaria Award for outstanding contributions toward improving the lives of older adults

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

Mar 26
LISBON FALLS -- Tuesday March 26 at

4 PM Denis Ledoux will present a program based on his new memoir French Boy / A 1950s Franco-American Childhood at the Lisbon Falls Public Library.

Apr 27
AUBURN -- Saturday April 27 at 11 AM Denis Ledoux will present a program based on his new memoir French Boy / A 1950s Franco-American Childhood for the Maine Franco-American Genealogy Society at the community room of the Auburn Public Library. Public invited.

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 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

Airport
Continued from page 3

Throughout our state, airports play a critical role not only in carrying residents and visitors, but also in facilitating medical services for those in rural communities in emergencies when seconds count,” said Senator Collins. “These significant investments will allow airports across Maine to make much-needed improvements to their infrastructure, improving the safety and efficiency of their operations, while enhancing passengers’ overall experience.”

Specifically, the funding will be allocated as follows:

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tional Jetport (PWM) - \$10,400,000 to fund the installation of new Passenger Boarding Bridges and fixed bridge extensions from the terminal building, as well as a new concourse, public restroom, adult changing space, pet relief area, and an expansion of the hold room.

Presque Isle International Airport (PQI) - \$6,500,000 to fund the construction of a new terminal superstructure and building enclosure to bring the airport into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, improve energy efficiency, and expand safety features.

Eastport Municipal Airport (EPM) - \$1,124,800 to fund construction of a new terminal to replace the existing building.

Since 2009, when Senator Collins became a member of the Appropriations Committee, she has secured more than \$1 billion in competitive transportation grants for the State of Maine.

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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:

- Develop 2 fields at White Rock
- Purchase seasonal fence for Shaw Park
- Repair dugouts and fencing, build storage centers
- Add infield mix and relevel current fields
- Acquire tarps and field maintenance equipment
- Add scoreboards

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SENIOR TRIPS

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.

MAY 25 – JUNE 2, 2024 - MACKINAC ISLAND – Trip includes 8 nights lodging including 4 nights in Northern Michigan, 8 breakfasts and 6 dinners. We will have a guided tour of Mackinaw City and visit Mackinac Island with an included Carriage Tour of the island and see

sites like the Arch Rock and Lilac Lane. We will cruise through the Soo Locks and have free time in Sault Sainte Marie. We will have a guided tour of Quaint Mackinaw City and tour the Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse and visit Colonial Michilimackinac. We will visit "Michigan's Little Bavaria" in Frankenmuth, Michigan and so much more. A \$75 deposit per person is due at registration. Total price is \$1,209.00 pp double occupancy which includes all entrance fees, step on guide tips, meal tips and bus driver tip.

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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