

Gorham kids can learn about Maine's changing tidepools

MAINE -- University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H is offering a weekly online workshop for youth, ages 13-18, focused on Maine's tidepools and citizen science. The 4-H Tidepool Immersion Discovery and Ecology (TIDE) workshop series will be held from 4-5 p.m. on Tuesdays, April 9-May 11. An optional field day will be held April 13, rain date April 14, at

Southern Maine Community College, 2 Fort Road, South Portland.

During the workshop, participants will explore the intertidal zone while contributing to marine science research. Through engaging activities, attendees will learn about the various species found in tidepools during low tide and use innovative equipment to capture stunning pictures on their



Photo courtesy University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

smartphones for identification purposes.

Led by graduate students from the University of New England and the University of Southern Maine, additional topics include invasive species, climate change, species identification, and how to participate in ongoing research efforts.

The workshop is free; registration is required and limited to 15 participants.

Register by March 27 on the event webpage to receive the link and materials. The workshop is supported by the Maine Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) at the University of Maine.

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

Updates from the Town of Gorham Manager's Office

The following are notes from the Town of Gorham Manager's office:

Gorham Cross Town Trail Public Meeting - April 9, 2024

The Gorham Conservation Commission will host a public meeting on the Cross Town Trail expansion on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at which the Town will present potential trail alignments.

Save-the-Date: Gorham Cleans Up - April 21, 2024

All are welcome to help clean up the Gorham community across multiple locations on Sunday, April 21, 2024.

Department News & Announcements:

Department of Public Works

Updated Office Hours Effective April 1, 2024

Public Works will begin observing the updated hours of 6:30am

through 5pm, Monday through Thursday as of April 1, 2024.

Save-the-Dates for Spring Brush Drop Off

Spring Brush Drop Off will be Saturday, 4/20 and Saturday, 5/4, 8am to 3pm at 80 Huston Road. This event is for residents only, please no commercial drop off. No stumps will be accepted. Leaves and grass clippings accepted in the designated area throughout the season. Please do not leave bags behind.

Baxter Memorial Library

The Library has eclipse glasses available at no charge while supplies last! Join the Library for an eclipse viewing party on the Municipal lawn at 3pm on April 8.

Author events: April 10, 6pm: Jennifer L.H. Smith Are you ready for life's journey? In a world full of change, it is neces-

sary to develop and care for your physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual muscles, not only to overcome struggles but to also live your best life.

In Warrior Fit, Jennifer takes you on a journey of her personal experiences and discoveries. Taking a holistic approach to fitness, she shares stories about letting go, finding peace, and reconnecting with yourself and the natural world around you.

April 18, pm: Cheryl Gillespie and Lisa Beecher. Cheryl and Lisa will present a unique look at mental health care from both an historical perspective to present day. Cheryl is the daughter of a young woman who experienced involuntary hospitalization in 1948 in Augusta, Maine.

Lisa is the wife of a retired police officer who has experienced psychotic breaks more recently

in Portland, Maine. They hope to talk candidly with their audience about what is and isn't available for the mentally ill, societal stigma, differences in attitudes between men and women, need for more training of people who deal with those coping with mental illnesses, and anything else that comes up in the discussion.

April 25, 6 PM: Ed Judd. A resident of Auburn who taught music in Lisbon for 22 years, Edward Judd, will give a talk on his book, View from the Podium. The book is a memoir tracing Judd's 46 years as a music educator. Although Judd has been a high school music teacher for most of his career, the book also includes many of his experiences as a music teacher from elementary school through his time as Band Director at Holy Cross College.

The book has been described as "heartfelt", "illuminating", and "an uplifting story told in a straightforward way."

Employment Opportunities

A municipal career at the Town of Gorham allows employees to work

with a close-knit team, and to make a real impact on the lives of friends, family, and neighbors from the very start, while earning a comprehensive package of pay, benefits, and paid time off (for eligible employees).

We are currently hiring for multiple positions, including Administrative Assistant - Code Division,

CDL Driver Operator, Seasonal Laborers, Summer Camp Counselors, Patrol Officers, Firefighter/Paramedic, and Call Company Fire Police..

To view openings and apply, visit the Town's Employment Opportunities page at <https://www.gorham-me.org/human-resources/pages/employmentopportunities>.

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GORHAM CROSS TOWN TRAIL PUBLIC MEETING

Hosted by the Gorham Conservation Commission

APRIL 9th | 7 PM - 9 PM
GORHAM MUNICIPAL CENTER COUNCIL CHAMBERS
75 SOUTH STREET, GORHAM, ME 0403

The Town is seeking community input on the Cross Town Trail Extension. With this new path, the Town hopes to increase trail connectivity, encourage active transportation use, reduce emissions, and provide access to the natural environment buffered from car traffic and pollution. At the meeting, the Town will present potential trail alignments.

Join the livestream!
<http://gocat.org/>
Note: The livestream will be listen only. Comments can be either given in person at the meeting or via email before or after the meeting.

Gorham Grow with Us
Gorham Conservation Commission
GPGCOG GORHAM PLANNING AND GOVERNANCE

Newsmakers, Names & Faces

For Vietnam War Veterans Day, King interviews helicopter pilot

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On this Vietnam War Veterans Day, U.S. Senator Angus King (I-ME), a member of the Senate Veterans Affairs (SVAC) and Armed Services Committees (SASC), released his latest episode of “Answering the Call: Maine’s Veteran Voices.” In the 13th interview of the series, produced in partnership with the Library of Congress’ Veterans History Project, Senator King sat down with Ed Stanhope, an Auburn native, who served as an Army helicopter pilot during the Vietnam War and went on to spend nearly four decades in the Maine National Guard. During the interview, King asked Stanhope about his Vietnam War experiences and how Togus and local chapters of the VA and the American Legion support Maine’s veterans.

“Ed’s story captures the bravery and selflessness embodied by so many of our veterans,” said Senator King. “From growing up on a farm in Lisbon to flying helicopters in Vietnam, Ed shows us how a small town, look-out-for-your-neighbor mentality guided him through his time in the service. In this Vietnam War Veterans Day special of ‘Answering the Call: Maine’s Veteran Voices,’ I am proud to share Ed’s story of dedication to his country and to the state of Maine.”

Ed Stanhope grew up in Lisbon, Maine with his parents and two siblings. Ed describes his time growing up in a “one horse family” as “blessed.” After graduating high school, he received his appointment to fly helicopters for the Army. Ed completed basic

training in Fort Polk, Louisiana and went on to flight school in Fort Rucker (now Fort Novosel), Texas.

After training, Ed was deployed to Vietnam for his first tour in 1967 where he piloted Huey helicopters. Ed describes being lucky to have served with older men in his unit, who passed on valuable lessons such as “don’t take unnecessary chances, there are plenty of necessary chances in this business.”

Ed returned to Vietnam for his second tour flying the much larger Chinook helicopter and transporting artillery and ammunition pallets. He also acted as what he describes as “a helicopter ambulance,” recovering damaged helicopters to be repaired or salvaged for parts.

After his second tour, Ed transitioned out

of active service and returned to Maine. Taking advantage of the GI bill, Ed studied criminal justice at the University of Maine at Orono. He also began flying helicopters for the Maine National Guard in 1970, where he operated a medevac unit for events such as the World Cup Ski Race at Sugarloaf in 1971. Ed continued flying for the National Guard for nearly 40 years.

Ed and his late wife Janet dedicated much of their time to giving back to veterans in Maine. Janet spent many years volunteering for the Red Cross, coordinating with chapters throughout New England to expand their efforts to support veterans. Ed has a rich history of involvement in the Auburn and Augusta chapters of the American Legion, including establishing the air rifle range in

the Augusta Legion Hall, where local youth learn responsible gun safety from veteran volunteers and families compete in sporting events. Today, Ed continues to be engaged with the air rifle program, creating positive experiences for Maine veterans and youth alike.

The Veterans History Project is an effort by the Library of Congress to collect, preserve and distribute the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war. The interviews and primary documents from the project are then used by researchers, historians, students, and filmmakers across the country. Senator King joins many other members of Congress who’ve participated in the

project.

Representing one of the states with the highest rates of veterans per capita, Senator King is a staunch advocate for America’s servicemembers and veterans. Senator King uses this interview series to learn and share the stories of the lives, service, and sacrifices of Maine’s veteran community. He has been among the Senate’s most prominent voices on the need to address veterans suicide, and has repeatedly pressed for action from top Department of Defense officials on this issue. An advocate for amplifying veteran voices, Senator King held a field hearing focusing on long-term care in Maine. Additionally, he recently led a bipartisan letter calling for more support for victims of military sexual trauma.

MaineCare launches restoration of pharmacy claims system

AUGUSTA, ME — The Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) announced today that pharmacies have resumed billing MaineCare for members’ prescriptions, following the disruption to its pharmacy claims system due to the national cyber security issue affecting Change Healthcare.

Effective last week, pharmacies may again bill MaineCare for member prescriptions during the disruption period, from February 21, 2024 through March 26, 2024, as well as for ongoing claims. MaineCare will pay all eligible claims submitted during the outage.

MaineCare launched this first phase of the system restoration in a new operating environment, following consultation with the Maine Office of Information Technology

and a review of documentation provided by Optum, Change Healthcare’s parent company, and an external security firm to validate the security of the system. MaineCare additionally conducted extensive testing of payment and eligibility data.

The resumption of pharmacy claims processing and payment brings MaineCare closer to full restoration of the system. Some normal operating processes, including systems for prior authorizations, continue to be suspended while Change Healthcare works toward full restoration of its system.

“We continue to strive to limit the impact of this national disruption on MaineCare members and thank pharmacies and health providers for their partnership as we begin to return to normal

operations,” said DHHS Commissioner Jeanne Lambrew. “We are in close communication with Change Healthcare during this transitional period and will do all we can to resolve any outstanding issues and ensure MaineCare members can continue to access needed medications.”

“Pharmacies have stepped up to serve Maine people by accomplishing a tremendous amount of additional work over the last five weeks. We’re pleased that operations are returning to normal and are encouraged by the collaboration between MaineCare and pharmacies in the face of this difficult situation,” said Amelia Arnold, Legislative Liaison, Maine Pharmacy Association. “MaineCare staff provided thoughtful and thorough information during the system down-

time, allowing pharmacies to make appropriate plans. We look forward to continued collaboration as the system comes fully back online.”

The disruption resulted from a cybersecurity issue affecting Change Healthcare nationally, impacting health care systems and Medicaid members in many states. MaineCare has been working with members, pharmacies, and providers in response since Change Healthcare shut down its systems on February 21, 2024. MaineCare’s response includes authorizing pharmacies to provide prescriptions for up to 30 days to help MaineCare members access needed medications and issuing interim payments to help

local pharmacies continue to serve MaineCare members. Maine-based pharmacies will receive another interim payment the first week of April in order to continue support until the claims payments are available. These interim payments will be reconciled with actual claims payment amounts for verified MaineCare. Pharmacies are expected to resume receiving claims payments by the end of the second week of April.

The system disruption has generated unexpected additional, one-time pharmacy costs for the Department. As Governor Mills prepares her budget change package, the Department is working on an initiative for her proposal to address the state

share of these costs.

Throughout the disruption, MaineCare has urged pharmacies to continue filling prescriptions for MaineCare members. It has required pharmacies to continue to verify MaineCare coverage and provided numerous ways to do so.

Change Healthcare has not indicated that any personal data of MaineCare members was improperly accessed as part of the network disruption.

To reach DHHS about this issue:

Pharmacies may refer to the Department’s most recent provider bulletin

MaineCare members may call the MaineCare Pharmacy Help Desk at 1-866-796-2463

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

UMaine Extension offering farm tractor safety courses in Gorham



Photos of previous tractor safety courses courtesy University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

ORONO, ME — The University of Maine Cooperative Extension will offer in-person farm tractor safety classes in Gorham, Sidney and Presque Isle, starting April 8. Classes in each location meet for multiple days.

Courses will be held at Shaw Cherry Hill Farm in Gorham; Kramer Tractor in Sidney; and MSAD #1 Presque Isle High School. The training will include classroom lectures, tractor driving time and homework over multiple days. The course is designed for adults and youth at least 14 years of age. This course is recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor and successful completion is required for 14- and 15-year-olds who plan to operate farm equipment for hire on farms other than their own family's. Participants will learn how to safely handle tractors and equipment and how to avoid hazards and minimize chances of accidents. Certificates will be issued after successful completion of the course,



including a written test and a driving test.

There is a sliding scale fee for the course of \$40 full price, or \$20 suggested for youth ages 14-17 and those who can afford 50% of the full course fee. Access to a computer, tablet or smartphone is required to complete

homework assignments. Detailed information, including dates and registration links, is available on the program webpage. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Jason Lilley, 207.781.6099; extension.agcumberland@maine.edu.

Letter to the Editor:

Maine Turnpike Authority's plan puts Gorham at risk

I live in Gorham with my husband and our ten month old daughter. I love our town and our community; it has been such a special place to raise our daughter and I can't wait to continue to watch her grow up here. I feel so lucky to live in Gorham and I'm writing to encourage more of my neighbors to speak up to help protect our beloved community from the Maine Turnpike Authority.

My daughter is the luckiest - she gets to grow up in a community with woods, streams, fields, farms, friends as neighbors, safe streets where she'll learn how to ride her bike, and sidewalks where she'll walk to school. I love walking on the trail by our home with her and trying to imagine how she sees it through her eyes: busy with green stuff in summer and crisp with white fluffy stuff in winter.

And I am the luckiest too - I get to ski and hike and ride bikes on trails all over town, buy vegetables and ice cream from local farms and shops in our downtown, and visit beautiful places all over Gorham with my baby - who

turns every ordinary walk along a stream or a brook into a delightful, silly adventure. But the turnpike expansion puts that all at risk.

I am terrified of what Gorham will become if the Maine Turnpike Authority wins its fight against our community. The Gorham Divider would be an epic mistake that will change the character of Gorham forever - there will be no coming back from it.

Highways bring more speeding cars. More cars mean more parking lots, gas stations, strip malls, drab office buildings, drive-thrus, asphalt, smog, noise. When you build a highway through a place, it changes that place forever. You can't ever get back what you lose: whether that's someone's home that they built with their bare hands, the 300-year-old family farm that we are fortunate enough to be at today, trout in the brook, quiet fields, or a quiet neighborhood.

Building a highway through Gorham means one thing: we lose Gorham as we know it. It is just not possible to build a turnpike

through a rural and residential part of town and have the things we love about it remain. If we build a highway here just like the one at the Maine Mall, our community will look just like...the highway at the Maine Mall. But we already have a mall, and it's over there, so let's protect places over here that are special, meaningful, important, and beautiful.

Places matter, and Gorham is our place. What I think is that Gorham is full of families just like mine who also love what we love about this place, and there are many more who want to be here. I am excited about the ways our community is growing, but worried that the wrong kind of growth means more congestion. We have very real transportation challenges, and we need very real solutions. But the Maine Turnpike Authority's plan is the wrong way to grow; it is a quarter billion dollar mistake that won't solve our traffic problem, but will forever change this place - our place - for the worse.

Abby King
Gorham resident

Clean up with Gorham Spring Brush Drop Off days

GORHAM, ME -- The Town of Gorham's spring brush dates will be Saturday, 4/20 and Saturday, 5/4 8AM to 3PM at 80 Huston Road. This event is for

residents only, please no commercial drop off. No stumps will be accepted. Leaves and grass clippings accepted in the designated area throughout the season.

Please do not leave bags behind.

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Share your strength: Give blood or platelets with the Red Cross

PORTLAND, ME — This spring, the American Red Cross asks donors to help defend the blood supply by giving blood or platelets now to combat a monstrous fact: only 3 out of 100 people donate blood. That’s why we’re teaming up with Warner Bros. Pictures and Legendary Pictures to celebrate the epic new film, *Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire*, and inviting donors to rise together and give blood. When donors share their strength by coming to give March 25-April 7, they’ll get an exclusive *Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire* and Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last. (Details are available at RedCrossBlood.org/GXK.)

In recent weeks, the Red Cross has seen an encouraging increase in the blood supply, but blood and platelet donation appointments remain vital

this month. People of all blood types – especially those with type O blood – are critical to ensuring hospital shelves can be replenished as soon as possible.

To book a time to give, visit RedCrossBlood.org, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, or call 1-800-RED CROSS. Additionally, all who come to give April 8-28 will get a \$10 e-gift card to a merchant of choice, plus be automatically entered for a chance to win one of two \$7,000 gift cards. Visit RedCrossBlood.org/Spring for details.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities March 25-April 15

Androscoggin
Auburn
4/11/2024: 12:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Edward Little High School, 77 Harris St.
Cumberland
Brunswick



When donors share their strength by coming to give March 25-April 7, they’ll get an exclusive *Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire* and Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last.

4/12/2024: 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., American Legion Post 20, 1 Columbus Drive
Freeport
4/11/2024: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Freeport Community Center, 53 Depot Street
Portland
4/8/2024: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Maine Medical Dana Center, 22 Bramhall Street
Standish
4/15/2024: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Gardenside Condo Association, 12 Gardenside Drive
Westbrook
4/12/2024: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Westbrook Community Center, 426 Bridge Street
Yarmouth
4/5/2024: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., American Legion Post 91, 196 Main St
How to donate blood
Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit

RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver’s license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading

and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

Amplify your impact – volunteer!

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

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

MaineCF scholarship available to aspiring engineers

PORTLAND & ELLSWORTH — High school seniors pursuing degrees in engineering may be eligible for the K. William Wiseman Engineering Scholarship at the Maine Community Foun-

dation (MaineCF). The fund supports students graduating from Maine high schools attending an accredited college or university. The school does not have to be in Maine. The application

deadline is Wednesday, May 1.

For more information and to apply, visit www.mainecef.org/scholarships.

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gether to build a better Maine through strategic giving, community leadership, personalized service, local expertise and strong investments. To learn more about the foundation, visit www.mainecef.org.

2nd annual Eid community potluck coming up at UMA

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AUGUSTA, ME – The University of Maine at Augusta (UMA) will partner with local multicultural organizations to host a community potluck for Eid al-Fitr on Saturday, April 13th at 1pm. This will be an opportunity for members of our local community to share traditions, and to learn about local organizations that support Muslim communities in Maine. Eid, meaning ‘celebration’ or ‘festival’, refers to a time of joyous celebration. There are two dedicated times of Eid in Islam that Muslims around the globe celebrate. Eid al-

Fitir, translated as “the festival of breaking the fast”, marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan and the start of Shawwal, which is the 10th month in the Islamic calendar. This festival is a particularly significant time for Muslims to get together, appreciate their blessings, share special treats and delicacies, and celebrate with the community. The potluck will be in the Fireside Lounge, Randall Student Center, on UMA’s Augusta campus at 46 University Drive, Augusta, from 1-3 p.m. All are welcome to join, and

attendees are encouraged to bring a dish to share (no pork please). If you kindly provide a list of ingredients in your dish, that would also be appreciated. The event is free and open to the public.

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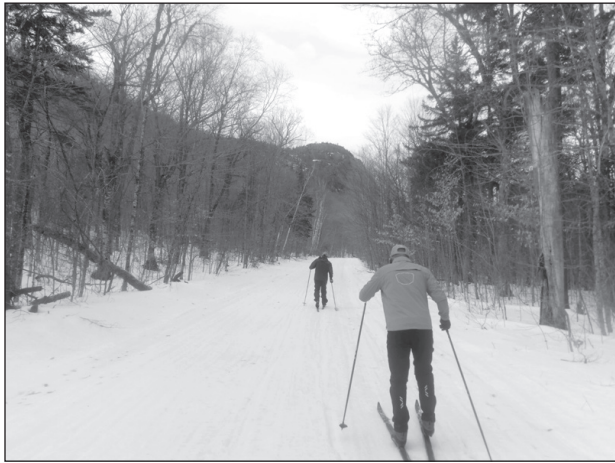
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Seniors Not Acting Their Age

Entering Baxter State Park in Winter



Skiers approach Horse Head Mountain in Baxter State Park

Perhaps the best kept winter mountaineering secret in Baxter State Park is South Branch Pond. Most skiers, ice climbers, and mountaineers focus on Chimney Pond with their sights set squarely on Mount Katahdin. Many peak baggers trek into the hut at Nesowadnehunk Field to access the four high mountains located in the northwestern sector of the park. Fewer winter enthusiasts are attracted to South Branch Pond.

Located in the northeastern part of the park, the South Branch Pond region is a unique experience. The two connected ponds, Upper and Lower South Branch Ponds, are bordered by mountains on the east and west and have the character of an inland fjord. The campground at the pond features a roomy cabin with a woodstove, gas lamps, and eight bunks. That was our destination for a late winter expedition.

Last winter, I was part of a group of eight skiers and mountaineers who trekked to South Branch Pond on a multi-day excursion. While a successful outing, heavy snow accumulations and stormy windy weather prevented us from achieving two significant goals: completion of the famed Traveler Loop and a hike over

South Branch and Black Cat Mountains. Those objectives were on our minds when eight of us obtained early March South Branch hut reservations last November 1st.

In the four month interim, medical issues impacted the makeup of the group. Two members of the team had to bow out due to serious health issues, while another couldn't leave ailing family members. In December, I was diagnosed with arthritis in my left knee and began cortisone treatments. Easily the senior citizen in the now six-person assemblage, it was unclear how much mountaineering I could do. Based on earlier winter experiences, skiing was a better option.

Obviously, no one can predict the weather when reservations are obtained four months in advance. History told us snowfall through the winter would result in hefty snow accumulations by early March. Not this year. The park, and much of Maine, received record low snow amounts and unusually heavy rainfall. Whether or not there would be adequate snow to ski into the pond was a concern. Calls to the area confirmed there was still acceptable but diminishing levels of snow on park roads. However, a warm rainy weather fore-



A team of skiers stop for a break at the summer Baxter State Park Gate

cast did not bode well for our six-day adventure.

Several of us stayed in a cabin at Matagamom Campground just outside of the park the night before the excursion began. In deference to my arthritic knee, most of us hired the campground to shuttle our gear by snowmobile on the park Perimeter Road as far as the beginning of South Branch Pond Road. Park rules prohibit snowmobiles on South Branch Pond Road so our plan was to haul gear on sleds for the remaining 2.2 miles.

Six enthusiastic skiers met at the Matagamom Winter Trailhead on a warm foggy morning. Light rain had fallen the night before leaving a soft ice and wet snow base for skiing. After the snowmobile and trailer departed with our sleds and gear, we began the 11 mile journey to South Branch Pond Road.

The skiing was surprisingly good and we completed the cruise in about 2.5 hours. While we were assembling our sleds for the haul to the pond, two Park Rangers arrived on snowmobiles. They were headed to South Branch to check ice safety and promised an update when they returned.

Some of us hauled heavy sleds wearing micro spikes while others continued with skis. Much of the

trek is uphill before leveling off and then descending to the pond. When the rangers stopped, they advised against skiing or snowshoeing on the pond as it was heavily puddled and thin in places. That eliminated the possibility of a coveted ski south on the winter Pogy Trail. Mountaineering would be our focus.

We completed the arduous sled pull in a little over an hour and settled into the bunkhouse. Cabin chores were next. Firewood was brought in from the woodshed and a fire started in the woodstove. Others retrieved water from an open section at the outlet of the pond. All water has to be purified.

During a delicious dinner, a game plan was established for the following day. We would be up early and attempt a climb of North Traveler Mountain, possibly continuing on the Traveler Loop.

My book, *Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine* narrates several winter mountaineering and ski expeditions.

Ron Chase resides in Topsham. His latest book, *"Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine"* is available at www.northcountrypress.com/maine-al-fresco or in bookstores



Pulling a heavy sled with gear is part of the challenge of entering Baxter State Park



South Branch Pond has the character of an inland fjord

and through online retailers. His previous books are *"The Great Mars Hill Bank Robbery"* and *"Mountains for Mortals - New England."* Visit his website at www.ronchaseoutdoors.com or he can be reached at ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net

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Arts & Entertainment

Gorham's Fairytale Craft & Vendor Fair will enchant families

GORHAM, ME -- The Fairytale Craft & Vendor Fair for Families is an enchanting event that combines the allure of princesses, princes, magical crafts, and delightful shopping experiences. This fair is specially designed to cater to families seeking a day filled with enchantment, creativity, and a touch of royal charm.

As families step into the fair, they are welcomed by a captivating ambiance adorned with regal decorations, sparkling tiaras, and whimsical princess-themed displays that transport them to a world of fairy tale magic. The fair boasts a diverse array

of vendors offering a treasure trove of handcrafted items, unique products, and princess-inspired goods for sale.

Parents and children can peruse through the vendor booths showcasing exquisite princess dresses, tiaras, fairy wings, enchanted jewelry, and other fantastical accessories fit for royalty. From magical potions to fairy godmother wands, there is a wide selection of items waiting to be discovered and taken home as special keepsakes.

In addition to shopping, families can engage in interactive craft activities tailored to the princess theme. Children can design their own special

craft, have pictures taken with their favorite Prince or Princess. Skilled artisans are on hand to guide participants through the projects and ensure a fun and memorable experience for all.

Throughout the fair, families can enjoy enchanting entertainment such as princess meet-and-greets, live performances featuring beloved fairy tale characters. Food vendors offer a delectable array of treats and beverages to keep everyone happily fueled and refreshed throughout the day.

The Fairytale Princess Craft & Vendor Fair for Families promises a magical day where dreams

Once Upon A time...
A Fairytale Craft & Vendor Fair
 Please contact:
 Melissa w/questions
 207-602-9671
Saturday, May 18th
9am-4pm
Shaw Gym, 75 South St, Gorham, ME 04038

****Bring your kids dressed as their favorite Storybook Character!**

Have your picture taken with a Prince or Princess!

come true, creativity flourishes, and lasting memories are made. It's an en-

chanting opportunity for families to bond, explore, and immerse themselves

in the enchanting world of fairy tales and princesses together.

Garden tool care, maintenance workshop at Tidewater Farm

FALMOUTH, ME — University of Maine Cooperative Extension will host a Garden Tool Maintenance Workshop on Wednesday, April 10, from 5 - 6:30 p.m. at the UMaine Gardens at Tidewater Farm, 200 Presumpscot Point Road, Falmouth.

Proper tool care is an important step for enhancing the longevity and safety of garden tools. In this workshop, we'll demonstrate best practices for maintaining and caring for your garden tools throughout the gardening season. Participants will gain hands-on experience cleaning and sharpening tools of



their own and learn how to store their tools when not in use. Space is limited. Registration is required. Program fee is offered on a sliding scale, \$5-\$15.

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

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Music by Duncan Sheik
 Based on the play by Frank Wedekind

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 Stage Manager: Brandon Chaloux • Producer: Germaine Robinson

Fri-Sat, April 5 & 6 at 7:30 pm
 Sun, April 7 at 2:00 pm

Thu-Fri, April 11 & 12 at 7:30 pm
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SPRING AWAKENING is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

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

Info session for parents of children with disabilities

ROME, ME -- Taking the leap and sending a child to overnight camp is a big decision for any parent. Overnight summer camp is an amazing opportunity for growth and development as well as an opportunity for respite for families.

Pine Tree Camp is a program of Pine Tree Society and is Maine's only American Camp Association accredited camp exclusively for children with disabilities. Week-long



summer overnight and day camp sessions are designed for children living with a full range of disabilities and no camper is ever turned away due to their ability to pay.

On Wednesday, April

24 at 7:00pm, Pine Tree Camp will host an info session for parents and caregivers via Zoom. Attendees will have the chance to meet Pine Tree Camp Director, Dawn Willard-Robinson, get a first-hand look

at the campus, experience the wide array of fully accessible programming and participate in a live Q&A.

This info session will explore all Pine Tree Camp has to offer including:

A 285-acre fully ac-

cessible campus on North Pond in Rome

A barrier-free environment allowing campers, regardless of ability levels, to actively participate in fun activities like swimming, boating, fishing, biking, archery, hiking, drama, arts and a fully accessible treehouse.-Opportunities for campers to make life-long friends with peers

Pine Tree Camp Info Session

Wed, April 24 at

7:00pm

Via Zoom

Pre-registration is required. The Zoom conference login will be sent to participants after registration.

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AXOUE0QaTMyv_WV2INP3RQ

For more information, please contact: Lori Chesley at lchesley@pine-treesociety.org or 207-386-5993.

Forecasting Committee anticipates flat state revenues

AUGUSTA, ME – During its meeting earlier this week, Maine's nonpartisan Revenue Forecasting Committee (RFC) confirmed that the State of Maine's revenues will remain relatively flat through the next biennium (Fiscal Years 2026-2027), while recognizing approximately \$108 million in additional one-time revenue in the current biennium (Fiscal Years 2024-2025).

RFC reduced revenue projections for the next biennium by \$3 million, confirming that revenues are remaining relatively flat after several years of strong growth that peaked in Fiscal Year 2022. This trend in revenues is consistent with that of other states which are now facing budget shortfalls. Governor Mills has proposed saving \$107 million for the next biennium to avoid facing a budget shortfall given that revenues have leveled off.

In fact, revenues are not expected to reach the same level they were in Fiscal Year 2022 until at least Fiscal Year 2026.

Meanwhile, RFC also recognized an additional \$108 million in one-time revenues in the current biennium. This increase in one-time revenues is primarily driven by strong corporate tax revenues, which can be volatile and should not be relied upon for a long-term budgeting outlook like individual income or sales tax revenues. Individual income tax revenues are not expected to reach the 2022 level until Fiscal Year 2027, and, adjusted for inflation, sales tax revenue is forecasted to decline each year starting in Fiscal Year 2025.

Maine's Constitution requires a balanced budget, which means the additional one-time revenue projected today will prompt the Governor to

submit a change package in the coming weeks for the Legislature's consideration.

"The Revenue Forecasting Committee's projections confirm what we have been preparing for – that revenues will remain relatively level through the next biennium, underscoring the importance of saving money now to meet our obligations in the future. These savings are important because, while revenues will remain largely flat, we know the costs of programs will increase in the coming years. We must take this into account now to avoid cutting later," said Kirsten Figueroa, Commissioner of the Maine Department of Administrative and Financial Services. "At the same time, corporate tax revenues are driving significant additional one-time funding for the current biennium that will lead the Administra-

tion to introduce a change package in the coming weeks that will seek to invest prudently in immediate, urgent needs while ensuring we remain on steady fiscal footing in the coming years."

The RFC's projections are based on the February 1, 2024 economic forecast from the independent Consensus Economic Forecasting Commission (CEFC) which revised its 2024 economic outlook for Maine based on strong year-to-date growth in employment and lower inflationary pressures yet showed a mix of salary and wage growth and reduction in the future. The RFC pro-

vided projections with and without consideration of the Transfer to the Maine Milk Pool as pending legislation may significantly impact this figure. The numbers included here do not include changes to the Transfer to the Maine Milk Pool.

This revenue projection for Fiscal Years 2026-2027 will serve as the foundation for the next biennial budget.

Earlier this month, Governor Mills introduced a supplemental budget proposal that invests in urgent needs to support Maine people while saving money to preserve the state's long-term fiscal health.

The Governor's proposal – which is balanced as required by the Maine Constitution – funds previously announced initiatives to address urgent challenges, like housing, education, health care, the opioid epidemic and more. It also proposes saving \$107 million to protect the State's long-term fiscal health as other states face budget shortfalls.

The proposal also takes crucial steps to strengthen disaster response following three devastating storms, and it funds public safety and mental health initiatives included in the Governor's public safety legislation.

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NH Fiddle Ensemble presents 2024 concert season

GORHAM, ME -- The NH Fiddle Ensemble, a local nonprofit, announce concerts for their 2024 season:

Friday, May 3, 2024, 6:30 pm Rochester Opera House, 31 Wakefield St, Rochester, NH

Saturday, May 4, 2024, 6:30 pm Star Theatre, 120 Rogers Road, Kittery, ME

Saturday, May 11, 2024, 6:30 pm Interlakes High School Auditorium, 1 Laker Lane, Meredith, NH

Saturday, May 18, 2024, 6:30 pm Exeter Town Hall, 9 Front Street, Exeter, NH

Sunday, May 19, 2024, 2:00pm Derryfield School, 2108 River Rd, Manchester, NH

Sunday, June 2, 2024, 2:00pm Westbrook Performing Arts Center, 471 Stroudwater St, Westbrook, ME

The 15th year for the ensemble brings together another dedicated group of over 140 people ages 9 – 89. This community orchestra of fiddles, guitars, banjos, mandolins, basses, harps, cellos and even some horns are backed by professionals delivering a heartwarming and energetic performance. As one concert goer said as they left a show, “I come

back every year because this whole show and purpose behind it makes me smile and feel all the good there is in the world. Kids playing with their grandparents, people from all different backgrounds coming together. AND it’s good music!” This show is more than fiddle tunes. We’ve been busy for the past several months working up a stylistically diverse set of music for this year’s concerts. Get ready to hear an 84-year-old fiddler ripping up a solo with a group of teenagers, a French tune spotlighting our cello players, a rock song featuring solos from our bass players, a young trumpeter sweetening up a swing song, a mom backing up her daughter singing, a grandfather playing clarinet with his granddaughters on fiddles, a husband new to banjo playing with his wife who has played violin for many years, and SO much more! You never know what’s in store with this great community of musicians.

The NH Fiddle Ensemble is a nonprofit whose mission is to bring community together through music. Rehearsals start in November and go through April. Music is taught by ear so you won’t see any music stands on stage, just



performers smiling and looking at the audience and each other. After rehearsing in seven smaller

groups throughout New Hampshire and Maine, the groups then come together for 2 large rehearsals and 6




concerts. Some concerts are in partnership with other nonprofits to help raise awareness of community

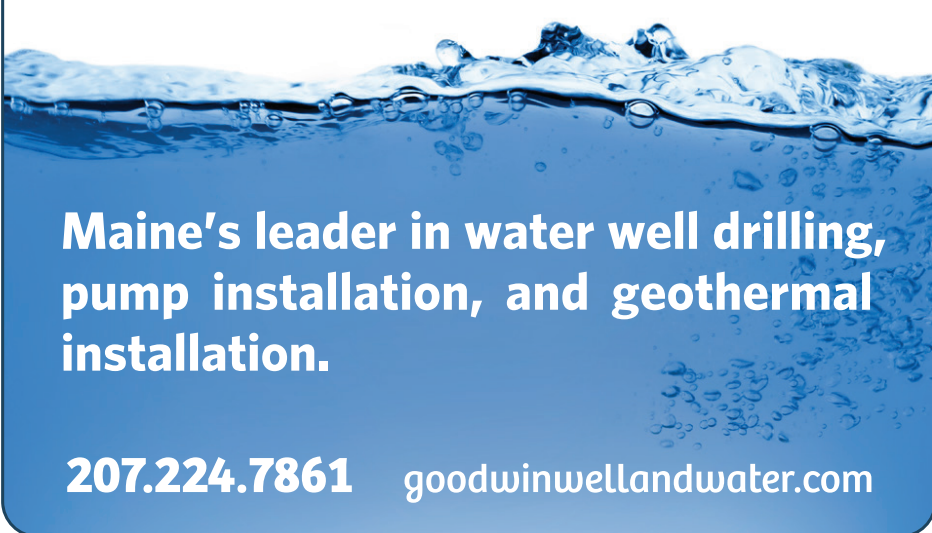
organizations. For tickets, go to: <https://www.nhfiddleensemble.org/concerts/>

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Time: 8AM to 3PM
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Funds secured for USM Gorham cybersecurity classroom

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Senator Susan Collins, Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, announced that she successfully secured \$577,580,000 through Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) for 231 projects located across Maine in the Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations bills. Divided into two bipartisan legislative packages—these bills were signed into law on March 9 and March 23.

This funding secured by Senator Collins will support targeted investments throughout each of Maine’s 16 counties.

“From increasing access to higher education, childcare, and affordable housing to supporting Maine’s working waterfronts, improving our roads and bridges, and promoting economic development, these targeted investments will provide real and direct benefits for communities in all 16 counties,” said Senator Collins. “As Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I fought hard to ensure this important funding was included in the final funding bills.”

The 231 projects requested by Senator Collins are listed by county below:

CUMBERLAND
21 Projects / \$39,680,000

Tedford Emergency Housing (Brunswick)

Recipient: Tedford Housing
Amount: \$1,500,000
Bill: THUD (FY24)
Project Purpose: To construct a 64-bed emergency housing facility.

Town of Brunswick Bay Bridge Community Drinking Water Infrastructure Improvements (Brunswick)

Recipient: Town of Brunswick
Amount: \$1,940,000
Bill: Interior (FY24)
Project Purpose: To upgrade drinking water infrastructure in Brunswick.

University of Southern Maine Cybersecurity Awareness, Research, and Education Center (Gorham)

Recipient: University of Maine System
Amount: \$463,000
Bill: LH-HS-Ed (FY24)
Project Purpose: To create a cybersecurity operations center classroom.

Gray-New Gloucester Road and School Complex Safety Improvements (Gray)

Recipient: Town of Gray
Amount: \$834,000
Bill: THUD (FY24)
Project Purpose: To make public safety improvements to the Gray-New Gloucester Middle and High School complex,

including for emergency use and meeting ADA accessibility needs.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Southern Maine Healthy Minds, Great Futures Program (Portland)

Recipient: Boys & Girls Club of Southern Maine
Amount: \$508,000
Bill: LH-HS-Ed (FY24)

Project Purpose: To expand youth behavioral and mental health services in Auburn, Lewiston, Portland, South Portland.

Cutter Street Railroad Crossing Safety Improvements (Portland)

Recipient: Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad Co. & Museum
Amount: \$36,000
Bill: THUD (FY24)

Project Purpose: To add safety improvements to the historic narrow-gauge line along the Portland waterfront.

Joe’s Place Teen Center and Shelter (Portland)

Recipient: Preble Street
Amount: \$2,000,000
Bill: THUD (FY24)

Project Purpose: To support construction of a new facility that would consolidate Preble Street’s daytime Teen Center and nighttime Teen Shelter into one building.

Maine Seafood and Community Partnership (Portland)

Recipient: Good Shepherd Food Bank
Amount: \$750,000
Bill: CJS (FY24)
Project Purpose: To purchase, process, and donate seafood to schools, community groups, and food banks.

McAuley Residence Programs Expansion (Portland)

Recipient: Community Housing of Maine
Amount: \$15,000,000

Bill: LH-HS-Ed (FY24)

Project Purpose: For construction of new sites to expand residential treatment facilities across Maine.

Mechanics’ Hall Revitalization (Portland)

Recipient: Maine Charitable Mechanic Association
Amount: \$2,860,000
Bill: THUD (FY24)

Project Purpose: To modernize and improve the accessibility of Mechanics’ Hall.

Portland Harbor Patrol Boat Replacement (Portland)

Recipient: Board of Harbor Commissioners for the Harbor of Portland
Amount: \$317,000
Bill: CJS (FY24)

Project Purpose: To replace an aging patrol boat to enhance policing, security, and response capacity in Portland Harbor.

Portland Museum of Art Cultural Center (Portland)

Recipient: Portland Museum of Art
Amount: \$2,000,000
Bill: THUD (FY24)

Project Purpose: To construct a community cultural center.

Portland Police Department Equipment (Portland)

Recipient: Portland Police Department
Amount: \$372,000
Bill: CJS (FY24)
Project Purpose: To replace equipment used by the Portland Police Department’s Hazardous Devices Team.

UMaine Maine Enterprise Campus and Corridor (Portland)

Recipient: University of Maine System
Amount: \$2,400,000
Bill: FSGG (FY24)
Project Purpose: To create the Maine Enterprise Campus Corridor to

support small businesses through research and workforce development.

Home and Community Based Services Vehicles (South Portland)

Recipient: Port Resources
Amount: \$100,000
Bill: LH-HS-Ed (FY24)

Project Purpose: To purchase wheelchair-accessible vehicles.

Maine Fire Service Institute (South Portland)

Recipient: Southern Maine Community College
Amount: \$500,000
Bill: THUD (FY24)
Project Purpose: To construct an equipment and training storage facility for use by the Maine Fire Service Institute.

Northern Light Telehealth (South Portland)

Recipient: VNA Home Health & Hospice d/b/a Northern Light Home Care & Hospice
Amount: \$1,000,000
Bill: LH-HS-Ed (FY24)

Project Purpose: To acquire telehealth devices for hospice and home health patients.

SMCC Health Care Careers Simulation Center (South Portland)

Recipient: Southern Maine Community College (SMCC)
Amount: \$4,100,000
Bill: LH-HS-Ed (FY24)

Project Purpose: For facilities and equipment to support health care workforce training.

America’s Volunteer Driver Center (Westbrook)

Recipient: ITNAmerica
Amount: \$1,000,000
Bill: THUD (FY24)
Project Purpose: To develop, plan, and support nonprofit volunteer transportation.

Westbrook Regional Vocational Center (Westbrook)

Recipient: Westbrook School Department
Amount: \$1,500,000
Bill: THUD (FY24)

Project Purpose: To construct a vocational fire training facility.

Royal River, ME (Yarmouth)

Recipient: Army Corps of Engineers
Amount: \$500,000
Bill: E&W (FY24)
Project Purpose: To prepare for a dredge of the Royal River.

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UMA earns 2 U.S. News “Best Online” awards

AUGUSTA, ME – The University of Maine at Augusta (UMA), a leader in distance learning for over 30 years, is proud to announce that UMA has been awarded two U.S. News Top 100 Best Online Program rankings in the categories of Best Online Bachelor’s Programs and Best Online Bachelor’s Programs for Veterans.

U.S. News conducted vigorous, in-depth evaluations of U.S. based degree programs designed to be administered online. “Highly ranked programs have strong traditional academic foundations based on student-instructor access, graduation rates, and instructor credentials. They also excel at educating distance learners while offering robust career and financial support” proclaims the U.S. News website. With a student to faculty ratio of

16:1; 29 degrees available fully online; tutoring; academic advising; career advising; job search resources; and numerous financial aid options, the University of Maine at Augusta continues to prove itself worthy of this honor.

In line with UMA’s mission to provide high-quality distance education and innovative professional programs, these outstanding rankings underscore UMA’s dedication to academic excellence and commitment to U.S. veterans. Jennifer Cushman, UMA President, shared, “University of Maine at Augusta is honored to be recognized both for our long-time expertise in online education and our strong support of veterans. We are proud of the relevance of our approach to higher education in the twenty-first century. Our



historic mission to meet all populations of students where they are, to get them where they want to be, is achieved through providing workforce training for today’s economy, in multiple locations and modes, and cultivating bachelor’s and master’s level essential skills for tomorrow’s economy, like problem solving and communication.”

In addition to the Best Online Bachelor’s criteria, schools rated best for veterans have, “the best online bachelor’s degree programs that help veterans reduce the cost of school,” announced U.S. News. Vice President of Enroll-

ment Management, Jonathan Henry, stated, “UMA is proud to again be recognized for our continued support of veterans and our strength in delivering quality higher education that is both accessible and affordable.”

UMA helps all students find ways to fund their education. Utilizing the broad range of financial aid resources available, such as federal grants, the Pine Tree Pledge and the UMA 10K programs, over 80 different scholarships, and more, many students end up paying zero tuition. Qualifying active and veteran students can apply

for all the financial aid options above, as well as the Montgomery G.I. Bill® or Post 9/11 G.I. Bill®. Jamie Santiago, Director of Financial Aid at UMA advises, “to be considered for the maximum amount of financial aid possible, it is important to submit your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at studentaid.gov as early as you can.” To learn more about financial aid options, please visit <https://www.uma.edu/financial>.

Since its founding in 1965 when a simple “Welcome Veterans” sign encouraged Vietnam-era Veterans to enroll, UMA has continued a rich tradition of supporting military-experienced students. Amy Line, UMA Director of Military and Veterans’ Services expressed, “we are pleased to receive the Best Online Bachelor’s Programs for

Veterans again this year. UMA’s commitment to educating and providing opportunities to our military, veterans, and families continues to be a priority and it shows!” Hundreds of veterans, active military personnel, and members of the national guard now study at UMA, and all of UMA’s Admissions staff members are trained to work with the unique needs of veteran and military students. More information about military and veteran services can be found at uma.edu/veterans.

With its multiple locations and long-term expertise in online and distance learning, affordability, and dedication to student success, UMA is widely considered the university of choice for Mainers of all ages who want to attend college without uprooting their lives.

\$15M invested Maine’s community colleges

AUGUSTA, ME – Maine’s community colleges received almost \$15 million in recent federal funding, with more than half of the funds directed at adding health care training facilities and technology at multiple colleges.

The funding, included in the federal budget package signed by President Joe Biden over the weekend, is particularly timely since Maine’s community colleges recently doubled their nursing program capacity and significantly expanded short-term workforce training programs in health care to meet industry demand.

“We deeply appreciate the work by U.S. Senator Susan Collins and U.S. Senator Angus King in securing these funds to train more health care workers on cutting-edge equipment,” said David Daigler, president of the Maine

Community College System (MCCS). “There is such a desperate need right now in Maine for health care workers, and we’re seeing high demand for our health care programs.”

The federal funding will also be used to add virtual reality teaching tools, expand a plumbing lab at one college, provide temporary housing for students enrolled in short-term workforce training programs, and expand high-demand academic programs.

“Maine’s congressional delegation works tirelessly to assure that Maine’s community colleges have the resources we need to educate and train Maine workers. I would especially like to thank Senator Collins who spearheaded the complex budget negotiations to bring this funding to fruition,” Daigler said.

The federal funding will go toward the following projects:

Central Maine Community College:

Expand Kirk Hall by 7,200 square feet to train an additional 100 nurses annually, add a surgical technology program, update the science lab, improve the exercise science and physical fitness specialist programs, and enhance short-term workforce training programs in healthcare. (\$3.25 million) Collins

Eastern Maine Community College:

Instructional Space and Professional Development: Improve instructional areas and curriculum enhancements by adding new simulation, laboratory and classroom equipment; use funds to support faculty training and professional development. (\$1.65 million)

Collins Kennebec Valley Community College:

Enhanced Radiology Lab: Improve existing lab to enhance simulation tools and improve training for students in Radiologic Technician program. (\$513,000) Collins

Expanded Plumbing Lab: Expand and update plumbing lab to improve tools and expand capacity to increase the number of students in program. (\$803,000) Collins

Northern Maine Community College:

Andrews Hall Renovation: Renovate Andrews Hall to expand temporary housing for short-term workforce training students, helping to keep those in the industry trained and credentialed. (\$500K) Golden

Diesel Equipment and Technology: Expand the diesel hydraulic pro-

gram to enroll 36 students to meet workforce demands. (\$410,000) Collins and King

Technology Upgrades: Extend warranties for five human patient simulators, upgrade wireless technology and install fiber between buildings to support advanced technology training across campus. (\$550,000) Collins and King

Southern Maine Community College:

Health Care Simulation Lab: Build a new simulation lab to provide health care students with realistic hands-on technology. (\$4.1 million) Collins

Maine Fire Service Institute storage facility: Facility to store and maintain safety equipment and teaching props for current equipment and future equipment needs. (\$500,000) Collins

Washington County

Community College:

Technology Upgrades, Professional Development, Virtual Reality Technology: Purchase high-tech equipment such as virtual reality technology for labs and classrooms and provide professional development in the tools. (\$1.63 million) Collins and King

York County Community College:

Equipment purchase, Technology Upgrades, Supplies: Investments in new welding machines, pipe-fitting equipment, and testing equipment for the Sanford Instructional Site; new virtual reality lab and virtual reality training tools for the trades and multiple other programs; updated equipment for Cyber Security program; and supplies and equipment for dental, nursing, and vet tech programs. (\$986,000) Collins

\$23M contract awarded to Bath Iron Works

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King announced that the U.S. Navy has awarded Bath Iron Works (BIW) a \$22,714,829 contract to continue providing planning yard services for the

DDG 1000 Zumwalt-class destroyers.

“Time and time again, the hardworking, highly-skilled men and women at Bath Iron Works demonstrate that Bath built is best built. Recent military engagements in the

Red Sea have only confirmed this fact, as Bath built ships played a critical role in successfully protecting the global free trade system from terrorist threats,” said Senators Collins and King in a joint statement. “This new fund-

ing is a testament to the shipyard’s expertise that will strengthen Maine’s economy and allow BIW’s engineers, designers, and planners to continue producing their world-class ships. We will continue our efforts to ensure that the

shipyard has the resources it needs to construct these critical elements of our national security that protect our interests around the globe.”

As the DDG 1000 planning yard, BIW provides engineering and design services and other products as required to maintain, modernize and sustain the 3-ship Zumwalt class. This contract includes options which, if exercised, would bring the cumulative value of this contract to \$343,700,000. The work will be performed in Bath and is expected to be completed by March 2025. If addition-

al options are exercised, work will continue through March 2029.

Senator Collins is Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee and Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. Senator King is a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and Chair of the Strategic Forces Subcommittee.

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Sewing hundreds of pajamas for children in need

MAINE -- For the second year in a row, University of Maine Cooperative Extension Homemakers across the state partnered with nonprofit Janet's Jammies to make hundreds of pajamas for children in need. Volunteers from Homemaker clubs in Aroostook, Cumberland, Franklin, Hancock and Somerset Counties turned piles of donated fabric into 260 pairs of flannel pajama bottoms.

When she heard about the effort of the Homemakers, Janet's mother, Shirley Ladd, said, "I think Janet would be in tears knowing that so many children have been blessed by the work of the Homemakers to assemble and distribute so many sets of pajamas in her name."

A red heart is sewn onto each pair of pajamas to symbolize the love that went into every stitch. United Way in several Maine counties helped to

identify families in need and then distributed the colorful pajamas with matching tee shirts to kids from ages 2 to 6.

"This has been such a fun project to work on," said Diane Parent of the Caribou Homemakers group in Aroostook County. "We're all working together across the state for the same goal."

Lisa Fishman, State Coordinator of Maine Extension Homemakers, agreed. "Whether the work was being done in Farmington, or Bucksport, or Madison, everyone had the same goal: to get warm pajamas out to kids who needed them most."

United Way representatives across the state were thrilled to receive the pajamas, with several branches staying open beyond normal business hours to receive them. The director of the Boys and Girls club of Augusta called to request additional pajamas to



Betty Robshaw (Hancock County), Rita Fortin (Somerset County), and Mary Soper (Hancock County) package pajamas for delivery to local children. Courtesy University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

make sure they could meet the needs in their area.

Janet's Jammies was established as a nonprofit in 2021 in honor of Janet Brzozowski, an avid seamstress who loved sewing clothes for others. The organization was founded on Janet's philosophy "to delight in the detail, to stitch care in every garment, and to wrap ourselves in the love of our family."

The Maine Extension Homemakers are already stitching pajamas

for the next distribution, scheduled for November. This time around, Janet's Jammies is creating larger sized patterns to accommodate older youth. The organization is also requesting donations of clean flannel material. If you have extra material you'd like to donate, contact Extension Homemakers State Coordinator Lisa Fishman at lisa.fishman@maine.edu.

The Extension Homemakers of Maine is a community-based organi-



zation comprised of caring and industrious individuals across the state. More than half of Maine counties have active chapters. Every year, Extension Homemakers take on a statewide

project with the purpose of learning something new, serving others, and benefiting communities. To learn more about Extension Homemakers in Maine visit the program webpage.

Sen. Collins secures funding for diabetes program

WASHINGTON, D.C. —U.S. Senator Susan Collins, Vice Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and a member of the Senate Health Committee, announced that she secured a provision in the March 8th funding package that was signed into law last week to reauthorize the Special Diabetes Program (SDP) through December 31, 2024, at an annual rate of approximately \$160 million per year – a roughly \$10 million increase from current funding levels. This is the first funding increase for SDP in 20 years.

"Renewal of the Special Diabetes Program will help to accelerate the progress we have made over the past two decades to treat, and one day cure, Type 1 diabetes, as well as continue much-needed support, education, and



diabetes treatment in Native American and Alaska Native communities," said Senator Collins. "I am also pleased that our bipartisan efforts have resulted in continuation of the Special Diabetes Program and an overdue increase. I will continue to champion investments that support Americans living with this disease."

"JDRF is thrilled the Special Diabetes Program has been renewed until December 2024—and with a much-needed increase in funding—ensuring that critical type 1 diabetes (T1D) research continues," said Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation CEO Aaron Kowalski, Ph.D. "This renewal

would not have been possible without the tireless work of Senate Diabetes Caucus Co-chairs Susan Collins (R-ME) and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH). Senators Collins and Shaheen have been incredible allies of the T1D community and JDRF for years. We are grateful for their tremendous leadership and partnership on this important issue."

"The Endocrine Society is thrilled that Congress has reauthorized the Special Diabetes Program. We greatly appreciate the leadership of Senator Collins and Senator Shaheen to ensure that more funds are dedicated to type 1 diabetes research and type 2 diabetes prevention, education, and treatment pro-

grams for indigenous communities," said Endocrine Society Chief Medical Officer Dr. Robert W. Lash. "Diabetes is a chronic disease that affects millions of Americans, and the Special Diabetes Program supports important work to improve public health."

For more than 25 years, the Special Diabetes Program – comprised of the Special Statutory Funding Program for Type 1 Diabetes Research and the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) – has delivered meaningful resources and research breakthroughs for those with Type 1 diabetes and

also for Native Americans and Alaska Natives. Congress has reauthorized the SDP with bipartisan support numerous times since the program's inception in 1997, yet funding has remained flat since fiscal year 2004. During this time period, the cost of research has increased, as has the size of the Indian Health Service population and the cost of medical care.

As a co-chair of the Senate Diabetes Caucus, Senator Collins has worked to increase awareness of the threats posed by diabetes, invest in research, and improve access to treatment options. Last May, Senators Collins and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) led a bipartisan letter to Senate leadership emphasizing the importance of SDP that

was signed by a total of 60 Senators. In June, Senators Collins and Shaheen introduced legislation to reauthorize the program. The Special Diabetes Program Reauthorization Act of 2023, which proposed a funding increase for both components of the SDP, advanced out of the Senate Health Committee in June by a 20-1 vote. Senator Collins also chaired the JDRF Children's Congress in July to highlight the need to reauthorize the SDP before program funding expired in September 2023. Prior to securing the increase in the March 8th package, Senator Collins secured extensions of the SDP and SDP-I in past continuing resolutions to ensure the program continued uninterrupted.

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Fridays Apr 5 – May 10

NORWAY -- Opening Minds through Art, Fridays April 5 - May 10, 2 pm – 3 pm at Education Center of SeniorsPlus at 9 Marston St., Norway

Through a series of classes, OMA engages adults with dementia in creating free-wheeling art. Contact SeniorsPlus, at 207-795-4010, edcenter@seniorsplus.org.

Apr 5

GORHAM -- Relay For Life of Southern Maine: A free community event to support the American Cancer Society

Friday, April 5 from 6-10pm, Costello Sports Complex USM-Gorham Campus. FMI: relayforlife.org/southernme

Apr 6

GORHAM -- Public Bean Supper at White Rock Community Clubhouse, 34 Wilson Road, Gorham on Saturday, April 6, 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

Apr 6, May 4

WESTBROOK -- Prides Corner Community Church, 235 Pride St. Bean Supper \$10 per

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

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.

Apr 7

AUBURN -- Sunday, April 7, “Treks and Sojourns: From Fear to Faith” featuring Holly Cooney. 12 noon; free. First Universalist Church of Auburn 169 Pleasant St. Enter on Spring, St., across from Dairy Joy. Parking; accessible. FMI 783-0461 or www.auburnu.org.

Apr 10-14

MAINE -- DaPonte String Quartet Concerts with guest Amanda Hardy. Oboe

Wednesday, 7 pm, April 10, Portland, Jewish Community Alliance

Thursday, 7 pm, April 11, Rockport, Union Hall

Friday, 7 pm, April 12, Freeport, Meeting-house Arts

Saturday, 4 pm, April 13, Farmington, Nordica Hall

Sunday, 4 pm, April 14, Boothbay, St. Columba’s Episcopal Church

Program: Mozart Oboe Quartet KV 370; Dohnányi Serenade for

String Trio, Op. 10; Britten Phantasy Quartet for oboe, violin, viola and cello

Apr 12-13

AUGUSTA -- Maine Homeschool Exchange April 12-13 at the Augusta Armory. Details: www.homeschoolersofmaine.com

HOME’s annual convention returns for another year as the Maine Homeschool Exchange! Enjoy shopping for discounted curriculum, resources, and books, attending informative workshops, participating in fun-filled activities, and getting to know homeschooling families around the state of Maine!

Apr 19-21, 25-28

BAR MILLS -- The Original’s present A Murder is Announced by Agatha Christie at Saco River Theatre, 29 Salmon Falls Road, Bar Mills, ME, April 19, 20, 25, 26, 27 @ 7:30 PM; and April 21 & 28 at 2:30pm. Tickets: \$15 General Admission at www.sacorivertheatre.org.

Apr 27

GRAY -- The First Congregational Church of Gray Saturday Night Church Supper held on Saturday, April 27, 2024 @ 5:00 at the Parish House, 5 Brown Street, Gray. Hand-

icapped 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

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 3

LEWISTON -- Friday, May 3rd from 10:00am – 11:30am at the Lewiston Public Library: LITTLE KEEPSAKES: MY LITTLE SUNSHINE TOTE BAGS

Caregivers will be able to create a personalized keepsake tote bag using the handprints of their young children. The program is recommended for kids ages birth to 6 years and their caregivers. Siblings are also welcome to attend.

513-3133; www.LPLonline.org

May 18, 19

LEWISTON, TOPSHAM -- “Cityscape, Seascape, Soundscape” Saturday, May 18, 2024, 7:00 p.m. - Franco Center, Lewiston ; Sunday, May

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19, 2024, 2:30 p.m. - Orion Performing Arts Center, Topsham

Fridays June 14 – July 19

LEWISTON -- Opening Minds through Art, Fridays June 14 – July 19, 2 pm – 3 pm, Education Center of SeniorsPlus at 8 Falcon Road in Lewiston

Through a series of classes, OMA engages adults with dementia in creating free-wheeling art. Contact SeniorsPlus, at 207-795-4010, edcenter@seniorsplus.org.

June 15

AUBURN -- On Saturday, June 15th, the Maine Iris Society will hold its 59th Annual Flower Show from 1:30 - 4:00 pm at the Auburn Middle School, 38 Falcon Drive in Auburn. Admission is free. There will be a plant sale of potted perennials. Bare-root iris rhizomes will also be available this year for \$1.00 each. Come and vote for your favorite Iris

Bloom, Iris Stalk, Peony and Hosta Leaf.

July 6

GORHAM -- Hosta auctions are coming July 6th when the Maine Hosta Society will offer many exciting hosta varieties at the Treworgy Homestead and Garden at 120 Flaggy Meadow Road in Gorham, Maine. The silent auction will begin at 10:00 a.m. and the live auction at 1:00 p.m. SAVE THE DATE for this event that is free and open to the public.

Thursdays Aug 1 – Sept 5

WILTON -- Opening Minds through Art, Thursdays August 1 – September 5, 1 pm – 2 pm at Education Center of SeniorsPlus at 284 Main St., Suite 100, Wilton

Through a series of classes, OMA engages adults with dementia in creating free-wheeling art. Contact SeniorsPlus, at 207-795-4010, edcenter@seniorsplus.org.

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Field Funding Campaign



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

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

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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 Water-side 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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