

Share the road: Trek across Maine event coming through Gorham

GORHAM, ME -- The Trek Across Maine (40th Anniversary Event), organized by the American Lung Association, will be making their way across Gorham on Sunday, June 16th, as well as neighboring towns and cities. Citizens are asked for their support, patience, and extra care with slowing down and sharing the road as the cyclists make their way through Gorham.

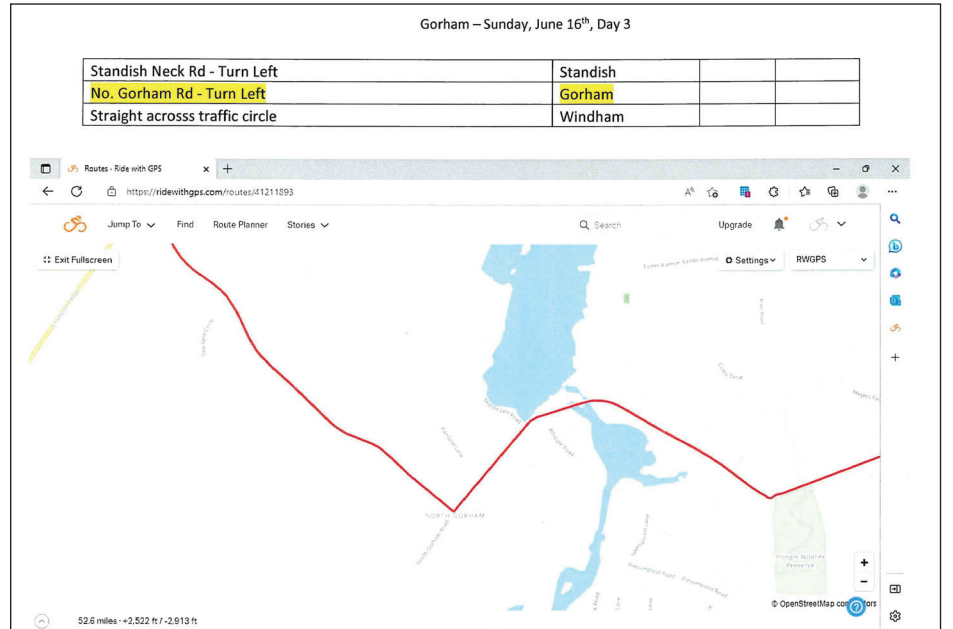


This cycling event will take place between June 14th through June 16th across Maine during which 800+ cyclists and vehicles (large trucks), as

well as 400+ volunteers will be on Gorham and other town and city roads during daytime hours. Cyclists will keep right as much as possible. Gorham Public Safety is aware of

the event.

Please find the tentative route map* (*final route map to be provided soon). Citizens can contact 207-624-0312 with any questions.



SUNDAY, APRIL 21

EARTH DAY WEEKEND

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- CHECK-IN AND INFORMATION AT MUNICIPAL CENTER

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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!

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

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

McDonald's, Maine Celtics raise \$558K with Round-Up for RMHC

PORTLAND, ME – New England McDonald's have launched a multi-year partnership with the Maine Celtics, the NBA G League Affiliate of the Boston Celtics. As an official partner, New England McDonald's fans will gain access to exclusive game day app deals, giveaways and more.

On March 22, the Maine Celtics joined local Maine McDonald's Owner Operators at the Ronald McDonald House in Portland to celebrate an exciting milestone reached thanks to the help of the community. Since "Round-Up for RMHC" started almost

five years ago, Maine McDonald's Owner Operators have raised \$558,592.30, with help from the community "rounding up" their purchases.

"This partnership is a slam dunk for McDonald's and basketball fans across the state," said local Maine McDonald's Operator Ron Lydick. "By bringing together two legacy brands, fans will have the chance to score big on our iconic menu items through the McDonald's app. With McDonald's and the C's on the court together, everyone wins."

The partnership includes opportunities for



From left to right: Maine Celtics entertainment team members Morgan Eustis, Sammy Falk, Maine Celtics player DJ Steward, RMHC Development Director Ian Tovell, Maine McDonald's Owner Operator James Nygren, McDonald's Operations Manager Kim Young and Maine McDonald's Owner Operator Ron Lydick.

fans to cash in on exclusive digital offers through the McDonald's app, including the chance to redeem a free Big Mac with \$2 purchase when the opponent misses a free throw. Fans may also catch glimpses of familiar Celtics faces in Maine McDonald's restaurants throughout the season.

"We are thrilled to continue our partnership with McDonald's here in Maine," said Maine Celtics Team President Dajuan Eubanks. "The local franchise owners are a part of the fabric of our community, and the McDonald's brand has been intertwined with the NBA for years. This

partnership makes sense for us on every level."

The collaboration also emphasizes McDonald's and the Celtics' shared commitment to supporting local communities through collaborative giveback initiatives. The Celtics will support McDonald's initiatives benefiting Ronald McDonald House Charities of Maine – including Round-Up for RMHC – through player and mascot appearances.

Fans can learn more about the partnership and upcoming digital deals via Instagram, Facebook and TikTok @McDonaldsNewEngland.

Sierra Club, Tribes host film screenings

BRUNSWICK, ME -- Sierra Club Maine in partnership with the Nez Perce tribe of Idaho, Wabanaki Alliance, and the Penobscot Indian Nation will be hosting two screenings of the film Covenant of the Salmon People—one in Brunswick on April 17, and one in Bangor on April 18. Doors open at 6pm.

The evening will include a screening of the film followed by a panel discussion focusing on restoration efforts of wild salmon populations, particularly the recovery of

Atlantic Salmon here in Maine. Chairman Shannon Wheeler of the Nez Perce tribe will be in attendance for both screenings.

In addition to the Nez Perce, Wabanaki Alliance and Penobscot Indian Nation, panelists will include the Atlantic Salmon Federation, Downeast Salmon Federation, and the Natural Resources Council of Maine.

Covenant of the Salmon People is a 60-minute documentary portrait of the Nez Perce tribe as they continue to carry out their ancient



promise to protect Chinook salmon, cornerstone species and first food their

people have subsisted on for tens of thousands of years. The covenant with salmon is woven into their culture, history, and now their modern-day species restoration efforts.

The Nez Perce people are the oldest documented civilization in North America, with archaeological sites along Idaho's Salmon River dating back 16,500 years.

The Atlantic salmon, dubbed the 'king of fish', once numbered in the hundreds of thousands in the United States and ranged up and down most

of New England's coastal rivers and ocean waters. But dams, pollution and overfishing have extirpated them from all of the region's rivers except in Maine.

Today, only around 1,000 wild salmon, known as the Gulf of Maine distinct population segment, return each year from their swim to Greenland. Numerous organizations and institutions have been working tirelessly for many years to bring our rivers back to life and to return Atlantic salmon home to Maine in historic

numbers. From the precedent-setting removal of the Edwards Dam in Augusta in 1999 to scores of smaller dam removal and habitat restoration projects, these dedicated individuals and organizations are champions of this effort.

These film screenings are sponsored by the partner organizations and the Maine Community Foundation and Bangor Savings Bank. For tickets and information please visit sierraclub.org/maine/ events.

UMaine Extension 4-H offers online club on farm animal care

MAINE -- University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H will offer an online club for youth ages 9-18 about the basics of farm animal care on Wednesdays, 4 - 5 p.m., April 24 - May 8, 2024.

The 4-H Farm Animal Care FUNDamentals Workshop Series will introduce the basics of caring for livestock. In

this workshop, youth will learn how to care for farm animals, what to feed them, how to do regular health checks and more. Participants do not need to have any prior animal experience or currently own livestock. This is a beginner/introductory level program. An optional in-person field day with hands-on animal science is scheduled for Saturday,

May 4th. The workshop is free; participation is limited to 15. Required registration closes April 8. Register on the event webpage to receive the link and at-home materials.

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



Youth from across Maine join an online session last summer with Extension Professor and Livestock Specialist Colt Knight to learn all about pigs. Photo courtesy University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Harvesting Good welcomes Melissa Motejunas

YARMOUTH, ME – Harvesting Good, Good Shepherd Food Bank’s frozen produce subsidiary, is pleased to announce its recent hire of Melissa Motejunas as the team’s new director of sales and marketing.

Harvesting Good is a wholly owned subsidiary of Good Shepherd Food Bank of Maine and a for-profit benefit corporation. All profits benefit food banks in the Northeast and Upstate New York. Northeastern farmers have grappled with seasonal limitations for years, restricting their fresh produce sales. Harvesting Good emerged as a solution, bridging the gap between small farmers and consumers by establishing a regional frozen processing system.

“I am so excited to be part of a mission-driven business that is transforming our local food system! I personally grew up experiencing food insecurity here in Maine, and it has been a true honor to collaborate and work with other mission-driven people in our community. Harvesting Good addresses both the solution and the symptom of food insecurity, and that is so special.”

From the very beginning, Melissa Motejunas found her passion in hospitality, service, and feeding those facing food insecurity. Having spent her entire career in the food service industry, she rose to prominent management roles with top restaurants and chefs nationwide.

Before joining Harvesting Good, Melissa



Melissa Motejunas, director of sales and marketing for Harvesting Good

worked as the Procurement and Strategic Accounts Manager at Native Maine Produce. She led the company’s local pro-

urement, advocacy, and community outreach work while managing a portfolio of more than 600 school, non-profit, and institution-

al accounts across Maine and New Hampshire. Melissa flourished in this space as she worked towards developing creative and efficient solutions to improve program efficiencies by prioritizing local foods, fruits, and vegetable consumption.

Melissa, a lifelong Mainer, has a deep connection and passion for education, children, and advocacy, which enriches her role on the Political Advisory Committee for the International Fresh Produce Association. She also serves on the Network Advisory Committee of FINE, Sodexo’s Maine Course Advisory Committee, and is a member of the Maine Food Convergence and Maine Farm and Sea to School.

“Harvesting Good’s

mission is to ensure equitable access to nutritious food for all and strengthen regional food systems by creating food processing infrastructure for farmers in the Northeast and Upstate New York,” stated Matt Chin, president of Harvesting Good. “With the addition of Melissa to our small but mighty team, we will be connecting to all institutional accounts that support our mission and are dedicated to local procurement. With Melissa’s passion and experience in the local food space, she will accelerate and further our partnership with our institutional customers.”

For more information about Harvesting Good and to find a retailer near you, visit www.HarvestingGood.com.

Catholic Charities Maine welcomes new board members

PORTLAND, ME – Four new members joined the Catholic Charities Maine Board in January 2024. They are:

Scott Blakeslee, a retired CPA with 29 years of financial industry experience specializing in audit and tax services to the housing industry. He lives in the Portland/Westbrook area of Maine and has been a member of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher since 2018.

Peter Czerwinski, a Catholic Chaplain for Maine General Alford Center for Health. He has experience in many areas of Catholic Ministry in the field of patient care and recently began the Diaconate program with the diocese of Portland, Maine. He is active in St. Michaels Parish, Augusta.

Victoire LiWanga, originally from the Demo-

cratic Republic of Congo, is the Workforce Development Coordinator for New Mainers at Northern Maine Community College and a member of the Northern Maine Growth Initiative, a task force comprised of local business and community leaders, building connections to the refugee community and providing resources and support to families seeking to build a life in Northern Maine. She has extensive experience in financial management and fundraising and is active in the Cathedral Parish, Portland.

Joseph W. Powers, CFP®, CLU, CEPA®, founding partner of Great Diamond Partners, where he leads the financial planning and insurance strategies. He is a Big Brother and the past president of Big Brothers, Big Sisters



Scott Blakeslee

of Southern Maine and a former Chair of the Catholic Foundation of Maine. He and his wife are supporters of Good Shepherd Food Bank and Portland Ovations and live in Yarmouth, Maine.

In addition, the board announced new assignments as of January 2024. Jared des Rosiers is the new Chair of the board; Kim Suttie is the Vice Chair; Paula Moses is Treasurer, and Cindy Nickless is Secretary.



Peter Czerwinski



Victoire LiWanga



Joseph W. Powers

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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Traversing the Renowned Traveler Loop



A hiker ascends along treacherous cliffs on North Traveler Mountain



A team of mountaineers assemble at the North Traveler summit



The cliffs on North Traveler provide a scenic location for lunch

On the second day of our recent winter expedition into Baxter State Park, six of us awoke early in the bunkhouse at South Branch Pond Campground. The goal for the day was an attempt to climb North Traveler Mountain. If conditions and time permitted, some intended to complete the famed Traveler Loop. Coping with an arthritic knee, I would consider myself fortunate to summit North Traveler. The long trek over three peaks was an objective too far for me.

The Traveler Loop is a prized winter goal for many mountaineers. Traveling clockwise, it consists of three peaks: North Traveler, Traveler, and Peak of

the Ridges. All over 3,000 feet in elevation, the allure is not just the altitudes but rather their remote location, difficulty of access, and majestic beauty. At 3,541 feet, Traveler is the highest in the range, most distant, and rarely climbed in winter.

An attempt to complete the loop during a winter expedition last year was thwarted by deep snow and stormy weather. During our ski into the hut the previous day, departing members of the team who preceded us said the trail was broken and they had completed the loop. So we were optimistic about the possibilities.

We finished breakfast

before first light. When the sun rose, the crew was delighted and surprised to have partly sunny skies, light winds, and temperatures in the 30s.

The snow accumulation was thin and hard packed in the campground and at the trailhead. Recent storms had brought unusually heavy rainfall to the area. After some deliberation, we decided to forego carrying snowshoes. Instead, we chose to wear micro spikes.

The North Traveler Trail begins a short distance east of the cabin. Intently focused, six of us started our quest hiking on patchy ice and snow in a mixed hardwood and conifer

forest. The trail quickly steepens and soon transitions to a narrow twisting precipitous path.

Initially, micro spikes were effective on the predominantly icy surface. However, extended sections of barren rocks and boulders necessitated removing them. Subsequently, we scrambled over a continuum of treacherous ledges wearing bare boots while experiencing trail conditions that varied between exposed rock, ice, and hard packed snow. On a positive note, the open cliffs and rocky crags provided marvelous views of South Branch Pond, Peak of the Ridges, and the Katahdin Massif in the distance.

The imposing exposed ridge is interrupted by a seemingly magical white birch forest soon followed by a dense stand of conifers. Modest snowpack had accumulated in both. Had we carried snowshoes, they would have been temporarily beneficial negotiating through the two wooded areas. Instead, we endured sporadic post holing.

Just beyond, we arrived at the barren, snow-free, rounded summit where a spectacular 360 degree panorama was our reward. A view of promi-

nent Bald Mountain to the east was particularly intriguing. A possible future bushwhack was discussed.

The anticipated deliberations about completing the remainder of Traveler Loop ensued. Adequate time remained, so Bruce Weik and Shawn Higgins decided to continue while the rest of the group chose to return with me and my elderly affliction.

During a leisurely descent in remarkable spring-like conditions, we took the time to enjoy the wonderful vistas and lunch on the cliffs. At one prominence, we were able to get an updated weather forecast. The news wasn't encouraging. One more day of excellent weather followed by three days of rain, mixed precipitation, and possibly snow was the prediction.

Bruce and Shawn had a successful trek on the rest of the loop. They experienced magnificent views and only minor difficulties with trail finding on Traveler and Peak of the Ridges. The determined mountaineering duo lost the trail descending from Peak of the Ridges and bushwhacked down the sparsely wooded ridge to Pogy Notch Trail on South Branch Pond.

While partaking of a delicious meal that eve-

ning, plans were formulated for the following day. If the forecast held, a climb of spectacular Barrel Ridge was the choice. The temperatures were unusually warm so some decided to sleep outside.

My book, *Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine* relates the challenges encountered on an earlier winter traverse of the Traveler Loop and winter expeditions to Mount Katahdin and the high peaks in the northwestern part of the park.

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

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

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Don't miss the 22nd annual Plunkett Maine Poetry Festival

AUGUSTA, ME—The Plunkett Maine Poetry Festival, an annual celebration of emerging and established poets and poetry, will be held on Saturday, April 27th at the UMA Augusta Campus in Jewett Hall at 46 University Drive, and Online. This year's keynote speaker is Brian Turner, poet, musician, professor, and US Army veteran who served in Bosnia-Herzegovina with the 10th Mountain Division, and later as an infantry team leader for a year in Iraq with the 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. Best known for his poems about serving in the Iraq war, Turner has authored five collections of poetry including the critically acclaimed *Here, Bullet* and his newest *The Wild Delight of Wild Things*. His poems and essays have been published in National Geographic, the New York

Times, and The Guardian, just to name a few. Roxana Robinson of The Washington Post proclaims, "Turner is...a poet, and he cannot help but see the world, even the world of combat, in terms of beauty, fragility and heartbreaking splendor.... [His] eloquent rendering illuminates both the shared space and the painful divide between poet and soldier, mission and memory, war and peace."

Festival Activities:
Two free workshops will be offered concurrently from 1:00-2:30 pm in Jewett Hall. Attendees may choose "Phantom Noise: Entering the Sound Archive" with Julia Bouwsma or "Poetry of Transmutation" with Claire Millikin. Each session is limited to 16 participants. Both workshops are free of charge but do require pre-registration. Visit uma.edu/plunkett for more de-



Brian Turner, Poet. Keynote speaker at the 22nd Annual Plunkett Maine Poetry Festival at the University of Maine at Augusta. Image Source: Agent website - <https://blueflowerarts.com/artist/brian-turner/> with permission of Miyako Hannan-Scarponi, Speakers Representative, miyako@blueflowerarts.com

tails about each or to register.

A panel discussion on Publishing will be held from 2:45-3:45 pm in the Farber Forum, in Jewett Hall, and live streamed. All the panelists are from small, independent, Maine-based presses and publications. Panelists include: Steve Luttrell of *Café Review: International Journal of Art and Poetry*, Maya Stein of *Kerning Journal and Toad Hall Edition*, and Agnes Bushell of *Littoral Books*. Full details about the presenters can be found at uma.edu/plunkett.

Preceding the Keynote Event, enjoy or join in the Readings and Open Mic, a festival favorite, from 4:00-4:30 pm in Jewett Hall's Danforth Gallery. Light refreshments will be provided. Then, across the hall in the Farber Forum and via live stream, from 4:30-6:00 pm is the Key-

note Event. There will be music performed by UMA jazz students, a welcome from President Cushman, and John McLaughlin will introduce this year's student poetry contest winners. Poet Brian Turner will then take the stage and present the keynote address, after which will be a time for questions and answers.

The day's events conclude with a reception in the Danforth Gallery from 6:00-7:00 pm. Hors D'oeuvres will be served.

The festival is free and open to all. Reservations are encouraged for the keynote address and required for the workshops to ensure adequate seating is available. All events are held in UMA's Jewett Hall at 46 University Drive in Augusta and will also be available online. For updates, more details, and to register, please visit uma.edu/plunkett.

UMA's Concert Week offers something for everyone

AUGUSTA, ME – The music department at the University of Maine at Augusta is proud to announce a week-long concert event Tuesday, April 16 through Friday, April 19. There will be vocal performances, chamber music, rock and jazz, and even steel drums! All concerts will be presented free of charge and begin at 7:00 pm. Tuesday through Thursday's performances will be in Jewett Hall on UMA's Augusta campus at 46 University Dr., Augusta, ME, as well as live-streamed on our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/UMaineAugusta>. Friday's Junior and Senior concert will also begin at 7:00 pm and can be enjoyed only on YouTube.

Ensembles kick off Concert Week on Tuesday, April 16th playing "a wide variety of music utilizing rock-band instrumentation while exploring more sophisticated melodic, rhythmic, and harmonic territories," according to Scott Hughes, a member of UMA's Artist Faculty, and an in-demand performer and instructor in his own right. Directed by Duane Edwards, Juice Joint will be playing selections by Louis and Lillian Armstrong, Thelonius Monk, and Joao Gilberto; and The Peepers, will perform songs popularized by Ella Fitzgerald, Dr. John, and Miles Davis. Uniquely, The Gatsby-Zuckerberg Society Band, an online collaboration of musicians who learned to adapt jazz

performance techniques for digital age performance, will present two early 20th century compositions by Oscar Pettiford and Hoagy Carmichael.

If you've been longing for a tropical getaway, Wednesday the 17th is for you! Vintage Steel, the Community Steel Drum Band of the University of Maine at Augusta, is comprised of UMA students and Central Maine community members. Under the direction of Christine Letcher, Assistant Professor of Music, Vintage Steel plays a wide variety of musical genres from Caribbean to Classical. The group frequently performs in the community for fundraisers and private parties.

On Thursday the

18th UMA's a cappella vocal ensemble, Envolv, takes the stage with a selection of popular songs. Our instrumental Chamber Ensembles, comprised of different combinations of trios and quartets, will perform common practice classical era works such as pieces by Handel and Mozart, two compositions by Joseph Haydn and his less well-known brother, Michael Haydn, as well as some contemporary classical pieces. Linda Theriault, Artist Faculty member and accomplished violist and violinist says, "Playing chamber music, at its core, feels like conversing with friends; this group would like to share that conversation with you."

Finishing out the week, on Friday the 19th is the Junior and Senior Concert. Performers are selected through successful completion of a jury process. Performances will be pre-recorded and available

to watch on UMA's youtube channel <https://www.youtube.com/UMaineAugusta>. Join us in celebrating these student's accomplishments.

All Concert Week performances, in person and

online, are free and open to the public. For more information about any of these concerts, Vintage Steel, or UMA's music programs, please email christine.letcher@maine.edu.

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Arts & Entertainment

St. John's brings Rome to Brunswick for annual fundraiser

BRUNSWICK, ME - Step into a quaint Italian village for the Saint John's Catholic School's "A Night in Rome" on May 11th, featuring live entertainment from Jim Ciampi Events and their popular dueling piano show, "Keys to the City," and auctioneer John Bottero, Executive Director of Owls Head Transportation Museum. The Auction Committee invites you to tour the Italian market where you can shop at our fioraio (flower shop) and pasticceria (bakery), order un cappuccino at the café, and enjoy our specialty cocktails and vino at the bar. Guests will also enjoy tanti antipasti e piatti (many appetizers and

small plates) at the trattoria and sandwich offerings at the paninoteca. You don't need to speak Italian to travel Rome with us and support St. John's Catholic School!

Each year, this highly anticipated event seeks to support the greatest needs of the school and student scholarships. The evening will include a small live auction and special appeal paddle raise, raffle prizes, buy it now opportunities, and some interactive fundraising during the show. This year's theme, "A Night in Rome" invites you to spend an evening in Italy toasting to Catholic education while singing along to a high energy perfor-

mance from "Keys to the City" on dueling pianos. With decades of great hits from Elton John to Billy Joel and Sinatra, the night of music and laughter will be one you'll never forget!

The event will be held May 11th with doors opening at 6PM at the St. John's Community Center located at 37 Pleasant Street in Brunswick. All are welcome.

To sponsor this event, contact Chris-sy Smith at: Christina.Smith@portlanddiocese.org.

Please Save the Date for the SJCS Annual Auction this May 11th! See <https://ourschool.auction/SJCS> for more information.

Save THE date

A Night in Rome

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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
Sat-Sun, April 13 & 14 at 2:00 pm

For tickets or info call 783-0958 or visit LACLT.com
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\$17 (children 13 and under) Includes all taxes and fees

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Sunflower Play Space and Café opens in Gorham

Sunflower Play Space and Café opened last week in Gorham. Families with young kiddos are invited to check it out! Their mission is to provide a welcoming and engaging space for families, children, and community members of all backgrounds to come together and support each other during the early childhood phase of life.

Hours of Operation:
*Open Tuesday-Saturday 9am - 3pm
*Sundays Closed for Parties
*Closed Mondays
Investment: \$10 child entry; \$5 for siblings; \$5 for children ages

OUR MISSION

is to provide a welcoming and engaging space for families, children, and community members of all backgrounds to come together and support each other during the early childhood phase of life.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Open Tuesday-Saturday 9am-3pm
Sundays Closed for Parties
Closed Mondays

INVESTMENT

\$10 child entry
\$5 for siblings
\$5 for children age 6-12 months
Free for adults & babies age 0-6 month
Membership options coming soon!

If you are interested in booking a party, please reach out to hello@sunflowerplayspaceandcafe.org.
Website coming soon!



6-12 months; Free for adults and babies age 0-6 months; Membership options coming soon!
If you are interested

in booking a party, please reach out to hello@sunflowerplayspaceandcafe.org. Website coming soon!

Sen. Collins visits Maine Medical Center

PORTLAND, ME – U.S. Senator Susan Collins toured the new Malone Family Tower at Maine Medical Center in Portland. In 2022, Senator Collins secured \$3 million in Congressionally Directed Spending for Maine Medical Center to modernize its cardiac operating unit within the new building. Senator Collins also met with hospital leadership to discuss the mental health crisis in Maine and MaineHealth’s efforts to serve patients in need.

Senator Collins was joined by MaineHealth Chief Executive Officer Dr. Andy Mueller, as well as Maine Medical Center’s

Chief Medical Officer Dr. Joel Botler, Chief Operating Officer Jennifer McCarthy, and MaineHealth Chief Government Affairs Officer Katie Fullam Harris.

“These investments are helping to ensure Mainers have access to state-of-the-art medical facilities and technology, ultimately improving health outcomes for individuals across the state,” said Senator Collins. “As Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I remain committed to securing funding that supports vital resources for health care institutions throughout Maine.”



“MaineHealth greatly appreciates Senator Collins’ support of Maine Medical Center’s expansion and modernization project and numerous other initiatives that support our vision of working together so our communities are the healthiest in America,” Dr. Mueller said. “The Malone Family Tower will enhance our care team’s ability to provide the highest quality cardiac and cardiovascular care, improve access to our services and create a more comfortable environment for our patients. This cutting-edge medical building will be a wonderful place both to receive and provide care, and we look forward to opening it for our patients this summer.”

Since 2022, Senator Collins has secured more than \$13.3 million in Congressionally Directed Spending to expand and improve MaineHealth’s operations. This includes \$8.75 million for three MaineHealth projects she secured through the Fiscal Year 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations bill that was signed into law on March 23.

In 2021, Congress reinstated Congressionally Directed Spending. Following this decision, Senator Collins has secured more than \$1 billion for hundreds of Maine projects for FY2022, FY2023, and FY2024.

UMA awarded Gold Status as Top Military Friendly School

AUGUSTA, ME – Military Friendly® has just announced the official list of schools that have earned the 2024-2025 Military Friendly® Schools awards level designations, and our gold level status indicates University of Maine at Augusta (UMA) is one of the very best.

Jennifer Cushman, UMA President, shared her delight at the news, “University of Maine at Augusta is honored to be recognized as a military

friendly school. 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. Active duty personnel and veterans are an important population in this context.



Our veterans center in particular provides a space for reflection and support from staff who understand their unique challenges, and we are proud of our attention to those who serve or have served in the military.”

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. Vice President of Enrollment 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.”

Institutions earning the Military Friendly® Schools Awards designation were evaluated using public data sources and responses from a proprietary survey. Over 1,800 schools participated in the 2024-2025 survey, 537 schools earned awards level designations in Gold, Silver, and Bronze. UMA was one of just 243 schools chosen for “Gold” award status for their leading practices, outcomes, and effective programs.

“We are very pleased to receive this recognition from Military Friendly Schools again this year,” proclaimed Amy Line, UMA Director of Military

and Veterans’ Services. “UMA’s commitment to educating and providing opportunities to our military, veterans, and families continues to be a priority and it shows!”

The 2024-2025 Military Friendly® Schools list will be published in G.I. Jobs magazine’s May issue and found at www.militaryfriendly.com.

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

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Great Falls Model Railroad Club to hold Topsham Train Show

TOPSHAM, ME -- Great Falls Model Railroad Club will be hosting its Annual Topsham Train Show at Mount Ararat High School on April 27th, 2024 from 10:00am to 3:00pm. Admission to the event is \$5 per person and children under 12 are free.

Scale Trains, a nationally known manufacturer of model trains, will



be at show. They will have meet and greets at 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm for everyone to participate in.



Over 100 vendor tables will be open with model railroad equipment in HO, O, N, and G scale equipment, scenery materials, and more for sale. A few modular layouts will also be set up for everyone's enjoyment.

The venue is fully handicap accessible and refreshments are served onsite directly benefiting the school's booster club.

WinterKids announces resignation of executive director

WESTBROOK, ME -- WinterKids is announcing the resignation of its Executive Director, Julie Mulkern. Since 2011, Mulkern has been at the helm of WinterKids, leading the organization's growth financially, programmatically, and geographically. Before that, she was WinterKids' Development Director for a year.

Julie has dedicated her career to the health of Maine children and families. At WinterKids, Mulkern lead the organization through three strategic plans resulting in exponential growth of the organization from 5,000 kids to upwards of 45,000 kids annually and a budget of \$200,000 to \$1.5 million

annually.

"Julie has had such an enormous influence on the continued growth of WinterKids across the past decade plus. She has been a driven and successful leader for our organization and we will be forever grateful for her time at WinterKids," says Parker Swenson, WinterKids' Board President.

Julie helped the organization go green through the development of the WinterKids App to replace the longstanding WinterKids Passport paper booklet and licensed the app platform to New Hampshire and Michigan as a new revenue stream to bolster Maine programs. The WinterKids App and Passport have helped over

400,000 Maine kids to learn new winter sports. In addition, the organization has helped hundreds of kids to learn to ski free through Cooper Campbell Day, a ski day for kids that honors the memory of Cooper Campbell, a true "winter kid" and the son of former WinterKids' board member and benefactor, Steve Campbell.

The WinterKids Winter Games, developed by Mulkern and longtime Education Director, Marion Doyle, engages kids, teachers, and families in the WinterKids Learn Outside Guide via a 4-week outdoor physical activity and nutrition challenge in Maine elementary schools. In 7 years, this program has served over 40,000 kids in

Maine. Kids in fourteen other states have participated through a Playalong Track they developed during the pandemic. This program won the Public Health Program of Excellence Award in 2017.

Mulkern lead the development of the WinterKids Downhill 24 (Maine's premiere winter fundraiser) with former Board President, Will Stiles, raising over \$5 million for WinterKids programs over the last decade. The success of this event created the D24 Outdoor Fund, allowing the organization to grant over \$500,000 to schools, rec programs, and other outdoor nonprofits to get more kids outside in the winter, and year-round.

"WinterKids has meant so much to me for nearly 15 years," says Mulkern. "I have enjoyed helping the organization grow in effective ways to help thousands more Maine

kids to be active outdoors in the winter. I have made countless lifelong friends and colleagues along the way. WinterKids will always hold an incredibly special place in my heart."

Mulkern will continue to advocate for children and families when she assumes the role of CEO for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Maine on April 29, 2024.

WinterKids current programs include the WinterKids App, WinterKids Learn Outside Guides & Virtual Training, WinterKids Winter Games, WinterKids Family Days, WinterKids Learn to Ski Free Days, WinterKids Welcome to Winter, WinterKids Peisner Nordic Program, WinterKids StoryWalk & Snowshoe Loan Program, and the WinterKids D24 Outdoor Fund. All told, the organization will reach 50,000 kids this year.

"As Julie hands over the reins, we have the comfort of knowing that WinterKids is poised for a great future with a talented board and staff fully committed to our mission," added board chair, Swenson.

WinterKids is in the process of identifying a consulting firm to assist with its Executive Director search. For more information, please email board@winterkids.org. Further information will be available in mid-April 2024.

WinterKids is a 501 c 3 nonprofit organization founded in 2000. WinterKids' Major Community Sponsor is L.L.Bean. WinterKids Supporting Sponsors are Agren, Central Maine Power, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, WEX, WMTW/The CW, and Zachau Construction. For more information on WinterKids, please visit WinterKids.org.

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Workshop on backyard chicken flocks coming to Gorham area

MAINE -- University of Maine Cooperative Extension will host multiple 2-hour workshops for backyard poultry producers throughout April in Bangor, Ellsworth, Falmouth and Oxford. The first workshop is scheduled for Friday, April 19, 10 a.m.-Noon at the Penobscot County Extension Office, 307 Maine Avenue, Bangor.

The series, titled Feathered Homestead: A Comprehensive Guide to Raising Backyard Chickens in Maine, is for beginning and intermediate level producers who want to learn more about brooding chicks at home and raising laying hens in Maine. Participants will learn how to raise chicks from egg to feather and how to care for them once they are older.

Presenters Dr. Colt W. Knight, Extension Livestock Specialist and Ashley Wright, Area Associate Livestock Agent with University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, will cover housing, nutri-

tion, winter care and common diseases.

Speakers

Ashley Wright, M.S.

Ashley is a Livestock Area Agent with the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, and provides leadership in extension programs focusing on livestock production and management across both large and small-scale operations in Cochise, Pima, and Santa Cruz Counties. Her programs cover a diverse array of topics crucial to the livestock industry, including herd health and management, nutrition, reproduction, genetics, and marketing. While much of her program focuses on cow-calf operations, she also works extensively with Arizona's growing population of backyard chicken enthusiasts, especially those in areas who have recently relaxed zoning regulations to allow for urban chicken keeping. The educational content she produces covers an array of topics such as raising health chicks, poultry dis-



Ashley Wright



Colt W. Knight

eases, coop design, heat stress, nutrition, egg production, and egg safety. She lives in Vail, Arizona, just outside of Tucson and maintains a small backyard flock of laying hens.

Dr. Colt W. Knight, Ph.D.

Colt grew up in a

coal mining family in West Virginia where they also operated a small family farm and show horse stable. During academic breaks and between schools, he worked in strip mines across the country. Colt earned his B.S. in Animal Science at the

University of Kentucky, M.S. in Animal Science at Angelo State University, and his Ph.D. in Animal Science at the University of Arizona in 2006, 2012, and 2016, respectively. In the fall of 2016, he worked on a postdoc with Dr. Derek Bailey at New Mexico State University. Since 2017, he has worked as an Assistant Professor of Extension for the University of Maine where he serves as the State Livestock Specialist. He teaches Introduction to Animal Science (AVS 145) and runs the Maine Grazing Behavior Lab. The core focus of the Grazing Behavior lab revolves around designing and manufacturing livestock tracking collars, engaging in applied grazing behavior research, and assisting other researchers with technology to interpret animal behavior. Dr. Knight's research is broadly focused on selecting animals uniquely adapted to landscapes and promoting sustainable agriculture. Colt is a past chair for the Society of Range Manage-

ment Livestock Foraging Behavior Committee, as well as, the North East Region Chair for the National Association of County Agricultural Agent's Teaching and Educational Technology Committee. He also serves as an Associate Editor for the journal Ecological Processes. Colt is actively engaged in outreach and has delivered over 150 seminars on livestock production since starting his career at the University of Maine.

Special thanks to Maine New Farmers Project for providing funding to host visiting speakers.

For more information or a reasonable accommodation, please contact Melissa Libby Babcock, melissa.libby1@maine.edu.

The cost of the program is \$12 (reduced rates available) which includes lunch. Visit the program webpage for a full schedule and to register. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Melissa Libby Babcock, melissa.libby1@maine.edu.

USM's Lainey Bell named 2024 American Honey Princess

MAINE -- The American Beekeeping Federation is proud to announce that Lainey Bell was selected as the 2024 American Honey Princess. Lainey is the 18-year-old daughter of Cindy and Chad Bell of Winslow, Maine. She is a freshman at the University of Southern Maine, where she is studying Political Science and is part of the accelerated pathway program with the Maine School of Law. Lainey is also a goalie for the University of Southern Maine Field Hockey team. In her free time, Lainey enjoys studying politics, watching football, working out, and spending time with her family.

Lainey became interested in the beekeeping industry when she was in high school. At that time, she started working for the state's largest apiary, and has been interested in honey and bees ever since.

As the American Honey Princess, Lainey will spend the next year promoting the beekeeping industry throughout the United States in a wide variety of venues, including fairs, festivals, schools, media interviews, and virtual presentations. To schedule an appearance or presentation with American Honey Princess Lainey Bell, please contact American Honey Queen Program Chairperson Anna Kettlewell at 414.545.5514 or honeyqueen99@hotmail.com.



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Riding To The Top named 2024 Maine Marathon beneficiary

WINDHAM, ME -- Bob Dunfey, the Volunteer Race Director for The Maine Marathon, Half Marathon and Relay, has announced that Riding to the Top is one of six beneficiaries of this year's event which will be held on Sunday, October 6, 2024. Riding to the Top will receive a \$10,500 donation from the event.

"Riding To The Top is thrilled to be one of this year's beneficiaries of the Maine Marathon. As a heavily volunteer-centric organization, we applaud the incredible volunteer

effort that goes into making this race happen," says Sarah Bronson, Executive Director. "For 31 years, RTT has been serving the greater Portland community, providing equine-assisted services to children and adults ranging in age from 3 to 90+, with a small paid staff supported by a phenomenal group of volunteers who assist with all aspects of our program. Funds received from the Maine Marathon will directly help the clients, horses and programs at Riding To The Top and we look forward to helping



RTT herd member, Paxton Abbey is excited about this year's Maine Marathon!

to make this year's Maine Marathon a success!"

Riding to the Top focuses on therapeutic horseback riding and equine-assisted services for children and adults with disabilities in Maine. By facilitating meaningful connections between people and horses, the organization aims to improve physical, emotional and social well-being, offering participants a unique and empowering therapeutic experience.

The Maine Marathon, www.MaineMarathon.com, organized by the Maine Track Club is a

volunteer driven, nonprofit event with proceeds going to local charities and since 1997, the race has raised over \$7 million to support a wide range of causes. Over 50 volunteer race coordinators plan the event during the year and about 900 volunteers deliver the event on race weekend.

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

MaineCF scholarships available to students pursuing business degrees

PORTLAND & ELLSWORTH — Applications are currently being accepted for the Maine Community Foundation's (MaineCF) Patriot Education Scholarship

Fund. This renewable scholarship supports graduates of Maine high schools who are enrolled part-time (minimum of nine credit hours) or full-

time in pursuit of a business degree and entering their freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior year at a Maine college or university. Preference is given to applicants

who have a demonstrated interest in personal and commercial insurance professions.

The application deadline is June 1. For more information or to

apply, visit www.mainecef.org/scholarships.

The Maine Community Foundation brings people and resources together to build a better Maine through strate-

gic giving, community leadership, personalized service, local expertise and strong investments. To learn more about the foundation, visit www.mainecef.org.

Volunteers aid in disaster recovery on multiple Maine islands

NORTHEAST HARBOR, ME—To assist in disaster recovery following January and March storms, Maine Seacoast Mission will hold two, multi-day volunteer service trips to unbridged, outer islands in March and April. The nonprofit will visit the islands of Frenchboro, Great Cranberry, and Little Cranberry. From April 12 to 14, volunteers from Sigma Kappa Sorority's Northeastern University chapter will travel to Matinicus aboard the organization's flagship 74-foot vessel, the Sunbeam, and the Beal & Bunker's mail boats, the Sea Queen or Double B.

Volunteers will assist islands in the clean-up of lands impacted by the January storms, as well as the most recent March storm, and subsequent flooding that affected most of Maine's coastline. Work will include clearing debris, moving items, and removing trash from shorelines, public ways, and



publicly used buildings. From March 19 to 21, 10 volunteers will travel to Frenchboro, Great Cranberry, and Little Cranberry. From April 12 to 14, volunteers from Sigma Kappa Sorority's Northeastern University chapter will travel to Matinicus.

Immediately following the January 10th and 13th storms, the Mission traveled to select islands aboard Sunbeam to assess how communities were faring. Some of the damage seen—which islanders still are contending with—include loss and/or damage to personal property, damage to community and business infrastructure, soil and coastline erosion, and ocean debris washed ashore. During the three-day venture, Mission staff



Mission staff speak with an island resident following the January storms



Mission staff and an Isle au Haut resident walk the Head Harbor debris field



Debris and soil erosion from January storms

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and a guest from nonprofit partner Island Institute collected 20 contractor bags of debris in addition to connecting with residents and business owners.

"The Mission has worked with Maine islands for going on 120 years. Following the storms, we wanted to

show our continued support and do whatever we could to help, like the Mission has always done," shares Mission President John Zavodny, "These

trips also provide an opportunity for volunteers to do something to help their island neighbors and learn more about these amazing communities."

As destructive storms continue to challenge island and coastal communities, the Mission will continue to work alongside island residents to understand how to best support them.

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

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\$1.67M to upgrade wastewater infrastructure in Bath

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senator Angus King announced the City of Bath has been awarded \$1,673,000 through the bipartisan Fiscal Year 2024 Congressionally-Directed Spending (CDS) appropriations package to upgrade aging wastewater infrastructure on Commercial Street. The funding will be used to upgrade a 50-year old pump system under the Saga-

dahoc Bridge, replace the main sewer under Commercial Street at the waterfront and improve overall wastewater capacity.

The funding is part of the \$454 million — for 185 projects — that the entire Maine delegation secured for state projects in the Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations Package.

“Proper wastewater infrastructure is critical for keeping our communi-

ties healthy and safe,” said Senator King. “This investment in Bath’s wastewater infrastructure will ensure the city is meeting water quality and safety standards, as well as work to prevent potential health hazards. In addition to keeping the community safe, the upgrades will also help maintain the beautiful Kennebec River and waterfront for years to come.”

“We’re thankful for

Senator King’s support of Congressionally Directed Spending for the City’s Commercial Street force main and pump station,” said Bath City Manager Marc Meyers. “The City’s aging infrastructure presents health and safety risks, significant financial expenses to repair or replace, and potentially limits development opportunities. This funding will reduce the financial bur-

den on ratepayers and help Bath improve its sewer system for the betterment of our community.”

CDS funding is included in annual federal appropriations bipartisan legislation and provides a specific amount of discretionary funding to a state, locality, or nonprofit organization for projects with demonstrated civic and community value. Last year, Senator King se-

cured over \$250 million in Congressionally-Directed Spending for 140 Maine projects.

Senator King will begin accepting preliminary requests for FY25 Maine-based Congressionally-Directed Spending projects, pending updated FY25 guidance, in the upcoming weeks. Details on the FY25 CDS opportunity will be available on Senator King’s website.

\$119K for MaineHealth to secure mobile food pantry

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senator Angus King has announced that MaineHealth has been awarded \$119,000 through the bipartisan Fiscal Year 2024 Congressionally-Directed Spending (CDS) appropriations package to purchase a refrigerated van to support its medicine and food insecurity programs in the Portland area. A refrigerated van will allow MaineHealth to develop a Food-as-Medicine program to serve those with substance abuse disorders and other chronic diseases, as well as better support

the Food Pantry at Maine Medical Center (MMC).

The funding is part of the \$454 million — for 185 projects — that the entire Maine delegation secured for state projects in the Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations Package.

“Every Maine person deserves access to fresh and healthy foods; no one should ever have to go hungry,” said Senator King. “As the dedicated professionals at MaineHealth serve some of Portland’s most vulnerable residents, they know that food is medicine, and can

improve the quality of life for many. This refrigerated van would serve as a one-stop food shop, working to remove meal time barriers and cut down on food insecurity for those who need it most.”

“In less than a year, the MMC Food Pantry has become a critical community asset, and the mobile food vehicle funded by the congressional allocation will allow our programming to grow not only in terms of geographic reach but will intentionally connect us with those disparate populations who have

not benefitted from having nutritious food available to them,” said Barbara Ginley, Director of Community Health of Greater Portland. “This is one more step forward in holistically integrating food-as medicine offerings for those whose health is compromised by food insecurity. We are grateful to Sen. King for his advocacy to meet this important need.”

Senator King has been a vocal advocate for food security and the national nutrition waiver program. When COVID-19 closed schools at the begin-

ning of the pandemic, Senator King pushed to make sure students who rely on school nutrition programs could still access nutritious meals. Following the Senator’s push with the Maine delegation, the USDA announced the now-active nationwide waiver. Last spring, he introduced the bipartisan Support Kids Not Red Tape Act to extend the critical waiver program.

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Maine Supreme Court: Sunday hunting prohibition constitutional

Letter submitted by Maine Woodland Owners

MAINE -- Maine Woodland Owners applauds the Maine Supreme Court decision today in the lawsuit challenging the Sunday hunting prohibition. The Law Court held that the right to hunt for food created by the “Right to Food” amendment does not extend to illegal hunting, and it upheld the Sunday hunting prohibition as

constitutional.

“This is a welcome decision and we are glad the Maine Supreme Court has now settled the issue of whether the Sunday hunting ban violates the “Right to Food” amendment. This decision is a victory for landowners, who deserve just one day a week to enjoy and share their land with the general public hunting-free,” said Tom Doak, Maine Wood-

land Owners’ Executive Director.

Together with the Maine Farm Bureau and the Maine Forest Products Council, Maine Woodland Owners filed an Amicus Brief with the Maine Supreme Court opposing the lawsuit warning of the dire consequences that would arise for Maine’s landowners, the public, and the state economy if the Sunday hunting ban were

struck down. The brief argued that eliminating the Sunday hunting ban would not advance the Right to Food in Maine as the proponents suggested, but rather, it would do just the opposite and would negatively impact other outdoor activities.

Maine private landowners voluntarily provide 90% of the land used by hunters, as well as by those who seek opportunities to walk, snowshoe, bird watch, and other activities. Over 14,000 miles of interconnected trails for snowmobiling are located on private land--all without benefit to the landowner. But, according to a 2022 survey commissioned by the Maine legislature, 44% of landowners who currently do not post their land would likely restrict access if Sunday hunting were allowed, putting public access for all these

recreational activities in jeopardy.

“The majority of landowners and the general public in all parts of the state strongly oppose Sunday hunting in any form,” states Doak. “Maintaining the prohibition on Sunday hunting is essential to preserving Maine’s unique system that balances private ownership of land with public access for hunting and other forms of outdoor recreation.”

“There is a wonderful tradition in Maine of woodland owners sharing their land with others. Maine has the greatest access for hunting than anywhere else in this country. More than 70 failed legislative attempts over the past 40 years have been made to eliminate the prohibition on Sunday hunting. This lawsuit was an end around and would have disrupted the important balance be-

tween hunters, the general public, and landowners,” said Doak.

In Maine, hunters are not required to get permission to hunt on someone else’s land. It is assumed they are allowed, unless the landowner has taken steps to inform the hunter, such as posting. In return, hunting is not allowed on Sunday, so landowners have one day a week to completely enjoy their own land.

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Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

Fridays through 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 11-14
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 14
LEWISTON -- Greater Androscoggin Humane Society will hold its PAUSE FOR PETS Craft & Vendor Fair SUNDAY, APRIL 14th at the LEWISTON MEMORIAL ARMORY from 10am to 3pm.

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
BUXTON -- Try our delicious Haddock Supper Buffet - Saturday, April 27, 2024 - 5:00 pm at Living Waters Church, Parker Farm Road, Buxton. Suggested donation: \$10 Adult, \$5 Child, \$20 Family.

Please note: We will offer the option of takeout containers for those who do not want to come inside for seating. Wearing of face masks for those who wish is optional. Hand sanitizer is available for those who wish to use it.

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. Handicapped Accessible. Meals are single-sized and are \$10.00 each. Please pay at the door. The Menu includes: Variety of Casseroles & Salads, Baked Pea Beans, Red Hot Dogs, Breads, Assortment of Desserts & Beverages

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 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.

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

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

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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 Flagg Meadow Road in Gor-

ham, 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.

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

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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HOUSE KEEPING

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

LIVE & CODE IN MAINE

Maine cybersecurity start-up seeks local software engineer
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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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