

Community garden at Cressey Road Christian Church, Gorham

GORHAM, ME -- If picking your own grown juicy tomato and crispy greens is on your bucket list, try gardening at Cressey Road Christian Church Community Garden in Bucket Step planters, ready for planting, no fees, and PFAS free.

Bucket Steps were

built by Eagle Scout candidate Christopher Bolton with help from his troop, scout leader Kelly Deprez, and Rick Smart. Bucket Steps have 3 rows, with 4 buckets each. You may share a bucket step unit with someone. Bucket Steps are user friendly planters with minimal bending required.

This is just a beginning as we continue building raised garden units offering planting boxes and vegtrugs. Bucket Steps are available now on a first come, first served basis. To use one of these planters, please contact Lorraine lindcabin@gmail.com for guidelines and an application.

Galilee Church in Gorham hosting Summer Block Party

FREE!

FUN FOR ALL AGES!

SUMMER BLOCK PARTY!

Come to the party!

07.28.24

11-3pm

Galilee Church, 317 Main St. Gorham

Lots of food, live music, bounce house, Touch-a-Truck, games, prizes, and much more!

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!

Learn on the Lawn at Gorham's Baxter Memorial Library

GORHAM, ME -- Join Gorham's Baxter Memorial Library for fun opportunities with Learn on the Lawn on Thursdays 10:00am-11:00am:

Thursday, July 11th—Join us outside on the library lawn and learn how to build your own terrarium! Please bring a small glass jar with a lid (salsa size or smaller) for every participant.

This program does not require registration. Children under 8 years old need adult supervision.

Thursday, July 25th—Join us on the library lawn and learn all about worm composting! We will be raffling off a worm bin at the end of this event.

This program is geared for children 5-12, younger children will need an adults help.

Registration is required for this event and sign up starts on Monday June 17th. We have 14 spots available and we will have a waitlist. Please call or visit Youth Services for more information or to sign up.

SUMMER Parenting GROUP

Join us for an informal parenting group designed to help you meet other parents in our community. Bring a blanket for outdoor events.

EVERY TUESDAY

- 6/25/24 (Patio) **PRIDE Parenting all ages**
- 7/2/24 (YS Program Room) **Baby Group Birth- 18 months**
- 7/9/24 (Patio) **Toddler Group 18 months-2.5 years**
- 7/16/24 (Patio) **Little's Group 2.5-4 years old**
- 7/23/24 (Lawn) **Preschool Group 4-5 years old**
- 7/30/24 (Patio) **Homeschool Group all ages**

Thursday, August 8th—Sea Turtle Tracks Presented by: Marine Mammals of Maine

Join us in the Youth Services department to learn about Maine's sea turtles. Learn about the

basic biology, ecology, conservation, and the threats that sea turtles face in Maine and globally.

This program is for all ages! Children under 8 years old need adult supervision.

Gorham senior property tax assistance applications available

GORHAM, ME -- Applications are now available for the Town of Gorham Senior Property Tax Assistance Program. This program was established to provide property tax assistance to persons 65 years of age and over who reside in the Town of Gorham. Under this program, the Town of Gorham will provide refund payments to those individuals who maintain a homestead

in the Town of Gorham and meet the criteria established by this article.

To obtain an application, please visit the Town Clerk's Office at the Gorham Municipal Center (75 South Street) or go to the Town's website.

Completed applications can be submitted to the Town Clerk's Office now through the deadline of August 1, 2024. If you have questions and/or need

assistance completing your application, email senior-rebate@gorham.me.us, or call 222-1671.

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

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

PFAs Navigator program launches

AUGUSTA, ME – The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) and University of Maine Cooperative Extension announced the launch of the “PFAS Navigators” program, designed to offer dedicated one-on-one assistance to farmers affected by PFAS contamination. Starting July 1, 2024, this confidential, no-cost program aims to provide comprehensive support, ensuring farmers receive the necessary resources and guidance to manage the impacts of PFAS on their farms and families.

Under the leadership of Program Director Lucy Wess, the PFAS Response Coordinator and Navigators will work closely with farmers to identify their unique goals, interests,

and needs. Through personalized consultations, Navigators will connect farmers with critical technical, financial, and social assistance programs, serving as a vital touchpoint for any questions and providing hands-on help with navigating forms and applications for PFAS-related assistance.

“The PFAS Navigators program embodies Maine’s commitment to support farmers impacted by PFAS, providing personalized, hands-on support to those affected,” said DACF Commissioner Amanda Beal. “By offering farmers tailored assistance and access to vital resources, we aim to safeguard the sustainability of their livelihoods and the well-being of their families.”



The PFAS Response Navigator program is funded by DACF’s PFAS Fund and managed by University of Maine Cooperative Extension’s Maine Agricultural Mediation Program (MAMP). To connect with a Navigator or learn more about the services offered, please get in touch with Shiela Leonard at um.PFASNavCoord@maine.edu or (207) 955-1977 or visit the Navigator Program website.

The Navigator program represents the latest initiative from the PFAS Fund, complementing the newly developed PFAS

Response Kit. This comprehensive document is a valuable resource for Maine farmers, covering initial investigations, interpreting test results, managing immediate and long-term effects, and accessing legal, mental, and physical health services. The PFAS Response Kit is available on the PFAS Assistance for Maine Farmers webpage, and physical copies will be mailed to all impacted farms engaged with DACF’s PFAS Response Program.

“The PFAS Navigator Program and Response Kit are direct outgrowths

of concerns we heard throughout the PFAS Fund’s planning phase,” said PFAS Fund Director Beth Valentine. “Producers told us that the stress of discovering PFAS was amplified by the need to search for information and figure everything out independently. With these two resources, impacted producers have a friendly, knowledgeable person and a reference guide to help ease the way forward.”

The PFAS Fund is currently accepting applications for financial assistance and plans to launch additional programs by the end of 2024. These will include a competitive research grant program, coverage for PFAS blood serum testing costs not covered by insurance, and

access to mental health services for eligible individuals.

Governor Mills’ establishment of the PFAS Task Force in 2019 marked Maine’s proactive approach to addressing PFAS contamination. With strong bipartisan support, Maine has since implemented a pioneering, cross-agency response effort to identify the extent of PFAS contamination and provide substantial support to impacted communities. DACF has been providing tailored recommendations to producers, including direct guidance and resources for farmers to navigate the uncertainties of PFAS contamination, with the PFAS Fund being the latest initiative to offer comprehensive assistance.

Microwave popcorn has Maine origins

Guest column by Theresa Nardone

Did you know that we have a Maine inventor to thank for microwave popcorn?

Inventor and engineer Percy LeBaron Spencer was born in Howland, Maine, in 1894. He was raised by his aunt after his father died and his mother sent him and his brother to live with separate relatives.

As a teen, Spencer first worked at a spool mill and later at a paper mill to help support himself and his aunt. At the paper mill, he became interested in the new technology of electricity and helped to install it at the mill even though he had no formal training as

an electrician. He actually never completed grammar school, which may have helped him later in his role as an inventor since he “didn’t know what he didn’t know” and could experiment freely.

Spencer decided to join the US Navy when he turned 18. There, he dove into learning all about wireless radio technology by studying textbooks when he was on night watch. He was also self-taught in math (including trigonometry and calculus) and science (including chemistry and physics).

After the Navy, Spencer joined what is now Raytheon Corporation. During his work there, he noticed



that electromagnetic waves from a radar magnetron produced heat that melted a PayDay candy bar in his pocket. Although other workers had noticed this effect, Spencer was the one who decided to act on this accidental discovery and started inventing a metal box that used microwaves to heat food.

Although Spencer invented the first true microwave oven, his employer held the patent. He did get a \$2.00 bonus for his efforts, but he got no royalties for his invention. Spencer went on to receive more than 300 patents and was awarded an honorary doctor of science degree from the University of Massachusetts. He

also earned a Distinguished Public Service Award from the U.S. Navy for his work in speeding up the production of the magnetrons that were used in radar systems in World War II.

Fewer details are known of Spencer’s personal life, but around 1920 he married Louise Larsen. They went on to have three sons: John, James, and George. Four years after Louise’s death in 1956, he married Lillian Ottenheimer.

One of the first foods Spencer tried in his new microwave oven was—you guessed it—popcorn kernels! There is a small amount of moisture inside popcorn kernels that makes steam when the kernels are heated that explodes them into popcorn. The nonionizing radiation produced by microwaves is changed

to heat when absorbed by food, making microwave ovens safe for cooking food.

The very first popular home countertop microwave ovens came out in 1967, but they were slow to catch on—perhaps because of their high price tag of \$495 (\$4,600 in today’s dollars). There have not been many advances in basic microwave oven technology since then, besides, of course, the widely used “popcorn button” feature.

Today, your microwave oven can be used to make the absolute healthiest popcorn snack. Place a serving of popcorn kernels (two tablespoons) in a paper bag. Fold over the top of the bag and microwave it for two to three minutes, listening for the popping sounds to reduce to fewer than one second per pop. Open the bag carefully to let the steam out.

Plain popcorn is loaded with fiber, vitamins, and minerals, and it is low in calories (about 110 per serving). Of course, you can add your own salt and butter or other flavorings to taste.

The next time you enjoy microwave popcorn, give a thought to native Mainer and snack lover Percy Spencer.

—Theresa Nardone is a Turner resident, reader, copy editor, and writer with an intense curiosity about many things. Reach her at Tnardone1@gmail.com for your writing/editing needs.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Local teachers named semifinalists for Maine Teacher of the Year

AUGUSTA, ME—Eight Maine teachers were announced as the state semifinalists for the 2025 Maine Teacher of the Year. These inspiring educators, members of the 2024 County Teacher of the Year cohort, embody the dedication, innovation, and leadership synonymous with Maine's exceptional classroom teachers. As ambassadors for their students, colleagues, and school communities, their selection acknowledges their excellence in teaching and celebrates the collective achievements and commitment of the entire teaching profession in Maine.

The semifinalists for the 2025 Maine Teacher of the Year are:

Kristel Anuszewski, Windsor Elementary School, 2024 Kennebec County Teacher of the Year

Shilo Burnham, East Belfast School, 2024 Waldo County Teacher of the Year

Ally Gilbert, Mt. Ararat High School, 2024 Sagadahoc County Teacher



er of the Year

Becky Hallowell, Wiscasset Elementary School, 2024 Lincoln County Teacher of the Year

Ryan Lowell, Ellsworth High School, 2024 Hancock County Teacher of the Year

Danielle Pelletier, CK Burns School, 2024 York County Teacher of the Year

Katie Strait, Baxter Academy for Technology and Science, 2024 Cumberland County Teacher of the Year

Emilie Throckmorton, Bangor High School, 2024 Penobscot County

Teacher of the Year

“Congratulations to all the semifinalists on this well-deserved recognition,” said Maine Education Commissioner Pender Makin. “I’m so inspired by the extraordinary work you do each and every day on behalf of your students, schools, and communities. Thank you for stepping up to represent Maine teachers as County Teachers of the Year and now as Teacher of the Year Semifinalists.”

“We are thrilled to recognize these outstanding educators who exemplify the passion and ded-

ication that define Maine’s teaching community,” said Educate Maine Executive Director Jason Judd. “Their commitment to student success and innovation in the classroom is truly commendable. We look forward to the next phases of the selection process and the announcement of the 2025 Maine Teacher of the Year.”

The selection process for the Maine Teacher of the Year Program is rigorous and reflective, designed by educators to offer candidates an opportunity to reflect on their instructional practice. Each

educator was nominated in January by a member of their community for their commitment to their students and exemplary service in education. They first participated in the County Selection Process, where a distinguished panel of teachers, principals, and business community members selected them as a County Teacher of the Year from among hundreds of nominees. In May, they embarked on the state Teacher of the Year process, showcasing their instructional practices through a classroom video and written reflection.

In the next phase of the selection process, the semifinalists will deliver keynote speeches, submit professional portfolios, and participate in an expert panel discussion on educational equity, teacher leadership, and education policy. The state finalists will be announced in September, and the 2025 Maine Teacher of the Year will

be revealed in October. The 2025 Maine Teacher of the Year will serve as an ambassador for the teaching profession and represent Maine in the National Teacher of the Year program.

The Maine Teacher of the Year program is administered by Educate Maine through a unique partnership with the Maine Department of Education with support from the Maine County and State Teacher of the Year Association (MCSTOYA) and the Maine State Board of Education. Funding for the program is generously provided by Bangor Savings Bank, Dead River, Geiger, Hannaford, Maine Lottery, the Silvermail Family, and Unum.

For more information about the Maine County Teacher of the Year Program and to see a list of County Teachers of the Year, and Maine Teachers of the Year, visit <http://www.mainetoy.org>.

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Registration opens for 2nd annual Bernd Heinrich Raven Run

WELD, ME -- Registration is now open for the 2nd Annual Bernd Heinrich Raven Run to be held on Saturday, July 20 at 9:00 a.m. Join legendary ultra marathoner, biologist and author, Bernd Heinrich, for 4 miles of rural mountain beauty overlooking Webb Lake. The 4-mile hilly out and back course begins at the Mt. Blue State Park Headquarters and follows Center Hill Road to the Mt. Blue Trailhead intersection. Runners return on the same mostly dirt road route and end at the field overlooking Webb Lake.

Registration will be open online through



July 17th @ 11:00 pm., or in person the morning of the event. The cost is \$20.00 per person in advance or \$25.00 the day of the event. We are offering a family discount of \$15.00 per person in advance or \$20.00 the

day of the event. Commemorative pint glasses will be given to the first 50 registrants.

The race will kick off the Lake Association’s annual “Lake Day” event that has been held for over 30 years.

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

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Seniors Not Acting Their Age

Careening Down the Cascadepedia River



Breathtaking views are around every bend on the Cascadepedia



A tandem canoe team enters one of many long rapids on the Cascadepedia



Canoeists bail at the bottom of Porcupine Falls

Five of us awoke to sunny cold weather on the second day of our Cascadepedia River expedition on the Gaspé Peninsula in eastern Quebec. Powerful winds had blown out of the northwest the entire previous day and they hadn't subsided.

The gale provided a substantial benefit: a tailwind had pushed us so rapidly downriver, we were uncertain of our location on the topo maps. Combined with high water, an exceptionally fast current fueled by a steep gradient, and a multitude of long rapids, we were making remarkable progress.

We were a diverse group of paddlers. Bruce

Weik and Chris Knight paddled a tandem canoe while Brent Elwell was in a solo version. Ken Gordon and I were navigating expedition kayaks.

I started feeling mildly ill on the first day of our outing. During the night, I developed a sore throat and felt fatigued despite many hours of sleep. Simply getting out of the tent in the morning was a chore. There was no turning back; civilization was at least forty miles downriver in New Richmond. I alerted my companions. There was a positive aspect, separation wasn't a problem. I paddled a solo kayak, slept in a one-person tent, and was cooking my own

meals.

The Cascadepedia is the most scenic river I've paddled in eastern Canada and the northeastern United States. Flowing down a picturesque valley through the eastern Chic Choc Mountains, every turn provides another spectacular view.

The perpetual panoramic vistas were a distraction from another marvelous feature of the journey: a seemingly endless succession of long exciting whitewater rapids. High water added a challenging dimension, big waves. The large breaking waves were particularly significant for the canoes because in many instances they were

taking water over the gunwales with no opportunity to bail until reaching bottom of the whitewater. A loaded canoe partially filled with water is a beast to maneuver and a threat to swamp or capsize.

None of us had paddled the Cascadepedia before so we carefully boat scouted the approach to each rapid watching for obstacles and debris in the river. The topo map indicated there was an upcoming falls but we weren't sure of our location. A salmon fishing outfitter had warned Bruce to expect a consequential rapid called Porcupine Falls. The difficult descent was reputedly pockmarked with obvious large boulders that needed to be avoided. We were intently watching for signs, especially prominent boulders.

After an hour of paddling, we identified the first reliable landmark since the previous day, Route 299. The Cascadepedia would parallel the highway for the remainder of the trip to New Richmond.

With the strong tailwind propelling us quickly downriver, we guardedly studied the beginning of each falls looking for the telltale large boulders. Several

rapids came and passed but no boulders and no unusual difficulties were encountered.

A river wide horizon line garnered our attention. No distinctive boulders were visible but the gradient was definitely steeper than the earlier rapids and there was no end in sight. The tandem canoe team entered and I followed. Once into the falls, there was no doubt it was Porcupine. Everything was bigger and pushier than previous rapids. Powerful waves hurtled us towards the much anticipated boulders. We successfully avoided the dangerous obstacles and careened down the lengthy circuitous cascade. After possibly a mile, we safely assembled in an eddy at the bottom.

The canoeists had some serious bailing to do. I checked my cockpit and found the dynamic waves had forced their way under the spray skirt adding a couple of inches of unwanted water.

Porcupine behind us, we continued downriver passing through one long twisting rapid after another. At the foot of each, we regrouped in eddies and the canoeists bailed. We were preoccupied with navigating

demanding rapids while enveloped in the rugged beauty of the majestic Chic Choc Mountains.

The miles quickly passed. Time and distance seemed irrelevant. The continuous adrenaline rush was the perfect antidote for what I optimistically decided was a minor head cold.

We stopped for lunch on a sunny sandy beach sheltered from the relentless wind. Two of us napped. We didn't know where we were on the river. More excitement was undoubtedly ahead.

My book, *Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine* documents six stimulating Maine river expeditions.

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

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Maine Mayhem wins WFA North East Championship

MAINE – Maine Mayhem (5-1) traveled to New York to face the Knockout (5-1) in the WFA DIV III North East Championship!

It remained 0 to 0 until Mahala Smith punched it for 1 yard score in the 2nd quarter. Chelsea Watson finished it with the PAT. The Mayhem went into halftime with the 7 to 0 lead.

The Knockout came out in the 2nd half with a drive that scored a touchdown from Hannah Jennings, tying the game



7 to 7. With very tough defenses it remained that way til the end of regulation.

In the first OT, both teams had chances but couldn't find points. The



2nd OT started with the Mayhem having the ball first. They drove down to

towards the endzone where the offensive line finished the deal and opened a

hole for Emily Brzycki to score on a 4 yard run! The score put Maine up 13 to 7. With a failed two point conversion, the pressure was ramped up to stop the Knockout from scoring on their attempt. They were up to the task. After a first big play by the Knockout, Maine dug deep and on 4th down, Cash Couture and crew stopped Jennings short to complete the back to back WFA North East Championship!

Maine moves on to host the WFA National

Conference Championship vs the Cincinnati Cougars July 13th. Field location to be determined. The winner moves on to the WFA DIV III National Championship in Canton, Ohio. The Championship game is played at the Tom Benson Stadium, the very same field the NFL has their Hall of Fame Game the following week!

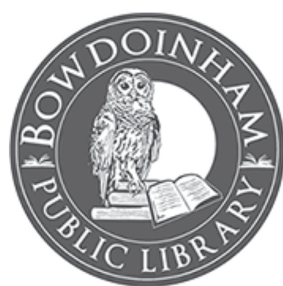
Follow announcements on our Facebook page, Maine Mayhem Women's Football to fill the stands vs Cincinnati!

Not Your Mother's Garden Tour features stunning views

BOWDOINHAM, ME -- Come join us Saturday, July 13th, 10-3 PM at the at the Historic Bowdoinham Waterfront to take a tour of seven gorgeous gardens. We will treat you to stunning riverside vistas and in-town homes with remarkable hardscaping. From giant cement dinosaurs, to Hugelkultur Raised beds, and even a



brick oven for all you can eat pizza . . . it's Not Your



Mother's Garden Tour. Visit BowdoinhamLibrary.org for Tickets

Maine students compete in National History Day

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Susan Collins spoke with a group of students from across Maine who are participating in the final round of the National History Day contest this week in Washington. These students were victorious in Maine's state-wide competition and will now represent our state as they compete alongside nearly 3,000 of our country's top young historians.

"I am so proud to welcome these bright and talented students to our nation's Capital," said Senator Collins. "I wish them luck on the national stage, and I am confident they



will do a wonderful job representing the State of Maine."

Every year, approximately 600,000 students grade 6 through 12 compete in National History Day, and about 3,000 students qualify for the national finals, which takes place in College Park, Maryland. To participate, students research topics

related to a national theme and present their findings with exhibits, documentaries, performances, or papers. This year's theme is "Rights and Responsibilities in History."



USDA finances healthy food projects in underserved areas

BANGOR, ME – USDA and Reinvestment Fund are launching a program under the Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI) to increase access to healthy foods in communities underserved by grocery stores. The new Food Access and Retail Expansion Fund (FARE Fund) will offer loans and grants to eligible organizations over the next five years. There will be a total of \$60 million available for food retail and food retail supply chain projects that increase access to healthy food in communities underserved by retail groceries.

"People across Maine deserve fresh, healthy and affordable foods," USDA Rural Development Maine State Director Rhiannon Hampson said. "Rural Development is proud to support the work of the many organizations, agencies, farms, and businesses that make equitable food access a priority in Maine every day. Our new FARE Fund will help by increasing access to diverse foods in rural areas and benefitting local



farmers and food producers. I encourage Maine organizations to reach out early to explore whether their projects will be eligible for funding so they can apply promptly when the FARE Fund begins accepting proposals."

Once fully operational, the initiative will offer grants of up to \$250K to implement healthy food projects. Grants may be used to support project management, equipment purchases, and construction. Loans ranging from \$500K to \$5M will be available to support pre-development, land acquisition, renovations, and equipment purchases. The program also will offer funding to support market and feasibility studies, business planning, and store design.

In April Director Hampson announced an HFFI grant of \$2.8M to help build food system

financing capacity in Maine. That award went to Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (CEI) to build the infrastructure of a new food system investment fund. USDA previously awarded HFFI grants in Maine in 2022 to the Cooperative Development Institute in Lewiston, Land and Furrow LLC (affiliated with Maine Grains) in Skowhegan, and Good Tern Co-op in Rockland. Together those projects received a total of \$536K.

Eligible organizations include food retailers and food retail suppliers. The program is not yet accepting applications. Entities with potentially eligible projects can check for eligibility now and sign up to be notified when the program begins accepting applications at: www.investinginfood.com/fare-fund

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

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Arts & Entertainment

UUCB Concerts for a Cause donates profits to local charities

BRUNSWICK, ME -- On the 10th anniversary of UUCB Concerts for a Cause, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick is pleased to announce that their Concerts for a Cause series has raised \$12,944 to be divided equally by its 2023-2024 charities, Oasis Free Clinics and the Midcoast New Mainers Group.

UUCB Concerts for a Cause is a series of performances hosted by the UU Church of Brunswick as a part of the church's commitment to the arts and to supporting the important work of local non-profits. Each performing group is chosen for its musicianship, appeal to a variety of audiences, popularity, and cost vs. expected income. The concerts are meant to encourage the community to come together in celebration of music and giving back. Over the course of the 10 years that the church has been

hosting concerts, over \$40,000 has been raised for 12 local charities. The charities are chosen each year by the Concert Committee from the list of monthly Charities with Soul that are elected annually by the church's congregation.

During the 2023-24 fiscal year, UUCB Concerts scheduled 9 concerts ranging from well-known singer-songwriters to an Americana/folk band, a Maritime folk duo, a Renaissance choir, and even a children's concert. Unfortunately, one concert had to be postponed to the next season because of the Lewiston shooting. Despite this tragedy, Concerts for a Cause had its most financially successful season to date. Each concert was well-received by thrilled audience members who often voiced their appreciation for the astounding talent, the venue's comfortable atmosphere and acoustics, the great refresh-



Receiving their monetary gifts from Concerts for a Cause Committee members Charlie Evans and Susan Michaud, are Anita Ruff (Executive Director of Oasis Free Clinics) and Andree Appel (Board Chair of New Mainers Group).

ments, and most of all the support for the charities.

ALL the net proceeds from the 2023-24 concert series were donated to two very deserving charities:

Oasis Free Clinics is a non-profit, no-cost primary care medical practice and dental clinic, providing patient-centered care to uninsured adults in Midcoast, Maine. Oasis believes health care is a human right for all, not a privilege for a few and that money should never be an obstacle to living a healthy life.

Midcoast New

Mainers Group mobilizes local support to welcome immigrant families and foster intercultural connection across southern Midcoast Maine. They introduce the New Mainers to friendships and family partners, provide orientation and cultural education, and connect them to schools, healthcare and other community resources. They also provide

scholarships for driver's education and swimming classes, financial aid for camps and activities, and emergency funds

The charities' individual websites outline how anyone can help with these worthy causes. In addition to monetary donations, you will find many volunteer opportunities on their websites.

To see the artists who will be performing for the 2024-25 concerts series, go to uubrunswick.org and click on "Events."

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\$1.3M to support STEM programs in rural Maine

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King and Representatives Chellie Pingree and Jared Golden announced that the Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance (MMSA) has been awarded \$1,299,377 in funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to launch the Rural Energy Futures (REF) project. Through the REF program,

8th-grade students in rural communities across the state will learn math while exploring local energy issues.

“This funding will help prepare the next generation of Maine students for future careers in critical STEM industries, particularly the energy sector,” the Delegation said. “Providing students with the knowledge of opportunities that

will be available to them to live and work in Maine is essential for maintaining a robust local economy while ensuring that our state remains a leader in innovative energy technologies.”

“Supporting students as they engage in discussions with people in their own neighborhoods about energy projects and career opportunities will build capacity and understand-

ing from the ground up to ensure our communities move toward energy solutions that work for them. This project will serve as a model for other rural areas, demonstrating how to harness local knowledge and build community strength around novel technologies and futures,” said MMSA Executive Director Dr. Ruth Kermish-Allen.

Specifically, this

funding will support the creation of a middle school math curriculum focused on clean energy development, involving 48 teachers and 720 students across 12 rural schools. The curriculum will enhance STEM competencies, local knowledge, and career awareness, while actively supporting the NSF priority of developing a capable energy workforce.

Leading this work at MMSA are Principal Investigator Dr. Heidi Cian, and Co-Principal Investigators Dr. Ruth Kermish-Allen, Alexandria Brasili, and Hannah Lakin. In addition to the team at MMSA, key partners include the Roux Institute at Northeastern University, the Governor’s Energy Office, and rural middle school educators across Maine.

Maine OCFS joins National Partnership for Child Safety

AUGUSTA— The Maine Department of Health and Human Services’ (DHHS) Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) announced that it has joined the National Partnership for Child Safety (NPCS), a quality improvement collaborative with a mission to improve child safety and prevent child maltreatment fatalities.

NPCS shares with its members efforts to support families and promote Safety Science, a model to improve child welfare practices that OCFS has adopted and continues to fully implement. Maine joins 38 state, county and tribal child and family-serving child welfare jurisdictions who are part of NPCS and assessing and applying Safety Science principles in their agencies, representing nearly 70 percent of families involved with the child welfare system nationally.

“As we recognize this final day of child abuse prevention month in April, we’re pleased to announce Maine’s partnership with

the National Partnership for Child Safety,” said Bobbi Johnson, Director of OCFS. “It offers an opportunity to expand our work with Collaborative Safety to develop and implement Maine’s Safety Science Model. We look forward to the opportunity to work across child welfare jurisdictions nationwide to build on the gold standard of evidence-based, quality improvement efforts to reduce child maltreatment and improve outcomes for children and families involved with child welfare.”

As part of joining the NPCS, OCFS will participate in the Partnership’s data warehouse, the National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention’s (NCFRP) Case Reporting System. This system for child fatality reporting will allow for enhanced collection and storage of data, improving Maine’s ability to identify trends and major risk factors so OCFS can develop plans for policy and practice improvements. Joining the NCFRP-CRS has been a recommendation of several

partners over the last year and Maine will join the majority of the country’s other child welfare jurisdictions in participating.

“On behalf of Maine’s Child Death and Serious Injury Review Panel, I applaud OCFS’ decision to join the National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention’s Case Reporting System,” said Mark Moran, chair of the panel. “The Panel has formally and informally advocated for this move over the past several years and sees it as another potential tool to enhance our collective understanding of the factors that contribute to and the causes that underlie children’s serious injuries and deaths. Cases in which kids are seriously injured or die unexpectedly are most often incredibly complex, as is child welfare work in general. Enhancing our capacity to analyze data, review trends and themes, and choose interventions that are evidence-informed will only benefit the children we all seek to protect from serious harm. We are hopeful that Maine’s ongo-

ing efforts to prevent such harm to our kids will be bolstered by this partnership with the NCFRP and the Panel is grateful for Director Johnson’s leadership on this issue.”

The partnership is part of OCFS’ ongoing work to seek resources to strengthen Maine families and promote better short and long-term outcomes for Maine’s children. OCFS’ work to strengthen the child welfare system includes reducing caseworker vacancies, which have dropped 25 percent since January 2024, to 55 as of April 22, 2024.

Governor Mills proposed and the Legislature approved significant investments in child welfare in the recently passed supplemental budget, including:

Increased pay for child welfare staff in recognition of the difficulty of their work;

Additional staff sup-

port for legal administrative tasks with three new Legal Secretary positions so there is one in every District Office;

Establishment of new onboarding and training coordination positions in each District to mentor new caseworkers and support ongoing training;

Establishment of an additional leadership position to support the Lewiston District Office; and

Dedicated funding to increase the availability of services for children and families living in rural areas who are involved with the child welfare system, among other investments in children’s behavioral health services.

These actions to support child welfare staff are expected to further reduce caseworker vacancies and help give teams led by caseworkers the time and expertise for investigations, reunification, and support for children and

families. They add to the recruitment and retention payments for child welfare caseworkers the Department announced in February.

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Presumpscot Regional Land Trust to hold Summer Trail Challenge

WINDHAM, ME -- Presumpscot Regional Land Trust is so excited to announce that the second annual Summer Trail Challenge will be from July 1st - August 31st at the Land Trust's largest combined conserved region of East Windham Conservation Area and Lowell Preserve in Windham. This combined preserve totals around 900 acres. This challenge is free and intended for all ages and hiking experience levels. This multi-use trail system is a great challenge to explore by mountain biking, hiking, or trail running! The challenge is to locate and

photograph six landmarks within the Lowell Preserve and East Windham Conservation Area. Explore this expansive trail system, which treats hikers and bikers to breathtaking views of the White Mountains, Little Duck Pond, and lush forested landscapes. Along the way, discover the different trail challenge landmarks, like a glacial erratic, a cave, a panoramic view of the White Mountains, and more.

TWO LEVELS: There will be two levels of completion for this year's challenge, participants who locate and photograph



2023 Summer Trail Challenge Participants.



2023 Summer Trail Challenge Participants.

CAUTION

Harmful Algae in Bloom

People and animals should avoid contact with the water and the algae. Exposure to toxic algae (cyanobacteria) may cause illness or be fatal to pets.

Dog waste contributes to algae growth in ponds. Please pick up all waste and place in trash cans.

at least three landmarks will receive a co-branded water bottle, while those who locate and photograph all six will receive a co-branded trail challenge water bottle, and a Presumpscot Regional Land Trust (PRLT) branded hat with PRLT's new logo.

CHALLENGE: Visit and photograph three or six landmarks within the East Windham Conservation Area and Lowell Preserve Trail Network:

- 1) Landmark: White Mountains Overlook | Accessible by wide path/dirt road
- 2) Landmark: Little Duck Pond Overlook | Accessible by wide path/dirt road
- 3) Landmark: White Mountain Range Panorama | Accessible by wide path/dirt road
- 4) Landmark: McIntosh Brook | Accessible by

wide path/dirt road

5) Landmark: Glacial Erratic

6) Landmark: Cave

PRIZE: The Trail Challenge is sponsored by REI Co-op. All participants who visit the six landmarks and complete the challenge by August 31st will receive a co-branded water bottle, while those who locate and photograph all six will receive a co-branded trail challenge water bottle and a Presumpscot Regional Land Trust (PRLT) branded hat with PRLT's new logo. All participants will receive a co-branded sticker.

ACCESSIBILITY: The trail system terrain is hilly with a mix of wooded paths with uneven terrain and wide gravel roads with a more consistent terrain. Landmarks #1, #3, and #4 are on a more accessible trail: a wide path dirt road with a mostly level surface and jogger stroller-friend-



ly. The trail is hilly to get to these landmarks. Landmark 2, the trail is mostly wide and flat down to this overlook; however, as you approach the pond, the

terrain can become a little more uneven.

To sign up and for more information register at Presumpscot Regional Land Trust's website.

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Sen. Collins speaks at Saco water facility groundbreaking

SACO, ME – Today, U.S. Senator Susan Collins spoke at the groundbreaking for an upgraded water resource recovery facility in Saco. She was joined by elected city leaders and members of the Saco Water Resource Recovery Department.

“Wastewater facilities play an important role in the health, economic success, and environmental sustainability of commu-

nities throughout Maine,” said Senator Collins. “This investment will enhance the capacity and efficiency of Saco’s water resource recovery facility, ensuring that it can better meet the needs of their population now and into the future.”

Senator Collins secured \$3,930,000 in Congressionally Directed Spending through the Fiscal Year 2022 Interior and Environment Appropria-



tions bill to upgrade the city’s wastewater treatment facility, which will improve

both the durability of the city’s wastewater system and the health of the Saco



River.

This year, Senator Collins secured \$40,433,000 in Congressionally Directed Spending for wastewater development

projects in 18 more communities throughout Maine in the Fiscal Year 2024 Interior and Environment Appropriations bill that was signed into law in March.

‘Roomful of Blues’ to kick off Arts Jubilee concert season

NORTH CONWAY, NH – Arts Jubilee returns to Cranmore Mountain Resort for their 41st Summer Concert Series on Thursday, July 11th. The first of five concerts features five-time Grammy-nominated American blues and swing revival big band, Roomful of Blues. Local singer/guitarist Christian Martin will open the show at 6 pm, followed by ‘Roomful’ at 7 pm.

Even though Roomful of Blues’ lineup has changed over the years, the band has always been one of the tightest, most joyful blues ensembles in the world. Currently an eight-piece unit led by guitarist Chris Vachon, the band has never sounded fresher or stronger. Singer Phil Pem-



berton brings his sweet and soulful vocals and adds another bright new dimension to the jazzy, jump-blues musical roots. Their winning combination of jump, swing, blues, R&B

and soul remains their calling card, as does their ability to fill the dance floor.

With a non-stop performance schedule for over 50 years, Roomful of Blues has earned critical,

popular and radio success and a legion of fans across the globe. According to DownBeat magazine, Roomful of Blues “are in a class by themselves.” With their masterful com-

bination of jumping, horn-heavy, hard-edged blues and R&B, it’s no wonder why the great Count Basie called them “the hottest blues band I ever heard.” Since 1967, the group’s deeply rooted blend of swing, rock ‘n’ roll, jump, blues and soul has earned it 5 Grammy Award nominations and a slew of other accolades, including 7 Blues Music Awards and the prestigious DownBeat International Critics Poll for “Best Blues Band”.

Admission is \$18 for adults, \$12 for seniors, \$5 for students, and free for kids 12 and under. You can pre-order tickets online at www.artsjubilee.org or pay at the gate on the night of the show starting at 5:30 pm. The con-

certs are ‘rain or shine’ with the exception of rare circumstances, so concertgoers are advised to come prepared as they would to any outdoor event. Parking is free, food and beverages are available for purchase on site, and there will be a raffle for a variety of prizes at every concert. Seating is not provided at the venue, so concertgoers are encouraged to bring a lawn chair or blanket. Animals are not allowed on the property except for leashed service dogs. There is an elevator located next to the front gate for handicap accessibility. For more information please visit www.artsjubilee.org. Special thanks to our July 11th Lodging Sponsor: Fox Ridge Resort

Food truck Summer Thursdays bring dinner to Gorham

GORHAM, ME - Food truck Summer Thursdays hosted by the Economic Development Division are back, starting with the first event on the summer solstice – Thursday, June 20.

Folks can catch a rotating selection of food trucks every Thursday through September 28th at the Little Falls Recreation Area (664 Gray Road, Gorham).

We offer a different selection of vendors each week (~7-8 total) from 4pm – 8pm, and the setting is very family-friend-



ly complete with ample green space, music, and lawn games. It’s the perfect way to spread out and enjoy a Maine summer afternoon at its finest.

This year, the Town is offering space to local organizations and businesses to engage the community and get the word out about

exciting offerings and opportunities available to the Gorham.

We are grateful for the support of Gorham Savings Bank, which is sponsoring the purchase of 150 lawn chairs for visitors to utilize each Thursday. Beach blankets and chairs are still welcome!

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The Hive to host monthly taco nights at Dandelion Spring Farm

BOWDOINHAM, ME -- Taco Nights at The Hive will be hosted on the third Thursday of each month this summer: July 18, 2024; August 15, 2023. Events will take place at 6pm at The Hive at Dandelion Spring Farm, 961 Ridge Road, Bowdoinham, ME 04008.

All are welcome to enjoy creative takes on tacos from local guest chef pop-ups and beer from Oxbow Brewing. Each casual gathering will feature music from local artists and celebrate the bounty of this land and the beauty of summer in Southern Maine. All food sales at our June event will support the annual Maine Fermentation Fair, which celebrates the art and science of fermented food and drink.

Tickets can be purchased here: <https://www.dandelionspringfarm.com/shop/workshops>

About Dandelion Spring Farm

Beth Schiller grew up in rural Maine, and was naturally drawn to the idea of a farm life. After attending college in Ohio, her first job led to a career rooted in Maine's vibrant local agricultural community, and she's never looked back. She founded Dandelion Spring Farm in 2002, moving the farm to its forever home in Bowdoinham in 2018. If you walk with her down the flower-lined farm road, past the greenhouses and around the pond, she will point out all the little projects she is most excited about in the corners of her fields — Beth likes to



July Taco Night with Little Brother Chinese will take place on July 18th at Dandelion Spring Farm. Photo credit: Little Brother Chinese

work in the margins. Even her main crops tend to be unique varieties of vegetables and herbs you won't find elsewhere. Because of this, her Certified Organic products have become favorites for many of the renowned restaurants from Portland to Rockland, and beyond.

@dandelionspringfarm | www.dandelionspringfarm.com

About The Hive

The Hive at Dandelion Spring Farm is a newly built timber-framed barn and community space situated on a working organic farm in Southern Maine. The handicap-accessible space is available for year-round use, designed to uniquely unite organic agriculture and community gathering together on the same land to demonstrate how farming and community are mutually supportive. Just as pollinator hives center nutrition and community, we hope the Hive can provide a space

for meaningful experiences that enrich our guests' lives, from out-of-the-box corporate retreats to one-of-a-kind wedding celebrations, memorable birthday and holiday parties to farm-to-table dinners with friends and strangers.

Easily accessible in Bowdoinham, we are also just 40 minutes from Portland, an hour from the Midcoast, and two miles from the Rt. 295 corridor. An aerial view of Dandelion Spring shows 75 acres of mixed forest and active agricultural fields. There are remnants of an apple orchard from the 40's and a dairy farm in transition that is next door. This land is quintessentially rural, accessible, and open to all.

@thehive_dandelionspringfarm | <https://www.dandelionspringfarm.com/thehive>

About The Chef-Collaborators

Sean Doherty is dedicated to celebrating the wild and local flavors



of each season through the art of fermentation. He combines traditional techniques with modern creativity, honoring the cultures that inspire him while crafting bold dishes that tell a story of place and community. His kitchen is a hub for experimentation and connection, where the beauty of fermented food brings people together.

@naes2020 | fermentationfair.com

Richard Yu-Tang "Dede" Lee is a dumpling-maker + artist living in Portland, ME. The name Little Brother Chinese food comes from Richard's family nickname, "Dede" (meaning "little brother" in Mandarin Chinese). To Richard, Little Brother Chinese Food is both a business and a collaborative public artistic practice.

Claire Guyer is a dumpling maker + sewist living in Portland, ME. A fan of Chinese cuisine from the pu-pu platter hits to the fermented fish deep

cuts, Claire has fully embraced the asian palate and style of cooking. With an eye on local ingredients and farm raised proteins, Claire is building an ethical + creative business in the land she loves.

@littlebrotherchinesefood | <https://www.littlebrotherchinesefood.com>

Billy Hager and Hannah Buoye are in the midst of starting their own business, Waxwing Bakery, in Windham, ME. Most recently, Billy was the executive chef at Helm and Hannah served as the Kitchen Manager at Tandem in Portland, ME. They met working at a seafood restaurant in San Francisco around the last time the Bruins won a Stanley Cup and have over 15 years of culinary experience working in BBQ joints, fine dining restaurants, and french-inspired bakeries. Billy loves cooking over live fire, while Hannah enjoys all things bread and pastry. Their take on taco



night will be an ode to the Mexican food they experienced living and working in the Bay Area, keeping it traditionally inspired while utilizing the local bounty of Maine's farms.

@waxwingbakery

Harold Alfond Foundation investing \$75M in MCCS

SOUTH PORTLAND, ME – The Harold Alfond Foundation (HAF) is investing \$75.5 million into short-term, workforce training programs at Maine's community colleges over the next five years in what is the largest grant ever for the Maine Community College System.

"This is truly a transformational investment that will directly benefit Mainers and Maine businesses across the state," said David Daigler, president of the Maine Com-

munity College System (MCCS). "Maine faces persistent workforce shortages across all industries and age groups, and employers are desperate for skilled workers, fast. These programs, developed side-by-side with Maine employers large and small, give Maine workers free access to the skills they need to enter and progress in today's workforce."

The grant was announced Thursday at Southern Maine Community College. This is the

third HAF grant awarded to The Foundation for Maine's Community Colleges for short-term workforce training programs. The first, in 2018, was for \$3.6 million, and the second, in 2021, was for \$15.5 million. All together the three HAF grants total almost \$100 million, supporting short-term workforce training for 100,000 people.

"We are very grateful to the Alfond Foundation board for their long-term vision and commitment in fueling the spectacular growth of short-term workforce training at Maine's community colleges, particularly at a time when it is so critically needed," Daigler said, referring to the economic disruption of the pandemic.

It was the second HAF grant, combined with \$35 million in one-time, pandemic relief funds

from the state through the Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan, that launched the community colleges' robust roster of short-term workforce training programs, overseen by the system's new Harold Alfond Center for the Advancement of Maine's Workforce. Since 2022, more than 26,000 students have taken short-term workforce training classes through the Alfond Center.

The training has three distinct components: basic occupational skills training for people looking to enter a field or career; upgraded skills training for current workers so they keep up with evolving industry standards; and scholarships for workers looking to pursue an associate degree or certificate.

"These programs are critical to building Maine's skilled workforce, and we've seen out-

standing results at Maine's community colleges in recent years. We're proud our grantmaking will lead to so many people getting the relevant, responsive job skills so needed by our economy," said Greg Powell, chairman of the Harold Alfond Foundation.

Short-term workforce training programs generally just take days, weeks, or months to complete, and are free or discounted for the students. They are offered on a rolling basis throughout the year, onsite at the colleges, at workplaces, online, and through third-party, industry-approved instruction.

The short-term programs are in addition to the community colleges' traditional offerings of two-year associate degree programs and one-year certificate programs, which are largely workforce training as well. More than 80 percent of

degree-seeking students at Maine's community colleges are enrolled in career and occupational programs.

"We want to give anyone who is looking for training, at any point in their working life, the opportunity to learn new skills," said Dan Belyea, chief workforce development officer for MCCS and the director of the Alfond Center.

One of the longest-running short-term programs is in welding, which comes with a guaranteed interview at Bath Iron Works, a \$500/week "earn while you learn" incentive, and campus housing for some students. Dozens of short-term healthcare programs are also available, including four weeks-long phlebotomy classes, six months Advanced EMT classes, and nine-months long medical assistant programs.

Jason Hodsdon Masonry

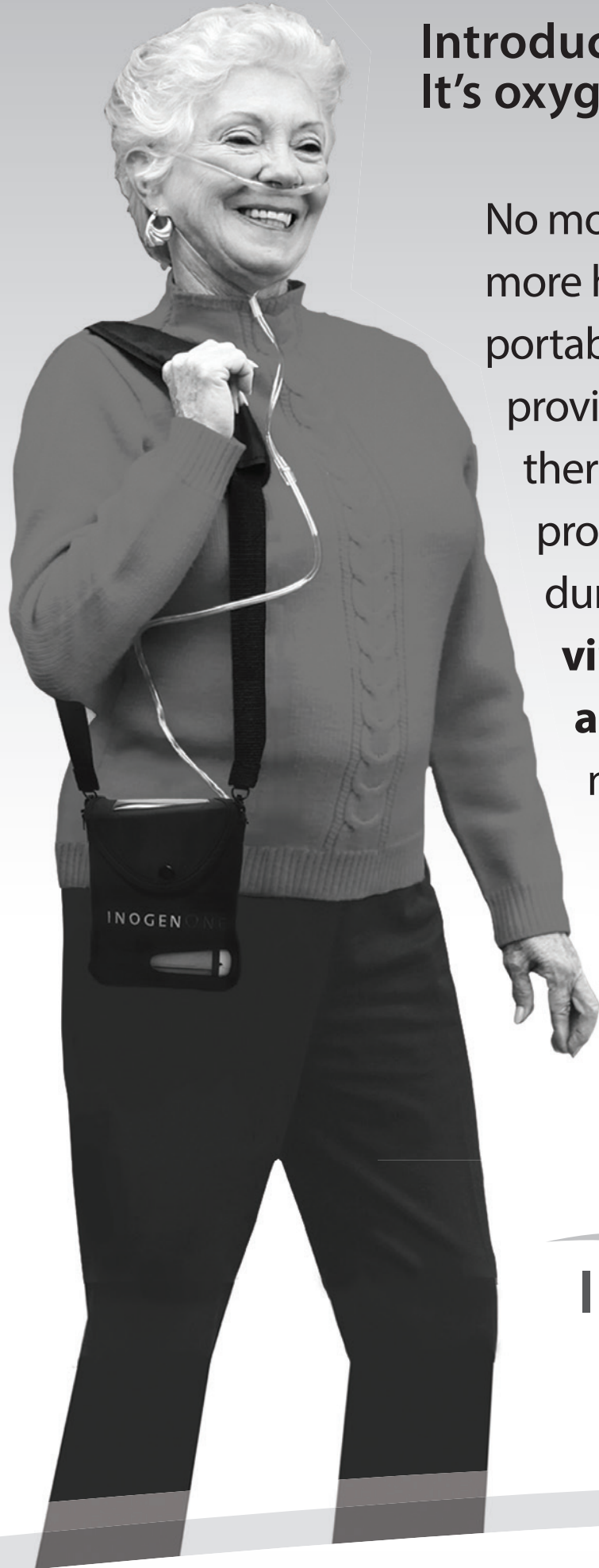
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Forest-based economy, jobs focus of new partnership

ORONO, ME — A \$7 million grant from the National Science Foundation will fund a four-year statewide collaborative project led by the University of Maine to foster resilient forest communities in Maine.

Maine-FOREST, or Forest-based Opportunities for Resilient Economy, Sustainability and Technology, will expand the state's research and educational capacity to connect human and ecosystem focused innovations and services. The project takes an integrated thematic approach to fuel the state's forest-based economy and the rural communities it supports. Key foci of the project include artificial intelligence and informatics; wood-derived alternatives to plastic, concrete and more called cellulose nanofiber bioproducts (CNF); rural and Wabanaki resilience; and economically diverse rural development.

Maine-FOREST will ultimately nurture adaptive community resilience and strengthen the capacity of rural communities and the Wabanaki Nations to respond to current and future socio-ecological threats and opportunities.

The grant provides \$4.5 million for scholarly activities at UMaine as well as \$2.5 million for collaborative activities led by project partners across the state that include nonprofits, private colleges and three additional University of Maine System

campuses. The award also includes an opportunity to secure an additional \$4.5 million to extend Maine-FOREST for three additional years.

"Maine-FOREST is a multiyear, statewide effort that will help transform the state's forest-based economy by leveraging new innovations and knowledge that link to other ongoing efforts like the state's ambitious Climate Action Plan or Forest Opportunity Roadmap, as well as prior NSF investments. Integrating new knowledge on the forest with emerging products and rural communities is essential for future climate-smart progress in Maine," said Aaron Weiskittel, professor of forest biometrics and modeling, director of the Center for Research on Sustainable Forests and the project's lead investigator.

The incubator teams created through Maine-FOREST will close key strategic gaps in the state's ability to capitalize on pioneering technology in the forest products sector and forge culturally inclusive approaches to collaboration across partner networks.

A key deliverable for the project is a forest economy and workforce dashboard updated in near real-time to help Maine's forest products sector make data-driven decisions. It will also help support the Maine Economic Development Administration University Center, led by UMaine Economist An-



drew Crawley, a co-principal investigator on the grant, to steward the dashboard and guide future efforts.

Maine-FOREST will also help create a new forest sector business development faculty position through a partnership between UMaine and the Maine Forest Service. Through this effort, a statewide Maine-FOREST Institute will help sustain collaborative partnerships and ensure the successful translation of innovation into economic impacts.

"Maine-FOREST strategically aligns well with Maine's recent EDA Forest Bioproducts Advanced Manufacturing Tech Hub effort, which aims to establish Maine as a global leader in forest-based biomaterial production and manufacturing by innovating the process of extracting biological building blocks to manufacture environmentally sustainable products," said Brian Whitney, president of the Maine Technology Institute, which is partnering on the project. "Given Maine-FOREST's research emphasis on CNF and other emerging technologies like AI, as well as the creation of a statewide research institute, the proposed project will help advance our EDA Tech Hub

tional project outcomes in environmental education," said Ruth Kermish-Allen, executive director of the MMSA who is also a principal investigator of the project.

"Investments through Maine-FOREST will double the size of the Maine TREE Forest Ecology Research Network and help Rural Aspirations disseminate its stability model, an inside-out design process where teachers, administrators and select community representatives codesign school and community systems that incorporate social and economic development challenges into learning experiences. MMSA will help our partners evaluate the impact of their educational programs, ultimately improving the learning experience in 15 K-12 schools for 200 educators and nearly 2,000 students."

The project taps into the Pine Tree State's rich network of nonprofits and universities. In addition to UMaine, Maine-FOREST includes the University of Southern Maine, an emerging research institution; the University of Maine Fort Kent and the University of Maine at Presque Isle. Other partners include Colby College, Bates College and the Maine Development Foundation. The grant will directly support more than 45 faculty, 85 undergraduate students, 10 graduate students and four post-doctoral researchers. The project will help strengthen connections between

the state's universities and nonprofit organizations through direct collaboration and partnerships.

"This investment from NSF's E-RISE RII program powers scientific progress through broad networks of researchers, institutions and organizations that will significantly enhance STEM research capacity in our EPSCoR jurisdictions," said NSF Director Sethuraman Panchanathan. "We are investing in a future where EPSCoR jurisdictions are even more competitive in the scientific enterprise, both nationally and internationally."

Maine-FOREST is one of five projects awarded nationwide through the NSF's new Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) Research Incubators for STEM Excellence Research Infrastructure Improvement (E-RISE RII) program that aims to create and cultivate sustainable networks of diverse research teams to collaborate on locally relevant research critical jurisdictional research priorities.

UMaine is the only institution in the nation to lead projects from both of NSF's new E-RISE and Collaborations for Optimizing Research Ecosystems Research Infrastructure Improvement Program (E-CORE) EPSCoR programs. The E-CORE-funded Maine-SMART was announced in May.

Sen. Collins supports nominee for Maine U.S. District Court Judge

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senator Susan Collins released the following statement on the nomination of Stacey Neumann to serve as a U.S. District Court Judge for the District of Maine:

"I will support confirmation of Stacey Neu-

mann to serve as a U.S. District Court Judge for the District of Maine based on her extensive legal experience, including as a prosecutor, her in-depth interview with me, and her hearing and background investigation by the Senate Judiciary



Committee. I have concluded that she possesses the integrity, intellect, and impartiality to serve in this critical position."

Ms. Neumann has served as a litigator at the firm Murray, Plumb & Murray since 2013, where she primarily handles

criminal defense, administrative, and civil litigation in state and federal courts and agencies. Prior to this role, she served in the

U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Maine as an Assistant U.S. Attorney, where she represented the federal government in a variety of criminal proceedings. If confirmed by the Senate, she would be assigned to the U.S. District Court seat in Bangor.



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Deadline is Friday by five.



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Summer 2024

NORWAY -- Art Exhibition "If You Lived Here, You Would" at the award-winning Gingerbread House, Main Street, Norway, Maine. The show will dialogue with the history of this incredible edifice, which pours out of its every nook and cranny. "If You Lived Here You Would..." is a consideration of the home's past that offers a glimpse into its potential future through a selection of sculptures, paintings, drawings, and mixed-media pieces—brought to western Maine for the very first time—by a group of internationally recognized and acclaimed artists.

Mondays through Aug 12

LEWISTON -- ARTVAN IN KENNEDY PARK, Mondays, June 24, July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 and August 5, 12 at 3:30PM

ArtVan will be providing hands-on creative art programs this summer in Kennedy Park for children ages 5-14 (ages 5-8 must be accompanied by an adult) for self-expression, personal growth, and fun.

Free. All art supplies will be provided.

July 1-15

PORT CLYDE, ME -- Barbara Prey Projects is pleased to open their 24th season with ABSTRACTING FROM NATURE by celebrated artist Barbara

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

Ernst Prey featuring two distinct series; never before seen oil paintings and newly released limited edition prints highlighting her distinct American vision.

July 1 — 15 | 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, daily

Main St., Port Clyde, ME 04855, 207-372-8087

July 11

NORTH CONWAY -- Arts Jubilee's 41st Summer Concert Series, happening next Thursday, July 11th at Cranmore Mountain Resort in North Conway, NH. The show features five-time Grammy-nominated American blues and swing revival big band, Roomful of Blues. Singer/guitarist Christian Martin will open the show at 6 pm, followed by 'Roomful' at 7 pm. Tickets are \$18-Adults, \$12-Seniors, \$5-Students, and free for kids 12 and under. More info can be found at www.artsjubilee.org.

July 11, Aug 7, Sept 13

ONLINE -- The University of Maine Cooperative Extension's Summer Equine Speaker Series. Three events, all of which will start at 6 p.m., will be held on the following days:

July 11: Alicia Harlov from the Humble Hoof Rehabilitation Center and podcast will share how movement and nutrition benefits horse health.

Aug. 7: Dr. Jaime Garzon, UMaine Extension's forage specialist, will discuss hay and forage testing, pasture care and weed management.

Sept. 13: Elissa Ballman will review various insect pests, ways to mitigate bugs and new research.

Registration is required to receive the webinar links for this free series. For more information and to register, visit the program webpage.

July 13

GORHAM -- The Maine Iris Society will hold its annual auction of bearded iris rhizomes on Saturday, July 13th, starting at 1:00 pm at the Treworgy Homestead and Garden located at 120 Flagg Meadow Road in Gorham, Maine. A complimentary self-guided tour of the Treworgy Garden is included. This event is free and open to the public.

July 13, 14

LEWISTON -- Sat. July 13, at 7:30 PM and Sun., July 14, at 2 PM

Late and Alone – An unforgettable one-man tribute to Johnny Cash featuring his greatest hits and stories from his life and career performed by Scott Moreau. The Public Theatre, 31 Maple Street - www.thepublictheatre.org

July 13

EAST POLAND -- The Poland Historical Society will be visiting the Empire Grove Campground located off Empire Road in East Poland on Saturday, July 13 at 10 AM. Reverend Raymond Anderson will present the history of the campground followed by a walking tour of the grounds. Established in 1834, camp meetings continue to be held, maintaining the campground's original purpose and mission for 190 years. This event is free and open to the public.

July 17

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ME Summer Book Discussions at the Auburn Public Library, Wednesday, July 17, 2024 -- 4:00-5:00 p.m. (Moon in Full)

July 19-21, 25-28

BAR MILLS -- The Original's present Private Lives, a play by Noel Coward at Saco River Theatre, 29 Salmon Falls Road, Bar Mills, ME, July 19, 20, 25, 26, 27 @ 7:30 PM and July 21 & 28 at 2:30pm. Tickets:

\$15 General Admission at www.sacorivertheatre.org.

July 21

AUBURN -- "Treks and Sojourns: Refusing Disappointment" with Luke Lunt. 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.auburnnu.org.

2024 RIVERBANK PARK COMMUNITY CONCERT SERIES

Tuesdays • July 2 - August 20 • 6-8pm

Riverbank Park Gazebo • 677 Main Street • Westbrook, ME

CONCERT SCHEDULE:

TUESDAY, JULY 2 - WESTBROOK CITY BAND	TUESDAY, JULY 30 - SUGAR HILL STRINGBAND
TUESDAY, JULY 9 - DAVID GOOD	TUESDAY, AUGUST 6 - FIDDLERS THREE
TUESDAY, JULY 16 - JC & THE ACES	TUESDAY, AUGUST 13 - PHIL 'N' THE BLANKS
TUESDAY, JULY 23 - BLUE STEEL EXPRESS	TUESDAY, AUGUST 20 - DARLIN' COREY

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Family-Friendly Concerts in the Park!
A great opportunity to order takeout from our many downtown restaurants, take your food & drink to Riverbank Park, and eat while you enjoy some great live entertainment! Or grab something quick and convenient from the cash BBQ fundraiser, presented by Stephen W. Manchester Post No. 62 and the Westbrook Lions Club, at the nearby American Legion Hall. On-site children's playground, too!

www.WestbrookCommunityCenter.org • www.facebook.com/WestbrookCommunityCenter

Plus, live music every Wednesday, May 1-August 21, 6-8pm, at the Westbrook Community Center's Bridge StrEAT Food Park! (426 Bridge Street, Westbrook)
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GORHAM LITTLE LEAGUE

Field Funding Campaign



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

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

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