

Celebrate the New Year in Gorham

GORHAM, ME
-- Ring in the new year at New Year Gorham, Gorham's annual New Year's Eve extravaganza, with activities and entertainment for people of all ages, great food, and an amazing laser light show finale!

2024 Program Information & Event Times for All New Year Gorham Events

The New Year Gorham committee, comprised of volunteers from the community, have lined up family-friendly stage shows, family-friendly food options, and a laser light show display at 9pm. See the full lineup online. The start times for events and activities are as follows:

USM Ice Skating (55 Campus Avenue) begins at 2pm

Young family events begin at 3:00pm on the Gorham Recreation side of the Gorham Municipal Center (75 South Street);



doors will open at 3pm.

Performances at Gorham High School begin at 4:30pm

Laser light show at the Gorham High School Gym at 9pm

Tickets

Pre-register for tickets online or pay at the door. Pricing is as follows:

\$7 per person December 26 - December 31 (Children under 2 free)

\$7 per person at the door

Sponsors
The New Year Gorham event is made possible by donations and the generosity from various businesses and individuals. Thank you very much to the 2024 New Year Gorham Sponsors.

The New Year Gorham Committee and the Town of Gorham wish everyone a safe and happy New Year!

New

Laser Light Show 9PM GHS Gym
Sponsored by:
Dream Home Realty
Embrace Home Loans/Bruce Souffard
Village Physical Therapy
Gorham Savings Bank/Maine Community Bank

New Year Gorham 2024

2025

Schedule Subject to Change
Scan Code for Updates

New This Year:

- Grand Finale Musical Laser Light Show!** (Dynamic FX is an award-winning and internationally recognized company that creates laser shows that combine colorful patterns of precisely programmed laser light effects timed to match lively background music.)
- Children's Museum & Theater of Maine**
 - Humpback Whales (With a life-size whale!)
 - Elephant & Piggie's "We are in a Play!" (Fully staged interactive play)
- Black-Lit Glow Room Dance Party** (Kids will dance to their own beat while wearing headphones with music options)
- Juggling Workshop** (Jason Tardy will teach us how to get started on this fun hobby)
- Elvis** (Impersonator who looks and sings like the Elvis from our past)

Back by Popular Demand:

- Ice Skating** (at USM Ice arena)
- Facepainting** (our favorite artist is back to decorate faces)
- Abracadabra Magic** (Roving magician engages kids and adults)
- Mad Science** (Entertaining and teaching science show that will amaze both children and parents alike)
- Don Roy Trio** (National Endowment for the Arts National Fellowship Recipient! Acadian music that will keep your feet tapping and hearts singing.)
- Gorham Community Chorus** (John Rimkus directs this talented group of local singers)

Thank You!

New Year Gorham Sponsors 2024*

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Edgewood Animal Hospital

*Through November 20, 2024

Pre-register Online or Pay at Door
<https://gorhamme.myrec.com/info/>
\$5pp thru December 25
\$7pp Dec 26 thru Dec 31
(Children under 2 Free)
\$7pp At Door

NYG Café
Family Friendly Food!
Prepared by Northern Force
GHS Cafeteria 4:30-7:00
Concession Snacks
Show Gym 3:00-5:00

NYG Public Park Basketball
Hot Wings
Hot & Cheese
Hot
Hot & Cold Beverages
Cakes
Brownies
Pretzels

| What | Where | Time |
|--|---------------------------|------------------|
| Ice Skating | USM Ice Rink | 2-4PM |
| Mad Science | Shaw Gym Multipurpose Rm. | 3 & 5PM |
| CMTM Whale | Shaw Gym | 3 & 4PM |
| Facepainting | Shaw Gym | 3:30-6PM |
| Abracadabra Magic | Shaw Gym Roving | 4-6PM |
| Glow Room Dance | Shaw Gym Activity Rm 1 | 4:30 5:00 5:30PM |
| Snacks for Sale | Shaw Gym | 3-5PM |
| NYG Café | GHS Cafeteria | 4:30-7PM |
| Juggling Workshop | GHS Gym | 6-6:30PM |
| Don Roy Trio | GHS Main Stage | 4:30PM |
| Gorham Community Chorus | GHS Main Stage | 5:00PM |
| GHS Chamber Singers | GHS Main Stage | 5:30PM |
| Elephant & Piggie's "We are in a Play" | GHS Main Stage | 6:00-6:55PM |
| Running With Scissors Improv Comedy | GHS Main Stage | 7-7:30PM |
| Elvis Impersonator | GHS Main Stage | 7:30-8PM |
| The Tardy Brothers | GHS Main Stage | 8-8:50PM |
| Amazing Laser Light Show | GHS Gym | 9PM |

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

Gorham BackPack Program thanks volunteers

GORHAM, ME
-- Gorham BackPack Program is giving a heartfelt THANK YOU to all the incredible volunteers who make the BackPack Program possible! Whether you're managing inventory, placing orders, packing or distributing bags, donating items, or contributing financially—you are the backbone of the program. Your generosity and dedication ensure that

no child in the Gorham Schools goes without food, and we truly couldn't do it without the unwavering support of our amazing Gorham community. As we head into Winter Break, our hearts are filled with appreciation and gratitude for each and every one of you. Together, we are making a difference. Thank you for being part of this journey with us!



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, Friend-

ship 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.

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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!

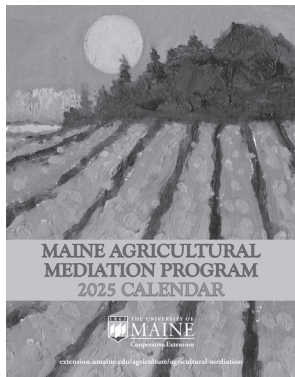
CLASSIFIED ADS \$25 PER WEEK

Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Extension calendar celebrates farming artwork by local artists

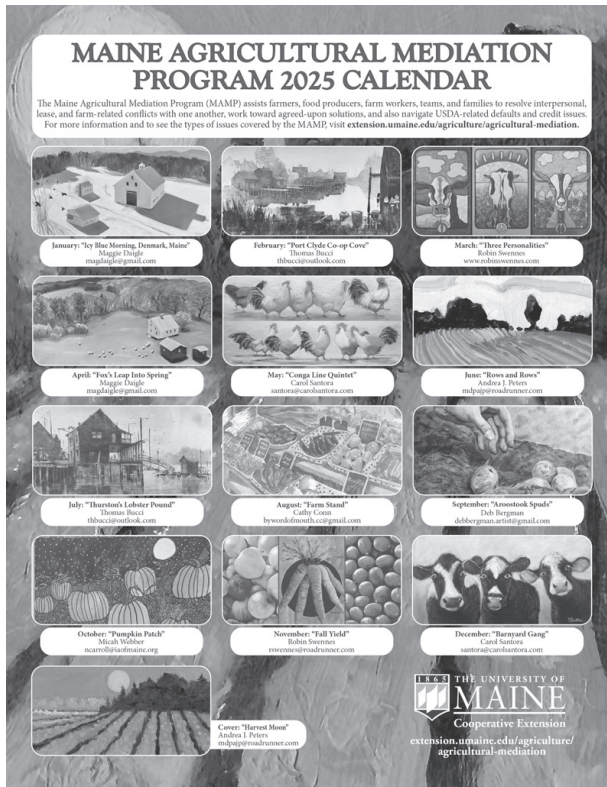
MAINE -- The Maine Agricultural Mediation Program (MAMP) has released its 2025 wall calendar. The calendar, which showcases original artwork by Maine-based artists, celebrates the theme of “Farming and Tending to the Land and Sea Throughout the Seasons” and is available for sale on the organization’s website.

MAMP, a part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Mediation Program, is managed by University of Maine Cooperative Extension.



Images courtesy University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

The 2025 calendar features twelve original images, which capture the essence of farming and the connection between farmers and the land and sea. From vibrant fields of crops to serene coastal scenes, each image tells a unique story of the agri-



cultural journey throughout the seasons.

Measuring 8.5 x 11 inches, the calendar is designed with wire binding for easy hanging. Copies are now available for purchase for \$10, which includes shipping. Visit Extension’s website to order. All proceeds from the calendar sales will directly support the Maine Agricultural Mediation Program and its efforts to assist farmers and promote sustainable agriculture in Maine.

MAMP supports farmers and families in discussions surrounding priorities, goals and decision-making as it relates to changes in the future of the farm, immediate markets and relationships

with lenders. Mediation is voluntary and confidential. It can help resolve conflict around topics that include agricultural loans, conservation programs, wetland determinations, pesticides, family farm transition, lease issues, neighbor disputes and worker/employer disagreements. Visit the program website to learn more about agricultural mediation at UMaine Extension.

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

Frances Perkins homestead designated a national monument

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On Monday, Dec. 16, Senate President Mattie Daughtry, D-Brunswick, and Sen. Cameron Reny, D-Bristol, attended the ceremony where Pres. Joe Biden designated the Frances Perkins family homestead in Newcastle as the Frances Perkins National Monument. Frances Perkins was the first woman to serve in a presidential cabinet, serving as U.S. Secretary of Labor from 1933 to 1945. She was the driving force behind the New Deal policies that protected American workers and families from economic hardship.

“As the State Senator for District 13, which includes Newcastle, I am honored to represent the area that this American icon considered home,”



Historian and Lincoln County resident Heather Cox Richardson and Sen. Cameron Reny, D-Bristol, with a lifesize cutout of Frances Perkins at the designation ceremony in the U.S. Department of Labor’s Frances Perkins Building in Washington, D.C.

said Sen. Reny. “I am proud to be serving the people of Maine, a state that has a long history of groundbreaking women in politics. Sharing Secre-

tary Perkins’ commitment to safety and fairness for working people, my colleagues and I voted for Paid Family and Medical Leave, so working people won’t have to go broke if they need to care for children, family, and themselves. Maine is proud of the contributions that

Frances Perkins has made to our country and the impact her work still has today.”

The 57-acre Perkins Homestead property, previously designated a National Historic Landmark in 2014, is one of the last nearly untouched saltwater farms along the Damariscotta River. It is here that Frances Perkins and her family, since 1750, spent generations building businesses and being part of the fabric of our communities. Perkins considered the Brick House on River Road in Newcastle home and was buried at Glidden Cemetery after her death in 1965.

The Frances Perkins Homestead National Historic Landmark’s 1837 Brick House, connected ell, and barn are currently operated and maintained by the Frances Perkins Center, a non-profit organization that purchased the property



Pres. Mattie Daughtry, D-Brunswick, U.S. Rep. Chellie Pingree, D-Maine, and Sen. Cameron Reny, D-Bristol, at the designation ceremony in the U.S. Department of Labor’s Frances Perkins Building in Washington, D.C.

in 2020. Earlier this year, the Board of Directors of the Center wished to do-

nate the property to the National Park Service, and Pres. Daughtry and Sen. Reny supported their campaign.

“This is a proud moment for Maine,” said Pres. Daughtry. “Frances Perkins was an American who brought a commitment to improving the lives of workers to her public service. That commitment transformed our country for working people.”

“I have been a Board member of the Frances Perkins Center for many years and am excited to see this national recognition finally happening for this extraordinary woman who continues to have such an important impact on the lives of all Americans,” said Sen. Peggy Rotundo.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

ARB celebrates Cheri Walker's 35 years of service

PORTLAND, ME – On December 15, Albin, Randall & Bennett (ARB) celebrated 35 years of Cheri Walker's distinguished service to the firm.

Cheri Walker, CPA, joined ARB in 1989. She broke new ground as ARB's first female prin-

cipal and has served as Managing Principal since 2006. Throughout her tenure, she has established herself as a trusted advisor to clients spanning automotive dealerships, credit unions, and closely held businesses.

"For 35 years, Cheri has been a constant force



Albin Randall & Bennett

in ARB's success through her visionary leadership," says Laura Everett, CPA, Principal at ARB. "Her

unwavering commitment to providing the absolute best client experience and natural talent for mentor-

ship continue to set the standard that defines our firm."

As ARB celebrates this significant milestone, the firm extends its deepest gratitude to Cheri for her extraordinary contributions that have helped shape the organization into what it is today.

Birth Roots Maine hosts queer parents group

PORTLAND, ME -- There is a special kind of magic when LGBTQ+ folks come together to share our experiences. This group is designed for queer and/or trans-identified parents to gather and talk about the ins and outs of being LGBTQ+ in our community.

Please use the

code communityforall at checkout to waive the \$5 fee if this is cost prohibitive to your family.

Who: We warmly welcome all LGBTQ+ parents and parents-to-be from preconception through preschool-aged kids. We know that the journey to and through parenthood, while joyful, may also be challeng-



ing... and that's often even before our kids even make it to our families! LGBTQ+ families face particular challenges, but we don't have to face them alone. We're here for all of it.

How: The magic we make when we are together is worth it! This class will not espouse a single right way to par-

ent or problem-solve. We believe that the wisest, most compassionate person in the room is all of us together. Come once, or come every month. We'll be here.

Birth Roots Maine
16 Vannah Ave, Portland, ME, United States, Maine 04101

Saturday, January 4 from 9-10:30 AM

Pajamas All Day at Happy Wheels Skate Center

WESTBROOK, ME -- Start 2025 off with a cozy, fun-filled morning at Happy Wheels Skate Center's Pajama Skate Party! Bring your little ones in their favorite fuzzy pajamas and let them roll into the new year with their stuffed animal friends, delicious breakfast treats,

and tons of skating fun!

Here's what's waiting for you:

Date: Saturday, January 4th

Time: 10 AM - 12 PM

Admission: \$12 (all ages)

Special Menu Pancakes, French Toast Bites,

Hashbrowns, Mini Donuts, and more breakfast goodness to fuel up for a morning of skating!

Location: 3 Chabot Street, Westbrook, ME

Call us at (207) 797-8207 for more details!

Get ready to make unforgettable memories in your PJs.

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Special Menu
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Hashbrowns
Mini Donuts

All Ages Admission \$12
Saturday January 4th
10am-12pm

3 Chabot St. Westbrook, ME (207) 797-8207
HappyWheels SKATE CENTER

Lakes Region Senior Center invites Gorham seniors to activities

GORHAM, ME -- If you are looking for a fun senior center with lots of activities daily, come join us at Little Falls Activity

Center, 40 Acorn Street, Gorham, Maine. We are open from 8:30 to 2 or 3 pm depending on the activity. Our calendar is online.

Call Gerry Day, President, at 839-3859 for more information

Membership fee is \$20 a year with many perks.

Sometimes we are one decision away from changing our whole lives.

Is this the year that you earn your High School credential?

Gorham Adult Education offers a supportive and personalized learning experience, small classes and a 'real world' approach. You will receive the individualized attention you need to succeed in a positive and understanding environment.

Reach out to Program Coordinator, Lori Frederick (Lori.Frederick@GorhamSchools.org) to learn more.

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

WHY PEOPLE CHOOSE CHAMPOUX INSURANCE

Jonathan Knowlton
Licensed Agent

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

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Justice Foundation celebrates fund grant achievements

AUGUSTA, ME – The Maine Justice Foundation is proud to announce the successful completion of its 2023-2024 Racial Justice Fund Grant projects. With grants awarded to six organizations, these initiatives have advanced racial equity for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities across Maine.

Now in its fourth year, the Racial Justice Fund has raised over \$830,000, distributing \$130,000 in grants to address systemic racism and inequities in Maine's institutions and communities. These efforts are made possible through the generosity of individual, corporate, and philanthropic supporters committed to creating meaningful change.

"We are honored to support these organizations working to create racial equity and positive impact for BIPOC communities throughout the state. We are grateful to the many individual and corporate supporters of the Racial Justice Fund for believing in this effort and investing in positive change. Together, we are making a meaningful difference and supporting a culture of inclusion and equity for all," says Mi-

chelle Draeger, Executive Director of the Maine Justice Foundation.

Grant Project Highlights

Maine Inside Out was awarded \$10,000 to empower incarcerated artists through original theater performances. In Spring 2024, Maine Inside Out (MIO) conducted weekly theater workshops with artists incarcerated at Mountain View Correctional Facility, fostering trust, vulnerability, and collaboration through activities like personal story sharing and theater skill-building. The group created an original play, *Life Lost in the Streets*, and prepared for performances scheduled for early June. Following an unanticipated cancellation of the live performance, MIO integrated audio recordings from the artists into a new theater piece, *Broken Clock*, developed by MIO staff and Lewiston community members. The play premiered at Lewiston's Juneteenth festival and is now on a fall tour, with approximately 300 audience members to date. The recordings will also be featured in a short film displaying MIO's work, set for release in late 2024. <https://www.maineinside-out.org/films>

The Ladder to the

Moon Network utilized a \$10,000 grant to produce a successful podcast series aimed at increasing civic engagement and trust in the election process within immigrant communities. Weekly podcasts in English, French, and Kinyarwanda/Kirundi have garnered viewership of 300–500 per episode, with French and Kirundi/Kinyarwanda videos being particularly popular. The organization also collaborated with the ACLU to produce eight videos in different languages after the 2023 election, educating immigrant communities about their rights regardless of immigration status. These videos, alongside a feature video with Rep. Chellie Pingree, have expanded Ladder to the Moon's reach and impact. <https://www.wmpg.org/wmpg-podcasts/am-jambo-time/>

The Maine Commission on Public Defense Services hosted five attorney training sessions with its \$10,000 grant, addressing racial bias and inequities in the courtroom. The Maine Commission on Public Defense Services hosted five highly impactful racial justice training sessions for legal professionals, with a sixth planned for 2025. The trainings, attended by a to-

tal of over 400 attorneys, covered topics such as racial bias in the courtroom, culturally humble representation, and strategies to interrupt bias in the criminal justice system. Recordings of these sessions have been added to the Commission's training library, ensuring continued accessibility for Maine's legal professionals. Feedback from participants highlighted increased knowledge and actionable tools for addressing racial injustice in their practices.

In Her Presence received \$5,000 to provide culturally appropriate, nutritious food for residents at the Frances Warde Home. In Her Presence addressed food insecurity by engaging residents from six different countries in discussions about culturally appropriate and nutritious foods. The project included shopping tours at local ethnic food vendors, the creation of a Maine Immigrant Greens Collaborative Education Program, and ongoing support for new residents without access to TANF or food stamps. The staff learned valuable lessons about cultural attachments to food, food safety practices, and appliance training, which informed a comprehensive approach to improving maternal and child health among immigrant families.

Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project (ILAP) was granted \$10,000 to support its 2024 Racial Justice Fellow. Ange Ishimwe, a senior at Bowdoin College majoring in Africana Studies, Digital and Computational Studies, and Government and Legal Studies, has been named this year's Racial Justice Fellow. With a background in researching the U.S. immigration system's racist roots and interning with the Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition and the Maine De-

partment of Education, Ange brings a strong focus on advocacy and inclusion. As part of her Fellowship, Ange will lead a "Community Conversations" project, conducting outreach to immigrant communities to gather insights on their immigration legal needs and other concerns. These findings will inform ILAP's 2025 strategic plan and future programming. She is currently designing the project, with outreach sessions set to begin in early 2025.

The Alpha Legal Foundation received \$5,000 to launch its Maine Justice Corps initiative, focused on establishing a legal navigators program in courthouses to support underserved BIPOC communities. The Alpha Legal Foundation used its grant to lay the groundwork for the Maine Justice Corps, a legal navigators program in Androscoggin and Cumberland counties. By training and placing AmeriCorps members as legal navigators, the project aimed to address barriers BIPOC communities face in accessing legal services. A key milestone was securing AmeriCorps approval, achieved through the submission of a successful grant application. Achieving AmeriCorps approval was a key milestone, paving the way for expanded access to legal resources. The Foundation documented comprehensive training materials, established formal partnerships, and adapted to challenges posed by off-cycle grant opportunities from Volunteer Maine. This groundwork has positioned the organization to launch the program in 2025, ensuring sustainable impact for underserved communities.

The Maine Justice Foundation remains deeply committed to advancing access to justice and fostering equity throughout Maine. By supporting innovative projects and empowering dedicated organizations, we aim to create meaningful, lasting change in our communities. Together with our partners, donors, and supporters, we continue to work toward a future where justice is accessible to all. We remain grateful to all donors to the Fund, including the founders:

AARP Maine, Androscoggin Bank, AT&T, Baker Newman Noyes, Bangor Savings Bank, Bernstein Shur, Central Maine Power, Cross Insurance, Birchbrook, Drummond Woodsum, Eaton Peabody, F.L. Putnam Investment Management Company, Gorham Savings Bank, HM Payson, Hancock Lumber, Hannaford Supermarkets, Harvard Pilgrim, Northern Light Health, Pierce Atwood, Preti Flaherty, RM Davis, Verrill, and the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation.

The Fund's Advisory Committee issued a request for proposals, reviewed applications, conducted site visits and evaluated the final project reports. The current co-chairs are Dr. Evelyn Silver and Reginald Parson. The current members of the Advisory Committee are Mary Herman, Francys Perkins, Shelly Okere, Bill Harwood, and Janis Cohen. We are grateful to Professor Marcelle Medford for her past leadership of the Advisory Committee and positive impact on the grant-making process of the Racial Justice Fund.

The Maine Justice Foundation, founded in 1983 as the Maine Bar Foundation, is the state's leading funder of civil legal aid and is committed to ensuring access to justice for all Mainers. Find us online and support the Racial Justice Fund at www.justicemaine.org.

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Seniors Not Acting Their Age

Climbing Secluded Albany Mountain



Hikers carefully navigate around the rim of a beaver pond

Until a couple of years ago, I had never heard of Albany Mountain. While hiking on Caribou Mountain in the Evans Notch area with friends Laurie Wunder and Tom Meredith, they pointed out the nearby 1,930-foot summit and recommended it as another scenic hike in the area.

Northern New Hampshire residents, Tom and Laurie have acquired a vast knowledge of the best hikes in the region so I place high value on their mountain recommendations. Our interest piqued; a few days later, my wife, Nancy, and I joined them for our first ascent of the secluded peak and thoroughly enjoyed the stimulating outing.

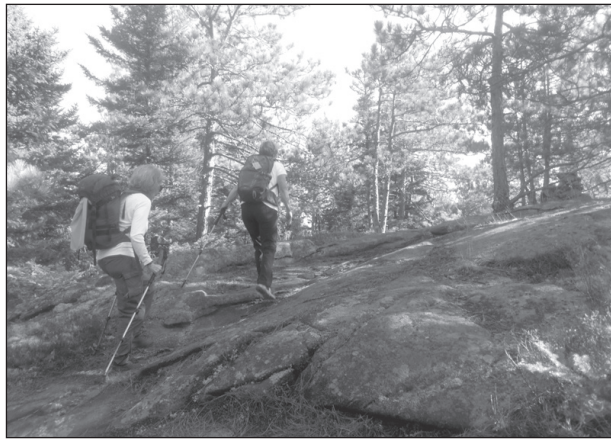
Albany Mountain is located in Albany Township, a mountainous area between West Bethel and Stoneham and part of the eastern sector of White Mountain National Forest. Unlike many hiking

destinations in the area, it doesn't get much foot traffic.

Since Nancy and I are coping with nagging physical ailments, we've been looking for easy to moderate mountain hikes this fall that don't exceed our limitations. In an email conversation with Tom and Laurie, we suggested Albany Mountain for a Halloween Day outing. Tom couldn't make it but Laurie was game.

Getting to Albany Mountain Trailhead is a bit of a chore. The old Maine expression, "you can't get there from here" applies. Leaving Topsham, we drove to Norway and then followed Routes 118 and 5 to Patte Mill Brook Road on the left. We maneuvered down the narrow dirt road to a left onto Crocker Pond Road. The trailhead and small parking area is on the right after traveling .6 mile.

We met Laurie at the



Upsloping ledges lead to the highpoint on Albany Mountain

trailhead on a glorious, warm sunny fall day. When we arrived, I immediately realized we should have planned the trip two weeks earlier as the peak autumn foliage had passed and most of the leaves on the deciduous trees had fallen. Still the downed leaves and dark green conifer trees provided a brilliant array of colors. Since bird hunting season was underway, we wore a combination of hunter's orange vests and bright yellow tops.

Our trek began on a well-worn path covered with leaves and marked with yellow blaze. We hiked easily in a predominantly barren hardwood forest on gentle terrain until reaching a beaver pond.

The pond presented the most challenging hiking conditions of the day. An attenuated muddy branch-infested path leads around the rim of the pond. Our primary concern was keeping footwear dry. A

misstep on one side would soak our feet while an errant move in the opposite direction would result in sinking into ankle deep mud. We carefully negotiated through the maze of obstacles while avoiding any significant accidents.

The trail widened on a gentle hard packed dirt surface covered with a thick carpet of leaves. As we progressed, the gradient steepened and the character of the passageway transitioned to a circuitous route over sometimes slippery granite ledges.

We passed a side trail that leads to an overlook and agreed to explore it during our return. More extensive upsloping ledges led us to a rounded top crowned with a small cairn that appeared to be the highpoint. We did not find a summit marker.

From that location, we descended on an obvious path to exposed ledges that provide expansive



Hikers search for viewpoints south of the Albany Mountain summit

views of the surrounding valley. Based on Laurie's recollection that more panoramic vistas were in the area, we continued searching through narrow passages that led to more scenic revelations.

Satisfied we had experienced the best of the southern views; we returned over the summit and dropped down to the spur trail previously bypassed. The unremarkable path ends at an impressive west facing overlook with spectacular views of the White Mountains. We stopped for a lunch break while trying to identify the various peaks. Laurie ended speculation by retrieving a map of the Whites from her pack.

The warm summer-like weather provided an added incentive to linger. However, concerns about driving after dark with trick-or-treaters on the streets motivated us to move on.

While the majority of our descent was uneventful, we still had to carefully navigate around the problematic beaver pond. Fortunately, our traverse along the edge of the tiny tarn was mishap free.

My book, *Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine* narrates nine more exciting mountain hikes around the state.

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

New Paid Family and Medical Leave portal launches

AUGUSTA, ME – The Maine Department of Labor announced today that the new Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) Portal, the online system for employers to register their business information, designate a payroll processor, file quarterly wage reports, and remit quarterly premi-

um contributions, will be launching on January 6.

Starting January 1st, 2025, any employer with at least one Maine-based employee must begin payroll withholdings for their employees. Employers with 15 or more employees will contribute 1 percent of wages and may deduct up to half

of the contribution from the employees' wages. Employers with less than 15 employees will contribute 0.5 percent of wages and may deduct the entire amount from the employees' wages.

All employers must register on the portal to begin wage reporting in April 2025. The portal will also

allow self-employed individuals and tribal governments to elect coverage.

Employers will begin their first quarterly wage reporting and premium payments starting April 1, 2025, and they are due by April 30, 2025.

Stay up to date by signing up for the PFML

Get Notified List and learn more in our FAQ, employer resources, recorded demonstrations, and step by step guides on our website: www.maine.gov/paidleave/

The Department partnered with FAST Enterprises to build the Maine Paid Family and Medical Leave Program's online

contributions portal. FAST Enterprises has previously worked with Maine Revenue Services to create the Maine Tax Portal, as well as the contribution collections system for the Massachusetts Department of Family and Medical Leave.

Benefits are scheduled to begin May 1, 2026.

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Arts & Entertainment

Enchanted Royal Brunch welcomes princesses

SOUTH PORTLAND, ME -- On Saturday AND Sunday - December 28 & 29, 2024 at Saltwater Grille - South Portland, Maine, join with your favorite princesses for a morning of fun. This **MAGICAL** day will be filled with a yummy brunch, photos, singing, dancing, games, stories and meet & greets with your favorite royals! Even more magic can be experienced with a VIP ticket!

Our Characters Include:

- SATURDAY
- CINDERELLA
- ARIEL
- BELLE
- RAPUNZEL
- TIANA
- SUNDAY
- ELSA
- ANNA
- MERIDA
- SLEEPING BEAUTY

MOANA
Characters are subject to change without notice

TICKETS:
Due to venue capacity limits, every attendee **MUST** secure a ticket!

General Admission all ages: \$60

Includes - Meeting all of the characters, brunch, and many magical activities! The princesses will host a storytime, play fun games, lead a royal dance



lesson, and perform their well known songs - while inviting your kiddos to join in a sing-along!

Optional Pre-Purchase Add-Ons:

VIP upgrade: \$20

VIP includes an extra 30 minutes of memory making magic before the GA doors open. Your little one will participate in a special Royal Princess Promise activity, before getting coronated with their very own rhinestone tiara to take home! Kiddos

will then have the opportunity to get a group photo with ALL of the princesses together! VIP allows for more exclusive time 'one-on-one' with the characters before GA begins.

Rhinestone Tiara: \$15

A beautiful metal and rhinestone tiara for your little one to show-off her true princess self during the event! A wonderful piece of memorabilia to take home and wear on the most magical of days!

Autograph Book: \$10

Add even more magic to your character interactions, scavenger hunt style, by collecting all of their signatures! For an extra fun project, add your photos with the characters to your book later at home!

Magic Light-up Wand: \$15

Always very popular at our events, the magic light-up wands include batteries and are ready for immediate play!

Mouse Ears: \$20

Our mouse ears are event exclusive! Each event we try to offer a different style of mouse ears. These specific ears may never be offered by DH again!

Princess Pack: \$50 (\$65 value!)

Includes a drawstring bag, rhinestone tiara, autograph book, event exclusive mouse ears, and magic light-up wand!

PLEASE NOTE:
Tickets are limited

due to event venue capacity and may sell out quickly! If this happens, PLEASE sign-up for the waitlist. We may release additional sessions depending on interest!

Tickets are non-refundable.

Please arrive 5-10 minutes before the event start time for check-in so you do not miss any activities!

Eventbrite is the **ONLY** legitimate ticket seller for this event. No outside sites or venues will sell tickets to this event. Please do not fall victim to scammers!

A ticketed parent and/or guardian must accompany their child or children throughout the entire event.

We reserve the right to refuse entry or remove a guest from our event for any reason without refund.

By participating in this event, you agree to give consent to DH and its authorized representatives, granting them permission to photograph and/or video record your participation in this event.

Tickets are **NON-REFUNDABLE** but are completely transferable! If you are unable to attend, feel free to give your tickets to a friend or family member. They can use your name or QR code for check-in! See less

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Saturday - January 18, 2025
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6:00 pm
Franco Center, Heritage Hall
Free concert tickets for adults bringing children to this event.
Funded in part by the Alfred M. Senter Fund and the Nathaniel Davis Fund

MidcoastSymphony.org or 207-481-0790
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Noon Year Party celebrates the New Year for all ages

NOON YEAR PARTY
Ring in 2025 with stories, crafts, snacks, and a balloon drop at the strike of noon!

CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND Public Library

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31ST

DOORS OPEN AT 11:30AM

Dress up, wear your pjs, or come as you are!

Main Library

SOUTH PORTLAND, ME -- Join South Portland Public Library (482 Broadway, South Portland, ME) at the Main Library on Tuesday, December 31st for our annual Noon Year Party! Doors open at 11:30am. Ring in 2024 with stories, crafts, snacks, and a balloon drop at the strike of noon at this fun all-ages event! Dress up, wear your pjs, or come as you are!

Local author publishes last book in trilogy

Local playwright and children's book author Paul Baribault has had released his newest book on Amazon, the last in a Trilogy. A Covenant Books title, it will soon be on the Barnes & Noble website and in its bookstores, and in the New Year it will be available as an e-reader on Apple i-Tunes.

The work's title, "Into the Presence – The Christ Writings" is a compilation of the over 200 messages the author has received "in the Stillness" of God's Presence, these last eight years.

His second book, "Comedy & Grace" closed with 30 such writings, and this one begins where that one concluded.

INTO THE PRESENCE



Received of Our Lord Christ Jesus, October 26, 2022

"Like the fall of rain upon the Earth does My touch of Love fall on everyone, believer and non-believer, while only those who know Me can feel its impress on their hearts.

In their very breath I Am – there to inspire, to uplift or tenderly provide comfort and the Surprise of Beauty.

Below, the partial writing under the Back Cover's image gives an indication of the tenderness and encouragement that will be found in the messages, throughout this work of inspiration. It can be ordered through the

author's website at: [www. Ourbrillianteternity.com](http://www.Ourbrillianteternity.com).

Mr. Baribault with this announcement also wants to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, and a Healthy and Blessed New Year.

Maine Right to Life names new executive director

AUBURN, ME – The Maine Right to Life Committee appoints the Hon. Michael McClellan as its new executive director. Mike is a husband, father, grandfather, and community member with a passion for life! Notably, he has an award-winning background

as an Executive Director for both the Maine Statewide Independent Living Council and the Greater Bridgton Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce. As a former state representative and as a policy director at the Christian Civic League, Mike also brings with him a wealth of

legislative knowledge.

The Maine Right to Life Committee will formally welcome Mr. McClellan at their 50th Anniversary commemoration, which is scheduled at St. Maximilian-Kolbe Church in Scarborough, Maine on Monday, December 30th at 9am.

What do you think?

We strongly encourage Letters to the Editor, Op/Eds, columns or any other submissions from our readers.

Agree with us or another columnist? Disagree? Write to us and let us know!

Email all submissions, including name, address and phone number, to the editor.

New England McDonald's raise \$1M for families in need

MAINE –As McDonald's and Ronald McDonald House Charities celebrate the 50th anniversary of the nonprofit and their enduring partnership, New England McDonald's Owner Operators are excited to announce their customers have helped raise \$1.26M for the organization year-to-date by rounding up their purchases at restaurants across the region, with \$270,000 of that coming directly from Maine restaurants.

Round-Up for RMHC® provides customers with the opportunity to Round-Up their order totals in-restaurant to the nearest

whole number, with the additional amount being donated to their local RMHC Chapter. Here in Maine, the funds are used to provide a supportive home away from home for families while their children are receiving life-saving medical treatment at local hospitals. The money raised this year equates to 2,700 nights free of charge for those who need it.

Local McDonald's owner operator and one of New England's top contributors, Ronald Lydick, has helped raise more than \$140,000 for RMHCME this year across his 25 restaurants. In addition

to Round-Up, Lydick and his wife Cyndi of Portland offer up the parking lot of their restaurant on St. John Street to Sea Dogs fans on game days in exchange for donations, raising more than \$130,000 since 2004.

"One of the most rewarding parts of being a local business owner is being able to show up for our neighbors in the communities we serve," said McDonald's Owner Operator Ron Lydick. "From Round-Up to golf tournaments, fundraising nights, and donation boxes, Maine McDonald's operators' commitment to RMHC runs deep. We want to thank to staff at each

Maine McDonald's restaurants for their dedication to support the charity and are constantly amazed by the generosity that flows through our community – they've truly shown up this year to offer their support for these programs, enabling us to stand beside families fighting the toughest battles imaginable."

"We are deeply grateful to our lifelong partner, McDonald's, for their unwavering support and dedication to our mission," said Ian Tovell, Development and Marketing Director for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Maine. "Their commitment to

Maine's children and families is truly unparalleled. The generosity demonstrated by McDonald's customers, owner operators, and staff reflects a profound investment in the well-being of families with sick children. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the McDonald's community for being steadfast champions of our cause and making an immeasurable difference in the lives of those we serve."

These local fundraising efforts make up a portion of the more than \$1 billion dollars McDonald's Corporation, their franchisees and customers have donated to help RMHC

serve tens of millions of families worldwide over the past 50 years. If every U.S. customer rounded up even for just one day, it could equate to approximately 65,000 family night stays at a Ronald McDonald House®, making a huge difference in the lives of families with children who are ill or injured.

The community is encouraged to rally behind RMHC for this golden anniversary. Customers can join in on the celebration by giving a Gift to RMHC the next time they visit McDonald's by simply rounding up their purchase to the nearest whole dollar.

Registration now open for the 2025 WinterKids Downhill 24

CARRABASSETT VALLEY, ME — The countdown is on! Registration is officially open for the 2025 WinterKids Downhill 24, Maine's only 24-hour ski and snowboard challenge. Mark your calendars for February 27-28, 2025, as Sugarloaf transforms into a high-energy, illuminated playground for skiers and snowboarders from across New England.

This year, WinterKids is excited to spotlight a growing movement in our community: philanthropy powered by kids, for kids. From the youngest skiers to seasoned snowboarders, more young people are stepping up, fundraising, and advocating for their peers. The Downhill 24 embodies this spirit of "kids helping kids," ensuring all children can access outdoor winter fun and activities that keep them healthy and thriving.

Here's what you need to know:

What's New in 2025:



Presented by:



Special prizes and challenges just for younger participants to inspire and reward their fundraising efforts, expanded course options, and eco-friendly event tees.

What's Returning: The iconic, lit-up Narrow Gauge trail (thanks to Herc Rentals and Pike Industries!), non-stop skiing and snowboarding, and the chance to ski Sugarloaf at night—the only time you can all year.

Why You Should Join: Whether you're a seasoned athlete, a weekend warrior, or just looking for a fun way to give back, this event is for you. WinterKids is calling on fam-

ilies, friends, coworkers, and thrill-seekers to lace up their boots, hit the slopes, and make a difference. Proceeds from the event support WinterKids' programs, helping over 50,000 participants each year stay active and healthy outdoors during the winter.

This year's Downhill 24 is a unique opportunity to celebrate kids taking the lead in giving back to their communities. It's more than just an event; it's a chance to empower the next generation of changemakers to make a meaningful impact.

How to Register Visit D24.org to sign up. Spots are limited and filling fast, so don't wait!



Registration opens for Spanish class at Gorham's BML

GORHAM, ME -- Registration for Gorham Spanish class this winter is now open! We'll be meeting Tuesdays at 3pm at Baxter Memorial Library! You can find more information here <https://www.learningwithyaya.com>

Join our Spanish Immersion Program for kids 1-8yo this winter and give your child the gift of bilingualism!

Lessons begin January 15!! We meet once a week in the following towns:

Tuesday: Cape Elizabeth (morning) and Gorham (afternoon)

Wednesday: Falmouth (morning and afternoon)



"This class is amazing! Yaya makes learning a language into something really really fun- it's the highlight of my child's week. The way she teaches is so hands on and interactive. I really think the kids absorb so much. She is so creative and thoughtful about the activities and music."



Thursday: Scarborough (starting March)
Friday: North Yarmouth (morning)
Saturday: Falmouth (morning)
Registration is NOW OPEN!

Gorham Food Pantry Friends in need of toothbrushes, paste

GORHAM, ME -- Gorham Food Pantry Friends are getting ready to hand out

toothbrushes and toothpaste to our clients during the month of January; any dental care items that we

receive during December will be put to good use in the next few weeks. Thanks!



Electricity Maine customers should watch for refunds

HALLOWELL, ME -- Approximately 20,000 former and current Electricity Maine customers will soon receive refunds, the Office of the Public Advocate (OPA) announced.

The refunds are part of a settlement among the OPA, the Staff of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), and Electricity Maine. The refunds will cover up to three months of unlawful charges.

"Electricity Maine customers were overcharged by millions of dollars compared with what they would have paid had they simply paid the Standard Offer price for electricity," said Public Advocate William Harwood. "Customers should keep an eye out for mail from Electricity Maine

containing refunds for those charges."

Customers will receive refunds via debit cards, which will need to be activated upon receipt. Depending on how many months' worth of refunds a customer is entitled to, they may receive a second refund, which will be mailed approximately 190 days after the first refund. The amount of the refund is based on the amount of time customers were charged a variable rate without their consent, and the amount the customer paid above the Standard Offer at the time.

In 2000, the Maine Legislature restructured the state's electric industry by taking power companies out of the generating business,

allowing them only to deliver electricity. For the supply of electricity, consumers can choose either the Standard Offer rate, which is set annually by the PUC, or consumers may choose a Competitive Electricity Provider (CEP) such as Electricity Maine, whose rates are not subject to PUC review or approval.

Maine ratepayers can choose to switch back from a CEP to the Standard Offer Provider at any time without a penalty by contacting their utility.


The OPA released a Frequently Asked Questions guide at www.maine.gov/MEOPA regarding the refund process, and customers can call 207-624-3687 with any questions or concerns.

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


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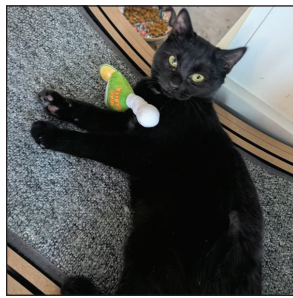
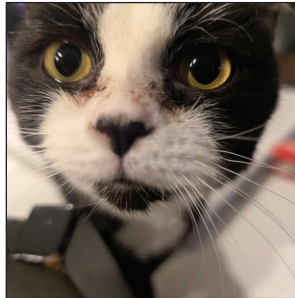
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Westbrook's MEow Lounge hosts movie night with kitties

WESTBROOK, ME -- Movie Night at the Lounge - enjoy a room full of kitties, free popcorn and

the classic holiday film, Elf. A perfect way to unwind during the holidays... all are welcome. Friday

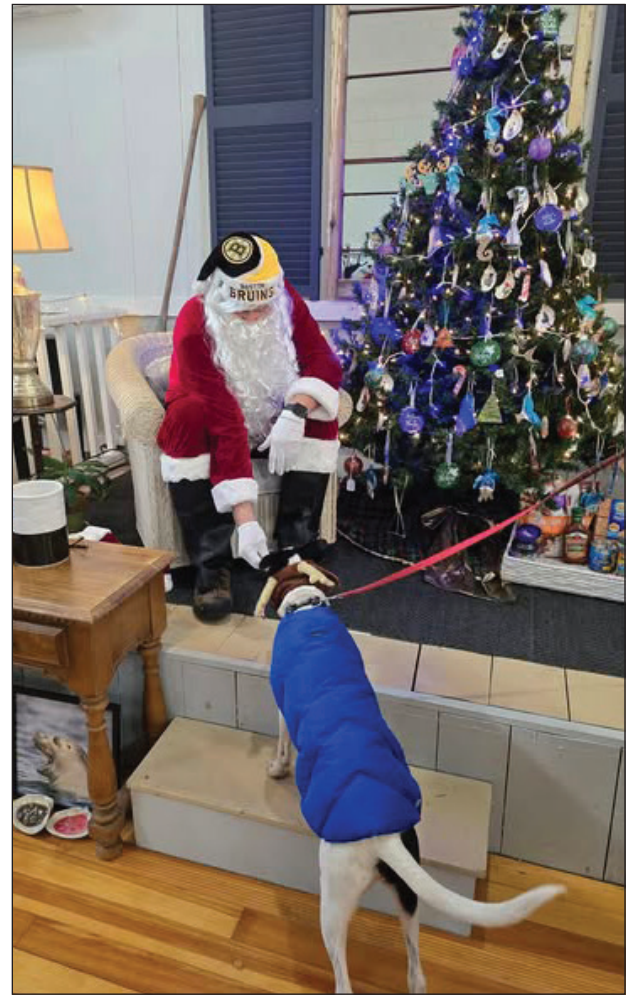
December 27, 6-8PM. To reserve a spot: www.meowcatlounge.com



Epoxy ME supports community, raises funds for food pantry

OLD ORCHARD BEACH, ME – On December 15, Epoxy Maine hosted Santa and it was a blast! So many wonderful pups came and met Santa! We raised \$267 for the food pantry plus a bunch of donated nonperishables! Here are some pho-

tos of the activities! Thank you to everyone who came out today, we appreciate your support!! A big thank you to Strange Events for coming out and bringing Grace the mobile bar that had snacks and cocoa!



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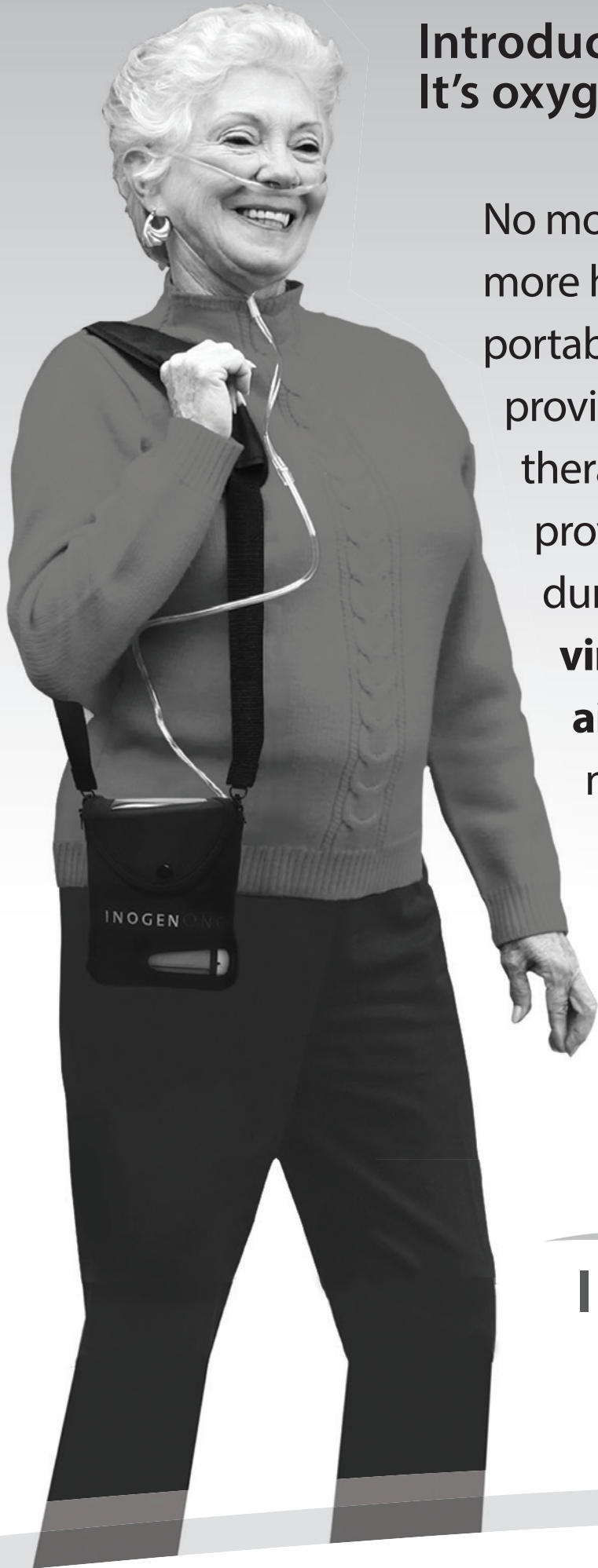
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Maine CASA to hold training March 10-14

MAINE -- Interested in advocating for the best interests of a child? The Maine Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program is holding its next training for volunteer advocates from March 10th through March 14th, 2025.

This free, five-day training is designed to prepare attendees for certification as volunteer guardians ad litem (GALs) in Maine child protection cases. Trainees may participate virtually or in person. For those who wish to partici-

pate in person, the training will be held in Augusta. Accommodations may be available.

The foundation of a CASA's work is learning about the case and then advising the court what the CASA believes is in

the child's best interest. CASAs come from a wide variety of professional and personal backgrounds and are guided throughout the process by CASA program staff. CASAs bring their own unique perspectives to their work as volunteers.

If you are willing to advocate for a child's best interests, we encourage you to apply to become a CASA volunteer. Those interested in the training must complete an application and, if invited to participate, must also com-

plete criminal and child protection services background checks.

For more information about becoming a volunteer, please contact Maine CASA at 213-2865 or by e-mail at casa@courts.maine.gov

4-H launching workshops on climate action, farm animal care

MAINE -- University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H Virtual Learning is kicking off 2025 with two opportunities in January, a series on climate civic action and a series introducing farm care and basic animal science. This Extension program leads virtual learning opportunities for young people on a variety of topics

throughout the year. The zoom sessions feature activities that are hands-on, minds-on learning for youth located anywhere in the state.

Farm Animal Care FUNDamentals will be held on Wednesdays, January 22, 29 and February 5 from 4 - 5:15 p.m. Participants ages 9-18 will learn the basics of farm animal care, exploring



Photos courtesy University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

basic animal husbandry, care and nutrition. Registration deadline is January 7, 2025.

Climate Civic Action club will take place on Mondays, January 27, February 3 and 10 from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Participants ages 12-18 will learn about climate change from global and local perspectives and explore opportunities for

individual action to make a difference. Registration deadline is January 13, 2025.

Participation is free though donations are accepted. Learn more or register by visiting the event webpage. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact 207.581.8206; sarah.sparks@maine.edu.

Maine's approach to youth vaping wins national marketing award

LEWISTON, ME - Rinck Advertising has been honored with a 2024 Silver Davey Award for the "Vape Free Maine: Don't Get Side Effect-ed" campaign, developed in partnership with the

Maine CDC. This groundbreaking campaign is recognized for its innovative approach to addressing the youth vaping epidemic, making it a key player in the cause marketing category.



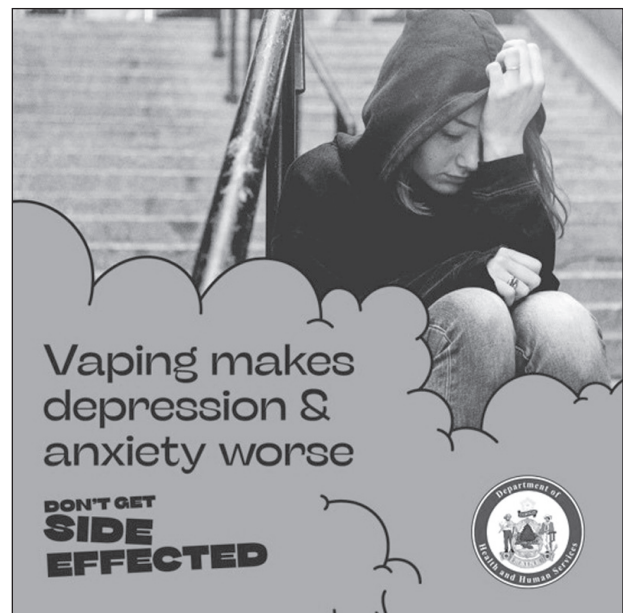
The "Don't Get Side Effect-ed" campaign captures the attention of youth through relatable messaging that directly confronts the short-term health effects of vaping, debunks common myths, and provides actionable resources for quitting. "Winning this award highlights the effectiveness of data-driven strategies in combating public health challenges," said Laura Rinck, President of Rinck Advertising. "We're proud to partner with the Maine CDC on this crucial work, empowering young people to make positive changes in their lives."

Nikki Jarvais, Senior Vice President and subject matter expert in behavioral change marketing, added, "Our campaign contributed to a remarkable

45% reduction in youth vaping rates among high school students, proving that targeted communication strategies effectively resonate with this audience. 'Don't Get Side Effect-ed' exemplifies the effectiveness of tailored behavioral change communication strategies. By engaging directly with teens, we not only raise awareness but also foster a supportive environment for change."

The campaign's success is further evidenced by the 2023 Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey (MIYHS), which found that 15.6% of high school students reported using an electronic vapor product in the past 30 days, a sharp decline from 28.7% in 2019—representing a 45% reduction. This marks the largest decline in youth vaping rates among high school students in the state's history.

Over its 125 days in market, the campaign de-



livered impressive results, generating 40.2 million impressions, 212,000 ad clicks, and 5,950 clicks from teens interested in enrolling in treatment to quit vaping—an average of 47 potential enrollments per day.

As the youth vaping public health crisis continues, 'Don't Get Side Effect-ed' reflects Maine's commitment to addressing the issue. The campaign demonstrates how the strategic integration of media and creative messaging can drive meaningful behavioral change, using in-

novative, targeted media solutions that captured teens' attention and drive conversions.

The Davey Awards is the largest and most prestigious competition exclusively for the "Davids" of creativity—small agencies with big ideas. Judged by the Academy of Interactive and Visual Arts, a body of top-tier professionals from acclaimed organizations like Condé Nast, Disney, and Microsoft, the Davey Awards honor creativity, innovation, and excellence across media, advertising, and marketing.

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Wednesdays

GORHAM – Story Hour every Wednesday from 10:30 to 11:30 at North Gorham Public Library.

Thursdays

LEWISTON -- Baby Sensory Playtime in the Lewiston Public Library's Children's Department every Thursday morning from 10am to 12pm.

Drop-in and join us for Baby Sensory Playtime! Babies and their caregivers will have the opportunity to interact with a variety of sensory toys and socialize with other families with young children. Playtime with sensory toys contributes to a baby's cognitive development, fine motor skills, social and emotional development, creativity, and language development.

Recommended for babies ages birth-18 months and their caregivers. Siblings are always welcome. This program is free, open to the public and no registration is required.

Dec 31

LEWISTON – From 11:15am to 12:00pm at the Lewiston Public Library, enjoy an interactive storytime for some fun with books, songs, and body movement while building early literacy skills.

Recommended for children ages 3 – 5 years old and their caregivers. Siblings are always welcome. Please stay home if you or your child are sick

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

and not feeling well. This program is free, open to the public, and no registration is required.

Dec 31

BANGOR -- The Maine Discovery Museum is thrilled to invite families to ring in the New Year early at Midnight at the Museum! This fun-filled, family-friendly New Year's Eve event takes place on December 31, from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM, offering kids and parents the perfect way to celebrate the holiday without staying up until midnight.

Jan 3-5

MONMOUTH -- The Monmouth Community Players (MCP) are excited to present our 4th Annual MCP Shorts Play Festival, happening at the start of the new year at Cumston Hall, 796 Main St, Monmouth, ME 04259. January 3rd at 7pm, January 4th at 7pm, and January 5 at 2pm. Tickets will be \$10 general admission and are available online or at the door. Advance tickets can be purchased by visiting our website's home page, www.monmouthcommunityplayers.org or contacting our box office at mcpxboxoffice@gmail.com or calling at 207-370-9566.

Jan 10

LEWISTON -- On Friday, January 10th at 10am the Lewiston Public Library Children's Department will be offering the program My Little Snowflake Handprint Keepsake. Caregivers and their young children will be able to make a wintery snowflake themed handprint keepsake. This activity is recommended for caregivers with children between the ages of 0-6 years old. Siblings are also welcome to attend and participate. This program will take place in the Children's Department on the third floor of the library. The activity is free and there is no registration required.

Jan 11

BRUNSWICK -- The 2024-25 UUCB Concerts for a Cause Series season will include folk, jazz, blues, celtic, and choral singing for justice. This season's charities receiving 100% of the profits from the concert are Brunswick Area Teen Center and Maine Family Planning. For further details about the concerts, go to <https://www.uubrunswick.org/events/>.

David Mallett - Sat, January 11, 2025 at 7:30

pm. Doors open 7:00 pm.

Maine's own singer-songwriter David Mallett is one of America's true troubadours. In a career that spans four decades, David Mallett has recorded 17 albums and has performed in clubs, concert halls and festivals across the US, Canada and Europe. He has appeared on numerous broadcasts, including National Public Radio's A Prairie Home Companion. Known for his carefully written, poetic offerings, his body of work has provided material for more than 150 artists, including Alison Krauss, Pete Seeger, Hal Ketchum, Emmylou Harris, John Denver and even the Muppets, and his "Garden Song" has become an American folk classic.

Tickets: \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door, \$10 Students/Children. Available at the church office, Gulf of Maine Books, or online at <https://ticketstripe.com/pousette>.

Jan 14

LEWISTON -- In partnership with the Lewiston CareerCenter, the Lewiston Public Library will host a resume workshop on Tuesday, January 14th in the Idea Lab on the second floor from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The CareerCenter will provide professional resume writing and job connection assistance on a first-come, first-served basis. No registration is re-

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Jan 18

LEWISTON -- The Midcoast Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Rohan Smith presents "Invigorating Water Music." The performance is on January 18 at 7:00 p.m. at the Franco Center, 46 Cedar St., Lewiston. For info and tickets visit <https://www.midcoastsymphony.org/tickets> or call 207-481-0790. Tickets \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. Age 25 and under are free. The Audience is also invited to our free "More with Midcoast" "Meet the Instruments" event that begins at 6:00pm.

Mar 15

BRUNSWICK -- The 2024-25 UUCB Concerts for a Cause Series season will include folk, jazz, blues, celtic, and choral singing for justice. This season's charities receiving 100% of the profits from the concert are Brunswick Area Teen Center and

Maine Family Planning. For further details about the concerts, go to <https://www.uubrunswick.org/events/>.

Women in Harmony - Sat, Mar 15, 2025 at 7:30 pm. Doors open 7:00 pm. Tickets: \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door, \$10 Students/Children

Women in Harmony is a Portland-based chorus of 60 women's voices, which has been singing for social justice for over 20 years. It is a diverse group of gay and straight, musically sophisticated and musically untrained women who unite in song and a spirit of fairness. Women in Harmony is dedicated both to musical excellence and social justice.

Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door, \$10 Students/Children. Available at the church office, Gulf of Maine Books, or online at <https://ticketstripe.com/womenharmony>

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
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SENIOR TRIPS

If interested in any of the following trips or upcoming trips, please contact Claire Bilodeau at 784-0302 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.

MAY 29 - JUNE 4, 2025 - WASHINGTON, D.C.

- NATION'S CAPITAL – Trip includes 7 days and 6 nights lodging, 6 breakfasts and 4 dinners. A guided tour of Washington, D.C. which includes the US Capitol, the White House, the National Archives, Embassy Row and Georgetown. We will also visit the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial. We will also have a

guided evening tour of all the Memorials. We will have a Guided Tram Tour of inspirational sights such as Arlington National Cemetery, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Kennedy Graves and the Iwo Jima Memorial.

We will visit the Smithsonian Museum and the Museum of the Bible which contains some of the oldest and most important biblical artifacts in human history. On our way home we will stop and enjoy the National Harbor which is a unique waterfront wonderland of shopping, dining and more. **A \$75.00 deposit is due when signing up for this trip. The price is \$985.00 per person double occupancy. Add \$305.00 for single occupancy. Final payment is due 3/22/25.**

SEPTEMBER 11-19, 2025 – BLUEGRASS COUNTRY & THE SMOKY MOUNTAINS

- Price includes round trip air from Logan International Airport, hotel transfers, and all transportation while on tour, 9 days, and 13 meals.

Highlights of this tour are Louisville and Lexington, Kentucky – Churchill Downs, Kentucky Derby Museum, Louisville

Slugger Museum, Buffalo Trace Bourbon Distillery, Lexington Horse Farm.

Gatlinburg, Tennessee – Dolly Parton's Smoky Mountain Theme Park, Guided tour of the Great Smokey Mountain National Park (UNESCO), Cherokee, Old Smoky Moonshine Distillery.

Asheville, North Carolina – Blue Ridge Mountains, tour of the Biltmore Estates Mansion and manicured grounds.

Deposit for this trip is \$698.00 per person and due by March 11, 2025. Early bookings save \$100.00 per person. For more information on pricing call Claire.

OCTOBER 6 – 10, 2025

– ATLANTIC CITY, CAPE MAY, & PHILADELPHIA - Trip includes 5 days and 4 nights lodging, 4 breakfasts and 4 dinners and a free casino bonus for those who want to gamble.

Guided tour of Philadelphia including Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, Betsy Ross House, the Federal Reserve and Mint. Then off to Cape May with a Trolley Tour of the Victorian Mansions of Cape May and a walking tour of a historic Victorian Home. We travel to Cape May Point and the

famous Cape May Lighthouse. Our next day is a free day in Atlantic City to do as you please. Take in a show, do some gaming or just stroll down Atlantic City's Famous Boardwalk. **A \$75.00 deposit per person is due upon signing up. The price for this trip is \$849.00 per person double occupancy. Add \$210.00 for single occupancy. Final Payment is due 7/30/25.**

NOVEMBER 16-26, 2025 – CLASSICAL GREECE

- Price includes round trip air from Logan International Airport, hotel transfers and all transportation while on tour. Trip also includes 16 meals (9 breakfasts, 1 luncheon, and 6 dinners).

Highlights of this tour are Athens, the Acropolis and Parthenon, Delphi, Olympia and Ancient Mycenae. You will visit a Greek Farm, have a Cooking Class, Greek Dance Class, and visit two remote monasteries. We will also have a tasting of local wines, olive oil and sweets.

If you are interested in any of these trips or for more information, please contact Claire at 784-0302 or Cindy at 345-9569.

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Camden National Bank shines a light on local nonprofits

CAMDEN, ME – Camden National Bank proudly reveals its 2024 Leaders & Luminaries Awardees, granting their respective organizations \$22,000 in unrestricted funding. Since the recognition initiative launched in 2011, Camden National Bank has donated nearly \$264,000 to 68 Maine nonprofits across the state through the Leaders & Luminaries program. Over the years, hundreds of board directors have been nominated by fellow board members and nonprofit staff, highlighting countless stories of these unsung heroes going above and beyond as stewards for positive community change.

“We recognize the significant role that board members play in advancing a nonprofit organization’s mission and impact through innovative thinking and outstanding board governance,” said Renée Smyth, chief experience and marketing officer of Camden National Bank. “We’re excited to honor this group of outstanding leaders for their dedication to address critical needs and create meaningful and lasting change in our communities.”

Camden National Bank’s independent selection committee narrowed the pool of nominations down to four Leaders & Luminaries Award winners. Each will receive a \$5,000 grant in unrestricted funding for their nonprofit organization. Camden National Bank is also recognizing a Spotlight Award winner who will receive a \$2,000 grant. Donations were funded through the bank’s private charitable foundation, The Bank of Maine Foundation.

2024 Leaders & Luminaries Award Winners:
 Alan Caron, Founder, ClimateWork Maine (Portland, Maine)

ClimateWork Maine serves as a support network for businesses and business leaders acting on climate change to meet its challenges and seize the opportunities it presents to build a more sustainable economy. Alan has been foundational in bringing Maine businesses together to help mitigate emissions from buildings, electricity, and vehicles while ensuring that Maine’s most vulnerable and rural communities are not left behind in such challenging times.



His continued leadership, both as a financial supporter and volunteer, has been instrumental in shaping the organization’s success and positioning it as a key player in Maine’s climate future.

Chris Houle, Treasurer of the Board, Maine Academy of Modern Music (Portland, Maine)

Maine Academy of Modern Music is committed to universal access to music education for all Mainers and using the power of music to inspire students, foster creative collaboration, and strengthen community connections. Chris’ leadership ensures that all students across Maine have access to meaningful musical experiences, regardless of their background or circumstances. As the organization’s Treasurer, Chris has been instrumental in navigat-

ing significant organizational changes and dedicated to empowering the board with financial literacy sessions, which has truly inspired informed decision-making and strengthened our community.

Katie Weiler, Board Member, Saltwater Classroom (Camden, Maine)

Saltwater Classroom’s mission is to foster an ethic of ocean stewardship in young students and learners of all ages through hands-on ocean education, tech integration, and global collaboration. Katie has played a pivotal role in shaping Saltwater Classroom’s strategic vision, particularly in the development of their Phase II online learning platform. Katie’s leadership has implemented sound board governance through a structured approach and

accountability.

Mike Wilson, Board Member, The Center for Grieving Children (Portland, Maine)

The Center for Grieving Children’s mission is to provide loving support to grieving children, teens, families, and the community through peer support, outreach, and education. Mike’s personal experience led him to join and eventually help lead this nonprofit organization. Under his leadership, the organization successfully navigated transitions in leadership and evolved from in-person meetings to virtual formats. This shift expanded the organization’s reach and services and ensured that safety and compliance were prioritized.

Additionally, the bank granted a Spotlight Award to William “Bill” Buckley, the founding president of the Challenger Learning Center of Maine, with a \$2,000 grant. Bill rallied local support and worked tirelessly to establish the state of Maine’s only center, which opened in 2004 and aims to engage students and teachers in dynamic, hands-on exploration and

discovery opportunities that strengthen knowledge in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), inspire students to pursue careers in these fields and provide an outlet to learn and apply important life skills. His leadership, hands-on involvement, and dedication have helped the center serve over 8,000 students annually, providing them with transformative STEM experiences.

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