

#### Support Gorham's Boy Scouts at Gorham's Katelyn McKay named community rummage sale a Student of the Year

GORHAM, ME Gorham's Boy Scout Troop 73 is hosting a community rummage sale to raise funds to support Troop activities like camping adventures, community service projects and merit badge/rank advancement requirements. They are looking for community support through donations of items and by coming to the event.

The Rummage sale will be held on Saturday, May 10, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (May 17 rain date) in the parking lot to the west of Shaw Gym.

On behalf of the



troop, Mitch Zaninelli invites community members to also participate in the sale by renting a table to sell your own items. He

said, "We really want to make this an annual community event that brings Gorham residents together See Scouts, page 3

## Help craft the plan for Gorham **Open Space, Trails**

#### GORHAM, ME

The Town of Gorham is creating an Open Space & Trails Master Plan to help guide and prioritize future opportunities for open space preservation, protection of critical wildlife habitat and corridors, recreation access agricultural preservation and trail connections. This plan is being developed in recognition of the Town's historic past on agricultural and natural resource based anticipated economies. commercial and residential development needs, and

Church, located at 81



the anticipated impacts of a changing climate and natural resource disturbances. A survey inviting public input to identify opportunities, connections, and issues to address ran between February and May 1, 2025.

Event

attend a Public Open House event hosted by the

**Cressey Road Church in Gorham** 

Town of Gorham's Open Space and Trails Master Plan & Steering Committee to continue conversations and provide the opportunity for public participation in the planning process.

When: Wednesday, Public Open House June 9, 2025, 6 to 8pm

Where: Burleigh All are invited to Loveitt Council Chambers, Gorham Municipal Center (75 South Street)



(l to r) Zoe LaFleur-Kief (YCCC), Jordyn Balicki (EMCC), Kolaiah Spooner (WCCC), Victoria Wile (CMCC), Karen Winfree (KVCC), Islakeno Mahabir (NMCC), and Katelyn McKay (SMCC)

field, Kennebec Valley

Trinidad and Tobago,

Northern Maine Commu-

Gorham, Southern Maine

dersonville, New Bruns-

wick, Canada, Washington

County Community Col-

York, York County Com-

Kolaiah Spooner, An-

Mahabir,

McKay,

Community College

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AUGUSTA, ME -Seven Maine community college students were honored Wednesday for their academic success and campus and community involvement at a luncheon ceremony at Maple Hill Farm in Hallowell. The event was hosted by the Maine Community College System (MCCS) Board of Trustees.

The 2025 MCCS Student of the Year are:

Victoria Wile, Gray, Central Maine Community College

Jordyn Balicki, Jonesport, Eastern Maine Com-

#### being honored were select-Karen Winfree, Faired by faculty and staff at the colleges.

In addition to being recognized as Students of the Year, they each received a John and Jana Lapoint Leadership Award in the amount of \$1,000.

Mr. Lapoint was president of UF Strainrite in Lewiston and a trustee of the Maine Community College System. After his death in 1995, his widow, Jana Lapoint, served on the Board from 1995 to 2006 and helped establish the fund for the annual awards.

The seven students

LaFleur-Kief,

## June 10 is Gorham's School **Budget Validation Election**

GORHAM, ME – A School Budget Validation Election will take place on Tuesday, June 10, 2025

Absentee Ballot requests are now available. You can request a ballot by

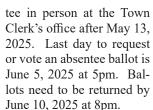
calling the Town Clerk's office at 222-1670. Ballots will be mailed out the second week in May and may be returned after May 13, 2025.

You can vote absen-

# **Clothes galore at Gorham's** Mission of Hope Clothes Closet

**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR** 

Dr. Richard Nickerson



Closet) is open to all who



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#### holding fundraiser sale GORHAM, ME — ALL CHURCH PERENNIAL, BAKED GOODS, & Cressey Road Christian

Ś RD Cressey Road, Gorham will be hosting a perennial and baked goods sale, on Saturday June 7 from along with a yard sale 9AM-2PM.

FMI Lorraine Lindstedt lindcabin@gmail.com

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Saturday, May 10 • 7:00pm Sunday, May 11 • 2:00pm FRANCO CENTER • LEWISTON

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#### EVENT CO-SPONSOR

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Road, Gorham, and we

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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 See Clothes, page 14

# **Newsmakers, Names & Faces**

# Cornhole, river paddles return to support Pine Tree Camp



Pine Tree Camp counselor, Skylar Wansky, of Rome, Maine, tossed it for a good cause at the 2024 cornhole tournament to benefit Pine Tree Camp. All proceeds support summer camp tuition for Maine children and adults with disabilities. This year's tournament will take place Thursday, May 29 at The Woodshed in Manchester. More information at www. pinetreesociety.org. Photo courtesy of Pine Tree Camp.

BRUNSWICK, MANCHESTER AND SOLON, ME — The Hammond Lumber Cornhole for a Cause tournament and Bath Savings Paddle for Pine Tree Camp return this spring with one goal in mind: to raise funds for Maine kids and adults with disabilities to experience freedom and independence at Pine Tree Camp. Since 1945, Pine Tree Camp has welcomed all who could benefit, regardless of their ability to pay. Over 90% of campers need full or partial tuition assistance.

On Thursday, May 29, the 3rd Annual Hammond Lumber Company Cornhole for a Cause to benefit Pine Tree Camp will take place at The Woodshed in Manchester. This cash prize tournament

is professionally managed by Real Wicked Events.

The 29th Annual Bath Savings Paddle for Pine Tree Camp weekend brings paddlers together on the Kennebec River in Solon on Saturday, June 7 and the Androscoggin River in Brunswick on Sunday, June 8. Both paddles are family-friendly and perfect for all ages, skill levels and abilities.

3rd Annual Hammond Lumber Company Cornhole for a Cause

Thursday, May 29 4:45pm Check In | 5:30pm Tournament

The Woodshed, 915 Western Ave., Manchester

Cost: \$60 per team Register: https://pine-

treesociety.org/pts-events/ hammond-lumber-cornhole-for-a-cause/ 29th Annual Bath

Savings Paddle for Pine Tree Camp

Saturday, June 7 9:30am

Traditional Solon: route down the Kennebec River

Paddle begins at The Evergreens Campground in Solon (202 Ferry Street, off Route 201A) and ends in North Anson on the Patterson Bridge Road. This is a three mile, two-hour paddle.

Register: https://pinetreesociety.org/bath-savings-paddle-for-pine-treecamp/

> Sunday, June 8 9:30am

Brunswick: Loop on the Androscoggin River

Paddle begins and ends at the Water Street Boat Landing (located at the end of Water Street) in Brunswick. This is a two mile, two-hour loop.

Register: https://pinetreesociety.org/bath-savings-paddle-for-pine-treecamp/

## **UMaine Extension announces** online community garden map

ORONO, ME University of Maine Cooperative Extension has launched an updated community garden map to help connect Mainers looking for an opportunity to plant, tend and harvest vegetables and flowers in a communal space.

The Community Garden Map includes information about local community gardens that provide opportunities for individuals to have their own garden plots or volunteer in collective growing spaces. Research shows that participation in community gardens can promote a sense of belonging, expand social networks, and improve physical and mental

Community gardens are important resources for towns and neighborhoods that provide individual and communal gardening space for local residents. Photo courtesy University of Maine Cooperative Extension/Edwin Remsberg.

health, among other benefits.

То learn more about the Community Garden Map, or add a garden

to the map, visit the program webpage or contact us at 207.356.1348 or extension.gardening@maine.

## Maine Nonprofits earn cash prizes at Roux Institute Showcase

PORTLAND, ME-Maine Audubon, Main Street Skowhegan, and Tree Street Youth earned top spots in the culminating showcase of the Roux Institute's "Intrapreneurship for Nonprofits" program.

The 14-week program — funded by the Onion Foundation — offered environment organizations an opportunity to develop an entrepreneurial mindset and conceptualize projects that could generate revenue and help support their programmatic activities. Twelve of the foundation's Environment Program grantees participated in the training program, now in its second year. Nonprofit leaders worked with professors and mentors from Northeastern's Roux Institute Entrepreneurship team to spawn income-stream ideas grounded in assessments of their areas of underutilized expertise, resources, and their customers' needs. After exploring the market for their ideas, the participants developed detailed plans for launching their proposed income-generating initiatives

"Staff at nonprofit organizations devote inordinate time to fundraising, taking them away from important programmatic activities. Yet, some of these organizations have the potential to generate earned income because of their special knowledge, networks, or facilities," says Diana Morris, Executive Director at the Onion Foundation. "The Onion Foundation launched the intrapreneurship program to provide training and assistance to those nonprofit leaders with a serious interest in learning how to conceptualize and implement an income-generating project."

At the final showcase on April 4, staff and board members from eight non-

profit programs presented their ideas to an audience of organizational leaders and entrepreneurs as well as to a judging panel comprising Fritz Onion, co-founder of the Onion Foundation; Sarah Guerette, Senior Program Director, Business Development Services at Coastal Enterprises, Inc.; and Rich Cantz, the President and CEO of Goodwill Northern New England.

Participating organizations included Hearty Roots, IFKA Community Services, Tree Street Youth, Pine Tree Camp, Maine Audubon, Main Street Skowhegan, Hurricane Island Outward Bound, and The Ecology School. While each nonprofit presented innovative, mission-driven ideas for generating earned income, three organizations came out on top: Maine Audubon earned first place and a \$10,000 prize for its proposal to create a robust ecommerce site and educational marketplace for native plant sales.

Main Street Skow hegan secured second place and \$5,000 for its idea to develop a business-to-business (B2B) outdoor gear-lending subscription model for hotels and lodges in the region. Finally, Tree Street Youth got third place and \$2,500 for its Samara Strategies pitch, which outlined a plan to offer fee-for-service design support to help organizations solve problems. "The participating nonprofits brought great enthusiasm to this program, and it's been exciting to see how their entrepreneurial See Roux, page 10



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# **Newsmakers, Names & Faces**

# in Maine Senate

AUGUSTA, ME -On Thursday, April 24, Sen. Donna Bailey, D-Saco, welcomed Thornton Academy students Parker Jasper, Gabriella Hagan and Amelia Getchell, all of Saco, to the Senate Chamber. These students served as Honorary Student Pages

"I am so impressed that these dedicated students took time out of their school vacation week to serve as Honorary Student Pages in the Senate today," said Sen. Bailey. "This time of year, the session days become busier and longer, so I appreciated their help and hard work. I hope this experience inspires them to consider running for office or working in state government."

On session days, the Senate Secretary's Office manages the Honorary Student Page Program in the Maine State Senate. Open to students in third through twelfth grade, Honorary Student Pages perform various duties such as delivering messages; distributing documents within the Senate Chamber; interacting



From left: Parker Jasper; Gabriella Hagan; Sen. Donna Bailey, D-Saco; and Amelia Getchell

with State Senators; and most importantly — taking part in a real world, legislative learning experience. To sign a student up

to serve as an Honorary Student Page, contact Alex Ferguson at (207) 287-1540 or Alex.Ferguson@ legislature.maine.gov.

# Honorary Student Pages serve French discussion group held at Gorham's Baxter Library

All are welcome to French Baxter Memorial Library, Discussion Group, which meets the first Tuesday of the month at Falmouth

GORHAM, ME - every month at Gorham's Memorial Library, and the second Wednesday of

the fourth Thursday of the month at Scarborough Public Library.

## **Lakes Region Senior Center invites** Gorham seniors to activities

GORHAM, ME fun senior center with lots of activities daily, come join us at Little Falls Activity Center,

40 Acorn Street, Gor-If you are looking for a ham, 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.

# Spring 2025 Gorham Brush **Drop Off Days**

GORHAM, ME — Public Works (located at 80 Huston Road) will be accepting brush Saturday, April 26th and Saturday, May 10th 8AM - 3PM.

This event is for residents ONLY, no commercial drop offs will be accepted.

No stumps, please. Leaves and grass clippings accepted in the designated area throughout the season.

Please do not leave your bags behind.



with any questions at 207- ham.me.us.

Contact the office 222-4950 or dpw@gor-

#### Scouts Continued from page 1

each spring. It is a great way to kick off your spring cleaning and give used items a second life instead of going to the dump. We are also going to have some Boy Scout demonstration tables showcasing some of the skills the scouts are learning.'

How can you participate?

Come to the sale and shop.

Donate items for the troop to sell - Items can be dropped off at On Point Storage, 551 Main St., during normal business hours between April 1 and May 8. Check in with the office when you arrive. Items must be in sellable



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#### risks. Lvnn eniovs using her skills to contribute to the team environment which carries over

condition (clean, not broken, working) and please no appliances.

Rent a table (\$50) to sell vour own wares. Reach out to mitchellzaninelli@gmail.com for more information. Tables are being donated by Party with

Confetti Rentals. Mitch added, "We are also looking for a food truck or two. If you are interested or know someone who is, please reach out to

mitchellzaninelli@gmail. com'

> Gorham WEEKLY

## (207) 558-8488

#### Info@GorhamWeekly.com

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All submissions, including photos, must be emailed to editor@GorhamWeekly.com.

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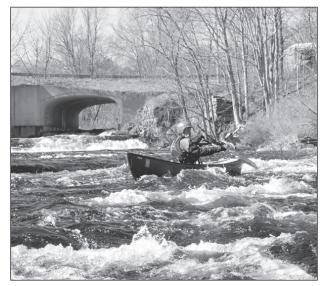
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## Seniors Not Acting Their Age A Rare Descent of Upper St. George River

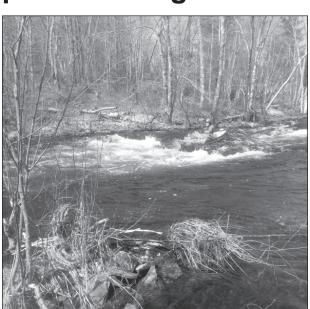


Canoeist Eggman DeCoster catches an eddy below Searsmont Falls

For many years, I've organized a Penobscot Paddle & Chowder Society spring whitewater trip on the St. George River that flows through Waldo and Knox Counties. The section chosen has been from Searsmont to North Appleton, the same route as the traditional downriver race held each March.

Rarely paddled is a sector of the St. George above Searsmont which boaters call the Upper St. George. The primary reason is it has a small watershed so there is seldom sufficient volume for a fluid enjoyable outing. Conversely, the lower section is fed by Quantabacook Lake. Another factor is the whitewater is more challenging on the upper; hence many paddlers prefer the lower with rapids limited to Class II in difficulty.

When I announced a St. George trip this spring, some interested Chowderheads expressed a desire to paddle the upper if it was an option. Coincidentally, it rained the day of my scheduled trip so I postponed until the following day when water levels increased. Being a Monday, only three retired club members were available to join me. My late friend, Skip Pendleton, a lover of the St. George, coined the term "Aarpies" when referring to retired paddlers.



A paddler descends one of many rapids on the Upper St. George.

The water volume was above normal when four Aarpies met at the takeout in North Appleton on a cool, sunny day. Whether or not there was sufficient flow to navigate the upper was unknown. We left shuttle vehicles behind and transported two canoes and two kayaks north to a rapid easily scouted from a bridge a short distance upriver from Searsmont on Route 173.

The falls I call Bridge Rapid had adequate water for a paddle on the upper. A careful assessment of the complex rapid indicated our descent would be a challenging endeavor.



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Our premium grade sealer inexpensively adds years of life! We traveled a few miles north on Route 173 to the traditional upper put-in in the tiny village of Woodmans Mills. A local landowner generously allowed us to launch from his backyard. One canoeist in the group departed next to a nearby upstream bridge to take advantage of a short feisty rapid just below.

After some easy whitewater, calm water ensued in a winding stretch of river for perhaps two miles. Boulders on the shore indicated a change in the character of the river. Around the bend, rapids led us to a three-stage pitch that required negotiating down narrow chutes in each ledge.

Flatwater followed for about a mile. Again, the appearance of boulders suggested rapids below. Shortly after, a series of Class II rips ended in a pool above Bridge Rapid. From that vantage point, there didn't appear to be any clear route. Scouting from the bridge in advance had been an advantageous decision.

Canoeist Eggman DeCoster probed far right and dropped out of sight. I followed. A steep pitch that ended in a sticky hole



Topsham resident Paul Plumer navigates his canoe through a rapid on the Upper St. George River

was manageable. However, I was too far right at the bottom and caromed off a protruding boulder that pushed me away from my intended eddy. The remainder of my descent was a haphazard succession of rock dodging in narrow channels. Our companions experienced similar bumpy escapades.

After completing a sector of technical rapids below the bridge, we paddled flatwater to a precipitous two-stage cataract I call Searsmont Falls that begins under the Route 131 Bridge in Searsmont. Club members sometimes run this falls at lower levels, but we concluded it was too high for a safe plunge on this day so we carried. A long stimulating Class II runout followed to the lower St. George.

More flatwater ensued to a long falls above Ghent Road Bridge. We found paddling the sizeable waves through a winding route most entertaining. Over a mile of additional exhilarating whitewater followed after passing under the bridge.

Quick water in a circuitous stretch led to Magog Chute, a Class II pitch. Everyone enjoyed plummeting down the steep wave-filled falls. Rocks hidden in the waves were unpleasant intrusions for some of us.

A combination of calm water interspersed with easy rapids brought us to the takeout immediately below the Route 105 Bridge in North Appleton. Once we carried our boats up a steep bank to the parking area, four Aarpies celebrated an exceptional day of paddling on Skip Pendleton's favorite river.

My book, Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine narrates nine exciting excursions on the best whitewater rivers and streams in Maine.

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

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MAINE — May is Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month, and Khmer Maine is excited to move forward with our Capital Campaign to establish Maine's first Asian American Community Center. This ambitious project aims to create a welcoming space for all of Maine's Asian American communities – a place to gather, share resources. celebrate culture, and strengthen our voice. We embark on this journey with deep gratitude for the generations who paved the way and optimism for what this center will mean for future generations.

We're excited to officially kick off our May celebrations with a Donor Matching Challenge. Starting May 1st, a generous supporter will match donations toward the community center, doubling the impact of every gift. This is a fantastic opportunity to accelerate our progress toward the \$10 million goal.

Another special initiative kicking off this month is a delicious partnership with Coffee By Design. Together, we've created the AANHPI Blend, a medium roast coffee that not only celebrates our heritage but also supports our campaign. For each 16oz bag sold, \$2.00 will be donated toward our capital campaign. The coffee blend incorporates beans from Sumatra, Papua New Guinea, and India, with notes of grapefruit and molasses - a unique mix reflecting the diversity of AANHPI cultures. It's a flavorful way for coffee lovers to contribute to a historic cause. Keep an eye out at Coffee By Design cafes and our events for this special AANHPI Heritage Month coffee!

We hope you'll join us in spreading the word, enjoying a cup of AAN-HPI Blend coffee, and contributing during this



Khmer Maine's Executive Director provides testimony at a Maine legislative hearing in support of LD 957, LD 1202, and LD 1474. By speaking up for inclusive curricula, Khmer Maine is ensuring that AANHPI, African American, and Wabanaki histories are represented in Maine's schools.

match campaign. Together, we can make history with Maine's first Asian American Community Center!

Civic and Community Engagement

Advocacy has been front and center for Khmer Maine this past month. In April, we made our voices heard at the Maine State Legislature by testifying in support of three important education bills: LD 957 (to integrate AANHPI studies), LD 1202 (to integrate African American studies), and LD 1474 (to strengthen Wabanaki studies) into the statewide school curriculum. Standing before lawmakers in Augusta, we stressed that these initiatives are about inclusion - ensuring all Maine students learn a fuller, more accurate history that reflects the contributions and experiences of communities of color. Our Executive Director spoke on behalf of Khmer Maine, sharing why it's vital for Asian American and Pacific Islander stories to be taught alongside those of other underrepresented groups. It was a powerful moment of civic engagement, as we joined educators and allies in advocating for an education system that honors everyone's heritage. We are hopeful that with our community's support, these bills will move forward, helping to create a more informed and inclusive generation of Mainers. Civic engagement

isn't only about policyit's also about empowering our own community members. Our citizenship classes have been in full swing this spring, with a dedicated cohort of students meeting weekly to prepare for their naturalization process. It's inspiring to see immigrants and refugees in our community studying U.S. history and civics, practicing English, and gaining confidence to take the citizenship exam. Each class, we celebrate small victories: one participant recently passed a practice civics test with flying colors, and another is now scheduled for their official interview. These successes remind us how important access to information and support is on the journey to citizenship. We're proud to report steady progress - more attendees are joining, questions are being answered, and the dream of becoming U.S. citizens is getting closer for our students. Building community

power also means working together with our peers. This month, Khmer Maine helped convene the third gathering of the Southeast Asian (SEA) Collaborative, a new network of Southeast Asian organizers and leaders in Maine. Over ten organizers from Cambodian, Vietnamese, Lao, Thai, and other Southeast Asian American communities came together in See Heritage, page 10

# AARP Maine seeks community service award nominees

André Chassé, cur-

rent AARP Maine Volun-

teer State President, says:

"The AARP Maine Andrus

Award acts as a symbol to

our members and to the

public that we can all work

together for positive social

nominees must meet eligi-

bility requirements includ-

or older, but do not need to

be an AARP member or a

accomplishments or ser-

vice on which nominations

are based must have been

performed on a volunteer

accomplishments or ser-

vice on which the nomina-

tions are based must reflect

AARP's vision and mis-

Couples or partners

volunteer with AARP;

The

basis, without pay:

The

AARP Andrus Award

Community Service

Nominees must be 50

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PORTLAND, ME -AARP Maine is seeking nominations for its 2025 AARP Andrus Award for Community Service, which honors individuals 50 and over who share their experience, talent, and skills to enrich the lives of others in their community. The annual award is named after AARP's founder, Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, who founded AARP in 1958 at the age of 73. The nomination deadline is July 15, 2025.

"AARP Maine is excited to shine a light on Mainers 50-plus who are using what they've learned to make a difference in the lives of those around them," says Noël Bonam, AARP Maine State Director. "AARP has long valued the spirit of volunteerism, and the important contributions AARP volunteers make to their communities and neighbors."

The screening of nominees will be performed by a panel of AARP staff and volunteers. The panel will review a range of criteria including each nominee's positive impact on their community and the lives of individuals aged 50

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who perform service together are eligible; however, teams are not;

The recipient must live in the awarding state; and

This is not a posthumous award.

The application deadline is July 15, 2025. Click here for complete eligibility requirements and to complete our online nomination form

The AARP Maine Andrus Award for Community Service is an annual awards program developed to honor individuals whose service is a unique and valuable contribution to society. Last year's winner was Pamela Partridge, a retired educator from North Anson.

For more information about AARP and our work in Maine, please visit our website at www.aarp.org/ me and follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @aarpmaine.

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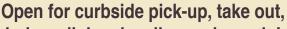
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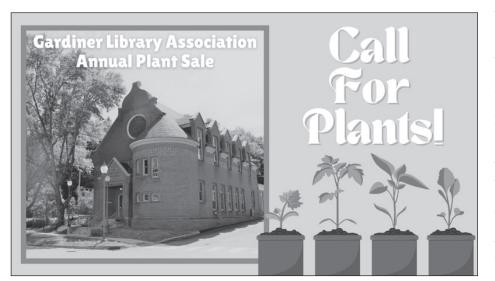
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# Gardiner MAIN STREET





# Gardiner Main Street holds ArtWalk, Plant Sale

**GARDINER, ME**— The first ArtWalk of the year is coming up on May 16<sup>th</sup> from 5-8pm and it will kick off many anniversary celebrations to mark 20 years of highlighting the arts in Gardiner!

ArtWalk Gardiner was formally launched in the Fall of 2005 by Artdogs Studios and a handful of artists in Gardiner, Maine.

Another way artists are going to celebrate is by creating and installing wheat paste murals on the exterior of several downtown buildings. This project, Community Faces, will feature photographs of the many people who are involved in the local arts and growing the Gardiner community.

To get involved, visit the Photo booth that will be part of May ArtWalk Gardiner and visit Gardiner often to see the project as it develops.

ArtWalk Gardin-

er's mission is to increase community awareness and appreciation of the visual arts, encourage interaction and familiarity among local artists and the general public, provide artists with a supportive network, and foster the creative economy through regular art exhibitions in downtown Gardiner.

Call for Plants!

The Gardiner Library Association will be holding their Annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 17th. They will need plenty of plants and would love it if you would share some of yours!

All types of outdoor plants are welcomenatives, cuttings, seedlings, divided perennials, herbs and vegetables. Plants need to be healthy and pest free, no invasive species please and be aware of such critters as the jumping worm. All plants must be in pots and labeled. Plants will sell for \$1, \$3, \$5 & \$10 and proceeds will go directly to the Gardiner Library Association which maintains the library building and grounds.

Plants can be delivered to the library on Friday, May 16th from 3:00-7:00pm or on Saturday, May 17th before 7:30am. Volunteers will be on-site to assist you. The sale will start at 8:00am on Saturday.

If you have any questions please contact John; 207-592-0692 or Kathy; 443-739-6458

Thank you in advance for making this a memorable event!

\*Visit https://extension.umaine.edu/publications/2518e/ for more information on current garden pests

\*\*Visit https://www. maine.gov/dacf/php/horticulture/invasiveplants. shtml for a list of invasive plants.



May 9 & 10 at 7:30 pm • May 11 at 2:00 pm May 15, 16 & 17 at 7:30 pm • May 18 at 2:00 pm

#### BY RICK CUMMINS AND JOHN SCOULLAR. ADAPTED FROM THE BOOK BY ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPÉRY.



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GARDINER, ME The Maine Aquaculture Association (MAA) has released its first national report analyzing U.S. consumer preferences for edible seaweed products, offering new insights to help America's growing seaweed sector strengthen its foothold in the domestic market.

The survey report responds to a central question raised across the U.S. seaweed sector: who wants to eat seaweed, how do they want to eat it, and why? Seaweed farming in Maine has expanded rapidly over the past decade, but barriers remain in introducing this sea vegetable to the average American plate. This report provides guidance for seaweed growers and processors aiming to connect with consumers and bring compelling new products to market.

"This research helps answer the questions we hear from seaweed producers every day," said Christian Brayden, Project Manager at the Maine Aquaculture Association and lead author of the study. "There's growing excitement around seaweed as sustainable, tasty, а and nutritious ingredient."

As the seaweed sector continues to scale, consumer acceptance will be key to realizing many other benefits-including the revitalization of Maine's working waterfronts where seaweed is grown, harvested, and landed, often by fishermen using seaweed production to diversify their income. This also rings true for the continued growth of innovative, mission-driven food companies. Without



Maine farmed kelp, credit Joseph Conroy III

a deeper understanding of U.S. consumer interest, these benefits risk being left on the table.

Given that the average American palate has historically been slow to embrace seaweed, the study explores which products may resonate most with domestic buyers—and which consumers are most likely to purchase them.

To answer these questions, Brayden conducted a nationally representative survey of 2,035 respondents, gauging their willingness to buy 10 different seaweed-infused products. Participants were also asked why they would or wouldn't purchase each product, along with questions about their seafood preferences, demographics, and more.

The survey found that products where seaweed is added to a food that the consumer already likesfor example, seaweed teriyaki sauce or potato chips dusted with seaweeddraw the strongest willingness to purchase. This is especially true for products that are also ready-to-eat and in snack form. While health benefits play a supporting role in consumer decisions, they aren't the driving factor. Consumers under the age of 45 also show the strongest willingness to buy seaweed products

These results offer actionable insights for companies seeking to scale the domestic seaweed market. By identifying the most promising product formats and audiences, the report helps chart a path for future innovation, marketing, and consumer education efforts.

"Expanding demand for seaweed strengthens the entire value chain from ocean farmers to processors to the vibrant coastal communities they support," said Brayden. "With the right strategies, seaweed can go from niche to mainstream."

This study was supported by funding from the National Sea Grant Program through the Maine Aquaculture Hub (project number #NA18OAR4170103).

# \$69.5K raised by MCHPP, Jersey Mike's

#### **BRUNSWICK, ME** - Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program (MCHPP) announced the results of the organization's partnership

grocery distribution efforts. "This is game-changing gift for help meet critical needs," our organization, and it said Chris Brown, Jersey couldn't come at a more Mike's franchise owner. critical time," said Hannah Chatalbash, MCHPP's Executive Director. "The first quarter of 2025 marked the busiest three month period for our pantry in the 40+ year history of the organization. At the same time, we're experiencing major cutbacks to federal food programs, resulting in the loss of thousands of pounds of free food each month. Jersey Mike's support through this fundraiser will make a tremendous difference in our work this year." "Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program is making a real difference for our neighbors experienc-

ing food insecurity, and we a know the funds raised will

# Sen. Collins speaks at UMaine award presentation



ORONO, ME — U.S. Senator Susan Collins delivered remarks at the inaugural Patricia M. and Donald F. Collins Leadership Award ceremony at the University of Maine (UMaine). This endowed scholarship award was established in memory of Patricia and Donald Collins, both Class of 1949 graduates of UMaine, former mayors of the City of Caribou, and the parents of six children, including Senator Collins. Patricia Collins also served as the first female chair of the UMaine System Board of Trustees. the Catholic Charities of Maine Board of Directors, and the Catholic Founda-

Trustees. Donald Collins was a Bronze Star and two-time Purple Heart recipient as an infantry sergeant during the Battle of the Bulge in World War II, and later served as a member of the Maine State House of Representatives and the Maine State Senate

The inaugural recipient of the award is Keegan Tripp of Winn, a member of the University of Maine Class of 2026. Keegan is the President of the University of Maine Student Government, a board member of the University of Maine Alumni Association, and a recipient of the John M. Nickerson Scholarship for political science students

who have demonstrated exceptional academic achievement. Keegan also interned at Senator Collins' state office in Bangor.

"My parents believed deeply in the value of education, civic responsibility, and giving back to their community, and they exemplified those principles throughout their lives," said Senator Collins. "It is incredibly meaningful to honor their legacy through this endowed scholarship. I know that they too would be proud of Keegan, whose leadership, character, and outstanding academic achievements made him an excellent candidate to be the first-ever recipient of this award."

**MERIT** helps Mainers save for their futures

Contributed AARP

tion of Maine Board of

PORTLAND, ME-More than one million private sector workers nationwide have enrolled in state retirement savings programs, a major milestone in the effort to address the nation's retirement savings challenges. These options allow employees whose workplaces do not offer retirement plans to automatically contribute a portion of their paycheck to a retirement savings ac-

In Maine, the Maine

programs are free to embv ployers and designed to be easy for businesses and workers alike.

"These programs show that when saving for retirement is easy and automatic, people do it," said Nancy LeaMond, AARP Executive Vice President and Chief Advocacy & Engagement Officer. "Thanks to state action, over a million Americans who were previously unable to save for retirement through their job are now doing that, though too many hardworking people are still left behind. Now state leaders and Congress must work to ensure every American worker has access to a retirement savings option at work where they can easily save for their future." According to AARP research, nearly half of American workers in the private sector -56million people - still lack access to a retirement plan through their employer. Small businesses are especially likely to not have an employer-based retirement option in place. Auto-IRA programs can help close this retirement savings gap; they don't

charge fees to employers and are designed to be simple for both employers and employees to use.

AARP has been a leading advocate for these options, working at both the state and federal levels to expand access to retirement savings. AARP has endorsed proposed federal legislation, including the bipartisan Retirement Savings for Americans Act and the Automatic IRA Act, both of which would help improve retirement security for American workers.

with Jersey Mike's Subs for the company's 15th Annual Month of Giving.

Throughout the month of March, Jersey Mike's locations in Maine accepted donations for MCHPP. These fundraising efforts culminated in the Day of Giving on March 26, when 100% of sales were donated to the Brunswick-based nonprofit. The total amount of money raised for MCHPP during the month was \$69,427, which will have a substantial impact on the organization's services-including its Food Pantry, Soup Kitchen, and neighborhood "A big thanks to our customers, team members and partners who came in and helped us make such an important impact during this year's Month of Giving."

Across the U.S. and Canada, more than \$30 million was raised this year by Jersey Mike's locations and their customers to benefit over 200 local charities during the Month of Giving. This fundraising total exceeds the \$25 million raised during last year's campaign. With this year's donation. Jersev Mike's has raised \$143 million since the Month of Giving began in 2011.

Retirement Investment Trust (MERIT) has enabled thousands of workers to save for their futures.

count.

"These options work because they make saving easy," said Noël Bonam, AARP Maine State Director. "MERIT has empowered more than 13,000 workers to start building their retirement security - many for the very first time. We're proud Maine is leading the way."

Auto-IRA and other state-facilitated retirement options now operate in 20 states, with additional states at various stages of implementation. These

AARP Maine advocacy led to the establishment of MERIT in 2021. Legislators in Maine are currently considering legislation (LD 355, An Act to Advance the Maine Retirement Savings Program) that would further expand and strengthen the program in order to ensure that even more Mainers have easy access to a retirement savings plan for years to come.

For more on AARP's advocacy on retirement security and broader efforts to strengthen financial security, view AARP's Financial Security Fact Sheet.

#### Page 8

#### Thursday, May 8, 2025

# **Resurgam lineup announced**

#### MAINE

The Maine Academy of Modern Music (MAMM) is proud to announce the return of the Resurgam Music and Arts Festival presented by OTTO, on Sunday, June 8, 2025 at Ocean Gateway Park. This free, day-long celebration brings together Maine's vibrant music scene, local artisans, and community arts organizations for Portland's premier summer kickoff event.

Now in its 4th year,

the Resurgam Festival has established itself as the successor to the beloved Old Port Festival, drawing over 7,500 attendees annually to enjoy multiple performance stages, interactive arts activities, local food vendors, and a curated marketplace showcasing Maine-made goods.

"At Resurgam, our entire community comes together to witness the incredible talent of established Maine musicians and the next generation of rock stars, celebrate the arts, and support local businesses," says MAMM Executive Director Jeff Shaw.

The Resurgam Festival also serves as an introduction to MAMM's renowned summer camp programs, which begin the week following the festival. MAMM Summer Camps offer young musicians ages 8-18 the opportunity to develop their skills in rock bands, music production, and songwrit-









among People's "Emerging Artists" to watch list.

MAMM's Resurgam Music & Arts Festival presented by OTTO is made possible by support from the National Endowment for the Arts, Maine Office of Tourism, Maine Arts Commission and the generosity of our many sponsors and partner organizations. FESTIVAL HIGH-LIGHTS:

Multiple Performance Stages featuring Maine musicians and youth performers from MAMM

Makers Mall with local artisans and craftspeople

> Food Center show-See **Resurgam**, page 11

# **STAPLES COWORKING** A NEW SPACE TO BREAK OLD RULES

#### **COME TRY OUR NEW COWORKING**



"Resurgam draws an audience beyond the typical MAMM sphere, and when they see our students crushing it up on the big stage, they're floored!" says MAMM's Portland Program Manager Patia Maule. "Kids in the audience looking to channel that inspiration while it's fresh then have the opportunity to rock out at our awesome summer camps."

ıng.

"I have seen thousands of performers in my career, and let me tell you, these kids bring it," adds new MAMM board member, Chris Brown. "There are many things to enjoy at Resurgam, but I urge everyone to spend some time at the MAMM Stage. You'll be amazed."

Headlining this year's festival are The Fogcutters and Genevieve Stokes.

The Fogcutters who will be joined by special guests Kenya Hall and Gina Alibrio—are Portland's own eclectic pop rock big band. Also taking the stage at Resurgam will be one of alternative pop's brightest stars, Genevieve Stokes. A former MAMM student herself, Genevieve has recently been named



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# Brunswick students make their mark on space science

**BRUNSWICK, ME** — A piece of St. John's Catholic School in Brunswick, Maine, made history today as it launched into suborbital space aboard Blue Origin's New Shepard rocket—marking the school's second successful spaceflight experiment in two years. This time, their work flew as part of the first-ever all-female Blue Origin crewed mission, led by Lauren Sanchez.

The student-designed experiment was made possible through Teachers in Space, Inc., a nonprofit committed to bringing authentic space research into classrooms across the country.

Students from St. John's Catholic School gathered together to watch the launch live. It was an unforgettable experience to witness such a historic m o m e n t—e s p e c i all y knowing that the payload included an experiment designed by former St. John's middle school students during their time at the school.

Today's launch is part of an ongoing journey in aerospace science at St. John's. Currently, middle school students are preparing new experiments to be flown on a Zero-G flight on May 7—an opportunity to explore microgravity firsthand.

Middle school students at St. John's played a direct role in designing the Blue Origin experiment, proposing original hypotheses, crafting schematics, and selecting sensors for the CubeSat's payload. With guidance from Teachers in Space, students engaged in real-world engineering, building their experiment to meet strict static-free and precision fabrication standards.

Their experiment investigated three environmental variables during suborbital flight:

Temperature Hypothesis: If the rocket is launched into suborbital space, then the temperature inside the pressurized cabin will first decrease, then increase, due to atmospheric changes during ascent and descent.

UV Radiation Hypothesis: If the rocket remains within Earth's ozone layer, then UV radiation exposure inside the pressurized cabin will remain stable.

Environmental Sensor Hypothesis: If the cabin is pressurized and stabilized, then gyroscope, accelerometer, and barometric pressure readings will remain relatively constant.

"This kind of hands-on experience is transformative," said Karin Paquin, science teacher and project advisor at St. John's. "When students realize their ideas can actually fly to space—literally—it changes their sense of what's possible."

Students expressed awe and pride at seeing their work reach such heights. "Space has always seemed like a surreal place," said 7th grader Aria. "Seeing kids from a small state like ours design real experiments is just really cool."

6th grader Gracelynn added, "It's inspiring to see you can do something like this no matter where you come from. As a woman, it inspired me."

This historic launch not only highlighted progress in gender equity within aerospace but also underscored the power of student-led STEM education. The St. John's team's work shows that when students are given the tools to explore, create, and question—the sky is not the limit.

It's an exciting time for space education in Maine. If you're interested in learning how to bring projects like these to your own classroom or school, be sure to attend the CS Summer of Fun sessions at Husson University in Bangor this summer, where Karin Paquin will co-lead workshops on implementing space science experiments in the classroom.

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





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## Bissell Brothers hits million mark for annual Maine grain usage

PORTLAND, ME-Maine's acclaimed craft brewery, Bissell Brothers, has achieved a significant milestone by utilizing over 1 million pounds of Maine-grown grain in a single year. Maine Malt House has confirmed that BB purchased 1,007,630 pounds from family-owned Buck Farms in Aroostook County throughout 2024, amounting to 25% of all Maine-grown ingredients used in brewing that year, according to the Brewers Association.

This accomplishment has been a decade in the making, sparked by the recent transition of two of their most iconic offerings-The Substance IPA and Swish Double IPA-to recipes that now incorporate 100% Mainegrown grain. And they're far from the only onesmany of Bissell Brothers' beers now feature 100% or more than 50% Mainegrown grain, further reinforcing their commitment to local agriculture. Swish, the 6th highest-rated New England-Style Double IPA in the world according to Untappd, will move to full year-round production beginning this summer. This expansion will allow Bissell Brothers to continue increasing their use of Maine-grown grain in 2025 and beyond, further solidifying their role as a leader in sustainably-intentioned brewing.

The Million Mark firmly establishes Bissell Brothers' commitment to Maine agriculture and their dedication to supporting the long-term financial stability of local farming communities. Their decision to prioritize quality over convenience boosts the state's economy and demonstrates that world-class beer can be made from premium ingredients grown at home. This achievement results from years of strategic investment in partnerships with neighboring farmers and maltsters, and a relentless drive to redefine craft beer from the soil up.

"As modern brewers, we have the blessing of being able to source ingredients from around the globe. However, it's always been an aspiration of our brewery to incorporate as much of Maine in our beers as possible. Our relationship with Maine Malt House has allowed us to do just that. Over the last ten years, our businesses have grown in tandem, enabling us to steadily replace European base malts with those produced entirely in Aroostook county. We are endlessly

grateful to the Buck family for the decade of friendship and collaboration that has helped us achieve this massive accomplishment." - Noah Bissell, Co-Founder of Bissell Brothers

Join Bissell Brothers on their journey ahead:

Support Local – Enjoy beer brewed with 100% Maine-grown grain, crafted in partnership with Maine Malt House.

Taste the Difference– Every pint of Substance IPA and Swish Double IPA directly supports Maine's farmers.

Be Part of the Future – Swish is now brewed year-round, and Bissell Brothers' commitment to using local ingredients continues to grow.

Find Bissell Brothers beer in popular retail outlets throughout New England and beyond, or purchase directly from their brewery and restaurant on Thompson's Point in Portland, Maine.

QUICK FACTS:

1,007,630 pounds of Maine-grown grain was used by Bissell Brothers in 2024

In 2024, that number made up approximately 25% of all Maine-grown ingredients used in brewing, according to the Brewers Association.

# Red Cross installs 119 free smoke alarms

**BIDDEFORD, ME** — This month, 48 American Red Cross of Northern New England volunteers and staff teamed up with the Biddeford and Saco Fire Departments to install 119 free smoke alarms for local families during a Sound the Alarm home fire safety event throughout York County.

"We are grateful to everyone who supported today's Sound the Alarm event to help keep our neighbors safe from home fires," said Steve Thomas, Red Cross Southern Maine Chapter executive director. "Home fires are a constant threat in our community, accounting for most of our disaster responses. Today's efforts will make a lasting difference to help save lives and protect those who are most vulnerable."

During each 30-minute home visit, the teams evaluated residents' current smoke alarms, installed new ones (as needed) and shared information on the causes of home fires, how to prevent them, what to do if a fire starts and how to create an escape plan for the entire family. Most people don't realize they have just two minutes to escape a home fire before it's too late. Working smoke alarms provide critical early warning to help save lives.

"One of the areas I am particularly passionate about is housing - making sure that Mainers can find safe, affordable places to live. Safety includes measures like smoke alarms," said House Speaker Ryan Fecteau, a Biddeford native who spoke at Saturday's event. "For cost, accessibility, or other reasons, folks may not take the important step of installing smoke alarms in their homes and making sure they are working well. That's why events like this are so important, and why I'm so grateful that the Red Cross is committed to installing more smoke detectors in homes everywhere."

MAKING LOCAL HOMES SAFER Wendy Berry, of Saco, is among the local residents who received free smoke alarms through Saturday's Sound the Alarm event. Berry signed up after hearing about the Red Cross Home Fire Campaign from a friend. She had smoke alarms in her home, but they were 26 years old. Like so many, Berry did not realize smoke alarms expire after 10 years, making the devices less effec-

"I feel like I can sleep a little better at night knowing that I now have that added protection of new alarms," Berry said, adding that talking with the Red Cross about fire escape planning and the home fire safety tips was reassuring too.

tive.

"I feel re-inspired to be a little bit safer. The experience was wonderful and seamless," she said. "The team was very kind and respectful. They went over everything and explained exactly where they were going in my home and how they were going to install the alarms."

SAVING LIVES FROM NATION'S MOST FREQUENT DISASTER Home fires are the nation's most frequent disaster, claiming seven lives (mostly children and the elderly) every day across the country - and injuring more than 30. But working smoke alarms can cut that risk of dying in a home fire by half. Here in Maine, the Red Cross responded to 251 home fires in 2024, assisting 907 Mainers. So far this year, the Red Cross has provided critical support to at least 277 Mainers following 98 home fires -11 of which were in York County.

This Sound the Alarm event is a critical part of the national Red Cross Home Fire Campaign, which has helped save at least 2,284 lives — since launching in October 2014. Locally, the Red Cross and its partners have installed more than 20,000 free smoke alarms in homes across Maine since the program's inception.

If residents missed us on April 12, or for Mainers who live outside York County, anyone can request free smoke alarms yearround by visiting redcross. org/EndHomeFiresNNE or calling 1-800-464-6692 (option 4).



#### Heritage Continued from page 5

Brunswick to connect and share ideas. The room was filled with laughter, solidarity, and fruitful discussion about how our communities can support one tural events to mutual aid and advocacy, there was a strong sense that we can accomplish more united than alone. The SEA Collaborative is still growing, but these initial meetings

another. From joint cul-

are a promising start to a coalition that can amplify Southeast Asian voices across Maine. We left the meeting energized by the possibilities of working in partnership with our fellow SEA community members.



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#### **Roux** Continued from page 2

spirit has materialized into real business plans that have the potential to generate income," says Fritz



Onion. "Entrepreneurship requires passion, diligence, creativity, and know-how. We believe that this partnership with the Roux Institute has increased the participating nonprofits'

chances for success."

Through the "Intrapreneurship for Nonprofits" program, participating organizations built collaborative relationships with other nonprofits, connected directly with changemakers throughout Maine, and applied their lessons to real-world scenarios to ensure business success. Now, the three winners will use their award funds to jumpstart their revenue-generating efforts, enabling them to sustain - and potentially expand - their nonprofit work.

#### Resurgam

Continued from page 8 casing Portland's diverse Food Truck scene

Family Zone with activities from Portland Museum of Art, SPACE, Love Lab Studios, Portland Symphony Orchestra, and other community partners.

New this year: EVO Rock Wall and SailMaine boat rides!

CALLING ALL **VENDORS!** 

Do you make food out of a truck? Do you make jewelry, pottery, paintings, apparel, snow globes, balloon animals?? If it's made in Maine you can reserve a booth for Resurgam 2025 at our Makers Mall.

For more details visit www.resurgamfestival. com

CALLING ALL SPONSORS!

The Resurgam Music & Arts Festival offers multiple sponsorship levels for businesses looking to increase their visibility while supporting youth music education in Maine. Benefits include stage naming rights, prominent logo placement, and social media promotion.

For more details visit www.resurgamfestival.com Sponsor Resurgam!

#### ENTER TO WIN VIP TICKETS TO:

Thanks to our friends at Back Cove Music & Arts Festival, we will be raffling off a VIP Ticket



Package to their festival in August this spring. Better yet: MAMM students will be kicking off each day of the festival!

Enter the Raffle!

A 2-Day 2-Ticket VIP Package provides entry to Portland's Back Cove Music & Arts Festival for both days of the event includes: 20+ bands across

2 stages over 2 days in Payson Park Access to dedicated

VIP viewing areas at both stages.

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Upgraded, air-conditioned restrooms. Comfortable facilities to refresh.

Private bars with drinks for purchase featuring local and regional breweries. Plus, complimentary water refill station in VIP Lounge.

Dedicated food for purchase. Enjoy curated quick-service favorites from local chefs and restaurants

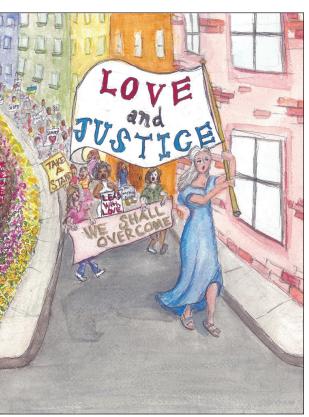
On-site VIP hospitality staff. A dedicated team to assist with your needs and answer questions at the festival.

The winner will be announced the day after Resurgam on June 9th.

## Women in Harmony presents "Love and Justice"

FALMOUTH, ME - Women in Harmony's spring concert, "Love and Justice," explores these two grand, intersecting themes through choral music that highlights individual experience. The title song, Kavisha Mazzella's Love and Justice, reflects the chorus's commitment to leading with love and to working for a more just world. It describes a dream of peace and friendship, and urges us to persist: "I swear that I cannot rest 'til there's equality."

The program features two pieces by Ysaye Barnwell, formerly of Sweet Honey in the Rock. Hope outlines a litany of actions we must take "if we want peace in the world." Prayer advises us to "...do unto others only what I'd have them do unto me." Our Short Walk Through Life, by Lilli Lewis, testifies to the importance of love and kindness along the way, while reminding us of "... the fire we all carry..." The Hebrew text of Allan E. Naplan's timeless Al Shlosha D'Varim translates as "The world is sustained by three things: by truth, by justice, and by peace." Audiences will recognize several beloved jazz standards, including Love Is





Here to Stay by George Gershwin, and Skylark by Hoagy Carmichael, as well as the renowned anthem How Could Anyone by Libby Roderick.

Women in Harmony: "Love and Justice"

Friday, May 16 at 7:30 pm, Saturday, May 17 at 3:00 pm

Falmouth Congregational Church, 267 Falmouth Rd, Falmouth, ME Tickets: \$15 in advance at wihmaine.org.



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# Maine Track celebration honors Class of 2025



#### PORTLAND, ME-

During its annual Celebration in Portland Saturday, MaineHealth recognized the 41 students who will be graduating from the MaineHealth Maine Medical Center - Tufts University School of Medicine (MHMMC-TUSM) Maine Track program next month. Celebration is the Mainebased culminating event for fourth-year medical students who have completed their classroom instruction in Boston along community-based with practice in Maine. Students will begin their residencies this summer, 11 of them at MHMMC Portland.

Dr. Jeffrey Florman, who has been a neurosurgeon with MaineHealth for more than two decades and associate professor with Tufts, gave the keynote speech. Dr. Florman is an expert in brain injury, brain tumors and complex cervical spinal disease, but used his remarks to talk about the human, rather than the scientific side of medicine. He encouraged students to approach doctoring with intention, remembering every patient is an individual deserving of personalized care.

"Particularly in light of the respect I have for the Maine Track students, it is with great humility that I find myself recognized by the students and an honor to speak at this celebration," Dr. Florman said.

The Maine Track program is a partnership between MHMMC and Tufts formed 17 years ago to help address the shortage of doctors in Maine, provide financial assistance to aspiring medical students with a connection to Maine and develop an innovative curriculum focused on community-based education. MHMMC's annual Maine Track celebration marks the local recognition of the medical school students, who also will take part in a graduation ceremony at Tufts on May 18.

Student speaker Austin Steward, M25, is among the 19 students who grew up in Maine to graduate from Maine Track this year. He will be continuing his education as a resident at MHMMC Portland.

"The Maine Track gave us more than a medical education; it gave us the space to grow into the physicians we want to be without shedding the identities that brought us here," Steward said. "Whether artists or athletes, caregivers or advocates, we were welcomed as whole people. We were guided by mentors who modeled that same approach, reminding us to see both ourselves and our patients in their full humanity. That sense of belonging and purpose is what I'll remember most, and what I hope we, the Class of 2025, carry into our next chapters."

When this year's Maine Track class graduates, 480 students will have completed the program since it began. As of 2024, 85 Maine Track graduates who have completed their residency and fellowship training are practicing medicine in Maine.

"These students attended medical school and are entering their residencies at a time of rapid change for the health care industry," said Maine-Health Vice President of Medical Education Dr. Linda Chaudron. "I look forward to seeing how this next generation of providers innovates and adapts to meet the needs of patients, particularly in rural communities."

# Maine increases pre-K funding, per pupil expenditures

MAINE — A new national report finds that in 2023-2024, Maine served 47% of its four-year-olds in state-funded pre-K. Through 2023-24, Maine did not serve any threeyear-olds in state-funded preschool, but that has changed this school year, as the responsibility for preschool for 3-5-yearolds with identified special needs has begun to shift to school administrative units. Maine also made increases in state spending per child.

The National Institute for Early Education Research's 2024 State of Preschool Yearbook presents a critical snapshot of preschool education in America. The 2023-2024 school year set national records for state-funded preschool enrollment and spending. While the increases in funding and enrollment are skewed by a small number of states making progress, quality of preschool programming remains highly uneven from state to state. In Maine the report

found that, in the 2023-2024 school year:

Maine preschool enrolled 6,361 children, an increase of 124 from the prior year.

State spending totaled \$34,079,285, with an additional \$6,234,595 in federal recovery funds to support the program, up \$8,456,798 (27%), adjusted for inflation, since last year.

State spending per child (including federal recovery funds) equaled \$6,338 in 2023-2024, up \$1,230 from 2022-2023, adjusted for inflation.

Maine met 9 of 10 quality standards benchmarks recommended by NIEER.

Currently, 44 states and DC fund preschool programs. Most state pre-K programs continue to serve only four-year-olds; few state pre-K programs serve three-year-olds. Nationally, enrollment reached 37% of four-year-olds but only 8% of three-year-olds.

"When states put money into quality preschool programs, they are investing in children's futures and can expect to see strong returns on their investments," said W. Steven Barnett Ph.D., NIEER's senior director and founder. "Despite the state's goal of universal pre-K, Maine's progress is slower than other states in the Northeast, like New York and Vermont, that serve a majority of their fouryear-olds in state-funded pre-K."

States spent more than \$13.6 billion on preschool in 2023-2024, including \$257 million in federal COVID-19 relief dollars. This represents an increase of nearly \$2 billion (17%) over the previous year. However, just four states-California, New Jersey, New York, and Texas-accounted for half (51%) of total national preschool spending.

Preschool investments increased in all but five states with existing programs. Six states-California, Colorado, Maryland, New Jersey, New Mexico, and Texas-each boosted preschool spending by more than \$100 million.

Enrollment grew to 1,751,109 children nationwide, an increase of more than 111,000 from the previous year. Ten states saw enrollment growth exceeding 20%: Alaska, Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, and Ohio. California and Colorado alone added more than 30,000 children each, together accounting for over 60% of the national enrollment increase.

Alabama. Hawaii, Mississippi, Michigan, and Rhode Island remain the only states nationwide to meet all 10 of NIEER's recommended benchmarks for preschool quality. NIEER's benchmarks measure essential preschool quality indicators, including teacher qualifications, class sizes, early learning standards, and program assessments.

A key question across the country is how proposed cuts to the U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and other federal agencies will affect Head Start and other programs for children. If Head Start funding for children in low-income families is eliminated, access to public preschool will decline in several states by more than 10 percentage points, and in some, by 20 percentage points.

Nearly 2,000 threeand four-year-olds in Maine could lose access to Head Start if federal funding for the program is eliminated," said Allison Friedman-Krauss, Ph.D., lead author of the report. "Increased uncertainty about federal funding underscores the urgency for states to prioritize and expand early childhood investments."

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





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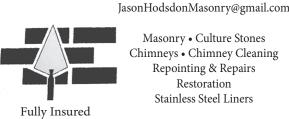
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# **WEB HOSTING**



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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.

R e c o m m e n d e d 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.

#### Saturdays

AUBURN – Books! Books! Books! The Auburn Public Library Bookstore is now open on Saturday mornings. from 9:30-1:00. Choose from hundreds of gently used books, with most prices under \$3. We have books for children, teens, and adults, fiction and non-fiction. We often have puzzles, CDs, and DVDs, too. Stop in and browse our ever changing



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May 11

iston Farmers' Market

held every Sunday, May

11th-November 23rd from

change to 11:00am-1:00pm

beginning first Sunday in

November. Located at 2

past fear-to healing", a

talk at 7:00 pm by practi-

tioner of Christian Science

healing and internation-

al speaker, Lisa Troseth

at First Church of Christ,

Scientist, 79 Lake St., Au-

burn. The talk will focus on

universal healing precepts

found in the Holy Bible,

especially in Christ Jesus'

life and teachings, showing

how they are available for

anyone to understand and

May 15

AUBURN - "Moving

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9:30am-1:00pm.

registration is required.

This program is free,

Sundays, Starting

LEWISTON - Lew-

Hours

provided.

selection! Auburn Public Library, 49 Spring Street. May 9

NEW GLOUCES-TER – Shaker Meeting Room series concert featuring Sarah Tuttle, Jeff Christmas, & Chris Moore Friday, May 9, 2025 at 7 pm at Shaker Village, 707 Shaker Rd, New Gloucester, Maine

#### May 9, 10

AUGUSTA – Homeschoolers of Maine's convention returns for another year as the Maine Homeschool Exchange—May 9th and 10th in Augusta. This is HOME's 35th year providing encouraging and informational workshops, family-friendly activities, and fellowship for homeschool families.

Bring the entire family for a full range of experiences for all ages! You won't want to miss the opportunity to come together and connect with fellow homeschoolers throughout Maine and beyond! For more information, see homeschoolersofmaine. org/events-services/annual-convention/

#### May 10

LEWISTON – Join us at the Lewiston Public Library for Painting Class: Spring is in the Air! in the 2nd floor Idea Lab on Satof Christian Science. This event is free, open to the public, and sponsored by First Church of Christ, Scientist, Auburn-Lewiston. Child care available upon request: 207-782-0012

experience through the lens

May 15

BUXTON - Thursday, May 15, 5PM Buxton Town Hall, 185 Portland Road. Buxton Library Writers' Presentation Melody ML Norris, Author, Designer & Photo Preservationist Presents The Fine Art of Creating Attention Grabbing Book Covers; Sue Cassidy, Author, Discusses her journey to publishing a children's book: Ladybugs and Ellie Go Camping. "Campfire Tales and Trails" A kids guide to reading and activities in the great outdoors. Light Refreshments. Free. FMI: Lorraine Lindstedt lindcabin@gmail.com

#### May 16

FALMOUTH – Women in Harmony: "Love and Justice" Friday, May 16 at 7:30 pm, Saturday, May 17 at 3:00 pm, Falmouth Congregational Church, 267 Falmouth Rd, Falmouth, ME. Tickets: \$15 in advance at wihmaine.org May 16

GARDINER – The first ArtWalk of the year is coming up on May 16<sup>th</sup> from 5-8pm and it will kick off many anniversary celebrations to mark 20 years of highlighting the arts in Gardiner!

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May 17

BUXTON – Saturday, May 17th from 9:00 – 1:00 The Annual Plant, Bake and Green Elephant Sale at First Congregational Church of Buxton. We are located at the junction of Rte 112/Rte 202, look for the signs, this is a rain or shine event!

#### May 17

LEWISTON, TOP-SHAM – "Ethereal Weaves of Air" Saturday, May 17, 2025, 7:00 p.m. - Franco Center, Lewiston and Sunday, May 18, 2025, 2:30 p.m. - Orion Performing Arts Center, Topsham

Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson: Rondo: Allegro Furioso (from Sinfonietta No. 1); Joseph Haydn: Symphony No. 83 "La Poule"; Sergei Prokofiev: Symphony No. 5 in B flat, Op. 100; Tickets are \$25 in advance for adults; \$30 at the door. All concerts are free for anyone 25 and under.

Student Musicians in the Heritage Hall at the Franco Center (part of the "More with Midcoast" series) Saturday, May 17, 6:15pm - pianist Ryan Sweet; Saturday, May 17, intermission - cellist Ronan Sands and violinist Linnea Turesson

Open Rehearsal with Music Director Rohan Smith (part of the "More with Midcoast" series) Sunday, May 18, 2025, 1:30 p.m. - Orion Performing Arts Center, Topsham

For more information about the concert or "More with Midcoast," visit MidcoastSymphony. org, call 207-315-1712, or e-mail info@midcoastsymphony.org.

#### Clothes

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*Continued from page 1* 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 wel-

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**Keystone Sprinter 5th** Wheel. 2018, 31 feet, 2 super slides, large refrigerator, like new - hardly used. Full winter cover, super glide included. Asking \$25,500 - please call 207-754-2165

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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.

SEPTEMBER 15 - 18, 2025 - THE GRAND CANYON OF PENNSYL-VANIA - Trip includes 3 nights lodging, 3 breakfasts and 3 dinners including the historic Peter Herdic House and The Carriage House. Highlights of this tour are Susquehanna River Cruise, Pennsylvania Grand Canyon Wagon Tour, Millionaires Row Tour, Thomas Taber MuHouse and much more. A \$75.00 deposit is due upon signing up. Price of this trip is \$769.00 pp double occupancy and \$918.00 for a single. Final payment is due July 17, 2025.

seum, Historic Rowley

**OCTOBER 6 – 10, 2025** ATLANTIC CITY, CAPE MAY, & PHILA-**DELPHIA** - 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.

APRIL 14 - 22, 2026 -HOLLAND AND BEL-SPRINGTIME GIUM **CRUISE -** Trip includes 9 days and 20 meals. Highlights are 7 Night River Cruise, Amsterdam with Canal Cruise, Keukenhof Gardens, Middelburg, Belgium Waterways, Scenic Sail, Bruges, Antwerp, Kinderdijk Windmills. Ship is the MS Amadeus Brilliant. Included in price is round trip air from Logan International Airport and all Hotel Transfers. Deposit is \$898.00 pp plus \$699.00 if you want travel protection. Rates vary depending on the cabin category you choose.

SEPTEMBER 20 - 28, 2026 DISCOVER CANYONS PAINTED OF THE WEST - Trip includes 9 days and 11 meals. Highlights are Colorado National Park, Wine tasting in the midst of Colorado Wine Country. Moab, Arches National Park, Canyonlands National Park, Dead Horse Point State Park, Capitol Reef State Park, Bryce Canyon National Park and Zion National Park all in Utah, last day in Vegas. Included in price is round trip air from Logan International Airport and all Hotel Transfers. Deposit is \$698.00 pp plus \$429.00 if you want travel protection.

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

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

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WEDDINGS AND EVENTS

## Authors present at West Buxton **Public Library**

BUXTON, ME — West Buxton Public Li- vationist. She will speak brary at Buxton Town on The Fine Art of Cre-Hall at 185 Portland Road, Buxton will be hosting a Writers' Presentation on Thursday, May 15, 5PM, featuring Melody ML Norris, Author, and Ellie Go Camping,

Designer & Photo Preserating Attention Grabbing Book Covers. Sue Cassidy will also discuss her journey to publishing a children's book: Ladybugs

"Campfire Tales & Trails". A kid's guide to reading and activities om the great outdoors.

Light Refreshments will be provided at this free event.

FMI lindcabin@ gmail.com.

# Shaker Village holding benefit concert

**NEW GLOUCES-**TER, ME — Join us for a Shaker Meeting Room series concert featuring Sarah Tuttle (Vocalist) + Jeff Christmas (Guitar, Vocalist) + Chris Moore (Mandolins, Vocalist) on Friday, May 9, 2025 at 7 pm at Shaker Village, 707 Shaker Rd, New Gloucester, Maine.

Maine-based musicians and friends Sarah Tuttle, Jeff Christmas, and Chris Moore will present a delightful and diverse program of vocal and instrumental music, rooted in American folk, and sacred music traditions. Selections will include a variety of traditional Shaker songs and tunes from the 18th and 19th centuries, the Sacred Harp tradition, ballads

SARAH TUTTLE **JEFF CHRISTMAS CHRIS MOORE** SHAKER VILLAGE **BENEFIT CONCERT** ATTE Friday, May 9, 2025 7 pm (doors 6:30pm) Tickets: maineshakers.com/special-events

and tunes from the 20th century American folk country, and blues styles, along with original songs and instrumentals. Simple

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