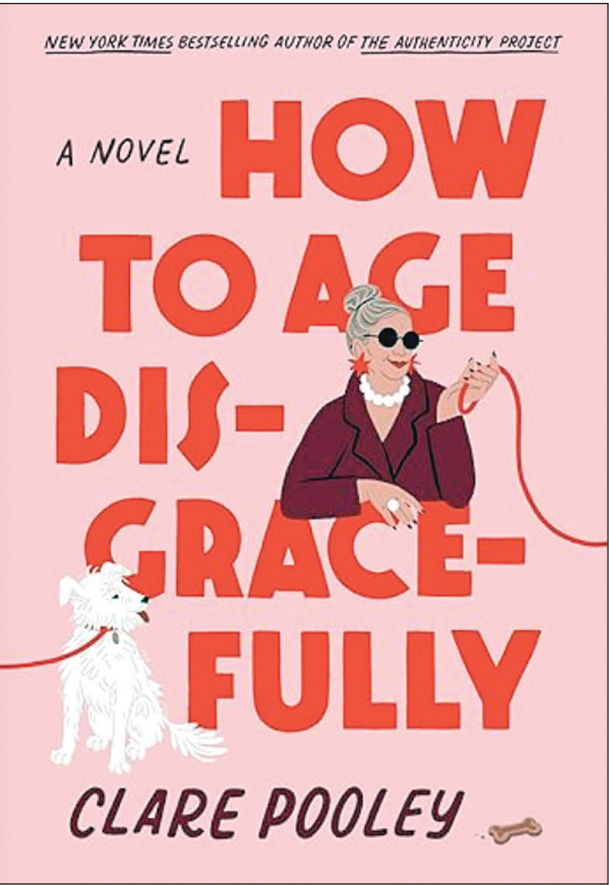


## Tonight is Adult Art Night at Gorham’s BML

**GORHAM, ME** – Memorial Library. Make a book-themed collage, and turn your collage into a pin-backed button, fridge magnet, or laminated bookmark! All materials are provided, no experience required!



## North Gorham Public Library’s Monday Morning Book Club



**GORHAM, ME** – The North Gorham Public Library’s longstanding Monday Morning Book Club usually meets in the library on the fourth Monday of the month. This year, the fourth Monday in May is Memorial Day, and so the group will meet the following Monday, June 2, from 11 to noon. They are reading *How to Age Disgracefully* by Clare Pooley. You are welcome to join either of our Book Clubs. You’ll need a library card, but we can give you one at no charge.

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## Support Gorham’s Boy Scouts at community rummage sale

**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. The Rummage sale will be held on June 1 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. 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 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.”

Come to the sale and shop!



## Trauma cases rise in summer, give blood now in Gorham

**PORTLAND, ME** – Emergencies don’t take a holiday, and the American Red Cross urges donors to keep the blood supply top of mind and help save lives by making an appointment to give blood or platelets.

Immediate access to blood products is a key part of summer safety. With millions of Americans expected to travel around Memorial Day and engage in water sports, boating, camping and other outdoor activities, the risk of accidents increases. Though it can be a busy time, making and keeping blood donation appointments remains a critical priority in May during Trauma Awareness Month.

Type O blood donors and those giving platelets are essential right now to meet the needs of hospitals. Volunteer blood donors can be the light in a patient’s recovery, especially accident victims who may require hundreds of blood units through transfusions.

Shine a light on saving lives. Schedule a time to give now by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org), calling 1-800-RED CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App. Those who come to give by May 31, 2025, will receive an exclusive Red Cross solar lantern, while supplies last. Plus, all who come to give in May will be automatically entered for a chance to win a U.S. trip of their choice for two. Full details can be found at [RedCrossBlood.org/May](http://RedCrossBlood.org/May).

Those who come to give June 1-30, 2025, will get a \$15 Amazon.com Gift Card by email and will be automatically entered for a chance to win one of two \$7,000 gift cards. Terms apply. Visit [RedCrossBlood.org/June](http://RedCrossBlood.org/June).

Upcoming blood donation opportunities May-June

Cumberland	6/3/2025: 11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Masonic Hall, 166 Harrison Road, Route 117
Bridgton	Brunswick
	5/30/2025: 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., American Legion Post 20, 1 Columbus Drive
	6/11/2025: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Elks Lodge, 179 Park Row
	Cape Elizabeth
	6/12/2025: 12 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., Saint Bartholomew Church, 8 Two Lights Rd
	Falmouth
	6/11/2025: 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Lunt Auditorium, 74 Lunt Road
	Gorham
	6/5/2025: 1 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Cressey Road Christian Church, 81 Cressey Road
	New Gloucester
	6/11/2025: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., The Commons, 59 Pineland Drive
	Portland
	5/29/2025: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., See Give, page 14

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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## Paddle for Pine Tree Camp helps kids, adults with disabilities

**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://pinetreesociety.org/pts-events/hammond-lumber-cornhole-for-a-cause/>

29th Annual Bath Savings Paddle for Pine Tree Camp  
Saturday, June 7

9:30am  
Solon: Traditional 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-tree-camp/>

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-tree-camp/>

## Poland Spring Preservation Society kicks off 2025 season

**POLAND SPRING, ME** – The Poland Spring Preservation Society is excited to announce the opening of its historic museums for the 2025 season, on Friday, May 23rd. We are proud to have three museum buildings open for tours including the 1893 Maine State Building, 1912 All Souls Chapel and 1907 Poland Spring Bottling Museum & Source Building. Thanks to the continued generous sponsorship of Northeast Bank, admission to all three of our unique museum buildings will remain free to the public.

“We are thrilled to welcome visitors back to explore the rich history of Poland Spring,” said Laura Brown, Executive Director of Poland Spring Preservation Society. “Last year, we saw an 81% increase in visitors, and we anticipate welcoming over 4,000 guests through our doors this season. Whether you’re a local history buff or a first-time visitor, there’s something for everyone to enjoy.”

This year marks a special milestone as we celebrate the 130th anniversary of the Maine State Building at Poland Spring. Originally Maine’s entry for the 1893 World Columbian Exposition in Chicago, Illinois, this architectural gem was purchased by the Ricker family at the end of the fair, meticulously dismantled and rebuilt at Poland Spring Resort

for use as a library and art gallery.

**MUSEUM HOURS FOR THE SEASON**  
May 23 - June 22:  
Friday and Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Summer Hours (June 23 – August 30)  
Thursday – Saturday & Monday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Fall Hours (August 31 - October 11)  
Friday and Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**2025 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**  
Live music returns to Poland Spring with our popular Summer Concert Series, a tradition since 1977, featuring an incredible lineup of regional talent. Our Summer Concert Series are held Monday’s from June thru August with one final performance in October. Admission is just \$5.00 per person. Concerts begin at 6:30 p.m.

June Concerts – All Souls Chapel (37 Preservation Way, Poland, Maine)  
June 9- PRHS Music Group  
June 16- Organist Ryan Slocum  
June 23- Denny Breaux  
July & August Concerts – Poland Spring Resort Gazebo (22 Robbins Road, Poland, Maine)  
July 7- The Cobble-

stones  
July 14- Erica Brown & the Bluegrass Connection  
July 21- Toby McCallister & the Sierra Sounds  
July 28- Christie Ray Band  
August 4- Seth Gallant  
August 11- Joan Kennedy Band  
August 18- Sigrid Sibley Band  
August 25- The World Famous Grassholes  
October 11- Phil House & Kathy Haley 11:00 a.m. - dro  
All Souls Chapel (37 Preservation Way, Poland, Maine)  
Bring a lawn chair, grab a bite at Mel’s Hilltop Restaurant or drinks and snacks at the Maine Inn at Poland Spring Resort, and enjoy summer evenings filled with music and community spirit.

**HERITAGE DAY**  
Mark your calendars for The 16th Annual Heritage Day, our most festive community event of the year, to be held on the grounds of the historic Poland Spring Resort and Preservation Park on Saturday, September 27th from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Enjoy local vendors, food, music, historical displays and activities for all ages as we celebrate the legacy of Poland Spring. The event is supported in part by Poland Spring Resort, Poland Spring Water and The Town of Poland, Maine.

## NFIB’s new tools help Maine small business owners

**AUGUSTA, ME** – The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), the nation’s leading small business advocacy organization, has released two new digital tools to help small business owners, policymakers, and the public in Maine understand the significant economic impact of the 20% Small Business Tax Deduction and what’s at stake if Congress fails to make it permanent.

The new tools include an interactive map that allows users to explore how extending the Small Business Deduction would power job cre-

ation and GDP growth in both congressional districts in Maine. NFIB also launched a tax calculator to provide small business owners in Maine with personalized estimates of how much more they could owe in federal income taxes in 2026 if the deduction expires.

“These new tools give small business owners and elected leaders in Maine real data about the economic stakes,” said David Clough, state director for NFIB in Maine. “If Congress fails to act, millions of small businesses across the country—including right here in Maine—will

face a massive tax hike. That means fewer jobs, less investment, and slower growth for our communities. We urge Congress to make the 20% Small Business Tax Deduction permanent.”

“We also applaud the United States House of Representatives for passing the tax cuts package this morning,” continued Clough. “This legislation is one of the most pro-small business bills in recent history, and Congress has a historic opportunity to provide over 33 million small business owners with permanent tax relief.”

According to NFIB’s interactive map, if the deduction is extended, Maine could see an increase of 11,422 jobs and

*See NFIB, page 10*

## EPA kickstarts Maine lead paint initiative

**BOSTON, ME** – As part of a longstanding effort to address the risks of lead paint across New England, the U.S. Environ-

mental Protection Agency (EPA) will begin an initiative in Maine involving outreach, education, compliance assistance, and en-

forcement activities. EPA will focus on areas located in central Maine along the I-95 Corridor, including Androscoggin, Cumberland, Kennebec, Penobscot, and Waldo counties. These areas were selected in part due to the number of children with elevated blood lead levels as reported by Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention. This initiative will help increase awareness of and compliance with federal lead-based paint rules.

“EPA New England’s lead paint initiative is about protecting children where they live, learn, and play, while reducing their lead exposure in homes,” said EPA New England Regional Administrator Mark Sanborn. “Every family should feel safe from environmental haz-

*See EPA, page 5*

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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## Enter Norway Savings Bank scenic photo contest





**Enter now!**  
**NSB's 2025 Scenic Photo Contest**

**NORWAY, ME** – Have you taken a scenic photo in Maine or New Hampshire that makes you proud? Enter your photo in the Norway Savings Bank Scenic Photo Contest for a chance to win \$250 and have it included in the NSB 2026 desk calendar.

The contest, which runs through Friday, June 6, is open to all individuals 18 or older and there is no purchase necessary to enter. Each participant can submit up to four entries. You can view the official rules at NSB's website.

All entries must be scenic photographs taken in Maine or New Hampshire and must be original work not previously published. New Hampshire



photos are eligible for the first time as Norway Savings Bank is opening its first Granite State branch in North Conway on May 19.

To enter, email your picture or pictures to [photocontest@norwaysavingsbank.com](mailto:photocontest@norwaysavingsbank.com) and include your name, address, phone, email address, and location of the photos in the correspondence. Photos submitted should include the photographer's last name and the location of the photo as part of the file name for

each entry.

Photos will be screened by a panel of Norway Savings Bank team members, and the winning photographs will be published in the 2026 Norway Savings Bank desk calendar as well as posted online. Selected photographers' names will be entered into a drawing to win \$250.

For more information, please contact Nate Dubois at 207.743.3532 or [ndubois@norwaysavingsbank.com](mailto:ndubois@norwaysavingsbank.com).

## 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-

tee in person at the Town Clerk's office after May 13, 2025. Last day to request or vote an absentee ballot is June 5, 2025 at 5pm. Ballots need to be returned by June 10, 2025 at 8pm.

## 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.

## 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 economies, anticipated commercial and residential development



needs, and 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.

Public Open House Event

All are invited to attend a Public Open House event hosted by the 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, June 9, 2025, 6 to 8pm

Where: Burleigh Loveitt Council Chambers, Gorham Municipal Center (75 South Street).

## Town of Gorham discontinues use of Silver Bullets at Public Works

**GORHAM, ME** - The Gorham Town Council voted to discontinue the use of the silver bullets located at the Public Works Department effective July 1st 2025. As of 7/7/2025, the silver bullets (roll off containers) will no longer be onsite at 80 Huston Road. Please utilize curbside collection for your recyclable materials. The

area is monitored by cameras.

Options for disposal of unwanted items and recyclable materials:

Riverside Recycling  
Address: 910 Riverside Street, Portland  
Phone: 207-797-6200  
Email: [inforrf@cpre-group.com](mailto:inforrf@cpre-group.com)

Casella Transfer Station

Address: 594 County Road, Westbrook

Phone: 207-805-3511  
If you have questions, please reach out!

By phone: 207-222-4950

By email: [dpw@gorham.me.us](mailto:dpw@gorham.me.us)

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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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# Seniors Not Acting Their Age Final Days on the Mopang Stream and Machias River Expedition

Three of us awoke to the amenities of Wigwams Camp. Ken Gordon, Eggman DeCoster and I had reserved the cabin for the first night of our three-day trip on Mopang Stream and the Machias River.

Owned by Downeast Salmon Federation, the cabin is located at the bottom of the first of four challenging whitewater rapids on the Machias River called the Wigwams. Instead of a rudimentary tent site, we enjoyed the comforts of propane lights and stove, and a woodstove with firewood. The timing of the reservation was fortuitous as we experienced a long exhausting descent of Mopang Stream the day before and the temperature dropped below freezing during the night.

Mopang Stream was a new and formidable experience for us. The estimated 24-mile day included numerous blowdowns and obstructions, unexpectedly difficult rapids and a lower than desirable water level. Now we were in familiar surroundings on a high volume river with exciting whitewater well-known to us.

Recuperating from the demanding Mopang

Stream descent, we took our time organizing for the day's paddle. A leisurely breakfast allowed time for the sun to climb high into the sky and the temperature to rise to a toasty warm level.

We launched two expedition kayaks and a canoe at the foot of First Wigwam. After some easy rapids, we entered Second Wigwam on the right and negotiated around a trio of wide ledges to a pool at the bottom.

Third Wigwam was next. Since there is steep river-wide pitch part way through the rapid, we stopped at the portage trail on the left to scout. Narrow passageways free of significant obstructions were located in the center and on the left of the precipitous ledge drop. Approaches to both were complicated by large waves, rocks and some holes. We concluded left would be an easier route to follow. A good choice, we all had successful runs in loaded boats.

Fourth Wigwam awaited around the next bend. Since it was relatively easy to boat scout, we navigated through a feisty wave train left center.

Several miles of flat

water followed to a bridge at the top of Upper Holmes Falls, a dangerous 15-foot waterfall. We carried left on a good portage trail and explored camping options.

Although lacking the posh accommodations of the previous night, we located a campsite with plenty of tent space, a fire ring, and an abundance of driftwood waiting to be cut. A peaceful evening followed sitting around the campfire. We were in our sleeping bags prior to arrival of several showers during the night.

The sun was shining when we crawled out of our tents well after daybreak. The sun was particularly welcome on this morning since it provided the opportunity to dry our tents while cooking and eating breakfast.

We loaded boats and embarked in slack water. The half-mile between Upper and Lower Holmes Falls is a unique canyon-like environment. Above Lower Holmes Falls, in the center of the river, is Deadman's Island where there is a monument erected in memory of an early pioneer, Obadiah Hill.

Skirting along the



Eggman DeCoster canoes through Third Wigwam Rapid on the Machias River



A kayaker enters complex Lower Holmes Falls



Ken Gordon finishes Lower Holmes Falls

right side of the island, we paddled down a pushy rapid into a moving current immediately above the falls. Hurriedly ferrying to the right shore, the narrow boulder-strewn cataract that often accumulates obstructions required careful inspection.

With the exception of a fallen tree on the right at the beginning, the falls was free of debris. We set up safety with throw bags and descended one boat at a time. The complicated route entailed plunging over a ledge drop just to the left of the fallen tree, punching through a channel-wide hole, and then weaving around submerged boulders to the bottom of the twisting passage. We completed the complex rapid with minimal difficulties.

The remainder of our voyage was nine miles of

primarily flat water. We passed the mouth of Old Stream and a scenic sector of quick water called Getchell Rips on our way to the takeout at Smith Landing.

Our expedition was one of extremes. Day one was an endurance test in a tiny stream replete with a multitude of exciting adversities followed by two days of exhilarating big water paddling.

My book, Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine narrates five more exceptional Maine river trips.

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](http://www.northcountrypress.com/maine-al-fresco) or in bookstores and through online retail-

ers. His previous books are "The Great Mars Hill Bank Robbery" and "Mountains for Mortals – New England." Visit his website at [www.ronchaseoutdoors.com](http://www.ronchaseoutdoors.com) or he can be reached at [ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net](mailto:ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net).

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Maine has highest rate of child food insecurity in New England

Sen. Collins speaks at Rumford Fire Station dedication

AUBURN, ME – Food insecurity continues to impact every county in the United States, with Maine holding the highest rate in child food insecurity, and second highest rate of overall food insecurity in New England, according to Feeding America’s annual Map the Meal Gap study. In 2023, one in eight Mainers (13.8 percent) and one in five children (20.6 percent) experienced food insecurity, marking the fourth consecutive year that food security has increased in Maine and underscoring persistent challenges statewide. Good Shepherd Food Bank is using this data to call attention to the urgent need for sustained efforts to end hunger.

“This year’s data reinforces what we hear every day from Mainers trying to put food on the table,” said Heather Paquette, president of Good Shepherd Food Bank.

“Food insecurity is an urgent challenge in every corner of our state, and the numbers remind us that too many children, families and older Mainers are still being left behind. We are committed to using this information to strengthen partnerships and drive solutions that move us closer to a Maine where everyone is food secure. We invite our neighbors across Maine to join us in making that vision a reality, whether through giving, volunteering, or advocating for policies that address the root causes of hunger.”

These troubling trends come at a time when federal resources are shrinking. Recent cuts to USDA food programs, combined with proposed threats to SNAP benefits, put key supports that families rely on at risk and weaken the safety net for many people in Maine. This decline in assistance highlights the urgent need for stronger policies and investments that keep hunger from rising further.

Other key findings of Map the Meal Gap include: Estimated food insecurity levels vary across the country and are influenced by a range of factors, including income-related challenges like unemployment, poverty, high cost of living; community- and health-related conditions; and barriers that prevent access to enough healthy food.

Nationwide, nearly nine out of 10 high food insecurity counties are rural, indicating regional disparities. This is true in Maine, which sees high levels of food insecurity across our rural counties. In fact, the highest food insecurity rates of all New England counties are in Maine; Washington, Piscataquis, Aroostook, and Somerset.

In Maine, food insecurity among all individuals ranges from a low of 11.6 percent in Cumberland County to a high of 18.1 percent in Washington County.

Food insecurity also varies for different age groups. Among children, food insecurity in Maine ranges from a low of 15.8 percent in Cumberland County to a high of 27.3 percent in Washington County.

Income and Program Eligibility: Nationally, more than two out of five people facing hunger may not qualify for SNAP benefits due to income limits. Here in Maine, Feeding America estimates that 42 percent of

people facing hunger may not qualify for SNAP, and approximately 36 percent of kids experiencing food insecurity live in families that are not eligible for SNAP benefits.

Food Spending and Prices: The national food budget shortfall, which reflects the extra money that people who are food insecure report needing to cover their food needs, is \$32 billion. This translates to \$22.37 a week per person, on average. Mainers feel this firsthand, with an estimated food budget shortfall of \$23.47.

Mainers who were food secure in 2023 reported spending an average of \$3.76 per meal. Meal costs vary significantly by county and throughout the nation, ranging from \$2.60 to \$6.09, showcasing the diverse economic challenges faced by communities and reflecting the growing need seen by Good Shepherd Food Bank.

Now in its 15th year, Map the Meal Gap is the only study offering county-level estimates of food insecurity and food costs nationwide. The report builds upon USDA data showing 47 million people—including 14 million children—experienced food insecurity in 2023, the highest rate in over a decade. Maine’s rising numbers highlight ongoing economic pressures and structural barriers that make accessing nutritious food difficult, especially in rural regions. More information, including an interactive map detailing food insecurity by geography, income, and race, can be found at [www.feedingamerica.org/MaptheMealGap](http://www.feedingamerica.org/MaptheMealGap).

RUMFORD, ME – U.S. Senator Susan Collins delivered remarks at a dedication and open house at the new Rumford fire station. The new station is dedicated to Peter Chase, a former Deputy Fire Chief and Town of Rumford Selectman who passed away in 2022. Members of the Chase family, including his wife Rhonda and his son, Auburn Fire Department Chief Bob Chase, were in attendance for the ceremony, which was held on the same day as Deputy Chief Chase’s birthday.

“This is a celebration of more than a modern facility for firefighters. As we dedicate this building to Peter Chase, we honor an inspiring life of service,” said Senator Collins during her remarks. “From Deputy Fire Chief, to Selectman, to his work on several town and county commissions, Peter devoted himself to his community. This is a wonderfully touching way



to mark what would have been Peter’s 72nd birthday.”

“Rhonda, Bob, and all members of his wonderful family, please know that this new fire station is a fitting memorial to a remarkable example of the spirit of Maine,” she continued. “Bob, let me congratulate you for carrying on your father’s legacy in Auburn and for your recognition as Maine’s Fire Chief of the Year for 2024. That spirit lives on in the firefighters who selflessly put their lives on the line to protect our families, our homes, and our businesses.”

After touring the old station—which was constructed in 1923—in May of 2022, Senator Collins secured \$1 million in Congressionally Directed Spending to support the construction of the new station in the Fiscal Year 2022 omnibus appropriations package. The new station includes two additional bays and additional clearance for trucks, as well as a decontamination area, and sleeping space for the firefighters.

Senator Collins has long been an advocate for Maine’s firefighters and first responders. Through her role on the Senate Appropriations Committee, she secured more than \$31 million in Congressionally Directed Spending through the Fiscal Year 2024 appropriations process for projects across the state that will support local law enforcement, fire and rescue stations, and emergency response services.

**EPA**  
*Continued from page 2*

ards in their communities. By working closely with our local counterparts, this is a clear example of how EPA is protecting the public health of Americans and their families.”

“Maine DEP appreciates this collaborative effort led by EPA to raise awareness of the hazards of lead exposure and ensure that contractors follow the laws designed to protect our citizens,” said Commissioner Melanie Loyzim, Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

EPA will provide outreach and education activities in Aroostook County, the largest county in the state by total area, and for federally recognized tribal communities in northern

Maine. Outreach and education efforts in northern Maine aim to increase availability to lead safe renovation professionals in less populated areas.

EPA’s lead paint initiative aims to reduce childhood lead exposure through increased awareness and improved compliance with the Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) Rule, the Lead Disclosure Rule, and the Safe Drinking Water Act’s Lead and Copper Rule. Homes built before 1978 are very likely to contain lead paint. Lead is particularly harmful to children because they are more vulnerable to its effects, which include damage to the brain and nervous system.

In coordination with federal, state, tribal and local partners, EPA will:

- Provide compliance assistance to the regulated community, including firms that perform renovation, repair, or painting of homes and child-occupied facilities built pre-1978;
- Deliver multimedia educational materials and information to the public;
- Present lead-based paint regulation training and materials to state and local health and building code officials and tribal environmental health agencies;
- Conduct compliance inspections; and
- Address violations using a range of tools including penalty and non-penalty enforcement actions.

This initiative has previously included areas in Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont.

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# Arts & Entertainment

## Makers Market, Pick Your Own Blueberries Fest in Gorham!

**GORHAM, ME** – Makers Market & Pick Your Own Blueberries Fest at Orchard Ridge Farm in Gorham! The Market is August 9th from 10-2 (rain date August 10th, 10-2).

We will have 30 Vendors selling their goods (Ceramics, Jewelry, Woodworking, Illustration and

Painting, Vintage Clothes, Stained Glass, Soap and Body Products & More).

There will be live music, farm animals and we will have 2 food trucks, Gunnars Icelandic Hotdogs and Top it on the go serving up ice cream.

We are also having a BAKE SALE (blueberry themed) fundraiser for

ARLGP with all the funds raised will go to help the shelter continue doing the amazing work they have been doing for years.

This event is going to be incredible and at the height of blueberry picking season, on one of the most beautiful local farms in Maine. We hope to see you there!

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## Vivid Motion Dance invites all to show auditions

**PORTLAND, ME** – Long-time Portland staple Vivid Motion Dance brings dancers and choreographers together for their summer show: Amy Cookson's New Works, a collection of stand-alone pieces created by veteran and newer Vivid Motion Dance choreographers, and Fallen, a gothic romantic contemporary ballet, directed and choreographed by Wendy E. Getchell.

New Works (act one) showcases a variety of styles from ballet, lyrical, and jazz: swing-inspired jazz to spooky, jazzy and kinda weird, and comical musical theater jazz. Featuring music from Saint Mesa, Beats Antique, Lizzie McAlpine, RIELL, Jesse Cook, The Oh Hellos, Des Rocs, & Danny Jonokuchi; directed by Amy Cookson.

Fallen (act two) focuses on archangel Daniel and their transformation after falling in love with human Mandy, examining the contrast between the angelic and human realms, and highlighting Daniel's longing for a human existence and choice whether to embrace love and mortality with Mandy. Featuring music from Kate



Bush, Philipp Klein, Philip Glass, Mogli, & Vincent Isler.

**WHO: YOU!** Ages 9+ of all dance experience levels (experienced to novice) are invited

**WHAT:** Dance Auditions

**WHEN:** Saturday May 31, 2025; 9:30a - 11:30a

**WHERE:** Deering Grange 1408 Washington Ave Portland

Auditions are held in a class format and include a warm up followed by several combinations at center. Pre-registration is required and closes at

8:00p Friday, May 30. More information, including a complete list of roles (description of pieces, dance levels, gender) and registration is available at [vividmotiondance.org](http://vividmotiondance.org)

Other notable Vivid Motion Dance productions: family classics such as Peter Pan, The Secret Garden, Sleeping Beauty, The Yellow Wallpaper, and The Hunchback of Notre Dame, as well as original stories like Grania: Pirate Queen, Lyrical, Tales from the End of the World, Constellation, QUEER, Nutcracker Burlesque, and Holly Jolly Follies.

## Area high school interns launch "Storybook Project"

**MAINE** – For the first time, the Maine Department of Education Extended Learning Opportunities team is hosting two students to participate in its own extended learning opportunity (ELO). These interns are funded through the Maine Career Exploration Program, and both are earning credit at their respective schools. They will be helping the Maine DOE to spread the good news of exciting developments in ELOs throughout the state, honing their communication and writing skills, and learning about their local state government.

Vagni Das is a junior at Yarmouth High School. She was born in India and has lived in Maine for seven years and in America for 15. In school, Vagni especially likes learning about history and science. Apart from her regular courses, she enjoys doing theater, Model UN, and debate. In her free time, she loves

**Yarmouth and Brunswick High School Interns Join Maine DOE**



watching movies and singing. Vagni is so excited to be working at the Maine DOE as an intern/ELO student!

Olivia Haralson, a senior at Brunswick High School, will be attending New York University in the fall to major in Film and Television. She is excited to write articles through the Maine DOE about ELO programs at high schools

statewide. In her free time, Olivia enjoys filmmaking, thrifting, and writing.

As part of their internship, Vagni and Olivia are starting a collaborative project: producing an ELO "storybook" that will feature student profiles and serve as a resource for those interested in seeing the diverse ELO opportunities that students have completed throughout the



state. Vagni and Olivia are inviting any school, ELO Coordinator, and other ELO students to share their ELO experience via this short survey.

Vagni and Olivia are also working on independent projects. For example, Vagni and Olivia—both from Midcoast Maine—wrote articles about ELO

programs in Washington County, shining a light on the powerful ELO work happening in rural regions. In late May, Olivia will practice her filming and interviewing skills at Vagni's high school ELO showcase, featuring the work of Yarmouth High School's ELO students. Last month, Vagni participated in the Maine DOE's Inclusive Education Conference at the Augusta Civic Center

To learn more about ELOs, or for questions regarding the ELO storybook, please contact Lana Sawyer at [lane.sawyer@maine.gov](mailto:lane.sawyer@maine.gov). To learn more about implementing a paid, meaningful work opportunity through the Maine Career Exploration Program, please contact Karen Morin at [karen.morin@maine.gov](mailto:karen.morin@maine.gov).



# Applications open for 2025 Access to Justice Tax Credit

**AUGUSTA, ME** – The Maine Justice Foundation is pleased to announce that applications for the 2025 Access to Justice Tax Credit Program will open on June 2, 2025. The Foundation will accept applications from eligible attorneys from June 2-16, 2025. Please visit <https://www.grantinterface.com/sl/ceKoqR> to apply starting on June 2.

In an effort to encourage lawyers to provide services to underserved areas of our State, the Legislature enacted this program in 2022. 36 M.R.S. Section 5219-ZZ provides that the Maine Supreme Court or its designee shall certify up to five qualified attorneys annually for participation in the Access to Justice Tax Credit program. The Court has designated the Maine Justice Foundation to administer the program and established a Standing Committee to assist and advise the Foundation in the process. The Standing Committee includes representatives of the Maine Justice Foundation, the Maine State Bar Association, and the Maine Trial Lawyers Association.

Now in its fourth year, the program will authorize up to five additional eligible attorneys to receive a \$6,000 tax credit in 2025 and in each year thereafter through 2027. To be eligible, attorneys must commit to practicing law in an underserved area for at least five years, must be rostered by the Maine Commission



on Public Defense Services to accept court appointments to represent clients in an underserved area, and must agree to perform pro bono legal services in an underserved area.

In 2022, 2023 and 2024, the Foundation received submissions from eligible applicants statewide representing Penobscot, Knox, Kennebec, Hancock, Waldo, Aroostook, Somerset, Androscoggin, York, and Cumberland Counties. The attorneys selected through this process to date include Cassandra Rogers and Benjamin Everett of Presque Isle, Taylor Kilgore of Turner, Gregory LeClerc of Standish, Ryan Rutledge of Skowhegan, Britany Sawyer of Arundel, Shamara Bailey of Patten, Lynn Madison of Rockland, Stephen Smith of Augusta, Sarah Catherman of Waterville, Benjamin Fowler of Bangor, Andrew Catherman of Waterville, Adrienne Fernstrom of Rockland, and Jeremiah McIntosh of Washburn. These attorneys can continue to claim this credit for up to five years provided they maintain their eligibility. This benefit will be expanded for up to five additional el-

igible attorneys each year through 2027. “This is a valuable incentive for lawyers to further support access to justice for Mainers in need,” states Michelle Draeger, Executive Director of the Maine Justice Foundation. “This benefit will encourage attorneys in underserved areas to help their neighbors in underserved areas to access justice through quality legal representation. We are honored to administer this program and look forward to working with the Court to report on the positive benefits associated with it to the Legislature. We can collectively solve access to justice issues in our state by employing multiple creative strategies such as this tax credit,” says Draeger.

The Maine Justice Foundation, founded in 1983 as the Maine Bar Foundation, is the state’s leading funder of civil legal aid for poor and vulnerable Mainers. Find us online and support access to justice through donations to various funds at [www.justicemaine.org](http://www.justicemaine.org).

FMI: Contact Michelle G. Draeger, Executive Director: 207-620-1351, [mdraeger@justicemaine.org](mailto:mdraeger@justicemaine.org).

# Billboards urge campers to keep Maine beautiful

**AUGUSTA, ME** – Just in time for the summer camping season, travelers from Massachusetts and New Hampshire heading to Maine will start seeing bold, eye-catching billboards with a simple message: Keep Campfires Wicked Good - Use Local Firewood.

This public awareness campaign, launched by the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF), Maine Forest Service, and Plant Health Programs, uses clean, unbranded graphics and a high-impact message to reach would-be campers before they cross the border. The campaign aims to prevent the spread of invasive forest pests by discouraging the movement of firewood into Maine’s forests and parks.

“These billboards are a reminder that even well-intentioned campers can unknowingly carry tree-killing insects and

diseases into our state,” said Maine State Forester Patty Cormier. “Keeping Maine’s forests healthy is a shared responsibility, and not moving firewood is one of the easiest and most effective ways to help.”

The campaign, funded by a USDA APHIS cooperative agreement, begins this week and runs through September. A series of three billboard designs completes the campaign, each featuring a dark brown woodgrain background with vivid cream-colored letters and the following phrases:

Camp Smart. Keep Maine Beautiful. Leave Firewood at Home

Keep Campfires Wicked Good. Use Local Firewood

Hey Bub, Bugs Are Lurking. Leave Firewood at Home

The billboards are intentionally minimalist: no logos, no website links, just a clear directive designed

to stick in the minds of travelers. The simplicity is strategic. Including branding or URLs could distract from the core message, especially on fast-moving highways.

In the coming weeks and months, the designs will appear on DACF social media channels, including Instagram, Facebook, and X, where the message can be expanded with helpful links and tips on firewood sourcing.

The campaign complements ongoing state and federal efforts to educate the public about the dangers of moving firewood. Firewood can harbor destructive pests like the emerald ash borer and Asian longhorned beetle, and others far less familiar to most, all of which can devastate Maine’s iconic forests.

For more information about how you can help keep Maine’s forests safe, visit [www.maine.gov/firewood](http://www.maine.gov/firewood).

# UUCB Concerts for a Cause: Susan Werner



**BRUNSWICK, ME** – The award-winning singer-songwriter, Susan Werner will perform at the UU Church of Brunswick on June 14th to raise money for the Brunswick Teen Center and Maine Family Planning. This will be the last concert of the season to benefit the chosen charities.

Susan Werner is a singer/songwriter, guitarist, and pianist who has built a reputation as one of the country’s most compelling live performers. She has been playing to sold-out audiences across the country for 27 years. Renowned as a charismatic performer, she’s known above all for challenging herself to conquer new styles every few years. She

writes ambitious concept albums with subject matter and sounds to match. She has produced 18 albums of songs that effortlessly slide between folk/rock, jazz, Tin Pan Alley to gospel, country, and pop, all delivered with sassy wit and classic Midwestern charm.

With a graduate degree in voice performance, her shows are a one-woman master class in musicianship. Her songs are noted for their poetry and sharp wit, and also for their astonishing stylistic range. She has written songs in the style of Gershwin and Cole Porter, gospel music, traditional Cuban “son”, and New Orleans junk piano. In 2014 she composed the music and lyrics to the musical theater score “Bull

Durham, the Musical.” Her latest recording of original songs, In the 2025 International Folk Festival Awards, Susan Werner walked away with the award for Album of the Year for “Halfway to Houston.”

Werner was featured as part of the “next generation” in Peter Paul and Mary’s PBS special. She has also performed on NPR’s World Café, NPR’s Mountain Stage, and displayed her considerable piano chops on Marian McPartland’s NPR Piano Jazz.

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

# New chief to lead MaineHealth Behavioral Health Services

**Portland, ME** – MaineHealth announced today it has selected Dr. Alex Keuroghlian as the new Chief of MaineHealth Behavioral Health (MHBH) and Chair of Psychiatry at MaineHealth Maine Medical Center (MHMMC). As Chief, Dr. Keuroghlian will be responsible for the overall clinical operation of behavioral health services across the MaineHealth system; as the Department Chair he will lead the clinical, teaching, and research programs at MHMMC Department of Psychiatry, including residency and fellowship training in general and child psychiatry and the academic affiliation with Tufts University School of Medicine.

Dr. Keuroghlian previously served as the Michele & Howard J. Kessler Chair and Director of the Division of Public and Community Psychiatry at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), Associate Chief for Public and Community Psychiatry of the MGH Department of Psychiatry, and Director of the Division of Education and Training at The Fenway Institute. He is an As-



sociate Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School.

“Alex brings an exceptional record of leadership in academic and community psychiatry, as well as a deep commitment to advancing behavioral health services,” said Adrian Moran, MD, MBA, FACC, MaineHealth Chief Medical and Transformation Officer. “His experience overseeing clinical services for diverse populations, combined with his extensive background in professional development and training, will be invaluable as he steps into this new role at MaineHealth on May 30th.”

“I am so excited to have Alex join MaineHealth in this unique dual role,” added MHBH President Kelly Barton, MPH, FACHE. “He has dedicated his career to fostering innovative mental health

programs, mentoring the next generation of health-care professionals, and ensuring equitable access to quality care. His leadership will help us further our vision of working together so our communities are the healthiest in America.”

Dr. Keuroghlian graduated with a degree in medicine and a master’s degree in neurosciences from Stanford University School of Medicine and holds a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. He completed his residency in psychiatry at MGH/McLean Hospital and a fellowship in community health leadership at MGH.

“We have a special opportunity to integrate superb clinical services, rigorous training, and innovative research across academic and community settings throughout MaineHealth,” shared Dr. Keuroghlian. “I look forward to collaborating with and championing all our amazing teams, whose mission-driven focus will ensure our responsiveness to the behavioral health needs and priorities of our communities.”



# Path Forward Fund – Preserving trails in the Gorham Area



**GORHAM, ME –** Enjoy Presumpscot Regional Land Trust walks? We need your help! At Presumpscot Regional Land Trust, we steward 3,000+ acres and nearly 40 miles of trails. But nature doesn't maintain itself. It takes effort and care: repairing boardwalks and bridges, clearing debris, managing invasives, and improving access for all.

That's where the Path Forward Fund comes in.

Your gift supports:

- Trail repairs and bridge rebuilding
- New and safer signage



Invasive species removal and habitat restoration

Increased accessibility for all ages and abilities

This fund is for the trails we love—the quiet, muddy, beautiful ones. Now, they need us to carry them forward. Let's invest in our trails, community, and shared future.

Give to the Path Forward Fund—because stewardship starts with us.

Please visit our donation page and select the 'Path Forward Fund' dropdown option to donate online. You can also send checks to P.O. Box 33, Gorham, ME 04038 with 'Path Forward Fund' in the memo line. If you have questions or want to discuss your donation further, please contact William Sedlack, Executive Director at [Will@prlt.org](mailto:Will@prlt.org) or (207) 839-4633.

# Maine SBDC names Christine Cole 2025 State Star

**PORTLAND, ME** – The Maine Small Business Development Centers (Maine SBDC) has selected Christine Cole as the 2025 State Star. The award, given annually, recognizes a member of the Maine SBDC staff who has shown exemplary performance and a strong commitment to small business success.

Christine (Chris) Cole is a Senior Business Advisor at the Maine SBDC at University of Southern Maine. She works with entrepreneurs and small business owners in Maine's Cumberland County to start, sustain, and grow their businesses. In the five years she has been with the Maine SBDC, she has spent approximately 4,000 hours advising almost 700 clients. She's helped to start 44 businesses, create and save 241 jobs, and generate almost \$13 million in capital.

Clients consistently praise Chris for her kind, supportive, and responsive approach to business advising. They value her deep knowledge and the way she offers clear, step-by-step guidance—always at a pace that suits their individual needs. Among colleagues, Chris is known for her thoughtfulness, generosity, and genuine care—consistently sharing her expertise, building inclusive relationships, and bringing warmth, humor,



Maine Small Business Development Centers


and support to the team.

"Chris has deep expertise across many business areas, and intuitively knows how to direct and relate to her clients," commented Mark Delisle, Maine SBDC State Director. "She leverages her network to connect clients to valuable resources and her door is always open to mentor new business advisors. We are incredibly happy to have her on our team."

Before joining the SBDC, Chris brought extensive experience from the restaurant, hospitality,

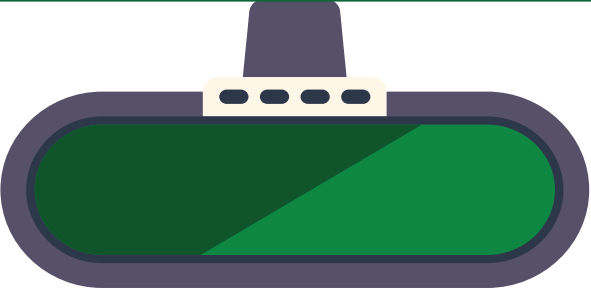
and consumer tradeshow sectors. Her background also encompasses work in the nonprofit field and ownership of multiple businesses, including food ventures and a property management company.

Each year, America's Small Business Development Centers recognizes top performers from programs around the country at its annual professional development conference. A special event will be held on Tuesday, September 2, 2025, in Orlando, Florida to honor this year's award winners.




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# EPA announces \$38M in grants to Maine Cleanup Communities

**BOSTON, ME** – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the selection of \$38 million in Brownfields Grants to communities across Maine. These grants—which include Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup Grants—put the agency’s commitment to protect human health and the environment into action while remaining good stewards of tax dollars and advancing policies to energize the economy.

Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup Grants in Maine include:

\$6.5 million for 10 selectees for Assessment Grants, which will provide funding for brownfield inventories, planning, environmental assessments, and community outreach.

\$22.21 million for eight selectees for Cleanup Grants, which will provide funding to carry out clean-up activities at Brownfields sites owned by the recipient.

\$3 million for three selectees for Revolving Loan Fund Grants that will provide funding for recipients to offer loans and subgrants to carry out cleanup activities at Brownfields sites.

Brownfields Supplemental Revolving Loan Fund Grants in Maine include:

\$6.65 million for four high-performing recipients to help communities continue their work to carry

out cleanup and redevelopment projects on contaminated Brownfields sites. Supplemental funding for Revolving Loan Fund Grants is available to recipients that have depleted their funds and have viable cleanup projects ready for work.

“Today’s Brownfields announcement reflects EPA’s commitment to clean air, land, and water for every American. From rural towns to urban centers, we are helping communities across New England clean up contaminated sites and unlock new opportunities for economic growth and revitalization,” said EPA Regional Administrator Mark Sanborn. “Through partnerships with states, local governments, and the private sector, we’re returning blighted properties to productive use—and showing that a clean environment and economic development can go hand in hand.”

“These investments in Maine’s Brownfields sites will help clean up environmental hazards while laying the groundwork for future economic development,” said U.S. Senator Susan Collins. “By transforming blighted properties into sites ready for redevelopment, this funding will support jobs, attract new investment, and improve lands across our state.”

“Cleaning up and rehabilitating former industrial sites is a win for everyone in Maine,” said

U.S. Senator Angus King. “This \$38 million investment from the Environmental Protection Agency represents a federal commitment to support us as we protect our state’s natural beauty and the health of Maine people while also energizing our economy.”

“This collaboration with the EPA allows us to leverage public funding to unlock significant private investment in Cumberland County,” said Kristina Egan, Executive Director of the Greater Portland Council of Governments. “We’re committed to using these federal resources to jumpstart the redevelopment of properties that would otherwise remain out of reach for the private sector. This paves the way for transformative new projects and strengthens Maine’s economy.”

“This funding is essential to recapitalize SMPDC’s Brownfield’s RLF program that has resulted in tremendous economic growth and jobs in our region. With housing affordability being such a challenge in our region and throughout the state, these funds are often the key to leveraging private investment in challenging sites, making them productive once again,” said Executive Director Stephanie Carver, Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission.

“The City of Westbrook is extremely grateful for the resources that

*See EPA, page 14*



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## Maine teacher/children’s author wins international award

**LEBANON, ME** – Maine author and teacher, Ashlee Ridlon, wins prestigious International UK-based award (The Wishing Shelf) for her children’s book, This Book is TOO Scary For You! The award distinguishes itself from other awards by allowing students and teachers to choose the winners. Ashlee’s book was chosen by a group of 15 students and teachers, receiving five stars across the board. This Book is TOO Scary For You has also received an award from The Purple Dragonfly literary competition.

Ashlee, a former kindergarten teacher in her hometown who still teaches there part-time, made the decision to follow her dreams and become a children’s book author 2 years ago. Raised by a Maine educator herself, books have always been an essential part of her life. She remembers the magic of read-alouds and the creativity it sparked within her. She then shared that passion with her own children and, later, students. Her favorite part of reading to children is when they engage and interact with the stories. She hopes to share that magic that



she experienced through reading with her own stories.

Her first book, called I Have FPIES is based on her daughter, Avery, now 12, who lives with a rare and severe food allergy. Avery, who is allergic to eggs, needed to be given one new food a week when first diagnosed at 6 months old, as children with FPIES can be allergic to any protein in any food. When her daughter grew and started to feel different than her peers, Ashlee looked for a story to read to her daughter to help her feel a part of a community and feel

less alone with this rare condition. Unfortunately, there were no choices at that time. In 2023, I Have FPIES was published with the hope it could help others who were on the same journey feel connected to people who have gone through similar experiences.

Ashlee has three books releasing in 2025, called Adventures Await, Little One, Whatever You Do, Don’t Laugh and The Mermaid who Sang to the Stars. She also attends over 20 in-person festivals and events, including six events in Maine for the 2025 season!

## Bath’s Spring Colors 5K & Half-K Color Run a success

**BATH, ME** – Bath got a whole lot brighter today, Sunday May 18th, as 250 participants and 30 enthusiastic volunteers came together at Bridge Park for the first annual Spring Colors 5K and Half-K Color Run, hosted by Bath at Play on May 18, 2025.

“We’re incredibly excited by the turnout for our first-ever Spring Colors event,” said John Byram, President and founder of Bath at Play. “It was a beautiful morning filled with color, laughter, and community spirit — exactly the kind of playful energy we were hoping for.”

The untimed 5K course took runners through scenic downtown Bath, with color stations staffed by volunteers who doused runners in vibrant bursts of colored powder. After completing the 5K, many participants joined younger runners for the Half-K Color Run, a fun loop around Bridge Park designed just for kids. This



two-part format allowed families to share the joy of the day — and the color — together.

The event was made possible thanks to the

support of local sponsors including Reverie Coffeehouse, Wilcox Wellness & Fitness Brunswick, and Bath Savings Institution – Bath Branch.



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### NFIB

*Continued from page 2*

\$628,000,000 in GDP over the next decade. The district-level data allow lawmakers and local leaders

to understand exactly how small businesses in their communities stand to gain when the tax deduction is made permanent—or lose if it is not.

The tax calculator helps individual small business owners project their potential tax increase if the deduction is not extended. For example, a Maine small business owner with a personal income of \$75,000 and qualified business income of \$150,000 could see a tax increase of more than \$13,000, depending on their full financial profile.

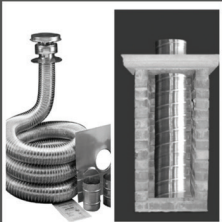
To explore the tools and learn more about how NFIB is working to protect Maine’s small businesses, visit: [www.SmallBusiness-Deduction.com](http://www.SmallBusiness-Deduction.com).

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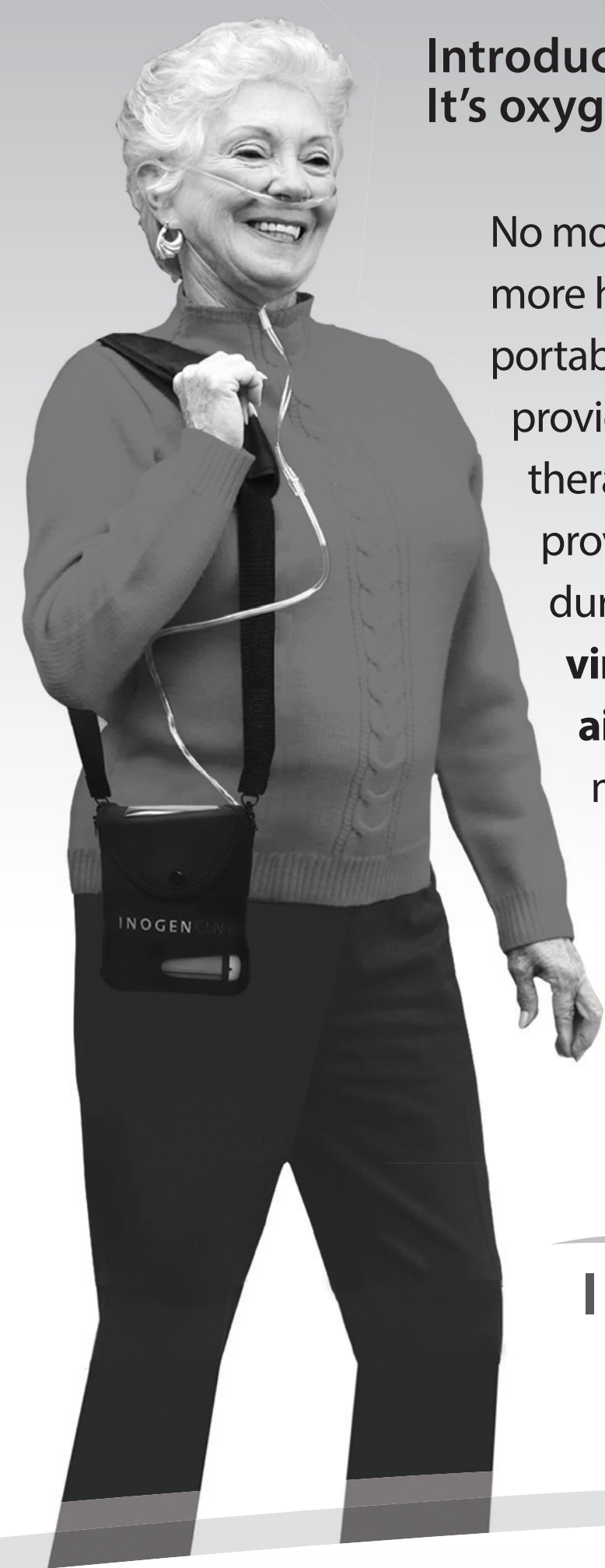
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# Maine National Guard enhances cybersecurity readiness

By Maj. Ethan Evans, Maine Army National Guard

**PEMBROKE, NH** – Approximately 30 Soldiers and Airmen from the Maine Army and Air National Guard participated in Cyber Yankee 2025, a premier regional cyber defense exercise, from May 5 to 16, 2025. Designed to bolster cyber readiness across New England, the exercise provided realistic training to enhance the combined response of military, government, and private sector teams to prepare for cyberattacks targeting critical infrastructure.

Personnel from Bangor, Augusta, and South Portland units joined over 300 participants from across the country and abroad for the two-week training exercise held at the New Hampshire National Guard's Edward Cross Training Complex in Pembroke, N.H. Cyber Yankee has grown over the past 11 years from a small event with fewer than 100 participants into a nationally recognized, multi-agency, multi-national effort focused on protecting vital systems, such as gas, electric, and water.

"The goal of Cyber Yankee is to enhance cooperation between the National Guard, federal and state government agencies, and private industry," said Capt. Sean Osler, the Plans & Resources Flight Commander with the Maine Air National Guard's 265th



Brig. Gen. Diane Dunn, Department of Defense, Veterans, and Emergency Management, and Adjutant General for the Maine National Guard, receives a brief from Maine Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Jonathan Varner during Cyber Yankee 2025 on May 14, 2025. The two-week regional training exercise was held at the New Hampshire National Guard's Edward Cross Training Complex in Pembroke, N.H. from May 5 to May 16. Photos by Lt. Col Jeff Roosevelt, Maine National Guard.

Combat Communications Squadron in South Portland. "We train now to build relationships and trust. The first time we meet our partners shouldn't be during a real-world emergency."

Cyber Yankee 2025 featured simulated cyberattacks from criminal and nation-state actors, mirroring the types of threats that are increasingly disrupting today's digital infrastructure. Through realistic, scenario-based operations, participants collaborated across agencies to respond to simulated incidents in real-time.

"Cyber Yankee gives us the rare opportunity to train shoulder-to-shoulder with those we'll depend on during an actual cyber crisis," said Maj. Ethan

Evans, the team leader for the Maine Army National Guard's Defensive Cyber Operations Element. "It's not just about technical skills-it's about building trust and improving the speed and clarity of our response as a unified team."

Participants in this year's exercise included Army and Air National Guard members from all six New England states, as well as representatives from the U.S. Air Force Reserve, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Space Force, and over ten private utility and technology companies. Key federal agencies such as the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the Department of Energy also played critical roles.

Cyber Yankee 2025 also welcomed participants from six allied nations, part of the Department of De-



Visitors receive a brief from Maj. Ethan Evans, team leader for the Maine Army National Guard's Defensive Cyber Operations Element.



Members of the Maine National Guard review training.

fense's State Partnership Program, which fosters long-term security cooperation between U.S. states and foreign militaries.

As the exercise

rotates among host states-Massachusetts in 2024, New Hampshire in 2025, and Connecticut in 2026-the Maine National Guard remains committed

to advancing a whole-of-nation approach to cyber defense, demonstrating leadership and readiness in the evolving digital battlespace.

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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.

**Saturdays**  
AUBURN – THOUSANDS OF BOOKS for sale at the APL Bookstore on Saturdays 9:30-1:00. Gently used books of all types, DVDs, music CDs and puzzles & games - new items added every week. Kids’ books are 50 cents and all other books are \$3 or less! Stop by the lower level of the Auburn Public Library for great deals.

# Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

Auburn Public Library, 49 Spring Street, Auburn.

**Sundays**  
LEWISTON – Lewiston Farmers’ Market held every Sunday, May 11th-November 23rd from 9:30am-1:00pm. Hours change to 11:00am-1:00pm beginning first Sunday in November. Located at 2 Oxford St., Lewiston.

**May 29**  
GORHAM – Adult Art Night Thursday, May 29 6 PM. Make a book-themed collage, and turn your collage into a pin-backed button, fridge magnet, or laminated book-mark! All materials are provided, no experience required!

**May 29, June 7 and 8**  
MANCHESTER, SOLON, BRUNSWICK – The Paddle for Pine Tree Camp is just two weeks away on Saturday, June 7 in Solon and Sunday, June 8 in Brunswick. All proceeds support summer camp tuition for Maine children and adults with disabilities. This year’s fundraising con-hole tournament will take place Thursday, May 29 at The Woodshed in Manchester and will feature

Maine Cabin Masters. More information at [www.pinetreesociety.org](http://www.pinetreesociety.org).

**May 30**  
LEWISTON – LA Arts is presenting its first gallery show of the 2025 Art Walk season with a solo exhibition of experimental sculptural paintings by artist Libby Sipe. An opening reception for the show will coincide with the May Art Walk LA event at 5pm on Friday, May 30th, at LA Arts’ Lisbon St. Gallery in Lewiston.

**May 31**  
BUXTON – Try our delicious Haddock Supper Buffet - Saturday, May 31, 2025 - 5:00 pm at Living Waters Church, Parker Farm Road, Buxton. Suggested donation: \$10 Adult, \$5 Child, \$20 Family.

Please note: We will offer the option of takeout containers for those who do not want to come inside for seating.

**May 31**  
AUBURN – There will be a baked bean supper at Sixth Street Congregational Church at 109 Sixth Street in Auburn, on Saturday, May 31 from 4:30 until 6:00. There will be two kinds of beans, red hotdogs, brown hotdogs,

coleslaw, assorted casseroles, assorted desserts, and beverage. The cost of the supper is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 6 to 12; children 5 and under are free.

**May 31**  
LEWISTON – Be a part of history as the City of Lewiston unveils the country’s first full-body statue of Muhammad Ali, commemorating the fight 60 years ago right here in Lewiston when Ali became a World Champion. Join us at Bates Mill No. 5 on Sat., May 31 at 2 PM.

**May 31**  
LEWISTON – Join us for a Dinosaur Party Saturday, May 31st from 11am-12:30pm the Lewiston Public Library Children’s Department will be hosting a Dinosaur Party for children and families!

During this program, children will be able to engage in a variety of hands-on activities featuring dinosaurs. Some of the activities include a fossil dig, hatching dinosaurs from coffee ground eggs, creating dinosaur shadow lanterns, and making hand-print dinosaurs. Attendees will also be able to take photos in front of a Jurassic backdrop.

One take home bag of dinosaur goodies will be given to each child until supplies run out.

This program will take place in Callahan Hall on the third floor of the li-

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brary. The program is free, all materials will be provided, and there is no registration required.

**EPA**  
*Continued from page 9*

the brownfields program has infused into our local economy. This is a huge step forward in our mission to realize the full potential of our downtown Presumpscot River corridor,” said Mayor David C. Morse, City of Westbrook.

**Give**  
*Continued from page 1*

p.m., One City Center, City Center  
5/30/2025: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Jewish Community Alliance of Southern Maine, 1342 Congress St  
6/2/2025: 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Maine Medical Center - Dana Education Center, 22 Bramhall Street

Scarborough  
6/3/2025: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Saint Maximilian Church, 150 Black Point Rd  
6/9/2025: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Maine Health Institute for Research, 81 Research Dr  
South Portland  
6/3/2025: 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., South Portland Community Center, 21 Nelson Road  
Standish  
6/2/2025: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Gardenside Condo Association, 12 Gardenside Drive  
Westbrook  
6/13/2025: 12 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., Westbrook Community Center, 426 Bridge Street  
Windham  
5/29/2025: 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., North Windham Union Church, 723 Roosevelt Trail, Route 302  
Yarmouth  
6/6/2025: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., American Legion Post 91, 196 Main St.

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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:

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- Purchase seasonal fence for Shaw Park

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- Add infield mix and relevel current fields

- Acquire tarps and field maintenance equipment

- Add scoreboards

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WEDDINGS AND EVENTS

# Letter to the Editor:

## Stop Cryptocurrency ATM scams

It is very likely that most Mainers, even if they have never used a Cryptocurrency ATM, have seen them in neighborhood grocery stores, convenience stores or liquor stores. They are easy to spot as they are designed to imitate a regular ATM. However, it is important to know that these machines are neither FDIC insured nor regulated like bank industry ATMs. Although these machines can be used for legitimate commerce, unfortunately the Cryptocurrency ATMs provide an easy conduit for criminal use.

According to the

FTC, nationwide fraud losses through Crypto ATMs jumped nearly tenfold from 2020 to 2023 and surpassed \$65 million in the first half of last year. This is why AARP Maine is in favor of the Crypto ATM Scam Prevention Bill, LD 1339, a measure that will help prevent Crypto ATM scams and protect older Mainers from criminals who want to steal their life savings.

Because Crypto ATMs are still relatively new and largely unregulated compared to traditional financial institutions and money service businesses, they lack sufficient consumer fraud protections.

As a result, criminals use Crypto ATMs to steal tens of thousands from Mainers each year through their fraudulent schemes.

We ask Mainers to join our efforts to pass LD 1339 by urging their own legislators to support this bill and stop Cryptocurrency ATM scams. With the high dollar amounts being stolen via these machines from our neighbors, friends and loved ones, Maine cannot afford to wait. This bill must be passed now.

Paul Armstrong  
AARP Maine Lead  
Advocacy Volunteer  
Palermo

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