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October 16, 2025

Support your North Gorham Public Library

GORHAM, ME -

The North Gorham Public Library is a small, non-profit rural library that relies on the generosity of our community to keep our doors open and our bookshelves

We are fortunate to receive services, such as our Wi-Fi network (which we allow access to), our website, and the Interlibrary Loan Service from the state. The Maine State Library and other agencies rely on Federal funding to provide these and other valuable services. This funding is at risk of being eliminated or reduced because of an Executive Order issued last March.

What can you do to help? Ask your representative to support federal library funding.



You can also continue or start supporting our library. We are excited to announce that you can now donate on our website with the click of a button.

We are also a designated charity on Venmo. If you have a Venmo account and would like to make a financial donation, scan our QR code below to access our profile. We are a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Donations to the library are deductible.



Looking for other ways to support us? We've got a list full of ideas! Take a look.

However you feel comfortable supporting North Gorham Public Library, we are grateful.

Town of Gorham releases Nov. 4 voting information

GORHAM, ME - A State Referendum and the Town's Annual Municipal Election will take place on Tuesday, November 4, 2025 in which voters will have an opportunity to vote on People's Veto Referenda, Direct Initiatives of Legislation (i.e. Citizen Initiatives) Bond Issues, other referenda proposed by the Legislature, and Constitutional Amendments, as well as appointments to the Gorham Town Council and Gorham School Committee. Poll places open at 7am and close at 8pm.

The State will have two referendum questions on the ballot, which can be viewed the Town's web-

The Town has three seats open on the Town Council, and two seats open for the three-year School Committee seat, and one seat open for a one-year School Commit-

You can request an absentee ballot by visiting the Town's website. Your ballot will be mailed to you once we receive them in early October.

FAQs - Visit the Town of Gorham's website for more information, including:

Voter registration and locations

To view a listing of assigned polling wards based on odd/even residential street addresses in Gorham.

To view a map of voting wards.

For ballot informa-

Unenrolled voters can enroll in a party at any time, including Election Day, since the State of Maine offers Election Day voter registration.

Absentee Voting

Absentee ballot requests are now available. You can request an absen-Clerks office or by visiting Town's website.

the Town's website. Ballots will be mailed out the first week of October once the Town Clerk's Office receives them.

Absentee voting will be available in the Council Chambers at the Gorham Municipal Center (75 South Street, Suite 1) during the business hours of 7am - 5pm between Monday, October 20 and Thursday, October 23, as well as between Monday, October 27 and Thursday, October 31. The last day to obtain an absentee ballot will be Thursday, October 31 at 7pm.

To be counted, absentee ballots must be returned to the Town Clerk's Office by 8pm on Election Day - November 4, 2025 by you or an immediate family member.

If you have further questions about absentee voting, please stop by the Town Clerk's Office, tee ballot by calling the call 222-1670, or visit the

October Special Section Domestic Violence Awareness Month pages 9-10

Lakes Region Senior Center invites Gorham seniors to activities

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

GORHAM, ME - If 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.

Norway Savings Bank donates \$1.1K to Gorham Food Pantry

GORHAM, ME

As part of the 20th anniversary celebration commemorating the opening of the Norway Savings Bank Gorham branch, NSB invited community members to visit the branch during the anniversary week (September 22-26) to help give away \$2,025 to local nonprofits.

"All visitors were encouraged to cast their vote for a local nonprofit, and the money would be distributed according to their votes," said Amy Lehigh, Market Manager VP of NSB in Gorham.



The process led to Gorham Food Pantry receiving \$1,163.29 and other nonprofits also receiving donations, including Seedlings to Sunflowers.

Visitors were also met with great food like pastries, hot dogs, cookies, and other items; a Gorham-themed trivia contest; ladder ball; and the opportunity to take a guess in a piggy bank competition.

"We're so grateful for our amazing Gorham community and we look for-

ward to decades to come of building relationships and helping customers pursue the things that matter most to them," said Lehigh. "We thank customers and non-customers for making this place so special and for the continued friendship and support."

In late October, NSB will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its Fryeburg branch. Earlier this year, the bank commemorated the 25th anniversary of its branch on Congress Street in Portland and the 40th anniversary of the Topsham branch.

MEMIC welcomes Eric Stager to **Loss Control team**

PORTLAND, ME

The MEMIC Group, leading super-regional workers' compensation insurance company, has hired Eric Stager to serve as a Safety Management Consultant on its Loss Control team. He will work with policyholders throughout the Northeast.

Stager brings extensive experience in occupational safety through his service in both military and federal roles. He served as Chief Master Sergeant and Senior Enlisted Leader of the 439th Civil Engineer Squadron in the U.S. Air Force, and later as a Compliance Safety and Health Officer with the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), where he was recognized for his expertise in electri-

cal safety and fall hazard prevention. He also held the role of High Voltage Electrical Supervisor at Hanscom Air Force Base.

Stager holds a Master Electrical License in Connecticut and a Journeyman License in Massachusetts. His academic credentials include associate degrees in Electrical Mechanical Technology and Communication Navigation from the Community College of the Air Force, as well as an associate degree in Criminal Justice from Minneapolis Community & Technical College.

"Eric brings practical safety expertise and a proven record of leadership through his service in both military and federal roles,"

said Scott Valorose, Eastern Region Loss Control Director. "His experience and dedication to service align strongly with MEMIC's mission to make workers' comp work better."

Outside of work, Stager is an avid motocross rider and racer.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Red Cross: Take steps now to support a strong blood supply

PORTLAND, ME -

The American Red Cross asks donors to make an appointment now to give blood or platelets to support patients counting on a consistent blood supply to survive and heal. While emergencies often grab headlines, the need for blood is constant. Especially in October, as donation appointments can often drop quickly when people settle into busy fall routines and make plans around upcoming school breaks.

Additionally, the threat of hurricanes persists this month. Because blood has a short shelf life and can only come from volunteer blood donors, any disruptions in the ability to collect life-saving blood can have serious consequences for those seeking medical care.

Prepare now — Help patients this fall and make an appointment to give blood or platelets by visiting RedCrossBlood. org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App. All who come to give blood, platelets or plasma Sept. 22-Oct. 19 will receive a \$10 Am-



azon.com Gift Card by email. For details, see RedCrossBlood.org/Fall. Those who give Oct. 20-Nov. 16, 2025, will receive a \$10 e-gift card to a merchant of choice, plus be automatically entered for a chance to win one of three \$5,000 gift cards. See RedCrossBlood.org/Harvest for details.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities Oct. 16-31:

Androscoggin Auburn

10/24/2025: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Edward Little High School, 77 Harris St.

10/31/2025: 9 a.m. -1:30 p.m., Central Maine Community College, 1250 Turner St.

Lewiston

10/20/2025: 12:30 p.m. - 5 p.m., Holy Family Church, 607 Sabattus St.

> Cumberland Brunswick

10/22/2025: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Elks Lodge, 179 Park Row.

10/23/2025: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Bowdoin College-Thorne Hall, 13 South St.

10/24/2025: 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., American Legion Post 20, 1 Columbus Drive.

Falmouth

10/22/2025: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., The Episcopal Church of St. Mary, 43 Foreside Rd.

Freeport

10/27/2025: 9 a.m. -2 p.m., Hilton Garden Inn Freeport - Old Town Hall Building, 5 Park Street.

Gorham

10/16/2025: 1 p.m. -5:30 p.m., Cressey Road Christian Church, 81 Cressey Road.

10/31/2025: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Brooks Student Center, 32 Campus Avenue.

North Yarmouth

10/24/2025: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Wescustogo Hall and Community Center, 120 Memorial Hwy.

South Portland

10/28/2025: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Eastpoint Christian Church, 345 Clarks Pond Pkwy.

Standish

10/20/2025: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Saint Josephs College - Alfond Center, 278 Whites Bridge Rd.

Westbrook

10/24/2025: 12 p.m. - 4 p.m., Westbrook Community Center, 426 Bridge Street.

Yarmouth

10/17/2025: 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Yarmouth Community Center, 20 Mill St.

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

Friday by five.

individual coaching

AUGUSTA, ME

- New Ventures Maine
(NVME) will offer free

workshops and classes in October that are designed to help people in Maine gain the skills, knowledge, and confidence to build a career, start a business, and manage their money.

NVME's professional coaches can also meet with individuals to provide resources and support. Individual coaching sessions are free. Both in-person and online coaching are available. To schedule a session with an NVME professional coach, fill out a short web form at newventuresmaine.org.

The full class schedule is accessible at bit. ly/NVMEClasses. Single- and multi-session workshops include online, in-person, and hybrid options (partial list):

Building Careers

My Next Career Move: Wednesdays, October 8 – 29 (4 sessions), 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Online. In four weekly Zoom sessions of lively activities and discussion, you will assess your own skills, interests, and experiences to figure out what career options might be best and create an action plan that will help you achieve success. (also offered starting November 17).

Interview Strategies: Thursday, October 9, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Online. Join this one-hour workshop and prepare to interview with confidence. Our professional staff will guide you in exploring different types of interviews, tips for answering difficult questions, and what steps to take after the interview. (also offered November 20).



NVME provides free classes,

Entrepreneurs discuss business planning with NVME Microenterprise Program Manager Alicia LaFosse in Brunswick. NVME photo/Molly Haley.

new ventures maine

Starting Businesses Business Basics: Thursdays, October 16 - 30 (3 sessions), 6:00 -7:30 p.m. Online. This three-week class is for those thinking about or in the early start-up phase of a new business. Our professional staff will help you assess the feasibility, desirability, and viability of your business idea and get you started with your business plan. (also offered starting Nov. 18).

Work for Your-self@50+: Tuesday, October 21, 8:30 - 10:00 a.m. Hybrid – In Person in Bath or Online. This 90-minute workshop will help you gain the knowledge, support, and resources you need to make informed decisions about working for yourself. This workshop will be held in person at Main Street Bath, 15 Com-

mercial Street, Bath and online via Zoom. (also offered Nov. 6 in Portland).

Managing Money
Money Management
Workshops: Thursdays,
October 16, 23 & 30, 6:00
– 7:00 p.m. Online. Learn
to budget, repair your credit, and create a savings
plan. Register for one, two,
or all three workshops.
Oct. 16: Budgeting Basics;
Oct. 23: Let's Talk About
Credit; Oct. 30: Build Your

Savings.

My Money Works: Mondays, October 27 – November 24 (5 sessions), 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Online. Gain the skills and confidence you need to stretch your money, pay your bills, reduce debt, save, plan for retirement, and set personal financial goals with a plan to achieve greater financial stability. (also offered starting Nov. 18).







Best
Source
for Arts,
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Your
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Page 3 Thursday, October 16, 2025

Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Author events at Gorham's Baxter Memorial Library

GORHAM, ME – We at Baxter Memorial Library love our community of local authors! Check out this fantastic lineup!

Marquee Peters (Paris

October 21, 6:00 pm

The Company We Keep is a psychological horror novella about Jake Warren, a father who accepts an uncanny job at Ortus Solutions, a company that hires him without an interview. The office seems perfect: smiling coworkers, looping hallways, glowing badges, and screens that feel like they're watching back. Each day, Jake rises through "alignment" tiers while photos of his daughter begin to blur and vanish. When policies turn ritual and HR whispers, "You were always meant to be here," he must choose between belonging and the self he came to save. Lean, eerie, and grounded in work-life anxiety, this is an October pick for fans of

corporate-cult stories.

Sheri Aube

October 30, 6:00 pm

Join us for a reading by local author Sheri Aube from her semi-autobiographical book A Loop of the United States of America Sue's friend Rick invited her on A LOOP OF THE USA during the summer of 2005. This captivating non-fiction book is full of humor, philosophy, environmental concerns, and historic impressions.

Haddock Supper Buffet to be held in Buxton

BUXTON. Try our delicious Haddock Supper Buffet Saturday, October 25, 2025 - 5:00 pm at Living Waters Church, Parker Farm Road, Buxton. Suggested donation: \$10 Adult, \$5 Child, \$20 Fam-

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

Don't miss spaghetti supper with live dinner music

WESTBROOK, ME – Saturday, October 25th 2025, 5 to 7pm Spaghetti with homemade sauce, meatballs, tossed salad, Italian bread,

dessert,

Live Dinner Music provided by Side by Side

\$10 per person, \$25

family of 4, children under 5 eat free.

Prides Corner Community Church 235 Street, Westbrook Pride

Maine to develop pilot program for electronic tagging of deer

AUGUSTA, On Wednesday, September 24, a new law from Sen. Donna Bailey, D-Saco, took effect. LD 139, "Resolve, Directing the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to Establish a Pilot Program for the Electronic Tagging of Deer," seeks to promote and modernize deer hunting in Maine. The law directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to establish a pilot program for the electronic tagging

of deer in Maine. "Each year, I look forward to hearing from deer nunters across the district," said Sen. Bailey. "Deer hunting is a tradition that preserves our heritage and promotes the outdoors, in addition to helping folks put food on the table and fill their freezers for the winter. For these reasons, I am grateful that my constituent, Roger, asked me to work on this bill. Allowing for the electronic tagging of deer can ensure that hunting is accessible and available to the hunters of today and tomorrow."

Earlier this year, Sen. Bailey introduced the legislation at the request of a Saco constituent, Roger Chisholm. In his written testimony, Chisholm wrote, "I believe it's time to offer hunters the option of tagging deer electronically, [i]n whatever form this needs to be in order for biologists to still attain their needed info. Whether that offers restricted days to register deer electronically, or restricted zones if needed. This is a strong option, particularly in southern Maine."

addition Chisholm, Nate Webb, the Wildlife Division Director at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, offered testimony in support of the bill: "The Department has made significant efforts over the past few years to modernize our registration system, including collecting data through a web-based form and providing real-time information on harvest levels on our website," Webb wrote. "The Department recognizes that many hunters would experience benefits from a self-reporting tool for deer and the Department is generally supportive of developing a pilot program to evaluate the effectiveness of such a system."

According to Webb, most New England states, including neighboring New Hampshire, already offer the online registration of deer. If they choose this option, they are asked to provide all the same information online as they would if they were registering at a physical loca-

Maine already offers the online registration of turkey. After harvesting a turkey, a hunter may use a phone, computer, or other electronic device with an internet connection to register their harvest. Hunters may visit mefishwildlife. com/tagaturkey to self-register the turkey online. There is no fee to self-register a turkey online.

> In 2024, Maine had See Tagging, page 14

Antique autos displayed at Homes on Tour this weekend

WISCASSET, ME -Thanks to the generosity of the Owls Head Transportation Museum in Owls Head, Maine, a collection of rare and intriguing vehicles will be part of the streetscape during Wiscasset Homes on Tour on Saturday, Oct. 18, from 11am to 4pm. According to Christopher Hart, who made the request to the museum on behalf of Homes on Tour, OHTM wanted to complement the opulence of the historical homes as they offered their one-day loan of

three antique cars, weather

permitting.

The Lee-Smith-Payson-House, built in 1792, will host a 1902 Oldsmobile Curved Dash Runabout, costing \$650 new in its day, and the first light car to complete a transcontinental journey from San Francisco to Portland, ME. It took 73 days for the trip, but with the Runabout's body open to the elements, only 48 of those days were suitable for driving. A 1906 Autocar Type XII will also be parked curbside at the Lee-Smith-Payson House. This make and model car has the distinction of being the first shaft-driven car in the U.S., a significant upgrade from using chains to move power from the engine to the wheels.

The brick mansion, Daybreak, built in 1927 by Philadelphia socialites, will showcase a luxurious 1929 Rolls-Royce Phantom originally owned by Clara Bow, the 'It Girl' of the 1920s. The actress starred in more than 60 films and had a well-known reputation for fast cars. Daybreak's owners say they are delighted to host an age-appropriate car in their driveway during the

According to its web site, the Owls Head Transportation Museum is a working museum established in 1974 by the Owls Head Foundation. It has an unprecedented collection of more than 150 rare and beautifully restored ground vehicles, aircraft, bicycles,



This 1902 Oldsmobile Curved Dash Runabout, featured during Wiscasset Homes on Tour on Saturday, October 18, was the first light auto to make a transcontinental trip - in only 73 days. (Photo courtesy Owls Head Transportation Museum.)



This dashing Autocar Type XII, 1906, was the first make and model car to be shaft-driven in the U.S., and will be on display during Wiscasset Homes on Tour, Saturday, October 18. (Photo courtesy Owls Head Transportation Museum.)



This 1929 Rolls Royce Phantom has a Hollywood pedigree. Owned by actress Clara Bow, known as the "It Girl" in the 1920s, this luxury vehicle will be on display during Wiscasset Homes on Tour on Saturday, October 18. (Photo courtesy Owls Head Transportation Museum.).

motorcycles, engines, and related artifacts.

Tickets for Wiscasset Homes on Tour are \$30 each. Visitors are encouraged to purchase tickets online in advance of the tour on www.WiscassetCreativeAlliance.org . Tickets can also be purchased on the day of the tour from 10:30am to 2:30pm, at the parking lot at 36 Water St., Wiscasset, ME, with parking and bathrooms nearby. All tickets will be picked up at this location. Cash, checks, and plastic accept-

Homes on Tour is a fundraiser for Wiscasset Creative Alliance to support the Alliance's community programs. Lead Sponsors are Hawkins Building Group and Sherri Dunbar/ Tim Dunham Realty. Sponsors include Ames True Value, Back River Bistro, Red Bull Antiques, Grounded/ Panacea, Bradbury Art & Antiques, and Carriage House Gardens. In-kind sponsors are 40 Federal Studio and Owls Head Transportation Museum.

Gorham WEEKLY

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Deadline

Deadline for ads and press releases is 5 p.m. on Friday preceding publication. Published every Thursday's publication.

Press Releases

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

Proofs

Publisher is not responsible for any errors in ad copy not inspected by advertiser prior to publication.

MaineHealth holding Substance Use Disorder Conference

MaineHealth invites medical professionals, behavioral health clinicians, advocates, and community members to attend the 2025 Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Conference on Thursday, October 23, 2025, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. at 110 Free Street in Portland or virtually.

This year's theme, Meeting People Where They Are: Compassion, Connection and Support in SUD Care, reflects the need for collaboration across disciplines to improve prevention, treatment, and

recovery for individuals living with substance use disorders. Participants can earn 5.5 CME credits for attending.

The conference will

Keynote address by Avik Chatterjee, MD, MPH, on innovative and compassionate approaches to SUD care.

Breakout sessions highlighting current best practices and research- including a focus on adolescent and perinatal treat-

A special screening of the documentary Recov-

ery City, which follows the journeys of four women navigating recovery. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion with the women featured in the film and members of the creative team.

"This event is more than a professional conference-it's an opportunity to learn from one another, elevate the voices of those with lived experience, and strengthen our shared commitment to compassionate, effective care," said Dora Mills, MD, MPH, Chief Health Improvement Officer for MaineHealth.

The MaineHealth SUD Conference provides a space to connect, exchange ideas, and inspire change in the way substance use disorder is understood and treated.

Registration is now open. To learn more and register, visit: https://www. mhesevents.org/event/ SUDConference2025/ summary.





MAINE

ATIS

COMMISSION

The Maine Arts Commission invites poets across the state to apply for appointment as the next Maine State Poet Laureate. The selected poet will serve a five-year term beginning July 1, 2026, and concluding June 30, 2031.

Established by statute in 1995, the Poet Laureate program honors a distinguished Maine poet and promotes the art of poetry throughout the state. The laureate is charged with advancing public appreciation for poetry through community engagement, events, and projects, as well as supporting the Commission's administration of the national Poetry Out Loud program.

The position includes a contracted honorarium of \$5,000 per year for five years, administered annually by the Maine Arts Commission. The honorarium is provided in lieu of mileage reimbursement. Administrative support is provided by the Maine Arts Commission Program Director and the Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance.

Application Guidelines

applicants Eligible must be full-time Maine residents with a distinguished body of poetic work. Applications must be submitted no later than December 5, 2025 and include:

A CV or résumé

8-10 pages of poetry (published or unpublished) A one-page statement outlining a vision for the public role of Poet Laureate, including any specific project proposals

APPLICATION

https://stateofmaine. submittable.com/submit/ a75a06a0-de40-497cb183-2f26fd512089/ state-poet-laureate

Past Poet Laureate Projects

Former Maine Poets Laureate have developed projects that have reached thousands of Mainers across the state:

Bouwsma's Julia Write ME: a statewide epistolary poetry initiative featuring poets in all 16 counties, more than 20 free public workshops, and a pen-pal exchange connecting 300 poets during the winters of 2023-24 and 2024-25.

Poems from Here: launched by Stuart Kestenbaum in partnership with Maine Public and the Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance, this ongoing series features weekly broadcasts of poems by Maine poets.

Wesley McNair's Take Heart: A Conversation in Poetry: a weekly newspaper column produced in collaboration with the Maine State Library and the Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance, along with several statewide poetry projects.

Since the inception of the position, Maine's poet laureates have included:

Kate Barnes (1996 -1999)

Baron Wormser (2000 - 2005)

Betsy Sholl (2006 -2011) Wesley McNair

(2011 - 2016)Stuart Kestenbaum

(2016 - 2021)

Julia Bouwsma (2021 -20265).

We want to hear from you!

Please submit your letter to the editor by 5pm on Friday for next weeks edition.

Email: editor@twincitytimes.com







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Seniors Not Acting Their Age Challenging Kayaking to Damariscove Island

A sea kayak trip to Damariscove Island off the coast of East Boothbay has much to offer. During the 12-mile trip, paddlers pass some of the most spectacular island landscapes on the coast of Maine. And, exciting paddling is almost guaranteed navigating through a collection of treacherous ledges on the southern end of the island called The Motions.

In addition to providing an exceptional paddling experience, the rugged distant island has a fascinating history. Once kayakers arrive in the sheltered harbor, a network of trails maintained by Boothbay Region Land Trust pass the sites and foundations of structures dating as far back as early colonial times, and one path leads to a lookout tower on the southeast side.

A voyage to the isolated harbor includes significant exposure to open water with little opportunity to land. So I study forecasts for weather, wind, seas and tides in an attempt to plan a safe trip. Past experience has convinced me that The Motions defy predictability; every tide level and wind direction seems to result in different challenging conditions.

I recently identified an excellent forecast for a Damariscove attempt. Light winds, warm temperatures and partly sunny skies were predicted and the tides were generally favorable. Three frequent paddling companions agreed to join me on the outing.

Four of us met at a boat landing on Ocean Point at the southern end of Linekin Neck in East Boothbay. The seas were calm and the winds light; good omens for a successful trip.

We departed tranquil Grimes Cove in solo sea kayaks and set a course for tiny Ram Island and its prominent lighthouse approximately one mile south. While crossing the busy channel, we decided to travel along the west side of the islands that lead to remote Damariscove Harbor.

Two lobster boats were hauling traps as we passed the lighthouse and progressed south along predominantly barren milelong Fisherman Island. The ragged shore on the northern end of Damariscove Island soon came into view.

Winds and seas remained calm as we completed the one mile traverse to Damariscove Island. Massive granite ledges dominate the western shore and a narrow isthmus separates the island into two sectors. The northern half. called Wood End, is a bird sanctuary and landing is prohibited. Attempting to land anywhere along the uncompromising shoreline except the harbor would be a hazardous endeavor.

Exploding waves could be seen as we approached the southwestern end of the island. The Motions were acting up as usual.

Progressing closer, swells crashing against the rocky coastline eliminated any hope of staying close to shore and large irregular waves surging over ledges perhaps one hundred yards offshore were equally unappealing. The source of numerous shipwrecks in the past, we carefully maneuvered through an opening between the two obstacles, aggressively paddled over some large swells, and entered the calm harbor next to the former Coast Guard Lifesaving Station. Soon after, we landed on a gravel beach at the top of the har-

Over 400 years ago, a few English fishermen inhabited Damariscove year-round. They sent cod to the Pilgrims in Plymouth to prevent starvation and by 1671 the island was a thriving outpost. In 1676, during the King Philips War, three hundred survivors of Native American attacks along most of the Maine coast fled to the island for protection. Decades of violence continued. We decided to take a walk through history.

Trails begin at the beach. We hiked east through a narrow path in dense vegetation to steep cliffs and stopped for lunch. Afterwards, we trekked high on a hill to the lookout tower formerly used to scrutinize area seas in search of distressed vessels. While studying the same waters, we decided to exit the harbor east.

Large waves greeted us when departing the harbor. While climbing the rolling swells, we rounded the jagged southeast shoreline and began our journey north. We were immediately confronted with a new obstacle; choppy unpredictable waves along the east side of Damariscove that continued for about two miles.

The turbulence finally subsided near Fisherman Island. Seas were calm for the remainder of our journey back to Ocean Point completing a typically stimulating voyage to Damariscove.

My book, Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine narrates eight more exciting sea kayak escapades on the Maine coast including spectacular trips along much of the imposing Mount Desert Island coast-line.

Ron Chase resides in Topsham. His latest book, "Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine" is available at www.northcountrypress.com/maine-al-fresco or in bookstores and through on-

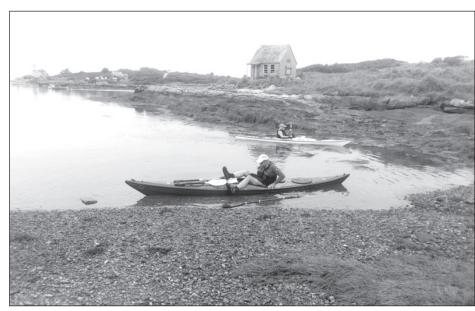
line retailers. His previous books are "The Great Mars Hill Bank Robbery" and "Mountains for Mortals – New England." Visit his website at www.ronchaseoutdoors.com or he can be reached at ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net.



Paddlers pass along the rugged shore of Damariscove Island



A kayaker arrives in calm Damariscove Harbor



Paddlers disembark on a gravel beach at the top of Damariscove Harbor



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(207) 500-8100 ~ www.AmericanBuildersMaine.com

Page 6 Thursday. October 16. 2025



Spaghetti dinner benefit supports Turner resident

TURNER, ME spaghetti dinner benefit is being held for Liana Henault of Turner. She is fighting a very and aggressive form of cancer called PEComa

The dinner will be held at the Boofy Quimby Hall, 96 Howes Corner Rd in Turner, on Saturday, October 18, from 4-7 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for children under 12. All dinner tickets purchased will receive a chance to win the door prize of 100 gallons of heating oil. There will also be a ticket raffle for many nice items, and a 50/50 raffle.

funds raised All at the benefit will go directly to Liana for medical and travel expenses. Because of the rarity of this cancer, the closest hospital equipped is in



Boston.

If you're unable to attend this event, a donation can be made at Go-FundMe.com.

Search "Help Liana Fight a Rare and Aggressive Cancer".

Thank you for your support.

STEPHEN KING'S MISER A SNOW STORM, AN ISOLATED CABIN. YOUR WORST NIGHTMARE A THRILLING PLAY BY WILLIAM GOLDMAN **Public Theatre policy requires** you to pay for your entire seat, even though you'll only be Oct 24-Nov 9 using the edge. PRE-SHOW events included in your ticket: Thu. WINE Sampling Oct 30 Sat. BEER Sampling Nov 1 ThePublicTheatre.org | 782-3200 SPONSORS: Austin Associates, LA Metro Magazine, Lee Auto Malls, Berube's Complete Auto Care / NAPA Coastal Auto Parts UNDERWRITERS: Platz Associates, Sun Journal, WOXO & WIGY 31 Maple Street, Lewiston MISERY + 3 more great plays for \$128 **SUBSCRIBE and SAVE!** PLUS get a FREE Bonus Ticket (\$35 value)

Local author weaves warm tale of collective triumph

OWLS HEAD, ME - A new voice in Maine's literary scene shares a heart-warming tale in The Chayotes, bringing sweet music to your ears. When seasoned rock star Thørnn loses his ambition, he hastily escapes LA to a quaint beach town near San Luis Obispo, California. After befriending a surfer-drifter named Reggie, the two exchange rides: a Lamborghini for a bike and cart. Quickly discovering that he's not cut out for the rigors of transient life, Thørnn, disguised as vagrant guitarist named "Stone," finds a barn to crash, where aging, quirky musicians who call themselves "The Chayotes" regularly jam. Stone guides the musicians to realize their rock-androll dreams, filling a void within himself through a fast-track plan to perform at a music festival in Monterey—a festival Reggie, in his adopted lifestyle and mistaken identity, has promised Thørnn would play as well. Sidestepping detectives, managers, and a mudslide, it's a race up Big Sur for this cast of characters before the show goes on, and Stone's real identity is revealed. Each chapter lists correlating music



contents and can be found on a dedicated YouTube playlist. The growth of seemingly magical chayote squash, the band's namesake, appears in occasional bridges between chapters as the story evolves.

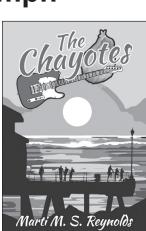
PRAISE for The Chayotes:

"Marti Reynolds' detailed descriptions of people, places, and events are simply amazing! The images of colors, sounds, and smells, along with the movements and language of the characters, are vivid and entertaining. This is such a fun read with musical options on the side."— Dick Weeks, Poet & Retired School Administrator.

"An incredibly fun read! The author(s) colorful cast of characters, all pursuing purpose and dreams, have adventurous and entertaining back sto-

Verdi

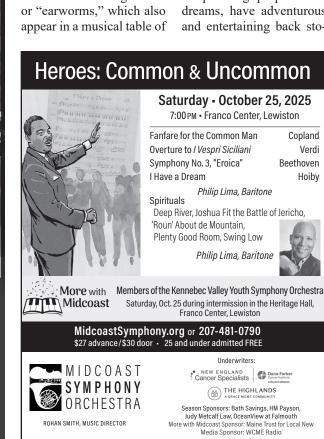
Hoiby



ries. Their hope sprouts, culminating in a satisfying, uplifting ending."- M. Hackett, Retired Educator

"(Marti Reynolds) spins a wonderful yarn! As half of an acoustic duo in the 60's/70's, I have an inside appreciation for (this) book." — Craig Nuttycombe, Musician/Songwriter (Lambert & Nuttycombe)

Marti MS Reynolds' lifelong love of all genres of music has led her to concerts and musical friendships in travels throughout the US, Canada, and Europe, furthering her belief that the language of music is bonding and universal. A painter, photographer, and covert musician, she is retired from careers in federal and municipal government parks and recreation as well as veterinary medicine. She lived in Washington, Colorado, Massachusetts, and California before settling year round with her husband in Midcoast



Best Source for Arts, Music and Theater! Your

Hometown Paper.

Fall Festival at Wolfe's Neck returns with family fun

FREEPORT, ME
– Wolfe's Neck Center's
annual Fall Festival returns Saturday, October
18 with hay rides, live
music, food trucks, crafts,
and the finest flavors of
the season! This family
favorite brings more than
1,000 visitors to the farm
each year for a full day of
fall fun on the coast.

Fall into Fun:

Fall Festival brings together the best of autumn in Maine. Hop on a hayride through the fields, pick perfect pumpkin in West Bay, and join in a variety of seasonal activities for all ages. From hay bale climbing, games, and face painting to animal interactions, live music, and local art, there's something around every corner to make lasting memories with family and friends.

Food trucks will be on-site all day, with Vy Banh Mi, Cargo Pizza Co., and Mainely Burgers serving up fresh, crowd-pleasing meals. Plus, warm apple cider donuts and other seasonal favorites.

The Fall Festival, like all events at Wolfe's Neck Center, helps fund



the organization's mission. Proceeds from ticket sales support programs in public education, farmer training, and soil health research, ensuring agriculture in Maine continues to thrive for generations to come.

Details: Fall Festival 2025 Saturday, October 18th.

10 AM – 3 PM

713 Wolfe's Neck Rd, Freeport, ME 04032.

sales support programs in public education, farmer training, and soil health research, ensuring agri-

Admission includes access to all activities, a pumpkin to take home, and a spot on the hayride.

Advance tickets are available now at wolfesneck.org/fall-festival-2025.

AARP Fraud Watch Network October is Cybersecurity Awareness

Month

October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month – a great time to remind ourselves just how much of our lives take place online and the potential threats that exist in the digital world. Any device that stores information or connects to the internet could become a target for cybercriminals seeking to steal your data. Here are

four important ways to help stay safe online.

First, always use strong, unique passwords for each online account you own. Even better, investigate options for getting a free or low-cost password manager such as Bitwarden, Dashlane, LastPass, and others. Newer to the marketplace are passkeys that offer hope that we can move beyond passwords. They verify a user with a

biometric (like facial or fingerprint recognition) tied to the device being used to gain access. You can read more about them at aarp.org/personal-technology/passkeys-future.

Second, set up multi-factor authentication when available as added security that goes beyond your username and password to verify that it's you using your account or de-

See AARP, page 12



Congratulations

to the winners of the Milestones FCU 2025 \$1,500 Scholarships!



Noah G. • Fiona H. • Lauren L. • Hawa O. • Chloe T.

University of Maine Orono University of New Hampshire

Merrimack College Simmons University University of Maine Augusta



MilestonesFCU.com

Page 8 Thursday, October 16, 2025

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

GORHAM, ME -The FREE Clothes Closet at Cressey Road Church (Mission of Hope Clothes Closet) is open to all who need Fellowship, Friendship and Clothes. We are located at 81 Cressey Road, Gorham, and we are open on the FIRST and THIRD Saturday of each month from 9 o'clock AM to 12 Noon.

We focus on clothes and accessories (gloves, scarves, hats, etc.) and welcome your donations during our operating hours. Clean clothes in good shape help the most, as they go right out to help people locally or in nearby communities. An attempt is made to have season appropriate clothes available to you. After we have displayed them for a time, they are donated to our local second-hand shops.

In addition to helping folks find clothes, we want to spend time with you! There are tables to sit, talk and to share a cup of coffee and usually a goodie with volunteers or others. Come see us! You might make a new friend. All are wel-



Sen. Collins speaks at ribbon cutting of local Red Cross facility

PORTLAND, ME - U.S. Senator Susan Collins delivered remarks and toured the American Red Cross of Northern New England's newly renovated Blood Donor Center. Federal, state, and local officials were in attendance along with hundreds of Red Cross volunteers and employees to celebrate the completion of a \$4.5 million renovation that will enhance training capabilities, increase the facility's capacity for disaster response supplies, and strengthen Red Cross operations throughout the State of Maine. In Fiscal Year 2022, Senator Collins secured \$871,000 in federal funding to support critical repairs and upgrades to the facility.

"The new building and equipment we celebrate today are important. But they mean nothing without the dedication and compassion of nearly 300,000 American Red Cross volunteers who step forward in times of crisis





and the 6.8 million heroes who donate blood each year," said Senator Collins during her remarks. "Established by Clara Barton 144 years ago, the American Red Cross stands on a foundation of relieving suffering and giving hope. The hard work and foresight that led to the wonderful project we celebrate today honors that legacy by helping to deliver the gift of life offered by blood

donors."

The project is the first major renovation the facility has seen in 44 years. The upgrades to the biomedical facility will streamline the blood collection and distribution effort that serves 24 hospitals and treatment centers in Maine. In the past fiscal year, the Red Cross collected more than 45,500 blood products in Maine and held more than 2,200 blood drives.

\$3,400 Donated to The Store Next Door



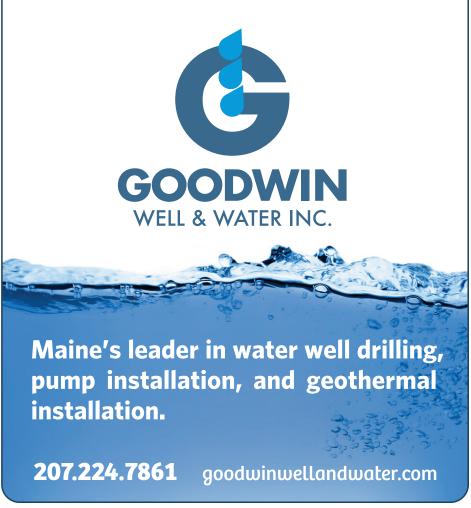
Thank you to our members for helping us make a real difference for local youth!



Send all items for Names & Faces to the editor. **Deadline** is

Friday by five pm.





October Special Section: Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Through These Doors October events

October is Domestic Violence Action Month. What steps will you take this DVAM? All month long we will be sharing ideas from this campaign on our Instagram and Facebook pages. You can start by participating in one or more of our events going on throughout the month! Take steps to end domestic violence-We can all be a part of the solution.

TAKE STEPS FOR SURVIVORS THIS MONTH BY:

Donating to support survivor safety.

Attending a DVAM event.

Participating in a community campaign.

Community Campaigns.

Support our Lavender Cafes.

Coffee Shops across Cumberland County have partnered with TTD to raise awareness and funds to support survivors of Domestic violence. When you purchase a "Lavender Latte" at a participating Lavender Cafe, a portion of the proceeds will go directly to supporting survivors of domestic violence in Cumberland County.

Locations:

Portland: Coffee By Design – 1 Diamond St, Portland ME.

Cape Elizabeth: C-Salt Gourmet Market - 349 Ocean House Rd, Cape Elizabeth ME.

Yarmouth: Clayton's Cafe & Bakery – 447 US Rt 1, Yarmouth ME.

Raymond: The Good Life Market – 1297 Roosevelt Trail, Raymond ME.

Help TTD furnish our shelter expansion.

Thursday, October 16th is Wear Purple Day. Join the national movement tohelp raise awareness about domestic abuse. Wear purple, snap a selfie with your family/friends/co-workers and then tag Through These Doors using #wearpurple.



Portland Yoga Collective Luna Sergenta Women's Circle.

19th October 6-7:30pm, this empowering workshop hosted by PYC aims to bring women together for community building, intention setting, meditation and creativity. TTD staff will be present before and after to invite participants to write letters of support for survivors in our community. A generous 40% of the proceeds from October's event will go to Through These Doors.

Location: Portland Yoga Collective: 98 Cross St N Ste C, Portland, ME

Sliding scale price \$10, \$15 or \$20 | Register online at portlandyogacollective.com.

Through These Doors Community Event.

October 23rd from 6:00-8:30, join TTD board members, staff, community partners and friends for a night of review, celebration, and reflection. Casual reception at Rising Tide Brewing Company in Portland with light refreshments. All are welcome, and we encourage you to bring a friend! We will be celebrating our shelter expansion, what we have accomplished over 2025, and guests will learn about TTD's path forward.

Location: Rising Tide Brewing Company, East Room. 103 Fox Street, Portland ME.

Community Campaigns.

Purple Light Nights®
Throughout the
month of October look
for purple lights in your
neighborhood! Purple
Light Nights is a global

campaign in over 32 states and 3 countries with the goal to increase the awareness of domestic violence. Through These Doors is once again partnering with the city of Portland, Cumberland County, local business owners, law enforcement agencies, and community members in making Cumberland County glow purple for October. For more information check out: http://www.purplelightnights.org/

Library & Bookstore Campaign

A great way to take action is to raise your own awareness. One way to do that is by reading! There are lots of good books for all different ages about healthy relationships and domestic abuse. TTD is partnering with libraries and local bookstores in Cumberland County again this year. When you visit your local library and bookstore this month look for a DVAM recommended reading list and ask for a Through These Doors DVAM bookmark.

Celebrating our Shelter Expansion.

Construction Is Completed!

We are excited to announce that the construction phase of our shelter expansion has been com-Affectionately pleted! named "The Tiny House" TTD has added four beds, one crib, one full bathroom, and one kitchenette to our emergency shelter capacity. Being able to expand in the wake of a housing crisis has been at the top of our priority list for many years, and we are incredibly proud of the hard work that has been done to get us to this point... but we are not ready for folks to move in quite vet, we still need your help! You can help us make this Tiny House a Tiny Home by donating funds to help get this project over the finish line!

Shine a light on domestic violence with Purple Lights Nights

October is a time to shine a light on domestic violence and acknowledge the importance of taking action against intimate partner violence. Purple Lights Nights, a nationally recognized

campaign, encourages community members and leaders to light up the night in purple to stand in solidarity with survivors and raise awareness for Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Remember to look for the purple lights all throughout Cumberland County this month! Take a picture and tag Through These Doors using #takestepsforsurvivors and #purplelightsnights.

Follow us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/GorhamWeekly

Review, celebrate, reflect with TTD at Community Event

You're invited to a Through These Doors Community Event! Join us on October 23rd at Rising Tide Brewing Company.

Date & Time: October 23rd from 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm.

Location: Rising Tide Brewing Company, 103 Fox Street, Portland ME.

Join TTD board members, staff, community partners and friends for a night of review, celebration, and reflection. Casual reception with light refreshments. All are welcome, and we encourage you to bring a friend! We will be celebrating our shelter expansion, what we have accomplished over 2025, and guests will learn about TTD's path forward.

See you there!







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1 Annual Percentage Rate as of 03/03/2025. Not all applicants will qualify for the lowest rate or be approved. Promotion and rate subject to change without notice, foreign transaction fees may apply. For more information, visit egcu.org/credit. Page 10 Thursday, October 16, 2025

October Special Section: Domestic Violence Awareness Month

With Survivors, Always: DVAM

By Casey Keene, Director of Prevention, National Resource Center on Domestic Violence

When it's too dark to see the road ahead...

When hopelessness and fear are overwhelming...

everything When seems uncertain...

Dear survivors, I'm with you.

When you make hard choices to prioritize your wellbeing...

When you celebrate small but meaningful vic-

When you bravely raise your voice...

Dear survivors, I'm with vou.

For Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) 2025, the Domestic Violence Awareness Project Advisory Group is pleased to introduce a new theme: With Survivors, Always | Con sobrevivientes. Siempre.

This theme allows us to explore what it means to be in partnership with survivors toward safety, sup-



port, and solidarity. It is both a love letter and a call to action for those committed to advocating for survivors' needs and rights.

Survivors deserve Sobrevivientes safety | merecen seguridad

When we advocate for survivors' safety, we must consider all that safety encompasses: physical, emotional, spiritual, and financial. Survivors have a right to live in homes, workplaces, neighborhoods, and institutions that are free of violence.

Survivors deserve support | Sobrevivientes merecen apoyo

Living through and healing from trauma can be a lifelong journey. And new threats to their safety can resurface trauma reactions in profound ways. Survivors are deserving of support and care at all stages of their lives as they navigate both these echoes and emerging new threats.

Survivors deserve solidarity | Sobrevivientes merecen solidaridad

Nobody should have to stand alone in the face of hardship. Community connectedness is critical to effective advocacy. We must continue to show up for survivors, no matter what.

How will you show up for survivors? What will your love letter say?

Join NRCDV in standing #WithSurvivors for #DVAM2025 and beyond:

#With Survivors Campaign (Throughout October)

NRCDV offers new shareable imagery that conveys our commitment to safety, support, and solidarity with survivors across backgrounds and experiences, rooted in love. Resources include social cards, downloadable coloring pages, and rally signs for adaptation and use in local communities.

#CallforUnity on the National Day of Unity

On the annual National Day of Unity, observed on the first Monday of October, NRCDV will host a virtual Call for Unity around the theme for DVAM 2025, With Survivors, Always. The Call for Unity is an intentional pause and moment of recognition and togetherness for advocates and survivors across the country. This year's #CallforUnity invites us to recognize and honor organizations that embody what it means to be #WithSurvivors. Join the call by tagging organizations, both inside and outside the movement, that show up for survivors.

October declared Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Proclamation Maine Governor, Mills

WHEREAS, domestic abuse and violence is a serious injustice and public health crisis that affects people and families of all races, ages, genders, sexual orientations and income levels; and

WHEREAS, each year nearly half of all homicides in Maine are related to domestic abuse and violence: and

WHEREAS, port and help are available 24/7/365 to anyone affected by domestic abuse, through the programs of the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence and the statewide domestic violence helpline; and

WHEREAS, domestic abuse and violence is entirely preventable, and all Mainers have opportunities to intervene and change the ways we and our communities understand and act on the issue of domestic abuse and violence; and

WHEREAS, community leaders are uniquely positioned to make a broad and lasting impact by enacting policies and practices that support survivors and their children, and hold abusive people to account;

NOW, THERE-FORE, be it resolved that I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim October 2025 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month throughout the State of Maine, and I urge all citizens to recognize this observance.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this eleventh day of September Two Thousand Twen-



A Day of Unity

From the National Domestic Violence Hotline

First observed in October 1981 as a national "Day of Unity," Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) is held each October as a way to unite advocates across the nation in their efforts to end domestic violence.

Communities organizations advocacy across the country connect with the public and one another throughout the month to raise awareness about the signs of abuse and ways to stop it, and to uplift survivor stories and provide additional resources to leaders and policy-

February of each year also marks Teen Domestic Violence Awareness Month (TDVAM). It is an annual observation raising awareness about the specific ways that abuse impacts Learn more about TDVAM build on the 2025 DVAM Twitter, and LinkedIn!

at loveisrespect.org. Why DVAM?

DVAM is a chance for anyone and everyone to unite in the work to end domestic violence. We invite advocates, loved ones, supporters, and political leaders to join together in solidarity to listen to and uplift survivors directly. With so many people speaking in a unified voice throughout October, we can raise our collective awareness about domestic violence to end abuse for good.

Another way you can participate in DVAM is by donating. Your gift to The Hotline this DVAM is a gift of hope for all those affected by domestic vio-

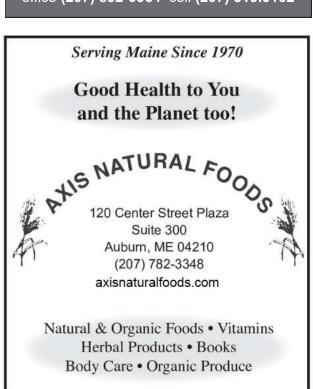
Be a Lifeline 2025 DVAM Theme In partnership with the Domestic Violence Awareness Project

theme, With Survivors, Always. As we work to end domestic violence this DVAM and beyond, we explore what it means to be in partnership with survivors toward safety, support, and solidarity.

How to get involved We believe that everyone can make a difference in ending domestic violence, and will work with you to do so. You can use our resources to raise awareness of domestic violence in your community or network. Below are some ways you can join us to raise awareness for survivors and victims of domestic violence this October and beyond.

Don't forget use #WithSurvivors and #DVAM2025 on social media to show us what you're doing to end domestic violence. Be sure to tag us and follow The Hotline teen dating relationships. (DVAP), we are excited to on Facebook, Instagram,





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DOE works to strengthen 'Back-to-Basics' reading, math skills

AUGUSTA, ME – At the direction of Governor Janet Mills, the Maine Department of Education (DOE) announced major new approaches to strengthen back-to-basics reading and math skills in Maine students.

For the 2025-2026 school year, the Maine DOE has launched the Maine State Reading and Math Action Plans, twin initiatives to bring more evidence-based instruction, educator training, and academic partnerships into Maine classrooms to improve student skills in these core academic areas.

This effort builds upon a \$10 million investment by the Maine DOE in 2024 for literacy grants to schools for high-quality teaching materials and professional development opportunities.

"Improving reading and math skills is vital to ensuring that all Maine students reach their full potential," said Governor Mills. "That is why I have directed the Maine Department of Education to take concrete steps to support teachers across Maine and improve instruction and skills in these critical areas. Our goal must be to see that all Maine students do the best they can in reading, math, and basic skills."

"These plans are designed to help every student become a confident reader and mathematical thinker," said Pender Makin, Commissioner of the Maine Department of Education. "Professional learning for Maine's teachers will focus on evidence-based instruction, including 'Science of Reading' for literacy and research-based math practices. Direct instruction using real-life examples will ensure that Maine's youngest students acquire the building blocks for all future learning."

As part of the action plans, the Maine DOE will establish reading and math advisory councils to oversee statewide implementation of the plans, review feedback from the field, monitor statewide progress, and recommend changes. The Maine DOE has appointed former math teacher Victoria Cohen to lead the math council and Peter Lancia, superintendent of the Westbrook School Department, to lead the reading council.

The action plans include evidence-based strategies and updated guidance for schools and districts, as well as commitment from the Maine DOE to provide necessary support and resources. Strategies in the plans include:

Preparing future elementary and early childhood educators to use evidence-based reading and math instruction;

Providing teachers and school leaders access to high-quality instructional resources, as well as participation in annual teacher summits and workshops;

Helping local schools and districts to set literacy attainment goals using universal literacy screeners in early education and elementary grades;

Enabling schools and districts to utilize best practices in early math instruction, incorporating real-world applications in mathematics;

Creating further recommendations for teacher preparation programs through the advisory councils

Educational leaders in Maine have underscored the potential of the action plans to drive real improvement, noting their strong support for professional learning and

evidence-based practices to benefit teachers and stu-

"High-impact professional learning for current educators and equipping future teachers with research-based skills resonated with me," said Kim Fadrigon, K-8 instructional leader at Narragansett Elementary School in Gorham.

"I think the vision is just so exciting to see coming from a state agency. Sending the message that numeracy is important is a critical message for our Maine students," said Lora Levenseler, head of the mathematics department at Camden Hills Regional High School in Rockport.

The Maine DOE developed the action plans with input from experts in the field. The plans were also informed by data, including the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), which sampled 1,700 4th and 8th grade Maine students in reading and math in 2024. Over the past decade, NAEP scores have shown concerning declines in Maine and other states.

Additionally, the action plans incorporated testing data from the Maine Through Year Assessment, which is administered to approximately 85,000 students in grades 3-8 and 10 at least twice a year to measure progress from fall to spring. The Maine DOE used input from schools that administer local assessments that gauge student progress, as well.

The Maine DOE looks forward to continuing to work with district leaders, educators, families, and community members in the coming months in this ongoing effort to provide the best education possible to all Maine students.

Barbara Bush Children's Hospital celebrates 30 years

FALMOUTH, ME

Stories of expert, patient-centered care were the focus as MaineHealth Barbara Bush Children's Hospital (MHBBCH) celebrated 30 years of helping Maine and New Hampshire's youngest patients thrive. The event on Wednesday, Sept. 17 at the Woodlands Country Club in Falmouth was named "Pearls of Gratitude" for the traditional gift for a 30th anniversary and a favorite gem of the hospital's namesake, first lady Barbara Bush. It provided a look back at the growth of MHBBCH, its deep and enduring connection to the Bush family and the future of pediatric care in Maine and New Hampshire.

Those attending the event heard from the families of patients who have benefitted from the specialized care MHBBCH provides. MHBBCH provides almost 13,000 pediatric emergency department visits a year and includes services in cancer treatment, cardiology, neonatal care, cystic fibrosis, complex care and numerous other pediatric specialties. The inpatient hospital, located within MaineHealth Maine Medical Center Portland, has 51 Level IV Neonatal Intensive Care Unit beds and eight Pediatric Intensive Care Unit

Lynn Blanche spoke about twice receiving the difficult news that each of her babies had cystic fibrosis (CF). Son Carter was diagnosed at 13-months old, and three years later, Lynn learned her daughter, Emma, also would live with CF.

Both siblings were referred to MaineHealth Pediatric Specialty Care Portland. The clinic is part of the CF Foundation Therapeutic Development Network, a nationwide group of nearly 80 CF clinical research centers specializing in clinical trials to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of new CF



therapies. Thanks to groundbreaking research, a medication that keeps their CF under control and the expert care they received through MHBBCH, Carter, 18-years old, and Emma, 14, are living normal lives.

"I have never met more passionate doctors, care team members and researchers who genuinely care about our children and their future," Lynne Blanche said. "We feel quite fortunate to MaineHealth Barbara Bush Children's Hospital for giving us hope."

MHBBCH was founded in 1995 with the idea that Maine children need a care team and inpatient hospital dedicated to their unique needs. First lady Barbara Bush, a well-known advocate for literacy and the well-being of young people as well as a part-time Maine resident, supported that vision and was proud to lend her name to the hospital. She visited many times over the years, sometimes spending her birthday reading to pa-

Other members of the Bush family now proudly carry on her legacy to the children's hospital. Margaret Bush, a trustee of Maine-Health Maine Medical Center and Mrs. Bush's daughter-in-law, explained why this hospital is so special to the Bush family.

"My mother-in-law had a strong love of Maine, literacy and children, and the families at MaineHealth Barbara Bush Children's Hospital were always close to her heart," Margaret Bush said. "Our family is honored that this hospital carries her name as it continues to improve the level of services available to children in this community."

MHBBCH has grown significantly in its 30 years

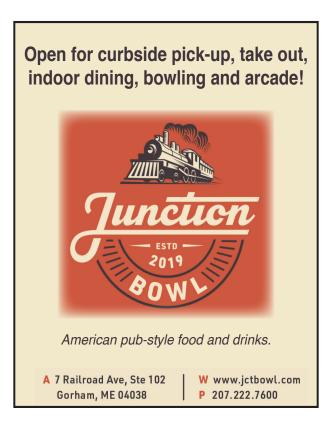
al national organizations in support of the local communities in MaineHealth's footprint. In addition to the CF Foundation Therapeutic Development Network, MHBBCH is a part of the Vermont Oxford Network, which seeks to improve neonatal care, the Children's Oncology Group, devoted to childhood cancer research, the Virtual Pediatric Systems Pediatric Intensive Care Unit Registry, dedicated to improving pediatric critical care and Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, which raises money to support children's health across the United States.

"MaineHealth Barbara Bush Children's Hospital offers state-of-the-art care in a setting that is close to home," said Dr. Mary Ottolini, MaineHealth's George W. Hallett, MD, Chair of Pediatrics. "While we continue to grow our services, we want our patients across Maine and Carroll County, New Hampshire to know our team will always provide patient-centered personal, care."

Dr. Ottolini also shared a sneak peek of what's to come for the children's hospital with emcees Michelle Taylor of 99. 9 The Wolf and Leif Erickson of 107.5 Frank FM, including expansion of its congenital heart program and increased outreach to rural parts of the state.

Proceeds from the evening, including Pearl sponsorships of \$30,000 from C.N. Brown and \$25,000 from TD Bank, will fund critically needed care and services to sick children throughout the state of Maine. For more information on how you can support the MaineHealth Barbara Bush Children's Hospital, visit bbch.org/give.







Page 12 Thursday, October 16, 2025

Midcoast Symphony Orchestra opens 36th season

TOPSHAM, - Aaron Copland's "Fanfare for the Common Man," Beethoven's "Eroica" Symphony, and Lee Hoiby's dramatic musical setting of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech are the highlights of the Midcoast Symphony Orchestra's 36th season-opener, a concert entitled "Heroes: Common and Uncommon." The program also includes Giuseppe Verdi's powerful overture to "I Vespri Siciliani." Led by long-time musical director Rohan Smith, the orchestra welcomes the return of Philip Lima as guest baritone soloist to sing the "I Have a Dream" piece, as well as several spirituals. In addition to his appearance with MSO in 2023, Lima has appeared as soloist with over seventy orchestras, choral societies, and concert series across the United States, and in leading operatic roles in Germany and for regional American opera compa-

The concert takes place on Saturday, October 25 at 7pm in the Franco Center in Lewiston, and Sunday, October 26 at 2:30pm in the Orion Performing Arts Center in Topsham. Tickets are \$27 in advance and \$30 at the door. They can be reserved at midcoastsymphony.org or by calling the box office at (207) 481-0790. In keeping with the MSO's commitment to serving the community's youth, admission is free to anyone 25 and under. Season tickets, which include admission to all four concerts in the 2025/26 season plus one guest ticket, are also on sale for \$80.

As part of its ongoing educational and outreach series "More with Midcoast," the MSO will host an intermission performance at the Saturday evening Franco Center concert by members of the Kennebec Valley Youth Symphony, a non-profit organization offering a professional-style orchestral experience to intermediate and advanced student musicians in central Maine and beyond. On Sunday at 1:30pm before the Orion Arts Center performance, there will be a pre concert presentation entitled "Spirituals in the Concert Hall: A Brief History," providing a brief overview of how spirituals became a concert hall staple, with audio illustrations from 1916 to the present day.

AARP

Continued from page 7

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And finally, know

that it's no longer safe to click on links from emails, texts, and online ads. Instead, type web addresses into your browser to ensure you aren't sent to a copycat site and stick to sites you know and trust.

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Waterville Opera House announces 2026 season

WATERVILLE.

ME – The Waterville Opera House (WOH) is excited to announce its 2026 theatrical season. The Opera House, a division of Waterville Creates, produces four community theatrical shows every yeartwo straight plays and two musicals. While the 2026 season follows this model, there are a few twists in the second half of the year.

The season begins in January with the riotous two-act comedy The Nerd, by Larry Shue. In April, WOH will produce the fairy tale-themed musical comedy Once Upon a Mattress. Auditions for The Nerd will be announced soon at watervillecreates.

"I'm thrilled with the 2026 theatrical offerings that the Waterville Opera House will bring to our patrons with the help of our insanely talented community volunteers," said Michelle Sweet, WOH's executive director. "The Nerd is an uproarious, laugh-aminute delight sure to have the audience in stitches. Our spring musical, Once Upon a Mattress, draws its characters from Hans Christian Andersen's 'The Princess and the Pea' and is one of the most popular plays in community theatres worldwide."

In August, the Opera House is excited to produce the world premiere of a brand new work, Unabashedly, by Mike Teverbaugh, presented as part of the American Association of Community Theatre's NewPlayFest. WOH is one of only six theatres in the country to receive this prestigious honor.

"Theatres rarely have a chance to work hand-inglove with a show's playwright during the rehearsal process," Debra Susi, who will direct Unabashedly, said last year upon the initial announcement. "This award provides the Waterville Opera House with the rare opportunity for all creatives-designers, directors, and most importantly Prince Dauntless, found our talented Central Maine a bride. Princesses came

actors—to work directly with the playwright and play a significant role in the premiere of an award-winning play. It is a unique and exciting experience for our theatre community."

"I'm deeply honored that the Waterville Opera House has been selected as one of only six theatres nationwide to be part of the American Association of Community Theatres 2026 NewPlayFest, putting a well-deserved national spotlight on our top-notch productions," theatrical Sweet added.

Another unusual twist for this year's season announcement: due to contractual obligations we are yet unable to reveal the title of the November musical, which will run for three weeks. Patrons can expect a full announcement later in 2026 (and in the meantime can speculate to their hearts' content).

In the meantime, enjoy a glance at what 2026

January 30–February 8: The Nerd by Larry Shue

Willum Cubbert has often told his friends about the debt he owes to Rick Steadman, a fellow ex-GI whom he has never met but who saved his life after he was seriously wounded in Vietnam. He has written to Rick to say that, as long as he is alive, "you will have somebody on Earth who will do anything for you" -so Willum is delighted when Rick shows up unexpectedly on the night of his birthday party. But his delight soon fades as it becomes apparent that Rick is a hopeless "nerd"—a bumbling oaf with no social sense, little intelligence, and less tact. The Nerd is presented by arrangement with Broadway Licensing LLC, servicing The Dramatists Play Service Collection.

April 24–May 3: Once Upon a Mattress

Many moons ago in a far-off place, Queen Aggravain decreed no couples could marry until her son,

from far and wide to win the hand of the prince, but none could pass the impossible tests given to them by the Queen. That is, until the "shy" swamp princess, Winnifred the Woebegone, showed up. Carried on a wave of wonderful songs. by turns hilarious and raucous, romantic and melodic, this rollicking spin on the classic tale "The Princess and the Pea" provides some side-splitting shenan-

August 28-September 6: Unabashedly by Mike Teverbaugh—a world premiere presented as part of the American Association of Community Theatre's NewPlayFest

An ancient myth states that we are each connected to our One by a red thread, which stretches, bends and twists but never breaks, eventually drawing us together. Dave, a young editor at a major city newspaper, feels someone tugging at his thread. But Helen, a new beat reporter, is a non-believer. Will the thread hold, and even if it does, what if you don't like this One once you've reeled them in?

November 13-29: A family-friendly winter musical, title to be announced

"Our final production of the year is a family-friendly, winter-themed musical that I trust our community will love," Sweet said. "It's top secret for now due to licensing restrictions but stay tuned for this exciting announcement later in the season."

Season Passes are now on sale at operahouse. org. Audiences can enjoy a 20% discount off their purchase when they reserve tickets to all four productions in one transaction. Visit watervillecreates.org/ operahouse/woh-2026-season to learn more.

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



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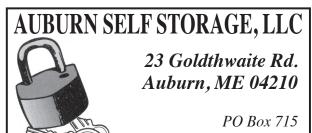
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Oct 16, Nov 13

MAINE – The 2025
Maine Hire-A-Vet is a statewide effort with the goal of at least 100 employers hiring at least 100 veterans and military family members during a 100-day period. While the campaign is focused on veterans and their families, these events are open to ALL jobseekers!

October 16, 2025 | 11:00 am to 3:00 pm | Maine Sports Arena, Saco.

November 13, 2025 | 11:00 am to 3:00 pm | University of Maine-Farming-

Oct 18

GORHAM – Public Works will be accepting brush Saturday, October 18th at 80 Huston Road from 8AM - 3PM. Residents only, no commercial drop off. No stumps will be accepted. Leaves & grass clippings accepted in the designated area throughout the season. Please do not leave bags behind.

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

Oct 18

LEWISTON – Party like it's 1813! Join us at the Lewiston Public Library's Jane Austen Regency Ball, doors will open at 6:30pm, and the dance will run from 7 to 9pm. The ball will include English Country Dancing and light refreshments. This is the Lewiston Public Library's first annual literary ball, commemorating Jane Austen's 250th birthday.

Oct 18

AUBURN - The Franco-Ameri-Maine can Genealogical Society [MFGS] is pleased to have Le Bon Truc, a trio of multi-instrumentalists and vocalists who play beautiful French folk-dance music, as its guest performers at its fall general membership meeting on October 18th in the Androscoggin Community Room of the Auburn Public Library, 49 Spring St., Auburn.

The music will begin at approximately 11:00 am. Prior to this performance, MFGS will hold a brief business meeting beginning at 10 am that will include Board elections.

Oct 18-Nov 18 BLUE HILL CHEWED PAPER October 18th–November 18th,

2025. Opening Reception: Saturday, October 18th 5pm - 7pm.

This fall Working Loose gathers seventeen artists to explore the modest medium of paper and glue. Chewed Paper is a celebration of papier-mâché—a deceptively humble medium that has endured across centuries, cultures, and continents. From the fortified surfaces of medieval armor to the festive vibrancy of piñatas, masks, and parade costumes, this exhibition honors the tactile, transformative nature of a craft born from the simple union of paper and paste. Working Loose, 49 Main Street, Blue Hill, ME 04614.

Oct 20

AUBURN – Auburn Public Library: Unlocking the Myths of Grief to be taking place on Monday, October 20th from 5:30-6:30 PM.

Oct 21

AUBURN – Auburn Public Library: Fall Slow Flow Yoga to be taking place on Tuesday October 21st, 2025 from 4:30 to 5:30 PM.

Oct 21

TOPSHAM – Author, life-long angler,

and L.L. Bean casting instructor for 20 years, Sue Daignault will address the October gathering of the Merrymeeting Bay Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Members and the public are invited to attend the free Merrymeeting Bay monthly meeting of this national cold-water conservation organization as we gather sportspeople and conservationists on Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at Sea Dog Brewing, 1 Bowdoin Mill Island, Topsham. Social hour begins at 6:00 pm, the presentation starts at 7:00 pm. The event is free; dinner and drinks can be purchased.

Oct 24

LEWISTON - Community members are invited to gather at the bridge near Veterans Memorial Park at 4PM for a visible show of remembrance. "We Remember" signs will be available, along with a sign-making station, candles, and Remembrance Bags. Participants are encouraged to stand together, or to drive by and honk in support, as we begin 24 Hours of Remembrance. Parking is at Lincoln Street Garage, and attendees are asked to stay on sidewalks and check in at the table near the flags for Veterans' Park.

Oct 25

BUXTON – Try our delicious Haddock Supper Buffet - Saturday, OcFLAGSHIP CINEMAS

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tober 25, 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.

Oct 25

WESTBROOK – Saturday, October 25th 2025, 5 to 7pm Spaghetti with homemade sauce, meatballs, tossed salad, Italian bread, dessert, coffee, tea, water. Live Dinner Music provided by Side by Side Trio. \$10 per person, \$25 family of 4, children under 5 eat free.

Prides Corner Community Church 235 Pride Street, Westbrook ME.

Oct 25, 26

MAINE – The Midcoast Symphony Orchestra presents "Heroes: Common and Uncommon" Rohan Smith, Conductor.

Saturday, October

25, 2025 - 7:00 p.m. - Franco Center in Lewiston

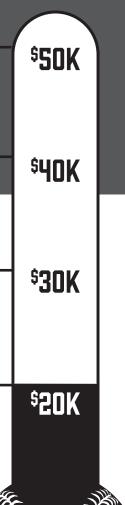
Sunday, October 26, 2025 - 2:30 p.m. - Orion Performing Arts Center in Topsham.

Aaron Copland: Fanfare for the Common Man; Giuseppe Verdi: Overture to Vespri Siciliani; Lee Hoiby: I have a Dream (featuring Philip Lima, baritone soloist); Spiritual Medley (featuring Philip Lima, baritone soloist); Ludwig van Beethoven: Symphony No. 3, "Eroica".

Tagging *Continued from page 3*

its second-highest deer harvest ever, with 42,258 deer killed.

The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife will report back to the Legislature's Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee no later than Jan. 14, 2026.



GORHAM LITTLE LEAGUE Field Funding Campaign

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

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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 20 - 28, 2026 - DISCOVER PAINTED CANYONS OF THE WEST - Trip includes 9 days and 11 meals. 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.

May 23-31, 2026 - BILT-**MORE ESTATE & ASHE-**VILLE, N.C. - This trip includes 9 days and 8 nights lodging, 8 breakfasts and 6 dinners. You will have a full day at the Biltmore Estate and experience the Biltmore House and Gardens. You will also visit the Antler Village and Winery. You will have a guided tour of Asheville and the magnificent St. Lawrence Basilica. We will experience a drive on the Blue Ridge Parkway (America's Most visited park unit). We also visit the Thomas Wolfe Memorial State Historic Site. These are the highlights of the trip and there is so much more that we will see. On our way home

Highlights are National Park, Ing in the midst do Wine County, Arches National Park, Dead Horse the Park, Bryce National Park National Park Indicate Park, Capitol the Park National Park Indicate Park National Park Indicate Park Indicate Park National Park Indicate Par

OCTOBER 18-23, 2026

- SHIPSHEWANA, INDI-ANA - This trip includes 6 days and 5 nights lodging, 3 breakfasts and 3 dinners. You will have a full day guided tour of Indiana's Amish Country with a tour of an Amish Homestead and an Authentic Amish Dinner. We will experience Cook's Bison Ranch with a scenic Wagon Tour of their majestic ranch while seeing the bison up-close and even feeding them. We will spend time shopping and having lunch at Shipshewana Trading Place which is constantly ranked one of the top five Flea Markets in the Country. We will see the show "Loves Comes Softly" at the Blue Gate Theater. Price for this trip is \$865.00 per person double occupancy. A \$75.00 deposit is due upon signing up. Trip includes bus driver tip and all tour gratuities. Add \$305.00 for single occupancy. Final payment is due 8/11/26.

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

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