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Maine Blue Collar Scholarship Foundation surpasses \$1 million awarded



Submitted Photos

GORHAM — Following the completion of its 2026 scholarship review process, the Maine Blue Collar Scholarship Foundation (MBC) is proud to announce a historic milestone: awarding more than \$1 million in scholarships and toolships to Maine individuals pursuing careers in the skilled trades.

Since its founding in 2017, MBC has grown from a bold idea into one of Maine's

most impactful workforce development initiatives, built entirely by volunteers and funded entirely by businesses and individuals who believe in the future of Maine's trades. The milestone reflects both the growing demand for skilled trades workers and the statewide support behind the foundation's mission.

MBC awards scholarships and toolships ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500

to individuals entering careers across more than 20 trades, including electrical, plumbing, HVAC, welding, diesel technology, linework, heavy equipment, building construction, automotive technology, culinary arts, public safety, healthcare, and more. Awards help recipients purchase tools, pay for certifications, and begin careers without taking on significant debt.

"Our mission has always been about creating opportunities and removing barriers for people who want to build a future through hard work and skilled trades," said Chrissi Moody, Executive Director of the Maine Blue Collar Scholarship Foundation. "Reaching more than one million dollars awarded is an incredible milestone that reflects the growing demand for tradespeople. These ca-

reers are essential to Maine's future, and we're proud to support the next generation entering the workforce."

Recipients have come from more than 100 Maine communities, over 90 high schools, and all 27 of the state's career and technical education schools, representing recent graduates, CTE program completers, and adult learners making career changes.

The foundation continues

to partner with businesses, educators, contractors, unions, and workforce organizations throughout Maine to connect scholarship recipients with employment opportunities and long-term careers.

For more information about scholarship opportunities or ways to support the foundation, visit mainebluecollar.com or email info@mainebluecollar.com.

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MOVIE REVIEW *by Lucas Allen*

OBSESSION

(Focus Features-Blumhouse)

Love can make you do crazy things sometimes, especially when it involves the supernatural. Produced independently for under a million dollars, "Obsession" made a splash at last year's Toronto International Film Festival, and now it is being released by a major distributor, along with the low-budget horror titans at Blumhouse, to an unsuspecting early summer crowd. The movie also marks the writing and directing debut of YouTube filmmaker Curry Barker, following in the wake of Markiplier's "Iron Lung."

Bear (Michael Johnston) is a young man hopelessly in love with his friend Nikki (Inde Navarrette) for a long while, even though he could not muster up the courage to tell her that. His buddy Ian (Cooper Tomlinson) keeps telling him not to tell her that, or else ruin their friendship and as partners in their weekly trivia night. One night, Bear buys a novelty toy called the One Wish Willow that could grant a single wish to anyone after breaking it in two. After making a wish that Nikki loves him more than anything else, she suddenly becomes his girlfriend and the two of them are now living in his house.

At first, it is a seemingly normal relationship until Nikki gradually develops an alternate personality that becomes increasingly uncontrollable. It gets worse when Bear finds out that his co-worker Sarah (Megan Lawless) may have feelings for him as well, putting him in a far more difficult

dilemma. When Nikki's behavior starts to turn violent, he begins to regret his wish and tries to find a way to reverse it.

This movie can be described as an extreme version of a Twilight Zone episode with its own monkey paw-esque plot, like "The Man in the Bottle" or "The Chaser." In this case, it is more about the wish of fulfillment of love and what happens when it gets slowly wrong before it gets both dangerous and twisted. When it does, it results in a shockingly bleak third act when there is simply no easy way out of it and people will die in such bloody fashion. The whole movie also becomes a reverse "Fatal Attraction" right down to someone's pet receiving quite a horrific fate of its own.

The movie does create a certain sense of dread with the director using ambient-style filmmaking, and it works effectively. Light and shadows help to convey the unease of tension that surrounds the characters. By contrast, there are moments of horror and black comedy stemming from the possessed Nikki, or "Freaky Nikki" she is becoming throughout. The character goes back and forth between being a happy and perky beauty and being a spoiled and petulant child like a deranged Jekyll and Hyde.

However, it can also create a debate among audiences on how Bear is portrayed as a villainous controller or a victim of his own wish. For all we could understand, he is just so lovelorn that he never considered the consequences

of what the wish has given him until it starts to get worse for him. Still, thinking about these things makes the film more interesting to watch and talk about, especially as a cautionary tale for the real world.

One thing that will stick with you long after the end credits is Navarrette's insanely amazing performance and how she managed to make a wicked showcase. In this current era of memorable horror characters, Freaky Nikki is certainly top tier among them and could be one of the year's most talked about. Johnston handles the morally gray areas of his character with ease, as well as acting surprisingly realistic to the horror he has hilariously caused. There is also an appearance by funnyman Andy Richter as a music shop manager, which feels like pretty random casting when it could have been played by any character actor they could find off the street.

"Obsession" is both shockingly dark and utterly hilarious while managing to balance those different tones in entertainingly equal measure. No matter how you feel about the characters or the plot, it still stands as a majorly different kind of experience worth seeing, especially with a group of friends.

THE MOVIE'S RATING: R (for strong bloody violence, grisly images, sexual content, pervasive language, and brief graphic nudity)

THE CRITIC'S RATING: 3.5 Stars (Out of Four)



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STUDENT NEWS

Ella Novak elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

Baton Rouge, LA-- Ella Novak, of Windham, was recently elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society, at The University of Mississippi.

Novak is among approximately 20,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.



Local Emmanuel College students make Dean's List

Boston, MA -- In recognition of their outstanding academic achievement, Emmanuel College has named more than 950 students to the Dean's List for the Fall 2025 semester. The following local students were named to the Dean's List:

- Claudia Peterson, of Gorham, is majoring in Accounting.
- Haley Atherton, of Windham, is completing a double major: Criminology & Criminal Justice; Psychology - Developmental Psychology.
- Maeve Donnelly, of Gorham, is completing a double major: Liberal Studies, Elementary Education.
- Grace Alfiero, of Windham, is majoring in Graphic Design.
- Casey O'Connell, of Windham, O'Connell is majoring in Management.
- Bella Bragdon, of Windham, Bragdon is majoring in Nursing.
- Addison Profenno, of Windham, Profenno is majoring in Nursing.

To earn a spot on the Dean's List, Emmanuel students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or higher for a 16-credit semester.

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If you have a favorite recipe you would like to share with our readers we would love to publish it for you. Please email recipe to: articles@turnerpublishing.net

Dessert may be served last, but it still comes first in the hearts of many devoted foodies. Home cooks have many options to choose from when picking a dessert for a homemade meal, but sticking with a staple might be the way to go when serving lots of hungry dessert lovers.

Cheesecake is a popular dessert option that's hard to resist. This recipe for "Cheesecake With Fresh Maine Blueberries" from Lines+Angles can satisfy a crowd and ensure your next dinner party ends on a delightful and decadent note.

Cheesecake with Fresh Maine Blueberries

Makes 12 servings

For Graham Cracker Crust:

- 2 1/3 cups graham cracker crumbs
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter; melted
- 1/4 cup sugar

For Cheese Filling:

- 2 lbs. cream cheese, room temperature
- 1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
- 1/4 cup unbleached all-purpose flour
- 5 large fresh eggs
- 2 cups sour cream
- 3 1/2 tablespoons milk
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon zest

For Blueberry Topping and Glaze:

- 3 1/4 cups fresh Maine Blueberries
- 3 tablespoons apricot preserves
- 1 teaspoon water
- Granulated sugar, for sprinkling



For the graham cracker crust:

Preheat oven to 375 F. Butter the bottom of a 9-inch springform pan. Combine crust ingredients in a food processor and pulse until crumbs are just moist. Press crumb mixture firmly onto the bottom and up the sides of prepared pan. Bake until crust begins to turn golden, about 8 minutes. Remove from oven and transfer pan to a wire rack to cool. Maintain oven temperature.

For the cheese filling:

1. In a large bowl, combine cream cheese and sugar, using an electric mixer, until well blended. Beat in flour. Add eggs, one at a time, beating each one until well combined. Beat in sour cream, milk, vanilla, and lemon zest, mixing until smooth. Pour cheese filling over crust.

2. Bake cheesecake until center is just set and top is slightly puffed, about 1 hour. Turn off oven, keep oven door closed and let cheesecake stand in oven for 1 hour. Transfer cake to a cooling rack and let cool completely. Cover and refrigerate to cool further for at least 8 hours or overnight before serving.

For the blueberry topping and glaze:

1. Rinse blueberries and pat dry.
2. Put apricot preserves and water in a small saucepan. Cook over medium heat until preserves have completely melted. Strain to remove any fruit pieces or lumps. Let cool slightly.
3. Arrange blueberries on top of cheesecake. Gently brush the blueberries with the apricot glaze. Sprinkle with granulated sugar. Remove sides from springform pan. Serve.

Metro

STUDENT NEWS

Students named to President's List at Plymouth State University

Plymouth, NH -- Students have been named to the Plymouth State University President's List for the Fall 2025 semester. To be named to the President's List, a student must achieve a grade point average of 3.70 or better for the Fall 2025 semester and must have completed at least 12 credit hours during the semester, at least nine of which must confer grade points, at the time the lists are finalized.

- The following local students have been named to the President's List:
- Bella Cortez, of Gorham, majoring in Business Administration
 - Alden Dimick, of Gorham, majoring in Business Administration
 - Gabrielle Evans, of Gorham, majoring in Finance
 - Sophia Kalogerakis, of Gorham, majoring in Psychology
 - Blake McPherson, of Windham, majoring in Business Administration

Logan Hoffman of Gorham named to Spring 2026 Dean's List at Cedarville University

Cedarville, OH -- Logan Hoffman, of Gorham, was named to the Dean's List at Cedarville University for Spring 2026. This recognition requires the student to obtain a 3.50 GPA or higher for the semester and carry a minimum of 12 credit hours.

Darasz, of Gorham, graduates from Regis College during its 96th Annual Commencement

Boston, MA -- Michael Darasz, of Gorham, graduated with an Exercise Science degree from Regis College during its May 9, 2026, Commencement. Darasz was among more than 1,000 students who received degrees ranging from associate to doctorate.

Joshua Hancock named to SNHU Dean's List

Manchester, NH -- Joshua Hancock, of Windham, has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Spring 2026 Dean's List. The spring term runs from January to May. Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

SNHU announces Spring 2026 President's List

Manchester, NH - It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Spring 2026 President's List. The spring term runs from January to May.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Wesley Theriault of Windham, Kyla Harvie of Windham, Eric Sawyer of Windham, Lisa Gamage of Windham, Grace Forant of Windham, Ali Tetrault of Windham, Riley Small of Windham, Miranda Gleason of Windham, Lindy Moreland of Gorham, Bode Coleman of Gorham, Zoe Coleman of Gorham, Kristen Dore of Gorham, Maddie Clough of Gorham and Shaun Patten of Gorham.

Scam Alert Bulletin Board



Steer Clear of Traffic Violation Scams

After toll road scams spread last summer, a new version is surging—texts claiming you owe money for a traffic or parking violation.

These messages often include an official-looking notice offering a court date or a small fine (around \$6), with a QR code for immediate payment to avoid penalties. They may mention your location or use fake case num-

bers to appear legitimate and create a sense of urgency.

If an unexpected message like this sparks strong emotions and demands urgency, treat it as a potential scam. Report the message as spam and avoid responding, clicking links or scanning QR codes. If you think the claim may be real, contact the court or agency directly using trusted contact information.

Learn how to spot and avoid scams with AARP Fraud Watch Network™. Suspect a scam? Call our free helpline at 877-908-3360 and talk to one of our fraud specialists about what to do next.

Need a scam prevention speaker for your group? Click the link to fill out our online form or send an email to me@aarp.org.

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Maine Shrine Lobster Bowl Classic announces partnership with Maine Public

LEWISTON - The Maine Shrine Lobster Bowl Classic has announced a new partnership with Maine Public to broadcast the 2026 Maine Shrine Lobster Bowl Classic on July 18, 2026, from Don Roux Field in Lewiston, Maine.

Under the agreement, Maine Public will provide live television and online broadcasting for the game on July 18, 2026. Maine Public will have the official broadcast rights and sponsorship inventory for the annual all-star football game, expanding visibility for one of the state's most celebrated traditions while increasing awareness and fundraising efforts for Shriners Children's.

The partnership will feature a full television broadcast along with live streaming coverage, allowing audiences both in Maine and across the country to tune in. The enhanced production will include an on-location pregame show, in-depth interviews with coaches and players, and additional storytelling elements designed to highlight the athletes and the mission behind the game.

"This is a tremendous partnership for our efforts to raise awareness and funds for Shriners Children's," said Joe Hersom, president of the Maine Shrine Lobster Bowl Classic. "We are so proud



Submitted Photo
Pictured: Joe Hersom, President of the Maine Shrine Lobster Bowl Classic and Rob Kennedy, broadcaster for the Maine Shrine Lobster Bowl Classic on Maine Public.

of the accomplishments of the participants in the game and want to showcase their talents and effort on the field, but also in their charitable fundraising. Maine Public is going to be a great partner for us to provide statewide coverage, plus expand our reach and secure more sponsorship opportunities because of their longstanding reputation for broadcasting Maine high school sports.

"We're really excited to put together a tremendous product and broadcast that will leave a lasting legacy for everyone involved."

Maine Public, which has a longstanding tradition of broadcasting high school sports across the state, will bring its experienced production team and expanded capabilities to the event, including new broadcast enhancements and digital distribution. On-

air talent for the broadcast will include Rob Kennedy providing the play-by-play along with color commentator Rob Munzing and field reporter Jack Webb.

"This partnership with the Maine Shrine Lobster Bowl Classic is a great opportunity for Maine Public to continue our coverage of high school sports in Maine as one of the

longest standing traditions in the state. This game provides an opportunity for Maine Public to secure sponsors who want to support the game and Shriners Children's Hospitals. This truly is more than just a game, and we're excited to be able to provide coverage for the Maine Shrine Lobster Bowl Classic. We are looking forward to the broadcast and highlighting the participants for all their achievements," said Cory Morrissey, Marketing Lead at Maine Public.

The Maine Shrine Lobster Bowl Classic is one of Maine's premier high school football events, bringing together top graduating seniors from across the state. Each year, the game raises thousands of dollars for Shriners Children's. Players, cheerleaders and coaches raise funds by reaching out to family, friends and businesses to support the game and raise money for a great cause. Last year, the Maine Shrine Lobster Bowl Classic donated \$125,000 to the two hospitals in Boston and Springfield, Mass. To learn more, visit MaineShrineLobsterBowl.com.

Volunteer Ombudsman Representatives are the Heart of the Ombudsman Program

Volunteer advocates needed in your local area!

The Maine Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program is looking for individuals who are interested in joining a group of dedicated volunteers who visit residents in long-term care facilities across the state. Volunteer Ombudsman are advocates who provide a voice for consumers while working collaboratively with long-term care facilities.



Learn more about becoming a Volunteer Ombudsman Representative. Please contact to Christina Ryan at cryan@maineombudsman.org (800) 499-0229 or (207) 621-1079.

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