Maine state legislators get free health insurance, yet 400,000 Mainers — one in three state residents — can’t afford enough of it. As a result, many are turning to emergency rooms or simply going without proper care. And they want relief: 63 percent of Maine residents responding to a recent Guy Gannett Co. poll said they favor health insurance for everyone.

A special legislative committee has wrestled with this issue for more than a year. Their conclusion is that the system needs serious reform, but members can’t reach a consensus about how far to push reforms. Meanwhile, people like South Portland cancer patient Sandra Shearer find themselves at the mercy of a system that straps them for cash just when they need health care the most.

That could change soon. Maine state Sen. Dale McCormick is about to introduce legislation that would radically change the way health care is delivered in Maine. Her bill, which faces a tough fight in the state Legislature, creates a mandatory single-payer plan for Maine with which one would never get a hospital bill — ever.

Continued on page 8

Since she was diagnosed with cancer last year, Sandra Shearer has faced a deluge of medical bills.
A conversation with Bob Birosch

"Bob the Mechanic" as he is known among his loyal customers, runs a garage on Warren Avenue in Portland. The Portland native also races stock cars—under his given name, Robert Brooks—at the Beech Ridge Speedway in Scarborough.

Are there any honest mechanics out there?

A few. I deal only with honest people. I'm a lot of little things for them. I don't do work without calling somebody first. But I call you on many stories. Once, I had a customer with a 1978 Toyota. I put brakes on the front of her car. She came back two weeks later, said, 'I went to get my tires rotated and they told me my struts were bad. Did you change them?'

So I put the car up on a lift and showed her and her husband. I sprayed aerosol on the struts, and the oil on the struts. I put dirt in there, to tell her something she didn't need. That's why I'm honest. 'Cause I've seen so many people get ripped off.

What's the fascination of drag racing?

To be honest with you, I wish I'd picked up another trade. It's challenging. There used to be a store in my neighborhood where I grew up—they had just sold a VW. But it's challenging. Once you sit in a race car, you're hooked. You can't sit in a race car for long—now it's addicting, you know; once you sit in a race car, you can't sit in another car.

What happened to your race car?

I was driving it right over the checkered flag. Smashed it. You know, that was a championship car back in '96. I passed that car on the track. But it's broken into a less. But it's broken into a less usual race car, I guess, but it's broken into a less usual race car.

Will you run next year?

If the money's there. If I'm building a garage right now. I'm switching back, you know. It's addicting in one car, it's addicting in both cars. I need those cars at Beech Ridge and trade in $5,000. I'll be back.

A Pane of Glass

By Paul Zem, photo by Teresa Barron

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A review of the top news stories following Portland November 18 through 23.

DeSrochers' new high school received state funding approval. The state board of education voted unanimously Nov. 18 to fund the $18.9 million project on Maquoit Road. Brunswick's chief's job. Chitwood is one of four finalists for the post. Bob Ganley, the short-term interim Portland chief's job. Chitwood is one of four finalists for the post. A former Portland Investment adviser was arrested in Florida Nov. 18. Mark Christopher Mussenden, 49, faces 65 counts of mail and wire fraud. The state's police union president Mike Beggs guilty of endangering the welfare of an minor.

The Maine House could have one more female state representative. The outbreak of a credit card scam, according to indictments filed Nov. 18, covers parts of Cumberland, York, and Sagadahoc counties. John Bowdren. The state's police union president Mike Beggs guilty of endangering the welfare of an minor. The former Portland Investment adviser was arrested in Florida Nov. 18. Mark Christopher Mussenden, 49, faces 65 counts of mail and wire fraud. The state's police union president Mike Beggs guilty of endangering the welfare of an minor. The former Portland Investment adviser was arrested in Florida Nov. 18. Mark Christopher Mussenden, 49, faces 65 counts of mail and wire fraud. The state's police union president Mike Beggs guilty of endangering the welfare of an minor. The former Portland Investment adviser was arrested in Florida Nov. 18. Mark Christopher Mussenden, 49, faces 65 counts of mail and wire fraud. The state's police union president Mike Beggs guilty of endangering the welfare of an minor. The former Portland Investment adviser was arrested in Florida Nov. 18. Mark Christopher Mussenden, 49, faces 65 counts of mail and wire fraud. The state's police union president Mike Beggs guilty of endangering the welfare of an minor. The former Portland Investment adviser was arrested in Florida Nov. 18. Mark Christopher Mussenden, 49, faces 65 counts of mail and wire fraud. The state's police union president Mike Beggs guilty of endangering the welfare of an minor. The former Portland Investment adviser was arrested in Florida Nov. 18. Mark Christopher Mussenden, 49, faces 65 counts of mail and wire fraud. The state's police union president Mike Beggs guilty of endangering the welfare of an minor. The former Portland Investment adviser was arrested in Florida Nov. 18. Mark Christopher Mussenden, 49, faces 65 counts of mail and wire fraud. The state's police union president Mike Beggs guilty of endangering the welfare of an minor. The former Portland Investment adviser was arrested in Florida Nov. 18. Mark Christopher Mussenden, 49, faces 65 counts of mail and wire fraud. The state's police union president Mike Beggs guilty of endangering the welfare of an minor. The former Portland Investment adviser was arrested in Florida Nov. 18.
The Portland Ballet Company’s Nutcracker is moving to Portland — now at Portland High School Auditorium (formerly City Theater) in South Portland. 100th Anniversary Production

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Hi Fi Exchange

AG: civics to review cops

A task force created after the shooting death of Katherine Hegarty has recommended civilian review of police action and ending qualified immunity for police officers. The report was presented to the state’s Criminal Justice Academy, which has the final say on whether the recommendation will be implemented.

The decision must be made by the state’s Criminal Justice Academy, which has the final say on whether the recommendation will be implemented.

New Hampshire has a new governor, but its new Transportation Commissioner Charles O’Leary is determined to make the most of his new position. He’s already talked to the state’s legislators about the need for new roads and bridges, and he’s planning to use his position to make changes in the transportation system.

The proposed rail service would wind through New Hampshire, and advocates say it could help to reduce congestion and improve air quality. However, there are concerns about the cost and feasibility of the project, and it’s unclear whether the state will move forward with it.

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The reviews: He won’t be accused of cheap shots. But the recommendation calling for the task force to be abolished is not just a bad idea, it’s also a political one. The review panel’s decision was made in response to public outrage about the death of Hegarty, and the recommendation was seen as a way to prevent future tragedies.

Some legislators questioned the recommendation, noting that a task force would be more appropriate for such an issue. However, the panel’s decision was based on the principle that police should be held accountable for their actions, and the recommendation was seen as a way to ensure that this would happen.

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Continued on page 11

**HEALTH CARE**

When South Portland insurance adjuster Sandy Shearer began getting ruminatively in 1989, in Maine, a task six months to find the trouble. One week before Christmas, she finally had her answer. At the age of 44, Shearer had developed cancer of the adrenal gland. The cancer, which spread to her spinal cord, left her right leg and right arm required radiation therapy for its treatment. After six months in the hospital, Shearer was able to return home. She began to feel that she was losing control over her life. She was unable to work and was forced to rely on her family for support.

"I didn't die quick enough," said Shearer. "I wasn't supposed to live longer than my disability covered me." Shearer's story is not unique. Millions of Americans face similar challenges in their efforts to pay for health care.

In Maine, as in many other states, residents are facing rising costs for health care. The average Maine family pays about $1,500 for health insurance. This is a substantial portion of their household income. For many, these costs are unsustainable.

A cost emergency develops

According to a recent study by the Maine Health Foundation, the state's health care system is facing a crisis. The study found that the average Maine family spends $1,500 per year on health insurance, up from $1,000 in 1991. This increase is due in part to the rising cost of premiums and deductibles. In addition, many families are finding that their insurance does not cover the full cost of their medical bills.

The state's health care system is also facing a shortage of doctors and hospitals. In many areas, the number of doctors has declined significantly, leading to longer wait times for appointments and procedures.

And even though Shearer's health and disability insurance paid $30,000 of her bills, she was still unable to afford all the medical care she needed. Shearer's story is not unique. Millions of Americans face similar challenges in their efforts to pay for health care.

"I wasn't supposed to live longer than my disability covered me," said Shearer. "I didn't die quick enough." She was unable to work and was forced to rely on her family for support. Shearer's story is not unique. Millions of Americans face similar challenges in their efforts to pay for health care.

**Nice try, George, but...**

The trouble with a "pay or play" health insurance law

Senator Majority Leader George Mitchell has introduced a national health care bill in the U.S. Senate proposing a "pay or play" system that would require employers to either provide health insurance to their employees or pay a fee to the government. The goal of the Mitchell-McCormick proposal is to create a uniform national health insurance system.

"We're never going to understand this problem," said Mitchell. "We're never going to understand this problem." He went on to explain that the Mitchell-McCormick proposal would allow employers to choose between providing health insurance or paying a fee to the government. The goal is to create a system that would be affordable and accessible to all Americans.

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**Dog and pony show**

**Opponents of state health care peddle state arguments**

While the Maine People’s Alliance (MPA) and some foes, Dale McCormick proposes to introduce a single-payer bill in the Maine Legislature, an industry group is mobilizing opposition.

The Small Group Health Benefits Committee has begun taking its show on the road, and the show isn’t pretty. A campaign to stop the proposal and kill horror stories about a country’s health care system, stories that have led him to term a “false underground” to get emergency room care in the United States for wounded Canadians.

A state senator from New York pounds away at national health care plans, claiming that the current system already functions well and that a “pay as you play” system would destroy small businesses that couldn’t afford insurance.

This “small group” committee includes business groups such as the Maine Merchants Association, the Maine Oil Dealers Association and the Maine Farm Bureau. But insurance representatives from the Independent Insurance Agents and the Maine Association of Life Underwriters really run the show.

“I’m historian,” responded MPA’s Joe Ditre to the group’s charges.

“TV’s talking about the mid-80s in Ontario. That situation was created through the single payer structure, where people could say, ‘We want more ICU, intensive care units, and more radiologists.’ By that premise, you get public accountability, they realized money to med that situation in the mid-80s, it will feed.

Our GAO General Accounting Office work[ed] on waiting list in Ontario. And for emergency care in Ontario, they found there are no waiting list for care.

“This is deliberate misrepresentation by people who love to hear it,” said Vermont’s Dr. David Johnson, “but desperately want to sustain the status quo.”

These people want in to believe everybody will get a really bad shake in Canada, that nobody likes it. It’s not a fact, the vast majority of people there approve of it. These lies are no longer believable.

“It’s just chicken little, and the sky is falling in the insurance industry,” Ditre concluded. “They’re not adding anything to the debate. They’re just blantly misrepresenting the facts.”

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**Health Care**

“Under a single-payer plan, the consumer would never get a bill. Health care becomes a right of citizenship.”

Joe Ditre, Maine People’s Alliance

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Vienna Choir Boys

Health care in other states

Maine isn’t the only state considering national health care. At the moment, at least a dozen other states are poised to vote on various health care proposals, though none is as progressive as Maine. state Sen. Dale McCormick’s proposed single-payer plan, a sampling of other interesting health care plans follows:

Excerpt from the article:

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Maine isn’t the only state considering national health care. At the moment, at least a dozen other states are poised to vote on various health care proposals, though none is as progressive as Maine. state Sen. Dale McCormick’s proposed single-payer plan, a sampling of other interesting health care plans follows:

Excerpt from the article:

No other holiday event can set the tone for the season the way the Vienna Choir Boys can. The parade of the boys’ childlike naivete and artistic maturity has delighted audiences for over 500 years. Bring the family to this special holiday celebration and delight in the glorious sound of the Vienna Choir Boys.

Vienna Choir Boys
Free health care is the cure

By Doug Sisson

(802) 485-1100 ext. 207
181 Kenneth St., Portland, ME
207-775-1615
www.thedailytimes.com

Free health care is the cure

Let’s face it: America’s health care system is sick. While costs continue to skyrocket with no end in sight, 480,000 Maine residents couldn’t afford adequate health insurance. It gave me a very unromantic view of local emergency rooms during visits physician on a regular basis. But health care providers and politicians seem to care more about hook-ups rather than the poor carry the system’s weight on their backs.

The single-payer, nonprofit plan that Sen. Tom Allen is proposing now seems to best fit the needs of the uninsured. To get an idea of how it would work, you need to read up on the single-payer system that’s been introduced in Great Britain and Canada.

The single-payer plan has made a lot of sense and has a lot of promise. The system works on the basis of a single-payer plan. It is the only way to go.

In the United States, health care works this way: You have to pay to get it. If you can’t pay, you can’t get it. And if you can’t pay, you can’t get a loan, get a mortgage, go to school, or anything else. So you have to pay for health care, or you can’t do anything.

In Canada, if you’re sick, you’ll go to a doctor or hospital and make an appointment. If you can’t pay, they won’t treat you. And if you can’t pay, they won’t treat you.

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“Some say life is the thing, but I prefer reading.”

— Ruth Rendell

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Celebrating the creativity of women
The Baxter Society remembers Dorothy Healy

Maine is a land known primarily for its wilderness — a place where women’s stories have been told in many forms. But in the state of Maine — a land known for its wilderness — there is also a vibrant culture that celebrates the creativity of women.

The Baxter Society is a group of women who have been working together to support the arts in Maine for over 150 years. They have a long history of supporting women’s creativity through their annual Women’s Writers Collection, which features the work of women authors from around the world.

This year, the Baxter Society is celebrating the creativity of women by honoring Dorothy Healy. Healy was a prominent writer and poet who lived in Maine for many years. She was known for her skilled writing and her ability to bring attention to important social issues.

The Baxter Society has invited women writers to submit their work for inclusion in the 2019 Women’s Writers Collection. The submission deadline is January 1, 2019. To learn more about the Baxter Society and the Women’s Writers Collection, visit the organization’s website at BaxterSociety.org.
CREATIVITY OF WOMEN

Continued from page 17.

In 1989, Dodge Denney, lowest head of the English department, and Dorothy Hunt, an administrator and teacher since 1956, organized a group of women writers. Mary Beth Denney, Dorothy Hunt's daughter and a former student at the University of Southern Maine, was the organizer of the group. She invited other women writers to join the group and they met on a weekly basis to discuss their work and to share their ideas. The group was named "Dodge Denney's Women's Writing Group" after the former head of the English department.

The group received funding from the state of Maine and from the National Endowment for the Arts. They also received support from various organizations such as the Maine Women's Writers Coalition and the Maine Women's Writers Center. The group published a number of books and anthologies, which were well received by the public.

The group was successful in its mission to promote the writing of women in Maine and to bring attention to the importance of women's voices in the literary world.

What's Where

Silver Screen

Because of CBW's early publication this week we are unable to add those reviews this year. Most games are added to confirm this report.

General Cinemas

Marie M. Day, St. Portland, 7:30, 9:30

Dunes effective 12/24. 

Dunes effective 11/26.

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Falls Church: 11/26.

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AIDS Support Services (MASS)
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or who are infected with
HIV/AIDS. In the US, the
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have
had been diagnosed in the United
States. Of those, 192,135 people have died from
AIDS. In that age group,
AIDS is the no, 1 killer of men between the ages of 25 and 44, and
the fifth leading cause of death for women in that age group.
Maine, a total of 3,313 cases of AIDS have
been reported, Of those, 172 have died, and it's estimated that 1,500,500 people are
infectected.
The World Health Organization has designated
Monday, Dec. 1, as the annual World AIDS
Day. HIV/AIDS — a national group of artists
- has designated a Day Without Art, A National Day of Art and Mourning.
In Portland, the day will begin with a
sacred moment at AIDS partners at Portland Museum of Art. Works in the museum's first-floor
court will be draped in black to pay tribute to
 symbols the AIDS has taken on the cultural
community. Chris Reed. 503-655-4444, Art history profes-
sor, will collaborate with students and ACT UP
Portland in a performance piece at in the museum's boardroom.
On Dec. 3, artists Paul Rodger, Johanna and Tom Will will speak on the influence AIDS has had on their work.
Each year, the event attracts thousands of visitors.
In Brunswick, MeMuseum AIDS Support Services (MASS) will hold a rememberance
service including a half-hour musical and readings. Names of those who have
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The Choral Art Society

stage

"The Key" to what?

Vintage Rep leaves questions unanswered

By John Pilebruck

Portland's Vintage Repertory Company (VRC) has a strong and deserved reputation for quality shows. But the company's current production of "The Key," a one-act by Joyce Carol Oates, doesn't measure up to their usual standards.

"The Key" is the story of a middle-aged man and woman who meet on a bar patio while waiting for a takeout order. Kit and Charlotte Tragard, played by Melissa and Mark Drury, are a marriage that's falling apart. Their relationship, however, is the lack of directorial imagination. Is Melissa's/Charlotte's relationship any different from the one between Edwin and Angelina in "The Key?"

"The Key" is a one-act, and it's the story of a man and a woman who meet on a bar patio while waiting for a takeout order. Kit and Charlotte Tragard, played by Melissa and Mark Drury, are a marriage that's falling apart. Their relationship, however, is the lack of directorial imagination. Is Melissa's/Charlotte's relationship any different from the one between Edwin and Angelina in "The Key?"

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Art & Soul continued from page 27

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The weekend of December 5th & 6th
2-8 p.m.
Short stories sought for Casco Bay Weekly's Relevant Fiction Competition

Casco Bay Weekly is accepting original, unpublished short stories or tales relevant to modern life in the Casco Bay region. A panel of three judges will choose the most compelling, well-written short stories for inclusion in Casco Bay Weekly's Relevant Fiction Issue; Feb. 11, 1993. We seek stories that rise-questions about some facet of everyday life here in the Casco Bay region. We are looking for stories that demand to be told: fiction that is evocative and finely tuned to the author's intentions. (Please do not submit stories in the "genre" traditions of erotica, fantasy, mystery, science fiction, the supernatural, reminiscence or romance.)

Submit stories in double-spaced manuscript of 1,000 words or less will be accepted until 5 p.m., Dec. 25. Longer stories will be disqualified. (The author's name, address and phone number must appear only on the cover page of the manuscript. Subsequent pages should be identified by story titles and page numbers only. Do not submit unnumbered stories. Photographs or stories of stories should be sent on a separate sheet.)

Send your manuscript by Friday, Dec. 31 to:

Casco Bay Weekly

824 Congress St.
Portland, ME 04101

Selected authors will be notified within one month. Only manuscripts accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope will be returned.

Selected stories will be presented in the Feb. 11 issue of Casco Bay Weekly. Around that time, judges, authors and CBW editors will dine together for the literary and gastronomic benefit of all concerned.

Solution to Real Puzzle #149

(Rubix)
1. Mr. October
2. Jim Factory
3. Billy Boz
4. Chuck 'n' Jerry
5. The Rainbow Place
6. Jolly Holiday
7. The Slumber Party
8. The First of May
9. The Last Chance
10. The First Wife

Solution to Out of Sight!

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person of the week

FRISKY & RIPE WOMAN, 35, SEEKS soul mate, 40 plus. I yearn the wild side but am nourished by my home, child and professional prowess. Like-minded Masters of the Universe encouraged. #1811 (12/28)

Each week, a Casco Bay Weekly personal ad is chosen as CBW's "Person of the Week" and is a newsletter, Class, movie, concert or other events. So call me. 4-1.

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