

Out and About with Rachel Morin

First Snowfall December 9, 2021



The Schooner snowplow made quick work of clearing the roadway for cars to travel through.

Our first snowfall of the year, December 9, 2021, brought more snow than we had anticipated. We saw a slight dusting of snow when we woke up early that morning.

A vague dusting and tiny flakes, not even a full flake, just little white dots were dropping on the bare ground as I looked out my window at Schooner Estates Retirement Community in Auburn.

But as the morning wore on, it was clear. This was no ordinary first snowfall of the winter season. By mid-afternoon, I decided to put on my boots, winter jacket and hat, take my camera and set out to see

what kind of snow pictures I could capture.

I saw no one about as I walked the campus covered with a white blanket. Even at mid-afternoon, no one was around, although I did see a Schooner snowplow clearing the way for possible traffic coming through. But there was no traffic about, anywhere.

It was a pleasant walk, fresh clean air, everything covered with new snow piled on car rooftops, and trucks filled with snow in the back. I saw no animals nor birds, no footprints in the snow, not a solitary person afoot.

It was cold, but not too cold, and I

really enjoyed taking the photos. After a couple hours I came in and stopped by the Camden Living Room where I saw residents gathered near the fireplace, relishing their winter comfort of a blazing fire and relaxing with friends.

The living room was full of many tenants. I couldn't get everyone in the picture with everyone spread out. But I did get a picture of two residents, Jean DiPalma, left, and Erwin Berg, enjoying the comfort of the fireplace. The Camden Living Room is a favorite gathering place for residents.

See **Snowfall**, page 9 for more photos

SERVPRO Offers Fire Safety Tips as Holidays Approach

From 2014 to 2018, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reports that U.S. fire departments were called to an estimated average of 172,900 home structure fires related to cooking each year. During the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, the number of home fires caused by cooking peaks to an average of 470 fires each day.

"These fires are tragic because they result in property damage, displacement of families, injury, and even death," says Rick Isaacson, CEO of Servpro Industries, LLC. "The thing that compounds the tragedy, though, is that there are some simple steps everyone can take to reduce the chance of a cooking fire."

The fire and water damage clean-up specialists at SERVPRO in the Auburn area urge homeowners to consider these basic guidelines for cooking safety: Never leave food unattended on a range or cooktop; that is where 61 percent of home cooking fires start. Next, never cook on the stove top when you are sleepy or intoxicated. Also, use a timer to remind yourself that you are cooking. Further, keep anything flammable—potholders, wooden utensils, towels, curtains, food wrapping—away from the stovetop. Finally, if you must leave the kitchen for any period of time, turn off the stove.

Holiday parties and large family gatherings that were postponed last year because of COVID concerns are great to look forward to, but may add distraction in the kitchen, Isaacson warns.

"Cooking is such a routine part of our days that it is easy to become complacent about these basic safety steps," says Isaacson, "but the statistics show that unattended cooking is the number one cause of home cooking fires and casualties. Whether you are cooking for the holidays or simply preparing an everyday meal, it is important to stay alert and focused on what's happening on and around your stovetop."

SERVPRO is an industry leader and provider of fire and water cleanup and restoration services. For more fire prevention and fire safety tips and information about fire and water damage restoration services, please visit www.servpro.com.

Gorham Food Pantry Updates

The Gorham Food Pantry would like to correct the article published in last week's edition of the Gorham Weekly. The information shared was not reflective of the measures that have been put into place over the last twenty months to help keep our clients safe.

At the beginning of the pandemic, the Pantry quickly pivoted to serve clients outside in the parking lot. Clients drive in and are guided to the first volunteer, who collects a bit of information from the driver's side window while the client remains in the car (number of fam-

ily members, ages of children, any food preferences / dislikes, special requests). That information is transmitted from the tablet into the pantry office where a small team of masked volunteers assembles that request and brings it outside via the ramp.

The client pulls forward to the pick-up area, and the bags are placed on a table next to their car. Once the volunteers have stepped away, the client is able to exit their car and load their groceries. If the client is unable to lift, they can open their trunk and receive help loading their groceries.

The Gorham Food Pantry is available to any Gorham resident; you need only visit during pantry hours with proof of residency (a utility bill with your name and your Gorham address on it – not a driver's license). The best way to keep up-to-date on Pantry happenings and current needs is to follow them on Facebook (Gorham Food Pantry Friends), and messages via Facebook are responded to quickly.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Red Cross: Donors Needed Now to Address Historically Low Blood Supply

PORTLAND, Maine (December 7, 2021) – Nearly two years into the pandemic, everyone has earned a holiday break with their family and friends. But as the nation gathers again for celebrations this season, the American Red Cross, which provides 40% of the country's blood, is facing historically low blood supply levels.

Busy holiday schedules, breaks from school and winter weather all contribute to a drop in blood and platelet donations this time of year. Those factors, combined with the ongoing challenges of COVID-19, make it vital for donors to make an appointment to give as soon as possible. If more donors don't come forward to give blood, some patients requiring a transfusion may potentially face delays in care. Donors are urged to schedule an appointment now by using the Red Cross Blood

Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). There is no blood donation waiting period for those who have received a flu shot or a Moderna, Pfizer or Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine or booster, so long as they are symptom-free. To encourage donors to help address the historically low blood supply this holiday season, all who come to give Dec. 17-Jan. 2 will receive an exclusive Red Cross long-sleeved T-shirt, while supplies last.

Blood drive safety
Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions – including face masks for donors and staff, regardless of vaccination status – have been implemented to help protect the health of all those in attendance. Do-

nors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities Dec. 17-Jan. 2

Androscoggin
Auburn
12/28/2021: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., East Auburn Baptist Church, 560 Park Ave
Lewiston
12/23/2021: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, 415 Lisbon St

Cumberland
Bridgton
12/21/2021: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Masonic Hall, 166 Harrison Road, Route 117
Brunswick
12/18/2021: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Midcoast-Parkview Health, 329 Maine Street

12/21/2021: 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Morong Brunswick, 314 Bath Road
12/22/2021: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., United Masonic Lodge #8, 65 Baribeau Dr
Cape Elizabeth
12/30/2021: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Saint Bartholomew Church, 8 Two Lights

Casco
12/27/2021: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Casco Village Church, 941 Meadow Road
Falmouth
12/30/2021: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., The Episcopal Church of St. Mary, 43 Foreside Rd

Freeport
12/22/2021: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Hilton Garden Inn Freeport, 5 Park Street
Scarborough
12/29/2021: 2 p.m. - 7 p.m., Public Safety Building, 275 US-1
12/29/2021: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Public Safety Building, 275 US-1

South Portland
12/20/2021: 9 a.m.

- 1:30 p.m., American Legion Post #35, 413 Broadway

12/22/2021: 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Eastpoint Christian Church, 345 Clarks Pond Pkwy

12/22/2021: 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Portland Sheraton at Sable Oaks, 200 Sable Oaks Drive

12/28/2021: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Maine Mall, 366 Maine Mall Road

Standish
12/18/2021: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Living Stone Community Church, 711 Osipee Trail W

Westbrook
12/30/2021: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Westbrook Community Center, 426 Bridge Street

Windham
12/22/2021: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., North Windham Veterans Center, 35 Veterans Memorial Drive

Yarmouth
12/30/2021: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., Yarmouth Town Hall, 200 Main Street

Franklin
Farmington
12/30/2021: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church, 612 Farmington Falls Rd.

Oxford
Norway
12/29/2021: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Stephens Memorial Hospital, Ripley Medical Building, 193 Main St

Oxford
12/27/2021: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., American Legion Post 112, 169 King Street, P.O. Box 712

Sagadahoc
Bath
12/29/2021: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., YMCA, 303 Centre Street

Topsham
12/20/2021: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., ARC Mid Coast Chapter, 16 Community Way

12/21/2021: 11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., American Legion Post 202, 79 Foreside Road

12/27/2021: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., ARC Mid Coast Chapter, 16 Community Way

York
Alfred
12/22/2021: 1 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Masonic Hall, 165 Waterboro Road

Kennebunk
12/21/2021: 12 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Saint Marthas Church, 34 Portland Rd.

Kennebunkport
12/28/2021: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., American Legion, 102 Main Street

Lebanon
12/18/2021: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Lebanon Fire and EMS, 3 Upper Cross Road

Ocean Park
12/29/2021: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Oceanwood, 17 Royal Street

Saco
12/20/2021: 12 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Central Fire Station, 271 North Street

Sanford
12/27/2021: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., North Parish Church, 893 Main Street

Save time during donation

Donors can also save up to 15 minutes at the blood drive by completing a RapidPass®. With RapidPass®, donors complete the pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of donation, from a mobile device or computer. To complete a RapidPass®, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Red Cross Blood Donor App. To donate blood, individuals need to bring a blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification that are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eli-

gible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also must meet certain height and weight requirements.

Health insights for donors

At a time when health information has never been more important, the Red Cross is screening all blood, platelet and plasma donations from self-identified African American donors for the sickle cell trait. This additional screening will provide Black donors with an additional health insight and help the Red Cross identify compatible blood types more quickly to help patients with sickle cell disease who require trait-negative blood. Blood transfusion is an essential treatment for those with sickle cell disease, and blood donations from individuals of the same race, ethnicity and blood type have a unique ability to help patients fighting sickle cell disease.

Donors can expect to receive sickle cell trait screening results, if applicable, within one to two weeks through the Red Cross Blood Donor App and the online donor portal at RedCrossBlood.org.

About the American Red Cross -- The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or cruzrojaamericana.org, or visit us on Twitter at @RedCross.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Gratitude for Raffle Contestants in Barbara Bush Children's Hospital



New England Division National Vice Commandant David Porter accepted the wooden flag presented by Commandant Charles Paul. Dave accepted for JR, who was the winner, but was unable to pick up flag because he was sick. JR is the CFO for the New England Division Marine Corps League. Also pictured is Paul St Pierre who is Charles Paul's Aide-de-Camp.

Charles Paul would like to send a "Thank You" to everyone who purchased a raffle ticket to help support the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital raf-

fle. They will be presenting a check in the amount of \$1750 to the Hospital thanks to the contributions of all participants. Paul expresses, "Thank you to

all who have help me succeed. You are all awesome. Semper Fi to my Marines, Woof Woof to my Devil Dogs, and a hearty thank you to everyone else."

Wabanaki Winter Market Returns with In-person Shopping and Events



Passamaquoddy Pack Purse by Gabriel Frey, basketmaker, and Nisa Smiley, jeweler, 2017. The top features mussel shells set in silver and splints dyed with cochineal and logwood. Photo courtesy of the University of Maine Hudson Museum.

Orono — The Wabanaki Winter Market, a celebration of art created by Wabanaki artists, returned with in-person shopping and demonstrations on Saturday, December 11th at the University of Maine Collins Center for the Arts.

This year marked the 27th anniversary of this signature holiday event, sponsored by the UMaine Hudson Museum and the Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance (MIBA). The show featured 25 Passamaquoddy, Penobscot, Maliseet and Micmac artists who created brown ash and sweetgrass baskets, birchbark containers, and jewelry, among other traditional works. MIBA participants included new and nationally award-winning basket weavers.

During the market, Gal Frey, a Passamaquoddy artist, read "The First Blade of Sweetgrass," written by her son Gabriel Frey and daughter-in-law Suzanne Greenlaw. Gabriel and Suzanne, a Ph.D. student with the

UMaine School of Forest Resources, and held a book signing afterward.

Last year's Wabanaki Winter Market was held virtually, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, with an online artist directory and livestreamed demonstrations.

"The Hudson Museum was excited to host the first in-person market since the Holiday Show held in December 2019," said Hudson Museum Director Gretchen Faulkner. "The event provided the public with an opportunity to purchase Wabanaki art directly from the artists and to learn about these ancient traditions."

Per University of Maine System health and safety guidance, attendees were required to wear face coverings indoors, regardless of vaccination status, and show

evidence of a COVID-19 vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of arrival. For more information on the event, please visit the Hudson Museum website.

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Gorham WEEKLY

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Camden National Bank Recognizes Six 2021 Leaders & Luminaries Awardees with \$25,000 in Nonprofit Grants

Camden, Maine, December 10, 2021 –Camden National Bank announced its 2021 Leaders & Luminaries Awardees and provided \$25,000 in grants for their respective organizations. The 2021 honorees include: Kim Pittman from Maine Volunteer Lawyers Project, Shannon Richards from Maine Crafts Association, Pam Dyer Stewart from Women for Healthy Rural Living, and Barbara Wirth from Maine Boys to Men.

Camden National Bank aims to shine a light on board members who demonstrate innovative thinking and outstanding board governance. Since 2011, Camden National Bank has donated \$200,000 to 54 Maine nonprofits, with Leaders & Luminaries Awards presented to board directors who have gone above and beyond to make an impact on our communities.

“Over the last couple of years, nonprofits have been forced to rethink, restructure and adapt in order to address the unexpected circumstances that came their way as a result of the pandemic. It’s during these trying times



Desiree Tyrrell

that effective board governance is imperative,” said Greg Dufour, President & CEO of Camden National Bank. “It’s with great privilege that we get to honor and recognize these dedicated board directors who continue to drive positive change in our communities.”

Camden National Bank’s independent selection committee narrowed the pool of nominations

down to four Leaders & Luminaries Award Winners, each receiving \$5,000 grants. This year, Camden National Bank will also be recognizing two additional winners: Spotlight Award and an Emerging Leader Award, each receiving \$2,500 grants. Donations were funded through the bank’s private charitable foundation, The Bank of Maine Foundation

2021 Leaders &



Kaylee Wolfe

Luminaries Award Winners:

Kim Pittman, Board Chair, Maine Volunteer Lawyers Project (Portland, ME): Kim Pittman was a pro bono volunteer lawyer for years, so when the Maine Volunteer Lawyers Project became an independent organization, Kim was a natural choice for the board, bringing both litigation experience and a positive, can-do attitude. She became Board Chair in 2020, and early into her new position, Kim rose to the challenge after unexpectedly losing their Executive Director in the middle of the pandemic. She made sure operations ran smoothly, attended to and supported staff, and thanks to her leadership, the board was mobilized to help. “During this time, she remained a steadfast volunteer for our legal clinics, and was always a reliable, positive, energetic force for all of the staff at the organization,” according to the interim Executive Director, Elizabeth Stout. Kim’s dedi-

cation and efforts resulted in an organization that has emerged stronger and better equipped to meet the needs of Mainers for access to legal assistance.

Shannon Richards, Board President, Maine Crafts Association (Gardiner, ME): Shannon Richards, a business owner who serves as Board President, an active committee member, donor, attendee, customer and volunteer of Maine Crafts Association (MCA), originally joined the board in 2018. Her passion for the MCA mission dovetails with her belief in artists and arts organizations as economic drivers, the glue of communities and leaders of positive change. Shannon has a passion for bringing what she loves – Maine, craftspeople, craft traditions, and world-renowned craftsmanship – together and sharing them with others. In response to the pandemic, Shannon used her problem-solving skills to find new income streams for MCA, and developed East End Vend in the summer



Barbara Wirth

of 2020. The bi-weekly event allows artists, farmers, and foodies to have an outdoor market to safely sell their goods directly to a large number of people. As the organization strives to become a more diverse, equitable and inclusive organization, Shannon has begun the process of recruiting board members who support this diversity work. As Board President, Shannon is deeply dedicated to MCA’s mission, while supporting the organization viability, sustainability, and DEI work.

Pam Dyer Stewart, Board Member, Women for Healthy Rural Living (Milbridge, ME): Being a home-birth midwife, Pam Dyer Stewart has been committed to helping women and families in Downeast Maine for many years. It was fitting when Pam joined the Women for Healthy Rural Living’s board in 2009, which allows her to extend her reach to impact an even greater community of women in all age groups. Thanks to Pam’s vision, passion and commitment, the organization established its most successful project, Incredible Edible Milbridge (IEM), which is a series of public vegetable gardens and education initiatives designed to create

See Leaders, next page

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Leaders

Continued from previous page

a community that is stronger, healthier, and more food independent. Pam saw the need and importance to involve children in IEM, so she worked closely with the schools to fully integrate IEM into their curriculum. In addition to growing programs, Pam has taken a thoughtful approach to diversify the organization's board membership, bringing on members of a younger demographic and from different ethnicities. It is because of Pam's guidance, wisdom and commitment that Women for Healthy Rural Living is growing and thriving.

Barbara Wirth, Board Member, Maine Boys to Men (Portland, ME): Barbara was inspired by Maine Boys to Men's mission to engage youth and youth-serving adults and raise their awareness of gender bias and violence using engagement, education and prevention strategies. She joined the Board after a career first as a pediatrician and then as a health policy director working with multiple states and the federal government to better support families and children with special needs. Soon after joining, Barbara was asked to Chair the Programming Committee and, under her leadership, the committee is leading an important process to more effectively collect data and measure the impact of Maine Boys to Men's multiple programs. These evaluation and research processes are instrumental for strategically modifying existing and future programs. She also stepped up to Chair the Hiring Committee when searching for their current Executive Director. She built out procedures, including interviewing protocols and scoring criteria, to ensure it was an effective process. Barbara's exceptional commit-



Kim Pittman

ment and significant contributions will continue to have a positive impact on the success of Maine Boys to Men.

2021 Spotlight Award:

Desiree Tyrrell, Board Chair, Wabanaki Women's Coalition (Orono, ME): As Board Chair, Desiree Tyrrell serves as a visionary for the Wabanaki Women's Coalition (WWC), which strives to increase the capacity of tribal communities to respond to domestic and sexual violence, and influence tribal, national and regional systems to increase awareness, safety, justice, and healing for all our relations. Desiree, a member of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Indian Township, is dedicated to ending gender-based violence, as demonstrated by her position as Director of the Indian Township Passamaquoddy Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center. She works tirelessly to ensure WWC has the right platforms on a regional and national level to speak on behalf of the Wabanaki Tribes about issues such as domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, sex trafficking, and most recently Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). Desiree is a valuable role model for other advocates, staff and community members, and inspires others by fos-

tering a work environment based on safety, cultural relevance, trustworthiness, collaboration and empowerment.

2021 Emerging Leader Award:

Kaylee Wolfe, Executive Director, Speak About It (Portland, ME): Kaylee Wolfe began with Speak About It as its first employee, and has been an educator, a program coordinator, and is now serving as a board member. Kaylee is Chair of the Development Committee as Board Vice President, and is responsible for developing and implementing a Board Fundraising Plan to help the organization grow sustainably and equitably. In her role as Vice President, she is co-leading the Executive Director's first ever review with the Board President, which is vital to developing the leadership at the organization. As a former employee, Kaylee works hard through her service on the Executive Committee to make sure the staff is heard, collaboratively developing, and has listening channels in place. It's apparent through all of Kaylee's work that she is committed to and focused on systems that support equity, centers staff voices, and sets Speak It Up for long-term success.

Camden National Corporation (NASDAQ:-CAC) is the largest publicly traded bank holding com-



Pam Dyer Stewart

pany in Northern New England with \$5.2 billion in assets and approximately 600 employees. Camden National Bank, its subsidiary, is a full-service community bank founded in 1875 in Camden, Maine. Dedicated to customers at every stage of their financial journey, the bank offers the latest in digital banking, complemented by personalized service with 58 banking centers, 24/7 live phone support, 68 ATMs, and additional lending offices in New

Hampshire and Massachusetts. For the past three years, Camden National Bank was named a Customer Experience (CX) Leader by independent research firm, Greenwich Associates. In 2021, it received awards in two CX categories: U.S. Retail Banking and U.S. Commercial Small Business. The Finance Authority of Maine has awarded Camden National Bank as Lender at Work for Maine for eleven years, and the bank was included in the 2021 list of Best Places to Work in Maine. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender.

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Shannon Richards




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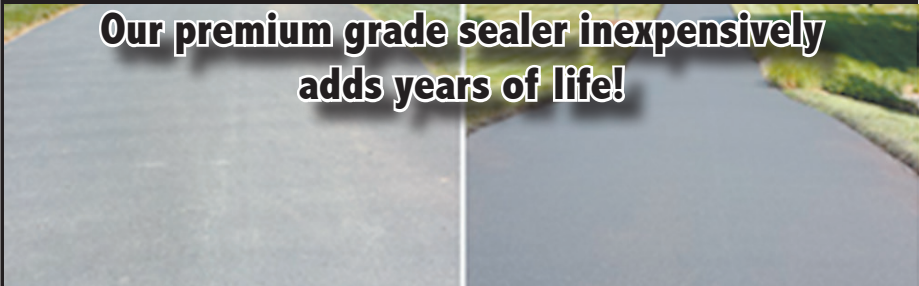


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Arts & Entertainment

Gift Ideas for the Outdoor Enthusiast in your Life



A season pass to the Maine Wildlife Park or Swan Island

Experiences make great gifts! Purchase a season pass to the Maine Wildlife Park where you can see over 30 species or to Swan Island for a relaxing, nature-filled getaway.

A pass to a workshop to learn something new

Becoming an Outdoors Woman Winter skills workshop day, Saturday, February 5th - Join a group of women to learn about winter wildlife watching, snowshoeing, ice fishing, fly tying, and more.

Winter SustainME Workshop - Open to ALL adults, Saturday, February 19th - Gain hands on experience maple sugaring, rifle shooting, snowshoeing, ice fishing, and more!

You can also find various programs at L.L.Bean's Outdoor Discovery School as well as locally

run programs such as fly casting lessons with Maine guides and more.

Book a hunt, fishing trip, or adventure with a registered Maine guide

Registered Maine guides have a lifetime of experience and are happy to bring all ages and experience levels on a Maine adventure. If your favorite outdoor enthusiast has wanted to try hunting a different species, go on an unforgettable fishing trip, or enjoy a canoe trip, a guided experience is a perfect gift. An added bonus, you are supporting a small Maine business.

Ice fishing gear

Starting a new hobby can be both exciting and intimidating; luckily, ice fishing is a winter hobby that can be enjoyed with a few pieces of equipment and there are endless opportunities throughout the state. Many anglers start out with the essentials and

add more gear over time (second hand gear is a great option!).

Make a donation, make a difference

'Tis the season to give! Help support Maine's wildlife programs by purchasing: A birder band that can be proudly worn on a binocular strap to show support for bird conservation; A Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund lottery ticket; or donate to the Endangered and Non-Game Wildlife Fund. To thank you for your support, you will receive a set including a mug, poster and magnet featuring artwork by Mark McCollough.

2022 Hunting or fishing license

A new year of hunting and fishing opportunity in Maine is upon us! 2022 Hunting and Fishing license are now available to purchase ONLINE or from one of over 800 licensing agents across the state. Lifetime licenses also make a great

gift!

Mammals of Maine print

Know someone who loves Maine's wildlife? The new Mammals of Maine print is a perfect addition to any home or camp.

Outdoor Partners Program hat and decal

Along with opting to support Maine's landowners by becoming a Member of the Outdoor Partners Program, you can also purchase Outdoors Partners hats and decals to proudly display your continued appreciation for access to privately owned land in Maine.

To learn more about the Outdoors Partners Program, visit mefishwildlife.com/outdoorpartners

MDIFW logo gear and apparel

Our online store features logo merchandise including hats, t-shirts, drinkware, and more! Like many other stores this sea-

son, we have limited supply and encourage you to place your order as soon as possible. Orders should be placed by Monday, December 13th if you wish to receive it by December 25th.

Proceeds from the sale of logo merchandise support MDIFW outreach and education programs, and these purchases are a great way to show your support of and love for Maine's fish and wildlife.

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Dempsey Center Announces Cara Valentino as Next CEO

The Dempsey Center Board of Directors announced Cara Valentino as the new CEO + President of the Dempsey Center, which focuses on making life better for people impacted by cancer.

Valentino is a certified executive coach and organizational development consultant, with more than 25 years of experience across the public, private, and social sectors. Her expertise includes partnering with teams to shape and bring their visions into reality. Most recently, Valentino served as Director of Consulting at The Clearing in Washington DC where she was integral in setting the vision and conditions to grow the consulting staff; building inclusive, diverse, and equitable teams that achieve high-performance and resilience; and providing strategic thought partnership and people-inspired solutions to a diverse client set. "I appreciate the board's confidence in me, and I am honored to have the opportunity to lead such an inspiring organization," said Valentino. She noted her desire to be part of the meaningful work happening at the Center, providing a haven of sup-

port to people impacted by cancer, and looks forward to guiding the organization through this next phase of growth. "I'm especially grateful to Wendy Tardif for her leadership. The Dempsey Center is strong today because of her tireless work over the past 13 years."

Patrick Dempsey, Center Founder, echoed Valentino's gratitude. "I want to thank Wendy for all her time and dedication over the years. Since the beginning she has been an instrumental part in the growth and development of the Center. We would not be where we are today without her."

Board Chair Tim Griffin said this is a watershed moment for the organization. "Cara will be a wonderful asset for the Center," said Griffin. "Her extensive experience coaching individuals and teams, her passion for the work, and her deep curiosity and nuanced understanding of the human experience of change make her an exceptional next leader for the Dempsey Center."

Wendy Tardif, who has served as CEO + President for the Center for the last 11 years and 2 years

as Dempsey Challenge Event Manager, said she is confident Cara is the right person, at the right time, to lead the Center. "It has been an honor to serve as the Executive Director, and work with an incredible staff, passionate volunteers, dedicated board, and committed community partners and donors," said Tardif, whose service laid the foundation for the Center's current success and readied the organization for this next phase of growth. "There is still much work to do," said Tardif, "and I am excited for what's next under Cara's leadership."

About the Dempsey Center - The Dempsey Center makes life better for people impacted by cancer. With locations in South Portland, Lewiston, and now through a third, virtual center Dempsey Connects, Dempsey Center services help individuals and families maintain physical and emotional wellness as they deal with a cancer diagnosis. Understanding that cancer impacts the whole family, the Dempsey Center also provides specialized services for children, teens and their families. All services are provided at no cost.

Flooding Can Happen at any time: Where it can Rain, It can Flood

Taking steps to prepare your home, business, and car for flood damage can save you large amounts of money when it comes time to assess the flooding's impact.

According to FEMA, flooding has the most potential of any natural disaster to cause major damage worldwide. Information released by the organization in February of 2020 notes that for the last ten years, "floods alone have cost over \$155 billion in property damages".

Tips:

Know your local flood zones. Local government will often have flood maps that show which areas are prone to flooding. Knowing if your house or business is located in flood zones will help you best prepare and know what kind of damage to expect.

Renovate your basement and its wiring. For those looking to prepare with plenty of time in advance, consider hiring a professional (see tips below) to waterproof your basement and raise your electrical systems and appliances high enough to avoid the average flood levels of your area. A sump pump can remove standing water— make sure it has a

battery back up.

Check your plumbing. During floods, the rising water can push sewage the wrong direction through your plumbing, causing wastewater to come through your drains, toilets, and sinks. Make sure your house or business has backwater (or backflow) valves to stop sewer back ups. Stay proactive to keep your pipes clear to avoid blockage.

Install a water alarm. Water alarms can alert you to flooding in lower levels of your house or business, especially useful during flash floods or nighttime flooding.

Regularly clean your drains and gutters. If your drainage systems are blocked, water can cause extra damage as it accumulates. Making sure your drainage systems are clean will help keep rain and floodwater from rising at your home.

Secure your outdoor belongings. When your weather service alerts you to the potential of flooding, secure indoors your porch and backyard belongings that could be washed away during a flood before evacuation.

Elevate your indoor belongings. Besides taking irreplaceable and vital

information with you, other valuables or expensive items should be elevated as much as possible. Move furniture, valuables, and appliances above the expected flood level, like to the upper floors of your house.

Learn to turn off your utilities and water safely. Water, gas, and electricity don't mix in flooding, and can cause devastating and unsafe conditions for your home. Learning how to safely turn off your gas, water, and electricity can save you from major damage to your home and business. In the case of a flood warning, shut off your breakers, gas, and water, and unplug everything from the walls if you can do so safely. Never try to turn off or use electricity if you have to stand in water to do so. Never walk into a flooded room if you believe there may be live outlets, appliances, wires, or cords, and avoid touching items connected to live electricity when you're wet.

Visit <http://BBB.org/flood> to get access to resources for individuals and businesses regarding flooding. They have resources to help you prepare for flooding, dealing with any damages, finding a trusted professional, and much more.

Apply Today to be a Deputy Game Warden this Summer

The Maine Warden Service is now hiring seasonal Deputy Game Wardens. These positions are part time positions, from May 9, 2022 to the end of August. Deputy Game Wardens are assigned to specific bodies of water to enforce recreational boating rules and regulations.

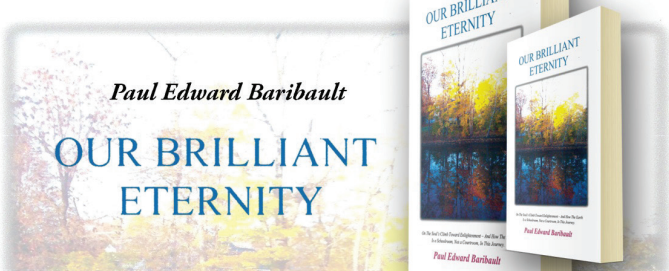
Deputies will be assigned to the Sebago Lakes Region, Belgrade Lakes Region, or Moosehead

Lake Region depending on operational need. It will be expected that these Deputy Game Wardens will work in state issued watercraft, patrolling specific bodies of water. The Deputy's primary mission will include educating the boating public, handing out department-sponsored literature, issuing warnings and summonses for boating violations. This is certified, uniformed

law enforcement work as a member of the Maine Warden Service.

The hiring process is open until December 20, 2021.

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



Paul Edward Baribault
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Out and About with Rachel Morin

Continued from page 1



Here are Jean DiPalma, left, and Erwin Berg, residents enjoying the comfort and ambiance of a cozy fireplace in the Camden Living Room at Schooner Estates. It is a favorite gathering place for the residents at Schooner.



The Schooner Fleet was idle a short while as no one was going anywhere.



One of the buildings at Schooner Estates had its front yard garden shrubs covered with snow.



Here is the entrance to the Schooner Estates Retirement Community off Stetson Road in Auburn in a pretty winter setting.



These two snow covered trees overlook the enclosed wooden garden plots that residents have for gardening in the summer time. The garden plots have beautiful spring, summer and autumn flowers every year.



Tenants' cars were covered in snow in one of the parking lots at Schooner Estates Retirement Community. Soon, maintenance workers were clearing the cars of snow.

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Joanne Campbell Named EVP, Enterprise Risk Management and Chief Risk Officer at Camden National Bank

Camden, Maine, December 9, 2021 – Camden National Bank announced Joanne Campbell has been named Executive Vice President, Enterprise Risk Management and Chief Risk Officer for Camden National Bank. Her appointment represents the continued evolution of risk management at Camden National Bank and its commitment to mitigating and minimizing risks to the bank and its constituents. Campbell will oversee cyber and information security, physical security and fraud, compliance and Bank Secrecy Act responsibilities, audit, corporate governance and the bank's in-house counsel.

"Joanne has led our risk management efforts for several years, and naming her Chief Risk Officer reflects her commitment as well as superior performance in this important area," said Greg Dufour, President and CEO of Camden National Bank. "Risk management in financial institutions has exponentially changed over the past several years and Joanne is a recognized leader in this area, both within our organization and the industry. We are



fortunate to have her vast experience, leadership and expertise as we work toward achieving this key strategic objective."

Campbell, a Certified Regulatory Compliance Manager (CRCM), has nearly 40 years of financial industry expertise, spanning executive reporting and information management programs. She is highly skilled in lending and credit risk management, audit oversight, regulatory compliance, and risk alignment. For the past 10 years, she served as EVP, Risk Management at Camden National Bank, to ensure risk associated with strategy, operations and

compliance are adequately monitored and managed.

Campbell joined the Company in 1996 as Vice President, Manager of Residential Real Estate. She was promoted to Senior Vice President, Compliance, Audit & CRA in 2002, and then to Senior Vice President, Risk Management in 2005 and to Executive Vice President in January 2011. Ms. Campbell currently serves as the Chair of the American Bankers Association Risk Management Conference Advisory Board. She received both her B.S. Business Administration degree and her M.S. in Business from Husson College.

Letter To The Editor

Maine's 126,842 military veterans and active-duty service members are at risk of being targeted by scammers. According to a new AARP report, veterans, military, and their families are nearly 40% more likely to lose money to scams and fraud than the civilian population. Additionally, four out of five military/veteran adults were targeted by scams directly related to their military service or the benefits they receive.

Scammers often use military jargon and specific government guidelines to craft an effective pitch to steal money from military members

and veterans. One in three military/veteran adults reported losing money to these types of service-related scams.

To make scams easier to spot, AARP's Fraud Watch Network recommends signing up for the National Do Not Call Registry and using a call-blocking service. Additional measures include: using strong and unique passwords for each online account; using two-factor authentication when available; and placing a free security freeze on credit reports at each of the three major credit bureaus. Also, veterans never have to pay for their service records or earned

benefits—if told otherwise, it's a scam.

There are resources out there to help: Operation Protect Veterans—a joint program of the AARP Fraud Watch Network and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service—helps Maine's veterans, service members and their families to protect against fraud. The Fraud Watch Network also offers biweekly fraud alerts and a free helpline (877-908-3360) through which veterans, military and the public can report suspected scams.

Phil Chin
AARP Maine Fraud Watch Volunteer, Falmouth

Cabin fever got you down? Escape with Maine's most intriguing Hermit.

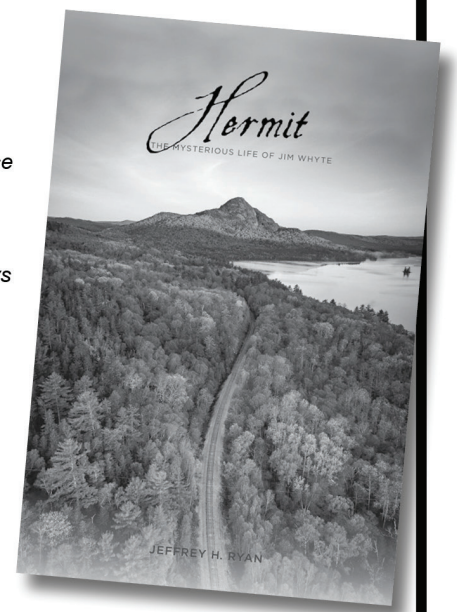
"Ryan is an excellent storyteller, and this tale is as good as any novel, especially since it's based on real people and real events."

— Bill Bushnell, *Bushnell on Books*

"I can tell you it will not take you many days to read, because you won't be able to put it down. I wasn't surprised when *Hermit* was named a top pick for 2019 on a December Maine Calling show on Maine Public Radio."

— George Smith, *Bangor Daily News*

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Camden National Bank Announces \$5,000 Grand Prize Winner



Camden, ME, December 8, 2021 – Camden National Bank recently announced the Grand Prize winner of its eight-week fall “Choose It. Use It. Win It.” sweepstakes. Briana Bartlett, from Vinalhaven, Maine, won \$5,000 in November for using her debit card during the sweepstakes’ promotional period.

In addition to the grand prize, Camden National Bank awarded forty \$100 prizes to customers over an eight-week period, totaling \$9,000 in prizes.

“The sweepstakes is a fun and exciting way to engage with our consumer customers and reward them simply for making everyday purchases with their debit card,” said Renée Smyth, Chief Experience and Marketing Officer at Camden National Bank. “We congratulate all of our winners, and we’re especially happy for Briana, our Grand Prize winner. The sweepstakes was a huge success for all.”

Camden National Bank’s Vinalhaven banking center hosted a celebration for Briana where she accepted her prize from

Banking Center Manager Juanita Paparello. “I am very excited. My husband and I are going through an adoption for our son, so we put money towards that, as well as towards a new car,” Briana said. She was incredibly thankful for the surprising win.

As a community bank, Camden National Bank takes pride in opportunities to give back to its loyal customers. Camden National Bank offers a comprehensive array of financial products and services, complemented by personal service and the latest in digital banking technology. Their unique checking account offerings are known for providing cash-back rewards on everyday consumer debit card purchases.

American Heroes Cup Campaign Launched for 2021

Wreaths Across America (WAA) and Mission BBQ announced the start of the “American Heroes Cup” campaign to raise funds to sponsor veterans’ wreaths to be placed on National Wreaths Across America Day in December of 2022.

Through the end of 2021, for every American Heroes Cup purchased at any of the restaurant’s 110 locations, \$2 will be donated to WAA. In 2020, Mission BBQ customers raised \$362,320 for WAA through its American Heroes Cup campaign, sponsoring the placement of more than 36,000 veterans’ wreaths in memory of our nation’s veterans – these wreaths will be placed by volunteers at more than 90 participat-

ing cemeteries this year on National Wreaths Across America Day on Saturday, December 18th, 2021.

“We owe everything to our nation’s veterans, who have risked all that a person can to defend and protect this country,” said Bill Kraus, co-founder of Mission BBQ. “It’s an honor to provide support to Wreaths Across America in remembering the fallen and thanking military families for their sacrifices.”

Bill Kraus and Steve Newton opened the first Mission BBQ restaurant in a Baltimore suburb in 2011, on the 10th anniversary of the September 11th terror attacks. In opening the restaurant, they sought to Serve, Honor and Thank American heroes for their sacrifices and service by donating a significant portion of the restaurant’s profits to the community’s military non-profit groups and charity organizations that support police officers and firefighters. Since its founding in 2011, Mission BBQ has opened 109 additional locations in 17 states.

WAA began in 1992 in Harrington, Maine, when the Worcester Wreath Company sought to turn a surplus of 5,000 holiday wreaths into an opportunity to pay tribute to our country’s veterans. With the help of then Maine Senator Olympia Snowe, the company’s owner, Morrill Worcester, arranged for the surplus wreaths to be placed at Arlington National Cemetery as a tribute to our country’s veterans. The tradition has continued and over the last 30 years, the event has grown in scope, touching the lives

of thousands of veterans’ families and volunteers. In 2020 alone, Wreaths Across America and its national network of volunteers laid over 1.7 million veterans’ wreaths at more than 2,500 participating locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea, and abroad.

“Remember the fallen, Honor those who serve and teach our children about the cost and value of freedom — that is our year-long mission,” said Karen Worcester, Executive Director of Wreaths Across America. “Mission BBQ demonstrates this mission in how they conduct business in the communities they serve. Sharing stories of American heroes, treating our nation’s veterans with the dignity and respect they deserve, while teaching the next generation, every day. We are honored to be a program worthy of their support and grateful for their customers who also support this mission.”

American Heroes Cups are available year-round, currently retailing at \$3.99 with \$2 of every cup purchased donated to a charity supporting veterans and first-responders. Now through December 31st, 2021, proceeds from the American Heroes Cups will be donated to WAA. Customers are encouraged to bring back their American Heroes Cup on return visits to the restaurant to receive \$.99 refills. To find a Mission BBQ location near you visit: <https://mission-bbq.com/locations>. National Wreaths Across America Day is a free event and open to all people. For more information, visit www.wreathscrossamerica.org.

Build a Better Winter with the WinterKids App

The annual WinterKids App membership is now available. Families who purchase a membership and download the app will have access to offers on lift tickets, equipment rentals, gear, special family days, and much more at over 80 recreational areas and retailers across Maine. New offers are added to the app regularly throughout the winter and in the off-season.

This is the fourth year of the WinterKids App, which replaced the Passport paper booklet. Users can register up to five family members for \$40. The app is available for all kids 17 and younger. Offers vary within the app, and new of-

fers are available regularly. “The WinterKids App membership is an incredible opportunity for Maine families to get outside and be active together this winter,” says WinterKids Executive Director Julie Mulkern.

There are three steps to gaining access to these wintertime deals: First, interested families can view a list of app partner areas and purchase their membership online at winterkids.org/winterkids-app. Next, they can create family profiles for their account, which can include up to four children and/or other family members. Last, they can download the app onto a mobile device.

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Thursday, December 16
GORHAM –Tentative Recurring CIP Meeting. Room TBD at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 16
GORHAM –Tentative Board of Appeals Meeting Council Chambers at 6:30 p.m.

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

Tuesday, December 21
GORHAM –Tentative Recurring Town Council Workshop Council Chambers at 6:30 p.m.

Friday, December 24
GORHAM –Municipal Center, Administrative Offices & Library closed in observance of Christmas.

Wednesday, December 29
GREENE – “What Do Animals do in Winter?” program from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at 303 South River Road, Greene.

Friday, December 31
GORHAM –Municipal Center, Administrative Offices & Library closed in observance of New Year’s Day.

MaineHealth Innovation announces first recipients of its \$100,000 Bonfire Fund

PORTLAND, Maine – MaineHealth Innovation will be investing \$100,000 through its inaugural Bonfire Fund in two innovations designed to improve the care of patients. The innovations receiving funding are a robotic clot retriever to improve the way neurosurgeons clear blood clots from brains, and the Collapsible Aerosolized Particle Enclosure (CAPE), a portable negative pressure isolation tent that fits over patient beds to help contain infectious particles.

The Bonfire Fund was created by MaineHealth as part of its not-for-profit mission of researching new ways to provide care. The idea is to foster and accelerate innovations by care team members to the point where additional external funding can be secured. Recipients are companies founded by MaineHealth care team members and are chosen by a multi-disciplinary group of reviewers from across MaineHealth and its strategic partners. Innovations are judged on if they provide a novel solution to unmet care needs that can be scaled to benefit the larger community.

“The Bonfire Fund is far more than just a

monetary investment in our innovators,” said Susan Ahern, Vice President of Innovation at MaineHealth. “Fund recipients benefit from connections to experts both within MaineHealth and in the larger community that can help them overcome technical or business challenges.”

Both Bonfire Fund recipients previously received \$20,000 seed grants through MaineHealth Innovation’s Ignite Fund, which began in 2020. The Ignite Fund supports earlier stage innovations.

The robotic clot retriever is a partnership between MaineHealth neurosurgeons Rob Ecker, M.D., M.B.A., and Jeffrey Florman, M.D., and Mohsen Shahinpoor, Ph.D., a mechanical engineering professor of the University of Maine. Drs. Ecker and Florman were looking for a better tool to help surgeons remove blood clots from the brain and discovered Dr. Shahinpoor’s Ionic Polymer Metal Composites (IPMCs), electric “smart” materials that can function like human muscle. They hope IPMCs will offer surgeons a fuller range of motion to retrieve clots.

“The Bonfire Fund will allow us to further progress our prototyping

towards a device that will be a first in human trial,” Dr. Ecker said.

The CAPE innovation was the idea of two emergency medicine chief residents at Maine Medical Center, Liz Hamilton, M.D. and Katie Main, M.D., who were looking for a way to isolate COVID patients as they were waiting to be admitted to a negative-pressure room. As experienced campers, they brought their idea of creating a tent-like structure for hospital beds to attending physician Samir Haydar, D.O., who encouraged them to develop it. MaineHealth Innovation connected the team with Thermoformed Plastics of New England and Baker Company, who made significant improvements to their early prototype made from plastic and PVC pipe. Now, the team plans to use its Bonfire Fund investment to obtain Emergency Use Authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and plan a clinical trial.

“The Bonfire Fund is going to make all the difference,” Dr. Haydar said. “Our collaborative group has the expertise, but without these seed funds, this project just wouldn’t have been able to move on to the

next level of development. MaineHealth’s support and the clinical environment within is ripe for innovations like ours.”

In addition to the \$100,000 in Bonfire Fund investments, MaineHealth also made \$20,000 Ignite Fund investments in four innovations by care team members:

Bethany Sweet, CCLS, a child life specialist at The Barbara Bush Children’s Hospital at Maine Medical Center, is designing a fully-functioning replicated port-a-catheter called “Play Portal” to help pediatric patients prepare for the procedure through play.

Theresa Roelke, APRN-AGPCNP, a nurse practitioner at Maine Medical Center, is developing a 3D educational tool called a “Pocket Nodule-Lung” that providers can use to explain to patients the size and type of lung nodules that may be found during a lung screening.

Will Connolly, R.N., an emergency medicine nurse at Maine Medical Center, is designing a compact, cost-effective suction device called “Rescue Vac” to clear a patient’s airway in situations where more sophisticated suction devices are not easily ac-

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Sunil Malhotra, M.D., a cardiothoracic surgeon and medical director at Maine Medical Center, is developing a graft to better direct blood flow in patients with single ventricle congenital heart disease.

“Innovation is one of MaineHealth’s six values and an integral part of its mission of caring for our community, educating tomorrow’s caregivers and researching new ways to provide care,” said Doug Sawyer, M.D., Ph.D., MaineHealth Chief Academic Officer and interim Chief Medical Officer. “These funds are one way we help foster a culture of innovation throughout our organization in keeping with our vision of working together so our communities are the healthiest in America.”

MaineHealth plans to continue its Innovation Fund investments with another round of applications in 2022.

MaineHealth is a not-for-profit integrated health system consisting of nine local hospital systems, a comprehensive behavioral healthcare network, diagnostic services, home health agencies, and more than 1,500 employed and independent physicians working together through the MaineHealth Medical Group. With approximately 22,000 employees, MaineHealth is the largest health system in northern New England and provides preventive care, diagnosis and treatment to 1.1 million residents in Maine and New Hampshire. It includes Franklin Memorial Hospital/Franklin Community Health Network in Farmington, LincolnHealth in Damariscotta and Boothbay Harbor, Maine Behavioral Healthcare in South Portland, MaineHealth Care at Home in Saco, Maine Medical Center in Portland, Memorial Hospital in North Conway, N.H., Mid Coast-Parkview Health in Brunswick, NorDx in Scarborough, Pen Bay Medical Center and Waldo County Hospital in Rockport and Belfast, Southern Maine Health Care in Biddeford and Sanford, Spring Harbor Hospital in Westbrook and Stephens Memorial Hospital/Western Maine Health Care in Norway. MaineHealth Affiliates include Maine General Health in Augusta and Waterville, New England Rehabilitation Hospital in Portland and St. Mary’s Regional Medical Center in Lewiston. It is also a significant stakeholder in the MaineHealth Accountable Care Organization in Portland.

ATTENTION:

THE MEMBERS OF WHITE ROCK GRANGE ARE NOT ONLY FARMERS

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The Grange located in Gorham at 33 Wilson Rd. (off rte 237) is inviting you to join us at any meeting the first Friday of the month at 7 PM.

Folks willing to put their generous hearts and open hands to raise all of their neighbors and community is the goal of the Grange since 1876. The Grange is an inclusive nonprofit organization. Local activities include but not be restricted to crafts, music, suppers, display at the Cumberland fair and quilts for veterans. Our agenda and focus is at the local level determined by the members themselves. The historical Grange Hall is the perfect building and location for doing any craft. Handicapped accessible, heat, hot water, and full kitchen.

Dues are \$26 per year.

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Day's Jewelers receives "Best Places to Work in Maine" Award



WATERVILLE, ME - For an astounding seventh year, Day's Jewelers has been named one of the Best Places to Work in Maine. Best Places to Work is a prestigious and exceptional award that recognizes 100 excellent businesses each year who go above and beyond to give their employees the best possible work environment and experience.

Started in 2006, the Best Places to Work in Maine program pays spe-

cial attention to companies' workplace policies, practices, demographics, and overall workplace environment. With 75% of the program's evaluation process coming from the direct input from active employees, Day's Jewelers truly does stand out as an exceptional workplace.

Since 1914, Day's Jewelers has held the important core principle of value. Not only does this family-owned business understand that the value of

a piece of jewelry goes so much further than just the market price of the item, but they understand what it means to value their employees. With the opinions of the employees at the forefront of every decision made at Day's, employees can feel understood and heard in their concerns and needs.

From the company's earliest years, employees remarked at what a wonderful workplace environment it was. In fact, in the mid-1900s, Day's Jeweler's current owner's father was just a young worker himself and, when discussing his father's involvement in the company, Jeff Corey (current owner of

Day's) says, "Dad always talked about how much fun they [employees] had. He was just a stock boy at first, but he always had fun at work."

Now, over a century after the first Day's was opened, this goal of a fun, rewarding workplace experience remains one of the fundamental principles of the Day's Jewelers business model. Joseph Corey, recently hired as President of Day's, represents the 3rd generation of Corey leadership.

Day's Jewelers was recognized in the October 18th edition of Mainebiz where the rankings were revealed for the first time, following a planned

awards event. For more information on the Best Places to Work in Maine program, visit www.BestPlacesToWorkME.com or contact Jackie Miller at 717-323-5237. Day's Jewelers is a Maine based family business, founded by the Davidson brothers in Portland in 1914 and employs approximately 140 people in Maine & New Hampshire. Kathy and Jeff Corey, natives of Madawaska, Maine, purchased Day's from the original founders in 1988. Day's Jewelers has eight physical store locations as well as a

full e-commerce website. All Day's locations feature full-service departments and custom jewelry designers. Day's was selected as "Retailer of the Year" by Retail Association of Maine in 2016 and "Corporate Retailer of the Year" by the Woman's Jewelers Association of America in 2017 and Maine's Family Business of the Year in 2019. The company has been selected among "Best Places to Work In Maine" for the past 6 years. To learn more about Day's Jewelers visit www.days-jewelers.com.

Maine Home Values Increased in Past Months

Lower-than-normal inventory combined with high demand for single-family existing Maine homes led to a 10.94 percent decline in sales across the state in October 2021 compared to October 2020. Maine Listings released statistics indicating a 10 percent price increase over that same time period. The median sales price (MSP) for existing single-family homes reached \$308,000 in October compared to \$280,000 one year ago. The MSP indicates that half of the homes were sold for more and half sold for less.

"Despite the lower sales volume numbers compared to 2020 for each month from July through October, demand remains extraordinary for Maine's residential real estate," says Aaron Bolster, Broker/Owner of Allied Realty in Skowhegan and 2021 President of the Maine Association of Realtors. "Available for-sale inventory is significantly low—56 percent below the pre-COVID levels of October 2019. In October of 2019, the market had a 4.5-month supply of for-sale inventory. In October 2021, we experienced a 1.8-month

supply. Buyers are quickly purchasing homes that are new to the market."

Nationally, sales of single-family existing homes dipped 5.8 percent in October 2021 compared to October 2020. According to the National Association of Realtors, last month's national MSP of \$360,800 reflects an increase of 13.5 percent. October sales in the regional Northeast declined 13.8 percent compared to October 2020, while the regional MSP rose 6.4 percent to \$379,100.

"Overall, 2021 continues to be strong for sin-

gle-family existing home sales," says Bolster. "For January – October 2021, sales are 5.54 percent higher than January – October 2020, and 11.41 percent higher than January–October 2019. The sales years of 2019 and 2020 were record-breakers for Maine. With a strong finish this year, 2021 will be another."

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