



# TWIN CITY TIMES

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## Mark your Calendars for Hike for Hospice Maine 2023



high-quality hospice care, the path doesn't have to be uphill. By participating in Hike for Hospice Maine, the memory of loved ones continues to live on through Androscoggin's Life Lives On program. Hike for Hospice Maine is more than just a walk. Every participant and every dollar raised ensures that your loved one's memory lives on through everything Androscoggin does. This event is an opportunity for the community to come together and show support for an organization committed to improving the lives of Maine residents.

"We are grateful for the generosity of our supporters and look forward to another successful event this year," said Elif Mogensen, Community Relations and Development Manager of Androscoggin. "We encourage everyone to mark their calendars and join us for a day of hiking, community building, and raising awareness about the important role hospice care plays in Maine."

Further information about registration for the Hike for Hospice Maine 2023 event will be announced soon. Contact Elif Mogensen at elif.mogensen@androscoggin.org for more information about Hike For Hospice Maine.

**LEWISTON, ME (March 6, 2023)** – Androscoggin invites the community to join them on May 13th at Pineland Farms for their annual Hike for Hospice

Maine event. The event is aimed at raising awareness about the crucial role hospice care plays in Maine and ensuring that all Mainers have access to high-quality hos-

pice care, regardless of their ability to pay. The loss of a loved one is never easy, but with the commitment of Androscoggin to ensure all Mainers have access to

## Norway Savings Bank Arena, Auburn Renew Naming Rights

**AUBURN, ME (March 6, 2023)** – At the March 6, 2023, Auburn city council meeting, the City of Auburn and Norway Savings Bank will be announcing that they will be continuing an exclusive 10-year naming rights partnership at the only dual ice sheet arena in the state of Maine.

"We are honored and excited to extend our partnership with an excellent community partner like Norway Savings Bank for an additional 10-year commitment," said Marc Gosselin, Executive Director of Community Partnerships & Sports Tourism. "We are especially grateful for our alignment with a financial institution whose commitment demonstrates an accountability for the growth and betterment of communities

around the state." "On behalf of the City of Auburn, we are excited to earn the commitment from our arena naming rights partner, Norway Savings Bank, for what we expect to be an exciting time of growth in our city over the next 10 years," adds Auburn City Manager Phillip L. Crowell, Jr. "It further legitimizes our efforts to demonstrate our commitment in providing significant economic and social impact through sports and recreation."

"We're proud of the history that we share with the Norway Savings Bank Arena," said Dan Walsh, President, and CEO of Norway Savings Bank. "The Arena opened at approximately the same time as our Auburn branch. Since then, we've been able to witness, first-

hand, how Auburn and the surrounding area has benefited from the recreation, tourism, and community pride the Arena provides. We're very excited for the next ten years of our partnership!"

Norway Savings Bank Arena is home to the second largest youth hockey program in the state, six (6) local high schools, tier 2 and 3 junior hockey, recreational leagues, and special hockey events including Maine Mariners hockey and the UMaine Lady Black Bears.

In addition to hockey, NSBA is home to Maine's largest RV and camping show, the Maine Home Show, as well as concerts, and a growing list of events. Norway Savings Bank Arena will be celebrating its 10-year anniversary throughout 2023 and 2024, with



special events to be announced at later dates.

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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## Collins Questions Intelligence Officials on Threats, COVID

WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 8, 2023) – Today at the annual worldwide threats open hearing, U.S. Senator Susan Collins questioned the top leaders of the U.S. intelligence agencies about the long-term national security repercussions of the Biden Administration's chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021, which resulted in U.S. military hardware falling into the hands of terrorists. Senator Collins also probed the intelligence community's conflicting conclusions regarding the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Directing a question to Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) Director Lieutenant General Scott Berrier, Senator Collins listed the billions of dollars' worth of military as-

sets were left behind in Afghanistan, including ammunition, communications equipment, and at least 16,000 pairs of night vision goggles, 167 aircraft, and 2,000 vehicles.

"My concern is that all of these assets could be useful in launching a terrorist attack on the United States or on one of our allies," said Senator Collins. "Given the continued chaos in Afghanistan and presence of terrorist groups that want to harm the United States—[groups] that have made no secret about harming us or our allies—what is the intelligence community's assessment on the counterterrorism threat to the United States' homeland and our allies—particularly one launched from Afghanistan?"

"From our perspec-

tive at the Defense Intelligence Agency, certainly our reach and grasp into that nation since the fall of the government has eroded over time, but we still have some access," responded General Berrier. "And I would say, based on what we know right now from the threat of al Qaeda, they're trying to survive, basically without a real plan to at least or intend to attack the West anytime soon. And I would say that ISIS-K poses a bit of a larger threat, but they are under attack from the Taliban regime right now. And it's a matter of time before they may have the ability and intent to actually attack the West at this point."

"That dovetails very closely with the Defense Intelligence Agency," added National Security Agen-

cy Director General Paul Kakasone. "We see the same challenges across the IC with some of our collection. But we do see a challenge, ISIS-K, in Afghanistan right now as they battle the Taliban."

Senator Collins also questioned Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines on the origins of COVID.

"We know that 6.5 million people have died, that trillions of dollars have been lost in economic activity," said Senator Collins. "We also know that had we known early on the origin of COVID, we might have well have been able to change the trajectory and been better prepared for future pandemics. We've heard the FBI Director today say that the most likely explanation is a laboratory

incident. We know that the Wuhan whistleblower who first raised alarms was silenced by the Chinese government and later died of COVID. We know, as your statement says, that Beijing continues to hinder the global investigation, resist sharing information and blames other countries. Those are not the actions of an innocent party. We know that the Department of Energy has changed its assessment to say that the most likely cause is a laboratory incident. I just don't understand why you continue to maintain on behalf of the intelligence community that [a natural cause and a lab leak] are two equally plausible explanations. They simply are not."

Director Haines responded: "I share your frustration with the fact

that China hasn't been more cooperative on this issue to provide intelligence that would be of use to the scientists and others who work on these questions. There are four elements plus our National Intelligence Council that assess with low confidence that the infection was most likely caused by natural exposure to an infected animal. So, the IC remains divided on this issue. We have the FBI, as you noted, that sees it as more likely that it's a lab leak and has done that with moderate confidence. And the Department of Energy has changed its views slightly with low confidence. It says that a lab leak is most likely, but they do so for different reasons than the FBI does. And their assessments are not identical."

## Wayne Douglas Sworn in as Associate Justice



Gov. Mills swears in Justice Wayne Douglas as an Associate Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court.

AUGUSTA, ME (March 10, 2023) – Joined by members of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court and others at the State House, Governor Janet Mills today swore in Wayne R. Douglas as Associate Justice of

the Maine Supreme Judicial Court.

Justice Douglas joins the Supreme Judicial Court after more than two decades of service as a member of the Maine Superior Court and the Maine

District Court. His nomination to the Court was overwhelmingly approved by the Maine State Senate and the Legislature's Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

"The Maine Supreme

Judicial Court will benefit from Justice Douglas' sharp legal mind, measured temperament, and dedication to the fair and impartial administration of the law," said Governor Janet Mills. "I congratulate Justice Douglas on joining our state's highest court, and I am confident that he will be an outstanding Associate Justice."

"As an Associate Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court, I will carefully consider each case, treat all with courtesy and respect, and administer justice in a fair and impartial manner, as I have done throughout my more than two decades on the bench," said Justice Wayne R. Douglas. "I am honored by and grateful for the trust Governor Mills and the Legislature have placed in me to serve the people of Maine."

Justice Douglas, of Old Orchard Beach, was first nominated to the Maine District Court by former Governor Angus King in 2002 and reappointed by former Governor John Baldacci in 2010. In 2015, former Governor Paul LePage appointed Douglas to the Maine Superior Court.

During his time on the Superior Court, Douglas has presided over the York County Treatment and Recovery Court, which provides judicially monitored supervision and treatment to individuals with criminal charges who are committed to addressing their substance use disorder and mental health issues. He also initiated a Mental Health Docket in York County to expedite consideration of cases involving people experiencing mental health issues.

Prior to his appointment to the Judicial Branch, Justice Douglas served as Chief Legal Counsel to former Governor King and as Associate Commissioner of the former Maine Department of Mental Health. Prior to entering public service, Justice Douglas spent more than a decade in private practice at Pierce Atwood in Portland.

Justice Douglas, 71, is a graduate of the University of Maine School of Law and received his undergraduate degree from Bates College. He lives in Old Orchard Beach with his wife and has two adult children.

Governor Mills nominated Justice Douglas on February 1, 2023. Justice Douglas is Governor Mills' fifth nomination to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court since taking office.

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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## Special Offerings, Lent Masses Set for Hispanic Ministry in Diocese

**PORTLAND, ME (March 9, 2023)**—Regular Masses in Spanish are set for eight Maine communities during Lent, and the Diocese of Portland's Office of Hispanic Ministry has also announced special Lenten observances, including Stations of the Cross services, adoration, and a healing service.

Masses in Spanish During Lent  
Lewiston: Holy Cross Church (Rivier Adoration Chapel), 1080 Lisbon Street. Every Saturday at 6 p.m. (livestreamed at [www.princeofpeace.me](http://www.princeofpeace.me))  
Stations of the Cross in Spanish

Stations of the Cross are often included in Lenten observances because it is a season in which we are called to deeper prayer and reflection on Christ's Passion and death. The Stations of the Cross began in the days of the early Church when pilgrims would journey to Jerusalem to retrace

the final steps taken by Jesus Christ. The Stations of the Cross traditionally follow the same 14 steps, beginning with Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane and concluding when he is laid in the tomb. The Stations of the Cross will be presented in Spanish every Sunday of Lent after the 1 p.m. Mass at Sacred Heart Church, located on 65 Mellen Street in Portland.

Eucharistic Adoration  
The Office of Hispanic Ministry will host two periods of eucharistic adoration: every Tuesday during Lent from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Rivier Chapel at Holy Cross Church (1018 Lisbon Street in Lewiston) and on Saturday, April 1, from noon to 6 p.m. in the chapel at Sacred Heart Church on 65 Mellen Street in Portland. Eucharistic adoration is an opportunity for faithful Catholics to pray and spend time with Jesus in his very

presence in the Holy Eucharist. Those who participate in eucharistic adoration say it has strengthened their relationship with the Lord and deepened their love for him, has helped them to grow in their appreciation for the gift of the Mass, has provided them a sense of peace and a respite from the worries of the world, and has given them the strength to face life's challenges.

Healing Service in Spanish  
A healing service in Spanish will be held on Friday, March 31, at 6:30 p.m. at Holy Family Church on 607 Sabattus Street in Lewiston. The theme of the entire gathering is healing, from the celebrant to the music to the participants to prayer teams. Every situation is different but most involved say they receive an increase in awareness of Jesus being present and bringing peace and renewed strength.

## Lewiston Student to Serve as Senate Honorary Page



Sen. Peggy Rotundo with Lewiston Middle School honor roll student Matthew Jadud in the Senate Chamber.

**AUGUSTA, ME (March 10, 2023)** — On Thursday, March 9, Sen. Peggy Rotundo, D-Lewiston, and other members of the Legislature welcomed Matthew Jadud from Lewiston Middle School to serve as an Honorary Page in the Senate session.

"I am so proud of Matthew for making the

honor roll — it was great to see him in Augusta," said Sen. Rotundo. "I always enjoy showing off the students from Lewiston in the State House. I look forward to having more Lewiston students visit in the future."

Honorary pages are invited to perform duties such as delivering messag-

es to Senators and distributing amendments and supplements in the Chamber under the supervision of the Sergeant-at-Arms and other chamber staff. Those wishing to sign up as Honorary Pages should contact Alex Ferguson in the Senate Secretary's office at [Alex.Ferguson@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Alex.Ferguson@legislature.maine.gov) or 207-287-1540.

## New Classes Coming to Senior College in April

**AUBURN, ME (March 3, 2023)** — Senior College is moving along with some delightful and thought-provoking winter classes, but we're not finished yet. In April we are offering a collection of Spring Classes that will be just as inspiring. The new classes include:

1. Water We Painting This Time
2. Genealogy Pot-pourri
3. Concerts for a Cause
4. Harry's Trees
5. Public Officials in 2023
6. Trivial Pursuit
7. Western Philosophy of Religion
8. Fun with Neuro-graphic Art
9. Pictionary Challenge
10. Meet the Edwardians (and Georgians)
11. Gastro Obscura
12. The 1619 Project and the 1776 Commission
13. Travelogue of

Bolivia and Chile  
So what are these all about? There are art classes, new takes on history and food. You can dive into classic poetry or spend an evening of laughter and games. Some of the classes will be in person and some on Zoom. Some are 1 day presentations with no charge and some run from 4 to 8 weeks with a cost \$25.

To learn the details about each class check out our class list and registration page: <https://lewiston-auburn-senior-college.coursestorm.com/>

If you need help, come to the Senior College office, room 169, from 9 to 11 AM and 1 to 3 PM on 3/20/2023.

For other questions, call 207-753-6610 and leave a message or send an email to [laseniorcollege@gmail.com](mailto:laseniorcollege@gmail.com)

Senior College in the Community  
In addition, Lewis-

ton-Auburn Senior College has been partnering with the Auburn Public Library to provide a variety of presentations in person at the library. Many of you may have already taken advantage of this free and enlightening program. But, if you have not this spring is a good time to give it a try. March programs will include two Travelogues by Eve Fralick on her travels to the Far East.

Those will be followed by four different programs in April, two in May, and one in June. All will be held at the Auburn Public Library in the Androscoggin Room at 49 Spring St. Auburn, ME. Watch for our up-coming articles and if you have any questions please call 207-333-6640.

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[Info@TwinCityTimes.com](mailto:Info@TwinCityTimes.com)  
(207) 795-5017

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# BHS Players Present *ANYTHING GOES* (2022 Revision)



Cast photos taken among the sawdust and unfinished set pieces during a set build day in February.



The cast of *ANYTHING GOES*.



Main characters Billy Crocker (Jaden Nicita) and Reno Sweeney (Marguerite Benham)

**BRUNSWICK, ME (March 7, 2023)** – The Brunswick High School Players (BHS Players) is proud to announce their spring musical, “*ANYTHING GOES* (2022 Revision).” *ANYTHING GOES*, a musical, with music and lyrics by Cole

Porter, is the story of mad-cap antics aboard an ocean liner bound from New York to London. The cast of over 40 from Brunswick High School will delight you with song and dance numbers (including tap!), romance and laughter on the high seas in this

popular show.

Directed by Linda Gardiner, with Music Director Ashley Albert, Orchestra Director Brandon Duras, and Producer Michael Millett, the show will be performed on Thursday, March 23rd through Saturday, March 25th at Crooker Theater at Brunswick High School. Shows will be at 7:00 PM on Thursday, Friday, and

Saturday and 2:00 PM on Saturday. Tickets are available in advance online and at the door (subject to availability) for \$17 for adults, \$12 for seniors/students. For tickets visit [www.showtix4u.com/events/BHSPlayers](http://www.showtix4u.com/events/BHSPlayers)

BHS Players thanks its generous season sponsor Maine Steamer Trunk Company for their support.

BHS Players production of *ANYTHING GOES* is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Tams-Witmark LLC ([www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)). *ANYTHING GOES* includes Music and Lyrics by Cole Porter, Original

Book by P.G. Wodehouse & Guy Bolton and Howard Lindsay & Russel Crouse. New Book by Timothy Crouse & John Weidman.

FMI on BHS Players visit: <https://sites.google.com/brunswicksd.org/brunswickhighschoolplayers/home>

## Legislation Aims to Bolster Integrity in Election System

**AUGUSTA, ME (March 8, 2023)** – Senate Republicans unveiled legislation during a press briefing on Tuesday to help bolster confidence and integrity in Maine’s electoral system. The bills, ranging from voter identification requirements to chain-of-custody measures regarding Maine’s absentee ballot process, aim to

reverse a decline in voter trust over the past decade.

According to Sen. Matt Pouliot, R-Kennebec, who introduced LD 34, “An Act to Require a Person to Show Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting,” the role of government should be to improve voter trust instead of being one of the factors contributing to its decline.

He cited a Gallup poll that indicates an overwhelming 80% of Americans favor voter ID requirements.

A recent University of New Hampshire Pine Tree State Poll issued last month showed nearly two-thirds of Mainers also want it.

“Whether voter fraud or impersonation exists isn’t the question here, ac-

tually – a few cases over the years prove that it does,” Pouliot said. “Our job as lawmakers is to minimize the risk of it, which is really our job with any of our governmental processes.”

Ripping off a list of at least 11 instances where identification is needed in Maine, from starting a job and buying alcohol to even opening a bank account, Pouliot said having an ID to vote should be no different.

“Thirty-five states require voter ID. Two more, Nebraska and Ohio, are currently implementing it,” he said. “Maine’s Perceptions of Electoral Integrity index scores have consistently ranked in the top 10 in the country. Let’s be number one.”

Sen. Trey Stewart, R-Aroostook, said a major component contributing to the lack of electoral trust stems from a new phenomenon that has been occurring across the country involving billionaires like Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg. Dubbed “Zuckerbucks” to describe the concept of private donations to fund official government electoral operations, Zuckerberg’s nonprofit Center for Tech and Civic Life funneled \$350 million to 2,500 local

election departments in 47 states including millions of dollars to cities in Maine.

“Now, conveniently these funds typically flow to pockets and hubs of folks that share the same ideology as Mr. Zuckerberg, namely urban liberal areas,” he said, adding Zuckerberg’s firm sent hundreds of thousands of dollars to cities like Portland, Lewiston and Bangor to help bolster turnout. “I don’t have an issue with increasing voter turnout, but why does it have to be in the most urban areas that also have a strong trend line of voting for Democrats.”

The top 10 list of municipalities that received funding are:

- City of Auburn - \$259,076
- City of Augusta - \$145,237
- City of Bangor - \$272,104
- City of Bath - \$144,315
- Town of Cumberland - \$155,000
- City of Lewiston - \$272,519
- Town of Orono - \$159,025
- City of Portland - \$284,584
- City of Saco - \$159,540
- City of South Portland - \$205,938

Total spent in Maine - \$3,577,320

For Sen. Jeff Timberlake, R-Androscoggin, who is the Senate Republican Lead for the Legislature’s Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, the issue of public confidence in Maine’s election system has less to do with whether fraud exists or not but rather the controls the State has in place to prevent it.

“Regardless of whether you believe election fraud is rampant in Maine or elsewhere, it does exist. It might be large or it might be small, such as the case with two students who were charged in Orono,” Timberlake said. “But we can’t live in a vacuum with our head buried in the sand hoping it will never happen. That is just unreasonable.”

Citing the need for businesses to deploy risk management and internal control measures for everything from employee theft to OSHA safety regulations, he said state government is no different when it comes to planning for potential fraud.

“Whether fraud happens is not what this is about,” he said. “Our responsibility is to put commonsense protections in place to manage the risk of just once.”

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# Seniors Not Acting Their Age

## Revisiting the Penobscot River Trails in Winter



A Nordic skier on the Penobscot River Trail in Grindstone



A hiker descends a hill on the Seboeis Riverside Trail



Penobscot River Trail on a clear day

**By Ron Chase**

The Penobscot River Trails (PRT) are exceptional in winter. Created by Butler Conservation Foundation (BCF), they consist of a network of ski and snowshoe trails along the East Branch of the Penobscot River in Grindstone and a scenic snowshoe path on the Seboeis River a few miles west of Shin Pond.

Since my wife, Nancy, and I enjoyed outstanding skiing and snowshoeing at the impressive PRT system in Grindstone last year, we resolved to return again this winter. Last fall, I hiked the latest BCF creation, Seboeis Riverside Trail, for the first time and wrote a column about that premiere hiking experience. The prospect of visiting them both for a two-day Valentine's Day vacation was very appealing.

The weather wasn't completely accommodating when Nancy and I arrived at the PRT facility in Grindstone. The skies were gray with moderate winds and there was a chance of sprinkles or mixed precipitation. Despite the less than stellar forecast, several vehicles were in the parking area.

Nancy planned to snowshoe while I hoped to ski. I prefer extended ski trips. The PRT offers one of the longest and best in Maine. The approximately

sixteen mile loop trip travels north along the river and then returns via a more direct route on Tote Road Trail. That was my optimistic goal assuming the snow conditions cooperated.

An outing at the PRT begins by signing in at the luxurious Visitor Center which includes a woodstove, communal area, and bathrooms. There is no trail fee and skis, snowshoes, poles and boots are available for a donation.

My optimism was well-founded as trails were nicely groomed and the tracks fast, perfect for a long distance ski. A classic skier, I began my trek on Silver Maple Trail. A little over three kilometers led to a junction with Riverside and Tote Road Trails. I chose Riverside.

The hilly, winding Riverside Trail travels adjacent to the river for over eleven kilometers to Long Meadow Warming Hut. The challenging route is double tracked facilitating convenient two-way traffic. Skiers can choose shorter loops by taking any of four link trails that connect with Tote Road.

Light freezing rain commenced at about the same time I met two skiers traveling south near Link 2. The friendly couple was confident the precipitation

would soon end. Their cheerful prediction proved accurate. They were the only skiers I met during my outing.

Following about a two-hour workout, I arrived at the distinctive warming hut situated at the top of a hill in an open field. On a clear day, Mount Katahdin can be observed from the elegant structure. Alas, not on this cloudy afternoon.

I stopped for a snack and added Glide to my skis for the generally downhill cruise south to the Visitor Center. My return featured a spate of exhilarating double poling to end the day. Nancy reported excellent snowshoeing on Long Logan Loop and Silver Maple Trails.

Early the next morning, we drove north from Medway through Patten and Shin Pond to the Seboeis Riverside Trailhead on Grand Lake Road on a seasonably warm, sunny day. Two BCF workers, Chad Day and Nick Dickerson, were in the parking lot when we arrived. Chad departed on snowshoes carrying a chainsaw for trail maintenance. Nick left for a drive to a separate trail where he would transport equipment and building materials by snowmobile to the Snowshoe Lodge located two miles downriver.

The trail surface was



An impressive metal suspension bridge spans Shin Brook on Seboeis Riverside Trail

packed by previous hikers and superb for snowshoeing. We hiked the well-designed path along the ice and snow-covered river through a mixed hardwood and softwood forest. Chad had cleared blowdowns in two locations.

After a long mile, a portage sign indicated we had arrived at Grand Pitch, where the river flows through a spectacular gorge. A spur trail led to an overlook. Prominent Sugarloaf Mountain could be discerned farther downriver.

Soon after, we crossed an impressive metal suspension bridge that spans

Shin Brook. Easy snowshoeing continued to Snowshoe Lodge, another BCF masterpiece. Nancy and I stopped for a break at the hut and enjoyed a conversation with the busy BCF workers who were finishing construction of a shed that will be used to store emergency equipment and tools.

Our return on the picturesque rolling trail was a delight. The four mile roundtrip trek was completed in about three hours. The entertaining excursion is a must for outdoor enthusiasts who want to experience a new and unique wilderness adventure. Five addi-

tional miles of trail extend beyond the hut for those seeking a more substantial expedition.

Ron Chase resides in Topsham. His latest book, "Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine" is available at [www.northcountrypress.com/maine-al-fresco](http://www.northcountrypress.com/maine-al-fresco) or in bookstores and through online retailers. His previous books are "The Great Mars Hill Bank Robbery" and "Mountains for Mortals - New England." Visit his website at [www.ronchaseoutdoors.com](http://www.ronchaseoutdoors.com) or he can be reached at [ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net](mailto:ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net)

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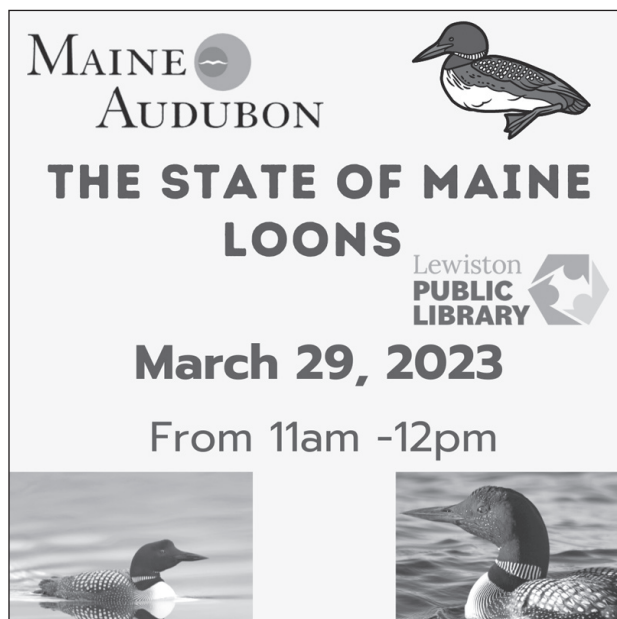


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# Arts & Entertainment

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Maine than in any other New England state. And for the last 35 years, Maine Audubon has coordinated an annual loon count utilizing the skills of more than 1000 volunteers. Learn from Maine Audubon conservation staff about loons in Maine and their efforts to protect them.

Maine Audubon works with children and adults every day to promote environmental literacy so that Mainers can become more informed and effective stewards of Maine's wildlife and habitat.

The Lewiston Public Library is located downtown at 200 Lisbon Street at the corner of Pine Street and Lisbon Street. More information on Wednesday's program is available by contacting the Lewiston Public Library at 513-3135 or [LPLReference@lewis-tonmaine.gov](mailto:LPLReference@lewis-tonmaine.gov).

**LEWISTON, ME (March 6, 2023)** -- The Lewiston Public Library will host Maine Audubon staff to present their program entitled The State of Maine's Loons on Wednesday, March 29th, from 11 am to 12 pm in Callahan

Hall on the library's third floor. This program is free and open to the public.

The Common Loon is one of Maine's most iconic species for good reason. An inhabitant of clear, remote, northern lakes, this species is found in more lakes in

## Cast Announced for CLT's Little Women



Pictured here are the actors performing the major roles in CLT's upcoming production of the musical "Little Women." Back row, left to right: L. John Van Norden (Mr. Laurence), Bee Tyler (Marmee March), Edward Angelo (Professor Bhaer), Jennifer Groover (Aunt March), and Justin Morin (John Brooke). In front left to right are Karianna Merrill (Meg March), Janelle Raven (Josephine 'Jo' March), Maria Groover Amy March), and Casey Griffin (Beth March). Not pictured is Ethan Rombalski who is playing the role of Theodore 'Laurie' Laurence.

**AUBURN, ME (March 10, 2023)** -- Community Little Theater in Auburn announces its cast for the upcoming production of the Musical "Little Women".

"Little Women" is a musical adaptation of the famous novel by Louisa May Alcott. Based on Alcott's life, Little Women follows the adventures of The March sisters, Jo, Meg, Beth and Amy. Jo dreams of selling her stories for publication, with no success. When her friend, Professor Bhaer, advises her to do better and write more for herself, she begrudgingly takes his ad-

vice. Acting on this advice, Jo weaves the story of herself and her sisters, bringing the experience of four young women, growing up in Civil War America, to life.

Cast members include Janelle Raven as Josephine 'Jo' March, Maria Groover as Amy March, Casey Griffin as Beth March, Karianna Merrill as Meg March, Bee Tyle as Marmee March, Justin Morin as Mr. John Brooke, Ethan Rombalski, as Theodore 'Laurie' Laurence, L. John Van Norden as Mr. Laurence, Edward Angelo as Professor Bhaer and Jennifer Groover as Aunt

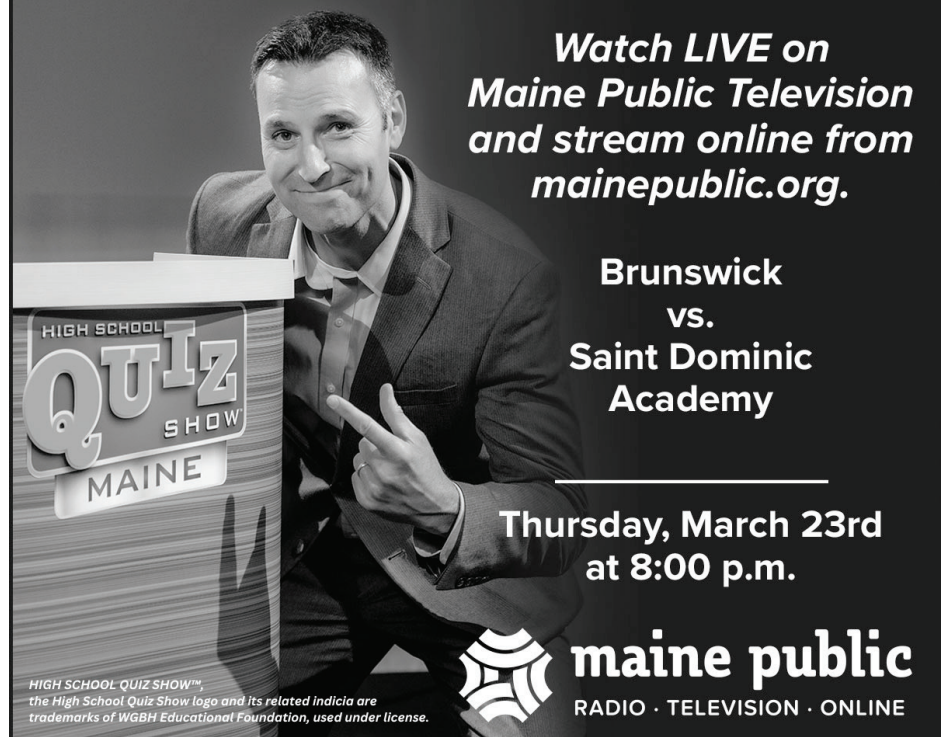
March.

CLT will present "Little Women" April 20th, 21st, 22nd, 27th, 28th & 29th at 7:30 p.m, and April 23rd and 30th at 2:00 p.m. Call 783-0958 or visit [www.LACLTL.com](http://www.LACLTL.com) for tickets and information.

L/A Community Little Theatre, located at 30 Academy Street in Auburn, has been producing live theatre since 1940. A volunteer, non-profit organization, our goal is to provide affordable and quality entertainment in the performing arts as well as education, training, and experience in theatre for area youth. [www.laclt.com](http://www.laclt.com).

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# Grants Available to Nonprofits Serving Vulnerable Communities

**PORTLAND & ELLSWORTH**—Non-profit organizations that serve disadvantaged, underserved or vulnerable communities may be eligible for grants from the Maine Community Foundation's (MaineCF) Frances Hollis Brain Foundation Fund.

The Brain Foundation Fund awards grants to nonprofits that focus on early childhood care and education; extended-day learning; community clinics and oral-health initiatives; food security; people experiencing homelessness; and legal services. Organizations must serve communities in Auburn, Bath, Biddeford, Brunswick, Greater Portland, Lewiston, Saco and/or Sanford, or have a statewide mission in the fund's focus areas. This year, priority will be given to organizations or projects that address challenges or needs in early childhood education.

In 2022, the Brain Foundation Fund awarded 27 grants totaling \$174,130.

The 2022 grantees include:

Maine Resilience Building Network, Manchester, for programming that promotes the healthy development of children

Milestone Recovery, Portland, to support the

transition from long-term homelessness to permanent housing

Tree Street Youth, Lewiston, to design an early-childhood program for preschool-aged children.

For all recent grants and for more information about the fund, visit [www.mainecef.org](http://www.mainecef.org). The application deadline is April 1.

For more information, contact Program Officer John Ochira at 207-412-0837 or [jochira@mainecf.org](mailto:jochira@mainecf.org).

The Maine Community Foundation brings people and resources together to build a better Maine through strategic giving, community leadership, personalized service, local expertise and strong investments. To learn more about the foundation, visit [www.mainecef.org](http://www.mainecef.org).

**2022 Grants**

Cedars Nursing Care Center, Portland, for oral exams, dental X-rays and kits for long-term care residents and rehabilitation patients: \$10,000

Coastal Enterprises, Brunswick, to help asylum-seekers start or grow businesses: \$5,000

Episcopal Diocese of Maine, Portland, to provide feminine hygiene products to asylum seekers and others with low incomes:



The Greater Portland Immigrant Welcome Center, a 2022 Brain Foundation Fund grantee, facilitates access to food-assistance programs and provides nutrition classes. Photo courtesy Greater Portland Immigrant Welcome Center

\$7,500

Greater Portland Family Promise, to find affordable housing and provide ongoing mentorship to families experiencing homelessness: \$7,500

Greater Portland Immigrant Welcome Center, to facilitate access to food assistance programs and provide nutrition information: \$5,000

Hope Acts, Portland, to support asylum seekers with housing, support services and English classes: \$10,000

Hurricane Island Outward Bound School, Camden, to send four middle-school students from Lewiston-Auburn's Boys

and Girls Club to a summer Outward Bound course: \$5,000

Laudholm Trust, Wells, to introduce female, first-generation Mainers attending Portland High School to science and nature in Maine and careers possible in those fields: \$4,000

Locker Project, Portland, to provide low-income families with reliable access to healthy, fresh food: \$5,000

Maine Equal Justice, to help Mainers access food, health care and housing through legal assistance: \$5,000

Maine Family Planning, Augusta, to provide

affordable and accessible sexual and reproductive health care to low-income patients: \$5,000

Maine Resilience Building Network, Manchester, for programming that promotes the healthy development of children: \$10,000

Mainly Teeth, Portland, to provide dental care to uninsured or under-insured patients: \$10,000

Mayo Street Arts, Portland, for a no-cost, after-school arts program for students living in low-income neighborhoods in East Bayside: \$5,000

Mercy Hospital, Portland, for a two-year program for women recovering from substance-use disorder: \$8,000

Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program, Brunswick, to provide food to those facing temporary or chronic food insecurity: \$5,000

Midcoast Literacy, Bath, to provide one-on-one tutoring for 35 children in Bath and Brunswick: \$5,000

Milestone Recovery, Portland, to support the transition from long-term homelessness to permanent housing: \$10,000

Portland Stage Company, to expand its K-12 education programs: \$5,000

Preble Street, Port-

land, to provide meals, increase food access, and nutrition while supporting a sustainable food system: \$5,000

Susan L. Curtis Charitable Foundation, Portland, for low-income children to attend Camp Susan Curtis at no cost: \$5,000

Sweetser, Saco, to provide access to mental and behavioral health services to uninsured and uninsured children: \$5,000

The Opportunity Alliance, South Portland, to provide client assistance through its Homeless Youth Services program: \$5,000

Through These Doors, Portland, to provide safety planning, emergency shelter and basic needs to victims and survivors of domestic abuse: \$5,000

Tree Street Youth, Lewiston, to design an early-childhood program for preschool-aged children: \$10,000

Trinity Jubilee Center, Lewiston, to provide shelter, food and diapers and facilitate access to medical care, housing, and employment: \$10,000

YWCA Central Maine, Lewiston, to provide preschool-aged children food services that are designed to build healthy relationships with food and prevent childhood obesity: \$7,130

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# Fontaine Family Celebrates 40 Years at Awards Ceremony



David Foster



Chad Doucette



Gail LaPrino



LeAnn Payne



Clay Larochelle, Cindy Morin, Charmaine Raby, Kelly Webb-Quinn, Maria Morrissette, and Bill Bergeron

**AUBURN, ME (March 1, 2023)** -- Fontaine Family -The Real Estate Leader hosted their annual awards ceremony at the Hilton Garden Inn, in Auburn on February 9th. It was a celebration to remember because this is the year that marks Fontaine's 40th business anniversary. The event recognized the incredible achievements of the Fontaine team who helped 567 families buy or sell property in 2022.

The festivities were

kicked off with Crystal Bergeron, one of the broker owners, sharing the team vision, the mission, and the Fontaine culture and values, and how they are lived every day with commitment and pride. The next speaker was Brenda Fontaine, the founder, who spoke on the importance of believing in yourself. Throughout the event the attendees were entertained by a talented performance of Steve Miller, Cindy Morin, and Dave Foster.

The award ceremony was the highlight of the event where the team members were recognized for their outstanding production in 2022.

Before the awards, the licensed support staff was recognized for being the backbone of the Fontaine Team. Special recognition was given to Sally Christner, Megan Trundy, Crystal St. Hilaire, Dustin Larochelle, and Hannah Levesque for their commitment and dependability.

Presenting awards were broker owners, Melissa Field, Angie Larochelle, and Crystal Bergeron. Other

award presenters were Sally Christner, Clayton Larochelle and Bill Bergeron.

Bruce Mason, Dustin Larochelle, Tiffany Poland, Gail LaPrino and the Rondeau Team were presented with the Bronze level awards, while LeAnn Payne, Chad Doucette and Dave Foster were honored with the Silver level awards. Teri Campbell received a Gold level award while Cindy Morin, Charmaine Raby, Maria Morrissette, Kelly Webb-Quinn, Clay Larochelle, and Bill Bergeron were recognized with the Platinum level awards for their exceptional contribution. LeAnn Payne was awarded the Rookie of the Year Award, acknowledging her exceptional efforts in her first full year as a Fontaine team member. The Milestone awards were also a special highlight of the day. Gail LaPrino, Paul Rondeau and Nick Trider were recognized for their 5 and 15 years of loyalty with the Fontaine team.



Rondeau Team - Paul Rondeau and Ashley Rondeau

The ceremony culminated in the presentation of the Brenda Fontaine Leadership Award which went to Cindy Morin.

As the event drew to a close, the Fontaine team was reminded of the year-long 40th anniversary celebration with periodic drawing giveaways throughout the year including a 7 night

Caribbean Cruise.

The guests left the event, feeling proud and inspired, knowing that they were part of a team that truly makes a difference in people's lives. For more information on the Fontaine Team and their upcoming events, follow them on Facebook at [facebook.com/fontaineteam](https://facebook.com/fontaineteam).

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# Family Caregivers in Maine Provide 2.9 Billion in Unpaid Care

**PORTLAND, ME (March 7, 2023)** — The unpaid care provided by the 166,000 caregivers in Maine is valued at 2.9 billion, according to new state data available in AARP’s latest report in the Valuing the Invaluable series [www.aarp.org/valuing](http://www.aarp.org/valuing). This is a 700,000,000 increase in unpaid contributions since

the last report was released in 2019. The report highlights the growing scope and complexity of family caregiving and highlights actions needed to address the many challenges of caring for parents, spouses, and other loved ones.

“Family caregivers play a vital role in Maine’s health care system, wheth-

er they care for someone at home, coordinate home health care, or help care for someone who lives in a nursing home,” said Noël Bonam, AARP Maine State Director. “We want to make sure all family caregivers have the financial, emotional and social support they need, because the care they provide is

invaluable both to those receiving it and to their community.”

AARP Maine is fighting, and will continue to fight, for family caregivers and the loved ones they care for. Right now, AARP is urging state lawmakers to support Paid Family Medical Leave because caring for a loved

one shouldn’t mean losing pay—or even one’s job. Maine’s family caregivers provide critical support and often do so while juggling a full or part-time job. The stress of balancing both can be daunting. Lack of workplace support can even result in individuals quitting their jobs or experiencing negative

health outcomes.

Read the full Valuing the Invaluable report [www.aarp.org/valuing](http://www.aarp.org/valuing) for national and state-by-state data on the economic value of unpaid care by family and friends.

Resources and information on family caregiving are available at [aarp.org/caregiving](http://aarp.org/caregiving).

## Woman’s Hospital Association Art Gallery at CMMC March 2023



‘Envisaging the Muse’ by Michael Burd

server, offers a rich tapestry of stories just waiting to be found. I take delight in the surprise of every discovery, and in the weaving of the tale to be visually retold. Thematic inspirations resonate with a reverence for home and a passion for curiosity and wonder. My photographs explore the mediums of expired 35mm and medium format film as well as digital. Black and white film images are developed in a curious homebrew concoction called “caffenol”.

A professional bassist, he adds to his diverse life by contributing to performance and projects with artists David Mallett, Noel Paul Stookey and Rick Charette. An instructor with Franklin County Adult Education. He lives in Industry with his wife, Cindy. The works on display may be purchased through the WHA Gift Shop located adjacent to the main lobby at Central Maine Medical Center. A percentage of sale proceeds benefits patients of CMMC.

**LEWISTON, ME (March 6, 2023)** -- The Woman’s Hospital Association (WHA) Rotating Art Gallery at Central Maine Medical Center in Lewis-

ton is displaying the photographs of Michael Burd. A Mainer by birth and by choice, Burd states that “The grand state of Maine, to even the most casual ob-

## A Look at Early Work for Women in Maine’s Textile Mills

**AUBURN, ME (March 7, 2023)** -- Join us at the Auburn Public Library for an exploration of how textile mills in our region brought new opportunities for women to work outside of domestic life and the challenges they faced in this new world. Through archival photographs, primary documents and sample museum artifacts we will look at what life would have been like in the late

1800s for women during the Industrial Revolution.

This program is made possible through a partnership with the Maine Museum of Innovation, Learning + Labor. Mary Kate MacVicar, their Educator and Community Outreach Manager, will present this program. She joined the Maine MILL staff in January of 2022 after working as a teacher and school librarian for over 25 years

and has a BA in History from Susquehanna University and a MS in Library and Information Science from The Catholic University of America. This program is being offered in honor of Women’s History Month.

It will take place on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, from 4:00-5:00 p.m., in the Androscoggin Community Room. No registration is necessary.

## Great Falls Model Railroad Club to Hold Spring Train Show

**TOPSHAM, ME (March 10, 2023)** -- The Great Falls Model Railroad Club’s annual spring train show will be held at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham from 10 AM to 3 PM on Saturday, April

29th, 2023. Model trains in various scales, built by model train enthusiasts throughout Maine, will be operating all day. Vendors from across New England will be available to answer questions and to sell new

and used model railroad items, books, and other train related memorabilia. Refreshments will be available for purchase with all proceeds directly benefiting the Mount Ararat Booster’s club.



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## Senator Collins Attends Can-Am Crown Sled Dog Races



**FORT KENT, ME (March 6, 2023)**—U.S. Senator Susan Collins attended the Can-Am Crown International Sled Dog Races in Fort Kent, where she delivered remarks prior to the 250-mile race. Hundreds of spectators also attended the 30th annual event.

“The Can-Am Crown is about international

friendship and the spirit of competition. It also is about the spirit of this great community,” said Senator Collins. “Here in Fort Kent, countless volunteers, generous sponsors, host families, and so many others have joined together to make this great event possible.”

The Can-Am Crown International Sled Dog Race hosted three rac-

es with a total purse of \$39,000: a 30-mile race, a 100-mile race, and the well-known 250-mile race. The 250-mile race is a qualifier for the Iditarod and the Yukon Quest.

Known as the Iditarod of the East, Can-Am Crown International Sled Dog Race is one of the most challenging dog sled races in the country.

## UMaine Lifts Student Covid-19 Vaccination Requirement

**STATE HOUSE (March 10, 2023)** – Maine House Republicans issued the following statement today:

“We applaud the University of Maine System’s decision to abolish the requirement that all students be vaccinated against Covid-19 in order to access Maine’s publically-funded

University System. In light of what we now know about Covid-19, we appreciate the UMS decision to change a policy that has prevented countless numbers of students from pursuing a higher education without preventing the spread of Covid, or placing others at risk. Our members have been tireless advocates for

the principle that the decision on whether to vaccinate against Covid-19 with an experimental vaccine, with no associated legal liability, is a personal choice. We encourage everyone to conduct a risk/benefit analysis with their doctor and to make use of the increasing availability of scientific information on this topic.”

## Talk to Cover Innovations In Food Waste Reduction

**ORONO, ME (March 8, 2023)**—The Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions at the University of Maine will host a talk, “Stepping up to the Plate: Innovations in Food Waste Reduction” on Monday, March 20 at 3 p.m.

Wasted food is a solvable challenge that could lead to positive environmental and social impacts, and there is a wide range of solutions that are ripe for adoption that can help us achieve our national and international goals of cutting food waste by 50% by 2030. ReFED’s Angel Veza will discuss some of the current barriers to food waste reduction faced by individuals and companies, the latest innovations designed to address these barriers, and what’s needed to help these solutions grow their impact.

ReFED is a national nonprofit dedicated to ending food loss and waste across the U.S. food system. Angel Veza serves as their senior manager of



capital, innovation, and engagement, working to catalyze adoption of top food waste solutions. She originally worked in the education field teaching underserved communities. After working with students for seven years, Veza received her Grande Diplome at the French Culinary Institute and worked through New York City’s top restaurants, including Morimoto, two Michelin-starred Atera and foodservice companies like Compass Group. During that time, she witnessed the significant amount of food being wasted in the hospitality industry and decided to work with the Food Waste team at World Wildlife Fund. As an expansion of that, she worked in supply chain and led strategic sourcing and procurement with a focus on food waste

reduction at Manhatta Restaurant, part of Danny Meyer’s Union Square Hospitality Group in New York City.

All talks in the Mitchell Center’s Sustainability Talks series are free and are offered both remotely via Zoom and in person at 107 Norman Smith Hall. Registration is required to attend remotely; to register and receive connection information, see the event webpage.

Please note that face coverings are required for all persons attending Mitchell Center Sustainability Talks.

Updates for this event will be posted to the event webpage. To request a reasonable accommodation, contact Ruth Hallsworth, 207.581.3196 or halls-worth@maine.edu.

## Sen. Collins: Stop Exacerbating Asylum Seeker Housing Crisis

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 10, 2023)** – At the request of officials representing Portland, U.S. Senator Susan Collins sent a letter to Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, urging DHS to halt sending asylum seekers from the southern border if they lack a verified destination address. DHS’s practice of facilitating the movement of asylum seekers without confirming that the destination city has resources available to accommodate new arrivals has caused Portland’s social services to reach the breaking point. This has created a crisis for asylum seekers, as well as for unsheltered Mainers. Last week, Senator Collins met with Maine House Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross in her Washington, D.C., office to discuss this issue.

“State and local officials have reported to me that many asylum seekers in Portland identified mu-

nicipal government addresses—including social services offices or emergency shelters—as their ultimate destination when they first arrived at the southern border,” Senator Collins wrote. “Those individuals were allowed entry into the country, and in many cases were provided with transportation to Maine, without any confirmation by DHS as to whether the locations identified can accommodate these individuals.”

“As a result, the City of Portland—a city with a population of fewer than 70,000—is currently sheltering approximately 1,100 people per night and is under constant pressure to expand emergency shelters and other services, with the only alternative being to turn away vulnerable individuals, families, and children. Perhaps most troubling, the surge of asylum seekers in Maine now means that housing facilities are beyond

capacity and Mainers in need of shelter have nowhere to go,” Senator Collins continued. “I request that, going forward, DHS verify all destination addresses prior to allowing entry into the country, thereby ensuring that asylum seekers have a safe, reliable destination, and that municipalities are not stretched beyond capacity.”

“Maine communities have done their part to assist asylum seekers in need, but these communities are strained far beyond their capacity,” Senator Collins concluded. “Allowing additional asylum seekers to travel to Maine without confirming that these individuals will have a place to sleep is irresponsible and could lead to a tragedy. I urge you to take immediate action to prevent that from happening.”

Senator Collins also asked Secretary Mayorkas to respond to a series of questions to better understand how DHS facilitates the transportation of asylum seekers.

Last month, Senator Collins introduced the Asylum Seeker Work Authorization Act of 2023, which would shorten the waiting period before asylum seekers are eligible to receive work authorizations.

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# Hearth and Key Realty Hold Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Hearth & Key Realty became new Chamber Members and held an official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Friday, Feb 3rd. Close to 100 guests braved the frigid temps to celebrate the opening. Located at 730 Center Street, in the

TJMaxx Plaza, Hearth & Key is contracted with over 20 real estate agents who cover every county within the State of Maine. The managing partner, Jeff Emmert is also licensed assist with property sellers and buyers in New Hampshire.



Leadership Team Members cutting the ribbon include:

Jeff Emmert, Jennelle Emmert, Mike Emmert and Blake Fecteau as the agency owners/partners. Sue Emmert, Transaction Coordinator, Michelle Gosselin,

Director of Community Engagement, Rachel Grignon and Tiana Lacombe, Directors of Social Media Marketing. Also with Shanna Cox, LA Metro Chamber President and several referral partners, clients, family and friends.

## Lee Chosen to Participate in State Legislators Champions Institute

**AUGUSTA, ME (March 2, 2023)** – Rep. Adam Lee, D-Auburn, was one of 20 state legislators chosen from across the country by Smart Growth America to participate in the State Legislators Champions Institute, an initiative

to equip state legislators from across the country to effectively advocate for and support more activity-friendly transportation in their states.

“Maine needs to prioritize people in considering policies that design and

update our transportation systems,” said Lee. “I am excited to learn from my colleagues in other states and from experts in transportation and land use development on how we can work to make Maine’s transportation system more

activity-friendly and make our communities more accessible and equitable.”

Throughout March and April, Lee will attend virtual learning sessions discussing how to ensure transportation policy supports public health, climate

and equity goals.

SGA, a nonprofit based in Washington, D.C., works with local and state officials to ensure urban development policies foster safe, equitable and sustainable community growth.

Lee is serving his first term in the Maine House and is a member of the Legislature’s Judiciary Committee. He represents House District 89, which includes a portion of Auburn, including its downtown.

## Lewiston Bakery Recognized by EPA for Energy Efficiency

**BOSTON, ME (March 10, 2023)** -- The Lepage Bakery of Lewiston was recently recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as one of 86 U.S. manufacturing plants that earned the agency’s 2022 ENERGY STAR certification.

The bakery was the only facility recognized in New England. The

designation is reserved for manufacturing plants in the top 25% of energy efficiency in their sector. Along with the other 85 manufacturing plants which earned a 2022 ENERGY STAR certification nationally in 2022, these plants saved over 105 trillion British thermal units (Btus) of energy and prevented more than 6 million metric tons of carbon

dioxide emissions, equivalent to the emissions from the electricity use of more than 1.1 million American homes.

“Leadership in energy efficiency is critical to achieving our nation’s climate goals,” said EPA New England Regional Administrator David W. Cash. “The savings from ENERGY STAR certified plants demonstrate how

energy efficiency is both helping our manufacturing sector reduce costs and propelling America’s transition to a clean energy future. Energy efficiency is good for the bottom line, and good for the environment.”

The industrial sector accounts for 30% of U.S. greenhouse emissions, primarily from energy use in manufacturing plants.

ENERGY STAR certified plants have reduced their energy consumption through a variety of energy efficiency projects and management practices.

Manufacturing plants use EPA’s ENERGY STAR energy performance indicators or, in the case of petroleum refineries, the Solomon Associates Energy Intensity Index scoring sys-

tem to assess their energy performance. Plants that score a 75 out of 100 or higher—indicating that they are more energy efficient than 75% of similar facilities nationwide—are eligible to earn ENERGY STAR certification. ENERGY STAR certification is available for 20 manufacturing sectors, from cement and steel to glass and commercial bakeries.

## Rinck, MaineGeneral Health Recognized with Awards

**LEWISTON, ME (March 7, 2023)** – Rinck Advertising and MaineGeneral Health were honored to receive two Healthcare Digital Marketing (HDM) Awards for campaigns that support the hospital’s Orthopaedic and Surgery services.

MaineGeneral and Rinck set out to bring awareness to the quality care available close to home. Since surgery is not always planned, the cam-

paign targeted audiences within MaineGeneral’s geographic footprint to ensure that the hospital remains top-of-mind for any emergent medical needs. They also recognized that the healthcare system can sometimes feel overwhelming and lead people to put off seeking medical advice or surgeries, so the campaign needed to convey the expertise of the hospital’s highly skilled, caring surgeons to help provide relief

to get them back to enjoying things they love.

The award-winning digital campaign leaned into the MaineGeneral promise: ‘We’re With You.’ The campaign was leveraged through traditional broadcast and print media. Campaign messaging demonstrated the promise: “At MaineGeneral Medical Center, we’re with you. Whether you need a joint replacement to get you back to the things you love, spinal

surgery to relieve years of pain, or expert sports medicine to help you get back in the game, we’re with you for surgical and non-surgical orthopaedic care. ‘We’re with you’ isn’t just what we say; it’s what we do.”

The campaigns received the following awards:

- 2022 Gold HDM Award for MaineGeneral Medical Center Orthopedics Campaign
- 2022 Silver HDM

Award for MaineGeneral Medical Center Surgery Campaign

“We are pleased with our collaboration with our partners at Rinck Advertising and are excited to share the team’s great work,” said Nicole McSweeney, Chief Marketing & Philanthropy Officer at MaineGeneral Medical Center.

The Healthcare Digital Marketing Awards recognize the best healthcare websites, digital content,

electronic communications, mobile media, and social media. Judges for the HDM Awards consisted of a national panel of healthcare marketers, creative directors, marketing and advertising professionals. The award program received nearly one thousand entries nationwide from healthcare and medical institutions. HDM Awards granted 161 Gold Awards, 82 Silver Awards, and 47 Bronze Awards.

## Women from Maine Corrections Complete Welding Program



Corrine Bailey, Vocational Trades Instructor of Maine Corrections.

**AUBURN, ME (March 7, 2023)** – A celebration was held Friday at Central Maine Community College (CMCC) to recognize the achievements of eight women who completed the welding program through the college’s Center for Workforce and Professional Development. The cohort is part of the Southern Maine Women’s Reentry Center in Windham and is building job skills in the pre-release program.

“These women have not always been afforded opportunities to advance,” said Corrine Bailey, Vocational Trades Instructor of Maine Corrections. “But they are not afraid to take on the challenge and try something new. They want to go to work and they want to change their lives.”

Nationally, gender stereotypes can also play a

role in college corrections offerings. The Chronicle of Higher Education showed instances in Texas and Mississippi where women were offered less than half of the vocational programs offered to men. The Maine Department of Corrections, however, offers equal programming.

“This group accomplished more, and faster, than any other cohort we’ve held so far,” said Forrest Stone, Welding Instructor at CMCC. “The residents know each other and work so well together and are driven to succeed. Expanding these opportunities will only increase the quality of Maine’s workforce in the trades.”

Graduates completed 160 hours of hands-on training in MIG and TIG techniques. The four-week program also incorporated industry and employer

engagement in the curriculum. The class visited Western Maine Steel in West Paris to learn about the company and view its full-service operations.

The Southern Maine Women’s Reentry Center is Maine’s only female reentry center. Residents qualify when they have five years or less remaining on their sentence and are classified as minimum security. Women at the Center are able to work in the community during their incarceration. With the additional job skills and training, they can prepare for a new career in the next stage of their lives.

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

# DHHS Promotes Continued Health Coverage

**AUGUSTA, ME (March 6, 2023)** — The Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is launching a new public service campaign this week to promote continued health insurance coverage with regular Medicaid (MaineCare) eligibility and enrollment operations set to resume in April, as required by federal law.

The “Stay Connected to Stay Covered” campaign urges MaineCare members to update their contact information so the Department can reach them about renewing their coverage and to be on the lookout for their renewal form, which must be filled out and returned to avoid a gap in coverage. The campaign includes a communications toolkit available for partners to download and a paid advertising campaign, which includes radio advertising, a social media campaign, and digital advertising.

“It’s important that MaineCare members make sure their contact information is up to date so we can reach them with critical, timely information,” said DHHS Commissioner Jeanne Lambrew. “We want to prevent Maine residents who are eligible for MaineCare from losing their family’s coverage and ensure those who aren’t

know about their affordable coverage options.”

In March 2020, the federal government temporarily suspended certain Medicaid requirements to help prevent people from losing their health coverage during the pandemic, even if their circumstances changed during that period. This is known as the “continuous coverage requirement.” People who would otherwise lose eligibility due to increased earnings, change of family status, or other reasons have remained covered by Medicaid for needed care during the pandemic.

Until recently, the end date for the continuous coverage requirement was tied to the end of the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE). In December 2022, Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, which separates the continuous coverage requirement from the COVID-19 PHE and sets a fixed end date of March 31, 2023.

This federal law requires all states, including Maine, to check who is still eligible to receive Medicaid coverage. Regular MaineCare redeterminations will resume in April. This will be the first time some of Maine’s MaineCare members will be required to go through this “redetermination”

process, which was routine prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. All members must complete a renewal to see if they are still eligible and all states must disenroll individuals no longer eligible for coverage. The federal government calls this process the “unwinding” of the continuous coverage requirement.

States will have 12 months to initiate redeterminations for all enrolled members and 14 months to complete them.

The Department projects that approximately 420,000 Mainers will be enrolled in MaineCare by April 2023. With assistance from experts from the national State Health Access Data Assistance Center, the Department estimates that 65,000 to 90,000 members may lose their MaineCare coverage by the end of the redetermination process because they are no longer eligible or did not complete the renewal process. However, national estimates for Maine indicate that 90 percent of these individuals have or will be able to receive other coverage through sources like CoverME.gov or employer-based insurance. These numbers are estimates and will likely change over time based on many factors, including the broader economic

landscape.

What MaineCare members can do NOW:

Visit MyMaineConnection.gov to set up an account and update your contact information, so MaineCare can reach you when it’s time for you to renew your coverage.

Alternatively, members can call 1-855-797-4357 and select 1 to update their contact information via phone, without having to wait for a specialist.

When it’s time for renewal:

Be on the lookout for an envelope with a blue block. This will be the MaineCare renewal form that members need to complete and return: If it’s blue, it’s time to renew!

Members who have opted to receive electronic noticing on My Maine Connection will not receive an envelope with a blue block. They will receive a text or email alert to visit [www.MyMaineConnection.gov](http://www.MyMaineConnection.gov) when it is time for them to renew.

Members can also update eligibility information on My Maine Connection – this may be a quicker and easier way for many members to complete renewal.

For most MaineCare members, DHHS will restart renewals over a

12-month timeframe based on the member’s regular annual renewal timeline. For example, if the household was originally due for renewal in July 2021, the household renewal will be due in July 2023. Generally, if a household with a July renewal does not return the renewal by July 31, 2023, MaineCare will close their coverage effective August 30, 2023.

DHHS is working to minimize the number of people who lose their coverage during the unwinding process by partnering with organizations and stakeholders in communities across the state to let people with MaineCare know that changes are coming and what they need to do to stay covered. The Department will send mail, text message and email reminders to all members regarding the need to complete renewals and has contracted with more than a dozen Community-Based Organizations across the state to spread the word. Messaging includes references to the unique appearance of the special renewal envelopes which will feature a distinctive blue block.

In the summer of 2022, DHHS launched an updated and improved version of its online application portal, called My

Maine Connection ([MyMaineConnection.gov](http://MyMaineConnection.gov)). On this site, members can update their contact information, check their renewal date, and complete a prepopulated renewal.

Additionally, individuals found ineligible for MaineCare during their renewal process because of income or other reasons will have their account transferred automatically to [CoverME.gov] CoverME.gov, Maine’s state-based Health Insurance Marketplace. These consumers will receive formal notices about the referral from both the DHHS Office for Family Independence and CoverME.gov. CoverME.gov will also conduct targeted outreach to those consumers via postal mail, email, and phone and plans to offer an extended 90-day Special Enrollment Period for consumers losing MaineCare. Additional federal financial assistance has been extended through 2025, meaning most consumers will qualify for help paying for premiums for plans at CoverME.gov.

The Department will provide updated MaineCare enrollment data on a quarterly basis.

More information, including the toolkit and FAQs, is available at [mainecare.gov/unwinding](http://mainecare.gov/unwinding).

# KFC Makes College Opportunities Accessible for Employees

**(March 9, 2023)** – The KFC Foundation, in partnership with Western Governors University (WGU), has announced that KFC restaurant employees\* will have the opportunity to receive 100 percent paid tuition when attending WGU to earn their degree.

Through this partnership, KFC restaurant employees can choose from more than 60 different bachelor’s and master’s

degree programs and certification programs across Business, Information Technology, Education and Healthcare. The KFC Foundation program is non-competitive, meaning every eligible employee who applies and enrolls will get tuition coverage. Access to this opportunity is available beginning day one on the job for restaurant employees. WGU also offers rolling start dates every month, so KFC

restaurant employees have the flexibility to enroll at any time and begin online courses as soon as they’re ready. Maine has 17 KFC restaurants.

“Every year we look for new ways to support and enhance the lives of KFC restaurant employees,” said Emma Horn, Executive Director of the KFC Foundation. “What better opportunity to be able to offer team members than a flexible college de-

gree program from Western Governors University that can fit seamlessly into their schedule. The program at WGU is perfect for someone who may not have enough hours in the day to balance a traditional college experience on top of a full- or part-time job and other life priorities.”

Western Governors University is an accredited online university dedicated to making higher education accessible for as many people as possible. It is the leading academic institution where students learn and advance through competency-based education, rather than semester completion. As soon as a student masters the skills in a course and proves them through rigorous assessment, they progress in the program. Competen-

cy-based education works particularly well for learners in the workforce, giving them control over the pace of how and when they learn and may save them time progressing through the degree program.

“Completing a degree program can change lives, families and communities,” said Rebecca L. Watts, who oversees operations in Maine as the Northeast region vice president of Western Governors University. “But not everyone has the same access to education. Time, location and cost are some of the biggest barriers keeping our neighbors—especially those already in the workforce—from attending college. We’re proud to partner with the KFC Foundation to address those obstacles and

expand pathways to opportunity for KFC restaurant employees.”

KFC restaurant employees interested in the WGU program can go to [kfcfoundation.org/wgu](http://kfcfoundation.org/wgu) to learn more, and those interested in working at a KFC restaurant can visit [kfc.com/careers](http://kfc.com/careers) for more information about available job opportunities in their area.

\*To be eligible for the KFC Foundation’s programs, one must be employed at a KFC restaurant participating in the KFC Foundation’s Annual Franchise Donation Program and in good standing. Must maintain employment while taking advantage of these programs. Some restrictions may apply. See [KFCFoundation.org](http://KFCFoundation.org) for details.

References to “KFC” refer to corporate and independently owned KFC restaurants. KFC Corporation has no involvement in hiring decisions, orientation, staffing or the setting of wage rates and benefits for employees of independently owned and operated franchised locations. Benefits vary by location.



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**Wednesdays through March 22**

LEWISTON -- TEEN YOGA, Wednesdays, March 1-March 22, 3:30-4:30pm at the Lewiston Public Library:

The Lewiston Public Library will be hosting a 4 week yoga series for teens in March 2023. Classes will be held at the library on Wednesdays 3:30-4:30pm from 3/1/2023 to 3/22/2023 in the 2nd floor IDEA Lab. Practice will focus on simple breathing and mindfulness techniques as well as gentle movement.

For more information contact the Adult & Teen Services department at 513-3135 or [lpreference@lewistonmaine.gov](mailto:lpreference@lewistonmaine.gov).

**March 16**

WILTON -- "Medicare Made Simple" class, presented by SeniorsPlus, an introductory class on Medicare held from 3-5pm at SeniorsPlus, 284 Main St., Suite 10, Wilton.

Free. Register by March 9 by calling 207-795-4010.

**March 16**

LEWISTON -- GREAT FALLS FORUM: NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN MAINE AGRICULTURE 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM, Callahan Hall, Lewiston Public Library

This Great Falls Forum panel will explore what they believe are the greatest challenges--and

# Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

opportunities--for Maine agriculture as 2023 continues to get underway.

Free. Bring your bag lunch. The Zoom link will be posted to the Library website and Facebook prior to the event. 513-3135; [www.LPLonline.org](http://www.LPLonline.org)

**March 18**

NEW GLOUCESTER -- Lunne-Hunnewell Amvets Post #6, Rt#100, New Gloucester, ME: Bean Supper Night

Doors at Open at 4:00 P.M. and Start Serving at 5:00 P.M. Menu: Baked Red Beans, Pea Beans and Chop Suey; Cole-slaw, Bisquit's and Assorted Pies; Coffee, Tea and Punch. Cost=\$ 10.00 dollars Adults, \$ 5.00 dollars For Children under 12, and 5 years under "Free"

**March 18**

LEWISTON -- The Midcoast Symphony Orchestra presents "Tried and True, Plus a Newer Crew" with guest conductor Hiroya Miura. The performance, which features Florence Price's beautiful and jazzy Symphony No. 3, is on March 18 at 7:00 p.m. at the Riverside-Franco Center, 46 Cedar St., Lewiston. For info and tickets visit <https://www.midcoastsymphony.org/tickets> or call 207-481-0790. Tickets \$24.50 (advance) \$25 (cash or check) at the door. Under 18 and college students with ID are free.

coastsymphony.org/tickets or call 207-481-0790. Tickets \$24.50 (advance) \$25 (cash or check) at the door. Under 18 and college students with ID are free.

**March 18**

AUBURN -- Androscoggin Historical Society is announcing the first event of their Calendar year. The Genealogy Workshop will feature local author Denis Ledoux and "Turning Memories into Memoirs" as a tool to help with genealogy as well as preserving those precious family memories.

The event will take place March 18 at 1 pm at the Auburn Public Library Community Room. This annual event is held in conjunction with the Mary Dillingham-Burnt Meadow Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and members will be on hand to answer questions or help with research.

**March 21**

LEWISTON -- Construction/Manufacturing/Trades Hiring Event in honor of Rosie the Riveter Day on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 from 10:00am-noon at the Lewiston CareerCenter, 5 Mollison Way, Lewiston. Bring

your best self and speak with multiple employers all offering great job opportunities! The event is free and open to the public. For a list of participating employers, visit: <https://www.mainecareercenter.com/locations/jobfair.shtml?id=10431889>

**Fridays March 24 through April 28**

WILTON -- Opening Minds through Art, Education Center of SeniorsPlus at 284 Main St., Wilton

Through a series of classes, OMA engages students with dementia in creating free-wheeling art. Contact SeniorsPlus, at 207-795-4010, [edcenter@seniorsplus.org](mailto:edcenter@seniorsplus.org).

**March 25**

GRAY -- First Congregational Church of Gray, Saturday Night Church Supper, 5:00 PM at the Parish House, 5 Brown Street, Gray. Handicapped Accessible. Meals are single sized and are \$10.00 each. Please pay at the door. The Menu includes: Variety of Casseroles and Salads, Baked Pea Beans, Red Hot Dogs, Breads, Assortment of Desserts and Beverages. 207-657-4279

**March 25**

BUXTON -- Had-dock Supper Buffet - 5:00 pm at Living Waters Church, Parker Farm Road, Buxton. Suggested donation: \$8 Adult, \$4 Child, \$20 Family.

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offer the option of takeout containers for those who do not want to come inside for seating. Wearing of face masks for those who are not vaccinated is suggested. Hand sanitizer is available for those who wish to use it.

**March 29**

LEWISTON -- 11 am at the Lewiston Public Library: THE STATE OF MAINE'S LOONS

In a free program entitled "The State of Maine's Loons," learn from Maine Audubon conservation staff about loons in Maine and Maine Audubon's efforts to protect them. Contact info. 513-3135; [www.LPLonline.org](http://www.LPLonline.org)

**April 1, May 6**

WESTBROOK -- Prides Corner Community Church, 235 Pride St. Bean Supper \$10 per person: Two kinds of baked beans, mac and cheese, ham, coleslaw, bread and brownie. Eat

in at 5:00PM or Take Out from 4:30-5:30PM. Call 207-415-9260 to reserve your individual meal today.

**April 4, April 25**

LEWISTON -- Tuesday, March 14 at 5:30 PM at the Lewiston Public Library: "WHAT IF COMMUNITY IS THE KEY TO OUR RESILIENCE?" DISCUSSION PROJECT

The Lewiston Public Library will host a three-session Discussion Project on March 14, April 4, and April 25. The program, entitled "What if community is the key to our resilience?" will focus on The Water Knife by Paolo Bacigalupi, Vigil Harbor by Julia Glass, and Parable of the Sower by Octavia Butler.

Free. Books provided. Space is limited and registration is required. Contact info. 513-3135, [lpreference@lewistonmaine.gov](mailto:lpreference@lewistonmaine.gov); [www.LPLonline.org](http://www.LPLonline.org)



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## SENIORS

### LEWISTON SENIOR CITIZENS TRIPS FOR 2023

#### Spotlight on San Antonio, Texas - April 2-6, 2023

Trip includes 5 days, 4 nights lodging, 3 breakfasts and 2 dinners, visit to two UNESCO world heritage sites, visit to the Mission San Jose, visit to the ALAMO, boat ride along the Paseo del Rio known as the River Walk, National Museum of the Pacific War and so much more.

#### Reflections of Italy - October 9 - 18, 2023

Trip includes 10 days, 9 nights lodging, and 12 meals, including Rome, Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel, St. Peter's Basilica, Assisi, Perugia, Cortona, Florence, Michelangelo's

DAVID, Chianti Winery & Cooking Class, Venice, St. Mark's square, boat ride to Murano Island, Milan and much more.

### Virginia Beach, Colonial Williamsburg & Historic Norfolk - May 22 - 27, 2023

Trip includes 5 nights lodging and 8 meals, guided tour of Colonial Williamsburg, narrated Norfolk Naval Base Harbor Cruise, admission to the Nauticus & Battleship Wisconsin, visit to Mariner's Museum and Park, admission to Virginia Beach Aquarium & Marine Science Center and free time on Virginia Beach and the Virginia Beach Boardwalk. A \$75 deposit pp is due when signing up. Price is \$809 pp double occupancy and includes bus driver's tip.

For more information on any of our trips, please contact Claire Bilodeau (207)784-0302 or Cindy Boyd (207)345-9569.

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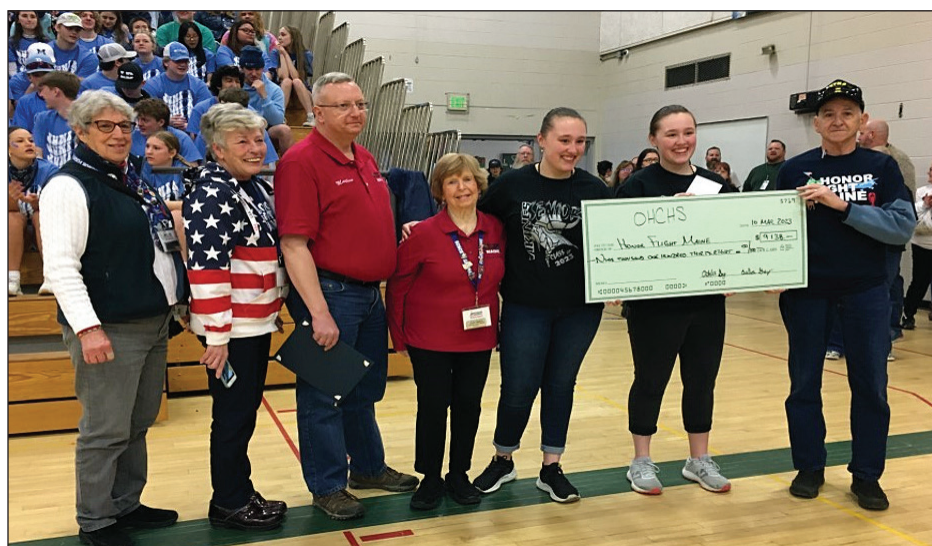
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# Seniors Raise \$9K, Donate to Honor Flight Maine

(March 10, 2023) -- Two seniors at Oxford Hills Comprehensive High school took it upon them-

selves to hold a Pasta and Meatball Fundraiser supper to support Honor Flight Maine. The evening was a

huge success. They were able to donate a check for \$9,138. What a wonderful example of being involved.



(left to right) Rosemary Holleman, HFM volunteer; Crystal Guerrette, Medical Board Member HFM; Matthew Mank, Chairperson HFM; Anita Higgins, Board Member, Secretary HFM; Julia Gay and Ashley Gay; and Charlie Paul, Board Member HFM.

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## Senator Timberlake Welcomes Peter Hirsch to the State House



On Thursday, March 9th Senator Jeff Timberlake (R-Androscoggin) was pleased to welcome Peter Hirsch to the State House. Mr. Hirsch is the Director of Camp Androscoggin and was at the State House for Summer Camp Day in the Hall of Flags.



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