

Androscoggin Celebrates Success of their Hike for Hospice Event



LEWISTON, ME (May 18, 2023) -- Androscoggin Home Healthcare + Hospice recently celebrated the remarkable success of their annual Hike for Hospice event, held on May 13th, 2023, in Lewiston, Maine. This event, aimed at supporting hospice services in the state, witnessed an impressive turnout of approximately 200 participants who hiked either 1 mile or 3 miles across the picturesque grounds of Pineland Farms

in New Gloucester, Maine. The Hike for Hospice serves as a community-wide gathering that not only raises funds but also generates awareness for Androscoggin's hospice care programs. Moreover, it highlights the critical need for hospice services throughout Maine, which encompass vital medical care, emotional support, spiritual guidance, and bereavement assistance provided to patients and

their families across the state. The event managed to raise approximately \$20,000 for these programs, reflecting the tremendous support and commitment of the community. The triumph of the Hike for Hospice event underlines the dedication of the community towards bolstering hospice services in Maine. Numerous participants shared poignant personal anecdotes, underscoring the significance of offering compassionate end-of-life care to patients and their families.

Ken Albert, CEO of Androscoggin Home Healthcare + Hospice, expressed gratitude for the overwhelming support of the community, which propelled the Hike for Hospice event to resounding success. The funds raised will enable the organization to continue providing indispensable hospice services to patients and families across Maine.

With nearly 60 years of experience, Androscoggin Home Healthcare + Hospice has been steadfastly providing high-quality healthcare services to the community. The organization's mission is to deliver compassionate care to all patients and families in need, irrespective of their financial circumstances. To sustain their essential services, Androscoggin Home Healthcare + Hospice relies on generous donations and fundraising events such as the Hike for Hospice.

If you missed the Hike for Hospice event but still wish to contribute to Androscoggin's hospice and palliative care programs, you can conveniently make an online donation at androscoggin.org/donate.

Androscoggin Receives Gift to Establish Pediatric Endowment

LEWISTON, ME (May 19, 2023) -- Androscoggin Home Healthcare + Hospice, Maine's largest independent provider of home healthcare and hospice services, is pleased to announce the establishment of the East Auburn Community Unit Pediatric Endowment. This significant initiative has been made possible by a generous gift of \$35,000 presented at the East Auburn Community Unit's Board meeting on May 17, 2023, by the President of East Auburn Community Unit, Bonney Philips.

The East Auburn Community Unit, a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the East Auburn Community and supporting children's well-being, recognizes the outstanding work of Androscoggin Home Healthcare + Hospice in caring for some of the most medically vulnerable children in the region. The establishment of the Pediatric Endowment underscores their commitment to ensuring the continuation of uncompromising pediatric care throughout Maine for generations to come.

In expressing his appreciation Androscoggin's President and CEO, Ken Albert, stated, "The establishment of the Pediatric Endowment is a significant milestone in our mission to provide uncompromising pediatric care throughout Maine. We are truly thrilled and immensely grateful for your organization's vision and dedication to ensuring the continuation of exceptional care and support for generations to come. This endowment will undoubtedly have a lasting impact on the lives of the children and families we serve, regardless of their personal circumstances."

The \$35,000 donation from the East Auburn Community Unit will be invested in Androscoggin's Long Term Mission Endowment Fund. This fund ensures a sustainable source of annual income, supporting the organization's programs and services while prioritizing the needs of patients and their families. By investing in the endowment, the East Auburn Community Unit demonstrates their commitment to making a lasting difference in pediatric care and the well-being of children throughout the state of Maine.

An endowment is a philanthropic investment fund established to provide ongoing financial support for a specific cause or organization. The principal amount is carefully managed and invested, while the generated income supports the designated programs and services. The East Auburn Community Unit's decision to establish the Pediatric Endowment reflects their dedication to the long-term well-being of children and families in Maine.

Androscoggin Home Healthcare + Hospice extends its deepest gratitude to the East Auburn Community Unit for their exceptional generosity and commitment to improving pediatric care throughout Maine. The Pediatric Endowment stands as a testament to the power of philanthropy and community collaboration in creating lasting positive change.

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

Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Maine CDC Confirms Death from Powassan Virus Disease

AUGUSTA, ME (May 18, 2023) – The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) has confirmed a fatal case of Powassan virus disease in a Sagadahoc County resident. The adult developed neurologic symptoms and died while in the hospital after becoming infected, likely in Maine. This is the first case of the tick-borne illness identified in the state this year.

Cases of Powassan are rare in the United States, with about 25 cases reported each year since 2015. Maine has identified 15 cases since 2015, including four in 2022. Two of the individuals who contracted Powassan in 2022 died of the illness, making this the third recorded Powassan death in Maine since 2015.

People acquire the Powassan virus through the bite of an infected deer tick or woodchuck tick. Ticks can be active any time the temperature is above freezing, but are most active in the spring, summer, and fall.

Many people infected with Powassan do not have symptoms; for those who develop symptoms, the time from tick bite to feeling unwell can range from one week to one month. Symptoms may include fever, headache, vomiting, weakness, confusion, seizures, or memory loss. Some people may experience serious neurologic problems, like brain or spinal cord inflammation. About 10 percent of people with severe disease die. If you experience any of these symptoms after a tick bite, call a health care provider as soon as possible.

Ticks live in wooded, leafy, and shrubby areas and deer ticks have been found in all 16 counties of Maine. They are currently active, so anyone spending time outdoors should take steps to limit their exposure to ticks. Following these Tick Free ME tips after every outdoor activity can help you stay tick free: Know tick habitat and take precautions in areas where ticks may live. Wear light-colored clothing that covers the arms and legs; tuck pants into socks. Use an EPA-approved repellent like DEET, picaridin, IR3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus on skin; use permethrin on clothing. Check for ticks daily and after any outdoor activity. Check family members and pets too. Ask a veterinarian about tick bite prevention for cats and dogs. Remove your clothing when you get home and put it in the dryer before washing. Use high heat for 10-15 minutes to kill any crawling ticks that have not attached to you.

For more information:

- Visit the Maine CDC Powassan website for more information about Powassan virus.
- Watch Maine CDC's tickborne disease videos
- View information from the Maine CDC on repellents
- To learn more about tick identification and testing, check out the University of Maine Tick Lab

MaineCF Grants Available for Historic Preservation Projects

PORTLAND & ELLSWORTH, ME (May 19, 2023)—Grants are available from the Maine Community Foundation's (MaineCF) Belvedere Historic Preservation and Energy Efficiency Grant Program. The program invests in the preservation, restoration and retrofitting of historic buildings in Maine.

Grant awards of up to \$20,000 are available for buildings that are listed or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or buildings within a federally designated historic district. Buildings should provide value to the community or have a compelling vision for its revitalization. The building also must be owned by an eligible nonprofit.

The deadline for grant applications is June 1. For more information and to apply, visit www.mainecef.org or contact Program Officer Katie Howard, khoward@mainecef.org or 207-412-0832.

In 2022, The Belvedere Fund awarded \$290,438 to 22 projects across the state. Grantees included:

- Ellsworth Historical Society, to restore the brick facade on the the 1886 Old Hancock County Sheriff's Home and Jail
- Town of Danforth, for safety improvements at 1888 Union Hall
- Wolfe's Neck Farm Foundation, Freeport, to replace the wood shake roof of the historic Pote House.

When the late Deborah Pulliam of Castine established her fund at MaineCF, she named it "Belvedere," an architectural term that reflected her appreciation for historic buildings.

Since 2008, the preservation fund has awarded more than \$3 million to museums, libraries, churches, and other historic structures.

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.

2022 Grants from the



Belvedere Historic Preservation and Energy Efficiency Committee:

- Association culturelle et historique du Mont-Carmel, Grand Isle, to preserve and restore the clay/gypsum walls of the former church: \$10,000
- Bar Harbor Historical Society, to paint exterior trim and doors and paint, reglaze, and repair sashes on windows: \$18,500
- Cary Library, Houlton, for structural repairs to foundation walls, furnace wall, ceiling, and to replace existing knob and tube wiring: \$4,450
- Durham Historical Society, to restore its building: \$20,000
- Ellsworth Historical Society, to restore the brick facade on the north side of its museum, the 1886 Old Hancock County Sheriff's Home and Jail: \$20,000
- Fifth Maine Regiment Museum, Peaks Island, to restore the building's windows: \$12,000
- Friend Memorial Public Library, Brooklin, for an energy efficiency study with window sashing repairs and upgrades to the exterior of the building: \$18,620
- Friends of L.C. Bates Museum, Hinckley, for brick-and-mortar preservation: \$4,000
- Friends of the First Congregational Church of East Machias, to repair its roof: \$20,000
- Holden Historical Society, to restore its building: \$7,800
- Lincoln County Historical Association, Wiscasset, to repaint the building's exterior: \$10,000
- Maine Maritime Museum, Bath, for an energy audit of the historic William T. Donnell House, a Victorian shipbuilder's home: \$1,600
- Northeast Historic Film, Bucksport, to restore and repair masonry on its west wall: \$17,500
- Old Bristol Historical Society, for exterior renovation of its south wall: \$8,000
- Poland Spring Preservation Society, for critical repairs of the slate roof and copper flashing system of the chapel: \$10,968
- Quoddy Tides Foundation, Lubec, to repair the upper masonry façade: \$20,000
- Town of Danforth, for safety improvements at Union Hall: \$20,000
- Town of Greenwood, for an energy audit and roof replacement of Greenwood Town Hall: \$15,000
- Windham Hill United Church of Christ, for steeple repair: \$20,000
- Wolfe's Neck Farm Foundation, Freeport, to replace its wood shake roof: \$10,000
- Woman's Literary Union of Androscoggin County, Auburn, for energy efficiency improvements: \$20,000
- Woodlawn Museum, Ellsworth, for an energy audit and restoration of gutters: \$2,000

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Auburn Responds to Legislative Maneuver

AUBURN, ME (May 18, 2023) – City of Auburn leaders were shocked and disappointed to learn of a recent political maneuver that attempts to eliminate public process in deciding the county seat for Androscoggin and undermine Auburn’s “home-rule” authority provided by Maine law, which is afforded to every other community in the state.

During a public workshop of the Maine Legislature’s Joint Committee on State and Local Government held on Wednesday, May 16, 2023, at 1:00PM, two bills were presented by title only. No supporting text was made available to the public. The bills were presented as a one-sided argument by Representative Jeff Timberlake of

Turner. Only special, invited guests, who knew the intent of the bills, were present to speak, including Androscoggin County Sheriff Eric Samson, Representative Kristen Cloutier of Lewiston, and a public relations firm representative hired by the county.

Fortunately, someone connected with state house legislation contacted the Auburn City Manager the night before as a courtesy. Otherwise, Auburn would not have been able to testify in opposition. The two bills brought before the committee would allow Androscoggin County to bypass the local planning review process for their new building. Additionally, they would circumvent Androscoggin County

voters in deciding if the county seat should move to the City of Lewiston. The narrative text for these bills is still not available to the public on the State of Maine website.

“In 1854, after Androscoggin County was formed, citizens from the cities of Lewiston and Auburn voted to determine which city would serve as the county seat,” said Auburn City Manager Phillip L. Crowell, Jr. during his testimony at the workshop. “The citizens selected the City Auburn to have this distinction. As was done in 1854, if there is going to be a change to the county seat, it should be placed on referendum and the citizens of Androscoggin County should make this determination. It should not be at

the whim of a majority of county commissioners who may have a political spat with a city. It is the responsibility of the citizens to determine these matters.”

For Auburn, this matter is not about providing a healthy work environment for sheriff’s deputies. The placement of a government building is a once-in-a-century decision. Auburn councilors take this responsibility seriously and they enacted a moratorium to ensure the citizens of Auburn were protected and allow for clarity of intent.

On February 16, 2022, the City of Auburn learned of the county’s intent to purchase the property at 774 Center Street in a Sun Journal article. Sheriff Samson was quoted in the article that he hoped

to move the jail to the new location in the future. The council felt that a moratorium was vital for the residents of Auburn based on this information.

As of February 2023, the county has had the opportunity to file a permit requesting a special exception and seek approval, but instead has failed to take this action. While Lewiston’s Representative Kristen Cloutier spoke in favor of both bills, the City of Auburn would want Lewiston residents to be consulted - and for their elected officials have a say - if the county announced a new building and jail would be moving into Mill #5.

“As a city councilor in Auburn, I have been concerned about the county’s lack of transparency

in the selection, purchase, and future costs of this project,” said Auburn’s Ward 3 Councilor Stephen Milks. “I hope that our neighboring communities like Turner can put themselves in our position and imagine how it would feel to have the county dictate when and where facilities – especially a jail – would be placed. I’m deeply concerned that other municipalities would attempt to dictate what happens in our city.”

Auburn leaders hope the full senate and representatives will see through these political games and reject these bills. “These matters MUST be left up to ‘home rule’ and not decided by state legislators,” said Auburn’s Ward 5 Councilor Leroy Walker.

Lewiston Democrat Appointed to Serve the Maine Climate Council

AUGUSTA, ME (April 26, 2023) – Speaker of the House Rachel Talbot Ross appointed seven House Democrats to serve on the Maine Climate Council, including on its subcommittees and working groups. The Maine Climate Council was established by Gov. Janet Mills and the Legislature in June 2019 and is charged with establishing strategies and initiatives to help the state meet its greenhouse gas reductions and renewable energy generation targets as it works to combat climate change, and to make sure our communities, industries and people are resilient to the changes our state is facing.

The Climate Council consists of several department commissioners, key state leaders, science and technical experts, business and nonprofit leaders, municipal leaders, a tribal representative and a representative of Maine youth. The council is supported by two subcommittees and six working groups.

Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross released the following statement:

“Addressing the climate emergency is the challenge of a lifetime and the steps Maine is taking

will put us on the path of not only a cleaner environment, but a stronger, more resilient economy.

I want to take a moment and thank Governor Mills, the Maine Climate Council and these new House appointments for their tireless work and dedication to preserve our planet and safeguard the well-being of future generations. The Council has created a clear pathway to meet the aggressive carbon reduction goals passed by the Maine Legislature and has made Maine a national leader in our shared fight against climate change.”

The appointments include:

Rep. Chris Kessler, D-South Portland, has been appointed to serve on the Maine Climate Council. He is serving his third term in the Maine House and represents part of Cape Elizabeth and part of South Portland.

Rep. Lydia Crafts, D-Newcastle, has been reappointed to the Coastal and Marine Working Group of the Maine Climate Council. She is serving her second term in the Maine House and represents Bristol, Damariscotta, Newcastle, Nobleboro and Monhegan

Plantation.

Rep. Vicki Doudera, D-Camden, has been reappointed to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Maine Climate Council. She is serving her third term in the Maine House and represents Camden and Rockport.

Rep. Dan Ankeles, D-Brunswick, has been appointed to the Transportation Working Group of the Maine Climate Council. He is serving his first term in the Maine House and represents a portion of Brunswick.

Rep. Margaret Craven, D-Lewiston, has been appointed to the Community Resilience Planning Working Group of the Maine Climate Council. She is serving her sixth nonconsecutive term in the Maine House and previously served three terms in the Senate.

Rep. Grayson Lookner, D-Portland, has been appointed to the Building, Infrastructure and Housing Working Group of the Maine Climate Council. He is serving his second term in the Maine House and represents a portion of

Portland.

Rep. Maggie O’Neil, D-Saco, has been appointed to the Natural and Working Lands Working Group. She is

serving her fourth term in the Maine House and represents part of Saco.

Rep. Gerry Runte, D-York, has been appointed to the Energy Work-

ing Group of the Maine Climate Council. He is serving his first term in the Maine House and represents Ogunquit, Wells and York.

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Seniors Not Acting Their Age

New Adventures on the Machias River
Part I – Airline Rapids to Little Falls



A tandem canoe team runs a rapid on the Machias River



Ken Gordon kayaks the left side of Little Falls



Paddlers enjoy the campsite at Little Falls on the Machias River

By Ron Chase
Forget the St. John, Allagash, or St. Croix Rivers. As far as I’m concerned, the Machias River is the best tripping river in Maine, maybe all of the northeastern United States. A free-flowing river with a large watershed, it begins in the lakes region of northern Washington County. From Fifth Machias Lake, it meanders and tumbles for eighty miles to the sea in the coastal community of Machias.

Meaning “bad run of water” or “bad little falls” in Passamaquoddy, the Machias has virtually everything for the adven-

turous paddler. Narrow, scenic whitewater streams connect five small to medium-sized lakes in the upper reaches. A few miles after leaving the last downriver lake, First Machias, it joins the West Branch and becomes a much more substantial body of water. Beginning with Long Falls between Third and Second Machias Lakes, there are at least eight Class III rapids, some more difficult in high water. Depending on water levels and paddling skills, they may need to be carried. Most consider turbulent Holmes Falls to be a mandatory portage.

For many years, I’ve

scheduled a Penobscot Paddle & Chowder Society spring Machias River trip in late April. Weather, water levels, and road access are the primary concerns when planning an excursion on the Machias. Road closings by new landowners have complicated planning in recent years.

In early April, I contacted Sunrise Expeditions in Washington County about the possibility of hiring them to shuttle us into 5th Machias Lake or Cranberry Lake, the primary source of the West Branch. They reported roads to those locations were gated by landowners. Hence,

the trip would be limited to the 56-mile sector between Third Lake and Machias. My book, *Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine* documents trips through the entire river.

Stormy weather complicated decision-making. A forecast for three days of exceptional weather sandwiched between two long periods of rain dictated my choice. In my opinion, the best three-day trip on the Machias is from 3rd Lake to Holmes Falls.

Several people expressed interest in the outing but due to conflicts only frequent outdoor companion Ken Gordon could join me. While a larger group was preferable, just two of us paddling expedition kayaks simplified logistics. We agreed to meet on the morning of April 27th at Airline Rapids on Route 9 near Wesley to begin our shuttle.

Our adventure began with a disappointment. For the first time in the forty-five years I’ve been paddling the Machias River, the road to Holmes Falls was gated. A review of our alternatives indicated a trip from Airline Rapids to Smith Landing in Northfield was a convenient three-day trip. This option was not a sacrifice since any trip on the Machias is exceptional. This scenic sector of river has several exciting rapids, beautiful campsites, and dramatic

Holmes Falls. The shuttle completed, we were ready to paddle early afternoon.

While preparing to launch on Airline Rapids, a party of six in three tandem canoes passed. During an exchange of greetings, we confirmed that all of us would be camping at Little Falls that night. The best campsite on the river was going to be a crowded place.

Airline Rapids is a long, pushy, complex descent. We chose a route on the right in the upper portion selecting narrow passageways between numerous boulders. After catching an eddy on the right, we ferried left through a rock garden while managing to avoid broaching possibilities. Our first whitewater rapid on the trip was completed without incident.

The five-mile paddle to Little Falls is predominantly flatwater. However, two short entertaining rapids must be navigated. In the middle of the second, we were able to surf a feisty wave in our heavy tripping kayaks – a rewarding accomplishment.

When we arrived at Little Falls, the tandem canoe teams were preparing to complete their runs. The challenging falls is a lengthy rapid with a steep intimidating ledge drop in the middle. The pitch can be run left or in the center, but both channels require precise maneuvering. Ken

and I walked the portage trail and watched their successful descents. We negotiated the left route without problems.

Our newfound paddling companions were a joy to camp with at the foot of the falls. We spent the evening discussing the adventures that awaited us downriver.

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

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Paddle For Pine Tree Camp Weekend Expands To Three Days

SOLON, BRUNSWICK AND MANCHESTER, ME (May 3, 2023)

– The 27th Bath Savings Paddle for Pine Tree Camp returns in June with some new twists: the Hammond Lumber Cornhole for a Cause tournament, Party for the Paddle at The Woodshed in Manchester and live music at the Solon Hotel. Expanding the paddle to a multi-day event serves one purpose: to raise funds for Maine kids and adults with disabilities to experience freedom and independence at Pine Tree Camp.

On Saturday, June 3rd, paddlers will reunite in Solon for the traditional route down the Kennebec River. On Sunday, June 4th, paddlers will come together to loop the Androscoggin River in Brunswick. Both paddles are family-friendly and perfect for all ages, skill levels and abilities.

The weekend will kick off Thursday, June 1 at The Woodshed in Manchester with a Party for the Pad-



dle and Hammond Lumber Cornhole for a Cause. This evening of cash prize cornhole competition and fun will feature a WABI TV5 live broadcast telethon, music by Jay McClure and special guests as well as an appearance by long-time Pine Tree Camper Scotty Wentzel who was the inspiration for the new book “A Dog and His Boy: The Adventures of Spillway and Scotty.” Local food and beverages served up by The Woodshed will be available for purchase.

On Saturday, June 3 the public is invited to

a post-paddle celebration featuring an afternoon of music at the Solon Hotel hosted by Matt Schaeffer and Friends Music for the Military. Music will begin at 2:00 and continue into the evening. There will be a 50/50 raffle and the chance to win a new kayak.

What:
27th Bath Savings Paddle for Pine Tree Camp

Register for the paddle at this link: <https://secure.frontstream.com/27th-bath-savings-paddle-for-pine-tree-camp>

Hammond Lumber Cornhole for a Cause

Register for the cornhole tournament at this link: <https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/PineTreeSociety/2023CT.html>

When:
Thursday, June 1
The Woodshed, 915 Western Ave., Manchester
4:00pm Doors open for Party for the Paddle

5:15pm Registration for Hammond Lumber Cornhole for a Cause
5:45pm Cornhole tournament begins

Saturday, June 3
9:30am

Solon: Traditional route down the Kennebec River

Paddle begins at The Evergreens Campground in Solon (202 Ferry Street, off Route 201A) and ends in North Anson on the Patterson Bridge Road. This is a three mile, two-hour paddle.

2:00pm

Solon Hotel: Post-paddle live music fundraiser open to the public (4 South Main St., So-

lon)

Sunday, June 4
9:30am

Brunswick: Loop on the Androscoggin River

Paddle begins and ends at the Water Street Boat Landing (located at the end of Water Street) in Brunswick. This is a two mile, two-hour loop.

Why: Pine Tree Camp is Maine’s only American Camp Association-Accredited camp for people with disabilities. All proceeds from the Bath Savings Paddle directly benefit Pine Tree Camp’s Tuition Fund. Since 1945, Pine Tree Camp has welcomed all who could benefit, regardless of their ability to pay. The funds raised from the Bath Savings Paddle for Pine Tree Camp are a critical part of the camp’s open door tuition policy.

More About Pine Tree Camp: Established in 1945, Pine Tree Camp is Maine’s only American Camp Association-accredited camp for people with disabilities. Ev-

ery year, hundreds of Maine children and adults with disabilities arrive at Pine Tree Camp in Rome and their lives are transformed. Year-round, campers experience freedom and independence by actively participating in outdoor activities like kayaking, boating, swimming, fishing, hiking, biking, archery, snowshoeing and even ice-fishing thanks to Pine Tree Camp’s 285-acre, fully-accessible campus on North Pond. Full tuition assistance is available. No camper has ever been turned away due to their ability to pay. <https://pinetreesociety.org/camp-home/>

Sponsors of the 27th Bath Savings Paddle for Pine Tree Camp include: Bath Savings, Hammond Lumber Company, WABI-TV5, Hub, Franklin Savings Bank, O’Connor Chevrolet, Eaton Peabody, Lakepoint Real Estate, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care and Albin, Randall & Bennett.

Military Academy Nomination Applications Being Accepted

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 18, 2023)

– U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King, Jr., and U.S. Congresswoman Chellie Pingree and Congressman Jared Golden announced that they will begin accepting nomination applications from Maine high school students for appointments to the United States service academies operated by the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Merchant Marine. No nomination is required to apply to the United States Coast Guard Academy.

Students should apply for a nomination in the spring and summer of their junior year. Senators Collins and King and Congresswoman Pingree and Congressman Golden will

begin accepting nomination applications as of May 15, 2023, from students for admission to the academies in the summer of 2024.

For more information please contact:

Senator Susan Collins

Contact: Karen Staples
207-784-6969
www.collins.senate.gov

Senator Angus King, Jr.

Contact: Katie Fellows
207-352-5216
www.king.senate.gov

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Contact: Leslie Merrill or Dorian Cole
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Sen. Collins Works to Give Maple Producers a Seat at the Table

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 18, 2023)

– U.S. Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Peter Welch (D-VT) today introduced the Supporting All Producers (SAP) Act, legislation to require the United States Department Agriculture (USDA) to consult with maple producers when determining education and research priorities for the Acer Access and Development Program (Acer). Acer is a competitive grant program, supporting research and education related to maple syrup production and sustainability in the maple syrup industry.

“Maine has a rich and storied tradition of producing some of the most exceptional maple syrup in the world,” said Senator

Collins. “This important bipartisan legislation will ensure that the voices of our maple syrup producers are heard in determining allocations under the Acer Access and Development Program. By requiring the USDA to consult with these hardworking individuals, we can prioritize research and education initiatives that directly support the growth and sustainability of our beloved maple syrup industry.”

“Maple syrup production is a cornerstone of Vermont’s economy and culture—but it’s a challenging business and only getting more so as climate change continues to alter our environment and impact yields,” said Senator Welch. “That’s why I’m proud to introduce the SAP

Act. This bill will give our maple syrup producers a voice in the decision-making at Acer and help producers continue to create this world class Vermont product.”

The Acer Access and Development Program funds research and education initiatives on maple syrup production, natural resource sustainability, and marketing for maple products. The program also works with landowners to begin or expand maple-sugaring activities or to make the land available for others to do so.

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

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Arts & Entertainment

Cast Announced for Production of Steve Martin Comedy at CLT



Here is the cast for CLT’s upcoming production of the Steve Martin comedy *Picasso* at the Lapin Agile. Seated left to right are Sophie Messina, Tony Roy, Sarah Duncan, and Jason Pelletier. Standing are Roger Philippon, Brian Pfohl, Chris Kuhlthau, and Gerry Therrien. In front is Dan Kane. Absent is Bryce Smith.

(May 15, 2023) -- Director John Blanchette has announced the cast for the upcoming Community Little Theatre (CLT) production of the Steve Martin comedy *Picasso* at the Lapin Agile, which will open June 15.

The time is 1904 in a bar in Paris named the “Lapin Agile” (Nimble Rabbit). Albert Einstein and Pablo Picasso meet and begin to discuss art, the universe, and everything in between. A unique collection of characters punctuates this discussion with wit, humor, and wry perspectives – until a mysterious visitor arrives with visions of the future. For Steve Martin fans, this show has everything – high-brow and low-brow humor, accents, philosophy, and some great laughs!

In the titular role of *Picasso* is Brian Pfohl.

Sparring with him as Einstein is Tony Roy. Jason Pelletier will portray Freddy the bar owner. In the role of Germaine, Freddy’s girlfriend and quintessential French woman, is Sarah Duncan. CLT newcomer Chris Kuhlthau will play Gaston, the Lapin Agile regular who provides a bit of age and wisdom to the show. In the role of Suzanne, the young woman infatuated by Picasso, Sophie Messina will play the first weekend and Bryce Smith will play the second weekend. Roger Philippon will play Sagot, the art critic and Picasso enthusiast, and Dan Kane will portray the zany inventor Schmendiman. Finally, the mysterious (or not so mysterious!) Visitor will be played by Gerry Therrien.

Blanchette’s crew includes assistant director/stage manager Danielle Eaton and producer

Matt Conklin. Jennifer Fox is the costumer and hair styles will be created by Sara LaBrecque. Matt Conklin heads up light design and operation and sound design and operation will be in the able hands of his brother Josh Conklin. Kate Sicotte is managing properties and set décor and Blanchette is leading the set design and construction. Photos for the show will be taken by DNA Photography.

Picasso at the Lapin Agile will be performed at CLT on 30 Academy Street in Auburn at 7:30 p.m. on June 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, and 24 and at 2:00 p.m. on June 18 and 25. Ticket prices (including all fees) are \$22.00 for adults, \$19.00 for seniors, and \$14.00 for students. Tickets are available online at www.laclt.com/box-office or by calling 207-783-0958.

St. Mary’s Benefits from Dunkin’ Iced Coffee Day

PORTLAND, ME (May 18, 2023) – As temperatures rise, Dunkin’® is giving guests an extra reason for getting their iced coffee fix this May! America’s favorite coffee chain today announced the return of Dunkin’ Iced Coffee Day on Tuesday, May 23. On this special day, guests can make their coffee run count, as \$1 from every iced coffee, excluding Cold Brew and Nitro Cold Brew, sold at participating Dunkin’ locations will be donated to the Dunkin’ Joy in Childhood Foundation®.

The Dunkin’ Joy in Childhood Foundation, created to bring the simple joys of childhood to kids battling hunger or illness, is dedicated to making a

difference. With 100 percent of funds raised on Dunkin’ Iced Coffee Day going towards local children’s hospitals nationwide, the money raised in each community will help these hospitals expand their impact, bolstered by the support of the Foundation.

For the first time in Maine, three hospitals

will benefit from Iced Coffee Day. The Barbara Bush Children’s Hospital at Maine Medical Center in Portland, St. Mary’s Regional Medical Center in Lewiston, and Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor will each receive an Iced Coffee Day grant from the Dunkin’ Joy in Childhood Foundation.

“Our commitment to giving back is stronger than ever, as countless children across the country face illnesses that no child should endure. That’s why

the Dunkin’ Joy in Childhood Foundation and Dunkin’ teamed up again this year to create our own Iced Coffee Day, pouring our hearts into every cup and bringing joy to kids in need,” said Victor Carvalho, Dunkin’ Franchisee and Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Dunkin’ Joy in Childhood Foundation.

In 2022, Dunkin’ Iced Coffee Day raised \$1.8 million for the Dunkin’ Joy in Childhood Foundation, which was granted to 93 local children’s hospi-

tals across the country. The grants funded child life programming that ranged from art, music and integrated therapy programs, electronic gaming equipment, and specialized summer camps. Maine Dunkin’ franchisees have donated more than \$500,000 in Iced Coffee Day funding to local hospitals and children since 2012.

To learn more about the Dunkin’ Joy in Childhood Foundation, visit www.bringjoy.org and follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

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Nathaniel Hawthorne’s Boyhood Home to Hold Silent-Auction

RAYMOND, ME (May 16, 2023)—A major Silent Auction Fundraiser at Nathaniel Hawthorne’s Boyhood Home in Raymond, 40 Hawthorne Road, will be held on Saturday, June 3, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The funds are urgently needed to make repairs to structural deficiencies in the historic house’s roof, exterior siding, and interior walls. Support of the Silent Auction Fundraiser will help ensure that one of Maine’s most beloved literary/historical treasures will endure and thrive as a

community events center, cultural icon, and point of local pride. Among the dozens of attractive items to be auctioned at the boyhood home of the author of *The Scarlet Letter* will be a 2-Night Stay at The Inn at Ocean’s Edge, Penobscot Bay ... A 5-Course Meal at Migis Lodge ... 4 Portland Sea Dogs tickets ... 2 tickets to Titanic at the Maine State Theatre ... Pontoon Boat Rental at Moose Landing ... a Handcrafted Christmas Reindeer & Wreath ... and much more. (For



Nathaniel Hawthorne’s Boyhood Home in Raymond, Maine. Image courtesy of the Hawthorne Community Association.

winning bid payments, personal checks preferred but credit cards graciously accepted.) The festive Silent Auction will also feature

a 50-50 raffle, a complimentary appetizer-buffet, beer, and wine. Musical entertainment will be provided by popular local artist Dana Reed, affectionately known as Capt’n Uke. How to Support the Hawthorne House’s Phase II Fundraising Campaign The June 3 Silent Auction is part of the Phase II Fundraising Campaign for Nathaniel Hawthorne’s Boyhood Home in Raymond, whose goal is to raise \$75,000 for urgent re-

pairs. Those who cannot attend the Silent Auction—but who would still like to donate—are invited to do so by sending a much-appreciated check or online donation. Please make checks payable to “Hawthorne Community Association” / PO Box 185 / South Casco, ME 04077. Credit card, debit card, and/or Paypal donations may be made online at: <https://www.hawthorneassoc.com>. For more information, please contact Abel Bates at (207) 318-7131 or jbates4@maine.rr.com.

Auburn Student Trustee Joins MCCS Board of Trustees

AUGUSTA, ME (May 19, 2023) – The Maine Community College System (MCCS) welcomes Winnie LaRochelle of Rangeley as the new student trustee on the Board of Trustees. LaRochelle graduated this spring with an associate degree in criminal justice from Central Maine Community College (CMCC) in Auburn. She will continue her studies at CMCC next year, pursuing an advanced certificate in police operations. “This is quite an honor,” said LaRochelle, who added that living in the campus dorms and being

involved in sports and other campus activities will allow her to gather valuable information to share with the board. “I am able to see firsthand and understand the colleges at a different level than someone from the outside. Board members can ask me for the student perspective.” Her goal is to become a Maine game warden and work with young people. LaRochelle has mentored younger students when she was in high school and through Big Brothers Big Sisters. “Winnie’s community service and experience in so many aspects of com-



munity college life makes her an outstanding addition to the board,” said MCCS President David Daigler.

“She’s a top scholar, an athlete, a dorm resident, a community volunteer, works, and is now stacking her academic credentials with an advanced certificate on top of her associate degree. I’m looking forward to her contributions to the important work of the board.” LaRochelle was nominated by Governor Janet Mills and confirmed by the Maine Senate. She serves a two-year term. The Maine Community College System’s Board of Trustees is the policy making authority for the system and consists of 13 appointed voting mem-

bers, one ex-officio voting member, and one ex-officio non-voting member.

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Abdi, Dhalac Speak at Maine’s First Black Voices Advocacy Day



Rep. Abdi speaks at Black Voices Advocacy Day at the State House.



Rep. Dhalac speaks at Black Voices Advocacy Day at the State House.

AUGUSTA, ME (May 18, 2023) – Rep. Mana Abdi, D-Lewiston, and Rep. Deqa Dhalac, D-South Portland, spoke to their experiences as first-term members in the Maine House of Representatives and called on young Black Mainers to engage in politics during the state’s inaugural Black Voices Advocacy Day at the State House on Thursday.

Androscoggin Historical Society to Host Christmas in July Sale

AUBURN, ME (May 18, 2023) -- The Androscoggin Historical Society will host a “Christmas in July” craft sale at the West Auburn Schoolhouse (740 West Auburn Road) on Saturday, July 22nd, from 10:00am - 3:00pm, rain or shine. If weather permits, tables may be placed outside. Artisans and crafters may rent bare tables (roughly 30” x 72”) for \$25 each. The Society will take care of set-up and tear-down. We have a limited number, so reserve early to be assured of a space. For reservations and more information, contact Androscoggin Historical Society at 784-0586 or email info@Androhistory.org with your name and contact information.

Central Maine Det. 810 Presented Certificate of Appreciation



Central Maine Det. 810 presented a Certificate of Appreciation for proudly displaying the U. S. Flag at Lewiston Fire Station – Engine 4. Pictured left to right is Toby Blais, Jr Vice Commandant, Paul St Pierre, Aide-de-camp, Sr. Fighterfighter Chris Fournier, Lt Kevin Bergeron, Dept of Maine Commandant Charlie Paul, Marine Associate Joyce Richmond, Pvt Spencer Martin and Clifford Plourde, Judge Advocate. In addition to Engine 4, Certificates of Appreciation were also presented Casco Bay Electric, The Thomas J McMahon Elementary School and Russell Park Rehabilitation & Living Center.

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Auburn Fire Department Promotions Announced



Photo (left to right): Chief Robert Chase, Lt. Adam Salve, Lt. Tyler Arsenault, Captain Erik Poland, Battalion Chief Michael Scott, Deputy Chief Matthew Fifield

AUBURN, ME (May 18, 2023) -- Chief Robert Chase of the Auburn Fire Department announces a series of promotions as a result of a promotional process that started in late 2022 and ended in March of 2023. "I am excited to honor the advancements these individuals have made in their careers, and to promote the qualities of integrity and accountability that they demonstrate. I look forward to seeing the impact they will have on the department in the future."

Michael Scott- Promoted to the rank of Battalion Chief on January 1, 2023, and assigned to command Shift A. Battalion

Chief Scott has been with the department since February 19, 1996, and was promoted to Lieutenant in February of 2008. He was again promoted on April 26, 2015, to the

rank of Captain. During his time with the department, he has been involved with many aspects of the department's operations and training, and currently assists in management of the department's fleet of vehicles. BC Scott is the highest-ranking officer of Shift A.

Erik Poland- Promoted to the rank of Captain on February 15, 2023, and assigned to Shift B.

Captain Poland has been with the department since January 7, 2008, and was promoted to Lieutenant on July 8, 2018. Captain Poland who is assigned to Shift B is also a State of Maine licensed Paramedic. Additionally, Captain Poland is the commanding officer of the Fire Department Special Rescue Division.

Tyler Arsenault- Promoted to the rank of Lieutenant on March 8, 2023,

and assigned to Shift C as the officer of Engine 2 on South Main Street

Lieutenant Arsenault has been with the department since April 1, 2012. Lieutenant Arsenault is part of the training team and is the Station Chief for South Main Street Fire Station. In addition to his other duties, Lieutenant Arsenault assists the department in recruitment activities throughout the state.

Adam Salve- Promoted to the rank of Lieutenant on March 8, 2023, and assigned to Shift C as the officer of Rescue 3 at Central Station

Lieutenant Salve has been with the department since October 3, 2017. Lieutenant Salve is a State of Maine licensed Paramedic and is the Officer in charge of our department's Ice and Water Rescue Teams.

WHA Art Gallery at CMMC - May Exhibit

LEWISTON, ME (May 19, 2023) -- The Woman's Hospital Association (WHA) Rotating Art Gallery at Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston is displaying the work of photographer, Mike Casey. Casey graduated from USM in 1982 and has spent many years enjoying the experience of photographing the world around him. In his photographs he attempts to align shape, light and form into something that is pleasing or intriguing to the viewer. He finds that whether he is in Maine or anywhere else, "there is always a picture to be taken. I am always looking for a better one around the corner. Although a picture may express a thousand words, I leave the interpretation of the photograph to the viewer". 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.



"Daffodils" -- photograph by Mike Casey

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Limina Renewal Center Opens, Offers Space for Rest and Renewal

SEARSPORT, ME (April 20, 2023) – Limina Renewal Center, co-founded by Bill & Libby Catania, is located in Searsport, Maine and is focused on helping people through the transitions of their lives.

Opening in Spring of 2023, the center will feature a ‘quiet’ space for community goers to retreat to as they experience a variety of transitions in their lives.

“One of the first things I get asked is ‘What does limina mean?’ Limina comes from a Latin word that means “threshold” or “gateway” between two things, like two phases in life. When we live through a life change and all the transitions that come with it, we’re in a liminal time. There are so many times when we are shifting away from one way of being in the world and haven’t fully moved into our new sense

of selves. Leaving home for work or military service or college, making a life commitment to someone, starting, or leaving a job, moving, getting divorced, retiring, becoming empty-nesters, receiving a life-limiting health diagnosis, becoming a caregiver, grieving the death of a loved one ... Life is full of change, and it can be so hard! Limina is a safe place for people to come during these transitions

to find rest, renewal, and support.” Libby Catania, co-founder of Liminal Renewal Center.

The renewal center concept came to Libby Catania’s consciousness while working for a hospice program where she saw the need for people to have a safe space to rest their bodies and spirits. This experience laid the foundation of the center which features offerings such as nature-bathing,

reiki, meditation, prayer, and full meal service provided by local chefs and created with wholesome and organic ingredients. Guests are also invited to work with a spiritual director and a wellness coach while on the property. During the weekend retreats guests will enjoy the quiet atmosphere as they become rested and renewed and learn new skills to live with change and transition. While re-

treats are affordable, for anybody who cannot afford a retreat but would like to attend can apply for a scholarship or do work program within Liminia to cover the costs of a retreat. Individuals or companies can also help by sponsoring a retreat or multiple retreats.

For more information on upcoming retreats and Liminia Renewal Center please visit www.liminiarenewal.com

Day’s VP of Marketing Makes Jewelers of America’s 20 Under 40

WATERVILLE, ME (May 18, 2023) -- Nikia Levesque, Day’s Jewelers’ Vice President of Marketing, was named as one of the recipients of Jewelers of America’s 20 Under 40 in Jewelry Retail list. Jewelers of America’s 20 Under 40, which was launched in 2022, is a recognition program that celebrates young professionals who exemplify leadership skills and a commitment to elevating jewelry retail for tomorrow’s consumers.

Levesque began her career at Day’s Jewelers in 2013, working as a season-

al sales associate. In 2019, Levesque completed an internship with the Merchandising department, and in 2020, accepted the position of Marketing Coordinator in the corporate office in Waterville. Levesque then obtained the position of Marketing Manager in 2021, and then the VP of Marketing in 2022 when former owner Jeff Corey retired from the role.

“Jewelers of America’s 20 Under 40 in Jewelry Retail list was designed to recognize young and talented individuals in all facets of the retail jewelry

industry,” says Jewelers of America President and CEO David Bonaparte.

A panel of industry judges reviewed nominees from JA Retail Members across the country and had the difficult tasks of narrowing the applications down to the 20 individuals who best embody an ability to lead, innovate, and improve a jewelry store’s success while adhering to professional ethics.

Of the election, Levesque says, “I am honored to be selected as one of the 20 Under 40 recipients. The sixteen-year-old me

would never have guessed I’d be where I am today, but I’m proud to show her how far I’ve come. I’m excited to enact change and progress in our industry for generations to come.”

In 2022, Joe Corey, current Day’s President, was elected as one of the program’s initial members. Levesque marks the second Day’s Jewelers individual to receive a nomination on the 20 Under 40 list.

Day’s Jewelers has been a member of Jewelers of America, the national association for fine jewelry



businesses with the most reputable jewelers in the United States, for several years. Day’s is honored to boast a second nominee to the 20 Under 40 list.

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Auburn City Council Approves Municipal Budget

AUBURN, ME (May 18, 2023) – At their meeting Monday evening, the Auburn City Council approved the City Manager’s proposed FY24 municipal budget. This was the required second reading of the budget.

“Our FY24 budget is the result of a lot of hard work by staff,” said Auburn City Manager Phillip L. Crowell, Jr. “We know that our residents are facing significant increases in almost every facet of their lives. Our leadership team made some difficult decisions and we dedicated ourselves to creating a sound budget that would have minimal impact to taxpayers.”

“People are struggling, and close on the heels of a market adjustment on single-family homes last year, I’m proud that we are landing at what is ostensibly a zero percent increase,” added Mayor Jason Levesque. “We are coming in well below inflation rates, and I congratulate staff on getting us here. I also commend the council for the work they have done, for supporting growth, and for leading Auburn fearlessly toward the future.”

“The council’s pro-growth goals are now reaping benefits,” added Levesque.

Eric Cousens, Auburn’s Director of Planning and Permitting, credits record-setting permit amounts, which affects valuation. “Over the past two years,” said Cousens, “The city’s revamping of zoning to spur new development has triggered significant new opportunities for landowners to expand housing options. And that benefits all Auburn residents, as well as businesses who are facing workforce challenges. Record permit values were issued in 2021, 2022, and the outlook for 2023 is promising.”

Auburn’s FY24 budget represents a \$0.20 over increase to the mill rate (\$0.01 on the city budget, \$0.13 on the school department budget, and \$0.07 on the county budget). Average taxes on a \$250,000 home will increase by approximately \$50.00. Auburn voters will vote on the Auburn School Department budget during the School Budget Validation Referendum election on June 13.

Kennedy Park’s North Gate Area Gets Improvements

LEWISTON, ME (May 15, 2023) – As a part of the Choice Neighborhoods Federal grant, the City of Lewiston will be upgrading the North Gateway at Kennedy Park on Pine Street between Park and Bates Street starting Tuesday, May 16, through September. The work for the Kennedy Park North Gateway shall consist of landscaping, sidewalks, and construction of a redefined mid-block park entrance along Pine Street for a total project area of about 17,000 square feet.

During construction, street parking along Pine Street will not be available. The nearest Lewiston parking garages are Oak Street Parking Garage, One Oak Street, and Centreville Garage, 62 Canal Street.

The improvement project includes construction of hardscape and planting beds. Construction will entail cobble paving, brick paving, brick seat wall/planting beds, walkways, accessible ramps with detectable warnings, lighting, drainage, benches, trash receptacles, and planters. The new entrance way will also involve the installation of Arboreal Figure, a sculpture created by Maine artist Hugh Lassen.

Once completed, visitors will enjoy landscape planting such as Serviceberry, or Autumn Brilliance, a gorgeous native tree that provides a spectacular display throughout all seasons and American Elm, a deciduous tree that is highly-resistant to Dutch Elm Disease. Grasses adorning the new area include Beyond Blue Fescue, Purple Lovegrass, Blue Upright Switchgrass, and Dwarf Foundation Grass.

In 2018, Lewiston received the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant. In conjunction with the City of Lewiston and Community Concepts, Inc., the Healthy Neighborhoods Planning Council worked to create a neighborhood transformation plan that focuses on making the Tree Streets



Neighborhood a holistically healthier place where anyone would choose to live.

This project achieves several goals of the transformation plan including improving gateways into the neighborhood; neighborhood beautification; and increasing positive activities in Kennedy Park to create a more accessible, safer greenspace for all residents. The project was designed to complement the planned Choice Neighborhood phase II housing construction across Pine Street. The Dewitt mixed-use development is planned to begin construction in 2025.

THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

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For more information email Marcie Hird: mhird@alymca.org

Mission-Driven UX Designer, Yany Avelar, Joins Rinck

LEWISTON, ME (May 1, 2023) -- Rinck Advertising is pleased to announce the addition of Yany Avelar, UX/UI Designer. Avelar brings a wealth of design, user research, and programming experience to Rinck, having previously worked for creative agencies, editorial companies, and as a freelance designer.

Before coming to Rinck, Avelar served as Lead Multimedia Designer at 605 Creative Co and then worked freelance for three years while earning two Master's degrees. In 2022, she graduated from the University of Denver with a Master of Arts in User Experience Strategy and a Master of Science in Software Design and Programming. She also holds a Bachelor of Science in Graphic Design from South Dakota State University.

A UX/UI (short for User Experience/User Interface) designer's goal is to improve user satisfaction by making an experience intuitive and easy to navigate. In her role at Rinck, Avelar advocates for users and optimizes

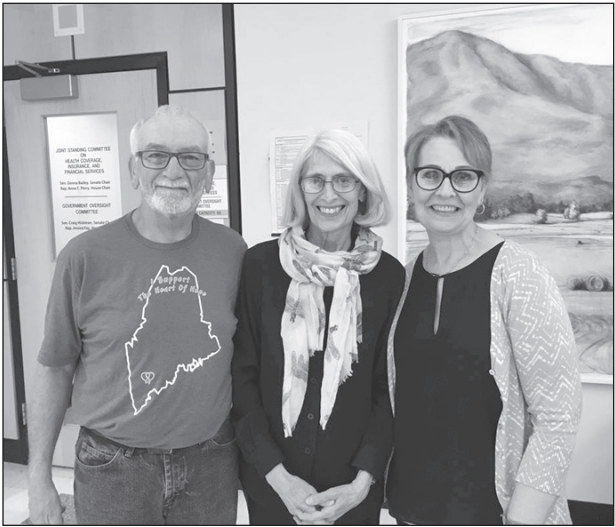


user experiences for digital client products. She develops comprehensive UX/UI design strategies for client brands, designs UI components and tools, and provides guidance on implementing UX research methodologies. In layman's terms, Avelar's job is to make digital products easy to use.

"I'm excited to have Yany join the Rinck Creators team. She brings a vast UX/UI skill set and proven graphic design abilities, allowing us to further blur the lines between our digital and creative groups," said Laura Rinck, President. "Adding Yany to our Creators team brings integral tools to our digital department and rounds out our services. Our clients will benefit from digital design offerings that put their end users' and customers' experience first."

Avelar is originally from Sioux Falls, SD, and is currently living and working remotely in Portland, OR. When she is not working, you can find her making art, learning a new hobby, volunteering, or keeping up on design trends.

Rotundo Bill Ensures Early Detection for Breast Cancer



Mitch Sperry, Sen. Peggy Rotundo and Carlene Sperry at Monday's hearing for LD 1665.

AUGUSTA, ME (May 10, 2023) — On Monday, Sen. Peggy Rotundo, D-Lewiston, introduced a bill before the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services that would help ensure early detection of breast cancer for individuals who are at an increased risk due to their genetic backgrounds.

"This bill will help people detect and manage a breast cancer diagnosis upstream, providing them with critical time to make informed decisions," said

Sen. Rotundo. "I was happy to bring this bill forward to empower people, like my friend and breast cancer survivor Carlene Sperry, with as much information as possible."

LD 1665, "An Act to Improve Breast Health Care by Providing Coverage for Genetic Counseling and Testing" will require insurance carriers in Maine to provide coverage for genetic testing and genetic counseling related to BRCA (breast cancer) 1 and BRCA 2 gene mutations for people who are at an increased risk for developing these related cancers. According to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, the lifetime risk of breast cancer for an average woman is 12 percent, but inherited gene mutations raise the risk to at least 20 percent. Between five and 10 percent of breast cancer diagnoses are related to such mutations. Half of these are related to BRCA 1 and 2 mutations.

Carlene Sperry, founder of the Heart of Hope Charitable Fund, a

non-profit organization that strives "to make the lives of women and men who are battling breast cancer a little easier" testified that she was diagnosed with Stage Three breast cancer at the age of 42, resulting in chemotherapy, radiation and hormone therapy. She has a genetic mutation related to BRCA 2. Ms. Sperry urged the committee to pass LD 1665 in order to help others avoid her experience with breast cancer.

LD 1665 will be the subject of a work session on May 10.

Central Maine Medical Center Nurse Recipient of DAISY Award

LEWISTON, ME (May 17, 2023) -- Amy Stein, RN, who is a medical surgery nurse at Central Maine Medical Center, has been honored with the DAISY Award.

The DAISY Award is an international recognition program that rewards and celebrates the extraordinary, compassionate and skillful care nurses give every day.

Amy and other recipients consistently demonstrate excellence through their clinical expertise and generous care. The DAISY Award honorees personify Central Maine Health-

care's remarkable patient experience.

At CMH, an extraordinary nurse:

- Provides compassionate, high-quality nursing care.
- Fosters a patient and family-centered experience.
- Creates a culture that empowers and supports all team members.
- Displays professional excellence and is a role model for the nursing profession.
- Is passionate about the work they do for the community they serve.

Amy was nominated



by Joseph Girard, a patient. He said, "Amy is professional and on a level I have never seen. I asked many

questions and she always returned, especially making it a point at the end of her long twelve-hour shift, to come and speak with me.

"She is a woman of the highest level of integrity, professionalism and compassion. Nurses' jobs are very hard. To me, Amy has nothing but profession-

alism, motivation, care and compassion - all of that is hard to accomplish. I have way more to say, but there is just not enough room. She is a force for healing!"

"We could not be prouder of Amy for winning this award," said Kris Chaisson, BSN, MS, RN, CCRN-K, NEA-BC, senior

vice president of Nursing and Patient Care Services, Central Maine Healthcare. "Receiving such heartfelt praise from a patient underscores how deserving she is of this recognition. With her dedication to professionalism, Amy demonstrates the Service Standards that we all strive to achieve here at Central Maine Healthcare."

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



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May 26
PORTLAND --
DaPonte String Quartet Concert Series 3, Program: Beethoven String Trio in G Major, Op. 9, no. 1 & Brahms Piano Quartet in C Minor, Op. 60 with pianist Laura Kargul at 7:00 pm, St. Lukes Cathedral, Portland. Information and tickets available at daponte-quartet.org

May 27
BUXTON -- Had-dock Supper Buffet - Saturday, May 27, 2023 - 5:00 pm at Living Waters Church, Parker Farm Road, Buxton. Suggested donation: \$10 Adult, \$5 Child, \$20 Family. Please note: We will offer the option of takeout containers for those who do not want to come inside for seating. Wearing of face masks for those who are not vaccinated is suggested. Hand sanitizer is available for those who wish to use it.

May 27
AUBURN -- The Maine Iris Society will hold its 2023 Median Iris & Spring Flower Show on Saturday, May 27th, from 1:30pm to 4pm at the Auburn Middle School, 38 Falcon Dr, Auburn. Admission is free. Please note that bare-root iris rhizomes will not be available this year; however, there will be a sale of potted perennials.

May 27
PORTLAND --

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

DaPonte String Quartet Concert Series 3, Program: Beethoven String Trio in G Major, Op. 9, no. 1 & Brahms Piano Quartet in C Minor, Op. 60 with pianist Laura Kargul at 4:00 pm, Meetinghouse Arts, Freeport. Information and tickets available at daponte-quartet.org

May 27
GRAY -- First Congregational Church of Gray Saturday Night Church Supper @ 5:00 at the Parish House, 5 Brown Street, Gray. Handicapped accessible. Meals are singled-sized and are \$10.00 each. Please pay at the door.

The Menu includes: Variety of Casseroles & Salads, Baked Pea Beans, Red Hot Dogs, Breads, Assortment of Desserts & Beverages

June 2
BAR MILLS --
DUKE ROBILLARD BAND at Saco River Theatre, 29 Salmon Falls Road, Bar Mills, ME, Friday, June 2nd at 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$15 General Admission at www.sacrivertheatre.org or call 207-929-6473 for reservations.

June 3
AUBURN -- The West Auburn Congregational Church will be holding a

Homemade Dinner on June 3 from 4:30 to 6 pm at 811 West Auburn Road, Auburn Maine. We will be serving Chicken Pot Pie, Macaroni and Cheese, Salads, Rolls, Beverage and Dessert. Tickets are available at the door for \$10.00, (Children 5 to 10 \$5.00 and under 5 free). We have to go meals.

Location: West Auburn Congregational Church – 811 West Auburn Road, Auburn Maine

Topic: Homemade Dinner

Date: Saturday, June 3, 2023

Time: 4:30 to 6 pm
Food: Chicken Pot Pie, Macaroni and Cheese, Salads, Rolls, Beverage and Dessert

Cost: Tickets are available at the Door \$10.00 (Children 5 to 10 \$ 5.00; under 5 free)

June 5
LISBON FALLS -- The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a Blood Drive on June 5th at the parish hall of Holy Trinity church at 67 Frost Hill Avenue Lisbon Falls from 1:00 PM until 5:30 PM

Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter HTC to sched-

ule an appointment. No walk-ins will be accepted. Must make an appointment.

June 15-25
AUBURN -- Community Little Theatre presents the Steve Martin comedy Picasso at the Lapin Agile. Young men Albert Einstein and Pablo Picasso meet and discuss art, the universe, and everything in between along with some colorful characters who add wit, humor, and wry perspectives. Show dates are June 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, & 24 at 7:30 p.m., and June 18 & 25 at 2:00 p.m. All performances at CLT on 30 Academy Street in Auburn. Tickets and more information at www.laclt.com/picasso-at-lapin-agile-2023

June 17
MINOT -- Church Auction at Minot United Methodist Church, 142 Minot Ave, Minot, Maine 04258

Our church will be holding an Auction on June 17th 2023 at 6 p.m. This is a Benefit for our Kitchen Renovation Project. Admission is free

Every 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Monday

LEWISTON -- PROGRAMS FOR HOMESCHOOL FAMILIES, held the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Monday 11:15am-12:30pm starting March 6th, 2023 at the Lewiston Public Library Children's Department

Homeschool families, are you looking for

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opportunities to have fun and socialize with other homeschool families? LPL will be offering activities for homeschool families in the Children's Department the first three Mondays of each month from 11:15am-12:30pm. The activities will be a Homeschool Video Game Social on March 6th, a Homeschool Lego Club and Curriculum Swap on March 13th, and a Homeschool Storytime and Craft on March 20th.

This program is free and recommended for homeschool families with children of all ages. No registration is required. Contact info. 513-3133, LPLKids@lewistonmaine.gov

Second and fourth Thursdays

LEWISTON -- YOUTH TRADING CARD GAME CLUB held from 4 PM to 5 PM at the Lewiston Public Library. Join the Youth Trading Card

Game Club to play, learn, trade, and compete with your peers! Games include Pokémon, Magic: the Gathering, and more. All skill levels are welcome. Library staff and volunteers will be available to teach new players and coach developing ones. Free. For kids & teens ages 8-18. 513-3135; www.LPLonline.org

Wednesdays

LEWISTON -- Knitting Group, Dates: Wednesdays, Time: 4:30–7:30 p.m., Facilitator: SeniorsPlus Staff, Location: Education Center, 8 Falcon Road, Lewiston

Join our knitting group to work on your own project, learn from others, and socialize. Classes are free, unless noted. SeniorsPlus is fully accessible. Hearing assistive equipment is available upon request. For more information or to register, call us at 207-795-4010 or visit seniorsplus.org.



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Turboclean Powerbrush Pet Pro carpet cleaner. Brand new. Used once. Asking \$80. Call 893-8851. Gorham.

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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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Lewiston Legislative Delegation to Host Public Office Hours

AUGUSTA, ME (May 18, 2023) – Members of Lewiston’s delegation to the State Legislature will hold constituent office hours at the Lewiston Public Library later this month to provide local residents a chance to meet with their elected officials and discuss legislative and state government matters. The delegation will give updates on their work on various policy areas, including the state budget, law enforcement, insurance and financial affairs, taxes, transportation and veterans issues. Office hours are scheduled for the fourth Saturday of every month.

Sen. Peggy Rotundo, Rep. Kristen Cloutier, Rep. Margaret Craven, Rep. Mana Abdi and Rep. Michel Lajoie will host office hours Saturday, May 27, 2023 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at The Couture Room, Lewiston Public Library, 200 Lisbon Street

Medicare Seminar to be Presented by Renata Lahner

AUBURN, ME (May 18, 2023) -- As you approach age 65 and eligibility for Medicare, do you know all you need to know to select the right insurance plan for you? If not, you are invited to this no cost seminar on Thursday, May 25, from 12-1 p.m. At that time, you will hear from an experienced insurance broker who specializes in helping clients with Medicare planning needs. This seminar is meant to help people navigate the options with Medicare and will include information on signing up for social security.

This presentation will help you have a better understanding of your medicare options, deadlines and fines that may be imposed if you do not sign up on time.

This program is offered by Renata Lahner of The Lahner Group, whose mission is to provide unbiased Medicare and insurance advice for individuals from all walks of life, while simplifying the complexities of the various healthcare options. Renata specializes in helping clients with Medicare, social security, and life insurance needs.

The program will take place in person, in the ground floor Conference Room No registration is required.

For more information on this or other upcoming programs offered by the Auburn Public Library, visit our website (auburn-publiclibrary.org) or call the Reference Desk at 207-333-6640, ext. 4.

When: Thursday, May 25, 2023; 12-1 pm

Where: Conference Room, Auburn Public Library

Contact: Donna Wallace, 333-6640, ext. 4

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Annual Cocktail Party Chairperson Announced

WINTHROP, ME (May 1, 2023) -- Elizabeth Neale, Chairperson of the Board of Directors for the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed announced today that Julie Peacock, Realtor with Vallee Harwood & Blouin Real Estate, has been named Chairperson of the 2023 annual cocktail event, Lakeside Libations and Celebration! Julie joins the current planning committee, co-chair Kathy Boggan, committee members Suzanne Young, Sandy Small-Hughes, Elizabeth Neale, Paula Nersesian, Jennifer Fleming, Peter Washburn, Todd Snider, and Ad Hoc member Peter Mendall along with staff partners Mercedes Arnold and Cami Wilbert.

Julies’ success as a real estate agent is her ability to guide people through the selling and buying process by making it an exciting and seamless experience. People are drawn to her spirited personality which also helps her inspire her team as Mary Kay Sales Director where she has excelled for 23 years. Julie is married with 2 grown children, Logan her son is a Maine Maritime Academy graduate currently working as a Marine Engineer, and a daughter Emily who graduates in May from NYU with her Master’s Degree. She has helped with several fundraisers within the community including The Patrick Shea Memorial Charity Golf Tournament.

Ms. Neale stated, “Julie is the perfect Chairperson for this event because of her passion for the lakes, ponds, and streams in the Cobbossee Watershed and her professional, ongoing work with community members”. The love of lakes in the watershed for the Peacock family dates back to the 1940s when her husband’s grandmother bought an island on Cobbossee Lake for his grandfather as an anniversary gift. The island, formerly known as Pinkham Island is now Peacock Island. Her husband Scott, co-owner of Capital Area tree service parents’ built a home on the lake where he grew up. In 2005 Julie and her husband built their home on Cobbossee Lake and raised their family there. Generations of memories made with family and friends have made them realize that keeping our lakes, ponds, and streams free of invasive plants and chemicals is critical in keeping those memories going for future generations.

The mission of the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed is to protect the lakes, ponds, and streams through community engagement, conservation, and education.

Lakeside Libations and Celebration is sponsored by Kennebec Savings Bank, The Mendall Financial Group, and Sprague and Curtis Real Estate, Vallee Harwood & Blouin Real Estate and will be held Thursday, August 24th at the YMCA Camp of Winthrop. This year’s Honorees, the Founders of the Friends of The Cobbossee Watershed include: Conrad Ayotte, Mark Johnston, Jay Snider, Hugh Stephens, Jeff Timms, Warren Winslow Posthumously honoring Dave Flanagan, Elaine Fuller, Alan Ryan, Kenney Smith, and Betty Stephens

There are still sponsorships available and to purchase tickets go to www.watershedfriends.harnessgiving.org, or call (207) 395-5239.

New Gloucester to Hold Memorial Day Parade, Service

New Gloucester would like to invite all veterans to march in the town parade. Veterans who cannot march and Gold Star Families are invited to ride in vehicles. The Town is also inviting church groups, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, people in the community, classic vehicles, vehicles with floats, walkers.

Please come join us to “Honor Our Men and Women Whom Have Given Their Last of Their Lives for Our Freedom” on this Memorial Day.

We will be lining up at the Memorial Elementary School on 86 Intervale Rd., New Gloucester, Me.

Line-Up: Time will Start at (8:00 am) In the Parking Lot.

Step-Off of Parade Time will be (9:00 am) From the School. Then march down Intervale Rd. to Route # 100/202 to Veterans Park on Route # 100/202.

The Memorial Service will be at the park. Then after the Memorial Service we will Line-Up again March back on Peacock Hill Rd. to the Lunne-Hunnewell Amvets Post#6 and dismantle there.

Any Questions please call Commander Willie Danforth at (207) 777-4759 and Son’s Commander Jeff Hamilton at (207) 926-4079.

Weekend Vehicle Unloader \$25 Per Hour!

Environmental Projects Inc in Auburn Maine is looking for part time weekend workers for Maine and New Hampshire (Paid travel time/per diem/hotel for out-of-town work from our Auburn, ME facility).

To Apply: email Howard Fogle business@envprojects.com or call 207-786-7390 between 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM Monday-Friday and ask for Howard.