



TWIN CITY TIMES

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Saint Dominic Academy in Auburn Graduates Class of 2023



AUBURN, ME (May 30, 2023) -- “Remember the past with fondness, cherish today, look forward to tomorrow, enjoy life.”

The words of Stephen Shukie, a teacher selected by the graduation class to speak at the 78th Commencement of

Saint Dominic Academy in Auburn, were among the many inspirational well wishes imparted to the Class of 2023 during graduation exercises on Friday, May 26 (pictures below).

Bishop Robert Deeley was joined by Father Daniel Greenleaf, pastor of Prince

of Peace Parish in Lewiston, and Principal Alanna Stevenson in helping with the distribution of diplomas to a graduating class that learned and lived resolve during a high school career that saw that pandemic arrive when they were freshmen. The determination that strengthened this class was mentioned in the many encouraging and motivating thoughts shared by commencement participants on Friday.

“Our St. Dom’s experience taught us how to lead by example; speak, sing, and act in the spotlight; and persevere when things got tough,” said Laura Wong, valedictorian of the 2023 class. “Live out your years with the grace and kindness that Christ, through our teachers and staff, has

modeled for us: to be guided by your conscience and to use your competitive spirit, determination, and grit to work together to make every day a bit better for those around us.”

“Over the past four years, we have been shaped into the people we are today by our friends and family but ultimately, we have the power to decide who we want to be,” said Abigail Mitchell, the class salutatorian. “We are not defined by the words of others and the judgment of society, but by how we express ourselves each and every day. Embrace every moment, good or bad, and be proud of the person you are today.”

See **Graduates**, page 11

Bates Dance Festival has Family & Free Events, Lessons, Concerts

LEWISTON, ME (June 1, 2023) — Tickets for the 2023 Bates Dance Festival go on sale online this Thursday, June 1 via BatesDanceFestival.org, with phone and in person sales at the box office available later in the month, on June 27. As it did last year, the festival is offering tickets at a sliding scale from \$5 to \$25 to make performance accessible to all.

The Bates Dance Festival, celebrating its 41st season, will present four distinctive dance performances in July at Schaeffer Theatre on the Bates College Campus as well as a recently added 4D

sound performance from Maine-based James Allister Sprang at Trinity Episcopal Church, the annual fundraising event BDFête on July 22, and a number of free events including concerts, works in progress, artist talks and even group dance lessons during the renowned festival, which runs from June 29 through July 29.

The full schedule is available at batesdancefestival.org Of this year’s performance series, Director Shoshona Currier says, “I’m honored to bring these unique pieces to Maine this summer. Each choreographer invites audiences into their

own very rich environments while exploring big ideas like grief, love, lineage, and so much more. As a series, this represents four points on the spectrum of artistic processes that took place throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, bringing fresh energy to the stage that is technical and experimental, playful and serious, definitive and curious.”

Thematically, several of the featured performances tackle issues related to race, including Black love, the racial dynamics associated with postmodern dance itself, and the continuum of Jazz within Black

culture. Details about the mainstage performances are below.

A.I.M by Kyle Abraham — An Untitled Love Schaeffer Theatre Friday, July 7 at 7:30PM Saturday, July 8 at 7:30PM Sunday, July 9 at 7:30PM

Drawing from the catalog of Grammy Award-winning R&B legend D’Angelo, this creative exaltation pays homage to the complexities of self love and Black love, while serving as a thumping mixtape celebrating our culture, family and community.

See **Dance**, page 16

House for Sale

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Stunning Auburn Home 25 minutes from Portland and Augusta. This is an immaculate four-bedroom, 2.5 bath custom-built colonial home located in a highly desirable Auburn neighborhood. The property boasts beautiful curb appeal, with a welcoming porch and a large, landscaped yard spanning 2.86 acres. The home features hardwood floors, granite countertops, and an open concept kitchen leading to a formal dining room and an oversized deck. The living room area is filled with warmth from a large gas fireplace and a wall of windows and doors offering lots of natural light. The cozy den is ready for relaxation or quiet media enjoyment. The primary suite with jet tub and three additional bedrooms are located on the second level. The finished daylight basement includes plenty of space for recreation with a large office and extra storage. The double sliding doors lead to a private backyard oasis perfect for entertaining on your patio with an 18 x 36 heated pool. Attached two-car garage with direct entry into the home and two sheds for additional storage. This property is conveniently located near I-95, schools, shopping, outdoor recreation, and more. Don't miss out on this rare opportunity to own a beautiful home in a fantastic location. Be sure to schedule your private showing today by calling 207-754-4998. Listed by Michelle Gosselin Ervin and Elizabeth Splane of Hearth and Key Realty.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

An Update from Augusta

By Sen. Peggy Rotundo

The Legislature is now in full swing. Bills are still being debated in policy committees and more and more of those bills are coming to the floor of the Senate and House of Representatives, where sessions are getting later. Many of my own bills have been the subject of public hearings and work sessions lately. Additionally, the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee, which I chair, is now in possession of the Governor's change package and will be negotiating the second part of the state budget in the coming weeks. I thought it would be a good time to update you on our agenda now that we are getting near the end of the session.

Recently, my legislation to study the feasibility of bringing passenger rail to Lewiston and Auburn, LD 880, was heard by the Transportation Committee. The bill has since been combined with my colleague Sen. Joe Baldacci's bill, LD 860, to bring train service to Bangor through Lewiston. His bill will be discussed further by the Committee in the coming weeks. The Lewiston/Auburn metro area is home to over 100,000 people, a great many of whom would benefit from affordable, fast train service. These commuters would save time, reduce their use of fossil fuels, and free up income for any number of other priorities. I will be tracking Sen. Baldacci's bill with great interest.

My bill to help ensure early detection of breast cancer for individuals who are at an increased risk due to their genetic backgrounds, LD 1665, was heard on May 9 by

the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services. I was happy to bring this bill forward with encouragement from breast cancer survivor and Heart of Hope Charitable Fund founder Carlene Sperry. While the bill was not successful, in part because there are currently statutory provisions for the coverage of genetic consultation and treatment, I was pleased to give Carlene a platform for raising awareness about this important issue.

In order to address the educator shortage that is affecting Lewiston Public Schools and the entire State of Maine, I introduced a bill, LD 1217, to develop pilot projects designed to provide alternative pathways to teacher and education technician certification. As a former public school teacher, I think it is important to explore possibilities that can help address the immediate shortage of educators in our classrooms without compromising standards. This bill is still being debated by the Committee of Education and Cultural Affairs.

Additionally, I was very pleased to bring forward LD 1473 to create protection for Lake Auburn and other sensitive drinking water sources in Maine that face development pressure. We are very fortunate to have pristine drinking water sources in our state. Of the 40 bodies of water in the United States that enjoy Environmental Protection Agency filtration waivers because of their exceptional water quality, 10 are located in Maine. We must protect these sources of municipal drinking water from the kind of high density development that could

jeopardize the quality of the water as well as the filtration waivers and the water rate savings that come through having a filtration waiver. This bill received a favorable vote from the Environment and Natural Resources Committee and will head to the full Legislature for a vote in the coming weeks.

Finally, Gov. Mills released details of her change package, the amendment to her proposed biennial budget, LD 258, earlier this month. You can go to the Bureau of the Budget's web page, maine.gov/budget, to read the contents of the amendment. In the coming weeks, the Appropriations Committee will hold many work sessions on the change package. I look forward to working with my Republican and Democratic colleagues to make sure we take care to spend Mainer's hard-earned money responsibly.

If you would like to discuss my bills, the biennial budget or any other legislative matter, please don't hesitate to email me at Peggy.Rotundo@legislature.maine.gov or call me at the State House at 207-287-1515.

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Auburn: Curbside Recycling Ending

AUBURN, ME (June 2, 2023) – Curbside recycling collection will end on Wednesday, June 28 in Auburn. Beginning that same day, Auburn residents will be able to drop their recyclable items off at Auburn Public Works at 296 Gracelawn Road. The recycling container will be available to residents 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. It will be

located near the resident sand shed and brush drop-off area.

There will also be compost bins available for those who wish to drop off compostable food waste. Recycling will still be "single sort," meaning residents can mix all their recyclable items together. Recyclable items must be clean, and include clear & colored glass, #1-7 plas-

tic, tin/aluminum cans, cardboard (boxes should be flattened), newspapers & magazines, and mixed paper. Compostable items include all food scraps, coffee grounds, filters & tea bags, dairy products, meat & bones, egg & seafood shells, fats, oils & salad dressing, paper bags & paper plates, napkins/paper towels, newspaper, and flowers & potting soil.

Gender-Affirming Care Available at Planned Parenthood



PORTLAND, ME (June 2, 2023) – As we celebrate Pride month this June, Planned Parenthood of Northern New England (PPNNE) wants to remind the communities we serve that we provide gender-affirming care at all 15 of our health centers in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont --- and there is a fund to help provide these services to those who seek this care.

PPNNE's Gender-Affirming Care Fund provides high-quality, non-judgmental care to transgender and gender non-conforming patients, regardless of ability to pay. Many private and federal insurance programs

do not include coverage for gender-affirming care, which is why PPNNE started this fund in 2017 as a way to reduce those barriers to care.

PPNNE was one of the first Planned Parenthood affiliates in the country to offer this funding.

PPNNE offers a full spectrum of inclusive sexual and reproductive health care services to people of all genders and identities. Services include gender-affirming hormone therapy, PrEP and PEP, STI testing and treatment, birth control, well person check-ups and more. For more information visit our site.

One patient who came to PPNNE for gender-affirming hormone therapy

said, "I am able to be who I was meant to be with help from PPNNE." Another noted, "I am no longer at war with my own body every day."

Statement from Nicole Clegg, Acting CEO, Planned Parenthood of Northern New England:

"Planned Parenthood believes everyone deserves high quality, compassionate health care — no matter your gender identity or sexual orientation. We are proud to offer a safe space to all of our patients. As we celebrate Pride month, we also celebrate the LGBTQ+ communities we serve. We are stronger together, and the Gender-Affirming Care Fund is a critical way to support our mission of delivering reproductive health care to all of our patients in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont."

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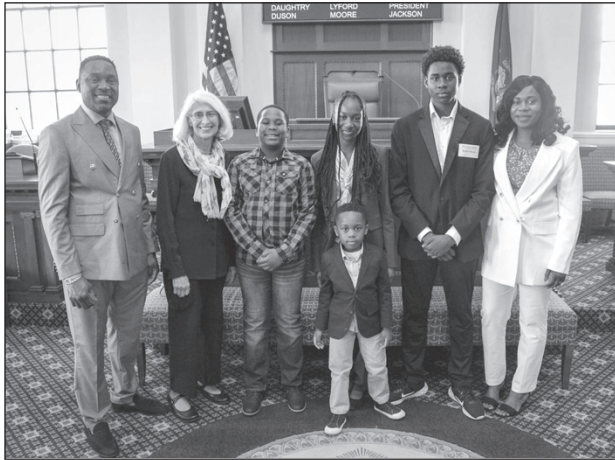
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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Sen. Rotundo Welcomes Lewiston Student as Honorary Senate Page



Mpaka Lumbizimbizi, Sen. Peggy Rotundo, Pascoal Mpaka, Victoria Mpaka, Valente Mpaka, Basilio Mpaka and Arieth Mpaka in the Senate Chamber.

AUGUSTA, ME (June 2, 2023) — On Thursday, June 1, Sen. Peggy Rotundo, D-Lewiston, and other members of the Legislature welcomed Basilio Mpaka from Lewiston Middle School to serve as an Honorary Page in the Senate session.

“I am so proud of Basilio for being an honor

roll student and coming to Augusta to experience the Senate firsthand,” said Sen. Rotundo. “It was great to meet him and his wonderful family. I look forward to seeing more honor roll students and their families in the State House.”

Honorary pages are invited to perform duties such as delivering messages 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 or 207-287-1540.

CMCC to Offer Free Training – Refrigeration 608 & Phlebotomy

AUBURN, ME (June 1, 2023) – The Center for Workforce and Professional Development at Central Maine Community College (CMCC) is offering free training in June.

June 13 – August 10, 2023, free Refrigeration 608 training, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 – 6:00 PM. Upon completion of the Refrigeration 608 training, students will be able to do a variety of things including: identify the components and explain the application and operation of the basic refrigeration cycle and heat transfer, test equipment, and demonstrate accepted refrigeration applications. The EPA approved refrigerant handling exam (EPA 608), is included in this free course. Students who successfully complete the course will be eligible for immediate employment. Access to a Windows-based desktop, laptop or tablet with internet connection is needed.

June 13 – July 28, 2023, free Introduction to Phlebotomy Techniques training, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00 – 8:00 PM. Students who successfully complete the course will be eligible to sit for the National Healthcareer Association exam since the



course includes the hands-on live stick component. The average starting wage for a phlebotomist in this region is \$32,400 with tremendous opportunity for advancement. Information and links to register for the programs is available at <https://www.bit.ly/CWPDRRegistration> or call 207-755-5280 or 207-755-5379.

These courses join several other free offerings by Workforce and Professional Development including CompTIA Security+ and Network+ trainings, Basic Life Support, Certified Pharmacy Technician, Computer Support & Information Specialists, Heat Pump Installer, TIPS training and SERVSAFE training.

All programs are funded by the Maine Jobs and Recovery Program (MJRP). Participants are eligible for one training and must be at least 18 years of age, possess a high school diploma, GED, or HiSet, and be a U.S. citizen and/or authorized to work in the U.S. Criminal background check will be required. Additionally,

candidates in MJRP-funded programs must be a dislocated, unemployed, or underemployed worker, or someone whose job has been impacted by COVID-19. Underemployed can be considered as working part-time but looking for full-time work or working in an occupation below one’s skillset.

For more information or to register, please contact Central Maine Community College’s Center for Workforce & Professional Development at workforcedevelopment@cmcc.edu or 207-755-5280.

Central Maine Community College is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution and employer. For more information visit www.cmcc.edu/eec or contact Human Resources at (207) 755-5396.

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

City of Lewiston Reminds Businesses of Parking Discounts

LEWISTON, ME (June 1, 2023) – The City of Lewiston reminds downtown businesses and residents in designated areas that parking fee discounts are available in its five municipal garages. The City’s parking garage payment system resumes on July 3.

The designated areas pertain to businesses that own or lease real estate and operate within the corner of Main and Bates Streets, southward to Adams Avenue, westward to Canal Street, northward to Cedar Street, westward to Lincoln Street, northward to Main Street, and eastward to the point of beginning.

The five municipal garages are Centreville Garage, 62 Canal Street; Chestnut Street Garage, 29 Chestnut Street; Lincoln Street Garage, 16 Lincoln Street; Oak Street Garage, One Oak Street; and Southern Gateway Garage, 425 Lisbon Street.

Information on garage usage/rules and discounts can be accessed at www.lewistonmaine.gov/parking.

Downtown Small Business Parking Fee Discount Program:

The first two parking

passes are discounted to \$42 each per month. Each additional pass is \$55 a month. Payment can be paid in full on July 1 or in three incremental payments throughout the year. If a \$55 pass is paid annually or on an incremental basis, the discounted total is \$600 – a savings of \$60.

Major Employer with 50+ Employees:

The annual cost for each parking pass is \$540. The annual payment can be paid in full on July 1 or in three incremental payments throughout the year.

Major Employer with 150+ Employees:

The annual cost for each parking pass is \$420. The annual payment can be paid in full on July 1 or in three incremental payments throughout the year.

Downtown Residents:

Residents are also eligible for a reduced monthly parking rate at any City-owned public parking facility. Downtown residents must show proof of residency for a parking pass cost of \$42 a month.

Validation Device:

In addition, the city is offering businesses a validation device for a refundable deposit of \$500, a cost

savings of \$525. Patrons who have their parking ticket validated upon arrival at a business will not have to pay to park. At the close of each month, the business will receive an invoice for the dollar amount validated for that month.

To obtain a validation machine, a business may contact Laura LaBelle at llabelle@lewistonmaine.gov (207) 513-3123, X3214. If a validation machine is returned in good condition, the deposit will be refunded.

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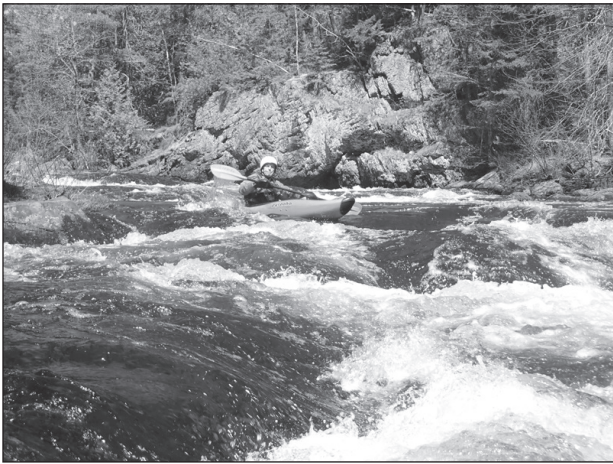
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Seniors Not Acting Their Age

Exciting Adventures on Seboeis River Part I – Tiger Rips to Snowshoe Lodge



A kayaker descends one of many ledge drops on upper Seboeis River



Tiger Rips is a long section of continuous demanding whitewater



Snowshoe Lodge was damaged by a fallen tree but still habitable

By Ron Chase

Forty years ago, my wife, Nancy, and I paddled the iconic Seboeis River canoe trip from Grand Lake Road west of Shin Pond to Whetstone Falls on the East Branch of the Penobscot with our friends John and Diane Stokinger. Twenty years later, I descended the turbulent upper Seboeis to Grand Lake Road with a group of whitewater boaters.

The two trips are distinctly different river adventures. The upper is about five miles of almost continuous technical

Class III/IV whitewater that would be difficult to navigate in a loaded canoe or kayak. Below Grand Lake Road, the Seboeis is the quintessential tripping experience consisting of easy rapids and quick water until reaching Class III Whetstone Falls.

For the last several years, a group of friends and I have completed a northern Maine canoe/kayak trip in May. This year, I suggested a combination whitewater and tripping excursion on the Seboeis. Everyone seemed enthusiastic about the idea. Per-

haps they were just humoring an old man since there were only three of us at final count.

A dual Seboeis trip is a logistical challenge. Small whitewater boats are preferable on the upper whereas larger tripping vessels are needed for the remainder. Therefore, two separate shuttles are necessary. I needed help and the folks at Matagam Campground were the answer. When I spoke with one of the owners, he confirmed they could transport our vehicles from both launches to Hay Brook

Kayak/Canoe Facility in Grindstone. He further suggested using Matagam on Tote Road to access the upper.

A plan was in place. Three of us would take six boats on three vehicles to the Grand Lake Road put-in where we would leave our tripping vessels on two vehicles and transport three whitewater boats to the launch for the upper on the third. Once the upper was completed, we would exchange crafts, load gear, and begin the river trip. Yes, it's confusing.

We selected three outstanding spring weather days for our early May excursion. It was sunny and breezy when we arrived at the boat launch on Grand Lake Road. Negotiating the Matagam Tote Road to a snowmobile bridge over the upper was an ordeal. Five recent blowdowns had to be dislodged, one required towing. The bridge was a welcome sight.

Rousing Tiger Rips, a long section of continuous demanding whitewater that required precise maneuvering, began almost immediately. It was a delight.

We alternated running probe while navigating a succession of abrupt turns, complicated ledge drops, and boulder-strewn descents. Tumbling from eddy to eddy, we boat

scouted down the steep narrow freshet while remaining alert for Godfrey Pitch, the most difficult falls on the river.

As we entered an attenuated gorge, exploding waves below a horizon line marked our arrival at the pitch. After catching a tiny eddy on river right, we carefully scouted the cataract. Consisting of three precipitous ledges, the second formed a menacing hydraulic. We carried around the hydraulic and plunged over the final ledge. More exhilarating rapids continued to Grand Lake Road.

We stopped at the landing to switch boats and load gear. Sawtelle Stream enters the Seboeis at this location and it becomes a more substantial body of water.

Easy rapids followed for a mile to Grand Pitch, an impassable gorge. A prominent sign marked the beginning of the portage trail on the left. Upgrades made by Butler Conservation Trust (BCT) when it constructed the Seboeis Riverside Trail have substantially improved the carry.

More rapids continued for another mile to Snowshoe Lodge recently built by BCT. Open to hikers and paddlers on a first-come-first-serve basis, we toted our gear to the hut. To our chagrin, another

blowdown had wreaked havoc. A sizeable tree recently fell on the cabin tearing off the chimney. The sturdy structure was able to withstand further damage and we enjoyed luxurious accommodations for the night.

A clear night, stargazing was exceptional. Plans were discussed for the coming days. A primary topic of conversation was the anticipated water level on of the East Branch of the Penobscot. It had been flowing at about 5,000 cubic feet per second, more than three times the highest level any of us had experienced. Whetstone Falls was going to be cranking.

My book, *Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine* narrates nine more exciting whitewater outings in Maine.

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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Gov. Mills Kicks-Off Maine Dairy Month

AUGUSTA, ME (June 1, 2023) – Governor Janet Mills today kicked-off the annual celebration of Maine Dairy Month at the Blaine House in Augusta.

The event celebrated the vital contributions of Maine dairy farmers to our economy and featured remarks from Governor Mills, Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Amanda Beal, and dairy farmers and food producers from across Maine.

The attendees raised a glass of milk as a toast to celebrate Maine’s dairy industry, and the Governor declared June as Dairy Month in Maine.

“Dairy farms are a cornerstone of Maine’s agricultural industry, of our rural communities, and of our economy as a whole,” said Governor Janet Mills. “Whether you prefer milk, ice cream cheese, or yogurt, there’s a delicious Maine dairy product for every-

one. I encourage all Maine people to join me in celebrating the contributions of Maine’s dairy industry during Dairy Month and throughout the year.”

“Today, we express our heartfelt appreciation for the efforts and valuable contributions of Maine’s dairy industry,” said Amanda Beal, Commissioner of the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. “Maine family farms and the dairy industry are a source of pride and strength, sustaining livelihoods and driving growth in related sectors.”

“Celebrating June Dairy Month is an opportunity to recognize the people, their practices, their cows, and their delicious products that make up Maine’s dairy industry, an industry that endeavors to provide high quality, nutrient-dense, and environmentally sustainable food to its communities,” said Sarah Littlefield, Executive Director of the Maine Dairy Promotion Board

and Maine Dairy & Nutrition Council.

“Dairying matters to Maine because our dairies are the backbone of our rural communities, and the stewards of the agricultural landscape we all hold so dear,” said Annie Watson, President of the Maine Dairy Industry Association.

“As the proud executive director of the Maine Cheese Guild, I am pleased to invite everyone to celebrate June Dairy Month! Enjoy the creamy delights of Maine dairy during June and always savor the artistry and richness that locally made cheese brings to our lives,” said Ron Dyer, Executive Director of the Maine Cheese Guild.

Maine is home to more than 200 dairy farms that care for herds of dairy cows, goats, and sheep and that steward 700,000 acres of farmlands. Because of their work, the state boasts award winning cheeses, yogurt, ice cream, and butter made exclusively with

Maine milk and cream. Maine also benefits from dairy processors that bottle and sell milk year-round at retail locations statewide. In addition to agricultural products, farms provide numerous public benefits, such as scenic open spaces that enrich local communities.

Maine dairy farmers and creameries are estimated to provide 4,733 direct and 10,201 indirect jobs and generate \$904 million in direct economic impact and \$1 billion in indirect economic impact. Dairy farms contribute to the economy by supporting small businesses, creating indirect and direct employment opportunities, and bolstering essential farm and food system enterprises such as farm supply stores, transportation companies, and veterinary services. Maine’s dairy farms also serve as a source of delicious and nutritious foods and beverages for various food outlets, including restaurants,



Governor Mills leads attendees in a toast of Maine milk in celebration of Maine’s dairy industry.

schools, grocery stores, cafes, and ice cream shops. Since 1939, June has been designated as Dairy Month in the United States, celebrating the abundance of dairy products and paying tribute to the indispensable role of dairy farmers in agriculture.


Over 370,000 Meals to Feed Mainers

PORTLAND / BANGOR, ME (June 1, 2023) – NEWS CENTER Maine, along with our partner Good Shepherd Food Bank, held NEWS CENTER Maine’s sixth annual Feed Maine Telethon on May 4 to raise more than \$185,000 to help feed Mainers in need. During the NEWS CENTER Maine’s Feed Maine Telethon volunteers received hundreds of pledge calls to help feed fellow Mainers.

To date, this Feed Maine Telethon has raised \$185,934 to help provide meals to Mainers. That number includes Hannaford’s Matching Mainers hour where Hannaford matched donations


up to \$25,000. There was also a donation from Reny’s Charitable Foundation. All funds raised from this telethon will provide food for 371,868 meals.

NEWS CENTER Maine and its viewers have helped provide 3,891,559 meals to Mainers in need. The demand to help hungry Mainers still exists. There is a meal gap of more than 30 million meals missing from the plates of Mainers each year which is why NEWS CENTER Maine’s Feed Maine campaign runs all year long. The Good Shepherd Food Bank and its community partners anticipate distributing more than 24 million meals in



HOW YOUR FEED MAINE TELETHON DONATION CAN HELP

- \$550 DONATION CAN PROVIDE A YEAR OF HEALTHY MEALS FOR YOUR NEIGHBOR EXPERIENCING HUNGER.
- \$125 DONATION CAN PROVIDE NUTRITIOUS FOOD FOR A CHILD AND THEIR FAMILY TO TAKE HOME FROM SCHOOL FOR AN ENTIRE YEAR.
- \$50 DONATION IS 130 LBS. OF FRESH MAINE-GROWN PRODUCE FROM LOCAL FARMERS WHO PARTNER WITH THE FOOD BANK’S MAINERS FEEDING MAINERS PROGRAM
- \$25 PROVIDES 50 HEALTHY MEALS FOR A MAINER
- \$1=2 MEALS FOR A MAINER IN NEED



Maine this year. Much of that distribution happens at local food pantries in communities throughout

the state. “Nutrition is just the foundation for what they need to have to live a qual-

ity life,” stated Dwayne Hopkins, executive director of the South Portland Food Cupboard.

The opportunity to donate and help feed a Mainer in need is still open at FeedMaine.com.



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Arts & Entertainment

The LA Metro Chamber Names the 2023 Annual Award Winners



LEWISTON / AUBURN, ME (May 15, 2023) -- The LA Metro Chamber has named four individuals, one business, and a business develop-

ment center for this year's Annual Awards. The Annual Awards recognize the contributions of these awardees and honor their outstanding dedication to

our region, making Androscoggin County a better place to live, work, play and do business.

This year's Annual Awards winners are:
Ray Geiger Chamber Champion: Cyndi Robbins of Cyndi's Dockside and Poland Spring Resort

Ken Additon Economic Development Champion: Lost Valley Theresa Samson

Women's Business Leadership: Michelle Goselin-Ervin of Hearth & Key Realty

Leading Through Change: Allison Beane of Hampton Inn by Hilton

Heart of the Community: Abby Guilmette of Edward Little

President's Award: Small Business Development Center at AVCOG

"We are excited to share this year's awardees with the public" said Shanna Cox, President + CEO of the LA Metro Chamber. "Each awardee is deserving of recognition in their own right - taken together they reflect the duality of

our mission for a robust economy and fantastic quality of life. They showcase the full pipeline of a thriving economy, from entrepreneurs and starting businesses to seasoned professionals leading businesses positioned to pay it forward and give back."

This legacy event of the LA Metro Chamber will be held on the beautifully manicured grounds of the Poland Spring Resort, with support from Oxford Casino. Guests will join the garden party

themed event under the large signature white tent, take photos at the free photo booth to commemorate the day, and cheer on the awardees with personal glimpses into their unique stories.

This event is open to the public, and all are welcome. For more information about the event, visit the event calendar at LAMetroChamber.com, or call 207-783-2249. • Date: June 15th • Time: 3 PM - 6:30 PM • Location: Poland Spring Resort

Brunswick ArtWalk Season Begins June 9th

BRUNSWICK, ME (June 2, 2023) – The Brunswick Downtown Association's (BDA) 2nd Friday BRUNSWICK season begins on June 9, 2023, from 4 to 7 PM. BDA's 2nd Friday BRUNSWICK is an inclusive series of events, which will encompass an ArtWalk with a variety of artists selling and displaying art on the sidewalks, outside local businesses and in galleries. The event will include live music, dance, and theater performances taking place throughout the evening.

2nd Friday Brunswick will occur on June 9, July 14, August 11 and September 8. Each month highlights a different area. June 9 features The Tontine Mall area.

The Performance Schedule & Artist Listings can be found on the

Brunswick Downtown Association website: <https://brunswickdowntown.org/events/2nd-friday-brunswick/> and Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/brunswickdowntown/> and in The Cryer newspaper each month.

Artist Venues:

The Mix – Features the work of Mark Saba, Kaitlyn Hyde, Emily Bonner, Judy Segal, Mali Mrozinski, Janet Murphy and Julia Johnson in June.

Bayview Gallery – Celebrates early summer in Maine with an exhibit featuring seasonal paintings by our Gallery artists.

Points of View Artists – Coming into spring and summer brings us Into the Light from the darker days of winter. pm. Reception: June 9 from 5 to 7 PM.

Root Rind & Petal: - Hosts Mostly Maine Wire Wraps, Amonite fossil wire wraps.

Bowdoin College Museum of Art: Family Art Night! Bowdoin students offer a variety of activities for families, based on the exhibitions on view. Free treats from the Gelato Fiasco for the first 100 guests.

ArtVan: Hosts their 2023 exhibit Pasala Bacano at MAIZ, 11 Pleasant. The exhibit is a collection of 6x6 works of art in paint, mixed media, collage, fiber & textile, woodburning and more.

Maíz: Welcomes DJ Sergio, who is a Portland based Radio Host and DJ with a Latin background! Lemont Block Collective – A community collective, featuring amazing local Maine-based artists and makers. Open until 7 PM.

Wilbur's of Maine Chocolate Confections – Celebrating 40 years in business with Cotton Candy, sparkle tattoos, a gift basket raffle, discounts and more!!

Frank Brockman Gallery – Exhibition Collective.

Barter Art House: Opening Reception 5 - 7 PM. "Parts and Pieces" from the "GEAR" art installation. Smaller odds and ends, a worm hoe and bucket, a lobster measure, a trap, some found object pieces, etc. lumped together.

Music & Performers on the street:

Dave Bullard & Friends - The Tontine Mall, 49 Maine Street, 4 to 7 PM.

Juke Joint Devils - The Mix, 53 Maine Street, 4 to 5:30 PM. Bluegrass Band.

Mic Smyth Music - Cool As A Moose, 128 Maine Street, 4:30 to 7 PM. A unique one-man band.

The Theater Project - In front of Little Dog, 87 Maine Street, 4:30, 5:30,



and 6:30 PM. "Playing for Laughs" Improv Comedy Show.

Liza May - In front of Little Dog, 87 Maine Street, 4, 5 & 6 PM. Bringing a stylized dance fusion of hip-hop, modern, and prop manipulation.

Dooryarders - Bank of Fran America patio, 110 Maine Street, 4:30 – 7 PM. Playing a mix of originals and Rock/R & B covers.

Northern LightsStrings In front of Frank Brockman Gallery, 68 Maine Street, 5:30 - 7:00. Solo violinist.

For more information on this season's 2nd Friday Brunswick or to sign upon as a business sponsor or venue of the 2nd Friday Brunswick, please visit the BDA website (brunswickdowntown.org) or email <mailto:admin@brunswickdowntown.org>, or call 729-4439.

Event sponsors: Presenting Sponsor: Tontine Mall

Supporting Sponsors: Maine Community Bank, Bath Savings Institution

Media Sponsor: The Cryer

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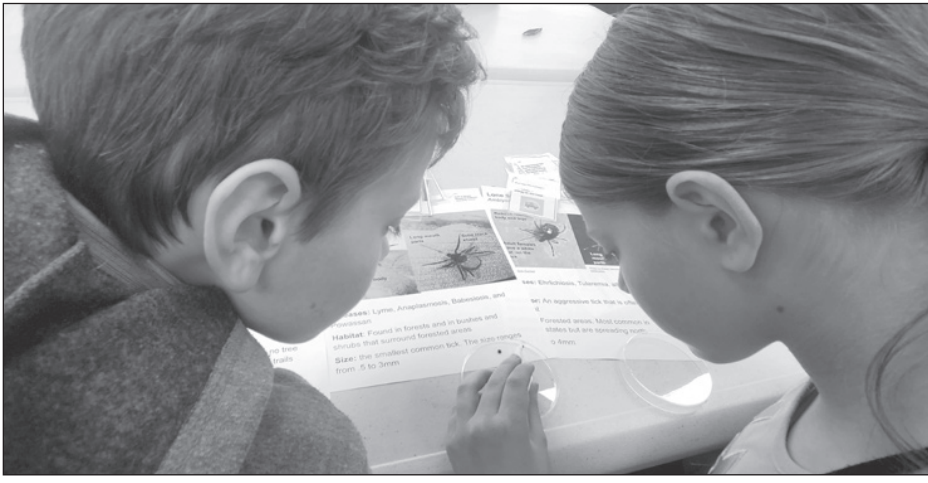
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4-H Ticks Project to Teach Kids about Ecosystems, Public Health



ORONO, ME (June 2, 2023) — University of Maine Cooperative Extension recently launched its new 4-H Tick Project, a community science program where youth collect, identify and learn about ticks while contributing to university research.

The project provides children and teenagers an opportunity to explore ticks and tick-borne diseases and understand the connections between climate, ecosystem change and public health. Led by 4-H professionals in Hancock County, the program is open to K–12 youth across the state.

Registration is rolling and will be open for the next several months. Currently, nearly 1,400 youth in 11 counties are involved in the program, with 24 educators leading projects.

These are a mix of formal classroom teachers, 4-H volunteers, informal educators (such as land trust staff and camp counselors) and homeschool parents/educators.

Project-based learning initiatives like the 4-H Tick Project allow youth to build knowledge and skills through active, hands-on participation. This experiential learning approach promotes a deep understanding of the subject matter and helps develop practical skills that can be transferred to other areas of life.

“A ‘learning by doing’ philosophy is at the heart of all 4-H projects,” says Carla Scocchi, 4-H professional and project lead. “Authentic learning happens when we connect kids with a real-world project that is meaningful for

them and their communities.”

“Doing the tick project made me feel more comfortable going outside and safe in my yard. Now I know which ticks can be really bad, and I can identify them,” says Alexis M., Hancock County 4-H member.

Youth involved in the project collect tick specimens in their local area and submit them to the UMaine Extension Tick Lab for identification and disease testing.

“By engaging youth participants in tick collection and identification, we are able to gather valuable data that helps us better understand tick populations and the distribution of their associated pathogens,” says Tick Lab Coordinator Griffin Dill.

Data collected also

contributes to the Maine Forest Tick Survey, a multi-year, multidisciplinary research project led by faculty in the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture to determine how forest land management practices impact tick populations and disease risk across the state.

The project is a collaborative effort with 4-H, the UMaine Extension Tick Lab, the Maine Forestry Tick Survey and Learning Ecosystems Northeast, a NASA-sponsored partnership focused on building the climate and data literacy youth need to become the next generation of climate stewards.

“This is a wonderful example of collaboration across the university and beyond,” says Hannah Carter, associate provost of online and continuing education and dean of UMaine Extension. “Through these partnerships, we can engage more students in a broader learning community where they can connect with diverse perspectives and build the skills needed to become tomorrow’s leaders.”

For more information about the 4-H Tick Project, please visit the project website or contact Carla Scocchi at 207.667.8212 or carla.scocchi@maine.edu.



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Unveiling Androscoggin's Annual Butterfly Release Celebration



LEWISTON, ME (June 1, 2023) -- Androscoggin Home Healthcare + Hospice is pleased to announce its highly anticipated Annual Butterfly Release Celebration, an extraordinary event designed to honor our loved ones. Set against a backdrop of serenity and natural beauty, this unique gathering promises to be an unforgettable experience for all participants.

The celebration will take place on Saturday, July 29, from 11am to 1pm at Geiger Elementary School, located in the heart of the community. Attendees will be treated to an array of activities,

including soul-stirring music, light refreshments, and the chance to connect and share treasured memories with others who understand the significance of remembrance.

At the core of this special occasion is the solemn reading of names, where we honor those for whom the butterflies have been dedicated. As the moment unfolds, the air will be filled with emotion, love, and reflection. The climax of the event will be the grand release of nearly a thousand butterflies, symbolizing the transformation of life and providing a truly breathtaking sight.

"We believe that the

Butterfly Release Celebration offers a uniquely beautiful and meaningful way to pay tribute to our loved ones," said Elif Mogensen, Community Relations and Development Manager of Androscoggin. "It allows us to come together as a community, share our stories, and embrace the healing power of remembrance. This event has become a beloved tradition, fostering connections and creating lasting memories."

To ensure your participation in this poignant celebration, you can purchase your butterfly on www.androscoggin.org/get-involved/butterfly-release/. Each butterfly can be purchased for \$30, and the proceeds will contribute to the realization of

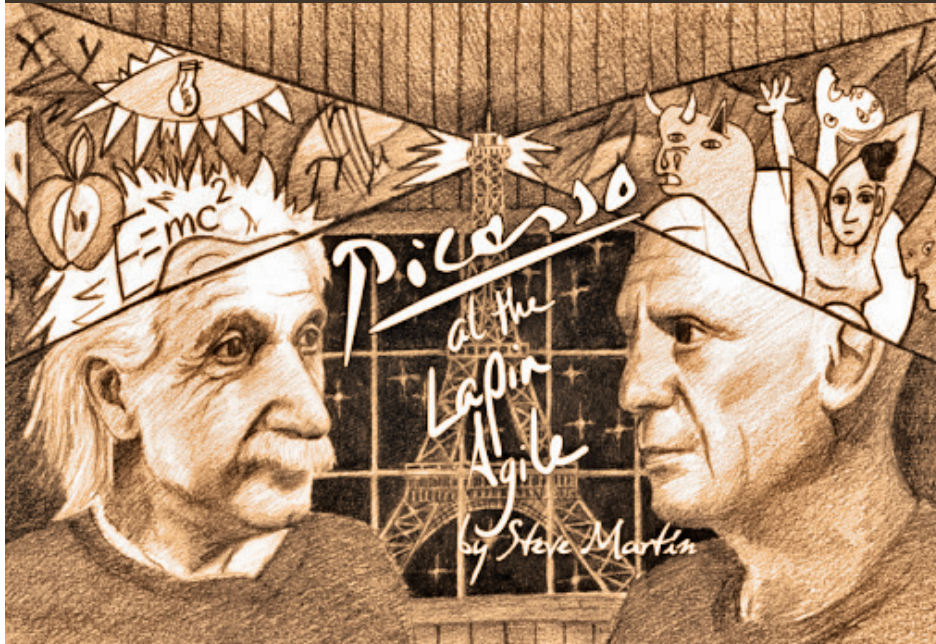
this remarkable event.

This is an opportunity not to be missed, as Androscoggin's Butterfly Release

Celebration promises to be a source of solace, inspiration, and beauty for all who attend.



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Strong Turnout for Mental Health Walk in Bridgton



BRIDGTON, ME (May 24, 2023) -- Team members from Central Maine Healthcare and the Lakes Region Recovery Center joined forces with the Bridgton community on May 18 for a Mental Health Awareness Walk.

Turnout was strong for the event that is designed to show solidarity and commitment toward raising awareness of men-

tal health and wellness in the community.

The walkers were greeted by Stevens Brook Elementary School students who came out with handmade signs.

The Lakes Region Recovery Center is a non-profit that is dedicated to providing peer support and resources for people suffering from substance misuse disorder.

“It was a beautiful day to hold a walk for Mental Health Awareness Month,” said Catherine Clough-Bell, LADC, CCS, president, Lakes Region Recovery Center. “The large turnout of community members and area business leaders demonstrates the commitment they hold toward continuing to create a safe environment for everyone, while tackling the



stigma that encompasses mental health.

“We want to thank Bridgton Hospital and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) for collaborating with the Lakes Region Recovery Center to organize this walk and thank all those who participated and helped shine

a light on this important issue.”

“Twenty percent of Americans struggle with some kind of mental health problem each year,” said Rick Redmond, LCSW, director of Behavioral Health, Central Maine Healthcare. “When you’re experiencing these chal-

lenges, it’s easy to feel alone.

“The Mental Health Awareness Walk is about publicly showing our support and driving away stigma. It’s about showing our family, our friends and neighbors that they aren’t alone and that we’re here for them.”

Church Lets Its Light Shine for Peace & Diversity

BRUNSWICK, ME (June 1, 2023) -- The Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick (UUCB) is letting its light shine by illuminating the corner façade of its building, located at the corner of Middle and Pleasant Streets in Brunswick, on two upcoming weekends. Both focus on increasing peace and justice in our community, and reflect our earnest efforts to work together with people of all faiths or no faith who likewise want to positively shape our world.

On the weekend of June 3-4, the church will be lit in ORANGE in observation of Wear Orange Weekend (wearorange.org). Along with other houses of worship, including the National Cathedral in Washington, the spiritual

community of UUCB honors National Gun Violence Awareness Day and the lives of over 100,000 Americans killed or injured in the United States each year by gun violence. Every day, 120 Americans are killed and more than 200 are shot and wounded. The effects of gun violence are felt much more broadly, of course, from those who have lost loved ones to those of us whose daily lives are impacted by rising fear of mass shootings. The most vulnerable in our communities – those marginalized by race, ethnicity, sexuality, gender, immigration status, poverty, etc. – are disproportionately impacted. UUCB will illuminate a portion of its exterior in orange to express our deep sorrow at the epidemic of violence plaguing our

nation, and to amplify our commitment to peace, love, and nonviolence.

The following weekend, June 10-11, the church will be lit in RAINBOW colors to honor the second annual Brunswick Pride Festival. UUCB has been an officially welcoming congregation (the UU designation for congregations who have done the work to prioritize the affirmation and inclusion of LGBTQ+ people in all aspects of congregational and religious life) since the congregation voted unanimously in 2006, following over a decade of intentional effort. UUCB will join with other congregations in our area at a joint Pride Festival booth entitled “Queer Spirit” on Saturday, June 10th from 12-5 on the Brunswick Mall.



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Dirigo Reads to Add Schools for 2023-2024 School Year

BANGOR, ME (June 2, 2023) – Dirigo Reads, a program that aims to put a book in the hands of every Maine first grader each month during the school year by 2025, is looking to increase the number of schools that will participate in the program during the next school year. Dirigo Reads co-founder Dan Cashman says that a final call for new schools to be considered for the 2023-2024 school year is happening now.

“Of the dozens of schools currently involved in this program, we have

heard nothing but great feedback,” said Cashman. “This is all about fostering a love for reading, and improving literacy rates in the process. Teachers, parents, and kids have reached out over the years expressing their love for this program, and we believe it’s making a difference.”

Dirigo Reads’ mission is to improve the health and wellbeing of children in Maine through literacy and share a little optimism along the way. This is accomplished by giving first graders in participating schools a brand new book

to keep during every month of the school year. Eighty-five schools spread over all 16 counties are currently a part of Dirigo Reads. By the time the school year is finished, first graders in each of these communities will have ten new books to add to – or start – their own home library. For this school year, Dirigo Reads distributed nearly 29,000 books to first graders in Maine. Over four school years, Dirigo Reads has distributed about 55,000 books to first graders in participating schools.

“This year, we have

spent the last several months making some structural, behind-the-scenes changes to the program, to ensure it is sustainable for many years to come,” said Cashman. “So, while we are planning to add schools for the next school year, it will be a slightly more competitive year to get in. I would encourage any school that wants to be a part of this program to apply on our website as soon as possible, as we’ll be announcing additional schools very soon.”

Dirigo Reads has been operationally supported by United Way of East-

ern Maine, and the founding Dirigo Star partner is Machias Savings Bank.

Additional partners of Dirigo Reads include Sutherland Weston, Bangor Savings Bank, the James and Betty Jacobs Charitable Trust, Casella, Northern Light Health, PCHC, Cross Insurance, Changing Seasons Federal Credit Union, Woodlands Senior Living, Hannaford, Versant, and The First.

“The partners involved with Dirigo Reads have made a difference in the lives of first graders,” said Cashman. “Support

from partners in the business community is an absolute must for this program to continue to serve first graders in Maine.”

There are about 11,600 first graders enrolled in Maine public schools. Currently, Dirigo Reads is providing books to about 25.3% of this population.

Schools and businesses interested in being a part of Dirigo Reads should visit www.DirigoReads.org and click on “Contact,” where a form is available to submit all necessary information.

Catholic Charities Volunteers Earn Roll of Honor Recognition

MAINE (June 2, 2023) -- Eight volunteers from Catholic Charities Maine (CCM) have been recognized with Maine Roll of Honor awards sponsored by Volunteer Maine and Governor Janet Mill’s office. All of the honorees completed more than 500 hours of volunteer service last year.

Two volunteers donate their services in the Aroostook County area, where thrift stores contribute to CCM’s Hunger and Relief services. Freda Watkins is a volunteer at our Threads of Hope thrift store in Caribou, Maine, and has contributed 815.25 hours. She loves to be in the store supporting the staff and customers. She keeps the staff area clean and tidy, makes lunch, brings in snacks, and goes “above and beyond” to help, Kelly Day, Director of Volunteer Services reported. Carol Hartt is a volun-

teer at our Hope Chest Boutique in the Presque Isle Mall, which features antiques and gently used goods. Carol dedicated 537.5 hours and makes the store sparkle, and “oh so organized,” according to Day.

Five of the honorees contributed their time and skills to the SEARCH (Seek Elderly Alone Renew Courage & Hope) program. Four of those volunteers, Susan English, Lorraine Barre, Barbara Hughes, and Betty Bates, spent hundreds of hours knitting and crocheting clothing and blankets for distribution to those in need throughout the state. The fifth, Anne Skelton, is a Visitation Volunteer and assists those who are unable to drive by providing rides to appointments and errands. She also checks in on isolated seniors who need companionship.

Susan English of



Wales, Maine, volunteered 682 hours knitting sweaters, hats, mittens, and baby clothing. She has been knitting all her life and joined CCM’s volunteer efforts in 2017. “I enjoy every minute of it,” English said. “And I think it’s great that so many people donate their yarn for us to knit and crochet.” She is a parishioner of Wales Presbyterian Church, where donors provide yarn for her projects.

Lorraine Barre of Rumford, Maine, has been crocheting and knit-

ting for CCM since 2020. Last year she dedicated 960 hours making baby blankets, lap robes, hats, and shawls and enjoys doing so three or four hours daily while watching television. “It’s fun and it helps me stay awake while watching TV,” she explained. “I also appreciate that our Holy Savior Church parishioners donate lots of yarn, as well.”

Barbara Hughes of Lewiston, Maine, has been knitting since the 1960s when she was taught needle crafts by a friend of her mother. She

has been volunteering for CCM since 2010. “It’s fun to make lap robes, and a friend helps by sewing them together,” Hughes said. She volunteered 1,440 hours last year.

Betty Bates, who lived in Auburn, Maine, and died last March, dedicated 835 hours of her time knitting last year. She spent many years contributing hundreds of hours knitting for those in need and earned her place on the Roll of Honor for several years. CCM is deeply grateful for the work she did.

Anne Skelton, also of Auburn, Maine, helps more than ten clients each weekday by driving them to doctors’ appointments, shopping trips, or other errands. “I love to be able to volunteer,” Skelton said. She started volunteering with CCM after she met Wendy Russell, aging services director for Catholic Charities.

The two were swimming together in a water fitness program at the YWCA pool in Lewiston. She has dedicated hundreds of hours each year and 949 last year alone. “You never know what you can do as a volunteer until you talk to people who do it,” Skelton said.

Russell reports that CCM is proud to have nearly 500 volunteers serving more than 55,000 Mainers. “Of course, we are always looking for more!” she remarked. If you are interested, please learn more and apply at www.ccmaine.org/volunteer. CCM has opportunities all over the state.

“We feel blessed by our wonderful volunteers at CCM. The Roll of Honor award and ceremony is a chance to recognize these amazing volunteers who care deeply to serve others. We are so glad they are a part of our team,” Day said.

Farm Fresh Rewards Has New Benefits for SNAP/EBT Shoppers

STATEWIDE, MAINE (June 2, 2023) -- Farm Fresh Rewards, a program of Good Shepherd Food Bank, transitioned from paper vouchers to a discount at the checkout, making it easier to use rewards. SNAP/EBT shoppers will receive a 50% point-of-purchase discount on a wider variety of eligible fruits, veggies, legumes, and seedlings.

Farm Fresh Rewards is a nutrition incentives program designed to stretch budgets and im-

prove fresh food access for thousands of enrolled Mainers.

NEW BENEFITS:

No need to remember paper vouchers
Easy sign-up for rewards

Wider variety of eligible fresh foods

Participating Retail Stores:

Belfast Co-op
123 High Street, Belfast

Berry Fruit Farm, Market & Bakery
54 Main Street, Livermore Falls

Blackie’s Farm Fresh Produce
966 Minot Ave, Auburn

Blue Hill Co-op
70 South Street, Blue Hill

Fare Share Food Co-op
443 Main Street, Norway

Ginny’s Natural Corner
217 North Avenue, Skowhegan

Good Tern Co-op
750 Main Street, Rockland

Jordan’s Farm



21 Wells Road, Cape Elizabeth
Machias Marketplace

76 US-1, Machias Marsh River Co-op
5 Veterans Highway, Brooks

Portland Food Co-op
290 Congress Street, Portland

Rising Tide Community Market
323 Main Street, Damariscotta

Rosemont Market
Munjoy Hill
88 Congress Street, Portland

Sheepscot General Store
98 Town House

Road, Whitefiled

These local retailers provide a vital access point for more Maine farmers to benefit from nutrition incentives. When more Mainers can buy more local food, everyone wins: families can make healthier choices, farmers and local food outlets gain new customers, and local economies thrive.

To learn more about Farm Fresh Rewards, please visit www.Farm-FreshRewards.org.

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Graduates

Continued from page 1

Sean Andrews, a member of the academy's board, joined Bishop Deely in presenting golden diplomas to members of the class of 1973 on the occasion of their 50th anniversary, another opportunity to remember the long tradition of faith, academic excellence, and service at the academy.

"Consistent with Catholic tradition, Saint Dominic Academy teaches its students Veritas Vitae, the Truth of Life, through study, prayer, community, and service," said Kathy Pleau Martin, the chair of the academy's board and a St. Dom's alum. "These values have been instilled in you, and they will stay with you for the rest of your life. Use what you have learned at St. Dom's to make a positive impact on the world, to seek truth and justice, to be a leader in your community, and to live a life filled with purpose and meaning."

"Our school's patron, Saint Dominic, said 'We must sow the seed, not hoard it.' Our Lord Jesus Christ and all that He lived and died for is living on in you," said Alanna Stevenson, principal of St. Dom's. "You are ready to bring His love out into the world in ways that you or I can only imagine. I and the entire staff are better for knowing you and we will cherish memories of you for the rest of our lives."

Shukie also reminded the graduates to look around them now as they begin to dream of the future.

"Take a moment to appreciate the love and support of your families, friends, classmates, and teachers. If someone is here to celebrate your achievements, they are worthy of your love and respect. For your parents and guardians, this moment may mean more to them than it does to you. You might not appreciate why that is, but if and when you do have children, you'll start to get it."

Among the many schools that have accepted students in this year's graduating class are Arizona State University, Assumption University, Bentley University, Brandeis University, Bryant University, Central Maine Community College, East Carolina University, Emmanuel College, Florida Atlantic University, Gordon College, High Point University, Husson University, Lasell University, Maine Maritime Academy, Merrimack College, Montana State University, New York Institute of Technology, Penn State, Plymouth State University,

Roger Williams University, Saint Anselm University, Saint Joseph's College of Maine, Saint Michael's College, Salve Regina University, Savannah College of Art and Design, St. Petersburg College, Stonehill College, The University of Tampa, University of Tennessee, Thomas College, University of Connecticut, University of Maine, University of Massachusetts, University of Missouri, University of New England, University of New Hampshire, University of Rhode Island, University of South Florida, University of Southern Maine, Virginia Tech University, Washington County Community College, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Worcester Polytech Institute, and Xavier University.

Before moving their

tassels from right to left and moving across the country for their next adventures and achievements, Fr. Greenleaf blessed the class.

"With their family and friends at their side, and through the intercession of Saint Dominic and all the angels and saints, may they be inspired to offer the gifts that you have given them in service to God and neighbor, and in so doing, find true and lasting happiness in this life and eternal joy in the next," he prayed.

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

FEMA Awards Almost \$16M to Eastern Maine Medical Center

MAINE (May 1, 2023) -- The Federal Emergency Management Agency will be sending nearly \$16 million to the State of Maine to reimburse Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center for the cost of hiring temporary staff during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The \$15,736,284 in Public Assistance grants will reimburse the 411-bed hospital and Level II trauma center in Bangor for hiring temporary medical and nursing staff to deal with increased patient loads between September 2021 and May 2022.

Eastern Maine Maine



Medical Center contracted with Freedom Healthcare Staffing, SimpliFi, Medical Solutions, O'Grady Peyton and Health Carousel Staffing to provide Registered Nurses (RN), Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA), and Tele/MS Tele Telemetry Nurses to assist in the treatment of COVID-19 patients.

"FEMA is pleased to be able to assist Eastern Maine Medical Center with these costs," said FEMA Region 1 Regional Administrator Lori Ehrlich. "Providing resources

for our partners on the front lines of the pandemic fight is critical to their success, and to our success as a nation."

So far, FEMA has provided more than \$270 million in Public Assistance grants to Maine to reimburse the state for pandemic-related expenses.

Additional information about FEMA's Public Assistance program is available at <https://www.fema.gov/public-assistance-local-state-tribal-and-non-profit>. To learn more about the COVID-19 response in Maine, please visit <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4522>.

THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

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When: Friday, June 23, 2023
 Check-in @ 5:00pm, bags fly at 6:00pm
Where: Simard-Payne Park Lewiston
Cost: Social Division: \$40.00 per team (2 players)
 Competitive Division: \$60.00 per team (2 Players)
 Each player receives one \$5.00 Beer Ticket with registration.
 Round Robin Format with Playoff Bracket
All Teams are guaranteed 4 games
 Bystander Tickers: \$5.00 per person
 Register on-line: YMCA of Auburn-Lewiston (alymca.org)



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2nd Place \$100.00	2nd Place - \$300.00
3rd Place- \$50.00	3rd Place - \$100.00

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\$1M in Jobs & Recovery Plan Including for L/A Transportation

AUGUSTA, ME (June 2, 2023) – Governor Janet Mills today announced nearly \$1 million in Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan grants for innovative workforce transportation projects aimed at supporting employers in York and Oxford counties, as well as enhancing existing transportation options for workers in Lewiston-Auburn.

The grants, administered by the Maine Department of Transportation, are part of the Workforce Transportation Pilot Program, an initiative of Governor Mills’ Jobs Plan that supports local and regional pilot projects that connect workers to employers through ridesharing, vanpools, and other transit options.

The three grants announced today were awarded to the Kennebunk-Kennebunkport-Arundel Chamber of Commerce, Western Maine Transportation Services, and Maine West, a part of the University of Maine System. Prior workforce transportation grants have been awarded to Bath Iron Works, Gagne

Foods in Bath, Timber HP in Madison, Robbins Lumber in Searsmont, and Sunday River in Newry.

“Lack of transportation shouldn’t be a barrier that keeps anyone who can work from holding a job—especially at a time when Maine businesses desperately need workers,” said Governor Janet Mills. “These investments from my Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan will support innovative projects that help to connect workers with the Maine businesses that need them.”

“We are proud to keep working to help Maine employers find solutions to their workforce challenges,” said Bruce Van Note, Commissioner of the Maine Department of Transportation. “Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan funding continues to fill specific transportation needs and help support economic opportunities in our state.”

With an award of \$476,000, the Kennebunk-Kennebunkport-Arundel Chamber of Commerce will develop a

new transit service from the Biddeford and Sanford areas to downtown Kennebunk and provide local transportation connections for workers to employers in Kennebunk’s Lower Village and in Kennebunkport.

“We are thrilled for the opportunity to use this grant to create new employment opportunities for businesses in Kennebunk, Sanford, and Biddeford,” said Laura Dolce, Executive Director of the Kennebunk-Kennebunkport-Arundel Chamber of Commerce. “We know that many potential employees face transportation challenges, and this new route, served by Biddeford-Saco-OOB Transit and with last-mile service by Ride-Maine, will be a game changer. We are very grateful to the towns of Kennebunk, Sanford and Kennebunkport and our diverse group of business partners for supporting this effort.”

With an award of \$283,000, the University of Maine System in collaboration with MaineWest, a partnership of organiza-

tions in Oxford County, will support the purchase of vehicles to connect students in four school districts to opportunities in the outdoor recreation field, including on-the-job training, work experience, skill-building, and mentorship to help create foundations for successful employment.

“This generous funding will contribute to building workforce opportunities in the Maine West region,” said Elizabeth Clarke, Maine West Education Director. “The challenges our teenagers face are multi-faceted, and the project will provide them with much-needed mentoring and workforce training while addressing the transportation barrier that so often limits opportunity.”

With an award of \$225,000, Western Maine Transportation Services will work to extend existing service hours and review potential route adjustments to better accommodate the needs of workers and employers in the Lewiston-Auburn region.

“Western Maine

Transportation Services is excited to use this grant to remove transportation as a barrier for current and future employees living and working in Lewiston and Auburn,” said Sandy Buchanan, General Manager of Western Maine Transportation Services. “The need for additional transportation beyond the scope of present transit services will be beneficial to employers and employees alike. This pilot will provide valuable information to develop sustainable transit options to address the need going forward.”

The Workforce Transportation Pilot aligns with strategies from Maine Won’t Wait, the state’s four-year plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, in part by promoting public transportation, to combat climate change.

Applications for the Workforce Transportation Pilot program are open. There is no application deadline, but applicants are encouraged to submit projects as soon as possible. With these new awards, approximately \$2 million

remains to be awarded through the program. For more information on how to apply, please visit its website.

The Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan is the Governor’s plan, approved by the Legislature, to invest nearly \$1 billion in Federal American Rescue Plan funds to improve the lives of Maine people and families, help businesses, create good-paying jobs, and build an economy poised for future prosperity.

Since the Jobs Plan took effect in October 2021, the Mills Administration has delivered direct economic relief to nearly 1,000 Maine small businesses, supported more than 100 infrastructure projects around the state to create jobs and revitalize communities, and invested in workforce programs estimated to offer apprenticeship, career and education advancement, and job training opportunities to 22,000 Maine people.

For more about Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan, visit maine.gov/jobspan.

Daughtry, Cloutier Paid Family and Medical Leave Bill Advances

AUGUSTA, ME (June 1, 2023) – On Thursday, the Legislature’s Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing voted in favor a bill from Sen. Mattie Daughtry, D-Brunswick, and Rep. Kristen Cloutier, D-Lewiston, that would create a statewide paid family and medical leave program. An amended version of LD 1964, “An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission to Develop a Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program,” received a vote of 8-5.

“It’s an incredible feeling to see years of hard work pay off. We are now closer than we have ever been to passing a paid family and medical leave program created by Mainers, for Mainers. This is a great

example of what we can do when we build things together,” said Sen. Daughtry. “I’m grateful to the Labor and Housing Committee for listening intently, and for their careful consideration of this bill. I’m looking forward to finally seeing this bill cross the finish line.”

“With today’s committee vote, Maine is now one step closer to joining every other state in New England by enacting a paid family and medical leave program,” said Rep. Cloutier. “This compromise plan is the result of years of work to determine the best way to implement an equitable and inclusive program that is tailored to our state. At its core, this legislation is designed to support both Maine workers and businesses. It will help Main-

ers balance caring for their children and sick and aging family members, while at the same time helping our employers attract and retain workers that are desperately needed.”

As amended by committee, employees and employers would split a wage contribution, equal to 1% or less of the employee’s wage. Employers with 15 or fewer workers would not have to pay the contribution, but their employees would still be eligible. Employers who offer comparable or more comprehensive paid leave plans may opt out. Once an employee hits a certain contribution benchmark, they would be able to take up to 12 weeks of paid leave each year for qualifying life events. If the worker has been with their employer

for at least 120 days, their job would be protected until they returned from leave.

Employees would be able to take time off for:

The birth, adoption, or fostering of a child.

Supporting a sick or dying loved one.

Caring for an older family member.

Recovery from surgery, an accident, substance use disorder, or other health challenges.

Prepping for/transitioning back from a family member’s military deployment.

Managing immediate safety needs if you or a family member are a victim of domestic or sexual violence.

The worker’s wages would be replaced at a tiered rate, based on their average weekly income. Under the committee amendment, the benefit amount would be equal to 90% of a worker’s wages for income earned up to half of Maine’s av-

erage weekly wage, which is currently \$1,036. That means the first \$518 of a worker’s average weekly income would be replaced at 90%, which is \$466.20. For income earned above that amount, the wage replacement would be 66% of earned pay. The total benefit cannot exceed the state average weekly wage.

Only 15 percent of American workers have access to any sort of paid leave, and fewer than 60 percent of the workforce has access to unpaid leave under the Family Medical Leave Act. Nationally, one in four women takes fewer than 11 days of parental leave after giving birth despite a recommended six- to eight-week recovery period. Eleven other states and the District of Columbia have instituted a statewide paid family and medical leave program, including every other state in New England.

Sen. Daughtry and

Rep. Cloutier served as co-chairs of the bipartisan Commission to Develop a Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program. The commission was formed in the 130th Legislature by LD 1559, “Resolve, To Create the Commission To Develop a Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program,” which was sponsored by Sen. Daughtry and co-sponsored by Rep. Cloutier. After two years of work, the commission issued its final report earlier this year.

LD 1964, which has over 100 co-sponsors, is supported by Small Business Majority, Maine Council on Aging, Maine AFL-CIO, Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence, and AARP Maine.

The Department of Labor estimates the start-up cost for the program to be \$12 million.

The bill now faces votes before the Senate and House.



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Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

June 8

AUBURN -- Androscoggin County Republican Committee Meets monthly, the second Thursday of the month, at Auburn City Hall, 60 Court St, Community Room, 2nd Floor, Auburn, ME 04210 at 6:30 pm

All Registered Republicans are encouraged to attend!

June 8

LEWISTON -- Thursday June 8th the Southern Maine Squadron Sampson AFBVA will be having a get together at noon time at the Governors Restaurant in Lewiston. During the Korean War era, those who chose the Air Force went to Sampson AFB, on the East Shore of Seneca Lake near Geneva NY, for basic training before going on to Tech Schools. Now some of these veterans, and folks with a connection to Sampson AFB, gather monthly through the summer months for lunch and share stories and memories. Veterans and their guests of all branches are welcome to join.

FMI call 657-4909 or e-mail wwmkwkr1933@gmail.com

Bob Sawyer Sampson AFB 1953

June 10

AUBURN -- Books for \$1/bag! Auburn Public Library's popular "Buck-a-Bag" clearance sale is back! The sale hours

are Friday, June 9 from 1:00-5:00, and Saturday, June 10 from 9:30-4:00. Fill a bag or two and be all set for summer reading.

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.lact.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

June 20

LEWISTON -- Outdoor Hiring Event on

Tuesday, June 20th 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, open to the public and will be held rain or shine. For a list of participating employers, visit: <https://www.mainecareercenter.com/locations/jobfair.shtm?id=10945557>

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 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

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at 207-795-4010 or visit seniorsplus.org.

Every second Monday

LEWISTON -- Care-giver Support Groups,

Date: Monday, January 9 (every second Monday); Time: 5:30-7 p.m. Facilitator: Dana Morrell, SW. Location: SeniorsPlus, 8 Falcon Road, Lewiston.

Androscoggin Republicans Invited to Meet in Auburn

AUBURN, ME (June 1, 2023) -- Dear Fellow Republicans in Androscoggin County,

Are you FED UP? Are you CONCERNED?? Are you AFRAID for your kids and grandkids FUTURE??? Do you hope and pray that Maine and the United States can survive the degradation we've been enduring??

If so, we need YOU - to join us! Help us to prepare, starting NOW, for the upcoming elections in 2024. There is NO TIME to lose!!! If we do nothing, we have OURSELVES to blame!

The Androscoggin County Republicans meet on the 2nd Thursday of every month, currently at Auburn City Hall, in the Community Room, 2nd Floor, 6:30-8:30, and we hope YOU will JOIN US, to MAKE A DIFFERENCE in your Town, City, County, State and COUNTRY!!!!

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



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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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Dance
Continued from page 1

Gerald Casel / GER-ALDCASELDANCE — Not About Race Dance Schaeffer Theatre Friday, July 14 at 7:30PM Saturday, July 15 at 7:30PM

A collaborative, choreographic response to the unacknowledged racial politics in U.S. postmodern dance — a form developed in the 1960s whose tropes and aesthetics have endured in the dance field. Despite postmodernism’s popularity, its racial dynamics have gone largely unacknowledged. In Not About Race Dance, Gerald Casel and his collaborators occupy a space that has been historically defined by white artists to present a contrasting vision of where Black and Brown bodies belong.

LaTasha Barnes Presents The Jazz Continuum Schaeffer Theatre Friday, July 21 at 7:30PM Saturday, July 22 at 7:30PM Sunday, July 23 at 7:30PM

The Jazz Continuum is an unapologetic celebration of the prolific power of Black American artistry with Jazz as its center. Barnes reaches back nearly 100 years, connecting dances that sprang from America’s Black Jazz music to dance and music expressions of today such as House, Vogue, Lindy Hop, Hip-Hop, Hand Dances, Line Dances and more! Performed by an all Black, intergenerational cast of dancers and musicians, The Jazz Continuum is also a celebration of community and collaboration. Each performer investigates their personal relationship to Jazz as they explore imaginings of its inspirations and reapplications.

too soon, mourning after mornings is the one that wants to wake up. The multi-generational cast explores communal loss and mourning, reclaiming wildness, and attending to the devastating, absurd, and sacred ways we come to care for bodies and ritualize endings.

Tickets will also be available for the popular Musicians Concert, which takes place July 24 at 7:30 p.m.. The evening features multi-instrumentalist Terrence Karn, composer and pianist Carl Landa, violinist Rob Flax, percussionists Okai Musik and Akili Jamal Haynes, and electronic musicians Adam Crawley and Jake Meginsky.

In addition to the ticketed events, Primo Cubano, Dela Murphy and The Zoot Jumpers and LaTasha Barnes will be performing on Bates Historic Quad at three free concerts throughout the festival, starting with Primo Cubano on June 29. The audience can learn a new dance style for 30 minutes, then enjoy an hour of live music and put their skills to work.

Dance artists from BDF are also hosting family friendly, free workshops outdoors at the Lewiston Farmers Market Sunday July 16 at 11:30 a.m. and Sunday July 23 at 11:30 a.m.

How to get tickets:

- Order online via Event Brite starting June 1.
- Order by phone starting June 27. You must use a credit card for phone orders. Tickets may be picked up at the venue on the day of the performance, 45 minutes before curtain. Box office phone: 207-786-6161
- Order at the box office starting June 27. You can use cash, check or a credit card at the box office, which will be open Tuesday through Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m. until July 29. The box office is on the first floor of Pettigrew Hall, Room 200, Bates College, 305 College St, Lewiston. email: bdfbox-office@bates.edu

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