



TWIN CITY TIMES

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Thursday, June 29, 2023 • FREE

2,500 Students and Educators Visit The Public Theatre



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thepublictheatre.org

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Students participate in a post-show discussion with the Cast and Director following a student matinee performance of 'Polkadots: The Cool Kids Musical'

LEWISTON, ME (June 23, 2023) -- Over 2,500 students from 21 schools throughout Maine recently attended nine sold-out Student Matinee performances of The Public Theatre's production of 'Polkadots: The Cool Kids Musical.' The Public Theatre's student matinee program

enables schools to attend a performance at the Lewiston theatre for the reduced rate of only \$5.00 a ticket, offering the majority of students the chance to experience live professional theatre for the very first time.

In addition to the nine sold-out stu-

dent matinee performances, and a weekend of public performances, The Public Theatre also offered a free performance for the community that was attended by children from Tree Street Youth, Auburn PAL, the Root Cellar, and The Boys and Girls Club of Southern Maine. In total, nearly 3,000 children and their families attended 'Polkadots: The Cool Kids Musical.'

Students who attended the show also participated in a post-show discussion with the Cast and Director. A study guide written by Jazzmin Bonner, an artist from the American Repertory Theatre, was also provided to offer a deeper and more meaningful theatre-going experience. Post show surveys from Educators and Students praised the production, the performers, the experience of the post-show discussions and most importantly the show's "perfect" themes of diversity and acceptance.

Written by Douglas Lyons, Melvin Tunstall III and Greg Borowsky, and based on historical events, 'Polkadots: The Cool Kids Musical' tells the empowering story of 8-year-old Lily Polkadot. When Lily moves to a new town, she faces the challenge of being the first Polkadot in an all Square school. Overcoming her obstacles, she challenges the minds and hearts of her

peers showing everyone that our differences make us awesome, not outcasts.

'Polkadots: The Cool Kids Musical' was directed and choreographed by The Public Theatre's Education Director, Adam P. Blais, with Music Direction by Katy Cavanaugh. The professional cast of New York based singers and actors included Annell Moya as Lily Polkadot, Yale Langworthy as Sky Square, Mia Goodman as Penelope Square, and Broadway veteran Allison Briner Dardenne as their teacher Ms. Square and Mama Square. Set Design was by Tricia Hobbs, Lighting Design by Erin Fauble, Sound Design by Jacob Pribilsky and the unique Costumes, Wigs, and Make-up representing the Square and Polkadot world were designed Kaylee Carrol and Renya Higgins, a team of MCI students who were mentored by their teacher Debra Susi.

'Polkadots: The Cool Kids Musical' was sponsored by Norway Savings Bank, Berube's Complete Auto Care, and NAPA Coastal Auto Parts and presented with support from the Maine Arts Commission. Their generous support makes the reduced \$5.00 Student Matinee Ticket possible and allows The Public Theatre to continue their commitment of making high quality live entertainment affordable for most families.

Humane Society Announces Summer Raffle Winners

LEWISTON, ME (June 23, 2023) -- The Greater Androscoggin Humane Society announces the winners of their Annual Summer Raffle. With over \$14,000 in tickets sales the winners were: Steve Nickerson of Gray, winning \$500 cash; Pat Harrington of Lewiston, winning \$300 cash; Mary Willis of Sabattus, winning \$200 cash and John MacLeod of Lewiston, winning \$100 cash. All proceeds from the raffle directly benefit the Humane Society.

The Greater Androscoggin Humane Society provides a safe haven for over

3,000 sick, homeless and abused animals in the greater Androscoggin area per year. The primary support for the shelter comes from fundraising events and donations of concerned citizens.

The Greater Androscoggin Humane Society is located at 55 Strawberry Avenue in Lewiston. If you are interested in learning more about volunteering at the Shelter or adopting an animal call 783-2311 or visit the website at www.SavingPetsInMaine.org. You can also join them on www.facebook.com/GAHumane.

City of Lewiston to Unveil Latest Public Art

LEWISTON, ME (June 23, 2023) -- On Thursday, July 6, at 11 AM at Kennedy Park, 120 Park Street, Lewiston, Maine, The City of Lewiston and Hugh Lassen, Sculptural Artist, will unveil Lassen's work of art.

This striking sculpture is the final installation of the Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant award. Funding from the plan-

ning grant was used to begin implementing aspects of the Choice Neighborhood transformation plan. The artwork funded was identified by residents as important projects to begin transforming the Tree Street neighborhood. After resident input, Lassen created the abstract piece by combining nature with a human figure reaching into the sky. All are invited to attend the unveiling.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Legislature Unanimously Enacts Maine Indian Child Welfare Act

AUGUSTA, ME (June 23, 2023) – On Thursday, the Maine Senate and House enacted a bill from Sen. Donna Bailey, D-Saco, that would enshrine protections for Maine Indian children and their families into state law. LD 1970, “An Act to Enact the Maine Indian Child Welfare Act,” received unanimous support in both chambers, including a unanimous roll call in the Senate.

“When national and federal policies feel uncertain, it’s imperative for us to act. That’s what this bill was about — ensuring that, at least in Maine,

there would be no backsliding on the necessary policies we need to protect Indian children, their families and ultimately their cultures,” said Sen. Bailey. “I’m grateful that this bill received such clear, bipartisan support.”

The Maine Indian Child Welfare Act would establish procedures and standards for cases concerning custody proceedings, foster care placements, termination of parental rights and adoptions involving Indian children.

In 1978, Congress enacted the Indian Child Welfare Act to address

policies and practices that resulted in the wholesale separation of Indian children from their families. State and private agencies were removing as many as 25 to 35% of Indian children from their families and placing many of these children in non-Indian foster and adoptive homes. Congress determined that cultural ignorance and biases within the child welfare system were significant causes of this problem. In light of this, Congress recognized that it is in the best interest of the child to maintain Tribal connections and that children are vital

to Tribes’ continued existence. The ICWA aims to “protect the best interests of Indian children and promote the stability and security of Indian Tribes and families.”

The Federal ICWA governs State child-custody proceedings in multiple ways:

- Recognizes Tribal jurisdiction over decisions for their Indian children;
- Establishes minimum federal standards for the removal of Indian children from their families;
- Establishes preferences for placement

of Indian children with extended family or other Tribal families;

• Institutes protections to ensure that birth parents’ voluntary relinquishments of their children are truly voluntary.

A recent US. Supreme Court, *Haaland v. Brackeen*, created concern over the future of ICWA. Depending on how the court ruled, important safeguards for custody and child welfare proceedings involving Indian children and families could have been eliminated. The Supreme Court’s ruling in the case earlier this month

left ICWA intact.

LD 1970, which is supported by the Maine Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS), will enshrine these protections in state law, ensuring continuity in Maine, regardless of any changes on the national level. The committee amendment adds an emergency clause, ensuring the bill will take effect immediately upon becoming law.

LD 1970 now goes to the desk of Gov. Janet Mills, where she has 10 days to either sign it into law, veto it or allow it to become law without her signature.

Maine Festival Celebrates Maine Talent, Cinematic Excellence



WATERVILLE, ME (June 23, 2023) — The Maine International Film Festival (MIFF) proudly announces the full schedule and program for its 26th edition, set to captivate audiences from July 7–16. This year’s Festival showcases an exceptional lineup of Maine-made shorts and features alongside renowned international and classic films. Individual tickets and festival passes are on sale at MIFF.org, and printed program guides will soon be available around Central Maine.

The festival welcomes back Ildikó Enyedi, a visionary director and artist known for her

remarkable contributions to world cinema, who had her first career retrospective at MIFF in 1999. Enyedi’s distinctive storytelling and captivating visuals have garnered critical acclaim and numerous accolades, including the *Caméra d’Or* for Best First Feature at Cannes for “My Twentieth Century.” She will be presented with the MIFF Mid-Life Achievement Award at a screening of “On Body and Soul” and a reception at Front & Main on Sunday, July 9.

MIFF is thrilled to showcase the work of Bill Morrison, acclaimed for his unique blending of archival and found film



Director Bill Morrison. Photo credit Wolfgang Wesener.

footage with evocative soundscapes to create mesmerizing cinematic experiences. Following the screening of his film “Dawson City: Frozen Time,” a reception at OPA will celebrate his contributions to film history. His exhibition “Bill Morrison: Cycles and

Loops” will show at the Joan Dignam Schmaltz Gallery of Art at the Paul J. Schupf Art Center from Aug. 18–Dec. 31, 2023.

MIFF will present the annual Tourmaline Prizes, awards celebrating the finest Maine-made short and feature films with prizes of \$2,500



Director Ildikó Enyedi

and \$5,000 respectively. These prizes aim to foster Maine’s filmmaking industry, from thought-provoking documentaries to captivating narratives.

“We’re honored to showcase a fantastic slate of films from Maine and around the globe. With 7 feature-length and 16 shorts made in Maine, we are proud to celebrate a bumper crop of production happening in our state,” said Mike Perreault, executive director of the Maine Film Center. “Venerated guests Ildikó Enyedi and Bill Morri-

son will join us in-person, as will the colleagues of dozens of the nearly 100 films we have programmed for audiences this year.”

The 26th Maine International Film Festival takes place July 7–16 at the Maine Film Center and Waterville Opera House, both accessed via the Paul J. Schupf Art Center at 93 Main Street, Waterville, Maine. For further information, including the festival schedule, ticketing details, and updates, please visit MIFF.org.



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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Friendship Stands the Test of Time at TAM

MONMOUTH, ME (June 23, 2023) – Theater at Monmouth opens their 2023 Brave New Worlds Summer Repertory Season with Neil Bartram and Brian Hill’s *The Story of My Life*. This charming and charismatic musical touches audiences with its light humor and heartfelt story through the friendship of Alvin and Thomas, two men from a small town. These lifelong friends are reunited after Alvin’s mysterious death. In the abstract world of his mind, Thomas struggles to write Alvin’s eulogy while recounting the many turns that their lives have taken since meeting as children. Alvin searches through manuscripts and stories in Thomas’s mind to lead him on a journey of remembrance. Discover



er the power of friendship Saturday, July 1 at 7:30 PM through Saturday, August 12 including matinee and evening performances on both weekdays and weekends.

Unlike most musicals that are filled with big, flashy production numbers, director Adam P. Blais relishes in the shows small cast and theatrical subtleties. Blais comments that Thomas and Alvin’s stories are “filled with routine human interactions,

dedication, and love” while pointing out that the show “is packed with simple, yet challenging messages”. He says the show “encourages us to embrace and focus on our lived experiences rather than search our minds for answers and memories that will never be there”.

The Story of My Life features Christopher Blonski* as Alvin and Zack Lopez Roa* as Thomas. Directed by Adam P. Blais; Set Design by Jim Alexander, Costume Design by Erika Gordon, Lighting design by Jennifer Fok and Sound Design by Rew Tippin, with Stage Management by Mandy Spartz*, Assistant Stage Management by Cameron Sarchi, and Props Supervision by Madelaine Foster.

Performance Calen-

dar: **OPENING 7/1 at 7:30 p.m.**; additional performance dates 7/15, 7/19, 8/1, and 8/12 at 7:30 PM; 7/30 and 8/10 at 1:00 PM.

The Story of My Life is licensed by Music Theater International, www.mtishows.com

Audience Engagement Programs

Post-Performance Discussions. Join us on selected weekend evening performances for Post-Performance Discussions with the cast and creative team. Discuss the critical historical, artistic, and cultural perspectives of the worlds of each individual play. Post-Performance Discussion will take place on the following date: Saturday, July 15 following the performance of *The Story of My Life*, Saturday, July 22

following the performance of *Richard II*, Sunday, July 30 following the performance of *As You Like It*, Saturday, August 5 following the performance of *An Iliad*, and Sunday, July 6 following the performance of *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

Tickets, Subscriptions, and Ways to Save. A TAM subscription offers savings and exclusive benefits like priority seating and ticket exchanges. Gold, Flex, General, or Senior Passes are available for purchase, so whether you want a ticket for each show or five tickets to one show, there’s an option for you. Single tickets for the Summer Repertory and Fall Show are \$40 for adults, \$35 for senior citizens, and \$25 for students (18 and

under).

Opening Nights are Educator Nights. Educators receive 20% off the general ticket price with a valid photo ID at the Box Office.

Under 30 Rush Tickets. For patrons under 30, \$10 Rush Tickets are available for up to 20 audience members at each performance in the season excluding the Family Show and Special Events. Contact the Box Office by email boxoffice@theateratmonmouth.org or by calling 207.933.9999 after 10 a.m. on the day of the show. Requests made before the Box Office is open will not be processed.

For calendar and reservations, please contact the TAM Box Office at 207.933.9999 or visit www.theateratmonmouth.org.

Invest in Maine’s Future, Pass Paid Family, Medical Leave

Guest Column by Sen. Peggy Rotundo

AUGUSTA, ME (June 23, 2023) -- Both as your state senator and, importantly, as a mother, I want to make sure Maine is a place where our kids can live, work and lay the groundwork for happy, productive lives. So, as the legislative session winds down in Augusta, I am pleased to see that the bill to provide Maine’s workers with the peace of mind that comes with paid family medical leave is making its way through the Legislature.

Unfortunately, Maine is the only state in New England without any form of paid family medical leave for its workers. LD 1964, sponsored by my friends and colleagues Sen. Mattie Daughtry of Brunswick and Rep. Kristen Cloutier of Lewiston, is a bill that has been carefully crafted over the past two years that embodies the recommendations of the Commission to Develop a Paid Family Medical Leave (PFML) Benefits Program and offers a compromise proposal that will empower Maine’s businesses and families to prosper.

Paid Family Medical Leave is an insurance pro-

gram that provides wage replacement for when the best or worst happens. The amount of the wage replacement is less than the individual would make at work but enough to keep them afloat if they are unable to work. It provides for a maximum of 12 weeks of leave. The contribution to the fund that pays out benefits is one percent of the worker’s salary, split between the employer and employee.

LD 1964 was thoroughly vetted through extensive outreach efforts, with the bill sponsors meeting with Mainers throughout the state. They engaged with over 300 businesses, organizations and individuals. This collaborative approach ensures that the bill addresses the unique needs and concerns of all Mainers.

Many folks from Lewiston felt strongly enough about the need for this program to testify in favor of the bill. Jim Lysen told the Labor and Housing Committee that his daughter missed spending precious time with her mother in the last weeks of her life because she could not get time off from work. Amina Hassan’s mother got injured

and was told to return to work after two days or she would lose her job, even though she had a doctor’s note. Ed Fallon is an older Mainer and depends on his daughter for critical care, but she relies on taking time off from work to do so. He is worried that he will have an emergency and she will not have the time off required to care for him. And Henoc Ngoy got the flu and was forced to resign from his job after his sick time ran out, leaving him to live off of savings without income and insurance. These are only four of the many examples of Lewiston residents whose lives would have been positively affected by having a paid family leave program in place.

PFML is not a luxury, and it does not reward anyone for staying home from work simply because they feel like it. By providing individuals with the necessary time, flexibility, and security to navigate life’s most disruptive events, PFML simply safeguards our families’ financial stability, employment, and

health insurance.

The benefits of PFML extend to the joyous occasions like the birth, adoption, or fostering of a child. It also provides a safety net when we face the challenges of caring for sick or dying loved ones, and supports families during the process of preparing for or transitioning back from a family member’s military deployment.

A staggering 93 per-

cent of Mainers support this program, and it is our duty as lawmakers to deliver on this overwhelming mandate. We cannot afford to delay any longer. The time has come to pass and fund paid leave for all Maine workers.

As always, if you have any questions about the information here or would like to reach out with a comment, question or concern, you can reach

out to me any time by emailing me at Peggy.Rotundo@legislature.maine.gov or calling me at the State House at 207-287-1515.

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

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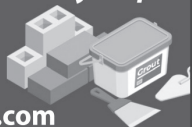
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History Center Marks Gettysburg 160th And 40th Anniversary



BRUNSWICK, ME (May 31, 2023) -- Thanks to a grant from the Maine Humanities Council, Pejepscot History Center is bringing actor, director, and Gettysburg College Theatre Instructor, Richard Sautter, to town for two Civil War-related programs on July 6 and 8.

July 1-3 marks the 160th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg during the Civil War, where Maine's Joshua Chamberlain led the 20th Maine Regiment on Little Round Top. This year is also the 40th anniversary of PHC owning and operating the Joshua L. Chamberlain Museum in downtown Brunswick.

"We would be re-

miss in not marking both of these occasions with some extra special programming," says PHC director Larissa Vigue Picard. "Rich is a talented theatre professional who happens to be a big fan of Maine, having earned his undergraduate degree from Bates College. He also performed in Maine during the Civil War ses-

quicentennial in 2013." On Thursday, July 6, at 5:30PM, Rich delivers a talk and slideshow on "American Theatre During the Civil War." Sautter discusses acting as a disreputable profession, the prevalence of "minstrel shows," Abraham Lincoln's relationship to the theater, the

(in)famous actors in the Booth family, and how the war changed theatrical entertainment.

The program will be held at PHC at 159 Park Row as part of its History Happy Hour series. Although the talk is free, RSVPs are required as seats are limited and wine and beer will be served. Doors open at 5PM.

On Saturday, July 8, at 2PM, Sautter performs "Addressing Gettysburg, or Swimming to the High Water Mark," a one-man show he wrote. The performance takes place at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 1 Middle Street in Brunswick and will be followed by an ice cream social.

"Addressing Gettysburg" concerns the experience of living in America's most sacred ground. Cemetery Ridge, near Gettysburg, is referred to as the "high-water mark of the Confederacy" and the three-day battle is often considered the turning point of the war, after



which the South's chances to triumph declined.

Spending time in Gettysburg means meeting many different people," says Sautter, "from passionate historians to ghost hunters, from Civil War re-enactors to apathetic schoolchildren. It causes one to think about how some places gain deeply special meaning

for us, and how our history affects us today." The play includes both humor and deep reflection.

Tickets support Joshua L. Chamberlain Museum operations and are \$20 for the general public, \$15 for PHC members, \$10 for students, and \$5 for those that find themselves in difficult circumstances.

To register for either or both programs visit <https://pejepscot-historical.org/events> or call (207) 729-6606.

Pejepscot History Center preserves, interprets, and promotes the rich history of Brunswick, Topsham, and Harpswell, Maine, through its collections, programs, and historic house museums.

The Mallett Brothers Band to Celebrate Maine Lobstering

KENNEBUNK, ME (June 23, 2023) -- Preparations are underway for a day-long festival this summer to celebrate Maine's lobstering heritage. "Music, Masts, and Lobster Traps" will be

held on Sunday, August 27 at Maine Maritime Museum in Bath and culminate in a late afternoon performance by Maine's own The Mallett Brothers Band. Proceeds from the

event will benefit the Maine Lobstermen's Community Alliance (MLCA) which, with support from the Maine Lobstermen's Association (MLA), is working to ensure a vibrant future

for Maine's fishing families and the communities in which they live and work.

"Maine and lobster go hand in hand, which is why it's almost unbelievable to think there could come a day when Maine's iconic lobster industry is forced out of business," said volunteer event organizer, Jesse Roche, a commercial fisherman from Bath. "Our way of life is at risk, and I want people to see that we all need to work together to protect it and we need to celebrate this industry that makes Maine such a special state."

"We're delighted to be working with Jesse, the Maine Maritime Museum, and the team of volunteers who will bring "Music, Masts, and Lobster Traps" to life," said Amber-Jean Nickel, president of the MLCA and chief operating officer of the MLA. "We spend a lot of time and effort highlighting how flawed federal regulations continue to pose a threat to the future of Maine's lobster industry, but this event is different -- we want people to come, learn more about the industry and its importance to the state, and to celebrate a unique fishery that is at the heart of so many of our coastal communities."

Details:

The event will be held on the grounds of the Maine Maritime Museum in Bath on Sunday, August 27th starting at 9:30am and dayside activities are open to anyone with paid admission to the museum (Mem-



bers of the Maine Lobstermen's Association with proof of current membership receive free admission to the dayside activities.)

Demonstrations and educational exhibits highlighting Maine's working waterfront heritage will include a lobster education center, a trap building demonstration, aquaculture demonstration, pogie seining exhibit, emergency survival raft and gear demonstration, Abenaki tribe drum circle and history exhibit, lobster boat, schooner, tour cruises and more! Food and drink from Longreach Kitchen and Highroller Lobster Company will be available starting at 12pm.

At 3:00pm, gates to the concert event will open! Tickets to the concert are \$30 and are sold separately. Maine folk artist Paddy Mills will take to the stage at 3:30 prior to the headline act, The Mallett Brothers Band. Guests with tickets to the concert event will also have access to a beer garden hosted by Mast Landing Brewery, XTRATUF, and Rugged Seas where a new, special brew honoring our maritime heritage will be unveiled. In addition, Mere Point Oyster Company will be shucking flavorful Maine oysters.

Tickets to the concert event can be purchased online: <https://www.eventbrite.com/event/music-masts-lobster-traps-a-celebration-of-maines-lobstering-heritage-tickets-617706766567>

Sponsorships:

To date, the event has received financial support from First National Bank, XTRATUF, Pine State Trading, Brooks Trap Mill, Guy Cotten, and First Federal Savings. Additional sponsorship is available and welcome. Contact: Jesse Roche at 860-625-2532 or jesseroche1975@yahoo.com

Special raffles and a silent auction featuring prizes donated by supportive businesses will also be held.

All proceeds will benefit the Maine Lobstermen's Community Alliance (MLCA) which, in partnership with the Maine Lobstermen's Association, is working to protect Maine's lobstering heritage. The MLCA is a 501c3 non-profit organization and donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowable under the law.

FMI: <https://mlc-alliance.org/events/music-masts-lobster-traps/>

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Red Cross Honors Top Volunteers for Incredible Service

TOPSHAM, ME (JUNE 23, 2023) — For more than a century, the American Red Cross has been dedicated to serving people in need — thanks to our founder Clara Barton. Through supporting service members and their families, collecting blood for patients, providing individuals with help and hope after disasters, teaching lifesaving training and providing international aid, we've stayed true to our roots.

During FY23, the Red Cross of Northern New England...

Installed 1,836 free smoke alarms (including 847 in Maine), making 579 homes safer across the region (including 275 in Maine)

Responded to 521 home fires (including 271 in Maine) and assisted 1,955 people (including 913 Mainers)

Educated 3,555 adults and children through our Pillowcase Project, Prepare with Pedro and Community Preparedness Engagement Programs

Collected more than 110,000 red cell units of lifesaving blood

Deployed over 200 volunteers and staff to more than 30 large-scale disasters

This work would not be possible with our dedicated volunteers. Regionally, the Red Cross recognizes its top volunteers with the Clara Barton Award. These individuals embody the organization's core values of compassion, commitment, credibility, creativity and collaboration.

This year, the American Red Cross Central and Mid Coast Maine Chapter is honored to recognize Rose Murphy, of Lisbon Falls, Maine, as its 2023 Clara Barton Award

recipient. Murphy is a longtime volunteer of the Red Cross — and has selflessly served in many roles. Presently she is a board member and the Chair of the Mission Committee. Murphy exemplifies what it is to live the Red Cross mission. She is committed and dedicated to improving the lives of those served by the Red Cross and goes above and beyond to thank our volunteers.

In the past year, Murphy has been personally affected by two near disasters. She suffered a home fire in a building she owned, and her daughter needed lifesaving blood during childbirth. Rose took these two experiences and turned them into action.

"Through adversity, Rose has made it her mission to educate others on the importance of blood donation — and has be-

come an active member of our Home Fire Campaign, working to ensure more Maine homes have working smoke alarms. She is one of our chapter's greatest advocates and truly committed to the Red Cross mission," said Sophie Piconi, Red Cross Central and Mid Coast Maine executive director.

The Red Cross is also pleased to recognize volunteer Nancy Kleckner, of Lewiston, Maine, as the 2023 Clara Barton Award Runner-up.

Kleckner has volunteered with the Red Cross since 2018 and currently serves as a blood donor ambassador, volunteer medical screener and onboarding and training team member. When Kleckner is volunteering at a blood drive, the biomedical services staff can focus on collecting lifesaving blood, because they know Kleck-

ner is there tending to the donors' needs.

Additionally, the Red Cross is pleased to recognize the following volunteers who achieved the President's Volunteer Service Award which is sponsored by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation. These awards, issued by the U.S. government, recognize individuals who achieve and record a targeted number of service hours within a calendar year.

Gold Recipients (500+ volunteer hours)

- Lorraine Bernier, East Portland
- Robert Bouchard, Frenchville
- Jessica Craig, Portland
- Michael Craig, Portland
- Paul Duclos, Glenwood
- Jim Larson, Hampden

- John Leeming, Cumberland
- Karen Towle, Gardiner
- Lynn Walkiewicz, Lewiston
- Solomon Yusim, Scarborough
- Silver Recipients (250–499 volunteer hours)
- Sheila Blackman, Mount Desert
- Ann Cibelli, Acton
- Raybo Frank, Bucksport
- Irene Lang, Winterport
- Ruth Lathrop, Windham
- Anthony Lawless, Portland
- Christopher Luck, Moultonborough
- Linda Murphy Luck, Moultonborough
- David Pincumbe, Brunswick
- Daniel Sayner, Brunswick
- Michael Thurston, Auburn

All Maine Catholics Invited to “Making Disciples” Conference

LEWISTON, ME (June 22, 2023) -- While many of the ministries and initiatives have returned to their pre-pandemic levels, one area in particular need of reconstruction is the parish's Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) program, a parish-based process through which individuals can grow in understanding of the Catholic faith and become part of a parish community.

"We need to reform our RCIA team, show parishioners the way the Church makes disciples and welcomes people into its community, and we want to invite all Maine parishes to join us," said Fr. Greenleaf.

Thus, the "Making Disciples" Conference has been announced for Friday, July 7, and Saturday, July 8, at Saint Dominic Academy in Auburn. The two-day conference will be hosted by Prince of

Peace Parish and TeamRCIA, which has connected thousands of parish and diocesan leaders around the globe to help and support them in their mission.

"The conference will help participants understand that RCIA is not just another parish program but the work of all the baptized in transforming the parish," said Fr. Greenleaf.

All are welcome at the conference, which will be led by Nick Wagner and Diana Macalintal, co-founders and codirectors of TeamRCIA.

The conference aims to offer confidence for participants to engage seekers, ways for parishes to make their catechumenate ministry a source of joy and not stress, proven pillars of creating "intentional disciples," and practical actions parishes can take to make themselves "communities of calling forth disciples."

The first evening

of the conference on Friday, July 7, will run from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and covers how to tell others about Jesus, the six core principles of the catechumenate, the four pillars of catechumenate catechesis that grow a community of intentional disciples, and the changes that come to a parish committed to a catechumenate-based conversion mission.

Then, on Saturday, July 8, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., participants will learn how to catechize from a rite in such a way that matters to real people's lives, the ritual and catechetical paths of the catechumenate and how they work together, three levels of evangelization, a process for discerning each person's particular needs and path of formation, how to use your parish as the catechetical curriculum for making disciples, and more.

"To help build relationships and community, we are offering host families for adults who would like to stay with parishioners, or you can reserve rooms at an area hotel for the one night," said Fr. Greenleaf. "We know that Catholics are connected throughout the state, and this might make this professional conference affordable to anyone in our diocese who would like to be trained in the way our Church makes disciples."

For more information about the conference, including how to register, visit the conference's website at <https://princeofpeace.me/making-disciples-2023>. If you should have any unanswered questions, contact Tyler Nadeau, the director of evangelization and catechesis at Prince of Peace Parish, at 207-777-1200 or tyler.nadeau@portland-diocese.org.



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Arts & Entertainment

The Honey Exchange at Lewiston Public Library

LEWISTON, ME (June 23, 2023) -- Join us at the Lewiston Public Library for a beekeeping presentation by The Honey Exchange on July 19th at 5:30PM in Callahan Hall.

In addition to the presentation on behavior and contribution of honeybees, The Honey Exchange will be showcasing a traveling observation hive. There will be a honey tasting at the end of the presentation.

Phil Gaven and his wife, Meghan, own and operate The Honey Exchange in Portland, Maine. Phil teaches Beginner Beekeeping from January to April, then provides advice and support for beekeepers throughout southern Maine the rest of the year. Phil is a certified Master Beekeeper by the Eastern Apicultural Society. He currently maintains a dozen colonies in various locations and lives

in South Portland with lots and lots of bees.

This presentation is free, for all ages, open to the public, and no registration is required.

The Lewiston Public Library is located downtown at 200 Lisbon Street at the corner of Pine Street. More information on this program is available by contacting the Lewiston Public Library at 513-3133 or LPLKids@lewistonmaine.gov.

Waterville Rocks Free Concerts Return for 8th Year

WATERVILLE, ME (June 23, 2023) — Waterville Opera House is delighted to announce the eighth consecutive year of Waterville Rocks, a series of four free family-friendly outdoor concerts with music ranging from folk and Americana to rock and soul. This year's lineup will include The Weight Band with Chris Ross, Dustbowl Revival, Will Evans Trio, and Griffin William Sherry, all at downtown Waterville's Head of Falls.

"We are thrilled to bring free live music to our community again this year!" said Michelle Sweet, executive director of the Waterville Opera House. "Waterville Rocks attendance has steadily grown with each passing year since 2016, and we're hoping the bands joining us this year will bring out the greatest crowds yet. We've booked bands across the musical genre spectrum, and there is sure to be something for everyone. As always, endless thanks to our amazing sponsors for helping us continue this summer tradition."

The first Waterville Rocks concert, scheduled for Friday, July 7, will be held in tandem with Opening Night of the 26th annual Maine International Film Festival and will feature The Weight Band with Chris Ross. Presenting a dynamic set of classic Americana that draws upon roadhouse rock, funky swamp pop, blues, country soul, and folk

music, The Weight Band originated in 2013 inside the famed Woodstock barn of Levon Helm in an effort to carry on the musical legacy of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame group The Band. Joining them is singer-songwriter Chris Ross, who spent a decade tucked away on the coast of Maine developing music much like Maine itself: humble yet dramatic, severe yet sweet, cold and resonant with a nearby fire throwing heat.

The second concert in the series is scheduled for Friday, July 21, and includes a performance by Dustbowl Revival, an always evolving group of string and brass players who push the boundaries of what American roots music can be. After spending years on the road, selling out hometown shows at LA's famed Troubadour, headlining festivals, and wowing crowds from Denmark to China, Dustbowl Revival is bringing their joyful, booty-shaking soul songs and cut-to-the-heart folk-rock ballads to Central Maine.

Will Evans Trio will headline the third concert scheduled for Friday, July 28. Hailing from the Atlantic coastline of Rhode Island, Evans spent the last decade as the frontman for the New England-based roots rock outfit Barefoot Truth. Showcasing his skills as a multi-instrumentalist, Evans displays technical mastery of live-looping in his shows that include the

didgeridoo, hand pan drum, percussive beatboxing, acoustic guitar, and layers of soulful vocals.

Griffin William Sherry will perform on Friday, Aug. 4 for the final concert. In 2011, Sherry co-founded the independent band The Ghost of Paul Revere, capturing the hearts and minds of countless fans with a series of acclaimed releases and sold-out shows everywhere. In 2019, his song "The Ballad of the 20th Maine" became the official Maine State Ballad, securing The Ghost of Paul Revere's place in Maine music history. Living somewhere in-between modern catharsis and American myth, Sherry continues to grow strong roots in the ever-evolving genres of folk, Americana, and rock & roll.

Waterville Rocks is presented by Waterville Creates and the Waterville Opera House and made possible by the generous sponsorship of the following businesses and organizations: City of Waterville, Colby College, MIFF 26, Central Maine Chevy, and The Proper Pig.

Music starts at 7 p.m., with a beer garden and food truck by The Proper Pig opening at 6 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets or chairs for their enjoyment. In the event of rain, Waterville Rocks concerts will be performed inside the Waterville Opera House.

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Registration Open for Inaugural Pickleball Tournament

SCARBOROUGH, ME (June 8, 2023) -- Pickleball enthusiasts from Maine, New England, and beyond will meet at the Maine Sports Arena to raise funds for the Scarborough based non-profit, the Kids First Center. This action-packed event, set to take place over three days, July 21st, 22nd, and 23rd, promises to showcase the best in pickleball talent and provide a memorable experience for players and spectators alike. The tournament is sanctioned by USA Pickleball and its rules for round-robin play will govern.

Pickleball, the fastest-growing sport in the

United States, has captivated millions with its unique blend of tennis, badminton, and table tennis. With its ever-growing popularity, it comes as no surprise that the Kids First Center has chosen to run this tournament, attracting players of all skill levels and fans from around the region. Partnering with the Kids First Center is the tournament host, the Maine Sports Arena. Steve Haines of MSA and Director of Portland Pickleball is looking forward to the event. "This is one of the few sanctioned tournaments in Maine this summer. We expect some of Maine's finest pickleball players to

compete at this inaugural event." USA Pickleball Association Regional Director Rocky Clark is also pleased to see the tournament scheduled for this summer. "Let's all put Kids First and enjoy a fun pickleball tournament in Saco, Maine."

The Kids First Pickleball Tournament is set to be a celebration of the game while raising awareness of the mission of Kids First. The tournament will feature a variety of competitive brackets, ensuring that players of every level have an opportunity to participate and test their skills against like-minded competitors. The tournament

director is Joe Santoro of Wolfeboro, New Hampshire. Along with running many charity tournaments, Santoro is a past officer of the Board of Directors at USA Pickleball, serves on the Board of Directors of the Pickleball Hall of Fame, and is the USA Pickleball Referee Training Coordinator for the Atlantic Region.

The indoor climate-controlled event will be held at the Maine Sports Arena, 15 Lunt Road, Saco, boasting nine hardwood pickleball courts, ample spectator seating, and a vibrant atmosphere that will immerse attendees in the thrilling world of

pickleball. The tournament will also feature vendor and exhibitor tables, offering an array of merchandise and services related to pickleball equipment, apparel, and more. Parking at the venue is free.

"We are thrilled to launch the first Kids First Pickleball Tournament," said Timothy Robbins, Executive Director of the Kids First Center. "Pickleball is a sport that brings people together, promotes healthy competition, and creates lasting friendships. We welcome players and fans from all over to provide an unforgettable experience that showcases Maine's best of this incredible

sport." Robbins explained, "We were looking for a different kind of event to raise funds and awareness of the programming of the Kids First Center. The positive response to running a pickleball tournament has been overwhelming and gratifying." Anyone interested in volunteering at this event should contact the Kids First Center.

Registration for the tournament is now open, and players are encouraged to secure their spots early due to limited availability. For more information and to register, visit the official tournament registration page at <https://t.ly/R0g-kidsfirstpickleball>.

Yard Sale Fundraiser Coming to Hawthorne's Boyhood Home

RAYMOND, ME (June 20, 2023) – A yard sale fundraiser will be held at Nathaniel Hawthorne's Boyhood Home in Raymond, Maine, 40 Hawthorne Road, on Saturday, July 1, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The yard sale is being held as part of the Hawthorne Community Association's ongoing Phase II capital campaign to raise \$75,000 to make urgent repairs to the historic home. The sale will be held rain or shine.

Everyone wishing

to browse the sale, bring home new treasures, or sell crafts or "white elephant" items is cordially invited to attend. Vendors wishing to sell items are asked to please pay \$15 to secure a table by contacting Sylvia Sullivan at rsssm@maine.rr.com.

How to Donate to Nathaniel Hawthorne's Boyhood Home

Those who would like to donate to the ongoing restoration of Nathaniel Hawthorne's Boyhood Home in Ray-

mond may do so by sending a much-appreciated check payable to "Hawthorne Community Association" to: Hawthorne Community Association / PO Box 185 / South Casco, ME 04077. Secure credit card, debit card, and 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.



Image courtesy of the Hawthorne Community Association.

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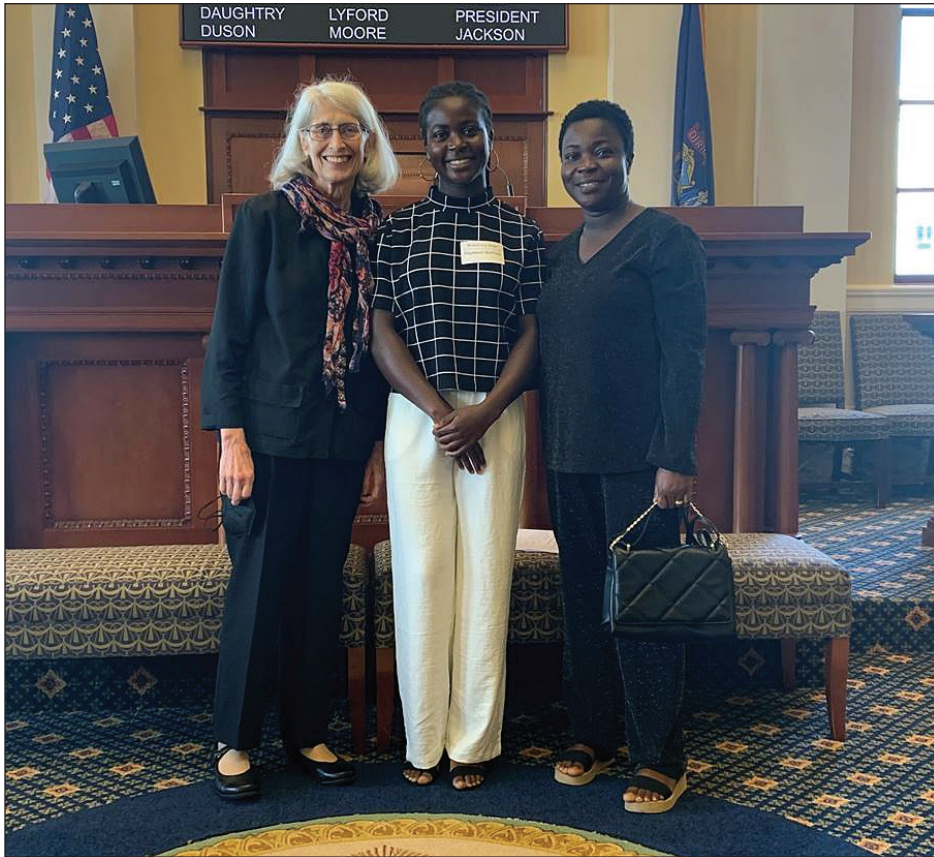


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Sen. Rotundo Welcomes Lewiston Honor Roll Student



Sen. Peggy Rotundo, Stephanie Tuffour and Diana Marfo in the Senate Chamber.

AUGUSTA, ME (June 23, 2023) — On Wednesday, June 21, Sen. Peggy Rotundo, D-Lewiston, and other members of the Legislature welcomed Stephanie Tuffour, an honor student from Lewiston High School, and her mother, Diana Marfo.

why I chose to serve in the Senate,” said Sen. Rotundo. “It was wonderful to meet Stephanie and Diana. The Legislature is finishing its work for this year, but I hope to see many more students from Lewiston next year!”

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

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

Leadership Award Given to Local Educator, Rosita Friel



AUGUSTA, ME (June 16, 2023) -- At the recent Retired Maine Educators Convention held in Augusta on May 4 Rosita Friel was presented with the Androscoggin Retired Educators’ Leadership Award.

Rosita has worn many hats during a career that

spanned thirty-three years. During these thirty-three years Rosita taught English at Elm Street School in Mechanic Falls. She taught at Buckfield Junior/Senior High School as well as Leavitt Area High School where she was chairperson of the English Department for twenty years.

Rosita has been the president of the Androscoggin County Retired Educators’ Association. She served in the Maine House of Representatives from 1997 - 2004. Rosita has held several offices at Grace Lutheran Church where she sings in the choir.

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Western Maine Camps Raise Funds for Bridgton Hospital

LEWISTON, ME (June 20, 2023) -- A group of summer camps in western Maine recently showed their appreciation for Bridgton Hospital by helping purchase a stretcher for the hospital to use for LifeFlight helicopter operations.

Arleen Shepherd, director of Camp Skylemar in Naples, contacted 12 other summer camps in the Bridgton area, encouraging them to participate in a fundraiser for the equipment. To express their gratitude to the team members at Bridgton Hospital for all they do to care for their young campers, the 13 camps donated \$13,500 to the hospital.

Shepherd said that while summer camp can be a great place for kids to learn, accidents and illnesses can and do happen.

"Bridgton Hospital is especially important to summer camps in the surrounding area," Shepherd



said. "Unfortunate things can happen anywhere, especially when you have so many kids living and playing together. When something happens, we depend on the wonderful Bridgton doctors, nurses and technicians of the ER.

"Bridgton Hospital provides us with 24-hour-a-day healthcare, with a collection of professionals who truly care about helping each individual

in need. The staff is kind, compassionate and professional, and everyone is especially understanding of the summer camp industry."

Amander Wotten, RN, ED nurse leader at Bridgton Hospital, said the hospital has been looking for a way to fund a special stretcher for patients who have to be flown to another facility. The new stretcher will allow team members

to safely move critically injured patients from the hospital's Emergency Department to a LifeFlight air ambulance.

"The generosity to help, not just those they work with, but the entire Lakes Region community speaks to their hearts and genuine appreciation for the wonderful team here at Bridgton Hospital. For that- I am grateful," Wotten said.



Retired Educators Association Awards \$2000 Scholarship

(June 16, 2023) -- The Androscoggin Retired Educators Association \$2000 dollar scholarship for 2023 was presented to Kaitlin Purrington of Oak Hill high school at Class Night by Association Pres-

ident David Wing. Kaitlin has been in the education and child development program at LRTC, and completed her practicum at Pettengill Academy. Kaitlyn will be attending the University of Maine at

Farmington in the fall majoring in elementary education.

Outside of school, Kaitlyn worked as a hostess at 99, babysitting and volunteering at the Blake Street towers.

PRHS Speech and Debate Students Make it to Nationals

POLAND, ME (May 10, 2023) -- PRHS Speech and Debate students have qualified for the National Competition in Louisville, Kentucky May 25-29th.

This is the second year in a row that Audrey Fryda and Cheyenne Toth, both Juniors, have qualified for Nationals and went to Washington DC last year. This is the first year partic-

ipating in Speech and Debate for Braiden Stickney, a junior, and Brady Milton, a Freshman and they also qualified for Nationals.

D'Arcy Robinson is the Speech and Debate coach and has gone to many Nationals with past Speech and Debate students. The students will be holding fundraisers in the community to raise needed

monies to cover the costs. Way to go Cheyenne, Audrey, Braiden and Brady!

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



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\$30M to Support Universal Broadband Access in Maine

WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 16, 2023) – U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King, and Representatives Chellie Pingree and Jared Golden announced that the Maine Connectivity Authority was awarded \$30,016,472.13 in federal funding from the Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure grant. This investment is funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and will support Maine’s strategic goal of providing universal broadband access throughout the state.

“As one of the most

rural states in the nation, Maine will see immense benefits from expanding high-speed, affordable broadband access to all our people. In the 21st century economy, access to high-speed Internet is absolutely essential to business development and job growth in rural areas, and it opens doors to new opportunities in telehealth and education,” said Senators Collins and King and Representatives Pingree and Golden. “As proud supporters of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we are pleased to see the continued impact of this bipar-

tisan legislation.”
 “With this grant award, Maine is demonstrating its national leadership in the expansion of high-speed, reliable and affordable internet,” said Andrew Butcher, President of the Maine Connectivity Authority. “MOOSE Net will provide the connectivity infrastructure to enable the industries that power Maine— farming, fishing, forest products and fun.”
 The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests \$65 billion to support broadband infrastructure nationwide, including \$1 billion for the Middle Mile Broad-

band Infrastructure Grant Program administered by the National Telecommunications & Information Administration. The funding will support the construction, improvement, or acquisition of “middle mile” broadband infrastructure, which will help reduce the cost of connecting areas that are unserved or underserved to the internet backbone and bridge gaps in the broadband network.
 Senator Collins was part of the core group of 10 Senators who negotiated the text of the bipartisan infrastructure

law. Senator Collins and Senator Shaheen of New Hampshire spearheaded the broadband working group and co-authored the law’s provisions providing for \$65 billion broadband investment. This historic legislation is delivering billions of dollars to Maine for investments in broadband, roads, bridges, and more. As Co-Chair of the bipartisan Senate Broadband Caucus, Senator King has been a strong advocate for expanding affordable broadband access as a way to increase economic opportunity in rural Maine. Senator King in-

troduced the Middle Mile Broadband Deployment Act in 2021 that proposed creating a grant program to connect internet carriers to local networks in unserved and underserved communities.
 The bipartisan infrastructure law is expected to deliver approximately \$2.5 billion to Maine over the next five years for critical broadband, transportation, energy, and environmental projects. In December 2022, Maine received \$5.5 million to plan for the deployment and adoption of broadband service throughout the state.

Maine Religious Parents, Schools Sue State

WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 16, 2023) – A Catholic family of five and a Catholic high school filed a lawsuit on June 13 challenging Maine’s exclusion of faith-based schools from a state tuition assistance program that has served rural families for over a century.

Even though the Supreme Court struck down Maine’s religious ban last year, bureaucrats in the state are continuing to exclude faith-based schools and families who rely on the program. In *St. Dominic Academy v. Makin*, the Radonis family and St. Dominic Academy, a high school operated by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland, are fighting for their ability to help rural families educate their chil-

dren in accordance with their beliefs.
 Keith and Valori Radonis are organic farmers in rural Maine who want to send their children to schools that uphold their Catholic beliefs. Both Keith and Valori grew up in Catholic homes, and they believe it is their religious duty to help plant, nurture, and cultivate the seed of faith in their own children. For years, Catholic schools in the Diocese of Portland—including St. Dominic Academy—assisted families like Radonises in providing their children with an education that reflects their beliefs through Maine’s tuition assistance program. This program allows parents in rural school districts to educate their children at private schools

with no public schools nearby. That changed in 1982 when Maine began disqualifying faith-based schools and the families they serve from the program. Today, Maine is willing to pay for families in rural areas to send their kids to out-of-state boarding schools and public schools in Canada, but it won’t pay a penny for parents that choose a religious school in Maine.
 “As Catholic parents, we want to provide our children with an education that helps them grow in heart, mind, and spirit, preparing them for lives of service to God and neighbor,” said Keith and Valori Radonis. “All families should have the option to provide the education that’s right for their children using Maine’s tuition program,

including religious families like ours.”
 Fortunately, the Supreme Court said last year in *Carson v. Makin* that Maine could no longer exclude faith-based schools from the program. But Maine bureaucrats tried to do an “end run” around the Supreme Court. While the Supreme Court was considering *Carson*, Maine passed a new law to reimpose the same restriction challenged in *Carson*—and add a few new ones for good measure.
 Maine’s new laws block schools that receive tuition funds from allowing any religious expression unless they allow every kind—meaning that a Catholic school like St. Dominic can’t have Mass unless it also allows a Baptist reviv-

al meeting. It also gives the state’s Human Rights Commission—not parents and schools—the final word on how the school teaches students to live out Catholic beliefs regarding marriage, gender, and family life. As a result, faith-based schools are still being barred from serving rural families through the program.
 With the help of Becket, the Radonis family and St. Dominic are asking a federal court to strike down Maine’s anti-religious policy. The state cannot deny parents the choice to educate their children at religious schools simply because they provide an education rooted in faith. It also cannot sidestep the Supreme Court by changing its law to stop religious schools from being reli-

gious.
 “Maine is willing to pay for kids to go to all-girls boarding schools in Massachusetts and public schools in Quebec, but parents who choose Catholic schools like St. Dominic—which have been educating Maine kids for more than a century—are still out in the cold,” said Adèle Auxier Keim, senior counsel at Becket. “Maine lawmakers boasted about changing the law to avoid the Supreme Court’s decision in *Carson*. That’s illegal and unfair. We are confident that Maine’s new laws will be struck down just like their old ones were.”
 Becket will ask the court to halt Maine’s ban on faith-based education immediately while the court considers the case.

Raising Readers Makes Way for Dolly Parton’s Book Program

PORTLAND, ME (June 23, 2023) – MaineHealth announced today that the childhood literacy program it has administered will now help make

way for the ongoing roll out of the nationally-celebrated Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library into Maine. Raising Readers will wind down its inde-

pendent program in 2024 and offer advisory support for the Imagination Library.
 As first announced by Governor Mills and the State of Maine last year, the Dollywood Foundation is poised to launch its highly successful national reach into Maine. The Dolly Parton Imagination Library has distributed more than 200 million books and was most recently implemented in California.
 Raising Readers has been funded by the Portland-based Libra Foundation, and the program administered by Maine-

MaineHealth

Health, in collaboration with Northern Light Health. Program funding provided by Libra will conclude in the coming months. Raising Readers has been in place in Maine for 23 years, providing free books for children from the time of their birth through age five through their pediatric health providers.
 The Dolly Parton Imagination Library covers the very same aged children with free books at the rate of up to one per month. Sign up and administration

of the new program will be conducted through the Maine State Library System.
 “We are so grateful for the overwhelming support the Libra Foundation has given to the children of Maine through Raising Readers for more than two decades,” said Dr. Dora Anne Mills, MaineHealth Chief Health Improvement Officer. “Through Libra’s support and in collaboration with partners statewide, Maine children have been given a head start on

literacy, year after year. We look forward to a vibrant new chapter in childhood literacy efforts in Maine.”
 Raising Readers annually partners with approximately 1,600 pediatric providers at hospitals, midwiferies and primary care offices at about 325 sites statewide. By the time Raising Readers concludes in 2024, it is estimated it will have provided 4 million books to more than 350,000 Maine children over its lifetime, helping to improve childhood literacy in the state. Over the past 23 years, virtually every child born in Maine has received books from Raising Readers.

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UMaine to Study Climate Change Impacts on Wild Blueberries



Rachel Schattman, assistant professor of sustainable agriculture at the University of Maine. Photo courtesy of the University of Maine.

ORONO, ME (June 16, 2023) – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) has awarded \$650,000 to a University of Maine project investigating the impacts of climate change on wild blueberry ecosystems and economics.

Wild blueberry fields provide important crops for the state of Maine. They also support ecosystems by providing water regulation, nutrient cycling, carbon sequestration, pollination and food for wildlife. Climate change is altering these wild blueberry agroecosystems, but the exact effects are unclear.

Rachel Schattman, assistant professor of sustainable agriculture at the School of Food and Agriculture, is the principal investigator of the study. The project will investigate how probable future climate scenarios will impact the ecosystem services provided by wild blueberry fields. The researchers, including graduate and undergraduate students, will conduct climate manipulation experiments at the Wyman’s

Wild Blueberry Research and Innovation Center in Old Town. They will test temperature and precipitation to see how it impacts soil-water dynamics, crop health, the relationship to root fungi, pollinators and disease.

The results of these experiments will be used to validate a new model to project possible future outcomes based on changing climate scenarios. Maps produced through the modeling will be shared with wild blueberry growers and processors. The researchers will also hold grower focus groups to identify perceptions of production and financial risks, as well as the benefit of climate risk mitigation strategies like supplemental irrigation.

“Our approach to this work is transdisciplinary in nature, meaning that we are pulling from the expertise and experience of our diverse team to answer big questions that no single discipline could answer on its own. It’s a project grounded by the needs of wild blueberry growers and their communities,” Schattman says, whose lab is part of the Maine Agri-

cultural and Forest Experiment Station.

The interdisciplinary team of researchers will deliver actionable recommendations to the wild blueberry industry with climate smart agricultural management strategies, particularly in socioeconomically challenged rural communities.

Additional UMaine researchers on the project include YongJiang Zhang, assistant professor of plant physiology; Lily Calderwood, assistant professor of horticulture and Extension wild blueberry specialist; Jonathan Malacarne, assistant professor of economics; Brian McGill, professor of biological science; Phil Fanning, assistant professor of agricultural entomology; Seanna Annis, associate professor of mycology; Sean Birkel, Maine state climatologist and assistant professor; and Stephanie Miller, postdoctoral research assistant. Bruce Hall, director of agroecology at Jasper Wyman & Son, is also a collaborator.

The award started May 1, 2023, and was officially announced May 31, 2023.

MaineCF Names New Vice President



PORTLAND & ELLSWORTH, ME (June 23, 2023) — The Maine Community Foundation (MaineCF) has named Rebecca Yturregui as vice president, donor engagement.

Yturregui has nearly 30 years of experience working with nonprofit organizations and was most recently vice president, donor relations and philanthropic impact, at Combined Jewish Philanthropies in Boston. She is based in MaineCF’s Portland office and oversees donor engagement.

“For 40 years, MaineCF has connected



people and resources together to build a better Maine,” Yturregui said. “I am excited to build on this history and deepen relationships that carry forward this essential mission. And, of course, it is so good to be home.”

Yturregui was raised in Winthrop and lives on Orr’s Island with her fam-

ily. 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.

Major Win for Maine’s Lobster Industry

WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 23, 2023) – Today, U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King, Representatives Chellie Pingree and Jared Golden, and Governor Janet Mills announced that the Maine Lobstermen’s Association and the State of Maine’s Department of Marine Resources prevailed in its

court case against the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA).

“Maine’s lobstermen and women have long demonstrated their commitment to maintaining and protecting a sustainable fishery in the Gulf of Maine,” said the Maine Delegation and Governor Mills. “Today’s decision

vindicates what the Maine lobster fishery, and the countless communities that rely on it, knew all along—that their practices support the conservation of the gulf ecosystem for generations to come. We are pleased the court has acknowledged that the data set NOAA has been using to unfairly target Maine’s fishery is flawed.”



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June 29, July 1, July 2

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Tuesday, June 27, 7:30 pm Union Church, South Bristol

Thursday, June 29, 7:30 pm St. Paul's Union Chapel, Waldoboro

Saturday, July 1, 7:30 pm Ocean View Grange, St. George Peninsula

Sunday, July 2, 4:00 pm Surry Arts at the Barn, Surry

July 8

LEWISTON -- Magician Phil Smith will be coming to the Lewiston Public Library in Callahan Hall on Saturday, July 8th 2023 at 11am. Information can also be found on our website at https://lplonline.org/events/magician-phil-smith/

July 10, 17, 24;

August 7, 14, 21, 28

LEWISTON -- The Lewiston Public Library, in partnership with ArtVan, will be offering art programs in Kennedy Park this summer for children ages 5-14 on Mondays July 10, 17, 24 and August 7, 14, 21, 28 at 3:00PM. Information can also be found on our website at https://lplonline.org/events/artvan-in-kennedy-park-2-

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

july/ and https://lplonline.org/events/artvan-in-kennedy-park-2-august/

For any further information, please contact the Children's Department at LPLKids@lewistonmaine.gov or call 207-513-3133.

July 12

LEWISTON -- Outdoor Hiring Event on Wednesday, July 12th from noon to 3:00pm in Kennedy Park, 120 Park Street, Lewiston. Co-sponsored by The Wellness Mobile, Recovery Connections of Maine and Maine Career Centers. Bring your best self and speak with multiple employers offer great local job opportunities! The event is free, open to ALL job seekers and will be held rain or shine! For more information and a list of participating businesses, visit: https://www.mainecareercenter.com/locations/jobfair.shtml?id=11185022

July 15

GORHAM -- On Saturday, July 15th, starting at 1:00 pm at the Treworgy Homestead and Garden located at 120 Flaggy Meadow Road in Gorham, the Maine Iris Society will hold its annual auction of bearded iris rhizomes. All

are welcome.

July 19

LEWISTON -- THE HONEY EXCHANGE

Join us at the Lewiston Public Library for a beekeeping presentation by The Honey Exchange in Callahan Hall at 5:30PM. In addition to the presentation on behavior and contribution of honeybees, The Honey Exchange will be showcasing a traveling observation hive. There will be a honey tasting at the end of the presentation. This presentation is free, for all ages, open to the public, and no registration is required. 513-3133; www.LPLonline.org

July 22

LEWISTON -- SPARKS' ARK

Come see, learn and interact with Sparks' Ark's amazing animals in Callahan Hall at 11:00AM. For all ages. No registration required. Free. 513-3133; www.LPLonline.org

Sept 2

GORHAM -- On Saturday, September 2nd, starting at 1:00 pm at the United Methodist Church, 439 Park Avenue in Auburn, the Maine Iris Society will hold its annual auction of Siberian irises and daylilies. All are wel-

come.

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

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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.

Every second Monday

LEWISTON -- Caregiver 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.

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Franco Center Receives \$51K in Grants Over Three-Week Period

LEWISTON, ME (June 16, 2023)—The Franco Center has received \$51,000 in grant money from four separate foundations/ organizations for general operating and program support. “This support is greatly appreciated and much needed as we look to replace sources of revenue that have ended since the pandemic,” said Penny Drumm, Franco Center administrator.

In mid May, Franco Center staff report that a \$10,000 general operating grant was received from the Community Building fund of the Maine Com-

munity Foundation for the FC to act as a public resource for performing arts and heritage programs that provide patrons with access to engaging cultural events. This was followed the next week by a \$5,000 general operating grant from Maine-based Narragansett Number One Foundation for the Franco Center’s use as a resource for the creative economy and as stewards of diverse cultural stories from our past and of today.

These two grants were followed a week later in June with a \$35,000 grant from the Stephen and

Tabitha King Foundation and a \$1,000 Arts & Humanities grant from the Maine Arts Commission and the Maine Humanities Council. The STK Foundation grant is for support of the Franco Center’s performance series and the Arts & Humanities grant is for a new program of author talks and book signings called “Books and Stories.”

“The Franco Center is in one of Maine’s most low-income neighborhoods as well as in Androscoggin County of which 14 percent of its population is classified as low income. Grants are important for covering our operating costs so that we can continue to bring access to the arts in our community,” said Denise Scammon, development and marketing director at the Franco Center.

“The very existence of the Franco Center and its renovations and activities within the neighborhood improve the conditions in this part of Androscoggin County,” said Scammon.

The Franco Center, like other arts organizations, contributes to Maine’s creative economy. Americans for the Arts studies show that the average patron of the performing arts spends \$32 above the ticket price at local businesses such as restaurants and other retail shops. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports



The Franco Center’s Performance Hall was visited by 260 Lewiston school children in grades Kindergarten through 2 on April 7, 2023 to see Silver Circus perform magic, juggling, and circus-type acts. This is just one of hundreds of events held at the Franco Center each year with a focus on access to the arts for everyone. Franco Center photo.

that the arts and culture sector contributes \$1.55 billion to Maine’s economy, representing 2.5% of the state’s Gross Domestic Product and 16,876 jobs.

“The Franco Center’s programming is an economic driver for the regional economy. Each performance that draws crowds circulates dollars through local restaurants and lodging, and serves as a reminder of the vibrant performing arts and cultural scene in this area,” said Shanna Cox, president and CEO of Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce.

The Franco Center was established as a Maine 501(c)3 non-profit organization in 2000 to save the historically significant

St. Mary’s Church from demolition and preserve the culture of the French Canadian immigrants for whom the church was built in 1907. The original vision was to rehabilitate the former church into a performing arts and events center featuring Franco American educational programs. These activities were expected to generate revenue to support the building’s preservation and educational outreach.

Fast forward 23 years and Franco Center board members and staff say its mission work is just as important to Maine today as it was in the organization’s early days. The performing arts center hosts a variety of events and rents its building for weddings,

comedy shows, fundraisers, musical theater, celebrations, workshops, awards ceremonies, and similar.

“Each year we host events for Midcoast Symphony Orchestra, Maine Music Society, The Dance Center, Auburn Community Band, local high schools, Androscoggin Hospice, Bates College, Tri-County Mental Health, SPRQ Burlesque, Maine’s Got Talent (nonprofit Sandcastle for children), and other organizations and municipalities,” said Scammon. “By hosting our own and others’ diverse events and inviting people into our building, we are able to provide access to live performances to thousands of people each year.”

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