



TWIN CITY TIMES

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CMH Celebrates Robotic Surgery Milestone



Christopher Foote, MD, with members of the Central Maine Healthcare surgical team

LEWISTON, ME (June 30, 2023) — Central Maine Healthcare (CMH) recently celebrated its one thousandth procedure using the da Vinci surgical robot.

The da Vinci is a state-of-the-art surgical robot used in minimally invasive procedures, such as gynecological and inflammatory bowel syndrome operations, as well as in weight loss surgery. It includes an advanced set of instruments and a 3D, high-definition view of the surgical area.

Investing in the da Vinci is one of many steps CMH has taken to ensure patients have access to the latest technology

that reduces the chance of post-surgical complications and allows for faster recovery.

“The entire surgical team here at CMH and I are very proud to have reached this milestone,” said Crystal Alvarez, DO, medical director of Central Maine Bariatrics.

“Having the da Vinci robot has been a game-changer for doctors here, but more importantly for our patients, because it enables us to provide a consistent level of surgical skill. It’s all part of our commitment to exceptional healthcare for our community.”

Cloutier Praises Mills’ Support for Paid Family, Medical Leave

AUGUSTA, ME (June 30, 2023) — On Thursday, Gov. Janet T. Mills announced in a Portland Press Herald op-ed that she supports the Legislature’s Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) proposal. The Governor also wrote that she will sign the recently negotiated supplemental budget, which includes funding for PFML, once it comes to her desk.

Sen. Mattie Daughtry, D-Brunswick, and Rep. Kristen Cloutier, D-Lewiston, who co-sponsored LD 1964, “An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission to Develop a Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program,” released the following statement in re-

sponse:

“We thank Gov. Mills for her thoughtful consideration, negotiation and now support of a statewide Paid Family and Medical Leave policy for Maine. Going into this effort, from the very first commission meeting, we knew the best path forward was to listen to everyone’s concerns, find common ground and craft a compromise plan that balances the needs of businesses, workers and families. We’re incredibly proud of all the work that has gone into the proposal we put forward, and we’re excited to see Gov. Mills sign this bill and its accompanying funding into law.”

Androscoggin Announces New Chief Clinical Officer

LEWISTON, ME (June 30, 2023) — Androscoggin Home Healthcare & Hospice is pleased to announce the appointment of Carol Weir, RN, MSN, MBA, as its new Chief Clinical Officer. Following an extensive national search, Carol began her tenure at Androscoggin on June 26.

The selection committee, comprised of over forty individuals, was highly impressed by Carol’s qualifications and her alignment with Androscoggin’s values.

Ken Albert, President & Chief Executive Officer of Androscoggin, expressed his excitement about Carol joining the organization, stating, “Carol is an experienced health care executive whose heart has never left the patient’s home or bedside. She is known as a visionary leader who uses data and creative innovation to solve the challenges facing health care providers. I also find her to be a warm, respectful, and kind person with a great sense of humor: a winning combination.”

Gov. Mills Signs Sen. Rotundo Bill to Protect Lake Auburn



Supporters of LD 1473 from the Lewiston/Auburn area, including Lewiston Mayor Carl L. Sheline (second from right) with Sen. Rotundo at the bill’s public hearing on May 1 before the Legislature’s Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

AUGUSTA, ME (June 30, 2023) — On Thursday, June 22, Gov. Janet Mills signed into law a bill from Sen. Peggy Rotundo, D-Lewiston, into law. LD 1473, “An Act to Protect Certain Unfiltered Drinking Water Sources,” will help protect Lake Auburn from high density development that could jeopardize water quality.

“This law will help protect Lake Auburn, a highly sensitive ecological system, from development, and study how to protect similar watersheds,” said Sen. Rotundo. “This is an enormous relief for the people who get their drinking water from Lake Auburn. I strongly believe we can develop much-needed affordable housing in the Lewiston/Auburn area while protecting our valuable natural resources.”

As amended, LD 1473 will create protections for Lake Auburn by exempting it from the additional development allowances granted through legislation passed in

the 130th Legislature to promote affordable housing. This high-density development could jeopardize water quality as well as Lake Auburn’s federal Environmental Protection Agency filtration waiver and the water rate savings that come with having the waiver. The bill also mandates a report, due to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources on January 15, 2024, to study state laws designed to protect watersheds that are used to provide drinking water and identify ways to strengthen those laws.

Of the 40 bodies of water in the United States with federal filtration waivers, ten are in Maine. In addition to Lake Auburn, they are: Sebago Lake, Sebago Lake-East, Eagle Lake, Floods Pond, Hatcase Pond, Little Pond, Lower Hadlock Pond, Jordan Pond, and Aroostook River/Arnold Lake Brook.

The bill will go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns sine die.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Letter to the Editor

Women's Football Team Tackles Opposition, Barriers



To whom it may concern,

I'm not much of a writer but this women's tackle football team right here in Maine, are doing things never been done before. Our last home game had a huge turn out and now has fought and won the WFA DIVISION III Northeast Region Championship in Double OT against the New York Knockout! Mayhem is now on to the Eastern Conference Championship, July 8th in West Palm Beach Florida to face the Coyotes. Really shows how women's tackle football is

growing. (The Pro Division finals will be on ESPN)

The Maine Mayhem started the season with high hopes, coached and led by Bryant Oja. He's been amazed how this team navigated through the covid years and came out even stronger!

Maine traveled back to New York where just a few weeks ago lost a heart breaker in the final minutes during the regular season. Maine was going to bring the Mayhem for this very evenly matched contest. It was a battle of defenses that included Chelsea Watson

snagging two interceptions! The game remained tied until the Mayhem scored a touchdown in 4th Quarter with a run from Mahala Smith putting Maine up 6 to 0. (Missed PAT) The New York Knockout didn't give up as they scored late making it 6 to 6, but they also had their PAT blocked. Score remained tied til the end of regulation.

Overtime was so intense. WFA follows the college rules where both teams get a chance to score. The 1st OT had Maine start with the ball. Unfortunately, had a turnover but the Knockout were not able to capitalize. The 2nd OT the Knockout were able to run and score putting New York up 12 to 6. The Knockout going for the crucial PAT had Casidee Couture dive in and get her 2nd PAT block

of the day. Maine, now on their 2nd OT possession needs to score a touchdown to stay alive. After a huge play to get down to the goaline, Mahala Smith runs to the right and scores a game tying touchdown. Her 2nd touchdown of the game. The Championship now rests on the leg of Cassidee Couture. The entire team and crowd were holding on from exploding. Clean snap, laces out, Couture steps up, connecting the ball, whizzing the ball through the uprights! Mayhem wins, Mayhem wins!

The Mayhem have fought hard to be where they are. Practicing wherever they could. Traveling through snow and rain. This team has women from all over, made up of some hardened veterans to the youthful rookies. Coaches

and families making sacrifices for these women to do something they love. Showing the world, women can play football, tackle football. Your Maine Mayhem, who play out of Portland, will be traveling to Florida to play West Palm Beach Cotoyes in the Eastern Conference Championship on July 8th. Winners travel to Canton, Ohio for the WFA Division

III Championship on July 21st.

The team will be looking for donations and sponsor partners to help with accommodations going forward. Please reach out to mayhemgm@maine.rr.com or www.mainemayhemfootball.com or any of socials for more info.

Chris Denlinger Jr, VP of Mayhem Social Media

Maine's 195th Army Band Announces Summer Tour Dates

BANGOR, ME (June 27, 2023) (read-Media)-- Members of the 195th Army Band will be performing their annual series of concerts around the state starting on July 2 and continuing through July 13.

"We hope our friends and neighbors will consider adding one of the 195th's nearby concerts to their holiday plans," said Maj. Gen. Douglas Farnham, Maine's adjutant general. "As our musical ambassadors, they have been practicing hard as always. We appreciate communi-

ties' reaching out to invite us to be a part of their festivities, whether concerts like these, or supporting patriotic parades and ceremonies. A very Happy Independence Day from your friends and neighbors at the Maine National Guard!"

2023 Summer Tour Dates:

July 12 – 6:00pm – Waterfront Park, Bangor

July 13 – 6:30pm – Binette Park, Old Town

All concerts are free and open to the public. Attendees are encouraged to check the Army Band website ahead of time to en-

sure no changes have been made. Any additions to the schedule will also appear on the website.

<https://www.bands.army.mil/performances>

Follow the band on Facebook at "195th Maine Army National Guard Band."

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





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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Free Expanded Basilica Summer Concert Series in Lewiston



LEWISTON, ME (June 30, 2023) –The popular summer concert series at the Basilica of Ss. Peter & Paul, located on 122 Ash Street in Lewiston returns on Wednesdays with concerts being held through August 16 from 12:15 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. The performances are free and open to the public, but donations to help with the preservation of the historic Casavant organ, celebrating its 85th birthday, will be gratefully accepted. Here is the schedule, including several evening concerts.

Afternoon Concerts
 July 5 Mark Thallander and Scott Vaillancourt

Vaillancourt is director of music at the Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul. Thallander is a teacher, arranger, composer, author, and freelance organist. He is also the president of the National Children's Chorus. He has produced numerous recordings and many of his organ and choral arrangements have been published by the Fred Bock Music Company.

July 12 Cameron Cody

Cameron "Cam" Cody is an internationally recognized concert artist, conductor, and organist. A native of Warner Robins, Georgia, Cam began piano studies at the age of 3. Cameron currently serves as Director of Music and Principal Organist at Chapelwood United Methodist Church in Houston, Texas. Cam has a large online social media following where he frequently performs for thousands of music lovers worldwide keeping the great hymns of the church alive.

July 19 Hayden Vaughn

Hayden is currently an undergraduate student at Drury University in Springfield, Missouri, pursuing a bachelor's degree in music (organ primary). At Drury University, he also acts as the primary organist for Drury Stone Chapel. He is a section leader, student conductor, and student accompanist in Drury's Choral Studies program.

Hayden has been providing church music since he was 12 years old and has served as a musician in Baptist, Catholic, Disciples of Christ, Episcopal, United Church of Christ, and United Methodist churches, along with several other churches of varying or no affiliation.

July 26 Harold Stover

Stover is a graduate of the Juilliard School in New York, and a charter member of the faculty of the Portland Conservatory of Music. His recital career spans more than 50 years and includes performances on most major New York recital series and at Westminster Abbey in London, the National Cathedral in Washington, Harvard and Princeton universities, and many other distinguished venues. He has been featured as performer, composer, and lecturer at regional and national conventions of the American Guild of Organists.

August 2 Ray Cornils

Cornils was the municipal organist for the City of Portland from 1990 to 2017. He has performed throughout the U.S. and in Germany, France, Spain, Russia, New Zealand and Ecuador. He has been a featured recitalist for conventions of the American

Guild of Organists and the Organ Historical Society. In addition to his solo work, he performs regularly with the Portland Symphony Orchestra.

August 9 Hentus van Rooyen

Hentus van Rooyen is Assistant Professor of Music, Sacred Music Coordinator and College Organist at Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas. In 2012, he was awarded the Scholarship for Overseas Study from the Southern-African Church Organists Association (SAKOV) and received a generous scholarship from the Oppenheimer Memorial Trust, which enabled him to begin his studies at the University of North Texas in September of that year. He served as an organist at Christ the King Catholic Church in Dallas.

August 16 Randall Mullin

Mullin is a freelance musician who accompanies the choir of the Cathedral of St. Luke in Portland. He was also a featured performer with ChoralArt for "Grand Opera meets the Mighty Kotschmar" in 2016 and for the Maurice Duruflé "Requiem" in 2019. He has played throughout the country with more recent recitals at Trinity Church in Boston, Methuen Memorial Music Hall in Methuen, Massachusetts, and Grace Cathedral in San Francisco.

Evening Concerts
 Begin at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, July 21 Mary-Katherine Fletcher

Mary-Katherine Fletcher is the director of music and organist at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Acushnet, Massachusetts, and serves as treasurer for the Southeastern Massachusetts chapter of the American Guild of Organists. A recent graduate, she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in music from Bridgewater State University. She will be pursuing a master's degree in sacred music from Boston



University, where she was awarded a Dean's Fellowship.

Wednesday, September 6 Deux Voix – organist Stephen Distad and trumpeter Justin Langham

Distad is a nationally recognized organist and church musician living in Houston, Texas, who has served as Minister of Music at First Baptist Church in Charleston, South Carolina, Director of Music at Christ United Methodist Church in Rochester, Minnesota, and Organist at First United Methodist Church in Shreveport, Louisiana. Stephen has performed in numerous notable and historical locations such as St. Thomas Episcopal in New York, St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin, and Notre Dame in Paris. Justin Langham is a performer, composer, conductor, and teacher based in Houston, Texas. Langham earned a double bachelor's degree in trumpet performance and composition from the

University of Alabama, before moving to Houston in 2013 where he earned both his master's in trumpet performance and doctorate in trumpet performance and conducting from the University of Houston. Dr. Langham is also an award-winning composer, whose music has been commissioned and performed across the United States and beyond in countries such as Italy, Japan, Denmark, Sweden, and Norway.

Friday, September 29 Daniel Brondel

Noted by The New York Times for playing the organ with flair, French-born musician Daniel Brondel is the Associate Director of Music at Saint Patrick's Cathedral in New York, where he plays Masses each week that are streamed on the Internet and broadcast live on SiriusXM Satellite Radio. He is also the Associate Director of the Cathedral Choir, and he manages the organ recital



Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland

series. He recently accompanied the Sistine Chapel Choir during their visit to Saint Patrick's Cathedral, and he has collaborated with famous opera stars, including Renée Fleming, Angela Gheorghiu, Michael Fabiano, Isabel Leonard, Matthew Polenzani, Susan Graham, James Valenti, Danielle de Niece, and Joyce DiDonato. Brondel won the First Prize at the 1996 Arthur Poister Competition. A native of southern France, Mr. Brondel has lived in the United States since 1988.

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Seniors Not Acting Their Age

The Dead River Never Gets Old



A kayaker breaks through the waves on Spencer Rapid on the Dead



There is great wave surfing at Quattro



Trip Leader Ken Gordon navigates big waves on Minefield at 4000 CFS

By Ron Chase
My initial descent of the Dead River was in June 1986. It was love at first paddle. In the intervening years, I've returned with friends and family over two hundred times. For me and many others, the excitement and allure of the Dead never gets old.

Beginning in small lakes and ponds in western Maine, the North and South Branches of the Dead converge at Flagstaff Lake in Stratton. What currently constitutes the lake was once a calm section of the Dead River that meandered circuitously for twenty miles, hence the name Dead. In 1950, Long Falls Dam was built forming the lake. The dam

regulates flow primarily for hydropower purposes downriver on the Kennebec. An added benefit, eighteen planned releases varying from 1300 to 6000 cubic feet per second (CFS) provide whitewater throughout the dry summer months. As a result, the Dead has become a mecca for enthusiastic boaters in search of paddling thrills and spills.

No organization frequents the Dead more often than the Penobscot Paddle & Chowder Society. Each year, the club schedules several trips to take advantage of sixteen miles of almost continuous Class I through Class IV whitewater that ends when it joins the Kenne-

bec River in The Forks.

This spring, Brent Elwell coordinated an 1800 CFS Dead trip during Memorial Day Weekend and Ken Gordon followed with a weekend of 4000 and 2400 CFS trips in early June. I participated in all three.

Surprisingly, only five kayakers signed up for Brent's trip. A sunny seasonably warm day, weather wasn't the issue. I suspect the presence of an abundance of unwelcome blackflies were the reason. I came prepared with a balaclava and head net. They were a menace near the shore but only a minor inconvenience on the river.

Our day began at

Webb's Campground in West Forks. Owners Andy and Kim Webb operate a shuttle transporting paddlers to the put-in where Spencer Stream joins the Dead 16 miles upriver. Andy, and his dad, Edmund, before him, has been running the shuttle for decades. Kayaks were loaded on his boat trailer and we climbed into the van for a bumpy ride on rough dirt roads to the top.

When we arrived at the put-in, two boaters were already preparing to launch. Navigating a canoe and an inflatable boat, they would be the only other paddlers we would see on the river.

The Dead starts out with a burst of excitement at Spencer Rips. Even at 1800 CFS, the rapid ends with sizeable breaking waves. Everyone in our group successfully negotiated the challenging rollers setting a positive tone for the remainder of the outing.

The Dead is a succession of exciting whitewater challenges. We surfed waves at Quattro, maneuvered around numerous holes on Minefield, and descended complex Hayden's Falls. After lunch at the mouth of En-

chanted Stream, we traversed waves around Elephant Rock, enjoyed more surfing at Horsefly Rips, and completed a lengthy cruise through complicated Mile Long.

Spruce Ledge Rapid and several easier sections of whitewater led to the beginning of Poplar Falls. We chose a left to right route on Upper Poplar that avoided several holes and pour overs. Lower Poplar is the most difficult rapid on the river at all water levels. Everyone in our group challenged the robust wave train on the left at the top and then boat scouted through a maze of obstacles in the long run-out. Our odyssey on the Dead was a success for all.

Cold, raw, wet, windy weather were obstacles throughout the subsequent Dead River weekend. The 4000 CFS flow is considered to be Class III/IV in difficulty. Our group consisted of several solo kayakers, four inflatable boats, and a one canoeist. Everything is bigger and pushier at 4000. We enjoyed a problem-free journey.

Two tandem canoe teams coupled with several solo canoeists and kayakers braved the 2400 re-

lease. Similar but slightly more difficult than 1800, this trip was interrupted by a couple of swims. The second in Lower Poplar required a significant rescue effort. No problem for swift water rescue trained Chowderheads. Boat and paddler were safely reunited.

Three Dead River voyages completed, several more are anticipated in the coming weeks. The thrilling paddling on the Dead never ceases to entertain.

My book, *Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine* narrates another exciting Dead River descent and eight more Maine whitewater escapades.

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.ronchaseoutdoors.com or he can be reached at ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net

MaineCF Scholarships Awarded

ELLSWORTH & PORTLAND, ME (June 30, 2023)–

Six students attending college within the University of Maine System have received the Maine Community Foundation's (MaineCF) Chet Jordan Leadership Awards. The awards are given annually to emerging leaders with the ability to turn a vision into reality and engage others to make lasting impacts on their community.

First-time recipients Lillian Bray of Woodland will attend the University of Maine at Presque Isle and Edgelynn Venuti of Robbinston will attend the University of Maine at Orono.

Second-time recipients Jasper Makowski of Dover-Foxcroft and Abigail Martin of Monroe attend the

University of Maine at Orono. Hannah Boone of Patten attends University of Maine at Presque Isle and Casey Raymond of South Paris attends the University of Maine at Augusta.

Maine high school graduates are eligible to apply for the Chet Jordan Leadership Awards. The scholarships support post-secondary study in a certificate, two-year, or four-year undergraduate program through the University of Maine System, Maine Community College System, Maine Maritime Academy, or Maine vocational and technical schools.

The next deadline for the Chet Jordan Leadership Awards is April 15, 2024. For more information about scholarship opportunities from

MaineCF, visit www.maine.cf.org/scholarships.

Friends and family established the scholarship in 1995 to honor Chet Jordan, a Portland-based businessman who had a deep sense of civic responsibility for his community and home state of Maine.

MaineCF has worked with donors and educators since 1983 to provide Maine students access to educational opportunities. MaineCF manages more than 650 scholarship funds.

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.maine.cf.org.

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Camden National Bank Accepting Leadership Award Nominations

CAMDEN, ME (June 28, 2023) – Camden National Bank announced today that nominations are now open for the 2023 Leaders & Luminaries Awards. The annual awards honor four outstanding nonprofit board members who go above and beyond to dedicate themselves to strategic leadership and advancing their organizations, with a total of

\$20,000 in grants available. “We have no shortage of exceptional nonprofit organizations that work tirelessly to empower and strengthen our communities,” said Renée Smyth, executive vice president and chief experience & marketing officer at Camden National Bank. “Behind each nonprofit is a committee of caring, altruistic, and passionate board

members that deserve recognition for their leadership efforts and expertise.” Nominees can be submitted online at CamdenNational.bank/leadersandluminaries, which also includes eligibility requirements and additional details. The nomination process will remain open until September 15, 2023. Awardees will be chosen by a special selection

committee that includes three independent community members and two Camden National Bank executives. The committee will ensure each board member reflects Camden National Bank’s values of honesty & integrity, responsibility, trust, excellence, service, and diversity, equity, and inclusion. “We are grateful for the opportunity to recog-

nize incredible individuals and support the wonderful work they undertake,” Smyth said. “Each grant is not just an investment in a worthy nonprofit, it’s an investment in our future.” Since 2011, Camden National Bank has honored 58 board members across Maine by awarding a total of \$220,000 to their respective nonprofits. The winners in 2022

included Amy Ford, treasurer of the board for Portland Community Squash; Timothy Griffin, board chair for The Dempsey Center for Quality Care in Lewiston; Kylie Hinkley, trustee and treasurer of the board of trustees for the Peabody Memorial Library in Jonesport; and Lissa Widoff, treasurer of the board for Waldo Country Bounty in Belfast.

Homes with a History Featured on Wiscasset Homes on Tour



WISCASSET, ME (June 30, 2023) – The five homes featured on Wiscasset Homes on Tour on Saturday, July 8, 2023, from 11am to 4pm, describe the community’s story from its early ship-building days through the 20th century. Each home features original details with contemporary updates that make these a collection of inviting and beautiful places to live and visit. Everyone who drives through Wiscasset will recognize the Clock Steeple House on Fort Hill St. in Wiscasset Village, half a block from Rte. 1. Now the home of an enthusiastic collector – of vinyl records, pool tables, motorcycles, and so much else – was originally a fort in early times, then the Epis-

copal Methodist Church in the 1820s or 30s, then home to the American Legion in mid-20th century, and finally a gallery and café before it was purchased by the current owner in 2021 and transformed into his uniquely individualized home with plenty of space for his extensive collections. Another in-town transformation is the Customs House on Water St., built in 1870. Original blueprints indicate that Customs officials had offices on the second floor, and the first floor was the town’s post office. The current owners bought the building in 2014 and began their construction journey of repairs, retrofits, and new updates, but hard wood and slate floors

still remain. With imagination and daring, high ceilings, and tall, elegant windows, the owners have created a stunning home with many historic references intact. Damon House, built around 1775 with a large addition in 1805, is now a vibrant home to a painter and a dedicated gardener, both world-wide travelers. The home has a long history of providing shelter to creatives, originally as residence to famed cabinet maker Joshua Damon, and in late 20th century, as a seasonal artists retreat and home to painter John Lorence, an early exhibitor at the Maine Art Gallery. The interior is adorned with Mexican tile, charming wall stenciling, and the owners’ collections of colorful

paintings, antiques spanning four centuries, and other carefully chosen art pieces. Still, original details remain like the old cooking fireplace and bread oven, which are still fully functional. The Blagdon-Emerson House was built around 1800, perhaps earlier, and was a typical two story “manse and mart,” or home and shop. The house was built at a right angle to the street to accommodate the ‘mart’ part of the structure. Through the home’s history, it continued as a combined home and workspace for newspaper publisher Charles Emerson and his endeavors, The Lilliputian (1881-1891) and then The Sheepscot Echo (1891-1918). After extensive renovations, today’s owners showcase their collections of art, indigenous Pacific Northwest basketry, and other quirky and unique items that add to the stimulating but comfortable ambiance. Elements of the original structure remain like the wide, pumpkin pine floors, and gunstock beams. A welcoming garden patio, barn, and chicken house complete the home’s inviting ambiance. Rose Cottage, likely built in mid-19th century, was probably part of the C.M. Ames Wagons and Carriage Shop and



represents the homes in early Wiscasset occupied by tradesmen and shop owners whose labors supported the community’s day-to-day life. Today, the home has been infused with exuberance and charming details including hand-painted walls, a new front porch, newly exposed original beams, and working fireplaces in nearly every room. This cozy cottage, now lovingly restored, presents a picture of quaint New England, while inside, the creative zest of the owner has filled the home with color and comfort. Tickets for Wiscasset Homes on Tour are \$30 each with an optional pre-ordered lunch at \$15. Visitors are encouraged to purchase tickets online in advance of the tour. Tickets can also be purchased on the day of the tour, July 8, from 10am to 3pm, at

the parking lot at 36 Water St., Wiscasset, ME. Cash, checks, and plastic accepted. More tour details, ticket information, and the lunch menu for pre-order can be found on www.WiscassetCreativeAlliance.org. For questions, call 214-232-3699 and please leave a message which will be answered promptly. ‘Homes on Tour’ is a fundraiser for Wiscasset Creative Alliance to support the Alliance’s community programs. Event sponsors are 40 Federal Studio, BIRCH Home Furnishings & Gifts, Bradbury Art & Antiques, J&A Construction, Joseph Zoellers Interiors, Water Street Kitchen & Bar, and Sherri Dunbar/Tim Dunham Realty. With additional support from Carriage House Gardens and Screen Thoughts.

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Arts & Entertainment

Kayla Caswell Joins Maine Music Society Board



Kayla Caswell

AUBURN, ME (June 30, 2023) -- The Maine Music Society is pleased to welcome Kayla Caswell to its Board of Directors. Kayla is a commercial credit analyst with Maine Community Bank where she has been employed for the past four years. Her background in financial analysis and excellent communication skills are a definite asset to the MMS Board. Kayla has a bachelor's degree in political science and public administration from Rhode Island College.

She moved to Maine four years ago from Rhode Island and has become an active community member, joining Promise Early Education's Board of Directors in 2023 and volunteering with Junior Achievement of Maine, where she teaches school age children the basics of financial literacy.

In her spare time Kayla enjoys hiking, paddle boarding and spending time with friends and family.

Kayla states "The

Maine Music Society is an integral part of the community and I want to be a part of MMS's continued growth and development." She is looking forward to helping organize MMS's Battle of the Blends XXVIII and participating on the Development Committee.

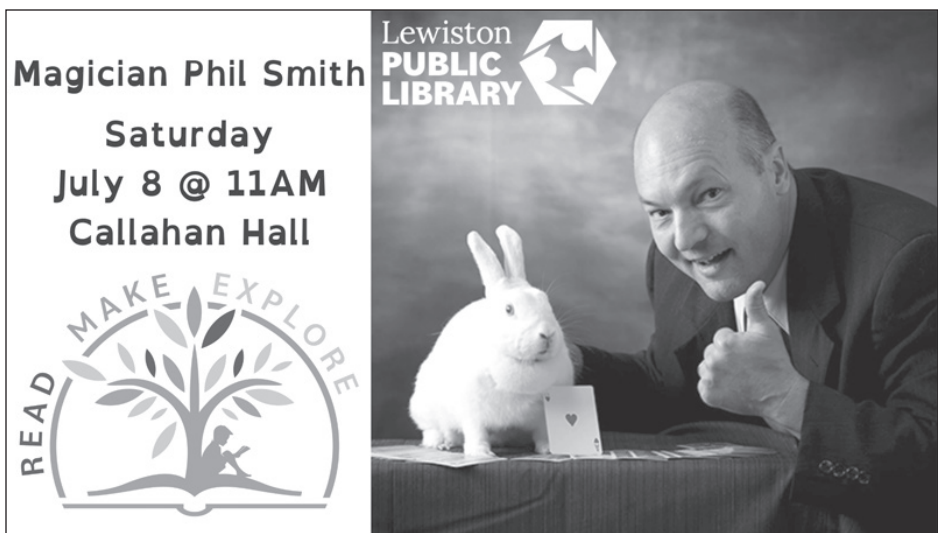
She and her husband Andy reside in Auburn.

The Maine Music Society is a nonprofit cultural institution noted for artistic excellence that involves regional resident artists and connects area citizens with the broader world of musical art and culture. The Society Chorale performs in Lewiston's Franco Center which provides a majestic venue that is both rewarding for performers and comfortable for the audience.

For more information, visit www.mainemusicsociety.org

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

Magician Phil Smith Comes to Lewiston Public Library



LEWISTON, ME (June 30, 2023) -- The Lewiston Public Library will be hosting Magician Phil Smith for a magic show in Callahan Hall on Saturday, July 8th at 11AM for all ages. Join us for a comedy magic show with juggling, storytelling, sleight-of-hand, mind reading and the magical production of a rabbit.

Phil received a BA in theatre and trained with

visual comedian/juggler, Randy Judkins, in Mime and juggling. After training with world renowned magician, Jeff McBride, and many other stars, Smith went on to win Best Magician in Maine, several times. Phil has been combining expert sleight-of-hand skills with mime, clowning, juggling, and slapstick humor for many years. It all adds up to fun energetic performances for

Phil's audiences.

This magic show is free, 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 Phil Smith's magic show is available by contacting the Lewiston Public Library at 513-3133 or LPLKids@lewistonmaine.gov.

Send all items for Names & Faces to the editor. Deadline is Friday by five pm.

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Maine Justice Foundation Awards Grants to Five Maine Groups

AUGUSTA, ME (June 30, 2023) – The Maine Justice Foundation is pleased to announce it has awarded grants from its LGBTQ+ Fund to five Maine organizations for 2023. The LGBTQ+ Fund supports education and advocacy aimed at achieving access to justice and equity for individuals identifying as LGBTQ+. The Fund supports organizations serving members of the LGBTQ+ community by forging social, systemic, and economic solutions to combat discrimination and bias against LGBTQ+ individuals and groups in Maine.

“These grants are a catalyst for change,” said Dana Eidsness, Senior Anti-Hunger Policy Advisor, Governor’s Office of Policy Innovation, and the Future. “Supporting advocacy efforts for just, equitable communities and LGBTQ+ rights is a strategic investment in creating a society that values and celebrates diversity, where all individuals can thrive, contribute, and live authentically. I’m proud to have played a small role in Maine Justice Foundation’s inaugural effort to provide this transformational funding.” Judith Fletcher Woodbury, Board President of the Maine Justice Foundation, adds, “We hope to bring more equity and fairness to this community through the programs to which grants have been

made.” This was the first public request for proposals and open application period for grants from the Fund. The Foundation is issuing five grants for \$10,000 each during this grant round. These are the largest grants to date that the Fund has issued to organizations, and the most organizations supported in a single year. Advisory Committee member Joanne Lewis shares, “I am so proud to be part of Maine Justice Foundation and on the advisory committee of the LGBTQ+ fund. The programs receiving funding will assist the LGBTQ+ community across the state of Maine including our youth, those seeking counseling, schools, access to legal assistance, and more. Great things are in store for our community.”

The grantees and the projects supported are:

NASW (National Association of Social Workers) Maine: A grant to create a training certificate program to be offered for free to behavioral health clinicians and students across Maine to develop skills in working collaboratively with families, schools, primary care, and ancillary providers to better wrap around care for LGBTQ+ individuals.

Maine TransNet: A grant to expand their work providing cultural competency training to medical and

mental health care providers working within the LGBTQ+ community.

Alfond Youth & Community Center: A grant to support their Folks Organizing Reform for Queer Spaces (FORQS) program which includes a social club for LGBTQ+ teens, professional development to its members and the Maine Queer Convention.

Equality Maine Foundation: A grant to conduct a feasibility study for an Equality Maine LGBTQ+ legal aid clinic.

OUT Maine: A grant to support efforts in building inclusive schools through an integrated school climate program to implement best practices of inclusive school environments.

Christopher McLaughlin, Executive Director of the Maine Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, was thrilled to hear of the grant award and shared, “NASW ME is honored to have received this grant from the Maine Justice Foundation. This award will allow us to develop and deliver LGBTQ+ clinical competency trainings at no charge to social workers, counselors, and clinicians across Maine. Enhancing provider confidence and competence in working with the LGBTQ+ community is essential in ensuring that some of the most vulnerable

citizens of Maine receive the highest quality of clinical services at a time when this community needs these services the most. We’re eager to begin the work of celebrating the LGBTQ+ community, as well as those allies who serve these individuals, at a time where sadly, many states are attempting to ban or criminalize the work providers are doing to support and strengthen the LGBTQ+ community.”

The mission of Maine TransNet is to ‘support and empower transgender people to create a world where they can thrive.’ Co-Executive Director Bre Kidman says, “We are so grateful to receive support for a program that will increase access for trans people to vital services statewide! As we continue to expand our training and our outreach to providers, we are excited to narrow the gap between LGBTQIA+ people in need and the affirming, culturally competent care they seek.”

FORQS is an LGBTQ+ advocacy and social club for teens at the Alfond Youth & Community Center (AYCC), the nation’s only combined YMCA and Boys & Girls Clubs. FORQS has successfully held the Maine Queer Convention, its largest and most impactful event, for the past two years. The Maine Queer Convention offers LGBTQ+ youth and their

allies, school and nonprofit staff, and community members with a safe and supportive environment to discuss issues, plan advocacy work, receive professional development training and forge new friendships. The convention is hosted annually in March at the AYCC’s flagship campus in Waterville. “We are incredibly grateful to the Maine Justice Foundation for this generous grant,” said Avery Ryan, Teen Programs Coordinator and FORQS Advisor, Alfond Youth & Community Center. “Folks Organizing Reform for Queer Spaces (FORQS), our LGBTQ+ advocacy and social club for teens, will use this funding to expand its annual Maine Queer Convention from a Central Maine educational opportunity to a statewide conference for LGBTQ+ youth and their allies, school and nonprofit staff, and community members.”

EqualityMaine is the ‘oldest and largest statewide organization dedicated to creating a fair and just society for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer Mainers.’ Heide Lester, Development Director for EqualityMaine shares “EqualityMaine is honored and excited to have been awarded funding by the Maine Justice Foundation. With this support, a feasibility study for an LGBTQ+ legal clinic will consider the needs of queer people across all de-

mographics and around the state, with a particular focus on people of color, transgender people, and low-income Mainers. We look forward to further serving our community in partnership with the Maine Justice Foundation.”

The LGBTQ+ Fund of the Maine Justice Foundation was formed by seven founding donors in 2016. The first grants were awarded in 2019. The Fund’s Advisory Committee issued a request for proposals and reviewed applications. The current Advisory Committee members are Judith A. Fletcher Woodbury, retired Partner, Pierce Atwood; Dana Eidsness, Senior Anti-Hunger Policy Advisor, Governor’s Office of Policy Innovation, and the Future; Jessica Feinberg, Professor of Law, University of Maine School of Law; Joanne Lewis, Assistant District Attorney, Bangor; and Jessica Mizzi, Coffin Family Law Fellow, Pine Tree Legal Assistance. For a full description of the LGBTQ+ Fund and the advisory committee, please visit <https://justicemaine.org/grants-and-programs/lgbt-justice-fund/>

The Maine Justice Foundation, founded in 1983 as the Maine Bar Foundation, is the state’s leading funder of civil legal aid and is committed to ensuring access to justice for all Mainers. Find us online www.justicemaine.org.

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Sabattus Rec Plans 10th Annual Blackjack 5k

SABATTUS, ME (June 30, 2023) -- The Sabattus Rec Club Running Program will be holding its 10th annual Blackjack 5k Run/Walk at the Oak Hill Middle School on Ball Park Road in Sabattus on Thursday night, July 20, beginning at 6 p.m. This event is more of a social, non-competitive run, with the main focus being to get out and get some exercise and maybe some winning cards in the process. This event is a popular, fun event for competitive and beginner runners/walkers alike. It is a great way for families to get their kids into a race they can have fun in.

The Blackjack 5k is the first of the Running Program's fun-run summer series events. The Prediction Run will be held on Thursday, August 17, at 6 p.m. at the Middle School.

Blackjack participants will receive a card at the two-mile mark, and another at the three-mile mark. If they get a Blackjack (Ace and 10 or face card) at the three-mile mark, they can call out and will win a prize. If they do not get Blackjack, they can receive a third card at the finish line to try for a total of 21. If their three cards total 21, they will win a prize.

The course is a moderately hilly 3.1 miles. The first male and female finishers will also win prizes, but fast times will not be needed to win Blackjack prizes. There will also be several raffle prizes and other giveaways.

The Blackjack 5K is open to runners/walkers of all ages. Those under 18 will need parental permission. This will be a show-up, sign-up event, with no pre-registration required. Registration will begin at 5 p.m. There will be a low, \$5 entry fee.

We are also looking for anyone interested in volunteering for either event. Please let us know if you can help. For more information: Email Running@sabattusrec.com, go to sabattusrec.com and click on teams, and then the running tab, or check out the Sabattus Rec Club Running Program page on Facebook.

Dunkin' Foundation Gives \$49K to Three Maine Hospitals



The Dunkin' Joy in Childhood Foundation gave a 2023 Dunkin' Iced Coffee Day grant to St. Mary's Regional Medical Center. Pictured left to right in the front row are Dina Pereira, Maine Dunkin' Franchisee, Katie Collins, St. Mary's Nutrition Center Youth Engagement Coordinator; Mike Connor, Maine Dunkin' Franchisee; Icy Joe, Dunkin' mascot. Back row left to right, Kristen D'Eramo, St. Mary's Nutrition Center Administrative and Communications Coordinator; Alison McConnell, St. Mary's Nutrition Center Community Gardens Coordinator; Sherie Blumenthal, St. Mary's Nutrition Center Program Manager; Helena Colai, St. Mary's Nutrition Center Community Food Access Coordinator; Bridgette Bartlett, St. Mary's Nutrition Center Community Gardens Coordinator; and Kevin Pacheco, Maine Dunkin' Franchisee. Credit: Dunkin'

LEWISTON, ME (June 30, 2023) – This week Maine Dunkin' franchisees and the Dunkin' Joy in Childhood Foundation have celebrated \$49,000 in Iced Coffee Day grants to three Maine hospitals. The foundation is delivering the \$1.6 million in funds raised on Dunkin Iced Coffee Day in May to local hospitals and fortifying its commitment to bringing the simple joys of childhood into the lives of kids battling hunger or illness.

The Maine hospitals receiving a 2023 Dunkin' Iced Coffee Day grant are:

St. Mary's Regional Medical Center in Lewiston received a grant for \$5,000 to support its Nutrition Center school gardens programing.

The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital at Maine Medical Center in Portland received a grant

for \$32,000 and will use the funding to support the healthcare needs of its patients.

Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor received a grant for \$12,000 to upgrade technology in pediatric patient rooms and purchase items for Brave Boxes given to children undergoing surgery.

Since 2012 Maine Dunkin' franchisees and the Joy in Childhood Foundation have given more than \$500,000 in Iced Coffee Day funding to local hospitals and children.

Nationwide grant funding from the foundation will help hospitals expand their impact. These grants will fuel a variety of child life programming ranging from art, music and integrated therapy programs, including yoga and reiki, to the provision of electronic gaming equipment and specialized summer camps. These

camp provide joyful experiences and environments for patients and their families. The funds also support interactive play and learning equipment, adaptive equipment for kids with mobility issues, everyday essential kits for patients, wall murals, celebratory events for patient milestones, and the staffing of child life specialists, among other initiatives.

These grants are part of a commitment by the Dunkin' Joy in Childhood Foundation, Dunkin' and its franchisees to bring the simple joys of childhood to kids facing hunger or illness. Since its inception in 2006, the Dunkin' Joy in Childhood Foundation has granted more than \$45 million to national and local nonprofits.

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

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Community Credit Union Hosts Community Recycle Day



Community Recycle Day Volunteers (Front L to R): Tucker O, Brycen D, Xavier D, Jonah M, Lilyana M, Julia C, Ruth M, Hanna R, Karen C, Christine W, Landon O, Kayleigh and Hunter O, Lorraine F, Bria D, Michelle G; (Back L to R): Erin MDK, Shelly S, Lisa R, Krystyn G, Betsy S, Tiffany M, Amy S, Cameron, Kevin B, Jeff G, Jonathan O, James M, Alicia C, and Garrett P.

LEWISTON, ME (June 9, 2023) -- On Saturday, April 15, 2023, Community Credit Union hosted a Community Recycle Day event at the Auburn Branch with community partners to celebrate Earth Day. The number of participating community partners grew this spring, offering many opportunities for the community to help connect organizations with recycled resources.

Several local partners and volunteers joined forces to make this event a great success, including Community Credit Union, Kaydenz Kitchen, Kommunity Kritters, North Coast Services, SHARECenter, Shredding On Site and Stratham Tire. The following was recycled because of this event:

North Coast Services accepted/rescued 3,158 electronic items (CPUs/laptops, printers, monitors and televisions) from landfills.

Stratham Tire's truck was filled with tires that will be repurposed for projects by another Maine business.

Shredding On Site professionally destroyed over 3,800 pounds of personal and confidential documents on site, protecting individuals and businesses from identity theft.

SHAREcenter collected several items to support local schools, non-profits and other community serving organizations; their bottle drive was also a success, raising over \$150 in can and bottle donations.

Kaydenz Kitchen was able to accept children and adult clothing, toiletry items, non-perishable items, monetary donations and more.

Kommunity Kritters was able to rehome pet food, cat litter, toys, and beds to help some special 4-legged emotional supports in our community.

Numbers and community feedback are validating event growth from one year to the next.

"Mark Turcotte of WIGY said it best, our Community Recycle Day event "is a well-oiled machine"! Our additional marketing efforts have grown both social and media coverage, community donations, vendor and volunteer interest and participation. Smooth event operations and positive engagement were knocked out of the park by our volunteers and community partners; over half of all CCU employees volunteered at this year's event! This was an incredibly successful Earth Day

celebration for all and we are looking forward to our next

Earth Day celebration on April 20th of next year (2024)!" said Erin M. Dunn-Kimball, Recycle Day Coordinator and Marketing Specialist from Community Credit Union.

Community Credit Union has scheduled their next Community Recycle Day Event for April 20, 2024. Community Credit Union periodically holds shredding events within the branches for membership. Visit www.communitycreditunion.com to learn more about upcoming community efforts.

Community Credit Union is a member-owned, full service financial institution that has been serving its members and all of Androscoggin County since 1945. The Credit Union has a low-income designation from NCUA as well as certified as a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI). Community Credit Union has branches located at 144 Pine Street, Lewiston, 40 Stanley Street, Auburn and 1025 Auburn Road in Turner serving approximately 12,000 members. For more information, log onto www.communitycreditunion.com.

SeniorsPlus to Present OMA Art Show, Art Therapy Classes



Oscar in the Water, Watercolor and tissue paper by OMA student Mary-Lou of Norway, 2023.

LEWISTON, ME (June 30, 2023) -- SeniorsPlus, Western Maine's designated Area Agency on Aging, will present an Opening Minds through Art (OMA) art show at the agency's Norway location at 9 Marston St. on Friday, July 7, from 1 to 3 p.m. The event is free and refreshments will be provided. Meet the artists, see their work, and learn more about OMA, an award-winning, evidence-based, art-making program that aims to provide social engagement and creative expression

for persons living with dementia. Funded by a grant from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, DHHS, Washington, DC, OMA strives to bring joy, art, and pride to people living with dementia and Alzheimer's in our community. Contact SeniorsPlus at 207-795-4010 for more information.

Through a series of classes, OMA engages people with dementia in creating art based on imagination, not memory. During the six-week program, people with dementia (the "artists")

are paired one-on-one with volunteers who help them create art. SeniorsPlus seeks artists for the program, as well as volunteers to work one-on-one with participants in these art classes. No art background required.

An upcoming OMA session of classes will be held at the offices of SeniorsPlus from 1 to 2 p.m. on Fridays, July 14-August 18, at 8 Falcon Road, Lewiston. The classes are free. Registration is required; contact SeniorsPlus at 207-795-4010, edcenter@seniorsplus.org.



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\$271M Investment a “Game Changer” for Maine Broadband

WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 30, 2023) – U.S. Senator Angus King (I-Maine), co-chair of the bipartisan Senate Broadband Caucus, today celebrated the news that \$271 million will be headed to deploy Maine broadband infrastructure from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act’s Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment program. Senator King will join Governor Janet Mills on Thursday morning at the University of Maine Augusta at an event hosted by the Maine

Connectivity Authority to formally announce the news. “Just as rural electrification did in the 1930s, these broadband investments are going to be a game-changer. This technology will help connect thousands of Maine households and businesses to the infrastructure that powers 21st century life, and enable communities across the nation to fully engage in the 21st century economy,” said Senator King. “As remote work becomes more accepted, a high-

speed internet connection means an individual can work for any company in the country – so people can choose to work where they live instead of the other way around. These vital investments in construction and deployment will also go a long way towards Maine’s telehealth needs, as more people will be able to monitor their health with medical professionals without long, time-consuming drives across the state.” Broadband expansion has been one of Senator King’s central priorities

since launching his 2012 Senate campaign. 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 – to do away with the “digital divide” holding back millions of Americans. After Senator King’s advocacy and negotiation, President Biden signed the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) to invest \$65

billion in broadband infrastructure across the nation, with news just last week of \$30 million headed to Maine from the “Middle Mile” Broadband Infrastructure Grant program. The IIJA’s historic broadband provisions include over \$40 billion in block grants to states and \$2 billion for tribal governments, mirroring Senator King’s bipartisan BRIDGE Act and the Digital Equity Act, he championed to invest \$2.75 billion in an array of projects at the state and local level that pro-

mote “digital equity.” Combined with the \$10 billion in funding for broadband in the American Rescue Plan nationwide – an effort Senator King “spearheaded” – Maine is expected to see more than \$400 million for broadband deployment in the upcoming years. Combined with funds appropriated by the State, this investment should allow virtually the entire population of Maine to be connected to high-speed, affordable broadband within the next several years.

Women in Military Service & Sen. Margaret Chase Smith

By: Sen. Susan M. Collins

Each year, June 12 is designated as Women Veterans Recognition Day to celebrate the brave women who have defended our freedom throughout their military service. This year’s observation was especially significant as it marked the 75th anniversary of the Women’s Armed Services Integration Act of 1948 that gave women the right to serve as permanent, regular mem-

bers of the United States Armed Forces. The people of Maine are proud that the leader who authored and championed that landmark legislation was our own Senator Margaret Chase Smith. To mark this special anniversary, I joined the First Lady, Dr. Jill Biden, in a ceremony at the inspiring Military Women’s Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, but the true guests of honor were

the women veterans and those who serve today. I was delighted to have the opportunity to describe Margaret Chase Smith’s determination to enable women to have full careers in the American military. Senator Smith was once asked what is a woman’s proper place. Her famous answer? “Everywhere.” She meant it, and she lived it. She was the first woman to serve in both the House and the Senate. Throughout her 32-year congressional career, Margaret Chase Smith was a strong advocate of military readiness and took extraordinary measures to understand the challenges facing our patriots in uniform. During World War II, then-Congresswoman Smith, as a member of the House Naval Affairs Committee, embarked on a 25,000-mile tour of bases in the South Pacific, becoming the first and only civilian woman to sail on a Navy ship during the war. There is no doubt that witnessing the extraordinary contributions of women’s auxiliary units – the WACs, WAVEs, and WASPs – during the war compelled her to author the Women’s Armed Services Integration Act.



Her legislation passed in the Senate by a unanimous vote. In the House, however, the Armed Services Committee amended the bill to limit women’s service to the reserves. Congresswoman Smith stood strong. In her speech on the House floor, she declared: “The issue is simple -- either the armed services have a permanent need of women officers and enlisted women or they do not. If they do, then women must be given permanent status.”

With the support of military leaders, she carried the day. Her original bill passed the House, and President Truman signed it into law on June 12, 1948. Less than a month later, the Navy swore in six women enlistees, the first females to become regular members of our military. Moving to the Senate after the war, she became the first woman to sit on the Senate Armed Services Committee, rising to the position of ranking member. She also served as a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force Reserve. In each of these roles, Senator Smith went everywhere to champion the roles of women in the military. In 1957, Senator Smith wore a military uniform for a month-long tour of duty to investigate prob-

lems related to recruitment and retention of military personnel, with a focus on the progress being made to integrate women into the armed forces. This tour took her to military bases in four states, Puerto Rico, and the Panama Canal. Her tour ended in Los Angeles with another remarkable first. On December 3, the 60-year-old senator donned a flight suit, parachute, and oxygen mask, and climbed into the co-pilot’s position of an F-100 Super Sabre jet. Reaching speeds of nearly 1,000 miles per hour, she became the first woman in Congress to break the sound barrier. Reflecting on that singular experience, Senator Smith later said that doing supersonic barrel rolls at 40,000 feet was exhilarating, but her mind was preoccupied by one thought. The big red button that activated the ejection seat was right by her elbow. Don’t accidentally bump it.

Margaret Chase Smith went everywhere so that patriotic women could go anywhere their courage and devotion to duty led them. Since her time, women have taken on greater challenges and been given exceptional responsibilities. They serve on the front lines; they fly fighter jets, and they com-

mand Navy ships. Across the branches of service and throughout the ranks, they provide the expertise and the commitment that our national defense requires. From the American Revolution to our time, more than 3 million women have served in our armed forces. Today, women make up more than 17 percent of the active duty force and more than 20 percent of the National Guard and reserves. They contribute immensely to the strength and resilience of our military. Throughout our nation’s history, American women have stood strong for freedom. Today, as never before, they are adding inspiring new chapters. Theirs is the story of citizens answering the call of duty, defending our freedom, and extending the blessings of freedom to others around the world. They have earned our deepest respect and our enduring gratitude.

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

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Catholic Foundation of Maine Awards Endowment Scholarships

PORTLAND, ME (June 26, 2023)—A student who aspires to teach elementary education and one who seeks to serve people by becoming a physical therapist are the winners of the 2023 Catholic Foundation of Maine Lila Grace Sullivan Amirault Endowment Scholarships, each receiving \$5,000 to put towards their college tuition.

“I was honestly kind of surprised because I feel like I’m just like every other person,” said Lorelei Bonney, from the town of Poland, who graduated in May from Saint Dominic Academy in Auburn. “It will help my parents because they are helping me with college.”

“My initial reaction was that I was very shocked, and then, I was super, super excited, because it takes so much stress off of me and my family,” said Madeline Fowler, from Yarmouth, who graduated earlier this month from Cheverus High School in Portland. “It was just such great news.”

The endowment scholarship fund was established through the Catholic Foundation of Maine by the late Patrick Amirault in memory of his wife. Amirault created the fund in gratitude for the care and quality education he received when he attended a Catholic school

in Massachusetts and in recognition of his ability to continue his education by working while completing his degrees. The Foundation worked with Amirault to develop an endowment to support students with those same values.

Lorelei and Madeline are both excellent students with strong work ethics, who are both committed to living out their Catholic faith.

“Catholics believe in helping our neighbors and treating them like we want to be treated, and I want to be able to do that,” said Lorelei. “I can bring my Catholic values into my physical therapy career by helping my community and the people in it. I want to put others first and help people.”

“As a senior attending Cheverus High School, a Jesuit institution, I have grown to know and live by the values of the Catholic faith,” said Madeline. “All humans are made in the image and likeness of God, so therefore, all people deserve the same rights, respect, and love. Considering these values, along with the many others that I have grown to live by, I feel as though they will aid me in my future studies and career field.”

Lorelei and Madeline both credit their respective schools for helping them to



Lorelei

grow in their faith and for putting them on the path towards future success.

“St. Dom’s helped me in many ways: academically, socially, and athletically, but most of all, it helped me to connect with my faith on a deeper level and learn more about it. I have a deeper understanding of my faith and religion and have been able to connect with God more,” said Lorelei.

Lorelei was an assistant chaplain at St. Dom’s. She helped to lead retreats and served as a reader and an extraordinary minister of holy Communion at Masses held at the school, saying she wanted to show fellow students that there is nothing uncool about living your faith. Lorelei continues to serve as an extraordinary minister of holy Communion at the Basilica of Ss. Peter & Paul in Lewiston, which she says she loves attending.



Madeline

“I love it because it’s my way of connecting with my Creator. He made me and I just want to be able to love him the same way that he does me,” she said. “Church is a place where I can feel safe to have a conversation with my maker.”

Madeline, too, was involved in campus ministry. Like Lorelei, she led retreats and served at Masses celebrated at Cheverus.

“As long as I had a small role in Mass, that was something that was important to me,” she said. “Working with the campus ministry team is awesome.”

Madeline said attending and leading retreats helped her to reflect more on her life, which gave her a greater understanding of what God wants from her and for her.

“It kind of helped me to understand why God sent me on that path in life.

I am a big believer now that everything happens for a reason,” she said.

Madeline said Cheverus challenged her academically but said it was manageable once you developed good time management skills. She also credited the supportive community, which she said she experienced from the first day she arrived there.

“I wish everyone could experience going to Cheverus,” she said. “I just have really grown as a person, really grown to, I think, embody the Catholic values of just being really loving and being committed to justice.”

Both Madeline and Lorelei were active in their school communities. In addition to serving as an assistant chaplain, Lorelei was class president her sophomore year, treasurer of the Student Senate her senior year, served as a junior volunteer at St.

Mary’s Regional Medical Center in Lewiston, and volunteered with the middle school ski team.

Madeline was president of the school’s Best Buddies chapter, an organization that promotes friendships with individuals who have intellectual and developmental disabilities. She was also a member of the Key Club, which organizes the school’s Thanksgiving drive each year. And, with her brother, Marshall, who graduated two years ago, she organized an annual Comfy Clothes Drive and a bottle drive for the Dempsey Center, which provides care to those impacted by cancer.

Madeline plans to attend Saint Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire, while Lorelei will enter a six-year doctorate in physical therapy program at Husson University in Bangor.

Laura Rinck Honored by Maine Ad + Design Club

LEWISTON, ME (June 16, 2023) – Laura Rinck, President of Rinck Advertising, was the recipient of the Joan Dow Award at the Maine Ad + Design Broderon Awards held June 1 at the University of New England’s Portland campus.

Joan Dow is a strong figure for the advertising industry in Maine. She broke down barriers for other women by becoming the first woman-owned agency in Maine, developing other women-owned businesses, and helping the formation of the Art Directors Club. Her tenacity and work ethic are legendary. The Joan Dow Award is a symbol of recognition for outstanding women in the field of advertising and design. It is presented to those that are role models for others and share the qualities of one of Maine’s greatest women in the industry, Joan Dow.

Nominated for the award by her inspired staff, Laura Rinck is also a force within the advertising industry. As majority owner and President of Rinck Advertising, Laura has led award-win-

ning work for hundreds of brands, volunteered for—and donated pro-bono services to—several worthy non-profits, and shaped the careers of dozens of advertising, marketing, and public relations professionals, many of whom are women working in a male-dominated field.

Founded in 2001, Rinck is a nationally recognized full-service marketing, advertising, and public relations agency headquartered in Maine with remote locations across the U.S. serving clients including the Maine CDC, the Vermont Department of Health, Dunkin’, Dove, Vaseline, VetriScience, MaineGeneral Health, and others. With Laura at the helm, the firm provides expertise in strategic planning, brand building, creative services, media planning, and buying, digital strategy & development, public relations, influencer marketing, affiliate marketing, shopper marketing, and content marketing. Over the last decade, Rinck has built a behavioral change practice specializing in public health marketing, counter-marketing, so-



cial marketing, and mass-reach health communications that have yielded measurable social and behavioral change in the state of Maine. The agency team are leaders in the field committed to educating high-risk populations about social issues around tobacco and alcohol use, mental health, cancer, nutrition, health, substance use disorder, and more through proven media tactics that have changed the story for our State. In fact, the work extends beyond the State via work with Vermont Department of Health and the sharing of best-practice campaign

strategies and assets to be utilized by other states.

Laura’s impact is also evident through her volunteerism and the reach of the agency’s pro-bono support of many non-profits. She and her husband, Rinck CEO Peter Rinck, have contributed endless hours serving on the board of the Maine Cancer Foundation. Over the years, the agency has generously provided resources to The Dempsey Center, L/A Arts, the Maine Music Society, the YWCA, and many more worthy causes.

When she’s not leading agency work or pro-bono services, or vol-

unteering in her community, Laura can be found inspiring and supporting a team of more than 40 professionals. Under Laura’s leadership, Rinck’s core values embrace a people-first approach that focuses on the health and wellness of all employees. She believes that happier, healthier employees will create a happier, healthier workplace. This people-first approach is a primary reason Rinck boasts an impressive average tenure of more than six years—more than twice the industry average. Additionally, over 60% of Rinck employees have been with the agency for over five years (and nearly 25% for more than ten years). The executive leadership team has an average tenure of more than 11 years, and eight of the nine current members of the exec team are women.

Rinck is unwavering in her commitment to her team, clients, and community. Her dedication to innovative and effective marketing solutions has made Rinck Advertising a leader in the field, helping drive positive change.

“Laura is an inspi-

ration to the women on her staff and to those who work with her on community projects,” said Joan Dow. “If there was a Laura Rinck Award, I would be honored to receive it. I have long admired her achievements.”

“I’m honored to carry the torch passed to me by Joan, to continue to blaze the trail for women in advertising,” said Rinck.

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Maine TREE Foundation Supports Future of Maine Forests



Third-graders at the NELA Logging Expo in Bangor



Old Town Elementary third-graders at NELA Logging Expo in Bangor

AUGUSTA, ME (June 30, 2023) -- Investment in green workforce development in Maine is growing. As the baby boomer generation reaches retirement age, there is an increasing need for young adults across natural resource industries. In the forestry sector, in particular, 37% of the 2020 workforce will have reached or surpassed retirement age by 2035. There are an abundance of well-worn boots that need filling.

On a global scale, as climate change rapidly shifts systems and economies, Maine's heritage industries are well positioned to integrate generations-built wisdom and new technologies to serve the 21st century. Innovation and growing applications are creating new roles in natural resource industries, from wood composite engineers to mountain bike trail builders.

Luckily, when it comes to green jobs, youth are interested! Research shows that rural youth in Maine have a strong attachment to the natural world. Having grown up immersed in narratives about the need to steward natural resources well and give back to their communities, Maine's young people are excited to find their place in the out-of-doors.

Maine Timber Research and Environmental Education Foundation (Maine TREE) is taking a multi-pronged approach to facilitating green jobs exposure and empowerment for Maine's students. Through job fairs, direct classroom engagement, and bringing students to

the field, Maine TREE, and partner organizations promote the natural resource workforce development Maine needs.

Job Fairs

Job fairs are an age-old tool to expose students to opportunities in the workforce. Maine TREE travels the state to attend traditional job fairs, setting up a table where students can complete Project Learning Tree's Find Your Green Job Quiz, a set of questions that assess students' interests and temperament to recommend a personalized green job fit. Through traditional job fairs, Maine TREE staff interact with a broad population of Maine's students, planting the seeds of ideas for future training and employment opportunities.

This May, Maine TREE worked with the Piscataquis Environmental Education Collaborative, a collaboration between Rural Aspirations, Appalachian Mountain Club, Natural Resource Education Center, and Piscataquis Soil & Water Conservation District, to organize and pilot a reimagined job fair experience. The 2023 Green Jobs Fair hosted middle school students from Piscataquis Community Elementary School and SeDoMoCha Middle School for a day at Law Farm with representatives from various local natural resource sector employers. "Instead of a typical job fair where students are introduced to professions through displays and pamphlets, students were able to participate in hands-on explorations of portions of each career," explained

Piscataquis County Soil and Water Conservation District Educational Coordinator Kacey Weber. "They were introduced to logging through the cab of a forwarder and the game warden profession through volunteering to get 'lost' and being found by the warden and their K-9 partner."

Steph Perkins, Piscataquis County Youth Education Coordinator, reflected on the event's impact, saying, "The Green Job Event was a meaningful way to connect youth in Piscataquis County to the region's unique natural resources and career opportunities. Through hands-on activities, students were able to experience natural resource-based professions and develop a better understanding of the natural world so that they will want to protect it now and in the future."

Bringing Green Jobs to the Classroom

While Maine TREE specializes in providing teachers with the tools, connections, and professional development necessary to incorporate green jobs into classroom curricula, staff occasionally have the opportunity to visit classrooms to work with students directly. This spring, Maine TREE staff visited six seventh-grade classrooms in Portland and three first-grade classrooms in Old Town to share games and stories about forest management and the people who tend to Maine's extensive woods.

A Maine TREE partner organization, Rural Aspirations, holds ex-

perience in implementing programming to connect rural Maine students with opportunities within their communities, including green job opportunities. This spring marked the close of the fifth year of one of Rural Aspirations' core programs, the Maine Forest Collaborative. Eight high schools worked through a design process to identify and solve challenges during the 2022-23 school year to contribute to their forest-placed communities. Students and teachers were connected with relevant local experts in green careers to help them understand their challenges and troubleshoot their solution prototypes. Through this year's Maine Forest Collaborative program, students contributed to the restoration of a local waterfront, developed a community mountain bike park, and planted school gardens.

Sara King, the Maine Forest Collaborative Program Coordinator, shared about the program: "The students appreciated the opportunity to learn outside of a traditional classroom and recognized the work readiness skills they were developing, like communication, interpersonal relations, leadership, and problem-solving. During a reflection at the final presentation event, students expressed that this project taught them time management, focus, responsibility, accountability, and the importance of planning. One student said, 'It was a very beneficial class. It means being an involved member in your community,' another said, 'You feel a part of something good, something that can possibly help people.' Students were proud of their accomplishments and projects, and many reported that presenting in front of an audience was a highlight!"

Bringing Students to Industry

Maine's vibrant forest economy provides ample opportunities to bring students to the field to see green jobs in action. Maine TREE partnered with the Northeastern Loggers Asso-

ciation (NELA) in early May to bring 130 Old Town Elementary School third-graders to NELA's annual Logging Expo in Bangor. Students spent the morning walking the floor in small groups with a teacher and a forestry professional. They saw demonstrations and learned how loggers employ various equipment in harvest operations. After a pizza lunch, students engaged in a high-energy Question and Answer session with ten NELA member volunteers.

"I'm amazed that people can do so many skills with heavy machinery," one third-grader shared, "I enjoyed meeting all of the loggers and learning about how trees are harvested." Her teacher, Old Town Elementary's Renee St. Peter, was similarly enthusiastic about the experience, "Our town in the late 1800s was the Lumber capital of the World, so when Maine TREE and the Loggers' Association approached us...we jumped at the opportunity! ...[The students] enjoyed talking to the logging professionals and learning about their equipment. As one student said, 'It was the BEST field trip ever!'"

Later in May, Maine TREE partnered with NEXTStep, a collaboration between Tree Street Youth and Lewiston Public Schools to bring a group of high school students to see a "Roots to Retail" demonstration at Higos Inc. Higos staff demonstrated how 1' by 4' construction boards come to be: from felling through milling, all on their site in Brunswick.

NEXTStep instructor Noelle Auger reflected on the experience, "One of our core values at NEXTStep is to immerse kids in novel experiences, especially ones that involve our local communities. Many of the students on this trip had never experienced a lumber mill like this. It was really eye-opening and valuable for them to see the process of trees being turned into lumber, and many expressed interest in learning more about the field and forest work in general. We are super grateful to have made connections with both Higos and Maine TREE so we can continue to introduce students to empowering and impactful jobs right here in Maine."

Reflecting on a busy spring, Maine TREE's Director of Education, Lena Ives is full of hope for the future, "The need for green workforce development in

Maine is pressing, but students are ready and eager. Watching their excitement grow through these events and opportunities is such a joy."

Looking forward to summer 2023, Forests of Maine Teachers' Tours are quickly approaching. This year, tours will travel to the Downeast and Katahdin regions, providing teachers with 30+ hours of professional development on incorporating forestry and the out-of-doors into their classroom curricula and connecting students directly with green jobs training, opportunities, and exposure. Maine TREE also continues to grow its Forest Ecology Research Network, a series of school-associated 1/10th acre research plots where students can learn about forestry, data collection, and climate change through hands-on experience in the woods. Professional development training for interested teachers and forestry professionals will be offered in August.

Are you interested in getting involved in natural resource workforce development in Maine? Contact Maine TREE's Director of Education, Lena Ives, by emailing lena@mainetree.org.

Funding for Maine TREE Foundation's workforce development and green jobs initiatives is generously provided by Maine Timberlands Charitable Trust, Onion Foundation, and Farm Credit East Northeast AgEnhancement.-----

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3. *Bernsen, N.R., Crandall, M.S., Leahy, J.E., Abrams, J.B., & Colocousis, C.R. (2021). Do rural youth want to stay rural? Influences on residential aspirations of youth in forest-located communities. Community Development, 53(5), 566-584. 10.1080/15575330.2021.1998170*



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Calendar

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July 7

NORWAY -- Opening Minds through Art (OMA) art show on Friday, July 7, 2023 from 1-3 p.m. at SeniorsPlus, 9 Marston St., Norway, ME. The public is invited to an art opening in the Norway office featuring OMA artists and their art. Free. Contact SeniorPlus at 207-795-4010, edcenter@seniorsplus.org.

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

For any further information, please contact the Children's Department at LPLKids@lewiston-maine.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 CareerCenters. 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 13

LEWISTON -- Thursday July 13th veterans who chose the Air Force went to Sampson AFBVA for basic training will be having a get together at noon time at the Governors Restaurant in Lewiston. 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 of all eras and branches of service and their guests are welcome to join.

FMI call 657-4909 or e-mail wvmtkwkr1933@gmail.com

Bob Sawyer Sampson AFB 1953

Fridays July 14 – August 18

LEWISTON -- Opening Minds through Art (OMA) classes Fridays July 14–August 18 from 1-3 p.m. at Education Center of SeniorsPlus at 8 Falcon Road in Lewiston. Through a series of classes, OMA engages students with dementia in creating freewheeling art. Contact SeniorsPlus, at 207-795-4010, edcenter@seniorsplus.org.

July 15

GORHAM -- On Saturday, July 15th, starting at 1:00 pm at the Treworgy Homestead and Garden located at 120 Flagg 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 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29

BAR MILLS -- The Original's present A PICASSO BY JEFFREY HATCHER, at Saco River Theatre, 29 Salmon Falls Road, Bar Mills, ME, July 21st, 22nd, 27th, 28th, 29th at 7:30pm and July 23rd at 2:30pm. Tickets: \$15 General Admission at www.sacorivertheatre.org or call 207-929-6473 for reservations.

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

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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

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



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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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First Friday Comedy Coming to Rusty Bus Brewing in Lewiston

LEWISTON, ME (June 30, 2023) -- Cat's Meow Comedy presents First Friday Comedy at Rusty Bus Brewing in Lewiston on July 7.

Featured comedians include Ian MacDonald, Joe Flynn, Sara Mather, Dana Fuller, and Ann-Marie Keene.

MacDonald was a semi-finalist in the 2023 Boston Comedy Festival

and will be performing at the 2023 North Carolina Comedy Festival. He was the third place finalist in New England's Funniest Comedian Competition 2022, a finalist in Maine

Event Comedy's Tightest Five Competition. The Pay-What-You-

Can show will begin at 7pm and is for ages 21 and up. Rusty Bus

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COMMUNITY PUZZLE SWAP

MONDAY July 10 | 11AM - 2PM

LEWISTON PUBLIC LIBRARY | 200 LISBON STREET | 513-3134 | LPLONLINE.ORG | @LPLONLINE

Comedy Nite

featuring
Dana Fuller · Sarah Mather
Joe Flynn · Ian MacDonald
 hosted by **Ann-Marie Keene**

RUSTY BUS BREWING

120 Lisbon St.
 Lewiston, ME

July 7th · 7:00pm · 21+ · Pay-What-You-Can

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