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Thursday, September 7. 2023 - FREE

Bridgton Hospital celebrates new 3D mammography unit



Stephany Jacques, interim president, Central Maine Healthcare, speaks at 3D mammography event

BRIDGTON, ME (August 30, 2023) -- Bridgton Hospital this week cut the ribbon on its new 3D mammography technology that is now available to patients.

Bridgton Hospital is the only facility in the Lakes Region to offer 3D breast imaging for women who are undergoing a screening mammogram. Also known as tomosynthesis, 3D mammography is a safe and proven technology that has many benefits over traditional 2D methods, including:

> More accurate findings Earlier diagnosis



(left to right): Carolyn Cilley, Bridgton Hospital Guild, Alissa Noble, lead mammographer, Bridgton Hospital, Marlise Libby, Bridgton Hospital Guild cut the ribbon

Better detection in dense breast tis-

Fewer callbacks for false alarms

Prior to the ribbon cutting for the new equipment, Stephany Jacques, RN, interim president, Bridgton Hospital, spoke during a brief gathering to Central Maine Healthcare team members and other guests including Central Maine Healthcare board member and local businesswoman Marney Chalmers, and distinguished members of the former Bridgton Guild.

Jacques said Bridgton Hospital is already seeing an increase in the number

of women making appointments for 3D mammography.

"As we approach October, which is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we especially encourage women in the community to come in and get their mammography screenings," she said. "These routine exams could really be lifesaving."

Also in attendance was Alissa Noble who is lead mammographer at Bridgton Hospital. Noble, who screens patients using the new equipment, had her own breast cancer diagnosis 10 years ago, which she says allows her to understand what patients are going through.

"I still worked in medical imaging when I was on the other side of the hospital, undergoing chemo," she said. "It gave me a different perspective and really helped me understand our patients concerns."

The addition of the 3D mammography unit was made possible through donations from the Bridgton Hospital Guild and the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation.

Bridgton Hospital, in partnership with Central Maine Healthcare, offers a multidisciplinary team of women's breast



Stephany Jacques poses with 3D mammography unit

health specialists, including expert guidance in abnormalities, breast surgery and reconstruction.

Patients can schedule a breast cancer screening appointment by calling 207-777-8080.

Community BBQ & tribute to first responders is Sept 9

BRUNSWICK, ME (September 1, 2023) – Once again, the BDA is teaming up with American Legion Post 20 to for a remembrance ceremony and followed by a barbecue, live music, games, and an opportunity to visit with fellow community members and non-profit organizations. The public is invited to attend.

This fun, fall event is a great way to enjoy an early afternoon in Downtown Brunswick with lunch, activities, and music on the Town Mall (Green) in Downtown Brunswick while acknowledging the work of our local and regional First Responders. The BBQ will be held on Saturday, September 9thth from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Brunswick Town Mall (Green).

Free to all. Limit one meal per person. Meal consists of a hamburger, veggie burger or 2 hot dogs, with chips, cookie, and water.

Schedule of Events:

10:00 to 11:00: Remembrance Ceremony – American Legion Post 20, on the A chance to explore Brunswick Fire Trucks and Police cars and visit with the officers.

A Bouncy House by Pathway Vineyard.

Fun toys and lawn games.

Music by The Volunteers Jazz Band - approximately noon to 1:00 pm.

The Blues Buzzards ,1 to 2:30 pm. No seating will be provided, attendees are asked to bring their own lawn chair or blanket.

For more information and updates about this event or about the Brunswick Downtown Association, visit www. brunswickdowntown.org or Call 729-4439.

Presenting Sponsors: Ray Labbe & Sons Supporting Sponsors: Midcoast-Parkview Health/Maine

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LowerTownMall(someseatingprovided). 11:30 to 2:00: BDA's Community BBQ, on the Town Mall, (no seating provided). This is a family friendly event with a variety of fun activities available:

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces Fall into Color floral exhibit opening September 13

F R Y E B U R G , ME (August 18, 2023) — The Pace Galleries of Art, on the campus of Fryeburg Academy, presents the exhibition and opening reception for Fall Into Color, Floral Exhibit on Wednesday, September 13th from 4:00-7:00 pm at the Leura Hill Eastman Performing Arts Center. Admission is free.

This is the Pace Galleries' first annual Floral Art Show to celebrate the growers and floral farms of Western Maine. It is intended to highlight the farmers as artists in their own right and to celebrate their craft as artwork, deserving of recognition in a formal gallery space. Participating farms include: Moonset Farm, Weston's Farm, Meadow Ridge Farm, Good Buddy Farm, Stonehill Lavender Farm, Veritas Flora, Sunshine Daydream Farm, and the Fryeburg Academy OLRC Program.

Exhibitors will

choose a piece of existing artwork from the permanent collection of the Pace Galleries of Art and create a floral display inspired by it. Both pieces will be presented together in the gallery for visitors to enjoy. The exhibition will be open to the public on September 13th, 14th, and 15th from 4:00-7:00 pm. The Pace Galleries of Art is located on the campus of Fryeburg Academy at 18 Bradley Street in Fryeburg, Maine.

\$3B to drive resilience to climate change, extreme weather events

CAMBRIDGE, MA (September 1, 2023) Today, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro N. Mayorkas, FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell, and Senior Advisor to the President and White House Infrastructure Coordinator Mitch Landrieu announced project selections for nearly \$3 billion in climate resilience funding as part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda. The selections, through two competitive grant programs, will help communities across the nation enhance resilience to climate change and extreme weather events.

Today's selections include \$1.8 billion for critical resilience projects funded by the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) national competition and \$642 million for Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) community- scale flood mitigation projects. These selections build on \$160 million in BRIC and FMA selections that FEMA announced in May for efforts to support mitigation projects, project scoping, and adoption of hazard-resistant building codes. Combined, the funds awarded this grant cycle of the BRIC and FMA programs total nearly \$3 billion including management costs.

"We are extremely pleased to announce that projects in Connecticut, Maine and Massachusetts have been selected for this innovative federal funding," said FEMA Region I Regional Administrator Lori Ehrlich. "Under President Biden's Administration and through Administrator Criswell's leadership, FEMA has made climate change a top priority and we continue to make progress to ensure communities become more resilient with critical mitigation projects like these."



"From Hawaii to Maine, communities across the country are experiencing more frequent and intense severe weather events. resulting in devastating impacts to their homes, businesses, and families. Though FEMA will always help communities respond and recover to these disasters, it is also paramount to build resilience before disasters strike," said FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell. "Thanks to President Biden's Investing in America agenda, we can further our mission to help our state, local, territorial, and tribal partners build a more resilient nation."

The top five primary hazard sources of the

projects selected in the national competition for each program include flooding, infrastructure failure, fire, drought and dam or levee

break hazards. Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities

Connecticut, Maine and Massachusetts received BRIC selections for a total of \$132.62 million. In addition, Maine received a selection for the first time.

This includes critical mitigation projects and activities – three of which use nature-based solutions to reduce natural hazard risks for states, local communities, tribes and territories. Nature-based solutions are sustainable planning, design, environmental management and engineering practices that weave natural features or processes into the built environment to promote adaptation and resilience.

One project selection is the Saco, Maine Water Resource Recovery Project. The project aims to make improvements to the city's wastewater treatment plant, including the addition of a berm and the construction of structures at an elevation 3 feet above the 100year flood elevation or base flood elevation (BFE). The project would reduce risk to the city and an estimated 12.206 residential users served by the wastewater treatment plant.

This new wastewater treatment project will reduce combined sewer overflow discharge, incorporate drainage improvements throughout the site, reclaim green space for community use, and mitigate cascading impacts of climate change in accordance with York County's Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Learn more about the selected projects on the BRIC webpage on FEMA.gov.

Additional information about the funding

President Biden has continued to provide additional funding to FEMA's annual resilience grant programs, increasing them from \$700 million to \$1.16 billion during his first year in office to nearly tripling it in the 2022 funding cycle, \$900 million of which came from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The increased amount allows FEMA to diversify its geographic scope in funding selections and get more federal funds to communities needing it the most to become safer from the effects of climate change.

\$300K to tobacco prevention, treatment grants

F A L M O U T H, ME (August 25, 2023) – Maine Cancer Foundation recently awarded six grants, totaling \$302,466 to Maine organizations in support of projects that address tobacco use in Maine.

Smoking is the world's leading preventable cause of death and tobacco is known to cause 11 different cancers, including lung cancer at the forefront. Unfortunately, Maine's lung cancer rates are consistently higher than the national average, and lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in our state. In Maine, more than 180,000 adults and over 4,000 high school students smoke cigarettes.

In order to reduce this burden, it is imperative to help prevent youth from ever starting to use tobacco, offer assistance for Mainers who would like to quit, and affect policies that lessen tobacco use statewide. These efforts will ultimately decrease the burden of lung and tobac-co-related cancers in Maine and greatly benefit our residents.

With these goals in mind, MCF recently awarded six grants, totaling \$302,466 over two years for projects that reduce the use of tobacco in Maine. Grantees include:

Aroostook County Action Program (Presque Isle): Prevention Through Youth Engagement, \$80,000 Augusta Teen Center (Augusta): Roads To Success-Tobacco, \$80,000

Healthy Androscoggin (Lewiston): Secondhand and Thirdhand Smoke and Pets, \$41,000

Mount Desert Island Hospital (Bar Harbor): Establishing a Tobacco Treatment and Prevention Program, \$12,966

New Mainers Public Health Initiative (Lewiston): Combustible Cigarettes and Hookah Smoking Intervention Project in Lewiston Auburn, \$80,000

Region 8 Mid-Coast School of Technology (Rockland): Restorative Approach to Teen Smoking and Vaping, \$8,500

"Unfortunately, tobacco use is still a major contributor to Maine's high lung cancer rates," said Katelyn Michaud, MCF's Director of Programming. "Through our grant partnerships with these six organizations, we know essential work will happen to reduce the burden of tobacco and improve the health of our state."

MCF is on track to award approximately \$2 million in grants to organizations across the state of Maine in 2023. All funded programs support cancer prevention, early detection, and improved outcomes statewide.



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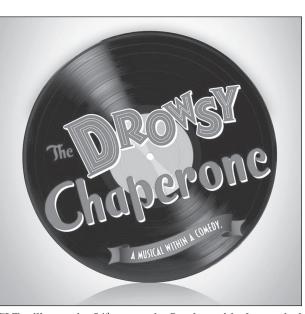
Newsmakers, Names & Faces Community Little Theatre announces 84th Season Lineup

AUBURN, ME (September 1, 2023) -- The L/A Community Little Theatre (CLT) has announced its 84th season – with a return to five-show lineup full. and a new Saturday matinee - will open October 26th with the Tony Award winning musical farce The Drowsy Chaperone. That will be followed in January with Agatha Christie's And Then There Were None, the musical Spring Awakening in April, Alice in Wonderland in June, and the musical The Prom in August.

"We are very pleased to offer a five-show season for the first time since before COVID," noted CLT co-executive director Renee Mahon Davis. "And in response to a clear trend with our audiences, we will now offer a Saturday matinee in addition to our two existing Sunday matinees," she added.

Winner of five Tony Awards, including Best Book and Best Original Score, The Drowsy Chaperone was hailed by NY Magazine as "the perfect Broadway musical." A middle-aged, musical theater fan decides to play for the audience an LP of his favorite musical, the fictional 1928 show The Drowsy Chaperone. As the record plays, the show - a parody of 1920s musical comedy - comes to life onstage! A loving send-up of the Jazz Age musical, the show features numerous song and dance numbers including "I Am Aldolpho" and "Toledo Surprise." Directed by Brandon Chaloux, The Drowsy Chaperone will run October 26-November 5.

Christie's Agatha eerie tale And Then There Were None brings the nursery rhyme "Ten Little Soldier Boys" to life. In one of her darkest and most successful novels, ten strangers are summoned to a remote island. All that the guests have in common



CLT will open its 84th season in October with the musical comedy The Drowsy Chaperone.

is a wicked past they're unwilling to reveal and a secret that will seal their fate. For each has been marked for murder. As the weather turns and the group is cut off from the mainland, the mayhem begins! Danny Gay will direct this timeless mystery that will run January 18-28. Based on Frank We-

dekind's groundbreaking and controversial play (once banned in Germany), Spring Awakening depicts a dozen young people as they navigate teenage self-discovery and coming of age anxiety in a powerful celebration of youth and rebellion! This angsty rock musical, set in Germany in 1981, explores the journey

from adolescence to adulthood with a poignancy that is illuminating and unforgettable. Winner of eight Tony Awards, including for Best Musical, Spring Awakening will be directed by Becca Tinkham and will run April 4-14.

In a delightful adaptation of the timeless tale of Alice in Wonderland, Alice encounters mad tea parties, irate queens, and many other fantastic creatures. Based on the beloved classic by Lewis Carroll, Alice in Wonderland is a reimagining of Wonderland, with an unexpected twist ending. When Alice tumbles down a rabbit hole, she is immersed in a wacky, fantastical land filled with zany characters such as the Mad Hatter and the Chesire Cat. A perfect play for audiences young and old alike, the show will be directed by Britny Anderson and will run June 13-23.

eccentric Four Broadway stars are in desperate need of a new stage. When they hear that trouble is brewing around a small-town prom, they know that it's time to put a spotlight on the issue and themselves. But when one student wants to bring her girlfriend to the prom, the entire town has a date with destiny. Winner of the Drama Desk Award for Best Musical, The Prom is a musical comedy with a message that resonates with audiences now more than ever. Directed by Jennifer McClure-Groover, The Prom will run August 8-18 to close out CLT's 84th season.

Subscribers to CLT's 84th season can enjoy savings of 20 percent and get five shows for the price of four. Season subscriptions are now available online and individual show tickets will be available starting September 25. For more information, visit www.laclt.com, or contact the box office at boxoffice@laclt. com or 783-0958.

Good Shepherd Food Bank joins national campaign

AUBURN, ME (September 1, 2023) - For Hunger Action Month this September, Good Shepherd Food Bank joins Feeding America and other member food banks to inspire conversation and drive passion for the issue of hunger. The monthlong campaign will highlight the impact of food on people's lives, and show how a meal goes beyond solely nourishing our bodies. When people are fed, futures are nourished, and individuals go from just living to truly thriving.

September marks the 16th year Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization with a nationwide network of 200 food banks, including Good Shepherd Food Bank, and 60.000 partner food pantries and meal programs, has organized the annual call to action. By joining the movement, the Food Bank believes our collective voices, actions and

commitment will help ensure every community has the food it needs to flourish.

"Food has a tremendous impact on people's lives. We have all experienced firsthand how a meal goes beyond solely nourishing our bodies," said Claire Babineaux-Fontenot, CEO of Feeding America. "Access to nutritious food is essential for each of us to reach our full potential and reminds us that we can all help to create positive change in our communities to ensure that no one goes hungry in America. Now is the time for us to come together to elevate the voices of people who experience food insecurity and inspire everyone to join the movement to end hunger"

Don't forget to wear orange on Hunger Action Day – September 15!

Volunteer - Good Shepherd Food Bank is committed to the belief that involving volunteers in its operations is a necessity for carrying out its mission of providing increased access to food for those at risk of hunger in the state of Maine.

Engage and Advocate by sharing this video - be sure to like and engage with Good Shepherd Food Bank on social media. Stay up-to-date with the fight against hunger on Facebook and Instagram. Posting about Hunger Action Month or Day on your own? Use #Hunger-ActionMonth and be sure to tag @FeedingMaine and @FeedingAmerica on vour post

help provide food for four meals! Virtual Food Drive

- organize a Virtual Food Drive right from your computer! Set up your fundraiser in a few easy steps, share the link with your network, and help raise critical funds needed to help all Mainers thrive.

Hunger Action Month is a time for everyone across the country to collectively act against hunger. You can choose to

donate or advocate. You can choose to volunteer or raise awareness. You can choose to help end hunger.

Learn more about how you can take action by visiting www.Feeding-Maine.org/HAM.

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During the month of September, people across Maine can get involved by listening, acting and inviting others to speak up about ways to end hunger.

Donate - online contributions are an efficient way to help end hunger in Maine. Every \$2 can

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Seniors Not Acting Their Age Two Bush or Bust



Ellen Nelson kayaks Muscle Ridge Channel

By Ron Chase Two Bush Island is the most distant island in the Muscle Ridge archipelago. Located about four miles from Spruce Head, it's home to historic Two Bush Island Light.

Situated near the heavily trafficked southwestern entrance to Penobscot Bay, the lighthouse was built in 1897. Typical of Maine lighthouses, it has a rich history of hazardous ocean rescues and keepers surviving harsh winter storms. The lighthouse was automated in 1964 and keepers were discontinued. In a seemingly unlikely occurrence, the keeper's house was leveled by the Green Berets during a demolition exercise in 1970.

Only visible by boat or from the air, the lighthouse continues to be an important navigation aid. The 42-foot light tower now stands alone on the rugged otherwise barren atoll and is owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The two bushes for which it was named have long since vanished. Each summer, I try to organize a Penobscot Paddle & Chowder Society sea kayak trip to Muscle Ridge. About 15 years ago, I had the good fortune to visit Two Bush during one of those trips. Subsequently, the remote island has been an elusive destination. Fog, rough seas, and hazardous landings have prevented a return.

Recently, I endeavored to organize a Muscle Ridge kayak trip with Two Bush the primary objective. A small hand-carry landing adjacent to Spruce



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Our premium grade sealer inexpensively adds years of life! Head Island Bridge is the closest launch site for a paddle to the distant atoll. Access and egress at the landing can be a muddy misadventure at low tide so planning around that eventuality is important. Fortuitously, I identified a favorable forecast on a day when low tide was 11:30 A.M. Departing mid-morning and returning mid-afternoon would work perfectly. paddling Three

friends agreed to join me. The weather forecast was superb calling for light winds, partly sunny skies, and warm temperatures. However, the Maine Coastal Waters forecast was mixed. Advantageous two-foot seas were predicted but patchy fog was anticipated in the morning. Since visibility was expected to be over a mile, we decided to assess the situation when we arrived.

Conditions were clear when we met in Spruce Head. However, fog was observed in the distance. Equipped with maps, compasses, and a GPS, we felt adequately prepared to kayak around Spruce Head Island and traverse across Muscle Ridge Channel to the nearest island in the archipelago, Graffam Island. Whether circumstances would permit continuing to Two Bush was uncertain.

Our paddle along the north side of Spruce Head Island was uneventful. At the eastern end, we could see Graffam Island partially enveloped in fog. After collectively confirming the correct compass bearing for Graffam, we embarked on the busy 1.5 mile crossing. Relative tranquility was experienced during our traverse. By the time we arrived at Graffam, the fog had dissipated to haze.

Turning the southern terminus of Graffam, Crow Island was visible a long mile southeast. Situated to the east of Crow, there was no sign of Two Bush or the lighthouse.

Cruising along the southern periphery of the archipelago, we proceed-

Thursday, September 7, 2023



Kayakers approach Two Bush Island



Paddlers enjoy a rare visit to Two Bush Light

ed to the northern perimeter of Crow. Rounding the rugged shoreline, first the lighthouse then the entire island could be seen through the haze. Reaching Two Bush seemed likely. Landing was still uncertain.

A welcome calm was experienced during our crossing to the island. Landing on the western end was too hazardous. However a rocky beach was found on the extreme eastern terminus where we successfully disembarked. A hike in tall grass to the lighthouse ensued.

The weathered old lighthouse was a delight to visit. The prominent location provided outstanding views of the surrounding area.

After completing our exploration of Two Bush Island, we paddled north to a sandy beach on Bar Island. A shaded location at the head of the beach was an ideal lunch spot.

From Bar, we navigated around the northern end of Graffam Island and entered Muscle Ridge Channel. Once past tiny Hurricane Island, distinct Target Rock was detected amid the cliffs on Spruce Head Island. That was our bearing as we negotiated through strong tidal currents and completed the traverse. The incoming tide had covered most of the mud when we returned to Spruce Head Landing concluding one of the most remarkable voyages on the Maine coast.

Read about eight more exciting sea kayak escapades in my book Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine.

Ron Chase resides in Topsham. His latest book, "Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine" is available at www.northcountrypress.com/maineal-fresco or in bookstores and through online retailers. His previous books "The Great Mars are 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

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Midcoast Symphony Orchestra holds auditions

TOPSHAM, ME (September 1, 2023)— The Midcoast Symphony Orchestra (MSO) seeks experienced classical musicians to audition for the upcoming 2023/24 season. Musicians interested in joining the MSO for its season starting in September should call 207-315-1712 or email info@midcoastsymphony.org to set up an audition. For more information on the orchestra go to MidcoastSymphony.org.

The Midcoast Symphony Orchestra performs four concerts each season at both the Orion Performing Arts Center, Topsham, and the Franco Center in Lewiston.

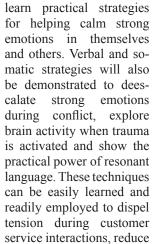
The Midcoast Symphony Orchestra is a community orchestra founded in 1990. Started as a chamber orchestra, there are now more than 80 members who performs a full range of orchestral literature from the classical to modern periods. A community-based organization, the orchestra draws players and audiences from south of Portland to Rockland along the coast, and inland from Augusta to the Lewiston-Auburn area. Its members all volunteer their time to practice and perform with the Midcoast Sympho-Under the guidance ny. of Music Director Rohan Smith, the orchestra continues to attract ever more professional-caliber musicians and award-winning guest artists.

'Helping To Calm Strong Emotions' returns in the fall

BELFAST, ME (September 1, 2023) -Registration is open for an online professional development program, "Helping to Calm Strong Emotions with Resonant Language." This four-day workshop, part of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension's professional development program, will be held from 4-5:30 p.m. every Wednesday from Sept. 13 to Oct. 4.

Participants

will





workplace friction, mitigate conflict between students and minimize stress with family and friends.

This program is designed to benefit people who work with youth, including childcare providers, ed techs, educators, guidance counselors, school administrators, social workers, teachers; frontline workers; people who work in service industries; municipal workers; and parents and guardians.

Program facilitator Peggy Smith, who holds a master's degree in literacy and language arts from the University of Pennsylvania, is a certified trainer with the International Center for Nonviolent Communication with over four decades of teaching experience. A co-founder of the Maine Nonviolent Communication Network, Smith is at the forefront of bringing empathic thinking and communicating to midcoast Maine.

nection and the ability to participate in these synchronous sessions as they are happening is required. Participants will receive a certificate of completion, and 0.6 CEUs/6 contact hours are available, upon request. The program cost is \$175 per person.

Page 5

For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, visit the program website or contact Kimberly Lai, um.fhc.pd@ maine.edu; 207.338.8002.

A stable internet con-

"Protecting our Waterways" panel discussion

RAYMOND, ME (September 1, 2023) -- On Thursday September 14 at 6:30, a panel discussion will look at protecting our waterways. Sebago and Lakes Region waterways are among the cleanest in the State of Maine and New England. PWD water quality is rated "excellent", Sebago Lake is the drinking water for the City of Portland and has the unique distinction of a legal exemption from the filtration requirement of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Given the growth of the region, how can we protect the water quality now and into the future? What role

do government agencies, municipalities, commercial and residential property owners and users of our waterways play to protect water quality? A panel of waterway experts will discuss water biology, ecology, property owner responsibility and governance as it relates to maintaining the health of our waterways here in the Lakes Region. Panelists:

 Nathan Whalen,
 Water Resources Specialist, Portland Water District
 Wendy Garland,
 Division Director for Environmental Assessment
 in our Water Bureau, ME
 Dept of Environmental Protection

Jess Fay/Tim Nangle, ME House and Senate Representatives

Alex Sirois Code Enforcement Officer and Chris Henson, Asst Code Enforcement Officer, Town of Raymond

· Lauren Pickford, Planning and Land Use Manager, Lakes Environmental Association

Refreshments will be served. This is a community event hosted by Hawthorne House in Raymond. There is no fee for attending; however, donations to the restoration fund for Hawthorne House are appreciated.

able housing needs.

For more informa-

tion about this program,

please contact founda-

tion@mainerealtors.com

REALTOR Foundation Awards Grants Totaling \$80,000

AUGUSTA. ME (August 4, 2023) - The Maine Association of **REALTORS®** Foundation, the charitable arm of Maine Association of REALTORS®, awarded \$80,000 has through its 2023 Competitive Grant Program to eleven organizations to address a variety of housing needs across Maine. The grants funded from the REALTOR® Affordable Housing Fund (RAHF) offer non-profit organizations assistance in helping Maine's most vulnerable households with providing meaningful housing solutions.

The following organizations each received a \$10,000 grant:

1. MidCoast Habitat for Humanity will use their funds to expand the operation of their Diversion Program and provide financial assistance to Hancock County individuals and families at risk of homelessness before they enter the shelter system.

2. Community Care will use their funds to provide security deposits, first months' rent, and rental assistance to 20 youths experiencing homelessness.

3. Rural Community Action Ministry will use their funds to support their homeless prevention activities including providing financial counseling and housing repairs/ modifications for 75-100 people.

4. Habitat for Humanity of Greater Bangor will use their funds to support building a new home in Penobscot County.

5. Through These Doors will use their funds to support some of their operating costs (electric, water, storm water, natural gas, telephone, fire,

cleaning) for a shelter expansion for survivors of domestic violence.

The following organizations each received a \$5,000 grant:

6. CHiP, Inc. will use their funds to provide heating assistance to income-eligible households

7. A House for ME will use their funds to support the offset of rent and utilities expenses for 3 residents.

8. Safe Voices will use their funds to cover a portion of housing navigator expenses and also provide utility and security deposit assistance for 30-40 families.

9. Habitat for Humanity 7 Rivers Maine will use their funds to support their Home Repair Program, which includes purchasing materials and covering job site costs for 4-6 families.

10. Mission at the

Eastward will use their funds to support their purchase of building supplies to make home repairs for very low-income families.

11. New Beginnings will use their funds to support providing rent assistance and covering management staff costs associated with helping homeless youth navigate/ transition from homelessness to stable housing.

According to Ashlee Simpson Black, 2023 Chair of the Maine Association of REALTORS® Foundation, 2022 Realtor® of the Year, and Broker at The Simpson Team at Realty of Maine in Bangor, "I am so proud of how the REALTORS® in Maine give back to the communities that we live in, work in, and that have made us who we are. Affordable housing has always been a concern, but in recent years it has

become increasingly apparent that those of us that can do something, must do something to fix the crisis. We at the Maine Association of REALTORS® Foundation are honored to distribute these Grants this year to 11 Non-Profit Organizations that do just that; each one uniquely addresses the housing crisis in their community to help the people of Maine have safe shelter. Thank you all for what you do!"

The REALTORS® Affordable Housing Fund (RAHF) was established in 1989 and derives its revenue from interest earnings paid by financial institutions on real estate trust accounts administered by REALTOR® offices across Maine.

Since 1991, the Foundation has awarded more than \$1.4 million in Competitive Program grants to address affordBest Source for Arts, Music and Theater! Your Hometown Paper.



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Entertainment

Auburn Community Concert | Robert Mac Performs **Band invites new members**



AUBURN, ME (September 1, 2023) -- The Auburn Community Concert Band has announced that rehearsals for their Fall season will begin on Wednesday, September 13th. This is an ideal opportunity for former high school and college band musicians to again experience the enjoyment of making music and performing in front of large audiences. Currently, the Auburn band has a specific need for additional clarinet players.

Membership requires a commitment to the group's weekly schedule of Wednesday evening rehearsals. Members must be able to read music, and have their own instruments. Weekly rehearsals take place on Wednesday evenings, from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the High Congregational Street Church, located between High and Pleasant Streets, in Auburn.

For the next couple of months, the band will be preparing for its annual holiday concert, which will take place on Wednesday, December 13th at the Franco Center in Lewiston.

Currently, the ACCB has 45 members, ranging in age from late-teens to early eighties. These members collectively represent a total of 15 central and western Maine towns. Before joining this organization, many of the group's volunteer musicians had last played in a school or community band some 10 to 20 years ago, according to band director Milt Simon. "New members are often nervous when they first join, because of the lapse of time since they last practiced," said Simon. He added that "most people regain their playing skills relatively quickly. New members should email their inten-

tions to Director Simon at auburncommunityband@ gmail.com prior to attending their first rehearsal. Prospective members, who are unable to participate in any of the September rehearsals, will have a second opportunity to join the band during the group's next "Open Membership Month", happening in January.

The concert band is currently celebrating its 42nd season. The organization was established by Simon back in 1981. Additional information regarding membership can be found on the band's website at www.auburncommunityband.com.

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

at Chocolate Church



BATH, ME (September 1, 2023) -- Robert Mac and Friend(s) will be performing at the Chocolate Church Arts Center on September 8 at 7:30PM for an evening of standup comedy that is smart, timely, silly, and just \$18.

Robert Mac started standupping in the last century and is finally figuring it out. Highlights

For Laughs in Montreal (the industry's premier festival), winning Comedy Central's Laugh Riots (national comedy competition), and recording two popular specials on Dry Bar (a platform for clean comedians).

He tours throughout the US, and recently, Europe. His act is unique, clever, and quirky. Known include performing at Just for his joke writing—or

as the kids say, "his savage pen-game"-he crafts smart jokes for smart folks

Mac grew up outside Detroit in a little town called Tucson, Arizona, which inspired his dry, deadpan delivery.

He also enjoys long naps on the beach!

Tickets: https://chocolate.na.ticketsearch.com/ sales/salesevent/15713

Fascinating fall programs at the Auburn Public Library

AUBURN, (September 1, 2023) --Keep watching every week for a new topic presented lege starting September

ME shelf life and transport, saturated in toxic chemicals, and generally not so great for actual consumpin coordination with Lew- tion when it comes to nuiston-Auburn Senior Col- trient value. Has science

we eat and making good choices is based on knowledge.

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19, at 2 PM with: Demon Foods: Are your Favorite Foods Killing you? Chef Larry Canepa will be the featured speaker at the Auburn Public

Library on September 19.

Chef Larry's talk will be

and agribusiness made the 'perfect food' yet? This devilishly popular 'foodpresentation tainment' will examine the current crazes, diets, fads, fact and fiction of 'demon foods'. We'll explore the foods and snacks of yesteryear and the fantastic foods of the future. We are what about foods grown for

es on food and culture on zoom. His motto is "to eat is a necessity, but to eat intelligently is an art".

This presentation is free and open to the public. You don't need to register, but you can check out the library website if you have questions. https://www.auburnpubliclibrary.org

Follow us on Facebook! Don't miss our weekly giveaways!

Rotundo Bill Signed, Supports Muslim Participation in Economy

ME AUGUSTA, (August 4, 2023) — On Tuesday, July 25, Gov. Janet Mills held a signing ceremony for a bill — now law — from Sen. Peggy Rotundo, D-Lewiston that allows credit unions to offer loans to members of the Muslim community. These loans are consistent with Islamic customs in that they do not require borrowers to pay interest in the traditional sense.

"My city of Lewiston is fortunate to have a sizable population of hard-working taxpayers who will benefit from this change," said Sen. Rotundo. "This law will make it easier for these community members, who are eager to live the American dream, to obtain mortgages and lines of credit, clearing the way for home- and business ownership, while not requiring them to violate their religious beliefs to do so.'

"Credit unions were created to help the underserved meet their financial needs. Thanks to the leadership of Senator Rotundo, Governor Mills, and the entire Maine legislature, we're proud to see these efforts continue," said Rob Caverly, Vice President of Advocacy and Outreach for the Maine Credit Union League. "The Bureau of Financial Institutions' willingness to innovate with credit union leaders like Jen Hogan means we are now one step closer to offering interest-free loan products to Muslim communities in Maine."

"This is a project I've been working on for more than five years, and I'm grateful to Senator Rotundo and Governor Mills for their shared commitment to the Muslim community," said Jen Hogan, President and CEO of Community Credit Union. "Community Credit Union prides itself on finding ways to provide financial wellbeing and financial equity for everyone and this change in law will enable us to implement a new program that provides our Muslim community the opportunity to realize the American dream of home ownership without sacrificing their personal beliefs. I look forward to the day when we can say that we have closed on the first interest-free mortgage in Maine."

LD 1277, "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Property Investment by Credit Unions," amends the laws regarding property investment by credit unions in order to facilitate lending that complies with Islamic law. This law prohibits riba, which can be defined as



Left to right: Rob Caverly, Maine Credit Union League (MCUL) Vice President of Advocacy & Outreach; Ellen Parent, MCUL Director of Compliance; Gov. Janet Mills; Nicholas Tammaro of the MCUL; Krista Simonis, MCUL Director Governmental Affairs; Sen. Peggy Rotundo; John Barr, Deputy Superintendent at the Maine Bureau of Financial Institutions; Jen Hogan, President & CEO of Community Credit Union; Gordon Laurendeau, Attorney at the Maine Bureau of Financial Institutions; Betsy Sibley, Chief Marketing Officer of Community Credit Union; and Lloyd LaFountain, Superintendent at the Maine Bureau of Financial Institutions.

interest paid on all loans of money or interest received from a deposit account. According to the website Investopedia, "Islam aims to promote charity and helping others through kindness [and to] remove sentiments of selfishness and self-centeredness, which can create social antipathy, distrust, and resentment. [M]aking riba illegal ... creates opportunities and contexts in which people are encouraged to act charitably loaning money without interest."

While Islamic law prohibits the paying of interest, it does not prohibit paying a fee for service. The new law authorizes credit unions to invest in property that they do not occupy for a limited time, allowing them to offer loan products to the Muslim community that respect Muslim beliefs. This change would essentially provide parity for credit unions with banks, which are already allowed to offer these products.

There are three models in which this lending can be offered. The installment loan model allows a financial institution to purchase the property, then turn around right away and sell it to the new owner for a price higher than the amount for which it was purchased in order to recoup what would have been charged in interest. The resulting installment loan would have a zero percent interest rate. The lease-to-own model allows the financial institution to purchase the property and lease it to the individual in a lease-to-own agreement. After the full amount of the property purchase has been paid through the lease agreement, the individual would own the property. Finally, the co-ownership model allows the financial institution and the borrower to be co-owners in the property. The two parties buy the property and the ownership of the property is determined by each party's investment. The borrower makes monthly payments, gradually purchasing all of the financial institution's ownership stake to become the sole owner of the property.

The new law will go into effect on October 5, 2023, 90 days after the Legislature adjourned on July 26.



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Aging Well Living Well features speakers, workshops, raffles

LEWISTON, ME (September 1, 2023) -The 2023 Aging Well Living Well Expo presented by SeniorsPlus kicks off on Friday, September 29 with a breakfast keynote address by Mary Lou Ciolfi, JD, MS, a Senior Program Manager at the University of Maine Center on Aging. Featuring workshops and lectures, the day-long event is a learning opportunity, and will be held at the Grand Summit Hotel and Conference Center at Sunday River in Newry.

The Aging Well Living Well Expo is presented by the nonprofit SeniorsPlus, the designated Area Agency on Aging for Western Maine. Tickets for the Expo, which runs from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on September 29, are \$35 per person and include breakfast and lunch, as well as entrance to workshops. Registration can be completed by calling 1-800-427-1241 or at seniorsplus.org/ AWLW, where a complete schedule of programming can be found. Raffle tickets may be purchased at the event for an additional fee. Seats are limited; advance registration is strongly recommended.

Ciolfi is a Senior Program Manager at the University of Maine Center on Aging where she has recently directed a national project creating a Designation of Excellence in person-centered long-term care. The title of her presentation will be "Looking Forward to Our Own Aging? It Shouldn't Be This Hard." She will share



Mary Lou Ciolfi, JD, MS, a Senior Program Manager at the University of Maine Center on Aging, will be the keynote speaker at the 2023 Aging Well Living Well Expo presented by SeniorsPlus on September 29.

insight into about the root causes of ageist ideas and

attitudes such as "anti-aging" and "greedy geezer," and what we can all do to support a positive shift in our beliefs about aging and older people.

The workshops and programs attendees choose from cover a spectrum of topics including law, health, exercise, cooking, and art. Workshop titles range from "Card Making" to "Lifelong Learning and the Brain," to "Self Defense for Older Adults" and "Know Your Rights: A Primer on the Americans with Disabilities Act." Workshops run 75 minutes each. In addition there will be a musical jam session, as well as a vaccination clinic offered by SeniorsPlus in conjunction with Northern Light Health. Flu and COVID vaccinations will be available to anyone over the age of 18. If interested, please be sure to bring your insurance card with you and check "interested" on the registration form. Exhibitor booths and displays provide an opportunity to learn about a variety of products, services, and information.

Almost 300 attendees attended the Expo in 2019, the last year it was held; 2023 will mark the thirteenth year that the event has been presented.

SeniorsPlus is grateful for the support of its sponsors of Expo: Turner Publishing, Inc., Healey & Associates, VRI & New England Emergency Response Systems, Aetna Medicare Solutions, Martin's Point Healthcare, **Richard Brothers Financial** Advisors, and University Credit Union.

5th Annual Auburn Blues + Brews Festival

AUBURN,

ME (September 1, 2023) --Join the City of Auburn on Saturday, September 9th for our 5th annual Auburn Blues + Brews Festival, presented by Emerson Toyota!

Maine's best brews, food trucks + fun in the heart of downtown Auburn!

Location: Main Street/Festival Plaza | Admission: Free!

This event is fun for all ages. Feel free to bring Enjoy LIVE blues, a chair. There is ample

free parking nearby in the municipal garage on Mechanics Row. Must have ID to purchase alcohol. The first 1,000 attendees will receive a free stadium cup!

Learn more at: www. auburnblues.com

Veterans to meet this month

LEWISTON, ME (September 1, 2023) --Some of the veterans who went to Sampson AFB for basic training will be having a get together at noon time September 14 at the Governors Restau- ries. Veterans of any era

rant in Lewiston. This is a monthly get together of veterans and others connected to Sampson AFB through the summer months for lunch and share stories and memo-

or branch of service and their guests are welcome to join.

FMI call 657-4909 or e-mail wwmtkwkr1933@ gmail.com

Bob Sawyer Sampson AFB 1953

St Anne Sodality to hold September 20th meeting

(September 1, 2023) -- The Ladies of St Anne Sodality of Holy Family Church, Prince of Peace Parish will be having a Pot Luck meeting at the Church Parish Hall on Wednesday

September 20,2023 at 6:00 PM. The doors will be open at 5 PM. The tickets for the meal is \$5.00 and must be purchased by September 15, 2023 by contacting any of the Board Members or

by calling Anita at 782-4516. After the meal, there will be the Installations of Officers, Counselors and Honorary Members. The Church Bulletin will have more information.





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Great Falls Comedy Club

AUBURN, ME (September 1, 2023) - The Great Falls Comedy Club announces more live stand up and improv comedy for September 8th and 9th at 7:30 pm.

Make laughter a priority and be part of the fun on Friday as Balderdash Academy returns to the club for their hilarious style for improv comedy.

Then on Saturday, a special event at the Lewiston Auburn Community Little Theatre: be sure to catch rising comedy star,



Sam Miller from Olvmpia, Washington, on tour for the first time in Maine. Miller, a prolific road-comic, has appeared all over the country and recently signed a three-record deal with Stand-Up Comedy Records.

Tickets can be found https://www.greatat fallscomedyclub.com or purchased at the door. The Great Falls Comedy Club is located inside Craft Brew Underground at 34 Court Street, Auburn. Lewiston Auburn Community Little Theatre is located at 30 Academy Street. Auburn.

For more information contact the club at info@ greatfallscomedyclub. com or by phone at 207-200-5366.

Free pocket constitutions available

AUBURN, ME (September 1, 2023) -- A Federal law passed in 2004 requires that all schools that receive Federal Funding provide a course to all students on the Constitution of the United States on Constitution Day, September 17th. The law is known as H.R. 4818, and the text is found in section 111(b). The Founding Fathers ratified the Constitution on this day, September 17th, in 1787.

The law was passed with the urging of then Senator Robert Byrd (D-W. Va.), who is remembered for always carrying a copy of the Constitution with him in his pocket. All our public and private schools are urged to observe this law, and give our Constitution at least this one day of national observance. Some schools have a special assembly, but most just incorporate a Constitutional lesson plan into their nor-

mal class day. We need to refocus on the once radical idea that the powers are given by the people to the government and not from the government to the people, and that these powers must be limited or tyranny will follow ..

In conjunction with Constitution Day, The

Author Livestream With J.R. Dawson Thursday, September 14th 5:30 PM EST 🔁 Lewiston public library

Optimist Clubs of Lewiston/Auburn, Gray-New Gloucester and the Tri Town Optimist Club of Minot, Poland, and Mechanic Falls are making available to any interested schools, teachers or students, free pocket sized Constitutions that can be used in the classroom or for home studies. Ouantities are limited and will be given on a first come first served basis. To order, please contact any Optimist Club Member, or call 783-5269.

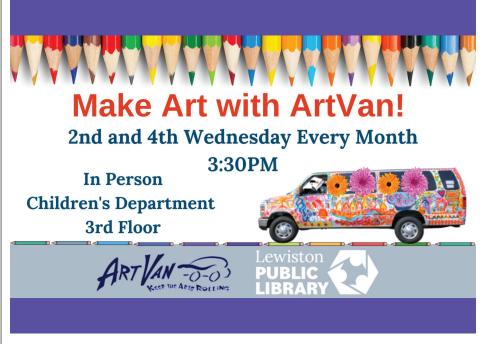
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Improv this weekend at | Make art with ArtVan



LEWISTON, ME (August 25, 2023) -- The Lewiston Public Library, in partnership with Art-Van, will be offering art programs in the Children's Department for children ages 5-14 on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday every month starting September 13th at 3:30pm. Children aged 5-8 must be accompanied by an adult.

ArtVan is a mobile art program that brings handson creative art opportunities for self-expression,

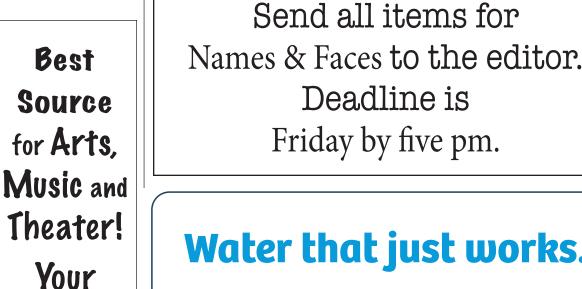
personal growth, and fun. All of their projects aim to inspire art-making with a variety of materials to explore. ArtVan programs engage all age groups, encourage time outside and reduce screen time, help youth stay connected, diminish stress, and provide release for unvented expressions of emotions, such as loss and confusion. ArtVan began in

2004 and has provided therapeutic art and strengths-based programs to under-resourced neighborhoods.

Page 9

Make Art with Art-Van is free, open to the public, and no registration is required. All art supplies will be provided.

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



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Local Boys Scouts attend Jamboree

Left to Right: Tyler MacVane, Alex Durocher, William Bar-

ry, Sean Barry, Daniel Harriman, Patrick Sarto, and JJ Sar-



Scouts from Maine visited the U.S. Capitol and received a tour before taking part in the National Jamboree

WASHINGTON D.C. (August 11, 2023) --The Boy Scouts of America Jamboree attracted over 13,000 scouts from around the world and over 5,000 visitors to the 10-day event in July including Scouts from Maine.

Over the course of the Jamboree, which takes place every four years, the BSA gathers together. Scouts and Scouters explored all kinds of adventures-stadium shows, pioneer village, Mount Jack hikes, adventure sports and more-in the heart of one of nature's greatest playgrounds. With 10,000 acres at the Bechtel Summit Reserve in West Virginia to explore, and directly across from the New River Gorge National Park, there was no shortage of opportunities to build Scouting memories.

The 45 Scouts and leaders from Pine Tree Council (which covers southern and western parts of Maine) took a bus to the event which was held at the Summit making stops in Washington, D.C. Contingent Leader, Joan Dollarhite wrote on July 17 at Camp Snyder outside Washington, D.C., "Tents are pitched, pizza ordered and eaten. We had a great ride and are looking forward to sightseeing tomorrow." The Scouts earned the money for the trip through many fundraisers such as selling popcorn outside the Lowes in Brunswick, selling meat favorite experience, when not working at the "Operation Arrow" program area, was the zip line but he also enjoyed the whitewater rafting. "It was pretty cool."

From soaring high above the ground on a zip line to conquering high ropes courses and scaling rock walls, there was no shortage of adventures at the Jamboree. Local Scouts took on the challenge of the climbing wall, navigated their way through orienteering courses, tried new things like branding or welding, and braved the rapids during an exhilarating whitewater rafting trip. There were also demonstrations from the U.S. Coast Guard and motivational speeches given by Scott Pelley, correspondent for 60 Minutes and former news anchor and managing editor of CBS News who talked about bravery; and Lt. General and Eagle Scout, John Evans, who spoke to Scouts about the importance of leadership. Maine's Scouts not only found their adrenaline rush but also took part in programs designed to foster personal growth and build self-confidence. They also found opportunities to overcome mental and emotional obstacles as well and engage in team-building exercises that required communication, problem-solving, and collaboration. These experiences not only enhance outdoor skills but also cultivate



Susan Shoberg of Windham served as the Scoutmaster for the female Scouts from Pine Tree Council who attended the Jamboree. "I enjoyed watching the youth be able to explore on their own and find adventure every day," Shoberg said. She enjoyed the zip line and meeting guest speakers such as Scott Pelley; Elaine Ho, director of diversity at NASA; and Scott Mann, founder of Operation Pineapple Express. Shoberg is the volunteer District Commissioner for the Abnaki District which delivers Scouting in Androscoggin and Oxford Counties.

Anthony Fortin of Augusta attends Cony High School and is a member of Troop 603. "I earned Radio, Sustainability, and Family Life Merit Badges; did some patch trading; soared across a zip line; had fun at the Camp bashes (parties); attended Catholic Mass with a thousand other Scouts; played the kazoo and the bugle; and met

many new people from all over the country," Anthony said.

Will Barry is an Eagle Scout from Saco Troop 310 and said that the highlight for him was "Definitely meeting people from all across the U.S., and even some from other countries! I made many new friends, and had a lot of fun experiences with them along the way."

12-year old Alexander Durocher of Dayton is a Second Class scout in Troop 310 enjoyed trying new things. "I tried fly fishing for the first time and almost completed the merit badge. I just have to catch a fish. I also tried out welding," Durocher said. "I like earning the Jamboree NOVA award -it was such an accomplishment. I wanted to try rock climbing and to visit the military exhibits more."

Michael Fortin, Committee Chair for Troop 603, also attended. "It was fulfilling to see all of the Scouts have this amazing experience," Michael Fortin said. "Many of the Scouts on this adventure did not know the leaders and conversely, we did not know most of them. Spending time together provided the leaders with the opportunity to get to know them and witness these young people on their Scouting journey. The heat, humidity, and hilly terrain were challenging for us older adults to navigate, but we endured it all to ensure our Scouts were safe and had an absolutely awesome time. We saw many examples of Scouts who unselfishly embraced the Oath and Law and demonstrated what it truly means to be a Scout."

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Susan Shoberg, Scoutmaster for the female Scouts who attended the Jamboree from Pine Tree Council, meeting guest speaker Scott Pelley of CBS News and 60 Minutes. Shoberg, who lives in Windham, is the volunteer District Commissioner serving Scouting in Androscoggin and Oxford Counties.



Troop 310



There was plenty of adventure at the National Jamboree ranging from rock climbing to white water rafting to zip lining. Here Will Barry of Saco prepares for Mountain Biking.

sticks, bottle drives, etc.

Sagan Guerrette of Saco is a senior at Thorton Academy and attended the National Jamboree as a member of the Jamboree staff. The 17-year old's

character and resilience. The Jamboree helped to develop leadership skills. They also took part in a massive good deed. Scouts at the National Jamboree assembled 5,000





Anthony Fortin of Troop 603 and Connor Poirier of Troop 631, both of Augusta, gave the thumbs up as they began cooking breakfast for the contingent at the sub-camp campsite at the Summit Reserve.

Spruill receives Auburn UU Rose Window



Board Member Betty Lynne presents the 2023 Rose Window Award to John Spruill, Jr.

AUBURN, ME (Au- Universalist Church of gust 11, 2023) -- The First Auburn has awarded its

2023 Rose Window award to John Spruill, Jr., of Sa-

battus. Recipients of the Rose Window are models of Unitarian Universalist principles and make exceptional contributions to their faith community.

Board Member Betty Lynne presented the honor at Auburn UU's Annual Meeting in June, in recognition of Spruill's significant impact on the health and vibrancy of the church. Citing his unwavering devotion to our church, she asked, "How cool is John Spruill?"

Spruill and his wife, Paula, joined the church in 2014 and each became active in many efforts. John is active in Music and Worship Associates circles, he's on Team Worship Tech, also involved in the annual Ferry Beach retreat leading workshops

and behind the scenes. These are all vital infrastructures of our church life and John's hands, heart and head move in all these ways to serve our beloved church community.

Most know him as a thoughtful, inspirational lay leader, preaching on many Sunday mornings and bringing warmth and light to dense and difficult topics. If Spruill is not at the pulpit or singing in the choir, he is up in the booth digitally recording worship service. His longtime interest in technology led him to begin recording services and posting them online in the Fall of 2019, even before the pandemic. These are available on the church's Facebook page and website.

ed the church's Annual All-Music worship service and Gospel Sunday, and led several book studies on race for the Social Justice Committee. In the greater community, he is called to serve the plight of the unhoused by working to build a coalition of churches to support a community homeless shelter.

Spruill is a devoted leader who inspires the congregation to work together, with patience and persistence, with good humor and a smile.

Last year's Rose Window recipients were Merry Carver and Dianne Chasse.

FMI about the First Universalist Church of Auburn, contact 783-0461 or visit www.auburnuu. org.

Spruill has host-

Grants strengthen Androscoggin County projects, nonprofits

ELLSWORTH & PORTLAND, ME (August 18, 2023) - More than \$82,000 in Maine Community Foundation (MaineCF) grants will help strengthen nonprofit organizations and projects in Androscoggin County. The nine grants through MaineCF's Community Building Grant Program include \$60,000 recommended by the Androscoggin County Committee and three additional grants totaling \$22,913 from people with donor-advised funds.

Grant recipients include:

Franco-American Heritage Center, for performing arts and heritage programs

Greater Androscoggin Humane Society, for necessary veterinary care for vulnerable community pets

Her Safety Net, to support survivors of domestic and sexual violence and for outreach to underserved communities

The Androscoggin County Fund is a permanent endowment that supports projects and nonJohn Ochira at 207-412-0837 or jochira@mainecf. org

The Maine Community Foundation brings people and resources together to build a better Maine through strategic giving, community leadership, personalized service, local expertise and strong investments. To learn more about the foundation, visit www. mainecf.org.

2023 Grants from the Androscoggin County Committee:

Franco-American Heritage Center, for performing arts and heritage programs: \$10,000

Greater Androscoggin Humane Society, for necessary veterinary care for vulnerable community pets: \$2,500

Her Safety Net, to support survivors of domestic and sexual violence and for outreach to underserved communities: \$7,500

Maine Community Integration, to empower Black immigrant women and girls to advance park equity: \$5,000

Museum

contact Program Officer experience for Lewiston resources: \$5,000 high schoolers: \$7,500

Somali Bantu Community of Maine, to increase its capacity for partnerships and nutrition, language, computer literacy and health education From donor-advised

funds (as of April 2023) ROIL, to engage Lewiston middle and high school students vulnera-

ble to juvenile justice sys-

tem involvement through

theater workshops and community support: \$10,000

Safe Voices, to certify six people in Housing Quality Inspections to move people experiencing homelessness into subsidized housing: \$7,913

Somali Bantu Community of Maine, to increase its capacity for partnerships and nutrition, language, computer literacy and health education resources: \$5,000

Candidates for Municipal Office City of Lewiston November 7, 2023 municipal election (Pursuant to Section 7.04 of the Lewiston City Charter: All candidate names shall appear on the ballot in alphabetical order.)

MAYOR Jonathan M. Connor 408 Pleasant Street Luke D. Jensen 11 Sylvan Avenue Joshua James Pietrowicz 145 Summer Street Carl L. Sheline 11 Morris Avenue **CITY COUNCIL** Ward 1 Joshua L. Nagine 189 Summer Street Ward 2 23 Nell Street Susan G. Longchamps Robert A. McCarthy 34 Rejane Avenue Ward 3 Scott A. Harriman 58 Shawmut Street Ward 4 Ricky R. LaChapelle 504 Pond Road Michael R. Roy 95 Charles Street Ward 5 Billie Jayne Bichrest Cooke 1 Walnut Street Eryn M. Soule-Leclair 26 Newman Street Ward 6 David B. Chittim 28 No Name Pond Road Kerryl Lee Clement 4 Macintosh Lane Ward 7 Timothy J. Gallant 533 Webster Street

profit organizations that strengthen communities. Proposals are submitted through MaineCF's Community Building Grant Program, the foundation's largest, and are reviewed by a committee of community members. The next proposal deadline is Feb. 15, 2024. For more information, visit www. mainecf.org/communitybuilding.

The Androscoggin County Fund, established in 1999, is built through donations from the community. For more information about the fund or grant program,

share stories of work and the diverse heritage of Central Maine through exhibits, educational programming and events: \$10,000

Phoenix No Limits Karate, to bring free, anti-bullying training to schools: \$5,000

Rural Community Action Ministry: to help prevent homelessness and hunger in low-income, rural communities through financial support and counseling: \$7,500

Tree Street Youth, for workforce training, leadership development and paid summer work

SCHOOL COMMITTEE		
At Large	Matthew D. Agren Megan D. Parks	209 East Avenue 12 Grovemount Lane
Ward 1	Jean Phoenix Irons McLaughlin	49 Brooks Avenue
Ward 2	Janet I. Beaudoin	69 Sherbrooke Avenue
Ward 3	Elizabeth A. Eames	133 Lisbon Street
Ward 4	Kevin P. Boilard Craig G. Charpentier	40 Reservoir Avenue 17 Randall Road
Ward 5	Ashley R. Medina	252 Blake Street
Ward 6	Meghan P. Hird	165 Dyer Road
Ward 7	Paul R. Beauparlant Donna M. Gallant	5 Hilltop Avenue 533 Webster Street

State Session addresses AARP Maine's priorities

PORTLAND, ME (August 11, 2023) AARP's purpose is to empower people to choose how they live as they age. Many policy changes enacted this legislative session will help Maine residents do just that.

Page 12

Fighting for Mainers 50-Plus and Their Families: AARP advocates for what is important to our 200,000 Maine members and Mainers aged 50 and over. Strengthened by a team of dedicated volunteers, AARP Maine gives older Mainers a voice at the state and federal levels. Volunteer advocates play a critical role in these efforts which AARP acknowledges through our annual Legislative Honor Roll. "Like many organizations, AARP Maine had a packed agenda this session, and our team of staff and volunteers kept up the momentum throughout." said Noël Bonam, AARP Maine State Director. "We also want to especially thank our lawmakers, and our Tuesdays at the State House volunteers for their hard work in Augusta. Our volunteers spent many hours connecting with their elected officials, testifying, and joining committee hearings — all to help make Maine an even better place to live for everyone."

At the start of 2023, AARP Maine announced its intention to address legislation establishing a Paid Family and Medical Leave program for Maine, advocating for fair and affordable utility rates, ensuring Mainers' financial well-being and addressing the lack of affordable housing.

AARP Maine appreciates the bipartisan efforts that resulted in the passage of many key priorities during the 2023 Legislative Session, including the below highlights:

Establishing a Paid Family and Medical Leave Program in Maine: In a historic win for Maine's family caregivers, on July 11, 2023 Governor Mills signed state budget legislation into law which includes language to establish a Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) program in Maine. This is welcome news for Maine's 166,000 family caregivers. many of whom work fullor part-time jobs while providing care. AARP Maine advocated for PFML to help alleviate family caregivers' financial, health and emotional stress and help retain participation in the state's labor force. The new law allows working Mainers to take 12 weeks of paid time off to:

Care for their own health:

Bond with the covered individual's child during the first 12 months after the child's birth, adoption, or placement for foster care;

Care for a family member with a serious health condition;

Care for a covered military member/military exigency; or

Take safe leave (most often used in cases of domestic violence).

Most workers in Maine are eligible for the PFML program which is funded by workers and employers contributing 1% of the workers total payroll, and this is split between the employee and employer. Maine is the 13th state in the nation to pass Paid Family and Medical Leave legislation.

Advocating for Fair and Affordable Utility Rates: AARP Maine continues to fight to keep utility rates fair and reasonable in the state with the country's oldest population. Maine already has electricity rates that are higher than the national average, and they have increased even further in the last twelve months. Rising utility costs, coupled with higher housing, food and medicine expenses, force many vulnerable, older adults to make tough choices. However, electricity costs are a particular concern and have increased faster than the rate of inflation.

One of the most important conversations in Augusta this session was on utility rates related to Net Energy Billing. The Net Energy Billing Program was instituted by Maine law and dictates the price paid for community solar, a price that is much higher than the actual value of the power. AARP Maine was actively involved in efforts to reform (or even end) the current version of the Net Energy Billing program for largescale solar developers and participated in many important conversations that helped drive home the importance of reforming this flawed program. Eventually the legislature passed moderate reform (LD 1986) to the Net Energy Billing program. AARP Maine will continue to push for improvements that benefit Maine's vulnerable consumers, particularly older adults who live on low and fixed incomes.

Fighting for Mainers' Financial Security: AARP worked with our Maine volunteers and legislative leaders to pass LD 1082, "An Act to Advance the Maine Retirement Savings Program." The Maine Retirement Investment Trust (MERIT) will allow every employee, regardless of the size of their employer's company, to start saving for retirement. This bill set December 2024 as the goal for giving all Maine workers access to a retirement savings plan which they can take with them from job to job. MERIT will make it easier for businesses to offer employees a way to save for retirement directly from their paycheck, helping them to secure their future financial well-being. AARP Maine is looking forward to supporting the Board and staff of MERIT in the implementation of the program in the upcoming months.

Addressing Affordable Housing: Maine is in an affordable housing crisis. The type and location of a home can affect almost every aspect of a person's life. Knowing this, AARP Maine fought against bills that sought to limit Mainers' access to Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). As small houses or apartments that exist on the same property lot as a single-family residence, ADUs play a major role in serving a national housing need. In the last legislative session, policymakers worked to pass a law that enabled residential property owners to become part of the solution to our housing crisis by allowing ADUs or duplexes on their single-family property. However, several bills sought to undo this innovate approach. AARP Maine advocated against these bills, and they were not passed.

Further, AARP Maine advocated for funding to bolster affordable housing in the state. This included advocating for the \$70 million in the state budget to build more affordable housing in Maine for workers and their families through the Rural Affordable Rental Housing Program and the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program.

Along with the above, AARP Maine:

Defeated legislation that sought to limit Mainers' access to voting by imposing voter ID restrictions that would be especially harmful to those residing in long-term care facilities. This ensured continued access to ballot drop boxes and improved access to voting;

Worked to pass legislation that protects homeowners from unfair agreements to exclusively list residential real estate for sale; and Fought for funding to support critical programs such as Maine Legal Services for the Elderly.

In addition to advocacy work, AARP is committed to providing valuable information and resources through a wide variety of free educational, interactive, and engaging events. Learn more about AARP in Maine at www. aarp.org/me and follow us (a)aarpmaine.

Venture Solar brings better solar to

BIDDEFORD, ME (August 11, 2023) - Venture Solar, a leading provider of solar panel systems, is proud to announce its expansion to Vacationland. The company has opened its newest location in Biddeford, where they are leasing a spacious 10,000-square-foot industrial facility located at 19 Pomerleau St. from MEC Realty, Inc. Here, they plan to create 60 new jobs

in the next six months and bring the best-performing solar panel system in the industry to the residents of Maine.

As a well-established solar energy company based in Connecticut, Venture Solar has been at the forefront of the renewable energy movement, with seven offices already operating on the east coast. Now fully operational in Biddeford, Venture Solar has expanded its reach and impact in the state of Maine, where the company saw a lack of quality solar options. As energy costs continue to rise at an alarming rate, Venture is ready to provide clean and sustainable energy solutions to the homes and businesses across the state.

"We've identified Maine as a market where homeowners are underserved with solar," said Co-Founder Alex Giles. "There's immense demand for solar, and there aren't enough companies to deliver a quality experience, which has led to long lead times for Maine homeowners."

Boasting a dedicated team of over 400 profesand more." sionals, the company is committed to the advancement of renewable energy technologies, offering high-efficiency solar panel systems optimized for maximum energy generation, alongside state-ofthe-art in-home monitoring tage of generous solar tax controls. credits, net metering pol-"We're excited to be icies, and other financial

here and offer customers more options," said Alex Yackery, Co-Founder. "Beyond just being a quality solar provider, we are also providing unique financing options and offerings beyond solar, including EV charging, home batteries,

Maine has been actively promoting solar panel adoption through various incentives and initiatives, making it an attractive market for Venture Solar. Residents and businesses in the state can take advan-

incentives that significantly reduce the upfront costs of installing solar systems. Venture Solar is dedicated to assisting its customers in accessing these benefits, making the transition to clean energy even more accessible and affordable.

Maine

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



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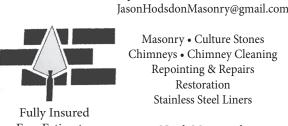
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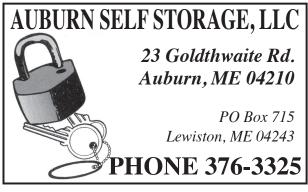
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Sept 8

LEWISTON -- Opening Minds through Art (OMA) art show Friday, September 8, 2023 from 1-3 p.m. SeniorsPlus, 8 Falcon Road, Lewiston, ME. The public is invited to an art opening in the Lewiston headquarters featuring OMA artists and their art. Free. Contact SeniorsPlus at 207-795-4010, edcenter@seniorsplus.org.

Sept 8

LEWISTON --10:00am at the Lewiston Public Library: BABY'S 1ST MASTERPIECE -MESS-FREE PAINTING

Help your baby create a mess-free masterpiece. Free. No registration required. Recommended for caregivers and their children ages 3 months-12 months. 513-3133; www. LPLonline.org

Sept 9, Oct 7, Nov 4, Dec 2, Jan 6, Feb 3, Mar 2, Apr 6, May 4

WESTBROOK --Prides Corner Community Church, 235 Pride St. Bean Supper \$10 per person: Two kinds of baked beans, mac and cheese, ham, coleslaw, bread and brownie. Eat in at 5:00PM or Take Out from 4:30-5:30PM. Call 207-415-9260 to reserve your individual meal today.

Sept 13 and 2nd and 4th Wednesday each

month LEWISTON --MAKE ART WITH ART-

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

VAN 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month, 3:30PM starting September 13th

ArtVan will be providing hands-on creative art program in the Children's Department of the Lewiston Public Library for children ages 5-14 (ages 5-8 must be accompanied by an adult) for self-expression, personal growth, and fun.

Free. All art supplies will be provided. 513-3133; www.LPLonline.org Sept 14

AUBURN -- Job-SINME is hosting a Career Fair that is Free to job Seekers at the Hiton Garden Riverwatch on Sept 14, 2023 from 3-6 PM. Some of the best companies in Maine will be there looking to hire!

Sept 29

NEWRY -- 2023 Aging Well Living Well Expo: A daylong event featuring lectures, workshops, music, raffles, and more. Friday, September 29, 8 a.m.– 3:30 p.m. at Grand Summit Hotel and Conference Center at Sunday River, Newry \$35 per person in-

cludes breakfast and lunch. Seats are limited. Register by calling 1-800-427-1241. Visit www.seniorsplus.org/AWLW for more information. Oct 21

WESTBROOK --Annual Holiday Craft Fair and Silent Auction

Where: Prides Corner Community Church, 235 Pride St. Westbrook, ME 04038

When: October 21, from 9AM to 3PM

Handmade crafts, baked goods and very popular silent auction items featuring sports memorabilia, game tickets, themed gift baskets, fabulous items and gift certificates! SI-LENT AUCTION ENDS AT 2PM.

Oct 28, 29

LEWISTON, TOP-SHAM -- "Soulful Expressions" Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023, 7:00 p.m. - Franco Center, Lewiston; Sunday, Oct. 29, 2023, 2:30 p.m. - Orion Performing Arts Center, Topsham

Jan 20, 21

LEWISTON, TOP-SHAM -- "Song & Dance Music from Around the World" Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024, 7:00 p.m. - Franco Center, Lewiston; Sunday, Jan. 21, 2024, 2:30 p.m. - Orion Performing Arts Center, Topsham

Mar 23, 24

LEWISTON, TOP-SHAM -- "A New Artistic Mélange" - Emily Isaacson, Guest Conductor Saturday, Mar. 23, 2024, 7:00 p.m. - Franco Center, Lewiston; Sunday, Mar. 24, 2024, 2:30 p.m. - Orion Performing Arts Center, Topsham

May 18, 19

LEWISTON, TOP-SHAM -- "Cityscape, Seascape, Soundscape" Saturday, May 18, 2024, 7:00 p.m. - Franco Center, Lewiston ; Sunday, May 19, 2024, 2:30 p.m. - Orion Performing Arts Center, Topsham

Every 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Monday

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

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

This program is free and recommended for homeschool families with children of all ages. No



registration is required. Contact info. 513-3133, LPLKids@lewistonmaine. gov

Second and fourth Thursdays

LEWISTON YOUTH TRADING CARD GAME CLUB held from 4 PM to 5 PM at the Lewiston Public Library. Join the Youth Trading Card Game Club to play, learn, trade, and compete with your peers! Games include Pokémon, Magic: the Gathering, and more. All skill levels are welcome. Library staff and volunteers will be available to teach new players and coach developing ones. Free. For kids & teens ages 8-18. 513-3135; www. LPLonline.org

Wednesdays

LEWISTON -- Knitting Group, Dates: Wednesdays, Time: 4:30–7:30 p.m., Facilitator: SeniorsPlus Staff, Location: Education Center, 8 Falcon Road, Lewiston Join our knitting group to work on your own project, learn from others, and socialize. Classes are free, unless noted. SeniorsPlus is fully accessible. Hearing assistive equipment is available upon request. For more information or to register, call us at 207-795-4010 or visit seniorsplus.org.

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SENIOR TRIPS

FRYEBURG FAIR -**OCTOBER 3, 2023 -**Senior Day at Fryeburg Fair. 65 and over get in for free . For those under 65 the price is \$15.00. You are responsible to pay for your admission. Bring something with you showing proof of your age. We will leave the Lewiston park and ride at 8 a.m. and be dropped off at the entrance with a return time of around 5 p.m. You will have plenty of time to view exhibits. visit the animals and enjoy the food. The price for the bus and driver's tip is \$52.00. Deadline to sign up is August 29, 2023.

Reflections of Italy -October 9 - 18, 2023

Trip includes 10 days, 9 nights lodging, and 12 meals, including Rome, Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel, St. Peter's Basilica, Assisi, Perugia, Cortona, Florence, Michelangelo's DAVID, Chianti Winery & Cooking Class, Venice, St. Mark's square, boat ride to Murano Island, Milan and much more. For more information on any of our trips, please contact Claire Bilodeau (207)784-0302 or Cindy Boyd (207)345-9569.

NOVEMBER 29, 2023 TO DECEMBER 1, 2023 - WHITE MOUNTAIN HOTEL & RESORT -This trip includes 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 dinners and 2 different entertainment shows, an Austrian sleigh ride at Nestlenook Farm in Jackson, NH., Green or in town shopping. All room and meal taxes & amp; gratuities included. The price is \$589.00

per person double occupancy. A \$100.00 deposit per person is due at registration. Final payment is due October 28, 2023. Pick up location is The Auburn Mall (in back of J.C. Penney) 500 Center Street, Auburn, ME at 10:30 A.M. For more information on any of these trips please contact Claire at 207-784-0302 [Home] or 207-576-8604 [Cell] or Cindy at 207-345-9569 [Home].

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Lewiston author to speak on local Franco-American history

LEWISTON, ME mission." (September 1, 2023)-The Franco Center has announced a new program called Books and Stories Series at noon on Wednesdays. Admission to these author talks is free. The Books and Stories program features an author who will read from his/her book, have books available for purchase and signing, and follow up with questions and answers after the presentation

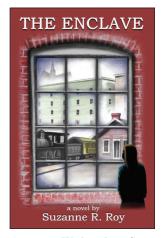
"The program brings people together of all ages and backgrounds to explore and share ideas about culture, heritage, and historical identities through storytelling events with authors," said Denise Scammon, marketing and development director at the Franco Center. "This is a new program for the Franco Center and it has been funded in part by the Maine Humanities Council and Maine Arts Com-

At noon Wednesday, Sept. 13, Suzanne Roy, author of "The Enclave" and "The Legacy" will discuss her books that follow a fictional French-Canadian immigrant girl who attempts to keep her dreams alive as she grows into womanhood in the "Little Canada" enclave her culture created to protect itself from the American melting pot. The girl's journey toward self-discovery and self-determination is one that women of all cultures are still struggling to complete. "The Legacy" is the stand-alone sequel to

the "The Enclave." Roy, a retired independent compliance consultant, taught English at University of Maine Orono from 1972 to 1974 and later taught writing as a member of the adjunct faculty of UMA. She wrote the bilingual children's television series

"La Bonne Adventure" in the mid 1970s, did Franco American research housed at University of Southern Maine, taught a local history class at St. Dom's in 1980, and wrote several plays about Franco Americans, two of which were produced and won awards in Australia. Roy is a native and resident of Lewiston and is currently working on her third historical novel.

Other dates, authors, and books in the series include Sept. 27 David Vermette author of "A Distinct Alien Race: The Untold Story of Franco-Americans: Industrialization, Immigration, Religious Strife," and Oct. 4 Paul Dionne author of "The Priestess and the Pope" and new "Madeleine's Inquisition." It is suggested that participants buy the featured books ahead of the book talk at an online or favorite book store. Doors open at 11:30



At noon Wednesday, Sept. 13, local author Suzanne Roy will discuss her novels "The Enclave" and "The Legacy "which she based on local Franco American history. Admission is free. Submitted photos.

a.m. Presentation starts at noon. Attendees may bring a bag lunch. The Franco Center is at 46 Cedar St., Lewiston. Parking is available in the mill lot. The building is handicap accessible on the Lincoln St. Alley side.



Fundraising concert for Franco Center Sept. 10

LEWISTON, ME (September 1, 2023) -Musicians who support the Franco Center's mission work and the performing arts in general, got together to create a fundraiser concert for all the pos-

Center brings to the community.

members Several of the Midcoast Symphony Orchestra and musician friends of the Franco Center will perform in this

itive things the Franco fundraising concert at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 10.

> "We are very grateful for the opportunity to host these musicians at the Franco Center. Our Performance Hall has great acoustics, great seating,

and great views wherever you sit," said Jake Hodgkin, production manager at the Franco Center.

Tickets are free for 17-under accompanied by an adult. Advance tickets for adults are \$20

and \$25 at the door day of show.

Doors and cash bar open at 1 p.m. Tickets can be purchased in person between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesday, at www.francocenter.org,

and 207-689-2000.

The Franco Center is at 46 Cedar St., Lewiston. It is handicap accessible on the Lincoln St. Alley side of the building. Parking is in the mill lot across the street.



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