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New minister begins at Auburn UU



Reverend Patrick McLaughlin to serve at Auburn UU

AUBURN, ME (September 1, 2023) -- The First Universalist Church of Auburn is pleased to welcome Reverend Patrick McLaughlin as full-time contract minister for the 2023-2024 church year. Reverend McLaughlin's ministry officially starts on August 28, and he will be in the pulpit for the annual Ingathering Water Communion Service on Sunday, September 10 at 10a.m.

The church's Board of Directors has expressed excitement and joy for this new chapter in the life of their congregation.

Rev. McLaughlin comes to Auburn from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Manchester, New Hampshire, where he served as the settled minister from 2013-2022. He has also served the Unitarian Universalist Association as a board trustee and secretary. Rev. McLaughlin holds a Master of Divinity degree from Meadville Lombard Theological School. As a lay UU, he held a wide range of positions in his home congregation, Palomar UU Fellowship in Vista, California.

McLaughlin is a native of Denver, but grew up around the western US, as well as in the Australian Outback and Brussels, Belgium. He and his wife, Barbara, reside in Chester, NH, and have two adult sons.

His previous careers include a wide range of writing and editing jobs (spacecraft operating manuals and presentations for Congress, as well as journalism), and homeschooling two sons. He follows only one sport — politics — but has a wide range of hobbies, which include reading, role-playing and board games, gardening and home renovation.

First Universalist Church of Auburn is located at 169 Pleasant Street (enter on Spring St., across from Dairy Joy). Parking: accessible. For more information, call 783-0461 or visit auburn.org



DEMPSEY CHALLENGE
Presented by Karyopharm Therapeutics

Rally Together and make life better for people impacted by cancer!

Saturday, September 23rd | Lewiston, Maine -OR- Virtually

www.DempseyChallenge.org

More Info In Our Special Section Pages 7-10

15 years of making life better for those impacted by cancer

This year's Dempsey Challenge presented by Karyopharm Therapeutics marks 15 years of making life better for people impacted by cancer.

Come together on this one, powerful day to rally, honor, and celebrate 15 years of providing comfort, connection, compassion, and choice to cancer patients, their loved ones, care partners, and survivors—all at no cost.

WHAT IS THE DEMPSEY CHALLENGE?

The Dempsey Challenge presented

by Karyopharm is an annual run/walk/ride experience to benefit the Dempsey Center. With two physical Centers in Lewiston and South Portland, Maine, and our third, virtual Center—Dempsey Connects, which launched in 2020—our specially-trained team of experts provides curated, holistic care to people impacted by cancer in Maine and beyond. Founded by actor Patrick Dempsey in 2009, this flagship fundraising event has raised over \$18 million for the Dempsey Center since its inception, with 100% of all funds raised

going directly to client care.

WHAT'S NEW FOR 2023?

We've taken the Dempsey Challenge of the past and combined it into one day of inspiration, participation and celebration as we rally together to make life better for people impacted by cancer. On Saturday, September 23rd, you'll choose to participate in a 5K run/walk, a 10-, 25-, 50- or 65-mile metric century cycling event or a brand new 25-mile event --our take on a duathlon-- that will challenge you to run

See Dempsey, page 7

Fascinating fall programs at the Auburn Public Library

AUBURN, ME (September 8, 2023) -- Keep watching every week for a new topic presented in coordination with Lewiston-Auburn Senior College starting September 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 about foods grown for shelf life and transport, saturated in toxic chemicals, and generally not so great for actual consumption when it comes to nutrient value. Has science and agribusiness made the 'perfect food' yet? This devilishly popular 'foodtainment' presentation 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 we eat and making good choices is based on knowledge.

Chef Larry Canepa is a Certified Culinary Educator and presents classes 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.auburn-publiclibrary.org>

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Treasurer Beck announces auction of unclaimed property

AUGUSTA, ME (September 8, 2023) – Maine Treasurer Henry Beck announced today that his office, which manages Maine's unclaimed property program, will begin sending thousands of tangible items for auction that may belong to you or your heirs. These items include coins, jewelry and other collectibles of value, excluding military medals or military decorations.

Each year, the Maine Office of the State Treasurer (OST) receives contents of safe deposit boxes considered abandoned by Maine's banks and credit unions. Called "safekeeping," the safe deposit boxes are presumed abandoned when the property and proceeds remain unclaimed by the owner for more than three years after the

expiration of the lease or rental period on the box or other depository. By law, the contents of these safe deposit boxes become the care of the State of Maine, where they are held while the office searches for the owner(s).

The Treasurer's Office utilizes many avenues of owner outreach. Telethons, direct mail, town hall outreach, press releases and partnership with the state elected officials are examples of the various methods used. Currently, the most effective tool is the State Treasurer's searchable database at www.maineunclaimedproperty.gov where individuals can search their name and file a claim online.

When the amount of tangible unclaimed property exceeds the space to

house it, the Treasurer's office conducts an auction. The office has not conducted a formal auction in nearly twenty years, and therefore is exceeding physical space limits to store property. Property from these safe deposit boxes dates as far back as 1993 and as recent as 2018, and will become part of an ongoing online auction if the Treasurer's Office is unable to find owners/heirs. Note that by law and practice, we never auction military medals or military decorations.

According to Beck, "Even though an incredible amount of due diligence has already occurred to find the rightful owners of this property, we have decided to advertise the names of those with tangible items that will be sent for auction

if the owners or their heirs are not located," he said.

About safekeeping: Safe deposit box contents must be reported to the state where the contents are held.

Information on the contents of boxes located in Maine must be reported by November 1 of each year.

The contents of safekeeping are to be delivered to the Office of the State Treasurer no later than June 1 of each year. Once Auctioned, the cash value received from the sale will be available for the owner to claim.

About the auction company: The Office of the State Treasurer went out to bid for an auction company to provide auction services over the next five years. The winning

bidder was Lone Star Auctioneers out of San Antonio, Texas. Lone Star has been providing online auction services to unclaimed property programs across the country.

About Unclaimed Property: Unclaimed property consists of money and other financial assets that are considered lost or abandoned when an owner cannot be located after a specified period of time of inactivity. It includes items such as bank accounts, uncashed checks, life insurance policies, unpaid wages, stocks and dividends, refunds, and safe deposit box contents. Unclaimed Property does not include real estate, animals or vehicles.

Each and every year, tens of millions of dollars go unclaimed by Maine

residents. These financial assets are turned over by thousands of national and local businesses and organizations by a law called MRSA Title 33, Chapter 45: Maine Revised Unclaimed Property Act. <http://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/33/title33ch45sec0.html>.

The Treasurer's office holds these assets, free of charge, until claimed by the owner or heir. The State is currently holding over \$310,000,000 in unclaimed property. In the month of June, 2,114 claims were made against unclaimed property totaling \$2,940,533.08 in payments to Maine people. The highest single claim paid in the month of June was for \$161,409 (from a bank account). In June of last year, 2,646 claims were paid totaling \$2,171,671.11.

\$350K to support Maine small business export growth

WASHINGTON DC (September 8, 2023) – Today, Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman, head of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the voice in President Biden's Cabinet for America's 33 million small businesses, announced \$20 million in grants awarded to 49 state and territory international trade agencies across the country as part of the SBA's State Trade Expansion Program (STEP).

Locally, Maine International Trade Center (MITC) was awarded \$350,000 of that pool to help provide small businesses with the information and tools they need to succeed in export-related activities. Exporting activities include participating in foreign trade missions, market sales trips, designing international marketing campaigns, participating in export trade show exhibits, and attending training

workshops, as well as other important means of engagement.

"For over ten years, the SBA's State Trade Expansion Program has been an important federal and state partnership to get funding directly to small businesses seeking to grow their businesses and our economy with international trade opportunities. And with these funds, small businesses can get trade-ready, attend trade shows in foreign markets, and grow through global e-commerce," said Administrator Guzman. "The Biden-Harris Administration remains committed to leveling the playing field for entrepreneurs and ensuring American small businesses can promote their products and services to over 95% of the world's consumers who live abroad."

Since its creation in 2010 as part of The Small Business Jobs Act, the STEP program has award-

ed \$235.5 million in grants and directly supported over 13,000 small businesses' international expansion and export growth. As states improve their exporting skills, the return on investment keeps improving- last year, every \$1 in STEP funding yielded \$43 in export sales.

Here in Maine, since 2020, over 60 small businesses have received financial assistance to support their international exporting goals, resulting in \$6.9 million in actual sales and an additional \$76.3 million in the next 12-18 months. These figures represent a 13:1 immediate return on investment and a projected 143:1 future return on grant funds.

"STEP's profound impact stands as a testament to the SBA's unwavering support of U.S. small businesses seeking to grow their international footprint," said Acting Associate Administrator for

International Trade Claire Ehmann. "As STEP matures beyond its first decade, the SBA will continue modernizing and marketing this signature program that helps small businesses enter and expand into the international marketplace."

"The funding that Maine International Trade Center (MITC) receives from SBA through the STEP program is a vital component of the assistance we offer to small Maine companies that are ready to enter or expand international markets," MITC President Wade Merritt said. "Global competitiveness requires a company to make significant investments in market analysis and entry methods. In some cases, the financial assistance provided through this program can be the difference between taking that next step for international business growth or passing on

an opportunity."

Maine International Trade Center (MITC) will begin accepting applications from eligible Maine companies for the new grant funds on October 1, 2023. Learn more at <https://www.mitc.com/business-support/funding/>

STEP awards help entrepreneurs compete globally by offsetting costs incurred by export related activities, including participating in foreign trade missions, designing international marketing campaigns, participating in export trade show exhibits, attending training workshops, and other important means of engagement.

Strengthening the base of small business exporters and improving global competitiveness on the international stage are key components of the SBA's small business strategy, in line with the Biden-Harris Administration's goals of expanding

opportunity for America's small businesses to grow and compete.

This year's awardees were selected after a highly competitive application process. Individual STEP awards are managed at the local level by state government organizations and nonprofit entities. To find out if your state or territory has earned an award, and to apply for funding opportunities, please visit: www.sba.gov/STEP and explore how small business counseling from local SBA Resource Partners can help inform your export strategy.

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



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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Midcoast Symphony Orchestra announces 34th season

TOPSHAM, ME (August 18, 2023) —The Midcoast Symphony Orchestra (MSO), conducted by Rohan Smith, returns to the stage for its 34th concert season with performances in Topsham and Lewiston from October 2023 to May of 2024. This year's concert series features a diverse mixture of both canons from the classical musical repertoire by such composers as Beethoven, Mozart, and Shostakovich, as well as many contemporary works including pieces by Latin composers Ginastera, Moncayo, and Piazzolla as well as well known African American composers William Grant Still and the up and coming Jessie Montgomery. The MSO is celebrating Music Director Rohan Smith's 20th year as conductor by revisiting some old favorites as well as tackling Debussy's great masterpiece "La Mer" for the first time. Other highlights include songs by Aaron Copland, symphonic dances from West Side Story, and the extremely complex "Enigma Variations," by Edward Elgar, which will be conducted by guest artist Emily Isaacson. Complete concert and ticket information is available at midcoastsymphony.org. Season tickets for the four classical concerts are now available for \$75. Individual tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. All concert tickets are free for students ages 18 and under, or for college students with ID. Audiences are encouraged to purchase tickets in advance online or by calling the box office at (207) 481-0790.

The upcoming MSO season represents a milestone for Music Director Rohan Smith who will be conducting the orchestra for the 20th season. Over the years, Smith has led the MSO to critical acclaim in performances of the major symphonic repertoire of all eras to the present. When reflecting on his longevity, Smith commented, "Sometimes you have relationships that really work when the conductor and

orchestra grow together and that is what we have here. The conductor learns from the orchestra, and the orchestra learns from the conductor. Both grow together and discover things together." One of the main aspects of the MSO's volunteer musicians that continues to impress Smith is "the players [motivation] to play because of their intense desire...to perform and study orchestral music from many different time periods, cultures and genres." He is excited by the inclusion in the 2023/24 season of a diverse selection of material that mixes challenging material from both the old school composers of Europe and America along with some of the newer voices who are just beginning to receive the prominence they deserve. According to Mr. Smith, "The professionals knew about these wonderful composers, but they just didn't really get the exposure they deserved, and that has just widened the musical experience for all of us, it has broadened it all out which is a really wonderful thing. So I am really glad to see that Midcoast is consciously programming diverse voices from the present and the past, which is great." Rohan Smith is Director of Orchestral and Chamber Music at Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire, where he conducts the Symphony Orchestra and the Chamber Orchestra. As an orchestral violinist in New York, Smith performed regularly with the American Symphony Orchestra, the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, the American Composers Orchestra, the New Orchestra of Westchester, and on Broadway.

The MSO's upcoming season also features a mixture of professional guest artists in keeping with the MSO's tradition of featuring the best artists in the region to accompany the midcoast's best known community orchestra. The guest artist for the October concert is pianist Anastasia Antonacos, who will be joining the MSO for

Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3. Antonacos is the founding director of 240 Strings, the Artistic Director of Fox Islands Concerts, and a faculty member at the University of Southern Maine. Baritone Philip Lima will be bringing to life many of the songs in the MSO's second concert that features song and dance music from around the world. Lima has appeared as soloist with the Boston Pops and over 70 orchestras, choral societies, and concert series across the United States and in Korea and Ukraine, and he is the Assistant Chair of Berklee College of Music's Voice Department. Appearing as the guest conductor for the third concert of the season is Emily Isaacson, the founder and artistic director of Classical Uprising. Isaacson stated that she "looks forward to making music with the great musicians of the Midcoast Symphony Orchestra and working with them to bring incredible performances to our Maine audience." One of only a handful of female conductors in the country, Isaacson was named the 2018 Maine Artist of the Year by the Maine Arts Commission, one of 50 Mainers Leading the State by Maine Magazine, and the 2022 winner of the American Prize.

The first MSO concert of the 2023/24 season is titled "Soulful Expressions" and will take place over the weekend of October 28 and 29, 2023. The concert features three pieces, including the well-known Symphony No 5 by Shostakovich. The concert begins with "Aspiration" from William Grant Still's Symphony No. 1. Still was the most immediately successful African American classical composer in the first half of the twentieth century and is considered by many to be the dean of African American composers. The second piece features Anastasia An-

tonacos in Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3, one of the beloved composers most popular works in that genre. The concert concludes with a performance of Shostakovich's landmark symphony which was composed as a reflection on criticism to artistic work by Soviet authorities. According to Smith, the symphony hits the listeners "like a coded message of endurance of suffering in a country under invasion" one that is "exceptionally appropriate to be played in the midst of this horrible war in Ukraine." The 45-minute masterpiece promises to wrap listeners in a complex tapestry of emotions as it unfolds.

The MSO's second concert, "Song and Dance Music from Around the World," is presented on January 20 and 21, 2024, and is suitable for family audiences with its mixture of popular medlies and a "Meet the Instruments" event before the formal portion of the concert. This popular event allows children of all ages the chance to experiment with the various instruments played by symphony members to engage their curiosity about the genre. The program begins with three dance pieces by composers from Argentina and Mexico that


will feature Latin rhythms familiar to many audience members. These will be followed by several old American songs by Aaron Copland that originate in hymn tunes and folksongs. A polka by Johann Strauss, Jr. and three songs from "The Boy's Magic Horn," by Gustav Mahler, set the stage for the well-known music from West Side Story, composed by Leonard Bernstein. Music Director Smith is looking forward to the "wonderful juxtaposition of music that is pretty new from the Americas, and music that is tried and true from the old world." Audience members of all ages are sure to enjoy this mix.

The Midcoast Symphony Orchestra is thrilled to welcome guest conductor Emily Isaacson for the third concert in the series "A New Artistic Mélange" offered on March 23 and 24, 2024. The evening begins with the extremely contemporary "Hymn for Everyone" which Jessie Montgomery wrote in 2022 as a partial response to the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The next piece, Mozart's Symphony No. 38, is another audience favorite that features strong and varied wind and brass parts. The final work in this concert is

"Enigma Variations," composed by Edward Elgar as a series of sketches about his friends, which Music Director Smith terms an "exceptionally virtuosic piece" that audience members are sure to find appealing.


The 2023/24 concert series ends the weekend of May 18 and 19, 2024, with an evening titled "Cityscape, Seascape, Soundscape" consisting of three pieces, beginning with Copland's "Quiet City" which will feature symphony soloist Tim Kenlan on trumpet and Billie Jo Brito on English Horn. That work is followed by "La Mer," the middle of Claude Debussy's three great orchestral trilogies. The final piece, Beethoven's Symphony No 7, is a piece the MSO has performed before, and one that most audience members have heard before, but as Smith states, "Any of the great Beethoven symphonies are pieces you go back to again and again to revisit and relearn and rediscover, and these masterpieces never fail to be revealing." The public is invited to read more about all of the compositions that are part of the 2023/24 MSO season on the company's website at www.midcoastsymphony.org.


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Seniors Not Acting Their Age To Islesboro and Back

By Ron Chase

A paddling trip to Islesboro begins with a three-mile open water crossing of West Penobscot Bay. During a prior outing, I was part of a group that encountered gusty winds and rough seas when we returned from the island. So planning a cruise there entails careful analysis of the weather in advance, particularly winds.

After watching the weather for several days, I identified an early August day with light winds predicted throughout. Warm temperatures and sunny skies made the forecast particularly appealing. I had a glowing forecast but still needed to recruit some paddling companions. An email announcement with my outdoor club, Penobscot

Paddle & Chowder Society, resulted in three interested boaters.

Two of the prospective participants, Bud Gilbert and Allan Fuller, proposed paddling a tandem canoe. I had never been involved in an ocean trip where a canoe was used to navigate to distant islands. However, given the favorable forecast and their strong canoeing skills, it seemed like a reasonable plan. After all, in prehistoric times Native Americans frequently canoed to the islands in birch bark canoes. And, the present day canoeists would have the support of two sea kayakers, Mark Nelson and me.

Winds were almost non-existent when the four of us met at Lincolnville Beach next to the

Islesboro Ferry Terminal on a warm, sunny morning. Launching from the sandy beach was very convenient. We were pleased to note conditions appeared calm in the bay. The ferry was loading as we departed.

The crossing was completed without complications. The ferry passed as we approached Warren Island, the closest island in the Islesboro archipelago. The large vessel left a succession of sizeable swells in its wake. Our canoeing companions easily navigated the rolling waves in their 17-foot Old Town Tripper.

Warren Island State Park is an exceptional place to visit. The 70-acre island is just a short distance from Islesboro. Access to the park is exclusively by boat and it contains twelve campsites. A hiking trail follows along much of the shoreline and meanders around the island.

Sandy, the friendly, helpful Park Manager, greeted us when we went ashore. She provided advice on available facilities and encouraged a walk on the hiking trail. The park is extremely clean

and well-maintained.

We gathered at a picnic table near the landing, changed into hiking shoes, and began the trek. The scenic walk was an excellent opportunity to stretch our legs. We enjoyed a leisurely pace while completing the one-mile hike. The views of the Camden Hills from the west side of the island were outstanding.

Following a lunch break at the shoreline picnic table, we departed southeasterly in the shallow channel between Spruce and Warren Islands. Turning east at the southern end of Spruce, we entered an exceptionally placid Gilkey Harbor. A large dark vessel moored next to the Islesboro shore captured our attention.

After traversing the harbor, we conducted a close up inspection of the mysterious watercraft. Its unusual name, Contraband, was even more intriguing. A little research indicates the 28.65 meter motor yacht was built by New England Boatworks and is the second largest vessel produced by that firm. No explanation was uncovered for the curious name.

Leaving Contraband behind, we began our return voyage to Lincolnville Beach. Rounding the northern end of Spruce Island, we passed the Islesboro Ferry Landing adjacent to Grindle Point Light on our right and progressed into West Penobscot Bay.

The calm we experienced in Gilkey Harbor was supplanted by moderately bumpy conditions in the bay. A strong tidal current and increased wind velocity from the west generated choppy broadside waves. The wake from the passing ferry created substantial turbulence forcing us to temporarily negotiate through large colliding breakers.

Situated low in the water in our kayaks, breaking waves splashed over Mark and me on several occasions. The canoeists took some water over the gunnels but overall they handled the challenging conditions in an exemplary fashion. Following arrival at Lincolnville Beach, Mark re-



The Islesboro Ferry passes Mark Nelson near Warren Island



Canoeists experience calm conditions paddling to Islesboro



Paddlers land at Warren Island State Park



Hikers enjoy exceptional views of the Camden Hills from Warren Island

ported his GPS measured the length of our journey to be ten miles.

My book, *Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine* relates eight more exciting ocean paddling excursions along the Maine coast. Included is a five-day foggy expe-

dition on the Bold Coast where intimidating storm driven waves were encountered on outer Great Wass Island.

Ron Chase resides in Topsham. His latest book, *"Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine"* is available at www.north-countrypress.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.ron-chaseoutdoors.com or he can be reached at ron-chaseoutdoors@comcast.net

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UMaine Extension 4-H seeks volunteers

ORONO, ME (September 8, 2023) — University of Maine Cooperative Extension will offer a two-part online informational session for adults interested in becoming 4-H volunteers from 6-7 p.m., Sept. 18 and 25.

“Start Your 4-H Volunteer Journey” will provide participants with information about the UMaine Extension 4-H youth devel-

opment program through four short e-Learning modules. Attendees will also participate in an experiential learning activity, learn about the key aspects of positive youth development and be introduced to ages and stages of youth.

A 4-H volunteer is many things: mentor, advisor, friend, teacher, referee, role model, pacesetter and much more. As a 4-H



Photo courtesy University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

volunteer, participants will have the opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of children by teaching them valuable life skills, helping them work towards a positive self-image and working with them to accomplish positive personal goals.

The two one-hour virtual sessions will wrap up with an outline of next steps and an introduction

to a county staff contact to help with the application process, if desired.

Registration is required. The sessions are free. To register, visit extension.umaine.edu.

For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, visit the program webpage or contact Jennifer Lobley, jennifer.lobley@maine.edu; 207.255.3345.

VA to resume reimbursing Maine veterans' homes

WASHINGTON, D.C. (September 8, 2023) — Following calls from Maine's Congressional Delegation to reform policy, U.S. Senators Angus King, a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, and Susan Collins and U.S. Representatives Chellie Pingree and Jared Golden announced that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) proposed new regulations that would reimburse Maine Veterans' Homes (MVH) for the costs of nursing home care for veterans with dementia. The VA's proposed rule would expand the current eligibility for domiciliary care to include veterans suffering with dementia. The rule would also retroactively reimburse MVH for costs

associated to domiciliary care dating back to January 2021 when the delegation's initial law was passed.

In 2020, Congress passed legislation authorizing the VA to cover the costs of nursing home care for veterans with early stage dementia provided by state veterans' homes, but the VA delayed proposal of the required rulemaking by more than two years. This delay forced MVH, and in some cases veterans and their families, to pay out-of-pocket for the care costing approximately \$130,000 per month and over \$2.5 million since 2019.

“For decades, Maine Veterans' Homes has provided world-class care to our state's veterans. They've worked hard to meet America's commit-

ment to those who served despite rising costs,” said Senators King and Collins and Representatives Pingree and Golden. “This new ruling will ensure the federal government supports our veterans with all of the resources at our disposal so that older Maine veterans struggling to live independently can receive the care and support they earned on behalf of a grateful nation. We hope the VA will move to quickly finalize the new rule to prioritize Maine veterans and meet our nation's solemn promise to the brave men and women who answered the call of service.”

“This is an important advancement for Maine's seniors and the right thing to do. Maine Veterans' Homes is extremely grate-

ful to Senator King and the Maine delegation, and the Veterans Administration for supporting necessary rulemaking changes in domiciliary care stipends,” said Sharon Fusco, the CEO of Maine Veterans' Homes. “These changes will ensure that Maine's seniors are able to receive the residential care they need in Assisted Living settings, paid for with the benefits they are due. In spite of years of uncertainty surrounding reimbursement, MVH has continued to ensure that residential care options were available for our Veterans, sheltering them from “falling through the cracks” due to funding gaps. We sincerely appreciate this change and the support that made it possible.”

Domiciliary care was

established by the VA after the Civil War as a type of assisted living that is provided to older veterans who are independently mobile or semi-mobile but are incapable of living alone. Over 130 MVH residents receive domiciliary care, 80% of whom are on Medicaid.

The care was federally reimbursed for years, up until 2019, when the VA abruptly ended payments. The Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act, signed into law on January 5, 2021, authorized the VA to resume reimbursements for domiciliary care at state homes like MVH. Twenty-eight months later, the VA had yet to announce a proposal for the payments.

Created by the Maine

Legislature in 1977, Maine Veterans' Homes is an independent, nonprofit organization that provides services to Maine veterans at six homes in Maine: Augusta, Bangor, Caribou, Machias, Scarborough and South Paris. Their care includes rehabilitative care, domiciliary care, nursing care, and end of life care.

The Maine Congressional delegation has pushed the VA to reimburse Maine Veterans' Homes for the last several years. In May, the delegation introduced the Reimburse Veterans for Domiciliary Care Act, which would require the Department to begin payments for current care as mandated by law and retroactively provide MVH with the reimbursements for past care.

\$1.2M for Maine Maternal Health Task Force

WASHINGTON, D.C. (September 8, 2023) — Today, U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King announced that the Maine Department of Health and Human Services will receive \$1,170,233 through the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) State Maternal Health Innovation (MHI) program. The goal of the State Maternal Health Innovation Program is to expand on and improve re-

sources for maternal health in Maine and the United States.

The State MHI program awards provide funding for five years, supporting the establishment of a maternal health task force in Maine. This continuation award will allow for the improved collection and use of state-level data on maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity. Additionally, grantees will work to improve access to

services during pregnancy, which includes expanding direct clinical care availability and workforce training.

“Ensuring the well-being of expectant mothers and promoting maternal health is extremely important for the well-being of Maine people in their child-bearing years,” said Senators Collins and King. “This investment is a significant and necessary step towards addressing an area

where our country lags behind the rest of the developed world, and will significantly bolster Maine's efforts to provide comprehensive care and support for mothers. We are grateful for this funding, and appreciate the continued dedication of the Maine Department of Health and Human Services to supporting the health of our state's children and families.”

Senators Collins and

King have long supported efforts to strengthen families and improve maternal health care. As a senior member of the Appropriations Committee, Senator Collins helped to secure a \$26 million increase in funding for State Maternal Health Innovation Grants and a \$87 million increase for the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant Program in the Fiscal Year 2023. Senators King and Collins also cosponsored

the Rural Maternal and Obstetric Modernization of Services (Rural MOMS) Act, a bipartisan bill that would improve data collection, expand services, and award funding to help ensure that new and expecting moms living in rural communities get the care they need. The United States has the worst rate of maternal deaths in the developed world and one of the highest rates of infant mortality.

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Arts & Entertainment

September art exhibit at CMMC features well-known local painters



“Pretty in Pink” by Elisabeth Salberg (digital image was taken by Salberg)

LEWISTON, ME (September 8, 2023) -- The Woman’s Hospital Association (WHA) Rotating Art Gallery at Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston is proud to display the paintings of

well-known local artists, Jeanelle Demers and Elisabeth Salberg for the month of September.

Demers’ current focus is animal portraiture, especially dogs, cats, and birds. With acrylic on can-

vas, she paints custom pet portraits from reference photos, evoking the essence of your pet or a favorite moment with them. She creates lively and captivating works of art that immortalize memories, personalities, and the silly quirks that make our pets so lovable. More information is available on her website www.200faces.com

Graduating from Duke University where she studied history and art history, life took Salberg on a different path. For over 30 years she worked as a registered nurse, retiring from CMMC in 2013. At that point she returned to her earlier passion and began to paint with oils. She has exhibited her paintings

in Portland, Brunswick, Bath, Belfast, Yarmouth, Falmouth, Hallowell, Kennebunkport, Norway and Sanford as well as locally in Lewiston and Auburn.

“The beautiful colors of Maine are a constant inspiration to me, and quite a challenge, as I try to transform the world of color, light and shape that I see into a painting that hopefully, others will enjoy.”

She is a member of Maine Women in the Arts. Her website is oilpainting-sofmaine.com. The works on display may be purchased through the WHA Gift Shop located adjacent to the main lobby at Central Maine Medical Center.

A percentage of sale proceeds benefits patients of CMMC.



Untitled painting of dog by Jeanelle Demers (digital image was taken by Jeanelle)

UUCB Concerts for a Cause presents Magic 8 Ball

BRUNSWICK, ME (September 8, 2023) -- UUCB Concerts for a Cause will present Magic 8 Ball in a performance at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, September 30. All proceeds from the concert will benefit two local charities: Mid Coast New Mainers Group and Oasis Free Clinics.

Magic 8 Ball is a Mid Coast acoustic band who plays Americana and folk music and is known for their outstanding musicianship, soaring three-part

harmonies and good-natured humor.

Singer/songwriter and long-time musicians Ben Hunsberger on keyboard, Ted DeMille on guitar, and Chris Dombrowski on mandolin will introduce some new songs from Ben and Ted, a special nod to Gordon Lightfoot, and a slew of our old fan favorites.

Layer fresh melodies with full-bodied undertones. fold in a little nature and politics. season with humor, angst, and a



pinch of sarcasm. serve with plenty of volume.

Take a listen to Magic 8 Ball: End of the Day

Give Magic 8 Ball a shake and you’ll be surprised by their answer!

Doors open at 7:00 p.m. and the program will start at 7:30 pm.

Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, \$10 students/children. Tickets are available at the church office, Gulf of Maine Books, or at <https://ticketstripe.com/Magic8Ball-Maine>

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Why are you who you are? With APL & Senior College

AUBURN, ME (September 8, 2023) -- Long time Senior College instructor Dr. Charles W. Plummer, who is a firm believer in life-long learning, will be the featured speaker at the Auburn Library on September 26 at 2 o’clock in the library’s Androscoggin Room at 49 Spring Street. His presentation will focus on the Psychology of Personality and the role personality plays in defining human behavior. There are five basic personality styles known as “the big five” which psychologists have recognized as those that are the

most important for understanding the personalities and behaviors of others and Plummer will give a detailed description of them in his talk. For those in attendance who may want to gain a better understanding of their own personality style, Plummer will hand out a very detailed and interesting personality style assessment that they can complete. Plummer will conclude his presentation with those aspects of personality that involve both an ethical and moral dimension that he views as sadly lacking in our country today.

Dr. Charles Plummer is a retired elementary school teacher and principal, and is a firm believer in the importance of remaining mentally and physically active. He has been teaching Senior College courses for over 20 years which has brought him much happiness, has kept his aging brain functioning at a good level, and has added much positive meaning to his life.

To learn more, visit the Events Calendar on Auburn Public Library’s website -- <https://www.auburnpubliclibrary.org/events/upcoming>

Dempsey
Continued from page 1

4.5 miles AND ride 21.5 miles to the finish line at the Festival in the Park!

In the afternoon, we'll come together to honor cancer survivors with the 15th Annual Survivor Walk, recognize the 2023 Amanda Dempsey Award winner and close out the day as we celebrate the top fundraisers at the Fundraising Award ceremony.

QUICK FACTS

About The Dempsey Challenge

The Dempsey Challenge is a run/walk/cycle event and is the flagship fundraiser for the Dempsey Center, founded by actor Patrick Dempsey. Patrick grew up in Maine, and wanted to help provide wrap-around support and care for people in Maine impacted by cancer after experiencing his own cancer impact when his mom Amanda was diagnosed in 1997.

The event takes place in Lewiston, Maine every fall.

In 2020, the Dempsey Challenge went global and introduced a complete

virtual event. Today, the Dempsey Challenge is a hybrid event where participants can choose to participate in person or virtually - there are no barriers to get involved!

The next Dempsey Challenge is September 23, 2023.

This will be the 15th consecutive Dempsey Challenge. Generous corporate sponsors cover the cost of the event, so every dollar raised by participants goes directly to the Dempsey Center.

Who can participate in the Challenge?

No matter who you are, there's a place for you in the Dempsey Challenge! Participants are all ages, have varying abilities, and hail from around the world. Volunteers and ambassadors love their roles and come back year after year. Dempsey Challengers are: riders, walkers, runners, volunteers, donors, fundraisers, kids, adults, and families — a community. People who want to make life better for people dealing with cancer.

How it works

Participants can be part of a team or join as an



individual. Participants can choose either the in-person Dempsey Challenge to take place in Lewiston, Maine, or can participate virtually as a Virtual Challenger. Participants receive support for training and fundraising from Dempsey Center staff. In 2022, Dempsey Challenge participants from all over the world raised over \$1.6 million dollars!

How to get involved

Sign up today to participate, fundraise, or volunteer! If you're in the Lewiston/Auburn area on Saturday, September 23rd cheer for walkers and runners as they hit the pavement, or create a cheer station along one of the many bike routes throughout Maine!

KEY DATES

April 15, 2023: Registration opens

September 1, 2023:

Deadline to register for the Virtual Dempsey Challenge to receive a participant t-shirt, bib and sticker pre-event

September 21, 2023 12:00pm ET: Fundraising Awards deadline. Top Fundraiser Awards to be recognized in the park. Deadline to raise \$3,000+ to receive invitation to the Champions for Hope Celebration. College Cup + High School Challenge fundraising deadline

September 21, 2023 4:00pm-7:00pm ET: Packet Pickup (Location TBD)

Due to traffic, volume, and efficiency, we are offering Packet Pickup on Thursday and Friday. If you're unable to pick up your bib and t-shirt, a friend or family member may do it for you. We will be offering a small window for Packet Pickup at the Customer Service Tent,

minimally staffed, and should be used for extenuating circumstances only. Please plan ahead or consider having someone else pick up your bib and packet for you.

September 22, 2023 10:00am-7:00pm ET: Packet Pickup (Location TBD)

Due to traffic, volume, and efficiency, we are offering Packet Pickup on Thursday and Friday at Baxter Brewing. If you're unable to pick up your bib and t-shirt, a friend or family member may do it for you. We will be offering a small window for Packet Pickup at the Customer Service Tent, minimally staffed, and should be used for extenuating circumstances only. Please plan ahead or consider having someone else pick up your bib and packet for you.

September 23, 2023

5:00pm EST: Final fundraising deadline for all other incentives. In-person Dempsey Challengers will pick up incentives in the park on Saturday, September 23rd. Virtual Challengers will have incentives shipped post-event. Deadline for Virtual Challengers to submit activity to receive official Virtual Challenger Finisher patch. Patches will be shipped in October

October 31, 2023 11:59pm EST: Final deadline to accept donations

CONNECT WITH US!

Follow us on Instagram

Follow us on Facebook

Connect with our community and join the Dempsey Center Fundraising Group on Facebook

Join the Dempsey Challenge Strava Club

Volunteer opportunities at the Dempsey Challenge

Did you know it takes over 500 volunteers to make the Dempsey Challenge a reality? As a volunteer, you can choose from a number of opportunities to help make a difference. Volunteering is an amazing way to connect, have fun and help make lives better for people impacted by cancer.

Volunteer opportunities will be available from September 18-23 for the 2023 event.

Are you ready to volunteer?

Please note a few changes for the 2023 event:

The Dempsey Center has moved to a new Volunteer Management System. You will need to create a new account in our system. After creating your account with a new Username and Password, you will be able to complete our Volunteer Application!

NOTE: You must complete this step even if you have volunteered with us before (unless you have already created a new account as a current volunteer). See dempseycenter.org and click 'volunteer' for more information.

REGISTER TO

VOLUNTEER

Why Volunteer?

Our volunteers say they LOVE being part of the Dempsey Challenge's fun and supportive community and picking a shift that works for them. It's a powerful way to make a difference, make new friends, and help make life better for people impacted by cancer!

Is There a Job for Me?

Yes! Volunteering is for everyone. Coworkers, neighbors, families, friends, and more. Work a rest stop, cheer for participants, or help us go green

with our Green Team! We have short and long shifts, before and during the event, for all ages and abilities.

Can Volunteers Join a Team?

Yes! Although it is never required, volunteers are always welcome to be part of a Dempsey Challenge team. You can join riders, walkers, runners, and virtual participants for even more fun and fundraising. Or - make a team of all volunteers and set a team fundraising goal!

Want More Information?

You can find many

more details by taking a look at Volunteer Guide.

Still have questions? Feel

free to email us at info@dempseychallenge.org. We are always happy to help!

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Dempsey Challenge schedule of events

Get ready for a week filled with activities, training, sharing and community engagement as we enter Dempsey Challenge week and head into a powerful weekend you will never forget!

DEMPSEY CHALLENGE WEEK

Monday, September 18

Signs of Hope + Healing

You may begin to drop off your homemade Signs of Hope + Healing at the Dempsey Centers in Lewiston or South Portland, starting Monday,

September 18. Learn More

Tuesday, September 19

11:00 AM ET: Tuesdays Together presented by Unum, Facebook and Instagram Live

Signs of Hope + Healing Drop Off at Dempsey Centers in Lewiston + South Portland.

Volunteer Orientation via Zoom, 6:00 PM ET

If you have registered to volunteer at the Dempsey Challenge, please attend the orientation via the Zoom link sent to your email. If you have questions, please email dempseychallengevolunteer@gmail.com.

Wednesday, September 20

"Where in the World?" Post a picture of yourself training for the Challenge or make a TikTok and tag us!

A look at the Global Dempsey Challenge and participants from around the world.

Facebook: @DempseyCenter

Instagram: @dempsey_center

TikTok: @dempseycenter

Signs of Hope + Healing Drop Off at Dempsey Centers in Lewiston + South Portland.

Thursday, September 21

Signs of Hope + Healing Drop Off at Dempsey Centers in Lewiston + South Portland.

-7PM Deadline to drop at our South Portland location

12:00 PM ET - Top Fundraiser Award deadline

Deadline to raise \$3,000+ to receive invitation for Champions for Hope reception. Deadline to be recognized as a top individual or team award winner. Deadline for the College Cup and High School Challenge awards.

4:00 PM - 7:00 PM - Packet Pickup + Dempsey Center Open House

New for 2023: Pick up your packets + bibs and tour the Dempsey Center's Lewiston location. Discover all the services that the Dempsey Center provides at no cost to people impacted by cancer.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to traffic, volume, and efficiency, we are offering Packet Pickup on Thursday and Friday at the Dempsey Center located at 29 Lowell Street in Lewiston. If you're unable to pick up your bib and t-shirt, a friend or family member may do it for you. We will be offering a small window for Packet Pickup at the Customer Service Tent from 6:15am-7:30am, minimally staffed, and should be used for extenuating circumstances only. Please plan ahead or consider having someone else pick up your bib and packet for you.

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM - Champions for Hope, Hilton Garden Inn - Auburn

Honor cancer survivors and celebrate this year's top fundraisers. By invitation only.

DEMPSEY CHALLENGE EVENT DAY

Saturday, September 23

PLEASE NOTE: Due to traffic, volume, and efficiency, we are offering Packet Pickup on Thursday and Friday at the Dempsey Center located at 29 Lowell Street in Lewiston. If you're unable to pick up your bib and t-shirt, a friend or family member may do it for you. We will be offering a small window for Packet Pickup at the Customer Service Tent from 6:15am-7:30am, minimally staffed, and should be used for extenuating circumstances only. Please plan ahead or consider having someone else pick up your bib and packet for you.

6:15 AM - 7:30 AM - minimal staffed, and should be used for extenuating circumstances only. Please plan ahead or consider having someone else pick up your bib and packet for you.

6:15 AM: Customer Service Tent opens (Simard-Payne Park)

Forgot your bib at home? Have cash and check donations to turn in? Visit the Customer Service Tent, located upon entry into Simard-Payne Park.

7:00 AM: Opening Remarks (Main Stage, Simard-Payne Park)

DEMPSEY CHALLENGE EVENTS

Please arrive at least 15 minutes before your event start time for staging

7:30 AM: 65-Mile Ride presented by Specialized (Oxford Street): Please stage in the front of the start chute starting at 7:15 AM.

7:45 AM: 50-Mile Ride presented by Specialized (Oxford Street): Please stage behind the 65-Mile riders in the start chute starting at 7:30 AM.

8:15 AM: Dempsey Duathlon presented by Geiger (Oxford Street): Please stage in the front of the start chute starting at 8:00 AM.

8:15 AM: 5K Run presented by Poland Spring Brand 100% Natural Spring Water: 5K Runners will stage in the start chute starting at 8:00 AM.

8:18 AM: 5K Run presented by Poland Spring Brand 100% Natural Spring Water: 5K Walkers will stage behind the 5K Runners in the start chute starting at 8:18 AM.

9:15 AM: 25-Mile Ride presented by Specialized (Oxford Street): Please stage in the front of the start chute starting at 9:00 AM.

9:30 AM: Wendy's Way: 5-Mile Family Ride presented by Specialized

See Events, next page

Congratulations to the participants of the Dempsey Challenge, You rock!

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Events

Continued from previous page
 (Oxford Street): Please stage behind the 25-Mile riders in the start chute starting at 9:15 AM.

11:00 AM: Kids Fun Run (Oxford Street): Have the kiddo in your life join in the fun! Register for the free Kids Fun Run at the Hydration Station on Oxford Street, beginning at 10AM. All participants will receive an official Kids Fun Run bib.

1:00 PM: Survivor Walk (Gather at Main Stage): If you are a cancer survivor or are in active treatment, please join us for the Survivor Walk as we honor you and your journey. Family, friends and care partners are welcome to join.

1:15 PM: Fundraising Awards Presentation (Main Stage): Top Individual Fundraisers and Top Team Fundraisers will be recognized during this presentation.

Family + Friends Festival in the Park (Sismard-Payne Park) 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM: Food + Beverage Tent, Maine Craft Beer + Wine Garden, Dempsey Goods Merch Tent, Fundraising Incentive Tent, Team Photo Wall, Dempsey Center Mission Tent, Live Music + Entertainment. Open to participants, family and friends. Festival in the Park Features: Food + Beverage Tent

Participant breakfast featuring Maine Pancake Breakfast and lunch featuring lobster rolls! All participants receive entry for a meal in the Food + Beverage tent. Additional tickets may be purchased online.

Maine Craft Beer + Wine Garden: Grab a well-earned adult beverage from the beer and wine garden. We've partnered with the best local breweries including Baxter Brewing, Olive Pit Brewing, Gritty's and Lone Pine. Or you can opt for a delicious mimosa or Bloody Mary from Stroudwater Distillery, mimosa from Cupcake Lighthearted or hard seltzer from Press Seltzer!

Dempsey Goods -

Merchandise Tent: Pick up your Dempsey Challenge swag in our merchandise tent! Proceeds to benefit the Dempsey Center.

Team Photo Wall: Register for a team photo slot and we'll capture a professional photo in front of our Dempsey Challenge Photo Wall for each member to have as a keepsake! Photos will be emailed to you post-event.

Dempsey Center Mission Tent presented by Central Maine Healthcare: Learn all about Dempsey Center programs and services and help celebrate the 15th year of the Dempsey Challenge.

Incentive Tent: Pick up your fundraising incentive items in our Incentive Tent.

Live Music on the Main Stage

GLOBAL DEMPSEY CHALLENGE: Virtual Dempsey Challenge presented by Amgen Oncology

How it works for 2023

Pin your Global Participant bib to your shirt or jersey, at any time during Dempsey Challenge weekend and complete your activity from wherever you are in the world!

Download and print your Start Line bib

Snap a picture of you completing your activity and upload to social media using the hashtag #Rally-Together

When you're finished your AMAZING run or walk, change your profile pic on your social media with your Finish Line filter!

BONUS! Global Challengers who raise at least \$250, complete and submit their activity will receive an official Global Challenge Finisher patch!

GLOBAL DEMPSEY CHALLENGE: Virtual Dempsey Challenge presented by Amgen Oncology

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BONUS! Global Challengers who raise at least \$250, complete and submit their activity will receive an official Global Challenge Finisher patch!



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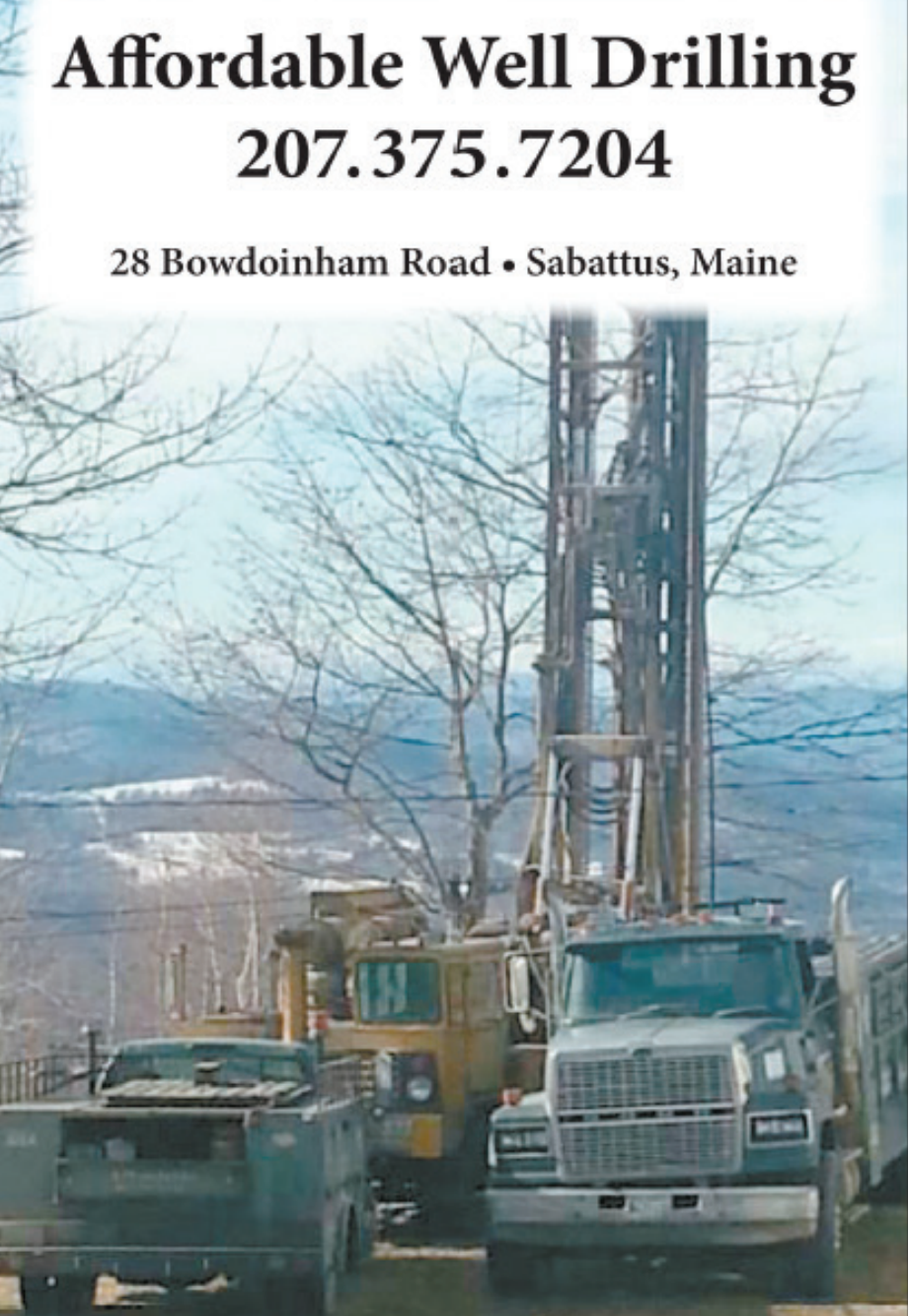


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College Cup + High School Challenge

RALLY TOGETHER as a college, university or high school to compete for the top spot - all while raising funds to make life better for people managing the impact of cancer.

COLLEGE CUP
The College Cup is open to any college or university that wants to compete for the highest amount fundraised for Dempsey Challenge 2023. Coaches, staff, faculty, alumni, and friends of the college are welcome to join in on the fun! 2019 College Cup Winner, Bates College

The top fundraisers from the winning school will be recognized on Dempsey Challenge weekend AND will join Patrick Dempsey (wearing your school colors!) to capture a group photo!

Deadline to determine College Cup winner will be September 21, 12:00 PM ET.

HIGH SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Introducing the High School Challenge - a fun and friendly competition between high school to compete for the highest amount fundraised. Students, coaches, staff, faculty, alumni, and friends of the school are welcome to join in on the fun! Your high school can be located anywhere in the world!

The top fundraisers from the winning school will be recognized on Dempsey Challenge weekend AND will join Patrick Dempsey (wearing your school colors!) to capture a group photo!

Deadline to determine the High School

Challenge winner will be September 21, 12:00 PM ET.

Want to get involved in either the College Cup or the High School Challenge next

year? Contact Karen Page at kpage@dempseycenter.org who will provide support, tools, and camaraderie. Contact her for help and next steps.



MAINE CRAFT BEER, WINE + MORE GARDEN

Must be 21+ to enter. One free beverage per Challenger.



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Heather Paquette to lead Good Shepherd Food Bank

AUBURN, ME (August 24, 2023) -- Good Shepherd Food Bank's board of directors has named Heather Thompson Paquette as its next president. Paquette will take on the role of leading Maine's largest hunger relief organization in September 2023.

"We are excited to welcome Heather to our organization," said Ben Sprague, chair of the Food Bank's board of directors. "Heather is a proven team leader and an energetic innovator who will complement our existing strong team and join in partnership across the state to execute our mission and vision."

Paquette comes to the Food Bank after a dynamic 24-year career with the companies of Ahold Delhaize USA, including 22 years at Hannaford Supermarkets. She most recently served as Vice President, Retail Innovation Center of Excellence, with Retail Business Services, a services company for Ahold Delhaize USA brands. Prior to her most recent position, Paquette served as Vice President, Retail Operations, for the state of Maine and Vice President, Retail Services, for Hannaford Supermarkets. A passionate leader and learner, Paquette helped champion equity, diversity, and inclusion efforts within her roles at previous employers, including serving as the executive sponsor for the PRIDE Business Resource Group during her time at Retail Business Services.

"It's an incredible honor, and I'm very humbled to join an organization focused on giving back to our communities and working to end hunger every day," said Paquette. "Having worked in food retailing for more than two decades, I've seen firsthand the challenges of food insecurity, the impact on families, and the tough choices families make every day in feeding those they love. I look forward to building on the incredible success Good Shepherd Food Bank has achieved under Kristen Miale's leadership and working alongside our Maine communities to eliminate hunger."

In addition to her professional experience, Paquette also brings extensive community service as a past-president of the March of Dimes board of directors, board member of the Boys & Girls Club of Southern Maine, and co-chair of United Way of Southern Maine Tocque-



Heather Paquette - Good Shepherd Food Bank's new president

ville Society.

After growing up in Biddeford, Maine, Paquette received her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Southern Maine in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance. She received a certificate in

executive leadership from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management and a certificate in the Food Executive Program at Cornell University. Paquette now resides in Scarborough, Maine, with her husband and two children.

Rally for Recovery

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September 30, 2023

**11:00 am – 2:00 pm
Kennedy Park, Lewiston**

Event is Free to Attend



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Highest civilian honor presented to Maine WWII volunteer



BANGOR, ME (September 8, 2023)— The family of the late 2nd Lieutenant Oscar E. Shevenell, CAP, was presented with a Congressional Gold Medal at the Maine Wing Civil Air Patrol annual conference and banquet on Sept. 2.

Shevenell, of Portland, served as an observer and supply officer at Base 19, CAP Coastal Patrol from Aug. 1942 until Aug. 1943. Following his service in Civil Air Patrol, Shevenell enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1944 and served at the Treasure Island Supply Depot in San Francisco.

The World War II

Members of the Civil Air Patrol were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal on May 30, 2014 in recognition of the “unpaid volunteer members of the Civil Air Patrol [who] during World War II provided extraordinary humanitarian, combat, and national services during a critical time of need for the Nation,” via Public Law 113-108. “This extraordinary national service set the stage for the post-war CAP to become a valuable nonprofit, public service organization chartered by Congress and designated the Auxiliary of the United States Air Force that provides essential

emergency, operation, and public services to communities, States, the Federal Government, and the military.”

In direct response to German submarine activity along the East Coast in early 1942, Civil Air Patrol established 21 coastal patrol bases, including two in Maine - Base 19 in Portland and Base 20 in Bar Harbor.

From March 1942 through August 1943, these bases patrolled the waters off of the Atlantic and Gulf coasts from Maine to the Mexican border with armed aircraft, thwarting submarine attacks and safe-

guarding shipping lanes, under the authority of the U.S. Army Air Corps.

These missions were flown at members’ own personal expense. Cumulatively the patrols spotted 173 U-boats and attacked 57. They escorted more than 5,600 convoys, reported 17 floating mines, 36 bodies, 91 ships in distress and 363 survivors in the water. Civil Air Patrol volunteers continued to serve throughout the entirety of WWII. “It is with great pride that we present this Congressional Gold Medal honoring the legacy and service of Lieutenant Oscar Shevenell and all of the men and women of Civil Air Patrol during WWII,” said Maine Wing Commander Colonel Blain Cote, CAP. “2nd Lt. Shevenell’s selfless dedication to his dangerous work as an aerial observer is a testament to his courage and patriotism and it is my privilege to join with our national and region commanders to honor him on behalf of Civil Air Patrol and our grateful nation.”

Civil Air Patrol National Commander Major General Edward D. Phelka, Northeast Region Commander Colonel Everett Hume, and Cote presented



the medal to Shevenell’s children, Joe Shevenell and Julie Barker, daughter-in-law Kate Shevenell, son-in-law Richard Barker, and niece Tonya Shevenell.

Alongside the medal, the family was presented with challenge coins from Phelka, Hume, and Cote. A chance meeting of Joe and Kate Shevenell and Lt. Col. Robert W. Frost, CAP, North Carolina Wing, led to the identification of Shevenell as a Maine WWII CAP volunteer while sharing flying stories.

After their meeting, the Shevenell family provided Frost with the information they had available. Though the supplied photos were not enough to verify his service, past National Historian Col. Frank Blazich, CAP, researched Coastal Base 19 and was

able to confirm Shevenell’s service and eligibility for the medal.

The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian honor in the United States, alongside the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Since the award’s inception in 1776, 185 Congressional Gold Medals have been awarded to individuals and institutions in national appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions.

In addition to this honor, Maine Wing presented annual honors for 2021 and 2020 as well as Commander Commendation awards. The conference also included a day of training for the members of Maine Wing in the three mission areas of Civil Air Patrol: emergency services, aerospace education, and cadet programs.

Teachers of the Year launch #LoveMaineSchools

AUGUSTA, ME (September 8, 2023)— Maine’s 2023 County Teachers of the Year cohort (CTOYs) launched a new #LoveMaineSchools campaign to coincide with the start of the new school year. The campaign will collect and share positive stories from Maine educators to elevate the teaching profession and celebrate the successes in Maine schools. The group of teachers will showcase and distribute stories, images, and videos throughout the school year that capture

the exceptional efforts of Maine educators as they engage students in dynamic learning opportunities.

The County Teachers of the Year hope that #LoveMaineSchools becomes the platform for educators to share their passions and spark conversations celebrating positive stories. A new monthly theme, intentionally broad and open to interpretation, will invite participation from all grade levels and content areas. For instance, when the theme is “Making Connections,” submissions

can effortlessly explore various aspects of creating links with individuals, families, communities, subject matter, content, and curriculum, among other possibilities. This flexible approach promotes active participation and allows diverse and imaginative interpretations of monthly themes.

The group created Facebook and Instagram pages for the #LoveMaineSchools campaign and educators have already submitted stories and comments as they start the new

school year.

“I love how educators across Maine show up for their students in every way possible, from attending sporting events or academic awards nights to their performances in plays and dance recitals. I love how they provide snacks and clothing for their students. I love how every day they treat their students like kings and queens and make each child feel worthy, valued, and important,” said 2023 Piscataquis County Teacher of the Year Dawn McLaughlin.

“I love Maine schools because they are adventurous and always willing to do what is best for students. An excellent example is the number of outdoor classrooms that have

sprung up in our state. Research clearly shows the benefits for mental health and academic performance and Maine is not just talking the talk but walking the walk,” said 2023 Kennebec County Teacher of the Year Sharon Gallant.

Educators and education supporters can submit comments, videos, and stories at: bit.ly/lovemaine-schoolssubmit.

As part of their year of service in the Teacher of the Year Program, Maine’s State and County Teachers of the Year serve as advocates for teachers, students, and public education in Maine. They also receive ongoing professional learning and participate in many state and county leadership opportunities.

For more information about the Maine Teacher of the Year program, visit the Maine Teacher of the Year website.

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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 23

GRAY -- First Congregational Church of Gray Saturday Night Church Supper, Saturday, September 23, 2023, @ 5:00 P. M. at the Parish House, 5 Brown Street, Gray

Handicapped Accessible. Meals are single-sized and are \$10,00 each, please pay at the door.

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

Phone # day of supper - 657-4279

Sept 29

NEWRY -- 2023 Aging Well Living Well

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

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

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.

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!
SILENT AUCTION

ENDS AT 2PM.

Oct 28, 29

LEWISTON, TOPSHAM -- "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, TOPSHAM -- "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, TOPSHAM -- "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, TOPSHAM -- "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 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@lewiston-maine.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. 513-3133; www.LPLonline.org

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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.

'Best headliner' coming to Great Falls Comedy Club

AUBURN, ME (September 8, 2023) – The Great Falls Comedy Club announces more live stand-up comedy for September 16th at 7:30 pm.


Make laughter a priority and be part of the fun on Saturday as one of Maine's most funniest comics, Connor McGrath takes the stage. McGrath, voted Maine's Best Comedian award by readers of the Portland Phoenix in 2017 and 2018, is one of the area's best headliners. Also appearing,

Tim Hofmann, Mike Johnson, and Ian Rice, three prolific and hilarious dudes in the comedy scene.

Tickets can be found at <https://www.greatfallscomedyclub.com> or purchased at the door. The Great Falls Comedy Club is located inside Craft Brew Underground at 34 Court Street, Auburn.


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

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