



TWIN CITY TIMES

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Lewiston mayoral runoff election is December 12

LEWISTON, ME - The City of Lewiston Mayoral Runoff Election will be held on Tue., Dec. 12, and absentee ballots for this election are currently available for Lewiston residents who would like to vote early. The deadline to request an absentee ballot is Thu., Dec. 7.

Registered voters needing an absentee ballot may call the City Clerk's Office at (207) 513-3124; may mail in an application form which can be downloaded from the City's website; or can

LEWISTON ME

come into Lewiston City Hall, 27 Pine Street. Office hours are Mon. - Fri., 8:30 AM - 4 PM.

The Runoff Election is between Jonathan Connor and Carl Sheline - the candidates who placed in the top two positions during the Nov. 7 election. According to the City Charter, the Mayor must be elected by a majority vote. Since

neither candidate received a majority during the Nov. 7 election, the Runoff Election has been scheduled.

"Absentee voting is increasingly popular with each election," said Lewiston City Clerk Kathy Montejo. "Voters are interested in absentee voting because they can avoid the crowds at the polls and voters simply enjoy the convenience

of voting by mail or voting early, and due to a December election, many voters will want to avoid going out in bad weather if it is snowy or cold on election day."

The City's web site, www.lewiston-maine.gov/elections, contains a sample ballot, absentee ballot application form, and other information that voters may find useful.

Voters are encouraged to contact the City Clerk's Office at (207) 513-3124 with any questions they may have regarding the election process.

Model Railroad Club to hold exTRAINaganza



Member Dick Clark leans over the G-scale layout to ensure its running properly during the 2022 ExTRAINaganza event.

AUBURN, ME -- The Great Falls Model Railroad Club's annual event exTRAINaganza will be held at 144 Mill Street in Auburn from 10 AM to 4 PM on Saturday and Sunday, November 18 and 19, and Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 24, 25 and 26.

Model trains in various scales, built

by model train enthusiasts, will be operating all day.

Activities for kids, including running trains as a Junior Engineer, will be going on all day. Club members will be available to answer questions about our layouts and to sell new and used model railroad items, books, and other train related memorabilia.

Maine Resiliency Center opens



LEWISTON, ME - Community Concepts, Inc., in partnership with the State of Maine, City of Lewiston, and community partners, opened the Maine Resiliency Center (previously announced by the City of Lewiston as the Community Resiliency Center) on Monday, November 13th at noon. The Center is located at 184 Main Street in Lewiston, with direct access via the catwalk on the third floor of the parking garage behind the building at 26 Chapel Street.

The Maine Resiliency Center has been created to offer a place of healing and support to individuals and families impacted by the mass shooting in Lewiston on October 25th and the aftermath of the tragedy. The Center will be dedicated to serving as a resource hub for anyone impacted by the shooting at Just-in-Time Recreation and Schemengees Bar and Grille. This includes anyone present at the shootings, family, friends, and loved ones, first responders and medical personnel, and any member of the larger community who feels impacted by these events.

The Center will initially be open weekdays with walk-in hours from 12-

5pm. Additional planned activities, programming, and private appointments will also be offered outside of walk-in hours. The Center can be reached by phone at 207-515-3930 starting at 12pm on Monday, November 13th. A website for the Center is currently being developed.

The Maine Resiliency Center is staffed by knowledgeable and caring professionals to focus on the longer-term needs of community members in the aftermath of this tragedy. The Center will offer access to service navigation, case management, and behavioral health support among other services based on identified needs.

The Center will be managed by Community Concepts, Inc., the Community Action Agency serving Androscoggin County. Services for victims' families had previously been coordinated at the Family Assistance Center (FAC) located at the Lewiston Armory. The FAC closed on Thursday, November 2nd, and ongoing supports will now be available at the Maine Resiliency Center.

To protect the confidentiality of visitors, media are not allowed to visit the Center without invitation or making arrangements with Center management in advance.

If individuals are in need of immediate support, The Maine Crisis Line can be reached by dialing 988 or 1-888-568-1112. Free and confidential support is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Text and chat lines are also available.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

CMH welcomes President Biden to Lewiston



President Biden meets with Debbie Emmons, RN, and other Central Maine Healthcare team members.

LEWISTON, ME -- As part of his visit with local officials and families of those affected by the Oct. 25 mass casualty event in Lewiston, President Joe Biden today met with healthcare professionals from Central Maine Medical Center (CMMC).

The Central Maine Healthcare team was honored to personally escort President Biden to the podium. You can watch the video at cmhc.org.

The group of Central Maine Healthcare (CMH) team members consisted of surgeons, nurses, respiratory therapists, security and environmental service workers and others who

were part of CMMC's response on the night of the incident.

"Central Maine Healthcare deeply appreciates President Biden's support during this difficult time," said Steve Littleton, president and CEO, Central Maine Healthcare. "On the night of October 25, our team members faced substantial challenges to care for those members of our community who were wounded in the two attacks, and they met that challenge with the professionalism and compassion they display every day.

"For the President to come to our community and acknowledge our team

members for their efforts that night meant a lot to all of us."

All but one of the 14 patients who initially survived the attacks were transported to Central Maine Medical Center (CMMC). Three of those patients died at CMMC. One patient was transported to Mass General Hospital. The rest were discharged from CMMC.

On the evening of the tragedy, Central Maine Medical Center assembled a team of more than a dozen surgeons with expertise in orthopedics, cardiovascular, thoracic, colorectal, plastic, urologic and general surgery. They were aid-

ed by more than 100 other physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and other healthcare professionals, all of whom received training in mass casualty incidents.

The doctors, nurses and team members of CMMC extend our deepest condolences to everyone affected by this tragic event.

As part of our ongoing responsibility to continue serving as the regional trauma center for central Maine, we have established the CMMC Compassionate Care Fund for Trauma Response and Support. To donate, please click here. Link: cmhc.org/cmmc/ways-to-give/

Dempsey meets with patients injured in Lewiston mass casualty

LEWISTON, ME -- Actor, auto racer and Lewiston native Patrick Dempsey yesterday paid a visit to Central Maine Medical Center (CMMC).

While at CMMC, Dempsey stopped in the rooms of patients who continue to recover from the injuries they suffered in the Oct. 25 mass casualty incidents, taking the time to speak with them and their families to wish them well.

"What a pleasure it was for all of our team members to have Patrick stop by," said Kris Chaisson, RN, chief nursing officer, Central Maine Healthcare. "The patients were deeply touched by his visit following this difficult time in their lives. It was wonderful to see the team react to him with smiles that have been dimmed since the event.

"It has always been clear to all of us that, despite his fame, Patrick

Dempsey considers the people of this community his family."

The three remaining patients at CMMC are all listed in stable condition.

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Pictured: Patrick Dempsey meets with Dr. Tim Counihan, chief of surgery, and members of the CMMC nursing team

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for Trauma Response and Support. To donate, please see: www.cmhc.org/cmmc/ways-to-give/

Camden National Bank collects donations for local nonprofits

CAMDEN, ME -- Camden National Bank has announced a community donation of more than 9,000 school supplies to nonprofits across Northern New England. Employees throughout the region collected pens, pencils, notebooks, and other supplies at the company's 57 banking centers and also made personal contributions at Camden National Bank's annual employee appreciation event.

"We look forward to recognizing and honoring our employees each year and celebrating our unwavering community spirit," said Greg Dufour, president and chief executive officer. "We were overwhelmed by the number of school supplies we received this year, but it wasn't surprising given our long history of supporting local shelters and other outstanding youth organizations that care for com-

munity members in need."

The nonprofits included numerous homeless shelters also supported by Camden National Bank's Hope@Home program, which was established in 2015 to provide critical assistance to people in need. Every time a customer finances a new home through Camden National Bank, the bank donates \$100 to a local homeless shelter on behalf of that customer. To date, more than \$730,000 in unrestricted funds have been donated to some 50 homeless shelters in Northern New England.

With locations across Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts, Camden National Bank is dedicated to making a difference in the communities where its employees live and work. Employees are passionate about providing financial expertise to customers and volunteer-

See Donations, page 4



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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Camden National Bank donates \$50K to L/A Community



CAMDEN, ME – Camden National Bank has announced it will donate more than \$50,000 to provide both immediate aid and long-term support to the Lewiston-Auburn community in response to the recent tragic event.

“There are no words to adequately describe the sadness and devastation that we are feeling for our family and community

members,” said Greg Du-four, president and chief executive officer. “We are grateful to call Maine our home. We remain focused on providing our employees and community with the support and assistance they need as we collectively work together toward healing and recovery during these challenging times.”

The total of \$50,000

in funding from Camden National Bank is being distributed as follows:

\$15,000 to the LA Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce Foundation to support immediate needs such as rent, heating oil, etc. for the victims’ households. The Chamber’s Foundation identified a process to swiftly distribute funds to the more than 155 victims identified by the Office of the Maine Attorney General and the Department of Justice.

\$15,000 to the Maine Community Foundation’s Lewiston-Auburn Area Response Fund, which provides immediate and long-term aid to the victims, families, and communities impacted by the tragedy.

\$10,000 to support

the Lewiston Police Relief Association to support our heroic first responders and their families as they experience mental health issues and work diligently to provide additional community support.

\$10,000 in funding will be distributed to address future needs of the community.

Camden National Bank is deeply rooted in the Lewiston-Auburn community. In 2000, the bank acquired a banking center in Lewiston through the acquisition of Kingfield Savings Bank. The bank then expanded its presence in 2012 when it acquired 15 banking centers from Bank of America, of which two of those locations were located in Lewiston and



Auburn. Today, in addition to the two banking centers and strong commercial lending, Lewiston-Auburn serves as a significant hub for several support service

employees, including Ryan Smith, Executive Vice President of Commercial Banking, who is tied intimately with the community.

Leadership Transition at St. Mary’s Health System



Steven Jorgensen, President of St. Mary’s Health System and Senior Vice President for Covenant Health, has announced that he will be retiring on December 31, 2023.



Cindy Segar-Miller, FACHE, will be joining St. Mary’s Health System as the Interim President effective September 1, 2023, while a formal search is conducted.

within the community and working with the St. Mary’s Board and Leadership Team to create a new blueprint that has allowed us to “reimagine” the future of the St. Mary’s Health System.

Mark Anthoine, chair of the St. Mary’s board, added, “I have thoroughly enjoyed working with Steve for the past 5+ years. He’s been an incredible leader for our organization and has always kept St. Mary’s mission front and center. He has always been completely transparent and an open communicator with our board, regardless of the situation at hand. That is something I really have admired about him.”

Cindy Segar-Miller, FACHE, will be joining St. Mary’s Health System as the Interim President effective September 1, 2023, while a formal search is conducted. She is a seasoned healthcare executive with a record of success in transformational leadership positions. Her strategies and creative solutions have earned her the reputation as being a positive

change agent for small to mid-size hospitals.

For the past 20 years, Segar-Miller has gained considerable expertise supporting a portfolio of national and international clients. Her experience includes tenure as princi-

pal for Spectrum Health Partners in Franklin, TN; executive consultant for Bon Secours Mercy Health in Portsmouth, VA and Norfolk, VA; as Chief Executive Officer for Lock Haven Hospital in Lock Haven, PA and as CEO for

Ashland Medical Center in Ashland, PA.

Segar-Miller is a registered nurse and earned her graduate degree in Health Services Management Services and Policy from New School University in Middletown, NY.

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Seniors Not Acting Their Age

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A canoeist surfs Five Boat Hole on the Gauley



A paddler descends Koontz Flume



A canoeist rides the waves at the bottom of Lower Mash



A kayaker navigates through Diagonal Ledges

In my opinion, West Virginia has more outstanding whitewater than any state east of the Mississippi. For nearly two decades beginning in 1990, my friends and I traveled to West Virginia almost every spring and fall to challenge its steep rivers and creeks. Then we got old, some passed, and we stopped making the semi-annual pilgrimages.

Probably no river better exemplifies West Virginia whitewater than the Gauley River near Summersville. A National Recreation Area, the Gauley offers world class whitewater as it flows for over 25 miles through a succession of scenic gorges and valleys. Each fall, special high volume releases are discharged from the Summersville Dam that attracts whitewater enthusiasts from all over the globe.

This year, my friend, Ryan Galway, planned a Penobscot Paddle & Chowder Society West Virginia whitewater trip that began with the Gauley River. When Ryan invited me, I was hesitant. Seventeen years have passed since I kayaked the Gauley; my skills have diminished and my Eskimo roll is less reliable. Ryan

suggested joining him on a shredder, a more forgiving two-person inflatable boat. Since my life insurance policy is paid up, I accepted the invitation.

Following a demanding 950-mile drive, I joined Ryan and eight more paddlers at the Gauley takeout in Belva. Ryan hired Hills to Hills Shuttle Service to transport us about 15 miles upriver to the put-in for the Lower Gauley at a location called Woods Ferry. The water level approximated a feisty 3,000 cubic feet per second. The launch area was bustling with activity.

We anticipated an extremely exciting day. Consisting of five kayaks, two canoes, and the shredder team, most of the group had never paddled the Gauley. Ryan and I were experiencing our first time shredding together. Ours would be on-the-job training.

After a few Class III rapids, we approached the first difficult descent called Backender. A long chaotic rapid filled with large waves and huge holes, the preferred route is center to far left at the bottom to avoid the gnarly backender wave/hole. Ryan and I almost got back ended. A canoeist flipped and swam. We clearly needed

to improve our game as Class V, Koontz Flume, was next.

Although there was some disagreement about how to navigate Koontz Flume, there was no doubt in my mind. Ryan and I intended to avoid holes and the dangerously undercut rock on the right by running tight left. Most followed us and everyone nailed it. A couple of boaters in our group surfed the famed Five Boat Hole at the bottom. Both flipped and rolled.

The next difficult rapids were Upper and Lower Mash. Upper is a complex trashy descent. Ryan and I negotiated around a maze of holes and pour overs before plowing through a powerful hydraulic at the bottom. A canoeist in our group swam most of the rapid. When we assisted him to shore, he summed up his experience with a succinct comment, "I got mashed." While helping him, two shredder teams swam past – a stark reminder we weren't exempt from mishaps.

Descending Lower Mash required completing a difficult ferry to river left followed by a twisting route through huge waves. One canoeist walked. Everyone else experienced

See Seniors, next page

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Donations
Continued from page 2

ing locally in their communities. In 2022 alone, employees donated nearly 9,000 volunteer hours at approximately 287 non-profit organizations, and the bank donated \$29,250 to 107 nonprofits in honor of employee volunteers. To learn more, please visit CamdenNational.bank.

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

Registration open for forest product workforce course



MACHIAS, ME – FOR/Maine (Forest Opportunity Roadmap) coalition and Sunrise County Economic Council are pleased to announce registration is open for a new, free, online course called “The Business of Maine’s Forestry Products Sector”. The 10-week course is offered through Washington County Community College, is open to all working-age Mainers, and begins November 21st. It is a first-ever program to promote workforce op-

portunities and innovation across Maine’s Forest Products Sector and will leverage strong industry and workforce partnerships to link Mainers with job opportunities.

The asynchronous course will be delivered virtually, allowing learners to access the workshops live, as well as catch the weekly recordings at their convenience. Learners that complete the course will earn three college credits as well as Maine Forest Prod-



ucts Sector micro-credentials. Participants can also select individual workshops to attend/watch and forego college credit. Both options are completely free. The course is open to anyone with an interest in the field, students and entrepreneurs. Classes will be held weekly (except for holidays) on Tuesdays from 2-5 pm from November 21, 2023, to January 30, 2024.

This course will provide participants with an

understanding of opportunities across the industry, access to direct contact with industry professionals and subject matter experts across the field, as well as the knowledge to begin their own career journey. The course will commence with a virtual career fair where learners can meet employers in the sector.

Individuals are considered at a secondary level of employment after completing the 10-week course and achieving micro-credentials.

Financial assistance of up to \$500 per learner is available to address barriers, such as internet access or childcare costs.

The course and associated materials will also be

available in Spanish.

This course was developed through a partnership between Sunrise County Economic Council, Forest Opportunity Roadmap (FOR/Maine), Washington County Community College (WCCC), and Maine Development Foundation. The course is generously funded through a private trust grant. Barrier removal assistance is thoughtfully provided through a Maine Department of Labor and State Workforce Board Industry Partnership grant.

To register, please visit <https://mainestreetbusiness.org/forestry-products/> or use your smartphone camera to scan the QR Code.

Seniors

Continued from previous page

successful runs.

The next challenging rapid, Heaven’s Gate, is around the bend. Our group effectively navigated the center to left route before careening between or around two giant rocks at the end called Pearly Gate.

Several long rapids ensued but our minds were focused on the last major descent, a Class V delightfully named Pure Screaming Hell. Remaining in your boat at the bottom requires riding large waves on the left, skirting a wide keeper hole to the right, and then maneuvering hard left to miss a notorious obstacle called Hell Hole. A kayaker in front of us caught the edge of the keeper. He capsized and swam through enormous waves but missed Hell Hole. Ryan and I almost replicated his disaster but managed two last-second pry strokes to escape unscathed.

The last mile or so consists of easier rapids. At the takeout in Belva, we celebrated completion of one of the most demanding whitewater runs in the eastern United States. Tomorrow, we’re going to paddle another iconic West Virginia River, New River Gorge.

My book, *Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine*, narrates exciting descents of nine whitewater rivers and streams.

Ron Chase resides in Topsham. His latest book, “*Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine*” is available at www.northcountrypress.com/maine-al-fresco or in bookstores and through online retailers. His previous books are “The Great Mars Hill Bank Robbery” and “Mountains for Mortals – New England.” Visit his website at www.ronchaseoutdoors.com or he can be reached at ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net

Bill to monitor mountain snowpack across Maine

WASHINGTON, D.C.— U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King have introduced legislation to help monitor mountain snowpack across Maine. The Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Act would establish a network of snow and water monitoring stations across Maine and the Northeast to better track mountain snow accumulation and precipitation rates – to help Maine’s communities and businesses adapt to changing dynamics.

As climate change continues to disrupt weather patterns, expanded resources are needed to help bolster both impact research and response. In Maine, decreased snowfall, increased rainfall and rising temperatures due to climate change have already had substantial effects on the environment, as well as the recreation and forestry industries which are critical to the state’s economic success.

“Access to more accurate weather data is

essential for informed decision-making, especially with recent unpredictable shifts in weather patterns,” said Senator Collins. “This bipartisan bill would establish a network of snow and water monitoring stations in Maine and across the Northeast, which will serve as crucial infrastructure in our efforts to closely track the effects of climate change on precipitation, sustain our seasonal winter economy, and safeguard our environ-

ment.” “On a global scale, climate change is one of the greatest existential threats we are facing today,” said Senator King. “Here in Maine, we are already seeing the impact firsthand with increased temperatures, above average precipitation and less snowfall — impacting not only our environment, but also the recreation and forestry industries which are important economic drivers for our state. The Snow Survey Northeast Expansion Act will help expand

the tools and resources needed to track the impacts of climate change to better inform the Maine industries that are heavily reliant on weather forecasting.”

Senators Collins and King helped lead the passage the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) into law; the legislation includes the Restore Our Parks Act – a bill led by King and cosponsored by Collins – and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Permanent Funding Act.

\$14M for improvements at International Marine Terminal

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, U.S. Senator Susan Collins, Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, announced that the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) has been awarded \$14,240,000 through the U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime Administration’s (MARAD) Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP). The funding will support components of MaineDOT’s “Enhancing Maine’s Three-Port Strategy for the Future” proposal.

Specifically, this funding award will be used to support critical modernization efforts at the Portland International Marine Terminal (IMT). The Maine Port Authority’s container handling facility at the IMT in Portland has seen huge cargo volume gains in recent years and requires improvements to facilitate this growth. Work will include tripling IMT’s current capacity of refrigerated container plugs, upgrading IMT’s emergency generator system to meet electricity demand from expansion,

and other facility improvements.

“Improving Maine’s infrastructure and modernizing our coastal economies are essential efforts for ensuring our state’s long-term growth and prosperity,” said Senator Collins. “This investment will help better position Portland for future expansions and increasing freight volumes. As the Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I will continue to advocate for programs that better Maine’s infrastructure and strengthen our

maritime economy.”

PIDP grants support efforts by ports and industry stakeholders to improve port and related freight infrastructure to meet the nation’s freight transportation needs and ensure our port infrastructure can meet anticipated growth in freight volumes. The PIDP provides funding to ports in both urban and rural areas for planning and capital projects. It also includes a statutory set-aside for small ports to continue to improve and expand their capacity to move freight

reliably and efficiently and support local and regional economies.

Senator Collins first joined the Appropriations Committee in 2009 and previously served as both the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies. In that time, she has helped secure more than \$1 billion for transportation and infrastructure improvements throughout the State of Maine.

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Arts & Entertainment

Late fall bean supper at Franco Center Nov. 18

LEWISTON, ME—The Franco Center will host a baked bean supper from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18, in its Heritage Hall.

The menu includes beans, coleslaw, hot dogs, brown bread or fresh baked biscuits, coffee, tea, lemonade and an assortment of fresh baked homemade desserts. All food is prepared by Chef John Pulsifer, well known as a long-time baker in the Lewiston-Auburn community.

According to Susan Spellman, box office manager, 147 people attended the bean supper in October, and many of them said the food was “great” and they were “satisfied” with their meal and would return

for the November event. While tickets can be purchased ahead of the event either online, by phone, or in person, 80 percent of the attendees bought their tickets at the door on the day of the supper.

“The volunteers worked hard and were here for a long time,” said Spellman. “I’d like a few more volunteers to split up the tasks. We could use someone helping people at the elevator.”

The Franco Center provides access to Franco-American traditions such as this bean supper and also meetups for conversation among French speakers, La Rencontre luncheons with entertainment, concerts by Franco-American performers,

and foods such as whoopie pies and tourtière pies.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under.

Tickets can be purchased at the door on the day of the event or in advance online at www.francocenter.org/shows or by phone at 207-689-2000. Tickets can also be purchased in person at our box office between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. People who would like to volunteer can also call that number.

The Franco Center is at 46 Cedar St., Lewiston. Parking is available in the mill lot. The building is handicap accessible via an elevator on the Lincoln St. Alley side.

Maine authors for Lewiston

OCEAN PARK, ME — Maine Authors for Lewiston, an informal group of more than 60 Maine authors, have banded together to support the victims of the recent tragedy in Lewiston. The group has organized a series of book signings, all open to the public, so that people can purchase books and meet the authors. There will be fiction writers, children’s book authors, non-fiction writers, and poets among the participants. This is a wonderful opportunity for Maine book-lovers to support local authors, but, most importantly, to help our fellow Mainers as they begin to heal and recover.

All of the participating authors have agreed to donate all, or most, of their proceeds from these events to help the healing and recovery efforts in Lewiston.

All are volunteering because they care.

The authors are scheduled to appear at the following venues in the coming days:

Curtis Memorial Library (Brunswick, ME) - Saturday, November 25, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Lewis T. Graves Memorial Public Library (Kennebunkport, ME) - Tuesday, November 28, 2023, 2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Belfast Public Library (Belfast, ME) - Saturday, December 2, 2023, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Patten Free Library (Bath, ME) - Wednesday, December 6, 2023, 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

More events are being scheduled. The libraries have generously donated space to the cause as they, too, support those impacted by the senseless tragedy.

The Maine writing community is a small, but vibrant, part of Maine culture. Some writers have been personally impacted by the events in Lewiston, others because they care deeply about Maine and their fellow Mainers. Most do much of their writing in and about Maine. All want to help.

Maine Authors for Lewiston was conceived less than one week ago and is being organized by David Florig, a member of the Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance, author of *The Stones of Ailsa Craig*, and the past-president of the Pine Tree Curling Club in Portland.

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

SeniorsPlus seeks Meals on Wheels delivery volunteers

LEWISTON, ME -- SeniorsPlus, the designated Area Agency on Aging serving Androscoggin, Franklin, and Oxford counties, has immediate openings for volunteer Meals on Wheels deliv-

ery drivers in Oxford and Franklin counties. Meals on Wheels volunteers make a difference in the lives of homebound older adults and adults with disabilities, often making the difference for individuals

to remain at home safely.

Meals are delivered Monday through Thursday and various routes. Volunteers are especially needed at this time for deliveries in Canton, Dixfield, Bethel, Phillips, Madrid, and

Farmington. Times vary, but generally, drivers are needed between the hours of 9:00 to 11:30 am. Volunteers may work one or more times a week. They can also work as needed for back up support.

Working in a team environment, Meals on Wheels volunteer drivers deliver nutritious meals to client homes and combat social isolation through client wellness checks and friendly visits. Vol-

unteer drivers are trained to provide the best possible service. For more information please contact volunteerservices@seniorsplus.org or call SeniorsPlus at 207 753-6148.

Wicked Funny Laugh Off coming to GFCC



AUBURN, ME – Make laughter a priority this week at Great Falls Comedy Club with shows on November 17, and 18.

Friday marks the return of the Wicked Funny Laugh

Off Comedy Contest. Lost Valley Brewpub will once again be the sight of Great Falls Comedy Club’s crown jewel event. Don’t miss eight of the area’s funniest as they compete for your votes

and a \$1000 prize.

Then on Saturday, the one and only Ian Stuart of Welcome to Maine fame will headline the club, with feature sets by Garret Finn, Theo Konstantino, and Nic

Dufault.

Tickets can be found at <https://www.greatfallscomedyclub.com> or purchased at the show. Great Falls Comedy Club is located inside Craft Brew Underground at

34 Court Street, Auburn, under the red awning.

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

Gastro Obscura? Want to learn more?

AUBURN, ME -- Gastro Obscura is a book by Cecily Wong and Dylan Thuras that scratches the surface of a mind-bending world of eating. Spanning seven continents, it is a collection of forgotten histories and endangered traditions, obscure experiences, culinary ingenuity, and edible wonders. Judy Hierstein, a Senior College Board member and Auburn

resident will present this fascinating and unusual topic based on the book and her own experiences with food and art. She will share some of her most interesting “obscure” with you, and also would like to hear about your own gastro adventures!

Judy has been teaching art for a long time. She finds she learns right along with the students. She also

does her own outstanding art work in a variety of mediums.

So save the date: Tuesday November 28 at 2 PM at the Auburn Public Library. Free and open to the public.

Any questions? Visit the Events Calendar on Auburn Public Library’s website -- <https://www.auburnpubliclibrary.org/events/upcoming>

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Transgender Day of Remembrance Monday

BRUNSWICK, ME -- By a recent count, at least forty transgender or gender variant lives have been lost in the United States this year, 2023. Those forty are just the murders that have been made known. Many victims of transphobic violence never have their deaths publicly acknowledged. With the recent bombardment of anti-trans legislation aimed to suppress the trans and gender variant community in this country, the acknowledgement of these tragic deaths

is all the more critical. Now, more than ever, it is important to speak their names and honor their memories. To this end, local churches and non-profit organizations are joining together to host a Transgender Day of Remembrance gathering in Brunswick on Monday, November 20.

What is Transgender Day of Remembrance?

Transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith began Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) in 1999. TDOR

began as a vigil to honor the memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in Alliston, Massachusetts in 1998. The vigil also commemorated all the transgender and gender variant lives lost to anti-Trans violence in the time following Rita Hester's murder. Thus began an important tradition that has become the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance observed throughout the world on November 20th.

TDOR founder Gwendolyn Ann Smith

says, "Transgender Day of Remembrance seeks to highlight the losses we face due to anti-transgender bigotry and violence. I am no stranger to the need to fight for our rights, and the right to simply exist is first and foremost. With so many seeking to erase transgender people -- sometimes in the most brutal ways possible -- it is vitally important that those we lose are remembered, and that we continue to fight for justice."

How can I get involved in the Transgender

Day of Remembrance?

Join organizers from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick, First Universalist Church of Yarmouth, First Parish Church in Brunswick, Allen Avenue Unitarian Universalist Church of Portland, the Sexuality, Women, and Gender Center from Bowdoin College in Brunswick, and the Brunswick Pride Committee in a service to honor the transgender and gender variant lives lost this year to transphobic violence.

This Transgender

Day of Remembrance event will be held at 6:30 pm on Monday, November 20 at the UU Church of Brunswick located at 1 Middle St. in Brunswick. Additionally, this service will be broadcast virtually on Zoom for those who are unable to attend in person. While this event is being held at a church, it is led and supported by both religious leaders and community members. This TDOR event is open to all who support the transgender and gender variant community.

Maine adds eight new species to endangered species list

AUGUSTA, ME – Eight new species were added to Maine's Endangered and Threatened Species list, including five birds, one bat, one bee, and a beetle. Two of these species, the saltmarsh sparrow and Ashton's cuckoo bumble bee, are listed as Endangered, and the other six as Threatened. These additions, approved by the Maine Legislature, became official on October 25, 90 days after the end of the last legislative session.

"Maine is known for

its abundance of wildlife, but some species of wildlife are in danger of disappearing from Maine's landscape," said Commissioner Judy Camuso of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. "The addition of these species to the state's endangered and threatened list will provide additional protections which will aid in their recovery."

Four of these additions to the list are threatened by climate change. The Saltmarsh Sparrow

(Endangered) breeds in coastal saltmarshes of south-central Maine where nests are vulnerable to flooding during high tides associated with sea level rise. Similarly, the Margined Tiger Beetle (Threatened) relies on a small number of saltmarsh-sand dune areas that are threatened by rising seas and associated storm surge. The Bicknell's Thrush (Threatened) and Blackpoll Warbler (Threatened) occupy high-elevation spruce-fir forests of central and west-

ern Maine, habitats that are predicted to retract to higher elevations, or disappear altogether.

As with many bat species across North America, the Tri-colored Bat (Threatened) has declined as a result of white-nose syndrome, a devastating disease that has caused declines of over 90% in Maine's hibernating bat species.

The Ashton's Cuckoo Bumble Bee (Endangered) was thought to be extirpated from Maine following

widespread bumble bee population declines in the early 2000's. However, a single population of the species was recently found during the Maine Bumble Bee Atlas in northern Aroostook County.

Two birds that eat flying insects, the Cliff Swallow (Threatened) and Bank Swallow (Threatened), have declined by >95% over the past fifty years, due to loss of habitat and declining insect populations.

There are fifty-seven

species that are now either listed as state Threatened or Endangered in Maine. This status affords extra protections under the Maine Endangered Species Act, which prohibits collection from the wild, take (killing), harassment (injury or significant disruption of natural behavior), and other harmful activities that might cause extirpation. Additionally, Maine's Endangered and Threatened species are prioritized for increased survey, research,

See *Species*, page 10



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Fontaine participates in 21st annual 'Cans for a Cure'



Every October since 2005, Fontaine Family – The Real Estate Leader’s entire team participates in ‘Cans for a Cure’ collecting empties as well as a cash donations to help raise money for those fighting cancer in Maine. All agents and

staff members encourage clients, friends, family and area businesses to save cans and bottles to donate to the cause. The goal each year is to completely fill their moving van with cans and bottles, and they’re proud to say they’ve done it once again

this year.

Fontaine Team’s efforts, along with the generous Maine community, helped to raise \$72,000 for the Maine Cancer Foundation which is dedicated to reducing cancer incidence and mortality rates in Maine.

100% of the funds raised are invested back into the communities to benefit the people of Maine! Follow Fontaine Team on Facebook to learn more about their community involvement in the Auburn, Scarborough and surrounding communities.

Lewiston Farmers Market, ReTreeUS to plant orchard

LEWISTON, ME -- The Lewiston Farmers Market and ReTreeUS teamed up to plant a community orchard of Asian pear and peach trees at the market location on Oxford Street on October 26, 2023. An average of 400 customers visit the farmers market weekly and these trees will be an enduring part of the experience by producing approximately 9,000 servings of fruit annually. The fruit from these trees will be provided at no cost for those in need in the com-

munity. These fruit-bearing additions to the landscape will complement the market’s overarching goal of nourishing the community with locally grown food while fostering an opportunity for food production knowledge. This planting was ReTreeUS’ 90th school and community orchard planting since 2012.

“We are really excited about this project that will enhance a great community gathering place in the heart of Lewiston,

providing inspiration, education and sustenance for generations of community members”, said Richard Hodges, ReTreeUS Founder and Program Manager.

“The Lewiston Farmers Market is happy to be working with the City of Lewiston and community partners including ReTreeUS for the improvement of the Market space in support of a healthy community”, said Joshua Nagine, Lewiston Farmers Market Board Member.

“The St. Mary’s Nu-

trition Center is excited to partner with ReTreeUS and the Lewiston Farmer’s Market”, said Katie Collins, Youth Engagement Coordinator at St. Mary’s Nutrition Center. “This fall, the Nutrition Center’s Fall Gardener program is deepening the knowledge and skills for young people in the community around gardening, harvesting, and local food systems. Partnering on this project is a wonderful opportunity to continue to connect young people to the increasing vibrancy of the Lewiston food community and the concrete ways they can contribute to its growth. We are excited to watch this project continue to unfold over the years.”

The City of Lewiston is an ongoing partner of the Lewiston Farmers Market and the City’s support continues with this project. This is the second project that ReTreeUS has worked closely on with Lewiston City Arborist Steve Murch and Public Works, building on the success of the Teisha’s Orchard project,

a 50-tree orchard located on a city park planted and maintained with students at Lewiston High School and Next STEP. “These projects are making a good impact”, said Steve Murch, Lewiston City Arborist.

This project is part of a community-wide, cross-sector, collaboration-building process in Lewiston and Auburn supported by Elmina B. Sewall Foundation in partnership with other members of the Lewiston-Auburn Funders Group.

ReTreeUS is a member of the national Giving Grove affiliate network, which helps launch and sustain community orcharding programs nationwide. Representatives of The Giving Grove and Yes! Apples, which supports The Giving Grove through 1% for the Planet, will be on hand to help plant the trees.

“Through our 1% for the Planet membership, we’ve partnered with The Giving Grove for over two years now, and while we’ve supported their



growth in many ways, this is the first time our team has been able to get into the field”, said Tenley Fitzgerald, Yes! Apples Vice President of Marketing. Yes! Apples 2023 donation to The Giving Grove is funding 50% of this planting, in addition to supporting all 17 plantings this fall throughout New England. “As growers and distributors of fresh apples nationwide, we understand the importance of providing access to fresh fruit to communities, especially in communities that need various procurement options. We are thrilled to help bring their newest orchard to life and to aid in bringing fresh fruits to the Lewiston-Auburn area.”

See ReTreeUS, next page

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Leavitt students team up with Rinck to develop time capsules

LEWISTON, ME – This November, residents of Turner, Maine will have the opportunity to witness the opening of two time capsules, one created in 1923 and the other in 1973, as part of the Century Box Jubilee. The event is hosted by the Town of Turner, Turner History Museum (THM), and Turner Public Library (TPL). Residents can also submit items for a 2023 time capsule to be opened every 50 years.

Knowing that this is an exciting part of local history, the History Museum reached out to Isaiah Davis, a history and video production teacher at Leavitt Area High School, to enlist the help of his students to develop a plan to help spread the word, par-



Staff and students from Leavitt are joined by members of the Rinck Advertising team while visiting the agency to collaborate on Turner's Century Box Jubilee event promotion plan.

ticularly to younger residents. Davis worked with colleagues to develop a plan to make the event the focus of a Leavitt Summer Institute Course, a one-week intensive class of-

fered during the summer months to Leavitt students. He then contacted local marketing and public relations agency, Rinck, headquartered in Lewiston, to enlist their help in guiding

the students and the project.

On the first day of the class, students met with representatives from the Town of Turner, THM, and TPL. On the second day, they went to Rinck where they met with seven members of the Rinck team, four of whom are Leavitt grads and two who are Turner residents, all working in various roles in the agency. The group collaborated on developing a strategic brief for the project, developing a marketing and communications plan, and outlining tactics and assets to be created.

"Giving kids the opportunity to work on a real-world project alongside professionals is such a unique experience," said Davis. "They worked hard all week coming up with

ideas and were able to get immediate feedback from the staff at Rinck to come up with an outstanding final presentation."

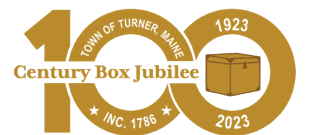
The students spent the third and fourth days of the week-long class refining the marketing plan and creating materials to execute it. They created a logo, poster, t-shirt design, social media content, a press release, and direct mail. They emailed and shared work with the Rinck team for review and updated based on their feedback. On the final day of the course, the Rinck team traveled to Leavitt where they gave final words of wisdom and helped the students prepare for a presentation to the THM and TPL representatives.

Tammy Fereshetian helps out at the Turner

Public Library and is a member of the MSAD 52 school board who came to watch the student presentation. "Witnessing the first day at the Turner History Museum and then seeing the finished project was inspiring," she said. "The students put together a top-notch presentation that our school and community can be proud of. I am sure sponsors of the century box in 1923 could not have conceived what this class created to promote the upcoming celebration. Thank you all for your commitment to our town and its veterans."

The students found the course equally inspiring. "Taking a week off from summer to work with Rinck was totally worth it," said Leavitt junior Maddie Gabri. "It was an experience working with them because we went much more in depth than we would a normal project in school. You can tell they are passionate about their work, and it really showed while working with them."

For more information about the Century Box Jubilee, keep an eye on the Turner Public Library Facebook page.



Leavitt junior Maddie Gabri presents the marketing plan developed with the guidance of Rinck Advertising to representatives from the Turner Historical Society, Turner Public Library and Town of Turner.

Gray New Gloucester Optimist Club presents pocket Constitutions



Pictured in the photo are (L - R) students Kai Sui, Alex Hamilton; principal Richard Riley-Benoit; student Cooper Bucci; Optimist Club members George Mathews, Virginia Bennett; and teacher Annie Cook

The Gray New Gloucester Optimist Club is shown presenting pocket Constitutions to the G-NG Middle School to be used for classroom instruction. The G-NG Club joined other Optimist Clubs in Maine in celebrating Constitution Day, which was September 17th. The Club's next service project was participation in the Trunk or Treat event at the New Gloucester Fairgrounds in October.

ReTreeUS

Continued from previous page

For more information about ReTreeUS and its commitment to empower-

ing people to grow their own food and become environmental stewards, visit retree.us.

Giving Grove's vision is thousands of

sustainable community orchards nationwide, creating local food systems that nourish people and the planet. Learn more at www.givinggrove.org.

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Combat engineer company changes hands



Capt Jones and family (L to R) - grandmother Joan, grandfather Robert, Capt. Jones, mother Marcia, father Steve, sister Audrey, brother in law Mike. Photos courtesy of Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Plourde

NORWAY, ME -- On Oct 14, in a ceremony in front of family, friends and fellow soldiers, Capt. Ellen Morrison passed the company guidon to incoming commander Capt. Corey Jones, thereby handing off command of the 251st Engineer Company.

"In my time as battalion commander, I have appreciated Capt. Morrison at the 251," said Lt. Col. Lisa Sessions, commander of the 133rd Engineer Battalion. "You led the unit through difficult and challenging times during the pandemic, and most recently you survived and thrived during your JRTC mission. That is a testament to you and your leadership. The 251 has accomplished great things. You should be proud. It has been a true pleasure working with you, and I'm excited to see what your future holds."

JRTC, or the Joint Readiness Training Center, is located at Fort Johnson, Louisiana, and hosts national combined arms exercises designed to hone both active and reserve units' abilities to

perform in a realistic decisive action environment.

"To all the soldiers of the 251, it's because of you this company continues to succeed," said Morrison. "There's a reason why this unit won the best unit in the state of Maine in 2022 and will continue to win in upcoming years - it's because of you."

Morrison was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for her accomplishments during her command tour. She will continue her service as an operations section battle captain with the 133rd Engineer Company in Brunswick.

Adopted from Russia by American parents at an early age, Morrison spent her formative years in Silver Spring, Maryland, eventually following her brother and godfather into military service. She was also influenced by her father who worked for the National Security Agency. An ordnance officer turned engineer, Morrison previously served as the 251st's executive officer, as well as a platoon leader for both the 251st and Augusta's 152nd Support Maintenance Company.

She holds a bachelor's degree from New England School of Communications in Bangor and is employed by PatraCompany, a visual marketing company located in Brunswick.

Jones takes the company guidon after a tour as the training officer at 521st Troop Command in Bangor, during which time he served as a battle captain for the New England CERFP, a multi-state specialized National Guard response team, and also was heavily involved in supporting two international exercises with Maine's state partner nation of Montenegro.

Jones, like Morrison, was commissioned through the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) at the University of Maine. He originally enlisted as a heavy equipment operator with the 185th Engineer Support Company in Caribou. Other previous assignments include platoon leader for both the 251st and 262nd Engineer Company. Jones also served as executive officer for the 262nd, and deployed to the Southwest border in support of U.S. Customs



Capt. Ellen Morrison and 1st Sgt. Jacob Poulin. Photos courtesy of Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Plourde

and Border Patrol.

"I stand before you today excited and thankful for the opportunity to lead the 251st Sapper Company," said Jones in his remarks. "Command is a privilege, and I owe this privilege to several people who helped me on my path."

Jones thanked multiple mentors for their guidance and advice over the years, culminating in his taking command of the 251st.

"Most importantly,

I want to say 'thank you' to the men and women of the 251st Sapper Company," said Jones. "As many of you in this formation know, this is my home, and many of you standing here challenged me as a young lieutenant to be the best sapper I could be. I promise to serve my time here with that same mentality, and push our new soldiers to live up to those same expectations."

The 251st "Sappers" consists of approximately 95 soldiers from

across Maine. The unit traces its lineage back to June of 1810 and saw its first campaign during the War of 1812. The 251st is task-organized to provide assault, obstacle emplacement, route and area clearance, and general engineering support to a brigade-sized element. The majority of the unit was mobilized in January 2021 to support civilian law enforcement in Washington, D.C. during the 59th Presidential Inauguration.

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Species

Continued from page 7

and recovery efforts by the Department and our conservation partners.

The Maine Endan-

gered and Threatened Species Listing Handbook (PDF) covers all aspects of the Department's Endangered Species Listing process, including both regulatory and poli-

cy level components. The Maine Endangered Species Act [MESA] statutorily establishes the categories of "endangered" and "threatened" species. Species are added to, or

deleted from, these categories via recommendations by the Commissioner of MDIFW to the Legislature, and ultimately, approval by the Legislature. Other adminis-

trative categories (special concern and extirpated) are established by policy, not by regulation, and are used for planning and informational purposes; they do not have the legal weight of the first two categories.

By rule, the Department must review all species under its authority once every eight years to determine which species qualify for listing. During this comprehensive review, Department biologists, guided by the Maine Endangered and Threatened Species List-

ing Handbook compile a list of likely candidates for listing and distributes it to species specialists in Maine and elsewhere. Based on input from these specialists, the Department may revise the list before presenting it to the public at public hearings. Ultimately, the Department submits its final recommendation to the Legislature for their approval. The last comprehensive review was in 2022, with the Legislature approving the recommendations of the Commissioner (effective October 25, 2023).

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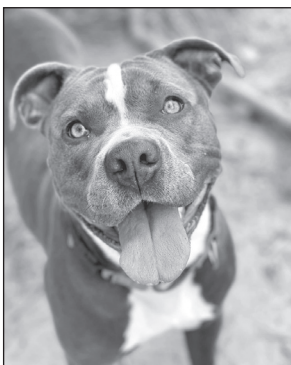


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MaineCF awards \$409K to advance animal welfare



Jubee, a 2-year-old terrier mix, is available for adoption from Kennebec Valley Humane Society. The organization was awarded a grant from the Maine Community Foundation's Animal Welfare Fund for its spay and neuter clinic. Photo courtesy Kennebec Valley Humane Society

PORTLAND & ELLSWORTH, ME — The Maine Community Foundation awarded a total of \$408,980 to 29 nonprofit organizations that advance animal welfare in the state through its Animal Welfare Fund.

The grantees include: Franklin County Animal Shelter, for its low-cost spay and neuter program
Kennebec Valley Humane Society, for a spay and neuter wellness clinic
SPCA Hancock County, for general support.

The Animal Welfare Fund supports projects and organizations that help low-income people stay with their pets through hardships, support population control and/or educate pet owners and communities about humane treat-

ment of animals.

The Animal Welfare Fund was established in 2007 by an anonymous donor. The fund is further supported by the Doree Taylor Charitable Foundation, Bank of America, N.A. and the George F. Lyman and Ernestine Lyman Trust.

For more information about the Animal Welfare Fund, visit www.maine.cf.org/animalwelfare or contact Community Partner John Ochira at jochira@maine.cf.org or 207-412-0837.

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

about the foundation, visit www.maine.cf.org.

2023 Animal Welfare Fund Grants

Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland, for general support: \$15,000

Animal Welfare Society, for general support: \$15,000

Ark Animal Sanctuary, for general support:

\$15,000

Bangor Humane Society, for general support: \$15,000

Central Aroostook Humane Society, for free spay and neuter clinics: \$15,000

Eastern Area Agency on Aging, to keep low-income, older adults and their pets together through Furry Friends, distribution of pet food, supplies, and animal welfare education: \$12,980

Franklin County Animal Shelter, for its low-cost spay and neuter program: \$10,000

Give a Dog a Home German Shepherd Rescue, for general support: \$15,000

Halfway Home Pet Rescue, for its spay and neuter clinic: \$15,000

Harvest Hills Animal Shelter, for general support: \$15,000

Homeless Animal Rescue Team of Maine, for the Beyond the Walls program to assist low-income cat owners with urgent veterinary bills: \$15,000

Humane Society Wa-

terville Area, for general support: \$15,000

Kennebec Valley Humane Society, for a spay and neuter wellness clinic: \$15,000

Community Kritters, for spay/neuter collaboration with Greater Androscoggin Humane Society for Tree Street neighborhood pets: \$15,000

Maine Animal Health Alliance, to provide \$100 and up coupons canine spay/neuter/vaccine services for Maine families with financial need: \$15,000

Midcoast Humane, to help low-income communities keep pets in their homes, address Maine's feral cat population, and educate community about the human-animal bond: \$15,000

PAWS Animal Adoption Center, for general support: \$15,000

Pixel Posse, for general support: \$15,000

Pope Memorial Humane Society, for general support: \$15,000

Rattletrap Ranch, to defray expenses for care

of cats and kittens taken in and socialized, and to support the long-term needs of fostered aging and disabled cats: \$15,000

Red Rover, to conduct outreach especially in Androscoggin and Cumberland counties: \$15,000

Responsible Pet Care of Oxford Hills, for general support: \$10,000

SPCA Hancock County, for general support: \$15,000

Somerset Humane Society, for a low cost public spay/neuter voucher program: \$15,000

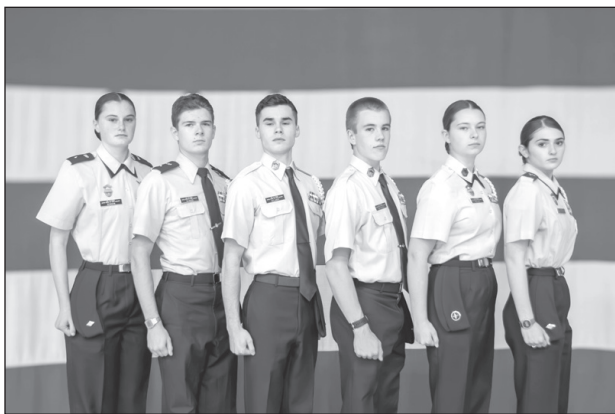
Spirits Place, for general support: \$15,000

The Ark, to help fund veterinary costs through the low-cost spay/neuter program, and the fund that assists with emergency veterinary costs within the community: \$15,000

Town of Dexter, to place older cats into the homes of older people and help with their help deposits and annual wellness exams: \$15,000

Waldo County Pet Food Pantry, for general support: \$15,000.

Maine Civil Air Patrol Cadets aim high in competition



L to R: Portland Composite Squadron Competition Team, Cadet Maj. Caroline Benson, CAP, Cadet 2nd Lt. Garner Klinger, CAP, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Patrick Delaney, CAP, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Lance Whitehead, CAP, Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Riley Record, CAP, Cadet Maj. Eva Levin, CAP

AUGUSTA, ME – Integrity, excellence, and respect were on display at the Augusta Armory on Sunday Oct. 29 as Maine

Wing Civil Air Patrol cadets put themselves to the test, competing in the challenging annual Cadet Competition.

6 teams of 6 cadets from 6 squadrons throughout Maine Wing competed in physical fitness, presentation and posting of the colors, drill, team leadership and uniforms. In the months leading up to the competition, the teams practiced and prepared with fierce determination to bring honor to their squadrons.

Portland Composite Squadron earned first place in the competition with their exceptional color guard presentations standing out as a highlight of the day.

The Auburn-Lewiston Composite Squadron ultimately earned second place, edging out the Sanford Composite Squadron

by one point in a thrilling battle to the end.

The first and second place teams will move on to the regional competition in 2024 where they will compete for the honor of representing the Northeast Region, consisting of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, at the national competition.

"Maine Wing cadets impress me regularly, but this year's competition went beyond even my high expectations," said 1st Lt. Laura Decato, Maine Wing Director of Cadet Programs. "The extraordinary amount of work these teams put in to readying themselves for competition showed today and I am so proud of each and every competitor."

Teams from Bangor-Brewer Composite Squadron, Brunswick



L to R: Col. Blain Cote, CAP Maine Wing Commander, Cadet Maj. Caroline Benson, CAP, Portland Comp. Sq. Team Cadet Commander, Cadet Maj. Sean Haggerty, CAP, Auburn-Lewiston Comp. Sq. Team Cadet Commander, Cadet 2nd Lt. Bennett Gibson, CAP, Sanford Comp. Sq. Team Cadet Commander

Composite Squadron and Waterville Composite Squadron rounded out the field of competitors, with each team representing the best of Maine Wing.

Maine Wing Civil Air Patrol has 10 squadrons throughout Maine that are open new cadets ages 12-18. For more information on how to join Civil Air

Patrol, visit gocivilairpatrol.com to learn more and find your local squadron.

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



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Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

Nov 17
 BATH -- 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM the Chocolate Church presents Primo Cubano (Latin). Ticket Prices: \$20 ADV | \$22 DOS. Primo Cubano plays traditional Cuban dance music called "SON" dating back to the turn of the 20th Century. Get your tickets at chocolatechurcharts.org

Nov 18
 GORHAM -- Christmas Craft Fair 9:00am - 2:00pm at 33 & 34 Wilson Road, Gorham. White Rock Friendship Club and the White Rock Grange #380 will host our annual Christmas Craft Fair. Join over 30 crafters this holiday season. All items are handcrafted: candles, ornaments, home decor, wreaths, jewelry, handbags, crochet animals & knitted items, and much more! Raffle for themed gift baskets. Check event out on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/events/2027697437587563>

Nov 18
 BAR MILLS -- DER-EK GRIPPER - Guitarist - at Saco River Theatre, 29 Salmon Falls Road, Bar Mills, ME, Nov 18 at 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$15 General Admission at www.sacorivertheatre.org or call 207-929-6473 for reservations.

Nov 19
 SABATTUS -- Our Lady of the Rosary Christmas craft fair on Saturday, November 18th from 9

to 3. The fair will be located in the lower level of the church at 131 High St. in Sabattus. We'll have around 30 crafters and vendors, a basket raffle, and a bake sale. Come join us.

Nov 21
 AUBURN -- Craft Club 4 PM-5 PM at Auburn Public Library. Come hang out in the Teen Space and work on your current craft project, or start something new with materials we provide! Snacks included.

Nov 24
 BUXTON -- MULTI-CRAFTER SALE Friday, November 24 from 9-2 at 938 Long Plains Rd, Buxton, ME

Nov 25
 BUXTON -- Tired of Turkey? Try our delicious Haddock Supper Buffet - Saturday, November 25, 2023 - 5:00 pm at Living Waters Church, Parker Farm Road, Buxton. Suggested donation: \$10 Adult, \$5 Child, \$20 Family. Please note: We will offer the option of takeout containers for those who do not want to come inside for seating. Wearing of face masks for those who wish is optional. Hand sanitizer is available for those who wish to use it.

Nov 25
 BATH -- 7:30 PM

9:30 PM the Chocolate Church presents Pat Colwell & The Soul Sensations Motown Christmas (R&B, Holiday). Ticket Prices: \$20 ADV | \$22 DOS. A beloved tradition here at the Chocolate Church Arts Center! Pat Colwell and the Soul Sensations bring down the house with a powerful mix of Motown and Memphis soul music that's guaranteed to get the party started. Get your tickets at chocolatechurcharts.org

Nov 25
 BAR MILLS -- ERICA BROWN AND THE BLUEGRASS CONNECTION - at Saco River Theatre, 29 Salmon Falls Road, Bar Mills, ME, Nov 25 at 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$15 General Admission at www.sacorivertheatre.org or call 207-929-6473 for reservations.

Nov 27
 AUBURN -- Anime & Manga Club 4 PM-5 PM at Auburn Public Library. Discuss and watch your favorite anime, or share manga with the rest of the group, while enjoying some tasty snacks.

Dec 1
 LEWISTON -- from 10:00am - 11:30am, the Lewiston Public Library Children's Department will

be offering the program Little Footprints Keychain Keepsake. During this program, caregivers and their young children will be able to create a keepsake featuring the unique footprint of their child. The program is recommended for kids ages birth to 5 years and their caregivers. Siblings are also welcome to attend. Free. In person. All material will be provided.

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.

Dec 4
 LEWISTON -- "The Lost Art of Tea Leaf Reading Workshop" in Callahan Hall on the third floor of the Lewiston Public Library from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Dec 4
 LISBON FALLS -- The Knights of Columbus Council 10019 will be sponsoring a dedicated blood drive in memory of Tracy Sautter on December 4th at the parish hall of Holy Trinity church 67 Frost Hill Avenue Lisbon Falls from 1:00 PM to 5:30 PM to make an appoint-

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ment please call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: HTC

No walk-ins accepted; must make an appointment.

Dec 6
 LEWISTON -- Author talk with Clif Travers at the Lewiston Public Library at 5:30 PM. The event listing can also be found on our website at <https://lplonline.org/events/author-clif-travers-to-speak-at-lpl/>

Dec 11
 LEWISTON -- From 3:30pm-5:00pm, the Lewiston Public Library Children's Department will be offering the program Kids' Collage Picture Frames. During this program, kids will be able to create a unique collage picture frame using a variety of materials, including old books, graphic novels, wrapping paper, and embellishments. The program is recommended for kids ages 6-12. Kids under 8

must be accompanied by a caregiver.

This activity is free, all materials will be provided, and there is no registration required.

Dec 11
 LEWISTON -- Visit with Daniel Tiger at the Lewiston Public Library on Saturday, December 9th at 11am in Callahan Hall. This event is in partnership with Maine Public Radio and PBS Kids. Registration required on Eventbrite: <https://tinyurl.com/2vd-4kftu> If you previously registered for the canceled event, you DO NOT need new tickets for this event. You are still registered. Free. In person.

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



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SENIOR TRIPS

APRIL 11 – 19, 2024 – THE FRENCH RIVIERA – Trip includes 9 days, 7 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches and 3 dinners. Lodging for 7 nights in the same hotel. Highlights are Nice, Food Tour & Tasting, Nice Flower Market, Monaco, Monte Carlo, Grasse, Cannes, Saint-Honorat Island & Wine Tasting, Villa Ephrussi de Rothchild, St. Paul de Vence and much more.

MAY 11 – 19, 2024 – BILTMORE ESTATE & ASHEVILLE, NC - Trip includes 8 nights lodging including 4 nights in the Asheville area, 8 breakfasts and 6 dinners and a guided tour of the Asheville, North Carolina area. We will have a full day visit to the spectacular Biltmore Estate, America's largest privately owned home. We will visit the

Biltmore Village that connects the estates present and past and provides a place for dining, shopping and historical exhibits. We will also visit the Antler Village and winery. We will tour the Blue Ridge Parkway with a guide and stops along the way. A \$75.00 deposit per person is due when signing up. Price is \$1,245.00 pp double occupancy which includes all entrance fees, meal tips and bus driver tip.

JUNE 15 – 23, 2024 – WESTERN CANADA'S ROCKIES, LAKES & WINE COUNTRY - This trip includes 9 days and 8 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 3 dinners. Highlights of this trip are Calgary, Albertan BBQ, Banff, Bow Falls, Lake Louise, Revelstoke Railway Museum, Okanagan Valley, Vineyard Dinner and Wine Tasting, Stanley Park, Granville Island and much more. Call Claire or Cindy for more information.

OCTOBER 6 – 14, 2024 - NOVA SCOTIA, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND & NEW BRUNSWICK – Trip includes 8 nights lodging, 8 break-

fasts, 1 lunch, and 6 dinners. You will have a guided tour of Acadia National Park, Halifax, Peggy's Cove & Lunenburg. We will visit King's Landing Historical Settlement and have a guided tour of Prince Edward Island including Anne of Green Gable's Home. We will have admission to the Hopewell Rocks and you will visit the Waterside Town of Saint John, New Brunswick and much more. A \$75.00 deposit is due when signing up. Price is \$1,639.00 per person double occupancy and this includes all entrance fees, meal tips and bus driver tip.

If interested in any of these trips or upcoming trips, please contact Claire Bilodeau at 784-0302 or 576-8604 or Cindy Boyd at 345-9569. If we are not available, please leave a message and we will call you as soon as we can.

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Make a life-changing impact with Operation Christmas Child

AUBURN, ME — Operation Christmas Child, a project of international Christian relief organiza-

tion Samaritan's Purse, delivers gift-filled shoeboxes to millions of children in need each year. For years,

Auburn families have packed shoebox gifts for boys and girls around the world. One of these gifts

reached Alex Nsengimana in Rwanda when he was a young boy. Nsengimana is now visiting Auburn residents to share how the simple gift had a life-changing impact.

Nsengimana will be telling his story to local groups and churches. He wants to encourage residents as they kick off the upcoming collection season to fill more shoeboxes with fun toys, school supplies and personal care items—contributing to the global goal of reaching 11 million children in Jesus' Name.

Growing up in midst of an unstable Rwandan government, Nsengimana experienced first-hand the travesties of his nation's genocide. At the height of tribal unrest, the genocide claimed the lives of his caregivers. Fleeing for his life, Nsengimana escaped ended up in an orphanage that was his home for the next several years.

Nsengimana received a shoebox from Operation Christmas Child one year after arriving at the orphanage and remembers being so excited to have a gift to call his own. The shoebox gift sowed seeds of hope and love that he desperately needed. He realized that God had a specific plan for his life. Nsengimana now serves with Operation Christmas Child paying forward the hope and love he received through a shoebox gift.



During Operation Christmas Child's National Collection Week Nov. 13 – 20, Auburn residents can bring gift-filled shoeboxes to multiple drop-off locations across Maine to be announced in late October.

For more information, call 518-437-0690, or visit samaritanaspurse.org/occ. Participants can donate \$10 per shoebox gift online through "Follow Your Box" and receive a tracking label to discover its destination. Those who prefer the convenience of online shopping can browse samaritanaspurse.org/buildonline to select gifts matched to a child's specific age and gender, then finish packing the virtual shoebox by adding a photo and personal note of encouragement.

Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, seeks to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world and, together with the local church worldwide, to

share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 209 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories. This year, Operation Christmas Child will celebrate its 30th year of ministry!

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