

## Open Skate held at USM Ice Arena in Gorham



Put on the skates and head out to Open Ice Skate at USM's Ice Arena on December 10 from 9:30-10:30am. Skating is open to the public as well as the USM community. \$5 for community members, USM students/faculty/staff free.

## Volunteers needed for New Year Gorham



**GORHAM, ME** -- The New Year Gorham (NYG) Committee is seeking volunteers to help with the specific tasks below on December 31st:

Decorating between Noon and 2pm  
Children's Crafts between 3:30 and 5:30pm

Staffing for Admission tables for an hour between 3:30 and 8:30pm (training provided)

Please contact NYG Coordinator Thomas Hasbrouck (trhasbrouck@icloud.com) if you can help make New Year Gorham the best it can be!

## Author talk coming to Gorham's Baxter Memorial Library

AUTHOR EVENT:  
MELANIE BROOKS IN CONVERSATION  
WITH JENNIFER DUPREE



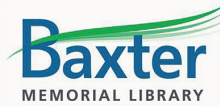
MELANIE BROOKS



JENNIFER DUPREE

Melanie Brooks will discuss her recently published memoir, *A Hard Silence*, with Jennifer Dupree, author of *The Miraculous Flight of Owen Leach*.

At a time when HIV/AIDS was widely misunderstood and public perception was shaped by fear, prejudice, and homophobia, Brooks' father contracted the disease from a blood transfusion received during open-heart surgery. Understanding all too well the stigma that would follow both himself and his family, Melanie's father, a surgeon, decided they would all keep his illness a secret. This memoir offers an intimate glimpse into Melanie's memories of coping with the tragedy of her father's illness and enduring the loneliness and isolation of not being able to speak.



Tuesday  
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**GORHAM, ME** – On December 12 at 6PM, Melanie Brooks will discuss her recently published memoir, *A Hard Silence*, with Jennifer Dupree, author of *The Miraculous Flight of Owen Leach* at Gorham's Baxter Memorial Library.

At a time when HIV/AIDS was widely misunderstood and public perception was shaped by fear, prejudice, and homophobia, Brooks' father contracted the

disease from a blood transfusion received during open-heart surgery. Understanding all too well the stigma that would follow both himself and his family, Melanie's father, a surgeon, decided they would all keep his illness a secret. This memoir offers an intimate glimpse into Melanie's memories of coping with the tragedy of her father's illness and enduring the loneliness and isolation of not being able to speak.

## Christmas Penny Store

Buying gifts can be hard as a kid! If you are 12 years old or younger, come buy gifts for your family for just a penny for each item!

December 6, 12-3

December 9, 10-2

December 16, 10-2



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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## Letter to the Editor:

# The Episcopal Church - A Good Choice

Amidst the divisions of our time, Episcopalians have historically taken the path of the "Via Media"; the "middle way" when addressing theological and social issues. As thinking Christians Episcopalians pursue their love of our Creator with heart mind and soul and attempt to love our neighbors as ourselves, as Jesus recommended.

In the face of divisive and growing Christian Nationalism, we need a remedy for discriminatory thinking, hate, and exclusion of others unlike us. Being a member of an Episcopal Church provides

a sense of belonging to a community that shares similar values and concerns. It offers opportunities for fellowship, spiritual growth, and mutual support. When visiting any of the Episcopal Churches in Maine one will find a thoughtful focus on Caring for Creation, Social Justice, Separation of Church and State, and the Preservation of Democracy as part of civic duty and spiritual values.

In the Episcopal Churches of Maine, caring for God's creation is front and center. Significant steps are being made to promote environmentally sustainable practices. Each

visitor may participate in advocacy efforts, awareness campaigns, and community to mitigate climate change and promote environmental stewardship. Climate change disproportionately affects disadvantaged communities and exacerbates existing inequalities.

The Episcopal Church has a strong commitment to social justice. Past practices of harmful American legislation are reviewed, and efforts are being made for a more equitable and sustainable future for all.

The Episcopal Church has historically supported

the principle of separation of Church and State. We must maintain the separation of church and state to ensure that everyone, no matter their background, is free to live in freedom according to their worldview. If we were to walk a day in others' shoes, we would see that they, like us, are doing their best to live up to their understanding of the virtuous path.

Members value the ability to worship and practice their faith without government interference. All are encouraged to actively engage in civic life and work towards the common good. We invite you

to join a community where freedom of thought is embraced, and where together we can create a world where light overcomes darkness. It is imperative to preserve democracy and prohibit our elected officials from applying their private interpretations of Scripture upon others. The United States is not a theocracy and must never become one.

Most importantly, the Episcopal Church can be the thoughtful persons' church spiritual home. Centuries have passed since the writing of Scripture and the Creeds. Our understanding of how to

read the Holy Writ has evolved and will continue to, over time. A central part of the Episcopal journey is reading and understanding the history of the church and state since its earliest beginnings.

Now more than ever, we need to learn to love our neighbors as ourselves. As Thanksgiving passes and time bends toward Christmas, you are invited to engage in your spiritual growth and civic life at an Episcopal Church near you.

Sincerely yours,  
Rev. Jack Fles - All Saints Episcopal Church, Skowhegan, Maine

## Maine-ly Harmony presents "Peace on Earth"



I-r, first row, Judy Labonte, Jennifer Clair, Betty Avery, Martha Tait, Lynn Izzi, Kathy Joyce, Lea Davis, Barbara Combs; 2nd row, l-r, Martha Bangs, Peg Dubrow, Candace Pepin, Janet Dunham, LouAnne Mossler, Donna Ryder, Dotti Meyer; third row, l-r, Lynn Rogers, Danielle Bolouc, BJ Sylvester-Pellett, Cathy Anderson, Nancy Bossie, Sue Staples, Director Kathy Greason.

MAINE -- Maine-ly Harmony barbershop chorus has announced its upcoming holiday performances, where they will be singing a treasury of songs of the season.

"Peace on Earth" will be held at the Randolph

United Methodist Church, 16 Asbury Street, Randolph, on Sunday, December 10th at 2 p.m.

The Chorus is suggesting donations for admission and will hold raffles to benefit the church's heating fund. We also of-

fer light refreshments and Santa Claus in person! We believe we all need some "peace on earth" - at least for one afternoon.

We will also be singing at the Lithgow Library in Augusta on Wednesday, December 6, at 6:30 p.m. The public is invited. Women who love singing harmony are welcome to join the chorus on Wednesday evenings at the Randolph United Methodist Church at 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact Donna Ryder at 207-582-5523 or dryder076@gmail.com

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

## UMA music program to perform December concerts

AUGUSTA, ME -- The University of Maine at Augusta Contemporary & Popular Music Program presents the fall 2023 Concert Week from December 5th through 7th. All performances are free and open to the public. Most performances are offered in person at the Farber Forum on the UMA Augusta Campus and online. The Farber Forum is located in Jewett Hall, 46 University Dr., Augusta, Maine.

The Contemporary & Popular Music program at UMA is Northern New England's preeminent modern music education resource for live study and one of the top online music programs globally.

Visit <https://www.uma.edu/2023concerts> for

links to the YouTube performances.

The Concert Week events include the following ensemble performances:

Tuesday Dec. 5, 2023  
12:00PM - 1:30PM  
Rock Ensemble and Jazz/Rock I Ensemble at Farber Forum and Live-streamed on UMA's YouTube page

4:00PM - 5:30PM  
Jazz/Rock II Ensemble and Aaron Harmon's Senior Concert at Farber Forum and Live-streamed on UMA's YouTube page

7:00PM - 8:30PM  
Jazz/Rock Online Ensemble and Envok Vocal Ensemble Online at UMA's YouTube page

Wednesday Dec. 6, 2023

12:00PM - 1:30PM  
Vintage Steel, UMA's Com-

munity Steel Pan Ensemble at Farber Forum and Live-streamed on UMA's YouTube page

Thursday Dec. 7, 2023

12:00PM - 1:30PM  
Chamber Ensemble at Farber Forum and Live-streamed on UMA's YouTube page

Victoria Hays' Senior Concert Online at UMA's YouTube page

UMA transforms the lives of students of every age and background across the State of Maine and beyond through access to high-quality distance and on-site education, excellence in student support, civic engagement, and professional and liberal arts programs. For more information, please visit <https://www.uma.edu/>.

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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## DOE podcast features local high school students

**AUGUSTA, ME**— On the latest episode of her What Holds Us Together podcast, Maine Department of Education (DOE) Commissioner Pender Makin spoke with two Yarmouth High School students about their experiences pursuing what they are passionate about through their school's Extended Learning Opportunities (ELO) program. Yarmouth senior Sarah Hinson gets school credit and paid work experience through her ELO at Portland Veterinary Hospital and junior Liam Hannah engaged in a summer ELO to program and build a drink serving robot which also earned him school credit.

Extended Learning Opportunities offer students creative and flexible opportunities to explore what they are passionate about develop skills and knowledge that will set them up for success in school and life, all while gaining school credit and the option of paid work experience. The Maine DOE has awarded \$5.6 million in Maine Jobs and Recovery

Plan (MJRP) funding to 26 school administrative units and community-based organizations to create or expand ELOs across the state.

"We're going to be discussing an exciting, innovative approach to interdisciplinary, hands-on, real-world learning called Extended Learning Opportunities," said Makin in the podcast's opening. "I met Sarah, Liam, and several of their classmates when I visited their school to hear more about these ELOs. What I heard was so impressive and inspirational that I wanted to have them on this podcast to share what they've been doing with everyone."

Dozens of students participate in ELOs at Yarmouth High School. On her recent visit, Makin talked with students who were studying cognitive neuroscience and the science of wellbeing, civics, interning for non-profits, working on policy issues, building skills to have constructive conversations and debates about issues, promoting work opportunities for New Mainers, and so

much more through their ELOs. Students meet with the school's coordinator Brittany Brockelbank to design their ELO and meet regularly to discuss their progress and showcase what they've learned. Makin invited two students on the podcast to share more about their experiences.

"I'm doing a work study. I'm now on my fifth semester and I get credit for what I learn in the ER. It's a very unique opportunity to learn about what I'm passionate about and what I'll do after high school while getting school credit," said Sarah Hinson describing her ELO on the podcast.

"It's an incredibly flexible program. There are endless opportunities for what you can do and it's very individualized with the learning that you do," said Liam Hannah about what he liked about his ELO. He said he got his idea for his drink serving robot after seeing a similar one at a sushi restaurant. He had taken coding and machining classes at school and also had a stu-

dent mentor to provide support for his ELO. Hannah also utilized ChatGPT to help him troubleshoot when we ran into coding or other obstacles.

Both students highlighted connections between what they've learned through their ELOs and how they've applied it to their other classes and in life. They also discussed how ELOs offer opportunities to engage students who may not find that same kind of engagement in traditional class settings.

"I remember sophomore year we were doing something in my biology class with sodium chloride bonding and I work with sodium chloride all the time. I use it every shift and I know a lot about it... so my job in certain situations has connected back to school but in many ways it's very different. School does provide me with the knowledge that I need to get into the field—I can't go into the field if I'm not good at math," said Hinson. "In my job I'm learning something that I really am going to apply

in my work on a farm with over 50 animals. It gives students that don't fit the square box of what school and a student should look like [the opportunity to learn something we like]."

"This ELO, it really helped me develop a schedule and think really far out with my plans which I was never really great at and definitely helped me develop that," said Hannah on how his ELO helped him build stronger time management skills.

The students were enthusiastic in what they would tell other students or school leaders about ELOs.

"It's super fun—it's the most fun I've ever had in a learning environment. I think every school should have the option for an ELO," said Hannah.

"Do it! Find what works for you. There are so many ELOs available—group, individual, summer, learning ones, and working ones," said Hinson.

Makin closed the podcast by highlighting the Maine DOE's efforts to expand ELOs across the state.

"Our Department of

Education is promoting ELOs across the state and anything that is hands-on, interdisciplinary, and applied learning. We're really hopeful that Maine is going to lead the way nationally," said Makin.

The Maine DOE website features highlights and stories from ELO programs across Maine.

What Holds Us Together is a monthly podcast hosted by Commissioner Makin that highlights the great things happening in public schools across Maine and how public education connects us through conversations with educators, school staff, and students. The podcast launched last month with a conversation between Makin, 2023 Maine Teacher of the Year Matt Bernstein, and the newly named 2024 Maine Teacher of the Year Joshua Chard.

What Holds Us Together can be listened to and subscribed to on all major podcast platforms, including Apple and Spotify. New episodes are released on the third Thursday of every month.

## Osher School of Music at USM to hold annual Scholarship Gala

**PORTLAND, ME** -- On December 1<sup>st</sup>, the 32nd Annual Osher School of Music Scholarship Gala will be held at the new McGoldrick Center for Career & Student Success.

Enjoy performances by USM students and faculty, indulge in fine food

and the company of art enthusiasts, all while supporting music education.

Tickets are \$125 and proceeds go towards scholarships at the Osher School of Music. Get yours at the Osher School of Music website or Facebook page.

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

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# “Stuff the Bus” brightens holidays for local families

The LA Metro Chamber of Commerce is delighted to kick off its annual “Stuff the Bus” event, a heartwarming seasonal toy and clothing drive designed to bring joy to local families in need during the holiday season. The event, organized by the LA Metro Chamber of Commerce, is set to run through December 4th.

About Stuff the Bus: Stuff the Bus is a decades-old community initiative that unites individuals, businesses, and organizations to contribute new, unwrapped items such as gifts, winter clothing, and household necessities. The drive benefits a diverse range of recipients, including families, homeless youth, seniors, and

even pets. In collaboration with 18 non-profit partners, the Chamber ensures that the donated items reach those who need them the most. These partners have direct relationships with the identified recipients, facilitating a more personal and impactful distribution.

Exclusive Sponsorship by Northeast Bank: This year, Stuff the Bus is proud to have Northeast Bank as its exclusive sponsor for the second consecutive year. Bethany Belanger, Senior Vice President, Director of Retail Banking for Northeast Bank, expressed the bank’s excitement, stating, “Northeast Bank is excited to sponsor Stuff the Bus for a second year. We en-



courage those donating to stop by one of our seven locations in Maine with items. This is a great event to light up the holiday season for local families, community members, and pets in need.”

Official Retail Partner - Target: In addition to North-

east Bank, Stuff the Bus is pleased to announce Target as its official Retail Partner for the second year running. Individuals looking to contribute can now easily find and purchase items needed by the families and individuals served by our non-profit partners through the Target Reg-

istry. The registry, along with information about bus stop/drop-off locations and non-profit partners, can be found on the event website: <https://lametrocc.com/STB2023>.

“The support of Northeast Bank allows us to grow this program and reach more people,” said LA Metro Chamber of Commerce President + CEO, Shanna Cox. “This year is our second year partnering with both Northeast Bank and Target, and people love the ease of the registry and being able to ship items directly to the Chamber.”

How to Contribute: Individuals who wish to contribute to Stuff the Bus can drop off new, unwrapped items at the LA

Metro Chamber of Commerce or at any of the 27 convenient drop-off locations—referred to as “Bus Stops”—across Lewiston Auburn. For more information, including a list of drop-off locations, please visit <https://lametrocc.com/STB2023> or call 207-783-2249.

Importance of the Event:

Given the current challenges faced by many in the community, this year’s Stuff the Bus holds even greater significance. The LA Metro Chamber of Commerce encourages everyone to join in the spirit of giving and making a positive impact on the lives of local families, children, and pets during this festive season.

# DEA provides updates on efforts to combat opioids, meth in Maine



WASHINGTON, D.C. –U.S. Senator Susan Collins received a briefing from Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Administrator Anne Mil-

gram on efforts to address illegal Chinese marijuana operations, combat the opioid epidemic, and fight the rise of crystal meth use in Maine.

“No community is immune from the opioid epidemic, and I commend the men and women of the DEA for their work to combat illicit opioid trafficking and distribution. While we continue to target deadly opioids, we must not lose sight of the need to protect our communities from

other emerging threats. The significant increase of crystal meth seizures in Maine – from 3 kilograms in 2021 to 72 kilograms in 2022 – is incredibly shocking,” said Senator Collins. “Administrator Milgram and I also discussed the recent reporting on the illegal Chinese marijuana growing operations in Maine and the potential harm they pose to our public health and national security. We must put an end to these criminal enterprises that

are flooding our State and infiltrating our rural communities. I will continue to push the Department of Justice, including the DEA, to work with state and local law enforcement and shut down these illegal operations.”

In August, Senator Collins and the Maine Delegation wrote to Attorney General Merrick Garland requesting information on what the Department of Justice is doing to shut down these illegal Chinese

marijuana growing operations. Following an investigation by Maine Wire that uncovered more than 100 foreign-owned drug houses throughout rural Maine earlier this month, Senator Collins renewed her call for federal action.

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

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# \$8M for Maine preschools serving low-income families

WASHINGTON, D.C. –U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King announced that the Maine Department of Health and Human Services received \$8,000,000 through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Early Childhood Development’s Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5)

program. This funding will allow the State of Maine to expand access to high-quality preschool for children from low-income families.

“Early childhood education is an investment in the future of our children,” Senators Collins and King said. “This funding will expand access to pre-K and help build an educational

foundation for Maine children that will benefit them for the rest of their lives.”

“The first five years of a child’s life lay a foundation for future development and learning. Federal funding to advance a coordinated system in Maine will help young children and families get the critical services need, including developmental screenings and high quality early care and education,” said Stephanie Eglinton, Maine Children’s Alliance.

The PDG B-5 program supports state efforts to create or enhance preschool programs in high-need communities, while developing infrastructure to better deliver preschool services.

Senators Collins and King have always supported Maine’s early childhood education programs. Earlier this month, they cosponsored a resolution recognizing October 20th as National Early Childhood Literacy Awareness Day. They also recently announced more than \$5 million for early learning programs in Maine.

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## Seniors Not Acting Their Age

# Whitewater Thrills on the Piscataquog River

Each fall, Horace Lake Dam in Weare, New Hampshire, releases copious amounts of water into the narrow North Branch of the Piscataquog River. The drawdown is usually scheduled for mid-October. The result is about five miles of Class III/IV whitewater that tumbles through a scenic rural environment. Participation in the recreational release has become an annual pilgrimage for many New England whitewater enthusiasts.



Evan Eichorn finishes a descent of Woodbury Rapid

For several years, my friend, Ryan Galway, has led a Penobscot Paddle & Chowder Society trip on the Piscataquog during the release. He announced the whitewater outing again this year.

Ten of us met at a convenience store in Dunbarton, New Hampshire, on a cool, partly sunny mid-October morning. Club members from Vermont, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, and Maine were among the participants. Our ages varied from 13 to 76; as usual I was the senior citizen in the group. Remarkably, thirteen-year old Krea Galway paddled with her Dad, Ryan. They were the first tandem canoe team I've witnessed paddle the Piscataquog.

We drove to a take-out next to a bridge on East Weare Road in Weare. Traveling the rough dirt road required fording a flooded area. After doubling up boats and paddlers, we left shuttle vehicles and proceeded to Horace Lake Dam. On the way, we stopped to scout Buzzzell Hill Rapid, one of several difficult descents and the only one easily viewed from the road. It looked challenging.

The put-in was a busy place. With one exception, we unloaded our canoes and kayaks and

carried down a long, steep embankment to the river. Ryan's son, Mason, chose a much more exciting alternative, a "seal launch" down the precipitous hill. He stayed upright for his thrilling bumpy ride that ended a few feet short of the river.

Stimulating rapids begin immediately on the Piscataquog. After a short distance, we turned sharply left and arrived at the first difficult descent, Slab City Ledge. The site of a former dam, veterans of prior outings knew starting left was the preferred route to safely negotiate the eight-foot drop. Still, turbulent waves tossed us about in the run out.

The pushy current propelled us through several easier rapids to Chase Mill Rapid. From the top, a group of kayakers could be seen removing a downed tree blocking the primary channel. We waited in an eddy until the dangerous obstruction was eliminated. Paddlers still needed to duck beneath another low-hanging tree just beyond.

Woodbury Rapid, a baffling cluttered falls, begins shortly after. We plunged into the attenuated entrance one boat at a time. The site of problems for club members in the past, the entire group en-

joyed successful descents through the complicated maze of boulders.

Easy whitewater continued to the most substantial falls on the river, a double-ledge drop intimidatingly called The Big One. A horizon line from above, there is no discernable route over the second ledge. I followed Mason's choice through the center in my kayak. A pour-over pushed me into a sticky hole that momentarily side-surfed me before I back paddled out. Despite difficulties by most no one capsized.

Buzzzell Hill Rapid was next. Although the advance scouting helped, I experienced problems recognizing routes over the three ledge drops. A kayaker flipped and rolled in front of me just before I caught an eddy on the right below the first ledge. Remembering to remain generally in the center when navigating over the two remaining ledges, I managed to stay upright. Everyone had successful runs, including an exceptional descent by Krea and Ryan.

Turnover Ledge, another precipitous falls, begins shortly after. So named because a powerful hole at the bottom often flips boats; everyone negotiated safely through. Several paddlers executed im-

pressive maneuvers called enders in the hole.

The most difficult whitewater behind us, we relaxed while progressing through several Class II/III rapids. Perhaps overconfident, one kayaker capsized and self-rescued.

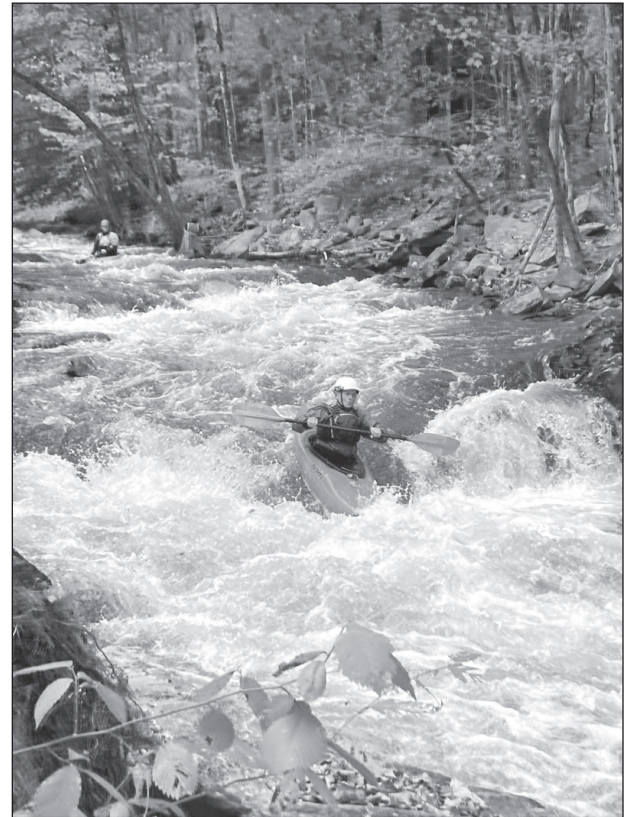
I drifted ahead of the group to a falls that was difficult to evaluate from the top. My choice to go right of an island was the wrong one. I temporarily pinned between some boulders but was able to extricate myself. I signaled my companions to go left but several missed my directions. More mishaps followed.

Despite some minor adversities in the easier rapids at the end, overall we enjoyed an exceptional day on an outstanding whitewater river.

My book, *Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine* narrates nine more exciting whitewater adventures.

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](http://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.ronchase-outdoors.com](http://www.ronchase-outdoors.com) or he can be reached at [ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net](mailto:ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net)

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



Paddlers navigate difficult Buzzzell Hill Rapid on the Piscataquog



Mason Galway "seal launches" at the Horace Lake Dam



Krea and Ryan Galway completed a rare tandem canoe run on the Piscataquog River

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# Arts & Entertainment

## Visit Santa and the goats at Smiling Hills Farm this weekend



**WESTBROOK, ME** -- Join us at Smiling Hills Farm at 781 County Road in Westbrook, ME on Saturday December 2 and Sunday December 3 to visit with Santa and the goats, weather permitting. Cancellations will be announced on Facebook with rain/snow dates of December 9 and 10.

Take pictures with Santa and the goats. Barnyard wooden toys will also be available for use. There will also be barnyard animals for visiting depending on weather and conditions. Animals may include mini donkeys, mini horses, sheep, alpacas and potbelly pigs.

The cost of this event is \$12 per group of up to 3 people; \$4 for each additional person. Pay upon arrival, as there are no advance tickets or reservations due to the

possibility of uncertain weather condition cancellations. Santa will be on a scheduled break from 10:45-11:15.

The Ice Cream Barn will be OPEN for this event at 9 until 6, serving soups, sandwiches, mac & cheese, and more from 11-3, for those looking to purchase lunch, enjoy an ice cream, or warm up with a cup of hot chocolate.

Be sure to check out the gifts for children & adults and ice cream, milk, butter, cheese, and yogurt for your home & holiday needs.

Staff will also be on hand to assist you with purchasing Barnyard 2024 Season Passes and gift cards for all occasions: XC Skiing, Barnyard, Lunch, etc.

Hope to see you there!

# A Christmas Carol

adapted by Christopher Schario

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## Clothes Galore at Gorham's Mission of Hope Clothes Closet

**GORHAM, ME** (April 29, 2023) -- The FREE Clothes Closet at Cressey Road Church (Mission of Hope Clothes Closet) is open to all who need Fellowship, Friendship and Clothes. We are located at 81 Cressey Road, Gorham, and we are open on the FIRST and THIRD Saturday of each month from 9 o'clock AM to 12 Noon.

We focus on clothes and accessories (gloves, scarves, hats, etc.) and welcome your donations during our operating hours. Clean clothes in good shape help the most, as they go right out to help people locally or in nearby communities. An attempt is made to have season appropriate clothes available to you. After we have displayed them for a

time, they are donated to serve the people in need in Ukraine.

In addition to helping folks find clothes, we want to spend time with you! There are tables to sit, talk and to share a cup of coffee and usually a goodie with volunteers or others. Come see us! You might make a new friend. All are Welcome!

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# Give thanks and give back: Donate blood or platelets

**PORTLAND, ME** — As many begin gathering for holiday celebrations with family and friends, the American Red Cross urges donors to give thanks and give back by making a plan to give blood or platelets in the coming weeks.

This time of year is traditionally hard on the nation's blood supply. Seasonal illness, winter weather and holiday celebrations often lead to lower appointment numbers and decreased donor turnout, making it hard to keep up with the demand for blood products. When they give now, donors can ensure

patients have access to life-saving blood and platelets through the end of the year.

The public can schedule an appointment now by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). To celebrate the upcoming Prime Video release, Candy Cane Lane, those that come to give blood in December will be automatically entered to win a holiday prize package, including a \$1,000 Amazon.com Gift Card and 65-inch Omni QLED Series Amazon Fire TV. There will be 12 win-

ners. Plus, those who come to give Dec. 1-17 will get a \$10 Amazon.com Gift Card by email. Terms for both offers apply. See [rcblood.org/Amazon](http://rcblood.org/Amazon). Candy Cane Lane features an all-star cast, including Eddie Murphy and Tracee Ellis Ross, and directed by Reginald Hudlin.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities Dec. 1-17:

**Androscoggin**  
Lewiston  
12/4/2023: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Saint Marys Regional Medical Center, 99 Campus Ave.  
**Lisbon Falls**  
12/4/2023: 1 p.m.

- 5:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Church, 67 Frost Hill Avenue

**Cumberland**  
Gorham  
12/14/2023: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Cressey Road Christian Church, 81 Cressey Road

**New Gloucester**  
12/13/2023: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., The Commons, 59 Pineland Drive

**Portland**  
12/1/2023: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Maine Medical Dana Center, 22 Bramhall Street  
**Scarborough**  
12/5/2023: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Scarborough Com-

munity Services, 418 Payne Rd

**South Portland**  
12/6/2023: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Southern Maine Community College Campus Center, 2 Fort Road  
**Windham**  
12/6/2023: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., North Windham Union Church, 723 Roosevelt Trail, Route 302

12/8/2023: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., North Windham Union Church, 723 Roosevelt Trail, Route 302

**Yarmouth**  
12/9/2023: 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., Yarmouth Fire and Rescue, 178 North Rd

**North Yarmouth**  
12/15/2023: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Wescustogo Hall and Community Center, 120 Memorial Hwy

How to donate blood  
A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

# King urges federal government to use Maine mass timber

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — U.S. Senator Angus King, co-chair of the Senate Working Forest Caucus, is calling for the utilization of mass timber in federal building projects. In a letter to the Government Services Agency (GSA), King and a number of his colleagues questioned the agency about its process on integrating mass timber into the federal procurement process and using low-carbon building materials in the construction and renovation of federal buildings.

The Senators also highlighted the opportunity mass timber products present in creating rural jobs, reducing wildfire risk, increasing forest resiliency and reducing the carbon footprint of federal buildings. Nationally, the forest products industry employs roughly 925,000 people directly and supports nearly 2 million jobs indirectly. In Maine, the industry supports nearly 14,000 jobs across the state.

“By incorporating more mass timber products into federal buildings,

the GSA has a unique and historic opportunity to help reduce the carbon footprint of federal buildings, all while reducing waste and construction costs and increasing seismic and fire resiliency,” wrote the Senators.

“Since 2015, mass timber has seen unprecedented growth in its use across the United States — from just a handful of buildings 8 years ago to almost 2,000 today. Further, the mass timber industry offers Americans access to good paying forestry jobs,”

they continued.

The letter was also signed by Senators Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.), John Fetterman (D-Pa.), Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), Tina Smith (D-Minn.), Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.).

As a member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Senator King has been a national leader in efforts to support Maine's forest products industry. This past April, alongside Senator Jim Risch (R-Idaho) and the Working Forests

Caucus, Senator King introduced a resolution to recognize the 151st Arbor Day. He also introduced the bipartisan Future Logging Careers Act to help train the next generation of Maine loggers.

Most recently, Senator King introduced the bipartisan Timber Innovation Act for Building Rural Communities Act to improve forest health and support Maine's rural economy, as well as the Jobs in the Woods Act to improve forest industry improvement. He also introduced

legislation to establish a “Future of Forests” panel tasked with making recommendations to secure the health of America's forests. Senator King was also key in establishing the Forest Opportunity Roadmap Maine (FOR/ME) Initiative, a participant-led initiative that is helping to diversify the state's wood products businesses, attract investments, support research and development, and develop greater economic prosperity for rural communities impacted by mill closures.



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# Frenetic & fantastic theatrical experience coming to Gorham

**GORHAM, ME --** Will they do it? Is it possible? Can a theatre ensemble possibly perform thirty plays in under an hour?! Join the USM Department of Theatre for the high-octane, interactive theatre experience that is Greg Allen's 30 Neo-Futurist Plays from Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind: 30 Plays in 60 Minutes, one of Chicago's longest-running theatre phenomena.

Each night audiences receive a menu of play titles that run the gamut between funny, serious, political, poignant, and abstract. Part theatre, part sporting event, each night is different as the audience determines the order and cheers on the cast to make it past the finish line before the buzzer sounds.

Rachel Price Cooper directs the USM Department of Theatre's first-year cohort in this play that truly has something for everyone. "There is a lot of audience participation in that everyone receives a menu of all the plays on their way in and gets to yell out which ones they want to see", she says. "It's a kind of choose-your-own-adventure theatre experience. It's a great one to take your friend

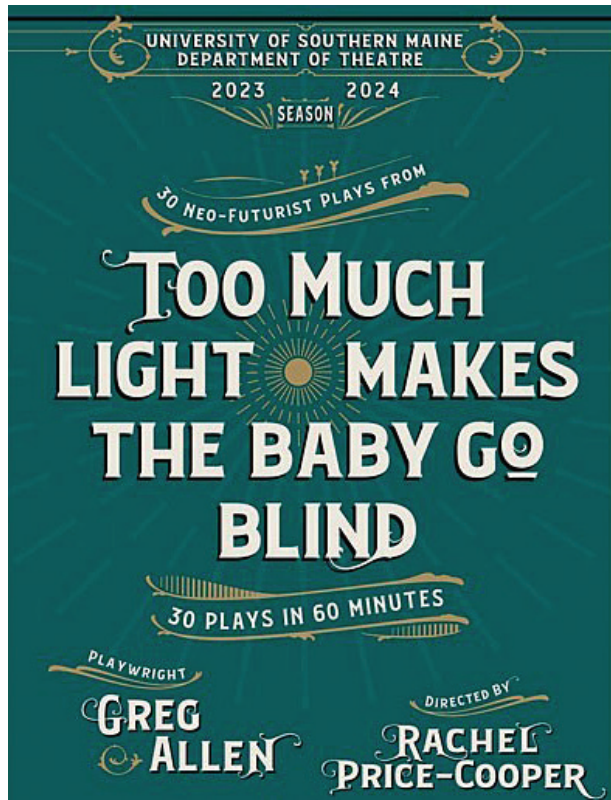
to who thinks they don't like live theatre. It is also great for those of us (myself included) who don't have the longest attention span. This will keep you interested, start to finish. You'll laugh, you'll think, and can come back a second time and have another totally new experience."

This show is also a homecoming of sorts for Price Cooper. "This piece originated on the north side of Chicago, where I grew up. It ran for decades. Every weekend people would line up outside the Neofuturist space on Ashland and Foster. Often the line stretched around the block and they had to turn people away. It was a phenomenon!"

30 Neo-Futurist Plays from Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind (30 plays in 60 minutes) by Greg Allen, directed by Rachel Price Cooper runs from November 30-December 3 at Russell Hall, USM Gorham Campus.

Performances:  
November 30 at 7pm  
December 1 at 7pm  
December 3 at 2pm & 6pm

Get tickets online at <https://a.purplepass.com/events/262569> or call the box office at 207-780-5151



\$18 for Adults; \$14 for USM Faculty, Staff & Students; \$12 for Seniors; \$8 for Students/Youth

Discounts: \$3 off any ticket at any performance with code Thursday3 at checkout. Patrons at shows will receive a special discount to attend the show more than once!

More Info USM Department of Theatre Shows & Programs: <https://usm.maine.edu/department-theatre/>

Content Advisory:

This show contains the use of strobe and flashing lights, use of profanity, depictions of alcohol consumption and violence, references to suicide. Recommended for ages 14 and up.

Those needing special accommodations to participate fully in this program, contact Janice Gardner at (207)780-5289 or [janice.gardner@maine.edu](mailto:janice.gardner@maine.edu). Hearing impaired: call USM's telex / TDD number (207)780-5646



Trekk Skeate & Trin McCoy



Sydney Weinberger & Pierina Camuzzo

## Gorham Educator Apprentice Program starting up in January

**GORHAM, ME --** Interested in Working in public schools but don't know how to transfer careers or get started....HERE IS HOW! The Gorham Schools and its partner dis-

tricts are getting ready to start cohort #4 of our Educator apprentice program.

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istic schedule! Check out flyer for details and sign up today!

Feel free to spread the word! Any questions - email [heather.perry@gorhamschools.org](mailto:heather.perry@gorhamschools.org).

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**About this program:**

This 18-month program is designed for those who want to become Education Technicians II at a Gorham School District or Cumberland County School. This program is the first of its kind to provide this opportunity. After completing the Intro to Teaching Bootcamp, you will spend one day per week (3:15 - 6:15 p.m.) doing coursework while also receiving experiential credit working in the classroom the rest of the week!

**Courses include:**

- Intro to Psychology (PSYC 100)
- Oral Communication (ENGL 110)
- Foundations of Math for Teachers (MATH 115)
- Intro to Teaching (EDUC 100)
- Intro to American Education (EDUC 105)
- Culturally Responsive Teaching (EDUC 115)
- Foundations of Literacy (EDUC 220)
- Teaching Exceptional Learners (EDUC 230)
- Student Success (FIGS 100)
- Hands-on classroom experience that counts as credit

**Where:**

Classes will be on-site at a Gorham/Cumberland County school or municipal building.

**Prerequisites:**

- 18 years or older
- Resident of State of Maine
- Proof of Authorization to work in U.S.
- High School diploma, GED, or HiSet
- Desire to work in education field
- Testing may be required
- Impacted by COVID-19

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# Bids & Brews December fundraiser to benefit HART

A silent & live auction fundraiser for **HART of Maine**

# BIDS & BREWS

Thursday Dec 7, 2023 @5:30p  
Maine Beer Company

FMI: [hartofme.org](http://hartofme.org)




**CUMBERLAND, ME** - The Homeless Animal Rescue Team (HART) of Maine, an adoption center and shelter for cats in Cumberland, is pleased to announce a silent and live auction fundraising event, Bids & Brews, December 7, 2023, at Maine Beer Company in Freeport, Maine. Admission is free.

The event will run from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and feature an evening of silent and live auctions, free pizza, and all the fun that

comes with outbidding others for a good time and great cause.

Two of a Kind duo, Chris and Rob from local favorite Time Pilots, will also be on-hand with live music, giving a fabulous vibe to the evening. Admission is free (but donations will gladly be accepted at the door).

Silent auction selections will include a wide variety of items and services generously donated by individuals and local establishments.

The live auction will feature signature trips and VIP experiences.

All proceeds from this event will help alleviate some of the increased financial burden HART has taken on this year due to an increase in surrendered animals requiring costly medical care. This fundraiser will help HART continue to do the excellent work of helping abandoned cats survive, thrive, and be ready for adoption into their next forever home.

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




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Participants completing the training will receive a differential upon subbing for Gorham School District.

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**\*No fundraising involved. Must live in one of the the six counties listed above.**



# Sen. Vitelli receives Women Making A Difference Award

**AUGUSTA, ME**— Senator Eloise Vitelli has been named the 2023 recipient of the Merle Nelson Women Making A Difference Award by New Ventures Maine (NVME). The award was presented at a celebration of NVME’s 45th Anniversary at the University of Maine at Augusta on November 15th.

The Merle Nelson Women Making A Difference Award was established in 2004 to honor the work of Merle Nelson who, in 1977, championed what she called the “economic fairness bill” designed to give women a “hand up, not a hand out.”

Maine legislators Merle Nelson and Barbara Trafton sponsored the original Displaced Homemakers Program legislation.

The award recognizes an individual who has had a positive impact on the lives of Maine women and their families. That is central to the core mission of New Ventures Maine: Helping Maine people succeed in the changing economy and achieve economic security for themselves and their families.

The award was presented by NVME Founding Executive Director, Gilda Nardone, and former NVME Advisory Council

member, Janice de Lima, Norway Savings Bank VP and CRA Officer.

“Eloise is a visionary and a risk-taker. She is also pragmatic and she understands that change is not achievable and sustainable without building alliances...She is an extraordinary strategic thinker, communicator, and collaborator who has both challenged and guided me to innovate and adapt over the years to our dynamic and changing economic and political climate,” Gilda Nardone said in her presentation remarks. “I believe she has done the same thing in the State Senate



Sen. Vitelli speaking at the celebration of NVME’s 45th Anniversary at the University of Maine at Augusta on November 15th



Sen. Vitelli with the Merle Nelson Women Making A Difference Award

and in her own community and region, our state, and beyond. For these reasons, she is well-deserving of the 2023 Merle Nelson Women Making A Difference Award.”

Janice de Lima added, “Eloise has accomplished so much of benefit to so many people...she developed many of the NVME programs that provide guidance to aspiring entrepreneurs and people at life’s crossroads...programs that have a common theme of building self-confidence and self-reliance through practical learning.”

From her work as an early childhood educator in Waldoboro, Nobleboro and Brunswick; to her training role developing curriculum and working with women entrepreneurs statewide while serving as director of programs and policy at New Ventures Maine for 38 years; and nearly a decade serving as a Maine Senator and Senate Majority Leader; Eloise has had a profound impact on the people and families of Maine.

“This is an honor and a privilege. And I’m just so humbled to be here tonight to receive this award...I

am so proud of every single one of the entrepreneurs that have been touched by the New Ventures training program over the years... there is an entrepreneur in every one of us, I firmly believe that—it just takes the empowerment and the opportunity to bring it out.”

Previous award recipients include: Merle Nelson (2004), Ann Schonberger (2006), Betsy Sweet (2009), Mary Cathcart (2011), Mary Herman (2013), Mary Allen Lindemann (2015), Barbara Trafton (2019), and Gilda Nardone (2021).

## UMaine-spinout brand launches lobster-based lip treatments

**PORTLAND, ME** — Marin, the Portland-based skincare start-up and spin-out from the University of Maine, has launched a new lip treatment made with marine glycoproteins, an upcycled byproduct of lobster processing.

The company’s new Glycoprotein Lip Treatment comes in two varieties, unscented and blueberry french toast, and drops just in time for dry skin season. Like Marin’s Soothing Hydration Cream, otherwise known as the “Lobster Lotion,” the new products employ marine glycoproteins as their active ingredient and are designed to help repair the skin barrier.

Robert Bayer, former director of the UMaine Lobster Institute, was responsible for the initial research and discovery of glycoproteins’ use



cases for the skin. Marin co-founders Amber Boutiette and Patrick Breeding (’17, ’19G) worked with Bayer while studying at UMaine as biomedical engineering graduate students, first exploring glycoproteins to treat Boutiette’s stubborn and painful eczema.

When the results exceeded expectations, Boutiette and Breeding founded and incubated Marin at UMaine’s Foster Center for Innovation, with mentorship from Foster Center and Maine Business School staff as they completed pitch competitions and accelerator programs affiliated with UMaine, including Big

Gig, Top Gun and Scratchpad. They then partnered with B-Corp Luke’s Lobster to collect the glycoproteins as a natural byproduct of existing lobster processing, purifying the protein in a lab they built at home. After launching their Soothing Hydration Cream in early October 2020, Marin sold out of their initial inventory within two months.

“It was so rewarding to see these glycoproteins from lobsters helping others in the same way they helped me, and it was just the beginning,” says Boutiette. “My eczema was really bad not only around my eyes and face, but also on and around my lips, so

I knew from experience that there weren’t products that addressed this painful problem. There was a huge gap in the market for lip treatments designed to be safe and effective for this delicate area that everyone can use — we knew we had to introduce a lip treatment.”

Marin’s new product was meticulously developed to deeply hydrate, repair, smooth, soothe and protect lips, and can be used for both everyday dry, chapped lips and conditions like perioral dermatitis (eczema around the lips and mouth).

“We created the unscented lip treatment specifically to help with dry, cracked, flaky and irritated patches on and around the lips, and took it a step further with the blueberry french toast flavor as a nostalgic nod to heritage Maine flavors, reminis-



Marin co-founder Amber Boutiette holding bottles of the company’s new Glycoprotein Lip Treatment attached. Photo courtesy of Marin.

cent of a cozy brunch up at camp. It’s as fun and indulgent as it is functional and effective.”

As Marin prepares to launch their newest product, the company is quickly outgrowing their 3,000-square-foot office and warehouse space in Portland. They have added three new team members in the last six months, bringing their total employee count to six, and recent retail partnerships with L.L.Bean and Sea Bags have significantly expanded their distribution network. The company continues to source its key ingredient through the seafood company Luke’s Lobster, a willing collaborator that seeks to help the lobster industry thrive through product diversifi-

cation.

“We’re humbled by what we’ve been able to build and the amount of impact we’ve had in just three short years with the support of UMaine, Mainers and beyond,” says Boutiette. “Growing our business here, helping others, creating new jobs and adding value in parallel industries has been such a rewarding experience. This product launch represents the next step in Marin’s evolution as a proud Maine brand.”

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

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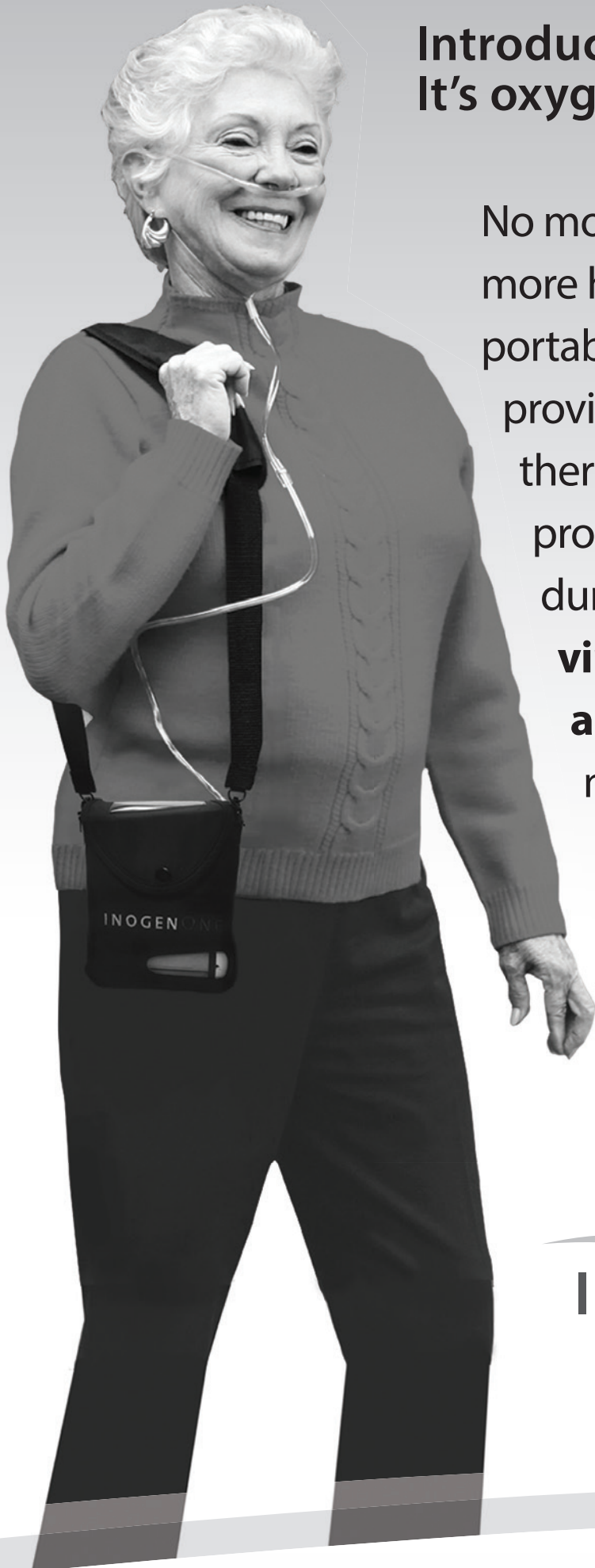
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# South Paris businessman helps to knock out cancer



(L to R): Diane Madden, executive director, Cancer Resource Center of Western Maine; John Emerson, Owner, Oxford County Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram.

**SOUTH PARIS, ME** -- The Cancer Resource Center of Western Maine (CRCofWM) recently received a donation of \$7,462 from John Emerson, owner of Oxford County Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram of South Paris.

In Spring 2023, John participated in Haymakers for Hope, a 501(c)(3) charity that gives everyday men and women the chance to fight back against cancer and raise money and awareness by training for, and competing in charity

boxing events. John designated the CRCofWM as the beneficiary of the money he raised through participating in Haymakers for Hope. The CRCofWM is very grateful for his efforts to support cancer patients in western Maine.

# Soft Corner Midwifery announces grand opening

Mothers' Milk Bank Northeast collects milk from parents who have more milk than their babies need; screens, pasteurizes, and tests the milk; then dispenses it to babies whose parents do not have enough milk for them. Milk donor screening, modeled after blood donor screening, includes health history, physician or midwife approval, and a blood test. Milk from donors who pass the screening is also pasteurized and tested by an independent lab to ensure safety before being dispensed to hospitals, dispensaries, or families.

By opening a donor milk dispensary, Soft Corner Midwifery is on the leading edge of organizations providing access to donor milk in the community. The importance of providing human milk for the health of birthing people and infants is well-established, with all major medical and public health organizations endorsing chest/breastfeeding. Use of donor milk supports this in the long run. When a baby requires supplementation in the early days after

birth, research shows that families tend to view donor milk as a temporary bridge and formula as a long-term solution. Therefore, having donor milk available at community locations like a dispensary can be an essential component in improving human milk feeding rates for families who have that goal. A human milk diet for babies has been definitively linked to extensive health benefits for babies including lower rates of certain cancers and diseases, lower rates of obesity, and improved neurodevelopment.

A donor milk dispensary is a community location where a family whose baby has a prescription can obtain donor milk for use at home. Currently, babies at many Maine hospitals can receive donor milk while in the hospital. In the community setting, if a baby needs donor milk, a dispensary is a convenient and important local option. Dispensaries make donor milk easier to access while the maternal milk supply is developing.

"A donor milk dispensary is a forward-think-

ing and innovative way to promote health and ensure that as many babies as possible have access to human milk," commented Deborah Youngblood, CEO for Mothers' Milk Bank Northeast. "We are grateful to Soft Corner for opening a dispensary and making donor milk more available to Maine families."

Mothers' Milk Bank Northeast is a nonprofit community milk bank accredited by the Human Milk Banking Association of North America (HMBANA). The milk bank has been screening donors, pasteurizing milk, and dispensing to over 100 hospitals and to families throughout Maine and the Northeastern United States since 2011.

Families and health-care providers seeking more information on receiving or donating milk can check the milk bank's website at <https://milkbankne.org/>. For more information and to schedule a donor milk order online with Soft Corner Midwifery at <https://softcornermidwifery.com/milk-bank>.

# USDA connects Mainers to health care, education options with grants

**BANGOR, ME** -- As 2023 draws to a close, rural Mainers can look forward to more health care and education options in the year ahead due to grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). USDA Rural Development Maine State Director Rhiannon Hampson announced three new awards today. Two recipients in Maine and one in New Hampshire will use the grants to provide distance learning and telehealth resources to rural Maine residents. Together, the three Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants (DLT) will benefit an estimated 79,000 individuals across the two

states. "At USDA Rural Development we believe everyone should have access to quality health care and educational resources, regardless of the size or location of their community," said Director Hampson. "There is an urgent need for more health care options in rural areas. And across Maine, we need more diverse educational opportunities, including workforce development and science, technology, engineering, and math classes for students. The Biden-Harris Administration is making unprecedented funding available to move the needle on broadband connectivity

and to provide the equipment necessary to utilize it fully. We're excited to support these projects that will help do so in eight Maine counties."

The three grant recipients announced today will offer a range of services at many different types of locations, from classrooms to libraries and community centers.

Regional School Unit No. 10 (Rumford) will use its \$982,191.00 grant to equip sites in Oxford and Franklin counties with interactive video-conferencing equipment and other resources. Instructors from multiple school districts will expand their collaboration to deliver

expanded course offerings and mental health services. Programming will include workforce development, job training, continuing education, and professional development. The project will benefit approximately 3000 students across multiple campuses.

The University of New Hampshire Center for Digital Health Innovation (Durham) will use its \$129,746.00 grant to equip sites in Strafford, Sullivan, Carroll and Grafton counties in New Hampshire and Kennebec County in Maine with video conferencing, assistive technologies, and virtual reality equipment. This will allow health professionals located at the Center for Digital Health Innovation to offer virtual reality-based mental health and physical rehabilitation services to these underserved rural

areas. The six community sites include libraries, a youth and senior center, and a Cooperative Extension office, serving a total of approximately 70,000 rural residents.

VNA Home Health and Hospice (South Portland) will use its \$614,700.00 grant to equip sites in Aroostook, Hancock, Somerset, Penobscot, Kennebec, and Cumberland counties in Maine with updated telehealth equipment. Health professionals from Northern Light Home Care & Hospice will use the equipment to deliver home care and hospice services to approximately 6000 rural Mainers.

USDA's Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants help rural communities use technology to overcome the challenges posed by re-

moteness and low population density. The grants may fund the purchase of audio, video, and interactive equipment, broadband facilities used for distance learning or telemedicine, computer hardware, network components, and software, and instructional programming. State and local governments, federally recognized tribes, nonprofits, and other entities that provide education and healthcare are eligible to apply.

Although the USDA Rural Development DLT program is not currently accepting applications, there likely will be an open application period in the coming months. Interested Maine applicants may contact Robert Fry, Telecom General Field Representative ([robert.fry@usda.gov](mailto:robert.fry@usda.gov) or 202-768-0589) with questions.



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# Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

### 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 appointment 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 9

AUBURN -- Sixth Street Congregational Church at 109 Sixth Street in Auburn will have a holiday fair on Saturday, December 9, from 9:00-1:00. Craft vendors are welcome. Tables are \$10. There will be craft items, a white elephant table. Lunch will be available. For more information contact Betty at 576-1331 or Cynthia at 740-2741.

### Dec 9

BAR MILLS -- NOVEL JAZZ SEPTET - Dancing with the Duke at Saco River Theatre, 29

Salmon Falls Road, Bar Mills, ME, December 9th at 7:30 pm. Join in the fun, dancing to the music of Duke Ellington, or just settle in and enjoy the concert. Tickets: \$15 General Admission at [www.sacorivertheatre.org](http://www.sacorivertheatre.org) or call 207-929-6473 for reservations.

### 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/2vd4kftu> If you previously registered for the canceled event, you DO NOT need new tickets for this event. You are still registered. Free. In person.

### Dec 13

LEWISTON -- Hiring Event on Wednesday, December 13th from 10:00am-noon at the Lewiston Career Center, 5 Mollison Way, Lewiston. Bring your best self and speak with multiple employers all offering great job opportunities! This event is free and open to the public. For a list of participating employers, visit: <https://www.mainecareercenter.com/locations/jobfair.shtml?id=11981779>

### 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

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

### Every 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Monday

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

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

Homeschool Lego Club and Curriculum Swap on March 13th, and a Homeschool Storytime and Craft on March 20th.

This program is free and recommended for homeschool families with children of all ages. No registration is required. Contact info. 513-3133, [LPLKids@lewistonmaine.gov](mailto:LPLKids@lewistonmaine.gov)

### 2nd and 4th

Wednesday each month LEWISTON -- MAKE ART WITH ARTVAN 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month, 3:30PM starting September 13th

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

Free. All art supplies will be provided. 513-3133; [www.LPLonline.org](http://www.LPLonline.org)

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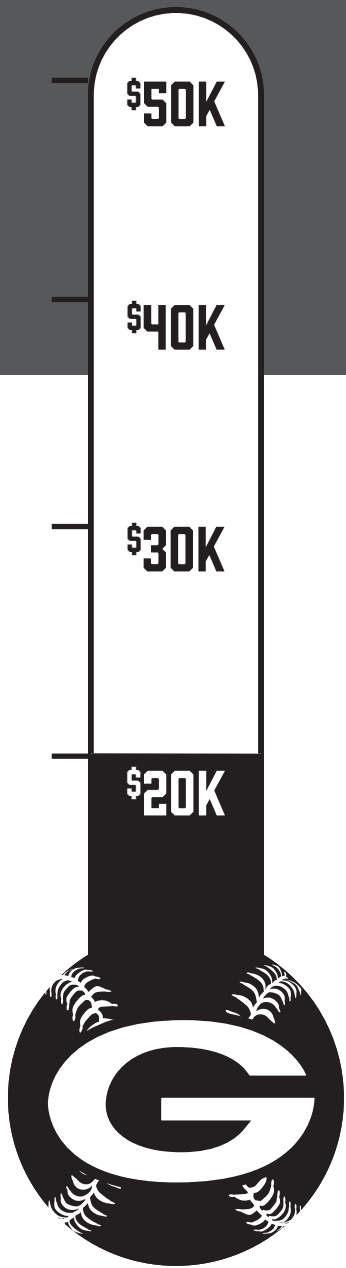
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Food Tour & Tasting, Nice Flower Market, Monaco, Monte Carlo, Grasse, Cannes, Saint-Honorat Island & Wine Tasting, Villa Ephrussi de Rothchild, St. Paul de Vence and much more.

**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 breakfasts, 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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# Wiscasset Village POP-UPS offer unique gifts to shoppers

**WISCASSET, ME** – Two POP-UP shops in Wiscasset Village add new gift shopping opportunities during Wiscasset Holiday Marketfest weekend, December 1, 2, 3. Filled with artisan wares, the old barn on Federal St. behind the Nickels-Sortwell House, provides a rustic background for a magical holiday marketplace. In the center of town, the recently vacant storefront at 78 Main St. becomes Santa’s workshop and a festive venue for regional crafters, a Christmas Cookie Challenge, and paper crafts.

The Holiday Gift Shop in the Nickels-Sortwell barn is a single-point-of-sale shop: shoppers make selections from multiple vendors and pay once at check-out. According to Gift Shop Coordinator, Christine Hopf-Lovette, “the artisans loved this concept because they didn’t have to be on hand.” Instead, they drop off their items for sale and the staggers, “using garlands and greens and antiques that they discovered in the loft of the historic structure, respond to the items we have for sale, to create the final wonderful effect.”

Over the last few years of Marketfest, Christine has seen the display in the barn become a shopping destination. “The Holiday Gift Shop is so special because our local artisans have been chosen for the quality and creativity of their products. We

try to include gift items for everyone in the family.” Some favorites will be returning, including wreaths and baskets from Mindful Gardens, fine chocolates from the Chocolate Pan, weavings from Sheepscot Handwovens, cat toys and accessories from High Tail Toys, wrought iron pieces from Forge in the Ferns, and honey from Marcoux Family Farms. And new artisans making their first appearance will keep the selections fresh and surprising.

Around the corner at 78 Main St., the storefront offers new opportunities for Marketfest activities. Marketfest planner, Monique McRae, coordinates Santa’s visit to Marketfest each year. “Moving Santa to 78 Main from the Creamery Pier will create a warm and fun evening on Friday (Dec. 1) with some of the same features families look forward to, like hot cocoa and other treats, but new this year, Santa will be arriving from a lighted parade of cars, trucks, and ATVs, to visit with children and families.” The live and woolly sheep, a big hit last year, will be just outside the door.

“I’m excited about 78 Main,” Monique said, “with all that’s planned. The space was vacant, and the opportunity was there to rent it for Marketfest.” She noted that having this heated space has made it possible to invite

other community groups, like Partners in Education (PIE), Feed Our Scholars, and the Wiscasset Area Chamber of Commerce, to have a presence all weekend. In addition, 78 Main will offer local crafters for gift shopping, a gift-wrapping station, a free raffle for local dining, and a new Christmas Cookie Challenge.

The Wiscasset Holiday Marketfest weekend, Dec. 1, 2, 3, from 10am to 5pm each day, will also feature many free activities including an outdoor wreath-making demo., horse and wagon rides, music in the gallery, wine tasting, a decorated wreath display, and a shopping extravaganza – hosted by elves – exclusively for children. Details can be found on the web site Calendar, [www.WiscassetHolidayMarketfest.com](http://www.WiscassetHolidayMarketfest.com).

The Major Sponsors supporting Wiscasset Holiday Marketfest’s free community activities are Carriage House Gardens, First Federal Savings & Loan, First National Bank, J. Edward Knight & Co., Jodie’s Restaurant, Midcoast Federal Credit Union, Red Bull Antiques, Red’s Eats, Rock Paper Scissors, Sherri Dunbar/Tim Dunham Realty, Water St. Kitchen & Bar, and Wiscasset Ford with additional support from BIRCH Home Furnishings & Gifts, Bradbury Art & Antiques, High Tide Printing, IndustrialME, M.W. Sewall, Old and Everlasting, Sprague’s Lobster, and Water Lily Flowers and Gifts.

Wiscasset Holiday Marketfest is a partnership between Wiscasset Creative Alliance and Wiscasset Area Chamber of Commerce.



Paper artist, Joelle Webber, is offering a Paper Poinsettia-making workshop during Wiscasset Holiday Marketfest, Dec. 1, 2, 3. Details can be found on the web site calendar, [www.WiscassetHolidayMarketfest.com](http://www.WiscassetHolidayMarketfest.com). (Wiscasset Holiday Marketfest photo)



A Christmas Cookie Challenge will be on display in the 78 Main POP-UP during Wiscasset Holiday Marketfest (Courtesy photo)



Desiree Bailey of Reed’s Trees will be demonstrating wreath-making during Wiscasset Holiday Marketfest. (Reed’s Trees photo)



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