



TWIN CITY TIMES

© Twin City TIMES, Inc. 2023

(207) 795-5017 • Info@TwinCityTimes.com

FREE • Vol. XXV, No. 31

Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1999

Thursday, December 7, 2023 • FREE

Former Gov. LePage hosts fundraiser for families of victims in Lewiston

There are several efforts on the way to help the City of Lewiston heal. Our effort is to raise \$500,000 by the 15th of December. The funds will be distributed directly to the families of the victims both those who died and those who were injured. In looking into the mass shooting, it became clear to me that many of the surviving families lost their primary bread winner. They have lost their income stream. Many are getting help for food and heat, but little else. In fact, several did not have life insurance and funeral directors covered the cost to bury the victims and hospitals provided charity care for many of the injured. However, Christmas and winter are coming, and many have little resources to get by. Thus far, I have



Governor LePage

raised \$250,000 and am looking forward to reaching our goal by the 15th of December.

I am working with Androscoggin Savings Bank and the Lewiston Auburn Metro Chamber of Commerce Foundation to get the contribution held in a 501c3 so all contributions will be tax deductible. All the proceeds will go to the families with the exception of finger foods for the evening of December 15, and possibly music if we cannot get it donated for the Celebration of Life to be held at the Royal Oak Room In Lewiston from 5pm to 8pm that evening. This effort is clearly intended to provide help to the families of the victims at a time of need. The Celebration of Life will also help the community heal going into Christ-

mas and the new year. We are asking for donations of \$150 per person and \$250 per couple for the Celebration of Life.

The money raised to date comes from individuals and organizations who will make up the host committee. I am in hopes of raising \$400,000 through host contributors, \$50,000 through smaller donations and \$50,000 at the Celebration of Life.

- Host Committee Contributors
- Platinum Contributors - \$25,000
- Gold Contributors - \$10,000
- Silver Contributors - \$5,000

Regards,
Governor LePage
2011-2019

New Beginnings Warming Center opens for young adults



LEWISTON, ME -- The Warming Center will have a capacity for 24 young adults, ages 18-24, at our 134 College St. location in Lewiston. Guests will have a safe warm space for the overnight hours, access to bathrooms, two meals and connections to housing navigation services.

The Center will remain open until March 30, 2024, from 8 pm-8 am, seven days a week.

Access to warm and safe spaces

is a social determinant of health, and this warming center expands New Beginnings' capacity to provide safety for young adults who are currently unsheltered, sleeping in places that are unfit for human habitation, or staying in unsafe locations.

The primary goal of New Beginnings Warming Center is to ensure the health and safety of its guests, our neighbors, and the community. To meet this goal, New Beginnings has partnered with the City of Lewiston, will staff the center with appropriately trained staff and security professionals to monitor the property's exterior, and strengthen its collaborative partnerships with local providers to support guests.

We look forward to serving our community as best we can this winter.



HOST INFORMATION

- PLATINUM - \$25,000
- GOLD - \$10,000
- SILVER - \$5,000

TICKET INFORMATION

- \$150 PER INDIVIDUAL
- \$250 PER COUPLE

DONATIONS IN ANY AMOUNT ARE WELCOME
CHECKS MADE PAYABLE TO:
LEWISTON AUBURN METROPOLITAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION
MEMO: CELEBRATION OF LIFE FUNDRAISER

ONLINE DONATIONS:
[HTTPS://LAMETROCHAMBER.COM/MAKE-A-GIFT/](https://lametrochamber.com/make-a-gift/)
CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE
THIS EVENT IS BEING DONE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LA METRO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Holiday fundraising craft fair

Sunday Dec 10th 9-3
Sarah Frye home in Auburn.
Crafts by residents and
Variety of vendors and crafts. Bake sale.
751 Washington St North, Auburn

Best Source for Arts, Music and Theater!

Your Hometown Paper.

Injured on the job?

We should talk.

(207) 333-5103

Help@BilodeauLaw.me
BILODEAULAW.ME



CLEAN BOOKS LLC
BOOKKEEPING AND PAYROLL SERVICES

9 North River Road
Suite 232
Auburn, ME 04210

Olivia Ouellette, Owner
(207) 370-9292
cleanbooksmaine@gmail.com

www.cleanbooksmaine.com

Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Maine recognizes Civil Air Patrol Day

AUGUSTA, ME -- In recognition of the past, present and future contributions and service of Maine Wing Civil Air Patrol to the state and nation, Gov. Janet Mills declared Dec. 1, 2023 as Civil Air Patrol Day in Maine.

Civil Air Patrol was founded on Dec. 1, 1941 to organize and mobilize civilian aviation resources for national defense and became the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force in 1948. From the

earliest days of coastal patrol during WWII through the present, Maine Wing has continuously served the people of Maine for 82 years.

Today, the 355 volunteer members of Maine Wing provide critical support during natural disasters and other emergencies, provide the youth and educators of the state with aerospace education programs, develop future leaders through the cadet program, and engage in other homeland security



L to R: Maine Wing Government Relations Advisor Lt. Col. Robert Asselin, CAP, Maine Wing Commander Col. Blain Cote, CAP, and Maine Wing Deputy Vice Commander Maj. Mark Hyland, CAP with the Governor's Proclamation at the Maine State House.

and counter drug efforts.

"It is with great pride that I received this proclamation from Governor Mills in recognition of Civil Air Patrol's anniversary and our 82 years of service to the people of Maine," said Maine Wing Commander Colonel Blain Cote, CAP. "The ongoing support of Maine's elected officials is critical to our overall success and ability to conduct and support our missions within the state. I look forward to

continuing to strengthen the bonds between Maine Wing and the Maine State House while our volunteers are serving our communities, saving lives, and shaping futures."

Maine Wing Civil Air Patrol has 10 squadrons throughout Maine that are open to new cadets ages 12-18 and adult members age 18 and up. For more information on how to join Civil Air Patrol, visit gocivilairpatrol.com to learn more and find your local squadron.

MaineCF's Women's Fund awards \$120K, seeks committee members



PORTLAND & ELLSWORTH, ME — The Maine Women's Fund (MWF) at the Maine Community Foundation (MaineCF) has awarded \$120,000 to 24 organizations that work to advance gender equity in Maine.

Each organization received \$5,000 in 2023. Grantees include: A Company of Girls, ArtVan, Elder Abuse Institute of Maine, Equality Maine Foundation, Four Directions Development Corporation, Gedakina, Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project, In Her Presence, The League of Women Voters of Maine Education Fund, Mabel Wadsworth Center, Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Maine Community Integration, MaineTransNet, Maine Women's Lobby Education Fund, Mano en Mano, New England Arab American Organization, New Ventures Maine, Restorative Justice

Institute of Maine, Somali Bantu Community Association, Survivor Speak USA, Tree Street Youth, Wabanaqi Public Health and Wellness, Wayfinder Schools and YWCA Central Maine.

From 1989 to 2022, MWF invested over \$3 million in organizations working to transform the lives of women and girls in Maine. The six funding areas included education, financial skills and literacy, healthcare, leadership, personal safety and policy. More recently, MWF focused on making pivotal systems and social change aimed at creating greater gender equity, especially for Black, Indigenous and other women of color. Beyond grants, they fostered a collaborative community dedicated to advancing gender equity. In 2022, MWF transitioned to MaineCF so that a greater proportion of the funding could be put to work in com-

munities.

MaineCF seeks nominations for an 8-12-member advisory committee to advise on the formation, implementation and grantmaking of the Maine Women's Fund at MaineCF. We are recruiting community members who can bring their unique perspectives to help inform our strategies and grantmaking. The advisory committee will be composed of women and nonbinary people, a majority of whom are from and have knowledge of marginalized groups.

If you are interested in being considered for the Maine Women's Fund Advisory Committee, please complete the online form at www.maineef.org/mwf by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 18. MaineCF staff will consider all complete submissions and will finalize committee membership by the end of the year.

For more information about the Maine Women's Fund or to be considered for the advisory committee, visit www.maineef.org/mwf or contact Vice President of Community Impact Laura Lee at llee@mainecf.org or 207-412-0838.

Salvation Army "Kettle Blitz" Day hopes to raise funds today

MAINE -- For the ninth consecutive year, The Salvation Army will hold a Kettle Blitz Day throughout Northern New England on Thursday, December 7, 2023.

Red Kettle donations are down at various locations throughout the division. Salvation Army corps officers are hoping that a surge in donations will help them keep on track to meet their kettle goals.

With inflation, rising cost of fuel, food, and rent, every donation provides help and hope to those in need. Your support is urgently needed to ensure that services and programs continue during the holidays and throughout the year.

The Divisional Kettle Blitz is a one-day competition among Salvation Army corps in hopes to increase donations at their Red



Kettle stands. Last year, the organization raised \$1,431,745. in its Northern New England Division which covers Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

The Salvation Army's Christmas ministry includes the distribution of toys to needy youngsters, food baskets and food vouchers, warm winter coats and so much more during the rest of the year. Last year in Northern New England, The Salvation Army assisted more than 24,000 individuals during the holidays.

The following Salvation Army corps will be competing in the "Kettle Blitz" Day - stop by and

support your community kettle, all funds stay locally. You may also make donations at any other kettles in your community. You can donate digitally with Apple Pay, Google Pay, PayPal, and Venmo at any Salvation Army kettle.

- Augusta -- Sam's Club
- Bangor -- Sam's Club
- Houlton -- Walmart
- Auburn -- Walmart
- Biddeford -- Market Basket
- Scarborough -- Cabela's
- Thomaston -- Walmart
- Sanford -- Walmart
- Brunswick -- Walmart

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

Affordable Washing Services of Maine

VETERAN OWNED AND OPERATED

SPECIALIZING IN:
HOUSE WASH * ROOF WASH
ROOF CLEANING * SOFT WASH * POWER WASH
DECKS * FENCES * SIDING * DRIVEWAYS

Greene, Maine
207-240-9103 Affordablewashingservices.com

Like us on

Save \$\$ on your business phone!
Call today for a demonstration!

PROFESSIONAL COMPUTER SERVICES INC.

207.784.6295
buck@pro-pc.us

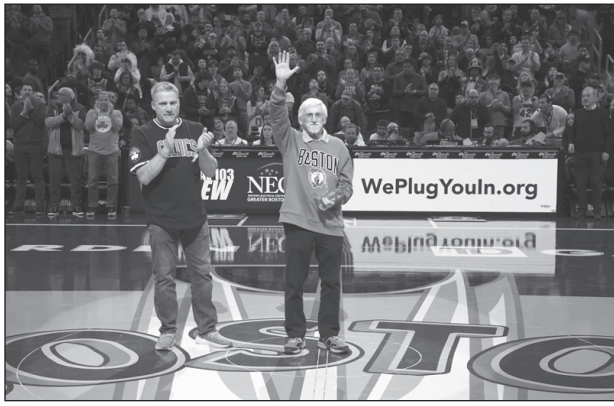
Buck Buchanan
A+, MCP Certified Technician

Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Boston Celtics honor Tom Giberti of Auburn as Hero among Us

AUBURN, ME -- Tom Giberti of Auburn, Maine was enjoying a night of bowling on October 25th in Lewiston when he saw flashes inside the bowling alley and realized there was an active shooter. Giberti got the attention of several children who were hunkered down in fear and convinced them to run towards him. As the group ran toward an exit, Giberti was shot multiple times as he shielded the children from harm. He survived the mass shooting.

For his courageous actions in Lewiston, Tom Giberti was honored as a Hero Among Us during the Boston Celtics home game against the Chicago Bulls on November 28, 2023.



Auburn, Maine resident Tom Giberti was honored as a Hero Among Us at the Boston Celtics home game against the Chicago Bulls on November 28, 2023, for his courageous actions during the recent mass shooting in Lewiston, Maine.

Since its establishment in 1997 by the Boston Celtics, the Heroes Among Us program has recognized outstanding individuals who have made exceptional and lasting

contributions to their communities. The award is presented at every Celtics home game and pays tribute to the heroic achievements of these outstanding citizens.

Cloutier bills to support health care workforce advance

AUGUSTA, ME – The Legislative Council voted earlier this month to advance two bill proposals sponsored by Rep. Kristen Cloutier, D-Lewiston, that would support the state's health care workforce by adding Maine to the Physician Assistant Licensure Compact and prohibiting the Maine Department of Health and Human Services from enforcing electronic visit verification practices among hospice care providers within the MaineCare program.

The Physician Assistant (PA) Licensure Compact is an optional, interstate occupational licensure agreement. States that decide to join agree to recognize a license issued by another compact member state via a compact privilege, allowing PAs to more easily practice in member states.

"In Maine, we are facing a significant health care worker shortage," said Cloutier. "Joining the PA Licensure Compact will establish license reciprocity with other member states, removing administrative burdens and making it easier for PAs who are

already licensed elsewhere to be able to work in our state. It will help us better ensure that our community members can access the crucial care they need."

Cloutier's second bill would prohibit the Maine Department of Health and Human Services from implementing electronic visit verification practices for providers who offer hospice care within the MaineCare program, unless mandated by the federal government.

"Currently, many hospice care providers within the MaineCare program are unable to comply with electronic visit verification due to increased administrative costs," said Cloutier. "Without the promise of increased fraud prevention, this practice is unnecessarily hurting our providers and families."

In addition to the two bills that were accepted by the Legislative Council, Cloutier is sponsoring two bills that have been carried over from the First Special Session of the 131st Legislature. LD 348 would require public schools serving sixth through 12th grades to make menstrual

products available to students in school bathrooms. LD 1505 would amend the Maine Cooperative Affordable Housing Ownership Act to include group equity cooperatives and provide that a housing assistance program must be made reasonably available to residents of housing cooperatives.

The Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature will begin on Jan. 3, 2024.

Cloutier is the Assistant House Majority Leader and is currently serving her third consecutive term in the Maine House of Representatives. She represents House District 94, which includes part of Lewiston, her hometown.

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

Tri-Town Optimist Club announces Student of the Month

The Tri-Town Optimist Club of Mechanic Falls, Minot and Poland is proud to announce its latest RSU 16 Student of the Month recipient. Sixth grader, Bryce Simpson, from Minot Consolidated School was recognized today as our Optimist Student of the Month for November. Bryce is described by his teacher and principal as a happy, enthusiastic learner who embodies every characteristic a teacher would want to see in a student. He is a hard worker who is always smiling and genuinely kind to his peers. Bryce is a mod-



L-R: School Counselor Julie Martin, Principal Kaitlynn Brown, 6th grader Bryce Simpson, and Teacher Jacie Welch. el student who is a prime example of everything the Optimist Creed represents, from his 'cheerful countenance' to his 'enthusiasm for the success of others' and more. Congratulations Bryce!

West Auburn Congregational Church

811 West Auburn Road, Auburn

Christmas Schedule:

December 17th The Annual Christmas Pageant & Festival of 9 Lessons & Carols at 4 pm with a "Live Nativity" in the church, special musical presentations with soloist Kristen Short and the WACC Choir, lighting of the candles and a reception with cookies & hot chocolate in the vestry following the service!

December 24th The Christmas Eve Vesper Service at 4pm with music from Scott Williams & Roberta Hill & the WACC Choir with a lighting of the candles.

Advent Sunday morning services December 3, 10, 17 & 24 at 9am with carols, musical anthems with the WACC Choir, Jewell Clark and organist & pianist Ryan Slocum, plus seasonal remarks, and messages from Rev. John Williams.



WHY PEOPLE CHOOSE CHAMPOUX INSURANCE



PAULINE GILBERT
Personal Lines Agent

"I go the extra mile to find my clients the best possible price for their insurance coverage needs. That's how I deliver on the promise"



CHAMPOUX INSURANCE

YOUR SECURITY IS OUR MAIN CONCERN

150 East Avenue ~ Lewiston, ME 04240

(207) 783-2246

www.MaineInsuranceOnline.com

TWIN CITY TIMES

TWIN CITY PUBLISHING, INC

Twin City Times • 89 Union Street, Suite 1014 • Auburn, ME 04210
Gorham Weekly • 28 State Street • Gorham, ME 04038

Info@TwinCityTimes.com

(207) 795-5017

TWIN CITY PUBLISHING, INC. 2022©

All materials found in TWIN CITY TIMES are copyrighted. All rights in those materials are reserved and permission to use them must be specifically granted by Twin City TIMES.

FREE e-subscriptions at www.TwinCityTimes.com

Advertising

For advertising information email ads@twincitytimes.com or call 795-5017.

Deadline

Deadline for ads and press releases is 5 p.m. on Friday preceding publication. Published every Thursday's publication.

Press Releases

All submissions, including photos, must be emailed to editor@twincitytimes.com.

Proofs

Publisher is not responsible for any errors in ad copy not inspected by advertiser prior to publication.

Jason Hodsdon Masonry
Chimneys • Chimney Cleanings • Masonry Demo
Repointing & Repairs • Culture Stones
Restorations • Stainless Steel Liners
We install professional chimney caps!
215-3557
North Monmouth
Jasonhodsdonmasonry@gmail.com

Seniors Not Acting Their Age

Tunk Lake Surf & Turf

For several years, my son, Adam, and I have enjoyed fall surf and turf trips. We combine lake or pond sea kayaking with mountain hiking while camping in remote areas. The outings reflect the transition of our outdoor activities due the change in seasons. Our paddling adventures are winding down, while fall mountaineering is beginning.

Overnight fall trips have a lot of appeal for us. The autumnal colors are often spectacular, black flies and mosquitoes are almost non-existent, and competition for campsites is minimal. And, there are few things more aesthetically pleasing than relaxing around a warm campfire in a wilderness setting on a cool dark evening.

Our latest surf and turf trips were based on Moosehead Lake and Attean Pond. However, I recently completed one with friends beginning on Donnell Pond. The expansive Donnell Pond Public Lands offer another stimulating opportunity to mingle kayaking and hiking, Tunk Lake and East Peak of Black Mountain. That was our choice this year.

Adam and I began the expedition at a boat landing on the northern

terminus of Tunk Lake on a beautiful, sunny late October day. The landing is on Route 182 approximately ten miles east of Franklin.

The vibrant colors of the foliage were dazzling when we departed kayaking south on Tunk Lake. We paddled into a gentle headwind with a continuous view of the barren summit of East Peak to our west as we traversed to the southern end of the lake.

Finding a suitable campsite was our first objective. There are three choices in the southern sector of the lake: Thumb, Partridge, and Hurricane Hole. Access to Thumb was difficult, Partridge lacked available firewood, but Hurricane Hole, closest to our mountain destination, was just right.

Once settled in at Hurricane Hole, we paddled to a rudimentary landing in the extreme southwestern corner of the lake. After changing into hiking clothes, we walked old camp roads towards East Peak.

The confusing roads did not reconcile with the Donnell Pond Public Lands map. Following a lengthy misguided detour, we finally located Big Chief Trailhead, the start of the

southern approach to the summit of East Peak. By the time we found the elusive trail darkness loomed; too late to begin a climb. We postponed the trek until the following morning.

Camping on the lake that evening met my definition of perfection. We enjoyed a spectacular sunset followed by clear starry skies and a brilliant crescent moon. A substantial campfire kept us warm until we retired.

We awoke to gray skies and patchy fog. The surrounding peaks were enveloped in clouds and fog. An ascent without views seemed likely.

Breaking camp, we kayaked to the nearby landing. This time, there were no delays locating Big Chief Trailhead.

Our climb began in a mixed conifer and hardwood forest. Following a moderately steep ascent, we emerged onto a succession of gentle-sloping partially-exposed ledges. The fog lifted and we benefited from outstanding views for the remainder of the trek.

After descending deep into a wet densely-wooded col, we scaled precipitous ledges to the summit. A party of three arrived from the opposite direction shortly after.



The colors of the foliage were dazzling kayaking on Tunk Lake



The barren summit of East Peak of Black Mountain was visible from Tunk Lake



The majestic peaks of Mount Desert Island could be seen from the summit of East Peak

They were the only hikers or paddlers we encountered during the entire outing.

Thanks to the clearing skies, the summit area offered fabulous views of the surrounding mountains and lakes. The majestic peaks of Mount Desert Island could be seen in the distance. At one of several overlooks, we peered down into the southern

end of Tunk Lake where Hurricane Hole is located. Despite a chilly southwest wind, we lingered to embrace the wonderful panoramic vistas before returning to our kayaks.

A strong tailwind resulted in an entertaining paddle back to the Route 182 boat landing. The powerful blow propelled us rapidly north towards our objective. Approach-

ing the landing, we navigated through increasingly large waves some with whitecaps. Our attempts to surf the waves in heavily-laden vessels were futile. The invigorating finale to our trip was the perfect culmination to an outstanding two-day outdoor adventure.

My book, *Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine* relates three exciting lake paddling trips and nine mountain hikes. Included is a windy voyage on Moosehead Lake with a climb of rugged Mount Kineo.

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

Sealcoating • Hot Rubber Crack Filling
New Installations • Concrete
Reclaimed Asphalt • Loam

Our premium grade sealer inexpensively
adds years of life!

Protect your investment with our
wide range of products!

Roadmark Industries

Mike Willett • 143 Pleasant Street • Auburn

(207) 240-5535

Blanchard's Cash Fuel

#2 Heating Oil and K-1
Off Road Diesel (Dyed)
On Road Diesel (Clear)
Propane

225-3588

3 Conant Road, Turner
(on the Auburn/Turner Line)

Don't Shiver...We Deliver!

www.blanchardscashfuel.com

Maine Cabin Masters' Ashley Morrill makes homes festive

MANCHESTER, ME – Ashley Morrill, star of the popular Magnolia Network reality television show *Maine Cabin Masters*, has added beautiful new products to her Rustic County home décor line, which are inspired by her true loves: nature, florals, animals, and the beauty of Maine. Ashley has just added holiday-themed tea towels and ornaments, as well as a watercolor serving tray, loon totes, and two new pillow covers – a pinecone and a new lobster design – to her popular Rustic County Maine collection.

Fans of *Maine Cabin Masters* – and stylish, upscale home décor – have been loving the stunning, rustic-chic floral and Maine-themed throw pillow covers, which launched earlier this fall.

All of Ashley's high-quality, rustic-chic items are available on her website and will make wonderful holiday gifts for your loved ones – and yourself! Additionally, some Rustic County pillows can be purchased at

Kennebec Cabin Company, 915 Western Ave, Manchester, ME.

"The response to our Rustic County product launch has been overwhelmingly positive, and I'm touched by the support and the fantastic response from our fans. I'm excited to introduce our new products, just in time for the holidays, to help people make their homes feel cozy and festive during this special time of the year," Ashley explained. "And, of course, I'm introducing new products that are a tribute to my home state of Maine, featuring loons, pinecones, and lobsters, so people can bring some rustic cabin chic to their homes, no matter where they live."

"It's also been really fun to showcase the Rustic County products in the new season of *Maine Cabin Masters* this fall. People have been so thrilled to see the Rustic County products as part of their reveals, and have loved seeing our pillows transforming their spaces, making their cabins look so great with these

pops of color and these cute accent pieces they can switch out with the seasons or whenever the mood strikes them," Ashley added. "That's the point of our product line. It's meant to be fun and whimsical, so you can change things around and play with the look in an easy, convenient way."

"People often want to transform their homes when people come to visit for the holidays, but they may not know where to start. Perhaps they have a limited budget, or they don't have the time or inspiration to do a full overhaul of their space. Now, they can use Rustic County accessories to create whimsical decor without a heavy lift. By putting some new accent pillows here, hanging some holiday tea towels there, placing the watercolor tray on a table, and using the loon tote as a stylish way to store items, you can easily create an updated look that your friends and family will love," explained close friend and business manager, Steph Hayward.

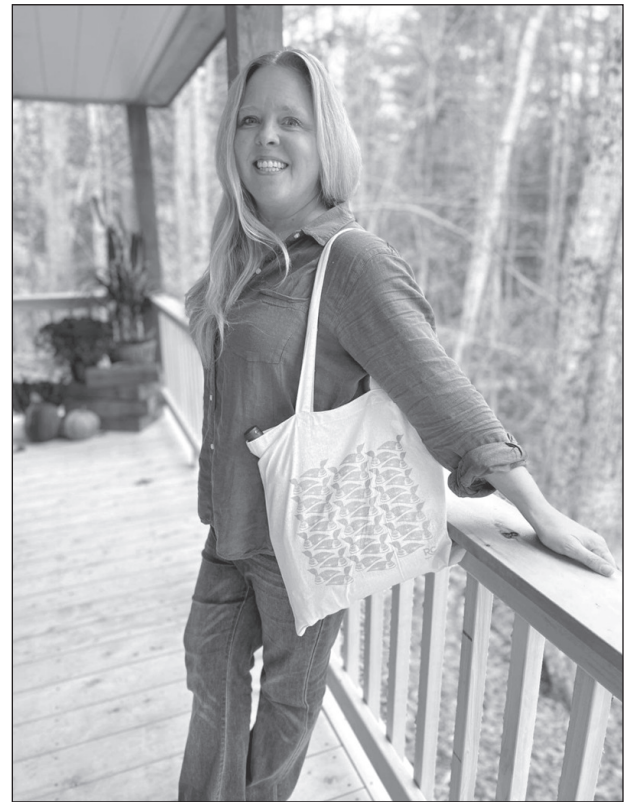
"It's so amazing and empowering to work for a women-owned and women-run business like Rustic County. We're a bunch of close girlfriends who are, quite literally, living the dream, using our distinct talents to run a successful company. Ashley is obviously the design superhero, and every product in the Rustic County line is curated by her," said her long-time friend, Kat Antonioli, who handles the marketing,



web, and e-commerce for the business. "Ashley has a passion for creating art in so many creative ways. Whether it's painting or drawing things that inspire her, or getting her hands dirty carving designs into rubber or wooden stamps, her talent is truly remarkable. The result is stunning, unique pieces that will enhance any home – and will make meaningful gifts this holiday season."

"Fans of *Maine Cabin Masters* can use the Rustic County products to recreate the show's looks in their own homes without spending much money or doing a lot of work. Ashley's gorgeous, high-quality, sustainable home décor products are perfect for your own home – and as holiday gifts for your loved ones," said Rachael Harwood, friend and Rustic County design consultant. "Don't tell anyone, but everyone I know is getting the awesome Rustic County totes, trays, and pillows as holiday gifts this year – and I know they'll adore them!"

The entire Rustic County team, which includes Julie Bellantuoni, social media superstar, and Christian Musson, brand



ambassador and merchandising wizard, is working tirelessly and passionately to bring the rustic, cabin-chic product line to the fans. Additional Rustic County products will be in-

troduced in early 2024. For more information, home décor inspiration, and to purchase products, please visit Rustic County's website, Facebook, and Instagram.



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

GRIDIRON Restaurant
LEWISTON, MAINE

FRIED MUSSELS
with fries and coleslaw

ONLY \$12.99

1567 Lisbon Street Lewiston, ME 207-777-6353 -- 207-777-6354
INDOOR SEATING - TAKE OUT Open Daily 11am - 9pm

We Deliver.

Uber Eats GRUBHUB Postmates DOORDASH

SUBWAY Not all delivery services available at every restaurant. All ®/TM related trademarks are owned by Frito-Lay North America, Inc. ©2023 Subway® is a Registered Trademark of Subway® IP LLC. ©2023 Subway® IP LLC.

Open for curbside pick-up, take out, indoor dining, bowling and arcade!

American pub-style food and drinks.

A 7 Railroad Ave, Ste 102 | **W** www.jctbowl.com
Gorham, ME 04038 | **P** 207.222.7600

Arts & Entertainment

The MMS Chorale presents A Season of Celebration



MMS Chorale with Artistic Director Richard Nickerson, Photo by Jared Morneau, March 2023

LEWISTON, ME -- The Maine Music Society Chorale, directed by Dr. Richard Nickerson and accompanied by our new pianist Morgan Lee, will present its holiday concert, *A Season of Celebration*, at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 9, and at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 10, at the Franco Center in Lewiston. Usher in the holiday season with this family friendly concert as we celebrate time held traditions with both new and familiar works featuring Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols* with harpist Suki Flanagan, Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus* and experience our special interpre-

tation of the beloved 'Twas the Night Before Christmas. The audience will be invited to join the chorale for the traditional sing-along.

This concert promises to bring out the memories, spirit, celebration, and magic of the holiday season. The 75+ volunteer singers from within and around the LA community have been enthusiastically rehearsing for weeks and are ready to make this a performance to remember!

Come join us as we feed our souls and lighten our hearts with joyous music. For details go to www.mainemusicsociety.org. Tickets are available online at [\[mmsociety.org\]\(http://mmsociety.org\) or by calling our business office at 207-333-3386. MMS encourages you to purchase your tickets ahead of time.](http://www.mainemus-</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox=)

Reserved seating tickets: Adult - \$27*; Senior - \$25*; Student - \$15*. Children under 12: free when accompanied by an adult. Group Sales: Discount available for 10 or more tickets purchased at the same time to the same performance. Contact MMS office: 207-333-3386

* Ticket prices include all handling fees.

The Maine Music Society thanks our season sponsors Hardy, Wolf & Downing and the Ladd Foundation, the Event Sponsor Sun Journal, the Event Co-Sponsors Liberty Mutual and Norway Savings Bank and our Concert Supporters Androscoggin Home Healthcare & Hospice and Cornerstone Wealth Planning for making this concert possible.

Power-house comedian lineup coming to Great Falls

AUBURN, ME -- Make laughter a priority this week at Great Falls Comedy Club on December 8 and 9, with all sorts of hilarious stand-up comedians.

Friday will see the return of one of Maine's most hilarious comics, the one and only Johnny "Friggin" Ater. Featured

acts include Anne Marie Keene, Leonard Kimble and the very funny Andre Medrano.

Then on Saturday catch a power-house lineup with Uzair Malik, Kevin Neales, Crystal Bernard, and your headliner Bryan Muenzer.

Tickets can be found at [https://www.great-](https://www.greatfallscomedyclub.com)

fallscomedyclub.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.

Community band's holiday music tradition continues



AUBURN, ME -- The Auburn Community Concert Band, under the direction of Milt Simon, will present its annual holiday concert on Wednesday, December 13 at the Franco Center in Lewiston. The free, 75-minute performance will begin at 7:00 p.m.

This season's 46-member concert band is comprised of volunteer musicians from 15 central and western Maine communities, who range in age from 18 to 80-plus. The group will perform both traditional and contemporary songs celebrating the Christmas and Hanukah holiday seasons along with

the customary audience sing-along.

Continuing a tradition which began over four decades ago, those attending the concert will have an opportunity to make a donation to a local non-profit organization. This year, all money collected following the concert will be presented to the High Street Food Pantry, which is held weekly at the High Street Congregational Church in Auburn.

Small's Greenhouse in Auburn is providing poinsettias to decorate the Franco Center's stage. Immediately following the evening's performance, attendees will be able to

purchase these plants with all proceeds going to the High Street Food Pantry, as well.

The Franco Center takes its residence inside a city landmark, the former St. Mary's Church, located at 46 Cedar Street in Lewiston. Ample free parking is available in the Oxford Street lot, located across the street from the Franco Center's side entrance.

For questions regarding the performance location and its facilities, call the Franco Center at 783-1585. For more information regarding the concert, visit the band's web site at www.auburncommunity-band.com

A Christmas Carol

adapted by Christopher Schario

Dec 8, 9, 10

Fri - 7pm
Sat - 2pm & 7pm
Sun - 2pm

A story you know,
told in a way you've
never imagined.

ALL KIDS
\$15

This
Weekend
Only!

THE PUBLIC THEATRE

31 Maple Street, Lewiston

(207) 782-3200

ThePublicTheatre.org

SPONSORS Androscoggin Home Healthcare + Hospice, Evergreen Subaru Dirigo Federal Credit Union, Lewiston Pawn Shop UNDERWRITERS Platz Associates, Sun Journal, WOXO & WIGY

Urban Edge Hair Studio

(207) 212-9440

1117 Center Street
Auburn, ME 04210

WED - FRI 10-6 • SAT 9-3
Evenings by Appt. Only

Like us on Facebook!

MICHAEL G.

Applications open to fill judicial vacancies in Maine

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senator Angus King and Representatives Chellie Pingree and Jared Golden announced they will convene an advisory committee to review and provide recommendations to President Biden on candidates to fill

a vacancy on the United States District Court for the District of Maine and a vacancy on the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit:

Senator Angus King and Representatives Chellie Pingree and Jared Golden announce

applications are open for the upcoming vacancies for United States District Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Maine and United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

Senator King, Congresswoman Pingree and

Congressman Golden have convened an advisory committee to review and provide recommendations to President Biden on candidates to serve as United States District Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Maine due to the

upcoming retirement of Judge John Levy and the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit due to the upcoming retirement of Judge William Kayatta, Jr.

Interested candidates for either opening should send a resume,

cover letter, and two letters of reference to Pingree.resume@mail.house.gov by 5 pm on Friday, December 15th, 2023. Applicants that are selected to interview with the committee will take place January 4th-6th, 2024.

UMaine meets the needs of Maine teachers, outdoor leaders

ORONO, ME — The University of Maine’s College of Education and Human Development is launching three new graduate certificates aimed at teachers looking to boost their knowledge and skills in the areas of multilingual special education, adapted physical education and outdoor leadership.

The five-course (15 credits) Multilingual Special Education graduate certificate, offered entirely via UMaineOnline, is designed to equip educators with a deeper understanding of evidence-based practices and educational policies to support culturally and linguistically diverse students, including multilingual learners, with disabilities.

According to the U.S. Department of Education’s

Office of Special Education Programs, nearly 12% of multilingual learners in K-12 schools have a disability. Between 2012 and 2020, this student population grew by nearly 30% nationwide.

Melissa Cuba, UMaine assistant professor of special education, says that under federal law, multilingual learners with disabilities are entitled to language acquisition and special education services, both of which are needed for them to be successful in school and beyond.

“This requires a great deal of collaboration and coordination among educators who have applied knowledge of special education and language development best practices and policies,” says Cuba. “So this program responds to

a growing need across our state and region to ensure educators have the skills and tools to work as a team to provide these services.”

UMaine’s graduate program in special education now offers five graduate certificates, all of which can be applied toward a master’s or education specialist degree in special education.

The Adapted Physical Education graduate certificate addresses the need in Maine for more teachers with the knowledge, skills and practical experiences to support students with disabilities in physical education classes. The five-course sequence (15 credits) is designed to enhance teachers’ use of age- and developmentally-appropriate practices for all learners.

Educators who complete the certificate will be eligible to apply for the Maine Department of Education’s adapted physical education endorsement.

“All students deserve appropriate support in order to participate in classes that promote their physical, emotional and intellectual growth,” says Shannan Foter, lecturer in kinesiology and physical education and coordinator of the certificate program. “This certificate will give teachers a more robust understanding of how to conduct accurate and comprehensive assessments of students with disabilities, as well as how to design and adapt instruction that meets their needs.”

The Outdoor Leadership and Education graduate certificate provides students with a combination

of hands-on practice and theory to facilitate meaningful, high-quality outdoor learning opportunities for participants of all ages. The five-course program (15 credits) is focused on the professional knowledge and field experiences needed for anyone interested in successfully incorporating more experiential and place-based learning into various preK-12 schools, postsecondary and adult education settings.

A recent report from the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Bureau of Economic Analysis found that Maine’s outdoor recreation economy grew more than 16% from 2021 to 2022 and generates more than \$3 billion annually. That’s about 4% of the state’s gross domestic product, the sixth highest per-

centage among all 50 states.

“Maine’s natural resources have always been an essential part of our heritage and economy,” says Lauren Jacobs, lecturer and coordinator of UMaine’s outdoor leadership program. “Outdoor industries and jobs are particularly important for the sustainability of rural communities. We’re excited to offer this graduate certificate to help build a skilled cadre of stewards, educators and guides to lead groups knowledgeably, ethically and safely in a variety of wilderness settings.”

All graduate certificates require a bachelor’s degree. Prospective students can apply online via the University of Maine Graduate School. More information is available online.



**Lot Clearing • Excavating Foundations
 Septic Systems & Design • Driveways & Roads
 Tree Removal • Culverts & Ditching**

**No Money Down
 Financing Available**

**CALL TODAY FOR A
 FREE ESTIMATE
 (207) 500-8100**

A division of **AmericanBuildersMaine.com**

Homestyle Christmas variety and light show returns



Sights & Sounds of Christmas variety and light show returns to the Franco Center with Friday and Saturday evening shows and a Saturday matinee Dec. 15 and 16. Last year's show featured more than 30 performers, seen in this file photo, as will this year's show. Tickets can be purchased at 207-689-2000 and www.francocenter.org/shows. The Franco Center is at 46 Cedar St., Lewiston. Franco Center photo.

LEWISTON, ME—Following the success of last year's premiere of Sights and Sounds of Christmas, the fundraising event returns "bigger and better than ever" to the Franco Center on Dec. 15 and 16 with three separate

performances, according to show producer, Jake Hodgkin. Dozens of performers will sing, dance, act, and produce an energetic and vibrant festive Christmas show complete with an immersive light show. "The light show will

produce a snow effect in several scenes and also a visual look at what it would be like to travel in Santa's sleigh."

With an evening show at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15, followed by a matinee show at 2 p.m. and evening

show at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, the Franco Center's beautiful Performance Hall stage will be the scene of holiday-themed performances, music, and a light show. "This Christmas show is an event for the whole family, where

memories can be made," said Franco Center Board President Elaine Roop. The Great Falls Model Railroad Club will be back with a new holiday display this year.

"The matinee's light show and projections will not have the full effect due to the fact that the Franco Center's Performance Hall cannot be darkened during the day," Hodgkin said. "The overall emphasis is to give the feeling of an old-fashioned homestyle Christmas. If you are looking to get in the holiday spirit, don't miss this show."

Tickets for the Franco Center's Sights & Sounds of Christmas Show range from \$7 to \$25 and can be purchased online at www.francocenter.org/shows, by phone at 207-689-2000 or in person between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Advance shows	Evening
Tier 1 Adults \$20 -	
Kids/Students \$15	
Tier 2 Adults \$15 -	

Kids/Students \$10
Door Evening Shows
Tier 1 Adults \$25 -
Kids/Students \$20
Tier 2 Adults \$20 -
Kids/Students \$15
Advance Matinee
Tier 1 Adults \$15 -
Kids/Students \$10
Tier 2 Adults \$10 -
Kids/Students \$7
Door Matinee
Tier 1 Adults \$20 -
Kids/Students \$15
Tier 2 Adults \$15 -
Kids/Students \$12

Doors, concessions, and cash bar open an hour before the show, and during intermission. The Franco Center is at 46 Cedar St. and is handicap accessible. All proceeds to benefit the Franco Center. Season Underwriter is Maple Way Dental Care; Media Sponsors are Sun Journal, Turner Publishing, Uncle Andy's, Bennett Radio Group. The show is sponsored by Skelton Taintor & Abbott and Berman & Simmons.

Warning: Strobe Lighting and Smoke & Haze in Use during this performance.

LA Metro Chamber, BlueTriton support local businesses

LEWISTON AUBURN, ME - In the aftermath of the tragic events that unfolded on October 25th, forever altering our Maine community, the Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce (LA Metro Chamber) is taking decisive action to address the profound impact on local

businesses. The Chamber, in collaboration with BlueTriton Brands, Inc., owner of the Poland Spring brand, is proud to announce the establishment of the Small Business Relief Fund and a commitment of \$500,000 to match corporate and community donations.

Heather Printup, Poland Spring Brand Com-

munity Relations Manager, expressed the company's deep commitment to supporting the community: "For 178 years, we have witnessed a tradition of neighbors helping neighbors in times of need - it's the very essence of what it means to be from Maine. In this time of need, we are deeply honored to be able

to support our neighbors in recovering, reconnecting, and reviving; as Mainers do. We will continue to support our community in meaningful ways and are working with the Chamber to plan additional efforts to help local businesses rebound, recognize emergency responders, and honor our friends and neighbors who were victims of this tragedy."

The Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, serving as a hub of verified information and coordination for donations in the wake of the recent tragedy, recognizes the urgent need to provide immediate support to local businesses, especially those in the hospitality industry, experiencing unprecedented year-over-year losses that threaten

their survival.

Shanna Cox, President + CEO of the LA Metro Chamber, emphasized the critical importance of a swift response: "Research tells us that a quick response in the months directly following a mass shooting event is crucial to the long-term outlook of the local economy. Businesses in the LA Metro area - particularly in the hospitality industry - are sharing how hard the weeks since the shooting have been. We are grateful Poland Springs's generous donation to kickstart the efforts to support our local small businesses and strengthen our local economy."

More about the Small Business Relief Fund
The Small Business Relief Fund will gratefully

welcome matching donations, which can be made online or through contacting the LA Metro Chamber of Commerce. In the coming weeks, the chamber will convene small business owners and operators to provide input into the design of a grant program, which will be aimed at providing crucial financial support to local small businesses facing economic challenges.

A portion of the funds will be used to provide marketing for the region, at the request of and in collaboration with area businesses.

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



Insulate. Be comfortable. Save money.

Incentives up to \$9,200 for income-eligible households.



Start today by scanning this QR code and see if you prequalify.

It takes less than 5 minutes.



Visit efficiencymaine.com for program details or call 866-376-2463.



That's why we bring health care to you.

Skilled medical care in the comfort of your own home

- + Recovery from illness or injury
- + Chronic condition management
- + Navigating emotional wellbeing
- + Hospice care + Hospice House



ANDROSCOGGIN
Home Healthcare
+ Hospice

207.777.7740

| Androscoggin.org

FOR Health. FOR Life.

Augusta Symphony Orchestra plans holiday concert



AUGUSTA, ME -- The Augusta Symphony Orchestra will present its annual Holiday Concert on December 17 at 6:00 pm at South Parish Church, 9 Church St. in Augusta.

The concert will open with Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante for Four Winds in E-flat major. Following intermission, the ASO will perform se-

lections from Handel's Messiah, as well as holiday favorites by Leroy Anderson. For more information, please visit the ASO website at augustasyphony-maine.org

The ASO has been sharing great classic and modern works of symphonic music within the central Maine region for decades. Now in its 103rd

season, the symphony is under the guidance of Music Director and Conductor Jinwook Park. An accomplished violinist, Mr. Park teaches at Colby College as well as directing the Colby College Symphony.

Please join the ASO for an evening of great holiday music! All concerts are free. Donations are gratefully welcomed.

Maine teen receives Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy award

MAINE -- Make-A-Wish Maine supporter Brayden Bashaw was recently recognized by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Northern New England Chapter (AFP-NNE) with the Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy Award for his success with his Ornaments for Hope fundraiser.

Brayden, 18, and his family traveled to Vermont in late October to accept the award where Brayden spoke on stage to hundreds of fundraising professionals about his inspiration and why he chose Make-A-Wish Maine as the beneficiary of his efforts. Brayden will also receive a \$5,000 grant to go towards his college tuition from AFP-NNE chapter sponsor Demont Associates, fundraising counsel.

"All of us at Make-A-Wish Maine are equally as grateful as we are impressed and inspired by Brayden's efforts over the years. We are thrilled that he has been recognized for the impact he has had, not only on our wish kids and families, but also within his community. This is a young man with a very bright future and an even bigger heart," says Kate Vickery, Make-A-Wish Maine President & CEO.

Over the past nine years, Brayden has raised more than \$84,000 for Make-A-Wish Maine and



Kristin Welch, AFP-NNE Board President; Brayden Bashaw; John Lanham, Demont Associates, Vice President; Melissa Howard, AFP-NNE Board President Elect

he will host his final Ornaments for Hope event at Gritty McDuff's in Auburn on Friday, December 1st from 4:30 – 9:00 PM. Attendees can bid on auction items, enter in the raffle, and purchase handmade ornaments and treats. You won't want to miss this finale event!

A home-grown event, Brayden and his grand-

mother make all of the ornaments for Hope and Brayden solicits the auction items and donations.

In 2020, Make-A-Wish Maine honored the teen with their Brendan Batson Youth Engagement Award, recognizing a Maine youth who gives substantial time and energy to support the Make-A-Wish mission.

 A promotional graphic for The Maine Music Society's 50th anniversary. It features the text "THE Maine Music Society" in a stylized font, with "GOLDEN Jubilee 50 Years OF SONG" to the right. Below this, it says "A SEASON OF CELEBRATION" with a Christmas tree icon. The event details are: "Sat., Dec. 9 • 7pm" and "Sun., Dec. 10 • 2pm" at the "FRANCO CENTER". A description reads: "Celebrate the magic of the holiday season with both new and familiar works and join the MMS Chorale in the annual sing-along." Tickets information: "Tickets: 207-333-3386 or mainemusicsociety.org".

What do you think?

We strongly encourage Letters to the Editor, Op/Eds, columns or any other submissions from our readers. Agree with us or another columnist? Disagree? Write to us and let us know!

Email all submissions, including name, address and phone number, to the editor.

Water that just works.



GOODWIN
WELL & WATER INC.



Maine's leader in water well drilling, pump installation, and geothermal installation.

207.224.7861 goodwinwellandwater.com

STAPLES COWORKING

A NEW SPACE TO BREAK OLD RULES

COME TRY OUR NEW COWORKING AND MEETING SPACE IN AUBURN FOR FREE!

MENTION THIS AD AND GET 1 FREE WEEK OF OPEN SEAT COWORKING AND 1 HOUR OF MEETING ROOM USE.

OFFER VALID ONLY AT OUR 89 UNION ST. AUBURN, ME LOCATION

Nationwide “Live and Teach in Maine” campaign launches

AUGUSTA, ME—The Maine Department of Education (DOE) and Live and Work in Maine have partnered to launch a nationwide Live and Teach in Maine campaign to attract educators to the state and strengthen the education profession. The multifaceted campaign includes a highly targeted advertising effort, new videos highlighting teachers who have chosen to make Maine their career destination, and events in-state to welcome, connect, and celebrate educators.

The Live and Teach in Maine campaign connects the high quality of life experienced through living in Maine with the advantages of teaching in Maine and highlights the voices of real teachers talking about why they love teaching in Maine public schools. The partnership between Live and Work in Maine and Maine DOE has two goals:

To attract new educators to Maine’s public education system, and

To elevate and celebrate the many outstanding teachers in our classrooms right now.

“We want the world to know that Maine is an amazing place to live and an extraordinary place to teach, and this partnership provides Maine educators with a megaphone to reach people with that message. We’re a state that deeply values and respects the creativity, autonomy, and professional judgment of our educators, we encourage innovation, and Maine educators get to be part of friendly, close-knit communities. If you’ve ever thought of teaching and living in Maine, Department of Education staff

are a phone call away from helping you start your journey and our communities would love to have you,” said Maine Education Commissioner Pender Makin.

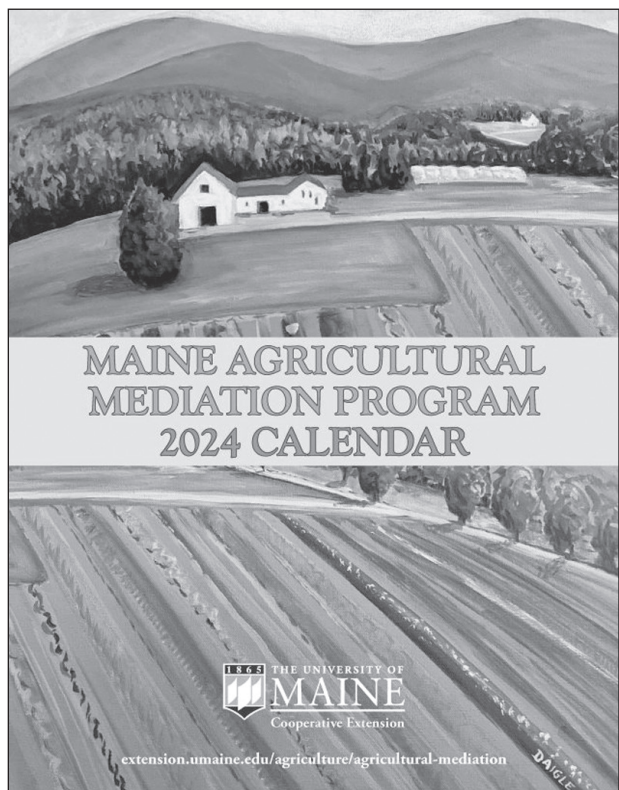
“Maine’s public education system is among the best in the nation, and our quality of life is among the best in the world. We’re going to leverage those competitive advantages to attract new educators to Maine, retain the talented ones we already have, and help change the conversation about public education to be one of positivity

and optimism,” said Live and Work in Maine Executive Director Nate Wildes.

Maine, like most of the nation, continues to experience an educator shortage that has been exacerbated by the pandemic. This partnership builds on the Maine DOE’s wide-ranging efforts to recruit, retain, and support a vibrant educator workforce and leverages Live and Work in Maine’s knowledge and expertise as the state’s premier organization devoted to attracting and retaining Maine’s workforce.

The campaign includes a new Live and Teach in Maine webpage, targeted social media and streaming ads, mobile billboards, subway ads, and events. All Maine school administrative units (SAUs) also have free access to the Live and Work in Maine job board so applicants can access job opportunities in Maine schools. The campaign is being funded through federal emergency relief funds to build and sustain Maine’s educator workforce following the pandemic.

Annual ag-focused calendar celebrates farming, land & sea



2024 wall calendar.

The theme of this year’s calendar is “Farming and Tending to the Land and Sea Throughout the Seasons. It features twelve charming images from Maine-based artists that capture the essence of agricultural work and life. From vibrant fields of crops to somber coastal scenes, each image tells a unique story of Maine’s agricultural journey throughout the seasons.

Measuring 8.5 by 11 inches, the calendar is designed with wire binding for easy hanging. Copies are now available for purchase for \$6.50, which includes shipping. Order a copy by visiting UMaine Extension’s website.

MAMP is one of 43 U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Mediation Programs.



Photo courtesy University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

It supports the agricultural community in Maine by providing conflict resolution, contract and lease consultation and financial coaching.

MAMP provides services in three major areas: mediation/ conflict resolution; contract/ lease consultation and co-drafting; and financial coaching.

The MAMP staff, mediators, and financial coaches are person-focused and aim to provide compassionate assistance, support and resources to agricultural producers, their lenders, USDA agencies, and others involved in various conflicts. All MAMP services are voluntary and confidential and are no-cost/

low-cost to participants. Visit the program website to learn more about agricultural mediation at UMaine Extension. All MAMP services are voluntary and confidential and are no-cost/ low-cost to participants. Visit the program website to learn more about agricultural mediation at UMaine Extension.

Appreciation and respect for older Mainers

By Peggy Rotundo
Maine is fortunate enough to have the oldest population of any state in the country. In the Legislature, Democrats and Republicans are well aware of the many important contributions made by older Mainers and are always on the lookout for ways we can assist the folks who have given our state this great distinction.

As Senate Chair of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee, I made it a top priority this year to seek out ways in which the state could do more for these citizens who have given so much, and continue to give. For instance, in the biennial bud-

get, we opened up the Property Tax Fairness Credit to all Mainers age 65 and over, raised the maximum benefit of the credit — from \$1500 to \$2000 — and increased income eligibility. In order to benefit from the Property Tax Fairness Credit, simply file Form 1040ME and Schedule PTFC/STFC for the tax year during which the property tax or rent was paid. You can find these forms by going to www.maine.gov/revenue/tax-return-forms or calling 207-624-7894.

We also expanded the State Property Tax Deferral Program, a program that allows Mainers over 65 to age in place and ensures that property taxes are still

delivered to municipalities, requiring repayment of the loan once the property is sold or becomes part of an estate. This year, we improved the program by increasing participants’ maximum income from \$40,000 to \$80,000 and increasing the maximum amount of value of liquid assets from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

One item I was pleased to fight for in the budget was an increase to the annual income tax pension deduction from \$30,000 to \$35,000 for all retired Maine residents this tax year. This initiative simply puts more money in all Maine pensioners’ pockets. The amount increases to equal the maximum so-

cial security benefit in the following years. Questions about whether your pension qualifies for the Maine pension income deduction should be directed to your tax advisor or Maine Revenue Services at 207-626-8475.

Other significant budget items directed at helping older Mainers include increased eligibility and removal of the asset test for the Medicare Savings Program; a one-time three percent cost of living adjustment for retired State employees — providing a maximum benefit of \$726 and an average benefit of \$527 to approximately 37,600 state sponsored plan retirees — and an

increase in the state’s contribution toward the retired teachers’ share of health insurance premiums from 55% to 60% in fiscal year 2023-24 and from 60% to 65% in fiscal year 2024-25.

Finally, the budget appropriates \$2 million for Elder Justice Roadmap projects, including funding to provide staff for Maine Legal Services for the Elderly and support for older adults that have had open cases with Adult Protective Services. And we directed \$1 million to Area Agencies on Aging, Maine’s “one-stop-shops” to answer questions from older adults, individuals with disabilities and their care partners about a wide range of services.

In addition to all of the items we included in the biennial budget, I would like to highlight the Respite for ME pilot program, which was created by Lewiston Rep. Kristen Cloutier. Respite for ME will support people who care for family members and loved ones who are older or have a disability, often while also working to make ends

meet. Eligible caregivers may receive grants of up to \$2,000 to help cover things like respite care, assistive technology and legal consultations.

If you have any questions about Respite for ME or any resources for older Mainers, please call Seniors Plus at (207) 795-4010, the Lewiston Senior Citizens Office at (207) 513-3059, extension 3710, or simply dial 2-1-1. We are so fortunate to live in this state, where we all benefit from the wisdom and experience of our older population. If you qualify for any of the programs above, or care for someone who does, please reach out. The Legislature sees you, and appreciates you.

Peggy Rotundo currently represents Lewiston in the Maine State Senate and serves as the Senate Chair of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee. For more information on this column or any other legislative matter, she can be reached at Peggy.Rotundo@legislature.maine.gov or (207) 287-1515.

Jason Hodsdon Masonry

We install stainless steel liners

215-3557
North Monmouth

Jasonhodsdonmasonry@gmail.com

THE DUMP GUY

Basement, Attic, Garage & Apartment Cleanouts

JUNK REMOVAL

Boat, Vehicle & Camper

(207) 450-5858 • www.thedumpguy.com Fully Insured

SBA Business Recovery Center in Maine relocating

LEWISTON, ME -- The U.S. Small Business Administration Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience announced the relocation of the Business Recovery Center (BRC) in Lewiston to meet the needs of businesses who were affected by the mass shooting on Oct. 25, 2023. The center is moving to the Lewiston Armory beginning Monday, Dec. 4.

ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY Business Recovery Center Lewiston Armory, 65 Central Ave Lewiston, Maine 04240
 Opens at 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 4 Mondays – Fridays, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 Customer Service Representatives will be available at the BRC to answer questions about the disaster loan program and

help business owners complete their applications.
 For small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations of any size, SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster.
 Interest rates are 4 %

for businesses, and 2.5 % for private nonprofit organizations with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition. Interest does not accrue, and payments are not due until twelve months from the date of the first disbursement.
 Applicants may apply for an EIDL online via

SBA's secure website sba.gov/disaster. To obtain disaster loan information and application forms call the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 (if you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services), or send an email to DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov.

Loan applications can be downloaded from the SBA's website at sba.gov/disaster. Completed applications should be mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155. The deadline to apply for economic injury application is Aug. 6, 2024.

CMCC offering free CompTIA Security + “Bootcamp” course

AUBURN, ME – The Center for Workforce and Professional Development at Central Maine Community College (CMCC) is partnering with area employers and service providers to recruit candidates interested in completing their CompTIA Security + Certificate. Information and registration for the free program is available at centralmaine.cc/workforceapply.
 The 60-hour course runs in-person for one week and one day, Monday

to Friday, from December 18, 2023 – December 22, 2023 and on Wednesday December 27, 2023 at 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The CompTIA Security “Bootcamp” Course incorporates best practices in hands-on troubleshooting, ensuring candidates have practical security problem-solving skills required to assess the security posture of an enterprise environment and implement appropriate security solutions; monitor and secure hybrid environments, including

cloud, mobile, etc., operate with an awareness of applicable laws and policies, including principles of governance, risk, and compliance; identify, analyze, and respond to security events and incidents.
 This training is instructed by former CMCC Dean of Information Technology, Robert Boucher. Students who successfully complete the course will earn a CompTIA Security + Certificate. The average starting wage for Security+ support specialists trend at

\$40,500.
 This training joins several other free trainings offered by Workforce and Professional Development including NCCER Project Supervision, Computer Support Specialist featuring CompTIA IT (Information Technology) Fundamental+ and A+, Certified Pharmacy Technician, and the Welding Academy.
 This program is funded by Maine Jobs and Recovery Program (MJRP). The course materials and exam fee are also covered.

Participants must be at least 18 years of age, possess a high school diploma, GED, or HiSet, and be a U.S. citizen and/or authorized to work in the U.S. A criminal background check may be required. Additionally, candidates in MJRP-funded programs must be a dislocated, unemployed, or underemployed worker, or someone whose job has been adversely affected by COVID-19. Underemployed can be considered as working part-time but looking for full-time work

or working in an occupation below one's skill-set. Candidates are only eligible to participate in one MJRP program being offered at any of the seven colleges in the Maine Community College System.
 For more information or to register, please contact Central Maine Community College's Center for Workforce & Professional Development at workforcedevelopment@cmcc.edu or 207-755-5280.

Calling bull: Building agency to refute information

AUBURN, ME -- The Auburn Public Library has partnered with students in a class from the Digital & Computational Studies Department at Bates College for a special Zoom

event Tuesday, December 12, 2023 – 11:00am-12:00pm.
 In this class, “Calling Bull: Data Literacy and Information Science,” students look at misinforma-

tion, and dive deeply into the “who, what, where, when, why, and how” of the propaganda. The course culminates into a capstone project where in students put together a

portfolio of three pieces of misinformation and work to correct or debunk the information.
 During this community Zoom session with the class, Calling Bull

students will share a piece of their portfolio in which they present a rebuttal in an effort to set the record straight.
 Registration is required. To register, go to

<https://www.auburnpubliclibrary.org> or call the Reference Desk at 207-333-6640, ext. 4. Participants will receive an email with the Zoom link the day before the program.

Designing & implementing a Recovery Ready Community

LEWISTON, ME -- Have you ever wondered how to energize your city or town to become a Recovery Ready Community? Come join us for the day to hear how the cities of Lewiston and Auburn, located in Androscoggin County have joined hands in a collaborative effort to address overdose deaths, diversion from incarcer-

ation, homelessness, and access to resources for those most in need. Behavioral health providers, law enforcement, individuals with lived experience and city leaders will gather to share their experiences and identify challenges and triumphs along the way!
 Panel discussions featuring a cross-section

of community providers, law enforcement, city management, clinicians, and military veterans will provide participants the unique opportunity to explore ways to implement shared knowledge within their local communities to address the concerns of substance use and mental issues statewide.
 Keynote Address:

“What it Means to be a Recovery Ready Community”, Gordon Smith, Esq., Director of Opioid Response
 Community Partnerships Panel
 Learn what Androscoggin County has been doing to address overdose deaths, diversion from incarceration, homelessness, and provide access to re-

sources for those most in need.
 Boots on the Ground Panel
 What has worked? What hasn't worked? Learn from those with “their boots on the ground”.
 Veterans Panel
 This panel will focus on the veterans and families' issues, existing

programs, what needs are being met, what needs still need to be met and what partnerships we can cultivate to meet those needs.
 Monday, December 11, 2023 at USM Lewiston-Auburn Campus from 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
 Sponsored by Tri-County Behavioral Healthcare and University of Southern Maine

2024 dog licensing kicks off, licenses expire at year end

LEWISTON, ME - The Lewiston City Clerk's Department is reminding all Lewiston dog owners that state law requires all dogs to be licensed if they are six months old or older. Per state law, a dog's license expires December 31 of each year.
 Renewal notices are being mailed out this week to approximately 2,000 dog owners who licensed

their dogs for 2023. Residents may renew their pet's license via the mail-in portion of the renewal notice or by going online to the city's website (www.lewistonmaine.gov/doglicenses), and the tag for the new year will be mailed to the owner. Residents may also go to the City Clerk's Department at Lewiston City Hall, 27 Pine Street, Mon - Fri, 8:30 AM – 4

PM, to register their dog.
 In order to license a dog in Maine, the dog must have a current rabies vaccination, and this certificate must be presented at time of licensing. If a dog owner cannot locate their copy, they should contact their veterinarian's office to request a duplicate copy of the rabies certificate.
 Rabies is a serious

problem in the state. Residents are urged to take the time to protect their pet against this deadly virus. If an animal is suspected of having rabies, it is quarantined. If during this time, the signs of rabies still appear, the only way to test an animal for rabies is to euthanize the animal. Dog licensing ensures rabies vaccination which protects the health

of the pet as well as the health of the community.
 The Maine annual license fees are \$6 for a dog that is spayed or neutered and \$11 for a dog that is not altered. If applicable, the spaying/neutering certificate must be presented when licensing a dog for the first time.
 Questions about licensing can be directed to the City Clerk's De-

partment at 513-3124 or cityclerkoffice@lewiston-maine.gov
 Questions about dangerous dogs, fines for harboring an unlicensed dog, Maine leash law, rabies management, dog bites, and other public safety matters should be directed to the Lewiston Animal Control Officer at the Lewiston Police Department.

Shaw bill advances, seeks to enable Mainers to grow their own food

AUGUSTA, ME – The Legislative Council recently approved a bill from Rep. Kathy Shaw, D-Auburn, that would make it easier for more Mainers to grow their own food by exempting buildings used for the cultivation of crops, like permanent greenhouses,

from the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code (MUBEC).
 The exemption included in the bill, An Act to Exempt Buildings Used to Cultivate Crops from the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code, would allow more individual property owners

in municipalities with over 4,000 residents to grow their own food year-round. Under current law, buildings used to house livestock or store harvested crops are also exempt. Shaw's proposal would not include an exemption for the cultivation of cannabis.

“As a lifelong farmer living in rural communities, I have been able to grow my own food – something that has come to be a privilege in today's world,” said Shaw. “My bill is a simple step toward expanding the right to grow one's own food year-round to more Mainers. This

legislation, inspired by local constituents, would increase the resilience of our food systems at a time when it is greatly needed and have enormously positive impacts.”
 Shaw's bill will be heard when the Legislature meets again in January.

Shaw is serving her first term in the Maine House representing part of Auburn. A lifelong farmer and president of the Cumberland and Falmouth farmers markets, Shaw serves on the Legislature's Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

Report highlights Maine's assets, progress, challenges

Hallowell, ME –The nonpartisan Maine Economic Growth Council today released its 29th annual Measures of Growth Report - a comprehensive snapshot of how the state's economy is performing relative to our long-term goals, to other states, and to the nation.

The Report finds that overall, Maine continues to perform exceptionally well in terms of environmental stewardship and has made promising improvements to internet connectivity, entrepreneurship, and achievement of postsecondary degrees and credentials. However, the lingering impact of the pandemic on children's mental health and learning, the high costs of housing and energy, and other systemic challenges continue to burden communities, businesses, and households.

The Council noted that Maine's quality of life and other enduring assets set the stage to overcome challenges and for additional investments to achieve economic growth, a more resilient economy in an uncertain global environment, and long-term and more equitable prosperity.

"This Report provides critical insight into Maine's economy and workforce," says Steve Von

Vogt, CEO, Maine Marine Composites and Co-Chair of the Maine Economic Growth Council. "We must continue to harness Yankee ingenuity, innovation, and public-private partnerships to capitalize on Maine's unique strengths, respond our economic challenges, and eradicate systemic inequities."

For the first time this year, the report highlights four examples of creative initiatives that are helping address some of Maine's longstanding challenges. Look for our "Indicator in Action" stories within the Report about Downeast Broadband Utility, Nonantum Resort, Nyle Systems, and Telstar Academy.

"We hope other employers are motivated by the story of our hiring program for formerly incarcerated Mainers," says Colby Marvin Bracy, Director of Human Resources and Philanthropy, Nonantum Resort. "These employees are very loyal. In part because we gave them a chance and they feel valued...but more because they prove to themselves and society that they are capable and reliable. They show up for work on time, they are resourceful, and they have great attitudes - it enriches the entire organization."

For the second year in a row this year's report



brings special focus to Maine's particular challenges in workforce availability and participation, an urgent issue in every industry and region. "The Report unpacks the dimensions and driving forces which stem from years of demographic, economic, and social changes compounded by a global pandemic," says James Dill, Director of the Diagnostic and Research Laboratory and Pest Management Specialist, UMaine Cooperative Extension and Co-Chair of the Maine Economic Growth Council. "Overcoming these challenges and building the workforce Maine needs will require attracting more working-age people from other states and countries, retaining more of the young people born here, and helping people of all ages, genders, abilities, races, and ethnicities to improve their skills and participate fully in our economy."

"There is also reason to be encouraged," says Yellow Light Breen, Presi-

dent & CEO, Maine Development Foundation. "For the first time, the Council assigned a Gold Star to Postsecondary Degrees & Credentials - calling out Maine's substantial progress over the past decade - reaching 55% of Mainers with a college degree or shorter-term educational or industrial certificate of value in 2021. This ranks Maine among the fastest improving of any state."

In total, the 2023 Measures of Growth Report tracks 31 indicators that represent Maine's assets and areas of challenge.

The Council assigns Gold Stars for significant progress in:

Wages: In 2022, wages remained above the EPSCoR average but fell 1.5% after adjusting for inflation.

Post-Secondary Degrees and Credentials: In 2021, 55% of Maine adults had a credential of value, up from 53% in 2019 on the way to the overall goal of 60%.

Internet Connectivity: In 2023, 86% of Maine

locations have either average or broadband internet, up 8%.

Air Quality: In 2022, there were 24 moderately unhealthy days, four fewer than last year.

Water Quality: In 2022, Maine maintained its excellent water quality rating.

Sustainable Forestlands: In 2021, the growth-to-removal ratio rose 8% to 1.43 and remained above the sustainability goal.

The Council assigns Red Flags for needed attention to:

Labor Force: Maine's labor force shrank 1.5% to 675,000 in 2022.

Research and Development: In 2020, Maine's R&D spending rose from 1% to 1.1% of GDP -- but still significantly lags peer states and the target of 3%.

Fourth-Grade Reading: In 2022, 29% of Maine 4th graders were proficient in reading, a sharp drop from pre-COVID levels.

Eighth-Grade Math: In 2022, 24% of Maine 8th graders were proficient in mathematics, down from 34% pre-COVID.

Cost of Energy: The price of industrial electricity rose 17% in 2022, mirroring nationwide increases.

State and Local Tax Burden: In 2021, Maine's

tax burden remained unchanged at 11.7%.

Housing Affordability: Housing affordability appears to have dropped in 2022, but complete data are not currently available.

Mental and Behavioral Health: In 2020-2021, the percentage of children with a mental and/or behavioral condition rose 0.4%.

Read the Full Report here: https://www.mdf.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/2023_MOG_FullReport_FINAL.pdf

The Maine Economic Growth Council takes a nonpartisan, data-driven approach to presenting an unbiased picture of Maine's economy and well-being. Measures of Growth is designed to be a resource for policy and decision makers at all levels, helping them to focus their efforts and understand the connections between the key issues affecting the state. The Report works in tandem with the Maine's 10-Year Economic Development Strategy to inform policy and decisions in order to achieve overarching goals of growing Maine's talent pool and workforce, increasing wages, and increasing the value of what we sell per worker. The Council is administered by the Maine Development Foundation (MDF).

Maine College of Health Professions welcomes new Chair

LEWISTON, ME -- Maine College of Health Professions (MCHP) today announced that Dr. Ned Claxton has been elected board chair, effective December 2023.

Dr. Claxton succeeds MCHP alum, Ken Albert, RN, Esq., who has served on the MCHP Board since 2017 and as chair since 2020.

"With Ned as our new board chair, we will have incredible momentum in furthering our mission to

enrich lives by providing exceptional health professions education," said Dr. Monika Bissell, MCHP President and CEO. "His brilliant career and experience in healthcare, as well as his unbridled enthusiasm for bettering the lives of others, will strengthen MCHP as we embark on our newest strategic plan. Ned embraces our vision, and he will be a tremendous advocate in assuring that the College achieves its goal of expanding ac-

cess to high quality health professions education for Maine and New England."

Dr. Claxton first moved to Auburn, Maine in 1978 and opened the Family Healthcare Associates (FHA) medical practice with Peter Elias, MD. While at FHA, he taught at the Central Maine Medical Center Family Medicine Residency. In 2001, Ned became the Program Director of the family physician training program at CMMC, where he sup-

ported graduate medical education for more than 8 years. Between 2009 and 2018, Ned assumed various senior physician leadership roles at CMMC and Central Maine Healthcare. He has earned numerous awards and honors. Dr. Claxton served as a Maine State Senator from 2018 to 2022.

In addition to his role on the MCHP Board, Dr. Claxton is actively involved in his church, and he is now or has supported several other causes - maintaining hiking trails for the Stanton Bird Club's Thorncrag & Woodbury Sanctuaries; working with the Androscoggin Land Trust; providing hiking

education for the White Mountain National Forest; picking up food for the Trinity Soup kitchen; and team teaching a Central Maine Medical Center course about Spirituality in Medicine.

Dr. Claxton holds a Bachelor of Arts from Princeton University, and he earned his MD at the University of Cincinnati. He completed his medical residency at the University of Minnesota, where he was chief resident and earned numerous teaching accolades. "I have always been an enthusiastic supporter of nursing and allied health education. I owe a debt of gratitude for the knowledge that I

have gained from these professionals throughout my career. I'm eager to work with MCHP to help broaden its positive impact in Maine - and beyond," Dr. Claxton said. "It is a responsibility I'm eager to take on. MCHP has educated generations of healthcare professionals, and we're eager to continue and amplify the college's extraordinary work."

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



Jay's
Lawn & Garden

207-713-6090

Delivery Available

Also offering residential & commercial lawn mowing services

- MULCH
- LOAM
- COMPOST
- GRAVEL
- STONE
- SAND

1294 Sabattus Street
Lewiston

Loading Hours:
M-Th by appointment
Fri - 8 am to 5 pm
Sat - 8 am to 2 pm
Sun - 8 am to Noon



- Landscaping
- Hardscape
- Drainage Installs
- Retaining Walls
- Mowing
- Snow Plowing
- and more!

207-344-5212

Business Directory

ACCOUNTANT



AUSTIN ASSOCIATES
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Auburn 207-783-9111 Norway 207-743-7777
AustinPA.com

Your Financial Team

FLOWER SHOPPE



Sweet Pea Designs
FLOWER SHOPPE

777-1520

www.sweetpeafloraldesignsme.com

FREE DELIVERY L/A

PHOTOGRAPHY



PortraitEfx of Maine
Bell Studios, Inc.

Executive Portraits • Business photographs • Videos

Gray, ME (207) 657-6372
maine@portraitefx.com
www.maine.portraitefx.com

AUTO CARE

The Only Full-Service Gas Station in Auburn!

Poisson & Sons
Auto Care Center, Inc.

Computer Diagnostics • Yokohama Tires
Repairs • Alignments • Inspection Station
Gas • Clear K1 • Tune-ups • Brakes • Batteries

Dan & Don Poisson
dfpoisson@aol.com

260 S. Main St., Auburn • 782-9144

MASONRY



Jason Hodsdon
JasonHodsdonMasonry@gmail.com

Masonry • Culture Stones
Chimneys • Chimney Cleaning
Repointing & Repairs
Restoration
Stainless Steel Liners

Fully Insured
Free Estimates
20+ Years of Experience

North Monmouth
(207) 215-3557

PRINTING



EVERGREEN
CUSTOM PRINTING, INC.

2 Great Falls Plaza, Suite 1B
Auburn ME 04210
info@evergreencustomprinting.com

RICK OSGOOD
owner
207-782-0525
phone

Full Service Commercial Printer
Color & B/W Printing & Copying
Large Format • Posters
Booklets • Carbonless Forms
Letterheads • Envelopes
Business Cards • Labels • Tags
Design Service • and More!

CD'S

Discover The Truth About CDs!

CD Interest Rates Are At An All Time Low.
There IS A Safe, Guaranteed Alternative To
Increase Your Income.

Call now for a **FREE Guide:**
"10 Secrets Your Banker Doesn't
Want You To Know"

Call Our 24 Hour Order Line @782-3800

MARINE SERVICES

BOAT REPAIR SHOP

PONTES
Marine Service

Power by
MERCURY MerCruiser
OMC **VOLVO PENTA** **Perkins** **YANMAR** Velvet Drive

237 Lewiston Road • Topsham, ME 04086 • (207) 725-5997
www.pontesmarine.com

SELF STORAGE



AUBURN SELF STORAGE, LLC

23 Goldthwaite Rd.
Auburn, ME 04210

PO Box 715
Lewiston, ME 04243

PHONE 376-3325

CHIROPRACTOR

Family Chiropractic Center

Experience Life

1485 Lisbon Street, Lewiston
207.783.0078
www.familychiro.me.com

PAINTING

Interiors • Exteriors
Free Estimates

Drywall Repair
Pressure Washing

W.J. Libby
Painting Co.

WADE J. LIBBY
WJLibbyPainting@gmail.com CELL: 207.210.0605

SHIPPING



GOIN' POSTAL
Your Friendly Neighborhood Shipping Center

- Shipping
- Packing
- Receiving
- Copies
- Fax Service
- Mailbox Rentals
- Mail Order Fulfillment

Bring in this ad for 10% off UPS or FedEx Shipping!

UPS **UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE** **FedEx** **DHL**

9 N. River Road in Auburn ~ www.AuburnGoInPostal.com ~ 784-9900

CONTRACTORS

Fully Insured • 5 Year Workmanship Warranty

AMERICAN BUILDERS
Custom Building & Remodeling

Call 207-500-8100
For **FREE Estimates**

Call Tyler 500-8100
Finish Carpenter

Quality Work with References Available

PHOTOGRAPHY



Laura Elaines
PHOTOGRAPHY

www.facebook.com/LauraElainesPhotography
LauraElainesPhotography@gmail.com
(207) 212-5993

WEB HOSTING



Web Hosting
Web Design
Web Promotion
One Stop
207-442-9006

MAINE HOSTING
SOLUTIONS

CONTACT US TODAY FOR POSSIBLE OPENINGS FOR YOUR AD IN OUR BUSINESS DIRECTORY!

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

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 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.shtm?id=11981779>

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.

Jan 20, 21

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

Mar 23, 24

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

May 18, 19

LEWISTON, TOPSHAM -- "Cityscape, Seascape, Soundscape" Saturday, May 18, 2024, 7:00 p.m. - Franco Center, Lewiston ; Sunday, May 19, 2024, 2:30 p.m. - Ori-

on 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

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

FLAGSHIP CINEMAS
Premium

Premium entertainment at affordable prices!

VISIT ONE OF OUR FIVE MAINE LOCATIONS!
AUBURN | FALMOUTH | WELLS | WATERVILLE | THOMASTON

WWW.FLAGSHIPCINEMAS.COM

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

2nd and 4th Thursdays

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

Wednesdays

LEWISTON -- Knitting Group, Dates: Wednesdays, Time: 4:30-7:30 p.m., Facilitator: SeniorsPlus Staff, Location: Education Center, 8 Falcon Road, Lewiston

Join our knitting group to work on your own project, learn from others, and socialize. Classes are free, unless noted. SeniorsPlus is fully accessible. Hearing assistive equipment is available upon request. For more information or to register, call us at 207-795-4010 or visit seniorsplus.org.

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



**Lot Clearing • Excavating Foundations
Septic Systems & Design • Driveways & Roads
Tree Removal • Culverts & Ditching**

**No Money Down
Financing Available**

**CALL TODAY FOR A
FREE ESTIMATE
(207) 500-8100**

Classified Ads

CLEANERS

CC Island Cleaning Company. Seasonal, Air B&B, homes. Cleaning with care. Call for a quote. Denise (207) 420-4952.

MJ's- Cleaning
Over 10 years experience. Reasonable rates. Available to work with your schedule. Call: 207-539-3204.

CLEANING

Commercial Office Cleaning. 1st Choice Floor Care & Building Maintenance. Commercial cleaning company with 25+ years experience and fully insured. 1 day a week or more we can do it all. Call, email or text. (207) 956-3114 stephen@1stchoicefloorcare.com www.1stchoicefloorcare.com

Commercial Office Cleaning 1st Choice Cleaning Services. Commercial cleaning company with 25+ years experience and fully insured. 1 day a week or more we can do it all. Call, email or text. (207) 956-3114 stephen@1stchoicecleaningservices.com www.1stchoicefloorcare.com

COMPANION CARE

Feeling Isolated? Need to talk? In home or telehealth. Masters Level Prof. Counselor Over 25 years in case management. Contact for information 207-539-3204

DOG CARE

SMALL DOG CARE in our home 24/7 no gates or crates. 19 years and insured. We also offer day care.

Your pups will enjoy a home away from home with lots of love, socialization and dog walks (weather permitting). They become one of our own. We provide a safe environment. www.pet-sittinginmaine2.com

FOR SALE

Wood boiler - Must go!

\$2,500. Alternate heating carbon steel wood boiler. Purchased in 1996 for \$6,800. New door seal, bricks, blanket, and silicone card bead. Includes cycle timer and plumb fittings. 1,400#. Model E100 wood gun. Can be lifted directly into your trailer. GORHAM. (207) 222-2755.

HOUSE KEEPING

Housekeeping/ House Arranging small items to aid in mobility. Small jobs/spring cleaning and removal of unwanted items. Scheduled regularly and ongoing. (207) 705-7989

LIVE & CODE IN MAINE

Maine cybersecurity startup seeks local software engineer
Defendify is looking for a senior full stack engineer to join full-time. Small team/big results. Fun + flexible + always interesting. Come build our award-winning, all-in-one cybersecurity platform. Position information and to apply: www.defendify.com/careers.

PAINTING

WINTER PAINTING SPECIALS! Get your home cozy for winter by using our Annual Painting Special. We will paint any 3 rooms for you (up to 12' x 15'), walls and ceilings included. Price includes minor prep work on walls prior to painting. Labor & materials are included for only \$995.00. All you do is pick your colors. We have endless references and are fully insured. Family Owner Business since 1970. Webber Painting, Standish (207) 671-3556.

Interiors and Exteriors. 23 years full time, references upon request, seniors and veterans discount on labor, free estimates. Call for on site review of your project with advice on what you have now and the best way to proceed. Call 207-786-9849

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 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.

SUPERVISED EXERCISE

Fit to Function, individualized exercise programming promoting function through fitness. All ages welcome with emphasis on middle aged and older adults. Currently offered at private Lewiston gym, in-home options available. Call Mike Phelan for more information. 207-577-8777

WANTED

Full & Part Time
John's Cleaners in Lewiston is seeking a garment pressor & delivery person. No experience necessary. We will train. Pay is \$14 -\$16 / hr with paid holidays. Call 784-9096 or apply in person.

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

Classified Ads UP TO 40 WORDS!

\$25 PER WEEK
EACH ADDITIONAL WORD 25¢

Send payment with completed form to our bookkeeping office:
89 Union Street, Suite 1014 Auburn, ME 04210 or email it to us!

Card # Visa Master Card 3 digits # on back

Exp. date ____/____/____ Signature _____

Name & Address _____

Phone: _____

CATEGORY: _____

HEADLINE: _____

AD INFO: _____

NUMBER OF WEEKS TO RUN: _____

Upcoming teen programs from the Auburn Public Library

AUBURN, ME --Teen Space Craft Club 12/19 from 4 PM - 5 PM

Whether it be crocheting, drawing, origami or something else entirely, The Teen Space Craft Club serves as a time to work on any arts and crafts related projects, share advice and learn something new. Crafters of any experience are welcome!

Anime and Manga Club 12/20 from 4 PM - 5 PM

Join us in the Teen Space to watch anime, read manga, and share your fanart with fellow fans. While we have plenty of manga in the stacks, feel free to bring some of your own to share with the group!

Calling Bull: Building Agency to Refute Information (VIRTUAL) 12/12 from 11 AM - 12 PM

The Auburn Public Library has partnered with Bates College Digital & Computational Studies Department for a special Zoom class on the inner workings of misinformation and propaganda. The course culminates into a capstone project where in students put together a portfolio of three pieces of misinformation and work to correct or debunk the information.

For anyone interested, register on our website.

Dungeons & Dragons 12/13 from 3 PM - 5 PM

Come to the Teen

Space for a seafaring D&D adventure in a fantasy world! Open to beginners and experienced players alike. Come with a character sheet (level 1-3) or use one that we provide.

No Bake Treats 12/27 from 2:30 PM - 5 PM

Join us in the Teen Space to make some snacks to celebrate the year's end!

New Years Party 12/30 from 11:30 AM - 12:15 PM

Brandon Dyer, Children's Librarian and Jenna Fowler, Teen Librarian invite families to our New Year's Eve party. There will be a clock counting down to Noon while families participate in mini activities and dance to music!

West Auburn Congregational Church's Christmas Schedule

AUBURN, ME -- Christmas Schedule:

December 17th The Annual Christmas Pageant & Festival of 9 Lessons & Carols at 4 pm with a "Live Nativity" in the church, special musical presentations with soloist Kristen Short and the WACC Choir, lighting of the candles and a reception with cookies &

hot chocolate in the vestry following the service!

December 24th The Christmas Eve Vesper Service at 4pm with music from Scott Williams & Roberta Hill & the WACC Choir with a lighting of the candles.

Advent Sunday morning services December 3, 10, 17 & 24 at 9am with

carols, musical anthems with the WACC Choir, Jewell Clark and organist & pianist Ryan Slocum, plus seasonal remarks, and messages from Rev. John Williams.

West Auburn Congregational Church

811 West Auburn Road, Auburn Maine 04210

A Christmas Carol is this weekend



Adapted by Christopher Schario, this beloved Lewiston/Auburn holiday tradition returns to The Public Theatre! Six actors and a fiddler perform the

Dickens out of this beloved holiday classic—in a way you've never imagined and will never forget.

Dec 8 @ 7:00 PM
Dec 9 @ 2:00 PM &

7:00 PM
Dec 10 @ 2:00 PM
\$30 Adult / \$25 Group (10+) / \$20 Student (19+ with ID) / \$15 Youth (4-18)

New Associate Degree in Clinical Health Sciences at MCHP

LEWISTON, ME--Maine College of Health Professions (MCHP) today announced the launch of an innovative associate degree program in Clinical Health Sciences (ACHS) that provides students the opportunity to earn up to four allied health certifications as they complete the degree.

"This associate degree program is the only program in the State of Maine offering students the opportunity be certified as Clinical Phlebotomist, Clinical Medical Assistant, Clinical Patient Care Technician, and Clinical Mental Health Technician," said Dr. Kim Emery, MCHP Dean of Health Scienc-

es. "This in an incredible opportunity for students to graduate with skills in multiple allied health fields and a college degree. A key benefit of this unique program is that students can start earning certificates after their first semester. After their third semester, they can earn an additional two certificates. This allows them to work in high-wage, high-demand fields while completing their degree."

The Associate Degree in Clinical Health Sciences (ACHS) is a 5-semester program, made up of general education and major courses that provide students with the knowledge

and skills to be successful healthcare professionals. Five start dates per year provide flexibility in beginning the program. All certificate examinations are endorsed by the National Health Career Association and the National Career Certification Board.

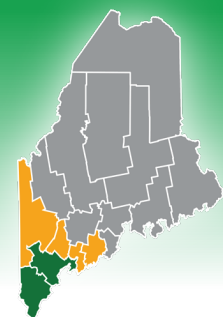
MCHP is accepting applications for students interested in starting this coming January. Interested individuals may complete an online application at <http://www.mchp.edu/apply-now>, contact the admissions office at MCHP by calling 207-795-2844 or 207-795-7591, or email admissions@mchp.edu for more information.

Join Our Community... Join Our Board

Branch Locations
Portland
South Portland
Windham
Naples
Scarborough
(Coming Soon)

Serving 6 counties in Southern Maine

Cumberland
York
Androscoggin
Oxford
Sagadahoc
Lincoln



Evergreen Credit Union seeks experienced business owners, strategic/community leaders, and senior managers to join our volunteer* Board of Directors. Share your knowledge, collaborate with our leadership team, and help our credit union grow and positively impact our communities.

Community-driven organization
Innovative Maine credit union
Forward-thinking leadership

For more details and to submit your qualifications or resume, contact CEO@egcu.org by December 15th.



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



Coming Spring 2024!

- Are you interested in a 2-year degree program that will give you lots of career choices?
- Do you want to study healthcare, but you're not sure which program to choose?
- Do you want a healthcare job, but you don't want to work evenings and weekends?
- Are you ready to make up to \$60,000 while helping people?

If so, we have the degree for you!

Associate's Degree in Clinical Health Sciences

The ACHS is a financial aid eligible program that takes two years to complete. Successful graduates are certified and eligible to work as patient care technicians, mental health technicians, medical assistants, AND phlebotomists!

Now taking applications for spring and fall 2024!

Contact MCHP Admissions at 795-2840 or email admissions@mchp.edu for more information.

