



TWIN CITY TIMES

© Twin City TIMES, Inc. 2023

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

FREE • Vol. XXV, No. 33

Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1999

Thursday, December 21, 2023 • FREE

Celtics honor Lewiston's Kenny Moore as Hero Among Us

BOSTON, MA -- Kenny Moore of Lewiston, Maine is the Youth Bowling League President at Just-In-Time Recreation in Lewiston, where he teaches young kids how to bowl. On the evening of October 25th, Moore was leading practice with 15 of his youth bowlers when he heard a loud noise. He looked around the bowling alley and saw the gunman. He told his group to run toward the exits; half of his group followed his orders, while half froze in fear. Moore ran back inside to get the rest of his students outside to safety.

For his courageous actions in Lewiston, Moore was honored as a Hero Among Us during the Boston Celtics home game against the New York Knicks on December 8, 2023.



Lewiston, Maine resident Kenny Moore was honored as a Hero Among Us at the Boston Celtics home game against the New York Knicks on December 8, 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.

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

Lewiston Police, Boston Fire face off in Battle of the Badges



LEWISTON, ME – Prepare for a thrilling clash between New England's courageous first responders as they battle

it out on Fri., Jan. 19, 2024. The Battle of the Badges brings together the finest members of the Lewiston Police Department as

they face off against the bravest members of Boston Fire from the City of Boston Fire Department at The Colisée, 190 Birch St., Lewiston, all for a great cause.

This isn't just any game; it's a passionate drive to uplift and support the families impacted by the tragic Oct. 25 mass shooting in Lewiston. Your attendance means making a difference as all proceeds from this event will directly benefit the victims' families, aiding them in time of need.

Event Details:
WHAT: Battle of the Badges
WHO: Lewiston Police Department vs Boston Fire
WHEN: Friday, January 19, 2024 - puck drops at 7 PM
WHERE: The Colisée, 190 Birch St.,

Lewiston
COST: Free, or your generous donation as admission

The excitement doesn't stop with the game! Get ready for thrilling activities: participate in the chuck-a-puck, get your one-of-a-kind commemorative tee-shirt, grab your chance at the 50/50 raffle, and explore an array of awesome raffle items available for purchase.

Let's rally together, show our support, and stand strong with those affected by the tragic events of Oct. 25. Visit the LPD Facebook page for more information and updates. Mark your calendars and be part of an evening that unites the community in support, honor, and unity. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of something truly impactful.

Lewiston looking to fill board, committee vacancies

LEWISTON, ME – The City of Lewiston is seeking resident volunteers to serve as members of the City's various boards and committees. Lewiston residents who are interested in applying can contact the City Clerk's Department to complete a committee volunteer application. Application forms are also available on the Boards and Committees page of the City's website at www.lewistonmaine.gov. Committee descriptions, meeting times and other information about committee service are also available on the City's website. Applications can be submitted at any time and will be accepted until the positions are filled however the requested filing deadline is 4:00pm on Tues-

day, December 26.

The following city boards and committees have current openings: Board of Appeals, Board of Assessment Review, Airport Committee, Community Development Block Grant Review Committee, Complete Streets Committee, Finance Committee, Historic Preservation Review Board, Housing Committee, Housing/Urban Renewal Authority, L/A Community Forestry Board, Lewiston and Auburn Railroad Company board, Lewiston Senior Advisory Council, Library Board of Trustees and Planning Board.

Due to residency requirements in the City Charter, neither the Board of Appeals

nor the Planning Board may have more than two members serving simultaneously from the same wards. This provision is to ensure adequate and balanced representation from all sections of the city.

Residents are welcome to contact the

City Clerk's Department at 513-3124 with any questions they may have regarding the committee appointment process. Completed applications shall be submitted to the City Clerk's Office for processing. Office hours are Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 4:00pm.



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

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

BILODEAU LAW

Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Easier, electronic access to duck hunting permits for Mainers

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Angus King, Vice-Chair of the Congressional Sportsmen’s Caucus, celebrated the Congressional passage of legislation that will streamline the duck stamp process for Maine hunters. The bipartisan Duck Stamp Modernization Act of 2023 will provide access to the stamp on smartphones to help more people enjoy waterfowl hunting, remove barriers to getting outdoors, and increase revenue for conservation programs funded by stamp sales. The legislation passed the Senate in July and now heads

the President’s desk for signature into law.

“From Bean Boots to Old Town Canoes, generations of Maine people have pioneered innovations to make getting outdoors easier. Decades later, this same commitment still drives sportsmen and women across our state and is the guiding principle of the Congressional Sportsmen’s Caucus,” said Senator King. “The Duck Stamp Modernization Act of 2023 embraces 21st century technology to make the great outdoors more accessible than ever. I’m proud that Congress was

able to work together on a bipartisan basis to continue making recreational activities a simpler pursuit for all.”

All waterfowl hunters at or over the age of 16 must possess a current signed Federal Duck Stamp, along with state licenses and permits, to hunt legally. The Duck Stamp Modernization Act of 2023 builds off a successful pilot program in 28 states that offer E-Stamps for 45 days of hunting. Along with the digital access, physical Duck Stamps would still be available for purchase from the post office and

other authorized retailers.

The legislation is also cosponsored by Senators John Boozman (R-AR), Joe Manchin (D-WV), Roger Marshall, M.D. (R-KS), Tom Carper (D-DE), Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) and Bill Cassidy, M.D. (R-LA). Companion legislation was introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressmen Garret Graves (R-LA) and Mike Thompson (D-CA).

The legislation is backed by a number of leading conservation and wildlife organizations including the Congressional Sportsmen’s Caucus and

Ducks Unlimited.

As Chairman of the Senate National Parks Subcommittee and Vice-Chair of the Congressional Sportsmen’s Caucus, Senator King is among the Senate’s loudest voices encouraging outdoor recreation. Last year, he pressed the Biden administration on two of his top priorities for the National Park Service (NPS): securing enough funding for necessary park maintenance and ensuring sufficient staffing of America’s greatest treasures. Senator King also helped lead the passage of the Great American Outdoors

Act (GAOA) into law; the legislation includes the Restore Our Parks Act and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Permanent Funding Act. The historic legislative package continues Senator King’s career-long focus on conservation efforts, dating back to his work prior to running for elected office through his years as Governor and his service in the Senate. Over the course of his time in the Blaine House, Governor King was responsible for conserving more land across Maine than all Governors before him combined.

Maine CDC releases student health survey results

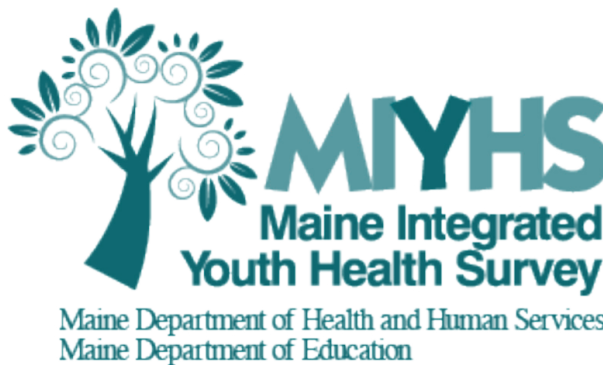
AUGUSTA, ME – The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) announced the release of 2023 Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey (MIYHS) data showing promising progress on changing youth attitudes towards use of vaping products.

Data collected in the spring of 2023 show that 16 percent of Maine high school students reported vaping at least once in the previous 30 days, down from a high of 29 percent in 2019. The percentage of students who said they had ever used an e-vapor product also declined, from 45 percent in 2019 to 30 percent in 2023. These trends reflect efforts at the national, state, and local levels to educate youth about the dangers of vaping and to restrict youth access to addicting e-vapor products. The Maine CDC’s statewide “Don’t Get Sucked In” online and social media campaign launched in 2019 to provide teens

with facts about vaping, as well as free, confidential, non-judgmental support to prevent, reduce, or quit use of vape products.

The 2023 MIYHS results also show an increase in students who report connections to caring adults at school and in the community. This year, 77 percent of high schoolers indicated they have at least one teacher who cares and supports them, up from 73 percent in 2021. The number of students reporting support from adults other than their parents was also up by 7 percent from 2021 results, with 2023 data showing 54 percent of students feeling that support.

According to the latest MIYHS data, mental health struggles remain a significant challenge for Maine youth. Over one-third of high school students reported feeling sad or hopeless for two or more weeks in a row, such that they stopped participating in some usual activities in the last



year; 33 percent of middle school students indicated that they had experienced such episodes of sadness and hopelessness in their lifetime.

“This data is an important tool to help us gauge whether Maine youth are feeling supported by the adults in their lives, and gives us a measurable sense of how they perceive and engage with potentially risky, unhealthy behaviors,” said Director of the Maine CDC, Dr. Puthiery Va. “Crucially, these survey results also help guide our work with partners in schools and communities to provide education and resources to Maine’s middle and high schoolers to

make healthy decisions and feel supported as they navigate the turbulent pre-teen and teen years.”

The Maine CDC works with community partners to train middle and high schools in the Sources of Strength model, an evidence-based program proven to increase positive connections between youth and adults. These programs focus on supporting youth mental health, including helping students develop skills and relationships that can protect them from future substance misuse and unhealthy behaviors.

The MIYHS survey is a collaboration between the Maine CDC and the Maine Department of

Education (DOE), conducted biennially since 2009. Its purpose is to identify emerging trends facing youth by quantifying the health and related behaviors and attitudes of 5th through 12th graders using direct student surveys tailored to each age group. All public middle and high schools in Maine are invited to participate in the survey, which is administered during the spring of odd-numbered years.

To find out more about MIYHS and view more 2023 results, please visit <https://www.maine.gov/miyhs/>.

Resources for Youth:

NAMI Maine’s Teen Text Support Line is a free, confidential resource for youth from 13-23 years of age available daily from 2pm-10pmEST. Staffed by trained support specialists 18-24 years old. Text Us at (207) 515-8398. For tips and information, visit <https://namimaine.org/teentextline/>

If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis, call or text 988 to reach the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. The 988 Lifeline responds 24 hours a day, seven days a week to calls, chats or texts from anyone who needs support for suicidal, mental health, and/or substance use crisis, and connects those in need with trained crisis counselors. Individuals can also dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support.

The Trevor Project’s mission is to end suicide among LGBTQ young people. The Trevor Project provides LGBTQ youth with 24/7 crisis counseling via phone, text, and chat. Call (866) 488-7386 or text “START” to 678-678. Learn more at The Trevor Project and find resources for parents and teachers.

Get free and confidential support related to vaping at vapefreemaine.com. Sign up to quit or call or text for help.



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

Songs, dances from around the world with MSO



Meet the Instruments (photo credit Heather Linkin)

TOPSHAM, ME — The Midcoast Symphony Orchestra (MSO), conducted by Rohan Smith, continues its 34th concert season with a concert entitled “Song and Dance Music from Around the World” that will be performed at the Franco Center in Lewiston on Saturday, January 20th at 7pm, and at the Orion Performing Arts Center in Topsham on Sunday, January 21st at 2:30pm.

The MSO performs the same repertoire of pieces at both concerts which consist of toe tapping tangos and familiar melodies bound to have the whole family humming long after the concert is over. The MSO will be joined for the concerts by guest artist Philip Lima, a baritone who has appeared as a soloist with the Boston Pops and over 70 orchestras, choral societies, and

concert series across the United States, in addition to singing leading operatic roles in Germany and for regional American opera companies.

Along with the concerts, the weekend will also feature two enrichment events as part of the MSO’s “More with Midcoast” series. Intermission at the Franco Center concert on January 20th will feature a performance by the Edward Little Jazz Band, and the concert on January 21st at the Orion will be preceded by a free “Meet the Instruments” event during which time people of all ages can try their hand at using many of the orchestra’s instruments for themselves.

Complete concert and ticket information is available at midcoastsymphony.org. Short season tickets for the three remaining MSO concerts are now available for \$60. Individual tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. All concert tickets are free for students ages 18 and under, or for college students with ID. Audiences are encouraged to purchase tickets in advance online or by calling the box office at (207) 481-0790.

“Song and Dance Music from Around the World” continues a year-long celebration of the 20th



Edward Little HS Jazz Band (photo credit Fotogenyx, USA)

season of long-time MSO Music Director Rohan Smith. The concert begins with two animated Latin rhythms from Argentina and Mexico: Astor Piazzolla’s “Libertango, and “Hupango,” by José Pablo Moncayo. These shorter pieces will be followed by Aaron Copland’s suite of eight songs entitled “Old American Songs” which will feature Mr. Lima. Many audience members will recognize these catchy medleys.

The next pair of compositions are both by European composers. “Thunder and Lightning Polka” is a lively piece by Johann

Strauss, Jr., and the three songs from Des Knaben Wunderhorn (The Boy’s Magic Horn), by Gustav Mahler, also showcase Mr. Lima’s rich voice.

The concert concludes with familiar arrangements from Leonard Bernstein’s West Side Story, one of Broadway’s most treasured musicals.

To encourage audiences of all ages to attend this family friendly concert, the MSO is offering a limited number of complimentary tickets to parents accompanying children under 18 to either performance.

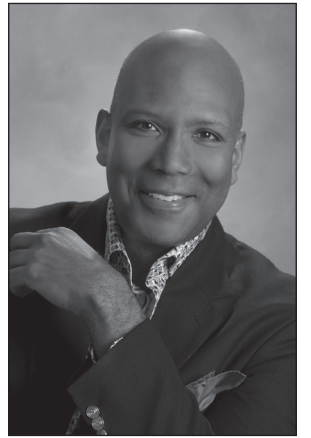
The MSO also offers

its audiences an enrichment series entitled “More with Midcoast.” The January concert weekend features a different event in each venue.

The Franco concert on Saturday, January 20th will feature the Edward Little Jazz Band performing at intermission. The Edward Little High School Jazz band consists of 15 student musicians and is directed by Bill Buzza, who is in his 31st year of teaching instrumental music in public schools. The band’s repertoire represents a variety of jazz styles including funk, swing, blues and big band. At the last two state jazz festivals, the band was recognized with Bronze medal ratings for their performances.

At the Orion Performing Arts Center, the MSO will offer the popular “Meet the Instruments” event at which audience members of all ages can try their hand playing the various instruments featured in the symphony’s performance. This event will take place before the concert beginning at 1:30 in the gym at the Mt. Ararat Middle School where the Orion is located. Interested members of the public may attend this free event without purchasing a concert ticket.

The Midcoast Symphony Orchestra is a com-



Baritone Philip Lima (photo credit Susan Wilson)

munity orchestra founded in 1990. Started as a chamber orchestra, there are now more than 80 members. The MSO performs a full range of orchestral literature from the classical to modern periods with four regular concerts each season at the Franco Center in Lewiston and the Orion Performing Arts Center in Topsham. A community-based organization, the orchestra draws players and audiences from south of Portland to Rockland along the coast, and inland from Augusta to the Lewiston-Auburn area. Its members all volunteer their time to practice and perform with the Midcoast Symphony. Under the baton of Rohan Smith, the orchestra continues to attract ever more professional-caliber musicians and award-winning guest artists.

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



Defense bill passes, supports Maine jobs

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senator Angus King (I-Maine), a member of the Senate Armed Services and Intelligence Committees and Veterans Affairs Committee, hailed the bipartisan Senate passage of the Fiscal Year 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) — which will strengthen America's national security, support our men and women in uniform, and boost Maine communities through the dozens of businesses that serve the military's technological and manufacturing needs.

The vote was on the final defense legislation after months of bicameral negotiations, and includes a number of provisions that Senator King backed, including: support for veterans, two Arleigh Burke-class destroyers that Bath Iron Works (BIW) can compete to build, provisions to address the security threats posed by artificial intelligence, and stronger measures to prevent illegal drugs from entering the country. It is now headed to the House of Representatives, where swift bipartisan passage is expected.

"For over six decades, Congress has put aside partisan differences

to improve America's national security and support our servicemembers. I'm proud that we could continue the tradition this year to pass an annual defense bill that will make our nation — and our state — safer and stronger," said Senator King. "As our global community faces some of its greatest challenges, the bill makes important investments in our military's greatest asset — its people. We have a responsibility to serve our men and women in uniform just as they serve us, and this bill lives up to that obligation with the largest pay raise in more than 20 years and assistance for our military's spouses. The legislation also supports good-paying jobs in Maine communities, particularly through its funding for shipbuilding at Bath Iron Works and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. These funds will help the shipyards plan their futures, continue to build the highest-quality ships, and maintain the submarine fleet that our Navy needs to accomplish missions across the globe.

"There are many more important provisions in this legislation — including steps to modernize our nuclear arsenal, fight the opioid epidemic, and deter Chinese aggres-

sion," continued Senator King. "All told, this year's NDAA will make our country safer, strengthen our economy, and support the men and women who serve in our military."

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 includes King-backed provisions to:

INVEST IN MAINE SHIPBUILDING AND INSTALLATIONS. The FY24 NDAA authorizes two DDG-51 Arleigh Burke-class destroyers and \$780 million advance procurement of an additional DDG to be purchased next year that Bath Iron Works can compete to build.

This legislation also supports critical Maine National Guard facilities and authorizes \$544 in funding for Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNSY) modernization efforts — including their Dry Dock extension that will allow PNSY to increase its capacity to maintain the Navy's submarine fleet.

FUND MAINE INNOVATION AND SMALL BUSINESSES. This legislation supports Maine-driven research and development in the Arctic training capacity, composites development and 3D printing, munitions, F135 engine upgrades, mass

timber integration, and hypersonic technology. The legislation also includes support for APEX Accelerators, which help small businesses obtain and navigate Department of Defense contracts.

SUPPORT AMERICA'S SERVICEMEMBERS AND MILITARY SPOUSES. The FY24 NDAA includes Senator King's Military Spouse Employment Act which will help military spouses find remote work in the federal government while their spouses serve in the armed services. Recruiting and maintaining a high-caliber, all-volunteer force also continues to be a high priority. This legislation includes a 5.2 percent pay increase for military and civilian personnel, the highest pay raise in over 20 years for the military and over 40 years for civilians.

The months and years after separation from the military remain a challenge for our veterans. The FY24 NDAA adds the Department of Labor to the Department of Defense-Veterans Affairs Joint Executive Committee partnership that will ensure full collaboration and synchronization between these three critical agencies that assist transitioning servicemembers and veterans searching for fulfilling employment in civilian life.

IMPROVE HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR MAINE'S COAST GUARD. This legislation

includes critical oversight on Department of Defense programs that support Coast Guard members, including how the Department funds housing allowances and how the Department supports change of duty station moves.

DETER CHINESE AGGRESSION. It's no secret that the People's Republic of China has emerged as America's primary competitor, as the only nation with the intent and the capability to mount a sustained challenge to the United States' security and economic interests. The FY24 NDAA continues to focus on the long-term strategic competition with China by investing in contested logistics capabilities forward, Pacific-based training and exercises, key regional partnerships, and other forward-based systems and installations needed to quickly blunt Chinese aggression if needed.

MODERNIZE CRITICAL NUCLEAR DETERRENTS. As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, Senator King is a Congressional leader working to modernize the nation's nuclear triad and address the threats posed by new hypersonic weapons. From the B-21 Raider to the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent to a tactical sea-launched capability, the bill continues to build capability and capacity. This year's bill also includes significant

investments in preventing proliferator states and terrorist groups from developing or acquiring Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD).

ADDRESS EVOLVING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITIES. This legislation includes a Senator King-led provision to evaluate technology, including applications, tools, and models, to detect and watermark generative artificial intelligence. This provision would allow the DOD to better identify and detect deep fakes and false information created by bad actors employing AI technology.

COMBAT ILLEGAL DRUG TRAFFICKING. The opioid crisis continues to hit close to home, killing two people in Maine every single day. This legislation supports plans to counter fentanyl trafficking and counter transitional organized crime.

SUPPORT RECRUITING IN THE NORTHEAST: This legislation includes a Senator King-led provision encouraging the DOD to focus America's recruiting efforts on remote geographic areas lacking military infrastructure and presence.

TRAIN THE MAINE NATIONAL GUARD. This legislation provides our Maine National Guard funding from training and new infrastructure to operational deployments.

John Lewis Civil Rights Fellowship Act included in NDAA

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senator Susan Collins and a bipartisan group of her colleagues celebrated the inclusion of the John Lewis Civil Rights Fellowship Act, in the Fiscal Year 2024 National Defense Authoriza-

tion Act (NDAA), expected to pass before year's end. The legislation will create a "John Lewis Civil Rights Fellowship" within the existing Fulbright U.S. Student Program to support Americans in the study of nonviolent civil

rights movements abroad.

"Congressman John Lewis was a civil rights icon who changed history at great personal sacrifice and whose unwavering commitment to nonviolent activism serves as an example for future generations," said Senator Collins. "In 2015, I was honored to be among those who joined him in Selma to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Bloody Sunday March that he led. By supporting the study of nonviolent civil rights movements around the world, this new fellowship would honor and carry forward his legacy."

The Fulbright Program is the largest U.S. international exchange scholarship, sending over 370,000 young Americans abroad since its creation in 1946. The John Lewis Civil Rights Fellowship would promote studies, research, and international exchange in the subject of nonvio-

See NDAA, next page

**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

NDAAs ensures national security

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Susan Collins, Vice Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, announced that the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which authorizes \$841.4 billion for military and national security programs at the Department of Defense and \$32.4 billion for the Department of Energy, passed the Senate by an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote of 87-13. The annual defense bill authorizes spending levels and sets policy for the military and

critical national defense priorities. The legislation, which passed the U.S. House of Representatives today, now heads to the President’s desk to be signed into law.

“Every year for the past six decades, Congress has fulfilled one of their most important responsibilities—ensuring our national security—by passing the NDAA,” said Senator Collins. “This legislation addresses the national security threats facing our nation today and supports the brave men and women of our armed forces. Additionally, the NDAA will support hardworking

Mainers at BIW, PNSY, Pratt & Whitney, and elsewhere across the State, who make invaluable contributions to our defense.”

The NDAA also includes a number of provisions Senator Collins strongly advocated for that will benefit Maine:

Support for BIW. The NDAA authorizes \$4.2 billion for two Arleigh-Burke Destroyers in FY24 and \$784 million for advanced procurement of two additional ships in FY25. The NDAA also includes a provision Senator Collins authored that supports the use of multiyear contracting authority to improve in-

dustrial base stability. This modified authority ensures DOD considers industrial base stability, not just projected cost savings, when awarding contracts.

Support for PNSY. The NDAA authorizes \$544.8 million for the fourth increment of the Dry Dock #1 military construction (MILCON) project at PNSY. Senator Collins, Vice Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, announced in June that she secured this funding in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies (MilCon-VA) Appropriations

Act, which passed the Senate last month. The NDAA also extends direct hire authority for certain DOD personnel, including shipyard technicians, through FY2025. This direct hire authority is critical to ensuring PNSY can continue to hire qualified technicians that are critical to shipyard operations.

Support for Defense Contractors in Maine. The NDAA authorizes funding to procure a total of 83 F-35 jets. It also authorizes the procurement of 15 CH-53K helicopters. Pratt & Whitney’s North Berwick facility manufactures the F135 engine for the F-35s,

and Hunting Dearborn in Fryeburg has made important contributions to the F-35 and CH-53K program for years.

Support for Maine Air National Guard. The NDAA authorizes \$7,420,000 million to complete a new Maine National Guard Vehicle Maintenance Shop in Saco. Senator Collins secured this funding in the FY 2024 Milcon-VA appropriations bill that passed the Senate in November.

Support for U.S. Troops. The NDAA supports a 5.2% raise for servicemembers and DOD civilians.

Op Ed: National defense bill – Good for America, great for Maine

By Senator King

For over sixty years, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) has passed Congress with strong bipartisan majorities – as the House and Senate come together to put America’s defense first. While the headlines from the national outlets will often talk about priorities like the Pentagon budget and protecting democracy abroad, the bill has an out-sized impact on our neighbors in Maine.

Maine people are well aware of the hard work of our shipbuilders at Bath Iron Works (BIW) and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNSY) who provide our Naval fleet with next-generation destroyers and submarines. These ships are vitally important

as we navigate a world that’s getting more complicated – and dangerous. In this year’s NDAA, there is authorization for two DDG-51 Arleigh Burke-class destroyers and a \$780 million advance on another DDG destroyer that BIW can compete to build, along with a half a billion dollars for PNSY modernization efforts like its dry dock extension. So this funding is more than a win for national defense. This funding is a win for Maine people, guaranteeing jobs in our state for people providing for their families and supporting our local economy.

And that’s just the beginning of what the NDAA means for Maine. There are projects and plants and personnel located in all corners of our state that –

to quote the preamble to the constitution – “provide for the common defense,” while supporting our own community.

From a big picture perspective, there are over 12,000 hard-working military personnel in Maine, and the \$850 million they earn through their work is an enormous driver for the state’s economy. This doesn’t even include our biggest defense contractors like BIW and Pratt or the hundreds of small businesses in Maine that are working on a contract basis to supply parts and machinery for our national defense. Altogether, the \$3.6 billion in dollars’ worth of contract work done statewide assists our country in a variety of ways – while providing an enormous

boost statewide.

There are dozens of great stories of Maine businesses working to make a difference for our country—companies that unite tight-knit communities around a shared, patriotic mission. Lewiston is proud of having the largest tungsten metal factory in the nation, a refurbished Philips lighting facility, that contributes high-quality steel to the military. In Aroostook County, another business is taking strides in advancing America’s newest defense and commercial space systems. A plant in Biddeford provides parts and components that are used in every single surface-to-air missile the Pentagon has in its arsenal. A woman-owned machine shop in Gorham manufactures parts and

technology that are used in high-tech platforms across the service branches. There’s even an invaluable statewide partnership at Eastern Maine Development Corporation that provides training and technical assistance to Maine small businesses so they can find, win and perform on Pentagon contracts.

Every Maine person who works at these facilities – or the dozens of other businesses statewide – are a part of the NDAA story. They are in the front of my mind as I work with my colleagues on the Armed Service Committee each year to put this bill together.

Even if you’re outside of the military, this bill will improve everyday life for all Maine people. As we

continue to fight the opioid crisis plaguing our communities, the NDAA has a key provision that allows the Pentagon to assist law enforcement to fight drug traffickers to cut down on this deadly threat that’s costing too many lives.

So while I’m proud of the military investments made in this year’s defense bill, the bipartisan way it passed through Congress, and the 5.2% pay increase for military members, I’m also pleased by the everyday impacts it will have for the men, women and children of Maine.

Bottom line: not only is the National Defense Authorization Act a patriotic bill to strengthen America at home and abroad, it is also a source of state pride for Maine.

NDAA

Continued from previous page

lent movements that established and protected civil rights around the world.

U.S. Representative Nikema Williams, who now represents Lewis’ longtime congressional district in Georgia, and

Representative Nancy Mace introduced companion legislation in the House of Representatives.

This legislation was also cosponsored by Senators John Hickenlooper (D-CO), Tim Scott (R-SC), and Jon Ossoff (D-GA).

Follow us on Facebook!

Don’t miss our giveaways!



GRIDIRON
Restaurant
LEWISTON, MAINE

SCAN HERE!



The Place where every hour is happy.

OPEN DAILY
11AM-9PM
DINE IN - TAKE OUT
207-777-6353
207-777-6354

1567 Lisbon Street Lewiston, Maine

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. ©2020. Subway® is a Registered Trademark of Subway IP LLC. ©2020 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
Gorham, ME 04038
W www.jctbowl.com
P 207.222.7600

Arts & Entertainment

Celtics honor Lewiston's Meghan Hutchinson as Hero Among Us



Lewiston, ME resident Meghan Hutchinson was honored as a Hero Among Us during half-time of the Boston Celtics home game against the Philadelphia 76ers on Friday, December 1st, 2023, for her unparalleled courage, selfless acts, and life-saving actions during the recent, devastating mass shooting incident in Lewiston.

BOSTON, MA -- During October 2023's mass shooting in Lewiston, Maine, local resident Meghan Hutchinson's quick reflexes and incredible bravery undoubtedly saved lives. While at her daughter Zoey's bowling practice at Just-In-Time Recreation, Hutchinson heard the distressing sound of gunshots, and immediately guided Zoey and others to safety amidst the chaos.

As chaos erupted and Zoey was grazed by a bullet, Hutchinson's maternal instinct kicked in. With sheer determination and

grit, she swiftly rearranged the room's layout, strategically positioning furniture and shelves as a barricade. Even amidst the unfolding chaos outside, her actions ensured the safety of those sheltering within.

For her unparalleled courage, selfless acts, and life-saving actions during the recent, devastating mass shooting incident in Lewiston, Meghan Hutchinson was honored as a Hero Among Us during the Boston Celtics home game against the Philadelphia 76ers on Friday, December 1st.

Since its establish-

ment 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.

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

'Round Up for Pets' with Rocky's Ace Hardware

BATH, ME -- Throughout the "Round Up for Pets" fundraiser, which extends through Sunday, December 31, customers are asked to round up their purchase total to the next dollar. The difference is donated to local animal shelters.

"Our pets bring so much joy to our lives, and

many of the people on our team have adopted from local shelters over the years," said Rocky's Ace



Hardware President and CEO Rocco J. Falcone II. "We're honored to support the work being done to

provide these animals with love and care while they wait to find their forever homes."

Participating Rocky's locations include the store in Bath. Proceeds will benefit Midcoast Humane, which has locations in Brunswick, Edgcomb and Boothbay Harbor.

"It warms our hearts to be able to make a difference for these animals, especially at a time when they are more likely to be forgotten," Falcone said. "We are lucky to have such generous customers who allow us to make this happen, and we are grateful for their support."

Students, educators celebrate the holidays at The Public Theatre

the PUBLIC THEATRE

31 Maple Street
Lewiston, ME 04240

thepublictheatre.org

BOX OFFICE 207.782.3200
BUSINESS OFFICE 207.782.2211

info@thepublictheatre.org



LEWISTON, ME -- Over 1,300 students from 25 schools and organizations throughout Maine recently attended five Student Matinee performances of The Public Theatre's acclaimed production of 'A Christmas Carol.' The Public Theatre's student matinee program enables schools to attend a performance at the Lewiston theatre for the reduced rate of only \$5.00 a ticket, offering the majority of students the chance to experience live professional theatre

for the very first time. Students who attended the show also participated in a post-show discussion with the Cast and Director. A study guide written by a Bates College Professor was also provided.

In addition to the five student matinee performances, The Public Theatre also offered four public performances of 'A Christmas Carol.' In total, nearly 2,300 children and their families attended.

Written and developed in 1993 by The Public Theatre's Co-Ar-

tistic Director, Christopher Schario, The Public Theatre's inventive version of the beloved holiday classic is performed by six actors and a fiddler and has since been published and performed by theatres around the world.

With all the different versions of A Christmas Carol out in the world, The Public Theatre's adaptation remains many people's favorite and is now a Lewiston/Auburn Tradition. "We stay true to the heart of the story, while at the same time

telling it with a sense of playfulness and imagination", says Schario. "Much of Dickens' original text is used, as six actors and a fiddler grab a handful of props and your imagination and joyfully bring Dickens' language and characters to life. Creating a magical atmosphere with live music, a hand-cranked wind machine and a thunder sheet, the audience's imagination is free to soar, and this classic story comes to life in a way you've never seen before."

'A Christmas Carol' was performed by a professional cast of actors that included Dale Place as Scrooge, Russell Berigan as Marley, Nicholas Perron as Christmas Present, Sheila Stasack as Mrs. Cratchit, McKenna Canty as Belle and local young actor Simon Golob in the role of the child/Tiny Tim. Music for the production was performed by local fiddler Beck Welling.

'A Christmas Carol' was sponsored by Androscoggin Home Health

Care & Hospice, Dirigo Federal Credit Union, Evergreen Subaru and Lewiston Pawn Shop with educational support from Austin Associates, Cross Insurance, the Ladd Foundation, the Onion Foundation, and the Shubert Foundation. Their generous support makes the reduced \$5.00 Student Matinee Ticket possible and allows The Public Theatre to continue their commitment of making high quality live entertainment affordable for most families.

Model legislation published to help reduce gun violence

WASHINGTON – The Justice Department published two pieces of model legislation for states to consider to help address the continuing epidemic of gun violence affecting communities across the country. The model legislation is drawn from commonsense gun-safety statutes already on the books in a broad cross-section of states.

First, the Department published model legislation to help states craft appropriate requirements for securing firearms kept in residences and vehicles

and to ensure that those firearms do not fall into the hands of children, teens, and prohibited persons. Second, the Department published model legislation to help states craft appropriate requirements for the prompt reporting of lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement. The resources for states announced today follow model legislation on extreme risk protection orders first published by the Justice Department in June 2021.

“Whether stolen from lawful gun owners or found by children and teens, unse-

cured firearms are responsible for thousands of injuries and deaths across our country each year,” said Deputy Attorney General Lisa O. Monaco. “We cannot resign ourselves to losing our neighbors, our loved ones — even our children — to misuse of firearms that could have been kept safely out of reach. The model legislation announced today provides states with new tools to improve the safety of legally-owned firearms and reduce the tragic toll of gun violence in our communities.”

Empirical evidence

shows that the secure storage of firearms saves lives. Keeping firearms and ammunition locked has been associated with a lower risk of firearm injuries for children and teens in homes where guns are stored. Safe storage protects both minors and adults by preventing unintentional shootings and decreasing the risk of gun suicides, gun thefts, and criminal discharges of firearms. Based on similar laws already on the books in over a dozen states, the model secure-storage legislation will help additional states craft laws to reduce

the risks associated with unattended firearms.

Every year, thousands of firearms are lost or stolen out of vehicles, businesses, and private homes. The timely reporting of lost and stolen firearms allows police to develop investigative leads and identify patterns that might indicate the involvement of illicit firearms traffickers. Based on similar laws already in effect across 15 states and D.C., the model theft/loss-reporting legislation will help additional states craft laws to ensure prompt and responsible engage-

ment with local law enforcement.

These model bills provide a framework that will help more states enact sensible gun-safety laws. Both pieces of model legislation are accompanied by detailed commentary that will make it easier for states to assess various policy options and select appropriate requirements, notices, and penalties. The Justice Department encourages states to consider adopting their own versions of this model legislation to ensure safer communities across the country.

Army IG to conduct investigation on Lewiston Shooting

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King and U.S. Representatives Chellie Pingree and Jared Golden announced that the U.S. Army Inspector General (IG) will conduct a formal, independent investigation into the events leading up to the October 25 mass shooting in Lewiston.

“The Army is committed to diligently investigating all facts and events related to the Army involving SFC Card in the months and days before he committed these heinous acts,” Under Secretary of the Army Gabe Camarillo wrote in a letter. “The Secretary of the Army has requested the Army Inspector General to conduct an in-

dependent investigation to ensure that the Army takes corrective actions where appropriate. In response, the Army IG has instructed her team to immediately begin preparing to conduct this investigation.”

“We are pleased that the Inspector General of the Army has responded to our requests and has begun preparations to conduct an

independent investigation into the events preceding the Lewiston shooting,” the Maine Delegation said. “A thorough investigation into what happened, and what could have been done differently, could help prevent future shootings. This independent review by the Army Inspector General will be an important part of understanding the events

that took place before that horrific night. The survivors, families affected, and members of the surrounding communities deserve nothing less.”

On November 2, Senators Collins and King sent an initial letter requesting an independent Army IG investigation into the facts and events leading up to the shooting. Maine’s

Congressional Delegation followed up with another letter pressing for this investigation.

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**

A division of **AmericanBuildersMaine.com**

Equity Fund awards \$107K to support LGBTQ+ people in Maine



Hardy Girls Healthy Women was awarded a grant from the Maine Community Foundation's Equity Fund to continue its work in middle and high schools. Photo courtesy Hardy Girls Healthy Women

PORTLAND & ELLSWORTH, ME —

The Maine Community Foundation's (MaineCF) Equity Fund awarded \$106,500 to 12 nonprofit organizations across the state that support people in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) community in Maine. The fund strengthens organizations in Maine and supports community-based initiatives.

The Equity Fund was established in 1996. Originally funded with a two-year matching grant to from the National Lesbian and Gay Community Funding Partnership, the Equity Fund became a permanent fund of MaineCF in December 2000. For more information about the fund, visit www.mainecef.org/equity.

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

2023 Equity Fund grants:

Downeast Rainbow



Maine

Community Foundation

Alliance, for general support: \$10,000

Equality Community Center, for general support: \$10,000

Frannie Peabody Center, for integrated and specialized case management, housing and basic needs services for low-income and medically vulnerable individuals living with HIV/AIDS: \$10,000

Hardy Girls Healthy Women, to strengthen LGBTQ+ initiatives across its middle and high school programs to better serve queer program participants: \$8,000

Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, to provide culturally competent healthcare including gender-affirming hormone therapy for LGBTQ+ people and to connect patients to additional services: \$10,000

Maine Family Planning, to provide assistance to trans and gender-nonconforming patients who

are at risk of forgoing gender-affirming services due to financial hardship: \$10,000

Maine Transgender Network, for general support: \$10,000

New Beginnings, to increase safety for LGBTQ+ youth experiencing homelessness, trafficking and/or exploitation in Lewiston and rural Androscoggin, Franklin and Oxford counties with outreach and case management: \$10,000

OUT Maine, for general support: \$10,000

Portland Ovations, to present a free Drag Story Time series for southern Maine families in partnership with several community organizations: \$500

Queerly ME, for general support: \$8,000

The Carpenter's Boat Shop, to create and offer a weeklong woodworking class for LGBTQ+ participants in summer 2024: \$10,000

UMaine Extension offers free virtual nutrition course



ORONO, ME — University of Maine Cooperative Extension will hold a nine-session virtual nutrition class for young adults aged 19-25 and adults with young children. The course, titled "Eating Smart, Being Active," will begin on Jan. 3 and run through the end of February.

The course aims to provide participants with the knowledge and skills to make healthy food choices. Each session will cover a different topic related to nutrition, like food budgeting, meal planning, food safety and cooking tips, and include interactive activities, discussions and resources. Participants will

also receive free cooking tools and a cookbook after completing all nine sessions.

Participants can choose between two time slots. Classes will meet Wednesdays, either from 9-10 a.m. or noon-1 p.m., on Jan. 10, 17, 24 and 31, and Feb. 7, 14, 21 and 28.

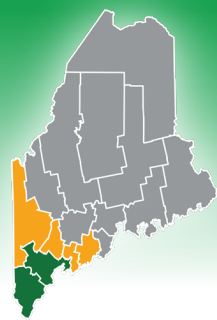
Class size is limited and registration is required. For more information, to register or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Vanessa Young at 207.255.3345 or vanessa.young@maine.edu.

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.



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.

\$27M grant to help meet rural Maine transportation needs

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Department of Transportation announced that the Biden-Harris Administration has awarded a \$27,680,000 grant in Aroostook County, Maine from the Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (Rural) for the Northern Maine US 1 Road Improvement Project.

This is one of 18 projects receiving a total of \$645.3 million to help communities around the United States complete transportation projects that will increase mobility, improve safety, and generate regional economic growth in rural areas.

Rural roads face a disproportionately high rate of fatalities, and a significant

proportion of rural roads and bridges are in poor condition. Today's awards will improve the safety and reliability of movement of people and freight, as well as improve quality of life for rural residents, through investment in critical roads, bridges, and other transportation systems.

The Rural Program represents a keystone of the Administration's commitment to repairing and improving rural transportation systems. President Biden's infrastructure law made more than \$44 billion available to help rural communities repair and improve their roads, bridges, airports, ports, and transit systems.

"Rural communities



face some of the toughest transportation challenges, yet are often left out of major federal investments, a pattern that we are changing that under President Biden's leadership," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. "The grants we're announcing today will make transportation in rural communities better, safer, and more reliable."

The Northern Maine US 1 Road Improvement

Project will reconstruct two sections of US 1 near Frenchville. It will primarily improve access to services, including the regional hospital and university in Fort Kent. By modernizing the road segments, the project will significantly lower long-term maintenance costs and better accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists on this designated U.S. Bicycle Route. The reconstructed road, with improved stormwater runoff infrastructure, will be able to withstand more frequent heavy rain events and freeze-thaw cycles, which have been degrading the pavement at an increasing rate.

This is the second year for the Rural Program,

which thanks to President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests a total of approximately \$2 billion through 2026 for projects that improve highways, bridges, and tunnels, address highway safety, increase access to agricultural, commercial, energy, or freight facilities, and bring flexible transit services to rural and Tribal areas. The Rural Program continues to be significantly oversubscribed, with more than \$7.4 billion in requests from 174 applicants competing for the \$645 million in available funding this round.

Applications were evaluated based on multiple criteria, including project readiness, cost-effectiveness, and whether

the project supported critical goals like enhancing safety, increasing mobility and reliability, improving resiliency and restoring infrastructure to a state of good repair.

Applicants for the Rural Program also benefited from a streamlined application process that reduced the burden for applicants by allowing them to submit one application for three different grant programs: Rural, the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA), and the new National Infrastructure Project Assistance Program (Mega).

USDOT expects to announce the recipients of this round of INFRA and Mega funding early next year.

Legislators attend White House event on gun violence prevention



Rep. Margaret Craven, Rep. Kristen Cloutier and Sen. Peggy Rotundo in the White House.

AUGUSTA, ME — On Wednesday, December 13, Sen. Peggy Rotundo, D-Lewiston, joined Rep. Kristen Cloutier, D-Lewiston, Rep. Margaret Craven, D-Lewiston, other members of the Maine Legislature and other legislators from around the country for an event hosted by the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention designed to help states enact policies to prevent gun violence.

"I was grateful for the opportunity to join Vice President Kamala Harris and legislators from around the country who have been

involved in successfully passing gun safety legislation in their states" said Sen. Rotundo. "The information they shared is very helpful as we craft language for the Maine bill that we will bring forward in the upcoming legislative session. I was also grateful for the opportunity to meet privately with members of President Biden's Office of Gun Violence Prevention to discuss the particular needs of the families of the Lewiston shootings and to advocate for the resources needed to meet these needs and the needs of the community at

large." The other members of the Legislature in attendance were House Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross, D-Portland; Sen. Anne Carney, D-Cape Elizabeth; Sen. Joe Rafferty, D-Kennebunk; Rep. Mo Terry, D-Gorham; and Rep. Vicki Doudera.

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

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

Seniors Not Acting Their Age

A Climb of Elusive Moxie Bald Mountain



Hikers enjoy exceptional views from ledges above tree line on Moxie Bald



Narrow elevated ledges near the summit seem like a "highway to heaven"



A hiker on the summit of Moxie Bald

Last winter, my son, Adam, and I completed a very stimulating climb of Mosquito Mountain near Moxie Pond in western Maine. From the summit, we enjoyed a spectacular view of Moxie Bald Mountain, a peak that dominates the opposite side of the pond. The wonderful view motivated a planned ascent of the exposed pinnacle later in the winter.

Accessing the trailhead for Moxie Bald is a challenge, especially in winter. Despite several tentative plans to climb the barren summit last winter, we were unable to make the necessary arrangements to overcome the obstacles.

For us, hiking begins in earnest when fall arrives. Rather than wait for the complications winter brings, Adam and I decided on an early November Moxie Bald trek while the roads were free of ice and snow.

Climbing Moxie Bald has been something of a family affair over the years. My wife, Nancy, and I have completed the hike several times. A couple of decades ago, my oldest son, Eric, and I backpacked to the summit where we enjoyed a star-filled night on top. This would be the first attempt for Adam and me.

We met in West Forks on a cool, breezy partly sunny day. Driving northeast on Lake Moxie Road, we experienced a surprising encounter. In a heavily wooded sector, a furry four-legged creature was ambling across the road. Slowing the vehicle for a closer view, the tufted-ears and small tail were unmistakable; it was a Canadian lynx. The big cat quickly disappeared into the woods before either of us could find a camera. The rare sighting was a positive omen for our upcoming adventure.

Arriving at Moxie Pond, we turned right onto Troutdale Road. The rough narrow dirt passage-way was initially in fair condition. The surface worsens traveling farther south on the former railroad bed, as flooding has severely eroded a lengthy segment of road. Careful maneuvering was required in our all-wheel drive vehicle.

The Appalachian Trail (AT) provides the only trail access to Moxie Bald. The AT crosses Troutdale Road a little beyond the southern-end of Moxie Pond. The water level in that low lying area was too high for hiking. We continued to a junction on the left and followed a rutted rocky road northeasterly to another higher elevation AT crossing.

We began our trek in a predominantly hardwood forest with the trail engulfed in recently fallen leaves. Although the path

was mostly dry, there were a few wet areas that needed to be skirted. Gaining elevation, we entered a dense stand of conifers on a granite surface that was ideal for hiking.

The AT separates after a couple of miles. A right turn leads to the summit while traveling left bypasses the peak. Angling right, we progressed steadily upwards towards the top. Gigantic boulders clutter the path in several locations. Open ledges provided us with exceptional views of the mountains to the west.

We emerged onto a continuum of narrow elevated ledges that seemed like a highway to heaven. The views were phenomenal in all directions as we persisted to the summit. Although windy, we donned parkas and paused to embrace the fabulous 360 degree vistas.

I pointed out the grassy spot where Eric

and I erected our tent many years ago. In a perfect world, he and Nancy would have been there to share the moment.

From the summit, we had a clear view of impressive North Peak. Although remaining daylight was limited due to the recent time change, we decided to attempt an ascent.

Based on our research, it appeared the most efficient route was to return to the junction and follow the bypass east to North Peak Trail. We completed the partial descent and began our search.

Alas, our efforts were unsuccessful. We followed the rolling path to where the bypass reconnects with the AT without any sign of North Peak Trail. Viewed from open ledges, the barren summit appeared to be at least a mile away. There was insufficient time to complete a climb if we wanted to return before dark. North

Peak would have to wait for another day.

During our drive out after completing the trek, we resolved to attempt another North Peak ascent in the near future. Maybe we'll get a second glimpse of the lynx.

My book *Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine* narrates nine more exceptional mountain hikes around the state.

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

Winners of SBA Lender Awards announced

AUGUSTA, ME – The Maine District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration has announced the top SBA lenders for Fiscal Year 2023. The annual SBA Lender Awards will be presented on Friday, January 26th in a ceremony at the Hilton Garden Inn in Freeport. As part of the ceremony, the 2023 cohort of the SBA's THRIVE program in Maine will also be recognized for their accomplishments.

"As we've transitioned away from our pan-

demic-era loan programs and refocused on the traditional SBA lending programs, our Maine based lending institutions have stepped up to support the recovery of small businesses all across the state," said Diane Sturgeon, District Director for the SBA Maine District Office. "While we appreciate the efforts each of our lenders has made, we would like to use this opportunity to show special recognition to those who truly stand out," Sturgeon added.

In Fiscal Year 2023,



the SBA and its lending partners in Maine made a total of 511 loans totaling over \$163 million through its main loan programs, the 7(a) Loan Guaranty Program, the 504 Loan Program, and SBA Microloan Program. This represents an increase of nearly one hundred loans made to Maine's small business-

es compared to fiscal year 2022.

The SBA will honor all of its partner lending institutions in Maine, with special recognition for the top lenders in several categories.

TD Bank approved 79 7(a) loans, totaling over \$6.5 million, making them the overall Leading 7(a)

Lender in Maine.

Bangor Savings Bank approved 11 504 3rd Party loans, totaling over \$4.3 million, making them the overall Leading 504 3rd Party Lender in Maine.

Maine Community Bank approved 25 7(a) loans and 5 504 3rd Party loans, totaling over \$15.3 million, making them the overall Dollar Volume Lender in Maine.

Evergreen Credit Union approved 3 504 3rd Party loans totaling over \$2.8 million in Maine, making them the Leading SBA Credit Union lender.

Granite State Development Corporation was Maine's Leading Certified Development Company (CDC) in both numbers and total dollars, approving 54 504 loans for more than \$35 million in Fiscal Year 2023.

Northern Maine Development Commission was Maine's Leading SBA Microlender, with 52 loan

approvals totaling over \$1 million in Fiscal Year 2023.

A STAR Award Recipient will also be announced at the ceremony. This award is presented to a lender who has gone above and beyond to increase access to capital for small businesses and ensure that SBA products are fully available to their clients.

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

ACCREDITED BUSINESS

Angie's list

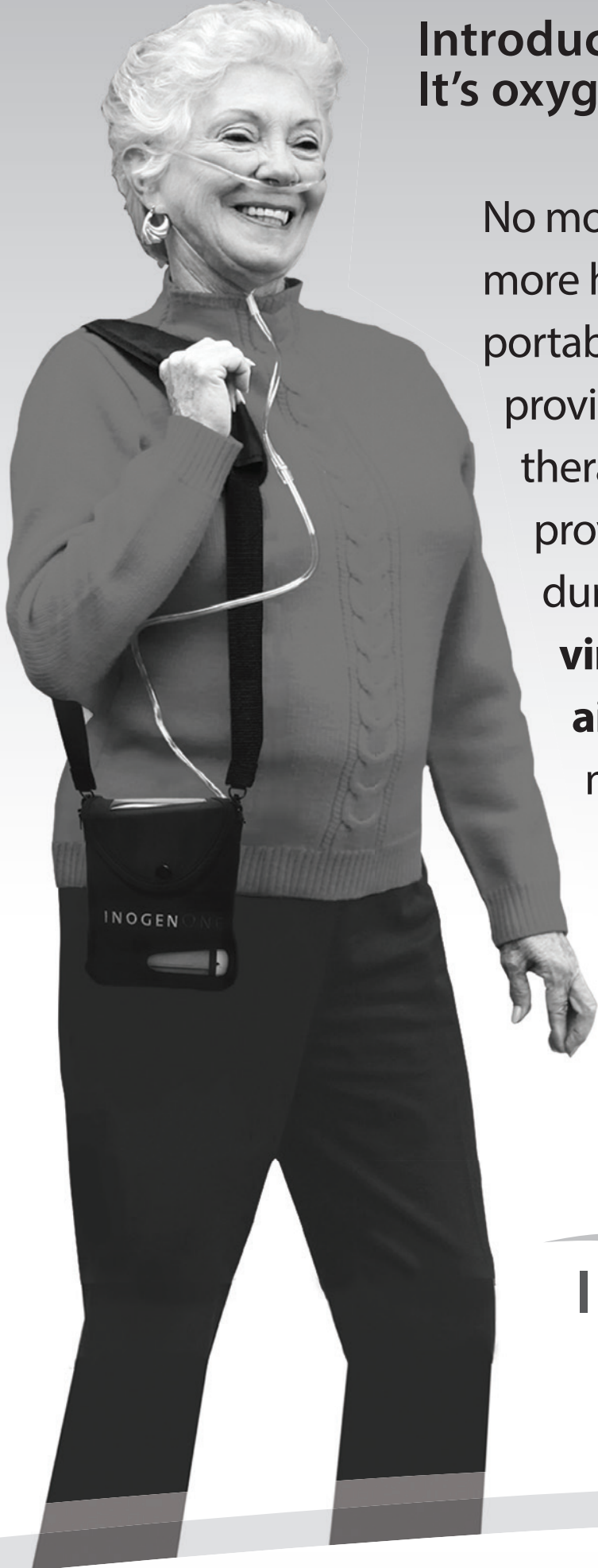
(207) 450-5858 • www.thedumpguy.com Fully Insured

Best Source for Arts, Music and Theater!

Your Hometown Paper.

One solution for oxygen at home, away, and for travel

Introducing the INOGEN ONE It's oxygen therapy on your terms



No more tanks to refill. No more deliveries. No more hassles with travel. The INOGEN ONE portable oxygen concentrator is designed to provide unparalleled freedom for oxygen therapy users. It's small, lightweight, clinically proven for stationary and portable use, during the day and at night, and can **go virtually anywhere — even on most airlines.** Inogen accepts Medicare and many private insurances!

Reclaim Your Freedom And Independence NOW!



Call Inogen Today To Request Your FREE Info Kit 

1-877-402-1909



AARP warns of holiday shopping fraud

PORTLAND, ME—A new 2023 AARP Fraud Watch Network™ report is highlighting the ways criminals target consumers during holiday season. A majority (80%) of U.S. consumers say they have experienced some type of fraud this year – many of which ramp up over the holiday shopping season. These holiday shopping scams have increased from last year’s report, from receiving fake notifications about shipments, to online ad scams, and more.

“The concerning findings from our annual survey are that fraud is on the rise and that knowledge about how to stay safe from fraud is dropping,” said Kathy Stokes,

AARP Director of Fraud Prevention Programs. “Education plays an important role in combatting fraud, but we can’t educate our way out of what is now a rampant issue.”

This year, significantly more consumers plan on shopping online compared to the last two years. Fraudsters often place fake ads online and across popular social media sites for steep discounts on the hottest items, for example.

Use of peer-to-peer payment services has increased significantly for a second year in a row. A large majority of respondents shared they do business via P2P apps – such as sending money to businesses they have no previ-

ous relationship with. In the unfortunate event of fraud, these apps provide little protection to affected consumers.

Gift cards continue to be popular gift options, with 66% of those surveyed planning to purchase them this holiday season. However, 27% of consumers have experienced either giving or receiving a gift card with no value on it. “Criminals have old-school ways of manipulating cards hanging on retail racks and high-tech ways of searching online for cards with balances and draining them,” Stokes shared. “It may be safest to purchase a gift card directly from the card issuer’s website.”

In a 10-question fraud knowledge quiz that was again part of this year’s AARP survey, most respondents failed with only 28% of respondents able to answer 7 or more questions correctly. We need to home in on some key protections by educating consumers that:

Retailers will never request your login information to provide customer support.

Credit cards offer the most consumer protections of any payment method.

Regularly accepting operating system upgrade prompts on your device is important, as some updates are to patch known fraud vulnerabilities.

It’s risky to do a web

search for a company’s customer support network because criminals buy ads impersonating those companies. Check billing and credit card statements for customer service, use the number on the back of your credit cards, or go directly to the company by typing in their web address, like www.aarp.org.

To read the full report and learn more visit: www.aarp.org/holiday-scams2023

AARP Fraud Watch Network™ is a free resource that equips consumers with up-to-date knowledge to spot and avoid scams, and connects those targeted by scams with our fraud helpline specialists who provide support and guidance on

what to do next. Anyone can call the helpline at 877-908-3360. AARP Fraud Watch Network™ also offers free, facilitated peer discussion groups that seek to provide emotional support for those experiencing fraud; and advocates at the federal, state, and local levels to enact policy changes that protect consumers and enforce laws.

In Maine, trained volunteers are available to give free local presentations (in-person or online) in addition to hosting a virtual call the second Thursday of the month for anyone interested in learning about the latest scams. Free scam awareness booklets are also available.

CDC urges vaccination against flu, COVID-19, RSV

AUGUSTA, ME – The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) encourages Maine residents to get vaccinated against COVID-19, influenza (flu), and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) ahead of this season’s holiday gatherings. Vaccination remains the best way for Maine people to protect themselves, their friends, and relatives this holiday season and will help limit the spread of respiratory viruses at gatherings this winter.

Everyone age 6 months and older is eligible for the updated COVID-19 and flu vaccines. The RSV vaccine is recommended for adults 60 and older, for pregnant people, and children under age 1. The flu, COVID, and RSV vaccinations may be administered at the same time. Vaccina-

tions against COVID, flu, and RSV are extremely effective at preventing severe illness, including hospitalization and death.

As of December 12, 2023, 85 patients across the state were in the hospital with COVID-19, including nine in critical care and four on a ventilator. As of that date, 210,891 Maine people have received an updated COVID-19 vaccination, including 119,852 vaccinations given to people aged 65 and older.

For the week ending December 9, 14 patients were hospitalized with influenza in Maine. So far this year, 396,592 Maine people have received their annual flu vaccine.

Health providers are not required to report hospitalizations or total vaccinations for RSV to Maine CDC.

“As we head into the winter, we want to remind Maine people that vaccination against COVID-19, the flu, and – if you’re eligible – RSV remains the best gift to yourself and your loved ones this holiday season,” said Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention Director Dr. Puthiery Va. “Vaccination and other common-sense precautions, including testing for COVID-19, helps keep our families and communities – particularly individuals who are older or immune compromised – safe during this season of travel and get-togethers.”

Earlier this fall, the U.S. government relaunched its program to allow every U.S. household to place an order to receive up to eight free COVID-19 rapid tests delivered directly to their homes. Vis-

it covid.gov to order your free at-home tests to ensure that your family has rapid tests on hand in case you are feeling sick. Early detection of COVID-19 enables treatment and limits the spread of the disease to others. No payment information is required – both the tests and shipping are free – and the tests will be delivered through Amazon approximately one to two weeks after ordering. The tests require a quick swab inside each nostril, with results available within 15 minutes. The tests can be used on any individual older than two.

Vaccinations are available by appointment at most pharmacies and are covered either through health insurance or through the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Bridge Access Pro-

gram. You may also call your health care provider to see if they are offering vaccinations or holding walk-in vaccine clinics.

Later this month, the Maine CDC will launch a campaign to remind Maine people to get vaccinated for COVID-19 and flu. In addition to getting vaccinated, people can take the following steps to reduce the spread of illness:

- Stay home when you are sick
- Wash your hands
- Cover your coughs and sneezes
- Increase airflow and ventilation, when possible
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects
- For more information:

Visit the Maine CDC’s “COVID-19: Maine Data” page to learn more about trends Maine

Visit the Maine CDC’s “Influenza” page to learn more about the flu in Maine, including weekly influenza surveillance reports

Visit the U.S. CDC’s page on RSV for more information about RSV

Visit the U.S. CDC’s page for more information on how to protect yourself and loved ones from the flu, COVID-19, and RSV

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

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



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

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



- 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.familychirome.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!

Dec 24

BUXTON -- FREE Turkey Dinner with all the fixings! Sunday, December 24, 2023 - 5:00 pm at Living Waters Church, Parker Farm Road, Buxton. There will be a short Christmas Eve service following the dinner. Please note: We will offer the option of takeout containers for those who do not wish to sit inside.

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

Libertango - Astor Piazzolla

Huapango - José Pablo Moncayo

Old American Songs - Aaron Copland (with Philip Lima, Baritone)

Thunder and Lightning Polka - Johann

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

Strauss, Jr.

Three Songs from Des Knaben Wunderhorn (The Boy's Magic Horn) - Gustav Mahler (with Philip Lima, Baritone)

Symphonic Dances from West Side Story - Leonard Bernstein

Tickets are \$25 in advance for adults; \$30 at the door. All concerts are free for students 18 and under or college students with identification.

A limited number of free tickets for parents accompanying children under 18 are available - call 481-0970 for more details

For more information visit MidcoastSymphony.org, call 207-315-1712, or e-mail info@midcoast-symphony.org

Jan 27

GRAY -- First Congregational Church of Gray Saturday Night Church Supper on Saturday January 27, 2024 @ 5:00 at the Parish House, 5 Brown Street, Gray. Handicapped Accessible

Meals are Single-sized and are \$10.00 each. Please pay at the door. The Menu includes: Variety of Casseroles, & Salads, Baked Pea Beans, Red Hot Dogs, Breads,

Assortment of Desserts & Beverages

Mar 23, 24

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

May 18, 19

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

Every 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Monday

LEWISTON -- 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@lewiston-maine.gov

2nd and 4th

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

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

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

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

FLAGSHIP CINEMAS
Premium

Premium entertainment at affordable prices!

VISIT ONE OF OUR FIVE MAINE LOCATIONS!

AUBURN | FALMOUTH | WELLS | WATERVILLE | THOMASTON

WWW.FLAGSHIPCINEMAS.COM

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 senior-splus.org.

Best Source for Arts, Music and Theater!

Your Hometown Paper.

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 tele-health. Masters Level Prof. Counselor Over 25 years in case management. Contact for information 207-539-3204

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.

Classifieds
\$25 / week

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 start-up 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

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 Rothschild, St. Paul de Vence and much more.

MAY 11 – 19, 2024 – BILTMORE ESTATE & ASHEVILLE, NC - Trip includes 8 nights lodging including 4 nights in the Asheville area, 8 breakfasts and 6 dinners and a guided tour of the Asheville, North Carolina area. We will have a full day visit to the spectacular Biltmore Estate, America's largest privately owned home. We will visit the Biltmore Village that connects the estates present and past and provides a place for dining, shopping and historical exhibits. We will also visit the Antler Village and winery. We will tour the Blue Ridge Parkway with a guide and stops along the way. A \$75.00 deposit per person is due

when signing up. Price is \$1,245.00 pp double occupancy which includes all entrance fees, meal tips and bus driver tip.

JUNE 15 – 23, 2024 - WESTERN CANADA'S ROCKIES, LAKES & WINE COUNTRY - This trip includes 9 days and 8 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 3 dinners. Highlights of this trip are Calgary, Albertan BBQ, Banff, Bow Falls, Lake Louise, Rev-elstoke 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 Water-side 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.

Best Source
for Arts,
Music and
Theater!
Your
Hometown Paper.

Send all
items for
Newsmakers,
Names &
Faces
to the Editor.
Deadline is
Friday
by five.

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: _____

USDA explores investments with Rumford business leaders

BANGOR, ME – USDA Rural Development Maine State Director Rhiannon Hampson met with local officials and business leaders in the Oxford County town of Rumford. Director Hampson was there to celebrate recent USDA awards and to learn about emerging economic development opportunities in the area. She toured the 60 Lowell Street LLC property (future site of a boutique hotel) and then joined a roundtable discussion at the Town Hall. Town Manager Stacy Carter, Economic Development Director George O’Keefe, representatives of the state’s congressional delegation, and a dozen local business leaders participated.

In opening the roundtable discussion, Director Hampson noted that, “critical infrastructure is the foundation for success in rural Maine. Basic needs must be met for communities to thrive.” As the participants at the Town Hall roundtable introduced themselves, many mentioned different types of federal funding that had indeed affected local infrastructure. Several were recent recipients of USDA Rural Development funds, including:

60 Lowell Street LLC secured a \$500,000 Rural Energy for America Program grant to install a hydronic heat pump system with heat recovery for heating and cooling at the



Lowell St. mill redevelopment. The energy-efficient system will service the 4-story, 65,000-square-foot structure that the company intends to develop into a 35-room hotel with amenities such as a café, restaurant, and pool.

Regional School Unit No. 10 (Rumford) will use its \$982,191.00 Distance Learning and Telemedicine grant to equip sites in Oxford and Franklin counties with interactive video-conferencing equipment and other resources. Programming will include workforce development, job training, continuing education, and professional development. The project will benefit approximately 3000 students across many campuses.

Rumford/Mexico Sewerage District which secured an \$8.5M Water and Waste Disposal Grant and a \$10.77M loan to make major upgrades to the local wastewater treatment facility and pump station. The district had already received a \$30K grant to help plan for the necessary upgrades, the district plans to begin soon.

Several themes



USDA Rural Development Director Rhiannon Hampson convenes a business roundtable meeting at Rumford Town Hall, December 13, 2023

emerged from the day’s conversations. One recurring topic was the importance of economic diversification. Rumford is an interesting example, boasting energy companies, manufacturing, outdoor recreation facilities, and more. The town’s Economic Development Director, George O’Keefe, emphasized that encouraging a diverse business demographic helps towns like Rumford to provide local services while offering investment opportunities at all levels.

Under the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA Rural Development has invested over \$8M in Oxford County to support economic diversification. USDA has awarded grants to food

producers, an equine facility, a commercial solar company, outdoor recreation venues, and other businesses. These investments are in addition to more than \$11M invested in critical wastewater infrastructure improvements across the county and more than \$19M in Rumford.

Among the serious challenges facing rural towns are a lack of sufficient housing and childcare options. Acknowledging these and other obstacles, Director Hampson pointed out that, “Maine needs to retain families who have spent generations calling the state home while also attracting new people, fresh perspectives, and emerging businesses. To make this happen, we need

the federal government to reinvest in the very people and communities who have spent lifetimes working hard for all of us.”

Toward that end, USDA Rural Development has delivered over \$30M in housing dollars to rural Oxford County in the last two fiscal years. Included in that total is one of the agency’s most impactful programs, flexible mortgages for low-income homebuyers. Oxford County residents borrowed more than \$5.1M through USDA’s Single Family Housing Direct Home Loans to purchase homes during that period.

For towns like Rumford to continue to thrive, businesses need access to both private and federal

capital. Concluding the event, Director Hampson looked ahead to future collaborations, saying, “We are excited to partner with dedicated teams of community leaders and small business owners to explore solutions and opportunities across the state. USDA Rural Development shows up for small town Maine, and it has been a particular pleasure to learn more about this beautiful region.”

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

IRS exempts \$450 relief payment from federal taxes

AUGUSTA, ME – In response to an appeal from the Mills Administration, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announced that Maine’s \$450 Winter Energy Relief Payments will not be subject to federal tax.

In a letter sent to Commissioner Kirsten Figueroa of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, the IRS Acting General Counsel wrote, “the pay-

ments do qualify for the exclusion from income for qualified disaster relief payments under Internal Revenue Code section 139(b)(4).”

The decision to not Federally tax the payments comes in response to pressure from the Mills Administration. DAFS Commissioner Figueroa objected in a letter to the IRS’s verbal ruling and urged the IRS to not tax the payments.

“We are thankful to the IRS for arriving at the right decision and for their prompt response as Maine taxpayers prepare for the upcoming tax season,” said Governor Mills and Commissioner Figueroa in a joint statement. “These payments were intended to provide financial relief to Maine people dealing with high energy prices, and we’re glad that money will stay in their pockets where it belongs.”



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.

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