



TWIN CITY TIMES

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Fill the Plate Breakfast to benefit Meals on Wheels

LEWISTON, ME – SeniorsPlus, the designated Agency on Aging for Western Maine, will hold a breakfast to benefit its Meals on Wheels nutrition program. The Fill the Plate Breakfast will be held on Friday, March 22, from 7 to 9 a.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn Riverwatch in Auburn. The breakfast will honor Lewiston resident Lucy Bisson with the 2024 Ikaria Award and feature a talk by beloved Maine humorist Gary Crocker. Tickets are \$30 per person (\$35 at the door) and are available at www.seniorsplus.org/march-for-meals or by calling 207-795-4010. Seats are limited and advance registration is recommended.

Maine humorist Gary Crocker will be the keynote speaker. Born in Lewiston

and raised in North Monmouth, Crocker will offer remarks and observations about his beloved Maine and her people in the classic Maine tradition. After teaching public speaking at Cony HS in Augusta, he joined the Waterville Police Department. Crocker then served as Adult Ed Director at CMVTI (now CMCC) in Auburn and eventually became the spokesman for the Community College System at the Maine State Legislature. "These experiences put me in touch with people from all walks of life and prepared me to become a Maine humorist," he said.

The event includes the presentation of the 2024 Ikaria Award, which recognizes an individual or organization for singu-

See Meals, page 14



Maine humorist Gary Crocker will be the featured speaker on March 22 at the 2024 Fill the Plate Breakfast to benefit Meals on Wheels at SeniorsPlus.



The breakfast will honor Lewiston resident Lucy Bisson with the 2024 Ikaria Award.

Openings still available on Lewiston boards, committees

LEWISTON, ME – Lewiston Mayor Sheline is seeking resident volunteers to serve as members of the City's various boards and committees. The following city boards and committees have current openings: Board of Appeals, Board of Assessment Review, and Historic Preservation Review Board.

The Board of Appeals is charged with hearing citizen appeals regarding orders, rules, or failures of certain municipal entities to act relating to the zoning and land use code, building code, property maintenance, fire prevention codes, etc. The board has limited authority in granting conditional use permits and variances of zoning setbacks and related requirements. Due to residency requirements in the City Charter, the Board of Appeals 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. At present, the Board of Appeals is at membership capacity for members from ward four. Residents of all other wards are encouraged to apply.

The Board of Assessment Review hears appeals from taxpayers challenging the decision of the City Tax Assessor on their request for property tax abatement. The board reviews cases and decides if the Assessor's findings are correct or need to be adjusted. Members shall have a working knowledge of local property values, appraisal procedures, and tax structure.

The Historic Preservation Review Board works with city staff to preserve,

protect, and enhance buildings and areas that represent or reflect distinctive and important elements of the city's architectural, archaeological, cultural, social, economic, ethnic, and political history, working to safeguard the city's historic and cultural heritage and to provide procedures for local review of changes to significant structures and of new construction, reconstruction, building alternation, and demolition within designated historic districts. All members should have knowledge and experience in the architectural, archeological, cultural, social, economic, ethnic, or political history of Lewiston.

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/boardsandcommittees. Full 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.

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 Mon. – Fri., 8:30 AM – 4 PM, and the City Clerk's Department is located at City Hall, 27 Pine Street, Lewiston.

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LA Chamber supports community with Small Business Relief Fund

LEWISTON, ME — In the wake of the devastating mass shooting tragedy that unfolded on October 25, 2023, claiming 18 lives and impacting hundreds in the Lewiston Auburn region, the Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce (LA Metro Chamber) and its Foundation rallied its resources to address the economic fallout. The Chamber spearheaded fundraising activities to support local businesses affected by the lockdowns and closures during the aftermath, with significant financial support from Blue Triton Brands, owner of local employer Poland Spring Water.

The heart of the relief efforts lies in the

Small Business Relief Fund, an initiative designed to alleviate the economic burdens faced by area small businesses. The Fund received an overwhelming response, with Phase 1 garnering 91 eligible submissions. Awards totaling \$89,900 were swiftly distributed to businesses in Lewiston, Auburn, Lisbon, and Turner. Notably, the Chamber maintained a commitment to a rapid turnaround, with Phase 1 awards commencing within 10 business days of the application process.

Building on the success of Phase 1, Phase 2 witnessed 36 eligible submissions. *See Chamber, page 6*



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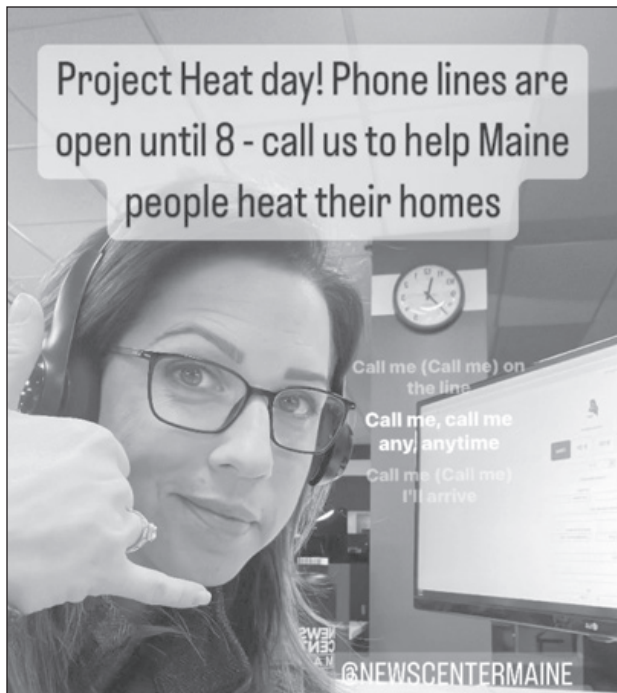
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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

News Center Maine Telethon keeps Mainers warm this winter



News Center Maine's Amanda Hill gets ready to take calls during The Project Heat Telethon Noon Power Hour



PORTLAND/BANGOR, ME -- NEWS CENTER Maine held its annual statewide Project Heat Telethon on January 25 to raise money in support of the Keep ME Warm Fund. In just one day the telethon secured more than \$280,000.

Keep ME Warm is a partnership of the seven United Ways in Maine and

ten Community Action Programs (CAPs). It is the only statewide program that provides emergency heating assistance and support to low-income households and local organizations throughout Maine.

As of this writing, NEWS CENTER Maine's 2024 Project Heat Telethon has accepted donations and pledges from individual



News Center Maine's Caroline LeCour on the Project Heat Telethon phone bank

donors and sponsors totaling \$294,459. United Ways of Maine anticipates funds

will serve more than 749 households for heating assistance.

CMH goes red for American Heart Month



LEWISTON, ME -- Central Maine Healthcare (CMH), which includes Central Maine Medical Center (CMMC), Rumford Hospital and Bridgton Hospital, is seeing red this

month. The team at the Central Maine Heart and Vascular Institute (CMHVI) asked CMH team members to wear red on Feb. 2, National Wear Red Day, to raise

awareness and help eradicate heart disease among women. They will continue to wear red on every Friday in February, which is American Heart Month.

CMHVI is comprised

of vascular surgeons, cardiothoracic surgeons and cardiologists who perform cutting-edge procedures and lead their Maine community in the prevention of heart and vascular disease.

"Wearing red is one of many great ways to bring attention to cardiovascular health," said Michael Berlowitz, MD, chief of CMHVI. "Heart disease is the second leading cause of death in Maine, yet it is so often preventable with the life choices we can all make. American Heart Month is a great time to bring attention to cardiovascular health."

The public is invited



to stop by the heart booth across from the Central Maine Medical Center coffee shop this month to learn about different heart health

topics, including: CPR Nutrition Blood pressure checks Exercise and mental health

MaineCare rate reform to reimburse, support Mainers

AUGUSTA, ME — Today, the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Maine Hospital Association announced an agreement to reform hospital reimbursement rates to improve the health of Maine people.

Under the proposal, which will be included in the forthcoming supplemental budget proposal, every medical center in the

state is estimated to receive roughly the same or higher reimbursement, based on information available in the fall of 2023. This proposal applies to all hospitals except for four psychiatric hospitals that are categorized differently under Medicaid.

Hospitals would become the latest major service area to undergo MaineCare's award-winning process to ensure payment

methodologies are data-driven, fair, consistent, informed by the public, and sufficient to promote access to quality care. The MaineCare rate reforms support high-quality health care for more than 400,000 Maine people and fair and sustainable reimbursement to Maine's health and social services providers, including hospitals.

Under the agreement announced today, hospi-

tals would see improved reimbursement because the payments will better align with Medicare — a more consistent and fair approach to paying for outlier costs that relate to patient need — improved outpatient rates to encourage more community-based care when possible, and improved transparency

and uniformity for similar hospitals across the reimbursement system as a whole. The agreement maximizes the available funding under federal payment limits and is subject to approval by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

"This agreement helps MaineCare to move

away from outdated and arbitrary rates and toward a uniform and fair system at a time when existing sources of ongoing revenue alone are not enough," said DHHS Commissioner Jeanne Lambrew. "We thank the Maine Hospital Association and its members for their partnership

See *MaineCare*, page 5

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Loans, grants available for homeowners in disaster areas

BANGOR, ME – This week President Joe Biden approved the State of Maine’s request for a Major Disaster Declaration for the storm and flooding that took place December 17-21, 2023. The disaster declaration applies to ten counties that experienced extensive flooding, power outages, and property damage in that storm. Homeowners with very low incomes in these counties are now eligible for grants and loans through USDA Rural Development’s “504 Home Repair” pilot program. The affected counties are Androscoggin, Franklin, Hancock, Kennebec, Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, Waldo, and Washington.

Administration and USDA are working hard to find solutions to help people impacted by natural disasters in rural areas,” USDA Rural Development State Director Rhiannon Hampson said. “Mainers deserve the resources to rebuild their homes and lives after storms and floods. Whether you’re a senior living in retirement or a young family getting started, if your home was damaged in this recent natural disaster, the 504 Home Repair pilot program may be able to help. It includes manufactured housing and offers reimbursements for emergency repairs that were already completed. Flexibilities such as these mean Rural Development can help even more low-income Mainers enjoy se-



cure homes.”

USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack visited Maine in person on January 8th. At the time he viewed some of the storm damage from December and met with impacted residents, businesses, and leaders. The visit reflected USDA’s commitment to continue to support rural recovery from recent and future disasters across the country. Developing new programs and flexibilities is one of USDA’s strategies to help

impacted communities build back stronger and combat the effects of climate change.

USDA Rural Development’s long-standing Section 504 Home Repair program is also known as the Single Family Housing Repair Loans and Grants program. It was designed to help eligible homeowners make critical home repairs. Through a pilot program launched in 2023, more people are eligible to apply for the funds following certain disasters, and the funding may be used in new ways. Residents of the ten Maine counties included in the disaster declaration for the December storm can expect:

Expanded eligibility: Homeowners 18 and older can apply for disaster-re-

lated grants and loans.

Increased grant limit: The maximum grant available increased from \$10,000 to \$40,675.

The program offers home repair loans for up to 20 years at 1% interest.

Debt refinancing and reimbursement allowed: Reimbursement and refinancing may be possible for costs incurred as a result of the natural disaster.

Mobile or manufactured home allowances: Funding may be used towards the cost of moving a unit from one site to another.

Occupancy flexibility: An applicant may be eligible even if they do not currently occupy the home if they were temporarily displaced by the storm damage and will occupy it

within 12 months.

The flexibilities of the pilot program are available to homeowners with very low income in eligible rural areas damaged during specific storms. In Maine, the program is available for homes damaged in presidentially declared disasters that occurred since July 18, 2022. (Read more at this link: <http://tinyurl.com/3y3kmc3r>)

Funds may also be available for future presidentially declared disasters through July 2025. For more information about eligibility or how to apply, contact your local USDA RD Single Family Housing office (call 207-990-9100 or email SFHMaine@USDA.gov) or visit www.rd.usda.gov/me.

Fontaine Family Team receives Best of the Best Awards



Pictured in photo (left to right): Broker/Owners Angie Fontaine-Larochelle, Crystal Fontaine-Bergeron & Melissa Fontaine-Field

MAINE -- Fontaine Family - The Real Estate Leader is proud to announce its outstanding achievements in the real estate industry, as the company continues to set the

standard for excellence in service and performance. Garnering two prestigious awards, Fontaine Family stands as Greater Lewiston/Auburn’s Best Real Estate Company for an

impressive 9 years and claims the title of Portland Region’s #1 Real Estate Agency for an exceptional 6 years running.

The Greater Lewiston/Auburn’s Best Real

Estate Company award is a testament to Fontaine Family’s unwavering commitment to providing exceptional real estate services in the local community. This marks the ninth year that the company has been recognized as the top choice among residents and clients in the Greater Lewiston/Auburn area.

In addition to this remarkable achievement, Fontaine Family - The

Real Estate Leader proudly maintains its position as the Portland Region’s #1 Real Estate Agency for the sixth consecutive year. This recognition highlights the company’s consistent dedication to excellence and its ability to deliver outstanding results for clients throughout the Portland Region.


Fontaine Family - The Real Estate Leader expresses gratitude to the

community, clients, and industry partners for their continued support. The company remains focused on upholding its reputation as a leader in the real estate market, providing unparalleled service, and exceeding client expectations. FMI: contact Fontaine Family Team at 207-784-3800, download their app “Fontaine Family Real Estate” or visit their website FontaineTeam.com.

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


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

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Howe Hill - the Little Camden Hill



Hikers cross a rugged bridge on Rheault Trail



Rheault Trail passes through a blueberry barren nearing the top of Howe Hill



A giant rock marks the summit of Howe Hill

By Ron Chase
The Camden Hills are a wonderful place to hike. I began trekking in the scenic coastal mountain range with friends and family when I first moved to the mid-coast area almost fifty years ago.

Like most hiking enthusiasts, we started out climbing Mounts Megunticook and Battie in Camden Hills State Park. Outings to Bald Rock, Ragged, Spruce, Pleasant, and Bald Mountains soon followed. Although my wife, Nancy, and I now live more than an hour away, returning to the hills several times each year is a regular part of our outdoor routine. The phenomenal views they offer of the surrounding peaks

and nearby Penobscot Bay never get old.

After years exploring them, I thought I knew all the trails and summits in the Camden Hills. When friends, Diane and John Stokinger, invited me to join them for a trek on Rheault and Hodson Trails, I had never heard of either. I was also unfamiliar with Howe Hill, a small summit situated at the top of Rheault Trail in the approximate center of the Camden Hills. Intrigued with the prospect of a new hike with the company of good friends, I enthusiastically accepted their invitation.

The trailhead is located on Molyneux Road in Camden just a few miles

from the downtown area. We met at a small parking area on the north side of Molyneux Road on a cool cloudy day. A large Coastal Land Trust sign next to the parking area marks the beginning of the trail network and a kiosk with a map of the Hodson Preserve and Rheault Trail is a short distance away.

We began hiking on Rheault Trail, marked with blue blazes, in a mature predominantly hardwood forest. Soon, the path joins Sucker Brook immediately below a scenic waterfall. The turbulent whitewater freshet is the site of a former historic mill.

Proceeding adjacent to the brook in an easterly direction, we soon crossed

a rugged wooden bridge. Shortly after, we passed over another well-built bridge and began climbing steadily up a narrow serpentine path to the junction with Hodson Loop Trail on the left.

A thin blanket of snow covered much of the surrounding terrain as we continued northwesterly on Rheault Trail in a sparsely wooded area. Several interconnecting stone walls in this sector of the preserve are evidence of working farms in centuries past.

Persisting diagonally upward along a southwest-facing slope, we emerged onto a steep open field on the south shoulder of Howe Hill. The remainder of the ascent continues through a managed blueberry barren where the trail transitions to a wide path that appears to be the remnants of an old farm road. Signs in the area warn hikers to remain on the trail.

The road turns left and we progressed easily uphill while enjoying a view of distinctive Bald Mountain in the west. Angling right, the path led more steeply to the top where a giant rock engraved with the Howe family name marks the summit. This is a remarkable location situated between

Mounts Megunticook and Battie in the east, Hatchet Mountain north, and Bald Mountain west. Glimpses of Penobscot Bay could be seen south. The three of us agree this is one of the most scenic locations in the Camden Hills.

Following a pause to embrace the wonderful views, we gradually descended to Hodson Loop Trail junction on the right. We decided to explore the loop traveling clockwise. The lower level passes an ancient apple orchard that was likely part of the erstwhile Hodson farm. Soon after, the path curves right and rises moderately before continuing adjacent to a venerable stone wall in a stand of tall hardwoods.

After finishing the one-half mile loop, we returned on Rheault Trail to the Molyneux Road trailhead. Hikers in search of an easier trek than climbing the taller Camden Hills or looking for a less time-consuming shorter outing should consider this excellent hike. John measured the distance of our trip to be about 3.5 miles on his GPS, a little longer than the signage indicates. We completed the picturesque journey in about two hours traveling at a moderate pace.

My book, *Maine Al*

Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine narrates nine hiking expeditions around the state, many in winter.

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

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Free classes help Mainers achieve career, business, financial goals

AUGUSTA, ME—New Ventures Maine will offer free workshops and classes statewide in February in three program areas: career, business and financial education. Workshops and classes are designed to help people in Maine gain the skills, knowledge, and confidence to build a career, start a business, and manage money.

The full class schedule is updated frequently

and is accessible online.

Classes include online, daytime, evening and self-paced options in the three program areas (partial list):

Build Your Career My Next Career Move: Self-paced. Online.

Assess your skills, interests, and experiences and relate them to career options. Work at your own pace; complete by April 29, 2024.

Changing Jobs: Finding Work that Fits: Thursdays, Feb. 29 – March 14, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Online. Are you considering a job change? This online class designed for women will help you identify work options and benefits that align with your interests, skills, and values. Three 60-minute sessions.

Start a Business Grow Your Business Online (GYBO): Self-

paced. Online. Gain the skills, knowledge, and confidence to create a compelling web presence & website for your small business. Work at your own pace; complete by June 30, 2024.

Exploring Self-Employment: Wednesday, Feb. 21, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Online.

This workshop covers the pros and cons of owning your own business, the steps needed for start-

up, the major elements of a business plan, and the many resources available to help you succeed.

Business Success – Your Marketing Strategy: Thursday, Feb. 22, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Online. This workshop provides a framework so that you can create your marketing strategy for your business.

Manage Your Money My Money Works: Thursdays, Feb. 22 –

March 21 (5 sessions), 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Online. Gain the skills and confidence you need to stretch your money, pay your bills, reduce debt, save, plan for retirement, and set personal financial goals with a plan to achieve greater financial stability.

To learn more and choose a class that's right for you, visit newventures-maine.org or call 207-621-3440.

MaineCare

Continued from page 2

in developing and supporting this proposal that meets our shared goal of improving the health and quality of care for Maine residents."

"This proposal provides our members with needed Medicaid rate increases at a critical time," said Steve Michaud, President of the Maine Hospital Association. "Drawing down additional federal Medicaid dollars helps hospitals and their caregivers, eases the burden of escalating costs on Main-

ers and businesses who are paying for care, and helps the Maine economy at the same time. We thank the Department of Health and Human Services for its partnership in developing this plan that supports the health of Maine people."

Specifically, the set of initiatives in the supplemental budget:

Support MaineCare rate reform for hospital inpatient and outpatient services by investing \$90.3 million in federal and state dollars in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025, starting July 1, 2024;

Finance most of this rate investment by increasing the hospital tax rate from 2.23 to 3.25 percent, raising \$29.5 million in SFY 2025, starting January 1, 2025, to complement the Federal share of these MaineCare (Medicaid) payments; and

Add \$2.5 million of General Funds to the \$6.3 million already in the FY24-25 biennial budget to help with rate reform, including for a transitional payment to assist York Hospital, which has a unique grandfathered funding structure, in mov-

ing to the new system consistent with all other acute care hospitals in the state. This payment to York Hospital is targeted, based on data shared with hospitals, to total \$5.6 million annually for the next five years.

As part of rate reform, the plan would repeal both the tax on and supplemental payment to critical access hospitals effective December 31, 2024 while adjusting cost reimbursement from 109 to 104.5 percent starting on July 1, 2024.

Additionally, the budget proposal would

direct that net hospital tax revenue be directed to the "Medical Care – Payments to Providers" program in the Department of Health and Human Services to be used for MaineCare hospital payments.

The agreement builds on MaineCare payment improvements to behavioral health providers, Federally-qualified health centers, and for inpatient psychiatric and substance use care, which was implemented in July 2023 with a similar transition payment to Northern Maine Medical Center.

The Department's sweeping and unprecedented plan to transform MaineCare (Maine's Medicaid program) rate setting from a fragmented, often outdated and arbitrary approach into a coherent, streamlined and data-driven system is well under way. The plan is a culmination of Governor Mills' directive to DHHS on her first day in office to expand MaineCare and develop a plan to make the health coverage program for low-income people more accessible, affordable, and sustainable.

UMaine Extension offers virtual "Recipe to Market" workshop

ORONO, ME -- University of Maine Cooperative Extension will offer an online workshop for entrepreneurs and farmers interested in starting a home-based, specialty food business in Maine from 9 a.m.–noon on Feb. 21.

Recipe to Market is a multidisciplinary program intended to introduce participants to key topics an aspiring entrepreneur needs to consider before starting a food business. Topics include the specialty food industry, business basics, an overview of the product development process, licensing and regulations, and food safety. Products that may be discussed include canned shelf-stable products — like jams,



Photo courtesy University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

jellies, preserves, baked goods, condiments, salsas, sauces or dessert sauces — fermented foods, dry mixes, candies and confections.

During the half-day workshop, industry experts and successful food entrepreneurs will share experiences and provide valuable insights

and tips for success. Instructors for the program include UMaine Extension professor emeritus Louis Bassano; professor emeritus of economics and Extension Jim McConnon; and Extension food science specialist, professor of food science and director of UMaine Food Testing Services

Beth Calder.

The "Recipe to Market" workshop is part of Extension's commitment to supporting local food businesses and promoting economic development in the community. By providing aspiring food entrepreneurs with the necessary skills and knowledge, Extension aims to foster a thriving local food economy.

The fee for the workshop is \$45; registration is required. The workshop will be recorded for registered participants and available for a limited time.

For more information and to register visit the program webpage. To request a reasonable accommodation, contact Melissa Libby Babcock,

melissa.libby1@maine.edu; 207.581.2788 or 800.287.0274 (Maine only).

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Arts & Entertainment

LPL hosting Valentine's Baby Keepsake program

Valentine's Baby Keepsake
Friday, February 23
10AM in the Children's Department
Lewiston PUBLIC LIBRARY
L E

brary Children's Department will be offering a Valentine's Baby Keepsake program. Caregivers and their young children will be able to create their own version of Maine artist Robert Indiana's famous stacked LOVE art on canvas using handprints and footprints.

The program is recommended for kids ages birth to 5 years and their caregivers. Siblings are also welcome to attend.

This program will take place in the back of the Children's Department on the third floor of the library. This activity is free, all materials will be provided, and there is no registration required.

LEWISTON, ME -- from 10:00am - 11:30am, On Friday, February 23rd the Lewiston Public Li-

New Yorkers on stage at Great Falls Comedy Club

AUBURN, ME -- Make laughter a priority this week at Great Falls Comedy Club with as they welcome, all the way from New York City, Shank Kumar, Shane O'Connor, and Tom Zappia, February 17th at 7:30 pm.

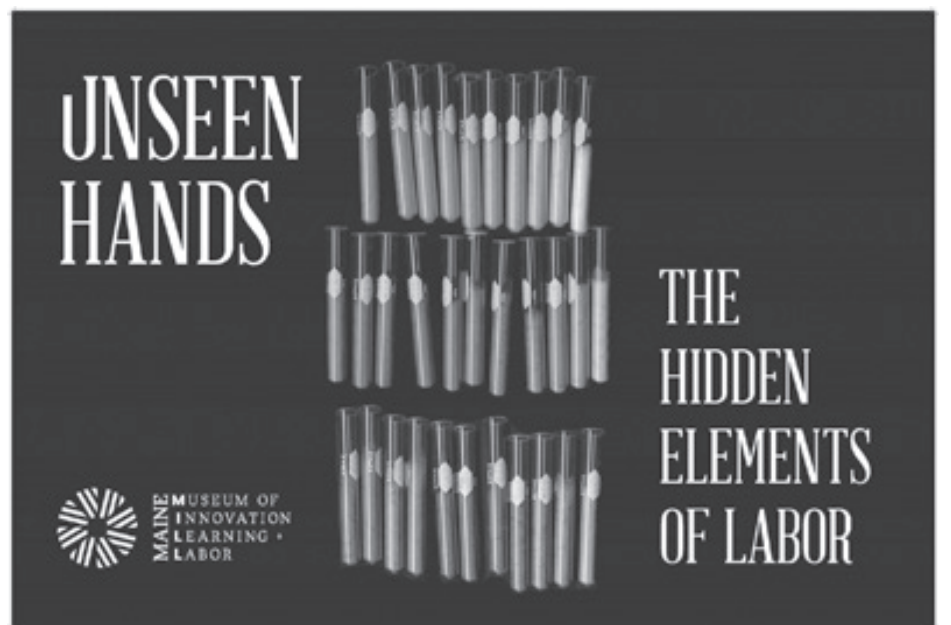
All three regularly perform all over the country. Don't miss your opportunity to catch them live, in their only appearance in the state.

Tickets can be found at <https://www.greatfallscomedyclub.com> or purchased at the door.

Great Falls Comedy Club is located inside Craft Brew Underground at 34 Court Street, Auburn, under the red awning.

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

Maine MILL opens exhibit about unseen labor



LEWISTON, ME -- The Maine Museum of Innovation, Learning and Labor opened on February 8 a new exhibit about unseen labor. The show expands the story of people working in Maine, and the story of their work—seen and unseen. It organizes such work thematically, with sections focused on the labor of Black people, children and unions, as well as unpaid labor in prisons and the domestic sphere. The show highlights and celebrates artwork by Candy Chang and Au-

burn-based Tanja Hollander. Both of these artists' works relate directly to the museum's memorial efforts following the October 25, 2023 mass shooting. A number of memorial items are also on display within the exhibit.

Rachel Ferrante, Maine MILL's executive director shared, "We are thrilled to present Tanja's Ephemera Project and Candy's A Monument for the Anxious and Hopeful, each of which are so powerful on their own. Set against the backdrop of the complex

themes of unseen labor, we hope the show will invite numerous opportunities for thought and dialogue. And our newly created memorial space will be available for the community throughout the run of the show."

For more information about Maine MILL (formerly Museum L-A) and its events and exhibits, visit mainemill.org or call 207-333-3881. The museum is located at 35 Canal Street in Lewiston. Visitor hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 10am - 4pm.

Chamber

Continued from page 1

reflecting the significant need for support. Requests totaling \$1.6 million ranged from \$1,000 to \$375,000, with an average request of \$45,000. The Chamber is proud to highlight the success of reaching underrepresented business owners, with 44% of applicants coming from historically marginalized groups, including women and people of color. The majority of requests came from businesses with 10 or fewer employees (77%), predominantly from the food and beverage (50%) and retail (14%) sectors.

The Grant Review Committee, responsible for allocating Phase 2 funds, is set to convene from February 7th to 14th, with a goal to notify businesses and award funds by February 23rd. The Committee is

poised to allocate more than \$460,000 to Phase 2 Grant Applicants. The entire timeline, from designing the grant program to processing requests and making awards, will have transpired in less than 10 weeks—a testament to the Chamber's leadership, the commitment of Auburn Savings Bank, and collaboration with stakeholders including the economic development staff at Maine DECD, the Cities of Auburn and Lewiston, and the Town of Lisbon.

Beyond direct grants, the Chamber has leveraged donated funds to uplift the entire business community through shared marketing and promotion efforts. Notable initiatives include \$10,500 in digital and radio advertising for the #LocalLAFlavor campaign and contest, targeting visitors and food enthusiasts in 48 communities surround-

ing Androscoggin County. Further marketing efforts through early spring will spotlight local food, beverage, and entertainment businesses, featuring a new #LocalLAFlavor is for Lovers contest and active participation in Maine Restaurant Week.

"We are grateful for the Chamber's work with the Small Business Fund, and proud to have contributed the initial \$500,000 to seed the fund and an additional \$100,000 to address the recovery needs of so many local businesses," said Joey Bergstein, President & CEO of BlueTriton Brands.

The LA Metro Chamber remains steadfast in its commitment to rebuilding and revitalizing the community, demonstrating the resilience and unity of the Lewiston-Auburn region during challenging times.

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Maine agencies receive funding to combat local homelessness

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, U.S. Senator Susan Collins, Vice Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, announced that 15 organizations and state agencies in Maine have been awarded a total of \$20,850,852 to support housing assistance to homeless individuals and families, as well as those fleeing domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. This funding was provided through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) Program.

“Too many Mainers

will be forced this winter to go without having a safe place to eat, sleep, and call home,” said Senator Collins. “As Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I was pleased to champion these substantial investments that will address the urgent needs of vulnerable populations in Maine, helping to ensure our neighbors have access to the necessary support to regain stability and independence.”

The grant funding is allocated as follows:

The State of Maine - \$12,256,655
Preble Street (Port-

land) - \$2,451,945
Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (Augusta) - \$1,802,995
City of Bangor - \$1,231,588
Maine State Housing Authority - \$1,230,524
Community Care (Bangor) - \$803,937
Through These Doors (Portland) - \$336,282
New Beginnings (Lewiston) - \$164,339
Safe Voices (Auburn) - \$161,580
Volunteers of America: Northern New England (Brunswick) - \$159,800
Penquis C.A.P. (Ban-

gor) - \$100,000
Kennebec Behavioral Health (Waterville) - \$54,720
OHI (Bangor) - \$47,190
Community Housing of Maine (Portland) - \$33,014
Tedford Housing (Brunswick) - \$16,283
Last January, Senator Collins announced that the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill she co-authored was signed into law as part of the year-end omnibus funding package. The legis-

lation allotted more than \$3.7 billion in funding to help design and implement local solutions to end homelessness, including through programs like the CoC Program.

In November, Senator Collins introduced the Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act of 2023 with Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL). This bipartisan legislation would reauthorize key federal grant programs to provide states with funding to help thousands of homeless young people nationwide.

The CoC Program

is designed to promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; to provide funding for efforts by non-profit providers, States, and local governments to quickly re-house homeless individuals, families, persons fleeing domestic violence, and youth while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness; to promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and to optimize self-sufficiency among those experiencing homelessness.

New probation officer to serve Androscoggin County



Maine DOC Honor Guard presents the Colors at the Probation Officer Swearing-In Ceremony. POs Carrigan Levesque, William Towle III, and Stephen Sebestyen in the front row. Photo by Tim Sardano, MDOC

AUGUSTA, ME – The Division of Adult Community Corrections (ACC) at Maine Department of Corrections (MDOC) welcomed four new Probation Officers (PO) at a swearing in ceremony on February 2, 2024,

in Augusta. Probation Officer Brenda Jennings, Region 2, Skowhegan
Probation Officer Carrigan Levesque Region 3, Caribou
Probation Officer Stephen Sebestyen, Region 2,



PO Jennings receives her badge and certificate from Regional Correctional Administrator Adam Silberman as RCA Robert LaPlante and Director Susan Gagnon look on. Photo by Tim Sardano, MDOC

Lewiston Probation Officer William Towle III, Region 2, Augusta
The four POs recently completed an eight-week training academy and will work with a Field Training Officer for the next six

months while taking on cases in service to their respective communities.

Probation Officers are critical to the rehabilitation and redemption of their assigned clients. Their work involves supervising and



PO Towle receives his badge and certificate from Regional Correctional Administrator Silberman, with RCA Kim Carson, Director Susan Gagnon, and Commissioner Randall Liberty. Photo by Tim Sardano, MDOC

managing clients assigned to MDOC or released to the community; assessing clients’ risks and needs; counseling and supervising clients while on probation or other forms of community release; preparing

pardon and pre-sentence investigation reports for the court; and performing interstate compact duties and participating in the formulation and oversight of community reentry release plans.



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Guest Column:

Transportation, trails allow seniors to travel around Lewiston

By Briana Hilton
Lewiston features high on a list of places in Maine that have been deemed as ideally suited for seniors and, due to an increasing focus on accessibility, anyone with limited mobility. The city welcomes a more mature population and last year, Lewiston joined the AARP Age-Friendly Network of States and Communities, allowing the city to access a greater range of age-related resources, offer more practical help to older residents and engage with senior communities more effectively. As well as the provision of community spaces for seniors to live and learn, Lewiston and the surrounding area offer access to numerous parks and trails with smooth, paved paths, allowing visitors of all abilities to view

beautiful waterfalls along the Androscoggin river, explore the monuments in Heritage Park or watch wildlife at the Thorncrag Bird Sanctuary. These walking trails, together with safe and accessible parking and accommodating public transportation services mean that seniors and people with limited mobility are able to get around the area easily and enjoy all the public spaces on offer to the community.

Safe Designated Disability Parking

With certification from a medical practitioner, Maine residents who are severely limited in their ability to walk can apply for a disability placard and parking plates that will allow them to park for free in a space with a parking meter. In car parks, wider spaces with hatched access

aisles enable older car owners or drivers with limited mobility to park safely in commercial parking areas and close to public buildings. Throughout the city, designated disabled bays and accessible parking improve access to facilities, including the Museum of Art, the Public Theater and the library. Both the theater and library are close to the Lisbon Street car park, where designated disabled bays and curb cuts allow easy access for customers in wheelchairs via the sidewalk to the ground-floor entrance doors. In addition to wheelchair-accessible parking areas, the Olin Arts Center which also houses the Museum of Art has a wheelchair accessible elevator serving the whole building.

Fully Paved Walking Trails

The Auburn Riverwalk, now incorporated into the East Coast Greenway trail linking Maine to Florida, starts at the Great Falls Plaza with accessible parking and a ramp for easy access onto the trail for people of all abilities. The 1.6 mile path passes through the old mill district of Auburn and Lewiston and offers beautiful views of the Androscoggin River. As the full length of the trail consists of tar, cement or brick paths, it is recommended as a great place to visit with a wheelchair. Benches along the route provide a place to rest while observation decks and open fencing allow for unobstructed views of a number of different sites, including the Twin Cities, outdoor art and floral gardens.

Accessible Public

Bus Services

For getting around on a day to day basis, Western Maine Transportation Services offers a range of accessible public bus services throughout Androscoggin County, while the Citylink 'purple' bus service operated by the Lewiston-Auburn Transit Committee now uses vehicles equipped with passenger lifts. These are for use by anyone who has difficulties in using steps, including wheelchair users, for whom two dedicated spaces are available on most buses. The ADA requires transport agencies to provide complementary paratransit services for any passengers with disabilities that mean they still have difficulty using the regular route buses. A curb to curb paratransit service is available in Lewiston and Auburn and, as required,

it operates within a ¼ of a mile corridor around the citylink bus routes. They are only available to eligible passengers and must be scheduled the day before they are required.

Lewiston offers dedicated services, suitable accommodation and practical support for older residents, and it is a popular choice for seniors looking for somewhere to settle in later life. In addition to specialist resources, improved accessibility in travel and transportation allows anyone with limited mobility greater freedom to move around the city. Wider parking spaces, accessible public buses and smoothly paved walking trails mean that residents of all ages and abilities can enjoy all of the amenities and sights that Lewiston and surrounding area has to offer.

FEMA Disaster Recovery Center opens in Lewiston

PORTLAND, ME – Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) is now open in Lewiston. The joint DRC is a temporary facility established in partnership between Maine and FEMA

materials and communication access (VRIASL interpreters). If you need additional accommodations, please call 1-833-285-7448, press 2 for Spanish.

The center in Lewiston is located at: Lewiston Armory, 65 Central Ave., Lewiston, ME 04240 and is open 7 days a week 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Additional Disaster Recovery Centers are open at:

Rumford Municipal Building, 150 River Street, Rumford, ME 04276. Open 7 days a week 8 a.m.

FEMA's Disaster Recovery Centers are accessible for all survivors, including translated mate-



FEMA

to 6 p.m. The center in Skowhegan is located at: Somerset County Emergency Operations Center, 4 County Drive, Skowhegan, ME 04976. Open 7 days a week 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Survivors can visit any Disaster Recovery Center location.

Representatives from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) are on hand at the DRC to provide program information and explain how to apply for SBA's low-interest disaster loans for homeowners, businesses, private nonprofits, and renters, and provide printed information about repairs and rebuilding to make homes more disaster resistant.

Disaster survivors are encouraged to submit their

SBA loan application as soon as possible. If your application is approved you are not obligated to accept the loan. However, failure to return the application may disqualify you from other types of financial assistance from FEMA.

A FEMA Hazard Mitigation Community Education Outreach Specialist will be on site to assist survivors in preparing for future incidents.

To find a DRC nearest you, click on the FEMA DRC link: [Fema.gov/drc](https://fema.gov/drc). You may also register for assistance with FEMA through your smart phone, home computer or by phone. The fastest ways to

apply for assistance are:
Online at DisasterAssistance.gov

By phone at 1-800-621-3362. Press 1 for English, 2 for Spanish and 3 for all other languages. If you use video relay service (VRS), captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA your number for that service. Phone lines operate from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week.

Download FEMA's Mobile App. Select Disaster Resources and click on Apply for Assistance Online.

To learn more about the disaster response in Maine, please visit <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4754>.

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Students gather for District II Honors Vocal Festival



High School Mixed Honors Choir - Left to right: Cayden Michaud, Emma Daigneault, Cheyenne Toth, Max Benton, Audrey Fryda, Jack Desrosiers, Faith Bustamante, Jason Garneau (not pictured: Andrew Mitchell)



Middle School Honors Choir - Left to right: Mrs. Julia Edwards, Bella Hartman, Scarlett Quimi, Wyatt Scribner (not pictured: Liam Whitney)



High School Treble Honors Choir - Left to right: Ayla Dyer, Irelyn Smith, Aurora Holden, Olivia Snowman

POLAND, ME -- On Saturday, January 27th, RSU 16 musicians from WMS and PRHS gathered with other select students from around the region to participate in the Maine Music Educators Association (MMEA) District

II Honors Vocal Festival. Due to Friday's inclement weather and hazardous road conditions, the would-be two-day festival was shortened to just Saturday. The RSU 16 students who participated showed up and demonstrated great lead-

ership and preparedness amidst their ensembles and represented our district well! Our students continued the RSU 16 reputation of being humble, hard-working, kind, respectful, prepared, and classy. Students who participated sang songs from differ-

ent eras and various parts of the world, and the day culminated in a successful concert before a full audience at the Windham Performing Arts Center.

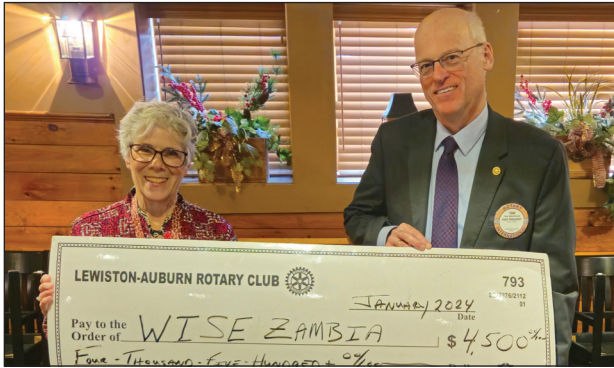
The Whittier students who were selected to the Middle School Chorus were Bella Hartman (8),

Scarlett Quimi (8), Wyatt Scribner (8), and Liam Whitney (7). The PRHS students selected to the Treble Chorus (grades 9 & 11 upper voices) were Ayla Dyer (11), Irelyn Smith (9), Olivia Snowman (9), and Aurora Holden (11). Students from PRHS selected to the Mixed Chorus

(grades 9-12 lower voices and grades 10 & 12 upper voices) were Emma Daigneault (12), Faith Bustamante (10), Audrey Fryda (12), Cheyenne Toth (12), Max Benton (10), Jack Desrosiers (11), Jason Garneau (11), Andrew Mitchell (9), and Cayden Michaud (10).

L-A Rotary supports WISE Program in Zambia

LEWISTON, AUBURN, ME -- Lewiston-Auburn Rotary Club Treasurer Tom MacDonald, at right, presents a check to club member Joanne Bollinger, board chair of WISE Zambia (Women's Initiatives that Strengthen and Empower). WISE supports empowerment and economic independence for vulnerable children and women in Zambia through edu-



Lewiston-Auburn Rotary Club Treasurer Tom MacDonald, at right, presents a check to club member Joanne Bollinger, board chair of WISE Zambia.

cational, economic, and agricultural initiatives. The nonprofit was born in Maine in 2004 as an outgrowth of a Habitat for Humanity project.

The \$4,500 in funds donated by the L-A Rotary Club and Rotary District 7790 will provide three young women graduates from the WISE high

school program the opportunity to pursue higher education in any field they choose whether business, nursing, teaching, trades and beyond.

WISE's education coordinator says, "In Zambia, girls have traditionally been expected to stay at home and become 'marriage materi-

al', they've been taught that challenging subjects are for boys, and they're lacking in role models." WISE challenges those assumptions by offering scholarships to girls and supporting them through their educational careers.

Bollinger made her first trip in 2013 to WISE
See Zambia, page 14

What do you think?

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



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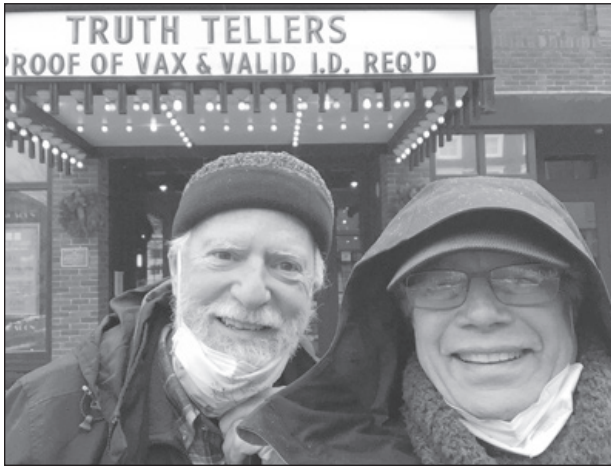
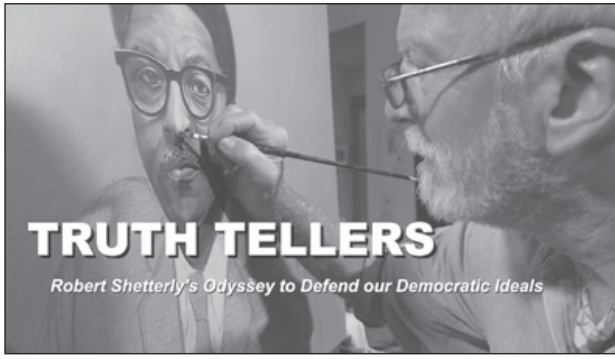


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Maine filmmaker's TRUTH TELLERS to broadcast nationally



The documentary film, TRUTH TELLERS (58min, 2002), by Maine filmmaker Richard Kane (www.kanelewis.com)

about Robert Shetterly's Americans Who Tell the Truth is now being distributed across the nation to nearly 300 PBS affiliates

by American Public Television and will be broadcast by the WORLD Channel on February 29 at 2pm. See the trailer: <https://vimeo.com/kanelewis/truth-tellers2024>

TRUTH TELLERS asks "what defines a great American?" Through Maine artist Robert Shetterly's 275 portraits of Americans - his "models of courageous citizenship"-

we learn about the fearlessness of those defending democracy, fighting for racial justice, indigenous rights, and the youth battling changing climate -- some of the most pressing issues of our time. These "Americans Who Tell the Truth" teach us about the moral courage it takes to protect our country's founding ideals. www.americanswhotellthetruth.org

Two other Mainers featured in the film are: Maulian Dana, Penobscot Nation Ambassador; and Sherri Mitchell, Indigenous rights attorney and author of Sacred Instructions, a collection of ancient indigenous wisdom.

Also featured in the film are current and historic, well known and lesser known courageous Americans including those fighting for racial justice: John Lewis; Fannie Lou Hamer; Bree Newsome; Zyahna Bryant; Reggie Harris; Bayard Rustin; Rev. Lennox Yearwood; Frederick Douglass; Rev. Lennox Yearwood; Sojourner Truth; and the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Environmentalists include: Bill McKibben; Kelsey Juliana; and Bill Bigelow.

Shetterly and the film have received accolades across the nation for

his project including these words from journalist and political commentator, Bill Moyers: "I am an ardent fan of Robert's work and of the man himself. He is the Diogenes of our time, searching for truth in the work of his subjects. He has become an invaluable chronicler of 21st century America. ... Congratulations with this important film."

The film will bring new and wider attention to the importance of speaking truth to power, to have the courage to build a society where all people are respected, where hatred is rejected, where embracing diversity is the source of our strength.

The film is fiscally sponsored by the Union of Maine Visual Artists, a not for profit educational organization. www.theumva.org

Scholarship opens for Maine students pursuing higher ed

CHERRYFIELD, ME—Maine Seacoast Mission is now accepting scholarship applications for the 2024-2025 academic year. Applications can be submitted until Friday, March 29. Mission Scholarships are open to graduating high school seniors, and adults who have completed the HiSET or GED, who live in Washington County, eastern Hancock County, or on a Maine outer island served by the Mission.

Since 1918, the Mission has awarded almost \$3 million to more than 3,500 students from Maine's outer islands and Downeast coastal communities. For the 2023-2024 academic year, 75 Mission Scholars received \$211,500 in scholarships. 72% of those Scholars attended a college in Maine and 46% of the Scholars attended a University of Maine campus or a Maine community college. Each year approximately 20 new scholarships are awarded.

In addition to offering financial support, the Mission provides guidance throughout each Scholar's transition to college and



Maine Seacoast Mission



Mission Scholar Sofie Dowling - Studying at Mount Desert Rock research station with the College of the Atlantic

during their academic career. Moira, a current Mission Scholar who graduated from Charles M. Sumner



Mission Scholar Taylor Wiberg - in the lab at Smith College

Learning Campus says the Mission staff "were always happy to chat with me if I had any questions, connect me with resources that might help my academic career, and show their support in little ways that mattered." Oliveri adds, "The Mission offer regular workshops for our Scholars once they enter college, on topics

ranging from time management to graduate school."

For more information on schools and to apply, visit <https://seacoastmission.org/downeast/scholarships>. For inquiries about Scholarships, email scholarships@seacoastmission.org or call (207) 814-8546.

Rooted in a history of compassionate service and mutual trust, Maine Seacoast Mission seeks to strengthen coastal and island communities by educating youth, supporting families, and promoting good health. For more information, please visit <https://www.seacoastmission.org/>

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

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- clean air & water
- environmental justice
- fully-funded public education
- just immigration laws
- an end to systemic racism, white supremacy & the extremist political agenda

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Connector Road between Gorham & Maine Turnpike announced

PORTLAND, ME - A specific location for a regional connector road between Exit 45 on the Maine Turnpike and the Gorham Bypass of Route 114, south of Gorham Village, was announced today by area municipalities in partnership with Maine Turnpike Authority (MTA) and Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT).

Fueled by direction from the Maine Legislature and joint municipal/agency agreements with Gorham, Scarborough, Westbrook,

South Portland, and MaineDOT, MTA has been working on plans for this connector for multiple years. The need for such a connection has been part of regional transportation conversations for over two decades. MTA has been meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection since 2014, with increased engagement since 2019 in preparation for the required environmental review.

Because toll revenue

will fully fund the connector's construction and ongoing maintenance, no taxpayer dollars will be required to make the road a reality.

In terms of mapping the specific alignment the road will take, MTA started with determining the two endpoints of the connector: Turnpike Exit 45 in South Portland at one end, and the junction of the Gorham Bypass with Route 114, south of Gorham Village, on the other end. The criteria used to determine the route in between heavily depended on

skirting as many environmentally sensitive areas as possible and avoiding negative effects on homes and businesses.

Area municipalities have long awaited this connector road and are helping to host and facilitate the public outreach program. Tom Hall, Scarborough Town Manager, indicated they will shortly be at the point where direct public feedback is desirable. A project website is immediately available for public access, showcasing a

background video, FAQs, project updates, and, most importantly, an easy-to-access format for the public to comment and ask questions 24/7.

The first public meeting for this project will take place in March in Gorham. The meeting will provide multiple opportunities to learn about the project, ask questions, and make comments. The meeting will be available virtually for those who cannot or do not choose to travel. More details on the public meeting will be

available several weeks prior to the meeting date.

Hall noted that over the past 18 months, meetings and conversations have taken place with landowners and with the municipalities and agencies that have signed multiple Memorandums of Understanding regarding the connector and other key transportation and environmental stakeholders. Hall added, "Many good early conversations have taken place, and we now look forward to broadening the dialogue."

Norway Savings Bank promotes eleven employees

NORWAY, ME---At Norway Savings Bank, we are proud of our organizational culture. It fosters the support to achieve great things for our customers, communities, and one another. We recognize the Bank as a place where each person's unique gifts and strengths shine through. Norway Savings Bank is pleased to announce the recent promotion of eleven employees:

Talley Estes, Assistant Vice President, Commercial Administration Team Lead, started her career at Norway Savings Bank in 1989. She has worked in the commercial department for her entire 35-year career at the Bank. Talley is known for her professionalism, high level of customer service, knowledge of HMDA, CRA, flood insurance and for her willingness and availability to support her team, all reasons she's been a recipient of the Team Player and Communication culture awards.

Beth Garza, Assistant Vice President, Loan Operations Servicing Assistant Manager, joined Norway Savings in 2015 as a Customer Service Representative in the Bank's Norway branch. Beth transitioned to the loan servicing team in 2017 and was promoted to Loan Operations Assistant Manager in 2021. Beth enjoys the technical aspects of loans servicing, solving

problems, and supporting loan operations team members and the Retail team. She is actively involved in various culture activities, projects and committees throughout the Bank. Beth is committed to continuing her education and leadership skills. She is a member of the NSB Leadership Lab and recently enrolled in the Business Management Banking program at Saint Joseph's College of Maine. Beth also serves as the President of the Board for Oxford SACC Childcare.

Jessica Lilly, Vice President, Applications Analyst III, started her career at NSB in 2007 as a teller in the Bank's Naples branch. While in the branch, Jess received several promotions, working her way from teller to Assistant Branch Manager. In 2016, Jess began working with the commercial team as a Credit Analyst I. Due to her strong organizational skills, sharp critical thinking skills and technical aptitude, she was selected as a key resource to help onboard a new origination platform for the commercial department and, in 2019, she was promoted to Sageworks Administrator, AVP. In 2022, Jess led the implementation of one of the Bank's most-complex systems and has won several awards during her tenure at the Bank.

Corey McEntyre, Assistant Vice President, Software Engineer III, joined the Bank in 2013 as Mainframe Operator in the IT department. His previous career as a system administrator and programmer helped him adapt quickly to the Bank's computing environment. Corey's attention to detail and knack for problem solving have supported him in automating the majority of the Bank's core system processing. Corey enjoys giving back to his community and can be found having lunch with students at a local elementary school each week.

Christine McMann, Vice President, Applications Analyst III, joined Norway Savings Bank in 2008 as a Core Application Analyst on the loan servicing team. Christine has since become the Bank's subject-matter expert for all core-related loan products. Christine is currently leading efforts to bring automation, efficiencies and training to the operations teams while continuing to develop her skills with the tools used to automate business processes. Her ability to analyze systems and processes, troubleshoot, and test are valuable strengths that her colleagues and vendors appreciate. Christine has received a number of accolades for her work, including the prestigious Employee of the Year Award.

Kerry Millett, Vice President, Facilities & Purchasing Manager, started his career at Norway Savings Bank in 2022 as Assistant Vice President, Facilities and Purchasing Manager. His extensive management background has allowed him to apply his skills and background to build strong relationships with fellow NSB employees and become a trusted colleague. Since joining the Bank, Kerry has successfully completed a number of certifications to aid in his role. Kerry has developed strong relationships with vendors who maintain and improve the Bank's facilities and is active in the Bank's ESG initiatives.

Duncan Mixer, Assistant Vice President, Commercial Lender, joined NSB in 2021 as a Commercial Portfolio Manager based at the Bank's Congress Street location. Immediately after joining Norway Savings, Duncan became an integral member of the Bank's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Forgiveness Support Team. He supports a number of commercial lenders on a daily basis and assists the indirect lending team in analyzing the financials of the dealers with which the Bank partners. Duncan has a degree in Finance and Business from the University of Maine, along with a risk and credit background in the banking industry. He also serves on the advisory council for New Ventures Maine.

Dylan Mooney, Vice President, Senior Investment & Treasury Officer, came to NSB in 2019 as the

VP, Asset Liability Management, Planning and Budgeting. Since joining the Bank, Dylan has become a trusted resource for his knowledge of the economy and investments while leading the Management Asset Liability Committee (ALCO) and supporting the daily treasury and liquidity management of the Bank. Dylan leads the Bank's budgeting process and maintains rolling forecasts throughout the year to ensure the Bank is staying on course. Dylan is a University of Maine at Orono graduate, and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance, a minor in Political Science, an M.B.A. in finance and an M.A. in Economics.

Jennifer Piper, Vice President, Compliance & Risk Officer, began her career at Norway Savings Bank in 2018 as a Compliance Specialist and was promoted to AVP, Compliance & Risk Officer by the end of 2019. During her time at Norway Savings Bank, Jenn has contributed her time and support to many internal initiatives and monitors the progress of many compliance regulations as they move through the regulatory process. Jenn has participated in the Bank's Manager Bootcamp program and enjoys volunteering with others from the Bank in the Oxford Hills Chamber of Commerce annual Christmas Parade.

Brian Siebert, Vice President, Commercial Loan Officer, joined Norway Savings Bank as a Commercial Credit Analyst in 2017. His

strong work ethic and positive "can-do" approach helped him earn a promotion to Commercial Portfolio Manager in 2019 and then to AVP, Commercial Lender of the Naples/Bridgton market in 2021. Over the years, Brian has led the charge in many department initiatives and has continued to develop and service many large complex relationships as he has grown into his role. He is very active in the community of Naples as an EMT and member of the board of directors for the Southern Maine Youth Hockey Association.

Shannon Smith, Assistant Vice President, CRM & Marketing Database Specialist, started her career in 2017 at Norway Savings as Customer Relations Representative at the Bank's Standish branch. In 2018, she was promoted to the CRM Administration in the marketing department where she was instrumental in implementing the Bank's Customer Relationship Program. Shannon participates on several Bank committees and task forces. In 2022, she graduated from the American Bankers Association (ABA) School of Bank Marketing & Management and earned the Certified Financial Marketing Professional (CFMP) designation. In 2023, Shannon became the CRM & Marketing Database Specialist, providing reports and analytics for all marketing campaigns and survey results. Shannon also serves as a board member for the school that her children attend.



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Calendar

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Feb 15

AUBURN -- Tween Craft Club 2/15 from 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM - Teen Space, Auburn Public Library

Tween Craft Club is a time to learn something new! Learn our craft of the month or bring your own project to work on. Crafters of any experience are welcome!

Feb 18

BRUNSWICK – FOCUS ON PALESTINE: A COMMUNITY EVENT with Fateh Azzam speaking on “Palestinians and (non) Citizenship” and including Palestinian Poetry, Live Middle Eastern & Palestinian Music, Debke Line Dancing, Debke Line Dancing and excerpts from the Gaza Monologues written in 2010 by Gaza teenagers and performed by Maine students. <https://www.uubrunswick.org/events/focus-on-palestine-a-community-event/>

Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick, One Middle Street, 2:00-4:30

Feb 20

AUBURN -- Healthy Relationships: SAPARS Drop In 2/20 from 2 PM - 3:30 PM - Teen Space, Auburn Public Library

February is healthy relationships month! SAPARS is stopping by the Teen Space for a drop in session for anyone looking for information on healthy relationships, consent, and resources that are available to you.

The Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Services serves Androscoggin, Franklin and Oxford counties by educating communities and supporting victims/survivors of rape, child sexual abuse and other forms of sexual violence. They work to prevent and eliminate sexual violence and rape and to promote healing and empowerment for everyone affected by all forms of sexual harassment.

Feb 20

AUBURN -- Button Making 2/20 from 3:30 PM

- 4:30 PM - Teen Space, Auburn Public Library

Hang out in the Teen Space and learn how to make your own buttons. Create your own designs and decorate your jacket, backpack, and more. Supplies and snacks included.

This program is a part of the Lewiston Public Library/Auburn Public Library Teen Mental Health & Support series. This series will run throughout 2024 and offer programs to help teenagers get information and resources on emotional and mental wellness, offer creative outlets for feelings and build community. These programs are run concurrently between LPL and APL with the same or similar community partners.

Feb 21

AUBURN -- Anime & Manga Club 2/7 and 2/21 from 4 PM - 5 PM - Teen Space, Auburn Public Library

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

Feb 21

AUBURN -- Dungeons & Dragons 2/21 from 3 PM - 5 PM - Teen Space, Auburn Public Library

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

Feb 22

AUBURN -- Tween Anime Club 2/22 from 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM - Teen Space, Auburn Public Library

Stop by the Teen Space to watch and talk about your favorite anime,

draw or color and enjoy snacks with your friends! Snacks included.

Feb 23

AUBURN -- Thinking in the Box: Let's Make Comics! 2/23 from 3 PM - 4 PM - Teen Space, Auburn Public Library

Have you ever wanted to make your own comic? If you're unsure what to write, not sure how to produce your comic or if you're interested in how comics are made, stop by the Teen Space and get some ideas!

Feb 24

BUXTON -- Try our delicious Haddock Supper Buffet - Saturday, February 24, 2024 - 5:00 pm at Living Waters Church, Parker Farm Road, Buxton. Suggested donation: \$10 Adult, \$5 Child, \$20 Family.

Please note: We will offer the option of takeout containers for those who do not want to come inside for seating. Wearing of face masks for those who wish is optional. Hand sanitizer is available for those who wish to use it.

Feb 24

GRAY -- First Congregational Church of Gray Saturday Night Church Supper, Saturday, February 24, 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

Feb 24

LISBON FALLS -- Dine In/Take Out Bean Supper Saturday, February 24th from 4:30pm - 5:30pm or SOLD OUT at Lisbon United Methodist Church, 14 School Street,

Lisbon Falls, ME Sponsored by the Methodist Women

Adults \$9.00; Menu: Pea Beans, Hot Dogs, Potato Salad, Cole Slaw, dinner roll and a slice of pie! FMI-Gwen Rioux 353-6814

Feb 27

AUBURN -- Teen Space Craft Club 2/13 and 2/27 from 4 PM - 5 PM - Teen Space, Auburn Public Library

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

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.

Mar 11

AUGUSTA -- Monday March 11 at 6:30 PM Denis Ledoux will present a program based on his new memoir French Boy / A 1950s Franco-American Childhood at the Augusta Public Library.

Mar 14

LISBON FALLS -- There will be a blood drive at the Lisbon United Methodist Church, 14 School Street, Lisbon Falls, Maine on Thursday, March 14th from noon to 4:30pm. To schedule an appointment call 1-800-RED-CROS and use sponsor code LISBON UMC

Mar 22

LEWISTON -- Fill the Plate Breakfast to benefit Meals on Wheels of SeniorsPlus 7 am - 9 am at Hilton Garden Inn Riverwatch, Auburn. Tickets: \$30 per person (\$35 at the door); available at www.seniorsplus.org

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seniorsplus.org or by calling 207 795-4010. Seats are limited. Advance registration encouraged.

A breakfast to benefit the Meals on Wheels program of SeniorsPlus, the Western Maine Agency on Aging, will feature a keynote by Maine humorist Gary Crocker and will honor Lewiston resident Lucy Bisson with the Ikaria Award for outstanding contributions toward improving the lives of older adults

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

Mar 26

LISBON FALLS -- Tuesday March 26 at 4 PM Denis Ledoux will present a program based on his new memoir French Boy / A 1950s Franco-American Childhood at the Lisbon Falls Public Library.

Apr 27

AUBURN -- Saturday April 27 at 11 AM Denis Ledoux will present a program based on his new memoir French Boy / A 1950s Franco-American Childhood for the Maine Franco-American Genealogy Society at the community room of the Auburn Public Library. Public invited.

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 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

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

Meals

Continued from page 1

lar and outstanding contributions toward improving the lives of older adults, to Bisson, a longtime SeniorsPlus volunteer and current Executive Director of the Lewiston/Auburn Senior College.

Ikaria is a Greek island in the Aegean Sea. It is considered one of the world's five “Blue Zones”—places where an estimated one in three members of the population regularly lives an active life into their 90s.

The Fill the Plate Breakfast is presented in conjunction with March for Meals, a national campaign of Meals on Wheels America.

Last year, SeniorsPlus delivered more than 170,000 meals to 1,800 homebound older adults and adults with disabilities in Androscoggin, Franklin and Oxford counties through its Meals on Wheels program. Each meal provides one-third of the recommended daily allowance of nutrition, a safety check, and a visit to these vulnerable adults. The majority of the clients of Meals on Wheels are lower income or on fixed income.

The overall program goal of SeniorsPlus is to assist older adults and adults with disabilities in our tri-county area to remain at home safely for as long as possible. The overwhelming majority of older adults

(greater than 95% in an AARP survey) wish to remain at home until they die. The Meals on Wheels program provides nourishment, socialization and regular safety checks.

Since 1972, SeniorsPlus has been improving the lives of older adults and adults with disabilities. As the designated Area Agency on Aging for Western Maine, SeniorsPlus provides statewide services with an emphasis on Androscoggin, Franklin and Oxford counties for core services (ie nutrition and information and assistance) that support independent living, healthy aging, and fight isolation. The mission of SeniorsPlus is to enrich the lives of older

people and adults with disabilities, their families and communities, and to support them to make informed choices. SeniorsPlus envisions a future where all older adults and individuals with disabilities are engaged and respected while living quality, independent lives in the communities of their choice. Annually, SeniorsPlus serves 8,000 individuals and fields 170,000 phone inquiries. SeniorsPlus offers a network of support, including information and assistance, short-term care management, Medicare counseling, caregiver support and respite, health and wellness education, benefits counseling, and Meals on Wheels and congregate dining.

Zambia

Continued from page 9

Zambia's headquarters in Kaoma. She visits almost every year and has taken several small teams and individuals from the US to Kaoma and environs. Her work in support of WISE Zambia takes her around the US, as she raises visibility, funds, and friends for the cause. “The growth of our flagship program in education under the guidance of local leadership in Kaoma has been nothing short of phenomenal. From supporting 28 high school students in 2014, we now have 630 students in more than 25 schools and over 90 in colleges and other

forms of tertiary education throughout Zambia,” notes Bollinger.

More information about WISE Zambia can be found on their website at wisezambia.org/. The Lewiston-Auburn Rotary Club has been serving this community since its founding in 1917. In addition to various volunteer activities, the club raises funds to support local service agencies and to provide yearly scholarships to graduating seniors from area high schools. The club meets every Thursday at noon at the Village Inn Restaurant in Auburn. lewistonauburnrotary.org/.

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