



TWIN CITY TIMES

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

FREE • Vol. XXV, No. 48

Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1999

Thursday, April 11, 2024 • FREE

“It gripped my life” Substance use disorder forum Apr. 22

LEWISTON, ME - “It Gripped My Life,” an informal conversation and panel discussion about substance use disorder, will be held on Mon., Apr. 22, from 5 PM – 6:30 PM in Callahan Hall at the Lewiston Public Library, 200 Lisbon Street. Hosted by the Lewiston Youth Advisory Council (LYAC), the event, with a subtitle of “drug use, a shortcut to nowhere,” is free to attend. “There’s more to stopping drug use than people may realize,” said LYAC member Fadumo

Ahmed. “Substances impact a person’s mind, brain, and decision-making, and we want to help create a community support system for those gripped by drugs.” “LYAC has been exploring the impulses and pressures of substance use disorder on a person’s life. We’ve also discovered that drug use, unfortunately, can be normalized in contrast to how serious it really is,” said LYAC Vice-Chair Saida Abdissamed. “Drug use is indeed happening more than peo-

LEWISTON ME

ple realize, both with some of our peers and their parents,” said Fadumo Hussein. Councilor Ryn Soule agrees, “It’s important for our community to understand that addiction is not just an adult issue; it’s affecting our youth.” “LYAC is also working to help alter the perceptions and stigma that sometimes surround those with substance use disorder,” said LYAC member

where he sought a change for himself,” said LYAC member Kaydence Gibson. Leclair’s story includes the lowest, darkest point in his life to when he experienced a new, healthier beginning. Participants on the event panel are: Abigail Reuscher, Lewiston High School Forensic Science teacher, speaking about the chemical impacts of drug use; Lisa Escobar, Lewiston High School Substance Use Counselor, speaking about drug use by young people; Stephanie Harmon, RN, speaking about overdoses and Narcan; Ryn Soule, Lewiston City Councilor, sharing a family perspective of having a son with substance use disorder; Amran Osman, Executive Director of Generational Noor, speaking about the stigma that often surrounds those with substance use disorder. During the event, there will also be interactive activities with attendees, and a Narcan presentation will occur.

Maine Center for Palliative Medicine achieves distinction

LEWISTON, ME – The Maine Center for Pal-

liative Medicine proudly announces it has achieved

distinction through the Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC) for the services of Palliative Medicine. This distinction is awarded through a process in which healthcare organizations demonstrate compliance with national standards. Distinctions by ACHC (Accreditation

Commission for Health Care) reflect an organization’s dedication and commitment to meeting standards that facilitate a higher level of performance and patient care. ACHC is a nonprofit organization that has stood as a symbol of quality and excellence since 1986. ACHC is ISO 9001:2015

certified and has CMS deeming authority for Home Health, Hospice, and DMEPOS. The Maine Center for Palliative Medicine works to reframe the language of illness and determine goals for care based on what matters most to you and your family. We’re here to support and guide you and

your loved ones in navigating the complex dynamics of serious illness. Through partnerships with patients, families, caregivers, and healthcare providers, we honor your lived experience. For more information, please visit Androscoggin.org or contact us at (207) 777-7740

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CMCC to build addition to Kirk Hall, expand healthcare programs

AUBURN, ME – Central Maine Community College (CMCC) has been awarded Congressionally Directed Spending funds to expand healthcare training programming by building and equipping a 7,200 square foot addition to Kirk Hall. The increased space and equipment would train an additional 100 nurses annually, add healthcare programming,

update science labs that are used for required courses in healthcare programs, improve the exercise science and physical fitness specialist programs, and enhance short-term workforce training programs in healthcare areas such as medical assistant, certified nurse assistant, basic life support certification, and phlebotomy. CMCC’s Healthcare Training Expansion proj-

ect will create opportunities to enroll more students in high-wage in-demand fields and help fill workforce shortages in healthcare. The College’s nursing education and healthcare/wellness training space is at full capacity. The additional space will allow the College to enroll more students and create new healthcare programming to help fill the State’s workforce shortages.

“Having the ability to grow healthcare programs will make it possible for more Mainers to enroll and benefit. Healthcare jobs are in high demand, high wage jobs where earners contribute to Maine’s economy. CMCC has a long history of educating students who stay in Maine and this project will increase those numbers,” said Dr. Betsy Libby, President of Central Maine Community College.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

McDonald's, Maine Celtics raise \$558K with Round-Up for RMHC

PORTLAND, ME – New England McDonald's have launched a multi-year partnership with the Maine Celtics, the NBA G League Affiliate of the Boston Celtics. As an official partner, New England McDonald's fans will gain access to exclusive game day app deals, giveaways and more.

On March 22, the Maine Celtics joined local Maine McDonald's Owner Operators at the Ronald McDonald House in Portland to celebrate an exciting milestone reached thanks to the help of the community. Since "Round-Up for RMHC" started almost

five years ago, Maine McDonald's Owner Operators have raised \$558,592.30, with help from the community "rounding up" their purchases.

"This partnership is a slam dunk for McDonald's and basketball fans across the state," said local Maine McDonald's Operator Ron Lydick. "By bringing together two legacy brands, fans will have the chance to score big on our iconic menu items through the McDonald's app. With McDonald's and the C's on the court together, everyone wins."

The partnership includes opportunities for



From left to right: Maine Celtics entertainment team members Morgan Eustis, Sammy Falk, Maine Celtics player DJ Steward, RMHC Development Director Ian Tovell, Maine McDonald's Owner Operator James Nygren, McDonald's Operations Manager Kim Young and Maine McDonald's Owner Operator Ron Lydick.

fans to cash in on exclusive digital offers through the McDonald's app, including the chance to redeem a free Big Mac with \$2 purchase when the opponent misses a free throw. Fans may also catch glimpses of familiar Celtics faces in Maine McDonald's restaurants throughout the season.

"We are thrilled to continue our partnership with McDonald's here in Maine," said Maine Celtics Team President Dajuan Eubanks. "The local franchise owners are a part of the fabric of our community, and the McDonald's brand has been intertwined with the NBA for years. This

partnership makes sense for us on every level."

The collaboration also emphasizes McDonald's and the Celtics' shared commitment to supporting local communities through collaborative giveback initiatives. The Celtics will support McDonald's initiatives benefiting Ronald McDonald House Charities of Maine – including Round-Up for RMHC – through player and mascot appearances.

Fans can learn more about the partnership and upcoming digital deals via Instagram, Facebook and TikTok @McDonaldsNewEngland.

Sierra Club, Tribes host film screenings

BRUNSWICK, ME -- Sierra Club Maine in partnership with the Nez Perce tribe of Idaho, Wabanaki Alliance, and the Penobscot Indian Nation will be hosting two screenings of the film Covenant of the Salmon People—one in Brunswick on April 17, and one in Bangor on April 18. Doors open at 6pm.

The evening will include a screening of the film followed by a panel discussion focusing on restoration efforts of wild salmon populations, particularly the recovery of

Atlantic Salmon here in Maine. Chairman Shannon Wheeler of the Nez Perce tribe will be in attendance for both screenings.

In addition to the Nez Perce, Wabanaki Alliance and Penobscot Indian Nation, panelists will include the Atlantic Salmon Federation, Downeast Salmon Federation, and the Natural Resources Council of Maine.

Covenant of the Salmon People is a 60-minute documentary portrait of the Nez Perce tribe as they continue to carry out their ancient



promise to protect Chinook salmon, cornerstone species and first food their

people have subsisted on for tens of thousands of years. The covenant with salmon is woven into their culture, history, and now their modern-day species restoration efforts.

The Nez Perce people are the oldest documented civilization in North America, with archaeological sites along Idaho's Salmon River dating back 16,500 years.

The Atlantic salmon, dubbed the 'king of fish', once numbered in the hundreds of thousands in the United States and ranged up and down most

of New England's coastal rivers and ocean waters. But dams, pollution and overfishing have extirpated them from all of the region's rivers except in Maine.

Today, only around 1,000 wild salmon, known as the Gulf of Maine distinct population segment, return each year from their swim to Greenland. Numerous organizations and institutions have been working tirelessly for many years to bring our rivers back to life and to return Atlantic salmon home to Maine in historic

numbers. From the precedent-setting removal of the Edwards Dam in Augusta in 1999 to scores of smaller dam removal and habitat restoration projects, these dedicated individuals and organizations are champions of this effort.

These film screenings are sponsored by the partner organizations and the Maine Community Foundation and Bangor Savings Bank. For tickets and information please visit sierraclub.org/maine/ events.

UMaine Extension 4-H offers online club on farm animal care

MAINE -- University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H will offer an online club for youth ages 9-18 about the basics of farm animal care on Wednesdays, 4 - 5 p.m., April 24 - May 8, 2024.

The 4-H Farm Animal Care FUNDamentals Workshop Series will introduce the basics of caring for livestock. In

this workshop, youth will learn how to care for farm animals, what to feed them, how to do regular health checks and more. Participants do not need to have any prior animal experience or currently own livestock. This is a beginner/introductory level program. An optional in-person field day with hands-on animal science is scheduled for Saturday,

May 4th. The workshop is free; participation is limited to 15. Required registration closes April 8. Register on the event webpage to receive the link and at-home materials.

For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact 207.581.8206; sarah.sparks@maine.edu.



Youth from across Maine join an online session last summer with Extension Professor and Livestock Specialist Colt Knight to learn all about pigs. Photo courtesy University of Maine Cooperative Extension.




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Dirigo Technology acquires EntrePro Services

MAINE -- Dirigo Technology, a fast-growing Managed IT Services company in Maine, is excited to announce the acquisition of EntrePro Services, a fellow Maine-based Managed IT Services company. The acquisition, which was finalized in March of 2024, will allow Dirigo Technology to expand its reach and provide a broader range of services to clients throughout Maine.

Dirigo Technology, founded by Nick Knowlton, has built a reputation for delivering top-notch IT consulting and support to businesses and non-profit organizations. The company's commitment to customer satisfaction and delivering a personalized approach has made it a trusted partner for businesses & nonprofit organizations.

EntrePro Services, owned by Michael Pratt, has also been a key player in the Maine IT Services market for the past



10 years. The company has a strong track record of delivering innovative solutions and exceptional service to its clients.

"I am thrilled to welcome Mike and the EntrePro clients to the Dirigo Technology family," said Nick Knowlton, owner of Dirigo Technology. "Mike brings a wealth of experience to our rapidly growing client base helping us continue to deliver the best possible service to our clients."

Michael Pratt, owner of EntrePro Services, added, "I am excited to join forces with Dirigo

Technology. Their unique approach and commitment to client satisfaction aligns perfectly with my values, and we are confident that this partnership will enable us to provide even greater value to our collective clients."

The acquisition of EntrePro Services by Dirigo Technology is a significant milestone for both companies and a testament to their shared commitment to providing top-quality IT services and support to businesses in Maine. The combined expertise and resources of the two companies will enable them to



Michael Pratt and Nick Knowlton

deliver even more value to their clients and help them achieve their business goals. For more information, please contact: info@dirigotechnology.com

Health Affiliates Maine welcomes Bryan Kahn

AUBURN, ME -- Health Affiliates Maine is proud to announce the addition of Bryan Kahn as the Director of Business Management. Bryan brings with him over 12 years of experience in healthcare management, as well as over 16 years in financial management.

In his new role, Bryan will be responsible for overseeing Health Affiliates Maine's business operations, including financial management, strategic planning, and business development. He will work closely with other members of the leadership team to ensure that the organization's mission and goals are achieved.

"I was immediately drawn to Health Affiliates Maine's mission to increase access to mental health and substance use services for underserved, rural, vulnerable patient populations in Maine,"



Bryan Kahn, Director of Business Management at Health Affiliates Maine

said Bryan. "I look forward to helping the organization achieve new levels of success and innovation moving forward."

Prior to joining Health Affiliates Maine, Bryan served in various leadership positions at

Health Affiliates Maine. He most recently served as Senior Consultant at Healthscape Advisors in Boston, MA. He holds a Bachelor's

Degree in Economics and Business, as well as a Master's Degree in Health Sector Management.

"We are excited to have Bryan on board,"

said Andrea Conley, Executive Director of Health Affiliates Maine. "His experience and expertise in healthcare management will be in-

valuable in advancing our mission of providing high-quality mental health and substance use services to Maine communities."

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Seniors Not Acting Their Age

Traversing the Renowned Traveler Loop



A hiker ascends along treacherous cliffs on North Traveler Mountain



A team of mountaineers assemble at the North Traveler summit



The cliffs on North Traveler provide a scenic location for lunch

On the second day of our recent winter expedition into Baxter State Park, six of us awoke early in the bunkhouse at South Branch Pond Campground. The goal for the day was an attempt to climb North Traveler Mountain. If conditions and time permitted, some intended to complete the famed Traveler Loop. Coping with an arthritic knee, I would consider myself fortunate to summit North Traveler. The long trek over three peaks was an objective too far for me.

The Traveler Loop is a prized winter goal for many mountaineers. Traveling clockwise, it consists of three peaks: North Traveler, Traveler, and Peak of

the Ridges. All over 3,000 feet in elevation, the allure is not just the altitudes but rather their remote location, difficulty of access, and majestic beauty. At 3,541 feet, Traveler is the highest in the range, most distant, and rarely climbed in winter.

An attempt to complete the loop during a winter expedition last year was thwarted by deep snow and stormy weather. During our ski into the hut the previous day, departing members of the team who preceded us said the trail was broken and they had completed the loop. So we were optimistic about the possibilities.

We finished breakfast

before first light. When the sun rose, the crew was delighted and surprised to have partly sunny skies, light winds, and temperatures in the 30s.

The snow accumulation was thin and hard packed in the campground and at the trailhead. Recent storms had brought unusually heavy rainfall to the area. After some deliberation, we decided to forego carrying snowshoes. Instead, we chose to wear micro spikes.

The North Traveler Trail begins a short distance east of the cabin. Intently focused, six of us started our quest hiking on patchy ice and snow in a mixed hardwood and conifer forest.

The trail quickly steepens and soon transitions to a narrow twisting precipitous path.

Initially, micro spikes were effective on the predominantly icy surface. However, extended sections of barren rocks and boulders necessitated removing them. Subsequently, we scrambled over a continuum of treacherous ledges wearing bare boots while experiencing trail conditions that varied between exposed rock, ice, and hard packed snow. On a positive note, the open cliffs and rocky crags provided marvelous views of South Branch Pond, Peak of the Ridges, and the Katahdin Massif in the distance.

The imposing exposed ridge is interrupted by a seemingly magical white birch forest soon followed by a dense stand of conifers. Modest snowpack had accumulated in both. Had we carried snowshoes, they would have been temporarily beneficial negotiating through the two wooded areas. Instead, we endured sporadic post holing.

Just beyond, we arrived at the barren, snow-free, rounded summit where a spectacular 360 degree panorama was our reward. A view of promi-

nent Bald Mountain to the east was particularly intriguing. A possible future bushwhack was discussed.

The anticipated deliberations about completing the remainder of Traveler Loop ensued. Adequate time remained, so Bruce Weik and Shawn Higgins decided to continue while the rest of the group chose to return with me and my elderly affliction.

During a leisurely descent in remarkable spring-like conditions, we took the time to enjoy the wonderful vistas and lunch on the cliffs. At one prominence, we were able to get an updated weather forecast. The news wasn't encouraging. One more day of excellent weather followed by three days of rain, mixed precipitation, and possibly snow was the prediction.

Bruce and Shawn had a successful trek on the rest of the loop. They experienced magnificent views and only minor difficulties with trail finding on Traveler and Peak of the Ridges. The determined mountaineering duo lost the trail descending from Peak of the Ridges and bushwhacked down the sparsely wooded ridge to Pogy Notch Trail on South Branch Pond.

While partaking of a delicious meal that eve-

ning, plans were formulated for the following day. If the forecast held, a climb of spectacular Barrel Ridge was the choice. The temperatures were unusually warm so some decided to sleep outside.

My book, *Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine* relates the challenges encountered on an earlier winter traverse of the Traveler Loop and winter expeditions to Mount Katahdin and the high peaks in the northwestern part of the park.

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

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

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Don't miss the 22nd annual Plunkett Maine Poetry Festival

AUGUSTA, ME—The Plunkett Maine Poetry Festival, an annual celebration of emerging and established poets and poetry, will be held on Saturday, April 27th at the UMA Augusta Campus in Jewett Hall at 46 University Drive, and Online. This year's keynote speaker is Brian Turner, poet, musician, professor, and US Army veteran who served in Bosnia-Herzegovina with the 10th Mountain Division, and later as an infantry team leader for a year in Iraq with the 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. Best known for his poems about serving in the Iraq war, Turner has authored five collections of poetry including the critically acclaimed *Here, Bullet* and his newest *The Wild Delight of Wild Things*. His poems and essays have been published in National Geographic, the New York

Times, and The Guardian, just to name a few. Roxana Robinson of The Washington Post proclaims, "Turner is...a poet, and he cannot help but see the world, even the world of combat, in terms of beauty, fragility and heartbreaking splendor.... [His] eloquent rendering illuminates both the shared space and the painful divide between poet and soldier, mission and memory, war and peace."

Festival Activities:
Two free workshops will be offered concurrently from 1:00-2:30 pm in Jewett Hall. Attendees may choose "Phantom Noise: Entering the Sound Archive" with Julia Bouwsma or "Poetry of Transmutation" with Claire Millikin. Each session is limited to 16 participants. Both workshops are free of charge but do require pre-registration. Visit uma.edu/plunkett for more de-



Brian Turner, Poet. Keynote speaker at the 22nd Annual Plunkett Maine Poetry Festival at the University of Maine at Augusta. Image Source: Agent website - <https://blueflowerarts.com/artist/brian-turner/> with permission of Miyako Hannan-Scarponi, Speakers Representative, miyako@blueflowerarts.com

tails about each or to register.

A panel discussion on Publishing will be held from 2:45-3:45 pm in the Farber Forum, in Jewett Hall, and live streamed. All the panelists are from small, independent, Maine-based presses and publications. Panelists include: Steve Luttrell of *Café Review: International Journal of Art and Poetry*, Maya Stein of *Kerning Journal and Toad Hall Edition*, and Agnes Bushell of *Littoral Books*. Full details about the presenters can be found at uma.edu/plunkett.

Preceding the Keynote Event, enjoy or join in the Readings and Open Mic, a festival favorite, from 4:00-4:30 pm in Jewett Hall's Danforth Gallery. Light refreshments will be provided. Then, across the hall in the Farber Forum and via live stream, from 4:30-6:00 pm is the Key-

note Event. There will be music performed by UMA jazz students, a welcome from President Cushman, and John McLaughlin will introduce this year's student poetry contest winners. Poet Brian Turner will then take the stage and present the keynote address, after which will be a time for questions and answers.

The day's events conclude with a reception in the Danforth Gallery from 6:00-7:00 pm. Hors D'oeuvres will be served.

The festival is free and open to all. Reservations are encouraged for the keynote address and required for the workshops to ensure adequate seating is available. All events are held in UMA's Jewett Hall at 46 University Drive in Augusta and will also be available online. For updates, more details, and to register, please visit uma.edu/plunkett.

UMA's Concert Week offers something for everyone

AUGUSTA, ME – The music department at the University of Maine at Augusta is proud to announce a week-long concert event Tuesday, April 16 through Friday, April 19. There will be vocal performances, chamber music, rock and jazz, and even steel drums! All concerts will be presented free of charge and begin at 7:00 pm. Tuesday through Thursday's performances will be in Jewett Hall on UMA's Augusta campus at 46 University Dr., Augusta, ME, as well as live-streamed on our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/UMaineAugusta>. Friday's Junior and Senior concert will also begin at 7:00 pm and can be enjoyed only on YouTube.

Ensembles kick off Concert Week on Tuesday, April 16th playing "a wide variety of music utilizing rock-band instrumentation while exploring more sophisticated melodic, rhythmic, and harmonic territories," according to Scott Hughes, a member of UMA's Artist Faculty, and an in-demand performer and instructor in his own right. Directed by Duane Edwards, Juice Joint will be playing selections by Louis and Lillian Armstrong, Thelonius Monk, and Joao Gilberto; and The Peepers, will perform songs popularized by Ella Fitzgerald, Dr. John, and Miles Davis. Uniquely, The Gatsby-Zuckerberg Society Band, an online collaboration of musicians who learned to adapt jazz

performance techniques for digital age performance, will present two early 20th century compositions by Oscar Pettiford and Hoagy Carmichael.

If you've been longing for a tropical getaway, Wednesday the 17th is for you! Vintage Steel, the Community Steel Drum Band of the University of Maine at Augusta, is comprised of UMA students and Central Maine community members. Under the direction of Christine Letcher, Assistant Professor of Music, Vintage Steel plays a wide variety of musical genres from Caribbean to Classical. The group frequently performs in the community for fundraisers and private parties.

On Thursday the

18th UMA's a cappella vocal ensemble, Envolv, takes the stage with a selection of popular songs. Our instrumental Chamber Ensembles, comprised of different combinations of trios and quartets, will perform common practice classical era works such as pieces by Handel and Mozart, two compositions by Joseph Haydn and his less well-known brother, Michael Haydn, as well as some contemporary classical pieces. Linda Theriault, Artist Faculty member and accomplished violist and violinist says, "Playing chamber music, at its core, feels like conversing with friends; this group would like to share that conversation with you."

Finishing out the week, on Friday the 19th is the Junior and Senior Concert. Performers are selected through successful completion of a jury process. Performances will be pre-recorded and available

to watch on UMA's youtube channel <https://www.youtube.com/UMaineAugusta>. Join us in celebrating these student's accomplishments.

All Concert Week performances, in person and

online, are free and open to the public. For more information about any of these concerts, Vintage Steel, or UMA's music programs, please email christine.letcher@maine.edu.

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Arts & Entertainment

PRHS Chorus participates in UMaine S.C.O.R.E.

On Wednesday, March 13, 2024, a small group of PRHS chorus members joined high school singers from across the state of Maine to participate in the first annual UMaine Secondary Choral Outreach Experience (S.C.O.R.E.) event hosted by University's School of Performing Arts (SPA). With the help of a grant, the SPA was able to provide the music, tshirts, lunch, and participation at no cost to the participating schools, and choral education professor Dr. Rebecca DeWan programmed a concert filled with celebration primarily on the issue of mental health awareness.

The featured major

work for mass choir was Aron Accurso's *You Are Enough: A Mental Health Suite* in three movements: I: *Inside the Storm*, II: *A Thought Storm*, and III: *You Are Enough* (text by Rachel Griffin). This piece gave students the opportunity to sing a major work and join about 100 voices in concert. It was incredibly timely and meaningful to our students, who were well prepared and sang it beautifully.

To fill out the program, Dr. DeWan requested that participating schools shared their own song in line with the theme of the concert. PRHS students decided to share Andrea Ramsey's "I Lift My Voice" from The




Back (L to R): Kayla Massey, Jack Desrosiers, Mrs. Julia Edwards Front (L to R): Brady Milton, Cheyenne Toth, Ayla Dyer, Olivia Snowman, Audrey Fryda, Max Benton, Sienna Toth

Justice Choir Songbook, in response to the horrific events in Lewiston

in October 2023. Their performance followed a powerful offering from Lewiston High School's Chamber Choir, who sang Kurt Bestor's "Prayer of the Children." Students wept as they sang to each other and offered heartfelt messages through music.

In addition to PRHS and Lewiston HS, participating schools included Sumner Memorial HS (Sullivan, ME), Oxford Hills Comprehensive HS, Houlton HS, Mattanawcook Academy (Lincoln, ME), and Washburn District HS. PRHS singers were Max Benton, Jack Desrosiers, Ayla Dyer, Audrey Fryda, Kayla Massey, Brady Milton, Irelyn Smith, Olivia Snowman, Cheyenne Toth, and Sienna Toth.



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Fri-Sat, April 5 & 6 at 7:30 pm
Sun, April 7 at 2:00 pm

Thu-Fri, April 11 & 12 at 7:30 pm
Sat-Sun, April 13 & 14 at 2:00 pm



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Sen. Collins visits Maine Medical Center

PORTLAND, ME – U.S. Senator Susan Collins toured the new Malone Family Tower at Maine Medical Center in Portland. In 2022, Senator Collins secured \$3 million in Congressionally Directed Spending for Maine Medical Center to modernize its cardiac operating unit within the new building. Senator Collins also met with hospital leadership to discuss the mental health crisis in Maine and MaineHealth’s efforts to serve patients in need.

Senator Collins was joined by MaineHealth Chief Executive Officer Dr. Andy Mueller, as well as Maine Medical Center’s

Chief Medical Officer Dr. Joel Botler, Chief Operating Officer Jennifer McCarthy, and MaineHealth Chief Government Affairs Officer Katie Fullam Harris.

“These investments are helping to ensure Mainers have access to state-of-the-art medical facilities and technology, ultimately improving health outcomes for individuals across the state,” said Senator Collins. “As Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I remain committed to securing funding that supports vital resources for health care institutions throughout Maine.”



“MaineHealth greatly appreciates Senator Collins’ support of Maine Medical Center’s expansion and modernization project and numerous other initiatives that support our vision of working together so our communities are the healthiest in America,” Dr. Mueller said. “The Malone Family Tower will enhance our care team’s ability to provide the highest quality cardiac and cardiovascular care, improve access to our services and create a more comfortable environment for our patients. This cutting-edge medical building will be a wonderful place both to receive and provide care, and we look forward to opening it for our patients this summer.”

Since 2022, Senator Collins has secured more than \$13.3 million in Congressionally Directed Spending to expand and improve MaineHealth’s operations. This includes \$8.75 million for three MaineHealth projects she secured through the Fiscal Year 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations bill that was signed into law on March 23.

In 2021, Congress reinstated Congressionally Directed Spending. Following this decision, Senator Collins has secured more than \$1 billion for hundreds of Maine projects for FY2022, FY2023, and FY2024.

UMA awarded Gold Status as Top Military Friendly School

AUGUSTA, ME – Military Friendly® has just announced the official list of schools that have earned the 2024-2025 Military Friendly® Schools awards level designations, and our gold level status indicates University of Maine at Augusta (UMA) is one of the very best.

Jennifer Cushman, UMA President, shared her delight at the news, “University of Maine at Augusta is honored to be recognized as a military

friendly school. Our historic mission to meet all populations of students where they are, to get them where they want to be, is achieved through providing workforce training for today’s economy, in multiple locations and modes, and cultivating bachelor’s and master’s level essential skills for tomorrow’s economy, like problem solving and communication. Active duty personnel and veterans are an important population in this context.



Our veterans center in particular provides a space for reflection and support from staff who understand their unique challenges, and we are proud of our attention to those who serve or have served in the military.”

Since its founding in 1965 when a simple

“Welcome Veterans” sign encouraged Vietnam-era Veterans to enroll, UMA has continued a rich tradition of supporting military-experienced students. Vice President of Enrollment Management, Jonathan Henry, stated, “UMA is proud to again be recognized for our continued support of veterans and our strength in delivering quality higher education that is both accessible and affordable.”

Institutions earning the Military Friendly® Schools Awards designation were evaluated using public data sources and responses from a proprietary survey. Over 1,800 schools participated in the 2024-2025 survey, 537 schools earned awards level designations in Gold, Silver, and Bronze. UMA was one of just 243 schools chosen for “Gold” award status for their leading practices, outcomes, and effective programs.

“We are very pleased to receive this recognition from Military Friendly Schools again this year,” proclaimed Amy Line, UMA Director of Military

and Veterans’ Services. “UMA’s commitment to educating and providing opportunities to our military, veterans, and families continues to be a priority and it shows!”

The 2024-2025 Military Friendly® Schools list will be published in G.I. Jobs magazine’s May issue and found at www.militaryfriendly.com.

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

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New L/A Working Fields office opens for jobseekers, employers

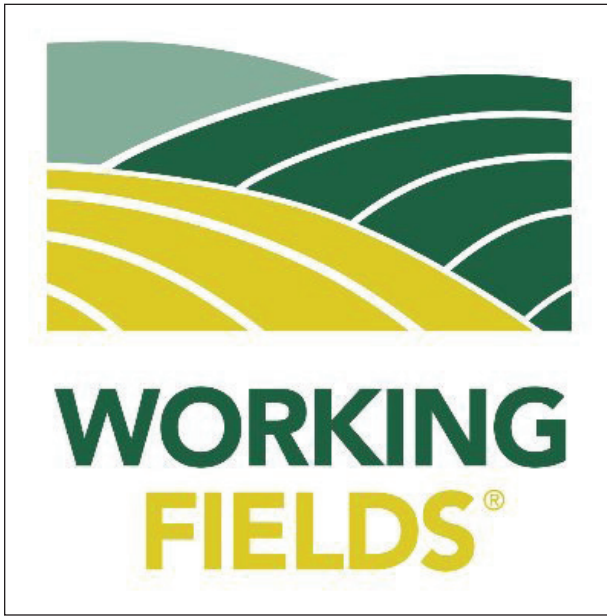
SOUTH BURLINGTON, VT -- Working Fields, a mission-based staffing agency headquartered in Vermont with a unique peer support model, announces the opening of its first Maine regional office to better serve jobseekers and employers throughout the state and seacoast region.

The first Working Fields regional office in Maine is located at 95 Main Street, Auburn, ME. This location offers an open-door policy Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

“Working Fields’

history of serving employers in need of a qualified workforce while simultaneously providing workforce counseling and peer support to residents has proven highly impactful in other states.” Glen E. Holmes, Director of Business & Community Development, City of Auburn, said. “They will be a welcome addition to the Auburn business community.”

In addition to the Lewiston - Auburn, ME office, Working Fields welcomes two new employees to help connect job seekers and employers through direct service



and develop employer and partner relationships. Jagos Medenica was hired as the Busi-

ness Development Manager in February to support Working Fields’ efforts in Maine and New Hampshire. Medenica is an accomplished business development and people management executive who thrives in building relationships, working collaboratively, and developing teams. In his role, Medenica will grow relationships and more opportunities for fair chance employment throughout the two states.

“What drew me to Working Fields is its mission to help people rebuild their lives through employment and other

unique pathways for support,” Medenica said. “I am passionate about helping people, especially individuals who may face systemic barriers.”

Working Fields also welcomes Jenna Andrews to the Lewiston - Auburn team as an Account Manager. Andrews joins Working Fields with more than 17 years of experience in business management. She will support individuals as they re-enter the workforce through a person-first approach.

For more information, visit www.working-fields.com.

Normand Lamie appointed treasurer of MFGS Board

LEWISTON, ME - The Maine Franco-American Genealogical Society is pleased to announce that Normand Lamie was appointed MFGS Treasurer at its recent Board of Directors meeting. Lamie, a Lewiston resident, brings a wealth of knowledge and diverse experiences to help the Board meet its goals.

Lamie is an independent contractor and licensed Professional Engineer who also holds degrees in Business and Public Administration from the University of Maine.

He has served on the Board of Directors and as President of the Maine Water Utilities and the New England Water Works Association. His experience extends to numerous other related Boards and Commissions, and includes volunteering on the Boards of Directors of Maine MILL (formerly Museum LA), and of the Auburn Lewiston Rotary Club. His position as Treasurer for the Rotary adds to his extensive experience in financial management developing numerous professional

working relationships with various officials in the area.

Lamie has co-authored several publications including “The History of the Lewiston Canals”. He is also the recipient of numerous awards in his field notably the New England Water Works Association’s Jerome J. Healy Award. He was presented the Public Service Leadership Award by the Androscoggin Chamber of Commerce in 2010 and named a Paul Harris Fellow by the Auburn Lewiston Rotary Club in 2019.



Normand Lamie, new MFGS Treasurer

In his spare time, Lamie enjoys genealogy research and spending time with seven grandchildren.

MFGS welcomes Normand Lamie to its Board and looks forward to many years of mutual collaboration.

The Maine Franco-American Genealogical

Society is a non-profit, primarily self-help genealogical research library dedicated to help Americans of French-Canadian & Acadian ancestry discover their history. The MFGS library holds 3200 volumes which include a collection of marriage repertoires from all six New England

states as well as Canada, New York and Oregon. The library also includes digital files for researching Census information, Social Security Death Benefits information and Maine obituaries. Please visit www.mfgen.org for more information, including revised hours of operation.

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NSB donates \$3,000 to Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project

LEWISTON, ME- For over 30 years, the Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project (ILAP) has served as far more than just an organization that helps immigrants in Maine improve their legal status. It has fought for just and humane laws and policies affecting immigrants, offered compassion and respect to tens of thousands of immigrants from more than 150 countries, and stood as a beacon of hope for those seeking assistance and light.

It is a mission that has engendered over a decade of support from Norway Savings Bank, including a \$3,000 donation in March.

“Over the last 30 years, we’ve learned that change happens when the entire community comes together. The support of Norway Savings Bank and local businesses is critical to ILAP’s work advancing justice for Maine’s immigrants,” said Sue Roche, Executive Director of ILAP.

As Maine’s only statewide immigration le-

gal services organization, ILAP provides a full range of direct legal services that cover a range of humanitarian and family-based immigration issues. The organization also offers accessible information and educational materials on legal issues to immigrant communities and service providers from York to Aroostook counties.

“The work of ILAP is so impressive and meaningful. Their efforts to collaborate with groups committed to social justice in ensuring immigrants are

valued and treated justly in our society is crucial,” said Dan Walsh, President and CEO of Norway Savings. “They directly serve over 3,000 people each year and reach many more through their community initiatives. It’s overwhelming.”

ILAP operates full-time offices in Portland and Lewiston and have a regular presence across the state through its “Rural Maine Project.” From helping individuals find safety and economic security to keeping families

together, ILAP’s contributions to the greater good are impossible to estimate.

“ILAP is driven by the belief that when we all work to advance justice for immigrants, everyone benefits,” said Janice de Lima, VP, Community Reinvestment Act Officer at Norway Savings Bank. “They are helping thousands navigate a complex legal system today while reimagining and striving for a better immigration system tomorrow.”

“In many ways, immigrants represent the

economic future of our state,” said Roche. “This fact impacts businesses and communities across Maine, and we appreciate allies like Norway Savings that support immigrants, the essential services we provide to them, and the work we do to preserve dignity and achieve justice for them.”

There are many ways you can support ILAP’s mission. To learn more, visit

www.ilapmaine.org/donate or www.ilapmaine.org/volunteer.

Stephanie Kreamer joins Fontaine Family Team

MAINE -- Fontaine Family - The Real Estate Leader is proud to announce Stephanie Kreamer as the newest addition to their growing Auburn team. Stephanie brings to the team an impressive background in horticulture, customer service excellence, and medical cannabis business management, along with entrepreneurial spirit through her company Forest & Flowers.

A proud alumnus of Monmouth Academy, Stephanie has dedicated over a decade of her career to Gammon’s Garden Center, where her passion for horticulture flourished. Her journey at the garden center allowed her to immerse herself deeply in the world of plant care, cultivation techniques, and customer service, honing her skills with each passing season. Stephanie’s profound appreciation for the intricacies of different plant species and the artistry of nurturing them to thrive made her a standout member of the team.

Building on her solid

foundation in horticulture, Stephanie ventured into the rapidly evolving medical cannabis industry. For more than seven years, she has been at the forefront of managing various aspects of medical cannabis businesses. Her expertise in plant care and cultivation was pivotal in navigating the complex regulatory landscape of the medical cannabis sector, ensuring adherence to quality standards, and contributing to the industry’s growth and success.

In 2021, Stephanie embraced her entrepreneurial spirit by founding Forest & Flowers, a company specializing in custom decals, apparel, gifts, and more. This venture reflects her passion for creativity and her commitment to crafting and fulfilling orders, even as she continues to excel in her professional career.

Outside of her professional endeavors, Stephanie is deeply devoted to her family, including her eight-year-old son Cole, companion Ryan, and their dog

Charlie. She enjoys spending quality time with her loved ones, exploring the outdoors, and engaging in creative activities. Whether riding dirt bikes, walking local disc golf courses, or attending Cole’s sporting events, Stephanie’s life is driven by adventure, creativity, and a deep commitment to family.

Her extensive background in horticulture, customer service, and medical cannabis business management, along with her entrepreneurial achievements, make her an invaluable asset. Stephanie looks forward to delivering exceptional service and expertise to her clients. For real estate opportunities with Stephanie Kreamer, she can be contacted by phone at (207) 402-9467 or email Stephanie@fontaineteam.com

Fontaine Family – The Real Estate Leader is a highly skilled real estate team of licensed professionals dedicated to focusing on the client. Fontaine was awarded 2019 Maine Family-Owned Business of



the Year, voted Best Real Estate Company in the Greater Lewiston/Auburn Area and Greater Portland Area year after year, recognized by Real Trends as America’s Top 250 Real Estate Team and published in the Wall Street Journal in the Top 250 Real Estate Professionals ranking in

the top ½ of 1% of Realtors outperforming 99.9% of the nation’s Realtors.

The Fontaine Family Team serves 8 counties – Androscoggin, Cumberland, York, Sagadahoc, Oxford, Kennebec, Franklin and Somerset – in two locations, 336 Center Street in Auburn and 432

US Route One in Scarborough. For more information visit FontaineTeam.com, download their free home search mobile app “Fontaine Family Real Estate” or call (207)784-3800 or (207)289-3830.

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Little keepsakes: My little sunshine tote bags at LPL

LEWISTON, ME -- On Friday, May 3rd from 10:00am - 11:30am, the Lewiston Public Library Children’s Department will be offering the program Little Keepsakes: My Little Sunshine. Caregivers will be able to create a personalized keepsake tote bag using the handprints of their young children. The program is recommended for kids ages birth to 6 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.

The Lewiston Public

Library is located downtown at 200 Lisbon Street at the corner of Pine Street. More information is avail-

able by contacting the Lewiston Public Library at 513-3133 or LPLKids@lewistonmaine.gov.

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Riding To The Top named 2024 Maine Marathon beneficiary

WINDHAM, ME -- Bob Dunfey, the Volunteer Race Director for The Maine Marathon, Half Marathon and Relay, has announced that Riding to the Top is one of six beneficiaries of this year's event which will be held on Sunday, October 6, 2024. Riding to the Top will receive a \$10,500 donation from the event.

"Riding To The Top is thrilled to be one of this year's beneficiaries of the Maine Marathon. As a heavily volunteer-centric organization, we applaud the incredible volunteer

effort that goes into making this race happen," says Sarah Bronson, Executive Director. "For 31 years, RTT has been serving the greater Portland community, providing equine-assisted services to children and adults ranging in age from 3 to 90+, with a small paid staff supported by a phenomenal group of volunteers who assist with all aspects of our program. Funds received from the Maine Marathon will directly help the clients, horses and programs at Riding To The Top and we look forward to helping



RTT herd member, Paxton Abbey is excited about this year's Maine Marathon!

to make this year's Maine Marathon a success!"

Riding to the Top focuses on therapeutic horseback riding and equine-assisted services for children and adults with disabilities in Maine. By facilitating meaningful connections between people and horses, the organization aims to improve physical, emotional and social well-being, offering participants a unique and empowering therapeutic experience.

The Maine Marathon, www.MaineMarathon.com, organized by the Maine Track Club is a

volunteer driven, nonprofit event with proceeds going to local charities and since 1997, the race has raised over \$7 million to support a wide range of causes. Over 50 volunteer race coordinators plan the event during the year and about 900 volunteers deliver the event on race weekend.

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

MaineCF scholarships available to students pursuing business degrees

PORTLAND & ELLSWORTH — Applications are currently being accepted for the Maine Community Foundation's (MaineCF) Patriot Education Scholarship

Fund. This renewable scholarship supports graduates of Maine high schools who are enrolled part-time (minimum of nine credit hours) or full-

time in pursuit of a business degree and entering their freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior year at a Maine college or university. Preference is given to applicants

who have a demonstrated interest in personal and commercial insurance professions.

The application deadline is June 1. For more information or to

apply, visit www.mainecef.org/scholarships.

The Maine Community Foundation brings people and resources together to build a better Maine through strate-

gic giving, community leadership, personalized service, local expertise and strong investments. To learn more about the foundation, visit www.mainecef.org.

Volunteers aid in disaster recovery on multiple Maine islands

NORTHEAST HARBOR, ME—To assist in disaster recovery following January and March storms, Maine Seacoast Mission will hold two, multi-day volunteer service trips to unbridged, outer islands in March and April. The nonprofit will visit the islands of Frenchboro, Great Cranberry, and Little Cranberry. From April 12 to 14, volunteers from Sigma Kappa Sorority's Northeastern University chapter will travel to Matinicus aboard the organization's flagship 74-foot vessel, the Sunbeam, and the Beal & Bunker's mail boats, the Sea Queen or Double B.

Volunteers will assist islands in the clean-up of lands impacted by the January storms, as well as the most recent March storm, and subsequent flooding that affected most of Maine's coastline. Work will include clearing debris, moving items, and removing trash from shorelines, public ways, and



publicly used buildings. From March 19 to 21, 10 volunteers will travel to Frenchboro, Great Cranberry, and Little Cranberry. From April 12 to 14, volunteers from Sigma Kappa Sorority's Northeastern University chapter will travel to Matinicus.

Immediately following the January 10th and 13th storms, the Mission traveled to select islands aboard Sunbeam to assess how communities were faring. Some of the damage seen—which islanders still are contending with—include loss and/or damage to personal property, damage to community and business infrastructure, soil and coastline erosion, and ocean debris washed ashore. During the three-day venture, Mission staff



Mission staff speak with an island resident following the January storms



Mission staff and an Isle au Haut resident walk the Head Harbor debris field



Debris and soil erosion from January storms

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and a guest from nonprofit partner Island Institute collected 20 contractor bags of debris in addition to connecting with residents and business owners.

"The Mission has worked with Maine islands for going on 120 years. Following the storms, we wanted to

show our continued support and do whatever we could to help, like the Mission has always done," shares Mission President John Zavodny, "These

trips also provide an opportunity for volunteers to do something to help their island neighbors and learn more about these amazing communities."

As destructive storms continue to challenge island and coastal communities, the Mission will continue to work alongside island residents to understand how to best support them.

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://seacoastmission.org/>

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\$1.67M to upgrade wastewater infrastructure in Bath

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senator Angus King announced the City of Bath has been awarded \$1,673,000 through the bipartisan Fiscal Year 2024 Congressionally-Directed Spending (CDS) appropriations package to upgrade aging wastewater infrastructure on Commercial Street. The funding will be used to upgrade a 50-year old pump system under the Saga-

dahoc Bridge, replace the main sewer under Commercial Street at the waterfront and improve overall wastewater capacity.

The funding is part of the \$454 million — for 185 projects — that the entire Maine delegation secured for state projects in the Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations Package.

“Proper wastewater infrastructure is critical for keeping our communi-

ties healthy and safe,” said Senator King. “This investment in Bath’s wastewater infrastructure will ensure the city is meeting water quality and safety standards, as well as work to prevent potential health hazards. In addition to keeping the community safe, the upgrades will also help maintain the beautiful Kennebec River and waterfront for years to come.”

“We’re thankful for

Senator King’s support of Congressionally Directed Spending for the City’s Commercial Street force main and pump station,” said Bath City Manager Marc Meyers. “The City’s aging infrastructure presents health and safety risks, significant financial expenses to repair or replace, and potentially limits development opportunities. This funding will reduce the financial bur-

den on ratepayers and help Bath improve its sewer system for the betterment of our community.”

CDS funding is included in annual federal appropriations bipartisan legislation and provides a specific amount of discretionary funding to a state, locality, or nonprofit organization for projects with demonstrated civic and community value. Last year, Senator King se-

cured over \$250 million in Congressionally-Directed Spending for 140 Maine projects.

Senator King will begin accepting preliminary requests for FY25 Maine-based Congressionally-Directed Spending projects, pending updated FY25 guidance, in the upcoming weeks. Details on the FY25 CDS opportunity will be available on Senator King’s website.

\$119K for MaineHealth to secure mobile food pantry

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senator Angus King has announced that MaineHealth has been awarded \$119,000 through the bipartisan Fiscal Year 2024 Congressionally-Directed Spending (CDS) appropriations package to purchase a refrigerated van to support its medicine and food insecurity programs in the Portland area. A refrigerated van will allow MaineHealth to develop a Food-as-Medicine program to serve those with substance abuse disorders and other chronic diseases, as well as better support

the Food Pantry at Maine Medical Center (MMC).

The funding is part of the \$454 million — for 185 projects — that the entire Maine delegation secured for state projects in the Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations Package.

“Every Maine person deserves access to fresh and healthy foods; no one should ever have to go hungry,” said Senator King. “As the dedicated professionals at MaineHealth serve some of Portland’s most vulnerable residents, they know that food is medicine, and can

improve the quality of life for many. This refrigerated van would serve as a one-stop food shop, working to remove meal time barriers and cut down on food insecurity for those who need it most.”

“In less than a year, the MMC Food Pantry has become a critical community asset, and the mobile food vehicle funded by the congressional allocation will allow our programming to grow not only in terms of geographic reach but will intentionally connect us with those disparate populations who have

not benefitted from having nutritious food available to them,” said Barbara Ginley, Director of Community Health of Greater Portland. “This is one more step forward in holistically integrating food-as medicine offerings for those whose health is compromised by food insecurity. We are grateful to Sen. King for his advocacy to meet this important need.”

Senator King has been a vocal advocate for food security and the national nutrition waiver program. When COVID-19 closed schools at the begin-

ning of the pandemic, Senator King pushed to make sure students who rely on school nutrition programs could still access nutritious meals. Following the Senator’s push with the Maine delegation, the USDA announced the now-active nationwide waiver. Last spring, he introduced the bipartisan Support Kids Not Red Tape Act to extend the critical waiver program.

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state, locality, or nonprofit organization for projects with demonstrated civic and community value. Last year, Senator King secured over \$250 million in Congressionally-Directed Spending for 140 Maine projects.

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Maine Supreme Court: Sunday hunting prohibition constitutional

Letter submitted by Maine Woodland Owners

MAINE -- Maine Woodland Owners applauds the Maine Supreme Court decision today in the lawsuit challenging the Sunday hunting prohibition. The Law Court held that the right to hunt for food created by the “Right to Food” amendment does not extend to illegal hunting, and it upheld the Sunday hunting prohibition as

constitutional.

“This is a welcome decision and we are glad the Maine Supreme Court has now settled the issue of whether the Sunday hunting ban violates the “Right to Food” amendment. This decision is a victory for landowners, who deserve just one day a week to enjoy and share their land with the general public hunting-free,” said Tom Doak, Maine Wood-

land Owners’ Executive Director.

Together with the Maine Farm Bureau and the Maine Forest Products Council, Maine Woodland Owners filed an Amicus Brief with the Maine Supreme Court opposing the lawsuit warning of the dire consequences that would arise for Maine’s landowners, the public, and the state economy if the Sunday hunting ban were

struck down. The brief argued that eliminating the Sunday hunting ban would not advance the Right to Food in Maine as the proponents suggested, but rather, it would do just the opposite and would negatively impact other outdoor activities.

Maine private landowners voluntarily provide 90% of the land used by hunters, as well as by those who seek opportunities to walk, snowshoe, bird watch, and other activities. Over 14,000 miles of interconnected trails for snowmobiling are located on private land--all without benefit to the landowner. But, according to a 2022 survey commissioned by the Maine legislature, 44% of landowners who currently do not post their land would likely restrict access if Sunday hunting were allowed, putting public access for all these

recreational activities in jeopardy.

“The majority of landowners and the general public in all parts of the state strongly oppose Sunday hunting in any form,” states Doak. “Maintaining the prohibition on Sunday hunting is essential to preserving Maine’s unique system that balances private ownership of land with public access for hunting and other forms of outdoor recreation.”

“There is a wonderful tradition in Maine of woodland owners sharing their land with others. Maine has the greatest access for hunting than anywhere else in this country. More than 70 failed legislative attempts over the past 40 years have been made to eliminate the prohibition on Sunday hunting. This lawsuit was an end around and would have disrupted the important balance be-

tween hunters, the general public, and landowners,” said Doak.

In Maine, hunters are not required to get permission to hunt on someone else’s land. It is assumed they are allowed, unless the landowner has taken steps to inform the hunter, such as posting. In return, hunting is not allowed on Sunday, so landowners have one day a week to completely enjoy their own land.

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Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

Fridays through May 10
NORWAY -- Opening Minds through Art, Fridays April 5 - May 10, 2 pm – 3 pm at Education Center of SeniorsPlus at 9 Marston St., Norway. Through a series of classes, OMA engages adults with dementia in creating free-wheeling art. Contact SeniorsPlus, at 207-795-4010, edcenter@seniorsplus.org.

Apr 11-14
MAINE -- DaPonte String Quartet Concerts with guest Amanda Hardy. Oboe

Wednesday, 7 pm, April 10, Portland, Jewish Community Alliance

Thursday, 7 pm, April 11, Rockport, Union Hall

Friday, 7 pm, April 12, Freeport, Meeting-house Arts

Saturday, 4 pm, April 13, Farmington, Nordica Hall

Sunday, 4 pm, April 14, Boothbay, St. Columba's Episcopal Church

Program: Mozart Oboe Quartet KV 370; Dohnányi Serenade for String Trio, Op. 10; Britten Phantasy Quartet for oboe, violin, viola and cello

Apr 12-13
AUGUSTA -- Maine Homeschool Exchange April 12-13 at the Augusta Armory. Details: www.homeschoolersofmaine.com

HOME's annual convention returns for another year as the Maine Home-

school Exchange! Enjoy shopping for discounted curriculum, resources, and books, attending informative workshops, participating in fun-filled activities, and getting to know homeschooling families around the state of Maine!

Apr 14
LEWISTON -- Greater Androscoggin Humane Society will hold its PAUSE FOR PETS Craft & Vendor Fair SUNDAY, APRIL 14th at the LEWISTON MEMORIAL ARMORY from 10am to 3pm.

Apr 19-21, 25-28
BAR MILLS -- The Original's present A Murder is Announced by Agatha Christie at Saco River Theatre, 29 Salmon Falls Road, Bar Mills, ME, April 19, 20, 25, 26, 27 @ 7:30 PM; and April 21 & 28 at 2:30pm. Tickets: \$15 General Admission

at www.sacorivertheatre.org.

Apr 27
BUXTON -- Try our delicious Haddock Supper Buffet - Saturday, April 27, 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.

Apr 27
GRAY -- The First Congregational Church of Gray Saturday Night Church Supper held on Saturday, April 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

Apr 27
AUBURN -- Saturday April 27 at 11 AM De-

nis 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 3
LEWISTON -- Friday, May 3rd from 10:00am – 11:30am at the Lewiston Public Library: LITTLE KEEPSAKES: MY LITTLE SUNSHINE TOTE BAGS

Caregivers will be able to create a personalized keepsake tote bag using the handprints of their young children. The program is recommended for kids ages birth to 6 years and their caregivers. Siblings are also welcome to attend.

513-3133; www.LPLonline.org

May 4
WESTBROOK -- Prides Corner Community Church, 235 Pride

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

on Performing Arts Center, Topsham

Fridays June 14 – July 19
LEWISTON -- Opening Minds through Art, Fridays June 14 – July 19, 2 pm – 3 pm, Education Center of SeniorsPlus at 8 Falcon Road in Lewiston

Through a series of classes, OMA engages adults with dementia in creating free-wheeling art. Contact SeniorsPlus, at 207-795-4010, edcenter@seniorsplus.org.

Lewiston's Brush Pick-Up Assistance Week RESCHEDULED to Week of April 22

LEWISTON, ME -- Spring is coming and so is Lewiston's Brush Pick-Up Assistance Week. Curbside collection is for residential properties and ONLY wood/tree waste and brush. Brush must

be curbside by Sun., Apr. 21. Don't wait until you see a PW crew to place brush curbside -- it will be too late! For more details: <https://bit.ly/48W-dAuE>

During pick-up week only, residents may bring

one standard size pick-up truck load of brush (three yards) to the Solid Waste Facility, 420 River Rd, Lewiston, at no charge.

Also, Public Works encourages sanitization of pruning tools between tree cutting to prevent any

disease spread. One sanitation method is to pour a half cup of rubbing alcohol into a bowl or shallow dish. Dip pruning shears into the rubbing alcohol for one to two minutes, rinse, and dry with towel.

PAUSE FOR PETS

Craft & Vendor Fair



TO BENEFIT THE GREATER ANDROSCOGGIN HUMANE SOCIETY

Come shop with local crafters & vendors offering a wide variety of products and gift items!

Sunday April 14 10am -3pm



We will be collecting donations of cleaning supplies, pet food, litter and other items for the shelter.

Lewiston Memorial Armory 65 Central Ave, Lewiston

50/50 and RAFFLES on sale to benefit GAHS.

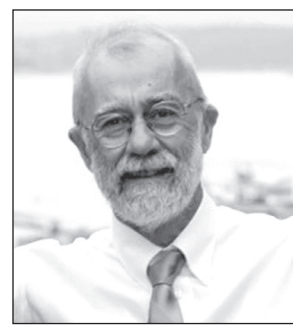
Denis Ledoux, Maine author, presents French Boy

MAINE -- The Maine Franco-American Genealogical Society (MFGS) is pleased to have well-known local author Denis Ledoux as its guest speaker at its spring general membership meeting on April 27th at 10:00 am in the Androscoggin Community Room of the Auburn Public Library, 49 Spring St., Auburn.

Ledoux's presentation will begin at approximately 11:00 am after a brief business meeting and light refreshments.

Admission is free and open to the public.

Ledoux's latest memoir, French Boy/ A 1950s Franco-American Childhood, was published this past fall and is the most recent in his publications of family stories. According to Ledoux, this memoir "explores what it means to grow up outside the dominant culture and language" and "is sure to provoke discussion and not always agreement." He writes about the loss of



the Franco history and culture, and includes much historical information that will help to explain Franco America to all who read it. Ledoux will expand on this topic and might even provide hints on writing memoirs to help us all document our history.

Ledoux holds a B.A. in English and an M.A. in Education. His biography also notes that he has taught Franco studies at the university level and that he has been a guest lecturer at numerous colleges and universities on the subjects of cultural diversity and Franco North American culture and history.

He directs The Memoir Network, an international group of life-writing teachers and writers.

Ledoux has won numerous awards for his work including the Maine Fiction Award for Mountain Dance & Other Stories in 1990. His short fiction has twice been honored with the Maine Writing Fellowship Award (1991, 1996), an NEA-based merit award; and also in 1996, Denis was named Life-Writing Professional of the Year by the Association of Personal Historians.

He is currently at work on three book projects: A sequel to French Boy; a story of his early Canadian ancestors. Here to Stay / A Slice of Franco-America in the Seventeenth Century; and Coming Down, a novel about a Canadian family immigrating to Maine in 1890.

Denis Ledoux lives and works in Maine, just a mile from his boyhood home.

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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

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

LIVE & CODE IN MAINE

Maine cybersecurity start-up seeks local software engineer
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SENIOR TRIPS

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.

MAY 25 – JUNE 2, 2024 - MACKINAC ISLAND – Trip includes 8 nights lodging including 4 nights in Northern Michigan, 8 breakfasts and 6 dinners. We will have a guided tour of Mackinaw City and visit Mackinac Island with an included Carriage Tour of the island and see sites like the Arch Rock and Lilac Lane. We will cruise through the Soo Locks and have free time in Sault Sainte Marie. We will have a guided tour

of Quaint Mackinaw City and tour the Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse and visit Colonial Michilimackinac. We will visit "Michigan's Little Bavaria" in Frankenmuth, Michigan and so much more. A \$75 deposit per person is due at registration. Total price is \$1,209.00 pp double occupancy which includes all entrance fees, step on guide tips, meal tips and bus driver tip.

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

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

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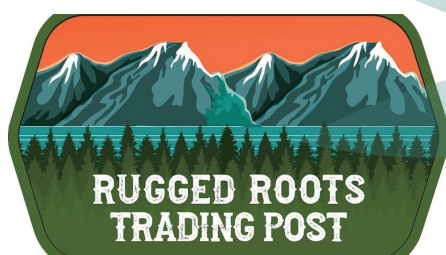
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