

TOPS Maine Queen, Gorham's Maria Spofford, inspires others



By Guest Columnist, Maria Spofford

I rejoined TOPS over two years ago. I knew the road ahead would not be easy. There were days when the scale seemed unyielding, when cravings were strong.

I discovered that weight loss wasn't just about shedding pounds; it was about shedding self-doubt, old habits, and limiting beliefs. Every small step forward, no matter how small, was a victory. And oh, the victories came!

The day I fit into those jeans tucked away

in the back of my closet, I danced in front of the mirror. But here's the secret: I didn't do it alone.

I leaned on my chapter's support system. I found inspiration in others' stories, realizing I wasn't alone in my struggles.

Know you are not alone either. Whether you are just starting your journey, or you've been on it for years, remember...

Celebrate every step forward, whether it's a pound lost, or a new healthy habit formed.

Be kind to yourself. Treat your body with love

and respect – it's the only one you've got.

Embrace setbacks. They are not failures; they're opportunities to learn and grow.

Surround yourself with people who lift you up, who believe in your potential, and who celebrate your victories.

Remember your journey is uniquely yours. Your progress may not look like mine or anyone else's, which is perfectly okay.

Thank you ME 0358 Portland for your continued belief that my transformation was possible.

Grand adventures abound with Gorham Arts Alliance

GORHAM, ME -- Beginning this Fall of 2024, GAA will be hosting a Performing Arts After School Program for students in grades 2nd-5th and 6-8th at the Performing Arts Cen-

ter located at 34 School St. This program will be filled with classes (audition prep, acting, improv, music theory, vocals, theater tech and musical theater dance) specifically designed for the young

performing artists who want to accelerate their knowledge of 'all things theater'.

Visit the Gorham Arts Alliance at <https://gorhamarts.org/fall-shows> to learn more.

Community garden at Cressey Road Christian Church, Gorham

GORHAM, ME -- If picking your own grown juicy tomato and crispy greens is on your bucket list, try gardening at Cressey Road Christian Church Community Garden in Bucket Step planters, ready for planting, no fees, and PFAS free.

Bucket Steps were

built by Eagle Scout candidate Christopher Bolton with help from his troop, scout leader Kelly Deprez, and Rick Smart. Bucket Steps have 3 rows, with 4 buckets each. You may share a bucket step unit with someone. Bucket Steps are user friendly planters with minimal bending required.

This is just a beginning as we continue building raised garden units offering planting boxes and vegtrugs. Bucket Steps are available now on a first come, first served basis. To use one of these planters, please contact Lorraine lindcabin@gmail.com for guidelines and an application.

Food truck Summer Thursdays bring dinner to Gorham

GORHAM, ME - Food truck Summer Thursdays hosted by the Economic Development Division are back, starting with the first event on the summer solstice – Thursday, June 20.

Folks can catch a rotating selection of food trucks every Thursday through September 28th at the Little Falls Recreation Area (664 Gray Road, Gorham).

We offer a different selection of vendors each week (~7-8 total) from 4pm – 8pm, and the setting is very family-friendly complete with ample green space, music, and lawn games. It's the perfect way to spread out and enjoy a Maine summer afternoon at its finest.

This year, the Town is offering space to local or-

ganizations and businesses to engage the community

and get the word out about exciting offerings and opportunities available to the Gorham.

We are grateful for the support of Gorham Savings Bank, which is sponsoring the purchase of 150 lawn chairs for visitors to utilize each Thursday. Beach blankets and chairs are still welcome!

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Foundation announces 2024 cohort of John T. Gorman Fellows

PORTLAND, ME – The John T. Gorman Foundation has announced the fifth class of the John T. Gorman Fellowship, a group of 14 exceptional public- and private-sector leaders from across Maine. Through a yearlong program of leadership development, coaching, and peer support, the Fellowship is designed to strengthen the ability of leaders to impact systems change at a policy and practice level.

“We are thrilled to bring this group of leaders together for the fifth cohort of the John T. Gorman Fellowship. Coming from all corners of Maine and representing diverse backgrounds, they have all demonstrated an incredible commitment to strengthening the well-being of children and families,” said John T. Gorman Foundation President & CEO Nicole Witherbee. “Over the next year, this Fellowship will deepen their impact by giving them opportu-

nities for collaboration, new ways of approaching their work, and the leadership resources needed to achieve measurable results for Maine children and families.”

Since the program’s launch in 2015, four cohorts – totaling 42 leaders from the nonprofit, advocacy, and government sectors – have completed the Fellowship. This fifth cohort of Fellows will be the first of its kind for the program, with participants coming from organizations focused on strengthening the well-being of children and families. Together and individually, they will work to make a measurable contribution to improving the lives of children and their families.

The 2024 Fellows are listed below.

Mariette Aborn, Special Projects Manager, Child and Family Well-Being at Maine Department of Health and Human Services



New cohort of 14 public- and private-sector leaders will work collectively to help ensure Maine children are resilient and ready to succeed

Jessica Berry, Assistant Superintendent & Director of Special Education, St George Municipal School Unit

Matthew Dana II, Working Communities Challenge Director, Sunrise County Economic Council

Genevieve Doughty, Co-Director, Sipayik Resilience Committee
Michelle Ferris, Chief Operations Officer, Aroos-

took Mental Health Center Dara Fruchter, Strategic Initiatives and Special Projects Manager, Child Development Services, Maine Department of Education

Melissa Hackett, Policy Associate, Maine Children’s Alliance

Alicia Jalbert, Manager of Community Partnerships, The Roux Institute at Northeastern University

Mara Robinov-Moorhead, CEO, Girl Scouts of Maine

Abdulkerim Said, Consultant, MaineHealth

Marsha Sloan, Project Director, Family Futures Downeast

Julia Sleeper-Whiting, Executive Director, Tree Street Youth

Renee Whitley, Executive Director, Franklin County Children’s Task Force

Caroline Zimmerman, Director, Child and Family Health, MaineHealth

5K Road Race, Kids Fun Run to support Food Cupboard

SCARBOROUGH, ME – The 14th Annual South Portland Food Cupboard and St. Maximilian Kolbe 5K Road Race and Free Kids Fun Run will take place on Saturday, August 24, at St. Maximilian Kolbe Church, located at 150 Black Point Road in Scarborough. This year, participants can look forward to a brand-new race-course!

Over the years, this event has successfully

raised thousands of dollars for the South Portland Food Cupboard, which provides essential food supplies to hundreds of families in South Portland and Scarborough. Last year alone, the race raised over \$6,000, which supported 240 families with a month’s worth of food. This year, we aim to meet or exceed that amount to continue supporting this vital cause.

Event Details: Satur-

day, August 24 at St. Maximilian Kolbe Church, 150 Black Point Road, Scarborough, ME

Kids Fun Run Start Time: 8:30 AM

5K Run/Walk Start Time: 9:00 AM

Race Day Registration: Begins at 7:30 AM

Registration Information:

Online Registration Fee: \$30 (includes a race T-shirt if registered before Thursday, August 15);

Day-of Registration Fee: \$35

Prizes: Awards for 1st and 2nd male and female finishers; medals for male and female age group winners.

All entry fees will directly benefit the South Portland Food Cupboard. Your \$30 registration fee can provide enough food to feed a family for one month. This is an excellent opportunity to support a worthy cause while enjoy-

ing a fun and healthy activity.

Sponsorship Opportunities:

Company Name on Shirt: \$50 minimum donation

Company Logo on Shirt: \$100 minimum donation

Contact: Tige Cunningham at tigecunningham@gmail.com for sponsorship inquiries.

Join us on Saturday, August 24, for a day of

community, fitness, and philanthropy as we work together to make a positive impact on the lives of families in need. Online registration is open now. Don’t miss out on this fantastic event!

For more information and to register for the race, please visit

<https://runsignup.com/Race/ME/Scarborough/SouthPortlandFoodCupboardStMax5KRoadRace>

Miss Maine 2024 crowns Jennie Daley

FREEPORT, ME -- The Miss Maine Scholarship Program was held in Freeport, Maine, on June 30, 2024. Jennie Daley was

crowned Miss Maine 2024 and will compete for Miss America 2025. Jennie, the daughter of John and Marlene (Tash) Daley, was born

and raised in Downeast, Maine (born in Machias, and raised in Sullivan). She was Valedictorian of her Sumner Memorial High



School graduating class. She attended the University of Maine and graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Bioengineering, Minor in Mathematics, and Focus in PreMed. Jennie now works as a Systems Engineer on the advancements of medical devices.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Albin, Randall & Bennett announces recent promotions

PORTLAND, ME – Albin, Randall & Bennett is pleased to announce the recent promotions of Matthew Marcoullier, Amy Gardella, Nate Marcet, Benjamin Staples, Tori Vergara, and several others.

Matthew S. Marcoullier, CPA, is promoted to Director. Matt joined ARB in 2013 and focuses on financial accounting and consulting for auto dealerships and commercial businesses.

Amy M. Gardella,

CPA, is promoted to Senior Manager. Amy joined ARB in 2018 and provides audit and attest services to a wide array of businesses, including automotive dealerships, construction companies, commercial entities, and employee benefit plans.

Nate Marcet, CPA, is promoted to Senior Tax Manager. Nate joined in 2023 and works with clients in the professional services, real estate, real estate development, and construction industries.



Benjamin R. Staples, CPA, is promoted to Tax Manager. Ben joined ARB in 2023 and focuses on providing tax compliance and consulting services to pass-through entities and clients in the automotive dealership industry.

Tori Vergara, CPA,

is promoted to Tax Manager. Tori joined ARB in 2021 and provides tax and consulting services to automotive dealerships, individuals, and private foundations.

Other recent promotions at ARB include:

Leanne Hett is pro-

moted to Supervising Senior.

Rebecca Phelps is promoted to Supervising Tax Senior.

Tiffany Wentworth is promoted to Supervising Tax Senior.

Chris Chasse is promoted to Senior.

Rob Gould-Wetmore is promoted to Senior.

Sahaley Dupree is promoted to Tax Senior.

Giuliana Intriago is promoted to Tax Senior.

Chelsea Dias is pro-

moted to Associate II.

Jake Natalizia is promoted to Associate II.

Commenting on these recent promotions, ARB Managing Principal Cheri Walker said, "These are all well-deserved promotions. Everyone listed here has contributed significantly to our firm's success and the collective commitment and professionalism they each bring to their roles are the foundation of our achievements. Their efforts are deeply appreciated."

United Way invests \$6.7M in Southern Maine

PORTLAND, ME -- United Way of Southern Maine (UWSM) announced it will invest \$6,769,279 into our community this year.

Investments include Community Impact Grants of \$3,127,863 to programs and innovative initiatives across Southern Maine. These grants reflect United Way's priorities to advance equity and ensure alignment with our community's shared vision to give kids a strong start, empower neighbors to thrive – not

just survive, and help us all live longer, better.

"With deep local roots in Southern Maine, United Way sees how our community's greatest challenges like food insecurity, housing instability, and lack of access to child care and health services are connected, and how we can bring people and resources together to address them," said Liz Cotter Schlax, President and CEO of United Way of Southern Maine. "We could not do this without

the extraordinary support of individuals and organizations working every day to create opportunities for all people."

Included in the Community Impact Grants are member-directed investments through United Way's giving circles, Emerging Leaders United (formerly Brick & Beam Society) and Women United, and United-Way led programming such as 211 Maine, CA\$H Greater Portland, Biddeford Ready!, and the Greater

Portland Workforce Initiative.

In addition to Community Impact Grants, UWSM will invest \$730,000 through donor-directed contributions and \$1,850,033 in United Way's efforts to mobilize people and resources to quickly respond to emerging needs and tackle persistent community issues. UWSM also secured \$1,039,058 this year through the Federal Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) to

support local individuals and families. United Way's work includes public policy, community and volunteer engagement, evaluation and measurement, and programmatic leadership for Thrive2027.

Through community input, nonprofit partnerships, and strategic funding, United Way is continuing to foster a stronger, healthier Southern Maine region for us all. "Using a comprehensive, collaborative approach, we increase the availability of

high-quality child care, connect people with educational and employment opportunities, and improve access to better health services," said Dan Coyne, Senior Vice President of Community Impact and Governance.

United Way relies on community members and subject-matter expert volunteers to make funding decisions and ensure grants are distributed to fill gaps in services, invest in proven solutions, and make the greatest impact.

Town of Gorham nomination papers now available



GORHAM, ME -- A Municipal election will be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2024 for the purpose of electing:

TWO (2) persons for Town Council to serve a 3 year term

TWO (2) persons for School Committee to serve

a 3 year term

Nomination papers are available from the Town Clerk's Office beginning on Thursday, July 25, 2024. Completed nomination papers must be submitted to the Town Clerk's office no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, Septem-

ber 5, 2024.

Any registered voter of the Town of Gorham, who is interested in running for any of these positions, must submit nomination papers with no less than 35 or more than 50 signatures of persons who are registered voters of the Town of Gorham.

Please contact the Town Clerk's Office at 222-1670 if you have any questions.

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

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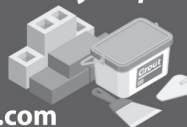
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Seniors Not Acting Their Age

Runaround Pond – A Secret Gem



Bob Rowe begins a paddle on mirror calm Runaround Pond



The trip concludes with a visit to a small canyon at the outlet



Nancy Chase navigates through lily-pads on Runaround Pond

Runaround Pond in Durham is a secret paddling gem. I found it by accident a couple of years ago and have returned about a dozen times since.

For me, the narrow 2.7 mile body of water has multiple attractions. Sheltered on all sides, a pleasant paddle can be enjoyed even on a windy day. The winding shoreline is largely undeveloped leaving the impression of a wilderness environment. Wildlife is plentiful. Beavers, otters, deer, and a plethora of turtles are sometimes seen. The pond is a bird watcher's paradise. Eagles, ospreys, kingfishers, herons, red-winged blackbirds and others can

often be observed. The swampy aquatic vegetation produces a variety of radiant flora.

The only launch area is located in secluded Runaround Pond Park. The park consists of a boat landing, picnic area, hiking trail, toilet, and parking spaces for a few vehicles. Steep ledges next to the boat ramp are a popular fishing spot and picnic tables above provide an excellent viewpoint.

The pond's proximate location to my home in Topsham affords a convenient opportunity for impromptu half-day outings. In late June, a phone conversation with my long-time friend, Bob

Rowe, resulted in a decision to enjoy a midday paddling excursion.

When we arrived at the park on a hot, sunny, windless day, two kayakers were disembarking and several fishermen were lined up on the ledges. Since the ramp was congested, we parked in the two remaining spaces and carried our boats down to the landing. We both paddled kayaks. Canoeists also frequent Runaround Pond.

The water was mirror calm when we departed. Serene perfectly describes the picturesque location. Rounding the first bend, we interrupted a Great Blue Heron wading in swamp grass. He

reluctantly flew farther west. I've observed herons in this area on almost every visit.

Yellow pond-lilies were in bloom as we navigated westerly through the winding passageway. Numerous turtles were lined up on logs close to shore and beavers had been busy building lodges in several locations. We didn't see any beavers on this outing.

After passing the mouth of Libby Brook on the right, the main channel angled left and lily pads and swamp grass thickened. Progressing through the maze reminded me of negotiating a slalom course. However, instead of gates, we maneuvered around colorful flora.

Nearing the western terminus, the aquatic vegetation extended across the entire width of the now narrow corridor. We decided to return without further exploration. Two kayakers were encountered on the way back. Everyone agreed it was an ideal day to be on the water.

Before landing at the takeout, I encouraged Bob to investigate an exceptional gorge at the outlet of the pond. Turning right and passing through a tunnel under Runaround

Pond Road, we entered a narrow cliff-enveloped canyon that ends at an ancient dam built by Judah Chandler in the 18th Century. Chandler River begins below. The magical chasm is a must-see stop when paddling the pond. Several kayakers and canoeists were departing when we arrived at the boat ramp.

A few days later, my wife, Nancy, who was recovering from a nagging physical ailment, wanted to assess her improvement with a forgiving kayak outing. The first time I paddled Runaround Pond, I was recuperating from hip surgery. In my opinion, there is no better therapeutic choice. We were off on another Runaround Pond adventure.

This time, we went early morning on a weekday and the park was almost empty when we arrived on another hot sunny day with light winds. Again, the reliable heron was around the first turn. Predictably, he was unhappy to see us. Unlike my earlier trip, the elegant purple pickerel rushes had blossomed. The tall violet-blue flowers decorated much of the aquatic vegetation with an occasional yellow pond-lily adding to the

dazzling spectacle.

We persisted beyond where the congested swamp grass and lily pads seemingly blocked further progress. Our efforts were rewarded with another stretch of open water that continued to a culvert under Auburn Pownal Road that marks the end of navigation.

Numerous paddlers were encountered during our return. As usual, we enjoyed a sojourn into the tiny canyon. Another exceptional day on Runaround Pond was completed. We'll be back.

My book, *Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine* narrates more lake and pond excursions around the state.

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

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27th MIFF names Tourmaline Prize winners



Extraordinary Place, Tom Bell. Photo by John Meader

WATERVILLE, ME—The Maine International Film Festival wrapped up its 27th annual edition Sunday, July 21, in Waterville, Maine. Thousands attended this year’s festival, enjoying the opportunity to see 100 films across 10 days, including Maine-made productions, international movies from more than 40 countries, rediscoveries of beloved classics, world premieres, and much more. Among those 100 films were 22 made-in-Maine features and shorts, all of which competed for two juried

Tourmaline Prizes. The prize, named for Maine’s state gem, awards \$5,000 to the best Maine-made feature of the year and \$2,500 to the best Maine-made short of the year. The jury recognized *The Ruse* by Stevan Mena as best feature-length film and *An Extraordinary Place* by Tom Bell as the best short film this year.

Horror-thriller *The Ruse* enjoyed its world premiere at the Waterville Opera House during the festival and won the Tourmaline Prize over competition *The Ghost Trap* and

Carlo...and His Merry Band of Artists. Elaborating upon their decision to award *The Ruse*, the jury especially pointed to the film’s haunting cinematography and strong ensemble cast, led by legendary horror actress Veronica Cartwright (*Alien*, *The Birds*, *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*).

“The Maine International Film Festival is a world class event; the venue and staff are exceptional,” said Stevan Mena, writer, producer, and director of *The Ruse*. “I made many friends during my stay, with filmmakers from around the world. Looking forward to returning again.”

Nineteen films contested this year’s Maine-made shorts Tourmaline Prize, screening in three different programs and grouped as Maine Narrative Shorts, Maine Documentary Shorts, and Maine Music Shorts. After much deliberation, the jury named *An Extraordinary Place*, in the Music Shorts program, as the winner. The film profiles the inner workings of and unique characters at WMPG, an indie radio station in Portland.

“Our film is about a quirky little radio station in Portland, Maine, but really a lot more—it’s about community and the love that the volunteer DJs have

for music, the station, and each other,” said Tom Bell, director of *An Extraordinary Place*. “WMPG could be anywhere in the world, but it’s here in Maine, and it’s incredibly meaningful to receive an award from this prestigious festival in our own community.”

Jurying the 2024 Tourmaline competition were: Wangeci Murage, a Nairobi-based broadcast media executive and creative content specialist; Sian Evans, founder of Farthest Films, Smash Inc. and Ffilmcompany, as well as a member of the Documentary Producers Association; and Se Young (Seth) Kim, Colby College assistant professor of cinema studies specializing in contemporary East Asian and U.S. cinema.

“While we’ve been screening made-in-Maine films since our first year, this is only the third time MIFF has offered a juried prize for Maine filmmakers,” said Mike Perreault, the Maine Film Center executive director. “Each festival showcases an exciting, completely fresh wave of cinematic storytelling. We’re so grateful to the jurors for their thoughtful deliberation and recognition of some of the best new works created in our state, and to the organizations that support these awards.”

The 2024 Tourmaline



The Ruse, Stevan Mena. Photo by John Meader

Prizes were sponsored by the Maine Film Office and the Unity Foundation.

Throughout the festival, moviegoers also had the opportunity to vote for their favorite new film screening at MIFF. More than 40 films were eligible, but the Audience Favorite award went to Palestinian-British drama *The Teacher*, with Samuel Beckett biopic *Dance First* a close second. *Dance First* has already been booked

for a regular run at the Maine Film Center in August, so those who missed it at MIFF will soon have the opportunity to see the much-lauded film, starring MIFF Mid-Life Achievement Award honoree Gabriel Byrne.

MIFF will return to Waterville for its 28th edition July 11–20, 2025. Visit miff.org for updates and to learn more about the festival, previous award winners, films, and more.

Photographer to present on migratory birds

RAYMOND, ME – A very special slide-show presentation on “Migratory Birds in Southern Maine” is coming to Nathaniel Hawthorne’s Boyhood Home in Raymond (40 Hawthorne Road) on Thursday, August 15, at 7 p.m. Admission will be a minimum \$5 donation, which will be used to renovate the historic home’s very old kitchen. Attendees

will be served decaf coffee and yummy cookies.

The photo presentation will be offered by amateur photographer and birder Bruce Small of Raymond, who will present photographs of migratory birds he has taken around Raymond and other southern Maine locations. As he speaks, Mr. Small will identify dozens of colorful birds from the spring



Image courtesy of Bruce Small

migration, a presentation designed to encourage ongoing audience discussion as the talk progresses. Mr. Small also will introduce the new Merlin Bird ID app from Cornell Lab of Ornithology, a FREE app he uses to identify birds from their songs and photos. Anyone with a smart phone can download the free bird-identification app

before Mr. Small’s presentation by going to <https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>

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

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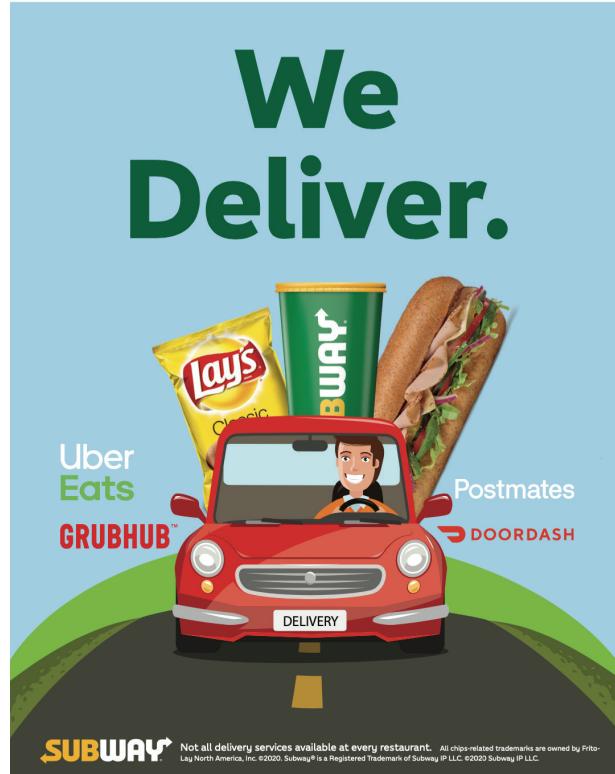
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Arts & Entertainment

MSMT presents *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*

BRUNSWICK, ME – Maine State Music Theatre (MSMT) is thrilled to announce its upcoming production of *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, a captivating journey through the life of one of music's most iconic songwriters. The production will run from August 7 to August 24.

Before she was the hit-maker, Carole King, she was Carole Klein, a spunky young songwriter from Brooklyn with a unique voice. *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* takes audiences back to where it all began, chronicling her rise to stardom through the chart-topping hits she wrote for the biggest acts in music and her

own life-changing success with the album "Tapestry." Featuring songs such as "You've Got a Friend," "One Fine Day," "Natural Woman," and "I Feel the Earth Move," this musical promises an unforgettable ride through Carole King's extraordinary life and career.

The cast includes Kyra Kennedy as Carole King, Jeff Sullivan as Gerry Goffin, Kathryn Boswell as Cynthia Weil, and Nick Moulton as Barry Mann. Also included in the cast are Reed Campbell (Don Kirshner), Mary Beth Donahoe (Betty), Rachel Gubow (Marilyn), and Charis Leos as Genie Klein. Randy Cain and Seth Eliser play the Righteous Brothers,



while the Drifters are portrayed by DeShawn Bowens, Trevail Maurice, Alfie Parker, Jr., and Jeremiah Valentino Porter. The Shirelles feature Giselle Amarisa Watts, Candace Haynes, Paris Porché Richardson, and Mikayla White. Understudies in-

clude Calista Jones and Jalen Kirkman.

Kyra Kennedy (Carole King) makes her MSMT debut with this production. She has previously portrayed Carole King in *Beautiful* at Paper Mill Playhouse. She has been featured in roles such as Kat Arujo in the World Premiere of *Mystic Pizza the Musical* (Ogunquit Playhouse, La Mirada Theatre), Monica Lewinsky in the World Premiere play *When Monica Met Hillary* (Miami New Drama), and roles in national tours of *Waitress*.

Jeff Sullivan (Gerry Goffin) hails from Newfoundland, Canada, and has been part of tours including *TINA - The Tina Turner Musical*, *Finding Neverland* (J.M. Barrie), *West Side Story*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *The Producers*.

Kathryn Boswell (Cynthia Weil) is also making her MSMT debut. Her Broadway credits include *Anastasia* and *Gigi*, and she played Cynthia in the Broadway National Tour of *Beautiful*.

Nick Moulton (Barry Mann) has appeared in the national tours of *Beautiful*:



MSMT
MAINE STATE MUSIC THEATRE EST. 1959

The *Carole King Musical*, *Peter Pan 360*, and regional productions of *Jersey Boys* (Casa Mañana) and *Pump Boys and Dinettes* (Phoenix Theater), among others.

The production is directed and choreographed by Parker Esse, with music direction by Ben McNaboe and associate music direction by Jacob Stebly. Associate Choreographer/Dance Captain is Alfie Parker, Jr.

Costume design is by Madison Queen, light design by Jesse Klug, set design by Kyle Dixon, sound design by Shannon Slaton, video/projections by Luis Garcia, and wig design by Kevin S. Foster II. The production stage manager is Amy Bertacini.

Director/Choreographer Parker Esse followed his passion to the other side of the creative table as di-

rector/choreographer after performing on Broadway, in national tours, and regionally. He is a multiple Helen Hayes and CT Critics Circle nominee and the 2010 Helen Hayes Winner for Best Choreography for Arena Stage's *Oklahoma!* Mr. Esse has served as director/choreographer for *Crazy for You* and *West Side Story* at the Finger Lakes Musical Theatre Festival and served as associate choreographer for Broadway's *Finian's Rainbow* and *A Tale of Two Cities*; as well as five productions for New York City Center Encores!

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased online at msmt.org or by calling the box office at 207.725.8769. The production will feature both evening and matinee performances.

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4th annual Monarch Festival at Mahoosuc Land Trust

BETHEL ME — Award-winning author Sy Montgomery is coming to Bethel! As part of Mahoosuc Land Trust's 4th Annual Habitat For All Monarch Festival, Montgomery will speak in person at the Gem Theater on Saturday evening, August 17. She will discuss her latest book, *Of Time and Turtles*, which recounts her experiences working at a hospital for sick, injured, and abandoned turtles and how land conservation protects these often critically endangered animals.

To reserve your seat for this pay-what-you-can event, visit the Gem



Head gardener Mike Murphy demonstrates monarch tagging in the Habitat For All Garden.

Theater website - www.thegemtheater.com. Doors open at 5:00 for pizza and drinks (and a chance

to meet Sy Montgomery) followed by the presentation at 6:00.

Joining her on Sun-



The 4th Annual Monarch Festival on August 18 at Mahoosuc Land Trust Valentine Farm Conservation center promises fun for all ages.

day at The Habitat For All Monarch Festival will be staff from the Turtle Rescue League (TRL) with live turtle ambassadors! The festival runs from 12

to 4 pm at Valentine Farm, 162 North Rd, Bethel. This year there will be more educational opportunities, from the Xerces Society and gardening demonstra-

tions to the ever popular "Bug Guy." There will be talks in the garden, guided bird walks, story time and plenty of kids activities.

Follow Mahoosuc Land Trust on Facebook or Instagram as they share more details about the event over the next several weeks. This has been a very popular event, and this year promises to have something for everyone who enjoys the outdoors!

There is no fee to attend the Habitat For All Monarch Festival, but guests are asked to register in advance for Sunday's events as well to help aid in planning. Visit Mahoosuc.org/events-1

Maine CDC identifies West Nile virus in six wild birds

AUGUSTA, ME—The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) announced today that six wild birds from multiple counties tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). This is the earliest in the year that Maine CDC has found the mosquito-borne virus in birds.

Five of the birds were crows from Bangor, Bridgton, Fryeburg, Parsonsfield, and Sidney. The sixth bird was a hawk from Yarmouth. The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife collected the birds as part of routine surveillance.

Maine CDC is additionally investigating one case of WNV in a Waldo County resident that was not acquired in Maine, but during travel outside the state. No mosquitoes have

tested positive for WNV yet this year. Maine last recorded a human case of WNV in 2018. In 2023, three animals and one mosquito pool tested positive for WNV in Maine.

Besides WNV, mosquitoes in Maine can also spread Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus (EEE) and Jamestown Canyon virus (JCV). As Maine CDC announced earlier this month, mosquitoes in Maine have tested positive for JCV this year. There are currently no known human cases of any locally-acquired mosquito-borne diseases in Maine this year.

"While West Nile and other viruses carried by mosquitoes are rare, they can cause serious illness," said Maine CDC Director Puthiery Va. "It's important that Maine people and visitors take precautions

against bites, especially as these viruses are appearing earlier than usual this year. As you enjoy the Maine outdoors, protect yourself with simple steps and speak to your health provider promptly if you experience any symptoms."

These viruses spread through the bite of an infected mosquito. They cannot spread from human to human or human to animal. Although rare, these diseases can have severe consequences, including death. The best protection is to take precautions against mosquito bites.

Many infected people have no symptoms. Others experience fever and flu-like illness. Severe symptoms can occur, including encephalitis (brain swelling), and meningitis (inflammation of the spinal cord). If you experience

any of these symptoms, call a health care provider.

You can take these simple steps to protect yourself from EEE, JCV, and WNV:

Wear long sleeves and long pants.

Use an EPA-approved repellent on skin and clothes. Always follow the instructions on the label.

Take extra precautions at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.

Use screens on windows and doors.

Drain artificial sources of standing water around the home. This is ideal habitat for mosquitoes to lay eggs.

Take steps to prevent mosquito bites when traveling.

To help prevent mosquito-borne diseases in pets, talk to your veterinarian. Horse owners can protect horses with vaccines against EEE and WNV.

For more information:

Mosquito surveillance reports including all positive results are updated weekly at www.maine.gov/dhhs/vectorborne.

View answers to frequently asked questions at www.maine.gov/dhhs/mosquitofaq.

Learn about repellents at www.maine.gov/dacf/php/gotpests/bugs/mosquito.htm.

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Glen David Andrews Band brings New Orleans to the MWV

NORTH CONWAY, NH – The 41st Arts Jubilee Summer Concert Series comes to an end this Thursday, August 8th at Cranmore Mountain Resort. The final show features the Glen David Andrews Band. Mountain Top Music will open the show at 6 pm, followed by the Glen David Andrews Band at 7 pm.

Glen David Andrews, a native son and a beloved musician of New Orleans, is a warrior for cultural preservation at a time when indigenous traditions are being threatened in the city. His commanding voice and fierce trombone sound – both a powerful, emotional, and resonant blend of smoothness and grit – as well as his disarmingly honest manner pro-

vide a musical experience that never fails to meet the moment. Glen’s music is packed with beauty, hard-earned truths, compassion, humor, anger, joy, and – most of all – hope.

Glen comes from a storied and extended family of musicians. He was born in New Orleans’ historic Tremé neighborhood, which many consider to be the oldest Black community in the United States. Transfixed by the magic and mystery of the city’s second-line parades, Andrews and his older brother, Derrick Tabb of the Rebirth Brass Band, along with their younger cousin Troy “Trombone Shorty” Andrews, learned the history of the brass band tradition firsthand from iconic fig-



ures like Tuba Fats.

Glen has been touring since the age of 14, performing in cities around the world. He has played in New Birth, Lil Rascals, and Tremé brass bands, bringing equal measures of musicianship and showmanship to each. He now fronts his own high-powered ensemble that expert-

ly fuses traditions ranging from jazz to gospel to rock to blues and to funk, all in the same show, sometimes in the same song!

In recent years, he earned prestigious recognition and began making headliner status at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, considered the world’s biggest block par-

ty the annual New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival. Glen has also made notable appearances at the Voodoo Music Experience, Chicago Folk and Roots Festival, Houston International Festival, The Lincoln Center, Joe’s Pub, House of Blues Nola, Tipitina’s, and Kansas City’s American Jazz Museum.

Glen has released several recordings under his own name including the popular “Redemption” and “Portrait of the Treme Prince” and is featured on the Galactic hit “You Don’t Know” from the album “Ya-Ka-May.”

Admission is \$18 for adults, \$12 for seniors, \$5 for students, and free for kids 12 and under. You can pre-order tickets online at

www.artsjubilee.org or pay at the gate on the night of the show starting at 5:30 pm. The concerts are ‘rain or shine’ with the exception of rare circumstances, so concertgoers are advised to come prepared as they would to any outdoor event. Parking is free, food and beverages are available for purchase on site, and there will be a raffle for a variety of prizes at every concert. Seating is not provided at the venue, so concertgoers are encouraged to bring a lawn chair or blanket. Animals are not allowed on the property except for leashed service dogs. There is an elevator located next to the front gate for handicap accessibility. For more information please visit www.artsjubilee.org.

Field Day at UMaine Extension’s Tidewater Farm

FALMOUTH, ME — University of Maine Cooperative Extension will host a Field Day on Saturday, August 17 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at UMaine Gardens at Tidewater Farm, 200 Presumpscot

Point Road, Falmouth. The event features family-friendly activities with UMaine Extension staff and Master Gardener Volunteers. Attendees can learn about Extension’s work, ask gardening ques-

tions and participate in hands-on demonstrations beginning at 10:30 a.m. No registration required.

Hands-on demonstrations will focus on cultivation practices to maintain a garden that is healthy, productive and looking fresh during the transition from late summer into fall. Participants will also take home a bouquet of blooms from Tidewater Farm’s market garden.

For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, visit our website or contact Pamela Hargest, pamela.hargest@maine.edu, 207.949.4524.



Photo courtesy University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

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Saco River Theatre hosting August performances

Saco River Theatre

BAR MILLS, ME – Saco River Theatre will be holding two performances in August:

Novel Jazz Septet - Keeping the musical legacy of Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn Friday, August 23 at 7:30 PM. Tickets: \$15 General Admission at www.sacorivertheatre.org.

Nathan & The Zydeco Cha Chas - If you haven't heard what's happening in zydeco lately, here's your chance. Join us on Wednesday, August 28 at 7:30 PM. Tickets: \$15 at www.sacorivertheatre.org

Saco River Theatre is located at 29 Salmon Falls Road, Bar Mills, ME.



Nathan & The Zydeco Cha Chas



Novel Jazz Septet

Craft show celebrates Northeast craft community

PORTLAND, ME -- Shop fine craft items to live with, wear and cherish! Proudly presented by Shop Maine Craft, the ninth annual Portland Fine Craft show will return to the heart of Portland's Arts District, located on Free Street, next to the Portland Museum of Art in the large parking area.

This festive, single-day, outdoor event features the work of over 100 juried fine craft exhibitors from all over Maine and the greater Northeast. Attendees can expect to find a wide variety of exceptional and high quality work in the following media categories: basketry, ceramics, decorative and wearable fiber, furniture, glass, jew-

elry, metal, mixed media, paper, printmaking, stone, and wood.

In addition to the vibrant mix of exhibitors, the show will feature demonstrations of craft techniques at the demonstration booth scheduled throughout the day, outreach booths spotlighting New England arts organizations, as well as craft guilds and schools. Attendees are invited to participate in demonstrations and vote for their favorite exhibitor at the Shop Maine Craft Information Booth to win the 2024 People's Choice Award.

Show Director, Simonne Feeney states "Our organization is excited to bring back the show for

another year, it's a celebration of the incredible talent and creativity of our craft community and nurtures an appreciation for work that is handmade."

A highly anticipated event for local craft enthusiasts and visitors to Maine, attendees will find a mix of both their favorite and familiar artists with newly juried makers. Attendees should keep an eye out for the show's new branding in local advertisements and downtown signage.

This show remains free and open to the public.

For more information, please email: Simonne Feeney, Show Director at simonne@shopmainecraft.com or visit shopmainecraft.com

Maine Needs seeking donations

PORTLAND, ME -- Can you help us with any of these items? These are things we are completely out of.

Check our website for the full list of what we're in need of currently and then come see us during donation hours: Tue 8am-8pm, Wed & Sat 10am-12pm.

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For more information, please visit maineneeds.org/donations

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maineneeds.org/donations

West Buxton Library hosts ongoing Writer's Workshops

BUXTON, ME -- Summertime, a time for family reunions, picnics, storytelling by the campfire. What if you wrote down these stories, capturing them for the next generation? Let's not lose our unique family customs, odd habits, and Grandma's sayings.

You're invited to join

Writer's Workshops, meeting monthly, 2nd Wednesday, 6:30PM to 8:30PM. These workshops are funded by the Narragansett Number One Foundation and sponsored by the West Buxton Public Library. There are no fees, no pre-requisites, and spelling doesn't count. These workshops are for

adults.

We are friendly, non-judgmental, and encouraging. After three years meeting as a Memoir Group, we are expanding to include all genres of creative writing.

FMI and the Zoom link, contact Lorraine at lindcabin@gmail.com.

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NAMIWalks Maine celebrates mental health awareness

AUGUSTA, ME – Across the state, nation, and world, people are talking about the importance of mental health. Right here in Maine, NAMI Maine is taking the opportunity to gather the community, and share resources, information, and hope.

Every year, the Maine Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI Maine), hosts NAMIWalks Maine, a chance for Mainers to share experiences, connect

with supports, and show their commitment to mental health awareness.

This year's event will take place on Saturday, September 28th, 2024, at Capitol Park in Augusta, Maine.

NAMIWalks Maine is not only a gathering, but also a chance to raise money to increase access to mental health resources and initiatives here in Maine. Every dollar raised is an investment in the mental health of all Mainers.



After the walk, which is less than 1 mile in length and takes place on the park's sidewalks, there will be a gathering with food and fun

for the whole family! The gathering will feature:

Free activity stations including games, a tie-dye t-shirt station, and more,

Lunch provided to all participants,

Resource tables with information from community organizations, and lots more!

This family friendly event is FREE to attend, and people can register themselves or a walk team at www.NAMIWalks.org/Maine

This event is dog friendly, with any attending pooches needing to remain leashed at all times.

Join NAMI Maine

for this day of community, compassion, and fun – and show our community that Mental Health Matters to ME!

The Maine Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI Maine) is part of the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. Learn more at www.namiwalks.org/maine.

UMS guarantees admission to MCCS grads

SOUTH PORTLAND, ME — Maine's public universities will guarantee admission to graduates of the state's community colleges starting this fall.

Under the terms of a historic Transfer ME agreement signed today by Maine Community College System (MCCS) President David Daigler and University of Maine System (UMS) Chancellor Dannel Malloy, Maine's community colleges will proactively notify their students about the opportunities to continue their postsecondary education through UMS.

Interested students will receive coordinated advising from the two systems and be directly admitted to UMS universities that offer an aligned program. After completing their associate degree, MCCS graduates can seamlessly transfer to a Maine public university of their choice without filling out an application, paying application fees, or providing essays, recommendation letters and transcripts.

"This partnership will make it easier than ever for Maine community college graduates to continue pursuing their education at one of Maine's public universities, building upon my Free Community College initiative, which has enabled thousands of students to attend community college at little or no cost to them," said Gov. Janet Mills, who participated in the announcement. "I thank the Maine

Community College System and University of Maine System for heeding my calls to make it even easier for Maine students to get a great education at an affordable price with a good-paying job waiting for them in the end."

Transfer ME builds on more than 180 existing articulation agreements that allow MCCS graduates to transfer to Maine's public universities and have all their Maine community college credits count, with further pathways being formalized.

Notification will begin this fall to qualifying students who have earned at least 30 community college credits and are enrolled in eligible degree programs, including behavioral health, biotechnology, business, education, hospitality, human services, psychology and pre-engineering. A complete list of programs and additional information is available at www.maine.edu/students/transferME.

"Transfer ME removes barriers to opportunity. We want all Mainers to know how successful they can be at the University of Maine System and in their careers. While we have long welcomed transfers from the Maine Community College System, instead of waiting for their students to come to us, we will now reach out to them together and provide a well-paved pathway to our public universities. We think this will be a real game-changer in raising awareness, aspirations



Maine Community College System



Maine's Public Universities

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM

and access to affordable, door-opening bachelor's degree programs and upward mobility," said Chancellor Malloy.

"What students want and need is a clear-cut, simple route to a four-year degree, without a lot of paperwork and barriers. This agreement does just that," President Daigler said. "We expect this to be an enormously popular program that increases the number of Maine community college graduates continuing their education."

Under the leadership of President Daigler and Chancellor Malloy and in response to state workforce needs, there is a growing commitment to collaboration between Maine's two public postsecondary systems, which together enrolled 46,942 degree-seeking students in the 2023-24 academic year as well as tens of thousands of Mainers in free early college courses, short-term training and non-credit bearing educational programs.

Just 54% of Maine's high school graduates are

now choosing college despite demand from the state's employers for more workers with postsecondary degrees and credentials. Maine has a statutory goal that 60% of adults will hold a postsecondary degree or credential of value by 2025 – up from the current 55% – which is also reinforced by the State's 10-year economic strategy.

To ensure more Mainers can benefit from the transformative power of public postsecondary education and further strengthen the size and skill of the state's workforce, MCCS and UMS have partnered with the Mills Administration and the Maine Legislature to advance postsecondary education access and affordability.

For example, in 2022, MCCS and Gov. Mills launched a free tuition program to encourage more recent high school graduates to go to college, including those who may not have believed they could afford higher education. Since the launch of the program, which is current-

ly funded for graduates or the equivalent in the high school classes of 2020-25, MCCS annual enrollment has increased by 20%. It has also led to the first year-over-year increase in the number of MCCS students transferring to Maine's public universities since before the pandemic.

Maine's community colleges are the largest source of transfer students to UMS. In 2023-24, 737 students from MCCS transferred to UMS compared to 681 the previous year.

While Transfer ME is the first system-to-system agreement of its kind in the state, there is a history of working together that Transfer ME leverages. For example, Southern Maine Community College (SMCC) and the University of Southern Maine (USM) have long partnered to make it easier for students to transition between the two institutions. More than 125 SMCC students who plan to transfer to USM now live in that university's new Portland residence hall and can participate in student life offerings there. Additionally this spring, the University of Maine and its regional campus, the University of Maine at Machias, and MCCS formalized Black Bear Advantage, a co-enrollment program.

"Maine employers need more workers with postsecondary credentials and this seamless transfer will help to ensure that more Mainers will benefit from postsecondary education and also increase the size and skills of Maine's workforce," said Finance Authority of Maine CEO Carlos Mello.

"I applaud the Maine Community College System and the University of Maine System for continuing to reduce barriers for students by developing seamless pathways between the two systems," said Educate Maine Executive Director Jason Judd, a UMS graduate. "Transfer ME will lead to more students in degree programs and more graduates ready to thrive in Maine's workforce."

Today's Transfer ME signing ceremony took place at the Spring Point Children's Center at SMCC. Through a partnership with SMCC, the University of Maine at Farmington has delivered its early childhood education bachelor's degree program there since 2007, making it more accessible to recent community college graduates and other place-bound working adults in southern Maine.

As a result of legislation enacted in 2015 to foster greater collaboration, MCCS and UMS report annually to the Governor and Maine Legislature on their ongoing shared efforts to promote efficiency, cooperation and strategic planning.

REALTOR Foundation awards grants totaling \$140K

AUGUSTA, ME – The Maine Association of REALTORS® Foundation, the charitable arm of Maine Association of REALTORS®, has awarded \$140,000 through its 2024 Competitive Grant Program to sixteen organizations to address a variety of housing needs across Maine. The grants funded from the REALTOR® Affordable Housing Fund

offer non-profit organizations assistance in helping Maine's most vulnerable households with providing meaningful housing solutions.

The following organizations each received a \$10,000 grant:

Bangor Area Homeless Shelter (Bangor) to assist with shelter operations to address the growing issue of homelessness.

Boothbay Region Housing Trust (West Boothbay Harbor) to insulate the workforce homes being built in the area.

Caring Unlimited (Sanford) to expand emergency domestic violence shelter capacity and provide emergency assistance to help clients avoid homelessness.

Community Care (Bangor) to provide rental

assistance for youth experiencing homelessness to secure both temporary and permanent housing.

Habitat for Humanity 7 Rivers (Bath) for materials and job site costs for critical home repairs for income-eligible homeowners.

H.O.M.E., Inc. (Orland) to renovate an apartment to expand transitional housing available at

the Sister Barbara Hance House.

Homeworthy (formerly Knox County Homeless Coalition) (Rockland) for the final construction phase of Talbot Avenue community housing development providing affordable housing for families.

Mission at the Eastward (Farmington) to purchase building tools and materials to conduct

critical home repairs for low-income individuals and families.

New Beginnings (Lewiston) to maintain safe, suitable 24-hour emergency shelter for low-income youth experiencing homelessness.

Preble Street (Portland) to support Teen Housing Services, helping youth experiencing home-

See REALTOR, page 12

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King named 'Hero of Main Street'

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senator Angus King (I-ME) has been recognized as a 2024 "Hero of Main Street" by the National Retail Federation (NRF) for his support of small businesses across Maine.

The "Hero of Main Street" award was created by NRF in 2013 to recognize a bipartisan group of lawmakers for their support of the retail industry's public policy priorities. In Maine, the retail indus-

try supports more than 245,000 local jobs and contributes more than \$21 billion in economic activity.

"Small businesses are the backbone of Maine's economy — when Main Street succeeds, Maine succeeds," said Senator King. "When we patronize small businesses and retail entrepreneurs, we are making a concerted effort to energize and strengthen our local and state economies. I truly appreciate

this 'Hero of Main Street' award and will use this opportunity to continue highlighting the incredible businesses across Maine."

"The retail industry directly impacts every congressional district in the United States, providing goods, services



and American jobs," said David French, NRF Executive Vice President of Government Relations. "NRF is honored to recognize Senator King as a 'Hero of Main Street' for his continued support of the retail industry through legislative action and leadership."

NRF Hero of Main Street award eligibility is based on key votes, bill sponsorship and advocacy to advance the industry's priorities.

Senator King has been a champion for Maine's small businesses and entrepreneurs. In

2020, his bipartisan bill to reform the Paycheck Protection Program to make it usable passed the Senate and was signed into law. He also introduced the bipartisan Providing Resources for Emergency Preparedness and Resilient Enterprises (PRE-PARE) Act to help small businesses better prepare for natural disasters. Previously, he joined a bipartisan agreement that would improve the U.S. financial regulatory framework, promote economic growth, provide new protections to consumers, and strengthen small financial

institutions in Maine. He also led the Reinforcing American-Made Products Act, which would reduce the burden on Maine manufacturers by establishing a national "Made in America" standard. Most recently, he joined his colleagues in urging federal banking regulators to better protect small businesses. This spring, he was also recognized as a 2024 "Fiscal Hero" by the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget.

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

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REALTOR

Continued from page 10

lessness find safety and stability.

Rural Community Action Ministry (Leeds) to provide support services for low-income rural families: Homeless prevention, Housing First priorities.

The Northern Lighthouse (Presque Isle) to provide emergency shelter and transitional living program services to homeless youths ages 10-21.

The following organizations each received a \$5,000 grant:

Community Housing Improvement Project (CHIP) (Newcastle) for materials to repair homes and roofs as part of their home repair program.

Deborah Lincoln House (Belfast) to upgrade

the heating system to include heat pumps for residents' rooms.

Safe Voices (Auburn) to assist with paying initial security and utility deposits for survivors of domestic violence, sex trafficking and sexual exploitation to transition to stable housing.

The Opportunity Alliance (South Portland) to provide rent and security deposits to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness through its Cumberland County Homeless Prevention program.

According to Ashlee Simpson Black, 2024 Chair of the Maine Association of REALTORS® Foundation, 2022 Realtor® of the Year, and Broker at The Simpson Team at Realty of Maine in Bangor, "I continue to be amazed at how the RE-

ALATORS® in Maine give back to the communities that we live in, work in, and that have made us who we are. Affordable housing has always been a concern, but in recent years it has become increasingly apparent that those of us that can do something, must do something to fix the crisis. The Foundation exists to ease some of the financial burden of those organizations that are the boots on the ground. We at the Maine Association of REALTORS® Foundation are honored to distribute grants this year to 16 nonprofit organizations that uniquely address the housing crisis in their community to help the people of Maine have safe shelter. Thank you all for that you do!"

The REALTORS® Affordable Housing Fund was established in 1989 and derives its revenue from interest earnings paid by financial institutions on real estate trust accounts administered by REALTOR® offices across Maine.

Since 1991, the Foundation has awarded more than \$1.6 million in Competitive Program grants to address affordable housing needs.

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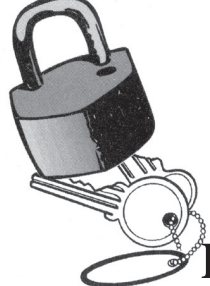
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Mondays through Aug 12
LEWISTON -- ARTVAN IN KENNEDY PARK, Mondays, June 24, July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 and August 5, 12 at 3:30PM

ArtVan will be providing hands-on creative art programs this summer in Kennedy Park for children ages 5-14 (ages 5-8 must be accompanied by an adult) for self-expression, personal growth, and fun.

Free. All art supplies will be provided.

Thursdays Aug 8 – Sept 5

WILTON -- Opening Minds through Art, Thursdays August 1 – September 5, 1 pm – 2 pm at Education Center of SeniorsPlus at 284 Main St., Suite 100, Wilton

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

Aug 13, 20

MAINE -- University of Maine Cooperative Extension welcomes local farmers, service providers, and Ag stakeholders to participate in the 2024 Maine Pasture Walk Series. Five events, all of which will start at 11 a.m., will be held on the following days and farms:

Springside Farm, 577 Anson Valley Road in New Vineyard, on Jul 23.

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

Faithful Venture Farm, 17 Borough Road in Searsmont, on Aug 06.

The Wolfe's Neck Center, 184 Burnett Road in Freeport, on Aug 13.

Grace Pond Farm, 530 Main Street in Thomaston, on Aug 20.

Attendees will learn about dairy production systems, pasture management, forage species identification, climate-smart practices, regenerative grazing, and more from forage producers and Assistant Extension Professor Jaime Garzon.

The 2024 Maine Pasture Walk Series is open and free for all participants. Visit the event webpage for more information and registration.

Aug 14

AUBURN -- Read ME Summer Book Discussions at the Auburn Public Library, Wednesday, August 14, 2024 – 4:00-5:00 p.m. (The Road to Dalton)

Aug 14

LEWISTON -- The Lewiston Public Library in Kennedy Park to see the amazing Mr. Drew and His Animals Too on Wednesday, August 14th at 5:30PM. This summer fun event is for

all ages and no registration is required. Free. In person.

Kennedy Park is located at 120 Park Street in Lewiston. The Lewiston Public Library is located downtown at 200 Lisbon Street at the corner of Pine Street and Lisbon St. More information about the performance by Mr. Drew and His Animals Too is available by contacting the Lewiston Public Library at 513-3133 or LPLKids@lewistonmaine.gov.

Aug 23

BAR MILLS -- Novel Jazz Septet - Keeping the musical legacy of Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn alive and swinging at Saco River Theatre, 29 Salmon Falls Road, Bar Mills, ME, Friday, August 23 at 7:30 PM. Tickets: \$15 General Admission at www.sacorivertheatre.org.

Aug 23

LEWISTON -- The Lewiston Public Library for Butterfly Storytime and Craft in the Children's Department on Friday, August 23rd at 10am. Recommended for children ages 2 – 6 years old and their caregivers. Sib-

lings are always welcome.

Enjoy an interactive butterfly storytime learning about butterflies and their life cycle. Stop by for some fun with books, songs, and body movement while building early literacy skills. After the storytime, each child can decorate and create their own flapping butterfly.

This program is free, open to the public and no registration is required.

Aug 24, 25; Sept 8, 14

Join the DaPonte String Quartet with new violinist, Philipp Ellsner in a performance of Mozart's Quartet in Bb Major, K. 589 and Beethoven's epic Quartet in Eb Major, Op. 127

Saturday August 24 at 4:00 Union Hall, 24 Central St., Rockport

Sunday August 25 at 4:00 Surry Arts & Events at the Barn, 8 Cross Rd., Surry

Sunday September 8 at 7:00 Old Walpole Meetinghouse Candlelight Concert, State Rt. 129, Walpole

(<https://oldwalpolemeetinghouse.org/> for tickets)

Saturday September 14 at 4:00 Great Cranberry Island Church

Tickets and additional information at dapontequartet.org

Aug 24

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Saturday, August 24, 2024| 10am - 5pm

Free Street Parking Lot @ 120 Free Street, Portland ME. Admission is free and open to the public. Outdoors - rain or shine

Aug 26

FAIRFIELD -- The US Navy Band, Country Current, is coming to Maine the last week of August '24. They will be at Lawrence High School in the air-conditioned WATC in Fairfield, Maine on Monday, 26 AUG '24 at 7 p.m. The physical school address is: 9 School Street, Fairfield, ME 04937. Tickets are FREE and may be printed off at the following link: https://usnavyband.ticketleap.com/2024-cc-fairfield/dates/Aug-26-2024_at_0700PM

Aug 28

BAR MILLS -- Nathan & The Zydeco Chas - If you haven't heard what's happening

in zydeco lately, here's your chance at Saco River Theatre, 29 Salmon Falls Road, Bar Mills, ME, Wednesday, August 28 at 7:30 PM. Tickets: \$15 at www.sacorivertheatre.org

Summer 2024

NORWAY -- Art Exhibition "If You Lived Here, You Would" at the award-winning Gingerbread House, Main Street, Norway, Maine. The show will dialogue with the history of this incredible edifice, which pours out of its every nook and cranny. "If You Lived Here You Would..." is a consideration of the home's past that offers a glimpse into its potential future through a selection of sculptures, paintings, drawings, and mixed-media pieces—brought to western Maine for the very first time—by a group of internationally recognized and acclaimed artists.

GORHAM LITTLE LEAGUE

Field Funding Campaign

The Gorham Youth Baseball & Softball Association is making a large capital investment to provide updates and add fields to accommodate practice and game schedules:

- Develop 2 fields at White Rock
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- Add infield mix and relevel current fields
- Acquire tarps and field maintenance equipment
- Add scoreboards

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SENIOR TRIPS

OCTOBER 6 – 14, 2024 - NOVA SCOTIA, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND & NEW BRUNSWICK – Trip includes 8 nights lodging, 8 breakfasts, 1 lunch, and 6 dinners. You will have a guided tour of Acadia National Park, Halifax, Peggy's Cove & Lunenburg. We will visit King's Landing Historical Settlement and have a guided tour of Prince

Edward Island including Anne of Green Gable's Home. We will have admission to the Hopewell Rocks and you will visit the Waterside Town of Saint John, New Brunswick and much more. A \$75.00 deposit is due when signing up. Price is \$1,639.00 per person double occupancy and this includes all entrance fees, meal tips and bus driver tip.

NOVEMBER 18-20, 2024 - CHRISTMAS IN NEW YORK CITY - Trip includes 2 nights lodging with 3 days in New York City. Breakfasts each morning and 1 dinner in a Manhattan Restaurant is included. We will have a backstage tour of Radio City Music Hall and a guided tour of Lower Manhattan, Times Square, Greenwich Village, Little Italy, Ground Zero and the Financial District. You will also visit the 9/11 Memorial Museum and Rockefeller Center. On Wednesday afternoon it's off to Radio City Music Hall to see the Christmas Spectacular featuring the World-Famous Rockettes. A \$200 deposit per person is due upon registration. Trip price is \$749.00 per person double occupancy

which includes guided tours, Radio City Spectacular, included meals and bus driver tip. Make checks payable to White Star Tours.

DECEMBER 13-15, 2024 - WHITE MOUNTAIN HOTEL & RESORT - Trip includes 2 nights lodging with 5 meals. We will visit the Rocks Estate in Bethlehem, NH with a Moose and Bear educational program. We will stop at the Bethlehem post office where you will be able to stamp your Christmas cards with the Star of Bethlehem seal and have them mailed from Bethlehem. Trip also includes 1 afternoon comedy show and 2 evening shows. All room and meal taxes and gratuities are included.

Price for a double is \$629.00 per person. Deposit is \$100.00 per person at time of registration. Make checks payable to White Mountain Hotel and Resort.

APRIL 12-20, 2025 - A WEEK IN SPAIN: BARCELONA, MADRID & SEVILLE - Trip includes 7 nights lodging, 7 breakfasts and 3 dinners, 5 sightseeing tours and two train rides. Highlights are Sagrada Familia, Royal

Palace, Prado Museum, Cordoba, Olive Oil Tasting, Food Tasting and Royal Alcazar. Deposit to reserve your spot is \$300.00 with trip protection available for \$449.00.

If interested in any of these trips or upcoming trips, please contact Claire Bilodeau at 784-0302 or Cindy Boyd at 345-9569. If we are not available, please leave a message and we will call you as soon as we can.

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