



# TWIN CITY TIMES

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Thursday, October 17, 2024 • FREE

## New Maine MILL art installation memorializes shootings

**LEWISTON, ME** — A new art installation at Maine MILL commemorates the one-year remembrance of the mass shootings in Lewiston. Maine MILL commissioned locals, photographer Tanja Hollander and multimedia Deaf artist Miia Zellner, to create an installation that uses all 261 plastic flower sleeves saved from Justin-Time Recreation and Schemengee's Bar and Grille.

Flowers are left as signs of mourning around the world, but this is the first installation that uses the plastic flower sleeves. Through this medium, the work will explore loss, the role of impermanent expressions, and the impetus behind shared community recovery from the effects of mass violence. The installation will be on view beginning October 16 in

the recently-created memorial room within the museum.

The mass shooting that took place on October 25, 2023 killed 18 people, including 4 members of the Deaf community—the 10th largest shooting in United States' history. Lewiston-Auburn is now among many communities around the country that have been devastated by mass shooting events. Since October 25, 2023, Maine MILL has been leading the cultural response to the shootings, documenting, archiving and preserving all of the memorial items left around the cities. The museum has committed to having a permanent memorial space to display objects and changing exhibits related to the events.

About the Artists  
Tanja Hollander is



an artist who works with photography, video, installation and social practice to understand how cultural and visual relationships help us make sense of our challenging world. She was born in St. Louis, Mis-

souri, in 1972 and received a B.A. in Photography, Film, and Feminist Studies from Hampshire College in 1994. Her last body of work, Are you really my friend? debuted in its entirety as an exhibition, short documentary and book for a year at MASS MoCA in 2017. Sections were recently exhibited at the Museum of Fine Arts (Boston), Portland Museum of Art (Maine), Virei Viral (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), and the Carl-Schurz-Haus (Freiberg, Germany). She lives and works in Auburn, Maine.

Miia Zellner is a Deaf multimedia artist who lives in Lewiston, Maine. Zellner graduated from MassArt with a BFA in glass in 2022 with a Master of Art in Teaching (MAT) from Maine College of Art & Design Art in 2023. Their work ex-

plores themes of the Deaf experience and the relationship between humans and their environment. In addition to their practice, Miia teaches elementary art in Turner, Maine, and inspires students to discover their own artistic voice.

The exhibit is made possible by the Maine Community Foundation, the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation, the Maine Humanities Council, and the Maine Arts Commission.

The exhibit runs from October 16, 2024 to September 6, 2025.

For more information about Maine MILL and its events and exhibits, visit [www.mainemill.org](http://www.mainemill.org) or call 207-333-3881. The museum is located at 35 Canal Street in Lewiston and is open Wednesday through Saturday, 10am – 4pm.

## CLT to host Halloween historical Ghost Walk

**AUBURN, ME** - On October 18 and 19, L/A Community Little Theatre will be conducting L/A Ghost Walks. The walks begin at L/A Community Little Theatre and then venture through various streets of Lewiston/Auburn. The walk will be about one hour, starting and ending at L/A Community Little Theatre, with a gift shop and tarot card reader inside. Parking is in the parking lot beside the theatre. Tickets will be \$15 in advance, and \$20 at the

door (space permitting). CLT's ghoulish guides will take tours of 15 people max on the tour. New tours leave every 15 minutes. You can find the link to purchase tickets on the theatre's website at [www.laclt.com](http://www.laclt.com). Make sure you reserve your spot as they will fill up faster than the plots in the graveyard.

A variety of CLT's favorites will entertain you as some of Maine's most notable figures as they lead you on a historical walking tour visiting some of Au-

burn, and Lewiston's, most historic sites. The ghosts will be out and about. Make sure you're ready for some spooky sightings while you learn a little local history and hear (somewhat) true stories of ghost sightings and hauntings, inspired by local legends.

This event is rain or shine and for entertainment purposes only. It is intended to be creepy and spooky, but not scary. Some content may not be suitable for children, viewer discretion is advised.

**LEWISTON - AUBURN GHOST WALKS**  
**OCT. 18 & 19**  
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 7:15 PM - 10:00 PM  
 TOURS LEAVE EVERY 15 MINUTES

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## Mind Body Spirit Festival

**FREEPORT, ME** — On Sunday, October 20 from 10:00-4:00, energize your life at this festival with psychics and mediums, Reiki, massage, organic products, crystals, gems and jewelry, an animal communicator, medical intuitive, enlightening workshops, and a lot

more.

\$5.00 admission includes some workshops; other workshops and practitioners may require additional fees.

Hilton Garden Inn, 5 Park Street, Freeport, ME 04032

[www.mindbodyspiritfestivals.org](http://www.mindbodyspiritfestivals.org)



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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## 10<sup>th</sup> generation dairy awarded grant

**TURNER, ME**  
 -- Maine Farmland Trust (MFT) has awarded a \$65,000 Implementation Grant to Brigeen Farms in Turner, a 10th generation family owned and operated dairy farm. Brigeen Farms will use the funds to implement elements of a business plan to upgrade the farm's infrastructure and technology and reduce operational costs to reach efficiencies of scale.



As farmers Betsy and Bill Bullard put it: "The goal for the future is simple: to continue to evolve and position the farm in such a way that it continues to offer the same opportunities for future generations."

To become eligible to apply for the grant, Brigeen Farms completed Farming for the Long Haul, MFT's competitive two-year business planning program for experienced farmers designed to grow the long-term success and financial resilience of their businesses.

Over the course of the program, they received technical assistance to analyze their value-added enterprise, and developed a multi-year business plan to increase their milk production and finance infrastructure improvements to address labor, time, and cost bottlenecks.

"Maine dairy farms are essential to our agricultural sector, stewarding

vast acreages of farmland while contributing to rural jobs and economic opportunities throughout the supply chain. As one of Maine's longest-running family dairies, Brigeen Farms is a cornerstone in the community and a significant producer of Maine milk. Maine Farmland Trust is excited to support Brigeen Farms as they make these forward-looking investments to evolve and grow their business for years into the future," said Tricia Rouleau, Farm Network Director at Maine Farmland Trust.

Over the past 25 years, Brigeen Farms has grown from 65 milking cows to a herd of 580 registered Holstein cows, plus more than 800 crop acres for feed production. While wholesale milk is the farm's primary operation, selling 16.1 million pounds of milk in 2023 through the Dairy Farmers of America Cooperative, the farm has diversified to include Canty Cow Creamery, pro-



ducing and selling premium frozen custard, and a small compost business.

Under Brigeen Farms' multi-year business plan developed with support from MFT's Farming for the Long Haul program, their aim is to increase profitability and efficiencies of scale by growing their herd to 700 milking cows. By producing a higher volume of milk and investing in more efficient infrastructure, the farm hopes to increase its income and reduce its operational costs over the long term.

Through the Farming for the Long Haul program, Brigeen Farms also worked with a dairy expert on a financial analysis of a robotic, or voluntary, milking system to explore what such a transition might require. As labor costs continue to increase and the number of available and

interested farmworkers in the area declines, a priority in the business plan is to attract and retain employees with more opportunities to specialize and leverage newer technologies. The financial analysis identified that the gradual introduction of a robotic milking system could help to address labor challenges, but would require upgrades to on-farm milk storage and handling, the power supply, as well as changes to the way the animals are housed, feed is stored, and deliveries are made.

"The opportunity to learn from other successful Maine farm enterprise owners in workshop settings, as well as access targeted Technical Assistance funds for detailed business analyses has been extremely valuable as we chart the next steps for further modernization and improvement at Brigeen Farms. Im-

plementation Grant funds are enabling project work in 2024 to continue making strides on improved viability and profitability for our 10th generation family farm," said Betsy Bullard.

With the Implementation Grant funding, Brigeen Farms plans to construct a new operational hub facility with increased milk storage that will help set the foundation for a smooth transition of the business for generations to come at the farm. The new milkhouse will allow for greater bulk tank storage capacity, including a mechanical and water system set up, electrical upgrades, greater trucking accessibility, and easier employee workflow.

These efficiencies will reduce costs and risk, while setting the stage for the potential future introduction of a robotic milking system to achieve even greater efficiency. And as farmer-owners Betsy and Bill Bullard plan for their eventual retirement with-

in the next 25 years, they hope these improvements will position the farm business for a successful transfer to the next generation.

This is the eighth year that MFT has awarded Implementation Grants to farmers, totaling \$1,385,359 in funds to support projects to help farm businesses increase their profitability and resilience to risk. After completing Farming for the Long Haul, participants have the opportunity to apply for the Implementation Grant and bring their business plan before a review committee of MFT staff and industry experts. Awardees must source \$65,000 in addition to the \$65,000 matching grant received from MFT, resulting in a total of at least \$130,000 toward the implementation of their plan.

These Implementation Grants, and the hundreds of hours of workshops, technical assistance, and individual support delivered to farmers annually through MFT's Farm Business Planning Programs, are made possible through the generosity of The Bingham Trust, Kennebec Savings, Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE), Ram Island Conservation Fund, and the many supporters who recognize the value that local farms bring to our communities and economy.

## Dairy workforce impact fund to boost jobs, skills in Northeast

**MAINE** – The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) is excited to announce the launch of the

Dairy Workforce Impact Fund, a new initiative designed to address critical workforce challenges in the region's dairy indus-

try. With \$1.215 million in funding, the initiative aims to strengthen the workforce pipeline, improve career advancement opportunities, increase worker retention, and reduce barriers to participation in the dairy sector across 11 Northeast states.

NE-DBIC will pilot the Fund for two years, beginning this fall. Designed to spark, grow, share, and invest in workforce solutions, the Fund will provide grants and resources to support both farm and processing businesses across the Northeast. This

initiative addresses critical challenges, including a shortage of entry-level workers and limited career pathways in the dairy sector.

The Dairy Workforce Impact Fund focuses on four Key Priorities: Strengthening the

Pipeline: Expanding the number of new workers entering the dairy industry

Building Skills and Career Opportunities: Elevating training programs that increase career advancement

Increasing Worker Retention: Fostering workplace cultures that improve employee satisfaction

Reducing Barriers: Removing obstacles for employees and new industry entrants, especially through training and development

This investment will be dispersed in one round of directed funds and two rounds of competitive grants. Directed funds will go to programs focused on strengthening Registered Apprenticeship programming, increasing access to supervisor skill-building opportunities, and growing the pipeline of new workers across the Northeast region. These programs are:

Center for Dairy  
 See Dairy, page 10

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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## Absentee ballots, early voting hours now available

**LEWISTON, ME** – The State Candidate and Referendum election will be held on Tuesday, November 5. Absentee ballots for this election are currently available for Lewiston voters. The City Clerk’s Office mailed over 2,500 absentee ballots on Tuesday to fill orders that have been submitted since August. Voters should expect to see these in their mailboxes over the next few days. Ballots can be returned via the mail or delivered to the absentee ballot drop box at City Hall.

Registered voters wishing to obtain an absentee ballot may order

one via four methods:

- 1) Calling the City Clerk’s Office at 513-3124
  - 2) Submitting an application form via the mail or red City Hall drop box; application can be downloaded from the City’s website
  - 3) In person at the City Clerk’s Office, located on the second floor of City Hall; office hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday - 7:45am - 4:00pm and Tuesdays 7:45am -5:30pm
  - 4) Online at the City’s election website
- The statewide deadline to request an absentee ballot is Thursday, Octo-



ber 31.

The City’s Early Voting Polling Place will be open Monday through Thursday during the dates of October 8 – 31. The

hours are 8am – 4pm and the voting will take place in the City Council Chambers, first floor, City Hall. There will be 13 voting booths to accommodate



the volume of voters. “Residents really appreciate the convenience of coming into City Hall to vote early during our elections, they find the space to be a quieter place to vote and a calmer pace than at the polls on a busy election day. Many residents look forward to this option every year and we are happy to provide this service”, said Lewiston City Clerk Kathy Montejo.

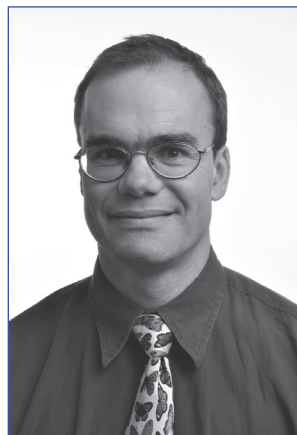
Before voting, residents are encouraged to familiarize themselves

with the candidate races and five state referendum questions. The City’s website contains sample ballots as well as information on ranked choice voting, directions to the polling places and other information that voters may find useful. The website address is: <https://www.lewistonmaine.gov/117/Elections>

Voters are encouraged to contact the City Clerk’s Office at 513-3124 with any questions they may have.

## Speaker coming to Genealogical Society’s fall meeting

**AUBURN, ME** -- The Maine Franco-American Genealogical Society [MFGS] is pleased to have Dr. Joseph Hall, Associate Professor of History at Bates College, as its guest speaker at its fall general membership meeting on October 26th at 10:00 am in the Androscoggin Community Room of the Auburn Public Library, 49 Spring St., Auburn.



**Dr. Joseph Hall, Associate Professor of History, Bates College**

open to the public. Dr. Hall focuses his

research on the history of Wabanaki in Maine, particularly the ways that they have maintained relationships with their colonized homelands. He notes that Wabanakis is the collective term for the Penobscots, Passamaquodias, Mi’kmaq, and Maliseets not only of Maine, but also New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and eastern Quebec.

Dr. Hall’s presentation is titled:

Does Descent Mean Belonging? Incomplete Thoughts on the Relationship between Genealogical Heritage and Contempo-

rary Wabanaki Communities

Many people in Maine have ancestors who were Wabanaki. Some have used these genealogical connections to claim that they belong to Wabanaki communities.

While there are connections between French Canadian and Wabanaki family histories, these connections can have many potential meanings, and many of these meanings are deeply contested. What is the relationship between membership in a Wabanaki nation and having Wabana-

ki ancestors? Dr. Hall’s talk will not resolve this question, but he will do his best to explain why the answers are so complicated.

There will be time for a question-and-answer session at the end of Dr. Hall’s presentation.

MFGS is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote the study of Franco-American genealogy and genealogical research in the state of Maine.

For more information about MFGS visit [www.mfgen.org](http://www.mfgen.org)

For more information

about the meeting, contact Connie Hitchcock at [cahitchco@aol.com](mailto:cahitchco@aol.com).

For parking information at the Auburn Public Library, visit [www.auburn-publiclibrary.org](http://www.auburn-publiclibrary.org)

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

## Quiet Conversation about Maine Civil War soldiers

**LEWISTON, ME** -- You are cordially invited to join us for an evening of interesting people, stories, and items related to the Civil War with a focus on Maine soldiers. We meet the third Thursdays of the month during summer and fall. This October session will be the last regular session this year.

The primary topic for this month will be Civil War photography. We hope guests will bring examples from their own family or other collections.

There’s a variety of photographic styles were available, including:

Daguerreotypes: A portrait technique

Ambrotypes: A quicker and cheaper alternative to daguerreotypes, primarily used for portraits

Iron tintypes: A quicker and cheaper alternative to daguerreotypes, primarily used for portraits

Cartes de visite: Also known as card photographs, these were commonly collected in albums


Stereographs: A type

of photograph available during the Civil War

Other topics will be included based on attendee interests. We hope you will join us. For more information or answers to questions please contact the Androscoggin Historical Society, (207) 784-0586.


Thursday, October 17, 2024 at the Androscoggin Historical Society, 93 Lisbon Street, Lewiston, Maine 6:00pm-7:30pm


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## TWIN CITY TIMES

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# Seniors Not Acting Their Age

# Chowderheads Challenge the Petawawa River



Eggman DeCoster enters Big Thompson Rapid on the Petawawa River



Paddlers cross mirror calm Lake Travers



Paddlers Relax at Lake Travers Campsite

The Petawawa River is one of the most renowned canoe tripping rivers in Canada. Most of the river is located in Algonquin Provincial Park in north central Ontario, the oldest provincial park in Canada. Famous for its exciting whitewater and spectacular beauty, the remote waterway has a rich logging history. The Petawawa derives its unusual name from Algonquian for “where one hears a noise like this,” probably referring to the many rapids.

While vaguely familiar with the Petawawa, I never expected to paddle it. Then last December, I received an unexpected Christmas email from longtime friend Bill Blauvelt. He and his wife, Sally, were organizing a Petawawa River trip for this

September and I was invited. I readily accepted the welcome invitation.

The logistics for a Petawawa trip are daunting. Camping reservations are required in the various zones on the river but not for specific sites which are filled on a first-come first-serve basis. And, shuttle arrangements must be made for the isolated access points. The upper levels of the Petawawa are generally too low to run late summer so our plan was to begin at Lake Travers, a five-day trip. Bill did an amazing job of organizing the entire adventure.

The drive from central Maine to the Petawawa is about 10 hours (add an additional two hours if you get lost in Montreal which we managed to do). Six of us

met at the bustling village of Petawawa on a cold blustery day. Paddlers consisted of Bill and Sally in a tandem canoe, Pat Hamlin and Eggman DeCoster maneuvering solo canoes, and Ken Gordon and me navigating expedition kayaks. With the exception of Pat, all of us are Chowderheads with the Penobscot Paddle & Chowder Society.

Despite stormy weather immediately before the trip, the forecast was exceptional for our five-day excursion calling for hot sunny weather, light winds, and negligible precipitation. Blackflies were a concern. Bill and Sally packed a screen tent for protection from the menaces should they appear.

On the drive to the

put-in, we stopped at Algonquin Outfitters where final shuttle arrangements were made and Pat rented a canoe. Our vehicles would be waiting for us at the take-out. Ominously, blackflies were a nuisance in the parking area. We received great news when signing into the park; no other paddlers were expected on the river – that meant no vying for campsites!

The long drive on quality dirt roads to the launch area on Lake Travers was uneventful. The lake itself was stunningly beautiful. No blackflies were noted when loading our boats. The lake was mirror calm when we embarked traveling north.

After paddling past a large island, the lake narrowed and we began searching for a campsite. Benefiting from the luxury of no competition, we inspected four potential sites before selecting an expansive island site with a magnificent view facing south – and no bugs.

Dense fog and cool temperatures greeted us in the morning. We lingered until the fog lifted and another glorious day ensued.

Soon after we departed, the lake narrowed and the river began. Three miles of flatwater brought us to the first whitewater on our journey, Big and Little Thompson Rapids. Unsure



Pat Hamlin finishes Big Thompson Rapid

of what to expect in terms of difficulty, we scouted Big Thompson from a portage trail on the right. Identifying no serious difficulties, we descended down the middle in loaded boats avoiding ledges on the left and sticky holes on the right.

Rated Grade 2, from river level Little Thompson appeared to be a straight forward plunge down the right side in feisty waves. However, when entering the moderately steep pitch we did not directly correlate with the more familiar Class II rating we use.

Around the bend, we passed a busted blue canoe on the shore. It's likely someone experienced a mishap in one of the Thompson Rapids.

Flatwater and quick water continued for several miles until we found a campsite on river left a short distance above the beginning of Grillade Rapid. We settled in anticipating that several difficult rapids would make the following day the most challenging of the trip.

My book, *Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine* narrates the six best river trips in Maine.

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](http://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](http://www.ronchaseoutdoors.com) or he can be reached at [ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net](mailto:ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net)

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# Free classes with New Ventures Maine

**AUGUSTA, ME --** New Ventures Maine is offering free workshops and classes statewide in October in three program areas: career building, starting businesses, and financial education. NVME's redesigned website provides information about classes, instructors, and loca-



tions as well as individual coaching and matched sav-

ings programs. Upcoming classes include (partial list):  
**Build Your Career**  
My Next Career Move (self-paced)  
Building Confidence (one-hour online workshop)  
**Start Your Business**  
Tax Readiness for the Self-Employed (one-hour workshop)

**Build Your Business**  
Website (six sessions)  
Bookkeeping Solutions (one-hour workshop)  
**Manage Your Money**  
Matched Savings Information Session (one-hour workshop)  
My Money Works (five sessions)

Let's Talk About Credit (one-hour workshop)  
A schedule of free workshops and classes is regularly updated and accessible online. To learn more and choose a class that's right for you, visit [newventuresmaine.org](http://newventuresmaine.org) or call 207-621-3440.

## Donors vital in response to Hurricane Helene impact

**PORTLAND, ME —** The American Red Cross continues to work to restock critically needed blood products uncollected due to the ongoing impact of Hurricane Helene's devastation in the Southeast. Donors outside of affected areas are encouraged to make an appointment to give now and help keep the blood supply stable in the weeks to come. Since making landfall, the storm and its aftermath have led to the cancellation of more than 100 blood drives, causing thousands of blood and platelet donations to go uncollected. For so many people living with urgent medical care needs, blood transfusions are essential, and donations in the Southeast are key to keeping our nationwide network stocked. The Red

Cross operates through a national inventory with the ability to move blood wherever and whenever it is needed most. The time to give blood or platelets is now. Bring hope to those in need by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org), calling 1-800-RED CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App. As the Red Cross continues to urge people to give blood or platelets now, our teams are also on the ground providing vital relief — like food, water, shelter and support — in communities devastated by Hurricane Helene. If you're able to help those impacted by disasters big and small across the country, like Helene, please consider making a gift of any amount. All who come to give blood, platelets or plas-



ma Oct. 1-31 will receive a \$10 Amazon.com Gift Card by email, plus be automatically entered for a chance to win one of three \$5,000 gift cards. For full details, visit [RedCrossBlood.org/Treat](http://RedCrossBlood.org/Treat).  
Upcoming blood donation opportunities Oct. 8-31:  
**Androscoggin**  
Auburn  
10/31/2024: 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Central Maine Community College, 1250 Turner St  
Lewiston  
10/18/2024: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., CMMC, 12 High Street, Lower Level  
10/22/2024: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Bates College Gray Cage, 124 Central Ave  
**Cumberland**  
Brunswick  
10/23/2024: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Elks Lodge, 179 Park Row  
10/25/2024: 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., American Legion Post 20, 1 Columbus Drive  
10/30/2024: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Bowdoin College, 8 Polar Loop, Morrell Lounge BLDG.  
Falmouth  
10/21/2024: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., The Episcopal Church of St. Mary, 43 Foreside Rd

Gorham  
10/24/2024: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Cressey Road Christian Church, 81 Cressey Road  
Gray  
10/22/2024: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., Gray New Gloucester High School, 10 Libby Hill Road  
North Yarmouth  
10/25/2024: 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Wescustogo Hall and Community Center, 120 Memorial Hwy  
Portland  
10/25/2024: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Partners for World Health, 40 Walch Dr  
10/29/2024: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Cambria Hotel, 25 Hancock St  
Scarborough  
10/24/2024: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Scarborough Community Services, 418 Payne Rd  
10/29/2024: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Saint Maximilian Church, 150 Black Point Rd  
South Portland  
10/23/2024: 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., South Portland Community Center, 21 Nelson Road  
10/29/2024: 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Eastpoint Christian Church, 345 Clarks Pond Pkwy  
Standish  
10/30/2024: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Saint Josephs College - Alford Center, 278 Whites Bridge Rd  
10/31/2024: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bonny Eagle High School, 700 Saco Road  
Westbrook  
10/25/2024: 12 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., Westbrook Community Center, 426 Bridge Street  
Windham  
Yarmouth  
10/18/2024: 11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., American Legion Post 91, 196 Main St

## MEMIC Group announces \$18.7M dividend

**PORTLAND, ME —** The MEMIC Group Board of Directors has approved an \$18.7 million dividend distribution to as many as 17,000 eligible policyholders who obtain their workers' compensation insurance from the company. This 2024 dividend brings the total capital and dividend distributions for Maine policyholders to \$370 million since 1998. MEMIC Group President and CEO Mi-

chael Bourque announced the dividend at the 2024 MaineBiz CEO Breakfast Forum in Portland. "This year's dividend, equal to approximately 11 percent of premiums paid to MEMIC in 2021, reflects our policyholders' commitment to workforce safety," Bourque stated. "It underscores our collective efforts to prevent injuries and ensure injured workers receive the best medical care for a safe return to work."

Bourque emphasized MEMIC's mutual insurance model: "As a mutual company, we champion injury prevention and management. It benefits our policyholders, their workers, and makes financial sense. We applaud our policyholder members for earning this dividend." However, Bourque also warned that significant rate decreases over the last few years, coupled with a spate of serious workplace injuries in recent months are leading to increasing loss ratios for the company. He said the company and its policyholders will need to bring even greater focus on workforce safety to continue to pay double-digit dividends. "We're seeing some tragic events occurring in our workplaces all over Maine," Bourque said. "These are life-altering injuries which are avoidable in almost every circumstance. We all need to pay attention to the risks that

surround us at work every day." The annual MEMIC dividend isn't guaranteed but reflects employers' success in injury prevention and management, as well as MEMIC's operational and investment performance. The dividend, which will be mailed to policyholders in November, is based on success from the 2021 year.



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# Arts & Entertainment

## Meals on Wheels Jay Distribution Center open house

JAY, ME -- SeniorsPlus is hosting an Open House at their Meals on Wheels (MOW) Distribution Center located in the Jay Plaza in Jay. On Wednesday, October 23 from 2:00 – 4:00p.m. the public is invited to stop by to meet staff, tour the facility and learn more about SeniorsPlus services.

The MOW program provides nutritious meals for eligible individuals 60 years of age and older and individuals under 60 years of age that have a disability. SeniorsPlus delivers meals to residents throughout Franklin, Oxford and Androscoggin counties and includes a Pets on Wheels component for clients with pets.

Janis Walker, Nutrition Services Director stated, "The new Jay location allows us to accommodate program growth and provides an enhanced space for staff and volunteers". Food insecurity is a major issue for older adults and increases risk of malnutrition, disease, and the inability to remain in one's own

home. Food assistance and delivery through the Meals on Wheels program is an important part of meeting essential needs for older adults. MOW meals provide a balanced nutritious meal that fosters health and healing and enables individuals to remain in their homes.

The Meals on Wheels Distribution site is located at 29 Jay Plaza Lane in Jay by Hannaford. Refreshments will be provided. Door prizes will be awarded. No RSVP necessary. All are welcome.

## Lewiston Farmers' Market hosts Fall Festival

LEWISTON, ME

--Join us for the Lewiston Farmers' Market ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL in honor of beloved former volunteer, Joe Cook and sponsored by Munka Studio on Sunday, October 20th 9:30 am - 3:00 pm at 2 Oxford St. in Lewiston. A family fun day for all, the event will include pumpkin decorating, scavenger hunt, costume contest, face painting & more!

This year, to celebrate the farmers market's 20th year in operation and the Chamber of Commerce's Eat Local Challenge <https://lametrocc.com/EatLocal> the Fall Festival will include a HARVEST SUPPAH from 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm located at the markets green space at 75 Lincoln Street that will feature harvest soups, fresh rolls and garlic butter, a fall veggie slaw, and hot apple cider!




(vegan, gluten free option available!).

A \$12 donation is suggested on the day of the event for the meal, and kids under five years old

eat free. Please join us in celebrating our successful market season and all our many seasons with this fun, community building event!

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**COMMUNITY LITTLE THEATRE**  
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# 1776



Book by Peter Stone  
Music by Sherman Edwards  
Lyrics by Sherman Edwards  
Based on a conception of Sherman Edwards

Director  
Celeste Philippon

Assistant Director  
Mark Hazard

Music Director  
Linda Vaillancourt

Asst. Dir./Choreographer  
Eileen Messina

Stage Manager  
Brandon Chaloux

Producer  
Jane Mitchell

Fri-Sat, Oct 25 -26, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.  
Sun, Oct 27, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.  
Thu-Sat, Oct 31, Nov 1-2, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.  
Sun, Nov 3, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

For tickets or info call 783-0958 or visit [LACLT.com](http://LACLT.com)  
Tickets : \$25 adults • \$22 seniors & students • \$17 (children under 13)  
includes all taxes and fees  
Great Falls Performing Arts Center, 30 Academy Street, Auburn, ME

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# UUCB Concerts for a Cause: Sally Rogers & Claudia Schmidt

**BRUNSWICK, ME** — Sally and Claudia, both Michigan natives, have each shared their talents as solo artists and as a duo. For over 4 decades, they have been performing together, demonstrating a deep musical connection onstage. They have played at prestigious folk venues around the world and were regulars on Garrison Keillor’s Prairie Home Companion. Their beautiful harmonies, fascinating double dulcimer work, and the mix of 6 and 12 string guitars make up their wide repertoire of originals and traditional songs.

Sally Rogers is a remarkably accomplished musician, songwriter,

storyteller, and educator. Over her career, she has recorded more than a dozen albums and has established herself as a preeminent voice in folk music. She began her career as a full-time touring musician in 1979, after encouragement from Stan Rogers, the legendary Canadian singer-songwriter. Rogers has toured extensively, performing as well as teaching workshops with adults and children. She has also appeared many times on A Prairie Home Companion and Mountain Stage and is a favorite at folk and storytelling festivals.

Claudia Schmidt is a powerful vocalist who describes herself as a



UUCB Concerts for a Cause presents an evening with the renowned folk singers, Sally Rogers and Claudia Schmidt at the Brunswick UU Church, 1 Middle Street, on October 19th at 7:30 pm. All proceeds from the concert will be given to this season’s charities, Brunswick Area Teen Center and Maine Family Planning.

“creative noisemaker,” engaging audiences with folk classics, jazz, blues, bawdy verses and humorous parodies. She has recorded 16 of her own albums, and four with Sally Rogers. Her widely acclaimed folk and jazz-based compositions have found their way into radio, TV, film and theater productions. Her musical theater performances include “Gales of November,” a 2005 retelling of the tragic 1975 sinking of the ship Edmund Fitzgerald. Like Sally Rogers, Claudia has appeared numerous times on A Prairie Home Companion, solo and as a duo with Sally. Garrison Keillor once said. “When Claudia sings a song, it

stays sung.” Sally and Claudia’s 1987 album “Closing the Distance” was voted by public radio stations throughout the country as one of the 10 most popular albums of the year. They recently released their fourth collaborative album “We are Welcomed,” which celebrates love, friendship and social justice, themes that have been the cornerstone of their intertwined careers for decades. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, \$10 students/children. Tickets are available at the church office, Gulf of Maine Books, or at <https://ticketstripe.com/sallyrogers>.

# Holiday cards support Maine people with disabilities

**BATH, ME** — Pine Tree Society’s holiday cards have been a Maine tradition for over 50 years. This year’s cards by noted Maine artists Sandy Crabtree and Jeannine Staples celebrate winter in Maine. Crabtree’s painting “December Cove” is new for 2024 and Staples’ “Afternoon Play” was selected from the archives for a special limited edition re-release of this customer favorite. One hundred percent of proceeds from card sales support Pine Tree Society’s programs.

“I’m glad Pine Tree Society keeps this tradition going,” said featured artist, Sandy Crabtree. “There’s something very personal

about sending a Christmas card. I still receive cards from my family and out of state friends. You never know how touching getting a card is.”

Sandy’s painting “December Cove” depicts the incredible beauty of the Maine coast and the hard-working families who live and work here. Her paintings have been featured on Pine Tree Society’s holiday cards more than a dozen times. She is a noted children’s book illustrator and a longtime Bath resident who taught at Morse High School for nearly 30 years.

Jeannine Staples is known for her award winning Maine State Duck



“Afternoon Play” by Jeannine Staples

Stamps. “Afternoon Play” was last featured on a Pine Tree Society holiday card 25 years ago in 1999.

Pine Tree Society holiday cards can be ordered online at this link [https://app.etapestry.com/cart/PineTreeSociety/default/index](https://app.etapestry.com/cart/PineTreeSociety/default/index.php)



“December Cove” by Sandy Crabtree

php, by calling 207-443-3341 or visiting 149 Front Street in Bath.

More About Pine Tree Society: Pine Tree Society helps Maine people with disabilities lead richer, more socially connect-

ed lives. Too often, people with disabilities feel left out, even isolated. With the help of Pine Tree Society, they’re not alone. We share a spirit of innovation and desire to discover new ways to break down barriers that many

find insurmountable. It started as a bold new idea in 1936 and it continues every day. Headquartered in Bath with offices in Scarborough, Auburn and Pine Tree Camp in Rome. [www.pinetreesociety.org](http://www.pinetreesociety.org)



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November 16th  
9am-3pm

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Craft Fair**

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# Battle of the Blends XXIX: A Cappella returns to Lewiston

**LEWISTON, ME** -- The Maine Music Society (MMS) is excited to announce the 29th annual Battle of the Blends on Saturday, November 2, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the Franco Center in Lewiston. This much-loved event brings together five outstanding vocal groups for an evening of diverse a cappella performances, from jazz and barbershop to rock 'n' roll and Renaissance music.

Hosted by MMS Artistic Director, Richard Nickerson, the concert will feature performances by:

The Maine Music Society Chamber Singers, all members of the MMS Chorale, are known for their wide-ranging repertoire, from classical to modern pop, and have performed at various public events and as a part of several local concert series.

None of the Above delivers smooth harmonies in a broad mix of pop tunes, jazz standards, folk, spirituals, and non-traditional music with their own unique flair. NOTA was a finalist on the inaugural season of WG-BH's Sing That Thing.

Lewiston High School Blue Notes and the LHS Chamber Choir, two talented groups of young singers, are performing for the first time at Battle. The Chamber Choir is an advanced choral ensemble whose members must audition to be in that class. They have performed at various community events and many of the students are regularly accepted into honors festivals. The Blue Notes is an auditioned ensemble of highly dedicated students. Blue Notes is a club that meets once a week and requires students to prepare their music on their own time. This is their first performance outside of school concerts.

The Afternotes are a women's group based on New Hampshire's seacoast and southern Maine. This multi-generation ensemble blends barbershop with contemporary a cappella.

The Downeasters Chorus is one of the top musical-performing and dynamic men's organizations in New England. They are part of the Barbershop Harmony Society promoting their love for barbershop – a



MMS Chamber Singers



The Afternotes



None of the Above



The Downeasters

musical art form with genuine American roots.

Set in the historic Franco Center, this one-night-only event promises a captivating celebration of a cappella music that the

whole family will enjoy.

New this year: Tickets are just \$6 for students ages 13 and up, and as always, youth 12 and under attend free when accompanied by an adult!

Tickets are on sale now, and early reservations are encouraged as the event typically sells out. Purchase tickets online at [www.mainemusicsociety.org](http://www.mainemusicsociety.org) or call 207-333-3386.

Don't miss this incredible evening that highlights vocal talent from Central Maine and beyond! Support local artists and enjoy an unforgettable musical experience.

rience.

The Maine Music Society thanks our Season Underwriters Hardy, Wolf & Downing and the Sun Journal, the Event Sponsor Platz Associates, Co-Sponsors Austin Associates and Schooner

Estates, and Supporter Cornerstone Wealth Planning for making this concert possible.

## Keep Lewiston beautiful: Citywide litter pick up day announced

**LEWISTON, ME** – The City of Lewiston invites residents, businesses, churches and community groups to participate in the citywide Litter Pick Up Day on Sat., Oct. 19 from 8 AM to 12 noon. Volunteers can make a visible impact to Lewiston by helping to remove litter from neighborhoods, streets, parks,

and trails.

"This event makes an immediate and visible difference in our community," said Kevin Gagné, Lewiston Public Works Director. "Every piece of litter removed brings us closer to a cleaner, more beautiful city." Gagné noted that during a recent event, volunteers removed over

1,800 pounds of litter.

Volunteers are asked to pre-register at [www.bit.ly/LewistonLitterPickUpOct192024](http://www.bit.ly/LewistonLitterPickUpOct192024) so that Lewiston Public Works (LPW) can prepare supplies and determine a pick-up location for the collected debris. Volunteers will gather at Kennedy Park, 120 Park St., from 8 AM to 12 noon



on Sat., Oct. 19, where Public Works staff will distribute supplies, including bags, gloves, pickers, and buckets.

Volunteers can pick up litter in any Lewiston neighborhood, park or trail and Lewiston Public Works will arrange to collect the bags of litter. Please note that volunteers will not be collecting food waste, yard debris, leaves, bulky waste, or large items.

"Our team works hard every day to maintain the cleanliness of our city, but this event allows us to go even further," said Megan Bates, Deputy Director of Public Works. "It's a great way for residents to pitch in and help us keep Lewiston looking its best."

Bates reminded residents that this event is citywide. "Lewiston is home to miles of trails and several parks that would be

an ideal location to pick up litter," said Bates. "For example, if a neighborhood group got together to pick up, they would register with us and we would arrange for them to have supplies and removal of what they collect."

The citywide litter pick up will occur rain or shine. Pre-registration is encouraged and LPW staff will also be able to register residents on Sat., Oct. 19.

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

## CALL FOR VENDORS

West Auburn Congregational Church  
 FALL VENDOR CRAFT FAIR  
 Saturday October 19th, 2024  
 811 West Auburn Road, Auburn, Maine  
 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

10'x10' outside area \$25 (rain or shine, non refundable)

If you have questions, or to register, please contact Florrie Mileikis  
 cell: 207-577-9734 email: [mileikisf@gmail.com](mailto:mileikisf@gmail.com)



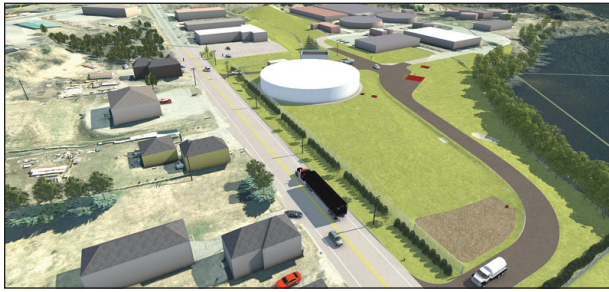


# Groundbreaking to improve water quality in Androscoggin River

**LEWISTON, AUBURN, ME** -- The cities of Lewiston and Auburn broke ground on a historic infrastructure project that will improve public health and the cleanliness of the Androscoggin River. The infrastructure project will expand the cities' treatment capacity at Lewiston Auburn Clean Water Authority by 20-percent, and

construct a holding tank to catch raw sewer and storm water to prevent pollution in the Androscoggin River during large rain events. In 2023, weather events forced 112 million gallons of untreated water and sewage into the Androscoggin River.

In Maine, thirty-four clean water utilities have old pipe infrastructure



that carry both sewer and storm water through the same network to a treatment facility. When storms increase water volume, the untreated, raw waters au-

tomatically bypass overwhelmed facilities and divert into rivers, oceans, watersheds and bays.

A 2023 report by the Maine DEP says 745 million gallons of raw waters polluted Maine waterbodies – a 244-percent increase from 2022. Storm events brought a record 57 inches of rain in 2023. The impact caused water quali-

ty issues at beaches, rivers and bays, and forced the closure of a dozen fishing sites. The first 1-inch of rain carries 80-percent of the pollutants – stopping these overflow events is a project the state of Maine has been working on since 1989.

The \$30M project is one of the largest of its kind in the state of Maine.

# CLT '1776' cast appears in costume at Chamber breakfast

**AUBURN, ME** -- Attendees at the October 10th Chamber breakfast were surprised to be joined by three of our Founding Fathers! From left are John Dickenson of Pennsylvania, Rev. John Witherspoon of New Jersey, and Ben Franklin of Pennsylvania. It turns out they were actually John Blanchette, Chip Morrison, and Roger Philippon, cast members of the upcoming Community Little Theatre (CLT) musical "1776."

life in this most unconventional of Broadway hits. The musical "1776" puts a human face on the pages of history as we see the men behind the national icons: proud, uncertain, irritable, charming, often petty, and ultimately noble figures, determined to do the right thing for a fledgling nation. Winner of three Tony Awards, including Best Musical, "1776" puts a human face on the pages of history as we see the real men behind the names we have known for so long.

The seminal event in American history blazes to

Performances will



start at 7:30 p.m. on October 25, 26, 31, November 1 and 2. Matinees will be held on October 27 and

November 3 at 2:00 p.m. A special "talk-back" for interested audience members will be held after



the October 27 matinee. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$22 for seniors/students, and \$17 for children aged 13 and under. All perfor-

mances will be held at CLT on 30 Academy Street in Auburn. Tickets and more information are available online at laclt.com.

# Little Keepsakes: Photo magnets

**LEWISTON, ME** -- On Friday, October 18th at 10am the Lewiston Public Library Children's Department will be offering the program Little Keepsakes: Photo Magnets. Caregivers and their children will be able to create

a photo magnet keepsake using a 4x6-inch photo of their children. Caregivers may email images to the Children's Department at LPLKids@lewistonmaine.gov to print before the program or photos may be taken and printed during

the program. This activity is recommended for caregivers with children ages birth- 6 years old. Siblings are also welcome to attend and participate.

This program will take place in the Children's Department on the third

floor of the library. The activity is free 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.

**Little Keepsakes: Photo Magnets**

**Friday**  
**October 18th**  
**10AM-11:30AM**

3rd Floor  
Children's Department



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# Grant to support historic preservation in Maine downtowns

**HALLOWELL, ME** – The Maine Development Foundation (MDF)’s Maine Downtown Center program is pleased to receive a \$750,000 grant from the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants Program. MDF is one of only 17 recipients in 15 states to receive this funding. Known in Maine as Revitalize ME Downtown, the program will provide grants for historic preservation projects that will foster economic development in Maine’s rural downtowns. This is the third time in five years that MDF has received this highly com-

petitive funding. Similar awards in 2019 and 2021 funded projects in Maine’s Main Street and Affiliate Communities including Skowhegan, Eastport, Bath, Norway, Dover-Foxcroft and Gardiner, Rumford, Machias, Ellsworth and Augusta.

“Supporting our National Main Street and Affiliate communities by bringing historic preservation funding opportunities to them is one of the most important things MDF’s Maine Downtown Center can do,” says Anne Ball, Sr. Program Director, Maine Downtown Center.



“We are grateful to the National Park Service for funding the work we are doing in Maine.”

Revitalize ME Downtown funds are provided by the Historic Preservation Fund, as administered by the National Park Service, Department of Interior. The Historic Preservation Fund is supported by revenue from offshore oil and gas leases, not tax dollars. The program will offer

grants to historic property owners for preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, or energy efficiency projects in the downtown areas of communities currently served by the Maine Downtown Center program.

Funding in the form of subgrants will be awarded through a competitive program that will be administered by MDF. These grants will provide desperately needed financial

capacity to encourage infrastructure development and leverage private sector investment increasing the commercial, educational, residential, or civic use and value of the historic properties. Grant applications and requirements will be made available in January 2024 at [www.mdf.org](http://www.mdf.org).

“The National Park Service helps rural areas across the country revitalize their communities through historic preservation,” said National Park Service Director Chuck Sams. “This locally stewarded work supports improvements to historic

buildings, preserving America’s cultural resources while benefiting local economies.”

These grants mark the sixth year of funding for the program honoring the late Paul Bruhn, who served as executive director of the Preservation Trust of Vermont for nearly 40 years. State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, Certified Local Governments, special district governments, and nonprofits are eligible to apply for funding to create a subgrant program to fund multiple preservation projects in their rural jurisdictions.

# Camden National Bank collects school supplies

**PORTLAND, ME** – Camden National Bank is proud to announce a significant donation of school supplies collected by employees and customers from all 57 banking centers to Ruth’s Reusable Resources, a local nonprofit dedicated to bridging the gap between business and education by transferring unwanted supplies to children and their teachers. This initiative highlights Camden National Bank employees’ unwavering commitment to giving back to the communities they serve.



On Tuesday, September 24, employees gathered for Camden National Bank’s annual employee appreciation event, bringing notebooks, pencils, crayons, backpacks, and more to be donated to schools across Maine. The annual event is a time for Camden National Bank’s employees to unite, recognize, and honor their

important work supporting consumers, businesses, and local communities throughout the year.

“We believe in the importance of investing in our communities, and that starts with our next generations,” said Renée Smyth, chief executive and marketing officer. “Investing in our children’s education supports our communities’ growth and prosperity. Our employees have shown incredible dedication in this initiative, demonstrating that together, we can make a meaningful impact in the lives of local students.”

“We are thankful to

Camden National Bank’s employees for collecting school supplies and donating them to our organization,” said Lisa Thomas-Willey, operations manager of Ruth’s Reusable Resources. “Having the tools they need in the classroom allows teachers and students throughout Maine to focus their attention on learning and maximizing each student’s potential.”

With locations across Maine and New Hampshire, Camden National Bank is dedicated to making a difference in the communities where its



**Pictured from left to right: Grace Cox (Marketing Specialist), Lisa Thomas-Willey (Ruth’s Reusable Resources’ Operations Manager), Jaimie Worster (Total Rewards & HRIS Manager), Lauren Epstein (Director of Client Services), Ruth Libby (Ruth’s Reusable Resources Founder), Jamie Bowden (Marketing Manager), Brian Medina (Saco Banking Center Manager)**

employees live and work. Employees are passionate about providing financial expertise to customers and volunteering locally

in their communities. In 2023, employees dedicated over 7,500 hours volunteering to nearly 240 different organizations. For

more information about Camden National Bank’s community initiatives, please visit [CamdenNational.bank](http://CamdenNational.bank).

# Sen. Rotundo congratulates Androscoggin Teacher of the Year

**AUGUSTA, ME**— On October 7, Sen. Peggy Rotundo (D-Lewiston) joined Rep. Margaret Craven and Rep. Kristen Cloutier in recognizing 2024 Androscoggin County Teacher of the Year Leah Boucher by presenting her with a legislative sentiment at a meeting of the Lewiston School Committee.

“Leah has earned this distinction by being a dedicated, creative and dynamic educator who truly gets to know her students in order to make sure they

get the most out of school,” said Sen. Rotundo. “She cares deeply about this community and works hard to prepare our young people for the future. She has made Lewiston very proud.”

Boucher has been a fourth grade teacher at Farwell Elementary School in Lewiston for six years.

According to the Maine Department of Education (DOE), the Teacher of the Year program is part of The National Teacher of the Year Pro-



**Left to Right: Senator Peggy Rotundo, Leah Boucher, Rep. Margaret Craven and Rep. Kristen Cloutier.**

gram, the country’s most distinguished teacher recognition program. Sixteen

County Teachers of the Year and one State Teacher of the Year are recognized

annually. The DOE Teacher of the Year website states that “each Teacher of the Year serves as an exemplar of the teaching profession. During their year of service, they are provided with opportunities to advocate for their students, their communities, and topics in education that are important to them, along with a network of educators who support one another through professional learning and grassroots efforts to improve education in Maine.”

A legislative sentiment acknowledges and

recognizes academic, athletic, civic, professional or service-related accomplishments. It is approved by the full Legislature and signed by the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House.

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

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**Dairy**  
*Continued from page 2*

Excellence’s Dairy Herd Manager Apprenticeship  
Cornell’s Agricultural Supervisory Leadership (ASL) Program  
Pilot Anne Saxelby

Legacy Fund (ASLF) Immersive Alumni Apprenticeship Program  
The first competitive round of funding is expected to open in early 2025. Grants will be open to applicants in Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Mary-

land, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.  
The NE-DBIC and its consulting partner KK&P have strategically developed this initiative

to enhance the workforce ecosystem for long-term growth and sustainability. For more information on the Dairy Workforce Impact Fund, visit <https://nedairyinnovation.com/resources/dairy-workforce-program/>

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

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# Rep. Cloutier applauds MDOL for seeking public feedback

AUGUSTA, ME – In May, the Maine Department of Labor (MDOL) published a first draft of its proposed rules for the state's new paid family and medical leave (PFML) program, which was created in 2023 as part of the supplemental budget enacted by the Legislature and signed by Gov. Janet Mills.

Having received public comment on those rules, MDOL has used that

feedback to make edits and produce a second draft. In an effort to make the strongest set of rules possible for this program, MDOL released the updated rules for a second round of public comment that was due on September 30. They also held a public hearing on Tuesday, September 17 at 9:00 a.m. in the Frances Perkins Room at the Maine Department of Labor.

Sen. Mattie Daughtry, D-Brunswick,

and Rep. Kristen Cloutier, D-Lewiston, who sponsored the PFML legislation, applauded MDOL for its continued work to roll out this program. The legislators intend to review these new draft rules and provide comment.

"Maine's Paid Family and Medical Leave Program is going to be one of the most significant and transformative policies our state has seen in decades, with all Mainers

having access to a new benefit," said Cloutier and Daughtry. "It is critical that we have strong rules when we launch this program, and we're so grateful for the second opportunity for employees and employers alike to provide feedback. It's pivotal that this program be responsive to the specific needs of Mainers, and we thank MDOL for continuing to engage the public, which is crucial in creating a final result that

is thoughtful, responsible and works for everybody."

In the first round of public comment, Daughtry and Cloutier provided feedback including suggestions around the required notice of leave, premium contributions from employers with approved private equivalent plans, the minimum amount of leave that must be offered in order for a private plan to be considered substantially equivalent, and the

provisions clarifying the affinity relationships covered by the program.

Maine's PFML program will offer eligible workers in the private and public sector 12 weeks of paid time off for family or medical reasons, including illness, to care for a loved one or new child. Payroll contributions to the program are scheduled to begin in January 2025, with benefits set to become available in May 2026.

# FAME's College Access Team honored

AUGUSTA, ME — At their annual meeting and awards celebration held at Lewiston's Franco Center on September 13, 2024, the Maine Development Foundation (MDF) presented the Finance Authority of Maine's (FAME's) College Access and Financial Education (CAFÉ) Team with their Champion of Education and Workforce Development Award.

MDF's awards this year recognize individuals, businesses, and community groups for demonstrated exceptional leadership and dedication to strengthening the state's economy and/or their community with efforts to attract and/or retain young people in Maine.

FAME's CAFÉ Team provides comprehensive college access and financial education services to students, families, counselors, and advisors through a

variety of college access, financial aid, financial education, and education debt management services that support higher education aspirations and attainment in Maine.

Martha Johnston, FAME's Director of Education, accepted the award on behalf of the team and noted:

"Each day, and many, many nights, FAME's College Access Team hits the road literally and virtually to help Maine students and families learn about saving for higher ed, completing and filing the FAFSA, wise borrowing, and navigation of student loan processes, and student loan repayment. We believe in the transformative power of education beyond high school to benefit someone's personal economic prospects as well as those of the state of Maine, a place we all love and call home."



FAME's College Access and Financial Education Team with their MDF award. Pictured left to right are: Martha Johnston, Director of Education, and CAFÉ Team members Jessica Whittier, Floreka Malual, Nikki Vachon, and Mila Tappan.

Helping students and families prepare to file for financial aid and supporting them through the entire process is a primary focus for FAME's College Access team. In FY 24 alone, FAME's College Access and Outreach Team coordinated and participated in:

232 financial aid in-

formation sessions and workshops for over 6,800 Maine students and families;

77 training workshops for over 4,800 counselors and advisors

41 workshops attended by 537 individuals to help students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA);

and

129 financial wellness focused events for 6,500 students.

Because it was such a challenging year for FAFSA completion due to problems with the roll-out of the new form by the U.S. Department of Education, FAME's team worked extra hard, through the summer and as of the end of August, helped to increase the FAFSA completion rate for Maine high school seniors from the Class of 2024 nine full percentage points to over 61%.

Johnston also extended FAME's appreciation to the many partners who contribute to the success of the team, especially Maine's school counselors and other trusted professionals who share information about FAME events and available resources, as well as Maine's institutions of higher education, public and private.

The Finance Authority of Maine (FAME) is a quasi-independent state agency whose mission is to enrich business and educational outcomes through relevant, timely financial support to Maine's people. Our vision is a Maine where all people have access to improved economic outcomes through business growth and education attainment. To learn more about FAME, please visit [www.famemaine.com](http://www.famemaine.com)

The Maine Development Foundation (MDF) is a non-partisan, statewide driver of equitable, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth in Maine. MDF connects people, decision-makers, and communities through trusted research, leadership development, and creative partnerships to stimulate new ideas, solve problems, and improve lives. To learn more about MDF, please visit [www.mdf.org](http://www.mdf.org)

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L-A VETERANS COUNCIL

# Skelton Taintor & Abbott welcomes Alexandra W. Winter

LEWISTON, ME – Skelton Taintor & Abbott is pleased to welcome litigation attorney Alexandra W. Winter to the firm. Alexandra is joining the firm's litigation group as an Associate Attorney. After

graduating from Brandeis University and earning a Juris Doctor degree from the City University of New York School of Law, Alexandra began her career at the Law Offices of Thaddeus Day before joining the District Attorney's Office in Maine's District III. Alexandra served in the District Attorney's Office for more than 9 years, with more than 8 years as the Assistant District Attorney and an

8-month period as the Interim District Attorney.

Alexandra's practice at Skelton Taintor & Abbott will focus on commercial and business litigation, general civil litigation, probate litigation, creditor representation and collections, and foreclosures and repossessions.

Firm President, Sarah Mitchell, stated, "We are excited to welcome Alex to the Skelton Taintor &

Abbott team. She is a successful and well-respected attorney and will be a key addition to our litigation practice."

Skelton Taintor & Abbott is a full-service trial and general practice law firm representing clients throughout Maine. With the addition of Attorney Winter, the firm consists of 13 attorneys practicing in virtually all fields of law and in both federal and state courts.

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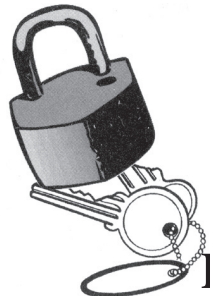
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**Thursdays**

**LEWISTON** -- Baby Sensory Playtime in the Lewiston Public Library's Children's Department every Thursday morning from 10am to 12pm.

Drop-in and join us for Baby Sensory Playtime! Babies and their caregivers will have the opportunity to interact with a variety of sensory toys and socialize with other families with young children. Playtime with sensory toys contributes to a baby's cognitive development, fine motor skills, social and emotional development, creativity, and language development.

**Recommended** for babies ages birth-18 months and their caregivers. Siblings are always welcome. This program is free, open to the public and no registration is required.

**Oct 17, 18, 19**

**BAR MILLS** -- The Original's present Molly Sweeney, a play by Brian Friel at Saco River Theatre, 29 Salmon Falls Road, Bar Mills, ME, Oct 11, 12, 17, 18, 19 @ 7:30 PM

and Oct 13 & 20 at 2:30pm. Tickets: \$15 General Admission at [www.sacorivertheatre.org](http://www.sacorivertheatre.org).

**Oct 19**

**BRUNSWICK** -- The 2024-25 UUCB Concerts for a Cause Series season will include folk,

# Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

jazz, blues, celtic, and choral singing for justice. This season's charities receiving 100% of the profits from the concert are Brunswick Area Teen Center and Maine Family Planning. For further details about the concerts, go to <https://www.uubrunswick.org/events/>.

Sally Rogers & Claudia Schmidt - Sat, Oct 19, 2024 at 7:30 pm. Doors open 7:00 pm.

For decades, Sally and Claudia have been playing at prestigious folk venues around the world and were regulars on Garrison Keillor's Prairie Home Companion. They are well-known for beautiful harmonies, dulcimer & guitar duets, and a wide repertoire of originals and traditional songs.

Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, \$10 students/children. Tickets are available at the church office, Gulf of Maine Books, or online at <https://ticketstripe.com/sallyrogers>.

**Oct 20**

**FREEPORT** -- Mind Body Spirit Festival, 10:00-4:00. Energize your life at this festival with psychics and mediums,

Reiki, massage, organic products, crystals, gems and jewelry, an animal communicator, medical intuitive, enlightening workshops, and a lot more.

\$5.00 admission includes some workshops; other workshops and practitioners may require additional fees.

Hilton Garden Inn, 5 Park Street, Freeport, ME 04032

[www.mindbodyspiritfestivals.org](http://www.mindbodyspiritfestivals.org)

**Oct 20**

**LEWISTON** -- Lewiston Farmers' Market ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL in honor of beloved former volunteer, Joe Cook and sponsored by Munka Studio on Sunday, October 20th 9:30 am - 3:00 pm at 2 Oxford St. in Lewiston.

**Oct 25, 26, 27, 31; Nov 1, 2, 3**

**AUBURN** - Opening night of the Community Little Theatre production of the musical '1776.' The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. as the Founding Fathers come alive in this classic American musical. Performances will also be held at 7:30 p.m. on October 26, 31, and November 1, 2. Matinees will be held at

2:00 p.m. on October 27 and November 3. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$22 for seniors/students, and \$17 for children aged 13 and under. Tickets and more information are available online at <https://www.lact.com/>.

**Oct 26**

**GRAY** -- First Congregational Church of Gray Saturday Night Church Supper, Saturday, October 26, 2024 at 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 Kidney, Red Hot Dogs, Breads, & Assortment of Desserts & Beverages.

**Oct 26**

**AUBURN** -- There will be a baked bean supper at Sixth St. Congregational Church at 109 Sixth St. in Auburn on Saturday, October 26th from 4:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. The menu consists of two kinds of beans, brown bread, cole slaw, red and brown hot dogs, assorted casseroles, assorted desserts and beverage. The cost of the meal is \$9 for adults, \$5 for children 5 to 12, under age 5 is free. All are welcome. Take-out is available.

**Oct 26, 27**

**LEWISTON, TOPSHAM** -- "Majestic Earth Movements"

Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024, 7:00 p.m. - Franco Center, Lewiston

Sunday, Oct. 27, 2024, 2:30 p.m. - Orion

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Performing Arts Center, Topsham

Courtney Bryan - Bridges

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart - Sinfonia Concertante in E Flat Major, K. 364 (Robert Lehmann, violinist, and Kimberly Lehmann, violist)

Jean Sibelius - Symphony No. 5 in E Flat Major, Op. 82

Tickets are \$25 in advance for adults; \$30 at the door. All concerts are free for anyone 25 and under. For more information visit [MidcoastSymphony.org](http://MidcoastSymphony.org), call 207-315-1712, or e-mail [info@midcoast-symphony.org](mailto:info@midcoast-symphony.org)

**Nov 1**

**TURNER** -- We are having a Bean Supper on Friday, Nov. 1st at the Turner Center Universalist Church on Route #17 across from the Gazebo from 4:30 to 7:00. We're having two kinds of Beans, Hotdogs, Coleslaw, Rolls, Beverages, and Desserts. The cost is \$10 and \$5 for children 10 and under

**Nov 2**

**AUGUSTA** -- Join us for HOME for the Holidays Craft Fair on No-

vember 2, 2024 from 9am to 4pm at the American Legion, 396 Eastern Ave., Augusta! Enjoy browsing many different vendors as you get into the holiday season!

**Nov 16**

**SABATTUS** -- Our Lady of the Rosary Christmas Craft Fair at 131 High st. in Sabattus is running 9-3 on Saturday, November 16th. 28 vendors, raffles, and a bake sale, come enjoy this small town Christmas Fair charm!

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## Discovering fulfilling work—and a second family

When Success moved to Maine seven years ago, thoughts of her aging mother back home in Nigeria weighed heavily on her mind. "I was supposed to be there taking care of her," Success said.

That's how Success became interested in working as a Direct Support Professional at a small group home in Auburn. "I felt since I wasn't able to take care of my mother, I should take care of people here," Success said.

Success is one of scores of individuals who has found rewarding work in the field of Direct Support, ensuring Mainers with age-related, physical, behavioral, intellectual, and cognitive health needs have the support they require to stay safe, independent, and empowered to achieve their personal goals.

In Maine, there are many flexible full-time, part-time, or per-diem positions available. This work happens outside of a hospital or nursing home setting, and training opportunities are widely available. Most of these positions don't require advanced degrees.

**"I feel fulfilled, and I feel so excited because I know I've achieved a lot."**

In her role as a Direct Support Professional, Success works with adults who are living with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. She provides whatever support they need with activities of daily living, so they can live as independently as possible. Her work can vary widely from day to day. She administers medication, gets them ready for bed, and does laundry. She also checks on them throughout the night. In the morning, she makes them breakfast and takes them to their programs.

For Success, seeing her clients' joy when she supports them in attaining a new milestone brings her joy, too. "After a good day at work, I feel fulfilled," Success said. "I feel so excited because I know I've achieved a lot."

This work has also given Success a chance to do something positive in her adopted home. "This is an opportunity for you to give back to the community you are coming into," Success said.

Success says in many ways, this job has given her a second family—through the friendships she has forged with her colleagues and the connections she has made with her clients. "When I walk into work, I see the excitement on the faces of those people I'm taking care of," Success said. "These are the families I have here in the U.S."

To learn more about full-time, part-time, and per-diem opportunities in your community, go to [MaineCareersWithPurpose.org](http://MaineCareersWithPurpose.org) or Follow @MaineCareersWithPurpose on Facebook & Instagram.



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## SENIOR TRIPS

If interested in any of the following 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.

**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 Spec-

ular, 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.

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