



# TWIN CITY TIMES

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## CMMC tech back on road, thanks to fellow team members

LEWISTON, ME -- A Central Maine Healthcare (CMH) anesthesiology technician's transportation challenges have come to an end, thanks to his fellow team members.

Corie Hubbard has been at Central Maine Medical Center (CMMC) for less than a year and didn't tell anyone he was unable to get reliable transportation to and from work.

"It was very challenging, and I almost gave

up hope," Hubbard said. "Even though I was trying to get ahead, every time I came close to buying a car, something else would happen."

Once his colleagues found out he was silently struggling with transportation, Tina Moring, CRNA, and the entire CMMC perioperative team decided to pool their money. Their hope was to raise \$5,000-enough to buy a vehicle that could at least get Corie



to and from work.

"Corie is wonderful. He never misses a day of work and is always so pos-



itive," Moring said. "In just 10 days, we raised \$11,000. I was overwhelmed by the generosity of his team

members as well as other staff who barely knew him."

Tina did some car shopping and found a 2015 Nissan Rogue. With money left over, they paid for vehicle registration and six months of insurance. She and a crowd of surgeons, nurses, technicians and others surprised Corie in the hospital garage.

"It felt like a dream. It was mind-blowing," Hubbard said. "I have nev-

er cried so much in my life. The first day I drove to work it was so freeing. I drove with the windows down and the wind felt incredible.

"I am so grateful and so humbled. To see all of the people who made this happen for me. I want everyone to know what they did. I want everyone to know the kind of place this is and the kind of people who work here. It's been life changing."

## Auburn looks ahead to the holiday season

AUBURN, ME -- The holidays are just around the corner and the City of Auburn is looking forward to welcoming residents and visitors alike to downtown Auburn this Christmas.

The city will officially kick off the season on Sunday, December 8 at 3:00PM with its Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting event. The city hasn't held

a traditional Christmas parade for several years and staff are looking forward to bringing it back.

"The Christmas Parade was always a big hit with local families," said Liz Allen, the city's director of communications and community engagement. "We took a few years off, but we're looking forward to kicking off the holiday season in style! We need

quite a few participants for this parade to be successful and worthwhile, so I encourage local businesses and organizations to apply right away." To join the parade, visit auburnmaine.gov.

In addition to parade entries, the city is still seeking a Christmas tree for Festival Plaza. "This is the pine tree state," added Allen. "Someone in

Auburn must have a big, beautiful tree they would like to donate. It would be the ultimate holiday gift to our community." To nominate your "perfect tree," visit auburnmaine.gov.

To round out the holiday festivities, the city plans to host an expanded version of their annual "Christmas Shopping Village" on the day of the parade. From 11:00AM to



3:00PM, local artisans and makers are invited to apply to sell their goods in Anniversary Park (New Au-

burn). Participation is free. To apply for the Christmas Shopping Village, visit auburnmaine.gov

## Lotus Restaurant celebrates 10 years with 10 days of giveaways

AUBURN, ME -- Lotus Restaurant is celebrating ten years in business on Center Street in Auburn. The family-owned Asian restaurant opened its doors in 2014 as an all-you-can-eat buffet with an extensive menu, and has stayed true to those roots in its decade of service to Auburn.

"We started Lotus with the intent to provide

great tasting food at a great value," said Jim Wu, owner of Lotus. "After more than ten years, I think we have provided that, and then some. We have traditions here at Lotus like our annual holiday buffets for Christmas, Thanksgiving, Easter, Mother's Day, and New Year's; we give Veterans free meals on Veterans Day; we have given back to various charities

in the community; and we see our customers like an extension of our own family. It has been an incredible ride, and we are very grateful to the people of Lewiston-Auburn for supporting us for all this time."

Lotus is marking the 10th anniversary with ten days of giveaways. Starting Friday, Nov. 1, the Lotus Facebook page will

alert people to like or share its special 10th anniversary post. One winner will be chosen each day to receive a buffet for two. Each of the 10 winners will be entered into a drawing to receive a special prize after all of the daily prizes have been awarded.

"We are proud of our commitment to community, we're proud of our customer service, we're

proud of our workers, but ultimately the driving force behind our success is the quality of the food," said Wu. "So, we wanted to mark our tenth anniversary by giving some of that food away to lucky customers who enter on Facebook, and then we'll have a special prize at the end of the ten days."

Following the final drawing, for the twelfth

consecutive year, Lotus Restaurant will be offering a free meal to Veterans on Veterans Day, Monday, Nov. 11.

Lotus is open 11-9 Sunday - Thursday, and 11-10 on Friday and Saturday, and is located at 279 Center Street in Auburn. The full menu and more details about Lotus are available at www.LotusAuburn.com

## Community Health Options to administer CarePartners program

PORTLAND, ME -- Maine-based non-profit health insurer Community Health Options is the new administrator for CarePartners, MaineHealth's program providing free or low-cost health care for low-income, uninsured adults. The collaboration ensures members will continue to have access to affordable, high-quality care.

MaineHealth launched CarePartners in 2001 with the mission of improving the health and well-being of adults in Maine who cannot afford private health insurance and do not qualify for public health care coverage programs. Members receive primary care services and access to specialists for a \$10 co-pay, prescriptions for \$10 - \$25 and no-cost lab,

X-ray and hospital services. CarePartners case managers also work with members to link them to community resources that can further improve their health and help them better understand the health care system.

CarePartners is able to offer these benefits thanks to the generosity of providers and hospitals who donate services, pharmaceutical

company patient assistance programs and its third-party administrator, Community Health Options.

"CarePartners is a community effort that exemplifies the MaineHealth vision of working together so our communities are the healthiest in America," said MaineHealth CEO, Dr. Andy Mueller. "We appreciate Community Health

Options for sharing our vision and helping our patients maintain access to affordable health care."

Community Health Options took over administration of CarePartners Sept. 3. The administrator provides enrollment cards that work similarly to health insurance cards. The cards reduce the stigma of being uninsured for members and

give them access to health care services and certain prescription medications. The cards also allow Community Health Options to process provider claims and track data on the services members use. Since its inception more than a decade ago, the non-profit insurer has collaborated with MaineHealth as part of its mission to  
*See CarePartners, page 14*



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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## Turkey Trot 4 Hope walk/run returns

**NORWAY, ME** - - The sixth annual Turkey Trot 4 Hope Scenic 4 Mile Run or 1 Mile Run/Walk will be held Thanksgiving Day, November 28th, at 9am at the Norway Fire Station, 19 Danforth Street, Norway. Our many sponsors this year have guaranteed that this will be a great event to benefit the Cancer Resource Center of Western Maine (CRCofWM). This is indeed a day of THANKS where individuals, teams, businesses, and communities can support the work that the CRCofWM does

throughout the western Maine region.

You can register at [raceroster.com/93093](http://raceroster.com/93093). All Oxford county Maine students K-12 can register for FREE, thanks to a very generous donor. Awards will be given out starting at 10am so participants can get to their Thanksgiving celebrations.

If you are away for Thanksgiving or do not live locally we encourage anyone to join in the fun VIRTUALLY to support the CRCofWM. Your route can be a favorite trail, a walk



The 7th Annual Turkey Trot 4 Hope will be held in-person and virtually this year. All proceeds benefit the Cancer Resource Center of Western Maine. Visit [raceroster.com/93093](http://raceroster.com/93093) to register.

with your dog, a daily running route, or even a treadmill. If you run virtually, we would love to see where you chose to participate by posting on our Facebook page or #turkeytrot4hope.

"This is the signature fundraising event for Cancer Resource Center of Western Maine and this year we hope to have many more participants actively fundraising," commented Caleb Grover, 2024 Turkey Trot 4 Hope Committee Chair. "We challenge each Turkey Trot 4 Hope participant to help us raise much needed funds to

support people in western Maine affected by cancer."

CRCofWM's mission is to embrace anyone affected by cancer in a community that offers hope and caring through support, education and concepts in healthy living. CRCofWM offers one to one support, free wellness programs and classes, support groups, travel and food assistance, and comfort items to anyone impacted by cancer...because no one should face cancer alone. For more information [www.crcofwm.org](http://www.crcofwm.org) or 207-890-0329.

## Patients needing blood, platelets rely on committed blood donors

**PORTLAND, ME** - - The American Red Cross is highlighting the ongoing need for blood and platelet donors as festive schedules ramp up this fall. Eligible individuals - especially those with type O blood and those giving platelets are encouraged to make a donation just ahead of the holiday season.

saving medical care.

The seasons may change but the need for blood donors stays the same. Give blood or platelets and make a big difference in someone's life by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org), calling 1-800-RED CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

Blood supply momentum must remain steady, as the Red Cross has worked this month to recover blood products uncollected due to recent hurricanes. Any disruption in the ability to collect blood can lead to an impact on routine and life-

Those who come to give in early November, Nov. 1-17, will receive a \$10 e-gift card to a merchant of choice, plus be automatically entered for a chance to win one of two \$7,000 gift cards. For full details, visit

# American Red Cross

[Blood.org/Thanks](http://Blood.org/Thanks).

Upcoming blood donation opportunities Oct. 24-Nov. 17:

**Androscoggin**  
Poland

11/9/2024: 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Poland Town Hall, 1223 Maine Street, Rt. 26

**Cumberland**  
Cape Elizabeth

11/14/2024: 12 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., Saint Bartholomew Church, 8 Two Lights Rd

Falmouth

11/8/2024: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., The Episcopal Church of St. Mary, 43 Foreside Rd

Gorham

11/7/2024: 1 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Cressey Road

Christian Church, 81 Cressey Road

Gray

11/12/2024: 12 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., American Legion Gray, 15 Lewiston Rd

Portland

11/15/2024: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., Deering High School, 370 Stevens Ave.

South Portland

11/12/2024: 9 a.m. -

1:30 p.m., Eastpoint Christian Church, 345 Clarks Pond Pkwy

Standish

11/15/2024: 9 a.m. -

1:30 p.m., Standish Town Hall, 175 Northeast Road

Westbrook

11/8/2024: 12 p.m.

- 5 p.m., Westbrook Community Center, 426 Bridge Street

Windham

11/11/2024: 10 a.m. -

2:30 p.m., North Windham Union Church, 723 Roosevelt Trail, Route 302

Yarmouth

11/15/2024: 12 p.m.

- 4:30 p.m., American Legion Post 91, 196 Main St

## MDF Maine holds Downtown Conference & Annual Awards

**MAINE** -- MDF's Maine Downtown Center is holding its Downtown Conference and Annual Awards November 7, 2024 in Biddeford and Saco.

this year, "Revitalization in Action," sets the stage for dynamic discussions and action-oriented workshops aimed at giving community leaders, business owners, and policymakers the tools to transform Maine's iconic downtown communities. You will hear stories of in-

novative strategies, initiatives, and the power of collective action that is helping preserve and revitalize our downtowns as well as drive economic and community improvement across Maine.

Our Keynote Speaker this year is Erin Barnes, President & CEO of Main Street America, the national umbrella organization for programs like Maine Downtown Center. She will highlight some of the ways

Maine is a shining example for downtowns across America on harnessing this model. Finally, you will hear the inspiring stories of outstanding projects, organizations, and individuals being recognized with our three awards.

WHAT:

MDF's Maine Downtown Center Conference and Annual Awards

WHEN:

November 7, 2024, 7:30AM-



4:15PM

WHERE:

City Theater - 205 Main Street, Biddeford

Many workshops and the Keynote Speech take place in Biddeford's City Theater. Other workshops, lunch, and walking tours take place at multiple locations throughout Biddeford and Saco that offer ample opportunity for b-roll footage, photos, and interviews.

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

# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## Collins, King announce \$11M to for lead poisoning protection

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senators Susan Collins (R-Maine), Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and Angus King (I-Maine) announced that the cities of Portland and Lewiston have been awarded grant funding to help protect children from lead poisoning. The Lead-Based Paint Hazard

Reduction (LHR) grant program awards, totaling \$11,117,960, will help improve the health of Maine communities by fixing older housing and preserving affordable housing units that pose a lead hazard — such as the use of lead paint, more common in homes built before 1960. Additionally, this grant targets housing where chil-

dren less than six years of age live.

“The majority of Maine’s housing stock was built prior to 1978, the year that lead-based paint was banned, which has resulted in our state having one of the highest levels of lead paint contamination in the country,” said Senator Collins. “This federal investment in lead hazard

abatement will increase the safety of housing for families in Portland and Lewiston, helping to further alleviate this public health threat.”

“Lead exposure and poisoning can pose extreme health risks, especially for young children who are still growing and developing,” said Senator King. “Even small

amounts of lead from paint chips and flakes can build up in the body and cause serious health problems. Families should be focused on helping their children grow and thrive, not worried about whether or not their house is hazardous. This robust funding will help more Maine families and children have a healthy and safe place to

call home.”

The Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction program is funded through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In addition to the LHR program, HUD also offers the Healthy Homes Supplemental funding that is available to further bolster lead-based paint hazard prevention and control.

## Sen. Rotundo attends Lewiston CNA graduation

AUGUSTA, ME — On October 10, Sen. Peggy Rotundo (D-Lewiston) attended the Healthcare Pathway graduation celebration for certified nursing assistants program through the Lewiston Adult Education Program.

“I am so proud of each and every one of these medical professionals,” said Sen. Rotundo. “They have worked so hard, in many cases under very difficult circumstances, to learn the skills that will ensure a brighter future for them. Many have arrived in this country recently and are eager to make a positive impact on our state. They are also helping the state address the shortage in our nursing population, so that more Mainers can receive the care they deserve. I



Sen. Rotundo and recent Lewiston Adult Education Program Certified Nursing Assistant graduate Valentyna Oblamska.

wish them all the very best in the future as they make important contributions to the people of Maine.”

Sixteen people graduated from the Maine Department of Labor’s Healthcare Pathway Program, which

requires students to complete clinicals in health care facilities, earn certifications and take English classes. Many will now begin paid internships and move on to careers in local nursing and medical facilities.

## Jocelyn Coons joins Fontaine Family Team

AUBURN, ME -- Fontaine Family - The Real Estate Leader is proud to announce Jocelyn Coons as the newest addition to their growing Auburn team.

Jocelyn, a lifelong resident of the Lewiston-Auburn area, brings a wealth of local knowledge, a strong work ethic, and a passion for client service to her new role as a real estate agent. She will be working with both buyers and sellers.

Jocelyn grew up in Lewiston, Maine and graduated from Lewiston High School before earning an Associate’s degree in Business Administration and Management from Central Maine

Community College. With over a decade of experience in the service industry, Jocelyn has developed valuable communication, problem-solving, and sales skills that she now brings to her real estate career.

Her experience includes working at a local ice cream shop for four years and currently bartending and serving at a local country club. These roles have equipped her with the ability to connect with people from all walks of life, and her service background has provided her with a customer-first mindset. In addition to her professional experience, Jocelyn is the assistant coach for the

Lewiston High School Sideline Cheerleading team, further demonstrating her leadership and dedication to her community.

In her free time, Jocelyn enjoys playing golf, taking walks with her dog Griffin, and spending time by the ocean or on local lakes. She is also deeply connected to her family, which she describes as close-knit and very important to her. Jocelyn is engaged and an aunt to four, and she values time spent with her loved ones.

For real estate opportunities with Jocelyn Coons, she can be contacted by phone at 207-713-5468 or email [Jocelyn@fontaineteam.com](mailto:Jocelyn@fontaineteam.com).

## AREA meeting notice November 2024

LEWISTON, ME -- The Androscoggin Retired Educators’ Association will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 13th at Montello Heights, 550 College Street. The price for this meal is \$12.

The speaker for this meeting is Ray Dumont from the Public Theater in Lewiston.

It is recommended that educators arrive one half hour earlier than the meeting time, or 10:00. This will make time to socialize and have coffee and appetizer before the meeting at 10:30.

Androscoggin Retired Educators meets five times per year:

September, October, November, March and April. Dues for the year are \$10 for educators, \$6 for non-educators spouses or significant others. Members who have reached their 85th birthday no longer need to pay dues.

We invite all educators: teachers, teacher assistants, ed techs, principals, assistant principals, secretaries, guidance counselors, librarians, anyone who works with children. You need not have taught

in Androscoggin County or even in the State of Maine. We welcome all educators regardless where you worked. We look forward to seeing you.

For new members: With your registration please include: Address, email, phone, birth date, and the major educational school district or school where you were located.

Please make checks out to AREA and mail to Gina Fuller, 36 Elliott Ave, Lewiston, Maine 04240.

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# Free coffee for veterans at Aroma Joe's

**MAINE** -- Aroma Joe's, one of the nation's leading handcrafted beverage franchises, is recognizing Veterans Day on November 11 with a FREE 24-ounce beverage of any kind for all veterans. This offer will be accepted at all locations across Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Florida, Rhode Island, New York and Connecticut.

Aroma Joe's is also grateful to its own veteran franchisees, including former CEO Loren Goodridge, who still owns and operates multiple locations, and Johnny Ahern. Johnny shares more here about his veteran to fran-

chisee experience. Aroma Joe's will be recognized as one of Entrepreneur's 2024 Top Franchises for Veterans in the November 12 issue and VetFran has given Five Stars to Aroma Joe's for its work with veteran entrepreneurs. Aroma Joe's offers a reduced franchise fee to veterans and active members of the United States military. The regular franchise fee is at least \$500,588, and the reduced franchise fee is \$12,500 for veterans and active military members with an honorable discharge.

\*Free 24 oz. beverage only for military and veterans. Must show proof of service, while supplies last, at participating locations

## Aroma Joe's



# DAR Marian Anderson Legacy scholarship opens

**WASHINGTON** – Undergraduate and graduate students studying music can apply for the DAR Marian Anderson Legacy Scholarship starting November 1. Sponsored by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), the scholarship provides a one-time \$5,000 award to one student annually who is pursuing undergraduate or graduate study in music.

Marian Anderson (1897-1993) was a groundbreaking African American

contralto and an inspiration for civil rights. "This scholarship pays tribute to Marian Anderson's life, and the Daughters of the American Revolution seeks to honor her legacy through today's aspiring musicians. Her legacy lives on in others who aim for excellence in musical studies, are committed to their communities, and willing to stand up for what is right," said Pamela Wright, DAR President General.

Applicants should be accepted or currently

enrolled in an accredited university or college in the United States and have a concentration in music in their course of study. Music performance, composition, theory, or education are all areas that students may be specialized in to qualify for the scholarship. They should have a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or the equivalent GPA on the scale used by the institution.

Applications require references sent through



Marian Anderson performed in the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Constitution Hall in 1943.

the application system, so students need to request their references ahead of the Jan. 31st application deadline.

In honor of Ms. Anderson's commitment to the community throughout

her life and her willingness to share her incredible talent with the world, applicants are asked to write a personal statement describing their humanitarian or volunteer contributions on behalf of their community

and/or country.

To recognize the city Marian Anderson called home, preference will be given to students from the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania metropolitan area, even if they are not pursuing music studies in the Philadelphia area. This scholarship is not automatically renewed. However, recipients may reapply for consideration each year for up to four consecutive years.

The scholarship is supported by the Daughters of the American Revolution's Marian Anderson Legacy Fund. Learn more about the relationship between Marian Anderson and the DAR, and the organization's on-going efforts to honor her memory at [www.dar.org/Marian-Anderson](http://www.dar.org/Marian-Anderson)

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# Seniors Not Acting Their Age

## Celebrating the West Fest



A kayaker begins the climb up Ball Mountain Dam

Each September, the Army Corps of Engineers releases water from Ball Mountain Dam on the West River in Jamaica, Vermont. An event that attracts many Chowderheads with the Penobscot Paddle & Chowder Society, the scheduled releases provide an excellent opportunity for paddlers to experience some outstanding late season whitewater boating. The releases have evolved into a veritable whitewater festival and Jamaica State Park is the hub of activity.

I first participated in the West Fest in September 1989. A friend associated with a paddling club called the Vermont Canoe Cruisers suggested making the five hour drive in search of fall whitewater. We experienced a bitterly cold weekend, and I found the crowded chaotic park shuttle to be an unpleasant experience. I resolved not to return.

That changed about 15 years ago when friends and fellow Chowderheads, Jean Miller, Ryan Galway, and Evan Eichorn, began organizing weekend long West Fest trips. They reserved the best park campsites a year in advance and ran their own shuttles to the top of Ball Mountain Dam rather than use the park shuttle. That alternative adds two rapids and requires a strenuous climb

over the dam to paddle the three-mile Class III whitewater descent. I was hooked.

In recent years, I've missed the West Fest due to other commitments. Some releases were also cancelled because of low water.

This year, I was back in the game. The dam was providing a one-day Saturday release and Jean was coordinating a club trip. The usual suspects had reserved convenient riverside campsites. A recent avalanche now blocks the park road so there's no park shuttle. Everyone has to complete the arduous trek over the dam.

Semi-retired, my wife, Nancy, and I, make the West Fest a three-day weekend. This year, we decided to begin with a mountain hike in New Hampshire on the Friday before the release and a flatwater paddle the day after.

Both of us dealing with physical ailments, we chose Mount Willard in Crawford Notch for our hike, an easy ascent. The popular 3.4-mile trek with a spectacular view at the top was a good choice. No difficulties were experienced and more hikes appear to be in our future.

The following morning, a large group of Chowderheads in a variety of



Paddlers negotiate switchbacks descending Ball Mountain Dam

boats met at Ball Mountain Dam prepared for an exciting day of whitewater. There was a sense of urgency because the release was limited to four hours and we hoped to complete two runs.

We hoisted boats onto our shoulders and began the steep climb to the top of the dam. The ascent is only half the fun. Boaters then carry their heavy burdens down narrow switchbacks for about a thousand feet to a pool above the initial rapid.

Our group was among the earliest paddlers to arrive. We began launching one boat at a time, canoes and kayaks first followed by two inflatables and a small raft.

The first rapid is called Initiation and it's aptly named. The longest and steepest falls on the river, we avoided a confusing maze of holes and barely submerged rocks as we plummeted to the bottom. Everyone made it safely down, but one kayaker needed to roll.

From there, the whitewater is almost continuous to the campground. Our intrepid group negotiated through wave trains, dodged holes and boulders, and surfed waves while watching out for one another. Periodically, we caught eddies to regroup.

After passing through

a rapid with feisty waves called Boof Rock, we began peering downstream in search of The Dumplings, the most technical whitewater on the river. A collection of large boulders that block most of the river mark the beginning of the complex descent.

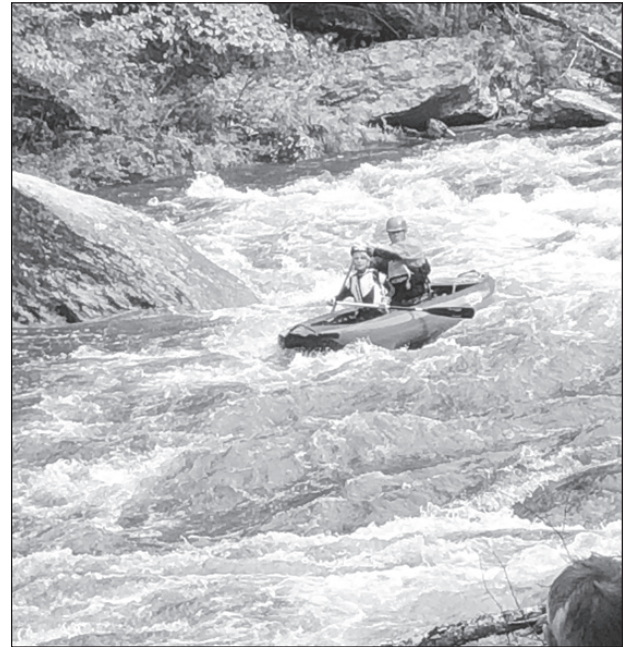
We assembled in an eddy on river left at the top and began carefully dropping down the left shore next to a huge boulder. The secret to a successful run is to execute an abrupt right turn below the boulder and then ferry to river right while avoiding a perilous combination of holes and rocks just downstream. Once past the hazardous obstacles, paddlers must turn left and negotiate through standing waves to the bottom. Our capable group successfully completed the required maneuvers.

Shortly after, we arrived at our campsites where we enjoyed lunch while contemplating the remainder of our West Fest weekend.

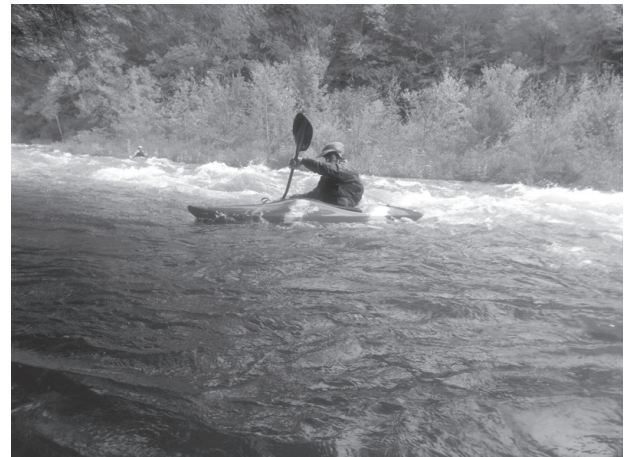
My book, *Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine* narrates eight exciting Maine whitewater trips.

Ron Chase resides in Topsham. His latest book, *"Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine"* is available at

Trip Coordinator Jean Miller completes a descent of The Dumplings



Evan Eichorn and his young son Finn navigate the West River



A kayaker catches an eddy at the bottom of Initiation Rapid.

[countrypress.com/maine-al-fresco](http://countrypress.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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# Arts & Entertainment

## NSB contributes \$2.5K to The Public Theatre in Lewiston

**LEWISTON, ME** --Nearly 100 years ago, a local social club purchased the old brick building on 31 Maple Street, then an automotive garage, and turned its ground floor into a stylish movie house. The Ritz Theater, as it was named, quickly became a venue that drew countless moviegoers of all ages, including a young Stephen King.

A century later, the building, now known as The Public Theatre, is still offering inspiring entertainment to those who gather there. The non-profit organization engages and enriches community members and visitors through live productions, educational programs, and



artistic excellence, helping participants and audiences see the world in new ways.

The Public Theatre has brought the spirit of Hollywood and Broadway to the old Ritz since 1992, and thanks to a partnership with Actor's Equity Association, the theatre is able to showcase some of the country's best actors in its productions.

It's a remarkable success story that brings joy and cultural connections to over 15,000 audience members each year, and

one that Norway Savings Bank has been proud to support for decades, including a \$2,500 contribution this month and over \$30,000 in the last decade.

"The Public Theatre is a beloved institution, not just in Lewiston, but across the state and region," said Dan Walsh, President and CEO of Norway Savings. "I'm always amazed at how they manage to incorporate youth programming throughout the year as well as summer theatre camps to help build a connection



to the arts in our young people. That education is invaluable and certainly worth supporting and celebrating."

Through workshops, student matinees, and writing projects, The Public Theatre helps local students express their creativity and find their voice in addition to launching and presenting memora-

ble productions, including upcoming shows that have already been announced: Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors (October 11-27), A Christmas Carol (December 10-12), Every Brilliant Thing (January 24-February 2), Halfway There (March 14-23), and Now and Then (May 2-11). More special events will be added in the coming

months.

The former auto shop has steadily grown into a driving force in the world of performing arts.

"The Public Theatre is revered by performers and crowds alike and we're honored to help preserve this cultural institution and historic building," said Walsh.

To make a contribution in support of The Public Theatre, visit [www.thepublictheatre.org/individual-giving](http://www.thepublictheatre.org/individual-giving). To explore volunteer opportunities, head to [www.thepublictheatre.org/volunteer](http://www.thepublictheatre.org/volunteer). To purchase tickets to an upcoming production, call 207-782-3200 or visit [www.thepublictheatre.org](http://www.thepublictheatre.org).

## DKG Teddy Bear Fair back in Lewiston

**LEWISTON, ME** --The Ladies of Mu Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma International is bringing back their annual Teddy Bear Fair on November 16 from 9:00 to 2:00 at the Lewiston High School gym. The Ladies of Mu are all Educators, active and retired, from the Lewiston/Auburn area. Money generated by our Fair goes to scholarships, one for a graduating senior from one of the high schools in the Twin Cities

and surrounding communities, who plans to go into education; the other goes to a DKG Member who is working on an advanced degree.

The Ladies of Mu will sell Baked Goods such as cookies, cakes, pies, bread and an assortment of candies and pastries; Used Books & DVDs; White Elephant items; Harvest items such as jellies, jams, salsas, pickles; gently loved stuffed animals;

crafts including knitted scarves, hats & mittens, baby layettes, as well as kitchen towels and dishcloths; and holiday crafts: Christmas and Thanksgiving decorations. They will also have a raffle table with hand-made items, gift certificates for lobster and gas, a children's craft basket, and many other treasures. We hope many will come out to see us and support our efforts to raise scholarship money.

# TEDDY BEAR HOLIDAY FAIR

## Lewiston High School Gym

156 East Avenue - Lewiston  
Saturday, November 16th, 2024  
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.




CHRISTMAS CRAFTS  
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# CoverME.gov's Open Enrollment begins

**AUGUSTA, ME** — The Maine Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Office of the Health Insurance Marketplace (OHIM) announced that the fourth annual Open Enrollment period for 2025 began on Friday, November 1, 2024. Maine people without access to health or dental insurance coverage through their employer, Medicare, or the state's Medicaid plan, known as MaineCare, are encouraged to find coverage through Maine's official health insurance marketplace, CoverME.gov.

Open Enrollment runs from November 1, 2024 through January 15th, 2025. Maine people can visit CoverME.gov to compare private plans, apply for financial savings, and enroll in a 2025 health and dental insurance plan.

Consumers must enroll by December 15th for coverage that begins January 1, 2025. January 15, 2025 is the last day to enroll for 2025 coverage, with benefits starting on February 1, 2025. Open Enrollment is the only time of year when consumers can enroll in coverage through CoverME.

gov unless they qualify for a special enrollment period as a result of a qualifying event, such as losing insurance provided through a job or MaineCare, a change in marital status, or having a baby.

"I encourage Maine people to visit CoverME.gov to explore their options and spread the word to help make sure that no person in Maine goes without health insurance that could save their life," said Governor Janet Mills. "Enrolling by December 15th will ensure that your coverage takes effect January 1, 2025 – preventing a gap in your health insurance."

"We encourage all Maine people who need affordable health or dental insurance to visit CoverME.gov during Open Enrollment to find coverage that fits their needs at a price that works for their budget," said DHHS Commissioner Sara Gagné-Holmes. "Having insurance is a critical component to staying healthy and CoverME.gov offers quality, affordable coverage for doctor's visits, prescription drugs, mental health, emergencies, and hospitalizations."

All plans offered

through CoverME.gov provide quality, comprehensive insurance that protects consumers if they have an accident or major illness and fully pays for preventive screenings. This year, thousands of Maine people will continue to save hundreds of dollars on average on their CoverME.gov health care premiums due to enhanced premium tax credits available through 2025. Today, 85% of people enrolled in CoverME.gov coverage qualify for help to pay for health insurance and save \$560 a month on average.

"Even those who could not afford coverage or did not qualify previously should check out CoverME.gov to see what financial savings they may qualify for," said Hilary Schneider, Director of the DHHS Office of the Health Insurance Marketplace, which runs CoverME.gov. "Forty percent of Mainers who enroll on CoverME.gov pay premiums of \$99 or less a month. If you, or a friend, neighbor or family member don't have health or dental coverage, now is the time to shop for coverage."

Those with current coverage through Cov-

erME.gov will be automatically enrolled in the plan that most closely matches their current plan unless they act during Open Enrollment. DHHS encourages re-enrollees to go to CoverME.gov and review and compare plans to ensure the plan they have is best suited to their health care needs and budget.

"I am not tech savvy, but I found the CoverME.gov website very easy to use," said Linda Grisham of Portland. "It is a great site and the broker's assistance was extremely helpful. I also found an excellent selection of so many health plan choices that were affordable and that really met my needs."

"I understand people who think health insurance is going to be prohibitively expensive, but I would encourage people to go on the CoverME.gov website and get a quote because with the subsidies it really does make it affordable for people," said Lori Austin of Hancock. "Having coverage through CoverME takes a lot of pressure off of me and gives me peace of mind, which is worth a lot."

"I went online, filled

out the CoverME.gov application, was approved, and found a plan that works for our family of four. It was really easy. It is nice that it pays for preventative care and is also great when there is a health issue," said Neil Cheseldine of Brunswick. "When your health insurance is not tied to your job it gives you more flexibility and options for career choices. Because CoverME.gov exists, my wife and I have the freedom in our careers to do some other things that we want to do."

CoverME.gov will continue to offer individual or family health plans from Anthem, Community Health Options, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, and Taro Health. CoverME.gov offers dental plans from Anthem and Northeast Delta Dental. Help is available for consumers looking to find the plan that fits their needs at a price that works for their budget. Visit [coverme.gov/localhelp](http://coverme.gov/localhelp) or call (866) 636-0355/TTY 711 (for languages other than English, choose option 4) for information. The Consumer Assistance Center will be open Monday through Friday from 8am to 8pm

and will have expanded hours on Saturday, December 7th from 9am to 5pm, Monday, December 9th through Sunday, December 15th from 8am to 10pm, and Monday, January 13th through Wednesday, January 15th from 8am to 10pm.

In 2023, more than 60,000 Mainers enrolled in health coverage for 2024 through CoverME.gov. Based on consumer and stakeholder feedback, over the last year OHIM has made it easier to find important information on the website, and streamlined the application to improve usability, accessibility, and security. CoverME.gov is at the heart of Maine's effort to ensure that people can see their doctor, afford their medications, and stay healthy. CoverME.gov is a one-stop shop for health care coverage and the only place Mainers can get financial assistance to reduce out-of-pocket costs for coverage. People who apply through CoverME.gov who are eligible for MaineCare will have their application sent to MaineCare for review. Eligible Maine people can enroll in MaineCare at any time of year.

## Political Portal launched to empower young Maine leaders

**MAINE** -- Maine Youth Action has just launched the Maine Youth Political Portal (MYPP) as of October 11th, 2024. The MYPP is an online resource and inspiration made by and for young Mainers interested in civic engagement, especially those looking to run for publicly elected political office. It consists of a library of informational and training resources, a list of contacts for endorsements and networking with politically savvy mentors, and an intuitive candidate builder page that will enable users to walk through the process of planning



their campaigns.

Maine has the oldest population of any state in the country, which is reflected in our decision-making bodies' demographics. Yet a 2021 poll determined that 44.3% of the population is under 35. Youth are an important bloc of voters, workers, taxpayers, and

visionaries. Politicians often craft legislation and policy with the next election cycle in mind. This is known as democratic myopia and can be combated by electing young politicians who consider the long-term. This leads to better decision-making, climate-focused policy, and nuanced solutions to

complex problems.

"I believe that youth are not only society's future but its present. The Maine Youth Political Portal will help young Mainers become civic leaders and take charge of their futures in a time of unstable democracy, distrust in governments, and a decline of civic education in schools," says Anna Siegel, the former Advocacy Director of Maine Youth Action and an MYPP project lead.

The launch of the Maine Youth Political Portal was intentionally timed with the upcoming U.S. presidential

election in November. Comprehensive and experiential civics education improves voter turnout. Providing young people with the tools to run for office makes them more likely to understand the importance of elections, research and evaluate the candidates on their ballot, and volunteer at election booths.

This project also won the national Call For Kindness competition sponsored by Riley's Way Foundation. Additional funding was awarded by the Youth Grant-Making Council of the Maine Youth Action Network.

The project was also highlighted in a recent episode of the top-rated podcast Simple Acts, Big Impact.

"The Maine Youth Political Portal is such an important project and valuable resource for my generation. Youth want our voices to be heard, but getting involved in public policy as a young person can be very daunting," said a high school-aged volunteer who helped develop website content alongside over a dozen other youth volunteers, Maine Youth Action staff, and a hired intern who created the Maine Youth Political Portal.

## Fall enrollment up 10% at Maine's community colleges

**AUGUSTA, ME** — Fall enrollment is up 10% at Maine's community colleges, breaking 20,000 students for the first time and marking another historic high enrollment for the seven colleges.

"This is what happens when you intentionally and strategically make college affordable, relevant, and accessible," said David Daigler, president of the Maine Community College System (MCCS). "This last year has been a period of tremendous growth for us, made possible by the dedication and excellence of our in-

credible employees and partners. Together, we're expanding opportunities for Mainers through Free College, early college, job skills training in a breadth of industries, and excellent transfer pathways to four-year colleges."

"We're grateful to see this surge of interest in pursuing an education at Maine's community colleges," Daigler said.

Fall enrollment was 21,385 students, compared to 19,477 students last year.

Enrollment has been boosted by the Free College program, which was

proposed by Governor Janet Mills in early 2022 and enacted by the Legislature a few months later. It covers 100% of community college tuition and fees for recent high school graduates.

"We're hopeful that Governor Mills and the legislature will support the continuation of Free College, but the clock is ticking," Daigler said. "This year's seniors are the last to qualify for this groundbreaking program. We strongly urge all high school seniors and their families to make plans now to start their college

journey tuition-free."

Fall enrollment has also been boosted by an increase in high school students taking early college courses, increased capacity in popular academic programs, and expanded hours with more night and weekend classes. There's also an increase in returning students from last year's record-breaking fall enrollment of 19,477 students.

The increase in community college students is having a ripple effect, with the University of Maine System (UMS) reporting a 39% increase

in undergraduate transfer students.

That MCCS-to-UMS transfer pipeline is expected to increase significantly in the coming years due to the historic Transfer ME agreement reached between the two systems this summer. The agreement guarantees automatic admission - and eliminates UMS application paperwork or fees - for MCCS graduates in transfer programs to seamlessly continue their education at one or more of Maine's public universities.

Official fall enroll-

ment figures do not include short-term workforce training students. More than 26,000 students have taken short-term workforce training classes since January 2022. Some of those students use short-term workforce training as an on-ramp to pursue a certificate or degree program, which in turn boosts official enrollment figures.

This fall begins the third academic year with the Free College Scholarship. Since it launched in Fall 2022, 17,132 Free College-eligible students have enrolled.

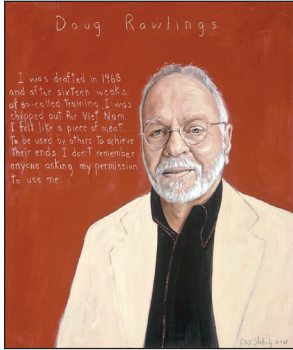
# Americans Who Tell the Truth portrait exhibition on display

**LEWISTON, ME** - Opening on November 15th and closing December 15th is an exciting exhibition of painter Robert Shetterly's Americans Who Tell the Truth portraits at the Bates Mill Atrium on 35 Canal Street in Lewiston, Maine. The entire Americans Who Tell the Truth collection of more than 270 portraits will be on display. These stunning portraits portray American figures — ranging from historical icons to contemporary activists — who have acted to confront injustice and advocate for change.

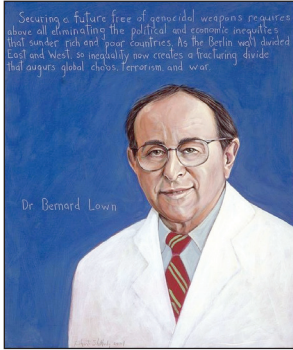
The exhibit's opening event will be on Friday, November 15, 5:00 – 7:00 P.M. All are welcome. Artist remarks will be at approximately 5:45 PM. For the duration of the exhibition, there will be guided tours, student art workshops, and a special teaching workshop and panel discussion on No-



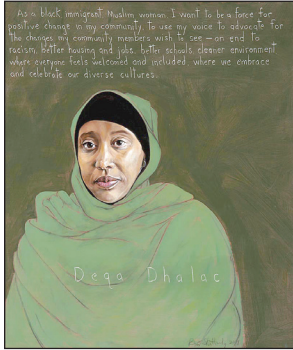
Portrait of Sherri Mitchell.



Portrait Doug Rawlings.



Portrait of Dr. Benard Lown.



Portrait of Deqa Dhalac.

November 20th at 3:30 – 5:00 PM.

Robert's most recent title, Portraits of Peacemakers, is a wonderful collection of painted portraits

of activists who have been instrumental in the story of peace activism in the United States.

Robert is a Maine artist based in Brooksville.

# Murder mystery dinner coming to Franco Center Nov. 9

**LEWISTON, ME**—Mystery 207 staff will bring their 1940s-themed murder mystery dinner to the Franco Center at 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 9. Tickets are being sold through Mystery 207's eventbrite link which can be found on the Franco Center's website at franco-center.org/shows.

Mystery 207's publicist says the murder mystery dinner audience at the Franco Center will be engaged as witnesses and encouraged to participate in fun skits and check out physical evidence. "The dinner guests cooperate to investigate the murder and uncover key clues. As a guest, you also have the chance to become a suspect. By the end of the party, you and your team will try to guess who did it, how they did it, and why they did it," said Marc Rodriguez. "You should keep an eye out for hints about the killer's motive and opportunity that only the guilty suspect could have."

The Franco Center's catering staff, led by chef John Pulsifer, will prepare a 1940s-themed 3-course dinner to go along with the evening's entertainment. Planned as a buffet, choices will include Wedge Iceberg Salad, Fresh Tomato Soup, Brown Sugar-Glazed Meat Loaf, Chicken Divan, Baked Boston Scrod, Creamy Chive Mashed Po-



**Mystery 207 staff in their 1940s-themed clothing will bring murder and mystery to a Franco Center dinner production at 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 9. Mystery 207 staff from left: Marc Rodriguez, Jason Iannone, Becca Lewis, Patricia Mason, Ashley Steeves, Billy Rankis, Katie Makem-Boucher. Photo credit: Mystery 207.**

tato, Maple Glazed Carrots, Rolls and Butter, Warm Apple Pie with Cheddar, and coffee or tea.

"The response to this murder mystery event has been overwhelming. The show is SOLD OUT. If you've missed this opportunity, be on the lookout for another 207 Mystery show in the spring!" said Theresa Shanahan, Franco Center executive director. "We appreciate the sponsorship of this event by Norway Savings Bank."

Rodriguez added, "Mark your calendars and gather your friends for an unforgettable evening. Put on your best vintage attire (dressing up is completely optional) and immerse yourself in the excitement

of this unique experience. Don't miss out on this one-of-a-kind event!"

Doors and cash bar open at 5 p.m. Show and dinner start at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$70 per person.

Mystery 207 is a professional murder/mystery acting troupe known for their comedic crime scenes and immersive performances. With a rotating cast of over 40 actor/comedians, Mystery 207 has been entertaining audiences from Bangor to Boston since 2018.

The Franco Center is at 46 Cedar St., Lewiston. Parking is in the mill lot on Oxford St. Handicap access is via an elevator on the Lincoln St. Alley side of the building.

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

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# RSU 16 holds first Drop Everything and G.E.O. Day

RSU 16 had its first annual “Drop Everything and G.E.O. (Get Everyone Outside) Day!” The day was a huge success! Students and teachers in all five buildings integrated outdoor learning into the daily lessons in some way. Students were observed participating in nearly every content area outside. Research supports the many benefits of outdoor learning, including: improving focus and academics, increasing cooperative learning and social interaction, improving physical and mental health, providing natural teachable moments in a real-life setting, and fostering an appreciation and love for nature.

Jess Harvey, 2nd grade teacher at Elm Street School, has been instrumental in helping the vision of outdoor learning come to fruition in RSU 16. Jess and other RSU 16 teachers participated in outdoor learning sessions through The Ecology School to develop a vision and progression of outdoor learning in RSU 16. Jess states, “Great things happen when teachers have time



Left to right: Ollivia Josef, Marley Simpson, Holly Patenaude, Holly Bisonnette, Chloe Larrabee, Ella Cadman, Lea Marchesseault, Bronwinn Veilleux



Back row left to right: Gerry Ducharme, Jessica Harvey/Ms. Harvey, Annabella Foster, Julia Thompson-Chase, Harper Ross, Yasir Al-Mashhadani, Harmony Conant Front row left to right: Greyson Gallant, Rowen Lowery, Aundreya Cote

together. The Get Everyone Outside (G.E.O.) Initiative held a casual lunch meeting over the summer for members to connect to share successes and challenges related to outdoor learning. One of the outcomes of the meeting was the idea to host a “Drop Everyone and Get Everyone Outside Day” across the district to pro-

mote outdoor learning. Outdoor learning is for everyone, and we are proud to see how many educators took their students outside for learning that day.” Working with Curriculum Director Jill Mathieu, a representative at each school was set up to help promote and support outdoor learning in their buildings and a plan

was put in place for the first annual “Drop Everything and G.E.O. Day”. Through grants we have been able to acquire outdoor learning seating and other materials to get students started with learning outdoors. RSU 16 hopes to continue to grow outdoor learning so it becomes a natural part of the curriculum.

## Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish



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 Saturday, November 23, 2024  
 Open 9am to 3pm



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- Book/Puzzle Room
- Candy Shop
- Country Store
- Greens & Wreaths
- Hidden Treasures
- Holiday Room
- Knitting
- Quilting/Sewing
- Jewelry & Accessories
- Raffle Room
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## Walk To End Alzheimer’s in Lewiston raises \$45k



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# Waterville Opera House announces 2025 theatrical season

**WATERVILLE, ME**—The Waterville Opera House (WOH) is excited to announce its full 2025 theatrical season. Beginning in January of next year, WOH will present four community theatre productions, including two musicals and two straight plays: new romantic comedy *The Cottage* by Sandy Rustin in January and February; Roald Dahl's *Matilda the Musical*, adapting the beloved children's book, in April and May; dark comedy mystery-thriller *Deathtrap* by Ira Levin in August and September; and finally the beloved holiday musical Irving Berlin's *White Christmas* in November.

"I'm excited to bring this amazing selection of theatrical productions to life for our community," said Michelle Sweet, WOH's executive director. "From laugh-a-minute comedy, to suspense-filled mystery, to full-on musical spectacle, there truly is something for everyone to enjoy!"

Now in its 122nd year, the Opera House

prides itself on its ability to routinely stage professional-caliber productions showcasing the very best of the local theatre community, from the actors on stage captivating audiences to the creative teams that design and assemble eye-catching costumes and sets. The 2025 season promises to push WOH's creative achievements to new heights.

January 31–February 9: *The Cottage* by Sandy Rustin

This brand-new, side-splitting romp is an outrageous tale of sex, betrayal, and desire as one woman decides to expose her latest affair to both her husband—and to her lover's wife. The true meaning of fate and faith, identity and infidelity, love and marriage are all called into question as a surprising and hilarious web of secrets unravels in this ridiculously funny romantic comedy.

April 25–May 4: Roald Dahl's *Matilda the Musical*

*Matilda* is a little girl with astonishing wit, intel-

ligence, and psychokinetic powers. She's unloved by her cruel parents but impresses her schoolteacher Miss Honey. During her first term at school, the two forge a bond as Miss Honey begins to recognize and appreciate *Matilda's* extraordinary personality. *Matilda's* school life isn't completely smooth sailing, however—the school's mean headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, hates children and just loves to punish those who don't abide by her rules. But *Matilda* has courage and cleverness in equal measure, and could be her classmates' saving grace! Inspired by the twisted genius of Roald Dahl, the Tony Award-winning Roald Dahl's *Matilda the Musical* is a captivating masterpiece for both children and adults alike.

August 29–September 7: *Deathtrap* by Ira Levin

Comfortably ensconced in his charming Connecticut home, Sidney Bruhl, a successful writer of Broadway thrillers, is struggling to overcome a dry spell that has resulted

in a string of failures and a shortage of funds. A possible break in his fortunes occurs when he receives a script from a student in the seminar he has been conducting at a nearby college—a thriller that Sidney recognizes immediately as a potential Broadway smash. Sidney's plan, devised with his wife's help, is to offer collaboration to the student for co-credit. Or is it? *Deathtrap* provides twists and turns of devilish cleverness, and offers hilariously sudden shocks in such abundance that audiences will be spellbound until the very last moment.

November 14–30: Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*

Based on the timeless and beloved film, *White Christmas* follows veterans Bob Wallace and Phil Davis, who launch a successful song-and-dance act after World War II. With romance in mind, the two follow a duo of beautiful singing sisters en route to their Christmas show at a Vermont lodge, which just happens to be owned by Bob and Phil's former



army commander. *White Christmas* is an uplifting, wholesome musical that will delight audiences of all ages.

"Our reputation for top-notch storytelling has created a robust audience base for our outstanding community theatre performers to dazzle with their talents and 2025's theatrical offerings include an array of excellent roles for a variety of ages," Sweet said. "*Matilda* will provide

many opportunities for our younger performers and *White Christmas* will grace our stage with an extended run of nine performances, as I have no doubt our community will come out in droves for this holiday themed family favorite."

Season Passes are now on sale at operahouse.org. Theatregoers can enjoy a 20% discount on their purchase when they reserve tickets to all four productions in one transaction.

# Maine home sales, values increase in September

**AUGUSTA, ME**—A higher inventory of single-family homes for sale in Maine has started to bring about a more balanced market to the state. According to Maine Listings, 5.39 percent more homes were sold in September 2024 compared to September 2023. The median sales price (MSP) for the 1,486 homes sold

reached \$409,450, an 8.68% increase over September of last year. The MSP indicates that half of the homes were sold for more and half sold for less.

"The statewide sold statistics from January through September 2024 are 3.9 percent ahead of this same time period from 2023, which was Maine's lowest point since 2013,"

says Paul McKee, President of the Maine Association of REALTORS® and Broker affiliated with Keller Williams Realty in Portland.

"The 4,971 available homes for sale in September reached the highest inventory number since October 2020 – 47 months. However, it is still below the level needed to fully

balance the market," adds McKee.

Nationally, sales eased 2.3 percent in September 2024 compared to September 2023. The National Association of Realtors today also announced a National MSP increase of 2.9 percent to \$409,000 in September. Regionally, sales in the Northeast decreased 6.1 percent com-

pared to last September, while the Regional MSP hit \$467,100—an increase of 6.0 percent from September of last year.

"We expect a steady finish for 2024," says McKee. "For-sale inventory levels have improved, overall pricing appreciation has slowed, and buyers remain active in the marketplace. Consumers are beginning

to understand that what we experienced regarding interest rates from 2008 until the present were not historically normal. Most times, people moving forward in life are not simply able to wait for the historic low interest rates of the past. Buyers and sellers need to be able to meet their needs, and that is why guidance from a Realtor is essential."

# Maine author publishes story of first White House menorah

**MAINE** -- BEAM OF LIGHT: THE STORY OF THE FIRST WHITE HOUSE MENORAH by Emmy-winning journalist and local Maine author

Elisa Boxer, illustrated by Jewish Ukrainian-American artist Sofia Moore went on sale last week. This non-fiction picture book tells the history and importance

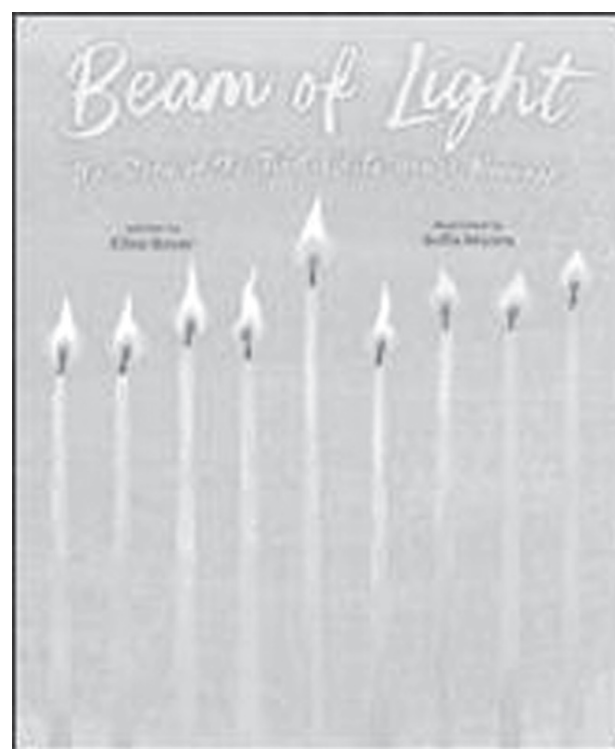
of the first official White House menorah, and how it has become a symbol of strength and perseverance against seemingly insurmountable odds.

Publishers Weekly just ran an insightful interview with Elisa Boxer and Kirkus praised the book as "poignant," "moving," and "an inspired and stirring tale to share at Hanukkah—or any time of year."

BEAM OF LIGHT provides the backstory of the first Jewish artifact in the White House permanent collection, fashioned from a wooden beam stored during Truman-era renovations.

That beam of White House wood sat in storage for seventy years, through thirteen different presidents, and recounts history it witnessed.

Sofia Moore's striking illustrations heighten the emotional content of this book beautifully. With earnest prose and meticulous care with her research, Boxer and Moore cast that beam as the narrating protagonist, imbuing it with a perspective that connects its own arc of resilience and renewal ("I was supposed to be destroyed," it repeats) with the history of Jewish people during WWII. "I am the centerpiece of the story



of the oil that lasted longer than anyone expected," the beam-turned-menorah says, "a beam of light, a reminder of the miracle, a symbol of strength."

In 2022, it was transformed into a menorah that will shine its beams of light every year, celebrating the

resilience and survival of the Jewish people. An author's note and bibliography are included. With its historical focus, this holiday tale will be welcomed by 3rd and 4th grade teachers wanting to represent Hanukkah in a way that has relevance to all students.

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# 7 tips for choosing your health benefits for 2025

By Suzi Swoop, CEO, Medicare & Retirement, UnitedHealthcare of New England

As millions of Americans now evaluate their health plan options during this fall's open enrollment season, a new survey finds that 3 in 5 Americans incorrectly defined key health care terms. This knowledge gap may result in less-than-ideal selections, which could cause you to miss out on plans that might better suit your needs and offer potential cost savings.

**Enrollment timing:** For people with coverage from their employer, open enrollment typically happens during a two- or three-week period between September and December. For those eligible for Medicare, the Medicare Annual Enrollment Period runs from Oct. 15- Dec. 7 each year. Coverage selections made during the fall will take effect on Jan. 1, 2025. For people shopping for individual plans on the Health Insurance Marketplace, open enrollment begins Nov. 1, 2024, and ends Jan. 15, 2025, in most states. Enroll by Dec. 15,

for active coverage on Jan. 1, 2025.

This is a crucial time to select optimal health coverage. Here are a few tips to consider when choosing a plan that may help lead you to better health and cost savings:

**Plan ahead.** Take time to understand and compare the benefits, services and costs of plans available to you – including anything that might have changed with your current coverage. Pay attention to more than just the monthly premium, also understanding what out-of-pocket costs, including the deductible, copays and coinsurance, you may be responsible for.

**Medicare members and caregivers:** As you weigh your options, assess the differences between Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage.<sup>1</sup> If you need a review, visit MedicareEducation.com — an online resource with answers to questions about eligibility, plan choices, prescription coverage and more.

**Get to know the terms.** If you're overwhelmed by health care language, there

are resources to help. As a start, check out this Just Plain Clear Glossary (in English, Spanish and Portuguese) to help you make informed decisions.

**Medicare members and caregivers:** There's a lot to learn about Medicare and Medicare Made Clear can help you understand the basics, the complexities and everything in between.

**Help prevent unexpected costs.** Before choosing a plan, check if your doctor is in your plan's provider network, since visiting in-network providers can help reduce out-of-pocket costs. Make sure your medications will be covered next year by the plan you choose – even if you don't expect to change plans. And consider filling your prescriptions at a participating network pharmacy or with home delivery – both of which are more cost-efficient options. You can also look for plans specifically designed to help you better manage health care costs.<sup>2</sup>

**Medicare members and caregivers:** You may be surprised to learn Original Medicare doesn't generally cover prescription

drugs. Consider enrolling in a Medicare Advantage plan with prescription drug coverage to help keep your medication costs in check.

**Explore mental health coverage.** In addition to in-person mental health care, you may have access to a large virtual network of therapists and psychiatrists. Some health insurers also have specially trained advocates available to help members find the right type of behavioral health care or resources.<sup>3</sup>

**Medicare members and caregivers:** Look for plans that offer virtual mental health care with a \$0 copay.

**Look into specialty benefits.** Additional benefits, such as dental, vision, hearing, financial protection or critical illness insurance, are often available and may contribute to overall well-being.

**Medicare members and caregivers:** You may be surprised that Original Medicare doesn't cover most dental, vision and hearing services, but many Medicare Advantage plans do.

**Consider wellness programs.** Many health

plans offer incentives for taking healthier actions, such as completing a health survey, exercising or avoiding nicotine. Others provide real-time insights and personalized support to those living with common chronic conditions like Type 2 diabetes.<sup>4</sup>

**Medicare members and caregivers:** Many Medicare Advantage plans also offer gym memberships and wellness programs for members at no additional cost.

**Embrace digital capabilities.** If you're busy or prefer connecting with a doctor from the convenience of your home, consider a plan that includes 24/7 virtual care.<sup>5</sup> Digital enhancements have also helped ease in-network provider search and cost comparison. Digital health solutions for everything from wellness visits to weight loss and maternal health care are often available in one place<sup>6</sup> – so be sure your plan offers these capabilities.

**Medicare members and caregivers:** Older adults are more digitally savvy than ever, and health plan apps can enable ev-

erything from reviewing claims to accessing rewards to refilling prescriptions.

<sup>1</sup> UnitedHealthcare, Original Medicare vs. Medicare Advantage, 2024, <https://www.uhc.com/news-articles/medicare-articles/medicare-advantage-compare>

<sup>2</sup> UnitedHealthcare, Surest, 2023, <https://www.uhc.com/news-articles/benefits-and-coverage/surest-pregnancy-support>

<sup>3</sup> UnitedHealthcare, Member support and advocacy resources, <https://www.uhc.com/member-resources/health-care-programs/member-support-and-advocacy-resources>

<sup>4</sup> UnitedHealthcare, Level2 Assured Value, 2024, <https://www.uhc.com/news-articles/benefits-and-coverage/level2-assured-value>

<sup>5</sup> UnitedHealthcare, Virtual Visits, <https://www.uhc.com/member-resources/health-care-tools/telehealth-virtual-care>

<sup>6</sup> UnitedHealthcare, UHC Hub, 2024, <https://www.uhc.com/news-articles/benefits-and-coverage/uhc-hub>

## Rocky's Ace Hardware raises \$34.5K for animal shelters

**BATH, ME** – Throughout its 14th annual "Round Up for Pets" fundraiser, Rocky's Ace Hardware, one of the country's largest family-owned Ace Hardware dealers with locations in nine states, asked cus-

tomers to round up their purchase total to the next dollar, with the difference donated to animal shelters near the store. They collected a total of \$34,561.68 across all locations.

"Every year it delights me to know we are

pitching in to help animals in need," said Rocky's Ace Hardware President and CEO Rocco J. Falcone II. "We know how important pets are to our customers and staff."

Rocky's in Bath participated in the program, raising \$957.00 for the Midcoast Humane Society, with locations in Brunswick and Edgcomb.

"We applaud shelters doing the important work of making sure animals are well cared for while they wait for forever homes," said Falcone. "We can't thank our customers enough for supporting our mission to help."

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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.

**Nov 8**

**BAR MILLS** -- The Blues on Sunday Quartet at Saco River Theatre, 29 Salmon Falls Road, Bar Mills, ME, Friday, November 8 at 7:30 PM. Tickets: \$15 General Admission at [www.sacorivertheatre.org](http://www.sacorivertheatre.org)

**Nov 9**

**LEWISTON** -- Mystery 207 staff in their 1940s-themed clothing will bring murder and mystery to a Franco Center dinner production at 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 9.

**Nov 13**

**LEWISTON** -- The

# Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

**Androscoggin** Retired Educators' Association will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 13th at Montello Heights, 550 College Street. The price for this meal is \$12.

It is recommended that educators arrive one half hour earlier than the meeting time, or 10:00. This will make time to socialize and have coffee and appetizer before the meeting at 10:30.

We invite all educators: teachers, teacher assistants, ed techs, principals, assistant principals, secretaries, guidance counselors, librarians, anyone who works with children. You need not have taught in Androscoggin County or even in the State of Maine. We welcome all educators regardless where you worked. We look forward to seeing you.

**Nov 14**

**AUBURN** -- The Auburn Public Library will host Write ME: An Epistolary Poetry Project to be taking place on Thursday, November 14, 2024 at 3:30 to 5:30 PM.

**Nov 15 – Dec 15**

**LEWISTON** -- Opening November 15th and closing December 15th is an exciting exhibition of

painter Robert Shetterly's Americans Who Tell the Truth portraits at the Bates Mill Atrium on 35 Canal Street in Lewiston, Maine.

**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!

**Nov 16**

**LEWISTON** -- The Ladies of Mu Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma International is bringing back their annual Teddy Bear Fair on November 16 from 9:00 to 2:00 at the Lewiston High School gym.

**Nov 17**

**BAR MILLS** -- Bella, An Immigrant's Tale, a one woman show at Saco River Theatre, 29 Salmon Falls Road, Bar Mills, ME, Sunday, November 17 at 2:30 PM. Tickets: \$15 General Admission at [www.sacorivertheatre.org](http://www.sacorivertheatre.org).

**Nov 20**

**BAR MILLS** -- Glenn Miller Orchestra, at Saco River Theatre, 29 Salmon Falls Road, Bar Mills, ME, Wednesday, November 20 at 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$15 General Admission

at [www.sacorivertheatre.org](http://www.sacorivertheatre.org).

**Nov 21**

**NEW GLOUCESTER** - Join us for our upcoming artist event series hosted by Unity Environmental University on Pinesland Campus. These events are free and open to the public. We would love to list our events on your calendar.

Artists we'll be hosting: Simon van der Ven, Hilary Irons, Ebenezer Akapo, Elaine Ng, Andy Rosen, and Ben Potter.

Our first event, Watching the Periphery with Simon van der Ven will be held on November 21st at 5:00pm in Freeport Hall, 70 Farm View Dr Suite 200, New Gloucester, ME 04260.

**Nov 23**

**AUBURN** -- Christmas by the Lake Fair at St. Philip Church. It's the 50th Anniversary of the fair, known for its amazing Christmas handmade wreaths, and numerous booths to find wonderful gifts for your family at Christmas. We will have several amazing raffles, with the biggest being a 65" LG TV valued at \$750! This year we will be accepting credit & debit cards.

**Nov 23**

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

Novel Jazz Septet - Sat, Nov 23, 2024 at 7:30 pm. Doors open 7:00 pm.

Novel Jazz Septet, one of Maine's premiere jazz groups, is now in their 20th year of keeping the musical legacy of Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn alive and swinging. The band embarked on a project to go through the massive archives at the Smithsonian Museum of American History as well as the Strayhorn Collection at the Library of Congress. finding compositions by Ellington and Strayhorn, transcribing some lesser-known gems for the band and reinterpreting them with a 21st century sound.

Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, and \$10 for students/children and will be available at the church office, Gulf of Maine Books, or online at [ticketstripe.com/novel-jazz7](https://ticketstripe.com/novel-jazz7).

**Nov 23**

**LEWISTON** -- Visit with Daniel Tiger at the Lewiston Public Library on Saturday, November 23rd

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at 11am in Callahan Hall! This event is in partnership with Maine Public Radio and PBS Kids.

Daniel is so excited to visit the Lewiston Public Library for an hour of creativity, book giveaways and literacy. Join us for storytime fun with children's author Chris Van Dusen and playtime making masks. Daniel is certain he is going to have a Grriffic time and can't wait to meet and take a photo with you! Don't forget your FREE ticket to the event at the link below.

This event is free and open to the public. Registration required on Eventbrite: <https://tinyurl.com/2w47jfpw>

**Jan 11**

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

David Mallett - Sat, January 11, 2025 at 7:30 pm. Doors open 7:00 pm.

Maine's own singer-songwriter David Mallett is one of America's true troubadours. In a career that spans four decades, David Mallett has recorded 17 albums and has performed in clubs, concert halls and festivals across the US, Canada and Europe. He has appeared on numerous broadcasts, including National Public Radio's A Prairie Home Companion. Known for his carefully written, poetic offerings, his body of work has provided material for more than 150 artists, including Alison Krauss, Pete Seeger, Hal Ketchum, Emmylou Harris, John Denver and even the Muppets, and his "Garden Song" has become an American folk classic.

Tickets: \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door, \$10 Students/Children. Available at the church office, Gulf of Maine Books, or online at <https://ticketstripe.com/pousette>.

**Mar 15**

**BRUNSWICK** -- The 2024-25 UUCB Concerts for a Cause Series season

will include folk, 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/>.

Women in Harmony - Sat, Mar 15, 2025 at 7:30 pm. Doors open 7:00 pm. Tickets: \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door, \$10 Students/Children

Women in Harmony is a Portland-based chorus of 60 women's voices, which has been singing for social justice for over 20 years. It is a diverse group of gay and straight, musically sophisticated and musically untrained women who unite in song and a spirit of fairness. Women in Harmony is dedicated both to musical excellence and social justice.

Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door, \$10 Students/Children. Available at the church office, Gulf of Maine Books, or online at <https://ticketstripe.com/womenharmony>

**CarePartners**

*Continued from page 1*

"partner locally with members, businesses and health professionals to provide affordable, high-quality benefits that promote health and well-being."

Said Kevin Lewis, president and CEO of Community Health Options, "Administering this vital program is a key component in our mission to make sure Maine's healthcare system works for everyone. By helping to facilitate access to high quality health care across the state, we're proud to partner with MaineHealth to improve the health of all of our fellow Mainers.

Since its inception, CarePartners has enrolled more than 20,000 members from ten counties in Maine and New Hampshire. To learn more, visit the CarePartners website.



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When Amy talks about her work, supporting individuals who are aging at home and living with disabilities, she doesn't talk about what her job takes, but instead about all that it gives back to her.

"It's just so fulfilling," Amy says. "There are so many things that we take for granted that mean so much for other people to do. It makes you so thankful for what we have. And my relationships with them make my heart so much bigger"

Amy supports her clients with activities of daily living. That can entail a wide variety of tasks on a daily basis. Some days that may mean helping a client get out of bed and get dressed, water her plants, or prepare her favorite sandwich for lunch. Often it means supporting her client with managing routine errands like trips to the grocery, that create opportunities to connect with familiar people and places. Amy is so grateful to give her clients – and their families – the peace of mind to live independently at home.

"It means so much to be able to give them positive experiences, a sense of control, and a sense of connection that otherwise would be lost," Amy says.

It's been nearly a decade since she moved into this field, and left her long-time waitressing job. "I don't think I'd ever go back," she says.

Amy is one of a growing number of Mainers who has discovered rewarding work in the field of Direct Support, ensuring that adults with age-related, physical, behavioral, intellectual, and cognitive health needs have the support they need to stay safe and independent in their homes and communities, and empowered to achieve their personal goals.

There are a multitude full-time, part-time, or per-diem positions available, which offer the flexibility to juggle work with family responsibilities. Paid training opportunities are widely available, and easy to complete. Many positions do not require advanced degrees.

Amy loves being able to work close to home, so she doesn't have to worry about the costs or hassle of a commute. "To be able to work locally, near home has made me so much closer with my entire community," she says. She encourages anyone interested in making a change to consider a position in Direct Support.

"There's just a huge, huge need," she says, "for good people, who really care."

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

"There's just such a huge need for good people who really care."

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

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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.

### MAY 29 - JUNE 4, 2025 - WASHINGTON, D.C.

- **NATION'S CAPITAL** - Trip includes 7 days and 6 nights lodging, 6 breakfasts and 4 dinners. A guided tour of Washington, D.C. which includes the US Capitol, the White House, the National Archives, Embassy Row and Georgetown. We will also visit the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial. We will also have a

guided evening tour of all the Memorials. We will have a Guided Tram Tour of inspirational sights such as Arlington National Cemetery, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Kennedy Graves and the Iwo Jima Memorial.

We will visit the Smithsonian Museum and the Museum of the Bible which contains some of the oldest and most important biblical artifacts in human history. On our way home we will stop and enjoy the National Harbor which is a unique waterfront wonderland of shopping, dining and more. **A \$75.00 deposit is due when signing up for this trip. The price is \$985.00 per person double occupancy. Add \$305.00 for single occupancy. Final payment is due 3/22/25.**

### SEPTEMBER 11-19, 2025 - BLUEGRASS COUNTRY & THE SMOKY MOUNTAINS

- Price includes round trip air from Logan International Airport, hotel transfers, and all transportation while on tour, 9 days, and 13 meals. Highlights of this tour are Louisville and Lexington, Kentucky – Churchill Downs, Kentucky Derby Museum, Louisville

Slugger Museum, Buffalo Trace Bourbon Distillery, Lexington Horse Farm.

Gatlinburg, Tennessee – Dolly Parton's Smoky Mountain Theme Park, Guided tour of the Great Smokey Mountain National Park (UNESCO), Cherokee, Old Smoky Moonshine Distillery.

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### Deposit for this trip is \$698.00 per person and due by March 11, 2025.

**Early bookings save \$100.00 per person. For more information on pricing call Claire.**

### OCTOBER 6 – 10, 2025

### – ATLANTIC CITY, CAPE MAY, & PHILADELPHIA

- Trip includes 5 days and 4 nights lodging, 4 breakfasts and 4 dinners and a free casino bonus for those who want to gamble.

Guided tour of Philadelphia including Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, Betsy Ross House, the Federal Reserve and Mint. Then off to Cape May with a Trolley Tour of the Victorian Mansions of Cape May and a walking tour of a historic Victorian Home. We travel to Cape May Point and the

famous Cape May Lighthouse. Our next day is a free day in Atlantic City to do as you please. Take in a show, do some gaming or just stroll down Atlantic City's Famous Boardwalk. **A \$75.00 deposit per person is due upon signing up. The price for this trip is \$849.00 per person double occupancy. Add \$210.00 for single occupancy. Final Payment is due 7/30/25.**

### NOVEMBER 16-26, 2025 – CLASSICAL GREECE

- Price includes round trip air from Logan International Airport, hotel transfers and all transportation while on tour. Trip also includes 16 meals (9 breakfasts, 1 luncheon, and 6 dinners).

Highlights of this tour are Athens, the Acropolis and Parthenon, Delphi, Olympia and Ancient Mycenae. You will visit a Greek Farm, have a Cooking Class, Greek Dance Class, and visit two remote monasteries. We will also have a tasting of local wines, olive oil and sweets.

**If you are interested in any of these trips or for more information, please contact Claire at 784-0302 or Cindy at 345-9569.**

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**CLASSIFIED ADS \$25 PER WEEK**

# Maine State Chamber honors LA Metro Chamber

AUGUSTA, ME – The Maine State Chamber of Commerce held its annual meeting and dinner on Wednesday, October 30, 2024, at the Augusta Civic Center in Augusta. In addition to hosting a U.S. Senate debate in partnership with NEWS CENTER Maine, the Chamber presented a leadership award to retiring Thomas College President Laurie G. Lachance and honored the Lewiston-Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce for their leadership and efforts following the October 2023 mass shooting tragedy in Lewiston. More than 400 people attended the Wednesday event.

The U.S. Senate debate was televised and streamed live and was moderated by NEWS CENTER Maine reporter and anchor Rob Caldwell. The four candidates for the U.S. Senate – incumbent U.S. Senator Angus King, Demi Kouzounas, David Costello, and Jason Cherry - participated.

Lachance received the Chamber's "Dirigo Award" for her visionary leadership and decades of contributions and service to Maine. From 2012 to 2024, Lachance served as President of Thomas College in Waterville as the college's 5th President and the first female and alumna to lead

the college. From 2004-2012, Lachance was president and CEO of the Maine Development Foundation. Prior to MDF, she served three governors as Maine State Economist. Before joining state government, Lachance was the Corporate Economist at Central Maine Power Company. Lachance joins several Maine Governors, U.S. Senators, and Maine business leaders in receiving the Maine State Chamber's "Dirigo Award."

The Maine State Chamber recognized the Lewiston-Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce as the 2024 "Dana F. Connors Chamber of the Year" for their leadership, resilience, and commitment to rebuilding and revitalizing the Lewiston-Auburn community in response to the mass shooting tragedy that took place on October 25, 2023, claiming 18 lives and impacting hundreds of people and businesses in the Lewiston-Auburn region and beyond.

Maine State Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Patrick Woodcock said, "The Maine State Chamber is honored to pay tribute to Laurie Lachance for her invaluable leadership and contributions to Maine. Laurie's career and leadership are a testament to her core belief in Maine

and Maine people, and her commitment to achieving success through education opportunities. The Chamber is also honored to recognize the Lewiston-Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce for their leadership at the forefront of confronting a tragedy, organizing relief, and inspiring a community to find resilience."

Woodcock added, "We appreciate the partnership with NEWS CENTER Maine in hosting the U.S. Senate debate before an audience of Chamber members and state and federal leaders and elected officials. We thank the four candidates for participating and sharing their views and priorities to address the major challenges Maine and the nation face."

The Maine State Chamber also debuted its 2024 edition of OneVoice Maine magazine Wednesday, which pays tribute to Lachance with feature articles about Lachance's life, career, impact, and legacy, and perspectives from her family, friends, and colleagues, including Governor Janet T. Mills and U.S. Senator Susan Collins.

To view the 2024 edition of OneVoice Maine magazine, please visit <https://issuu.com/mainestatechamber/docs/onevoiceaine2024>.

# Minot Corner United Methodist Church holding Holiday Fair

Come to the Holiday Fair at Minot Corner United Methodist Church Rt. 121 at the corner of Minot Avenue & Empire Road Saturday, Novem-

ber 9, 2024 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Homemade Baked Goods, Candy Fudge Table Crafts, Old Fashioned Cabot Extra Sharp


Cheddar Cheese, Silent Auction Table with great Christmas Gifts and so Much More! Takeout Luncheon Available at 9:00 a.m.

# L-A Rotary Club welcomes new members

LEWISTON – AUBURN, ME -- Lewiston-Auburn Rotary Club President Larry Delhagen, center, is pictured here with the two newest members of the club. At left is the Rev. George Sheats of Auburn, priest-in-charge at St. Michael's Episcopal Church. A former businessman and maintenance test pilot for the U.S. Army, Sheats resides in Auburn with his wife Bettyann. At right is Joseph Philippon, a detective with the Lewiston Police Department. The organizer of the popular "Lewiston Summer Fun & Films," Philippon lives in Lewiston with his wife Katie, son Jackson, and stepson Isaha.

The L-A Rotary Club has been serving the community since its founding in 1917. In addition to various volunteer activities, the club raises funds to support local service agencies and to provide yearly



**Rotary**   
 Lewiston-Auburn  
 District 7790

scholarships to graduating seniors from area high schools. The club meets every Thursday at noon at the Village Inn Restaurant in Auburn. Anyone interested in joining is encouraged to attend a meeting or visit the club website at [lewistonauburnrotary.org/](http://lewistonauburnrotary.org/)

JOIN US FOR

# Thankful Thursdays

**NOVEMBER 7, 14 OR 21**  
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BAKED WITH GRATITUDE. FILLED WITH **COMMUNITY.**

You're invited to experience the warmth and heartfelt hospitality of our senior living community firsthand during our annual Thankful Thursdays. Take home a fresh-baked pie when you tour with us on Thursdays in November and discover the sweetest part of our community: the spirit of togetherness and belonging that thrives all year round.

We'd be **thankful** if you would **RSVP** to reserve your personal tour and pie!

RSVP AT [SLCTHANKFULTHURSDAYS.COM](http://SLCTHANKFULTHURSDAYS.COM)  
 OR CALL **802-523-3937**

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