



TWIN CITY TIMES

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Veteran Travis Mills speaks at Evergreen Credit Union event

PORTLAND, ME — On October 26, Evergreen Credit Union proudly welcomed over 150 attendees to its annual Member Appreciation Night, held to celebrate and thank its dedicated members for their loyalty and commitment to the credit union. The highlight of the evening was an inspiring keynote address by retired U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Travis Mills, who shared his remarkable story of resilience and determination.

At Hannaford Hall on USM's Portland campus, the event was filled with an atmosphere of appreciation and unity, underscoring Evergreen Credit Union's commitment to

creating a positive impact on the lives of its members and Maine's communities. Attendees enjoyed a night of camaraderie with Community Partners, which culminated in Mills' heartfelt message that captivated and motivated everyone present.

"We are honored to serve such a loyal and engaged membership," said Evergreen Credit Union President/CEO, Jason Lindstrom. "Our members are at the heart of everything we do, and Member Appreciation Night is our way of showing our gratitude for their trust and support. Having Travis Mills as our guest speaker made this year's event even more special."



Edward Budway of Evergreen Credit Union, Retired Staff Sergeant Travis Mills, Cole Rowland and Jason Lindstrom of Evergreen Credit Union.

Travis Mills, a quadruple amputee who became one of only five soldiers from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to survive such severe injuries and later went on to establish the Travis Mills Founda-

tion, delivered an inspiring talk about overcoming adversity, finding strength in community, and living life to the fullest.

Evergreen Credit Union is Maine's 5th largest credit union, with over



Evergreen Credit Union's top Lending Partners are recognized for their work in a special awards ceremony at USM Portland's Hannaford Hall.

\$564 million in assets and 6 locations serving all of southern Maine. They currently serve over 31,000 members in Maine's six southern Maine counties. To become a member, visit

<https://www.egcu.org>.

Evergreen Credit Union's top Lending Partners are recognized for their work in a special awards ceremony at USM Portland's Hannaford Hall.

CMMC honors those who have served with Veterans Wall

LEWISTON, ME -- Central Maine Medical Center (CMMC) honors our veterans in a very visible way.

In the second-floor hallway of the Central Maine Heart & Vascular Institute (CMHVI) there is a "Veterans Wall." It was created by Michael Ricci, MD, who is the former chief of vascular surgery at CMHVI.

Dr. Ricci is also a retired colonel and U.S. Air Force flight surgeon. He wanted to honor his fellow servicemen and women, so he started tak-



ing photos of his patients who have served in the military.

Dr. Ricci printed, framed and mounted the photos and this labor of love has grown into what is now called our Veterans Wall – a heartfelt homage to hundreds of vascular and cardiac patients and their dedication to our country. Visit CMMC's website to see a video of the Veterans Wall.

"Shortly after I started here, I noticed many of my patients were veterans. I later learned Maine has the largest number of veterans per capita of any state. I think it's great that we honor those who have served on Veterans Day. But it's easy to forget about the sacrifices they made after Nov. 11 has come and gone. This is our way of honoring our veterans year-round."

Auburn's revaluation moving forward

AUBURN, ME – The City of Auburn is pleased to announce a contract has been signed with KRT Appraisal to provide services for a full city-wide revaluation. The revaluation will include all residential, commercial, and industrial improved and vacant parcels. As of the 2024 tax commitment, Auburn has 9,472 parcels.

"This will be a full 'boots on the ground' revaluation with the intent of doing interior and exterior inspections on all properties," said Karen Scammon, Auburn's Assessor. City of Auburn Assessing staff will be in the field assisting KRT Appraisal with the inspections.

The revaluation is anticipated to begin this fall



and will take approximately 3 years to complete. The city has prioritized public outreach and will work hard to communicate with residents before and during the revaluation. Two public meetings have been held,

one in August and one in September. The assessor and deputy assessor have appeared on the city's official podcast, "Absolutely Auburn," which is available on the City of Auburn website (auburnmaine.gov). The revaluation was also discussed at the September 16th City Council meeting. The council meeting can be viewed on the

city's YouTube channel.

A new "hub" site dedicated to the revaluation process has been created (<https://reval-auburn-auburnme.hub.arcgis.com/>). The site includes names and pictures of the data collectors, FAQs, and other pertinent details. Additional information will be added in the days and weeks ahead. Staff will meet with

members of KRT Appraisal during the first week of October to discuss the revaluation and additional public education efforts.

The values from Auburn's most recent revaluation were implemented over a two-year period in 2006 and 2007. With escalating sale prices over the last four years, the ratio of

See Revaluation, page 14



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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

HART announces new shelter manager

CUMBERLAND, ME - - The Homeless Animal Rescue Team (HART) of Maine, an adoption center & shelter for cats in Cumberland, is pleased to announce that Claudia Meyer-Maaseidvaag has joined HART as their new Shelter Manager, where she will focus on volunteer coordination and shelter operations. Claudia joins HART from the Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, where she excelled as the Manager of Lifesaving. Her impressive background includes work with Thoroughbred Aftercare Retirement and volunteer experience with the nonprofits Forgotten Cats and Stray Cat Blues. Claudia holds a Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy and Nonprofit Management from the University of Delaware.



growing our volunteer base, and providing the highest-quality care to the cats and kittens of Maine. I see unlimited opportunities for HART in our future and look forward to meeting more members of our community.”

Claudia notes, “I am excited to be working with the incredible volunteers, staff, and Board of Directors to continue expanding our programs and services,

Lisa Gamage, long-time volunteer and President of the HART Board of

Directors adds, “HART is excited to have Claudia join our organization. She brings compassion and knowledge of animal welfare to help us achieve our mission. We look forward to her fresh perspective on shelter management and collaboration with our Medical Manager and volunteers to help as many cats as possible.”

Upcoming Artist Series in New Gloucester



NEW GLOUCESTER, ME -- The first in a series hosting Maine-based artists, join award-winning artist Si-

mon van der Ven for an art pop-up and presentation at Unity Environmental University on November 21st at 5:00 p.m. at Freeport

Hall on Pineland Campus. Admission is free. For more information see our events page <https://unity.edu/events/>

Hunting with heart: Maine hunters deliver thousands of meals

AUGUSTA, ME – As Maine’s Expanded Archery hunting season continues, and with key dates like Maine Resident Only Day on November 2 and the Firearm Season starting November 4, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry’s (DACF) Hunters for the Hungry program is making efforts to tackle food insecurity with the help of generous

hunters across the state. This unique program transforms game meat donations into thousands of nutritious meals for Maine’s most vulnerable populations.

A single deer can provide meals for up to 200 people, underscoring the significant impact each donation has on local communities. With hunger affecting more Maine residents yearly,



the program is a lifeline for many.

Under the leadership of Gus Nelson, Director of The Emergency Food Assistance Program, and Nathan Lord, Maine Ending Hunger Corps Member, the Hunters for the Hungry initiative has grown. Since spring, four new processors have joined the network, bringing the total to 25 licensed processors across the

state, with more expected to join in the coming months. These partners ensure the meat is safely prepared and distributed efficiently to food pantries, shelters, and community kitchens.

“This program allows hunters to give back in a meaningful way, turning their harvest into life-saving meals for neighbors in need,” said Nelson. “With more pro-

cessors on board, we can reach even more communities.”

Hunters are encouraged to participate by donating some or all of their legally harvested game this season. Their contributions support Maine’s fight against food insecurity and foster a spirit of community and generosity.

How to Get Involved:

Hunters can easily donate their game to a participating processor. Interested hunters must contact approved meat processors.

Donations are processed at no cost to the hunter, ensuring the meat is prepared for those in need.

Even a small portion of your harvest can make a difference in someone’s life.

Why It Matters:

Hunger is rising: More than ever, food pantries and shelters need high-quality, nutrient-dense proteins like game meat.

Local impact: Every donation stays within Maine, benefiting families and individuals in local communities.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Franco-American Genealogical Society announces election results

LEWISTON, ME -- The Maine Franco-American Genealogy Society is pleased to introduce its Officers and Board Members who were newly elected at the last general membership meeting on October 26, 2024.

Beliveau is a Lewiston native who now lives in Lisbon. She worked for a few local businesses retiring after 18 years at Marshwood Center Nursing Home. She was a regular patron at the MFGS Library researching her ancestry and discovered that one of her grand-fathers came from France to Acadie in the mid-1600's. Beliveau was first elected to the Board as Corresponding Secretary in 2016 and continues to volunteer in the MFGS Library to help members research their roots.

Murphy was employed by the City of Lew-

iston for 37 years. She now enjoys spending her time with her granddaughter. She was born and raised in Lewiston and proud of her deep Canadian roots which include the family names of Cloutier, Dostie, Nadeau and Veilleux.

Martin won a scholarship that permitted him to study in France for two months, but the end result was a stay of two years. He graduated from the Lycée Albert Camus in Nîmes, France. Upon returning to Maine, he worked at Museum L-A, now known as Maine MILL, before becoming the French teacher at Saint Dominic Academy where he continues to spread his love of the French language and culture, and to inspire future generations. Martin is also a board member of the Alliance Française du Maine and of the Franco-American Collection at USM.



MFGS Officers and new Board Members from left to right: Connie Beliveau (Corresponding Secretary), Marie Murphy, Camden Martin (Vice President), Connie Hitchcock (Recording Secretary), Fr. Robert Parent (President), Pauline Dionne, and Normand Lamie (Treasurer).

Hitchcock is a retired school librarian who holds a BA in English from U Maine in Orono and a Masters in Library Information Science from Rutgers. She joined the Board as Recording Secretary in 2016. She is a second-generation Franco-American hoping to expand the information in her genealogical lines of Bissonnette, Laplante, Duclos and Cloutier. She is also very active with the Maine Music Society cur-

rently serving as its vice-chair and singing in the MMS Chorale.

Father Parent has served as a Board Member, Librarian and President for several terms. He brings a wealth of information and many contacts that help to expand the resources at the library.

Dionne retired after 47 years in finance and HR functions. She starts most mornings swimming laps for over an hour. She

has been working on family genealogy research for over 30 years, tracing most lines to France. These lines consist of Choret/Charette, Cloutier, Dionne, and Pelletier families.

Lamie is an independent contractor and licensed Professional Engineer who also holds degrees in Business and Public Administration from the University of Maine. He has served on the Board of Directors and as President of the Maine Water Utilities and the New England Water Works Association. His position as Treasurer for the Auburn Lewiston Rotary Club adds to his extensive experience in financial management developing numerous professional working relationships with various officials in the area. In his spare time, Lamie enjoys genealogy research and spending time with seven grandchil-

dren.

The Maine Franco-American Genealogical Society is a 501(c3) non-profit, primarily self-help genealogical research library dedicated to help Americans of French-Canadian & Acadian ancestry discover their history. It is a totally volunteer led organization with members available to help you maneuver your way through its 3200 volumes which include a collection of marriage repertoires from all six New England states as well as Canada, New York and Oregon. The library also includes digital files for researching Census information, Social Security Death Benefits information and Maine obituaries. These are only a few of the many resources available. Please visit www.mfgen.org for more information, including revised hours of operation.

Fontaine Family Team recognized by Boston Globe, Statista

AUBURN, ME – Fontaine Family, a leading real estate brokerage based in Maine, is proud to announce that it has been recognized by The Boston Globe and Statista as one of New England's Top Real Estate Brokerages of 2024. Fontaine Family secured the prestigious #2 ranking for the State of Maine and #11 ranking across all of New England, placing them among the elite in the region's competitive real estate industry.

This ranking is based on a comprehensive analysis of Multiple Listing Service (MLS) data, which includes property listings, sales, and agent information. Brokerages were determined by MLS IDs and may represent individual

teams. To evaluate brokerage performance, four key performance indicators were used: revenue, price performance, sales volume, and success rate. Additionally, regional expertise was factored into the assessment for state-specific top lists.

We are deeply honored to be ranked among the top real estate brokerages in New England. This achievement is a testament to the dedication and passion of our team and the trust our clients place in us. We are grateful to our loyal clients, partners, and the communities we serve for their continued support, which has made this recognition possible.

Fontaine Family has long been a trusted name in Maine real estate,

known for its personalized approach, local expertise, and commitment to helping families find their dream homes. The company's ranking as #2 in Maine and #11 in New England demonstrates its ongoing leadership and influence in the New England real estate market.

Looking ahead, Fontaine Family remains focused on expanding its services and continuing to provide exceptional real estate solutions to clients throughout the region. The team is excited to build on this success and remain a top choice for buyers and sellers alike.

Fontaine Family – The Real Estate Leader is a highly skilled real estate team of licensed professionals dedicated to focus-

ing on the client. Fontaine was awarded 2019 Maine Family-Owned Business of the Year, voted Best Real Estate Company in the Greater Lewiston/Auburn Area and Greater Portland Area year after year, recognized by Real Trends as America's Top 250 Real Estate Team and published

in the Wall Street Journal in the Top 250 Real Estate Professionals ranking in the top 1/2 of 1% of Realtors outperforming 99.9% of the nation's Realtors.

The Fontaine Family Team serves 8 counties – Androscoggin, Cumberland, York, Sagadahoc, Oxford, Kennebec,

Franklin and Somerset – in two locations, 336 Center Street in Auburn and 432 US Route One in Scarborough. For more information visit FontaineTeam.com, download their free home search mobile app "Fontaine Family Real Estate" or call (207)784-3800 or (207)289-3830.

What do you think?
We strongly encourage Letters to the Editor, Op/Eds, columns or any other submissions from our readers.
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Email all submissions, including name, address and phone number, to the editor.

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

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Seniors Not Acting Their Age

More West Fest Adventures



A cyclist rides the West River Trail



Much of the West River Trail follows along the West River



A kayaker paddles a rapid on the West River

A large group of Chowderheads with the Penobscot Paddle & Chowder Society were taking a break for lunch at a riverside campsite at Jamaica State Park in Vermont during the West Fest. We were participating in an annual fall whitewater release on the West River and had concluded our first descent of a 3-mile section of almost continuous Class III rapids. Several of us were considering a return to the put-in at Bald Mountain Dam for a second run.

Six paddlers in four kayaks and two canoes resolved to make another arduous climb over the dam in order to take advantage of the exceptional whitewater experience. The remainder of the group chose

to remain at the campsite and await our return. Upon arrival, the two canoeists would join them for 3.5 miles of Class II whitewater below the campsite.

After completing the strenuous climb over the dam, we enjoyed another rollicking ride through exciting whitewater that included Initiation, Boof Rock, and Dumplings Rapids. Everyone aced the challenging descent.

When we returned to the campsite, most of our merry band of Chowderheads assembled for the remaining rapids on the lower section. My wife, Nancy, and I had different plans for continuing the West Fest. We were going to research possible flatwater paddling options for the following

day and explore the West River Trail in nearby Brattleboro.

Initially, our efforts to find a quality lake or pond to paddle were disappointing. Bald Mountain and Townsend Lakes, both dammed sections of the West River, were discouragingly low and essentially unnavigable. However, at the mouth of the West River, where it joins the Connecticut River in Brattleboro, the river widens and forms an island-filled body of water locally referred to as West Lake. After viewing much of the shoreline, studying our maps, and locating a convenient boat landing, we concluded that would be our paddling destination for the following day.

Fortuitously, the southern trailhead for the lower West River Trail is next to the landing. We decided on an afternoon trail adventure. Nancy chose to hike whereas I opted to bike.

The West River Trail begins in Brattleboro. The lower section follows north along the West River for about four miles and then connects with lightly traveled dirt roads before ending in the rural village of Dummerston. Additional portions of the trail have been opened farther north.

From the outset, I found the trail to be an excellent stimulating ride. Much of the path travels next to the river with many exceptional views. The hard packed dirt surface is mostly double-track but is narrower in one stretch. During my ride, I traveled through a couple of areas where the original railroad bed was carved out of a steep granite slope.

After reaching the northern trailhead, the rail trail joins a dirt road that follows along the river. Only one slow moving vehicle was encountered as I continued to ride the moderately hilly road for a couple of additional miles before turning back.

Faced with a five-hour drive home, Nancy and I were up early the next morning for our paddle on



A paddler kayaks north on West Lake

West Lake. A landing on the east side allows for easy access to the water. After unloading kayaks, we left our vehicle in the nearby West River Trail parking area.

We paddled north along the east shore between a large island on the left and the shoreline next to the West River Trail on the right. We soon passed under the Interstate 91 Bridge and continued farther north until reaching the river where low water prevented further navigation.

On return, we crossed to the west shore where a rower out for his morning paddle was met. Progressing south, we entered shallow water and passed through an entertaining collection of small islands. West of the islands, the lake opens into a circular bay. We circumnavigated the bay and departed east through a narrow passage into the Connecticut River.

Time constraints prohibited continuing our

paddle on the Connecticut. When returning to the landing, we passed The Marina Restaurant which serves excellent seafood.

Our West Fest weekend complete, we began our drive home while making tentative plans for next year along the way.

My book, *Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine* describes the best bike trails, lake paddles and whitewater 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 or in bookstores and through online retailers. His previous books are *"The Great Mars Hill Bank Robbery"* and *"Mountains for Mortals - New England."* Visit his website at www.ronchaseoutdoors.com or he can be reached at ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net

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Applications now open for Machias Savings Bank grant

MACHIAS, ME—Machias Savings Bank is now accepting applications for its new Workforce Development Grant, dedicated to funding projects that enhance and expand Maine’s workforce capabilities. This grant provides a total of \$50,000, awarded in three amounts of \$25,000,

\$15,000, and \$10,000, to support projects that focus on upskilling, reskilling, and career readiness resources throughout the state.

The application period for the Workforce Development Grant opens on November 11th and closes on November 22nd. Eligible applicants include

501(c)3 organizations, educational institutions, and municipalities committed to building a stronger workforce in Maine. Priority consideration will be given to projects that promote career pathways, vocational training, and accessible job opportunities for Maine residents. Selected recipients will be

notified by phone by December 16th.

“Our Workforce Development Grant is an investment in Maine’s future workforce and economic success,” said Melissa Denbow, VP, Community Impact Manager. “By supporting programs that enhance job skills and thus increase wages,

we are not only aiding individual growth but also contributing to the resilience and prosperity of Maine communities.”

Machias Savings Bank seeks to bolster Maine’s workforce by funding impactful projects that address critical workforce needs. Past Machias Savings Bank

grants have funded diverse programs, including mentorship and training initiatives that equip individuals with essential job skills and entrepreneurship education.

Complete grant guidelines and application details are available at www.machiassavingsbank.com.

Wiscasset Holiday Marketfest brimming with seasonal cheer

WISCASSET, ME – Wiscasset Holiday Marketfest heralds the gift-giving season with three days of local shopping and lots of activities for shoppers, families, locals, and visitors to enjoy! In 2024, visit Marketfest on Fri., Dec. 6, Sat., Dec. 7, and Sun., Dec. 8, in Wiscasset Village, from 10am to 5pm each day and festive family events on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Marketfest features a visit from Santa who arrives via a grand light parade. Kids get treats and cocoa, adults get Hot Toddlies. Sheep for petting and marshmallows for roasting keep the brisk evening toasty. The weekend’s free raffle for dining in every participating storefront entices shoppers



The beautiful harmonies of the Heart ‘n Soul Quartet bring the songs of the season to Wiscasset Village during Wiscasset Holiday Marketfest on Dec. 6-8. (Lucia Droby photo)

to browse while the very popular Christmas Cookie Challenge is an irresistible call to local bakers. Hang around until after the judging for the chance to sample these tasty morsels. Find inspiration in the

annual Wreaths Around the Holidays display and be part of the friendly competition for People’s Choice.

The historic Nickels-Sortwell House will be decked with holiday greens and open for tours,



Wiscasset Holiday Marketfest’s Christmas Cookie Challenge judges (l to r), Anthony Weismann, Daphne Cromwell, and Brad McCary, took their task of choosing the best holiday cookie very seriously in 2023. The cookie challenge returns in 2024 with a call to bakers to consider crumb, appearance, flavor, and presentation. Watch the judges; shoppers take home the cookies! (Bob Bond photo)

while the old barn next door will be transformed into a shopping wonderland for unique, one-of-a-kind, artisan-made gifts. A family-friendly Snow Ball is a dance party for all to enjoy!

Ornament workshops, a shopping event just for kids, songs of the season from a female barbershop quartet, wagon rides, and more bring the joy of the season to all who visit Wiscasset Village during Holiday Marketfest 2024!

For more details, see the Calendar on www.WiscassetHolidayMarketfest.com. Wiscasset Holiday Marketfest is a partnership between Wiscasset Creative Alliance and Wiscasset Area Chamber of Commerce.

GrowSmart Maine wins USDA food systems grant

MAINE -- On Friday, November 1st, USDA Agricultural Marketing Services notified GrowSmart Maine that they were one of ten projects selected from across the country to be awarded a grant from the Regional Food System Partnerships Program to the amount of \$152,952.00. The grant will be used for the establishment of the Downeast Food System Partnership program.

The Downeast Food System Partnership will be working within the overall vision of a broader diver-

sity of Downeasters involved with growing and regularly accessing affordable, locally grown food, where farmers and others in the local food economy are making a sustainable living. The Downeast Food System Partnership provides the platform for achieving this vision.

GrowSmart Maine will be implementing the initiative in cooperation with program partners Sunrise County Economic Council, Healthy Acadia, and Hancock County Planning Commission.

The purpose of DFSP

is to provide a platform for developing joint goals and plans, conducting outreach to farming communities, coordinating with relevant actors within and outside the region, and accessing additional resources for implementation of priority actions. The goal is to better understand and strengthen the food system in the Downeast through prioritization of joint actions for growing an expanded, innovative and more integrated regional food system.

The partnership seeks to bring together a

broad range of Downeast Food System stakeholders: Farmers, processors, distributors, and value-add producers; Distressed and food insecure communities; Institutions that purchase food and organizations that serve vulnerable and food insecure populations; Restaurants, grocery stores, farmers’

markets and other sales points that have an interest in offering local food.

“We are thrilled to get to work on this program,” said Harald Bredesen, Program Director at GrowSmart Maine. “The Downeast region of Maine has a rich tradition of farming and working with the land to provide

food locally and across the region. We look forward to working with Sunrise County Economic Council, Healthy Acadia, and Hancock County Planning Commission to strengthen access to affordable, healthy food for residents and promote the viability of farms in the Downeast.”

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

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Arts & Entertainment

Novel Jazz Septet celebrates Ellington and Strayhorn



BRUNSWICK, ME -- UUCB Concerts for a Cause presents the Novel Jazz Septet at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick on Saturday, Nov. 23 at 7:30 p.m. to raise money for the Brunswick Area Teen Center and Maine Family Planning. The concert will feature the music of the iconic Duke Ellington and his equally iconic musical collaborator, Billy Strayhorn who, together wrote

some 3,000 compositions over their musical careers.

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 archive of compositions by Ellington and Strayhorn, transcribe some lesser-known gems for the

band and reinterpret them with a 21st century sound. This has resulted in 3 CDs and a special PBS interview about the project. In addition, several two-hour programs dedicated to Novel Jazz have been broadcast on Maine Public Radio's jazz show, "Jazz Tonight" over the years.

Novel Jazz will perform standard tunes from the Ellington/Strayhorn repertoire plus more compositions that they have

recently unearthed from original recordings at the Ellington Archives of the Smithsonian Museum of American History as well as the Strayhorn Collection at the Library of Congress, both in Washington D.C.

The musicians of Novel Jazz, Barney Balch (trombone), Michael Mitchell (trumpet), David Clark (guitar), Nathaniel Johengen (reeds), Bill Manning (drums), Mickey Felder (piano), and

Herb Maine (bass), travel far and wide, keeping the spirit of Duke and "Sweet Pea" alive and swinging.

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 <https://ticketstripe.com/noveljazz7>.

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MDC holds conference, annual awards celebration

BIDDEFORD AND SACO, ME -- Maine Development Foundation's (MDF's) Maine Downtown Center (MDC) held its 25th Anniversary Conference and Annual Awards over two jam-packed days in Biddeford and Saco. This year's conference theme, "Revitalization in Action," set the stage for dynamic discussions, action-oriented workshops, awards, and community tours highlighting ways community leaders, municipal staffs, elected officials, business owners, and passionate residents, are transforming downtown communities throughout Maine. The three awards that were presented and the keynote address by Erin Barnes, President and CEO of Main Street America, underscored the power of collective action to drive community revitalization and growth.

"We know that we can't solve everything," said Erin Barnes, President and CEO of Main Street America, during her keynote address on Thursday. "But we are the experts on our own communities. We have the exact right expertise to mend what's right in front of us."

More than 160 business, municipal, and community leaders and

volunteers from across Maine attended the 2-day Conference. They participated in a variety of ways: through downtown walking tours of neighborhoods, parks, and historic sites both Saco and Biddeford to experience how initiatives are playing out in real life; in workshops aimed at providing tools to transform their own communities; and contributing to strategic discussions of how to scale proven approaches and initiatives to drive equitable, inclusive economic and community development across Maine.

"Maine has amazing downtowns. Mill towns. Towns on rivers. Towns along the ocean," said Anne Ball, Senior Program Director for MDC. "They offer beautiful historic fabric and building types, welcoming public spaces, and unique small businesses. These places can also be fragile. If they are going to continue to be economic engines, they need to be cultivated and supported. So, our work is never done."

During the Awards Celebration MDC proudly bestowed the following honors:

2024 Downtown Project of the Year Award to the Szanton Company for The Uptown complex

in Bath. Working with more than a dozen public and private partners and funders, Szanton rehabilitated and expanded two historic buildings to offer both residential and commercial space. 42 of the resulting 60 housing units are affordable, helping ease the region's housing shortage.

2024 Downtown Small Business Award to Rhona Beauty in Biddeford. Owner Rhona Deah opened the salon to serve multi-cultural women and create a space for "empowerment and self-love." Deah is an immigrant from Liberia who now employs two hair braiders, offers booths to other stylists, and hosts community events.

2024 William F. King, Jr., Downtown Champion Award to Luke R Dyer, Town Manager of Van Buren. Dyer served in law enforcement for 30 years before taking the role of Town Manager in Van Buren. He has helped lead several economic development initiatives including the Park Street & Community Garden project, the Van Buren Acadian Passage Lighting Project, and the upcoming \$1.8 million community tech hub project.

The event also celebrated MDC's 25th Ann-



mdf | MAINE DOWNTOWN CENTER celebrating 25

versary of leading preservation-based community and economic development across the state under the umbrella of the national Main Street America organization. MDC currently works with 11 nationally accredited Main Street Maine communities - including the most recent designee, City of Ellsworth, and the nonprofit Heart of Ellsworth - 14

Affiliate Communities and scores of other municipalities and communities.

"I really don't think there is any way Ellsworth and Heart of Ellsworth could have achieved national accreditation as a Main Street Community without the help of the Maine Downtown Center," said Cara Romano, Executive Director of Heart of Ellsworth. "They

have been with us every step of the way, helping us figure out the strategic planning, the tactical implementation, and coaching us on how to secure everything from funding to investment in initiatives that have enriched Ellsworth economically."

Visit the MDC section of our website to find out more about the broad range of programs we offer.

USM selected to receive \$350K to help prevent pollution

BOSTON, MA – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the University of Southern Maine has been selected to receive \$350,000 in grants to provide technical assistance to businesses to develop and adopt pollution prevention (P2) practices in local communities.

The New England Environmental Finance Center (NEEFC) has been selected to receive \$350,000 to provide technical assistance to craft beverage manufacturers in Maine and Vermont. The technical assistance will advance sustainability practices that reduce energy, water, and waste as well as chemical use, and provide assessments of in-house chemicals for toxicity and recommendations for transitioning to less hazardous packaging and circular economy solutions as prescribed in the BetterBev recognition program. NEEFC is a center at the Catherine Cutler Institute at the University of Southern Maine, a member of the University of Maine System.

"Every community deserves clean air, safe water, and a healthy environment—and pollution prevention grants help achieve that by reducing waste at the source. By adopting smart-

er and innovative practices that limit the use of toxic materials and conserve resources, these investments are helping our partners to support New England businesses to cut costs, grow sustainably, and protect the environment," said EPA Regional Administrator David W. Cash. "Thanks to the Biden-Harris Administration, together we're creating lasting benefits for local economies and ensuring that environmental progress and economic growth go hand in hand and reach all communities, including those that need it most. That's Investing in America."

"Maine knows the importance of environmental stewardship and has long been a leader in pollution reduction, but we cannot let up on our efforts as we continue to fight against the impacts of climate change and work to eliminate contamination," said U.S. Senator Angus King. "This \$350,000 grant to support the University of Southern Maine's New England Environmental Finance Center will go to craft beverage manufacturers in Maine and assist their efforts to better reduce chemical use and transition to circular economy solutions. I was proud to support the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

and am encouraged to see it continue to drive Maine and our nation forward toward a more resilient future."

"I'm thrilled to see the University of Southern Maine receive a \$350,000 grant to help craft brewers in Maine and Vermont cut back on hazardous chemicals and transition to more sustainable, circular economy packaging," said Congresswoman Chellie Pingree, ranking member of the House Appropriations Interior and Environment Subcommittee. "This funding will provide vital technical support to Maine's growing craft beverage industry, by helping them to adopt greener, more eco-friendly practices that not only protect our environment but also enhance business efficiency. I'm proud to see the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's historic funding for pollution prevention being put to work in our state. This is a win for our economy and a win for our planet—showing what's possible when we invest in sustainable innovation. I will continue fighting to ensure the EPA has the resources it needs to help Maine's businesses lead the way in embracing a circular economy."

"The New England Environmental Finance

Center is thrilled to receive Pollution Prevention (P2) funding from the US EPA! This funding will allow the NEEFC to continue to support craft beverage manufacturers in Maine and Vermont in their efforts to optimize operations and improve efficiency. The NEEFC is also excited to continue to collaborate with EPA Regions 1, 3, and 4 P2 grant recipients in the BetterBev effort, aligning technical assistance processes and Green Craft Beverage Recognition, leading to vastly improved beverage manufacturing guidance. None of this work would be happening at its impressive and growing scale without the support of the US EPA," said NEEFC's Luke Truman.

In total, EPA announced 48 selectees across the country that will collectively receive nearly \$19 million in grants to support states, Tribal Nations, and U.S. territories in providing technical assistance to businesses to develop and adopt pollution prevention (P2) practices in local communities. Thanks to President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, nearly half of the funds awarded this year were made available with no cost share/match requirement.

Pollution prevention, also known as P2 or source reduction, is any practice that reduces, eliminates, or prevents pollution at its source prior to recycling, treatment, or disposal. Preventing pollution at the source rather than managing waste afterwards is an important way to support American business' efforts to reduce costs, while protecting communities from exposure to toxic chemicals and conserving natural resources. These practices are essential for protecting health, improving environmental conditions—including in and around disadvantaged communities—and preserving natural resources like wetlands, groundwater sources, and other critical ecosystems.

Between 2011-2022, EPA's Pollution Prevention program issued over 500 grants totaling more than \$54 million, which have helped businesses identify, develop, and adopt P2 approaches. These approaches have resulted in 31.9 billion kWh in energy savings, eliminated 20.8 million metric tons of greenhouse gases, saved 52 billion gallons of water, reduced 1 billion pounds of hazardous materials, and saved businesses more than \$2.3 billion.

The agency expects to award funds once all legal and administrative requirements are satisfied. Once awarded, selected grantees will document and share P2 best practices that they identify and develop through these grants, so that others can replicate these practices and outcomes. Each selected grantee will also develop at least one case study during the grant period on P2 practices that are new or not widely known or adopted, or where detailed information on the P2 practices could benefit other businesses or P2 technical assistance providers.

The grants funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will be fully funded upon being awarded, with individual grant awards as high as \$350,000. Grants that are a part of the traditional P2 grants program will be funded over a two-year funding cycle and require a cost share/match of fifty percent. EPA's Pollution Prevention Grant Program advances President Biden's Justice40 Initiative which set a goal to deliver 40% of the overall benefits from certain federal investments to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution.

Paintings on display for November at WHA Rotating Art Gallery

LEWISTON, ME – The Woman’s Hospital Association (WHA) Rotating Art Gallery at Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston is proud to display the paintings of Cathy Chappell and Anita Poulin.

Cathy Chappell, a retired CPA, has transformed her love of photography into new outlets for creativity including iris folding which is the focus of her exhibit this month. Iris folding is a paper craft technique that involves folding strips of colored paper to form a design. The center of the design forms an iris—a shape reminiscent of the iris diaphragm of a camera lens. Using animals for

her inspiration, she creates pictures with this intricate folding technique. From dinosaurs to unicorns, foxes and bears to elephants, all are on display.

Poulin is a well-known local artist who comes from three generations of artists who have painted scenes of Maine for nearly a century. The owner of GreenWood Gallery, which she founded in 2013, she loves living in a state where “the north light we experience brings out the rich colors” of the natural world. Although her preferred medium for over 40 years has been acrylic, she continues to grow and explore new means of ex-



“Elephant” by Cathy Chappell (photograph supplied by artist)



“Beach Boy with Pail” by Anita Poulin (photograph supplied by artist)

pression, highlighting her versatility as an artist.

The works on display may be purchased through the WHA Gift Shop located

adjacent to the main lobby at Central Maine Medical Center. A percentage of sale proceeds benefits patients of CMMC.

DFD Russell Medical Center to expand services

BRIDGTON, ME – DFD Russell Medical Center is pleased to announce the expansion of its behavioral health and medication-assisted treatment services in Bridgton, Maine. This expansion is made possible by federal grant funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The funding and subsequent expansion are intended to enhance access to crucial behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment services for individuals in Central and Western Maine.

As part of HRSA’s nationwide initiative, grants were awarded to more than 400 community health centers across the country that care for more than 10 million people. Funding aims to integrate mental health and substance use disorder treatment into primary care.

DFD Russell Medical Center remains steadfast in its commitment to providing stigma-free, culturally competent, and accessible behavioral health and substance use services to individuals in need. The expansion will

help address the mental health and opioid crisis impacting Maine communities.

In line with the expansion efforts, DFD is now seeking to hire a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) at its Bridgton location. The LCSW will play a crucial role in providing comprehensive psychotherapy, counseling, and support services to patients in need. Interested candidates are encouraged to learn more on DFD’s website at www.dfdrussell.org/career-opportunities/employment-openings/.

Fall enrollment up 15% at CMCC

AUBURN, ME – Fall enrollment is up 15% at Central Maine Community College, breaking 4,700 students for the first time, continuing the colleges historic enrollment growth.

“We are thrilled to see a 15% increase in fall enrollment, setting an all-time enrollment high,” said Dr. Betsy Libby, President of Central Maine Community College. “This growth

reflects the commitment of our faculty and staff and highlights the vital role our institution plays in providing accessible, high-quality education to Maine residents. By equipping more students with the skills and training needed to succeed in today’s workforce, or to transfer to a 4-year institution, we are not only strengthening our local community but contribut-

ing to the economic vitality of the entire state. As more individuals pursue higher education, Maine is better positioned to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving job market.”

Fall enrollment was 4,754 students, compared to 4,121 in 2023 and 3,375 in 2022.

The entire Maine Community College System enrollment is up 10%.

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

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UMA celebrates opening of Delta Dental Oral Health Center

AUGUSTA, ME— As part of its efforts to improve access to care, the University of Maine at Augusta (UMA) officially opened an expanded dental education clinic in its Lewiston Center on Friday, Nov. 1, doubling its capacity to educate in-demand dental health care professionals and provide community care there.

UMA officials dedicated the space as the Delta Dental Oral Health Center in recognition of a \$665,000 grant from Northeast Delta Dental last year that funded the project, which added three new operatories (dental chairs) and a state-of-the-art 3D digital X-ray machine. Jeffrey Walawender, Jennifer Beyer, Erin Holt and Brian Staples from Northeast Delta Dental were on-site for the celebration.



L to R: Jeffrey Walawender, DDS, Maine board of directors chair, Northeast Delta Dental; Courtney Noonan, UMA assistant professor of dental health; and Joseph Szakas, UMA provost and vice president of academic affairs. Image Credit: Photo by Duncan Persons

“In an effort to expand the dental workforce in Maine, Northeast Delta Dental is excited to support the dental health care professionals at University of Maine at Augusta,” said Jeffrey Walawender,

D.D.S., Maine board of directors chair, Northeast Delta Dental. “Our organization knows that supporting high-quality dental education is an investment in improving access to dental care across the state of Maine.”

UMA Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Joseph Szakas underscored the impor-

tance and impact of the new Delta Dental Oral Health Center. “With this expanded space in Lewiston that we are officially opening and dedicating today, we can enroll more students, provide them with cutting-edge tools and training, and add more dental professionals to Maine’s workforce.”

“We are grateful to

Northeast Delta Dental for its support and shared commitment to increasing access to high-quality dental education and care,” said UMA President Jenifer Cushman. “UMA plays a lead role in addressing the shortage of dental professionals in Maine, in turn improving access to care for our communities. Ex-

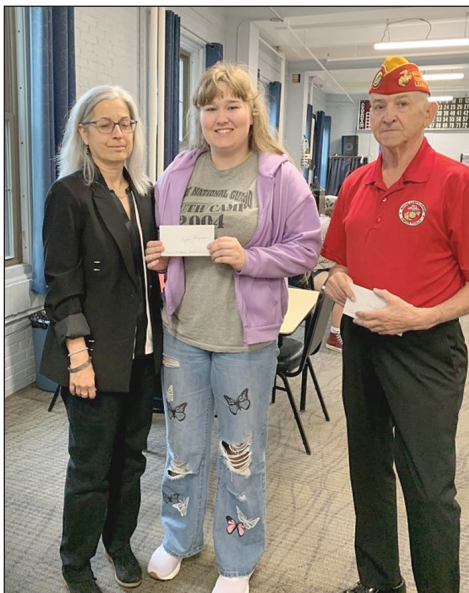
See UMA, page 16

Central Maine Det.810 Marine Corps League awards scholarships

LEWISTON/AUBURN, ME -- Central Maine Det.810 Marine Corps League presented two area seniors student scholarships to further their education. The

scholarships were memorial scholarships for two Marines who have passed away in recent years. The Kevin Mitchell Memorial Scholarship is presented to a graduating

senior from Edward Little High School and the Leon Burgess Memorial Scholarship is presented to a graduating senior from Lewiston High School.



Edward Little HS senior Lydia Chapman. On her left is Jane Mitchell, wife of Kevin Mitchell. On her right is Commandant Charlie Paul, Dept of Maine Commandant, Marine Corps League.



Lewiston HS senior Marguerite Shepard. On her right is Commandant Charlie Paul, Dept of Maine Commandant, Marine Corps League.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish



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Maine Army National Guard's William Dionne promoted

AUGUSTA, ME -- The Maine Army National Guard is pleased to announce the promotion of William Dionne from the rank of Colonel to Brigadier General. Dionne received his new rank during a November 2 ceremony at Camp Chamberlain, the National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters in Augusta.



The Maine Army National Guard's Honor Guard marches offstage after posting the colors during Brig. Gen William Dionne's promotion ceremony at Camp Chamberlain in Augusta, Maine on Nov. 2, 2024.

Brig. Gen. Diane Dunn, The Adjutant General, who oversees both components of the Maine National Guard – Air and Army – hosted the event to honor Dionne's achievements and acknowledge he is ready for even more responsibility.

"Will Dionne leads with complete passion for common sense and doing what is right for service members," said Dunn. "He recognizes that to be the best organization, it requires leaders who speak up and challenge the sta-

tus quo. He is not afraid to speak the truth and has helped me learn many lessons over the last 20 plus years. His persistence and resilience are unmatched."

Dionne, a native of Amesbury, Massachusetts, has served in a multitude of capacities in the MEARNG since joining in 1989 while enrolled at the University of Maine. His robust resume includes time as a Platoon

Leader in the Mountain Company (B Company, 3rd Battalion, 172nd Infantry Regiment), instructor at the Officer Candidate School, Commander of the Mountain Company, and Commander of the 1136th Transportation Company – where he deployed with the unit to Iraq from April 2003 to April 2004.

He also deployed to Afghanistan in 2008 with



Brig. Gen. William Dionne's family bows their heads during the chaplain's invocation at Dionne's promotion ceremony at Camp Chamberlain in Augusta, Maine on Nov. 2, 2024.

the 286th Combat sustainment Support Battalion as the units' Operations Officer, before joining the 52nd Troop Command, where he was instrumental in establishing New England's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and high-yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) – a unit comprised of soldiers and airmen from Maine, Rhode Is-

land, and New Hampshire.

In 2012, Dionne became commander of the 521st Troop Command, followed by a stint as the Operations Officer for the 52nd Troop Command until he was selected for a US Army War College fellowship. Upon returning from War College, he served as the Deputy Commander of the 52nd Troop Command prior to assuming com-

mand of the unit in 2019.

In September 2022, Dionne was assigned to his current full-time role as the Construction and Facilities Management Officer.

Dionne, in his thank you speech, used humor and humility to acknowledge all the people who helped him reach this point in his career.

"When you're in the guard, you really have three families. There's the one you're born with that turns you into who you are...there's the one that you choose when you get married...and then there's you all," said Dionne. "And you're really stuck with me now," he joked.

Dionne will assume duties as the MEARNG's Land Component Commander in December, when Brig. Gen. Dean Preston retires following over 34 years of service to Maine and the nation.

Maine Justice Foundation presents 2024 annual awards

The Maine Justice Foundation has established three prestigious annual awards to recognize individuals who have demonstrated exceptional dedication, innovation, and impact in advancing access to justice.

Howard H. Dana, Jr. Award | Senator Anne Carney

The Howard H. Dana, Jr. Award honors individu-

als who have made significant contributions to advancing access to justice. The Maine Justice Foundation presents the Howard H. Dana, Jr. award annually to a lawyer to recognize significant contributions toward enhancing access to civil legal assistance and outstanding service in the advancement of the Foundation's goals. This year, the Board of Direc-

tors unanimously voted to award the 2024 Howard H. Dana, Jr. Award to Maine State Senator Anne Carney. Senator Carney was nominated by Pine Tree Legal Assistance, the Clinical Programs at Maine Law, the Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project, Legal Services for Maine Elders, Maine Equal Justice, and the Maine Volunteer Lawyers Project. The nomina-



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tion shares that "Senator Carney's commitment to enhancing civil legal assistance for Maine residents spans decades, beginning well before her tenure in the Maine Legislature and continuing through her current service." On learning she was the recipient of the 2024 Award, Senator Carney said, "Maine has an incredible network of legal services providers who make available quality representation to thousands of Mainers with limited resources to protect their rights to housing, education, public benefits, and safety from acts of violence. I've been fortunate to see this firsthand during my time with Pine Tree Legal Assistance and am grateful to have a role ensuring that this strong, effective network continues to serve Mainers in need."

New Lawyer Award | Lisa Kay Rosenthal

Established by the Foundation in 2010, the New Lawyer Award is pre-

sented annually to an outstanding lawyer who has been in practice for less than ten years, exemplifies the ideals of increasing access to justice, makes outstanding and recognized pro bono service or other contributions to the legal profession and public good, and demonstrates a strong commitment to the mission of the Foundation. The Board of Directors of the Maine Justice Foundation unanimously voted for Lisa Kay Rosenthal, an attorney at Vafiades, Broutas & Kominsky, to be the recipient of the 2024 award. Lisa Kay Rosenthal was nominated by Deirdre Smith, Executive Director of Volunteer Lawyers Project, and the staff of the Volunteer Lawyers Project in recognition of her work in VLP's Bangor office. Deirdre Smith shared in her nomination, "Lisa has accepted a number of referrals from the Volunteer Lawyers Project Bangor office, mostly for probate

and estate matters. Her work with VLP started when she was a law student in the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic, when she was the lead drafter of a comprehensive Guide to Kinship Care and Minor Guardianship in Maine, which is available online and through probate courts around the state." Lisa Kay Rosenthal's exceptional dedication to increasing access to justice, outstanding pro bono contributions, and unwavering commitment to the legal profession and public good exemplifies the ideals of the New Lawyer Award. Lisa shared, "I am honored to be the recipient of the New Lawyer Award and am committed to increasing access to justice for low-income and rural Mainers, a commitment that began under Deirdre Smith's mentorship during law school. Estate planning documents are important regardless of your economic status to, for example, designate guardians for minor children, plan for your loved one to inherit your estate if you have an unregistered domestic partner, provide a home for beloved pets after your passing, and designate an agent to manage your financial and health affairs if you become incapacitated. It is a privilege to sit with someone and discuss their legacy, no matter the economic value of their estate. Everyone deserves that dignity, and I am grateful to the Volunteer Lawyers Project and the Maine Justice Foundation for facilitating pro bono opportunities in estate planning and probate matters, and to my law

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Investing in America supports Maine water infrastructure

BOSTON, MA – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced \$3.6 billion in new funding under the Biden-Harris Administration’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to upgrade water infrastructure and keep communities safe. Combined with \$2.6 billion announced earlier this month, this \$6.2 billion in investments for Fiscal Year 2025 will help communities across the country upgrade water infrastructure that is essential to safely managing wastewater, protecting local freshwater resources, and delivering safe drinking water to homes, schools, and businesses.

These Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds will flow through the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF and DWSRF), a long-standing federal-state water investment partnership. This multibillion-dollar investment will fund state-run, low-interest loan programs that address key challenges in financing water infrastructure. Today’s announcement includes allotments for

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Clean Water General Supplemental funds for Maine (\$19,262,000), Emerging Contaminant funds (\$1,663,000), and \$7,640,000 under the Drinking Water Emerging Contaminant Fund.

This funding is part of a five-year, \$50 billion investment in water infrastructure through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law – the largest investment in water infrastructure in American history. To ensure investments reach communities that need them the most, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law mandates that a majority of the funding announced today must be provided to disadvantaged communities in the form of grants or loans that do not have to be repaid.

“Water keeps us healthy, sustains vibrant communities and dynamic ecosystems, and supports economic opportunity. When our water infrastructure fails, it threatens people’s health, peace of mind, and the environment,” said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. “With the Bipar-

tisan Infrastructure Law’s historic investment in water, EPA is working with states and local partners to upgrade infrastructure and address local challenges—from lead in drinking water, to PFAS, to water main breaks, to sewer overflows and climate resilience. Together, we are creating good-paying jobs while ensuring that all people can rely on clean and safe water.”

“Clean, reliable water is at the heart of every thriving community. Yet too many communities—especially those overburdened by pollution or left behind by past investments—face challenges accessing the resources they need to upgrade water infrastructure,” said EPA Regional Administrator David W. Cash. “Thanks to the Biden-Harris Administration, we are delivering transformative funding to support local solutions to water issues, from fixing aging infrastructure to addressing emerging contaminants like PFAS. These investments don’t just protect public health and reduce pollution in waterways; they also cre-

ate good-paying jobs and help communities become more resilient for the future.”

“Ensuring access to clean, safe drinking water is one of the most fundamental responsibilities we have to our communities. This significant investment of over \$28 million in Maine’s water infrastructure through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will help protect public health, improve water quality, and provide lasting benefits for generations to come,” said U.S. Representative Chellie Pingree. “Importantly, this funding will help address emerging contaminants like PFAS, ensuring our communities are protected from harmful chemicals that threaten both our health and environment. I’m proud to support this historic legislation and the tangible improvements it continues to bring to our state, especially in our most vulnerable communities.”

EPA is changing the odds for communities that have faced barriers to planning and accessing federal funding through its Water Technical Assistance pro-

gram, which helps disadvantaged communities identify water challenges, develop infrastructure upgrade plans, and apply for funding. Communities seeking Water Technical Assistance can request support by completing the WaterTA request form. These efforts also advance the Biden-Harris Administration’s Justice40 Initiative, which sets the goal that 40% of the overall benefits of certain Federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution.

To read stories about how unprecedented investments in water from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law are transforming communities across the country, visit EPA’s Investing in America’s Water Infrastructure Storymap. To read more about additional projects, see EPA’s recently released Quarterly Report on Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funded Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF projects.

For more information, including the state-by-state allocation of 2025

funding and a breakdown of EPA SRF funding available under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, please visit the Clean Water State Revolving Fund website and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund website. Additionally, the SRF Public Portal allows users to access data from both the Drinking Water and Clean Water SRF programs through interactive reports, dashboards, and maps.

The State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs have been the foundation of water infrastructure investments for more than 30 years, providing low-cost financing for local projects across America. SRF programs are critically important programs for investing in the nation’s water infrastructure. They are designed to generate significant and sustainable water quality and public health benefits across the country. Their impact is amplified by the growth inherent in a revolving loan structure, in which payments of principal and interest on loans become available to address future needs.

Awards

Continued from page 10

firm, VBK, for fostering a firm culture that encourages pro bono service across all legal disciplines.”

Downing Award | Chet Randall

Created by the family of Thomas P. Downing,

Jr. after his death in November 1985, the Downing Award recognizes legal aid staff dedicated to access to justice for vulnerable and low-income Mainers. Tom was one of the first attorneys to work at Pine Tree Legal Assistance. In recognition of his tireless service to Mainers in need

of legal assistance for almost three decades, the Board of Directors of the Maine Justice Foundation unanimously voted for Chet Randall to receive the 2024 Downing Award. Chet was nominated by Tom Fritzsche, Executive Director on behalf of Pine Tree Legal Assistance in recognition of his incredible dedication to access to justice for vulnerable and low-income Mainers. The nomination shares: “Chet has spent over twenty-one of his 28 years in public interest law working at Pine Tree Legal Assistance. He has served in numerous roles at Pine Tree and has always been willing to do whatever the organization needed to keep up

the effort for equal access to justice across Maine.” Chet’s tireless dedication to justice, leadership, and advocacy over his twenty-one years at Pine Tree Legal Assistance, and nearly thirty-year legal career has rightfully earned him the 2024 Downing Award from the Maine Justice Foundation. On learning he was the recipient of the 2024 award Chet said, “It has been a privilege and honor for me to use the bulk of my career to serve low-income Mainers who struggle daily to live safe and healthy lives in our communities. From a fairly young age, I felt a calling to get a legal degree and use it to assist people with low incomes, and that are left vulnerable by their economic circumstances. My work at Pine Tree Legal Assistance has allowed me to answer that calling by working every day to

ensure that laws intended to protect everyone are actually accessible by everyone – including vulnerable and poor people in Maine. I know that access to justice is a mission shared by every person at Pine Tree Legal Assistance and the greater legal services community. I am both humbled and deeply honored to receive the Downing Award. It is deeply meaningful to me to have my life’s work recognized in this way.”

The Maine Justice Foundation is proud to honor these remarkable individuals whose commitment and achievements in advancing access to justice resonate throughout Maine’s communities. Senator Anne Carney, Lisa Kay Rosenthal, and Chet Randall exemplify the dedication, compassion, and tireless advocacy essential to creating a more just and equitable legal land-

scape for all Mainers. “It is a humbling privilege to witness the selfless generosity of these legal heroes. Through their leadership, service, and steadfast pursuit of justice, they continue to strengthen our justice system for those most in need, and by doing so, ensure that bedrock principle of ‘justice for all’ rings true. The Foundation celebrates their achievements and contributions, which reflect the enduring values of fairness and justice for all Maine people,” states Michelle Draeger, Executive Director of the Maine Justice Foundation.

The Maine Justice Foundation, founded in 1983 as the Maine Bar Foundation, is the state’s leading funder of civil legal aid and is committed to ensuring access to justice for all Maine people. Find us online at www.justice-maine.org.

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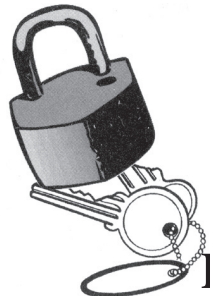
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Thursdays

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.

R e c o m m e n d e d 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 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

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

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.

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.

Nov 21

NEW GLOUCESTER - Join us for our upcoming artist event se-

ries hosted by Unity Environmental University on Pineland 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.

Nov 23

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

Nov 24

BUXTON -- Free Christmas Concert with the Westbrook City Band. Family friendly event featuring seasonal favorites and a sing-along. Sunday, November 24, 2024, 2:00 PM at North Congregational Church, 22 Church Hill Rd., Buxton, ME 04093

Dec 13

LEWISTON -- At 10am the Lewiston Public Library Children's Department will be offering the program Little Keepsakes: Height Ribbons. Caregivers will be able to measure their young children and cut a ribbon to each child's height and place it in a

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clear plastic bauble to finish the keepsake.

Free. No registration required. Recommended for caregivers and their children ages 0- 6 years old. Siblings are also welcome to attend and participate.

Dec 23

LEWISTON -- Join us at the Lewiston Public Library at noon to celebrate the holiday season! Come and make your own snowflake for decoration or as an ornament. Create a unique snowflake for yourself or as a gift. All materials are provided. Free. In person. Recommended for children ages 5 – 13 years old and siblings welcome.

Dec 24, 31

LEWISTON -- From 11:15am to 12:00pm at the Lewiston Public Library, enjoy an interactive storytime for some fun with books, songs, and body movement while building early literacy skills.

Recommended for children ages 3 – 5 years old and their caregivers. Siblings are always welcome. Please stay home if you or your child are sick and not feeling well. This program is free, open to the public, and no registration is required.

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 ma-

terial 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>.

Revaluation

Continued from page 1
assessed value to sale prices has continued to drop and appraisal standards are not being met. "We are at the point where a full revaluation is needed to maintain fair and equitable assessments and insure each taxpayer is paying their fair share of the tax burden," said Scammon. Auburn has made market adjustments each year since 2022 in an effort to maintain a declared ratio of 93%. Due to these market adjustments, the mil rate was reduced by \$1.07 in 2022, remained flat for tax year 2023, and dropped \$.50 for the current tax year. Market adjustments may continue to be made until the revaluation values are implemented.

"Upon completion of the revaluation, we anticipate a substantial increase in the overall city valuation, which in turn will likely cause the mil rate to decrease," added Scammon. "Will taxpayers see an increase in their taxes following implementation of the new values? That question depends on several factors, such as the budget, the current value of a property, the new value of a property, and where the mil rate ends up. The prediction is that some taxpayers will see an increase in taxes, some will see a minimal change in taxes, and it is possible for some taxpayers to see a decrease in taxes."

Property owners will be sent valuation notices before the values are set and will have the opportunity to discuss the new value.

Taxpayers with questions concerning the revaluation process are encouraged to contact the Assessing Department at 207-333-6600.



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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. Follow @MaineCareerswithPurpose on Facebook and Instagram.

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

Auburn area Scouts attend Fall Camporee in Belgrade

BELGRADE, ME - Imagine playing your favorite board games all day. Further imagine that the games are larger than life and you play them outside at Camp Bomazeen in Belgrade during a spectacular Autumn weekend when the peak foliage reflects magically on the ripples of Great Pond. More than a hundred Scouts and leaders from across southern and western Maine didn't have to imagine as they experienced all that and more during the Fall Camporee on the weekend of October 18-20.

"I love it all," said Elliot Rafuse is a Scout in Vassalboro Troop 410. "Camping out was amazing but cold but also fun. I am looking forward to playing Manhunt tonight." Scouts stayed in patrols and travelled around camp competing in some tradi-

tional Scout camp activities such as outdoor cooking and BB gun shooting but also at activity stations designed to fit with the theme of the camporee: "Got Game?" One station was Scout Jeopardy and the next was an epic size game of Battleship and then it was off to "Deal or No Deal." Eric Handley of Sidney ran the Battleship game. Two picnic tables were separated by a blue tarp. Scouts on both sides of the tarp had a large board with cups representing their battleships on an 11X11 grid. "Everyone seemed to have a really good time," Handley said.

Lilly Small of Bowdoinham is a member of Troop 648 in Brunswick. Lilly is a First-Class Scout. "I love Camp Bomazeen. It is so open and there is always so much to do," she said.



Vassalboro Pack 410 Bear Cub Scouts Lux Reynolds gets rolled into the ring of the Hungry, Hungry Hippos game by Troop 410 Committee Member Chris Vincent. Like in the real game, Lux had to collect as many balls as possible with his clothes basket before the other three contestants scooped them up and rolled back to home with them.

Finlay Woodbury of Rockport is a new Scout in Troop 200 in Camden. "It was a little cold to camp



Corbin Foster of Turner is a member of Auburn Troop 111 and he got to spend time with camporee mascot Bilbo who was dressed as Woodstock from the Peanuts. On Saturday, many Scouts chose to dress up in Halloween costumes as they made their way from one activity station to the next.

out but it has been a lot of fun. I had fun playing Jump Tag."

Sirus Ricker is a member of Troop 546 in Farmington. He lives in



Scouts from Auburn Troop 111 attended the camporee staying overnight in tents Friday and Saturday night when the temperatures dipped to close to freezing and then rose to nearly 70 degrees on Saturday but all of the Scouts were all smiles for the fun event.

Livermore. He enjoyed making a baked apple and all of the games.

Scouts who stayed overnight with their Troop also took part in a Gateway building competition and the Next Level Chef Competition. There was also a

costume competition.

The Lego Pinewood Derby was held at Camp Bomazeen on November 2 and this winter the Scouts will be heading to Lake Pemaquid for the Klondike Derby hosted by Troop 213 in Damariscotta.

UMA

Continued from page 9

panding our Lewiston Center dental clinic allows us to help more people have rewarding careers in dental health and meet community needs, which will positively impact Maine and its economy for decades to come."

The expanded space in Lewiston complements the dental education facilities at the UMA Bangor

campus. Together, the two locations can accommodate 30 dental assisting students and 30 EFDA students per academic year. Educating and training 60 allied dental professionals for the workforce here in Maine per year will make a significant impact on the overall workforce shortages.

"Transforming lives is ingrained in our mission at UMA, and we see that in

our dental education program through student career success and the impact we have on improving access to dental care," shares UMA Assistant Professor of Dental Health Courtney Noonan. "As part of their training, our dental assisting students receive hands-on clinical experiences, including at university-run dental clinics in Bangor and Lewiston where they provide free and low-cost

preventative and basic restorative services to eligible Mainers including low-income children, veterans and members of the Maine National Guard."

The programs have met with tremendous success. Provost Szakas provided statistics. "UMA is the state's leading provider of practice-ready allied dental health professionals with 100% job placement rate for its graduates—95%

of whom stay in the state."

Through its Lewiston Center and Bangor campus, UMA, which is part of the University of Maine System, offers associate and bachelor's degree programs in dental hygiene, certificate and associate degree programs in dental assisting, and a micro-certificate in expanded function dental assisting.

The grant from Northeast Delta Dental will

also support scholarships for students enrolling in UMA's dental assisting and expanded function dental assisting programs.

The next cohorts for UMA's dental assisting programs begin in January 2025 and applications are currently being accepted. For more information on the dental assisting and EFDA programs, contact Lynett Kelly at 207-262-7805.

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