



TWIN CITY TIMES

© Twin City TIMES, Inc. 2025

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

FREE • Vol. XXVI, No. 38

Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1999

Thursday, January 30, 2025 • FREE

Get ready for The Valentine Ball Sponsored by The Public Theatre!

LEWISTON, ME -- Treat your child to a festive evening of dressing up and dancing at The Public Theatre's 27th Annual Valentine Ball! Children 4-12 years old are sure to treasure this special time with their loved one spending quality time together cutting a rug to the music of a live DJ. Light snacks, keepsake photography and a whole lot of fun is to be had at this very popular annual event. The Valentine Ball is an inclusive event that is enjoyed by the many diverse families in our community!

The 2025 Valentine Ball will be held on February 8, 2025 from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm at the Kora Shrine Temple, 11 Sabattus Street, Lewiston.

Not only is the Valentine Ball a fun community event, but all proceeds benefit The Public Theatre's Education Programming. Each year these important programs provide children



Medo Sejdic dances with his daughter, Alana at The Public Theatre's 2024 Valentine Ball. – Andree Kehn/Sun Journal

and families with the opportunity to experience live professional theatre and serve as an educational resource for Maine schools, enriching the lives and education of young people and encouraging our next generation's participation in the cultural life of their

community.

Tickets start at \$45 for one adult with one child. Advance purchase required. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Space is limited. Visit ThePublicTheatre.org or call 207-782-2211 to get your tickets today!

Project Support You continues at Auburn Police Department



Erica West



Scott Lesser



Tom Hibbert

AUBURN, ME – The Auburn Police Department is pleased to announce the addition of two new "Project Support You" (PSY) co-responders who have recently been assigned to the department.

Erica West and Scott Lesser, who are employed by Spurwink, will be co-responding with our officers to calls for service involving mental health issues, substance use, and persons experiencing

homelessness.

Erica, Scott, and Tom Hibbert, who serves as the "Options" liaison for Androscoggin County, also provide outreach at the Pleasant Street Drop-In Center and other places throughout the community.

"It's important to note that PSY and Options staff are not law enforcement officers," said Auburn Police Lieutenant Anthony Harrington. "They are substance use, and

mental health professionals working alongside law enforcement officers to engage the community and help connect some of our most vulnerable residents with available resources. We are proud of this partnership; it is meaningful to have this added layer of support and services available."

Project Support You co-responders are also partnering with the Auburn Fire Department.

CMH, NECS cancer specialists partnership exceeding expectations

LEWISTON, ME -- Central Maine Healthcare (CMH) and New England Cancer Specialists (NECS) recently marked the one-year anniversary of their agreement to enhance medical oncology and infusion services in the central Maine region.

The agreement was signed last year at CMH's state-of-the-art Cancer Care Center, and according to John Hamilton, senior vice president, Service Line Operations, the relationship between the two is exceeding the already lofty expectations that existed going into the agreement.

"The total visit vol-



ume for all three CMH hospital's cancer care services greatly exceeded projections," Hamilton said. "This unexpected influx of new patients was driven, in part, by CMMC being the only provider of cancer care in the region, but also speaks to the growing need for cancer care in the communities CMH serves."

Central Maine Healthcare and NECS are currently recruiting additional providers to prepare for future growth.



Physicians and leaders from New England Cancer Specialists and Central Maine Healthcare at the Dec. 2023 signing event

Under the co-management agreement, NECS oversees operations and development of the cancer care program's hematology and oncology practice and oncology infusion cen-

ters at CMMC, as well as CMH's two critical access hospitals, Bridgton Hospital and Rumford Hospital.

Maine is among the U.S. states with the highest cancer mortality rates.

Androscoggin County, where CMMC is located, has an elevated incidence of cancer, particularly lung cancer.

"Having this partnership and the support of NECS has empowered us to deliver exceptional cancer care to patients across central and western Maine," said Nicholette Erickson, MD, oncologist at New England Cancer Specialists. "We are extremely proud of this collaboration and the life-changing impact we've been able to achieve together so quickly in these communities."

"Our patients are benefiting greatly from this

arrangement," said Tim Counihan, MD, chief of surgery and the Oncology Institute at Central Maine Healthcare. "They are able to get the important care they need close to home, and at the same time have access to the resources of some of the best cancer specialists in the country."

Central Maine Healthcare has achieved full accreditation from the Commission on Cancer which is awarded only to those institutions that provide patients with comprehensive, state-of-the-art services from a multi-specialty team coordinating all aspects of cancer care.

LA Optimist Club sponsors scholarship

MAINE -- The Lewiston/Auburn Optimist Club, the Tri-Town Optimist Club, and the Gray-

New Gloucester Optimist Club are sponsoring an essay contest on the topic "How Optimism has

paved my Road to Success". Each Club winner will advance to the District contest, where the schol-

arships will be awarded. It gives young people the opportunity to develop their written skills and ex-

press their personal opinions about the world they live in. Contest essays are due to the Optimist Club by Feb. 12th, 2025. For an application and set of rules, contact any Opti-

mist Club member call (207) 783 5269 or email gwmathews91@gmail.com. To learn more about our Optimist Clubs please visit our national website at www.optimist.org.



Clean Books
OLIVIA OUELLETTE
Bookkeeper / Owner

Give us a call today for a free quote!

WWW.CLEANBOOKSMAINE.COM
CLEANBOOKSMAINE@GMAIL.COM
207-370-9292
PO BOX 615, GARDINER, ME 04345

Professional & Reliable
Cleaning Services

REAL CLEAN LLC

Over 20 Years Experience
Commercial • Residential
Serving Maine • New Hampshire

(207) 712-2765 - Stacy Mahonen - www.RealCleanLLC.com

What do you think?

We strongly encourage Letters to the Editor, Op/Eds, columns or any other submissions from our readers. Agree with us or another columnist? Disagree? Write to us and let us know! Email all submissions, including name, address and phone number, to the editor.

Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Weather impact: Give Red Cross blood or platelets now

PORTLAND, ME — The American Red Cross encourages donors to give blood or platelets now to help protect the blood supply from the ongoing impact of severe winter weather and wildfires. Donors of all blood types — particularly type O negative blood donors and those giving platelets — are needed to help save lives this month.

As dangerous snow and ice continue to sweep across the country, and wildfires in Southern California continue to burn and impact air quality, Red Cross blood drive cancellations have grown into the hundreds. Collectively, this has resulted in more than 10,000 uncollected blood and platelet donations in January — more than 1,000

of those were scheduled as platelet donations.

More winter storms were forecast for last week — including in areas of the U.S. that do not typically experience significant snowfall — which could further strain the blood supply. Additionally, hazardous weather conditions have the potential to make it tougher to move vital blood products across the Red Cross network, possibly affecting deliveries to hospitals in some locations. As National Blood Donor Month continues, the time to give is now.

Where it is safe to do so, donors are asked to book a time to give blood or platelets by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-



RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

All who come to give Jan. 27-Feb. 28, 2025, will get a \$15 e-gift card to a merchant of choice. See RedCrossBlood.org/Flurry for details.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities Jan. 30-Feb. 15:

Androscoggin
Lewiston
2/11/2025: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Benjamin Mays Center, 95 Russell Street

Cumberland
Bridgton
2/4/2025: 11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Masonic Hall, 166 Harrison Road, Route

117
Brunswick
2/12/2025: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Elks Lodge, 179 Park Row

Cape Elizabeth
2/13/2025: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Saint Bartholomew Church, 8 Two Lights Rd Falmouth

1/31/2025: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Holy Martyrs Church, 266 foreside road
2/12/2025: 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., The Episcopal Church of St. Mary, 43 Foreside Rd

Gorham
1/31/2025: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., St. Annes Church, 299 Main Street

2/6/2025: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Cressey Road Christian Church, 81 Cressey Road

New Gloucester
2/12/2025: 9 a.m. - 3

p.m., The Commons, 59 Pineland Drive
Portland

1/30/2025: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., Lyman Moore Middle School, 171 Auburn Street

2/3/2025: 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Maine Medical Dana Center, 22 Bramhall Street

2/5/2025: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., University of New England, 716 Stevens Ave

2/14/2025: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Clarion Hotel, 1230 Congress Street
Scarborough

2/4/2025: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Maine Health Institute for Research, 81 Research Dr

2/4/2025: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Saint Maximilian Church, 150 Black Point Rd

South Portland

2/10/2025: 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Portland Sheraton at Sable Oaks, 200 Sable Oaks Drive

Standish
2/3/2025: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Gardenside Condo Association, 12 Gardenside Drive

Westbrook
2/14/2025: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Westbrook Community Center, 426 Bridge Street

Windham
1/31/2025: 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., North Windham Union Church, 723 Roosevelt Trail, Route 302

Yarmouth
2/7/2025: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., American Legion Post 91, 196 Main St

2/13/2025: 12 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., First Parish Congregational Church, 116 Main Street

Maine Cabin Masters renovates Pine Tree Camp

ROME, ME - Pine Tree Camp kicks off its 80th anniversary year by revealing a secret. This summer, the Maine Cabin Masters renovated camp's recreation hall and theatre space. This 2,343 square foot building dates back to the 1960s, is home to camp's drama and music program, and features memorabilia from as far back as the 1940s. The building was totally reimagined and revamped in the heart of Pine Tree Camp's fully-accessible campus on North Pond.

The completed project, largely funded by a grant from the Prescott Family, and built by the

cast and crew of the Magnolia Network's reality television series, Maine Cabin Masters, will be unveiled on the Monday, February 3 episode titled "Curtains Up! Theatre for Extraordinary Campers" airing at 9:00pm on the Magnolia Network.

"The new space is truly incredible," said Pine Tree Camp Director, Dawn-Willard Robinson. "They created a space where our campers can let their talents shine. They took our goals for theatre, music and arts programming and brought it to life in ways we could have never imagined."

The Maine Cabin



Masters are legendary for renovating old lakeside, family camps and cabins. The recreation hall project was a perfect fit because it is in the center of an 80 year old summer camp, surrounded by cabins, woods and water. Pine Tree Camp's mission to serve Maine kids and

adults with disabilities made the project particularly special.

"Pine Tree Camp is a place where kids and adults with disabilities can get outside and experience anything they want to try," continued Willard-Robinson. "From swimming to archery to standing up on

the stage and belting out a song, our campers are free to explore new things."

Construction began in June and the Maine Cabin Masters crew worked through the summer to finish the project by September when they filmed the big reveal.

When Willard-Rob-

inson first saw the finished space during the September filming of the reveal, her eyes filled with tears.

"They were tears of joy," she recalled. "I could imagine our campers in the space and the emotion was overwhelming."

When to watch:
Maine Cabin Masters

"Curtains Up! Theatre for Extraordinary Campers"

Monday, February 3 9:00pm

Magnolia Network (available on cable, satellite and select streaming channels)

<https://magnolia.com/watch/>

OUT Maine accepting college scholarship applications

ROCKLAND, ME—As of January 10th, OUT Maine is now ac-

cepting applications for its annual college scholarship fund for Maine students.

Thanks to a generous anonymous donor to the organization, OUT Maine is able to offer substantial renewable scholarships to help Maine LGBTQIA2S+ and allied students bridge

the gap between financial aid and need at a college, university, or vocational school of their choice. The scholarships available can be worth up to \$25,000 every year for four years of

schooling.

The goal of this scholarship fund is to uplift queer and allied youth seeking a post-secondary education, especially those who originate from

underserved regions of Maine or demonstrate financial need. First generation college students are also highly encouraged to apply.

In order to apply, students must be Maine residents at the time of application, and send in materials such as a short essay, two letters of recommendation, and financial aid award information from the student's school and/or Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). There is no fee to apply for this scholarship. Submissions will be reviewed by volunteers from OUT Maine's Board of Directors and several internal staff members.

Applications are due by April 1st, 2025. Students can visit OUT Maine's website for further eligibility details and requirements.

Injured on the job?
We should talk.
(207) 333-5103
Help@BilodeauLaw.me
BILODEAULAW.ME
BILODEAU LAW

allworx
Save \$\$ on your business phone!
Call today for a demonstration!
PROFESSIONAL COMPUTER SERVICES INC.
207.784.6295
buck@pro-pc.us
Buck Buchanan
A+, MCP Certified Technician

Newsmakers, Names & Faces

CRCofWM hires Cancer Resource Navigator

NORWAY, ME -- The Cancer Resource Center of Western Maine (CRCofWM) announced that they have hired Kelsey Brockett, as Cancer Resource Navigator, a position that is grant funded by the Maine Cancer Foundation. Brockett will team up with Oncology Social Worker, Stephanie LeB-

land, LSW, another member of the CRCofWM staff to assist with the emotional, financial and basic needs of cancer patients in Oxford county and the surrounding towns.

"We are excited to have Kelsey join our team," said Diane Madden, executive director of the Center,



which was established in 2014 to provide free wellness and supportive resources to individuals and families in western Maine affected by cancer. "Kelsey's experience in counseling and social services will not only benefit patients and families facing the daily physical, emotional and financial challenges

of cancer, but will have a positive impact in advancing the Center's mission to ensure that no-one faces cancer alone."

Kelsey Brockett lives in Waterford, Maine with her husband Mike and their two children. Kelsey is a life-long Mainer, and loves all aspects of the State. In

her free time, she spends time adventuring outside with her family, exploring flea markets, crafting and sewing, and reading a good book. She also loves animals, and Kelsey and Mike own a small goat farm. She can be reached at 207-890-0205 or kbrockett@crcofwm.org.

Andwell's Rev. Sarah Gillespie delivers Senate opening prayer



Sen. Peggy Rotundo (right) and Rev. Sarah Gillespie of Andwell Health Partners

AUGUSTA, ME — On Tuesday, Jan. 8th, Sen. Rotundo, D-Lewiston, welcomed Reverend Sarah Gillespie of Andwell Health Partners in Lewiston to the Senate Chamber. Rev. Gillespie delivered

the Opening Prayer.

"It was such a pleasure to have Rev. Gillespie attend session today," said Sen. Rotundo. "She delivered a beautiful opening prayer in the Senate. I'm very thankful for the wis-

dom and guidance she offered to us all and grateful for the compassionate care she provides to the people of our community. "

Rev. Gillespie is a Hospice Chaplain with Andwell Health Partners. She provides spiritual guidance to her patients and their families.

On session days, faith leaders are invited to deliver a brief inspirational message to guide lawmakers through their responsibilities for the day. Out of respect for the diversity in the Senate Chamber, the Senate Secretary's Office asks that these deliberations be non-secular and non-political. If you are interested in signing up to deliver the opening prayer, you can reach out to Alex Ferguson in the Senate Secretary's Office at (207) 287-1540.

Stanton Bird Club monthly educational meeting February 3rd

AUBURN, ME -- On February 3rd, the Stanton Bird Club will be hosting the third in its 2024-25 lecture series presenting "Birding in the Falkland Islands" with Loring (Danny) Danforth, PhD.

Situated 300 miles off the coast of South America, the remote Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas) are a destination for nature and wildlife enthusiasts. The islands are considered one of the great penguin capitals of the world with as many as a million penguins nesting there every summer. But beyond penguins, over 230 species of birds have been recorded including 70 breeding birds, 20 regular migrants, and more than 130 vagrants.

Having taught at



Loring "Danny" Danforth PhD

Bates for 40 years and retiring in 2022 as the Charles A. Dana Professor Emeritus of Anthropology, Danforth has been a member of the Stanton Bird Club and an avid birder for over 35 years traveling widely to see birds and wildlife all over the world.

The talk will be held on Monday, Febru-

ary 3rd from 4-6pm at the Auburn Public Library. The public is welcome. The lecture series is free of charge.

The Stanton Bird Club, a leader in environmental awareness, owns and manages the Thorncrag Nature Sanctuary in Lewiston as well as the Woodbury Nature Sanctuary in Monmouth and Litchfield.

More information about other activities of the Club can be found at www.StantonBirdClub.org and on its Facebook page.

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

MEMIC promotes Matt Holbrook

PORTLAND, ME—Matt Holbrook has been promoted to Vice President of Data and Analytics for The MEMIC Group, a super-regional workers' compensation insurance company.

In his new role, Matt will lead the IT Data & Analytics Team, where he will oversee comprehensive data governance, policies, and quality management. In this role, he will also manage critical technical areas and strategic initiatives within the organization.

"Matt is an integral member of the IT Leadership Team at MEMIC," said Senior Vice Presi-

dent and Chief Information Officer Jack Yao. "His knowledge and experience with the company's systems, data, and processes is unmatched within the enterprise. His promotion to vice president reflects the value he brings to MEMIC."

Since joining MEMIC in 1996, Matt has demonstrated exceptional skill in aligning technology solutions with business objectives, earning him several leadership roles over the years. Beyond his contributions at MEMIC, he is

an active member of the technology committee for the American Association of State Compensation Insurance Funds (AAS-CIF).

"I am grateful and honored by this opportunity," said Matt Holbrook. "I am looking forward to having our data serve MEMIC in its mission to make workers' comp work better."

Matt holds a bachelor's degree in history from Fordham University and resides in South Portland, Maine with his family.



WHY PEOPLE CHOOSE CHAMPOUX INSURANCE



Jonathan Knowlton Licensed Agent

Jonathan Knowlton joined Champoux Insurance Group in February as an Account Executive, with 20 years of experience in the insurance and investment field. After graduating from Thomas College with honors, he went to work for MetLife as a personal financial representative. From there he worked for Allstate insurance and within 3 years, had opened his own agency on Sabattus Street in Lewiston. Jonathan closed the agency after 13 successful years. Making sure clients are educated about the risks they face and protecting them with auto, home, and life insurance products has always been important to him; local families truly are in good hands with him. Jonathan lives in Auburn with his wife and son and enjoys ice fishing, ATVing, hiking, growing hot peppers and volunteering with the Boy scouts. Champoux Insurance Group welcomes Jonathan to our Team.



CHAMPOUX INSURANCE YOUR SECURITY IS OUR MAIN CONCERN

150 East Avenue Lewiston, ME 04240 (207) 783-2246 www.MaineInsuranceOnline.com

Jason Hodsdon Masonry

Chimneys • Chimney Cleanings • Masonry Demo
Repointing & Repairs • Culture Stones
Restorations • Stainless Steel Liners

We install professional chimney caps!

215-3557
North Monmouth
Jasonhodsdonmasonry@gmail.com

TWIN CITY TIMES

FREE e-subscriptions at www.TwinCityTimes.com

Advertising
For advertising information email Laurie@twincitytimes.com or call 795-5017.

Deadline
Deadline for ads and press releases is 5 p.m. on Friday preceding publication. Published every Thursday's publication.

Press Releases
All submissions, including photos, must be emailed to editor@twincitytimes.com.

Proofs
Publisher is not responsible for any errors in ad copy not inspected by advertiser prior to publication.

TWIN CITY PUBLISHING, INC
Twin City Times • 89 Union Street, Suite 1014 • Auburn, ME 04210
Gorham Weekly • 28 State Street • Gorham, ME 04038

Info@TwinCityTimes.com
(207) 795-5017

TWIN CITY PUBLISHING, INC. 2022©
All materials found in TWIN CITY TIMES are copyrighted. All rights in those materials are reserved and permission to use them must be specifically granted by Twin City TIMES.

Seniors Not Acting Their Age

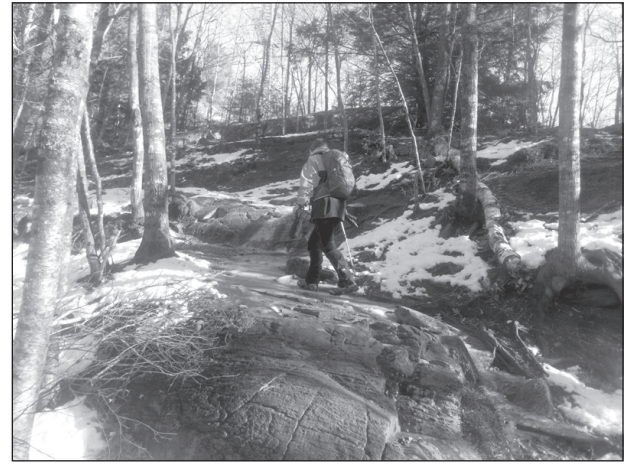
Icy Hazards on Mount Pisgah



A hiker reaches the old fire tower on the summit of Mount Pisgah



Micro spikes were necessary to cross the icy trailhead parking area



Icy rock formations were encountered nearing the summit

My first introduction to Mount Pisgah in Winthrop was about 35 years ago. A friend, Gary Cole, invited me on a cross-country ski trip over the summit.

There were no conventional cross-country ski trails on the mountain. Rather, Gary, who was very familiar with the small central Maine peak, cobbled together a combination of old farm roads, herd paths, informal snowmobile trails, and some bushwhacking. The trek was a very stimulating endeavor and, along with friends, we repeated it several times during the ensuing years.

One of the memories

I have of those early ski trips was passing under the then operating Mount Pisgah Fire Tower and bushwhacking down the sparsely wooded northern slope of the mountain after. I don't recall the existence any hiking trails during that period but I do remember trudging up the Tower Road when skiing wasn't an option.

In 1991, the Maine Forest Service discontinued use of the fire tower. I'm not sure precisely when the current hiking trails were introduced but about 25 years ago my friends and I began hiking them on a fairly regular basis.

The trail system is

maintained by the Kennebec Land Trust and is part of its 1100-acre Mount Pisgah Conservation Area. The network winds through a forested area that was once open pasture cleared and cultivated by early 19th-Century farmers. Stonewalls, used to confine their livestock and establish boundaries, continue to decorate the mountainous terrain and provide a scenic adjunct to the Mount Pisgah hiking experience.

Recently, my wife, Nancy, and I decided on a December Mount Pisgah hike. Unfortunately, our frequent Mount Pisgah hiking companions, Gary and Suzanne Cole, were

unavailable so we had to find our way without them.

Our decision followed a succession of snow, rain, and ice storms so we were unsure what to expect for hiking conditions. When we arrived at the trailhead on Mount Pisgah Road in Winthrop on a cool, breezy, partly sunny day, the spacious parking area was glare ice. Fortunately, we had packed micro spikes and wore them throughout the trek.

Tower and Blueberry Trails begin at the trailhead. The old Tower Road is also an option. We decided to ascend Tower Trail and, if conditions were acceptable, return on Blueberry Trail.

After cautiously negotiating across the icy parking lot, we turned left onto Tower Trail and hiked easily on a hard-packed snow and patchy ice surface in a sparse predominantly hardwood forest. A modest uphill gradient continued for an extended period before passing a junction for the Ledges Trail on the left.

Shortly after Ledges Trail, the path steepened and we encountered a series of upsloping rock formations. The granite inclines were a baffling

combination of ice and bare rock. We carefully ascended them avoiding the treacherous icy areas whenever possible and emerged onto the summit adjacent to the fire tower.

The 60-foot fire tower is open to the public and offers views of the surrounding area. We opted to forego climbing the icy stairway to the top.

Blueberry Trail descends south from the summit. Consulting the conservation area map, we decided to return on Tower Trail and follow Ledges Trail on a sweeping arc that connects with Blueberry Trail farther southeast, adding 1.4 miles to our outing.

After dropping down Tower Trail, we trekked north on Ledges Trail along the west side of a wooded ridge to a sign marking the northern terminus of the path where the landscape declines precipitously. From there, the trail angles abruptly south proceeding over uneven rugged terrain to the junction with Blueberry Trail just a short distance from the summit.

We followed Blueberry Trail first south and then west over rolling forested hills and at one point traversed the remains of

an old farm road we skied three decades ago. Two solo hikers were met in this area where there are a few stonewall crossings. Soon after, we descended steadily to the trailhead, completing about a 3.5 mile trek.

Although we had some difficulty with icy trails, the conditions were manageable. However, without micro spikes the hike would have been quite challenging.

My book, *Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine* narrates nine more mountain hikes in Maine including icy winter ascents of Mount Katahdin and Traveler Mountain; and a stormy expedition in Baxter State Park during a blizzard.

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.ronchase-outdoors.com or he can be reached at ronchase-outdoors@comcast.net

**Sealcoating • Hot Rubber Crack Filling
New Installations • Concrete
Reclaimed Asphalt • Loam**

**Our premium grade sealer inexpensively
adds years of life!**

**Protect your investment with our
wide range of products!**

Roadmark Industries
Mike Willett • 143 Pleasant Street • Auburn
(207) 240-5535

ROOTED
hair studio

Courtney

Michael

Accepting New Clients ~ Booth Rental Available

214 Minot Avenue ~ Auburn ~ 689-3035

100+ Women Who Care Southern Maine to meet Feb. 10

MAINE -- The next meeting of 100+ Women Who Care Southern Maine will be held on Monday, February 10, 2025, at The Elks Lodge on Congress Street in Portland. Networking begins at 5:45 PM, with the meeting starting at 6:30 PM. Guests are welcome to attend and learn more about the group.

For more details, visit: www.100womenwhocaresouthernmaine.com.

Founded in Novem-

ber 2014, 100+ Women Who Care Southern Maine is a growing community of women who raise funds for local nonprofits. With 488 members, the group has raised over \$660,000 for a wide variety of causes, including support for veterans, children with disabilities, domestic abuse survivors, animal welfare, and more.

Members commit to donating \$50 each quarter to a nonprofit chosen at

each meeting. Three nominated nonprofits present 5-minute pitches followed by a 5-minute Q&A, and the group votes on which nonprofit will receive the donations.

At the November 2024 meeting, Camp No Limits was chosen as the recipient of donations. The organization will present at the February 10th meeting on how the funds were used. Camp No Limits provides specialized camps

for children with limb loss and limb differences, offering mentorship, support, and education in a community-focused environment.

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



Deb Bergeron, founder of 100+ Women Who Care Southern Maine. Deb Maxfield, Camp No Limits. Photo by: LeBel's Lens Photography.

Longfellow Days honors Bowdoin's class of 1825

BRUNSWICK, ME -- Each February in Brunswick Longfellow Days creates events to honor the legacy of Maine poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. This year Longfellow Days joins Bowdoin College in celebrating the 200th anniversary of the graduating class of 1825. These were a remarkable group of young men, including Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Jonathan Cilley, and other statesmen and professionals.

In 1925 Bowdoin honored the 100th anniversary of this class with a Literary Festival. They hosted such poets and writers as: Robert Frost, Carl Sandburg, Willa Cather, Edna St. Vincent Millay, and many others.

Events for this 200th anniversary include ongoing exhibits at Bowdoin College Art Museum and Special Collections at Bowdoin

Library. Also, Longfellow biographer Nicholas Basbanes will speak on the lives and wives of Hawthorne and Longfellow. New this year is an Ekphrastic Poetry Workshop by David Sloan.

Longfellow Days is also collaborating with the Bowdoin Music Department to create an evening of music and poetry featuring compositions by Paul Sullivan, Stuart Gillespie, Ann MacDonald Diers, Jud Caswell, and Scott Woodruff, performed by the combined Bowdoin Chamber Choir with chorus members from area community choirs. There will also be two events with nationally recognized spoken word poet, Taylor Mali.

Continuing annual events include: Sunday Readings at Curtis Library focusing on a different century of American poetry each week, Community Readings where Helene McLaughlin

and David Sloan host informal verse-sharing sessions, and Henry's Birthday Celebration with an open mic. Also, area collaborations will offer tours of the Joshua Chamberlain house where Longfellow once lived, a Winter Wisdom talk by James McKenna, and the Unitarian Universalist interfaith service where Longfellow taught Bible Classes during his time as professor at Bowdoin.

For a full explanation of events and presenters go to: <https://www.uubrunswick.org/longfellow-days-2025/>

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE... Thanks to the support of sponsors: Bowdoin College, Brunswick Downtown Association, Curtis Memorial Library, Nathaniel Davis Fund, Pejepsot History Center, The Senter Fund, and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick.

LONGFELLOW DAYS 2025

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOWDOIN'S CLASS OF 1825

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1:00 PM • SUNDAY READINGS
Fireplace Room, Curtis Memorial Library
Part One: 1825 Poets & Writers - Gary Lawless, Kara Douglas and Linda Aldridge reading 19th-century poets, as well as sharing their own work.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6 AT 4:30 PM • TALK BY NICHOLAS BASBANES
Krege Auditorium at Bowdoin College
 The Longfellow biographer, Nicholas Basbanes (*Cross of Snow*) speaks on "Meeting of the Minds: Longfellow, Hawthorne, and the Productive Influence of their Artistic Wives."

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1:00 PM • SUNDAY READINGS
Fireplace Room, Curtis Memorial Library
Part Two: 1925 Poets - As well as sharing their own poetry, Gibson Fay LeBlanc reads Robert Frost, Dawn Potter reads Edna St. Vincent Millay, and Mike Bove reads Langston Hughes.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 11:00 AM • EKPHRASTIC POETRY WORKSHOP
Zachert Seminar Room, Bowdoin College Museum of Art
 In David Sloan's *Poet As Painter* workshop, participants will explore poetry inspired by art, then view the museum's exhibit, and generate their own ekphrastic poetry.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12 AT 2:00 PM • COMMUNITY POETRY/OPEN MIC
Merrymeting Room, Thornton Oaks, 25 Thornton Way (off Barboons)
 Helene McLaughlin and David Sloan read their own poetry and host this one-hour informal verse-sharing session. Bring a poem to share. Refreshments.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13 AT 2:30 PM • COMMUNITY POETRY/OPEN MIC
Maine Lodge, The Highlands, 30 Governors Way, Topsham
 Helene McLaughlin and David Sloan read their own poetry and host this one-hour informal verse-sharing session. Bring a poem to share. Refreshments.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15 AT 11:00 AM & 1:00 PM • TOURS OF THE CHAMBERLAIN HOUSE
226 Maine Street, Brunswick
 Gemma Cannon, author of *Voices of the Night*, will lead two 70-minute tours of the house, focusing on Henry's early writing and his first wife, Mary. Each tour is limited to 15 people and **Registration is Required**. Email: outreach@pejepsot.org Subject: "LD Tour" Please give preferred time, registrant name(s), and a phone number.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16 AT 1:00 PM • SUNDAY READINGS
Fireplace Room, Curtis Memorial Library
Part Three: 2025 Tribute to Poets - Today we remember three Longfellow Days poets who departed in 2024: Sally Cowperthwaite reads poetry by her father Steve Cowperthwaite. Georgia Nigro reads work by her husband Rob Farnsworth. Maryli Tiemann reads poetry by Ruth Bookey and introduces Nicole Chvatal, reading her own work.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19 AT 1:00 PM • WINTER WISDOM WITH JAMES MCKENNA
Morrill Room, Curtis Memorial Library
 Maine poet James McKenna will share his personal introductions to Longfellow and Edna Saint Vincent Millay, "My Two Grandmothers' Differing Poetic Tastes." Co-sponsored with MidCoast Senior College.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21 AT 7:30 PM • POETRY WITH TAYLOR MALI
Studzinski Hall at Bowdoin College
 Taylor Mali, Bowdoin Class of 1987 and nationally recognized spoken word poet, performs an evening of poetry beginning with three present Bowdoin student poets: King Weatherspoon, Chayma Charif and Kaitlin Weiss.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22 AT 7:30 PM • CLASS OF 1825 TRIBUTE: EVENING OF MUSIC & POETRY
Studzinski Hall at Bowdoin College
 Longfellow's poetry set to music and voice, featuring compositions by Paul Sullivan, Stuart Gillespie, Ann MacDonald Diers, Jud Caswell, and Scott Woodruff. Performed by the combined Bowdoin Chamber Choir with chorus members from area community choirs. Directed by Stuart Gillespie and Will Bristol. Spoken word poet, Taylor Mali performs in tribute to the Class of 1825.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23 AT 10:00 AM • INTERFAITH SERVICE: THE INCLUSIVE POWER OF POETRY
Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Middle Street
 Service led by Rev. Dr. Kharna Amos, Minister with Maryli Tiemann. Music by the UUCCB Choir under the direction of Will Bristol.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23 AT 1:00 PM • SUNDAY READINGS
Fireplace Room, Curtis Memorial Library
Part Four: Future Poets & Writers - Poet John Reinhart emceeds readings by three poets who were part of the Portland Poetry Slam Team: Elle MacGilvray, Yashu Derisala, and Alex Wu.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25 AT 2:00 PM • INTERPRETING THREE POEMS
Pejepsot History Center, 159 Park Row
 Join Karin Dillman to discuss three 19th- and 20th-century poems by Dickinson, Whitman, and William Carlos Williams. Refreshments. Registration is Required. Email: outreach@pejepsot.org with Subject: "Interpreting Three Poems." Please include name(s) of registrants and a phone number. Co-Sponsored with Pejepsot History Center.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26 AT 12:00 PM • GALLERY TOURS: BOWDOIN COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART & LIBRARY
Lobby, Bowdoin College Museum of Art
 A Longfellow Days tour of Bowdoin's two special exhibitions: *Poetic Truths: Hawthorne, Longfellow, and American Visual Culture, 1840-1880*, on view February 6 through July 20, 2025, Bowdoin College Museum of Art and *The Student Days of the Class of 1825* at the Hawthorne Longfellow Library.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28 AT 5:30 PM • OPEN MIC & LONGFELLOW'S 218TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Middle Street
 Open Mic with host Ren Bernier, a cappella music by Bowdoin's "Longfellows," and CAKE. Come share your poem or another's that you appreciate.

ONGOING POETRY EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS AT BOWDOIN COLLEGE:
 • "Poetry Across Maine" - a statewide poetry mapping project created by John Reinhart - add your poetry to place: www.poetryacrossmaine.com
 • "Poetic Truths: Hawthorne, Longfellow, and American Visual Culture, 1840-1880" on view February 6 through July 20, 2025, Bowdoin College Museum of Art
 • "Before They Were Famous: The Student Days of the Class of 1825," on view January 27 through June 6, 2025, Hawthorne-Longfellow Library.

Longfellow Days is an annual month-long cultural and community program, with support from Bowdoin College, Brunswick Downtown Association, Curtis Memorial Library, Nathaniel Davis Fund, Pejepsot History Center, The Senter Fund, and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick.

Thanks to our sponsors. All events are Free and Open to the Public.



CareerCenter Resume Workshop

Tuesday, February 11th
11am- 1pm
Second Floor Idea Lab

No Registration Required



Lewiston PUBLIC LIBRARY **CareerCenter**

GRIDIRON Restaurant

LEWISTON, MAINE

SCAN HERE!

The Place where every hour is happy.



OPEN DAILY
11AM-9PM
DINE IN - TAKE OUT
207-777-6353
207-777-6354

1567 Lisbon Street Lewiston, Maine

We Deliver.



Uber Eats GRUBHUB Postmates DOORDASH

SUBWAY

Not all delivery services available at every restaurant. All other related trademarks are owned by Frito-Lay North America, Inc. ©2020 Subway® is a Registered Trademark of Subway® LLC. ©2020 Subway® IP LLC.

Open for curbside pick-up, take out, indoor dining, bowling and arcade!



American pub-style food and drinks.

A 7 Railroad Ave, Ste 102 | **W www.jctbowl.com**
Gorham, ME 04038 | **P 207.222.7600**

Arts & Entertainment

Dueling Pianos coming to Franco Center Feb. 8

LEWISTON, ME—Dueling Pianos will perform at the Franco Center at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8. Two pianists, Jim Tyrrell and Amy Thomason, will play songs from a variety of genres simultaneously on two pianos. The pianists will take requests from the audience, making the show interactive.

The piano players act as “ring masters” responsible for maintaining enthusiasm and maximizing laughs. Hand-picked from only the finest regional talent, they’re experts on keeping audience members involved, happy and content.

Pianist Jim Tyrrell has been a mainstay in the New Hampshire music

scene for over 30 years. His repertoire is vast and covers all genres, but he’s a child of the 1980s at heart. The music of Billy Joel, Elton John, and Steely Dan are among his favorites to perform.

Amy Thomason has been having a blast working and traveling as a dueling pianist since 2016. Thomason also works as an actor, music director, and educator in the Boston area. She is a regular at all the Dueling Piano venues around New England. “Her ability to work the crowd into her set is something to see. Whatever request comes in she does her best to play it and even look it up on the fly,” said one of the show’s promoters, Rob



Amy Thomason and Jim Tyrrell. Photo credits: Facebook page photos.



Steen. What are dueling pianos? From the show’s promoter comes this information: “It is a massive ‘to the top of your lungs’ sing along with all your friends! Two grand pianos are center stage with a team of out-

ing piano audience is used for the dueling aspect of the show. Audience members are pitted one-side-against-the-other. Examples of rivalries include country vs. rock, men against women, etc.

“This dueling piano interactive concept has grown rapidly the past few years and shows no sign of letting up. Why? One very simple reason: people love to interact and have fun,” said Steen.

Dueling piano shows often take unexpected turns. Tangents may include involving wait staff members, changing song lyrics or roasting popular audience members.

“We are appreciative of the businesses that come forward to sponsor shows to help cover the costs of events,” said Theresa Shanahan, executive director of the Franco Center. “Maine Community Bank is this show’s event sponsor and they are a great local business.”

Shanahan added that the venue will offer concessions along with a cash bar.

Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door and can be purchased through the Franco Center’s box office in person from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays or call 207-689-2000. Ticket purchases can be made online at www.franco-center.org/shows.

Season underwriter is Maple Way Dental Care; media sponsors are Sun Journal, Uncle Andy’s, and Bennett Radio Group. Event sponsor is Maine Community Bank.

Doors and cash bar open at 6 p.m. Concert is at 7 p.m. The Franco Center is at 46 Cedar Street, Lewiston. Parking is in the mill lot on Oxford Street, the Lincoln Street corner parking lot, and Chestnut Street parking garage. Handicap access is on the Lincoln Street Alley side of the building.

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

FUNNY, MOVING and UNFORGETTABLE
If you have ever written a “gratitude list”, this play is for you.

Final Weekend!

by Duncan Macmillan with Jonny Donahoe

Jan 24 - Feb 2

BE ONE OF 24 LUCKY PEOPLE SEATED ON-STAGE FOR ONLY \$20

ThePublicTheatre.org | 782-3200

SPONSORS: Androscoggin Bank, Andwell Health Partners, Turner Publishing, Cross Insurance UNDERWRITERS: Platz Associates, Sun Journal, WOXO & WIGY

PUBLIC THEATRE
31 Maple Street, Lewiston

Maine Takht Ensemble brings live Middle Eastern music to Lewiston

LEWISTON, ME – At a time when the national rhetoric is increasingly “us vs. them,” four local musicians are celebrating the complex beauty of classical Arab music with an accessible acoustic set designed to share the form with a wider audience.

Mary Hunter, Nathan Kolosko, Duncan Hardy, and Eric La Perna share a love of Middle Eastern music inspired, at least in part, by the late multi-instrumentalist Alan Shavarsh Bardezbanian (Al Gardner) of Bath, with whom they all studied. Individually, they

See Ensemble, page 8

Make a memory with your child that you'll cherish for a lifetime.

Valentine Ball

Feb 8
6:30 - 8:30 pm

Space is limited. Get your tickets today!

Children ages 4-12 are sure to treasure an evening of dressing up and dancing with their loved ones. All parents/guardians are welcome.

ThePublicTheatre.org | 782-3200

The Ball will be held at the Kora Shrine Temple, Lewiston

PUBLIC THEATRE
31 Maple Street, Lewiston

3 million visitors to Maine State Parks in 2024

AUGUSTA, ME – The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry’s Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL) announced that Maine State Parks welcomed 3.12 million visitors in 2024, marking the third time in four years that visitation surpassed three million. This represents a 6.5% increase over 2023 attendance. While overall attendance climbed, day-use visitation increased by 7.3%, highlighting the popularity of Maine’s parks as trusted and accessible destinations for outdoor recreation. Camping attendance saw a slight decrease of 0.8%, partially attributed to the early closure of Cobscook Bay State Park for a construction project. Notable park-specific trends included an 18% increase in attendance at Reid State Park, while Popham Beach

State Park saw a 7% decrease, likely due to beach erosion caused by January 2024 storms.

Maine State Park visitation at a glance:

2024: 3.12 million visitors (2.83 million day-use visitors and 288K campers)

2023: 2.93 million visitors (2.64 million day-use visitors and 291K campers)

2022: 3.28 million visitors (2.96 million day-use visitors and 319K campers)

2021: 3.3 million visitors (3 million day-use visitors and 315K campers)

2020: 3 million visits (2.79 million day-use visitors and 280K campers)

2019: 2.97 million visits (2.71 million day-use visitors and 258K campers)

2025 Campground Reservation Opening Dates
The BPL also an-

nounced the 2025 Maine State Parks campground reservation opening dates:

February 3, 2025 (9:00 AM, EST):

Lily Bay State Park and Sebago Lake State Park reservations open.

Group Camping and Picnic Shelter Reservations begin via phone (no online group reservations).

Storm Date: February 4, 2025, if Maine State Government offices are closed.

February 6, 2025 (9:00 AM, EST):

Reservations will be available for all parks except Aroostook and Cobscook Bay, where reservations are temporarily delayed due to major improvement projects. The completion date for these upgrades has not yet been determined.

Storm Date: February 7, 2025, if Maine State

Government offices are closed.

How to Reserve Your Spot

Online: Visit www.CampWithME.com to browse maps, fees, and amenities.

By Phone: Contact the park directly for Group Camping and Picnic Shelter Reservations.

By Mail: Reservation details and instructions are available online.

Tips for Online Reservations:

Specify tent or RV size to find appropriate campsites.

Request water and electricity hook-ups at select parks: Aroostook, Camden Hills, Mount Blue, Peaks-Kenny, Rangeley Lake, and Sebago Lake.

Check park-specific fees and amenities in advance.

Minimum Stay Re-

quirements:

Sebago Lake requires a 4-night minimum stay for February reservations during the camping season.

Weekend stays require a 2-night minimum (Friday and Saturday) until July 1, after which single-night reservations are available.

About Maine State Parks

Maine State Parks offers experiences for all kinds of outdoor enthusiasts. With over 30 parks and historic sites across the state, visitors can explore scenic hiking trails, camp under starry skies, and enjoy water activities such as swimming, kayaking, and fishing. Winter brings opportunities for snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and ice fishing, while year-round wildlife watching, picnicking, and photography attract nature lovers.

Discover Maine’s rich history at sites like Fort Popham and Colonial Pemaquid or participate in family-friendly programs like Junior Ranger activities and guided nature walks. Adventure seekers can find rock climbing, ATV trails, and snowmobiling, while cultural enthusiasts can enjoy workshops, stargazing and seasonal events.

From the cliffs and bogs at Quoddy Head and the eddy pools at Two Lights and Kettle Cove, to the breathtaking vista from atop Mt Battie and the big hikes and western views of Mt Blue, Maine State Parks offer unforgettable moments and a deep connection to nature, history, and community.

For more information about Maine State Parks and to plan your visit, visit www.CampWithME.com.

New Ventures Maine launches competition for small businesses

AUGUSTA, ME—New Ventures Maine (NVME) has announced open applications for their statewide Marketing Mini-Grant competition.

The NVME Marketing Mini-Grant Program aims to strengthen access to markets for small businesses by supporting the development of marketing tools, materials, and activities. NVME will award cash mini-grants—up to \$1,000 per region (defined below)—to microenterprises for new or expanded business marketing and promotion projects through a competitive application process. Applications are due by Friday, February 28, 2025 at noon.

Eligible applicants include individual micro-business owners, business partners, or groups of business owners. Businesses apply to the region in which they are based (see



NVME Microenterprise Program Manager Alicia LaFosse accepts a \$3,000 donation from Duncan Mixer, AVP & Commercial Loan Officer at Norway Savings Bank.

below for details).

Application criteria include: 1) Five or fewer full-time equivalent employees; 2) sales in the past 12 months; and 3) gross annual sales of no more than \$150,000 (previous calendar year).

Terrill Waldman, co-owner of Tandem Glass with Charlie Jenkins, winners of a 2023 marketing mini-grant, said of its impact, “This grant gave us the energy to pursue and invest in a new logo and a ‘suite’ of marketing goodies. We

are so proud of the work we have done. Overall, we are currently up 15% in sales over last year. Traffic to our web site is steady and traffic to our brick and mortar shop is up!”

Regions and contacts for the 2025 Winter/Spring



contest are:

Cumberland & York Counties: Martha Leonard, 207-245-3663, martha.leonard@maine.edu

Androscoggin, Oxford & Franklin Counties: Gina Platt, 207-753-6581, gina.platt@maine.edu

For more information, contact the region representative listed above or visit the New Ventures Maine website.

Marketing mini-grants are sponsored in part by Norway Savings Bank, Katahdin Trust Company, and Kennebec Savings Bank.

“We are excited to sponsor mini-grants that

empower small businesses to boost their marketing efforts and overall success,” said Duncan Mixer, AVP & Commercial Loan Officer at Norway Savings Bank. “Bringing financial support to the communities we serve is an important priority for us.”

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

MaineCF grants available to nonprofits

PORTLAND & ELLSWORTH —Non-profit organizations throughout the state may be eligible for grants from the Maine Community Foundation’s (MaineCF) Community Building Grant Program.

The grant program

invests in local projects and organizations that help build strong communities in all 16 counties. Community Building supports projects and organizations that invest in people, engage with the people served and strengthen community resources.

In 2024, MaineCF’s county and regional committees awarded \$1.97 million in grants through the Community Building Grant Program. Learn more about the Community Building Grant Program and application process at [www.mainecf.org/community-](http://www.mainecf.org/community-building)

building.

The deadline to apply is Friday, Feb. 14.

The Community Building Grant Program is MaineCF’s largest grant program. It is one of the only grant programs in the state that supports a broad range of interest areas, in-

cluding arts, education, environment, economic development and human services.

The grant program offers two types of funding: project grants and general support. Project grants are only available to larger organizations for new projects. General support grants

are geared towards smaller organizations and this flexible funding may support new, expanding or ongoing programs as well as operational needs.

For a list of 2024 Community Building grants by county, visit www.mainecf.org/recentgrants.

Maine CASA to hold training March 10-14

MAINE -- Interested in advocating for the best interests of a child? The Maine Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program is holding its next training for volunteer advocates from March 10th through March 14th, 2025.

This free, five-day training is designed to prepare attendees for certification as volunteer guardians ad litem (GALs) in Maine child protection cases. Trainees may participate virtually or in person. For those who wish to partici-

pate in person, the training will be held in Augusta. Accommodations may be available.

The foundation of a CASA’s work is learning about the case and then advising the court what the CASA believes is in

the child’s best interest. CASAs come from a wide variety of professional and personal backgrounds and are guided throughout the process by CASA program staff. CASAs bring their own unique perspectives to their work as volunteers.

If you are willing to advocate for a child’s best interests, we encourage you to apply to become a CASA volunteer. Those interested in the training must complete an application and, if invited to participate, must also com-

plete criminal and child protection services background checks.

For more information about becoming a volunteer, please contact Maine CASA at 213-2865 or by e-mail at casa@courts.maine.gov

Andwell Health Partners launches audiology service line

LEWISTON, ME – Andwell is happy to welcome Joshua A. Huppert, Au.D., who has joined Andwell Medical Partners, Andwell’s Multi-specialty Medical Group, to lead Andwell Audiology.

Originally a native of the southwest suburbs of Chicago, Dr. Huppert earned his Doctor of Audiology (AuD) degree from Pacific University in Oregon and completed his clinical residency at A.I. DuPont’s Hospital for Children in Delaware. Since then, Dr. Huppert has spent his last near-decade career providing impactful, evidence-based, and patient-centered care across the environments of pediatric hospitals, academic



medical centers and the hearing industry. His clinical expertise in pediatric and vestibular audiology has earned him prestigious speaking engagements at local, national and international conferences and

invitations to review many esteemed audiology journals. Dr. Huppert is also a published author, experienced leader and seasoned mentor of audiology students, medical residents/fellows and trainees.

Mathew Collins, Vice President of Medical & Community Services at Andwell Health Partners, shares “We are launching an Audiology Service Line to fill an important gap throughout the state of Maine. Maine people, of all ages, living in all zip codes, deserve better access to clinically excellent hearing healthcare services.

As Andwell works to collaborate with partners, payers, and the state of Maine to innovate care delivery and reimbursement models, Andwell has also been taking active steps to grow, evolve and diversify service offerings.

While maintaining its legacy home health and hospice services, Audiology is one of a handful of services that Andwell has launched over the last couple of years, including the Maine Center for Palliative Medicine, a mobile wound care practice, personal care and companionship, therapy and early learning, behavioral health, and outpatient therapy care clinics.

Collins continues, “Dr. Huppert is a national thought leader in the hearing healthcare space – with experience leading and personally delivering care across the full healthcare continuum.

He shared that “the prevalence of individuals with hearing loss in Maine is one of the highest in country at just under 17%. When we further consider that individuals with untreated hearing loss are at

increased risks for social isolation, depression, anxiety, and even cognitive decline, it is not difficult to see how valuable and necessary access to high-quality hearing healthcare is for communities to truly thrive.” Dr. Huppert went on to say that he has dreamt of living in Maine most of his adult life. “I am humbled by the opportunity to be a part of what I know will be a life-changing service with Andwell and the Maine community at large. I can’t wait to get started and look forward to meeting/serving the Maine community.”

Andwell Audiology is located at 72 Strawberry Avenue in Lewiston. The clinic opens on February 24, 2025, and is now accepting referrals. Call your primary care or specialist provider to ask for a referral.

Final weekend of TPT’s *Every Brilliant Thing*

Don’t miss the final performances this weekend at The Public Theatre of their funny, moving and unforgettable production of *Every Brilliant Thing*, running this Thursday – Sun, Jan 30 – Feb 2. Bonus Pre-show events include a Thursday wine-tasting, and Saturday night beer sampling! If you have ever written a “gratitude list”, or lost your reasons that make life worth living, this humorous, heart-breaking and delightfully surprising interactive play is for you. For Tickets and more information visit www.thepublictheatre.org or call 782-3200.



CLT presenting *Heart and Music* for Valentine’s weekend



On paper or on the phone, our cast members (from left to right: Anthony M. Delorme, Justin David, Sam Herriot) are warming up their voices to warm your hearts February 14th & 15th.

L/A Community Little Theatre, located at 30 Academy Street in Auburn, has been producing live theatre since 1940. A volunteer, non-profit organization, our goal is to provide affordable and quality entertainment in the performing arts as well as education, training, and experience in theatre for area youth. www.laclt.com.

Water that just works.



GOODWIN
WELL & WATER INC.



Maine’s leader in water well drilling, pump installation, and geothermal installation.

207.224.7861 goodwinwellandwater.com

Andwell
HEALTH PARTNERS

formerly Androscoggin Home Healthcare + Hospice

New Name. Same Heart.

- Home Health
- Hospice
- CareGivers
- Community & Behavioral Health
- Maternal & Child Health
- Therapy Care



www.andwell.org

Ensemble

Continued from page 6

have played with Middle Eastern musicians from around the world and in several Maine-based ensembles that focus on or feature the classical Arab style.

In 2002, these four accomplished musicians and music educators—who, among them, have played central faculty roles at Bates and Bowdoin Colleges, University of Southern Maine, Maine College of Art, Portland Conservatory of Music and St. Joseph’s College—came together to form Maine Takht Ensemble, named after the Arabic term for a small group playing varied instruments to create a kind of musical ecstasy in its



Maine Takht Ensemble

audience.

How do they do that? Where most Western listeners are used to music that centers on chords and harmony,

classical Middle Eastern music is all about melody and rhythm. La Perna, on percussion, plays set rhythmic patterns characterized by the contrast be-

tween “high” and “low” sounds. Meanwhile, Kolosko (oud), Hardy (qanun) and Hunter (violin) play the same tune as one other while adding their

own variations and ornamentations.

“The overall effect can be quite complex,” says Hunter. “[It] often seems to me like the aural equivalent of ornate Arabic calligraphy.”

In addition to her work onstage with Maine Takht Ensemble, Hunter is also the organizer and curator for an eclectic lineup of local musicians who will perform unplugged at L/A Arts over the next few months as a part of the Spring Acoustic Series. Other acts on the bill include the Chris Robley Trio on March 29, Billie Joe Brito & Friends on April 26 and others to be announced.

The Maine Takht Ensemble concert on February 1 promises to be an exciting one, both

musically and as a soft-launch of sorts for a bigger project that’s been in the works over the winter in the gallery and performance space at 168 Lisbon St. in Lewiston. An official opening event for the new stage will take place later this year, once construction is complete. In the meantime, the Spring Acoustic Series offers a taste of the diversity of talent that will be coming to the area’s newest performance venue in the months and years ahead.

Maine Takht Ensemble live at LA Arts, February 1st at 7pm. The suggested ticket donation is \$15; tickets can be purchased at <https://laarts.org/performances>. Students 18 and under attend for free. No one turned away for lack of funds.

Waterville Creates welcomes new board chair, members

WATERVILLE, ME—Waterville Creates is pleased to announce the addition of two new members to the Board of Directors and a new Board Chair stepping into the role. The organization’s robust programming, increased staffing, and growing presence in the Waterville community presents the need and opportunity for new and increased support from members of the community and Board of Directors to support the mission of Waterville Creates.

Amanda Cooley steps into the role of Board Chair. In her role as vice president and marketing and

communications officer at Kennebec Savings Bank, Cooley is responsible for overseeing the bank’s marketing, communications, and community giving initiatives. Cooley joined KSB in 2018 as the corporate giving and community relations coordinator. Most recently, she served as assistant vice president and community engagement officer, overseeing the bank’s Community Dividends program and volunteer efforts. Prior to joining Kennebec Savings Bank, Cooley held positions in marketing, event planning, and communications for Colby College and Husson

University.

Cooley replaces Jim LaLiberty of Jabar, LaLiberty, and Dubord LLC as Board Chair. LaLiberty served as Chair for six years for the organization. “On behalf of the board and staff of Waterville Creates, I want to express sincere gratitude to our outgoing board chair, Jim LaLiberty, who provided steady guidance and leadership for six years as we navigated numerous challenges, including a multi-organization merger, a global pandemic, and the design and move to our new home at the Paul J. Schupf Art Center,” said Shannon Haines, president

and CEO of Waterville Creates. “We are thrilled that Amanda Cooley, who joined the board in 2021, will take the reins as board chair in 2025 as we look forward to the next chapter of Waterville Creates’ development.”

Hannah Bard and Katie Brann are both joining the Board of Directors this year. Bard is the Director at Mid-Maine Regional Adult Community Education, where she has worked for

13 years in several roles. Bard attended Thomas College for her BS in Elementary Education and Teaching, and USM for an MS in Adult and Continuing Education Administration. She was recently named the 2024 Outstanding Adult Education Administrator by the Maine Adult Education Association.

Brann joined Golden Pond Wealth Management in April 2019. She graduated

from Boston University with a B.A. in Political Science and minor in Business Administration. Among her specialties are ESG investing and comprehensive financial planning; she achieved the Certified Financial Planner (CFP®) designation in March 2021. Most recently, she has been named to the MaineBiz Nextup: 40 Under 40 list, which recognizes young business professionals in

See Creates, page 14


STAPLES COWORKING

A NEW SPACE TO BREAK OLD RULES

**COME TRY OUR NEW COWORKING
AND MEETING SPACE IN AUBURN
FOR FREE!**

**MENTION THIS AD AND GET 1
FREE WEEK OF OPEN SEAT
COWORKING AND 1 HOUR OF
MEETING ROOM USE.**

**OFFER VALID ONLY AT OUR
89 UNION ST. AUBURN, ME LOCATION**




HOME LOANS


House Hunter → Home Owner


\$2,500 Lender Credit*

On home purchases in Maine



**Apply
Now
or call
(207) 221-5000**





Rated 4.8 Stars
as of 12/12/24

*Promotion includes \$2,500 in lender credits towards closing costs. Maine property purchases for primary residences and second homes only. Only one \$2,500 lender credit available per loan. Government and land loans excluded. Eligible applications must be received by 2/28/25. Mortgage must close to receive lender credit. Offer subject to change without notice. Not all applicants will be approved for financing. Loan subject to credit and underwriting approval. Equal Housing Opportunity.

WinterKids Winter Games kick off with outdoor learning fun

MAINE — Let the Games begin! WinterKids is thrilled to announce the official start of the 8th Annual WinterKids Winter Games! From January 13 to February 7, students across Maine will step outside, and embrace the joy of outdoor winter learning. This year's theme, "Weather" invites over 10,000 students and educators to become young scientists, observing and documenting Maine's winter climate in real time.



Opening ceremonies happened at participating schools across the state today, setting the tone for a month of dynamic challenges and community-building activities.

- Program Highlights:
- 16 schools will compete in the Competitive Track, vying for cash prizes up to \$5,000.
 - 75 schools will participate in the Play Along

Track, enjoying activities tailored to their own pace.

□ Weekly themes—Temperature, Precipitation, Wind, and Clouds—will guide students through engaging outdoor lessons.

What's in store for this year?

The WinterKids Winter Games is not just about education—it's about transformation. The WinterKids Winter Games inspire teamwork by encouraging students to collaborate on



outdoor challenges, fostering a sense of camaraderie and shared achievement. Through activities such as weather observations, data collection, and creative projects, students and teachers will be outdoors

participating in hands-on lessons.

Jon Morrill of Kittery Trading Post, a proud WinterKids Supporting Sponsor, shared why this program resonates with the community: "Kids are the

future of our business, our economy, and the state resources. Anything that we can do to enrich the lifestyle of our children, we're all about that." His words reflect the shared commitment of WinterKids and its partners to nurture healthy, vibrant communities through outdoor engagement and education.

Schools report tangible benefits during the four-week program, including increased attendance and

fewer visits to the nurse, demonstrating the positive impact of active, outdoor learning on students' overall well-being. WinterKids provides weekly incentives like keychain thermometers, tape measures, sunglasses, and weather notebooks for added inspiration!

WinterKids encourages local media outlets to join us in sharing this incredible story of community, learning, and resilience. Find a participating school near you and celebrate the energy of winter learning in action!

The Winter Games are sponsored in part by Aroma Joe's, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, MMG Insurance, and the Stockhouse Station.

For a detailed map of partner schools and more information, visit winterkids.org/winter-games/.

Give the gift of time as a Red Cross volunteer

PORTLAND, ME — The American Red Cross asks you to consider giving the gift of your time in 2025, resolving to help people in need as a volunteer in Maine — and throughout the Northern New England Region.

"Our volunteers make up 90% of our work force and are the beating heart and soul of the Red Cross," said Stephanie Couturier, regional CEO, Red Cross of Northern New England. "Their support is immeasurable. Their precious gift of time

builds our capacity to help people in what can be their darkest days."

Depending on your interests, the Red Cross offers a variety of volunteer opportunities — from supporting a family after a home fire, helping a military member during an emergency, or helping us ensure blood is available for patients in need.

Disaster Action Team (DAT): Help families in your community after a home fire or other disaster. DAT team members provide emotional support,

emergency financial assistance and information to help families begin to recover.

Hero Care Case-worker: Support members of the military, their families and our veterans. Become a casework volunteer and help provide emergency communications and critical services to military families all over the world.

Blood donor ambassadors: Engage with blood donors by greeting them at blood drives, helping them register, answering ques-

tions, providing information and assisting them at the refreshments table.

Blood transportation specialists: Volunteer transportation specialists support hospital patients by delivering blood from our facilities to local hospitals. If you have a little free time, love driving and enjoy meeting new people, the Red Cross has a great volunteer spot waiting for you.

In 2024, 600 Red Cross volunteers in Maine logged nearly 42,000 hours supporting the region's hu-

manitarian needs.

"Red Crossers aren't volunteering for a paycheck. We give our time because we are passionate about the mission," said Maryellen Tarling, a Red Cross volunteer from Cape Elizabeth, Maine.

Tarling joined the Red Cross more than three years ago after searching for a way to make a positive impact in her community. She currently serves on the Southern Maine Disaster Action Team, responding to and helping Mainers recover from

home fires and other disasters. She also leads the region's preparedness team.

"You often see people at their worst, but as a Red Cross volunteer you can take comfort knowing, that through your role, you will be providing hope when people need it most. It's a rewarding experience and I highly recommend it."

The need to help has never been greater. Join us to provide relief and hope when it matters most. Visit redcross.org/Volunteer-NNE and get started today.

SAPARS, community partners host film on sex trafficking

AUBURN, ME -- Join Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Services, along with several community partners, Thursday, January 30th from 5-7pm at the Auburn

Public Library for a special screening of *Sexploitation* and an engaging discussion to follow.

Sex trafficking is here. It's happening in Maine. In this special film, you'll

meet 4 brave Mainers who not only survived their experiences with sex trafficking, but have thrived in the aftermath, choosing to now serve others with similar experiences.

Caring for your needs since 1970
Finley Funeral Home
 15 Church Street, Livermore Falls, ME 04254
 (207) 897-3588

Bragdon-Finley Funeral Home
 707 Main Street Monmouth, ME 04249
 (207) 933-4444
www.finleyfuneralhome.com
 Member of International Order of the Golden Rule
 The Maine Funeral Directors Association • The National Funeral Directors Association

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

Introducing the INOGEN ONE It's oxygen therapy on your terms



No more tanks to refill. No more deliveries. No more hassles with travel. The INOGEN ONE portable oxygen concentrator is designed to provide unparalleled freedom for oxygen therapy users. It's small, lightweight, clinically proven for stationary and portable use, during the day and at night, and can **go virtually anywhere — even on most airlines.** Inogen accepts Medicare and many private insurances!

Reclaim Your Freedom And Independence NOW!



Call Inogen Today To Request Your FREE Info Kit 



1-877-402-1909



OSJL donates essential supplies to those impacted by wildfires

NORTH KINGSTOWN, RI — Ocean State Job Lot (OSJL), the region's premier discount retail chain headquartered in Rhode Island with 159 stores throughout New England, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania, this week began its efforts to transport essential supplies to communities in California severely impacted by wildfires. OSJL has partnered once again with its generous customers and the United Cajun Navy, which is coordinating logistics to get shipments to the most impacted areas.

Last week, OSJL began its donation efforts which included providing more than 20 tons (40,000 pounds) of water, clothing (adults and children), non-perishable food, cleaning and sanitization supplies, and pet food and supplies.

"The total devastation we are seeing from the wildfires in California is heartbreaking and hard to comprehend," said David Sarlitto, Executive Director, Ocean State Job Lot Charitable Foundation. "Partnering with the United Cajun Navy, we were able to quickly mobilize our donation effort, and with the help of our generous and loyal customers, we will continue to provide additional necessities to help those who have lost so much."

All donated supplies are purchased at cost, in part through donations made by customers at each OSJL store to the 501(c)(3) Ocean State Job Lot Charitable Foundation to support the relief efforts. Monetary donations are being accepted in-store and online at: <https://www.oceanstatejoblot.com/osjl-charitable-foundation>.



Photos courtesy of the United Cajun Navy.

AARP MAINE opens Community Challenge Grant application

PORTLAND, ME —AARP Maine invites local eligible non-profit organizations and governments across the country to apply for the 2025

AARP Community Challenge grant program, now through March 5, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern. AARP Community Challenge grants fund quick-action

projects that help communities become more livable by improving public places, transportation, housing, digital connections, and more. Now in its ninth year, the program is part of AARP's nationwide Livable Communities initiative, which supports the efforts of cities, towns, neighborhoods and rural areas to become great places to live for all residents, especially those age 50 and older.

"The Community Challenge is a critical part of how AARP Maine works with local residents, advocates, and policymakers to make our communities better places to live and thrive for people of all ages," said Noël Bonam, AARP Maine State Director. "The Community Challenge grant program has proven that quick-action projects can lead to long-term change, especially for Mainers 50-plus."

This year, the AARP

Community Challenge is accepting applications across three different grant opportunities. All projects must be consistent with AARP's mission to serve the needs of people 50 and older along with other eligibility criteria.

Capacity-building microgrants are paired with additional resources, such as one-on-one coaching from national nonprofit organizations, webinars, cohort learning opportunities and more for improving walkability, bikeability; implementing safe, accessible home modifications; and disaster preparedness training.

Demonstration grants fund projects that encourage replication of exemplary local efforts. This year's focus is on improving pedestrian safety with funding support from Toyota Motor North America; expanding high-speed internet access and adoption with funding support from Microsoft; reconnecting communities divided by infrastructure; and implementing housing choice design competitions.

Flagship grants sup-

port projects that improve public places; transportation; housing; digital connections; and community resilience.

"AARP is committed to creating communities where people of all ages and abilities can thrive," said Nancy LeMond, AARP Executive Vice President and Chief Advocacy & Engagement Officer. "The Community Challenge helps cities, towns and counties get things started with small improvements that can kick-start meaningful changes that improve people's lives and strengthens the places they call home."

Since 2017, AARP has invested \$20.1 million toward 1,700 projects – including 70 in Maine – nonprofit organizations, and government entities across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands through the Community Challenge. The program aims to provide support to all community types, including rural, suburban and urban communities with a special focus on the needs of

those 50 and older.

AARP Maine works in collaboration with communities across the state, bringing people together, and providing resources and expertise to help make Maine's counties, towns and cities great places to live for people of all ages. In Maine, projects have included disaster preparedness initiatives, transportation improvements, community park and open space enhancements, and much more.

The Community Challenge is open to eligible 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(6) nonprofit organizations and government entities. Other types of organizations are considered on a case-by-case basis. Grants can range from several hundred dollars for small, short-term activities to tens of thousands for larger projects.

The application deadline is 5:00 p.m. Eastern, March 5, 2025. All projects must be completed by December 15, 2025. To submit an application and view past grantees, visit www.AARP.org/CommunityChallenge.

Jason Hodsdon Masonry

We install stainless steel liners

215-3557
North Monmouth
Jasonhodsdonmasonry@gmail.com

THE L-A VETERANS COUNCIL WANTS YOU TO KNOW THAT IT IS NOT TO LATE TO HAVE YOUR LOVED ONES NAME ON THE NEXT STONE IN THE VETERANS PARK. NOVEMBER 2024
CALL JERRY DEWITT (207)-576-0376 TODAY, DON'T MISS IT, CALL TODAY. COST IS \$40.00. HONOR THOSE THAT HAVE SERVED.

L-A VETERANS COUNCIL

Jay's
Lawn & Garden

207-713-6090
Delivery Available

- MULCH
- LOAM
- COMPOST
- GRAVEL
- STONE
- SAND

1294 Sabattus Street
Lewiston

Loading Hours:
M-Th by appointment
Fri - 8 am to 5 pm
Sat - 8 am to 2 pm
Sun - 8 am to Noon

Also offering residential & commercial lawn mowing services

FARRIS
Lawn Care
L.L.C.

207-344-5212

- Landscaping
- Hardscape
- Drainage Installs
- Retaining Walls
- Mowing
- Snow Plowing
- and more!

207-344-5212

Business Directory

ACCOUNTANT



AUSTIN ASSOCIATES
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Auburn 207-783-9111 Norway 207-743-7777
AustinPA.com

Your Financial Team

FLOWER SHOPPE



Sweet Pea Designs
FLOWER SHOPPE

777-1520

www.sweetpeafloraldesignsme.com

FREE DELIVERY L/A

PHOTOGRAPHY



PortraitEfx of Maine
Bell Studios, Inc.

Executive Portraits • Business photographs • Videos

Gray, ME (207) 657-6372
maine@portraitefx.com
www.maine.portraitefx.com

AUTO CARE

The Only Full-Service Gas Station in Auburn!

Poisson & Sons
Auto Care Center, Inc.

Computer Diagnostics • Yokohama Tires
Repairs • Alignments • Inspection Station
Gas • Clear K1 • Tune-ups • Brakes • Batteries

Dan & Don Poisson
dfpoisson@aol.com

260 S. Main St., Auburn • 782-9144

MASONRY



Jason Hodsdon
JasonHodsdonMasonry@gmail.com

Masonry • Culture Stones
Chimneys • Chimney Cleaning
Repointing & Repairs
Restoration
Stainless Steel Liners

Fully Insured
Free Estimates
20+ Years of Experience

North Monmouth
(207) 215-3557

PRINTING



EVERGREEN
CUSTOM PRINTING, INC.

2 Great Falls Plaza, Suite 1B
Auburn ME 04210
info@evergreencustomprinting.com

RICK OSGOOD
owner
207-782-0525
phone

Full Service Commercial Printer
Color & B/W Printing & Copying
Large Format • Posters
Booklets • Carbonless Forms
Letterheads • Envelopes
Business Cards • Labels • Tags
Design Service • and More!

SPACE AVAILABLE

Your ad
HERE!

Call 795-5017

MARINE SERVICES

BOAT REPAIR SHOP

PONTES
Marine Service

Power by **MERCURY** MerCruiser
OMC **VOLVO PENTA** **Perkins** **YANMAR** Velvet Drive

237 Lewiston Road • Topsham, ME 04086 • (207) 725-5997
www.pontesmarine.com

SELF STORAGE



AUBURN SELF STORAGE, LLC

23 Goldthwaite Rd.
Auburn, ME 04210

PO Box 715
Lewiston, ME 04243

PHONE 376-3325

CHIROPRACTOR

Family Chiropractic Center

Experience Life

1485 Lisbon Street, Lewiston
207.783.0078
www.familychiro.me

PAINTING

Interiors • Exteriors
Free Estimates

Drywall Repair
Pressure Washing

W.J. Libby
Painting Co.

WADE J. LIBBY
WJLibbyPainting@gmail.com CELL: 207.210.0605

SHIPPING



GOIN' POSTAL
Your Friendly Neighborhood Shipping Center

- Shipping
- Packing
- Receiving
- Copies
- Fax Service
- Mailbox Rentals
- Mail Order Fulfillment

Bring in this ad for 10% off UPS or FedEx Shipping!

UPS **UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE** **FedEx** **DHL**

9 N. River Road in Auburn ~ www.AuburnGoInPostal.com ~ 784-9900

CONTRACTORS

Fully Insured • 5 Year Workmanship Warranty

AMERICAN BUILDERS
Custom Building & Remodeling

Call 207-500-8100
For FREE Estimates

Call Tyler 500-8100
Finish Carpenter

Quality Work with References Available

PHOTOGRAPHY



Laura Elaines
PHOTOGRAPHY

www.facebook.com/LauraElainesPhotography
LauraElainesPhotography@gmail.com
(207) 212-5993

WEB HOSTING



Web Hosting
Web Design
Web Promotion
One Stop
207-442-9006

MAINE HOSTING SOLUTIONS

CONTACT US TODAY FOR POSSIBLE OPENINGS FOR YOUR AD IN OUR BUSINESS DIRECTORY!

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

Wednesdays

GORHAM – Story Hour every Wednesday from 10:30 to 11:30 at North Gorham Public Library.

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.

Jan 30-Feb 2

HERMON -- Celebrity Egg Riders are revved up for the 52nd annual Dysart's Snowmobile Ride-in Weekend to benefit Pine Tree Camp.

Thursday, January 30: Live WABI-TV5 Telethon and Dysart's Spaghetti Dinner, 4:00pm at Dysart's Restaurant & Truck Stop, 530 Coldbrook Road, Hermon

Friday, January 31: Live and Silent Auction - Hosted by Maine Cabin Masters Jedi and Dixie, 6:00pm at Morgan Hill Event Center, 82 Morgan Hill Lane, Hermon

Saturday, February 1: Celebrity Egg Ride and Poker Run, 9:30am at Dysart's Restaurant & Truck Stop, 530 Coldbrook Road, Hermon

Sunday, February 2: Penobscot Snowmobile Club Radar Run, Noon at the Penobscot Snowmobile Club, 795 Bog Road, Hermon

Feb 3

AUBURN -- On February 3rd from 4-6 at the Auburn Public Library, the Stanton Bird Club will be hosting the third in its 2024-25 lecture series presenting "Birding in the Falkland Islands" with Loring (Danny) Danforth, PhD.

Feb 13

AUBURN -- BOOK DISCUSSION -- DEMOCRACY AWAKENING: NOTES ON THE STATE OF AMERICA by Heather Cox Richardson. Thursday, February 13, 2025 - 4:00-5:00 p.m., Auburn Public Library

Feb 14

LEWISTON -- At 10am the Lewiston Public Library Children's Department will be offering a Valentine's Day Keepsake program. Caregivers and their young children will be able to make a collaborative family handprint keepsake on canvas for Valentine's Day. All family members can participate in this program.

Free. No registration required. Recommended families and their young children ages birth-6 years old. Older siblings are also welcome to attend and participate.

Feb 15

WESTBROOK -- The Chinese and American Friendship Association of Maine (CAFAM) will ring in the Year of the Snake, Saturday, February 15, 2025, at the Westbrook Performing Arts Center, 471 Stroudwater Road, Westbrook, ME

Feb 18, Mar 18, Apr 15

TURNER -- Music for Mavis" hosts 2025 Cabin Fever Concerts at 98 MATHEWS WAY, OFF RT. 117 TURNER CENTER. 6:00-7:30 PM. Leave the winter blues behind and enjoy music

with your fellow music lovers, right beside the gazebo, downstairs in the TPLibrary Building. The music is as follows:

February 18: Stan Keech & friends, Bluegrass/folk

March 18: Robbie Coffin, Maggie, & Dave Rockin' Rock & Roll

April 15: Jim Galant and Billy Belskis, Instrumentals/blues/Celtic/a mix

Feb 19

LEWISTON -- Let's Grow Crystals at 11am, Lewiston Public Library Children's Department. Children will be provided with materials to grow tetragonal crystals by creating a solution with water and a package of monoammonium phosphate and powdered pigments.

Because the crystals take many days to grow, the crystal solutions will be kept in the display case so patrons can see their growth. After 2 weeks or so the finished crystals will be removed from their solution. The crystals will be kept in the display case on a lighted stand. Participants may also take the crystals home at that time.

Free. No registration required but supplies are limited. Recommended kids 8-12 years old. The Lewiston Public Library is located downtown at 200 Lisbon Street at the corner of Pine Street.

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>

Apr 12

BRUNSWICK -- The 2024-25 UUCB Concerts

FLAGSHIP CINEMAS
Premium

Premium entertainment at affordable prices!

VISIT ONE OF OUR FIVE MAINE LOCATIONS!

AUBURN | FALMOUTH | WELLS | WATERVILLE | THOMASTON

WWW.FLAGSHIPCINEMAS.COM

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/>.

Guy Davis - Sat, April 12, 2025 at 7:30 pm. Doors open 7:00 pm.

Guy Davis is a two-time, back-to-back Grammy nominee for Best Traditional Blues, a musician, actor, author, and songwriter. Guy uses a blend of Roots, Blues, Folk, Rock, Rap, Spoken Word, and World Music to comment on, and address, the frustrations of social injustice, touching on historical events, and common life struggles.

Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door, and \$10 for students/children. Available at the church office, Gulf of Maine Books, or at ticketstripe.com/guydavis.

Apr 26

TOPSHAM -- "All Aboard for the 2025 Great Falls Model Railroad Club Train Show! 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Mt. Ararat High School, 68 Eagles Way, Topsham, ME 04086 (Handicapped Accessible). Admission: Just \$5 per person (kids under 12 free with an adult).

Get ready to immerse yourself in the world of model railroads at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club Train Show in Topsham, ME! With over 100 tables featuring new and used trains, tracks, buildings, books, and more, you'll find something for every enthusiast. From N to HO, S, O, and G scales, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

May 17

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/>.

House of Hamill - Sat, May 17, 2025 at 7:30 pm. Doors open 7:00 pm.

The upcycled Celtic folk trio, House of Hamill, features Brian Buchanan and Rose Baldino of the Celtic folk-rock band Enter the Haggis. They are both accomplished traditional fiddle players and classical violinists, with over 25 years of writing and performance experience between them. They write unusual new fiddle tunes and exciting, unpredictable original songs while breathing new life into traditional and contemporary songs. A third full-time member, Caroline Browning, recently joined the duo, playing bass, mandolin, and vocals. Their music occupies a space between traditional Irish and sophisticated indie folk.

Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door, and \$10 for students/children. Available at the church office, Gulf of Maine Books, or online at ticketstripe.com/house.

Creates

Continued from page 9

the state of Maine. She was chair of KV Connect in 2022 and was named Emerging Leader of the Year by Central Maine Growth Council in 2021.

"We are delighted to welcome Hannah and Katie to the board in 2025," Haines said. "They are both active and engaged community members who bring with them valuable experience in public education and financial management that will help Waterville Creates to achieve its strategic goals."

Best Source for Arts, Music and Theater!

Your Hometown Paper.



Finding meaningful work that's flexible and close to home

Direct Support workers help Mainers stay connected to their communities

From her earliest memories, Kathleen's mother, Alice, has been independent. Having raised four children largely on her own, Alice worked until she was 85 and is a fixture in their island community.

But as Alice aged, her vision began to deteriorate. She wanted to continue living independently in the home and community she loved, but she and her kids knew that she needed a helping hand to remain safe and happy.

For the family, that helping hand came from Jim, a Direct Support worker, who lives nearby, and now visits Alice for a few hours, several days a week. He supports her with a variety of household tasks, including shopping and preparing meals. Often, the most valuable support is the conversation and camaraderie he provides.

"Jim is my godsend," Alice said. "I look forward to him every single week."

Jim is part of the growing field of Direct Support, ensuring that Mainers with age-related, physical, behavioral, intellectual and cognitive health needs have the support they need to stay safe, independent and empowered to achieve their personal goals.

For Jim, this is the ideal encore career. At 65, he retired from his full-time job; but after two years, he began to feel restless.

"If you have too much time you can overthink things and feel like you're missing out on something," he said. "But when you're helping somebody, it feels like you're in exactly the right spot. And that's such a good feeling."

For Dakota, 24, the steady presence of a Personal Support Specialist, Sonya, has made all the difference in the world. Dakota, who lives with intellectual and developmental disabilities, says that Sonya's support has allowed him to gain the independence and a sense of connection to the community that he didn't have before. In addition to assisting with activities of daily living, her support allows him to go to the movies, go to bookstores and do many other activities he loves.

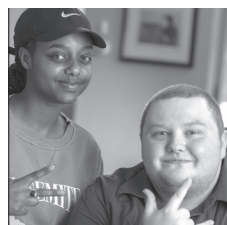
"It makes me feel so happy to be a part of society," he said. "With her support, I really feel like I've been able to flourish."

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.



Careers with Purpose
Connecting lives, advancing community

"It makes me feel so happy to be a part of society,"



Connections & Confections



Confectionary Connections:
A Progressive Tour
February 6, 13 or 20 | 2 p.m.

Connect with the **HEART** of our community as you journey through each space and meet our cherished residents and dedicated team members. Celebrate the sweetness of life on this unforgettable tour of indulgence and camaraderie.

We look forward to sharing these rich moments with you.

Choose your date and RSVP today at slheartfelttour.com or call 207-746-0657



A HEARTFELT EXPERIENCE

When you join us for this special progressive tour, you'll discover the HEART of our community - the core values that guide our team members every day:

HOSPITALITY | EXCELLENCE | APPRECIATION | RESPECT | TEAMWORK

440 Minot Avenue | Auburn, ME 04210
Assisted Living | Memory Care
Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation



Solar Panel Installation

Harness the power of the sun with **Solar Systems of Maine**
Your trusted provider of Maine residential and commercial solar system solutions.



- Trained and certified
- Knowledgeable and thorough installers
- Locally owned and family operated
- Residential and commercial



SAVE MONEY!

Stop paying CMP for power and create your own!

(207) 600-7766

Satisfaction guaranteed