

Maine’s Got Talent Winner has story to tell

LEWISTON, ME — From Lewiston, in early March 2017, like the flip of a switch, something was horribly wrong with Amy Stacey Curtis’ brain. Her brain would be deluged with horrific, repetitive, vivid, moving images that would play nonstop, 24 hours a day, for 22 months. Six months into this psychosis Amy lost all control of the muscles in her body including the muscles in her face. Limbs and head in constant motion, she lost her ability to speak, stricken with a severe palsy and sometimes complete non-verbalism.

After 15 months of schizophrenia-diagnosing doctors, two psychiatric



wards, and eight antipsychotic drugs, it was finally determined by a naturopath that Amy had had Lyme disease some time in her past and that it had attacked and severely injured my brain. By then it was too late to treat the Lyme disease; it was all about strengthening Amy’s brain and trying to reclaim her abilities.

After 22 months,

Amy’s psychosis was slowed with 16 treatments of electroconvulsive therapy. But it would take two more years for the images to completely stop. Meanwhile, Amy met a local occupational therapist with whom she figured out muscle control fixes through trial and error. After six years of progressing from psychosis and wheelchair, to walker, to cane, back to her feet, Amy was still struggling with her speech when she intuited that playing an instrument could help, doing multiple things at the same time as a regular practice.

Within a week of playing the ukulele Amy

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Lewiston High School cheering champions visit State House

AUGUSTA, ME — On April 29, Sen. Peggy Rotundo, D-Lewiston, hosted the Lewiston High School Cheering Team, who earlier this year won the Class A Cheering State Championship.

“It was wonderful to have the Blue Devils Cheering Team here at the State House for recognition of their hard-won achievement,” said Sen. Rotundo. “LHS’s cheering program is a great source of pride for the school and the community as a whole. They routinely turn out championship-winning teams in a division with some of the toughest competition in the state. This is their third Class A State Title in four years, and I’m confident they will be back at the State House next year receiving



Sen. Peggy Rotundo, D-Lewiston (center right) and Rep. Kristen Cloutier, D-Lewiston (right) with the Lewiston High School Cheering Team and their coach, Matt Hanley (left).

additional praise for bringing home another State Title.”

The Lewiston Blue Devils Cheering Team won their ninth Class A State Title in 15 years in February of this year. Lewiston’s coach, Matt Hanley, has been with the team since the 2019-2020

season, and has nearly 20 years of experience coaching the sport at different levels. The team will see three seniors graduate after this year — Phoenix Beaulieu, Fiona Hutchinson and Aubrey Wood — but will keep 10 of their current 13 members.

“Mainely History” podcast live show at APL



AUBURN, ME — The Auburn Public Library is hosting a live show of the “Mainely History” podcast on Thursday, May 29, 2025 from 4 to 5:30 PM.

Cohosts Ian Saxine and Tiffany Link will discuss the Wabanaki history of the Pejepscot Portage, extending back thousands

of years and into the present day, with Historian Joseph Hall (Bates College). They’ll examine what different sources can tell us about the Wabanaki past, and what a history of the Androscoggin River region that takes the role of Indigenous people seriously looks like.

Mainely History is a podcast featuring unscripted conversations with writers, curators, and other knowledgeable guests that connects colorful local stories to big ideas.

Tiffany Link is the Collections Curator at the Maine Historical Society in Portland. Ian Saxine is Assistant Professor of History at Bridgewater State University. Their guest, Joseph Hall, is Associate Professor of History at Bates College specializing in colonial and Native American history, and currently a historian for the Pejepscot Portage Mapping Project.

This program is paid for by proceeds from the Lisa Giguere & Ralph Tuttle Endowment Fund. This program will take place in the Androscoggin Community Room at the Auburn Public Library.

For more information about this and other programs offered at the Auburn Public Library, visit their website at www.auburnpubliclibrary.org or call the Reference Desk at 207-333-6640, ext. 4.

Good Shepherd: Strengthen food security, support Maine farms



AUBURN, ME — With hunger on the rise and Maine’s agricultural sector facing growing economic pressures, Good Shepherd Food Bank is urging lawmakers to support LD 415—legislation that would invest \$2 million in Mainers Feeding Mainers, the state’s 15-year-old, nationally recognized farm-to-food-bank initiative that connects local farms to hunger-relief partners across the state.

At a press conference held Tuesday in the Hall of Flags at the Maine State House, advocates, lawmakers, and farmers gathered to highlight how LD 415 would strengthen food security and bolster local farm economies across every county in Maine.

“For 15 years, Mainers Feeding Mainers has proven that we can address hunger while directly supporting our state’s farmers,” said Heather Paquette, President of Good Shepherd Food Bank. “This program delivers high-quality, local food to people who need it, while building a more resilient and sustainable agricultural economy. It’s not just about feeding people—it’s about investing in Maine.”

Since its founding, Mainers Feeding Mainers has purchased and distributed more than 28 million pounds of food, all sourced from local farms and food producers. Much of this food is delivered directly from farms to local food pantries, reducing transportation costs and environmental impact while strengthening community connections. Many of the program’s partner farms, particularly in rural areas, rely on these contracts for financial stability and local job creation.

The program currently partners with over 90 farms in every county in the state. Ensuring that

nearly every legislative district benefits from either improved food access or stronger farm economies, or both.

“As the federal government slashes programs that provide food assistance for Maine families, this bill would foster resiliency and enhance food security by sourcing fresh, locally-produced food for low-income Mainers,” said bill sponsor, Representative Annie Graham. “If funded, it would support a partnership between our state’s agricultural and fishing industries and local nonprofits, allowing us to better ensure that vulnerable members of our communities have access to healthy, nutritious food.”

Good Shepherd Food Bank and its partners are urging legislators to pass LD 415 without delay to ensure Mainers continue to benefit from this successful and sustainable solution.

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

Newsmakers, Names & Faces

AARP News You Can Use – May 2025

First annual Lilac Festival at Viles Arboretum

By Joyce Bucciantini, AARP Maine Community Outreach Volunteer

Recently, I told a friend that I had a birthday coming up. It is a big one, the big seven zero. My friend quickly replied that I didn't look seventy at all. Which was nice, but it made me wonder what, exactly, seventy should look like? Is seventy the new sixty? Probably not, but it begs the question: what does aging look like in our modern society?

Gone are the days of retiring to your rocking chair on the front porch. Many Mainers continue to work well past the Social Security retirement age of 67. Maine's retirees and other older citizens are often active in many different ways in their communities as volunteers, advocates and as caregivers for family members.

Like every other stage in life, the current Baby Boomers are pushing out old stereotypes of aging and generating new ideas of what aging means. According to AARP's Aging Well in America: AARP's Vision for a National Plan on Aging report, one in five Americans will be over 65 by 2030. How we age as a generation will depend upon how communities address challenges of modern aging: healthy living and



access to quality health care always come to mind. However, in addition, we need to examine financial health (in terms of earning, saving, and preserving financial sources as we age), supporting family caregivers, and creating age-friendly communities that will enable people to age in place.

If asked, most older Mainers would prefer to "age-in-place" close to family and friends. Maine has almost 100 designated age-friendly towns where groups work within each community and help people of all ages stay in their own homes and communities where we know they prefer to be.

Debra Whitman, Ph.D., AARP's Chief Policy Officer and author of the new book, The Second Fifty: Answers to the 7 Big Questions in Mid-life and Beyond will be the keynote speaker at the upcoming

Maine Geriatric Conference sponsored by the University of New England on May 21-22. Whitman will discuss how we view aging and the types of changes communities might consider to help all of us move through the second half of our lives.

It is hard for me to reconcile the idea of geriatrics with my upcoming birthday age. I don't feel geriatric, but perhaps this is how I should feel at my age contrary to stereotypes. I do believe that as the large and loud boomer generation moves into their 70s and beyond, we will drive the conversation of what aging, and aging well, looks like.

Let's talk! As always, you can find friendly people at the AARP coffees and other events near you.

Joyce Bucciantini is a retired middle school educator. She currently coordinates Delta Kappa Gamma's Read to Me program, is a tutor with Literacy Volunteers-Androscoggin, and is an active AARP Maine volunteer. She enjoys her gardens, being outdoors and traveling.

Please use the QR Code or web address to find more information about AARP Maine and events near you:

aarp.org/me · me@
aarp.org · @aarpmaine ·
866-554-5380.

AUGUSTA, ME — Viles Arboretum invites the public to celebrate spring in full bloom at the first annual Lilac Festival, taking place on Saturday, May 24, 2025, from 10:00am to 3:00pm. This free, family-friendly event is open to all!

Evolving from the Arboretum's longtime spring plant sale, the new Lilac Festival will feature a Makers Market showcasing local artisans, a wide variety of lilacs for sale from Christine's Lilacs (Winthrop, ME), educational stations on managing invasive plants and container gardening, a community art project, a bounce house, and other fun activities.

The festival also includes the annual American



Chestnut Seedling sale, a joint conservation fundraiser with the Maine Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation. Pre-orders are now open and will be ready for pick-up at the event.

Come hungry - local food trucks 207 Foodies, Of Maine Origin, Shake-down Treats & Sweets, and Smokin Pig BBQ will be serving up delicious food

throughout the day.

Admission is free thanks to the generous support of Kennebec Savings Bank, G&E Roofing, and MaineShare.

The event will be held rain or shine. For more information or to pre-order chestnut seedlings, visit www.vilesarboretum.org or follow us on social media.

Bill to allow information sharing between law enforcement, schools

AUGUSTA, ME — The Maine Legislature enacted a bill from Sen. Peggy Rotundo, D-Lewiston, that would allow law enforcement officers and criminal justice agencies to share information with school officials about minors possessing a firearm or other dangerous weapons. The bill, LD 386, "An Act Regarding Information That May Be Shared by Law Enforcement Entities with a School Superintendent or a Principal," aims to increase safety in Maine school systems and communities.

"This legislation will provide an additional, crucial avenue of communication between our schools and our communities," said Sen. Rotundo. "The language in this bill allows police officers, sheriffs and other law enforcement entities to contact school officials if they acquire information that indicates a student has a firearm or other potentially dangerous weapons. This increases the safety of Maine's schools, our students, teachers and our communities at large."

LD 386 will clear any legal obstacles in existing

statute that create uncertainty around the legality of local law enforcement agencies contacting school officials with information pertaining to juveniles who are in possession of a firearm or other potentially lethal or dangerous weapon.

This bill was the result of discussions between the Lewiston Legislative Delegation and the Lewiston Chief of Police, the District Attorney and other members of law enforcement last fall about ways the State could help promote public safety in Maine communities.

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

DaPonte String Quartet June concerts

MAINE — The DaPonte String Quartet and Pianist Christopher O'Riley are set to perform piano quintets by Schumann and

Korngold: Sunday June 1 @ 3:00 pm, First Church of Christ Congregational, 2521 White Mountain

Hwy, North Conway, NH Wednesday June 4 @ 7:00 pm, Hammer Hall, 5 Mountain St., Camden, ME

Friday June 6 @ 7:00 pm, St. Paul's Union Chapel, 1965 Dutch Neck Rd., Waldoboro, ME

Saturday June 7 @ 4:00 pm, Minsky Recital Hall, Collins Center for the Arts, UMO, 2 Flagstaff Rd., Orono, ME

Gala Concert at Studzinski

Sunday June 8 @ 4:00 pm, Studzinski Hall, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME

This gala celebration marks our 34th anniversary and the launch of our 3rd annual, international DSQ Institute for advanced quartet studies.

For information about the DSQ and tickets go to dapontequartet.org

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Letter to the Editor: Reminders for voting

In my job as the Androscoggin County Republican Committee chair, I'm constantly talking to people about doing their civic duty and voting. I focus on why I think Republicans offer the best solutions to Maine's problems after decades of Democrats running the show.

But today, I'm writing to remind folks of a couple important points that I frequently hear confusion about.

First, please remember to register to vote. We all have busy lives, and sometimes we forget to do things like that. Obviously I would suggest that you register as a Republican!

Regardless, Maine needs to hear your voice at the ballot box, so please register to vote.

Another point of confusion: Maine now has "semi-open" primaries, so registered independents can vote in one party's primary. However, registering as a Republican and voting in our primaries would

be your best option in my opinion!

Politics is frustrating, and decades of near-one party rule in Maine have really turned off a lot of people. But the only way to fix the state is for more people to get involved and vote.

It's worth your effort and time -- otherwise look what you get stuck with!

Debbie Coffin
Livermore Falls

We want to hear from you!

Please submit your letter to the editor by 5pm on Friday for next weeks edition.

Email: editor@twincitytimes.com

Rinck adds creative firepower with new social media hire

LEWISTON, ME — Rinck Advertising is excited to welcome Grace Jones to the agency's content department as Social Media Manager. In this role, Jones will be responsible for a wide variety of digital activities including image and video creation, content writing, ad development, blogging, and community management—bringing strategy and execution together to fuel client growth across platforms. As part of Rinck's content team, she'll help coach clients and staff on how to meaningfully participate in the digital conversation, build stronger brand relationships, and drive performance in a fast-moving, always-on media landscape.

Social media continues to expand its influence - shaping culture, sparking movements, influencing consumer behavior, and re-defining how brands build and engage with communities. At Rinck, we understand that with great digital reach comes great responsibility. That's why we're committed to building a content team that doesn't just chase trends, but instead uses them with intention, integrity, and creativity.



Grace Jones brings exactly that balance: a thoughtful, strategic approach paired with a deep understanding of platform behavior, digital culture, and brand voice.

Based in Chicago, Jones will help power content for a range of national and regional clients - crafting stories that are relevant, strategic, and uniquely brand-aligned. In her past position as Social Media Designer at Pathfinders Advertising, she led creative development across platforms and helped brands cut through the noise with meaningful, visual-first messaging. Jones holds a degree in Public Relations,

Advertising, and Applied Communication from the University of Alabama.

"Grace is exactly the kind of creator who thrives in today's social space - thoughtful, visually driven, and always tapped into culture," said Sarah Bird, Associate Creative Director, Content, Culture & Innovation at Rinck. "She brings a bold point of view, and we're so excited to see how she helps shape the work ahead."

Her addition strengthens Rinck's mission to meet clients where their audiences live: on the screen, in the scroll, and at the speed of culture.

Talent
Continued from page 1

was capable again of normal speech except in environments where her brain is over-stimulated. For the past two and a half years, Amy has been learning five cover songs a week, a self-prescribed occupational therapy that has steadily improved her speech even when palsied. Amy has played over 500 songs, singing in Lewiston most Mondays at Fast Breaks'

open mic and many Tuesday open mics at the The Cage. She also shares her story and singing on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok (all @AmyStaceyCurtis), where one of her ukulele videos has over 600K views.

Amy recently won Maine's Got Talent, one of eight finalists performing at the Franco Center May 3rd, an event which raised \$60,000 for Andwell Partners' Pedi-

atric Services including speech therapy for kids. She is looking forward to more opportunities to share her story and play her ukulele, to raise awareness about the bigger effects of Lyme disease. She is also actively looking for an agent for her memoir Hero In My Head: How My Brain Saved My Life (Twice).

Yard sale coming to Nathaniel Hawthorne's Boyhood Home

RAYMOND, ME — A yard sale fundraiser will be held at Nathaniel Hawthorne's Boyhood Home in Raymond, Maine, 40 Hawthorne Road, on Saturday, May 24, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Among the great items for sale will be furniture, household goods, tools, sporting equipment, clothing, games, and books. Everyone wishing to browse the yard sale and mingle with friends and neighbors at the boyhood home of the word-famous author is cordially invited to attend.

How to Donate to Nathaniel Hawthorne's Boyhood Home

Those who would like



Image courtesy of the Hawthorne Community Association.

to donate to the ongoing preservation of Nathaniel Hawthorne's Boyhood Home—which now serves as a cultural/arts community center in the Sebago Lake area—may do so by sending a much-appreciated check payable to "Hawthorne Community Association" to: Hawthorne Community Association / PO Box 185 / South Casco, ME 04077. Donations may be made online at: <https://www.hawthorneassoc.com>.

For more information, please contact Sylvia Sullivan at rsssm@maine.rr.com.

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Seniors Not Acting Their Age A Day of Adversity on Mopang Stream

Although Mopang Stream in Washington County is a significant tributary of the Machias River, it's rarely paddled. Limited road access, obtaining a reliable description, and determining an adequate water level make planning a trip complex. Another complication: since it enters the Machias River some distance from dependable road access, an overnight trip is necessary.

This spring, I decided to incorporate Mopang Stream into a multi-day trip that included two days on the Machias River. Two of my regular river tripping companions, Ken Gordon and Eggman DeCoster, also wanted to explore the elusive stream.

Ascertaining the necessary water level was my first consideration. There is no online gauge for Mopang Stream (or the Machias River) but I concluded the gauge for Old Stream, another Machias River tributary with a similar-sized watershed, would be a good indicator. I've been using the Old Stream gauge for years as a guide for Machias River levels and deduced that a flow of at least 70 cubic feet per second (CFS) was necessary for Mopang to be passable.



Eggman DeCoster begins a challenging descent of Penman Rips

A quality weather forecast was also needed. We identified an excellent late-April three-day forecast and the Old Stream gauge was 110 but dropping.

The Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) Maine River Guide states the distance from Route 9 to the Machias River near Wigwam Rapids is 23.75 miles. Based on our calculations, using the Delorme Atlas, we concluded the actual mileage for the winding stream was only about 15 miles.

We made a reserva-

tion to stay at a Downeast Salmon Federation cabin at the Wigwams on the first night of our trip. Given the estimated distance, that goal appeared easily attainable.

Three of us met at the Mopang Stream landing on Route 9 a few miles east of Beddington on a warm, sunny morning. The Old Stream gauge read 73. Seemingly, all of the required elements were in place.

The water level seemed adequate when we launched two expedition kayaks and a canoe

in quick water on the narrow stream. Numerous blowdowns were an early impediment that required careful negotiation and slowed our progress.

Initially, rapids were short and steep but too shallow for fluid descents in our heavily loaded boats. Instead, we maneuvered down narrow, congested channels. Although passable, more water would have been an improvement.

Signs of beaver activity were abundant throughout the trip. At one location, we plunged over a vertical four-foot beaver dam. Following our maps as we traveled downstream, progress was slower than anticipated.

The rapids lengthened and blowdowns continued to the first of several pipelines that mysteriously cross the stream. Some were submerged while others interfered with navigation. At one point, we passed under a bridge with an attached pipeline on what we surmised was Shadagee Road.

Below, we entered an extended circuitous stretch of flat water. We weaved for several miles through a swampy valley with



Ken Gordon plunges over a beaver dam on Mopang Stream



Blowdowns were an impediment during much of the trip

blueberry barrens visible high above. Near the end, we passed through a large culvert under a road we couldn't identify. It was getting late.

Soon after, the gradient steepened and more rapids ensued. We began watching for Penman Rips, purportedly the most challenging falls on the stream. When rounding a sharp bend in whitewater, Eggman caught an emergency eddy and signaled to stop. He was perched at the top of a precipitous pitch and a downed tree blocked the primary channel.

We scouted the long difficult falls, which I rate Class IV, from river left. Due to the fallen tree, the only option was a series of three steep shallow slides through narrow boulder-enclosed slots followed by a rocky runout for as far as we could see. I lined my kayak along the slides while my companions successfully bounced down.

The remainder of Penman Rips required maneuvering through a continuum of boulders in narrow twisting passages that tested our skills. Subsequently, we navigated

through a few short rapids and several miles of calm water to the Machias River.

After descending through big waves in First Wigwam Rapid, we finally reached the much anticipated cabin shortly before dark. Our voyage on Mopang was a learning experience. We needed more water and the distance reported in the AMC River Guide is likely correct.

We had two more days of exciting paddling remaining on the Machias River.

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

Ron Chase resides in Topsham. His latest book, *"Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine"* is available at www.northcountrypress.com/maine-al-fresco 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 ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net

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UMaine Extension features soil health in virtual lunch and learn

MAINE — University of Maine Cooperative Extension will present a 7-part online lunch and learn series intended to help farmers take their soil health to the next level. The sessions will be held from noon–1 p.m. on Tuesdays, May 27 to July 8.

The sessions are for farmers who have experience with soil health practices and want to build on those outcomes and benefits. Topics will include crop rotation considerations, advanced cover cropping techniques, enhanced soil amendment use and reduced tillage.

May 27: Overview of cover cropping best practices

June 3: Nutrient management with cover crops

June 10: Cover cropping planning tools and resources

June 17: Nutrient considerations with compost, manure and biochar



Photo courtesy University of Maine Cooperative Extension / Edwin Remsberg.

June 24: Interseeding cover crops

July 1: Tractor scale reduced tillage approaches

July 8: Open soil health discussion and brainstorming on participant scenarios

Registration is required to receive the webinar link. Suggested registration fee of \$5 per session or \$25 for all 7 sessions. Fees are non-refundable; this may be considered on a case-by-case basis. For

more information and to register visit the Cumberland County Upcoming Events webpage.

To request a reasonable accommodation, contact Sarah Davenport, sarah.davenport@maine.edu, 207-781-6099. Receiving requests for accommodation at least seven days before the program provides a reasonable amount of time to meet the request, however, all requests will be considered.

My Place Teen Center selected by 100+ Women Who Care

MAINE — My Place Teen Center was selected by 100+ Women Who Care as the designated nonprofit recipient at the May 5th quarterly meeting at The Elks Club in Portland. My Place Teen Center (MPTC) operates in Westbrook and Biddeford as a safe haven and aims to ensure that every teen feels safe, leaves with a full belly, and is encouraged to become a thriving adult. MPTC is open year-round as an after-school program, five days a week, five hours daily and serves kids ages 10 to 18 from York and Cumberland counties. All services are free. To date, over \$15,500 has been raised with the 100+ Women member donations still coming in, with expectation to amount to over \$24,000.

The two runner-up presenters were The Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine, which provides free services in York and Cumberland Counties and Mainely Character, which awards scholarships to Maine High School seniors of exceptional character. Each of these nonprofits will receive \$1,000 from 100 Women plus an additional \$1,000 from Jackson & MacNichol Law.

Founded in November 2014, 100+ Women Who Care Southern Maine is a growing community of women who raise funds for local nonprofits. With 536 members, the group has raised over \$710,500 for a wide variety of causes, including support for veterans, teens, seniors, children with disabilities,

domestic abuse survivors, animal welfare, teens, and much 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.

The next meeting of 100+ Women Who Care Southern Maine will be held on Monday, August 4, 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.

Maine Community Foundation launches local press initiative

PORTLAND & ELLSWORTH, ME —

The Maine Community Foundation (MaineCF) today announced the launch of a new initiative to strengthen Maine communities by ensuring strong, local news coverage in all parts of the state. MaineCF applied and has been selected by the nonpartisan philanthropic initiative Press Forward to become one of 36 independent chapters nationwide.

Press Forward and Press Forward Maine share the goal of strengthening communities by reinvigorating local news. Press Forward Maine will be housed within MaineCF and led by Senior Advisor Lisa DeSisto, former CEO of Maine Today Media and the Maine Trust for Local News. The initial focus will be building a broad-based advisory panel to identify and prioritize the best ways to reimagine and expand access to local reporting.

“Our own research and the ‘Strengthening Maine’s Civic Life’ report we funded last year tell us two things,” said MaineCF CEO Deborah Ellwood. “One, most people in Maine are interested in reading and learning about their communities but, two, may encounter barriers for understanding how they can engage and participate locally. Press Forward Maine will bring people and resources together to close that gap because quality reporting means people can learn about any issue, understand how to get involved, have their voice heard and find solutions together. We are very pleased Lisa DeSisto is joining to help lead this effort as senior advisor and excited to get to work with our donors and partners.”

DeSisto, who also worked at the Boston Globe for 17 years before leading



Maine’s largest media organization through many changes over 13 years, said, “I know all too well that these are changing times in the news business. This is important work and am glad to continue as senior advisor to Press Forward Maine. We are committed to contributing to a vibrant media ecosystem by partnering with large and small news organizations. As a nonprofit community foundation with a 42-year record of working in communities across all 16 Maine counties, Maine Community Foundation is the perfect institution to convene media partners and craft new models for collaboration and innovation to better engage with Maine people.”

MaineCF’s Vice President of Philanthropy Bree Arsenault said there is interest in supporting local news infrastructure among MaineCF’s current and potential donors. “There seems to be an understanding among those looking to build a better Maine that local news and information are essential to inform and involve people in working together to find solutions. We are pleased to partner with Lisa DeSisto and work with our network of donors and partners to invest in promising solutions.”

In 2023, MaineCF embarked on a needs assessment project to help define the next phases of the foundation’s strategic work. Over a period of nine months, more than 1,500 community leaders, donors, nonprofits and stakeholders from every county



in Maine provided their insights and perspectives on the state’s challenges, needs and opportunities.

Respondents repeatedly noted the need for more information about how to get involved locally. Consistent access to news and information is central to the health of Maine communities and core to the state’s progress on its biggest challenges. These include resilience to severe weather events, the need for affordable housing and economic opportunities in all parts of Maine.

The MaineCF-funded “Strengthening Maine’s Civic Life” report by the Goldfarb Center for Public Affairs at Colby College and Public Engagement Partners highlights the state’s strengths and vulnerabilities and uncovered a high level of support for quality local news.

According to this research, Maine people rank 10th in the nation on keeping up with the news, with 74% percent of Mainers engaging in reading, watching or listening to news about political, societal or local issues, compared with the national average of 68%. Residents expressed facing barriers to civic participation, including lack of information about engagement opportunities.

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Arts & Entertainment

MSMT opens season with *Anastasia: The Musical*

BRUNSWICK, ME — Maine State Music Theatre (MSMT) is thrilled to launch its highly anticipated 2025 season with the sweeping Broadway musical *Anastasia: The Musical*, running June 4–21 at the Pickard Theater in Brunswick. A co-production with Lancaster, Pennsylvania’s renowned Fulton Theatre, *Anastasia* whisks audiences from the twilight of the Russian Empire to the dazzling lights of 1920s Paris in a grand tale of mystery, courage, and self-discovery.

Based on the beloved 1997 animated film, *Anastasia: The Musical* follows Anya, a brave young woman haunted by fragmented memories of a royal past. With the help of a dashing con artist named Dmitry and his endearing friend Vlad, she sets off on a thrilling quest to uncover the secrets of her identity—discovering love, belonging, and a place to call home along the way.

With a book by four-time Tony Award winner Terrence McNally (*Ragtime*, *Master Class*), music by Stephen Flaherty, and lyrics by Lynn Ahrens—the award-winning team behind *Ragtime* and *Once on This Island*—*Anastasia: The Musical* is a sweeping romantic epic that dazzles with soaring melodies, dynamic choreography, and richly detailed period costumes. The lush score features beloved favorites like “Journey to the Past” and “Once Upon a December.”

The production stars: Lila Coogan as Anya (Broadway: *Mary Poppins*, National Tour: *Anastasia*)

Coleman Cummings as Dmitry (National Tour: *RENT*)

Nick Gaswirth as Vlad (Broadway: *How To Dance In Ohio*, *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*)

Mary Ernster as Dowager Empress Maria (Broadway: *War Paint*)

Gregory Lee Rodriguez as Gleb (National Tour: *Les Misérables*)



Lila Coogan. Photo courtesy of MSMT/Fulton Theatre.



Gregory Lee Rodriguez. Photo courtesy of MSMT/Fulton Theatre.

Amanda Rose as Lily (Broadway: *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Wicked*)

Five local young performers will alternate the roles of the Romanov children:

Alexa Largay, Alison Largay, and Rya Redding (*Little Anastasia*)

Milo Fantigrossi, and Bentley Milliano (Alexei Romanov)

The ensemble features:

Mark Aldrich, Siera Anastasi, Rachel Alvarez-Robinson, Paul Amrani, Bailey Blaise, Greta Cardoza, Bryan Fortunato, Erin Gonzales, Tauren Hagens, Payton Hines, Matthew Irani, Andrew Love, Sabina Martin, Christopher Page-Sanders, Stephen Petrovich, Lauren Steinert, Dylan Stukenberg, Todd Turner, and Gisella Amari-sa Watts.

See *Anastasia*, page 9

Local talent takes center stage at CLT fundraiser

LEWISTON, ME — Theatergoers in the Lewiston-Auburn area have something special to look forward to this June, as the Lewiston-Auburn Community Little Theatre (LACLT) presents “Keep Singing!”, a showcase of three original short musicals written by local talents Linda Hildonen and Colby Michaud. Running from June 6th through 15th, the production doubles as a fundraiser for LACLT, Maine’s oldest continuously-operating community theater.

Both Hildonen and Michaud were raised in Androscoggin County and still call it home. Their work debuted to sold-out audiences in August 2023 at The Playhouse in Yarmouth, and now returns to the region for a heartfelt homecoming. The pair are not only the creative minds behind the music and lyrics but also serve as the producers and directors of the show. Music direction is being led by Michaud and fellow local musician John Neal.

Keep Singing! is made up of three one-act musicals, each with its own distinct voice and emo-

tional tone. The first, “It’s Complicated!”, centers on a couple’s therapy session that takes an unexpected turn when a therapist introduces a strange and “very special guitar.” The second piece, “Chasing James,” follows Brody, a coffee shop owner determined to help his best friend stop falling into the same patterns in his search for love. In this story, Michaud himself plays the role of “James,” alongside Greg Judd and Micaiah Wert. The final musical, “Home Again,” explores a young woman’s struggle with a life-altering decision involving her estranged father. The role of Sarah will be played by Amber Kachmar, with Linda Hildonen appearing as Erin and Alan McLucas as Jack.

Performances are scheduled over two weekends: Friday and Saturday evenings on June 6th, 7th, 13th, and 14th at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday matinees on June 8th and 15th at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are priced at \$25 for the general public and \$22 for students and seniors. They can be purchased online in advance or at the door, while supplies last. Due to some adult

themes and humor, the production is not recommended for audience members under the age of 16.

Linda Hildonen, who also serves on LACLT’s board of directors, emphasized the importance of community support in keeping local theater alive. “Now, more than ever, it is important for us to support our community theaters,” she said. “These are important community centers where people are respected, included, and lifted up despite their racial or financial background, gender, and sexual identity. In a time when so many things feel beyond our control, supporting LACLT is one simple act to help stand up for the humanity of our friends and neighbors.”

This unique event is made possible thanks to generous sponsorship from Andwell Health Partners, Dubois Realty Group, and Praxis Motion Pictures. With original music, heartfelt performances, and a meaningful cause, Keep Singing! promises to be a moving and memorable experience for all who attend. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.lac.lt.com.

Enter Norway Savings Bank scenic photo contest

NORWAY, ME — Have you taken a scenic photo in Maine or New Hampshire that makes you proud? Enter your photo in the Norway Savings Bank Scenic Photo Contest for a chance to win \$250 and have it included in the NSB 2026 desk calendar.

The contest, which runs through Friday, June 6, is open to all individuals 18 or older and there is no purchase necessary to enter. Each participant can submit up to four entries. You can view the official rules at NSB’s website.

All entries must be scenic photographs taken in Maine or New Hampshire and must be original work not previously pub-

lished. New Hampshire photos are eligible for the first time as Norway Savings Bank is opening its first Granite State branch in North Conway on May 19.

To enter, email your picture or pictures to photocontest@norwaysavingsbank.com and include your name, address, phone, email address, and location of the photos in the correspondence. Photos submitted should include the photographer’s last name and the location of the photo as part of the file name for each entry.

Photos will be screened by a panel of Norway Savings Bank team members, and the winning photographs will be pub-



lished in the 2026 Norway Savings Bank desk calendar as well as posted online. Selected photographers’ names will be entered into a drawing to win \$250.

For more information, please contact Nate Dubois at 207.743.3532 or ndubois@norwaysavingsbank.com.

5 tips for prioritizing mental health

By: Dr. Ana Stankovic, Chief Medical Officer, UnitedHealthcare of New England

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, which is a great time to check in with yourself, the people in your life and explore ways to prioritize emotional well-being. With one in five U.S. adults experiencing mental illness each year, taking small, intentional steps to support mental wellness may have a very meaningful impact.¹

This month, and in the months ahead, there are simple yet effective ways to focus on your mental health. Here are a handful to consider:

Stay Connected to a Strong Support System

Social support can play a critical role in mental well-being. Research shows that strong social connections are linked to lower levels of anxiety and depression.² In fact, according to UnitedHealthcare’s College Student and Graduate Behavioral Health Report, young adults are increasingly turning to their peers for emotional support more than any other outside influence.³ Whether it’s friends, family or colleagues, maintaining these connections may provide stability and encouragement during life’s ups and downs.

Build Healthy Habits Lifestyle choices

may have a significant impact on mental health. Regular physical activity, proper sleep, and balanced nutrition may help regulate mood and reduce symptoms of anxiety and depression. Studies have shown that individuals who engaged in regular exercise experience lower levels of stress and improved mental well-being.⁴ Even small changes, like a daily walk or practicing mindfulness, may make a significant difference.

Limit Online Time

Studies have shown that excessive social media use is linked to a higher risk of depression and anxiety, especially among young people.⁵ It’s important to keep in mind that a person’s social feed may not reflect their actual life story. Instead, try to embrace the difficulties of life as normal, focus on the present, and prioritize your offline relationships.

Take Advantage of Mental Health Resources

Exploring available mental health resources available through your health plan can be a great first step. For example, some insurers, such as UnitedHealthcare, offer digital self-care tools such as Calm Health, coaching, 24/7 mental health support lines for “in-the-moment” support visits, along with in-person and virtual visits, allowing individuals to

access support in a variety of ways. If you’re unsure where to start, sign in to your health plan or call the number on your insurance ID card.

Seek Professional Help When Necessary

If feelings of stress, anxiety, or depression start to feel overwhelming, reach out to your primary care physician (PCP). If you don’t have a PCP, establish a relationship with one. Your PCP will provide valuable insights and care, and referrals if needed. Getting the right support can guide you toward a more balanced and fulfilling life.

Please remember, taking care of your mental health isn’t just important this month – it may be something that benefits overall well-being year-round. Even small, consistent efforts may lead to long-term improvements in emotional resilience and quality of life.

For more mental health resources, visit [uhc.com](#).

- 1 National Alliance on Mental Illness, 2023
- 2 Public Library of Science, 2022
- 3 UnitedHealthcare’s College Student and Graduate Behavioral Health Report, 2025
- 4 Mayo Clinic, 2025
- 5 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2024.

Financial literacy training offered for new, aspiring business owners

ORONO, ME — The Maine Business School and University of Maine Cooperative Extension have joined forces to create Finances in a Flash, an innovative online training designed to enhance financial literacy among Maine’s professionals, entrepreneurs and small business owners.

This interactive, self-paced course offers a comprehensive overview of essential financial management topics, including budgeting, cash flow analysis, emergency fund planning and understanding key financial statements. In just under two hours, participants can acquire practical skills to make informed financial decisions and strengthen their business acumen.

Finances in a Flash is available online, making it a convenient option for individuals seeking to improve their financial knowledge. The course is particularly beneficial for:

- Small business owners aiming to solidify their financial foundations
- Beginning agricultural producers
- Aspiring entrepreneurs preparing to launch new ventures
- Freelancers and gig economy workers managing variable incomes
- Professionals seeking to enhance their financial literacy

Students and recent graduates entering the workforce

Upon successful completion, participants



Photo courtesy University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

earn the Finances in a Flash micro-badge—a digital credential that signifies proficiency in the basics of financial literacy and business finance. This badge can be showcased on professional platforms such as LinkedIn or included in resumes to demonstrate a commitment to financial competence and continuous learning.

Micro-badges serve as concise, verifiable representations of specific skills and knowledge areas. They offer a flexible approach to professional development, allowing individuals to build and stack credentials that align with their career goals. The Finances in a Flash micro-badge highlights an individual’s capability to manage financial aspects effectively, a skill highly valued across various industries.

Finances in a Flash is part of the University of Maine System’s broader initiative to provide accessible, skill-based learning opportunities that meet the evolving needs of Maine’s workforce. The course is delivered through the Brightspace platform, ensuring a user-friendly experience that accommodates

diverse learning styles and schedules. Cost of the training is \$24.99 and registration is available on the course webpage. To request a reasonable accommodation, contact Laura Wilson at laura.wilson@maine.edu.

The University of Maine System’s (UMS) Micro-Credential Initiative supports the development and implementation of micro-credentials across the system’s seven universities and school of law. UMS micro-credentials are made up of digital badges that highlight the earner’s competencies in skills needed for today’s workforce. They are offered to UMS students, youth, and as professional development opportunities for individuals in the workforce to advance or increase their employability. Micro-credentials earned through UMS are verified, evidence-based, and shareable. For further information about the UMS Micro-Credential Initiative, visit the website or email ums.mc@maine.edu. A full catalog of all UMS Micro-Credentials is found on the badging platform.

New Ventures Maine mini-grants to businesses

AUGUSTA, ME — New Ventures Maine (NVME) has announced the winners of the statewide 2025 NVME Marketing Mini-Grant Competition.

Six Maine businesses have received cash grants of \$1,000 awarded through a competitive application process to help promote and market their products and services.

The six 2025 grant winners are:

Nonprofit Solution Hub (Northern/Downeast Maine) offers fundraising and marketing services to organizations throughout Maine and beyond, including grant research and writing, donor communications, graphic and web design, and Little Green Light implementation.

Dancing Jaguar Inspirations (Central Maine) provides programs and products to help children and adults connect to their inner world through metaphysical tools and techniques, mindfulness, meditation, and nature.

Nor’Easter Oyster



Tisha Bremner, CEO and Owner of Insightful Workplace Solutions, LLC (courtesy Insightful Workplace Solutions, LLC)

Co (Southern Maine) is a growing, female-led Maine seafood business, that creates premium, value-added products from sustainably grown shellfish.

Insightful Workplace Solutions (Western Maine) provides executive coaching, management training, and leadership development to small companies in Maine.

3B’s Catering Company (Midcoast Maine) specializes in creating memorable culinary experiences for events of all

sizes throughout mid-coast Maine.

Revive Wellness (Northern Maine) is a wellness clinic based in Presque Isle offering holistic services including IV hydration, wellness support, aesthetic treatments, and personalized weight loss programs serving women who want to feel better, look better, and take control of their health in a sustainable way.

Mini-grants will support new or expanded business.

See *Ventures*, page 10

USDA offers farm loans for beginning farmers

BANGOR, ME — The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers that FSA offers farm ownership and farm operating loans to beginning farmers and ranchers. Beginning farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank can apply for FSA direct or guaranteed loans.

“Farming and ranching is a capital-intensive business and FSA is committed to helping producers start and maintain their agricultural operations,” said Lucia Brown, FSA Acting State Executive Director in Maine. “FSA loans are designed to make sure that everyone has access to credit. Last year, FSA in Maine obligated \$4.9 million in loans to beginning farmers and ranchers.”

In order to qualify as a beginning farmer, the individual or entity

must meet the eligibility requirements outlined for direct or guaranteed loans. Additionally, individuals and all entity members must have operated a farm for less than 10 years. Applicants must materially or substantially participate in the operation. For farm ownership purposes, the applicant must not own a farm greater than 30% of the average size farm in the county at the time of application.

All direct farm ownership applicants must have participated in the business operations of a farm for at least three years out of the last 10 years prior to the date the application is submitted to FSA. Substitutions for as much as the full three years of experience may be made depending on education, military experience, participation with a SCORE mentor, and farm management experience as a hired hand. Your local

FSA office will be able to provide more details on acceptable substitutions.

If the applicant is an entity, all members must be related by blood or marriage and all entity members must be eligible beginning farmers. At least one of the members must have three years or more experience in the business operations of a farm prior to the date the application is submitted.

Direct loans are made to applicants by FSA. Guaranteed loans are made by lending institutions who arrange for FSA to guarantee the loan. FSA can guarantee up to 95% of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. The FSA guarantee allows lenders to make agricultural credit available to producers who do not meet the lender’s normal underwriting criteria.

The direct and guaranteed loan program offers

See *Farmers*, page 12

Ribbon cutting, grand opening for Auburn Extra Space



Auburn Police Chief & Auburn PAL President Jason Moen; Diamond Point Development Principal Jason Sommer; City Councilor Leroy Walker; Executive Assistant & PAL Board member Rita Beaudry; Auburn Mayor Jeff Harmon. Photo credit: City of Auburn Communications Team

AUBURN, ME — On April 15, 2025, Diamond Point Development, LLC (DPD) and The Ardent Companies hosted a Community-Wide Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening Celebration at the new, state-of-the-art Extra Space Storage facility, at 1 Center Street, in Auburn, Maine.

Auburn Mayor Jeff Harmon as well as other distinguished members of the Auburn City Staff were

in attendance at the ribbon cutting ceremony. During the ceremony, Jason Sommer, Diamond Point Development Principal, presented Chief of Police and Auburn PAL President Jason Moen with a donation to the new Auburn PAL Center.

“In the short time the Auburn Extra Space property has been open, it has been very well received by both the residential and the business communities,”

said Sommer. “In appreciation of the city’s support of the project, we were pleased to make a donation to the Auburn PAL Center.”

Mayor Harmon said, “Thank you so much for this support of the Auburn PAL Center - it is so meaningful and will directly impact the kids and families of this community. We are thrilled to welcome you to our wonderful city of Auburn.”

See Extra, page 14

Bumps & Babies at LPL

LEWISTON, ME — The Lewiston Public Library will be hosting Bumps & Babies on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday every month starting June 4th from 10:30am to 11:30am in the Children’s Department. The Bumps & Babies program is in partnership with Community Concepts, WIC Maine, Western Maine Community Action, Maine Families and Public

Health Nursing.

Bumps & Babies is a support group that provides a safe, compassionate space for individuals navigating the emotional and physical challenges of pregnancy and the postpartum period. Members can share experiences, receive encouragement, and connect with others facing similar struggles, such as anxiety, depression, or the joys and

adjustment to parenthood. The group is often facilitated by a trained professional and may include resources on mental health, self-care, and infant care. It’s a place to feel seen, supported, and less alone during a deeply transformative time.

This program will take place in the program room in the Children’s Department on the third floor of the library. This program is free and no registration required. Siblings are welcome.

The Lewiston Public Library is located downtown at 200 Lisbon Street at the corner of Pine Street. More information is available by contacting the Lewiston Public Library at (207) 513-3503 or LPLKids@lewistonmaine.gov.

Bumps & Babies

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Lewiston legislative delegation to host public office hours

AUGUSTA, ME —Members of Lewiston’s delegation to the State Legislature will hold constituent office hours at the Lewiston Public Library on Saturday, May 24, from 10:30 a.m. until noon to provide local residents a chance to meet with their elected officials and discuss legislative and state government

matters. The delegation will give updates on their work on various policy areas, including the state budget, law enforcement, insurance and financial affairs, taxes, transportation and veterans issues. Office hours are scheduled for the fourth Saturday of every month during the legislative session.

Constituent	Office Hours
Sen. Peggy Rotundo, Rep. Kristen Cloutier, Rep. Julia McCabe, Rep. Mana Abdi and Rep. Michel LaJoie	Saturday, May 24, 2025 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
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Send all items for Names & Faces to the editor. Deadline is Friday by five pm.

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Anastasia
Continued from page 6

Directed and choreographed by Kenny Ingram
Music Direction by Kevin Stites
Scenic Design by William James Mohney
Costume Design by Jeff Hendry
Lighting Design by Samuel Biondolillo
Sound Design by Shannon Slaton
Props Design by Meg Valentine
Wig Design by Kevin S. Foster II
Video Coordination

by Luis Garcia
Fight Choreography by Preston Cuer
Casting by Jamibeth Margolis, CSA

Anastasia: The Musical is inspired by the Twentieth Century Fox Motion Pictures by special arrangement with Buena Vista Theatrical, and from the play by Marcelle Maurette as adapted by Guy Bolton.

Anastasia: The Musical is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals. For more information, visit concordtheatricals.com.



Coleman Cummings. Photo courtesy of MSMT/Fulton Theatre.



MSMT
MAINE STATE MUSIC THEATRE  EST. 1959

Skelton Taintor & Abbott welcomes Trevor R. Brice

LEWISTON, ME—The law firm of Skelton Taintor & Abbott is pleased to announce the addition of Trevor R. Brice, Esq., to its team of attorneys. Brice joins the firm with extensive experience in employment and labor law, bringing a well-rounded legal background representing both employers and employees throughout the Northeast.

Brice is licensed to practice in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New York, and Connecticut. Most recently, he served as a Senior Associate at Royal Law Firm, where he represented employers in complex employment litigation, including discrimination and harassment matters, in both federal and state courts. His work also included drafting arbitration agreements, employment handbooks, and presenting at legal conferences across

the region.

Prior to that, Brice held positions at Skoler, Abbott & Presser, P.C., and Wyatt and Associates, gaining experience in both employer and employee representation. His earlier career includes leadership roles in tax law compliance at IHS/Markit and other legal positions that contribute to his multidisciplinary approach to practice.

Brice holds a JD/MBA from Suffolk University Law School, where he was a Dean's List student and recipient of the 2012 Robert Fuchs Memorial Award in Labor Law. He also earned a Bachelor of Science in Management from Providence College.

"We are thrilled to welcome Trevor to Skelton Taintor & Abbott," said Sarah C. Mitchell, President of the firm. "His broad legal experience, particularly in employment law and compliance, makes

him a tremendous asset to our clients and our team. Trevor's ability to navigate complex regulatory environments with confidence and clarity is exactly the kind of talent we value."

Brice will be based in the firm's Lewiston office, serving clients across Maine and beyond.

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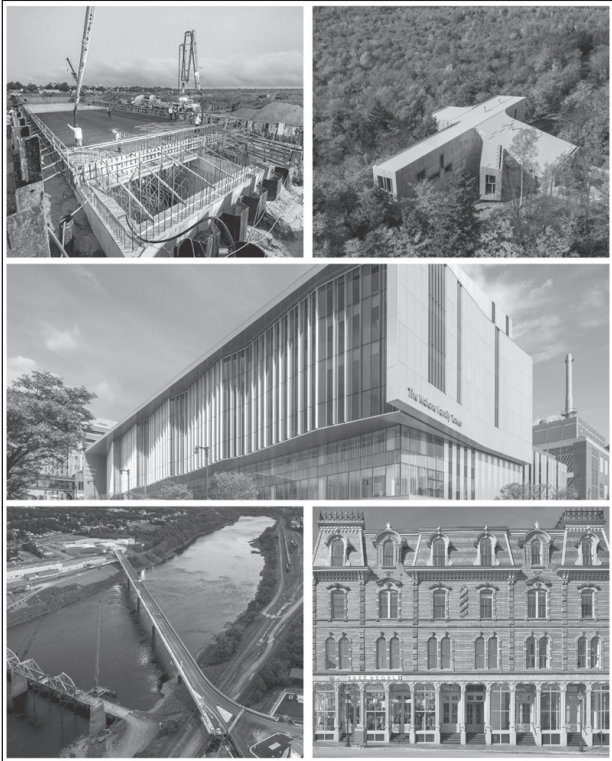
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AGC Maine’s finest: Top 5 projects of 2025

BANGOR, ME — The Associated General Contractors of Maine (AGC Maine) recognized exemplary construction companies and their employees with the 2025 Build Maine Awards for 5 major projects. Over 150 Maine contractors and guests gathered at the Cross Insurance Center in Bangor for the awards ceremony held this past Wednesday, April 23rd.

Annual award winners are selected through a competitive, confidential process by representatives of design, engineering, construction, and owner perspectives. Criteria include safety, innovation and construction techniques/materials, contribution to the community, meeting the challenge of a difficult job, environmental sensitivity, and responsiveness to client needs and customer satisfaction.

“This award ceremony not only highlights the companies who completed the winning projects but is also a time to acknowledge and celebrate the level of skill, effort and professionalism that goes into completing one of these projects from start to finish. It is a highlight of the year to present these awards and see the proj-



AGC MAINE
THE CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION

ect teams take the stage to be recognized. Maine has some very skilled and talented companies, and it is our absolute pleasure to recognize them through the Build Maine Awards,” said AGC Maine Executive Director, Kelly Flagg. Building Division – The Malone Family Tower, Turner Construction

Company The Malone Family Tower project at Maine Medical Center, led by Turner Construction Company, is more than a testament to excellence in design & construction, enhancing healthcare services to Mainers and their families for generations to

See AGC, page 12

Helping your child cope with seasonal allergies

By Dr. Ana Stan-kovic, Chief Medical Officer, UnitedHealthcare of Maine

Sniffles and sneezes are an inevitable part of growing up. But if your child has a lingering runny nose and cough – or both appear around the same time each year – it could be seasonal allergies. Seasonal allergies typically happen in the spring, summer and early fall.

Symptoms of seasonal allergies typically start to show up in children after the age of 3 and most prominently around 5 to 6 years. If your child has been diagnosed with eczema or asthma, they’re also more likely to develop allergies.

If you suspect that your child might be among the roughly 20% of children who experience seasonal allergies each year, know that relief is possible. There are many steps you can take to make seasonal allergies easier on your little one.

What are common signs of allergies in kids?

Seasonal allergies, also known as seasonal allergic rhinitis, have the same signs in kids that they do in adults. Common symptoms of seasonal allergies in children include:

- Itchy, stuffy or runny nose
- Red, itchy or watery eyes
- Itchy mouth or skin
- Sneezing
- Coughing
- Increased fatigue

Sometimes it can be tough for kids to communicate how they are feeling, so parents can also watch out for behaviors such as breathing through their mouth while sleeping.

Why do we have allergic reactions?

You can think of allergic reactions as your body overreacting to something it has been ex-

posed to. And different people may have different allergy triggers. People with seasonal allergies react to pollen or mold in the air – and their bodies produce antibodies in response. As a result, you get congestion and inflammatory symptoms. These inflammatory symptoms are caused by the body’s release of different chemicals such as histamines. Histamines cause itching, redness, swelling and secretions in the nose, eyes, skin, throat and ears.

What are common seasonal allergy triggers?

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly 1 in 5 children report having a seasonal allergy.

There is a chance your little one could grow out of their allergies. Outgrowing allergies may occur over time as the body develops a tolerance to the specific allergen after long periods of natural exposure. But, if your child has severe allergies, the chances of outgrowing them drops.

The timing of allergies depends on where you live and which plants and pollens are your personal triggers. Some general guidelines:

Allergies from trees typically occur in springtime.

Allergies from grasses occur in late spring and early summer.

Allergies from weeds –including the common allergy trigger, ragweed, occur in late summer through early fall.

Weather can also affect your child’s allergies. For example, pollen counts can increase after rainfall and when the wind picks up. Counts also tend to be higher in the morning and during periods of cool nights and warmer days.

What’s the best way to treat allergies in kids?

Preventing exposure

When it comes to seasonal allergies, one of the best treatments is prevention. That means minimizing your child’s exposure to known allergens. Some ways to help your child avoid seasonal allergy triggers include:

Stay indoors with the windows closed (no window fans) when pollen counts are high

Shower, change clothes and wash your child’s hair after being outside

Dry clothes inside the house (rather than outside on a line) to avoid pollen contact

Wear a NIOSH-rated 95 face mask if pollen counts are especially high

Use a portable high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter in the bedroom

Clean with a vacuum that’s certified “asthma & allergy friendly”

While it’s important to be mindful of triggers, kids will be kids. Don’t feel like you need to lock your kid indoors for a whole season when they should be out playing.

Allergy testing

Allergy testing can also help to identify specific triggers so you can be more targeted in your approach. For instance, if your child is allergy-tested and you have the specific tree or plant in your backyard, it may help to remove it. To get tested, make an appointment with an allergist who will typically perform an exam, asking about symptoms as well as any history of seasonal allergies in the family. Clinical allergy testing can be performed using skin scratch tests, blood tests or elimination tests.

What medications can kids take?

There are several kid-safe over-the-counter allergy medications on the market. They are typ-

See Allergies, page 12

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Ventures

Continued from page 7

ness marketing and promotional activities, such as printed marketing materials, tradeshow displays, website development, and social media campaigns.

“The number of applicants we had this year nearly doubled—we received over 150 applications versus 70 in our previous competition,” said NVME Microenterprise Program Manager Alicia

LaFosse. “Local entrepreneurs need support during start-up and our participants say that mini-grants can make a real difference on their path to success.”

Criteria for small business applicants included: 1) Five or fewer full-time equivalent employees; 2) sales in the current calendar year; and 3) gross annual sales of no more than \$150,000 from the previous calendar year.

The competition was sponsored in part by Katahdin Trust Company, Norway Savings Bank, and Kennebec Savings Bank.

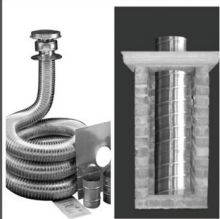
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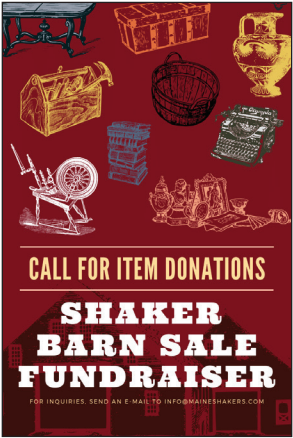
Call for item donations: Shaker Barn Sale!

NEW GLOUCES-TER, ME — If you’ve been following the progress of the Shaker Barn repairs, you know it’s in its final phases. The structural repairs are done, and we have to raise money for new exterior siding, a roof, painting, windows and doors, and re-grading around the building. We’re almost there!

We’re planning a fun and exciting fundraiser, and we hope you’ll help! We hope it will help you clear some household clutter while giving to a great cause.

On Saturday, June 14th, we will host an old-fashioned barn sale, professionally run with services donated by Constant Galore Estate Sales, and all proceeds raised will be used to complete the barn project this summer. Please help us bring this three-year project to a close!

As you’re doing spring cleaning around your house this year, please consider donating unwanted items that might



be someone else’s treasures. We’re looking for clean, complete, and working items that retain some resale value. The barn is huge, and we have a lot of space for the barn sale. Here’s a list of the things to give you ideas about what you might have spare around your house to get your creativity flowing:

Furniture, antiques, household items, clean kitchen-wares in working condition, collectibles, recreational/sports equipment, knick-knacks and decorative items, artwork, jewelry, toys and games in good condition, usable craft sup-

plies, hand tools and power tools, patio and outdoor items, baskets and vases, garden tools and supplies, anything new-in-box, pet supplies and equipment.

We cannot accept mattresses, box springs, or firearms.

We’re accepting donations now through Sunday, June 8th.

The donation process is simple: Pack your items into boxes and load up your car. We’ll open the barn door, and you’ll have plenty of room to offload and there will be signage. Drop-off at the Shaker barn can occur Sunday through Saturday from 8am-5pm. If you need assistance, please contact us.

Together, we’ll complete the barn as a lasting monument to the Shaker Farm and all the ways that the Shakers have contributed, and continue to contribute, to farming, agriculture, and community wellness. Thank you!

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AGC
Continued from page 10
come, and earned them the 2025 Building Division Award. The project features a striking façade and a seven-story atrium to provide daylight throughout the facility. It showcases a commitment to environmental sensitivity and community wellness with its’ green roofs and urban plazas with native flora. Turner Construction worked to make a positive local impact beyond the build, with Maine residents being much of their workforce employed for the project and prioritizing worker health and safety initiatives such as a full-time wellness clinic staffed with a registered nurse, who provided a safe space for preventative care, education, injury management, and mental health support.

Building Renovation Division – The Thompson Block Project, Consigli Construction Co.

With the Thompson Block Project, Consigli Construction Co. sets a new standard for the adaptive reuse of landmark properties in Maine, demonstrating revitalization to meet modern needs while honoring historical significance. Designed by George M. Harding, the building is one of the state’s most high-style Victorian commercial structures and is on the National Historic Register. With its unique yet classical details, such as a slate roof and copper dormers, the project’s careful revival, including extensive

structural repair and exterior restoration efforts, maintained the building’s historic integrity while introducing modern amenities and improved functionality. Throughout the project, Consigli’s responsiveness, high standards of craftsmanship, and ability to adapt to evolving needs, and secured them the 2025 Building Renovation Division award.

Specialty/Subcontractor Division – The Back Cove South Storage Facility, N.S. Giles

Exceptional partnership & teamwork was cornerstone to The Back Cove South Storage Facility project. Despite challenges, subcontractor N.S. Giles consistently delivered top-tier quality and maintained an unwavering commitment to safety, amassing over 60,000 safe man hours without a single injury, and won subcontractor, N.S. Giles the 2025 Specialty/Subcontractor Division Award. To complete this project, N.S. Giles placed over 1,200 tons of rebar and poured over 18,000 cubic yards of concrete – making this the largest contract, rebar, and poured concrete project in their company history. Designed to improve the City’s wastewater infrastructure and the environmental health of Back Cove and Casco Bay, the Storage Facility collects the first inch of stormwater in the watershed area and holds it for later treatment at the wastewater treatment plant. Additionally, the facility helps reduce costs for the City of Port-

land while also resulting in a cleaner bay. The Back Cove South Storage Facility will serve as a lasting testament to what can be accomplished through partnership, perseverance, and a steadfast commitment to safety.

Bridge Division – Madawaska International Bridge, Reed & Reed, Inc.

Reed & Reed, Inc.’s Madawaska International Bridge project is not just an engineering success; it is a testament to the power of collaboration, innovation, and community engagement, securing them the 2025 Bridge Division award. It will stand as a lasting symbol of Maine’s commitment to building critical infrastructure that connects people, economies, and cultures across borders. The project replaced an aging bridge that could no longer support commercial traffic with a new structure that not only facilitates trade, tourism, and transportation, but also plays a crucial role in regional growth and international cooperation. By serving as a critical link for both local and cross-border commerce, the bridge significantly impacts Maine’s economy – particularly the industries of agriculture, manufacturing, and tourism – while also fostering a deeper connection between the U.S. and Canada. The project’s success was a result of close partnership with a dedicated group of subcontractors and suppliers and innovative construction methods, including an optimized trestle system and advanced steel erection techniques, that ensured that

all aspects of the project were completed safely, on time, and in compliance with regulatory standards.

Overall Project of the Year - Tekakapimək Contact Station at Katahdin Woods and Waters (KWW) National Monument, Wright-Ryan Construction

Located within the present and traditional homeland of the Penobscot Nation, the Tekakapimək Contact Station at Katahdin Woods and Waters (KWW) National Monument exemplifies excellence in sustainable construction, cultural significance, and community impact and won Wright-Ryan Construction the 2025 Overall Project of the Year award. With innovative mass timber construction techniques and bird-safe triple-pane curtain windows, the Tekakapimək Contact Station building sets a new standard for environmentally responsible construction. The project also fosters a deeper connection between visitors and Wabanaki culture through thoughtfully curated exhibits, etched granite designs, and woven copper ceilings, ensuring the site serves as a place of education, reflection, and relationship-building. From the site’s Eastern Lookout, a view of the Dawnland opens to encompass all Wabanaki homelands: Penobscot, Mi’kmaq Nation, Houlton Band of Maliseets, and Passamaquoddy Tribe. At the base of the Lookout there is a gathering circle with carved double-curve designs representing kin-

ship and unity among the Wabanaki Nations. Beyond its architectural and environmental achievements, Tekakapimək has created substantial economic and social benefits for the area. The project generated an estimated \$28 million in local economic impact, supporting Maine-based contractors, artisans, and Tribal members. Wright-Ryan worked with the owner, Elliotts-ville Foundation Inc (EFI) to facilitate their goal of transferring ownership to the National Park Service (NPS) as a gift while making an effort to recognize and maintain all Indigenous Cultural and Indigenous Property (ICIP).

The 2025 Build Maine Awards sponsors and supporters were Sargent Corporation, Landry/French Construction, United Insurance, United Surety, Cross Insurance, Cross Surety, Reed & Reed, Inc., Skillings-Shaw & Associates, CCB, Inc., Clark Insurance, N.S. Giles, Machias Savings Bank, Wright-Ryan Construction, Varney Agency, EJ Prescott, Auburn Concrete, Milton CAT, N.M. Curtis Earthworks, Ed Pelletier & Sons Co., Turner Construction, Gallagher Insurance, R.W. Gillespie & Associates, University of Maine of Orono, and Shaw Brothers Construction.

Allergies
Continued from page 10

ically the same treatments that are used for adults, although it’s important to read the instructions because doses may dif-

fer based on age. Talk to your doctor to find the best medication for your child.

Seasonal over-the-counter allergy medicines for children include:

Topical nasal corticosteroid sprays

Antihistamines, like cetirizine (Zyrtec) or loratadine (Claritin)

Decongestants are typically only approved for short-term use

Sterile saline nasal sprays and rinses, while not medications, they may help relieve symptoms

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

Farmers
Continued from page 7

two types of loans: farm ownership loans and farm operating loans.

Farm ownership loan funds may be used to purchase or enlarge a farm or ranch; purchase easements or rights of way needed in the farm’s operation; build or improve buildings such as a dwelling or barn; promote soil and water conservation and development; and pay closing costs.

Farm operating loan

funds may be used to purchase livestock, poultry, farm equipment, fertilizer, and other materials necessary to operate a farm. Operating loan funds can also be used for family living expenses; refinancing debts under certain conditions; paying salaries for hired farm laborers; installing or improving water systems for home, livestock or irrigation use; and other similar improvements.

Repayment terms for

direct operating loans are scheduled from one to seven years. Financing for direct farm ownership loans cannot exceed 40 years. Interest rates for direct loans are set periodically according to the government’s cost of borrowing. Guaranteed loan terms and interest rates are set by the lender.

For more information on FSA’s farm loan programs and beginning farmer guidelines, please contact your local FSA office or visit farmers.gov.



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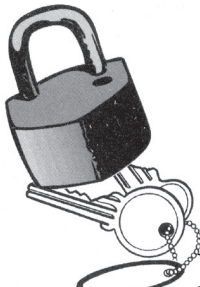
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Wednesdays
GORHAM — Story Hour every Wednesday from 10:30 to 11:30 at North Gorham Public Library.

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.

Saturdays
AUBURN — THOUSANDS OF BOOKS for sale at the APL Bookstore on Saturdays 9:30-1:00. Gently used books of all types, DVDs, music CDs and puzzles & games - new items added every week. Kids’ books are 50 cents and all other books are \$3 or less! Stop by the lower level of the Auburn Public Library for great deals.

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

Auburn Public Library, 49 Spring Street, Auburn.

Sundays
LEWISTON — Lewiston Farmers’ Market held every Sunday, May 11th-November 23rd from 9:30am-1:00pm. Hours change to 11:00am-1:00pm beginning first Sunday in November. Located at 2 Oxford St., Lewiston

May 24
RAYMOND, ME — A yard sale fundraiser will be held at Nathaniel Hawthorne’s Boyhood Home in Raymond, Maine, 40 Hawthorne Road, on Saturday, May 24, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

May 24
AUBURN — Maine Iris Society presents its 44th Median Iris and Spring Flower Show, Saturday, May 24, 2025 at the Auburn Middle School, 38 Falcon Drive, Auburn, ME. 1:30 to 4:00 pm. Admission is free!

May 24
GRAY — First Congregational Church of Gray Saturday Night Church Supper Saturday, May 24, 2025 at 5:00 at the Parish House, 5 Brown Street, Gray

Handicapped Accessible. Meals are Sin-

gle-sized and are \$10.00 each. Please pay at the door. The Menu includes: Variety of Casseroles & Salads, Baked Pea Beans & Red Kidney, Red Hot Dogs, Breads, & Assortment of Desserts & Beverages.

May 31
LEWISTON — Join us for a Dinosaur Party Saturday, May 31st from 11am-12:30pm the Lewiston Public Library Children’s Department will be hosting a Dinosaur Party for children and families!

During this program, children will be able to engage in a variety of hands-on activities featuring dinosaurs. Some of the activities include a fossil dig, hatching dinosaurs from coffee ground eggs, creating dinosaur shadow lanterns, and making hand-print dinosaurs. Attendees will also be able to take photos in front of a Jurassic backdrop.

One take home bag of dinosaur goodies will be given to each child until supplies run out.

This program will take place in Callahan Hall on the third floor of the library. The program is free, all materials will be pro-

vided, and there is no registration required.

June 4 and the 1st, 3rd Wednesday of every month

LEWISTON — Join Lewiston Public Library for Bumps & Babies on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday every month starting June 4th from 10:30am to 11:30am in the Children’s Department.

Bumps & Babies is a support group that provides a safe, compassionate space for individuals navigating the emotional and physical challenges of pregnancy and the postpartum period. Members can share experiences, receive encouragement, and connect with others facing similar struggles, such as anxiety, depression, or the joys and adjustment to parenthood.

June 6
LEWISTON — June 6th at 12PM the Lewiston Public Library Children’s Department will be offering the program Family Rock Painting Keepsakes. Caregivers and their children will have the opportunity to decorate rock keepsakes using acrylic paint pens.


June 14
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/>.

Susan Werner - Sat, June 14, 2025 at 7:30 pm. Doors open 7:00 pm.

Susan Werner is a singer/songwriter, guitarist, and pianist who has built a reputation as one of the country’s most compelling live performers. She has been playing to sold-out audiences across the country for 27 years. Renowned as a charismat-

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ic performer, she’s known above all for challenging herself to conquer new styles every few years. She writes ambitious concept albums with subject matter and sounds to match. She has produced 18 albums of songs that effortlessly slide between folk/rock, jazz, Tin Pan Alley to gospel, country, and pop, all delivered with sassy wit and classic Midwestern charm.

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

June 22
AUBURN — About Love: Grief & Loss, 11:30-1pm. First Universalist Church of Auburn, 169 Pleasant St. (enter on Spring St. across from Dairy Joy). Freewill donations accepted. Parking; accessible. FMI 783-0461.

Extra

Continued from page 8

Liz Allen, the City of Auburn’s Director of Communications & Community Engagement said, “We look forward to supporting positive growth in Auburn, and were happy to have connected the Extra Space team with the greater Auburn community.”

Eric Cousens, the City of Auburn’s Executive Director of Public Services said, “It was great to work with Aaron and Jason from Extra Space Storage on a very challenging site. We appreciate their collab-

oration and investment in Auburn.”

The Extra Space Storage is a new, state of the art 100,000 square foot multi-story, secure, climate-controlled facility. The self-storage property was built on a blighted property along the Androscoggin River.

This newly-constructed three-story self-storage facility includes approximately 75,000 rentable sq ft and 750 individual storage units. To make the storing experience more comfortable and to protect customer’s belongings from the elements, every unit is temperature and humidity controlled.

Diamond Point Development and The Ardent Companies build class A self-storage facilities up and down the East Coast.

“Our team that made this project possible also included: TPD Construction, Extra Space Storage, Stinard Architecture Inc. and Gorrill Palmer, said Sommer. “The City of Auburn helped us build this the right way, and we appreciate their support.”

“Auburn saw the vision with us and it was a pleasure,” said Ricardo De Rojas, Managing Director, The Ardent Companies. “We were all thrilled to have celebrated this Grand Opening with the the greater Auburn community.”

For more information, contact Jason Sommer at 678.640.0505, jsommer@diamondpoint-development.com.

Skowhegan Savings reports strong financial standing

SKOWHEGAN, ME — Skowhegan Savings Bank recently held its 155th annual meeting of its corporators at the University of Maine Farmington, highlighting the financial institution’s strong financial health in reporting assets exceeding \$841 million, the origination of over \$130 million in loans in 2024 and deep community commitment.

“The success of the bank lies not just in our financial growth, but in the trust we’ve earned by investing in our customers, local businesses, our people and the communi-

ties in which we serve,” said David Cyr, CEO of Skowhegan Savings, who announced his retirement from the bank at the end of 2025 and the appointment of Dan Tilton as the bank’s new president earlier this year.

“As I prepare to step down at the end of this year, the bank’s 156-year foundation has been built on the principals of disciplined growth and steadfast commitment to exceptional customer service. I have full faith that Dan and our current team will continue to remain loyal to those values as they bring Skow-

hegan Savings continued success in the future.”

In 2024, the bank donated over \$660,000 to local organizations and their employees put in over 3,200 volunteer services hours by participating in more than 150 community events. Skowhegan Savings was named one of Maine’s 2024 Best Places to Work, the Sebasticook Valley Chamber of Commerce’s 2024 Big Business of the Year, was voted #1 Best Bank by the Morning Sentinel’s Readers’ Choice Awards and received the Gold Award for their con-

See Skowhegan, page 16



Helping others while building a life you love

As a Mental Health Rehabilitation Technician (MHRT/I), no two days are the same for Faith. At a residential facility for individuals with severe and persistent mental illness, she supports with daily tasks like cleaning or grocery shopping and provides the calm support they need to reengage with the world.

“To see the progress that these residents are making is so rewarding,” Faith says. “It’s like, ‘wow, we’re making a difference.’”

Faith is part of Maine’s growing Direct Support workforce, ensuring that Mainers with age-related physical, behavioral, intellectual, and cognitive health needs live safely and independently. With thousands of openings statewide, training is accessible, and many employers offer flexible schedules to support work-life balance. After years working in education, Faith was looking for part-time work that matched her experience and allowed time for parenting. The MHRT/I certification was easy to complete, and the career has allowed her to continue working—even while returning to school.

“There is a lot of flexibility to meet your needs,” she says. “And it’s helped me stay this long.”

“It’s all about being compassionate, respectful, and loving what you do,” Faith adds. “It’s a calling.”

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.



“You have to be compassionate, respectful, and love what you do.”

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SENIOR TRIPS

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

SEPTEMBER 15 - 18, 2025 - THE GRAND CANYON OF PENNSYLVANIA - Trip includes 3 nights lodging, 3 breakfasts and 3 dinners including the historic Peter Herdic House and The Carriage House. Highlights of this tour are Susquehanna River Cruise, Pennsylvania Grand Canyon Wagon Tour, Millionaires Row Tour, Thomas Taber Mu-

seum, Historic Rowley House and much more. A \$75.00 deposit is due upon signing up. Price of this trip is \$769.00 pp double occupancy and \$918.00 for a single. Final payment is due July 17, 2025.

OCTOBER 6 – 10, 2025
– ATLANTIC CITY, CAPE MAY, & PHILADELPHIA - Trip includes 5 days and 4 nights lodging, 4 breakfasts and 4 dinners and a free casino bonus for those who want to gamble.
 Guided tour of Philadelphia including Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, Betsy Ross House, the Federal Reserve and Mint. Then off to Cape May with a Trolley Tour of the Victorian Mansions of Cape May and a walking tour of a historic Victorian Home. We travel to Cape May Point and the famous Cape May Lighthouse. Our next day is a free day in Atlantic City to do as you please. Take in a show, do some gaming or just stroll down Atlantic City's Famous Boardwalk. A **\$75.00 deposit per person is due upon signing up.** The price for this trip is **\$849.00 per person double occupancy.** Add **\$210.00 for single occupancy.**

**Final Payment is due
7/30/25.**

NOVEMBER 16-26, 2025
– CLASSICAL GREECE
 - Price includes round trip air from Logan International Airport, hotel transfers and all transportation while on tour. Trip also includes 16 meals (9 breakfasts, 1 luncheon, and 6 dinners).
 Highlights of this tour are Athens, the Acropolis and Parthenon, Delphi, Olympia and Ancient Mycenae. You will visit a Greek Farm, have a Cooking Class, Greek Dance Class, and visit two remote monasteries. We will also have a tasting of local wines, olive oil and sweets.

APRIL 14 - 22, 2026 - HOLLAND AND BELGIUM SPRINGTIME CRUISE - Trip includes 9 days and 20 meals. Highlights are 7 Night River Cruise, Amsterdam with Canal Cruise, Keukenhof Gardens, Middelburg, Belgium Waterways, Scenic Sail, Bruges, Antwerp, Kinderdijk Windmills. Ship is the MS Amadeus Brilliant. Included in price is round trip air from Logan International Airport and all Hotel Transfers. Deposit is \$898.00 pp plus \$699.00 if you

want travel protection. Rates vary depending on the cabin category you choose.

SEPTEMBER 20 - 28, 2026 - DISCOVER PAINTED CANYONS OF THE WEST - Trip includes 9 days and 11 meals. Highlights are Colorado National Park, Wine tasting in the midst of Colorado Wine Country. Moab, Arches National Park, Canyonlands National Park, Dead Horse Point State Park, Capitol Reef State Park, Bryce Canyon National Park and Zion National Park all in Utah, last day in Vegas. Included in price is round trip air from Logan International Airport and all Hotel Transfers. Deposit is \$698.00 pp plus \$429.00 if you want travel protection.

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

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

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Poland Spring Resort

More than a hotel!



MEL'S HILLTOP RESTAURANT
Open for
Lunch & Dinner



PICKLEBALL



GIFFORD'S ICE CREAM AT FENN PARK

There's a lot happening at Poland Spring!
Poland Spring offers a variety of activities for locals to enjoy. Our most famous attraction is the award-winning Donald Ross Golf Course, but we also feature grass tennis courts, hiking trails, the Maine State Building Museum, the Poland Spring Bottling Museum, a putting green, a mini golf course, a driving range, disc golf, and now pickleball! We host weddings, events, reunions, and much more.

For more information and pricing, visit
www.PolandSpringResort.com or call (207) 998-4351



18-HOLE GOLF COURSE



WEDDINGS AND EVENTS

Skowhegan

Continued from page 14

tributions to the Heart of Maine United Way.

The bank welcomed 10 new corporators: Laura Columbia, superintendent of MSAD 58; Time Curtis, county administrator of Somerset County; Brian Demshar, owner of Demshar Management LLC;

Ida Earle, broker and owner of RE/MAXX at Home; Dan Freeman, president of Cold Brook Mitsubishi; Justin Jordan, owner of JR Fabrications; Michelle Laliberty, co-owner of Rangeley Adventure Co.; Dan McKenney, owner of Dan McKenney and Sons Inc.; Adam Platz, co-owner and CFO of Jarco and Charles Robbins, III, president of

Thursday, May 22, 2025

Charlie and Sons Sales and Service.

Tilton closed out the meeting by thanking those in attendance, "we appreciate all of you who have entrusted us with your banking needs and as we begin this new chapter, we look forward to continuing to partner with you in supporting your financial journey."

Gardiner Main Street hosts Give Your Voice All-Stars Concert

GARDINER, ME
— Mark your calendars, everyone! The 2025 Give Your Voice All-Stars Concert is coming soon! When: Saturday, May 31st Start Time: 7:30 PM (Doors Open at 6:00 PM EST) Parking: FREE Price: \$20 per ticket!

To purchase your ticket today, visit <https://tinyurl.com/JH-2025GiveYourVoiceAll-Stars>.

Send all items for Names and Faces to the Editor. Deadline is Friday by five.

1864

JH

JOHNSON HALL OPERA HOUSE

LET'S CELEBRATE THE ARTS TOGETHER!

WE'D LOVE FOR YOU TO JOIN US!!

GIVE YOUR VOICE ALL STARS! HALL OF DECADES

FEATURING PERFORMANCES BY: BELLA ANN, OWEN LEWIS, IRIE CHARLES, DAKOTA FIELDS, ABBY HILT, ALYSSA LAZARO, CELENA MATOS, ELSIE PEACOCK, DANIELLE CHARLES

05.31.2025 7:30 PM

\$20 Per Ticket

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280 WATER ST., GARDINER, 04345

Start Here, Stay Here: Understanding MaineCare

A LUNCH & LEARN

TUESDAY, MAY 27
11:30 A.M. REGISTRATION | NOON PRESENTATION
440 Minot Avenue | Auburn, ME 04210

Navigating the MaineCare system can be a challenge, but we're here to help simplify the process! Join us for lunch and a presentation on how to navigate the system, from understanding what documents you need to collect to how the spend-down process works.

It's one of the many ways we're here to support you. Space is limited.



This event will fill up fast - RSVP today!

RSVP to 207-367-3679