

## L/A CLT announces cast of *SpongeBob Musical*

AUBURN, ME – Director Brandon Chaloux has announced the cast for the upcoming L/A Community Little Theatre (L/A CLT) production of *The SpongeBob Musical*.

L/A Community Little Theatre is pleased to welcome Matt Scala as the beloved yellow sponge, SpongeBob as he makes his debut with L/A CLT. Other beloved characters will be played by Noah Brown (Patrick Star), Mikayla Jane (Sandy Cheeks), and Abram Dwyer (Squidward Q. Tentacles). Portraying the owner of the Krusty Krab, Eugene Krabs, will be fan favorite Anthony M. Delorme, with his daughter Pearl played by Molly Gouette. Enemy to the Krusty Krab, Sheldon



Plankton will be played by Owen Lewis, with his wife Karen the Computer played by Karianna Merrill. Other characters will be played by Germaine Robinson (Larry the Lobster), Amanda Robinson (Mrs. Puff), Jonny Bolduc (Perch Perkins), Megan Walz (The Mayor of Bikini Bottom), Adry Viles (Patchy the Pirate), Alex Lally (French Narrator), Ashleigh St. Pierre (Old Man Jenkins), and Maggie Waters (Gary

the Snail). Finally, rounding out the cast is the phenomenal ensemble made up of Bryanne MacMillan, Elijah Middleton, Nexxus Marcoux, Phoebe Edwards, Jordan Clatchey, Evie True, Rocky Bernier, Alexis Bellefleur, Mara Dale, Jack Desrosiers, and Trekk Skeate.

The performance dates for *The SpongeBob Musical* are August 8, 9, 14, 15, and 16, 2025 at 7:30 pm, and August 10 and 17 at 2:00pm. Tickets and subscriptions are available online at [www.lact.com/box-office-1](http://www.lact.com/box-office-1) or by calling 783-0958. Ticket prices (including all fees) are \$25.00 for adults, \$22.00 for seniors and students, and \$17.00 for children ages 13 and under.

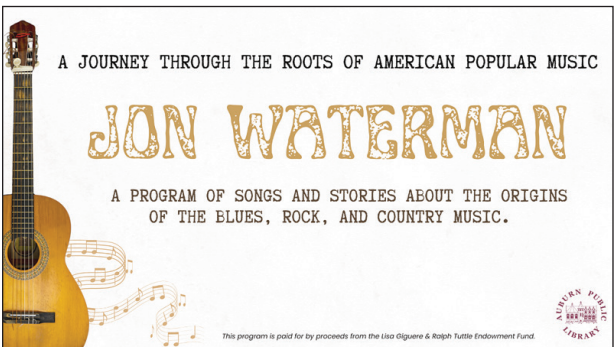
## DATE CHANGE: Journey through the Roots of Pop Music

AUBURN, ME – The Auburn Public Library presents “A Journey Through the Roots of American Popular Music” with Jon Waterman on Monday, June 2nd at 5:30 PM. All are welcome to join for an engaging performance exploring the history of American popular music.

“A Journey Through the Roots of American Popular Music,” is a program of songs and stories about the origins of the blues, rock and country music presented by singer and songwriter Jon Waterman. In the show, Jon is joined by Li Waterman on bass. The program, which also features an accompanying slideshow, explores some of the fascinating characters and events that are part of the history and the role of music in our lives.

The performances have received enthusiastic reviews from those in attendance. Sarah Swifter, the Director of MAGMA in Gloucester, MA, where the program was presented in November of 2019 writes:

“A Journey Through the Roots of American Popular Music” by Jon Waterman is a unique



performance experience combining music history, storytelling, and original songs inspired by his research. Waterman successfully transforms fascinating

See *Roots*, page 14

## Nutrition center announces exciting new transformation

LEWISTON, AUBURN, ME – After 26 years of growing community through food, the organization formerly known as the St. Mary’s Nutrition Center is entering a new season—one shaped by deep roots, fresh ideas, and room to grow.

Gather to Grow launched their new organization and unveiled their new name and brand. These exciting changes reflect their evolution into an independent organization and their continued commitment to cultivating a just food system and thriving

community.

“What started as 14 families gardening together has grown into a movement for food justice, equity, and community care. While our name and look have changed, our purpose hasn’t—and our commitment to this community is stronger than ever,” said Kirsten Walter, Executive Director of Gather to Grow.

This transition comes more than a year after the announcement that the Nutrition Center would separate from the St. Mary’s Health System.

“This is more than a name change for us,” Walter continued. “These changes will make us more flexible, innovative, and responsive to our community’s needs—while helping us sustain and grow services, attract diverse funding, and keep doing what we do best: building community, supporting youth, and growing and sharing food alongside our community.”

With the change, a long-time Gather to Grow partner is stepping up to provide administrative and support services to the organization: the Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce.

“We’re proud to support Gather to Grow as their fiscal sponsor,” said LA Metro Chamber President and CEO, Shanna Cox. “We are investing in our community in a way that reflects our values and intentions: We know that when people have their

See *Nutrition*, page 3

## YMCA Fit Fest kicks off Greater L-A Triple Crown 5k series

LEWISTON, AUBURN, ME – The YMCA Fit Fest kicks off the first of three 5ks for the Greater LA Triple Crown in Lewiston and Auburn. The run for persons for all ages takes place Sunday, June 8 at Auburn Festival Plaza, Main Street with the kids run starting at 8:00 am followed by the adult run at 8:30. The race is open to persons of all ages. Each race includes a wheelchair division.

Thanks to the generosity of the Auburn Fire Department IAFF Local 797, the Triple Crown Race Series offers a FREE Kids’ Fun Run prior to the start of each 5K in the race series. The Kids’ Fun Run is just that—FUN! All children are eligible to participate—whether they run, walk, skip, or are strolled through the course.

Parking is available at the parking garage located on Mechanics Row, next to Auburn City Hall. Marcie Hird is the race director, 7954095, [mhird@alymca.org](mailto:mhird@alymca.org).

The course is US-ATF Certified #ME16013J and is flat and fast! Participants will run in both Auburn and Lewiston, over two bridges and along the Riverwalk.

Ryan Smith, 14:49

(2019) and Erica Jessman, 16:59 (2016) hold the course records

The second run of the series is Emily’s Run On July 20 held at Edward Little High School and concludes with the L-A Bridge Run on August 24 by the Lown Peace Bridge in New Auburn.

The Triple Crown is a series of quality running races which create a sense of community, promote healthy activities and raise support and awareness the three partnering charitable organizations: The Auburn Lewiston YMCA, the Fletcher Foundation and the Bridge Run Foundation.

Registration and all other Information for all three races is located at [www.triplecrown5k.com](http://www.triplecrown5k.com). Run for the community, run for the crown.

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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## Paddle for Pine Tree Camp helps kids, adults with disabilities

**BRUNSWICK, MANCHESTER AND SOLON, ME** – The Hammond Lumber Cornhole for a Cause tournament and Bath Savings Paddle for Pine Tree Camp return this spring with one goal in mind: to raise funds for Maine kids and adults with disabilities to experience freedom and independence at Pine Tree Camp. Since 1945, Pine Tree Camp has welcomed all who could benefit, regardless of their ability to pay. Over 90% of campers need full or partial tuition assistance.

On Thursday, May 29, the 3rd Annual Hammond Lumber Company Cornhole for a Cause to benefit Pine Tree Camp will take place at The Woodshed in Manchester. This cash prize tournament is professionally managed by Real Wicked Events.

The 29th Annual Bath Savings Paddle for Pine Tree Camp weekend brings paddlers together on the Kennebec River in Solon on Saturday, June 7 and the Androscoggin River in Brunswick on Sunday, June 8. Both paddles are family-friendly and perfect for all ages, skill levels and abilities.

3rd Annual Hammond Lumber Company Cornhole for a Cause  
Thursday, May 29  
4:45pm Check In | 5:30pm Tournament  
The Woodshed, 915 Western Ave., Manchester  
Cost: \$60 per team  
Register: <https://pinetreesociety.org/pts-events/hammond-lumber-cornhole-for-a-cause/>  
29th Annual Bath Savings Paddle for Pine Tree Camp  
Saturday, June 7

9:30am  
Solon: Traditional route down the Kennebec River  
Paddle begins at The Evergreens Campground in Solon (202 Ferry Street, off Route 201A) and ends in North Anson on the Patterson Bridge Road. This is a three mile, two-hour paddle.  
Register: <https://pinetreesociety.org/bath-savings-paddle-for-pine-tree-camp/>  
Sunday, June 8  
9:30am  
Brunswick: Loop on the Androscoggin River  
Paddle begins and ends at the Water Street Boat Landing (located at the end of Water Street) in Brunswick. This is a two mile, two-hour loop.  
Register: <https://pinetreesociety.org/bath-savings-paddle-for-pine-tree-camp/>

## Poland Spring Preservation Society kicks off 2025 season

**POLAND SPRING, ME** – The Poland Spring Preservation Society is excited to announce the opening of its historic museums for the 2025 season, on Friday, May 23rd. We are proud to have three museum buildings open for tours including the 1893 Maine State Building, 1912 All Souls Chapel and 1907 Poland Spring Bottling Museum & Source Building. Thanks to the continued generous sponsorship of Northeast Bank, admission to all three of our unique museum buildings will remain free to the public.

“We are thrilled to welcome visitors back to explore the rich history of Poland Spring,” said Laura Brown, Executive Director of Poland Spring Preservation Society. “Last year, we saw an 81% increase in visitors, and we anticipate welcoming over 4,000 guests through our doors this season. Whether you’re a local history buff or a first-time visitor, there’s something for everyone to enjoy.”

This year marks a special milestone as we celebrate the 130th anniversary of the Maine State Building at Poland Spring. Originally Maine’s entry for the 1893 World Columbian Exposition in Chicago, Illinois, this architectural gem was purchased by the Ricker family at the end of the fair, meticulously dismantled and rebuilt at Poland Spring Resort

for use as a library and art gallery.

**MUSEUM HOURS FOR THE SEASON**  
May 23 - June 22:  
Friday and Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Summer Hours (June 23 – August 30)  
Thursday – Saturday & Monday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Fall Hours (August 31 - October 11)  
Friday and Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**2025 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**  
Live music returns to Poland Spring with our popular Summer Concert Series, a tradition since 1977, featuring an incredible lineup of regional talent. Our Summer Concert Series are held Monday’s from June thru August with one final performance in October. Admission is just \$5.00 per person. Concerts begin at 6:30 p.m.

June Concerts – All Souls Chapel (37 Preservation Way, Poland, Maine)  
June 9- PRHS Music Group  
June 16- Organist Ryan Slocum  
June 23- Denny Breaux  
July & August Concerts – Poland Spring Resort Gazebo (22 Robbins Road, Poland, Maine)  
July 7- The Cobble-

stones  
July 14- Erica Brown & the Bluegrass Connection  
July 21- Toby McCallister & the Sierra Sounds  
July 28- Christie Ray Band  
August 4- Seth Gallant  
August 11- Joan Kennedy Band  
August 18- Sigrid Sibley Band  
August 25- The World Famous Grassholes  
October 11- Phil House & Kathy Haley 11:00 a.m. - dro  
All Souls Chapel (37 Preservation Way, Poland, Maine)  
Bring a lawn chair, grab a bite at Mel’s Hilltop Restaurant or drinks and snacks at the Maine Inn at Poland Spring Resort, and enjoy summer evenings filled with music and community spirit.

**HERITAGE DAY**  
Mark your calendars for The 16th Annual Heritage Day, our most festive community event of the year, to be held on the grounds of the historic Poland Spring Resort and Preservation Park on Saturday, September 27th from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Enjoy local vendors, food, music, historical displays and activities for all ages as we celebrate the legacy of Poland Spring. The event is supported in part by Poland Spring Resort, Poland Spring Water and The Town of Poland, Maine.

## NFIB’s new tools help Maine small business owners

**AUGUSTA, ME** – The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), the nation’s leading small business advocacy organization, has released two new digital tools to help small business owners, policymakers, and the public in Maine understand the significant economic impact of the 20% Small Business Tax Deduction and what’s at stake if Congress fails to make it permanent.

The new tools include an interactive map that allows users to explore how extending the Small Business Deduction would power job cre-

ation and GDP growth in both congressional districts in Maine. NFIB also launched a tax calculator to provide small business owners in Maine with personalized estimates of how much more they could owe in federal income taxes in 2026 if the deduction expires.

“These new tools give small business owners and elected leaders in Maine real data about the economic stakes,” said David Clough, state director for NFIB in Maine. “If Congress fails to act, millions of small businesses across the country—including right here in Maine—will

face a massive tax hike. That means fewer jobs, less investment, and slower growth for our communities. We urge Congress to make the 20% Small Business Tax Deduction permanent.”

“We also applaud the United States House of Representatives for passing the tax cuts package this morning,” continued Clough. “This legislation is one of the most pro-small business bills in recent history, and Congress has a historic opportunity to provide over 33 million small business owners with permanent tax relief.”

According to NFIB’s interactive map, if the deduction is extended, Maine could see an increase of 11,422 jobs and

*See NFIB, page 10*

## EPA kickstarts Maine lead paint initiative

**BOSTON, ME** – As part of a longstanding effort to address the risks of lead paint across New England, the U.S. Environ-

mental Protection Agency (EPA) will begin an initiative in Maine involving outreach, education, compliance assistance, and en-

forcement activities. EPA will focus on areas located in central Maine along the I-95 Corridor, including Androscoggin, Cumberland, Kennebec, Penobscot, and Waldo counties. These areas were selected in part due to the number of children with elevated blood lead levels as reported by Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention. This initiative will help increase awareness of and compliance with federal lead-based paint rules.

“EPA New England’s lead paint initiative is about protecting children where they live, learn, and play, while reducing their lead exposure in homes,” said EPA New England Regional Administrator Mark Sanborn. “Every family should feel safe from environmental haz-

*See EPA, page 5*

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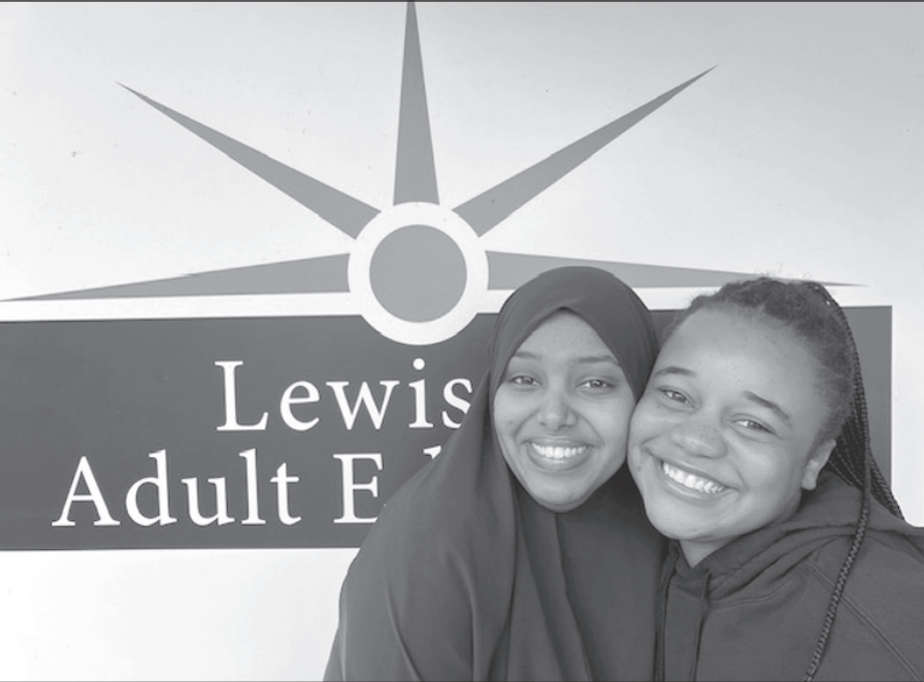


Buck Buchanan

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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

**Lewiston Adult Ed graduation marks students' continuing efforts**



Balqisa Abdalah, left, and Questia Kabemba, right, are two of Lewiston Adult Education's students who will march at graduation on June 3.

**LEWISTON, ME** – Two Lewiston Adult Education students who have spent the past year preparing for careers in the medical field will take a well-earned pause to celebrate earning their diplomas.

Questia Kabemba and Balqisa Abdalah will be among the graduates honored at the commencement ceremony held at Lewiston High School on Tuesday, June 3, at 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Both Kabemba and Abdalah became certified nursing assistants earlier in May after completing the Pre-Apprenticeship Healthcare Pathway. They plan to continue their apprenticeship path with local healthcare facilities

while also enrolling in nursing classes this fall at Central Maine Community College in Auburn.

Kabemba, a native of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, completed her High School Equivalency test last November. Abdalah, who was born in South Africa, finished hers in May.

Kabemba credited her teacher, Luke Lunt, and her older brother, Serge Kabemba, for encouraging her to pursue her education. "He told me about most of the programs here because he did HiSET with Luke as well," she said.

Kabemba appreciated Lunt's teaching style, saying he offered suggestions rather than orders as she worked through chal-

**Nutrition**  
*Continued from page 1*

basic needs met - housing, food, healthcare - they are better able to contribute to and thrive in the workforce and community. Gather to Grow is part of making that happen in our communities and we're proud to help them do that work."

A former youth program participant, now a Gather to Grow board member, talked about the importance of Gather to Grow's work in her life: "Gather to Grow has shaped not only our community, but also my own journey," said Sahro Hassan, Gather to Grow board member. "It gave me a space to connect with others, deepen my understanding of nutrition and food justice, and grow as a mentor. It's been powerful to watch youth step into leadership while giving back to the community in meaningful ways."

Gather to Grow will continue to run the food pantry from their head-

lenges in math, especially fractions and word problems.

Abdalah shared advice for others considering high school equivalency classes. "If you put in the time and effort, you'll get it done quicker than you think. Just be patient," she said.

Kabemba encouraged others not to give in to doubt by ignoring those who claim that adult education classes won't work for them. "You won't know until you come in and try it yourself," she said.

Lewiston Adult Education offers HiSET preparation and testing year-round with day and evening classes for anyone seeking a diploma equivalent.

quarters at 208 Bates Street, which serves 500 households each week. They will also continue to support urban gardening, provide important garden and food-based programs for local youth, and host community meals and education opportunities throughout the year.

Learn more about Gather to Grow, their programs, and how to get involved at [gathertogrow-maine.org](http://gathertogrow-maine.org).

**Sen. Rotundo hosts family of Hall of Fame inductee**

**AUGUSTA, ME** – Sen. Peggy Rotundo, D-Lewiston, hosted the family of the late Professor Louis L. Robert of Lewiston at the State House for Franco-American Day. Prof. Robert was posthumously inducted into the Franco-American Hall of Fame. His family was in attendance for the annual event hosted by the Maine Legislature to recognize the contributions of Franco-Americans across Maine and their work to preserve and promote Franco culture and the French language.

"It was such an honor to have Prof. Robert's family here for the event," said Sen. Rotundo. "Professor Robert contributed so much to the Franco community of Lewiston and to the preservation of Franco-American culture throughout the State of Maine."

Prof. Robert left his home in Montreal to teach at the Saints Peter and Paul Parish in Lewiston during the 1920s and was considered a pioneer in bilingual education. In 1928, Prof. Robert opened a private academy specializing in business curriculum for grades 7 to 10, where the lessons were strictly taught in French.



(From left to right) Bill Marcous, Monique Bailey, Dustyn Bailey, Sen. Rotundo, Rachel Cloutier, and Robert Marcous.

This academy helped in the acculturation of the Franco-Americans in the Lewiston-Auburn area, with its graduates going on to pursue business and higher education. Prof. Robert was elected Chairman of the Lewiston School Board in 1933, and in the 1950s was a major contributor to the French language newspaper for the Franco-American community, *Le Messager*.

Prof. Robert's family — his grandsons, Bill and Robert Marcous, his granddaughter, Monique Bailey, and great grandson, Dustyn Bailey — received a legislative sentiment from Sen. Rotundo

on his behalf.

A legislative sentiment represents a significant expression of the Legislature in recognition of civic and public achievements.

Others inducted into the Franco Hall of Fame were Andrea Quaid, posthumously, and Jacynthe Jacques, both of Lewiston.

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

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

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Gorham Weekly • 28 State Street • Gorham, ME 04038

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# Seniors Not Acting Their Age Final Days on the Mopang Stream and Machias River Expedition

Three of us awoke to the amenities of Wigwams Camp. Ken Gordon, Eggman DeCoster and I had reserved the cabin for the first night of our three-day trip on Mopang Stream and the Machias River.

Owned by Downeast Salmon Federation, the cabin is located at the bottom of the first of four challenging whitewater rapids on the Machias River called the Wigwams. Instead of a rudimentary tent site, we enjoyed the comforts of propane lights and stove, and a woodstove with firewood. The timing of the reservation was fortuitous as we experienced a long exhausting descent of Mopang Stream the day before and the temperature dropped below freezing during the night.

Mopang Stream was a new and formidable experience for us. The estimated 24-mile day included numerous blowdowns and obstructions, unexpectedly difficult rapids and a lower than desirable water level. Now we were in familiar surroundings on a high volume river with exciting whitewater well-known to us.

Recuperating from the demanding Mopang

Stream descent, we took our time organizing for the day's paddle. A leisurely breakfast allowed time for the sun to climb high into the sky and the temperature to rise to a toasty warm level.

We launched two expedition kayaks and a canoe at the foot of First Wigwam. After some easy rapids, we entered Second Wigwam on the right and negotiated around a trio of wide ledges to a pool at the bottom.

Third Wigwam was next. Since there is steep river-wide pitch part way through the rapid, we stopped at the portage trail on the left to scout. Narrow passageways free of significant obstructions were located in the center and on the left of the precipitous ledge drop. Approaches to both were complicated by large waves, rocks and some holes. We concluded left would be an easier route to follow. A good choice, we all had successful runs in loaded boats.

Fourth Wigwam awaited around the next bend. Since it was relatively easy to boat scout, we navigated through a feisty wave train left center.

Several miles of flat

water followed to a bridge at the top of Upper Holmes Falls, a dangerous 15-foot waterfall. We carried left on a good portage trail and explored camping options.

Although lacking the posh accommodations of the previous night, we located a campsite with plenty of tent space, a fire ring, and an abundance of driftwood waiting to be cut. A peaceful evening followed sitting around the campfire. We were in our sleeping bags prior to arrival of several showers during the night.

The sun was shining when we crawled out of our tents well after daybreak. The sun was particularly welcome on this morning since it provided the opportunity to dry our tents while cooking and eating breakfast.

We loaded boats and embarked in slack water. The half-mile between Upper and Lower Holmes Falls is a unique canyon-like environment. Above Lower Holmes Falls, in the center of the river, is Deadman's Island where there is a monument erected in memory of an early pioneer, Obadiah Hill.

Skirting along the



Eggman DeCoster canoes through Third Wigwam Rapid on the Machias River



A kayaker enters complex Lower Holmes Falls



Ken Gordon finishes Lower Holmes Falls

right side of the island, we paddled down a pushy rapid into a moving current immediately above the falls. Hurriedly ferrying to the right shore, the narrow boulder-strewn cataract that often accumulates obstructions required careful inspection.

With the exception of a fallen tree on the right at the beginning, the falls was free of debris. We set up safety with throw bags and descended one boat at a time. The complicated route entailed plunging over a ledge drop just to the left of the fallen tree, punching through a channel-wide hole, and then weaving around submerged boulders to the bottom of the twisting passage. We completed the complex rapid with minimal difficulties.

The remainder of our voyage was nine miles of

primarily flat water. We passed the mouth of Old Stream and a scenic sector of quick water called Getchell Rips on our way to the takeout at Smith Landing.

Our expedition was one of extremes. Day one was an endurance test in a tiny stream replete with a multitude of exciting adversities followed by two days of exhilarating big water paddling.

My book, Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine narrates five more exceptional Maine river trips.

Ron Chase resides in Topsham. His latest book, "Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine" is available at [www.north-countrypress.com/maine-al-fresco](http://www.north-countrypress.com/maine-al-fresco) or in bookstores and through online retail-

ers. His previous books are "The Great Mars Hill Bank Robbery" and "Mountains for Mortals – New England." Visit his website at [www.ronchase-outdoors.com](http://www.ronchase-outdoors.com) or he can be reached at [ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net](mailto:ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net).

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Maine has highest rate of child food insecurity in New England

Sen. Collins speaks at Rumford Fire Station dedication

AUBURN, ME – Food insecurity continues to impact every county in the United States, with Maine holding the highest rate in child food insecurity, and second highest rate of overall food insecurity in New England, according to Feeding America’s annual Map the Meal Gap study. In 2023, one in eight Mainers (13.8 percent) and one in five children (20.6 percent) experienced food insecurity, marking the fourth consecutive year that food security has increased in Maine and underscoring persistent challenges statewide. Good Shepherd Food Bank is using this data to call attention to the urgent need for sustained efforts to end hunger.

“This year’s data reinforces what we hear every day from Mainers trying to put food on the table,” said Heather Paquette, president of Good Shepherd Food Bank.

“Food insecurity is an urgent challenge in every corner of our state, and the numbers remind us that too many children, families and older Mainers are still being left behind. We are committed to using this information to strengthen partnerships and drive solutions that move us closer to a Maine where everyone is food secure. We invite our neighbors across Maine to join us in making that vision a reality, whether through giving, volunteering, or advocating for policies that address the root causes of hunger.”

These troubling trends come at a time when federal resources are shrinking. Recent cuts to USDA food programs, combined with proposed threats to SNAP benefits, put key supports that families rely on at risk and weaken the safety net for many people in Maine. This decline in assistance highlights the urgent need for stronger policies and investments that keep hunger from rising further.

Other key findings of Map the Meal Gap include: Estimated food insecurity levels vary across the country and are influenced by a range of factors, including income-related challenges like unemployment, poverty, high cost of living; community- and health-related conditions; and barriers that prevent access to enough healthy food.

Nationwide, nearly nine out of 10 high food insecurity counties are rural, indicating regional disparities. This is true in Maine, which sees high levels of food insecurity across our rural counties. In fact, the highest food insecurity rates of all New England counties are in Maine; Washington, Piscataquis, Aroostook, and Somerset.

In Maine, food insecurity among all individuals ranges from a low of 11.6 percent in Cumberland County to a high of 18.1 percent in Washington County.

Food insecurity also varies for different age groups. Among children, food insecurity in Maine ranges from a low of 15.8 percent in Cumberland County to a high of 27.3 percent in Washington County.

Income and Program Eligibility: Nationally, more than two out of five people facing hunger may not qualify for SNAP benefits due to income limits. Here in Maine, Feeding America estimates that 42 percent of

people facing hunger may not qualify for SNAP, and approximately 36 percent of kids experiencing food insecurity live in families that are not eligible for SNAP benefits.

Food Spending and Prices: The national food budget shortfall, which reflects the extra money that people who are food insecure report needing to cover their food needs, is \$32 billion. This translates to \$22.37 a week per person, on average. Mainers feel this firsthand, with an estimated food budget shortfall of \$23.47.

Mainers who were food secure in 2023 reported spending an average of \$3.76 per meal. Meal costs vary significantly by county and throughout the nation, ranging from \$2.60 to \$6.09, showcasing the diverse economic challenges faced by communities and reflecting the growing need seen by Good Shepherd Food Bank.

Now in its 15th year, Map the Meal Gap is the only study offering county-level estimates of food insecurity and food costs nationwide. The report builds upon USDA data showing 47 million people—including 14 million children—experienced food insecurity in 2023, the highest rate in over a decade. Maine’s rising numbers highlight ongoing economic pressures and structural barriers that make accessing nutritious food difficult, especially in rural regions. More information, including an interactive map detailing food insecurity by geography, income, and race, can be found at [www.feedingamerica.org/MaptheMealGap](http://www.feedingamerica.org/MaptheMealGap).

RUMFORD, ME – U.S. Senator Susan Collins delivered remarks at a dedication and open house at the new Rumford fire station. The new station is dedicated to Peter Chase, a former Deputy Fire Chief and Town of Rumford Selectman who passed away in 2022. Members of the Chase family, including his wife Rhonda and his son, Auburn Fire Department Chief Bob Chase, were in attendance for the ceremony, which was held on the same day as Deputy Chief Chase’s birthday.

“This is a celebration of more than a modern facility for firefighters. As we dedicate this building to Peter Chase, we honor an inspiring life of service,” said Senator Collins during her remarks. “From Deputy Fire Chief, to Selectman, to his work on several town and county commissions, Peter devoted himself to his community. This is a wonderfully touching way



to mark what would have been Peter’s 72nd birthday.”

“Rhonda, Bob, and all members of his wonderful family, please know that this new fire station is a fitting memorial to a remarkable example of the spirit of Maine,” she continued. “Bob, let me congratulate you for carrying on your father’s legacy in Auburn and for your recognition as Maine’s Fire Chief of the Year for 2024. That spirit lives on in the firefighters who selflessly put their lives on the line to protect our families, our homes, and our businesses.”

After touring the old station—which was constructed in 1923—in May of 2022, Senator Collins secured \$1 million in Congressionally Directed Spending to support the construction of the new station in the Fiscal Year 2022 omnibus appropriations package. The new station includes two additional bays and additional clearance for trucks, as well as a decontamination area, and sleeping space for the firefighters.

Senator Collins has long been an advocate for Maine’s firefighters and first responders. Through her role on the Senate Appropriations Committee, she secured more than \$31 million in Congressionally Directed Spending through the Fiscal Year 2024 appropriations process for projects across the state that will support local law enforcement, fire and rescue stations, and emergency response services.

EPA  
*Continued from page 2*

ards in their communities. By working closely with our local counterparts, this is a clear example of how EPA is protecting the public health of Americans and their families.”

“Maine DEP appreciates this collaborative effort led by EPA to raise awareness of the hazards of lead exposure and ensure that contractors follow the laws designed to protect our citizens,” said Commissioner Melanie Loyzim, Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

EPA will provide outreach and education activities in Aroostook County, the largest county in the state by total area, and for federally recognized tribal communities in northern

Maine. Outreach and education efforts in northern Maine aim to increase availability to lead safe renovation professionals in less populated areas.

EPA’s lead paint initiative aims to reduce childhood lead exposure through increased awareness and improved compliance with the Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) Rule, the Lead Disclosure Rule, and the Safe Drinking Water Act’s Lead and Copper Rule. Homes built before 1978 are very likely to contain lead paint. Lead is particularly harmful to children because they are more vulnerable to its effects, which include damage to the brain and nervous system.

In coordination with federal, state, tribal and local partners, EPA will:

Provide compliance assistance to the regulated community, including firms that perform renovation, repair, or painting of homes and child-occupied facilities built pre-1978;

Deliver multimedia educational materials and information to the public;

Present lead-based paint regulation training and materials to state and local health and building code officials and tribal environmental health agencies;

Conduct compliance inspections; and

Address violations using a range of tools including penalty and non-penalty enforcement actions.

This initiative has previously included areas in Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont.

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# Arts & Entertainment

## L/A CLT Summer Camps present Aristocats Kids, Beetlejuice

**AUBURN, ME** – The L/A Community Little Theatre in Auburn will present The Aristocats Kids as a part of their youth summer camp program. Directed by Maria Groover and Maddi DuBois, choreographed by



Ansley Watson, and music directed by Moll Brown, CLT's youth camp aims to introduce students to the stage and bring quality theatre education to students between 4 and 7 grade.

This summer, travel to the heart of Paris with The Aristocats Kids where a kind and eccentric millionairess wills her entire estate to Duchess, her high-society cat, and her three little kittens. Laughs and adventure ensue as the greedy, bumbling butler pulls off the ultimate cat-nap caper. Now it's up to the rough-and-tumble alley cat, Thomas O'Malley, and his band of swingin' jazz cats to save the day.

The performance dates for The Aristocats Kids are Friday, July 18, 2025 at 7:30pm and Sat-

urday, July 19, 2025 at 2:00pm at 30 Academy St in Auburn, ME. Tickets and subscriptions are available online at [www.laclt.com/box-office-1](http://www.laclt.com/box-office-1) or by calling 783-0958. Ticket prices (including all fees) are \$15.00 for adults, \$12.00 for seniors and students, and \$10.00 for children ages 13 and under.

The L/A Community Little Theatre in Auburn will present Beetlejuice Jr as a part of their teen summer camp program. Directed by Linda Vaillancourt, and music directed by Moll Brown, CLT's teen camp aims to bring quality theatre education to students between 8 and 12 grade.

This summer, the ghost-with-the-most will come to the stage in Beetlejuice JR., the frightfully

funny musical based on the beloved motion picture turned Broadway phenomenon. Lydia Deetz is a strange and unusual teenager, still grieving the loss of her mother and obsessed with the whole "being dead thing." Lucky for Lydia, she and her father move to a new house haunted by a recently deceased couple and Beetlejuice, a delightful demon with a real zest for life. When Lydia calls on Beetlejuice to scare away anyone with a pulse, this double-crossing specter shows his true stripes, unleashing a (Nether) world of pandemonium.

The performance dates for Beetlejuice Jr. are Saturday, July 19, 2025 at 7:30pm and Sunday, July 20, 2025 at 2:00pm at 30 Academy St in Auburn, ME. Tickets and subscriptions are available online at [www.laclt.com/box-office-1](http://www.laclt.com/box-office-1) or by calling 783-0958. Ticket prices (including all fees) are \$15.00 for adults, \$12.00 for seniors and students, and \$10.00 for children ages 13 and under.

## Libby Sipe: Showing Skin explores discomfort & resilience

**LEWISTON, ME** – LA Arts is pulling no punches with their first gallery offering of the 2025 Art Walk season, a solo exhibition of experimental sculptural paintings by artist Libby Sipe. Made primarily from paint skins—sheets of acrylic paint that have been removed from a substrate—the compelling, visceral works showcase raw emotion, through the use of the artist's chosen materials, that encapsulates her journey of healing and continuous transformation. An opening reception will coincide with the May Art Walk LA event at 5pm on Friday, May 30th at LA Arts' Lisbon St. headquarters in Lewiston.

About the Exhibition Drawing from childhood trauma, Sipe builds a world of her own where she explores her playful and resilient spirit that has carried her through challenging moments in her life. This exhibition draws on the artist's feelings surrounding her own fragility.

Sipe strives to create a world that is equally beautiful as it is uncomfortable. She is opening the door for a deeper conversation with the viewer, challenging them to embrace the joys of life whilst



remaining open to holding the darker aspects of life just as closely. The artist aspires to inspire hope, not just for themselves, but for those who choose to engage with her creations.

Libby Sipe: Showing Skin runs May 30-July 10 at the LA Arts Gallery, 168 Lisbon St. in Lewiston.

Since 1973, LA Arts, the arts agency for the cities of Lewiston and Auburn Maine, has pursued a mission to engage and inspire a vibrant community through arts and culture. The agency works with

governments, businesses, schools, and local arts and cultural organizations to create opportunities for community members across the generations to experience, learn, and participate in the arts. LA Arts organizes arts programs and initiatives, supports the work of local artists and arts organizations, and highlights the essential role the arts play in shaping an economically vital, socially integrated, and forward-looking future for its community. Learn more at [www.laarts.org](http://www.laarts.org).

## CMCC celebrates excellence with honors, scholarships

**AUBURN, ME** – Central Maine Community College is pleased to recognize several outstanding students for their exceptional academic performance, leadership, and commitment to community service. Among the honorees is Victoria Wile of Gray, who has been named the 2025 Student of the Year. Victoria Wile, a second-year Building Construction Technology (BCT) student, has been awarded CMCC's Student of the Year for her commitment to academics, service to the College through her work on the Maintenance

Team, membership in Phi Theta Kappa (CMCC's Academic Honor Society), and her lifelong involvement and leadership in both Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts.

In addition, four CMCC students have been named to the 2025 Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) All-Maine Academic Team:

Emma Dionne of Auburn, ME, a Life Sciences major, was selected for her academic excellence and has been named one of only 20 students nationwide to the prestigious 2025 All-USA Academic Team, earning a \$5,000

scholarship. Emma was also named a 2025 New Century Transfer Pathway Scholar, receiving an additional \$2,250 scholarship to support her pursuit of a degree in neurobiology.

Zulma Lizarazo of South Portland, ME, an Accounting major, was honored for her outstanding academic performance and her vision to provide accessible accounting and tax services to her local community. Her selection to the All-Maine Academic Team includes a \$500 scholarship.

Ivy Hutchinson of See CMCC, page 14

## 23rd annual GAHS Golf Tournament supports local pets

**AUBURN, ME** – The 23rd Annual GAHS Golf Tournament is coming up on June 12th!

Whether you're a seasoned golfer, know just enough lingo to get by, or are a total newbie, our tournament promises a fun and relaxed day—all

while supporting a great cause: helping animals in need throughout our community.

Register as a team or sign up solo—we'll match you with other players so you can meet new friends on the course. Enjoy raffles, golf challenges, and

more, all set against the beautiful backdrop of Martindale Country Club.

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# Applications open for 2025 Access to Justice Tax Credit

**AUGUSTA, ME** – The Maine Justice Foundation is pleased to announce that applications for the 2025 Access to Justice Tax Credit Program will open on June 2, 2025. The Foundation will accept applications from eligible attorneys from June 2-16, 2025. Please visit <https://www.grantinterface.com/sl/ceKoqR> to apply starting on June 2.

In an effort to encourage lawyers to provide services to underserved areas of our State, the Legislature enacted this program in 2022. 36 M.R.S. Section 5219-ZZ provides that the Maine Supreme Court or its designee shall certify up to five qualified attorneys annually for participation in the Access to Justice Tax Credit program. The Court has designated the Maine Justice Foundation to administer the program and established a Standing Committee to assist and advise the Foundation in the process. The Standing Committee includes representatives of the Maine Justice Foundation, the Maine State Bar Association, and the Maine Trial Lawyers Association.

Now in its fourth year, the program will authorize up to five additional eligible attorneys to receive a \$6,000 tax credit in 2025 and in each year thereafter through 2027. To be eligible, attorneys must commit to practicing law in an underserved area for at least five years, must be rostered by the Maine Commission



on Public Defense Services to accept court appointments to represent clients in an underserved area, and must agree to perform pro bono legal services in an underserved area.

In 2022, 2023 and 2024, the Foundation received submissions from eligible applicants statewide representing Penobscot, Knox, Kennebec, Hancock, Waldo, Aroostook, Somerset, Androscoggin, York, and Cumberland Counties. The attorneys selected through this process to date include Cassandra Rogers and Benjamin Everett of Presque Isle, Taylor Kilgore of Turner, Gregory LeClerc of Standish, Ryan Rutledge of Skowhegan, Britany Sawyer of Arundel, Shamara Bailey of Patten, Lynn Madison of Rockland, Stephen Smith of Augusta, Sarah Catherman of Waterville, Benjamin Fowler of Bangor, Andrew Catherman of Waterville, Adrienne Fernstrom of Rockland, and Jeremiah McIntosh of Washburn. These attorneys can continue to claim this credit for up to five years provided they maintain their eligibility. This benefit will be expanded for up to five additional el-

igible attorneys each year through 2027. "This is a valuable incentive for lawyers to further support access to justice for Mainers in need," states Michelle Draeger, Executive Director of the Maine Justice Foundation. "This benefit will encourage attorneys in underserved areas to help their neighbors in underserved areas to access justice through quality legal representation. We are honored to administer this program and look forward to working with the Court to report on the positive benefits associated with it to the Legislature. We can collectively solve access to justice issues in our state by employing multiple creative strategies such as this tax credit," says Draeger.

The Maine Justice Foundation, founded in 1983 as the Maine Bar Foundation, is the state's leading funder of civil legal aid for poor and vulnerable Mainers. Find us online and support access to justice through donations to various funds at [www.justicemaine.org](http://www.justicemaine.org).

FMI: Contact Michelle G. Draeger, Executive Director: 207-620-1351, [mdraeger@justicemaine.org](mailto:mdraeger@justicemaine.org).

# Billboards urge campers to keep Maine beautiful

**AUGUSTA, ME** – Just in time for the summer camping season, travelers from Massachusetts and New Hampshire heading to Maine will start seeing bold, eye-catching billboards with a simple message: Keep Campfires Wicked Good - Use Local Firewood.

This public awareness campaign, launched by the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF), Maine Forest Service, and Plant Health Programs, uses clean, unbranded graphics and a high-impact message to reach would-be campers before they cross the border. The campaign aims to prevent the spread of invasive forest pests by discouraging the movement of firewood into Maine's forests and parks.

"These billboards are a reminder that even well-intentioned campers can unknowingly carry tree-killing insects and

diseases into our state," said Maine State Forester Patty Cormier. "Keeping Maine's forests healthy is a shared responsibility, and not moving firewood is one of the easiest and most effective ways to help."

The campaign, funded by a USDA APHIS cooperative agreement, begins this week and runs through September. A series of three billboard designs completes the campaign, each featuring a dark brown woodgrain background with vivid cream-colored letters and the following phrases:

Camp Smart. Keep Maine Beautiful. Leave Firewood at Home

Keep Campfires Wicked Good. Use Local Firewood

Hey Bub, Bugs Are Lurking. Leave Firewood at Home

The billboards are intentionally minimalist: no logos, no website links, just a clear directive designed

to stick in the minds of travelers. The simplicity is strategic. Including branding or URLs could distract from the core message, especially on fast-moving highways.

In the coming weeks and months, the designs will appear on DACF social media channels, including Instagram, Facebook, and X, where the message can be expanded with helpful links and tips on firewood sourcing.

The campaign complements ongoing state and federal efforts to educate the public about the dangers of moving firewood. Firewood can harbor destructive pests like the emerald ash borer and Asian longhorned beetle, and others far less familiar to most, all of which can devastate Maine's iconic forests.

For more information about how you can help keep Maine's forests safe, visit [www.maine.gov/firewood](http://www.maine.gov/firewood).

# UUCB Concerts for a Cause: Susan Werner



**BRUNSWICK, ME** – The award-winning singer-songwriter, Susan Werner will perform at the UU Church of Brunswick on June 14th to raise money for the Brunswick Teen Center and Maine Family Planning. This will be the last concert of the season to benefit the chosen charities.

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 charismatic 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.

With a graduate degree in voice performance, her shows are a one-woman master class in musicianship. Her songs are noted for their poetry and sharp wit, and also for their astonishing stylistic range. She has written songs in the style of Gershwin and Cole Porter, gospel music, traditional Cuban "son", and New Orleans junk piano. In 2014 she composed the music and lyrics to the musical theater score "Bull

Durham, the Musical." Her latest recording of original songs, In the 2025 International Folk Festival Awards, Susan Werner walked away with the award for Album of the Year for "Halfway to Houston."

Werner was featured as part of the "next generation" in Peter Paul and Mary's PBS special. She has also performed on NPR's World Café, NPR's Mountain Stage, and displayed her considerable piano chops on Marian McPartland's NPR Piano Jazz.

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>.

# New chief to lead MaineHealth Behavioral Health Services

**Portland, ME** – MaineHealth announced today it has selected Dr. Alex Keuroghlian as the new Chief of MaineHealth Behavioral Health (MHBH) and Chair of Psychiatry at MaineHealth Maine Medical Center (MHMMC). As Chief, Dr. Keuroghlian will be responsible for the overall clinical operation of behavioral health services across the MaineHealth system; as the Department Chair he will lead the clinical, teaching, and research programs at MHMMC Department of Psychiatry, including residency and fellowship training in general and child psychiatry and the academic affiliation with Tufts University School of Medicine.

Dr. Keuroghlian previously served as the Michele & Howard J. Kessler Chair and Director of the Division of Public and Community Psychiatry at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), Associate Chief for Public and Community Psychiatry of the MGH Department of Psychiatry, and Director of the Division of Education and Training at The Fenway Institute. He is an As-



sociate Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School.

"Alex brings an exceptional record of leadership in academic and community psychiatry, as well as a deep commitment to advancing behavioral health services," said Adrian Moran, MD, MBA, FACC, MaineHealth Chief Medical and Transformation Officer. "His experience overseeing clinical services for diverse populations, combined with his extensive background in professional development and training, will be invaluable as he steps into this new role at MaineHealth on May 30th."

"I am so excited to have Alex join MaineHealth in this unique dual role," added MHBH President Kelly Barton, MPH, FACHE. "He has dedicated his career to fostering innovative mental health

programs, mentoring the next generation of health-care professionals, and ensuring equitable access to quality care. His leadership will help us further our vision of working together so our communities are the healthiest in America."

Dr. Keuroghlian graduated with a degree in medicine and a master's degree in neurosciences from Stanford University School of Medicine and holds a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. He completed his residency in psychiatry at MGH/McLean Hospital and a fellowship in community health leadership at MGH.

"We have a special opportunity to integrate superb clinical services, rigorous training, and innovative research across academic and community settings throughout MaineHealth," shared Dr. Keuroghlian. "I look forward to collaborating with and championing all our amazing teams, whose mission-driven focus will ensure our responsiveness to the behavioral health needs and priorities of our communities."

## UMaine Extension offering ServSafe certification course

FALMOUTH, ME – University of Maine Cooperative Extension is offering an 8-hour ServSafe® Food Protection Manager course on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Cumberland County office, 75 Clearwater Drive in Falmouth. The course helps prepare attendees for the ServSafe® Food Protection Manager Certification exam, which will be administered immediately following the course.

This nationally recognized certification is for anyone working in the food industry, including nonprofit organizations. The course covers topics such as food safety; personal hygiene; preventing cross-contamination; cleaning and sanitizing;



Photo courtesy US Department of Agriculture.

time and temperature control; and receiving and storing food. Attendees will receive the ServSafe® Manager Book 7th Ed., a diagnostic exam and a practice exam approximately 2 weeks prior to the course. No refunds for the course will be issued.

The \$150 fee covers

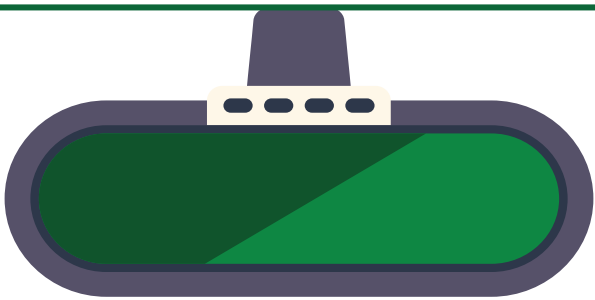
the class, materials and exam. Register and find more details at the program website. For more information or to request reasonable accommodation, call the Cumberland County office at 207.781.6099 or 800.287.1471 (in Maine). Registration closes June 3, 2025.

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## LA Arts kicks off summer Art Walk Series in Lewiston

LEWISTON, ME – The flowers are in bloom and art is blossoming in downtown Lewiston once again! On Friday, May 30th from 5:00-8:00pm, LA Arts will present the first of five Art Walk LA events for the 2025 season. The public is invited out to Lisbon St. to attend this free event, which celebrates the arts in our community and helps support local businesses.

Art Walk LA turns Lewiston’s downtown into a bustling arts district on the final Friday of each month from May through September. Outdoor plazas, sidewalks, local businesses, and storefronts are converted into lively art galleries, creative exhibitions, reception venues, and festive live performance spaces. Featuring both indoor and outdoor activities for kids and adults, the popular summer Art Walk LA series brings artists, craftspeople, musicians, buskers, and other performers together to showcase their talents in a safe, family-friendly environment.

Featured artists and performers include:

Chicks with Sticks Steel Drummers in Du-fresne Plaza;

The art of Jaime Wing, Robert Russell, and Jon Petherbridge at Ellard Studios;

Mixed-media art and decor by Cynthia Jalbert at

Quiet City Books;

An opening reception for Libby Sipe: Showing Skin at the LA Arts gallery at 168 Lisbon St., where that exhibition will be on display through July 10th;

An opening reception at Munka Studios for Freedom in the Equation, an exhibition dedicated to repressed and murdered Ukrainian scientists, including ten scientists whose work was abruptly cut short;

A display inside and table outside The Vault of works from participants at YES Art Works, a nonprofit that provides day programs, art studio space, and supplies to support adults with disabilities to become working artists;

An assortment of offerings from resident artists and guest vendors at Wicked Illustrations; and more!

Art Walk LA has continued to evolve over its many years as a community-favorite event.

“This year we’re giving special attention to families,” says LA Arts Agency Manager Gerald Walsh. “We’re designating Wicked Wing Alley (next to Mother India) as Art Walk LA’s official kid-friendly zone, which, in May, will feature The Art of J caricatures, along with other fun activities for young attendees.”

Art Walk LA Details

Location: Lewiston’s Downtown Arts District on lower Lisbon St.

Time: 5:00-8:00 pm

FMI: [www.laarts.org/artwalk](http://www.laarts.org/artwalk)

Share your favorite Art Walk LA experiences: #finalfridayla

Free and open to the public; kid-friendly

Call for Artists: Artists, musicians, craftspeople, and performers are encouraged to participate in upcoming Art Walks by registering at [www.laarts.org/artwalk](http://www.laarts.org/artwalk). Art Walk LA offers a valuable opportunity for artists to share their work, connect with new audiences, and engage in a thriving and supportive arts community.

Thanks to our Champion sponsors!

LA Arts continues to engage and inspire a vibrant community through arts and culture with support from its generous Champion Sponsors, including: Austin & Associates; Baxter Brewing; Berman & Simmons; City of Auburn; City of Lewiston; Davis Family Foundation; Elmina B. Sewall Foundation; Helen & George Ladd Charitable Fund; Liberty Mutual Group; Maine Arts Commission; Maine Community Foundation; Morton Kelly Charitable Trust; Mount Auburn Dental; Onion Foundation; Platz Associates; Sun Journal; Town Fair Tire Foundation; Turner Publishing.

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## Six high school seniors earn Rotary scholarships

**LEWISTON, AU-BURN, ME** – The Lewiston-Auburn Rotary Club awarded scholarships to graduating seniors from six local high schools at its annual awards dinner held recently at The Green Ladle in Lewiston. The students were selected by their respective schools for their academic achievements, community involvement, and leadership potential.

The Rotary Club also presented donations to the One Lewiston Resiliency Fund and to four community organizations that are devoted to animal welfare, addiction recovery, or providing shelters for women in need.

The L-A Rotary Club has been serving the local community since its founding in 1917. In addition to raising funds to provide scholarships and support service agencies, members volunteer for organizations such as the Trinity Jubilee Center, Autism Society of Maine, Salvation Army, and WISE Zambia. The club meets every Thursday at noon. More information is available at [lewiston-auburnrotary.org/](http://lewiston-auburnrotary.org/).

## Alzheimer’s Educational Conference open to everyone

**MAINE** – The Alzheimer’s Foundation of America (AFA) will host a free Alzheimer’s & Caregiving Educational Conference in Portland on Wednesday, June 11 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm ET at the Portland Regency Hotel & Spa (20 Milk Street). The free conference is open to everyone and will allow participants to learn from experts in the field of Alzheimer’s disease, brain health, caregiving, and aging. Register by visiting [www.alzfdn.org/tour](http://www.alzfdn.org/tour). Advance registration is highly recommended.

“Knowledge is a useful and powerful tool that can help make any situation easier to navigate, especially something as challenging as caring for a loved one with Alzheimer’s disease,” said Charles J. Fuschillo, Jr., AFA’s President & CEO. “Connecting families with useful, practical information and support that can help them now and be better prepared for the future is what this conference is all about. Whether Alzheimer’s is affecting your family, you are a caregiver or just want to learn more about brain health, we invite you to join us on June 11.”

Sessions during the AFA conference will include:

**Alzheimer’s Disease: What’s Good for the Body is Good for the Brain** – Taking proactive steps to protect our brain health is important as we get older. Cognitive sharpness helps us stay independent longer. The things we do to keep body and heart healthy—nutritious diet, physical activity, and social connections – also can help promote brain health and wellness. Alyson Maloy, MD, FAPA, FABIHM, will discuss the benefits of a healthy diet, including reducing the likelihood of dementia-related symptoms. She will talk about the best way to eat and teach participants about the Nutritarian way of eating, applying an extremely specific, common-sense way to eat that delivers maximum brain and body health.

Dr. Maloy, a triple board-certified physician in neurology, psychiatry, and integrative holistic medicine, is the Founder of Brain Health Maine, a neuropsychiatric practice which offers comprehensive assessment and treatment for a wide range of conditions affecting mood, memory, behavior, and cognitive function.

**Breaking Barriers: Creating Better Care and More Choices for Families with Dementia** - Ageism in healthcare can delay or prevent early diagnosis of dementia because symptoms may be wrongly dismissed as “normal aging,” resulting in missed opportunities for early intervention that might slow the disease’s progression.

*See Conference, page 11*



The Lewiston-Auburn Rotary Club scholarship recipients are pictured here with club president Larry Delhagen at left and Stephanie Gelinas, chair of the club’s scholarship committee, at right. From left the students are Owen Galway, Edward Little High School; Hawa Omer, Lewiston High School; Mabel Tyler, Poland Regional High School; Ashley Roy, Leavitt Area High School; Kassidy Cote, St. Dominic Academy; and Kendall Theriault, Oak Hill High School.

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Ag & Turf

## Maine teacher/children’s author wins international award

LEBANON, ME – Maine author and teacher, Ashlee Ridlon, wins prestigious International UK-based award (The Wishing Shelf) for her children’s book, This Book is TOO Scary For You! The award distinguishes itself from other awards by allowing students and teachers to choose the winners. Ashlee’s book was chosen by a group of 15 students and teachers, receiving five stars across the board. This Book is TOO Scary For You has also received an award from The Purple Dragonfly literary competition.

Ashlee, a former kindergarten teacher in her hometown who still teaches there part-time, made the decision to follow her dreams and become a children’s book author 2 years ago. Raised by a Maine educator herself, books have always been an essential part of her life. She remembers the magic of read-alouds and the creativity it sparked within her. She then shared that passion with her own children and, later, students. Her favorite part of reading to children is when they engage and interact with the stories. She hopes to share that magic that



she experienced through reading with her own stories.

Her first book, called I Have FPIES is based on her daughter, Avery, now 12, who lives with a rare and severe food allergy. Avery, who is allergic to eggs, needed to be given one new food a week when first diagnosed at 6 months old, as children with FPIES can be allergic to any protein in any food. When her daughter grew and started to feel different than her peers, Ashlee looked for a story to read to her daughter to help her feel a part of a community and feel

less alone with this rare condition. Unfortunately, there were no choices at that time. In 2023, I Have FPIES was published with the hope it could help others who were on the same journey feel connected to people who have gone through similar experiences.

Ashlee has three books releasing in 2025, called Adventures Await, Little One, Whatever You Do, Don’t Laugh and The Mermaid who Sang to the Stars. She also attends over 20 in-person festivals and events, including six events in Maine for the 2025 season!

## Bath’s Spring Colors 5K & Half-K Color Run a success

BATH, ME – Bath got a whole lot brighter today, Sunday May 18th, as 250 participants and 30 enthusiastic volunteers came together at Bridge Park for the first annual Spring Colors 5K and Half-K Color Run, hosted by Bath at Play on May 18, 2025.

“We’re incredibly excited by the turnout for our first-ever Spring Colors event,” said John Byram, President and founder of Bath at Play. “It was a beautiful morning filled with color, laughter, and community spirit — exactly the kind of playful energy we were hoping for.”

The untimed 5K course took runners through scenic downtown Bath, with color stations staffed by volunteers who doused runners in vibrant bursts of colored powder. After completing the 5K, many participants joined younger runners for the Half-K Color Run, a fun loop around Bridge Park designed just for kids. This



two-part format allowed families to share the joy of the day — and the color — together.

The event was made possible thanks to the

support of local sponsors including Reverie Coffeehouse, Wilcox Wellness & Fitness Brunswick, and Bath Savings Institution – Bath Branch.



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### NFIB

Continued from page 2

\$628,000,000 in GDP over the next decade. The district-level data allow lawmakers and local leaders

to understand exactly how small businesses in their communities stand to gain when the tax deduction is made permanent—or lose if it is not.

The tax calculator helps individual small business owners project their potential tax increase if the deduction is not extended. For example, a Maine small business owner with a personal income of \$75,000 and qualified business income of \$150,000 could see a tax increase of more than \$13,000, depending on their full financial profile.

To explore the tools and learn more about how NFIB is working to protect Maine’s small businesses, visit: [www.SmallBusiness-Deduction.com](http://www.SmallBusiness-Deduction.com).

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# Kaenrath's Corner: Lighting our path forward

By Bryan Kaenrath,  
City Administrator – City  
of Lewiston, ME

Lewiston sits on the cusp of something special. You can hear it in every conversation, find it in every neighborhood, and see it in every corner of our city. Since my first day with the City on May 5th, I've met with hundreds of our neighbors, local business owners, city employees, and community leaders. While the paths that brought them to Lewiston and their passions, dreams, and aims may vary, I have found that we are all eager to push in the same direction: forward. As City Administrator, it's my job to turn this energy and passion of our community into actions that offer tangible results. As I enter my third week, I wanted to share a few updates on where we're headed next, and how you can be part of it.

## Coming to a Neighborhood Near You

One of the most important parts of my job is listening. That's why I will be hosting monthly Public Meet & Greet events in neighborhoods across Lewiston to foster community conversations. These sessions are designed to bring City Hall closer to you, no matter where you live. We have held four Meet & Greets already at Callahan Hall on February 5th, Chick-A-Dee on March 27th, Community Credit Union on April 29th, and Tree Street Youth on April 30th. Our fourth event is scheduled for June 10th from 5:00 to 6:30 PM at the Geiger Elementary School. I encourage every resident and local business owner who can attend to swing by. Whether you have a concern to share, an idea to pitch, or just want to introduce yourself, I look forward to meeting you!

## Relighting a Downtown Icon

Lewiston's 1927 Wiseman Bridge has stood for nearly a century, yet it has long been dark, with its historic light globes broken and graffiti cover-



ing its surfaces. I recently met with our Public Works Director to kickstart a light restoration project and clean-up effort focused on this site. Our goal is to relight the historic poles and give the bridge new life. Once this effort is completed, we are eager to celebrate its next chapter at a public rededication ceremony. Optics and aesthetics matter, and this effort will serve as a key part of our ongoing efforts to revitalize Lewiston.

## Bringing Out the Best of Kennedy Park

As I walked through Kennedy Park the other day, I couldn't help but be reminded that our public spaces should reflect the best that our city has to offer. They must be inviting, safe, beautiful, and family-friendly. To ensure that Kennedy Park is accessible to all residents I've been working closely with our police leadership, and we are stepping up foot patrols and exploring further strategies to support a healthier, more accessible, and positive environment in the park. This effort is, and will continue to be, a top priority for our team at City Hall.

## Standing Against Graffiti

We're cracking down on graffiti across the City. Allowing graffiti to remain sends the wrong message to residents and visitors and indicates municipal complacency and concession. I'm grateful to our Public Works crews for their quick work to clean up recent tags and I, in no uncertain terms, want to remind everyone that graffiti is vandalism, and it will be removed. To address this problem, we need your help. If you see graffiti, please contact the Lewiston Public Works Department at [publicworks@lewistonmaine.gov](mailto:publicworks@lewistonmaine.gov) or by calling (207) 513-3142. We can all play a key role in keeping our neighborhoods and city clean and welcoming.

## Reimagining Down-

town

Downtown Lewiston is the front door to our city. That's why we're working with community partners to bring more life, events, and positive energy to our downtown spaces. At Tuesday's City Council Meeting, my team presented the concept of creating and introducing a multi-week busking festival downtown. We will continue to make progress on these efforts in the weeks and months ahead and are eager to create a downtown environment that locals are proud of and that visitors go out of their way to enjoy.

## Celebrating Our Team

I would like to conclude by taking a moment to offer special thanks to our City Clerk's Office and the election workers who ran last week's school budget referendum flawlessly. Their dedication, from registering voters to hand-counting ballots twice, and professionalism ensures the health and vibrancy of our democracy. I'd also like to congratulate Cindy DuBois, our May Employee of the Month, for her excellent work with our Finance Department.

Lewiston is in a moment of transition, and I am honored to work with, and alongside, you as we strengthen the economic, social, and cultural fabric that makes our city and community so special. From small wins to major milestones, we're laying the groundwork for the next chapter in Lewiston's long and storied history. While not all our goals can be achieved overnight, through the diligence and dedication of our community, together we can build and maintain momentum that's impossible to ignore. Let's keep it up, and I look forward to seeing you out there.

Bryan Kaenrath City Administrator, City of Lewiston, ME

Friday, May 22, 2025.

## Conference Continued from page 9

It also affects caregivers, who may be dismissed, not taken seriously, or blamed when they advocate for proper care for someone with moderate dementia. Jessica Maurer, Esq., will discuss this issue, including how individuals can confront cultural stigmas that cause harm to people living with Alzheimer's disease; expand options for better health; and improve quality of life.

Ms. Maurer is the Executive Director of the Maine Council on Aging, a multidisciplinary network of 140 businesses and community members working to ensure we can all live healthy, engaged, and secure lives as we age.

Building Community Supports for Caregivers - Having a strong community support system— together with access to resources, respite services, support groups, financial and legal assistance, and education—is essential for caregivers. No one should go through the caregiving journey alone. Megan

Walton will discuss various ways to build support for caregivers—from on-the-ground outreach and resources to state level respite options—to help them provide better care for their loved ones.

Ms. Walton is the Chief Executive Officer for the Southern Maine Agency on Aging, which serves older and disabled adults in York and Cumberland Counties and is dedicated to planning and implementing social services.

Safeguarding Your Home After a Dementia Diagnosis - Dementia-related illnesses impact the mind and affect virtually every aspect of a person's life, including making many facets of daily living more difficult. Most residences are not built with the needs of an individual living with Alzheimer's disease or other dementia-related illnesses in mind. However, almost every part of a residence can impact quality of life for someone living with a dementia-related illness and their family care partners.

Paul Ballance, Chief of Operations for Project

Lifesaver International, will provide valuable information on how you can safeguard your home. Project Lifesaver International is a nonprofit organization dedicated to locating individuals with cognitive conditions—such as Alzheimer's disease—who are prone to wandering and may become lost.

Free, confidential memory screenings will be conducted throughout the day.

For more information or to register for the June 11 conference in Portland, visit [www.alzfdn.org/tour](http://www.alzfdn.org/tour). Those who cannot participate in the conference or have immediate questions about Alzheimer's disease can connect with licensed social workers seven days a week through AFA's National Toll-Free Helpline by calling 866-232-8484, texting 646-586-5283, or web chatting at [www.alzfdn.org](http://www.alzfdn.org) by clicking the blue and white chat icon in the right-hand corner of the page. The web chat and text message features are available in more than 90 languages.

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



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# \$23M secured to prevent erosion at Camp Ellis in Saco

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Susan Collins, Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, announced that she secured \$23 million for the Maine Army Corps of Engineers to prevent erosion at Camp Ellis in Saco. This funding, which was included in the Fiscal Year 2025 full-year continuing reso-

lution, supports the construction of a 750-foot spur jetty and the replenishment of an estimated 300,000 cubic yards of sand fill.

"The construction of a spur jetty at Camp Ellis will help to prevent the severe erosion that has destroyed dozens of residents' homes over generations," said Senator Collins. "As

Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I worked hard to secure this funding, which will help to resolve this problem, protect property, and restore the receding shoreline."

"On behalf of the City of Saco, we cannot be more thankful for the hard work and dedication to  
*See Erosion, page 14*

# Maine National Guard enhances cybersecurity readiness

By Maj. Ethan Evans, Maine Army National Guard

**PEMBROKE, NH** – Approximately 30 Soldiers and Airmen from the Maine Army and Air National Guard participated in Cyber Yankee 2025, a premier regional cyber defense exercise, from May 5 to 16, 2025. Designed to bolster cyber readiness across New England, the exercise provided realistic training to enhance the combined response of military, government, and private sector teams to prepare for cyberattacks targeting critical infrastructure.

Personnel from Bangor, Augusta, and South Portland units joined over 300 participants from across the country and abroad for the two-week training exercise held at the New Hampshire National Guard's Edward Cross Training Complex in Pembroke, N.H. Cyber Yankee has grown over the past 11 years from a small event with fewer than 100 participants into a nationally recognized, multi-agency, multi-national effort focused on protecting vital systems, such as gas, electric, and water.

"The goal of Cyber Yankee is to enhance cooperation between the National Guard, federal and state government agencies, and private industry," said Capt. Sean Osler, the Plans & Resources Flight Commander with the Maine Air National Guard's 265th



Brig. Gen. Diane Dunn, Department of Defense, Veterans, and Emergency Management, and Adjutant General for the Maine National Guard, receives a brief from Maine Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Jonathan Varner during Cyber Yankee 2025 on May 14, 2025. The two-week regional training exercise was held at the New Hampshire National Guard's Edward Cross Training Complex in Pembroke, N.H. from May 5 to May 16. Photos by Lt. Col Jeff Roosevelt, Maine National Guard.

Combat Communications Squadron in South Portland. "We train now to build relationships and trust. The first time we meet our partners shouldn't be during a real-world emergency."

Cyber Yankee 2025 featured simulated cyberattacks from criminal and nation-state actors, mirroring the types of threats that are increasingly disrupting today's digital infrastructure. Through realistic, scenario-based operations, participants collaborated across agencies to respond to simulated incidents in real-time.

"Cyber Yankee gives us the rare opportunity to train shoulder-to-shoulder with those we'll depend on during an actual cyber crisis," said Maj. Ethan

Evans, the team leader for the Maine Army National Guard's Defensive Cyber Operations Element. "It's not just about technical skills-it's about building trust and improving the speed and clarity of our response as a unified team."

Participants in this year's exercise included Army and Air National Guard members from all six New England states, as well as representatives from the U.S. Air Force Reserve, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Space Force, and over ten private utility and technology companies. Key federal agencies such as the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the Department of Energy also played critical roles.

Cyber Yankee 2025 also welcomed participants from six allied nations, part of the Department of De-



Visitors receive a brief from Maj. Ethan Evans, team leader for the Maine Army National Guard's Defensive Cyber Operations Element.



Members of the Maine National Guard review training.

fense's State Partnership Program, which fosters long-term security cooperation between U.S. states and foreign militaries.

As the exercise

rotates among host states-Massachusetts in 2024, New Hampshire in 2025, and Connecticut in 2026-the Maine National Guard remains committed

to advancing a whole-of-nation approach to cyber defense, demonstrating leadership and readiness in the evolving digital battlespace.

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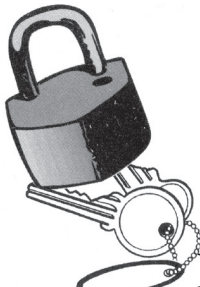
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**Wednesdays**  
GORHAM – Story Hour every Wednesday from 10:30 to 11:30 at North Gorham Public Library.

**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 29**  
GORHAM – Adult Art Night Thursday, May 29 6 PM. Make a book-themed collage, and turn your collage into a pin-backed button, fridge magnet, or laminated bookmark! All materials are provided, no experience required!

**May 29, June 7 and 8**  
MANCHESTER, SOLON, BRUNSWICK – The Paddle for Pine Tree Camp is just two weeks away on Saturday, June 7 in Solon and Sunday, June 8 in Brunswick. All proceeds support summer camp tuition for Maine children and adults with disabilities. This year’s fundraising conrhole tournament will take place Thursday, May 29 at The Woodshed in Manchester and will feature Maine Cabin Masters. More information at [www.](http://www.pinetreessociety.org)

[pinetreessociety.org](http://pinetreessociety.org).

**May 30**  
LEWISTON – LA Arts is presenting its first gallery show of the 2025 Art Walk season with a solo exhibition of experimental sculptural paintings by artist Libby Sipe. An opening reception for the show will coincide with the May Art Walk LA event at 5pm on Friday, May 30th, at LA Arts’ Lisbon St. Gallery in Lewiston.

**May 31**  
BUXTON – Try our delicious Haddock Supper Buffet - Saturday, May 31, 2025 - 5:00 pm at Living Waters Church, Parker Farm Road, Buxton. Suggested donation: \$10 Adult, \$5 Child, \$20 Family.

Please note: We will offer the option of takeout containers for those who do not want to come inside for seating.

**May 31**  
AUBURN – There will be a baked bean supper at Sixth Street Congregational Church at 109 Sixth Street in Auburn, on Saturday, May 31 from 4:30 until 6:00. There will be two kinds of beans, red hotdogs, brown hotdogs, coleslaw, assorted casseroles, assorted desserts,

and beverage. The cost of the supper is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 6 to 12; children 5 and under are free.

**May 31**  
LEWISTON – Be a part of history as the City of Lewiston unveils the country’s first full-body statue of Muhammad Ali, commemorating the fight 60 years ago right here in Lewiston when Ali became a World Champion. Join us at Bates Mill No. 5 on Sat., May 31 at 2 PM.

**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 provided, and there is no registration required.

**June 2**  
AUBURN – Auburn Public Library: A Journey Through The Roots Of American Popular Music to be taking place on Monday, June 2, 2025 from 5:30 to 6:45 PM.

**June 4 and the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

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**June 7**  
GORHAM – Cressey Road Christian Church, 81 Cressey Road, Gorham Perennials & Yard Sale Saturday, June 7, 9AM-2PM. Perennials galore! Save Money, Buy Used Treasures & Help the Planet. With your help, we will continue to support a variety of projects: Summer Camperships, Mission Work Downeast, Washington County Maine, Vacation Bible School.

## Erosion

Continued from page 11

Senator Collins for the securing of these funds. She has been a never-ending advocate in our partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers to secure our jetty in an attempt to protect our shoreline and all the residents who live there,” said Jodi MacPhail, Mayor of Saco.

“The City of Saco is very appreciative of Senator Collins’ hard work of releasing funding for the Camp Ellis project, now as a community we can look and move forward,” said John Bohenko, Saco City Administrator.

More than 150 years ago, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built a jetty extending out from the Saco River, adjacent to Camp Ellis Beach, and expanded it in the 1950s. This jetty altered the pattern of currents and sand deposition and is the primary cause of the severe erosion of Camp Ellis, washing away 38 homes. The 1998 shoreline was 400 feet from where the shoreline stood in 1908.

## CMCC

Continued from page 6

New Vineyard, ME, an Electromechanical Technology major, earned her spot on the team through her strong academic performance and work in the field. She has been awarded a \$500 scholarship.

Logan Levesque of Greene, ME, also an Electromechanical Technology major, was selected for his academic achievements and hands-on experience in the electrical field. Lo-

gan has received a \$500 scholarship.

Additionally, Lawrence Wing of Lisbon Falls and Eliane Mbole of Westbrook have been named the college’s 2024–2025 Gorman Scholars.

Lawrence Wing, an Early Childhood Education major, was selected for his outstanding academic work, his vision to become a lifelong educator for elementary students in Maine, and his generous volunteer work coaching baseball and soccer for the Brunswick Recreation Department. As a Gorman Scholar, Lawrence will receive a full scholarship for his second year of study.

Eliane Mbole, a Nursing student, has been recognized for her academic excellence and for supporting her classmates through coursework and clinical training. When not studying, Eliane balances raising three children and volunteering with her children’s school events and the PTA. Eliane will also receive a full second-year scholarship as a Gorman Scholar.

Central Maine Community College is proud to honor these exceptional students, whose accomplishments reflect the values of academic excellence, leadership, and community service.

## Roots

Continued from page 1

for anyone interested in American history or American music!” - Sarah Swift-er, Director, MAGMA – Gloucester, MA (November, 2019)

This program is paid for by proceeds from the Lisa Giguere & Ralph Tuttle Endowment Fund. It 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](http://www.auburnpubliclibrary.org) or call the Reference Desk at 207-333-6640, ext. 4.

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## 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](http://Mainecareerswithpurpose.org). Follow @MaineCareerswithPurpose on Facebook and Instagram.

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

# Classified Ads

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**Keystone campfire edition travel trailer.** New June 2018. 29.8 feet. Less than 500 miles on it. 12 foot slide out, large refrigerator, leather couch. Two gray water tanks, large closets, over \$9000 extras. AC/furnace. Paid \$34,000 new. Must sell. Asking \$21,000. 207-310-0212.

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## SENIOR TRIPS

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

**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  
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# Classified Ads

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WEDDINGS AND EVENTS

## Letter to the Editor: Stop Cryptocurrency ATM scams

It is very likely that most Mainers, even if they have never used a Cryptocurrency ATM, have seen them in neighborhood grocery stores, convenience stores or liquor stores. They are easy to spot as they are designed to imitate a regular ATM. However, it is important to know that these machines are neither FDIC insured nor regulated like bank industry ATMs. Although these machines can be used for legitimate commerce, unfortunately the Cryptocurrency ATMs provide an easy conduit for criminal use.

According to the

FTC, nationwide fraud losses through Crypto ATMs jumped nearly ten-fold from 2020 to 2023 and surpassed \$65 million in the first half of last year. This is why AARP Maine is in favor of the Crypto ATM Scam Prevention Bill, LD 1339, a measure that will help prevent Crypto ATM scams and protect older Mainers from criminals who want to steal their life savings.

Because Crypto ATMs are still relatively new and largely unregulated compared to traditional financial institutions and money service businesses, they lack sufficient consumer fraud protections.

As a result, criminals use Crypto ATMs to steal tens of thousands from Mainers each year through their fraudulent schemes.

We ask Mainers to join our efforts to pass LD 1339 by urging their own legislators to support this bill and stop Cryptocurrency ATM scams. With the high dollar amounts being stolen via these machines from our neighbors, friends and loved ones, Maine cannot afford to wait. This bill must be passed now.

Paul Armstrong  
AARP Maine Lead  
Advocacy Volunteer  
Palermo

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](mailto:editor@twincitytimes.com)

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