

Auditions for non-equity actors at The Public Theatre

LEWISTON, ME - The Public Theatre in Lewiston, Maine will be holding auditions for local non-Equity actors for the roles of Buster (the sheriff) in MISERY and Fred in A CHRISTMAS CAROL. Both shows will be offering morning mid-week student matinees.

We are casting the following roles:

MISERY by William Goldman based on the novel by Stephen King

Contract Dates: Oct 6 – Nov 9, 2025. Director: Janet Mitchko

Salary \$600 a week

BUSTER: (30's 50's -- male or female, any ethnicity) Buster is a small town local sheriff investigating a report that the famous novelist Paul Sheldon may be missing somewhere in the community. Having been raised in a small town, they are very friendly, helpful and somewhat trusting. There are some physical demands

(choreographed falling and being dragged) in this role.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL adapted by Christopher Schario.

C O N T R A C T DATES: 12/1 - 12/14/25. Director: Christopher Schario

Salary: \$600 a week

FRED/CHRISTMAS PRESENT: Male, age 20's - 40, any ethnicity. Scrooge's indomitably cheery nephew brimming with goodwill. He also plays the ghost of Christmas Present filled to the brim with this same joyful spirit. This adaptation features a small cast playing multiple roles. All actors perform narration of Dickens' text, as well as scene work in both British dialect and Standard American. Requires versatile playful actors, skilled with language.

Auburn hosts Comp Plan "Open House" events

AUBURN, ME - The City of Auburn's newest Comprehensive Plan process is well underway. The 2026 Comprehensive Plan Committee, together with city staff and a consultant, is gathering public input through surveys, workshops, and public meetings to create a community-driven plan.

The city continues to seek meaningful input from residents and plans to host three "Comp Plan Open House" events in the weeks to come. Residents, business owners and stakeholders are invited to attend one – or all – of these Open House events.

The first Comp Plan Open House is entitled, "Fields, Forests, and Flowing Waters: A Visioning Event for Auburn's Built Environment." It will be held at Lake Grove Park (2 Fair Street) on Saturday, July 19, from

10:00AM to noon.

Attendees will be encouraged to share ideas about the future of Auburn's lakes, rivers, streams, open spaces, and land use for Auburn's 2026 Comprehensive Plan. This openhouse style event will feature interactive activities for all ages to share your ideas, plus live music, local food, and games for children. [Rain date: Wednesday, August 6, 4:00-6:00PM, Auburn Senior Community Center, Pettengill Park]

The next Open House in the series will be "Streets, Structures, Spaces, & Future: A Visioning Event for Auburn's Built Environment." It will be held at the Auburn Senior Community Center (48 Pettengill Park Road) on Wednesday, July 30, from 6:00 to 8:00PM.

Attendees will be invited to shape the fu-

ture of Auburn's homes, neighborhoods, transportation, economy, and cultural landmarks. This event will be a fun and interactive listening session focused on how we live, move, and build in Auburn. Attendees will share their thoughts and ideas through hands-on activities, visioning stations, and conversations.

The final Comp Plan Open House will be "People, Public Services, and Places: A Visioning Event for Auburn's People and City Services." It will be held on Wednesday, July 23, from 6:00 to 8:00PM at Edward Little High School (77 Harris Street).

This interactive session will welcome input on how Auburn can best support its residents through quality facilities, efficient and helpful services, and smart investment.

See Open House, page 14

eat local

drink local

RESTAURANT GUIDE

PAGES 8-10

Join Lewiston Contra Dance tomorrow!

By Jae M. Zimmermann and Ellen Hodgkin

If you pass by Kennedy Park in Lewiston any 2nd Friday of the month, you will hear the tell-tale sounds of stomping feet and soaring reels coming from nearby Trinity Commons: it's the Lewiston Contra Dance. And it's just getting started.

The Lewiston Contra Dance kicked off their season this past fall with the



Tyler Pulk, tylerpulkphotography.com



The Bow & String Band and caller Qwill Duval. Duval, a dance caller and artist from the midwest, travels the country calling at dances large and small. Their experience and talent was clear as the evening got going.

"At first there were only a few dancers and we were feeling nervous. Then more and more people started trickling in. By 8 o'clock the hall was full and I thought "Oh my God, we have a contra dance!" The energy was amazing," Tyler Pulk, another organizer, remembers.

The Lewiston Con-

tra Dance has developed a small, devoted following. Zoë Lidstrom, a regular attendee, reflects on some of her favorite parts of LCD: "I love having a local dance, right down town. It's so accessible and welcoming. It's encouraging to see new people coming to try [contra dancing] out and to see so many of them come back!" The dance attracts many new people, month-to-month, with a high percentage of dancers under the age of 21 and from all walks of life.

Nevertheless, LCD faces some familiar challenges: low average attendance and a desire to keep rates accessible to all puts a strain on dance finances and makes it harder to bring in the popular talent that experienced dancers will turn out for. Without experienced dancers, the growing population of fresh faces has no one to help them elevate their skills and find the extra fun that skilled dancing makes

available.

"Right now, our concern is how to take Lewiston Contra Dance to the next level and really become part of the dance scene here in Maine. We love being a local dance, but we also want our young dancers to feel like part of the whole community of folk dancing in the state and to feel confident enough to travel to other dances and keep growing their skills and friendships," says Pulk, of the LCD's goals for next season.

The team behind the LCD has been working hard to put together a program for the season to come that includes state and regional favorites like Aiden Boardman and Cojiro as well as talent from farther afield, like caller Koren Wake from Washington state. For the last dance of the current season, join them for The Clementines (siblings Willy and Moon Clemetson) with caller Hannah Chamberlain.

Follow the dance on Facebook for updates and to see more photos, or check out their website at tinyurl.com/lewishtoncontradance. And come on by Trinity Commons in Lewiston any 2nd Friday of the month; join in with the stomping feet and enjoy the soaring reels. It's the Lewiston Contra Dance, and it's waiting for you.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Maine Smart Growth Awards nomination window is open

AUGUSTA, ME – The 2025 Maine Smart Growth Awards are now accepting nominations! These awards promote and celebrate the use of smart growth principles across Maine. Nominations can include projects (bricks and mortar), plans (policies and ordinances ratified by a governing body), and people (cheerleaders and practitioners of smart growth).

Deadline: 4:00 pm, Friday, July 18, 2025

Winners will be announced at the 2025 GrowSmart Maine Summit on October 16, 2025.

The Summit will be held at the Waterville Opera House in Waterville.

Smart growth is a common-sense concept that helps communities welcome – and navigate – growth where it makes sense for the long term while still maintaining Maine’s iconic historic downtowns and neighborhoods, and natural beauty.

GrowSmart Maine’s eighth annual Maine Smart Growth Awards will recognize the diverse activities that contribute to smart growth and serve

as real-life illustrations of the benefits it can bring.

This year’s judges are C.J. Opperthausen, Executive Director of Friends of Congress Square Park; Sarah Haggerty, Conservation Biologist/GIS Manager at Maine Audubon; Heather Spalding, Deputy Director and Senior Policy Director at MOFGA; and Tyler Norod, Director of Development at the Westbrook Development Corporation.

FMI: <https://growsmartmaine.org/smart-growth-awards/>.

FAME welcomes new board members

AUGUSTA, ME – The Finance Authority of Maine (FAME) recently welcomed four new members to its board of directors. They bring a wealth of experience from their personal and professional backgrounds that will add to the already strong and effective board membership. The new members include: the Honorable Joseph Perry of Bangor, State Treasurer; Commissioner Michael Duguay of the Department of Economic and Community Development; Simon Ferland of the University of Maine System; and Michael Foley of Five County Credit Union. Perry and Duguay serve ex officio by virtue of their state offices, while Ferland and Foley were nominated by Governor Janet T. Mills and confirmed by the Legislature.



Hon. Joseph Perry



Commissioner Michael Duguay



Simon Ferland



Michael Foley

several bureaus whose mission is to help communities and businesses prosper through a variety of programs that provide everything from targeted tax relief to community block grants to tourism marketing. Previously, as Vice President for Innovation and Executive Director of the Harold Alfond Institute for Business Innovation at Thomas College in Waterville, he helped hundreds of entrepreneurs market their products and scale their businesses, and trained thousands of students to succeed in good-paying careers in Maine. Duguay began his economic development career at the Department of Economic and Community Development in 1990. He has enjoyed an extensive career in business, economic, and community development in Maine, including service as Director of Economic Development for the City of Augusta from 1999 to 2012. A native of Fairfield,

Duguay is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire. He serves ex officio as the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development.

Simon Ferland is the Director of Data Systems—Student Financial Services, at the University of Maine. He oversees daily and long-term financial aid and student financial operations from a systems and data management perspective. A native of Old Town, Ferland earned his BA and MBA from the University of Maine and is currently a student in the Higher Education Ph.D. program. He is a nationally certified financial aid administrator and has been active in the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA). He lives in Bangor. Ferland occupies a seat requiring knowledge in the field of student financial assistance.

Michael J. Foley, Jr. is the Chief Growth Officer, Senior Vice President of Support Services at Five County Credit Union. He leads strategic initiatives of multiple departments for the credit union, which has assets under management of \$380 million and serves over 30,000 members. Foley is an active member of the Maine Credit Union League, including its governmental affairs committee. A native of Cape Elizabeth, he was a long-time coach for the Cape Elizabeth Girls Lacrosse Programs, where he served for nine seasons. His wife and he have a daughter and a son and live in Cape Elizabeth. Foley occupies the seat reserved for a com-

See FAME, page 12

Annual celebration shows recovery is possible



PORTLAND, ME – On July 16, 2025, MaineHealth Behavioral Health (MHBH) will hold a benefit from 5:30 – 8 p.m. to raise funds for mental health services at the annual Signs of Hope fundraiser at the Portland Country Club, 11 Foreside Road, Falmouth, ME. The event is co-hosted by longtime supporter and member of the MHBH Philanthropy Committee, Falmouth resident Sheri Boulos.

The keynote speaker, Erin St. John, MHBH patient is a person with alcohol use disorder currently in long-term sobriety. He will share his inspirational story of hope to rebuild his life and regain the trust of family and friends through

out his journey of recovery.

As part of Signs of Hope, recent graduates of the MaineHealth Nurse Residency and Psychiatric Technician apprentice programs will be honored. Both programs represent innovative ways MaineHealth Behavioral Health is meeting the growing demands for mental health services.

This year’s event seeks to raise \$190,000 to provide unrestricted support that helps enable MHBH to continue offering a complete behavioral and mental healthcare network serving communities within the MaineHealth system of care.

Registration is required with a suggested

donation of \$150 per guest. A generous variety of appetizers, refreshing beverages, and cocktails will be available.

Learn more at mainehealth.org/bh-hope.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Erin Reed honored as Rotary Paul Harris Fellow

LEWISTON, AUBURN, ME – Trinity Jubilee Center Executive Director Erin Reed was honored recently by the Lewiston-Auburn Rotary Club with the Paul Harris Fellow Award.

Named for Paul Harris, one of the founders of Rotary International, and given by Rotary in recognition of substantial and exemplary community service, this award is the highest honor that Rotary can bestow on an individual.

Reed began volunteering at Trinity in 2004, as a dishwasher in the Soup Kitchen, and officially joined the staff in 2010. During her tenure, the Center has touched the lives of countless people in Lewiston and across Androscoggin County providing food, shelter, and resources to those in need. Trinity resources include both helping people with barriers to progress and independence as well as a Refugee Integration Program that assists new Mainers with a variety of much needed services.

Under Reed’s leadership, the Trinity Jubilee Center has achieved remarkable milestones, including a new 10,000 square foot building, now under construction, that will offer four times the



Paul Harris Fellow Award recipient Erin Reed, center, is pictured here with Lewiston-Auburn Rotary Club member and former president Todd Goodwin, at left, and Chris Abbruzzese, Trinity Jubilee board chair.

space of its current rented home. The new home will ease the burdens of the current space and enable the staff to improve and expand the many services provided.

The L-A Rotary Club also made an \$1,800 donation recently to the Jubilee Center to support its food pantry operations. Club members volunteer every Tuesday morning at the Food Pantry, assisting with the Food Rescue Project, which brings together local food providers interested in

donating food to those in need.

The L-A Rotary Club has been serving the community since its founding in 1917. In addition to various volunteer activities, the club raises funds to support local service agencies and to provide yearly scholarships to graduating seniors from area high schools. The club meets every Thursday at noon. Anyone interested in joining is encouraged to come to a meeting or visit the club website at lewis-tonauburnrotary.org/.

CMH provides patient information updates

LEWISTON ME – This week Central Maine Healthcare announced we are back online. We are excited to reach this milestone.

Patients with questions should follow us on social media or link to the news feed from the orange banner at the top of our website for the most up-to-date information.

Our normal website is online at cmhc.org. From the website, you can easily link to the patient portal, find providers and locations and, in some cases, schedule appointments with primary care providers or pay your bill.

Some other items for Central Maine Healthcare patients to keep in mind:

Phones: our software that activates our phone tree system has been redeployed. Your call will be routed to the person most helpful to answer your questions. We expect call volume to be high across all our locations in the next few days as we return to normal operations.

Pharmacy: Our systems at the CMMC Pharmacy at 12 High Street and the Specialty Pharmacy at 10 High Street are now online. We anticipate it will take some



time to fill the backlog of prescription requests and new requests. If you need an immediate prescription, please come to the pharmacy and ask to speak to someone individually. You may call the CMMC Pharmacy for refills or questions at 207-795-7177 or text 207-739-4067. The automated refill phone line is available any time, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Patient portal: MyHealthlink patient portal was always available to you, and we hope you took advantage of the information contained there. Your providers are now able to connect to the portal, but it will take some time to get through accumulated messages. All messages will be returned. If your message is urgent, please call your physician’s office or visit us in person.

Lab and X-rays: All lab work and X-rays that were done during the sys-

tem outage will be available on the patient portal, myHealthLink. If you have a question about a lab draw or an X-ray that was run during our system outage, please contact the physician office where the test was requested.

Appointments: If your appointment with us required rescheduling or certain test results or procedures were delayed, you will hear from us soon to reschedule your visit, procedure or review your results. If you have an urgent need or do not hear from us within two weeks, please call or visit your physician office. We will be very glad to help you get your appointment rescheduled and it will be nice to see you in person.

Medical record: If you requested your medical record, we are now able to process your request. If this request is urgent, please contact the hospital switchboard and we will expedite.

Mayor Sheline urges residents to join Safety Listening Sessions

LEWISTON, ME – Knowing that safety in Lewiston isn’t just measured by numbers, but felt on front porches, in schools, parks and even during evening walks around the neighborhood, Mayor Carl Sheline urges residents and business owners to come together to help strengthen community security we all deserve by attending Lewiston’s Public Safety Listening Sessions.

“This isn’t just about crime stats or headlines,” said Mayor Sheline. “These sessions are about what we can do to take on this concern. Your stories, your thoughts all matter and let’s use these sessions to exchange what can be done. If any part of our

community feels unsafe, it affects all of us. That’s why we need to hear from you.”

The mayor, along with Abdikadir Negeye, co-chair of the Mayoral Ad Hoc Public Safety Committee, will host two public listening sessions aimed at gathering real experiences and building a shared path forward. Residents are invited to speak candidly and their feedback will contribute to the committee’s work in shaping meaningful safety solutions.

SESSION 2: Lewiston Public Library, 200 Lisbon Street

WHEN: Thursday, July 10, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

“This isn’t a place for speeches, it’s a space to listen,” said Negeye of Maine Immigrant and Ref-

ugee Services. “We want to hear the truth and we want to build trust and it starts here. Continuing to work together is important and I look forward to listening to our residents during these sessions.”

The feedback collected from both sessions will inform the committee’s recommendations and help guide future safety strategies across the city. All residents, whether personally impacted or simply concerned, are encouraged to attend.

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Seniors Not Acting Their Age

Thrills and Spills on the Millinocket X-Stream Canoe Race

I didn't realize Millinocket Stream was a potential whitewater destination until a couple of years ago. In 2022, whitewater enthusiast and Millinocket local, Chris Howe, organized a race on the remote stream that begins at the outlet dam on Millinocket Lake and flows for several miles to the Penobscot River in Millinocket.

The race required the cooperation of Millinocket Lake Dam operators and support of organizations such as Outdoor Sport Institute (OSI), Maine Canoeing and Kayak Racing Organization (MaCKRO), American Whitewater and others. With their assistance, Chris established and publicized a 7.4-mile race course that begins below Millinocket Lake Dam and ends at Crandall Park in downtown Millinocket.

The course consists of some of the most challenging whitewater of any downriver race in Maine. The first four miles includes numerous Class II/III rapids with pools below. However, at about mile four Turtle Pit Rapids begin. A long series of continuous Class III+ rapids, Turtle Pit requires capable navigation skills and proficient river reading abilities. In short, safety is critical.

During the earlier races, officials had experimented with different dam release flows. Last year, they settled on 650 cubic feet per second as the ideal level and that was the release for this year's fourth annual Millinocket X-Stream Canoe Race scheduled for Saturday, June 7.

Beginning last year, my outdoor club, the Penobscot Paddle & Chow-

der Society (PPCS), began its involvement with the race. Several members compete while others provide safety. Safety participants usually run the stream and then set up at the most difficult locations to assist people who encounter a problem.

Millinocket Lake Dam releases water Friday through Sunday on race weekend. PPCS member and canoe racer, Mike Timberlake, scheduled a practice run for late Friday afternoon. Since competing was on my mind, I hoped to join him. Unfortunately, I couldn't make it, so assisting with race safety was my backup choice.

Several Chowderheads met with race officials early Saturday morning to discuss the safety plan. Mike Smith, Executive Director of OSI, was responsible for organizing race safety. He reviewed safety procedures and assigned participants to locations where problems were most likely to occur.

The next step was paddling to our assigned stations. We drove to an alternative takeout a little below Turtle Pit Rapids and left shuttle vehicles. Since all of the safety crew was assigned locations along Turtle Pit Rapids, we transported boats and paddlers to a launch site a couple of miles downstream of the dam.

After the launch, several relatively short entertaining Class II/III rapids followed for perhaps three miles. We stopped above Turtle Pit to discuss the rapids and our plans.

My group of four was assigned to a location on river left just below the first and steepest pitch. We carefully navigated into the turbulent waters

and descended to a micro eddy on the left where we divided into three groups. I set up highest with a throw bag. Two others formed a tether-line team just below. The fourth was farther downstream with a throw bag.

The Turtle Pit Rapids are quite difficult because the gradient is steep, the current powerful and the streambed congested with boulders. Racing is more challenging than normal whitewater paddling because competitors are maximizing their speeds while making split second decisions. Hence, spills, swamps and pins are more common.

Multiple flips and swims occurred during the race. A tandem team swamped and wrapped a canoe around boulders in lower Turtle Pit and the boat was lost. Only one upset occurred near us: a solo kayaker collided with the huge boulder I was standing on and flipped. I was able to get the rope to him but while desperately attempting to rescue his boat, he lost it. However, the rescuers below were able to get him and the kayak safely out of the water.

After about two hours of watching competitors, the final racer passed. We gathered our boats and finished the descent. Although no problems were experienced, everyone found the rapids quite challenging and I acquired a much greater respect for the determined racers. Since it was only mid-afternoon when we finished, we completed a second run on the same sector before dinner.

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



Topsham resident and canoe racer Mike Timberlake navigates through turbulent water on the Millinocket X-Stream Canoe Race



A kayaker races down Millinocket Stream during the race



Paddlers load boats in preparation for providing Millinocket X-Stream Race safety

tales navigating the nine best whitewater descents in Maine.

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 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 or he can be reached at ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net.

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

Seize the day as MCPKids! presents Disney’s “Newsies Jr.”

MAINE – MCP-Kids!, alongside MCP-Kids! Sponsors Textech Industries, MTAB Painting, Mills Family Monmouth Lights, and Community Credit Union and MCP Marquis Season Sponsor Great Falls Federal Credit Union and Season Sponsors Winthrop Area Federal Credit Union and Readfield Insurance Agency, wish to announce the cast of their upcoming production of Disney’s “Newsies Jr”. The inspiring 60-minute musical, designed for middle school-aged performers, is based on the 1992 Disney film Newsies and the 2012 Broadway production of the same name. The show, under the direction of Danny Gay, will run July 11-13, 2025 at the Winthrop Performing Arts Center in Winthrop. Other production staff include Rachel Scala as Music Director, Gina Hesse as Choreographer, Kyle Mansur as Dance Captain, Josie French as Producer, Jonny Bolduc as Assistant Director, Reilly McCabe as Stage Manager, Ann Fairchild as Costume Support and Alex Lally as Sound Operator.

It’s time to carry the banner with Disney’s Newsies JR.! You’ll be doing flips for the rousing tale of Jack Kelly, a charismatic newsboy and leader of a band of young newsies in Manhattan. When titans of publishing raise distribution prices at the newsies’ expense, Jack rallies young workers from across



Front to back: Ella Mills, Lucy MacLeod, Calla Juengst, Luke Gaspary, Anthony Paulette, Vash Martel Tarrant, Penny Wronski, Abby Bosshart, Dorothy Gaspary, Kate Bingham, Gwen Bosshart, Vivian King, Juliana Wilcox Gonzalez, Avalea Castonguay, Maddox Grondin, Deacon Crowley, Avery Hamlin, Lucy Allen, Ender Gaspary, Carsyn Sessions, Abigail Violette, Maddie Sullivan, Charlie Wallis-Martel, Silas Carlson, Oliver Hamlin, Eden McCormick, Kerrigan Damon, Grace Mills, Alice Lazure, Noah Bushway, Arabela Davin, Maddie Marshall, Jackie Senft, Beckett Carlson, Polly Lutte, Ramsay Pierce, Audrey Tucker, Meredith Tomassone, Eva Palm-Brown, Acadia Castonguay, Maddie Goodwin, Gwen Morin, Gaby Lazure and Cyrus Knowles.

the city to strike against the unfair conditions and fight for what’s right! Adapted especially for young performers, this musical features a Tony Award®-winning score by Alan Menken and Jack Feldman and a

book by Tony Award® winner Harvey Fierstein, and includes rousing songs like “Carrying the Banner,” “Seize the Day,” and “King of New York.” Newsies JR. is packed with nonstop

See MCPKids!, page 12

Pine Tree Camp reaches 80th anniversary milestone

ROME, ME – As Pine Tree Camp reaches its significant 80th anniversary milestone, camp programs are expanding and its barrier-free campus is more accessible than ever. This year, camp’s youngest camper is five and its oldest is 80...how fitting!

In celebration of 80 years serving Maine people with disabilities, the public is invited to a summer BBQ filled with friends and fun, including: boat rides, biking, golf cart tours, a special video booth, slideshow and presentation.

What: Pine Tree Camp’s 80th Anniversary Open House

When: Saturday, August 9

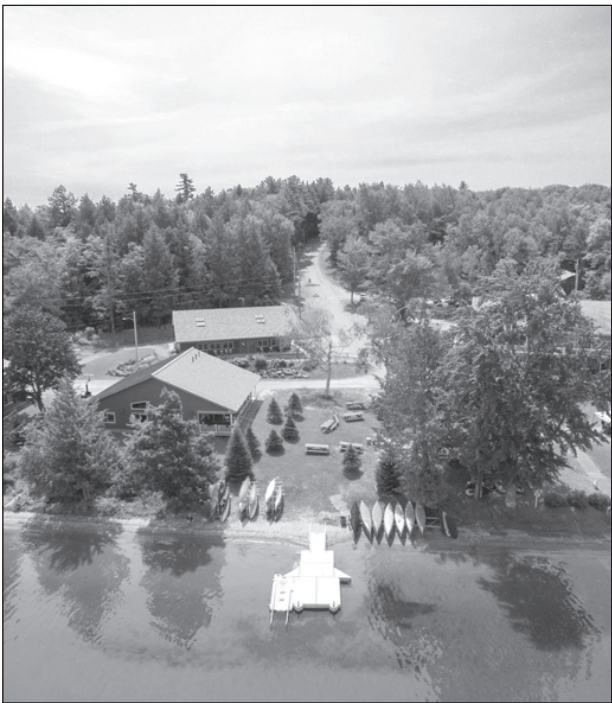
10:00am - 3:30pm

Where: Pine Tree Camp

Cost: Free

RSVP at this link: www.pinetreesociety.org/80years

The celebration will



On Saturday, August 9, Pine Tree Camp will celebrate its 80 year anniversary on the shores of North Pond in Rome with a free, day-long celebration open to the public. For more information and to RSVP: www.pinetreesociety.org/80years Photo courtesy of Pine Tree Camp.

continue in 2026 when Pine Tree Society reaches its 90 year milestone. This is a very special moment in

our history and represents a significant anniversary that very few organizations reach.

UMaine’s Division of Lifelong Learning builds knowledge, skills

ORONO, ME – For people seeking a new career or to advance within their current one, the University of Maine Division of Lifelong Learning can help with several online programs for professional development available throughout summer and fall.

The programs are designed to benefit professionals from a range of sectors, including health-care, education and non-profits, as well as people who are unemployed or

underemployed. They offer training in grant writing, domestic partner violence intervention, leadership, public speaking, mediation and other skills. The full program list and additional details are available on the Division of Lifelong Learning website. The majority of programs are online and synchronous, with a couple held in person.

A certificate of completion and Continuing Education Units will be available. Reduced rates are available for groups of

four or more participants from a single employer who register together for the same program. Eligible employers can also apply for Maine Workforce Development Compact Funding. In addition to scheduled programs, requests for custom programming on various professional development topics are welcome. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Kathleen Toole, um.continuinged@maine.edu; 207.581.3167.

Military Academy nomination applications open

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King, Jr., and U.S. Representatives Chellie Pingree and Jared Golden announced that they are accepting nomination applications from Maine high school students for appointments to the United States service academies operated by the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Merchant Marine. No nomination is required to apply to the United States Coast Guard Academy.

Students should apply for a nomination in the spring and summer of their junior year. Senators Collins and King and Representatives Pingree and Golden began accepting nomination applications as of May 15, 2025, from students for admission to the academies in the summer of 2026.

For more information please contact:
Senator Susan Collins
Contact: Karen Staples

207-784-6969
collins.senate.gov
Senator Angus King, Jr.
Contact: Katie Fellows
207-352-5216
king.senate.gov
Representative Chellie Pingree
Contact: Dorian Cole
207-774-5019
pingree.house.gov
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Arts & Entertainment

BookReach gifts books to local preschools

LEWISTON, ME – BookReach, a free literacy program, recently gifted over 140 books to local, participating childcare centers. Preschoolers received board books and easy reader stories along with fun facts about their volunteer reader to take home.

BookReach is a free volunteer literacy program sponsored by the Auburn and Lewiston Public Li-

braries. Volunteer readers visit centers for Storytime with a new bag of books every week. Its mission is to raise a community of readers by enriching the lives of young children through the pleasure of reading. This program is free and available to all licensed childcare centers.

Volunteer readers needed, reach out to the BookReach Coordinator

for more information at 207-513-3004 (ext. 3515) or at BookReach@lewistonmaine.gov.

The Lewiston Public Library is located downtown at 200 Lisbon Street at the corner of Pine Street. More information on this free outreach program is available by contacting the Lewiston Public Library at 513-3133 or LPLKids@lewistonmaine.gov.

MSMT brings Broadway’s high-heeled hit Tootsie to the stage

BRUNSWICK, ME –Maine State Music Theatre continues its 2025 summer season with the laugh-out-loud Broadway comedy Tootsie, running through July 12 at the Pickard Theater on the Bowdoin College campus.

Full of big laughs, bigger feels, and a healthy dose of Broadway razzmatazz, Tootsie is a high-energy musical comedy that proves sometimes you have to think fast—and dress faster—to make your dreams come true.

Based on the legendary Dustin Hoffman film, Tootsie tells the story of Michael Dorsey, a talented but notoriously difficult actor who reinvents himself as the unstoppable Dorothy Michaels to land a starring role in a Broadway musical. What begins as a desperate career move spirals into a hilarious and heartfelt journey through fame, chaos, and unexpected lessons about love, honesty, and identity.

Tootsie features a book by Robert Horn (Shucked, Dame Edna Back With a Vengeance) and music and lyrics by Tony Award-winning David Yazbek (Dead Outlaw, The Full Monty, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels). With non-stop laughs, witty social commentary, and show-stopping musical



numbers, the production promises an unforgettable night at the theatre.

The MSMT production stars Dan DeLuca (Newsies National Tour) as Michael Dorsey/Dorothy Michaels, Kristina Leopold (Broadway: SIX) as Julie Nichols, and Jen Cody (Broadway: A Christmas Story, Shrek, The Pajama Game, Seussical) as the scene-stealing Sandy Lester.

Rounding out the principal cast are Pascal Victor Pestrana (Broadway: The Great Gatsby, Mean Girls) as Max Van Horn, Nick Gaswirth (MSMT: Anastasia, Broadway: How to Dance in Ohio) as Jeff Slater, Charis Leos (a veteran of over 35 MSMT productions!) as Rita Marshall, David Girolmo (Broadway: War Paint, Candide) as Stan Fields, and Nathan Cockroft (MSMT: Grease) as Ron Carlisle.

The ensemble includes Corey Barrow, Bailey Blaise, Lani Corson, Brad-

ley Gibbins-Klein, Chris Hunter, Cynthia Kauffman, Elise Kinnon, Kevin Ivey Morrison, Rachel Revell, and Harrison Asher Smith.

Tootsie is directed and choreographed by Mark Martino, with music direction by Brian Cimmet, scenic design by Kyle Dixon, costume design by Katie Dowse, and lighting design by Seifallah Salotto-Cristobal. Shannon Slaton serves as sound designer, with Jerran Kowalski providing video and projections design, and Kevin S. Foster II as wig designer. Mark Johnson serves as Production Stage Manager. Elise Kinnon is Associate Director/Co-Choreographer and Jacob Stebly is Associate Music Director.

Tootsie is licensed by Music Theatre International (MTI).

For tickets and more information, visit www.msmt.org or call the MSMT Box Office at 207.725.8769.

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AARP News You Can Use –
July 2025

Pickling & salsa workshops at
Little Ridge Farm

By Joyce Buccianti-
ni, AARP Maine Commu-
nity Outreach Volunteer

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crisp ocean air and the
deep green woods, it is
easy to understand why
Maine is called “Vacation
Land.” From the early
“rusticators” of the 1900’s
to modern tourists, people
come to bask in Maine’s
natural beauty each sum-
mer. Whether we are on
vacation, taking a stayca-
tion, or embarking on a
day trip, Maine summers
are filled with enough out-
door adventures, arts, and
festivals to explore all sea-
son long.

Maine State Parks of-
fer a slice of summer fun
for everyone. Maine’s 48
State Parks can be found
along our coastline, blue
lake shores and moun-
tain trails. There is bound
to be a Maine State Park
nearby. Even better, State
Parks are free for Maine
residents over 65. For
those under 65, you might
check with your local pub-
lic library about free day
passes. What could be bet-
ter than packing a picnic
lunch and spending the day
with friends and family at
the beach or lake? After
all, fresh air and spending
time with others is good
for us, right? The Maine



State Park website is an
easy way to locate and get
all the details about a park
near you.

We can’t forget to
mention all of the town
festivals during the sum-
mer. There are so many
to choose from including
lobster festivals, blueber-
ry festivals, windjammer
festivals and even more.
Traveling to some of these
festivals is a fun way to
see Maine and taste some
yummy food!

Looking for some-
thing less outdoorsy? Maine
has a myriad of mu-
seums and historic build-
ings in every part of the
state. The Maine Maritime
Museum and the Maine
State Aquarium are fam-
ily friendly and open for
the summer. Something
new this summer is the
Portland Museum of Art’s



Third Thursday events in
July and August which
are free to the public. A
google search can locate
nearby museums and their
information. Exploring
Maine’s museums creates
understanding of our his-
tory and culture and can
fill a rainy day for family
members of all ages.

There is no shortage
of beautiful places to visit
and interesting things to
do during the summer in
Maine. No matter what
type of vacation or stayca-
tion you are planning, re-
member to visit the web-
sites for State Parks and
museums to make sure
you have all the current in-
formation about fees and
reservations. It is sum-
mer in Maine - the time is
fleeting - it is time to enjoy
our fabulous state!

As always, check out
AARP Maine for infor-
mation about upcoming
events and get-togethers. I

See AARP, page 12

LISBON FALLS,
ME – University of Maine
Cooperative Extension is of-
fering two food preservation
workshops at Little Ridge
Farm, 103 Gould Rd. in
Lisbon Falls. Pickling and
canning dilly beans (pick-
led green beans) will be
held Tuesday, July 29, 2025,
from 5:30 – 8 p.m. and pre-
serving tomato salsa will
take place Tuesday, August
26, 2025, from 2 – 5:30 p.m.

Participants will learn
recommended methods for
preserving foods, the lat-



Photos courtesy University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

est and safest recipes, what
equipment to use to ensure
safety, and how to check
for properly sealed jars. A
local snack is included with
the course. Attendees are
encouraged to bring a pot-
holder.

Registration is re-

quired for the courses. The
fee is \$25 per workshop.
Register on the program
webpage. For more infor-
mation or to request a rea-
sonable accommodation,
contact Kate McCarty,
207.781.6099; kate.mcca-
rty@maine.edu.

Lung Association applauds passage of tobacco tax

AUGUSTA, ME –
The American Lung As-
sociation praises the vote
today by the Maine Leg-
islature for the passage of
a significant cigarette tax
increase in the state bud-
get. The \$1.50 proposed in-
crease would bring the tax
from \$2 to \$3.50 per pack
of 20 cigarettes.

“Tobacco remains
the leading cause of pre-
ventable death in Maine
and the United States,” said
Lance Boucher, Assistant
Vice President, State Pub-
lic Policy for the American
Lung Association, “Maine
has not raised its cigarette
excise tax in 20 years, and



this proven public health
strategy is long overdue.
We applaud Governor Mills
for including the measure
in her budget and thank the
Maine Legislature for sup-
porting it. Raising the taxes
on tobacco products is one
of the most effective ways
to help smokers to quit, pre-
vent kids from starting to
use tobacco products, and
save lives in Maine.”

Healthcare providers
and Quit lines from both
Maine and the American

Lung Association provide
support to smokers who
want to quit. Quitting tobac-
co leads to, the potential for
better health outcomes and
reduced health care costs.
Anyone can connect with
us by calling 1-800-LUN-
GUSA or 1-800-586-4872
(press 2) or submitting a
question or live chat at
lung.org/helpline.

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



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Gridiron: A local favorite serving up food, family, & football

Interview with Owner Schan Martin by Millie Barnard

Since 2006, Gridiron Restaurant & Sports Pub has been serving up hearty meals, ice-cold drinks, and a welcoming atmosphere for locals and visitors alike. Tucked just off of Lisbon Street in Lewiston, the restaurant is known for its massive menu, loyal staff, and family-friendly vibe — all thanks to owner and longtime restaurateur, Schan Martin (Martin), whose passion for food and hospitality runs deep.

Martin’s journey began at Thatcher’s Restaurant, at the young age of 14, where he worked his way up through the restaurant. After years in the industry, opening Gridiron felt like a natural



Schan Martin, owner of Gridiron



Daily specials

truly something for everyone. “We’ve always kept the variety. I like to bring in new things without getting rid of the favorites.” Martin explains.

That variety has become a signature trait. Gridiron’s menu — built and evolved over time by Martin and his team — offers consistency locals can count on, with new specials daily to keep things fresh. While some dishes rise in popularity over time (their seafood and burgers are constant top sellers), the approach is simple: good food, done right, for all appetites.

Family has always been central to Gridiron’s identity as well. The in-house arcade, a feature from opening day, has come and gone over the years but returned post-COVID as a fun way to fill the space left by fewer tables and changing customer needs. “It’s great for families. Parents can enjoy their meals while the kids play,” Martin says.

See Gridiron, page 10

next step. “I’ve always worked in food and hospitality,” he says. “I wanted a place where people could come for great food, good drinks, and to catch the game.” The bar features 27 draft lines and a fully stocked setup, perfect for catching a Patriots game — Martin’s team of choice.

From the start though, Gridiron was more than just a sports bar. With a menu that spans seafood, burgers, sandwiches, and comfort classics, there’s

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Heidi's Brooklyn Deli: A taste of home with a heart for community



Heidi at the original register

An interview with owners Jenee Massey and Juliana Naples by Millie Barnard

What began as a simple craving for East Coast flavor turned into a beloved deli brand that now spans multiple states—including right here in Maine. Originally from Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, Heidi and Steve Naples founded Heidi's Brooklyn Deli (Heidi's) in 1994 in Denver, as a bagel and ice cream shop initially. Heidi's Brooklyn Deli (Heidi's) has always been

rooted in family. Today, daughters Jenee Massey (Massey) and Juliana Naples (Naples) carry on the legacy, recently taking direct ownership of the Auburn and South Portland locations.

"We grew up in the deli," said Massey. "It was an extension of our home. There wasn't really a line between family and business."

The Maine stores were originally opened and run by franchisee Michele Tribou, who became

a staple in the community. "Michele really loved on Auburn," said Massey. "She cared deeply about her team, her customers, and her community. We

ular items like the Cajun Turkey with Avocado, Hell's Kitchen, and classic Reuben remain fan favorites—the commitment to fresh, clean ingredients has



Pictured left to right are owners: Juliana Naples, Heidi Naples and Jenee Massey

now feel a dual responsibility to carry on both her legacy and our parent's."

While the Heidi's menu hasn't changed much in 30 years—pop-

only deepened. All bread is made from scratch in-house daily, and the company has worked hard in



RESTAURANT GUIDE

eat local

drink local

assuring their ingredients are of the highest quality, locally sourced when possible. Soon, they will be bringing nitrate-free proteins, organic cheeses, and locally grown produce

to the market in Maine. All coming together to create delicious, memory making foods!

"Our dad created most of the recipes him-
See Heidi's, page 10



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Corner entrance of the original Heidi's Location in Denver

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RESTAURANT GUIDE

eat local drink local



Gridiron
Continued from page 8

Behind the scenes, Gridiron is powered by a dedicated team — including several staff members who have been there since day one. “We’ve been lucky,” Martin says. “A lot of our crew has been here a long time. Even those who’ve moved on — we all learned something from each other.”

Gridiron also keeps its roots close. The business partners with Blackie’s Farm Fresh Produce and Maine sourced seafood when possible and supports local youth sports teams, especially in Poland and Lewiston.

After nearly two decades, Martin remains proud of what Gridiron stands for: local ownership, a welcoming environment, and food you can count on. “We’re not a chain. All the money stays here, in the community. We’re just doing our thing, and that’s what makes it work.” Martin says.

So whether you’re in the mood for burgers and a game, a family dinner with arcade fun, or just a comforting plate of seafood, Gridiron delivers — no gimmicks, no corporate nonsense, just great food and hometown hospitality.

Gridiron, located at 1567 Lisbon Street, Lewiston, is open seven days a week from 11am - 9pm for dine-in and carry out! Visit their website at gridironrestaurant.com or call (207) 777-6353.



Patriotic flag painted out front of Gridiron

Heidi’s
Continued from page 9

self, some of them, the night before opening day,” Massey explained. “He’s Italian, great with food, and just figured it out. And we’ve kept it the same ever since.”

The sisters are also investing in more company updates, including a new patio and renovated kitchen in Auburn, a potential third Maine location in Brunswick is in the works for 2026.

In addition to exciting updates, they’re also working on a rebrand, which has already started in their Colorado locations. But more than anything, they say, their mission is about offering a place that feels like home, which remains true



Pictured left to right: Franchisee Michele Tribou, Jenée Massey and her son Donovan

grow... it’s a fun aspect of our business that our leaders really enjoy and take a lot of pride in.”

From long time employees to regular customers, Heidi’s continues to bring an authentic, deli dining experience. Whether you’re looking for a comfortable spot for a business meeting, a fun date or an exciting family gathering, Heidi’s Brooklyn Deli is here for you. Stop in today!

Heidi’s Brooklyn Deli’s Auburn location is at 624 Turner St, Auburn. They are open Monday through Saturday 9am - 7pm. Call them at (207) 784-3434 or visit their website at heidisbrooklyn.com. Heidi’s Brooklyn Deli southern Maine location is at 415 Philbrook Ave, South Portland. They are open Monday through Saturday 9am - 5pm and can be reached at (207) 773-4800.

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WHA Rotating Art Gallery at CMMC displays paintings in July

LEWISTON, ME – The WHA Rotating Art Gallery at CMMC in Lewiston is proud to display the paintings of Sandra Pealer and the photographs of Mike Morin during the month of July.

Pealer is a painter who delights in the medium of watercolor. She has painted from home studios in Maine, Vermont, New York and West Virginia for over thirty years, and enjoys a style that is a dance between fluidity and exactness. She loves the way that watercolor depicts light, shadow and mystery. Recently she has returned to painting in oils as a way of broadening her artistic experience. Pealer has earned signature status in the Philadelphia, Vermont, West Virginia and North East Watercolor Societies. She is a sustaining member of the American and National Watercolor Societies. Her paintings are in private and public collections throughout the US, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

A native Mainer, Morin has been taking photographs since he was a young boy. He enjoys



Coastal Scene by Mike Morin

spending time outdoors; his passion is nature photography. “I find that being in nature promotes relaxation and reduces stress. I enjoy capturing images that allow me to bring that sense of peace, calm, and joy back home with me while keeping the memories of that time spent in nature fresh in my mind. It gives me great satisfaction to share my outdoor experiences with others through my photographs”.

The works on display may be purchased through the WHA Gift Shop located adjacent to the main lobby at Central Maine Medical Center. A percentage of sale proceeds benefits patients of CMMC. As



Beneath Maine Pines 2 by Sandra Pealer

a result of the hospital safety precautions due to the pandemic, the art gallery is only available for viewing for staff, patients, and their designated visitors at this time.

Northeast Bank donates \$100k to new Canopy Center project

PORTLAND, ME – Northeast Bank is proud to announce a significant donation of \$100,000 to help Tree Street Youth build a new family discovery center at its expanding Lewiston campus. The bank’s donation is the first significant contribution to Tree Street’s Canopy Center, which is focused on building a new community facility that provides local families access to critical resources. These resources include parental support, as well as health, wellness, financial literacy and high-quality early childhood educational programs, and cultural enrichment opportunities for residents across Lewiston/Auburn.

Northeast Banks’ contribution advances development of the Canopy Center’s project plan and



Northeast Bank’s Chris Delamater, SVP, Director of Customer Experience, and Heidi Jacques, SVP, Director of Human Resources, present a \$100,000 check to Tree Street Youth’s Executive Director Julia Sleeper joined by Tree Street Youth kids and families.

helps launch the fundraising effort to cover expenses for this vital community resource.

“At Northeast Bank, we believe in investing in

the communities we serve. Tree Street Youth’s new Canopy Center represents a bold step forward in providing accessible support and opportunity for area families,” said Robert Banaski, Chief Retail Banking Officer at Northeast Bank. “We are honored to play a part in bringing this important project to life.”

“We are deeply grateful for Northeast Bank’s generous support of the Canopy Center,” said Julia Sleeper, Executive Director of Tree Street Youth. “Their early commitment has jump-started our building project and seeded the campaign to make this inclusive community hub a reality.”

Construction of Tree Street Youth’s Canopy Center is hopeful to begin later this year, with an anticipated opening in 2026.



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Androscoggin Gleaners launches 2025 gleaning season

ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY, ME – The Androscoggin Gleaners are excited to kick off another impactful gleaning season! We’re calling on local farms and producers ready to donate surplus crops, community organizations interested in receiving fresh food or offering support, and volunteers who want to get their hands dirty making a difference.

Our mission is sim-



ple: reduce food waste, fight food insecurity, and strengthen our local food system - one glean at a time.

Whether you have extra produce, want to join a

gleaning crew, or can help distribute donations, we’d love to hear from you. Together, we can harvest hope and build a stronger, more nourished Androscoggin County.

Ronald McDonald House to host golf tournaments

PORTLAND, ME – Charities® (RMHC) of Maine is excited to announce that this year, they will be hosting two golf tournament fundraisers, both proudly presented by Troiano Waste Services.

The Inaugural RMHC Maine Golf Tournament of Central Maine will take place on Monday, August 18, at Waterville Country Club in Oakland. Then, on Monday, September 15, we’ll return to Falmouth Country Club in Falmouth for the 33rd Annual RMHC Maine Golf Tournament of Southern Maine. Registration is now open for both tournaments.

With a combined fundraising goal of \$230,000, these tournaments are not only an amazing day out on the links for golfers—they are critical in supporting the four RMHC Maine programs serving families across the state.

RMHC Maine Golf Tournament of Central Maine presented by Troiano Waste Services

Monday, August 18, 2025 | 10 am Shotgun Start

Waterville Country Club, Oakland, Maine



Ronald McDonald House Charities® Maine

The tournament will feature a scramble format with a 10 am shotgun start. Following the tournament, attendees will enjoy a cocktail hour and program. Prizes will be awarded to the top three teams, as well as for the longest drive. All proceeds from this event benefit RMHC Maine’s mission of providing comfort to families of pediatric patients.

Learn more at: one-cau.se/rmhcgolfccentral

RMHC Maine Golf Tournament of Southern Maine presented by Troiano Waste Services
Monday, September

15, 2025 | 12 pm Shotgun Start

Falmouth Country Club, Falmouth, Maine

The tournament will feature a scramble format with a noon shotgun start. Following the tournament, attendees will enjoy a cocktail hour and program. Prizes will be awarded to the top three teams, as well as for the longest drive. All proceeds from this event benefit RMHC Maine’s mission of providing comfort to families of pediatric patients.

Learn more at: one-cau.se/rmhcgolfsouthern.

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USM creates new Office of Commercialization

Sen. Collins receives inaugural Lieberman award from No Labels

PORTLAND, ME – The University of Southern Maine (USM) and the New England Ocean Cluster (NEOC) have formed a new public-private partnership that will expand opportunities for applied research, faculty engagement, and regional innovation in Maine’s economy.

USM has created an Office of Commercialization to turn ideas, research, and creative work into real-world applications — products, services, partnerships, or ventures that create value outside the university.

The new office will be headed by Patrick Arnold, Chief Executive Officer and co-founder of NEOC. He will continue to oversee NEOC while also serving as Director for Commercialization and Entrepreneurship at USM. Chris Cary, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Marketing Officer for NEOC, will serve as Assistant Director of the new USM Office of Commercialization. He will also continue his role at NEOC. This dual-role structure is designed to preserve NEOC’s entrepreneurial agility while strengthening its collaborative work with USM faculty, staff, students, and research programs.

USM and NEOC have been working together for a decade, with USM students interning at NEOC, NEOC providing research opportunities for USM faculty, and NEOC and USM offering joint support and assistance to entrepreneurs throughout Maine.

Arnold and Cary will build USM’s Office of Commercialization using NEOC’s programs as a blueprint to support commercialization efforts across all industries. NEOC’s incubation and acceleration activities under the “Transforming the Blue Economy” initiative will also be co-branded with USM, serving as a pipeline for entrepreneurs and existing businesses to access support through NEOC and expand USM’s role in regional innovation.

“We are celebrating 10 years of USM and NEOC working together by growing our partnership,” said USM President Jacqueline Edmondson. “This is part of our vision for USM to be a critical asset to the community and regional economy, and to prepare our students for gratifying work and a meaningful life. We will be working with NEOC to get all disciplines access to businesses and commercial opportunities. As Patrick has said, ‘Entrepreneurs come from everywhere — every age, every background, every vocation.’ Our job is to support them and cultivate a community with open access, grounded by the knowledge and tools necessary to innovate and solve modern problems with modern solutions.”

Anchored at The Hús, NEOC’s innovation hub on the Portland waterfront, this partnership will continue to serve as an extension of USM’s campuses — providing a dedicated space where faculty and industry can meet, co-design applied research projects, and pursue new funding opportunities.

“This is not just about launching startups — it’s about translating faculty expertise and student experience into real-world solutions that support Maine’s communities,” said Cary.

For USM faculty this means greater access to support in turning research and creative work into real-world outcomes, opportunities to participate in applied industry projects and funding initiatives, collaboration with NEOC’s business and innovation network and innovation ecosystem, and outreach from Arnold and Cary to discuss and co-design initiatives across all disciplines.

“We invite faculty from all disciplines—arts and humanities, science, health, engineering, business, public policy, education, and more—to engage with us in shaping this next chapter,” Arnold said.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – At a bicameral meeting of congressional No Labels members, U.S. Senator Susan Collins was presented with the inaugural Senator Joseph I. Lieberman Award.

The award, established by No Labels in memory of its co-founder Senator Joseph Lieberman, recognizes courageous leaders who embody his legacy of principled pragmatism and bipartisanship. These individuals have endeavored to persuade and forge consensus for the good of the country, often in opposition to powerful constituencies within their own parties. By acting according to principle rather than party allegiance, they inspire others to follow their lead, just as Senator Lieberman did during his many illustrious years in public service.

“I had the privilege of serving in the Senate alongside Joe Lieberman, and I saw firsthand his deep commitment to public service and bipartisanship. Joe believed that respectful dialogue could bridge even the deepest divides, and he never stopped working to bring his colleagues on both sides of the aisle together to solve problems,” said Senator Collins. “I’m honored to receive this inaugural award in memory of my good friend, and I remain committed to carrying on his spirit of cooperation as we confront the many challenges facing our nation.”

“Susan Collins is a giant of the United States Senate who should be a model for every member of Congress who comes to Washington,” said No Labels board chair Andy Bursky. “She exudes decency, works tirelessly to understand the issues that matter most to her constituents, and has authored and led the passage of the most consequential bipartisan legislation in modern American history. She is both courageous and pragmatic, and I cannot think of anyone who better deserves No Labels’ Lieberman award.”

Senator Collins has ranked as the most bipartisan member of the Senate in 9 of the last 11 years, according to the Lugar Center and Georgetown University’s Bipartisan Index.



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AARP
Continued from page 7

hope to see you there!

Joyce Bucciantini is a retired middle school educator. She currently coordinates Delta Kappa

Gamma’s Read to Me program, is a tutor with Literacy Volunteers-Androscoggin, and is an active AARP Maine volunteer. She enjoys her gardens, being outdoors and traveling.

FAME
Continued from page 2

mercial lender.

“We are delighted to welcome Joe, Mike, Simon, and Mike to the FAME Board,” stated Renee Ouellette, FAME Board Chair. “These four outstanding leaders bring unique skills through their strong and varied back-

grounds, which will reinforce the excellent work already being done by the Board to enrich business and educational outcomes through relevant, timely financial support to Maine’s people.”

The Finance Authority of Maine (FAME) is a quasi-independent state agency whose mission is

to enrich business and educational outcomes through relevant, timely financial support to Maine’s people. FAME’s vision is a Maine where all people have access to improved economic outcomes through business growth and education attainment. To learn more about FAME, please visit www.famemaine.com

MCPKids!
Continued from page 5

thrills and a timeless message perfect for the whole family and every audience.

The cast consists of 44 talented students across central Maine and beyond, including: Dorothy Gaspary, Ender Gaspary, Luke Gaspary and Lucy MacLeod of Auburn; Anthony Paulette of Fairfield; Vivian King, Polly Lutte and Carsyn Session of Farmingdale; Ramsay Pierce and Jackie Senft of Hallowell; Lucille Allen and Eva Palm-Brown of Jamaica Plain, MA; Arabella Davin of Leeds; Noah Bushway, Charlie Wallis-Martel and Penny Wronski of Lewiston; Maddox Grondin of Litchfield; Abigail Bosshart, Gwendolyn Bosshart and Calla Juengst of Manchester; Madelyn Goodwin, Cyrus Knowles, Alice Lazure, Gabrielle Lazure, Grace Mills, Ella Mills and Abigail Violette of Monmouth; Meredith Tomassone of Mt. Vernon; Madison Marshall of Otisfield; Beckett Carlson, Silas Carlson and Gwen Morin of Readfield; Juliana Wilcox Gonzalez of Roslindale, MA; Aca-

dia Castonguay, Avalea Castonguay, Deacon Crowley and Madison Sullivan of Sabattus; Eden McCormick of Sidney; Oliver Hamlin and Avery Hamlin of Wales; Audrey Tucker of Wayne; Kate Bingaman of West Gardiner; Kerrigan Damon and Vash Martel Tarrant of Winthrop.

Disney’s Newsies Jr. is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.MTIsShows.com.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Showtimes are 7:00 pm on Friday July 11th, 2pm on Saturday July 12th and Sunday July 13th. For more information, or to reserve tickets for this show, please visit www.monmouthcommunityplayers.org, or call 207-370-9566. An additionally interpreted ASL performance will be offered and announced on the theater website soon.

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

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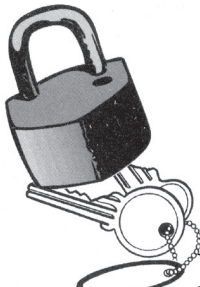
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July 10
LEWISTON – The Lewiston Public Library will be hosting Magic Wes and his show Reading is Magic in Callahan Hall on Thursday, July 10th at 5:30PM for all ages.

Join us for this fun-filled show where books come to life with mind blowing magic, teachable moments and engaging storytelling. Kids won't just hear a story-they will experience it! By making reading feel magical, Wes inspires children to pick up more books and rediscover the joy of reading. Reading is Magic is free, open to the public, and no registration is required.

July 13
AUBURN–Ready to beat the heat on the ice while raising money for a great cause? People of all ages and abilities have the chance to skate with Barnabee, the beloved mascot of Norway Savings Bank, while supporting a local organization dedicated to providing programming for many in need in the Lewiston area.

A public skate is set for Sunday, July 13, at the Norway Savings Bank Arena, located at 985 Turner Street in Auburn. The event will be held from 4:20 p.m. to 5:20 p.m. Admission is \$5, with \$5 skate rentals for adults and children available. Half of the proceeds will be given to

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

the YWCA Central Maine in Lewiston, which aims to eliminate racism and empower women while promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.

July 18
LEWISTON – At 10am the Lewiston Public Library Children's Department will be offering the program Seashell Picture Frame Keepsakes. Caregivers and their children will be able to decorate a keepsake picture frame with a variety of seashells.

July 26
LEWISTON – The Lewiston Public Library Children's Department will be offering the program Within the Whale, an immersive marine science experience where guests can step inside a life-size inflatable humpback whale to explore its anatomy and learn about ocean conservation. Fun, educational, and perfect for all ages! There will be four available times for patrons to participate in the 30-minute program. The starting times are: 10:30am, 11:00am, 11:30am, and 12pm.

Each session is limited to 20 participants, so registration is required. Signups will be at the Children's information desk.

Patrons can register in person, by phone, or by email. This free Summer Reading program will take place in Callahan Hall on the third floor of the library.

July 30
LEWISTON – At 12PM the Lewiston Public Library Children's Department will be offering the program Woven Herb Garden Baskets. Kids and teens will be provided with materials to create their own woven basket for growing small plants. Various herb seeds, soil, and paper cups to sit inside the woven baskets will also be provided so participants can start their own windowsill herb garden. This program is recommended for kids and teens ages 5 and older. Children under the age of 8 must be supervised by a caregiver.

This activity will take place at the back tables in the Children's Department on the third floor of the library. This program is free, and no registration is required. All materials will be provided.

Aug 9
GORHAM – Makers Market & Pick Your Own Blueberries Fest at Orchard Ridge Farm in Gorham, August 9th from 10-2 (rain

date August 10th, 10-2)
We will have 30 Vendors selling their goods including Ceramics, Jewelry, Woodworking, Illustration and Painting, Vintage Clothes, Stained Glass, Soap and Body Products & More. There will be live music, farm animals and we will have 2 food trucks!
We are also having a BAKE SALE (blueberry themed) fundraiser for ARLGP with all the funds raised will go to help the shelter continue doing the amazing work they have been doing for years.

Aug 11-15
MAINE – Are you ready to advocate for a child's best interests? If so, Maine CASA hopes you can join us for our August 11-15, 2025 training. For more information about becoming a volunteer, please contact Maine CASA Legal Services Advisor Darren Defoe at 213-2864 or by e-mail at casa@courts.maine.gov.

Mondays through Aug 18
LEWISTON – The Lewiston Public Library, in partnership with ArtVan, will be offering art programs in the Children's Department for children ages 5-14 every Monday from June 23rd-August 18th from 3:00PM-4:30PM. Children aged 5-8 must be accompanied by an adult.

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

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

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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.

Every Third Thursday
LEWISTON – The Lewiston Farmers' Market is excited to announce the introduction of "Third Thursday" markets, which will take place every third Thursday of the month, June through September from 4:00-7:00 pm on the green space at 75 Lincoln St.

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.

Open House
Continued from page 1
ments. From schools and parks to public safety and other services, residents' feedback will be warmly welcomed.


Auburn's 2026 Comprehensive Plan will guide the city's growth and development over the next decade. We encourage everyone to get involved! Help us build a community-driven plan that is accessible and easy to use; that reflects our city's vision, values and priorities and provides a roadmap to achieve that vision.

Information on Auburn's Comprehensive Plan process – and the many ways to get involved – can be found at tinyurl.com/plan-auburn.

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Petra always knew she wanted to pursue a career that involved helping people. After studying nursing for a semester, and realizing that it wasn't for her, she discovered her calling as a Mental Health Rehabilitation Technician/Community, or MHRT-C, was the perfect fit.

In that role, she works with individuals living with serious and persistent mental illness, helping them access support services in the community. That might include a wide range of tasks on any given day, from helping clients connect with food and childcare resources, to helping them enroll in college classes.

"I love getting to be a part of people moving forward in their lives," she says. "I get to see people believe in themselves again."

Petra is a part of the growing field of Behavioral Health, ensuring that Mainers with behavioral health needs have the support they need to stay safe, independent, and empowered to achieve their personal goals. There are thousands of openings with providers throughout the state. In addition to the rewarding nature of the work, Petra appreciates having flexibility with time to be there for her husband and two young children.


"I have a lot of control over my schedule," she says. "I really do get to enjoy my kids' childhood."

Emily became a Mental Health Rehabilitation Technician-I, or MHRT-I, shortly after getting her associate's degree, and her son was diagnosed with autism. "I wanted to be prepared to meet his needs and be as knowledgeable as possible," she said.

The position, working with individuals' serious mental illness in supported residential settings, turned out to be a gateway to a new path that she could never could have imagined. Emily went on to become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, get her Doctorate in Social Work, and teach college classes, all as a mother of three. Today, as the Principal Investigator for Behavioral Health Workforce Initiatives at the Catherine Cutler Institute at the University of Southern Maine, Emily oversees MHRT-related certifications and training initiatives across the state. As she reflects on her path, she sees her time as an MHRT-I as pivotal.

"It helped me truly understand the profound impact behavioral health work could have, not only on the clients I served, but also on my own sense of purpose and fulfillment," she says. "To be able to see people have those light-bulb moments, really discover who they are and witness their resilience; it's amazing."

To learn more about full-time, part-time and per-diem opportunities in your community, go to Mainecareerswithpurpose.org. Follow @MaineCareerswithPurpose on Facebook and Instagram.

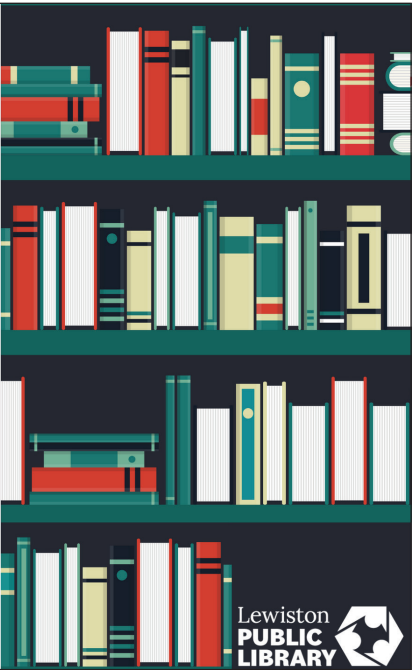


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SENIOR TRIPS

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 Museum, 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

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- 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.

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NSB donates \$3K to Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project

LEWISTON, ME – For over 30 years, the Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project (ILAP) has served as far more than just an organization that helps immigrants in Maine improve their legal status. It has fought for just and humane laws and policies affecting immigrants, offered compassion and respect to tens of thousands of immigrants from more than 150 countries, and stood as a beacon of hope for those seeking assistance and light.

It's a mission that has engendered over a decade of support from Norway Savings Bank, including a recent \$3,000 donation.

"Over the last 30 years, we've learned that change happens when the entire community comes together. The support of Norway Savings Bank and local businesses is critical to ILAP's work advancing justice for Maine's immigrants," said Sue Roche, Executive Director of ILAP.

As Maine's only statewide immigration legal services organization, ILAP provides a full range of direct legal services that cover a range of humanitarian and family-based immigration issues. The organization also offers accessible information and educational materials on legal issues to immigrant communities and service providers from York to Aroostook counties.

"The work of ILAP is so impressive and meaningful. Their efforts to collaborate with groups committed to social justice in ensuring immigrants are valued and treated justly in our society are crucial," said Dan Walsh, President and CEO of Norway Savings. "They directly serve thousands of people each year and reach many more through their community initiatives. It's overwhelming."


ILAP operates full-time offices in Portland and Lewiston and have a regular presence across the state through its "Rural Maine Project." From helping individuals find safety and economic security to keeping families together, ILAP's contributions to the greater good are impossible to estimate.

"ILAP is driven by the belief that when we all work to advance justice for immigrants, everyone benefits," said Janice de Lima, VP, Community Reinvestment Act Officer at Norway Savings Bank. "They are helping thousands navigate a complex legal system today while reimagining and striving for a better immigration system tomorrow."

"In many ways, immigrants represent the economic future of our state," said Roche. "This fact impacts businesses and communities across Maine, and we appreciate allies like Norway Savings that support immigrants, the essential services we provide to them, and the work we do to preserve dignity and achieve justice for them."







There are many ways you can support ILAP's mission. To learn more, visit www.ilapmaine.org/donate or www.ilapmaine.org/volunteer.






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