

NSB completes \$50k commitment to Maine MILL in Lewiston

LEWISTON, ME – In about a year, the Maine Museum of Innovation, Learning and Labor (Maine MILL) will welcome the public into its new digs: an 11,000-square-foot museum, gallery, and event space located in the former Camden Yarns Mill along the Androscoggin River in Lewiston.

Currently located in the Bates Mill complex, Maine MILL (formerly known as Museum L-A) stands as a museum that celebrates the history, culture, and hard-working people of the past. But it also aims to inspire ingenuity for the future through thousands of artifacts and hundreds of recorded interviews and oral histories from people who have lived and labored in the area.

The new facility will allow for those efforts to not only continue, but expand, and Norway Savings Bank is pleased to be a major supporter of the organization. On June 5, NSB representatives delivered a check that completed a \$50,000 commitment to Maine MILL and its new home.

“Through its massive collection, exhibits,



educational programming, and events, Maine MILL invites visitors to explore how life, labor, and culture can influence the future,” said Dan Walsh, President and CEO of Norway Savings Bank. “NSB is proud to help them showcase a wide range of perspectives and experiences in telling the community’s story, sparking ideas and innovation in the process.”

“Maine MILL is a tribute to the people, industries, and heritage that

built our past, enriches our present, and can create our future,” said Rachel Ferrante, Executive Director of Maine MILL. “We’re grateful that Norway Savings Bank appreciates our focus on community history and culture as well as the importance of preserving these stories for our region and beyond.”

All are welcome to visit the current Maine MILL, located on 35 Canal Street in Lewiston, on Wednesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and students, and free for children under six. For more information, visit www.mainemill.org or call 207-333-3881.

Lewiston Auburn Transit Committee vacancy

LEWISTON, ME – The City of Lewiston is seeking a resident volunteer to serve as a member of the Lewiston Auburn Transit Committee. The purpose of the Committee is to establish, maintain and implement a short- and long-range bus transit development program, and to apply for, receive and administer Federal and State grants-in-aid for mass transit on behalf of the cities of Lewiston and Auburn, and to provide adequate and efficient bus mass transit for

the Lewiston-Auburn area. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 12:00pm at Auburn City Hall

Lewiston residents who are interested in applying can contact the City Clerk’s Department to complete a committee volunteer application. Application forms are also available on the Boards and Committees page of the City’s website at www.lewistonmaine.gov. Applications can be submitted at any time and will be accepted until the posi-

tion is filled; however, the requested filing deadline is 4pm on Thursday, July 24.

Residents are welcome to contact the City Clerk’s Department at 207-513-3124 with any questions they may have regarding the committee appointment process. Completed applications shall be submitted to the City Clerk’s Office for processing.

Office hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday - 7:45am - 4:00pm and Tuesday, 7:45am - 5:30pm.

RESTAURANT GUIDE

eat local

drink local

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L-A’s Maine Community Integration receives grant

LEWISTON, AUBURN, ME – Maine Initiatives and the Nature Based Education Consortium are thrilled to announce the 2025 Outdoor Equity Fund Grantees, five community-based organizations dedicated to improving equitable access to nature-based learning opportunities for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) in Maine.

This is the third cohort of organizations supported through the Outdoor Equity Fund, joining 20 other grantees who receive multi-year, unrestricted \$30,000 grants and access to convenings, training, and peer support within this growing ecosystem. They were selected by the 2025 Outdoor Equity Fund Grantmaking Advisory Committee, a decision-making body with aligned wisdom, lived experience, and expertise in the outdoor and environmental sector.

The missions of the 2025 Outdoor Equity Fund grantees highlight the transformative ways nature-based efforts can nourish vital community needs, including cultural preservation, food sovereignty, immigrant flourishing, and healing after incarceration.

Abbe Museum

To illuminate and advance greater understanding of and support for Wabanaki Nations’ heritage, living culture, and home-



lands.

Katahdin Kitchen

To nourish our community by serving food that fosters connection and celebrates our cultural heritage. We are dedicated to creating a vibrant community hub that honors the traditional wisdom of the Wabanaki Moon Calendar.

La Finca Cooperative

To represent underrepresented communities and provide a pathway for connecting with plants, animals, and one another through our BIPOC worker-owned agricultural cooperative.

Maine Community Integration

To create opportunities for New Mainer girls and their families to have meaningful engagement in the Lewiston-Auburn communities while respecting and uplifting their diverse cultures, identities, and traditions. We serve the interests of both immigrants and locals by bridging gaps in mutual understanding in order to create social and systemic change.

Reentry Sisters

To expand access to college and career pathways for justice-impacted women and gender-expan-

sive people across Maine. Together, we’re building opportunities for education, healing, and leadership after incarceration.

“These five organizations, and the twenty-five total groups supported through the Outdoor Equity Fund, are restoring lifelines to our communities and strengthening our connection to mother earth in this critical moment when we need it most,” shared Maine Initiatives Senior Director Julian Rowand.

Join us in celebrating and supporting these organizations’ multifaceted and powerful work, blooming at the intersection of outdoor access and racial justice efforts in Maine, uncanceled Wabanaki Territory.

The Outdoor Equity Fund and cohort program is co-developed and administered by Maine Initiatives and the Nature Based Education Consortium.

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

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Kristin Gillis of HAM honored for exceptional veteran advocacy

AUGUSTA, ME – Kristin Gillis, Veterans Community Engagement Coordinator at Health Affiliates Maine (HAM), was recently recognized by the Maine Military & Community Network (MMCN) at its 13th Annual Conference for her outstanding dedication to Maine’s veterans.

Gillis’ commitment to veterans and service members has been lifelong, beginning with her own father’s service as a child. Her work officially began in 2010 at Central Maine Community College (CMCC), where she successfully championed the creation of a Veterans Club on campus. Since then, Gillis has continued to forge powerful partnerships across the state at every level, providing critical support and resources to veterans.

In her role at Health Affiliates Maine, Gillis has expanded her advocacy by creating bridges between veterans, case managers,



Featured from left to right: Amy Line, UMA Director of Military and Veteran Services; Kristin Gillis, HAM Veterans Community Engagement Coordinator; David Richmond, Director of Maine Bureau of Veterans’ Services; Nikki Vachon, FAME College Access Counselor

and essential services. She is well-known for her active community involvement, participating in events such as Gold Star and Yellow Ribbon ceremonies, stand downs, career fairs, and resource days. She sits on multiple MMCN committees, contributes to the Conference Planning Committee, and collaborates on Hire-A-Veteran events. She is actively involved with the Veterans in Need Foundation and other veteran-focused organizations. Gillis also

regularly engages with municipal leaders to ensure veterans are connected with every available local, state, and federal resource.

Health Affiliates Maine commends Gillis for embodying the organization’s values of integrity, advocacy, and support. Her work is a powerful reflection of HAM’s commitment to improving access to behavioral health and case management services for all—including veterans across Maine.

Bill to protect mobile home park residents sent to Governor’s desk

AUGUSTA, ME – On June 25, the Maine Senate sent a bill from Sen. Donna Bailey, D-Saco, to the Governor’s desk. LD 1768, “An Act to Protect Residents of Mobile Home Parks by Amending the Real Estate Transfer Tax,” would amend the real estate transfer tax, thereby protecting residents of mobile home parks.

“Now more than ever, it is critical that we stand up for residents of mobile home parks. As we contin-

ue to work on the affordable housing crisis, we need to protect and preserve mobile home parks, which offer affordable housing for seniors as well as young families,” said Sen. Bailey. “Yet, as we’ve seen on the news, they are vulnerable to out-of-state private equity firms that purchase the parks, raise the rents and drive residents from their homes. Since then, residents, including those right here in Atlantic Village and Old Orchard Village, have

asked for help. This bill will help.”

LD 1768 would offer another possible solution to the ongoing, growing trend of out-of-state corporations and firms buying mobile home parks and imposing steep rent increases on the residents. The bill would support residents by eliminating the real estate transfer tax on sales of mobile home parks when the buyers are the residents themselves.

It would also clarify the purpose of real estate transfer tax funds going into the Housing Opportunities for Maine (HOME) Fund. These funds could

See Bill, page 5

Red Cross: Make a difference by giving blood or platelets now

PORTLAND, ME – The American Red Cross urges all donors to give blood or platelets now to keep the blood supply strong this summer. Type O blood products are most needed on hospital shelves – especially in the face of summer challenges that can quickly cause blood and platelet reserves to drop.

In addition to summer fun and holidays, severe summer weather can have a sudden impact on the ability to collect blood and platelets. Scheduling and keeping donation appointments are crucial this month to ensure blood products are constantly available in the weeks to come for all patients, including those in trauma situations that may require several lifesaving transfusions.

All blood types are needed, and donors who don’t know their blood type can learn it after donation. Book a time to give blood or platelets by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

As a thank-you, all who come to give by July 14, 2025, will receive an exclusive pair of Red Cross x goodr sunglasses, while supplies last. Donors can personalize their one-of-a-kind shades with a blood type sticker that’s included! For details, visit RedCrossBlood.org/goodr.

For those who come to give through July 31, 2025, the Red Cross will say thanks with a Fandango Movie Reward by email. Use it to catch a summer blockbuster on the Red Cross! See RedCrossBlood.org/July.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities

Androscoggin
Lewiston
7/21/2025: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., CMMC, 12 High Street, Lower Level
Poland
7/19/2025: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Poland Town Hall, 1223 Maine Street, Rt. 26

Cumberland
Brunswick
7/23/2025: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Elks Lodge, 179 Park Row
7/25/2025: 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., American Legion Post 20, 1 Columbus

Drive
Falmouth
7/23/2025: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Lunt Auditorium, 74 Lunt Road
Freeport
7/28/2025: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Hilton Garden Inn Freeport - Old Town Hall Building, 5 Park Street
Gorham
7/17/2025: 1 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Cressey Road Christian Church, 81 Cressey Road
Harrison
7/30/2025: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., United Parish Congregational Church of Harrison and N. Bridgton, 77 Main Street
Portland
7/31/2025: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Cambria Hotel, 25 Hancock St
South Portland
7/22/2025: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Eastpoint Christian Church, 345 Clarks Pond Pkwy
Westbrook
7/25/2025: 12 p.m. - 4 p.m., Westbrook Community Center, 426 Bridge Street
Windham
7/29/2025: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., North Windham Union Church, 723 Roosevelt Trail, Route 302

Maine Paid Family & Medical Leave contracts with Aflac

AUGUSTA, ME – The Maine Department of Labor has announced that after a competitive RFP process, it has contracted with Aflac to administer claims of the new Maine Paid Family & Medical Leave program.

“I’m excited to start this partnership to provide efficient benefit administration with exceptional customer service for the people of Maine,” said Luke Monahan, Director of the Maine Paid Family

& Medical Leave program. “Aflac’s experience in running the benefit administration of the Connecticut Paid Leave program, as well as their depth of experience and expertise in disability and leave management in the private sector, will be an asset to Maine’s program.”

“We are honored that Aflac has been selected to serve as the administrator of the Maine Paid Family and Medical Leave program,” said Scott Beeman, Aflac Senior Vice President

of National Accounts. “We are proud of the service and care we provide to our customers and look forward to supporting Maine employers and their workers, as they need time away from work under this new program, for an eligible leave reason.”

One of the reasons Aflac was selected was because of its impressive track record as the administrator of Connecticut Paid Leave claims. Connecticut’s 2024 annual report showed that:

99% of new claims’ eligibility decisions were made within 5 days.

More than 97% of the time, a customer service question or issue was resolved in a single phone call.

Beginning May 1, 2026, eligible Maine workers in the private and public sector will have up to 12 weeks of paid time off available to care for a family member with a serious health condition, to bond with a child after birth, fostering or adoption, to care for their own medical needs, to deal with the transition of a family member’s impending military deployment or to stay safe after abuse or violence.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Maine SBDC recognizes certified business advisors

MANCHESTER, VT – The Maine Small Business Development Centers (Maine SBDC), a state-wide program that helps entrepreneurs start and grow their businesses, recognized six (6) business advisors who received their Core Competencies Certification from the New England Professional Development (NEPD) group on Wednesday, May 14, 2025. Newly certified advisors include Jon Janson, Dan McDonald, Brendan Craig, Jenn Dobransky, Dion Olmstead, and Vien Dobui.

The six newly certified business advisors include:

Jon Janson is located in Auburn and serves small businesses in Central Western Maine. (Top Left)

Dan McDonald is located in Eastport and serves small businesses in Downeast Maine. (Top Right)

Brendan Craig is located in Lincoln and serves small businesses in Northern Maine. (Middle Left)

Jenn Dobransky is located in Bath and serves small businesses in Mid-Coast Maine. (Middle Right)

Dion Olmstead is located in Auburn and serves small businesses in Central Western Maine. (Bottom Left)

Vien Dobui is located



ed in Lewiston and also serves small businesses in Biddeford. (Bottom Right)

NEPD is a professional development collaboration of the six Small Business Development Centers in New England and includes the Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island programs. The NEPD program provides a comprehensive, core knowledge training program and is a key element

of the SBDC's ability to provide valuable and high-quality services to clients and meet the needs of stakeholders. The certification training consists of two elements – participation in specified online technical content and an in-person, two-day intensive group session.

Individuals interested in working with the Maine SBDC can visit www.mainesbdc.org or call 207-780-4420.

Marty McIntyre, 100+ Women Who Care Androscoggin

AUBURN, ME – On May 5, 100+Women Who Care Androscoggin held their sixth fundraising meeting at Central Maine Community College in Auburn. At that meeting, the membership voted to support Trinity Jubilee Center with their donations. The checks, totaling \$7400, were delivered to Trinity Jubilee Center on June 2. Because of this donation, the program is also eligible for a 50% matching grant from the Richard M Schulze Foundation, bringing their donation total to \$11,100.

Trinity Jubilee Center provides comprehensive support and is dedicated to helping people survive difficult situations and build a strong future. The Center works closely with clients and partner agencies to design, assess, and improve their programs to best address current issues and provide the greatest benefit to their clients. Programs are low-barrier and open to anyone in need. Services include a soup kitchen, a food pantry, a



100+ Women Who Care present a check to Trinity Jubilee Center. Pictured, l to r, are Rebecca Brooke from 100+ Women Who Care Androscoggin; Cassandra Culleton, Kitchen and Facilities Manager and Erin Reed, Executive Director, both of Trinity Jubilee Center..

resource center (which includes help writing a resume and applying for jobs), a free medical clinic, a day shelter and an immigrant integration program. More than 1,000 people are served by these programs each week. (trinityjubileecenter.org)

100+ Women Who Care Androscoggin is a collaboration of local women who invest in the community by pooling their donations for the greatest impact. They meet four times a year. Members can nominate organizations or projects that are working to

address community needs. At each meeting they hear from 3 of the nominated organizations and then vote for one group to receive their donation. The members then write a check to that organization. To date, 100+ Women Who Care Androscoggin has raised and donated \$36,710. With the matching grant, the community impact is \$55,065.

To join or to get more information about 100+ Women Who Care Androscoggin, email 100womenwhocareandroscoggin@gmail.com.

Joshua Dunlap nominated to U.S. Court of Appeals

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Susan Collins announced that Joshua Dunlap, of Scarborough, Maine, has been nominated by President Donald Trump to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

In February, Senator Collins established a Federal Appointments Advisory Committee to evaluate candidates for Senate-confirmed positions in Maine. As the senior Republican member of Maine's congressional delegation, Senator Collins is advising the Trump Administration as it selects candidates for federal positions in the state, and the Committee's recommendations are an integral part of that process.

"Mr. Joshua Dunlap was a top candidate recommended by my Federal Appointments Advisory Committee for this important position. Mr. Dunlap currently serves as a Partner at Pierce Atwood LLP where he co-chairs the

firm's Appellate & Amici team. His wealth of appellate experience, along with his intelligence and temperament, make him an excellent choice to serve on the federal bench," said Senator Collins. "A native of Vassalboro, now living in Scarborough, he will serve Maine well in this critical role. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate to swiftly confirm Mr. Dunlap."

A native of Vassalboro, Maine, Mr. Dunlap is currently a partner in the litigation group of Pierce Atwood LLP, where he co-chairs the firm's Appellate & Amici team. He has practiced at Pierce Atwood for over fifteen years, handling substantial civil litigation matters in both appellate and trial courts.

His practice in federal and state courts has involved a wide range of common law, statutory, and constitutional claims. Mr. Dunlap currently serves as

the chair for the Maine Appellate Rules Committee, to which he was appointed by the Maine Supreme Judicial Court.

As an associate, Mr. Dunlap assisted multiple special masters, including the Honorable William J. Kayatta, Jr., and Ralph I. Lancaster, Jr., in overseeing original jurisdiction proceedings before the Supreme Court of the United States.

See Dunlap, page 16

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Seniors Not Acting Their Age Entertaining Trues Pond

In late May, while kayaking on Stevens Pond in Liberty, I met two kayakers who highly recommended a similar trip on nearby Trues Pond, also in Liberty. I was only vaguely aware of Trues Pond and had never considered it a paddling destination. Always on the lookout for a new paddling opportunity, their glowing report piqued my interest.

A little research found the twisting approximately two-mile long pond with numerous coves and indentations is the third significant body of water in the upper St. George River watershed. The actual headwater is Lake St. George which flows into Stevens Pond and subsequently into Trues Pond. Dams control the flow at outlets of all three. From Trues Pond, the St. George travels generally south to the ocean near Port Clyde.

Two landings provide access to the pond. A northern option is situated on Trues Pond Road in Liberty and a southern location is next to the outlet dam on Choate Road in South Montville.

After a solo trial run, I recommended a Trues Pond trip to my wife, Nancy. She immediately agreed and we invited some of the usual suspects. Two long-time friends, Bruce Weik and Karin Eberhardt, accepted our invitation; an added benefit, they were Trues Pond veterans.

Despite a seemingly endless stretch of bad weather, we were able to select a sunny, warm mid-June day for our excursion. Since light winds out of



Paddlers enter open water in northern Trues Pond

the south were forecast, we decided to launch from the northern landing to take advantage of a tailwind on our return.

We departed south from a dirt landing immediately below the Trues Pond Road Bridge that separates the main body of the pond from a boggy upper sector. Bruce and Karin paddled a tandem canoe and Nancy and I navigated flatwater kayaks.

Initially, we paddled through narrow passages in tall swamp grass near the vicinity where the stream from Stevens Pond enters. After traveling through a shallow area festooned with lily pads and yellow water lilies, we emerged into open water.

We passed to the right of a prominent island and progressed into a light headwind to the western shore. After entering a fairly substantial opening that appeared to be where the pond made an abrupt right turn, we found it to be a cul-de-sac and backtracked.

Shortly after, a constricted entrance on the right led us through a

lengthy, attenuated S-turn and into more open water. As we finished the traverse, we could hear fiddle music coming from the left bank. Directly in front of the complex a young woman was dancing on a paddle board.

Curious about the unexpected encounter, we navigated closer to the dancing paddle boarder to investigate. While entertaining fiddle music was playing in the background, she happily informed us that we'd stumbled onto the Maine Fiddle Camp and they were celebrating the first weekend of a summer of music.

The music played on as we passed by the collection of cabins and large tents that constituted the camp and entered a narrowing channel. Proceeding southerly, we approached the dam at the southern landing. Paddlers need to be cautious in this area as there are no warning signs or protective barriers. Getting accidentally swept over the dam is a risk.

There is a steep bank next to the dam where



A paddler dances to fiddle music on Trues Pond



A kayaker paddles through a marshy area on Trues Pond

boats can launch or land. Climbing the embankment to take a break was unappealing so we began the trip back.

We hoped for more musical entertainment on our return. Alas, the fiddlers and the dancing paddle boarder were taking a break.

Once back at the landing, we decided to explore the upper sector of the pond. It was a wise decision. After ducking under the low hanging Trues Pond Road Bridge, we entered a fascinating marshy area. Narrow channels

weaved through swamp grass where the water surface was decorated with lily pads and yellow pond lilies. We pressed on until a fallen tree prevented further exploration.

After returning to the landing, we reflected on our exceptional paddling experience. The excursion covered about five scenic miles and included an entertaining musical performance. A great day!

My book, *Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine* narrates paddling trips on several of Maine's

most picturesque lakes and ponds.

Ron Chase resides in Topsham. His latest book, *"Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine"* is available at www.northcountrypress.com/maine-al-fresco or in bookstores and through online retailers. His previous books are *"The Great Mars Hill Bank Robbery"* and *"Mountains for Mortals – New England."* Visit his website at www.ronchase-outdoors.com or he can be reached at ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net

Bill
Continued from page 2

be used to maintain housing affordability in mobile home parks, including supporting the ownership of mobile home parks, resi-

dent-owned housing cooperatives or other non-profit entities representing the interests of mobile home owners.

In 1982, the Maine State Legislature creat-

ed the HOME Fund as a flexible source of funds to address affordable housing challenges. Currently, a portion of revenue generated by the transfer tax on real estate sales in Maine is

allocated to MaineHousing to address the State's affordable housing needs.

The key characteristic of this dedicated revenue is its flexibility. The HOME Fund also supports down payment assistance for first-time and first-generation homebuyers, home modifications and repairs for low-income households, shelters and supportive housing and the development of new housing units.

Additionally, MaineHousing can use the HOME Fund for a wide variety

of housing initiatives that might not otherwise have adequate funding to provide access to clean water, foreclosure avoidance, mobile home replacement and emergency housing needs.

As amended, the bill includes clarifying language that stipulates real estate transfer tax revenue contributed to the HOME Fund would continue to assist residents of mobile home parks — even after the temporary Mobile Home Community Preservation Fund exhausts its one-time balance.

In 2024, Gov. Janet Mills and the Legislature — with Sen. Bailey's support — allocated \$5 million in one-time funds for MaineHousing to establish the Mobile Home Community Preservation Fund. It supports the purchase of mobile home parks by their residents. Last week, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed a budget that adds \$3 million to the fund, continuing a successful program that has helped hundreds of Mainers save their homes.

LD 1768 now goes to the Governor's desk for her signature.

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

Augusta Symphony Soirée: An intimate chamber concert

AUGUSTA, ME – Looking for a memorable night out while supporting the arts? Get your tickets now for a special summer event on Friday, August 15th presented by the Augusta Symphony Orchestra!

Join us for the Augusta Symphony Soirée, the only ticketed concert in the ASO schedule, which will help support the ASO’s mission and expenses. Held at Jewett Hall on the University of Maine at Augusta campus (46 University Dr.), this elegant evening will feature chamber ensembles drawn from ASO musicians, including Concertmaster Anne McKee. The program will culminate with the ASO’s own Maestro Jinwook Park leading a lively winds and strings nonet with his violin rather than his baton.

The evening will



open with a welcome reception at 7:00 pm during which supporters can meet each other as well as orchestra members. The concert will begin at 7:30 pm.

The ASO is committed to offering its regular-season concerts free of charge to remove any financial barriers for community members. Performing arts opportunities are limited in the Augusta area, and supporters of the ASO are investing in the

cultural enrichment of our community. The proceeds from this concert will help the orchestra maintain its regular season concerts free of admission fees, ensuring that classical music remains a vital and accessible part of the Augusta-area arts landscape.

Seats are limited and tickets are only \$30! To learn more and to purchase tickets, visit our website at www.augustasympphony-maine.org

MIFF co-founder to be honored with Lifetime Achievement Award

WATERVILLE, ME – The Maine International Film Festival (MIFF) announces that Ken Eisen, the festival’s co-founder and longtime programming director, will receive a Lifetime Achievement Award at a screening of *The Long Goodbye* (dir. Robert Altman, 1973). Eisen has, for nearly fifty years, championed independent film at all levels, enabled dozens of films to find audiences worldwide, and helped elevate Waterville as a film destination.

In 1978, Eisen co-founded Railroad Square Cinema, which became one of the few venues in the region regularly showing independent, international, and documentary films. In 1984, Eisen co-founded Shadow Distribution, which has released more than 30 films in theaters across the United States. Notable Shadow releases include *Sherman’s March* (1986), *The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill*



(2005), and *Trouble the Water* (2008), which was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature.

Eisen co-founded the Maine International Film Festival in 1998, which now screens approximately 100 films throughout 10 days each July. The festival features American independent films, international cinema, and

highlights made-in-Maine films. Past guests have included Terrence Malick, Sissy Spacek, Jonathan Demme, Peter Fonda, Ed Harris, and Glenn Close, and will honor Clive Owen this year.

The Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to Eisen during a ceremony at the Waterville Opera House on July 18 at 7:00PM.

Maine’s free community college scholarship ends with class of 2025

AUGUSTA, ME – Maine’s Free College Scholarship ends with the Class of 2025 graduates after state lawmakers declined to fund future graduating classes in the budget signed by the governor on Monday.

The Free College Scholarship, which started in fall 2022, is a last-dollar scholarship that covers 100% of tuition and mandatory fees at Maine’s community colleges for recent high school graduates. The state previously approved the Classes of 2023-25 for the scholarship, which will continue to be available to those students. Qualifying high school graduates have up to two years post-graduation to enroll, and up to four years to complete an associate degree, so Free College Scholarship students will continue to be enrolled at the colleges for several more years.

It would take a separate act of the legislature to continue the scholarship beyond the Class of 2025.

“It’s dispiriting to have such a successful program benefiting so many people – students, their families, Maine employers – come to an end,” said David Daigler, president of the Maine Community College System (MCCS). “We’ll continue our mission to provide affordable, relevant education and training that prepares people for good jobs in Maine – but it will be harder to reach all the deserving, motivated, and hard-working students who came to the colleges because of the Free College Scholarship.”

“I want each one of the potential students who are disappointed they won’t get the scholarship to know that Maine’s community colleges are still very, very affordable, and we’ll help

them any way we can to make ends meet,” Daigler said. Tuition and fees are \$4,156 a year for a full-time student and more than 50% of MCCS students qualify for federal Pell grants that often cover those costs.

The state budget signed Monday includes one-time funding of \$20 million for MCCS to pay for the Free College Scholarship for current students and the Class of 2025; a 4% increase to base funding; and one-time funding to cover new paid family medical leave (PFML) costs.

Since fall 2022, 17,826 Free College-eligible students have enrolled at Maine’s community colleges. In fall 2024, there were 8,989 Free College-eligible students enrolled, out of a total enrollment of 21,385 students. Enrollment has increased 23% since the pre-pandemic fall 2019 enrollment of 17,327.

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

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Arts & Entertainment

The Wailin’ Jennys! Concert to benefit Lives in the Balance

PORTLAND, ME – The Maine-based non-profit, Lives in the Balance, is excited to welcome the Juno award-winning folk trio The Wailin’ Jennys to Portland’s Merrill Auditorium on November 22, 2025 at 7:30 PM for a special benefit concert. Tickets can be purchased at boxoffice.porttix.com.

Lives in the Balance founder, Dr. Ross Greene, says, “The Jennys have been supportive of the work of Lives in the Balance for

many years, and we are incredibly excited to welcome them back to Portland for the first time in several years. Best of all, we love their music. Their three-part harmonies are as good as it gets, they sing from the heart, and they’re wonderful human beings. A powerful combination. We’re really glad to partner with them and hope as many of our friends as possible can attend the performance.”

Proceeds from this event will support Lives in

the Balance’s efforts on behalf of our most vulnerable kids and their caregivers and will help us grow our training, legal, and advocacy efforts. Lives in the Balance partners with families, educators, and policymakers to ensure that all kids are understood and treated with compassion. The organization provides resources and training to reduce or eliminate the use of harmful disciplinary practices like expulsion, restraint, and seclusion.

Dinner-concert at Nathaniel Hawthorne’s boyhood home

RAYMOND, ME – Gordon Thomas Ward—whom Skope Magazine hails as “setting the gold standard for singer-songwriters for generations to come”—will deliver a very special “Evening with Gordon Thomas Ward” dinner-concert performance featuring songs & stories at Nathaniel Hawthorne’s Boyhood Home in Raymond (40 Hawthorne Road) on Friday, July 18, with doors opening at 5 p.m.



Image courtesy of Gordon Thomas Ward.

Gordon Thomas Ward is an award-winning alternative/folk-rock artist who has delivered four Grammy-balloted albums in the last six years. He has collaborated with such notable musicians as Noel Paul Stookey (Peter, Paul, & Mary), Eric Troyer and Mik Kaminski (Electric Light Orchestra), and Kevin Barry (Jackson Browne, James Taylor).

Admission for “dinner & the show” is \$25, with the candle-lit dinner including a ham, chicken, or haddock entree, steamed vegetables, a bottle of red and white wine at each table, soft drinks, beer, coffee, plus dessert. Reservations and payment must be made in advance by calling Becky at (207) 329-0537, emailing her at Hawthorne@Maine.RR.com

or visiting the website at <https://www.hawthorneassoc.com>.

How to Donate to Nathaniel Hawthorne’s Boyhood Home

Those who would like to donate to the ongoing restoration of Nathaniel Hawthorne’s Boyhood Home in Raymond may do so by sending a much-appreciated check payable to “Hawthorne Community Association” to: Hawthorne Community Association / PO Box 185 / South Casco, ME 04077. Secure credit card, debit card, and PayPal donations may be made online at: <https://www.hawthorneassoc.com>.

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Forgotten history of Gov. Longley & 1975 Vietnamese resettlement

By Phil Nadeau

Like any year that passes, there is the inevitable journalistic undertaking of looking back over some combination of years to assess how much things have changed or have not. Many events from 1975 are worthy of a 50th anniversary essay. As an historian, I could have chosen to examine the impact on Maine life following Microsoft's founding, the first broadcast of 'Saturday Night Live,' Lee Elder's participation as the first Black golfer invited to 'The Masters,' or the Kennebec River's last log drive not only in Maine, but in the entire country.

I have chosen to place my 1975 focus on Governor James Longley's first year in office. Longley's place in Maine history, as our state's first independent governor, is well known to many. He was the president of his senior class at Lewiston High School when he witnessed his mother receive an insurance check that barely covered family expenses following the death of his father. A Bowdoin graduate, he would run his insurance business during the day and pursue his law degree by attending law school at night. His life experiences fueled his de-

termination to create a very successful insurance business. That success attracted the attention of Governor Kenneth Curtis, who appointed him to a committee assignment that fueled his interest in running for governor.

His tenure as Governor was a study in someone desiring to deliver on campaign promises. Longley sold himself as a change agent seeking to cut bureaucratic waste, reduce spending, and lower taxes. He also promised voters that he would "clean house" within the outgoing Curtis administration cabinet. By the end of his term, he lowered the per-capita rate of state and local taxes twice. He would set a record for the number of vetoes, battle with the University of Maine, advocate for the federal funding of a Maine Native American land claims settlement, oppose the Dickey-Lincoln dam project, relish his adversarial role with the legislature, and always fight the "politician" label. That was the Jim Longley that I remembered.

After years of research, I have chosen to examine one period of James Longley's forgotten history as Maine's Governor—his decision to have

the state resettle Vietnamese refugees following the U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam in April 1975. I lived in Washington, D.C., in 1975 and was not receiving much "local" news from Maine. As decades put more distance between my recollections of the Longley years, I uncovered a random story about the Governor during my 2020 book research. It was a Bangor Daily News article about Vietnam refugees landing at Portland International Airport in 1975. Along with the front-page article was a photo of Longley greeting the refugees. Having no prior knowledge of the story, I conducted further research on Longley's history and the events that led to his refugee decision.

I was disappointed to find that historians chose not to write about Longley's involvement with the Vietnamese refugees. The question is, why did they overlook something that occupied Longley's administration for almost half of his first year in office? Why did this Lewiston native and businessman decide to utilize his newly acquired position in Augusta to establish the state's first and only refugee resettlement program?



Governor Longley, Blainehouse.org

My newspaper research and some discussions with people close to the Governor revealed that Longley's 1975 decision to resettle the refugees was possibly influenced by a trip he made to Vietnam in 1969. That trip resulted in the relocation of 12 Vietnamese orphans to the U.S. and Maine. Six years later, he wrote two letters to President Gerald Ford on April 30, 1975, the same day the U.S. evacuated the last of its government and military presence in Vietnam. One of the Longley letters offered to assist the President with housing

some of the evacuated orphans airlifted in Operation Babylift, an undertaking that evacuated and airlifted over 2,000 orphans into the U.S.

Longley's commitment to Ford did not result in orphan relocations to Maine. Still, it did produce a program hosting 167 Vietnamese refugees, many of whom were entire families. They arrived at the Portland Jetport on July 27, 1975, on three flights from a Pennsylvania military facility that housed primarily Vietnamese and other Indochinese refugees. St. Joseph's College



Gov. Longley greets refugees
Gov. James L. Longley welcomes members of the Tan family, the Chinese section of Hanoi, 1975
the Times family, 10 members strong, January of 1975

Bangor Daily News, UPI photo, p1, 7/28/1975

in Standish became their temporary home. The college offered its facilities to the Governor in response to national public opposition. Comments from some Maine residents triggered the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department to assign deputies to the college to screen incoming campus traffic.

Comments opposing the resettlements may have contributed to a bomb scare at the Portland Jetport that delayed the refugee arrivals on the second plane. After twenty minutes, officials cleared the terminal. Governor Longley, whose knee injury failed to dampen his enthusiasm for this historic moment. Crutches and all, Longley personally greeted the remaining flights and Maine's new residents without incident.

National polling re-
See Longley, page 12



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Governor’s Restaurant: A Maine legacy with humble roots

An interview with Owner, Jason Clay, by Millie Barnard

What began as a simple ice cream stand on Stillwater Avenue in Old Town, Maine, has grown into one of the state’s most beloved restaurant chains. Governor’s Restaurant and Bakery, now with six locations across Maine, is a testament to local grit, hospitality, and home-cooked comfort.

Though current owner Jason Clay (Clay) is not the original founder, he proudly carries on the legacy of the Wadleigh family, who opened the original “Creamees” in 1959 near the University of Maine. “Leith and Donna Wadleigh worked there every summer,” Clay recalled. “They’d go down to Florida in the winter, then come back and slowly build it up year after year.”

Eventually, the stand expanded to include hot food and evolved into a full-service restaurant. The name “Governor’s” came about thanks to founder Leith Wadleigh’s unique way with people. “He couldn’t remember names,” Clay said with a laugh. “So when regulars came in, he’d say ‘Hey Governor, how are you doing?’ When it came



Jason Clay, owner of Governor’s Restaurant & Bakery



The bakery display case at the Lewiston Governor’s Restaurant & Bakery location

time to rename the business, the name stuck.” That same original

Old Town location is still in operation today — now the flagship store — and has been expanded and renovated 19 times over the years. “It’s not your typical corporate-style building,” Clay said. “It’s a little quirky with all its rooflines, but it’s got charm.”

Governor’s began to expand in the late ’70s and early ’80s, first to Bangor, then to Waterville. The Lewiston restaurant opened in 1996 and is coming up on 30 years. Today, the six operating locations are in Old Town, Bangor, Waterville, Ellsworth, Lew-



Don’t miss the buffet every Sunday at all Governor’s locations



Guests enjoying their afternoon meal at the Lewiston Governor’s Restaurant & Bakery location



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iston, and Presque Isle.

As the company grew, so did its offerings. “If you’re serving burgers, you need rolls,” Clay said. “Eventually we thought — why not make our own?” That mindset led to the creation of their in-house bakery, which now produces fresh bread, rolls, and their famous desserts. “We’ve always believed you eat with your eyes first,” Clay added. “When people walk in and see that full bakery case, it gets their appetite going.”

Clay’s journey with the company is a story

See Governor’s, page 10

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From vegetable stand to local landmark: Taber’s Restaurant and Golf

An interview with Owner Dan Hargreaves by Millie Barnard

Perched above Lake Auburn, Taber’s Golf Course, Mini Golf, and Restaurant has been a beloved summer staple for generations. What began in 1941 as a roadside vegetable stand and ice cream bar has grown into a local landmark, offering classic American fare, a driving range, and a charming mini golf course.

Current owner Dan Hargreaves (Hargreaves), took over the business in 2008 from his parents. Alongside his wife, they are continuing a legacy that started decades earlier. Although he never planned on taking the reins as a child, time—and a few summers working back home—eventually changed his mind. “I didn’t want to growing up,” Hargreaves admits, “but I came back during college to help out after my mom was diagnosed with cancer and found I really enjoyed it.”

Over the years, the property has evolved while maintaining its nostalgic feel. The original mini golf course, built in the 1950s, was fully renovated in 2015. Hargreaves and his wife preserved some of the vintage “putt-putt” style elements while adding a peaceful stream and waterfall to enhance the course’s tranquil atmosphere.

The restaurant, open mid-April through mid-September, offers walk-up takeout with a focus on simple, homemade food. The onion rings—made using the original Taber family recipe—are a standout, along with pepper strips, burgers, and house-made lobster, chicken, and tuna rolls. “We make things that a lot of other places buy premade,” Hargreaves says. “Tartar sauce, coleslaw—we still



Owner, Dan Hargreaves in front of Taber’s Restaurant and Golf sign

make it all ourselves.” Taber’s sources ingredients locally when possible, including produce from Blackie’s Farm Fresh Produce and bread from LePage Bakeries in Lewiston.

Menu favorites include the “Northburg,” a cheeseburger with lettuce, tomato, onion, and mayo, and its regional spin-offs—the “Westburg” with BBQ sauce and bacon, the “Eastburg” featuring an onion ring and ranch and the “Southburg”, with lettuce, onion, tomato and mayonnaise. Lighter options, like the grilled chicken spinach salad, have also become customer favorites.

Taber’s draws both longtime locals and newcomers with events like glow-in-the-dark mini golf on summer weekends and “Class Nights,” where high school alumni gather by graduation year every Monday and Wednesday to reconnect. Another ma-

jor draw is the Maine Mini Golf Open, held annually on the first Sunday of August. The 54-hole tournament welcomes serious mini golfers from across

New England and beyond, including members of the American Mini Golf Association.

Despite being a seasonal operation, Taber’s employs about 35 part-time

See *Tabers*, page 10



Driving range and tables



Restaurant and ice cream



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RESTAURANT GUIDE

eat local drink local

Governor’s

Continued from page 8

in itself. A University of Maine graduate, he grew up near the Old Town location and has worked at Governor’s in various roles over the years. “I’ve done just about every job here,” he said. “A couple of years ago, I had the opportunity to purchase the management company from the founders’ son — it felt like the right way to continue an iconic Maine tradition.”

Clay now owns five of the six Governor’s locations, with the Presque Isle restaurant operated by a franchisee. His passion for the brand is deeply rooted in its Maine identity and

longstanding connection with customers. “We’re not just a restaurant,” he said. “We’re part of people’s memories — family dinners, celebrations, weekend breakfasts. That means something.”

With nearly seven decades of history and a heart still firmly planted in Old Town, Governor’s remains a homegrown institution dedicated to good food, local roots, and a warm welcome. Stay tuned for news on how they will be celebrating their 30th year in Lewiston next year! Visit your local Governor’s Restaurant and Bakery today:

Old Town: 963

Stillwater Avenue, Old Town, ME 04468. Phone: (207) 827-4277

Bangor: 643 Broadway, Bangor, ME 0440. Phone: (207) 947-3113

Waterville: 376 Main Street, Waterville, ME 04901. Phone: (207) 872-0677

Ellsworth: 253 High Street, Ellsworth, ME 04605. Phone: (207) 610-1880

Lewiston: 1185 Lisbon Street, Lewiston, ME 04240. Phone: (207) 753-0173

Presque Isle: 350 Main Street, Presque Isle, ME 04769. Phone: (207) 769-2274

On the web at GovernorsRestaurant.com

Tabers

Continued from page 9

staff each year—many of whom return summer after summer. Hargreaves’s own daughter, Penelope can be seen helping out in the restaurant scooping ice cream, while his younger

sons spend their time playing at the range. The driving range has become especially popular in recent years, as interest in golf has surged post-COVID. Lessons are available through instructor Jim Berube, who has

been offering guidance and recruiting newcomers at the range for the past several seasons. Taber’s continues to thrive not only because of its scenic location and well-loved food, but because it stays true to its



Tabers Mini golf course



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original goal: creating a relaxed, family-friendly atmosphere where everyone feels welcome. “We don’t serve alcohol,” Hargreaves notes. “That’s intentional. We want this to be a space where families can come and feel comfortable.”

Whether it’s a first visit or a yearly tradition, a stop at Taber’s offers more than a bite to eat or a round of mini golf—it offers a taste of Maine summer and a reminder of the joy in simple pleasures.

Taber’s Restaurant and Golf, located at 470 Lake Shore Drive, Auburn, is open 10am - 9pm mid-April to mid/late September. Reach them at 207-784-2521, find them on Facebook or visit their website, tabersgolf.com.

Canton Historical Society to host 50th anniversary celebration

CANTON, ME – The Canton Historical Society (CHS) is hosting a celebration of its 50th anniversary. Spend the day with members and friends of the CHS, see some special new exhibits, hear a talk on an historical Canton native, and stay for the party!

The events will take place on Saturday, July 26th at the Canton Historical Society's building at 25 Turner Street in Canton, Maine.

The museum will open 10:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. for visitors to explore the collections, including new exhibits featuring maps of Canton through history and the paintings of Mary Neal Richardson—a portrait artist from Canton in the 19th and 20th centuries. There will also be a quilt show featuring historical quilts from the collections of both the Canton and Jay Historical Societies.

At 2 p.m., Mr. Fred Thompson will give a talk on the aforementioned Mary Neal Richardson about whom he's written a book. During her life, Mary painted portraits of several of his family members.

Then, at 4 p.m., the party will start outdoors on the lawn. Drinks will be available at a cash bar offered by Boondocks Farm's Backwoods Affair and food will be available for purchase at Alabama's BBQ's Phat Vinnie's Food Truck. Both vendors accept cash or credit. Those wishing to have alcoholic beverages will be asked to provide identification—and please, no outside beverages.

Because our society was founded in 1975, we urge everyone to wear their 1970s garb! Think tie-dye, denim, disco, bell bottoms, miniskirts, maxi dresses, hippy-style, and "flower power."

Each attendee will receive a 50th Anniversary souvenir gift (while supplies last), PLUS a slice of cake following the cake cutting! Also, the Country Store will be open!

Admission is FREE. All ages are welcome, and the events are open to the public. The venue is handicap accessible. Parking is curbside or at the Public Boat Launch around the corner. If it rains the party will be moved inside.

The Canton Historical Society is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit organization devoted to the preservation and celebration of Canton's heritage and history.

If you would like more information about this event, please email cantonmehistorical@gmail.com, or go to www.cantonmehistory.org or the "Canton Maine Historical Society" Facebook page.

New management group announced for the Colisée

LEWISTON, ME – Mill Town Sports and Entertainment has announced that it will commence a new era of management of the historic Lewiston Colisée. Mill Town is committed to revitalizing the legendary Colisée and elevating it as a premier hub for sports and entertainment in Maine. Mill Town views the Colisée as an important economic catalyst for the Lewiston community.

"We couldn't be more excited to get started," said Nate Bostic, President of Mill Town Sports and Entertainment. "From working with current partners, to welcoming new groups, we're here to bring energy and passion for top-tier sports events and entertainment back to the Colisée." One of our founding principles is loyalty to our local communities. Mill Town plans to be an active presence throughout Lewiston and surrounding areas.

"I've had the pleasure of meeting so many incredible people in the community over the past year," said Nate, "If I haven't met you yet, I'll be stopping by soon. We're dedicated to honoring the tradition of the Colisée and preserving what makes it so special to so many."

With this new chapter, Mill Town Sports and Entertainment is committed to making the Lewiston Colisée a vibrant, inclusive destination where memories are made and legacies live on. The vision for the Colisée entails a dynamic range of programming including concerts, boxing events, community entertainment, high-end junior hockey, and a comprehensive Learn-to-Play program to foster youth participation in hockey.

Mill Town Sports and Entertainment is committed to elevating the sports and entertainment experience for everyone who enters The Colisée. Founded

See Colisée, page 14

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Annual Lobster Dinner to benefit church projects

OTISFIELD, ME – It's that special time of year, the return of The East Otisfield Free Baptist Church annual Lobster Dinner being held on, Saturday, August 9th. The menu will include a 1 1/4 lb., lobster or 1/2 a grilled chicken, coleslaw, corn-on-the-cob, dinner roll, drawn butter, blueberry cake and other refreshments.

A total of 76 seats are available in 2 seatings, with the first at 4.30PM, the second seating at 6PM. Tickets should be purchased in advance from Maryanne Hill for \$25.00 for the Chicken Meal or \$30.00 for the Lobster Dinner. All tickets are sold on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Please call 310-8056 or email Maryanne at EO-FBCdinners@yahoo.com for your reservations. All proceeds will benefit multiple church projects. The lobster Dinner will be held at the church located at 231 Rayville Road, 1 mile off Rte. 121 in Otisfield. Hope to see you there.



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Longley
Continued from page 7

vealed a majority of U.S. citizens opposed the resettlements. Longley pushed back on the notion of not supporting the refugees, quoting President Kennedy by declaring that the country is “a nation of immigrants.” There was some pushback in Maine. At a time of high unemployment, some Maine employees and Congressman David Emery believed that the resettlements jeopardized vacant job opportunities in the state. Conversely, there was also public support for the refugees, as well as backing from the Maine Legislature, which voted to pass a resolution in early May in support of refugee resettlement.

Numerous challenges and miscommunications tested the governor and his state agencies; however, the largest single-event refugee resettlement in Maine’s and the nation’s history was an extraordinary achievement. The Governor’s resolve to succeed, coupled with the cooperation and support from numerous organizations and state residents, all contributed to this forgotten chapter in Maine’s history.

There were other refugee resettlements in the state before and after the 1975 undertaking. All the other resettlements happened over months and



The Times Record photo, p8, 11/12/1975

even years. Beginning on July 27th, all 167 refugees arrived in Maine over a three-week period and were assigned sponsors, including two Lewiston families, by the end of August.

For more details about Governor Longley, Maine Vietnamese refugee resettlements, and the Vietnamese who resettled in Lewiston, see Episode 6, “The Forgotten History of Governor James Longley” on the YouTube Channel “Deconstructing Lewiston-Auburn and Maine History.”

Phil Nadeau is a researcher, writer, producer, and host of “Deconstructing Lewiston-Auburn and

Maine History.” This article is based on Episode 6 – “The Forgotten History of Governor James Longley: The 1975 Maine Vietnamese Resettlements,” July 7, 2025.



Kennebec Journal photo, p13, 9/1/1975

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Celtic Trad in music & song at WAW, July 31

WISCASSET, ME – A Celtic thread runs through music and song during the Wiscasset Art Walk on Thursday, July 31, 4-7pm and later, in Wiscasset Village.

The evening’s featured musician, Alex Bigney, plays Celtic harp on the sidewalk at the corner of Main and Middle St., near the Garden Club of Wiscasset’s flower stall. Alex lives in mid-coast and plays regionally, his music reflecting his Nova Scotia and Ukraine heritage. His music has been described as emotional; universal and personal at the same time. Alex has recorded five albums as a member of Kirkmount, a group made up of he and his two brothers and named for a deserted village in Nova Scotia where his ancestors once made music.

Across the street in Aekeir Tap Room, 111 Main St., a dedicated group of accomplished local musicians, referring to themselves as the Main St. Music Makers, play traditional Celtic songs with harmony and English country dances from the Baroque period. The group meets weekly to share music-making and to enjoy the company of other musicians. They meet “for the joy of music,” says Laurie Rousseau, who hosts the practice sessions in her home.

During the weekly sessions, Rousseau explains, everyone brings a song they like, and the musicians work on it together until it’s ready to play in public. “It’s not like high school band,” she says, “there’s no pressure.” The Music Makers have performed in several local venues.

The musicians who make up the Music Makers are Rousseau playing penny whistle and recorder; Nancy Cook playing violin; Liz von Huene playing violin, and Kat Logan on accordion, all from Wiscasset; John Schiesser on electric bass from Westport Island, and Alna’s Dave Figa on guitar.

During the WAW on July 31, they’ll be playing on the upper floor of Aekeir from about 4 to 7pm.

Slightly overlapping with them in Aekeir, from



Celtic harpist, Alex Bigney, plays for Wiscasset Art Walk sidewalk strollers on Thursday, July 31, 4-7pm. (photo courtesy Alex Bigney)

about 6:30 to 9pm, will be a group of neighbors, friends, and the simply curious, in the lower level of the pub, who join voices for an evening filled with joy.

“I love to sing, lead

traditional tunes from the British Isles, the U.S., and Canada, a few chanteys, and a bit of traditional folk.

According to Beaton, the sings are open to anyone who wants to come, once or regularly, and usu-



Singers from the region join in to a Celtic-themed song circle during Wiscasset Art Walk, Thursday, July 31, starting around 6:30pm. The public is invited to listen or sing. Hosted by Aekeir Tap Room, 111 Main St. (Bob Bond photo)

songs, and I like getting people together,” says Wiscasset’s Jamie Beaton, co-host with his wife, Deb Small, of the ‘community sings’ that have been happening monthly in Wiscasset Village since December. The format is simple: no rehearsals, little if any sheet music, no amps, and no musical accompaniment. Just voices. “People prepare what they want to sing,” explains Beaton. “They have songs in mind. They start singing and lead the chorus when others join in.” While it’s not a requirement, songs with choruses are encouraged. Beaton says that many people who enjoy singing are accustomed to the song circle format and are comfortable to join in.

Most of the music sung in this song circle are

ally about 20 singers show up, although his email list now runs to 60. And, of course, some people come just to listen.

When Rousseau was asked how she thought Aekeir owner, Jeremy Meyers, felt about all the musical sessions in the pub, she said “he’s an enthusiastic host and has become a community resource for musicians.” When Meyers was asked, he beamed and said he always imagined his tap room would become a place for the community to gather.

In 2025, the businesses-to-date that support Wiscasset Art Walk are Lead Sponsor, Ames True Value; and Major Sponsors, Carriage House Gardens, Cheney Insurance, Sherri Dunbar/Dunham Realty, Newcastle Realty, Rock Paper Scissors, Water St. Kitchen & Bar; with additional support from Aekeir Tap Room and Bradbury Art & Antiques.

For more information about Wiscasset Art Walk, visit www.wiscassetartwalk.org or email to wiscassetartwalk@gmail.com. Wiscasset Art Walk is a program of Wiscasset Creative Alliance.

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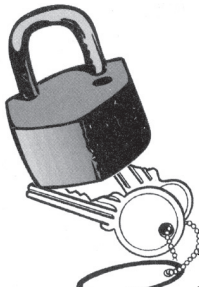
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July 18
LEWISTON – At 10am the Lewiston Public Library Children’s Department will be offering the program Seashell Picture Frame Keepsakes. Caregivers and their children will be able to decorate a keepsake picture frame with a variety of seashells.

July 18
RAYMOND – Gordon Thomas Ward will deliver a very special dinner-concert performance featuring songs & stories at Nathaniel Hawthorne’s Boyhood Home in Raymond (40 Hawthorne Road) on Friday, July 18, with doors opening at 5 p.m.

July 22
AUBURN – The Auburn Public Library will be holding Visible Mending Workshop - an Introduction to Hand Sewing to be taking place on Tuesday, July 22nd from 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM.

July 23
AUBURN – The Auburn Public Library will host an Author Talk with Amy Wight Chapman: Just Like Glass, A Family Memoir to be taking place on Wednesday, July 23rd from 4 PM to 5 PM.

July 25, 26, 27
AUBURN – Grand Opening of Books-A-Million bookstore to 730 Center Street, formerly the location of The Sports Authority. Ribbon Cut-

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

ting Ceremony at 11 am on Friday, July 25th. Local Author Signings including Patsy Baldus, Matt Cost and Peggy Deblois on Saturday, July 26th and Diane Madden, Cody Mower and Anthony Blasi on Sunday, July 27th.

July 25
WATERVILLE – Waterville Rocks, a free, outdoor summer concert series held annually at Head of Falls Park in Waterville, ME returns on Fridays, July 25, August 1, and August 8, with End of the Line, Atlanta Rhythm Section, and Mallett Brothers Band, respectively.

July 26
BUXTON – Try our delicious Haddock Supper Buffet - Saturday, July 26, 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.

July 26
AUBURN – There will be a baked bean supper at Sixth Street Congregational Church at 109 Sixth Street in Auburn, on Saturday, July 26th 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.

July 26
CANTON – Canton Historical Society celebrating 50th Anniversary. FREE events! Party 4:00-7:30PM w/mobile bar & food truck—both take cash or credit; history speaker at 2PM; museum & country store open 10AM-7:30PM. Raffles; FREE souvenir & cake. 25 Turner Street; handicap access. cantonmehistorical@gmail.com.

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 pro-

gram. 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.

July 31
WISCASSET – A Celtic thread runs through music and song during the Wiscasset Art Walk on Thursday, July 31, 4-7pm and later, in Wiscasset Village.

Aug 8
LEWISTON – At 10am the Lewiston Public Library Children’s Department will be offering a Butterfly Footprints Keepsake program. Caregivers and their babies will be able to create a butterfly keepsake using their child’s footprints on a preprinted background.

This program is recommended for caregivers and their children between the ages of birth-2 years old. Siblings are also welcome to attend. 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

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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 9
OTISFIELD – The East Otisfield Free Baptist Church annual Lobster Dinner is being held on, Saturday, August 9th. The menu will include a 1 1/4 lb., lobster or ½ a grilled chicken, coleslaw, corn-on-the-cob, dinner roll, drawn butter, blueberry cake and other refreshments.

A total of 76 seats are available in 2 seatings, with the first at 4.30PM, the second seating at 6PM. Tickets should be purchased in advance from Maryanne Hill for \$25.00 for the Chicken Meal or \$30.00 for the Lobster Dinner. All tickets are sold on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Please call 310-8056 or email Maryanne at EO-FBCdinners@yahoo.com for your reservations. All proceeds will benefit multiple church projects. The lobster Dinner will be held at the church located at 231 Rayville Road, 1 mile off Rte. 121 in Otisfield. Hope to see you there.

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.

Aug 15
AUGUSTA – Augusta Symphony Soirée, the only ticketed concert in the ASO schedule, which will help support the ASO’s mission and expenses. Held at Jewett Hall on the University of Maine at Augusta campus (46 University Dr.), this elegant evening will feature chamber ensembles drawn from ASO musicians, including Concertmaster Anne McKee. The program will culminate with the ASO’s own Maestro Jinwook Park leading a lively winds and strings nonet with his vio-

lin rather than his baton. The evening will open with a welcome reception at 7:00 pm during which supporters can meet each other as well as orchestra members. The concert will begin at 7:30 pm.

Nov 15
LEWISTON – Prince of Peace Parish Christmas Craft Fair Saturday, from 9-3. Looking for crafters/artists at Holy Family Church Hall 607 Sabattus St., Lewiston. Prices for tables/spaces range from \$25-\$40! Contact Angela at adobson@une.edu

Mondays through Aug 18
LEWISTON – The Lewiston Public Library, in partnership with Art-Van, 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.

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

Colisée
Continued from page 11
by Boston Hockey Academy CEO, Nate Bostic, Mill Town will prioritize fostering a welcoming atmosphere by creating a clean, organized, and inviting environment, ensuring comfort and inclusivity for all attendees.



Finding a fulfilling career with flexibility and room to grow

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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“I love getting to be a part of people moving forward in their lives. I get to see people believe in themselves again.”



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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.**

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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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Continued from page 3

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