

Auburn UU welcomes Rev. DC Fortune

AUBURN, ME – The First Universalist Church of Auburn, Unitarian Universalist, welcomes Rev. DC Fortune as its new minister. Rev. Fortune will begin leading worship at Auburn UU on Sunday, August 10, giving members and visitors an opportunity to get to know him.

“We are excited to start this new chapter” says Angela Foss, president of the Auburn UU Board of Directors. “Rev. Fortune will ‘be present’ in the life of the congregation and also in the larger community,” Foss notes, “to craft meaningful worship, support staff and programming like Music and Religious Exploration, and serve as a clear voice for Unitarian Universalism in the Lewiston-Auburn region.”

Foss notes, “Rev. Fortune brings experience and skills that reflect and support the essential elements of our mission: ‘Rooted in the sacred, strengthened by our diversity, we equip ourselves to minister through the transformative power of love.’”

Maine Roots

Rev. Fortune grew up in Windsor, Maine. A graduate of Erskine Academy, he attended the University of Maine at Farmington, where he founded one of the earliest gay/straight alli-



Rev. DC Fortune will begin serving Auburn UU starting August 10.

ances for students at UMF.

He first found Unitarian Universalism in the early 1990s at the UU Church in Waterville, and has also attended congregations in Portland, Ellsworth, and Belfast, where he was ordained in 2015. Rev. Fortune trained for ministry at Bangor Theological Seminary and Andover Newton Theological School in Boston, where he graduated in 2014. He served an internship in Fremont, California and has served congregations in suburban Saint Louis, southern New Jersey and central Pennsylvania.

Serving the Unitarian Universalist denomination

at the national level, Rev. Fortune is a member of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee and the General Assembly Planning Committee.

Rev. Fortune has been active in progressive and queer politics since the 1980s and is passionate about social justice work. Before becoming a minister, he worked as a newspaper reporter, a radio disc jockey, a bus driver, and a variety of jobs in construction. For fun, he enjoys forging knives and swords, as well as trout fishing in brooks and streams.

To learn more about See **Fortune**, page 14

RESTAURANT GUIDE

eat local

drink local

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Author Talk with Art Dingley: Reading, discussion of *Immigrants*

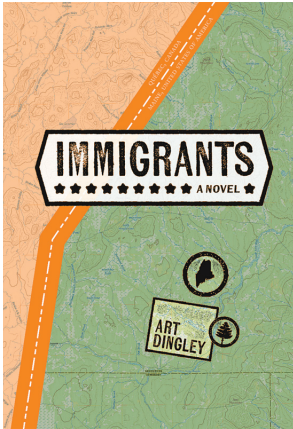
AUBURN, ME – The Auburn Public Library is hosting an Author talk with Art Dingley, where he will read from his novel, *Immigrants*, and invites the community to discuss it with him.

About the Book: *Immigrants*

Maryam, an Israeli Bedouin woman, has purchased a moribund little convenience store in the town of Deep Lake, at the edge of the Maine’s commercial forest. Micah, a law school dropout from Millinocket, is working for a logging contractor and trying to construct a vision of his future. These two unlikely friends navigate deep-seated differences in culture and religion, both helped and hindered by the tableau of townsfolk.

Into this social web, falls Lena, a young woman lost, camping, or hiding in a remote spot near the Canadian border. Micah and Maryam are skeptical of her evolving explanation of why she is there. Is she a victim of international espionage, or just a common thief?

Will Maryam and



Micah persevere in their friendship despite the interference of Maryam’s persuasive, and very rich, Arab uncle, the scheming of certain townsfolk, and the repentance of Micah’s ex-wife?

Immigrants is a rich description of that part of Maine which may be found on Maps 60 through 64 of the DeLorme Maine Atlas and Gazetteer. Neither a crime novel nor a romance, it is a consideration of changing borders: between people, cultures, and countries.

About the Author: Art Dingley

Art Dingley was born in Farmington, Maine, and grew up in Concord Plan-

tation, near the small town of Bingham. With sons, Zeb and Nathan, and many excellent friends, he has climbed, canoed, hiked, hunted, and fished for trout across the Pine Tree State. Although he lived in Portland neighborhoods for forty years, he has lived in many other Maine towns as well. He currently lives in Auburn with his wife, Tami. He is a former attorney and a retired physician.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase at the event. This program will take place in the Androscoggin Community Room at the Auburn Public Library.

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

When: Wednesday, August 6, 2025 – 4:30 to 5:30 PM

Where: Auburn Public Library: Androscoggin Community Room

Contact: Izzy Ruta, 333-6640, ext. 4.

Good Shepherd Food Bank continues to support those in need

AUBURN, ME – The federal budget reconciliation bill (One Big Beautiful Bill) that was signed into law on July 4 includes

the biggest cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid in history.

The budget includes changes that increase how much the State of Maine must spend on SNAP and reduce the number of people eligible for benefits. At a time when food insecurity is rising nationwide and the cost of food, heating, and health care remains high, this legislation will worsen the crisis.

Recognizing that SNAP is the most effective

tool for preventing hunger, Good Shepherd Food Bank is deeply concerned for the nearly 50,000 Mainers currently receiving SNAP who may face the loss or reduction of their benefits.

The legislation could shift approximately \$60 million in annual SNAP funding previously provided by the federal government to the state, resulting in the loss of an estimated 20 million meals Mainers count on. These cuts will increase challenges for See **Good Shepherd**, page 14

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

WinterKids launches 25 Days of Movement Challenge for families

WESTBROOK, ME – In celebration of its 25th Anniversary, WinterKids has launched the 25 Days of Movement Challenge – a free, statewide initiative designed to get families moving outdoors together this August. Participants receive a downloadable digital guide packed with over 100 screen-free activity ideas and can enter to win incredible prizes from Maine Outdoor Brands, including a \$250 L.L. Bean gift card, a family rafting trip from Northern Outdoors, and Maine Made products from FLYN, Kit Supply + Co., Marin Skincare, and Running Peas.

“This guide is full of easy ways to get outside and have fun as a family,” says Kristel Hayes, WinterKids’ Marketing Manager, who developed the program. “Most activities require no special gear or associated cost, all are low-barrier, and the real value comes from building new habits of getting outside together every day.”

How it works:

Register free between July 21 and August 13 at winterkids.org/25-days-of-movement

Complete one outdoor activity daily between August 1 – September 7

Submit your completed tracker by September 7 for a chance to win prizes

The 25 Days of Movement Challenge is part of WinterKids’ year-long celebration of 25 years of helping Maine children develop healthy habits through outdoor play and education. It was developed in alignment



with Maine’s 10-Year Outdoor Recreation Economy Road Map, and in partnership with Maine Outdoor Brands and the Maine Office of Outdoor Recreation.

To register for the 25 Days of Movement Challenge, please visit winterkids.org/25-days-of-movement.

Donations, volunteers needed for HART’s Yard Sale

CUMBERLAND, ME – The Homeless Animal Rescue Team (HART) of Maine, an adoption center & shelter for cats in Cumberland, is pleased to announce their massive annual Yard Sale fundraiser is back at the Cumberland Fairgrounds, Thursday, August 7 through Sunday, August 10, 2025. Admission is free.

This year’s Yard Sale coincides with International Cat Day on Friday, August 8, and organizers believe there’s no better way to celebrate.

HART’s Yard Sale fills the entire 10,000 sq. ft. Exhibition Hall at the Fairgrounds, where attendees can shop for thousands of items, including vintage and antique items, furniture, clothing, toys, books and so much more. HART uses all proceeds from its flagship fundraiser to care for the hundreds of cats it takes in each year. The money raised will help cover the costs of food, litter, general medical care, and the expenses associated with the more complex medical needs that some surrendered cats require to survive, thrive, and be ready for adoption.

Sarah Michniewicz, HART Board Vice President, long-time volunteer, and organizer of HART’s Yard Sale, noted, “It’s been incredible to watch the excitement and enthusiasm for this event grow every year. Last year, we generated just over \$79,000 for HART. This year, with increases in medical expenses

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SIP AND SHOP PREVIEW EVENT
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Details and tickets available at hartofme.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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es and the cost of caring for our cats, we hope to exceed the previous amount with a goal of \$85,000. And I know we can do it, based on the generous support of our community and our many dedicated volunteers, who make it all happen.”

SIP & SHOP PREVIEW

On Wednesday evening, August 6, 2025, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., HART will open the Yard Sale doors early for a Sip & Shop Preview event. A \$28 presale admission fee (\$30 at the door) will grant shoppers exclusive early access to the Yard Sale, along with snacks and a complimentary beverage. This event is always a fun evening, complete with

live music, gourmet pie sale, exciting raffles, and great conversation with treasure seekers and fellow cat lovers. Presale tickets are available on HART’s website.

DONATIONS AND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

HART accepted donations of items to sell at the Yard Sale from Saturday, July 12, through Saturday, July 26, at their shelter located at 302 Range Road in Cumberland. Then, HART will continue to accept items (especially furniture) at the Cumberland Fairgrounds Exhibition Hall from Monday, July 28, through Monday, August 4, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

They are looking for previously loved yet delicately used (or new!) furniture, vintage and antique items, home decor, kitchen gadgets, small appliances, clothing, toys, tools, garden equipment, holiday decorations, collectibles, books, and more. For a complete list of needed items, as well as those they cannot accept, visit their website.

Volunteers are still welcome to help set up for and during the event. For more information on volunteering, visit their website.

Admission to HART’s Annual Yard Sale is free of charge. The event runs from Thursday, August 7 through Saturday, August 9, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and on Sunday, August 10, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to noon. HART holds the Yard Sale in the Exhibition Hall at the Cumberland Fairgrounds, 197 Blanchard Road, Cumberland, Maine 04021.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Help save lives with the Red Cross by giving blood or platelets now

PORTLAND, ME – The American Red Cross calls on donors to give blood or platelets now to maintain a steady national blood supply. Type O blood donors are especially key to keeping critical blood products on hospital shelves into August.

Even a strong blood supply can experience a sudden drop – potentially impacting the availability of lifesaving blood and platelets that could help new mothers, burn and trauma patients, and those facing cancer. Help safeguard patient care by booking a time to give blood or platelets. Visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS or use the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

In thanks, those who come to give by July 31 will receive a Fandango Movie Reward by email.

For details, visit RedCrossBlood.org/July.

Those who come to give Aug. 1-28 will receive a \$15 e-gift card to a merchant of choice. Plus, the Red Cross will perform free A1C testing, commonly used to screen for pre-diabetes and diabetes, on successful donations (one test result per 12-month period). Visit RedCrossBlood.org/Test for more information.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities July 31-Aug. 7

Cumberland	8/5/2025: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Masonic Hall, 166 Harrison Road, Route 117
Freeport	8/7/2025: 12 p.m. - 4 p.m., Hilton Garden Inn Freeport - Old Town Hall Building, 5 Park Street
Gorham	8/7/2025: 1 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Cressey Road Christian Church, 81 Cressey Road
North Yarmouth	8/5/2025: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Wescustogo Hall and Community Center, 120 Memorial Hwy
Portland	7/31/2025: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Cambria Hotel, 25 Hancock St
Scarborough	8/4/2025: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Maine Medical Center - Dana Education Center, 22 Bramhall Street
Saint Maximilian Church	8/5/2025: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Saint Maximilian Church, 150 Black Point Rd
Standish	8/4/2025: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Gardenside Condo Association, 12 Gardenside Drive
Yarmouth	8/1/2025: 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., American Legion Post 91, 196 Main St

4-H youth program to host Open House

LISBON FALLS, ME – The 4-H Youth Development Program in Androscoggin and Sagadahoc counties, part of University of Maine Cooperative Extension, is hosting a drop-in Open House on Sunday, August 17 from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. at the Androscoggin/Sagadahoc Extension office, 24 Main Street, Lisbon Falls.

The event is free and geared toward families, youth and community members. Attendees can explore hands-on activities, meet current 4-H members and volunteers, and learn more about the program’s positive youth development opportunities. From science experiments and animal care to art projects and healthy living, 4-H offers something for every child’s interest.

For over 100 years, the core values of 4-H have remained unchanged. The program teaches career and life-ready skills such as respect, collaboration, leadership, communications, critical thinking and compassion to ensure youth are prepared to lead in an ever-changing world.

Highlights of the event will include interactive stations featuring the UMaine Extension Touch Tank; a meet-and-greet with local 4-H clubs, volunteers, and staff; and youth and volunteer enrollment information.

4-H is open to all youth ages 5 to 18, regardless of prior experience. For more information, contact Laura Personette at 207.353.5550 or laura.personette@maine.edu, or visit the Androscoggin/Sagadahoc County 4-H webpage.



Photo courtesy of University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

Art show, sale coming to Nathaniel Hawthorne’s Boyhood Home



Image courtesy of the Hawthorne Community Association.

RAYMOND, ME – A very special showcase of local artists and artisans is coming to one of southern Maine’s most beloved and cherished venues—the refurbished boyhood home of Nathaniel Hawthorne, located at 40 Hawthorne Road in Raymond. The show will begin with a wine-and-cheese Opening Reception on Friday evening, August 8, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., which will offer a chance to meet the artists. Thereafter, Nathaniel Hawthorne’s Boyhood Home will be open Saturday and Sunday, August 9 and 10, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., with all art available for viewing and sale. The three-day event is FREE, with donations for the continuing maintenance of Nathaniel Hawthorne’s Boyhood Home gratefully accepted.

“We’re excited to have the opportunity to open up the newly restored Hawthorne House and give local, emerging artists an opportunity to show and sell their work there,” said Sylvia Sullivan, a long-time member of the Hawthorne Community Association who is coordinating the event. “We’re especially pleased to be showcasing such a wide range of local artistic talent, including painters, photographers, sculptors, and more.”

Among the artists showing their work at the event will be: Kathleen Gerdes (nature watercolors); Kalee Charette (landscapes and creatures in pen-and-ink); Cole Phillips (wet-plate photography); Bruce Small (landscape and wildlife photography); Trish Kohler (mixed media); Linda Kranich (pastels); Donna Kantor (watercolor); Ben Steeves (mixed media); Ruth Gorton (acrylics and pastels); Sam Sparling (oils and pastels); Bunny Wescott (photography); Lynn Ericson (acrylics); Marylyn Clegg (acrylics); Monica White (alcohol inks and acrylics).

A portion of some of the artists’ sales will be donated for the preservation of the boyhood home of the great American author.

For more information, please contact Sylvia Sullivan at rsssm@maine.rr.com or (207) 239-6010.

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Seniors Not Acting Their Age Kayaking the Islands of Muscongus Bay

For many years, I've organized a Penobscot Paddle & Chowder Society (PPCS) sea kayak trip to visit the puffins on distant Eastern Egg Rock in outer Muscongus Bay in June. This year, logistical issues resulted in a decision to cancel the trip.

Practicing the idiom, "every cloud has a silver lining," I decided to use the same timeframe as an opportunity to explore the islands of eastern Muscongus Bay. When I announced the alternative agenda, three fellow Chowderheads agreed to join me.

Weather is the primary concern whenever I plan a sea kayak trip. Fog had been prevalent along the Maine coast for much of June. After studying Maine Coastal Waters Forecasts for the area, I identified a sunny late-June day with hot temperatures, light winds, and gentle seas predicted. Particularly welcome news, no fog was expected.

Boat landings in Friendship and Port Clyde offer relatively convenient access to the islands of eastern Muscongus Bay. I selected Friendship because parking had been problematic during my last departure from Port Clyde.

Four of us met at the small landing at the end of Barrington Point Road in Friendship on a sunny, steamy morning. Almost high tide, the nearby waters were calm and the scenic harbor seemed to be calling us. After agreeing on an itinerary, we launched in four solo sea kayaks.

Since the tide was high, our first goal was to traverse through Pleasant Point Gut, a narrow channel that separates South Cushing from elongated Gay Island that cannot

be navigated when the tide is low. We paddled southeasterly off Crotch Island and into the gut. Traveling in the twisting passageway that angles northeasterly through a small busy harbor was an entertaining endeavor.

Turning southeasterly from the northern tip of Gay Island, our next objective was Teel Island. Partly owned by a club member whose father had once owned the entire island, I wanted to see the reportedly unique homes that grace the shore.

We paddled south past Caldwell Island and entered a rocky narrows separating it from Little Caldwell Island. Rounding some ledges, we met three kayakers heading in our direction. The encounter was a fortuitous one as Tamara Cody, owner of Port Clyde Kayaks, was guiding two clients on a tour. She recommended a nearby sandy beach for a lunch break and then joined us.

Tamara was a wealth of information. She knew the history of the homes and inhabitants of Teel Island and informed us that Port Clyde had recently constructed a new much-improved parking area next to the boat landing; invaluable information for a future trip. For those desiring sea kayak instruction or guided tours, she is likely a good source.

After lunch, we progressed south along the eastern shore of Teel Island. The unusual homes were particularly fascinating given our recently acquired knowledge.

Gentle seas and almost cloudless skies continued as we entered a picturesque archipelago called Georges Islands. After passing between several small islets, we approached substantial

McGee Island. We found a concealed passage that separates McGee from Barter Island. Impassable at low tide, there was still adequate water to maneuver through the engaging channel.

Exiting west into mirror calm seas, we elected to follow the same island chain north to Goose Rock. At the prominent rock, we completed an open water crossing to the southern end of Gay Island.

One more goal remained on our agenda. Two of us wanted to locate a renowned kayak destination on Gay Island called Maine Island Lodge. We persisted north along the western shore of the island in search of our objective. Once found, we agreed that a multiday stay at the impressive facility would provide an opportunity for numerous day trips while enjoying plush overnight accommodations.

Leaving the resort behind, we kayaked north past Morse Island in search of the landing on Barrington Point. After rounding the northeast corner of Morse Island, the narrow ramp could be seen west of Crotch Island.

The outgoing tide required maneuvering around exposed sand bars and ledges to reach the landing. The weather and sea conditions could not have been better for our approximately 12-mile voyage in magnificent Muscongus Bay.

My book, *Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine* relates eight more exciting sea kayak trips along the Maine coast.

Ron Chase resides in Topsham. His latest book, *"Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine"* is available at [\[countrypress.com/maine-al-fresco\]\(http://countrypress.com/maine-al-fresco\) 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 \[www.ronchase-outdoors.com\]\(http://www.ronchase-outdoors.com\) or he can be reached at \[ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net\]\(mailto:ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net\)](http://www.north-</p></div><div data-bbox=)



Paddlers prepare to leave Friendship Harbor



Kayakers pass unique homes on Teel Island



Kayakers explore a channel between Barter and McGee Islands

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Books-A-Million doubles down in Auburn: New store brings bigger selection, local author events, and community focus

An interview with Mike Nicholson, Books-A-Million District Manager of New England By Millie Barnard

Book lovers in the Lewiston-Auburn area have something new to celebrate: Books-A-Million has officially opened the doors of its brand-new Auburn location, moving out of the Auburn Mall and into a larger, standalone space that promises double the selection and plenty of community-centered programming.

“This is a great opportunity for us to expand,” said Mike Nicholson, District Manager for Books-A-Million in New England. “This new location is approximately double the size of our old store, which means we can offer a much broader selection of books, toys, games, and gifts that our customers love. We’re really excited to be able to better serve the community.”

The grand opening kicked off Friday with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 11 a.m., followed by a weekend full of author signings and events. The move to a larger space also allowed the store to build out one of its most exciting new features: an expanded local interest section.

“With the new space, we’ve been able to more than double our local interest area,” Nicholson shared. “That means more books about Maine and more opportunities to support local authors. My team has done a phenomenal job curating selections that Mainers are going to love.”

That focus on community extends beyond bookshelves. Books-A-Million plans to host a local author every weekend, creating a steady calendar of events to connect readers with the writers in their backyard. “Our goal is to



Pictured left to right: Glen Holmes, City of Auburn Business and Community Development Director; Denis D’Auteil, Assistant City Manager; Stephanie Doucette, Books-A-Million Assistant Store Manager; Adanica Keene, Books-A-MillionStore Key Holder/Manager; Jay Brechick, City of Auburn Economic Development Director; Mayor Jeffrey Harmon; Johnny Yim, Books-A-Million Store Manager; Mike Nicholson, Books-A-Million District Manager; Scott Dressed, Congressman Jared Golden’s office with Office Intern on his left; Gail Sanborn, Books-A-Million Regional Vice President; Carlene Tremblay, Senator Collins’ Office.

have a local author here every single weekend,” Nicholson said. “We believe strongly in supporting local creators, and this new store gives us the space to do that.”

The opening weekend featured a signing by Paul Doiron, the best-selling author of the Mike Bowditch mystery series, along with appearances from six other Maine authors. Future events include midnight releases for major titles—starting in September with the anticipated novel Alchemized by SenLinYu—and themed celebrations such as a “Percy Jackson birthday” party celebration later this summer.

Beyond author events, Books-A-Million also partners with schools and organizations through its book fair program, which helps local groups raise funds while encouraging reading. “It’s one of our favorite things to do,” Nicholson said. “We bring the books to the schools or organizations, host a sale on-site, and then give a portion of the pro-

ceeds back to them. It’s a great way to support local needs.”

The Auburn store is led by General Manager Johnny Yim and a team of experienced booksellers who together boast nearly 70 years of bookselling expertise. “It’s a pretty great group,” Nicholson said. “John and his team are ready to exceed expectations and give the Lewiston-Auburn area the bookstore it deserves.”

In an age where online shopping and audiobooks dominate, Nicholson says the in-store experience is thriving—thanks in part to social media trends like “BookTok” that are driving readers back to physical books. “There’s been a huge wave of enthusiasm for reading over the past few years,” he said. “We’re able to meet that demand by offering what customers actually want—whether it’s a new BookTok favorite, a special edition release, or a curated selection of Maine titles.”

Ultimately, Nicholson says the goal is sim-

ple: to build “world-class bookstores” for the communities Books-A-Million serves. “We just want to be the best bookstore we can be for the Lewiston-Auburn area,” he said. “We’re grateful for the incredible response so far, and we can’t wait to keep growing with this community.”

Books-A-Million is now located at 730 Center Street, Ste 3c, Auburn. They are open 9am - 8pm and Sundays 10am to 7pm. Call 207-786-9412 or visit their website at www.booksamillion.com/.



Mike Nicholson, Books-A-Million District Manager and Gail Sanborn, Books-A-Million Regional Vice President in conversation following ribbon cutting



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Arts & Entertainment

Complete Works of Jane Austen, Abridged opens at TAM

MONMOUTH, ME – Theater at Monmouth’s 56th season continues with The Complete Works of Jane Austen, Abridged by Jessica Bedford, Kathryn MacMillan, Charlotte Northeast, and Meghan Winch. A funny, fast-paced frolic through the masterpieces of Jane Austen. Three actors take on all of Austen’s beloved heroines, friends, and love interests – and her incisive social satire – in just 80 minutes. But when they lose a cast member, the two remaining Janeites must teach an understudy about her work. It is a truth universally acknowledged that an audience in possession of high spirits must be in want of a ticket to this big-hearted comedy that will delight Austen fans and newcomers alike. Step into the Regency Era through Saturday, August 23rd including matinee and evening performances both weekdays and weekends.



The Complete Works of Jane Austen, Abridged features Sandy Clancy, Kelly Letourneau*, and Lucas Prizant. Directed by Adam P. Blais, Lighting Design by Jim Alexander, Scenic Design by Germán Cárdenas Alaminos, Sound Design by Ryan McGowan, Costume Design by Elizabeth Rocha, Wardrobe and Wig Supervision by Adriaen Shi; with Stage Management by Melissa A. Nathan*, Assistant Stage Management by Elana Sheinkopf, and Ethan Shaw serving as an Understudy to the performers.

*Appearing through

an agreement between this theatre, Theater at Monmouth, and Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

Performance Calendar: 8/2, 8/9, 8/14, & 8/21 at 1:00 p.m.; 8/6, 8/16, & 8/23 at 7:30 p.m.

The World Premiere of The Complete Works of Jane Austen, Abridged was produced by Tiny Dynamite, Philadelphia PA, 2019.

The Complete Works of Jane Austen, Abridged is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

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See Austen, page 16

PianoPalooza welcomes world-class pianists

PORTLAND, ME – The Portland Conservatory of Music (PCM) is thrilled to announce the 4th annual PianoPalooza, a spectacular event celebrating the artistry and diversity of music for the piano. Scheduled this year over 2 weekends, October 3-11, 2025, at PCM (28 Neal St., Portland, ME), PianoPalooza promises 2 weekends filled with captivating performances by 4 strikingly different yet equally exciting internationally acclaimed pianists.

The festival kicks off October 3 at 7:30pm with Jeremy Denk. Hailed as one of America’s foremost pianists, Denk will deliver a performance that promises to captivate and inspire. Known for his masterful interpretations of Mozart, Beethoven, and contemporary composers, Denk’s concert is a must-see for all classical music enthusiasts. Denk will perform Partitas by Johann Sebastian Bach.

The following day, October 4, will be dedicated to celebrating the incredible piano students here at PCM. Details on the student piano day will be announced later in the summer.

The second weekend of PianoPalooza brings two riveting performances by internationally acclaimed artists who call Southern Maine home.



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On Friday, October 10 at 7:30pm, Duo Mundi George & Guli will captivate the audience with their engaging and fiery performance as they dance around the keyboard together.

Jamie Saft closes the 2-week festival on Saturday, October 11 at 7:30pm. Jamie is a fearless pianist, composer, and improviser whose boundary-breaking performances draw from jazz, classical, rock, reggae, and avant-garde traditions.

“We are excited to present PianoPalooza again, showcasing extraordinary pianists who embody the richness and diversity of piano music. Piano is the most prominent instrument here at the Conservatory - there is no better way to honor and feature this spectacular instrument.” said Michael Lund Ziegler, Portland Conservatory of Music’s Executive Director. “This event underscores our commitment to providing exceptional musical experiences to our community, both students and beyond.”

Tickets for individual performances go on sale August 6, 2025. For the best value, Weekend Ticket subscriptions, covering all three ticketed shows, will be available starting July 9, 2025. For more information about the event and to purchase tickets, please visit <https://porttix.com/subscriptions/pianopalooza-weekend-ticket-2025/>.

Don’t miss out on this extraordinary 2-weekend festival of piano virtuosity at PCM. Secure your seat early and join us for an unforgettable musical journey.

About Portland Conservatory of Music: Portland Conservatory of Music is a leading institution dedicated to providing high-quality music education and performances, including jazz, classical, and traditional, and fostering a vibrant musical community in Portland, ME. With a commitment to excellence and innovation, PCM offers a diverse range of programs and performances that enrich the cultural landscape of the region.



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Gray Wild Blueberry Festival celebrates community, culture

GRAY, ME – The 9th annual Gray Wild Blueberry Festival ‘Celebrating Community & Culture’ and all things wild Maine Blueberries runs 9:30 AM TO 3:30 PM Saturday, August 9. Family-friendly, free event featuring Food Trucks; Bake-Off, Pie Eating Contests, Spelling Bee, Master Beekeeper; 3 Bands, 75



24 Main St, Gray
See www.wildblueberries.me/grayfestival/ for more information.

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

Booths - artisans, crafters, authors and farmers market and 30 school & community groups; Kids Area, Fun Run, Raffle Baskets, fresh wild blueberries, whole pies, and more.

Apply now for Master Gardener Volunteer training

ORONO, ME – Gardeners with a passion for community service are invited to apply for the 2025-26 Master Gardener Volunteer training offered by University of Maine Cooperative Extension. This program combines in-depth horticultural education with meaningful community service. Applications are open now through August 15, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. with training to begin in October. The program is open to individuals living anywhere in Maine, however space may be limited in some counties.

The Master Gardener Volunteer program features a flexible, online curriculum with self-paced modules, live vir-

tual Q&A sessions with horticulture experts, and a 40-hour hands-on volunteer internship. After completing the training, certified Master Gardener Volunteers contribute at least 20 volunteer hours annually to projects such as community and school gardens, educational events, and local food security initiatives.

“This program empowers gardeners of all experience levels to create meaningful change in their communities. Each year, we watch volunteers grow—not just in horticultural knowledge, but in confidence, connection, and sense of purpose. It’s inspiring to see how a shared love of gardening can bloom into lasting im-

pact across Maine,” said Pamela Hargest, Horticulture Professional for UMaine Extension.

For gardening enthusiasts seeking the educational content without the volunteer commitment, Extension will also offer the Maine Gardener Training, a non-volunteer track open for registration starting September 29, with no application required.

Details on course fees, the full schedule, and how to apply are available on the Master Gardener Volunteer Training program website. For questions or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact us at 207-581-3188 or extension.mastergardeners@maine.edu.

Letter to the Editor Social Security’s 90th anniversary

“Social Security’s Legacy and Its Future,” AARP’s recent article in the Bangor Daily News, highlights some of the key challenges that are being faced by Social Security. On its 90th anniversary, these challenges put a spotlight on a program that has served as the foundation of retirement income for millions of Americans.

Here in Maine, 369,221 Mainers collect Social Security benefits, and approximately 102,000 Mainers aged 65 and older are lifted out of poverty through their Social

Security checks. Social Security helps Mainers live and retire with dignity, offers crucial support to those with disabilities, and serves as a financial lifeline for families navigating the loss of a loved one.

Congress hasn’t provided the funding necessary to ensure the Social Security Administration (SSA) can deliver quality customer service. In fact, funding to improve the program has long been on the decline. SSA funding has dropped by 9% since 2018.

The new Social Security Commissioner would be well served

by re-committing the Social Security Administration to providing timely, efficient, and effective customer service. SSA needs to be clear when communicating any possible changes and what effects the lower staffing levels will have. And Congress needs to provide oversight to ensure that customer service is prioritized at an agency that is tasked with serving Americans everywhere.

André Chassé
AARP Maine Volunteer State President

We want to hear from you!
Please submit your letter to the editor by 5pm on Friday for next weeks edition.



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RESTAURANT GUIDE

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DaVinci’s Eatery: Nearly three decades of Italian dining & community in Lewiston

An Interview with Manager Katie Farr by Millie Barnard

Since opening in 1996, DaVinci’s Eatery (DaVinci’s) has been a staple in the Lewiston-Auburn dining scene—a place where family-style hospitality meets refined Italian cuisine. Founded by Jules Patry, who entered the restaurant industry without prior experience but with a strong vision, DaVinci’s quickly became a local favorite. “He just decided that having an Italian restaurant is what he wanted to do as a young man,” said Katie Farr, one of Da-



Staff members pictured left to right: Cierra Barker, Emma Couturier, Alex Helms (Manager), Kylie Orcutt and Mary Philbrick.

Vinci’s managers. Patry named the restaurant after Leonardo da Vinci, out of his admiration for the artist.

Originally located in
See Davinci’s, next page



Bartender Lara pouring a drink

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Davinci's

Continued from previous page

a smaller space in a mill building, DaVinci's moved to its current location nearly two decades ago. Patry is officially retired, having passed ownership to Craig Tribuno, a former silent partner who now leads the restaurant's continued growth.

Under Tribuno's ownership, DaVinci's has expanded its use of local ingredients and invested in updates to improve the guest experience. "If you were to look at our almost 30-year-old menus, you'll see a lot of the same items we still have today," Farr said. "But we're always bringing back fan favorites and introducing new specials." Top sellers like chicken parmesan and fettuccine alfredo remain on the menu year-round, while seasonal offerings such as lemon ravioli return by popular demand.

Many items on the menu are freshly prepared on-site. "We make the garlic knots fresh every day. It's one of the first things people ask for when they come in," Farr said. The restaurant also hand-pounds veal, prepares its own meatballs, and freshly breads eggplant for its popular eggplant parmesan.

With multiple seating areas, including a patio, DaVinci's offers a versatile dining experience. "Some people call us a family restaurant, others say fine dining—we're somewhere in the middle," Farr explained. "We'll have a family of 20 with eight kids under five at one table and a couple celebrating their 50th anniversary at another. We really can accommodate anyone."

Tribuno has continued to invest in the restaurant's future, adding a new kitchen floor, planning for a possible pizza oven in the café area, and upgrading essential systems. In June, DaVinci's extended its hours—now open until 9 p.m. on weeknights and



Italian decor throughout the restaurant adds to the authentic Italian dining experience



Beautiful bar and one of the dining areas

10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays—and expanded its delivery radius to 10 miles, using UberEats and DoorDash.

Beyond its menu, DaVinci's has made giving back to the Lewiston-Auburn community a priority. "Last year and this year we fed almost every teacher in the area," Farr said. The restaurant also donates food weekly to the Auburn drop-in center sup-

porting the homeless and twice monthly to New Beginnings, a youth drop-in center. "Craig really wants DaVinci's to always be known as a place that cares about the community," she added.

For Farr, who has been with DaVinci's for nearly six years, the job is more than just managing a restaurant. "We have about 70 employees, some of whom have been

here over 20 years. Monica, our kitchen manager, started as a teenager and has been with us since the beginning," she said. "Our regulars are just as loyal—they've been coming since the original location, and many know us by name."

As DaVinci's approaches its 30th anniversary, its mission remains clear: good food, excellent hospitality, and strong community ties. "Whether it's a first date, a birthday, or just a Tuesday night dinner, we want everyone to feel at home here," Farr said.

DaVinci's Eatery is located at 150 Mill Street, Lewiston. They are open Sunday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Call 207-782-2088 or visit their website at davinciseatery.com.



Guests enjoying their lunch



RESTAURANT GUIDE



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Maine Community Foundation grants available

ELLSWORTH & PORTLAND, ME – The Maine Community Foundation (MaineCF) is accepting applications for several grant programs that support organizations and projects serving animals, youth, the LGBTQ+ community, the arts and underserved communities.

The application deadline for the following grant programs is Sept. 15. Visit mainecf.org/apply to submit an application.

The Animal Welfare grant program provides three-year general support grants to organizations dedicated to advancing animal welfare for small companion animals in Maine, primarily cats and dogs. For more information, visit mainecf.org/animals.

Edward H. Daveis Benevolent Fund supports early childhood and youth engagement programs in Greater Portland. For more information, visit mainecf.org/daveis.

The Equity Fund supports projects and organizations that serve the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ+) community of Maine. For more information, visit mainecf.org/equity.

The Land for Communities grant program supports community land projects that increase relationships to land for underserved geographies and populations in Maine. For more information, visit mainecf.org/14c.

The Maine Expansion Arts grant program provides general support grants to arts organizations in Maine focused on an underserved geography or population with limited access to arts programming including dance, music, theater, visual and/or traditional arts. For more information, visit mainecf.org/mea.

The Maine Theater grant program supports nonprofit professional and community theaters in the production and presentation of live theater. For more information, visit mainecf.org/theater.

The Maine Women's Fund provides two-year general support grants to make bold investments

TPT, MSMT present *The Irish... and how they got that way*



Charis Leos, David Girolmo, Curt Dale Clark, Heidi Kettenring. Photo by Kevin Faraci.

BRUNSWICK, ME

– Two of Maine’s premier theatre companies, The Public Theatre and Maine State Music Theatre, are thrilled to announce a special co-production of the spirited musical revue *The Irish...and How They Got That Way*, running August 27 through September 14, 2025, at The Public Theatre in Lewiston. This unique collaboration brings together the best of both companies, celebrating the resilience, humor, and enduring spirit of the Irish people in a heartwarming production that will leave audiences clapping, laughing, and singing along.

This marks the first co-production between MSMT and The Public Theatre since their successful collaboration on *Grease* in 2019.

“The Public Theatre is excited to offer Maine audiences an opportunity to see our beautiful theatre in Lewiston,” says Ray Dumont, Executive Director. “Partnering with Maine State Music Theatre, as we did in 2019 with *Grease*, combines the expertise, resources, and commitment to excellence of both organizations to bring a

production to our stage that will delight audiences with great music and great performances. We hope that many new theatergoers will come to see what’s happening in Lewiston.”

Written by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Frank McCourt (Angela’s Ashes), this crowd-pleasing revue returns by popular demand following previous acclaimed performances. Through an evocative blend of storytelling, humor, and music, McCourt explores the rich tapestry of the Irish-American experience. Audiences will be treated to classic Irish ballads like “Danny Boy” and “The Rose of Tralee,” alongside contemporary favorites from artists like U2. This lively production offers a stirring portrait of a people shaped by history, hardship, and hope.

The Irish...and How They Got That Way boasts a star-studded cast of long-time Maine State Music Theatre favorites, including Curt Dale Clark, David Girolmo, Heidi Kettenring, and Charis Leos. The production is directed and choreographed by the award-winning Marc Robin, renowned for his dy-

namic work on MSMT’s most beloved productions. This same production plays to sold-out houses at The Fulton Theatre in Lancaster, PA, from February 7 through March 16, 2025. “This cast is truly the best of the best. Not only are they MSMT favorites, but they are also lifelong friends. I am so excited to reunite this incredible group for an unforgettable theatrical event,” says Curt Dale Clark, Artistic Director of Maine State Music Theatre.

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE: • Previews: August 27 & 28 • Opening Performance: Friday, August 29 at 7 PM • Evening Performances: Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 7 PM • Matinees: Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays at 2 PM

TICKET INFORMATION: Tickets range from \$45 - \$60 and are available via:

Website: thepublictheatre.org
Phone: 207.782.3200
In-person: The Public Theatre Box Office, 31 Maple Street, Lewiston, ME 04240

Don’t miss this rare opportunity to experience the warmth and wit of Frank McCourt’s masterpiece *The Irish...and How They Got That Way*, presented by two of Maine’s most celebrated theatre companies.

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Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson – Apt. 2b opens at TAM

MONMOUTH, ME – Theater at Monmouth’s 56th season continues with Kate Hamill’s *Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson – Apt. 2B*. An irreverent, darkly comic, modern take on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s famous sleuth and sidekick. It’s a Modern-day Baker Street where the manic, razor-sharp genius Holmes, and recuperating American divorcee Watson, tumble from caper to caper. But when the quasi-dysfunctional, female Odd-Couple, mystery solving duo come face to face with a villain who has all the answers and is always one step ahead, uproarious adventure, high-stake hijinks, and non-stop laughter are imminent. Crack the case Thursday, July 17th at 7:30 p.m. through Friday, August 22nd including matinee and evening performances both weekdays and weekends.

Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson – Apt. 2B features A.J. Baldwin* as Ms. Joan Watson, James Noel Hoban* as Lestrade/ Elliot Munk/ Others, Amber McNew* as Ms. Sherlock Holmes, Ethan Shaw as Pizza Boy/ Additional Voices/ Understudy, and Jazmin Wilkins as Irene Adler/ Mrs. Hudson/ Others. Directed by Dawn McAndrews, Lighting Design by Jim Alexander, Scenic Design by Germán Cárdenas Alaminos, Props Supervision by Cynthia Davis, Costume Design by Michelle Handley, Intimacy Direction by Hannah Levine, Wardrobe and Wig Supervision by Adriaen Shi, Sound Design by Rew Tippin, and Fight Direction by Sally Wood; with Stage Management by Rayne Barrett*, Assistant Stage Management by Mikayla Burse, and Ethan Shaw serving as Fight Captain.

Performance Calendar: PREVIEW 7/17 at 7:30 p.m.; OPENING 7/18 at 7:30 p.m.; additional performance dates 7/26, 8/7, 8/17, & 8/20 at 1:00 p.m.; 8/2, 8/9, 8/14, & 8/22 at 7:30 p.m.

Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson – Apt. 2B is presented through special arrangement with TRW PLAYS 1180 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 640, New York, NY 10036. www.trwplays.com

Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson – Apt. 2B is Sponsored by Robert & Cynthia McGuire.

Audience Engagement Programs

Post-Performance Discussions. Join us on select weekend matinee performances for Post-Performance Discussions with the cast and creative team. Discuss the critical historical, artistic, and cultural perspectives of the worlds of each individual play. Post-Performance Discussion will take place on the following dates: Sunday, August 3rd for Twelfth Night, Saturday, August 9th for The Complete Works of Jane Austen, Abridged, Sunday, August 10th for Cymbeline, and Sunday, August 17th for *Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson – Apt. 2B*.

Tickets, Subscriptions, and Ways to Save. A TAM subscription offers savings and exclusive benefits like priority seating and ticket exchanges. Gold, Flex, General, or Senior Passes are available for purchase, so whether you want a ticket for each show or five tickets to one show, there’s an option for you. Single tickets for the Summer Repertory and Fall Show are \$43 for adults, \$38 for senior citizens, and \$28 for students (18 and under). All prices shown include a \$3 per ticket fee.

Monmouth Nights. The first performance of each production is Monmouth Night! Residents of the Town of Monmouth can get tickets for \$18 each (price includes \$3 per ticket fee, Proof of Residency may be required). Monmouth Nights will take place on the following dates: Thursday, July 10th for Twelfth Night; Thursday, July 17th for *Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson – Apt. 2B*; Thursday, July 24th for The Complete Works of Jane Austen, Abridged; and Thursday, July 31st for Cymbeline.

Opening Nights are Educator Nights. Educators receive 20% off the general ticket price with a valid photo ID at the Box Office.

Under 30 Rush Tickets. For patrons under 30, \$18 Rush Tickets are available for up to 20 audience members at each performance in the season excluding the Family Show and Special Events. Contact the Box Office by email boxoffice@theateratmonmouth.org or by calling 207.933.9999 after 10 a.m. on the day of the show. Requests made before the Box Office is open will not be processed.

For calendar and reservations, please contact the TAM Box Office at 207.933.9999 or visit www.theateratmonmouth.org.

SMNHB, PCM together in harmony

PORTLAND, ME – The Southern Maine New Horizons Band (SMNHB) and the Portland Conservatory of Music (PCM) are proud to announce their new partnership. Effective immediately, SMNHB will become an official program of PCM, bringing together two mission-driven organizations dedicated to making music education welcoming and accessible to all.

Led by conductor Michael Lund Ziegler, the SMNHB will continue weekly rehearsals and community performances—now with the added support and resources of PCM’s faculty, ensembles, and music education programs. Rehearsals will resume in September and new members are encouraged to join—no audition necessary because in the New Horizons Band “your best is good enough!”

“As the conductor of the Southern Maine New Horizons Band, I’m thrilled the band is joining the Conservatory,” said Lund Ziegler. “I hope our band members will be able to engage in all the Conservatory has to offer! As the Director of the Conservatory, I am equally thrilled to be able to count the band as one of our offerings. I can’t think of a program that better embodies our ideal that Everyone is a Musician. It has been such a joy to be a part of the ongoing journey for the members of the band. To witness their dedication, courage, and tenacity on a weekly basis is a privilege. I look forward to continuing that quest, now under the banner of PCM.”

The Southern Maine New Horizons Band is part of a global movement that offers music-making opportunities for adults, especially those who are picking up an instrument for the first time or returning to music after many years. This merger helps ensure the sustainability and continued growth of the program while opening new musical pathways for its members.

“It’s good because we have access to so many more players who might join us,” said Cathy Stieg, saxophonist and SMNHB Band Council member. “Not only are we growing, but we also have access to other things like chamber music. We can come in and take private lessons or join an ensemble. It’s been great.”

“I’m excited for the band to have the opportunity to be at PCM and to see what other opportunities are out there for us,” added Paula Viarello, fellow saxophonist and Band Council member. “Lessons, fall groups—just some of the ideas that have been tossed around.”

This partnership strengthens the mission of both organizations: to build community through music, to support lifelong learning, and to offer inclusive, high-quality music education to all.

For more information about joining the band or other offerings at PCM, visit www.southernmaine-newhorizonsband.org or www.pcm.org.

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

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Maine CASA Volunteer Training August 2025

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For more information, please contact Maine CASA at: (207) 213-2865 or casa@courts.maine.gov



www.casaofmaine.org

4 lessons kids can learn this summer and still have fun

LOUISVILLE, KY
– As summer hits its stride, the TurfMutt Foundation, a leader in environmental education and stewardship for more than 15 years, reminds families that local parks, backyards and other community green spaces offer an ideal outdoor classroom for hands-on learning—something that doesn’t have to stop while school is out. TurfMutt’s free K-8 curriculum provides fun and engaging ways for kids to keep their minds active while they spend time outdoors.

“TurfMutt’s free educational resources spark children’s natural curiosity about the world around them,” says Kris Kiser, President & CEO of the TurfMutt Foundation. “With TurfMutt’s help, a simple trip to the neighborhood park can become an exciting journey of discovery, teaching kids how our living landscapes work and how important they are to our communities.”

Four TurfMutt Foundation lesson plans to keep kids learning this summer:

Discover the Wonders of Earth
Lessons such as “What’s in One Square Foot of Earth? A Lot!” teach children to observe the hidden ecosystems thriving in a small patch of grass or garden bed. Backyards and local parks provide easily accessible environments for these fascinating, ground-level discoveries.

Investigate How Nature Works
TurfMutt sparks scientific curiosity with hands-on experiments through lessons like “Do Trees Breathe? Let’s Do an Experiment to Find Out!” By encouraging children to spot plant life, insects, and natural cycles, TurfMutt turns a casual stroll into a living science laboratory.

Understand Nature’s Superpowers
Lessons such as “Nature’s Flood Stoppers: Trees” illustrate the environmental superpowers of the landscapes in our parks and backyards and showcase nature as a powerful ally for community

well-being. These green spaces help manage stormwater, clean the air, and provide critical habitats.

Become an Environmental Detective
Through activities such as “Stormwater Sleuthing,” children can learn about water flow, pollution prevention, and how to keep their favorite parks and yards clean and healthy.

Beyond specific lessons, TurfMutt encourages active interaction with and care for our green spaces and encourages learning through direct engagement with the natural world.

TurfMutt’s youth curriculum is free and available for download at their website. Check out the TurfMutt Foundation’s International Backyarding Fact Book to learn more about the power of parks, backyards and other green space around us. Sign up for Mutt Mail, a monthly e-newsletter with “backyarding” tips and all the news from the TurfMutt Foundation at their website.

Free Activities for Kids

Backyard Wildlife Scavenger Hunt

Know Your Zone

Heat Islands: They're All Around Us

Grass Captures Water

How Plants Grow

THE TURFMUTT FOUNDATION

Mid Coast Hunger Prevention to renovate pantry with \$95K grant

BRUNSWICK, ME
– Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program (MCHPP) is pleased to announce that the nonprofit organization has been selected as a Lowe’s Hometowns project, one of 100 community-nominated, large-scale renovations chosen nationally that will revitalize nonprofit and community spaces serving as hubs and heartbeats for hometowns. Now in its fourth year, Lowe’s Hometowns is the company’s five-year, \$100 million commitment to repairing and restoring millions of square feet of community space.

The Lowe’s Hometowns grant totals \$95,000 and will enable MCHPP to renovate its main food pantry and soup kitchen. Work will include installation of ADA-compliant doors, entrance improvements, resealing of floors, bathroom renovations, interior paint, installation of a covered shelter outside the soup kitchen for inclement weather, replacement of heat pumps, and installation of a new deli case and food storage cooler. Grant

funds remaining at the end of the project may be used to purchase décor, storage and other items that beautify or make the renovated space more functional.

“Our mission is to offer dignity and empowerment by providing all members of our community with access to healthy food,” says MCHPP Executive Director Hannah Chatalbash. “We believe that everyone deserves to access their meals and groceries from a welcoming and well-designed space that values quality, nutrition and inclusion. The renovations to our food pantry and soup kitchen made possible by the Lowe’s Hometowns grant will help us to shift the public perception of standards of service that can be provided to underserved populations. This project will not only improve accessibility, inclusion and independence for our mobility-impaired and older adult guests, but also raise the public standard of what can and should be provided in our community for all.”

MCHPP’s project

is one of three selected in Maine to receive a Lowe’s Hometowns grant, in addition to Preble Street and Milestone Recovery. Across the country, with help from Lowe’s red vest associates, Lowe’s Hometowns projects will expand kitchen and serving capacity for food pantries, restore dignity to well-used transitional housing facilities, revitalize parks and gardens for neighbors to safely gather and build restorative spaces for first responders to rest between calls.

Earlier this year, Lowe’s announced a promise to deliver 10 million square feet of impact to capture the immeasurable difference made when Lowe’s shows up to help, including initiatives like Lowe’s Hometowns. Visit [Lowe’s.com/hometowns](https://www.lowes.com/hometowns) and follow#HowLowe’sHelps on social media for more details on 2025 projects.

Grants

Continued from page 10

that transform the lives of women and girls. For more information, visit mainecf.org/mwf.

The Rines Thompson Fund supports organizations and projects in Greater Portland working in the areas of environment/conservation, early childhood programming, youth programming and arts/culture. For more information, visit mainecf.org/rinesthompson.

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

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Now through Aug 29
WEST GARDINER
– Shop Maine Craft presents BIG, a collection of large-scale porcelain sgraffito sculpture and wheel-thrown forms by artist Tim Christensen, on view July 22 through August 29, 2025, at the Center for Maine Craft in West Gardiner.

July 31
WISCASSET – Summertime in Wiscasset, Maine, means Wiscasset Art Walk! On the evening of Thursday, July 31, from 4 to 7pm, artists, musicians, crafters, local residents, and visitors experience together the sights, sounds, and tastes of this charming Midcoast Maine village. 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 1
AUBURN – The Community Little Theatre (CLT) will host a staged reading of “A New Home” on Friday, August 1, at 7:30 p.m. The script will be read by veteran actors from CLT, and eight songs will be performed live. An original musical production, “A New Home” will be presented as CLT’s first production of the 2025-26 season, opening on October 30.

Aug 1, 2, 3

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

BAR HARBOR – Guild Fine Craft Show: Mount Desert Island at College of the Atlantic | 105 Eden Street, Bar Harbor, ME 04609. \$5 Weekend Admission | Under 18 Free. FRI, AUG 1: 5pm - 8pm. SAT, AUG 2: 10am - 4pm. SUN, AUG 3: 10am - 4pm.

Aug 3
BOWDOINHAM – Peter Gallway will be at the Bowdoinham waterfront performing to benefit the Bowdoinham library. The concert is free and the chili supper to benefit the library is \$13. We will have vegetarian and gluten free options Peter Gallway has released more than 25 albums spanning all styles from 60’s rock and roll, to jazzy folk, to atmospheric Americana. Come down to the water front with your blankets and chairs and enjoy some good food and good music!

Aug 4, 15, 25
ARUNDEL – The Landing School of Boatbuilding and Design in Arundel, a non-profit marine trades school, is hosting open houses at our campus at 286 River Rd. on Aug 4 (1-3 PM), Aug 15 (2-4 PM) and Aug 25

(10AM-12PM).
Aug 6
AUBURN – The Auburn Public Library: Author Talk with Art Dingley: Reading and Discussion of “Immigrants” to be taking place on Wednesday, August 6th from 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM.

Aug 7-10
CUMBERLAND – The Homeless Animal Rescue Team (HART) of Maine, an adoption center & shelter for cats in Cumberland, is pleased to announce their huge annual Yard Sale is back at the Cumberland Fairgrounds Thursday, August 7th through Sunday, August 10th. Admission is free.

In addition, on Wednesday evening, August 6th from 4:30-7:00 p.m., doors open early for an exclusive Sip & Shop preview event. Tickets are \$28 in advance and \$30 at the door. More info and presale tickets are available on HART’s website.

Aug 8
LEWISTON – At 10am the Lewiston Public Library Children’s Depart-

ment 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 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
GRAY – 9th annual Gray Wild Blueberry Festival ‘Celebrating Community & Culture’ and all things wild Maine Blueberries runs 9:30 AM TO 3:30 PM. Family-friendly, free event featuring Food Trucks; Bake-Off, Pie Eating Contests, Spelling Bee, Master Beekeeper; 3 Bands, 75 Booths - artisans, crafters, authors and farmers market and 30 school & community groups; Kids Area, Fun Run, Raffle Baskets, fresh wild blueberries, whole pies, and more. 24 Main St, Gray. www.wildblueberries.me/grayfestival/


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

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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 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.

Aug 17
LISBON FALLS – The 4-H Youth Development Program in Androscoggin and Sagadahoc counties, part of University of Maine Cooperative Extension, is hosting a drop-in Open House on Sunday, August 17 from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. at the Androscoggin/Sagadahoc Extension office, 24 Main Street, Lisbon Falls.

Aug 21
LEWISTON – Lewiston Public Library: Paint Night at the Library 5-7PM.

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

Good Shepherd

Continued from page 1

people facing hunger who are doing everything they can to get by and place even greater pressure on Good Shepherd Food Bank and the entire charitable food network in Maine.

“We know that good policies can reduce hunger and improve health, and we are grateful for Maine’s four members of Congress who stood with us in opposition to this bill,” said Heather Paquette, President, Good Shepherd Food Bank. “This legislation is a significant setback for people and communities already facing barriers to accessing the food and resources they need to live full lives. Maine’s food insecurity rate is higher than the national average and includes 20% of our children who are currently living in food insecure homes. People in Maine work hard every day to build better lives, but they need a strong foundation to succeed. Access to food and health care is that foundation.”

Individuals and families currently receiving SNAP benefits are encouraged to contact the Maine Department of Health and Human Services to ensure their contact information is up to date.

Good Shepherd Food Bank will continue to lead the way in making nutritious food available to all who need it. Together with Maine’s network of hunger-relief organizations, volunteers, and donors we will keep working to find ways to support our neighbors facing hunger who will be impacted by this bill in the coming months and years.

For information about Good Shepherd Food Bank and how you can get involved visit our website at www.feedingmaine.org.

Fortune

Continued from page 1

Rev. Fortune and Auburn UU visit www.auburnuu.org or call 207-783-0461. Sunday worship is held in person at 10 a.m. at 169 Pleasant Street (across from Dairy Joy), as well as over Zoom. Parking; accessible.



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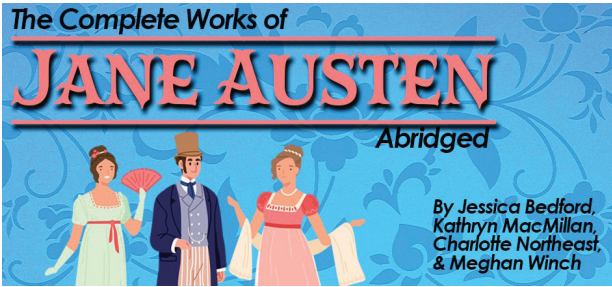
“I love getting to be a part of people moving forward in their lives. I get to see people believe in themselves again.”



Austen
Continued from page 6

the cast and creative team. Discuss the critical historical, artistic, and cultural perspectives of the worlds of each individual play. Post-Performance Discussion will take place on the following dates: Sunday, August 3rd for Twelfth Night, Saturday, August 9th for The Complete Works of Jane Austen, Abridged, Sunday, August 10th for Cymbeline, and Sunday, August 17th for Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson – Apt. 2B.

Tickets, Subscriptions, and Ways to Save. A TAM subscription offers savings and exclusive benefits like priority seating and ticket exchanges. Gold, Flex, General, or Senior Passes are available for purchase, so whether you want a ticket for each show or five tickets to one show, there’s an option for you. Single tickets for the Summer Repertory and Fall Show are \$43 for adults, \$38 for senior citizens, and \$28 for students (18 and under). All prices



shown include a \$3 per ticket fee.

Monmouth Nights. The first performance of each production is Monmouth Night! Residents of the Town of Monmouth can get tickets for \$18 each (price includes \$3 per ticket fee, Proof of Residency may be required). Monmouth Nights will take place on Thursday, July 31st for Cymbeline.

Opening Nights are Educator Nights. Educators receive 20% off the general ticket price with a valid photo ID at the Box Office.

Under 30 Rush Tickets. For patrons under 30, \$18 Rush Tickets are available for up to 20 audience members at each performance in the season excluding the Family

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For calendar and reservations, please contact the TAM Box Office at 207.933.9999 or visit www.theateratmonmouth.org.

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