

Lewiston’s Holiday at the Plaza returns with Santa, skates & fun

LEWISTON, ME – The City of Lewiston turns up the holiday cheer with its annual Holiday at the Plaza, a community celebration packed with festive fun, frosty adventures, and free activities for all ages. The event will take place Sat., Dec. 6 from 12 PM to 5 PM with a bad weather date of Sun., Dec. 7 at Dufresne Plaza, 72 Lisbon St., with free admission and free parking for everyone ready to ring in the season.

From family-friendly traditions to grown-up activities, Holiday at the Plaza has something for everyone:

Take a Picture with Santa – Bring your biggest smile

Horse & Wagon Rides - Clip-clop through downtown

Ice Skating – Lace up for some figure-eight fun

Makers Market – Last minute shoppers? Problem solved! From handmade kitchen knives to personalized stained glass, there’s something for everyone’s Santa list.

Giant Bouncy Snowman – Kids can bounce their way into winter joy

Petting Zoo - Meet some fuzzy friends who don’t mind the cold.

Arts & Crafts for Kiddos – Let young imaginations sparkle and shine

Food Trucks & Local Restaurants – Feast your way through festive flavors.

Live Music – Enjoy seasonal tunes that’ll warm your heart from John Cyr, Robert “Elvis” Washington, the Lewiston Choir, to the Maine Music Theater.

Christmas Claw – What? The Claw Machine but for humans? Yes!

Adults Only Fun – Sip, paint, and play! Join a ceramic gnome-painting session or learn how to make your own Christmas cocktail – these festivities



require pre-registration at www.lewistonmaine.gov/HATP25.

Whether you’re coming for Santa, the cider or taking in all the Insta-Moments, Holiday at the Plaza promises a day filled with laughter, lights, and Lewiston community

spirit and to keep fun and affordable, festive activities are free. Parking is also free at Oak Street Garage, 1 Oak St and Centreville Garage, 62 Canal St.

Grow your family holiday traditions at the City of Lewiston’s Holiday At The Plaza!

November Special Section National Diabetes Month page 9

TCST kicks off 104th season with new head coach

MAINE – Twin Cities Swim Team of the Auburn Lewiston YMCA begins their 104th season of competitive swimming with new head coach Peter Goulet on Monday November 3rd at the Tarbell Pool on the campus of Bates College. Practices are 6:45 pm to 8:15pm.

Peter Goulet is a 1987 graduate of Edward Little. Coach Goulet swam for the Auburn Lewiston YMCA from 1977 to 1987, Edward Little and at The University of Maine. Goulet was an assistant coach at Orono High School, and Head Coach

at Thornton Academy before relocating to Massachusetts. Coach Goulet coached at Revere HS and Sharon HS prior to becoming the voice of Massachusetts Swimming Championships and YMCA New England Championships.

Melina Masselli, an alumnus of TCST along with Todd Mercer, the veteran coach of Gray-New Gloucester Track and Field and former UMaine swimmer have joined Goulet’s coaching staff.

Parent Brandon Flint said in an email to Coach Goulet; “The parents can

really see that you and your assistant coaches are passionate about swim and helping each kid excel and do their best.” Flint went on to say; “I watched you work with each age group and teach to their level of swim and understanding. I am looking forward to how both of my kids grow this year with you as their coach.”

TCST has 40 members on the team. Anyone ages 6 -18 interested in joining the Twin Cities Swim Team should contact the YMCA of Auburn Lewiston.

Dip & Dash for Maine’s climate



MAINE – Sign up today to start your New Year off right with Natural Resources Council of Maine’s Polar Bear Dip & Dash! This annual 5K and polar dip into Casco Bay is our biggest fundraiser for climate action and our work to build a clean energy future that works for all Mainers.

Taking place on Sunday, January 4th, you can choose to join us for the dash, the dip, or both.

Date: Sunday, January 4, 2026

Dash: 5K Run or Walk at 9:00 AM

Dip: Polar Plunge in Casco Bay at 10:30 AM

Location: Southern Maine Community College & Willard Beach, South Portland

Sliding scale registration is available again this year. We hope to make this event accessible to all who’d like to participate, so please choose a registration fee that best suits your circumstances.

Register Today
Why join us?

Polluters and their allies are working to undo hard-won progress on climate action. But here in

Maine, we know how to fight back. We’ve worked together to expand more reliable clean energy sources like solar and wind that lower electricity bills for families and businesses. Now we need to keep that momentum going.

Join us on January 4th to dip and dash for climate action and protect the environment that we all love.

See you on the beach, Jack Shapiro, Josh Caldwell, and Rebecca Schultz

NRCM Climate & Clean Energy Team.

Follow us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/twincitytimes

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

CRC of WM hosting Tree Lighting & Remembrance Ceremony

NORWAY, ME – For a \$10 donation, you can order a beautiful Cardinal ornament in memory or in honor of your loved one. We will then personalize the back of the ornament with their name and place their ornament on the Christmas tree outside of the Cancer Resource Center of Western Maine during our annual Tree Lighting and Remembrance Ceremony which will be held on Tuesday, December 2nd from 4:30 – 6:00pm. (Snow Day will be December 3rd)

We hope you will join us for this special outdoor ceremony, where staff from MaineHealth Stephens Oncology Department will join us to read the names of patients who have passed away this year along with some inspirational readings.

The tree lighting and remembrance ceremony will start promptly at 5:00pm on the lawn outside the Cancer Resource Center of Western Maine, 59 Winter Street, Norway. We will conclude the event in a round of holiday caroling. Cider and snacks will be available inside the Cancer Resource Center,



courtesy of Norway Brewing Company.

Ornaments can be ordered online (with a credit card) at www.crcofwm.org or in person (with cash, check) at the Cancer Resource Center of Western Maine on Thursdays from 10-2 pm. You can also purchase ornaments at the Turkey Trot 4 Hope Race/Walk on November 27th.

All orders must be placed by November 30th, and will be hung on the tree on December 2nd. Families

can take the ornaments home following the ceremony to include in their own holiday celebrations.

Event Schedule
4:30-5:00 pm: Activities will begin with music, refreshments and viewing of the ornaments.

5:00 pm: Reading of loved ones' names who have passed away from cancer this year. Caroling and music will immediately follow with refreshments available inside the Cancer Resource Center.

Studio Theatre presents 12th Twisted Christmas!

BATH, ME – Studio Theatre of Bath presents the 12th Annual Twisted Christmas Fundraiser on December 12th and 13th at 8 PM, at Long Reach Kitchen & Catering at 387 Whiskeag Road. The variety show is for adults only and presents music, comedy, dance, improv, audience participation & classic Christmas themes with a twist. STB President Kirstin Hayward adds, “Twisted Christmas has become a new holiday tradition for hundreds of audience members for more than a decade.”

Tickets are \$20 in advance, or \$25 at the door. For more information and to purchase tickets, “like” Studio Theatre of Bath on Facebook, and visit <https://www.studiotheatreofbath.com/twistedchristmas>.

Dinner reservations can be made by calling Long Reach Kitchen & Catering at 207-442-8411.

Proceeds will benefit Studio Theatre of Bath, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Founded in part in

12th Annual Fundraiser

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* Improv * Classic Christmas Themes...with a TWIST! *

Friday December 12th - 8 PM
Saturday December 13th - 8 PM

@ **Long Reach Kitchen & Catering**
387 Whiskeag Rd, Bath

\$20 online in advance, \$25 at the door

For Tickets and More Information, visit

TwistedChristmas.ME

STUDIO THEATRE OF BATH

A Nice and Naughty Evening of Entertainment

Ages 18+

1979 by Priscilla & J. Pat Montgomery, Studio Theatre of Bath is one of mid-coast Maine’s oldest active community theater groups. Since 1980 “STB” has pro-

duced upwards of 140 major theatrical productions of all ranges & styles and has been a constant for community enrichment in Bath, Maine for nearly 40 years.

A Celebration of the Season with Augusta Symphony Orchestra

AUGUSTA, ME – The Augusta Symphony Orchestra invites you to celebrate the magic of the holidays with two performances at South Parish Church, 9 Church Street in Augusta. Join us on Saturday, December 13 at 7:00 p.m. or Sunday, December 14 at 3:00 p.m. for a festive program filled with timeless classics and holiday favorites.

Under the direction of Conductor and Music Director Jinwook Park, the

ASO will present a concert filled with warmth, variety, and festive spirit. The concert begins with Bach’s Brandenburg Concerto No. 2—a showcase of Baroque virtuosity featuring Sarah Heimberg (trumpet), Michael Albert (recorder), Anne McKee (violin), and Necia Enoch (oboe) as soloists.

The celebration continues with Tchaikovsky’s beloved Nutcracker Suite, bringing the enchanting sounds of the season to

life—from the graceful “Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy” to the exuberant “Trepak.” Audiences will also enjoy Christmas at the Movies, a lively medley of favorite film scores that capture the spirit of the holidays on the silver screen.

To conclude the concert, the orchestra will be joined by singers from Coda Chorus for a rousing performance of Handel’s Hallelujah Chorus—a triumphant finale that’s sure to lift hearts and voices alike.

Experience the warmth, wonder, and joy of the season with the Augusta Symphony Orchestra. This holiday tradition is perfect for the whole family and a beautiful way to celebrate the music that brings us together.

As always, there is no admission fee for these concerts. Donations are gratefully accepted. For more information, visit www.augustasyphony-maine.org.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Youngsters get nutrition education from Rumford Hospital dietician

Anchour named #1 Best Place to Work in Maine

RUMFORD, ME – In October, Elizabeth Moreau, RD, a clinical dietician at Rumford Hospital, conducted a nutrition and cooking education series at Rumford Public Library. The classes were designed for children and their families.

The goal was to teach key nutrition concepts and simple recipes to help empower kids to independently make healthy food choices. Over the course of four classes, students learned about food groups, making balanced meals and snacks, fruits and vegetables and the importance of choosing healthy beverage options. Kids engaged in nutrition themed games and participated in cooking up healthy recipes to enjoy.

“It was such a wonderful opportunity to bring nutrition and cooking education into a comfortable setting for kids and families and give them the ability to explore new concepts, foods and flavors,” Elizabeth said. “I loved seeing new and familiar faces each week and the enthusiasm and questions they brought with them.”



Photos courtesy of Rumford Public Library



“Libraries are dedicated to providing opportunities for learning, making community connections and offering practical resources to enrich community members’ lives,” said



Sarah Cotnoir, children’s director at Rumford Public Library. “By offering workshops, cooking demonstrations and resources on healthy eating, libraries can become a catalyst for healthier habits, empowering patrons to nourish themselves, their families and build a foundation for lifelong wellness.”

Who’s Holiday! Opens at Theater At Monmouth

MONMOUTH, ME – Theater at Monmouth ends its 56th year with Who’s Holiday! By Matthew Lombardo. You saw her last when she was just two, now celebrate the holidays with Cindy Lou Who. Pull up a seat and fill up your cup, ‘Cause your favorite little Who is all grown up. Who’s Holiday! Is a wildly funny and heartfelt adults only comedy that tells the story of Cindy Lou Who as she recalls that Christmas Eve she first met the Grinch and the twisted turn of events her life has now taken. Recommended for Mature Whos only, Who’s Holiday! runs Thursday, November 27th at 7:30 p.m. through Sunday, December 7th at 1:00 p.m. including matinee and evening performances.

Who’s Holiday! stars Jennifer Fox* as Cindy Lou Who, and will feature Lighting Design by Jim Alexander and Costume Design by Michelle Handley. Who’s Holiday! is Co-Sponsored by Tech Industries Inc. and Winthrop Area Federal Credit Union.

*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: PREVIEW 11/27 at 7:30 p.m.; OPENING 11/28 at 7:30 p.m.; additional performance dates 11/29, 11/30, 12/6, & 12/7 at 1:00 p.m.; 11/29 & 12/6 at 5:00 p.m.; 12/4 & 12/5 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: Tickets for the November 27th at 7:30 p.m. performance (Thanksgiving Day) are only \$18 each! Tickets for all other performances are \$43 for adults, \$38 for senior citizens, and \$28 for College students. All prices shown include a \$3 per ticket fee.

Groups: Group Rates are available for groups of 10 or more! Contact

the Box Office by email boxoffice@theateratmonmouth.org or by calling 207.933.9999 for more information and to book your group today!

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

LEWISTON, ME – A glass award reads Best Places to Work in ME 2025, #1 Small Employer Category (15-49 U.S. Employees), Anchour, set on a windowsill with autumn trees in the background.

Anchour, a Maine-based branding and marketing agency, has been named the #1 Best Place to Work in Maine in the small business category (15–49 employees) in 2025, as recognized by Best Companies Group and the Maine State Council of the Society for Human Resource Management.

This recognition highlights more than a great workplace—it affirms Anchour’s belief that

the best brand work starts with culture. Known for helping consumer, retail, and purpose-driven brands evolve through strategy, storytelling, and design, Anchour is proud to lead by example.

“We built Anchour to be the kind of place we’d want to work at—and the kind of agency we’d want to hire,” said Josh Pritchard, Partner and President. “That means building trust, leading with care and transparency, and always pushing for great work without burning out the people behind it.”

Best Places to Work in Maine is a research-based program that evaluates companies through both

their internal practices and direct employee feedback. The result: a ranked list of employers who foster strong cultures, support growth, and build meaningful environments for their teams.

As an award-winning branding agency in Maine, Anchour has seen steady growth—expanding its national client roster, launching standout campaigns, and evolving legacy brands with clarity and creativity. But internally, success still comes down to one thing: people.

“We know that our work is only as strong as the team behind it,” said Aimee Labbe, Vice President

See *Anchour*, page 14

Zara, Inc.

Fashion News

Tias Prom Project

Dedicated to providing dresses & confidence to young women

The Tatiana Morrell Foundation was created to honor the incredible spirit of Tatiana Morrell — a young woman whose light, kindness, and heart continue to inspire us every day. One of the ways we carry her legacy forward is through something truly special: collecting prom dresses for students who may not have the means to purchase one. Tatiana believed deeply in making others feel seen, valued, and beautiful — and this mission reflects that love.

Through every dress given, every smile shared, and every moment of confidence created — Tatiana’s spirit lives on. Thank you for being part of this journey with us. 🌟



The Story Behind Our Mission:
To better understand our mission, you must understand our reasoning:
Tia lived with a heart led by kindness and intuition. When she noticed a new student struggling, she stepped in to make a difference—providing her with a beautiful dress and arranging for her mother to do her hair and makeup. That simple act of love gave the girl, who never imagined attending such an event, the night of her life.

Tia believed every young woman should feel confident, radiant, and celebrated during life’s special moments. In her honor, we are dedicated to continuing that mission—ensuring that no girl misses out on the magic of prom, homecoming, or a school dance because of financial hardship.

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• 781 Edes Falls Rd, Harrison, ME
• 780 Broadway St, South Portland, ME

Follow us on Facebook: Tias Prom Closet Project



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Twin City Times • 89 Union Street, Suite 1014 • Auburn, ME 04210
Gorham Weekly • 28 State Street • Gorham, ME 04038

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(207) 795-5017

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Seniors Not Acting Their Age Stealing Away to Thief Island

Muscongus Bay in the mid-coast area offers some of the most challenging and intriguing sea kayaking on the Maine coast. A significant attraction is a myriad of islands that populate the bay. Located in the west central sector of the bay, remote Thief Island is one of the most interesting and scenic.

I stopped at Thief Island while kayaking with a group a few years ago. We had launched from the east in Friendship on a hurried, lengthy day-trip and didn't have time for an extended visit. I found it to be a fascinating island and have contemplated a return since. When that happened, I wanted to approach the island from the west while simultaneously completing a circumnavigation of substantial Louds Island.

While discussing potential fall sea kayaking options with two frequent paddling companions who had never been to Thief, we decided on a trip to the tiny island. After communicating our intent to other friends, two more agreed to join us.

The small village of Round Pond in Bristol offers the closest public landing to Thief Island. Five of us met at the busy working harbor on a calm, partly sunny morning. Since it was shortly after high tide, we decided to take advantage of the outgoing flow by traveling south and completing a counter-clockwise circum-

navigation of Louds Island located opposite of Round Pond.

We launched from a convenient paved ramp in solo kayaks, maneuvered between a multitude of commercial and recreational vessels moored in the harbor and paddled out into Muscongus Sound. One of the first things paddlers notice when navigating the Muscongus Bay area is the abundance of lobster buoys. The bay offers ideal conditions for lobsters to flourish. Consequently, paddlers need to be alert for preoccupied lobstermen who often have difficulty spotting low profile kayaks.

We crossed the sound in gentle seas and kayaked south approximately three miles along the western shore of Louds Island. Conditions were superb as we rounded the southern terminus and navigated east through a narrow channel between Louds and Bar Islands.

We passed a cobblestone beach on the south shore of Louds Island where the 106-acre Elizabeth Noyce Preserve is located. Progressing beyond the preserve, we entered Muscongus Bay and began our paddle north along the east shore of the island.

When nearing Marsh Island, we opted to kayak west through narrow Marsh Harbor adjacent to the Louds Island coastline. Beyond the harbor, we persisted northeast to rugged Killick Stone Island where

a unique home perched on ledges at the north end captured our attention. Thief Island was soon visible beyond a collection of exposed ledges farther northeast.

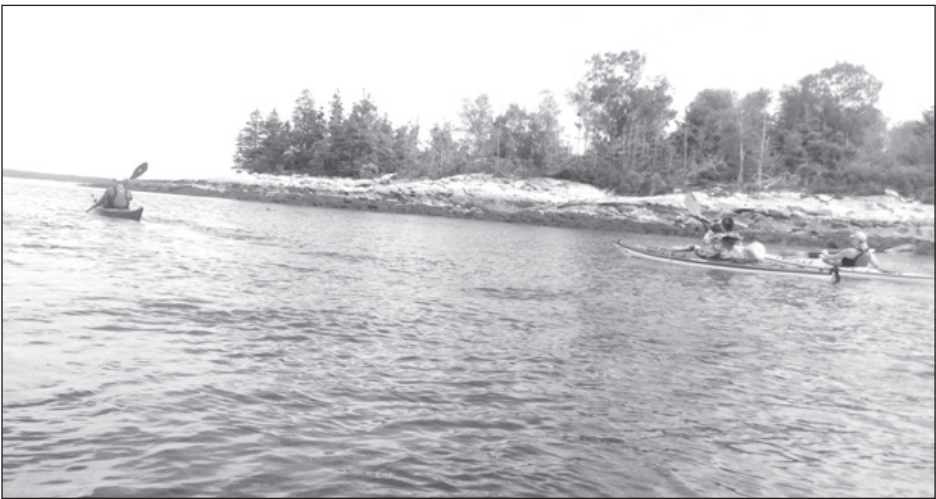
Campers and visitors are welcome on Thief Island, where there are two authorized Maine Island Trail Association campsites. A large campsite is situated high on the north side and a smaller one on the rockbound southern end. Landing on the south shore appeared potentially hazardous, so we proceeded north where there is a much more accessible rocky beach.

We disembarked to reconnoiter the island and found the northern site was occupied. Two tents had been erected but no paddlers or boats were observed. We assumed they were exploring the bay.

A trail connects the two campsites. We hiked to the southern end where there are exceptional views of outer Muscongus Bay from giant boulders that enhance the dramatic beauty of the shoreline. I haven't found any information on how Thief acquired its name but there is little room for a brigand to hide on the 9-acre island.

After leaving Thief behind, we traveled northwest past Indian Island and kayaked through a half-mile passage between the northern end of Louds Island and Hog Island. Our adventure wasn't over. A feisty sea breeze had developed while we were investigating the sheltered east side of Louds Island. Strong winds and choppy waves were encountered on our port side while crossing Muscongus Sound towards Round Pond Harbor.

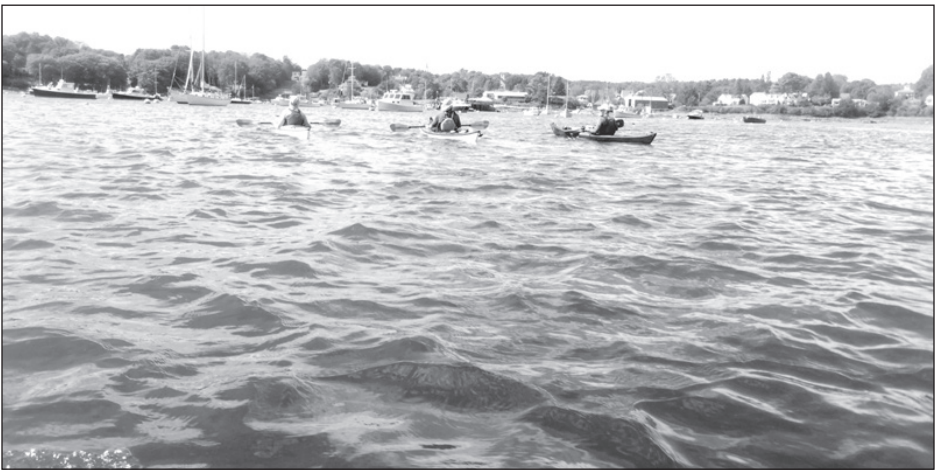
The entrance to the harbor wasn't obvious until we observed a lobster boat exiting through



A team of kayakers approach Thief Island in Muscongus Bay



Paddlers begin an exploration of Thief Island



Kayakers enter Round Pond Harbor

the narrow opening. The seas calmed and winds diminished once we entered the enclosed harbor. We relaxed while passing numerous moored vessels to the landing. After loading our kayaks, we celebrated our completion of an exceptional sea kayak voyage to Thief Island in spec-

tacular Muscongus Bay.

My book, Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine features eight more exciting sea kayaking exploits along the Maine coast.

The author of "The Great Mars Hill Bank Robbery" and "Mountains for

Mortals – New England," Ron Chase resides in Topsham. His latest book, "The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine" will soon be released by North Country Press. Visit his website at www.ronchase-outdoors.com or he can be reached at ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net.

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Merry and Bright Parade escorts Santa to his workshop, Dec. 5

WISCASSET, ME – The Wiscasset community is invited to welcome Santa to the Village when a Merry and Bright Light Parade drops the rotund fellow off at his workshop, 7 Lincoln St., on Friday, December 5, around 5:45pm.

According to Wiscasset's light parade organizer, Lucy Oyster, the third annual light parade will be longer and more sparkly than ever, thanks to help from volunteers who have been recruiting more vehicles. People along the parade route will see decorated cars, trucks, and floats, including a wrecker with a car aboard, which might be carrying Santa. Along with the lights, there'll be blow-ups and costumed characters, and some surprises. Last year, one truck carried an 8' high globe, and the Alna snowmobile club's float included a real fire with live people sitting around it enjoying the warmth. Some vehicles trumpet seasonal music. "It's bright and beautiful," Oyster says, and expresses the wonderment of the holiday.

For best watching, the Merry and Bright Light Parade leaves Churchill St. at 5pm, goes down Hooper St., turns right onto Federal St., then left onto Route 1 north (Main St.), and turns right onto Water St. where it disbands near the Wiscasset Yacht Club.

The parade is ephemeral, lasting only about 15 minutes, says Oyster, and then it's gone. But it's a magical experience while it lasts. Last year, she saw her husband and child sharing the same look of wonder when watching the Merry and Bright Parade pass by, and she wants to assure that all children have magic in their lives. "I can help provide this kind of experience to the whole community," Oyster says, both as a community volunteer and as a member of the Wiscasset Parks and Recreation staff in charge of Marketing and Sponsorships.

Even before the parade passes, the Block Party, starting at 5pm, will be underway at Scout Hall, the 7 Lincoln St. location for Santa's workshop. Indoors, children are treated to cocoa and candy canes and are encouraged to make holiday decorations to take home. Parents watch in the background offering encouragement and, cameras ready, record their children's handiwork. When Santa arrives around 5:45, he's greeted by children, eager to share their wish list with him.

Outside, families will find Byre Farm's sheep, gentle enough for petting and running fingers through their deep woolly coats. The farmers, Helen Costello and Jeffrey Patterson, bring 4-H Club members to help with managing the sheep and with introducing them to the kids. Also on the street is a carefully monitored fire pit where helpers prepare s'mores to order, and nearby, other food options are available including warm beverages that can be spiked for adults.

The whole block party experience, says Oyster, is meant to be full of merriment and magic. It's a time for families to come out and enjoy an evening together that doesn't cost a lot but gives them a magical moment together.

In addition to excellent shopping, Wiscasset Holiday Marketfest offers free and low-cost experiences to the community. The sponsors to-date who make this possible are Major Sponsors First National Bank and Rock Paper Scissors, with additional support from The Bird Gallery and Carriage House Gardens.

For Marketfest details, visit the Calendar on www.WiscassetHolidayMarketfest.com. Wiscasset Holiday Marketfest is a partnership between Wiscasset Creative Alliance and Wiscasset Area Chamber of Commerce.



Wiscasset's Merry and Bright Light Parade in 2024 included this Alna Snowmobile Club's float with people surrounding a warming fire. This year's parade is on Friday, Dec. 5, during Wiscasset Holiday Marketfest weekend. (Bob Bond photo)



It's Santa's season and he's ready for anything, even a visit from the Grinch. Visit Santa in his Wiscasset workshop on Friday, Dec. 5, during Wiscasset Holiday Marketfest weekend. (Bob Bond photo)

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Children and parents enjoy a moment with Santa in his Wiscasset workshop on Friday, Dec. 5, during Wiscasset Holiday Marketfest weekend. (Bob Bond photo)

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Arts & Entertainment

Auburn UU's Gingerbread Fair is this weekend

AUBURN, ME – The First Universalist Church of Auburn holds its annual Gingerbread Fair Saturday, Nov. 22, from 9am to 2pm. This year's edition combines long-time favorites with some new additions. Cash and credit will be accepted.

The fair features our famous gift baskets, with themes like "Gourmet Cook," "Pamper Me," "Chocolate Lover," "Movie Night," "Rainy Day Crafts" for kids, and more. Handmade crafts and delectable baked goods are also offered. Silent auction items include unique gifts and collectibles. You'll also find books, elegant plants, gift certificates from local restaurants, and a children's activity.

A hearty lunch



The basket crew takes a break from assembling themed gift baskets for the Gingerbread Sunday Fair - (LtoR- Linda Labrie, Paula Spruill, Joanne Giard, and Shelley Reno).

with gingerbread dessert (\$6) is served from 11am –12:30pm, featuring Christmas carols for a holiday atmosphere.

First Universalist Church of Auburn is located at 169 Pleasant St.

(entrance on Spring St. across from Dairy Joy). Accessible; parking available. FMI, call 783-0461 or contact office@auburn-uu.org. Also on Facebook at <https://tinyurl.com/ginger2025fb>.

The music of Fleetwood Mac to rock Franco Center stage Nov. 22

LEWISTON, ME – Crystal Vision, a Fleetwood Mac tribute band, will perform at the Franco Center at 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22. Crystal Vision provides an authentic experience of the iconic music and energy of Fleetwood Mac, complete with outfit changes and multi-media graphics.

The band's publicist wrote, "There are many Fleetwood Mac tribute bands nationwide and around the world, but what sets Crystal Vision apart is the authentic configuration of voices and instruments, and the resemblance of the three primary vocals to the originals. Loretta as Stevie, Jane as Christine, and Brendan as Lindsey all sound very much like their counterparts, and the blend of all the voices, with Mark and Wanda adding harmonies, can be breathtaking!"

Check out their video: <https://www.youtube.com/@CrystalVision-e5n>

Steve Cutting, a Crystal Vision and Fleetwood Mac fan, said, "This band is just flat out good, I would actually go so far as to say excellent, and I don't say that lightly! If you have the opportunity to see this band, you should most definitely do that!"

Special Two-Album Concert Presentation of



Crystal Vision will perform a special two-album presentation of Fleetwood Mac songs in a tribute concert at 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22, at the Franco Center in Lewiston. Tickets are available online. For more information, call 207-689-2000. Photo credit: Julie Frances Photography

"Fleetwood Mac"/"Rumours": Crystal Vision will be performing the two albums "Fleetwood Mac" (1975-Set 1) and "Rumours" (1977-Set 2) in their entirety, in order, plus added "bonus" tracks of other Fleetwood Mac hits, complete with outfit changes befitting the albums, and other surprises!

"As always, we are very appreciative of our show sponsors. We are thankful for support from Norway Savings Bank and Platz Associates," said Theresa Shanahan, execu-

tive director at the Franco Center.

Meet the band Jane Clukey, Vocals/Keybd/Perc. Jane is a Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music. She combines the sultry vocal sound of Christine McVie with her keyboard flourish.

Brendan Bracy, Vocals/Guitar. Brendan studied Music Composition, is an exceptional guitarist, and brings the Lindsey Buckingham trademark energy to the band.

Loretta Leighton, See Fleetwood, page 14

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FAME shines spotlight on achievement at Showcase Maine

MAINE – The Finance Authority of Maine (FAME) celebrated the outstanding achievements of business and education partners at its annual Showcase Maine event at the Westin Portland Harborview Hotel on Monday, November 3, 2025.

Showcase Maine is FAME’s signature event, bringing together leaders from Maine’s business, lending, government and higher education communities to honor collaborative success. The evening was centered around a showcase of exhibits by FAME’s business and education partners from across the state.

This year’s award recipients included:

Business at Work for Maine Award – Roselyn North Academy was honored for its dedication to elevating early childhood education in Maine. The Academy’s owner, Angela Garrison, said, “I feel like I was put on this earth to provide safe spaces for children to learn and grow. I truly feel like that is my calling and that is why I was put here.” With eight early childhood and preschool locations across southern Maine, the Academy has 125 employees taking care of and teaching close to 450 students each day. The academy’s mission is to care for and nurture children, families, and educators in their communities. Angela said, “It’s very hard to start a brand new business, especially when you don’t really have experience in that field.... We really find value in investing in each other and without FAME’s support and investing in Maine people, I just don’t think any of that would be possible.”

Education at Work for Maine Award – Olympia Snowe Women’s Leadership Institute’s (OSWLI) was recognized for its impact on high school, and for building coalitions across political and geographic lines to help young women realize their dreams. Executive Director Christina McNuff said, “Research shows that girls lose confidence three and a half times faster than boys. It is critical that we stem the tide now. That’s what the program is designed to do.” OSWLI currently serves more than 620 students and is expected to increase that number to approximately 660 in the coming year. An alumna of the program, Tessa Solomon, said, “I have somebody to look up to. I have somebody that I can see myself in and that makes a huge difference.” OSWLI provides concrete outcomes including college credits, training, mentorship and development to girls from 38 schools across all 16 Maine counties and continues to explore ways to expand their impact.

Education at Work for Maine Award – Betsy Mayotte, President of The Institute of Student Loan Advisors (TISLA), was honored for her commitment to empowering hundreds of Mainers every year to navigate a complex student loan system and gain the confidence needed to build resilient futures. Martha Johnston, FAME employee, said, “Betsy is very passionate about making sure people have access to the right information at the right time so they can manage their student loan repayment.” In the past year alone, over 600 Maine borrowers have registered for Betsy’s student loan webinars and TISLA counselors have provided important support to 1,200 Maine borrowers. The impact Betsy is having is especially important given federal student loan debt in Maine is over \$6 billion. FAME has also directly benefited from “Betsy Briefs” updates that are critical to FAME’s success in supporting Maine borrowers. Betsy said, “I really wish more states understood the importance of providing a resource like FAME does for Maine residents.”

Partner at Work for Maine Award – Northern Maine Development Commission (NMDC)

The Partner at Work Award is a new award presented to NMDC in honor of its significant achievements in commercial lending, strategic partnerships, and economic development. Since 2020, NMDC

Area Marines & friends attend 250th USMC birthday celebration

AUBURN, ME - Central Maine Det. 810 MCL celebrated the USMC 250th Birthday. The event

took place at the Hilton Garden Inn in Auburn ME on November 10, 2025.

140 Marines, friends of Marines and guests attended this wonderful event.



Congregations host Transgender Day of Remembrance service

BRUNSWICK, ME

– By a recent count, at least twenty-five transgender or gender variant lives have been lost in the United States since this time last year. Those are just the murders that have been made known, and in the context of the anti-trans focus of the current administration, we know that underreporting is a fact. Many victims of transphobic violence never have their deaths publicly acknowledged. With the recent bombardment of anti-trans legislation aimed to suppress the trans and gender variant community in this country, the acknowledgement of these tragic deaths is all the more critical. Now, more than ever, it is important to speak their names and honor their memories. To this end, local churches and nonprofit organizations are joining together to host a Transgender Day of Remembrance gathering in Brunswick on Thursday, November 20.

What is Transgender Day of Remembrance?

Transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith began Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) in 1999. TDOR began as a vigil to honor the memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in Alliston, Massachusetts in 1998. The vigil also commemorated all the transgender and gender variant lives lost to anti-Trans violence in the time following Rita Hester’s murder. Thus began an important tradition that has become the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance observed throughout the world on November 20th.

TDOR founder Gwendolyn Ann Smith says, “Transgender Day of Remembrance seeks to highlight the losses we face due to anti-transgender bigotry and violence. I am no stranger to the need to fight for our rights, and the right to simply exist is first and foremost. With so many seeking to erase transgender people -- sometimes in the most brutal ways possible -- it is vitally important that those we lose are remembered, and that we continue to fight for justice.”

How can I get involved in the Transgender Day of Remembrance?

Join organizers from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick; First Universalist Church of Yarmouth; Beth Israel Congregation of Bath; First Parish Church in Brunswick; the Sexuality, Women, and Gender Center from Bowdoin College and the Brunswick Pride Committee in a service to honor the transgender and gender variant lives lost this year to transphobic violence.

This Transgender Day of Remembrance vigil will be held at 7:00 pm on Thursday, November 20 at the UU Church of Brunswick located at 1 Middle St. in Brunswick.

While this vigil is being held at a church, it is led and supported by both religious leaders and community members. This TDOR vigil is open to all who support the transgender and gender variant community.

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

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South Portland High School– 637 Highland Ave.
November 15 & 16

Santas Coming to Town Arts & Craft Show
Westbrook National Guard Armory– 120 Stroudwater St., Westbrook
November 22 & 23

46th Annual Thanksgiving Weekend Christmas in New England Arts and Craft Show
Augusta Civic Center– 76 Community Drive, Augusta
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White Christmas kicks off holiday season at Waterville Opera House

WATERVILLE, ME – The Waterville Opera House’s 2025 theatrical season will draw to a close not with a fizzle, but with a bang, as their presentation of Irving Berlin’s *White Christmas* enjoys the longest ever run of a community theatre production in WOH’s history.

The Opera House, part of Waterville Creates, is celebrating its 123rd year in 2025 with record attendance to over 100 performances of theatre, live music, comedy, and variety. In response to steadily increasing demand from audiences, WOH is staging nine performances of *White Christmas* across three weekends, November 14–30.

The stage musical is based on the beloved 1954 Paramount Pictures film

starring Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney, and Vera-Ellen. The story follows two World War II veterans, Bob and Phil, who launch a successful song and dance act after the war. With romance in mind, they join two singing sisters, Betty and Judy, en route to their Christmas performance at a Vermont lodge. By coincidence, the lodge just so happens to be run by Bob and Phil’s old commanding officer. Soon, the four performers hatch a plan to give the old army general an unforgettable Christmas gift.

“I have always loved the story of *White Christmas* and being able to see it come together with this cast and team has been magical,” said Christopher Dostie, who plays Bob. “There are these moments where



the dancing, the music, and the story all click and you can feel that energy on the stage.”

Waterville Creates has another active holiday season coming up, with performances of *The Nutcracker*, *Christmas with the Celts*, and the Glenn Miller Orchestra at the Opera House, holiday movies upcoming at the Maine Film Center, the opening of

Made: Maine Makers Market (formerly the Holiday Bazaar) at Ticonic Gallery, and the eighth annual Joy to the Ville free community celebration. For all that’s going on in December, the cast of *White Christmas* agree that there’s no better way to kick off the festive season.

“This is my absolute favorite Christmas show. I watched it as a child grow-

ing up and I always wanted to be in this show,” said Jessica Haviland, who plays Betty. “Somehow here we are all these years later and I’m finally being able to do something I’ve always dreamed about doing.”

Irving Berlin’s *White Christmas* opened November 14. Evening performances follow November 21, 28, and 29, with 2pm matinées on November 22, 23, and 30.

Tickets are available but selling fast. Go to watervillecreates.org/opera-house, call 207.873.7000, or visit the Ed Harris Box Office in the Paul J. Schupf Art Center, 93 Main Street, Waterville, to make reservations.

This production is sponsored by Marie Cormier, Allen Insurance, Back Office Solutions, Opa,

Maine Savings Federal Credit Union, and the Lockwood Hotel.

Written For the Screen by Norman Krasna, Norman Panama, and Melvin Frank. Music and Lyrics by Irving Berlin. Book by David Ives, and Paul Blake. Original stage production directed by Walter Robbie. Orchestrations by Larry Blank. Vocal and Dance Arrangements by Bruce Pomahac. Presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals.

The 2026 theatrical season will kick off January 30 with *The Nerd*. A cast has just been confirmed and rehearsals are ready to commence for this uproarious two-act comedy. Learn more about what next year has in store at watervillecreates.org/operahouse/woh-2026-season.

Ticonic Gallery transforms into annual winter market

WATERVILLE, ME – Every year at Waterville Creates, the festive season rides in on the heels of Ticonic Gallery’s annual artist market. Made: Maine Makers Market (previously titled the Holiday Bazaar) features the work of 100 Maine artists and crafters for sale, of-

fering the perfect compilation of uniquely Maine-made items for gift-givers. Made is open now and will remain up until January 26, 2026 in the Ticonic Gallery, located in the Paul J. Schupf Art Center at 93 Main Street in Waterville.

“Made is the new-

ly reimagined version of the beloved Holiday Bazaar—featuring the same beautiful handmade creations, now with a bit more charm,” said Waterville Creates’ Exhibition Coordinator Marie Sugden. “We hope visitors will be inspired by the creativity of local makers and



discover their own unique handmade treasures to share with loved ones.”

Made also provides an open and accessible platform for Maine’s creative minds to showcase their diverse talents and sell their wares. Last year’s market welcomed more than 3,000 visitors.

A diverse selection of items—including prints,

toys, clothes, jewelry, stickers, stained glass, lotions, dishware, and much more—is available, showcasing talents in wood, clay, textiles, painting, metalworking, and more. One wall of the gallery displays pieces created by members of Ticonic’s Art of Clay Studio, just next door within the Paul J. Schupf Art Center. Every

single one of these items was hand-made from start to finish—including glazing and firing—just a few steps from the gallery.

Made joins a busy holiday season at Waterville Creates, including the three-week run of Irving Berlin’s *White Christmas* at the Waterville Opera House, the annual Joy to the Ville community celebration on December 6, holiday films at the Maine Film Center, and more.

The market welcomes visitors six days a week (closed Tuesdays and federal holidays), from 11am to 7pm.

Learn more at watervillecreates.org/made.

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November Special Section: National Diabetes Month

How to get your family involved with healthy eating



Contributed by American Diabetes Association

Building healthy eating habits isn't the easiest journey to go on, especially if you feel like you're doing it alone. But when you're supported by your family, it can make a huge difference in your own ability to address the challenges that come with building and maintaining a healthy lifestyle with diabetes.

Check out these tips to get your family involved and excited about the healthy eating changes you're making in your life.

What is Healthy Eating?

"Healthy eating" is a frequently used term but one that is not discussed as often as it should. Healthy eating can imply different things in different cultures, countries, and individual approaches, but regardless of this, it has certain basic characteristics that are important to consider:

Healthy eating has to be sufficient in both quality and quantity to guarantee meeting each person's individual needs.

Healthy eating takes into consideration age, sex, height, the movement you perform (at work or as an exercise), and your overall health. Healthy eating is individualized, so it also takes personal and cultural preferences into account.

Healthy eating involves variety. By eating different types of fruits, vegetables, etc., you are expanding the amount of vitamins and minerals we consume as well as the types of fiber that contribute to better nutrition for your body.

Once all the above

have been considered, the next consideration is how we can help our family eat healthily.

Four Tips to Make Healthy Eating a Family Affair

Lead by Example

One of the best ways to encourage your loved ones is by showing how healthy eating is having a positive impact on your life with diabetes. Don't be shy about how to make modifications in the way you eat, including how you keep track of what you have eaten. Show them how you maintain a healthy balance by eating a variety of foods, including foods that some may deem "bad" for people with diabetes. If you have meal planning and organization tips that keep you on track, encourage your loved ones to try them too!

Finally, track your wins and share how you've overcome challenges with your family. Everyone loves an inspirational story and your family is no exception.

Get Them in the Kitchen

Ask your family to get involved in the cooking process. Many believe healthy eating is bland and flavorless. However, asking for help preparing food, including allowing your loved ones to contribute their styles of cooking, is a great way to bond over healthy food. Are there flavors, techniques, or specific dishes your family has always wanted to explore? Use those opportunities to try something new as a group. Also, while you and your family are cooking together, this is a great time to teach them about concepts like portion sizes and the Diabetes Plate.

Share your healthy cooking tips and have them try some of your recipes or recipes from Diabetes Food Hub®.

Bring Them Grocery Shopping

One of the roadblocks to healthy eating is not knowing how to read a food label or believing that you always have to buy fresh fruits and vegetables (when frozen works well too). Show them around the store and teach them how to read food labels that will aid in the decision making. Also, if you have any money-saving tips on healthy foods, this is a great time to share that knowledge, too.

It is not only about the amount of nutrients we consume, but also the quality of them. Learning to read labels is very important and, in addition, you should consider the ingredients list. A product that is low in carbohydrates or low in fat does not always mean that it is good for you, especially if it is a product that contains many ingredient names you do not understand.

Be Patient

As a person with diabetes, you're aware of how important it is for you to maintain these habits. You're also aware of how beneficial support from loved ones can be. But remember that acquiring new healthy habits is a process and it is best to gradually make changes. Everyone's health journey is different, and it may take your family some time to catch on. Communicate your desire to have your family try new ways to enjoy food with you and be open to teaching them to be the support system you need.



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NNEPRA announces major milestone in improvement project

WELLS, ME – The Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority (NNEPRA) has announced that Great Falls Construction has installed the new passenger platforms at the Wells Regional Transportation Center, as well as the structural steel to support elevator towers and elevated pedestrian bridge connecting the new platforms. These critical steps in the Wells Area Improvement Project (Project), sponsored by NNEPRA, mark visible progress toward improved and increased Amtrak Downeaster service throughout the region. The Project, designed by VHB, is being constructed by Great Falls Construction of Gorham, ME with oversight is provided by WSP.

“We’re thrilled to reach another major milestone in the Wells Area Improvement Project,” said Patrick Harrington, Project Manager at Great Falls Construction. “Placing critical structures using one of the largest mobile cranes in the state required detailed coordination and teamwork. Our project team, alongside our valued partners, executed this effort with precision and a shared commitment to safety. We’re proud of the steady progress and the strong collaboration that continues to drive this project forward.”

The Project, funded by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) and CSX Transportation, began in 2021 and includes a 6-mile extension of rail infrastructure, completed by CSX in December 2024, as well as expanded station facilities designed to increase operational efficiency. Once complete, the Project, in conjunction with signal upgrades, will enable Amtrak to operate an additional Downeaster round-trip between Brunswick and Wells scheduled to provide southern Maine commuters with car-free workday access into the Greater Port-



land region.

Quincy Henzel, Director of the Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce, noted the impact on economic growth, commenting that, “This project fuels regional growth by paving the way for expanded service that will benefit businesses, commuters, visitors and our communities across Greater Portland.”

The Town of Wells staffs and manages the Wells Transportation Center per a lease agreement with the Maine Turnpike Authority (MTA). “The Town greatly appreciates the collaborative working relationship we have had with NNEPRA and MTA in the development and construction of this Project, which provides a fabulous opportunity to better connect Wells and surrounding communities to jobs, attractions, and schools between Boston and Brunswick,” commented Michael Pardue, Wells Town Manager.

“Seeing the vision come to life on site serves as an incredible reminder of the transformative im-

pact this Project will have on passengers and communities along the Downeaster corridor.” said Patricia Quinn, NNEPRA Executive Director, noting that the new station platforms and facility are expected to be completed in 2026.

For more information about the Wells Area Improvement Project or the Downeaster service, please visit <https://www.nnepra.com/project/wells-area-improvement-project-2/>

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Treasurer connects veterans with resources, unclaimed property

AUGUSTA, ME – According to the Maine Bureau of Veterans’ Services (MBVS), Maine has a long-standing history of military service and despite it being a very rural state, it is home to over 106,000 veterans, roughly 10% of the state’s overall population. In honor of Veterans’ Day, the Maine Office of the State Treasurer (OST) is reminding Maine veterans about available resources, and sharing information about recent veteran-related activity in unclaimed property.

OST runs the state’s unclaimed property program, which currently holds over \$364 million in 6 million accounts of unclaimed property that belongs to Maine citizens. This includes money and other financial assets that are considered lost or abandoned when an owner cannot be located after a specified period of time of inactivity.

Treasurer Joseph Perry said, “Maine has a high population of veterans, and we are reaching out to them as part of Veteran’s Day to let them know they may have unclaimed property in our care.” In addition to \$364 million, the Treasurer’s Office also has several military medals, pins, dog tags, and bars. “We’d love to these military items back into the hands of their rightful owners,” Perry said.

In honor of veterans, OST recently scanned its accounts and found over 20 veteran-related/veteran-supporting organizations that have unclaimed property, representing well over \$30,000. Outreach to these organizations has been productive. “We’ve begun reaching out to these organizations to help reunite them with amounts as much as over \$6,000

and as little as \$25,” said Treasurer Perry. To see if you or your organization has unclaimed property go to, www.maineunclaimed-property.gov.

The Office of the Maine Treasurer also oversees Maine’s ABLE Program. The ABLE ME Program is established and maintained by the Maine State Treasurer in accordance with Applicable Law and administered by Bangor Savings Bank. The ABLE ME Program (also referred to as “ABLE ME”) is designed to help eligible individuals with disabilities save for certain qualified disability expenses on a tax-advantaged basis without jeopardizing eligibility for federal means-tested benefits, such as Supplemental Security Income and Medicaid. The ABLE ME Program is intended to operate as a qualified ABLE program, pursuant to Internal Revenue Code Section 529A, that was adopted as part of The Stephen Beck, Jr., Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2014, as amended. This federal law authorizes states and state instrumentalities, such as the Maine State Treasurer, to establish and maintain qualified ABLE programs.

Effective January 1, 2026, the ABLE Age Adjustment Act will expand ABLE account eligibility for veterans whose disability began before age 46, a change from the previous age limit of 26. This change, which is expected to include about one million disabled veterans, allows them to save money in a tax-advantaged account while protecting benefits like Medicaid and VA payments. To qualify, veterans must meet the age of onset criteria and either receive Social Security disability benefits or provide a doctor’s certi-

fication of a disability that began before age 46.

Below is the list of organizations that have unclaimed property in Maine:

- American Cold War Veterans Inc - Under \$25
- Back Woods Veterans Outreach - Under \$25
- Dept of Veteran Affairs - Over \$100
- Disabled American Veterans - Over \$8,000
- Help Hospitalized Veterans - Over \$25
- Maine Veterans Home - Over \$25
- Paralyzed Veterans (of America) - Over \$25
- Togus Veterans Hospital - Over \$1,000
- Veteran s Affairs News - Over \$25
- Veterans Memorial Hospital - Over \$25
- Veterans Assistance Foundation - Under \$25
- Veterans Choice Programs VACAA - Over \$25
- Veterans Memorial Post 205 - Under \$25
- Veterans of Foreign Wars (Waterville) - Over \$100
- Veterans of WWI Aux 2333 (Nobleboro) - Over \$25
- Veterans Variety - Over \$100
- Fearless Nation PTSD Support - Over \$25
- American Legions (multiple from around the state)
- American Red Cross - Over \$25
- AMVETS (South Portland, Augusta, Yarmouth, Biddeford, Sanford, Woolwich, & Jay)
- Maine Army National Guard - Over \$500
- Salvation Army - Over \$100
- Gold Star Wives of America - Over \$300
- Wounded Warrior Project - Over \$3,000
- Augusta Area Military Association – Over \$10,000
- Military Officers Association of America - Over \$1,000.

Factory 3 named Small Business of the Year by the City of Portland

PORTLAND, ME – Factory 3, a makerspace and creative hub in Portland’s Libbytown neighborhood, has been named Small Business of the Year by the City of Portland. The award recognizes Factory 3’s impact on the local creative economy, its support for independent artists and entrepreneurs, and its role in fostering a strong, collaborative community.

The award will be presented at the Annual City of Portland Business Award Event, held at Ocean Gateway on November 20, 2025, at 4:30

p.m. Hosted by the City’s Department of Housing and Economic Development, the event celebrates Portland businesses that demonstrate innovation, leadership, and community contribution.

Founded in 2017 by Patrick Russell and located at 105 Saint James Street, Factory 3 has become a hub of creativity and entrepreneurship. The makerspace offers facilities for woodworking, metalworking, fiber arts, 3D printing, laser cutting, bike repair, electronics, and design—along with private studios and educa-

tional classes.

“I started Factory 3 to reduce the barriers to making physical goods,” said Patrick. “It’s been incredible to see people use the space exactly as intended—learning new skills, starting businesses, and building an amazing community.”

Over the past eight years, Factory 3 has become a cornerstone of Portland’s maker community—providing affordable access to tools, workspace, and education while helping hundreds of local makers and small businesses get their start.

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Westbrook City Band's free Christmas concert is this weekend

BUXTON, ME – November 23, 2024 at 2:00 PM. North Congregational Church, 22 Church Hill Rd., Buxton, ME 04093. Family friendly event featuring seasonal favorites and a sing-along. Sunday,



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FREE Christmas Concert

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SUN NOV 23 2 PM

22 Church Hill Rd. Buxton



Maine author releases *Here to Stay / Lives in 17th-Century Canada*

MAINE – Known for writing his family stories, Denis Ledoux has now taken his family writing into the distant past with *Here to Stay / Lives in 17th-Century Canada*. In his latest book, he writes about four early family members from the 1660s, and by placing them in a vivid historical context, he has created a glimpse into the first century of Canada as Canadian settlers struggled against formidable odds to make a foothold on the continent. *Here to Stay* is a book filled with heroic effort, profound tragedy and perilous survival. The exploits of these pioneer Canadians are clearly and compellingly portrayed. *Here to Stay / Lives in 17th-Century Canada* offers a readable account of the lives of the founding North American settlers. “What I uncovered

was both heroism and a deep difference between these people and us. Their lives were much harder and certainly more precarious. Death—whether by disease, raids (both English and Indian) or childbirth—was always imminent.” Louis Guimont and Louis Gagné, both among my ancestors, were tortured by the Iroquois and burned to death; Marie-Marthe Pinson, with whom an ancestor lodged, died soon after childbirth, which was the case in one out of every eighty births. Since women had multiple pregnancies, the possibility of a birthing woman dying ran high. “They were people who lived in a despotic regime that was what we would call today a dictatorship. The early Canadians also adhered to a religion that was rigid and in the service of the government.

Medicine was primitive. If you broke your arm, it was going to be “fixed” by one of your parents. No analgesics available!” In *Here to Stay*, Ledoux presents the personal in the lives of four of his ancestors. Because New France was a royal colony, records were preserved in both France and Canada. This duplication provides a plethora of information. By following traces, Ledoux explored various individuals, noting their contracts—land holdings, employment, marriage, birth of children, lawsuits—and he was able to make reasonable guesses about relationships. In one case, he concluded that two men were best friends. “How often do genealogists find that sort of personal detail?” he says happily. *Here to Stay* dives deep below the facts and dates to offer a better understanding of early Canadians. “In all, I spent some ten years researching and writing. I grew to know more about Québec history than about the history of New England where I live.” While *Here To Stay* is structured around the lives of Ledoux’s first four ancestors bearing his family names, it is written as an “everyman” and “everywoman” text. “Whoever your early Canadian ancestors were,” says Ledoux, “they were a lot like these people.” “Books such as my *Here to Stay*,” continues Ledoux, “give voice to people overlooked by history. When you study Canada or the US, you get the names of the muckymucks but not of the average Joe and Jane—or Jeanne—who created lives that sustained the colony. These people were heroes, but they are often relegated to oblivion and so lost to history. In 1990, Ledoux’s short story collection, *Mountain Dance and Other Stories*, won the Maine Arts Commission’s Fiction Award. In both 1992 and 1996, he won Individual

Writing Fellowships from the Maine Arts Commission. He has been helping people to write memoirs since 1989 via The Memoir Network. In 1996, the Association of Personal Historians named him Personal Historian of the Year. Ledoux has studied this remarkable account with historical information that brings much of the past into vivid portrayal. Soleil Press is the publishing arm of The Memoir Network, a company which helps people chronicle their lives via memoir writing. The Network has assisted thousands of individuals to start and complete their memoirs. *Here to Stay* was launched on October 15, 2025, by The Memoir Network, 95 Gould Road, Lisbon Falls, Maine 04252. The book is available through the Memoir Network, through Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble or any bookstore. The office can be reached by calling 207-353-5454 or by email sent to memoires@thememoirnetwork.com.

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Sunday, November 30th
Standish Municipal Center

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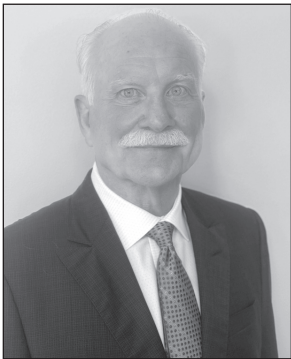
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Camden National Corporation announces new Vice-Chair

Ms. McCarthy has served as an independent member of the Board since 2018, chairing the Compensation Committee and serving on the Technology Committee.



Ms. McCarthy served as Chief Operations Officer at L.L.Bean before retiring in April 2025. Ms. McCar-



"I am honored to succeed Larry and grateful for the chance to build on his inspiring leadership. In the years I have served with him, I have come to admire his passion, leadership, and dedication to this strong organization," Ms. McCarthy said.

***Awards celebrate sustainable,
high performance Maine homes***

"I just finished judging and have to say that the quality of the projects, the solutions they presented, and the sheer number of projects show just how far the industry has come," said Michael Ingui of Ingui Architecture in New York, N.Y. "You can truly see the next steps and where the future is headed."

NEW BUILD:
WINNER (tie): “West
Garden House”—ar-

MATERIALS /
METHODS INNOVA-

Award of Merit: “A Sustainable Landscape that Teaches and Feeds”—The Ecology School; Master plan and construction architects: Richardson & Associates; architect firms: Kaplan Thompson Architects, Simons Architects, BRIBURN

These projects will be featured in the spring 2026 issue of Green & Healthy Maine HOMES and full details, including project teams, will be available soon at greenmainehomes.com/awards, where each year's award winners will remain highlighted for years to come.

Sponsors for the Green Home + Design Awards include Criterion Engineers, Hammond Lumber Company, Loewen Windows, Logic Windows & Doors, Pinnacle Window Solutions and TimberHP.



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DEAN MCCRILLIS

ARTIST
TALK

Reading Sign: Expanding on observations through process

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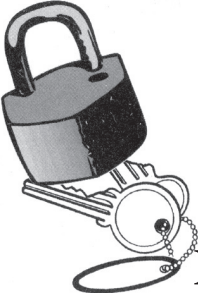
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AUBURN – Stock up on BOOKS at great prices — 50¢ to \$3! Shop Saturday mornings at the APL Bookstore 9:00-12:30 for gently used books, ever-changing inventory, wide selection of children’s, fiction and non-fiction books, plus DVDs and puzzles. Auburn Public Library, lower level, 46 Spring Street, Auburn.

Nov 20
PORTLAND – Portland Public Library invites the community to an evening of dialogue, insight, and hope at the Recovery Ready Community Discussion on Thursday, November 20, from 5:00 to 6:30 PM in the Rines Auditorium at the Downtown Branch.

Nov 20
SCARBOROUGH – French Discussion Group at Scarborough Public Library. Interested in French conversation? Join other French speakers every fourth Thursday from 5:30-6:30pm for casual conversation. Beginners and experienced speakers are all welcome.

Nov 21-30
WATERVILLE – Irving Berlin’s White Christmas performances continue at The Waterville Opera House. Evening performances November 21, 28, and 29, with 2pm matinées on November 22, 23, and 30.

Tickets are available but selling fast. Go to watervillecreates.org/opera-house, call 207.873.7000, or visit the Ed Harris Box Office in the Paul J. Schupf Art Center, 93 Main Street, Waterville, to make reservations.

Nov 22
There will be a holiday fair at Six Street Church on Saturday, November 22 from 9-1. There will be a raffle table, food – fudge, cookies, pies, knit goods, white elephant table, etc,. Vendor tables will be available for \$10.

Nov 22
GORHAM – Christmas Craft Fair - Maker’s

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

Market at White Rock Grange #380, 33 Wilson Road, Gorham on Saturday, November 22, 2025 9am -2pm.

Over 2 dozen crafters are coming together offering a variety of handmade items. FOOD BANK COLLECTION: Drop off food bank items and receive a free raffle ticket. Follow us on Facebook for more details: <https://www.facebook.com/whiterockgrange380/>.

Nov 22
GORHAM – Christmas Craft Fair Nov. 22, 2025, 9am-2pm at White Rock Community Clubhouse, 34 Wilson Road, Gorham

White Rock Friendship Club hosting Christmas Craft Fair as a college scholarship fundraiser. Many handmade crafts, bakesale, white elephant table and raffles. Lunch will be served: homemade corn chowder and steamed hot dogs!

Nov 22
AUBURN – Gingerbread Fair, 9am-2pm. Gift baskets, baked goods, crafts, silent auction, books, plants, gift cards, and children’s activity. Luncheon with holiday music from 11am-12:30pm. First Universalist Church of Auburn, 169 Pleasant St. (enter on Spring St. across from Dairy Joy). Parking; accessible. FMI 783-0461.

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

Nov 23
BUXTON – Free Christmas Concert with the Westbrook City Band. Family friendly event featuring seasonal favorites and a sing-along. Sunday, November 23, 2024 at 2:00 PM at North Congregational Church, 22 Church Hill Rd., Buxton, ME 04093.

Nov 30
GORHAM – The White Rock Friendship Club is hosting the 41st Annual Tree Lighting at the White Rock Community Clubhouse (34 Wilson Road) on Sunday, November 30th at 4:30pm. Listen to the reading of the Christmas story. Sing Christmas carols while sipping hot cocoa around the Christmas tree. We hear Santa will join us again this year! <https://www.facebook.com/events/1316655429781649>

Dec 3
LEWISTON – Wednesday, December 3rd from 1pm to 2pm at the Lewiston Public Library: IDENTIFYING FRAUDS AND SCAMS

In partnership with the National Digital Equity Center, the Lewiston Public Library will host an in-person class, Identifying Frauds and Scams. Free. Registration Required: https://digitalequitycenter.org/classes/class/identifying-fraud-scams/?instance_id=6423.

Dec 5
WISCASSET – The Wiscasset community is invited to welcome Santa to the Village when a Merry and Bright Light Parade drops the rotund fellow off at his workshop, 7 Lincoln St., on Friday, December 5, around 5:45pm.

Dec 11
NEW GLOUCESTER – Free artist event at Unity Environmental University. Each event highlights a Maine-based artist with a pop-up exhibition, lecture, and catered reception. Our forthcoming event: Dean McCrillis: Reading Sign: Expanding on observations through process on December

11th at 5:00 pm, 70 Farm View Dr, New Gloucester, ME 04260.

Dec 12, 13
BATH – Twisted Christmas: A Nice & Naughty Evening of Entertainment Friday December 12th and Saturday December 13th at 8:00 p.m. Longreach Kitchen & Catering 387 Whiskeag Road, Bath. \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Tickets available online at StudioTheatreofBath.com/twisted-christmas.

Dec 13
LEWISTON – Join us at the Lewiston Public Library for our next fundraising event to support the Children’s Department renovation, Chill Yoga Fest on Saturday, December 13th with classes going on from 9:30AM – 1:30PM in Callahan Hall.

There will be four 45-minute classes- All Levels Hatha, Chair Yoga, Stretching, Breathing & Meditation, and Children’s Yoga! \$40 full pass, or \$18 per individual class. See LPL’s website to purchase tickets.

Dec 13 & 14
AUGUSTA – The Augusta Symphony Orchestra invites you to celebrate the magic of the holidays with two performances at South Parish Church, 9 Church Street in Augusta. Join us on Saturday, December 13 at 7:00 p.m. or Sunday, December 14 at 3:00 p.m. for a festive program filled with timeless classics and holiday favorites.

Jan 22
NEW GLOUCESTER – Free artist event at Unity Environmental University. Each event highlights a Maine-based artist with a pop-up exhibition, lecture, and catered reception. Matt Russ: Moments of Clarity at 5:00 pm, 70 Farm View Dr, New Gloucester, ME 04260.

Feb 26
NEW GLOUCESTER – Free artist event at Unity Environmental University. Each event highlights a Maine-based artist

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with a pop-up exhibition, lecture, and catered reception. Ian Trask: Art from the Waste Stream at 5:00 pm, 70 Farm View Dr, New Gloucester, ME 04260.

Ap 9
NEW GLOUCESTER – Free artist event at Unity Environmental University. Each event highlights a Maine-based artist with a pop-up exhibition, lecture, and catered reception. Ben Potter: Pollen and Gatorade: Materials and Connotations in the Landscape, at 5:00 pm, 70 Farm View Dr, New Gloucester, ME 04260.

May 28
NEW GLOUCESTER – Free artist event at Unity Environmental University. Each event highlights a Maine-based artist with a pop-up exhibition, lecture, and catered reception. Edwige Charlot: Artist talk, at 5:00 pm, 70 Farm View Dr, New Gloucester, ME 04260.

brings vast musical talent and experience to the band. Through his solid bass and unassuming presence, he epitomizes John McVie.

Wanda McNeil, Vocals/Keybd/Perc. Adding critical embellishments through harmony, keyboard, and percussion, Wanda mirrors the supporting role of Sharon Celani.

Doors and cash bar open at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door day of show. Tickets can be purchased in advance online at www.francocenter.org, by phone at 207-689-2000, or in person at the Franco Center’s box office which is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Anchour
Continued from page 3

of Client Service. “We are always striving to create an environment where team members feel empowered, valued, and engaged. This award is a powerful reflection of that.”

Maine’s creative and technology sectors have become vital contributors to the state’s economy—fueled by a growing network of high-performing businesses that balance innovation with Maine’s signature craftsmanship and community values. Anchour’s recognition as one of the state’s best workplaces underscores that momentum and highlights the region’s expanding role in the national creative economy.

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Keepsake Height Ribbon Ornaments

Friday
December 12th
10AM-11:30AM



Recommended for caregivers and their children ages birth-6 years old.

3rd Floor Children’s Department



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

Chill Yoga Fest



Saturday, December 13th
9:30am - 1:30pm

\$40 for all 4 classes or \$18 per individual class

Ticket purchases here:
lponline.org/events/chill-yoga-fest

Callahan Hall



Fundraising Event to Support the Children’s Department Renovation

Legislation to support Maine caregivers

AUGUSTA, ME – On July 1, Gov. Janet Mills signed into law LD 815, sponsored by Rep. Kristen Cloutier, D-Lewiston, which will fund the Respite for ME Program to support Maine caregivers. The legislation that established the program permanently within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), LD 709, was signed into law in April.

This legislation is based on the success of a two-year Respite for ME pilot program which offered grants of up to \$5,171 over two years to Mainers providing care to loved ones at home. The evaluation results of the program, which concluded in September 2024, clearly demonstrated its success, with participants reporting that they felt better equipped and more resilient in their ability to sustain their essential caregiving roles.

“Right now, nearly one in eight Mainers are providing caregiving support to a loved one, which could include taking care of aging parents, spouses or children with disabilities. Studies have shown that Mainers provide up to \$2.9 billion in unpaid care annually,” said Cloutier. “This program will help give more of these caregivers the resources they need to be successful. Stakeholders like the Alzheimer’s Association of Maine, the Maine Council on Aging, AARP and others who fiercely advocated for this program are the reason it is now a reality, and I am grateful for their support throughout the last few years.”

LD 709 will permanently establish the Respite for ME Program. It directs DHHS to administer the program for the purpose of providing respite care and supplemental services for family caregivers and older relative caregivers. Codifying this program permanently into state law is critical in order to utilize all available federal, state and local resources.

LD 815 will work in partnership with LD 709 and provide ongoing funding to the Office of Aging and Disability Services within DHHS for respite care and supplemental services for family caregivers and older relative caregivers.

The new laws went into effect on Sept. 24, 2025.

Rep. Kristen Cloutier is serving her fourth term in the Maine House and represents House District 94, which includes part of her hometown of Lewiston. She is the House chair of the Taxation Committee and serves as a member of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee.

Fall enrollment up at Maine’s Community Colleges

AUGUSTA, ME – Fall enrollment is up three percent at Maine’s community colleges, marking another historic high enrollment for the seven colleges.

“This sustained enrollment growth is critical at a time when Maine’s economy needs more skilled employees in a range of industries that we specifically target for high-quality, low-cost instruction – from construction to computer science. This ongoing demand is a sign that we are executing on our mission of providing an education that works for Mainers looking to find meaningful work and a better life,” said David Daigler, president of the Maine Community College System (MCCS).

Significant initiatives at Maine’s community colleges in recent years have played a large role in continuing the system’s role as the state’s premiere workforce training partner.

Recent changes include new transfer agreements with the University of Maine System and six independent Maine colleges aimed at making the four-year college pathway more affordable and seamless; Free Community College scholarships that cover 100% of tuition for the high school graduating classes of 2020-2025; expanded instruction hours and new remote learning options; new certificate and degree programs to meet market demands; and academic initiatives that increase student success and improve the student experience. At the same time, the colleges serve as vibrant community centers with new housing options, new sports teams, and additional student events and activities.

As of October 15, fall enrollment was 15,833 students, up 3% from 15,366 students on the same date last year. Tuition and fees for a full-time in-state student are \$4,156 a year, the lowest in New England.

Starting this year, MCCS has changed the way it reports fall enrollment to exclude Early College students, who are high school students taking community college courses at their high school or at a college campus. The new reporting method aligns MCCS with the University of Maine System, which began excluding Early College students from its enrollment reports several years ago. The change also ensures transparency in the makeup of Maine’s community college student body.

Using the new model, fall enrollment at Maine’s community colleges has increased 20% since fall 2019 (the last pre-COVID fall class) and increased 13% since 2017.

Although official fall enrollment figures only capture degree-seeking students, MCCS has also significantly expanded short-term workforce training programs that take less than

a year to complete and are generally free for students. These short-term programs are coordinated by the system’s Harold Alfond Center for the Advancement of Maine’s Workforce. Since 2022, 45,000 people have enrolled in those programs, which focus on quickly and efficiently acquiring a particular skill – such as basic construction skills in 10 weeks, a three-week welding course with a weekly \$500 stipend, or a compact nine-month option for a medical assisting program.

MCCS is on track to train more than 100,000 students in short-term workforce training programs by 2030, the result of a historic five-year grant from the Harold Alfond Foundation. Graduates of the short-term program are eligible for scholarships toward a degree or certificate program.

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

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