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Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1999

Thursday, December 18, 2025 • FREE

Christmas Eve services at newly reopened Court St. Baptist Church

AUBURN - The congregation of the Court Street Baptist Church (CSBC), Auburn, returned to 129 Court Street for its worship services and other activities on Sunday, December 14th.

Repairs and renovations recently were completed to fix major damage caused by the destructive rain storm of July 25th, 2023. The parishioners along with their new pastor, Reverend William ("Pastor Will") Hough, are excited to be coming 'home,' and are eager to welcome area residents to join them then and at the Christmas Eve which will be celebrated at



6:pm on December 24th in the historic church.

Pastor Will, who had shepherded the Millinocket (Maine) Baptist Church earlier in his ministry, returned to Maine in September of this year after



serving parishes in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Maryland. He already has brought a new vitality to CSBC, and is exhilarated at the prospect of having new folks become part of the 129 Court Street family.

Lewiston firefighter instructor selected as Monster Finalist

LEWISTON, ME -Daniel Thompson, a High School Firefighter Instructor at Lewiston Regional Technical Center was selected as a Monster Finalist in the Wasabi Fenway Bowl's sixth annual Honor Roll, a program that recognizes educators across New England for their dedication to students and their communities. The

Wasabi Fenway Bowl is set to take place on December 27 at Fenway Park.

Dan was on duty the day of a tragic Portland fire that claimed the lives of several young adults. Years later, when Lewiston was shattered by a mass shooting, Dan answered a new call to service by building something that would outlast tragedy; He founded the region's first high school firefighter training program.

The 15 educators featured in this year's Honor Roll, including Dan, were nominated by their peers for their outstanding contribution and willingness to go the extra mile. Chosen out of 600 nominations across 100 cities

See Firefighter, page 14

December Special Section

National Impaired Driving Prevention Month page 9

Farrington challenges Gov. Mills no bid contracts

MAINE – Assistant Senate Republican Leader Matthew Harrington, R-York, sent a letter to Governor Janet Mills requesting answers surrounding her administration's use of no-bid contracts. Sen. Harrington's inquiry comes after changes have been made to the cover page for no-bid contracts and reporting on numerous no-bid contracts of questionable need.

Among the questionable no-bid contracts Harrington highlights in his letter are expenditures on a "happiness expert," payments to statewide

news outlets for positive coverage, and hundreds of thousands of dollars to house a non-citizen at a residential care facility.

These expenditures, along with State Auditor Matt Dunlap's 2024 Single Audit Report, which found dozens of material weaknesses and significant deficiencies in the administration's procurement processes, raise serious concerns about the use of both state and federal taxpayer funds.

"We've all seen reporting about absurd no-bid expenditures coming from the Mills administration. Now, on top of that, they've changed the non-competitive procurement form to seemingly make it easier to bypass the competitive bidding process," said Assistant Senate Republican Leader Matthew Harrington, R-York.

"Maine's taxpayers deserve to know exactly how their money is being spent. I hope the Governor will answer the simple questions I've posed to her regarding her administration's procurement processes."

2026 dog licensing is underway

LEWISTON, ME -The Lewiston City Clerk's

Department reminds all Lewiston dog owners it is time to relicense their pet for 2026. The state law requires all dogs to be licensed if they are six months old or older. Per state law, a dog's license expires December 31 of each year and the deadline to renew is by January 31.

Renewal notices were mailed out last week to approximately 2000 dog owners who licensed their dogs for 2025. Residents may renew their pet's license at City Hall or via the mail-in portion of the renewal notice by mailing it in or delivering it to the red City Hall drop box by the Park St entrance. Licenses can also be renewed online at the city's website www.lewistonmaine. gov/123 and the tag for the

new year will be mailed to

the owner. If a dog owner registers their dog via the online program, they can also sign up for the free Maine microchip registration tracking service. The dog's microchip number and microchip issuer can be entered into the state database for future tracking should the dog get loose or

In order to license a dog in Maine, the dog must have a current rabies vaccination and this certificate must be presented at the time of licensing. If a dog owner cannot locate their copy, they should contact their veterinarian's office to request a duplicate copy of the rabies certificate. An invoice or receipt from the veterinarian's office is not acceptable proof.

Rabies is a serious problem in the State. Residents are urged to take the time to protect their pet against this deadly virus. If an animal is suspected of having rabies, they are quarantined. If during this time, the signs of rabies still appear, the only way to test an animal for rabies is to euthanize the animal. Dog licensing ensures rabies vaccination which protects the health of your pet as well as the health of the community.

Annual license fees are \$6 for a dog that is spayed or neutered and \$11 for a dog that is not altered.

Questions can be directed to the City Clerk's Department at 513-3124 or cityclerkoffice@lewiston-

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



6:00 p.m. 129 Court St Auburn



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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Day's Jewelers celebrates grand opening of new location

SALEM, NH – Day's Jewelers, an employee-owned New England fine jeweler with more than 111 years of history, proudly celebrated the grand opening of its newest location at Tuscan Village in Salem, New Hampshire. The multi-day celebration kicked off with an official ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, November 20, hosted in partnership with the Southern New Hampshire Chamber of Commerce.

The event welcomed customers, community members, and longtime partners to experience Day's newest store, a warm, modern space designed to elevate the jewelry shopping experience through artistry, craftsmanship, and heartfelt service. Guests enjoyed refreshments, interactive experiences, exclusive offers, and daily giveaways throughout the four-day celebra-

"This new store marks an exciting milestone for our company. We're not just expanding our footprint — we're strengthening our commitment to serving our customers and investing in the communities we're proud to be part

Day's Jewelers

of," said Joe Corey, President of Day's Jewelers. "This space represents innovation, connection, and opportunity, and we look forward to welcoming everyone through our doors."

The Salem store marks Day's Jewelers' ninth location and its third in New Hampshire, reinforcing the company's commitment to serving the region with integrity, exceptional value, and a focus on creating meaningful moments for customers. Situated in the heart of Tuscan Village, the new store features an elevated, contemporary design, featuring everything from natural diamonds to unique one-of-a-kind gemstones and designs, a full-service on-site jewelry repair shop, and a robust custom design space where guests can bring their personal vision

"We are incredibly excited to be in our new home in Tuscan Village," said Paul Baker, Store Manager. "The team and I are honored to be part of

this vibrant lifestyle destination and look forward to bringing Day's heritage of service and community involvement to Southern New Hampshire."

Throughout the weekend, Day's Jewelers also introduced its new "Live, Love, Sparkle" give-back bracelets, created to support children's charities nationally through Jewelers for Children, and locally through CASA of New Hampshire and Make-A-Wish New Hampshire. All profits from bracelet sales are donated to JFC, and customers may choose to keep their bracelet or return it to Day's for distribution to CASA advocates, volunteers, and wish recipients. This initiative continues throughout the holiday season.

As the holidays approach, guests are invited to explore the new store, discover meaningful gifts, and participate in Tuscan Village's seasonal festivities, including the installation of Day's "Love Locks" activation within the Holiday Shoppes.

Day's Jewelers is proud to join the Salem and Tuscan Village communities and looks forward to building lasting relationships for generations to come.

Send all items for What's Going On to the Editor.

Deadline is Friday by five.

Registration now open for WinterKids Downhill 24



WESTBROOK, **ME** – Registration is now open for the 14th Annual WinterKids Downhill 24, presented by Agren. Maine's only 24-hour on snow team challenge returns to Sugarloaf on February 26 and 27, 2026. Participants of all ages are invited to ski, ride, or skin as part of a joyful celebration that supports outdoor play and learning for children across Maine.

The Downhill 24 brings together co-workers, friends, families, students, and community groups for a full night and day of movement and connection. Costumes music, and team spirit help create a fun, festival style atmosphere. Everyone chooses their own pace: one lap, many laps, sunrise laps, or cheering from the lodge. It all contributes to helping Maine kids thrive out-

"Our crew has been part of the Downhill 24 for a long time, and it has been one of the highlights of our year," says WinterKids board member, Joe LaJoie. "We have had so much fun out there together, and now our kids are stepping in with their own excitement and ideas. It makes me proud to see them take on the challenge and make it their own. This event brings out the best in people, and it feels good to share that energy with the next generation."

In 2025, the Downhill 24 community raised more than \$770,000 for WinterKids programs. Those programs help schools and families across Maine access joyful winter experiences that nurture curiosity, confidence, and healthy habits for every child.

This year's goal is \$820,000 dollars.

Event Details

WinterKids Downhill 24

Date: Thursday, February 26 at 8 pm through Friday, February 27 at 8 pm

Location: Sugarloaf Mountain Resort

Who Can Join: Open to all ages and abilities. Youth under 18 participate with an adult.

Registration: www. winterkids.org/down-hill24

Team spots are lim-

ited. Early registration is encouraged.

Team Options

Teams may include 1 to 12 participants.

School Teams: Any Maine school may register for with a \$3,000 fundraising commitment. Funds raised above that amount are shared equally with the school and WinterKids.

Corporate Teams: Companies cover the team fee. Participants enjoy the event without additional fundraising commitments.

Youth Fundraising Teams: Teams made up entirely of participants under 18. Participants on these teams commit to a fundraising minimum of \$250.

Mixed Ages Teams: Adult teams or adult and youth combinations. Adult participants on these teams commit to a fundraising minimum of \$500.

College Teams: Open to any college group interested in a unique 24-hour winter challenge with friends. Participants on these teams commit to a fundraising minimum of \$500

Ways to Join the Celebration

Create or join a team
Become an event
sponsor

Volunteer (volunteers receive a free lift pass, with additional bonus rewards for overnight shifts)

Donate to support a participant or team

The WinterKids Downhill 24 is made possible through the generous support of Agren Appliance (Presenting Sponsor), Franklin Printing, Herc Rentals, Pike Industries, Patra, Portland Media Group, and WEX, along with our Community Partners, WMTW (Official Broadcast Partner), Central Maine Power, and L.L. Bean.







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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Boy Scouts prepare for Christmas tree recycling

AUBURN, ME Scouts from Troop 121 in Auburn prepare this year's mailing of tag for their annual Christmas tree recycling program. Pictured from left to right are: Alex Burnham, Jacob Parcell, Cayden Moody, Anthony Seddon, Logan Dumont, Darius Reaves and Jackson

For the 14th year, the Boy Scout Troop 121 will again pick up Christmas trees in Lewiston and Auburn. While the cities provide locations for free tree disposal, they no longer collect the trees at curbside. For a minimum donation of \$5, the Scouts will pick up Christmas trees on Saturday, January 10, 2026, and Sunday, January 11, 2026. For safety reasons the trees should not be placed curbside until the morning of



January 10th.

Money raised by the program goes directly to troop scouting activities. Troop 121 was created to help give youth with special physical, mental and emotional challenges the opportunity for success in a safe scouting environment that builds character, encourages citizenship, teaches life skills and develops personal fitness.

To make a pick-up request, send a donation by Jan. 8th to Troop 121, United Methodist Church, 439 Park Ave., Auburn, ME 04210. The troop, in turn, will send a tag to place on the tree when it is put curbside. For more information please call 783-0790.

Lewiston announces city board, committee vacancies

LEWISTON, ME ber 16.

- The City of Lewiston is seeking resident volunteers to serve as members of the City's various boards and committees. Lewiston residents who are interested in applying can contact the City Clerk's Department to complete a committee volunteer application. Application forms are also available on the Boards and Committees page of the City's website at www. lewistonmaine.gov. Applications can be submitted at any time and will be accepted until the positions are filled however, the requested filing deadline is 12:00pm on Tuesday, December 23 with the exception of the applications for Board of Assessment Review which was due by 4pm on Tuesday, Decem-

The following city boards and committees have current openings: Board of Appeals, Board of Assessment Review, Complete Streets Committee, Finance Committee, Historic Preservation Review Board, Housing Committee, L/A Community Forestry Board, Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission, Lewiston Area Public Health Committee, Library Board of Trustees, and Planning

Committee descriptions, meeting times, and other information about committee service are also available on the City's website.

Due to residency requirements in the City Charter, neither the Board of Appeals nor the Planning Board may have more than two members serving simultaneously from the same wards. This provision is to ensure adequate and balanced representation from all sections of the city. As such, due to ward limits, applications for Board of Appeals from Wards 5 and 7 cannot be accepted at this time.

Residents are welcome to contact the City Clerk's Department at 513-3124 with any questions they may have regarding the committee appointment process. Completed applications shall be submitted to the City Clerk's Office for processing. Office hours are Monday. Wednesday, Thursday, 7:45am - 4:00pm and Tuesday, 7:45am - 5:30pm.



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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:

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

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.

How to Donate?

DM for pickup

Drop-Off Locations:

8 Turning Leaf Drive, Windham, ME

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

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Seniors Not Acting Their Age A Memorable Hike to the Summit of Day Mountain

In my opinion, there is no place in Maine that offers more outstanding outdoor recreational opportunities than Acadia National Park (ANP) on Mount Desert Island. The 47,000-acre park includes 26 named mountain peaks for hiking, 46 miles of crushed stone Carriage Roads ideal for biking, and numerous opportunities for sea kayaking along 64 miles of rocky coastline.

My wife, Nancy, and I have been taking fall vacations in ANP for over 40 years. We began when our two sons were little boys and have returned with family and friends almost every year since. For many years, our outdoor club, the Penobscot Paddle & Chowder Society (PPCS), held its annual multi-day fall outing in the park where we always had a full schedule of hiking, biking and sea kayaking.

Two years ago, the PPCS decided to change venues for the fall outing. After missing a park visit last fall, Nancy and I decided to return on our own.

Circumstances are different this year. I'm rehabbing from knee surgery and Nancy is recovering from some chronic joint issues. We were in search of hikes that would accommodate our current physical abilities and limitations.

After some research, we concluded that an ascent of Day Mountain in to be negotiated before arthe southeastern sector of the park would meet our needs. The relatively easy climb is unique in that it is the only peak in the park that has both a hiking trail and a Carriage Road that lead to the top. Since hiking up steep mountains is almost always easier and safer than descending, we decided to climb the hiking trail and possibly return on the Carriage Road.

We began our trek at the relatively new Day Mountain Trailhead located just outside of the park on Route 3 near Seal Harbor. We benefited from excellent hiking weather enjoying a cool, partly sunny fall day.

After crossing the highway, we entered Day Mountain Trail on a wide unobstructed path in a mixed conifer and hardwood forest. After a short distance, the trail passes Champlain Monument erected in honor of the French explorer, Samuel Champlain, who is credited with naming Mount Desert Island when he sailed past

Soon after, we traversed a lengthy log bridge and crossed the Carriage Road at a junction where the road begins the climb to the summit. We reentered the hiking trail on the left of the Carriage Road and began climbing more steadily. Soon after, a succession of steep ledges had riving at a massive boulder that provided a partial view of Seal Harbor and the islands beyond.

After another Carriage Road crossing, extended open ledges dominated the trail and led to an even larger boulder that provided a phenomenal view of the entire Cranberry Isles archipelago. We lingered to reminisce about a PPCS sea kayak trip to the most distant island in the chain, Baker Island. During that memorable voyage, we stopped to visit the ancient Baker Island Lighthouse and then traversed the island for a dance on famed Dancing Rock. A bumpy circumnavigation of the island followed.

Leaving fond memories behind, we persisted up the most precipitous ledges on the trail before arriving at the summit. The Carriage Road ends with a loop at the summit. We stopped on a huge boulder for a lunch break while enjoying additional outstanding views of the islands in the south.

The intimidating ledges near the top convinced us to descend on the longer Carriage Road. Initially, we enjoyed the added benefit of marvelous ocean views facing southwest. We made the right choice as the crushed rock surface and gentle grade were welcome relief for our recovering joints.

We had not seen anyone during the trip until rounding a sharp bend at about the road's midway point. A team of cyclists were persevering up the steady incline. Heavily dressed for the cold weather, they didn't need the warm clothing for the arduous climb.

exchanged We

friendly greetings as they passed. Nancy and I were reminded of a fall bike ride we had taken to the summit with close friends two decades ago.

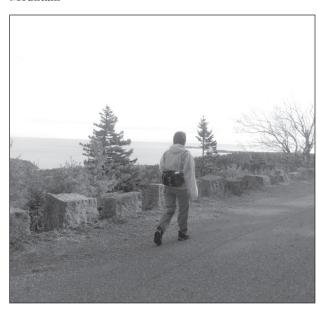
The remainder of our descent to the trailhead was uneventful. More hikes are planned for the coming days.

My book, Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine relates several exciting outings hiking, biking and sea kayaking in Acadia National Park.

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



Steep Ledges were encountered near the summit of Day Mountain



A Carriage Road provided an easier descent of Day Moun-



Cyclists were met ascending the Day Mountain Carriage Road



A lengthy log bridge is encountered on Day Mountain Trail







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Maine State Parks invite you to hit the trails on New Year's Day



As Maine welcomes 2026, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's Bureau of Parks

AUGUSTA, ME

and Lands is inviting everyone to kick off the New Year with First Day Hikes, part of a nationwide movement encouraging people to begin January 1 outdoors, moving, connecting, and soaking in the season's

beauty. Why hike on the first day of the year? Science has the answer. Research from the University of California, Berkeley's Greater Good Science Center highlights that three proven contributors to happiness and well-being are:

> Sunlight Social connection Exercise

First Day Hikes combine all three wrapped up in fresh air and spectacular natural scenery, making January 1 a perfect moment to step into 2026 feeling energized and optimistic. Bonus: Maine State Park admission and the hike are free to First Day Hikers.

Maine State Parks First Day Hike logo

What Are First Day

First Day Hikes are a collaborative tradition across state parks nation-

wide, and right here in Maine, offering all of us an easy, joyful way to connect with the outdoors on New Year's Day. Whether it's your first hike ever or your umpteenth year in a row, everyone's welcome.

Hiking not your cup of tea? No problem! Maine State Parks also encourage participants to enjoy:

Beach walks

Cross-country skiing sculpture building

Self-guided walks at your own pace

Lead the Way or Wander Your Own

On January 1, four Maine State Parks will host guided First Day Hikes: Camden Hills State Park. Holbrook Island Sanctuary, Sebago Lake State Park, and Two Lights State Park. For those who prefer solitude or flexibility in scheduling, self-guided options are available statewide. Simply choose your favorite park and go!

Take Advantage of these BPL Self-guided Hike Guides:

Bradbury Mountain State Park, Freeport - Download self-guided

Camden Hills State Park, Camden – Download self-guided hike.

Popham Beach State Park, Phippsburg - Download seashore activity pag-

State Park, Reid Georgetown - Download the Little River Trail self-guided hike.

Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park, Freeport -Download the self-guided

Plan Your Adventure Find details on all Maine First Day Hikes and self-guided options: https://www.maine.gov/ dacf/parks/discover history explore nature/activities/first-day-hikes.shtml

You can explore how this tradition connects with state parks across the country at First Day Hikes USA and join thousands of fellow hikers welcoming the New Year outside.

New Year. New Energy. Same Beautiful Maine Outdoors.

Boots on trails, skis on snow, or footprints along the beach, spending the first day of 2026 outdoors offers the chance to reset, reconnect, and re-energize. Grab a friend or bring the family. Step into the sunshine (or snow-

Take the trail less traveled, and begin 2026 with a First Day Hike.

Fishing northern Maine: Mid-winter dreaming of spring

BRUNSWICK, ME

- Chase away the winter blues by joining a Maine guide for a presentation about fishing in Maine's north woods at the January get-together of the Merrymeeting Bay chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Members and the public are invited to attend the Merrymeeting Bay monthly meeting of this national cold-water conservation organization as we gather sportspeople and conservationists on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at Sea Dog Brewing, 1 Bowdoin Mill Island, Topsham.

Social hour begins at 6:00 pm, the presentation starts at 7:00 pm. The event



is free; dinner and drinks can be purchased.

The January meeting will feature Casey Mowers of Reddog Guide Service. Casey will talk about fishing the Mattawamkeag and Meduxnekeag rivers in northern Maine.

MMBTU monthly membership meetings are held at Sea Dog on the third Tuesday of each month, September through May.

No admission fee. Open to members and non-members alike.

Please join us.

Maine nominees to US Military Service Academies announced

WASHINGTON, **D.C.**— U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King today announced their nominees to the United States Military Academies. To be considered for an appointment to a service academy, applicants must be nominated by an authorized nominating source, which includes Members of Congress. Admission to the United States Coast Guard Academy, also a federal service academy, does not require a congressional nomination.

"We are proud to have the honor to nominate such an impressive group of Maine students to our nation's distinguished service academies," said Senators Collins and King. "The young people we have nominated have earned this honor through a commitment to strong scholarship, leadership, and character."

The following students from Maine have received nominations as candidates to the service academies from Senators Collins and King:

Unites States Military Academy - West Point

Name Home-High School Jacob Biberstein Orrington Bangor

High School

Blue Alexis Bangor Bangor High School Theodore Bluhm

Belfast Belfast Area High School

Peter Bonaparte Monticello Houlton Middle High School

Andrew Carroll Raymond Solebury School

Greyson Creamer Durham Freeport High School

Elaina Gagnon Noble Lebanon High School

> Zachary Lattanzi See Nominees, page 10

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St. John's First Trimester Honor Roll released



BRUNSWICK,

ME – St. John's Catholic School is pleased to announce the Honor Roll and Special Award recipients for the First Trimester of the 2025-2026 Academic School Year.

St. John's Catholic School is incredibly proud of their students for their achievements this semester in the classroom and beyond. Anchored by faith and empowered by service, the students' hard work reflects positively on them as individuals and as a school community. St. John's also would like to acknowledge the efforts of all their students, including those not listed below, that made substantial growths in their individual educational journeys.

St. John's High Honors for the Second Trimester of the 2025-2026 School Year: 5th Grade-Elliot Simmler, 6th GradePhoebe Beal, Carolyn Davis, Grace Ozarowski, 7th Grade- Madeline Barone, Gracelynne Stratmann, 8th Grade- Jesse Davis, Nathan Salko, Mary Kathleen Setchell, Gwenyth Smith, Madigan Wright.

St. John's Honor Roll for the First Trimester of the 2025-2026 School Year: 5th Grade- Madalyn Weiss, 6th Grade- Lukas Charier, Jackson DeMartini, Ava Mulcahy, James Ortiz, Oscar Ortiz, Caiden Sarvinas, 7th Grade- Barbara Jantorno, Elijah Kerr, Graham King, Reagan Thompson, 8th Grade-Luke Agnor, Audrey Le.

Viking Award

The Viking award is given to students in first through eighth grade for academic excellence in all subjects as well as giving their best effort and being a kind person.

The Viking Awards recognized: 2nd Grade-Lydia Knudsen, 3rd Grade- Alena Simmler, 4th Grade- Maia Golletti, 5th Grade- Elliot Simmler, 6th Grade- Grace Ozarowski, 7th Grade- Gracelynn Stratman, 8th Grade-Jesse Davis.

P.R.A.Y. Award

The PRAY award is given to students in grades 2-8 who live out our daily school philosophy of St. John's students PRAY every day. We practice peace, respect self and others, accept responsibility, and yearn to learn. These students have exceptional character and support the St. John's school community by representing our mission each day.

The PRAY Awards recognized: 2nd Grade-Dyllon Robertson, 3rd Grade- Molly Smith, 4th Grade- Will Hammer, 5th Grade- Madalyn Weiss, 6th Grade- Phoebe Beal, 7th Grade- Graham King, 8th Grade- Luke Agnor.

Franco Center's beloved 'Sights and Sounds of Christmas' returns

LEWISTON, ME

- The Franco Center is thrilled to announce its annual Christmas extravaganza — "Sights and Sounds of Christmas" a holiday tradition that brings families together to celebrate the season. This year's performances will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 19, and Saturday, Dec. 20, with a special late-afternoon show at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 21, at the Franco Center in Lewiston.

A cash bar in the Lower Level Bar & Lounge will be open for a pre-show holiday cocktail an hour before each performance.

The Performance Hall stage will be filled with holiday magic, featuring a wide array of acts from ballet dancers and vocal ensembles to dramatic readings, poetry, and duets — all capturing the warmth and joy of the Christmas season. Many performances will be highlighted by a synchronized Christmas light show, adding a spectacular visual element to the festivities.

TICKETS: https://app.arts-people.com/in-dex.php?show=278561

"This show is all about creating memories," said Theresa Shanahan, Executive Director of the Franco Center. "Each year, families come together here to experience the sights, sounds, and stories that make the holidays so special. It's truly a celebration for everyone."

Cast and production crew to be announced soon.

Curated by Production Director Jake Hodgkin, the show features a diverse lineup of performers. Hodgkin has designed the production to evoke a nostalgic, old-fashioned Christmas, where audience members can fully immerse themselves in the holiday spirit.

"Every corner of the Center will be sparkling this season," said Hodgkin. "From twinkling lights and decorated trees to the music and performances,



Curtain call of last year's cast and crew for the Franco Center's annual Sights and Sounds of Christmas holiday show. The popular show is back this year at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19 and Saturday, Dec. 20 and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21. Call the ticket office at 207-689-2000 or visit www.francocenter.org. Photo credit Dottie Perham-Whittier.

we've built a show that really captures the joy and magic of the holidays. We have a performer who will sing Silent Night in French and some others who will perform a Christmas melody on spoons and washboard similar to the Emmett Otter Jug Band."

Hodgkin brings a wealth of experience to the production, having worked in theater, live events, and entrepreneurial ventures. His passion for lighting and special effects began at age 12 with synchronized music and light systems a technology now featured prominently in the show. Hodgkin's extensive background includes lighting design, directing, and producing for local theaters, alongside operating a DJ business and organizing the annual "Chaos on Cobb Road" spooky walk, which attracts hundreds of visitors each year.

Tickets range from \$10 to \$30 and are AVAIL-ABLE online at https://app.arts-people.com/in-dex.php?show=278561

Special Family and Small Group Pricing!

For a group of four or more adults, tickets are \$20 each. (this discount happens automatically when at least 4 adult tickets are purchased)

For a family of 2 adults and 2 youth use ticket code "Family" to get special prices of \$20 for

adults and \$10 for youth. (this discount requires the code)

Call the Box Office for Senior Group or Assisted Living Facility prices!

Prices include fees:

Advance Tickets (before noon on performance day.)
Adults: \$25

Youth (<18): \$10

At Door Tickets
Adults: \$30

Youth (<18): \$15

Show sponsors:
Emerson Chevy
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DJ Brothers
Crew
Jake Hodgkin – Director
Jackie McDonald –

Assistant director
Astrea Charlett Costume designer

Bette Fecteau – Set

Decorator Sarah Greaton – co

lighting designer and operator Theresa Shanahan –

Spotlight
Brando Morin

sound designer Michael Breton – Mi-

crophone manager
Missy Hodgkin

Stage manager

Basilio Charlett –
Christmas lights operator

Spencer Cramp, Alison Marston, Larry Hodgkin – Stage Crew

Cast Stephen Michaels See Christmas, page 14

Send all items for Names & Faces to the editor. Deadline is Friday by five pm. Thursday, December 18, 2025

Maine Creates initiative to strengthen community wellbeing

PORTLAND, ME
– Side x Side, in partnership with the Maine Arts
Commission, is proud
to announce the launch
of Maine Creates, a new
statewide initiative designed to train teaching artists, strengthen community
connections, and enhance
the well-being of Maine
people through the power

of the arts.

Launched in spring 2025, Maine Creates invests in local creativity as a meaningful response to challenges. community More than 35 teaching artists have already completed the training program, and five artists were selected to receive grants to implement community-centered arts projects across the state. These projects are now underway in libraries, a correctional re-entry center, community hubs, rural towns, and schools-each tailored to address local needs through collaborative, intergenerational art making.

Beth Wilbur Van Mierlo the Executive Director of Side x Side shared, "Decades of research show measurable outcomes when people engage in meaningful art making. We see gains in cognitive flexibility, emotional regulation, and social connection. These aren't just abstract benefits; they lead to stronger schools, communities, healthier and individuals who feel a deeper sense of agency and belonging. By training Teaching Artists to embed the arts where people live, learn, and gather, we ignite creativity, foster personal growth, and strengthen the social fabric that helps communities thrive. This is the transformative power of Maine Creates—and why every person should have access to it."

Building on this vision, the Maine Arts Commission underscores the ripple effect already emerging from the program's first year.

"Maine shows how artists can transform community life when they are empowered to contribute their creativity, compassion, and expertise," said Amy Hausmann, Executive Director of the Maine Arts Commission. "This pilot program demonstrates that teaching artists are addressing real needs, easing isolation, strengthening families, and opening doors for people of all ages to feel seen, heard, and connected. Their work embodies the spirit of our mission and the promise of this program. We look forward to nurturing and growing Maine Creates in the years to come."

In recent years, the Maine Arts Commission traveled across the state to listen to residents describe pressing community challenges. A clear theme emerged: many Maine people, particularly those in under-resourced communities, experience isolation, disconnection, and limited access to meaningful creative opportunities.

Maine Creates was developed directly in response to these findings. Through comprehensive training and ongoing mentorship, the program equips teaching artists to bring arts-based solutions into Maine's towns and cities. The goal is simple and powerful: ensure that every community has access to the transformative benefits of creativity.

"Maine Creates is rooted in our shared commitment to access and creativity. By advancing the field of teaching artistry, we can move the mystery of creativity into a shared experience—one that makes imagination and boundless possibility accessible to all," added Both

Nationwide research from social science, public health, and neuroscience demonstrates that participation in the arts:

Supports mental and physical health

Strengthens social ties, belonging, and civic engagement

Builds intergenerational connection and cultural continuity

Stimulates neuroplasticity, cognitive resilience, and emotional regulation

Teaching artists put this research into action. By embedding art making into community spaces, they help build the social infrastructure that supports health, equity, and thriving communities.

Meet the 2025–2026 Maine Creates Teaching Artists

Catie Joyce Bulay — Art Play Dates (Winslow, Kennebec County)

Bi-monthly sensory-rich art sessions at the Winslow Library designed to strengthen connections among young children and caregivers, reducing isolation and supporting family wellbeing.

Leah Cook — With Love, From Van Buren: A Mural Stamp Project (Van Buren, Aroostook County)

A collaborative mural project engaging residents of all ages in celebrating local identity, transforming shared spaces, and fostering community pride.

Wendy Lorigan — The Collective Canvas: Where Every Voice Adds Color (Guilford, Piscataquis County)

Multigenerational workshops and at-home Art Kits invite residents to contribute individual works to a growing collective art wall, highlighting shared stories across the region.

Addy Smith Reiman
— Spatial Design Academy for Kids (Lewiston,
Androscoggin County)

A hands-on design-thinking program where middle school students explore urban planning concepts and create prototypes for improving their city.

Daisy Hutt — Family Pottery Classes (Southern Maine Re-entry Center, Windham, Cumberland County)

Weekly ceramics workshops for incarcerated women, with monthly family sessions that support connection, healing, and successful reentry.

Side x Side mentors each teaching artist throughout the year-long process, with every project culminating in a community celebration that honors both the artwork created and the relationships built. By June 2026, Maine Creates will have engaged hundreds of youth and adults statewide.

Looking Ahead: Funding Needed to Expand Statewide Impact

Side x Side and the Maine Arts Commission aim to build on the strong momentum of this inaugural year. The partners are currently seeking funding to launch a second Maine Creates training cohort in spring 2026. With additional support, the program will train another group of teaching artists and fund five new community projects, bringing creativity, connection, and wellbeing to even more Maine communities

To follow the work of current Maine Creates artists, visit Side x Side's Instagram and Facebook page, subscribe to our newsletter, and follow updates on our website. You can also follow updates on the Maine Arts Commission's communications platforms.

Best Source for Arts, Music and Theater! Your Hometown Paper.

Antiques Roadshow filmed in Maine, returns in January

ANTIQUES AR ROADSHOW

BOSTON, MA -With newly discovered treasures from across the country to a look back at historic items with roots in the American Revolution, **ANTIQUES** ROADSHOW's celebratory Season 30 is full of wow-worthy TV! All-new ROADSHOW premieres Monday, January 5, 2026, at 8/7c PM with a six-figure appraisal in Salt Lake City, UT.

This season, PBS's most-watched ongoing series travels to five cities, stopping at distinctive venues including Red Butte Garden & Arboretum in Salt Lake City, UT; Georgia State Railroad Museum in Savannah, GA; Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens in Boothbay, ME; Castle Farms in Charlevoix, MI; and Grant's Farm in St. Louis, MO.

"I'm often asked how a TV show stays on top over 30 years," said AN-TIQUES ROADSHOW executive producer Marsha Bemko. "The combination of personal stories, serendipitous finds, a little bit of history lesson, and those jaw-dropping values make up the secret sauce that keeps ROADSHOW irresistible to fans!"

A preview of standout Season 30 discoveries includes:

– In Salt Lake City, UT, a 1937 copy of The Hobbit was brought to ROADSHOW where a typo on the rear flap of the dust cover revealed it to be a true first printing of the UK first edition and yielded a whopping six-figure value! (Episodes from Salt Lake City air Jan. 5, 12, and 19)

– In Savannah, GA, ROADSHOW discovered the year's highest value find with a 1992 Olga de Amaral Lost Image VII tapestry. Inherited by the guest from his mother, a collector of works by women artists, this season-topping treasure is valued at up to \$500,000! (Episodes from Savannah air Jan. 26, Feb. 2 and 9)

– In Boothbay, ME, a poignant piece of history was uncovered in a 1962 letter written by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to the ROADSHOW guest's father-in-law, a Unitarian minister who actively supported the Civil Rights efforts of the time. The letter holds extraordinary value in both its rarity and message. (Episodes from Boothbay air Feb. 16, 23, and Mar. 23)

– In Charlevoix, MI, one ROADSHOW guest, originally in search of a grandfather clock, discovered a John Bailey dwarf clock, ca. 1800 in an online market and purchased it for \$300. Even with some prior restoration the timepiece was revealed to be a rare treasure with a stunning value of \$75,000! (Episodes from Charlevoix air Mar. 30, Apr. 6 and 13)

– In St. Louis, MO, a playful piece of Hollywood history made an appearance at ROAD-SHOW with a guest's \$10 estate-sale-purchased backgammon set, ca. 1970 associated with comedy

legend Lucille Ball and purportedly donated by the star for a charity auction. (Episodes from St. Louis air Apr. 27, May 4 and 11).

The milestone 25-episode season includes a new slate of fan-favorite Vintage episodes where ROADSHOW looks back at memorable finds from 15 years ago to discover what they are worth today and how the market and their values have changed. Plus, an all-new special in honor of the country's semiquincentennial in 2026. Celebrating 250 Years of Americana spotlights 30 years of ROADSHOW discoveries encompassing some of the best American art, artifacts, crafts, and collectibles spanning the country's entire history.

Airing Mondays at 8/7c PM, 23-time Emmy® Award-nominated AN-TIQUES ROADSHOW is produced by GBH for PBS and is seen by around 5.5 million viewers each week. New ROADSHOW episodes are available to stream on YouTube, the ANTIQUES ROADSHOW website and the PBS app.

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



Lewiston MAINEiacs' Kevin Delaney named Star of the Month

LEWISTON, ME – The Lewiston MAINEiacs are proud to announce that defenseman Kevin Delaney has been named an NCDC Stars of the Month honoree for November in the New England Division.

Delaney, a standout blue-liner in his first NCDC season, posted an impressive 11 points across 9 games in November. His month was punctuated by a dominant four-point performance, where he recorded one goal and three assists, showcasing the poise, vision, and playmaking ability that have quickly made him one of the league's most impactful rookies.

Through just 19 games, Delaney has already totaled 20 points, reinforcing his role as a key driver of the MAINEiacs' success on both sides of the puck.

"Kevin has come into this league and immediately shown he belongs," said



Caleb Labrie, Head Coach of the Lewiston MAINEiacs. "His confidence, competitiveness, and ability to read the game elevate everyone around him. This recognition is well-deserved."

The organization congratulates Kevin on this earned honor and looks forward to his continued impact throughout the season.

About the Lewiston MAINEiacs

The Lewiston
MAINEiacs compete in
the NCDC (National Collegiate Development Conference) of the US Premier
Hockey League, providing
elite junior players the op-



portunity to develop, compete, and advance to the next level. The organization is committed to fostering strong character, educational development, and community engagement both on and off the ice.

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

Rotary District Governor visits Lewiston-Auburn club

MAINE – Rotary District Governor Susan Pratt was the special guest speaker at a recent meeting of the Lewiston-Auburn Rotary Club. Pratt, a member of the Farmington Rotary Club, is governor of Rotary District 7790, which consists of all Maine clubs from Lewiston-Auburn north and all clubs in the province of Quebec.

Pratt is visiting all 59 clubs in the district to discuss her goals of increasing membership and encouraging clubs to devote more time to "fun and fellowship." She also discussed her district project of improving basic education and literacy in Guatemala City through a collaboration with Safe Passage, a Guatemalan-led, US-registered 501 (c)(3) organization that emphasizes a holistic learning approach focused on wellness, lifelong learning, vocational skills, and community leadership to help break



Rotary District 7790 Governor Susan Pratt accepts a \$1,000 from Lewiston-Auburn Rotary Club President Peter Arsenault to assist with her international district project of helping to improve basic education in Guatemala City.

the cycle of poverty. It provides full-day education to youth in Guatemala City who live in an area that borders the largest landfill in Central America. Pratt's district project will fund book translations, new technology for schools, professional development for teachers and staff, and travel and shipping expenses.

A global organization of more than 1.4 million members, Rotary clubs provide service to their communities and advance understanding and goodwill through fellowship, diversity, integrity, and leadership. The Lewiston-Auburn Club meets every Thursday at noon at the Village Inn Restaurant in Auburn.

Viles Arboretum receives grant to build accessible trail

AUGUSTA, ME – Viles Arboretum is excited to announce that it has been selected for funding in the first round of Maine Trails Program grants. Viles has been awarded \$249,439 to support the construction of a 1.27-mile fully accessible loop trail on its 224-acre property. This trail is designed to provide safe, smooth, and navigable access for visitors of all abilities,

including those using wheelchairs, walkers, or strollers.

The accessible trail will connect existing pathways, wetlands, gardens, and forested areas, creating a welcoming route for all visitors. Features will include gentle slopes, firm surfacing, and accessible signage, ensuring that everyone can enjoy the natural beauty of the Arboretum.

Viles Arboretum has partnered with Town 4 Trail Services and accessibility consultant Enock Glidden to design and develop the trail with sustainable practices, minimal environmental impact, and inclusive design standards.

"The Maine Trails Bond grant brings us one step closer to making the Arboretum a place where everyone can experience nature," said Executive Director David Greenham. "Working with Town 4 Trail Services and Enock Glidden ensures that the trail is both environmentally responsible and fully accessible to all visitors."

While the grant provides the majority of the funding, additional community support is still needed to complete the trail. The full project cost is approximately \$300,000, and donations from supporters will help cover the remaining expenses to bring this trail to life.

Visitors and supporters can contribute online at https://vilesarboretum.org/blog/help-us-build-an-accessible-trail-at-viles-arboretum.



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Page 9 Thursday, December 18, 2025

Special section: National Impaired Driving Prevention Month

Drive safe & sober on the roads this winter

Winter has fully arrived, bringing longer nights, colder days and the threat of snow and ice on the roads. For those driving in Maine, these tougher conditions require more caution and preparation. Drivers also face a range of winter-related fines, with extra rules designed to keep roads safe during severe weather.

The global car rental comparison site Discover-Cars.com has put together these tips on how to drive safely as the weather changes, to make the experience less stressful.

Watch out for winter fines. In the U.S., you could be fined starting from \$25 for having a vehicle covered in snow, or up to \$1,500 if snow or ice from your car causes damage to someone's property, or if it injures or kills someone. These fines vary by state. For example, in New Jersey, fines for having a snow-covered vehicle are between \$25-75, and if that snow causes damage to property or injures or kills someone, it can be \$200-\$1,000.

It's common to leave your engine idling to warm up the car in winter, but laws vary across the U.S. regarding how long it's acceptable to do this for. States and even cities have their own rules, with fines varying. In many states, the limit is 5 minutes. While in Connecticut the usual limit year round is 3 minutes, drivers can leave their engine running longer than this if it's below 20°F or

if the cold is putting their health and safety at risk.

Check your route ahead of time. Before setting off this winter, it's important to check the weather conditions on your route. You don't want to get caught in heavy snow or a storm that can disrupt vour journey. Make sure you stay up to date on the latest weather conditions and travel disruptions in your area and where you'll be heading.

Prepare an emergency kit. It's a good idea to put together a breakdown kit of everything you may need should you break down in the winter months. This should include a first aid kit with bandages, band-aids, antiseptic wipes and dressings for wounds and burns to treat any minor injuries. It's also worth keeping an ice scraper and jumper cables in your

Slow down. One of the most important things to remember when driving in snow or ice is to reduce your speed. Maintain a sturdy grip on your steering wheel and move forward at a slow and steady pace, changing to a higher gear for more control if you drive a manual car. Remember to maintain a safe stopping distance from the car in front of you, too.

Navigate bends carefully. When approaching a bend, it's best to brake before you start turning your wheel. If your car loses grip when doing this, firstly, don't panic. Keep your hands on the steering

wheel and take your foot off the accelerator. Turn your wheels in the direction you want to go without taking your hands off the wheel. If you do skid, steer into it gently by moving in the same direction, so if your car slides left, steer that way too. Do this without braking hard and always keep your hands on the steering wheel.

Check your tires. Before you head out, remember to check the tread of your tires. If your tires are worn, this can stop your car from being able to grip the road properly and puts you at risk of aquaplaning. In most U.S. states, the minimum legal tread requirement for steer tires is 2/32 of an inch - regulations vary across different states, so if you're planning a road trip, make sure your vehicle is compliant.

Aleksandrs Buraks, Head of Growth at DiscoverCars.com, comments:

"Driving in the winter months can sometimes be stressful, especially for new drivers or when you're driving somewhere abroad. Remember to prep your car before setting off, ensuring your windshield is free of frost and your tires are in good condition.

"If you're planning on renting a car for your winter vacation this year, it's important to check the requirements for the state or country you'll be driving in. Some states and countries may require you to have winter tires and snow chains for maximum





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Maine Ag Trades Show announces 2026 Conference Lineup

AUGUSTA, ME -The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) has announced the full slate educational sessions and meetings for the 85th Maine Agricultural Trades Show, taking place January 13-15, 2026, at the Augusta Civic Center.

The three-day event brings together farmers, foresters, food producers, agri-business owners, students, and partners from across the state and region for hands-on training, policy discussions, business development workshops, industry meetings, and networking events focused on building a strong, resilient future for Maine agricul-

More than 80 sessions are scheduled and offered in partnership with organizations including MOFGA, UMaine Cooperative Extension, USDA Rural Development, Small Development Business Association, Maine Department of Labor, Maine WIC, Maine Farm & Sea to Institution Network, Maine Farm Bureau, Agricultural Council of Maine, Maine Maple Producers Association, Maine Pomological Society, Maine Vegetable and Small Fruit Growers, Maine Cheese Guild, Maine Dairy Industry Association, Maine Sheep Breeders, Maine FFA and 4-H, Maine Woodland Owners, SCORE Maine, CEI, ReVision Energy, Renoster, Maine Mobile Health, and many others.

2026 Conference Schedule Highlights

Energy, Climate, and Resource Resilience

Sessions help farms reduce operating costs, strengthen long-term infrastructure, and plan for climate adaptation, including:

Planning for the Next 20 Years: Long-Term Energy Resilience with Solar + Storage – Solar and battery storage strategies for farm growth (Jan. 13).

Climate Impacts on Your Farm – Farmer-led discussion on real-world climate adaptation and resilience strategies (Jan. 13).

Maine Farmers Can Reduce Energy Costs with USDA's REAP Program -Learn how to qualify for grants for energy efficiency and renewable projects (Jan. 13 & 14).

Forest Carbon Credits Presentation - Opportunities for woodland owners to participate in carbon markets (Jan. 14).

Business Development, Grants, and Financial Planning

Producers can access tools to grow their operations and navigate available resources:

Minor Equipment Grant for Specialty Crops -New DACF grant program overview (Jan. 13).

Planning Major Farm Investments: State Tax Credits - Dirigo Business Incentives program overview (Jan. 13).

Understanding US-DA's Value-Added Producer Grant Program (VAPG) Learn how products qualify and how to prepare competitive applications (Jan. 13 & 14).

How Can SBA Help My Farm? - Business financing and development resources (Jan. 14).

Succession Planning

for Your Farm Business - practical guidance on succession planning, land access, and farm transfer strategies (Jan 14).

Improve Your Farm's Financial Performance in 2026 - Goal-setting and benchmarking session with SCORE Maine (Jan. 15).

Certification, Health & Production Prac-

Hands-on and technical learning continues with:

No-Till Tarping Techniques and Biological Control & IPM - MOFGA-led crop production workshops (Jan. 13).

Demystifying Organic Certification & USDA's TOPP Program - Transition guidance and mentoring opportunities (Jan. 13).

Economic Impact of Organic Farming in Maine - Presentation of new statewide study findings (Jan.

Nutrient Management Trainings - Multiple sessions offering continuing education credits covering cover cropping, crop nutrients, compost tea, and NRCS implementation planning (Jan. 13 & 14).

Agroforestry Farms & Woodland Owners - Techniques including silvopasture and forest farming (Jan. 14).

Maine Natural Resources Disaster Relief Assistance Program - Learn about qualifications for federal funding support specifically for farms impacted by weather-related losses in 2023 and 2024 (Jan. 13).

Labor, Workforce &

Sessions addressing workforce compliance and

O'Leary

Thorn-

Harlow

Saco

e

farmer well-being:

Health Navigating Insurance Options for Farmers - Marketplace guidance, tax credits, and education cost-sharing (Jan. 13).

Health & Wellness in Agriculture and Forestry - Panel on balancing physical and mental health in farm and forestry operations (Jan. 13).

Understanding Maine's Paid Family & Medical Leave Law (PFML) - Compliance overview and Q&A (Jan. 13).

Seeds for Success: Labor Standards Compliance in Agriculture - Wage, safety, and employment requirements (Jan. 14).

Navigating the H-2A Journey - Step-by-step guidance on seasonal worker programs (Jan. 15). Markets, Food Sys-

tems & Value Chains Connecting producers to buyers and

new outlets: From Farmstand to Retail Shelf - Navigating wholesale, packaging, and grocery sales (Jan. 14).

Farm to School 101 -Selling to schools and institutions with support from Maine's Local Food Fund (Jan. 14).

Local Food Producer & Buyer Matchmaking Event – In-person connection session (Jan. 15).

Local Food Switchboard Update Workshop - Preview of Maine's statewide food system coordination platform (Jan. 15).

Maine Farm & Sea Cooperative – Fork Food Lab Presentation - Program overview and partnership opportunities (Jan.

Policy & Advocacy Opportunities for producers to shape the future of agriculture:

Growing Power for Maine Farms - A policy dialogue hosted by Maine Farm Bureau and the Agricultural Council of Maine (Jan. 14).

Maine Food Policy Workshop – Legislative priorities including hunger solutions, farmland preservation infrastructure investment, and mental health initiatives (Jan. 14).

Youth & Leadership Youth in Agriculture Leadership Day - FFA and 4-H led training workshops, panels, and networking (Jan. 14).

Industry Meetings Member and producer meetings include:

Maine Christmas Tree Growers' Meeting (Jan. 13)

Maine Dairy Industry Association Meeting (Jan. 13)

Maine Cheese Guild Winter Meeting (Jan. 13)

Maine Organic Milk Producers Meeting (Jan. Maine Eastern States

Exposition Trustees Winter Meeting (Jan. 13) Maine Maple Pro-

ducers Association Annual Meeting (Jan. 14) Maine Sheep Breed-

ers Association Meeting (Jan.14)

Maine Vegetable & Small Fruit Growers Association Meeting (Jan. 14) *Remember membership

Maine Pomological Society Annual Meeting (Jan. 14)

Forestry Forum –

Maine Woodland Owners (Jan. 14)

Special Features

Maine Mobile Health Pop-Up Clinic – A team including a nurse, community health worker, and behavioral health provider will offer on-site health screenings (including blood pressure, BMI, depression, and anxiety), and health education for agriculture and seafood industry workers and their families, regardless of insurance or ability to pay. PFAS blood serum testing will be available for pre-approved individuals. Attendees can also learn more about Maine Mobile Health's care model and enroll as patients if eligible. (Jan. 13 to 15).

Maine Farmcast Live Show – Returning to the main stage with a surprise DACF guest (Jan. 14).

Mead! An Engaging Presentation hosted by Runamok Meadery (Jan.

2026 Milestones: International Year of the Woman Farmer - Maine Senior FarmShare Program acknowledges 25 years, special community engagement activities (3-6 p.m. Jan. 14)

Agritourism Summit - Training, digital field days, and tourism partnerships (Jan. 15).

Planning to Attend

There is no admission fee to attend the show. Please check the conference listings for any pre-registration and course fee requirements. Full session schedules and registration information are available at: https://www. maine.gov/dacf/agtradesshow.

Nominees Continued from page 5

Yarmouth Yarmouth High School Anika Manning Thornton Academy Cooper Manser Berwick Noble High School Thomas McLellan Marshwood High School

Jaden Mizera Palermo Erskine Academy Morgan Isaiah Cumberland Center Gree-

ly High School O'Leary Harlow Saco Thornton Academy O'Roak Ashton Hampden Hampden Academy

Samuel Poulin Scarborough Cheverus High School Joshua Pra

Rockland Oceanside High School Wills Jasper Bethel Gould

Academy United States Naval

Academy – Annapolis N Hometown High

School Jacob Biberstein Orrington Bangor High School Britt Ian

Topsham Mt. Ararat High School Alberto

Cutone Kennebunk Maine Connections Academy Elaina Gagnon Noble Lebanon High School Elliot

Irving Bangor John Bapst Memorial High School Manser Cooper

Berwick Noble High School Thomas McLellan Eliot Marshwood High School

Jaden Mizera Palermo Erskine Academy Isaiah Morgan

Cumberland Center Greely High School Thomas Ocampo Scarborough Scarborough High School

ton Academy O'Roak Ashton Hampden Hampden Academy Samuel Poulin Scarborough Cheverus High School Joshua Pra Rockland Oceanside High School Reed Freeport Freeport High School Otto Schoenthal Southport Lincoln Academy Aiden Surran Hampden Hampden Academy Tomuschat Cole Scarborough Scarborough High School Jasper Wills Bethel Gould Academy United States Air Force Academy – Colorado Springs Name Home-High School town

Derek

bassett Valley Academy

Yarmouth

Barbie

Carra-

Jacob Biberstein Orrington Bangor High School Ian Britt Mt. Topsham Ararat High School Kayden Daviault

Cape Elizabeth Cape Elizabeth High School Delaney Patrick Gorham Gor-

ham High School Elaina Gagnon Lebanon Noble High School Elliot Irving Bangor John Memorial

Bapst High School Manser Cooper Noble Berwick High School

Aiden McKenna Skowhegan Skowhegan High School Thomas McLellan

Eliot Marshwood High School Leonardo Mlynski

Hampden Hampden Academy Isaiah Morgan Cumberland Center Greely High School

Neely

Cooper

Old Old Town Town High School O'Leary Harlow Saco Thornton Academy Ashton O'Roak Hampden Hampden Academy Samuel Poulin Scarborough Cheverus High School Joshua Pra Oceanside High School Starkey Seth Lebanon Noble High School United States Merchant Marine Academy -Kings Point Name Home-

High School town Biberstein Jacob Orrington Bangor High School Kaitlyn Dostie Hope Camden Hills Regional High School

Elliot Irving Bangor John Bapst Memorial High School

Morgan Isaiah Cumberland Center Greely High School

Harlow O'Leary Thorn-Saco ton Academy Ashton O'Roak Hampden Hampden Academy Wallace Pooler South China The Hill School Samuel Poulin Scarborough Cheverus High School Wills Jasper Bethel Gould Academy.

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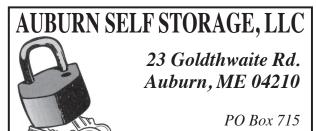
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Saturdays

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.

Dec 24

GORHAM - Christmas Eve Service: December 24, 6 pm HOPE SPRINGS CHAPEL at The Old Robie School, 668 Gray Road. Pastor: Bill Foss. FMI https://www.hschapel.org/, info@hschapel.org, https://www.facebook.com/hopespringschapel

Dec 24

BUXTON – Open to the community at no charge, Christmas Eve Turkey dinner with all the fixings - Wednesday, December 24, 2025 - 5:00 pm at Living Waters Church, Parker Farm Road, Buxton. There will be a short Christmas Eve service following the dinner

Dec 29

LEWISTON - Join the Androscoggin Historical Society, Auburn Public Library, and Lewiston Public Library as we partner to explore fiction with a historical twist. We will be meeting on the last Monday of each month from 5:30 - 6:30pm to discuss a historical fiction novel. Our next meeting will take place on December 29th @ 5:30pm, at the Androscoggin Historical Society, located at 93 Lisbon St.,

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

Lewiston, ME 04240. We will be reading The Eastern. Book One: The Early Years by Deborah Gould.

Jan 5

ONLINE – University of Maine Cooperative Extension will host a webinar on Monday, January 5, 2026, from 6–7:15 p.m. focused on building financial literacy and management skills for commercial horticulture businesses.

Jan 5 & Feb 2

LEWISTON – The Lewiston Public Library's monthly crafters' meet up will continue into the winter. Maker Monday meets every first Monday of the month from 4-6:30pm in the Couture Room.

Jan 10

LEWISTON – From 11am-12pm the Lewiston Public Library Children's Department will be offering New Year's Wish Trees, a family keepsake program. Families will be able to decorate a tree of wishes for the new year. Extra paper for wishes will be packaged into envelopes for families so they can continue to add to their trees after the program. Families with children ages 14 and under are welcome to attend. This program will take place in the IDEA LAB on the second floor of the library.

Jan 13-15

AUGUSTA – The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) has announced the full slate of educational sessions and meetings for the 85th Maine Agricultural Trades Show, taking place January 13–15, 2026, at the Augusta Civic Center.

Jan 16 & 17

SOUTH PORT-LAND – South Portland High School, 637 Highland Avenue, South Portland on Friday, January 16, 2026 at 7:30pm and Saturday, January 17, 2026 at 3:00pm. This winter, we present a formidable choral program entitled "I Have a Voice."

Jan 22

NEW GLOUCES-TER –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 GLOUCES-TER – Free artist event at Unity Environmental University. Each event highlights a Maine-based artist 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 GLOUCES-TER – 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 GLOUCES-TER – 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.

Christmas

Continued from page 6

Torrey Gimpel Jim Hodgkin River Charlett Mary Jo Hodgkin Cassie Asselin Nexx Marcoux Avery Thibodeau Elijah Middleton Michelle Breton Jacob Hodgkin Jackie Preston Theresa Cormier Adrian Morneau Jenn Leblanc Stephen Miller Preston Marston Meg Thibodeau Noel Cramp Lorraine Giasson Allen Brann Kai Desilva Leeanne Weston Kathy Haley Alexis Dascoulias Tom Marston Graton Weston

Firefighter

Continued from page 1

and towns, each of the semifinalists received a donation to further support their classroom and school, along with a feature on BostonGlobe.com and the opportunity to attend the Wasabi Fenway Bowl.

To date, the program has given more than \$130,000 for over 150 educators across New England.

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NVME opens application for Gilda E. Nardone (GEN) Scholarship



AUGUSTA, ME New Ventures Maine (NVME) Executive Director Janet Smith has announced a call for applications for the Gilda E. Nardone (GEN) scholarship. Awards of up to \$1,000 each will be given to help defray the cost of college tuition and other education expenses for the 2026-27 academic year. For more information and to apply, visit the NVME website.

The GEN Endowed Scholarship Fund was established in 2019 to honor the legacy of longtime NVME Executive Director, Gilda E. Nardone and her commitment to education access and success for adult learners.

Savannah Rice, a 2025 awardee, said of the scholarship's impact, "I work several jobs and serve as a graduate assistant, but the cost of attending school has been difficult to manage. I am so thankful to have found this scholarship and to have taken an applicable class, My Money Works, through New Ventures Maine." Savannah's story is online.

The scholarship committee, made up of NVME Advisory Council members, will accept applications up until the deadline of Friday, February 20, 2026.

Gifts to the fund ensure that graduates of NVME's career, financial, and business development programs will receive financial and other support services to attend college and complete their degrees in Maine at any University of Maine System location, any Maine Community College, or the University of New England. To donate to the fund, visit the NVME secure giving portal online at bit.ly/ **NVMEGiving**

LEGAL NOTICE

PETITION FOR A PARDON STATE OF MAINE

Augusta, January 15, 2026 - Notice is hereby given that a Petition for a Pardon for Katie R. Smith who was convicted of the crimes Theft by Unauthorized Taking or Transfer (E) Theft by Unauthorized Taking or Transfer (E) PENCD-CR-2013-00546, and Theft by Unauthorized Taking(C) Falsifying Physical Evidence (D) PENCD-CR-2015-30129 is now pending before the Governor and a hearing will be conducted on Thursday January 15, 2026, at 9 A.M. Please visit the following link for Hearing details: https://www.maine.gov/corrections/pardonboard



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Thursday, December 18, 2025

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SENIOR TRIPS

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

SEPTEMBER 20 - 28, 2026 **DISCOVER PAINTED CANYONS** OF THE WEST - Trip includes 9 days and 11 Highlights are meals. Colorado National Park, Wine tasting in the midst of Colorado Wine Countrv. Moab. Arches National Park. Canvonlands National Park, Dead Horse Point State Park, Capitol Reef State Park, Bryce Canvon National Park and Zion National Park all in Utah, last day in Vegas. Included in price is round trip air from Logan International Airport and all Hotel Transfers. Deposit is \$698.00 pp plus \$429.00 if you want travel protection.

May 23-31, 2026 - BILT-MORE ESTATE & ASHE-VILLE, N.C. - This trip includes 9 days and 8 nights lodging, 8 breakfasts and 6 dinners. You

will have a full day at the Biltmore Estate and experience the Biltmore House and Gardens. You will also visit the Antler Village and Winery. You will have a guided tour of Asheville and the magnificent St. Lawrence Basilica. We will experience a drive on the Blue Ridge Parkway (America's Most visited park unit). We also visit the Thomas Wolfe Memorial State Historic Site. These are the highlights of the trip and there is so much more that we will see. On our way home we stop at the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University. Price for this trip is \$1,245.00 per person double occupancy. A \$75.00 deposit per person is due upon signing up. The trip includes the bus driver tip and all tour gratuities. Add \$349.00 for single occupancy. Final payment is due 3/16/26.

OCTOBER 18-23, 2026 – SHIPSHEWANA, INDI-ANA - This trip includes 6 days and 5 nights lodging, 3 breakfasts and 3 dinners. You will have a full day guided tour of Indiana's Amish Country with a tour of an Amish Homestead and an Authentic Amish Dinner. We will experience Cook's Bi-

son Ranch with a scenic Wagon Tour of their majestic ranch while seeing the bison up-close and even feeding them. We will spend time shopping and having lunch at Shipshewana Trading Place which is constantly ranked one of the top five Flea Markets in the Country. We will see the show "Loves Comes Softly" at the Blue Gate Theater. Price for this trip is \$865.00 per person double occupancy. A \$75.00 deposit is due upon signing up. Trip includes bus driver tip and all tour gratuities. Add \$305.00 for single occupancy. Final payment is due 8/11/26.

If you are interested in any of these trips or for more information, please contact Claire at 784-0302 or Cindy at 345-9569.

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