



## Senator Peggy Rotundo will not seek re-election in 2026

LEWISTON, ME — State Senator Peggy Rotundo announced last week that she will not seek re-election to the Maine Senate in 2026, following 28 years of dedicated public service to the people of Lewiston.

"It has been the honor of my life to serve the people of Lewiston first on the School Committee and then in the State Legislature," said Senator Rotundo. "I am profoundly grateful for the trust that the Lewiston community has placed in me, and I have worked my hardest everyday to be worthy of that trust."

"Government's role is to help create opportunities for all people, to lift them up and to make their lives a little easier," Senator Rotundo continued. "My commitment to Lewiston people and to people of Maine has been to address those issues that keep families up at night: heating costs, access to affordable health care and prescriptions, safe and affordable housing, property taxes, community safety, ensuring our schools prepare our children for what's next, and good-paying jobs. These were issues I heard my neighbors talk about as I sat at their kitchen table or stood at their door, and they're issues I've worked



hard to address because they are so critical to our communities."

First elected to the Legislature in 2000, Senator Rotundo is currently serving her sixth non-consecutive term in the Maine Senate, having also served four terms in the Maine House of Representatives. As Chair of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee, also known as the State Budget Committee, Senator Rotundo successfully championed the expansion of health care, prescription drug coverage

to Maine people, and property tax relief. Senator Rotundo has been a steadfast voice for the essential programs that provide security and well-being to Maine people, including services for veterans, older Mainers, and people with disabilities. Locally, Senator Rotundo has also secured vital state funding for several key Lewiston institutions, including Lewiston Auburn College, the Lewiston Public Library, Thorncrag Nature Sanctuary, and the Franco Cen-

See Rotundo, page 8

## Lewiston Public Library Outreach Program

LEWISTON, ME — The Lewiston Public Library is working to spread the word about their Outreach Program, which offers free delivery of library materials to homebound residents of Lewiston. Although the library has been offering this program for years, they are constantly seeking new participants to help make library materials more accessible to the community.

The Lewiston Public Library Outreach Program is a free service that delivers books and other library materials to Lewiston residents who cannot come into their building. Those in either private settings or group facilities are welcome to apply for monthly delivery of up to thirty items from LPL's local collection. Patrons can utilize this service on a regular or temporary

basis.

The Outreach Program helps make the library's resources accessible to the entire Lewiston community, and if you or anyone you know would like access to library materials but are unable to visit the library, please reach out to Lending Services Librarian Regan Flieg at 207-513-3004 ext. 3506 or [rflieg@lewistonmaine.gov](mailto:rflieg@lewistonmaine.gov).

## January Special Section National Human Trafficking Awareness Month

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## Twin Cities Swim Team sharing success & smiles

MAINE — Twin Cities Swim Team has completed the halfway point of its 104th season of competitive swimming at The YMCA of Auburn-Lewiston. Under the leadership of new Head Coach, Peter Goulet, TCST has found its stride in the and out of the pool.

TCST traveled to The YMCA of Kennebec County in Augusta for its first meet back in November. Thirty-three out of the 40 swimmers swam their personal best times in just their very first meet of the season. "It was so much fun to watch our team swim with that kind of success, the smile on our kids' faces were priceless." Goulet commented after the meet.

In early December, TCST continued success at The Bath Area YMCA in a meet against Long Reach Swim Club of Bath, Canoe City Swim Club of The YMCA of Old Town-Orono and The YMCA of Waldo County. TCST had its

largest participation to date in this meet.

On December 7th TCST joined members of the Basketball Program and the School Age Program representing the YMCA of Auburn-Lewiston in the 2025 City of Auburn Tree Lighting Parade. The YMCA had the largest

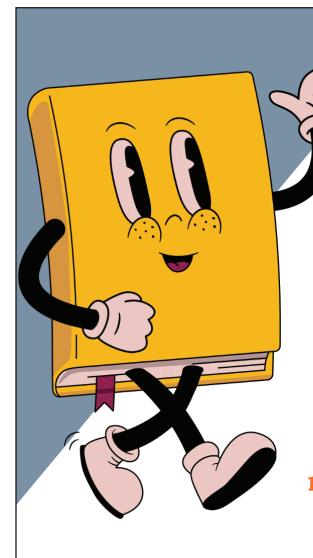
contingent of marchers, so they were rewarded by leading the parade from 121 Mill Street into Festival Plaza.

TCST started 2026 off right away with a January 3rd meet at the YMCA of Sanford-Springvale where they outperformed their expectations. This was a tri-meet with Long Reach Swim Club and the Sanford Y Titans. The 200 Medley Relay team of Kyda Marafa from Gray, Liliana Richardson from Auburn, Addison Flint from Lewiston and Starla McCue from Auburn began the meet with an upset swim, taking first place, out touching Long Reach Swim Club. "This race

was a turning point for the TCST family as we rebuild our historic program. I saw all of our swimmers and parents united cheering on these four girls to victory. It was a snapshot of what I am trying to build here at TCST," said Goulet.

TCST is traveling to the Boothbay Area YMCA to swim the BBY Dolphins. Coach Goulet thinks that TCST stands a good chance to bring in its first team victory of the season. "Winning happens every day at TCST, it is our motto that "Everyone Swims – Everyone Wins" that is the mentality that I place in the heads of our swimmers."

On February 8th, TCST is holding its annual "Splash For Cash" Fundraiser. If you would like to help the swimmers of TCST by donating, please send your donation to: Twin Cities Swim Team, YMCA of Auburn-Lewiston, 62 Turner Street, Auburn, ME 04210.



## Library Outreach Program

Let us bring the books to you!

LPL offers monthly delivery of library materials to Lewiston residents who cannot come into the building. This is a free service available for patrons needing it on a regular or temporary basis.

Contact: 207-513-3134 or [rflieg@lewistonmaine.gov](mailto:rflieg@lewistonmaine.gov)

Lewiston PUBLIC LIBRARY

## Auburn Republican Caucus

Saturday, January 31st

AMS Cafeteria (use the back entrance)  
38 Falcon Drive

Registration starts at 1:00PM  
Everyone must sign in before the meeting starts.

Called by Kryston Chapman

Unaffiliated voters may register the day of the meeting.  
Change of party MUST be done 15 days prior to any caucus or election.

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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## WinterKids Winter Games kick off

**WESTBROOK, ME** — Last week, over 10,200 students across Maine zipped up their coats, laced their boots, and headed outside for the official kickoff of the 2026 WinterKids Winter Games, a four-week outdoor learning and wellness challenge that transforms winter into a season of joy, learning, and connection.

Now in its ninth year, the Winter Games invite elementary schools to compete or play along in a series of weekly outdoor activities tied to physical education, nutrition, winter safety, and family engagement. Each week includes themed lessons, movement challenges, and school spirit events, all designed to get kids moving, learning, and exploring outdoors.

"The Winter Games offer schools something to look forward to during month of January," says Marion Doyle Education Director at WinterKids. "Our program promotes a school-wide sense of camaraderie and a love for winter. Students and teachers alike benefit from fun, healthy, outdoor education."

This year's theme, "Heart," will encourage



students to build healthy habits that strengthen both body and mind. The program also highlights movement, mindfulness, and community spirit.

2026 Winter Games by the Numbers:

88 schools registered  
Over 10,200 students participating

Over 1,100 teachers and wellness team members engaged

\$18,000 in cash awards to be distributed statewide

Each participating classroom receives the

Winter Games PLAYBook for all participating students, weekly incentives, and access to weekly prize drawings. WinterKids still has approximately 800 free PLAYBooks available for Maine classrooms participating in the Play-Along track. These ready-to-use guides help teachers bring the Winter Games into their classrooms with movement-based activities, reflection prompts, and outdoor learning challenges making it easy for students to join the fun even if their school isn't competing. PLAYBooks are available on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last.

Register to Play

Along and follow the fun:

Track updates from participating schools or register to play along at WinterKids.org/Winter-Games.

The 2026 WinterKids Winter Games are made possible through the generous support of SnackPals, Backyard Farms, Aroma Joe's, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, MMG Insurance, and Stockhouse Restaurant.

All WinterKids programs are made possible thanks to our dedicated Community Partners: WEX, Portland Media Group, WMTW Channel 8, Agren, Central Maine Power, and LL Bean.

## Free The Andro public meeting launch

**BRUNSWICK, ME** — The public, media, and interested groups are invited to attend the free, public launch of the Free The Andro coalition, a Maine non-profit citizens group formed to restore fish passage between the Androscoggin River and the ocean after more than a century of neglect and blockage at the Brunswick-Topsham dam.

Free the Andro and its founding members — American Rivers, Friends of

Merrymeeting Bay, Maine Rivers, Merrymeeting Bay Chapter of Trout Unlimited, RESTORE: The Northwoods — will present the challenges of the Brunswick-Topsham dam stopping passage of critical migratory fish and discuss potential solutions for rebuilding abundant and sustainable fish populations by returning the river to a functional ecosystem.

This is truly a once-in-a lifetime opportunity as the dam faces Federal

relicensing which will determine the fate of the river, its fish, commercial and recreational fishing, and the many communities along its shores for generations to come.

FREE THE ANDRO Kick-Off Public Meeting  
Morrell Meeting Room, Curtis Library, 23 Pleasant Street, Brunswick

5:00-6:30 pm Tuesday, January 27, 2026  
Follow on Facebook : "FreeTheAndro"

## CASA training for guardian ad litem in March

**MAINE** — Interested in advocating for the best interests of a child? The Maine Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program is holding its summer training for volunteer advocates from March 9th through March 13th, 2026.

This free, five-day training is designed to prepare attendees for certification as volunteer guardians ad litem (GALs) in Maine child protection cases. Trainees may participate virtually or in person. For those who wish to participate in person, the training

will be held in Augusta. Accommodations may be available.

The foundation of a CASA's work is learning about the case and then advising the court what the CASA believes is in the child's best interest.

CASAs come from a wide variety of professional and personal backgrounds and are guided throughout the process by CASA program staff. CASAs bring their own unique perspectives to their work as volunteers.

If you are willing to advocate for a child's best

interests, we encourage you to apply to become a CASA volunteer. Those interested in the training must complete an application and, if invited to participate, must also complete criminal and child protection services background checks.

Are you ready to advocate for a child's best interests? If so, we hope you can join us for our March 2026 training. For more information about becoming a volunteer, please contact Maine CASA at 213-2865 or by e-mail at [casa@courts.maine.gov](mailto:casa@courts.maine.gov).

## Resources for laid off workers in Maine

**MAINE** — Winter often brings an increase in seasonal layoffs, with January traditionally being one of the busiest periods for unemployment insurance claims. Therefore, the Maine Department of Labor is providing the following information for people applying for unemployment insurance benefits.

If laid off, or furloughed, the Department encourages affected workers to do the following:

Immediately apply for unemployment insurance benefits, which provide partial wage replacement while a person transitions to their next employment opportunity: [www.maine.gov/unemployment/](http://www.maine.gov/unemployment/)

Claims can be filed:  
Online 24/7 — this is the fastest way to file;

By phone at 1-800-593-7660 Monday-Friday between 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (Phone wait times tend to be longest

at the beginning of the week, and lowest on Thursdays and Fridays. Once you are in the phone queue, do not hang up;

In person at the Augusta, Bangor, Portland, Lewiston, and Presque Isle CareerCenters on Thursdays between 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Over the past year, the Department has expanded its unemployment insurance assistance by offering in-person clinics and publishing a series of short videos. Video topics include eligibility requirements and how someone can reset their account password.

If a person still has questions, they can call 1-800-593-7660, or leave an online message under "contact us": <https://assist.reemployment.maine.gov/cp/landing>

Attend the next virtual Rapid Response session, which is held every Wednesday at 10 a.m. and is open to anyone. Sessions cover unemployment insurance, CareerCenter services, the Maine JobLink, health insurance options, training assistance, etc.

If owed wages, contact the Bureau of Labor Standards by filling out a complaint form on-line, or calling 207-623-7900.

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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## Saint Dominic announces \$1M Dion Scholarship Fund Challenge



**LEWISTON, ME** – Saint Dominic Regional High School (SDRHS) today announced a transformational \$1 million scholarship commitment from Don and Cathy Dion, to be distributed over the next four years, expanding access to catholic education for students across the Lewiston–Auburn region. The multi-year pledge represents a major investment in the school's future and in families seeking a values-based education grounded in faith, service, and academic excellence.

Dr. Claude Berube and the Board of Directors also announced that Don Dion, a 1972 graduate of Saint Dominic's, has agreed to join the school's Board of Directors, further strengthening leadership and long-term stewardship of the institution.

The Dions are issuing a community challenge, inviting 500 individuals, families, and businesses to join them at any level of giving. Their goal is to turn this commitment into a groundswell of shared support,

ensuring the Dion Scholarship Fund is a catalyst for lasting impact. Together, these partners can help secure the SDRHS future, expand scholarship opportunities, and send a powerful message that the school's mission and students are a shared priority throughout the region.

The Dion Scholarships will be dedicated primarily to helping Catholic students of French Canadian heritage, reflecting the Dion family's deep appreciation for both their faith and cultural background. The program is intended to strengthen the school's historic ties to the regional French Canadian Catholic community and ensure that future generations can share in that tradition. In addition to the focus on Catholic students from French Canadian heritage, awards will be based on a combination of financial need, academic merit, and a demonstrated record of community service. This holistic approach is designed to identify young people who not only excel in the classroom, but

who also embody the values of service and leadership central to the mission of SDRHS.

"We are grateful to Don and Cathy Dion for their extraordinary generosity and vision," said Sean Andrews, Chair of the Board. "Their commitment will open doors for many deserving students who might not otherwise be able to afford a Saint Dominic Regional High School education, while also honoring the French Canadian Catholic roots that have helped shape our school community."

Beginning with the upcoming school year, forty \$5,000 Dion Scholarships are expected to be awarded to both new and returning students who meet eligibility criteria. Details regarding application procedures, deadlines, and selection processes will be shared directly with families and published through the school's official communication channels as the program launches.

To join the Dion \$1 Million Scholarship Challenge, apply for scholarships, or learn more about admissions at SDRHS, visit [www.saintdominichs.org](http://www.saintdominichs.org).

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## Otto's Pizza celebrates grand reopening in Auburn

**AUBURN, ME** – Otto's Pizza, a beloved local favorite known for its wood-fired pizzas and commitment to quality ingredients, will officially celebrate its grand reopening in Auburn with a ribbon cutting and community celebration on Monday, January 26, 2026.

The ribbon cutting ceremony will take place at 10:45 a.m., with the restaurant opening its doors to the public at 11:00 a.m. Community members, local leaders, and pizza lovers alike are invited to join in marking this exciting new chapter

for Otto's Pizza in Auburn.

Guests can enjoy the signature wood-fired pizzas they know and love while reconnecting with friends and neighbors in a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere. Whether longtime fans or first-time visitors, attendees are encouraged to stop by, enjoy great food, and help celebrate the reopening of this local staple.

To thank the community for its continued support, Otto's Pizza will offer special all-day promotions on Monday, January 26, including:

\$10 twelve-inch cheese pizzas

All-day happy hour, featuring food and drink specials

Event Details:  
Location: Otto's Pizza, Auburn

Date: Monday, January 26, 2026

Time: Ribbon Cutting at 10:45 a.m.; Restaurant Opens at 11:00 a.m.

Otto's Pizza looks forward to welcoming the Auburn community back and kicking off this exciting milestone with great food, friendly faces, and a celebration worthy of the occasion.

## Lewiston teacher wins Teaching America250 award

**PHILADELPHIA, PA** – The Jack Miller Center (JMC), an educational non-profit committed to civic education, announced the winners of the Teaching America250 Awards thanks to the generous support of the Carnegie Corporation of New York. The Awards will allow 51 teachers from across the country to develop and implement engaging educational projects focused on the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

"The Teaching America250 Award winners are introducing the next generation to the essential ideas, stories, and documents of America's civic tradition," said Hans Zeiger, president of the Jack Miller Center. "Through their projects, these amazing educators

will make America's 250th birthday a memorable experience for thousands of students across the country."

The 51 teachers selected represent each state and Washington, D.C. Each recipient will receive \$5,000 in funding for a project of their own design that engages students with the history of America's founding and the ideals of the Declaration. Projects include field trips to museums and state capitals, school assemblies, student art projects, and community events.

Select winners will be chosen to attend JMC's National Summit on Civic Education or the Civic Learning Week National Forum, hosted by iCivics and the Democratic Knowledge Project.

The full list of

awards recipients is below and information on each teacher's project can be found here: <https://www.jackmillercenter.org/teaching-america250-award-winners>.

Celia Mawhinney, Lewiston Middle School (Lewiston, ME) was among the winners.

Winners were selected through a review process by JMC staff, board members, and members of the National Civics Council. Proposals were evaluated on multiple aspects, including relevance to the Declaration of Independence and its central themes, student engagement, creativity, and feasibility. Winners represent public, private, and charter schools and rural, suburban, and urban communities.

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

# TWIN CITY TIMES

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# Seniors Not Acting Their Age

## An Icy Ascent of Parkman Mountain

Six of us gathered at the Parkman Mountain Trailhead on Route 3 near Northeast Harbor in the heart of Mount Desert Island early on a mid-December morning. After completing a Penobscot Paddle & Chowder Society ascent of Cadillac Mountain the previous day, we were poised to climb Parkman Mountain on a cool, cloudy day with light winds.

Parkman Mountain is located in the west central sector of Acadia National Park surrounded by several other impressive peaks. Since icy conditions were encountered on Cadillac Mountain, we were prepared for a similar experience.

Unlike North Ridge Trail on Cadillac Mountain, which had been difficult to access because park roads were closed for the winter, we were able to drive directly to the trailhead parking area. There are two trailheads for Parkman Mountain on Route 3. We chose the northern-most because it offers safer off-road parking and a public toilet.

Our plan was to climb Parkman Mountain, then traverse nearby Bald Peak, and return via Bald Peak Trail, a trip described in detail in my book, *Mountains for Mortals – New England*. However, since we were departing from the northern trailhead,

we planned a minor deviation by hiking the park Carriage Road on both ends of the trip. None of the other trip participants had completed the hike so we were relying on my memory and the book description based on a fall hike.

Wearing micro spikes from the outset, we departed hiking easily east on the Carriage Road on a carpet of packed snow. After a short distance, we turned left onto the Parkman Mountain Trail and progressed over a rocky surface with some patchy ice in a mixed conifer and hardwood forest.

Soon after, we crossed the winding Carriage Road and re-entered Parkman Mountain Trail. The path weaved steadily upward on hard-packed snow and ice-covered terrain. Several slippery inclines required careful maneuvering.

After passing over some icy open ledges enveloped in a coating of snow, we entered a densely wooded area and encountered a massive vertical ridge. Unlike my previous hike in the fall, most of the ridge was immersed in a menacing layer of hard ice.

Facing the dilemma of an intimidating ice climb, we considered turning back and investigating Bald Mountain Trail. After some dis-

cussion, we decided to attempt an ascent of the icy escarpment. Using teamwork, we successfully mastered the icy barrier by painstakingly assisting one another at each level. However, returning on the same route was not appealing.

A succession of abrupt, icy open prominences in a sparsely wooded landscape ensued. Bald Peak loomed over us in the east and the southern shoulder of Parkman Mountain could be seen ahead in the distance.

The gradient moderated as we proceeded through a patchy snow and ice-covered boulder field until reaching the Bald Peak Trail junction on the right. Turning left, we followed snow-capped cairns on a mostly ice-free trail to the spectacular, barren Parkman summit.

The 360-degree views from the top were nothing short of breathtaking. Modest winds allowed us to pause to embrace wonderful views of eastern Penobscot Bay, Somes Sound, and several nearby mountains.

Given our icy ascent, the return route was a topic of discussion. Descending Parkman Mountain Trail was ruled out. A majority of the group felt traversing Bald Peak posed a substantial risk of excessive ice. Instead, we decided to descend the Grandgent Trail on the east side of Parkman Mountain to an attenuated col between Gilmore and Bald Peaks and then follow lower elevation trails south to the Carriage Road.

The Grandgent Trail was very steep and cluttered with a combination of deep snow and sporadic ice. However,

the thickly wooded path provided a multitude of handholds allowing for a reasonably safe descent. Once at the bottom, we followed a gentle decline on Giant Slide Trail to Maple Spring Trail.

Turning right on Maple Spring Trail, we entered a captivating, narrow gorge and followed a tiny boulder-strewn stream south to Hemlock Bridge on the Carriage Road. The impressive granite structure is one of 17 unique stone bridges in the Carriage Road network.

Hardened snow on the Carriage Road allowed for easy walking west to the parking area completing a memorable, icy adventure.

My book, *Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine* narrates several winter mountain expeditions including climbs of Maine's highpoint, Mount Katahdin.

The author of *"The Great Mars Hill Bank Robbery"* and *"Mountains for Mortals – New England,"* Ron Chase resides in Topsham. His latest book, *"Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine"* is available at North Country Press and through online retailers. Visit his website at [www.ronchaseoutdoors.com](http://www.ronchaseoutdoors.com) or he can be reached at [ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net](mailto:ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net)



Carol Hatch climbs an icy ridge on Parkman Mountain Trail with an assist from Mark Nelson



Two hikers approach the summit of barren Parkman Mountain



A hiker descends a narrow gorge on Maple Spring Trail

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

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## AARP Maine accepting 2026 applications for community grant

**PORTLAND, ME** — AARP Maine invites local eligible nonprofit organizations and governments to apply for the 2026 AARP Community Challenge grant program, now through March 4, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern. AARP Community Challenge grants fund quick-action projects that help communities become more livable by improving public places, transportation, housing, digital connections, and more.

Now in its tenth year, AARP will double its investment, awarding over \$8 million in grants as part of its nationwide Livable Communities initiative, which supports the efforts of cities, towns, neighborhoods and rural areas to become great places to live for all residents, especially those age 50 and older.

"The Community Challenge is a critical part of how AARP Maine works with local residents, advocates, and policymakers to make our communities better places to live and thrive for people of all ages. The Community Challenge grant program has proven that quick-action projects can lead to long-term change, especially for Mainers 50-plus," said Noël Bonam, AARP Maine State Director.

This year, the AARP Community Challenge is accepting applications across three different grant opportunities. All projects must be consistent with AARP's mission to serve the needs of people 50 and older along with other eligibility criteria.

Flagship grants support projects that improve public places; transportation; housing; digital connections; and disaster resilience. Awards range from a few hundred dollars to \$15,000.

Capacity-building microgrants are paired with

expert support, webinars, and cohort learning for projects to improve walkability and bikeability; to implement safe, accessible home modifications; and to provide disaster preparedness training. Awards are \$2,500.

Demonstration grants fund projects that encourage replication of exemplary local efforts. This year's focus is on improving pedestrian safety, with funding support from Toyota Motor North America; on expanding high-speed internet access and adoption, with funding support from Microsoft; and on offering housing choice design competitions. Awards typically range from \$10,000-\$20,000, not to exceed \$25,000.

"Over the last decade, AARP has invested in communities to help people of all ages and abilities to thrive," said Nancy Lea-Mond, AARP Executive Vice President and Chief Advocacy & Engagement Officer. "The impact that our Community Challenge grants have had in cities, towns and counties nationwide is significant, supporting everything from crosswalks and home improvements to increased community engagement while also serving as a catalyst for further action. We look forward to expanding the program and its cumulative results over the next ten years."

Since 2017, AARP has invested \$24.3 million toward 2,100 livability projects — including \$546,863 in Maine — across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands through the Community Challenge. The program aims to provide support to all community types, including rural, suburban and urban communities with a special focus on the needs of those 50 and older.

AARP Maine works in collaboration with communities across the state, bringing people together and providing resources and expertise to help make Maine's counties, towns, and cities great places to live for people of all ages. Through its livable communities work, AARP Maine has helped advance conversations around accessory dwelling units (ADUs), supported efforts to transform underused public spaces into community assets, promoted safer walking and biking, and encouraged intergenerational community engagement.

The Community Challenge is open to eligible 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(6) nonprofit organizations and government entities. Other types of organizations are considered on a case-by-case basis. Grants can range from several hundred dollars for small, short-term activities to tens of thousands for larger projects.

The application deadline is 5:00 p.m. Eastern, March 4, 2026. All projects must be completed by December 15, 2026. To submit an application and view past grantees, visit [www.AARP.org/CommunityChallenge](http://www.AARP.org/CommunityChallenge).

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## Fly fishing, fly-tying garage sale

### BRUNSWICK, ME

— A first-ever Garage Sale for all things fly fishing — rods, reels, flies, fly-tying gear, and much more — will be held at the February 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, February 17, 2026, at Sea Dog Brewing, 1 Bowdoin Mill Island, Topsham.

Four estate collections from Maine fishers will be available for view and purchase — haggling encouraged — at this special event. Items include: fly-tying materials of every description; fly rods, reels, lines, and boxes; fresh and salt water lures and flies. Come prepared to share stories, enjoy fellowship, and find a bargain to restock for spring fishing season. Cash and credit cards accepted. All monies



raised will go directly to MMBTU's community-focused conservation and education efforts.

The Fly Fishing & Fly-Tying Garage Sale begins at 4:30 pm; social hour and dinner start at 6:00 pm. The event is free; dinner and drinks can be purchased.

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.

Our mission is to conserve, protect, and re-

store our area's cold-water resources and the watersheds on which they depend. Trout Unlimited is the nation's oldest and largest cold-water fisheries conservation organization dedicated to caring for and recovering America's rivers and streams so our children can experience the joy of wild and native trout and salmon. Across the country, TU brings to bear local, regional, and national grassroots organizing, durable partnerships, science-backed policy muscle, and legal firepower on behalf of trout and salmon fisheries, healthy waters, and vibrant communities.

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# Arts & Entertainment

## Contradance in Lewiston is back in February



**LEWISTON, ME** — The regular third-Friday contradance is back this coming Friday February 21 at Trinity Commons, beginning at

7:30. Hannah Chamberlain will be the caller, with the Twitchell Hill Fiddleheads providing music. A workshop for beginning dancers will begin at

7. Admission is a sliding scale for adults, suggested 15.-25., 5. for teens and children 12 and under free.

## Dueling Pianos return to Franco Center for music & mayhem

**LEWISTON, ME** — By popular demand, the wildly entertaining Dueling Pianos experience returns to the Franco Center on Saturday, January 24, promising an unforgettable evening packed with music, laughter, and audience-driven fun. Pianists Amy Thomason and Billy Ward will bring their talent and skills to entertain and bring laughs to the audience.

Set in the intimate atmosphere of the Franco Center's Lower Level Bar and Lounge, this interactive show puts guests right in the middle of the action — literally. Seating will be arranged "in the round," surrounding the performers for an up-close, high-energy experience where the audience helps shape the show.

Expect fast-paced musical battles, hilarious banter, and nonstop crowd requests as two powerhouse pianists go head-to-head across genres and generations — from classic rock and pop hits to throwback favorites and unexpected surprises. No two shows are ever the same.

Doors open at 6:00 p.m. with a cash bar, and the performance begins at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets:  
\$25 in advance  
\$30 at the door  
Purchase online:  
<https://app.arts-peo->



Billy Ward, submitted photo.



Amy Thomason, Franco Center photo.

ple.com/index.php?show=304301  
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Tickets can be purchased in person when the box office is open from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesday, online at [www.francocenter.org](http://www.francocenter.org), or by phone at 207-689-2000. The Franco Center is handicap accessible through its elevator entrance on the Lincoln St. Alley side of the building. Parking is in the mill lot on Oxford Street. The venue is at 46 Cedar Street in Lewiston.

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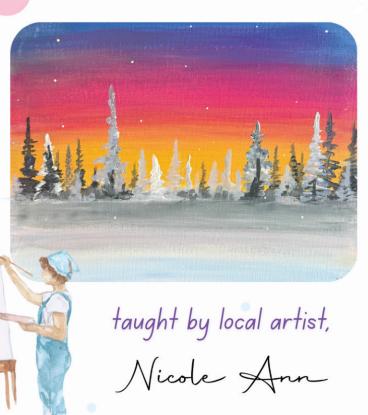
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Nicole Ann*

**Recommended for children ages 7-14**

## Seniors impacted by Alzheimer's invited to apply for scholarship

MAINE – The Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA) is offering scholarships of up to \$5,000 to college-bound high school seniors affected by Alzheimer's disease or other dementia-related illnesses as part of its annual Teen Alzheimer's Awareness Scholarship. Entries can be submitted at [www.alzfdn.org/scholarship](http://www.alzfdn.org/scholarship) and must be received by Sunday, March 1 at 5 pm ET.

Eligible teens are invited to apply for the scholarship by submitting an essay (1,500 words maximum) or submitting a video (no more than four minutes long) describing how Alzheimer's disease has shaped their lives, what they have learned about themselves, their family and/or their community through their experience with Alzheimer's, and how they plan to advocate or raise awareness in the future.

The contest recognizes the emotional, academic, and personal challenges young people often face when a loved one is living with the disease. By amplifying student voices, the program aims to raise awareness, foster empathy, and support the next generation as they pursue higher education while honoring the resilience shown by families affected by Alzheimer's.

Examples of ways that Alzheimer's impacted a student's life can include:

Having a loved one with Alzheimer's disease or another dementia-related illness

Helping care for someone with Alzheimer's disease or another dementia-related illness

Volunteering or working in a care setting that serves individuals with dementia

Raising Alzheimer's awareness in their school

or community  
Conducting Alzheimer's research

The program is open to current high school seniors living in the United States who will be attending a U.S. college or university this Fall. Students already attending college are not eligible to participate.

The top prize awarded is a \$5,000 scholarship. Additional prizes are awarded for runners up and honorable mentions. More than \$527,000 in college scholarships have been awarded since the program's inception.

AFA provides these scholarship funds through the generous support of charitable donors. Individuals wishing to support this and other programs and services for families affected by Alzheimer's disease can do so by visiting [www.alzfdn.org/donate](http://www.alzfdn.org/donate) or calling AFA at 866-232-8484.

## Off-Broadway hit STILL opens at The Public Theatre

LEWISTON, ME – What do you do when you love someone, but hate some things they believe?

Lost love is rekindled in the funny, heart-breaking, sexy and smart new play *STILL*, playing Jan 30 – Feb 8, when a couple who broke up in their 30s get another chance at love in their 60s.

Secrets are exposed, second chances are given, and an avocado goes flying in the Maine premiere of this recent Off-Broadway hit and Outer Critics Circle nominee for Best New American Play. Compelling and provocative, you'll be talking about this show all the way home.

Part love story, part fly on the wall conversation so many of us are having, *STILL* takes you on an entertaining journey filled with unexpected plot twists and surprises.

Playwright Lia Romeo will be joining the Sunday, Feb 1 post-show discussion with the direc-

tor and actors to answer audience questions and share her insights about the play.

Stepping into the roles of former lovers Mark and Helen will be Equity actors Joe Gately and Janet Mitchko. Joe and Janet previously appeared together at The Public Theatre in *Good People* and are thrilled to be reunited onstage. Joe has appeared onstage in New York and at various regional theatres from Colorado to Vermont, as well as on television in *Blue Bloods* and *Blacklist* among others. Janet has been at the artistic helm of The Public Theatre for the past 33 seasons acting, directing and building the theatre from its infancy. Prior to life in Maine, Janet was an actress, director, voiceover talent and acting teacher in New York City.

The set for *STILL* is designed by Chad LeFebvre, lighting by Michael Reidy and costumes by Kevin Hutchins. *STILL* runs Jan 30 – Feb 8 at The Public Theatre, Lewiston/Auburn's Professional Theatre, located at 31 Maple St. Lewiston Thurs-Friday at 7:00pm, Sat at 3pm, Sun at 2pm with a Sat evening show on Feb 7 at 7:30pm. Tickets \$35 - \$15. Tickets and information at [www.thepublictheatre.org](http://www.thepublictheatre.org) or 207-782-3200.

Sponsored by Butler Bros., DaVinci's Eatery, Twin City Times, Baxter Brewing Co.

Season Underwriters: Sun Journal, Platz Associates, Bennett Radio Group.

Directing *STILL* will

## Applications open for student position on State Board of Ed

MAINE – Applications are being accepted from current high school sophomores who attend public school in the Second Congressional District.

The Maine State Board of Education is currently seeking applications for its newest student member. Applications are open through Friday, February 13, 2026.

Student voice is critically important to the Maine State Board of Education.

The Board has two nonvoting student members who join as high school juniors and serve for two years. One student is enrolled in a school in Maine's First Congressional District, and the other student is enrolled in a school in Maine's Second Congressional District. At all times, the Board has one high school junior and one high school senior with staggered appointments serving as members.

Applications are being accepted from current high school sophomores who attend public school in the Second Congressional District, which includes Androscoggin, Aroostook, Franklin, Hancock, Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, Waldo, Washington, and part of Kennebec Counties.

"Students bring a vital perspective to the Maine State Board of Education. Their lived experiences in Maine's schools help to inform the Board's

decisions and strengthen its work on behalf of all learners," Paulette Bonneau, Chair of the Maine State Board of Education, said. "Serving on the Board is a unique opportunity for students to engage in civic leadership, while shaping the future of education in Maine. Student members play an important role in ensuring that Board discussions and decisions reflect the realities of today's classrooms."

Application materials are available on the Student Board Members webpage. The Maine State Board of Education has also mailed application materials to all Second Congressional District high school principals, Career and Technical Education directors, and school counselors.

Completed applications, either hard copy or digital copy, should please be sent to:

Mary Becker  
Interim Office Specialist

Maine State Board of Education  
23 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0023  
207-624-6616  
[Mary.Becker@maine.gov](mailto:Mary.Becker@maine.gov)

After applications close on February 13, they will be reviewed according to the process described in statute. Semifinalists will be interviewed in March 2026, after which three finalists will be chosen. The names and

application materials of the finalists will be sent to the Governor's office for final selection. The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs of the Maine State Legislature will then interview the nominee in a public hearing and make a recommendation about the nominee to the Maine Senate, which is charged with confirming the appointment.

Please consider sharing this extraordinary opportunity for Maine students to practice civic engagement, while serving as both a representative of Maine students and an active education leader in Maine.

Those with questions may contact Mary Becker, Maine State Board of Education Interim Office Specialist, at 207-624-6616 or via email at [Mary.Becker@maine.gov](mailto:Mary.Becker@maine.gov).

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**Rotundo***Continued from page 1*

ter. The Lewiston school system remains the highest recipient of state funding in Maine.

A lifelong advocate for education, Senator Rotundo's commitment to Lewiston's schools spans decades. She served for eight years on the School Committee, served as President of the Maine School Boards Association, launched the Lewiston Education Fund, and helped establish Pettengill School Park and the Lewiston-Auburn Youth Lacrosse Program.

In the wake of the October 25 mass shooting in Lewiston, Senator Rotundo showed up and worked hard to support her community through the collective grief and trauma that followed. She helped establish the Maine Mass Violence Care Fund, which will provide for medical costs for victims of mass violence into the future, and secured funding for the Maine Resiliency Center, which provides services to people impacted by the shooting. Driven by her belief that every Mainer deserves to feel safe and secure while going about their daily lives, Senator Rotundo advanced gun safety and mental health reforms to lessen gun violence and save lives.

Throughout her years of public service, Senator Rotundo has served on many legislative commissions that have dealt with some of the most pressing and consequential policy issues Maine has faced, including the Board of Trustees for

such as school district consolidation, government transparency and budget reform, as well as helping to create the Riverlands State Park and establishing Maine's Citizen Trade Policy Commission.

Senator Rotundo, who has worked hard to earn and maintain the trust of her colleagues, is well-regarded in the Maine Legislature for her collaborative approach to bipartisan work. "I have always believed that elected officials need to do all we can to create an atmosphere of cooperation and trust, because that makes it possible to work through differences and accomplish the best outcomes for Maine people. I am proud that in my 14 years of chairing the Appropriations Committee, all but two of the budgets we passed were bipartisan."

Senator Rotundo has received many awards and honors over the years for her legislative work, her support for the Lewiston community, and her commitment to bringing a cooperative and respectful spirit to the public sphere.

In addition to her public service, Senator Rotundo directed the Office of Career Services at Bates College and helped establish and direct the Bates Harvard Center for Community Partnerships, which connects students to the Lewiston community through volunteer opportunities at local schools and nonprofits. She has served on several state boards, including the Board of Trustees for

the University of Maine System and the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence Board of Directors, as well as numerous boards of local nonprofits and organizations.

"While I've decided to step away from my legislative duties at the end of my current term, I will not be stepping away from my commitment to the people of my community," said Senator Rotundo. "I have great faith in and love for Lewiston and its people, and I will continue to find ways to serve them."

"In the meantime, there is critical work to be accomplished at the State House in the coming months, and I look forward to continuing to throw myself into that work as I have always done," said Senator Rotundo. "I am eager to work with and support those who have the best interests of Lewiston and the people of Maine at heart."

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## Lisbon Community Federal Credit Union grants community dreams

**LISBON, ME** – Lisbon Community Federal Credit Union is proud to announce the recipients of its Dream Box initiative, unveiled during this year's Very Merry Main Street celebration in Lisbon Falls.

Community members submitted an incredible 160 heartfelt wishes, each sharing hopes for joy, comfort, and meaningful moments. While every dream told a powerful story, Lisbon Community FCU was honored to grant two wishes that will make a lasting impact on local families.

One recipient, Kathee McLean, shared a dream centered on togetherness—a family trip to Santa's Village in 2026. The experience will give the McLean family the chance to create treasured memories filled with laughter, tradition, and holiday magic.

The second dream was submitted by Kandace Conner, whose wish focused on helping others. Kandace hoped to provide her grandparents, including Jackie Merrill, with a handicap-accessible shower, improving safety and comfort in their daily lives.

"These wishes reflect the heart of our community," said Ron Hood, Marketing Officer at Lisbon Community FCU. "From joyful family experiences to thoughtful acts of care, the Dream Box reminds us that dreams don't always look the same—but every



L to R: Tracy Collins, LCFCU Risk Mitigation Manager, The McLean Family, Sarah Perkins, LCFCU President/CEO, and Shiloh Hagerman, LCFCU Vice President of Member Engagement



L to R: Mike Grenier, LCFCU Vice President of Operations, Jackie Merrill, Kandace Conner, and Kristi Foss, LCFCU HR & Lisbon Branch Manager

one of them matters." their hopes and dreams, reinforcing LCFCU's commitment to community connection and compassion.

Lisbon Community FCU extends heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated, shared a wish, and helped make this initiative so meaningful.

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## Special section: National Human Trafficking Awareness Month

### UN Secretary-General: Human trafficking 'growing & evolving'

Following are UN Secretary-General António Guterres' remarks, as read by Guy Ryder, Under-Secretary-General for Policy, to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, in New York in late 2025:

I thank the President of the General Assembly for convening this fourth meeting on the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

And I am pleased to convey the following message of the Secretary-General: Human trafficking is an abhorrent crime. It is intolerable that members of our human family, including the youngest, are trafficked for labour, domestic service, marriage, criminality and sexual exploitation.

This year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the supplemental Trafficking in Persons Protocol, now almost universally ratified, with 185 States Parties. It is also

the fifteenth anniversary of the Global Plan of Action to transform our commitments into practice, including through the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons.

Yet, as we take stock, we must acknowledge that trafficking in persons is growing and evolving. Persistent drivers, such as poverty, displacement, discrimination, conflicts and climate disasters, are being compounded by the exploitation of technologies enabling traffickers to profit from human misery with unprecedented speed and reach. Artificial intelligence (AI) is being weaponized to recruit, control and exploit victims.

often, victims themselves are punished for acts committed under coercion — a clear violation of the principle of non-punishment.

As you translate your new Political Declaration into action, I urge a renewed focus on three key areas. First, Member States must invest in solutions. This includes strengthening laws and remedies, and effectively implementing them, to end impunity and bring perpetrators to justice.

We also need investments in programmes to help victims rebuild their lives and address the trauma they've endured. And Governments need to commit resources into developing and employing technology to detect, investigate and prosecute this crime in ways that safeguard human rights. As this crime evolves, our responses must keep pace.

Second, we must deepen collaboration. This includes strengthening and facilitating the exchange of information and evidence between States, as well as mutual legal assistance, extradition commitments and joint investigations.



# United Nations

We must continue building partnerships with civil society, with academia and with the private sector, including technology companies, to detect wrongdoing and deliver justice to perpetrators and to support victims.

And we need to strengthen coordination to protect vulnerable migrants from falling prey to trafficking, in line with the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

Finally, we must put victims at the centre. In recent years, Governments and the United Nations have been involving survivors in work to end human trafficking and provide support to victims. I call on all Member States to ensure that the experiences and the perspectives of victims are heard and reflected

across anti-trafficking policies and support measures. Human trafficking is a global crime that demands global solutions. Let's make the most of this moment to strengthen our collective resolve and put an end to the scourge of human trafficking.

## 49.6 million

people who are in human trafficking or living in modern-day slavery



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## Special section: National Human Trafficking Awareness Month

### Bay Area combats human trafficking ahead of Super Bowl

Contributed by Marin County

**MARIN COUNTY, CA** - As the San Francisco Bay Area prepares to host major international sporting events in 2026, including Super Bowl LX and the FIFA World Cup, millions of visitors are expected to travel through and stay across the region, including Marin County. While these events promise joy and excitement, they also create opportunities for human traffickers and other criminals.

Marin County District Attorney Lori Frugoli spoke at the San Francisco Collaborative Against Human Trafficking (SFCAHT) annual press conference on January 9, joining regional leaders to update the public, media, and stakeholders on coordinated efforts to combat human trafficking.

Speakers at the conference highlighted how

local agencies and community partners are working together to prevent trafficking, protect victims, and hold traffickers accountable. Attendees learned about major anti-trafficking initiatives, how the region is preparing for large-scale events like Super Bowl LX and the FIFA World Cup, and practical ways individuals and organizations can support these critical efforts.

Frugoli said people ask her if human trafficking happens in Marin County.

"I have driven the Highway 101 corridor with a survivor who pointed out locations where she was trafficked, so yes, even in Marin this happens," she said. "Although Marin is one of the safest counties in the state, if not the safest, we are well aware that the Golden Gate Bridge, the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge, and Highway 101



corridor are easy pathways for people with good and bad intentions to travel here. The mobility of traffickers and their customers is one of the reasons behind this amazing collaborative. Our District Attorney's Office will continue working with local and regional partners as the Bay Area welcomes the world."

The Marin County Sheriff's Office is on board, too. Sheriff Jamie Scardina said his staff is committed to identifying human traffickers and potential victims throughout

the Marin jurisdiction.

"In conjunction with our state and local partners, our Patrol Division and Investigations Division will work to target individuals who reside within or travel to Marin County for the purpose of human trafficking and curb their actions," he said.

Super Bowl LX will take place February 8 at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, and the FIFA World Cup will bring international matches and events to the Bay Area in June and July. Marin County

also sees large numbers of visitors for events such as yacht racing on San Francisco Bay, auto races at Sonoma Raceway, and San Francisco Fleet Week. Those events bring more short-term visitors to the area, making it important for agencies and communities to work together to prevent exploitation.

Human trafficking is a crime that can occur in any community. According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain labor or commercial sex acts. Victims can be any age, race, gender, or nationality. Traffickers often operate under the appearance of legitimate businesses or personal relationships and increasingly use technology and social media to target and exploit individuals, making public awareness and education essential

tools in prevention. The SFCAHT is a coalition of government agencies, law enforcement, service providers, advocates, and community partners dedicated to ending human trafficking through collaboration, education, outreach, and survivor support. SFCAHT works to raise public awareness, share best practices, and strengthen regional responses to trafficking while advocating for policies that protect victims and hold traffickers accountable.

Marin County remains committed to keeping residents and visitors safe through the Marin County Coalition to End Human Trafficking (MCCEHT), which works to raise awareness about human trafficking and how to recognize and report it. To get involved in local efforts to prevent human trafficking, email MCCEHT.

### What is human trafficking?

Contributed by the Department of Homeland Security

Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. Every year, millions of men, women, and children are trafficked worldwide – including right here in the United States. It can happen in any community and victims can be any age, race, gender, or nationality.

Approaches Used by Traffickers

Traffickers often operate under the guise of legitimate businesses or relationships, making it challenging to recognize their true intentions. They adapt their tactics to exploit modern technology and social media, targeting individuals through online platforms and personal networks. Communities may not always be aware of the signs or the presence of trafficking within their midst, which makes public edu-

cation and awareness crucial. By staying informed and vigilant, people can better recognize subtle warning signs and support efforts to prevent trafficking before it occurs.

Traffickers might use the following methods to lure victims into trafficking situations:

Violence

Manipulation

False promises of well-paying jobs

Romantic relationships

Traffickers look for people who are easy targets for a variety of reasons, including:

Psychological or emotional vulnerability

Economic hardship

Lack of a social safety net

Natural disasters

Political instability

Human Trafficking is an Underreported Crime

Language barriers, fear of their traffickers, and/or fear of law enforcement frequently keep victims

The trauma caused by the traffickers can be so great that many may not identify themselves as victims or ask for help, even in highly public settings.

Safely Identifying Human Trafficking

Many myths and misconceptions exist. Recognizing key indicators of human trafficking is the first step in identifying victims. It's important to note, though, that not all indicators listed are present in every human trafficking situation, and the presence or absence of any of the indicators is not necessarily proof of human trafficking.

The safety of the public as well as the victim is important. Do not attempt to confront a suspected trafficker directly or alert a victim to any suspicions – your role is just to report it, and it is up to law enforcement to investigate suspected cases of human trafficking.

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### WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

#### HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS...

Exploiting a person through  
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Sex trafficking, forced labor,  
and domestic servitude  
Exploitation based and does not require movement across  
borders or any type of transportation

#### THERE ARE DIFFERENT TYPES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

##### SEX TRAFFICKING



#### HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS HAPPENING IN THE UNITED STATES

SUBURBS RURAL TOWNS CITIES

##### FORCED LABOR



##### DOMESTIC SERVITUDE



#### IT CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE

NO MATTER AGE, RACE, GENDER, IDENTITY, SEX, ETHNICITY,  
NATIONALITY, IMMIGRATION STATUS, AND SOCIOECONOMIC CLASS



#### RECOGNIZE AND REPORT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- To Report Suspecting something to be human trafficking, call 1-888-373-7878 or online at [www.humantrafficking.gov](http://www.humantrafficking.gov)
- Get Help from the National Human Trafficking Hotline by calling 1-888-373-7878 or text/hotline at 233733 (BEFREE)
- Call 911 if you suspect something is happening in your community.

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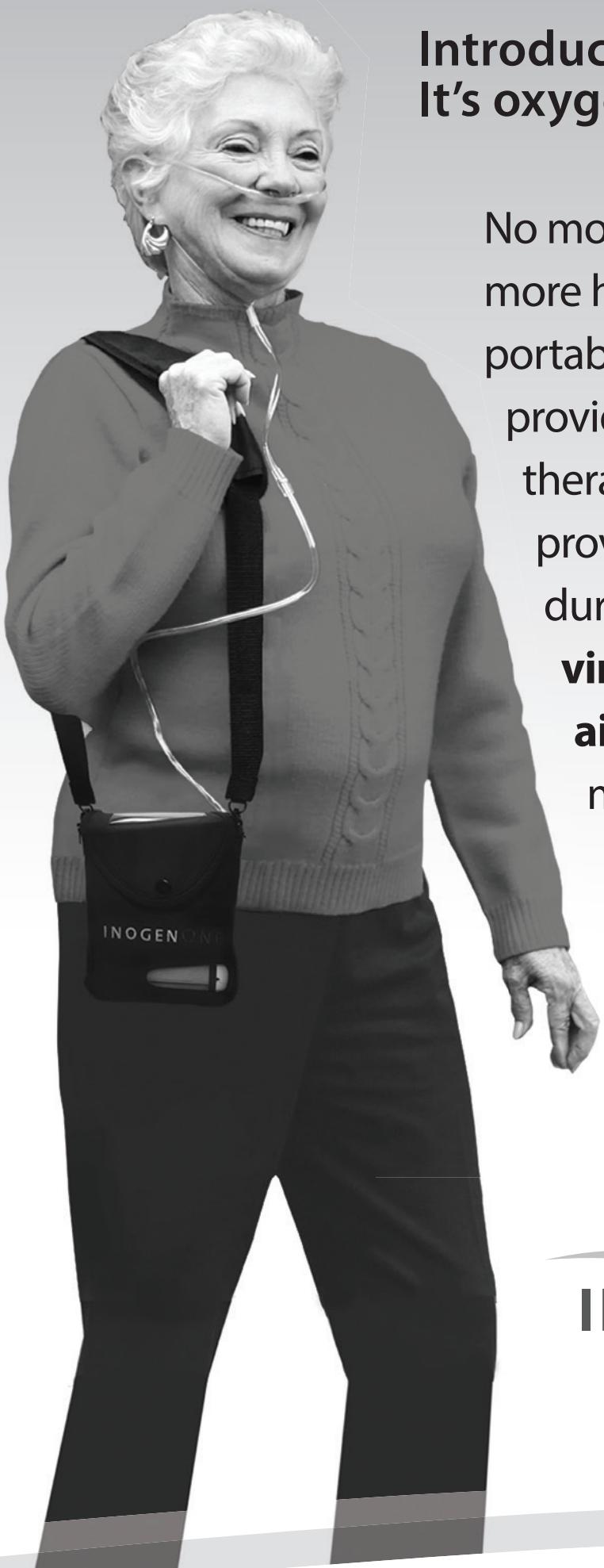
- Visit the Blue Campaign website to learn more about the indicators of human trafficking: [www.humantrafficking.gov](http://www.humantrafficking.gov)
- Like Blue Campaign on Facebook to stay up-to-date on human trafficking news.
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**Jan 24**

LEWISTON – Join us at the Lewiston Public Library for Painting Class: Let It Snow! in the 2nd floor Idea Lab on Saturday, January 24 at 11am. Recommended for children ages 7 – 14 years old. Come learn how to paint a snowy scene with step-by-step instruction by local artist, Nicole Ann. Get creative by painting a winter sunset using acrylic paints on canvas panels. All materials are provided. This program is free, open to the public, and no registration is required.

**Jan 24**

LEWISTON – Members of Lewiston's delegation to the State Legislature will hold constituent office hours at the Lewiston Public Library on Saturday, January 24, from 10:30 a.m. until noon to provide local residents a chance to meet with their elected officials and discuss legislative and state government matters.

**Jan 24**

SCARBOROUGH – Paper Pop-Up Art Workshop, with artist Allison Villani at Scarborough Public Library 1-3pm. Registration required: scarboroughlibrary.libcal.com/event/15666171

**Jan 24**

LEWISTON – By popular demand, the wildly entertaining Dueling Pianos experience returns to the Franco Center on Saturday, January 24, promising an unforgettable evening packed with music, laughter, and audience-driven fun. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. with a

# Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

cash bar, and the performance begins at 7:00 p.m. Tickets: \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. Purchase online: <https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=304301>

**Jan 26**

AUBURN – College Night program at the Auburn Public Library. This program is on Monday, January 26th from 4:30-6:30 PM.

**Jan 26**

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 January 26th @ 5:30pm, at the Lewiston Public Library, located at 200 Lisbon St., Lewiston, ME 04240. We will be reading Stories from the Old Squire's Farm (chapters 1-17) by C.A. Stephens.

**Jan 26**

TOPSHAM – More with Midcoast Sunday, January 26, 2025 - 1:15 p.m. Open Rehearsal with Music Director Rohan Smith -- Orion Performing Arts Center in Topsham - sit on stage

**Jan 27**

BRUNSWICK – FREE THE ANDRO Kick-Off Public Meeting at the Morrell Meeting Room, Curtis Library, 23 Pleasant Street, Brunswick, 5:00-6:30 pm

**Jan 27, Feb 5**

AUBURN – The Auburn Public Library is offering events in partnership with the 2026 Camden Conference:

Film screening & discussion: "Erdogan: The Making of a Sultan", Tuesday, January 27th,

4-5:30 PM (Registration requested)

Book discussion: "Notes on a Foreign Country: An American Abroad in a Post-American World" by Suzy Hansen, Thursday, February 5th, 4-5 PM (Registration required - books provided)

**Jan 31**

AUBURN – There will be a baked bean supper at Sixth Street Congregational Church at 109 Sixth Street in Auburn, on Saturday, January 31 from 4:30 until 6:00. There will be two kinds of beans, red hotdogs, brown hotdogs, coleslaw, assorted casseroles, assorted desserts, and beverage. The cost of the supper is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 6 to 12; children 5 and under are free.

**Jan 31**

BUXTON – Try our delicious Haddock Supper Buffet - Saturday, January 31, 2026 - 5:00 pm at Living Waters Church, Parker Farm Road, Buxton. Suggested donation: \$10 Adult, \$5 Child, \$20 Family.

Please note: We will offer the option of takeout containers for those who do not want to come inside for seating.

**Jan 31**

AUBURN – Auburn Republican Caucus starting at 1:00PM, AMS Cafeteria (back entrance). For more information email: [gopauburnmaine@gmail.com](mailto:gopauburnmaine@gmail.com)

**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.

**Feb 2-14**

LEWISTON – From February 2nd to February 14th, create a Valentine's

Day card at the Lewiston Public Library! Free supplies and crafting space will be available for adults on the 2nd floor and for children on the 3rd floor.

**Feb 19**

LEWISTON – Lewiston Public Library's Genre Roulette Book Club samples genres by focusing on one genre for three months at a time: join for one season or come to them all! This winter, the book club will be focusing on Romance across three sub-genres. We will meet monthly in the Couture Room from 5:30 to 6:30pm on the following Thursdays: February 19th, and March 19th.

February will focus on contemporary romance. The group will meet on

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February 19th to discuss Better Than Fiction by Alexa Martin. Book-hater turned book-seller Drew Young meets author Jasper Williams at an event at her store, and they soon find themselves living a romance that is better than fiction.

This book club is recommended for ages 18+. If you need help locating a copy of any of these titles, please contact our Lending Services Department at 513-3134 or visit the lending desk on the library's first floor.

**January 26, 2026**  
4:30 PM-6:30 PM

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