



TWIN CITY TIMES

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Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1999

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Maine Jewish Film Festival preview this March

LEWISTON, ME - MJFF.org kicks off at Bates College in March, with two Maine premiere films. 2026 Maine Jewish Film Festival Preview this March at Bates College in Lewiston, Pettengill Hall G52

Wednesday, March 11 7:00pm Mazel Tov. (If you have a Bates I.D. use code BATESCOMP)

Sunday, March 15 2:00 om Las dos Mariette. (If you have a Bates I.D. use code BATESCOMP)

Save the date! The 2026 Maine Jewish Film Festival will be April 25-May 2. For more information: www.mjff.org

Mazel Tov Directed by Adrián Suar

Argentina, 2025 97 Minutes

When Dario Roitman returns from the U.S. to Argentina for a family wedding and Bat Mitzvah, he anticipates the usual family drama. But his carefully laid plans for a family reunion are suddenly upended when he learns, just hours before his flight, that



Film still from Mazel Tov.

his father has passed away. As the Roitmans gather for the funeral, old wounds resurface and longstanding tensions reach a boiling point. Despite the emotional turmoil, Dario remains determined to celebrate both the wedding and Bat Mitzvah, even if it means challenging tradition and risking further discord. Navigating grief, sibling rivalry, and delightfully eccentric grudges, the Roitmans reveal the messy yet enduring love of family.

Las dos Mariette Directed by Poli Martinez Kaplun Argentina, 2023

80 Minutes

A secret kept for 70 years, and a woman, Mariette, who dares to tell it. A film that follows the perspectives of four generations when what had been hidden finally comes to light. How long can a person keep a secret? The film's protagonist, Mariette, did it for 70 years. Now, at a threshold in her life, she finally decides to speak up. Afraid of betraying her mother, who did everything she could to keep the secret hidden, Mariette faces her world filled with doubt, fearing rejection and prejudice.

UMaine Extension hosts vegetable & fruit school on March 17

LEWISTON, ME - University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Maine Vegetable and Small Fruit Growers Association will co-host the Maine Vegetable and Fruit School on Tuesday, March 17, from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at the University of Southern Maine - Lewiston Campus, Room 170, 51 Westminster Street.

The day-long program is designed for commercial vegetable and fruit growers, and will focus on pest management and crop production topics. Presentations will include pest management for strawberries, squash, cucumber, garlic and onions;

cherry tomato production, new vegetable varieties, post-harvest handling and grape potential in New England. Presenters include UMaine Extension faculty and researchers. Pesticide applicator recertification credits and continuing education credits are available.

The \$50 registration fee includes a catered lunch. Register by March 12 on the program webpage. Walk-ins are welcome but lunch will not be guaranteed for those participants. In case of bad weather, check the University of Southern Maine weather hotline at 207.780.4800. For more information or to request

a reasonable accommodation, contact Stephanie Wright at 207.933.2100 or stephanie.wright@maine.edu.

Best Source for Arts, Music and Theater!
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February Special Section American Heart Month page 9

An Angel's Wing announces naming, dedication for homes

LEWISTON, ME - An Angel's Wing, Inc. formally announces the naming and dedication of its Women's Recovery Home and its LGBTQ+ Inclusive Co-Ed Recovery Home in memory of loved ones who have passed away.

As a nonprofit organization committed to providing safe, structured, and affirming recovery housing, An Angel's Wing recognizes that the name placed upon a recovery residence carries lasting meaning. Naming a home is a permanent dedication — one that represents dignity, hope, inclusion, and

the opportunity for individuals to rebuild their lives in a supportive environment.

Through this memorial naming opportunity, families may honor a loved one by establishing a legacy rooted in healing and second chances. Each dedication will serve as an enduring tribute aligned with the organization's mission to support individuals affected by substance use and related challenges.

Families interested in dedicating a home in memory of their loved one must complete an application and be willing to make a finan-

cial contribution toward the residence as part of this permanent tribute.

Applications may be requested by emailing: info@anangelswing.org

The deadline to request and submit applications is March 1st.

An Angel's Wing, Inc. extends its gratitude to families and community members who continue to support recovery efforts and the creation of inclusive spaces for healing throughout Maine.

For more information, please contact info@anangelswing.org.

Lewiston-Auburn Kiwanis Club prepares baby bags

MAINE - The Lewiston-Auburn Kiwanis Club recently assembled 500 Early Childhood Injury Prevention kits, called Baby Bags, to help protect newborns in our area.

We partnered with our sponsored Key Clubs at Leavitt Area High School in Turner, Lewiston High School in Lewiston, Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School in Norway/South Paris, a brand-new Builders Club for middle school grades at St. Dominic Academy in Auburn, and a Key Club being organized at Edward Little High School in Auburn.

These Baby Bags include a rubber ducky with a temperature sensor if the bath water is too hot, a car seat sticker with contact information in case the adults in the car are unable to talk to first responders, electric outlet covers, and information pamphlets on



Presentation to Deb Brousseau and Jenn Dee of Pediatric Associates of Lewiston

a variety of baby safety topics. All of the contents were generously provided by the Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Institute, a project of the New England and Bermuda District of Kiwanis Clubs.

Once assembled, the Baby Bags were donated to Pediatric Associates of Lewiston, and Stevens Memorial Hospital in Norway, to be given to parents of newborn babies.

Just imagine, 500

infants are safer today because of this service project!

The aim of Kiwanis Clubs worldwide, and right here in this area, is to "Serve the children of the world, one child and one community at a time." To learn more about the Lewiston-Auburn Kiwanis Club, check out our website at K00778.site.kiwanis.org, or call our secretary Andy Choate at 207-754-2807.

Ready to take the next step in recovery?

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

MEMIC expands national footprint with new acquisition

PORTLAND, ME - The MEMIC Group announced today the successful closing of its acquisition of The Dakota Group®, including Risk Administration Services, Inc. (RAS) and its affiliated service companies. This strategic combination positions MEMIC as the third-largest multi-state workers' compensation specialist in the United States, with estimated combined 2025 writings of more than \$600 million and coverage for over 25,000 businesses nationwide. Both organizations are rated A (Excellent) by A.M. Best.

RAS is the attorney-in-fact for Dakota Truck Underwriters and, with the acquisition, has a controlling interest in First Dakota Indemnity. This acquisition also includes the purchase of The Dakota Group's affiliated service companies. These companies provide cost-containment services, such as case management, PPO networks, and medical bill review, to a broad client base across the Midwest.

"This is an exciting moment," said Michael Bourque, President and CEO of The MEMIC



Group. "By acquiring the Dakota Group, we extend our footprint with complementary market territory and increase our impact to the upper Midwest and the Great Plains. The Dakota Group is a very well-run organization whose DNA in workers' compensation insurance is a close match with us. Together, we have enhanced resources and broader expertise that will help us better serve agent and policyholders across the US."

"Joining forces with the MEMIC Group strengthens RAS, The Dakota Group, and our affiliates, enabling us to better meet and exceed the evolving needs of agents and customers. Exceptional customer service has been at the heart of our work for 35 years, and that commitment will only grow stronger," said Richard Johnson, President and CEO of The Dakota Group.

The transaction includes Risk Administration Services, Inc. (RAS), which serves as attorney-in-fact to the reciprocal insurer Dakota Truck

Underwriters (DTU), as well as a controlling interest in First Dakota Indemnity Company, which is managed by RAS.

Aon Securities LLC acted as financial advisor, while Pierce Atwood LLP provided legal counsel to The MEMIC Group on this transaction. Keefe, Bruyette & Woods, a Stifel Company, also served in the role of financial advisor, Trade Law PC and Troutman Pepper Locke LLP represented The Dakota Group as legal counsel.

Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

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

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Lisbon Credit Union announces scholarship program

LISBON, ME - Lisbon Community Federal Credit Union is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for its 2026 Rochel "Russ" Livernois Memorial Scholarship Program, an annual scholarship initiative that has supported local students for more than two decades.

Through this long-standing program, Lisbon Community FCU will award four scholarships of up to \$2,500 each to graduating high school seniors who demonstrate strong academic achievement, community involvement, and a commitment to furthering their education.

"The Livernois

Scholarship is one of the most meaningful ways we give back to our communities each year," said Sarah Perkins, President/CEO of Lisbon Community Federal Credit Union. "We are proud to continue this tradition and support students who are working hard to achieve their educational goals while making a positive impact around them."

Established in 2000, the Rochel "Russ" Livernois Memorial Scholarship honors the legacy of Rochel "Russ" Livernois, who served as Treasurer/Manager from the Credit Union's founding in 1959 through 1985. His years of service, leadership, and dedication to the cred-

it union and its members continue to be reflected through this scholarship program.

Eligibility & Application Information:

Open to graduating high school seniors within Lisbon Community FCU's field of membership

Applicants must plan to attend an accredited college, university, or technical school

Applications are reviewed based on academic performance, community involvement, and a written essay

The application deadline is May 1, 2026, and scholarship recipients will be announced on or before May 29, 2026.

RAND study shows poison centers save billions each year

PORTLAND, ME - U.S. Poison Centers save \$3.1 billion every year in medical costs and lost productivity, according to a new independent study released by America's Poison Centers. The report, conducted by the nonprofit research organization RAND, concludes that poison centers such as the Maine-based Northern New England Poison Center (NNEPC) provide substantial economic and societal benefits for communities across the country.

The RAND report, Poison Prevention, Treatment, and Detection as Public Health Investments, found that for every \$1 invested in poison center services, communities receive \$16.77 in benefits. These cost savings reflect reduced emergency department use, shortened hospital stays, decreased mortality risk, enhanced

public health surveillance and improved patient outcomes. The NNEPC responds to more than 33,000 cases in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont annually, providing expert support to families, individuals and health care providers in the community 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

However, the report finds that despite the demonstrated value of poison centers, their overall funding has decreased by 8 percent from 2011 to 2024 in real dollars. Amid rising healthcare costs, these budget cuts are an increasing threat to poison center operations. While the Maine Legislature generously increased funding to the NNEPC by \$50,000 last year, MaineHealth continues to fill a \$1.3 million annual gap between the amount of government funding the NNEPC receives and the cost of ser-

vices it provides the public for free.

The report found that poison centers and their national infrastructure have significantly modernized over the last decade, expanding beyond traditional telephone calls to offer text and live chat services that better meet the changing needs of the public and the health care system.

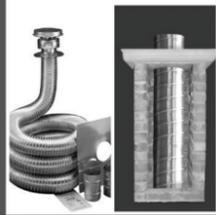
"This study confirms the immediate care provided by our nurses, pharmacists and physicians improves health and saves money for our community," said Karen Simone, PharmD, director of the NNEPC. "Our team helps patients and families manage minor poisonings at home and avoid the emergency department. We also work closely with other health care providers to ensure patients who do need to be treated in the hospital receive the best possible care."

In addition to providing 24-hour guidance to the public and healthcare professionals in cases of potential poisoning, the NNEPC is a key part of Maine's emergency preparedness system, supports the Maine Center for Disease Control's public health monitoring and provides yearround educational programming aimed at preventing poisonings.

For additional information, or to read the full report, visit poisoncenters.org/national-impact-study. For fast, free, confidential help or questions regarding a possible poisoning, call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222, or visit www.nnepc.org.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Bridget McAlonan: Making Friends with Monsters

LEWISTON, ME - Maine-based artist, educator, and advocate Bridget McAlonan's creative spirit is rooted in improvisation and a deep fascination with how images come to life. In *Making Friends with Monsters*, as in the rest of her world, reality is often shadowed by something more playful and profound. Paintings on canvas and on paper share the space with sculptural pieces that dare the passive viewer to become an engaged member of the audience.



The things they said about puppeteers and birds in the hand, 2024

About the Exhibition For McAlonan, art isn't just a practice; it's a conversation—a vibrant, ever-evolving dialogue between imagination and expression. Paintings breathe with a life of their own, and the ephemeral beauty of her performance art finds a permanent home.

As the driving force behind Portland-based puppetry troupe *Inventing Trees*, McAlonan orchestrates mixed-media performances where the line between the everyday and the theatrical blurs. Her style is dynamic and spontaneous. She approaches her craft with an ethos of discovery, where painting, impromptu theater, and visual art collide.

Inventing Trees Pop-up Puppetry Theater and Mobile Makers Lab

In every aspect of her practice, Bridget McAlonan thrives on the interactive, building worlds where audiences and participants can engage with the magic as it happens. This improvisational approach is at the core of her

teaching philosophy, inspiring others to find their own creative voice through workshops and community engagement.

As a supplement to the exhibition itself, McAlonan will present two interactive workshops on Saturday, March 7 and Saturday, April 4 from 12 to 4pm.

These events, which are opportunities for community art making, rather than performances, have been made possible through The Andy Warhol Foundation 2024 Kindling Fund Grant and support from Space Gallery and LA Arts.

The *Inventing Trees* Pop-up Puppetry Theater and Mobile Makers Lab is family friendly and FREE for all. (Young children are asked to bring an adult or two, because sometimes adults need an excuse to make art....)

Bridget McAlonan:

Making Friends with Monsters runs February 20th–April 4th at the LA Arts Gallery, 168 Lisbon St. in Lewiston.

Since 1973, LA Arts, the arts agency for the cities of Lewiston and Auburn Maine, has pursued a mission to engage and inspire a vibrant community through arts and culture. The agency works with governments, businesses, schools, and local arts and cultural organizations to create opportunities for community members across the generations to experience, learn, and participate in the arts. LA Arts organizes arts programs and initiatives, supports the work of local artists and arts organizations, and highlights the essential role the arts play in shaping an economically vital, socially integrated, and forward-looking future for its community. Learn more at www.laarts.org.

Norway Savings contributes \$3K to Maine art history documentary

FALMOUTH, ME - Norway Savings Bank is thrilled to announce a \$3,000 contribution to support a collaboration between one of Maine's most acclaimed documentary filmmaking companies, Lone Wolf Media in South Portland, and the Union of Maine Visual Artists (UMVA). UMVA advocates for Maine art and artists building camaraderie and promoting the common good. Recently, NSB team members presented a check for the contribution to members of the team behind the project (picture attached, caption below).



Pictured (L to R): Joe Leland, Market Manager VP for Norway Savings Bank; Adam Costa, Head of Production and Development, Lone Wolf Media; Lisa Goodfellow, Documentary Producer; Peggy Greenhut Golden, Documentary Producer; Kirk Wolfinger, Lone Wolf Media Owner.

The documentary is entitled *Away From It All: Maine's Place in American Art History*. The film tells the story of Maine's influence on American art history from 1850 to present day. It will travel throughout the state documenting the stories of artists such as Thomas Cole, Frederick Church, Winslow Homer, Edward Hopper, Georgia O'Keeffe, Rockwell Kent, and Andrew Wyeth while showing off Maine's inherent beauty. Maine inspired and impacted scores of famous artists and transformed the American art scene in the process.

"No other state in the country can boast of our history," said Peggy Greenhut Golden, former director of the Greenhut Galleries in Portland. "This history is important and extensive. Maine Public will premiere the film in 2026, and our hope is to air it on PBS stations across the country."

The team behind the production is comprised of a 'who's who' in Maine art, including Greenhut Golden; Susan Danly, former senior curator at the Portland Museum of Art; Suzette McAvoy, former curator at the Farnsworth Museum and director of the Center for Modern Contemporary Art, both in Rockland; and Carl Little,

a noted arts writer.

Lone Wolf Media is owned by Kirk and Lisa Wolfinger. The scriptwriter, Rocky Collins, is a native of Orono and wrote the script for the film *Summer of Soul*, which is available on Netflix. The editor, Jed Rausher, is a graduate of Bowdoin College with a degree in Art History. Lone Wolf's most recent film, *Resistance: They Fought Back*, was made in conjunction with Paula Apsell, the founder of NOVA on PBS, where it aired in 2025.

In addition, the project also aims to ensure that people of all ages can experience it.

"A shorter version of the film especially for children will be available on the film website. Curriculum for teachers will accompany it and can be accessed globally. It's important that children learn about this extraordinary Maine history," said Greenhut Golden. "A creative film about a timeless piece of Maine history, made by Mainers, premiered by Maine Public, and showcasing many picturesque locations provokes a certain sense of pride to those who are fortunate to call Maine home."

"Norway Savings is happy to play a small role in helping to make

this story reach thousands and thousands of viewers. The difference our state has made for artists and art itself through the years is remarkable," said Dan Walsh, President and CEO of Norway Savings Bank. "We're thankful to the production team and collaborators for dedicating their time and diligence to preserving this history and offering it to future generations."

To check out a preview of the film, click here. If you are able to contribute to this project, you can make a donation at www.theumva.org/donate. To learn more about the film, please visit www.theumva.org/away-from-it-all or email Peggy at peggygreenhut@gmail.com.

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We want to hear from you!
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Send all items for Names & Faces to the editor. Deadline is Friday by five pm.

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Seniors Not Acting Their Age A Snowy Trek through the Green Hills of New Hampshire



A hiker ascends steeply on the Middle Mountain Trail in the Green Hills



A steep narrow ridge leads to the summit of Middle Mountain



A climber enjoys wondrous views of Mount Washington Valley from the summit of Peaked Mountain

The Green Hills of New Hampshire consist of a 12,000-acre tract of forested land situated near Conway in the east-central sector of the state. Part of the White Mountains, the hills are noteworthy for their scenic, mid-sized mountains and an extensive trail network.

When the area was first settled, the Green Hills were considered "common land" used by settlers to hunt, graze their farm animals and as a source of firewood. More recently, The Nature Conservancy, the Town of Conway, and the State of New Hampshire have partnered to protect much of the land in the Green Hills.

Green Hills Preserve is a 5,567-acre subset of the protected lands managed by The Nature Conservancy. Included in the preserve are Rattlesnake, Middle, Peaked and Black Cap Mountains. A well-designed and maintained trail system provides quality ac-

cess to the peaks.

Lacking 4,000-foot summits, the Green Hills are not as well-known as their other White Mountain counterparts. However, they have become popular hiking alternatives in recent years. About a decade ago, a mountain hiking friend recommended my first trek in the Green Hills. Thoroughly impressed, I've been returning once or twice a year since.

In late January, I announced a Penobscot Paddle & Chowder Society mountain hike in the Green Hills. While most of the usual suspects were unavailable, frequent outdoor companion, Eggman DeCoster, had never hiked in that region and was enthusiastic about joining me.

My plan was to follow a part of the trail network leading to Middle and Peaked Mountains in the central sector of the preserve. After a day of Nordic skiing at the Jack-

son Touring Center in nearby Jackson, we spent the night at a motel in North Conway and were at the Green Hills trailhead on Thompson Road in the eastern outskirts of town early the next morning.

When we arrived at the trailhead, skies were cloudy and temperatures in the teens. A varied forecast called for partly sunny skies, moderate northwest winds and periodic snow squalls.

An inspection of the trail indicated it had received a lot of traffic and was well-packed. We decided to forego snowshoes and carry micro spikes; that turned out to be a wise decision.

We began hiking easily on a relatively level surface in a snow squall. The long-lasting "squall" continued uninterrupted for nearly two hours. After a short distance, we reached a trail junction and turned left onto Middle Mountain Trail. The gradient soon increased in a mixed hardwood and conifer forest. At the half-mile point, we passed Black Cap Mountain Trail on the left, our tentative return route.

The trail narrowed and steepened as we progressed upward adjacent to a mountain stream. When patchy ice was encountered, we stopped to add micro spikes. From that

point, the trail rose steadily past a junction for Peaked Mountain Trail towards our Middle Mountain destination.

Nearing the Middle Mountain summit area, we followed a winding path that subsequently angled abruptly left and then up a narrow ridge to the partially exposed highpoint. Unfortunately, snow squalls in the area obstructed the usually remarkable views.

After returning to Peaked Mountain Trail, we turned right and began a gradual ascent in our quest to climb Peaked Mountain. Shortly after passing a viewpoint on the left, we connected with a spur trail on the right that rises precipitously to the summit. Our micro spikes were invaluable during the icy scramble.

This time, we were beneficiaries of partly sunny skies with wondrous views of Mount Washington Valley and the impressive Moat Mountain range in the distance. We paused for a snack while soaking up the sunshine and embracing the outstanding vistas.

After a leisurely visit on the summit, we returned to Peaked Mountain Trail and elected to turn right and complete a loop to Middle Mountain Trail. The gradual Peaked Mountain Trail initially crosses open ledges that provide exceptional views of Mount Washington on clear days. Unfortunately, the New England highpoint was enshrouded in clouds. Afterwards, Black Cap Trail continued the gentle descent to Middle

Mountain Trail.

We met the first hikers of the day just before arriving at the Thompson Road trailhead completing a very satisfying excursion in the Green Hills.

My book, *Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine* narrates mountain treks throughout the state.

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 or he can be reached at ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net

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Wolfe's Neck Center, Penobscot Nation partner with grant

FREEPORT, ME - Wolfe's Neck Center for Agriculture & the Environment is embarking on an important partnership with the Penobscot Nation exploring Indigenous stewardship of the land and waters in Freeport from time immemorial through the end of the Revolutionary War, funded by a grant from the Maine Semiquincentennial Commission.

The grant will fund ReDiscovered & ReConnected: Penobscot People in Casco Bay and the formation of America, a community-centered research project in partnership with the Penobscot Nation Cultural and Historic Preservation Department and staff at Wolfe's Neck Center. The grant also begins the work of Wolfe's Neck Center's newly created Casco History Lab, which develops and shares place-based knowledge by providing physical connections to historic and cultural landscapes throughout Freeport's Harraseeket River Historic District.

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UUCB Concerts for a Cause presents Crys Matthews

BRUNSWICK, ME - UUCB Concerts for a Cause presents singer-songwriter Crys Matthews at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick on Saturday, March 7 at 7:30 p.m. to raise money for Oasis Free Clinics and Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project.

Matthews, who was named 2024 Artist of the Year at the International Folk Music Awards, is already being hailed as “the next Woody Guthrie.” The Nashville resident is among the brightest stars of the new generation of social justice music-makers. A powerful lyricist whose songs of compassionate dissent reflect her lived experience as what she lightheartedly calls “the poster child for intersectionality.”

Crys Matthews makes music that is absolutely her own. Sometimes the songs are bluesy, at other times they are country soul. Maybe a song has a little funk or maybe it’s absolutely bluegrass or Americana. In addition to her recent Artist of the Year



Award, she won first prize at the 2017 New Song Music and Performance competition, which led to performances at both Lincoln Center and the Kennedy Center. The preacher’s kid from a small town in North Carolina is doing quite well with eight releases under her belt including songs about social justice, love, loss, and her dog.

“I believe in hope,” Matthews said. “As a social-justice songwriter, it is my duty to keep breathing

that hope and encouragement into the people who listen to my music.” Her most recent CD, “Changemakers,” does just that all while tackling some heavy topics like immigration, the opioid crisis, Black Lives Matter, and gun safety to name a few. Crys says, “I hope that these songs will serve as a time capsule, a record of the events of the last four years and what it was like to live through them.”

Crys Matthews’s thoughtful, realistic, and emotional songs speak to the voice of our generation and remind us why music indeed soothes the soul.

Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, and \$10 for students/children and will be available at the church office, Gulf of Maine Books, or online at ticketstripe.com/matthews.

For more information go to uubrunswick.org/concerts



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

CompTIA Security + Bootcamp Training

AUBURN, ME - The Center for Workforce and Professional Development at Central Maine Community College (CMCC) is partnering with area employers and service providers to recruit candidates interested in completing their CompTIA Security+ Training. Information and registration for the free program are available at centralmaine.cc/workforceapply. The class runs Monday nights, 4:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m., 3/16/26 – 6/29/26, excluding holidays.

CompTIA Security+ is an essential entry-level certification designed for individuals pursuing a career in cybersecurity. Spanning 60 instructional hours, this course provides foundational knowledge for all cybersecurity roles and serves as a launchpad for more advanced positions in the field. Security+

emphasizes hands-on troubleshooting and real-world application, equipping candidates with the practical skills necessary to:

Evaluate and strengthen the security posture of enterprise environments through the implementation of appropriate solutions.

Secure hybrid infrastructures, including cloud-based, mobile, and Internet of Things (IoT) systems.

Operate with a solid understanding of relevant laws, regulations, and governance frameworks, including risk management and compliance principles.

Detect, analyze, and respond effectively to cybersecurity events and incidents.

This training is just one of the many free courses offered by Workforce and Professional Develop-

ment, including Introduction to Phlebotomy, Certified Pharmacy Technician, Computer Support Specialist – 2 Course Bundle, CNA, CETP Gas Training, Refrigerant PA 608, Fiber Optic Technician, Heat Pump Installer Training, and the Welding Academy.

These programs are funded by the Maine Jobs and Recovery Program (MJRP). The course materials and exam fees are also covered. Participants must be at least 18 years of age, possess a high school diploma, GED, or HiSet, and be a U.S. citizen and/or authorized to work in the U.S. For more information or to register, please contact Central Maine Community College’s Center for Workforce & Professional Development at workforcedevelopment@cmcc.edu or 207-755-5280.

Side Door Coffeehouse features Adam Groppman & friends

BRUNSWICK, ME - The Side Door Coffeehouse is a venue for local musicians and others (professional and amateur) to share their talents, and for residents and visitors of the Midcoast community to enjoy great entertainment and conversation in a relaxed setting. Organized by a group of volunteers from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick, the Side Door Coffeehouse operates on the second Friday of every month except Au-

gust. Admission is \$12 for adults and free for children 17 and under.

The Friday, March 13th installment will feature:

Open Mic signup at 6:45 pm

Open Mic at 7:00

Adam Groppman and friends—8:30-9:30 pm.

Adam grew up in the Boston area and attended Reed College in Portland, Oregon. Upon returning to Boston after graduation, he

had a variety of experiences, including being lead singer in a rock band called Furious George, working for Lotus Software, and writing music journalism. But after taking an improvisational comedic acting class while living in San Francisco, he realized his mission in life is to be funny-- or serious. Or seriously funny. In that vein he moved to Los Angeles where he has acquired a taste for occasional light smog, melancholy arid beauty and Korean BBQ.

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Arts & Entertainment

Lady Gaga tribute concert comes to Franco Center

LEWISTON, ME - The Franco Center will light up with pop spectacle and powerhouse vocals on Saturday, February 28, as Amanda Tubbs & Band take the stage in Lady Gaga: Just Dance, a high-energy tribute concert celebrating one of music's most iconic artists.

Doors and cash bar open at 6:00 p.m., with the concert beginning at 7:00 p.m. Audiences can expect a thrilling night of chart-topping anthems, emotional ballads, and nonstop hits that capture the fearless style, heart, and electrifying presence of Lady Gaga.

Bringing the Gaga magic to life is Aman-

da Tubbs, backed by her full band and known for her commanding vocals and dynamic stage presence. From dance-floor favorites to soul-stirring performances, this tribute promises glitz, glam, and unforgettable moments.

Special guest Julia Haven will perform select Lady Gaga songs during the concert. Julia Haven is the stage name of Maine's own Julia Gagnon, whose powerful voice and rising-star presence make her the perfect addition to this celebration of bold artistry.

"We are deeply grateful to our event sponsors — Dirigo Federal Credit Union, Norway Savings Bank, and Central Distrib-



Amanda Tubbs as Lady Gaga. Brit Martin Photo.



Julia Haven will join Amanda Tubbs in song during the Feb. 28 Lady Gaga tribute concert. Messier Management Photo.

By hosting popular tribute shows, we're able to keep ticket prices approachable while still delivering a full concert experience with incredible talent on stage."

Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door and can be purchased in person when the box office is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, online at 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.

Tickets <https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=306942>

utors Inc. — whose generous support helps make nights like this possible," said Theresa Shanahan, Franco Center executive director. "We also want to thank our season underwriter, Maple Way Dental, and our media sponsors Bennett Radio, Sun Jour-

nal, Turner Publishing, and Uncle Andy's Digest. Their continued partnership allows the Franco Center to bring exciting, high-quality performances to our community while keeping the arts accessible to all."

Box Office Manager Susan Spellman said, "Tribute concerts like Lady Gaga: Just Dance are a fun and affordable way for audiences to enjoy top-notch live music.

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



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Maine drummer raising money for Make-A-Wish

LYMAN, ME - The 6th annual Drumming Up Wishes concert, to benefit Make-A-Wish Maine, will be held noon to 6 p.m., Sunday May 3 at the Bow Event Center & Beer Garden in Lyman.

Drummer Jeff Glidden, of South Portland, founded Drumming Up Wishes and organizes it each year. He became involved with Make-A-Wish Maine after his two daughters received wishes.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation's mission is "to create life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses."

Glidden said the foundation not only helped his children, but brought emotional support for his entire family.

"I had daughters with health problems and went through a couple of years when I was aimless and angry," he said. "When people were running away from us, these people (Make-A-Wish) ran right at us."

"And they did it twice," he said, referencing the two wishes his family received -- one for each daughter.

"I was incredibly moved by their generosity," Glidden said. "It had quite an effect. It changes you as a person."

The organization's generosity and support moved Glidden to pass that same generosity and support forward to other families by hosting fundraising concerts for Make-A-Wish Maine.

Last year, Glidden raised \$21,162, breaking the \$100,000 mark for the total amount the annual concerts have raised for the organization since the Drumming Up Wishes debut six years ago.

Glidden is one of the Make-A-Wish Foundation's top fundraisers in the state, both overall and each year. Last month, the foundation recognized Glidden for his efforts, granting him the 2025 Community Spirit Award.

The theme for this year's Drumming Up Wishes concert is "Go to Bat for Make-A-Wish Maine" -- featuring a "Drumming Up Wishes All Star Band" that includes nationally acclaimed blues legends Frank Bang and Jeff Pitchell, along with Maine musicians Marc Kaplan (percussion), Justin Maxwell (bass), Kevin Roper (keyboard), Darren Whitney (saxophone) and of course, Glidden himself on drums.

Glidden said he found inspiration for the theme from the drummer for The Beatles, Ringo Starr and his current outfit: Ringo Starr & His All-Starr Band.

A Maine-based Allman Brothers Band tribute band called Wake Up Mama will open for the Drumming Up Wishes All Star Band.



event listings. Glidden said scanning the QR code will direct users how to donate.

Make-A-Wish Maine has granted more than 2,000 wishes since the chapter's founding in 1992, now granting wishes an average of once every four days.

Glidden said Drumming Up Wishes grows every year and has become a permanent part of his life that "will never go away."

"Working for a greater good is something everybody should do in some way. Anybody can do it. The need never goes away," he said. "It means everything to these people and can make all the difference in the world."

Business sponsors for this year's concert include Scales Restaurant, a Portland eatery whose owner, Dana Street, was recently nominated for the James Beard Awards "Restaurateur of the Year," Portland Media Group, an award-winning advertising agency in South Portland and Vic Firth Co., a leading worldwide manufacturer of drumsticks.

A raffle and silent auction will be held at the event and food vendors will be on site.

For more information on Make-A-Wish Maine, visit <https://wishes.org/maine>. For Glidden's Drumming Up Wishes donation page, visit <https://tinyurl.com/drummingupwishes>.

Maine Connections Academy names January STAR Student

WEST ENFIELD, ME - Jenna "Crow" Veinote, age 17, of West Enfield, Maine, has been named the STAR Student of January at Maine Connections Academy, a tuition-free online public school serving students in grades 7-12 statewide. Crow has been selected for their academic success and achievements in multimedia art. Their work has been earning honorable mentions at regional competitions, and they are starting to sell their creative work at local craft fairs.

Crow works across illustration, digital animation, and mixed-media design. Their piece Desert Lizard earned an honorable mention in the regional Scholastic Arts and Writing Awards, and they have recently begun selling artwork at local craft fairs. Crow also attended a seasonal program at Haystack Mountain School of Crafts in Deer Isle.

This is Crow's first year at Maine Connections Academy. They chose the virtual school specifically for its animation and creative arts courses, which offer opportunities not available in their local brick-and-mortar school. "They love it; they just absolutely love it," says Susan Hinckley, Crow's grandmother.

Virtual school is a great fit for a variety of students, including those who are academically advanced or struggle in a traditional school setting, as well as those who may be experiencing health challenges, bullying, or live in rural areas. Others are athletes or performers who require a flexible learning schedule. As Crow prepares for graduation, they are exploring next steps, including art-focused programs such as Maine College of Art + Design.



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or performers who require a flexible learning schedule. As Crow prepares for graduation, they are exploring next steps, including art-focused programs such as Maine College of Art + Design.

Northeast Bank donates \$10K to Pink Feather Foundation

SOUTH PARIS, ME - Northeast Bank (the "Bank") (NASDAQ: NBN) is proud to announce a \$10,000 donation to the Pink Feather Foundation in support of the organization's capital campaign for a new building and expanded services. The donation will help Pink Feather Foundation build a "forever home" -- increasing its ability to serve students throughout the region by enhancing its facilities and improving access to essential resources, allowing students to focus on learning and personal growth.

"Pink Feather Foundation is making a meaningful difference in the lives of students and families across our communities," said Chris Delamater, SVP, Director of Customer Experience at Northeast Bank. "We are proud to support their building campaign and improve delivery of valuable services to local schools."

"We are incredibly thankful to Northeast Bank for their generous support of our Forever Home campaign," said Jen Kyllonen, Co-Executive Director of Pink Feather Foundation. "This donation helps us



create a permanent space where students feel supported and empowered to succeed."

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Norway Savings commits \$20K to CrossWalk Community Outreach

NAPLES, ME - What began in 2008 with Mark Blankenship, Dave Moore, and a small group of committed volunteers providing donated food to 15 people in need has become an irreplaceable thread in the fabric of Naples.

CrossWalk Community Outreach assists residents in five towns (Bridgton, Casco, Harrison, Naples, and Sebago), providing over 15,000 pounds of monthly food donations to more than 400 local families, helping them meet their basic needs with a healthy serving of hope included. The organization is entirely volunteer-operated. Beyond food distribution, CrossWalk's pro-

gramming has expanded through the years with the offering of free meals, a community garden, services for veterans and seniors, a clothing closet, a back-to-school backpack program, resource referrals, blood pressure screenings, holiday events like a free Thanksgiving meal and Christmas gifts for troops, and so much more.

As the impact has grown, so did the need for a larger facility. After three years without a permanent home, CrossWalk signed a lease for a 3,750 square-foot building on 11 October Road in Naples where in February, it will start to begin offering its full complement of services and care once again.



Pictured (L to R): Brian Siebert, Commercial Loan Officer VP for NSB; Mary Martell, Naples Branch Manager for NSB; Dave Moore, Crosswalk Community Outreach Board President; Cathy Dennehy, Director of Marketing for CrossWalk Community Outreach; Paul Dennehy, Executive Director of CrossWalk Community Outreach; Dan Walsh, President and CEO of NSB; Melissa Rock, Marketing Director SVP for NSB.

representatives presenting the check to CrossWalk leadership below).

"It was a genuine pleasure to showcase the new center to NSB team members, and their enthusiasm, support, and guidance will continue to inspire and motivate us as we strive to grow and sustain the CrossWalk Community Outreach Center for our neighbors," said Cathy Dennehy, Director of Marketing for CrossWalk Community Outreach. "NSB's generosity and kindness gives us the hope and determination to keep moving forward and work toward realizing our dream for the community."

"The new facility includes many amazing features, including a large open space for meetings and meals. So many people have stepped up to assist, including Reinhard Construction, LRE Electric, Clement Brothers Landscaping, and P&K Sand and Gravel," said Rev. Jo-

anna Moore, a CrossWalk board member. "Norway Savings Bank's commitment is so generous and helpful. It makes us even more excited for the future."

"CrossWalk Community Outreach works to ensure that local people are receiving the food and sustenance they need, but this critical service only begins to tell the story of its importance and the size and scope of the assistance it offers," said Dan Walsh, President and CEO of Norway Savings Bank. "We're so happy to play a small part in helping them make this transition to a new facility and grateful for the true difference they make in the lives of many people in need."

In the coming months, the general public will be invited to come and take in the new facility as well as explore the many ways in which CrossWalk is helping turn struggles

See Outreach, page 16

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In recognition of the organization's mission and purpose, Norway Savings Bank is pleased to commit \$20,000 to CrossWalk as it completes the transition to its new home (picture attached, caption of NSB

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Special section: February is American Heart Month

Steps to prevent heart disease, protect cardiovascular health

Contributed by Tony Rosa, Communication Specialist, Clinical Services Communications of the VA

February is American Heart Month, and a reminder to focus on cardiovascular health and to encourage heart health habits. At VA, we are dedicated to helping Veterans receive the best care and support to maintain a healthy heart.

Heart disease remains the leading cause of death for both men and women in the United States, but it's preventable with the right lifestyle choices and medical care. Here are some key steps to support a healthier heart.

Prevent heart disease: Know the risk factors. The key to preventing heart disease is recognizing and managing risk factors in collaboration with your health care provider. To lower your risk of heart disease, take control of your health and know your numbers.

Regular check-ups: Schedule regular appointments with your health care provider to monitor for conditions such as hypertension and high cholesterol. Early detection is critical to preventing serious complications.

Healthy eating: Incorporate a balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins and healthy fats. Limit salt, sugar and saturated fats to significantly lower your risk of heart disease. If you are overweight, losing as



little as 5-10 pounds can lower blood pressure and improve heart health.

Stay active: Participating in MOVE! can increase your ability and confidence to make healthy changes to behavior, nutrition and physical activity. Aim for 30 minutes of moderate exercise most days of the week. Activities like walking, swimming and biking can strengthen your heart.

Quit tobacco: Smoking is a major risk factor for heart disease. VA offers resources to assist Veterans in quitting smoking and smoke-free tobacco use.

Manage stress: Chronic stress can negatively impact heart health. Practice relaxation techniques like deep breathing, meditation and even hobbies that bring you joy.

Medication Adherence: If you've been prescribed medications for heart conditions, make sure to take them as directed. If you have side effects, discuss them with your physician as there is often an alternative option. Proper adherence is crucial for managing heart health.

Heart disease and stroke are especially sig-

nificant concerns for women, causing one in three deaths each year. Women Veterans face unique risks, including pregnancy-related long-term risks from conditions like gestational diabetes, hypertensive diseases of pregnancy and preeclampsia. VA, in partnership with the American Heart Association, encourages women Veterans to know their numbers and take control of their heart health.

Act today
Up to 80% of heart disease and stroke cases are preventable with proper management of conditions like high blood pressure, cholesterol and diabetes. February is the perfect time to prioritize your heart health and talk to your health care provider and take steps to reduce your risk factors. Small, consistent changes can make a big difference.

VA is here to support you every step of the way. Together we can reduce the impact of heart disease and ensure a healthier future for all Veterans.

Learn more about heart health or contact your local VA health care provider.

February is American Heart Month

Even though heart disease is largely preventable, it's still the leading cause of death in the United States. Heart disease affects millions of people, and its impact is not shared equally among all communities.

African American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian American/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and American Indian/Alaska Native communities have higher rates of both heart disease and risk factors such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, obesity, diabetes, and smoking. Research supported by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) has shown that you can lower your individual risk for heart disease by taking preventive steps: being physically active,

eating a healthy diet, managing stress, not smoking, getting enough sleep, and controlling your blood pressure, cholesterol, and diabetes. All this can improve your heart health, but the impact can be even greater when you join forces with friends and family members to live healthier lives – together.

Studies have shown that having positive, close relationships and feeling connected to others benefits your overall health, blood pressure, weight, among other things. NHLBI's The Heart Truth® program suggests a few ways you can connect with friends, neighbors and colleagues to promote heart health in your own community:

1. Set up an online support group to motivate

each other as you work to meet your health goals.

2. Create a virtual bulletin board where your community can post encouraging comments and share heart-healthy recipes and other tips.

3. Schedule community walks to stay active together.

4. Ask a local healthcare provider, community health worker, or health educator to host heart health education sessions or blood pressure screenings.

Sharing with others where you live, work, and enjoy your free time can help foster heart-healthy lifestyles and build healthier communities. Learn more about heart health and find resources to share in your community at www.hearttruth.gov.

FEBRUARY IS
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MONTH**



American Heart Month: Be prepared to save a life

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson issued the first proclamation declaring February American Heart Month. Each year, this is a time to spotlight heart disease, by bringing awareness and sharing how to take steps to prevent this deadly disease.

According to the American Heart Association, heart disease is a leading cause of death in the United States for both men and women. They also offer tips on action items you can take to prevent heart disease:

Know your risk. Knowing your risk can help you make lifestyle changes.

Eat a healthy diet. Start making healthy choices that include daily vegetables and less pro-

cessed foods.

Be physically active. Move more – it's one of the best ways to stay healthy, prevent disease, and age well.

Watch your weight. Stay at a healthy weight for you.

Check your blood pressure and cholesterol. These are two main risk factors that could lead to heart disease.

Raising awareness is essential not only in the month of February but also year-round. It's the awareness that can ultimately save a life and on the first Friday of February, the nation celebrates National Wear Red Day to bring greater attention to heart disease as a leading cause of death for Americans.

It's also the perfect

time to take training from the American Red Cross on how to perform Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and how to use an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to help save lives. Cardiac arrest claims thousands of lives every year. Red Cross CPR/AED classes can help you save a life when every moment counts.

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Written by Maria Arango, American Red Cross Public Affairs.

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NSB continues support of Maine Center for Entrepreneurs

PORTLAND, ME - Since 1996, the Maine Center for Entrepreneurs (MCE) has been driven to provide local entrepreneurs with the tools and resources to accelerate their business through a wide variety of programs, training, and mentoring. Powered by a network of over 300 mentors and statewide programs, the organization has received rave reviews from business owners and professionals on how MCE helped grow their businesses in revenue, size, and reputation.

The remarkable growth and impact of MCE has inspired Norway Savings Bank for years, including with a recent donation of \$10,000 to serve as Platinum Sponsor of the 2026 Maine Entrepreneurs Summit. The event includes MCE's annual Top Gun program, an acceleration initiative for Maine entrepreneurs looking to grow their startup or early stage business.

"It's truly inspiring to see the many ways in which MCE not only celebrates the entrepreneurial spirit in Maine but also helps the ideas, innovation, and potential of local entrepreneurs shine through," said Dan Walsh, President and CEO of NSB who serves as a judge at the Top Gun program



Pictured (L to R): Tom Rainey, Executive Director of MCE; Pam DiPietro Hale, Commercial Loan Officer VP for NSB.

competition. "Just the Top Gun program alone has assisted close to 400 Maine entrepreneurs over the last 15 years. The difference MCE makes and the connections it creates help dreams and goals become realities and contribute to our business community's wider success. NSB is so proud to play a small role in helping MCE in its efforts of fostering a vibrant economy in Maine."

"We're so grateful for Norway Savings Bank's involvement in and support of our programming," said Tom Rainey, Executive Director of MCE. "We would not be

able to provide these opportunities without the commitment of our sponsors, donors, and volunteers. Our growth in size and scope can be directly attributed to the shared belief of MCE and the wider business community that these resources and relationships are helping entrepreneurs successfully cultivate and carry out innovative solutions that better the lives of Maine residents."

To learn more about the organization, how you can become involved, or to view a list of their programs and events, visit www.mced.biz.

Bridgton Hospital unveils new nuclear medicine camera

BRIDGTON, ME - Bridgton Hospital, which is part of Central Maine Healthcare (CMH), last week unveiled a new nuclear medicine camera, marking a significant investment in advanced diagnostic technology and improved access to specialized care for the Lakes Region community.

During a brief ceremony and ribbon cutting, Jared Tobolski, MD, a cardiologist at Central Maine Heart and Vascular Institute (CMHVI), highlighted how nuclear medicine—while often misunderstood—uses very small amounts of radioactive material to safely diagnose and treat disease by showing how organs and tissues are functioning, rather than just what they look like.

"This new equipment will help our clinicians detect disease earlier, make more accurate diagnoses and better tailor treatment to each individual patient," Dr. Tobolski said. "It will allow us to see how the body is working in real time, which is critical for timely and effective care."

The nuclear medicine camera produces detailed images of the heart, bones, lungs, kidneys, thyroid and other organs. It plays a vital role in diagnosing a wide range of conditions, including cancer, heart disease, infections and bone disorders.

For cardiac patients, the technology helps evaluate blood flow to the heart and identify areas at risk, often enabling earlier



Pictured left to right at ribbon cutting: Marney Chalmers, Central Maine Healthcare Board of Directors, Jared Tobolski, MD, cardiologist at CMHVI, Michelle Lowell, system director of Medical Imaging at Central Maine Healthcare, Stephany Jacques, president of Bridgton Hospital

intervention and preventing more serious cardiac events. In oncology care, nuclear medicine imaging can detect cancer earlier, monitor how well treatments are working and help guide next steps in care.

In addition to its clinical benefits, the new camera offers improved image quality, faster scan times and greater patient comfort, reducing the need for repeat exams and minimizing time spent in the hospital.

Funding for the nuclear medicine camera was made possible through \$820,000 in congressionally directed spending secured by Senator Susan Collins (R) Maine for Central Maine Healthcare.

"This federal investment will help Bridgton Hospital expand access to cutting-edge diagnostic services and allow patients in the Lakes Region to receive high-quality care without the need for

burdensome travel," said Senator Collins. "I was proud to secure this funding through my role on the Senate Appropriations Committee, and I will continue to advocate for investments that have a positive impact on the health of Maine's communities."

"This investment means fewer patients will need to travel long distances for specialized imaging," said Marney Chalmers, a Central Maine Healthcare Board of Directors member who is based in the Lakes Region. "Care close to home makes a real difference for patients and families, and the addition of this equipment helps facilitate that."

The unveiling concluded with a ribbon cutting to officially mark the addition of the nuclear medicine camera, reinforcing Bridgton Hospital's ongoing commitment to bringing high-quality, modern healthcare services to the community it serves.

Maine students invited to apply for Agriculture Policy Day

AUGUSTA, ME - Maine students with an interest in agriculture, leadership, and public policy are encouraged to apply for Agriculture Policy Day at the Legislature, taking place March 25, 2026, at the State House in Augusta. Organized by the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry in partnership with the Maine Department of Education, FFA, and University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H, the program offers a unique behind-the-scenes look at how agriculture policy is shaped in Maine.

Selected students will tour the Capitol, meet with legislators and agricultural leaders, and observe the work of the Legislature's Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee. Participants will also take part in virtual pre- and post-sessions designed to



Save the Date, Agriculture Policy Day at the Legislature

build skills in advocacy, civic engagement, and agricultural policy.

The event coincides with National Agriculture Day and Maine Agriculture Day at the Legislature, where farmers, producers, and partners gather in the Hall of Flags at the State House from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. to celebrate Maine's agricultural community.

Selected participants

must commit to the full program schedule. Please review all details and access the online application. Applications are open through March 1, 2026.

Students, educators, community partners, and media are encouraged to share this opportunity widely with youth interested in agriculture, natural resources, and public service careers.

MEMIC appoints Matt Coy as next CIO

PORTLAND, ME - The MEMIC Group, a leading super-regional workers' compensation insurer, is honored to welcome back Matt Coy as its new Chief Information Officer (CIO), succeeding Jack Yao, who retired at the end of 2025 after more than nine years of distinguished service.

As CIO, Matt will lead MEMIC's technology strategy, oversee the maintenance and enhancement of its platforms, and ensure delivery of innovative IT solutions that align with MEMIC's business goals.

Matt rejoins MEMIC after serving as CIO at Montana State Fund, where he led enterprise-wide modernization and strategic technology initiatives. His career includes senior leadership roles such as Vice President of Information Technology at MEMIC, Director of Application Development for Aetna, and key positions

at Optum and Coventry Health Care.

"I'm honored to join MEMIC at an exciting time for the organization. MEMIC has a strong culture, a clear sense of purpose, and tremendous opportunity ahead. I look forward to working alongside the team to advance our technology capabilities and continue to deliver exceptional customer experience," said Coy.

Holding an MBA from Westminster University and dual bachelor's degrees in accounting and information systems & technology from Weber State University, Matt also earned the designation of Workers' Compensation Professional (WCP®).

"We're delighted to have Matt Coy rejoin The MEMIC Group as our Chief Information Officer. Matt's proven expertise and strategic leadership will play a pivotal role in shaping our future as we

strengthen our position as the third-largest workers' compensation specialty insurer in the U.S.," said Michael Bourque, MEMIC President & CEO.

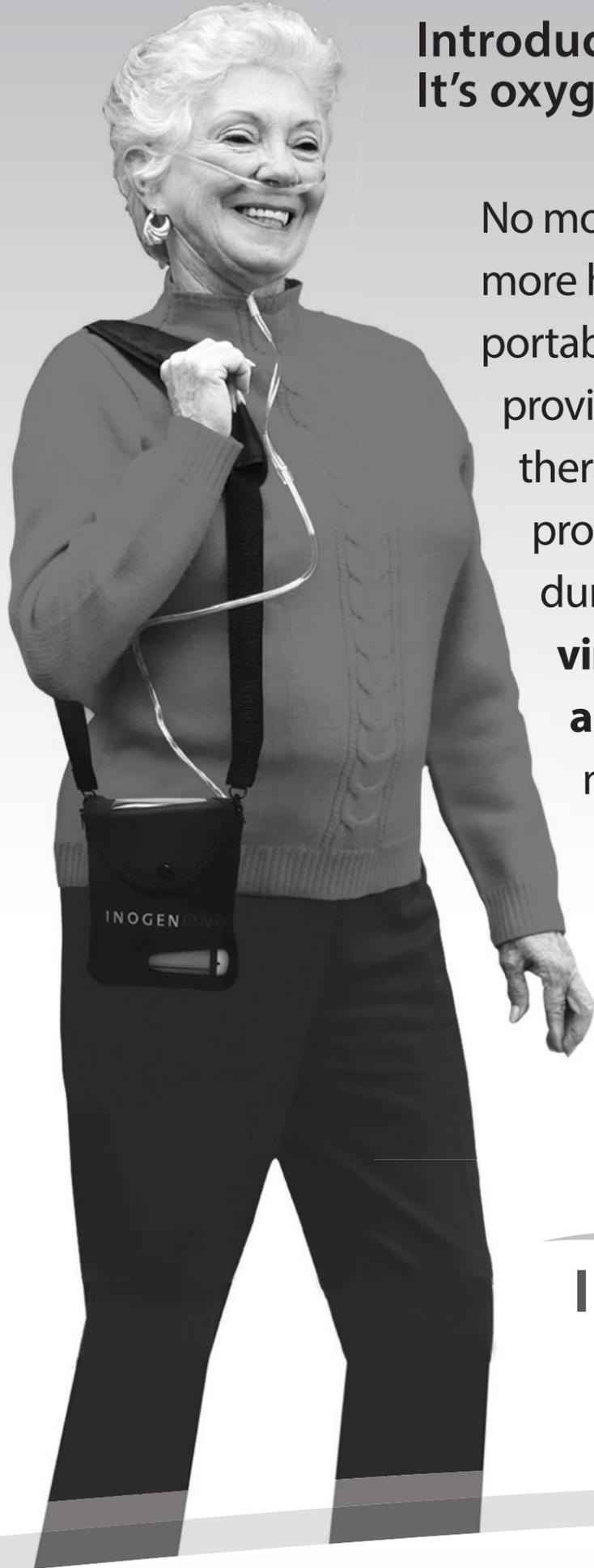
Matt is deeply committed to purpose-driven work and brings a strong focus on customer experience, modernization, risk management, and long-term stewardship to this role.

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

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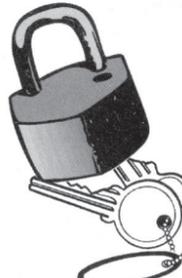
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AUBURN -- Stock up on **BOOKS** at great prices — 50¢ to \$3! Shop Saturday mornings at the APL Bookstore 9:00-12:30 for gently used books, ever-changing inventory, wide selection of children's, fiction and non-fiction books, plus DVDs and puzzles.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

Feb 26

NEW GLOUCESTER -- Free artist event at Unity Environmental University. Each event highlights a Maine-based artist with a pop-up exhibition, lecture, and catered reception. Ian Trask: Art from the Waste Stream at 5:00 pm, 70 Farm View Dr, New Gloucester, ME 04260.

Feb 27

ROCKLAND -- **OUT** Maine and The Right Track Band are teaming up again for the "GAYEST event in midcoast Maine"—the Rainbow Gala & Dance Party! The gala is open to anyone 21 years of age and older, and is described as a "queer prom for grownups." The theme is **OUT-er** space, and the dress code is "what did you really want to wear to prom?"—if your prom was on a spaceship.

All ticket sales and community donations will directly fund **OUT** Maine's annual youth retreat **Rainbow Ball** Weekend. At this a weekend-long event, queer and trans teens participate in educational workshops, do activities outdoors, and have their own safe prom.

Feb 27

LEWISTON -- 11AM-12PM families with children ages 14 and younger will be able to decorate a 'Handmade with Love' apron keep-sake using acrylic paint pens and acrylic paint for handprints at Lewiston Public Library.

Participants will be able to choose between an adult sized apron and

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

a child sized apron to decorate. All materials will be provided. Siblings are also welcome to attend and participate. There will be one apron per participant.

Feb 27

BRUNSWICK -- Brunswick's month-long celebration of poetry, **Longfellow Days**, begins on February 1st. Here are ways to join in honoring the 2026 living legacy of Longfellow, Maine's world renowned poet: Fri, Feb 27, Open Mic & Longfellow Birthday Celebration (UU Church)

For the schedule of Longfellow Days with complete details of all events, go to <https://www.uubrunswick.org/programs/longfellow-days-2026/>

Feb 28

LEWISTON -- Members of Lewiston's delegation to the State Legislature will hold constituent office hours at the Lewiston Public Library on Saturday, February 28, 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.

Feb 28

BUXTON -- Try our delicious Haddock Supper Buffet - Saturday, February 28, 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.

Feb 28

PORTLAND -- "The Consequence of Palestine" Conference Brings Global Experts to USM, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm at Hannaford Hall, Abromson Community Education Center at University

of Southern Maine, 88 Bedford St, Portland, ME 04101

Mar 7, 8

LEWISTON -- The Maine Music Society Chorale, directed by Dr. Richard Nickerson, is thrilled to announce its upcoming March concert, **Echoes of the Earth**, to be held on Saturday, March 7, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 8, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. at the Franco Center in Lewiston.

Mar 7

BRUNSWICK -- UUCB Concerts for a Cause presents singer-songwriter Crys Matthews at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick on Saturday, March 7 at 7:30 p.m. to raise money for Oasis Free Clinics and Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project.

Mar 8

AUGUSTA -- Had enough of winter? Join the Augusta Symphony Orchestra for a Spring concert on Sunday, March 8, at 3:00 pm at Cony High School's Viles Auditorium.

Mar 11, 15

LEWISTON -- 2026 Maine Jewish Film Festival Preview this March at Bates College in Lewiston, Pettengill Hall G52 Wednesday, March 11 7:00pm Mazel Tov Sunday, March 15 2:00pm Las dos Mariette

Mar 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.

The Romance Book Club will end with Ro-

mantasy. On March 19th, we'll meet to discuss **Swordheart** by T. Kingfisher. Halla accidentally summons Sarkis, an immortal warrior trapped in a steel sword who is now sworn to protect her.

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.

Ap 9

NEW GLOUCESTER -- Free artist event at Unity Environmental University. Each event highlights a Maine-based artist with a pop-up exhibition, lecture, and catered recep-

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tion. Ben Potter: Pollen and Gatorade: Materials and Connotations in the Landscape, at 5:00 pm, 70 Farm View Dr, New Gloucester, ME 04260.

May 28

NEW GLOUCESTER -- Free artist event at Unity

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

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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:

To better understand our mission, you must understand our reasoning:

Tia lived with a heart led by kindness and intuition. When she noticed a new student struggling, she stepped in to make a difference—providing her with a beautiful dress and arranging for her mother to do her hair and makeup. That simple act of love gave the girl, who never imagined attending such an event, the night of her life.

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

How to Donate?

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📍 780 Broadway St, South Portland, ME

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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 meals. Highlights are Colorado National Park, Wine tasting in the midst of Colorado Wine Country. Moab, Arches National Park, Canyonlands National Park, Dead Horse Point State Park, Capitol Reef State Park, Bryce Canyon National Park and Zion National Park all in Utah, last day in Vegas. Included in price is round trip air from Logan International Airport and all Hotel Transfers. Deposit is \$698.00 pp plus \$429.00 if you want travel protection.

May 23-31, 2026 – BILTMORE ESTATE & ASHEVILLE, 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 – SHIPSHAWANA, INDIANA - 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 Bison 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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Outreach

Continued from page 8

into smiles across the area. As it readies the new facility for use, CrossWalk leadership is already focusing on the next bridge to cross.

“Future goals include offering services that will make our community a healthier one like free cooking classes, a ‘home-work helps’ after-school

program, and other helpful programs,” said Rev. Moore. “That is our vision for this building.”

Since the first gathering 18 years ago, the CrossWalk vision has grown grander and, thanks to the dedication of leadership and volunteers in the years that have followed, continues to feel attainable.

The need for funding and in-kind contributions is great, and fundraising will continue as the organization aims to fully purchase the property and complete renovations. CrossWalk is also always in need of volunteers. If you are able to donate, volunteer, or otherwise assist, visit their website at www.crosswalkco.org or call 207-595-8736.

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

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