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Rangeley Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce named 2026 Dana F. Connors Chamber of the Year



Rangeley Lakes Chamber Executive Director Ally Kaiser accepts the 2026 Dana F. Connors Chamber of the Year Award. Pictured left to right... Dana Connors, Alexandra Kaiser, Lisa Mejorado. Photo courtesy of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce.

RANGELEY — The Rangeley Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce has been named the 2026 Chamber of the Year by the Maine State Chamber of Commerce. The award was presented Thursday, October 1, at the Maine State Chamber's Annual Meeting, Dinner & Gubernatorial Debate at the Cross Insurance Arena in Portland.

The Dana F. Connors Chamber of the Year Award recognizes outstanding local chambers of commerce across Maine for their leadership, community impact, and contributions to the state's business environment. The Rangeley Lakes Region Chamber was a finalist for the award in both 2025 and 2026.

"This is an exciting moment for our community and our organization," said Alexandra Kaiser, Executive Director of the Rangeley Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce. "I couldn't be prouder of our small but mighty team, our dedicated board, and the incredible community we serve. This recognition belongs to everyone who shows up for the Rangeley Lakes Region every day." More than 400 business, government, and community leaders from across Maine attended the event. In addition to the Chamber of the Year Award, the evening included the presentation of the Dirigo Award to The Geiger Family and Geiger for more than 140 years of contributions to Maine's economy, as well as a live gubernatorial debate presented in partnership with NEWS CENTER Maine.



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MAINE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2026

NOVEMBER

Nov. 21 - 31st Annual Rangeley Congregational Church Holly Fair, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., corner of High Street & Pleasant Street, Rangeley, FMI call 207-864-2250.

DECEMBER

Dec. 5 & 6 - Wayne Holiday Stroll- sponsored by Sustain Wayne, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m., Mulit Vendor, tree lighting & carols.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

TURNER: At Turner Public Library Stay & Play is on Wednesdays from 9:30-10:30 a.m., Story Hour is at 10:30 a.m., and Silent Book Club is from 4-6 p.m. on Thursdays.

GRAY/ NEW GLOUCESTER: Meet friends and neighbors, chat one-on-one with the GNG Community Connectors, every Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 11 a.m., New Gloucester Community Building (behind town hall) or 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Gray Library, large meeting room in the basement.

LOCKE MILLS: Greenwood Farmer's Market every other Friday during the winter, starting on October 3rd, 270 Main St., Rt. 26, Locke Mills, next door to the Greenwood Post Office, FMI Brian and Suzanne Dunham 207-665-2967.

BETHEL: Storytime at Bethel Library, every Wednesday at 10 a.m., 6 Broad Street, Bethel, FMI (207) 824-2520.

OQUOSSOC: Rangeley Region Skeet and Trap Association (RRS&TA) announces its 2025 shooting schedule, welcoming members and visitors to experience clay shooting sports, Wednesday: Trap and Skeet starting at 4:00 p.m., Thursday: Sporting Clays and Skeet starting at 4:00 p.m., Saturday: Five Stand and Skeet starting at 10:00 a.m., Sunday: Trap and Skeet starting at 1:00 p.m.

GILEAD: Gilead Historical Society open every Saturday 12 – 3 p.m., 14 Depot St., Gilead, FMI call (207) 836-2987.

RUMFORD: Celebrate Recovery meetings, every Thursday and Sunday at 6:30 p.m., Larry Labonte Recovery Center, 412 Waldo St., Rumford, free, FMI contact Justin Teixeira at 207-393-7205 or Erika Teixeira at 207-418-7777.

FARMINGTON: Nami Farmington Family Support Group, for family and friends of people living with a mental illness, 3rd Monday of each month, 6:30-8 p.m., Maine Health Franklin Hospital, 111 Franklin Health Commons, Farmington, Contact Louise (207) 592-9933 or Kathy (207) 318-1075

FARMINGTON: Farmington Chess Club meets every Tuesday from 6-8 pm at the Parks and Rec Center, 127 Middle St., Farmington. All skill levels are welcome.**FARMINGTON:**

St. Joseph Nutrition Center, corner of Quebec and Middle Street (across from St. Joseph Church) A "Blessing Box" in front of the building. More information or to help out: (207) 778-2778.

JAY: St. Rose of Lima Food Assistance, 1 Church Street (Parish Hall) A "Blessing Box" faces the street in front of the building. More information or to help out: (207) 897-2173.

JAY: St. Rose of Lima Community Meals, 1 Church Street (Parish Hall), Community meals offered on the first and third Saturdays of the month from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. For more information or to help: (207) 897-2173.

MADISON: Music Jams - Open Mic. 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month, 1-4 p.m. Masonic Hall, Madison.

RANGELEY: The Lakeside Contemporary Art Gallery's spring/ summer show, paintings by Ashton F. LeCraw, will run from May 29 - July 6th. All is welcome & artwork is available for purchase. LCAG is located at 2493 Maine Street, Rangeley & open Tues - Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. & during theatre showing. *https://rangeleyarts.org/event/lcag-artist-reception-ashton-lecraw/* or call 207-864-5000.

RUMFORD: Old School Food Pantry, 115 Maine Avenue, Wednesdays from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., For more information or to help: (207) 364-4556 or email Shannon at *rvhccglover@gmail.com*

WATERVILLE: A Service for Veterans, Veteran Service Officer from the Bureau of Veterans' Services will be available to meet with you from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. first Thursday of the month at the Muskie Community Center, 38 Gold Street, Waterville, appointments are 30 minutes. To reserve your private appointment, call (207) 873-4745.

FARMINGTON: Farmington Grange has WWW, Wednesday Welcome and Warm Up, First and third Wednesdays, November thru April. Everyone is welcome, 10-2, coffee sweets, light lunch, social time, projects, games and puzzles. Grange Hall is located at 124 Bridge Street, West Farmington. For more information call Bonnie Clark 207-778-1416

FARMINGTON: Nine-ish- NA Meetings (In Person), 9:15-10:30 a.m., Franklin Memorial Hospital, 111 Franklin Health Commons, Farmington.

Food Addicts Meetings

FREE - Food addicts in recovery meetings: Tues Zoom and phone, Thurs phone and Sun in person. *foodaddicts.org* FMI call 441-8002 or 623-1924.

CANCELLATIONS

None listed.

POSTPONEMENTS

None listed.

Events for the Maine News Calendar should be received two weeks before the event in order to be considered for publication. Please refer to our deadline chart at this link for specific publication deadlines: *https://www.turnerpublishing.net/pdf/Deadlines.pdf*. Email your event information to *articles@turnerpublishing.net* and include: Date of event; name of event; time of event; venue location; town; contact phone number. Late submissions may not be published. Emailed events are processed faster.

MAINE CALENDAR PAGE

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Submitted Photos
2026 Dana F. Connors Chamber of the Year Award



Patrick Woodcock, President and CEO of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, addresses the crowd at the Maine State Chamber Annual Dinner and Gubernatorial Debate on Thursday, October 1st, 2026. Photo courtesy of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce.



Rangeley Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce Board President Margie Jamison and Vice President Jill Gordon at the Maine State Chamber Annual Dinner welcome reception. Photo courtesy of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce.

More information about the Maine State Chamber of Commerce is available at mainechamber.org.

About the Rangeley Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce

Since 1955, the Rangeley Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce has represented an area that spans five communities and more than 110 lakes and ponds. RLRCC supports over 140 businesses, sharing our love for this beautiful part of Maine that we call home. The Chamber's primary goal is to promote the Rangeley Lakes Region year-round, attracting visitors and benefiting our member businesses economically.

More information about the Rangeley Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce and our community is available at *rangeleymaine.com.*

November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month

National Lung Cancer Screening Day is November 14th

November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month in the United States. The primary goal is to raise awareness about lung cancer, its risk factors, symptoms, early detection, and treatment options. This annual month-long campaign aims to educate the public about the importance of lung health and encourages people to take proactive steps towards prevention and early diagnosis.

During National Lung Cancer Awareness Month, various organizations, healthcare providers, advocacy groups, and communities organize events such as informational sessions, fundraisers, walks, and screenings. These activities aim to empower individuals with knowledge about lung cancer, reduce stigma associated with the disease, and emphasize the importance of research and support for those affected by lung cancer.

Free ME from Lung Cancer is honored to partner with the following organizations to highlight lung cancer and lung cancer screening in Maine: The American Cancer Society, Maine Lung Cancer Coalition and all the hospitals listed below and bring special acknowledgement to Mount Desert Island Hospital. Although Mount Desert Island Hospital is a small community hospital, it's important to mention that they were the first American College of Radiology Imaging Center of Excellence in the nation.

According to the American Cancer Society 2026 Cancer Facts & Figures report, an estimated 229,410 new cases of lung cancer (110,920 in men and 118,500 in women) will be diagnosed in the US and 124,990 people will die from the disease (63,040 in men and 61,950 women) Lung cancer accounts for more than 1 in 5 cancer deaths each year. According to the American Cancer Society, the lifetime risk of developing lung cancer in the United States is about 1 in 19 (approximately 5.3%) for the general population, including both smokers and non-smokers. Yes, even those who don't smoke can get lung cancer.

The American Cancer Society 2026 Cancer Facts & Figures also reports that 1,460 people in Maine will be diagnosed with lung & bronchus cancers and 800 will die of the disease. Lung cancer remains the number one cause of death from cancer in Maine (and in the US). We can try to change those statistics by joining together to provide awareness and education and encouraging patients who are at high risk to talk with their doctors to see if they should be screened for lung cancer.

Saturday November 14th is National Lung Cancer Screening Day. This annual event aims to increase access to lung cancer screening, particularly for people who work during the week and may have difficulty accessing screening services during regular business hours. Many hospitals and other health care facilities in Maine offer lung cancer screening, with some offering screening evenings and/or weekends. We urge all patients who are at high risk for lung cancer (those between the ages of 50-80 who currently use tobacco or did within the past 15 years) to contact their primary care clinician to see if they qualify to be screened. Catching lung cancer early creates treatment opportunities to save lives and improve outcomes. Screening for lung cancer is a quick, easy and non-invasive procedure offered by many health care providers and is fully covered by most insurance companies including Medicare and MaineCare if you are eligible. Eligibility is based on how much a person used tobacco in their life time and how long it has been since they stopped using tobacco. Talk with your primary care provider about the risks and benefits of lung cancer screening. Early detection does save lives.

The following facilities offer low dose lung screening CT scans:

Central Maine Healthcare 6 days a week
Central Maine Healthcare Bridgton 6 days a week
Central Maine Healthcare Rumford 6 Days a week
MaineGeneral Health 7 days a week
MaineHealth Maine Medical Center Portland 7 days a week
MaineHealth Franklin Hospital
MaineHealth Lincoln Hospital 7 days a week
MaineHealth Mid Coast Hospital 7 days a week
MaineHealth Pen Bay Hospital 7 days a week
MaineHealth Waldo Hospital 5 days a week
Mount Desert Island Hospital Bar Harbor 5 days a week 7am to 5 pm
Northern Light AR Gould Hospital Monday - Friday 7:30am - 4:30 pm, Saturday 9:30am - 11:00am
Northern Light Blue Hill Hospital Monday -Friday 8:30am - 4:00pm, Saturday 9:30am - 2:30pm
Northern Light CA Dean Hospital Monday - Friday 7:00am - 4:00pm Outside of these days and times, screenings are available by advance appointment.
Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center Monday - Friday 7:30am - 6:00pm
Northern Light Maine Coastal Hospital Mon - Fri 7:30am - 5:30pm, Sat and Sun 9:30am - 2:30pm
Northern Light Mayo Hospital Monday Friday 7:00am - 6:00pm Outside of these days and times, screenings are available by advance appointment.
Northern Light Mercy Hospital Portland Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 4:30 pm
Northern Light Sebasticook Valley Hospital Monday - Friday 7:30am - 4:00pm Outside
of these days and times, screenings are available by advance appointment
RAYUS Radiology Auburn Monday - Friday 9:00am-5:00pm
RAYUS Radiology Brunswick Monday - Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm
RAYUS Radiology Rock Row Westbrook Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm
RAYUS Scarborough Monday and Tuesday 7:00am-6:00pm, Wednesday and Thursday 7am-5pm, Friday 7:00am -6 :00pm and Some Saturdays available (hours vary)
Redington-Fairview General Hospital 5 days a week 7:00am to 4:30pm

We do not have information from other Maine hospitals about whether they offer lung
cancer screening. Please check with your local hospital if they are not listed.



Notable Thanksgiving traditions

Metro

Thanksgiving is a family-centric holiday that revolves around the dinner table and encourages celebrants to acknowledge all that they have to be thankful for. Thanksgiving is celebrated in October in Canada and in November in the United States.

Many Thanksgiving traditions focus on community events and sumptuous feasts, but they don't stop there. Here are some of the more notable traditions people can embrace on this day of giving thanks.



Metro photo

• Roasting turkey: Many foods will grace the Thanksgiving dinner table, but turkey is the star of the show. Roasting remains the most popular way to cook a turkey, but deep-fried and even rotisserie turkey have become more popular in recent years.

• Watching the parade: Millions of people tune into the broadcast of Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, and many more line the streets of New York City to watch it in person. The Macy's parade was first held on November 27, 1924, and was only suspended for three years during World War II. The parade features musical events, special guests and pop culture balloons that navigate streets lined with skyscrapers.

• Turkey trotting: Believe it or not, wild turkeys can run at speeds up to 25 miles per hour in short bursts, according to Lake Erie Nature & Science Center. Perhaps inspired by these speedy birds, turkey trots are popular on Thanksgiving Day. People of all ages start the holiday by running or walking in these charity events.

• Watching football: Watching professional football on television is a popular Thanksgiving custom. The Detroit Lions and the Dallas Cowboys always host an afternoon game on Thanksgiving. Each year, the National Football League also schedules a third matchup in primetime featuring other teams. In 2026, the lineup features: Chicago Bears at Detroit Lions (1:00 p.m. ET), Philadelphia Eagles at Dallas Cowboys (4:00 p.m. ET) and Kansas City Chiefs at Buffalo Bills (8:20 p.m. ET).

• Early holiday decorating: Many households will decorate for Christmas immediately following the clearing of the Thanksgiving turkey from the table. Some may even decorate before guests arrive on Thanksgiving.

• Tuning into "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving": Some families watch this beloved Charlie Brown television special the night before Thanksgiving, enjoying the movie's snack menu of jelly beans, popcorn and toast.

• Celebrate "Friendsgiving": People who may not have relatives close by often gather with close friends to commemorate friendships and express their gratitude for one another.

Thanksgiving marks the first holiday during the whirlwind celebratory season. It's filled with many traditions that people across the United States and Canada enjoy.

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To protect yourself, avoid answering calls from unknown numbers. If you answer a suspicious robocall, hang up without pressing any buttons. Check with your phone provider about call-blocking options and consider adding your number to DoNotCall.gov. While this can reduce unwanted telemarketing calls, it won't stop scammers who ignore the rules.

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MOVIE REVIEW by Lucas Allen

Street Fighter (2026)

(Paramount Pictures/ Legendary/Capcom)

Much like "Mortal Kombat" that came afterwards, the "Street Fighter" games held a special place in the hearts of 90s kids. However, its past two trips to the big screen were met with fan distaste over the years between the 1994 Jean-Claude Van-Damme cheese-fest and the 2009 toned-down "Street Fighter: The Legend of Chun-Li." This time, co-writer/director Kitao Sakurai looks to make the ultimate, fan-definitive adaptation of the games with 2026's Street Fighter and maybe the third time is the charm.

Once partners and friends, young Ken Masters (Noah Centineo) and Ryu (Andrew Koji) separate acrimoniously after the death of their mentor Gouken (Don Lee) with the latter disappearing into civilian life, while the former chooses the life of a pop culture celebrity. Years later, the mysterious Chun-Li (Callina Liang) invites them to take part in the 1993 World Warrior Championship being held in the city of Metrolao by its tyrannical leader M. Bison (David Dastmalchian), who's secretly looking for the strongest to harness his "psycho power." Li herself is also there as an undercover Interpol agent on a personal mission to exact vengeance on Bison for the death of her father. Reluctantly, Ken and Ryu must put aside their issues with each other to fight for the tournament.

Meanwhile, some of the world's strongest also take part, including Guile (Cody Rhodes), Balrog (rapper 50 Cent), Zangief (Olivier Richters), Dhalsim (Vidyut Jammwal), and Vega (Orville Peck). But before the tournament could start, Bison imprisons Ryu in an attempt to find that hidden power he witnessed during the first tournament in '87. Unfortunately, that power belongs to the demonic Akuma (WWE's Roman Reigns), who is waiting to be unleashed for a real fight.

As with last summer's Mortal Kombat II, the movie is basically mostly fighting with less plot. In this case, it has a chance to do some world-building for those unfamiliar with the games, but it is more character-based than any real storytelling structure. So, what you get is a movie that is pretty much 75% action, 14% characterization, and 11% story.

The script itself is also nothing to write home about when it fills to the brim with awkward dialogue and predictable beats. The only bits of exposition dumping happen in two parts, a Metrolao news show hosted by announcer Don Sauvage (comedian Eric Andre) and some animated flashbacks hand drawn as classic Japanese anime. There are important plot points, but they are severely undermined by endless sight gags and cartoonish violence. At least the recent Mortal Kombat movies wisely stay in tone when handling the balance of story and action.

Fans will likely get more out of it with its comical references and impressive choreography that becomes spiritually faithful to those games. In fact, the fight scenes help elevate the entertainment level, possibly higher than expected. The Shoryuken, the Hadoken, the Flash Kick, and the Spinning Piledriver are enough to really excite the masses.

While it does have a good soundtrack of recognizable tunes, the music supervisor seems to have a lapse in knowledge over the use of them in a period setting. The 4 Non-Blondes song "What's Up" (previously used for comedic effect in Masters of the Universe) is heard in scenes taking place in the late-80's despite being released in 1992, and then there are some songs made in the later 90's and early 2000's that somehow ended up in a club scene when it takes place in 1993. It can be pretty distracting, especially for a movie that is not meant to be taken seriously.

Much like the writing, the acting is not all that special, with some going very over-the-top with no sense of subtlety to be found. There are some highlights worth mentioning like Liang being very believable enough to balance out the moody Koji and Centineo's gruffness. Dastmalchian's Bison is an odd departure from the theatricality of the character previously played by the late Raul Julia in the 1994 film, while Reigns is effectively sinister in the secondary villainous role. Though merely a small cameo, Jason Momoa (also one of the film's producers) still becomes one of the movie's best moments as CG Hulk-like Blanka.

The new "Street Fighter" is neither great nor terrible, but this is certainly an odd duck of an action film. It is stylish but lacks substance, it's funny at times, violent when it needs to be, and also crazy insane. It is best recommended for the fans, while non-fans will have to decide how to put up with it.

THE MOVIE'S RATING: PG-13 (for violence/action, bloody images, strong language, sexual references, partial nudity, and brief smoking)

THE CRITIC'S RATING: 2.5 Stars (Out of Four)



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MAINE OUTDOORS

V. Paul Reynolds

The Great Rut Debate

Many sportsmen count the November deer hunt as the highlight of all of their outdoor passions. It is a special time. Frosty mornings and quiet moments in a tree stand with hand warmers, a thermos of hot coffee mixed with the anticipation of a big buck in the cross hairs is a deer hunter's daydream. Or, for the hardiest and most driven among the hunt fraternity, the dream is to follow a big, dew-clawed track on fresh snow.

And, of course, the Maine deer camp is also the centerpiece of the hunt, part of the heritage and the history. These camps come in all sizes and description and locales; many of them passed along from generation to generation, along with unique histories and huntin' yarns that get carried on year after year.

A mouse in the corner – a graying one that has been hiding in the food bin for more than a year or two – knows that many of the same old topics get worked over at the card tables year after year. Among them: the best deer gun, the time of day that bucks move, tracking methods, and the Daddy of them all, when is the peak period of the all-important rut?

In general, if you can figure out what time of the month the rut is at its peak, you stand the best chance of catching a buck when he is distracted with his guard down and his focus is not on danger. Since there is only educated guesswork about rut times, mixed with some well-grounded anecdotal evidence, the deer rut can be the subject of spirited debate at deer camp.

There are two clear schools of thought on this subject. The conventional wisdom of highly respected wildlife biologists like Gerry Lavigne is straightforward and has nothing to do with the moon phases. Lavigne will tell you, unequivocally, that the rut always peaks on November 15th year after year, period. This theory holds that the breeding season is guided or dependent upon the length of daylight.

The more romantic theory, if you will, is that the rut, although occurring over a period of 40 days, has a "sweet spot" that lasts about 10 days. This is the lunar theory as articulated by well-known deer researcher Charles Alsheimer from Bath, New York. In a chapter in his book titled "Anatomy of the Rut," Alsheimer postulates that the whitetail rut is regulated by the lunar cycle.



Ralph Norris photo

During the Hunter's Moon and the rut is when that trophy buck is distracted and not as vigilant as normal.

He theorizes that the Rutting Moon, or the Beaver Moon, determines the sweet spot, which begins three days after the Rutting Moon and lasts, as said earlier, about 10 days. Unlike the Lavigne rutting theory, this lunar theory dictates a different rut peak year after year and takes a little calculation on the hunter's part. For example, the Rutting Moon is always the second full moon after the autumnal equinox. This fall, however, the Rutting Moon, or Beaver Moon, falls on November 24th. So this would commence the rutting "sweet spot" on November 27th, much later than last year. This would also dictate that the best hunt dates would be about November 23th thru November 30th. Be advised that the firearms season ends on Saturday November 28th followed by the commencing of the black-powder season on November 30th. So smokepolers take note!

So what does this mean? It really depends upon which theory you elect to go with, lunar cycle or length of day. If you opt for the lunar theory and really want to maximize your odds for catching a rutting buck in deep distraction, you might want to reconsider the date you have set for your hunt week vacation. If Alsheimer is right, the buck of your dreams is more likely to make a mistake in your favor during the last week of the hunt.

One other thing. If you really want to "play the numbers," and cover all bases, lunar theory AND length-of-day theory, and you have a tree stand in good deer country, be in that stand every day during the aforementioned dates.

Good luck, and hunt safely!

The author is editor of the Northwoods Sporting Journal. He is also a Maine Guide and has authored three books. Online purchase information is available at www.sportingjournal.com.

All are welcome to Community Thanksgiving Dinner at Good Shepherd



Photos by Thom Rock

Good Shepherd volunteers getting ready to serve dinner. L to R: Lincoln Libby, Susan Sonnthal, Tonya Libby, Klara Haines, Jim Biernat, April Freeman, Sheila Waldeck, Ann Jani and Pam Ellis.



The delicious dinner served at the Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner at Good Shepherd from 2025.

RANGELEY - Enjoy a festive dinner and the warmth of in-person fellowship at the 44th Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner hosted by the Vestry of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Rangeley. The dinner will take place on Sunday, November 22nd at 1:00 pm, at the Undercroft of the Church at 2614 Main Street. The meal is FREE and ALL are welcome!

The dinner will include home-cooked turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes & gravy, cranberry sauce, carrots, peas, yeast rolls, a slice of pumpkin or apple pie with whipped cream and apple cider or a hot beverage, all lovingly prepared by the good people of Good Shepherd. Meals will also be available to take home or be delivered. There is no cost, but at-will donations will be gratefully accepted.

Reservations are appreciated; however, walk-ins will be welcomed. To make a reservation, or to arrange for pick-up or delivery of meals, please contact the church office at 207-864-3381 or email *admin@goodshepherdrangeley.org*. Please specify how many will be in your party for dinner, or how many meals you would like to pick-up or have delivered and provide contact info.

Volunteers and organizers include Head Cook Lincoln Libby, Good Shepherd Vestry members and others from our congregation and community. The food will be donated by community members, local businesses and Good Shepherd.

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