

Out and About with Rachel Morin: Songs and sounds of the season



Rev. Stephen Bascom, center, smiled his approval of the large amount of home baked cookies prepared by the women of the church. Left are Gloria Dooley and Donna Manson. And right are Donna Stewart and Nancy Beatrice.

Photos and story by Rachel Morin

Songs and Sounds of the Season rang out merrily to a full house of parish families and visitors as the United Methodist Church of Auburn presented its Annual Christmas Concert on Saturday afternoon, December 7.

The Wesleyan Singers sang the following: "Candles of Advent", "Peace, Peace, Peace" and "Fruitcake". George Mathews, guitarist and vocalist performed a solo with "Christmas Hallelujah". William Buzza, alto saxophonist,

presented "Bring a Torch" with Judith Kuhn at the piano.

Beth LaBrie, sang "Christmas Lullaby" from "Songs for a New World" accompanied by her husband, William Buzza on piano. The Park Avenue Pickers led the congregation with "Frosty the Snowman", "Jingle Bell Rock" and "Deck the Halls".

This part of the program concluded with a special song written by Mitch Thomas 37 years ago when he was a college student living in Livermore. His

Pastor had requested Mitch compose a song that would coincide with a message the Pastor would deliver at the Christmas Eve Service. The song, "Light a Candle for Peace", has been sung many, many times over the years by Mitch and Caroline Coffin in a duet with piano at special events.

Following this were the Auburn Methodist Ringers directed by William Buzza. Bells of many sizes were delicately played as the tones filled the church with "An English Carol", "The See Songs, page 8

Rinck Wins Best in Show from Maine PR Council

Rinck Advertising recently won three awards, including Best in Show, at the Maine Public Relations Council 2019 Golden Arrow Awards ceremony.

Rinck earned the Best in Show award for its "VetriScience Helps a Veteran Pay it Forward" campaign, which received a perfect score of 100 from judges. The campaign also received a Gold Award in the Integrated Communications Campaign category.

Rinck and its client VetriScience told the story of Army veteran Christy Gardner who, after years of being taken care of by her Golden Retriever service dog Moxie, paid it forward by stepping in to raise a yellow Lab puppy born with a deformed leg.

VetriScience surprised Gardner with \$10,000 to cover surgery costs for the puppy, Lucky Tim, and Rinck generated coverage of the story by the CBS Evening News, People.com, and several other broadcast, print, and online media around the country. Rinck also created and shared "pupdate" videos through social media channels and launched a social influencer



This photo of Lucky Tim taken by Sarah Bird of Rinck Advertising was used by dozens of media outlets that covered the story of Lucky's trainer Christy Gardner who saw Lucky's potential to become a therapy dog and show children how to overcome obstacles in life. Credit: Rinck Advertising

campaign.

Rinck also won a Silver Golden Arrow Award in the Feature/Commentary Placement: Local Mainstream category for a Portland Press Herald cover story about Bangor Savings Bank's Green Dot bystander intervention training program.

The annual Maine Public Relations Council Golden Arrow Awards recognize the best work of communications, public relations and marketing professionals, and student practitioners based in Maine.

Learn more about Rinck at www.rinckadvertising.com.

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News-makers, Names & Faces

CMCC awards “Doc” Hannaford scholarship



“Doc” Hannaford scholarship winner Leon Twitchell poses while at work in the Building Construction Technology lab at CMCC.

Leon Twitchell of Bryant Pond has been awarded the 2019-20 Roland “Doc” Hannaford Scholarship for \$1,000 at Central Maine Community College (CMCC).

An Oxford native, Twitchell worked as a diesel mechanic prior to entering the Building Construction Technology (BCT) program at CMCC. He has earned highest honors in

the program and is now a second-year student who plans to graduate in 2020. He particularly enjoys cabinetry and finish work. He lives in Bryant Pond with his wife and daughter.

This endowed scholarship fund was established in honor of Roland G. “Doc” Hannaford, a Maine native and graduate of the Building Construction Program at SMVTI (now SMCC) in 1964. A successful businessman who owned and operated his own remodeling and construction business, Hannaford Construction, Mr. Hannaford also served as a vocational education instructor for over 36 years.

The BCT program at CMCC prepares students for successful employment in construction-related fields. Through a combination of classroom study, mock-ups, and live projects, students obtain hands-on experience and become broadly familiar with methods, standards, and codes commonly associated with the construction industry. A “Jobsite Track” degree option in the BCT program is available that provides students with alternating classroom and laboratory training with paid, on-the-job experience.

Charting Maine’s path to success



By Senator Nate Libby

A century ago, the Twin Cities were a hub of economic activity. The Bates mills, the Auburn shoe shops, and dozens of related suppliers provided reliable jobs with good pay for tens of thousands of people with relatively few educational or credential requirements. But like with so many communities across Maine, production of goods shifted overseas and the mills shuttered. The regional economy was devastated. It took decades to adapt and recover. In recent years, Lewiston has been back on an up-swing, as businesses grow and families come back to our beautiful city. People across Maine and even in our own community sometimes can’t believe it, but Lewiston is turning around. As we stand on the edge of the New Year and a new decade, it’s vital that we make sure we keep building on our successes.

There is a lot our state has to offer the world market. The good things we have going for us—world-renowned fisheries, a growing aquaculture industry, 21st century methods of replacing plastics with Maine

wood fiber products, a well-trained workforce, and easy access to Canadian and European markets—can help offset the losses in industry we’ve experienced over the decades.

Governor Mills’ recently released economic plan is a good roadmap for us to follow over the next decade. It sets out a path to stability by supporting our workers, innovators and emerging industries. But just having a plan doesn’t mean we’re guaranteed success. Just having a plan isn’t enough. We all need to come together, to make sure Maine folks are engaged in working toward our common goals.

A big part of that will be making sure elected officials continue to work with everyday Mainers. That’s part of why I like the new plan. It wasn’t crafted by a handful of bureaucrats, but with the input of more than 1,000 Maine residents, business owners and organizations. When we bring everyone to the table, we can find solutions that work for everyone. We need to know what helps businesses thrive—whether there’s more the Legislature can do be doing, or if we need to get out of the way in certain areas. We need to know what will help people find fulfilling careers that will allow them to support themselves and their families. And we need to make sure everyone’s voice is heard and respected.

One challenge we’re already working on in Augusta is making sure our young people have the tools they need to succeed. Everyone’s path to success looks different, so we need to make sure young Mainers know what their options are and what it will take to find a career that’s the right fit for them. For some, that might mean owning their own

businesses. For others, it’s a degree from a university, or a certification in the trades. To help Maine position itself for economic success, we need to make sure our schools, training centers and industry leaders are working together to make sure the next generation is prepared for the job market that awaits them. When we set young Mainers up for success, we set Maine up for success.

Maine’s solar energy industry is a great example of how this model can work. Thanks to improved technology and expanded financial assistance programs, more and more homeowners and businesses are installing solar panels. While solar panels are an environmentally friendly source of energy, they’re also helping people save big on their electricity and heating bills. As more people install solar panels and turn to other sources of green energy, we reduce Maine’s reliance on foreign energy sources. That’s three wins in one: protecting our natural resources, saving Mainers money, and investing in Maine’s energy independence. This year in the Legislature, we invested in more wins. Our new state budget, as well as a law sponsored by my colleague Sen. Eloise Vitelli, D-Arrowsic, encourages green energy companies to take on apprentices, which will help more Mainers connect with good-paying jobs, right here in the state.

Everyone deserves the opportunity to succeed. I truly believe that if we all come together to share our best ideas, we can set Maine on the right path for economic prosperity and independence for years to come.

Sen. Nate Libby (D-Androscoggin) represents Maine Senate District 21 which comprises the City of Lewiston



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Governor's Address: I am wishing you and your loved ones a safe and happy holiday season and a blessed new year

The holiday season is a time to gather with friends, family, neighbors and loved ones in a spirit of celebration and joy. It's a season of shortened days and evenings with many lights. Whether you spend this season renewing your faith, serving your community, or reflecting on a year that is well-spent, I wish you health, hope and happiness this year and in the year to come.

While I look forward to spending time with my kids and my grandchildren, I am also spending this holiday season reflecting on the

progress we have made this year and preparing for the work ahead.

This legislative session I worked on a number of bills and signed quite a number into law. These new laws—which were sponsored and supported by Democrats, Republicans, Independents and Green Party members alike—I think will move Maine in a positive direction. Everything from expanding access to health care for thousands of Maine people, combating the opioid epidemic, to embracing renewable energy, to investing in public education, adding to the Rainy Day Fund, adding to child



Governor Janet Mills

protection worker staffs so we can save Maine children and prevent more tragedies as we saw a few years ago and much more; I am so proud of the progress we have made on behalf of the people of Maine.

Now it is time to build on that progress. Earlier

this month, Commissioner Heather Johnson of the Department of Economic and Community Development and I released our State's ten year strategy—our economic development plan—that I believe will foster innovation and collaboration and jump-start economic growth in our state to achieve a diverse, forward-looking economy that will offer everyone the opportunity to succeed.

In the new year, I look forward to implementing this plan in partnership with legislators, businesspeople, community leaders, and individuals across the state. In particular, we really want to

add to the work rolls—another 75,000 people—so that the workforce needs of all of our employers can be met in the coming years.

Now, while we celebrate life's blessings and look forward to the year ahead, we shouldn't forget that the holiday season can also be difficult for some including those who have recently lost a loved one, those who are cold and hungry, or those who are far from family or friends this year.

Maine people always lift each other up, we extend our hands and open our hearts to people in need and I ask that you do just

that this holiday season, especially for our children, people in need, people living alone, and seniors, and consider volunteering with agencies or contributing to the many organizations who are out there helping our neighbors every day. Afterall, as one ancient author once said, "No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." I believe that's true.

So here I am wishing you and your loved ones a safe and happy holiday season and a blessed new year.

*Thank You,
Janet Mills
Governor*

Warp + Weft Wins Maine Public Relations Council Golden Arrow Awards

Warp + Weft, a full-service branding agency in Auburn, Maine, recently earned several Golden Arrow Awards from the Maine Public Relations Council, including a gold, silver and two honorable mention awards.

Warp + Weft earned the highest honor, a gold Golden Arrow Award, in the Innovative Use of Social Media category for its social media management and execution for client Canty Cow Creamery. The award recognizes strategic and creative use of social media channels to further a campaign, raise awareness and drive engagement. Warp + Weft developed the brand for the Turner-based frozen custard business and successfully used social media to build excitement, grow awareness, launch, and earn a loyal following of engaged users from 0 to roughly 900 within a tight timeframe.

Warp + Weft earned a second place, silver Golden Arrow Award, in the In-

tegrated Communications category for its execution of a campaign surrounding Certificates of Deposits for Lewiston/Auburn-based client Auburn Savings Bank. The award recognizes campaigns that include public relations activities alongside other disciplines/channels such as advertising, promotions, direct, social, digital and more. This particular campaign used a diverse group of marketing tactics that resulted in a 300% increase in deposits versus the same time period of the previous year.

The Maine Public Relations Council also awarded Warp + Weft with two honorable mention awards. The first was in the Organizational Identity Campaign category for Warp + Wefts own rebranding, given for a program that creates, improves or maintains awareness of the organization's identity, market positioning and purpose. The other honorable mention was in the Odds and Ends category which includes any PR, mar-

keting or communications tactic that doesn't fit within a structured award category. Warp + Weft was awarded this honorable mention for the renaming of client nu•yar, who's renaming, and rebranding has resulted in the company's highest revenue and profit margin in years.

"We are truly honored and humbled to be recognized by the Maine Public Relations Council," said Warp + Weft Director of Strategy Jennie Malloy. "We are thrilled with the success of these projects and are extremely excited for our clients and their continued growth."

Warp + Weft is a full-service branding agency located on Main Street in Auburn, Maine. Their expertise is in helping ambitious organizations navigate brand strategy, identity, and experience by clarifying purpose, identifying market position, revealing target audience, and honing messaging and design. (Warpweftbranding.com)



Warp + Weft at the Maine Public Relations Council Golden Arrow Awards. The branding and marketing agency received 2 awards and 2 honorable mentions. Pictured l to r: Marketing Strategist Kevin Mitchell, Senior Writer Molly McGill, Creative Director Aimee Goodwin, Digital Strategist Kayla Quesnel, Director of Strategy Jennie Malloy, Senior Designer Sarah Morgan Karp, Marketing Office Assistant Hanna Gilley.

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What's Going On

Auburn holiday trash and recycling collection

Auburn residents with curbside collection of residential trash and recycling should note that collection will not take place on Wednesday, December 25, Christmas Day. For those effected, there will be a special pick-up on Saturday, December 28. As always, please be sure to have all trash and recyclables curbside by 7 a.m.

Collection will take place as usual on New Year's Day, January 1, 2020.

During this season of wrapping paper and bows, Auburn Public Works encourages residents to "know before you throw." After the holidays, a common mistake many people make is loading their recycling bins with wrapping paper, tissue, ribbon, etc. Unfortunately, the shiny, laminated paper is not recyclable in most circumstances. Mixing it in with other paper products can make an entire load unrecyclable.

Before recycling, be

sure to remove any tape and decorations such as ribbons and bows as these cannot be recycled. If wrapping paper is metallic, has glitter on it, or has a texture to it, it is not recyclable and needs to go in the general waste.

Unlaminated paper-based wrapping paper and pre-recycled wrapping paper are usually recyclable. A good way to test is to crush wrapping paper into a ball. If it stays bunched up, it is more than likely recyclable.

Trinity Jubilee Center receives grant from Avangrid Foundation

The Trinity Jubilee Center has received a \$20,000 grant from the Avangrid Foundation in partnership with Central Maine Power. The grant will support the Center's soup kitchen, food pantry, and food rescue project. These programs provide more than 30,000 meals, 8,000 bags of groceries, and 48,000 diapers each year to low-income Lewiston-Auburn residents and redistribute more than 40,000 pounds of leftover food from stores and cafe-

terias that would otherwise be thrown away. Each week the Center serves more than 1,000 people through these programs as well as the Center's medical clinic, shelter, and assistance with resumes and job applications.

The Avangrid Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization that funds philanthropic investments that primarily impact communities where Avangrid, Inc. and its subsidiaries operate. Since 2002, the Avangrid Foundation and its predeces-

sors have invested more than \$21 million in partnerships that focus on building sustainable, vital and healthy communities; preserving cultural and artistic heritage; advancing education; and improving people's lives. The Avangrid Foundation is committed to advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in the United States.

For more information, please visit www.trinityjubileecenter.org and www.avangridfoundation.org.

Grants support census outreach for hard-to-count communities

The Maine Census Outreach Fund 2020 (MCOF 2020) has awarded 14 nonprofits with grants to support the participation of hard-to-count communities in the upcoming 2020 Census. Grants for statewide and community-based efforts were awarded through an open request for proposal process for statewide and community-based efforts and ranged from \$5000 to \$15,000. Grant-funded activities will include outreach through community events, adult education programs, phone banks, and some organizations will offer on-site computer labs for completing Census forms.

Historically, a number of communities have been undercounted in Maine, including tribal nations, children under age 5, peo-

ple in rural communities, people of color, and people experiencing homelessness, among others. The 2020 Census will also be the first time that a digital option is the first option for response, adding new challenges for counting those who lack digital literacy and internet access.

Every 10 years, the US Constitution requires that all residents, including non-citizens and undocumented immigrants, be counted through a nationwide census. "Collecting accurate census data is an essential part in determining a fair allocation of federal funds and political representation at the federal, state, and local levels," said Morgan Hynd, Director of The Bingham Program which has facilitated the MCOF 2020

effort. "It is critical that we have a complete count in Maine to ensure accurate demographic data about our state and to ensure that our tax dollars are returned to the state to fund important programs that impact all of us. For every child that is not counted, Maine could potentially lose \$16,400 in federal funding over a ten year period."

The MCOF 2020 is a collaborative funding effort supported by the Maine Philanthropy Center that pooled \$170,000 from nine different philanthropies that make grants in Maine. This is the first time that Maine philanthropies have worked together to support Census work, which will help to inform future Census outreach efforts in 2030 and beyond.

Higgins Corporation milestone: 60 years in business



Dave Jr. with IBM for 8 Years before the purchase of Shepard's
In 1960 a new house cost \$12,700; the average income per year was \$5,315.

1960 – Dave Jr. purchased Shepard's Inc. just outside of Augusta, ME (typewriters/adding machines/photo copiers)

1961 – Moved to Portland, ME on Congress Street

1968 – Purchased Martin Office Equipment (office furniture)
Moved to Exchange Street, Portland, ME

1972 – Purchased Colonial Business Machines (cash registers/addressographs/Datacard/word processing/supermarket scanning)

1976 – Moved to South Portland, ME location due to fire at Exchange Street (personal computers/LAN/accounting software/time clocks)

1992 – D3 purchased Higgins Office Products

1998 – Added NH/Datacard Territories

2000 – Changed name to Higgins Corporation
Opened Braintree, MA Office
Added MA/VT/Datacard Territories

2003 – D3 purchased RI Business Machines
Added RI/CT/Datacard Territories

2008 – D3 purchased OpenTech/PeopleTrack

2010 – D3 purchased Higgins Realty

October 1, 2020 – Higgins Corporation celebrates 60 years in business!

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October 1, 2020, will mark the 60th anniversary for Higgins Corporation. Higgins specializes in secure identity, photo identification, and situation management technologies,

offering the industry's top brands and products. Over the years, Higgins has grown from a small office supply company in Maine to New England's leading on-site service provider in the in-

dustry. "We achieved this milestone thanks to our dedicated employees who have put in years of hard work," said Company Owner & CEO David Higgins III. "For 60 years, we have put in the effort to provide our customers with outstanding service and support. Throughout the coming new year, we will be looking back to where we started and what we have achieved, as well as to our plan for the future. In September, we are inviting all of our employees and their families to a fun-filled lobster bake here at Higgins Corporation in South Portland to celebrate our milestone."

Christine DeGraff, Higgins Marketing Manager, remarked: "Higgins Corporation is a small family-owned business that takes pride in delivering everything they promise. When I joined Higgins a year ago, I was impressed by the professionalism, effort, and skills of our team, which have resulted in a long tradition of excellence and customer satisfaction."

Higgins Corporation, established in 1960, specializes in secure identity, photo identification, and situation management technologies, offering the industry's top brands and products. Known throughout New England for not only retailing innovative plastic card and photo ID printers, software, supplies and accessories, emergency management accountability equipment, and visitor management solutions, but also for providing the region's leading on-site service. For more information, call (800) 486-1312 or visit www.higgins3.com or <http://www.higgins3.com>.

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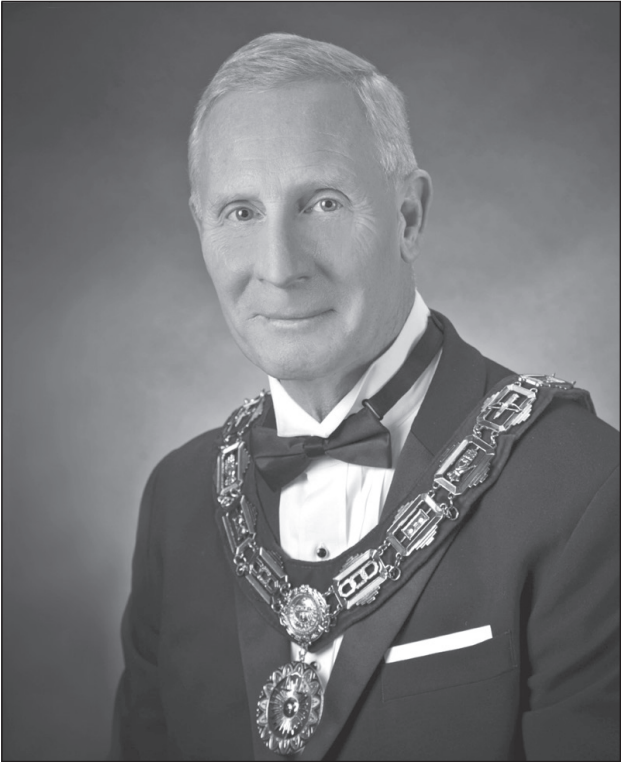
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Grand Lodge of Maine Independent Order of Oddfellows



David Gulya

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows Grand Lodge of Maine recently elected David Gulya of Blue Hill, Maine as Grand Master. Mr. Gulya was recently installed as Grand Master after serving as a District Deputy, Grand Warden and Deputy Grand Master.

Mr. Gulya joined Blue Hill Lodge #79 shortly after retirement having been in public service most of his adult life. For over 20 years Mr. Gulya's career was in public safety. He says, "the Oddfellows has allowed me to continue helping people".

The Oddfellows helps people in 30 countries around the world. Their mission is to help others build a

better world by promoting the principles of friendship, love and truth. Their legacy has been 200 years of helping others by funding and support for education scholarships, pilgrimages for youth, visual eye research, pilgrimages to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, housing and the Arthritis Foundation.

The Oddfellows and Rebekahs have proudly participated in the Rose Bowl Parade since 1908 and continuously since 1955. In 2020, the Oddfellows and Rebekahs will again sponsor a float. The float is titled "First Responders Bring Hope", to honor all of our first responder profession-

als. The Grand Lodge of Maine is honoring Farmington Fire Department Captain Michael Bell by sending two Farmington First Responders to the Rose Bowl Parade.

Here in Maine, Oddfellows and Rebekahs fund training scholarships for nurses, Camp N.E.O.F.A. (a Maine summer camp for children) and the Oddfellows and Rebekah's Nursing Home. The local Lodges reach out in their respective communities to support local projects. The annual Potato Run is a project we have taken on the past few years. Oddfellows and Rebekah's gather at a Houlton potato farm, then transport and deliver more than 10,000 pounds of locally grown potatoes to food pantries as far South as the Dover Children's Home in Dover, N.H.

Our special project this year is The Travis Mills Foundation. Oddfellows and Rebekahs will raise money for The Travis Mills Foundation new building project from events this year. We are planning a charity Motorcycle Ride and a 5K Race to raise money. Mr. Gulya says "I'm pretty excited for the next year. I'm looking forward to a great session with Rebekah's President Joyce Young."

Further information can be found on the web, Odd-Fellows.org, odd-fellowsofmaine.org, Facebook.com/OddFellowsOf-Maine

What's Going On

Picture yourself in 2020 taking the college transition program

People looking to prepare for college but are worried about writing papers, math problems, and managing their time can get help starting next month with Lewiston Adult Education's College Transition Program.

The free program reviews reading, writing and math skills in a college-style setting. Participants will also get help with college applications as well as applying for scholarships.

Students will visit the University of Southern Maine's Lewiston-Auburn College, Northeast Technical Institute, Maine College of Healthcare Professions and Central Maine Community College during the semester. The trips allow members of the post-secondary schools to talk about workloads and the kind of classes they provide.

Students in the fall College Transition Program had a graduation ceremony on December 12. Representatives from Central



Artur Bostos, right, holds up a smartphone to take a selfie with classmates and teachers during the College Transition Program graduation on Dec. 12.

Maine Community College and Northeast Technical Institute spoke to students along with previous program graduates who shared what they had learned while continuing their education.

The winter-spring semester of classes begins on January 7 at Lewiston Adult

Education's suite at the B Street Community Center on 57 Birch St. in Lewiston. The 14-week session will have Tuesday and Thursday classes.

To apply, email Amy Hatch at ahatch@lewiston-publicschools.org or call 207-753-6420.

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High pressure boiler operator' course offered at Central Maine Community College

The Center for Workforce & Professional Development at Central Maine Community College (CMCC) will offer the High Pressure Boiler Operator course starting on Monday, January 20, from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. until April 13.

Boiler operators control high-pressure boilers that supply steam to heat buildings and generate power for industrial purposes and are employed in industrial and manufacturing plants, hospitals, univer-

sities, government offices and commercial institutions. This course provides you with the knowledge and techniques to operate a steam generating plant in a safe and efficient manner and offers practical approach to power plant operation. It is designed to prepare you to sit for the High Pressure Boiler Operator licensing exam.

Prior to sitting for the exam, students are required to have six months of experience as a high pressure boiler operator under a training

permit issued by the Board. Students can then schedule to take their licensure exam in the CMCC Testing Center. The cost of the class is \$640 and includes all instructional materials.

For more information or to register, please contact CMCC's Center for Workforce & Professional Development at 207-755-5280, email workforcedevelopment@cmcc.edu or visit www.cmcc.edu/professionaldevelopment. Registration deadline is January 13.

Applications for Lewiston citizen committee vacancies deadline approaching

Mayor-Elect Mark Cayer is seeking interested citizen volunteers to serve as members of the City's various boards and committees. Lewiston residents who are interested in applying can contact the City Clerk's Department to complete a committee volunteer application. Application forms are also available on the City's website at www.lewistonmaine.gov. Committee descriptions, meeting times and other information about committee service are also available on the City's website. Applications are

requested to be submitted no later than 4 p.m., Friday, December 27.

The following city boards and committees have current openings: Board of Appeals, Cable TV Committee, Complete Streets Committee, Finance Committee, Historical Preservation Review Board, L/A Community Forestry Board, Lewiston Area Public Health Committee, Library Board of Trustees and Planning Board.

Due to residency requirements in the City Charter, neither the Board of

Appeals nor the Planning Board may have more than two members serving simultaneously from the same wards. This provision is to ensure adequate and balanced representation from all sections of the city.

Residents are welcome to contact the City Clerk's Department at 513-3124 with any questions they may have regarding the committee appointment process. Completed applications shall be submitted to the City Clerk's Office for processing. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Happy folk commune (contemporary ballet)



A Resurgence Dance Company Contemporary Ballet in The Annex. This comedy by Resurgence Dance Company Artistic Director Ashley Steeves is told through contemporary

ballet, speech and recycled costuming.

Dates of event are January 3, 4, 10 and 11 at 7:30 p.m. and January 5 and 12 at 2 p.m. at the Chocolate Church Arts Center, 804 Washington

Street in Bath. Regular tickets are \$12 Advance, \$16 at the door. Student tickets are \$8 in advance and \$12 Door. For more information visit www.chocolatechurcharts.org or call 207-442-8455.

Business planning course offered by New Ventures Maine in Lewiston

New Ventures Maine is conducting a multiple week course targeted at individuals considering starting a business or are in the early phases of business operation. This course is tuition free and is limited to 15 students.

Venturing Forth-Business Planning for Entrepreneurs is a 12-week, one day a week business planning course. The following topics are covered in depth: how to identify and reach target customers, identify competition, develop marketing strategies, record keeping, cash flow projections, taxes, financing and legal considerations. At the end of the course participants will have completed a business plan. There are also three follow-up sessions to provide networking and support as business owners' move

forward.

All classes will be held at the USM Lewiston-Auburn Campus at 51 Westminster St. Lewiston. The course orientation session will be on Tuesday, January 21 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. The course will start Tuesday, January 28 from 9:30 am to 3:00 p.m. and is scheduled to continue weekly on Tuesdays until April 14.

This is a very popular course and there is a multiple step process to attend. Participants are required to register online by January 17, attend the orientation on January 21, and also to participate in a 30 minute informal conversation with staff. These meetings will occur within a day of the orientation session.

The course instructor is Karleen Andrews,

Microenterprise Specialist for the Western Region. A number of guest speakers will discuss topics including social media, legal structures, tax accounting, and lending. Register online at newventuresmaine.org. For more information, please contact Karleen at karleen.andrews@maine.edu or call her at 207-557-1885.

A statewide organization serving all sixteen Maine counties, New Ventures Maine offers skills development and support in the areas of career planning, entrepreneurship and financial management. For more information on our programs, classes, and resources please visit newventuresmaine.org or call 1-800-442-2092 to find the center closest to you.



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Free workshops offered to beginning farmers at Maine agricultural trades show

The Beginning Farmer Resource Network (BFRN), a coalition of agricultural agencies in Maine, will host free workshops and offer consultation services to Maine’s newest farmers January 14 through 16 during the Maine Agricultural Trades Show at the Augusta Civic Center, 76 Community Drive, Augusta.

Two January 15 workshops will focus on multiple aspects of farm labor. Four January 16 workshops will examine cybersecurity of electronic sales, farming in a changing climate, working with municipalities on local farm policy, and collaborating with national partners. All workshops feature current farmers and service providers.

“Beginning farmers know better than anyone that there is no instruction manual for the first decade in agriculture,” says Tori Lee Jackson, University of Maine Cooperative Extension associate professor of agriculture and natural resources, and BFRN member. “As a coalition, the Beginning Farmer Resource Network works to help aspiring and beginning farmers find their ‘farm business success’ in an easy

and practical manner.”

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, a beginning farmer is someone who has operated a farm for 10 years or fewer. The most recent USDA Agricultural Census indicated nearly one-third of farmers in Maine reported 10 years’ or fewer of experience on their present farm.

Registration is not necessary. For more information, visit the UMaine Extension BFRN website, or contact Tori Jackson, 207.353.5500, tori.jackson@maine.edu.

As a trusted resource for over 100 years, University of Maine Cooperative Extension has supported UMaine’s land and sea grant public education role by conducting community-driven, research-based programs in every Maine county. UMaine Extension helps support, sustain and grow the food-based economy. It is the only entity in our state that touches every aspect of the Maine Food System, where policy, research, production, processing, commerce, nutrition, and food security and safety are integral and interrelated. UMaine Extension also conducts the most successful out-of-school

youth educational program in Maine through 4-H.

The University of Maine, founded in Orono in 1865, is the state’s land grant, sea grant and space grant university. As Maine’s flagship public university, UMaine has a statewide mission of teaching, research and economic development, and community service. UMaine is the state’s only public research university and among the most comprehensive higher education institutions in the Northeast. It attracts students from all 50 states and more than 70 countries. UMaine currently enrolls 11,561 undergraduate and graduate students who have opportunities to participate in groundbreaking research with world-class scholars. UMaine offers more than 100 degree programs through which students can earn master’s, doctoral or professional science master’s degrees, as well as graduate certificates. The university promotes environmental stewardship, with substantial efforts campuswide to conserve energy, recycle and adhere to green building standards in new construction. For more information about UMaine, visit umaine.edu.

Girl Scouts of Maine to host new member sign-up events

Girl Scouts of Maine (GSME) announces that it will host New Member Sign-Up events for potential members and volunteers at locations throughout the state every month. Below is a list of events in your area.

These events will bring together girls from kindergarten through third grade and their caregivers and allow them to discover why Girl Scouting is important to the development of girls, how it relates to the success of young women today, and the important role that adults play.

“Girl Scouts helps girls develop their full potential,” says Joanne Crepeau, CEO of Girl Scouts of Maine. “When a girl becomes a Girl Scout, she grows into a young woman who is self-confident, strong and compassionate. She learns how to build and maintain healthy relationships. She becomes more aware of the world around her and uses her skills and talents to make her world a better place.”

These New Member Sign-Up events are just some of the many events that GSME will be holding this year. Here is a list of events in your area:

January 13, Pittston-Randolph Consoli-

dated School, 6:00 p.m., 1023 Pittston School Street, Pittston. January 14, Owls Head Central School, 6:00 p.m., 54 Ash Point Drive, Owls Head. January 14, Farington Elementary School, 6:00 p.m., 249 Eastern Avenue, Augusta. January 14, Waterford Memorial School, 6:00 p.m., 148 Valley Road, Waterford. January 15, Spruce Mountain Primary School, 6:00 p.m., 107 Gibbs Mill Road, Livermore. January 15, Hartford-Summer Elementary School, 6:00 p.m., 145 Main Street, Sumner. January 16, Madison Elementary School, 6:00 p.m., 43 Learners Lane, Madison. January 16, George J. Mitchell School, 6:00 p.m., 58 Drummond Avenue, Waterville.

For more information about Girl Scouts or to see a full list of New Member Sign-Up events, visit girlscoutsofmaine.org or call 888-922-4763.

Girl Scouts of Maine builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. GSME provides services and support to nearly 13,000 girl and adult members statewide and operates service centers and shops in South Portland and Bangor.



L-A Rotary to welcome executive director for An Angel's Wing



On Thursday, January 2, Debra York, the Executive Director for the non-profit, An Angel’s Wing, will be the featured guest speaker of the Lewiston-Auburn Rotary Lunch Club from noon to 1 p.m. at The Village Inn, 165 High Street, Auburn.

Based in Lewiston, An Angel’s Wing is a 501(c)3 non-profit founded in 2017. Their mission is to assist individuals with substance use disorder (SUD) by funding rehabilitation and education, as well as, offering

employment to those in recovery. AAW will be a part of whatever it takes to assist individuals who are willing and in need of rehabilitation for Substance Use Disorder, to becoming a successful member of society. Currently AAW is in process of developing a program to assist those children born with addictions and children going through the trauma of having one or both parents suffering from SUD. Recently, AAW helped two children who lived in a tent

at a Park and Ride with clothing, shoes, backpacks, and coats to help with school re-entry. The Center for Disease Control reported that from 1999-2016 more than 350,000 people died from opioid overdoses. To put that into perspective, it would be like all residents in Cumberland County dying in a 17-year time span. The problem continued to escalate in Maine in 2018. During this time, at least one person every day has died of drug overdose per CBS news. The Portland newspaper reported that drug overdoses killed a record 418 Maine people last year alone. Not only does SUD not discriminate based on race, socio-economics, age, or location, but chances are you know or knew someone who has struggled with SUD. View the AAW website at www.anangelswing.com.

L-A Rotary meets every Thursday at The Village Inn, Auburn from noon to 1 p.m. Lunch is available for \$14. Guests and visiting Rotarians are always welcomed. For more information visit www.lewistonauburnrotary.org and www.facebook.com/lewistonmainerotary/ or contact PR/Marketing Chair, Monica Millhime 713.7045, millhime@myfairpoint.net or Club President Celeste Yakawonis, 713.7111.

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Songs

Continued from page 1

First Noel”, “What Child Is This?” and “Angel Songs”.

Mitch Thomas returned to lead the audience in a rousing finale of more sing-a-longs with him at the piano, including, “O Come All Ye Faithful”, “We Wish You a Merry Christmas” and “God Rest Ye Merry

Gentlemen”.

As we all filed into the parish hall we saw a free-will basket filled with donations in support of the Auburn Middle School’s Children’s Clothing Closet which yielded over \$500.

Tables spread with several varieties of home-baked cookies by the women of the Church were quickly

filled by the crowd coming in. Coffee, tea and punch were also available.

But the star of the Songs and Sounds of the Season was little four-month-old Ethan Spiller in the arms of his maternal Grandfather, Barry Skilling. Ethan, bright, alert, looking all around, was charming everyone who looked his way. Mom Megan Spiller declared with pride, “He’s a People Person!”



The Auburn Methodist Ringers with William Buzza, Director: Ron Spofford, Judy Sargent and David Sargent.



Judith Kuhn, Accompanist, and William Buzza, alto saxophonist, play Bring a Torch.



Megan Spiller and four-month-old son, Ethan, who charmed everyone, is held by his maternal grandfather, Barry Spilling, all of Auburn.



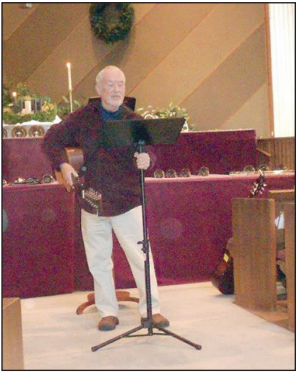
Church fills quickly before Concert starts.



The Wesleyan Singers directed by Beth La Brie and Judith Kuhn Accompanist.



Ruth Straehle and Issy Gervais are frequent visitors to the church.



George Matthews plays one of his favorite songs Christmas Hallelujah.



Mitch Thomas on piano with Caroline Coffin sing his original song Light a Candle for Peace.



Church volunteers are Janet Irish, Sandra Chamberlain, Carol Christopoulos, Pam MacDonald and Jan Wilkinson.



Joe Beardsley, guitarist, came early to practice a few songs he will be playing.

Seniors Not Acting Their Age

A malfunctioning memory on Mount Chocorua



An ancient hiker on the Mount Chocorua summit cone (Not Chief Chocorua)

How do you pronounce Chocorua? Possessing a distinct Mainer’s accent, I say “sha-core-ah.” I’ve heard other variations. Anyway, you say it Mount Chocorua in New Hampshire is an outstanding hike.

My friend Suzanne and I had arrived at Chocorua’s alpine-like summit and were basking in remarkably hospitable conditions. Sitting atop a cliff, a clear sunny day with light winds provided an exceptional opportunity to savor some of the most spectacular views in the White Mountains. Frequently hiked, two large groups had been passed on our ascent of the Champney Falls Trail but that was just a sampling of what was to follow. Several trails converge near the imposing pinnacle and a cluster of trekkers had astonishingly materialized.

The summit cone of Chocorua is consequential. The final rugged boulder-strewn route culminates with a formidable clamber up precipitous ledges on the east side. Other approaches arguably require advanced climbing skills. Named for Chief Chocorua, a Native American who lived

in nearby Tamworth in the eighteenth century, legend relates that he jumped to his death from the summit after a dispute with European settlers.

Our journey began when I posted a leader’s choice Penobscot Paddle & Chowder Society trip, proposing a mountain hike in New Hampshire. First to respond, Suzanne suggested Chocorua. My preference, it was an easy decision.

Both retired, Suzanne and her husband Gary have been my habitual outdoor companions for over 30 years. Our shared adventures hiking, paddling and skiing could easily fill a book. Unfortunately, Gary was sidelined with a health issue, and others interested Chowderheads didn’t have sufficient time to complete the lengthy trip to and from the trailhead on Kancamagus Highway. One of the most popular outings in the White Mountains, we were never lonely.

A storm had passed through the Whites the previous night. Approaching the area, snow-capped peaks could be observed in the distance and a layer of ice and snow covered the road.

The ground was unexpectedly clear at the trailhead. Assuming some form of accumulated frozen precipitation would be confronted at higher elevations, we packed micro spikes for our climb of the 3,478 foot peak.

Champney Falls and Bowles Trails begin together but Champney quickly separates left and crosses substantial Twin Brook. I remembered a bridge over the stream. Suzanne quickly observed that high water had washed it away a few years ago. Another example of my faltering memory, I didn’t bother to relate that I’d probably had the same conversation with others on previous trips. Fortuitously, a series of flat rocks facilitated a dry traverse.

Estimates of the distance vary, but according to my timeworn White Mountains Trail Map, the Champney Falls Trail is 3.2 miles to Piper Trail which continues another .6 to the top. The first 1.4 miles travels up a moderate gradient on an ancient logging road until connecting with a loop trail that visits scenic Champney and Pitcher Falls. At that point, the path steepened and a blanket of snow with spo-



Enjoying the view from the summit of Mount Chocorua

radic ice was encountered.

At about 2.5 miles, several long switchbacks are carved into the side of a more abrupt slope. Moisture from the recent storm had pooled in the path leaving protracted sections of treacherous ice. Cautiously negotiating upwards, we passed the Middle Sister Cutoff Trail, angled up a final pitch, and joined Piper Trail.

Sunshine warmed us on expansive snow-covered boulders as we maneuvered through a patchy conifer forest fully expecting a hazardous icy surface for our anticipated summit attempt. Emerging above tree-line, we were gratified to find predominantly dry ledges facilitating a reasonably safe final scramble. As noted, the cone was cluttered with enthusiastic climbers.

After our prolonged respite on the alpine crest, dozens of hikers were met on return many inquiring about summit conditions. Micro spikes were donned

for a measured descent on the icy switchbacks.

Reaching Champney Falls Loop Trail, an exploratory seemed a prerequisite. An ice climbing mecca in winter, the tumbling water had yet to freeze. Mystifyingly, the cameraman, that would be me, bungled his photo attempts. Readers will have to take my word that the falls are very impressive. For those in search of a shorter hike, a trek to the falls and back offers an easier three mile excursion. Taking a competent photographer is highly recommended.

“Don’t forget, the bridge over Twin Brook is washed out,” I repeatedly reminded myself on the drive home.

Author of “The Great Mars Hill Bank Robbery” and “Mountains for Mortals – New England,” Ron Chase resides in Topsham. Visit his website at www.ronchaseoutdoors.com or he can be reached at ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net



Hikers arrive at the summit of Mount Chocorua



Suzanne Cole carefully ascends an icy switchback on Mount Chocorua’s Champney Falls Trail



Two hikers atop the Mount Chocorua summit cone

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UMaine Extension 4-H program receives regional and national awards



University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H youth development program staff were recently honored by the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents (NAE4-HA) as Northeast regional and national winners of the Diversity & Inclusion: Expanding the 4-H Audience Award and the Excellence in After School Programming Award.

UMaine Extension staff honored at the NAE4-HA conference, held November 7 in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, were Extension 4-H professor Kristy Ouellette of Litchfield; Extension 4-H assistant professor Mitchell Mason of Portland; Extension 4-H Community Central program coordinator Laura Personette of Topsham; Extension 4-H science professional Sarah Sparks of New Gloucester; and community partners Lewiston Housing Authority, Lewiston 21st Century Learning Program at McMahon School and Portland Housing Authority.

The Diversity & In-

clusion award recognizes outstanding effort and accomplishments in achieving and sustaining diversity in the NAE4-HA organization, programs, and/or audiences.

The Excellence in After School Programming Award encourages and recognizes exceptional work in 4-H after school programming by NAE4-HA members.

The NAE4-HA is dedicated to promoting, strengthening, enhancing and advocating for the 4-H youth development profession. For more information about UMaine Extension 4-H, contact 207.581.3188; extension@maine.edu.

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in our state that touches every aspect of the Maine Food System, where policy, research, production, processing, commerce, nutrition, and food security and safety are integral and interrelated. UMaine Extension also conducts the most successful out-of-school youth educational program in Maine through 4-H.

The University of Maine, founded in Orono in 1865, is the state's land grant, sea grant and space grant university. As Maine's flagship public university, UMaine has a statewide mission of teaching, research and economic development, and community service. UMaine is the state's only public research university and among the most comprehensive higher education institutions in the Northeast. It attracts students from all 50 states and more than 70 countries. UMaine currently enrolls 11,561 undergraduate and graduate students who have opportunities to participate in groundbreaking research with world-class scholars. UMaine offers more than 100 degree programs through which students can earn master's, doctoral or professional science master's degrees, as well as graduate certificates. The university promotes environmental stewardship, with substantial efforts campuswide to conserve energy, recycle and adhere to green building standards in new construction. For more information about UMaine, visit umaine.edu.

Proposed 'cap and invest' permitting system will increase transportation fuel prices for Mainers

Upon release of the next step in the implementation of a regional permitting system that will impose new fees on gasoline and diesel fuels, Maine People Before Politics has issued the following statement.

"The Transportation Climate Initiative draft agreement confirms that this so-called 'cap-and-invest' program is in reality a regressive, hidden tax on Maine drivers," stated Julie Rabinowitz, director of policy and communication for Maine People Before Politics. "It will hit the individuals who live in rural areas, those who commute long distances, and those whose businesses rely on trucks to deliver their goods especially hard."

She continued, "Maine is unlike the other states participating in the TCI, as we are the most northern state with a largely rural population. Joining a regional program signs away the flexibility we need to adopt programs designed to meet our needs, and instead forces our state to support the priorities of other states like Massachusetts and New York."

"Furthermore, the restrictions on how the permitting fees can be invested means that when the costs

are passed on at the pump, Maine's rural population will be disproportionately footing the bill for green transportation projects in cities and tourist centers. We urge all Maine consumers and businesses to provide input on the TCI draft agreement released today," Rabinowitz added.

Public comment on the draft agreement will be accepted through Friday, February 28, 2020, in writing via the online portal on TCI's website.

States under the agreement will auction off permits that limit the amount of gasoline and diesel fuel to be sold. The revenue generated by the permits, estimated to be \$7 billion annually, will be passed to the states to be used "to strategically invest in programs to help their residents transition to affordable, low-carbon transportation options that provide substantial public health benefits, reduce congestion, and increase economic and job opportunities," according to the agreement. The amount of fuel that can be sold under the permits will drop each year to reduce carbon emissions from transportation fuel.

"The goal of making it more expensive to drive is to

encourage people to drive less or switch to greener transportation methods. These are not options many Mainers can afford," Rabinowitz said.

Participating states will make a decision to commit to the initiative by signing the final MOU in the spring of 2020, with the goal of having the agreement established under the laws and regulations of each state by the end of 2020 and the permitting system in effect as of January of 2022.

The 12 participating states are Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Virginia.

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Maddie Hollowell and the lows and highs of data collection

Maddie Hollowell ‘20 grew up in North Haven, Maine, an island community in Penobscot Bay. For her family and neighbors, the effects of climate change are immediate.

“I recognize the changes that are happening in the coastal system and the ecosystem,” she says.

With the guidance of Bates professors, Hollowell discovered the value of data collection, primarily through sensors deployed along the coast. She designed an interdisciplinary major incorporating digital and computational studies and geology, and her senior thesis involves developing a sensor that can be attached to lobster traps.

“I want there to be a future for where I live and for there to be a place that I can come back to when I’m older,” Hollowell says. “I think that getting this information will help solidify my ability to do that.”

To expand and hone her abilities, Hollowell has devoted her extracurricular time to collecting data in another direction—straight up—with the High Altitude Ballooning Club.

For a recent launch, club president Hollowell and the rest of the student team rose at 5 a.m. to drive

to New Hampshire, where they launched a balloon filled with 200 cubic feet of helium dozens of miles into the atmosphere.

When the team retrieved the balloon two hours later in central Maine, along with sensors that measured things like temperature, pressure, and humidity, “it felt like we had done something really big,” Hollowell says.

“Data collecting really excites me,” she adds. “You expect what you’re going to see, and then you can get a whole new frame of information, and it can completely change what you thought.”

Senator Susan Collins announces reelection campaign



In a letter emailed to her supporters this morning, Senator Susan Collins officially announced her intention to seek reelection to the United States Senate. In it, Collins cites her long record of bipartisan accomplishments and commitment to achieve results to benefit Maine and the nation.

“I promised the people of Maine a decision this fall on whether I would seek reelection. The fundamental question I had to ask myself in making my decision was this: In today’s polarized political environment, is there still a role for a centrist who believes in getting things done through compromise, collegiality, and bipartisanship?”

I have concluded that the answer to this question is “yes,” and I will, therefore, seek the honor of continuing to serve as Maine’s United States Senator,” Collins wrote in the email.

Following is the full text of Senator Susan Collins’ letter:

“Growing up in Aroostook County, I learned to work hard and to serve others. My parents set the tone, with their commitment to our 5th generation family business and with their devotion to public service.

“My father served in the State Senate, as did his father and grandfather before him, and my mother was Mayor of Caribou and Chairman of the University of Maine System Board of Trustees. Their commitment to public service helped inspire me to run for the United States Senate.

“As Maine’s Senator, I have had a number of important legislative successes

that have benefited our state and the nation. One of my first major legislative accomplishments was when I teamed up with Senator Dick Durbin to repeal a \$50 billion tax break for big tobacco companies. In the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, I worked with Senator Joe Lieberman to make our country safer by enacting the most sweeping changes to our intelligence agencies since World War II. As Chairman of the Senate Aging Committee, I have authored laws to lower the cost of prescription drugs and to better protect and improve the lives of older Americans. And, since joining the Senate Appropriations Committee ten years ago, I have helped secure more than \$560 million to improve Maine’s roads, bridges, airports, and seaports.

“Just this week, Senator Doug Jones and I secured a victory for military families by repealing what’s commonly referred to as the “widow’s tax,” an unfair offset that reduces benefits for surviving military spouses whose loved ones were killed serving our country or who died of service-connected illnesses. Another important effort I’ve led with Senator Tina Smith addresses the alarming public health threat caused by Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses – and is on the verge of becoming law.

“One reason why I have been able to pass so many laws is because of the bipartisan, commonsense approach I learned growing up in Maine. For the past six years, I have been ranked the most bipartisan member of the Senate.

“Another reason I have been effective is because of the Maine work ethic that I learned as a child. In Maine, we show up for work every day. I have never missed a roll call vote – yesterday I cast my 7,234th consecutive vote.

“I promised the people of Maine a decision this fall on whether I would seek reelection. The fundamental question I had to ask myself in making my decision was this: in today’s polarized political environment, is there still a role for a centrist who believes in getting things done through compromise, collegiality, and bipartisanship?”

“I have concluded that the answer to this question is “yes,” and I will, therefore, seek the honor of continuing to serve as Maine’s United States Senator.

“To say that these are difficult and contentious times is most certainly an understatement. But our country has confronted much more challenging times in our history. Seventy-five years ago this week, U.S. forces were engaged in one of the most consequential battles of World War II, the Battle of the Bulge. American soldiers – including my father – courageously fought back, ensuring victory for the Allies.

“That generation found ways to solve the challenges of their era, and I believe that we can as well. My commitment to you remains strong, and I am as determined as ever to keep bringing people together, to speak out for the values that unite our great country, and to deliver results for Maine and America.””

Meghan Graff named Maine co-player of the week

Bates sophomore Meghan Graff was named Maine Co-Player of the Week with Bowdoin’s Maddie Hasson last week by the Maine Women’s Basketball Coaches Association, following her outstanding performances in a 2-1 week for the Bobcats.

Graff (South Portland, Maine) hit a runner at the buzzer to force overtime, then made a free throw with 0.7 seconds remaining in overtime as Bates

defeated Colby 74-73 last Wednesday. She finished the game with 24 points. The following day, she scored 19 points with three assists in a 59-42 loss to No. 4 nationally ranked Bowdoin. On Saturday, Graff poured in a career-high 26 points and added six assists in a 67-52 victory over Saint Joseph’s, Bates’ first win over the Monks in their past seven meetings.

In a 2-1 week, Graff averaged 23.0 points per

game while shooting .491 from the field and .625 (5-8) from three-point territory. She also posted 4.0 assists, 2.3 rebounds and 1.3 steals per game. Graff currently leads the NESCAC in scoring with 18.6 points per game.

The MWBCA named Graff the Maine Rookie of the Week on three occasions last season, followed by a place on the 2019 MWBCA All-Rookie Team with teammate Ariana Dalia.

Pross elected to Androscoggin Land Trust board of directors



Jim Pross

Skelton Taintor & Abbott shareholder Jim Pross has been elected to the Androscoggin Land Trust’s board of directors, on which he previously served from 2009–2018, including two years as president. The Androscoggin Land Trust (ALT) is a private, non-profit membership organization dedicated to protecting natural areas, landscapes, and outdoor experiences in the Androscoggin River watershed through land conservation and stewardship.

Pross’ practice areas include real estate, landlord/tenant, municipal and government law, social security disability, and employment law. Active in the community, Pross has served as an

Auburn City Councilor and as a member of the Auburn School Committee. He was recently appointed to the City of Auburn Ethics Panel by the Mayor of Auburn, Jason J. Levesque.

“I’m excited about returning to service on the ALT Board. ALT is engaged in important work in our community, protecting sensitive wildlife habitat to ensure that vulnerable species have a home in the Androscoggin River watershed for generations to come. ALT’s conservation efforts also guarantee that there will always be public access to open spaces in our community for all to enjoy, regardless of class, religion, or race.”

Skelton Taintor & Abbott is one of Maine’s leading law firms serving individuals and businesses in litigation and general representation throughout northern New England for more than 150 years. The firm has been named in U.S. News-Best Lawyers “Best Law Firms” in America. For more information, visit www.STA-Law.com or call 207.784.3200.

Send all items for **Names & Faces to Editor@TwinCityTimes.com.** Deadline is **Friday by five.**

Stanton Bird Club announces January events



The Stanton Bird Club of Lewiston and Auburn will meet Monday, January 6, at 6:30 p.m. in Room 285 at the University of Southern Maine’s Lewiston-Auburn College, 55 Westminster Street, Lewiston. The topic is Death Valley as seen by the photographer Dan Marquis. The meeting is free and open to the public.

Dan Marquis is a professional photographer, a former Stanton Bird Club board member, as well as a 20 year avid bird watcher. He specializes in nature close-ups and landscapes, illustrating the patterns and

colors that nature offers to those willing to take the time to look. Dan’s recent winter trip to Death Valley will highlight the park and the scenery that makes it a great vacation destination.

The first walk of the year will take place on January 11, Saturday, from 8am to 3pm as we look for birds on the Marginal Way, Ogunquit. We will also stop at the Cliff House and Nubble Lighthouse in York. This is the time to spot King Eiders, Purple Sandpipers, and many sea ducks deserting the Arctic. Be sure to bundle for warmth. We will meet

at Staples in Lewiston at 8 a.m. to carpool. For more information call Steve Reed at 207-319-6630.

The Stanton Bird Club, a leader in environmental awareness, manages the Thorncrag Nature Sanctuary as well as the Woodbury Nature Sanctuary in Monmouth and Litchfield. It seeks to encourage both the enjoyment and protection of our natural surroundings. More information can be found at www.StantonBirdClub.org. The results of the various trips are posted there, often with photos. The Club also has a Facebook page.

University of Maine offering tuition-free early college spring courses for high school students

Through a partnership between the Maine Department of Education and the University of Maine, tuition is waived for all qualified high school students in Maine to cover full tuition for up to 12 college credits per year at the University of Maine, the state’s flagship public university. Eligible students are able to earn college credit while still in high school.

Starting January 21, the University of Maine will offer over 100 online and campus-based spring courses suitable for qualified high school students.

Classes are taught by world-class UMaine faculty and meet general education requirements of the University of Maine System, as well as the majority of colleges nationwide. Students across the state will benefit from the flexibility and variety of live (in Belfast and Orono) and online early college courses offered this spring.

The University of Maine has a long history of

being a leader in supporting Early College programming. UMaine’s signature online program, Academ-e, launched over 15 years ago.

The UMaine Early College Program is committed to providing: Quality teaching and learning, college-level rigor and academic integrity; access and support to under-resourced communities and first-generation students; multiple layers of support to ensure student success, including a comprehensive orientation experience and academic advising; open access to world-class faculty through Maine’s flagship university

Register online at explore.maine.edu. Interested students and parents are encouraged to contact Allison Small, Early College Programs coordinator, 207.581.8004; allison.small@maine.edu to learn more about the application process.

The University of Maine, founded in Orono in 1865, is the state’s land grant, sea grant and space

grant university. As Maine’s flagship public university, UMaine has a statewide mission of teaching, research and economic development, and community service. UMaine is the state’s only public research university and among the most comprehensive higher education institutions in the Northeast. It attracts students from all 50 states and more than 70 countries. UMaine currently enrolls 11,561 undergraduate and graduate students who have opportunities to participate in groundbreaking research with world-class scholars. UMaine offers more than 100 degree programs through which students can earn master’s, doctoral or professional science master’s degrees, as well as graduate certificates. The university promotes environmental stewardship, with substantial efforts campuswide to conserve energy, recycle and adhere to green building standards in new construction. For more information about UMaine, visit umaine.edu.

USM LAC Senior College winter term courses

It’s time to start thinking about USM LAC Senior College Winter Classes. These are one day courses which meet for approx-

imately 2 hours. Further information and complete schedule coming soon in pamphlet and on our website. Here is a list of courses,

instructor name and brief review. Contact us with questions at laseniorcollege@gmail.com or 207-753-6610.

Man on the Moon: Apollo 11; Alan Elze. In May 1961, President Kennedy said the goal for the nation’s space program was to land a man on the moon and return him safely to Earth before the end of the decade. IN 1961, we had just launched a man into space. Between 1961 and 1969, a lot of work and imagination had to go into putting a man on the moon.

Behind the Reporter’s Notebook; Bonne Washuk. What’s it like to be a newspaper reporter? Newly retired Sun Journal reporter Bonnie Washuk shares her experiences and stories of the stories.

Game Day: Gamer’s Choice; Sally and Paul Belisle. Enjoy a fun filled morning of games. Bring whatever game you’d like to share. “Bethumped” and “25 Words or Less” will be available.

Cannabis Community State of the Union; Joel Bucknam. Joel will discuss cannabis current events and the impact on the 55+ community.

Virtue and its Role in the Founding of the United States; Dr. Charles Plummer. This course will focus directly on the conditions that led to the break with England, the ideals and principles that guided the founding of the United States and attempt to design institutions that would

See USM, next page

Word Search

Thank you Linda from Buxton for all the word search suggestions. It sounds like you have a vacation on your mind. Hopefully you can find everything on the list before heading out!

S	I	S	B	E	S	A	C	T	I	U	S	H	U
T	A	N	A	P	F	E	T	S	A	A	A	A	C
O	C	O	T	T	H	F	L	O	S	S	S	D	S
O	A	D	H	S	I	O	S	S	O	D	O	S	O
T	S	E	I	P	O	S	N	K	D	F	P	S	U
H	H	O	N	A	S	P	O	E	I	P	A	E	U
B	A	D	G	S	U	O	T	O	O	S	L	V	B
R	O	O	S	S	N	L	B	O	O	T	S	O	S
U	T	R	U	P	S	F	O	A	P	N	T	L	B
S	L	A	I	O	C	P	B	R	M	L	H	G	V
H	H	N	T	R	R	I	S	E	A	T	I	A	T
C	K	T	E	T	E	L	O	M	H	U	T	F	O
T	T	S	R	F	E	F	H	A	S	O	E	O	O
H	N	A	H	T	N	O	R	C	V	H	P	U	I

- CASH
- CAMERA
- FLOSS
- SUNSCREEN
- FLIP FLOPS
- BATHING SUIT
- DEODORANT
- GLOVES
- SUITCASE
- SKIS
- PHONE
- PASSPORT
- TOOTHBRUSH
- BOOTS
- SHAMPOO

What topic would you like us to do a word search on? Email us at info@twincitytimes.com.

Monday, Dec. 30
Soil heath workshop presented by The Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District, at 254 Goddard Road, Lewiston, in the first-floor conference room, 12 p.m. Please contact the District at 207-241-5377 or atinfo@androscogginswcd.org with any questions or to reserve a spot. Attendance is free to all who wish to attend. We hope to see you all there!

Thursday, Jan. 2
L-A Rotary welcomes Debra York, executive director for An Angel’s Wing at The Village Inn, Auburn from noon to 1 p.m. Lunch is available for \$14. Guests and visiting Rotarians are always welcomed. For more information visit www.lewistonauburnrotary.org and www.facebook.com/lewistonmainerotary/ or contact PR/Marketing Chair, Monica Millhime 713.7045, millhime@my-fairpoint.net or Club President Celeste Yakawonis, 713.7111.

Stanton Bird Club of Lewiston and Auburn meeting in room 285 at the University of Southern Maine Lewiston-Auburn College, 55 Westminster Street, Lewiston, at 6:30 p.m. The topic is Death Valley as seen by the photographer Dan Marquis. The meeting is free and open to the public

Friday, Jan. 3
A Resurgence Dance Company Contemporary Ballet in The Annex, at the Chocolate Church Arts Center, 804 Washington Street in Bath, 7:30 p.m. Regular tickets are \$12 Advance, \$16 at the door. Student tickets are \$8 in advance and \$12 Door. For more information visit www.chocolatechurcharts.org or call 207-442-8455.

Saturday, Jan. 4
A Resurgence Dance Company Contemporary Ballet in The Annex, at the Chocolate Church Arts Center, 804 Washington Street in Bath, 7:30 p.m. Regular tickets are \$12 Advance, \$16 at the door. Student tickets are \$8 in advance and \$12 Door. For more information visit www.chocolatechurcharts.org or call 207-442-8455.

Seagrass at Village Coffeehouse, 19 Gloucester Hill Road, New Gloucester, 7:30 p.m. Seagrass specializes in upbeat traditional, classic rock and contemporary music. Tickets are \$10 at the door. For more information Julie Fralich at 207-653-4823.

Sunday, Jan. 5
A Resurgence Dance Company Contemporary Ballet in The Annex, at the Chocolate Church Arts Center, 804 Washington Street in Bath, 2 p.m. Regular tickets are \$12 Advance, \$16 at the door. Student tickets are \$8 in advance and \$12 Door.

Calendar

See more Calendar at www.TwinCityTimes.com

For more information visit www.chocolatechurcharts.org or call 207-442-8455.

Monday, Jan. 6
Lewiston’s Mayoral Inaugural & Elected Officials Oath of Office Ceremony at The Gendron Franco Center (46 Cedar Street, Lewiston), 6:30 p.m. The Franco Center is handicapped accessible and parking is available across the street in the Continental Mill lot. For more information, please contact City Clerk Kathy Montejo at 513-3124.

Wednesday, Jan. 8
Annual USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Local Working Group meeting hosted by Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District at USDA office, 254 Goddard Road Lewiston, in the conference room from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. There will be free coffee, refreshments and snacks. Registration is required by Friday, January 3 and can be done by calling the Conservation District at (207) 241-5374.

Friday, January 10
Food for Thought first meeting of 2020 at the Lewiston Auburn Campus of USM, 51 Westminster Street, Lewiston, 12 noon. The speaker will share the story of Mike Brooks, a 33-year career firefighter. The lecture is free and open to the public, but we will no longer be offering the option of purchasing a meal. Everyone is invited and welcome to bring a bag lunch. The doors will open at 11:30.

The Harlow exhibit opening reception and meet the artists (Keri Kimura and Jan Ter Weele), at The Harlow, 100 Water Street in Hallowell, 5 to 7 p.m. The Harlow is a membership based 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to connecting and celebrating art, artists and community in downtown historic Hallowell since 1963. For more information please visit harlowgallery.org or call 207-622-3813

A Resurgence Dance Company Contemporary Ballet in The Annex, at the Chocolate Church Arts Center, 804 Washington Street in Bath, 7:30 p.m. Regular tickets are \$12 Advance, \$16 at the door. Student tickets are \$8 in advance and \$12 Door. For more information visit www.chocolatechurcharts.org or call 207-442-8455.

Saturday, Jan. 11
Stanton Bird Club first walk of the year on Marginal Way Ogunquit, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Meet at Staples in Lewiston at 8 a.m.to carpool. For more information call Steve Reed at 207-319-6630.

UUCB Concerts for a Cause: Tricky Britches, at Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick, 7:30 p.m. as part of the Concerts for a Cause series to raise money for 2 local charities. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door, Students/Children are \$5. Tickets are available on December 1 at the church office, Gulf of Maine Books, or online at <https://britches.brownpapertickets.com/>.

Midcoast Symphony Orchestra performs “Children’s Tales and Cartoon Classics” at the Franco Center, Lewiston, 7 p.m. Tickets: \$22 (advance) \$25 (cash or check) at the door, under 18 and college students are free. Call 207-846-5378 or visit <http://www.midcoast-symphony.org> for details and discounted ticket offers.

Sunday, Jan. 12
A Resurgence Dance Company Contemporary Ballet in The Annex, at the Chocolate Church Arts Center, 804 Washington Street in Bath, 2 p.m. Regular tickets are \$12 Advance, \$16 at the door. Student tickets are \$8 in advance and \$12 Door. For more information visit www.chocolatechurcharts.org or call 207-442-8455.

Sunday, Jan. 26
Shana Youngdahl book signing at Webster Library in Kingfield at 2 p.m. Shana Youngdahl, University of Maine at Farmington assistant professor of English is author of “As Many Nows As I Can Get”.

Thursday, Feb. 20
Shana Youngdahl book signing at Portland Public Library at noon. Shana Youngdahl, University of Maine at Farmington assistant professor of English is author of “As Many Nows As I Can Get”.

USM

Continued from page 12

be capable of realizing the ideals that were expressed in the founding documents. Unmanned Aircraft Systems—Drones; Dan LeClair. Dan will cover the operation of multi-rotor and fixed-wing drones, their uses and applications across industries, FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) policies and regulations, operational risks, insurance, and much more. You will learn exactly what you need to know to be legal, fly efficiently and get the most out of the aircraft.

Picking Away at Genealogical Brick Wall; Pam Davis-Green. My recent family generations have been easy to confirm with documentary evidence.

However, my great-great-grandmother’s birth and parentage was a genealogical brick wall preventing me from understanding that branch of my family tree. In this presentation, I will share the genealogical tools I used to chop away and finally break through this brick wall.

Piano Man; David Bernier. A look at the successful career and music of singer, songwriter and piano man, Billy Joel.

The Gibson Girl; Alan Elze. In the late 19th and early 20th century, Charles Dana Dixon, and illustrator, introduced America to the Gibson girl. This will be an illustrated lecture utilizing many of the original images.

Stone Soup; Paul Drowns. We are all familiar with the children’s classic, “Stone Soup”. We will create re-create a delicious soup with just three stones, then share it. Please bring a vegetable to throw in the pot and come hungry.

A Good Man With A Do; Roger Guay. Join author Roger Guayabera discusses his book, a good man with a dog, which follows his 25year career as a main game warden. Guay’s book takes readers into the patient, watchful world of warden catching poachers and protecting pristine wilderness, and the sometimes CSI-like reconstruction of deer-and moose-poaching scenes. GUAY searches for lost hunters and hikers, estimating that over the years, he has pulled more than 200 bodies out of means Northwoods. His frequent companion is a little brown lab named Reba, who can find discarded weapons, ejected shells, hidden fish, and missing people.

Create a Free-Flowing Painting; Anita Poulin and Linda DeSantis. This is a fun class! Students at each table to pass their canvas from one to another, adding to it with acrylics until it returns to the original Creator for finishing touches! Everyone brings home I finished art piece. No experience needed.

Four Graveyards and a Christening; Judy Hierstein. When our uncle died, my genealogist brother and I decided it was time to visit our family still in England. Our trip was punctuated by tombstones, old homes and pubs, old aunties and new babies, with the chunnel and a little Shakespeare thrown in! We took lots of pictures! Game day; Game Day: Trivial Pursuit;Alan Elze. For those interested in trivia, this class is for you.

The New “Three R’s”: A Conversation on Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling; Christine Holden. How can we live a more planet friendly life? We will discuss things we can do today to preserve our planet for our grandchildren’s

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Spies in Disguise (PG)	12:10	2:35	5:00	7:20
.....	9:40
Uncut Gems (R)	12:45	3:45	6:45	9:45
Frozen 2 (PG)	11:45	2:15	4:45	7:15
.....	.....	.....	.....	9:50
Jumanji: The Next Level (PG-13)	12:40	3:40	6:50	9:35
Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker (PG-13)	12:00	12:30	1:00	3:20
.....	.....	3:50	4:20	6:40
.....	.....	.....	.....	7:40
.....	.....	.....	.....	9:00
Cats (PG)	12:55	3:55	6:30	9:45
Richard Jewell (R)	12:25	3:25	6:55	
Black Christmas (PG-13)				9:55

grandchildren.

Who in the World Came Up With These Things? Carole Hanscombe. Based on PANATTI’S Book, “Extraordinary Origins of Everyday Things” we will explore the history of, well, everyday things, from Band-aids to zippers, with a sprinkle of expressions and customs. You’ll be surprised, shocked, and amused.

Green Dot Bystander Intervention Training; Peter Elias. Have you ever seen someone bullied and felt hopeless? We are more likely to be a bystander than either perpetrator or victim of hateful words and behavior. Green dot teaches safe, simple, effective bystander intervention techniques that every member of our community can use, both proactively to change our culture for the better and reactively to minimize harm.

The Many Faces of the Atom; Hugh Keene. Scientists have entertained many interesting theories about the atom, such as, the atom was one solid ball, the blueberry muffin model, and the planetary model. Hugh will discuss these and many more.

Back, WAY Back, to School; Penny Jessop. School mark Penny Jessop will inspire her students (you) during a typical 1850’s school day in the historic West Auburn school house on West Auburn Rd. No homework required!

Healthy Eating for One or Two People; Alola Morrison. We will discuss how to read food labels; general nutrition tips; and smart buying strategies.

A Geezer Adventure in Vietnam; Bill Hiss. This Bill Hiss spent two months in Vietnam as a volunteer consultant to Albright University Vietnam, their first liberal arts institution. He will offer an illustrated PPT talk on living in modern Vietnam,

45 years after becoming a unified independent country.

The Trans-Continental Railroad 150 years; Alan Elze. It has been 150 years since the Central Pacific and the Union Pacific Railroad made history at Promontory, Utah even though the idea of a trans-continental railroad has been around since the 1850’s we will examine some of the history and skulduggery that went into the building.

Game Day – Favorites; Carol Seward. Enjoy a fun-filled Morning of our favorite games. Bring your favorites to share. “Scrabble” and “Mah Jongg” will be available.

Introduction to DNA for Genealogists; Lin Wright. LIN will discuss how many advances in the science of DNA have impacted the search for our ancestors.

Reflexology; Lynn Poor. This course is a brief introduction to the history of this non-invasive holistic modality, which can be utilized in daily life to assist and relaxation and wellness and can be practiced either on oneself, or others.

The Civil War in Maine; Dick Duplisea. Many people don’t realize that there was Civil War activity right here in Maine, including an attempted bank robbery by the Confederates in Calais. Come and learn more.

Israel Today; Diane Clay and Joel Packer. Having just returned from Israel, Diane and Joel will share the oldest traditions and the latest happenings.

Religion-What is it? ; Steve Piker. Religion is universal to human cultures, but what Is it? Are religious beliefs true? Is religion a force for good or bad in the human career? How do our beliefs relate to our behavior? Does or can, religion cause violence?

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LEWISTON SENIOR CITIZENS TRAVEL
WASHINGTON, D.C. - APRIL 23 - 29, 2020. Trip includes 6 nights lodging, 10 meals, NEW BIBLE MUSEUM, WWII Memorial, Korean and Vietnam Memorials, Lincoln Memorial, tram ride through Arlington National Cemetary, evening guided memorial & monument tour, admission to Mount Vernon Estates. A \$75.00 deposit is due when signing up. Price is \$759.00 pp double occupancy.

ITALIAN VISTAS TOUR- MAY 16-28, 2020-Trip includes 13 days and 17 meals.

MACKINAC ISLAND - JUNE 13 - 21, 2020. Trip includes 8 nights lodging and 14 meals, visit to Mackinac Island with a guided Carriage Tour during their Tulip Celebration. Also includes boat ride through Soo Locks, Sault Saint Marie and Makinaw Crossings with a visit to "Michigan's Little Bavaria". A \$75.00 deposit is due when signing up. Price is \$859.00 pp double occupancy.

VIRGINIA BEACH, COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG & HISTORIC NORFOLK - SEPTEMBER 14 - 19, 2020. Trip includes 5 nights lodging, 8 meals, Colonial Williamsburg, free time on the Virginia Beach Boardwalk, dinner cruise with entertainment on the

Spirit of Norfolk, admission to Nauticus and Battleship Wisconsin, Virginia Beach Aquarium and Marine Science Center. A \$75.00 deposit is due when signing up. Price is \$775.00 pp double occupancy. For questions and detailed information on these trips, please call: Claire - 207-784-0302 or Cindy- 207- 345-9569.

Send all items for **Names & Faces** to **Editor@TwinCityTimes.com**.
Deadline is **Friday by five.**

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NUMBER OF WEEKS TO RUN: _____



UUCB Concerts for a Cause: Tricky Britches

Tricky Britches will bring their high-energy string band to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick on Saturday, January 11 at 7:30 p.m. as part of the Concerts for a Cause series to raise money for 2 local charities.

From their roots of playing foot-stomping old-time fiddle tunes, Tricky Britches has progressed into a fusion of original material, classic bluegrass, country, and folk rock. Band members include Tyler Lienhardt on fiddle, Seth Doyle on mandolin, Jed Bresette on bass, and Ryan “Bear” Wilkinson banjo.

The story of the band begins in the spring of 2009 when three longtime friends from Gorham decided to take the songs from their back-porch jam sessions and Portland street corner busking to the next step. They produced a CD of old-time tunes and started playing for weddings, parties, and contradances.

After adding a banjo to the group, Tricky Britches produced 2 more CD’s featuring their original material. Their influences include John Hartford, Hank Williams, Bill Monroe, The Stanley Brothers, The Grateful Dead, The Everly Brothers, and American traditional



folk music. Before the boys knew it, they were playing concerts and the big music festivals. Tricky Britches has played on stages big and small across the US, Hawaii, and Europe, but at the end of the day, their favorite show is still on a crowded street corner at midnight.

Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door, Students/Children are \$5. Tickets are available on

December 1 at the church office, Gulf of Maine Books, or online at <https://britches.brownpapertickets.com/>.

Proceeds from this concert will benefit Tedford Housing (providing housing and services for the homeless) and Oasis Free Clinics (providing free medical and dental services for those who are uninsured and can’t afford insurance).

Local working group meeting to identify natural resource concerns and funding areas

You’re Invited

The Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service would like to extend an invitation to you and a guest to join us for the

Annual Local Working Group Meeting

At this meeting, we will:

- Identify conservation goals
- Identify resource concerns
- Recommend criteria for USDA conservation funding

RSVP required
by January 3rd, 2020
Mackenzie Richard,
207-241-5374

January 8th, 2020 from
10:00AM - 12:00PM
Refreshments included!
USDA Lewiston Office
254 Goddard Road
Lewiston, Maine 04240

Discussion topics will include:

- 2021 fiscal year programs
- Local ranking priorities
- Local Fund pool allocations

All residents of Androscoggin & Sagadahoc counties, your input is needed for the 2021-2022 fiscal year!



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Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District will be hosting the annual USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Local Working Group meeting on Wednesday, January 8, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the USDA office, 254 Goddard Road Lewiston, in the conference room.

This meeting is open to the public. We are look-

ing for input on identifying natural resource concerns in Androscoggin and Sagadahoc Counties, prioritizing which resource concerns to address, discuss 2021 USDA NRCS programs and where to prioritize funding for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) in Androscoggin and Sagadahoc Counties.

There will be free cof-

fee, refreshments and snacks. Registration is required by Friday, January 3 and can be done by calling the Conservation District at (207) 241-5374.

Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service are equal opportunity employers and program providers.

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