FREE • Vol. XXII, No. 4

**Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1999** 

Thursday, April 23, 2020 • FREE

## CMCC Helps Trinity Jubilee Center



Pictured making wraps are CMCC food services worker Tom Smith (l), and CMCC food services manager Fern Langlois (r).

The food services staff at Central Maine Community College (CMCC) has been preparing and delivering some much-needed food for the Trinity Jubilee Center in downtown

Lewiston. They have provided American chop suey, 200 ready-to-go egg salad wraps, baloney and cheese sandwiches, snack items and more. The Trinity Jubilee Center's five programs—the Meals

Program, Food Pantry, Day Shelter, Resource Center, and Refugee Integration Program—serve more than 1,000 people every week. Learn more at http://www.trinityjubileecenter.org.

## Leading the Way.

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## Out & About with Rachel Morin A Day in the life of Adam

#### By Rachel Morin

I continue my Out & About articles but in a different time frame as so many events are cancelled or postponed and many places are now closed.

August 11, 2002

"It's morning-time, Grandma! I woke up!" Four-year-old Adam announced cheerily Sunday morning, sitting up in the middle of the big, old, oak bed in the second floor bedroom. I looked up from my cramped position way over on my side of the bed and saw his sweet, little face above his red and white pjs. "Look out the window; see, it is light out." And indeed, it was. I looked at my watch, 7:32 am. Not bad.

This was a new experience for Adam. He had always chosen the "Blue Room" across the hall to sleep in, full of stuffed animals and dolls and twin beds for his sister Emma and him. Emma was away at Pine Tree Camp in Rome and so he elected to sleep in the "Pink Room." Big Black Bear was brought in, as well as Red Dog



Adam at 5 ½ years at his T Ball Game with Grandma Rachel. He and his Team won the game.

for the sleep-over, not to mention the ever-present night light. I crawled in a few hours later, to sleep fitfully between elbow and knee hits and rollovers.

"I'm hungry!"
Adam informed me as we trudged down the stairs, through the living

room and into the kitchen. What a surprise; he was hungry! He and Emma sing that litany often throughout the day when they are with me.

"Well, how about we go to Roy's for breakfast and you can have sausage and eggs? See Adam, page 11



Movie Listings Every Week! Only in TCT. See page 13. www.FlagshipCinemas.com

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Page 2 Thursday, April 23, 2020

## Governor's Address: We all have a responsibility to support one another even as we stay apart

Like you, I certainly want life to return to normal as soon as it is safe to do so. My heart breaks to see the closed storefronts and to see so many people struggling to make ends meet because of this crisis.

At the same time, we all know that reopening too soon and too aggressively could very well cause a surge in COVID-19 cases, causing people to die and further rocking our economy. None of us wants that.

As the President acknowledged this week, Governors are in charge of reopening our states' economies, gradually lifting public health restrictions. Here in Maine, we are planning a phased-in reopening, tailored to the demographics and the economic sectors

of our state.

Ultimately, the protocols we adopt, after consulting with people from all parts of the state, will be guided by fact, science and public health guidance.

As the President's guidelines note, wide-spread testing, personal protective equipment, and contact tracing are all critical to lifting the restrictions and reviving our economy; for that reason, the nation's governors this week again urged the Federal government to make sure that all our states have these vital resources.

I also remain in touch with Governor Sununu of New Hampshire and Governor Scott of Vermont and we talk about things that we can do together appropriate for our northern New England region.

My Administration,



Governor Janet Mills

through the Department of Economic and Community Development, has been talking with people from various economic sectors across the state to evaluate how and when each of these sectors may reopen. Those decisions, of course, will be driven first and foremost by public health.

In the meantime, I ask you again to continue to stay the course. Stay home to save lives.

Of course, to stay home, you need to have a home. That's why last week I issued an Executive Order that limits evictions during this state of emergency. This Order applies to commercial tenants, small businesses, as well as residences.

And, with respect to rent, MaineHousing and I created a temporary rental assistance program for Maine people who can't pay their rent due to COVID-19.

The program is up and running now and you can find more information about that at www.mainehousing. org/covidrent.

I also wrote to all the financial institutions last week urging them to negotiate with homeowners who are struggling to pay the mortgage because of COVID-19.

Homes are more than brick and beams and mortar. Home is where my husband and I raised five girls. It's where we sat at the kitchen table, helping with homework, paying bills. Where we slept safely each night.

For some Maine people though, homes are not sanctuaries. In one recent survey of people who called the domestic violence hotline, 70 percent said that the pandemic had impacted their safety.

So, stay at home orders, while they are necessary to stop the spread of the virus, can leave victims and survivors of abuse cut off from friends, family and others whom they rely on for help, further empowering their abusers.

I want to be clear—while the courts are closed for many proceedings, you can still get a protection from abuse order; and clerks, attorneys, police officers and others are standing by to connect you with

support and services you need to stay safe. Even hotels that are closed to most people remain open for people escaping abuse.

I ask all employers to check in on your employees who are now working from home, and I ask all friends and family members to connect with loved ones to ensure that they are safe.

If you need help, please call 1-866-834-4357, any time, 24 hours a day. Domestic violence shelters are also there for you if you need to find safety.

We all have a responsibility to support one another even as we stay apart.

God bless you and keep you safe. God bless the State of Maine during this difficult time.

## Homemakers group makes masks for health care providers



Fabric masks made by UMaine Extension Caribou Homemakers. Photo by Diane Parent, president of the Caribou Homemakers.

University of Maine Cooperative Extension Caribou Homemakers recently made and donated 110 fabric face masks to area hospitals and nursing homes in central Aroostook County.

UMaine Extension Homemakers is a volunteer group that develops leadership skills, supports community causes, and promotes Extension's educational programs in nine Maine counties. Several locations with active Homemaker groups are accepting donations of fabric face masks in support of Sewing Masks for Maine, a statewide volunteer effort to provide homemade face masks for health care providers.

More information and details on drop-off locations are available on the project webpage (https://extension.uma-ine.edu/homemakers/projects/), or by contacting Lisa Fishman at (207) 316-8310 or lisa. fishman@maine.edu.

#### Op-ed

## Maine needs online voter registration

By Lydia Silber

Maine's lack of online voter registration can now be comfortably categorized as voter suppression. It is April 2020, and two major historic events are coinciding in this strange moment time—the spread of COVID-19 and the Presidential Election. Needless to say, this is a pivotal moment for our country and its voters.

Currently, the only way to register to vote in the state of Maine is through an overly complicated process in which a voter registration card is sent to you in the mail by your town/city clerk, you fill it out, and send it back. Should there be any mistake in filling out the somewhat counterintuitive card, this process would then repeat. While some might not consider this system too daunting, I know that if I were a first-time voter, I would struggle with this process and might be discouraged from registering at all.

I and my fellow youth vote organizers at NextGen Maine propose a way to simplify the voter registration process, while simultaneously making it more accessible: online voter registration. Online voter registration systems have already been implemented across 39 states and in DC and have proven their effectiveness.

There are clear short- and long-term benefits to implementing online voter registration in Maine:

In the short term, Maine's state legislature should take this opportunity to open up voter registration accessibility in a time of pandemic. Given *See Voter*, *page 13* 



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## Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## Auburn: Staying apart but working together

"We're staying apart but working together to keep Auburn strong." That's how Eric Cousens, Deputy Director of Economic and Com-Development, munity describes recent actions taken by Auburn's Planning Board.

At a meeting held Tuesday evening via "Zoom," the Board approved projects exceeding \$15 million in new taxable value and cleared a reinvestment path for the \$5 million former K-Mart property.

Auburn's Economic and Community Development Department is working to minimize the economic impact of COVID-19 in Auburn. This includes managing the safety of public meetings, while also trying to preserve government functions as much as possible.

"Everything are doing right now will have a direct, positive impact on tax revenues and investment that will hit the books in April 2021," said Cousens. "I am incredibly impressed with how well the Planning Board and staff have adapted to new challeng-

Auburn Mayor Jason Levesque is also pleased by the progress being made, saying, "I applaud City Staff and the Planning Board members for their efficiency and swift approval of these great projects. While the rest of the State talks about economic recovery, Auburn is doing it, and will continue to do so at record-setting rates."

"These businesses that are investing in our community are remarkable. In fact, businesses throughout New England are recognizing that here in Auburn,

business friendly, but we actually do the work to prove it. From our shortterm disaster loans and inexpensive permitting, to our rapid approval process; Auburn stands behind and beside our private sector businesses for the long term" said Levesque.

The following projects were approved on April 14, 2020:

Delly Drive Subdivision: Four, two-unit residential lots for a total of 8 units with shared driveways located on the northwesterly corner of Hotel and Stevens Mill Road. A potential value for \$600,000 to \$1,000,000 is anticipated when construction is completed.

Plan/Spe-Site cial Exception U-Haul: Retrofitting the existing Kmart building for U-Haul self- storage, truck and trailer share and associated retail uses located at 603 Center Street. This site reuse will create reinvestment in a \$5,000,000 asset and maintain its taxable status.

Site Plan/Special Exception Auburn Marketplace: Redevelopment of a restaurant building to create 4 units: A quick service drive-thru, a sandwich shop/retail and the remainder as the lobby for the hotel, located at 1777 Washington Street. This project will renew the appearance of the existing motel, add traffic and people to the site and cost approximately \$200,000 for renovations.

Site Plan Amendment: Fourteen new industrial cannabis cultivation and manufacturing structures located on Mystique Way in the Industrial Zoning District.

we don't just say we are There are two completed cultivation buildings, one cultivation building and a retail building under construction. The cost estimate for sitework is \$1,200,000 but full buildout of 14 new buildings is expected to exceed \$14,000,000 in new taxable value if they are of a similar size and quality to what has already been constructed.

As with all Planning Board meetings, public comment was accepted from interested parties during the virtual meeting. The City established and publicized an email address for the submission of comments (comments@auburnmaine. gov); 5 emails were submitted in advance of the meeting. There were also 31 additional "participants" in the Zoom meeting, including abutters and various project representatives.

"Keeping investment flowing in Auburn is an essential strategy to minimize the economic impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic and while practicing necessary social distancing, the City of Auburn is keeping an eye on the future and working towards recovery," said Cousens. "When completed, these projects will provide over \$450,000 in annual tax revenues to help pay for essential services in Auburn."

"We very are pleased that during these challenging times, people and businesses continue to invest in themselves and in the City of Auburn," said Michael Chammings, Director of Economic and Community Development. "Things may not be 'business as usual,' however, Auburn is 'open for business!"

## Finding and offering help



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

#### Sen. Nate Libby

We are living in extraordinary times. The problems and solutions we're finding as a result of the novel coronavirus outbreak (COVID-19) are just as extraordinary. My fellow legislative leaders shut down the State House in March out of an abundance of caution, and since then, I don't know that I've ever worked harder trying to help all those in our community navigate this historic pandemic.

But seeing all the ways everyone, from LRTC students to frontline health care workers, to big employers, are pitching in to take care of our neighbors gives me a real shot in the arm every once in a while.

I've been in regular contact with hospital leaders, city officials, community organizations, and local and regional agencies to figure out what people need and help facilitate solutions. I've also been in contact with business owners large and small, to make sure employers have the information they need to keep their businesses afloat and help their

workers apply for unemployment and other aid,

when needed. My wife, Andrea, is an ICU nurse. She and her coworkers are on the frontlines of this pandemic. While I know our local hospitals are doing everything in their power to protect patients and employees, I also know the acute shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE) is a serious and immediate threat. Health care providers are desperate for the masks, face shields, gloves and other supplies they need to protect themselves while they care for patients. I've spent time bringing together health providers, manufacturers, importers, and regulators to find innovative, local solutions.

As you may have seen in the news, Sazerac, the company in Lewiston that makes Fireball whiskey, has agreed to make and distribute hand sanitizer. They're joining many other distilleries across the country that are stepping up, shifting their production and making a product our frontline workers desperately need. Sazerac has begun churning out hand sanitizer at its Lewiston facility, to be used by the health systems and first responder agencies, and is producing high proof alcohol that the University of Maine can turn into hand sanitizer for hospitals. They're joined by Bedard Medical and the Medicine Shoppe, which have moved quickly to produce hand sanitizer in the twin cities.

On top of that, approximately 3,000 N95 masks have come in from LA-area companies and institutions, and plastic producers are beginning to manufacture face shields. More than 100 companies have made offers to Maine CDC to import additional N95 masks from across the world. Those orders should help our state avoid the severe shortages other states are experiencing.

On top of that, I've been working with a local company and hospitals on testing a way to See Help, page 9

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## What's Going On

Letter to Editor

## Now is the time to appreciate local food producers

By Sebastian Belle

Times like this make one remember what really matters in life. They cause us to refocus on core values and reflect on the essentials: family, friends and food. In an age of super stores and online shopping, food seems to magically appear with ease, and in huge variety. That variety matters when we are all cooking at home and trying to find healthy and simple ways to feed our families. The folks who actually produce that food are often forgotten, hidden by efficient delivery channels and the various places we buy our food. But those folks matter, and they are working incredibly hard, often in the face of increased personal risk to bring you that food. With increasing concerns about the movement of people and products around the world, local food production is more important than ever.

We are lucky in Maine, where a significant portion of our food is produced almost literally in our own backyard. A great example of that is Maine seafood. Although over 80% of the seafood consumed in the United States is imported, Maine's commercial fishermen and ocean farmers have been producing local, healthy seafood for generations. Those same fishermen and ocean farmers operate under some of the strictest regulations and

policies in the world. Occasionally you will hear public discussion about what we should be allowed to do or where we should be allowed to do it. Those are fair questions, and Maine has a rigorous regulatory and permitting system to ensure that everyone has a chance to ask questions, express concerns, and that the environment is protected. Sometimes vou might hear coastal landowners expressing concerns about impacts on the view or the noise or smells associated with working farms "in their backvard." As you hear those discussions. remember that the very definition of "local" is "in your backvard".

Historically most seafood in the U.S. has been consumed in restaurants. The Maine restaurant scene and our local chefs do an amazing job of creating wonderful dishes with our local seafood. But like other businesses, many restaurants are temporarily closed. As ocean farmers, our hearts go out to the chefs and restaurants that are hanging on through these tough times. With the restaurant sector temporarily shut down, markets for local seafood products have taken a huge hit. Like many others who depend on small businesses, working waterfront families and the coastal communities they support are struggling to make ends meet. Let's do our part to support them by purchasing local seafood. Take it home and experiment with a new dish or recipe. Celebrate local food and the folks who produce it for you literally in your backyard. As you do that, remember that if the view is a little less pristine or the boat a little noisier than you like, those working waterfronts are helping provide local healthy food that would otherwise have to be imported. Finally, remember that those farms and fishing operations are helping support local jobs, schools, and keeping your taxes down. We are all in this together. By supporting local food producers, you will help make Maine stronger and ensure that the next generation will be able to continue in Maine's maritime heritage.

Visit our website (www.maineaqua.org/directory) to find farm fresh Maine seafood near you or visit us on Instagram to see short videos on easy seafood recipes. Full recipes are available on our website (www.maineaqua.org/recipes).

Sebastian Belle, Maine Aquaculture Association, Hallowell, Maine.

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

## MSSM students and faculty use 3D printers to create PPE

Maine School of Science and Mathematics (MSSM), the state's first tuition-free, public, residential high school, currently ranked second best in the nation has two community members working toward being part of the solution in the Covid-19 pandemic. Eli Wales, a sophomore from Mount Desert Island and Dr. Greg Hamlin, Computer Science Instructor at MSSM, have been using 3D printers to create full-face shields and ear strap holders for local hospitals. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) designates full-face shields as preferred Personal Protective Equipment

Eli joined a team of about five members with skills in 3D printing and an interest in helping the situation. Prior to the Governor's edict to stay home, Eli and his team went around to schools in the Mount Desert Island area and borrowed Flashforge Finder 3D printers that have been donated to many Maine schools by the Perloff Family Foundation. Eli said, "each member of the team has created a small production line where we make as many ear strap holders as possible." The purpose of the ear strap holder is to keep the face shield's elastic band off the ears, which can hurt after wearing it for a number of hours. Eli has personally produced around 700 of the strap holders and other members have made about the same. He noted they have only made about three face shields and taken them to local hospitals to make



Eli Wales

sure they will be acceptable.

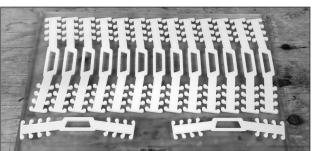
Dr. Hamlin, using 3D printers and materials from Maine School of Science and Mathematics, has been producing protective face shields for use by local healthcare providers. He has been running two of the school's printers 24/7 producing plastic frames, which are then fitted with a transparent front panel made from overhead transparencies or similar material. An initial set of 40+ units has been provided to Cary Medical Center in Caribou. Dr. Hamlin said, "We were fortunate that the school had the supplies and equipment on hand for the project, so it was just a matter of setting things up in my guest room and keeping the printers supplied with filament.

Maine School of

Science and Mathematics (MSSM) is a tuition-free, public, residential high school that enrolls students from across the state and serves over 600 students each year through its academic and summer offerings. Opened in 1995, the school provides high school students a rigorous, student-centered curriculum that emphasizes the connections between math, science, and humanities, and culminates in opportunities for authentic research. MSSM's summer camps inspire Maine middle school students to explore their passions for science, math, engineering, and technology. MSSM also provides professional development opportunities for teachers throughout the state. For more information about MSSM.



Eli Wales wearing full-face shield.



Ear strap holders.



## CMP and Hydro-Quebec have spent \$9 million on campaign

Central Maine Power (CMP) spent \$5.045 million in the first three months of 2020 and a total of \$7.23 million since October 2019 on its desperate campaign to protect massive future profits from a proposed 145-mile transmission line that would deliver electricity from Quebec to Massachusetts, including through 53 miles of western Maine forestlands. Polls show that the vast majority of Mainers oppose the proposal, and CMP has failed to demonstrate the project would result in an actual reduction of carbon pollution.

This astounding political amount of spending by Maine's largest utility amounts to \$55,448 per day from January through March, which compares to the average medium household income in Maine of \$55,602. The government-owned Canadian energy giant Hydro-Quebec has spent \$2.047 million as part of its coordinated effort with CMP to defend the project against a citizen initiative successfully brought forward by more than 66,000 Maine voters to stop the project. Total daily spending by the two companies combined over the report period was nearly \$77,000.

Total spending by the two foreign-owned companies on the campaign now exceeds \$9 million. (CMP is owned by Avangrid, a U.S. subsidiary of Spain-based Iberdrola.) With seven months until the November election, this spending frenzy is on track to be the most money ever spent to defeat a citizen initiative in Maine. Proponents of a casino in York County spent \$9 million in 2017 in a failed effort to secure support for a casino. It was the most expensive referendum campaign in Maine history, but the out-of-state casino companies were defeated by opponents who spent just \$723,198.

"At this rate, CMP and Hydro-Quebec could spend more than \$20 million by November in their effort to sell Mainers a project they don't want," said Natural Resources Council of Maine Advocacy Director Pete Didisheim. "This level of spending is unprecedented, deeply troubling

during the current coronavirus pandemic, and, frankly, obscene. Mainers should be outraged that CMP would spend this much money when the company still struggles to restore power outages and deliver accurate bills."

CMP's

political

campaign includes a vast network of out-of-state political consultants: misleading and simplistic television, print, and online advertising; and mobilization of lawyers and lobbyists trying to stop Mainers from voting on the project. The company has spent lavishly on polling, private investigators to stalk petition gatherers, opposition research, consultants that specialize in blocking citizen-initiated referenda, helicopter services, and even fine dining. The company's political spending reports show: \$5.139 million on TV and cable ads and \$70,138 on digital ads; \$870,623 on direct mail and print ads; \$505,495 on polling and survey research; \$99,021 on a private detective firm, Merrill's Investigations, to stalk Maine citizens who were gathering signatures; \$91,520 on campaign manager Jonathan Breed since October, already significantly more in six months than the annual salary of \$70,000 for Maine's governor; \$94,392 on an Oakland, California-based opposition research firm, VR Research; \$75,000 on an Arizona-based political firm, Signafide, whose sole purpose is to discredit signatures for citizen initiatives; \$2,500 on helicopter services; and \$2,077 on fine dining, including at David's, Flood's, Union, and Katahdin restaurants

**CMP** reported its stunning level of spending at 7:31 p.m. on April 10, at a time when more than 170,000 CMP customers were without power during an unprecedented pandemic, while telling its customers that it might take two days to restore power. Both CMP and Hydro-Quebec continue campaign spending during the pandemic, and placed five full-page ads in the Portland Press Herald alone on April 13 as Governor Janet Mills was announcing measures to protect Maine people from the coronavirus.

Records at the Maine Ethics Commission show that on April 8, 2020, CMP filed an amended January 15 report to make widespread amendments. The originally filed report showed that the PAC had spent no funds in the category of "Expenditures to Support or Oppose." The amended report increased that number to \$2,044,616.58.

Hydro-Quebec's campaign spending has received sharp criticism in Maine. Because Hydro-Quebec is wholly owned by the Province of Quebec, the company's campaign spending in Maine amounts to foreign interference in a Maine election. Legislative action on a bill to close the loophole in Maine law that is now being exploited by Hydro-Quebec, and the Province of Quebec, was suspended when the Maine Legislature abruptly adjourned in See Corridor, page 13

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## What's Going On

## Community Concepts to administer rent relief program

Governor Mills and MaineHousing announced a new rental assistance relief program for Mainers who cannot pay their rent due to COVID-19. The COVID-19 Rent Relief Program is designed to help Maine renters bridge the gap between today and the arrival of state unemployment funds and federal stimulus money. Community Concepts is administering the program locally for residents who live in Androscoggin and Oxford counties.

"We know people are struggling to meet their basic needs and we're here to help," said Shawn Yardley, chief executive officer of Community Concepts. "We anticipate a high call volume, but we want people to know we're ready to help them navigate the application process and possible."

MaineHousing is funding the program using \$5 million from the Housing Opportunities for Maine (HOME) Fund, with 100% of funding going to Mainers served. Community Concepts and the other Community Action Agencies, who partner MaineHousing on several current programs, were asked if they had the capacity to turn around the funds quickly to pay landlords directly. All agencies were willing and able to help.

The program provides a one-time, up to \$500 payment in rental assistance paid directly to their landlord. When a landlord accepts payment, they agree not to evict the tenant for nonpayment for the month the payment was issued. Households are eligible get this money out to the if they earn up to 100%

landlords as quickly as of the state median income\* and are not already in another subsidized program, which have other alternatives for rental payments.

\*State monthly median income guidelines: 1 person, \$3,696; 2 person \$4,833; 3 person, \$5,971; 4 person, \$7,108; 5 person, \$8,245; 6 person \$9,382; 7 person \$9,596; 8 person, \$9,809.

The program is structured to get money to people who need it as quickly as possible through a streamlined application process. Applicants need to apply online at mainehousing. org/covidrent. Renters who don't have access to the internet or have questions about the program can call Community Concepts at 1-800-866-5588 for assistance.

"We have trained staff ready and waiting to help," added Yardley.



The governor has considered Shaker Hill Outdoors as essential.



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## Tough Gator Challenge postponed



Due to the closure of Maine schools for social distancing, the 7th annual Tough Gator Challenge has been postponed to Spring of 2021.

The Geiger Elementary Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) would like to thank all of the

volunteers, participants and sponsors in the community for their past support. If your organization would like to sponsor/volunteer/advertise for our fundraiser in the future, please contact us at geigerpto@gmail.com.

The PTO encourag-

es all of the Tough Gators out there to be safe, enjoy being active outdoors, and have fun with family until we can all have some muddy fun together again!

Updates available at www.toughgatorchallenge.com.

## KITCHEN TO GO MENU

APPETIZERS + SOUP + SALADS

Blue Cheese Stuffed Baked Dates / Greens, Bacon Crumbs, Toasted Peanut Brittle, Balsamic Syrup / g.f - 12 Cheese Board / Silvery Moon "Manchego", Great Hill Blue, Pineland Smoked Cheddar, Walnuts, Dried Fruit, Crostini - 16 Caramelized Onion Tart / House Crust, Local Goat Ricotta, Pineland Feta, Balsamic Syrup, Greens / Vgt. - 13 Sage Roasted Butternut Squash Soup / Toasted Pepitas - 8

Gathered Greens / Grapes, Aged Balsamic & Olive Oil Vinaigrette, Pineland Farm Feta, Toasted Almonds / g.f-8 MK Wedge / Romaine Hearts, Local Apple, Bacon Crumbs, Blue Cheese, Pickled Onion, Buttermilk Dressing / g.f-9 Braised Farm Beets / Fern Hill Farm Fresh Goat Cheese, Candied Walnut Brittle, Beet Vinaigrette, Greens / g.f-11 Grilled Romaine Caesar / Croutons, Shaved Parmesan, House Made Creamy Garlic Dressing / - 9 (Add Anchovy + 2)

#### PASTAS + GRAINS

Organic Quinoa Bowl / Broccoli, Carrots, Green Beans, Cranberry, Spinach & Kale, Brussels, Almond / Vegan + g.f-12/20 Gnocchi Primavera / Butter Roasted, Hand Made Ricotta Gnocchi, Seasonal Vegetables, Parmesan / Vgt. -12/22 Rigatoni Bolognese / Slow Braised Tomato - Beef & Pork Sausage, Smoked Bacon Breadcrumbs, Parmesan / 13/24 Handmade Ravioli / Four Cheese Filling, Wilted Spinach Pesto Cream, Almonds, Pineland Farm Feta / Vgt. -12/22 Gnocchi Mac + Cheese / Creamy Cheddar Sauce, Hand Made Ricotta Gnocchi, Smoked Bacon Breadcrumbs / -12/22 Butternut Squash Risotto / Sage Roasted Fall Squash, Butter, Parmesan, Pepitas, Fried Brussels / Vgt. + g.f - 14/26 Mushroom Risotto / Roasted Crimini & Shiitake Mushrooms, Butter Parmesan, Truffle Oil / Vgt. + g.f - 14/26 Spaghetti with Braised Lamb Ragu / Pineland Farm Feta, Chopped Mixed Olives -24 Orecchiette Pasta with Chicken & Broccoli / Garlic Butter, Wilted Kale, Parmesan -22 (Vegetarian Orecchiette available with Pesto)

#### ENTREES

Pan Seared Scallops / Truffle Roasted Crimini + Shiitake Mushroom Risotto, Green Beans, Beurre Monte / g.f -18/32\*
Grilled Faroe Island Salmon / Sage Roasted Butternut Squash Risotto, Fried Brussels, Pomegranate Gastrique / g.f - 27\*
Chicken Under a Brick / Bone-in Breast, Whipped Potato, Seasonal Vegetables, Lemon Emulsion / g.f - 24
Slow Braised Boneless Beef Short Rib / Horseradish Mashed Potato, Seasonal Vegetables, Mushroom Sauce / g.f - 28
Grilled Filet Mignon / Herb Roasted Fingerlings, Pearl Onions, Wilted Greens, Foie Gras Butter, Beef Sauce / g.f - 34\*
Spice Rubbed Pork Loin / Smoked Bacon Elbow Macaroni and Cheese, Cheddar, Fried Brussels Sprouts, BBQ Sauce / -24
Pulled Pork Sandwich / Chipotle BBQ Pulled Pork, Coleslaw, Grilled Brioche Bun, House Fries -14
MK Burger / Cheddar, Bacon Crumbs, Shredded Romaine, Pickled Onion, House Sauce, Brioche Bun, Herb Fries -15

SIDES

Fried Brussels Sprouts /g.f-9 - Pan Roasted Vegetables /g.f-9

#### DESSERTS

Warm Chocolate Cake / Marshmallow Gelato, Sea Salt Toasted Peanuts /g.f-10 Chocolate Mousse / Belgium Chocolate, Whipped Cream, Candied Walnut Crumbs /g.f-9 Tiramisu / Mascarpone Cream, Coffee Ladyfingers, Chocolate Sauce -9

## Lewiston to open temporary wellness shelter

The City of Lewiston and Community Concepts have joined forces with support from MaineHousing, Department of Health and Human Services and several other state and local organizations to address a critical public health need: helping people with no permanent home to shelter in a safe place during this global pandemic. There are an estimated 150 people currently without shelter in the community.

According to Mayor Mark Cayer, "The current health emergency is a particular concern for individuals who are currently in shelters without adequate space for social distancing or who have no place to stay, potentially presenting a risk to both themselves and others in the community. Housing them safely is essential to the health of this population and to protect the entire community from the potential for community spread."

Shawn Yardley, chief executive officer of Community Concepts, added, "The homeless community is a forgotten community and during this global pandemic, people need a safe place to shelter in place to help

fight the spread of the coronavirus. When city officials reached out and asked for help, my answer was 'how can we help?'"

To help flatten the curve and address this public health need, the City of Lewiston is working to use the Lewiston armory as a temporary adults-only wellness shelter. Anyone coming into the building will be screened daily, following CDC guidelines and anyone who exhibits signs of illness will be immediately isolated and referred to the appropriate medical staff.

"Social distancing, especially in a vulnerable population as the homeless, is key to preventing the spread of COVID-19. I commend the Lewiston community for coming together with compassion and foresight. I am proud to be part of this effort," said Dan Brennan, director of MaineHousing.

"In addition to a warm, dry bed and clean restroom facilities, we will provide three meals a day," noted Yardley. "All staff and guests will maintain safe social distancing and be provided with the proper protective equipment as recommended by the CDC."

Community Concepts staff will be handling the day-to-day operations of the wellness shelter and are looking for temporary workers with experience in health care, social work or other areas of human service. The facility will be staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week as soon as appropriate staff are in place, including an individual to provide security. It's projected to operate through June 30.

"Please consider joining our team temporarily and helping the community during this difficult time," added Yardley. The starting hourly rate for workers is expected to be at least \$18 an hour. Anyone interested in a temporary position can find more information on Community Concepts' website, ccimaine.org or call (207) 739-6522.

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



## ArtsEngageME provides emergency relief to Maine artists



## **ARTS**Engage**ME**

The Board of Directors of ArtsEngageME is pleased to announce grants totaling \$24,000 in support of 48 Maine artists who have been hit hard by the economic impact of the COVID-19 coronavirus.

This is the first round of grants distributed to artists in Maine through the newly created Maine Artist Relief Fund at ArtsEngageME. ArtsEngageME is the 501c3 support organization for the Maine Arts Commission.

In addition, the New England Foundation for the Arts has awarded ArtsEngageME \$47,000 to enable further support to artists in the coming weeks. This funding is part of \$282,000 in emergency relief from NEFA that was divided equally among the six New England states.

These funds will supplement the Maine Artist Relief Fund which was established March 23 to provide grants of \$500 to artists who live in Maine and whose creative practices and incomes are being adversely impacted by the coronavirus. With events of all types being cancelled to reduce the spread of COVID-19, people who make income partially or fully through performances, exhibits, and events are losing critical opportunities to support their well-being in our state.

"The ArtsEngageME board recognized the hardship to artists caused by COVID-19 and immediately agreed to help. This extra funding from NEFA is so needed right now and this, along with other donations we received allowed us to expand the number of grants we can give," said Larry Rubinstein, President of the ArtsEngageME board.

Private donations to the Fund are also being accepted and can be made at: https://www.aplos.com/aws/give/ArtsEngageME/Annual-Fund.

The more than 22,000 artists and creative workers who live in Maine are significant contributors to Maine's economy, who, along

with creative organizations, make up 2.5% of the state's GDP.

The application to the Maine Artist Relief Fund can be found at: https://www.artsengageme.org/maine-artist-relief-fund.

ArtsEngageME, the nonprofit advocacy and support organization for the Maine Arts Commission, was conceived as a priority in the Commission's cultural plan: Fortifying Maine's Creativity & Culture: Five-Year Cultural Plan 2015-2020. ArtsEngageME is modeled on the support organizations for many of Maine's other state cultural agencies and increases the Commission's capacity to advocate and to raise funds in support of Maine's cultural sector. The organization, and its ability to hold an endowment out-See Arts, page 13

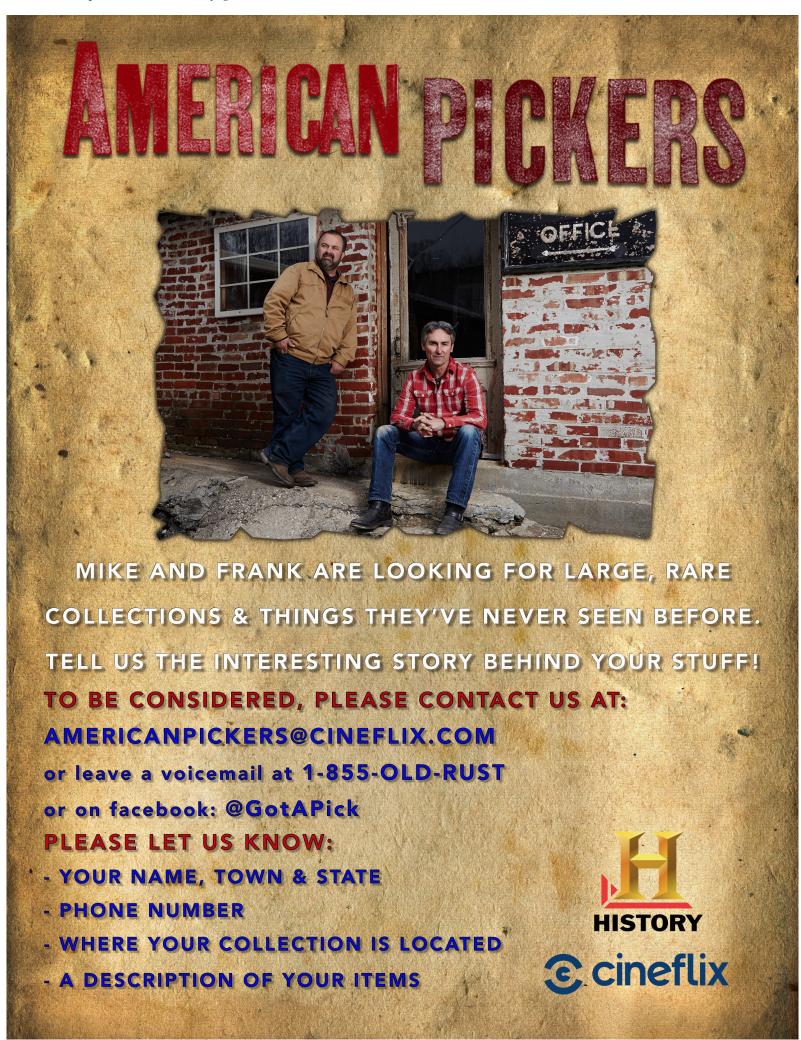
## Hannaford dietitians offer health and wellness tips

Dietitians from Hannaford Supermarkets are available via phone or video call to discuss best practices and recommendations for maintaining a healthy diet and lifestyle amidst the current challenges.

The dietitians can discuss a wide-range of topics applicable to individuals and families during this time, including money saving strategies while grocery shopping; tips on reducing food waste; how to store fruits and vegetables to maximize their freshness; simple ingredient swaps for in-demand items; how to incorporate immunity-boosting foods into your diet; tips for eating healthy on a budget; and meal ideas using nutritious pantry staples.

Hannaford Supermarkets, based in Scarborough, Maine, operates 182 stores in the Northeast. Stores are located in Maine, New York, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Hannaford employs more than 27,000 associates. Additional information can be found at www.hannaford.com.

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# **Good news** for Central this spring:

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## **Easter candy toss**

#### Story and photos by Nathan Tsukroff

Social-distancing might have impacted Easter in various ways, but Phoenix Academy of Martial Arts found a way to brighten children's Easter.

Instead of an Easter egg hunt, Harry and Donna Harris did a drive-up candy toss—with proper distancing—for students of their dojo, Phoenix Academy of Martial Arts.

While they had closed operations at their dojo on Center Street in Auburn several weeks ago as part of the required social-distancing in Maine, the Harrises looked for ways to connect with their students. A drive-up candy toss was an easy way for them to share with others, while keeping folks safe from possible infection with the Covid-19 virus.

The Harrises have been sheltering at their home on Pride Avenue since the temporary closure of their karate school. They invited the families of their students

to drive past their house on the morning of Easter Sunday, so the younger students could have fun catching bags of candy tossed in their direction.

Cars were lined up for about a block, slowly rolling up to the end of the Harris' driveway. Some of the car simply stopped and opened windows, while students stepped out of several of the cars to hold up their



Harry Harris tosses bags of candy to Khloe and Konnor Karkos of Auburn. (Tsukroff photo)

Easter baskets. Harry

and Donna, both wearing

medical gloves, tossed

bags of candy through

the open car windows,

or directly to the young-

sters who stepped out of

bags of candy, the win-

dows closed, students

returned to their cars,

and the families drove

around the block for an-

other round of candy

about an hour, until the

Harrises had given away

she had checked with

friends at the Auburn

Police Department and

was told this candy toss

would be acceptable for

their dojo students as

long as the six-foot rule

was strictly enforced.

Ropes and a table clear-

ly separated the Harrises

from the cars, ensuring

everyone stayed as safe

as possible.

all the bags of candy.

This continued for

Donna Harris said

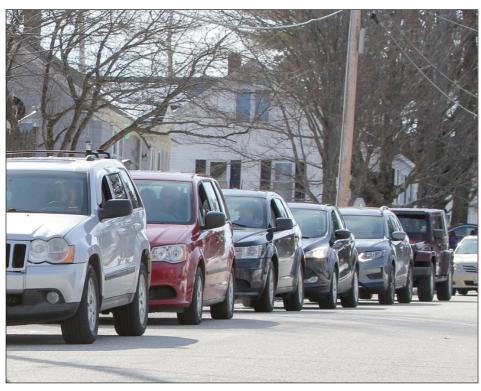
After catching two

the cars.

catching.



Madisyn Chilafoe of Sabbatus tries to catch a bag of candy tossed by Harry Harris, her sosai ("master" or teacher) at Phoenix Academy of Martial Arts. (Tsukroff photo)



Cars line the road, waiting for their turn for students from Phoenix Academy of Martial Arts to catch bags of candy. (Tsukroff photo)

## Lewiston delaying interest FY20 real estate taxes

Due to COVID-19, the City of Lewiston is delaying interest on the second half of FY20 real estate taxes until June 1, 2020.

"We understand this is the most difficult time of the year from a cash flow perspective for many of our businesses and want to be as supportive as possible for small businesses in the city, as well as helpful to individual property owners who may

be experiencing economic difficulty or uncertainty during this time," notes Pamela LaBelle, Lewiston's Treasury Manager/Tax Collector.

Although the City of Lewiston will not be charging interest on overdue second half tax payments for FY20, it must comply with the regular lien schedule mandated by State Statute Title 36 M.R.S.A. § 942 & 943. The lien notices are

scheduled to be mailed on May 6, 2020, with a lien date of June 12, 2020. This is necessary for the City to secure the future collection of amounts owed.

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

## Help

Continued from page 3

sterilize N95 masks that could be quickly scaled up and made mobile. The company has completed testing, in partnership with the University of Maine, and is preparing to deploy equipment to health care providers in need. This will let staff safely re-use their masks and decrease our reliance on PPE shipments.

Our nurses, doctors, medical technicians, EMTs and other first responders are putting their lives on the line every day to face this pandemic. Beyond these workers, the food service staff, cleaning staff, and behind-the-scenes gistics support staff are doing a tremendous job to keep our hospitals and assisted living facilities running. They deserve our gratitude and support now, tomorrow, and after this is over.

In light of the recent statewide stay-at-home order, it can be easy to focus only on what we can't do. But I'm encouraging everyone to focus on what we can do. If you're going to the grocery store, offer to pick something up for your neighbor. Call family and friends to check in on them. You'd be surprised at how much just hearing someone's voice can lift your spirits and theirs. Take a walk around your neighborhood or visit some trails close by. Fresh air and sunshine are great mood-boosters. Ask your grandkids to set up Zoom on your computer or FaceTime on your iPhone. Seeing one another, even remotely, has been especially good for my morale.

If you're looking for more information, Gov. Mills has launched Maine Helps, a web page that gathers resources for people to find and give help. You can go to www. MaineHelps.org to find ways to help your neighbors, stay connected with your community, or access services you and your family might need.

Finally, I'm very happy to help anyone find answers or get problems solved. If you need assistance navigating local, state or federal government programs, any Lewiston resident can contact me at Nathan.Libby@legislature. maine.gov or by calling (207) 713-8449.

These are unsettling times for all of us. Please do what you need to take care of your own well-being—that includes your mental health. Try to eat healthy and get enough sleep. Do activities that relieve stress and bring you joy, whether that's taking a walk, going fishing, baking bread, or joining your friends for a virtual happy hour. If we all pull together, show each other kindness and patience, and do our part to help slow the spread of this virus, we will make it through this.

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### **Opera Maine postpones** 2020 season until 2021

Opera Maine has announced the postponement of its 26th summer season out of concern for public health during the current COVID-19 pandemic. After weeks of careful deliberation, the Board of Trustees decided to reschedule the productions of Richard Wagner's classic, The Flying Dutchman, and Philip Glass's minimalist masterpiece, The Fall of the House of Usher, from this summer to July 2021. The Flying Dutchman will celebrate Maine's Bicentennial, setting the production in 19th-century Maine.

Dona D. Vaughn, Artistic Director, and Caroline Koelker, Executive Director, expressed the difficult choice in a joint statement: "Although we had held out hope that we would all be able to come together this summer, we now realize that it would not be in the best interest of public safety."

Ticket holders will be contacted by Opera Maine by the end of this week and given the option to donate their tickets to Opera Maine, transfer their tickets to ny's productions feature next summer's performances on July 28 or July 30, 2021, or request a refund. Opera Maine will be directing the proceeds from donated tickets to the performers and theater professionals who had committed to the 2020 season.

Opera Maine continues to evaluate the possibility of maintaining other events on its 2020 calendar, including an outdoor concert at Lincoln Park on July 14, 2020 and a production of Lee Hoiby's hilarious short opera, Bon Appétit!, on September 13 and 15, 2020.

Opera Maine recently launched a virtual program called Opera in ME, a weekly web series that takes audiences behind the scenes through interviews with singers and designers. Opera in ME is available on You-Tube, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Opera Maine offers Maine residents and visitors the only opportunity to experience fully staged and orchestrated professional opera in the state. The compatalented artists of international, national, and local fame who come together to create an outstanding experience for all who attend. Founded as the Portland Opera Repertory Theatre, later shortened to POR-Topera, Opera Maine presented its inaugural production, Carmen, in 1995 at the State Theatre. In 1997 the company relocated to the newly renovated Merrill Auditorium. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Dona D. Vaughn and Executive Director Caroline M. Koelker, Opera Maine is widely respected for superb opera productions and its innovative programs. For more information about Opera Maine, visit OperaMaine.org and follow Opera Maine on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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

## Full Plates 2019 summer grant winner YWCA Central Maine



Full Plates Full Potential, Maine's only statewide child hunger organization is proud to announce the Androscoggin County 2019 16 County Summer Grant Competition winner. YWCA Central Maine will receive a \$500 Summer Meals Program Grant to support their 2020 summer program. Full Plates' 16 County Summer Grant Competition was launched to highlight the critical work summer food programs do reaching the over 80,000 children who rely on school meals for basic nutrition.

"We are so proud of the YWCA Central

Maine summer meals program. This summer they served 4,250 meals as a new sponsor" said Anna Korsen, Full Plates Full Potential's Program Director. "Summer is an extremely challenging time for children affected by hunger. Our 16 County Grant Program aims to showcase and reward the best of summer programs across our state.'

"We partnered with the Summer Fun and Films Movie nights to serve meals per event. This was a huge success in reaching out to low income families. This year, we are planning to use this partnership

to not only serve meals but to market our daily open site located at the YWCA." said Jennifer Erwin of YWCA Central Maine.

Maine has 122 Summer Food Service Programs with 467 meal sites across the state. This summer, 727,612 meals were served state-

Full Plates Full Potential is on a mission to end child hunger in Maine by partnering with nonprofit advocates, local businesses and restaurants, advocating for policy changes at the state level, granting funds and providing technical assistance to schools and hosting year-around events and fundraisers. Learn more at www.fullplates.org.



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



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### Adam

Continued from page 1

That is Sam's favorite restaurant." I knew that would appeal to Adam as he wanted to be just like his big brother Sam.

It was a hot, sunny day and so I opened the sunroof of the car to let a refreshing breeze come in. I knew he would especially like to see "the window in the roof" as he calls it. He did really well with the orange juice and the three sausage links. Not a drop of egg or toast was touched. "I'm too full" he proclaimed.

After breakfast, we visited Uncle Brian at D'Youville Pavilion. As we entered Brian's room, Adam called out in a happy voice, "Hello, Uncle Brian, here is a present for you! It is Reese's peanut butter cup, your favorite candy." as he handed him the small bag. I had coached Adam on the way over what to say and he did it perfectly. Uncle Brian loves to see my grandchildren and I try to take them there whenever I can.

But it was on our way out of the room, when we walked past a line of little old ladies sitting in wheelchairs that really took my breath away. They all reached out to touch the brown haired four-yearold, clad in blue and white striped shorts, a white tee shirt and black sandals. One woman, draped in a red, white and gray striped shawl, managed to have Adam stand by her chair and asked him his name and if he would give Memere a kiss. Surprisingly, he did. The Aides standing next to Memere had been asking her if she would sing a song for them. I told Memere that Adam could sing a song to her and asked Adam if he would sing "Oh, What a Beautiful Morning. He did, in the sweetest little voice and Memere joined in on the second line and together they finished the song. She, holding him around the waist, their faces close together, made a beautiful picture. (At that moment, I kicked myself for not bringing my camera.)

Applause sounded at the end of the song from the onlookers. Memere managed to collect two more kisses after that to the delight and amazement of the Aides. "Bye, bye, I'll see you later," Adam called out

as we left. "You are a handsome lad," Memere said. "No, I'm Adam," he replied.

As we drove back home, it became quite hot and talk of filling the pool and watering Grandma's flower gardens filled the car. And so, after a lunch of PB & J sandwiches, banana, and milk, and "don't forget the chips," Adam and I got the hose out to water the flowers.

After looking through the cellar, garage, and finally, the big garage out back, we found the small, blue wading pool. Surprisingly, after his summer, full of swimming at his family's Lake House at Lake Watchic, he was excited and happy to fill the wading pool and play with his pool toys. I sat nearby in the green lawn chair I had bought a few years back at the Balloon Festival and read my book. When we tired of this, we went out for ice cream cones.

Rounding the corner onto Fairview Court on our return, Adam spied his brother, Sam, his Mom, Cathy, and Tante Liz in my driveway. They had just returned from picking Sam up after a two week stint at Camp Hawthorne in Raymond.

"Oh, there's Sam!" Adam squealed and bounded out of the seatbelt and car as soon as I stopped in the driveway. He grabbed and hugged Sam with both arms and kept hollering "I missed you! I missed you!" all the while jumping up and down in his excitement to see his big broth-Adam's little blue and white striped shorts slipped down below his waist to his knees in all the commotion as his Mom and Tante Liz smilingly observed.

The little group came into my kitchen to hear Sam's summer camp stories and Adam's singing duet with Memere. Soon, they were off to their home in Portland. I was left to the quiet solitude of the house and my warm memories of the day. Ruth Fat-Cat came out from hiding under the living room couch. Quiet living at Fairview Court resumed.

Send all items for Arts & Entertainment to Editor@Twin City-Times.com. Deadline is Friday by five.





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We source locally grown and raised ingredients whenever possible and cook with sustainable seafood, naturally raised meats and organic black beans.

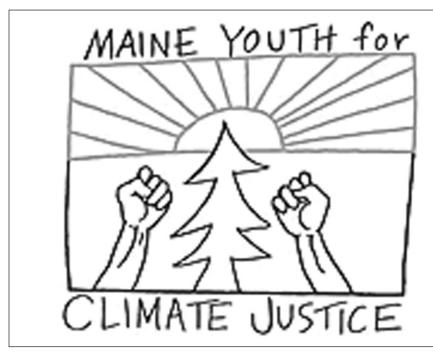
†Consuming raw or undercooked eggs or shellfish may increase the risk of food born illness

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## Maine youth to hold virtual senate candidate forum



Maine Youth Climate Strike (ME Strikes) is the Maine chapter of US Youth Climate Strike. US Youth Climate Strike was founded on the principle that EVERYONE deserves a safe and livable future, regardless of who they are.



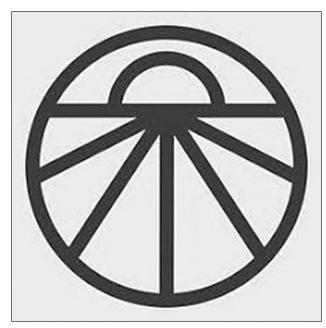
Maine Youth for Climate Justice is a broad coalition involving youth from local school environmental clubs to state chapters of national organizations.

Hosted by youth environmental leaders, including Maine youth climate activists with Sunrise Maine, ME Strikes, Maine Youth for Climate Justice, adult ally sponsoring organizations, and the Maine US Senate candidates, including Betsy Sweet, Lisa Savage, and more, a virtual Senate candidate forum centered around the environment and the climate crisis will be livestreamed for the public. This event is in conjunction with the wider online actions happening from April 22 to 24, for Earth Day and to promote climate justice and Ouestions education. will be asked of the candidates on their stances on various issues, and specific questions will

also be heard from guest youth activists.

The event will be livestreamed on Face-

book and YouTube from 5 to 7 pm on Friday, April 24. It is accessible and free for all.



Sunrise Maine is the Maine branch of the Sunrise Movement. Sunrise is a movement to stop climate change and create millions of good jobs in the process.

## To teenagers from a teacher

By Ralph Keyes

Ît's a whole new world for high school students these days. Teachers are bombarding you with remote-learning lessons, you are suddenly isolated from your friends, your social media "news" feeds are shouting gloom and doom with every ping and ring-tone. On top of this, you have lost your school athletics and any normal exercise routine. Could there be a better remedy for the stress and uncertainties than a little time outdoors?

We are lucky to live here in Maine. Time out-

doors has not been cancelled! Take a walk down vour road. A late-seasnowshoe might be possible for still some. Find a local land trust trail. It does not have to be a grand excursion. It can be as simple as a ten-minute sit-down on the back steps to listen to the birds or gaze at the moon. Ask your teacher to design a lesson that involves being outside like nature journaling or physical activity. Design your own! Whatever you choose, do something outside each day.

And please take

care. Rescue personnel are needed for the pandemic, so stay out of the back country and avoid risky situations. On top of the new physical distancing norms, remember your bike helmet, your reflective gear, and your tick repellent. Stay off the late season ice and tell someone where you are going. Grab a hat and a sweatshirt and go for it. You will feel better, your appetite will be better, and you will sleep well tonight.

Ralph Keyes, Science Teacher, Wiscasset Middle High School, Board Member, Teens to Trails.

## Annual Maine Moose Permit Drawing will be a virtual event

The Maine Moose Permit Drawing, an iconic event that attracts thousands of spectators every year, will now be a virtual broadcast event scheduled for Saturday, June 13 at 1 p.m.

The drawing was originally planned to be in Jackman at the Unity College Sky Lodge on June 13, but with restrictions in place due to Covid-19, the event in Jackman is now rescheduled for June, 2021, and

this year's lottery will be broadcast virtually. The annual event is rotated throughout the state each year.

Along with the drawing of the names of the lucky hunters, there will be some special presentations hosted by Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Biologists and Game Wardens that will focus on moose biology, wildlife management and moose hunting.

If you haven't applied yet for your moose permit, you still have until 11:59 p.m. on May 14 to get your chance at the hunt of a lifetime. Just visit www.mefishwild-life.com and fill out your moose permit application.

As the date of the lottery nears, the department will be publishing a schedule of events and details on how to be part of this unique event.

## Bank system commits \$20,000 to local food pantries

To answer a growing need for food and sustenance, Maine Community Bank and its divisions, Biddeford Savings and Mechanics Savings, has contributed \$20,000 to food pantries in each of their branch communities.

"At a time when schools are closed and unemployment is on the rise, we wanted to ensure that our food pantries are able to continue providing nutritious food to individuals and families in need," said Jeanne Hulit, President and CEO of Maine Community Bank. "We want our customers and our communities to know that Maine Community Bank is always here to support you, no matter what the circumstances may be."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, food pantries have reported critical needs and increased demands for

help. These issues have surfaced as many are unexpectedly experiencing a reduction or complete loss of income during the current economic crisis.

The following food pantries each received a \$2,000 donation from Maine Community Bank to purchase food and other nonperishable goods: Biddeford Food Pantry in Biddeford; Outreach Community Services in Kennebunk; Mid Coast Hunger Program Prevention in Brunswick; Trinity Jubilee Center in Lew-Saco iston; Food Pantry in Saco; St. Mary's Nutrition Center in Lewiston; Scarborough Food Pantry in Scarborough; Seeds of Hope in Biddeford; Windham Food Pantry and Clothes Closet in Windham; and Waterboro Food Pantry in Waterboro.

Maine Community Bank also joined forces with Maine Bankers Association and 33 other Maine banks to collectively raise \$61,000 in less than 8 hours for the #LetsFeedME initiative. The funds were distributed to food pantries in every Maine county.

Biddeford Savings and Mechanics Savings have been financial partners to the people of Central and Southern Maine for the past 150 years. To help carry their commitment to the communities they serve, the two banks merged on January 1, 2020, becoming divisions of Maine Community Bank. The merger expands the lending capacity, prodofferings, uct branch service area, while keeping all decision making at the local level. They have branches in Auburn, Biddeford, Brunswick, Kennebunk, Lewiston, Scarborough, Waterboro, and Windham.

#### Ongoing, daily

England New Aquarium is offering special virtual programming to keep families engaged daily at 11:00 a.m., while the Aquarium remains closed to the public. Content will be posted on the Aquarium's social media plat-

#### **Ongoing, Wednesdays**

Lewiston outdoor market (and weather permitting) from 10 to 11 a.m. at 91 College Street, Lewiston. Neighbors who help set up the market wear gloves and masks. The market is set up to allow safe social distancing. Customers will have their temperature taken upon arrival and be given a box to fill if they are safe. If they are running a temperature, they will be sent home quickly with a box of food.

#### **Ongoing, Tuesdays** and Thursdays

Online Story Time

that there is a 'shelter in

place' order, our govern-

ment should take proper

measures to ensure that

voter suppression can

be mitigated as much as

possible by providing an

alternative means of reg-

istering. This problem of

voter suppression can be

at least partially resolved

by bringing forward on-

line voter registration

in the long term can be

narrowed down to two

primary points—simple

change of address and

change of party affilia-

tion. Online registration

will help not only first-

time voters, but it would

also enable long-time

voters to update their

registration. People in

Maine, especially in the

Greater Portland area,

tend to move around for

professional, family, and

financial reasons. With

each address change,

voters must reregister in

order to attend the proper

polling locations during

elections. Rather than re-

filling out an entire voter

registration card, voters

could simply update their

term benefit of having

Yet another long-

address online.

The benefits of on-

line registration.

Voter
Continued from page 2

## Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

with Baxter Memorial Library's Ms. Heidi at 9:30 a.m.

#### **Ongoing, Tuesday** through Fridays

Afternoon Chapters with Baxter Memorial Library's Mr. Jeff at 2 p.m., throughout April. Join Mr. Jeff on Facebook Live as he reads Frindle, Holes, The Wild Robot, and the Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane.

#### Friday, April 24

Virtual Senate candidate forum centered around the environment and the climate crisis, hosted by youth environmental leaders, will be livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube for the public from 5 to 7

Saturday, April 25 Rual Community Action Ministry's 9th Annual Auction for Action at At Boofy Quimby Memorial Center, Rte. 219, Turner. Doors Open 4:30 p.m., Silent Auction; Live Auction, begins 6 p.m. Credit Cards Accepted; Ed Wheaton, Auctioneer. Music by Stan Davis; Food for Purchase, Admission is Free. For more information call 207 524-5095 or visit www.rcam.net.

#### Saturday, April 25

Stanton Bird Club trip to the Lewiston-Auburn Riverwalk meet at the Promenade Mall, 855 Lisbon Street, at the end of the parking lot by Staples across from Marquis Signs, at 8:30 a.m. The trip will be led by Dan Marquis. For more information, call him at 207-513-8213.

Concert at Home series from the Chocolate Church Arts Center with Johnny Ater at 7:30 p.m. via Facebook. Tickets are not necessary, donations welcome.

#### Tuesday, April 28

Stanton Bird Club first Bates walk beginning at the front of Hawthorne Hall on the Bates campus at 6 a.m. and ending at 8:30 a.m. leaders include The Marden, Steve Judy Reed, Doug Boyd, and Christine Murray. For any questions call Steve Reed at 319-6630.

#### Saturday, May 2

The Greater Gorham Farmers Market 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., unless guidance from either the town, the state, or the federal government instructs otherwise or the environment changes. Please keep in touch on our Facebook page for further updates and stay safe.

lic Utilities Commission by granting funds to artists and cultural organizations; connecting them to

mid-March due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Huge profits are at stake for these corporations, and investors in CMP's parent company, Avangrid, recently expressed significant concerns that Maine people might defeat this project. Hydro-Quebec stands to make \$12.4 billion on this project and CMP and its parent companies would earn \$2 bil-

Twenty-five Maine towns have voted to rescind their support or oppose the CMP corridor. Polling last year showed that 65 percent of Mainers oppose the project, with opposition in Franklin and Somerset Counties exceeding 80 percent. Two of Maine's largest labor unions oppose the project, and the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine withdrew support.

In 2019, CMP was rated as having the worst customer service of any utility in the nation. CMP also received the largest (PUC) has ever levied against a utility. The \$10 million fine was for CMP's flagrant mishandling of its billing system and customer service. PUC staff stated at the time that: "The commission has not in recent history – and probably never before - seen complaints against a utility reach the numbers they have here, nor seen the kind of public skepticism of customers' utility bills that has been raised against CMP in the last two years." A detailed investigation by the Portland Press Herald found that CMP's parent company, Avangrid, was so focused on pushing through the CMP power line that it wasn't paying attention to the serious flaws in CMP's billing system, which it downplayed.

CMP also has been criticized by the PUC for sending 1,000 threatening notices to customers this winter and faces a class-action lawsuit for these threats to terminate power.

fall, Hy-Last dro-Quebec admitted to breaking state ethics laws, for which it received a \$35,000 fine, and the company has been criticized for misusing a photo of Baxter State Park.

The NO CMP Corridor PAC, a group of citizens opposed to the transmission line, has spent \$23,727 according to its ethics filings.

## Live concert from home

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**FOR SHOWTIMES** 

In the midst of postponed shows at their theater, The Chocolate Church Arts Center will present Live from Home. a series of concerts performed by regional musicians at home that can be streamed online by audience members via Face-

Tune in on April 25 for a performance by Johnny Ater at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are not necessary for the Live from members will be encouraged to donate to help the organization recover lost revenue due to postponed shows, and to support the performers, many of whom are also facing canceled shows and loss of income.

Home concerts. Audience

The Chocolate Church Arts Center will continue to announce upcoming Live from Home performers here on our website and facebook.

## **UMaine Extension** offers e-commerce, marketing ideas

In this time of physical distancing from others, farmers in Maine have been using alternative methods to market to their customers, including social media, online farm stores and directories, and other tools.

In support of growers and producers developing alternative marketing methods, University of Maine Cooperative Extension has compiled a variety of resources focused on e-commerce platforms and additional marketing options for farms. UMaine Extension professor Donna Coffin authored the new webpage. For more information contact Coffin at (207) 262-7726, donna.coffin@maine.edu.

## **UMaine Extension 4-H** launches outdoor activity series

University of Maine accompany the activities. Cooperative Extension 4-H Camps and Learning Centers have created a new outdoor activity series designed to stream live on the UMaine 4-H Camp & Learning Center at Tanglewood Facebook page (https://www. facebook.com/tanglewood4h/) each Wednesday at noon.

The first "Wednesdays in the Woods" was held April 8 with a challenge activity-identifying creatively camouflaged objects found outside. Instructions will be posted each week to

Sessions are archived with additional educational resources found on the UMaine Extension 4-H Learn at Home webpage. For more information con-Jessy Brainerd, (207) 581-3877, jessica.

brainerd@maine.edu.

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

For example, if you are unenrolled or registered with the Green Independent Party, but want to vote in the Democratic Primary, you must change your party affiliation ahead of said Primary to Democrat. Being able to make this simple change online would encourage more voters to engage in primary elections.

Online voter registration offers Mainers another, more accessible means of registering to vote and making their voices heard in our democracy. There is no reason to not implement this program, and there are many reasons to do so. Tell your representatives in the State House to support online voter registration, so that we can join 39 other states and DC in making this simple but impactful change to our election process.

Lydia Silber, Field Organizer NextGen Maine Portland 224-234-3251.

## **Arts**

Continued from page 7

side of the state budget, was launched via Maine legislation in the fall of 2016. Currently, AEM is a volunteer-driven organization.

access to online regis-The New England tration would be voters' Foundation for the Arts ability to change party affiliation when their poinvests in artists and litical views change. In communities and fosters the state of Maine, we equitable access to the arts, enriching the culhave closed primaries, so tural landscape in New you can only participate if you are registered with England and the nation. NEFA accomplishes this the corresponding party.

each other and their audiences; and analyzing their economic contributions. NEFA serves as a regional partner for the National Endowment for the Arts, New England's state arts agencies, and private foundations. Learn more at www.nefa.org. Corridor

Continued from page 5

lion.

fine that the Maine Pub-

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Also includes boat ride
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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.

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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.

## Classified Ads To 40 Words!

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