

Separated by the pandemic part 6: A new normal

The following story is the sixth of several interviews being done by Nathan Tsukroff of PortraitEFX to capture the effects of this pandemic on the people of Maine.

At the beginning of March, “normal” was visits from family, dinner with neighbors, and outings every Wednesday to interesting places for residents at Schooner Estates throughout the greater-Lewiston and Auburn area. Then came the novel coronavirus – Covid-19.

It’s taken a while, but tenants and residents at Schooner Estates in Auburn are getting used to a “new normal”. The facility is a Central Maine retirement community offering independent and assisted living options for senior citizens.

For a couple of months, visits with families were only through closed windows or glass doors while talking on the telephone. Meals were served to apartments individually, and chats with neighbors



Peggy Roberge checks her email on a tablet that she also uses for daily FaceTime with her children, who are limited in their visits to Schooner Estates. (Photo by Nathan Tsukroff, PortraitEFX)

took place six-feet apart from behind facemasks.

Peggy Roberge, a three-year tenant at Schooner Estates, can now visit with a couple of family members across a newly-constructed visitors area outside the front of the building. While still wearing facemasks, she gets to enjoy their laughter and voices in person and tenants can make reservations to enjoy meals in the dining

area, with seating limited to ten people.

John Rice, Director of Operations for Schooner Estates, said he and his staff are being very careful to keep tenants and residents safe with a policy of limited guests, face masks, and proper social-distancing. Guests are required to be screened when they enter the property, to ensure they do not have signs

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CMCC president Scott Knapp to retire in August

Maine Community College System President David Daigler has announced that Dr. Scott Knapp, president of Central Maine Community College in Auburn, is retiring on August 31, 2020.

Dr. Knapp, who took office in August of 1997, has overseen a tripling of the college’s enrollment, the bolstering of technical programs offerings, and the addition of three new campus buildings and an athletic complex.

“Scott proudly regards CMCC as the crown jewel of the Maine Community College System. With strong financial stewardship, ever increasing enrollments, championship-caliber programs and dedicated staff, his leadership has guided CMCC to an enviable place in Maine and in the country,” Daigler said.

“Maine, the community colleges, and I will miss Scott’s vision, wisdom and calm, stable guidance,” Daigler said.

Dr. Knapp, the longest serving college president in the state,

said some of his proudest moments have come in recent months.

“While the College has experienced tremendous growth over the 23 years, none of this could have been accomplished without the contributions of our dedicated faculty and staff, as well as the generosity of the leadership of the state of Maine and her citizens,” he said. “I am especially proud of the nearly 500 students who overcame numerous obstacles and graduated this spring.”

CMCC Vice President Betsy Libby will serve as interim president for the 2020-21 academic year.

During his presidency, Dr. Knapp spearheaded the college’s expansion to a full community college and saw enrollment triple to more than 3,000 students. CMCC has more than 40 programs today, including offerings in network security/computer forensics, criminal justice, plumbing and heating technology and HVAC/R.

He oversaw the opening of the Lapoint



Scott Knapp



Betsy Libby

Center, which houses classrooms and computer labs; the Rancourt Hall residence facility; a new nursing simulation lab; the renovation of Jalbert Hall to include the early childhood education area; a new, state-of-the-art criminal justice lab; and the renovation of the graphic communication classrooms.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Maine Community Colleges release framework for fall

The presidents of Maine’s community colleges announced today that plans for fall instruction will balance the delivery of continuous, high-quality education with the need to protect the health and safety of their communities.

Although each college is creating its own fall plan, the presidents announced several elements that will be consistent at all seven colleges.

They include: Face-to-face classes will be limited to courses where hands-on instruction and assessment is essential to developing the skills required of the program; all courses that can be taught remotely will be delivered online, using new online tools and methods that allow for more robust, enriched learning experiences; many employees will continue to work remotely; residence halls at the five colleges that have them will be open, but with fewer students, including a one-person-per-bedroom limit. Students taking in-person classes will be given housing priority; fall and winter athletic schedules will be suspended until at least January 2021.

In emails to faculty, staff and students, the college presidents shared campus-specific details. The common elements provide a framework for each college’s fall return plans, which will be finalized later this month.

“These measures allow us the most effective path for delivering

and completing education and training our students desperately need in this economy, while upholding our commitment to protecting the health and safety of our students, employees, and the broader community,” said Maine Community College System (MCCS) President David Daigler.

“Our plans need to account for the fact that roughly 95 percent of our students commute between campus and their communities, many with jobs and families. We have taken prudent steps to minimize the threat of transmission of this highly communicable virus while affirming our commitment to delivering the skills our students need to compete in today’s economy,” Daigler said.

The colleges have also invested in building an enhanced online learning environment using Brightspace, a new learning management platform. Faculty are getting the time, support, and encouragement they need to use Brightspace to maximize innovation in delivering effective online teaching.

“The faculty gained insights last spring into how students can learn and develop core competencies,” said MCCS Vice President and Chief Academic Officer Janet Sortor. “That knowledge has fostered innovation in delivering effective online teaching, such as increased use of virtual labs and simulation software.”

Those tools have advantages for students, who can use them for additional review and practice, Sortor said.

Some face-to-face classes on campus will also include remote learning components, for lectures and other instruction that does not require face-to-face interactions.

“The incredible effort by our faculty and staff this spring and summer have made the community colleges more nimble and more responsive than ever,” Daigler said. “Given that seventy percent of our students are enrolled in career and occupational programs, this framework provides the greatest likelihood of uninterrupted instruction.”

The colleges are also adopting an app-based screening protocol that will be used system-wide. Testing protocols are still being developed, in consultation with state health officials.

The colleges’ academic calendars will not change, including observing normal holidays.

New campus rules will require everyone to follow common-sense safety protocols, such as wearing face coverings as directed and maintaining a safe physical distance from others.

“Our deepest commitment is to providing opportunities and skills to Maine people. This pandemic has made it clear that Maine’s community colleges are

See Fall, page 13

CMP, Hydro-Quebec spend \$16.78 million on campaign

Central Maine Power (CMP) has now spent \$10.53 million and Hydro-Quebec \$6.24 million on an unprecedented campaign to salvage their controversial 145-mile transmission line proposal that would deliver electricity from Quebec to Massachusetts by cutting through 53 miles of western Maine forestlands.

The \$16.78 million spent by the two corporations since October 2019 smashes a previous spending record of \$9.4 million in 2017 set by out-of-state casino companies that failed to get voters to support a York County casino.

“Maine people have never seen this much corporate, out-of-state money spent on a campaign aimed at defeating a citizen-initiated ballot measure,” said National Resources Council of Maine Advocacy Director Pete Didisheim. “This obscene level of spending as the state faces widespread economic hardship and a crippling health crisis is repulsive. CMP and Hydro-Quebec apparently have so much money to throw around that they can spend more per day on this campaign than the average Maine household makes in a year.”

Campaign spending reports filed yesterday with the Maine Ethics Commission reveal that CMP and Hydro-Quebec have spent, on average, \$61,915 per day for the past 271 days, which compares to the average median

household income in Maine of \$55,602. At this pace, total CMP and Hydro-Quebec spending by Election Day would exceed \$24.5 million.

“Of the \$16.78 million spent, not a dime was contributed by a Maine voter interested in helping support this project,” added Didisheim. “That speaks volumes about this effort to force Mainers to accept a project they don’t want.”

The spending reports show the extent to which Canadian energy giant Hydro-Quebec is exploiting a loophole in Maine campaign law that fails to prevent foreign government-owned corporations like Hydro-Quebec from interfering in a Maine referendum campaign. Maine lawmakers were unable to close the loophole with pending legislation before the Legislature abruptly adjourned in March.

Unlike CMP, which is owned by Spain-based Iberdrola, Hydro-Quebec is owned exclusively by the Province of Quebec and provides the provincial government more than \$2 billion annually. In 2018, Hydro-Quebec provided \$2.4 billion in dividends to the government. As a result, voters in Quebec have a direct financial interest in Hydro-Quebec’s meddling in Maine’s elections, otherwise they could face increased sales taxes or income taxes.

“If Mainers were interfering in Quebec’s elections like Hydro-Quebec is doing

here, you can be sure we’d hear about it. In fact, what Hydro-Quebec is doing in Maine appears to be illegal in Quebec and all of Canada,” said Didisheim.

In 2018, Canada enacted a strict Elections Modernization Act that restricts foreign funding in its elections. As described in the government news release: “foreign entities will now be prohibited from spending to influence elections.”

CMP’s political campaign includes a vast network of mostly out-of-state political consultants engaged in aggressive strategies never seen in a Maine referendum campaign:

\$397,467 on lawyers from Pierce Atwood (\$340,889) and Rudman Winchell (\$56,578) to challenge the Secretary of State’s certification of the petition signatures, then sue the State of Maine in an effort to block the referendum from appearing on the ballot after failing to disqualify sufficient signatures, then appeal the court’s decision that the ballot measure was valid;

\$99,021 on a private detective firm, Merrill’s Investigations, to stalk Maine citizens who were gathering signatures; \$117,820 on an Arizona-based political firm, Signafide, whose sole purpose is to attempt to discredit signatures for citizen initiatives; and \$112,114 on an Oakland, California-based oppo-

See CMP, page 13

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Guest column

Pandemic reaffirms fight against high prescription drug costs

By Sen. Ned Claxton

As the fight continues against the COVID-19 pandemic, treatments and eventually vaccines will become a critical tool in the effort to stop the spread. And while it cannot be said when effective, widespread therapeutics or a safe, reliable vaccine will be seen, there is already one worry on many people’s minds: How much will it cost to cure or treat COVID-19?

Gilead, a pharmaceutical manufacturer, recently released the pricing on its drug Remdesivir, which is the first drug proven to be effective in the fight against the virus. One course of treatment will cost \$3,210 for a person with private insurance. This pricing was announced after Gilead had already used more than \$70 million in public funds to develop the drug. Not only is it expensive, but the drug will cost thirty-three percent more in the U.S. than abroad.

This is wrong, but it’s not just about this one particular drug. As a physician, Ned Claxton knows that this is a systemic problem, and it’s why he and his colleagues in the Legislature have fought to address some of the most atrocious examples of greed in the pharmaceutical and healthcare industries.

Last year, they passed a suite of laws aimed at lowering the cost of prescription medication for Mainers. They passed a law to set up the importation of high-quality, safe med-

ication from Canada. A plan for implementation has already been sent to the federal government for approval. They also passed a law that established a drug affordability board, a law to expand transparency in drug pricing, and another that regulates pharmacy benefit managers, the so-called “middlemen” of the pharmaceutical industry who profit off consumers paying a higher price.

They had made good progress, but they also knew there was more work to be done. That’s why this year, Claxton and his colleagues put forward a new set of laws to make the healthcare system work for patients, not corporate profits. Claxton introduced a new law to crack down on abusive billing practices in the healthcare industry. The team also passed

a law to cap the out-of-pocket cost of insulin to an individual at \$35 a month, and introduced a bill to create a commission on affordable health care, which will look at ways to lower costs and save consumers money. This bill has been carried over for more work.

This pandemic has exposed serious problems in the state’s healthcare system and reaffirmed why it is necessary to change the way things work. Claxton knows he and those he works with can’t stop now, and they promise to continue fighting until no one has to go without a needed prescription, fears visiting the hospital because of costs, or is afraid to go get tested because they might be hit with a surprise bill down the road. When treatments and a vaccine for COVID-19 become

See Guest, page 11

21-Day racial equity habit building challenge

Have you ever made a successful change in your community? Change is hard just like some of the current discussions on racial equity and brutality. Providing a framework for self-reflection and understanding, the Auburn and Lewiston Public Libraries encourage community members to take part in the 21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge starting July 13. The challenge can be found on the web at <https://www.eddiemoorejr.com/21day-challenge>. It is not too late to jump in and par-

ticipate!

The challenge asks participant to do one action for 21 days to further their understanding of power, privilege, supremacy, oppression, and equity. The challenge includes suggestions for readings, podcasts, videos, observations, and ways to form and deepen community connections and understanding. Many of these suggested activities take only minutes.

The challenge was developed by the America & Moore, LLC which provides diversity and cultural competency

trainings and workshops for K-12 schools, community organizations, businesses, colleges and universities. Challengers can use the plan just as it is, or adapt it to a sector, an ethnic/racial group, or interest area.

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

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What's Going On

American Lung Association joins forces with Laura Dern, CVS

The American Lung Association is taking action to address the COVID-19 pandemic and prepare the nation for future respiratory diseases with Award-winning actress Laura Dern and CVS Health. From June 21 through July 18, 2020, anyone can donate at their local CVS Pharmacy® or online to support the Lung Association's new COVID-19 Action Initiative. The initiative will invest \$25 million over three years to expand COVID-19 research, increase access to vaccines and antivirals and prevent future respiratory pandemics.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Maine has sadly reported two thousand nine-hundred and seventy-one cases and one-hundred and two deaths as of June 23, 2020. The initiative will also support the one hundred ninety-eight thousand Maine residents living with a lung disease who are at high risk for complications from the virus.

"COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on our communities, including those who are more vulnerable to the impacts of the disease, such as older adults, Black and Hispanic communities, and the one hundred ninety-eight thousand Maine residents who are living with a lung disease such as asthma or

COPD," said Gale Auclair, development director of the American Lung Association in Maine. "To save more lives, it will take everyone coming together, and we're proud to stand alongside Laura Dern and CVS Health to raise funds for lifesaving research."

Dern is best known for her work in films such as Jurassic Park, Wild and in series including Showtime's Twin Peaks and more recently HBO's Big Little Lies. She recently won the Academy Award, Golden Globe and SAG Award for Best Supporting Actress for her role in Marriage Story.

"I am partnering with the American Lung Association and CVS Health so that we can give hope to everyone who would normally be vulnerable to infection, and prevent others from losing their loved ones," said Dern. "If we come together, I know we can make a positive impact in the lives of the millions of people impacted by this terrible disease." Video available here: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/181-R8L5604PeeO2fvY-TYF2dQoceCksQLt>

Funds raised through the CVS Health campaign will allow the Lung Association to expand COVID-19 research within the current

studies of their Airways Clinical Research Centers (ACRC) Network, as well as new coronavirus awards and grants to advance knowledge for preventive research, vaccines, antivirals and to advance future outbreak preparedness. The initiative will also enhance key public health measures through education and advocacy, and establish an advanced network of government, private industry and public health organizations to stop future respiratory virus pandemics.

As a long-time partner of the American Lung Association, CVS Health has signed on as a leading sponsor of their COVID-19 Action Initiative. In addition to hosting the in-store fundraising campaign, CVS Health is now providing drive-thru COVID-19 testing at CVS Pharmacy locations in Maine. These tests are being offered at no-cost to improve access and necessary care for historically underserved communities.

For more information on the COVID-19 Action Initiative, visit [Lung.org/covid-19](https://lung.org/covid-19). Journalists seeking to schedule an interview with a lung health expert may contact Jennifer Solomon at (516)680-8927 or at Jennifer.Solomon@Lung.org.

Red Cross helping six people displaced by Peru home fire

Disaster responders from the American Red Cross of Northern New England are helping six people displaced by a Sunday home fire. Red Cross volunteers are making sure that their immediate needs such as food, a safe place to sleep and other essentials are met. To protect safety, volunteers follow coronavirus protocols including virtual interactions and social distancing.

The Red Cross will remain in contact with the displaced residents to provide community referrals as they begin their

road to recovery.

For tips on home fire preparedness, visit <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies.html>.

The Red Cross helps people affected by home fires and other disasters with their immediate physical needs and also provides them with emotional support. Individuals wishing to support Red Cross Disaster Services can call (800) RED-CROSS or visit [redcross.org](https://www.redcross.org).

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional sup-

port to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit [redcross.org/NNE](https://www.redcross.org/NNE) or visit us on Facebook at @RedCrossNNE, Instagram at @RedCrossNNE or at Twitter at @ARC_NNE.

MaineCF's Leaders of Color Program seeks applications

The Maine Community Foundation's Investing in Leaders of Color Program (ILOC) seeks applications. The program is part of MaineCF's racial equity strategic work, which is building the field of people and organizations to increase the quality of life for all Maine people. "Nonprofit leaders of color are core drivers of racial equity work in Maine," says Senior Program Officer Gloria Aponte C. "The goal of the ILOC Program is to support nonprofit leaders of color and their organizations."

The ILOC program is designed for nine peo-

ple of color in leadership positions at non-profit organizations that serve communities of color and promote racial equity in Maine. The program offers one-on-one coaching, a professional development stipend, and support for operating costs. The maximum grant awarded through the program to organizations is \$6,650.

Online applications are due September 15, 2020. Applicants will be notified of final decisions in mid-November. Full guidelines, application, and a list of 2019 grant recipients are available at www.maine.org.

If you have questions about the Invest-

ing in Leaders of Color Program, please contact Senior Program Officer Gloria Aponte C., by email at gaponteclarke@mainecf.org or by phone at (207) 761-2440.

Headquartered in Ellsworth, with additional personnel in Portland, Dover-Foxcroft, and Mars Hill, the Maine Community Foundation works with donors and other partners to provide strong investments, personalized service, local expertise, and strategic giving to improve the quality of life for all Maine people. To learn more about the foundation, visit www.maine.org.

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Rockland showed its pride during pandemic



By Rachel Albury, OUT Maine

Last year, a group of demonstrators gathered outside of Rockland’s courthouse with signs and flags and held what was dubbed by the local paper as the first Pride event in Rockland. What a wonderful thing it was to see a Pride demonstration in our hometown! This year, community members were hoping to see an expansion of this effort with picnics and dances, but then Covid-19 happened.

Not to be deterred, locals decorated their front porches and businesses flew flags to show their support of Rockland’s LGBTQ+ community.

OUT Maine, a non-profit organization for LGBTQ+ youth located on Park Street in Rockland, asked locals to share how they were celebrating Pride while social distancing. Immediately, OUT Maine’s social media filled up with snapshots from Rockland and, also, across the state of Maine!

OUT Maine would like to thank everyone who donated or fund-raised for OUT Maine this past June in support of their virtual programming for LGBTQ+ youth. We’re particularly grateful to Rockland businesses Rock City Coffee, Good Tern Co-op and Curator.

Here are some of our favorite #Pride-AcrossRockland snapshots!

Heather Robinson Goff’s porch and garden. On Facebook, Heather wrote “I couldn’t take my son to Pride this year, so we celebrated by dec-

orating our porch.” Good Tern Co-op flies a Pride flag on Route 1. Front-end

manager Peyton Feener strikes a pose outside the store. For the month of June, the Good Tern Co-op rounded up for OUT Maine raising \$891.23 for the non-profit!

Rock City Coffee flies a Pride flag outside its cafe on Main Street. Black Trans Lives Matter signs are also displayed in its window. Rock City Coffee and Hello Hello Books held fundraisers for OUT Maine this past winter and spring. A percentage of sales from Rock City Roasters’ Maine Coast Pride coffee beans benefits OUT Maine.

OUT Maine on Park Street features some of its Pride flag collection in the office windows.

A garden fence on West Meadow Road is decorated for Pride and the 4th of July.



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Arts & Entertainment

The Public Theatre seeks creative kids

Do you have a budding young star at home looking for a chance to shine? Whether your child dreams of being an actor or needs an outlet for their creativity, The Public Theatre is offering pay-what-you-can virtual theatre classes for children ages 9 to 12 and 13 to 17. The Public Theatre's newest program, Virtual PLAYground, puts the FUN in learning the FUNDamentals of theatre. Taught on Zoom by a staff of theatre professionals, Virtual PLAYground provides a fun and challenging experience along with a nurturing environment to help children feel comfortable and confident while expressing themselves through acting, improvisation, writing, singing/voice and dance/movement. Sign-up now to participate in these great summer work-

shops!

Session 1: Tuesday July 2, Ignite your Imagination!

Class for ages 9 to 12 will be held from 10 to 10:45 a.m. Class for ages 13 to 17 will be held from 12 to 1 p.m.

Anything is possible in this fun class that breaks the rules about what you think you can think. Does teaching your dog to fly seem like a bad idea? Not in this class! Using theatre games, voice, movement and writing exercises, we expand what we think is possible and explore new ways to express ourselves. Since we have the power to imagine anything, let's create more things that make us giggle!

Session 2: Tuesday, July 28, A Musical Theatre (dance) Intensive!

Class for ages 9 to 12 will be held from 10

to 10:45 a.m. Class for ages 13 to 17 will be held from 12 to 1 p.m.

Dance to your favorite musicals from the comfort of your own home! In this high energy and entertaining workshop, students learn choreography set to the cast albums of popular musicals while exploring style, character, and storytelling. No previous dance experience is required.

Session 3: Tuesday, August 4, Creating Cool Characters.

Class for ages 9 to 12 will be held from 10 to 10:45 a.m. Class for ages 13 to 17 will be held from 12 to 1 p.m.

If you were a character in a play, what's the most important thing you'd want an audience to know about you? Using theatre games and creative writing, you'll

See **Theater**, page 8

Library Kung Fu: Chinese martial arts for young dragons



Auburn Public Library (APL) is excited to offer a one-hour workshop utilizing Zoom's online group meeting technology to introduce young library patrons, ages seven through fourteen, to the exciting challenge of learning Chinese martial arts. Join them on Tuesday, July 21 at 11 a.m. via Zoom.

The workshop will include warm up exercises and stretching, learning basic unarmed

Kung Fu techniques and will end with cool-down exercises at the end. All participants will get a Young Dragon Certificate of Achievement for their efforts in the workshop!

Shifu Paul DiCrescenzo has been a martial arts practitioner since 1977. His training has included Korean karate and swordsmanship, Japanese classical weapons, and he has been training/teaching

Chinese martial arts for the last 22 years. He currently teaches Wudang style Tai Chi/Qigong, Wudang Internal Kung Fu, and Bai Long Quan Kung Fu.

More information can be found on Two Dragons Path's website at <http://www.twodragonspath.com/>.

Please call APL at (207) 333-6640 ext.3 to register and to be sent a link to the Zoom meeting.

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Interpretive signs at Holt Research Forest



UMaine Research Scientist Jack Witham with one of the interpretive panels.

In a partnership with The Nature Conservancy, the Maine Timber Research and Environmental Education Foundation (Maine TREE) recently installed a series of interpretive signs at its Holt Research Forest on the coastal island of Arrowsic. The signage program is the continuation of an effort to integrate the educational programming of Maine TREE into the Holt Research Forest, which it acquired in 2014 through a merger with the Holt Woodland Research Foundation.

Maine TREE, the sponsor of the acclaimed Project Learning Tree program within the state, sees a growing opportunity for the Holt Research Forest as a base of outdoor learning for

southern Maine students and families and for owners of forested land to convene to share best practices and learn from the on-going research activities sponsored there.

“While COVID-19 has put a hold on hosting students and groups at the Holt Research Forest this year, Maine TREE continues to invest in improvements to the learning environment there, just as we have pivoted to creating virtual tools to support educators statewide at the same time,” stated Executive Director Jonathan LaBonte.

The four interpretive panels, installed along a footpath from the designated visitor parking area to the outdoor

classroom constructed in 2016 by volunteers from Maine’s forest community, highlight the history, ecology, research projects, and forest management activities at Holt Research Forest.

Maine TREE (MTF) owns the 350-acre Holt Research Forest in Arrowsic, the site of a long-term forest ecosystem study conducted through a contract it funds with the University of Maine. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) holds a conservation easement on approximately 285 acres of the Holt Research Forest and owns and manages the 51-acre Mill Pond Preserve, which borders it to the north. Funding for the project was provided by the Ed Meadows Conservation Fund.

Chocolate Church Arts Center outdoor summer concerts

The Chocolate Church Arts Center (CCAC), at 804 Washington Street in Bath, has announced a series of small concerts to be held at various, remote locations around the Mid-Coast area. The CCAC Real Outdoor Concert Series (CCAC ROCS) kicked off on Saturday, July 11 with a standup comedy show headlined by Bath based comedian, Johnny Ater. Audiences at CCAC ROCS shows will be limited to fifty people, and audience members will be spaced at least six feet apart. Staff will enforce distancing, hand sanitizing, and other health and safety measures at all events.

The second CCAC ROCS show, on Saturday July 25, will feature folk songwriter and multi-instrumentalist, Jud Caswell. A seventh-generation Mainer, Caswell burst on to the national scene in 2006 with a win at the prestigious Kerrville New Folk competition, where his song “Blackberry Time” was hailed by songwriting guru Pat Pattison as a

“perfect song.”

On Sunday, August 9, nationally touring pianist, singer-songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist Heather Pierson will perform. Pierson’s inspiring live performances and growing catalog of releases delve into Americana, blues, New Orleans jazz, vocal chants, instrumental piano, and poignant folk. Recently, Heather had a viral video hit with her “Toilet Paper Song”, which lamented the difficulties of finding that essential product during the early days of the coronavirus pandemic. The video currently has over thirty-five thousand plays on YouTube.

Georgetown’s rising folk and blues singer-songwriter Lauren Crosby will wrap up the series on Saturday, August 22. Crosby’s debut self-titled album, released when she was just 20 years old, received national praise for its unique blending of blues, folk, and jazz. Crosby has since performed all over the nation, and recently released the excellent single “Biloxi”, which features a guest

vocal appearance by Griffin Sherry of popular folk group, The Ghost of Paul Revere.

Tickets prices vary for CCAC ROCS performances, and must be purchased in advance at www.chocolate-churcharts.org, or by calling (207) 442-8455. All audience members are required to bring masks or other appropriate face coverings, which must be worn when checking in and purchasing concessions or merchandise. More information is available at the Chocolate Church Arts Center website or by calling the box office. The Chocolate Church Arts Center hopes to add at least one more CCAC ROCS show in the coming weeks. Updates can be found on their website or Facebook page.

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

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- 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

Pandemic

Continued from page 1

of illness, a tempera-
ture, or recent exposure
to anyone who might
be ill with Covid-19. So
far, this process has kept
the staff, tenants and
residents of Schooner
Estates free from any in-
fection with the corona-
virus, Rice said.

Roberge moved
to Schooner Estates with
her husband in August
of 2017, after living for
15 years in a condo in
Auburn. “It was time to
move! This is the only
place we came,” she
said. Her husband died
in July of 2018.

She has a daugh-
ter, Barbara in Poland; a
son, Tom, in Gray; a son,
Steve, in Monmouth; and
a daughter, Jan, in Ban-
gor, whom she describes
as “the fabulous four!”
She has six grandchil-
dren and 4 great-grand-
children. One of her
grandchildren is named
after her.

Before the pan-
demic, her children and
grandchildren would
visit in person during the
week or on weekends.
Roberge’s daughter
would visit from Poland
every Wednesday, bring-
ing her dog named Rig-
by, a Labrador. “I miss
the dog,” she said. “I
miss the kids, too, don’t
get me wrong! But the
kids I visit every night
on FaceTime, all on at
the same time.” She con-

nects to the internet us-
ing a hand-held tablet.

She has gotten
used to this separation,
and said that while she
misses the hugs from
her family, she is content
with the daily virtual vis-
its. “They know I love
‘em!” she said.

Roberge said she
has fun with Rigby, with
help from her daughter,
who turns her computer
around so Roberge can
see the dog. She whis-
tles and calls Rigby by
name, and “he wiggles
all over and his tail goes!
He doesn’t know where I
am!”

Her grandchil-
dren write to her via
computer, with “Thank
You” notes coming on
paper, she said.

Before the pandem-
ic, her daughter would
take her wherever she
wished and Wednesday
trips by Schooner Estates
“were all over the state.”
After recently being al-
lowed to take trips again,
the bus is limited to five
people, where before, up
to fourteen could ride.

With the pandem-
ic restrictions, tenants
are served meals in their
individual apartments.
Tenants also cook meals
for themselves.

“You miss the
contact, the physical
contact,” Roberge said.
She is only allowed to
hug her daughter “when
she takes me to the doc-
tor.”

Despite the re-
strictions and limits on

family visits, Roberge
is very upbeat about her
life at Schooner Estates.
“This place is just fan-
tastic. My husband lived
here long enough to re-
ally enjoy himself here.”
Referring to the staff,
she said, “Everybody is
so friendly, the food is so
good. If you need some-
thing, you mention it,
you got it! It’s just terrif-
ic. And even the people
that live here are terrific.
So, it’s just a big happy

place!”

Roberge worked
for Sears for twenty-five
years, starting in the
financial department
and then transferring
to floor sales. Her hus-
band worked at the local
Coca Cola bottling plant
for more than 40 years,
starting as a loader and
working his way up to
a management position.
She carries her apart-
ment keys on a Coca-Co-
la neck lanyard.



Peggy Roberge keeps her apartment keys on a Coca-Cola
neck lanyard, as a reminder of her husband who had worked
at the local Coca-Cola bottling plant for more than 40
years. He died two years ago, just a year after they moved
to their apartment at Schooner Estates. (Photo by Nathan
Tsukroff, PortraitEFX)



Peggy Roberge at the main entrance to Schooner Estates in
Auburn, where she has lived for nearly three years. Visitors
to the facility are screened for Covid-19 symptoms as soon
as they enter through the front door behind her. (Photo by
Nathan Tsukroff, PortraitEFX)

Theater

Continued from page 6

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on a stick dusted with chile powder, salt & lime

FUNDIDO – 8.95
warm cheese dip with cilantro, rajas & your choice of mushrooms or housemade chorizo
Served with corn chips

MEXICO CITY STYLE CORN ON THE COB – 4.95
basted with chipotle mayo & dusted with cotija cheese

FRIED PLANTAINS – 6.95
with chipotle mayo

PAPAS FRITAS – 4.95
fried Maine potatoes drizzled with garlic aioli†

LOADED TOT NACHOS – 8.95
fried tater tots topped with crema, melted monterey jack cheese, pickled jalapeños, pico de gallo & scallions

FRIED BRUSSEL SPROUTS – 8.95
tossed in a chili-lime vinaigrette with toasted sesame seeds, red onion escabeche & jalapeños

YUCCA FRIES – 7.95
golden fried yucca fries served with a chimichurri aioli† and citrus habanero bbq dipping sauces

CHICKEN TAQUITOS – 8.95
three corn tortillas filled with rajas, jack cheese & chicken, rolled and fried. Topped with lettuce, crema, cotija, pico de gallo & avocado purée

CORN CHIPS – 1.50
w/ salsa – 3.95
w/ guacamole – 5.95
w/ salsa & guacamole – 8.95

CHEESE NACHOS – 5.95
w/ organic black beans – 6.95
w/ choice of chorizo, shredded pork, grilled chicken, steak OR ground beef – 9.95

Make your nachos **GRANDE** by adding guacamole, shredded lettuce, housemade crema, radishes, pickled jalapeños, cilantro & taquerera salsa **add 5.95**

QUESADILLAS flour tortilla filled with monterey jack cheese & crisped on the griddle. Served with pico de gallo salsa.

CHEESE – 6.95
CHEESE & BEAN – 7.95
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Add rajas to any quesadilla (sauteed peppers & onions) – 1.95

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Seniors Not Acting Their Age

Exploring New Meadows River



A group of sea kayakers negotiate with oyster harvesters on the New Meadows River

Tenacious is how I would describe my long-time friend and Brunswick resident, Carolyn Welch. An octogenarian, she has endured several months of physical setbacks followed by the difficulties and uncertainties of the pandemic. I suspect even the most ardent outdoor enthusiasts among us would lie low for the summer. Not Carolyn.

Despite the fact that all of the outdoor clubs she's affiliated with cancelled trips, Carolyn was not to be deterred. If

you're a friend of Carolyn and love the outdoors, you're the beneficiary of her resolve. Recently, I received her "unofficial paddle trips with friends" summer sea kayak schedule. First on the agenda was New Meadows River located between Bath and Brunswick. Technically not a river, New Meadows is a tidal inlet off from Casco Bay.

The New Meadows River is about ten miles in length. Carolyn's plan was to travel a little less than halfway out,

find a location for lunch in the Upper and Lower Coombs Island area, and return. Since this would be the first sea kayak paddle of the year for many of the participants, the approximately eight-mile roundtrip was deemed a suitable introductory excursion.

Never one to lollipop around issues, Carolyn announced stringent guidelines to address preventing the spread of Covid-19. Masks, hand sanitizer, and social distancing were prerequisites. Once on the water, masks could be removed. My wife Nancy and I enthusiastically signed on.

Ten paddlers met at Sawyer Park Boat Landing on Old US Route One in Brunswick on an idyllic late spring morning. I didn't conduct a poll, but my estimate is the average age was approximately 70. The guys were outnumbered eight to two. I'm not

sure if that's a reflection of our shorter life spans or if too many of us are addicted to the couch.

Typically, Carolyn had planned a tide friendly trip. In her words, "a waning tide with almost no wind" was experienced launching from Sawyer Park paddling south. Early on, a fearless Great Blue Heron was observed standing on a rock unperturbed as our entourage passed close enough to make eye contact. Numerous fish were witnessed jumping in search of breakfast, a jellyfish captured the attention of several paddlers, and there were the ubiquitous seal sightings.

Passing Howard Point at the entrance to Thomas Bay, an acquaintance of many in the group joined us paddling her speedy rowing shell. She had departed from her home farther downriver earlier in the morning and graced us with her company as our sanguine band navigated onward.

See Seniors, page 16



Carolyn Welch paddles her sea kayak on New Meadows River



Sea kayakers assemble at Sawyer Park Boat Launch



Sea kayakers paddle south on New Meadows River

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Choosing native plants for pollinators

University of Maine Cooperative Extension will offer a webinar about selecting native plants for a pollinator-friendly garden, 12 through 1 p.m. July 20.

“Choosing Native Plants for Pollinators” will inform participants about how to select native plants for pollinators and specific growing conditions for different planting combinations, as well as offer time for questions. UMaine Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Ginger Laurits will discuss the role native plants play in Maine ecosystems and how to support local pollinator populations by planting native species.

This session is the first in a six-part summer gardening webinar series to be offered every other Monday through September.

Registration is required, a \$5 donation is optional. Register on the event webpage to attend or to receive the link to the recording. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Pamela Hargest at (207) 781-6099 or pamela.hargest@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.

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

Students stencil storm drains in effort to promote clean water



The Androscoggin Valley Stormwater Working Group (Lewiston, Auburn, Lisbon and Sabattus), in association with Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District, normally host an event in the beginning of June each summer that involves working together with local volunteers for cleaner and safer waters. Volunteers gather at Festival Plaza in Auburn for a discussion about clean water and municipal stormwater drainage systems. The volunteers then split up to conduct street stenciling in multiple neighborhoods in these respective municipalities.

In the age of COVID-19, the organizations have agreed to cancel their annual event of gathering as the municipalities of Lewiston, Auburn, Lisbon, and Sabattus will be stenciling while maintaining safe social distancing measures without the help of volunteers. Androscoggin Valley SWCD and the Androscoggin Valley Stormwater Working Group will be sharing information online to con-

tinue to spread the word about stormwater health and how our community can help protect our waters while still staying safe.

The stencils mark the street near municipal drainage inlets (aka catch basins). Stormwater is precipitation that doesn’t soak into the ground; rain that flows from rooftops to lawns, across driveways and into sidewalks and roads is collected by these storm drains and discharged, untreated, into local bodies of water. Along the way, stormwater has collected pesticides and fertilizers, bacteria from pet waste, oil and petroleum, sediment, trash, and cigarette butts. This stenciling event is an effort to help educate the public of this process and to remind them not to dump down the drain. Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) estimates that 40%-70% of rain and snow that hits the ground leaves the average residential lot as stormwater runoff.

Additionally, the illegal dumping of waste or trash into the drainage system can create more pollution and clog drainage systems, creating backups, nuisance flooding, and requires expensive cleaning operations. Public engagement in pollution prevention, such as environmentally sensitive lawn care, can greatly assist municipalities in these costly clean-ups which fall on taxpayers.

Residents can still make a difference by following these five steps on their property.

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Beginning 3/24, Tuesday through Thursday mornings from 6-7 a.m. will be reserved exclusively for customers 60+ and individuals identified by the CDC as being at high-risk. We won’t be checking IDs, but request that all other customers support these vulnerable shoppers and wait until after 7 a.m. to enter the store.

Our store hours have also temporarily changed to allow for more time to clean, stock shelves and give associates additional time to rest – beginning 3/21, new store hours will be 7 a.m. – 9 p.m.

See Water, page 13

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Androscoggin River celebrated
in new museum exhibition

Lewiston legislators'
summer public office
hours canceled

Guest

Museum L-A will reopen to the public this summer, celebrating one of Maine's longest rivers with a new gallery exhibit titled, "Our Working Waterway." Open as of Friday, July 10, this exhibit dives into the history of the Androscoggin River and its effects on the industrial development of many cities throughout Maine. From the generation of waterpower to the passage of the Clean Water Act, visitors will learn how people have used this important waterway to develop manufacturing centers, polluted the river's waters, and worked hard to clean and maintain the river throughout history.

While the history of the Lewiston-Auburn area and its development was guided by the waterpower potential of the Great Falls, the river had a profound effect on the growth and settlement of numerous cities within the Androscoggin Valley. Photographs and archival collections from ten historical organizations throughout the state will be featured in the exhibition to tell the story of the river from its headwaters to the sea during Maine's Bicentennial year. The natural beauty of many areas along the river will be showcased through the ten winning photographs selected from the museum's recent Androscoggin River photo contest.

"School groups and visitors alike are always curious about how these massive textile mills were powered by the river here in Lewiston, but that story is shared by many communities founded along the river. We felt it was time to create a new exhibition that describes how this amazing waterway shaped history and inspired entrepreneurship and ingenuity throughout our entire region of Maine," explains Emma Sieh, Museum L-A's curator.

The staff at Museum L-A has been working hard for the past month to ensure that visitors will feel safe and comfortable when they come to see this new exhibition. Following the guidelines outlined by the state, new policies and procedures about cleaning, masks, and social distancing have been

put into place to protect visitors as well as the museum's staff and volunteers. In addition to these new policies, the museum will also be limiting its hours of operation to three days a week: Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 10a.m. to 3p.m. For more information, please visit Museum L-A's website at www.museumla.org.

"Our Working Waterway" will be on display in the Museum L-A gallery through March 2021. Museum L-A is located in the Bates Mill Complex at

35 Canal Street in Lewiston, Maine. Its hours of operation are Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, please contact info@museumla.org or call (207) 333-3881.

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

Lewiston's delegates to the Maine Legislature usually hold public office hours one Saturday each month at the Lewiston Public Library. In order to protect the health of community members, however, the previously scheduled summer public office hours have been canceled.

The members of the delegation — Senate Majority Leader Nate Libby, and Reps. Heidi Brooks, Kristen Cloutier, Margaret Craven and Jim Handy — are

working closely with the Governor's office as well as state and local agencies to support Mainers during the ongoing novel coronavirus pandemic. At the end of summer, using all available information about public health, the legislators will assess whether or not they will be able to resume public office hours for the fall.

Sen. Libby (207) 287-1515 and the representatives (207) 287-1430 are, as always, available by phone and email to respond to constituent questions.

widely available, Claxton will fight to make sure all Mainers can access them, no matter who they are, where they live or how much money they make.

For questions or comments, please don't hesitate to reach out. You can email Claxton at Ned.Claxton@legislature.maine.gov, or call his office at (207) 287-1515.

Sen. Ned Claxton (D-Androscoggin) represents Maine Senate District 20, which includes Auburn, Mechanic Falls, Minot, New Gloucester, and Poland.

Stop Open Borders:
Say No to Poverty, Crime, & Tyranny

Wed, Jul 29, 2020 / Rain Date: Thu, Aug 20

6:00 p.m. Refreshments ~ 6:30-8:30 p.m. Main Program

The event will be held **OUTSIDE** in the Vet Ctr parking lot, with podium, chairs, mic, lights, camera. Inside bathrooms available. Parking on entry road & at Hannafords.

Check grayrepublicans.org on July 28, 5pm, for Rain Postponement!

EVENT WILL BE LIVE STREAMED ON YOUTUBE: grayrepublicans.org/livestream

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Windham Vet Center, 35 Veterans Memorial Dr, Windham
Tickets at Event: \$1 (larger donations gratefully accepted)
grayrepublicans.org / info@grayrepublicans.org

Twenty Minute Presentations by 3 Speakers, with Q&A & Discussion



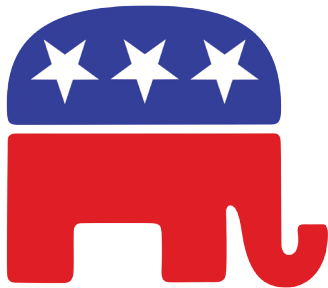
KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Larry Lockman
4 Term Maine State Representative (R)
District # 137
Co-Founder



Robert McArdle
President, National Border Patrol Council,
Local 2349
Houlton, Maine
14 years with US Border Patrol / 4 years on



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- Maine Taxpayers United
- State Rep Sue Austin, #67
- State Rep Rich Cebra, #68
- State Rep Matt Harrington, #19
- State Rep Lester Ordway, #23
- State Rep Heidi H. Sampson, #21
- Former State Rep Cliff Foster, #67
- Former State Rep Mike Timmons, #45
- Fishermen's Net

More Co-Sponsors will be added

Theater at Monmouth: The Show will go on for students

Theater at Monmouth's (TAM) Shakespeare in Maine Communities Tour will go on, though not in person as in previous years, but streaming virtually! Each fall and spring, TAM sends adaptations of classic literature on the road for students in Maine and New Hampshire. Through ShakesME, TAM has provided literature-based education tours in schools and community centers since 2005. For 2020, we'll present Measure for Measure (for grades five - twelve) to deepen understanding of, appreciation for, and connection to classic literature.

Shakespeare's strikingly current play speaks powerfully about impossible moral choices in the story of the devout novice Isabella, whose faith is tested when her brother is sentenced to death for impregnating Juliet out of wedlock. When the outwardly virtuous leader Angelo propositions Isabella in exchange for her brother's release, she must decide whether upholding her holy vows is worth her innocent brother's life.

Measure for Measure will be available to schools and community venues October 12- 31, 2020 (dates can be adjusted to fit curriculum schedules). Due to covid-19 concerns, ShakesME performances will be brought to schools via video with a Zoom Post-performance Discussion with the actors following.

TAM's production is part of Shakespeare in American Communities, a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest. Of getting the news that TAM had received the grant for the program, Producing Artistic Director, Dawn McAndrews responded, "We are so grateful to ArtsMidwest and the National Endowment for the Arts for selecting Theater at Monmouth to receive the Shakespeare in American Communities grant for 2020-21. TAM has been a part of this initiative to bring Shakespeare to students throughout the country for seven of the past eight years". TAM's Shakespeare in Maine Communities is also funded in part by grants from the Onion Foundation, the Helen and George Ladd Charitable Corporation, and the Morton Kelley Charitable Trust. These foundations provide the funding for TAM to offer scholarships to schools to bring the arts into their communities.

Due to the impact of COVID-19, TAM staff was unsure about the ability to bring ShakesME to schools as they have for the past 15 years, especially after postponing the entire 2020 Season. "We were devastated to not be able to bring classic theatre to Maine this year, and felt we'd have to cancel the ShakesME Tour as well," said Jordyn Chelf, TAM's Marketing Associate. "Thankfully the support from Arts Midwest and several other foundations is making ShakesME possible."

Theater at Monmouth has provided literature-based education programs in schools and community centers since the Theater's founding. Since 2005, TAM has taken the Bard on the road with Shakespeare in Maine Communities—featuring sixty to ninety minute adaptations of Shakespeare with five to eight actors. The target grade levels for this tour are middle and high schools; previous tours have reached more than six thousand students annually. For more information about TAM's Education Tours visit www.theateratmonmouth.org/education-tours or call (207) 933-9999.

National Endowment for the Arts Established by Congress in 1965, the National Endowment for the Art's funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. The agency has partnered with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector.

Arts Midwest A non-profit regional art organization in Minneapolis, Arts Midwest has served and worked with audiences, arts organizations, and artists around the world for more than twenty-five years. Their programs provide opportunities for communities large and small to engage with arts and culture.

Theater at Monmouth, founded in 1970, was named the Shakespearean Theater of Maine by the State Legislature in 1975. The theatre's mission is to present innovative approaches to Shakespeare and other classic plays through professional productions that enrich the lives of people throughout Maine. Since its founding, TAM has produced expertly crafted, engaging productions in its three-month Summer Repertory Season entertaining audiences from thirty-six states and through Education Tours annually reaching more than fifteen thousand students statewide.

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MaineCF awards \$157,500 in grants

The Frances Hollis Brain Foundation Fund at the Maine Community Foundation has awarded 31 grants totaling \$157,500 to nonprofit organizations that serve disadvantaged, underserved, and/or vulnerable communities in Maine.

Grants include:

Androscoggin Home Health Services Inc., to purchase emergency food bags and grocery store gift cards, as part of implementing the Hunger Vital Signs (food insecurity) program

Hope Acts, to ensure asylum seekers who are new to the community have access to basic needs, including housing, food and medical care

Pine Tree Legal Assistance, to protect Maine's most vulnerable residents by advocating for their basic needs and rights

Preble Street, to increase access and connection to behavioral and physical healthcare for homeless populations by targeting social determinants of health through holistic care, outreach, and client-centered engagement.

MaineCF recognizes that many nonprofits are facing new challenges and making important changes to their work as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of this, all Brain Foundation Fund grant recipients are able to use these grants at their discretion, to fund the work that they proposed in their application or to address other important and emerging organizational expenses.

The Brain Foundation Fund awards grants to nonprofits that focus on individuals who live in Greater Portland, Lewiston/Auburn, Bath/Brunswick, Biddeford/Saco/Sanford, or to organizations with a statewide mission. Grants support early childhood care and education, extended day learning, community health clinics, oral health initiatives, hunger prevention and food security, homelessness alleviation and legal services connected to these areas.

The next deadline for applications is April 9, 2021. For more information, visit the foundation's website or contact Program Officer

See MaineCF, next page

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Monday, July 20
University of Maine Cooperative Extension webinar about selecting native plants for a pollinator-friendly garden, 12 through 1 p.m. Registration is required, a \$5 donation is optional. Register on the event [webpage](#) to attend or to receive the link to the recording. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Pamela Hargest at (207) 781-6099 or pamela.hargest@maine.edu.

Tuesday, July 21
Summer concert with World Famous Grassholes at 6 p.m. at Robie Softball Field (28 Ball Park Road, Gorham, between the high school and Gorham Municipal Center). Bring a picnic, a blanket or chair, and enjoy the show! Parking available in Gorham High School or Gorham Municipal Parking lot.
Auburn Public Library hosting Kung Fu: Chinese martial arts for young dragons at 11 a.m. via Zoom. More information can be found on Two Dragons Path's website at <http://www.twodragonspath.com/>. Please call APL at (207) 333-6640 ext.3 to register and to be sent a link to the Zoom

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

meeting.
Wednesday, July 22
Basilica summer concert series, 12:15 p.m., Ray Cornils. For more information about the summer concert series, call (207) 777-1200.

Saturday, July 25
Drive-thru performance of Just Outside the Window presented by Celebration Barn located off Route 117 at 190 Stock Farm Road, South Paris, Maine. Limited tickets are available. Tickets are \$20 per vehicle. Showtimes are 5:30 p.m., 6 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 7 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 25 (rain date Sunday, July 26 at the same times). Shows start promptly and last approximately 30 minutes. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Chocolate Church Arts Center outdoor summer concert series with Jud Caswell. Tickets prices vary for CCAC ROCS performances, and must be purchased in advance at www.chocolatechurcharts.org.

org, or by calling (207) 442-8455. All audience members are required to bring masks or other appropriate face coverings, which must be worn when checking in and purchasing concessions or merchandise. More information is available at the Chocolate Church Arts Center website or by calling the box office.

Wednesday, July 29
Basilica summer concert series, 12:15 p.m., Harold Stover. For more information about the summer concert series, call (207) 777-1200.

Wednesday, August 5
Basilica summer concert series, 12:15 p.m., Randall Mullin. For more information about the summer concert series, call (207) 777-1200.

Saturday, August 9
Chocolate Church Arts Center outdoor summer concert series with Heather Pierson. Tickets prices vary for CCAC ROCS performances, and must be purchased in advance at www.chocolatechurcharts.org.

org, or by calling (207) 442-8455. All audience members are required to bring masks or other appropriate face coverings, which must be worn when checking in and purchasing concessions or merchandise. More information is available at the Chocolate Church Arts Center website or by calling the box office.

Wed, August 12
Basilica summer concert series, 12:15 p.m., Mark Thallander. For more information about the summer concert series, call (207) 777-1200.

Saturday, August 22
Chocolate Church Arts Center outdoor summer concert series with Lauren Crosby. Tickets prices vary for CCAC ROCS performances, and must be purchased in advance at www.chocolatechurcharts.org, or by calling (207) 442-8455. All audience members are required to bring masks or other appropriate face coverings, which must be worn when checking in and purchasing concessions or merchandise. More information is available at the Chocolate Church Arts Center website or by calling the box office.

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Water

Continued from page 10

erties:
Build Healthy Soil: By using organic material and mulches, soil will increase its water retention and will minimize stormwater runoff.
Mow Better: Taller grass helps maintain healthy soil, which absorbs more water, resulting in less polluted runoff from lawns. Leave lawn clippings for natural fertilizer.
Practice Smart Watering: Plan your plant/lawn watering around rain events and use automated systems to reduce the amount of property runoff. Give plants just what they need but not too much.
Think Twice Before Using Fertilizers and Pesticides: Use phosphorus-free or slow-release fertilizers. Phosphorus and pesticides and cumulatively contaminate water bodies when they drain into them.
Practice Yardscaping: Use native plants and group plants together that need similar amounts of water.
To find out ways you can help prevent pollution, check out www.yardscaping.org
Over the last 17 years, MDEP has regulated stormwater discharges under the Federal Clean Water Act. The General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater from Small Munic-

ipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems, commonly known as the MS4 permit, obligates the Androscoggin Valley Stormwater Working Group, which includes the municipalities of Lewiston, Auburn, Lisbon, and Sabattus, to develop a stormwater management program and implement a number of pollution control measures. Thirty communities in Maine must comply with these regulations, and recent Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and MDEP audits in local communities will likely require additional clean water efforts and expenditures for communities. Two of the permit's control measures require public education on stormwater impacts and public participation in reduction efforts. The early June stenciling project is part of this program. To learn more about the MDEP stormwater program, go to <http://www.maine.gov/dep/land/stormwater/index.html>.



Fall

Continued from page 2

needed now more than ever," Daigler said. "We have the programs, the faculty, the support system, and the low tuition and fees that put a great education in the hands of any Mainer who wants it."

MCCS serves more than twenty-seven thousand people each year through degree programs, customized training, and credit and non-credit offerings. Its workforce numbers roughly one thousand six hundred.

Additional information, including links to the colleges' COVID pages, can be found on the MCCS COVID-19 information page.

CMP

Continued from page 2

sition research firm, VR Research, to dig into the records of organizations and presumably individuals opposed to the project.
"These aggressive strategies to stalk Maine voters while they gathered signatures,

challenge the signatures once they were submitted, conduct opposition research on groups opposed to the CMP corridor, and sue the State of Maine is further proof that CMP will do almost anything to subvert the efforts of the 66,000 Mainers who exercised their constitutional rights to place a measure on the ballot," said Didisheim.

CMP's spending reports also show that the company has spent \$7.25 million on TV and cable ads, \$70,138 on digital ads, \$1.2 million on direct mail and print ads, and \$628,775 on polling and survey research. CMP has paid \$129,434 to campaign manager Jonathan Breed since October 2019, putting him on track to receive \$180,000 by Election Day, well over twice the annual salary of \$70,000 for Maine's governor.

Huge profits are at stake for these corporations, and investors in CMP's parent company, Avangrid, have 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 billion.

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 fine that the Maine Public Utilities Commission (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 inves-

tigation 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 disconnect notices to customers this winter and faces a class-action lawsuit for these threats to terminate power.

Last fall, Hydro-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.

"This level of spending proves how unpopular the CMP corridor is with Maine voters," said Didisheim. "If Mainers actually wanted this project, then CMP's litigation efforts and a massive persuasion campaign with consultants from Washington, D.C.; New York City; Oakland, California; Phoenix, Arizona; and Methuen, Massachusetts wouldn't be necessary."

MaineCF

Continued from previous page

John Ochira at jochira@mainecf.org or (207) 412-0837.

David and Frances Brain established the Frances Hollis Brain Foundation in 1993 to address social issues and encourage the family's future generations to contribute to the well-being of their communities in Maine, Georgia and Kentucky.

Headquartered in Ellsworth, with additional personnel in Portland, Dover-Foxcroft, and Mars Hill, the Maine Community Foundation works with donors and other partners to provide strong investments, personalized service, local expertise, and strategic giving to improve the quality of life for all Maine people. To learn more about the foundation, visit www.mainecf.org.

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FURTHER NOTICE: 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 WILLIAMS-BURG & 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.

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CMCC

Continued from page 1

In 2015, the college opened The Learning Tower, a four-story academic facility that houses case-study rooms, presentation and seminar rooms, and an organic chemistry lab. This lab was instrumental to the success of the college transfer agreement with the University of New England. Last year CMCC added an esports arena and a lighted, synthetic-turf, athletic complex.

“Scott has been a mentor, strong leader, and a person that people respect greatly,” said Bill Cassidy, the chairman of the MCCS Board of Trustees and president emeritus of Washington County Community College in Calais. “He did more than grow Central Maine Community College. He made it a place of excellence. He made every effort to bring in the best faculty and staff while working to make the facilities superior and adding programs that reflect innovation.

“I hate to see a friend depart, but I also celebrate his retirement for him and his family.” Cassidy added.

A search for the

next president of Central Maine Community College will launch in the spring.

Dr. Knapp previously held leadership positions at Ivy Tech State College in Terre Haute, Indiana, and Lehigh Carbon Community College in Schnecksville, Pennsylvania. He also served as interim president of York County Community College in Wells several times.

A native of Green Bay, Wisconsin, he holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Green Bay; a master’s degree from Kutztown University in Pennsylvania; and a doctoral degree in Higher Education from Temple University in Pennsylvania. Dr. Knapp also served as a Special Agent with the U.S. Department of Defense and a Counterintelligence Agent with the U.S. Army.

Dr. Knapp, a resident of Scarborough, has long had an active civic life, including his role as chairman of the American Red Cross United Valley Chapter. He has also served as a member of the board at St. Mary’s Charity Healthcare System, the Auburn Business Development Corporation and at Maine

Manufacturing Extension Partnership. He also served as chairman of The Maine Higher Education Council and the American Council on Education Commission on Lifelong Learning.

Dr. Libby has worked at CMCC since 2006, and has deep ties to the students, faculty, staff and larger community. In addition to serving as acting president, she has been the dean of academic affairs, the dean of student services, and the director of admissions and an adjunct faculty member.

“I am looking forward to my role as president of Central Maine Community College for many reasons. During my career at CMCC, I have been afforded an opportunity to learn from a visionary leader and work alongside an amazing and dedicated faculty and staff,” Dr. Libby said. “I am excited about continuing these relationships in a new role, as well as those with my colleagues across the state, to best serve the needs of Maine’s workforce.”

Prior to working at CMCC, Dr. Libby held administrative roles at State University of New York at Canton. Her dis-

sertation was in Higher Education Leadership and her community service includes three 2-year terms on the LA Metro Area Chamber of Commerce, including a term as chairwoman of the education workforce committee.

Seniors

Continued from page 9

Approaching distinctive Woodward Point on the west side of the inlet, owners of an oyster harvesting company were encountered setting out baby oysters. Our inquisitive loquacious assemblage engaged them in friendly chatter. The persuasive entrepreneurs effectively marketed their product procuring several orders from crustacean lovers in our party.

Two striped fishermen were discerned on Upper Coombs Island as we angled west around Woodward Point. Not surprisingly, they were “Friends of Carolyn.” Her former kayak rolling companions were paddling elegant handcrafted wooden vessels that were the envy of all.

Advancing circuitously through shoals

exposed by a low tide, an ideal lunch spot was located in the intertidal area on Lower Coombs Island. An easement property of the Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust, the pristine seven acre island is undeveloped and scenic. Much of the area consists of mudflats at low tide. The Coombs Islands and Woodward Point are connected for a short period during each tidal cycle.

Departing southeast from Lower Coombs towards a green channel marker, a bald eagle was sighted in a tall tree on the northern terminus of nearby Bombazine Island. This area is a feeding territory for many bird species including osprey. While a probable osprey nest had been detected earlier, the handsome fish hawks were nowhere to be seen. They were likely out fishing.

Pivoting north, we began our return benefiting from an incoming tide. This time, the wind

didn’t cooperate. Instead, a nuisance breeze from the north impeded progress. Undismayed by the minor inconvenience, paddlers separated into smaller groups enjoying conversations while maintaining appropriate physical separation. One of the advantages of sea kayaking during the pandemic is the opportunity to safely socialize.

Arriving at Sawyer Park about mid-afternoon, paddlers donned their masks and loaded boats. The primary topic of discussion was Carolyn’s next trip.

Carolyn summed up the day perfectly, “Such a lovely day and delightful paddle with good friends!”

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.

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