

Minke whale dissected and composted in Gorham

By Nathan Tsukroff

GORHAM - A dead minke whale recently pulled from the waters of Saco Bay was dissected to determine its cause of death and will now be composted, with the finished result used for fertilizer.

Found off-shore from Scarborough, the whale was brought to Benson Farm Earth Products on Plummer Road in Gorham, a former dairy farm that now specializes in composting ingredients from farm, forest, field, and ocean sources to create fertilizer to be used by local gardeners and farmers.

Lynda Doughty, Founding Executive Director of Marine Mammals of Maine (MMoMe), said her group received an initial report on Saturday, August 22, of a whale floating off Stratton Island, which sits in the middle of Saco Bay, east of Old Orchard Beach and south of Scarborough. By Sunday, the whale had landed on the shore of Bluff Island, a smaller island just northwest of Stratton Island.

"We responded to the animal on Sunday, and got to confirm species, some photographs, kind of determine some



Members of the Marine Mammals of Maine perform a necropsy last week on a minke whale that was found on August 22, floating near an island in Saco Bay, south of Scarborough. The whale was transported to Benson Farm Earth Products on Plummer Road, Gorham, for the procedure. (Photos courtesy of MMoMe)

metrics and get some length measurements, and get some skin samples, some blubber samples off the animal," Doughty said.

"And then, because of the condition of the animal, we started making plans to bring the animal in for a necropsy," she said. A necropsy (KNEE-crop-see) is similar to the autopsies performed on humans, where a body is examined to determine the cause of death or the extent of disease.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), informally See *Whale*, page 8

Staff layoffs were hard for owners of The Blue Pig Diner

By Kiely Callahan

GORHAM - Laying off staff has been the hardest part of the COVID-19 pandemic for the owners of The Blue Pig Diner on State Street in Gorham.

Reducing seating capacity as required by state restrictions has meant furloughing long-time employees who have become very close with the owners over the years.

"Financially, COVID has created no breathing room," owner



A unique cutout sign hangs at the front of The Blue Pig Diner on State Street in Gorham. (Callahan photo)

Paul Kennedy said. The diner has lost income because of the reduced number of guests, even

with newly-created outdoor seating.

Kennedy's plan is to bring as many employees back to work as possible when he is able to increase capacity.

During the time the diner was closed down, employees all received unemployment benefits, and Kennedy said that he was more concerned for the welfare of his employees than for himself and his family. "We just kind of held tight and crossed our fingers, re-

See *Diner*, page 11

Out and About with Rachel Morin My First Real Job

I first became aware of Elizabeth Peavey through her moving and funny one woman show, *My Mother's Clothes Are Not My Mother*, a beautifully written and performed play about Mother/Daughter relationships, aging and loss.

So, when I saw that

Elizabeth Peavey was going to be an instructor for Memoir Writing at Lewiston/Auburn Senior College, I did not hesitate. Here was a chance to work with someone whose style I really admired. Elizabeth is a regular writer of essays for *Downeast Maga-*

zine, which have been collected into a book, *Maine & Me: 10 Years of Downeast Adventures* which won the Maine Literary Award for Best Maine-Themed Book in 2004.

My Memoir Writing group, 10 senior college See *Job*, page 16

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Second round of COVID-19 prevention and protection awards

The Mills Administration announced recently that it has approved an additional \$4 million in awards to more than 80 municipalities and Tribal governments across the state under a second round of Keep Maine Healthy funding to support local COVID-19 public health, education, and prevention efforts.

The announcement (<http://bit.ly/ws/9uCA>) follows the award in late June of the first round of funding to municipalities under the Keep Maine Healthy Plan, with approximately \$9 million awarded to nearly 100 municipalities. Today, the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) approved COVID-19 Prevention and Protection Plans submitted by 82 municipalities and Tribal governments and began notifying municipalities of their awards. Approximately half of the awards will go to municipalities and Tribal governments that are new applicants, while the others will benefit returning municipalities.

In total, this Keep Maine Healthy funding will benefit 132 municipalities and two Tribal governments, representing about 1 million people, or 75 percent of the State's year-round population, along with summer and fall visitors.

The awards are supported by Coronavirus Relief Funds

from the CARES Act and are distributed on a reimbursement basis as communities implement these programs.

"The progress our state has made thus far in mitigating the spread of COVID-19 is in part a testament to the hard work communities have done on the front lines to keep Maine healthy," said Governor Mills. "While I am proud of that progress, we cannot let our guard down. With these additional grants, our Administration will continue to support municipalities as they work to educate the public on the dangers of COVID-19, implement and encourage compliance with public health and safety guidelines, and protect all Maine people and visitors."

"We thank Maine's cities, towns and Tribal governments for their partnership in protecting Maine people and visitors against the spread of COVID-19," said DHHS Commissioner Jeanne Lambrew. "This funding has supported their innovative responses on the front lines of this pandemic and will continue to bolster this critical work into the fall."

This initiative incentivizes municipalities and Tribal governments to develop and implement their own COVID-19 prevention, education and protection plans by reimbursing municipal costs associated with public health ed-

ucation and prevention activities. These plans aim to help keep Maine people and visitors safe from COVID-19 by including one or more of the following:

Public education activities: This could include printing and posting of existing State or national COVID-19 prevention information and developing local educational activities that are consistent with CDC guidelines. Costs eligible for reimbursement would include staff time for planning and education activities and costs for signage, materials, website development, brochures and mailing.

Physical distancing and public health support: This could include fences, tape, and signage for physical distancing in public spaces and closed streets; providing staff to limit crowds in front of restaurants, bars, beaches and other sites; new traffic pattern signage and education; purchases of personal protective equipment and hand sanitizer to be made available for staff, visitors, and for use at public locations; and extra cleaning supplies and additional staff time required for enhanced cleaning and management of public spaces and restroom facilities.

Local business assistance: This includes staff time for a Code Enforcement Officer, Local Health Officer, or other per-

son designated by the municipality or Tribal government to be the local contact for educating local businesses on best practices. This may include following up on public complaints and, for certain cases, reporting to State officials when there is a potential public health violation that cannot be quickly resolved through educational means.

The Mills Administration worked closely with the Maine Municipal Association and the Mayor's Coalition on the creation of the municipal awards program.

"The Maine Municipal Association is pleased again to learn that 82 cities and towns will receive \$4 million in grants to protect their citizens' and visitors' health under Governor Mills' second round of the Keep Maine Healthy program for COVID-19 expenses," said Stephen Gove, Executive Director, Maine Municipal Association. "The program represents a welcomed partnership between the state and municipalities during our summer and fall tourism seasons. The grants recognize the important role municipalities play in public health protection and education during the current public health emergency."

The municipal programs vary in size and scope. For example: Sanford proposes to support a regional partnership among the City, York County Community Action Corporation, and the Sanford-Springvale

YMCA to assist medically underserved populations in the area. The City plans to launch a public education campaign, hire two "park safety ambassadors" to provide education at the Holdsworth Public Park in Springvale, and open and fund 10 virtual learning sites to provide educational programming for elementary school children in aftercare settings.

"The City of Sanford is Keeping Maine Healthy and helping protect the area economy and its people in partnership with the York County Community Action Corporation and the surrounding towns of Acton, Alfred, North Berwick, Lebanon, Shapleigh, and Waterboro and their community libraries," said Ian Houseal, Director of Community Development, City of Sanford. "The Health Educator Surge Team's goal is to flexibly support and nudge the public and businesses carrying on with business, enjoying recreational activities, going back to work, returning to school and keeping on with daily life and supporting those experiencing social isolation, and helping maintain health and financial independence during the pandemic during this summer and fall."

Bethel proposes a "Keep Healthy, Keep Open" campaign featuring illustrations of a Masked Moose character on signage and other educational material and a live costumed character who will visit schools and

businesses and engage locals and visitors to convey the importance of COVID-19 prevention. The Masked Moose will distribute kits to approximately 100 businesses containing branded, reusable masks for employees, disposable masks to distribute to customers, signage, hand sanitizer, and cleaning supplies.

"In developing our Keep Healthy, Keep Open Masked Moose Campaign, our team recognized that those living in and visiting Bethel are here for a wide variety of reasons and are grateful we remain largely open due to the existing efforts of our community," said Loretta Powers, Bethel Town Manager. "We are appreciative to be awarded the funds to deliver a serious message in a fun way. Team members Brent Bachelder, Amy Halsted, Sara Hemeon, Jessie Perkins and I believe the distribution of targeted messaging through an illustrated and live moose brand will be memorable. There is always a lot of buzz about seeing a moose."

Auburn will focus public education efforts on New Mainers through door-to-door visits to distribute educational materials that will include testing site locations and other information to help address health concerns. The City will also distribute personal protective equipment (PPE) materials including face coverings and supplies during visits with New

See Awards, page 13

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

School starts September 8

From Town of Gorham

As all Gorham grades return to school on Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2020,

drivers are reminded to watch for stopped school buses. Please remember cars must stop a safe distance away and not start

again until a school buses' red lights stop flashing, the stop sign has been folded back, and the bus begins to continue on its way.

Economic Recovery Grant Program Supports Small Businesses

From State of Maine

AUGUSTA - Governor Janet Mills recently announced the Maine Economic Recovery Grant Program to support Maine businesses and nonprofits as they continue to grapple with economic hardships caused by COVID-19.

In order to avoid a competitive rush for awards, the grants will not be distributed on a first-come, first served basis. Instead, businesses and nonprofit organizations can apply for a grant 2020 through Sept. 9, 2020, with awards made in early October. The amount awarded will be based on demonstrated need as a pro-rated percentage of the total cost of business interruption reported by qualified applicants.

The program, backed by \$200 million in Federal CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF), will provide financial relief for businesses and non-profit organizations that incurred business disruptions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The grants are intended to help sustain the viability of Maine's small businesses and nonprofits - not to replace lost profits - and will provide short-term relief to help stabilize Maine's economy while still focusing on the state's long-term goals described in the state's 10-year strategic economic development plan. The program draws

on a recommendation from the Governor's Economic Recovery Committee.

"Small businesses across Maine - the neighborhood corner store, the bed and breakfast, the independent bookstore - have faced unprecedented challenges caused by this pandemic, from the heartbreak of temporarily closing their doors to the herculean task of reopening in new and innovative ways. Many have risen to the task, but with the global economy still reeling from the virus, and with people still wary of how and where to eat and shop, it is crucial that we provide what help we can to get businesses through," said Governor Mills.

"My Administration will do all we can to support Maine's small businesses through these difficult times. While we know these grants cannot wholly replace or repair the economic damage this pandemic has caused, our mission is to ensure that each dollar has at least a small, direct impact on supporting these businesses and Maine's economy. We continue to hope that Congress will step up to provide greater relief to the people and State of Maine."

"COVID-19 has created an unprecedented financial crisis for businesses and non-profit organizations in Maine and all across the country," said Heather Johnson. *See Grant, page 8*

Nathan Tsukroff joins our staff as Managing Editor

Nathan Tsukroff from Gray, ME, joins our staff as managing editor of both the Twin City Times and Gorham Weekly.

With more than 40 years of experience, Tsukroff began his career on the sports desk of a small daily newspaper in northwestern Connecticut. He worked his way up to the editor's desk, then transitioned to a career as a full-time photographer for weddings, high school and college seniors, sports leagues, and church directories.

Tsukroff moved to Maine in 2002 with his wife, Susan, and son, Andrew, where they opened their own photography studio. He worked as a stringer for a couple of southern Maine weekly newspapers, covering local events as a writer and photographer.

"I love sharing stories of our community!" Tsukroff said, "And I'm excited to expand the editorial coverage of a



newspaper that has been published for more than 20 years." In addition to editing the papers, he will work as part of the editorial staff to report on events and trends in the greater-Gorham/Lewiston areas. The

Twin City Times has been in print for nearly 22 years, covering Lewiston and Auburn.

You can reach Tsukroff at either: editor@twincitytimes.com or: editor@gorham-weekly.com.

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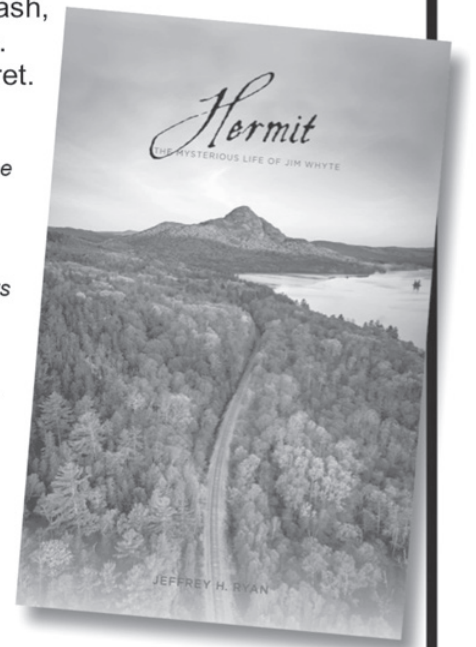
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— George Smith, Bangor Daily News

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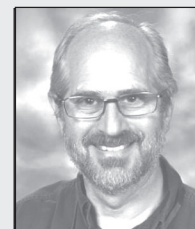
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What's Going On

New CARES Act funding for Nearly 100 Maine nursing homes

From the office of Senator Susan Collins
Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King announced last week that 93 skilled nursing facilities and nursing homes in Maine have been awarded a total of \$10,421,700 to support increased testing, staffing, and personal protective equipment (PPE) needs.

The funding announced is a targeted distribution from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Provider Relief Fund, which is funded through \$175 billion included in the bipartisan CARES Act and the *Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act*.

“In the midst of this ongoing public health and economic crisis, it is crucial that our seniors and all of those who make up our nursing home communities remain supported and protected,” said **Senators Collins and King in a joint statement**. “This additional funding will help protect the health

of nursing home residents, prevent and reduce the spread of COVID-19, and support our health care providers on the front lines.”

The announcement of \$2.5 billion in additional funding for nursing homes across the country builds on the \$4.9 billion that was previously distributed from the HHS Provider Relief Fund to help these facilities. In May, Senators Collins and King announced that Maine nursing homes would receive a total of \$17.9 million to help protect the health of residents and staff and support nursing homes struggling with significant expenses or lost revenue due to COVID-19. To date, Maine health care providers have received more than \$400 million in relief from the HHS Provider Relief Fund.

To further support nursing homes, HHS also announced last week that the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) will be partnering with America's nursing homes to create

the National Nursing Home COVID Action Network. Through the Network, AHRQ will offer training, and mentorship to the approximately 15,400 nursing homes across the country to supplement efforts aimed at protecting residents and staff.

As the Chairman of the Aging Committee, Senator Collins has advocated for seniors in Maine and across the nation. In March, Senator Collins led a letter that was signed by 12 members of the Aging Committee urging HHS to take action to protect seniors from the virus.

In May, Senator Collins chaired Congress' first oversight hearing on COVID-19's devastating impact on seniors, particularly those that reside in long-term care facilities such as nursing homes. In addition, she chaired a hearing on combatting social isolation and loneliness in seniors during the pandemic and most recently held a hearing to examine COVID-19's racial health disparities.

Serious questions surround dangerous mining proposal

The application for a proposed metal mine on 528 acres near Mount Chase <https://www.nrcm.org/blog/new-mining-threat-near-baxter-national-monument/> not far from Baxter State Park and the Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument, contains serious flaws and offers no assurances for adequate environmental protection according to state's leading environmental group, the Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM).

The blistering feedback comes as the Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC) is slated to discuss its July 27 decision to mark the rezoning petition from Wolfden Resources (Wolfden) as complete, despite the application's many well-documented flaws.

“Wolfden is making unrealistic claims about its abilities. It's become clear that Wolfden would never be able to meet the very strict requirements of Maine's mining law,” said NRCM Staff Scientist Nick Bennett. “The LUPC should reject Wolfden's proposal because the company has not provided honest and timely information and does not understand or respect Maine's mining law and rules. The company also lacks the financial resources to mine safely, which would likely leave taxpayers on the hook for costly cleanup.”

NRCM detailed the serious questions

about Wolfden's petition for rezoning to build a mine and ore processing facility in a letter sent to the LUPC in June https://www.maine.gov/dacf/lupc/projects/wolfden/notice/PublicComment_Wolfden_07242020.pdf#page=2 including:

1) Failure to prove it can treat wastewater adequately. Because there are no streams near the proposed mining site that are large enough to put in wastewater discharges (Maine law prohibits discharges in streams with watersheds less than 10 square miles in area <https://legislature.maine.gov/legis/statutes/38%20Old/title38sec464.html>), Wolfden would need to discharge to groundwater, a precious resource that quickly makes its way to streams, rivers, and lakes. To do so, it would need to treat wastewater to be as clean as natural groundwater, but the company has provided no example of a comparable mine that can do this, despite the LUPC repeatedly asking for one.

2) Disrespect for Maine's mining law and rules. Wolfden has proposed disposal of tailings paste in closed mine tunnels and shafts many times despite repeated reminders from the LUPC that this is not allowed under Maine's mining rules. When NRCM confronted the company about this issue, a Wolfden official stated that Maine's rules were poorly thought-out on this front, despite the fact that Maine's min-

ing laws and rules took years to craft and that the Department of Environmental Protection specifically prohibited this practice because of the high risk of contamination it poses to groundwater.

3) No documented financial capacity as required by law. Because mining is such a demanding and dangerous industry, only companies that have strong financial positions can do the job well. The financial statement from the company's initial rezoning petition https://www.maine.gov/dacf/lupc/projects/wolfden/hearing_record/Rezoning_Petition_LUPC.pdf#page=84 admits it does not have adequate funding.

“Maine cannot afford to have mining companies here that would work on the cheap and leave Maine taxpayers paying for cleanup,” continued Bennett. “The world is full of examples of disastrous, contaminated mining sites that will cause perpetual pollution because the companies involved did not have the resources necessary to mine safely or pay for cleanup. Wolfden has every appearance of being one of those companies, and Maine's environment and taxpayers would suffer because of it.”

Read a recent blog post from Nick Bennett <https://www.nrcm.org/blog/new-mining-threat-near-baxter-national-monument/> to learn more about Wolfden's dangerous mining proposal.

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Collins commemorates DAV centennial anniversary

From the office of U.S. Senator Collins
BANGOR - U.S. Senator Susan Collins commemorated the Disabled American Veterans' (DAV) centennial anniversary at a celebration at the Cole Land Transportation Museum last week.

The event, which was hosted by DAV Maine Chapter 6, included a small parade to honor Richard Proulx, a 92-year-old veteran who has been a DAV member for 72 years. During the event, Senator Collins presented Mr. Proulx of Hampden with a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol to honor him for his service in World War II.

"Every year, DAV helps more than one million veterans, from providing them with access to the health care and education benefits they earned through their service, to connecting them to meaningful employment opportunities," said Senator Collins. "As the longest serving DAV member in Maine, I was honored to have the opportunity to thank Richard for his unwavering service to our country and to our state. It was especially touching to learn that Richard fought in the Battle of the Bulge, just as my father did."

"It is fitting that this incredibly moving celebration was held at the Cole Land Transportation Museum, which was founded by Galen Cole, a veteran who devoted his life to serving other veterans," Senator Collins continued. "His passing earlier this year was a great loss to the State of Maine, but his contributions continue to inspire us."



U.S. Senator Susan Collins chats with members of the Patriot Riders of America, a Non-Profit fundraising organization that helps local veterans that have fallen upon hard times, at a commemoration of the centennial of the Disabled American Veterans. (Photo provided by Senator Collins office)



U.S. Senator Susan Collins presents a flag to Richard Proulx, a 92-year-old veteran who has been a member of the Disable American Veterans for 72 years. Collins commemorated the Disabled American Veterans' (DAV) centennial anniversary at a celebration at the Cole Land Transportation Museum last week. (Photo provided by Senator Collins office)

Senator Collins, along with her colleagues, recently introduced the Veteran Benefits Enhancement and Expansion Act of 2020 to improve benefits for veterans in the areas of education, pensions, and survivor benefits, among others. The legislation includes elements of the bipartisan Veteran Pension Protection Act, legislation Senator Collins co-authored that would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to systematically track victims, scammers, and trends

to proactively protect veterans and survivors across the country from predatory pension poachers.

Following a bipartisan push by Senator Collins, veterans who receive Compensation

and Pension (C&P) benefit payments automatically received their CARES Act rebate check and were not required to file a tax return.

Founded in 1920, DAV is a veteran ser-

vice organization that provides a lifetime of support for veterans of all generations and their families, helping more than one million veterans in positive, life-changing ways each year.



U.S. Senator Susan Collins congratulates Richard Proulx, a 72-year member of the Disable American Veterans, at a DAV centennial anniversary celebration last week at the Cole Land Transportation Museum. (Photo provided by Senator Collins office)

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Arts & Entertainment

Baxter Memorial Library Events for September

Baxter Memorial Library, Gorham's public library at 71 South Street, Gorham, has a series of virtual (on-line) and in-person events planned for September, 2020.

September 7:

Closed in observance of Labor Day

September 8:

Virtual Preschool Discovery Time, 9:30-10 a.m., ages three to five years old: Join Ms. Heidi on Facebook as she uses stories, music, and movement to enhance early literacy skills and foster a love of reading.

September 10:

Virtual Toddler Discovery Time, 9:30-9:50 a.m., ages 18 months to three years: Sing along with Ms. Dani on Facebook as she uses songs, rhymes, and books to enhance early literacy skills and foster a love of reading. Each week will

feature a new book but use the same songs and fingerplays so the kids will be able to learn the words and actions to each month's song choices.

September 15:

Virtual Preschool Discovery Time, 9:30-10 a.m., ages three to five years old: Join Ms. Heidi on Facebook as she uses stories, music, and movement to enhance early literacy skills and foster a love of reading.

September 16:

Babies en Plein Air, 9:30-9:50 a.m., ages birth to 18 months: Bring your baby and a blanket for an interactive, socially distanced, outdoor lap-sit program. To ensure the comfort and safety of all participants, we ask that caregivers wear masks and leave older siblings at home or with a friend during this community baby pro-

gram. Program will be canceled in the event of inclement weather.

September 17

9:30 AM - 9:50 AM

Virtual Toddler Discovery Time, 9:30-9:50 a.m., ages 18 months to three years: Sing along with Ms. Dani on Facebook as she uses songs, rhymes, and books to enhance early literacy skills and foster a love of reading. Each week will feature a new book, but use the same songs and fingerplays so children will be able to learn the words and actions to each month's song choices.

September 22

Virtual Preschool Discovery Time, 9:30-10 a.m., ages three to five years old: Join Ms. Heidi on Facebook as she uses stories, music, and movement to enhance early literacy skills and foster a love of reading.

September 24:

Virtual Toddler Discovery Time, 9:30-9:50 a.m., ages 18 months to three years: Sing along with Ms. Dani on Facebook as she uses songs, rhymes, and books to enhance early literacy skills and foster a love of reading. Each week will feature a new book, but use the same songs and fingerplays so the children will be able to learn the words and actions to each month's song choices.

September 26

StoryWalk Ribbon Cutting, 10 a.m.-noon: Join us for the ribbon cutting ceremony of the Maine Birthday Book StoryWalk. This event celebrates the Maine Bicentennial and is a collaboration between Baxter Memorial Library, Gorham Parks and Recreation, Gorham Schools, and Shaw

Brothers Construction.

There will be a book sale and signing from 10 a.m.-noon with Tonya Shevenell, author of The Maine Birthday Book. Join us as we walk, read, and follow the StoryWalk signs (partially funded by a grant from the Maine Bicentennial Committee) at beautiful Cherry Hill Farm Trail in Gorham, Maine. This is an outdoor-only event. Please maintain social distancing between family groups. Masks are recommended when social distancing is difficult to maintain. Rain date is Sept 27 at 10 a.m..

September 29:

Virtual Preschool Discovery Time, 9:30-10 a.m., ages three to five years old: Join Ms. Heidi on Facebook as she uses stories, music, and movement to enhance early literacy skills and foster a love of reading.

September 30:

Babies en Plein Air, 9:30-9:50 a.m., ages birth to 18 months: Bring your baby and a blanket to for an interactive, socially distanced, outdoor lap-sit program. To ensure the comfort and safety of all participants, we ask that caregivers wear masks and leave older siblings at home or with a friend during this community baby program. Program will be canceled in the event of inclement weather.

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New micro-enterprise small business grant program

The Maine Department of Economic & Community Development (DECD) in partnership with the Maine Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) will provide grants of up to \$5,000 for businesses with five or fewer employees, with an owner whose income is in the low to moderate range as defined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The money is part of the \$11 million Maine received from the federal CARES Act for its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Approximately \$2 million of the allocation is being made available through the Micro-Enterprise Grant Program in partnership with the Maine Small Business Development Center. The funds for the program are being distributed through Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments (AVCOG), Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (CEI), Northern Maine Development Commission (NMDC), and Southern Maine Planning & Development Commission (SMPDC).

The program will begin accepting applications starting on Monday, August 17,

2020. Business owners must meet with a Maine SBDC business advisor to determine eligibility and submit an application. Funds are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Businesses may use the grant money for working capital which includes fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that can't be paid as a result of COVID-19.

Eligibility criteria include: Must be a Maine business; must demonstrate a revenue loss as a direct consequence of COVID-19. Funds cannot duplicate those received from other federal, state or local programs; must have five or fewer employees including the owner(s); must have a DUNS Number, which can be obtained here <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>; owner's household income must be low/moderate as defined by HUD as verified by 2019 tax return; please see income eligibility by county below. Total annual household income must not exceed those limits; note: Portland, Biddeford, Auburn, Lewiston, Bangor, Cumberland County (excluding Brunswick) are ineligible.

For more information or to apply, please visit www.mainesbdc.org

org/cdbg SBDC will provide appropriate auxiliary aids to persons with disabilities and translations to persons with Limited-English Proficiency where necessary to afford such persons an equal opportunity to apply. If you need such aid please contact mainesbdc@maine.edu or 1 (800) 679-7232.

The Maine SBDC provides no-cost, comprehensive business advising to small businesses throughout Maine through its network of certified business advisors. It is a program of the U.S. Small Business Administration, the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development and the University of Southern Maine and accredited by America's SBDC. For more information or to request a business advising appointment, visit the website: www.mainesbdc.org or call (207) 780-4420.

The Maine DECD works with statewide and local partners, private industry and small businesses to enhance and sustain economic prosperity in Maine. For more information, visit <https://www.maine.gov/dec>

FWS expands access to Maine refuges and hatcheries

From U.S. Fish and Wildlife Northeast News

In mid-August, the Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) finalized a rule to open additional hunting and fishing opportunities in Maine and across the country. This brings the total expansion to over 4 million acres nationally since President Trump took office.

Since day one, the Trump administration has prioritized recreational access to public lands, particularly for hunting and fishing. These two great American pastimes have formed the bedrock of the nation's wildlife conservation efforts, generating more dollars for habitat protection and restoration than any other outdoor pursuit.

"On the heels of President Trump signing the most significant conservation and recreation funding in U.S. history, providing nearly \$20 billion over the next 10 years to fix and conserve the American people's public lands, the Trump Administration has now made an additional 2.3 million acres accessible to new hunting and fishing opportunities," said U.S. Secretary of the Inte-

rior David L. Bernhardt. "We continue to take significant actions to further conservation initiatives and support sportsmen and women who are America's true conservationists."

"The Trump Administration and Secretary Bernhardt have made access to public lands for hunting and fishing and other outdoor recreation a priority beginning day one. Hunting and fishing are a part of our American history, and we continue to ensure we provide opportunities for these activities which epitomize our American heritage," said Service Director Aurelia Skipwith. "Furthermore, we have maintained our commitment to promoting good government by reducing the regulatory burden by working with states to facilitate these outdoor activities."

In Maine, Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge is expanding existing sport fishing to new acres, and Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge will open to sport fishing for the first time. For complete details of the final rule in Maine see below.

"With the adoption of new regulations to expand hunting and

fishing on national wildlife refuges and national fish hatcheries, citizens throughout the Northeast will have greater access to enjoy the traditions and heritage associated with the pursuit of small game, big game, and sport fish," said Gordon R. Batcheller, executive secretary of the Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies. "Working in concert with state fish and wildlife agencies to identify appropriate opportunities, the Service is meeting our shared challenge of ensuring that the National Wildlife Refuge System and National Fish Hatchery System are key resources for hunters and anglers from all walks of life."

Hunting and fishing generate millions of dollars in revenue for states each year from the sale of licenses and tags. Additionally, excise taxes on firearms and ammunition, as well as sport fishing equipment and boating fuel, generate more revenue for states for wildlife management and public recreation; in 2020 alone the Service will distribute nearly \$1 billion to states under the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program.

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Whale

Continued from page 1

known as NOAA Fisheries, has previously declared an “Unusual Mortality Event” for minke whales, noting on its website that, “Since January 2017, elevated minke whale (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*) mortalities have occurred along the Atlantic coast from Maine through South Carolina.”

Doughty said her organization spent the following Monday planning for transport of the whale to a site where the necropsy could be performed, and then had the whale towed to the main shore and transported to Benson Farm Earth Products in Gorham for the actual necropsy. The whale was transported on a flatbed trailer, towed by a pickup truck driven by Benson Farm owner Eddie Benson,

MMoMe was founded in 2011 by Doughty and other volunteers to respond to stranded to marine mammals in southern and midcoast Maine, after the Maine Department of Marine Resources was no longer able to do so with the loss of federal funding. It is the only organization in this part of Maine that has federal authorization for these responses.

The whale was then laid out on the grounds of the farm for the necropsy. “Because of the size of the animal, there’s no place for us to bring it for an inside location,” Doughty said. “And this way, if we needed heavy equipment to move the animal in certain positions, the equipment is there for Eddie to help us do that.”



Determining the cause of death for this whale “is tough, because sometimes you don’t know the decomposition inside, as the air temperature and water temperature heats up while its out floating in the water, the gasses really start to build up inside. So, sometimes we don’t know until we get further into the body cavity, the level of decomposition that is going on,” she said.

For this minke whale, “some of the tissues were too decomposed to sample,” so a final determination of the cause of death may not be possible, she said. “We did take some samples, and we will send those samples that we can . . . but that might not tell the clear whole picture of the puzzle, once we get all the information back.”

Doughty said this appears to have been a mature adult minke whale, about 22 feet long and weighing between 5,000 and 6,000 pounds. Minke whales are the smallest of the “great whales” or rorquals, and are members of the baleen whale family. The minke whale population status is considered stable, so it is

not listed as endangered or threatened, but is still protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The minke population may have been reduced to half its original numbers by commercial whaling in the western North Pacific and eastern North Atlantic oceans.

The cause of death of a whale, “does depend on the particular animal. There is currently an unusual mortality rate for large whales in the northeast region” that has been on-going since 2016-2017, she said. “So it’s kind of an open investigation for large whale cases for humpbacks, minkes and right whales up and down the east coast.”

Doughty said that deaths of large whales normally occur during the warmer months. “We do get probably two to three cases a year” of whale deaths in Maine, she said. “We do treat each one kind of as a way to gain more valuable and scientific information to what may be going on.”

Although no definite reason for the increased deaths has been found, minke and other whales are threatened by whaling, entanglement in fishing gear, ocean noise,

habitat disturbance and vessel strikes, according to NOAA Fisheries.

During the necropsy, Doughty had help with the sampling process from Tristan Burgess, BVSC PHD, a veterinarian with Acadia Wildlife Services. Also helping were Dominique Walk, assistant stranding director for MMoMe; Katie Gilbert, a volunteer; and interns Lexi Right and Madison Roberts.

The MMoMe team cut through the skin and blubber to reach the internal organs of the whale. They took samples of the various parts of the animal. “Because the blubber is so heavy, you have to kind of cut it down in certain sections” to reach the inside, Doughty said. “Once we peel back the skin and muscle, then we kind of look at everything before



we start to sample, and kind of see where everything is situated and take photographs.” The process is documented piece by piece.

For disease testing for some of the major organs that are viable, the team will look for bacterial or viral infections and take culture swabs of certain areas. They also look at the skin and muscles for any inflammation. “We look at everything from outside in, to see if there are any patterns at all” that would indicate the cause of death, she said. They take blubber samples and muscles samples, as well, and getting results back from the lab “could take months.”

Composting

Benson said his composting facility in Gorham is licensed by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection to accept fish waste. “We kind of met up with Linda . . . through Maine DEP,” when she was looking for a place she could take deceased marine animals such as whales to perform necropsies on them.

Benson Farm composts the carcasses when Doughty has finished her procedures. The whales are a protected species, so MMoMe collects the

Thursday, August 27, 2020

bones after the composting process completes. Benson said he provides his service as a donation to the organization.

While the composting process is similar to that found in the traditional garden compost pile or pit in the backyard of some gardeners, Benson said he uses a more scientific process. He adds “the right amount of carbon, nitrogen, air and moisture to make it get as hot as it possibility can, to make it compost in the shortest time possible.” Temperatures are maintained from 125-155 degrees Fahrenheit to speed the process.

Depending on the weather and the size of the carcass, the composting process could take as much as three months. The compost from whales and other endangered species is kept separate from the farm’s commercial compost blends, and instead is donated to local municipal and non-profit organizations.

Composting is as old as civilization, Benson said. It is “the oldest science probably in the world, since the oldest species has been decomposing. So it’s not new science!”

The farm has facilities for MMoMe team members to clean up after a necropsy.

Grant

Continued from page 3

son, Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development. “In working with the recommendations of the Governor’s Economic Recovery Committee, we have created the Economic Recovery Grant Program. This grant program is the first step in supporting businesses and non-profits with a path forward until they are able to rebuild capacity.”

“Direct financial support for Maine employers to weather the disruption of COVID-19 is an urgent recommendation of the Governor’s Economic Recovery

Committee,” said Joshua Broder and Laurie Lachance, Co-Chairs of the Committee. “We applaud Governor Mills and DECD for moving quickly to launch this important program based on our work and urge our federal delegation to advocate for further employer relief through Congress.”

In addition to the threat to public health, the COVID-19 pandemic has fundamentally changed the global business environment, causing severe supply-chain disruptions, reduced consumer spending, and unprecedented losses that are felt across all sectors. U.S. industries are no exception, with

hospitality, tourism, retail, restaurants and bars, entertainment, manufacturing and countless others facing a host of new challenges and barriers that disrupt operations and impede growth. Here in Maine, the closure of the Canadian border, the stoppage of cruise ships, and reluctance of people to travel have impacted our economy, from agriculture to fisheries, to retail, recreation and hospitality sectors.

In order to qualify for a grant, a business or nonprofit must demonstrate a need for financial relief based on lost revenues minus expenses incurred since March 1, 2020 due to COVID-19 impacts or

related public health response. The business or organization must also: 1) have significant operations in Maine, meaning it is headquartered in the state or has a minimum of half its employees in Maine; 2) employ less than a combined total of 50 employees and contract employees; 3) have been in operation for at least one year before August 1, 2020; not currently be in bankruptcy and not permanently have ceased operations; 4) be current and in good standing with all Maine State payroll taxes, sales taxes, and state income taxes through July 31, 2020 and be in good standing with the Maine Department of Labor;

and 5) be in consistent compliance and not subject to any enforcement action with COVID-19 Prevention Checklist requirements.

Grants may be used to cover expenses, including but not limited to: payroll costs and expenses; rent or mortgage payments for business facilities; utilities payments; necessary operating expenses; expenses incurred to replenish inventory or other necessary re-opening expenses; purchase of personal protective equipment required by the business or business related equipment. Funds must be spent on operations that are strictly within Maine. Recipients are liable for

any misuse of funds, and the grants are subject to audit.

The Administration will distribute grant awards through Economic Development Districts (EDD) in order to meet allocation criteria established by the U.S. Treasury Department. The Administration is providing up to \$3 million in CRF monies to support EDDs as they administer the program. The Administration has also briefed the Chairs and Leads of the Legislature’s Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs on the use of the CRF monies. With today’s commitment, the State of Maine
See Grant, page 11



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Sebago Brewing is canning Hefeweizen beer for the first time



Sebago Brewing Company on Main Street in Gorham is now offering Hefeweizen, a German-style beer, in cans. (Photo provided by Sebago Brewing)

Gorham - This isn't the first time that Sebago Brewing Company on Main Street in Gorham has made Hefeweizen, a German-style beer that's cloudy in appearance while light and refreshing to drink.

However, this is the first time in seven years that the brewing company has made the brew available for takeout. Bottling of Hefeweizen was discontinued when the brewery switched

from bottles to cans in 2013. Hefeweizen has only been offered on draft since then.

On August 28, Sebago released this year's batch of Hefeweizen in brand new cans, and on draft at all five of its locations.

Hefeweizen (pronounced HAY-fuh-vites-in) is a German word that describes its characteristics: "hefe" means yeast, which gives the beer its cloudy appearance, and "weizen" refers to

wheat. It has a low-hop character with phenolic (clove) and fruity (banana) aromas and flavors.

While Sebago's Hefeweizen stays true to the style's German roots, the brewers used three different types of wheat from Maine Malt House, located in the town of Mapleton, give it a uniquely local twist.

Peter Dahlen, Sebago's Director of Brewery Operations, said Hefe "was hazy before hazy beers were cool," and said the beer has been an annual favorite at its southern Maine locations.

Hefeweizen is available on draft or in cans to go at all Sebago Brewing locations, including the Tasting Room on Main Street in Gorham, the Scarborough Brewpub on Scarborough Drive in Scarborough, the Gorham Brewpub on Elm

Street in Gorham, the Kennebunk Brewpub on Portland Road in Kennebunk, and the Portland Brewpub on Fore Street in the Old Port area of Portland.

Raechel Ellis prepares a pallet of Hefeweizen, a German-style beer, at the Sebago Brewing Company on Main Street in Gorham. The brew is also offered on draft at five locations in southern Maine. (Photo provided by Sebago Brewing)



Cans are filled with Hefeweizen beer at the Sebago Brewing Company facility on Main Street in Gorham last week. This is the first time in seven years that the beer has been available for takeout. (Photo provided by Sebago Brewing)

St. Dom's Academy Boy's Hockey Program Annual Golf Tournament Sunday, October 4th, 2020



Fox Ridge Golf Course in Auburn, Maine
Sunday, October 4th, 2020.

Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. with a Shotgun start at 9:00 a.m.

If you have any questions or want to volunteer, please contact either

Jeff Gosselin – 207 212-4671 or jgosselin@mechanicssavings.com

Registrations forms along with checks payable to St. Dom's Academy can be mailed to:

St. Dom's Academy
Attention – Jennifer Cyr
121 Gracelawn Road
Auburn, Maine 04210

Diner

Continued from page 1

ally.” Kennedy said dealing with issues caused by the pandemic was tough, and all he could do was research ways to keep everyone safe. He and his wife, Brianna, were able to spend more time with their kids, which was a bright spot after the fast pace they were used to.

The Kennedys previously owned a successful catering business in a small storefront just a few buildings down the street from The Blue Pig. They turned that catering business into a full-scale restaurant. Kennedy said it was challenging, but their experience in the community helped them over the years.

Now, in their larger, newly renovated space, just seconds up the road, the business has grown



Paul Kennedy, owner of The Blue Pig Diner on State Street in Gorham, cleans and sanitizes a table while guests enjoy a meal in the background. Kennedy plans to bring as many employees back to work as possible when he is allowed to increase seating capacity inside the diner. (Callahan photo)

even more over the last six years. The biggest downside to the pandemic, after the disappointment of laying off

staff, was that they had created a brand-new and successful restaurant that is unable to reach its full capacity, Kennedy said.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, “The town was really great about the outdoor seating plan,” Kennedy said.

During the closure, he worked with every request the state required to keep guests and his business safe. Now, he is worried about everyone, including himself, continuing to do what they need to do. Following the state guidelines will help the restaurant, his staff and the community at large he said. “Just follow the rules!”



Guests at The Blue Pig Diner on State Street in Gorham are asked to follow COVID-19 safety guidelines. (Callahan photo)

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

Grant

Continued from page 8

has committed \$807 million of Maine’s \$1.25 billion in Federal CARES Act CRF monies. View the full commitment of funds.

The Administration considers the \$200 million an initial investment with the potential for additional funding in the future depending on additional support from the Federal government, for which Governor Mills

continues to advocate.

The Maine Economic Recovery Grant Program builds on the Mills Administration’s support for Maine businesses and employees, which includes a commitment of \$270 million to backfill Maine’s Unemployment Trust Fund to support Maine businesses amidst the increased demand for unemployment benefits, as well as \$8.5 million to support childcare services so Maine people can go back to work.

Earlier this year, at the request of Governor Mills, the Small Business Administration allowed Maine businesses to apply for economic support loans. Additionally, the Governor and the Legislature worked together in a bipartisan manner to establish a consumer loan guarantee program through FAME, in partnership with financial institutions, to provide low- or no- interest loans for eligible people in Maine.



Carter's Green Market at 18 Elm Street, Gorham, announced a Pre-Labor Day sale...20% Off Sea Bags (all sizes and styles) and pottery (most all made in Maine!). Sale ends September 15th. (Photo provided by Carter's Green Market)

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Major problems with CMP Corridor

A new document obtained under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) shows that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) and U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) have identified major problems with the Central Maine Power (CMP) transmission corridor, including the company's claims about the proposal's impact on the climate.

The April 9, 2020, response from CMP's parent company <https://www.nrcm.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/CMPresponseACOEinforequest.pdf> Avangrid, to questions raised by the Corps also reveals that CMP is writing its own Environmental Assessment, which is less rigorous than an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). It appears CMP is doing so with coaching from the very federal agencies responsible for evaluating the project.

"CMP's excuses in this document clearly show the company's pattern of obstruction and disinformation when it comes to providing objective information about the climate impact of its proposed transmission corridor," said Nick Bennett, Staff Scientist at the Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM), which obtained the document via FOIA. "We now see that key federal agencies share many of the concerns raised by the vast majority of Mainers who are opposed to the CMP corridor because it would forever harm the woods and wildlife of Western Maine without providing benefits for the climate."

The document shows:

The Corps and

DOE warned CMP that it has failed to provide adequate evidence that the proposed transmission corridor (also known as NECEC) has climate benefits. Questions about the validity of CMP's claims have plagued the project from day one because no independent evidence has been presented to show the project would reduce overall carbon emissions. On page 33, the Corps asked CMP:

"Since the regional benefits from reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are reportedly a cornerstone of the project's benefits and critical to the public interest review, the Corps and the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Electricity have collaborated on how best to address the conflicting positions in this matter.

We have reviewed the studies conducted on the NECEC Project, written testimonies, transcripts, and other material CMP filed as part of the state proceedings before the Maine Public Utilities Commission (Maine PUC). CMP consolidated this information and provided it to the Corps and DOE in a Supplemental Information Response dated November 26, 2019. Opposing findings, testimony, and material have also been reviewed.

DOE has identified gaps in the assumptions and analysis that limited their ability to fully vet the results of the studies and understand the drivers underpinning the stated reductions in GHG [greenhouse gas] emissions. It is therefore very important that CMP work directly with the DOE team and the

Corps to furnish best available information to fill the identified gaps."

DOE asked for the same information that was proposed as part of a bill in the Legislature (LD 640) that would have required an independent study of CMP's climate claims. Although the bill received a 30-4 vote in the Maine State Senate, CMP led an effort involving dozens of lobbyists. They killed the study by preventing a two-thirds majority in the Maine House that was needed for the study to commence immediately. That study would have been completed in August 2019.

On Pages 35-36, DOE asked CMP:

"If new capacity is not built for NECEC, an evaluation of the effect of NECEC on GHG emissions will require a comparison of a scenario with NECEC in-service to one that examines the outlook for Hydro-Quebec's supply if NECEC is not built.

CMP also states that "NECEC will provide 1,090 MW of hydroelectric power, backed by HQ Production's extensive reservoir system, in all hours of the year for 20 years starting 2022." It is not clear if the studies analyzed the supply and demand dynamics for Hydro-Quebec for these two scenarios, i.e. with or without NECEC project, over the 20-year operating period. DOE and the Corps are therefore requesting that the applicant provide the following list of data items that would help fill the gaps.

Hydro-Quebec Operations – Reference Case without NECEC
See CMP, next page

Lewiston and Auburn adult ed programs require face coverings

Lewiston Adult Education and Auburn Adult & Community Education's Fall 2020 brochure has come out with information about how students and teachers will remain safe throughout the semester.

Enrichment classes are set to begin in September, and will take place at Lewiston High School, Edward Little High School, and other schools and businesses in the community.

All students and teachers must wear face coverings while maintaining social distancing. Both programs are also asking students to do self-checks before going to class. Questions include whether or not people have had a cough or sore throat and if students have a fever or are feverish. People who answer "yes" to any of the questions should not attend an adult education class. Refunds can be given within 24 hours of the first lesson.

Lewiston's Adult

Learning Center at Longley School on 145 Birch St. resumed sessions of the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) in the summer with limited numbers of students who wear masks and social distancing required.

The College Transition Program has had classes online through the summer. The fall CTP will hold a hybrid class, with the location to be determined.

Students and teachers in enrichment classes may have to wear gloves in certain classes, such as cooking lessons. They will also have to make sure they leave spaces as clean as possible. Auburn will also require students to bring hand sanitizer along with face coverings to every class. Students must wear face coverings whenever they are in the buildings.

In the event of increased COVID-19 cases in Maine, Lewiston Adult Education and Auburn Adult & Community Education will switch to remote

learning. The brochure has information about which classes have online options. They include Landlord-Tenant Relations and Living Well with Diabetes in Lewiston. Auburn will have yoga as well as breathing and meditation classes that have the distance learning option.

Fall brochures have gone out to homes in the Lewiston-Auburn area. The Lewiston Adult Education and Auburn Adult & Community Education websites also list classes online. To register, go to www.lewiston.maineadulted.org or www.auburn.maineadulted.org.

Class schedules and availability in both programs are subject to change. Please check with the adult education websites for the latest information.

For any other questions or to register by phone, call Lewiston Adult Education at 207-795-4141 or Auburn Adult & Community Education at 207-333-6661

Free Pocket Constitutions Available

From The Optimists Clubs

A Federal law passed in 2004 requires schools that receive Federal Funding provide a course for all students on the Constitution of the United States on Constitution Day, Sept. 17.

The law is known as H.R. 4818, and was passed with the urging of then Senator Robert Byrd (D-W. Va.), who is remem-

bered for always carrying a copy of the Constitution with him in his pocket. The Constitution was ratified on Sept. 17, 1787. The reference to the course for all students can be found in section 111(b) of H.R. 4818.

All our public and private schools are urged to observe this law, and give our Constitution at least this one day of national observance. Some

schools have a special assembly, but most just incorporate a Constitutional lesson plan into their normal class day.

We need to refocus on the once radical idea that the powers are given by the people to the government and not from the government to the people, and that these powers must be limited or tyranny will follow.

In conjunction with Constitution Day, The Optimist Clubs of Lewiston/Auburn, and the Tri Town Optimist Club of Minot, Poland, and Mechanic Falls are making available to any interested schools or students free pocket-size Constitutions that can be used in the classroom or for home studies. Quantities are limited and will be given on a first come, first served basis. To order, please contact any Optimist Club Member, or call 783-5269.

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

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Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

Friday, Sept. 4
Goat Yoga led by Ashley Flowers, at Smiling Hill Farm from 5:30-7 p.m. For more information visit <http://bitly.ws/9zcf>

Friday, Sept. 5
Goat Yoga led by Ashley Flowers, at Smiling Hill Farm from 5:30-7 p.m. For more information visit <http://bitly.ws/9zcf>

Wednesday, Sept. 9
Gorham school committee meeting, 7 p.m., as a Zoom webinar

Saturday, Sept 12
Sunday, Sept. 13
Gorham Founders Festival Parade, with Maine themed float contest, 3 p.m. Gorham village. Please sign up for the pa-

rade on the website at: www.gorham2020.com, or contact Suzie Phillips at 892-9847 or: sphillips@gorham.me.us.

Monday, Sept. 14
Gorham Planning Board meeting, 7 p.m., as a Zoom webinar

Friday, Sept. 25
Restorative practices certificate program offered by UMaine Hutchinson Center and Restorative Justice Center. Six-session course from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information or to request a reasonable accommoda-

tion, contact Michelle Patten, um.fhc.pd@maine.edu; (207) 338-8002.

Thursday, Oct. 29
Restorative practices certificate program offered by UMaine Hutchinson Center and Restorative Justice Center. Six-session course from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Michelle Patten, um.fhc.pd@maine.edu; (207) 338-8002.

Friday, Oct. 30
Restorative prac-

tices certificate program offered by UMaine Hutchinson Center and Restorative Justice Center. Six-session course from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Michelle Patten, um.fhc.pd@maine.edu; (207) 338-8002.

Thursday, Nov. 19
Restorative practices certificate program offered by UMaine Hutchinson Center and Restorative Justice Center. Six-session course from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Michelle Patten, um.fhc.pd@maine.edu; (207) 338-8002.

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Prevailing public comments and hearing testimony received to date slants heavily toward project opponents. This is not uncommon though it seems particularly well organized for this project. Reportedly 26 or more towns along the corridor have voted in opposition to the project.

While our public interest evaluation isn't a 'popularity contest', careful consideration must be given to our public interest review factors in view of the magnitude of public opposition. Toward that end we offer CMP the opportunity to update and enhance Section 7 and Table 9 of the draft Environmental Assessment. You may wish to greatly emphasize the project benefits."

For these reasons and others, Maine Congressman Jared Golden and the Penobscot Indian Nation in separate announcements called on the Corps to conduct a full

EIS as was done for similar projects in New Hampshire and Vermont.

"The Army Corps must conduct a full Environmental Impact Statement for the CMP corridor because of the significant harm that would be done to the North Woods and the tourism industry in that region," said NRCM Attorney Sue Ely. "Maine [citizens] should be shocked and alarmed to learn that CMP is being coached by the Army Corps on how to avoid a more thorough environmental review for this controversial proposal despite the serious concerns raised about the project by the Corps itself."

To learn more about CMP's destructive transmission corridor proposal visit:

<https://www.nrcm.org/programs/climate/proposed-cmp-transmission-line-bad-deal-maine/>

Awards

Continued from page 2

Mainers.

"I'm both pleased and reassured to hear that our community will receive this vital funding," said Auburn Mayor Jason Levesque. "Thank you to the Mills Administration for taking action to support and empower the resiliency and recovery efforts of Maine municipalities and for recognizing the innovative measures Auburn municipal staff is taking, led by City Manager Phil Crowell, to serve this community. Their forward-thinking efforts will keep our local businesses open, and our residents healthy and safe."

The Penobscot Nation plans to prepare COVID-19 educational materials for distribution at their annual Health Fair, which will be modified this year to a drive-through style configuration to promote physical distancing. Community Care Kits including masks, sanitizing wipes, hand sanitizer, and other respiratory illness supportive supplies will be handed out to community members. A health screening station will be set up for residents and guests at the entrance to the Penobscot Reservation.

"The Penobscot Nation appreciates this opportunity to receive Keep Maine Healthy funding from the Maine Department of Health and Human Services," said Candy Henderly, Director of the Penobscot Nation Health Department. "The health and well-

being of our Tribal members are paramount, and this funding provides a pathway to increase health literacy surrounding COVID-19. We look forward to the health promotion and disease prevention activities that this funding makes possible for both our Public Safety and Public Health departments."

These local actions will be an extension of the Maine CDC's work to prevent the spread of COVID-19. As part of Keep Maine Healthy <https://www.maine.gov/covid19/restartingmaine/keepmainehealthy>, the Maine CDC is overseeing this initiative. Costs associated with approved public health education and prevention activities from August 1 through October 31, 2020 will be reimbursed.

These awards from the Mills Administration build on its support for municipal governments. In June, the Mills Administration also announced <https://www.maine.gov/governor/mills/news/mills-administration-dedicates-coronavirus-relief-funding-state-and-local-match-fema-public> that it is dedicating \$35 million in Coronavirus Relief Funding to help local and Tribal governments and other qualified entities cover costs incurred as a result of COVID-19.

The awards come at a time when Maine, adjusted for population, ranks third lowest in the nation in terms of positive cases; eighth lowest in the nation in terms of

deaths; third lowest in terms of patients ever-hospitalized out of the 36 states reporting; and fourth highest in the percentage of people who have recovered out of the 45 states reporting.

CMP

Continued from previous page

and Project Case with NECEC

a. For the Reference Case (without NECEC) and the Project Case (with NECEC), please provide the following:

1) Assumptions and analysis used to calculate Hydro-Quebec's energy demand, peak demand, and reserve margin requirements over the 20-year contract period.

2) Assumptions and analysis used to calculate Hydro-Quebec's capacity and energy imports and exports over the 20-year contract period.

3) Assumptions and analysis used to calculate Hydro-Quebec's generation capacity and dispatch used to meet Hydro-Quebec's energy demand, peak demand, reserve margin requirements, and exports over the 20-year contract period.

4) Assumptions regarding Hydro-Quebec's new generation builds and upgrades over the contract period.

5) Assumptions regarding Hydro-Quebec's hydro storage additions and expansion over the contract period.

6) Sensitivity cases analyzed to assess Hydro-Quebec's ability to meet NECEC supply requirements over the 20-year contract period under different hydrological conditions.

7) Assumptions

about Hydro-Quebec's precipitation levels over the 20-year contract period.

ACOE is allowing CMP to draft its own Environmental Assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act outside of the public view. At the same time, the Corps is coaching CMP on how to make a better case for itself. On page 4, the Corps asked CMP:

"A core determination that the Corps must make is, will the authorization of discharges of fill into the WOTUS be in the public interest or at least not contrary to the public interest.

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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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Job

Continued from page 1

members from Lewiston/Auburn, Minot, Presque Isle, Machias, Fort Kent and Bethel, meet regularly via ZOOM and is mentored by Elizabeth Peavey. Memoir writing is a specific type of narrative. It is autobiographical, but not meant to be as comprehensive as a biography. Instead, a memoir is usually only a specific portion of one's life.

Not only has Elizabeth taught us various elements of good memoir writing, but we have also learned how to give and get constructive feedback. This is so important for a writer. Elizabeth stressed keeping the narrative in an active voice, using colorful adjectives and the importance of dialogue. Elizabeth encouraged me to submit my latest essay to my column.

"Loomed to be Heirloomed"

My first "real job" was right after I graduated from Lewiston High School in 1955. I was accepted at St. Mary's School of Nursing in Lewiston. I received a small scholarship and knew I had to get a good summer job to pay the tuition for the three year Registered Nurse program. I was hoping to return to my summer job at Sam Basselet's Gift Shop on Lisbon St.

And this is when my mother, a skilled weaver at the Bates Mill on Canal St. in Lewiston, stepped in. She worked the third shift with years of experience and was a valued employee for her skills and workmanship.

"Rachel, I can get you a job with me in #5 Weave Room. You will be a Bobbin Girl loading the bobbins on the looms for the weavers." Mom said with such enthusiastic conviction. She continued, glancing sideways, after seeing my disappointed face, "You will earn over TWICE the money you would earn at the gift shop."

I was dismayed! There went my summer. I would be in that hot, noisy mill, working all night, sleeping all day. I would not see my summer at all, nor my friends with evening activities.

I was still hanging back. Mom hauled out more ammunition. "Remember, Rachel, during your training, there is no opportunity to earn tuition money." Ah, she had

there!

How could I refuse? And so began my summer at the Bates Mill: punch in at 11 pm; punch out at 7 am; go home; hit the hay; wake up groggy, mid-afternoon; not see friends in the evening nor go anywhere as I have to be back by 10 pm to prepare for the night shift and punching in at 11 pm.

My experience working in the mill--it was unbelievably hot for one thing! The clanging sounds of the looms were deafening. The heavy shuttles moving back and forth across the looms added to the clamor. I would gather the bobbins of different colored yarn and place them in the bobbin holders on the looms.

My work was not hard. But I was constantly on my feet, walking back and forth through the looms, to ensure the bobbin holders were kept full. The weavers were also constantly moving, monitoring the looms' continuing movements. A loom stopping caused a break in the pattern being worked on. The skilled weavers could not afford to have their patterns disrupted. They took great pride in their work creating the beautiful bedspreads that the Bates Mill was famous for--"Loomed to be Heirloomed", the Bates Mill slogan.

The air was humid. Cotton flew through the air and stuck to your clothes and shoes, filled your ears, eyes, and nose, and got caught in your hair. At shift's end, employees stood in line to use an air hose to dislodge the cotton. Many, too tired to stand in line, just punched out. There was no adequate way to remove the tenacious cotton. The smell of cotton never left your nose or your clothes despite numerous washings.

I did get to meet Mom's co-workers on breaks. There was no lunch room so we sat on benches along the wall with our brown bag lunches. These women were good, solid people, warm and friendly, and were kind to the "new girl" in their midst. They seemed to take me under their wing and encouraged me to stick with my goal to be a nurse.

Looking back, this was a great experience for me, who knew nothing of the hard work these mill workers endured. I learned their



Elizabeth Peavey, noted Portland, ME, author and playwright. (Photo provided by Rachel Morin)



Cotton to thread. (Photo from Flickr Commons)

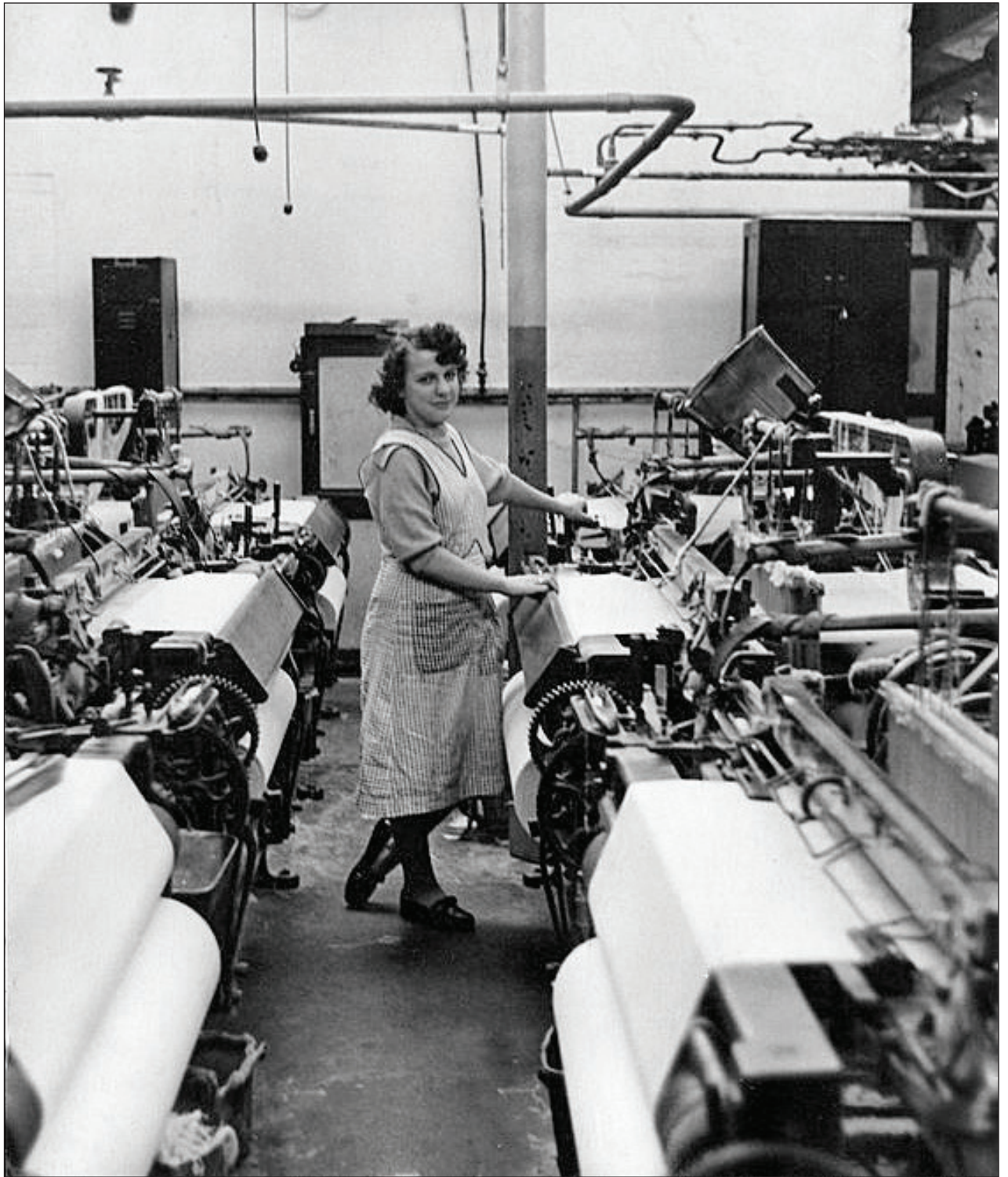
work ethic: Be on time. Do your best work. And no dilly dallying. I still think of those days over

the years. I would run into those women occasionally, even after training. But now, they are all

gone.

This was a gift my mother gave me. I did not have the sense to

thank her and express my appreciation for the life giving experience she gave me.



A weaver on one of the looms at Bates Mill. (Photo from Flickr Commons)



Women weaving at Bates Mill. (Photo from Flickr Commons)



Apostcard showing the Bates Mill and canal in Lewiston. (Photo from Flickr Commons)