

Gorham Town Manager's Report

From Town of Gorham

GORHAM - A 10-year service pin was presented to Customer Service Clerk Alida Landry last week for her outstanding service to the community over the last decade. She retired at the end of the week. The town manager said, "Alida's contribution to the Clerk's office staff and Town as a whole over the years is immeasurable. We wish her the very best on her retirement!"

Gorham Community Access Media (GoCAM) will air a 'Meet the Candidate' series for the public to meet the State Senate District 30 candidates, Gorham Town Council candidates and Gorham School Committee candidates on Monday, Oct. 19, and Wednesday, Oct. 21, at 7 p.m. Residents can tune in on Gorham Spectrum Cable Channel 3, the Town of Gorham webpage, or watch via Facebook LIVE at <https://www.facebook.com/TownofGorham>. Residents can submit questions to the candidates via email at gocam@gorham.me.us or by calling 222-1641.

Absentee voting

in-person for the November 3rd election will be available in the Council Chambers at the Gorham Municipal Center through Friday, Oct. 30, during the Clerk's Office's regular business hours, Monday-Wednesday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Thursday from 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Absentee ballots are available for request until 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 29. The end of last week, 5,512 ballots had been mailed out and 1,891 had been returned. Voted absentee ballots can be placed in the ballot drop box outside of the Gorham Municipal Center entrance at 75 South Street.

All Gorham Residents are welcome to drop off brush and yard trimmings at the Gorham Public Works garage at 80 Huston Road between 8 a.m.-noon on Saturday, Oct. 24. Please only drop-off brush, no tree stumps. Please do not leave behind bags. Available to Gorham residents only. Leaves and grass clippings are accepted in the designated area throughout the season. Due to COVID-19, no assistance can be provided with unloading vehicles or trailers.



Jennifer Brickett, Director of Planning for the Maine Department of Transportation, speaks to members of the Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce at Auburn-Lewiston Municipal Airport last week. Brickett talked about the improved flow of traffic in Maine in recent weeks, and how the MDOT is dealing with loss of income during the COVID-19 pandemic. Chamber members sat in or beside their cars on the tarmac of the airport to remain socially-distanced during Brickett's talk. (Tsukroff photo)

Maine traffic rebounds faster than expected

By Nathan Tsukroff

AUBURN - With Maine COVID-19 pandemic restrictions easing, traffic volume statewide has "rebounded quicker than we actually expected," according to Jennifer Brickett, Director of the Bureau of Planning for the Maine Department of Transportation.

In March, when the first stay-at-home orders were issued by the state,

traffic volume dropped to about the half the level from last year, Brickett said. Inbound traffic at airports fell to just a quarter of the numbers from 2019.

Last week, traffic volume statewide was only down 9.5% from the same week last year, "So this indicates a slow return to normal highway travel," Brickett said. Airport traffic has been slower to recover, remaining down by about 65% from 2019 levels.

"We're seeing other challenges," with passenger train travel and other public transportation down by about 80%, she said.

Brickett spoke last week to members of the Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Com-

merce at their monthly meeting, which took place in one of the hangars at the Auburn-Lewiston Municipal Airport. Chamber members stayed at or near their cars on the tarmac in front of the hangar, or attended virtually over the internet.

The Maine Department of Transportation manages a multi-modal system of transportation, including roads, bridges, airports, water ports, freight rail, and public transportation, along with walking and cycling. The Bureau of Planning works on planning for systems that connect people to their destinations and moves freight throughout Maine, around the country, "and really, around the world,"

Brickett said.

Speaking on a theme of "Making it to Market", Brickett said that "at the Bureau, we understand that a well-functioning transportation system is really critical to economic development and quality of life." In order to plan for this system, the Bureau of Planning focusses on relationships with companies throughout Maine to determine their needs and plan for economic development opportunities that will help develop critical infrastructure for the state.

The Maine DOT is "really operating under what we're calling Business Unusual," with most of the office workers work-

See Traffic, page 8

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Senator Collins Visits Pemberton's in Gray



Sam Mangino, president and a managing partner at Pemberton's Gourmet Foods in Gray, talks with U.S. Senator Susan Collins during her visit to the facility last week. (Photo courtesy of Senator Collins)

From Senator Susan Collins

GRAY — U.S. Senator Susan Collins visited Pemberton's Gourmet Foods last week to tour the facility and meet with employees and leadership, including President and Managing Partner, Chef Sam Mangino.

Pemberton's received a forgivable loan through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).

"For nearly two decades, Pemberton's Gourmet Foods in Gray has been committed to producing quality foods and working with local, small businesses in the industry," Senator Collins said. "Maine's food and beverage manufacturing companies like Pemberton's have seen significant growth over the past several years, creating jobs and supporting local economies. I am delighted that the Paycheck Protection Program that I co-authored helped keep this small business strong and its workers employed during the pandemic."

"It was Senator Susan Collins who supported small Maine businesses like Pemberton's Gourmet Foods when she co-authored the Paycheck Protection Program. Our small manufacturing company of 12 people received the PPP funds right

away assuring our employees that their jobs would be saved," said Sam Mangino, president and a managing partner of Pemberton's Gourmet Foods.

Senator Collins co-authored an addition to the PPP on July 27 to extend help to small employers to stay afloat and continue to pay their workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since its launch in early April, more than 28,000 Maine small businesses and self-employed individuals have received nearly \$2.3 billion in forgivable loans, helping to support more than 250,000 jobs throughout the state.

Pemberton's is a MOFGA-certified organic company that has benefited from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Organic Cost Share Program, which provides cost share assistance to producers and handlers of agricultural products who are obtaining or renewing their certification under the National Organic Program. The Farm Service Agency's recent change to the program would cause Maine's organic producers to lose access to more than \$122,000 in cost



Chuck Allen of Gray, a cashier at Gray Shop 'N' Save, talks with U.S. Senator Susan Collins as she visited stores in Gray following her visit to Pemberton's Gourmet Foods in Gray last week. (Tsukroff photo)

share funds in 2020 alone. Senator Collins has urged USDA to quickly reverse these recent changes to the OCCSP.

Pemberton's Gourmet Foods is a specialty food maker that has been a family-owned business since it was founded in 2002. They pro-

duce their signature sauces, jams, jellies and other original creations at their 10,000 square foot facility in Gray. Pemberton's also offers small batch co-packing services to food makers and startups with original recipes who want to bring their fine foods to market quickly.

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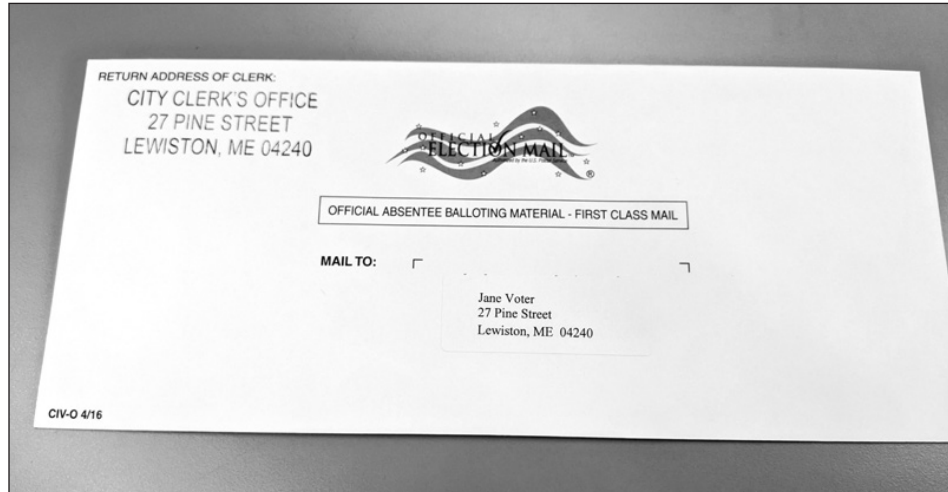
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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Don't throw away your ballot by mistake



A sample of an absentee ballot envelope. (Courtesy of City of Lewiston)

From City of Lewiston

LEWISTON - Around the state, absentee ballots are out in the mail or will be within the next week, and they should be arriving to voters homes soon.

Voters should make sure they do not throw it away by mistake.

Many voters are commenting that they are inundated with campaign

literature and blank absentee ballot application forms from many groups and they are simply throwing them all away without looking at the material. Please don't do this with the ballot by accident. Many voters are voting by absentee ballot for the first time this election and might be unfamiliar with that the mailing looks like.

All of the ballot en-

velopes will look the same, with a return address from your town office/city hall; a mailing address label that has the voter's first and last name and is not listed as "Resident", "Occupant" or "Voter"; an envelope with US Post Office Election Mail logo on it - campaign material cannot use this logo; and statement on the front that reads "Official Absentee Ballot Material"

Guest Column

Tips on managing stress and anxiety

By: Stanley Popovich

Everybody deals with stress and anxiety, and sometimes our anxieties get the best of us.

It's important to know how to cope with your anxieties and fears if they get out of control. Here are some tips to help manage daily stresses and anxieties:

1. Take a break: Sometimes, we get stressed out when everything happens all at once. When this happens, a person should take a deep breath and try to find something to do for a few minutes to get their mind off of the problem. A person could take a walk, listen to some music, read the newspaper, or do an activity that will give them a fresh perspective on things.

2. Carry a small notebook of positive statements with you: Whenever you come across an affirmation that makes you feel good, write it down in a

small notebook and carry it around in your pocket. Whenever you feel anxious, open up your small notebook and read those statements.

3: You can't predict the future: While the consequences of a particular fear may seem real, there are usually other factors that cannot be anticipated and can affect the results of any situation. We may be ninety-nine percent correct in predicting the future, but all it takes is for that one percent to make a world of difference.

4. Challenge your negative thinking with positive statements and realistic thinking: When encountering thoughts that make you fearful or depressed, challenge those thoughts by asking yourself questions that will maintain objectivity and common sense. Focus on the reality of your situation and not on your thoughts.

5. Divide your ac-

tivities into separate steps: When facing a current or upcoming task that overwhelms you with a lot of anxiety, divide the task into a series of smaller steps and then complete each of the smaller tasks one step at a time. Completing these smaller activities will make the stress more manageable and increases your chances of success.

6. Take advantage of the help that is available around you: If possible, talk to a professional who can help you manage your depression and anxieties. They will be able to provide you with additional advice and insights on how to deal with your current problem.

Stan Popovich is author of the popular managing fear book, "A Layman's Guide To Managing Fear". For more information about Stan's book and to get some free mental health advice, visit: www.managingfear.com.

Portland teacher is Maine Teacher of the Year



Cindy Soule, a fourth-grade teacher at Gerald E. Talbot Community School in Portland, was recently named as Maine's 2021 Teacher of the Year. (Photo courtesy of Maine DOE)

From Maine DOE

PORTLAND - In a unique, limited-audience outdoor event at the Gerald E. Talbot Communi-

ty School in Portland, the Maine Department of Education and Educate Maine recently named fourth grade teacher Cindy Soule as Maine's 2021 Teacher of

the Year.

Students and colleagues at the school were able to watch the event via a live broadcast to their classrooms.

Soule's journey began in May, when she was named the 2020 Cumberland County Teacher of the Year. Soule, along with 15 other County Teachers of the Year, was selected from a pool of more than 300 teachers who were nominated earlier this year. In August, Soule was named one of three [state finalists](#) before being named the 2021 Teacher of the Year.

"We are proud to announce that Cindy Soule is the 2021 Maine Teacher of the Year!" Said Heather Whitaker, 2020 Maine Teacher of the Year and member of the Teacher of the Year State Review Pan-

el, "Cindy has been a dedicated member of the Talbot School Community for 20 years. She is a life-long learner who is committed to the craft of teaching and building strong relationships with her students, colleagues, and community. We will learn so much from her passion for teaching inquiry-based science and literacy!"

Soule has an innate ability to create a learning community that disrupts the opportunity gap. For twenty of her twenty-one years of teaching, she has been committed to one of Maine's most diverse schools, the Gerald E. Talbot Community School (formerly Riverton Elementary School), in Portland, Maine. Soule fosters a dynamic learning environment that inspires curi-

osity and citizenship in her fourth-grade students.

A lifelong resident of Maine, Soule developed an appreciation for the natural world. This passion is evident in her teaching. She grounds learning in real world contexts and encourages students to construct scientific understanding through observation, questioning, and collaborative thinking. Through inquiry and discourse, Soule empowers students to see themselves as meaningful contributors to their community. This work is recognized by her Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching candidacy.

Soule contributes to a positive culture of collective efficacy where students thrive. To enrich student learning, she partners with

community organizations to include Side X Side, the Maine Audubon, and the Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance. She serves as a representative on the Portland Schools Literacy Committee, Talbot Leadership Team, Building Steering Committee, RTI Team, and Science Teams. On behalf of students, Soule is a recipient of grants from Portland Education Foundation, TD Bank and DonorsChoose.

Soule holds a Master of Science in Special Education from the University of Southern Maine and a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from the University of Maine at Orono. A 2020 Funds for Teachers Fellow, she looks forward to continued professional discovery and learning.

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28 State Street, Gorham, ME 04038
Info@GorhamWeekly.com
(207) 558-8488



Laurie A. Steele
Publisher/CEO
Laurie@GorhamWeekly.com



Lillian Baker
Office Manager
Lillian@GorhamWeekly.com



Nathan Tsukroff
Managing Editor
Editor@GorhamWeekly.com



Lacey Rollins
Outside Rep
Info@GorhamWeekly.com

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Seniors Not Acting Their Age

Return to Malaga

By Ron Chase

In the summer of 1912, the impoverished residents of Malaga Island were forcibly removed from their homes by the State of Maine. Lacking alternative living arrangements, their relocation was haphazard. Some found acceptable accommodations, others moved their tiny homes onto rafts, a few wandered, and a handful were deemed mentally unfit and placed in the Maine School for Feeble Minded.

A mixed race community, their odyssey began about a half century earlier when Henry and Fatima Darling Griffin are believed to have moved there. In the ensuing years, the fishing community located on the rugged 41 acre island situated at the mouth of New Meadows River in Casco Bay grew to about fifty. Racial issues and extreme poverty undoubtedly contributed to their problems, but they had an underlying legal dilemma. The island was owned by Eli Perry; technically they were squatters without title to the

land. For reasons that are unclear and in dispute, the state purchased the island and evicted the unfortunate inhabitants.

No, I wasn't around in the early 20th Century. I first learned about the disturbing history of Malaga from a Portland Sunday Telegram news article about thirty years ago. Curiosity motivated me to visit the island by kayak on several occasions beginning a few years later. My early explorations were largely unsatisfactory. While lobster traps were found stored on a shell beach on the northern end, the island was predominantly overgrown with a dense spruce forest and no conclusive signs of earlier habitation were identified.

Acquisition of the property by the Maine Coast Heritage Trust in 2001 has led to dramatic changes. A trail system has been established, the sites of former homes identified, and a kiosk provides information about the history of the people who lived there.

Recently, I scheduled a Penobscot Paddle and

Chowder Society (PPCS) sea kayak and hiking trip to Malaga. The adventure was jocularly referred to as a surf and turf. Within hours, three enthusiastic members volunteered to join me on the expedition. Not only do Chowderheads love all things outdoors, they're also avid history buffs.

After considering several launching alternatives, I chose a boat landing at Bethel Point located at the end of a narrow peninsula a little west of Cundy's Harbor to begin the excursion. My reasoning was selfish. I'd never paddled to Malaga from that location. An advantage of being a PPCS Trip Coordinator, you get to decide the whys and wherefores of the outing.

Partly sunny skies and light winds were forecast when four of us met at picturesque Bethel Point on a late summer day. Space is limited and a local business charges a small fee to park on their property. The narrow boat ramp faces substantial Yarmouth Island located a short distance south.



A kayaker paddles along rugged ledges on the southern end of Malaga Island. (Ron Chase photo)

Cruising southerly through Ridley Cove in solo kayaks, seas were calm progressing towards West Cundy Point. Ominously, a fog bank could be observed approaching from the southeast. By the time the point was negotiated, the murky haze had engulfed us. Our next objective, nearby East Cundy Point, was barely visible.

I quickly took a bearing for the narrow channel between East Cundy Point and Rogue Island. Traversing the attenuated waterway, fog thickened entering outer New Meadows River. Our next objective, Bear Island was undetectable. My marine chart indicated the same course should bring us to the southern end of Bear Island. A twenty-five minute passage east in a whiteout delivered us on

target.

Nearby Malaga parallels Bear Island on the east and a short paddle north brought us to the shell beach where a sign evidenced arrival at our destination. After changing footwear for the hike, several minutes were taken familiarizing ourselves with island history at the informative kiosk. A well-defined trail on rugged terrain meanders circuitously around the perimeter of the island passing salt marshes and a tiny pond. A spur path on the southern terminus led to a scenic ledge overlook that was our choice for a lunch spot. Returning north and completing the loop, numbered posts marked the sites of homes demolished a century ago.

Sanguine expectations that the fog would lift

for our return were denied. Navigating across outer New Meadows River by compass was again necessary. This time we missed the mark passing just south of Rogue Island. Entering Ridley Cove, the fog finally dissipated providing clear views for the remainder of our voyage.

While a visit to Malaga is a somber one, when departing I invariably feel a sense of affinity for the destitute folks that once lived there.

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.

See next page for more photos

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Kayakers hike the trail around Malaga Island. (Ron Chase photo)



Kayakers enjoy lunch on a ledge overlook at the southern end of Malaga Island. (Ron Chase photo)

CMCC Passport Office Reopens

From CMCC

The U.S. Passport Acceptance Facility at Central Maine Community College (CMCC) is now open by appointment only.

All passport applicants must schedule an appointment online at calendly.com/cmcc-passport-services. To speed up processing, citizens should also complete their application in advance at <http://bitly.ws/9WGH>

Since the Passport

Acceptance Facility at CMCC has gone cashless, all facility fees must be paid by check, money order, or credit/debit card. Department of State fees must be paid by check or money order (credit cards are not accepted for State Department fees).

Due to COVID-19, all visitors to the campus must stop briefly at the safety checkpoint upon entering the campus. The Passport Acceptance Facility is located in the CMCC Central Services Office, Room J115,

on the ground floor of Jallbert Hall. Hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 8 a.m.-6 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

CMCC's Passport Acceptance Facility includes application and photo services. Passport forms and information on fees and how to apply can be found on the State Department website at travel.state.gov. For more information, please contact Kellie Morris, passport program manager at CMCC at (207) 755-5294.

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Arts & Entertainment

Lewiston residents' paintings displayed at CMMC

From WHA Art Gallery

LEWISTON - The Woman's Hospital Association (WHA) Rotating Art Gallery at Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston is now displaying the paintings of Lewiston residents, Susan and Paul Boucher. Their avid love of the Maine outdoors inspires their work and lives.

Art is an integral part of Paul's essence and has been for almost forty years. His style combines a sense of realism with his own unique form of imagination. He has studied under various artists but is essentially self-taught. He enjoys studying wildlife in its natural habitat and spends hours of research and study on each of his paintings.

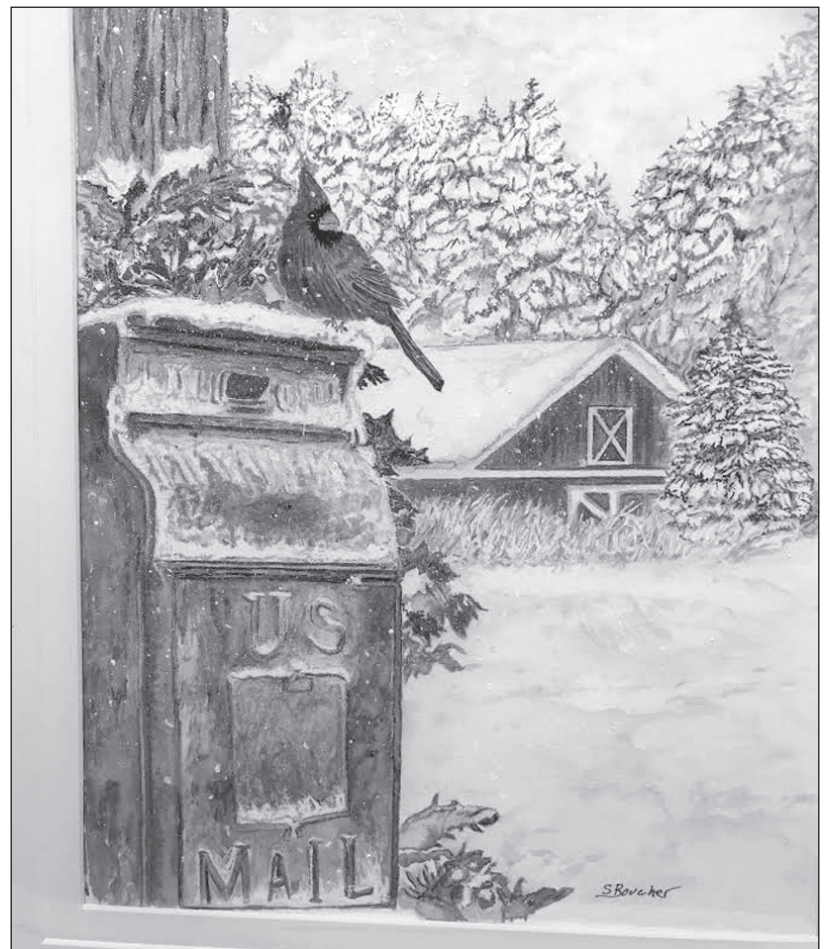
Susan Boucher has been interested in art for most of her life. Primarily painting with watercolors,

most of her paintings are done in the studio utilizing her own photographic images. "I have an endless fascination with my subjects: the undulating shapes of flowers, children and woodland scenes".

The works on display may be purchased through the WHA Gift Shop located adjacent to the main lobby at Central Maine Medical Center. A percentage of sale proceeds benefits patients of CMMC.



'Faithful Companion' by Paul Boucher. (Courtesy of WHA Art Gallery)



'Susan's New Cardinal' by Sue Boucher. (Courtesy of WHA Art Gallery)

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Out and About

Midcoast string quartet at Schooner Estates

By Rachel Morin

On a cool gray, overcast October day when a few tentative tiny rain

drops were felt, the residents at Schooner Estates Retirement Living Community looked at each other and held their breath, hop-

ing it would pass. They were gathering at The Center Courtyard in anticipation to hear The Midcoast Symphony

String Quartet present an afternoon concert.

The musicians were already arriving and had begun setting up their music stands, so that was a good sign. Ray Libby, MSO Manager, was helping with preparations and checking the overhead awning to ward off any droplets of rain. All looked good.

The residents began filling the chairs, placed at the pandemic socially distant spaces, and soon they were settled and waiting for the music to begin. The rain held off and the musical performance went on

as planned. The music was lovely and the audience applauded happily after each selection.

A breeze came through the area ruffling the music sheets on the music stands and a few went flying. An audience member, Romeo Labbe, quickly retrieved the music sheets and returned them to the musicians. Ray Libby and the musicians had clothespins at the ready and quickly secured the sheets.

Midway through the concert, raindrops were felt. The audience remained seated, but it soon became clear that the rain

would soon follow. At this point, Libby returned to the stage to address the audience. He reported that the musicians, under the dryness of the canopy, would play the remainder of the program.

Libby thanked everyone for their patronage and encouraged the entire audience "to leave when the rain started and not to feel embarrassed." And added "A return day would be better."

And so, we look forward to that day as we had enjoyed their performance and their valiant effort to entertain us.



It wasn't long before the remaining chairs were filled. Residents always appreciate the musical events coming to Schooner Estates. (Rachel Morin photo)



The Midcoast Symphony String Quartet performs at The Center Courtyard at Schooner Retirement Living Community in Auburn. Musicians are left to right, Mary Hunter, violin; Emily Reese, violin; Karen Jung, viola; and Rebecca Dreyer, cello. (Rachel Morin photo)

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Jennifer Brickett, Director of Planning for the Maine Department of Transportation, speaks from an open hangar at the Auburn-Municipal airport, telling members of the Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce that traffic in Maine has rebounded faster than expected under the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic. The airport hosted the monthly meeting of the Chamber, with members participating from in or near their cars, or virtually over the internet. (Tsukroff photo)

Traffic

Continued from page 1

ing from home. "In general, our whole system has been impacted by COVID-19," she said.

"On a positive note, as the result of slower traffic and more competitive contractor pricing, we were actually able to add some projects this year," Brickett said. "And we continue to deliver all of our planned work . . . which has really been a bright spot in this time, environment, and economy."

However, with the lower number of vehicles on the roads, highway funding "has taken a hit" with revenues down about \$40 million for the current fiscal year that runs through June 2021, Brickett said. Revenue for the following fiscal year is expected to be down by about \$30 million, making this "the most sudden drop in highway funds revenue in memory."

Aviation revenue is also expected to be down significantly with the loss of passenger traffic and aviation fuel taxes, she said.

The Maine DOT is working on a plan to address the funding shortfall and "was fortunate to get the July bond, which helps compensate for some of our income loss," Brickett said. The department will need additional funding, and the most likely options right now are federal funding and bonds.

The department is looking at ways to save money, perhaps by cutting back on planned work on less-traveled roadways, she

said. "At the same time, we need to invest in areas that are redeveloping and where people are moving."

Surrounding the airport are a number of trucking companies and railroad facilities. These businesses "are the backbone to our state's economy. They enable the movement of millions of tons of freight every year, traveling by road, over railroad tracks and by airports," Brickett said. While airport passenger travel is reduced, the airports themselves are critical for the transport of freight and perishable goods, such as seafood.

"This region is really a great example of a multi-model system that moves and transports goods, and supports the economy, both regionally, throughout the state, and the international markets," she said.

The Lewiston-Auburn area is close to interstate 95, which pro-

vides quick access to the Walmart distribution center, she said. The good highway system makes the area a "gateway to western Maine."

The department also has an Industrial Rail Access Program that is focused on economic development and rail opportunities, and has worked with several businesses in the area over the years.

The Maine DOT recently started development of a three-year workplan for projects across the state.

Brickett oversees statewide planning for freight and passenger services, including aviation and transportation system analysis. She previously worked as the Maine DOT planner for southern Maine, and before that was with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials in Washington, DC, where she worked on national transportation policy issues.



Jennifer Brickett, Director of the Maine DOT Bureau of Planning, speaks to members of the Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce from a hangar at Auburn-Lewiston Municipal Airport during a monthly meeting of the chamber last week. Chamber members sat in or near their cars on the tarmac in front of the hangar, or watched virtually over the internet. (Tsukroff photo)

Baxter Memorial Library Events for October

Events for Baxter Memorial Library, 71 South St., Gorham

**Tuesday, Oct. 20
9:30-10 a.m.**

Virtual Preschool Discovery Time

Join Ms. Heidi on Facebook as she uses stories, music, and movement to enhance early literacy skills and foster a love of reading. (3-5yrs)

**Wednesday, Oct. 21
10 a.m.**

Playing with Shadows

Join Ms. Deb on Facebook for a virtual STEAM activity. Activities are geared toward K-5 learners and require minimal supplies that you'll likely have right on-hand at home.

In this lesson you will use driveway chalk and your shadow to track the sun in your yard. We'll be thinking of questions ahead of time, coming up with some reasonable hypotheses, and then testing these out over the course of several intervals. There will be opportunities to extend with higher-level thinking and/or drawing or photographing our results. (Partner Activity)

**Thursday, Oct. 22
9:30-9:50 a.m.**

Virtual Toddler Discovery Time

**Friday, Oct. 23
3-4 p.m.**

Zoom Pet Costume Contest

Show off your costumed critter in this interactive Zoom program. We want to see your funny, scary, or adorably dressed pets! Ribbons will be mailed to all participating pets. Fill out the google form on www.baxterlibrary.org under the "Youth" heading to enter. We look forward to seeing your wonderful furry family members.

**Tuesday, Oct. 27
9:30-10 a.m.**

Virtual Preschool Discovery Time

Join Ms. Heidi on Facebook as she uses stories, music, and movement to enhance early literacy skills and foster a love of reading. (3-5yrs)

**Wednesday, Oct. 28
9:30-9:50 a.m.**

Babies en Plein Air

Bring your baby and a blanket to join us 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. (birth-18mons)

**Wednesday, Oct. 28
10:00 a.m.**

Guess the Level: How Water & Gravity Work Together

Join Ms. Deb on Face-

book for a virtual STEAM activity. Activities are geared toward K-5 learners and require minimal supplies that you'll likely have right on-hand at home.

How does gravity affect how water rests? We'll make predictions and then combine some art with science to find out just how accurate we are. Saving a few recycled bottles of various shapes and sizes ahead of time will be helpful. (Indiv. or Partner Activity)

**Thursday, Oct. 29
9:30-9:50 a.m.**

Virtual Toddler Discovery Time

**Friday, Oct. 30 –
Sunday, Nov. 1**

Harry Potter Horcrux Hunt

Attention Harry Potter Fans! The librarians of Baxter Memorial Library are hiding Horcruxes around the Gorham Village. Read the clues on our website to guess each Horcrux and the location where we have stashed it. Go to that location (anytime from 5 p.m., Oct. 30, through 5 p.m., Nov 1) and find the Horcrux painted on a small flag to confirm your guess. Fill out the Google Form on our website www.baxterlibrary.org after you find as many as you can. Winners will be chosen from entries that found all 7 Horcruxes. Good luck witches and wizards!!

Androscoggin named a best place to work in Maine

From Androscoggin
HHH

LEWISTON - Androscoggin Home Healthcare + Hospice (Androscoggin) has been named as one of the 2020 Best Places to Work in Maine.

The awards program was created in 2006 and is a project of the Society for Human Resource Management – Maine State Council (MESHRM) and the Best Companies Group. Partners endorsing the program include: MaineBiz, the Maine State Chamber of Commerce and Maine HR Convention.

Companies from across the state enter the two-part process that evaluates the companies policies, practices and demographics. That part is worth 25% of the total evaluation. The second part consists of an employee survey that measures the employee experience and is worth 75% of the total evaluation. The combined scores determine

the top companies and the final rankings.

Androscoggin has been selected for this honor every other year since 2006. President and CEO, Ken Albert said, "It's gratifying to know that staff give the organization high marks when it comes to workplace culture. These results play a critical role in establishing and maintaining a culture that embodies integrity, accountability, quality and compassion."

Androscoggin Home Healthcare and Hospice is the largest, non-profit independent home health and hospice organization in the state. We focus on health – not illness – by making each individual's quality of life the best it can be. Katy Sperl, Chief Administrative Officer says, "The more that I work with our staff, my appreciation grows for the high level patient focused care that is provided with compassion and integrity in our communities. Meeting our patients where they are in their health journey

cannot be accomplished without the support of staff in all of our administrative teams. At Androscoggin, as with most organizations, our mission and values are posted on our walls. What makes us different, is that the mission and values are also written on the hearts of our staff."

Androscoggin will be recognized in the October 19th edition of MaineBiz, where company rankings will be released.

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Letter to the editor

Biden signs stolen

Three Biden 2020 signs have been stolen from property near my home. With a president who relishes inciting violence, it's no surprise that voters in this country are deeply divided politically. But to remove signs because someone doesn't like another candidate is childish, downright mean and against the law.

Campaigning door-to-door is next to impossible this season because of COVID so political signs are a key way to show our support. Mine aren't the only ones swiped. There

are reports from across the state of Biden and Black Lives Matter signs being pilfered, allegedly by Trump supporters who think anything goes in this election. Stealing them is not only vile, it's a crime. Taking or defacing a single sign carries a fine of \$250. And it's a waste of time for law enforcement to investigate the incidents.

Note to thieves: Taking the advice of another swiped sign victim, I covered my third Biden sign with oil and glitter. I'm told it's next-to-impossible to

get rid of glitter from inside a car or the bed of a pickup truck. Thankfully, win or lose, Biden's message will stick.

A strong nation, like a strong person, can afford to be gentle, firm, thoughtful, and restrained. It can afford to extend a helping hand to others. It is a weak nation, like a weak person, that must behave with bluster and boasting and rashness and other signs of insecurity. -Jimmy Carter

Connie Sage Conner Harpswell

Brunswick dog is Hero Hearing Dog of the Year

From American Humane

LOS ANGELES – Aura, a dog from Brunswick, ME, is the winner of the Hero Hearing Dog of the Year award in the 2020 American Humane Hero Dog Awards.

Emmy-winning television star Carson Kressley, who hosted the inaugural broadcast of the American Humane Hero Dog Awards, every animal-lover's favorite event of the year, is returning to host the two-hour 10th anniversary celebration of the awards on Hallmark Channel at 8 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 19.

This star-studded annual celebration of heroes on both ends of the leash honors outstanding working dogs from around the country.

The list of celebrity presenters and VIP appearances includes All-for-One, Mayim Bialik, A.J. Buckley, Kristin Chenoweth, Erik Estrada, Danielle Fishel, Vivica A. Fox, Lizzy Greene, Jack Hanna, Faithé Herman, Naomi

Judd, Keltie Knight, General Spider Marks (Ret.), Richard Marx, Debbie Matenopoulos, Cameron Mathison, Barbara Niven, Ross Mathews, John Ondrasik, Melissa Rivers, Marcus Scribner, Alison Sweeney and Ariel Winter.

Grammy-winning singer Lisa Loeb will perform. Larissa Wohl and Nick and Joanna Swisher will present a special award to Lance Bass for his humane efforts.

The evening will honor seven courageous canines whose work has improved and saved lives, and will reveal which dog will be honored with the country's top "American Hero Dog" title for 2020.

The winner from 408 original entrants was determined on the basis of more than a million votes by the American public and the deliberations of a panel of celebrity judges, including Jamie Chung, Erik Estrada, Danielle Fishel, Daniel Henney, Wendi McLendon-Covey, Marcus Scribner, Alexa and Carlos Pe-

naVega and Ariel Winter.

This year's seven canine category winners are Hero Law Enforcement Dog Of The Year: "K-9 Cody" from Newport News, VA; Hero Shelter Dog Of The Year: "MacKenzie" from Hilton, NY; Hero Hearing Dog Of The Year: "Aura" from Brunswick, ME; Hero Military Dog Of The Year: "Blue" from Lawrenceville, GA; Hero Search And Rescue Dog Of The Year: "Remington" from Montgomery, TX; Hero Service Dog Of The Year (sponsored by Lulu's Fund): "Dolly Pawton" from Naples, ME; and Hero Therapy Dog Of The Year (sponsored by World Pet Association): "Olive" from Jefferson City, MO.

To read all the Hero Dogs' stories or for more information about the 2020 American Humane Hero Dog Awards 10th Anniversary Celebration, visit www.herodogawards.org.

Founded in 1877, American Humane is committed to ensuring the safety, welfare and well-being of animals.

Free school meals extended through June 2021

From USDA

MT. WOLF, PA – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced last week that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is extending flexibilities to allow free meals to continue to be available to all children throughout the entire 2020-2021 school year.

"As our nation recovers and reopens, we want to ensure that children continue to receive the nutritious breakfasts and lunches they count on during the school year wherever they are, and however they are learning," said Secretary Perdue. "We are grateful for the heroic efforts by our school food service professionals who are consistently serving healthy meals to kids during these trying times, and we know they need maximum flexibility right now. I appreciate President Trump for his unwavering commitment to ensuring kids receive the food they need during this pandemic and for supporting USDA

in continuing to provide these unprecedented flexibilities."

"These waiver extensions are great news for America's students and the school nutrition professionals working so hard to support them throughout this pandemic," said School Nutrition Association President Reggie Ross, SNS. "Families struggling to make ends meet can be assured that their students will have access to healthy school meals, whether they are learning at home or in school. School meal programs can remain focused on safely meeting nutritional needs of children in their communities without having to worry about burdensome regulations. The School Nutrition Association appreciates USDA's ongoing efforts to address the many challenges our members have faced while working on the frontlines to feed hungry children."

The USDA is extending waivers through June 30, 2021, that allow SFSP and SSO meals to be

served in all areas and at no cost, permit meals to be served outside of the typically required group settings and meal times, waive meal pattern requirements, as necessary, and allow parents and guardians to pick-up meals for their children.



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- PHONE NUMBER
- WHERE YOUR COLLECTION IS LOCATED
- A DESCRIPTION OF YOUR ITEMS



Chamber advocates for access to COVID-19 testing

From LAMCC

LEWISTON - More than 60 businesses have signed the Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce's position statement of Access to Testing and Timely Results, joining the Chamber's over 700 members and the full Lewiston Auburn Legislative Delegation.

The Chamber is advocating for access to COVID-19 testing and timely results. Requests from area businesses came for the Chamber to take a formal position; and were reviewed by their Business Advocacy Committee and board. This position statement addresses an issue key to the area's workforce and economy- when employees are isolated while waiting

for test results for upwards of 8 days, it limits business operations and holds back the economy.

"Our members put the safety of their staff and customers first, and recognize the significant steps the State of Maine has taken to ensure the public health response keeps people safe. The leadership of Maine CDC, Maine DECD, and Maine DHHS, along with the sacrifice of business owners and Maine residents have kept our positive case counts low, our test positivity rate low, and our people safe", says Shanna Cox, President and CEO of the Chamber. "Businesses are greatly concerned with access to testing and timely results as they prepare for the cold and flu season."

With cold and flu symptoms overlapping

with Covid-19 symptoms, symptomatic employees must remain home. Timely negative test results can help employees return to work sooner, and keep operations running smoothly. The LA Metro Chamber identifies three actions the State must continue to prioritize to ensure employers can manage their workforce for safety and keep their doors open, which are vital to the LA region, state economy, and quality of life.

"Our employees and business have been severely impacted by COVID-19 and inconsistencies with testing. Throughout this pandemic, we have had 3 of our 32 employees test positive for COVID-19, which resulted in 21 employees being quarantined so far. By diligently following the

CDC guidelines our employee wellness screening has resulted in the Credit Union encouraging employees with symptoms to stay home and seek testing. Some employees get their results back in less than 24 hours while others wait for 7 days, even when they go to the same testing site," said Community Credit Union President and CEO Jen Hogan.

"This is very stressful for the employee affected as well as for our entire team. Delays in test results have caused our staff to feel overwhelmed with worry, anticipating their results and how they may have potentially exposed their families, friends, coworkers and anyone they may have interacted with," Hogan said. "All of these challenges have resulted in several

short-term staffing shortages leading to the temporary closure of locations or limiting of services to our members. This has been really hard for our organization and my heart goes out to all of my employees and other businesses that are doing their best to safely navigate this pandemic."

Cox said the Chamber and businesses ask that the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, with Governor Mills' Administration, continues to expand access to free testing by increasing the reimbursement rate for administration of Swab and Send sites, allowing for expanded hours and locations for test sites that administer free tests and utilize the State lab for processing.

The Chamber also wants the state to improve

the consistency and shorten the length of time for accurate results by continuing to expand capacity at State laboratories, investing in proven and emerging testing methods and supplies that provide results in 48 hours or less.

And the Chamber asks that the state continues to prioritize the testing access and timely results for employers and their workforce by seeking innovative solutions with Maine manufacturers, biotech companies, healthcare systems, and employers.

"The Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and our members appreciate the efforts to date, and stand ready as partners to seek workable solutions that ensure employers can balance safety with financial sustainability," Cox said.

DeBlois Electric Announces 100% Employee Ownership

From DeBlois Electric

LEWISTON - DeBlois Electric, Inc., a leader for over 50 years in electrical construction, is proud to report that it has become 100% employee

owned through an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP). This announcement signals the beginning of their new ownership structure that will continue to operate with the same vision and leadership previously established.

Primarily a retirement benefit for the company's merit-shop employees, the ESOP will supplement 401(k) plans and health benefits, plus issue ownership shares to all participating employees at no cost. To further benefit the

newly formed stakeholders, the plan aims to create financial stability while rewarding productivity and efficiency, in turn positively impacting the work environment. The program is also designed to retain talented staff and attract qualified candidates to this growing company.

"We are thrilled to bring in a new generation of ownership to DeBlois Electric through our Employee Stock Ownership Plan. This represents our long-standing commitment to the future and success of the company," says Ray DeBlois, Chief Financial Officer of DeBlois Electric. The privately held company was started by Willie and Gaetane DeBlois in 1967, and under the management of their sons, Ray and Mitch, has grown to be one of Maine's leading electrical contractors.

"We have always

had a family and field-first culture, so empowering our employees with an ownership stake makes sense for us," says Mitch DeBlois, President of DeBlois Electric. "We remain dedicated to developing a high-involvement culture that works as a team toward continuous company growth and provides our clients the highest level of service, quality and craftsmanship."

Andy Bosse, Vice President of Construction, who has worked at DeBlois Electric for over 30 years, said, "I am honored to be part of a company that works toward the betterment of its employees and believe this is a great opportunity for skillful individuals that want to join our team and grow with us." Vice President of Operations Steve Morin adds, "DeBlois Electric has always valued its employee

and treated us as family. Becoming an ESOP is the best next step to solidify our culture." Bosse and Morin will join the DeBlois on the board of directors of the new company structure.

DeBlois Electric is a pro-active, solutions-oriented electrical contractor that prides itself on building lasting relationships. Since 1967, DeBlois Electric has been committed to its employees, the community, and the construction industry as a whole. DeBlois Electric continues to provide service to residential and small commercial customers, in addition to holding a portfolio of many notable large construction projects in the state of Maine. The company currently employs 70 team members, working from their headquarters in Lewiston, Maine. For more information, visit debloiselectric.com.

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— George Smith, Bangor Daily News

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State Treasurer Recovers \$6 Million from MetLife

From Office of State Treasurer

Augusta, ME – State Treasurer Henry E.M. Beck, Esq. today announced his office has closed a multi-year examination of insurance company MetLife, resulting in more than \$6 Million delivered to the state's unclaimed property fund.

during the same timeframe. Conducted by Verus Analytics, a Kroll Business, the audit included life insurance, annuities, and retained assets. Forty three other states took part in the examination.

Unclaimed property occurs when an owner of an asset cannot be located after a specified period of time by the entity holding that asset. Items considered unclaimed property include bank accounts, uncashed checks, life insurance policies, unpaid wages, stocks and dividends, refunds, and safe deposit box contents.

Maine conducts unclaimed property examinations using 5 third-party contractors that specialize in unclaimed property. These third-party examiners often work with other states on examina-

tions like the one conducted on MetLife. Currently, Maine has over 350 active examinations. Each year, these examinations result in millions of dollars of unclaimed property returned to the state.

"These funds represent thousands of properties sent to my office. Receipt of these properties constitutes a fiduciary duty to the funds and statutory obligation to seek out the rightful owners," Beck said. "To date, we have returned \$1.66 million of the \$6 million and I encourage all Mainers to reach out to see if we are holding their property. Maine appreciates MetLife's willingness to cooperate in resolving this examination so that this property can be reunited with its rightful owners."

The Treasurer is currently holding \$258,842,562 of unclaimed property. It is easy and free to file a claim by going to <https://www.maineunclaimedproperty.gov/> and following the instructions, or by calling 207-624-7470 for assistance.

The Office of the State Treasurer provides state agencies with efficient

banking and financial services, which include revenue collection, payment issuance, reconciliation, municipal revenue sharing and trust management. The Office also manages state investments and debt payments and issuance, ensuring that bonds authorized by voters are efficiently sold in the marketplace to provide funding for capital projects statewide.

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

Best Source for Arts, Music and Theater! Your Hometown Paper.

Teacher

Continued from page 3

Soule was nominated in January by her colleague Brooke Teller, STEM Coordinator for Portland Public Schools and the 2017 Cumberland County Teacher of the Year. Brooke shared in her nomination: "Cindy is an extraordinary teacher for many reasons. Cindy has dedicated most of her nineteen years in education to the students of Riverton Elementary School. At Riverton, she has been in the role of special educator, literacy coach and now pioneering science curriculum developer. She has a zeal for continuing to advance her own learning and a deep passion for helping her students and colleagues learn

that is refreshing, hopeful, and desperately needed in the teaching profession."

The Teacher of the Year Program is a year-long process that involves educator portfolio and resume submissions, interviews, oral presentations, and classroom visits made by a selection panel comprised of State Board of Education members, school administrators, Maine Department of Education staff, former Teachers of the Year, and other Maine business partners.

As the 2021 Maine Teacher of the Year, Cindy Soule will spend her year of service advocating for students and teachers and speaking to the importance of education in preparing Maine students for

the future. She will represent Maine in the National Teacher of the Year program.

On behalf of the Maine Department of Education, the Maine Teacher of the Year program is administered by Educate Maine, a business-led advocacy organization, in partnership with the Maine State Teachers of the Year Association and the Maine State Board of Education. Funding for the program is generously provided by Maine businesses, including the program's lead sponsor, Bangor Savings Bank. Other program sponsors include Dead River, Geiger, Hannaford, the Maine State Lottery, Unum and the Silvernail Family.

Local students on dean's list

From SUNY Morrisville

MORRISVILLE, NY - Finneas Goodwin of Auburn and Keltan Tanguay of Gorham were named to the Dean's List for the Spring 2020 semester at SUNY Morrisville.

To be named to the Dean's List, a student must achieve a 3.0 to 3.99 grade-point average for the semester and complete 12 credit hours.

SUNY Morrisville's curricula are enriched with applied learning and pave the way for opportuni-

ty at both the Morrisville and Norwich campuses. An action-oriented, interactive learning lab, the college is a national leader in technology and has been lauded for its exemplary, innovative and effective community service programs.

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Paintings and photographs displayed at CMMC

From WHA

LEWISTON - The Woman's Hospital Association (WHA) Rotating Art Gallery at Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston is now displaying the watercolor paintings of Angelia Murray and the photographs of Beth Francis.

Murray is known for her whimsical watercolor landscapes. Her move from New York City to Lisbon, Maine, has allowed for an immersive experience in nature informing her newer watercolor paintings. A dreamscape is created through the symbolic use of animals, insects and floral elements presenting a personal story.

She has participated in an artist residency at St. Mary's College of

Maryland and Vermont Studio Center as well as studied technical proficiencies through classes at the Maine Media Workshops. She has shown paintings at the Samuel Dorsky Museum, New York State Museum and galleries in NYC, Maryland, Brooklyn and Maine.

Photographer, Beth Francis has been a resident of Maine most of her life. She grew up in Mechanic Falls, attended ELHS, worked in Lewiston for 20 years at a print shop, and has owned and operated a convenience store in Hebron for 23 years. She currently lives in Norway.

Describing herself as a 'photohobbyist' she said "Maine brings me many moments to enjoy and appreciate nature. I have an

affection for waterways, bright blue skies, grey skies and especially clouds. They, of course, can be seen from most anywhere but they make interesting back drops for the Western Maine scenery I so dearly love. I have dabbled in various art forms from pottery to stain glass but taking raw snap shots of my surrounding is my most favorite form of art as I capture a moment in time that is relaxing and peaceful or just plain fascinating to me."

The works on display may be purchased through the WHA Gift Shop, which has now re-opened and is located next to the main lobby at Central Maine Medical Center. A percentage of sale proceeds benefits patients of CMMC.



'Cherry Blossom Garden' painting by Angelia Murray. (Photo courtesy of WHA)



A photograph by Beth Francis. (Photo courtesy of WHA)

Trinity Jubilee Center receives \$2,000 grant



Staff from the Trinity Jubilee Center, a community center in Downtown Lewiston, recently received a \$2,000 grant International Paper's Auburn Container facility and the International Paper Foundation to support the Center's Feeding L-A Project. (Photo courtesy of Trinity Jubilee Center)

From Trinity Jubilee Center

LEWISTON - Trinity Jubilee Center, a community center in downtown Lewiston has been awarded a \$2,000 grant from International Paper's Auburn Container facility and the International Paper Foundation.

Funds will support the Center's Feeding L-A Project, including the soup kitchen and food pantry.

The Center's Soup Kitchen is currently serving over 4,000 lunches each month to the hungry and

homeless. The Food Pantry distributes groceries and diapers weekly to nearly 150 families. The Center is seeing record-high attendance during the Covid-19 pandemic and support from International Paper will help these programs continue feeding hungry Mainers.

"Every day people line up to ask for food for themselves, their children, their elderly neighbors," said Erin Reed, Executive Director of the Trinity Jubilee Center. "We are thankful we're able to help. For some people this will be the

only meal they eat today."

The International Paper Foundation, started in 1952, is one of the ways International Paper strives to reach its vision to be among the most successful, sustainable and responsible companies in the world.

The Trinity Jubilee Center provides guests with hot meals, warm shelter, basic necessities like toiletries, diapers, and winter gear, help with resume-writing and job applications, and more assistance as they work to survive today and get back on their feet.

Maine Public on-air hosts retire

From Maine Public

LEWISTON - Maine Public recently announced the retirements of Sara Willis, host of Maine Public's In Tune series, and Robin Rilette, host of Morning Classical and Maine Public's Director of Music and Creative Performance.

Several internal staff also took the opportunity to transition to retirement as part of a recent voluntary retirement program initiated by Maine Public.

Willis is the long-time host and producer of In Tune, Maine Public Radio's music program featuring contemporary singer-songwriters, folk, blues, acoustic rock, jazz,

alt country, and world music. In 2018, Maine Public launched the In Tunewith Sara Willis audio stream allowing fans of the show 24/7 access to music curated by the host. In Tune programs will continue to be aired on the weekends and over the In Tune stream.

Rilette joined Maine Public from Northwest Public Radio in Washington State. As Maine Public's Music Director, Rilette was instrumental in helping Maine Public build out its classical radio service and entertained Maine for over 6 years as the host of Morning Classical.

"All our staff who are retiring have made widespread contributions to the organization for many

years and will be greatly missed," stated Mark Vogelzang, Maine Public's President and CEO. "Sara and Robin are dedicated to public radio and their impact on Maine Public cannot be quantified in any way. Our listeners have grown accustomed to their voices and the content that they curated and created. While we are sad to see them leave, we are excited to see what their next adventures will be!"

Much of this programming will continue uninterrupted, and any new programs or schedule changes will be rolled out this Fall and communicated on Maine Public Radio, Maine Public Classical and online at mainepublic.org.

Follow us on facebook!
Don't miss our weekly giveaways!

**Thursday, Oct. 15
6:30 p.m.**

GORHAM – Zoning Board of Appeals meeting, via Zoom.

**Monday, Oct. 19
7 p.m.**

GORHAM – GoCAM Presents “Meet the Candidates” – State Senate District 30 Candidates – on Spectrum Channel 3, the Gorham town website, and Facebook LIVE.

**Tuesday, Oct. 20
8 a.m.**

GORHAM – Ordinance Committee meeting, via Zoom

**Tuesday, Oct. 20
9:30-10 a.m.**

GORHAM – Baxter Memorial Library. Virtual Preschool Discovery Time - Join Ms. Heidi on Facebook as she uses stories, music, and movement to enhance early literacy skills and foster a love of reading. (3-5 years)

**Wednesday, Oct. 21
8 a.m.**

GORHAM – Gorham Economic Development Corporation meeting, via Zoom.

**Wednesday, Oct. 21
10 a.m.**

GORHAM – Baxter Memorial Library. Playing with Shadows - Join Ms. Deb on Facebook for a virtual STEAM activity. Activities are geared toward K-5 learners and require minimal supplies that you'll likely have right on-hand at home. In this lesson you will use driveway chalk and your shadow to track the sun in your yard. We'll be thinking of questions ahead of time, coming up with some reasonable hypotheses, and then testing these out over the course of several intervals. There will be opportunities to extend with higher level

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

thinking and/or drawing/photographing our results. (Partner Activity)

**Thursday, Oct. 22
9:30-9:50 a.m.**

GORHAM – Baxter Memorial Library Virtual Toddler Discovery Time - 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 kiddos will be able to learn the words and actions to each month's song choices. (ages 18-36 months)

**Thursday, Oct. 22
6:30 p.m.**

GORHAM – Town Council workshop: Agriculture Events item. Value per Acre presentation and general town updates. Via Zoom.

**Friday, Oct. 23
3-4 p.m.**

GORHAM – Baxter Memorial Library. Zoom Pet Costume Contest - Show off your costumed critter in this interactive Zoom program. We want to see your funny, scary, or adorably dressed pets! Ribbons will be mailed to all participating pets. Fill out the google form on www.baxterlibrary.org under the “Youth” heading to enter. We look forward to seeing your wonderful furry family members.

**Saturday, Oct. 24
8 a.m.-noon**

GORHAM - All Gorham Residents are

welcome to drop off brush/yard trimmings at the Gorham Public Works garage located at 80 Huston Road.

**Tuesday, Oct. 26
9:30-10 a.m.**

GORHAM – Baxter Memorial Library. Virtual Preschool Discovery Time - Join Ms. Heidi on Facebook as she uses stories, music, and movement to enhance early literacy skills and foster a love of reading. (3-5 years)

**Wednesday, Oct. 28
9:30-10 a.m.**

GORHAM – Baxter Memorial Library. Babies en Plein Air - Bring your baby and a blanket to join us 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. (birth-18 months)

**Wednesday, Oct. 28
10 a.m.**

GORHAM – Baxter Memorial Library. Guess the Level: How Water & Gravity Work Together. Join Ms. Deb on Facebook for a virtual STEAM activity. Activities are geared toward K-5 learners and require minimal supplies that you'll likely have right on-hand at home. How does gravity affect how water rests? We'll make predictions and then combine some art with science to find out just how accurate we are.

Saving a few recycled bottles of various shapes and sizes ahead of time will be helpful. (Indiv. or Partner Activity)

**Wednesday, Oct. 28
7-8:30 p.m.**

The PLAY Club reading of Cybourne Park. Email info@thepublictheatre.org or call 782-3200 today to reserve your spot in the Zoom session with PLAY CLUB!

**Thursday, Oct. 29
9:30-9:50 a.m.**

GORHAM – Baxter Memorial Library. Virtual Toddler Discovery Time - 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 kiddos will be able to learn the words and actions to each month's song choices. (ages 18-36 months)

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 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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**Saturday, Oct. 31 to
Sunday, Nov. 1**

GORHAM – Baxter Memorial Library. Harry Potter Horcrux Hunt – Attention Harry Potter Fans! The librarians of Baxter Memorial Library are hiding Horcruxes around the Gorham Village. Read the clues on our website to guess each Horcrux and the location where we have stashed it. Go to that location (anytime from 5 p.m. Oct. 30 through 5 p.m. Nov 1) and find the Horcrux painted on a small flag to confirm your guess. Fill out the Google Form on our website www.baxterlibrary.org after you find as many as you can. Winners will be chosen from entries that found all 7 Horcruxes. Good luck witches and wizards!!

**Monday, Nov. 2
7 p.m.**

GORHAM – Planning Board meeting, via Zoom.

**Tuesday, Nov 3.
ELECTION
DAY**

GORHAM – polls open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

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.

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

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Public Theatre annual auction is online

From The Public Theatre

LEWISTON - The Public Theatre's online auction started on Monday, and will be open for bidding through Sunday, Oct. 25, at thepublictheatre.org

The holidays will be here sooner than you think, and what better way to shop for useful and unique gifts than from the comfort of your own home.

A private singing lesson with a Broadway singer? A winter weekend at Sugarloaf? A beautiful painting? A unique piece of jewelry? A gift certificate for a pub crawl at local breweries? A basket of wines and goodies? A bird-bath? A Vacuum Cleaner? A handstitched wall hanging? A custommade wooden trinket box? You will find a wonderful assortment of items for everyone on your holiday gift list in this fun fundraiser for The Public Theatre

The pandemic has devastated the live performing Arts making all fundraising events more important than ever. Bidding online is an ultimate win-win for yourself and the theatre at the same time.

In celebration of The Public Theatre's 30th season, 300 \$30 raffle tickets will also be available for "buy it now" on the auction site for a chance to win a grand cash prize of



A bandsaw box is among the items being auctioned online for The Public Theatre's annual auction that runs through Oct. 25. (Photo courtesy of TPT)

\$1,500.00.

Winners will be notified and given the location to pick up their winning

items. Details on bidding procedures and a link to the auction can be found at thepublictheatre.org



'Touring Tuscan Village', a Whitmore painting, is being auctioned online at The Public Theatre auction that continues through Oct. 25. (Photo courtesy of TPT)

Autumn Night In

Online Auction to Support Hospice Care in Our Community

Auction Kickoff Event - October 23 • 6:00PM • Facebook Auction - October 23, 6:15PM through October 31, 8:00PM

Androscoggin Home Healthcare + Hospice is celebrating seventeen years of Autumn Night Out in 2020. Our organization's largest fundraising event has grown since its creation and has successfully raised nearly a half of million dollars in support for hospice care thanks to the generosity of our community.

While we will not be able to gather in person as we have in years past, we will be holding an online auction to raise funds for hospice care in our community.

Please join us for a special Autumn Night "In" kickoff event streaming on our Facebook page at 6pm on October 23rd. We will have a special paddle raise to benefit the new Hospice House Kitchen!

Visit <https://ani2020.ggo.bid> today to register to bid!



2020 Autumn Night In Auction Sponsor



2020 Autumn Night In Host Sponsor



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