October 22, 2020

Gorham Town Notes

The Town of Gorham has received over 6,200 absentee ballot requests as of last Friday - an increase of 688 ballots over the previous week's count; 3,600 absentee ballots have been returned and the Town Clerk's Office has registered 350 new voters since October 1.

Gorham voters can find more information regarding absentee voting, view sample ballots, access FAOs and instructions for Ranked Choice Voting, and view assigned polling places by street address on the 'Upcoming Election Information' page on the Town website at https://www. gorham-me.org/townclerk/pages/state-presidential-election-and-annual-local-election.

"Meet the Candidates" Series

Gorham Community Access Media (GoCAM) will air the remaining 'Meet the Candidate' sessions featuring Gorham Town Council candidates on Monday 10/19/20 and Gorham School Committee candidates on Wednesday 10/21/20 at 7pm on Gorham Spectrum Cable Channel 3, the Town of Gorham webpage and via Facebook LIVE at https://www.facebook.com/TownofGorham.

GoCAM's Meet the Candidates sessions are the community's opportunity to learn more about the candidates and gain insight as to how they will serve in the vacant positions. We encourage folks to submit questions to be asked of the candidates via email to gocam@gorham.me.us or by calling 222-1641.

Veterans' Day Ceremony Canceled

Due to circumstances beyond the town's control, the Nov. 11 Veterans' Day Ceremony co-hosted by GoCAM and Baxter Memorial Library has been canceled.

GoCAM will air the documentaries produced in previous years, and hopes to resume the Veterans' Day tribute in 2021.

Public Works Winter Hours

The Gorham Public Works Department returned to its winter schedule on Monday. Hours of operation for the winter are 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.



Students are reminded to keep socially distanced with feet painted at six-foot intervals on the sidewalk in front of Edward Little High School in Auburn. (Tsukroff photo)

Parents see positive side to pandemic restrictions

By Nathan Tsukroff

AUBURN - This school year is nothing like it was 12 months ago. yet parents are finding a positive side to the restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Stacey Tolliver of Auburn, who works a night shift, is able to be home during the day to help her daughter, Kassidy, a sixth-grader at Fairview Elementary School on Minot Avenue, with remote learning.

"So that's really helpful," Tolliver said. "It's actually been more bonding time, honestly, more family time for me."

And Bill David who's daughter, Allyanna, is a fourth-grader at Fairvew Elementary, said the schools are "trying to keep as much normalcy as they can, delivering school lunches to people's homes, and making sure the school curriculum stays current,"

Because of remote learning, Bill David has been able to take his family on vacation, integrating the familys travels into education. "For example, when we went down to North Carolina in April, we went to the Wright Brother's Museum, we went to the Lost Colony, we went to places that they learned about in school, to reinforce their education," he said.

"Schools are flexible, and the curriculum is meant to travel. Would I like her back in school? Yes! But, I mean, we've got to make the best out of it."

Like other school districts in Maine, the Auburn School Department starting planning for this school year as the State of Maine shut down schools last spring.

Auburn Schools Superintendent Cornelia "Connie" Brown said the school district created a health and safety steering committee in May with "a broad representation from many groups," including teachers, community members and medical providers.

The committee "came forth with a report and a plan. And that plan looked at what the Maine Department of Education was recommending

through its framework for learning," she said. The committee also included recommendations from the Maine Center for Disease Control.

The Auburn school board reviewed the plan and voted in August to create a hybrid school year for 2020-21.

Students have been placed into two cohorts, or groups, with one cohort attending school in person on Mondays and Tuesdays, and the other cohort in the school buildings on Thursdays and Fridays. This allows the school district to perform deep cleaning in the buildings on Wednesdays and over the weekend, Brown

The steering committee "believed that the continuity was important, and students would have two days in a row of in-person learning," which is why the district chose consecutive days at school for each cohort, she said.

"We are going to stay the course with this model for the foreseeable future." Brown said. "And the only caveat to this is, we work very closely with the CDC and with the Auburn city safety designee, and as conditions change" the school district will try to

See Restrictions, page 9







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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Stevens joins Fontaine Family real estate



Nykki Stevens recently joined the Fontaine Family real estate group as a sales agent. (Photo courtesy of Fontaine Family)

From Fontaine Family

AUBURN – Fontaine Family - The Real Estate Leader recently added Nykki Stevens to the team at their Auburn location

Stevens grew up in

Lewiston, ME, and graduated from Lewiston High School. She graduated from University of New England with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and University of Maine Farmington with a master's in Early Childhood Education.

Stevens's previous employment includes Pre-K Teacher at Turner Primary School and Head Start Center Supervisor at Southern Kennebec Child Development. She is currently very involved with her family's mobile home rental business and buying/selling manufactured housing

Stevens comes to Fontaine with her real estate sales agent license and looks forward to continuing her love of helping people as a buyer and listing agent. She will be working out of our Auburn location and can be reached at (207) 576-3803 or n.stevens710@gmail.com.

The Fontaine Family Team serves 8 counties – Androscoggin, Cumberland, York, Sagadahoc, Oxford, Kennebec, Franklin and Somerset – from offices at 336 Center Street in Auburn and 432 US Route One in Scarborough. For more information visit BrendaFontaine.com or call (207) 784-3800 or (207) 289-3830.

St. Mary's Welcomes New Vice President of Finance

From St. Mary's Health System

LEWISTON - St. Mary's Health System recently welcomed Jeffrey Hundman as its Vice President of Finance/CFO.

"Jeffrey comes to us with extensive experience in hospitals and medical centers and has a track record of achieving results," says Steve Jorgensen, President of St. Mary's Health System. "He understands the business of healthcare while keeping focus on patient care and quality and the concept of how quality lowers cost."

"It's an honor to join the St. Mary's team." Said Hundman. "My goal is to help ensure the organization is able to stay focused on its mission to serve those in need in the community."

Prior to joining Covenant Health, Hundman was CFO with The Guthrie Clinic in Sayre PA, a not for profit health system in PA/NY where he was responsible for the accounting of

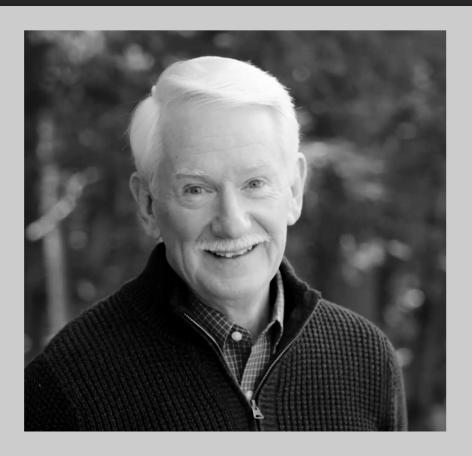


Jeffrey Hundman recently joined St. Mary's Health System as its Vice President of Finance/CFO. (Photo provided by St. Mary's)

Critical Access Hospital, Rural Hospital, Two Home Health Agencies, Hospice Agency, DME Company, EMS, Medical Transport, SNF/Long Term Care Unit and Personal Care Home. Hundman holds a master's degree in Business Administration and a BSBA in Accounting, Finance, Marketing from Ashland University in Ashland Ohio.

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- BILL GREEN

Large donation made to fishing foundation



1 – Giselaine and Paul Coulombe made a large donation to a Covid-19 relief fundraiser put on by Protect Maine's Fishing Heritage Foundation, in September. (Photo courtesy of PMFH)

From PMFH

BOOTHBAY HARBOR - Paul Coulombe, the owner of the Boothbay Harbor Country Club and Boothbay Harbor Oceanside Golf Resort, has made the largest donation to a Covid-19 relief fundraiser put on by Protect Maine's Fishing Heritage Foundation, to benefit lobstermen and women.

Coulombe and his wife Giselaine who are known for their generosity in the Boothbay Harbor community said, "We are pleased to be able to give back. Protect Maine's Fishing Heritage Foundation has worked hard to raise money for lobstermen and women. We know that they have received a lot of smaller donations from hard working people who care deeply about their communities. The lobstermen and women are important contributors to the working waterfront and we are glad to be able to help them at this time."

Protect Maine's

Fishing Heritage Foundation, Executive Director Crystal Canney said, "We can't thank the Coulombes enough for their help and support. Covid-19 has taken its toll on so many people and we are glad to be able to give back to the lobstering community at a time when they are under pressure from so many different directions. They have faced difficulties trying to get their product to market, tariffs (recently lifted in the European Union), high prices for bait, right whales and large aquaculture leases. This is so incredibly generous."

A check presentation took place at the end of September. The popu-

lar southern Maine band

– Great Aunt Alice played
on the deck during the af-

PMFH Foundation received a \$25,000 matching grant and will disburse all monies from the fundraiser to lobstermen and women, beginning October 1st.

Protect Maine's Fishing Heritage is a 501 (c)3. PMFHF's mission statement is to protect the ocean for all who work and recreate along Maine's coast.

Hannaford introduces health and wellness website

From Hannaford Supermarkets

SCARBOROUGH – Hannaford Supermarkets recently introduced a new way for children to learn about the importance of health and wellness and the building blocks of healthy eating habits with the launch of the Hannaford Snack Pals website and app.

HannafordSnackPals. com is a new kid-friendly website featuring interactive games, activities, videos and recipes for the whole family. The Hannaford Snack Pals mobile app also includes a virtual scavenger hunt designed to introduce children to healthy eating habits in a fun and engaging manner

The launch coincides with National Child Health Day, which is held annually on the first Monday in October in recognition of the care and guidance children need to grow strong and

healthy.

"Hannaford is committed to building strong, healthy communities,' said Hannaford Supermarkets Online Dietitian Anne L'Heureux. "We know that healthy habits start early and programs that focus on child nutrition are important in developing life-long practices. Hannaford Snack Pals provides parents with the support they need to instill the benefits of nutrition in their children. We encourage parents to incorporate Hannaford Snack Pals into their child's screen time while fostering a love for fruits, vegetables and fresh flavors."

Designed for children ages 5 to 10, Hannaford Snack Pals centers around a world of colorful fruit and vegetable characters, including Alicia Apple; Carlos Carrot; and Stanley Strawberry. Each character's personality is based on nutritional benefits associated with its fruit or vegetable moniker.

Activities offered on the website include an interactive matching game which allows children to assign a fruit or vegetable with its "super power" and downloadable coloring pages designed to familiarize kids with healthy ingredients.

The website also features more than 30 kid-friendly healthy recipes for breakfast, lunch, dinner and snack time. The quick and budget-friendly recipes include Fruit Salsa; Rainbow Pizza; Coconut Water Berry Popsicles; and Banana Bread Pancakes.

Hannaford Snack
Pals grab-and-go healthy
snack kits are available in
Hannaford stores throughout New England and
New York and through
Hannaford To Go curbside
pickup and delivery, as well
as delivery via Instacart, at
Hannaford.com.

For more information about Hannaford Snack Pals, visit HannafordSnackPals.com.

Haddock Supper Oct. 31 in Buxton

From Living Waters Church

BUXTON - Living Waters Church on Parker Farm Road, Buxton, will host a Haddock Supper Buffet at 5 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 31. Suggested donation: \$8 Adult, \$4 Child, \$20 Family.

The church will offer the option of takeout containers for those who do not want to come inside for seating.

Please follow social-distancing guidelines, including wearing a face mask and using hand sanitizer

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Guest column

7 Ways to Build Your Confidence and Reduce Your Anxiety

By Stan Popovich

Many people struggle with their confidence throughout their life. It can be challenging to find the courage to be yourself in today's society.

As a result, here are 7 suggestions on how to increase your self-esteem and reduce your anxiety in your life.

1. Know your weaknesses and strengths: It is important to know what skills you have in your life. Taking a skills assessment test is a great way to determine your strengths and weaknesses. Once you realize your skill sets, the next step is to focus on your talents.

2. Accept who you are: Do not get into the habit of comparing yourself to others. You are unique in this world and it is important that you realize that you can do anything you want if you put your mind to it.

3. Remember your

successes: Some people downplay their successes and focus on those things they struggle with. Always remind yourself of your past accomplishments no matter how small they may be. Stop focusing on the negative parts of your life and remember your past achievements.

4. Think about your future: Take time to think about what you really want out of life. Do not live your life for others. Once you determine what you want

to accomplish, the next step is to develop a strategy that will help you to accomplish your goals.

5. Create goals: Set achievable goals on a regular basis and then take small steps to accomplish them. Make sure your goals are measurable and monitor your progress. Don't get upset if you don't accomplish all of your goals. You can always change your goals so that you can be more successful.

6. Talk to others: It

is important that you talk to other successful people in order to get a better perspective of your life. Listening to other people's challenges and accomplishments can go a long way in feeling better about yourself. You can also learn how to overcome the obstacles in your life.

7. Be persistent: Do not give up in achieving your goals in your life. Learn from your mistakes and try to improve on your

situation. Do not make excuses on why you should quit or give up. Sometimes it takes a lot of effort to be successful. The key is to keep at it until you get what you want.

Stan Popovich is the author of the popular managing-fear book, "A Layman's Guide To Managing Fear". For more information about his book and some free mental health advice, visit his website at http://www.managing-fear.com

ReUp ME Restaurant Relief Fund

From Hannaford

AUGUSTA - The ReUp ME Restaurant Relief Fund was created over the summer to directly support restaurants who are in the midst of reopening, rehiring, and restocking.

It is anticipated that rebuilding of the Maine hospitality economy is going to take several years. The next several months will be critical to saving and helping to sustain Maine's passionate restau-

rant owners.

Mainers have always taken great pride in supporting their communities across all sixteen counties. If we mobilize quickly, this approach will create a profound and unified message of hope and inspire consumers inside and outside the state to donate.

Hospitality Maine Educational Foundation, a non-profit trade group representing the hospitality industry, in collaboration with inspirational restau-

rant leaders and O'Maine Studios, has established a 4 month fundraising campaign seeking to raise \$500,000 to \$1 million dollars for Maine restaurants.

The ReUp Maine Restaurant Relief Fund hopes to provide direct financial support for 100 to 200 grants with up to a \$5,000 maximum grant to restaurant award recipients. Grants will be randomly selected from submitted applications.

Companies wishing to support this fund could donate \$5,000-Reopen ME Cash Grants, or participate in an in-kind media promotion through the 4 Month ReUP ME Campaign

The Sunday Supper cook-along show features Maine's top chefs and restauranteurs preparing some of their signature dishes. Think of a community supper, but the audience gets to participate virtually and enjoy preparing

supper along with Maine's passionate chefs from their own kitchen.

90-minute The weekly live webcast will Maine's restaubring rant comeback story to life. Each Sunday we celebrate Maine's food, people, and communities through a a live audience and interactive cook-along format. Chefs will answer questions from call-in donors for ReUP ME. Celebrity guests and mentor chefs will conduct tastings of Maine products

ReUp Maine and the Maine Restaurant Relief Fund is sponsored primarily by Hannaford, with co-sponsorship from Bangor Savings Bank and contributing sponsorship from Cross Insurance, Oakhurst, and It'll Be Pizza Company. Community sponsors Androscoggin include Bank, News Center Maine, Hospitality Maine, Clark Insurance, Volk Packaging Corporation and O'Maine Studios.

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Touching Base

"Law and Order" please!

By Nathan Tsukroff Managing Editor

Whether we support the Republican Party, the Democratic Party, the Green Party, or are unaffiliated, we are all, ultimately, democrats.

That's "democrats", with a lower-case "d".

You see, we all live in this great democracy we call "The United States of America". So that makes us all "democrats", regardless of which political party we support.

And our great democracy is what allows us the freedom to agree and disagree with our friends and neighbors.

Under the rules of democracy, we are allowed to do anything we want that is not specifically prohibited by law. That's an awesome system of law and order! And that's what makes America so great!

Over the past several

weeks, I've seen various political signs damaged or stolen, mainly signs telling voters to choose the Biden/ Harris candidates in the upcoming election.

And now we have a case where Trump election signs were stolen in the Lewiston-Auburn area.

Theft of a political sign is a crime, plain and simple. It's spelled out in the laws of our democracy here in Maine.

In addition to the law

against theft, there's a law in the State of Maine that says anyone is allowed to place a political sign in the "right of way" that spans our public roads. That means my neighbor has every right to place a sign on my front lawn, within about six feet of the curb. And that same law says that I, or someone whom I assign as my agent, can remove any political signs from my own property.

In other words, I can't

prohibit my neighbor from planting the sign, but I can remove it immediately after it's been planted.

An odd law, but any judge will tell you that it is part of our system of law and order.

Which brings us back to the issue of stolen or damaged political signs . . . our laws clearly prohibit the theft of political signs.

Do I agree with how my neighbor is going to vote? Perhaps not. But that doesn't give me the right to steal his political signs.

Let's all practice a little more "law and order", and prove that our democracy (with a small "d") works because we all follow the same rules, whether or not we agree with them.

Keep America great by voting for the candidate of your choice. And leave your neighbor's political signs alone.

"Law and order", please!

St. Mary's Health System welcomes new doctors



Hoang Dang, MD, recently joined St. Mary's Health System in Auburn as a primary care provider. (Photo courtesy of St. Mary's)

From St. Mary's

LEWISTON – St. Mary's Health System, a member of Covenant Health, is pleased to welcome two new Primary Care providers, Hoang Dang, MD and Diana Trofimovitch, MD.

Dang holds a BA in Biology from Baylor University in Waco, TX and earned his MD from Ross University School of Medicine. He enjoys classical music, meditation and yoga, and exploring



Dian Trofimovitch, MD, recently joined St. Mary's Health System in Auburn as a primary care provider. (Photo courtesy of St. Mary's)

vice offering, with offices conveniently located in Auburn, Lewiston, and Poland," said Norman Poulin, CMPE, Director of Primary Care for St. Mary's. "We're thrilled to have these two outstanding providers on board to serve the needs of our patients."

robust Primary Care ser-

Both Hoang and Trofimovitch are accepting new patients at Auburn Medical Associates, located at 2 Great Falls Plaza in Auburn. For more information about Auburn Medical Associates, call 207-330-3950 or visit stmarysmaine. com/primarycare.

Send all items for What's Going On to the Editor.
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Trofimovitch holds a BS in Life Sciences from the University of Toronto in Ontario, Canada and earned her MD from the Saba University School of Medicine. She enjoys fitness, painting, cooking, and spending time with family.

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October is LGBTQ+ History Month

By Rachel Albury, OUT Maine

ROCKLAND LGBTQ+ History Month was launched in October 1994 by LGBTQ+ activists Rodney Wilson and Kevin Jennings. LGBTQ+ is an acronym for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning.

Wilson and Jennings created LGBTO+ History month, along with other activists, to encourage schools to offer more LGBTQ+ inclusive curricula. According to GLSEN (Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network) research, inclusive curricula can reduce bullying in schools.

LGBTQ+ history is a very broad subject area, as LGBTQ+ people have existed in every culture. Yet the modern LGBTQ+ civil rights work in the U.S. can help introduce LGBTQ+ history to a classroom.

modern American LGBTQ+ history include:

June 28, 1969 - The Stonewall Riots kicked off. Patrons of the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village clashed with police who were arresting LGBTO+ people using antiquated discriminatory laws. This incident grew into a series of demonstrations and raised awareness of LGBTO+ discrimination. The anniversary of the Stonewall Riots is celebrated during Pride month every June.

November 27, 1978 -Gay advocate Harvey Milk was assassinated. Harvey Milk served on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and campaigned successfully for gay rights in the workplace.

December 21, 1993 - "Don't Ask Don't Tell" passed, precluding the U.S. Military from asking an ap-

Important moments orientation. Yet gay service members were essentially required to keep their sexual orientation secret or face career consequences. Much later, on December 18, 2010, "Don't Ask Don't Tell" was repealed. Openly gay people are now allowed to serve in the military.

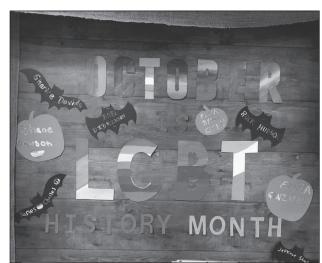
> June 26, 2015 - In time for Pride Month, gay marriage becomes legal in all fifty states.

There are many free resources about LGBTQ+ history available online to teachers (and the general public). OUT Maine has lessons available to download at: http://bitly.ws/afin.

GLSEN offers podcasts, coloring books and lessons for all ages at www. glsen.org/lgbtq-history.

PBS.org and NPR. org also have extensive archives of interviews and articles on the topic.

OUT Maine works plicant about their sexual toward a welcoming and affirming Maine for all rural young people of diverse sexual orientations, gender expressions and gender identities (LGBTQ+). In partnership with their allies and families, OUT Maine supports, educates and empowers these youth in their journey from adolescence to adulthood. For more information, or to support OUT's critical work on behalf of LGBTQ+ youth, please visit: outmaine.org.



A bulletin board at Caribou High School educates students and faculty about LGBTQ+ History Month. (Photo courtesy of Caribou High School)



The Pride flag is raised at Camp Wavus during OUT Maine's Rainbow Ball Weekend in May, 2019. (Photo courtesy of Steven Scoville)

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Out and About

"The Lure of the Mountains"

By Rachel Morin

USM Lewiston Auburn Senior College students have been meeting for classes via ZOOM for the fall semester. Our memoir writing class has attracted a few members from our 17 senior colleges in Maine. We are pleased to have them in our group.

We are 10 members who meet monthly for the big meeting. We are divided into two small groups which meet via ZOOM every two weeks. The Scribblers are led by Mary Jane Beardsley of Minot, while The Flashbacks are led by Nancy Roe of Presque Isle. Elizabeth Peavey, noted Portland author and playwright, is instructor and mentor for our groups. She has guided us on critiquing each other's essays.

Under Peavey's tutelage, we have made great progress. We are open to other styles of writing. One of our members, Rosabelle Tifft of Bethel, has transformed her essay into prose and poetry. It was well received; we thought it should be printed.

Rosalie is a retired health care public relations professional. She volunteers at a "To Your Health" program she helped organize 14 years ago as a follow-up to a day-long seminar at Western Mountains Senior College, Bethel, where she is a charter member. Four or five programs are presented annually on Alzheimer's, Heart Disease, Healthy Cooking and other health-related issues. The programs are currently on hold, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rosalie is kept busy with two adult children, five grandchildren and six great grandchildren.



Survival! A huge motivator! Leads me from the mountains of home, To unknown area 130 miles away. A Newburyport hospital offers Powerful incentive – a salary Double that of previous job Close to UNH to work on my degree.

Cost cutting at Berlin hospital Forced me to look elsewhere. Recent divorce left heavy expenses Jobs for my skills unavailable. I leave the beauty of the mountains, Leave friends envious of my move.

Outsiders see my new area Everything to be desired. Scenic ocean views, quaint shops, Specialty restaurants Top job in Boston suburb. But I observe a lack of warmth.

Demanding tourists. Faster pace, faster cars No mountains to clear the air, slow the pace. No tap water fit to drink. Bottled water by the case. I take a bus to Boston amid Bumper to bumper cars, Fumes sicken me.

Local wharf welcoming on hot humid days,
Where sea gulls call and boats peacefully drift,
But one day I forget to open a window
Just a crack in my new red Omni.
Hot air shatters window in million pieces.
Winter brings bone chilling cold.
Warm memories of snowy days in Bethel.

Political climate of new job Challenges my creative energy. After five long years... Finances in order Core degree subjects complete Mountains of Bethel call me home.

Rosabelle M. Tifft 9/29/20



Rosalie Tifft of Bethel relaxes on her porch after completing a writing assignment for her online class via ZOOM at USM Lewiston Auburn Senior College. (Marilyn Dupuis photo)



Elizabeth Peavey, noted Portland author and playwright, is the instructor and mentor for USM Lewiston Auburn Senior College Memoir Writing Class now participating via ZOOM. (Submitted Photo)

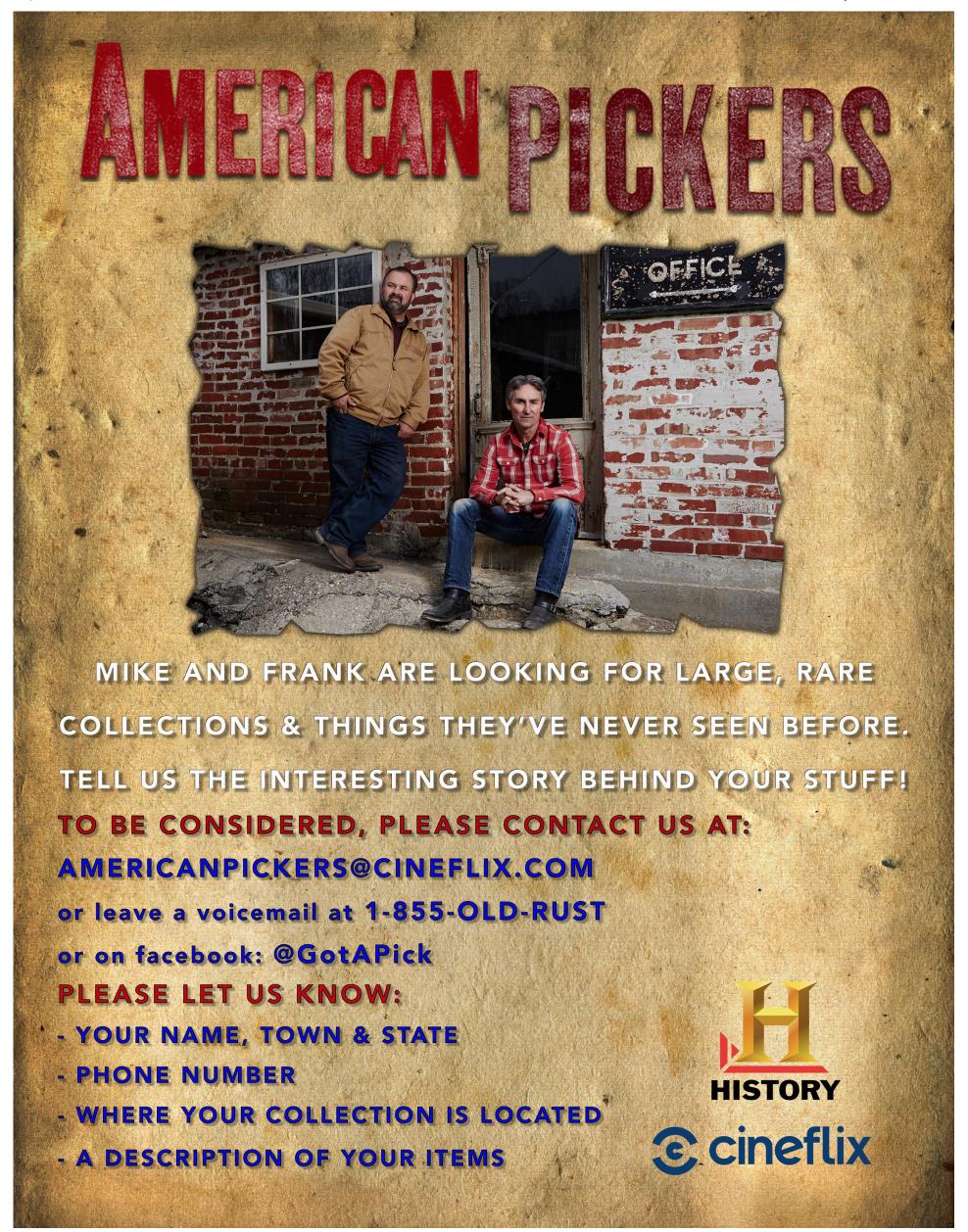




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Allyanna David, a fourth-grade student at Fairview Elementary School in Auburn, checks for homework on her school iPad before heading home for the remote learning portion of her school week. Students in the Auburn schools have been placed in two cohorts, attending schools in person on Mondays and Tuesdays or on Thursdays and Fridays. (Tsukroff photo)

Restrictions Continued from page 1

pivot "and be as nimble as

possible."
While COVID-19 infection rates have risen in other parts of the country in recent weeks, Maine's rate

of infections has stayed relatively level.

The district has quarantined staff members and students as needed to address any concerns about possible infections.

With 3500 students and about 600 staff members, the district has only seen three students and one staff member with confirmed infections from the COVID-19 virus. The infections were not in the same building or at the same time, Brown said.

Students are required to wear masks in school, and must maintain proper social distancing, but are given "mask breaks" during the school day. "The kids get to go outside for mask break. If they have snack,

they're allowed to each snack without a mask," she said. "Those are opportunities for kids to take a break and take their masks off. But other than that, they wear a mask."

Lunches are served in the classrooms for the lower grades, while at the high school, small groups of students go to lunch in the school cafeteria, with appropriate social distancing. Students get lunches in Bento boxes, "that they really like," Brown said. The Bento box is a single-portion take out meal that originated in Japan centuries ago.

Sports in Auburn schools have been impacted by the pandemic, with indoor volleyball completely cancelled by the Maine Principals Association, and football migrating to a 7-on-7 program without pads or helmets. The football program is intermural, playing against other schools, while some school districts in Maine

chose to keep their football programs strictly intra-mural. The golf and soccer teams were able to compete this fall, as well.

Bill David was very upbeat about the school year so far. "The school has done an amazing job keeping school spirit with virtual spirit weeks," he said.

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Kassidy Tolliver heads home from her sixth-grade in-person classes at Fairview Elementary School in Auburn. She has been enjoying bonding time with her mother while remote-learning on the school days she is not in the building. (Tsukroff photo)

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Page 10 Thursday, October 22, 2020



Two moose hunters stop to inspect moose signs on Shields Branch in northern Maine. (Photo courtesy of Ron Chase)



Moose

Continued from page 3 weigh as much as 1,400 pounds. The remote location of our hunt increased the difficulties; timely refrigeration being a major concern. A trailer was hauled with a homemade ice box, freezer, and portable generator to power the freezer.

Just getting to the St. John region is a significant endeavor. Located in the crown of Maine, our plan was to enter the backwoods through Allagash Village, a 6.5 hour drive from Topsham. Brent had claimed a site at Priestly Camp on

the St. John River, another 50 miles of slow travel on rough North Maine Woods roads. I arrived first to find hunting parties at the other two campsites. Ours was a superb location overlooking the very shallow St. John River. No moose were observed during a walk on the camp road, but lots of partridge.

Our moose scout day was the Sunday before the hunt officially opened. Cub Reporter had not arrived, so the three of us dodged mammoth logging trucks spewing massive amounts of dust on a fifteen mile drive to Shields Branch, a

small stream that begins in Quebec. The tiny tributary of Big Black River had a remarkably fluid water level meandering for about three miles to the river.

Launching down a steep bank, Carl and Brent paddled a tandem tripping canoe and I a flatwater kayak. Although a bit breezy, Shields Branch was a pleasurable excursion from the Twisting circuoutset. itously southeast, repeated moose signs were observed but no sightings.

Arriving at Big Black, a decision was made to separate. The tandem team would travel downriver while I explored in the opposite direction. A gentle current in Nine Mile Deadwater facilitated navigating upstream. Moose tracks were numerous along the shore. An impassable stretch was encountered after about a mile and a half.

Brent and Carl located an excellent hunting site on a small pond connected to Big Black a short distance downriver. Indications of moose activity were prevalent and a grassy knoll provided an open view of the pond. Warm summer-like weather presented a serious difficulty. Situated 3.5 miles and a steep climb from refrigeration the distance constituted a transportation dilemma. Brent and Carl would add a small motor to the tandem canoe but multiple trips would be necessary.

My mission, should I accept it, would be to paddle a solo canoe to assist the retrieval effort and Jimmy Olsen would provide kayak support. We retired that night enthusiastically anticipating a formidable hunt the following day. To be continued.

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.

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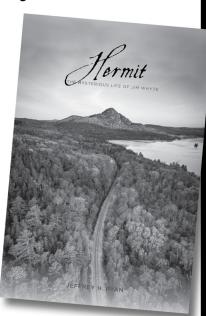
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George Smith, Bangor Daily News

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Thursday, October 22, 2020 Page 11

Blue mollusks impacted by increased carbon dioxide

From NOAA

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Increased carbon dioxide in the air ultimately slows the growth of blue mollusks in the ocean, a NOAA study has shown.

Shannon Meseck, a NOAA Fisheries research chemist and marathon runner, was initially interested in how ultra-runners can tolerate higher levels of carbon dioxide than non-athletes. A chance conversation with a medical doctor about ciliated cells in the human lung turned on a light bulb in her head. Could similarities between the function

of these cells in humans in the human lung have and in blue mussels explain the mussels' response to increasing acidification in the environment, including carbon dioxide concentration. They signal responses

Blue mussels, one of the mollusks Meseck studies, are economically and environmentally important filter-feeding bivalves. Like other bivalves, they use their gills for feeding and respiration. Gill cilia—microscopic, hair-like structures—create and control the current that allows water and food to flow over the gills. The cilia also help capture and sort food particles

Similar ciliated cells

in the human lung have receptors that sense the environment, including carbon dioxide concentration. They signal responses that can include changes in cilia beat frequency. Ultra-runners' lungs are very efficient at this. They can tolerate higher levels of carbon dioxide in the body than non-athletes, and don't get "winded" as quickly or for as long.

What if, thought Meseck, the increased carbon dioxide characteristic of ocean acidification also inhibited shellfish cilia? Feeding and respiration would also be inhibited. This "what if" question led to a study conducted by the NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center's laboratory in Milford, Connecticut.

As atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration increases, the ocean is absorbing approximately 30 percent of it, making the water more acidic. In the Northeastern United States, dissolved carbon dioxide in seawater increased 2.5 percent from 2007 to 2015.

This study may be the first to show that shellfish gill cilia slow down with increasing dissolved carbon dioxide. The results confirm that elevated carbon dioxide

concentration reduces feeding rates of blue mussels. Further, the researchers found evidence that slowing the cilia beat frequency—how often they twitch and move water—causes these decreased feeding rates. This is similar to what can happen in human lungs. These findings are important to understanding how ocean acidification affects shellfish and marine ecosystems. The study appeared in Ecological Indicators.

Reduced feeding and filtration have important implications for energy and growth in blue mussels, as well as ecosystem level ef-

fects. "Bivalve filtration is an ecosystem service, and how ocean acidification may be affecting that must be better understood," said Meseck.

Researchers measured the feeding rates of mussels in low and high carbon dioxide conditions in a field experiment in Milford Harbor. They used a biodeposition method developed by other Milford researchers. For comparison, a similar experiment was conducted in the laboratory, exposing blue mussels to two different carbon dioxide concentrations using an experimental delivery system.

Maine Submits COVID-19 Vaccine Plan to U.S. CDC

From Maine DHHS

AUGUSTA— The Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) last week submitted to the federal government its plan for distributing an eventual COVID-19 vaccine.

This is the first version of a plan that will be updated and refined in collaboration with health care partners and communities throughout the state.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) gave states one month to develop a plan for submission by last Friday, Oct. 16. Maine's first version offers a framework for an accessible, flexible, and equitable distribution plan, with additional changes expected given the open questions about any vaccines that are eventually approved by the federal government. Stakeholder input will also shape the final plan and its implementation.

Maine joins public health leaders from throughout the country in urging Congress to provide emergency supplemental funding to states to final-

ize and implement their COVID-19 vaccine distribution and administration plans. Adequate resources are necessary to undertake this demanding and ambitious effort to protect the health of state residents nearly a year into their fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Maine is committed to working with the health care sector and stakeholders across the state as we plan for the receipt and distribution of a vaccine when one becomes available," said Governor Mills. "While there is work to be done, the submission of this document represents a positive step forward. My Administration will continue its collaboration with others as we build on our state's COVID response and plan for an eventual vaccine "

"Maine is committed to an accessible, flexible, and equitable process for distributing an eventual COVID-19 vaccine," said DHHS Commissioner Jeanne Lambrew. "We will need an approved vaccine and federal support, along with answers to many outstanding ques-

tions, but stand ready with our partners to incorporate a vaccine into Maine's effective strategy against COVID-19."

"This preliminary document represents a collaboration encompassing hundreds of hours of work that started in spring 2020," said Dr. Nirav D. Shah, Director of the Maine CDC. "I thank our partners throughout the state for joining us in this effort to prepare Maine for a COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available."

Maine will use three principles to guide its approach to COVID-19 vaccination. The first is Equity: Racial and ethnic minorities have experienced rates of disease that far exceed their representation in the population as a whole. Other groups, such as seniors and people with serious chronic medical conditions. have also been disproportionately affected. The plan includes strategies to ensure these groups are successfully vaccinated.

Second is Accessibility: Health care providers in all areas of the state will be needed to make vaccine as easily available as possible.

The plan is as inclusive as possible to maximize vaccine accessibility.

And third is Flexibility: Given the many questions that remain about the vaccines and their efficacy in different populations, Maine's COVID-19 vaccine plan remains flexible and will be updated to reflect the latest available information.

Anticipating that supply of vaccine will be limited initially, Maine intends to use as a guide the vaccine priority groups identified by the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Science, with future adjustments expected. The Academies developed the framework at the request of the U.S. CDC and National Institutes of Health to assist policymakers in the U.S. and globally in planning for equitable allocation of COVID-19 vaccine.

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

Open Every Day! Outdoors

Fall craft fair to benefit dance team

From Atlantic Dance Arts

GORHAM - Atlantic Dance Arts is hosting a fall craft and vendor fair from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. this Saturday, Oct. 24, in the parking lot of the Great Falls Construction Company at 20 Mechanic St., near the post office

The event will feature 45 crafters, including artistry, knitting, crochet, homemade soap, jewelry, and Christmas crafts.

This is an outdoor event, and guests and vendors must follow CDC guidelines by wearing masks and following social-distancing guidelines. The number of guests allowed into the fair will be limited to the CDC guideline for outdoor events

There will also be a raffle table and concessions.

Proceeds from the concessions and raffle go towards the Atlantic Dance Art's Performance Team.

Atlantic Dance Arts is located on Cross St in Gorham, offers instruction in dance and performing arts to children from ages 3-18, and to adults.

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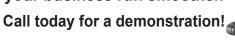
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Keeping the Androscoggin healthy

From Museum L-A

LEWISTON — As part of its most recent gallery exhibition, "Our Working Waterway," Museum L-A is excited to announce a new virtual program, "Keeping the Androscoggin Healthy".

This is a free public event that features Lisa Pohlmann, CEO of the Natural Resources Council of Maine, exploring the topic of the Androscoggin River. Pohlmann will expand on the history of the river showcased in the new exhibit, describe the current

conditions and issues facing the river's rehabilitation and reclassification, and explain the importance of the Clean Water Act for keeping the waterways in Maine healthy.

Attendees will have the opportunity to ask Pohlmann questions about the Androscoggin during the Q&A portion of the event.

"Keeping the Androscoggin Healthy" will be hosted virtually via Zoom from 6-7 p.m. on

Thursday, Oct. 1.

Attendance for this online event is free, but advance registration is re-

quired as space is limited. For more information and to register, visit www.museumla.org or call 207-333-3881.

"Our Working Waexplores terway" history of life and industry along the Androscoggin River. The exhibit and its programming were funded in part by the Maine Bicentennial Commission.

Museum L-A is located in the Bates Mill Complex at 35 Canal Street in Lewiston, Maine. It is open Thursday-Saturday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.



Lisa Pohlmann, CEO of the Natural Resources Council of Maine, is the featured speaker of the free "Keeping the Androscoggin Healthy" virtual program via Zoom from 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 1. Advanced reservations required at www.museumla.org. (Photo courtesy of Museum L-A)

Guest Column

Finding Local Resources



Sen. Nate Libby (D-Androscoggin), Maine District 21, the City of Lewiston. (Photo courtesy of Nate Libby)

By Senator Nate Libby

It's officially autumn. The leaves are changing, the weather is turning cooler and some of us have even given in and turned on the heat already. I've shared information previously on how to connect with local resources if you or your family need help. I wanted to share some of those resources with you again, in case you or someone you know need them. Find a thorough document with

various food resources across Androscoggin County at: http://bitly.ws/9WGk

In addition, anyone who receives EBT or SNAP benefits should consider taking advantage of Harvest Bucks. This great program helps low-income households stretch their money at farmer's markets, farm stands and co-ops, putting fresh, local food on the table while supporting Maine's local farmers. Learn more about this great program and to find a par-

ticipating market or farm stand near you at: http://bitly.ws/9WGi

You can also call 211 or go to 211Maine.org to find other resources or services to help you get by. As always, you can reach out to me at nathan.libby@legislature.maine.gov or 207-713-8449 and I will be happy to help you.

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



The annual fundraiser dinner/auction for Androscoggin Home Healthcare and Hospice in Lewiston will be a virtual event this year, running from Oct. 23 to 31. (Image courtesy of AHHH)

Androscoggin Hospice Fundraiser Goes Virtual

LEWISTON – The Androscoggin Home Healthcare and Hospice annual dinner/auction, Autumn Night Out, will become a virtual event this year, called Autumn Night In.

"As a healthcare organization, it is incredibly important for us to keep the community safe, but at the same time continue to raise critical funds for hospice care. The need for hospice care in our community is greater now than ever before," Committee Chair Rebecca Swanson Conrad said.

The online auction event will start at 6 p.m. Oct. 23 and continue

LEWISTON – The through 8 p.m. Oct. 31.

auction sponsor and Androscoggin Bank is the host sponsor. Their executives will introduce a special paddle-raise devoted to the renovation of the kitchen at the Hospice House. Development Director, Kristin Melville said, "Each year we feature a special individual or family that captures our hearts. Their video story is central to the auction and will be part of the new virtual format."

Androscoggin's Autumn Night Out has raised over \$450,000 over the past 17 years, with proceeds benefiting hospice care.

Igh 8 p.m. Oct. 31.

TD Bank is this year's on sponsor and Androgin Bank is the host sor. Their executives introduce a special le-raise devoted to enovation of the kitch-

For more information about the event and how to participate in the auction, visit: androscoggin.org or contact the Development office at 207-795-9405.

Androscoggin Home Healthcare and Hospice is the largest, non-profit independent home health and hospice organization in the state. It has been recognized as one of the Best Places to Work in Maine since 2006.

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

Town Council work-Agriculture shop: Events item. Value per Acre presentation and general town updates. Via Zoom.

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

GORHAM – Bax-

ter 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 www.baxterlibrary.org under the "Youth" heading to 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

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

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.

caregivers wear masks 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 Six-session Center. 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-

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 Each week will feature 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

Tuesday, Nov 3

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

Tuesday, Nov. 10 6:30 p.m. GORHĀM

Town Council meeting via ZOOM.

Wednesday, Nov. 11 Veteran's Holiday observed.

Town offices closed.

Tuesday, Nov. 17 8 a.m.

GORHAM - Or-Committee dinance Meeting via ZOOM.

Tuesday, Nov. 17 6:30 p.m.

GORHAM Town Council workshop via ZOOM

Wednesday, Nov. 18 8 a.m.

GORHAM - Gorham Economic Development Corporation meeting via ZOOM.

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

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

Planning Board meeting, via Zoom.

ELECTION Guest Column **Home Country**

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FOR SHOWTIMES

By Slim Randles

Chickens have forever had a place in our hearts and on our tables. Why is that? Well ... why not?

And so I'd like you to come with me back to the summer of 1970, 'way up north of Fairbanks, Alaska, to what was once the thriving gold mining village of Chicken, Alaska. I was on my way, hitchhiking with a 17-foot canoe, to paddle down a stretch of the Yukon River and to see the cabin where Jack London spent the winter once upon a time.

Just as an aside here, hitchhiking with a canoe, or with a sled and 11 dogs, would make a lengthy howto book all by themselves. It doesn't sound easy, does it? It isn't.

So what I would do on these "adventures" of mine, (my boss, Larry Fanning, referred to them as Slim's tin-cup trips because of all the scrounging I had to do) is go to neat places and interview great people, and write stuff. My column in the Anchorage Daily News was called ... brace yourself ... "Slim's Column."

Truth in advertising. So I arrived in Chicken, Alaska, only to find I'd nearly doubled the local population. In the far-distant past, Chicken was a ghost town. When the gold gave out, so did Chicken.

So what was left was "the business" consisting of a gas pump, a coffee pot, some postage stamps and a couple of nice folks. But there was something else,

There was not only an outhouse there, but it was electrically lighted. So where should I write my column? In an electrically lighted outhouse in Chicken, Alaska.

Naturally.

The raising of poultry this far north is uncommon; too many local varmints, including any resident sled dogs, eat them. So how did this gold camp get its name? Ahh ... the very reason for that column typed on the wooden "desk" beneath that 20-watt bulb.

Chicken, Alaska, got its name because none of the miners there knew how to spell ptarmigan.

Beat the holiday rush! "Strange Tales of Alaska" by Slim Randles now available on Amazon.com.





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

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Big Blowout sale at House of Lady Debra's Our: Old Goat + His Lady. Gourmet 21 soups, 20 dips, 4 cheesecales sale. Buy 3 dips, get 2 free. Buy 2 soups, get 1 free. Going fast, call now. Lady Debra -207-891-1968.

E-Bike (Pedal Assisted) 2017 Model: Lights, kickstand, fenders, battery charger, new tires & tubes. 40 Mile range. Three levels of power. Paid \$3,000. A steal at \$1,000. And easy to ride uphill. Price firm Lewiston 240-1813. Leave message.

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York Toll now has Open Road Tolling lanes



The York Toll Plaza open road toll (ORT) lanes at mile 8.8 of the Maine Turnpike. (Photo courtesy of MTA)

From MTA

YORK – This week marks another construction milestone for the York Toll Plaza project located at Mile 8.8 on the mainline of the Maine Turnpike

Motorists began traveling through the newly constructed Open Road Tolling (ORT) lanes this week while construction crews work to build the cash lanes to the right in each direction.

These lanes are similar to the high-speed toll lanes on toll plazas further north, but with multiple

lanes available. New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut have used similar multi-lane toll plazas for years.

Starting on Sunday night, northbound traffic was to be shifted into the ORT lanes. On Monday night, southbound traffic was to be shifted into the ORT lanes. The work scheduled for those dates was weather dependent.

During this time, traffic will travel under the newly constructed ORT gantries and no tolls will be collected at this location. However, the equipment on the overhead gantries will remain in testing mode. Motorists should not be concerned if, while traveling under the gantries, they see the same flash as they would in locations where ORT is live.

Drivers will continue to pay their tolls at the existing plaza at Mile 7. Traffic will remain in this configuration until the project is complete, which is scheduled for June of 2021.

For more information on this project, please visit the link at: maineturnpike. com/YorkToll.

Local Business Halloween Decoration Contest

From Portland Regional C of C

WESTBROOK -Light up, decorate, and bring the ghosts and goblins to Westbrook and Gor-

Enter YOUR business in the Westbrook/Gorham Community Chamber of Commerce's (WGCCC) Halloween Decoration Contest.

In light of the global pandemic, we're pivoting our traditional Halloween on Main Street event to be a Halloween-themed decoration contest. We encourage all local businesses to participate - join us as we celebrate and share our Halloween spirit with the community!

Judges will not be viewing decoration displays inside businesses or retail establishments, but will be judging from submitted photographs of the displays.

Categories are: Most Creative, Spookiest, Best Lights Display, and People's Choice.

A decoration display must follow the Halloween

theme, and displays must be maintained through Saturday, Oct. 31, to qualify.

To enter, please submit a photo of your decoration display to Suzanne Joyce at suzanne.joyce@hubinternational.com AND to Deborah Shangraw shangrawd@emeraldmanagement.biz by Friday, Oct. 30.

"People's Choice" votes will be based on Facebook likes on the WG-CCC Facebook page. All entries can be viewed on our Facebook Page Halloween Decoration Contest

Photo Album.

Judging will take place on Saturday, Oct. 31, and winners will be announced Monday, Nov. 2.

Judges votes are final and non-biased. The Judges' votes and opinion will have no bearing on the "People's Choice Award."

"Most Creative", "Spookiest", "Best Lights Display", and "People's Choice" awards will have 1 winner per category and will receive a prize package after Monday, Nov. 2, which will include a gift certificate and a cash prize





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

