



TWIN CITY TIMES

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Central Maine Healthcare broke ground last Thursday for its new Cancer Care Center that consolidates cutting-edge oncology services in a convenient location for the region. Construction on the 52,000-square-foot facility on the Central Maine Medical Center campus in Lewiston was to begin this week and is expected to be completed in February 2020. Helping with groundbreaking are Jeffrey L. Brickman, FACHE, president and CEO of Central Maine Healthcare, left; U.S. Senator Susan Collins; Deborah Dunlap Avasthi, chair of Central Maine Healthcare Board of Directors; Steven G. Littleton, DBA, FACHE, president of Central Maine Medical Center; Hector Tarraza, MD, Central Maine Healthcare system chief of oncology and associate chief of surgical care; and Nicholette Erickson, MD. (Photo courtesy of CMH)

'We are Free - UnmaskME' protest in Augusta Oct. 24



1st District Congressional Candidate Dr. Jay Allen speaks to about 40 protesters at a "We are Free - UnmaskME" protest in next to the Blaine House in Augusta on Oct. 24. The Mainers Against Mask Mandates were protesting the requirement from the State of Maine to wear facemasks as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. (Geraghty photo)

By Gail Geraghty

AUGUSTA - Around 40 people gathered on Saturday, Oct. 24, next to the Blaine House in Augusta to protest Gov. Janet Mills' statewide mask-mandate, led by members of the Facebook group Mainers Against Mask Mandates (MAMM).

Several Republican politicians made speeches, including 1st District Congressional Candidate Dr. Jay Allen, who was the sub-

ject of a rap song sung in his honor by emcee Chris "Chrittah" Blais of Northwoods Outlaws.

"This is not an anti-mask rally, it is an anti-mask mandate rally," Allen said. "We don't mind people wearing masks if they feel that makes them more protected. But we are against people on high telling us what we need to do."

Allen said Maine does not have the COVID-19 numbers to justify a state-

See UnmaskME, page 16

CMHC breaks ground for new Cancer Care Center

Facility will expand access to enhanced services

From CMHC

LEWISTON - Central Maine Healthcare broke ground last week for its new Cancer Care Center that consolidates cutting-edge oncology

services in a convenient location for the region.

"It's a momentous day for Central Maine Healthcare and the communities we serve. Patients will have increased access to high-quality care supported by the latest technology - all close to where they live, work, play and pray," said Jeffrey L. Brickman, FACHE, president and CEO of Central Maine Healthcare. "It's part of our vision to change the face of

healthcare in Maine."

Healthcare professionals, elected officials and community leaders joined Central Maine Healthcare to celebrate the occasion. The masked, socially distanced groundbreaking ceremony took place at the Central Maine Medical Center campus in Lewiston, where the Cancer Care Center will be built.

Construction on the \$33.2 million facility is under way. See CMHC, page 9

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Guest Column

Discussing Your Mental Health Issues With Your Friends

By Stan Popovich

Do you have a difficult time explaining your mental health issues to your family and friends?

If so, here are six suggestions on how to discuss your mental health issues with your friends and relatives.

1. Talk to a counselor: The most important thing that you need to do is to talk to a counselor about your mental health problems. Seeking professional help will go a long way in overcoming your current issues. In addition, a counselor will be able to give you additional advice on how to deal with your friends and family members.

2. Don't argue with others: It is important that you do not get into arguments with those who are giving you a hard time. Your number one priority is getting your life back on track. Your health is more

important than what other people may think.

3. Watch who you hang out with: It is important to surround yourself with positive people. Try to keep your distance from those people who are giving you a difficult time. Remember that your goal is to remain positive and hopeful. Do not let the negative people in your life bring you down.

4. You are not alone: It can be very frustrating to deal with your mental health issues when your friends and relatives are on your case. Remember, you are not alone. There are millions of people around the world who struggle with their fears, anxieties, and depression. The key is to find those people who can relate to you.

5. Stand your ground: It is important to stand your ground when dealing with family members and friends who are

giving you a hard time. Explain your situation and your feelings to the people in your life, however don't let them hassle you. Your number one priority is to get better and not to please everyone that you know.

6. Join a support group: There are many mental health support groups in your area that can help you. Many hospitals, churches, and counselors in your area will be able to provide you with a list of groups. These mental health organizations will be supportive of your situation and they can give you additional advice regarding your problems.

Stan Popovich is the 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: managingfear.com

Home Country

October colors are Orange and Black

By Slim Randles

I think there must be autumnal reasons for Halloween being hued in orange and black. It's a fun time, a magic evening if you're a kid, and if you're a grandpa-type guy, like me, who gets to hand out the goodies.

But the colors of this sweet evening celebration are orange and black, and so is October. In another week or so, our deciduous trees will stand like skeletons against the gray

skies of winter, but now we have the orange and black of fall.

It happens right about sunset each day. The sky turns that eternal burnt-umber orange and the remaining leaves and the baring branches of our trees fill the evening with a holy filigree of contrast.

Oh, it's not something we need to do anything about. There's no need for picture taking or anything. But it's just something that we can step

outside for ... look toward the west through the lacy pattern of black branches and for a moment, just a short moment, say to ourselves, "Isn't that pretty?"

If the paint store could sell me something that looked even close to that for the walls of the little cabin I have, I'd buy a gallon. Maybe two.

Perfect Christmas gift for youngsters "A Cowboy's Guide to Growing Up Right" by Slim Randles. Have a look at www.lpdpress.com.

Vienote on Dean's List

From Seton Hall U.

SOUTH ORANGE, NJ – Allie Veinote of Auburn was named to

the Seton Hall University spring 2020 Dean's list.

After the close of every semester, undergraduate students com-

pleting all courses with a GPA of 3.4, with no grades lower than "C", qualify for the Dean's List.

Guest column

Moose Mission Impossible Continues



Moose hunters load moose remains for transport to the butcher. (Ron Chase photo)

By Ron Chase

Moose hunt permit holders Brent Elwell and Carl Dubois were up well before dawn on opening day of the 2020 moose hunt. Four of us were located at remote Priestly Camp on the St. John River in far northern Maine. Committed to hunting by canoe, they departed for Shields Branch and Big Black River, an area thoroughly scouted the previous day. An hour after they left, gunshots were heard near the campsite.

After allowing Brent and Carl two hours advance travel time to reach a small pond connected to Big Black River, my companion, preferring the hunting pseudonym, Jimmy Olsen, Cub Reporter, and I, designated trip lackey followed. I paddled a solo canoe to assist with

retrieval of the moose and journalist Jimmy provided kayak support. Since the hunters were using a small motor on their tandem canoe while we paddled our crafts on the 3.5 mile passage down Shields Branch and Big Black River to the hunting site, our arrival was about three hours after their hunt began. Fresh moose meat was the expectation.

Moose tracks dominated the muddy entrance to the tiny pond situated about a half mile downriver from the confluence with Shields Branch. Our hunting companions couldn't be seen and no gunshots had been heard, so we waited in silence next to their canoe. Another hour passed before Brent quietly joined us to report no sightings had occurred. Moose scat was prevalent in the narrow herd path leading to their camouflage shelter ideal-

ly positioned on a grassy knoll overlooking the entire marshy basin. Given an abundance of signs, it seemed inexplicable that periodic cow calls hadn't motivated a fervent bull moose in rut.

Brent speculated the moose weren't moving as a result of unseasonably warm weather. A decision was made to vacate the site for the day. Cub Reporter and I left first, while Carl and Brent followed hunting from their canoe. Ironically, Jimmy spotted a moose during the return on Shields Branch. The canoes were concealed in a wooded area next to the Shields Branch launch in anticipation of a return the following day.

During the fifteen mile drive from Shields Branch to Priestly Camp, a hunting party was encountered who had downed a large bull. Both of the other groups at Priestly Camp had also been successful. Moose were obviously plentiful. Optimism prevailed despite the first day failure.

Since several moose had been observed near the campsite, our implacable nimrods decided to search the 2.5 mile camp road the first thing the following morning before returning to the pond adjacent Big Black. Departing shortly before sunrise, Brent soon returned to report a

large bull moose had been dropped. Located about two hundred yards off the road in an area previously logged; a combination of new growth, toppled trees, and thick brush complicated removal. The exceptionally warm weather necessitated immediate refrigeration.

My mission, should I accept it, was to clear a path for a sled to transport moose remains requiring refrigeration, while Brent and Carl cleaned and quartered it. A sense of urgency was paramount. Brent left hauling his homemade ice box, while I gulped down

my coffee and quickly followed.

Crawling over prostrate dead trees and thrashing through thick brush to reach the hunters and their prize, my task seemed daunting. Returning to the road, it was apparent that expeditiously clearing a direct route was impossible so I plotted a longer more circuitous course of less resistance. Using a small battery operated chainsaw, a bow saw, and lots of physical effort, a ragged path gradually unfolded. The chainsaw battery died as Cub Reporter arrived. We finished what I dubbed



Moose hunters haul a loaded sled through Lackey Lane on a moose hunt in northern Maine. (Ron Chase photo)

Lackey Lane with hand-saws just in time for Brent and Carl to haul the first sled load to the ice box.

Multiple laborious trips later, the refrigerator was loaded and the hunters were off on a long journey to register the moose. Arrangements were also made to have it professionally butchered and packaged. An estimated 800 pound animal, about 450 pounds were recovered for delivery to the butcher. A beautiful sunny day with my canoe still stashed on Shields Branch, I spent the afternoon paddling the scenic meandering tributary. No moose sightings during my excursion, but they were undoubtedly watching.

In the aftermath, Cub Reporter Jimmy Olsen dispatched his story to Perry White editor-in-chief of the Daily Planet. My reward for blazing Lackey Lane arrived a few days ago. I'm researching recipes. Two seem particularly appealing, Newfoundland Moose Stew and Moose Bourguignon. Moose burgers are a certainty.

Author of "The Great Mars Hill Bank Robbery" and "Mountains for Mortals – New England," Ron Chase lives in Topsham. Visit his website at www.ronchaseoutdoors.com or email ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net.

Newsmakers, Names & Faces

CMCC Food Pantry for Students



Kate McPherson, left, president of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society at Central Maine Community College in Auburn, listens as Student Services Representative Jean Blais describes some of the food items at the newly opened Mustang Food Pantry at the college. (Photo courtesy of CMCC)

From CMCC

AUBURN - The “Mustang Food Pantry” at Central Maine Community College on Turner Street in Auburn has opened its doors to students in need of food assistance.

Sponsored by the Hannaford Charitable Foundation and supported by the Bank of America Charitable Foundation, the food pantry is stocked with such staples as rice, pasta, sauce, beans, canned goods and frozen potatoes.

“Opening the Mustang Food Pantry could not have happened at a better time,” said Student Services Representative Jean

Blais, who is overseeing the pantry. “With all the challenges that our students confront at this time, the food pantry will help eliminate one of the barriers that many of them face on a daily basis, and that is food insecurity,” Blais added.

The college is encouraging any student struggling with food insecurity to make use of this valuable resource. According to an April 2019 study by The Hope Center, more than half of survey respondents from two-year institutions indicated that they worry about running out of food. Approximately 44 percent of respondents from four-year institutions said the

same thing.

“As a community college, our connection with students is more than just educational. We care for their well-being in all aspects and strive to help them be successful,” said Kate McPherson, president of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society chapter at CMCC. “Good nutrition is very important, so PTK is proud to be a part of this effort that reflects just how much we care about every one of our students.”

Anyone interested in more information, or in supporting the Mustang Food Pantry, may contact Jean Blais at jbblais@cmcc.edu or (207) 755-5293.

Davis Family Foundation Funds CMCC Project

From FMCC

AUBURN - A gift of \$100,000 from the Davis Family Foundation to the Foundation for Maine’s Community Colleges will support the construction of a Criminal Justice Simulation Center at Central Maine Community College (CMCC) on Turner Street in Auburn.

“This simulation center will be a dynamic facility for live scenario training for students in criminal justice, forensic science, and social services,” said Matt Tift, criminal justice instructor and chair of the public service and social science department at CMCC. The facility will be a ranch-style house with attached garage, briefing room, and movable walls to allow instructors to constantly adapt the environment. This project will help the college ensure that public safety professionals are adequately prepared with curriculum and training that employ effective adult learning practices, and real-skill development.

This facility also will support the growing forensic science program at CMCC. This program –

the only one of its kind in Maine - includes coursework in criminal investigation, criminalistics, death investigations, crime scene photography, and crime scene management. Tift also noted that CMCC hopes to allow area law enforcement agencies to use the simulation center to support their training efforts. The college hopes to have the facility completed and ready for use in fall 2021.

The Davis Family Foundation is a public charitable foundation established by Phyllis C. Davis and H. Halsey Davis of Falmouth to support education, medical and cultural/arts organizations located primarily in Maine.

“The Davis Family Foundation has made significant investments in the Maine Community College System,” said John Fitzsimmons, President of The Foundation for Maine’s Community Colleges. “We are grateful for their support and pleased to be able to partner with them on this important project for CMCC students and local law enforcement officers.”

CMCC provides quality, accessible college edu-

cation and lifelong learning opportunities by offering career and technical education; education for transfer to baccalaureate programs; and services to support economic development and community vitality. CMCC is the second largest college within the Maine Community College System, serving over 3,000 students. The college offers over 40 academic programs, certificates, and advanced certificates. More information about CMCC is available at www.cmcc.edu.

The Foundation for Maine’s Community Colleges is dedicated to ensuring that the state’s seven community colleges have the resources they need to provide a high quality and affordable education for Maine people. The Foundation seeks to enhance access to educational and economic opportunity and to provide Maine employers with a highly trained and skilled workforce. More information about the Foundation is available at: www.maineccfoundation.org.

Information about the Maine Community College System is available at: www.mccs.me.edu.

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What's Going On

Adult Learner Scholarship Fund seeks applications

From Maine CF

ELLSWORTH & PORTLAND – The Maine Community Foundation (MaineCF) seeks applications to its Adult Learner Scholarship Fund which supports non-traditional students who want to change their lives for the better through education and training.

MaineCF offers two types of Adult Learner scholarships. A degree-seeking scholarship supports two- and four-year degree programs and certificate courses that fit into the regular calendar year. The application deadline for this scholarship is November 15, 2020.

The second scholarship supports credential/

certificate programs that last less than a full semester. These short-term scholarships have a rolling deadline of the first of each month.

Eligible applicants must meet one of the following criteria to be eligible: be over the age of 25; work full-time; have dependents other than a spouse; or be financially independent, not have received a standard high school diploma, or delayed enrollment in college after high school for a reason other than a gap year activity.

Complete guidelines and application forms are available at www.maine.cf.org. If you have questions, contact MaineCF Scholarship Manager Liz Fickett at lfickett@mainecf.org.

The Maine Community Foundation has worked with donors and educators since 1983 to provide and expand Maine students' access to educational opportunities. The community foundation manages more than 650 scholarship funds.

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

Rollout of new SSN verification service

From SSA

The Social Security Administration has begun the initial rollout of its new electronic Consent Based Social Security Number (SSN) Verification (eCBSV) service.

The agency is rolling out the service to selected participants through 2020, and plans on expanding the number of users in 2021.

"Our new electronic SSN verification service helps reduce synthetic identity fraud by comparing agency records with data provided electronically by approved participants," said Andrew Saul, Commissioner of Social Security. "This is an important online service that helps us provide participants and their customers fast, secure, and more effi-

cient SSN verifications."

Social Security created eCBSV, a fee-based electronic SSN verification service, to allow select financial institutions and service providers, called "permitted entities" and including subsidiaries, affiliates, agents, subcontractors, or assignees of a financial institution, to verify if a person's SSN, name, and date of birth combination matches Social Security records. Social Security needs the person's written consent and will accept an electronic signature in order to disclose the SSN verification to the permitted entity. eCBSV returns a match verification of "Yes" or "No." eCBSV does not verify a person's identity.

Social Security is committed to rolling out

eCBSV to all selected permitted entities. The participants approved for the initial rollout are Capital One Services, LLC; Computer Information Development, LLC; Discover Financial Services; Early Warning Services, LLC; Experian Information Solutions, Inc.; ID Analytics, LLC; SentiLink Corp.; Synchrony Financial; and Zions Bancorporation.

Each of the service providers selected can serve up to 20 permitted entities, and with the financial institutions, there is the potential of 124 permitted entities participating in the initial rollout.

This announcement does not affect the existing Consent Based SSN Verification service.

For more information, visit: <http://bitly.ws/asws>.

Court of Appeals upholds rejection of public funds for religious schools

From Maine DOE

PORTLAND - On October 29, 2020, the Maine Department of Education received word of the Court of Appeals for the First Circuit's decision in favor of Commissioner Pender Makin in *Carson v. Makin*.

This decision of the Court of Appeals affirms the earlier decision of the United States District Court for the District of Maine that Maine is not required to pay tuition for students to attend religious schools.

Maine's Constitution requires the local provision of public education; however, the expansive landscape and small communities of Maine are not conducive to the operation of a school within every school administrative unit. For this reason, Maine has a long-established "tuition" program through which the children within a community that cannot or does not operate a public school are permitted to access a pub-

lic education through the payment of state and local funds to a nearby public or approved private school. Public dollars cannot be used for sectarian (religious) schools; however, a family is not prevented from accessing, at their own cost, a religious education.

"As the Commissioner of Education, I am charged with the responsibility of ensuring that public funds allocated for education in Maine are spent within the legal and intended use of those funds," stated Commissioner Pender Makin when learning of the decision. "I am pleased that the court has recognized the lawfulness of our fiscal stewardship."

The case was argued before the Court of Appeals by Assistant Attorney General Sarah Forster on January 8, 2020. Assistant Attorney General Forster and Deputy Attorney General Christopher Taub have represented the Commissioner throughout the legal

proceedings in this matter.

"I am pleased that the First Circuit correctly found that Maine has created a narrowly tailored "tuition" program that responds to our unique need to ensure that a public education is available in school administrative units that do not operate public schools," said Attorney General Aaron M. Frey regarding the court's decision. "The Court recognized that because the only purpose of Maine's program is to replicate the education that a student would receive at a public school, Maine is not discriminating based on the religious status of any private school. Rather, Maine is simply declining to pay for religious instruction that would be unavailable in a public school. In this way, Maine's program is unlike the "no-aid" clause in the Montana Constitution at issue in the Supreme Court's recent *Espinoza* decision, or any prior school choice program that has been subject to review."

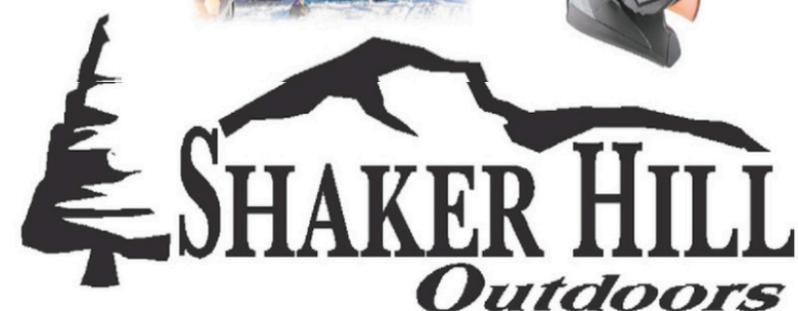
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MICHAEL G.



\$6M Challenge Grant in support of art center



An artists' rendering shows the planned Paul J. Schupf Art Center, a collaborative project between Waterville Creates! and Colby College. (Image courtesy of Waterville Creates)

From Waterville Creates

WATERVILLE - The Harold Alfond Foundation is providing a \$6 million challenge grant in support of the Paul J. Schupf Art Center, a collaborative project between Waterville Creates! and Colby College.

For every dollar contributed to Waterville Creates' community capital campaign, both past and future, the Harold Alfond Foundation will provide \$3 in matching funds. When the community capital campaign crosses the \$1 million mark, the Foundation will commit another \$3 million toward the total project cost of \$18 million.

Waterville Creates! has already raised \$680,000 in gifts and pledges from a diverse group of businesses, foundations, and individuals, and needs the community's support to raise the remaining \$320,000 that will unlock \$6 million in support from the Harold Alfond Foundation.

"The Harold Alfond Foundation is proud to support Waterville Creates! and

its partnership with Colby College to develop the Paul J. Schupf Art Center," says Chairman Greg Powell. "The community has already stepped up in a major way to support the capital campaign, and we hope that this challenge grant will provide extra incentive for businesses and individuals alike to contribute to this incredible project, which we believe will be a cornerstone of Waterville's downtown revitalization."

This grant is part of the Foundation's more than \$500 million investment in Maine people and institutions to help grow the state's workforce and economy and support quality health care and builds on a long-standing commitment from the Foundation to help the people of Maine thrive from birth through career. Learn more at <https://www.haroldalfondfoundation.org/>.

"The Harold Alfond Foundation's investment in Waterville Creates! has enabled us to strengthen the long-standing, beloved arts organizations that have been a core part of Water-

ville's identity for decades by developing a new model for collaboration. The Paul J. Schupf Art Center will be the physical embodiment of that collaboration. By bringing Waterville's arts organizations together under one roof in the heart of downtown, the Paul J. Schupf Art Center will showcase our diverse arts programming and create new opportunities for collaboration and creative expression," said Shannon Haines, President and CEO of Waterville Creates!

"There has never been a building like the Paul J. Schupf Art Center in Waterville. This project will have a major economic impact on the entire region and will ensure that our community will have access to outstanding arts opportunities for generations to come. Thanks to the Harold Alfond Foundation's commitment to excellence in the arts both on Main Street and at Colby College, Waterville is poised to become a premier arts destination," said James LaLiberty, Board Chair at Waterville Creates!

What's Going On

Creative Christmas Fairs Scheduled

From Portland Diocese

PORTLAND --- During the pandemic, several Maine parishes are planning to offer unique and creative Christmas fairs while following state and diocesan guidelines and protocols. These include outdoor bazaars, virtual fairs, and tree festivals.

As fairs are confirmed, they will be added to the special Christmas fairs page on the diocesan website: <http://bitly.ws/amTE>

Here is a list of Christmas fairs already scheduled (listed chronologically).

St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Westbrook

St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Westbrook will conduct an outdoor Christmas fair on Saturday, Nov. 7, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at St. Hyacinth Church on 268 Brown Street. The fair will feature baked goods and other food, books, knitted items, jewelry, a white elephant table, and a money raffle.

Parish of the Ascension of the Lord, Kittery

The Parish of the Ascension of the Lord's three Christmas fairs will be hosted online this year. The St. Raphael fair will be Nov. 8-14, the St. Christopher Holiday Faire will be Nov. 15-21, and the Our

Lady of the Angels fair will be Nov. 22-28. The fairs will feature items for sale, silent auction items, and raffles for special prizes. Visit www.pal-me.org to find links to the virtual fairs.

All Saints Parish, Brunswick

The Midcoast Tree Festival will be Nov/ 20-22 and Nov/ 27-29 at the St. John's Community Center on 43 Pleasant Street in Brunswick. The festival will feature themed, lighted artificial Christmas decorated by local organization and businesses. At the end of the show, they will be raffled off, with proceeds benefiting All Saints Parish and St. John's Catholic School, Spectrum Generations' Meals on Wheels, and the Southern Midcoast Maine Chamber.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Auburn

This year's Christmas by the Lake Fair at St. Philip Church, located on 2365 Turner Road in Auburn, will feature beautifully decorated Christmas wreaths and baskets, made with fresh greens. They will be for sale outside the church on Saturday, Nov. 21, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Windham

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, located on 919 Roosevelt Trail in Windham, will host a European-style Christmas bazaar on Friday, Dec. 4, 4-8 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 5, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. and 5-8 p.m. The outdoor bazaar will feature Bavarian and Italian food to take out, Christmas trees and beautifully decorated Christmas wreaths, baked goods and pie booths, designer gift baskets, s'mores kits and a fire pit for toasting, a Christmas shoppe, and raffle items.

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Arts & Entertainment



“Relaxation” is one of the words in the Riverwalk Storywalk theme of Thankful for the month of November. The words and phrases can be found on a walking area that surrounds the Auburn, ME, library. (Photo courtesy of Auburn Recreation)

Craft Fest Fair at Foss Mansion

From WLU

AUBURN - The Woman’s Literary Union will conduct a Craft Fest Fair at the Foss Mansion, 19 Elm Street, Auburn on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m..

The fair will feature craft supplies, tables of fabric, sewing notions, and more.

In the library, tables will be filled with jew-

elry and American Girl doll clothes. The hallway will have Boyds Bears, Christmas ornaments and decorations, and raffle prizes. In the Dining Room will be Japanese treasures, knit and stitch, and baked goods.

Only 50 people at a time will be allowed in the mansion, and masks must be worn. For contact tracing, names and phone numbers will be recorded.

While the coronavirus pandemic has prevented other WLU fundraisers, this event can take place by following safety guidelines.

The Woman’s Literary Union of Androscoggin County is a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organization. For more information go to: womansliteraryunion.org or call Kathy Lawrence at 795-6134 or email kathy.lawrence.maine@gmail.com.

Curbside Bean Dinner Nov. 7

From Post 135

The Harry J Conway Post 135 in Sabattus is providing a curbside bean dinner on Nov. 7 from 4-6 p.m. at 40 Island Rd, Sabattus, Maine.

This is a preorder meal. \$8.00 per person which will include beans, hot dogs, cole slaw, rolls and dessert. Please call ahead to order at 375-5052, Tracey Rancourt.

This dinner will benefit the American Legion Post

135 to be able to continue to give back to the community and to Veteran’s organizations.

COVID-19 restrictions will be in place and safety will always be our top priority.

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Supporting Veteran Caregivers, America’s Hidden Heroes

By Sen. Susan M. Collins

Supporting our veterans and those who serve today is among our greatest obligations. That obligation includes supporting America’s “hidden heroes” – the 5.5 million family caregivers who provide essential daily care to loved ones who bear the wounds of their service protecting our nation and our freedom.

The effects of military service often do not end with a tour of duty. For many veterans and their families, the journey sometimes extends for a lifetime. For some veterans with both visible and invisible scars, the transition home is not easy. Recovery, too, can take decades. Along the way, mothers, fathers, wives, husbands, and other

family members and friends step in to serve.

Military family caregivers provide roughly \$14 billion a year in voluntary, uncompensated care. They often sacrifice their own physical and emotional well being to do so. They may have to miss work, turn down promotions, or even leave the workforce, creating enormous financial strain for families.

Addressing the challenges facing these devoted family caregivers has been one of my highest priorities. In 2017, I chaired a hearing that focused on military caregivers at which former Senator Elizabeth Dole testified. When the VA MIS-SION Act was enacted in 2018, it included provisions I championed requiring a

phased expansion of the VA Caregiver Support Program to include veterans of all generations, rather than only post 9/11 veterans.

Veterans, regardless of when they served, should be eligible for caregiver assistance. For years, the VA Caregiver Support Program has made resources such as a stipend, counseling, and training available to loved ones who have taken on a caregiver role for a veteran with service-connected injuries or illnesses. This important resource can improve quality of life and can result in faster and improved rehabilitation and recovery for a veteran. However, only post-9/11 veteran caregivers have historically been eligible to receive these benefits.

Now, due to the legislation I coauthored, the VA has officially launched the first phase of expansion of the Caregiver Support Program to include pre-9/11 veterans and their caregivers. This first phase of the VA Caregiver Support Program expansion allows the VA to provide a stipend and resources to thousands of caregivers of veterans from World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

The expansion rolls out in two phases. Effective this Oct. 1, the first phase included eligible veterans who incurred or aggravated a serious injury in the line of duty on or before May 7, 1975.

Effective Oct. 1, 2022, the second phase will include eligible veterans who

incurred or aggravated a serious injury in the line of duty between May 7, 1975, and Sept. 11, 2001. The VA has also expanded and expedited the hiring of key staff to ensure veterans and caregivers receive timely, accurate assessments and eligibility determinations, as well as an improved customer experience.

The progress we have made in supporting military caregivers would not be possible without the untiring efforts of former Senator Elizabeth Dole, whose husband, former Senator Robert Dole, was severely wounded during World War II. Since its founding in 2012, the Elizabeth Dole Foundation has done much to raise awareness of the need to support these

selfless caregivers, and in 2014 commissioned the largest-ever study on the vital role military caregivers play and the sacrifices they make.

I was honored to receive the first Congressional Caregiver Champion Award from the Elizabeth Dole Foundation. It was particularly moving to be presented with that award by Maine’s Dole Foundation Caregiver Fellow, Marjorie Pennington, whose husband, Matthew, was grievously wounded in Iraq. Her words describe the dedication of our family caregivers: “He fought for our freedom, and I will always fight for him.” The patriots caring for a wounded warrior are among America’s hidden heroes and they need our support.

Maine Updates COVID-19 School Health Advisory

From State of Maine

AUGUSTA -- The Mills Administration today released an update to its color-coded Health Advisory System that classifies counties’ relative risk of COVID-19 transmission by color and is provided to assist schools as they continue with their plans to deliver instruction and support students safely this fall.

Somerset and Washington counties are now categorized as yellow, joining Waldo County, which was designated yellow last week. All other counties remain green.

Updated information has been added to this paragraph: In Somerset County, both the positivity rate and the rate of new cases per 10,000 people have risen over the previous 14-day period. In Washington County, the site of the Second Baptist Church outbreak, the new two-week case rate per 10,000 is four times higher than it was last week. Waldo County continues to have Maine’s highest county positivity rate at 3.0% and highest new case rate of 17.4 per 10,000 over the last two weeks. No outbreaks have been identified in Waldo or Washington county schools at this time.

Under the “yellow” designation, which indicates an increased (moderate) level of community risk, schools may consider

additional precautions, such as limiting numbers of people in school buildings at the same time, suspending extracurricular or co-curricular activities including competitions between schools, limiting interaction through cohorting, or other measures based on the unique needs of each school community.

These designations are made out of an abundance of caution and for the consideration of school administrative units in their decisions to deliver instruction.

It is essential that school districts across the State of Maine continue to implement plans that adhere to the six requirements for returning to in-person instruction, regardless of their county’s red, yellow, or green designation:

Symptom Screening at Home Before Coming to School (for all Staff and Students) – Students (parents/caregivers) and staff members must conduct self-checks for symptoms prior to boarding buses or entering school buildings each day. Schools should provide information to families in their primary language to support them in conducting this check. Any person showing symptoms must report their symptoms and not be present at school. Schools must provide clear and accessible directions to parents/caregivers and students for reporting symp-

toms and absences.

Physical Distancing and Facilities – Adults must maintain 6 feet of distance from others to the extent possible. Maintaining 3 feet of distance is acceptable between and among students when combined with the other measures outlined in this list of safety requirements. 6 feet of physical distancing is required for students while eating breakfast and lunch, as students will be unable to wear masks at that time. A “medical isolation space” (separate from the nurse’s office) must be designated for students/staff who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms during the school day. Adequate ventilation is required for classrooms, with schools having flexibility in implementation such as using properly working ventilation systems or outdoor air exchange using fans in open windows or doors. Groups in any one area, room, or classroom must not exceed the Governor’s gathering size limits.

Masks/Face Coverings – Adults, including educators and staff, are required to wear a mask/face covering. Students age five and above are required to wear a mask/face covering that covers their nose and mouth. Masks are recommended for children ages two to four, when developmentally appropriate. Masks/face coverings must be worn by all students on

the bus. Face shields may be an alternative for those students with documented medical or behavioral challenges who are unable to wear masks/face coverings. The same applies to staff with medical or other health reasons for being unable to wear face coverings. Face shields worn in place of a face covering must extend below the chin and back to the ears. An exception for wearing a mask or face shield applies only to an individual participating in voluntary school sports during vigorous physical exercise. Nothing in the mask/face covering requirements preventing a school from

making accommodations on an individualized basis as required by state or federal disabilities laws.

Hand Hygiene – All students and staff in a school must receive training in proper hand hygiene. All students and staff must wash hands or use sanitizing gel upon entering the school, before and after eating, before and after donning or removing a face mask, after using the restroom, before and after use of playgrounds and shared equipment, and before and after riding school transportation.

Personal Protective Equipment – Additional safety precautions are re-

quired for school nurses and/or any staff supporting students in close proximity, when distance is not possible, or when student require physical assistance. These precautions must at a minimum include eye protection (e.g., face shield or goggles) and a mask/face covering. Classrooms and/or areas that have been used by an individual diagnosed with Covid-19 must be closed off until thorough cleaning and sanitization takes place.

Return to School after Illness – Sick staff members and students must use home isolation until they meet criteria for returning to school.

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Lewiston Flag Football



A throw to Tyson Green of Edward Little High School (#26) in the end zone is blocked by Lewiston players Danny May and Keegan Whiting in the second quarter of a 7-on-7 flag football game between ELHS and Lewiston High School last Friday on the Lewiston field. The Lewiston Blue Devils lost to the Edward Little Red Eddies 18-6. (Tsukroff photo)



Edward Little's Devante Scott is tagged by Lewiston's Jaden Caron during a flag football game at Lewiston High School last Friday. The Edward Little High School Red Eddies topped the Lewiston Blue Devils by 18-6. (Tsukroff photo)

2020 Scholarships for Androscoggin Students

From Maine CF

ELLSWORTH & PORTLAND – The scholarship subcommittee of the Maine Community Foundation's Androscoggin County Committee announce the Annette M. Brown scholarship recipients for 2020. A total of \$13,000 was awarded.

New scholarship recipients are: Habso A. Abdirizak, Julianna Crockett, and Jeanine Nshimirimana from Lewiston; Michela Beaulier, Leeds; Logan Lajoie, Minot; Kayla Leclerc, Greene; and Ouseiny Ousmane, Auburn. Students receiving renewal scholarships include Pitshou Banguninga, Deni Federico, and Kaylyn Ritchie, Lewiston; Morgan Dalton, Livermore Falls; and Rebecca Raymond and Tri-saint Wabwende, Auburn. The students will be attending Maine College of Health Professions, Hus-

son University, University of Maine, University of Southern Maine, University of Maine at Augusta, Central Maine Community College, University of New England, St. Joseph's College, and the University of New Hampshire.

The Annette M. Brown Scholarship Fund provides renewable support to residents of Androscoggin County pursuing a post-secondary degree at a two- or four-year college. The next application deadline is June 1, 2021. Applications are available at www.mainecef.org.

Annette M. Brown was a teacher in the Lewiston-Auburn area in the early 1900s. In her 1916 will, she left \$16,000 to establish a scholarship fund for needy students. Since then, the fund has given thousands of dollars to Androscoggin County students pursuing higher education.

Silver Star Medal Presented Posthumously

From American Legion Post 135

The Harry J. Conway American Legion Post 135 in Sabattus hosted a Silver Star Award presentation ceremony for George Laplante last month, coordinated by US Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) who spoke of Mr. LePlante's service to his country.

LaPlante died Mar. 1, 1953, from wounds he received during the T-Bone Hill battle in North Korea.

The event was hosted by Post Commander Joseph Michaud, Commander, Sabattus American Legion Harry J Conway Post 135 who read the Silver Star Medal narrative. Colonel Andrew Gibson who gave the Invocation and Benediction. Chaplain, Maine Army National Guard and Laurie Sidelinger, Honor Flight Maine, sang a beautiful rendition of our National Anthem.

Neither Laplante nor his family was ever presented with the Silver Star Medal. Laplante's brother, Richard, had contacted Senator Collins' about securing the medal for his brother.

Private First Class George Laplante enlisted in the U.S. Army prior to graduating from High School on January 1952, and lived in Lewiston, Maine. He was stationed at Fort Williams, Maine, prior to mobilizing to Korea.

LaPlante was in Company E of the 9th Regiment of the 2nd Infantry Divi-

sion of the U.S. Army. He was an automatic rifleman in the infantry, and was seriously wounded by enemy grenades as the company pressed an attack on Hill 200 of the T-Bone sector on October 11, 1952 in the vicinity of Chorwon, North Korea. Although he was severely wounded, he disregarded his wounds, and refused to leave his weapon to be evacuated for medical treatment.

Pvt. Laplante laid down deadly fire causing extreme heavy casualties on the enemy, thus enabling his platoon to successfully accomplish their mission. His self-sacrifice, bravery and determination were an inspiration to those who observed his actions. Pvt. Laplante was awarded the Silver Star in November 1952, while being treated for his wounds during this battle. He succumbed to his injuries and died March 1, 1953.

The Silver Star medal is the United States Armed Forces third highest personal decoration for valor in combat. It is awarded primarily to members of the United States Armed Forces for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States.

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



William Clifford, on the Board of Trustees for Central Maine Healthcare, explains some of the planned services at the new Cancer Care Center to US Senator Susan Collins after the groundbreaking for the facility last week next to Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston. (Photo courtesy of US Senator Collins)

CMHC

Continued from page 1

lion project was to begin this week and is expected to be completed in February 2022. One of the goals of the ambitious project is consolidating oncology services in an accessible, centralized location so patients do not have to make their way to different parts of the Lewiston hospital

campus for their care. The need for expanded and enhanced cancer care is great, said Central Maine Medical Center President Steven G. Littleton, DBA, FACHE. He noted that the incidence of cancer in Maine has increased, and Androscoggin County has one of the highest occurrences of cancer in the state. “Cancer is the leading cause of death in Maine and

our state has the 12th-highest rate of cancer mortality,” Littleton said. “Our objective with this awesome new facility is to put a serious dent in those numbers.” The new two-story, 52,000-square-foot Cancer Care Center will house the Central Maine Cancer Institute, which will provide multispecialty, team-based care. The facility will also house new equipment, in-

cluding new linear accelerators critical for radiation therapy. Hector Tarraza, MD, CMH’s system chief of oncology and associate chief of surgical care, spoke of the staff who will care for the patients at the Cancer Care Center. “Doctors, nurses, staff members, social workers, pharmacists – a team truly dedicated to caring for these

individuals. One of the nicest things that I know about the staff is that every single one of them will treat them with their heart,” he said. “They’re going to provide understanding and kindness and caring and empathy throughout their entire journey as they are treated.” U.S. Senator Susan Collins, the Chairman of the Aging Committee, delivered remarks at the groundbreaking ceremony for the center. “I doubt that there is anyone here today whose life has not been affected by cancer, either personally or in a loved one. Against this scourge that causes so much pain and suffering, so much fear and uncertainty, and so much heartbreak, CMH fights back with skill, technology, dedication, and compassion,” said Senator Collins. “By consolidating oncology services that will be supported by state-of-the-art equipment, patients will have convenient access to the highest quality care close to home. The CMH Cancer Care Center will enhance the outstanding multispecialty, team-based care CMH provides.” With more than 8,000 new diagnoses each year, cancer incidence in Maine

is above the national average. By consolidating all oncology services at CMH, the new center will allow patients to receive care without having to travel to other care providers, saving the community nearly \$1 million annually in travel costs and preventing patients from having to drive more than 35,000 hours each year. State regulators gave the final approval to the project in April. Senator Collins has been a longstanding champion for greater investments in biomedical research, oncology services, and telehealth infrastructure. Through the CARES Act, she has helped secure more than \$490 million in COVID-19 relief for Maine health care providers, including \$33 million for the CMH hospital system. In addition, Senator Collins successfully advocated for a \$2.6 billion increase for the NIH in the fiscal year 2020 appropriations package. Services at the new center will include surgery, chemotherapy, immunotherapy, precision medicine, targeted therapy, radiation therapy, hormone therapy, and stem cell transplants.

Sand for Seniors



From City of Lewiston

LEWISTON - Sand for Seniors is back for Lewiston residents. Navigating icy driveways and walkways can be challenging, especially for seniors. Many elderly people are housebound or cannot lift the 5-gallon buckets of sand that weigh about 50 pounds. The Lewiston Public Works Department will once again make winter a little easier for the city’s seniors, ages 65 and older, by delivering a bucket of sand they can use to treat icy outdoor walkways.

To order or for further information, please call Lewiston Public Works at 207-513-3003, 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday. The sand is for Lewiston residents 65 or older living in owner-occupied buildings of three-units or less. Orders must be placed by Nov. 13. Only one bucket per season will be delivered, and buckets are available while supplies last. Residents should hold the bucket until next year. Sam’s Italian Foods is providing the buckets.



Top Gun LA Accepting Applications for 2021



Michele DeBloise, of LiteracyTech Inc., make her pitch to members of the LA Metro Chamber of Commerce members at a recent chamber meeting, enroute to capturing the state title in the Top Gun statewide program for entrepreneurs. (Tsukroff photo)

From LA Metro Chamber

LEWISTON - The Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce is now accepting applications for the 2021 Top Gun LA entrepreneurship acceleration program. Top Gun LA is designed specifically for the entrepreneur with a desire to grow his or her business and achieve long-term success through the use of the right tools and resources.

Top Gun elements include mentorship, lessons from successful entrepreneurs, workshopping, discussions, and pitch development and practice, all of which occur during high-impact weekly gatherings held in multiple locations across the state. The LA Metro Chamber has offered Top Gun LA to Central Maine entrepreneurs since 2017. Program information and applications are available at www.mced.biz/top-gun/.



Kathryn Lariviere, of LiteracyTech Inc., speaks to members of the LA Metro Chamber of Commerce at a recent meeting. (Tsukroff photo)

Applications are due by the end of day on Monday, Nov. 30. The program begins on Feb. 3, 2021, and will run through the end of May. In addition to submitting a short online application, prospective companies will be required to submit a draft pitch deck and attend a subsequent meeting with the Top Gun LA interview committee. The program will conclude with regional pitch off events, and the top semi-finalists will move on to a statewide Top Gun

showcase, where they will compete for a \$25,000 cash prize sponsored by the Maine Technology Institute. Earlier this year, regional winner Literacy Tech, Inc. became the first Top Gun LA-based company to capture the statewide program’s top prize. For more information on the 2021 Top Gun LA entrepreneurship acceleration program, contact Top Gun LA Program Coordinator Scott Benson at 207.783.2249.

Program to Benefit Veterans in Need this Holiday Season



From OSJL

NORTH KINGSTOWN, RI - Ocean State Job Lot (OSJL), a privately-held, family-operated discount retail chain with 143 stores in New England, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, is pleased to announce the return of its annual 'Buy, Give, Get' program to benefit veterans in need.

Beginning last week, any customer who buys a warm winter coat at OSJL for \$40 (retail value: \$80-\$120) and gives it back to the store as a donation to veterans in need, will get a \$40 Crazy Deal Gift Card to be used for a future purchase online or at any Ocean State Job Lot store.

During its last 'Buy, Give, Get' program in 2019, the Ocean State Job Lot Charitable Foundation

donated more than 30,000 winter jackets to veterans. This year, approximately 40,000 winter coats will be available for purchase to distribute to those in need through OSJL's partner organizations.

"What started out as a 600-coat test just a few years ago has blossomed into one of the largest programs of its kind serving veterans in need across the region," said David Sarlitto, Executive Director, Ocean State Job Lot Charitable Foundation. "Last year, our customers helped us to donate warm winter coats to approximately 35,000 veterans, and we hope to exceed that this year."

The coats will be distributed at the conclusion of the program to veterans' organizations in partnership with a multi-state network

of more than 50 veteran support agencies, organizations, assistance programs and action groups serving New England, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

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Million in Grants for America's Ports

From US DOT

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao recently announced the award of more than \$220 million in discretionary grant funding to improve port facilities through the Maritime Administration's (MARAD) Port Infrastructure Development Program.

"This \$220 million in federal grants will improve America's ports with nearly half the projects are located in Opportunity Zones, which were established to revitalize economically distressed communities," said U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao.

U.S. maritime ports are critical links in the U.S. domestic and international trade supply chain and this funding will assist in the improvement of port facilities at or near coastal sea-

ports. The Port Infrastructure Development Program aims to support efforts by ports and industry stakeholders to improve facility and freight infrastructure to ensure our nation's freight transportation needs, present and future, are met. The program provides planning, operational and capital financing, and project management assistance to improve their capacity and efficiency.

Of the 18 projects that were awarded grants, eight are located in Opportunity Zones, which were created to revitalize economically distressed communities using private investments.

"This critical investment demonstrates the Trump Administration's commitment to supporting our nation's ports and maritime industry," said Maritime Administrator Mark H. Buzby. "These grants will help our nation's economy and ensure that Amer-

ica's ports can continue to operate effectively in the competitive global marketplace."

Ports provide countless jobs for Americans and are key to a nation that heavily relies on its maritime services. By providing the funding to support the improvement of this critical infrastructure component, MARAD and the Department of Transportation are ensuring these services will succeed during the nation's ongoing economic recovery.

In Portland, Maine, the Linking Intermodal Needs and Rural Freight Knowledge - LINK Project was awarded \$4,098,360. This grant will fund the modernization of gates and scales, improvements to existing warehouses, and rail improvements at a bulk transfer facility to improve the intermodal efficiency of the port. The project is in an opportunity zone.

Me2/Southern Maine rehearsing at MAMM

From MAMM

PORTLAND - The Maine Academy of Modern Music is thrilled to be offering rehearsal space to Me2/Southern Maine beginning this Fall.

Me2/("me, too") is the world's only classical music organization created for individuals with mental illnesses and the people who support them. Me2/ serves as a model organization where people with and without mental illnesses work together in an environment where acceptance is an expectation, patience is encouraged, and supporting each other is a priority.

More about them can be found at: <https://me2orchestra.org/>

"We are thrilled to bring Me2/s mission to the greater Portland area. It is challenging to launch something new during a pandemic, but we all need something to boost our mental health right now. We hope that musicians of all ages and ability levels who are living with mental illnesses -- as well as the people who support them -- will join us to make great music, support each other, and help erase the stigma surrounding our diagnoses" says Jessica Stuart, co-founder of Me2/Southern Maine.

"Thanks to MAMM we have a great location to rehearse and launch our new ensemble. Me2/ and MAMM share some great synergy in our goals of bringing music to a diverse community," Stuart said.

Rehearsals will be held on the second floor at MAMM's Presumpscot St location on Saturday evenings at 5 p.m. and the group will observe all of MAMM's Safety Protocols.

For more information or to join the group, please email info@me2orchestra.org or call (802) 238-8369.

For more information about MAMM visit www.maineacademyofmodernmusic.org

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— George Smith, Bangor Daily News

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Davis Family Foundation Funds CMCC Project

From FMCC

AUBURN - A gift of \$100,000 from the Davis Family Foundation to the Foundation for Maine's Community Colleges will support the construction of a Criminal Justice Simulation Center at Central Maine Community College (CMCC) on Turner Street in Auburn.

"This simulation center will be a dynamic facility for live scenario training for students in criminal justice, forensic science, and social services," said Matt Tiff, criminal justice instructor and chair of

the public service and social science department at CMCC. The facility will be a ranch-style house with attached garage, briefing room, and movable walls to allow instructors to constantly adapt the environment. This project will help the college ensure that public safety professionals are adequately prepared with curriculum and training that employ effective adult learning practices, and real-skill development.

This facility also will support the growing forensic science program at CMCC. This program –

the only one of its kind in Maine - includes coursework in criminal investigation, criminalistics, death investigations, crime scene photography, and crime scene management. Tiff also noted that CMCC hopes to allow area law enforcement agencies to use the simulation center to support their training efforts. The college hopes to have the facility completed and ready for use in fall 2021.

The Davis Family Foundation is a public charitable foundation established by Phyllis C. Davis and H. Halsey Davis of

Falmouth to support education, medical and cultural/arts organizations located primarily in Maine.

"The Davis Family Foundation has made significant investments in the Maine Community College System," said John Fitzsimmons, President of The Foundation for Maine's Community Colleges. "We are grateful for their support and pleased to be able to partner with them on this important project for CMCC students and local law enforcement officers."

CMCC provides quality, accessible college

education and lifelong learning opportunities by offering career and technical education; education for transfer to baccalaureate programs; and services to support economic development and community vitality. CMCC is the second largest college within the Maine Community College System, serving over 3,000 students. The college offers over 40 academic programs, certificates, and advanced certificates. More information about CMCC is available at www.cmcc.edu.

The Foundation for Maine's Community Col-

leges is dedicated to ensuring that the state's seven community colleges have the resources they need to provide a high quality and affordable education for Maine people. The Foundation seeks to enhance access to educational and economic opportunity and to provide Maine employers with a highly trained and skilled workforce. More information about the Foundation is available at: www.maineccfoundation.org.

Information about the Maine Community College System is available at: www.mccs.me.edu.

Court Street Baptist opens for services



From Court St. Baptist

AUBURN - Court Street Baptist Church, 129 Court St., has re-opened for in-person Sunday services at 9:45 a.m. and Wednesday prayer meetings at 6:30 p.m. Facemasks and social distancing are required.

The custodian, Chet Bixby, sanitizes chairs, the pews, podium, and podium furniture. Sanitizing is done with a very fine spray mixture of disinfectant and water. The mixture dries quickly at moderate room temperature. Thanks to a member, the spray unit and the low-level compressor are easily portable. Connie Bishop, another member, also cleans chairs after the adult Sunday school class.

Church leaders ask that members pray that a safe and effective vaccine will be available soon.

Court Street Baptist Church custodian Chet Bixby sanitizes chairs at the church, in preparation for re-opening for in-person Sunday services and Wednesday payer meetings. (Photo courtesy of Court St. Baptist)

Auburn-Lewiston government cable channels restored

From City of Auburn

AUBURN - Residents may have noticed that Great Falls Television is back on its original channels.

After several years of broadcasting on Spectrum cable channels 1301, 1302 and 1303, Great Falls TV - Auburn and Lewiston's local government/public access channels - have recently been restored to their original locations at channels 7, 11 and 22.

Great Falls TV is proud to provide government, community, and high-quality educational programming to the residents of Auburn, Lewiston, and surrounding towns.

Local viewers can tune in to Spectrum channel 7 (previously 1301) for Lewiston Government meetings and channel 11 (previously 1302) for Auburn Government meetings (City Council and School Committee). Channel 22 (previously 1303) features engaging, family-friendly community program-

ming, offering something for everyone, including kid-friendly educational programming, cooking and healthy living shows, senior-friendly programs, travel shows and much more!

"Great Falls TV is still very much a part of who we are as a city," said Liz Allen, Auburn's Director of Communications and Community Outreach. "We rely on GFTV to keep our government meetings accessible, not to mention the fun, informative programming we offer for all ages. Our team works hard to connect with as many people as we can, and in a world of social media and technology, our pub-

lic access stations are a tried and true communications tool. We think residents will be happy to find us back on channels 11 and 22."

Allen notes that channels 1301, 1302 and 1303 are still operational for now, however viewers are encouraged to seek out the restored channels as it is uncertain how long that will continue.

For those without cable television, Auburn's government meetings are available in high definition on the City's YouTube channel (search "City of Auburn Maine"). Government meetings for both Auburn and Lewiston stream live at www.greatfallstv.net.

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Standards For Certifying Safe Policing

From USDOJ

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Department of Justice announced last week Standards for Certification that will be used by credentialing bodies so they can begin certifying thousands of law enforcement agencies over the next three months.

The Standards of Certification are a result of President Trump's June Executive Order 13929, Safe Policing for Safe Communities.

"The fundamental responsibility of government is to keep its citizens safe and today's action to certify thousands of law en-

forcement agencies around the country will further enable us to do just that," said Attorney General William P. Barr. "President Trump's Executive Order on Safe Policing for Safe Communities affirms this administration's commitment to protecting the American people. Furthermore, everyone loses when trust erodes between the community and law enforcement. That is why the Department of Justice has worked tirelessly to implement the President's Executive Order in order to improve accountability, build trust, and ensure the safety of the public as well as members of law enforce-

ment who risk their lives every day."

Executive Order 13929 requires that all state, local, and university law enforcement agencies be certified by independent credentialing agencies. The President's Order requires agencies to meet two standards in order to be successfully credentialed: 1) that the agency's use of force policies prohibit chokeholds, except in situations where the use of deadly force is allowed by law; and 2) that the agency's use of force policies adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws.

Over the next 90 days, at least 3,000 law enforce-

ment agencies will be certified by independent credentialing agencies. These agencies will conduct independent reviews of law enforcement policies and procedures, which, in turn, will ensure accountability, enhance citizen confidence and trust in law enforcement, and help correct internal issues before they result in injury to the public or to law enforcement officers.

The Department's certification standards encourage an independent assessment of law enforcement policies and procedures, such as: 1) training protocols on use of force; 2) training protocols on

de-escalation; 3) the scope of an officer's duty and obligation to intervene in order to prevent excessive force by another officer; 4) when and how an officer should provide appropriate medical care; 5) officers identifying themselves as law enforcement and giving verbal warning of their intent to use deadly force; and 6) shooting at or from a moving vehicle. Additionally, law enforcement agencies are encouraged to implement early intervention systems to promote officer wellness and to identify officers who may be at risk of violating use of force policies, policies and procedures to help them re-

cruit and promote the best and brightest, and community engagement plans to address each community's specific needs.

Since the Executive Order was announced in June, the major stakeholders in law enforcement have been kept apprised of the implementation process, have reviewed the Safe Principles document, and many have endorsed their adoption. These principles provide for more accountability, transparency, and community engagement and will foster community trust, all critical elements in keeping both the public and law enforcement officers safe.

Rapid Antigen Tests for COVID-19

From Maine DHHS

AUGUSTA— The Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) announced today its strategy to distribute an allocation of rapid COVID-19 antigen tests to ensure access for all Maine residents, especially those at greater risk of exposure to the virus.

The federal government is distributing the Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 point-of-care antigen tests to all 50 states and the District of Columbia. DHHS expects Maine to receive approximately 400,000 BinaxNOW tests periodically through December and has begun receiving shipments. The tests can detect coronavirus infection from a nasal swab sample in approximately fifteen minutes.

"Maine has already built a robust and successful testing strategy that helps us lead the nation in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic," said DHHS Commissioner Jeanne Lambrew. "The addition of the BinaxNOW rapid antigen tests will provide a new layer of protection for Maine people as we remain vigilant against this virus."

DHHS is partnering with Walgreens to distribute the bulk of the tests, approximately 300,000, to 65 pharmacy locations from Kittery to Madawaska. This testing will be available to the public as a drive-through service in November.

"Walgreens is honored to be recognized by the state of Maine to further increase access to COVID-19 testing and in the coming weeks we look forward to serving as a BinaxNOW COVID-19 testing location in select Maine pharmacies," said Rick

Gates, senior vice president of pharmacy, Walgreens. "Pharmacists' role as part of the health care system and patients' care teams has never been more critical or clear. Walgreens has a long history of stepping up to support our customers and communities in times of need, and we're pleased to be working in collaboration with Maine health officials on this effort."

Following a request for quotes process, DHHS issued a preliminary award to Walgreens and is now finalizing an agreement.

The remaining 100,000 BinaxNOW tests will be distributed through a process that prioritizes access for Maine people who are symptomatic or at elevated risk of exposure to and illness from COVID-19, such as critical infrastructure staff including health care workers, law enforcement and public safety personnel, first responders, and school staff. Qualified organizations that follow DHHS guidance for use of the BinaxNOW tests may now apply for an allocation. Since demand may exceed the available supply, DHHS will prioritize facilities that will use them for high-risk populations, in high-risk settings, or where access to COVID-19 testing is otherwise limited. In line with this strategy, Maine DHHS has allocated a portion of BinaxNOW tests to the Maine Department of Corrections, which has deployed them at its facilities as part of its COVID-19 response.

The tests will be distributed to Maine organizations that are not already receiving BinaxNOW tests from the federal government. In addition to the 400,000 tests allocated to Maine DHHS, the U.S.

Department of Health and Human Services has also distributed tests directly to congregate care settings such as nursing and assisted living facilities in the state.

The BinaxNOW test has been authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for testing symptomatic individuals for COVID-19 within the first 7 days of symptoms. It may also be used in limited circumstances to test critical infrastructure staff who are identified to be a close contact of an individual confirmed to have COVID-19.

Even without accounting for the BinaxNOW tests, Maine's testing capacity leads the nation. This capacity – which is at 528 percent of Maine's testing target according to the Harvard Global Health Institute – is the result of a deal Governor Mills reached with Maine-based IDEXX Laboratories five months ago. That agreement, as well as partnerships with Maine health care organizations and exceptional work by the State's Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory, allowed Maine to become one of the first states in the nation to eliminate its testing prioritization system and issue a standing order allowing anyone in Maine who thinks they need a test to get one.

Maine has also established more than two dozen "swab and send" testing locations that offer molecular testing at no charge. The swab and send sites complement the roughly 40 current testing sites already available to the public. For a list of all sites providing tests to people without symptoms and without requiring a provider referral, visit the Keep Maine Healthy website

Fun and wisdom from Senior College

From LA Sr. College

LEWISTON - You don't Have to be a Scientist to Know that Humor and Laughter Make You Feel Good.

USM/LA Senior College is excited to offer another on-line Food For Thought - one that will help get you laughing! We all need to find some fun and wisdom in this uncertain time. So get ready to enjoy this presentation on November 18, at 1:PM.

Everyone who knows Elcha Buckman knows that she can be funny, but since graduate school in 1975 she has taken her humor to a serious level. She holds a BS, MS, and PhD from Boston University and is Board Certified in child, adolescent, and family psychiatry. While her degrees are impressive, she admits these aren't required to be humorous and laugh. For over 50 years as a parent, friend, and therapist, Elcha has observed, listened, studied, researched, lectured, published, and practiced humor to help people find their happiness, gain the ability to laugh out loud and improve health.



Elcha Buchman will present a talk on Health and Humor on Nov. 18, as part of the USM/LA Senior College Food For Thought series. (Photo courtesy of LA Senior College)

In addition to loving humor, Elcha's hobbies are her friends, children, grandchildren, mini-Schnauzer, needlework, music, swimming, and exploring.

Her presentation about Health and Humor

is free and open to the public.

You may sign up by emailing senior college: laseniorcollege@gmail.com by noon Nov. 17. Be sure to mention the presentation you wish to see and your name.




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Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

MONDAY, NOV. 9
AUBURN – Special City Council meeting
5:30 p.m.
LEWISTON – Planning Board meeting, City Hall Council Chambers.
Time TBA
GORHAM – Conservation Commission meeting via ZOOM.
AUBURN – Special City Council meeting

TUESDAY, NOV. 10
AUBURN – Planning Board meeting
6 p.m.
LEWISTON – City Council workshop, via ZOOM.
6:30 p.m.
GORHAM – Town Council meeting via ZOOM.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 11
GORHAM – Veteran's Day Holiday observed. Town offices closed.
6:30-8:30 p.m.
AUBURN – Parks and Rec Advisory Board

meeting, Auburn Hall, Room 204

MONDAY, NOV. 16
AUBURN – City Council workshop and meeting.
5:30-6:30 p.m.
LEWISTON – Finance Committee meeting, City Hall admin conference room.

TUESDAY, NOV. 17
AUBURN – Auburn Public Library Board of Trustees meeting; Auburn Sewer District Trustees meeting; Conservation Commission meeting.
8 a.m.
GORHAM – Ordinance Committee Meeting via ZOOM.
6 p.m.
LEWISTON – City Council meeting, via ZOOM.

meeting, Auburn Hall, Room 204

TUESDAY, NOV. 17
6:30 p.m.
GORHAM – (tentative) 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 Patten, um.fhc.pd@maine.edu; (207) 338-8002.

6:30 p.m.
GORHAM – Zoning Board of Appeals meeting via ZOOM.

MONDAY, NOV. 23
5:30 p.m.
LEWISTON – Planning Board meeting, City Hall Council Chambers.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 25 AND THURSDAY, NOV. 26
 Thanksgiving holiday observed.
 Town offices closed.

TUESDAY, DEC. 1
6:30 p.m.
GORHAM – Town Council meeting via ZOOM.

MONDAY, DEC. 7
5:30-8:30 p.m.
AUBURN – City Council Workshop and Meeting, Auburn Hall, Council Chambers.
7 p.m.
GORHAM – Planning Board Meeting via ZOOM.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 9
7 p.m.
GORHAM – School Committee meeting via ZOOM.

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TUESDAY, DEC. 15
8 a.m.
GORHAM – Ordinance Committee meeting via ZOOM.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 16
8 a.m.
GORHAM – Gorham Economic Development Corporation meeting via ZOOM.

THURSDAY, DEC. 17
6:30 p.m.
GORHAM – Zoning Board of Appeals meeting via ZOOM.

FRIDAY, DEC. 25
 Christmas holiday observed.
 Town offices closed.

THURSDAY, DEC. 31
2-5 p.m.
GORHAM – New Year Gorham event. Details to be determined.

FRIDAY, JAN. 1, 2021
 New Year's Day holiday observed.
 Town offices closed.

Maine electric cooperative receives \$9.5 million loan

From USDA

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue last week announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing an additional \$3.1 billion to build or improve rural electric infrastructure in 25 states.

He highlighted a record level of funding for fiscal year (FY) 2020 to upgrade infrastructure.

In Maine, the Eastern Maine Electric Cooperative will receive an Electric Loan in the amount of \$9.5 million.

“Working and accessible rural electric infrastructure is a cornerstone to prosperity in America’s heartland,” Secretary Perdue said. “This critical funding reflects President Trump’s commitment to increasing prosperity across all of rural America and

ensures this major infrastructure network remains reliable for the millions of Americans who depend on it every day.”

USDA Rural Development State Director Timothy P. Hobbs said, “During October National Cooperatives Month, I am pleased to announce this Trump Administration investment in critical rural Maine infrastructure. Services like these are at the heart of USDA Rural Development’s mission to build thriving rural Maine communities.”

The Electric Loan in the amount of \$9.5 million will be used by Eastern Maine Electric Cooperative to connect 412 consumers, and build and improve 61 miles of line. This loan includes over \$1 million in smart grid technologies.

Eastern Maine Electric Co-operative is headquartered in Calais and

serves an average of 12,637 members over 1,756 miles of line in Aroostook, Penobscot and Washington counties in eastern Maine.

USDA is investing in 53 projects through the Electric Loan Program. This funding will benefit 1.4 million rural residents and businesses in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin.

The department invested \$6.3 billion in the Electric Loan Program in FY 2020, up from \$5.8 billion in 2019 – also a record. USDA made loans to 119 utilities in 34 states across the country during FY 2020, which ended on Sep-

tember 30. Those figures build upon the \$3.7 billion invested in 2018.

Helping improve rural electric infrastructure is a significant part of the Trump administration’s “all-of-the-above” energy strategy. USDA’s Electric Program helps finance wind, solar and natural gas plants, as well as improvements to produce clean energy from coal-fired plants. Local utilities also use the loans to invest in infrastructure to deliver affordable power to thousands of residential, commercial and agricultural consumers.

Twenty-one of the loans that USDA awarded in FY 2020, representing almost 10 percent of total loan volume by dollar, will help expand smart grid technologies. Smart grid can be a catalyst for broadband and other telecommunications services in unserved and underserved

rural areas. These loans will finance nearly 23,000 new line-miles of smart grid fiber when buildout is complete.

Rural electric cooperatives and utilities are increasing their internal communications capabilities to improve the reliability and efficiency of the electric grid. This added communications capacity helps cooperatives and their partners expand broadband coverage as they leverage these USDA smart grid investments.

In addition, this year, USDA has made it easier for rural electric utilities and cooperatives to use Electric Program loans for vegetation management

programs to prevent and control wildfires.

During FY 2020, USDA also approved nearly \$104 million in loans for 11 energy efficiency programs under the Rural Energy Savings Program and \$11.7 million in High Energy Cost Grants to rural communities and villages in Alaska to lower the cost of energy consumption and upgrade aging generation systems.

Some Electric Program loans are specifically targeted to support the administration’s actions to spur economic development in areas where poverty rates have been stubbornly high for decades.

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Several of the nearly 40 protesters from the group Mainers Against Mask Mandates who traveled to August on Oct. 24 to picket near the Blaine House against the mandate that Mainers must wear a mask during the COVID-19 pandemic. (Geraghty photo)

UnmaskME

Continued from page 1

wide mask mandate, pointing out that 12 of the state's 16 counties have a low

transmission risk and that no counties, not even York or Cumberland, are considered high risk by the Maine Centers For Disease Control.

His remarks came just days before the Maine CDC began reporting a spike in new cases, which has led Mills to consider holding off on reopening bars Nov. 4 as planned.

Independent Senate candidate Max Linn, who made headlines when he cut up a mask during a debate, made a surprise visit to speak at the protest. "There's never been a better time to be an American patriot," he told the crowd. Linn said Washington politics won't change until the people choose "citizen legislators" like him to replace those now in power.

It was the appeals of ordinary citizens who spoke that appeared to carry the most weight with the crowd.



Demonstrators applaud a speech by 1st District Congressional Candidate Dr. Jay Allen as he tells them "This is not an anti-mask rally, it is an anti-mask mandate rally," during a protest against the Maine requirement to wear masks during the COVID-19 pandemic. The demonstration took place near the Blaine House in Augusta on Oct. 24. (Geraghty photo)

Rebecca Rochelle said she simply cannot wear a mask. The one time she did, she passed out, yet little concern was shown. "I've been called killer, uncaring, rude, entitled . . . I'm all for laws,

but I also expect people to treat each other with respect, and to care for my health."

The protest drew a response from Mills' office later in the day which urged Maine people to continue

to wear face coverings, not only to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission but "as a sign of respect for our fellow Maine citizens" and "to keep our economy up and running."

Four Promoted at SeniorsPlus

From SeniorsPlus

LEWISTON – Four staff members at SeniorsPlus were recently promoted.

Dana Morrell was promoted to Community Services Supervisor. Morrell will provide supervision and assistance to staff of the various Older Americans Act programs managed by the Community Services Department.

Michelle Beers was promoted to Case Management Supervisor and will provide implementation and oversight for the various

contractual case management programs supported by the Community Services Department. Morrell is a Licensed Social Worker and Beers is a Licensed Master Social Worker.

Kerry Faria, promoted to Medicare Coordinator, will provide education and assist with enrollment and advocacy for Medicare beneficiaries.

Tina Record was promoted to Atypical Services Program Supervisor and will be responsible for supervising development, management and implementation of the Atypical

Services program, which includes Emergency Response Systems, Facility Respite, Assistive Technology, and Home (Environmental) Modifications.

Established in 1972, SeniorsPlus is the Western Maine designated Agency on Aging covering Franklin, Oxford and Androscoggin counties. The overall program goal of SeniorsPlus is to assist older adults and adults with disabilities to remain safely at home for as long as possible. The mission of SeniorsPlus is to enrich the lives of seniors and adults with disabilities.

CCU receives awards



Betsy Sibley, VP of Marketing, left; Andrew Lunn, Executive Vice President; Jennifer Hogan, President/CEO; Liz Campbell-Brown, AVP of Financial Operations; and JoAnn Jackson, VP of Financial Operations, are part of the Senior Leadership Team at Community Credit Union that recently received awards from the Maine Credit Union League in recognition of help the credit union has provided to the local community. (Photo courtesy of CCU)

The Maine Credit Union League conducted its annual convention virtually due to the pandemic, but that didn't stop the organization from recognizing the impact of Credit Unions in their communities over the past year.

Community Credit Union was awarded first place for the Desjardins Youth Financial Education Award, the Desjardins Adult Financial Education Award, the Dora Max-

well Social Responsibility Community Award and the Louise Herring Philosophy in Action Member Service Award.

The award category includes all credit unions with \$50-\$250 million in assets. As a first place award recipient, Community Credit Unions entries will be considered by Credit Union National Association for national awards. Those winners will be chosen in November.

This year's awards focused on the financial education efforts of Community Credit Union for both youth and adults in Androscoggin County, as well as new programs developed for members including the Ready, Set, YES! auto loan program and a First Time Auto Buyer program.

The Dora Maxwell Social Responsibility Community Award focused on the Credit Union's effort to help underserved populations in our community such as immigrants, low-income families, victims of domestic violence and at risk youth.

The Credit Union was also recognized for 75 years of serving the community.

Community Credit Union is a member-owned, full service financial institution that has been serving its members in Androscoggin County for 75 years. Community Credit Union has branches at 144 Pine Street, Lewiston; 40 Stanley Street, Auburn; and 1025 Auburn Road, Turner, serving approximately 10,000 members.

For more information, go to: communitycreditunion.com.

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