

## Ghost kitchens brings the restaurant home



David Robinson puts toppings on a pizza under the watchful eye of co-chef Trent Seib and Ghost Karen's Kitchens owner Karen Nason. The ghost kitchen will bring a "restaurant experience to your home and your table," Nason said. (Tsukroff photo)

By Nathan Tsukroff

GORHAM – “We’re bringing a restaurant experience to your home and your table.”

That’s how Karen Nason describes her new Ghost Karen’s Kitchens that will be offering gourmet-style foods from six different menus for delivery or pickup in the Gorham area.

Touted as “Six amazing menus under one roof”, the ghost kitchen at 29 School Street was Nason’s response to having her other venue, Grand Central Wine Bar at 7 Railroad Avenue, shut down for nearly seven months under Maine’s COVID-19 restrictions.

Nason said ghost kitchens is “a trend going across the country right now. It began in Boston, New York City and San Francisco.”

“The good thing about ghost kitchens is that nobody’s coming in. No one’s going to complain about the wait staff. Nobody’s complaining about the parking. No one’s complaining about the décor . . . because you’re not coming in here, only to pick up. And we’re going to deliver to you.”

According to Wikipedia, A ghost kitchen is a professional food preparation and cooking facility set up for the preparation of delivery-only meals.

Ghost Karen’s Kitchens prepares food for Brooklyn Benny’s, with pizza and submarine sandwiches; Bliss Bowl, offering gyoza, which are similar to dumplings with a thinner dumpling wrapper and more finely chopped stuffing; Soup Dogg & Salad, featuring a variety of soups and salads; Mykonos Mediterranean, that has Mediterranean styled meals and sandwiches; Backyard Burger, with a variety of burgers with toppings from countries around the world; and My Thai, with Pad Thai, Coconut Curry Bowl, and a Spicy Beef Rice Bowl on its menu.

“So your daughter wants pizza. You’ve decided you want My Thai food (it’s called My Thai!), and your wife would like our Bliss Bowl,” Nason said. “Well, there are six menus here. So consider it six

different restaurants with 10 chefs.”

Chefs at the ghost kitchen have been furloughed or are out of work because of the pandemic. “So all these chefs that are out of work are coming here . . . these amazing chefs . . . and we’re creating this experience. It’s not takeout food that you’re used to,” Nason said.

“So all of these wonderful menus and desserts can be delivered to your home, with your wine choices and your beer, and you don’t have to move!” she said. Housed in a former bar/restaurant space, the kitchen is stocked with a selection of wines and craft beers curated by Nason. The handsome wood bar itself is no longer used for guests, but for lining up orders for delivery.

Nason said the ghost kitchens are important because the COVID-19 pandemic “has already changed how you’re going out now. A lot of people aren’t going out at all.”

The ghost kitchen is really a concept introduced by Domino’s Pizza decades ago. “You never went to Domino’s to sit down. You just wanted Domino’s to deliver,” she said. “They were really the official first ghost kitchen, and they’re one of the few people that have successfully done well” during the pandemic.

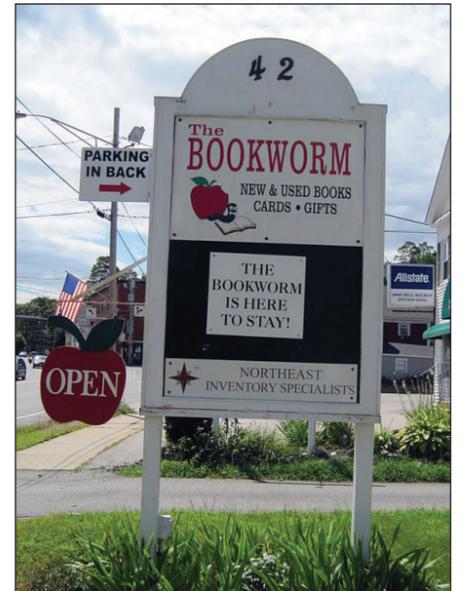
“It’s like having Thanksgiving dinner” each night, because each person can have their choice of special food, Nason said. So with “COVID stopping the restaurant experience, we’re going to bring it to you.”

Nason sees a positive side to the pandemic restrictions with families spending more time together. “I think we’ve learned to like eating at home with each other, which has been lacking for a very long time. Kind of our social graces kind of got lost along the way. You know, it’s nice to sit around the table and have dinner.”

Nason’s Grand Central Station Wine Bar is considered to be a lounge, not a restaurant, she said, and it offers a limited menu. Now, guests will be able to order a variety of meals to be delivered right to the wine bar for them to enjoy.

Nason graduated from Gorham High

## Books donated by The Bookworm



The Bookworm at 42 Main St. Gorham, is once again accepting donations of \$2 per book to go towards the donation of age-appropriate books for area children. Wrapped books will be available for pickup at the Gorham Food Pantry. (Photo courtesy of The Bookworm)

From The Bookworm

GORHAM – The Bookworm at 42 Main St, Gorham, is continuing its tradition of donating books for area children during the holiday season.

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, the store will be providing wrapped books for parents to pick up at the Gorham Food Pantry for their children.

Donation’s of \$2 per book should be made directly at The Bookworm, and each donation goes toward an age-appropriate book for a child.

## Baxter Memorial Library events

From Baxter Library

GORHAM – December events at Baxter Memorial Library:

**Thursday, Dec 10, 9:30 a.m.** - Toddler Discovery Time. Join Ms. Dani for a Virtual Discovery Time on Facebook. She will read a story and present an extension activity related to the book. So much fun for this age group! (18 months-3 yrs)

See Baxter, page 11

# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## Guest Column

### Nominees for word of the year

By Grammar Guy

During this unprecedented year we've been introduced to a number of words, phrases and terms, many of which we're eager to erase from our memories. The year 2020 has seen social unrest, political animosity and — of course — coronavirus.

With this bleak backdrop for context, here are Grammar Guy's nominees for the 2020 word of the year.

**Social distancing.** I'm not sure who coined this phrase, but it's not even accurate. The idea is that if we stay physically distant from each other, we will be less likely to spread the global pandemic of COVID-19. "Social distancing" is a misnomer because, technically, we can still interact socially, although it has been tremendously harder to do so.

**Zoom.** I know there are other virtual meeting platforms, but Zoom seems to be the most ubiquitous. The videoconferencing

service has been around since 2011, but it caught on this year because it's free (as long as you keep your meeting to forty minutes or fewer).

**Bubble.** While I've been tempted to purchase a personal bubble (like the "Bubble Boy" episode from "Seinfeld"), the most successful efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19 has been in social barriers, most notably with the NBA's and NHL's end of the regular season and playoffs. I do love that the WNBA's version of this became affectionately known as the "wubble."

**Flatten the curve.** The idea was that, if we mostly stayed home and severely limited contact with people other than the people living in our homes, the upward trajectory of the coronavirus surge would flatten out. It kind of worked for a few weeks, and then it didn't. Americans thumbed their collective noses at stay-at-home orders and suggested mask-wearing in the name of personal liberty. Now

new cases are surging. So much for "flattening the curve."

**New normal.** If I hear someone say "new normal" one more time, I'll scream right through my reusable face covering. It's not new anymore. I'm never going to accept pandemic life as "normal." Let's tar and feather "new normal" and run it out of town. Thoughts and prayers.

Sure, it's been a rough year. In fact, each week has felt like a year all on its own. I'm looking forward to turning the calendar to 2021, when hopefully we'll get a handle on coronavirus and start being kinder to each other. What word gets your vote? Is it one on this list, or do you want to nominate a different word? In the meantime, if you need me, I'll be in my bubble.

*Curtis Honeycutt is a syndicated humor columnist. He is the author of Good Grammar is the Life of the Party: Tips for a Wildly Successful Life. Find more at curtishoneycutt.com.*

## Ski Maine COVID-19 Readiness Course

From CMCC

AUBURN - Central Maine Community College's Center for Workforce and Professional Development has partnered with the Ski Maine Association to create specialty COVID-19 Readiness training for Maine's robust ski industry.

Built off Maine CDC guidelines, the National Ski Areas Association Ski Well, Be Well recommendations, and the Ski Maine COVID-19 operating protocols, this training will be available to 2,500 employees from different ski sites across the state.

Employees who successfully complete this train-

ing will earn a digital badge in COVID-19 Readiness Ski Industry Foundations. This badge serves as a digital representation of learning which the individual can use to promote their skills on LinkedIn or Facebook.

Dick Gowens, executive director of the Ski Association of Maine, said the training will proactively ensure Ski Maine employees are educated on how to work as safely as possible in a COVID-19 environment.

"The employee's knowledge will enhance health and safety by reducing risk for individual employees, team members, and customers while at area ski resorts," Gowens said. "The COVID-19 Readiness badge

will show that the badge earner is fully prepared to operate in our 'new normal' successfully and safely."

After a wonderful experience working together, Gowens said other businesses should consider partnering with CMCC.

"We feel confident that with the information ski area employees will learn from the course they developed for us, that the ski experience in Maine will be enjoyable for guests and will reduce risk of transmission for employees and communities across Maine. We encourage all business sectors to reach out to [CMCC] for help developing similar programs," Gowens said.

## Puritan to expand COVID-19 swab production

From U.S. Sen. Collins

BANGOR - U.S. Senator Susan Collins (R-Maine) announced recently that Puritan Medical Products, a medical supplies manufacturer based in Guilford, has been awarded \$11.6 million to expand its COVID-19 testing swab production.

This award, which was funded through the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act enacted in April, will be used to increase production of swabs by three million per month.

"Increased testing is crucial to tracking and slowing the spread of COVID-19 and keeping our communities safe. Puritan Medical Products has risen to this challenge by exponentially increasing

its production of testing swabs, creating hundreds of jobs in Guilford and Pittsfield in the process," said Senator Collins. "I am very proud of the dedicated Mainers who have been involved in this manufacturing effort that is so critical to the health of our nation, and I will continue to advocate for the resources that they need to keep up the fight."

As a senior member of the Appropriations Committee, Senator Collins worked to secure a \$75.5 million investment for Puritan using Defense Production Act funds in April, which increased Puritan's production of testing swabs and helped to build a modern manufacturing facility in Pittsfield.

In August, Senator Collins announced a \$51.2

million grant that allowed Puritan to retrofit an additional facility in Pittsfield. Together, these contracts brought Puritan's total production of flock tip swabs and foam swabs to at least 90 million per month, and allowed the company to hire hundreds of additional employees.

The new award will help modify the newest plant in Pittsfield to accommodate additional object flocking machines to make swabs for Cue Health. This funding will cover additional engineering work, changes in utilities, and overtime needed to keep the overall project on schedule.

The complete project timeline has not changed, and Puritan will have intermediate operational capacity as a result of this additional funding.

## Step up your online safety practices

From Boston BBB

BOSTON - The Internet has become a significant part of our everyday lives, allowing us to work, socialize and shop online. Unfortunately, cybercriminals also benefit from that same convenience and accessibility.

Through its online reporting tool, the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) connects the public with the FBI. According to IC3's 2019 annual report, almost 500,000 complaints and \$3.5 billion in losses were reported last year, with adults over 60 being the demographic most impacted by internet crime. Texas ranks third in the United States for number of victims and fourth for total dollar losses.

Step up your online safety practices with these tips from your Better Busi-

ness Bureau:

**Increase your online privacy.** Protect your online accounts by implementing multifactor authentication and using strong passwords, which consist of letters, numbers and special characters. Individuals should also refrain from accessing banking information or making online purchases when connected to an unsecured public network.

**Stay secure while you work.** As more employees work virtually during the COVID-19 crisis, they should be more vigilant about internet scams and online fraud. Business and personal information should be treated with the same care; avoid sharing it with unfamiliar parties or over unsecured networks. It is important to keep the security software on your business devices up to date, because

only one employee needs to be compromised for an entire organization to experience a data breach.

**Use social media responsibly.** Social media is a great way to connect with friends and family, but it can also allow scammers and cybercriminals to target you. Only accept friend requests from people you trust, avoid clicking links in messages from strangers, and refrain from posting your personal information online. Remember to be careful about what you share. Remember, there is no "delete" button online.

For more online safety tips, visit at BBB.org, and go to CISA.gov to learn more about National Cyber Security Awareness Month.

Have you encountered cybercrime? Report it to BBB.org/ScamTracker and IC3.gov/Complaint.

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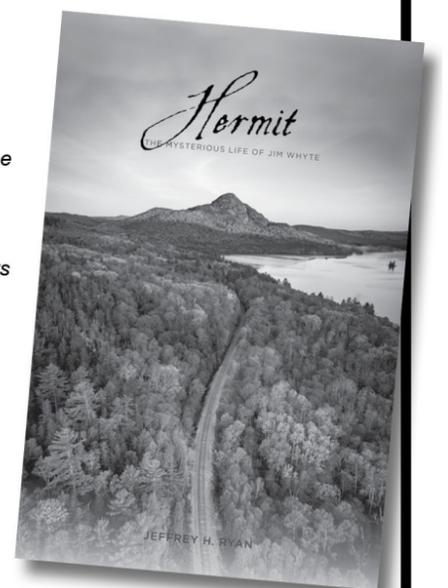
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— Bill Bushnell, Bushnell on Books

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— George Smith, Bangor Daily News

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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## Bellows first woman to serve as Maine Secretary of State

From Maine Senate Pres.

AUGUSTA – On Wednesday last week, a joint session of the 130th Maine Legislature voted for constitutional officers for the political years 2021 and 2022 and statutory officer for the political years 2021 through 2024:

Shenna Bellows was chosen as Secretary of State, the first woman to serve in that position in Maine's history. Matthew Dunlap was chosen as State Auditor. He had previously served as Secretary of State.

Henry Beck was re-selected as State Treasurer, an office he has filled since 2018. Aaron Frey was confirmed to continue as Attorney General, a position he has filled since 2018.

Senate President Troy Jackson, D-Allagash, said "All four of these individuals — Hon. Shenna Bellows, Hon. Matt Dunlap, Hon. Henry Beck and Hon. Aaron Frey — are Mainers with extraordinary character and an unwavering commitment to the people and the future of the state of Maine. I have no doubt they will continue to serve the state with integrity in these roles over the next two years."

"I would like to especially congratulate Shenna for being elected as the first woman in the history of this state to serve as Secretary of State," Jackson said. "She has earned the respect of people all across the state for her efforts to protect the rights of Maine voters and will be sorely

missed in the Maine Senate."

Senate Majority Leader Nate Libby, D-Lewiston, said "I'm thrilled for the people of Maine that they'll have such great leaders serving as constitutional and statutory officers over the next two years. It has been a pleasure to work with them throughout my tenure in the State Legislature, and I know they're committed to upholding the best interests of the state in every decision they make and action they take."

Assistant Senate Majority Leader Eloise Vitelli, D-Arrowsic, congratulated "the constitutional officers and statutory officer on their election to serve in these vital roles for the next two years. I have con-

fidence that they will approach their work with the professionalism and due diligence it takes to protect our elections, uphold the law and the rights of Maine people, and monitor the state's finances."

"I would note that this election is bittersweet because it means that the Hon. Shenna Bellows will be leaving our caucus to serve in this new capacity," Vitelli said. "However, I'm thrilled that she will be making history and serving as Maine's first female Secretary of State. Between her background at the Maine ACLU and her track record in the Maine Legislature, Shenna is well-suited to lead the Secretary of State's Office and inspire women of all ages for generations to come."

## IRS will expand IP PIN program

From Sen. Collins

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announced this week that, starting in January, the Identity Protection (IP) PIN program will now be expanded to all taxpayers who can properly verify their identities.

This expansion was prompted by the Taxpayer Identity Protection Act, bipartisan legislation authored by U.S. Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Doug Jones (D-AL) to thwart identity theft tax refund fraud and prevent American taxpayers and seniors from falling victim. This legislation was signed into law last year as a provision in the Taxpayer First Act.

"Each year, tens of thousands of Americans are victims of tax refund fraud, and seniors are particularly vulnerable," said Senator Collins, the Chairman of the Aging Committee. "Having an IP PIN has proven to protect against identity theft. This expansion by the IRS is an encouraging, concrete step to help protect taxpayers from being ripped off by criminals and ensure that they receive the refunds to which they are entitled."

The IP PIN is a six-digit number assigned to eligible taxpayers to help prevent the misuse of their Social Security number on fraudulent federal income tax returns. An IP PIN helps the IRS verify a taxpayer's identity and ac-

See IRS, page 11

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# Annual Escort of Wreaths and Virtual Convoy

**From WAA**

COLUMBIA FALLS - The annual Wreaths Across America escort will run from Dec. 15 to Dec. 19.

Wreaths Across America (WAA), is a national non-profit whose Mission to Remember, Honor, and Teach, is in part carried out with the placement of sponsored veterans' wreaths at 2500 participating locations across America, most notably, at Arlington National Cemetery, each December. Another highly anticipated piece of this annual event is the weeklong, mile-long parade of tractor trailers, wrapped vehicles carrying veterans and Gold Star Families, law enforcement and motorcycle riders, leading the escort of wreaths to Arlington for placement.

This year's annual escort of wreaths will have a different look and feel due to the necessary changes being made throughout the country for health and safety. The physical journey - which will include one tractor trailer load of wreaths hauled by Gully Transportation professional driver JD Walker, who is also a Gold Star Father and NAVY Veteran, 11 wrapped CHEVY vehicles carrying Gold Star Families, and nine police cruisers - will take place from Tuesday, Dec. 15, through National Wreaths Across America Day, Saturday, Dec. 19.

"For those who have had the opportunity to participate in the escort

of wreaths over the years, it is truly an experience of a lifetime," said Karen Worcester, executive director, WAA. "The way we have been welcomed into communities, over the years, with flags waving and streets lined with children and veterans, is something we always wished every American could witness. And now, thanks to PenFed's support, we'll be able to offer this incredible journey to all those who wish to participate. We are both grateful and excited to safely share the mission with all who want to participate."

In partnership with PenFed Credit Union's digital media content team, PenFed Digital, this year's escort will also be shared virtually for the nation to join along from the safety of their own homes. PenFed Digital and WAA are overcoming pandemic-related challenges to ensure fallen heroes are honored safely. During the escort and leading up to its departure, viewers can follow along, learning about the mission and hearing stories from the people it impacts on Wreaths Across America's Facebook and PenFed's Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and LinkedIn pages. From the professional truck drivers hauling this precious cargo to the hard-working, dedicated volunteers receiving them on the other side of the country, we are going to share their journeys too!

"We are proud to partner with Wreaths Across America to tell the

stories of our nation's veterans - the men and women who served to protect our freedoms," said James Schenck, CEO of PenFed Credit Union and PenFed Foundation. "It's even more important that we continue to support the military community and give back during these uncertain times. This year is going to be especially memorable with both in-person events and the sharing of many incredible stories via social media with those at home. Everyone needs patriotism this holiday season and PenFed is proud to support Wreaths Across America's mission to remember, honor and teach."

The WAA escort will down the northeast portion of the country and invites people to come out and wave flags and share signs and cheers of encouragement.

**Tuesday Dec. 15**  
 9:00AM Coastal Washington County Institute of Technology  
 12 Addison Rd., Columbia, ME 04330  
 10 am Parade through downtown Ellsworth, ME  
 12:45PM Arrive at Central Maine Veterans' Memorial Park  
 Roderick Rd, Winslow, ME 04901  
 3:15PM - Arrive at Ocean Gateway, Portland ME  
 14 Ocean Gateway Pier, Portland, ME 04101  
**Wednesday Dec. 16**  
 8:00AM Leave Portland (small detour through York Village)  
 10:10AM Arrive

at MA State Line  
 12:30PM Parade through portion of Worcester, MA  
 3:30PM Arrives at Regal Cinemas, Branford, CT  
 325 E. Main St. Branford, CT  
 7:30PM Cross the George Washington Bridge  
**Thursday Dec. 17**  
 9:45AM Arrive at Vietnam Veterans' Museum, Holmdel, NJ  
 1 Memorial Ln, Holmdel, NJ 07733  
 1:30PM Arrive at Holy Rosary Church (The Guardian of the Defenders Memorial)  
 3200 Philadelphia Pike, Claymont, DE 19703  
 3:30PM Arrive at Whitehall Village  
 801 Mapleton Ave., Middletown, DE 19709  
 6:00PM Arrive at American Legion Post 278 Kent Island  
 800 Romancoke Rd, Stevensville, MD 21666  
**Friday Dec. 18**  
 Virtual Event 6:30-8:30PM - Watch LIVE on Wreaths Across America Official Facebook Page  
 These stops will take place with safety in mind, and citizens can tune in to various radio stations to hear real-time updates from Wreaths Across America

Radio who will be traveling in the escort.  
**Maine**  
 Ellsworth, Maine (parade through town) - 98.5 FM  
 Central Maine Veterans Memorial, Winslow, ME- 91.9 FM  
 Ocean Gateway, Portland, Maine - 90.7 FM  
**Massachusetts**  
 Parade through portion of Worcester, MA -97.1 FM  
**Connecticut**  
 Branford, CT Regal Cinemas - 91.9 FM  
**New Jersey**  
 Vietnam Veterans Museum, Liberty Park, NJ - 91.9 FM  
**Delaware**  
 Holy Rosary Church, Guardians of the Defenders Memorial, Claymont, DE - 90.5 FM  
 Whitehall Village, Middletown, DE - 90.5 FM  
**Maryland**  
 American Legion Post 278 Kent Island, Stevensville, MD - 90.3 FM  
 Washington DC - 90.5 FM  
 PenFed Digital is the only group following Wreaths Across America's escort from Maine, where the wreaths are assembled, to the laying of the wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery and around the entire country.  
 To find a cemetery

near you to support or to learn how local events are being modified for safety in your community click here.

You can sponsor a wreath for \$15 at <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/>. Each sponsorship goes toward a fresh balsam veteran's wreath that will be placed on the headstone of an American hero as we endeavor to honor all veterans laid to rest on Saturday, Dec. 19 as part of National Wreaths Across America Day. You can text WREATH to 20222 to sponsor a wreath for Arlington National Cemetery right from your phone.

Wreaths Across America is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded to continue and expand the annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery begun by Maine businessman Morrill Worcester in 1992. The organization's mission - Remember, Honor, Teach - is carried out in part each year by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies in December at Arlington, as well as at thousands of veterans' cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and beyond. For more information or to sponsor a wreath, visit [www.wreathscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org).

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# Maine requests first COVID-19 vaccines

With no vaccine yet approved, Maine CDC prepares for first shipment

**From Maine DHHS**

AUGUSTA — The Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) announced Friday that the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) has placed orders for doses of COVID-19 vaccine for 12,675 people to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Operation Warp Speed.

This order represents the first in a series of vaccine requests that Maine CDC will file in the coming weeks and months, as specified by Operation Warp Speed, as part of Maine's accessible, flexible, and equitable distribution plan for the vaccine.

Maine CDC's order reflects the maximum number of doses that the federal government recently informed Maine would be available in the first allocation. When fulfilled, the order will be enough to vaccinate approximately 12,675 people with the first of two required doses.

"We look forward to FDA authorization of the vaccine as we await the initial doses," said DHHS Commissioner Jeanne Lambrew. "We thank Maine's congressional delegation for their collabora-

tion and their support for additional federal funding that will be vital to the success of this monumental undertaking to protect the health of Maine people."

"This is a significant step, but placing the order is not the same as having the vaccine in hand," said Dr. Nirav D. Shah, Director of the Maine CDC. "We are confident that Maine CDC will receive these doses and are in position to administer them to the highest priority recipients, such as health care providers and residents of long-term care facilities. As we await potential FDA authorization, we are continuing our planning process and remain committed to efficient and equitable distribution of the vaccine."

Maine CDC expects the initial allocation to be composed of doses from Pfizer, which will require ultra-cold storage. After the initial allocation, which Operation Warp Speed leaders said could arrive as soon as mid-December, Maine CDC has been told to expect two more weekly allocations of 12,675 doses of the Pfizer vaccine, and approximately 24,200 doses for the first week and 10,700 doses for the second

week of the vaccine created by Moderna, pending FDA authorization.

Per guidelines approved by the U.S. CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the initial allocation will be administered to frontline health care professionals, as well as residents of skilled nursing and long-term care facilities. The first shipments of Pfizer vaccine will be sent to six locations with ultra-cold freezer capacity throughout Maine. Receiv-

ing 975 doses each will be Maine Medical Center in Portland, Northern Light Mercy Hospital in Portland, Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor, Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston, Northern Light A. R. Gould Hospital in Presque Isle and the Maine CDC.

The remaining 6,825 doses will be administered to residents of long-term care facilities in Maine, through a collaborative agreement with elder care

facilities and pharmacies.

With the assistance of Maine's congressional delegation, the Mills Administration has received additional information from the federal government about the significant reduction in Maine's initial allocation of COVID-19 vaccine. The federal government originally estimated that Maine would receive 36,000 doses in the initial allotment, nearly three times more than the amount now expected. The Mills Administration

was informed that Pfizer reduced the number of vaccines it expects to ship worldwide, including to Maine, due to supply chain challenges. The company also extended the schedule for shipping vaccine doses over a longer period.

Maine's planning for COVID-19 vaccine distribution began in spring 2020, building on the existing network of vaccine providers throughout the state. In October, Maine CDC submitted the first

*See Vaccines, page 12*

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# Arts & Entertainment

## New Ventures Maine Awards Marketing Mini-Grant

### From NVM

LISBON FALLS - Little Ridge Farm of Lisbon Falls has been selected as New Ventures Maine's fall 2020 Western Maine Marketing Mini-grant recipient.

The farm was the unanimous winner, selected from a strong group of applicants from Androscoggin, Franklin and Oxford counties.

Little Ridge Farm was founded in 2007 by Keena Tracy. It is a certified organic farm with the mission of providing fresh healthful food for the community while maintaining healthy soils, environment and self. They grow and sell mixed fruit and vegetables, and raise turkeys, beef cows and pigs for meat. They sell their products through community supported agriculture (CSA), online, at farmer's market, to restaurants and the Good Shepard Food Bank.

The New Ventures

Maine Marketing Mini-grant will be used for a targeted campaign to promote their online sales platform, [littleridge.farm-drop.us](http://littleridge.farm-drop.us), and for additional pop-up farmer's markets in 2021. Little Ridge Farm manages this platform for themselves and 15 other farm vendors. This online platform is helping to meet the increased demand for low-contact purchasing of local food products during COVID19.

New Ventures Maine's Marketing Mini-Grant program aims to strengthen access to markets for micro-businesses. The program supports the development of marketing tools, materials, and activities. We are thankful to Norway Savings Bank for helping to support this program.

A statewide organization serving all sixteen Maine counties from ten centers and outreach sites, New Ventures Maine offers

skill development and support in the areas of career planning, entrepreneurship,

and financial management. For more information on Marketing Mini-Grants as

well as other programs, classes, and resources for small businesses, vis-

it [newventuresmaine.org](http://newventuresmaine.org) or call 1-800-442-2092 to find one of the centers.



Keena Tracy of Little Ridge Farm in Lisbon Falls recently received a mini-grant from New Ventures Maine to use for marketing her business. (Photo courtesy of NVM)



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# Selecting seeds for vegetable gardens Dec. 16

## From UMaine

ORONO - University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association will offer a webinar about selecting suitable seeds for Maine vegetable gardens from noon-1 p.m. Dec. 16.

“Planning Your Vegetable Garden: Selecting the Right Seeds” includes variety selection, disease resistance, quantities to

order and more. MOFGA crop and conservation specialist Caleb Goossen will lead the workshop.

Registration is required; a \$5 donation is optional. Register on the event webpage to attend live or receive a link to the recording. This is the final session in a six-part fall gardening webinar series.

For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation,

contact Pamela Hargest, 207.781.6099; pamelahargest@maine.edu.

As a trusted resource for over 100 years, University of Maine Cooperative Extension has supported UMaine’s land and sea grant public education role by conducting community-driven, research-based programs in every Maine county. UMaine Extension helps support, sustain and grow the food-based econ-

omy.

Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA, www.mofga.org), formed in 1971, is the oldest and largest state organic organization in the country. The organization aims to educate about and advocate for organic agriculture, illuminating its interdependence with a healthy environment, local food production, and thriving communities.



Swiss chard. (Photo courtesy of UMaine)

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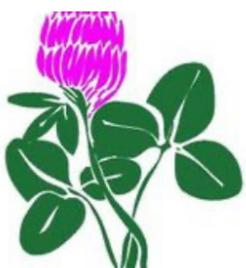
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## **Clover Health Care**

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**Restaurant**

*Continued from page 1*

be by e-bike, Nason said. The bike has huge tires for a safe ride in inclement weather, and the built-in electric motor powers it at up to 20 mph. About 100 students remain on campus.

Other deliveries will be made by drivers working for the kitchen, or through outside services that include GrubHub and DoorDash.

Pickup of ordered meals can be made right in the lobby, using a special temperature controlled locker system with individual compartments. The kitchen will send a passcode to the customer to be used to open the compartment door with their meal or meals inside.

Bottles of wine are \$24 each.

Menus may be found at Ghostkitchensmaine.com. Consumers may place orders online or by calling (207) 222-2121.



Ghost Karen's Kitchens at 29 School Street, Gorham, is a take-out and delivery-only restaurant with six different menus. It opened this week with both delivery and pickup service. (Tsukroff photo)



Karen Nason samples one of the bottles of wine at the Ghost Karen's Kitchens that opened earlier this week for delivery or pickup of meals from six different menus. Located at 29 School St in Gorham, the kitchen provides delivery service throughout the Gorham area. (Tsukroff photo)

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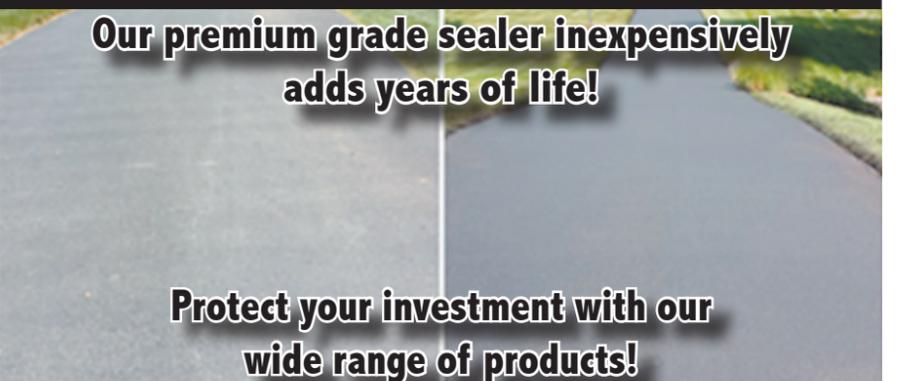


Co-chef David Robinson transfers pizza dough to a container to give it more room to rise as one of the first steps in a three-day process for the New York-style pizza he bakes for the Brooklyn Benny's menu at Ghost Karen's Kitchens in Gorham. The kitchen features six different menus with a variety of offerings. (Tsukroff photo)

Send all items for Names & Faces to the editor. Deadline is Friday by five pm.



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# HNTB celebrates 75 years with MTA

## Guest Column

### Home Country

By Slim Randles

Steve was just sitting there on the tailgate of his pickup, looking out at the world and thinking he's doing all right. The two little kids walking down the sidewalk saw their favorite cowboy sitting there and grinned.

"Hi Steve!"  
"Oh hey there, Bobby ... Sylvia ... how you kids doing these days?"

"Had a good Thanksgiving. Yep. Getting ready for Christmas. Bobby was telling me just a while ago that he wants to train horses, like you, when he grows up."

"I told you not to say anything, Syl, but there you go again. Now Steve will think all I want is horse training lessons."

"Horse training lessons?" Steve said. "Now that would be a good idea, actually. It's always a smart thing to learn from others' mistakes before you make the same ones."

"Mistakes?"  
"See this scar on my arm?" They both nodded. "Barbed wire fence at 27 miles an hour. Horse didn't have a mark on him."

"That was a mistake?"

"Sure was, Bobby. I wasn't supposed to ride that horse. I was about 12, and they told me to ride something gentler."

"But you didn't, huh?"

"No, Sylvia I didn't, because when you're 12, you already know more than the grown-ups around you. It was great, being that smart when I was only 12."

The kids examined every inch of the scar. "I bet you learned, huh?"

"Oh sure, I learned never to run a fractious horse along a barbed-wire fence. And I learned other stuff, too. My right leg's been broken once and I couldn't work for almost two months. My left foot was stomped on and two bones broken by a draft horse I was shoeing, and this scar on the back of my neck? Low branch on a tree and a runaway colt. And on this other arm ... see these? That's all from a horse jerking his hoof while I was shoeing him and I hadn't clinched the nail yet."

Bobby thought for a minute. "That's a lot of learning, Steve. Did it hurt?"

"Every one of them and a couple I don't show to anyone. Are you ready to learn how to be a cowboy? Need some scars?"

"I .... well ... I guess I'd better ask my folks first."

*Brought to you by A Cowboy's Guide to Growing Up Right. Look it over at [www.riorandebooks.com](http://www.riorandebooks.com). Avuncular tips from a guy who made lots of mistakes.*



Changes in the Maine Turnpike over the years – 1947, the late 1990s, 2014, present day. (Photos courtesy of HNTB)

#### From HNTB

**SOUTH PORTLAND** - HNTB Corporation announced on Tuesday that it is celebrating 75 years of partnership with the Maine Turnpike Authority.

The partnership, which is HNTB's longest-standing continuous client relationship, dates back to 1945, two years before the Maine Turnpike was built, when HNTB signed on as the general engineer consultant for the project.

The project ushered in a new era of transportation for Maine and the greater United States. In 1947, when the MTA officially opened the new road, the Maine Turnpike became the first U.S. superhighway built in the postwar era and one of two modern toll highways in the entire country financed solely with revenue bonds.

In addition, the Maine Turnpike was the largest construction project in the state at the time.

"We are thrilled to celebrate this milestone alongside the Maine Turnpike Authority," said Roland Lavalley, PE, HNTB vice president. "We are proud of the great work we've been able to accomplish together, which without this partnership, simply would not be possible. Together, we have advanced the transportation possibilities for the state of Maine, its residents and the greater community."

The Maine Turnpike Authority is committed to the maintenance and modernization of the turnpike, which over seven decades, has been an important transportation corridor for the state. To help the MTA achieve its objectives and ensure the needs of bondholders are being met, HNTB has provided

highway, tolling and transportation expertise to guide the engineering of the turnpike.

HNTB is also involved in toll conversion for certain sections of the highway. To support the open road tolling conversion beginning in 2013, HNTB provided project management, traffic planning, civil engineering design, toll system procurement and oversight, and construction services for the authority's toll plaza conversion project in New Gloucester, Maine.

"Over the years, HNTB has helped the authority bring forward their vision of the future of transportation for Maine," said Peter Mills,

executive director at the Maine Turnpike Authority. "The Maine Turnpike has helped facilitate travel and boost vital economic development in our state, and HNTB's expertise and professional excellence has been a critical driver of that success."

The Maine Turnpike opened Dec. 13, 1947. It now has a length of 111 miles and features 19 toll plazas, 183 bridges, and 22 interchanges.

The Maine Turnpike Authority processed 90,280,830 transaction in 2019 to generate \$140 million in net revenue.

HNTB Corporation is an employee-owned infrastructure firm serving public and private owners and contractors.



## New birding club for Maine youth

From UMaine

Orono, Maine — University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H is offering a new statewide birding club for youth ages 9–18, with online monthly meetings to be scheduled December through April.

The "4-H Bird Chats" club is for youth interested in citizen science, learning more about birds and sharing observations with others. Participants will learn how to contribute data to Project Feeder-

Watch, a winter survey of birds in locations across North America, and share learning experiences with peers.

The club is free to join; registration is required. Register anytime on the 4-H Bird Chats webpage. Online meeting schedule to be determined by Dec. 1.

For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Zabet NeuCollins, 207.667.8212; [zabet.neucollins@maine.edu](mailto:zabet.neucollins@maine.edu).

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# New book from local Mainer

**Baxter**  
*Continued from page 1*

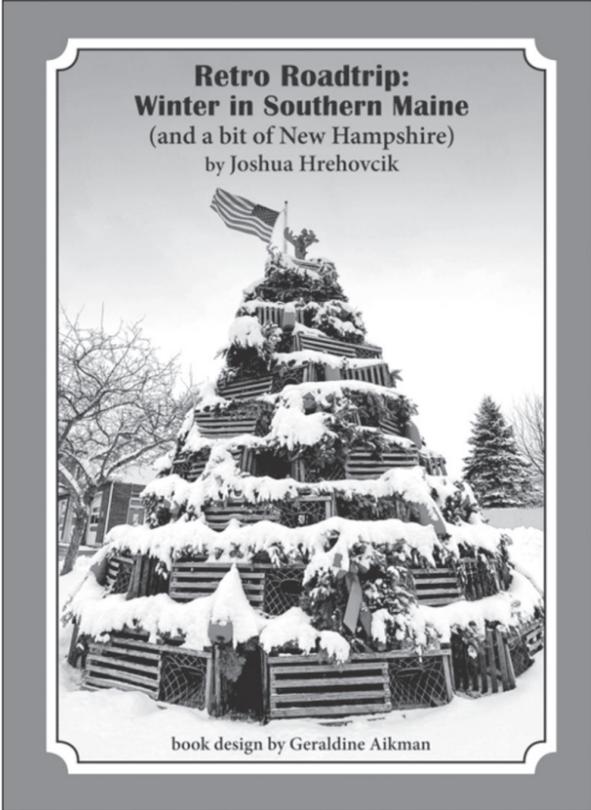
**Tuesday, Dec. 15, 9:30-10 a.m.** - Preschool Discovery Time. If you love picture books watch Ms Heidi on Facebook as she reads a new book each week. (ages 3-5)

**Wednesday, Dec. 16 - 10 a.m.** - STEAM More than a Box. 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. This time, rethink everyday objects around your house to build something fabulous! To kickstart your imagination, come to BML before or after you watch the video and pick up a Mystery Bag Building Kit. (Limited amount of kits available.) Participants are encouraged to take a photo of their creation and submit it to [baxterlibvideos@gmail.com](mailto:baxterlibvideos@gmail.com) (by 12/31/20) to be included in our gallery of awesomeness.

**6 p.m.** - **Polar Express.** The story of the Polar Express goes virtual at Baxter Memorial Library. Join us Live on Facebook as Conductor Jeff reads The Polar Express from the North Pole. To enhance your program experience we've prepared take-away packs to be picked up any time in December. Each child receives: a packet of cocoa, a candy cane, a ticket, and a bell. Hope to see you there!

**Thursday, Dec. 17, 9:30 a.m.** - Toddler Discovery Time. Join Ms. Dani for a Virtual Discovery Time on Facebook. She will read a story and present an extension activity related to the book. So much fun for this age group! (18 months-3 yrs)

**Holiday Hours -**  
**Dec. 24** - 9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
**Dec. 25** - Closed  
**Dec. 31** - 9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
**Jan. 1** - Closed



Cover of Josh Hrehovcik's photo book *Retro Roadtrip: Winter in Maine (and a bit of New England)*. It features 70 pages of full color photos of well-known and out of the way Southern Maine locations and beyond. (Josh Hrehovcik photo)

**From Josh Hrehovcik**

**KENNEBUNK** - Kennebunk resident Josh Hrehovcik recently published his second photo book, "Retro Roadtrip: Winter in Maine (and a bit of New England)".

The 70-page, 8-1/2" x 11" soft cover book features full color original views of winter in Southern Maine and selected New England locations.

A perennial traveler throughout this picturesque area, Hrehovcik finds inspiration in recognizable subjects, like snow-covered boats, cars and lobster traps, sparkling oceans and glowing sunsets, as well as barns, shops and street scenes. Each photo has Hrehovcik's refreshing observation and invites viewer to see often overlooked scenes with a new perspective.

Geraldine Aikman, who curated the images

and designed this book, said, "Josh has a knack for taking everyday things and familiar places and making them shine. This collection of photos may make you see winter in southern Maine (and a bit of New Hampshire) in a different light. It also may encourage you to get out there after the first snowfall and take some pictures of your own."

While professional photography is a new career move for Hrehovcik, his innovative style has attracted attention. He has made several media appearances, including an upcoming interview on the Channel 6 program "207" hosted by Rob Caldwell.

Hrehovcik said, "I'm fortunate to live in a place that has inspiring views wherever you look. I always take my camera with me so, on every trip, I keep my eye open for the next photo opportunity. It's a lot of fun, too."

The new winter Retro Roadtrip is available on Amazon and select bookstores and retail locations and make an ideal gift for the holidays. Price is \$24.00. Individual prints are also available on Hrehovcik's website. [www.retroroadtripper.com](http://www.retroroadtripper.com). For more information call: 207-289-5100.



Hrehovcik's perspective view of a wreath on a red barn getting ready for the holiday season. (Josh Hrehovcik photo)



Snow covered lobster pots retired for the winter. (Josh Hrehovcik photo)



A vintage vehicle sporting fins and protruding tail light make a distinctive image in the snow. (Josh Hrehovcik photo)



Boats tied up at the dock waiting for warmer weather. (Josh Hrehovcik photo)



Photo shy Hrehovcik would rather be taking pictures than the subject of one.

**IRS**  
*Continued from page 3*

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# Maine Theater Fund Awards \$76,000 in Grants



Grace and Jenny of Bana Mboka lead the audience in Congolese dance during a 2019 performance at Mayo Street Arts. (Photo by Vanessa Marcoux, MSA)

**From MCF** PORTLAND & ELLSWORTH—The Maine Theater Fund of the

Maine Community Foundation has awarded 17 grants that total \$76,829 to support professional and community theaters in the

production and presentation of live theater. Grant recipients include Acadia Repertory Theatre, Somesville, to re-

place the theatre's 40-year-old lighting system: \$3,000 Arts & Cultural Alliance of Freeport, for the purchase of a sound system for Meetinghouse Arts: \$5,000

Chocolate Church Arts Center, Bath, to replace ticketing and donation system: \$5,000

Community Little Theater, Auburn, for the theatrical rights and expenses for the production of AR Gurney's Love Letters: \$4,000

Crowbait Club, Portland, for "King of Crows IX," the yearly production of the winners of the monthly Theatre Deathmatch for 10-minute plays: \$2,000

Dramatic Repertory Company, Portland, to fund the 2020-2021 season, including two Maine premier productions: \$5,000

Everyman Repertory Theatre, Rockport, to present the 2021 season of plays that celebrate the arts in Maine and the state's history: \$5,000

Friends of St. Lawrence Church, Portland, to supplement operating funds for maintenance of the Parish Hall Theater: \$3,000

Marsh River Theater, Brooks, for new lights: \$5,000

Mayo Street Arts, Portland, to renovate the box office and concessions area to ADA standards: \$5,000

Midcoast Actors Studio, Belfast, to provide quality year-round theatre opportunities in the new performance space at the former Waldo County Courthouse \$5,000

Ogunquit Playhouse Foundation, to help offset

the costs of COVID-19 personal protective equipment and safety upgrades for the 2021 season re-opening: \$5,000

Portland Lyric Theater, to install an air purification system to improve indoor air quality, preparing for safe opening: \$5,000

Saco River Theatre, to complete construction of staff/performer restrooms in the basement of the building : \$5,000

Terra Moto Inc., South Portland, to produce MAINEUSA: The History of Maine from the Ice Age till Now in July 2021 at Portland Players Theater followed by statewide performances: \$5,000

Theater at Monmouth, to produce Top-Dog/UnderDog by Susan Lori Parks as part of TAM's (R)evolutionary Season Redux: \$5,000

Waldo Theatre Inc., to purchase and install essential flame-retardant stage masking curtains and the required stage rigging: \$4,829

An anonymous couple who recognized the connection between vibrant communities and support for the arts established the Maine Theater Fund in 2005 to strengthen and sustain theater performance throughout the state.

Awards are typically between \$2,500 and \$5,000. The next deadline for applications is September 15, 2021. Guidelines, application and a list of recent grants are available at [www.mainecef.org](http://www.mainecef.org).

Headquartered in Ellsworth, with additional personnel in Portland, Dover-Foxcroft, Rockport, 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.mainecef.org](http://www.mainecef.org).

**Vaccines**  
*Continued from page 5*

version of its plan to distribute a COVID-19 vaccine. Maine will update the plan as more is learned about vaccine manufacturing, storage, efficacy in different groups, dosing schedules, as well as other factors that will affect the implementation of vaccination on a large scale. The vaccine distribution framework will also evolve with continued input from health care providers and various communities throughout Maine.

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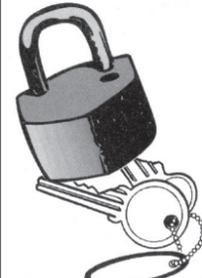
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**THURSDAY  
DEC. 10**

**9:30 a.m.**  
GORHAM – Baxter Library. Toddler Discovery Time - Join Ms. Dani for a Virtual Discovery Time on Facebook. She will read a story and present an extension activity related to the book. So much fun for this age group! (18 months-3 yrs)

**MONDAY  
DEC. 14**

**5:30 p.m.**  
LEWISTON - Planning Board Meeting – City Council Chambers. The Planning Board Agenda and information for this meeting will be available on the website on the Friday before the meeting date.

**TUESDAY  
DEC. 15**

**8 a.m.**  
GORHAM – Ordinance Committee meeting via ZOOM.

**9:30-10 a.m.**  
GORHAM – Baxter Library. Preschool Discovery Time - If you love picture books, watch Ms. Heidi on Facebook as she reads a new book each week. (ages 3-5).

**4-5 p.m.**  
AUBURN – Auburn Sewer District Trustees meeting. 268 Court St.

**6 p.m.**  
LEWISTON - City Council Meeting - CAN BE VIEWED REMOTELY VIA ZOOM: Due to necessary COVID19 precautions, the December 15th City Council meeting will be broadcast via ZOOM - <http://www.lewistonmaine.gov/2020cc> Also, public comment will be possible at [publiccomment@lewistonmaine.gov](mailto:publiccomment@lewistonmaine.gov) The meeting will be archived on the City's YouTube channel <http://www.lewistonmaine.gov/YouTube> by the next day.

# Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

**WEDNESDAY  
DEC. 16**

**8 a.m.**  
GORHAM – Gorham Economic Development Corporation meeting via ZOOM.

**10 a.m.**  
GORHAM – Baxter Library. STEAM More than a Box - 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. This time, re-think everyday objects around your house to build something fabulous! To kickstart your imagination, come to BML before or after you watch the video and pick up a Mystery Bag Building Kit. (Limited amount of kits available.) Participants are encouraged to take a photo of their creation and submit it to [baxterlibvideos@gmail.com](mailto:baxterlibvideos@gmail.com) (by 12/31/20) to be included in our gallery of awesomeness.

**6 p.m.**  
GORHAM – Baxter Library. Polar Express – Polar Express goes virtual at Baxter Memorial Library. Join us Live on Facebook as Conductor Jeff reads The Polar Express from the North Pole. To enhance your program experience we've prepared take-away packs to be picked up any time in December. Each child receives: a packet of cocoa, a candy cane, a ticket, and a bell. Hope to see you there!

**6-8 p.m.**  
AUBURN – Conservation Commission meeting. Community Room, Auburn Hall (second floor).

**THURSDAY  
DEC. 17**

**8-9 a.m.**  
AUBURN – 9-1-1 Committee meeting. L-A Communications, 552 Minot Avenue.

**9:30 a.m.**  
GORHAM – Baxter Library. Toddler Discovery Time - Join Ms. Dani for a Virtual Discovery Time on Facebook. She will read a story and present an extension activity related to the book. So much fun for this age group! (18 months-3 yrs)

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

**MONDAY  
DEC. 21**

**5:30-8:30 p.m.**  
AUBURN – City Council workshop and meeting. Auburn Hall – Council Chambers.

**TUESDAY  
DEC. 22**

**5:30-7 p.m.**  
AUBURN – Agriculture Committee meeting. Auburn Senior Community Center (Pettingill Park).

**WEDNESDAY  
DEC. 23**

**6-7:30 p.m.**  
AUBURN – Complete Streets Committee meeting. Lewiston City Hall – Executive Conference Room.

**FRIDAY  
DEC. 25**

Christmas holiday observed.  
Town offices closed.

**MONDAY  
DEC. 28**

**5:30 p.m.**  
LEWISTON - Plan-

ning Board Meeting – City Council Chambers. The Planning Board Agenda and information for this meeting will be available on the website on the Friday before the meeting date.

**WEDNESDAY  
DEC. 30**

**7:30-8:30 a.m.**  
AUBURN – Auburn Housing Authority Board of Commissioners meeting. Main Office, 20 Great Falls Plaza.

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## Online ENTANGLED film screening

**From UMaine**

BELFAST - The University of Maine Hutchinson Center will host a free online screening of the award-winning documentary, "Entangled," on Friday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m.

The film will be introduced by filmmaker David Abel and followed by a discussion featuring a panel of researchers and industry experts.

The film will be shown online and the discussion will take place via Zoom. There is no cost to participate. To register, visit the Hutchinson Center website at <http://bitly.ws/aJDN>

"Entangled" is an award-winning, feature-length film (75 min.) about how climate change has accelerated a collision between one of the world's most endangered species, North America's

most valuable fishery, and a federal agency mandated to protect both. The film chronicles the efforts to protect North Atlantic right whales from extinction, the impacts of those efforts on the lobster industry, and how regulators have struggled to balance the vying interests. Directed by David Abel and Andy Laub — makers of "Lobster War" and "Sacred Cod," "Entangled" won a 2020 Jackson Wild Media Award, nature films' equivalent to the Oscars. It also won Best Conservation Film at the Mystic Film Festival.

"Entangled" was made with support from the Pulitzer Center, the LEF Foundation, the Society of Environmental Journalists' Fund for Environmental Journalism, and the Boston Globe.

After the screening, a panel of industry experts and researchers will par-

ticipate in a Q & A moderated by Dr. Rick Wahle of UMaine's Lobster Institute. Additional panelists are Kristan Porter from the Maine Lobstermen's Association, Steve Train from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and UMaine researchers Chris Tremblay and Nathan Willse.

This virtual film screening is offered through a partnership with the University of Maine Conferences & Institutes, University of Maine Division of Lifelong Learning, University of Maine Hutchinson Center, the University of Maine Lobster Institute, and the University of Maine Office of Sustainability.

For information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact the Hutchinson Center, [hutchinsoncenter@maine.edu](mailto:hutchinsoncenter@maine.edu); 207.338.8000.

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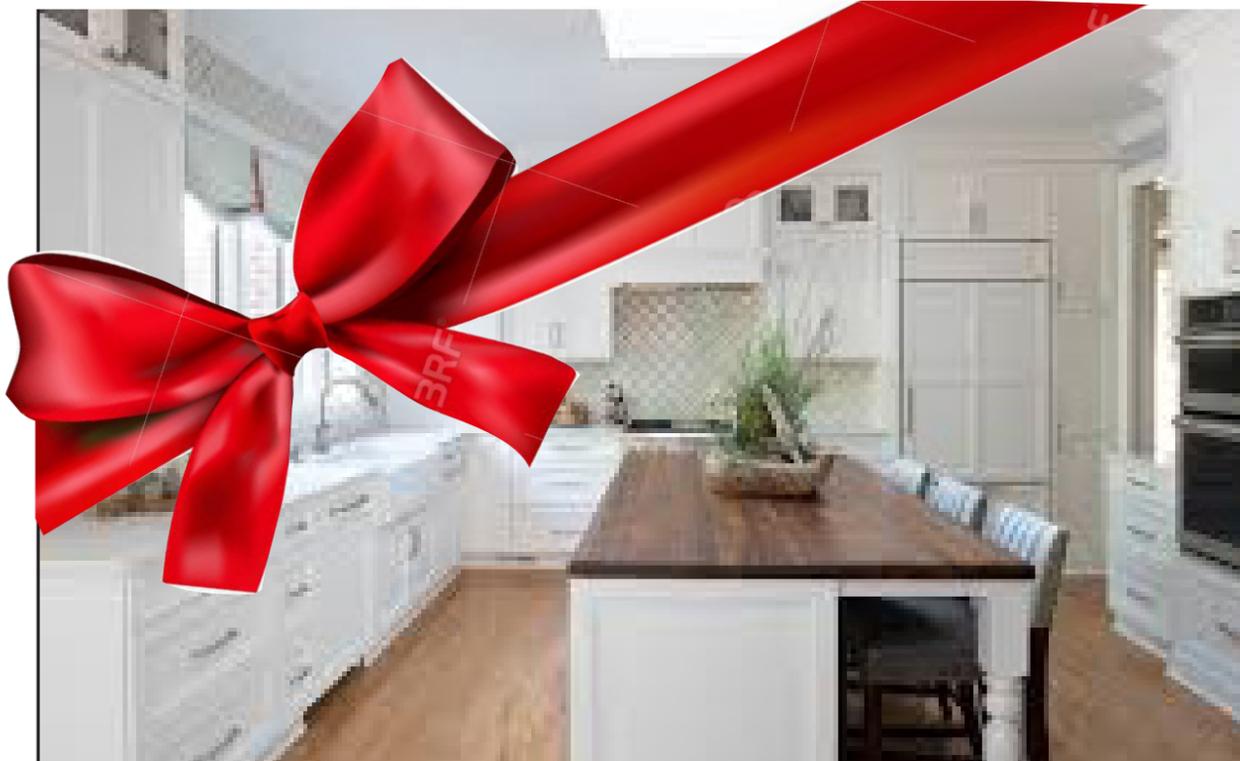
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