

Sports return to Gorham schools

By Nathan Tsukroff

A recent decision by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, coupled with a change to “green” designation for Cumberland County schools, has allowed Gorham High School to restart its winter sports programs.

Cumberland County had been designated green from the start of the pandemic, then was designated “yellow” by the Maine DHHS in December as infection rates increased above state averages across the county.

Under DHHS guidelines, sports activities and other extra curricular activities in schools throughout Cumberland County were immediately suspended, in order to keep students and parents safe.

In mid-January, the Maine DHHS changed its determination for school sports after reviewing and determining that infection rates were substantially lower in schools across the state. The rate of new cases at the time was determined to be 27 per 10,000 school staff and students, compared to 113 per 10,000 people statewide.

The DHHS basically put decisions about sports back in the hands of the Maine Principals Association, which then gave schools approval to local decisions to restart sports and other after-school activities. Schools were advised not to allow competition with schools in other counties, however.

In late-January, the Maine DHHS returned Cumberland County to a green designation, although Androscoggin, York, and Oxford counties remain yellow.

Gorham High School varsity girls basketball coach Laughn Berthiaume said that Cumberland County schools had already made a decision to return to in-person winter sports, based on the change in MPA guidelines. The team began in-person practices on Jan. 25, and begins a five-week, 10-game schedule this week against other Cumberland County schools.

Players on all teams wear masks during both practice and games, and remain socially-distanced when possible.

Berthiaume said fans are not being allowed at games. Only players, coaches and referees up to the maximum of 50 people will be allowed in the gym at one time, under Maine DHHS guidelines. “Under 50 is both teams, game personnel, score clock operators,” he said.

While athletics were suspended, players practiced remotely, Berthiaume said. “We



Gorham High School senior Lauren Fotter throws a pass around fellow teammate Anna Nelson, a junior, during a recent girls varsity basketball team practice at the school. Gorham began play this week in a delayed winter sports season. (Tsukroff photo)

had a number of Zoom meetings. I had some former team members, currently playing in college, that got on with my team and were talking about their experience, and what they were doing to stay safe and practice at the same time.”

Berthiaume and his fellow coaches would “connect with the team virtually to talk about things. We had some videos we sent out about the things we’d like to do, and we had some workouts that we sent them that they could also do on their own.”

With the limitations on social-gathering under DHHS guidelines, the varsity and junior varsity teams will not be traveling together to games as they have in the past. In-

stead, the JV team will ride in a separate bus, playing its game and exiting the gym before the varsity girls take the court. The same process will be used for the boys teams.

The boys and girls teams traditionally play at opposite schools on the same day. And in an attempt to limit contact as much as possible, schools will play both seasonal games the same week, Berthiaume said.

Although parents and fans aren’t allowed to watch in person, “everybody is live streaming their games,” he said. “In reality, the family members that are far away that wouldn’t normally be able to see the games can actually watch them live, so

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Lifetime achievement for Gorham Schools psychologist



Elizabeth (Lisa) Howe of Gorham Public Schools recently received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Maine Association of School psychologists for her years of service to her local school district, and to the profession at the state level. (Photo courtesy of Maine DOE)

From Maine DOE

The Maine Association of School Psychologists (MASP) recently announced that Elizabeth (Lisa) Howe of Gorham Public Schools received the Lifetime Achievement Award for her devotion through years of service to her local school district, as well as to the profession at the state level.

On top of her superb work at the district level, Howe has volunteered many hours of her time over the years in numerous positions with MASP. These have included participation at the committee level as well as serving as Secretary for MASP.

“Beyond the role of evaluators, school psychologists fill a crucial role in school communities providing consultation and collaboration in intervention systems and supporting school staff through professional development and technical assistance,” Erin Frazier, Maine Department of Education Director of Special Services. “These individuals are critical to SAUs efforts to provide a continuum of

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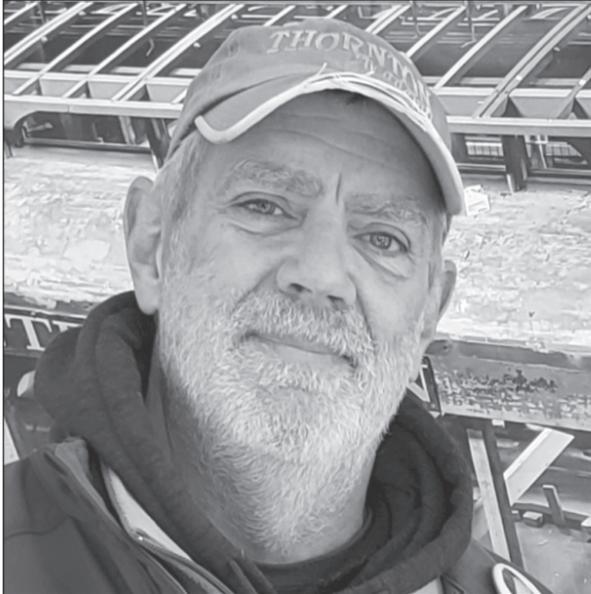
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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

‘Teddy Roosevelt, Millie, and the Elegant Ride’



Phil Morse is the project manager for the restoration of the Narcissus electric trolley on which a young farm girl from Gray met Teddy Roosevelt. (Photo courtesy of USM LA Senior College)



Jean Flahive will talk about a young farm girl from Gray who meets Teddy Roosevelt on the Narcissus trolley, at a Food for Thought Zoom session on Feb. 17. (Photo courtesy of USM LA Senior College)

From USM LA Senior College

LEWISTON - The USM LA Senior College at 51 Westminster St. Lewiston, will host its next Food For Thought on Zoom at 4 p.m. on Feb. 17.

Jean Flahive and Phil Morse will discuss “Teddy Roosevelt, Millie, and the Elegant Ride”.

Based on a true encounter, author Jean Flahive tells of a young farm girl from Gray who meets Teddy Roosevelt, a passenger on the Narcissus, an electric trolley that once ran between Lewiston and Portland.

Today, the Narcissus is being restored at the

Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunkport. Phil Morse is the project manager of this restoration. Jean and Phil will tell us all the history including the Lewiston connections.

To attend, email laseniorcollege@gmail.com by noon on February 16. Attendees will receive an email with the Zoom link on the morning of the event.

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

Checks and balances on emergency authority

From Maine Policy Inst.

PORTLAND, Maine – Maine Policy Institute recently released a new policy brief, “Scoring Emergency Executive Power in all 50 States”, which studies the balance of power between the executive and legislative branches in relation to emergency declarations.

The analysis determines the extent of legislative oversight and the powers delegated to the chief executive, as well as the

process for initiating and terminating an emergency declaration in all 50 states.

Maine received a score of 51 out of 100 points, landing in the middle of the pack in a tie for 22nd overall. This is because the governor has the sole power to initiate an emergency, while the legislature may only terminate it with a majority vote. This is not the worst policy arrangement, but under single-party rule, little incentive exists for legislators to hold the governor

accountable.

“Due to the truly unprecedented exercise of emergency authority in response to COVID-19 over the last year, Americans across the nation have witnessed firsthand the broad police powers entrusted to their governors,” said Nick Murray, policy analyst and author of the report. “This scorecard does not evaluate each individual governor, but rather the statutory checks on the chief executive’s power. Even during emergencies, sound, constitutional government requires balance between the

co-equal branches.”

Kansas and South Carolina outperform the rest of the country because, in both states, the governor must earn legislative approval for an emergency declaration to continue beyond the first 15 days. Kansas scores 1st overall because the legislature may only approve one 30-day extension after the initial 15 days, and requires a unanimous vote of the State Finance Council for successive extensions.

Among the worst-ranking states are Vermont, Arizona, Ohio

and Hawaii because they grant their governors the sole authority to determine when and where an emergency exists, and when it ceases to exist. Vermont ranks last among all 50 states because it also allows certain emergency executive orders to remain in effect up to 180 days after the emergency has been terminated.

Every state received a numerical score between 1 and 20 across five categories for a total of 100 points. The five categories examined in each jurisdiction are: 1) the process for

initiating an emergency declaration; 2) the process for terminating an emergency declaration; 3) time limits on emergency declarations; 4) whether a governor’s powers persist after official termination; and 5) the ability of the governor to alter statute or regulations during the emergency.

High scores denote the most stringent executive powers that allow for the greatest accountability from the legislative branch. Low scores denote the weakest checks on emergency authority.

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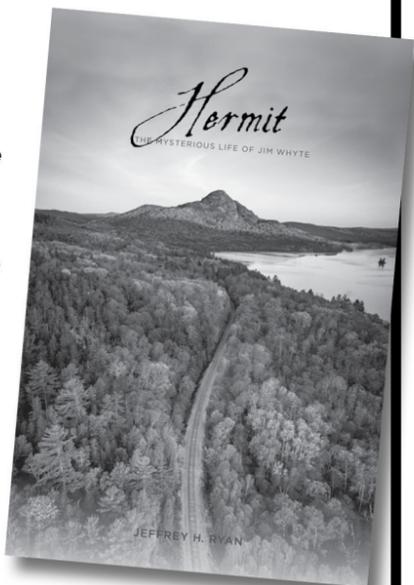
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 — George Smith, Bangor Daily News



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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Portland Chamber appeals wage decision

From Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce

PORTLAND – The Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce is appealing a Maine Superior Court decision on emergency wages in Port-

land. Portland voters had approved an emergency wage of time-and-a-half during voting in November, with the expectation that the new wage would be effective within 30 days of the vote.

Cumberland County Superior Court ruled on Monday of last week that the emergency wage, if valid, does not take effect until January 1, 2022.

The Portland Regional Chamber plans to con-

test the constitutionality of allowing the voters, as opposed to the elected City Council, to set a sharply escalated emergency minimum wage.

Portland Regional Chamber and the five co-plaintiffs have appealed

the Superior Court's decision on the constitutionality of the emergency wage provision to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court. The Intervenor has already announced their intent to appeal the Superior Court's decision on the effective

date. The other plaintiffs in the appeal include Gritty McDuff's Brew pub, Play It Again Sports, Nosh Kitchen Bar, Slab Sicilian Street Food, and Alliance for Addiction and Mental Health services.

Dog license deadline extended

From Maine DACF

AUGUSTA – Governor Janet Mills has signed Executive Order 29 FY 20/21, allowing dog owners extra time to license their animals.

Owners now have until June 2 to renew overdue dog licenses. Licenses are available online and pet

owners are strongly encouraged to renew license(s) before June 2 to avoid late fees. Veterinarian-administered rabies vaccinations and immunizations are required to be kept current. A rabies certificate is required when applying for a license.

Why was this Executive Order necessary?

Dogs traditionally

must be vaccinated and re-registered within their municipalities by the end of the calendar year.

At the start of the pandemic, many licensing requirements were temporarily suspended, including dog licensing.

With municipalities now operating at near pre-pandemic hours and

in the interest of animal health, the licensure requirement has been reinstated.

Pet owners with overdue licenses have until June 2, 2021, to renew dog licenses.

Learn more about dog licenses, including fees, animal welfare and other important topics by visiting

Maine's Dog Licensing Online Purchasing & Renewal webpage at <http://bitly.ws/aN6R>

The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's Office of Animal Welfare program is committed to humane and proper treatment of animals by developing, implementing and

administering comprehensive programs that uphold the animal welfare laws of Maine through communication, education and enforcement.

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

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Out and About

Ann Anderson and her knitting project

By Rachel Morin

I met Ann Anderson a couple of months ago at her apartment at Schooner Estates Retirement Community in Auburn.

I had heard about the mammoth knitting project she works on every year. Ann usually completes 150 pairs of slippers by December, or in a “good year”, she completes 250 pairs! She sounded like an interesting woman to meet.

We arranged a time and Ann welcomed me into her apartment to show me the hand knit “pichous”, the French-Canadian word for slippers. They were in all sizes, colors and patterns, neatly arranged in boxes so heavy, we couldn’t lift them.

Ann is knitting for families, from little toddlers to preschoolers and kindergarteners, from grade schoolers through high schoolers, for both girls and boys, as well as their parents. She thinks of all of them as her people as she knits away most afternoons or whenever she finds an hour or two to keep her hands busy.

Ann and I spent a pleasant afternoon reviewing her memories of knitting and other childhood memories in Lexington, Massachusetts. She was an active child, not one to sit idle, always wanting to help. Her grandmother took this opportunity to teach her to knit. Ann was a quick learner and never



Ann Anderson poses with her adult size and medium size hand knit slippers she has knit for families at the Jubilee Center at the Trinity Church on Bates St. in Lewiston. Slippers of all sizes and colors for all ages, infants to grandparents were delivered to families who benefitted from it the most during the Christmas Holidays. Ann has created these for the past several years, numbering 150 pairs to 250 pairs in a “good year.” (Rachel Morin Photo)

stopped knitting! She did make time for volunteering as a Girl Scout and also at the Red Cross Blood Mobile, which kept her busy.

She remembers a time years ago, talking with an Iceman who was delivering ice blocks. As he looked at her, he said, “I remember you. You sang to us Veterans when we were patients at a Framingham hospital.” Ann then

recalled she was in a girls trio and they sang at hospitals. She was surprised that he remembered her.

Ann is happiest when she is sitting in her easy chair with a pair of knitting needles in her hands with yarn working its way into a colorful pair of “pichous” as she listens to her favorite music. And sometimes she thinks of who this pair will go to? A little girl or per-

haps a tired mother eager to slip them on at the end of a hard day’s work on her
See Knitting, next page



Some of the “Pichous” (slippers) boxed for delivery to the Jubilee Center at Trinity Church, Bates St. in Lewiston for delivery to families in the Lewiston-Auburn area for the Christmas Holidays who would benefit the most for the gifts. (Rachel Morin Photo)



Now the hard work begins! Ann will create tags for each knitted pair of slippers, giving the sizes for toddlers, boy or girl, and up the scale from preschool, grade school, junior high, and high school, to parents and grandparents. An identifying tag on every pair for easy distribution. Perhaps this is the hardest and more time consuming task than the knitting. (Rachel Morin Photo)

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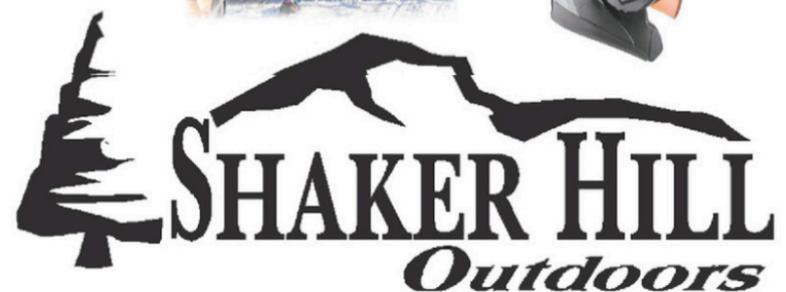
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Knitting

Continued from previous page

feet all day. Maybe a father not used to the luxury of a hand knit soft covering for his calloused feet, used to rough work. And the cushiony feel on his feet as he pads around the house.

Ann reminisces how she used to knit for her family growing up and then branching out after marrying, to her own children and then to extended family members. It fills her with good feelings and satisfaction to hear everyone is pleased with her knitted gifts.

Ann says she has a good life and a caring and attentive family. Her children call her every evening to check in on her and talk about her day. She tells me that she has a summer home on Hogan Pond in Oxford and how her growing-up family enjoyed their summers there. And still

do, to this day.

When boxing the handknit French “pichous” for transportation in mid-December, Ann identifies each pair of slippers with a tag noting toddler, child, boy or girl, small, medium, large, extra-large size, and same for adult sizes. The completed project is transported to Trinity Jubilee Center on Bates St. in Lewiston. They were delivered to families who would most benefit from these gifts during the Christmas Holidays.

Ann reflects on her life at Schooner. She is pleased and happy with everyone she has met. She says “We are all so fortunate and we should always keep in mind how truly fortunate we are.” Ann, herself, is gracious, kind, hospitable and has a welcoming smile for everyone. She is happy because she “has work to do.”

Maine continues Guard support

From ME National Guard

AUGUSTA - Approximately 75 Maine National Guardsmen will provide support to the District of Columbia National Guard and federal agencies for the next several weeks.

The majority of these soldiers were not part of the original 200 that supported

the inauguration, but travelled to Washington at the end of January as the original group transited back to Maine. Approximately a dozen soldiers from the original group volunteered to remain on duty in the nation’s capital.

“The request came in from the National Guard Bureau and we wanted to continue to support while

also taking our members personal and professional lives into account,” said Maj. Gen. Douglas Farnham, Maine’s adjutant general. “The first group was informed their orders would end near the end of the month, so we put together another group of volunteers for this extended mission. Strong employer support is so critical to

what we do, so we did everything we could to honor our original commitment to that first wave’s employers and families.”

Approximately 7,000 total National Guardsmen were on duty in Washington supporting federal agencies through the end of January, with that number coming down to around 5,000 that may remain into March.

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All 150 pairs of slippers were loaded into the Schooner vehicle by Nancy Greenleaf, Schooner Transportation, and Molly Elliot, Resident Services Associate, for delivery to the Jubilee Center at the church on Bates St. in Lewiston. They were delivered during the Christmas Holidays to the families who would benefit from them the most. (Mark Prevost Photo)

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Arts & Entertainment

Quilts of Valor for veterans

From Maine Q of V

GORHAM – The Maine chapter of Quilts of Valor presented quilts to several local veterans during the last week of January.

Don A. Sinclair, 102, of South Portland, served in the Army during World War II. His granddaughter, Maegan S.Healy, who served in the Air Force, flew in from Louisiana to wrap him in his Quilt of Valor. Her father surprised her by wrapping her in her own Quilt of Valor.

Donna Brookings, Maine State Coordinator for Quilts of Valor, was on hand for this ceremony, along with Joy Lewis Asuncion of Honor Flight Maine.

Sinclair was presented with his quilt at his home, accompanied by several family members

and close friends.

Asuncion awarded a quilt to Leona Bright Chasse, a WWII veteran with the Navy WAVES, in a private ceremony in her home in Cornish.



Don A. Sinclair of South Portland was presented with a Quilt of Valor by his granddaughter, Maegan S. Healey from Louisiana, who received a quilt of her own. Sinclair served in the Army during World War II, and Healey served in the Air Force. (Photo courtesy of Maine Quilts of Valor)



World War II veteran Leona Bright Chasse, who served in the WAVES with the Navy in World War II, with a Quilt of Valor presented to her at the end of January by the Maine Quilts of Valor organization. (Photo courtesy of Maine Quilts of Valor)

Junction Bowl league scores

From Junction Bowl

GORHAM – League scores from Junction Bowl on Railroad Avenue in Gorham.

Scores include the player handicap.

Week 2

Thursday Night Dynamite

The Thursday Night Dynamite league results for week two of play.

Minds in the Gutter bested House Balls 2 games to 1 to take the team series for the week, 2276-2156.

Minds in the Gutter

Scott Verrill 219-169-180 – 568

Jay Sutton 183-211-241 – 635

Doug Mercer 194-187-202 – 583

Matt Ferrante 154-160-176 – 490

House Balls

Bruce Russell 192-154-187 – 533

Reena Russell 172-143-180 – 495

(Substitute) 215-149-186 – 550

Ann DeLuca 213-173-192 – 578

Split Happens overcame Sexy Ginger 2 games to 1, taking the team series for the week, 2233-2095.

Split Happens

Denise Williams 196-171-192 – 559

Chris Lee 200-159-179 – 538

Sarah (Substitute)

174-190-161 – 525

Duayne Frank 211-209-191 – 611

Sexy Ginger

Jacob Gourgeois 153-

See Bowl, page 11

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The Power of an Alter Ego

Food For Thought program

From USM Sr. College

LEWISTON - The USM LAC Senior College, 51 Westminster St. Lewiston, ME, Food For Thought program, will present the award winning writer and performer Susan Poulin, on Zoom, at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 28.

Best known as her alter-ego, Ida, Poulin is often called the funniest woman in Maine. In this humorous

and engaging talk, Poulin will reveal the inspiration for Ida, and what has kept their relationship fresh after 25 years, six plays, two books, and twelve years of weekly blogs.

She will also examine the lessons she's learned from Ida, and what having an alter-ego has taught her about writing, life, and the healing power of laughter.

Poulin was selected by Portland Magazine as

one of the "Ten Most Intriguing People in Maine"!

In May 2019, during a joint session of the Maine State Legislature, she was inducted into the Franco-American Hall of Fame honoring her body of work and promotion of Franco-American cultural identity.

She continues to be a leader in bringing a female voice to New England sto-

rytelling and humor, and sharing the healing power of laughter with audiences statewide and beyond.

To attend this session, email laseniorcollege@gmail.com by noon on Feb. 27. Please include your name and the name of the presentation in which you would like to participate. The morning of the event, participants will receive a Zoom link via email.



Best known as her alter-ego, Ida, Sarah Poulin will be featured on a virtual Food For Thought program sponsored by the LAC Senior College on Feb. 28. (Photo by Kevin Bennett)

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Sophia Michaud, a junior on the Gorham High School girls varsity basketball team, takes a shot from the foul line during a recent team practice. Winter sports games for schools in Cumberland County were suspended in December under Maine DHHS guidelines, and were just recently allowed to resume. (Tsukroff photo)



Leah Woodbury, a Gorham High School junior on the girls varsity basketball team, heads toward the basket during a recent practice session at the high school. Players are masked during both practices and games. (Tsukroff photo)



Anna Nelson takes a shot during a recent Gorham High School girls varsity basketball practice session. (Tsukroff photo)

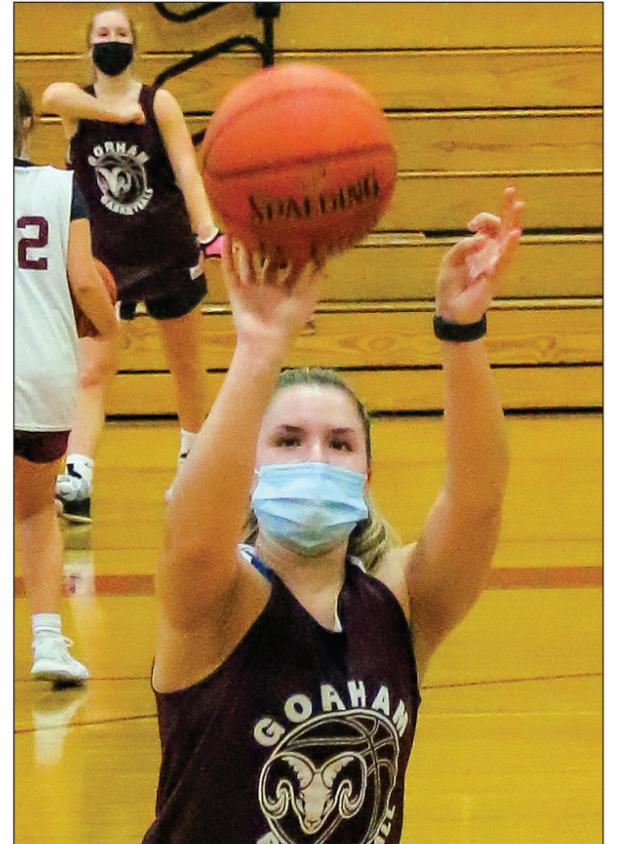
Sports

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that's kinda cool!" And parents with children on both the boys and girls teams can now watch both games at the same time.

Gorham games will be streamed on nfhnetwork.com, as part of the MPA's collaboration with the National Federation of State High School Associations. Previous games should be available for on-demand viewing.

The Gorham girls volleyball team that normally plays in the fall will start its season on Feb. 22, overlapping the basketball season a little. Berthiaume said coaches are working together to have separate practice times, so students who play both sports can attend practices. Volleyball games are expected to take place after the basketball season ends on Mar. 11, and games are expected to be live streamed, as well.



Gorham High School junior Nicole Walker practices foul shots at a recent girls varsity basketball practice session, as the team prepares for its first games of the season this week. (Tsukroff photo)

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Record low rate on delinquent property taxes

From Office of Treasurer

AUGUSTA – Maine State Treasurer Henry Beck last week announced that the interest rate charged on delinquent property taxes will be reduced to the lowest level on record in consideration of economic challenges associated with COVID19.

For taxable year 2021, the maximum interest rate that a municipality may charge for delinquent property taxes is no more than 6%, according to the State of Maine Office of the Treasurer.

Beck is declining an

additional 3% penalty to the range, as is routine and allowed by Maine law.

Municipalities may vote to determine the rate of interest that shall apply to taxes that become delinquent during a taxable year until those taxes are paid in full. Given this is a reduction of more than two points from 2020's rate of 8%, municipalities may add up to two percentage points to the low end of the range, for a maximum of 6%. 4-6% is the lowest rate according to records dating back to 1991.

Beck said, "We make this reduction on the in-

terest rate for delinquent property taxes in consideration of the economic challenges faced by Mainers during the COVID19 pandemic. Property owners should make every effort to pay property tax bills to fund vital local services but at this time of economic stress it is not wise to add unnecessary penalties on late property tax payments. Mainers are worried about keeping their homes and paying other bills. Last year, some Maine municipalities opted not to charge the allowed maximum and this option remains."

The maximum rate of

interest that can be charged is governed by Title 36 M.R.S. Section 505(4):

"The maximum rate of interest must be established by the Treasurer of State and may not exceed the prime rate as published in the Wall Street Journal on the first business day of the calendar year, rounded up to the next whole percent plus 3 percentage points. The Treasurer of State shall post that rate of interest on the Treasurer of State's publicly accessible website on or before January 20th of each year. The interest must be added to and become part of the

taxes."

According to Title 36 M.R.S. Section 505(4-A), municipalities may add an additional two points to the rate:

"For any tax year for which the maximum interest rate established by the Treasurer of State under subsection 4 is 2 percentage points or more lower than the maximum rate established by the Treasurer of State for the previous tax year, the municipality may adopt an interest rate that is up to 2 percentage points over the rate established by the Treasurer of State for the tax year under

subsection 4."

The Office of the State Treasurer provides state agencies with efficient banking and financial services, which include revenue collection, payment issuance, reconciliation, and trust management. The Office also manages state investments and debt payments and issuance, ensuring that bonds authorized by voters are efficiently sold in the marketplace to provide funding for capital projects statewide. Over \$200 million in unclaimed funds for Maine residents are managed by the Office of the Treasurer.

USDA suspends farm loan debt collections

From USDA

WASHINGTON D.C. - Due to the national public health emergency caused by coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), the U.S. Department of Agriculture recently suspended past-due debt collections and foreclosures.

for distressed borrowers under the Farm Storage Facility Loan and the Direct Farm Loan programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), the USDA will temporarily suspend non-judicial foreclosures, debt offsets or wage garnishments, and referring foreclosures to the Department of Justice; and USDA will work with the U.S. Attorney's

Office to stop judicial foreclosures and evictions on accounts that were previously referred to the Department of Justice.

Additionally, USDA has extended deadlines for producers to respond to loan servicing actions, including loan deferral consideration for financially distressed and delinquent borrowers. In addition, for the Guaranteed Loan program, flexibilities have been made available to lenders to assist in servicing their customers.

The announcement by USDA expands previous actions undertaken by the Department to lessen financial hardship. According to USDA data, more than 12,000 borrowers—

approximately 10% of all borrowers—are eligible for the relief announced today. Overall, FSA lends to more than 129,000 farmers, ranchers and producers.

"USDA and the Biden Administration are committed to bringing relief and support to farmers, ranchers and producers of all backgrounds and financial status, including by ensuring producers have access to temporary debt relief," said Robert Bonnie, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Secretary. "Not only is USDA suspending the pipeline of adverse actions that can lead to foreclosure and debt collection, we are also working with the Departments of Justice and Treasury to sus-

pend any actions already referred to the applicable Agency. Additionally, we are evaluating ways to improve and address farm related debt with the intent to keep farmers on their farms earning living expenses, providing for emergency needs, and maintaining cash flow."

The temporary suspension is in place until further notice and is expected to continue while the national COVID-19 disaster declaration is in place.

USDA's Farm Service Agency provides several different loans for producers, which fall under two main categories:

Guaranteed loans are made and serviced by

commercial lenders, such as banks, the Farm Credit System, credit unions and other non-traditional lenders. FSA guarantees the lender's loan against loss, up to 95 percent.

Direct loans are made and serviced by FSA using funds from the federal government.

The most common loan types are Farm Ownership, Farm Operating, and Farm Storage Facility Loans, with Microloans for each:

Farm Ownership: Helps producers purchase or enlarge a farm or ranch, construct a new or improve an existing farm or ranch building, pay closing costs, and pay for soil and water conservation and protec-

tion.

Farm Operating: Helps producers purchase livestock and equipment and pay for minor real estate repairs and annual operating expenses.

Farm Storage Facility Loans are made directly to producers for the construction of cold or dry storage and includes handling equipment and mobile storage such as refrigerated trucks.

Microloans: Direct Farm Ownership, Operating Loans, and Farm Storage Facility Loans have a shortened application process and reduced paperwork designed to meet the needs of smaller, non-traditional, and niche-type operations.

Non-profits may apply for grants from Northeast CU

From Northeast CU

PORTSMOUTH, NH – Local nonprofit organizations serving communities in New Hampshire and Maine once again have an opportunity to apply for grants through Northeast

Credit Union's Love Your Community Awards.

Launched in 2020, the Love Your Community Awards initiative is part of Northeast Credit Union's region-wide Love Your Community Project, which aims to encourage people

to practice kindness in their everyday lives. Last year, Northeast Credit Union donated a total of \$120,000 across 60 organizations through the Love Your Community Awards initiative, and Northeast Credit Union has committed to

matching that commitment in 2021.

"We believe we have a responsibility to both support and shine a spotlight on the leaders and organizations who work every day to help those in our communities who

need it most," said Northeast Credit Union President and CEO Timothy J. Collia. "We are proud of the impact our Love Your Community Awards initiative was able to make in 2020, and we look forward to once again playing our part in helping the many philanthropic organizations across our region."

Eligible nonprofit organizations can apply for the 2021 Love Your Community Awards through Northeast Credit Union's website at <http://bitly.ws/bCBQ>. Once accepted as an applicant, each organization will be tasked with obtaining votes from its community. The 10 organizations with the most votes at the end of every month through July will be award-

ed donations ranging from \$500 to \$5,000.

February's application period opened on Feb. 1, and voting for February finalists will begin on Feb. 15. All winners will be highlighted on a monthly basis on the Love Your Community Project's website, www.TheLYC.com.

Northeast Credit Union has long-standing history of providing safe, high-quality financial services to their member-owners. From humble beginnings at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Northeast CU is proud to be a member-owned and not-for-profit organization with \$1.8 billion in assets, over 135,000 members and 19 branches throughout New Hampshire and Maine,

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Bowl

Continued from page 6

179-164 – 496
PT 174-177-152 – 503
Clayton Farrin 158-161-212 – 531
Keith Durgin 171-193-201 – 565

The XXX Turkeys took 2 games and the weekly team series against Strike First with 1 game, 2224-2187

XXX Turkeys
Peter Luciano 215-164-186 – 565
Terry Moore 149-210-185 – 544
Jake Ouellette 192-179-212 – 583

Ken Foss 178-164-190 – 532

Strike First
Romeo Jalbert 174-214-166 – 554
Kenneth Reno 172-216-1173 – 561
Sherry Coyne 142-174-212 – 528
Roni Bretton 179-187-178 – 544

Smelt Camp Swim Team outlasted Bowler? I Barely Know . . . by 2 games to 1 for the weekly team series, 2248-2222.

Smelt Camp Swim Team
Kevin Kassa 218-207-192 – 617
Tonya Kassa 157-174-207 – 538
Brian Waild 204-179-173 – 556

Jenn Leanhart 185-176-176 – 537

Bowler? I Barely Know . . .

Dylann Swisley 187-188-220 – 595
Deanna Boisvert 184-192-170 – 546
Donna Gagnon 183-173-162 – 518
Derrick Sellitto 193-219-151 – 563

**Week 3
Monday Night
Strikes**

The Hammond Eggs team joined the Monday Night Strikes league in week 3.

Hammond Eggs had a nice start in its premier week with the league, taking 2 games for the weekly team series against Cobra Kai with 1 game, 2266-2217.

Hammond Eggs
Ronald Barter 179-211-160 – 550
Ryan Stuart 200-170-190 – 560
Bobby Brown 152-265-159 – 576
Alex Benner 194-207-182 – 580

Cobra Kai
Romeo Jalbert 163-204-232 – 599
Eric Bretton 188-162-185 – 535
Kenneth Reno 188-191-202 – 581
Tim Perry 156-180-166 – 502

Split Happens overcame Pin Me Please in all 3 games for the weekly team series, 2114-2019

Split Happens
Heather Bryant 165-159-169 – 493
Kaitlyn Lemieux 173-188-204 – 565
Erica Jackson 184-144-147 – 475

Elisabeth Maxfield 198-202-181 – 581

Pin Me Please
Ashley Calvert 175-158-176 – 509
Rick Cormier 161-178-155 – 494
Heather Lavallee 163-191-159 – 523
Brendan Gow 144-161-188 – 493

Two Finger Death Punch took all 3 games against The Gutter Rats for the weekly team series, 2251-2067.

Two Finger Death Punch
Jon Talbot 184-238-180 – 602
Charlie Pasquerillo 183-162-168 – 513
Thomas Franchetti 205-154-187 – 546

Timothy Bola 162-203-225 – 590

The Gutter Rats
Ben Smith 180-165-188 – 533

Amy Pompeo 169-142-157 – 468
Tom Whalen (substitute) 199-155-184 – 538
Misty Keeffe 184-171-173 – 528

The (League) Office grabbed the team series for the week with all 3 games against Right Lane, 2343-

2192/
The (League) Office
Sebastian Pettitt 179-191-196 – 566

Aidan Underwood 180-192-205 – 587
Nick Calvert 194-180-212 – 586
Adam James (substitute) 157-267-180 – 604

Right Lane
Brian Gonnevill 186-191-185 – 562

Adam Homan 187-193-159 – 539
Colin McLean 148-186-179 – 513
Bill Haskell 170-217-191 – 578

Thursday Night Dynamite

Two teams played alone on Thursday when opposing teams remained at home due to concerns about player exposures to COVID-19 separate from the bowling alley.

Smelt Camp Swim team had a team score of 2010 for the 3 games.

Smelt Camp Swim Team
Kevin Kassa 174-194-159 – 527
Tonya Kassa 136-153-182 – 471

Brian Waild 154-171-141 – 466
Jenn Leanhart 188-180-178 – 546

Strike First had a team score of 2261 for its 3 games.

Strike First
Romeo Jalbert 177-199-191 – 567
Kenneth Reno 187-184-219 – 590

Sherry Coyne – 196-195-184 – 575
Roni Bretton - 173-179-177 – 529

Sexy Ginger took the weekly team series with 2 games to Bowler? I Barely Know . . . with 1 game, 2191-2155.

Sexy Ginger
Shawn McCurdy 184-174-149 – 507
PT 177-165-187 – 529

Keith Durgin (substitute) 213-174-186 – 573
Clayton Farrin 209-174-199 – 589

Bowler? I Barely Know . . .
Dylann Swisley 179-202-160 – 541
Deanna Boisvert 175-183-174 – 532

Donna Gagnon 172-175-166 – 513
Derrick Sellitto 181-183-205 – 569

The XXX Turkeys swept all 3 games and the weekly team series again Split Happens, 2198-2054.

XXX Turkeys
Peter Luciano 181-170-181 – 532
Terry Moore 210-181-216 – 607
Jake Ouellette 163-190-158 – 511
Ken Foss 156-189-203 – 548

Split Happens
Denise Williams 185-190-164 – 539
Chris Lee 193-156-165 – 514
Matt Lelansky 138-176-176 – 490
Duayne Frank 167-175-169 – 511

**Ice fishing tips from
Maine DIFW**

AUGUSTA - There is no question, ice fishing is a large part of Maine's outdoor heritage.

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife asks people who are planning to go ice fishing to remember to leave no trace and carry out all that is carried in.

Fishermen should park in public or designated areas - Don't block paths or other roads.

Respect private property and utilize public access sites or areas where the public has permission to park or access.

Fishermen should prepare by checking the weather, bringing what is needed for the day, and letting someone know where they are going and when they expect to return.

Fisherman should bring some of their catch home. In certain waters, the Department encourages the harvest of fish in order to maintain healthy fish populations and improve the fishery.

Ice safety
Remember to always use extreme caution when venturing onto Maine's



waterways. Accessing lakes and ponds should be avoided unless you can be certain of ice conditions by checking ice thickness.

Before stepping out, use a chisel or auger to test ice thickness in several places. Remember that ice seldom freezes uniformly. Conditions are always changing and can vary from one location to the next. Ice that forms over flowing water and currents, especially near streams, bridges and culverts, can be particularly dangerous.

Before you head out for a day of ice fishing, ALWAYS tell someone where you are going and when you will return.

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476,000 Diagnosed with Lyme Disease Each Year

From U.S. Sen. Collins

Washington, D.C. — In response to a push by U.S. Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Tina Smith (D-MN), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published new data on Lyme disease, which reveals that an estimated 476,000 people are diagnosed with and treated for Lyme disease each year in the United States.

The new calculation is roughly 10 times higher than the number of reported Lyme disease cases, which was nearly 48,000 in 2018.

Additionally, as requested by the Senators, the CDC has published a new dashboard to help researchers collect real-time data. This information on emergency department visits for tick bites by time, region, age, and sex will be updated weekly instead of annually

and can better indicate when people in different parts of the country may be at the highest risk for tick bites.

Senators Collins and Smith, the authors of the bipartisan Kay Hagan Tick Act that was enacted in December 2019, sent a letter to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) last January calling for the release of this data as part of the implementation of their law. The Kay Hagan Tick Act will help to improve research, prevention, diagnostics, and treatment for tick-borne diseases.

“This new data showing that Lyme disease remains vastly under-reported by a factor of 10 underscores the fact that tick-borne illnesses are a serious and growing public health threat,” said Senator Collins. “As the authors of the Kay

Hagan Tick Act that created a national strategy to fight tick-borne diseases, Senator Smith and I pushed for the release of this powerful tool to assist researchers working to track and eradicate Lyme disease. Now that we have a clearer picture of the challenge that we are up against, we are better positioned to protect Americans’ health.”

“This report confirms that Lyme disease is a serious and growing public health problem in the United States,” said Senator Smith. “Now that we have this data, it’s incumbent on us to advance the national strategy outlined in the Kay Hagan Tick Act. Such prevention and treatment efforts will help curb the spread of tick-borne diseases so that Americans can enjoy spending time outside safely.”

The incidence of Lyme

and other tick-borne diseases has increased significantly since the CDC reporting began in 1991. According to the CDC, Lyme disease is the most common tick-borne disease and the most common vector-borne disease.

Maine alone reported more than 1,400 confirmed cases in 2018, the highest incidence of Lyme disease in the nation. Minnesota is also vulnerable with 950 confirmed cases of Lyme diseases in 2018. These data, however, capture only about one-tenth of the estimated number of disease cases, and a full understanding of the economic and societal costs remains unknown. Studies so far indicate that Lyme disease alone costs approximately \$1.3 billion each year in direct medical costs, and overall costs, including indirect costs, average \$75 billion.

Union membership in Maine increased in 2020

From Maine AFL/CIO

AUGUSTA - Union membership in Maine grew by 13,000 members in 2020, marking a 3 percent increase from 2019, according to new data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Union density rose from about 12 percent in 2019 to 15 percent in 2020. The report also finds that nearly 17 percent of Maine workers in 2020 were represented by unions — an increase of 3 percent from 2019. Maine’s union density outpaced the national average of 10.8 percent, which increased by 0.5 percent in 2020.

“More and more Maine workers are organizing and fighting for better wages, working condi-

tions, safety on the job and democracy in the workplace,” said Cynthia Phinney, President of the Maine AFL-CIO. “The pandemic has reminded all of us that working people are essential. The best way for essential workers to have safe workplaces, respect at work and good jobs is by joining together with co-workers in a union.”

The Maine AFL-CIO attributes the growth in union membership in Maine to three factors: 1) increased internal organizing in already organized public sector and federal sector workforces; 2) new union organizing; 3) increased hiring in essential unionized sectors of the Maine economy. Increased overall density can be attributed to all of these factors plus significant layoffs in non-union sectors of the economy due to COVID.

The BLS report also found that among full-time wage and salary workers, union members earned 16 percent more than non-union members. In addition, BLS has also reported that union members are far more likely to have employer-provided health care and retirement benefits.

95 percent of union workers had the option of an employer-sponsored health care plan, compared to 68 percent of nonunion workers.

94 percent of union workers had access to an employer-sponsored retirement plan, compared to 67 percent of nonunion workers.

93 percent of union workers had the option of an employer-sponsored prescription drug coverage, compared to 67 percent of nonunion workers.

74 percent of union workers had the option of an employer-sponsored dental plan, compared to 40 percent of non-union workers.

“The secret is out and more and more Maine workers are discovering that they have the collective power to improve their lives,” Phinney said. “Just in the past year, there have been union organizing efforts at health care providers, Portland Museum of Art, Planned Parenthood, the ACLU of Maine, Waterville KVCAP and other workplaces. In the era of COVID, more and more workers are understanding that the only way to guarantee safer conditions, health care, hazard pay and other benefits is by banding together and using their collective voice to demand them.”



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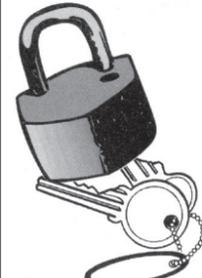
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**EVERY TUESDAY
10:30-11:15 a.m.**

LEWISTON – Lewiston Public Library - Virtual Preschool Babytime & Storytime. Children 0-5 are welcome to join the fun on Zoom as Ms. Jackie uses interactive songs and stories to introduce children to the world of books, learning, and the library. Call 207-513-3133 for details and registration.

**1ST AND 3RD
TUESDAYS
11:30 a.m.**

LEWISTON – Lewiston Public Library - Virtual Book Chat. Join LPL staff via Facebook Live for a weekly conversation about what we're reading. Make suggestions, share your thoughts, find resources, and get personalized recommendations from our librarians!

**MONDAYS IN
FEBRUARY**

LEWISTON - Green Dot Bystander Intervention techniques! For every member of a community to use, both proactively to change our culture for the better and reactively to minimize harm. None of us can do everything, but each of us can do our part to make Lewiston-Auburn a safer and more welcoming community.

Hosted by Lewiston Public Library, Green Dot Lewiston-Auburn is offering 2-hour bystander intervention training using Zoom. These are interactive, last about two hours, and are limited to 15 adult participants per session. Registration is required at <https://www.greendotla.org/schedule>.

Choose from one of the following sessions:
Monday, Feb. 15, at 10 a.m.
Monday, Feb. 22, at 2 p.m.

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

**MONDAY
Feb. 15**

Presidents' Day

**TUESDAY
Feb. 16**

7:30 a.m.
AUBURN – Auburn Public Library Board of Trustees meeting.

8 a.m.
GORHAM – Ordinance Committee meeting via Zoom.

4 p.m.
AUBURN - Auburn Sewer District Trustees meeting.

6 p.m.
AUBURN – Conservation Commission meeting.

6 p.m.
LEWISTON – City Council meeting.

6:30 p.m.
GORHAM – Tentative recurring Town Council workshop via Zoom.

**WEDNESDAY
Feb. 17**

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

4 p.m.
AUBURN – Auburn Water District Trustees meeting.

**THURSDAY
Feb. 18**

8 a.m.
AUBURN – 9-1-1 Committee meeting.

Noon-1 p.m.
LEWISTON – Lewiston Public Library - Great Falls Forum. This is a free, monthly series featuring statewide and regional leaders in public policy, business, academia and

the arts streaming virtually via Zoom and streamed to the Lewiston Public Library Facebook page. This month's forum features Youth Studies scholar Dr. Andrea Breau, on the topic, "It's a lot of pressure for us to understand this stuff: Lessons About Race and Place from Lewiston's Teenagers."

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

**MONDAY
Feb. 22**

5:30 p.m.
LEWISTON – Planning Board meeting via Zoom.

5:30-6:30 p.m.
LEWISTON – Finance Committee meeting at City Hall Administrator's Conference Room.

**TUESDAY
Feb. 23**

5:30 p.m.
AUBURN – Agriculture Committee meeting.

6 p.m.
LEWISTON – City Council Workshop, via ZOOM - <http://www.lewistonmaine.gov/2021cc> Also, public comment will be possible at publiccomment@lewistonmaine.gov.

**WEDNESDAY
Feb. 24**

7:30 a.m.
AUBURN – Auburn Housing Authority Board of Commissioners meeting.

Noon
LEWISTON – Lewiston Public Library - Read Your Mind: Exploring Mental Health in Teen Books.

This is a monthly, virtual series focusing on teen mental health & wellness with YA authors and community health experts. In February, the library is hosting authors Adib Khorram, Mark Oshiro & Julian Winters to discuss how the intersection of masculinity, queerness, and racial and cultural identity impact teen mental health. Contact hchance@lewistonmaine.gov or call 207-513-3135 to register.

6 p.m.
AUBURN – Complete Streets Committee meeting.

6 p.m.
AUBURN – School Committee meeting.

**MONDAY
Mar. 1**

5:30 p.m.
AUBURN – City Council workshop and meeting.

7 p.m.
GORHAM – Planning Board meeting via Zoom.

**TUESDAY
Mar. 2**

5:30 p.m.
AUBURN – Age-Friendly Community Committee meeting.

6 p.m.
LEWISTON - City Council meeting, via ZOOM - <http://www.lewistonmaine.gov/2021cc> Also, public comment will be possible at publiccomment@lewistonmaine.gov.

6:30 p.m.
GORHAM – Regular Town Council meeting via Zoom.

**THURSDAY
Mar. 4**

4 p.m.
AUBURN – Cable TV Advisory Board meeting.

5:30 p.m.
AUBURN – Auburn-Lewiston Airport

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Board Meeting.

**MONDAY
Mar. 8**

5:30-6:30 p.m.
LEWISTON – Finance Committee meeting at City Hall Administrator's Conference Room.

Achievement

Continued from page 1

services to all children."

Lisa Backman from Windham Raymond School District is the 2020 Maine School Psychologist of the Year. This award acknowledges a member of MASP who demonstrates excellence in school psychology practice, and leadership in the profession.

Mrs. Backman has been providing psychological services to the Windham-Raymond School District, RSU #14 for the past 20 years, and as an adjunct professor at St. Joseph's College. She is a trusted professional within her school community among students, staff, and families. Lisa's building principal stated that he believes they are "fortunate to have her calm demeanor, as well as her extensive knowledge of research-based practices and Special Education law to help make the IEP process one that aligns

with our mission." In fact, he shared that he "often encourages teachers to talk with Lisa when struggling to meet the unique needs of learners. Teachers appreciate this support and report being able to implement effective practices from her feedback."

Jill Adams, Executive Director of the Maine Administrators of Services for Children with Disabilities (MADSEC) received an Outstanding Advocate for School Psychologists 2020 honor for her her tireless work for the students of Maine.

Erin Frazier, Maine DOE Director of Special Services also received an Outstanding Advocate for School Psychologists 2020 awarded for her ongoing championing for the field of School Psychology while navigating the challenges brought throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Maine Department of Education recognizes there is a critical shortage of school psychologists in the state that is long standing," noted Frazier. "These positions are critical to fulfill child find responsibilities and support effective programming for students."

This article provided by Maine Department of Education.

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