



TWIN CITY TIMES

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Schooner Estates a 'Caring Super Star'



Schooner Estates Senior Living Community, Auburn, was recently named a "Caring Super Star of 2021" by Caring.com, an online resource for families caring for aging parents, spouses, and other loved ones. (Rachel Morin Photo)

By Rachel Morin

AUBURN - Schooner Estates Senior Living Community in Auburn was recently honored as a "Caring Super Star of 2021" for service excellence in senior living.

Caring.com, which calls itself the leading online destination for those seeking information and support as they care for aging parents, spouses, and other loved ones, rates senior facilities nationally each year.

Schooner Estates joins an elite group of winners called Super Stars after receiving the Caring Star award the past three years.

The facility earned five stars in consumer ratings and reviews from tenants and tenants' family members on Caring.com. Among the 156 Caring Star Communities across the country, Schooner Estates is the only community in Maine to receive this honor.

John Rice, Director of Operations at Schooner, said, "Despite today's unprecedented challenges around the world and in our community, it feels amazing to hear how much our tenants and families recognize and appreciate the high-quality services our staff provide every day."

"Being recognized as a Caring Super Star of 2021 truly validates our heartfelt work to be the best place to live and work in Maine. Thank you to everyone who shared their feedback," he said.

The Caring Stars annual list, originally launched in January 2012 as the first of its kind, has become a go-to guide of senior living communities nationwide.

Local chef in national competition



Sayvepen Sengsavang, "Chef Sav", preps an area to roll out dough for bread for one of the sandwiches sold at the Mu Noi Brunch restaurant on Center Street in Auburn. Sav competed in a recent episode of the Food Network's Supermarket Stakeout. (Tsukroff photo)



Sous-chef (the second chef in command in a kitchen) Molly Hinkel prepares a fried chicken sandwich at the Mu Noi Brunch restaurant on Center Street in Auburn. (Tsukroff photo)

By Nathan Tsukroff

AUBURN - Amazing food from a celebrity chef is not just on television.

Everyone has heard of the Food Network, where chefs from around the country demonstrate their skills.

And Auburn can now boast of having its very own celebrity chef - Sayvepen Sengsavang, "Chef Sav", from the Mu Noi Brunch restaurant on the north end of Center Street in Auburn.

Chef Sav competed in a recent edition of Supermarket Stakeout on the Food Network, with filming in October and the episode airing the beginning of February.

In the competition, presented by Iron Chef Alex Guarnaschelli, four chefs have to create dishes from groceries they purchase from customers coming out of a nearby supermarket. With a starting budget of \$500 each, the final chef wins a prize of \$10,000.

Chef Sav took part in episode 6 of season 3 of the show. Titled "Who's Hot, Who's Cold", the episode saw him competing against chefs Danny Bullock, Tony Biggs and Ayo Cherry.

The first of three rounds saw the
See Chef, page 8

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

\$15.7M in unclaimed property

From Sen. Claxton

AUGUSTA – Sen. Ned Claxton, D-Auburn, announced the addition of more than \$15.7 million to Maine's Unclaimed Property Fund, and Mainers are being urged to check whether any of that money belongs to them.

"Nowadays, everyone could use a little extra cash," said Sen. Claxton. "If you haven't checked the unclaimed property list lately, I would encourage you to take a look. It's easy to do, and you might be surprised at what you

find!"

"Unclaimed property" is money owed to Maine people by third parties, such as former employers, banks or utility companies. Organizations are required to give unclaimed property to the State Treasurer after a specified period of time, after which the owner of the unclaimed property can retrieve it from the state.

Unclaimed property could be from a forgotten bank account, an overpaid bill or uncollected wages. This money could be unclaimed as a result of a

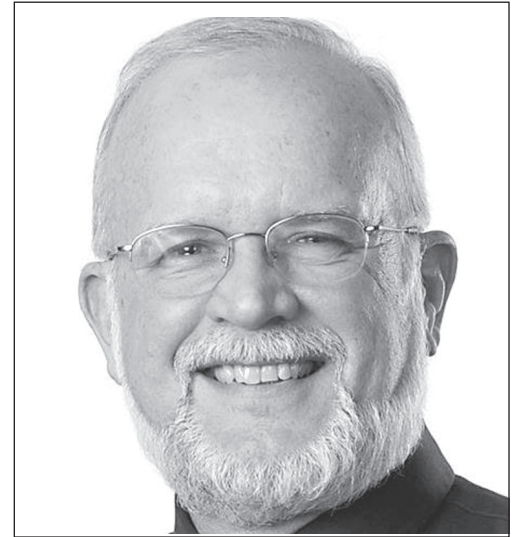
change in name, addresses or bank account. Year after year, people are surprised to find they might have money waiting for them at the Treasurer's Office. Particularly during these uncertain times, Mainers are strongly encouraged to take a look and see if they are on the list.

People can search the Treasurer's Unclaimed Property list by going to <https://maineunclaimed-property.gov/>. Those who find their name, or the name of a current or past business on the list, can claim the property immediately online, for free.

Anyone with questions can call the Treasurer's office toll free in Maine at 888-283-2808 or locally at (207) 624-7470.

The Office of the Treasurer receives new properties throughout the year. The state Treasury is currently holding more than \$275 million of Mainers' unclaimed property.

Sen. Ned Claxton (D-Androscoggin) represents Maine Senate District 20, which includes Auburn, Mechanic Falls, Minot, New Gloucester, and Poland.



Sen. Ned Claxton (D-Androscoggin), Maine District 20, Auburn, Mechanic Falls, Minot, New Gloucester, and Poland (Photo courtesy of Sen. Claxton)

More than 7,600 employers approved for PPP loans

From Sen. Collins

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Senator Susan Collins (R-Maine), a co-author of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), announced recently that 7,633 Maine small employers have been approved for a total of \$552,966,380 in

forgivable PPP loans since the PPP reopened last month.

Senator Collins helped to secure \$284.5 billion for PPP in the December COVID-19 relief law.

Financial institutions across Maine and the country are currently accepting

and processing PPP applications for eligible small businesses seeking a forgivable loan for the first time and for those hardest hit small businesses who may receive a second forgivable loan.

"The continued demand for forgivable PPP loans demonstrates why

it was so important that we reopened this program for the hardest hit small businesses," said Senator Collins. "Since January, a total of 7,633 Maine employers have been approved for nearly \$553 million in forgivable loans, including more than 1,500 small businesses that were approved for nearly \$100 million just last week. The PPP is making it possible for small business owners to keep their doors open, continue paying their employees, and make modifications to keep their employees and customers safe. I encourage eligible

small employers to contact their financial institution to apply."

Small businesses that employ 300 or fewer people and that experienced a 25 percent or greater gross revenue loss between comparable periods in 2019 and 2020 due to COVID-19 are eligible to apply for a second forgivable PPP loan. In addition, forgivable overhead expenses are expanded to include supplier costs and investments in facility modifications and personal protective equipment needed to operate safely. In recognition of the severe impact that COVID-19 mit-

igation measures have had on the hospitality sector, in particular, the formula used to calculate the maximum forgivable loan amounts for second draw loans is enhanced for restaurants and hotels to equal 3.5x average monthly payroll. Further, small business owners that did not receive a PPP loan in the first round are also eligible to apply.

In 2020, more than 28,000 Maine small businesses and self-employed individuals received nearly \$2.3 billion in forgivable PPP loans, helping to support more than 250,000 jobs throughout the state.

Home for Sale

Pre-sale priced right! Don't let this home get away! Will not last! Beautiful, spacious home with unique architecture and lots of character. The layout has a pleasant flow and rooms have high ceilings. So many options with this home. Very spacious single family - easily converted into a two family - or bring the in-laws and keep your own space.

Renovated large kitchen with new shaker cabinets, under cabinet lighting and recessed lighting. Oversized dining room with large walk-in pantry. New laminate flooring being installed in kitchen, dining room and pantry.

Six bedrooms, master suite, jacuzzi tub, two full bathrooms - one with laundry hook-up. Plenty of closet space.

Side entry. Enter through over-sized enclosed porch. Easily converted to three-season porch. Large front entry mudroom.

Brand new electrical service with new panels. New hardwired smoke and carbon monoxide detector system. New propane high-efficiency Viessmann combi boiler (heat and hot water). Natural gas is in town and headed to Maple street. This new system easily converts to natural gas.

Recently renovated and updated. Photos to come as we are finishing up renovations. Solid foundation. Excellent investment opportunity or turn-key home. Buy now and receive \$3,000 towards closing costs.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Guest Column

Legislative work ramps up



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

From Sen. Nate Libby

Dear Friends,
The work of the Legislature continues to ramp up. In committees, we're slowly but surely getting used to managing virtual meetings. While the pandemic has

presented us with myriad challenges, I'm happy that it's forced us to innovate in a way that allows more people to participate in the legislative process, as people can now offer testimony at public hearings right from the comfort of their own homes.

Committees are working our way through proposed bills, with some already being lined up for consideration before the full Senate and House.

On Tuesday, Governor Mills delivered her annual State of the Budget address. Read on to learn more about what she discussed. In normal years, lawmakers would all gather together in the House Chamber to listen to the governor's address.

This year, like with so many things, we switched to a virtual format to allow every-

one to listen in while staying safe.

On Thursday, my colleagues and I in the Senate gathered to vote on a slew of official confirmations to a variety of state commissions and boards. We met in the House Chamber of the State House, which allowed us to keep a safe distance from each other while still meeting in person to vote, as Maine's Constitution requires.

If you have any questions or need help connecting with resources, please don't hesitate to contact me. You can reach me at nathan.libby@legislature.maine.gov or 207-287-1515.

COVID-19 vaccine update

The past 11 months have been extremely tough for Mainers all across the

state. With COVID-19 vaccinations available, Mainers are anxious to get their shot and get on with their lives. It's why I'm thrilled that the Maine CDC released a timeline for when Mainers of all ages will be eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. The planned schedule, which is subject to change depending on fluctuations in vaccine supply, is:

- March 3: Eligibility expands to residents age 60 and older
- April: Eligibility expands to age 50 and older
- May: Eligibility expands to age 40 and older
- June: Eligibility expands to age 30 and older
- July and beyond: Ages 29 and under, including children pending authorization of a vaccine for them

To find a vaccination site near you, go to www.maine.gov/covid19/vaccines.

State of the Budget

On Tuesday evening, Governor Mills delivered her annual State of the Budget address. In her speech, the governor applauded Maine businesses for their continued perseverance and ingenuity in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. The key to revitalizing our economy includes long-term investments in both emerging industries and heritage industries that have a track record of keeping Mainers working and communities going for generations. A big part of that investment is centered around a bond proposal, which includes:

Expanding Broad-

band: \$30 million to expand broadband across Maine, building on the Governor's successful efforts last year to secure \$15 million in new funding for broadband;

Developing Maine's Workforce: \$25 million for equipment for Maine Career and Technical Education programs and a partnership with Maine's Community College System to train skilled workers to fill jobs in high-growth industries;

Supporting Innovation in Heritage Industries: \$50 million for Maine farmers, foresters, and fishermen to increase local processing infrastructure, improve access to markets, and invest in innovation to modernize and add value to products grown, caught,

See Libby, page 14

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Online Education classes from SeniorsPlus

From SeniorsPlus

LEWISTON - SeniorsPlus has announced its Online Education Center classes for March 2021.

Due to the pandemic and current CDC guidelines, all classes are virtual. Classes and workshops are free, unless noted.

Whether someone would like to try an online social or support group, Zoom 101, one of our chronic disease self-management programs, or Tai Chi for Health & Balance, SeniorsPlus has options!

Anyone with questions on how to sign up or join a group should contact SeniorsPlus for help.

Please register by emailing edcenter@seniorsplus.org or calling 795-4010 or 1-800-427-1241.

For more information, visit seniorsplus.org/education-center.

CLASSES

What is Speech-to-Speech Relay?

Date: Thursday, March 11

Start time: 1:00-2:00PM

Presenter: Debra Bare-Rogers, Disability Rights Maine

Location: Zoom

Speech-to-Speech (STS) is a free service for people with a speech disability. Maine Relay STS provides one-on-one support for telephone calls. A specially trained STS operator simply listens to the conversation and repeats your message, whenever needed. Video-Assisted

Speech-to-Speech (VA-STS) allows a person who has a speech disability to use both a telephone line and a video device to make relay calls. VA-STS provides the STS relay operator with visual communication cues from the STS caller via a one-way video conference connection. These cues may include lip reading, spelling in the air, facial expressions, and other physical movements. Join us to learn about these no-cost relay services available to Maine residents.

Zoom 101: Using Video Technology to Stay Connected

Date: Friday, March 12 OR 26

Time: 1:00-2:00PM

Instructor: SeniorsPlus Staff

Location: Zoom

Join us for this 1-hour class to become more familiar on how to use Zoom to participate in SeniorsPlus' online classes, or to simply stay connected with friends and family near and far. You do not need a Zoom account or to download any apps to participate in this class, unless logging in from an Apple device. You do not need a video camera for your computer, although it is helpful. You can participate with computers or handheld devices. Educational material and resources will be provided for continued learning.

Free Financial Literacy Program - Info Session

Date: Tuesday, March 23

Time: 10:00-11:00AM

Instructor: Kendra Wheeler, Branch Manager & Amelia Milligan at Bangor Savings Bank

Location: Zoom

If COVID-19 has taught us anything, it's that we need to be prepared. Not just financially, but mentally. We need to have financial peace of mind so we can take care of our family's health and happiness. During these trying times, who can you turn to for everyday money decisions? Who listens to your financial goals and helps you make a plan? Who helps you navigate financial obstacles? Bangor Savings Bank is piloting a new program featuring "financial coaching." No judgement. No product pushing. No forcing you to do anything with your money you don't want to do. Just listening and guidance. But you run the show. Come join Kendra and Amelia to learn more about their free financial literacy program. Weekly or bi-monthly 30-minute sessions via a phone call or Skype video chat will be provided to those interested in perusing this resource. You can do this by yourself or with a significant other. All your choice. If you'd like to have someone to talk to about all things money - this is a program you don't want to miss learning more about!

Zooming Together While Physically Apart

Date: Wednesday, March 31

Time: 10:00-11:00AM

Location: Zoom

SeniorsPlus has partnered with River Valley Healthy Communities Coalition and Healthy Oxford Hills to host Zooming Together While Physically Apart! We invite you to join us for our monthly Zoom call where we will spotlight a specific topic before opening up the conversation to the group - this is a time to learn, socialize, laugh, and have fun together. To help with food insecurity during this time, River Valley Healthy Communities Coalition will also be giving away one Hannaford gift card to an attendee.

Crafting with Corinne

Date: At your convenience

Time: At your convenience

Material Pick-Up: Week of March 29 (subject to change based on current CDC guidelines)

Instructor: Corinne Saindon

Location: Pre-recorded video/instructions

Cost: \$5.00 for 2 project kit

With Easter just around the corner, join Corinne and create a cute Easter craft that you can

use for gift giving or a table decoration - mini Easter eggs will fit perfectly in these boxes. This month's second project will be a beautiful Easter card to share with a loved one. All supplies provided except adhesive.

Fraud & Scams

Date: Thursday, April 15

Time: 6:00-7:30PM

Presenter: SeniorsPlus Staff

Location: Zoom

This workshop will give you the information needed to determine what is real and what is a scam. What does fraud look like? What are the latest scams out there? How do you recognize fraud? Find out what you can do to protect yourself and where to go to report things so others don't become the next victim.

Health Care Advance Directive Planning during COVID Times

Date: Friday, April 16

Time: 2:00-4:00PM

Host Organizations: SeniorsPlus, Androscoggin Home Healthcare + Hospice & St. Mary's Regional Medical Center

Location: Zoom - video and audio required

Join us on this year's National Decision Making Day, April 16, to explore

your worries and wishes in relation to healthcare decision making. All from the comfort of your own home, we will use games, resource sharing, and conversation to explore what matters most to YOU. There will also be time for us to review the Maine Health Care Advance Directive Form. Resources and the Maine Health Care Advance Directive Form will be provided to you through email.

Medicare Made Simple

Date & time: At your convenience

Instructor: SeniorsPlus Staff

Location: Online video

Reach out to receive this pre-recorded Zoom class to learn how to navigate Medicare with this introductory course. Learn about your insurance options with Medicare, when to enroll or change plans, and how state law may affect your choices. This presentation is perfect for people who are new to Medicare or anyone who currently has Medicare and would like to learn more.

AT&T - Cyber Aware Webinar

Date & time: At your convenience

See Classes, page 10

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USDA invests in Four Maine Organizations

From USDA

WASHINGTON, DC - The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) last week announced it is investing \$42.3 million to help rural residents gain access to health care and educational opportunities nationwide.

In Maine, four educational organizations will receive a total of \$3,578,754. Rural areas are seeing higher infection and death rates related to COVID-19 due to several factors, including a much higher percentage of underlying conditions, difficulty accessing medical care, and lack of health insurance. The \$42.3 million in awards includes \$24 million provided through the CARES Act. In total, these investments will benefit 5 million rural residents.

"The coronavirus pandemic is a national emergency that requires an

historic federal response. These investments by the Biden Administration will help millions of people living in rural places access health care and education opportunities that could change and save lives," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "USDA is helping rural America build back better using technology as a cornerstone to create more equitable communities. With health care and education increasingly moving to online platforms, the time is now to make historic investments in rural America to improve quality of life for decades to come."

USDA Rural Development Acting State Director Tommy R. Higgins said, "Now more than ever, our schools and healthcare facilities are relying on distance learning and telemedicine technology to assist students and patients in rural areas. This \$3.57 million investment in Maine

is critical to ensuring students can engage in home learning in rural areas and connect to a quality education. In addition, this funding will expand access to telehealth services for rural patients, helping them to receive the vital healthcare they need."

Sanford School Department, in Sanford, will receive a Grant in the amount of \$945,637 to expand the Sanford School Department's middle school aquaponics program into a district-wide Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education program. It will enable Kittery students and others to access STEM-related career training from the Sanford CTE center. The project will provide a more flexible approach to teacher professional development. It also to keep the schools open in hybrid learning during the remainder of the pandemic.

Aucocisco School, in Cape Elizabeth, will receive a Grant in the amount of \$708,487 to purchase teleconferencing equipment to connect 16 schools, including public schools and special-purpose private schools, in seven counties in rural Maine. The schools will use the equipment to access professional development and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) activities. It also will provide more reliable communication for students at home due to the pandemic.

Maine School of Science & Math, in Limestone, will receive a Grant in the amount of \$924,630 to purchase video-telecommunications hardware, software and integrated-classroom presentation equipment to support distance learning among 21 schools in Aroostook County. The project will help to expand curricula

in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM); foreign language and other subjects by providing access to educational opportunities across the school districts and dual enrollment to University of Maine Presque Isle. Funds also will be used to purchase personal devices, remote access points and web conferencing licenses to help students participate in classroom activities from home. Teachers will have remote access to professional development, coaching and mentoring opportunities.

University of Maine System, in Orono, will receive a Grant in the amount of \$1,000,000 to install interactive video-teleconferencing equipment at 42 locations across 11 Maine counties. The project will expand educational opportunities for students at remote rural centers and campuses, and help medical clinics expand access to

telehealth services for rural patients.

A recent report by the Rural Policy Research Institute's Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis found infection and death rates in rural America due to COVID-19 are 13.4 percent higher than in urban areas. A recent report from USDA's Economic Research Service, USDA ERS - Rural Residents Appear to be More Vulnerable to Serious Infection or Death From Coronavirus COVID-19, underscored the challenges facing rural Americans amidst the COVID-19 pandemic with even greater detail. Due to a confluence of factors, including higher percentages of underlying conditions, lack of health insurance, and lower access to medical facilities/care than urban counterparts, ERS analysts found rural Americans are suffering more severe illness or death due to COVID-19.

Touching Base

In memory of Rush Limbaugh

By Nathan Tsukroff

American radio personality Rush Hudson Limbaugh III died in mid-February from reported complications of his lung cancer.

He had millions of fans and enjoyed decades of recognition as one of the leading voices of the conservative movement in the United States.

Limbaugh was a strong supporter of the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, which honors the sacrifice of New York City firefighter Stephen Siller, who died in the September 11, 2001, attack on the World Trade Center.

The foundation also

honors military and first responders who "continue to make the supreme sacrifice of life and limb for our country," according to its website at tunnel2towers.org.

Over the years, Limbaugh helped raise some \$5 million in donations to the foundation. In one of his broadcasts, he called the foundation, "one of the most uplifting things that I've been involved in."

Our readers who are looking to honor Limbaugh's legacy may wish to make a donate in his memory to this foundation. A PDF version of a donation form can be found at <http://bitly.ws/bVTX>

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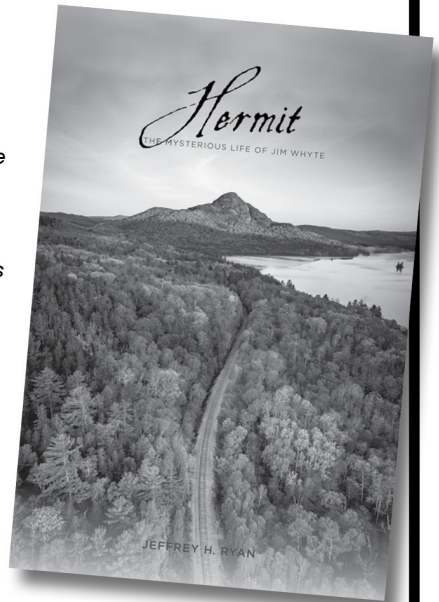
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— George Smith, Bangor Daily News



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Arts & Entertainment

Bates Winter Arts in Art Walk L-A

LA ARTS VIRTUAL ART WALK LA February 26, 2021

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BATES WINTER ARTS FESTIVAL

The **DEANSMEN**

The Deansmen were featured performers from the Bates Winter Arts Festival at the LA Arts virtual Art Walk L-A event last Friday. (Photo courtesy of LA Arts)

From LA Arts Winter Arts Festival for its streaming art and performances including original artwork by Bates Arts Society members, the

LEWISTON – LA Arts featured the Bates Winter Arts Festival for its virtual Art Walk L-A event last Friday. The event included

Bates College Deansmen performing “A Change in my Life” by Rockapella, an original song by Luis-Da Molina-Rueda, magic by Abby Segal, a poem in Hindi by festival coordinator and international student Kush Sharma, the Local Writers Read 2020 Maine Literary Award Finalists Series.

LA Arts and the Art Walk LA Committee are also hosting the 2021 Art Walk Artists online gallery, which can be found at <http://bitly.ws/bVgy>. Artists and artisans included on that page each have works for sale.

Visual artists and artisans can register free at <http://bitly.ws/bVgA> and LA Arts will share their work on this web page throughout the season. All art sale proceeds go to artists and makers.

Virtual Art Walk LA and all LA Arts programs are made possible with the generous support of com-

munity partners including Community Arts Champion sponsors Acadia Insurance, Austin Associates, P.A., Bates College, Baxter Brewing Co., Berman & Simmons, the City of Auburn, the City of Lewiston, Liberty Mutual, the Sun Journal as well as the Davis Family Foundation, Maine Arts Commission, Maine Community Foundation, the Onion Foundation, and the Ladd Foundation.

Since 1973, LA Arts, the arts agency for the cities of Lewiston and Auburn, has pursued a mission to engage and inspire a vibrant community through arts and culture. The agency works with governments, businesses, schools and local arts and cultural organizations to create opportunities for community members across the generations to experience, learn, and participate in the arts. LA Arts organizes arts programs and initiatives, supports the work of local art-

ists and arts organizations, and highlights the essential role the arts play in shaping an economically vital, socially integrated, and forward-looking future for its community.

Learn more at www.laarts.org.

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Spring events for Sophia's House

From Wisdoms Women

LEWISTON - One year ago, The Center for Wisdom's Women opened Sophia's House, a residential healing community for women in Lewiston.

It was just as the virus arrived, cancelling a planned opening gala event at the Franco Center. Now, a year later, on the weekend of the equinox, at the cusp of Spring, it is time to celebrate the first year of operation and look toward the future.

On Saturday, Mar. 20 a concert will be live-streamed starting at 8 p.m. with **Carrie Newcomer**, American singer, songwriter and author. Thanks to donor support, all proceeds will benefit Sophia's House. Ticket costs are on a sliding scale.

Newcomer has been described as a "prairie mystic" and as someone who "asks all the right questions." She has 17 nationally released albums and has released two companion books of poetry and essays. Newcomer and Parker Palmer are actively collaborating on several projects including The Growing Edge, a website, podcast and retreat that has been listed as one of the top ten spiritual programs for the next 20 years. She earned a regional Emmy for the PBS special "An Evening with Carrie New-



Carrie Newcomer, an American singer, songwriter and author, will be featured in a virtual concert on Mar. 20 to raise money for the Center for Wisdom's Women residential healing community, Sophia's House. (Photo courtesy of Wisdom's Women)

comer." In 2019 she was recipient of the Shalem Institute Contemplative Voices Award. Her media appearances include Krista Tippett's On Being. FMI: <https://www.carrienewcomer.com/>

Following the concert, friends and supporters are invited to a virtual tea party, streamed from Sophia's House at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Mar/ 21. The event will thank and celebrate all those who helped

create Sophia's House, and will include dedication of the dining room; a video tour of the house; sharing of poetry; and the launching of the Klara Tammany Endowment Fund for perpetual support of the residential program.

Concert tickets and reservations for the virtual tea party can be obtained through The Center for Wisdom's Women website at www.wisdomswomen.org/events.

Social Media groups for people and pups

From Trips With Pets

Love taking epic adventures with your pet? Have you been searching for ideas, tips, and like-minded adventurers on your favorite social media platforms? You've probably come across a few by now; however, not all social media groups are created equal. We went searching for the most helpful, popular, and fun online pet adventure groups, and we've dug up some real gems!

Hiking With Dogs

Want to start hiking with your dog? You're probably wondering: Where are the best trails for novice pups? Which trails allow off-leash hiking? What are the most important things to know about hiking with your dog? The helpful peeps at Hiking With Dogs can answer these questions, and start you and your pooch out on the path to pet-friendly hiking adventures. Group members come together to share stories, best practices, favorite dog-friendly hiking destinations, encouragement, recommended pet hiking gear, and lots of cute doggie adventure pics!

Dog Gone RVing

What's more fun than a road trip? A road trip with your four-legged sidekick, and in an RV of course! Dog Gone RVing is a group created for RVers who love hitting

the road with their dogs. Whether you're planning your first RV adventure with your pup, or you've already traveled thousands of miles together, this group is the perfect place for helpful advice and support. Members offer tips on traveling with your pet in your RV, finding the best dog-friendly RV parks, and posts of dogs living it up on RV road trips!

TripsWithPets USA

If you like adventurous trips with your pet, then join TripsWithPets USA! This popular group invites members to share insights on pet-friendly excursions, and to dish about their favorite pet-friendly destinations, places to stay, and things to do. As a member, you'll have access to pet travel tips that will help keep your pet happy and safe on your next trip. As an added bonus, TripsWithPets USA frequently offers contests for chances to win pet travel-related prizes!

Kayaking With Dogs

Most dogs love a good boat ride, and nothing compares to a day out on the water with your four-legged sidekick. Kayaking with Dogs has something for all kayakers, from beginners to those who are highly skilled. If you're new to the idea of kayaking with your dog, this friendly group is happy to share tips on how to get started, how to pick the perfect dog-friendly kay-

ak, and recommendations for the best places to kayak with your pooch.

Paddleboarding With Dogs

Paddleboarding is a fun sport that people and their pooches absolutely love. Whether you're a novice or a paddling pro, Paddleboarding With Dogs provides tips to help you have a great paddleboarding experience with your furry family member. You'll get your questions answered, make new friends, learn about favorite destinations, and be able to share tips on best practices, safety, and equipment. This group offers a great outlet for sharing your paddleboarding adventures, all while getting inspired by other members' experiences!

Just remember - whatever adventures you and your pooch are into, there's a social media group for that!

TripsWithPets has been helping pet parents find and book pet-friendly accommodations since 2003.

TripsWithPets provides online reservations at over 30,000 pet friendly hotels & accommodations across the U.S. and Canada. When planning a trip, pet parents go to TripsWithPets.com for all they need to book the perfect place to stay with their pet -- including detailed, up-to-date information on hotel pet policies and pet amenities. #jointheroadtrip

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Chef

Continued from page 1

chefs creating a Super Spicy meal to be judged by Jeremy McBryde and Brooke Williamson.

Chef Sav survived the first round and went on to create a Family Picnic in the second round. He did not make it to the third round, called Ice Cream Truck. Ayo Cherry was the final winner of the episode.

“It was kind of crazy! It was insane!” Chef Sav said. “You have to run up to people and try to get food to cook with, and you have to meet the challenges that they set” for each round.

As for his restaurant in Auburn, Chef Sav provides what he calls a “modern American” cuisine for his guests. The menu features items such as French Toast, Chicken Fried Steak



Chef Sav of the Mu Noi Brunch restaurant on Center Street in Auburn lays slices of pork onto a sandwich. He recently competed in an episode of Supermarket Stakeout on the Food Network. (Tsukroff photo)

Sando (sandwich), a vegan Green Curry Peanut Noodle dish, and a pastrami sandwich.

“We’re not known for a specific dish, but we’re known for being over-indulgent,” he said. “We want to make food that people crave. We want to make food that people dream about.”

The restaurant has four tables for guests, socially-distanced, and has a constant stream of guests arriving for takeout orders.

Sav also runs Le Mu Eats, a food truck in Bethel, which he hopes to “transition to a brick and mortar by this summer.”

As with his restaurant in Auburn, Sav offers a fusion of cuisines at the Bethel location.

He was trained at the Culinary Institute of Virginia.

Born to Laotian immigrants in New York, his



Megan Cullins creates pastry cream for a French toast dish for guests at the Mu Noi Brunch restaurant on Center Street in Auburn. (Tsukroff photo)

family eventually moved from there to Maine when he moved to Bryan Pond, near Bethel, ME, with his family about five years ago.

from there to Maine when he moved to Bryan Pond, near Bethel, ME, with his family about five years ago.



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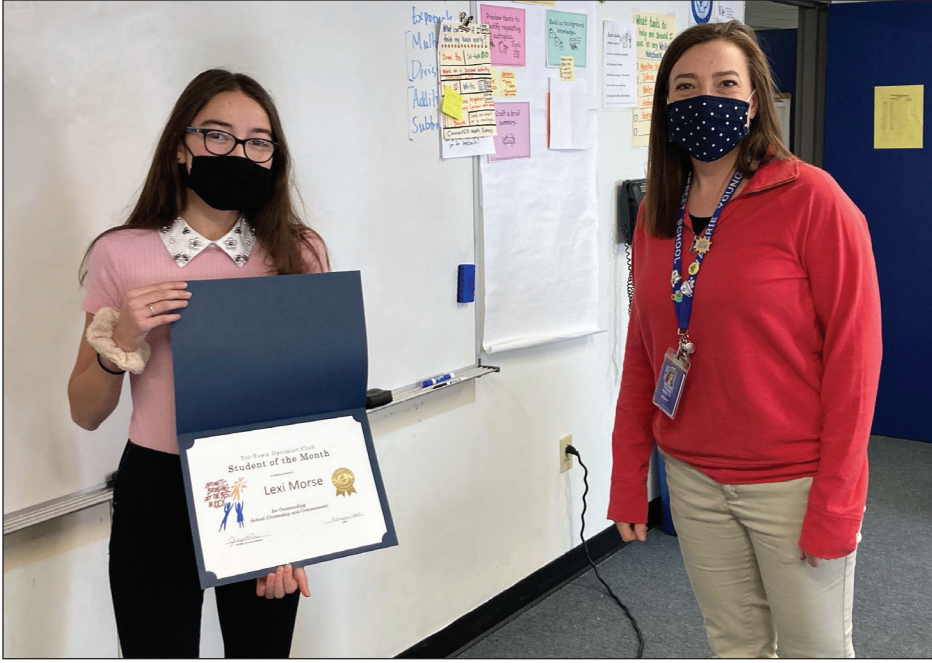
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February RSU 16 Student of the Month



Alexianna Morse, a sixth grader at Elm Street School in Mechanic Falls, is congratulated by sixth-grade teacher Mrs. Young for being selected as the February RSU 16 Student of the Month recipient by the Mechanic Falls, Minot and Poland Tri-Town Optimist Club. (Photo courtesy of Tri-Town Optimist Club)

From RSU 16

The Mechanic Falls, Minot and Poland Tri-Town Optimist Club has announced Alexianna Morse, from Elm Street School in Mechanic Falls, as the February RSU

16 Student of the Month recipient.

A Sixth grader, Morse was selected as Student of the Month by her teachers for her consistent optimism and dedication to learning. She is an eager student who demonstrates

patience and perseverance, and who is genuinely concerned about the success of others. She radiates a positive and encouraging attitude that is evident in all aspects of her life, including the love and care she has for her family.

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



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Fifteen Years of Open Mic at Auburn UU

From Auburn UU

AUBURN - On Friday, Mar. 12, The Pleasant Note Coffeehouse will celebrate the 15th anniversary of its Open Mic & Poetry Slam at the First Universalist Church of Auburn, Unitarian Universalist.

Since 2006, this free monthly show has drawn people of all ages who share the spirituality of music and spoken word. During the past year, the show has seamlessly adapt-

ed to the Zoom platform.

Guitars and singers are to be expected, yet Open Mic has welcomed belly dancers, poets, rappers, storytellers and dogs over the years. Participants say they like this monthly forum for its focus on the performers.

Residents may recall that years ago, a musical "scene" had sprung up around Cafe Bon Bon in Lewiston. When the cafe closed, some members of the First Universalist

Church of Auburn decided to provide an outlet for all that creative energy. The Pleasant Note has continued on for 15 years, consistently attracting new performers and developing regulars.

The Pleasant Note Coffeehouse presents its Open Mic & Poetry Slam on the second Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. See the Auburn UU Facebook page or <https://zoom.us/j/206058928>, Password: 500681.

Lewiston committee volunteer applications

From City of Lewiston

LEWISTON – Mayor Mark Cayer is seeking interested citizen volunteers to serve as members of Lewiston's various boards and committees.

Lewiston residents who are interested in applying can contact the City Clerk's Department to complete a committee volunteer application. Application forms are also available on the City's website at www.lewistonmaine.gov. Committee descriptions, meeting times and other information about committee service are

also available on the City's website.

Applications are requested to be submitted no later than 4 p.m. on Friday.

City boards and committees with current openings include the Board of Appeals, Community Development Block Grant Review Committee – homeless advocate position, Historical Preservation Review Board, L/A Community Forestry Board, Lewiston & Auburn Railroad Company Board and Lewiston Area Public Health Committee.

Due to residency requirements in the City

Charter, the Board of Appeals may not have more than two members serving simultaneously from the same wards. This provision is to ensure adequate and balanced representation from all sections of the city. Residents are welcome to contact the City Clerk's Department at 513-3124 with questions regarding the committee appointment process.

Completed applications shall be submitted to the City Clerk's Office for processing. Office hours are Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 4:00pm.

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Classes

Continued from page 4

Instructor: AT&T Staff
Location: Online video

Reach out to receive this pre-recorded Zoom class to learn more about online fraud and scams. This presentation is perfect for people who are interested in learning statistics, how to recognize scams, and what to do to protect yourself while online.

CAREGIVER GROUPS

& RESOURCES

Caregiver Support Groups

Dates & Times:
Monday, March 8 from 5:30-7:30PM
Thursday, March 25 from 8:00-10:00AM
Location: Zoom or Telephonic

Our caregiver support groups offer a safe place for caregivers, family, and friends to meet and develop a mutual support system. Participation can be an empowering experience. Due to current public health concerns, the group will meet over the phone vs in-person.

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6. Click +New User (after your initial login, you will need to click Existing User for all future logins)

Opportunity includes 4 hours, 4 modules

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Promotion expiration date: September 25, 2021

Caregiver Support Newsletter

Did you know that SeniorsPlus started a quarterly Caregiver Support Newsletter in September? The goal of the newsletter is to share caregiver specific resources and opportunities to those in need. If you or someone you know is in need of caregiver support and would like to receive the newsletter, please reach out. We’re happy to add you to our mailing list.

OTHER GROUPS

Coffee & Comfort - Bereavement Support Group

Date: Monday, March 1

Time: 3:00-4:30PM

Instructor: Beacon Hospice Staff

Location: Zoom or Telephone

Loss is hard. The great news is, no one needs to feel alone through their bereavement. Coffee & Comfort offers a safe

place where one can receive the grief support they are seeking. Due to current public health concerns, the group will meet over Zoom versus in-person. Zoom phone and video-conferencing information will be provided to registrants.

Virtual Knitting Group

Dates: Every other Wednesday - March 10 and 24

Time: 5:00-6:00PM

Group Lead: SeniorsPlus Staff

Location: Zoom

Join our knitting group to work on your own project, learn from others, and socialize!

HEALTHY LIVING FOR ME

SeniorsPlus’ 2021 HL4ME virtual workshops are open to registration! Workshops currently include Tai Chi for Health & Balance, Better Health NOW toolkit, Better Health Now with Diabetes toolkit, Better Health Now with Pain toolkit, and our Living Well workshops through Zoom! Some workshops require the use of Zoom (video and audio), while our toolkit options allow you to connect over the phone with others or 1-on-1 with a facilitator.

The mission of SeniorsPlus is to enrich the lives of older people and adults with disabilities, their families and communities, and to support them to make informed choices.

Airlines restrict service animals



The US Department of Transportation recently changed the rules for transport of service animals on airlines. (Photo courtesy of Boston BBB)

From Boston BBB

BOSTON - If you are planning on a much-needed getaway in the United States by air and taking your emotional support animal, double check the changes recently issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). A PDF version of the DOT document can be found at <http://bitly.ws/bVt6>.

The changes were deemed necessary for air traveler safety, after numerous concerns were cited by several individuals regarding service animals in limited aircraft space. The Boston Better Business Bureau provided some specifics on the new rules for service animals

when flying:

The definition of a service animal is a dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability.

An emotional support animal is no longer considered to be a service animal. They can be considered as pets. Note: psychiatric service animals are treated the same as other service animals.

The changes allow airlines to require forms developed by DOT attesting to a service animal’s health, behavior, and training. If taking a long flight, the owner must attest that the service animal either would not need to relieve itself or can relieve itself in a sanitary manner.

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

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MDOT plan for state projects

From Sen. Claxton

AUGUSTA – Sen. Ned Claxton (D-Auburn) recently shared the details of Maine’s three-year transportation infrastructure work plan, and what it means for the residents of Maine’s state senate District 20.

The plan is released annually with an outline of the Maine Department of Transportation’s strategy for road, bridge and other transportation upgrades and maintenance projects.

“Despite the extraordinary challenges we continue to face, the folks at Maine DOT have tirelessly worked to improve and strengthen Maine’s infrastructure. I want to thank them for all their efforts,” said Sen. Claxton. “I’m glad to see that this important work will continue in our community in the coming year.”

According to the MDOT, the work plan covers approximately \$2.71 billion worth of construction and maintenance, which includes 2,180 work items. The three-year plan estimates MDOT will invest in 100 miles of highway construction and rehabilitation; 893 miles of pavement preservation; 2,175 miles of light capital paving for roads and highways; 222 safety and spot improvements; and 166 bridge projects.

The planned capital and maintenance work for the communities in Senate District 20 in 2021 include:

Bridge Work:

In Auburn, culvert replacement on Riverside Drive on Route 136, located 0.62 of a mile east of Penley Corner Road.

Drainage Maintenance:

In Poland, drainage improvements on McGuire Hill Road located 0.18 of a mile north of Pond Lane.

Highway Paving:

In Auburn, surface and base maintenance on Gracelawn Road, beginning at Joline Drive and extending southwest 0.84 of a mile to Mount Auburn Avenue.

In Auburn, light capital paving on Riverside Drive, beginning 0.60 of a mile north of Stackpole Road and extending north 4.13 miles.

In Auburn, light capital paving on Youngs Corner Road, beginning at Lost Valley Road and extending southeast 1.34 miles.

In Auburn, mill and fill on Washington Street South and Washington Street North. Route 202: Beginning 0.20 of a mile south of High Street and

extending south 2.15 miles. Route 202 South: Beginning 0.18 of a mile south of High Street and extending south 2.54 miles. Includes crossovers and ramps.

In Mechanic Falls, light capital paving on West Minot Road, beginning at Route 121 and extending north 0.94 of a mile.

In Mechanic Falls, light capital paving on West Minot Road, beginning 0.02 of a mile south of the town line and extending north 3.64 miles.

In Minot, light capital paving on Woodman Hill Road beginning at Route 11 and extending north 6.3 miles to Route 124.

In New Gloucester, light capital paving on Intervale Road beginning 0.01 of a mile north of Woodman Road in New Gloucester and extending northwest 3.13 miles to Route 4.

In Poland, light capital paving on Aggregate Road beginning at Route 26 and extending north 0.66 of a mile to Flynt Drive.

Highway Safety and Spot Improvements:

In Auburn, intersection reconstruction at Mill Street and South Main Street, beginning 0.01 of a mile north of Mill Street and extending southeast 0.13 of a mile to Broad Street, and continuing on Broad Street for 0.06 of a

mile. In Auburn, intersection reconstruction located at the intersection of Route 4, Fair Street, Martin Street, Public Boat Launch, and Turner Street.

Auburn Airport Improvements:

Safety and infrastructure improvements that may include design, permitting, and construction of east ramp rehabilitation.

Safety and infrastructure improvements that may include land acquisition in the Runway Protection Zone.

Transit:

Federal Transit Authority (FTA) ADA operating assistance for CityLink bus.

Western Maine Transportation Systems operating assistance and equipment purchase for new route.

In Auburn, renovation of maintenance and administration facility located at 76 Merrow Road. Includes an additional drive-through maintenance bay, a wash bay, and increased parking and security measures.

The entire MDOT three-year work plan can be found at <http://bitly.ws/bQm6>.

Sen. Ned Claxton (D-Androscoggin) represents Maine Senate District 20, which includes Auburn, Mechanic Falls, Minot, New Gloucester, and Poland.

Goonan joins Central Maine Healthcare

From CMH

LEWISTON – Mendy Goonan, MBA, CPXP, is joining Central Maine Healthcare as its chief patient experience officer, CMH announced earlier this month.

In this leadership role, Goonan will be responsible for the design and implementation of a comprehensive strategy to drive and foster the consistent delivery of positive patient and family experiences throughout the system.

“We’re delighted that Mendy is joining our team. She has a track record of connecting caregivers, patients, technology and process to build trusting and empathic interactions,” said Central Maine Medical Center President Steven G. Littleton, DBA, FACHE. “This patient-first approach is key to engaging patients and their families and is central to our commitment to providing exceptional, compassionate care.”

Goonan was previously the director of patient experience at Norton Healthcare in Louisville, Ky., where she implemented organization-wide patient experience programs and partnered with human resources colleagues on care of the caregiver to better enable them to care for patients. Norton Healthcare was awarded the 2017 Press Ganey Healthcare



Mendy Goonan, MBA, CPXP, joined Central Maine Healthcare on Nov. 30 as its chief patient experience officer. (Photo courtesy of CMH)

Patient Experience Success Story for Goonan’s work on partnering with the medical group on an external transparency rollout of performance that resulted in improved patient experience measures.

Goonan earned her bachelor’s degree in business administration from Indiana State University and her MBA in healthcare management from Western Governors University.

“I’m excited about joining the CMH team as its chief patient experience officer with the opportunity to collaborate with team members across the organization to develop and implement innovative and creative programs that will

provide an exceptional experience for both patients and caregivers,” Goonan said.

She began her new role Nov. 30.

Central Maine Medical Center, located in Lewiston, is a Level II Trauma Center serving Androscoggin County and the surrounding region. CMMC’s “Centers of Excellence” include the Central Maine Heart and Vascular Institute, the Central Maine Comprehensive Cancer Center, the Neonatal Intermediate Care Unit, and a Trauma Services Program. CMMC is also the southern Maine base for LifeFlight of Maine, the state’s only medical helicopter service.



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Planning a wedding during COVID-19

From Boston BBB

There are always a lot of moving parts when it comes to planning a wedding. Add a pandemic to the mix, and it can easily feel overwhelming. That said, many couples have proven that with a little ingenuity, flexibility, and a few precautions, it is possible to pull off a beautiful and safe wedding, even in the face of extremely challenging circumstances.

You too can make a success of your wedding during COVID-19. To do so, the Boston Better Business Bureau recommends the following tips.

Follow government guidelines. Don't go with your gut feeling when making important decisions on how to keep your guests safe. In the United

States, read Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Considerations for Events and Gatherings and Travel During COVID-19 for guiding principles to help you make wise decisions for you and your guests. In Canada, check out this resource on Canada.ca about celebrations. Don't forget that each state and province may have its own guidelines and restrictions on quarantine, travel, and gatherings. Use the CDC's directory to find the link to your state's Department of Health for the latest news on restrictions regarding travel and social events.

Come up with a COVID-19 plan. You want your wedding to be memorable and fun, but most importantly, you want it to be safe for you and your

guests. Right away, decide how to protect the most important people in your life by setting up some clear guidelines and then stick to them. Take the time to sit down with your partner and make tough decisions about social distancing, how many guests to invite, and whether to wear masks. If you need to dramatically reduce your guest list, think about what workarounds you might be able to implement.

Come up with a "Plan B." Despite your best laid plans, things may still go awry with ever-changing restrictions. Come up with a plan B you really love. For example, many couples have chosen to have a tiny backyard wedding with immediate family members while planning a larger gathering for later. Other

couples, who don't want to skip the big wedding, have decided to get legally married now and celebrate later or simply postpone their wedding to a future date.

Hire an event planner. Event planners can be invaluable at this time. They have open lines of communication with wedding vendors and venues, they keep local restrictions in mind, and likely already have experience planning a COVID-19 wedding. Get recommendations from friends and family who have used a wedding planner in the past or look up wedding planners on BBB.org to find local event planners that run BBB Accredited Businesses. Be sure to research each company's business rating and read consumer reviews as well.

Always read the con-

tracts. Reading contracts is critical during a pandemic. Fortune.com reminds brides- and grooms-to-be that in today's fluid situation, it's important to check with vendors and venues to find out "what the cancellation and rescheduling policy is, when you have to make the decision, and whether your deposit will transfer over to the new date."

Communicate with your venue and vendors. With florists, photographers, DJs, caterers, venue staff, and many other vendors to take into account it's important to make sure everyone is on the same page when it comes to your big day. Only hire vendors who have good communication skills and talk about the big what-ifs up front. What will the vendor do to

ensure everyone's safety? What is their reschedule policy if you or your partner are exposed to COVID-19? What is the vendor's back-up plan if they are exposed to COVID-19? What will happen to your deposit if governmental restrictions force you to reschedule? Make sure you understand and feel comfortable with a vendor's answers before you hire.


Order everything you need well in advance. The pandemic has affected shipping times for many companies, so if you'll be doing the bulk of your purchases online or at stores that need to place an order, start early. Experts recommend ordering wedding dresses, for example, at least six months early, which will allow plenty of time for a return, exchanges, and/or alterations.

Give guests safe gifting options. An online gift registry will allow guests to purchase gifts from the safety of their home and ship them straight to yours. If you postpone or reschedule your wedding and you are already registered at a store, WeddingWire.com offers excellent advice on registry etiquette during COVID-19.

Go virtual. One way to keep your guest list large without endangering anyone's health is to host a virtual wedding. Virtual parties are gaining in popularity as the pandemic drags on and can be a fun and safe way to celebrate your marriage with the ones you love.

Keep your guests in the know. Let your guests know about any changes to your wedding plans as soon as possible. In addition, be completely transparent about the number of guests that will attend your wedding as well as the safety precautions you'll be implementing during the ceremony and reception. This will put your guests at ease and give them the information they need as they decide whether or not they will attend.

Stay positive. The pandemic hasn't been easy on anyone, so if you start feeling down when you have to change your plans yet again, know that you aren't alone. According to The Knot's Official Guidebook for COVID-19, found at <https://www.theknot.com/content/covid19-help>, some 35% of couples who had upcoming weddings have postponed to 2021 or later. Remember, your wedding is just the beginning - you still have plenty of meaningful milestones ahead that you will be able to celebrate with all your friends and family.



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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 conversation about what we're reading. Make suggestions, share your thoughts, find resources, and get personalized recommendations from our librarians!

**THURSDAY
Mar. 4
4 p.m.**
AUBURN – Cable TV Advisory Board meeting.
5:30 p.m.
AUBURN – Auburn-Lewiston Airport Board Meeting.

**MONDAY
Mar. 8
5:30-6:30 p.m.**
LEWISTON – Finance Committee meeting at City Hall Administrator's Conference Room.

**TUESDAY
Mar. 9
6 p.m.**
LEWISTON – City Council workshop, via ZOOM - <http://www.lewistonmaine.gov/2021cc> Also, public comment will be possible at publiccomment@lewistonmaine.gov.
6 p.m.
AUBURN – Planning Board meeting.
6:30 p.m.
GORHAM – Tentative Appointments Com-

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

mittee meeting via Zoom.
7 p.m.
GORHAM – Conservation Commission meeting via Zoom.

**WEDNESDAY
Mar. 10
4:30 p.m.**
AUBURN – Lewiston-Auburn Transit Committee (LATC) meeting.
6:30 p.m.
AUBURN – Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting.
7 p.m.
GORHAM – School Committee Meeting via Zoom.

**MONDAY
Mar. 15
5:30 p.m.**
AUBURN – City Council workshop and meeting.

**TUESDAY
Mar. 16
7:30 a.m.**
AUBURN – Public Library Board of Trustees meeting.

8 a.m.
GORHAM – Ordinance Committee Meeting via Zoom.
4 p.m.
AUBURN – Auburn Sewer District Trustees annual meeting.
6 p.m.
AUBURN – Conservation Commission meeting.
6:30 p.m.
GORHAM – Tentative recurring Town Council, workshop via Zoom.

**WEDNESDAY
Mar. 17
8 a.m.**
GORHAM – Gorham Economic Development Commission meeting via Zoom.

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

**THURSDAY
Mar. 18
8 a.m.**
AUBURN – 9-1-1 Committee meeting.

Noon-1 p.m.
LEWISTON – Lewiston Public Library - Great Falls Forum, 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 Rose Barboza and Jerry Edwards.
6:30 p.m.
GORHAM – Board of Appeals meeting via Zoom.

7 p.m.
Community Forest Subcommittee meeting.

**FRIDAY
Mar. 19
7:30-9 a.m.**
VIRTUAL - Fill the Plate Breakfast to benefit Meals on Wheels of SeniorsPlus. Tickets for this virtual event are \$20 per person; available at <http://bitly.ws/bQnD> or by calling 207-795-4010. Advance registration required by March 17. Attendees who register by March 1 will receive a goody bag with a ticket for "door" prizes.

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

**TUESDAY
Mar. 23
5:30 p.m.**
AUBURN – Agriculture Committee Meeting.

**MONDAY
Mar. 29
7:30 a.m.**
AUBURN – Auburn Housing Authority Board of Commissioners meeting.

5:30 p.m.
GORHAM – Finance Committee meeting via Zoom.
6 p.m.
AUBURN – Complete Streets Committee meeting.

**WEDNESDAY
Mar. 31
Noon**
LEWISTON – Lewiston Public Library - Read Your Mind: Exploring Mental Health in Teen Books - a monthly, virtual series focusing on teen mental health & wellness with YA authors and community health experts. In March we will host authors Ceylan Scott & Julia Drake to discuss self-harm behaviors, the influence of guilt and loss, and honest portrayals of hospitalization experiences. Contact hchance@lewistonmaine.gov or call 207-513-3135 to register.

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

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Libby
Continued from page 3
and cultured here in Maine; Increasing Childcare: \$6 million for grants and low interest loans to renovate, expand, or construct childcare facilities and increase the availability of childcare slots, with half of that money going to underserved communities in rural Maine.

I look forward to digging into the full bond proposal, once it is released, and working with my colleagues and the governor's administration to help Maine build back better.

USDA funding for energy efficient projects
USDA Rural Development is now accepting applications for the Rural Energy for America Program Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvements. The deadline for applications is Wednesday, March 31.

Eligible applicants include agricultural producers and rural small for profit businesses in communities with populations of less than 50,000 people. Applicants may apply for funding to purchase and install renewable energy systems such as solar, wind, geothermal, renewable biomass, hydro-power, hydrogen or anaerobic digesters. Energy efficiency improvements may in-

clude improvements such as: HVAC, lighting, refrigeration, computerized controls or variable frequency drives, irrigation systems and grain dryers. Guaranteed loan funding is also available in conjunction with grant funding.

You can contact Maine's USDA State Coordinator Brian Wilson at (207) 990-9125 or brian.wilson@usda.gov for more information.

Auburn third grader takes action

Wyatt, a third-grader at Fairview Elementary School in Auburn reminded us all of how we can make a difference. Recently, Wyatt starting asking about ways that he could help the homeless and has turned that curiosity into action. He and his classmates decided to begin taking donations of items like hand warmers, deodorants and gift cards. The students have now collected several boxes of supplies and plan to donate them to the Jubilee Center and other charitable organizations. This heartwarming story is a reminder to us all to look out for one another, especially during these troubling times. Great work by Wyatt and his classmates!

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

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