

Virtual Art Walk L/A! is Friday



Jim Nutting, Maine Art Glass. (Photo courtesy of LA Arts)

From LA Arts

LEWISTON - The next “virtual” Art Walk L/A takes place on Friday on www.laarts.org/artwalk/, YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram and includes visual arts, music, literature, and more.

Included in the virtual Art Walk are “I’m No Meteorologist” by Indigenous Artpoet and indie rap artist Myles Bullen; a visit with stained glass artist Jim Nutting at Maine Art Glass in Lisbon Falls; meeting the local artists exhibiting at Gritty’s and Craft Brew Underground in Auburn; and Local Writers Read 2020 Maine Literary Award Finalists Series.

LA Arts and the Art Walk LA Committee are also pleased to present the 2021 Art Walk Artists online gallery. Artists and artisans included on this page each have works for sale; please support them with your purchases! Visual artists and artisans can register free and we’ll share your work on this web page throughout the season.

See Art Walk, page 11

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Pages 8-9

Broadcaster live streams USM Huskies games

By Nathan Tsukroff

GORHAM – Watching springs sports at the University of Southern Maine is lots of fun . . . you just can’t watch the games in person during the pandemic.

Instead, you’ll be enjoying the Huskies on live streams over your computer or smartphone. And you’ll be hearing the voice of Sebastian “Bass” Pettitt as he calls the play-by-play for the games.

Pettitt began his announcing career in September, 2016, while working towards a Communications degree at USM. He was assisting men’s soccer coach Mike Keller as a team manager when the communications side of the USM Athletic Department asked him if he had any knowledge about broadcasting and communications.

“I told them I’d been around sports my whole life – it’s something I played and enjoyed . . . and I would definitely be able and willing to learn and lend a hand, and all of that, not really knowing where it was going,” he said.

“At first it was just the fall sports, really just soccer, something I was comfortable working with,” Pettit said. “And there were days where people who were calling the games at that point in time weren’t able to . . . so I picked up field hockey, which wasn’t something I was really comfortable or knowledgeable in, but at the time we really just needed someone to do it, so it wasn’t just silent while the game was airing.”

Pettitt said he had to “pick up quite a bit of knowledge” to learn how to explain a game he had never really watched before.

He said the athletic department was very supportive of his efforts. “It did give me some sort of comfort knowing they trusted me, even if I’m still learning, and they wanted me to get better and wanted me to improve.”



Sebastian “Bass” Pettitt live streams the play-by-play for games for the University of Southern Maine Huskies throughout the year. Fans are not allowed at games during the pandemic, so this gives students and families the chance to watch live games on their computers or smartphones. (Photo by Olivia Holbrook, USM Athletics)

More than four years later, Pettitt now live streams almost all the games for the Huskies, while taking a break from his studies. “I have every sport that isn’t hockey that we are able to do a broadcast for.”

For spring sports, he is covering baseball, softball and men’s and women’s lacrosse. In the fall, he covers just men’s and women’s soccer (USM doesn’t have a football team), and in the winter he broadcasts men’s and women’s basketball, an occasional home wrestling match, and indoor track. “When it comes to (ice) hockey, there’s another gentleman who handles the majority of the games, but I do fill in for him when he’s not available.”

Pettitt works from the press box at

a game, using a digital camera connected to a laptop which is linked to the athletic department website. The website has links and statistics for the games as they are being played.

His work with the broadcasts and video are separate from the game announcer, Pettitt said. “They have somebody who announces the goals over the public address system.”

The broadcasts and commentary from Pettitt were helpful even for fans at a game. “If you don’t necessarily know a lot” about the game, fans can listen in to his broadcasts, he said. He’s seen fans watching his live streams on their smartphones at games. And for now, his broad-

See Broadcaster, page 11

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Guest Column

Don't forget your shacket

By Grammar Guy

It's that time of year: is it spring yet? Or is it summer? Wait, is it going to get cold again? What? There's snow in the forecast this week? Maypril in Central Indiana is like a box of chocolates, assuming that box of chocolates was insane and had a personal vendetta against you and your garden.

Enter the shacket. While in New England, a shacket is another name for a yellowjacket or hornet, I'm not talking about fly-

ing insects with miniature needles on their butts. No, I'm talking about a piece of clothing that is the hybrid of a shirt and a jacket. It's a shacket. Picture a thick, slightly oversized flannel shirt for which retailers can charge \$130 and you'll get a good idea of what the shacket is all about.

Is it too cold to go out with just your regular shirt on? Grab a shacket. Is it too warm for your hoodie? Shacket time. In case you're not following the right Instagram influencers, just know that

the shacket is blowing up everyone's feeds, stories and reels these days. Yes, this year the shacket is just the clothing item that will get you through this tricky time of the season when Mother Nature decides to hit you with a late frost around the time you're scheduling your Memorial Day plans.

What kind of word is "shacket"? If this were the year 2010, we'd call it a "mash-up," but "Glee" is not on the air anymore. First of all, "shacket" is a neologism, which is a fan-

cy way of saying "a newly coined word." After thorough internet research, I couldn't find the origin of "shacket" as an article of clothing, but I wouldn't be surprised if the poetic product description writers over at the J. Peterman catalog came up with the term. If anyone out there reading this has a connection to the person who hires people to write for the J. Peterman catalog, let them know I want to work with them.

More specifically, "shacket" is a type of

"word blend" or "portmanteau." Believe it or not, both of these terms mean the same thing. Use "portmanteau" if you're trying to impress a group of ascot-wearing Harvard grads playing a round of weekend yacht polo in the Hamptons; use "word blend" if you don't want to have to explain what "portmanteau" means.

Whether you call them "word blends" or "portmanteaus," this type of word is everywhere. From "jorts" (jeans + shorts) to "turducken" (tur-

key + duck + chicken) the novelty of newly-coined word blends - especially in the case of the shacket - makes for a great hashtag that will make all your Instagram frenemies green with envy.

Curtis Honeycutt is a syndicated humor columnist and treasurer of the National Society of Newspaper Columnists. He is the author of "Good Grammar is the Life of the Party: Tips for a Wildly Successful Life". Find more at curtishoneycutt.com.

History Weaver at Museum L-A

From Museum L-A

LEWISTON - Museum L-A recently launched History Weaver, a new suite of online resources, including virtual tours, mini-exhibits, and lesson plans at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

All digital resources are provided by Museum L-A to the community at no cost.

Visitors to the website

at: www.historyweaver.net can explore permanent and temporary museum galleries virtually.

New virtual tours are being added, including the current Androscoggin River exhibit.

New digital resources, such as the Character Card program and digital Traveling Exhibit, will enable students to learn more about the Franco-American immigrant experience and

Guest Column

Home Country

By Slim Randles

Like a doctor removing something important, Herb Collins gently peeled the wrapper back from the root ball and tenderly placed the baby tree in the hole. Then he stood and walked around it to see which way he should align it. Actually, looks pretty good just the way it is.

So he took his bucket of mixed sand and compost and began sprinkling it down onto the roots and then packing it in gently with his fist.

Every few minutes he'd stop and read the directions again. When he ordered the tree, the nurseryman had written back "Are you sure?" Well, that made ol' Herb laugh. Yes, he was sure. He's always sure this time of year.

He was still chuckling to himself when Janice Thomas walked along the sidewalk.

"Hi Herb," said the

high school art teacher. "What is it this year?"

"Papaya, Janice. Nice healthy one, don't you think?"

Janice took a close look at the little dark green tree.

Papaya. "Isn't that a tropical tree?"

"Sure is," he said, tucking more dirt around the roots. "I have to read the instructions carefully to get this right."

Janice thought carefully before speaking. "Papayas sure taste good, Herb."

"Sure do. Wouldn't it be nice if this lives long enough to produce fruit?"

"But you're not expecting..."


"Of course not. The first nippy day in autumn will turn this little guy belly up."

He looked up and smiled at Janice's consternation.

"You know that ba-

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

National Day of Prayer on May 6

From L-A MCA

LEWISTON/AUBURN - The Lewiston-Auburn Multifaith Clergy Association is hosting a National Day of Prayer 2021 virtual Zoom event, "The Wellbeing of Our Communities", at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 6.

There will be readings from the Holy Books from Faith leaders of various traditions. Native American, Christian, Muslim, and Baha'i with musical interludes. The

program is free and open to the public.

The L-A MCA is a welcoming group of local clergy and faith leaders dedicated to interfaith dialogue and collaboration.

Various faith traditions around the world are engaged in interfaith dialogue. For example, Pope Francis' outreach to the Muslim leaders in Iraq was a remarkable step in that direction. The Pope's statement is a bedrock value upon which dialogue, an enlarged, diverse faith

community and peace can be built.

Pope Francis said, "... on our own journey, we are called to leave behind those ties and attachments that, by keeping us enclosed in our own groups, prevent us from welcoming God's boundless love and from seeing others as our brothers and sisters."

There are parallel expressions in the Hebrew Bible, Christian New Testament and Qur'an. Famously, the Israelites were told not to restrict them-

selves to loving their countrymen, but also to "Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the Land of Egypt."

Christians are likewise told not to restrict their love to other Christians, for "... if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same."

Muslims are told in the Qur'an that God created humanity in diverse peoples and nations that they might know one an-

other.

Over 150 years ago Baha'u'llah, Founder of the Baha'i Faith, called us to detach ourselves from narrow identities and to recognize the Oneness of Humanity and the Oneness of Religion, which parallels closely what the Pope said.

These quotes demonstrate the principle of a love that widens out to "the other" beyond the group that might be seen as one's own people, ethnically, racially, nationally, religious-

ly, etc.

The spirit of these words we hope will animate the gathering and lead to more widespread interfaith collaboration among peoples of all faiths. We are happy to join in the 70th year of the observance of the National Day of Prayer across America and, invite all people with a passion for prayer and compassion for others to join us.

To register and obtain the event link go to <http://evite.me/ECdZGTnKwQ>

Virtual author visit with Gretchen McNeil

From Auburn Library

AUBURN - The Auburn Public Library is excited to host YA horror/suspense author Gretchen McNeil for a virtual author visit on May 6.

Join McNeil, as she takes you through a fun, engaging presentation about how her life in the arts has influenced her life in becoming a writer. Prior to writing, she has spent time as a child dancer, trained opera singer, circus performer, and cartoon voice-over artist.

This presentation will conclude with a Q&A.

McNeil is the author of novels "Get Even", "Get Dirty", "Ten", "#MurderFunding", "#MurderTrending" and "#NoEscape".

Her novel "Ten" was adapted to film and premiered on Lifetime in 2017. Her novels "Get Even" and "Get Dirty" were adapted as a series called Get Even, which premiered on BBC/Netflix in 2020.

This program is for both teens and adults, and will be presented via Zoom. Please call the Reference Department at 207-333-6640, ext. 4, to register. The Zoom link will be sent to you on the day of the program.

For more information on this or other upcoming, virtual programs offered by the Auburn Public Library, visit our website (auburnpubliclibrary.org), our Facebook page (Auburn Public Library Teenspace), call the Reference Desk, or email kchase@auburnpubliclibrary.org.



The Auburn Public Library is hosting a virtual visit on May 6 with Gretchen McNeil, the author of books including "Ten", "Get Even", and "Get Dirty". (Photo courtesy of Auburn Library)

Flags on Memorial Day

From TCMHS

LEWISTON – The L&A Veterans Council is asking for volunteers to place American flags on the graves of veterans for Memorial Day.

The volunteers will be placing flags at St. Peter's Cemetery in Lewiston, starting at 10 a.m. on May 22.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Jerry DeWitt at 576-0376 or at jdewitt@tcmh.org.



The L&A Veterans Council is asking for volunteers to place American flags on the graves of veterans for Memorial Day. (Image courtesy of TCMHS)

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Androscoggin, Kennebec, Oxford and Somerset counties now ‘yellow’

From Maine DOE

AUGUSTA - The Mills Administration updated to its color-coded Health Advisory System last week to classify Androscoggin, Kennebec, Oxford, and Somerset counties as ‘yellow’.

The Maine Department of Education said that Maine’s Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) had assessed COVID-19 data and trends for all counties.

Androscoggin county has experienced a sharp rise in cases over the last two weeks, with a new case rate more than double the statewide average. Kennebec, Oxford and Somerset counties all have new case rates that exceed the state average, and both Oxford and Somerset counties have two-week positivity rates that exceed the state average.

Franklin County has a rising new case rate and York County’s positivity rate is increasing, and infection rates in those counties will be closely monitored..

All other counties, including Cumberland County, remain green.

These designations are made out of an abundance of caution and for the consideration of school

administrative units in their decisions to deliver instruction. DHHS and Maine CDC continue to review evidence that indicates lower transmission of COVID-19 in schools compared to the general population.

Over the last 30 days, the rate of new cases for school staff and students has risen to 45 per 10,000, but remains about 40 percent lower than a new case rate of 74 per 10,000 for the general population.

This continues to demonstrate that in-person learning in schools that follow public health precautions can be conducted safely, without increased transmission of

COVID-19, when schools use proven health and safety protocols and resources.

The Health Advisory System categorizations are defined as follows:

RED: Categorization as “red” suggests that the county has a high risk of COVID-19 spread and that in-person instruction is not advisable.

YELLOW: Categorization as “yellow” suggests that that the county has an elevated risk of COVID-19 spread and that schools may consider additional precautions and/or hybrid instructional models to reduce the number of people in schools and classrooms at any one time.

GREEN: Categorization as “green” suggests that the county has a relatively low risk of COVID-19 spread and that schools may consider in-person instruction, as long as they are able to implement the required health and safety measures. Schools in a “green” county may need to use hybrid instruction models if there is insufficient capacity or other factors (facilities, staffing, geography/transportation, etc.) that may prevent full implementation of the health and safety requirements.

The county-level assessments are based on both quantitative and qualitative data, including but not limited to recent case rates, positivity rates, and syndromic data (e.g., symptoms of influenza or COVID-19). Those data are publicly posted every week on the Maine CDC website. DHHS and Maine CDC also consider qualitative factors, such as the presence of outbreaks that may potentially affect school-age children.

The next update will be provided on May 7. Updating the advisory on a two-week basis aligns with the incubation period for COVID-19 and allows for greater stability in the trend data for small counties.

LifeFlight welcomes new aircraft



LifeFlight recently added two new helicopters as part of a larger project to upgrade and standardize its frontline fleet of helicopters. The Agusta 109 SP models carry more weight and have more workspace for patient care. (Photo courtesy of LifeFlight)

From LifeFlight

CAMDEN - LifeFlight has recently purchased two new, state-of-the-art helicopters to transport critically ill and injured patients in Maine.

The Agusta 109 SP model aircraft have a greater weight-carrying capacity, more workspace for patient care, and can fly faster than the older aircraft.

The new helicopters, tail numbers N901LF and N901XM, are part of a larger project to upgrade and standardize LifeFlight’s frontline fleet of helicopters.

N901LF arrived last fall and transported its first patient on November 6. More than 6,000 donors made this possible, including several large gifts from

individuals and foundations, hundreds of smaller gifts, and thousands of donations made to the annual Cross for LifeFlight (formerly Islesboro Crossing) fundraising event over the last three years. It will replace one of LifeFlight’s two older models which were purchased back in 2004 and have seen 16 years of hard work in service to Maine. A fundraising campaign is now underway to secure funds to purchase the next needed helicopter.

N901XM went into service in March and was the result of a compelling offer from long time aviation partner, Leonardo Helicopters, to upgrade one of LifeFlight’s older helicopters to the newest generation model.

The enhanced workspace in the SP models, coupled with the ongoing miniaturization of medical technology, allow for new therapies for very complex patients to be added. Additional hi-tech features create the platform for “connected” helicopters to facilitate remote diagnostic decision-making (think in-flight telehealth) and establish an infrastructure to support future medical equipment and treatments.

The new models also boast state-of-the-art aviation technology necessary to achieve a new level of safety and reliability on every mission. Maine’s harsh and unpredictable weather conditions have long been a challenge LifeFlight has worked to overcome. Recently, LifeFlight has partnered with the FAA to establish a national demonstration project for new precision flight routes at much lower altitudes than what has existed for the last several decades. These low-level routes will give pilots more options to safely and reliably transport patients.

However, only he-

licopters with advanced avionics technology will be able to access the new routes. That’s where the SP models come in. Unlike older models, N901LF and N901XM have a 4-axis autopilot and the ability to receive vertical guidance from GPS which allows the aircraft to operate at low-level precision instrument flight routes. This means LifeFlight can answer more calls for help, transporting hundreds of additional patients every year.

LifeFlight of Maine operates three helicopters and one airplane from bases in Bangor, Lewiston and Sanford. LifeFlight also partners with local ground ambulance partners to answer calls via ground when the aircraft are unavailable.

The LifeFlight Foundation is dedicated to ensuring that everyone in Maine has access to emergency medical care when they need it most. The LifeFlight Foundation supports LifeFlight of Maine, the state’s only air medical and critical care transport organization which brings high-level care and advanced equipment directly to the patient. LifeFlight cared for more than 2,200 patients last year and has transported more than 30,000 patients since it was launched in 1998. By raising philanthropic dollars and community awareness, the LifeFlight Foundation helps ensure that Maine’s most vulnerable patients receive the highest quality care when every minute counts. The Foundation raises funds for aircraft, medical equipment, statewide aviation improvements, and educational outreach programs offered by the LifeFlight of Maine crew. The LifeFlight Foundation and LifeFlight of Maine operate as separate 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations.

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UMaine Extension online classes start in May



UMaine Extension 4-H will offer a citizen science club for grades 4–8 starting May 5. (Photo courtesy of UMaine)

From UMaine
ORONO – University of Maine Cooperative Extension is offering a variety of online classes, starting in May.

Citizen science club May 5
UMaine Extension 4-H will offer a citizen science club for grades 4–8 meeting weekly 3:30–4:30 p.m. from May 5–June 9.

This virtual 4-H citizen scientists club encourages youth to practice citizen science in their own backyard, with a variety of citizen science opportunities to consider, and report their observations while making connections with fellow citizen scientists in their community and around the state. Youth will need online access and the ability to take and share photos.

The club is free to join; enrollment is limited to 15 members. Register on the 4-H club webpage at <http://bitly.ws/cV3d>. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact 207.581.8206; sarah.sparks@maine.edu.

Healthy recipe series May 5
MACHIAS - UMa-

ine Extension is offering a free, online nutrition series for families in Washington, Hancock, Androscoggin and Sagadahoc counties from 3:30–4:30 p.m. starting May 5, continuing each Wednesday through June 23.

“Create Family Meals” will include family-friendly recipes and tips for making healthy meal choices. Participants who join four or more classes will receive a gift bag with cooking supplies and a cookbook.

The classes are free; registration is required. Register on the program webpage at <http://bitly.ws/cV3m>. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact 207.255.3345 or email rita.stephenson@maine.edu.

Weed-free garden prep May 12
ORONO - UMaine Extension and University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension will offer a webinar for home gardeners on garden preparation to deter weeds from 6–7:15 p.m., May 12.

“Preparing Your Garden Site: Getting Ahead of Weeds” will cover practices such as tarping, deep

tillage, double-digging, sheet mulching and raised beds. Nick Rowley, UNH Extension food and agriculture field specialist, will lead the workshop.

Registration is required; a sliding scale program fee is optional. Register on the event webpage at <http://bitly.ws/cV3q> to attend live or receive a link to the recording. This is the third in a six-part spring gardening webinar series offered every other Wednesday through June for Maine and New Hampshire gardeners. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Pamela Hargest, 207.781.6099; extension.gardening@maine.edu.

As a trusted resource for over 100 years, University of Maine Cooperative Extension has supported UMaine’s land and sea grant public education role by conducting community-driven, research-based programs in every Maine county. UMaine Extension helps support, sustain and grow the food-based economy. It is the only entity in our state that touches every aspect of the Maine Food System, where policy, research, production, processing, commerce, nutrition, and food security and safety are integral and interrelated. UMaine Extension also conducts the most successful out-of-school youth educational program in Maine through 4-H.

The University of Maine, founded in Orono in 1865, is the state’s land grant, sea grant and space grant university. It is located on Marsh Island in the homeland of the Penobscot Nation. As Maine’s

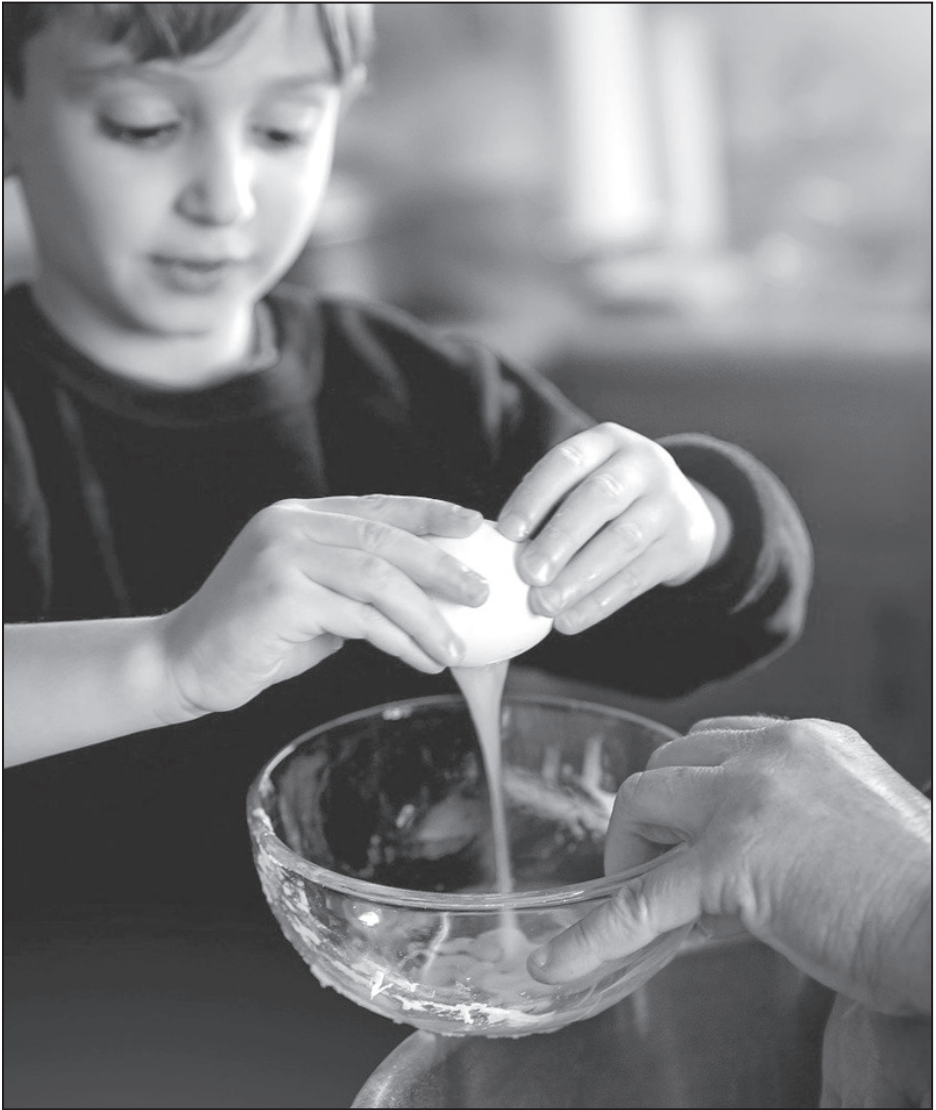
flagship public university, UMaine has a statewide mission of teaching, research and economic

development, and community service. UMaine is the state’s only public research university and

among the most comprehensive higher education institutions in the Northeast.



UMaine Extension and University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension will offer a webinar for home gardeners on garden preparation to deter weeds, on May 12. (Photo courtesy of UMaine)



A virtual program called “Create Family Meals” will include family-friendly recipes, presented by UMaine Extension starting May 5. (Photo courtesy of UMaine)

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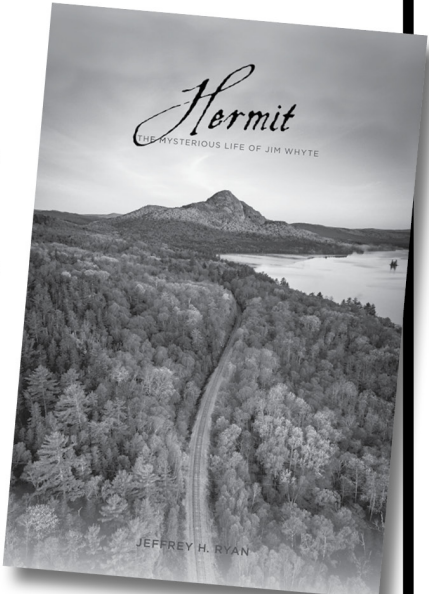
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— George Smith, Bangor Daily News

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Arts & Entertainment

Poetry reading on April 29



Local poet Lynne Schmidt will read from her collection, *Dead Dog Poems*, in a Zoom session on April 29, hosted by the Auburn Public Library. (Photo by Meaghan Martin Photography)

from Auburn Library set aside as National Poetry Month, a time to celebrate poets and their written words.

AUBURN - Each year, the month of April is

Local poet Lynne Schmidt will read from her award-winning collection, *Dead Dog Poems* - which explores the loss of a canine soul mate - in a Zoom session from 7-8 p.m. on Thursday, Apr. 29.

The journey will take the listener through the happy, the terminal diagnosis, eventual death, and the aftermath of grief after such a loss. After the reading, there will be time for questions and answers, as well as reflection for anyone who would like to share about their beloved companions.

This program will be virtual via Zoom. To register, contact the Reference Desk at 207-333-6640, ext. 4, and make sure to give your email address when registering. Participants will be emailed a Zoom link on the day of the program.

For more information on this or other upcoming, virtual programs offered by the Auburn Public Library, visit auburnpubliclibrary.org, the library Facebook page, call the Reference Desk, or email dwallace@auburnpubliclibrary.org.

Auburn lifts State of Emergency

From City of Auburn

AUBURN – During a meeting of the Auburn City Council last week, Mayor Jason J. Levesque announced that he and City Manager Phil Crowell had officially lifted Auburn’s State of Emergency order.

The order, which supported and enhanced federal and state emergency declarations, was put into place on April 1, 2020.

“We need to remain vigilant in our efforts to prevent further spread of COVID-19,” said Levesque. “But at this time, we see no need to have business or gathering restrictions in the City of Auburn beyond what our governor has ordered statewide.”

“For the sake of both public health and our local economy, the time has come for us to move past recovery efforts,” added Levesque. “Our health, public safety, and community partners at the local and state levels have done an incredible job during this pandemic. They are, without a doubt, the reason that we have come so far already, and they will continue to be an essential part of our recovery efforts moving forward. Auburn is thriving and we are prepared to continue to thrive, heal and grow as a community.”

City Manager Phil Crowell added, “This pandemic has reshaped our community and the people who live here. We recognize the significant loss that our citizens and businesses have experienced, and Auburn stands ready to press forward.”

Moving forward, the City will continue its education efforts, sharing and encouraging COVID-19 precautionary practices. Staff is also preparing and planning for the most appropriate and impactful use of American Rescue Plan funds.

Craft fair on May 1

From WLU

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

All proceeds will support the mansion restoration fund.

The WLU will be selling craft supplies, tables of fabric, quilting swatches, crafting books, sewing notions, rug hooking supplies, and more.

In the library, tables will be filled with jewelry and American Girl doll clothes. The hallway will have Boyds Bears of all sizes, Halloween decorations, Christmas ornaments and decorations.

In the Dining Room, visitors will find Japanese treasures, knit and stitch, and baked goods.

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

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

The Woman’s Literary Union of Androscog-

gin County is a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organization. For more information check womansliteraryunion.org or call Kathy Lawrence at 795-6134 or email at kathylawrence.maine@gmail.com.

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Maine International Film Festival is July 9-18



No caption. Please include with article only if space allows.

From MFC

WATERVILLE - The 24th annual Maine International Film Festival will take place July 9-18 in Waterville and Skowhegan, presented by the Maine Film Center.

Films will be shown in Waterville, Maine at Railroad Square Cinema and the Waterville Opera House, in Skowhegan at the Skowhegan Drive-In Theater, and online.

Festival passes and packages are now available to pre-order via the Festival website, MIFF.org.

Railroad Square Cinema will reopen in July, starting with this film festival.

Throughout 10 days in July, Festival attendees will have the opportunity to see a unique slate of films, including premieres, made-in-Maine features,

classic revivals, and short films from around the world.

All venues will adhere to Maine CDC guidelines for the COVID-19 pandemic. At Railroad Square Cinema and Waterville Opera House, total capacity will be reduced to allow for socially-distanced indoor seating, and more time will be allotted between screenings for increased cleaning and air circulation.

“It’s been a tremendously difficult year for movie theaters and filmmakers, and we can’t think of a better way to reopen the doors of Railroad Square Cinema than in celebration of the best films from around the world at MIFF,” said Mike Perreault, executive director of MFC. “This year there are more ways to take part in MIFF than ever before, and we’re committed to providing a safe, enjoyable, and accessible experience, whether indoors, outdoors, or online.”

The complete Festival lineup and individual ticket sales will be available mid-June.

Railroad Square Cinema will resume its regular year-round programming after the conclusion of the Festival.

Presenting sponsors of MIFF are Colby College, the Lawry Family Foundation, and Waterville Creates. The Festival’s branding was produced by All Over It.

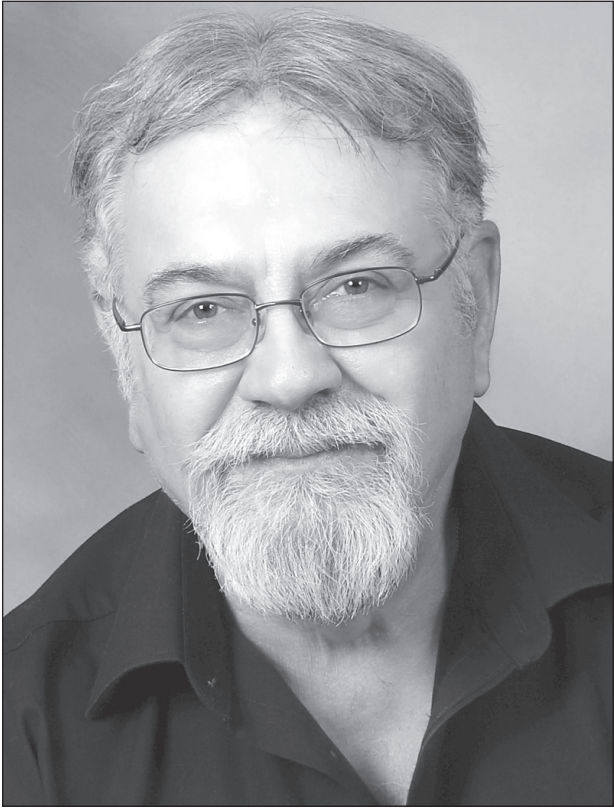
The Maine Film Center brings world-class independent film to Central Maine through Railroad Square Cinema, the only Sundance Art House Project cinema in Maine; the annual Maine International Film Festival, a 10-day celebration that attracts filmmakers and film aficionados from around the world; and by delivering impactful, accessible film exhibition and education programs.

MFC believes that art and culture have the power to enrich lives, strengthen community bonds, and serve as an economic engine.

MFC is a division of Waterville Creates. For more information, visit www.MaineFilmCenter.org.

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Local Photographer Receives National Award



Jim Walker of Jim Walker Photography in Auburn recently a national award for outstanding service to professional photography, from the Professional Photographers of America. (Jim Walker photo)

From Maine PPA

AUBURN - Jim Walker was recently honored with the Professional Photographers of America (PPA) National Award for

outstanding service to professional photography.

The bronze and walnut plaque was recently presented to him by the Maine Professional Photographers Association

(MPPA), a PPA Affiliated Association, at their annual convention at the end of March.

The National Award is offered by PPA to state, regional, national and international affiliated organizations on a yearly basis.

First made available in 1958, the award recognizes those who generously contribute their time and talents to the service of their profession, their affiliated organization and their fellow photographers. Selections of the award are determined by the recipient’s peers, adding to its distinction and value.

Professional Photographers of America (PPA) is the largest and longest-standing nonprofit photography trade association, founded in 1868. It currently helps 30,000+ pros elevate their craft and grow their business with resources, protection, and education, all under PPA’s core guiding principle of bridging the gap between photographers and consumers.

Jim Walker Photography can be reached at jim@jimwphotos.com

Documentary spotlights Passamaquoddy elder

From Upstander Project

LOS ANGELES, CA – “Dear Georgina”, a short documentary about Passamaquoddy elder Georgina Sappier-Richardson, who was removed from her home and community in downeast Maine by child protection services at the age of 2, is set for streaming release on May 7.

The film follows Georgina as she attempts to re-integrate herself into the community she barely knew. It is released in honor of Mental Health Awareness month on Upstander Project.

Produced by Upstander Project and directed by award-winning filmmakers Adam Mazo and Ben Pender-Cudlip, “Dear Georgina” is a follow-up to the Emmy® award-winning documentary, “Dawnland” (2018), in which Georgina told a portion of her harrowing

story of surviving foster care.

“Mom had a special quality to her. She talked to and listened to anybody. Storytelling was always part of her healing,” said Dwight Parrett, Georgina’s son. “She was witness to a lot of things in her youth. So from that moment when the film first premiered at Camden [International Film Festival] was good healing. For her to see herself on that screen was good medicine. Even though she isn’t with us today, it still means the world to know that Dear Georgina is being shared widely and that she is still being heard.”

A series of community-focused preview screenings and panel discussions will lead up to the wide release of Dear Georgina including a special screening on April 28th with Portland Press Herald and the Abbe Museum. The screening will be followed by a live

Q&A with Penobscot Nation Tribal Ambassador Maulian Dana and filmmaker and Upstander Project director Adam Mazo, moderated by Portland Press Herald Arts Reporter Bob Keyes.

“Georgina’s experiences and way of storytelling resonated so deeply with us. Our hope is that viewers will be inspired by Georgina to explore their own family history’s and hear stories from their elders. We have witnessed how Georgina’s healing process has encouraged others to share their stories and there is medicine and power in that experience for the storyteller and those listening. Our highest aspiration is that watching Dear Georgina prompts deep reflection and societal change to address the ongoing crisis of Indigenous child removal,” said film co-director and producer Adam Mazo.

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Sexual assault awareness groups teach and help

By Nathan Tsukroff

AUBURN – April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, highlighting local groups that have been reaching out to Mainers to educate them about sexual assault and violence.

Sexual assault goes well beyond the obvious rape of a woman or an attack on an LGBTQ+ person.

Sexual assault can be something as simple as touching someone without permission, or body-shaming a person by calling them ugly or fat.

And sexual assault at any level can have lasting psychological effects, sometimes leading to dangerous and inappropriate behavior such as self-harming, drug use, and unsafe sexual activity.

Being aware that someone else’s behavior is wrong can help a person to avoid being assaulted, or report that behavior to prevent further assaults.

That’s where the advocates from Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Services (SAPARS) provide help. Starting with young children in elementary school, the advocates provide education and a place for people to report assaults and violence. At schools, the SAPARS advocates teach classes on proper behavior with fellow students,

such as maintaining personal space.

SAPARS provides services in Androscoggin, Oxford and Franklin Counties, and the communities of Bridgton and Harrison.

There is a 24-hour Maine Sexual Assault helpline at 1-800-871-7741 for anyone who has been recently assaulted, or is suffering from the effects of a previous assault. There is also a statewide text and chat service, but it has apparently been suspended since January for maintenance/

The outreach at schools and in the local communities has changed dramatically under the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. Previously, advocates from SAPARS were available at schools throughout Androscoggin, Oxford and Franklin counties for students to drop in and talk about personal concerns or issues. Under pandemic rules, SAPARS advocates now work remotely via computer virtual sessions.

“What I have seen is a lot of struggle and lack of access to services,” said Bridget McAlonan, the Prevention Education Coordinator for SAPARS. She would be in various Lewiston schools daily, but “we are no longer to be out in the community” during the pandemic.

“In schools, in the churches, in drop-in centers,

assisted-living homes, all the places that we would be normally be doing outreach . . . we are not there,” she said.

“One of my workers is the outreach coordinator (Jamie Demers) works with underserved populations . . . LGBTQ folks, folks in assisted living,” but Demers is no longer allowed to see drop-in visitors, McAlonan said. “She would go into the housing communities, into the assisted-living places, and just sit and do drop-in, and someone could come and just sit with her, and gradually know that it was safe to talk to her.” That’s not being allowed during the pandemic.

This lack of access is a problem for many students and marginalized people. For example, “When I would go into schools, kids would see me and they could say ‘Hey, I want to talk to you,’” which is not possible now, she said. “We’re talking about folks that don’t have access to telephones, that don’t have access to computers, that are dependent on someone else to get their needs met. And the way that they accessed our services was ‘casually’, and they’re not able to do that if it’s not safe for us to go out into the public.”

National studies have shown an increase in sexual assaults and violence during emergencies, such as

a flood or hurricane. While McAlonan said she did not have specific information about increases in assaults in Maine under the pandemic, she said she thinks “that there has been compounding of everything” due to the isolation under the pandemic, which would “compound any trauma that might have happened.”

There are multiple agencies providing support for people throughout Maine. Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine (SARSSM) provides free services in York and Cumberland counties to anyone affected by sexual harassment, sexual abuse, or sexual assault, through prevention programs, support, education, and advocacy.

Both SAPARS and SARSSM provide child advocacy services.

“If I think about unsupported LGBTQ youth who are living in a home where they can’t be who they are . . . the way that they got their support before was in Outright LA’s drop-in groups on Friday nights, or by going to the public library, where the library had a drop-in book group, or seeing their favorite adult who called them by their name in school . . . those things are missing,” McAlonan said.

The mission of Outright Lewiston/Auburn is to create safe and affirming environ-



Bridget McAlonan, the Prevention Education Coordinator for Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Services in Androscoggin, Oxford, and Franklin counties, listens as a person shares her story. Advocates from SAPARS provide outreach to adults and children to help prevent assaults, and to assist after a sexual assault or violence has occurred. (Photo courtesy of SAPARS)


ments for youth ages 12-21 who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or questioning.

Public advocates from support groups like SAPARS and SARSSM have to be careful about meeting in person during the pandemic, since they would normally see a wide variety of people in multiple locations throughout the week. Keeping isolated protects everyone, but means that many who are seeking help don’t have access to resources. “It’s kind of a Solomon’s Choice!” McAlonan said.


To address that, SAPARS provides as much internet and remote services as possible. Starting last June and working throughout the summer, the SAPARS educators “figured out the best solutions to be able to go into the schools and offer remote programming.” They rewrote the curricula for their presentations at schools to provide a better remote experience for students.

In the younger grades, students are taught about consent and personal space

See Awareness, page 14



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Safe Voices helps victims escape domestic violence, sexual trafficking

200 to 300 youths and adults are exploited each year in Maine

By Nathan Tsukroff

LEWISTON - “Human Trafficking”

When someone is forced to work, or to perform sexual acts, in exchange for the basic necessities of life, they are being trafficked.

This labor or abuse is often accompanied by physical violence, and similar tactics are used in personal relationships, leading to what we know as sexual or domestic violence.

“Often what we’re seeing is people who have been living in Maine – perhaps lived here their whole lives – are being trafficked, right here in our state,” said Elise Johansen from Safe Voices, a non-profit group whose mission is to support and empower those affected by domestic violence in Androscoggin, Franklin, and Oxford counties. The group also works to engage communities in creating social change.

Maine’s first human trafficking needs assessment was conducted in 2015 by Hornby Zeller Associates, Inc., using known statistics, surveys with members of law enforcement, and interviews with service providers, stakeholders and survivors.

The majority of information for the assessment related to sex trafficking, which occurs when someone benefits from the sale of another person for sex acts through force, fraud, coercion, threats, or manipulation, or when the person is a minor.

Johansen said there are about 200-300 victims of sex trafficking in Maine per year. The vast majority of these crimes in Maine go unreported, and researchers estimate that only 14 percent of trafficking victims report the crimes committed against them, according to a February 2017 report by a Maine Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

Sexual exploitation is the exchange of sex acts for anything of value where the individual is manipulated into the agreement as a result of addiction or desperation. This exploitation may then lead the victim into being trafficked.

The 2015 assessment

did not have enough information to determine the level of labor trafficking in Maine at that time. Labor trafficking occurs when a person is forced to work or provide services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. Most of the focus on labor trafficking in Maine concentrates on agriculture, according to the assessment.

Victims of sex trafficking in Maine are typically girls and women 14 to 30 years old, from both rural and urban communities, with a history of sexual or physical abuse, and lacking basic needs and an emotional support system, according to the assessment.

Survival sex and trafficking are often interchangeable. Victims and survivors said they would rather do things they didn’t want to do in exchange for meeting basic needs. For many, they were led into sex trafficking with the belief they were in a personal, intimate relationship with the trafficker.

One of the ways traffickers control their victims is through drug addiction. And some victims turn to drugs as a way to escape the pain and self-loathing from being trafficked.

“There is a federal definition of (sex) trafficking, and we do see that in Maine,” Johansen said. “And we also see a lot of sexual exploitation, where someone might say, ‘Hey, you can come sleep on my couch and live with me

because I know you have nowhere to go, but in order for you to do that, you need to have sex with me.’”

Or a victim may be told, “I’ll give you some drugs, but you need to do this with my friend over there,” Johansen said. “Or, ‘If you want to live here, then you need to go and start doing this with a bunch of other people, and all the cash needs to come home to me’.”

Recognizing they are being exploited or traffic is a first step for a victim to start their escape from their situation, and Safe Voices provides resources for victims of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation.

Safe Voices provides the only safe house in the area for these victims, Johansen said. “So we do allow and have people live there, but most of what we do is provide advocacy, legal support in the criminal and civil courtrooms, and we provide support groups.”

The group also assists people in safety planning and learning about community resources. “So all of the same scope of services that we provide to victims of sexual abuse and violence, we also provide to victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation,” Johansen said.

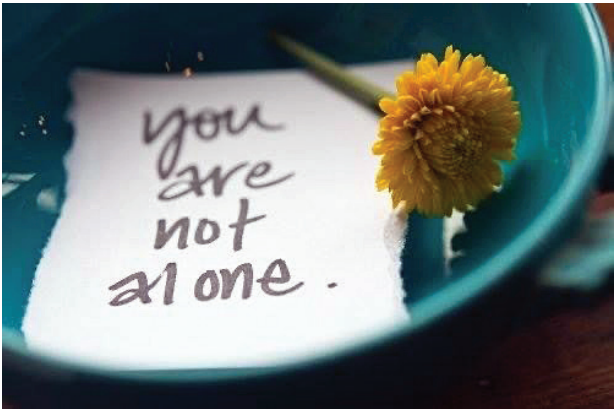
Escaping from the trafficker can be difficult for the victim. “A lot of times, victims will interact with law enforcement, and law en-

forcement is really committed to ending human trafficking in Maine and seeing people being affected by it as victims and not as perpetrators of crime,” Johansen said. Instead of charging sex trafficking victims with the crime of prostitution, police officers are now connecting the people they are finding on the streets with Safe Voices and other community resources.

“And so we get referrals that way. We get referrals from other community service organizations, human service organizations, case managers, churches, and sometimes people just call our help line,” Johansen said.

Hospitals will provide the help line number to patients that may be victims of exploitation or trafficking. A nurse in an emergency room may ask a patient, “Hey, something’s going on. What’s going on? Do you want to talk to me a little bit about it?” And then the victim will be able to call the Safe Voices help line where the advocate will ask questions to help determine the victim’s specific situation.

Asking someone if they are being trafficked doesn’t provide real answers, Johansen said. “They’ll say, ‘Hey, I don’t even have a car. I can’t speed!’” But asking a possible victim if they ever had to trade sex for food, or trade sex just



A message of hope from Sexual Assault Prevent and Response Services. (Photo courtesy of SAPARS)

for a place to take a shower, or if they have been told their immigration documentation will be withheld if they don’t have sex, clearly identifies them as a victim.

Often, victims are afraid to reach out for help because of the real possibility of beatings and other abuse if their call for help is discovered by the trafficker. Contacting Safe Voices or other community groups from a phone away from the trafficker, or using a computer at a public place such as a library, are safe options for the victim to use in calling for help.

Johansen said she thinks that youth at risk that are specifically coming out of foster systems, and a lot of LGBTQ youth that are homeless, are at greater risk of being trafficked. However, traffickers

will create situations where none existed before in order to lure in victims of any age.

Safe Voices was created in 1977 to help battered women and children who did not have refuge, and opened its first emergency shelter in 1979 with funding help from the federal Comprehensive Education and Training Act. The organization changed its name to Safe Voices in 2010 to recognize that men are victims, too, and to have a name reflecting hope and empowerment, according to its website.

The 24/7 Helpline for Safe Voices is 1-800-559-2927. Online chat services are available during business hours Monday through Friday by going to the Safe Voices website: safevoices.org and selecting the Get Help tab at the top.

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Augusta Center for Kids receives major donations

From Children's Ctr

AUGUSTA – Children's Center, an early childhood intervention and family support services organization for children with special needs, has announced three major gifts toward its fundraising efforts to expand its primary location in Augusta.

The gifts of \$250,000 each come from two families and a business in the Augusta area who have all seen the importance of the work being done at Children's Center, and under-

stand there is greater demand in the region.

"We are proud to strengthen our long-standing commitment to the Children's Center with a lead gift," said Andrew Silsby, President & CEO of Kennebec Savings Bank. "When I heard the campaign presentation, I was struck by the fact that there are over 100 children on waiting lists due to capacity issues. We know that early intervention is critical to helping children with special needs lead full lives. The children on these

waiting lists simply cannot get that critical time back in their development. This capital project will make it possible for the Children's Center to ensure no child in our community has to wait to receive the services they need. We must all act now to ensure success."

"The work that is being done at Children's Center is beyond essential," said Norm Elvin, a major donor along with his wife Teresa. Elvin is also owner of G&E Roofing in Augusta. "Because the work of Children's Center

is so essential, they have grown beyond their own walls. This expansion will help many more children and families access vital services for early childhood development for kids with special needs. It will also help to create a brighter path for success for kids in Central Maine."

"A child's earliest years are critical to their long-term prospects," said David Flanagan, another major donor along with his wife Kay. "There are things beyond our control -- creating physical space for every child in our community who needs access to early childhood intervention services isn't one of them. Kaye and I feel called to be part of the solution for these kids and families and the way we are able to do that is through this gift and our continued support of this mission."

Children's Center announced its plans last month to expand its primary location in Augusta to meet demand. The organization provides center-based services for children ages six weeks to five

years old and outpatient services, including occupational therapy, speech therapy, outpatient mental health for children and families, and case management support to kids up to age 21. Annually, the Center serves more than 250 children between its four sites: Augusta, Farmington, Skowhegan and Waterville. All sites have waiting lists with Augusta's being the largest at nearly 100 children in need of center-based or outpatient services at any given time.

Legislation to Allow Drugs from Canada

From Sen. Collins

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Angus King (I-ME) recently joined Senators Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) in introducing the *Safe and Affordable Drugs from Canada Act*, legislation that would allow individuals to safely import prescription drugs from Canada, creating savings

for consumers and bringing greater competition into the pharmaceutical market.

"Skyrocketing drug prices are making it more and more difficult for Americans to access the treatments they require. As a member of the Senate Health Committee, addressing the rising costs of these medications is one of my top priorities," said Senator Collins. "The Safe and Affordable Drugs

from Canada Act combats the gaming that some brand companies engage in to unlawfully extend their market power and pricing controls by allowing the importation of medications from Canada. This bipartisan bill will lower the cost of prescription drugs and allow Americans to have more options at the pharmacy."

"Prescription drugs continue to be too costly for many Maine people,

forcing impossible decisions between filling a prescription or putting food on the table," said Senator King. "Making matters worse, our neighbors to the North – who many Mainers conduct commerce with on a regular basis – have access to much more affordable medications, but outdated regulations prevent our citizens from accessing these lower-priced lifesaving drugs. Enough is enough – in the fight to reduce the burden of prescription drug prices on Maine people, we need to look for every possible opportunity to cut consumer costs, and allowing our

citizens to import more affordable medications from Canada is one potential option. This is a bipartisan bill that can make a real impact on the life of Maine people; to support the health of our people, the Senate should quickly take up this important legislation."

The Safe and Affordable Drugs from Canada Act would align federal policy with legislation passed in the State of Maine.

In addition to Senators Collins, King, Grassley, and Klobuchar, the bipartisan legislation is cosponsored by Senators

Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Maggie Hassan (D-NH), Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Ron Wyden (D-OR), and Gary Peters (D-MI).

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

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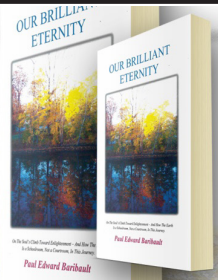
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Calling the plays at a recent live stream of a University of Southern Maine Huskies baseball game, Sebastian “Bass” Pettitt uses a video camera tied to a laptop for his broadcasts over the internet. (Photo by Olivia Holbrook, USM Athletics)

Broadcast

Continued from page 1

casts are the only way for fans to see a game.

Pettitt came to USM for Sports Management, eventually shifting gears to a Communications major. He played a lot of sports growing up, as well as act-

ing in the school theatre. He was on the speech and debate team in high school, “and that really helped me being comfortable in front of the microphone,” he said.

He plans on doing these broadcasts for the foreseeable future, cele-

brating his 500th broadcast just a couple of weeks ago. “I see myself living in this community in the future and being in this area,” he said. “As long as I’m somebody they like having around and doing games, then I see myself doing it.”

Besides working

fulltime behind the microphone, Pettitt helps with the bowling alleys at Junction Bowl on Railroad Avenue, Gorham. He is in charge of the weekly leagues that play on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday nights.

He also posts Twitch broadcasts about video games, including his current favorite game, Call of Duty. His all time favorite is Tetris, he said.

Pettitt needs three semesters to complete his degree. His parents moved from Maine to southern Connecticut several years ago, so he lost the lower tuition of a Maine resident. He will be able to finish his studies when he qualifies again as a Mainer, he said.

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

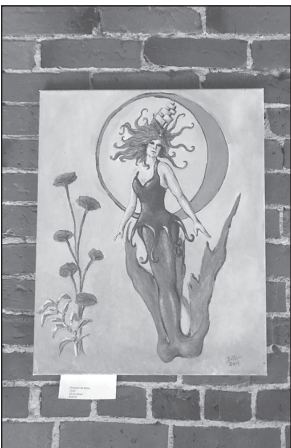
Art Walk

Continued from page 1

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Since 1973, LA Arts, the arts agency for the cities of Lewiston and Auburn Maine, 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



Mary Bottom art at Craft Brew Underground. (Photo courtesy of LA 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 artists 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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USDA Boosts Food Assistance for Homeless Young Adults

From USDA

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced that young adults under the age of 25 experiencing homelessness will now be able to receive meals at emergency shelters participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

Under normal circumstances, USDA only reimburses shelters for meals served to children through age 18, but the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act expanded several nutrition as-

sistance programs to reach the most vulnerable populations experiencing food hardship due to the pandemic, including homeless young adults.

CACFP is a federal program that provides child care centers, day care homes, and adult day care centers reimbursements for nutritious meals and snacks they serve to eligible children and adults enrolled at their facilities. CACFP also provides reimbursements for meals served to children and youth participating in afterschool care programs, children living in emergen-

cy shelters, and adults over the age of 60 or living with a disability and enrolled in day care facilities.

“The pandemic has exposed how hunger can afflict anyone during tough times — including young adults who may not be equipped to cope with the financial challenges that this global pandemic may throw at them,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. “The American Rescue Plan not only is proving to be one of the most powerful anti-poverty pieces of legislation in history, it is also driving down

food insecurity with a host of new tools that help the most vulnerable among us.”

This provision of the ARP ensures CACFP facilities will be reimbursed by USDA for the meals they serve these residents for the duration of the public health emergency.

The risk of hunger has increased throughout the pandemic, with recent data suggesting approximately 23 million adults and as many as 12 million children are living in a household where they may not always have enough to

eat. The pandemic has also worsened longstanding inequalities in food insecurity: Black and Latino adults are more than twice as likely as white adults to report that their households did not get enough to eat.

ARP includes more than \$12 billion to bolster food security during the pandemic with a variety of programs and interventions, from nutrition assistance programs to purchase food commodities for donation to food banks, to help and support for workers in the food supply chain.

“The Act ensures that we get the economy on track for everyone, especially those who have been marginalized, who are hurting, who have been overlooked or shut out in the past,” said Stacy Dean, deputy undersecretary of food, nutrition, and consumer services. “USDA stands ready to implement these important provisions and is providing states with new guidance to help them put these new benefits in place.”

For more information about CACFP, visit: www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp

Legislature won’t advertise hearings

From Maine Legislature

AUGUSTA — Last week, Maine Senate President Troy Jackson of Allagash and Maine House Speaker Ryan Fecteau of Biddeford announced that the newspaper advertising requirement for public hearings has been waived for the remainder of the legislative session beginning April 26.

This announcement is consistent with the past precedent set by previous presiding officers of both political parties to ensure the Maine Legislature is able to complete its work in an efficient manner.

The announcement was made in a memo sent out to the 130th Legisla-

ture.

In 2019, President Jackson and then-House Speaker Sara Gideon, D-Freeport, waived the two-week notice requirement on April 22.

In 2017, then-Senate President Mike Thibodeau, R-Winterport, and Speaker Gideon waived the two-week hearing notice on May 2.

Public hearing notices will continue to be posted online. Members of the public can ask to be added to interested parties lists for committee calendars and notices. Members of the public interested in testifying on a bill can sign up to deliver written or oral testimony here: www.mainelegislature.org/testimony.

USDA Issues Pandemic Flexibilities for Schools

From USDA

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) last week issued a broad range of flexibilities to allow school meal programs and childcare institutions across the country to return to serving healthy meals this fall.

As part of the Biden-Harris Administration’s commitment to reopen schools safely, several meal service flexibilities that enable social distancing are now extended through June 30, 2022. The waivers continue the Administration’s commitment to provide safe, healthy meals free of charge to children as the pandemic continues to

threaten the food and nutrition security of our most vulnerable.

“USDA will remain relentless in ensuring our nation’s children get the critical nutrition they need,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. “States and districts wanted waivers extended to plan for safe reopening in the fall. USDA answered the call to help America’s schools and childcare institutions serve high quality meals while being responsive to their local needs as children safely return to their regular routines. This action also increases the reimbursement rate to school meal operators so they can serve healthy foods to our kids. It’s a win-win for kids, parents

and schools.”

A recent study from Tufts University found that in 2018, schools were the single healthiest source of U.S. food consumed across a sample of children and adults. The 2018 study found that diet quality for foods from schools improved significantly from a similar study conducted in 2003-2004.

Schools nationwide will be allowed to serve meals through USDA’s National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option (SSO), which is typically only available during the summer months. This option maintains the nutrition standards of the standard school meal pro-

grams — including a strong emphasis on providing fruits and vegetables, fluid milk, whole grains, and sensible calorie levels, while allowing schools to serve free meals to all children. In addition, schools that choose this option will receive higher-than-normal meal reimbursements for every meal they serve, which will support them in serving the most nutritious meals possible while managing increased costs associated with pandemic-related operational and supply chain challenges. This option also affords schools the financial flexibility to further customize their meal service design to fit their local needs.



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IN RE: ROSEMARY BELLE
ZEKOVITCH V. MICHAEL TIMOTHY
ZEKOVITCH, JR. NO. 202021-3
IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR
KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant MICHAEL TIMOTHY ZEKOVITCH, JR., is a non-resident of the State of Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon MICHAEL TIMOTHY ZEKOVITCH, JR., it is ordered that said defendant MICHAEL TIMOTHY ZEKOVITCH, JR., file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court in Knoxville, Tennessee, and with CAROLE COLE, an Attorney whose address is 135 Fox Road, Suite A, Knoxville, TN 37922, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication. If the Defendant fails to file an answer within the time limit the Plaintiff shall be permitted to file a notice of Default Judgment and serve the Defendant by leaving a copy of said notice with the clerk of this court. This cause will be set for hearing Ex-Parte as to you before Chancellor Christopher D. Heagerty in the Knox County Chancery Court, Part III, 400 W. Main Street, Suite 125 Knoxville, Tennessee 37902. This notice will be published in The Twin City Times Newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks. This the 8th day of April 2021.

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**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!

**FRIDAY
Apr. 30**
GORHAM – FY 21-22 Proposed Budget due to Town Council.

**MONDAY
May 3**
5:30 p.m.
AUBURN – City Council workshop and meeting.
7 p.m.
GORHAM – Planning Board meeting, via Zoom.

**TUESDAY
May 4**
9:30 a.m.
GORHAM – Baxter Memorial Library. Preschool Discovery Time – If you love picture books, watch Ms Heidi on Facebook as she reads a new book each week. (ages 3-5).
5:30 p.m.
AUBURN – Age-Friendly Committee meeting.
6 p.m.
LEWISTON – City Council meeting. CAN

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

BE VIEWED REMOTELY VIA ZOOM: Due to necessary COVID19 precautions, the May 4 City Council meeting will be broadcast via ZOOM - <http://www.lewistonmaine.gov/2021cc> Also, public comment will be possible at publiccomment@lewistonmaine.gov The meeting will be archived on the City's YouTube channel <http://www.lewistonmaine.gov/YouTube> by the next day.

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

**WEDNESDAY
May 5**
4 p.m.
AUBURN – Auburn Farmers' Market.
6 p.m.
AUBURN – School Committee meeting.

**THURSDAY
May 6**
9:30 a.m.
GORHAM – Baxter Memorial Library. Toddler Discovery Time - Join Ms. Dani for a Virtual Discovery Time on Facebook as she reads a picture book to our youngest listeners. (18 months-3 yrs).
4 p.m.
AUBURN – Cable TV Advisory Board meeting.
5:30 p.m.
AUBURN – Auburn-Lewiston Airport Board meeting.

**FRIDAY
May 7**
9 a.m.-6 p.m.
GORHAM – Baxter Memorial Library. Book Sale in Shaw Gym - The Friends of Baxter Memorial Library Book Sale.

**SATURDAY
May 8**
9 a.m.-1 p.m.
GORHAM – Baxter Memorial Library. Book Sale in Shaw Gym - The Friends of Baxter Memorial Library Book Sale.

**MONDAY
May 10**
5:30-6:30 p.m.
LEWISTON – Finance Committee meeting at City Hall Administrator's Conference Room.

5:30 p.m.
LEWISTON – Planning Board meeting via Zoom. The Planning Board Agenda and information for this meeting will be available on the website on the Friday before the meeting date.

**TUESDAY
May 11**
9:30 a.m.
GORHAM – Baxter Memorial Library. Preschool Discovery Time – If you love picture books, watch Ms Heidi on Facebook as she reads a new book each week. (ages 3-5).

6 p.m.
AUBURN – Planning Board Meeting.
6:30 p.m.
GORHAM – Town Council Budget workshop with School Committee, via Zoom.

**WEDNESDAY
May 12**
4 p.m.
AUBURN – Auburn Farmers' Market.
6 p.m.
AUBURN – School Committee meeting.
6:30 p.m.
AUBURN – Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting.

7 p.m.
GORHAM – School Committee meeting, via Zoom.

**THURSDAY
May 13**
9:30 a.m.
GORHAM – Baxter Memorial Library. Toddler Discovery Time - Join Ms. Dani for a Virtual Discovery Time on Facebook as she reads a picture book to our youngest listeners. (18 months-3 yrs).
6-7 p.m.
GORHAM - Friends of Baxter Memorial Library Annual Meeting. The Friends of Baxter Memorial Library invite all members to their Annual Meeting on the lawn next to the library. Social distancing and masks are requested.

**MONDAY
May 17**
5:30 p.m.
AUBURN – City Council workshop and meeting.

**TUESDAY
May 18**
7:30 a.m.
AUBURN – Auburn Public Library Board of Trustees meeting.
8 a.m.
GORHAM – Ordinance Committee meeting, via Zoom.
9:30 a.m.
GORHAM – Baxter Memorial Library. Preschool Discovery Time – If you love picture books, watch Ms Heidi on Facebook as she reads a new book each week. (ages 3-5).

Awareness
Continued from page 8
through games.
“So we are still in the schools! We are in the schools remotely. They are seeing our faces on their Zoom screen,” she said. SAPARS has worked intensely with schools in Lewiston and Lisbon, and the

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high schools in Turner and Poland, “to get back in their classroom.”
Presentations now require two or three educators, instead of the single educator who could speak the class in person prior to the pandemic. “So it’s very labor-intensive.”
Being at the schools in person gave students a sense of familiarity, which let them feel comfortable speaking to advocates about issues they were experiencing. McAlonan said. She talked about a six-year-old boy came to her for support after getting in trouble for punching a fellow student who encroached on his personal space. She was able to help him find better ways of dealing with that situation.
Starting last summer, the advocates from SAPARS partnered with the YWCA Central Maine in Lewiston to provide weekly remote guidance on social and emotional consent. The advocates are available remotely in the drop-in room at the YWCA, through a laptop computer set on one the desks.
At least two educators are available during remote sessions, so one can step aside to answer a phone call from a child who has concerns that are triggered by the information that is being presented.
Sexual assault and violence include rape, attempted rape, sexual contact and sexual coercion. Studies have shown that sexual victimization may lead to lowered self-esteem, eating disorders, and negative feelings about a person’s own body.
Teaching youth about personal space is part of preventing or reporting assault. Children are taught “they get to say ‘yes’ or ‘no’ to a hug or a handshake,” McAlonan said. “We are making it so that if someone was going to try to exploit them or harm them, they might have an inkling (that) ‘this is not okay.’”
The prevalence of sexual assault is much like an iceberg, she explained. “All the sexual assaults above the waterline are the things that we have decided are illegal. We have made laws against them. Below the waterline are all the sexual assaults that are still legal.”
McAlonan spoke about the poem “Piñata” by Pages Matam, where he speaks about hearing a man on a bus tell a woman, “You’re too ugly to be raped.” That statement is legal, “it’s under the waterline.”
Cultural mores do not seem to affect the levels of sexual assault, she said. “The idea of personal space and creating safety translates globally.”
She has spoken with parents of European descent, and immigrants from other parts of the world, and the conversations about personal space and safety do not differ, she said.

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