



# TWIN CITY TIMES

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## Winners chosen for Top Gun Showcase

By Nathan Tsukroff



Mohammed Awil of Community Staffing Partners in Lewiston answers a question from judge Lori Allen after an online pitch for his company at the Top Gun LA 5th Annual Pitch-off at last week's meeting of the Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. The Top Gun program is intended to guide entrepreneurs in creating successful businesses. Awil was named one of two winners in the event, moving on to the statewide showcase on May 26. (Tsukroff photo)

LEWISTON – Two winners were chosen to move on to the statewide Top Gun Showcase during the Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce meeting last week.

In a rare in-person breakfast meeting during a year under COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, the chamber hosted the 5th Annual Top Gun LA Regional Pitch-Off at the Ramada Lewiston Hotel and Conference Center on Pleasant Street.

The hybrid event saw entrepreneurs making their presentations virtually on a large screen set up at the front of the conference room.

Mohamed Awil, Azenaide Pedro, and Abel Dias of Community Staffing Partners in Lewiston were chosen along with Jennifer Banis of Stay FNB to move on to the Showcase on May 26.

The Maine Center for Entrepreneurs in Portland coordinates the Top Gun program in Maine to help entrepreneurs that have a desire to grow their business by providing tools, resources, and mentor-

ship that are intended to help them achieve long-term success. Top Gun is a 15-week program that combines hands-on mentoring with high-impact weekly gatherings, according to the MCE website. The weekly Top Gun sessions were virtual for the second straight year, due to the pandemic.

This year, the sessions were statewide, bringing the LA cohort together with the other groups in Maine.

The state Showcase winner receives a cash prize of \$25,000, sponsored by Maine Technology Institute.

Local company Literacy Tech was the 2020 winner, taking home the cash prize that was sponsored by Maine Technology Institute. Michelle DeBlois and Kathryn Lariviere, both full-time middle school teachers, tri-founded LiteracyTech, Inc. with Peter Janett, a web application developer in December 2019. The company provides a web-based application called ReMo that provides readers with insight and access to books.

There were seven companies involved in this year's program in Lew-

See Winner, page 8

## Jordan's Way fundraiser today for humane society

From GAHS

LEWISTON – The Greater Androscoggin Humane Society (GAHS) has been selected to take part in a Jordan's Way Fundraiser.

As part of his 50 state tour, Kris Rontonda, founder of Jordan's Way will be at the GAHS today from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in his mission to get unnoticed pets in shelters noticed.

During his four-hour non-stop live Facebook fundraiser, he will focus on the animals in the shelter, to help bring community awareness and life-saving funds in for our shelter.

These zany events help clear the shelters by promoting adoptions and donations, providing assistance to shelters by placing animals in loving homes.

"We are thrilled to be chosen as one of the few shelters Kris will visit on his tour through Maine!" said Katie Lisnik, GAHS Executive Director. "This is a fun opportunity to showcase needy animals and we are thankful to be able to participate."

There are a lot of activities and challenges planned, including ice buckets being dumped and pies in the faces of several of our staff members, local Animal Control Officers, and community members.

Businesses donating over \$500 will get a Snuggle Express visit from shelter puppies or kittens to their workplace for staff enjoyment on a day of their choosing.

Follow Kris, Jordan's Way and the GAHS Team on Facebook: www.Facebook.com/gahumane as they shine a light on the forgotten and give hope so pets can have a better and full future.

The goal is to \$15,000 during this virtual event. A donation link can be found on the GAHS website.k to make a much needed donation.

The Greater Androscoggin Humane Society provides a safe haven for over 3,000 sick, homeless, needy and abused animals in the greater Androscoggin area each year. The primary support for the shelter comes from fundraising events and

See Fundraiser, page 16

## The Public Theatre's auction ends Sunday

From Public Theatre

LEWISTON – The annual spring auction for The Public Theatre ends at midnight on Sunday.

The auction is virtual this year, and can be found on the theatre's website at <http://thepublictheatre.org>.

Featuring gift certificates for all the wonderful things we love doing in Maine as well as handcrafted items you won't find anywhere else, what better way to shop for useful and unique gifts while simultaneously supporting the theatre.

Looking for a private singing lesson with a Broadway singer? A winter weekend at Sugarloaf? A beautiful painting?

A unique piece of jewelry from J. Dostie? A gift certificate to a local brewery? A birdbath? A Vacuum Cleaner? A gift certificate to a favorite restaurant? You will find a wonderful assortment of items in this fun fundraiser for The Public Theatre.

The pandemic has devastated live performances, making our fundraising events more important than ever. Bidding online is an ultimate win-win for yourself and The Public Theatre.

Winners will be notified and given the location to pick up their winning items. Details on bidding procedures and a link to the auction can be found at <http://thepublictheatre.org>



Items in the annual spring auction for The Public Theatre, which is virtual this year and ends at midnight on Sunday. (Photo courtesy of The Public Theatre)

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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## Letter to the Editor

### DHHS breach of public trust must be addressed

It is hard to imagine a moment in someone's life that is more sensitive and more private than the decision to seek help for addiction or suicidal behavior. That's why it is especially appalling to learn that Maine's Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) carelessly placed confidential, personally identifiable information about patients receiving mental health and addiction treatment services on a publicly-accessible database, viewable by anyone with an internet connection.

When confronted with questions about this incident, the Department's response was particularly tone deaf. They

patted themselves on the back for telling the truth about this incident and notifying the 20 patients impacted, pointing out that the Department is "not required by law to make these notifications." (<https://bangordailynews.com/2021/05/09/news/mental-health-patients-confidential-information-was-on-state-website-more-than-3-months/>) Unbelievable. For an agency that just violated the vital trust that the public places in them, notification should certainly be a minimal expectation. Yet for a violation of this magnitude, more accountability is needed. Governor Mills and Commissioner Lambrew must hold their De-

partment to a higher standard and rebuild trust after this disturbing breach.

First, Maine's Attorney General should review this incident and determine whether the rights of any Maine patients were violated as well as whether any actors in the Department violated state or federal law. DHHS has said that their actions did not violate the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), but there must be a fuller public accounting of how the exposure of this sensitive information to the public complied with all relevant laws and rules. Commissioner Lambrew and her Department must not sweep this under the

rug, instead we must fully account for any mistakes or wrongdoing.

Second, we must conduct an independent review of the practices by which DHHS collects and stores personally identifiable information. Data breaches are all too common these days, and while it is unavoidable that there will be times when our agencies must be the custodian of confidential, personally identifiable information, the Legislature has a duty to ensure that such information is only collected and retained as rarely as possible, only when vitally necessary, and secured to the greatest extent possible. This is why I have submitted leg-

islation that would require an independent review of the Department's practices, and I hope the Administration would welcome such an effort.

Third, Governor Mills and Commissioner Lambrew must take action to address the specific management failing that led to this incident. So far, the department has pledged "an additional layer of confidentiality protection," without providing specific information on what practices they are changing in order to address this failing. Let's be clear – this was not just a failure of process, it was also a human failing. There are employees or managers in the Depart-

ment who made decisions or failed to act, resulting in this massive violation of the public's trust. In the private sector, this would result in discipline or termination. Accountability demands no different from the public sector.

In order to fulfill its mission, DHHS relies upon the trust and confidence of the Maine people. Recent events have revealed an appalling violation of that trust and we must all take swift action to ensure this never happens again.

Sincerely,  
**Rep. Jon Connor**  
 House District 58  
 (Lewiston)  
 Jon.Connor@Legislature.Maine.gov

## Maple syrup business course in June



A Maine maple syrup shack sits in a wooded area in rural Maine. University of Maine Cooperative Extension and University of Vermont Extension are offering a four-part business course in June for maple syrup producers. (Photo courtesy of UMaine)

### From UMaine

FALMOUTH - University of Maine Cooperative Extension and University of Vermont Extension will offer a weekly four-part business management class for maple syrup producers online from 7-8:30 p.m. on Tuesdays from June 8-29.

"Is My Maple Business Profitable? Finances for Maple Producers" is designed to provide financial management education for maple business owners and the skills to understand their operational cost of production and profitability.

The fee is \$20 and class size is limited to 25 participants.

Register and find more information on the event webpage at [http://](http://bitly.ws/dpNT)

[bitly.ws/dpNT](http://bitly.ws/dpNT).

For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Becky Gray, 207.781.6099; [rebecca.gray@maine.edu](mailto:rebecca.gray@maine.edu).

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.

The University of Maine, founded in Orono in 1865, is the state's land grant, sea grant and space grant university. UMaine has a statewide mission of teaching, research and economic development, and community service.

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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## Auburn library fundraiser



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AUBURN - Auburn Public Library is thrilled to announce the 2021 fundraiser, "Book Around Town: Linking Library with Local Business". Support APL and our

local economy by purchasing a swag bag with over \$200 in value for just \$75! Each bag is filled with discount coupons to local businesses, shops, and restaurants, in addition

to handmade items from local favorites. Bags are on sale June 1 to 15 on the library website, [www.auburnpubliclibrary.org](http://www.auburnpubliclibrary.org). Limited supply!

## Kaydenz Resale Closet opens with Ribbon Cutting



Kaydenz Resale Closet opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony last week. The new business at 155 Lisbon Street in Lewiston will support its sister facility, Kaydenz Kitchen Food Pantry at 550 Lisbon Street. (photo courtesy of LA Metro Chamber)

### From LA Metro Chamber

LEWISTON - Lewiston Mayor Mark Cayer was joined by Karen Staples from Senator Susan Collins Office, and Stephanie Gelinis, Ward 7 Lewiston City Councilor, at a ribbon-cutting ceremony last week for the new Kaydenz Retail Closet.

Located at 155 Lisbon Street in Lewiston, Kaydenz Resale Closet helps support the Kaydenz Kitchen Food Pantry at 550 Lisbon Street.

The elected officials were also joined by the Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce team, and Kayden's friends and family, at the ceremony.

"Today I want to recognize Kayden's entrepreneurial spirit. It's not just a dream that started the food pantry down the street in the mill, it's the way she saw that dream forward. It's her vision, her heart, her energy, and her excitement that bring life, color, artwork, and retail to Lisbon Street. Thank you for being a leader for every one of your peers in 7th grade, and beyond. You're amazing," said Shanna Cox, President and CEO of the LA Metro Chamber.

Mayor Cayer said that "When you have a good thing in place, creativity often continues in wonderful ways as evidenced here today. It's also important to note that it was the 2017 vision of a young girl, Kayden Boilard, that jump-started her family's contributions to our community. Families facing food insecurity and clothing needs have certainly benefited ever since."

Opening up Kaydenz Resale Closet in the Hartley Block has brought food, clothing, and other essential resources closer to those in need.

"Kaydenz Kitchen Food Pantry is extremely excited about expanding into a second location in the downtown community. All proceeds from Kaydenz Resale Closet benefit our 501(C)3 non-profit mission and our continued expansion of services and programs for the Lewiston-Auburn community," said Kevin Boilard, President.

An organization of See Kaydenz, page 16

## Absentee ballots available for school budget

### From City of Lewiston

LEWISTON - The Lewiston School Budget Validation Referendum Election is next Tuesday, May 25.

Absentee ballots for this election available from the City Clerk's Office for Lewiston voters. Registered voters needing an absentee ballot may order

one by calling the City Clerk's Office, mailing in an application form downloaded from the City's website, or coming into the City Clerk's Office, located on the second floor of City Hall.

Office hours are Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

The deadline to request an absentee ballot is

4 pm today.

The City's website contains a sample ballot, directions to the polling place and other information that voters may find useful. The website address is: <https://www.lewistonmaine.gov/117/Elections>

Contact the City Clerk's Office at 513-3124 with any questions.

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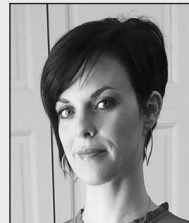
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# Bates Dance Festival will bring young students to campus



The Bates Dance Festival will run from July 11 to July 31, and feature live performances in public venues in Lewiston. (Photo courtesy of Bates College)

## From Bates College

LEWISTON - After a year of pandemic-related restrictions, the Bates Dance Festival will bring young dance students to the Bates College campus, and a mix of virtual and live performances back to the city of Lewiston.

Dancers will take to the streets in July to celebrate dance in its many forms.

"Most of our venues will be outdoors in public spaces within Lewiston, and the shows are site-specific," says BDF Director Shoshona Currier. "There will be virtual events, in-

cluding a really exciting international collaboration. But to be able to gather together after more so long apart truly feels like a gift. We've been planning and hoping for this for over a year."

Among the performers BDF plans to welcome in a schedule that runs July 11-July 31 is award-winning New York-based choreographer Emily Johnson, who will present *Processions Toward, Being Future Being*, a work that incorporates Indigenous cultural practices and perspectives.

Johnson grew up in Sterling, Alaska and is of

the Yup'ik Nation. A Besie Award-winning choreographer, Guggenheim and United States Artists Fellow, and recipient of the Doris Duke Artist Award, Johnson has incorporated a ceremonial fire into her piece, to be performed in and around Kennedy Park in Lewiston on July 17. These areas of the Androscoggin riverfront are the original homelands of the Wabanaki peoples, including the Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, Maliseet, and Mi'kmaq peoples, who maintain an ongoing and meaningful relationships with this land.

"Emily's connection

to land, her activist work around conservation of natural resources, and her choreographic practice are beautifully interwoven in dance pieces that take many shapes," Currier says. "Each work draws audiences together in new ways, which feels essential now."

Johnson's distinguished body of dance works and social choreographies unite audiences in a shared experience of movement, place, history and collective action. Her newest work-in-development, *Being Future Being*, which encompasses the piece she'll perform in Lewiston, delves into the power of creation and will feature a newly commissioned soundscore by Raven Chaco. *Being Future Being* is co-commissioned by Bates Dance Festival and Portland Ovations and will be presented in full at Portland Ovations at a later date.

Throughout the festival, L/A Arts Gallery at 221 Lisbon St., Lewiston, will be the site of a collaborative video project from a canary torsi - a site-adaptable, installation-based performance project - called *Performance | Portrait*, a collaboration with Space Gallery.

Conceived in 2016 by Yanira Castro, this responsive video installation invites spectators to share an

intimate dancing encounter with a performer, projected at life-size in a video image. One of four performers (the selection rotates) "meets" and holds the gaze of the spectator, responding to their movement by a Kinect V2 sensor. The effect is of a time-arrested and manipulated performance. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, one participant at a time will enter the gallery for the performance while others watch through the gallery's windows.

"It's like having a person in the room who you are in conversation with," Currier says. "But you can't make them react in a predictable way." Even if two different participants end up with the same dancer, "Your situations will be different."

The piece, recently acquired by the WNDR Museum in Chicago, will be up at limited hours from Wednesday through Saturday at L/A Arts from July 14-31, with guests buying tickets to spend 20 minutes engaged in the project, which is both interactive and plays with a sense of isolation. "It feels particularly relevant now," Currier says.

Bates Dance Festival will also celebrate the climate-change inspired work of dancer Vanessa Anspaugh, who divides her time between Portland, Maine and Northampton,

Mass. Anspaugh will present a 2019 work titled *Funerals for the Ocean*, confronting the global climate crisis, rising sea levels and a rapidly dying oceanic ecosystem. This work is supported by Maine's own Kindling Fund, a project of Space Gallery in Portland, and is a co-presentation with Opera House Arts in Stonington.

*Funerals for the Ocean* relies on both the audience and "planted" dancers interacting with them, and serves as both an expression of grief and a celebratory homage to a loved one. "Simultaneous to this experience of loss, we also take time to reflect with gratitude on the life that has lived; the beauty, love, inspiration, humor that life has graced us with," Anspaugh says. "I am proposing the same kind of frame around our sick and dying, but still living ocean."

Currier said details are still being worked out for specific performance times and locations.

Tickets will range in price from \$5 to \$20 and go on sale June 1.

There will also be free events throughout the festival - both in-person and digitally.

Learn more about the festival's programming and buy tickets at [bates-dancefestival.org](http://bates-dancefestival.org).

## Military academy nomination applications are being accepted

### From Sen. Collins

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Angus King, Jr., (I-ME) and U.S. Congresswoman Chellie Pingree (D-1st Dist. ME) and Congressman Jared Golden (D-2nd Dist. ME) announced last week that they will begin accepting nomination applications from Maine high school students for appointments to the United States service academies operated by the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Merchant Marine.

No nomination is required to apply to the United States Coast Guard Academy.

Students should apply for a nomination in the spring and summer of their junior year.

Senators Collins and King and Congresswoman Pingree and Congressman Golden began accepting nomination applications last week from students for admission to the academies in the summer of 2022.

For more information, contact:

**Senator Susan Col-**

**lins**, Contact: Sara Holmbom Lund, 207-780-3575  
[www.collins.senate.gov](http://www.collins.senate.gov)

**Senator Angus King, Jr.**, Contact: Katie Fellows, 207-352-5216  
[www.king.senate.gov](http://www.king.senate.gov)

**Congresswoman Chellie Pingree**, Contact: Leslie Merrill, 207-774-5019  
[www.pingree.house.gov](http://www.pingree.house.gov)

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### Out and About

# Schooner Estate's 'Earth Day Re-Do'

By Rachel Morin

AUBURN - The Schooner Earth Day Team was ready at the door for the Schooner Shuttle to pick them up and bring them to their predestined location on Earth Day, April 22.

Mark Prevost, Director of Residents Services, who organized the Team, had already been outside, checking the weather and walking conditions, and he found the weather unsuitable for his team. It was wet, soggy and windy on the April 22 Earth Day. He made the decision to postpone their Earth Day Clean-up for better weather and drier ground conditions for walking and picking up trash.

And so when April 28, "Earth Day Re-Do"

rolled around, it was perfect and the Team was ready. Several Tenants and Staff participated in the Earth Day Re-Do date.

Tenants Pauline Gotto, Gerry Martel and Georgette Morin; Staff: Molly Elliott, Skip Estes, Joanne Kramlich, Mark Prevost, and Joyce Theriault made a BIG visual difference on the eastbound lane of the Veterans Memorial Bridge, picking up litter along a 400-foot stretch.

"I cannot believe what a difference we made," said Georgette Morin, a Schooner tenant for the past six months. Georgette continued "From how much litter there was, to how clean it is now. This project exceeded my expectations of what eight people could accomplish in a short period of time."

Other group members recalled travelling across the bridge daily and how they would always comment on how littered it was on both sides of the highway. That is why they thought it would be a good project for them to clean up for Earth Day. They hope other organizations are inspired to take a little time and make a difference in the cleanliness of the Lewiston/Auburn Community.

All the participants said there are interested in going out again to do more at a later day. The good weather makes it pleasant to get out and enjoy the fresh air, get a little exercise and do good for the Lewiston/Auburn Community we live in. They felt their next expedition would easily double the number of participants.



The Schooner Earth Day Team, armed with their long-handled grabber tools, were ready and eager to be on their way to clean up all the litter they would find on the roadways. L to R, Skip Estes, Georgette Morin, Molly Elliott, Gerry Martel and Joyce Theriault. Members not shown are Mark Prevost, Director Resident Services, Pauline Gotto and Joanne Kramlich. (Mark Prevost Photo)



Mark Prevost, Director Resident Services, who organized the Earth Day Team, was able to get all members in this photo. In the foreground are Joyce Theriault, Gerry Martel, left, and Skip Estes. Standing near road is Molly Elliott. In the background are Joanne Kramlich, standing; Pauline Gotto, seated; with Georgette Morin standing behind her. (Mark Prevost photo)



Gerry Martel, lower section, and Skip Estes up higher, made short work of the area they had, making it neat. (Mark Prevost Photo)

## What do you think?

We strongly encourage Letters to the Editor, Op/Eds, columns or any other submissions from our readers.

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# Arts & Entertainment

## Art in the Windows in Lewiston



Maine native artist Jim Nutting holds a recent abstract art glass work. Works by artists are on display in the windows of businesses in downtown Lewiston as of the Art in the Windows program from LA Arts. (Photo courtesy of LA Arts)

### From LA Arts

LEWISTON - LA Arts and community partners bring a lively Art in the Windows program to downtown Lewiston this spring, with new work now on view at a number of locations along Lisbon Street.

Echoes and Loops, New Paintings by Kate Cargile will be on view in the LA Arts Gallery windows at 221 Lisbon Street in Lewiston through July 1. Kate is a middle school

art teacher whose artwork is shaped by her strong interests in literature, history, and visual culture studies. She works in a variety of media, including painting, drawing, printmaking, appliqué quilting, and paper mache sculpture.

Her subject matter ranges from “the beauty of the people, objects and places that make up my everyday life to fanciful ideas from myths, legends, tales and my own wild imagination,” she

said. “The artistic process is like trying to tune an old radio. There are many different stations and frequent static. When you get a clear station it’s always best to listen intently to what is playing.”

Artist books by Auburn artist Anna Low of Purplebean Bindery are on view nearby, in the windows of the Lewiston Public Library. These beautiful and unique creations can be seen from the street anytime or up close and personal

during one of the library’s browsing blocks throughout the week. Each book is different and tells its own story in a distinctive format.

Low’s formal education is in photography and art education. She received a BA from Hampshire College, an MA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and spent a year in Speos - The Paris Photographic Institute.

Her photographs and artist books have been exhibited throughout New England and published in several periodicals, including Maine Magazine.

Art glassworks by Maine native, Bates College and Edward Little High School graduate Jim Nutting are on display in the windows of Rinck Advertising.

Jim has more than 30 years of experience working in stained glass and has completed numerous small to large commissions for individuals and businesses. He has restored dozens of church windows and sold work at many craft shows and galleries, but now concentrates on filling Maine Art Glass in Lisbon Falls with his original art.

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 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 art 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](http://www.laarts.org).

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Artist Kate Cargile’s oil on panel painting called “Walk Away” is on display in the LA Arts Gallery windows at 221 Lisbon Street, Lewiston, through the end of June as part of the art group’s Art in the Windows program in downtown Lewiston. (Photo courtesy of LA Arts)

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# Maine 4<sup>th</sup> safest state during pandemic

### From Wallet Hub

WASHINGTON, D.C. – As the U.S. continues its struggle against the COVID-19 pandemic, staying safe is one of Americans’ top concerns.

Safety is also essential for getting the economy back on track, as the lower COVID-19 transmission and deaths are in a state, the more that state is able to eliminate restrictions on businesses.

States will only be able to get back to life as

normal once most of the population is fully vaccinated against coronavirus, and it will still be a while before that can be achieved.

Around 35% of the US population had been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as of May 12.

Some states are already safer than others, though, based on how well they have kept the pandemic under control and how much they are vaccinating. In order to find out the safest states during

the COVID-19 pandemic, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across five key metrics.

The data set includes the rates of COVID-19 transmission, positive testing, hospitalizations and death, as well as the share of the eligible population getting vaccinated.

Hawaii ranks first with a total “safety” score of 85.7, followed by Vermont at 85.59, Massachusetts at 77.69, and Maine at 75.36. New Hampshire

rounds out the top five states with a safety score of 71.18.

The full list of states and “safety” ratings can be found at <http://bitly.ws/dpNt>.

In order to find out the safest states during the COVID-19 pandemic, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across five key metrics. The Wallet Hub data set includes the rates of COVID-19 transmission, positive testing, hospitalizations

and death, as well as the share of the eligible population getting vaccinated. Maine’s Safety During Coronavirus (1=Best; 25=Avg.):

- 6th – Vaccination Rate
  - 11th – Positive Testing Rate
  - 21st – Hospitalization Rate
  - 11th – Death Rate
  - 30th – Transmission Rate
- WalletHub (formerly CardHub.com) is a personal finance website that was

launched in early August 2013. It is based in Washington, D.C., and owned by Evolution Finance, Inc.

According to Web reports, WalletHub initially positioned itself as a “personal finance social network” with a focus on reviews for financial advisors. According to Wikipedia, WalletHub offers free consumer tools, such as its WalletLiteracy Quiz and its Financial Fitness Tool, which provides users with credit reports, scores and monitoring.

# Skowhegan bank donates \$10k to charities

### From SSB

SKOWHEGAN - In celebration of Skowhegan Savings Bank’s 151st Annual Meeting, the bank will donate \$10,000 to local charities on behalf of the 57 corporators.

The five charities, one in each region that the bank serves, were selected by votes from the corporators to each receive \$2,000.

Receiving donations are the Town of Dexter Food Assistance Program, the Skowhegan Community Food Cupboard, the Augusta Food Bank, FAEM Care and Share Food Bank based in Farmington, and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Maine.

“Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Maine is proud to be the recipient of this special gift from Skowhegan Savings Bank, said Nicole Avery, executive director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Maine. “These one-to-one mentoring relationships are life-changing as Bigs provide their Littles with guidance and empower them with skills to transform their lives and their communities. This donation will help support the comprehensive oversight

protocols we have in place that ensure the safety and wellness of every youth in our program.”

The annual meeting was virtual and included a regular business meeting where Rich St. Pierre, chief financial officer of the bank, presented the bank’s financial condition. He reported that, despite all of the challenges in 2020, the bank far exceeded expectations for financial performance with over 2,000 loans originated exceeding \$147 million, ending the year with a \$4 million net profit which grew the bank’s capital base to over \$100 million.

“These numbers are a true reflection of our employees’ commitment to go above and beyond for our customers,” said David Cyr, president and CEO of Skowhegan Savings Bank. “From commercial lenders working around the clock to secure COVID relief funding for businesses to community bankers assisting home borrowers after hours in a highly competitive real estate market, to frontline staff working diligently to provide a safe and sanitized environment for customers - for these reasons, we are proud to

again be recognized as one of Maine’s Best Places to Work.”

The bank and the Skowhegan Savings Bank Foundation made over \$250,000 in donations to local nonprofits, including more than \$30,000 to local food programs, over \$25,000 to business relief grant programs and other various nonprofits in local communities.

In other business, Sam LeGeyt and Katelynn Shorey were sworn in as new corporators of the bank. LeGeyt is an associate broker at NAI The Dunham Group, based in Portland, and Shorey is the director of engagement at Live + Work in Maine and president of Startup Maine. John Witherspoon, Carolann Ouellette and Rick Anzels were reelected to the board for additional three-year terms.

Skowhegan Savings Bank has been dedicated to strengthening Maine’s families, businesses, and communities by providing personalized and competitive banking services to the regions they serve for 150 years. An independent mutual savings bank based in Skowhegan, the bank’s mission is to provide cus-

tomers with exceptional service in an innovative banking environment that effectively and efficiently

puts the financial needs of the customer first.

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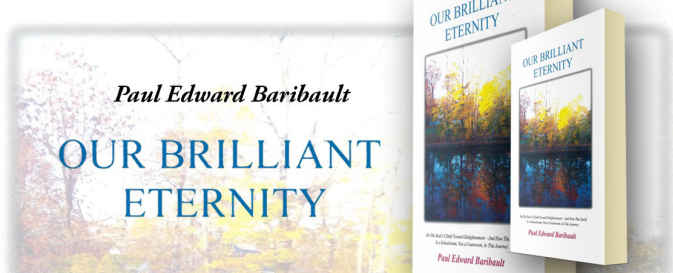
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**Winner**  
Continued from page 1  
iston-Auburn. The other Top Gun entrepreneurs included Maria D’Auria of Second Gen Jerky; Jamey Cotnoir of A Mindful Eye, LLC; Tara Kieger of Sweet Cakes Bake Shop; Joan

Drapeau of Slicpix; and Norman Patry of Summer Feet Cycling.

Awil made his “pitch” virtually in the meeting’s Zoom session, speaking about his company’s intent to promote a workforce in Maine that is diverse, in-

clusive and equitable.

Awil said his company’s mission is “to build a diverse and inclusive workforce across Maine by partnering with employers” to help hire and train job seekers. He said the current system of hiring

“is broken,” with potential employers lacking the cultural awareness of the barriers faced by new Mainers seeking jobs.

Community Staffing Partners addresses these challenges by providing training sessions for both employers and job seekers “in order to create a successful and lasting connection,” he said.

Banis with Stay FnB said she has been a chef with the Maine food business for over 20 years. She has operated 111 Maine, a boutique catering company, for 16 years.

She said, “We understand that world is filled with ‘foodies’, people who are educated on food, health, sustainability. Foodies know how food makes them feel, and they know that their memorable experiences are connect to good food. And there are a lot of us out there!”

With the shift to online food shopping during the pandemic, Banis said consumers need “a platform that educates users on the local food scene. A tool for connecting growers and purveyors. A resource for sourcing all of the local foods in your area.”

She said her company provides an online platform to connect consumers with local foods and beverages. “Imagine going to one website, typing in your location, and being able to



Jennifer Banis makes a virtual pitch to judges for her company, Stay FnB, at a hybrid version of the Top Gun LA Pitch-Off during a meeting of the LA Metro Chamber last week at the Ramada Inn in Lewiston. (Tsukroff photo)

drink in the local scene.”

Judges for the local Pitch-Off were Steve Veazy, the District Director of SCORE Maine; Lori Allen, the business advisor for the Maine Small Business Center at the Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments (AVCOG); and Chris Rugullies, the Commercial Market Manager and a senior vice-president at Camden National Bank, and a board member for the LA Metro Chamber.

Judging focused on the feasibility, the availability, and innovation of a business, and on the effectiveness of the entrepreneurs presentation at the Pitch-Off.

LA Metro Chamber President and CEO Shanna Cox said the sponsors of the Top Gun LA program were critical to the program’s success. Sponsors include the cities of

Auburn and Lewiston and Camden National Bank.

The purpose of the Pitch-Off was to give entrepreneurs practice at making pitches to customers, advisors, or for investment, Cox said. Judges asked questions and offered feedback on how to clarify or improve a pitch.

Cox told members at the start of the program, “Think of this as a performance. No shopping allowed today. This is definitely not about finding the investors for a company. This is about practicing for some future real-world pitch and learning from other entrepreneurs.”

About 50 chamber members attended the meeting in person, seated four to a table in the large conference room. Other chamber members logged into the meeting via a Zoom session.

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# PRHS senior is student of the month

## From Tri-Town Optimist

POLAND - The Mechanic Falls, Minot and Poland Tri-Town Optimist Club is proud to announce its April RSU 16 Student of the Month recipient, Evan Kelly, a senior from Poland Regional High School.

Kelly has always demonstrated the school's core values of character, citizenship, and community, but truly stepped up in the face of Covid. After connecting with his pastor, he served community members who were unable to leave their home, by delivering groceries and helping in any way he could.

At school, Kelly has maintained the high academic engagement and performance that earned him membership in the National Honor Society as a junior. He has also continued to contribute on the field in football, basketball, and outdoor track.



Poland Regional High School senior Evan Kelly was chosen as Student of the Month for April by the Tri-Town Optimist Club. (Photo courtesy of Tri-Town Optimist)



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# Maine School Nurses are Nurses of the Year

**From Maine DOE**

AUGUSTA - Since 1972, National School Nurses Day has been set aside to celebrate this unique and specialized division of nursing.

This year Governor Janet Mills and the Maine Department of Education join the Maine Association of School Nurses (MASN) to celebrate and honor school nurses on May 12, recognizing ALL Maine school nurses as the 2020-2021 "School Nurses of the Year."

"This past year, un-

like any other, school nurses in particular across the State of Maine have helped adapt with grace and grit to protect the health of our children," said Governor Mills in her video message to Maine school nurses.

Traditionally, school nurses have been charged with ensuring students are safe, healthy, and ready to learn. They are responsible for bridging the gap between healthcare and education. However, since last March, the COVID-19 pandemic has exhausted school district resources and launched school nurs-

es into new and uncharted territory. It has redefined the role both in school buildings and communities.

School nurses serve as a critical health hub for students, ensuring that students are ready for learning by managing complex chronic conditions; identifying and addressing mental health issues; leveling the field on health disparities and promoting healthy behaviors; enrolling children in health insurance and connecting families to healthcare providers; handling medical emergen-

cies and now, navigating through the COVID-19 pandemic by testing, tracking and educating students and school personnel.

In a pandemic, nursing requires a focus on individual patient care, as well as a larger perspective of public health. Nursing skill, knowledge, intuition, and practice does not stop at the four walls of a school, but must encompass the community at large. There is a constant awareness of how decisions affect others inside and outside of school. Students' lives don't end when

the last bell rings and they board the bus home. These same students go to work, volunteer, visit family, and play sports. School nurses shoulder a responsibility to keep children healthy so that the community remains healthy.

Generally (in a non-pandemic year) school nurses operate behind the scenes in "stealth mode", providing care, comfort and pain relief. This year however, school nurses have navigated insurmountable pressure to explain and defend community health measures

and promote health and safety for all school community members. This year, school nurses have been working especially hard to facilitate students' return to in-person learning. This means putting all the recommended mitigation measures in place while supporting teaching staff as they meet educational needs of all students.

Thank your school nurse with an elbow bump and congratulate them on being named Maine School Nurse of the Year 2021.

# Brownfields cleanup grants for Maine

**From US EPA**

BOSTON - Last week, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that three grantees in the state of Maine have been selected to receive \$1.3 million to assess and clean up contaminated properties under the agency's Brownfields Program.

These funds will support under-served and economically disadvantaged communities around the state in assessing and cleaning up abandoned industrial

and commercial properties. The Maine grant award announcements are among 151 communities across the nation to receive 154 grant awards totaling \$66.5 million in Brownfields funding through its Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup (MAC) Grants.

"Through our Brownfields Program, EPA is delivering on the Biden Administration's commitment to lifting up and protecting overburdened communities across America, especially communities that have expe-

rienced long periods of disinvestment and decay," said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. "These assessment and cleanup grants will not only support economic growth and job creation, but they will also empower communities to address the environmental, public health, and social issues associated with contaminated land."

"These new EPA Brownfields funds are more important than ever, because the ongoing pandemic has impacted the economy and redevelopment throughout

New England," said EPA New England Acting Regional Administrator Deb Szaro. "Today's investment of EPA Brownfields assessment and cleanup funding provides a much-needed boost for economic development and job creation in many of New England's hardest hit and underserved communities."

Receiving a grant will be Our Katahdin of Millinocket, ME. This group will be awarded a \$500,000 Cleanup Grant to clean up the 7,500 square foot Research Building on the Former Great Northern Paper Company (GNP) complex located at 1 Katahdin Avenue in the Town of Millinocket. The building was formerly used as a research and testing center for the paper company and has been unoccupied since 2008. It is contaminated with heavy metals, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and other contaminants. Grant funds also will be used to support community outreach activities.

Another grantee is Penobscot Indian Nation, Penobscot Indian Island Reservation, ME. This tribal nation will be awarded a \$300,000 Assessment Grant. The EPA Brownfields Com-

munity-wide Assessment grant funds will be used to conduct Phase 1 and Phase 2 environmental site assessments, develop cleanup and re-use plans, and support community outreach activities for various tribal properties. Important sites which the Tribe anticipates focusing on include the former Sockalexis Bingo Palace, an underused former bingo facility on Indian Island and on six Penobscot River Islands adjacent to a former pulp and paper mill in the Town of Lincoln. The islands near Lincoln once housed a school, camps, and residences, but these have all been abandoned.

The third grant recipient is Washington County Development Authority, Cutler, ME. This group will be awarded a \$500,000 Cleanup Grant to clean up the Former Navy Recreation Building located at 1549 Cutler Road. The Recreation Building is a 19,285 square foot one-story building that was built in 1964 and shuttered in 2002 when the Navy communications base was decommissioned. The building is contaminated with PCBs, heavy metals, and inorganic contaminants. Grant funds also will be used to

conduct community outreach activities.

EPA's Brownfields grants and assistance to Maine this year are among other significant annual investments by EPA to help New England communities to address brownfield properties. Across the six New England states this year, EPA is awarding a total of \$ 8.1 million for 18 communities to assess or clean contaminated brownfields sites.

"EPA Brownfield assessment and cleanup grants like these fuel regional planning and economic redevelopment projects in some of Maine's most economically impacted communities," said Melanie Loyzim, Maine DEP Commissioner.

In New England, since the beginning of the Brownfields program, EPA has awarded \$123 million in assessment grant funding, \$112 million in revolving loan fund grants and supplemental funding and \$82 million in cleanup grant funding. These grant funds have paved the way for more than \$3.78 billion in public and private cleanup and redevelopment investment and for over 22,846 jobs in assessment, cleanup, construction and redevelopment.

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# Guest Column Buy American, Build Maine

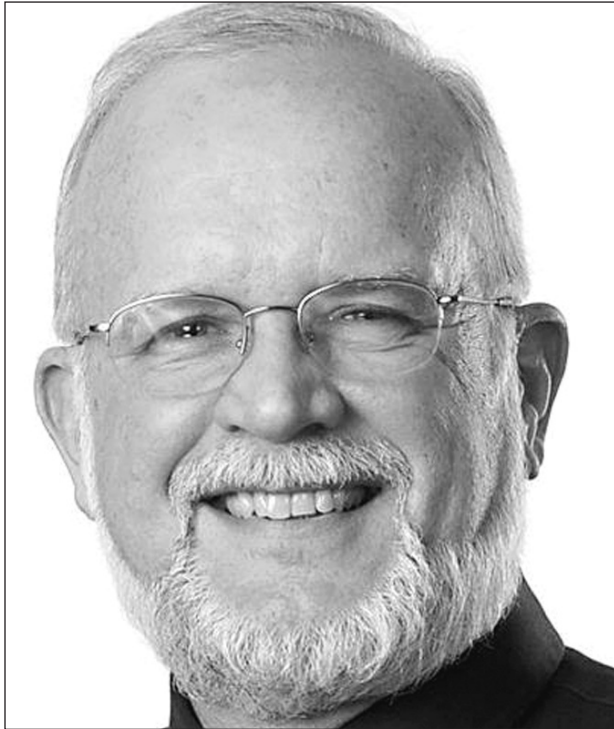
From Sen. Claxton

Here's a simple idea: After the extraordinary challenges our Maine businesses and workers have faced during the last year, we should be doing more to help them bounce back and thrive.

If you like the way that sounds, then I have some good news for you. There's a bill in the Legislature right now that would not only help get projects funded by Maine taxpayers done by Maine businesses; it encourages the use of goods manufactured in this country at the same time. The bill is LD 1411, and if passed into law, it would enact the Buy American, Build Maine Act. This new bill is sponsored by Senate President Troy Jackson, of Allagash, and I am proud to be a cosponsor.

One might think that if there's a new project happening in our state, a Maine company is doing the work. However, you might be surprised to learn that oftentimes, out-of-state or overseas companies are actually getting contracts for construction and work right here in Maine, even if a local company would have been able to do the work after putting in a bid on the project. I, for one, would like more of my tax dollars being used to support Maine businesses and this bill is an attempt to remedy this situation.

The main way this bill would put Maine businesses in the best position to compete would start with the bidding process for public projects. The bill would require that if an out-of-state company and Maine-based company put in bids that were roughly the same, preference would be given to the Maine company. In addition, if



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

an out-of-state company put in a lower bid than a Maine company on the same project, the Maine based business would be given an opportunity to match the lower bid and accept the job. Right now, 38 states have very similar laws in place. Doing this in Maine would level the playing field for businesses and workers in our state. The bill also requires that when possible, goods manufactured in America must be used for these projects as well.

To me, keeping our taxpayer funds in Maine hands and supporting American manufacturing at the same time just makes sense. But you don't just have to take my word for it; business leaders across Maine have spoken out in support of the bill in recent days, including Kathie Leonard, CEO of Auburn Manufacturing, Inc. Kathie put it bluntly in an interview with WMTW, when she said, "Other states are protecting their states. Why isn't Maine pro-

tecting its people?" Plain and simple, this bill will accomplish that, protecting our businesses and workers who have been through so much during the past year.

As Mainers, we take pride in shopping local whenever possible and our Maine-made goods are top notch. As we look to invest in new projects and rebuild our economy, doesn't it make sense that we support Maine businesses at the same time? We need to make sure our businesses have the ability to compete on a level playing field. The Buy American, Build Maine Act will help us get there.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, you can always send me an email at Ned.Claxton@legislature.maine.gov or call my office at 287-1515.

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

# Dog licensing due for 2021

From City of Lewiston

LEWISTON - Any Lewiston resident who owns a dog must license their pet for the 2021 calendar year.

Dog licenses are typically due January 1 of each year, however, the Governor's Executive Order had extended that deadline to June 2, due to the pandemic. All dogs that are six months old or older within Lewiston must be licensed per state law. A pet owner can receive a license for their dog at the Lewiston City Clerk's Office located at City Hall. In order to license a dog, the owner must show proof that the dog has a current, State of Maine rabies certificate which is proof that the dog has been immunized against rabies. If an animal is spayed or neutered, the owner should bring proof from the veterinarian of this as well.

All dog licenses expire on December 31 of each year. Dog license fees are \$11.00 for a male or female dog and \$6.00 for a spayed or neutered animal. Dog licenses renewed after June 2 are subject to the mandatory \$25 late fine.

Residents unable to make it into City Hall can use the outside red drop box for all City Hall services. This is located by the Park Street entrance and accessible 24 hours a day. Residents can also renew the dog license online at [www.lewistonmaine.gov/101/online-services](http://www.lewistonmaine.gov/101/online-services)

Lewiston residents with questions regarding barking dogs or the City's animal control ordinance, should contact Lewiston Animal Control Officer Wendell Strout. Officer Strout can be reached at the Lewiston Police Department at 795-9010, ext. 322. Any stray, lost or injured

dogs should be reported to ACO Strout as well. Residents are welcome to visit the City's website for information regarding dog licensing at [www.lewistonmaine.gov/123/dog-licenses](http://www.lewistonmaine.gov/123/dog-licenses)

Rabies is a serious problem in the State. Residents are urged to take the time to protect their pet against this deadly virus. If an animal is suspected of having rabies, they are quarantined. If during this time, the signs of rabies still appear, the only way to test an animal for rabies is to euthanize the animal. Dog licensing ensures rabies vaccination which protects the health of your pet.

The City Clerk's Department has office hours on Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 4:00pm. Questions can be directed to the City Clerk's Department at 513-3124.

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*— Bill Bushnell, Bushnell on Books*

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*— George Smith, Bangor Daily News*

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# Gardiner site of community solar project

**From PowerMarket**

GARDINER - One of the first Net Energy Billing Community Solar projects in Maine started producing clean energy this month in Gardiner.

PowerMarket, an employee-owned leader in community solar management, has partnered with SunRaise, a New England solar energy developer, owner, and operator, to bring this renewable energy option to Maine utility customers.

This project sits on the roof of a local Maine business, Pine State Trading on Enterprise Avenue in Gardiner. Having just marked 80 years in operation, this privately-held family business has always

been forward-thinking and was excited about the prospect of this project.

“We are very committed to making sure that generationally, we’re always looking forward. We’re always trying to improve our community. And we’re always trying to reduce our carbon footprint because we want to be best in class... We want to make sure that by being the first [community solar project in Gardiner, Maine], that we lead the way and we hope to support this vision for other businesses in our community.” Gena Canning, Board of Directors at Pine State Trading, said.

At 1.35 MW, this project will generate over 1,500,000 kwh/year of clean energy, providing

CMP customers who are a part of the project with savings on their electricity bills. These are Maine residents and organizations who are important members of the community, like John F. Murphy Homes.

“It’s been great to see this project come to life. Being from New England, we wanted to keep this project local. We have gotten to know members of the community, like John F. Murphy Homes, who are doing great work and we are happy that we can support their mission through our project. I’m proud of Governor Mills’ Administration and what it will mean for Maine residents,” said Patrick Jackson, Co-Founder of SunRaise Investments

Project participants will not have to wait long to start receiving savings on their electricity bills, since this project is fully subscribed.

“Our local Maine team has spoken to thousands of residents about community solar and its benefits, so we are thrilled to help one of the first projects in Maine start providing tangible environmental and economic benefits for the state and participants. We are excited to bring this project online and anticipate our Maine office to grow as we continue to bring more projects online for years to come,” Nick Baudouin, Co-Founder of PowerMarket, said.

While this project in Gardiner is now fully sub-

scribed, all CMP customers can take part in a different SunRaise community solar project in Belfast that will start producing clean energy in a month. In doing so, participants will see a savings on the community solar credits they receive from the project every month while supporting the development of clean energy in Maine. CMP customers who are interested in learning more about community solar or who want to sign up for a project can contact PowerMarket at [sunraise@powermarket.io](mailto:sunraise@powermarket.io) or 207-280-8130.

About PowerMarket: PowerMarket works to make clean energy more accessible, affordable, and ubiquitous through community solar. [www.power-](http://www.powermarket.io)

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About SunRaise: SunRaise is a mission-driven commercial solar energy owner, operator, and development group that develops, finances, own, and operates large community solar energy projects.

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## Lisbon Schoolhouse restoration completed

**From Lisbon Historical**

LISBON – This Saturday, the Strout family will welcome the members and friends of the Lisbon Historical Society at an open house from 1-4 p.m. to mark the completion of the restoration of the 1893 school building.

The building was originally the Lisbon High School, and later the elementary school for Lisbon Village.

Bob and Aline Strout have accomplished a complete renovation of the school building, retaining as much of the historical features as possible while converting former classroom areas to apartment suites.

All the apartments and several rooms are now named in honor of well-known educators who taught in the rooms—Apt. 1, Mabel Moore; 2, Verna Dingley; 3, Marjorie Holbrook Standish; 4, Norma Smith; 5, John Weldon; the library, Esther Lund; the “bell” room/office, E. Harry Boothby.

At this open house, the sixth apartment suite will be dedicated to the memory of Eddie Prosser, who taught manual training in this space, and Iva Millet, who later presided

over the area when it was the school lunch room.

In the common areas of the building are displays of two former teachers. Ragnor Lind taught English and coached the high school track team. His career change took him to Hollywood, where he changed his name to Jeffrey Lynn, starring in many films in the 1940s.

Another collection of photos and memorabilia honors Marjorie Standish, the famous Maine cookbook author who was the first home economics instructor at the former Lisbon High School.

In these common areas also hang many large paintings by Lisbon artist Frank Gross, depicting historic settings in the Lisbon Village area. There are also historical collections as well as photos and memorabilia donated by those whose family members attended the school.

The open house is at the Lisbon Village School Apartments, 273 Lisbon St., on the corner of Gartley Street and Rt. 196 in Lisbon.

Those attending are asked to observe social distancing and to respect others by wearing face masks. Refreshments will be served.

**What do you think?**

We strongly encourage Letters to the Editor, Op/Eds, columns or any other submissions from our readers.

Agree with us or another columnist? Disagree? Write to us and let us know!

Email all submissions, including name, address and phone number, to the editor.

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# Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

**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**  
**May 20**  
**8 a.m.**  
**AUBURN** – 9-1-1 Committee meeting.  
**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).

**4-5 p.m.**  
**GORHAM** – Eco-maine Executive Committee meeting, via online video conference.  
**6:30 p.m.**  
**GORHAM** – Tentative Capital Improvement Projects/Economic Development Committee meeting, via Zoom.

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

**7 p.m.**  
**AUBURN** – Community Forest Subcommittee meeting.

**MONDAY**  
**May 24**  
**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 25**  
**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** – Agriculture Committee meeting.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**May 26**  
**7:30 a.m.**  
**AUBURN** – Auburn Housing Authority Board of Commissioners meeting.

**10 a.m.**  
**GORHAM** – Baxter Memorial Library - join Ms. Deb on Facebook at <http://bitly.ws/d2uS> for a virtual STEAM activity - Building a Simple Shelter. Activities are geared toward K-5 learners and require minimal supplies that you'll likely have right on-hand at home.

**4 p.m.**  
**AUBURN** – Auburn Farmers' Market.

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

meeting.

**THURSDAY**  
**May 27**  
**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).

**4-5 p.m.**  
**GORHAM** – Eco-maine Outreach & Recycling Committee meeting, via online video conference.

**6 p.m.**  
**AUBURN** – Comp. Plan Update Committee, via Zoom.

**MONDAY**  
**May 31**  
*Municipal centers, administrative offices, and libraries closed in observance of Memorial Day*

**11 a.m.**  
**GORHAM** – Memorial Day Parade, starting at Village School. To register or learn more, visit [https://www.gorham-rec.com/info/activities/program\\_details.aspx?ProgramID=14916](https://www.gorham-rec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=14916). Line up begins at 10 a.m. and the parade steps off at 11 a.m.

**TUESDAY**  
**June 1**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
**GORHAM** - Regular Town Council Meeting TBD

**WEDNESDAY**  
**June 2**  
**1-2 p.m.**  
**GORHAM** – 2021 Virtual Build Maine Event – Day 1, via Zoom.

**MONDAY**  
**June 7**  
**7 p.m.**  
**GORHAM** - Planning Board Meeting TBD

**TUESDAY**  
**June 8**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
**GORHAM** - Tentative Appointments Committee Meeting TBD

**WEDNESDAY**  
**June 9**  
**8:30-10:30 a.m.**  
**GORHAM** - 2021 Virtual Build Maine Event – Day 2, via Zoom  
**7 p.m.**  
**GORHAM** - School Committee Meeting TBD

**TUESDAY**  
**June 15**  
**8 a.m.**  
**GORHAM** - Ordinance Committee Meeting TBD.

**6:30 p.m.**  
**GORHAM** - Town Council Workshop TBD.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**June 16**  
**8 a.m.**  
**GORHAM** - Gorham Economic Development Corporation Meeting TBD.  
**8:30-10:30 a.m.**  
**GORHAM** - 2021 Virtual Build Maine Event – Day 3, via Zoom.

**THURSDAY**  
**June 17**  
**11:30 a.m.**  
**GORHAM** - Eco-maine Annual Board Meeting Online video conference.

**6:30 p.m.**  
**GORHAM** - Tentative Recurring Capital Improvement Projects/Economic Development Committee Meeting TBD.

**MONDAY**  
**June 21**  
**5:30 p.m.**  
**GORHAM** - Finance Committee Meeting TBD.

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## Guest Column Home Country

By Slim Randles

We watched the thunderstorm growing, building, off to the west. As we sat on our tailgates sipping coffee and wishing we could be inside at the Mule Barn counter, we just sipped and looked in awe.

When the show began, we'd get in the pickups and drive off home, but there's no harm in watching the weather's overture to spring violence.

"You boys been out on the plains in spring, right?" asked Steve, our tall, mustached cowboy member of the vaunted world dilemma think tank.

We nodded and sipped and glanced up at the roiling blackness.

"Always wondered what it would be like to be caught horseback out on the plains in one of these storms. Not something I'd look forward to, I can tell you."

"I know what they do, Steve," said Doc. "Had a patient who punched cows out that way. He said

when it rained, he'd get off his horse and sit on the ground under his belly."

"So the horse would get wet and he'd stay dry?"

"More or less, I suppose."

"But the lightning," Steve said, "what about the dang lightning?"

"Doesn't sound like any fun to me," Herb said. "But I guess it's some consolation that the horse, being the highest point for 15 miles, would get struck by lightning first."

"See, Steve," Doc said, grinning. "If lightning goes through the horse and hits you on the ground, you don't have anything to worry about, but if it just strikes the horse ...?"

"Yeah, Doc," Steve said, "then you'd have the honor of being killed by a falling, fried horse. I think I'll stay off those plains for now."

*Brought to you by salmon fisherman, pastor and friend to all, Mark Henry Miller's book "River Runs Through Me" at [markhmiller@att.net](mailto:markhmiller@att.net).*

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*Continued from page 1*

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**Kaydenz**

*Continued from page 3*

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