

Lewiston HS addition on its way to completion

Catholic churches lift pandemic restrictions



The addition to Lewiston High School is well on its way to an expected opening for the beginning of school in August. (Photo courtesy of Lewiston High School)

From LHS

LEWISTON - The new addition to Lewiston High School is well on the way to completion, undeterred by the pandemic or the recent spike in the cost of building materials.

Lavallee/Brensinger architect Jay Doherty said, “The project remains on schedule and on budget,” a testament to the excellent estimating of the accounting staff; astute procuring of particular construction components at the right time; diligence of the clerk of the works Tim Brochu; and professional ability of the Ledgewood Construction management and crew.

The 42,200 square foot project will feature a two-story expansion, housing 33,700 square feet of space for special education, adult education, and fine arts instruction – including a visual arts gallery, and secure main entrance and lobby. There will be an 8,500 square foot renovation of the administrative and guidance areas, and an additional elevator, according to project architect Eric Leblanc.

Clerk of the works Brochu says, “There is a lot of activity on-site right now. Metal framers have framed most of

the exterior walls and are installing exterior sheathing, which gives a good idea of



The 42,200 square foot addition to the Lewiston High School is moving forward on schedule and on budget. The project is expected to be completed shortly after the start of the new school year. (Photo courtesy of Lewiston High School)

what the building will look like with its dramatic two-story curtainwall windows. The roof has been installed, along with large skylights over the second-floor gallery and atrium stairwell.

“The second-floor concrete slab has been poured, and masons are building corridor partitions and door frames,” he continues. “Electrical, plumbing, and HVAC (climate control) work is being roughed in in the addition and connected back to service in the original building. Under-slab utility work has been completed and the first-floor slab is being poured this week. Renovated administration areas in the existing building are being sheetrocked, and the glass and brick wall separating old from new was recently removed,” Brochu states.

Jay Doherty said that, if everything remains on schedule, the renovated administration area and new main entrance and lobby will be finished for the beginning of school this August, with the new wing being ready for occupancy by the start of the second quarter.

Catholic churches lift pandemic restrictions

From Portland Diocese

PORTLAND - The Diocese of Portland announced major updates to the pandemic protocols currently in place at all 141 Catholic churches in Maine.

As of Monday, masks were no longer required for any person at any time, inside or outside the churches.

Capacity limits, advance registration, and the gathering of contact tracing information for those attending Masses are eliminated.

Pew seating arrangements to establish six or more feet of distance between each person/family are eliminated. Those attending Masses are welcome to sit where they are comfortable. All pews will be available for seating.

The distribution of Holy Communion to the homebound is restored.

Indoor choir practices can be held without distancing.

For those not yet comfortable with a return to Mass, many churches will provide spaces in other areas, like parish halls, for additional, spread out seating during Masses. The extensive livestreaming schedule at Maine parishes will also remain in place. Moving forward, adjustments to the schedule will be made in the “Parishes and Mass Times” section of [www.portlanddiocese.org](http://www.portlanddiocese.org). The obligation to attend Mass will continue to be dispensed for the foreseeable future.

“The strict adherence to state and diocesan guidelines has led to the successful operation of our churches since last June. I am so grateful for the many staff, volunteers, and parishioners who sacrificed and followed the protocols to ensure that Maine Catholics were able to participate in Mass and receive the Eucharist over the last year,” said Bishop Robert Deeley. “The Catholic Church always works to guide those it encounters to live in harmony and peace. We hope that by continuing to offer a variety of ways to participate in Mass and through updating these protocols, all will feel welcomed to grow in their faith together in Christ.”

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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## Students awarded Gorman Scholarships

From ME CC  
Foundation

**SOUTH PORTLAND** - Nine Maine community college students were awarded full tuition scholarships in honor of Leon A. Gorman for the upcoming 2021-2022 academic year.

The students were celebrated Tuesday, May 18, in an online event with Gorman family members and L.L.Bean leadership, according to the Foundation for Maine's Community Colleges.

This is the sixth year the Leon A. Gorman Scholarship has been given. The scholarship supports three students at Southern Maine Community College, the largest college within the

Maine Community College System, and one student each at the other six colleges. The nine Leon A. Gorman Scholars receive an award equal to a full year of tuition at a Maine community college.

The Leon A. Gorman Endowed Scholarship was established in 2014 by the children of Leon and Lisa Gorman in honor of Mr. Gorman's 80th birthday. The scholarship supports Maine community college students who demonstrate strong academic achievement, financial need, and a commitment to community service, a hallmark of the scholarship's namesake.

"My family and I are so impressed with how hard these students have worked to get to college, to stay in

college and to help others stay in college. This year's recipients are pursuing nine different career paths, but they share many of the same qualities as Leon: determination, empathy for others and most importantly, leadership. I know Leon would have been proud to have these student scholars represent his legacy," said Lisa Gorman.

The 2021 Leon A. Gorman Scholars are: Miranda Kelly (Camden, ME), Nursing, Central Maine Community College; Autumn Mowery (Franklin, ME), Liberal Studies, Eastern Maine Community College; Daryn Gilbert (Waterville, ME), Respiratory Therapy, Kennebec Valley Community College; Joshua Mor-

neault (Madawaska, ME), Electrical Construction and Maintenance, Northern Maine Community College; Brian Determan (South Portland, ME), Marine Science, Southern Maine Community College; Robert Henline (Amherst, NH) Business Administration - Sports Management, Southern Maine Community College; Astrid Mumpalala (South Portland, ME) Medical Assisting, Southern Maine Community College; Bryon Barton (Hodgdon, ME), Mechanical Technology, Washington County Community College; and Shelby Varney (Turner, ME), Veterinary Technology, York County Community College.

Leon Gorman was

passionate about the state of Maine. His investments in Maine's community colleges exemplified that passion. He understood that Maine's community colleges not only positively impact the lives of many aspiring individuals and their families, but also have a positive economic impact. Quite simply, he believed that well-educated community college graduates forge a bright future for the State of Maine.

"All of this year's Gorman Scholars are exceptional students and exceptional members of their community. They lead full and challenging lives and they do so with dedication and commitment," said MCCS President David Daigler. "Mr. Gorman be-

lieved that a well-educated community college graduate forged a bright future for the state of Maine and these students exemplify his passion."

Mr. Gorman was the longtime president and CEO of L.L.Bean. He was deeply committed to the people and places of Maine and recognized the power and potential of Maine's community colleges to transform people's lives. He and his wife Lisa worked quietly behind the scenes supporting the colleges and the couple was central to the 2009 establishment and success of The Foundation for Maine's Community Colleges for which Mrs. Gorman continues to serve as vice chair.

## Pandemic capacity limits were lifted Monday

From State of Maine

**AUGUSTA**—Starting on Monday, capacity limits were lifted and physical distancing requirements were eased across Maine.

The Mills Administration updated its public health protocols last week under the Moving Maine Forward Plan, lifting all capacity limits and requirements to physically distance in all public outdoor settings.

The update also lifts all capacity limits in public indoor venues. Physical distancing requirements are still required in settings where people are eating or drinking and therefore would be removing their face covering – such as indoor restaurants, bars, dining areas in camps or in congregate living facilities,

and break rooms.

Face coverings must still be worn in public indoor settings. The Maine Department of Health and Human Services and Maine Department of Education will separately update school-based protocols.

The Biden Administration has said that as we approach July 4th the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will issue updated guidance, based on the best available science and the pace of vaccinations, on permissible activities after being vaccinated. The State of Maine will closely evaluate any changes in Federal recommendations.

"As we continue to make progress in vaccinating Maine people, it is appropriate to update our

protocols ahead of schedule. While we are easing restrictions on capacity limits and physical distancing requirements in most instances, we are maintaining masks for indoor activities and distancing for when you can't wear a mask, like when you're eating indoors," said Governor Janet Mills. "This change aligns with the latest science and makes sense for Maine at this stage, with more people getting vaccinated. We will continuously review our protocols. The fact is the more people get vaccinated, the faster we will be able to get back to normal."

Previously, under the Moving Maine Forward Plan, indoor gathering capacity was scheduled to increase to 75 percent and outdoor gathering capac-

ity had been scheduled to increase to 100 percent on May 24th and physical distancing was still required. The Governor lifted the requirement to wear a face covering outdoors on April 27, 2021.

The update comes as Maine continues to make good progress in vaccinating people. Governor Mills announced yesterday that more than 70 percent of Maine people age 18 and older have received at least one shot of a COVID-19 vaccine, according to the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (U.S. CDC) tracker. Moreover, Maine continues to lead the nation in the percentage of its total population that is fully vaccinated, according to Bloomberg.

Governor Mills also renewed the State of Civil

Emergency as Maine continues its focus on vaccinations:

"We are making important progress, but we must keep getting shots into arms to get this pandemic fully behind us," said Governor Mills. "I urge all Maine people to get vaccinated so we can get back to normal as soon as possible."

The Governor's decision to extend the emergency is in line with nearly every other state in the nation, which have ongoing emergency declarations, according to the National Governors Association.

A State of Civil Emergency allows Maine to deploy all available tools to respond to and contain COVID-19. This is Governor Mills' fifteenth extension of the State of

Civil Emergency. Under Maine law, Proclamations of Civil Emergencies may be issued in thirty-day increments.

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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Guest Column

## An Update on the Work I’m Doing



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

**By Sen. Libby**

This past year in the Legislature has been a whirlwind. Like so many other people, we have had to find ways to complete our work while also doing our best to keep COVID-19 at bay. Despite the extra challenges, my colleagues

and I have been working hard to pass legislation that benefits all Mainers during this trying time. I would like to use this space as an opportunity to share some of the key pieces of legislation that I introduced this year, why I believe these laws are necessary and the effect they will have once

signed into law.

The first bill I would like to share is LD 1318, “An Act To Increase High School Graduation Rates for Students Experiencing Education Disruption.” The original idea for this bill was brought to me by the folks at New Beginnings youth shelter who see the barriers and educational disruptions that homeless youth and youth in foster care experience every day. In 2018, the overall high school graduation rate in Maine was 86.8 percent, but for youth experiencing homelessness it was 57.7 percent, and for youth in foster care it was only 56 percent. This bill would amend existing law to give young students who have experienced education disruption the tools they need to build a portfolio for high school graduation. Students who experience frequent disruptions to their schooling include those who are changing schools, living in foster care, experiencing homelessness, children of migrant workers and more.

Another important bill of mine is LD 201, “An Act To Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Promote Weatherization in the Buildings Sector by Extending the Sunset Date for the Historic Property Rehabilitation Tax Credit.” This bill extends the Maine Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit (MHRTC) from 2025 to 2040. This tax credit helps business and property developers rehabilitate and reuse income-producing historic buildings in Maine. The credit encourages investment in downtown areas to spur revitalization and the creation of affordable housing. To date, the program has been widely used in Lewiston-Auburn and has generated \$3 million more in state and local tax revenues than it has cost in tax credits. On climate change and greenhouse gas emissions, the MHRTC helps incentivize development of housing located within walking distance of downtown stores and services, which reduces the dependence on motorized

transportation.

The last bill I would like to share is LD 1649, “An Act To Make the Shared Living Program Accessible for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism.” The goal of this bill is to make necessary accommodations for those with disabilities. Shared living is a roommate-like model of support where individuals with disabilities live with a provider and their family, in order to receive support with life skills, personal care, community engagement and other activities. For offering these supports, the shared living provider is paid a stipend. Accommodations like accessible bathrooms and ramps should be available and easy for shared living providers to add to their homes. In situations where these accommodations are not able to be met, we are leaving many Mainers with disabilities in living situations that are not sufficient to their needs. That is simply unacceptable. This bill would require the Department of Health and Human Services to evaluate the current shared living program for people with intellectual disabilities or autism, and determine if the stipend rates for shared living should vary depending on the needs of the persons served.

While this is not an exhaustive list of the bills I have introduced or reflective of all of the work we have been doing this year in the Legislature, these are a few of the bills that I think will help solve some of the greatest issues facing our state and our community. The Legislature will be in session until mid-June, and you can always watch our work live or see our schedule at [legislature.maine.gov](http://legislature.maine.gov). If you ever have any comments or questions, you can always reach out to me at [nathan.libby@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:nathan.libby@legislature.maine.gov) or by phone at (207) 287-1515.

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

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# Truck rodeo competition for Maine National Guard

**From ME Nat. Guard** National Guard 1136th Transportation Company had the chance to back up a little friendly trash talk on May 12 as they finished out their two-week annual training with their traditional truck rodeo competition.

PLYMOUTH, ME - Soldiers of the Maine National Guard 1136th Transportation Company had the chance to back up a little friendly trash talk on May 12 as they finished out their two-week annual training with their traditional truck rodeo competition.

Lawrence Anderson, commander of the 1136th. “At the same time, it’s a speed competition, so it builds camaraderie and helps retention.”

The rodeo consists of several events that test soldiers’ knowledge and handling of their vehicles, to include a written test, backing and docking, front stop, a serpentine, as well as preventative maintenance checks and services – PMCS, as the Army calls it.

Anticipation aside, soldiers will have to wait a little longer for the big announcement. The victor will be announced next drill after the unit completes their field exercise and tactical convoy training lanes.

Headquartered in Bangor with a detachment in Calais, the 1136th has a federal mission to provide transportation for the movement of various cargo – containerized, non-containerized, palletized, dry or refrigerated goods, and bulk water.

The unit consists of approximately 170 soldiers from across Maine and was originally formed in July of 1884 as a light artillery battery. The unit has deployed to Kuwait and Afghanistan where they received the Meritorious Unit Commendation.

“They’re competitive too,” said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Warren. “They want that trophy.”

“Second platoon has won several years in a row,” said Anderson, who is a state police detective in his civilian work. “But they’re in for some competition this year.”

“It’s been competitive, there’s been some banter back and forth,” said Staff Sgt. Clint Lasselle, a squad leader with first platoon.



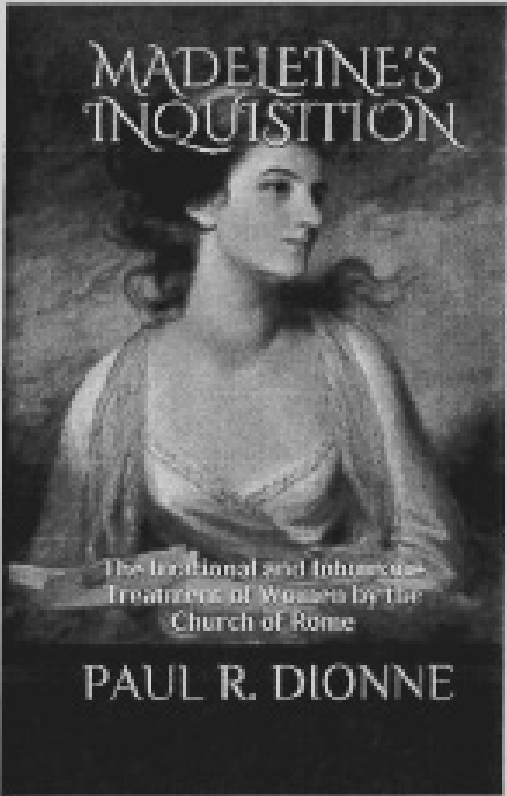
A Maine National Guard truck team backs their M1088A1 tactical vehicle and M871A3 trailer during the alley dock event of the 1136th Transportation Company truck rodeo on May 12 in Plymouth, Maine. (Maine National Guard photos by Maj. Carl Lamb)



Evaluators measure the distance between the rear end of an M871A3 trailer and the stop line while scoring a truck team’s performance on the alley dock portion of the Maine National Guard 1136th Transportation Company’s annual truck rodeo competition on May 12 in Plymouth, Maine. (Maine National Guard photos by Maj. Carl Lamb)

## 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.



## A New Novel by Paul Dionne



### About the book:

Madeleine Moreau, poverty stricken and alone, struggles to provide for herself and her children, her future bleak, foreboding and empty. She draws strength in her darkest hour when the Monsignor of Paris charges her with witchcraft and threatens to tear her family apart. The novel follows the lives of Madeleine Moreau and her antagonist, the Monsignor of Paris... Marc Moreau, Madeleine's husband, and his journey home from Russia following Napoleon's defeat... Madame Leblanc and her disavowal of aristocracy for the cause of liberty... Michel Bois, a popular French sculptor, who forsakes Madeleine for the salvation of France... and the two young priests, whose lives are changed by the chronicles of witchcraft, the vestiges of the Inquisition and the inhumane treatment of women by the Church – bringing them to moral crossroads where each must choose his or her own destiny. Influenced by the enlightened philosophers of the times, these characters uncover the bigotry of the Church, suffer religious persecution and experience the horrors of war.

### Background:

As an avocation, for over twenty years, the author has researched the role of women in the Early Church and the scandal of their subordination in the rise of Christianity. This resulted in his first work entitled *The Priestess and the Pope*. *Madeleine's Inquisition*, a sequel, bolsters the already persuasive case of the leadership role of women and sets forth the injustice, superstition and the inhumanity of the Church towards women. As a decorated combat veteran, the author felt compelled to deal with the horrors and the aftermath of war in an era plagued by constant wars.

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Guest Column

# A lightning round of linguistic limbo

By Grammar Guy

The English language is nutty. It can be understood through tough, thorough thought, though. I wanted to find a way to add the word “trough” to the last sentence, but I feared being thrown out throughout the touted trout throat. See? I knew it wouldn’t work.

Yes, English is wild. That’s why I want to help clear up a few syntactical slip-ups we make from time to time. After all, mastery of the English language will make you irresistible to attractive people and will cause rich people to hand you heavy, velvet-lined sacks filled with gold bars.

Let’s start with “kook” and “coot.” As a grammar columnist, I’ve been bestowed with both monikers from avid readers. But, beware: these words aren’t the same. In general usage, a “kook” is an unrestrained eccentric person. In surfing terminology, a “kook” is a poser who has no idea what he’s doing and shouldn’t even be allowed on the beach. A “coot,” on the other hand,

is a foolish person and usually an older foolish person. A “coot” is also a type of dark gray aquatic bird.

When I think of a “kook,” I think of a free-spirited eccentric person, while I consider a “coot” an elderly eccentric person. See the difference?

Now I want to tackle “gamut” and “gambit.” A “gamut” is a complete range of musical notes, or more broadly, the entire range or scope of something. Someone who “runs the gamut” experiences the entire range of whatever they’re experiencing (e.g., emotions). In general, a “gambit” is a calculated move. The term comes from chess, for making a deliberately risky opening move intended to give a player a strategic advantage.

How do you know if something is “hardy” or “hearty”? If you’re involved in a fictional mystery being solved by a pair of brothers, you’re in a “Hardy Boys” book. If you’re looking for a plant that is difficult to kill, you want a “hardy” plant. “Hardy” means tough and capable of enduring hard-

ship. If I want a warm meal that will satisfy my hunger, I might opt for a “hearty” soup. Something is “hearty” if it is flavorful and satisfying. “Hearty” is also when someone gives enthusiastic support to a person or endeavor.

Call me an old coot, but sometimes I need a hearty dose of lexical lessons so I don’t look like a kook in front of my acquaintances at an organic wine tasting. So, there you have it. What words do you find confusing? Send me your thoughts and I’ll do my best to decode our daft dialect through deft, didactic tactics.

*Curtis Honeycutt is a syndicated humor columnist. He is the author of “Good Grammar is the Life of the Party: Tips for a Wildly Successful Life”. Find more at [curtishoneycutt.com](http://curtishoneycutt.com).*

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

# Two Maine students named ‘National Cyber Scholars’

From Maine DOE

AUGUSTA - The National Cyber Scholarship Foundation has named two Maine high school students, “National Cyber Scholars” after winning a rigorous 48-hour competition designed to evaluate aptitude in combating cyber threats, showcasing the advanced programming available in Maine schools.

The Maine Department of Education announced last week that Dena Arrison of Freeport High School and Vealy Lai of Maine School of Science and Mathematics were among 600 students who received the honor. Over 30,000 high school students across the country sought to qualify for this year’s competition, and only 5,000 advanced to the first round. The 600 final students each won a \$2,500 scholarship and an invitation to participate in the Cyber Foundations Academy, a multi-week training and certification course.

Cybersecurity is a

critical issue facing this country with the potential to impact our nation’s government, defense, communications and financial systems. According to recent studies, in order to properly defend our infrastructure from attack, we need to train more than 3 million cybersecurity professionals. This scholarship and competition are designed to attract and incentivize more students to enter the field.

“Congratulations to Dena and Vealy for this incredible honor! We are so proud of all the students that participated in this competition, and grateful for the schools who prepare, encourage, and support students in pursuing opportunities like this,” said Maine Education Commissioner Pender Makin. “Our state education system continues to make strides that allow us to adapt and prioritize the ever-changing advances in technology, including laying the foundational groundwork for a robust cyber security workforce here in Maine.”

“This scholarship recognizes high school students who have demonstrated exceptional cybersecurity talent,” noted David Brown, executive director, National Cyber Scholarship Foundation. “The NCSF mission is to help close the critical cybersecurity skills gap by identifying and developing the next generation of cyber professionals. Each and every student who participated in this competition has the potential to develop their skills and build a successful career in cybersecurity.”

There are several qualification pathways for the National Cyber Scholarship Competition including CyberStart America, a free online program that helps students discover their interest in cybersecurity and develop their talent and skills. The NCSC offers 600 college scholarships to top-ranking competitors. Additionally, National Cyber Scholars, along with the competition’s 1,000 finalists, are invited to participate in the Cyber Foundations Academy.



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# Arts & Entertainment

## Virtual Art Walk L/A livestreams on Friday



The GoOdS will be livestreamed on Friday from the Agora on Friday, as part of the virtual Art Walk L/A for this month. (Photo courtesy of LA Arts)

**From LA Arts**

LEWISTON - The next “virtual” Art Walk L/A takes place Friday on [www.laarts.org/artwalk/](http://www.laarts.org/artwalk/), YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram, presented by LA Arts.

This month, LA Arts is hosting livestream from the Agora in Lewiston, featuring the music of Black Cat Road, Emily & the Zealous, the GoOdS, and the Smith Collaboration!

**May Art Experiences**

Livestream from the Agora! Music starts at 7 pm on Friday on Facebook.

Local Writers Read welcomes 2020 Maine Literary Award Finalist and Portland’s Inaugural Poet Laureate Martin Steingesser.

Solo performance by pianist Bridget Convey

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- Lewiston Public Library - 200 Lisbon St. Artist books by Anna Low of Purplebean Bindery
- Rinck Advertising - 113 Lisbon St. Art glass by Jim Nutting of Maine Art Glass Studio

Look for more local artists’ work at Kimball Street Studios, 191 Lisbon St., Lewiston, by Lisbon-based artist Libby Sipe; Craft Brew Underground, 34 Court St., Auburn, by Central Maine artist Mary Bottom; and Gritty’s, 68 Main St., Auburn, by Melanie Therrien of Wicked Illustrations

**Online Gallery**

LA Arts and the Art Walk LA Committee are also hosting 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. 100% of art sale proceeds go to artists and makers.

Virtual Art Walk LA and all LA Arts programs would not be possible without the generous support of community partners including Community Arts Champion sponsors Acadia Insurance, Austin Associates, P.A., Bates College, Baxter Brewing Co., Berman & Simmons, the City of Auburn, the City of Lewiston, Liberty Mutual, the Sun Journal as well as the Davis Family Foundation, Maine Arts Commission, Maine



Local Writers Read welcomes 2020 Maine Literary Award Finalist and Portland’s Inaugural Poet Laureate Martin Steingesser, as part of the May edition of Art Walk L/A. (Photo courtesy of LA Arts)

Community Foundation, the New England Foundation for the Arts, the Onion Foundation, and the Ladd Foundation.

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# Outdoor shows in Bath this Summer



Runnin' Down A Dream, a Tom Petty tribute band, will be featured in a concert on July 17 as part of the Kennebec Concerts in Bath series this summer. (Photo courtesy of CCAC)



Lauren Crosby leads off a series of Kennebec Concerts in Bath with a folk/blues concert on July 10. (Photo courtesy of CCAC)

BATH – The Chocolate Church Arts Center in Bath is hosting a series of outdoor shows throughout the summer.

All shows are free to the public, and presented in collaboration with Main Street Bath, with support from the City of Bath and Davenport Trust Fund, as part of the Kennebec Concerts in Bath series.

All performances will be operated in accordance with State of Maine COVID-19 guidelines. All shows are weather dependent.

Lauren Crosby

(Folk/Blues)	2021	
Saturday, July 10,	6:00 PM 7:30 PM	
2021		Cold Chocolate
6:00 PM 7:30 PM		(Funk, Folk)
Runnin' Down A	Saturday, August 7,	
Dream (Tom Petty Trib-	2021	6:00 PM 7:30 PM
ute)		
Saturday, July 17,	Renovators (Blues)	
2021	Saturday, August	
6:00 PM 7:30 PM	14, 2021	6:00 PM 7:30 PM
Jud Caswell (Folk)		
Saturday, July 24,	Squeezebox Stomp-	
2021	ers (Cajun/Zydeco)	
6:00 PM 7:30 PM	Saturday, August	
Pretty Girls Sing	21, 2021	6:00 PM 7:30 PM
Soprano (Bluegrass,		
Folk)	Pan Fried Steel	
Saturday, July 31,		

(Steel Drum Band)  
Saturday, August  
28, 2021  
6:00 PM 7:30 PM

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# Oratorical contest winners



Students and teachers in the RSU-16 school district participate in the Tri-Town Optimist Club’s annual Oratorical Contest in a virtual session at the end of February. (Photo courtesy of Tri-Town Optimist Club)

**From Tri-Town Optimist**

POLAND - The Tri-Town Optimist Club, which serves the towns of Poland, Minot and Mechanic Falls, conducted its annual Oratorical Contest on February 25.

The topic was “Heal-

ing the World with Optimism”.

RSU-16 school district teachers Jill Mathieu and Ell Fanus helped students prepare a four- to-five-minute speech that was presented via Zoom to three judges.

Graceyn Camire took

first place, while Karlee Lothrop took second, and Abigail Coughlin was third.

The contest is designed for youth to gain experience in public speaking, perfect self-expression, gain self-assurance and improve communication skills.

# Webber is Student of the Month



Leann Webber is the Mechanic Falls, Minot and Poland Tri-Town Optimist Student of the Month for May. (Photo courtesy of RSU 16)

**From RSU 16**

POLAND - The Mechanic Falls, Minot and Poland Tri-Town Optimist Club is proud to announce its May RSU 16 Student of the Month recipient, Leann Webber, from Adult Education.

Webber, a high school completion student, has shown an incredible commitment to her learning over the course of this past year, all while juggling the responsibilities of home, school and family life.

She is described by

staff as hard-working, personable, smart and dependable. She works diligently on the work she is given and has some of the most consistent attendance seen throughout the pandemic.

Congratulations Leann!

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# Registration open for CLT summer workshops

From CLT

AUBURN The Lewiston-Auburn Community Little Theatre (CLT) at 30 Academy St in Auburn will offer week-long workshops this summer for children and teens interested in an immersive and fun-filled theatre experience.

Workshop organizers have adapted the theatre's traditional summer camp model to ensure the safety of all participants. Students will build a portfolio as they receive instruction in singing, acting, dance, and audition techniques. Both camps will culminate with a video-recorded showcase that families can watch in their own homes.

The youth camps are open to students who have completed fourth grade up to those entering eighth grade. The teen camps are open to students who have completed eighth grade up to those exiting twelfth grade.

Registration for all camps will close on June 11. A maximum of 12 campers can be accepted per week, so early registration is encouraged.

All campers will rehearse and perform a new monologue, two new audition cuts (16-32 bars) of musical theatre repertoire in varying styles, and a new dance combination every day. Instructors will be Ashley Hodgkin and Emily Flynn for the youth camps with Lacey Moyse and Linda Vaillancourt in the teen camps. Josie French is serving as producer for all workshops.

### Camp Dates



Brock Rancourt enjoyed rehearsing a scene from the musical "Frozen Jr." during a CLT summer camp in 2019. The theatre is bringing back the popular youth and teen camps this summer. (Photo courtesy of CLT)

All camps will run Monday through Friday, generally from 9 a.m.-noon.

First teen camp: June 21-June 25

Second teen camp: June 28-July 2

First youth camp: July 12-16

Second youth camp: July 19-23

There will be a mandatory orientation meeting via Zoom for campers and parents on June 19 from

11 a.m.-noon for the teen camps and on July 10 from 11 a.m.-noon for the youth camps.

Online registration and payment can be completed at <https://www.laclt.com/box-office>. The cost for any of the week-long workshops is \$150.00 for one child, and \$100.00 for each subsequent child. Each child will receive a full-size printed headshot and materials to create a (or add to an existing) port-

folio.

Registration is open through June 11.

Please contact Ashley Hodgkin at [ahodgkinclt@gmail.com](mailto:ahodgkinclt@gmail.com) with any questions.

# Rivier Chapel in Lewiston Reopens

From Portland Diocese

LEWISTON - The Rivier Chapel in Holy Cross Church on Lisbon Street has reopened for adoration of the Eucharist.

Located on the Baird Avenue side of the church, the chapel is open on Sundays from 2-8 p.m., Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon. All are welcome to use the chapel for just a few minutes, an hour, or more.

Safety guidelines are posted at the chapel and must be followed by those using it.

During adoration, a consecrated host, the real

presence of Jesus Christ, is left exposed on the altar in a holder called a monstrance. Although it is not necessary to have the host exposed for adoration to take place, those who participate say it adds to the feeling of closeness to Christ.

The chapel always welcomes new adorers. To become a committed disciple of the Eucharist at the chapel, call Peg at (207) 577-2439.

For more information about the chapel, call Prince of Peace Parish in Lewiston at (207) 777-1200 or visit the chapel's Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/AdorationRivierChapel](http://www.facebook.com/AdorationRivierChapel).

## 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!

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Seniors Not Acting Their Age

# A Union River Doubleheader



Paddlers descend Poison Ivy Pitch on the East Branch of the Union River. (Ron Chase photo)

By Ron Chase

I was scheduled to lead a late-April Penobscot Paddle & Chowder Society whitewater trip, but water levels were low throughout most of the state. However, my research of U.S. Geological Survey online gauge readings indicated the eastern coastal watershed was still at normal spring volumes. Apparently almost no one believed me as only Mark and Asa Berry signed up for a paddle on the West Branch of the Union River in Hancock County. This was a multi-generational excursion as fourteen year old Asa is 59 years my junior which makes him young enough to be...well, never

mind.

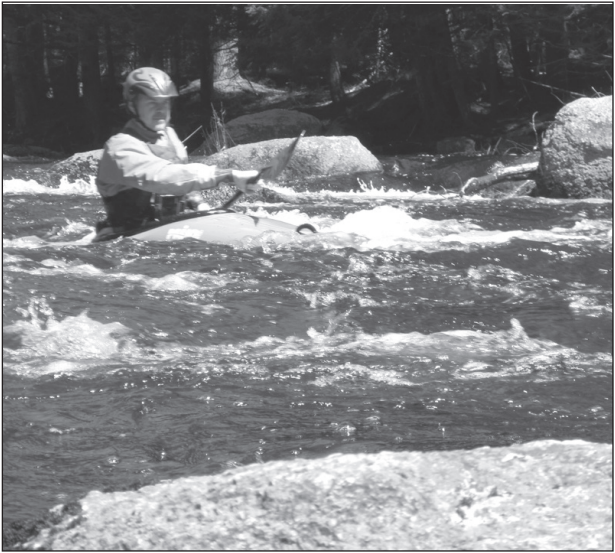
The sector we chose begins at Great Pond and flows for about eleven miles south to Amherst. The Union used to be a popular club trip, probably because there is a fair amount of flat water; not so much in recent years. Rated Class III/IV by the Appalachian Mountain Club Maine River Guide, I think it overstates the difficulty. With the exception of two rapids and two pitches, the whitewater is easier. My river level prediction was confirmed when the three of us met at the takeout just upstream from the Tannery Road Bridge in Amherst. Located adjacent to the final rapid, it was obvious we had sufficient vol-

ume since the steep twisting descent appeared to be a handful. Launching on Great Pond, we encountered easy rapids when leaving the outlet followed by an expanse of flat water. The excitement began with a continuum of Class II/III whitewater cluttered with several fallen trees. After negotiating a sweeping left turn, we enjoyed a rollicking ride down Hell’s Gate Falls. Calm water led us to a tricky five-foot ledge drop obstructed on the right by an accumulation of debris. After careful examination everyone successfully took the plunge far left. More flat water continued to a similar pitch but this time we tumbled down from right to center. Watching us navigate the final rapid at Tannery Road was a learning experience for Asa. His Dad showed him how to run it properly while I provided instruction on what not to do by ending my plummet swimming out of an unforgiving hole. Advice to Asa: Follow your Dad. For many years, friends have extolled the attributes of the East Branch

of the Union River, but I’d never had the opportunity to paddle it. Already in the area, this was my chance as Mark and club president Helen Hess were veterans of the scenic stream and available the following day. Meeting at the takeout for the East Branch on Route 179 a little south of Aurora, Helen and Mark plotted a course to an obscure access near the outlet of Spectacle Pond. After bushwhacking over fallen trees and through a dense wooded area, we embarked from the western terminus of the pond. The river begins with a rapid charmingly called Poison Ivy Pitch. Foregoing any desire to land for obvious reasons, we successfully boat scouted the falls. Bog River soon flowed in on the left. During the ensuing flat water, we observed a large moose feeding in a swampy area. This was the first of several exciting wildlife sightings during the expedition. Shortly after, we maneuvered through complicated Ledge Falls without incident. A two mile tract of whitewater called The Ramp followed. We found the serpentine stretch to be a rousing paddling endeavor. The Middle Branch of the Union entered on the right at the end of The Ramp, adding significant volume. Exhilarating whitewater began immediately. In an eddy at the bottom of one rapid, a playful otter entertained us for a brief time. Turning abruptly left at a small island, we approached a Class III falls, Island Rip. From an upstream eddy, we observed a fallen tree blocking the top of the rapid. Closer inspection indicated there was no safe means of passage, so everyone carried. Dodging holes and avoiding boulders, the long run-out below the conges-



Helen Hess hauls her canoe over fallen trees on the way to the East Branch of the Union River. (Ron Chase photo)



Mark Berry kayaks a section of the East Branch of the Union River. (Ron Chase photo)

tion was great fun. In calm water downstream of an easy rapid, we serendipitously experienced our third captivating wildlife encounter of the day, a large beaver swimming directly in front of Helen. Obviously annoyed by our presence, the furry rodent loudly slapped its tail before disappearing underwater. The flat water continued to a spirited rapid that flowed under the bridge at the Route 179 takeout. During our two exceptional days on the Union, we enjoyed the best of spring paddling: great weather, exciting rapids, marvelous scenery, and numerous wildlife sightings. The author of “The Great Mars Hill Bank Robbery” and “Mountains for Mortals – New England,” Ron Chase lives in Topsham. His latest book, “The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine” is scheduled to be released by North Country Press later this year. Visit his website at [www.ronchaseoutdoors.com](http://www.ronchaseoutdoors.com) or he can be reached at [ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net](mailto:ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net).

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# 2021 County Teachers of the Year



Jessica Harvey, a teacher at Elm Street School in Mechanic Falls, was recently named as the 2021 County Teacher of the Year for Androscoggin County. (Photo courtesy of Maine DOE)

**From Maine DOE** Tube page.

AUGUSTA - Teachers from all 16 of Maine’s counties were honored last week in a virtual announcement that was broadcast live on the Maine Department of Education’s YouTube page.

As part of the Maine Teacher of the Year Program, hundreds of teachers across Maine are nominated by a member of their school community. Through a rigorous application process, one teacher

from each county is selected as the County Teacher of the Year by a panel of teachers, principals, and business community members within the county.

During the ceremony, teachers were honored by Maine Department of Education Commissioner, Pender Makin; Educate Maine Executive Director, Jason Judd; State Board of Education member, Peter Geiger; 2021 Maine Teacher of the Year, Cindy Soule; Maine County, State Teachers of the Year Association Co-President Shana Goodall; and Maine’s 2021 Poetry Out Loud Champion, Emily Paruk, a senior from Gorham High School.

2021 County Teachers of the Year are:

Androscoggin: Jessica Harvey, Elm Street School, Mechanic Falls.

Aroostook: Andrew Kirby, Presque Isle High School, Presque Isle.

Cumberland: Dr. Paige Fournier, Freeport Middle School, Freeport.

Franklin: Michelle Laliberte, Rangeley Lakes Regional School, Rangeley.

Hancock: Sarah Doremus, Sedgwick Elementary, Sedgwick.

Kennebec: Raye Anne DeSoto, Gardiner Area High School, Gardiner.

Knox: Patti Forster, Camden Hills Regional High School, Rockport.

Lincoln: Bill Hinkley, Medomak Valley High School, Waldoboro.

Oxford: Melissa Guerrette, Oxford Elementary School, Oxford.

Penobscot: Kelsey Stoyanova, Reeds Brook Middle School, Hampden.

Piscataquis: Lisa Martell, Piscataquis Community Secondary School, Guilford.

Sagadahoc: Liana Fenimore, Mt. Ararat High School, Topsham.

Somerset: Kevin Malady, Lawrence High School, Fairfield.

Waldo: Hillary Hoyt, Leroy H. Smith School, Winterport.

Washington: Diana Mahar, Sipayik Elementary School, Pleasant Point.

York: Christine Goulet, Biddeford Primary School, Biddeford.

Maine County Teachers of the Year serve as ambassadors for teachers, students, and quality education state-wide



Dr. Paige Fournier, of Freeport Middle School in Freeport, was among 16 teachers named as 2021 County Teachers of the Year in a virtual ceremony last week. (Photo courtesy of Maine DOE)

throughout the year, and continue to participate in an intensive Maine State Teacher of the Year selection process.

The Maine County Teachers of the Year are available to make presentations to local and regional organizations.

The Maine Department of Education’s Teacher of the Year Program is administered through a collaborative partnership with Educate Maine.

To learn more about the Teacher of the Year Program visit: <https://www.maintoy.org/>

## Shaw promoted at Hilton Garden Inn



Matthew Shaw (Photo courtesy of Hilton)

**From Hilton**

AUBURN – Matthew Shaw has been named as the new director of sales & marketing at the 138-room Hilton Garden Inn Auburn Riverwatch, which has

been open since July 2003 and features 8,986 sq ft of adaptable event space.

Shaw will lead all strategic sales and marketing endeavors while supporting the hotel’s mission to provide outstanding service to guests. Located at 14 Great Falls Plaza in Auburn, the hotel is owned by Riverwatch, LLC and managed by Lucro Management.

“Matthew’s passion for the Hilton Garden Inn brand, extensive knowledge of and relationships within the Lewiston Auburn communities and sales and marketing knowledge make him the perfect fit to lead the

Hilton Garden Inn Auburn Riverwatch in achieving its business goals,” said Stacy O’Reilly, general manager.

“I am honored to continue my career growth with the Hilton Garden Inn Auburn Riverwatch team,” said Shaw. “My position here in the Lewiston Auburn area allows us to unlock new business opportunities and ensure our hotel is the top choice for local businesses and guests traveling to the area or hosting meetings and functions, for business and leisure alike.”

Shaw started with the Hotel in 2013 in the Ban-

See Shaw, page 16

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— George Smith, Bangor Daily News

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Guest Essay

Replace the Republican Party, with a Common-Sense Movement

By Claudine Schneider

Disgusted Republicans, you are not alone. You know our democratic institutions are under assault by the party of Lincoln, Roosevelt and Reagan. Today’s Republican Party has made a mockery of its founding principles, and Republican leaders in Congress refuse to speak the truth. This is why I joined over 150 other leading Republicans from around the country to create a call for renewing – or even replacing – today’s Republican Party with a ‘common-sense movement that reflects true conservative American values. We outlined our founda-

tional principles in A Call for American Renewal, and they include: Support for a free, open society in which everyone can go as far as their efforts and talents will take them in a free-market economy, while maintaining a robust safety net for those who need assistance. Welcoming America’s growing diversity and standing for the protection of the rights of all Americans to live their lives as they choose, free from racism, sexism, homophobia, and all forms of hate and intolerance. A commitment to energetic American leadership around the world to protect democracy and human rights. Opposition to voter

suppression and support for common-sense reforms to enhance democracy. And above all, a commitment to truth, democracy, the Constitution, and the rule of law, and opposition to nativist, isolationist authoritarianism. Our movement includes former governors, members of Congress, Cabinet secretaries, state officials, seasoned political strategists and grassroots leaders dedicated to offering a hopeful, principles-based vision for the country – and ensuring that our voices are heard and our actions have impact in key elections across the United States. The same week our movement was launched, the last remaining Repub-

lican congressional leader with a shred of responsibility to the American people, conservative Representative Liz Cheney of Wyoming, was ousted from her House leadership position for failing to lie to the American people. Now, the collapse of honesty, morality and decency in today’s Republican Party has left millions of Americans politically homeless. We intend to give voice to these Republicans, and others who fear that the Republicans’ effort to maintain power at any cost, is costing our democracy dearly. In Maricopa County, Arizona, the Republican-dominated Board of County Commissioners

has rightly called out the “vote audit” as a fraudulent attempt to circumvent the will of voters. In Washington, D.C., 35 Republican Members of Congress voted to establish a bipartisan commission to investigate the insurrection of January 6th in legislation that passed the House by a 252-175 bipartisan margin. This commission, patterned on the acclaimed 9/11 commission, will help determine the truth of this bloody attack on our democratic system. Most Senate Republicans oppose a commission to find the truth. They want to ignore, or whitewash, this tragic event. This is why our movement is attracting a growing number of Republicans, Independents and Democrats who hold true, patriotic American ideals that today’s Republican leaders have abandoned in the name of Trumpism.

Our movement does not bend to the dictate of the disgraced, twice-impeached former president who preaches a Big Lie, and who is now under civil and criminal investigation. We cannot tolerate this dangerous threat to our republic any longer, and we urge Americans who support truth, principles and decency to join A Call for American Renewal. Together, we can – and must – restore the Republican principles that made America great. *Claudine Schneider was the first woman ever elected to a major political office in Rhode Island. She was elected as a member of the Republican Party, serving from 1981 to 1991. She authored the first and only revenue-neutral Global Warming Prevention Act;. Today she is an Advisor to A Call for American Renewal. She is the founder of Republicans for Integrity.*

Androscoggin County designated ‘Green’

**From Maine DOE**

AUGUSTA - The Maine Department of Education said last week that Maine’s Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) assessed COVID-19 data and trends for all counties and has returned Androscoggin County to “Green” status.

The Mills Administration releases updates every two weeks to its color-coded Health Advisory System that classifies counties’ relative risk of COVID-19 transmission to assist schools as they continue with their efforts to deliver instruction and support students safely.

The new case rate in Androscoggin County has fallen by more than 25 percent, and the positivity rate is similar to that of several other counties.


All other counties remained 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 fallen to 39 per 10,000, about 35 percent lower than a new case rate of 60 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. Maine schools have been safely open since the fall by adhering to the six requirements for returning to in-person instruction and by following the protocols for identifying close contacts that are found in the Standard Operating Procedure for a positive case in schools, regardless of their county color designation.



The next update will be June 4. Updating this 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.



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Deadline is Friday by five pm.



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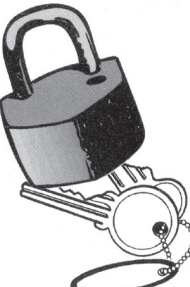
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**EVERY TUESDAY**  
**10:30-11:15 a.m.**  
LEWISTON – Lewiston Public Library - Virtual Preschool Babytime & Storytime. Children 0-5 are welcome to join the fun on Zoom as Ms. Jackie uses interactive songs and stories to introduce children to the world of books, learning, and the library. Call 207-513-3133 for details and registration.

**1ST AND 3RD TUESDAYS**  
**11:30 a.m.**  
LEWISTON – Lewiston Public Library - Virtual Book Chat. Join LPL staff via Facebook Live for a conversation about what we're reading. Make suggestions, share your thoughts, find resources, and get personalized recommendations from our librarians!

**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 – Ecomaine Outreach & Recycling Committee meeting, via online video conference.

# Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

**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.gorhamrec.com/info/activities/program\\_details.aspx?ProgramID=14916](https://www.gorhamrec.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**  
**5:30 p.m.**  
AUBURN – Age-Friendly Community Committee.  
**6 p.m.**  
LEWISTON - City Council meeting, via ZOOM - <http://www.lewistonmaine.gov/2021cc>  
**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.

**THURSDAY**  
**June 3**  
**4 p.m.**  
AUBURN - Cable TV Advisory Board Meeting.  
**5:30 p.m.**  
AUBURN - Auburn-Lewiston Airport Board Meeting.

**MONDAY**  
**June 7**  
**5:30 p.m.**  
AUBURN – City Council workshop and meeting.  
**5:30-6:30 p.m.**  
LEWISTON – Finance Committee Meeting - @ City Hall Administrator's Conference Room.  
**7 p.m.**  
GORHAM - Planning Board Meeting TBD

**TUESDAY**  
**June 8**  
**6 p.m.**  
AUBURN – Planning Board meeting.  
**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.  
**4:30 p.m.**  
AUBURN – Lewiston-Auburn Transit Committee (LATC) meeting.  
**6:30 p.m.**  
AUBURN – Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting.  
**7 p.m.**  
GORHAM - School Committee Meeting TBD.

**MONDAY**  
**June 14**  
**5:30 p.m.**  
LEWISTON – Planning Board meeting - The Planning Board Agenda and information for this meeting will be available on the website on the Friday before the meeting date.

**TUESDAY**  
**June 15**  
**7:30 a.m.**  
AUBURN – Auburn Public Library Board of Trustees meeting.  
**8 a.m.**  
GORHAM - Ordinance Committee Meeting TBD.  
**4 p.m.**  
AUBURN – Auburn Sewer District Trustees meeting.  
**6 p.m.**  
LEWISTON - City Council meeting, via ZOOM -

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<http://www.lewistonmaine.gov/2021cc>  
**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.  
**4 p.m.**  
AUBURN – Auburn Water District Trustees meeting.

**THURSDAY**  
**June 17**  
**8 a.m.**  
AUBURN – 9-1-1 Committee meeting.  
**11:30 a.m.**  
GORHAM - Ecomaine

Annual Board Meeting  
Online video conference.  
**6:30 p.m.**  
GORHAM - Tentative Recurring Capital Improvement Projects/ Economic Development Committee Meeting TBD.  
**7 p.m.**  
AUBURN – Community Forest Subcommittee meeting.

**MONDAY**  
**June 21**  
**5:30 p.m.**  
GORHAM - Finance Committee Meeting TBD.  
**5:30 p.m.**  
AUBURN – City Council workshop and meeting.  
**5:30-6:30 p.m.**  
LEWISTON – Finance Committee Meeting - @ City Hall Administrator's Conference Room.

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**Shaw**  
*Continued from page 11*

quets & Catering department and has worked part-time in various roles within

the hotel, helping and assisting as needed. Shaw was most recently the Hotel's front office manager and worked previously in the local financial and

banking sector as a director of business & process improvements. Shaw is also involved in giving back to the local community with his involvement with Up-

lift LA and the Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Area Chamber of Commerce, underscoring Hilton's philosophy of service and corporate responsibility.

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