

## Niboli named international 'Volunteer of the Year'

From RTT

WINDHAM – Pat Niboli, a volunteer with Riding To The Top Therapeutic Riding Center in Windham, was recently named the 2021 Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International Volunteer of the Year.

PATH Intl. is an international voice in the equine-assisted services (EAS) industry, annually celebrates individuals who symbolize the celebration of ability, optimism, diversity and a shared love of equines. Nominations are called for to recognize reliable volunteers who to commit their time and talents and are “essential to the success of therapeutic horsemanship centers.”

Janis Childs, a fellow volunteer and RTT Board member, said, “Pat and I both began volunteering in 2011. Over the years, I have marveled at Pat’s work ethic, her dedication and passion in supporting the Center. I am sure that there is not anything she has not done at the farm! She mucks, she feeds, she invents, she is a horse leader in lessons, and she is the ‘driving’ force behind the carriage driving team! Those are just a few of her gifts that she offers on a weekly basis!”

Sarah Bronson, Executive Director said, “We are so very fortunate to count Pat as a member of the RTT family. She is always thinking about how to help out with friend- and fund-raising ideas—bringing new people to the farm and raising important funds to keep our programs strong, our horses happy and fit and our



Pat Niboli was recently named the 2021 Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International Volunteer of the Year. She volunteers at Riding To The Top Therapeutic Riding Center in Windham.

clients happy. There is no one more deserving of this award and we are thrilled that she has been recognized for her ef-

forts, not only by RTT, but internationally by PATH Intl.”

A virtual awards ceremony will be

conducted by PATH Intl. on Nov. 5.

The mission of Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.) is to lead the advancement of professional equine-assisted services by supporting its members and stakeholders through rigorously developed standards, credentialing and education.

PATH Intl was founded in 1969 as the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association (NARHA) to promote safe and effective therapeutic horseback riding throughout the United States and Canada. Today, PATH Intl. has 873 member centers and nearly 8,000 individual members in countries all over the world, who help and support almost 69,000 men, women and children—including more than 6,700 veterans—with special needs each year through a variety of equine-assisted services programs.

Founded in 1993, Riding To The Top Therapeutic Riding Center’s (RTT) mission is enhancing health and wellness through equine-assisted services. RTT is a PATH Intl. Premier Accredited Center (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International). Located just west of Portland in Windham, RTT is the state’s only year round PATH Intl. Premier Accredited Center solely dedicated to serving people with disabilities through equine-assisted services.

For more information about client services, volunteering or making a gift, visit [www.ridingtothetop.org](http://www.ridingtothetop.org) or call 892-2813.

## Celebrity Chef to Operate Rock Row Food Hall

From Rock Row

WESTBROOK - Award-winning chef, restaurateur, TV personality and cookbook author Akhtar Nawab and his New York based firm, Hospitality HQ (HHQ), has been chosen to manage and operate the Food Hall that is coming to Rock Row in Westbrook.

With Greater Portland widely recognized as an international destination for culinary excellence, the Rock Row Food Hall will be the only destination of its kind in the area, honoring the progressive and authentic ‘comfort based’ dining palette of the region along with Maine’s artisan craft-brew culture.

The hall will feature 15 offerings

and 7 spirit tasting rooms, mixing artisan dishes with live music, onsite brews and events to delight every taste.

Chef Nawab and his company, Hospitality HQ, will oversee all management and operations of the Rock Row Food Hall, from design and culinary development to day-to-day logistics and guest services. Thoughtful consideration will be given to menu planning in order to showcase the area’s strong tradition of independently-minded, locally-owned, chef-driven flavors, cuisines and experiences.

“What excites me most about the Rock Row Food Hall is the eccentric and eclectic group of vendors that we will curate for all to enjoy,” said Chef Nawab. “Greater Portland has a rich culinary offer-

ing and local food culture that is world-renowned. We want Rock Row’s Food Hall to be a foundation of that culture and a showcase for the many rising stars in the local culinary scene to grow and shine.”

Chef Nawab describes the Rock Row Food Hall as a place for “guests and chefs to be imaginative and curious” while respecting Maine’s casual and laid-back manner. A mix of local and regional culinary creators and brewers will be featured at Rock Row, thoughtfully blending a wide and exciting range of dishes and beverage pairings.

Rock Row is a 110-acre, \$600-million development with more than two-million square feet of mixed-use office, retail, *See Chef, page 14*

## Baxter Museum open through August

From Baxter Museum

The Baxter Museum at 67 South Street in Gorham, the boyhood home of James Phinney Baxter, is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. during July and August, or by appointment.

Admission is free but donations are accepted.

Notable features include a bedroom furnished with Baxter family items, articles and artifacts relating to Gorham history, Civil War artifacts, portraits and paintings and Annie Louise Cary memorabilia highlighting her career in opera.

For more information, contact 207-839-3878.

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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## CMCC Athletics open house on Aug. 5



Visitors to the CMCC Athletics open house on Aug. 5 will be able to tour the new Turf Fields for soccer, softball and baseball. (Photo courtesy of CMCC)

AUBURN – Central Maine Community College is hosting an Athletics Open House on Aug. 5.

The event, which is tailored to high school athletic directors and coaches, as well as recreation and club sport directors, will have two sessions – 9-a.m.-

noon and 2-4 p.m.

Guests will be able to tour the new athletic facilities at the college which include Turf Fields for soccer, softball and baseball; the Dave Gonyea Court; a Weight Room; and the Esports Arena.

Guests will also be

able to tour the college and meet with CM coaches as well as support personnel.

Interested prospective student-athletes and their families are also invited.

Interested parties can contact Dave Gonyea at, (207) 755-5251 or [dgonyea@cmcc.edu](mailto:dgonyea@cmcc.edu)

## Downeasters at Sawyer on Friday

GREENE - The Downeasters Chorus will perform at the Sawyer Memorial on Friday at 2 p.m. and at 7 p.m.

The Araxine Wilkins Sawyer Memorial is located at 371 Sawyer Road, Greene.

Admission to the

event is free.

For more information, call 946-5311, or visit [sawyer-foundation.com](http://sawyer-foundation.com)

## Uptown Cruizahs car show on Sunday

OXFORD - Bring a Kid to a Car Show!

Young and old alike are invited to join the Uptown Cruizahs on Sunday for their 12th Annual Car Show!

The show will again take place at the New Balance Factory Store on Route 26 in Oxford. This is a rain or shine event.

There will be 23 classes, from antique autos and street rods, to trucks, present day vehicles, al-

ternative fuel vehicles and special interest vehicles.

There are three awards in each class, and there will again be Best in Show award.

Registration is from 8-11 a.m. and the cost is \$10 per car. As always, admission is free for spectators, but donations will be gratefully accepted.

The show participants will vote in each class up to 12:30 p.m. and awards will be presented at 2 p.m.

Food will be available throughout the day along with music.

Proceeds from this event, as well as the clubs Monday cruise night at Daddy O's in Oxford, benefit local organizations such as Responsible Pet Care and Maine Veterans' Home activity fund.

For more information on the show or cruise nights please call Dan Tripp at 890-8778 or Garry Allen 595-2691.

## 'My Best Moments With Sherman' on Aug. 10



Christopher McDougall spends a few moments with his rescued donkey, Sherman. McDougall will discuss his book about rescuing Sherman during a Zoom session on Aug. 10, hosted by the Auburn Public Library. (Photo by Matt Roth)

From Auburn Library try.

Best-selling author Christopher McDougall joins the Auburn Library via Zoom on Aug. 10 to share his favorite parts of "Running with Sherman," a wonderful and heartwarming story about a rescued donkey.

He will read some excerpts and there will be some time at the end for a brief Q&A.

When Christopher McDougall agreed to take in a donkey from an animal hoarder, he thought it would be no harder than the rest of the adjustments he and his family had made after moving from Pennsylvania Amish coun-

try. However, when Sherman arrived, he was so sick he could barely move.

Chris decided to undertake a radical rehabilitation program designed not only to heal Sherman's body but his mind as well. The best way to soothe a donkey is to give it a job, so Christopher decided to teach Sherman to run. He'd heard about burro racing--a unique type of race where humans and donkeys run together in a call-back to mining days--and decided he and Sherman would enter the World Championship in Colorado. See <http://bitly.ws/fKwL>

This program will take place via Zoom.

To register, go to [www.auburnpubliclibrary.org](http://www.auburnpubliclibrary.org) and click on Events at the top of the page; or contact the Reference Desk at 207-333-6640, ext. 4; or email [dwallace@auburnpubliclibrary.org](mailto:dwallace@auburnpubliclibrary.org).

This program is part of the library's Adult Summer Reading Program, "Tales with Tails" which runs through August 31.

The final program of this summer's series will be a virtual visit with Misfits Rehab, a local wildlife rehabilitator, on August 24. More details about this and other programs planned for the fall can be found on the website, on Facebook (Auburn Public Library Advocates), or inquire via email (as above).

## Summer Music Festival Sunday

From Court St Baptist

AUBURN - Ken Medema is the featured artist at the Summer Music Festival on Sunday at Court Street Baptist Church in Auburn.

Medema is a wide-

ly-known and much-loved musician and singer-songwriter. His lyrics provide social commentary on themes of justice, hunger, and relevant Christian charity.

He will be joined by other musicians and singers for the festival.

All are welcome at this free event, which promises to be uplifting and energizing.

For more information, call the church office during business hours, 207-784-6661, or email [Office@CourtStreetBaptist.org](mailto:Office@CourtStreetBaptist.org).

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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## High school seniors receive MEMIC scholarships



Maine high school senior Amir Seidakhmetov recently received a \$5,000 scholarship from The MEMIC Group's Harvey Picker Horizon Scholarship Program. He is planning to attend the University of Maine in the fall to pursue a career in electrical and computer engineering. (Photo courtesy of MEMIC)

### From MEMIC

PORTLAND — A Rhode Island honors student whose single mother suffered a work-related injury, and a Maine engineering student whose injured parent speaks English as a second language are the 2021 winners of The

MEMIC Group's Harvey Picker Horizon Scholarship Program.

MEMIC is a workers' compensation insurance company serving employers from Maine to Florida.

Jaylyn Marte, winner of a \$10,000 scholarship award, recently graduated with honors from LaSal-

le Academy in Rhode Island, maintaining excellent grades while helping nurse her single mother back to health.

In addition to academic achievements, Marte kept a large portfolio of extracurricular activities, including Diversity Club leadership, United Way Day of Action volunteering, and working with the elderly. While balancing schoolwork and extracurriculars, she also added part-time employment to help at home.

A dedicated STEM student, Marte will attend Nova Southeastern University, where she hopes to focus her studies on optometry.

Winner of the \$5,000 Scholarship, Amir Seidakhmetov is an honors student planning a career in electrical and computer engineering who will begin in the fall at the University of Maine.

While maintaining a 3.84 GPA in high school, Seidakhmetov participated in many extracurricular activities and was a shift supervisor at work nights and weekends to support himself and his mother, a 44-year-old housekeeper and single mother whose primary language is Russian.

"We are in awe of these two bright young scholars who seem to know no boundaries when

it comes to learning, community service, and conscientious caring," MEMIC Group President and CEO Michael Bourque said. "These are values we share at The MEMIC Group, so we're thrilled to be able to assist in financing their college educations.

"We wish Jaylyn the best of luck at Nova Southeastern, Amir the best at University of Maine, and their mothers swift and certain recoveries from their injuries," Bourque said.

Founded in 2008, the Harvey Picker Horizon Scholarship Program aids the children and spouses of workers who have been seriously injured on the job. MEMIC has awarded \$210,000 in scholarships since the program's inception.

The scholarship is named after former Camden resident Harvey Picker, a renowned physicist, educator, philanthropist, and advocate for education. In 1992, Picker was appointed by then-Gov. John R. McKernan as a member of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Workers' Compensation, which led to the formation of MEMIC 28. Picker also served as a member of the Board of Directors at MEMIC.

Applicants complete the application in May to be considered for a scholarship of up to \$10,000. To be eligible for the scholarship,



Rhode Island honors student Jaylyn Marte is the winner of a \$10,000 scholarship from The MEMIC Group's Harvey Picker Horizon Scholarship Program. She plans to attend Nova Southeastern University, where she hopes to focus her studies on optometry. (Photo courtesy of MEMIC)

the related injured worker must have been working for a MEMIC policyholder at the time of injury.

Applications are reviewed by a selection committee for financial need, academic performance, community involvement, other life experiences, as well as future promise. Stu-

dents must be attending or planning to attend an accredited college or university.

For more information and to request a copy of the application, please call 1-800-660-1306 and say "Horizon Scholarship" at the prompt, or visit [memic.com/horizon](http://memic.com/horizon).

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## Guest Column

# Wild about words

From Grammar Guy

I'm a proud "word nerd." I love words; I collect them like baseball cards.

I like weird words, wonky words, witty words and even a handful of Welsh words (fun fact: the word for "carrot" in Welsh is "moron"). As a person prone to collecting things, I hoard words like a doomsday prepper stashes toilet paper. Is it an illness? Probably. But it's cheaper than golf.

Do you bow down at the altar of epeolatry? If so, you worship words. I promise you're not the only adherent to this phonetic pastime. Other words for word-worship are "grammatolatry" and "verbolatry." While I'm not qualified to dole out spiritual advice, your words have the power to give life or to take it from someone. Even when anonymous or over social media, your words can either make someone's day or make them miserable.

Verbomania is a

"craze for words." I'm not a psychiatrist, nor am I Dear Abby, so I can't prescribe medication or give medical advice. However, if you have an appetite for language, maybe consider a helping or two of alphabet soup. By doing so, you can rightly call yourself a "verbivore."

You may consider yourself a "logolept." If so, you're a word lover — a verbal virtuoso. A word wizard. A defender of diction. A prose pro. A lexical legend. You get the idea.

On the other hand, maybe you know someone who's terrified of words. I doubt you have gotten this far into my column while suffering from "logophobia" — the fear of words. Many people have a fear of speaking in public or have an aversion to speaking altogether.

Did you know there's even a word for people who have a fear of long words? It's called "hippopotomonstrosesquipedaliophobia." Weighing in at fifteen syllables, this word is a tongue-

in-cheek word that means the same thing as "sesquipedalophobia."

As someone who often gets paid by the word, I have no problem extending prose to ridiculous extents. The words we use matter and we need to make them count. It's no wonder people get booted from Twitter for the equivalent of yelling "fire" in a crowded theater. Just as the clothes we choose to wear on our bodies can express our identities, the words we allow to flow from our mouths and keyboards shape how people see us.

While life can often feel like a nonstop chwyrligwgan (Welsh for "merry-go-round"), our words give us the opportunity to shape it into something either awesome or awful. It's up to you.

*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.*

# Bill increases protections for loan borrowers

From ME Legislature

AUGUSTA — Gov. Janet Mills recently signed into law a bill from Sen. Eloise Vitelli, D-Arrowsic. LD 1645, "An Act To Establish Protections for Private Student Loan Borrowers and a Registry of Lenders."

The new law will increase protections for borrowers of private student loans and their cosigners.

"For decades, people have been told the best way to advance their career is to further their education. Unfortunately, regulations around student loan companies did not keep pace with the increasing cost of getting an education. As a result, far too many hardworking Mainers found themselves taken advantage of by predatory lending practices, even as they were trying to responsibly pay down their debt," said Sen. Vitelli. "We've made great progress to protect student loan borrowers over the last few years, and this new law will help even more people."

More than 70,000 Mainers hold private student loan debt, with all Maine student debt holders owing an average of \$32,788.

During the pandemic, when many borrowers

of federal debt have not had to make payments on the debt and have not accrued interest, many private lenders have not made similar accommodations. As students look to finance their education, parents and grandparents often step in to cosign private loans. Nationally, the amount of student loan debt held by borrowers over the age of 60 increases by 50 percent every five years. As of 2018, more than 20,000 Mainers over the age of 60 owed student debt.

As amended, LD 1645 would require private lenders, except for state-chartered banks and credit unions, to register with the state, as the Student Loan Bill of Rights requires of other lenders. The bill prohibits lenders from placing loans into default or acceleration in most circumstances, except for payment default, and outlines other collection practices designed to protect borrowers and help them fairly pay down their debt. The bill also requires lenders to publish any flexible or alternative repayment options they offer, such as income-based repayment plans, and to offer these plans equally to all borrowers.

The bill also extends

to cosigners of private student loans the same protections afforded to the primary borrower. Lenders must provide cosigners with the conditions of debt release upfront and must require no more than 12 consecutive on-time payments as a condition of release. The bill also requires lenders to discharge the debt, for both borrowers and cosigners, if the borrower dies or becomes totally and permanently disabled. If it is the cosigner who dies or becomes totally and permanently disabled, they must be released from the debt.

"For decades, financial companies have run roughshod over student loan borrowers simply because those people chose to pursue a better life for themselves and their families," said Seth Frotman of the Student Borrower Protection Center in his testimony supporting the bill. "The legislation before you today creates protections for hundreds of thousands of borrowers across this state — your neighbors, your constituents — who took on debt to chase the American Dream, only to be left with very few rights and even fewer protections."

LD 1645 will go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns.

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# Bill would ensure the safety of personal care products

From Sen. Collins

AUGUSTA — Maine Senator Susan M. Collins (R-ME) aims to ensure the safety of cosmetic and personal care products with a bill she recently introduced in Congress.

The bipartisan Personal Care Products Safety Act I introduced with Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) would bring the law governing the Food and Drug Administration's oversight of these products into the 21st century.

By strengthening FDA oversight of the ingredients in personal care products for the first time in more than eight decades, this legislation would help protect the health of consumers and provide regulatory certainty for manufacturers. It has been endorsed by nearly 20 organizations, including Burt's Bees, which was founded here in Maine.

In 2014, a 9-year-old girl in Colorado used a new shampoo her mother purchased because it was advertised as being extra gen-

tle and made without harsh chemicals. She stopped using it after just three washes when her hair began falling out in clumps. Three weeks later, she was bald. Although her hair fortunately began growing back, she was teased at school for having bald spots for years afterwards.

Americans use a variety of cosmetics and other personal care products daily, including lotions, shampoos, and make-up. Most Americans, however, do not know that the federal government currently lacks the authority to ensure the safety of these products. In fact, the consumer safety law pertaining to these products has not been updated in more than 80 years.

The FDA and product safety experts have noted concerns about the use and concentration of certain ingredients in personal care products that have not been independently reviewed for health effects. According to the FDA, some hair smoothing and straightening products release form-

aldehyde gas, a known carcinogen. Formaldehyde exposure can cause short- and long-term health problems.

Currently, when the FDA finds an unsafe ingredient in a personal care product, it usually cannot force a company to stop selling it.

The Personal Care Products Safety Act would empower the FDA to review product ingredients and provide companies with clear guidance, including whether ingredients should continue to be used and if consumer warnings are necessary. It would also require the FDA to issue recalls on products likely to cause significant harm if companies refuse to do so voluntarily — an authority the FDA now lacks.

In addition, it would require the FDA to issue regulations outlining good manufacturing practices for personal care products and to provide technical assistance and additional flexibility for smaller businesses to comply with the law.

# Red Cross needs donors during shortage

## From Red Cross

PORTLAND - While donors across the country have rolled up a sleeve to give this summer, the need for blood and platelets remains crucial for patients relying on lifesaving transfusions.

The American Red Cross continues to experience a severe blood shortage and donors of all blood types – especially type O and those giving platelets – are urged to make an appointment to give now.

Right now, the Red Cross needs to collect

more than 1,000 additional blood donations each day to meet current demand as hospitals respond to an unusually high number of traumas and emergency room visits, organ transplants and elective surgeries.

To thank donors who help refuel the blood and platelet supply this month, all who come to give July 7-31 will receive a \$10 Amazon.com Gift Card via email and will also receive automatic entry for a chance to win gas for a year (a \$5,000 value). More informa-

tion and details are available at [rcblood.org/fuel](http://rcblood.org/fuel). Also, all those who come to donate throughout the entire month of July will be automatically entered for a chance to win a trip for four to Cedar Point or Knott's Berry Farm. To learn more, visit [rcblood.org/CedarFair](http://rcblood.org/CedarFair).

Schedule an appointment to give blood or platelets by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org), calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa

Echo device.

In most cases, those who have received a COVID-19 vaccine can donate. However, knowing the name of the manufacturer of the vaccine they received is important in determining donation eligibility.

## Locations:

**Androscoggin**  
**Lewiston**  
7/29/2021: 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Ramada Conference Center, 490 Pleasant St

**Cumberland**

**Brunswick**  
7/31/2021: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Midcoast-Parkview Health, 329 Maine Street

**Portland**  
7/31/2021: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Clarion Hotel, 1230 Congress Street

**South Portland**  
7/29/2021: 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Portland Sheraton at Sable Oaks, 200 Sable Oaks Drive

**Standish**  
7/30/2021: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Standish Town Hall, 175 Northeast Road

**Yarmouth**  
7/30/2021: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., American Legion

Post 91, 196 Main St

To donate blood, individuals need to bring a blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification that are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also must meet certain height and weight requirements.

# New President and CEO at Maine Public



**Rick Schneider joins Maine Public as the network's new President and CEO, starting Aug. 2. (Photo courtesy of Maine Public)**

## From Maine Public

LEWISTON – Maine Public has selected Rick Schneider, an experienced public media leader with a strong background in journalism and local content creation at stations across the United States, as the network's new President and CEO.

Schneider will begin his new position with Maine Public on Aug. 2.

Schneider started his career in commercial broadcast news as a reporter and anchor. After serving as Washington bureau correspondent for Post-Newsweek Stations, he became news director at WUFT-TV in Gainesville, Florida.

He was named president and CEO of KNPB in Reno, Nevada, in 1998, where he led a capital campaign for the transition to digital television and expanded service to Lake Tahoe.

In 2004, he joined WPBT in Miami, Florida, which produced Nightly Business Report for national broadcast. The station expanded local production under his tenure.

In 2013, Schneider became Chief Operating

Officer of WETA, the major PBS producer and classical music radio station for Greater Washington.

Schneider joined the National Center for Family Philanthropy in 2018 as senior vice president for advancement.

"Rick's extensive background in public broadcasting and journalism position him well to lead Maine Public," stated Clare Hannan, Maine Public's Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. "As we continue to broaden our reach and relevance across the state, his vision and passion for our mission will certainly strengthen our work. We're enthusiastic to welcome Rick as Maine Public's next President and CEO."

Marion Freeman, the Chair of Maine Public's Board of Trustees, said,

"Rick has the experience and vision to lead the network to an exciting new level of audience outreach with meaningful, relevant content as we embrace the technological changes in public media."

Schneider earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Florida and a master's degree from Columbia University. He and his wife, Karen Bryant, have two adult children and will be relocating to Maine from Alexandria, Virginia.

Formed in 1992, Maine Public is an independently owned and operated nonprofit organization with office and studio locations in Bangor, Lewiston, and Portland, Maine Public airs content from PBS, NPR, and other independent producers.

For more information, visit [mainepublic.org](http://mainepublic.org).

# Letter to the Editor Climate action good for business

As negotiations continue on the infrastructure package, climate action is frequently framed as being at odds with the economy, where taking any sort of effective action would come at a large cost.

This could not be more wrong.

First are the long-term implications, as unaddressed climate change spells disaster for future jobs and way of life. These climate related disasters have come with a price tag of almost \$2 trillion since 1980, a number

that continues to climb.

Even in the present however, many solutions present opportunities to grow jobs, innovate, and stimulate the economy. A carbon fee & dividend structure is a perfect example of this. Endorsed by over 3500 economists, it would increase international competitiveness, push forward innovation, and provide rebates to citizens.

However, we can even go a step further, looking at CO2 as a resource rather than refuse, through carbon capture and utilization.

From enhancing agricultural soils, to neutralizing dangerous wastes, to even creating carbon-tech products, firms such as Microsoft and Strip have already invested millions into these technologies, seeing the value available, as well as consequences of inaction.

Addressing the climate crisis is good business now, and will be critical for the economy of the future.

**Luke Bartol  
Manchester, ME**



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# Arts & Entertainment

## Portland, Bangor will 'Walk To Defeat ALS'

**From ALSANNE**

CONCORD, NH – In August and September, the ALS community in Northern New England will come together to participate in a Walk To Defeat ALS, in Bangor and Portland.

The ALS Association of Northern New England chapter provides services throughout Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

ALS, or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, is an always-fatal neurodegenerative disease in which a

person's brain loses connection with muscles in the body. People with ALS lose their ability to walk, talk, eat, and eventually breathe. There is no cure yet for ALS.

Thursday, Aug. 26 through Saturday, Aug. 28, the ALS community will come together to participate in the 2021 Bangor Walk to Defeat ALS.

The 2021 Portland Walk to Defeat ALS will take place Thursday, Sept. 9 through Saturday, Sept. 11.

Each year, walkers honor, celebrate, recog-

nize, and memorialize those throughout the communities who have been impacted by ALS, and 2021 won't be any different. The funds raised stay in the local communities and help the ALS Association to provide services that directly impact the lives of people with ALS, their families, and their caregivers.

One option is called Walk Your Way. Participate and raise funds to defeat ALS wherever and whenever is convenient for you. Send pictures and stories from your Walk ac-

tivities to ALSANNE to be highlighted on social media.

A second option is The Tribute Walk, the NEW way for teams to still go out and have a walking route with the option to meet up with other teams and participate together. Instead of a one-day event, ALSANNE will be placing professionally designed and printed tribute signs along a pre-determined and accessible walking route from Aug. 26 through Aug. 28. These tribute signs will include messages of honor, love,

support, and other dedications for those throughout our ALS community.

Teams who wish to participate in the Tribute Walk will be able to do so any time while the route is set up. There will be volunteers and/or staff present to greet teams and answer any questions they may have. Participants are expected to abide by all CDC, state, local, and venue guidelines.

Register to Walk at <http://web.alsa.org/Bangor2021> or contact Karrie Boskee at [kboskee@alsanne.org](mailto:kboskee@alsanne.org) or 360-219-

5842.

The Mission of The ALS Association is "To discover treatments and a cure for ALS, to serve, advocate for, and empower people affected by ALS to live their lives to the fullest." Through the highest quality patient care, world-wide research, and fearless advocacy, we are working to find a cure and improve the quality of life for people living with ALS and their families. The Northern New England Chapter provides services throughout Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

## Ocean Gardens ice cream shop opens

GORHAM - Ocean Gardens Restaurant and Tavern has opened its ice cream shop for the summer.

Located at 390 Main Street in Gorham, the shop offers Gifford's Ice Cream in cones, bowls, frappes,

and sundaes.

The shop will be open Tuesday-Sunday from 2-8:30 p.m.

## Haddock supper on Saturday in Buxton

BUXTON – Living Waters Church on Parker Farm Road in Buxton will host a Haddock Supper Buffet at 5 p.m. on Saturday.

are \$8 for adults, \$4 for children, or \$20 for a family.

The church will offer the option of takeout containers for those who do not want to come inside for

seating.

Face masks are required for those who are not vaccinated.

Hand sanitizer is available for those who wish to use it.

## ELF at Schoolhouse Arts Center

**From SAC**

STANDISH - Schoolhouse Arts Center is celebrating Christmas in July with the famously funny show, Elf – The Musical, through Aug. 8.

Performances are Thursday through Saturday at 7 p.m. and on Sunday at 5 p.m.

This is the first play that Schoolhouse has been able to present at full capacity since the COVID-19 pandemic began early in 2020.

The star of the show is Buddy, played by Schoolhouse favorite Zachariah Stearn. As an infant, Buddy is accidentally taken to the North Pole where he was raised among the elves. But by the time he was an adult,

he became convinced that he did not "fit in" with his fellow elves. So Buddy decides to return to New York city in the hopes of finding his real father and spreading the cheer and spirit of Christmas as he goes.

The results will tickle your funny bone for hours and make you want to return with your friends, your kids, and grand kids to see it again.

Don't miss this wonderful chance to spread the joy and excitement of Christmas in July (and August) with this laugh-filled production. It will be fun for the whole family.

Visit the Schoolhouse website [www.schoolhousearts.org](http://www.schoolhousearts.org) for more information and to make reservations before all the

tickets are gone.

Ticket prices are \$25 for adults and \$23 for seniors and children.

Schoolhouse Arts Center is located at 16 Richville Road (Route 114) in Standish, just north of the intersection of Route 114 and Route 35.

Schoolhouse Arts Center is a non-profit, community-driven organization dedicated to arts education and the presentation of the arts. Our mission is to encourage individual growth and a spirit of community through participation in the arts. We seek to foster a fun, creative, educational, and supportive arts environment where people can grow, develop skills, and involve themselves in the arts.

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# Complete the meal benefit at school this year

**From Maine DOE**

AUGUSTA - Maine needs all parents and caregivers to take action this school year—by taking the time to complete the confidential Meal Benefit Application through your local school, even if school meals are already free for all students.

Families, schools, communities, and our state can greatly benefit from the data that is gathered from the application, and this application is important for a number of reasons.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, when school meals became complementary, there has been a significant drop in Meal Benefit Application returns—meaning fewer families are filling out the application.

The family income data provided by the application informs key funding for school resources. This includes school meal reimbursements, funding for Title I programs, funding and resources for after school programs, funding pro-

vided to schools from the Maine State Legislature for essential programs and services at school, funding for special education, teacher loan forgiveness, and much, much more!

Federal and state government use the aggregate data from the application to distribute education funding to schools across the county and state of Maine. In other words, if there is no data to inform the needs of the community, it could result in less education funding for your local district and for Maine.

By completing the Meal Benefit Application, you are directly investing in your child's education and the children and families in your community.

Specific programs that are funded by the data collected from Meal Benefit Application include:

- Title I schools
- Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA)
- Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA)
- Essential Programs and Services (EPS) funding allocated directly to Maine

Schools through the Maine Department of Education (State funding)

Before/After School Programs

Summer School Programs

Special academic programming, and grant opportunities initiated by the Maine Department of Education (DOE)

Teacher student loan forgiveness

The application is available through your local school administrative unit (SAU) school nutrition program and it is complete-

ly confidential. Most SAUs have the application available to be completed online.

A printed version of the application is also required to be available—it will often be part of beginning of year paperwork that comes home with your child.

This past school year has certainly had its challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite these challenges, all Maine children have had the opportunity to access free healthy school meals on a daily basis.

# EPR for Packaging Will Save Taxpayer Money

**From NRCM**

AUGUSTA - Maine has now joined more than 40 jurisdictions around the world to require companies that create packaging waste help pay for the costs of recycling.

It becomes the first state in the nation to pass an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging law (LD 1541) in response to a steady increase in packaging materials, including those from online retail, that is driving up costs for local cities and towns.

According to the Natural Resources Council of Maine, EPR for Packaging has long been proven to be a successful policy in Canada, Europe, and elsewhere around the world for reducing costs for municipalities, increasing recycling rates, and spurring innovation toward more eco-friendly packaging.

Ten states were considering enacting such laws this year, with Oregon likely to be next, with the governor expected to soon sign a bill that has already been passed by the state's legislature.

"I'm proud that once again, Maine is a nation-

al leader when it comes to common-sense environmental protections. This new law assures every Maine community that help with recycling and lowering the property tax burden is on the way," said State Representative Nicole Grohoski (D-Ellsworth), who introduced LD 1541. "It's time for packaging producers to take responsibility for their waste stream in the Pine Tree State, as they do in more than 40 other countries and regions worldwide."

"Maine will be a model for other states as the United States joins much of the rest of the developed world in creating a product stewardship regime that will increase recycling, improve waste management, save property taxpayers money, and put the cost of packaging disposal onto the producers and brand owners where it belongs," said lead bill co-sponsor State Senator Rick Bennett (R-Oxford).

Maine's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) estimated in a 2019 report that it costs Maine municipalities between \$16 million and \$17.5 million each year to manage packaging waste

through recycling or disposal. Towns have no say in how much packaging waste companies generate and then ship to consumers.

"This bill is the first step toward reviving local recycling programs and getting municipal waste management back on track," said Neal Goldberg, Legislative Analyst at the Maine Municipal Association, which has supported the bill since its inception.

"For too long property taxpayers have been shouldering the hefty cost of managing packaging material for the world's biggest producers of waste. LD 1541 not only shares that cost with producers but also encourages Maine's goals of reducing overall waste generation and increasing recycling rates at affordable prices."

The new EPR for Packaging law was devel-

oped after three years of work and input involving the Maine DEP, Maine Municipal Association, international experts in EPR policies, and a wide variety of in-state stakeholders, including local businesses.

Once the program is underway it will require corporations responsible for much of the packaging waste in Maine to reimburse cities and towns for the costs of recycling pack-

aging materials associated with the products they sell to consumers in the state. The policy also provides an incentive for companies to design and manufacture packaging that is easier to recycle and reuse.

Founded in 1959, the Natural Resources Council of Maine is the state's leading nonprofit membership organization protecting Maine's land, air, waters, and wildlife.

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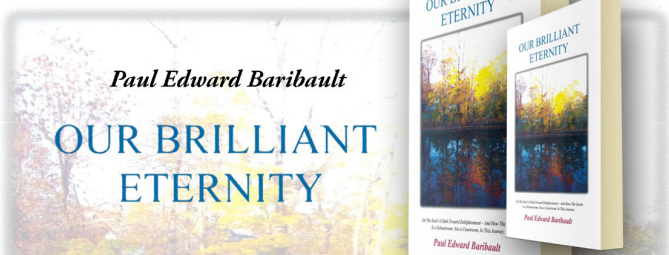
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# MSMT brings Broadway's best back to Brunswick



Lauren Blackman performs as Irene Malloy in MSMT's 2019 production of Hello, Dolly!. Blackman will be part of a group of performers from previous Maine State Music Theatre shows who will be seen in The Stars of MSMT this week and next at the Pickard Theater at Bowdoin College in Brunswick.

## From MSMT

BRUNSWICK — Maine State Music Theatre is excited to welcome back some of its most dazzling stars for a special concert series: The Stars of MSMT.

The first of these special concerts took place this week, and the second concert will have performances on August 4 and 5 at the Pickard Theater on the Bowdoin College campus in Brunswick.

This special event will feature some of MSMT's crowd-favorite stars from seasons past, with hit songs from musicals that span from the Golden Age to contemporary musical theatre. Featured artists include stars of both MSMT and Broadway, including Lauren Blackman, Robert Creighton, Charis Leos, Kingsley Leggs, David Girolmo, Felicia P. Fields, Gregg Goodbrod, and Heidi Kettenring.

Robert Creighton will be familiar to Midcoast Maine audiences from his roles as Igor in MSMT's 2015 production of Young Frankenstein. He recently featured as Weselton in Disney's Frozen on Broadway.

Blackman dazzled MSMT audiences as Irene

Malloy in MSMT's 2019 production of Hello, Dolly!, and she played Tsarina Alexandra in Broadway's Anastasia.

Charis Leo is a seasoned veteran of MSMT, performing on the Pickard stage for the past 15 years. Most recently she starred as Dolly Levi in MSMT's 2019 production Hello Dolly!.

Kingsley Leggs has found success on Broadway in The Color Purple and Sister Act. He may be familiar to MSMT audiences for his roles as Curtis in 2015's Sister Act and Noah (Horse) T Simmons in the same season's The Full Monty.

Performances from these stars will include a variety of songs from their favorite musicals, ranging from "Take a Chance on Me" (from Mamma Mia), to "Make Them Hear You" (From Ragtime), to Ros-es Turn (from Gypsy), to "Happy Days" / "Forget" (Judy Garland standards).

There will even be a duet performance featuring MSMT's own Artistic Director, Curt Dale Cark.

David Girolmo was most recently seen at MSMT as Horace Vandergelder in Hello, Dolly! and The Cowardly Lion

in The Wizard of Oz. On Broadway he starred in War Paint and in Candide.

Tony-nominated actress Felicia P. Fields received her nomination for her performance as Sofia in The Color Purple on Broadway. She made her debut with MSMT in 2019 in Sophisticated Ladies.

Gregg Goodbrod starred as Jean ValJean in MSMT's Les Misérables. He has also been in the original casts of Thoroughly Modern Millie on Broadway, and the first National Tour of Dolly Parton's 9 to 5.

Heidi Kettenring was last seen at MSMT as Milly Bradon in Seven Brides for Seven Brothers in 2014 and played Nessarose in the Broadway in Chicago version of Wicked.

The concerts are sponsored by Brunswick Hotel and Tavern, Kennebec Savings Bank, Bill Dodge Auto Group, Five County Credit Union, and The Times Record. MSMT's premier sponsors are Highland Green, Oceanview at Falmouth, and Cumberland Crossing. Tickets are on sale and range from \$36 - \$58 and can be purchased at [www.msmt.org](http://www.msmt.org) or 207-725-8769.

## Grant to help families enroll in pandemic benefit programs

### From Preble Street

PORTLAND - In July, Preble Street received a \$95,000 Community Nutrition grant from No Kid Hungry to help enroll children and families in support programs.

The grant will help those experiencing homelessness, immigrant families, and families with children under the age of six enroll in the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) and Summer P-EBT programs.

In a time when hunger is on the rise — Feeding America estimates 1 in 5 Maine children are currently experiencing food insecurity — these programs provide families with supplemental income for food.

The plan for this outreach and enrollment project came out of a collaboration between Preble Street and fellow members of the Maine SNAP Alli-

ance, including Full Plates Full Potential, Good Shepherd Food Bank, Maine Children's Alliance, and Maine Equal Justice.

"There are about 100,000 children in Maine who are eligible to receive this benefit, and 70,000 will receive it automatically because they are already enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)," said Donna Yellen, Preble Street Deputy Director. "That means there are 30,000 children whose families need to enroll separately for the P-EBT and Summer P-EBT programs, and many of them are not even aware this benefit is available. Our goal is to reach as many of them as possible. We are so thankful to No Kid Hungry and our partners around the state for helping us make sure families with children in Maine have enough food to put on the table."

Using the grant funds, Preble Street is conducting its own outreach and enrollment in southern Maine and has subcontracted five family shelters and four YMCAs (Bangor Region YMCA, YMCA of Auburn-Lewiston, YMCA of Greater Waterville, and YMCA of Southern ME) to conduct outreach and enroll families throughout the state.

They are also providing \$10,000 to support immigrant-led organizations in enrolling immigrant and refugee families into these assistance programs — a population especially vulnerable to poverty and hunger and who are less aware of these benefits due to language and cultural barriers.

Preble Street is a nonprofit human service agency serving the most vulnerable people in Maine since 1975.

Learn more at [PrebleStreet.org](http://PrebleStreet.org)

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# Perreault, Spearen join Maine CF



Carol Perreault recently joined Maine CF as a data entry associate at the Ellsworth office. (Photo courtesy of Maine CF)

### From Maine CF

ELLSWORTH & PORTLAND – The Maine Community Foundation recently appointed Carol Perreault as data entry associate and Richard Spearen, Jr., as finance assistant.

Perreault will process gifts and maintain donor and other constituent databases.

Spearen will manage

payroll, daily deposits, and payments of expenses and grants, and assist with human resources tasks. Both will work out of the foundation's Ellsworth office.

Prior to coming to MaineCF, Perreault was office administrator and assistant registrar at Camp Beech Cliff in Mount Desert. She also previously worked for Blue Hill Memorial Hospital, AthenaHealth in Belfast, and the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor. Perreault lives in Trenton.

After graduating from the University of Maine, Spearen worked for 12 years at Hollywood Casino Bangor in the finance department. He served as treasurer for Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust in 2017. Spearen lives in Bucksport.

Headquartered in Ellsworth, with addition-



Richard Spearen, Jr., is the new finance assistant in the Ellsworth office of MaineCF. (Photo courtesy of Maine CF)

al personnel in Portland, Dover-Foxcroft, Rockport, and Mars Hill, the Maine Community Foundation works with donors and other partners to provide strong investments, personalized service, local expertise, and strategic giving to improve the quality of life for all Maine people. To learn more about the foundation, visit [www.mainecef.org](http://www.mainecef.org).

# New classes at Celebration Barn

SOUTH PARIS - Celebration Barn Theater in South Paris is offering new opportunities for local residents to come together for unique learning experiences focused on performance, movement, and equity.

**Mad Science for the Stage** – 10-11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 7 - is a class for children ages 8-12.

The class teaches young performers how to do extraordinary things with ordinary objects. Taught by Fritz Grobe, one of the "Coke and Mentos" guys whose online videos have been seen over 150 million times, students will learn from a pro who has traveled around the world performing his experiments!

The cost to register is \$25 and includes a Mad Science at Home kit.

**Celebration Barn Community Yoga** classes offer a nurturing and inspiring setting to bring more consciousness, movement, and creativity into our lives.

**Chair Yoga** is a 6-week series on Fridays, 10-11 a.m. from Aug. 13-Sept. 17, for anyone who would like to do yoga without the challenge of

getting up and down from the floor. No experience is necessary.

The cost is \$50 for the series.

**Flow Yoga** on Thursdays from 4:30-5:45 p.m. from Aug. 12 to Sept. 16 is an all-levels class and the cost is \$65 for the 6-week series.

Both yoga series include meditation, movement, and self-massage techniques to help participants align their bodies, hearts and minds to more fully engage in life off the mat.

**Embody Equity Play Tools:** Understanding Racial Emotional Labour through Intentional Play, is on Saturday, Sept. 18, from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

This workshop is led by performance artist, activist and community organizer René Goddess Johnson, and is designed to help participants understand white racial emotional labor and how it manifests itself in our bodies.

Participants will engage in intentional play to delve into conversation and interaction, and will learn thirteen tools to continue this work at home.

The cost to register

is \$45. Scholarships are available thanks to support from community partners. Those interested in scholarships should email [staff@celebrationbarn.com](mailto:staff@celebrationbarn.com) for more info.

All classes take place at Celebration Barn just off Route 117 at 190 Stock Farm Road in South Paris, Maine.

To register, visit [www.CelebrationBarn.com](http://www.CelebrationBarn.com).

Celebration Barn Theater is Maine's center for physical theater training, creation, and performance. The Barn's mission is to inspire creativity and community by harnessing the power of live performance.

Learn more at [www.CelebrationBarn.com](http://www.CelebrationBarn.com)

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# Revisiting the Puffins



Kayakers finally land on Loud's Island after five hours in their boats. (Ron Chase photo)

By Ron Chase

One of my favorite kayak adventures is visiting the puffins on Eastern Egg Rock in outer Muscongus Bay.

Each year, the colorful enigmatic seabirds arrive at the tiny barren atoll to breed and nest for a few weeks in June and July.

Traveling to Eastern Egg is an ambitious undertaking. The roundtrip from Round Pond is about sixteen miles with substantial exposure to the vicissitudes of the open sea with few opportunities to land.

For a decade, I've

organized almost annual Penobscot Paddle & Chowder Society treks to distant Eastern Egg. After receiving confirmation the puffins had arrived in mid-June, I began studying the weather and tides for safe conditions to attempt the journey. With light winds forecast and advantageous tides scheduled, June 16th appeared to be an ideal day so I announced the trip.

Unknown to me, Tropical Storm Bill was forming off the Carolinas. Two days before our planned departure, the forecast changed dramatically. Strong winds and

high seas were predicted. I postponed the trip to the 17th but the adverse conditions continued unabated. Three more postponements followed. Given conflicting obligations and a commitment to leave Maine to visit family beginning June 27th, it didn't look like Eastern Egg was going to happen this year.

One possible date remained, June 24th. The tides weren't right but the winds moderated and seas had calmed to a tolerable 2 to 4 feet. An afternoon onshore sea breeze was expected. After polling interested participants, a de-

cision was made. The trip was on!

Seven solo kayakers met at Round Pond Boat Landing early on a sunny morning. The scene was chaotic. Most of the parking spaces were taken and a large sailboat about to be launched was being repaired in the middle of the parking lot. Maneuvering around the many obstacles, Team Puffin carried boats to the water and began their quest departing south in Muscongus Sound.

Light winds continued as we passed between Ross and Haddock Islands and entered Muscongus Bay. Western Egg Rock could be observed in the distance southeast. Western Egg is a strategic location on the trip since it is the only potential landing spot between Haddock Island and Eastern Egg. Landing on Eastern Egg is prohibited.

About midway between Haddock and Western, the swells began to increase in size. I didn't bring a yardstick but my guess is we had 4 to 5 foot seas instead of the predicted 2 to 4; but the waves weren't breaking and the winds continued to be negligible. Another concern, a presumed shark approached close to one paddler before moving away. After some discussion, we concluded it was actually a sunfish. While safety concerns had been alleviated, a real shark would have made for a much more compelling story.

Another setback was encountered as we converged on Western Egg. Surf was crashing against the rocky shore. A safe landing was not possible. That meant remaining in



A kayaker enjoys a close encounter with two puffins next to Eastern Egg Rock. (Ron Chase photo)



A group of puffins pose for pictures on Eastern Egg Rock. (Ron Chase Photo)

our boats for at least four hours if we proceeded to Eastern Egg. A predominantly senior group, our inability to land was a significant concern. After a group conference, the consensus was to push on the Eastern Egg. The revised plan was to enjoy a brief stopover with the puffins while hoping a change in tide would allow us to land on Western Egg during our return.

More large swells were experienced departing Western Egg but they diminished in the open water approaching Eastern Egg. Our anticipation increased as we neared the rugged island. Another setback was endured. In the past, the vast majority of the puffins had been located on the western side of the island. Not this time; only a handful were spotted.

Since a tour boat was circumnavigating the island, we reluctantly decided to extend our trip and do the same. Our efforts were rewarded as scores of the delightful seabirds were feeding and swimming in large swells on the south side. Numerous additional

sightings were made as we persisted around the rock.

Immediately following our successful puffin encounter, we hurried northwest to Western Egg. Alas, landing was still unsafe. Attempts to disembark on Haddock or Ross Islands also failed. After about five hours in our boats, we finally found relief at Noyes Preserve on the southern end of Loud's Island.

A strong tailwind propelled us north in Muscongus Sound. Whitecaps were building as we entered Round Pond Harbor. Despite a multitude of obstacles, ours had been another successful puffin endeavor.

The author of the "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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# Junction Bowl summer league scores

## From Junction Bowl

GORHAM – The Monday night league continued last week with competition on the lanes at Junction Bowl on Railroad Avenue in Gorham.

Scores include the player handicap.

God Squad took 2 games and the weekly team series against Ice Trae with 1 game, 2316-2194.

## God Squad

Ryan Reno  
153-182-199 – 534  
Tony Valley  
213-207-183 – 603  
Jordan Bretton  
184-198-204 – 586  
Andrew Rent  
254-173-166 – 593

## Ice Trae

Trevor Loubler  
167-209-180 – 556  
Nick Strout

160-185-165 – 510

Substitute  
192-192-173 – 557  
Substitute  
194-199-178 – 571

Pocket Pounders – formerly Team 4 – prevailed over Pin Me Please in all 3 games for the weekly series, 2416-2123.

## Pocket Pounders

Myles Petrin  
223-207-209 – 639

Nathan Hopkins

202-201-178 – 581  
Robbie Plummer  
179-194-182 – 555  
Substitute  
222-203-216 – 641

## Pin Me Please

Heather Lavalley  
141-164-190 – 495  
Rick Cormier  
176-183-158 – 517  
Lindsay Duplin  
190-183-176 – 551

Substitute

150-195-214 – 560  
The Empire Strikes  
Back finished the night with all 3 games and the weekly team series against JB House Team, 2415-2088.

## The Empire Strikes Back

Alex Benner  
248-201-156 – 602  
Nick Calvert  
231-198-192 – 621

Aidan Underwood

171-180-170 – 521  
Sebastian Pettitt  
188-216-267 – 671

## JB House Team

Tom Morneau  
186-167-139 – 492  
Ryan Morneau  
144-188-201 – 533  
Jonathan Ruppel  
206-178-168 – 552  
Substitute  
186-167-139 – 492

# FEMA disburses \$3.03 billion to New England

## From FEMA

WASHINGTON, D.C. - In March, 2020, COVID-19 arrived with a devastating impact to the residents, businesses and the collective health of New England.

Thousands were left suddenly unemployed, hospitals were overwhelmed with critically ill patients, and businesses were forced to close with little notice.

FEMA partnered with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), its public health component known as Assistant Secretary for Preparedness & Response (ASPR) and multiple other federal and non-prof-

it agencies, to support a regional and national response to the novel coronavirus pandemic, also known as COVID-19.

FEMA's top priorities included shielding those most susceptible to COVID-19, decreasing community transmission, protecting those infected, preserving the healthcare system, sustaining supplies, and leading the Federal government support of state, tribal and local vaccination programs.

The total COVID-19 FEMA disbursed costs for New England states is \$3.03 billion.

In 2020, FEMA worked with each state to process requests for funding to support Crisis Coun-

seling assistance and the Lost Wages Program, that extended federal contributions for unemployment payments. FEMA awarded total grant amounts to New England states for a Crisis Counseling Program at \$14.3 Million and for lost wages at just over \$2 billion.

In April 2021, FEMA began accepting registrations for the Funeral Assistance Program. This program provides money for funeral expenses incurred by individuals who lost a loved one due to COVID-19. Total assistance to help defray the costs of funerals as of June 24 came to \$19 Million

The PA Program provides grants to state and

local governments, tribal nations and certain private non-profit entities to assist with eligible costs associated with responding to and recovering from disasters.

For COVID-19, this included reimbursement for buying medical supplies, establishing temporary medical facilities, labor costs, vaccination program costs, and for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). To date, FEMA Region 1 paid more than \$1.4 billion covering a total of 1,318 individual projects.

In response to the impacts of COVID-19, State Governors activated their National Guards to provide needed financial relief to

these states. The President issued proclamations authorizing a 100% federal cost share under Title 32 status for COVID-19-related work. These dedicated Guard members provided staff augmentation, supported feeding operations and testing sites, and delivered PPE to first responders and hospitals.

As of June 17, Region 1 obligated over \$124 million for Mission Assignments in New England.

For the first time in Region 1, four Tribal Nations – Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, Narragansett Indian Tribe and Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point – are receiving FEMA sup-

port as direct recipients or through Emergency Declarations. Three Region 1 Tribal Liaison Officers supported successful engagement with all 10 Tribal Nations in New England.

FEMA Region 1 provided more than 1.8 million meals through the Public Assistance program reimbursing eligible costs in accordance with state feeding plans.

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



# GORHAM LITTLE LEAGUE

## *Field Funding Campaign*



The Gorham Youth Baseball & Softball Association is making a large capital investment to provide updates and add fields to accommodate practice and game schedules:

- Develop 2 fields at White Rock
- Purchase seasonal fence for Shaw Park
- Repair dugouts and fencing, build storage centers
- Add infield mix and relevel current fields
- Acquire tarps and field maintenance equipment
- Add scoreboards

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Out and About

# Johnny and the Rock-its! at Schooner Estates



Carl Perry on drums, Marcel Gagne on bass guitar and vocals, and John Rice on guitar and vocals play non-stop for Schooner tenants who are ardent fans of the Rock-its! (Rachel Morin photo)

By Rachel Morin

AUBURN - Johnny and the Rock-its! played to a huge crowd in the Village Green at Schooner Estates Senior Living Community in Auburn in mid-July.

Many in the audience knew the Band from previous performances, and many knew the leader, not as Johnny, the fast-playing guitarist and singer, but as Schooner's own Director of Operations.

John was garbed in a black outfit with red accents and wore a black hat to complete his Rock-its! persona.

Well, I was taken aback!

John was good, and, truth be told, he was REALLY good! John (or is it Johnny?) played that guitar like a pro and his singing voice was great.

I settled back in my chair and enjoyed a wonderful afternoon listening to the Rock-its! as they played one popular song after another to the delight of the audience who kept time to the music, tapping their feet and swaying in

their seats.

Several women couldn't sit still and gave their own dance interpretation "on stage" for the audience. The Rock-its! also had lots of vocals along with their rollicking music. All of this brought rounds of applause from a delighted audience.

The trio continued playing one rousing selection after another without stopping and kept our feet tapping to the music. John Rice on guitar and vocals, Marcel Gagne on bass guitar and vocals, with Carl Perry on drums. The afternoon passed too quickly and soon it was time to depart with requests for them to return soon.

The next day at breaktime, John Rice came by our table where I sat with Beverley Heath and Georgette Morin enjoying our slices of blueberry cake. He thanked us for coming to see Johnny and the Rock-its!

And I couldn't help but say, "John, I saw a different side of you yesterday" and a little awe had crept into my voice. He

laughed and said "I will tell you how I and the Rock-its! came to be one day."

Little did John and I know the opportunity would come the very next day, quite by happenstance! We found an hour where we sat down and John told me the interesting and inspiring story of how the band came to be. And here is John's story, word for word, within quotes and separated in paragraphs for easier reading.

"The band formed a little over three years ago when Marcel and I started talking about music at an LA Metro Chamber event. Marcel learned that I had just bought my dream guitar and knew that I performed periodically for the tenants at Schooner."

"Being a music enthusiast and a musician who had performed for many years, Marcel suggested that maybe we could try getting together and he could join me in entertaining the Schooner tenants. I immediately took him up on it and we set a rehearsal date."

"Marcel and I start-

ed playing and we really clicked together. By the end of the night I was pretty excited and thought 'how great it would be if I could get my friend Carl to join us on drums'.

"Carl and I had played together in the past and I knew his playing and personality was just what we needed. By the next week we three were officially a group."

"We love to get together to rehearse and play shows. We do it because we enjoy the comradery music creates with fellow musicians and as a way to make a difference in our elders' lives by sharing our joy."

"We don't accept money for our shows but we get paid with smiles! Last summer we toured several senior living homes. We really felt like we were on a mission. Ev-

eryone was in a lock-down status and they needed something fun to do. Every show was outside. People were spread out across courtyards and parking lots. It's a summer we will not forget!"

John ended his story with "This year we have already booked several shows in our "Rock-its!

Senior Smiles Tour 2021" and we look forward to earning a lot more smiles!"

I came away from John's story of the Rock-its! beginning, with a new respect for John and his band comrades and their mission of caring for the seniors in their lives.

Music and Smiles are universal languages!



Marcel Gagne gives his all in "Heartbreak Hotel". (Rachel Morin photo)



Johnny and the Rock-its! warm up before the audience arrives. Marcel Gagne on bass guitar and vocals, Carl Perry on drums, and John Rice on guitar and vocals. (Rachel Morin photo)



Dell Hayes and Beverley Heath attend every musical event held at Schooner. (Rachel Morin photo)



Ron Frizzel with friends Claudette and Gerry Martel were really enjoying the Rock-its! Ron is the former owner of WLAM radio in Lewiston among several other radio stations he owned. He lives in Florida, but is currently renting in Auburn. Ron sets up and coordinates all the music and announcements for the Schooner Estates TV channel 1390 shown throughout the Schooner campus. (Rachel Morin photo)



Rock-its! fans enjoy a recent show at Schooner Estates in Auburn. (Rachel Morin photo)

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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!

**FRIDAY  
July 30**

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

GORHAM - Fraizer Preserve Trailhead – Scavenger Hunt. Join Mr. Jeff for Nature Walks throughout the summer. He will be leading these programs in different parks throughout Greater Gorham. Each one will begin at 10:30 a.m. We plan on spending 45 minutes per excursion. All ages.

Join Mr. Jeff at the Fraizer Preserve Trailhead by the High School athletic fields. We will walk up and down the trail to hunt for different colors, shapes, trees, textures, and more!

Rain date: Aug. 6-10:30 a.m.

**5-6 p.m.**

LEWISTON - "I Wish My Teacher Knew" Art Walk Reception LIVE and in-person at Lewiston Public Library, Friday, July 30 from 5-6 p.m. From a COVID school

# Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

year, Lewiston High School's Art Department presents "I Wish My Teacher Knew," a collection of digitally created and shared art work, stories, poems, and collages created by our local students.

**SATURDAY  
July 31**

**10:30 a.m.**

LEWISTON - Judy Pancoast LIVE and in-person in Kennedy Park - No reservations required. In case of rain, program will be streamed LIVE on Facebook from the library.

**MONDAY  
Aug. 2**

**9:30-9:50 a.m.**

GORHAM - Babies on the Lawn - Baxter Memorial Library. Bring your baby and a blanket to join us for an interactive, socially distanced, outdoor lap-sit program. Ms. Dani will present stories, songs, rhymes and fun for babies 0- 18 months and their caregivers. Masks will only be required when physical distancing is not possible.

Program will be canceled in the event of inclement weather.

**10 a.m.-10:30 a.m.**

GORHAM - Toddlers on the Lawn - Baxter Memorial Library. Join Ms. Dani on the lawn as she uses stories, music, and movement to present and enhance early literacy skills and foster a love of reading. Mask will only be required when physical distancing is not possible. Ages 18 months to 3 years.

Program will be canceled in the event of inclement weather.

**5:30 p.m.**

AUBURN – City Council workshop and meeting.

**6:30 p.m.**

POLAND – At Poland Spring Resort. The Poland Spring Preservation Society presents the Sunset Series of concerts. This week: Sruli Dresdner.

**7 p.m.**

GORHAM – Planning Board meeting.

**TUESDAY  
Aug. 3**

**10 a.m.-10:45 a.m.**

GORHAM – Zentangle – Baxter Memorial Library. Join Ms. Becky for Zentangle on the lawn. Zentangle is an easy-to-learn, relaxing, and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing structured patterns. All ages.

Raindate: Aug. 4 – 10 a.m.

**5:30 p.m.**

AUBURN – Age-Friendly Community Committee meeting.

**5:30-6:30 p.m.**

LEWISTON - Nature's Night-shift with The Center for Wildlife VIRTUAL On Zoom and Lives-treamed to Facebook. Learn about creatures of the night from the Center for Wildlife, a wildlife rescue and rehabilitation center located in Cape Neddick, ME. Using live animals, the Center for Wildlife will answer many of our questions about how these animals survive in the nighttime. Gather your friends and family around to get up close with their live non-releasable animal ambassadors and their fascinating nocturnal adaptations. For more information, please contact the Reference

Desk at 207-513-3135 or at [LPLReference@LewistonMaine.gov](mailto:LPLReference@LewistonMaine.gov)

**6 p.m.**

LEWISTON – City Council meeting, at City Hall, 27 Pine Street, Lewiston 1st Floor in the City Council Chambers. This Meeting and Workshop will be broadcast LIVE over Spectrum Cable TV Government Access Channel 7, streamed LIVE through the Great Falls Television web site, and streamed LIVE through the city's YouTube channel <http://www.lewistonmaine.gov/YouTube>. Archived copies of this meeting will be available immediately after broadcast on the City YouTube Channel and within a day or two after broadcast, for viewing for up to 60 days, at the Great Falls Television web site.

**6:30 p.m.**

GORHAM – Regular Town Council meeting.

**WEDNESDAY  
Aug. 4**

**4:30 p.m.**

LEWISTON – From Lewiston Public Library - An ongoing, online game night. Try a little of everything as we test out a sampling of different games throughout the summer, including Among Us, Jackbox Games, and more. Hop on Discord for a new multiplayer game every other week, June through August.

**THURSDAY  
Aug. 5**

**10:30 a.m.-Noon**

GORHAM - Art in the Park – Baxter Memorial Library. Art in the park is an opportunity to paint outside on the lawn. We provide paint, brushes, and paper; you supply the imagination. Bring your lunch to eat while your creation dries. This is a popular family activity. During outdoor program-

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ming, masks will only be required when physical distancing is not possible. All ages

Program will be canceled in the event of inclement weather.

**4 p.m.**

AUBURN – Cable TV Advisory Board meeting.

**5:30 p.m.**

AUBURN – Auburn-Lewiston Airport Board meeting.

**FRIDAY  
Aug. 6**

**8 p.m.**

LEWISTON - Stargazing in Kennedy Park LIVE and in-person - No reservations required. In case of rain, program will be streamed LIVE on Facebook from the library.

**MONDAY  
Aug. 9**

**9:30-9:50 a.m.**

GORHAM - Babies on the Lawn - Baxter Memorial Library. Bring your baby and a blanket to join us for an interactive, socially distanced, outdoor lap-sit program. Ms. Dani will present stories, songs, rhymes and fun for babies 0- 18 months and their caregivers. Masks will only be required when physical distancing is not possible.

Program will be canceled in the event of inclement weather.

**Chef**  
*Continued from page 1*

healthcare/medical and residential space. The project is being built around a 400'-wide natural stone quarry that is currently 300' deep and naturally filled with water. Rock Row is expected to attract more than six million visitors a year when complete.

Rock Row's storied past began in 1942, when Blue Rock Industries purchased a gravel pit located on the site of today's quarry.

Announced Rock Row tenants include an 80,000 sq. ft. state-of-the-art Market Basket supermarket (open), Firehouse Subs, Big Fin Poke, The Paper Store (open), Chase, Chick-fil-A, 122-room boutique Element Hotel by Westin, REI, Starbucks, LIVE NATION Maine Savings Pavilion (open) and other retail, dining, entertainment and office tenants in the second largest retail and mixed-use development in New England.

A medical and research campus, anchored by renowned New England Cancer Specialists/Dana Farber Cancer Institute, is scheduled to open in late 2023.

Waterstone Properties purchased the quarry site in 2017. The project is the first of its kind in the state.

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Book lovers and bookstores: looking for unique and eclectic books? Check out author Casey Bell: [www.authorcaseybell.com](http://www.authorcaseybell.com).

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Trip includes 9 days -14 meals - San Jose, Monteverde Cloud Forest, Lake Arsenal Cruise, Hanging Bride Walking Tour, Guided riverboat trip in a covered canoe in Arsenal, Arsenal Volcano, Guanacaste, coffee plantation and more.

## WASHINGTON, D. C. - APRIL 7 - 13, 2022

Trip includes 6 nights - 10 meals - Two guided tours of Washington D.C. memorials. Evening guided tour of Memorials and Mon-

uments, Admission to New Bible Museum, Tram ride through Arlington National Cemetery, Admission to George Washington's Mount Vernon and more.

For questions and detailed information on any of these trips, please call Claire - 207-784-0302 H - 207-576-8604 C or Cindy - 207-345-9569

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