

Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Guest Essay

A Public Health Crisis within a Public Health Crisis

By U.S. Sen. Collins

As we continue to respond to COVID-19, we must not forget another public health emergency our country faces—the opioid epidemic. Last year, 504 Mainers died from drug overdoses, a 33 percent increase from 2019. This heartbreaking record exceeded the roughly 400 deaths caused by COVID-19 in 2020 in our state.

This tragedy is unfolding across the country, and no community is immune. According to data just released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an unprecedented 93,000 Americans died from drug overdoses last year.

The skyrocketing number of overdose deaths is one reason that U.S. life expectancy recently fell by 1.5 years, the biggest drop in a generation. The opioid crisis has been exacerbated by stress and isolation caused by the pandemic. In addition, COVID created challenges in accessing prevention and treatment services and impeded recovery resources, like peer support programs.

I recently co-led a hearing on the alarming decrease in Americans’

longevity, which has been fueled by COVID and its consequences. I invited Robert MacKenzie, a 33-year veteran of law enforcement and the Chief of Police for the Kennebunk Police Department, to testify. Chief MacKenzie spoke about the impact the opioid crisis has had on his community as well as on his own family. He also discussed his impressive efforts through the Kennebunk Police Department and Rotary International to expand treatment resources and peer support groups.

Chief MacKenzie explained that one of his priorities has been to reduce the stigma surrounding opioid use in order to encourage those who are struggling with addiction to get help. In collaboration with the Kennebunk Rotarians, he has spearheaded several fundraising efforts to support recovery coaches as well as instructors who can teach school officials, law enforcement officers, and community members how to identify and assist at-risk community members. Chief MacKenzie has also partnered with local organizations to provide families with the information and resources they need to assist a loved one with sub-

stance use disorder. I have long supported a comprehensive, all-of-the-above approach to respond to the opioid crisis. Given the sharp increase in overdose deaths, it is imperative that we redouble our efforts to combat this longstanding public health emergency.

One component of that approach is addressed in bipartisan legislation I introduced that would ensure that all health care professionals who prescribe controlled substances, such as highly addictive opioids, are also equipped with the tools and training they need to prevent, identify, and treat addiction.

More than 20 million adults in the United States live with an opioid use or substance use disorder. More than half a million misuse prescription pain relievers. Yet according to a recent national survey, only one in four providers surveyed had received training on addiction during their medical education. The Medication Access and Training Expansion (MATE) Act would increase health care providers’ access to evidence-based addiction prevention and treatment knowledge, a critical component of supporting those

in need and ultimately tackling this crisis.

Another bill I have recently introduced would help hospitals hire and train more doctors in addiction medicine, addiction psychiatry, and pain management. The bipartisan Opioid Workforce Act would create 1,000 new medical residency positions specific to addiction at teaching hospitals in Maine and across the country.

Our country was already facing a shortage of physicians trained in addiction medicine, addiction psychiatry, and pain management before the pandemic began, and the ongoing public health crisis has only increased demand for treatment services. In Maine, there is only one addiction medicine program. This bill would help improve resources by expanding the number of these specialists and creating new residency programs in our state and nationwide.

As a member of the Senate Health and Appropriations Committees, I am dedicated to providing Mainers and our communities with the treatment and resources they need to tackle the opioid epidemic. We need a multipronged



U.S. Senator Susan M. Collins (R-ME) is one of Maine’s two United States Senators. She is working to address the opioid epidemic that is impacting the U.S. life expectancy. (Photo courtesy of U.S. Sen. Collins)

strategy: prevention, treatment, and recovery. I will continue to work to increase and sustain funding that goes directly to states and local communities in need as we work to change the trajectory of this crisis.

Senator Susan M. Collins (R-ME) represents Maine in the US Senate. She is the most senior Republican woman in the

Senate, and serves on the Appropriations Committee, and is the Ranking Member of the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee. She also serves on the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee; the Aging Committee; and the Intelligence Committee.

Funding to combat Maine’s opioid crisis

From US DOL

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Department of Labor announced the award of \$2,093,964 in incremental funding to the Maine Department of Labor to create jobs and provide employment

services in nine counties significantly affected by widespread opioid use, addiction and overdose.

Administered by the department’s Employment and Training Administration, the funding is part of a \$6.2 million award in February 2020. The Opioid Dis-

aster Recovery Dislocated Workers Grant to Maine will support disaster-relief employment and retraining for eligible individuals in Androscoggin, Aroostook, Cumberland, Kennebec, Oxford, Penobscot, Waldo, Washington and York counties.

The grant will provide eligible participants with disaster-relief employment in jobs addressing the impacts of the opioid crisis, including recovery coaches, licensed alcohol and drug counselors and outreach professionals. These funds may

also provide services to re-integrate workers affected by the crisis and train individuals to work in mental health treatment, addiction treatment and pain management.

Supported by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014,

Dislocated Worker Grants temporarily expand the service capacity of dislocated workers programs at the state and local levels by providing funding assistance in response to large, unexpected economic events that cause significant job losses.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

REALTORS grant \$60,000 for housing across Maine

From Maine REALTORS

AUGUSTA – The Maine Association of REALTORS® Foundation, the charitable arm of Maine Association of REALTORS®, has awarded \$60,000 through its 2021 Competitive Grant Program to six organizations to address housing needs across Maine.

The grants funded from the REALTOR® Affordable Housing Fund (RAHF) offer non-profit organizations who are helping Maine’s most vulnerable households the funding they need to provide meaningful housing solutions.

Each organization received \$10,000.

Habitat for Humanity – 7 Rivers will use their funds to purchase materials needed by skilled volunteers completing critical home repairs, weatherization projects, and accessibility modifications for homeowners in Lincoln, Sagadahoc and portions of Cumberland counties.

Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter & Services will use their funds to assist young adults 18 – 24 years old in Kennebec and Somerset counties who are homeless or are in danger of becoming homeless by providing supportive housing services through its Youth Empowerment Supports (YES) program.

New Beginnings will use their funds to address housing barriers through rental assistance and housing navigation and help young people in Androscoggin and Kennebec counties facing housing instability transition from living in a shelter to stable, independent housing.

New Hope for Women will use their funds to provide a continuum of safe haven emergency and transitional housing options to individuals at risk of experiencing homelessness due to domestic violence.

Penquis CAP will use their funds to make critical home repairs, accessibility modifications and other health and safety repairs for Penobscot, Piscataquis and Knox county family and senior homeowners in need and whose health and safety are in imminent danger.

Rural Community Action Ministry (RCAM) will use their funds to deliver home repair, accessibility modification, homeless prevention programs, and money management skills education in Central and Western Maine counties.

According to Judy Oberg, 2021 Chair of the Maine Association of REALTORS® Foundation and Broker at Oberg Insurance and Real Estate Agency in Bridgton, Maine, “Members of the Maine Association of Realtors® are well known for their ethics and expertise assisting buyers and sellers of property. They also have a rich history of advocating for affordable housing and giving back to the communities in which they live and work. This is accomplished through their financial support to non-profit organizations whose programs and services address the unmet needs of households lacking adequate housing.”

The REALTORS® Affordable Housing Fund (RAHF) was established in 1989 and is funded by interest earnings paid by financial institutions on real estate trust accounts administered by REALTOR® offices across Maine.

Since 1991, the Foundation has awarded more than \$1.3 million in Competitive Program grants to address affordable housing needs.

For more information about this program, please contact debbie@mainerealtors.com

\$6 Million for Head Start

From U.S. Sen. Collins

WASHINGTON, D.C – U.S. Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Angus King (I-ME) announced that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has awarded Community Concepts a total of \$5,962,290 for its Head Start and Early Head Start Programs.

“Head Start programs across Maine provide invaluable resources to young children and their families, helping them to develop new skills and build educational opportunities,” said Senators Collins and King in a joint statement. “Head Start providers like Community Concepts work tirelessly to make their communities stronger. We appreciate this continued federal investment in Maine’s future.”

Community Concepts is a non-profit organization based in Lewiston and South Paris that works to strengthen individuals, families, and communities in Western Maine by providing diverse programs, engaging in strategic partnerships, and promoting economic opportunities for all.

Head Start was established in 1965 to promote school readiness and provide a comprehensive array of health, nutritional, and social services to eligible four- and five-year-old preschoolers and their families.

Early Head Start services are available for eligible children newborn to three, and pregnant women.

Head Start services include early learning, health, and family well-being.

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‘Buy-Give-Get’ program returns at OSJL

From OSJL

NORTH KINGS-TOWN, RI - Ocean State Job Lot has returned with its “Buy-Give-Get” program to benefit children in need prior to the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

Any customer who buys a backpack at OSJL for \$15 and gives it back to the store as a donation to children in need, will get a \$15 Crazy Deal Gift Card to be used for a future purchase online or at any Ocean State Job Lot store.

“Last year, school-aged students in underserved communities struggled to adapt to distance learning due to a lack of resources. Now, with more and more schools returning to in-person learning in September, these students may not have access to the basic items needed for a positive educational experience,” said David Sarlitto, Executive Director, Ocean State Job Lot.

Charitable Foundation. "Our customers have answered the call to help our veterans during past 'Buy-Give-Get' promotions, and we're confident they'll do the same for local school children in need."

30,000 backpacks are available to purchase as part of the program, and will be distributed to students in need across the region in partnership with the New England Patriots Foundation and the USA Veterans Military Support Foundation.

Founded in 1977, Ocean State Job Lot is a growing, privately held discount retail chain with 146 stores in New England, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, approximately 5,600 employees, and annual sales exceeding \$800 million. Job Lot sells brand name, first quality merchandise at closeout prices. Shoppers find an ever-changing array of household goods, apparel, pet supplies, sea-

sonal products (holiday, gardening, patio, pool and beach supplies), and kitchen pantry staples at a fraction of their typical price. The company was named a “Best Midsize Employer” by Forbes Magazine and a US Best Managed Company by Deloitte.

The Ocean State Job Lot Charitable Foundation has a long history of philanthropic leadership, supporting numerous causes, including feeding the hungry, helping the homeless, assisting veterans and military families, aiding animal rescue, caring for children, advancing healthcare, supporting the arts and promoting learning. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it distributed \$15 million in PPE to school systems, hospitals and other healthcare facilities, and police and fire departments across New England and the Northeast.

Find OSJL on the web at OceanStateJobLot.com.

Guest Column

A whole in one

By Grammar Guy

We all know the difference between a “whole” and a “hole.”

Entire doughnuts and bagels have both! For most things, if they get a hole, they're not whole. This happens to me all the time with my socks (darn it!). I've always thought that "whole" milk must feel superior to other milks. It's got to be looking down its nose at the other milks: I'm the best there is — I'm whole.

Sure, this is a whole lot of “hole” talk, but right now it’s time to examine the difference between the words “holistic” and “wholistic.” Other than the “w,” what distinguishes these two words?

Let's start with definitions. Holistic is an adjective describing the whole being greater than the sum of its parts. Clear as mud? And did you catch the word "whole" in the definition? I'm already confused.

That didn't help too much, so let's check on the definition of "wholistic."

After arriving at its dictionary entry, I find a one-word definition: holistic. Thanks for clearing it up, dictionary.

Okay, perhaps we should rewind the clock to look at the origin of the words. The first usage of the word “holistic” was in the 1920s when South African statesman Jan Smuts used it in his book “Evolution and Holism.” As a side note, is “statesman” a job? If so, I’d like to know the starting salary.

The term “wholistic” actually came out of “holistic” after Mr. Smuts developed the idea of holism. In the past century, both words evolved to mean slightly different things (emphasis on “slightly”).

The words get used interchangeably, but there is a more precise distinction: the term “wholistic” gets used to underscore the totality of something — the whole thing. When someone uses “holistic” (especially in therapeutic fields), they are likely emphasizing the interaction and interdependency of the parts.

Still, other jargon juggernauts insist “wholistic” is merely a misspelling of “holistic” and do not recommend anyone use the “w” spelling. While it may have started as such, I do see a small contrast between the two (kind of like the difference between the colors ecru and mother-of-pearl). It’s subtle, but the difference is there.

To the “misspelling” crowd, I’ll throw them this bone: according to the Google Books Ngram Viewer, “holistic” gets used in published books over one hundred times more often than the word “wholistic.” It’s tough to poke holes in that theory.

As a head-scratching word duo, I think we can carve out a subtle distinction between holistic and wholistic. However, if you do decide to pick one over the other, opt for holistic.

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.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Rural Development

NextGrid Peppertree, LLC: Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), USDA

ACTION: Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the RBS, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act, is issuing an environmental assessment (EA) in connection with possible impacts related to a project proposed by NextGrid Peppertree, LLC. The proposal is for construction of a 5.665-megawatt (MW), groundmounted solar photovoltaic facility (solar farm). NextGrid Peppertree, LLC has submitted an application to the RBS for funding of the proposal.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brian Wilson, P.E., Business & Cooperative Programs Director, USDA Rural Development, 967 Illinois Avenue, Suite 4, Bangor, Maine 04401-2767, 207-990-9125, brian.wilson@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NextGrid Peppertree, LLC proposes to construct a 5.665-MW solar farm on an approximately 20-acre site which contains agricultural land and forestland. Approximately 20 acres of the project site would be disturbed as a result of the construction activities associated with this project. The Proposed Project Area would be located north of Lewiston Junction Road, near the intersection of Torrey Road and Lewiston Junction Road in the town of Poland, Androscoggin County, Maine. The Proposed Project would interconnect to the Central Maine Power (CMP) pre-existing electrical distribution system. The power generated from the facility would be sold to CMP through a long-term Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). The Proposed Project would be accessed from Lewiston Junction Road. An interior road would be constructed inside the perimeter and is anticipated to be flat and would match existing grades to minimize earth work. The Proposed Project Area would be secured by a security fence with standard gates for emergency and maintenance vehicle access.

True North Consultants, Inc., an environmental consultant, prepared an environmental assessment for RBS that describes the project, assesses the proposed project's environmental impacts, and summarizes as applicable any mitigation measures used to minimize environmental effects.

NextGrid Peppertree, LLC intends to seek financial assistance from USDA, RBS for the construction and operation of a solar farm. The Proposed Project consists of a fixed-tilt solar array installed on ground screws as supports connected to racks of solar panels. The Proposed Project Area is currently undeveloped forestland and cleared forestland.

If implemented, the Proposed Project will result in approximately 1,930 ft² of wetland fill from the construction of an access road, resulting in permanent loss. Additionally, there will be approximately 5,590 ft² of wetland vegetation (i.e., conversion of scrub-shrub wetland vegetation to emergent wetland vegetation with no grubbing required). The functions and values of the wetland areas not being grubbed or filled will be maintained as those associated with wet meadow and emergent wetlands. These wetlands will continue to provide groundwater recharge/discharge, sediment and nutrient removal, wildlife habitat and other valuable functions for the duration of the Proposed Project. Fill associated with the access road, however, will result in permanent loss of wetland function and value. In accordance with Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, and USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-3, Land Use Policy, the purpose of this notice is to inform the public of this proposed conversion or effect and request comments concerning the proposal, alternative sites or actions that would avoid these impacts, and methods that could be used to minimize these impacts.

The environmental documentation regarding this proposal is available for review at 967 Illinois Avenue, Suite 4, Bangor, Maine 04401-2767. For questions regarding this proposal, contact Brian Wilson, P.E., Business & Cooperative Programs Director, USDA Rural Development, 967 Illinois Avenue, Suite 4, Bangor, Maine 04401-2767, 207-990-9125, brian.wilson@usda.gov.

Any person interested in commenting on this proposal should submit comments to the address above by August 19, 2021.

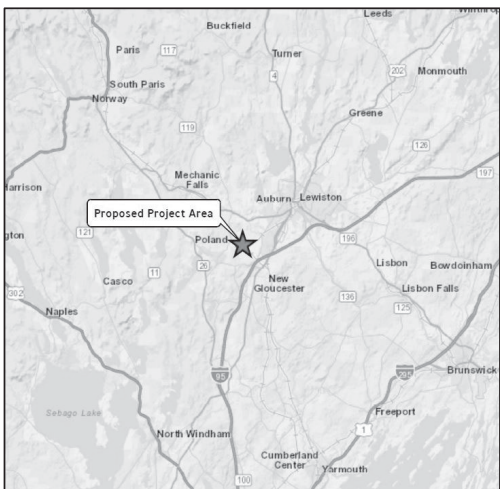
RBS has conducted an independent evaluation of the environmental assessment and believes that it accurately assesses the impacts of the proposed project. No significant impacts are expected as a result of the construction of the project.

Questions and comments should be sent to RBS at the address provided. RBS will accept questions and comments on the environmental assessment for 14 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Any final action by RBS related to the proposed project will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with all relevant Federal environmental laws and regulations and completion of environmental review procedures as prescribed by 7 CFR Part 1970, Environmental Policies and Procedures.

A general location map of the proposal is shown.

Dated: August 5, 2021.



Maine promotes COVID-19 vaccination in schools

From ME DHHS

AUGUSTA— The Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in partnership with the Maine Department of Education (DOE) announced today a comprehensive plan to support vaccination of school staff and students against COVID-19.

This plan advances Maine’s nation-leading vaccination rate and complements the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)’s new recommendation on universal masking in schools by helping students and staff safely gather in per-

son and in classrooms amidst the nationwide surge of the Delta variant.

The Maine school COVID-19 vaccination plan consists of three parts: Supporting schools in launching free vaccine clinics: Maine CDC will connect interested schools with Maine’s hospitals, doctors, public health nurses, and other vaccinators, using an online survey and application, to support vaccine clinics. While free vaccine is widely available in various settings across Maine, school-based clinics provide a convenient, accessible option for school community mem-

bers.

P r o m o t i n g COVID-19 vaccine education: Tomorrow, the Departments will host a webinar for school leaders, led by Maine CDC Director Nirav Shah, and will distribute letters for school administrators, parents / guardians, and school and community health care providers on COVID-19 vaccination.

Collecting and posting school vaccination rates: Maine DHHS will begin collecting school staff vaccination rates monthly starting on September 1 and will publicly post the school rates mid-month. This will resemble the Maine

Health Care Worker COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard which DHHS launched in June and provides monthly reports on every hospital and long-term care facility. The reporting will include fully vaccinated staff at preK-12 public schools and charter schools, private schools, and career and technical schools.

“Keeping children safe and healthy is critical to their ability to learn, grow, and thrive,” said DHHS Commissioner Jeanne Lambrew. “By supporting schools in offering vaccination clinics, helping communities understand the benefits of these safe and effective

vaccines, and equipping school leaders with information to make the best decisions for their communities, we can limit the spread of COVID-19.”

“Maine school staff and leaders have risen to every challenge presented by the dynamic pandemic that continues to proliferate among unvaccinated people,” said DOE Commissioner Pender Makin. “Maine Department of Education and our partners at Maine DHHS and Maine CDC will continue to provide support and resources for the field.”

Maine continues to demonstrate nation-leading progress in administering vaccinations and

containing the spread of COVID-19. More than 63 percent of Maine’s population is fully vaccinated and 68 percent has received at least one dose, according to the U.S. CDC vaccination tracker. State-wide, 48 percent of percent of youth ages 12 to 19 have been fully vaccinated, with 52 percent having had a first dose. No vaccine is yet authorized for children under age 12.

COVID-19 vaccine remains widely available across the state. To find a vaccination location, go to maine.gov/covid19/vaccines/vaccination-sites or call the Community Vaccination Line at 1-888-445-4111.

Guest Essay

Struggling with depression and anxiety

By Stan Popovich

Do you ever wonder if somebody you know may be struggling with depression and anxiety, but you are not sure? If so, here are some things to look for when someone you know may be having a difficult time with their mental health.

- Trouble sleeping or sleeping too much
- Feeling sad and depressed on a regular basis
- Trouble concentrating
- Change in eating habits
- Talks of suicide
- Loss of interest and social withdrawal
- Lack of energy and persistent tiredness
- Feelings of guilt and regret
- Changes in their appearance and behaviors
- Increased use of drugs and alcohol
- Easily agitated and

always irritable

- They seem out of touch of what is going on around them
- Their physical health starts to go down hill
- Frequent mood changes
- Excessive fears, worries, and anxieties

One or two of these symptoms alone can’t predict a mental illness but may indicate a need for further evaluation. If you think something is going on with someone you know or care about, then try to talk to them and encourage them to seek some kind of help if they need it.

Here are five tips on how you can convince the person you know to get help for their fears and anxieties –

1. Talk to the per-

son instead of talking at them: Nobody wants to be lectured or yelled at. The person who is struggling is scared and they need some encouragement in overcoming their fears and resistance to getting any assistance. Treat the person the way you would want to be treated if the roles were reversed.

2. Find out why the person won’t get help: Ask the person who is struggling to list the main reasons why they will not get assistance. It might take a few tries, but try to find out what is stopping the person from getting treatment for their mental health problems. Fear and frustration are huge factors for not getting help.
3. Address the fears that the person may have: Once you get the reasons why the person

is hesitant to solve their problems, the next step is to find the ways to help address the concerns the individual may have. Addressing one’s fears and concerns may convince the person to take some action that will get their life back on track.

4. You can’t manage your mental health all by yourself: A person’s anxieties and other mental

health issues can be difficult to manage and more than likely he or she will need some guidance. Remind the person that going it alone or making excuses will only make things worse.

5. Offer to go with them: It can be very scary for the person to seek the services of a counselor for the first time. The fear of the unknown can be very

intimidating. Offer to go with the person as they start the process of getting treatment.

Stan Popovich is the author of the popular managing fear book, “A Layman’s Guide to Managing Fear”. For more information about Stan’s book and to get some free mental health advice, please visit Stan’s website at <http://www.managingfear.com>

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Arts & Entertainment

New artistic director at Maine Music Society



Dr. Richard “Rick” Nickerson has joined the Maine Music Society as its new Artistic Director. (Photo courtesy of MMS)

From MMS

LEWISTON - The Maine Music Society recently announced the appointment of Dr. Richard Nickerson as its new Artistic Director.

Dr. Nickerson, or “Rick” as he prefers to be called, is planning a variety of stirring performances for the 2021-22 concert season.

Rick presently serves as Director of Choral Activities at Windham High School in Windham, a position he has held for 34 years. He is a highly-qualified musician with degrees in choral conducting as well as experience in orchestral conducting.

A frequent guest conductor and clinician, he has made numerous guest

appearances in the United States, Canada and Europe. He served as the Artistic Director of the Boy Singers of Maine from 2001-2009 and as Chorus Conductor for the “Magic of Christmas” with the Portland Symphony Orchestra from 2007-2014. His choirs have performed for many dignitaries, including 3 U.S. Presidents.

Dr. Nickerson has received numerous awards, including Maine Music Educator of the Year, Maine Distinguished Choral Director of the Year and runner up for Maine Teacher of the Year. In January 2009, he was recognized by Choral Director magazine as one of its “Choral Directors of Note”. In December 2016, he was named as a Top-10 final-

ist for the Music Educator Grammy Award. He has held many professional offices including 2 terms as President of the Maine chapter of the American Choral Directors Association.

Dr. Nickerson and his wife, Linda, live in Windham and have four grown children.

His opening concert will be “A Season of Celebration”, to be performed on Dec. 11 and 12 at the Gendron Franco Center.

The Maine Music Society has performed in venues all around Central Maine, and has recently found a home base at the Gendron Franco Center in Lewiston. This beautifully-renovated space, formerly St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Church, pro-

vides a venue that is both rewarding for performers and comfortable for audience members.

For more information visit www.mainemusicociety.org

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Brunswick Outdoor Arts Festival Returns in August

From Brunswick Down-town Assoc.

BRUNSWICK - The 15th Annual Brunswick Outdoor Arts Festival will transform Downtown Brunswick into an outdoor fine art show on Saturday, Aug. 21.

The festival is hosted by the Brunswick Down-town Association and is designed to celebrate and fos-

ter an appreciation of the arts and culture to residents and visitors. It is a wonderful day of art, music, and fun in downtown Brunswick!

This juried, fine arts show showcases a variety of artists who will display and sell their work along the sidewalks of Maine Street. The Brunswick Outdoor Arts Festival features recognized artists, as well

as emerging creators, working in an array of mediums from jewelry, fiber, ceramics, photography, painting, and mixed media.

Artisans will display and demonstrate their work for the public on the Town Mall (green). Art demonstrations will include blacksmithing, weaving, and woodturning. Hands-on science activities along with take-away art kits

from Arts are Elementary, hands-on science projects, face painting, glitter tattoos, and more. The festival is free to attend.

The Brunswick Outdoor Arts Festival features live music performances on the main stage located in front of Bank of America.

Featured Music includes Jimmy Jo and the Jumbol'Ayuh (Cajun),

Backwoods Road (Bluegrass) and Honest Millie (Swing & Jazz with Liza Constable). A variety of roving musicians will perform throughout the festival playing Bluegrass, Blues, Irish, Folk, and Americana music - from Noon to 5:00 p.m.

For more information on the Brunswick Outdoor Arts Festival, call (207) 729-4439 or visit www.brunswickoutdoorartsfest.com

for a complete list of artists, entertainers, stage schedules, interactive art activities and more.

Bowdoin College is the presenting sponsor for the festival. Other sponsors include Ray Labbe & Sons, Inc; Bangor Savings Bank; ReMAXX Riverside; Five County Credit Union; and media sponsor The Times Record.

Earn-A-Bike program launched in Bangor

From BCM

ORONO - The Bicycle Coalition of Maine, Orono Brewing Company, and the Maine Discovery Museum are teaming up to bring an Earn-A-Bike program to the Bangor region, and they're kicking it off with a unique fundraiser ride.

Dubbed "One Bike Can...", the fundraiser will feature Orono Brewing Company (OBC) co-founder Abe Furth riding his mountain bike from Maine to Washington, D.C. in October in an effort to get

bikes into the hands of people who can't afford them.

"As an avid cyclist and believer in the benefits of bicycling for exercise, recreation, and transportation, I want to share these benefits with people who wouldn't otherwise have access," Furth said.

Funds raised will go directly to the launch of the new program, which is based on the highly successful "Bikes for All Mainers" earn-a-bike program that the Bicycle Coalition of Maine helped launch in Portland in 2014, and continues to support.

Some fundraising dollars will also ensure the continued success of the Portland program, which continues to expand every year, but still garners a lengthy waitlist.

"This is an exciting opportunity for us to partner with both Orono Brewing and the Maine Discovery Museum to bring this popular program to Mainers in the Bangor region," said Bicycle Coalition of Maine Executive Director Jean Sideris.

The earn-a-bike program will teach basic bike mechanic skills and traffic

safety skills, and provides graduating students with a fully refurbished bicycle and new helmet, lock, safety lights, and at-home repair kit.

"For many participants, their new bicycles will also be their main form of transportation," Furth says. "Or their new bicycles will simply become a source of recreation and fun!"

Originally called "Bikes for New Mainers," with the program geared toward immigrants and refugees, it was opened up to all Mainers in 2016, and

the name was changed to "Bikes for All Mainers." That same year, the Bikes for All Mainers operations were handed over to the Portland Gear Hub, who has continued to evolve the program to meet the specific needs of the audience in Portland. To date, the Bikes for All Mainers program has served hundreds of students in the greater Portland area.

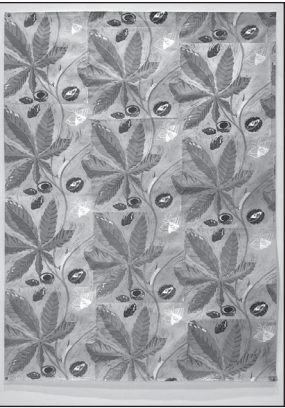
Interested supporters can visit [http://bit.ly.ws/FAUK](http://bit.ly/ws/FAUK) for more info and to donate, or they can mail checks to the Bicycle Coalition of Maine at 38

Diamond Street, Portland, ME 04101 with "One Bike Can..." in the memo line.

The Bicycle Coalition of Maine is the statewide voice of cyclists and pedestrians. Since 1992, the BCM has led the effort to make Maine better for bicycling and walking by protecting the rights and safety of cyclists and pedestrians through education, advocacy, legislation, and encouragement. We support biking and walking for health, transportation, and recreation.

For more information, visit bikemaine.org.

‘Taproots’ in CCAC Art Gallery



A painting of Horse Chestnut With Tussock Moth by Rebecca Goodale at CCAC. (Image courtesy of CCAC)

From CCAC

BATH - The Chocolate Church Arts Center gallery will feature artists Rebecca Goodale and Christopher Patch in a show titled "Taproots", with an opening event at CCAC at 5 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 13.

The arts center is located at 804 Washington Street in Bath. Light refreshments will be served. The event is free to attend, but guests are asked to register in advance. Registration and more information can be found at chocolatechurcharts.org.

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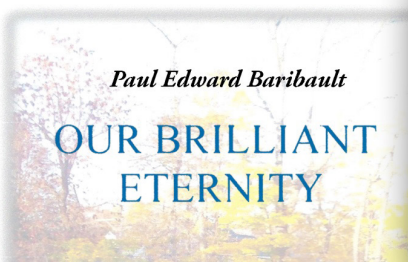
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Maine comedian Tuck Tucker will keep the audience in stitches tonight with his verbal wit and physical comedy in a show at the Franco Center in Lewiston. (Photo courtesy of Franco Center)

Comedy

Continued from page 1

Strand Cup Comedy Competition and regularly performs throughout New England. She has appeared at Improv Boston, Comix at Mohegan Sun, and the International Lady Laughs Festival.

Admission is \$10 and tickets can be purchased at

<http://bitly.ws/fRmR> or at the door. The Franco Center is handicap accessible. Parking is included in the price of the ticket. All proceeds to benefit the Franco Center.

For more information, contact the Box Office at (207) 783.1585 or visit www.francocenter.org.

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Fontaine’s Virtual Auction Raises Over \$20,000



Emersyn Rowles of Lewiston received a \$10,000 donation from the Bid for Wishes Virtual Auction this summer, hosted by Fontaine Family – The Real Estate Leader. (Photo courtesy of Fontaine Family)

From Fontaine Family

AUBURN - Fontaine Family - The Real Estate Leader’s Bid for Wishes Virtual Auction raised over \$20,000 this summer for a Maine Wish child.

The auction was created back in the summer of 2014 as a virtual fundraiser Facebook event.

Fontaine Team has been involved with fundraising for Make-A-Wish Maine since 2009. At that time, they were participating in the Walk for Wishes. The first year of their Bid for Wishes auction consisted of just a handful of agents but managed to

collect 50 items, had 30 attend and raised a little over \$900.

Eight years later and their 7th annual Bid for Wishes auction collected 282 items, had 299 attendees, and raised over \$20,000. The 2020 auction was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Half of the funds raised this year went to Lewiston resident Emersyn Rowles and half to Make-A-Wish Maine.

The Fontaine Family said it thanks the local businesses for all the donations, Fontaine Team members who took the time out of their busy days to re-

quest donations and collect auction items, and also all those who bid on the items for making this event such a huge success.

Anyone who would like to donate an item for the 8th Annual Fontaine Bid for Wishes scheduled for June 2022 should contact crystal@fontaineteam.com.

Fontaine Family – The Real Estate Leader is a highly skilled real estate team of licensed professionals dedicated to focusing on the client. Fontaine was awarded 2019 Maine Family-Owned Business of the Year, voted Best Real Estate Company in the Greater Lewiston/Auburn Area and Greater

Portland Area, recognized by Real Trends as America’s Top 250 Real Estate Team and published in the Wall Street Journal in the Top 250 Real Estate Professionals ranking in the top ½ of 1% of Realtors outperforming 99.9% of the nation’s Realtors.

The Fontaine Family Team serves 8 counties – Androscoggin, Cumberland, York, Sagadahoc, Oxford, Kennebec, Franklin and Somerset – in two locations, 336 Center Street in Auburn and 432 US Route One in Scarborough.

For more information visit BrendaFontaine.com or call (207)784-3800 or (207)289-3830.



Members of the Fontaine Family – the Real Estate Leader donated \$10,000 to Make-A-Wish from their annual Bid for Wishes Virtual Auction over the summer. (Photo courtesy of Fontaine Family)

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Improv troupe at Craft Brew on Friday



Underground Improv, an improv troupe made up of Dawn Hartill, Nate White, Leonard Kimble, Julie Poulin, Nic Du-fault, and Greg Lambert, will be at Craft Brew for a show on Friday evening. (Photo courtesy of Craft Brew)

From Craft Brew some of Maine’s funniest comedians, will perform a night of improv comedy on Friday, August 6 at 8

ELHS grad fights racism With computers for immigrants

AUBURN - Edward Little High School (ELHS) in Auburn, Maine was recently at the center of a Boston Globe Magazine report highlighting racial incidents in which Muslim immigrant students were targeted.

This racially motivated bullying was captured in videos where immigrant students were taunted and harassed. The recordings were made by immigrant students and several parents, all of whom say the racism had gone unchecked by school officials as tensions festered within the 1,000-person student body.

The report focused on ELHS as a glaring example of how racial tensions have become most severe across the nation at historically white high schools that are becoming less white due to rapid changes in student demographics.

The report was heart-breaking to Stephen Whalen, who graduated from Edward Little High School

in 1988. He is the managing partner at City Realty Group in Boston and a current resident of Cape Elizabeth, Maine.

His firm is a community-focused real estate firm that proudly employs many immigrants, from high-level executives to entry level workers and interns. Steve is also passionate about giving back and helping people from underserved communities in Boston and beyond.

Last Friday, Whalen returned to his old high school to donate brand new Chromebooks to every immigrant student in the ELHS Senior Class.

Whalen is a passionate advocate for immigrants and all people from underserved communities. He and fellow CRG Managing Partner Fred Starikov founded a nonprofit, City Kids, to provide Boston’s inner city children with educational resources to help them thrive at school.

Whalen reached out to ELHS and to the immi-

p.m. at Craft Brew Underground, 34 Court Street, Auburn.

This month’s show features Dawn Hartill, Nate White, Leonard Kimble, Julie Poulin, Nic Du-fault, and Greg Lambert.

No two shows are ever alike. The show content is made up completely on the spot and is based entirely on suggestions from the audience. Each show promises a night of unpredictable laughs and great craft beer.

Admission is \$8 and tickets can be purchased at <http://bitly.ws/fRm8>.

For more information, visit Underground Improv on Facebook or call CBU at (207) 241-8520.

grant advocacy organization, Maine Community Integration, and made arrangements to provide this donation to these students and to send a message that there is no place for hate anywhere.

At ELHS, the number of students of color has grown fivefold during the last two decades, largely due to immigrants from Somalia, Iraq, and other countries. Still, students of color make up only 14 percent of the student body. Meanwhile, the faculty is nearly monochromatic: Only one of almost 80 teachers is nonwhite.

Maine Community Integration is a nonprofit organization promoting support and understanding of the immigrant communities and their various cultures, through enhancing and improving the opportunities of the communities to better integrate in the American culture through education, advocacy, and social change empowerment.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Rural Development

NextGrid Mangrove, LLC: Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), USDA

ACTION: Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the RBS, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act, is issuing an environmental assessment (EA) in connection with possible impacts related to a project proposed by NextGrid Mangrove, LLC. The proposal is for construction of a 5.55-megawatt (MW), groundmounted solar photovoltaic facility (solar farm). NextGrid Mangrove, LLC has submitted an application to the RBS for funding of the proposal.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brian Wilson, P.E., Business & Cooperative Programs Director, USDA Rural Development, 967 Illinois Avenue, Suite 4, Bangor, Maine 04401-2767, 207-990-9125, brian.wilson@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NextGrid Mangrove, LLC proposes to construct a 5.55-MW solar farm on an approximately 213-acre site which contains agricultural land and forestland. Approximately 20 acres of the project site would be disturbed as a result of the construction activities associated with this project. The Proposed Project Area would be located west of Main Street near the intersection of Main Street and Merrill Road in the city of Lewiston, Androscoggin County, Maine. The Proposed Project would interconnect to the Central Maine Power (CMP) pre-existing electrical distribution system. The power generated from the facility would be sold to CMP through a long-term Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). The Proposed Project would be accessed from Merrill Road. An interior road would be constructed inside the perimeter and is anticipated to be flat and would match existing grades to minimize earth work. The Proposed Project Area would be secured by a security fence with standard gates for emergency and maintenance vehicle access.

True North Consultants, Inc., an environmental consultant, prepared an environmental assessment for RBS that describes the project, assesses the proposed project’s environmental impacts, and summarizes as applicable any mitigation measures used to minimize environmental effects.

NextGrid Mangrove, LLC intends to seek financial assistance from USDA, RBS for the construction and operation of a solar farm. The Proposed Project consists of a fixed-tilt solar array installed on ground screws as supports connected to racks of solar panels. The Proposed Project Area is currently undeveloped forestland previously used as pastureland.

If implemented, the Proposed Project will convert approximately 2,717 ft2 of wetland fill from the construction of an access road (permanent loss) and from clearing and grubbing of forested wetland (these wetlands will not be permanently lost and will be maintained as emergent wetland vegetation). Additionally, there will be approximately 754 ft2 of wetland vegetation removal (i.e., conversion of scrub-shrub wetland vegetation to emergent wetland vegetation with no grubbing required). All wetland impact areas, whether conversion or grubbed/fill areas, will be maintained as low growing wet meadow and/or emergent cover types by means of hand trimming or periodic mowing (no more than two times per year) during operations and maintenance in order to keep vegetation from shading the solar array. These wetlands will continue to provide groundwater recharge/discharge, sediment and nutrient removal, wildlife habitat and other valuable functions for the duration of the Proposed Project. Fill associated with the access road, however, will result in permanent loss of wetland function and value. In accordance with Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, and USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-3, Land Use Policy, the purpose of this notice is to inform the public of this proposed conversion or effect and request comments concerning the proposal, alternative sites or actions that would avoid these impacts, and methods that could be used to minimize these impacts.

The environmental documentation regarding this proposal is available for review at 967 Illinois Avenue, Suite 4, Bangor, Maine 04401-2767. For questions regarding this proposal, contact Brian Wilson, P.E., Business & Cooperative Programs Director, USDA Rural Development, 967 Illinois Avenue, Suite 4, Bangor, Maine 04401-2767, 207-990-9125, brian.wilson@usda.gov.

Any person interested in commenting on this proposal should submit comments to the address above by August 12, 2021.

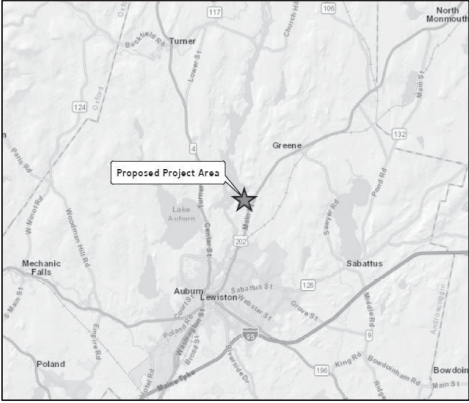
RBS has conducted an independent evaluation of the environmental assessment and believes that it accurately assesses the impacts of the proposed project. No significant impacts are expected as a result of the construction of the project.

Questions and comments should be sent to RBS at the address provided. RBS will accept questions and comments on the environmental assessment for 14 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Any final action by RBS related to the proposed project will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with all relevant Federal environmental laws and regulations and completion of environmental review procedures as prescribed by 7 CFR Part 1970, Environmental Policies and Procedures.

A general location map of the proposal is shown.

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‘The Ugly Duckling’ coming to Franco Center

From Franco Center

LEWISTON – A version of the classic tale of “The Ugly Duckling” will be presented on stage at the Gendron Franco Center on Aug. 14.

Presented by New York City’s Royal Family, this premiere performance re-imagines Hans Christian Andersen’s classic tale as a stunning visual story that reminds us all to seek out our inner beauty.

Born different than the other hatchlings, the ugly duckling is ridiculed by his brothers and sisters, rejected by the other ducks, and eventually shunned by the entire barnyard. The little bird leaves home, embarking on a journey through hecklers and hunters, only to discover that true beauty comes from within.

Tickets are \$10 for the show, which begins at 6 p.m. at the Franco Center at 46 Cedar St in Lewiston.

Please purchase tickets in advance by visiting <http://bitly.ws/fRsi>

Following COVID Protection guidelines, the audience is required to wear masks throughout the performance

The story by Hans Christian Andersen was adapted by Chris Henry, a native of Winthrop, ME. There is additional writing by Indijhan Richard and Lily Ventura.

The Ugly Duckling will star Indijhan Richard and Lily Ventura with Erica Maria Misilo and Emily Anne Davis. The creative team includes original music by Lars Jacobsen, lighting by Joseph Strout, sound design by Andrew Davis, video design by Efra Berra with a production team including Ann Fairchild and Danny Gay.

Indijhan “Indie” Richard is a 15-year-old actor, singer, and dancer based in New York City. Recent credits include Romeo & Juliet (Mercutio) and Guys & Dolls (Sky Masterson).

Lily Ventura is a 16 year old artist born and raised in NYC. Her most recent credits include playing Marmee in Kidz Theaters adaptation of “Little Women” and playing Mia in The Dwight Schools adaptation of “la la land”.

Erica Maria Misilo is a Massachusetts native, where she has been on faculty at Paula Meola Dance & Performing Arts as their contemporary/lyrical teacher and choreographer for their award-winning com-

petition team for the past seven years. She is now a New York City based dancer pursuing musical theater.

Emily Anne Davis started dancing at the age of four with local Southern California dance studios. She studied and competed in multiple dance techniques while growing up, enabling her to continue dance training into college at the University of California, Irvine. In college, Emily performed for many dance troupes and choreographers throughout Southern California, both affiliated with her university and professionally.

ROYAL FAMILY’s mission is to galvanize the Times Square community by cultivating raw talent, collaborating with seasoned artists, and inspiring audiences with a diversity of lion-hearted theatre. Royal Family celebrates the work of female artists, playwrights of color, works with LGBTQIA themes, and artists of all ages and body types.

Royal Family was established in 2007 by Katie Avebe, Mary Bernardi, Chris Henry and Andy Theodorou as a home for artists wishing to challenge and transform the traditional theatre canon.

Mission Working Dogs at Auburn Library Aug. 11

From Auburn Library

AUBURN - Handlers and dogs from Mission Working Dogs will be at the Auburn Public Library the afternoon of Wednesday, Aug. 11, to talk about their service dog and therapy dog program.

The program was created by Christy Gardner, who has been training service dogs and therapy dogs for the past nine years but wanted to grow that dream to help more Mainers in need. Mission Working Dogs was founded in July 2020 as a local non-profit to do just that. The organization serves to train service dogs and therapy dogs for the local community and has cleared land to build a new training center this fall.

Come meet Christy, their dogs and handlers to learn more about this amazing program!

Christina “Christy” Gardner is a 39-year-old retired Army veteran from Lewiston. She was injured overseas in 2006 and spent nearly five years rehabbing before she was finally able to live on her own again.

She was able to start participating in adaptive sports, thanks to her Service Dog, Moxie. She’s now an assistant captain of the US Women’s Para Ice Hockey Team as well as an alternate for Tokyo 2020 in shot put and discus. She also represented the USA

at the Para Surfing World Championships in 2020.

This will be an in-person program. It is family friendly, and will take place in the Androscoggin Community Room. For our planning purposes, registration is required; to register, visit the Events calendar on our website -- www.auburnpubliclibrary.org; contact the Reference Desk at 207-333-6640, ext. 4; or email dwallace@auburnpubliclibrary.org.

This program is part of our Adult Summer Reading Program, “Tales with Tails” during which we have been reading, learning, and talking about summer, nature and animals – both wild and domestic! Our next, and final, program in our summer series will feature wildlife rehabilitation with Auburn’s own Misfits Rehab. For more information about this and other upcoming programs visit our website or contact us, as above.



Christy Gardner of Lewiston created Mission Working Dogs in 2020 to train service dogs and therapy dogs for the local community. She will be at Auburn Library on Aug. 11, along with other handlers and dogs, to talk about her program. (Photo courtesy of Auburn Library)

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Vacation Bible School at Court Street

From Court St. Baptist

AUBURN - Vacation Bible School will be hosted at Court Street Baptist Church in Auburn next week.

Sessions will be 6-7:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

The bible school is presented by Child Evangelism Fellowship of Southern Maine, with a theme of “Discovering Jesus!”

Refreshments will be served. Crafts will be offered if time allows.

All participants will be required to wear a mask during every session.

This is for children ages 7 to 12. Interested families can register their child or children by calling the church office at 784-6661.

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Free valet bicycle parking at Thompson’s Point Concerts



The Bicycle Coalition of Maine is again providing bicycle parking valet service at Thompson’s Point Concerts this summer. (Photo courtesy of BCM)

From BCM

PORTLAND - Bicycle-riding music fans will be able to safely park their bikes for free at all of the Thompson’s Point concerts in 2021, the Bicycle Coalition of Maine announced in a joint statement with Sierra Nevada Brewing Co. on Wednesday.

“We’re really excited to be partnering with the BCM to bring this free service back to the State Theater Summer Concert Series at Thompson’s Point,” said Sierra Nevada Brewing Co. Field Marketing Manager Patrick Hazlett. “We previously tested this concept in 2019 and the response was overwhelmingly positive.”

The name “valet bike parking” may be new to some, but the concept is simple. Concert attendees can ride their bikes to Thompson’s Point for any concert, drop off their bicycle with BCM staff and volunteers near the entrance, receive a wristband that matches one put on their bike, and enjoy the show worry-free.

The bikes will be stored on racks in a secure area, and when the show is over, attendees can return to the valet bike parking tent and have their bike brought to them.

This initiative is part of the BCM’s commitment to encouraging active transportation, the Coalition says.

“Leave your lock at home and your bike with us,” said BCM Mission Advancement Director Mariah Healy. “We’re offering this service in an effort to get more Mainers on bikes and also save them the hassle of looking for a place to park their car or lock their bike.”

Valet bike parking was to make its 2021 debut at the Nathaniel Rateliff & the Night Sweats’ sold-out show last Friday, and will continue for every summer show, culminating with the Dirty Heads and Sublime with Rome concert on Tuesday, Sept. 21.

Martin’s Point Health Care is also a sponsor of the valet bike parking program.

Interim City Administrator for Lewiston

From City of Lewiston

LEWISTON - Heather A. Hunter was sworn in as Lewiston’s Interim City Administrator last week by City Clerk Kathy Montejo.

Highly respected as Lewiston’s Finance Director, Hunter comes to the helm with Chief of Police Brian O’Malley also sworn in as Deputy City Administrator. The two are serving in those capacities following the recent departures of Denis D’Auteuil and Dale Doughty, respectively. Also at the morning’s swearing in ceremony was Assistant Finance Director Ralph Lenfestey who was sworn in as Interim Finance Director and Lewiston Police Lieutenant David St. Pierre who was sworn in as Interim Chief of Police.

Mayor Mark Cayer said, “The City of Lewiston continues to be in good hands with the leadership of Heather and Brian. Both bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the table, and I’m confident that municipal operations will continue to run smoothly. As changes occur, new opportunities arise, and this new team is ready to lead us in our continued commitment to growth and development.”

Hunter has been with the City since 1989, serving as Deputy City Auditor, Deputy Finance Director/City Auditor, and then Finance Director/Treasurer. She also served as an instructor at Central Maine Community College, Auburn, from 1991–

2020.

She has an M.A. in Business Administration from New Hampshire College, Brunswick, and a B.S. in Accounting – Concentration in Finance from the University of Southern Maine, Portland.

Hunter also has extensive municipal/community involvement, serving on various commissions and associations in the greater-Lewiston area.

The interim team will remain in effect until the



Lewiston City Clerk Kathy Montejo swears in Heather A. Hunter as Lewiston’s Interim City Administrator at the town hall last week. (Photo courtesy of City of Lewiston)

City of Lewiston decides on permanent replacements.

The City Administrator’s position has been posted since June 16, with an application deadline of August 17.

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— George Smith, Bangor Daily News

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Rural Development

NextGrid Cliffrose, LLC: Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Rural-Business Service (RBS), USDA

ACTION: Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact.

SUMMARY: The RBS has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to a request for possible financing assistance to NextGrid Cliffrose, LLC for the construction of the Lisbon Road Solar Project in Androscoggin County, Maine.

FURTHER INFORMATION: To obtain copies of the EA and FONSI, or for further information, contact: Brian Wilson, P.E., Business & Cooperative Programs Director, USDA Rural Development, 967 Illinois Avenue, Suite 4, Bangor, Maine 04401-2767, 207-990-9125, brian.wilson@usda.gov. The EA and FONSI are also available for public review at 967 Illinois Avenue, Suite 4, Bangor, Maine 04401-2767, 207-990-9125.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed project consists of construction of a 2.49-mw solar farm on an approximately 13-acre site which contains cleared and forested areas. Approximately 10 acres of the project site would be disturbed as a result of the construction activities associated with this project. The Proposed Project Area would be located on the north side of Lisbon Road, near the intersection of Lisbon Road and South Lisbon Road in the city of Lewiston, Androscoggin County, Maine. The Proposed Project would interconnect to the Central Maine Power (CMP) pre-existing electrical distribution system. The power generated from the facility would be sold to CMP through a long-term Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). The Proposed Project would be accessed from Lisbon Road. An interior road would be constructed inside the perimeter and is anticipated to be flat and would match existing grades to minimize earth work. The Proposed Project Area would be secured by a security fence with standard gates for emergency and maintenance vehicle access. Alternatives considered by RBS and NextGrid Cliffrose, LLC include: No action; under the Action Alternative, RBS would consider financing the proposed Project. The alternatives are discussed in the Lisbon Road Solar EA. The RBS has reviewed and approved the EA for the proposed project.

The availability of the EA for public review was announced via notice in the following newspaper(s): The Twin City Times, Androscoggin County, Maine on July 1, 2021, and July 8, 2021. A 14-day comment period was announced in the newspaper notice(s). The EA was also available for public review at the USDA Rural Development office as well as NextGrid Cliffrose, LLC offices. No comments were received.

Based on its EA, commitments made by NextGrid Cliffrose, LLC, and public comments received, RBS has concluded that the project would have no significant impact (or no impacts) to water quality, floodplains, land use, aesthetics, transportation, or human health and safety.

RBS has assessed the environmental impacts of this proposal and determined that the location of the Lisbon Road Solar Project will convert approximately 1,682 ft2 of permanent wetland fill through grubbing for the construction of security fencing and the access road. Additionally, there will be approximately 2,261 ft2 of scrub shrub wetland conversion to wet meadow wetlands through vegetation clearing for panel shade reduction. Erosion and sedimentation controls will be installed prior to construction and maintained through project completion. It has been determined that there is no practicable alternative to avoiding this conversion of effect and that there is a significant need for the project. The basis of this determination is the lack of suitable alternative project areas, the mitigation efforted determined by the landowner as well as NextGrid Cliffrose, LLC, and the regional need for an affordable, reliable, and consistent supply of renewable electric power at competitive rates. No public comments were received regarding the conversion of wetlands.

The proposed project will have no adverse effect on resources listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Agency has also concluded that the proposed project is not likely to affect federally listed threatened and endangered species or designated critical habitat thereof. The proposed project would not disproportionately affect minority and/or low-income populations.

No other potential significant impacts resulting from the proposed project have been identified. Therefore, RBS has determined that this FONSI fulfills its obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR §§ 1500- 1508), and USDA Rural Development’s Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR Part 1970) for its action related to the project.

RBS is satisfied that the environmental impacts of the proposed project have been adequately addressed. RBS’s federal action would not result in significant impacts to the quality of the human environment, and as such it will not prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for its action related to the proposed project.

Dated: July 29, 2021

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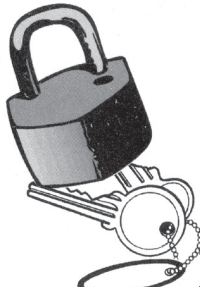
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EVERY TUESDAY
10:30-11:15 a.m.
LEWISTON – Lewiston Public Library - Virtual Preschool Babytime & Storytime. Children 0-5 are welcome to join the fun on Zoom as Ms. Jackie uses interactive songs and stories to introduce children to the world of books, 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
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 programming, 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.
7 p.m.
LEWISTON - Lewiston comedian Dawn

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

Hartill will host the Gendron Franco Center's Comedy showcase featuring Randy Williams, Tuck Tucker, and Dennis Fogg in Heritage Hall of the Gendron Franco Center. Enter through the Oxford Street entrance.

FRIDAY
Aug. 6
6 p.m.
AUBURN - Underground Improv, a troupe of some of Maine's funniest comedians, will perform a night of improv comedy at Craft Brew Underground, 34 Court Street, Auburn.
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.

SATURDAY
Aug. 7
7 p.m.
AUBURN - Maine Event Comedy presents Boston's Chris Post at Craft Brew Underground.

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.
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.
LEWISTON – Planning Board meeting, via ZOOM. The Planning Board Agenda and information for this meeting will be available on the website on the Friday before the meeting date.
5:30-6:30 p.m.
LEWISTON – Finance Committee meeting, at City Hall Administrator's Conference Room.
6:30 p.m.
POLAND – At Poland Spring Resort. The Poland Spring Preservation Society presents the Sunset Series of concerts. This week: Anni Clark

TUESDAY
Aug. 10
10 a.m.-11 a.m.
GORHAM - Sharks w/ Mary Cerullo – Baxter Memorial Library. What a great way to celebrate Shark Week! Join us on the lawn as Shark book author Mary Cerullo shares info from her latest book! "Sharks are often depicted as scary people-eaters, but these skilled predators are essential to sustaining the health of the world's oceans. What if the services that sharks provide to the ocean ecosystem looked like the jobs that

humans do on land? A visit to an aquarium helps a young girl imagine the important jobs that sharks do in the ocean. Recognizing some of the things we have in common may make people want to work to protect sharks from their top predators: us! We'll share the story behind the story of *Sharks at Your Service* and plenty of time to ask your most pressing shark questions. If you think that all sharks are scary, *Sharks at Your Service*, Mary Cerullo's latest books on Sharks (#8!) will show you sharks in ways you never imagined. You will say, "Good work, sharks!" All ages
Rain date Aug. 11 – 10 a.m.

6 p.m.
AUBURN – Planning Board meeting.
7 p.m.
GORHAM – Conservation Commission meeting.

WEDNESDAY
Aug. 11
4-5 p.m.
AUBURN - Meet mission working dogs! In the Androscoggin Community Room at Auburn Public Library. Registration is required; to register, visit the Events calendar on our website - www.auburnpubliclibrary.org; contact the Reference Desk at 207-333-6640, ext. 4; or email dwallace@auburnpubliclibrary.org.
4:30 p.m.
AUBURN – Lewiston-Auburn Transit Committee (LATC) meeting.
6:30 p.m.
AUBURN – Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting.
7 p.m.
GORHAM – School Committee meeting.

THURSDAY
Aug. 12
1-2 p.m.

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GORHAM – Baxter Memorial Library -Learn on the Lawn - West African Dance with Marita Kennedy-Castro

Dance and drumming are a rich part of culture and community in Guinea. There are traditional rhythms and dances that accompany all manner of life's passages and natural cycles, including births, weddings, coming-of-age ceremonies, the planting and harvesting of crops, full moons, and celebrations of many sorts. Wear comfortable clothing to move in (and leggings if wearing a skirt, because we might kick up our legs a bit), bring water for hydration, and we generally dance barefoot but lightweight shoes are fine too.

6-7 p.m.
GORHAM – Baxter Memorial Library. Irene Drago, author of The Maine Point presents Maine's History is Naturally Romantic! Please join us for a talk with Irene M. Drago as she discusses writing historical fiction. Her books are Daughters of Long Reach and The Maine Point, both available to borrow from the library.

FRIDAY
Aug. 13
10:30 a.m.-11:15 a.m.
GORHAM - Shaw

Cherry Hill Farm – Building Fairy Houses. 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 10:30am. We plan on spending 45 minutes per excursion.

Have you walked at the Cherry Hill Farm and seen those a.m.azing structures in the woods? Well, let's see what we can do to add to the area! We are going to get hands-on and build fairy houses from the resources we find lying on the ground.

Rain date: Aug. 20-10:30 a.m.

2 p.m. & 7 p.m.
GREENE- Bluegrass band the Katahdin Valley Boys perform at the Sawyer Memorial on August 13 at 2&7PM. 371 Sawyer Rd, Greene. FMI 946-5311.

MONDAY
Aug. 16
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: Cobblestone.
7 p.m.

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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

YARD SALE

August 14 (Rain Date: August 21) 9-noon Robie Gym Lawn, 42 South Street, Gorham, ME. Fundraiser for Alpha Delta Kappa Educational Scholarships.

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

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