

Maine celebrates with bicentennial parade



Sister Francesca Cloutier and Joyce Hart watch the Bicentennial Parade that made its way through Auburn and Lewiston on Saturday. (McDonough photo)

Photographs by Gorham Weekly staff member Suzanne Murray, and Roxann McDonough of RAM McDonough Photography.

By Nathan Tsukroff

AUBURN/LEWISTON – It’s official! Maine is now 200 years old, and citizens have finally celebrated this milestone, although a year late.

After being rescheduled twice due to the pandemic, the Maine Bicentennial Parade, presented by Poland Spring, wound its way through Auburn and Lewiston on Saturday, August 21 as Mainers celebrated the state’s transition from a territory of Massachusetts to the 23rd state.

The state was created under the Missouri Compromise of 1820, which allowed Maine to join the Union as a free state, with Missouri entering a year later as a slave state to preserve the numerical balance between free and slave states.

Governor Janet Mills (D) led the parade as the Grand Marshall, followed by a string of floats and marching bands.

Mills rode in a 3-D printed boat created at the University of Maine. The float was followed by Mainers protesting her recent mandate that all healthcare workers must be vaccinated against COVID-19 by Oct. 1.

Also in the parade were several local bands, clowns, unicyclists, and veterans groups.

Some 30,000 visitors had been expected to line the parade route, which started at 10 a.m. at Mills and Broad Streets in Auburn, moved up Main Street to cross the Androscoggin River into Lewiston, and ended up about a block from Central Maine Medical Center.

See **Parade**, page 8 & 9 for more photos

Healthcare workers push back against vaccine mandate

Many fear the rapid rollout of new vaccines

By Nathan Tsukroff

AUGUSTA – “Operation Warp Speed” was intended to facilitate and accelerate the creation and distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine.

That very same rush to the finish line now has a percentage of Americans, both healthcare workers and regular citizens, concerned that the vaccines have not been tested enough or been around long enough to be safe.

Then-President Donald Trump announced OWS in May 2020 from the White House Rose Garden.

This partnership between the Departments of Health and Human Services and Defense helped to motivate companies around the globe to develop anti-virus vaccines, and the start of manufacturing



Healthcare workers in front of the Maine State House protesting Gov. Janet Mill’s recent mandate that all healthcare workers must receive the COVID-19 vaccine by Oct. 1. There have been several protests at the State House over the past couple of weeks. (Photographs by Kayla Lawrence)

during clinical trials, along with concurrent clinical trials, led to an emergency use authorization by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration by the end of the year for both the Pfizer-BioNtech and the Moderna vaccines. The Johnson and Johnson Janssen single-dose vaccine received emergency use authorization in February 2021.

Katey Rodzen of Greene, a registered nurse who started working at Maine General Hospital in Augusta shortly before the pandemic hit, said she doesn’t trust any of the three vaccines against COVID-19.

The current COVID-19 Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are manufactured, not made from small amounts of a virus.

This process, referred to as mRNA, or messenger RNA, inserts synthetic nucleoside-modified messenger RNA (modRNA)

See **Vaccine**, page 11

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Letter to the Editor

Serious Policy Decisions Require Consideration

Did you know that the SAPPI Mill in Skowhegan faces threats from Governor Mills' Environmental Protection department?

Did you know that emergency medical services (EMS) and the Maine Dental Association are arguing against the Governor's vaccination mandate because the policy threatens emergency and dental services?

If you didn't, don't be surprised as almost no reporters in the state have bothered to cover these and other stories. Instead, they choose to focus on conspiracy theories no serious policy makers believe in. When they do decide to cover issues facing everyday Mainers, they often de-

cline to do the actual work to explain the policy disagreement. They pick the side they agree with and present the other as crazy.

The media reports so much that isn't factual, largely because of an unwillingness to do the hard work of learning what is being argued. Shoe leather reporting, that is reporters tracking a story, learning the facts, speaking to those involved, has all but vanished in Augusta. The recently published opinion of your editor underscores the problem with much of what passes as journalism today.

Whether government should mandate that up to 10,000 healthcare, dental and EMS employees become vaccinated or lose

their jobs is a serious question that was legitimately asked in the Republican Weekly Radio Address. What role should government play in our lives and when has it gone too far?

Instead of focusing on that question, the Editor of this paper set up a series of arguments against straw men. Suggesting it isn't individuals whose jobs are threatened but rather the people who employ them IS the Governor threatening to fire those who are unvaccinated. To argue otherwise is absurd. The Governor's message is clear, fire employees that are not vaccinated by a date certain or lose your state license.

Is that the role of the licensure, to decide who

gets hired and fired? The Editor doesn't care to comment. He pivots to the fact that healthcare workers are required under state licensure to get the MMR and flu vaccines, but doesn't explain, likely because he doesn't know, that each of those mandates were implemented following lengthy public comment and a rule-making process. The current mandate did not.

In the larger context of this pandemic, this is yet another illustration of public oversight being negated by government power. Because the Governor has declared a public health emergency (nobody seems to want to report on the Governor's health emergen-

cy declaration), the public rule making process is suspended, and there are no limiting principles on what the government can or cannot mandate at this time.

It is easy to punch at the arguments you make up for your opponents, but much harder to understand what the argument is actually about.

You are free to believe the state should be able to use licensure to force employers into firing employees for not doing the state's bidding, but make the case for why. You can believe that the public should have no input on the rules promulgated by unelected government bureaucrats, but make the argument for why. If you believe that the

potential good of the mandate policy outweighs the potential staff shortages and loss of access to care that explain why. There are arguments to be had when setting public policy, but stop acting as if there is no room for debate.

Government is taking actions that impact everyday Mainers and it is not enough for the fourth estate to attempt and dismiss those impacts because they don't want to do the work of understanding why there are disagreements, choosing instead to change the subject or ignore the issue all together.

Rep. Kathleen R. J. Dillingham (R-Oxford)
House Republican Leader

Blue Mass in Lewiston on Sept. 19

From Portland Diocese

LEWISTON - Hundreds of local, state, and federal law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency personnel will be recognized for their faithful commitment and self-sacrifice at the Blue Mass on Sept. 19.

The event starts at 10:30 a.m. that Sunday at the Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul on 122 Ash Street in Lewiston.

People of all faiths are invited to attend and join in showing our gratitude to these dedicated heroes. All active and retired members of the public safety community are encouraged to come with their families and in uniform.

The Blue Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Robert Deeley.

"We are well-served by those who protect us and serve us. We need to pause to give them thanks," said

Bishop Deeley. "We do not need to wait until a disaster strikes to be grateful for the dedication of all of those whose life work is the protection of the public. At the Blue Mass, our purpose is not only to thank them for their service to society, but also to thank God for that service, and to ask God's blessing on each of them."

Elected representatives at the local, state, and national level will join the bishop in honoring those who serve in this community. Blessings will be bestowed upon all who contribute to the public health and safety of Maine, and prayers will be offered for those who have given their lives in the line of duty.

Members of the public safety community will fulfill several roles at the Mass, including as readers and gift bearers, and color guards and a multi-jurisdictional honor guard will be on hand. Ladder trucks

from the Lewiston Fire Department and Auburn Fire Department will display the American flag across Bartlett Street prior to the Mass.

The Blue Mass (referring to the blue uniforms that firefighters, law enforcement and other first responders wear) dates back to 1934 and is a venerable tradition in many dioceses.

The events of September 11, 2001, served as the impetus for the Diocese of Portland to institute the Blue Mass locally. For more information about the Blue Mass, including its history in the Diocese of Portland, visit www.portlanddiocese.org/BlueMass.

Send all items for
Names and Faces
to the Editor.
Deadline is
Friday by five.

Guest Column

How to feign word wisdom

By Grammar Guy

Everyone likes to seem smart and sophisticated. It's why I wear glasses. Instead of saying that I "agree" with someone, I say "I concur." We all want to come across to the world as fancy, ascot-wearing socialites who clear our palates with sorbet between courses.

Yes, we want to punch above our intellectual and social weight. Did I just look up the word "socialite" before I used it in the previous paragraph? You bet your sweet ascot I did. I didn't want anyone to think I was a Socialist.

This tightrope walk of acting smarter than we are is a perilous act. I could have said "dangerous," but — again — I want to sound smart. Have you ever tried to sound smart, and, as a result of doing so, used the wrong word? This reveals us as the social-climbing-wannabes that we really are. I've noticed this recently when people confuse the words "ado" and "adieu."

The first thing I think

of when I hear "ado" is Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing." I think Jerry Seinfeld got his idea for a "show about nothing" from Shakespeare's play. "Ado" means "fuss, turmoil or hubbub."

When people hear us use words like "ado," they think we are the type of folks who know stuff about Shakespeare. Just don't be surprised when you get peppered with a question about Richard III's Machiavellian rise to power. If that happens, simply jump through the nearest window.

"Adieu" is French for "goodbye." In the same way the Spanish compound word "adios" literally means "(go) to God," "adieu" also means "(go) to God." The original French phrase was "A dieu vous commant," which translates to "I commend you to God." In fact, this translation is identical to the phrase "a dios vos acomiendo," from which we get the word "adios."

These fancy foreign language goodbyes began

with strong religious overtones. Similarly, the English word "goodbye" was initially a contraction for "God be with ye." Now we just say "bye." "Bye" is shorter, but doesn't sound nearly as artful as "adieu."

If you don't understand all the ado about "ado" and "adieu," imagine you're at an exclusive roof party in a secret neighborhood in Brooklyn called NoHoSoBro. At the end of an extravagant night of martinis and overpriced fish eggs, you make your exit by saying, "Thanks for inviting me to your soiree, Beyoncé. Ado!"

Because of your fancy phrasal faux pas, you won't ever again be able to locate the secret neighborhood of NoHoSoBro. It will vanish in a Chardonnay mist, just like any future invitations to swanky rooftop parties.

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 curthoneycutt.com.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

This summer camp is a family passion



Steven Slovenski chats with his mother, Ruth, outside the healthcare facility named in her honor at the Slovenski Camps, a summer camp for children in grades 3-11 on Panther Pond in Raymond. Ruth Slovenski was school nurse in the Lewiston and Lisbon school districts, and spent summers as a summer camp nurse in the Lakes Region area. (Tsukroff photo)

By Nathan Tsukroff

RAYMOND – Summer camp is fun and educational. And for the Slovenski family, it’s a family passion.

After attending summer camps where their parents worked, the Slovenski brothers and sisters went on to become counselors,

trustees and directors in Maine summer camps.

And then one of the brothers, Peter, who lives in Brunswick, opened a summer camp in Raymond.

Camp Hawthorne on the west side of Panther Pond in Raymond was closing, so Peter worked out a deal with the Plummer family to take over the

camp in 2010, renaming it Slovenski Camps. The property is part of what used to be the Plummer family farm that was developed more than 200 years ago.

The story of camping goes back a generation, starting with parents Walter and Ruth.

Walter Slovenski was raised in western Pennsylvania and attended Syracuse University after serving several years as a Seabee in the Pacific theater during World War II. He met Ruth, a nursing student at Syracuse School of Nursing, and they were married in 1949. Slovenski went on to earn a master’s degree at New York University and coached both basketball and track at Oneonta State College in New York for two years, where their oldest son, Steven, was born.

The family moved to Lewiston in 1952 for Walter to take on the role of head track coach and assistant football coach at Bates College.

The other Slovenski children – Susan, Peter, Paul, Sally, and Patti – were born in Lewiston, where Ruth worked as a school nurse in first the Lewiston and then the Lisbon school districts.

Ruth was offered a position as a summer camp nurse at Maine State YMCA Camp in Winthrop

in 1959, with Steven enrolled as a first-year camper.

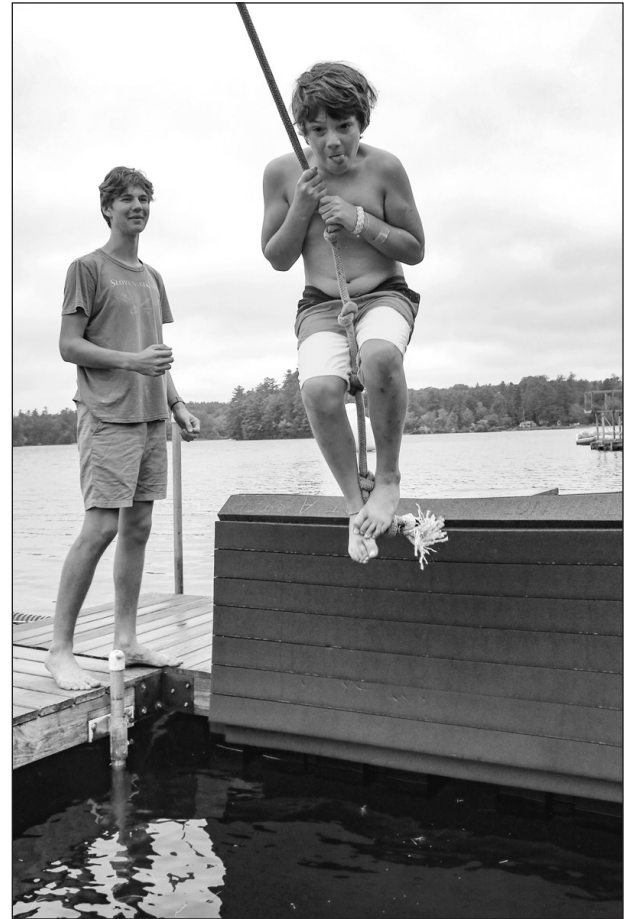
In the following years, they went to work at Camp Arcadia on Pleasant Lake in Casco, Ruth as camp nurse and Walter as a woodcraft instructor.

“That’s where we really go into this area, and really got to love the Lakes Region, so close to Lewiston,” Peter said.

The family spent a school year in the 1960’s in Calexico, CA, which borders Mexico, while Walter took a sabbatical from Bates to serve as assistant coach for the Mexican Olympic Team in its preparations for hosting the 1968 Olympics.

After returning to Lewiston, the children played sports at Lewiston High School, and then at their various colleges.

Over 43 years, Walter led the Bobcat track and cross country teams to 726 victories, five undefeated seasons, more than 20 State of Maine championships and four New England regional championships. He guided 26 All-Americans, including five national champions. His track and cross country teams produced the highest finishes by any Bates team at an NCAA championship, placing fifth at the indoor track and field meet in 1989 and sixth at the cross country championships in 1977.



Zachary Jawor, known to campers by his camp name, “Caesar”, supervises Fletcher McDonough on the water rope swing at Slovenski Camps on Panther Pond in Raymond during the last week of the summer camp season. (Tsukroff photo)

The indoor track at Merrill Gymnasium at Bates is dedicated in his honor. He retired from Bates in 1995 and died at age 79 in 1999 after a long battle with cancer.

The Slovenski children were adventurous and restless, following the lead of their parents and diving headfirst into travel, aca-

demics, sports and camping.

The love of sports and camping are combined at Slovenski Camps with what Peter Slovenski calls a liberal arts program for children that includes swimming, dodgeball, capture the flag, singing, dancing, paddling, sailing,

See Camp, page 6

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Out and About

‘Guardians of the Seeds’ at Botanical Gardens



Here is my troll Roskva in all her glory. The more I looked at her, the more I liked her. (Rachel Morin photo)

By Rachel Morin

BOOTHBAY - It's been a few years since I last visited the Maine Coastal Botanical Gardens in Boothbay.

The special exhibit, Guardians of the Seeds, by Danish artist Thomas Dambo, caught my interest

and I thought this would be a good time to visit with friends.

Here is the text from the Botanical Gardens website that pulled us in:

“Guardians of the Seeds

by Thomas Dambo”

“This summer, our trolls will help you dis-

cover new ways to lose—and find—yourself in our forests. Hidden throughout our native, natural wooded areas, these giant trolls wait to be unearthed. They're friendly, but their message is something you'll want to discover for yourself. Find our trolls and uncover the teachings they impart, then put all the clues together and learn the secret of Guardians of the Seeds. This is your chance to disconnect from the world, only to re-connect with the Earth.”

Well, you can see how we were drawn in to visit the Maine Coastal Gardens again. Thomas Dambo and his trolls were the lure.

Thomas Dambo is considered the world's leading recycled-materials artist, famous for his troll sculptures. His pieces are huge, and each sculpture invites visitors into the



Georgette Morin and Irene Delorme enjoy a short break at the Maine Coastal Botanical Gardens from their walk admiring the flowers. (Rachel Morin photo)

woodlands while telling a story of conservation. His work inspires people to see the natural world through a whimsical lens. Known for using recycled materials, he shows the way of using what we have to make something new and different.

Dambo was born in Odense, Denmark and lives and works in Copenhagen. He is one of the fastest-growing artists in the Scandinavian art

world. He began building and working with wood at the tender age of five. He would look for discarded wood in his neighborhood for his art pieces. These searches foreshadowed of his now-global troll hunts.

A self-labeled “recycle art activist”, Dambo's trolls are on the list of the most significant attractions in Denmark and can be found worldwide, not only telling a story of sustainability, but one of

global connection. Dambo is creating a global village, one troll at a time. He began this work in 2014 and has since created dozens of trolls now living in parks, greenspaces and woods around the world.

And so in early August we set off to find the giant wooden sculptures deep in the woods. We were not disappointed and marveled at how massive they were. I found my troll

See Gardens, next page

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.

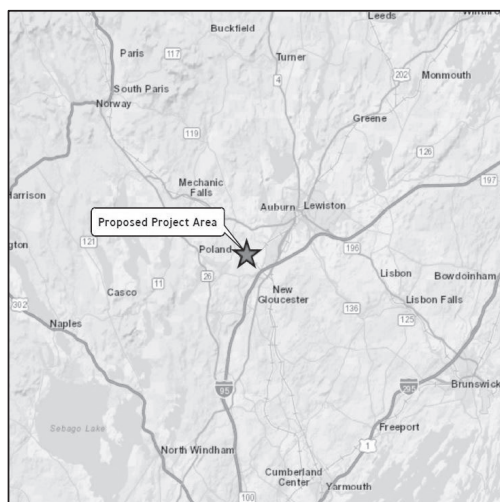
RBS has conducted an independent evaluation of the environmental assessment and believes that it accurately assesses the impacts of the proposed project. No significant impacts are expected as a result of the construction of the project.

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.



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Gardens

Continued from previous page



The bridge over the pond made a pretty scene. (Rachel Morin photo)

whose name was Roskva and took her photo.

Here is her description from the website. "Roskva stands for the trunks. Roskva is the heaviest, hardest, and strongest of the trolls. Every day, Roskva climbs towards the sky, and every year she grows taller and wider. If a troll forgets something, they can always ask Roskva--she counts the seasons and remembers everything that happens around her."

I found Roskva quite likeable.

I researched and found that the trunk is the part of a tree that connects the leafy crown with its roots. The roots absorb the water and nutrients from the soil, which are then

transported up the tree trunk in cells that act much like pipes.

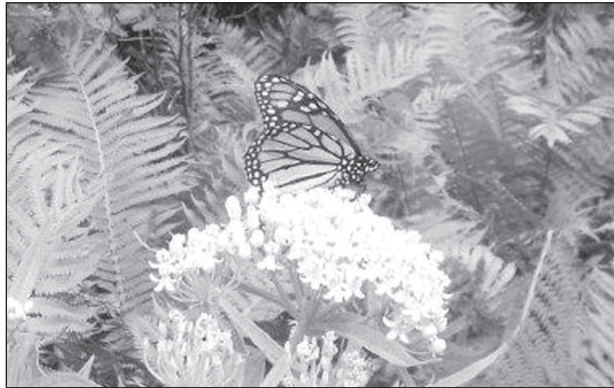
We continued our tour, seeing the flowers, having fun in a visit to the Moth Shop, and then watching the bees working at another exhibit.

We enjoyed the trip

tremendously and learned a few things about the trolls.

It is well worth a trip whenever you go as you always find something new to learn.

We plan to return in the fall, our favorite season.



A Monarch butterfly feeds on nectar from a flower. (Rachel Morin photo)

Fund receives federal grant for housing loans

From Genesis Fund

BRUNSWICK - The Genesis Fund was awarded a \$1,826,265 grant from U.S. Department of the Treasury's CDFI Rapid Response Program (RRP) in June, the maximum amount awarded through the program and the largest federal award in the organization's history.

This new capital was awarded to assist with Maine's recovery from COVID-19. The Genesis Fund makes loans to devel-

op affordable housing and other community facilities like shelters, food pantries, and childcare centers.

The Treasury Department awarded \$1.25 billion in COVID-19 relief funds to 863 community development financial institutions (CDFIs) nationwide, including 7 in Maine. The awards through the CDFI RRP program were announced by Vice President Kamala Harris at the White House with Treasury Secretary Janet L. Yellen. These awards will

provide necessary capital for CDFIs to respond to economic challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in underserved communities.

Genesis Fund Executive Director Liza Fleming-Ives said, "For almost 30 years, the Genesis Fund has been committed to providing patient, creative and risk-tolerant financing to affordable housing and community facility projects in need of access to non-traditional sources

See Fund, page 10

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Rural Development

NextGrid Mangrove, 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 Mangrove, LLC for the construction of the Merrill 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: 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. Alternatives considered by RBS and NextGrid Mangrove, LLC include: No action; under the Action Alternative, RBS would consider financing the proposed Project. The alternatives are discussed in the Merrill 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 29, 2021, and August 5, 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 Mangrove, LLC offices. No comments were received.

Based on its EA, commitments made by NextGrid Mangrove, 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 Merrill Road Solar 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, approximately 754 ft² of wetland vegetation removal (i.e., conversion of scrub-shrub wetland vegetation to emergent wetland vegetation with no grubbing required).

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 Mangrove, 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: August 26, 2021

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Arts & Entertainment

'Jersey Boys' still on at MSMT



John Battagliese (as Bob Gaudio), Joshua Charles Skurnik (as Frankie Valli), Sam Wolf (as Tommy DeVito), and Matthew Amira (as Nick Massi) will perform in Broadway's smash hit *Jersey Boys* at the Westbrook Performing Arts Center in September. (Photo by Jared Morneau)

From MSMT
BRUNSWICK – While Maine State Music Theatre has made the decision to end its season early, it will produce *Jersey Boys* on September 1–19 at the Westbrook Performing Arts Center. *Jersey Boys* is the exhilarating journey behind

the music of mega-stars Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons and follows the incredible story of four blue collar kids who worked their way from the streets of New Jersey to become one of the greatest successes in pop music history. The show offers electrifying performances of the 60's hits that took these Jersey boys all the way to the top of the charts: "Sherry," "Big Girls Don't Cry," "Can't Take My Eyes Off You," "Dawn," "My Eyes Adored You," and many more. The show runs through September 19.

Performances take place at the Westbrook Performing Arts Center at 471 Stroudwater St. in Westbrook.

For tickets, and Covid-19 guidelines, visit www.msmt.org or call (207) 725-8769.

Camp

Continued from page 3

reading, manners, thoughtfulness, and cleaning up after themselves. About two-thirds of the campers at Slovenski Camps are from Maine.

There is a campfire gathering each evening that features contests, singing, dancing, recognition, stories, and encouragement for good standards of out-

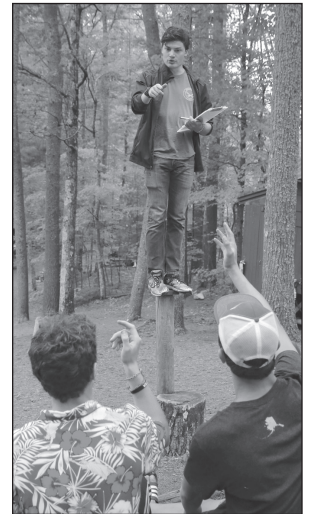
door living and self-reliance.

"The beauty of summer camping is that you're just seeing the joy and excitement in children's eyes, and that's why it's so rewarding to all of us," Steven said.

The new camp health center is named for 95-year-old matriarch, Ruth, who spends her summer days enjoying the company of



Colden Daniel aims for the basket in a game of water basketball at Slovenski Camps during afternoon activities in the final week of the summer camp season. Slovenski Camps hosts more than 100 school-age children a week each summer during a nine-week program. (Tsukroff photo)



Camp counselor Noah "Mr. KnowItAll" Spicer helps campers choose activities for the week at the beginning of the final week of summer camp at Slovenski Camps in Raymond. (Tsukroff photo)

her family and the campers at the camp.

There are generally more than 100 campers each week in the rustic cabins during the nine-week season. Some campers stay a single week, while others stay for multiple weeks.

Counselors are usually college students.

Peter, Paul, and Steven attended Camp Agawam as both campers and counselors. The Slovenski siblings have all helped out at Slovenski camps over the years. Steven, who now lives nearby in New Hampshire is on the board of directors at Camp Agawam located on Crescent Lake in Raymond, continuing the family tradition in another way.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced the camp to restrict access to only Maine residents for the summer of 2020, which saw a drop to about 60% of regular attendance. The number of campers this year is about 80% of that in previous years, and Peter said he expects attendance to return to full next summer.

The camp creates what Peter calls a "bubble" as campers are not allowed to interact with the general public during the week. Vaccinated campers and regular testing for COVID-19 has helped the camp to avoid any virus outbreaks in 2020 and 2021, he said.

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Seniors Not Acting Their Age

Bike Trails are the Way to Travel



Cyclists ride along the Cheshire Reservoir on the Ashuwillticook Trail in western Massachusetts. (Ron Chase photo)

By Ron Chase

As Nancy and I have aged, traveling has become increasingly difficult.

Flying is a hassle and, if we fly, we can't take our toys; such as bikes and kayaks.

For many years, driving has been our first choice. However, for a variety of physical reasons, long days in an automobile are no longer acceptable. It may be a function of old age but it seems like there are more crazies on the highways than there used to be.

When we recently decided to visit our family in Michigan for the first time since the pandemic began, a goal was to make the trip as palatable as possible.

A primary objective was to limit driving time to four or five hours a day while avoiding commuter traffic. After studying cycling guidebooks, riding bike trails each day seemed an ideal way to claim a respite from driving while simultaneously getting some outdoor exercise. Exploring new trails would be an added benefit. A plan was

in place. Instead of taking the most direct route on major highways, we'd meander from one trail to another.

Our first destination was Ashuwillticook Rail Trail, a 12.2 mile paved bikeway located in Adams, Massachusetts. After surviving I-95, the second half of the five hour drive was a very pleasant cruise through the scenic Berkshires in the western part of the state. Beginning in the revitalized downtown area, we rode south on the Ash along the Hoosic River and then the shore of Cheshire Reservoir. The entire ride is in the shadow of Mount Greylock, the highest mountain in Massachusetts. A hot humid day, the descent from the reservoir on the return to Adams was an exhilarating relief.

After spending the night in nearby Albany, New York, we drove a short distance west to Niskayuna to bike the Mohawk Hudson Trail. A superb paved trail system, it follows the Mohawk River to Schenectady. A rail trail, an old depot station is located at the upscale trailhead. Fol-

lowing our refreshing excursion, the five hour drive through the hills of western upstate New York on the lightly traveled I-88/86 corridor to Olean was quite pleasurable.

The quiet town of Olean was well-positioned for us to explore Clarion-Little Toby Trail which is situated about two hours south in the mountains of north central Pennsylvania.

Beginning in the erstwhile mining town of Ridgway, the hard packed dirt rail trail follows Clarion River and Little Toby Creek south to the town of Brockway. The guidebook implied the ruins of two ghost towns could be observed. Alas, we found nothing but signs.

Another two hours of motoring southwest brought us to the southern terminus of the Allegheny River Trail in the west Pennsylvania town of Emmenton. The paved rail trail closely follows the Allegheny River north for thirty miles to Franklin. A long

tunnel provided a unique aspect to the ride. Since I failed to carefully read the guidebook description, I neglected to carry a headlight. The tunnel which bends in the middle exceeded a half mile in distance. Struggling to ride in total darkness, I reluctantly acknowledged that walking was a far safer alternative. Following our two Pennsylvania rides, we found lodging in nearby Grove City.

Our fourth day on the road began with a short junket north to Goddard State Park in Sandy Lake, Pennsylvania where the

Oliver Loop Trail circumnavigates Lake Wilhelm. The twisting, turning, hilly gem was pure entertainment. After completing the thirteen mile paved ride, we traveled west into Ohio and found a room south of Toledo.

Our fifth day began with a short jaunt south to the quiet bedroom community of Bowling Green, where the northern end of the Slippery Elm Bike Trail begins. In contrast to the recent mountainous terrain, the Slippery Elm locale was almost flat. We counted a wide variety of

See Seniors, page 10



A cyclist and walkers share a section of the Mohawk Hudson Trail. (Ron Chase photo)

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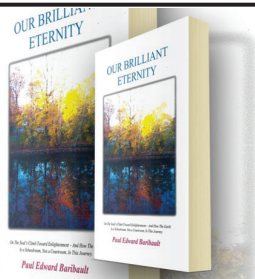
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Parade
Continued from page 1



Photographs by Gorham Weekly staff member Suzanne Murray, and Roxann McDonough of RAM McDonough Photography.

Mainers at the sidelines of the Bicentennial Parade protest the recent mandate by Gov. Janet Mills (D) that all health-care workers must receive a COVID-19 vaccine by Oct. 1 (McDonough photos)



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The RKG Gang of New Auburn were among the thousands of Mainers who watched the Bicentennial Parade on Saturday. (McDonough photo)



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Six-year-old Ember Turon enjoys the parade from the comfort of her chair. (McDonough photo)



Maine Gov. Janet Mills (D) headed up the Bicentennial Parade as the Grand Marshall, riding in a 3-D printed boat created at the University of Maine.



Former Maine Governor Paul LePage (R) waves to watchers on the sidelines of the Bicentennial Parade on Saturday. LePage had moved to Florida immediately after finishing his second term in office in 2019. Maine law limits a governor to two consecutive terms. He recently returned to Maine, and announced his intent to run for governor again in the 2022 election. (McDonough photo)

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Seniors
Continued from page 7

birds while cycling through farmlands and enjoyed a visit to the tiny town of Rudolph, which claims to be “The Dearest Little Village in Wood County.”

Departing Bowling Green, Detroit and Lansing were avoided by traveling west for a couple of hours to the sleepy community of Howe, Indiana, where we spent the night in a favorite hotel. Howe is located an hour south of another outstanding rail trail, Kal-Haven Trail. A red caboose marked the beginning of our ride that starts on the outskirts of Kalamazoo, Michigan. The trail connected several rural communities as we journeyed west towards South Haven on Lake Michigan.

Another hour driving north brought us to Grand Rapids where our family lives. The first outdoor activity during our visit was a bike ride with our granddaughters!

The author of “The Great Mars Hill Bank Robbery” and “Mountains for Mortals – New England,” Ron Chase resides 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 or he can be reached at ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net.

\$1.7 Billion for dry dock at PNSY

From Sen. Collins

WASHINGTON, D.C. – A contract worth \$1.7 Billion has been awarded for the construction of a multi-mission dry dock at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery.

U.S. Senator Susan Collins, a senior member of the Appropriations Committee and the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs (MilCon-VA) Appropriations Subcommittee, made the announcement last week.

Currently, Dry Dock #1 can only accommodate Los Angeles-class submarines, which means it will be rendered obsolete when LA-class submarines are removed from service in the 2030s. Failure to

modernize the dry dock would result in 20 deferred submarine maintenance availabilities through 2040, meaning Navy submarines would not be able to accomplish their missions.

Senator Collins has championed funding for the reconstruction of Dry Dock #1 and recently pressed the Navy Vice Admiral and the Chief of Naval Operations on the necessity of completing this project on time to avoid delays of required maintenance. She secured \$475 million towards this project in the fiscal year 2022 MilCon-VA funding bill passed the Appropriations Committee by a vote of 25-5 last week. She also secured \$160 million for the project in last year’s appropriations bill

“I have long advocated for modernization projects at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, the gold standard for public shipyards, to ensure the highly skilled employees are able to successfully carry out their essential missions,” said Senator Collins. “This contract is vital to our national security because it will allow PNSY to maintain our submarine fleet. I championed the funding for this necessary upgrade to Dry Dock #1, and I will continue to push for infrastructure projects at our nation’s shipyards to keep our Navy strong.”

This project constructs a partitioned addition to Dry Dock #1 within the superflood basin area. The addition will consist

of two bays, labeled Dry Dock 1 North and Dry Dock #1 West. The existing Dry Dock #1 will be renamed Dry Dock #1 East. Both Dry Dock 1 North and Dry Dock #1 West will be of sufficient size and depth to support the maintenance and overhaul of Virginia Class submarines, Blocks I-IV.

New construction will include: concrete floors, walls, and center wall separating Dry Dock #1 North and Dry Dock #1 West; new pumpwell systems and a pump station building; two caissons; portal crane rails; mooring hardware; mechanical and electrical utilities with utility tunnels; and all appurtenances required to ensure an operational dry dock.

Modifications will be made to the existing basin closure wall and to Berths 1 and 11. The existing Dry Dock #1 pumpwell will be connected to the new pump well system and the interior will be modified.

The contract is incrementally funded with \$70,000,000 obligated at the time of award. Subsequent contractual increments will be funded yearly from fiscal year 2022 through fiscal year 2027 in the amounts of: \$214,000,000; \$390,000,000; \$405,000,000; \$300,000,000; \$200,000,000; and \$152,477,644.

Work is expected to be completed by June 2028.

Law to help new mothers access health care

From Maine Senate

AUGUSTA - A bill from Sen. Anne Carney (D-Cape Elizabeth) to help more Maine mothers access postpartum health care became law in mid-June.

LD 265, “An Act To Provide Women Access to Affordable Postpartum Care,” became law without the governor’s signature.

“By expanding families’ access to postpartum

care, we can make sure they have the support they need when they often need it the most. Both mother and child face unique medical challenges during the first year after birth. Making sure there’s continued affordable access to health care means better outcomes for Maine families,” said Sen. Carney.

As amended, LD 265 would extend the period of time after giving birth that a mother may be eligible for

services under MaineCare from 60 days to 12 months. This legislation allows Maine families to benefit from federal funds included in the recently enacted American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, providing a full year of postpartum care for those receiving MaineCare benefits during pregnancy.

Additionally, the bill would require the Maine Department of Health and Human Services to report to the committee on the efficacy of the program.

“The postpartum period is a medically vul-

nerable period for many women,” said Rita Furlow, Senior Policy Analyst at the Maine Children’s Alliance, in testimony supporting LD 265. “A 2020 report from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that one-quarter of all pregnancy related deaths of women occurred between 43 days and one year following child birth. These deaths are highly preventable if women are receiving regular access to care. Providing high-quality care for mothers up to one

year after birth can identify potential issues and ensure women are aware of the warning signs so they can connect to prompt follow-up care.”

The law will go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns for the year.

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

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Fund
Continued from page 5

of capital. Our work has supported vital community development projects to stabilize, rebuild, and strengthen the infrastructure that makes it possible for families and communities to thrive. During the pandemic, we leaned into the crisis to provide flexibility and support to our

long-standing nonprofit partners. This new award will allow us to address the critical need to increase and preserve affordable housing, quality child care and access to food assistance that will be essential to helping our communities recover from the pandemic.”

In announcing the awards, Secretary Janet

Yellen said, “In serving places that the financial sector historically hasn’t served well, CDFIs lift our whole economy up. We know that for every dollar injected into a CDFI, it catalyzes eight more dollars in private-sector investment, meaning that today’s announcement might lead to an additional \$10 billion in investments.”

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Vaccine

Continued from page 1

into human cells using a coating of lipid nanoparticles. What is essentially a little piece of code created in the mRNA process is delivered to the cells in a person's body. The code serves as an instruction manual for the immune system, teaching it to recognize the virus that causes COVID-19 and attack it, should it encounter the real thing.

And that is one of the reasons healthcare workers such as Rodzen do not feel the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines against COVID-19 are safe, which is why some of them are pushing back against the recent vaccination mandate from Maine Governor Janet Mills.

Previous vaccines, such as those for polio or smallpox, were manufactured using small amounts of the virus itself, which triggered the desired immune response.

The Johnson&Johnson Janssen COVID-19 vaccine is made with that more traditional method that uses a disabled adenovirus to deliver the instructions.

The Pfizer vaccine was fully approved last week by the FDA for use by anyone 16 years old and older.

However, the push for quick approval of the various vaccines has kept Rodzen worried. "The FDA approval did not change

my concerns about the safety of the COVID-19 vaccines," she said. "The FDA has approved other medications that after years of use have turned out to be harmful."

Donna Harris from Auburn, who asked that her workplace not be mentioned, echoes that sentiment. "I think the big debates is why is it being mandated before long-term human study results are completed," she said. "It should not be mandated until we have a five-year study of those who received the vaccine, and the results of (that) study, both on effectiveness and long term side effects."

Only after that should a mandate be allowed, although only at the local levels, not the state or federal levels, Harris said.

In the early 1950's, poliovirus outbreaks across the United States caused more than 15,000 cases of a paralysis a year. The paralysis could be in just the arms or legs, or could spread to the lungs, requiring the patient to be placed in a device called an "iron lung" that helped them to breathe. Less than 1% of poliovirus infections resulted in acute flaccid paralysis, which is defined by the acute onset of weakness or paralysis with reduced muscle tone in children.

Polio was first identified in around 1835 with four cases in Europe. The annual outbreaks eventual-

ly became severe, spreading throughout Europe and the U.S. at the beginning of the 20th century. In 1916, a major outbreak in the Northeast was attributed to 27,000 cases and 6,000 deaths.

A trial of a polio vaccine with inactivated viruses by Maurice Brodie in 1935 involved 20 monkeys first, and then 3,000 children in California. Angry reactions from other researchers cancelled any further projects, and polio vaccine trials were not tried again for another 20 years.

In March of 1953, Dr. Jonas Salk announced he had successfully tested a vaccine against the polio virus. This followed an epidemic year for polio in 1952 with 58,000 cases of polio and 3,000 reported deaths across the U.S. Clinical trials began in 1954, using both the Salk vaccine and a placebo on some two million school children. The vaccine was announced a safe and effective in April 1955 and a nationwide inoculation campaign began.

Variations of the polio vaccines, both the Salk version and those created by other scientists, were used around the world over the next two decades. However, different variations of the vaccines, and the occasional manufacturing issue, allowed outbreaks and spread of the virus in various years. It was only after many years of use

and study that the most effective and safe vaccines helped to essentially eradicate polio from the U.S.

This history is what gives both Rodzen and Harris cause for concern.

Rodzen said that she, like all healthcare workers in Maine, has been properly immunized against diseases as required by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services. Vaccines are given to prevent rubeola (measles), mumps, rubella (German measles), varicella (chicken pox); hepatitis B, and influenza.

Rodzen also said she is okay with being required to wear a mask during her work, because masks are removable.

Harris said, "I do not support any mandates, be it for vaccine or masks, because I believe that we should have individual freedom over our bodies."

She believes that getting vaccinated or wearing a mask should be by choice. "Much like a parent does not always agree with their adult child's choices, yet as part for their growth we let them do so. We can only educate them as best as we can, make them aware of the pros and cons of their choice, and then let their path unfold. So too should the government with its people."

The process for the modern mRNA vaccines has been in use for about 10 years. Scientists now

are able to actually view viruses with electron microscopes.

The worry on the part of scientists regarding vaccines remains an unexpected reaction in some humans.

While humans are very much alike, there are still enough variations between humans that what is found to be effective in one person may cause problems in another person.

Scientists suggest that determining the safety of a vaccine should not be just counting the number of severe issues, but rather looking at overall trends of minor issues that could have been triggered by a vaccine.

That is the reason for the concern by some parents that a vaccine could be the cause of autism in children.

In 1998, a study published in the medical journal *The Lancet* claimed that measles vaccines were found in most of a dozen children with autism. However, over the next 12 years it was revealed that the main author of that study, Andrew Wakefield MD, had been paid by attorneys seeking to file lawsuits against the vaccine manufacturers. This led to a retraction of the interpretation of the study by many of Wakefield's fellow authors, and the paper itself was formally retracted by *The Lancet* in 2010. Wakefield was later reported to

have committed research fraud for the study.

Harris said she takes a holistic approach to the COVID-19 vaccines. "I know that when it comes to Covid-19 and this human experience that we are all having, the commonality is fear," she said. "Many that chose to get vaccinated did so out of fear that the virus would cause illness or death, while many that chose not to get vaccinated did so out of fear that the vaccine would cause illness or death."

"When you look at it from this perspective you can see that we are all having the same experience only with a different perspective of the fear that cripples us all. To quote Master Yoda – 'Fear leads to anger, Anger leads to hate, Hate leads to suffering!'"

Regardless of personal feelings about a vaccine, Maine is an at-will state, which means that an employee without a personal or union contract can be fired for any reason. So a hospital can declare that all staff members must be vaccinated, and can fire any workers who do not comply.

There are exceptions under Title VII for medical and religious reasons, and a reasonable exception must be made by the employer, so long as that exception does not cause an undue hardship for the

See Mandate, page 14

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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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

Sept. 2

3:30-4 p.m.

LEWISTON - Lewiston Historic Preservation Review Board meeting. The agenda is posted on the website.

4 p.m.

AUBURN – Cable TV Advisory Board meeting.

5:30 p.m.

AUBURN – Auburn-Lewiston Airport Board meeting.

SAT. & SUN.

Sept. 4 & 5

32nd Annual Rockhounds Gen and Mineral Show, sponsored by the Kennebec Rocks and Minerals Club. National Guard Armory, Western Ave., Augusta, ME. Hours: Sat. 10AM - 5PM. Sun. 10AM - 4PM. Dealers and INFO 207-873-6270. Doorprizes, daily grand door prize, demonstrations in cabbing and lapidary, mineral displays, dealers in minerals,

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

jewelry, gems and fossils, geode slicing, mineral mine and other games for the kids. Children can win a mineral starter kit and get a free stone just for coming in. Information on rockhounding and how to join a mineral club.

6:30 p.m.

AUBURN – Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting.

7 p.m.

GORHAM – School Committee meeting.

THURSDAY

Sept. 9

5:30-6:30 p.m.

LEWISTON - (Virtual) **Take Me to the Moon: A Virtual Evening with NASA**, on Zoom and livestreamed to Facebook

Join Lewiston Public Library for a virtual evening with NASA communication strategist and museum liaison, Patricia Moore, as she shares about the Artemis Project, the first project of its kind to establish sustainable exploration and prepare for missions to Mars. This program is suitable for all ages!

For more information or to register for the Zoom link, please contact the Reference Desk at 207-513-3135 or at LPLReference@LewistonMaine.gov

SATURDAY

Sept. 11

11 a.m.-6 p.m.

LEWISTON-Greek Festival To-Go at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 155 Hogan Rd. Drive-thru menu of Gyros, Spanakopita, Greek fries and pastries. FMI: lagreekfestival.com

MONDAY

Sept. 13

5:30 p.m.

LEWISTON – Planning Board meeting, at City Hall Council chambers. The Planning Board Agenda and information for this meeting will be available on the website on

the Friday before the meeting date.

AUBURN – City Council workshop and meeting.

5:30-6:30 p.m.

LEWISTON – Finance Committee meeting, in City Hall Administrator's Conference Room.

7 p.m.

GORHAM – Planning Board Meeting in council chambers.

TUESDAY

Sept. 14

6 p.m.

LEWISTON – City Council Workshop, at City Hall, 27 Pine Street, Lewiston 1st Floor in the City Council chambers. This 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.

AUBURN – Planning Board meeting.

7 p.m.

GORHAM – Conservation Commission meeting.

WEDNESDAY

Sept. 15

8 a.m.

GORHAM – Economic Development Corporation meeting in conference room A.

THURSDAY

Sept. 16

8 a.m.

AUBURN – 9-1-1 Committee meeting.

6:30 p.m.

GORHAM – ten-

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Mandate

Continued from page 11

tative Board of Appeals meeting on council chambers.

GORHAM – tentative Recurring Capital Improvement Projects/Economic Development Committee meeting in council chambers.

7 p.m.

AUBURN – Community Forest Subcommittee meeting.

FRIDAY

Sept. 17

7:30 a.m.

AUBURN – Auburn Public Library Board of Trustees meeting.

hospital. A nurse who did not wish to be vaccinated could be shifted to office duties away from other staff members or patients, for example.

The mandate issued by Gov. Janet Mills early in August requires all healthcare workers in Maine to be vaccinated against COVID-19 by Oct. 1, but does not refer to any exceptions for medical or religious reasons. It also does not require non-compliant healthcare workers to be fired. Instead, the mandates says that non-compliance by healthcare workers could affect the licensure of the healthcare facility. This places the decision for firing in the hands of the hospital or other healthcare facility.

Hospitals and other healthcare facilities throughout Maine have said employees who are not vaccinated by the deadline will be fired.

Rodzen said she has still not made a decision on getting the vaccine, but expects she will step away from the hospital after the deadline. She said she knows of other nurses who have already said they will leave the hospital.

About 20% of healthcare workers in Maine remain unvaccinated, according to the Maine CDC.

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