



TWIN CITY TIMES

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Lewiston Mayoral Inaugural And Elected Officials Oath of Office Ceremony

January 3, 2022 -- The City of Lewiston's Mayoral Inaugural & Elected Officials Oath of Office Ceremony took place on Monday, January 3, 2022. The evening ceremony was live-streamed on the city's website, and all members of the public were invited to watch the presentation of this evening of celebration to acknowledge the newly elected and returning members of Lewiston City Government.

The Inauguration is the first celebration for the City of Lewiston to mark the new year and all members of the public are welcome to join by viewing the live broadcast of the ceremony. Due to precautions regarding the elevated COVID rates within the community, members of the public were asked to view the ceremony from home. In-person attendance of the event was limited to family members and friends of the elected officials. The link to view the ceremony is available on the city's website at <https://www.lewiston-maine.gov/1179/2022-Inauguration-Ceremony>

Elected Officials taking their oath of office during the ceremony include Mayor-Elect Carl L. Sheline, members of the City Council and members of the School Committee.

The 2022-2024 City Councilors are Linda M. Scott, Ward One; Robert A. McCarthy, Ward Two; Scott A. Harriman, Ward Three; Ricky R. LaChapelle, Ward Four; Laurier P. Pease, Ward Five; Kerry Lee Clement, Ward Six and Stephanie J. Gelinas, Ward Seven.

The members of the 2022-2024 School Committee are Megan D. Parks, member At-Large; Bruce C. Damon, Ward One; Janet I. Beaudoin, Ward Two; Elizabeth A. Eames, Ward Three; Tanya M. Whitlow, Ward Four; Ashley R. Medina, Ward Five; Meghan P. Hird, Ward Six; and Paul R. Beauparlant, Ward Seven.

During the ceremony, outgoing Mayor Mark Cayer presented his farewell remarks and incoming Mayor Carl Sheline

presented his Inaugural Address highlighting his goals and objectives for the City for the next two years.

The City Council nominated and elected the City Council president for the 2022-2024 term.

In addition, the School Committee nominated and elected the School Committee Chairperson for the 2022-2024 term. Both of these officials also presented brief speeches as well.

The evening began with Lewiston High School student Narya Gagnon singing the National Anthem to officially open the Inaugural Ceremony.

Bates College Multifaith Chaplain, Reverend Doctor Brittany Longsdorf, delivered the invocation.

A poetry performance by Lewiston's Student Poet Laureate Ryleigh Emert was delivered.

The Lewiston Fire and Police Department Honor Guards conducted the presentation and retirement of the flags. This combined unit also served to officially escort the Mayor-Elect during the entrance procession of elected officials.

The Lewiston High School Chamber Singers, under the direction of Vocal Music Director Erin Morrison and accompanied by Rebecca Caron, presented a musical performance during the ceremony.

Members of the Lewiston High School Law Enforcement Cadets served as ushers and program distributors for the evening.

The flowers and plants were provided by Blais Flower Shop and video production of the ceremony was by F.Y.M. Entertainment & Sound Productions.

The City's Economic and Community Development Department prepared the Lewiston City Showcase slideshow which featured highlights from the past year and ran before the start of the ceremony. Special thanks to the Gendron Franco Center for hosting this event for the city for almost twenty years.

Auburn Mayor Recognizes Members of APD



Pictured L to R: Middle School Resource Officer John Chamberlain, Officer Joshua King, Mayor Jason Levesque, and Detective Nicholas Gagnon.

On December 20, 2021, Auburn Mayor Jason Levesque visited the Auburn Police Department to recognize the outstanding efforts of several members of the team. The mayor presented his special "mayoral challenge coin" to CID Commander Lieutenant Barry Schmieks, Detective Nicholas Gagnon, Officer Joshua King and School Resource Officer John Chamberlain. The coins were presented in recognition of these officers' exceptional investigative

efforts in response to a recent incident involving a potential security concern at local schools.

The Mayor was joined by Chief Jason Moen, Deputy Chief Timothy Cougle, School Superintendent Dr. Cornelia Brown and City Manager Phil Crowell, and others.

The APD join the mayor in recognizing these officers. Like the entire team at APD, they exemplify the APD motto, "expect excellence."



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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Governor Mills: I'm Excited About the Potential that 2022 Holds for Our Great State

By Governor Janet Mills – December 31, 2021

This week, we bring 2021 to a close. Well, there's a lot to celebrate about the end of 2021. It's been a hard year in many ways, but Maine people are resilient, and we've achieved a lot this year actually despite the challenges.

Unemployment is down; our Gross Domestic Product is up; our tourism and hospitality industries reported some of their best summers ever. Real estate sales are up. People are moving here. We have one of the lowest crime rates in the country. People are coming here because we are one of the safest states in the nation.

And we're fighting to keep it that way. We're fighting this pandemic with all we've got to make sure Maine people are safe, including the many children who are still too young to get vaccinated.

In the last year, more than a million people have gotten fully vaccinated from COVID-19 here in Maine. And it's thanks to them that Maine has among the lowest death rates from COVID-19, despite having a much older population than other states.

At the same time that we've been fighting the pandemic, we also brought Republicans, Democrats and Independents together and passed a bipartisan budget that fully funded public education for the first time ever. We made historic investments in our health care system, helping the front-line heroes who cared for the rest of us. And that's why now we are able to raise reimbursements rates and give direct care workers at nursing homes and elsewhere a much-needed pay raise.

We also restored revenue sharing, which is how the state gives money back to towns and cities so they

don't have to raise your property taxes. And we worked together to give back money to Maine people who worked during the pandemic - direct hazard payments of \$285 a piece to more than half a million people - you may have gotten your check in the mail recently. And our state budget set aside millions of dollars in savings, bringing our Rainy Day Fund to its highest level ever.

And after President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan into law, allocating federal stimulus funds to the State, we worked with the Legislature to enact the Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan. With those funds, we've already begun rolling out more than \$300 million to train people for new jobs; to make housing, health care, and child care more affordable, more available; to help small businesses; and to help keep our economy strong.

We also continued to fight climate change. We installed thousands of high-efficiency heat pumps and hundreds of electric vehicle charging stations, cutting energy costs for Maine families with weatherization and cutting dangerous carbon emissions. We have increased solar power by more than four-fold since 2019 and we've created new, good-paying clean energy jobs. And we funded the Land for Maine's Future for the first time in the budget, so we can protect our working woods and waterways.

And thanks to our good fiscal management and careful allocation of federal and state pandemic relief, we are expecting a surplus of about \$822 million over the next two years - that's an increase of almost 10 percent over projections.

Still, inflation driven by the pandemic and supply chain issues is hurting

us. The price of heating oil, gas, electricity and groceries is hitting people's pocketbooks right now at a particularly hard time of year. And that bothers me just like it bothers you.

I think we should give money back to people. That's why, in the New Year, I'll be proposing a supplemental budget to the Legislature that gives money back to you.

I'll be listening to Democrats, Republicans and Independents on the best way to do that, and we will get to work soon.

In 2022, I'm going to be focused on our economy, on our climate, on our kids, on keeping people safe and on the health and welfare of all Maine people.

We've always faced challenges together, with the grit and determination that has made us who we are - one community of hardworking people taking care of each other every

day, every year.

With that spirit, I'm excited about the potential that 2022 holds for our great state.

I am so proud of the people of Maine. And so proud to be your Governor. Happy New Year, Maine!

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Lewiston City Council Allocates Funds to Provide Assistance to Non-Profits



December 20, 2021 -- At their December 7, 2021 meeting, the Lewiston City Council took action to allocate a portion of federal CARES Act and a portion of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds the City received to capitalize grant programs to provide finan-

cial assistance to Lewiston non-profits that have experienced significant financial losses from the pandemic.

A total of approximately \$274,000 has been allocated from the CARES Act Allocation to help non-profits prevent, prepare for, or respond to COVID-19. This funding source operates under the same rules and qualifying criteria as the CDBG program.

Requests for funding must benefit low/moderate income people and be an eligible CDBG Activity that is consistent with the CDBG 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan.

Eligible expenses under this program include labor, supplies, materials

and operation and maintenance of a facility where a public service is located. CDBG-CV Entitlement Program Guidelines and the CDBG-CV Entitlement Application, as well as information on the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan can all be found at www.lewistonmaine.gov/cdbginfo

The City Council also took action to reallocate approximately \$400,000 of ARPA funds to provide grants of up to \$25,000 for Lewiston non-profits that have experienced at least a 30% revenue reduction attributable to closures or semi-shuttering of operations attributable to the pandemic or that have experienced at least a 30%

increased demand for services attributable to the pandemic.

The determination of loss of revenues or increased demand for services will be measured against the most recent pre-COVID fiscal year for services directly related to billable services for Lewiston residents.

To be eligible, the applicant must have applied for and received both rounds of PPP loans and any other stimulus relief funding available to them or furnish a brief explanation on their intent to apply for funding and why such funding was not available to them.

Agencies are encouraged to review eligibility

requirements, and if eligible, apply for the CARES-CV funding first, and if determined to not be eligible, then apply for the ARPA funds.

The ARPA Funds do not have the same CDBG threshold criteria as CARES-CV funds. To apply for ARPA funds, agencies may contact Brenton Coriveau at bcoriveau@lewistonmaine.gov

Applicants must avoid a duplication of benefits. Duplication of benefits occurs when a recipient of aid receives financial assistance from multiple sources for the same purpose, and the total assistance for that purpose is more than the total need for assistance.

K9 Officer Rocky Retires



private ceremony held on Wednesday, December 29.

Rocky, a black and tan German shepherd, is named in honor of Auburn Police Officer Rodney "Rocky" Bonney, who was killed in the line of duty on April 6, 1981. This exceptional K9 has faithfully served the citizens of Auburn since 2013 as a dual-purpose narcotics/patrol dog partnered with Officer Donald Cousins.

During his 8-year career, this extraordinary dog has been deployed a total of 345 times for tracks, drug detection, building searches, article searches and apprehensions. And his results have been impressive.

Working side-by-side with his partner, Rocky has successfully tracked and located 25 suspects and missing juveniles. On 52 occasions, he discovered narcotics/narcotic paraphernalia,

helping the APD to get more than 533 grams (1/2 kilo) of drugs off our streets. He has earned a success rate of 30% of his deployments, which is incredible performance by a K9.

K9 Rocky has assisted in the investigation of burglaries and robberies, locating items of evidence. He has also helped stop crimes in progress, and he has deterred aggressive subjects that wanted to fight - until they saw or heard him. In 2016, K9 Rocky earned the first ever "Colton Guay Award" during patrol school at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. And he and Officer Cousins have been true ambassadors of the Auburn PD, attending countless community events and K9 demonstrations, connecting with the people (especially the kids) of this community.

"It has been a pleasure to work with Rocky

and to have him as a partner," said Officer Cousins. "He will be missed at the department, but it's time for him to enjoy the rest of his life at home."

"We thank this amazing dog for his years of dedicated service," said Chief Jason D. Moen. "He's smart, he's strong, he's determined and loyal...we really couldn't ask for more than that."

In his well-deserved retirement, K9 Rocky will continue to live with Officer Cousins and his family.

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With pride and gratitude, the Auburn Police Department announces the retirement of K9 officer, Rocky, who retired from service during a

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Purple Heart Reunited with soldier's family



State Treasurer Henry E.M. Beck announced that the Office of the State Treasurer (OST) was recently able to reunite the family of a deceased Army soldier with a purple heart and other military affects that came to the Office through an abandoned safe deposit box at a local bank in 2014. Private Benjamin E. Carter, who was from the Machias area, was awarded the purple heart in 1967 for wounds received in action in the Republic of Vietnam. His sister and only living relative, Candace Carter, has been working with the Office to retrieve the items belonging to her brother.

According to the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services (MBVS), Maine has a long-standing history of military service, and despite it being a very rural state, it is home to over 106,000 veterans, roughly 10% of the state's overall population. In honor of Veterans Day, the Maine OST and MBVS reminded Maine veterans about available resources and sharing information about recent veteran-related unclaimed property.

OST runs the state's unclaimed property program, which currently holds over \$289 million in 4 million accounts of unclaimed property that belong to Maine citizens. This includes money and other financial assets that are considered lost or abandoned when an owner cannot be located after a specified period of inactivity.

Treasurer Beck said, "With such a high population of veterans in our state, it's possible, even likely that we are holding assets that belong to a veteran." In addition to \$289 million, the Treasurer's Office also has several military medals, pins, dog tags, and bars. "We'd love to get these military items back into the hands of their rightful owners," Beck added.

In recognition of veterans, OST recently scanned its accounts and found over 20 veteran-related/veteran-supporting organizations that have unclaimed property, representing well over \$20,000. Beck said that outreach to these organizations has been productive. "We've begun reaching out to

these organizations to help reunite them with amounts as much as over \$6,000 and as little as \$25," he said and reported that three of those organizations, Franklin's Veterans Club, American Red Cross and Wounded Warrior Project, had already filed claims totaling over \$5,000. To see if you or your organization has unclaimed property, go to www.maineunclaimedproperty.gov.

Veterans Day puts the spotlight on veterans and their families, and the Bureau of Veterans Services' goal is to be a one-stop resource for all veteran information needs and to offer exceptional advocacy for Maine's veterans: "We strive to provide streamlined services to Maine's veterans, whether it is a request for filing a claim for a service-connected disability or a question about other state or federal benefits." Director David Richmond noted, "Our mission is to serve, and our staff is here to assist all of Maine's veterans."

MBVS serves as the state's advocates for veterans and their families.

The Bureau has seven field offices (Bangor, Caribou, Lewiston, Machias, Portland, Springvale and on the Togus Campus in Augusta) with specially trained Veterans Services Officers who can assist with connection to the VA and state benefits. MBVS also oversees the state's Veterans' Cemetery System and can assist with veterans' identification, connection to employment and education, and provides advocacy for homeless and justice-affected veterans. MBVS's field offices can be reached Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at 207-430-6035 or at mainebvs@maine.gov.

OST is established in Article V, Part Three of the Constitution of the State of Maine. The core duties of the Treasurer's Office are debt management, cash management, trust fund administration and unclaimed property administration. Other major tasks assigned to the Treasurer are directorships on many of Maine's quasi-governmental debt issuing agencies and distributions under the Municipal Revenue Sharing Program.

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Scam Alert: Beware of Medicare Cons During Enrollment Period

The coronavirus pandemic left many Americans unemployed and uninsured. To give people a chance to sign up for health care coverage, the U.S. federal government has opened Medicare.gov now through December 7, 2021. Healthcare.gov is open now through January 15, 2022. Unfortunately, scammers often see open enrollments as a chance to trick people out of money and personal information.

This is how the scam works. Anytime the government has an open enrollment, people understandably have questions and concerns. Scammers take advantage of this opportunity to confuse and mislead victims.

BBB.org/ScamTracker gets many reports about scammers claiming to be a government representative who can help you navigate your Medicare or Affordable Care Act options. Scammers claim to be a “health care benefits advocate” or a similar title. These scammers allege they can enroll you in a better program than what you currently have. This new plan is cheaper, and you can keep all the same services. To get started, all you need to do is provide some personal information, such as your Medicare ID number. Of course, the call is a scam, and sharing personal information will open you up to identity theft.

In another common

scam, callers try to frighten - rather than assist - victims with their health care plans. In this case, scammers claim that your Medicare will be discontinued if you didn't re-enroll. Fortunately, this “Medicare advisor” can fix the situation - if you share personal information with them.

Watch out for similar scams. Healthcare.gov does provide legitimate help with figuring out which plan is right for you. These people - sometimes called Navigators or Assistants - are not allowed to charge for their help. If someone asks you for payment, it's a scam. You will also need to contact them. They will not call you out-of-the-blue.

Selecting a health insurance plan can be challenging and complex. Be on the lookout for common red flags. Be wary of anyone who contacts you unsolicited. People representing Medicare or ACA plans don't contact you by phone, email, or in person unless you are already enrolled. Be especially cautious of threatening calls that require quick action or immediate payment.

Decline promotional gifts in exchange for personal information. Keep a healthy level of skepticism any time a broker offers you free gifts, health screenings, or other special deals. Never sign up with a broker who offers you an expensive “sign-up gift”

in exchange for providing your Medicare ID number or other personally identifiable information.

Beware of dishonest brokers who offer “free health screenings.” Some brokers offer this to weed out people who are less healthy. This is called “cherry picking” and is against the Medicare rules.

Guard your government-issued numbers. Never offer your Medicare ID number, Social Security number, health plan info, or banking information to anyone you don't know.

Hang up and go to official websites. You can enroll or re-enroll in Medicare at Medicare.gov or in a marketplace health plan at Healthcare.gov.

If you are unsure whether a call or offer is from Medicare, or you gave your personal information to someone claiming to be with Medicare, call 1-800-MEDICARE to report it. If you suspect fraud when signing up for ACA coverage, go to HealthCare.gov or call the Health Insurance Marketplace call center at 800-318-2596.

For more tips from BBB on avoiding health care scams, check BBB.org/HealthCareScam. If you've been the victim of a scam, please report it to BBB.org/ScamTracker. By sharing your experience, you can help others avoid falling victim to similar scams.

Midcoast Symphony Orchestra to Perform “A New World”



Midcoast Symphony Orchestra will be performing “A New World” at the Gendron Franco Center on Saturday January 15, 2022 at 7:00 PM and Sunday January 16, 2022 at 2:30 PM. Rohan Smith will be conducting and

the program includes Nkeiru Okoye's Voices Shouting Out; Philip Carlsen's Rowing in Eden; Johannes Brahms' “I. Allegro non troppo” from Violin Concerto (which will feature Anne McKee, Violinist). Anne is the winner of MSO's

2020 Judith Elser Concerto Competition. The program will also feature Antonín Dvořák's Symphony No. 9 in E Minor, Op. 95, “From the New World.” For more information and tickets, go to <https://www.midcoast-symphony.org/concerts/>

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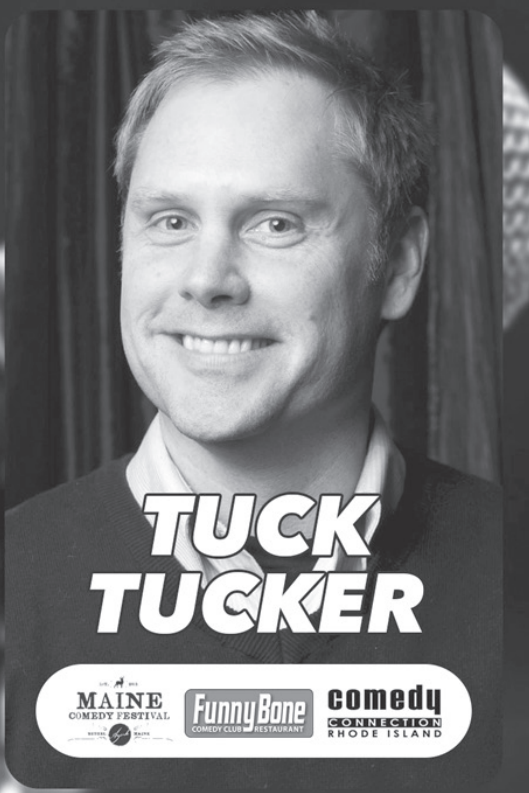
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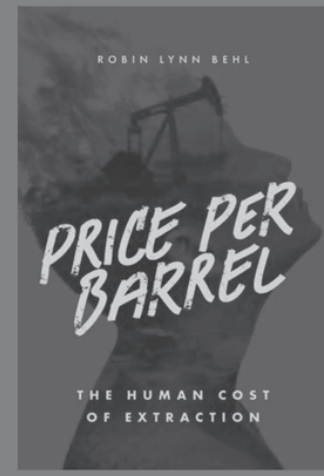
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Author Talk
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new book, *Price Per Barrel: The Human Cost of Extraction*, about boomtowns in North America and the tireless work that the first responders in them do for their communities. This event is free;

no registration is required. Copies of the new book will be available for sale at the event and a book signing will follow. For more information, call 513-3135 or see www.LPLonline.org.

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Tips for Ready-ing Your Outdoor Power Gear for Storage

After your lawn gets its last cut before winter, it will be time to put away spring and summer outdoor power equipment, like lawn mowers, leaf blowers, and trimmers. What's next? Snow throwers, generators and other small engine equipment need to be readied for winter use. How and when you prepare your equipment for seasonal changes can save you time and money later, says the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI).

With record-breaking sales of outdoor power equipment, homeowners are spending more time during the COVID-19 pandemic working or renovating their family yards. This means more people are using outdoor power equipment, and OPEI reminds everyone the importance of proper outdoor power equipment storage, maintenance, and safe handling.

"During this very challenging pandemic, we've learned our outdoor spaces are more important than ever," says Kris Kiser, President and CEO of OPEI and the TurfMutt Foundation, which encourages outdoor learning experiences, stewardship of our green spaces, and care for all living landscapes. "Our yards, parks and schoolyards are our safe space for connecting with friends and family, acting as outdoor classrooms and offices. Green space also contributes to the health and wellbeing of people, pets and wildlife, and having the right outdoor power equipment to take care of it is key. But preparation is everything -- understanding how to store equipment

and get it serviced, how to operate it safely, and how to ready your space to use that equipment."

He adds, "Always follow your manufacturer's guidelines, and remember to keep kids and dogs away from operating equipment at all times."

Here are a few tips from OPEI to ensure your lawn mower and other spring equipment will be available for use when warmer temperatures return, and snow throwers and other winter equipment will be ready for use when the snow falls:

Review owner's manuals. Re-familiarize yourself with how to handle equipment safely. Lost manuals can be found online. Save a copy on your computer if possible, so it can be consulted when needed. Be familiar with your equipment, and all its features, including how to turn it off quickly and safely.

Service all equipment. Before storing spring and summer equipment, clean and service it or take it to a small engine repair shop. Drain and change engine oil and safely dispose of the old oil. Service the air filter, and do other maintenance as directed by the owner's manual. Check winter equipment and see if any maintenance and repairs are required.

Handle fuel properly. Unused fuel left in gas tanks over the winter can go stale and even damage equipment. Before storing equipment, add fuel stabilizer to the gas tank, then run the equipment to distribute it. Turn the engine off, allow the machine to

cool, then restart and run until the gas tank is empty. For winter equipment, buy the recommended type of fuel no more than 30 days before use. Use fuel with no more than 10% ethanol in outdoor power equipment. Use a fuel stabilizer if recommended by the manufacturer. Get more information on safe fueling for outdoor power equipment at LookBeforeYouPump.com.

Charge the battery. Remove and fully charge batteries before storing. Don't store batteries on metal shelves or allow them to touch metal objects. Store them on a plastic or wood shelf in a climate-controlled structure.

Shelter equipment from winter weather. Store spring and summer equipment in a clean and dry place such as a garage, barn or shed. Winter equipment should be kept away from the elements but be easily available for use.

Prepare, prepare, prepare. Make space in the garage or basement before the weather changes, so there is room to store larger yard items. Clean up the yard of sticks, debris, dog and kid's toys and other items that can damage or destroy equipment. Clear the paths used regularly in your yard, especially during the winter when snow can "hide" things.

Have the right weather appropriate extension cord for your generator. Keep heavy duty weather-proof extension cords on hand to use with it. Ensure the length of the cord is necessary to operate the



generator a safe distance from the house or building. Never operate a generator indoors, in a garage, breezeway or under an open window.

Are you the owner of outdoor power equipment? It might be time to prepare for winter storage of your supplies. OPEI offers several helpful tips to help save time and money.

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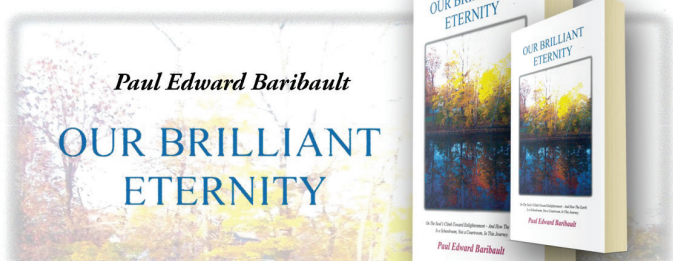
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Renée Bouchard: Allegory of Prudence



Renée Bouchard *Ex Utero* (collaboration with her one-year-old) 2013 Watercolor, acrylic, wax crayon, graphite, and studio detritus on panel 30 x 60 inches

Lewiston – The LA Arts gallery will exhibit paintings by Renée Bouchard from November 5 through January 14, 2022. The exhibition title *Allegory of Prudence*, is a reference to the painting of the same name by the Venetian Renaissance painter, Titian, in which the Latin inscription *ex prae/rito / praesens prvden/ter agit / ni fvtvrv/actione de/trvpet*, written above the figures in the painting, can be translated as, “from the past / the present acts prudently / lest it spoil future action.”

Bouchard says of her paintings:

I work in spurts on several paintings simultaneously in a journalistic manner, documenting clusters of daily life. Language, media, music, and studio detritus intertwine with memory and the present act of painting. I paint using colors without prejudice. The experience of color is one of a constant state of coming and going. I investigate the transitions between complementary colors, and view them as opportunities to change the habit of language knowing one color can't exist without the other.

As a single mother who received her MFA during the pandemic while homeschooling her young child, a renewed focus to a public discourse about the relationship and responsibilities of caregiving made it more relevant than ever. I am constantly exploring human security and aim towards a gesture of repair. Since my son was in the womb, I began intersecting mothering with my home studio practice. In the studio, I am envisioning the possibilities of a common world.

I find it interesting that painting is considered a “high art.” I am constantly playing with this idea by allowing non-traditional materials like natural and human made objects into my paintings. Aiming to transcend the materials, I

walk over them to flatten them, staple and glue them on the surface. During a collaborative series, I invited other women in my community in a tracing project out in my backyard. We took turns tracing each other on large sheets of Arches paper while laying in resting poses. Their participation served as an act of resistance, and a symbol of becoming. For me, the images once hung on a wall became a representation of a life-force growing from the ground up. I see collaboration as a means to interrupt my own gaze on the work and widen my visual vocabulary. On many occasions, my young child has participated in the paintings.

Born in 1976 to French Canadian parents, Renée has lived throughout New England most of her life. She studied at the Cleveland Institute of Art, and graduated from the Maine College of Art in 1999. She received her MFA in visual art from the Vermont College of Fine Arts in 2021 when she was nominated for fellowships from the Dedalus Foundation and the College Art Association. Renée has received grants, awards, and residencies from institutions including the Maine College of Art, the Vermont Arts Council, the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, the Cooper Union, the Kate Millett Art

Colony for women, and the Vermont Studio Center.

Since 1973, LA Arts, the arts agency for the cities of Lewiston and Auburn Maine, has pursued a mission to engage and inspire a vibrant community through arts and culture. The agency works with governments, businesses, schools and local arts and cultural organizations to create opportunities for community members across the generations to experience, learn, and participate in the arts. LA Arts organizes arts programs and initiatives, supports the work of local artists and arts organizations, and highlights the essential role the arts play in shaping an economically vital, socially integrated, and forward-looking future for its community. Learn more at www.laarts.org.

The LA Arts Gallery is located at 221 Lisbon Street, Lewiston, Maine. Gallery Hours are Wednesday – Friday 10-4, Saturday 10-12, and by appointment: contact@laarts.org

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

Great Falls Forum: Public Art in LA - Maine's Newest Canvas

On Thursday, January 20, 2022 from 11AM to 12PM, the Great Falls Forum will host a panel discussion on public art in Lewiston and Auburn. In this Great Falls Forum panel discussion, Beckie Conrad will provide an update on the next phase of the public art plans for Lewiston and Auburn and lessons learned over the last three

years during the implementation of the \$75,000 Creative Communities = Economic Development grant awarded by the Maine Arts Commission in 2019.

Panelists will reflect on their experiences being selected to create public art commissions for Lewiston Auburn and then speak about the overall value of public art to develop a

sense of community as well as serve as economic drivers.

This is a free event. Register at this link for the Zoom information to be sent to your email: <https://networkmaine.zoom.us/j/98272828282>. Call 513-3135 or see www.LPOnline.org for more information.

Museum L-A Launches Capital Campaign for New Museum



The Lewiston City Council voted on December 21, 2021 to provide \$2 million toward Museum L-A's \$17 million capital campaign. The Auburn city council earlier approved up to \$1.5 million, at 66% of

the total amount Lewiston provides. These are two important steps forward

Museum L-A and the Museum is thrilled to have both cities' support.

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Maine-ly Harmony Invites Women and Girls to Participate in Online Rehearsals



Maine-ly Harmony Chorus

Maine-ly Harmony is an a cappella women's chorus directed by Kathy Greason. Members hail from several counties around the state, singing the barbershop style of four-part harmony. In the past, we have performed for a Portland Sea Dogs game, as well as being honored to open the Legislative session at the State House in Augusta with the National Anthem. We have enthusiastically helped numerous organizations to fundraise, including the

Maine Autism Society, the Westport Fire Department and Lisbon Area Christian Outreach food pantry, and have contributed to special events such as Senior Spectrum's Lifestyle Expo at the Augusta Civic Center and the Togus Veterans Administration's 9/11 commemorative services. We have performed at the Marsh River Summer Theater in Brooks, the Waterville Opera House, Jewett Hall on the UMA campus, and the Sawyer Foundation in Greene.

We offer our musical programs to church and civic group organizations, and for the residents of retirement, veterans' and nursing homes throughout the state.

Due to the pandemic, we currently hold our weekly Wednesday evening rehearsals on Zoom. We invite women and girls of all ages to join us at a Zoom rehearsal to learn more about us. Call Lea at 207-622-1273 or Nancy at 207-293-4779 for more information.

Treasurer Beck Checking List Twice To See Who Has Unclaimed Property

Augusta, ME -- Maine Treasurer, Henry Beck wants YOU to help us spread some holiday cheer!

The Office of the State Treasurer is currently holding over \$292 million in unclaimed property that could fill your stocking ... or the stocking of your loved ones ... this holiday season.

In Treasurer Beck's search of the list of over 4 million accounts, he noted many holiday-themed first and last names that currently have thousands and thousands in unclaimed property. Rudolph, Santa, Frosty, Holly, Sabbath and Emmanuel ALL have unclaimed property awaiting them. How about Peace, Joy and Love? Jack

Frost? How about Claus, Noel, Carol or Holiday? Is YOUR name among the 4 million?

According to Beck, "We even show the name Scrooge among those who have unclaimed property." Going to the unclaimed property website could be the best gift you could give yourself and those you love this holiday season.

Don't wait a moment longer. Get into the holiday spirit and go to www.maineunclaimedproperty.gov and look for your name and the names of the people on YOUR list. It's easy and it's free! Our average claim size this year has been \$585. Our largest claim this year so far has been for over

\$377,000 and in November, one claim yielded \$203,000!

What is unclaimed property?

Unclaimed property consists of money and other financial assets that are considered lost or abandoned when an owner cannot be located after a specified period of time of inactivity. It includes items such as bank accounts, uncashed checks, life insurance policies, unpaid wages, stocks and dividends, refunds, and safe deposit box contents. Unclaimed property does not include real estate, animals or vehicles.

Each and every year, tens of millions of dollars go unclaimed by Maine residents. These financial

assets are turned over by thousands of national and local businesses and organizations by a law called MRSATitle 33, Chapter 45: Maine Revised Unclaimed Property Act. For more information, see: <http://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/33/title33ch45sec0.html>. The Treasurer's office holds these assets, free of charge, until claimed by the owner or heir. The State is currently holding over \$292,000,000 in unclaimed property. In the month of November, 1,397 claims were made against unclaimed property totaling \$842,384.83 in payments to Maine people. The highest single claim paid in the month of November was for \$203,000.

The Office of the

Treasurer of State is established in Article V, Part Third of the Constitution of the State of Maine. The core duties of the Treasurer's Office are debt management, cash management, trust fund administration and unclaimed

property administration. Other major tasks assigned to the Treasurer are directorships on many of Maine's quasi-governmental debt issuing agencies and distributions under the Municipal Revenue Sharing Program.

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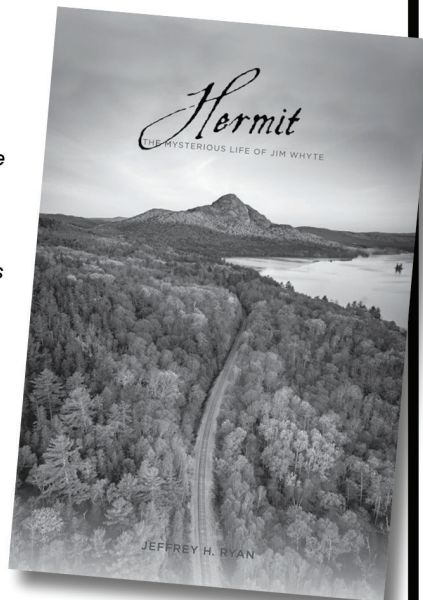
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— Bill Bushnell, *Bushnell on Books*

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— George Smith, *Bangor Daily News*

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GORHAM – 6:30pm
Joint Town Council & School Committee Workshop Conference Room A

Jan. 12
GORHAM – 7pm
School Committee Meeting Council Chambers

Jan. 17
GORHAM – Municipal Center, Administrative Offices & Library closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Jan. 18
GORHAM – 8am
Ordinance Committee Meeting Conference Room A

Jan. 18

GORHAM – 6:30pm
Tentative Recurring Town Council Workshop Council Chambers

Jan. 19
GORHAM – 8am
Gorham Economic Development Corporation Meeting Conference Room A

Jan. 20
GORHAM – 6:30pm
Tentative Recurring CIP Meeting TBD

Jan. 20
GORHAM – 6:30pm

Tentative Board of Appeals Meeting Council Chambers

Jan. 24
GORHAM – 5:30pm
Finance Committee Meeting Town Manager's Office

Feb. 1
GORHAM – 6:30pm
Regular Town Council Meeting Council Chambers

Feb. 7
GORHAM – 7pm

Planning Board Meeting Council Chambers

Feb. 9
GORHAM – 7pm
School Committee Meeting Council Chambers

Feb. 15
GORHAM – 8am
Ordinance Committee Meeting Conference Room A

Feb. 16
GORHAM – 8am
Gorham Economic Development Corporation Meeting Conference Room A

Feb. 17
GORHAM – 6:30pm
Tentative Recurring CIP Meeting TBD

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Lewiston Public Library Children's Department Offering Winter Activities

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We also still have Rainbow Winter House

take & make kits (which you can also pick up via LPL To Go--contact us using the number/email above) and our kid-sized cardboard house is still here for coloring.

The Public Theatre Offers In-Person and Video-On-Demand Performances

BE HERE NOW
by Deborah Zoe Laufer

Jan 21-30
Streaming Jan 25-30

The Public Theatre continues its 2021-2022 season with Be Here Now by Deborah Zoe Laufer. The Theatre explained that in choosing our season, we look for plays that speak from the heart; that are life-affirming and uplifting even when the subject matter is challenging; that use our language in powerful and provocative ways; that invite the audience to see their world in a new way. Artistic excellence is central to the mission of The Public Theatre.

New this season, The

Public Theatre will be offering a Video-On-Demand option of a performance recorded in front of a live audience for each play in the season that you can watch from home.

Be Here Now An Intriguing Comedy about Happiness
January 21-30, 2022

Video-On-Demand Jan 25-30, 2022

A pessimistic professor of nihilism develops a dangerous medical condition with a side effect that turns her into a happy, hopeful, believer in love. But what if curing

her condition will return her to misery? This wise and quirky comedy asks - is happiness a choice or a pre-existing condition?

Ticket Information:
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You may also choose to watch Be Here Now with a Video-On-Demand ticket. This performance is recorded in front of a live audience that you can watch from home. Subscriptions are on sale now. Call 207-782-3200 for more information.

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UDisc Names Lewiston/Auburn as #1 Disc Golf City in the US

December 17, 2021 – UDisc, an app and website for disc golfers, has named Lewiston/Auburn as the Top Disc Golf City in America. The article, written by Alex Williamson of the UDisc website, states:

When we first did Top 10 Disc Golf Cities back in 2018, we were just as surprised as most of our readers that this small northeastern metro was #1. But when it came out on top again this time around (despite some significant changes to the rankings math in 2021 – see the post linked in the “Stats” section), our reactions were knowing nods and admittedly sub-par attempts at saying “Ayuh” in old-school Maine accents.

As we learned a few years ago, Maine is the only state where privately-owned, pay-to-play courses are the norm (more on that in the “History” section). The large volume of courses in and around Lewiston/Auburn means that competition for players is high. For owners to attract steady business, they need great tracks that are meticulously maintained and have lots of amenities. As a result, most of the area’s disc golf facilities would be premier destinations if plopped down alone anywhere else.

Instead, they’re all clustered around Lewiston/Auburn, creating a juggernaut of quality disc golf.

Lewiston & Auburn Disc Golf Stats

Lewiston-Auburn Metropolitan Statistical Area, Maine
 Overall Rank: 1
 Weighted Course

Count Rank: 61
 Weighted Course Density Rank: 1

The Top 10 Disc Golf Cities – U.S.A. rankings are based on the number, quality, and density of courses within nearly 400 metro areas in the country. The rankings are based entirely on stats and not the personal preferences of anyone at UDisc.

Lewiston & Auburn Disc Golf History

The first course with baskets in Maine was actually one of the first courses with baskets in the country. It was a project of “Steady” Ed Headrick’s – inventor of the first disc golf basket and commonly called the “Father of Disc Golf” – and installed in 1978 at Beaver Brook Camping Resort about 20 miles/32 kilometers north of Auburn. The course and its original single-chain baskets from that time are still there today. The description in the UDisc course directory says Beaver Brook was where the original Maine Disc Golf Championships happened well before modern golf discs were widely available.

Despite the sport’s early start in the area, the scene as it exists today didn’t get going until the turn of the century. That’s according to Jamie White, a Lewiston/Auburn resident and sponsored professional player who has organized the area’s largest tournaments in recent years.

“Enman Field and Dragan Field established themselves as pay-to-play courses in the late ‘90s to

early 2000s,” White said. “Both properties were privately owned, well-maintained, and featured pro shops stocked with discs, drinks, and snacks. The model took off across the state and became the expected standard among players looking for disc golf experiences.”

Enman (which was a 20 minute drive from Lewiston) is defunct, but Dragan Field in Auburn is alive and well (and even added a second course to its property in 2020). A testament to how the example these courses set “took off” is that nowadays the number of pay-to-play facilities within 25 miles/40 kilometers of Lewiston just with courses rated over 4 out of 5 stars on UDisc is in the double digits.

Because local disc golf is privatized and for-profit, Lewiston/Auburn disc golfers are very unforgiving of things like unmown grass or patches of disc-eating brush. Course owners either take care of such maintenance regularly, or word-of-mouth quickly redirects customers to other facilities that are in better shape. If you peruse some of the reviews on the few area courses with less-than-stellar ratings, you’ll find the complaints are nearly always maintenance-related.

What’s Disc Golf Like Around Lewiston & Auburn?

There’s no limit to the type of disc golf you can find in the area. With the pay-to-play market driving the sport’s development,

course owners constantly try to offer something new to attract players. Open, wooded, flatter, elevated. Beginner, intermediate, advanced. It’s all available in and around Lewiston/Auburn and often at the same multi-course facilities. Additionally, expect high levels of course maintenance and more amenities than you’ll find at most any public course.

Lewiston & Auburn Disc Golf Course Highlights

Sabattus: Sabattus Disc Golf is home to three of the top five disc golf courses in Maine. As of publication, it has four courses and there’s a fifth in the works. In order of increasing difficulty, the courses are the Owl (a beginner-friendly nine-hole course), Hawk, Falcon, and Eagle. The course in the works is meant to be the most difficult of all. The maintenance and attention to detail are top-notch, there’s a three-story pro shop on site, and you’ll find a course that’s enjoyable for you to play no matter your skill level. If you’re in Lewiston/Auburn, you can’t go wrong at Sabattus.

Pineland Farms: This destination has two 18-hole courses: the Patriot and the Minuteman. In White’s opinion, the Patriot is one of Maine’s most challenging and well-designed courses,

and he says most pros who visit the area consider it the region’s best course. Pineland Farms itself describes the course as a “challenging 18 holes with a variety of fun obstacles and varying terrain which follows along the Access and Campus Loop skiing trails.” As for the Minuteman, White called it “a shorter but still very challenging par three course that complements its longer big [sibling].” White also noted that Pineland Farms – which is actually home to a working farm – also “offers an amazing pro shop and market stocked full of locally and on-site sourced foods.”

Other Highlights

1. Acker’s Acres is home to two of the best-rated courses in the metro area

not at Sabattus.

2. Sporting three tee pads per hole, brand new baskets, and top-notch maintenance, Devil’s Grove Disc Golf – Devil in Lewiston is steadily creeping up in the ratings (4.5/5 as of publication)

3. Visit Dragan Field – Red Dragon to experience one of the courses that kicked things off in Lewiston/Auburn.

4. But, seriously, pretty much everything around here is a highlight. Just look at the disc golf courses near Lewiston/Auburn on UDisc Courses to see what we mean.

This is an honor for disc golf in the L/A area. For more information, see <https://udisc.com/blog/post/top-10-disc-golf-cities-usa>

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