



# TWIN CITY TIMES

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## Delving into the Upcoming Legislative Session

By Sen. Nate Libby  
**AUGUSTA, ME (January 21, 2022)** -- Earlier this month, the 130th Maine Legislature convened to launch our Second Regular Session. This in-person session day was mostly a formal procedure that required lawmakers to be in the State House. For now, we will continue to do our committee work remotely via Zoom. But this is not necessarily a bad thing, and in many cases it only promotes public engagement of the legislative process here in Maine -- I'll expand on that further on. With the second session now underway, I wanted to share a snapshot of the work we will be doing in Augusta now through April.

As I mentioned above, a lot of the work we will be doing will be conducted remotely. When we implemented this method last year, we found that more Mainers were able to participate in our process than ever before, because they could do it from the comfort of their homes. In Augusta, state lawmakers are always eager to hear from their constituents on the issues that are important to them and how they'll be affected. It helps inform our decisions. If you hear about a bill that compels you to speak for or against it, you can sign up to testify via Zoom at [www.mainelegislature.org/testimony/](http://www.mainelegislature.org/testimony/). You can submit written testimony online, too. With this remote model, Mainers are able to tune into committee meetings that are livestreamed at [www.youtube.com/mainestatelegislature](http://www.youtube.com/mainestatelegislature) and archived at [www.legislature.maine.gov](http://www.legislature.maine.gov).

There are a few key differences that set this second session apart from the first. The length of the second session is about two months shorter than the first. As a result, the scope of our work changes, too. During the first regular session, lawmakers can submit bills on any topic or issue they choose; whereas, according to the Maine Constitution, the second

See Session, page 14

## Girl Scouts at the Lewiston Public Library

**girl scouts of maine**

**Meet with a Girl Scout Representative and pick up a free activity!**  
**Wednesday, February 9th**  
**5:30PM**  
**Library Children's Department**

**LEWISTON, ME (January 25, 2022)** -- Interested in Girls Scouts for your child? Meet with a Girl Scout representative in the Lewiston Public Library's Children's Department on Wednesday, February 9th at 5:30PM to ask questions and check out a free Girl Scout activity from one of their many badges.

Through programs from coast to

coast, Girl Scouts of all backgrounds and abilities can be unapologetically themselves as they discover their strengths and rise to meet new challenges—whether they want to climb to the top of a tree or the top of their class, lace up their boots for a hike or advocate for climate justice, or make their first best friends. Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character,

who make the world a better place.

This program is free, open to the public, and no registration is required.

The Lewiston Public Library is located downtown at 200 Lisbon Street at the corner of Pine Street. More information on is available by contacting the Lewiston Public Library at 513-3133 or [LPLKids@lewistonmaine.gov](mailto:LPLKids@lewistonmaine.gov).

## Auburn Police Investigate Possible Shooting

**AUBURN, ME** – On January 27, 2022, at approximately 6:23AM, Auburn Police were dispatched to the area of 77 South Main Street for a report of gunshots. Multiple callers reported hearing several gunshots in the area. Auburn patrol officers and detectives responded and conducted a search of the area.

Information obtained at the scene revealed that at least one person had been injured. It is unknown if the injuries were a result of a gunshot. All individuals involved fled the scene and have not reported the incident to police or to local hospitals.

A building in the area was struck by the gunfire. At the time of the incident, no one was in the building and police are confident the building was not an intended target.

This appears to be an isolated incident between subjects that were known to each other. This is an active and ongoing investigation. Anyone with in-

formation is asked to contact Detective Marshall McCamish of the Auburn Police Department at (207)-333-6650 ext. 2067.

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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## Blood and Platelet Donation Appointments Still Critically Needed Amid First-Ever Red Cross Blood Crisis

**PORTLAND, ME (January 25, 2022)** — While there has been a significant and encouraging response to the dire need for blood across the nation, the American Red Cross needs more people to give in the weeks ahead to recover from its worst blood shortage in more than a decade. Those interested in helping are urged to schedule the earliest-available blood or platelet donation appointment in their area to help ensure accident victims rushed to the emergency room, those being treated for cancer and others who count on blood product transfusions can receive lifesaving care without delay.

Since the Red Cross issued its first-ever blood crisis alert, severe winter weather has further complicated efforts to rebuild the blood supply. Hundreds of blood drives have been canceled across

the country due to winter storms in January, forcing about 6,500 blood and platelet donations to go uncollected.

As February approaches, and the effects from the spread of the omicron variant and winter weather persist, people are urged to make an appointment now to give blood or platelets in the weeks ahead by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Those who come to give blood or platelets Feb. 1-28, 2022, will receive a \$10 Amazon.com Gift Card via email, thanks to Amazon.\*

### Employment and volunteer opportunities available

During this challenging time, the Red Cross is also actively recruiting blood collection employees and blood drive volun-

teers who play vital roles in supporting the nation's blood supply. The Red Cross encourages those interested to join us at a Red Cross hiring event on February 10, from noon to 6 p.m. at the American Red Cross Blood Donation Center, 524 Forest Avenue, Portland, Maine.

Based in Portland, Red Cross Mobile Phlebotomists help operate blood drives throughout the community. Applicants will need a valid driver's license, a good driving record, proof of COVID-19 vaccination and must be willing to travel to blood drives throughout Maine. No experience is necessary for entry-level positions.

The Red Cross provides a paid training program. We also offer health & dental benefits, 401K, paid time off – plus a \$1,000 sign-on bonus. Those interested are reminded to bring a resume

the day of the event. Walk-ins are welcome. Masks are required. To learn more about being a phlebotomist, watch this short video: [rdcrss.org/lifesavingrole](https://rdcrss.org/lifesavingrole).

### Blood drive safety

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions – including face masks for donors and staff, regardless of vaccination status – have been implemented to help protect the health of all those in attendance. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive.

### Save time during donation

Donors can also save up to 15 minutes at the blood drive by completing a RapidPass®. With RapidPass®, donors complete the pre-donation reading and health history

questionnaire online, on the day of donation, from a mobile device or computer. To complete a RapidPass®, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

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

### Health insights for donors

At a time when health information has never

been more important, the Red Cross is screening all blood, platelet and plasma donations from self-identified African American donors for the sickle cell trait. This additional screening will provide Black donors with an additional health insight and help the Red Cross identify compatible blood types more quickly to help patients with sickle cell disease who require trait-negative blood. Blood transfusion is an essential treatment for those with sickle cell disease, and blood donations from individuals of the same race, ethnicity and blood type have a unique ability to help patients fighting sickle cell disease.

Donors can expect to receive sickle cell trait screening results, if applicable, within one to two weeks through the Red Cross Blood Donor App and the online donor portal at RedCrossBlood.org.

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## Mainely Character Opens College Scholarship Applications for 2022 High School Seniors

**PORTLAND, ME (January 18, 2022)** – Mainly Character is now accepting applications for scholarships for Maine high school seniors graduating in 2022 and planning to attend a post-secondary school. At least ten \$5,000 scholarships will be awarded. Mainly Character has been awarding scholarships to students of

character since 2001.

Each year, more than 200 seniors from high schools across Maine apply for scholarships awarded by Mainly Character and its partnering sponsors. Applicants provide personal stories that demonstrate the four aspects of character: Integrity, Concern, Responsibility, and Courage.

Applications are panel reviewed and selections are made following a personal interview and reference checks.

This year's scholarship sponsors include:

100+ Women Who Care, Southern Maine; Biddeford and Mechanics Savings Charitable Foundation; Bristol Sea Foods; Machias Savings

Bank; Market Decisions Research; Northern Light Health; Partners Bank; Reed and Reed; Richard and Anne Cass; Kathy & David Harrison; Timothy and Claire Heard; Ann Spaulding.

For more information or to apply for the scholarship, visit the Mainly Character website: [www.mainlycharacter.org](http://www.mainlycharacter.org).

## Supreme Court Blocks COVID-19 Vaccine-or-Test Requirement for Large Workplaces

Statement From House Republican Leader Dillingham

The Supreme Court

has blocked the federal government's COVID-19 vaccine-or-test requirement for large workplaces. The court ALLOWS a vaccine mandate for workers at federally funded health care facilities to take effect nationwide.

Maine House Repub-

licans applaud today's decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to ensure OSHA does not exceed its authority. In the words of the majority:

'The Secretary has ordered 84 million Americans to either obtain a COVID-19 vaccine or un-

dergo weekly medical testing at their own expense. This is no "everyday exercise of federal power." In re MCP No. 165, 20 F. 4th, at 272 (Sutton, C. J., dissenting). It is instead a significant encroachment into the lives-and health-of

See COVID-19, page 12

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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## Representative Connor Announces Lewiston Projects



**AUGUSTA, ME (January 24, 2022)** – State Representative Jonathan Connor (R-Lewiston) is pleased to announce that the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) has released their Work Plan for Calendar Years 2022, 2023 and 2024. The estimated value of work in the plan totals more than \$3.17 billion and will fund 2,316 individual work items. Due to the bipartisan infrastructure bill that recently passed congress, this represents a substan-

tial increase from last year due to anticipated higher levels of federal funding.

The MDOT Work Plan for Lewiston includes \$4,554,000 for 20 projects, including:

- Highway safety and spot improvements to Route 126 and East Avenue,

- Improvements to the Androscoggin Transportation Resource Center,

- Bicycle/pedestrian improvements on Route 126, Route 202 and

Route 196, and

Fiber optic interconnect and signal upgrades at selected intersections and other state roads in the area.

“During my lifetime, Maine has never kept up with the maintenance and investment that we need in our roads and infrastructure. These MDOT Work Plan projects present a good start, and will benefit everyone in the greater Lewiston/Auburn area and communities across Maine,” said Rep. Con-

nor. “We all benefit from investments in transportation, and I’m pleased that we are seeing a greater investment this year than the prior Work Plan. I am committed to strong legislative oversight to make sure these projects are delivering for the people of Lewiston.”

The full work plan, searchable by municipality, is available at the Maine Department of Transportation’s website: <https://www.maine.gov/mdot/projects/workplan/search/>

## Central Maine Community College Announces the Dean’s List for the Fall 2021 Semester

**AUBURN, ME (January 27, 2022)** -- President Betsy Libby of Central Maine Community College has announced the Dean’s List for the Fall 2021 semester. Students on the President’s List earned a semester grade point average (GPA) of 3.9 or higher (on a 4.0 scale). High Honors denote a minimum GPA of 3.6 and honors recognizes those with a minimum GPA of 3.3. All students who have achieved academic honors are listed below.

### President’s Honors

Auburn: Tina Corriveau, Morgan E. Guerin, Darren Hicks, Melissa A. Jewett, Jason McCarthy, David E. Ouellette, Mackenzie M. Rodrigue, Emma Samson, Christopher E. Tardif, Jessica Vallee, Corey J. Wilers, Durham: Katelyn M. Roux, Greene: Issabell Brockett, Benjamin J. Farris, Christina A. Giddinge, David R. Madore, Justin R. Mason, Hunter J. Wilbur, Leeds: Randi-Anne Langelier, Sarah M. Stevens, Rhys A. Thibodeau, Lewiston: Istahil O. Abdi, Hadithi A. Abdulle, Leo Anderson, Yasmine A. Barkad, Samantha M. Bickford, Kiarra A. Bruce, Delcio A. Carraco, Alexis A. Corbin, Cameron D. Cote, Valerie E. Denis-Atkins, Amelia A. Doiron, Maria R. Dostie, Robert C. Dostie, Ashton M. Dozois, Morgan M. Epinette,

Gregory Glann, Asma A. Hassan, Jacqueline M. Howard, Mouna A. Ismail, Madina I. Issack, Christopher T. Jillette, Rokayatu Katou, Samantha R. Krause, Asia L. LaFrance, Desmond R. Lalonde, Katarina A. Langlais, Kevin Long, Jamie McDowell, Choukri D. Mohamed, Sean P. Monteith, McKenna D. Muldoon, Hilari Neale, Katie A. Nichols, Erika H. Olson, Benjamin J. Rasmussen, Melissa Ratoff, Fozia A. Robbleh, Emily M. Schmidt, Maxwell J. Snell, Elena N. Trofimova, Falon M. Tshilumba, Lisbon: Christa M. Shane, Lisbon Falls: Damon A. Douglas, Litchfield: Hannah M. Rose, Livermore: Destiny Chretien, Beth A. Johnson, Audrey Lapointe, Livermore Falls: Amanda Butler, Shawn M. Rainha, Mechanic Falls: Emily R. Elliott, Hannah N. Woznicki, Minot: Paul A. Costales, Isabella J. Pray, Hannah R. Royle, Makenna I. Verrill, Craig S. Yates, Poland: Jeremy E. Breau, Cole W. Cushman, Justin M. Jarvis, Sabattus: Megan R. Alexander, Mariah J. Easler, Christine L. Guerette, Julia M. Noel, Jasmyne M. Thornton, Saco: Michelle L. Dunnivant, Jacob Frankel, Turner: Alexandra E. Hawksley, Katherine Q. Manchester.

### High Honors

Auburn: Isabelle Asselin, Sonya L. Caron,

Alyssa E. Champagne, Meiling Chen. Devon W. Fournier, Katie J. Hamel, Jack S. Hart, Derek J. Hutchinson, Abeer M. Jashaami, Jenney L. Klemetson, Larissa J. Martin, Jessica S. Parker, Thomas Pickett, Syrena M. Piper, Rebecca M. Poirier, Rose L. Saucier, Alisha M. Saylor, Melissa Shea, Shannon M. Whitney, Durham: Lauren M. Larrabee, Greene: Brittany D. Bays, Cameron B. Cloutier, Alanna Fellows, Elizabeth Lyman, Lewiston: Abdoulhakim Abdi, Cameron C. Arsenaault, Amanda J. Beauceage, Chantal J. Bernier, Willie Blanchette, Luis A. Dias, Mahad S. Djama, Breanna L. Elliott, Maggie J. Ferland, Samantha E. George, Jaedyn A. Gousse, Mohamed I. Hassan, Deka H. Ibrahim, Breanna M. LeClair, Cristiano A. Macciaia, Christina A. Martin, Jacob T. Metivier, Mohamed I. Mohamed, Erin Myers, McKenzy L. Norton, Faisa A. Omar, Lydia Z. Rand, Dillon W. Roberts, Taylor P. Simoneau, Matthew A. Speaker, Ella Teta Tessa, Francine Tsasa Mabanza, Noah Warsawski, Ethan M. Weiss, Lisbon: Alyssa M. Judd, Siara Martin, Ivy R. Morris, Branden A. Pease, Christy M. Pomerleau, Kimberly

E. Roy, Lisbon Falls: Issac C. Burnell, Michelle A. Doherty, Trey P. LaChance, Danica J. Perry, Litchfield: Jacob R. Brooks, Joanna Lovely, Livermore: Nelai Loboizzo, Madison P. Robinson, Kaitlyn P. York, Livermore Falls: Alexa L. Newcomb, Mechanic Falls: Catina Brooks, Bryce M. Doucette, Mya J. Hebert, McCartney J. Levasseur, Shari L. Smith, Minot: Ashley A. Bisson, Joshua D. Chessey, Christina M. Howze, Mikayla M. Jackson, Meadow M. Lavoie, Autumn S. Pomerleau, Nikki L. Rioux, Ethan R. Tardif, Emily E. Wallingford, Sabattus: Alicia P. Doyle, Hannah Lindecker, Connor A. Pickett, Chloe R. Pinard, Angela E. Strout, Turner: Chloe J. Bolduc, Heather L. Lagueux, Micaella Rodriguez, Sarah B. Woodward, Wales: Jordan J. Rice.

### Honors

Auburn: Nasra M. Abdirahman, Destiny E. Beaudoin, Colleen Burton, Savannah N. Creasy, Caleb F. Davis, Miriam E. Flores, Samuel H. Fuller, Emily J. Kozak, Katelynn J. Lessner, Cally R. Margaret, Daniel K. May, Fernando Melo, Winnie M. Mills, Viktor S. Tripp, Dianna Wood, Greene: Jacob D.

LaFontaine, Leeds: Tanner H. Sawyer, Lewiston: Hassan A. Abdillahi, Muslimo H. Abdullahi, William D. Arthur, Mary M. Barnard, Emily M. Baum, Christina Bishop-Brown, Augustin K. Buyeye, Katerina A. Crowell, Lisa M. Crowell, Alexandria N. Davis, Orena T. Davis, Eryn D. Dillingham, Tracy J. Gagnon, Tamara C. Irakoze, Dylon E. Jackson, Martin K. Kiende, Anna J. Legare, Fatuma M. Mohamud, Jamyah H. Nicolas, Myah C. Nicolas, Ngoie Nsenga, Patrick K. Nyembo, Dori L. Potter, Sarah R. Stone, Connor J. Sullivan, Grace G. Taylor, Joshua Uwimana, Kevin Zhao, Robert G. True, Lisbon: Freddy Bigari, Charlee Cox, Logan E. Preble, Lisbon Falls: Owen J. Cavanaugh, Matthew A. McPhee, Brayden R. Morneau, Litchfield: Amanda L. Black, Joshua S. Gallagher, Michael P. Huntington,

Matthew D. Kronstrand, Kaitlyn M. Poulin, Mackenzie P. Thibeault, Livermore: Skye G. Chretien, Colby Hamblin, Ainsley Kachnovich, Kianna L. Lagasse, Colby J. Rollins, Robin L. Staples, Livermore Falls: Ethan M. Brown, Bailey M. Coates, Victoria F. Cyr, Corey L. Flagg, Shanea L. Kenney, Mechanic Falls: Trenton G. Letourneau, Minot: Monica Bradley, Kaile L. Leighton, Poland: Beth W. Crosby, Jessica L. Hanscom, Cooper S. Keene, Sophia L. Martin, Sabattus: Jessica R. Belanger, Devon Cady, Gabrielle Fontenot, Emily A. Plourde, Cheyenne H. Ryder, Gabriel S. Samson, Caleb M. Valliere, Turner: Nathanael J. Bowmaster, Casey A. Fitzpatrick, Emily A. Gaudreau, Mark S. Herman, Leonie C. Quimby, Kathryn A. Temple, Wales: Amaya I. Bauer, Kylie H. Brown

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# Maine Forest Service Launches Browntail Moth Awareness Month



Webs can look like fist-sized clumps of leaves tied together tightly with silk, or like single leaves hanging onto twigs.

**AUGUSTA, ME (January 27, 2022)** -- February 2022 has been recognized as Browntail Moth Awareness Month in Maine to encourage people to take advantage of the dormant season of the insect and join together to reduce impacts from browntail moth (BTM). BTM populations in Maine have been in an outbreak phase since 2015 and the pest cannot

be eradicated. Most areas of Maine, especially settled areas with significant host tree populations such as oak, apple, crabapple, pear, birch, cherry, or other hardwoods, are at risk of infestation by the caterpillars. While long-lasting tree defoliation and branch dieback are major concerns, BTM's microscopic, toxic hairs can cause trouble breathing and skin irritation similar to poison ivy from a few hours up to several weeks.

The Maine Forest Service (MFS) Forest Health and Monitoring Division coordinates with state government, local communities, and directly with citizens to respond to this issue. Winter is the best time to clip and de-

stroy BTM winter webs within reach or hire licensed arborists or pesticide applicators to reduce out-of-reach populations. Comprehensive BTM information and tools compiled by MFS, Board of Pesticides Control, Maine Center for Disease Control, the University of Maine and other partners including research, infestation tracking, FAQs, and educational resources for communities, municipalities, businesses, and healthcare providers, are available on [maine.gov/dacf/knock-outbtm](http://maine.gov/dacf/knock-outbtm).

Follow the Four Rs to "Knock Out BTM" In Our Communities and Reduce the Itch!

**Recognize:** Learn how to tell if the trees where you live, work, and play have BTM. Their winter webs can look like single leaves hanging onto twigs or fist-sized clumps of leaves tied together tightly with silk. Knowing where the nests are in your yard or town can help inform your management decisions. Learn more by participating in the BTM Awareness Month events included below.

**Remove:** With permission, use hand snips or extendable pole pruners to remove webs within reach from the ground and away from hazards such as

powerlines. Protect your eyes and skin from hairs that might be present from past caterpillar activity. After removal, destroy webs by burning or soaking in soapy water for several days, then dispose of the nests in the trash.

**Recruit:** Hire professional help to treat webs out of reach or near hazards on the property you own or manage. Line up help during winter. Licensed Professional Arborists can remove BTM webs in larger trees and shrubs in the winter. In trees where the caterpillars' hairs cause a nuisance and where it is not practical to remove the webs, Licensed Pesticide Applicators may be able to use insecticides during the growing season to manage BTM.

**Reach Out:** If you find BTM in your neighborhood, let your neighbors and town officials know. The more neighbors, businesses, and others get together to respond to the problem, the better the results.

Encounters with hairs from BTM caterpillars can cause mild to severe rashes and respiratory issues. Some people say they experience itching with fewer than ten webs per tree or shrub; others say they have no symptoms from heavier

*See Moth, next page*



In large, heavily infested trees like these oaks removal of webs may not be practical because of time and cost involved in this approach. In trees like this that are a concern from the standpoint of human health or nuisance, licensed pesticide applicators may be able to use insecticides to help reduce impacts from browntail moth.

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**Moth**

*Continued from previous page*

infestations around their yards.

Everyone is invited to participate in the following BTM Awareness Month events or set up community events. Use #Knock-OutBTM on social media to share your efforts. Some ideas for activities include mapping infestations on the town and public properties, hosting public service web-clipping events, creating contests for the most webs clipped or other community, and knowledge building activities.

**BTM Awareness Month Events**

January 27, 2022, 11 AM

Tune in to Maine Public Broadcasting's Maine Calling for a conversation about BTM. Episodes are rebroadcast at 7pm and past episodes are available on-demand.

February 1, 2022, 12 to 1 PM

Piscataquis County Soil and Water Conservation District will host MFS Forest Entomologist Tom Schmeelk for a webinar discussion on BTM, Emerald Ash Borer and ticks, issues of growing concern in the re-

gion. Register now or contact the district for more information (207-564-2321, Ext. 3.)

February 1, 2022, 6:30 to 8 PM

Belfast Free Public Library will host MFS Forest Entomologist Tom Schmeelk for webinar on BTM and Emerald Ash Borer, two invasive insects of significant concern. Learn more and register on the library website.

February 2, 2022, 6:30 PM

Hallowell Conservation Commission is hosting MFS Forest Entomologist Tom Schmeelk for an Informational Meeting on BTM, open to the public.

February 8, 2022, 12 to 1 PM

Visit the Viles Arboretum in Augusta to learn steps you can take to manage BTM in your area. MFS Forest Entomologist Tom Schmeelk will discuss Integrated Pest Management of BTM. Check the events page on the arboretum website for details.

February 10, 2022, 4 PM

Blue Hill Heritage Trust, Island Heritage Trust, Hancock County Soil and Water Conserva-



Vehicles line the road at a community web-clipping event in Deer Isle. Foreground, browntail web in serviceberry. The more that neighbors, businesses and others get together to respond to the problem, the better the results.

tion District, Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust, and Frenchman Bay Conservancy are hosting a conversation about BTM in the region with State Entomologist and Director of MFS Forest Health and Monitoring Allison Kanoti. A brief overview of the problem and management approaches will be presented. Register for this webinar.

February 16, 2022, 9:15 to 10:15 AM

University of Massachusetts' Cooperative Extension program is hosting MFS Forest Entomologist Tom Schmeelk to talk about BTM and What You Should Know. Details may be found on the Extension's events web page.

February 17, 2022, 7 PM

The Lewiston Auburn Community Forestry Board (LACFB) and Auburn Conservation Commission are teaming up to host an evening discussion on BTM and other invasive pests with Director

of MFS Forest Health and Monitoring Allison Kanoti. Meeting details to be announced. LACFB will be coordinating a field session in March, details to be determined.

February 23, 2022

BTM and other insects and diseases of ornamental and forest trees will be topics of discussion at the MELNA educational workshop in Portland. Details will follow on the MELNA website.

February 24, 2022, 9 AM to 12 PM

The Maine Municipal Association is sponsoring the Tackling Environmen-

tal Challenges in Your Community webinar covering the topics of BTM, Emerald Ash Borer and Vernal Pools. Registration fee. More information is available on the MMA website.

March 5, 2022

Maine Arborist Association is planning a return to their annual in-person meeting March 5 in Portland, ME. Maine Forest Service will provide updates on topics including BTM, forest health and Project Canopy. Visit the MAA website for updates and registration details.



Use hand snips or extendable pole pruners to remove webs within reach from the ground and away from hazards such as powerlines.

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# Arts & Entertainment

## National Resources Council of Maine's Climate & Clean Energy Team Raises Funds

By Josh Caldwell, Climate & Clean Energy Outreach Coordinator

We did it! Together we raised \$33,872 and crushed our \$30,000 goal! Congratulations to all who made this year's Polar Bear Dip & Dash a great success.

On behalf of the Climate & Clean Energy team, I want to share my deep appreciation to everyone who gave their time and energy. Thank you for raising funds and building



Thank You for Another Amazing Virtual Polar Bear Dip & Dash

awareness of our work to cut pollution and create a clean energy future for

Maine. This fun initiative enables our team to continue fighting for a safe and

healthy Maine for generations to come, and we are incredibly grateful for your

support.

In 2009, around 14 staff and their family members gathered on East End Beach in Portland and plunged into the icy, cold Atlantic Ocean. They rallied together with a common goal, to fight climate change. They established a special, new tradition for a new era. As we follow in their footsteps, with our own dips and dashes, we are joined together in community and grounded in our shared mission.

Thank you for helping us find joy and celebration during the darkest days of the year. You are all a bright light! We did it!

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

## Lewiston to Celebrate Opening of AK Health And Social Services with Ribbon Cutting

**LEWISTON, ME (January 26 2022)** — A ribbon cutting ceremony was held for the opening of AK Health And Social Services in Lewiston on Tuesday, February 1, 2022. Lewiston Mayor Carl Shelton was joined by President + CEO of the LA Metro Chamber Shanna Cox, and members of the public.

"Abdikhadir and his team have been valuable partners throughout the pandemic, providing onsite testing and pop-up vaccination clinics that are vital to keeping our residents healthy and at work," says Shanna Cox. "The Chamber is excited to celebrate this opening that provides expanded space for ex-

panded opportunities." AK Health and Social Services is a non-profit organization that mobilizes, inspires, and engages communities to improve their quality of life by creating strategic partnerships in community policing, conflict resolution and sustainable management of resources.

## John T. Gorman Foundation Announces Plans for 2022 Direct Services Grant Program

**Portland, ME (January 12, 2022)** — Today the John T. Gorman Foundation announced that it will accept applications for its 2022 Direct Services Grant Program from February 1 to March 1. This year, the program will make available a total of \$1.5 million in grants to nonprofits offering essential services and assistance to low-income Maine people — a portion of funding will be directed to programs that specifically meet the needs of older Mainers.

"The prolonged pan-

demic continues to make it difficult for too many Maine people to access food, shelter, health care, and other essentials. This includes older Mainers who have been disproportionately affected by isolation and barriers to services," said Foundation Program Associate Lauralee Raymond. "We're privileged to provide these funds to community organizations throughout the state so they can reach more Mainers at this time of incredible need."

The John T. Gorman Foundation's annual Direct

Services Grant Program supports organizations that are addressing the basic needs of vulnerable Mainers, such as food, shelter, clothing, physical and mental health, and transportation. Grants of up to \$25,000 will be awarded.

This year's application period will open Tuesday, February 1, and close at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1.

More information about applying for this year's program is available at <https://www.jtgfoundation.org/2022dsgp>

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# Local Adult and Children's Auditions for Maine State Music Theatre

**BRUNSWICK, ME (January 27, 2022)** -- Maine State Music Theatre will hold local adult non-equity auditions on Saturday, February 26, 2022 from 11 AM – 2 PM for MSMT's summer productions. The theatre will hold local auditions for children aged

5 - 12 years old on Sunday, February 27 from 11 AM – 2 PM for the productions of *The Sound of Music*, *Frozen, Jr.*, and possible other shows.

Auditions by appointment will be held at 22 Elm Street in Brunswick. Those who wish to audition should sign

up for a time slot online at [msmt.org](http://msmt.org). Call backs will be held in the afternoon.

Adult actors should bring a headshot and resume, prepare 16 bars of 2 songs that best shows your ability and range (must bring sheet music; accompanist provided).

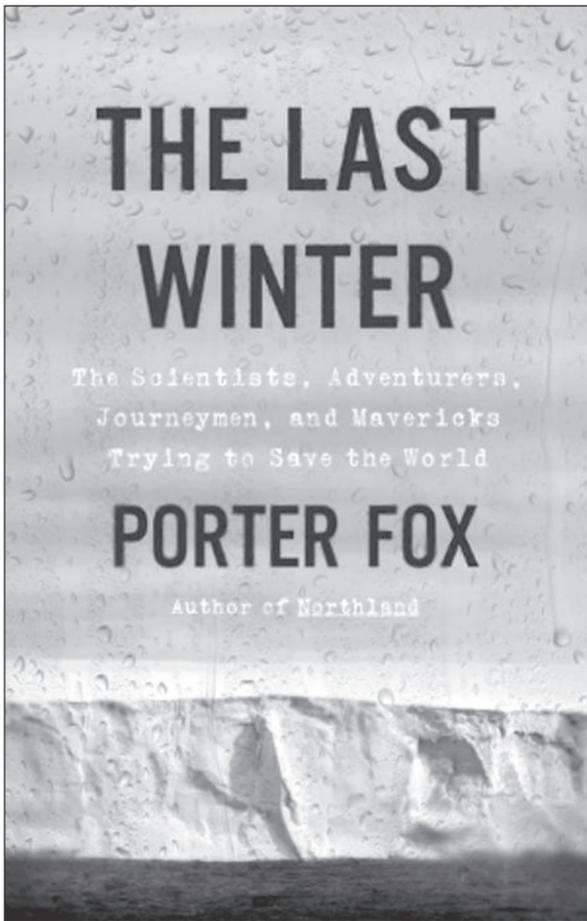
Some actors may be asked to remain for the dance call. Bring appropriate dance shoes. Not all locals will be required to dance in shows.

Children should bring a headshot and resume and prepare one song (must bring sheet music; pianist provided) and may be asked to dance (bring sneakers).

Auditionees must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 and show proof of vaccination when checking in. Masks are required at all times inside the building (except when singing). Please visit the website for more details

and all COVID-19 related protocols. Maine State Music Theatre is MSMT is a professional summer theatre celebrating its 63rd season of Broadway quality musicals at the Pickard Theater on the Bowdoin Campus in Brunswick, Maine.

# Natural Resources Council of Maine Hosts Acclaimed Journalist Porter Fox



Journalist Porter Fox

ural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM) online with journalist Porter Fox to discuss his deeply researched, beautifully written, and adventure-filled new book, *The Last Winter*, which tracks the scope of this drastic change and how it will literally change everything.

This original research is animated by four harrowing and illuminating journeys—each grounded by interviews with idiosyncratic, charismatic experts in their respective fields

and Fox's own narrative of growing up in Southwest Harbor on Mount Desert Island.

As the planet warms, winter is shrinking. In the last fifty years, the Northern Hemisphere lost a million square miles of spring snowpack, and in the US

alone, snow cover has been reduced by 15-30%. On average, winter has shrunk by a month in most northern latitudes.

Please join the Nat-

Join Porter on Monday, January 31 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. to hear these tales in person and find out what you can do to take action on climate this legislative session.

What: Zoom  
In: *The Last Winter*

with Porter Fox  
When: Monday, January 31 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Where: Online via Zoom. Go to [nrcm.org](http://nrcm.org) and sign up to receive the Zoom webinar link

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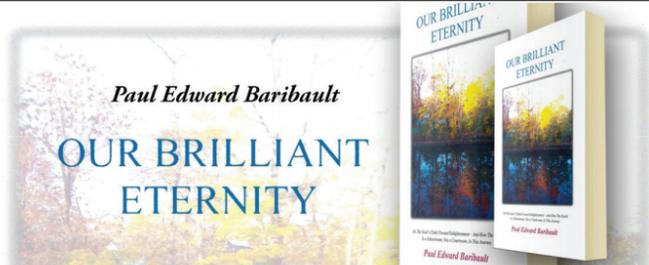
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# With a Focus on Service, St. Dom's in Auburn and Lewiston Prepares for Catholic Schools Week



**Catholic Schools Week 2022**  
**January 30–February 5**  
[www.NCEA.org/csw](http://www.NCEA.org/csw)  
**#CSW22**

**AUBURN, ME (January 24, 2022)** –For over 80 years, Saint Dominic Academy, with campuses in Auburn and Lewiston, has offered an education that combines the Catholic faith and teachings with academic excellence. Included in the St. Dom's experience, of course, is a commitment to service. A commitment that will be on full display during Catholic Schools Week (January

30 – February 5).

"I'm so grateful for Sister Christianna Hamman, FSE, and Sister Francesca Silver, FSE, who serve our students with enthusiasm and excitement, in helping to organize the academy's schedule for Catholic Schools Week," said Alanna Stevenson, principal of St. Dom's. "I believe it will be a week that promotes and celebrates our values and will

be a lot of fun."

Many of the events and activities scheduled for Catholic Schools Week will extend across both campuses. Among the service projects set for the week are: a fundraiser for St. Martin de Porres and St. Catherine of Siena Residences, which serve both homeless men and women in the Lewiston area; an initiative to provide items and a morale boost for em-

ployees working at Central Maine Medical Center and St. Mary's Regional Medical Center in Lewiston; a snack donation and collection for the homeless served at the Trinity Jubilee Center in Lewiston; and a project to create decorations for the Montello Manor and Clover Health facilities.

"Students will deliver the items to the various locations during the week. At

Clover Health, the students will carry posters outside the building so the residents at the nursing home can see and enjoy them," said Stevenson.

During the week, the students will also have the chance to participate in an ice-skating event, team activities, artistic and creative challenges, and much more. Dress down days will be held, as is tradition, and students will once again write personalized thank you notes to staff and volunteers and Valentine's cards to hospital and nursing home patients. The students will also write thank you notes to bus drivers for

their hard work and letters to government leaders describing the good that happens in Catholic schools.

Catholic Schools Week is an annual celebration of Catholic education in Maine and across the United States. The week celebrates the mission of Catholic Schools: to evangelize students by nourishing faith and encouraging academic excellence while accentuating the importance of community and service in a nurturing environment. For more information about Catholic education in Maine, visit [www.maineatholic-schools.com](http://www.maineatholic-schools.com).

## Aaron Stanley Joins Fontaine Family Team



**AUBURN, ME (January 25, 2022)** – Fontaine Family – The Real Estate Leader is pleased to announce the addition of Aaron Stanley to the team at their Auburn location.

Aaron grew up in Minot, ME where he attended Poland Regional High School. After completing high school, he worked as a Pharmacy Technician and Pharmacy Intern for 6 years while completing

college. Aaron graduated from the University of New England with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree and started as a pharmacist for CVS in 2019, where he worked in the Maine and New Hampshire districts. Aaron currently resides in Greene with his 6 months old daughter. In his downtime, Aaron enjoys snowmobiling, ATV riding, owning his own business, and anything outdoors.

Aaron comes to Fontaine with his sales agent license and looks forward to working with both buyers and sellers with the support of the Fontaine Team. His strong past experience in customer service will allow him to assist his real estate clients with confidence when buying or selling a home. Aaron will be working out of the Auburn location and can be reached at (207)754-7475 or [aaron@fontaineteam.com](mailto:aaron@fontaineteam.com).

Fontaine Family –

*The Real Estate Leader is a highly skilled real estate team of licensed professionals dedicated to focusing on the client. Fontaine was awarded 2019 Maine Family-Owned Business of the Year, voted Best Real Estate Company in the Greater Lewiston/Auburn Area and Greater Portland Area, recognized by Real Trends as America's Top 250 Real Estate Team and published in the Wall Street Journal in the Top 250 Real Estate Professionals ranking in the top 1/2 of 1% of Realtors outperforming 99.9% of the nation's Realtors.*

*The Fontaine Family Team serves 8 counties – Androscoggin, Cumberland, York, Sagadahoc, Oxford, Kennebec, Franklin and Somerset – in two locations, 336 Center Street in Auburn and 432 US Route 1 in Scarborough. For more information visit [BrendaFontaine.com](http://BrendaFontaine.com).*

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

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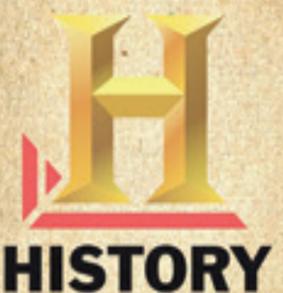
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# Maine DHHS Announces Municipalities Participating in Statewide COVID-19 Wastewater Screening

**AUGUSTA, ME (January 25, 2022)** — The Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) announced today more than a dozen sites throughout the state that will monitor wastewater for the virus that causes COVID-19, improving Maine’s ability to track the spread of the virus and tailor the state’s public health response in the face of the Omicron surge.

Two separate but complementary screening projects are being launched across Maine. Seven sites in Maine are participating in a U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (U.S. CDC) program that tests wastewater samples twice a week at up to 500 sites across the country. Sampling has already begun in Rockland and Boothbay, with the following five sites joining in the coming days: Bethel, Wilton, Bath, Yarmouth, and Guilford-Sangerville.

The first phase of the program, lasting three months, will focus on trends in the presence and concentration of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, in wastewater. The second phase, lasting 9 months, will add genomic sequencing to help identify new variants. Data from the program will be publicly available at the county level in the coming days on the U.S. CDC COVID Data Tracker website.

In addition to the U.S. CDC screening project, the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) has launched its own project at up to 16 municipal waste-

water treatment plants throughout the state. Maine CDC is partnering with Biobot Analytics, Inc. of Cambridge, Massachusetts, to collect and test samples twice a week through at least June 2022. Eight sites are now receiving testing supplies and training: Blue Hill, Belfast, Greater Augusta Utility District, Calais, Brunswick Sewer District, Presque Isle Water District, and Portland Water District (East End and Westbrook). Additional sites will join the project in the coming week.

As data becomes available, anticipated in the coming weeks, Maine CDC will update and post data from this wastewater testing program on its website. These data will also be available in a different format on the U.S. CDC website noted above.

Both the U.S. CDC and Maine CDC wastewater testing programs will complement Maine’s existing COVID-19 screening systems, including clinical testing and monitoring of the health care system.

“Wastewater screening has become an important tool to help Maine gauge the prevalence of the virus and follow its trends at a time when public health experts are saying that new case counts are becoming a less valuable metric in the wake of Omicron and increased at-home testing,” said Governor Janet Mills. “I welcome the opportunity to partner with municipalities to provide this expanded public health service, including detecting of potentially new variants, which will help keep Maine people informed, safer, and healthier.”

“Tracking community-level changes in the prevalence of COVID-19 helps to understand trends and target Maine’s response to the pandemic, particularly as new case counts become less meaningful during the Omicron surge,” said Health and Human Services Commissioner Jeanne Lambrew and Maine CDC Director Nirav D. Shah. “We welcome expanded wastewater screening as well as new testing sites for individuals, which will help Maine people keep themselves and their communities safe and healthy.”

“We are thrilled to partner with Maine CDC on this critical public health project,” said Newsha Ghaeli, President & Co-founder of Biobot Analytics. “The State of Maine is on the vanguard of public health innovation, and has clearly recognized the value of wastewater monitoring as a tool to better track and contain the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and its variants.”

“Maine Water Environment Association fully supports the SARS-CoV-2 wastewater surveillance project,” said David Beauchamp, President of Maine Water Environment Association (MeWEA). “The information that was obtained through the comprehensive and early testing of wastewater has proven to be invaluable. Two members of MeWEA, the Greater Augusta Utility District and Portland Water District, played significant roles in helping us understand the role wastewater testing for the different variants can have on determining the severity of

an outbreak even before it becomes known to health officials or the public. This type of testing helps health officials to both plan and allocate badly needed resources to an area that needs it the most. We believe that testing wastewater will impact how best to manage our resources.”

“We are thrilled that wastewater utilities will be able to continue serving their communities and helping in the fight against COVID-19,” said Kirsten Hebert, Executive Director of the Maine Rural Water Association. “Since day one of the pandemic, utility workers have been on the front lines of protecting Mainers’ health and environment, often with little recognition. This project shines a light on the tough and incredibly important work that has never ceased during this pandemic.”

Wastewater screening can be an early indicator of the burden of COVID-19, helping public health officials better understand the extent of infections within communities where wastewater screening is occurring. The virus can be shed in the stool of individuals with symptomatic or asymptomatic infection, many of whom may not seek testing.

Also today, DHHS announced three new options for COVID-19 testing in Maine.

On Tuesday, a PCR testing site opened at the Windham Mall. Testing is available Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Appointments are required. This site is being supported by a team from the Federal In-

creasing Community Access to Testing program in partnership with the Maine CDC, Windham Fire Department, and Northern Light Health Mercy.

Beginning Thursday, January 27, saliva-based PCR testing will be available at the Biddford Shopping Center, Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Appointments are required. The site is a collaboration among Maine CDC, York County Emergency Management Agency, Biddford Emergency Management Agency, and ShieldT3 Health.

Beginning Monday, January 31, rapid antigen testing will be available at the YMCA in Auburn, Monday - Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Drop-ins are welcome. The testing site is a collaboration among New Mainers Public Health Initiative, AK Health and Social Services, Multicultural Community and Family Support Services, Maine Community Integration, Gateway Community Services Maine, and

Maine Immigrant Refugee Services. Curative, which already operates several testing sites in Maine, will begin managing the site in mid-February and expects to add PCR testing.

Additionally, the testing site at the Augusta Armory now accepts drop-ins. Appointments remain recommended but are no longer required.

Maine DHHS and Maine CDC continue to add COVID-19 testing options and, at the direction of Governor Mills, are preparing to announce this week a plan to distribute tests directly to Maine people.

More information on COVID-19 testing sites, as well general guidance on at-home testing options, is available at [maine.gov/covid19/testing](http://maine.gov/covid19/testing).

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

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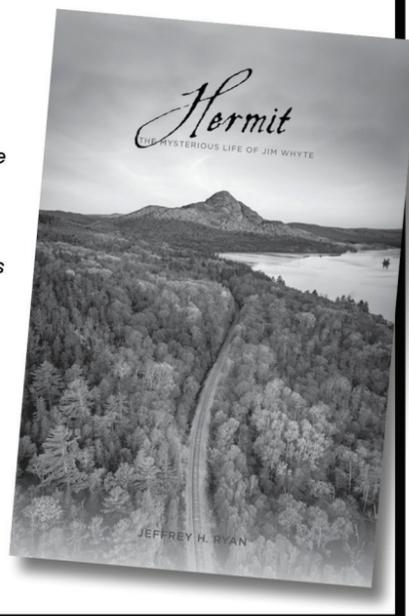
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— George Smith, Bangor Daily News

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# New Ventures Maine Announces Online, Tuition-Free Classes in Career Building, Entrepreneurship, and Money Management in February

**MAINE, State-wide (January 20, 2022)**—New Ventures Maine has announced tuition-free online workshops and classes for February that are designed to help people in Maine start a business, build a career, and manage money. The full class schedule with offerings for February 2022 and beyond is accessible at [bit.ly/NVME-Classes](http://bit.ly/NVME-Classes).

Classes include: **Making Career Choices:** Tuesday, February 1, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Ready for a career change but don't know where to start? This workshop will help point you in the right direction. We will cover what to consider when making

a career choice and the resources available to help you succeed. (Also offered Thursday, February 24, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.)

**Business Basics:** Wednesdays, February 2 – 16, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. This class covers the basics of a business plan, marketing, and cash planning. It will help you assess the feasibility, desirability, and viability of your business idea and get you started with your plan.

**My Next Career Move:** Wednesdays, February 2 – March 9, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Assess your skills, interests, and experiences and relate them to career options. Identify high-growth, high-wage job fields, as well as low-

and no-cost education and training options. The class meets weekly on Zoom for career planning activities and discussion.

**My Money Works:** Thursdays, February 3 – March 10, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Gain the skills and confidence you need to stretch your money, pay your bills, reduce debt, find money for savings, plan for retirement, and set personal financial goals with a plan to achieve greater financial stability.

**Building Confidence:** Thursdays, February 3 - 17, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Whether you are navigating recent changes, looking for a job, starting a business, or simply want to be more

confident, join this class to assess your confidence and learn concrete tools to help you build your confidence and keep it strong.

**Managing Your Money Classes:** Thursdays, February 3 - 17, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Learn to budget, repair your credit, and create a savings plan. Join us for one, two, or all three classes. Feb. 3: Budgeting Basics; Feb 10: Let's Talk About Credit; Feb. 17: Build Your Savings

**Job Search Classes:** Wednesdays, February 9 - 23, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Ready for a new job or a career change? Join us for one, two, or all three of these workshops. Feb. 9: Job Search Strategies, Feb. 16: Re-

sume Strategies, Feb. 23: Interview Strategies

**Introduction to Self-Employment:** Thursday, February 10, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Is self-employment the right choice for you? The class covers the pros and cons of owning your own business, steps needed for start-up, major elements of a business plan, and resources to help you succeed.

**Tax Readiness for the Self-Employed:** Wednesday, February 23, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Learn how to organize your financial records, understand your tax responsibilities, become familiar with tax forms, and file your taxes with confidence. This workshop is designed for

sole-proprietors. For the full schedule of classes and to sign up, visit [bit.ly/NVME-Classes](http://bit.ly/NVME-Classes) or call toll-free in Maine: 800-442-2092.

*About New Ventures Maine (NVME): New Ventures Maine provides training and individual advising in planning careers, starting businesses, and managing money. A statewide education and economic development program administered through UMA/University of Maine System, NVME helps Maine people succeed in the changing economy and achieve economic security for themselves and their families. For more information visit [newventuresmaine.org](http://newventuresmaine.org).*

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## New Ventures Maine Offering Free Business Online Workshop in February

**(January 13, 2022)**—New Ventures Maine (NVME) will offer a free, three-session workshop, Business Basics, to Maine business owners this winter. The class is designed for those thinking about, or in the early start-up phase of, a new business.

Business Basics will be offered online, via Zoom, on Wednesdays from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Classes meet for three sessions: February 2, 9, and 16. The class covers the basics of a business plan, marketing, and cash planning and can help assess the feasibility, desirability, and viability of a business idea.

Karin Petrin, Business Advisor for New Ventures Maine in Aroostook County and a trainer for the class, notes, "If you will be seeking bank financing for your business endeavor or just want to see if your idea will work as a business, you need a business plan. This class will give you the foundational plan for financing, marketing, start-up, or expansion."

There is no fee for

the class, but pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, call 386-1664, email [jenn.dobranksy@maine.edu](mailto:jenn.dobranksy@maine.edu), or register online at [bit.ly/NVME-businessclasses](http://bit.ly/NVME-businessclasses).

*New Ventures Maine creates an empowering environment for Maine people to define and achieve their career, financial, and small business goals. Through tuition-free classes and individual coaching, people find good jobs, start or return to college, launch small businesses, manage their money, and build their assets. New Ventures Maine is a statewide program of the University of Maine at Augusta, University of Maine System, an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution. For more information, visit [newventuresmaine.org](http://newventuresmaine.org).*

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

### COVID-19 Continued from page 2

a vast number of employees.'

We urge the Mills' Administration to carefully review this decision and tread carefully in the coming days when considering additional mandates that

do not stop the spread of Covid-19 and further jeopardize the ability of our state to safely recover and ultimately resume everyday life.

Link to the decision: [https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/21pdf/21a244\\_hgci.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/21pdf/21a244_hgci.pdf)

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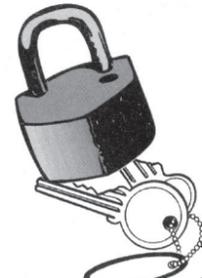
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# CONTACT US TODAY FOR POSSIBLE OPENINGS FOR YOUR AD IN OUR BUSINESS DIRECTORY!

**Feb. 5**  
**GORHAM** –  
 4:30-5:30pm Take  
 Out Bean Supper White  
 Rock Community  
 Clubhouse; 34 Wilson  
 Road, Gorham

Pre-order dinner  
 to go, \$20 for double or  
 \$10 for single orders.  
 Meal includes kidney &  
 pea beans, coleslaw, potato  
 salad, macaroni & cheese,  
 biscuits, hot dogs and a  
 dessert bar. Please, pre-or-  
 der by Wednesday, Feb 2.  
 Call Fran at 892-9521.

**Feb. 5**  
**BUXTON** – 5pm-  
 7pm Dinner Theatre and  
 Silent Auction with Open  
 Mic Night (featuring Liv-  
 ing Waters School stu-  
 dents).

Living Waters

# Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

Church, 197 Parker Farm  
 Road, Buxton, ME 04093.  
 Dinner includes a pasta bar  
 with three types of pasta, 3  
 different sauces, 2 meats,  
 salad and dessert. There  
 is also a vegetarian op-  
 tion. Suggested donation  
 is \$5.00 per person or \$20  
 for a family. Proceeds ben-  
 efit the Living Waters Par-  
 ent Teacher Fellowship.

**Feb. 7**  
**GORHAM** – 7pm  
 Planning Board Meeting  
 Council Chambers

**Feb. 9**  
**LEWISTON** –

5:30pm Girl Scouts at  
 the library -- Interested  
 in Girls Scouts for your  
 child? Meet with a Girl  
 Scout representative in the  
 Lewiston Public Library's  
 Children's Department to  
 ask questions and check  
 out a free Girl Scout activ-  
 ity from one of their many  
 badges. Free. 513-3133;  
 www.LPLonline.org

**Feb. 9**  
**GORHAM** – 7pm  
 School Committee Meet-  
 ing Council Chambers

**Feb. 11, 12, 13**  
**BUXTON** – 7pm

Feb. 11; 7pm Feb. 12;  
 10am Feb 13. SURGE  
 Revival Meetings Join  
 Living Waters Christian  
 Church for 3 days of re-  
 vival meetings as we in-  
 vite Heaven to invade  
 Earth. God is calling peo-  
 ple to hear His voice and  
 receive salvation, healing,  
 and deliverance! Pete Tal-  
 bot and Derek Morgan  
 are revivalists from Beth-  
 el School of Supernatural  
 Ministry who are hungry  
 to see God move in mira-  
 cles, signs, and wonders.  
 Special guests: Kingdom  
 Life Worship on Fri &  
 Sat nights! Living Waters  
 Christian Church - 197  
 Parker Farm Road, Bux-  
 ton, ME 04093

**Feb. 15**  
**GORHAM** – 8am

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Ordinance Committee opment Corporation Meet-  
 tee Meeting Conference ing Conference Room A  
 Room A **Feb. 17**

**Feb. 16** GORHAM – 6:30pm  
 GORHAM – 8am Tentative Recurring CIP  
 Gorham Economic Devel- Meeting TBD

## Get Ready to Read! Celebrate the Read to ME Challenge During the Month of February



For the 7th year, the  
 Maine Department of Edu-  
 cation will collaborate with  
 community organizations  
 and schools to support the  
 Read to ME Challenge, a  
 month-long public aware-  
 ness campaign held in Feb-  
 ruary to promote the im-  
 portance of literacy across  
 the curriculum for all of  
 Maine's students, regard-  
 less of age.

This simple but pow-  
 erful campaign challenges

adults to read to children  
 for 15 minutes, capture  
 that moment via a pho-  
 to or a video, and then  
 post it on social media  
 and challenge others to  
 do the same. Don't forget  
 to use the hashtag #Read-  
 toME and tag the Maine  
 DOE at @mdoeneews on  
 Twitter, @MaineDepart-  
 mentofEducation1 on  
 Facebook, and @maine-  
 dept on Instagram! Cap-  
 turing the power of reading

and talking about any type  
 of text with children and  
 youth of any age promotes  
 life-long habits essential  
 for being a literate citizen.

The Read to ME  
 Challenge will run for the  
 month of February, leading  
 up to Read Across America  
 Day on March 2, 2022. The  
 Maine DOE will be kicking  
 off the Read to ME Chal-  
 lenge this year on February  
 1st with the Commissioner  
 doing a special reading –

more information will be  
 forthcoming via the Maine  
 DOE Newsroom.

For more informa-  
 tion, contact Dee Saucier,  
 Elementary Literacy Spe-  
 cialist for the Maine DOE.

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

### Session

Continued from page 1

session is reserved spe-  
 cifically for bills concern-  
 ing budgetary matters,  
 "emergency" legislation  
 and bills that were intro-  
 duced in the previous year  
 but still require additional  
 work.

Emergency legisla-  
 tion typically means that  
 there is some urgency  
 involved and that time is  
 of the essence to solve an  
 issue. For instance, Sen.

Heather Sanborn has in-  
 troduced a bill this session  
 to prevent insurance com-  
 panies from double-bill-  
 ing patients for pre-  
 scription drugs. Co-pay  
 accumulator programs  
 essentially double-bill  
 patients for their pre-  
 scriptions when they get  
 other financial assistance  
 to help cover the cost,  
 forcing them to pay for  
 their prescriptions with  
 money that they weren't  
 planning for and that they

didn't have to begin with.  
 If passed, I know this bill  
 would mean a great deal  
 to a lot of us. Another is-  
 sue that I have heard from  
 multiple constituents is  
 the recent concern for in-  
 creased energy rates. For-  
 tunately, Sen. Eloise Vi-  
 telli has sponsored a bill  
 that would help improve  
 electricity affordability in  
 Maine. We'll have more  
 information on this bill  
 coming soon.

There's a lot to look

forward to during this  
 second legislative ses-  
 sion, and my colleagues  
 and I are ready to get back  
 to work for all of those  
 that we represent. And  
 remember, if you or your  
 family need help finding  
 resources, visit <https://211maine.org/>, or reach  
 out to my office at any  
 time. You can send me an  
 email at [Nathan.Libby@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Nathan.Libby@legislature.maine.gov) or  
 by phone at (207) 287-  
 1515.

Send all  
 items for  
 Names & Faces  
 to the editor.  
 Deadline is  
 Friday by five pm.

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# DuBois Realty Group of Keller Williams Realty Presents "Give Where You Live" Donations



Erin Reed, Executive Director, Food Pantry Coordinator Trinity Jubilee Center (L) accepts a donation from Marnie DuBois, Owner/CEO DuBois Realty Group of Keller Williams Realty (R).

**AUBURN, ME (January 18, 2022)** — The DuBois Realty Group of Keller Williams Realty recently presented Trinity Jubilee Center with a donation for \$2,500 as it wrapped up its 2021 "Give Where You Live" campaign.

The donation helps support the Trinity Jubilee Center "Sponsor a Meal Project" which invites people and businesses to "adopt a day" in the soup kitchen to help provide meals to the hungry and homeless. In 2021, Trinity Jubilee Center served 35,000 meals.

"These donations from DuBois Realty Group make a huge difference at our Soup Kitchen, says Erin Reed, Executive Director, Food Pantry Coordinator. "We are serving 100-175 lunches every day

and for many of our elderly and disabled guests this is the only hot meal they'll eat in a day. We are so grateful for this help keeping our doors open and our oven cooking!"

The DuBois Realty Group of Keller Williams Realty also recently presented Greater Androscoggin Humane Society with a donation for \$3,450 as part of the "Give Where You Live" campaign.

Greater Androscoggin Humane Society provides a safe space for animals in need and is a resource for community members and their animal companions.

"The generous support from the DuBois Realty Group and their clients is truly life-saving. These financial gifts allow us to provide food, medical care, behavioral support, adop-

tion services and so much more for pets in need," said Katie Lisnik, Executive Director, GAHS. "We appreciate such kindness and generosity and will use the funds to further our mission to enrich and improve the lives of animals."

"Trinity Jubilee Center and Greater Androscoggin Humane Society have been charitable partners of the DuBois Realty Group for five years," said Brian DuBois, DuBois Realty Group co-owner with his wife Marnie. "We are proud to support organizations which provide so many needed services to the community and we remain forever grateful to our valued clients for their trust in us to guide them through the real estate transition process."

Since 2016, The DuBois Realty Group has donated over \$100,000 to local non-profit organizations, primarily through their Give Where You Live program. After closing every transaction, the group donates \$100 in their clients' honor to one of our five charity partners of the client's choosing. "We're extremely grateful to be able to support the communities in which we work, live and play," said Brian.

*About DuBois Realty Group of Keller Williams Realty -- The DuBois Realty Group takes a personal and collaborative approach to the home buying and selling process,*

*guiding clients through challenging and exciting home transitions. Building community is a core value for the group, and they are proud of their Give Where You Live program.*

*About Trinity Jubilee Center -- Lewiston's Trinity Jubilee Center serves the hungry and homeless with hot meals, groceries, diapers, warm shelter, winter gear and toiletries, help with resume-writing and job applications, access to a phone, fax machine/copier/printer, and a mailing address, and help connecting with the VA, mental health agencies, and other services. The Center has remained open throughout the pandemic, serving more than 1,000 people every week.*

*About Greater Androscoggin Humane Society -- The Greater Androscoggin Humane Society provides a safe haven and other forms of support for over 4,000 sick, homeless, needy and abused animals in the greater Androscoggin area each year. The primary support for the shelter comes from fundraising events and donations of generous supporters. We believe that people and pets belong together!*



Pictured from left to right are Brian DuBois, Co-owner DuBois Realty Group; Katie Lisnik, Executive Director GAHS; Donna Richey, Development Director GAHS; and Marnie DuBois, Co-owner and CEO DuBois Realty Group.

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