



TWIN CITY TIMES

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WinterKids' 10th Annual Downhill 24 at Sugarloaf Set for March

WESTBROOK, ME (February 12, 2022) – Registration for the 10th annual WinterKids Downhill 24 at Sugarloaf on March 4 – 5, 2022 will close on February 25, 2022. Presented by Agren, the WinterKids Downhill 24 is a 24-hour ski and snowboard challenge to raise money for WinterKids programs – to help more kids build healthy habits through outdoor, winter activity. This is the only night of the year to ski under the lights at Sugarloaf.

This year, teams can register for a day only track, 24-hour track, or a new skin-up track. There are registrations for corporate teams and individual teams, with teams of up to twelve people. The event runs 9 a.m. Friday to 9 a.m. Saturday with a full schedule of events including a race arena, inflatable obstacle course, trivia, raffles, all night mid-mountain party, music, food and more!

For the 10th anniversary, there will be a Saturday evening celebration in Sugarloaf's King Pine Room with the Mallett Brothers Band and Elec Simon & Friends. Tickets are open to the general public, and can be purchased at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mallett-brothers-with-elec-tickets-229861711567>.

For the 10-year anniversary, the organization aims to raise \$1 million. "The success of this event has changed the trajectory of our organization and allowed us to serve thousands more kids each year," says Julie Mulkern, WinterKids' Executive Director. "Our goal is \$1 million this year and proceeds from the event will help to create a new Downhill 24 Outdoor Fund – a fund to further address some of the barriers to getting outside in the winter – including transportation, equipment, and clothing," Mulkern adds.

This event will sell out. To register your team and learn more, visit www.winterkids.org.

The 10th annual Downhill 24 is presented by Agren. Additional sponsors include: L.L.Bean, Pape Subaru, Kittery Trading Post, Zachau Construction, MaineHealth, Franklin Printing, Fairway Independent Mortgage, Patra Company, Pike Industries, United Rentals, Portland Pie Company, Schaefer Douglas Title, Sugarloaf Inn, Three Rivers Whitewater, Wipfli, Capozza Floor Covering Center, Martin's Point Health Care, ACE Painting, Orono Brewing Company, Mountainside Real Estate, Winterstick, West Mountain Ski Company, Central Maine Healthcare, Vigilante Capital, Anthem, Knickerbocker Group, and Maine Drone Imaging.

Lewiston's New Athletic Park Named "Mike McGraw Park"



Mike McGraw cuts the ribbon! (left to right: LYAC's Cadence Nadeau, Healthy Neighborhoods Amy Smith, Mayor Carl Sheline, Mike McGraw, Healthy Neighborhoods President Ashley Medina, Councilor Larry Pease, Councilor Scott Harriman, Councilor Linda Scott, and Councilor Robert McCarthy.)

LEWISTON, ME (February 15, 2022) -- At the February 12, 2022, Healthy Neighborhoods grand opening of the sledding hill at the City of Lewiston's new athletic park on Bartlett Street, Mayor Carl Sheline announced the official name of the new park: MIKE MCGRAW PARK. Lewiston Youth Advisory Council (LYAC) member Cadence Nadeau then spoke on behalf of the youth council's park naming contest, rendering that selection.

A park naming contest was undertaken by LYAC in the fall of 2021, and they received 39 different entries through an online form and regular mail. They picked their "stand out" Top 3, and on January 26, 2022, LYAC members interviewed representatives of their Top 3 choices. Ultimately, Mike McGraw Park was chosen by LYAC. A recommendation in that regard went before the Lewiston City Council on February 1, 2022, and Lewiston's elected officials enthusiastically approved the name.

The name was selected by the Lewiston Youth Advisory Council due to Mike McGraw's welcoming, caring, and life-changing impact on youth within the City of Lewiston as a teacher, coach, mentor, and friend. LYAC members agreed that Mike McGraw has epitomized the importance of persevering and encouraging others to do their personal best; has inspired countless youth & adults through his leadership and building bridges of respect and trust; has demonstrated the spirit of healthy competition; has emulated an unwavering work ethic; has unified award-winning athletic teams; and continues to substitute teach during retirement. He is still the teacher/coach whom individuals come back to see 10 to 25 years after graduation. LYAC also believed his contributions to Lewiston High School and the physical proximity of the new athletic park complemented each other well.

During the announcement, Mayor Carl Sheline said it was his pleasure to announce that "in honor of a gentleman who has been an exemplary coach, teacher, friend, and mentor to countless students within the Lewiston Public School System, this park will be named "Mike McGraw Park." LYAC's Nadeau spoke on behalf of the youth council, "We want to person-

ally thank him for everything he has given our students and community members for so many years." McGraw spoke after the announcement, noting he was humbled by the honor and thanked all those who have supported his efforts, youth, and the community throughout the years. A video of his remarks can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/uhzCBsKEFGo>



Grand opening of the sledding hill at Mike McGraw Park.



Mike McGraw chatting with Lewiston police at the park naming and sledding hill grand opening.



Coach McGraw and wife Rita at the park naming.

Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Elite Airways Announces New Nonstop Flights from Portland Jetport



PORTLAND, ME (February 14, 2022) -- Elite Airways LLC today announced it is expanding air service at Northeast Florida Regional Airport (UST) in St. Augustine with new nonstop service to Portland International Jetport (PMW) in Maine.

The new service starts March 26 and will operate on Saturdays traveling southbound and Sundays going northbound. Elite's existing service between St. Augustine and Newark will add a third day of flights from late March through mid-

May then return to twice weekly throughout the summer.

Tickets start at \$129* each way for Newark/St. Augustine and \$199* each way for Portland/St. Augustine and are available for sale at 877-393-2510 and EliteAirways.com.

Elite Airways operates a fleet of Bombardier CRJ-200, CRJ-700 and CRJ-900 jet airliners with 50, 70 and 90 seats respectively, known for comfort and efficiency, and maintains an impeccable safety record. All Elite Airways passengers receive free onboard snacks and beverages, advance seat assignments, free first checked bag up to 50lbs and 62 inches in length (including travel golf bags), and no ticketing change fees; see website for details.

Elite Airways is also pet friendly.

"Elite Airways is expanding commercial air service in St. Augustine with a new nonstop to our hometown of Portland Maine," said John Pearsall,

President of Elite Airways. "We believe Mainers will enjoy having a new Florida destination to explore—one with historical landmarks, pristine beaches and worldclass golf courses and resorts. We're also pleased that our Newark/St. Augustine service is being well received by the community so we're adding a third day this spring and will look for additional opportunities to expand service at NFRA in the coming year."

"Elite Airways' new nonstop flights provide a new economic connection point between St. Johns County and Portland, one of the fastest growing metro areas in Maine," said Bruce Maguire, Chairman of the St. Johns County Airport Authority. "We are thankful for the partnership between Elite Airways' leadership and Airport Administration which enables us to offer this expanded travel option serving both business and recreational travel needs."

More information about NFRA can be found at: <https://flynf.com>.

"The expansion of service into NFRA by Elite Airways is a tribute to the growing demand for our destination from the northeast and Elite's support of our community," stated Richard Goldman, President & Chief Executive Officer, St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra & The Beaches Visitors & Convention Bureau. "We look forward to hosting more of Elite Airways' travelers here in Florida's Historic Coast."

More information can be found at: <https://www.floridashistoriccoast.com/>.

"We are thrilled to add a brand-new Florida destination to our lineup with Elite Airways," said Paul Bradbury, Airport Director, Portland International Jetport. "St. August-

tine provides easy access to northeast Florida and offers a warm destination for Mainers looking to escape the long winter."

More information about PWM can be found at: <https://portlandjetport.org>.

Elite Airways LLC today announced it will resume flights at Vero Beach Regional Airport (VRB) on March 25 with its popular twice-weekly nonstop service to Newark NJ.

The airline is also adding a new nonstop flight to/from Portland International Jetport (PWM) in Maine beginning March 26, and a new nonstop flight to/from Westchester White Plains Airport (HPN) starting March 30. Elite's existing service between Vero Beach and Newark will add a third day of flights from late March through mid-May then return to twice weekly throughout the summer.

Tickets start at \$199* each way and are available for sale at 877-393-2510 and EliteAirways.com.

"Elite Airways is pleased to be back in Vero Beach with nonstop service to Newark, White Plains and Portland Maine," said John Pearsall, President of Elite Airways. "Vero Beach has been an integral part of our spring and summer expansion plans now that runway rehabilitation at VRB is complete. We'd like to thank airport and city officials and the community for their continued support as we look for additional opportunities to expand service at VRB in the coming year."

"We are pleased to see Elite Airways resume its nonstop service to Vero Beach," said Paul Bradbury, Airport Director, Portland International Jetport. "The service was popular with our passen-

gers in the past and we look forward to its return."

More information about PWM can be found at: <https://portlandjetport.org>. "Vero Beach Regional Airport is pleased to welcome Elite Airways back to Vero Beach at the conclusion of our primary runway rehabilitation project," said Todd Scher, A.C.E., Director, Vero Beach Regional Airport. "Elite provides excellent service and a convenient airline experience that many residents of Vero Beach, Indian River County and surrounding areas appreciate and utilize frequently."

More information can be found at: <https://www.verobeachairport.com/>.

Today's announcement is part of a larger rollout of Elite Airways' spring and summer schedule along the east coast and Florida as leisure air travel continues to rebound. In a separate release the airline is announcing expanded service in St. Augustine with the addition of a new nonstop flight to Portland Maine in addition to its existing twice-weekly service to Newark.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Bishop Deeley Commemorates World Day of the Sick with a Mass in Lewiston



and those who will undergo surgery.

“It is my experience that the sick very much understand and appreciate the grace of this sacrament. It speaks to them of the mercy of God. Even when they are not cured of illness, they are healed of their fear and isolation. God is with them. They are blessed,” the bishop said, speaking of the gifts of the sacrament.

Isolation and illness are things that many have experienced during the pandemic, something Pope Francis reflected on his World Day of the Sick message. The pope emphasized that caring for the sick is something we are all called to do, a belief Bishop Deeley echoed during the Mass at the basilica.

“Reaching out to

the sick is an invitation that Jesus gives to us all,” the bishop said. “We have learned in this time of pandemic that it is not always possible to visit, but it is possible to make a phone call or send a note or card. These connections are the heart of being human and caring for each other. They are the heart, as well, of the Gospel. They are the life of the Christian. Such gestures are the way we become merciful as the Father is merciful. They remind us that the Gospel calls us, in all ways, to be concerned about the needs of those around us.”

Masses commemorating the World Day of the Sick were also held over the weekend in Belfast, Houlton, and South Portland.

LEWISTON, ME (February 14, 2022)--Bishop Robert Deeley commemorated the World Day of the Sick with a celebration of Mass at the Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Lewiston on Sunday, February 13.

The World Day of the Sick (February 11) was established 30 years ago by Pope Saint John Paul II to offer prayers for those who are ill and to recognize the importance of caring for them.

“It is a day of prayer for the sick, but it is also a day to raise our consciousness of the needs of those who are sick,” Bishop Deeley said. “The World Day of the Sick was instituted on February 11 to remind us all that those who are sick and suffering are in need of our prayer and our care. It is also seen by the Church as an opportunity to encourage us, as the people of God, to advocate in our civil society, calling on all people and governments to be increasingly attentive to the needs of the sick and to those who care for them.”

February 11 was chosen as the World Day of the Sick because it is the

Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes, a title given to the Blessed Mother following her appearances to St. Bernadette Soubirous in a grotto in Lourdes, France, in 1858.

“Lourdes, as you will recall, is a place of great blessing and consolation for the sick. There, through the intercession of the Blessed Mother, who appeared there to Bernadette, many sick have been healed. Many more have found peace in their suffering,” the bishop said. “Our Mother is always an advocate for the sick and the needy. Today, then, let us entrust our prayers to her, asking for her intercession for all the sick and their families.”

The theme for this year’s celebration of the World Day of the Sick is “Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.” Pope Francis said the theme was chosen because it helps us turn our gaze toward God, our Father, who is “rich in mercy” and “watches over his children with a father’s love, even when they turn from him.” In his homily, Bishop Deeley said that

God’s mercy is shown most especially in the ministry of God’s son, Jesus.

“The Gospel often relates stories of Jesus’ encounters with people suffering from various diseases. We are told that he ‘went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the Gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.’ Jesus is truly the bearer of God’s mercy. He announces it with his very life as he gives himself for us on the cross,” the bishop said. “In that announcement of the Good News, of God’s everlasting love and mercy, he brings hope to those who suffer.”

During the Mass at the basilica, the bishop imparted the sacrament of the anointing of the sick on 17 individuals. The bishop laid hands on each of them and then anointed their foreheads with the oil of the sick, saying, “Through this anointing, may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of



the Holy Spirit.” He then anointed their hands, praying that the Lord may save them and raise them up.

The sacrament of the anointing of the sick may be received by those facing serious illness or chronic conditions, including the infirmities that can come with age. The sacrament is also available to those suffering from mental illness

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Maine CDC Warns of Potentially Tainted Infant Formula

AUGUSTA, ME (February 18, 2022) — The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) today recommended that consumers avoid purchasing or using certain Abbott Nutrition powdered infant formula after a U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) investigation linked contaminated formula to at least four cases of illness in children. None of the cases is in Maine, but some of the affected formula was distributed to Maine.

The powdered infant formulas have the potential to be contaminated with Cronobacter, a bacterium that can cause severe foodborne illness primarily in infants. Cronobacter infections are rare but are especially high risk for newborn infants.

The FDA, along with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (U.S. CDC) and local partners, is investigating four consumer complaints of infant illness related to products from Abbott Nutrition's facility in Sturgis, Michigan. The FDA received the complaints between September 6, 2021, and December 18, 2021. All of the cases are reported to have consumed powdered infant formula produced at Abbott Nutrition's Sturgis facility. These complaints include three reports of Cronobacter sakazakii infections and one report of Salmonella Newport infection in infants. All four children involved in these complaints were hospitalized, and Cronobacter may have contributed to a death in

one case.

The FDA advises consumers not to use Similac, Alimentum or EleCare powdered infant formulas if:

the first two digits of the code are 22 through 37 and

the code on the container contains K8, SH, or Z2, and

the expiration date is 4-1-2022 (APR 2022) or later.

The code is printed on the product packaging near the expiration date. Additional information on products made by Abbott Nutrition is available on its website: <https://abbottnutrition.com/infant-and-new-motherExternal Link Disclaimer>.

Consumers who purchased formula with these codes should stop using it

and dispose of it or return it for a refund. Approximately 2,500 Maine households eligible to receive the formula through the Women, Infants, and Children's nutrition program have been notified directly. The FDA inspected the Sturgis facility. Findings to date include several positive Cronobacter results from environmental samples. A review of Abbott's internal records indicates environmental contamination with Cronobacter sakazakii.

This is an ongoing investigation, and Abbott is working with the FDA to initiate a voluntary recall of potentially affected product. The FDA will provide updates should additional consumer safety information become available.

Products that do not contain the information listed above are not affected by this advisory. This advisory does not include liquid formula products or any metabolic deficiency nutrition formulas. Consumers can continue to use all product not covered by this advisory.

Parents and caregivers should never dilute infant formula and should not make or feed homemade infant formula to infants. If your regular formula is not available, contact your child's health care provider for recommendations on changing feeding practices.

Cronobacter bacteria can cause severe, life-threatening infections (sepsis) or meningitis (an inflammation of the membranes that protect the

brain and spine). Symptoms of sepsis and meningitis may include poor feeding, irritability, temperature changes, jaundice (yellow skin and whites of the eyes), grunting breaths, and abnormal movements. Cronobacter infection may also cause bowel damage and may spread through the blood to other parts of the body.

If your child is experiencing any of these symptoms, you should notify your child's health care provider and seek medical care for your child immediately. Health care providers are encouraged to report any confirmed cases of Cronobacter sakazakii to the U.S. CDC.

More information on Cronobacter and infant formula is available on the U.S. CDC's website.

UMF Upward Bound Program Recruiting Students

FARMINGTON, ME (February 11, 2022) — UMF Upward Bound is actively seeking participants for its year-round program. UB serves students in grades 9-12 from rural-western Maine, particularly students who would be the first in their family to attend college and need support getting there.

The program aims to help students develop the skills and motivation necessary to succeed in education beyond high school. UMF Upward Bound serves students from the following high schools:

- Waterville High School
- Lawrence High School

- Skowhegan Area High School
- Madison Area Memorial High School
- Mt. Abram High School
- Mt. Blue High School
- Spruce Mountain High School
- Carrabec High School
- Buckfield High School



- School
- Dirigo High School
- Mountain Valley High School
- Oxford Hills High School
- Telstar High School
- Edward Little High School

UB students receive many opportunities, including academic instruction, college, career, and

financial aid counseling, as well as the opportunity to take part in a wide variety of trips and cultural activities. Students also participate in a residential 6-week program on the UMF campus during the summer, where they get to experience what it's like to live on a college campus. The best part? The program is complete-

ly free to students and their families. For folks interested in learning more about the program, the Upward Bound staff held an online Zoom meeting for families and students on February 15 at 6:00pm. For those interested in more information, contact the Upward Bound office at 207-778-7296.

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Special Olympics Maine Returns to Live and In-Person Winter Events

(February 14, 2022) -- Special Olympics Maine has returned to LIVE/IN-PERSON events! Starting last summer we opened up for Equestrian, Sailing, Bocce and Golf. We are currently offering a five-week training and competition Winter Sports Program. Although we were not able to return to our traditional three-day state event at Sugarloaf, we still wanted to be sure that our winter competitors had a chance to train and compete in the sports they love. Training started over

a month ago and our first competition was Tuesday February 15th at Quarry Road in Waterville. The remaining winter competitions that will make up our entire winter sports program this year are listed below.

Speed Skating, 02/28, Falmouth Family Ice Arena – Falmouth, 10:30-2:00
14 Athletes
8 Coaches
Delegations:
Amicus
BBAASO Bears
Momentum North Navigators

Central Maine Snowshoe, 03/04, University of Maine Orono, 10:00-1:00
84 Athletes
34 Coaches
25M / 50M / 100M / 200M / 400M
Delegations:
Amicus
Citizens of Maine
Coastal Navigators
Hampden
Hermon Elementary School

Southern Maine Snowshoe, 03/08, Lost Valley Ski Area, 10:00-

1:00
101 Athletes
55 Coaches
25M / 50M / 100M / 200M / 400M
Delegations:
Ascentria
BBAASO Bears
Bonny Eagle
French Independent
Gallant Therapy Services
Goodwill Lifeworks
Gorham School Dept
Leavit Area HS
Mickey's Angels
Mid-Coast Raptors
Momentum Windham Navigators

Personal Onsite Development
Pine Tree Society
Progress Center
SAD #51
Alpine, 03/11, Lost Valley Ski Area, 10:00-2:00
80 Athletes
50 Coaches
Slalom / Super G / 10M Walk / Glide / Super Glide / Duel Ski Slalom / Dual Ski Giant Slalom
Delegations:
BBAASO Bears
Bonny Eagle
Boothbay Region
Central Maine Adaptive Sports

Cusano – Independent
Fryeburg Academy
Goodwill Lifeworks
Hampden
Horizons Alpine Race Team
Kerr – Independent
Mickey's Angels
Mid-Coast Raptors
Momentum – North
Momentum – Casco Navigators
Personal Onsite Development
Pine Tree Society
Poland Regional High School
Progress Center
SAD #51

Mitchell Center to Host Talk on Increasing Resilience on the Maine Coast

ORONO, ME (February 15, 2022)—The Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions at the University of Maine will host a talk on how the Island Institute collaborates with coastal communities to build resilience on Monday, February 28, 3–4 p.m.

The Island Institute works alongside Maine's island and coastal leaders to build community resilience and share solutions for addressing the coast's most critical issues. In this talk, Suzanne MacDonald, chief community development officer with the institute, will provide examples of the innovation unlocked by the institute's place-based, relationship-driven approach in a time of increasingly rapid

change. She will also discuss the internal systems and structures that they have developed to ensure responsiveness to communities and their emergent needs. MacDonald oversees strategy development for the institute's interconnected economic, social and climate resilience programs. She has been a catalyst and leader with

several national and global networks focused on island sustainability and currently serves as chair of the Efficiency Maine Trust Board of Directors, on various groups of the Maine Climate Council, and on the steering committee of the Climate Strong Islands Network. All talks in the Mitchell Center's Sustainability Talks series are free

and will be offered both remotely via Zoom and in person at 107 Norman Smith Hall on the UMaine campus in Orono. Registration is required to attend remotely via Zoom; to register and receive connection information, see the event webpage. Please note that face coverings are required for all persons—students, staff, faculty, visitors and

others—when indoors at a University of Maine System facility. For the latest health and safety guidance, please see umaine.edu/return. Updates for this event will be posted to the event webpage. To request reasonable accommodation, contact Ruth Hallsworth, 207.581.3196 or hallsworth@maine.edu.

Pine Tree Camp Offers Accessible Opportunities to Mainers with Disabilities and their Families

ROME, ME (February 14, 2022) -- Pine Tree Camp is pleased to offer fully accessible opportunities for Maine children and adults with disabilities and their families to experience the restorative benefits of the outdoors this February. During school vacation week, Maine people with disabilities are invited to come with their families or caregivers for Pine Tree Camp Adventure Day Pass to spend the day on February 19, 20, 23, and 26. Space is limited and campers can pre-register for one or more dates by

visiting this link. <https://pinetree.campintouch.com/ui/forms/application/camp-er/App> Pine Tree Camp Adventure Day Pass offers safe, barrier-free day use of Pine Tree Camp's 285-acre fully accessible campus, providing the opportunity for people with disabilities and their families to experience winter activities like snowshoeing, sledding and ice fishing. Opportunities like Pine Tree Camp Adventure Day Pass and overnight Family Camp would not be possible without commit-

ted community partners, donors and supporters. The 49th Annual Dysart's Snowmobile Ride-In to support Pine Tree Camp held earlier this month raised more than \$115,000 and every dollar supports Pine Tree Camp's Open-Door Policy, ensuring that all who can benefit are able to come to camp, regardless of their ability to pay tuition. For more information visit: <https://www.pinetreesociety.org/children-and-families/pine-tree-camp/> or call 207-386-5990. Headquartered in

Bath with offices in Scarborough, Auburn, and Pine Tree Camp in Rome, Pine Tree Society helps Maine children and adults with disabilities lead active, more socially connected lives. Visit www.pinetree-society.org



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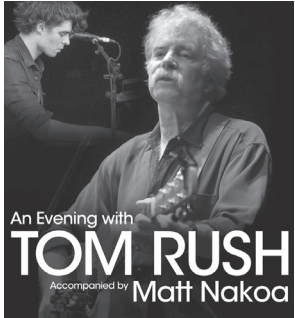
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Arts & Entertainment

Chocolate Church Arts Center Announces Upcoming Shows



Chocolate Church Arts Center announces upcoming live music events destined to help us transition from winter to spring! All shows are at the Chocolate Church Main Stage, with Tom Rush launching our season re-opening of the historic venue.

Mar 26, 2022 at 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM: Tom Rush with Matt Nakoa (Folk Rock)

Tickets: \$50 ADV | \$55 DOS

CCAC Main Stage

Tom Rush is a gifted musician and performer, whose shows offer a musical celebration...a journey into the tradition and spectrum of what music has been, can be, and will become. His distinctive guitar style, wry humor and warm, expressive voice have made him both a legend and a lure to audiences around the world.

Apr 1, 2022 at 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM: Eileen Ivers (Americana/World/Celtic)

Tickets: \$38 ADV | \$43 DOS

CCAC Main Stage

Grammy®-Awarded

and Emmy-nominated, Eileen Ivers, continues to push the fiddling tradition boundaries from a folk music staple to a fiercely fresh, powerfully beautiful, intensely driving world stage experience.

Apr 9, 2022 at 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM: The Mallett Brothers Band (Indie Rock/Americana/Country)

Tickets: \$25 ADV / \$28 DOS

CCAC Main Stage

The Mallett Brothers Band is an independent rock and roll / Americana / country band from Maine. Their busy tour schedule since forming in 2009 has helped them to build a dedicated fan-base across the U.S. and beyond while still calling the state of Maine their home.

Apr 15, 2022 at 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM: Crystal Vision with Runnin' Down A Dream (Rock)

Tickets: \$18 ADV | \$22 DOS

CCAC Main Stage

Two of Maine's best tribute bands will team up for a double-head-



Runnin' Down a Dream

er performance on our mainstage. Crystal Vision is the ever popular six-member Fleetwood Mac tribute band. Followed by Runnin' Down A Dream, THE Tom Petty Tribute Band from New

England. We've spent countless hours on our style and sound to bring the best Tom Petty experience yet. No other band (except the Heartbreakers themselves) can put on a show like us.

Art to Change Paradigms!

VINALHAVEN, ME (February 14, 2022) -- Reserve your spot before March 15, 2022, with Aviva Rahmani at her seaside studio on Vinalhaven Island, for a two-day catered master class in ecoart.

Cost: \$650

Dates: Thursday July 21 and Friday July 22

Location: Artist's studio on Vinalhaven Island, Maine

Your reservation fee will cover 2 catered lunches, one for each day of the workshop, a sketchbook and a graphite pencil to take notes with and sketch

your ideas. Children under seventeen accompanied by a registered adult are free and welcome. Late reservation fees will be \$750. Scholarship possibilities available based on need and portfolio. Transportation and lodging are the responsibility of the participant and not included in the reservation fee. Lodging at the Tidewater Motel is recommended, and it is strongly suggested that wherever you stay, your reservations are confirmed no later than May 1, 2022. Transportation to and from Aviva's studio available by taxi or with

your own car if you reserve a place for it on the ferry, 1 month in advance of travel date. Contact Aviva after making your workshop reservation for all additional details.

Day 1: Overview of history, major figures and ideas in ecoart, referencing the text *Ecoart in Action* <https://nyupress.org/9781613321485/ecoart-in-action/> which she co-edited and contributed to with 67 other ecoart educators and practitioners; lunch; a mindful walk in the restored gardens of the *Ghost Nets* site; drawing and dis-

cussion in a relaxed atmosphere.

Day 2: Charette style workshop discussing and experimenting with ecoart design approaches to environmental problems; lunch. Guided independent experiments in applying ecoart principles individually and in teams.

This is for you if:

You want an in-depth immersion in ecoart,

You are an educator who wants new models for STEAM learning,

You are an established artist wanting to engage with others who have, or aspire to an ecoart

practice,

You are an emerging artist looking for how your practice can serve the environment,

You are competent in a creative discipline but want pro-active engagement in political policies,

You want an interdisciplinary experience of nature-based artmaking,

You want two days in a beautiful setting with peers to consider our common future!

Ecoartist Aviva Rahmani exhibits and publishes internationally, recently she authored *Divining Chaos*. As an Affil-

iate with INSTAAR at the University of Colorado Boulder she works virtually on climate issues. Her projects focus on restoring degraded ecosystems and environmental justice with art, such as *Blued Trees*, which tests the limits of music, experimental forms and the legal system, to challenge ecocide. Rahmani's PhD, "Trigger Point Theory as Aesthetic Activism," is in environmental sciences, technology and studio art from the Plymouth University, UK. Please visit www.avivarahmani.com for more information.

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USDA Rural Development Invests \$2.7 Million to Improve Community Infrastructure for People Living in Rural Towns Across Maine

BESSEMER, AL (January 26, 2022) – United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Deputy Secretary Dr. Jewel Bronaugh today announced that USDA is investing \$1 billion to build and improve critical community facilities in 48 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico and Guam. This infrastructure funding will increase access to health care, education and public safety while spurring community development and building sound infrastructure for people living in rural communities. In Maine, five organizations are receiving loans and grants totaling \$2,708,700.

“The Biden-Harris Administration has made investing in infrastructure improvements a top priority,” Bronaugh said. “These loans and grants will help rural communities invest in facilities and services that are vital to all communities, such as health care facilities, schools, libraries, and first responder vehicles and equipment. When we invest in essential services in rural America, we build opportunity and prosperity for the people who call rural communities’ home.”

USDA Rural Development Maine State Director Rhiannon C. Hampson said, “These investments in rural Maine communities do not go unappreciated.

The creation, renovation and rebuilding of these rural organizations are paramount for those who live and visit here; the awardees are not only celebrating the stories of our heritage, but the innovative work that we are engaged in now as a state. When I read through the list of recipients, I see a bright future for Maine as we welcome this administration’s acknowledgement of our important infrastructure through critical funding.”

The following organization in Maine is receiving a Community Facilities Direct Loan:

Wolfe’s Neck Farm Foundation, Inc. has been awarded \$2,500,000 to construct an education, training and research facility. The Smith Center for Education and Research will enable the organization to expand upon their ability to engage in charitable, education and scientific activities related to alternative farming techniques, conservation management, research, education and public stewardship. It will allow them to increase their workshops, seminars and camp meetings from 18 participants to around 150. This funding will provide a needed heated indoor growing space, teaching kitchen, classroom space, dining area and a small year-round retail space. This facility will benefit more than 281,000

individuals.

The following organizations in Maine are receiving more than \$188,000 in Community Facilities Grants:

The Young Men’s Christian Association of Old Town and Orono has been awarded a \$106,000 grant to replace the current fire alarm system. It will replace a system that has been added onto, extended and repaired beyond its capabilities. The new system will ensure notification and timely evacuation. This project will have an impact on more than 67,000 people.

The Town of Old Orchard Beach has been awarded \$50,000 for the acquisition of a new ambulance and lifesaving and safety equality. Old Orchard Beach is a summer-time destination for many tourists, and it is important for the town to have adequate emergency vehicles and equipment to help those require assistance. The purchase will also include two power stretchers, making it easier to load and unload patients. This funding will help provide a safer environment for more than 8,700 individuals who live in and visit this area.

The Southern Aroostook Agricultural Museum has been awarded \$12,300 for a new digital road sign, which will increase visibility of museum and commu-

nity events and emergency alerts. Along with the museum, there is an agricultural barn, a transportation and snow removal barn, a barrel-making shop, and a blacksmith’s shop. They are open for tours, public suppers and conferences. The museum also serves as an emergency facility for the area. This project will benefit more than 14,000 individuals.

The Ste. Agathe Historical Society has been awarded a \$20,400 grant to renovate the Longfellow School, a one-room schoolhouse dating back to the 1920s. This funding will pay for windows, ceiling and flooring repairs, entrance area renovations and the rebuilding of the storage and outhouse facility. The floors will be repaired with hardwood flooring saved from the Our Lady of Peace Hall, which was part of the Daughter’s of Wisdom’s Boarding School, dating back to the 1960s. The renovations will create a gathering place for visitor and residents to learn about the history of the one-room schoolhouses that served the surrounding communities from that era.

Bronaugh highlighted 737 projects that USDA is making in five programs that will fund essential community services to help rural America build back better, stronger and more equitably than

ever before. These programs include Community Facilities Direct Loans and Grants, Community Facilities Loan Guarantees, Community Facilities Technical Assistance Training Grants, Community Facilities Disaster Grants, and Economic Impact Initiative Grants. The projects will finance emergency response vehicles and equipment; build or improve hospitals and clinics and help fund other essential community facilities.

Background:

More than 100 types of projects are eligible for Community Facilities funding. Eligible applicants include municipalities, public bodies, nonprofit organizations, and federally recognized Native American tribes. Projects must be in rural areas with a population of 20,000 or less. For more information, visit <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program>.

Interested parties should contact their USDA Rural Development state office for information about additional funding, application procedures and eligibility. Also see the Community Facilities Direct Loan Program Guidance Book for Applicants (PDF, 669 KB) for a detailed overview of the

application process.

The awards being announced today are being made in Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico and Guam.

Under the Biden-Harris Administration, Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities, create jobs and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural, Tribal and high-poverty areas. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov. If you’d like to subscribe to USDA Rural Development updates, visit our GovDelivery subscriber page.

Organizations Needed to Provide Free Meals to Children this Summer

AUGUSTA, ME (February 3, 2022) — With the assistance of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Maine public schools have long offered a nutritious breakfast and lunch meal program to thousands of income eligible children in Maine during the school year. To extend this program, Maine Department of Education (DOE) Child Nutrition is seeking organizations who would like to participate in the federally funded Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), which provides children healthy free meals when school is not in session.

“For many children, their school provides the only reliable, nutritious meal that they can count on and we need to make sure those meals are there for Maine children during the summer break,” said Maine Education Commissioner Pender Makin. “By

participating in this program, community groups and organizations can have a tremendous impact on the health and well-being of children in their communities. The Department of Education is thankful for those organizations that continue to be a part of this vital summer program and we welcome those joining this year to extend our reach and help feed additional children in Maine.”

In July 2021, 131 sponsors participated in the program, serving meals at 861 sites throughout the state. Although there are sponsors operating in every county in Maine, there is still a long way to go towards feeding all eligible children during the summer. Community partners are working to maximize the number of sponsors utilizing the availability of funds under the SFSP.

SFSP may be offered statewide in areas or at

sites where more than 50 percent of the children are eligible for free or reduced meal benefits under the National School Lunch Program or census track data supports the need. Organizations that provide services in rural communities or near migrant farm workers and tribal populations are urged to participate. Eligible sponsoring organizations include schools, nonprofit residential summer camps, government agencies, and tax-exempt faith-based organizations.

Maine DOE encourages any eligible organization to consider providing this much-needed service to Maine children. The agency will begin accepting applications to participate in February. Approved sponsors will be reimbursed for eligible meals served to children during the long summer break.

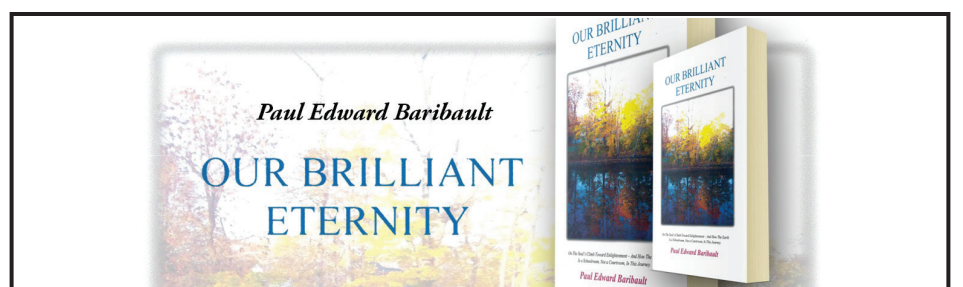
Interested organiza-

tions should begin planning now for a successful summer. Potential sponsors are required to receive training from Maine DOE. Training will occur virtually, and DOE staff

will assist in the onboarding process. Maine DOE is available to consult by phone and email to answer questions regarding summer meals.

For more information

about the Maine DOE’s Summer Food Service Program, contact adriane.ackroyd@maine.gov, call 592-1722 or visit <https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition/programs/sfsp>.



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Out and About with Rachel Morin

A Favorite Holiday



A note on our desk calendar kept us focused as IF we needed to be reminded, but it was part of the fun! (The Foursome Photo)

By Rachel Morin

A few months ago, between Thanksgiving and Christmas, a friend asked me if I had a favorite holiday.

A favorite holiday? I treasure all our holidays. But President's Day in the early 1980s came to mind as an unusual one that became a special holiday for my daughters, Cathy, Liz, Debbie and me.

Seeing as we are celebrating President's Day this coming week, Monday, February 21, it's a good time to share the memory. It was a Mother-Daughter shopping trip to Portsmouth, New

Hampshire on President's Day.

My daughters were at an age then, when clothes were an important part of their young professional lives. College life was over and they were starting their careers and needed a new wardrobe to look the part. But starting salaries do not support that wish list.

What was so important about this trip? Days before in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, huge ads announcing a President Day Sale and posters in the stores were everywhere. A gigantic clearance sale of fall and winter clothes to make

room for spring clothing arriving. The clearance racks would have prices marked down as low as 75% on heavily reduced clearance. And, oh yes, New Hampshire had NO sales tax. So, we could buy lots of clothes and not spend much money.

We had a specific mission in mind, carefully planned and mapped out. My daughters are VERY organized. For a few years, we booked a room at one of the motels along the beach area in York, Maine to position ourselves strategically for an early morning departure to be first in line at the sales.

That morning, we dressed simply (no zippers, buttons or shoes that had shoelaces to tie!) so we could move in and out of changing-rooms quickly. A quick stop for a hearty breakfast, as we knew there would be no time wasted, having lunch later in the day.

Hitting the road for the Portsmouth Mall, we knew the routine: hit the clothing stores, no shopping at the front of the store, go to the back racks where all the sales items were located.

We enjoyed mingling with the other women shoppers at the clearance racks, whom we had met in previous years, all familiar faces, even though we did not know their names.

Once in a while, we may have bought something for the men in the family. Maybe a sweater or a shirt. But the real focus and reward on these shopping trips was the fun and bonding time we had together.

We did this for a few years. These Portsmouth shopping trips have fallen away, but our fun and bonding experiences evolve and continue to this very day.



This is one of the stores we hit as we made the rounds at the Fox Run Mall. (The Foursome Photo)



One of the many posters we saw in the stores at the Fox Run Mall.

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Here is a picture of The Foursome on a recent outing. We are broadening our interests and enjoying our bonding adventures together. (Gerry Morin Photo)



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Build Your Career, Start a Business, and Manage Your Money with Free, Online Classes From New Ventures Maine

MAINE STATE-WIDE (February 14, 2022)—New Ventures Maine has announced tuition-free online workshops and classes for March that are designed to help people in Maine build a career, start a business, and manage money. The full schedule of daytime and evening classes is online at bit.ly/NVMEClasses.

Classes include:
My Money Works: Tuesdays, March 1 – 29, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Gain the skills and confidence you need to stretch your money, pay your bills, reduce debt, find money for sav-

ings, plan for retirement, and set financial goals with a plan to achieve greater financial stability.

Business Success Series: Thursdays, March 3 – April 21, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Eight dynamic, online workshops will help you manage the components of starting and growing your small business. Each workshop covers a topic, including: self-employment, values and mission, marketing strategy, pricing strategies, bookkeeping solutions, projecting cash flow, QuickBooks, and tax readiness. Register for one workshop or more within

the series.

Building Confidence: Mondays, March 7 – 21, 10:00 – 11:30 a.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.

Job Search Classes: Thursdays, March 10 – 24, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Ready for a new job or a career change? Join us for one, two, or all three of these workshops. Mar.

10: Job Search Strategies, Mar. 17: Resume Strategies, Mar. 24: Interview Strategies.

Connecting Women to Construction Careers: Wednesday, March 16; choose either 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. or 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. These 90-minute virtual sessions are designed for women to explore high-wage careers within the construction trades. This is an opportunity to learn about low-cost or no-cost training programs and job opportunities in a variety of in-demand construction careers in Maine.

Managing Your

Money Classes: Wednesdays, March, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Learn to budget, repair your credit, and create a savings plan. Join us for one, two, or all three classes. Mar. 16: Budgeting Basics; Mar. 23: Let's Talk About Credit; Mar. 30: Build Your Savings

Tax Readiness for the Self-Employed: Wednesday, March 23, 6:00 – 7:00 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.

Making Career Choices: Tuesday, March 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, March 24, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.)

For the full schedule of upcoming classes and to sign up, visit bit.ly/NVMEClasses or call toll-free in Maine: 800-442-2092.

Nearly \$18.5 Million for Four Maine Dredging Projects

WASHINGTON, D.C. (January 19, 2022) — U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King announced today that four Maine dredging projects in Ogunquit, Scarborough, Milbridge, and Bar Harbor totaling \$18,455,000 were included in the Army Corps

of Engineers' work plan for Fiscal Year 2022 – funding secured through the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act signed into law last November. Senator Collins, the Ranking Member of the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee, was part of

the core group of 10 Senators who negotiated the text of the bipartisan infrastructure law.

"These critical dredging projects for Bar Harbor as well as rivers in Ogunquit, Milbridge, and Scarborough will help address significant safety and navi-

gational concerns for commercial fishermen as well as recreational boaters," said Senators Collins and King in a joint statement. "Maine's waterways are the lifeblood of many coastal towns and support our state's economy. These investments are excellent examples of how

the bipartisan infrastructure package is creating jobs and providing substantial benefits to Maine's communities and families."

The funding will be allocated as follows:

Bar Harbor. \$6,325,000 for breakwater repairs and surveys.

Josias River, Perkins Cove, Ogunquit. \$3,425,000 for dredging and surveys.

Narraguagus River, Milbridge. \$3,905,000 for dredging and surveys.

Scarborough River, Scarborough. \$4,800,000 for dredging.

Central Maine Medical Center's Early Lung Cancer Screening Team Hosts Fresh Air for ME to Support Early Screening and Treatment

LEWISTON, Maine (Feb. 11, 2022) – A virtual fundraiser hosted by the Early Lung Cancer Screening Program Team at Central Maine Medical Center will benefit underinsured patients in need of lung cancer screening and treatment.

"Fresh Air: A Virtual Event, Raising Awareness and Funds for Early Lung Cancer Screening in Maine" takes place Feb. 13-26. Each week will feature the CMMC team hosting outdoor activities with special winter-themed contests. Participants will be invited to show their

support by sharing photos of themselves joining in outdoor activities such as snowshoeing, ice skating, ice fishing, sliding, skiing, snowboarding, fat tire biking and snowman/snow angel creations -- all while getting "Fresh Air" and raising awareness for early lung cancer screening.

Online and donations are encouraged each time a group shares a photo. Post your photos on social media using the hashtag #freshairforME or email them to freshair@cmhc.org to show your support for early lung cancer screening at

CMMC. All proceeds will help underinsured patients in central Maine access early detection and treatment of lung cancer.

Visit <https://www.cmhc.org/freshair> for more information and to donate, or email freshair@cmhc.org.

In Maine, the rate of new lung cancer cases is 72 per 100,000 population, significantly higher than the national rate of 58 per 100,000 of population, according to data from the American Lung Association.

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer

deaths in both men and women, mostly attributed to smoking. Lung cancer symptoms often don't appear until the disease has reached advanced stages. Fortunately, new screenings can now catch the condition in its earliest and most treatable stages -- saving many more lives. Lung cancer can usually be cured if it's detected early.

This event is sponsored in partnership with Free ME from Lung Cancer, a non-profit organization that supports lung cancer research, education and advocacy.

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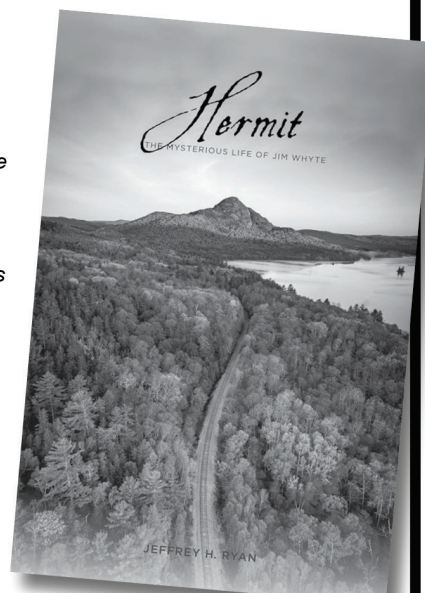
"Ryan is an excellent storyteller, and this tale is as good as any novel, especially since it's based on real people and real events."

— Bill Bushnell, *Bushnell on Books*

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— George Smith, *Bangor Daily News*

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Mainers Invited to Join Healthy Living for ME's March Workshops

MAINE, STATE-WIDE (February 18, 2022) -- This March, Healthy Living for ME will be offering workshops focused on helping Mainers who are living with diabetes, other conditions, as well as a workshop focused on helping people with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities or Acquired Brain Injuries live a healthy lifestyle. Available across the state, with in-person, virtual, and telephonic options, these workshops are provided to the public through Healthy Living for ME's partnerships with local organizations and health systems.

"We're grateful for the partnerships that allow us to continue to bring workshops to Mainers. These workshops offer education and guidance for managing conditions and improving health while

importantly providing a supportive space for participants," said Maija Dyke, Contract and Business Manager of Healthy Living for ME. "We invite any Mainer who is interested in joining these workshops to reach out to us for more information or to register."

Many of Healthy Living for ME's workshops are free to the participant, while others have a low cost. For virtual workshops, participants who do not have the necessary technology may be eligible to borrow an iPad from Healthy Living for ME in order to participate.

Healthy Living for ME's March workshops include:

Living Well with Diabetes (in-person) - This workshop will be held in-person at the Alford Center for Health in Augusta on Thursdays beginning

March 3, 2022. It is designed to help people with type 2 diabetes by covering topics such as: dealing with diabetes symptoms, fatigue, pain, hyper/hypoglycemia, stress, depression, anger, fear, frustration; appropriate exercise, healthy eating, appropriate use of medication and working with healthcare providers. This workshop is provided in partnership with MaineGeneral's Peter Alford Prevention and Healthy Living Center.

Better Health Now with Diabetes (by phone) - Participants in this workshop will receive a free mail order toolkit and will work with a certified leader via phone or Zoom at a predetermined time. The workshop is scheduled to begin on March 14, 2022. It is designed to help those who have or are at risk of type 2 diabetes and/

or their caregivers. Topics covered include dealing with diabetes symptoms, fatigue, pain, hyper/hypoglycemia, stress, depression, anger, fear, frustration; appropriate exercise, healthy eating, appropriate use of medication and working with healthcare providers. This workshop is provided in partnership with MaineGeneral's Peter Alford Prevention and Healthy Living Center

The National Diabetes Prevention Program (virtual) - This workshop will be held virtually beginning on March 22, 2022. It is not a diet or exercise class, but a program led by a certified lifestyle coach that provides free health coaching to reduce a person's risk of developing Type 2 diabetes. Participants will learn to apply practical strategies to stay motivated, manage stress,

prepare food, and avoid negative thoughts. Participants attend 16 weekly sessions followed by every other week sessions for the remainder of the year-long program. Additionally, our Registered Dietician will be available to support participants of the program.

Health Matters (in-person) - This workshop will be held in-person at the Muskie Community Center in Waterville on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays beginning March 28, 2022. It is designed to help people with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities or Acquired Brain Injuries and their supports live a healthy lifestyle. Through exercise, nutrition and health education activities, this workshop helps participants become stronger and healthier, improve self-advocacy skills and confidence, and connect with peers as they gain the knowledge, motivation and skills needed to create healthy habits that last a lifetime. This workshop is provided in partnership with Bridges Home Services.

Living Well with Diabetes (virtual) - This workshop will be held online on Thursdays be-

ginning March 31, 2022. It is designed to help people with type 2 diabetes by covering topics such as: dealing with diabetes symptoms, fatigue, pain, hyper/hypoglycemia, stress, depression, anger, fear, frustration, appropriate exercise, healthy eating, appropriate use of medication and working with healthcare providers. This workshop is provided in partnership with SeniorPlus and the Lewiston/Auburn (L/A) Senior College.

Registration is required for these workshops. Please contact Healthy Living for ME at 1-800-620-6036 or info@healthylivingforme.org for more information and to register. You can also register via our website, www.healthylivingforme.org.

Healthy Living for ME also welcomes referrals from healthcare providers. Our evidence-based programming can help patients manage and prevent conditions before they become more serious or result in emergency situations.

To learn more about these and other workshops offered by Healthy Living for ME, visit www.healthylivingforme.org.

Maine Delegation Urges USDA to Implement Northeast Dairy Task Force Recommendations

Washington, D.C. (February 17, 2022) - In a letter to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King and Representatives Jared Golden and Chellie Pingree urged Secretary Tom Vilsack to respond to the recommendations of the Northeast Dairy Task Force as quickly as possible.

The Task Force was established in response to an announcement by the multinational corporation Danone and its subsidiary Horizon Organic that they would terminate contracts with 89 organic dairy farms in the Northeast, leaving many of the region's organic farms without a buyer and placing them at risk of closure. The Task Force issued numerous recom-

mendations to improve organic dairy viability in the Northeast, many of which can be directly addressed through USDA support.

"When Danone/Horizon announced their intent to end their contracts with 89 organic dairy farms in

the Northeast, 27 organizations came together to create the Northeast Dairy Task Force and provide recommendations to the USDA on ways to help the organic dairy industry. Despite the recent announcement that Danone will be providing further assistance to impacted farmers, the underlying structural threats to organic dairy in the Northeast remain and urgent action is needed," the lawmakers wrote in a letter to USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack.

The letter further requests that Secretary Vilsack respond to the Task Force without delay and to fully utilize existing USDA resources, initiatives, and authorities to implement the Task Force's recommendations.

In addition to members of the Maine Delegation, the letter was co-signed by Senators Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) as well as Representatives Annie Kuster (D-NH-02) and Elise Stefanik (R-NY-21).



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Feb. 26
GRAY -- Takeout Bean Supper - First Congregational Church of Gray. You MUST order in advance. Contact Carol at 650-9093 and let her know your name, phone number, how many meals you want and choice of pie. Cut off for reservations will be Wednesday, February 23 at 2:00 P.M. Please park at the Parish House, 5 Brown St. and enter the Parish House by the Front Door. Meals are single-sized and are \$10.00 each. Pick up time is 4:30 to 5:30. Please pay at time of pick up. Menu - Baked Pea Beans, 2 Red Hot Dogs, Coleslaw, Biscuit, and choice of Apple or Blueberry pie.

Feb. 26
BUXTON - Haddock Supper Buffet - 5:00 pm at Living Waters Church, Parker Farm Road, Buxton. Suggested donation: \$8 Adult, \$4 Child, \$20 Family. Please note: We will offer the option of takout containers for those who do not want to come inside for seating. Wearing of face masks for those who are not vaccinated is suggested. Hand sanitizer is available for those who wish to use it.

Mar. 1
GORHAM --6:30pm Regular Town Council Meeting Council Chambers

Mar. 7
GORHAM -- 6:30pm

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

Joint Town CIP & School Facilities Committee Meeting, Zoom

Mar. 7
GORHAM -- 7pm Planning Board Meeting Council Chambers

Mar. 8
GORHAM -- 7pm Conservation Commission Meeting Conference Room A

Mar. 9
GORHAM -- 7pm School Committee Meeting Council Chambers

Mar. 9
LEWISTON -- 3:30PM, Lewiston Public Library, MAKE ART WITH ARTVAN Art-Van will be providing an in-person hands-on creative art program in the Children's Department of the Lewiston Public Library for children ages 5-14 (ages 5-8 must be accompanied by an adult) for selfexpression, personal growth, and fun. Free. All art supplies will be provided. 513-3133; www.LPLonline.org

Mar. 15
GORHAM -- 8am Ordinance Committee Meeting TBD

Mar. 15
GORHAM -- 6:30pm Town Council Workshop

Council Chambers

Mar. 16
GORHAM -- 8am Gorham Economic Development Corporation Meeting Conference Room A

Mar. 16
LEWISTON -- The Ladies of St Anne Sodality, Prince of Peace Parish will be having a general membership meeting on March 16 at 6 PM. at the Parish Hall 607 Sabatatus St. The doors will be opened at 5:30. After a brief business meeting, there will be a Stand Up Bingo. Save a date for the upcoming Card Party to be held on April 6 at 6 PM. Tickets will be available at the March 16 meeting for \$5 or by contacting Anita 782-4516. Refreshments will be served by Flo Marquis.

Mar 17.
LEWISTON -- Care Partner Support Series – Five Sessions to Change: virtual webinars presented in conjunction with Positive Approach® to Care, the international program led by founder Teepa Snow. This class is designed to educate and connect care partners of a person living with dementia. Participants must

agree to attend all five sessions, as well as an introductory program, and have appropriate internet access. Thursdays, March 17-April 14th, 5:30 – 7 pm, SeniorsPlus, 8 Falcon Road, Lewiston, ME 04240

Registration required: call 1-800-427-1241 or email gnelson@seniorsplus.org

Mar. 17
GORHAM -- 6:30pm Tentative Recurring Board of Appeals Meeting, Council Chambers

Mar. 17
GORHAM -- 6:30pm Tentative Recurring CIP Meeting TBD

Mar. 19
LEWISTON -- 11:00am-1:00pm IN-PERSON program at the Lewiston Public Library Children's Department: GRAPHIC NOVELS TO THE RESCUE! Join the Lewiston Public Library Children's Department for an in-person program celebrating graphic novels. This program will take place on Saturday, March 19, 2022 from 11:00am-1:00pm in Callahan Hall on the 3rd floor of the library. No registration is required for this program, and it is free and open to all kids up to age 12 and their families. Costumes are encouraged but not required. Stop in anytime between 11:00am - 1:00. Activities (until supplies

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last) will include making comic strips, masks and capes, and posing in front of the cityscape backdrop for photos!

Mar. 28
GORHAM -- 5:30pm Finance Committee Meeting TBD

Apr. 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17

Community Little Theatre (CLT) presents Disaster!, a new musical comedy with hit songs from the 1970s and plot elements reminiscent of disaster cult films. Performances at 7:30 p.m. on April 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, and 16; and at 2:00 p.m. on April 10 and 17. Call 207-783-0958 or visit BOX OFFICE | lact-1 for tickets and information. Please visit at <https://www.lact.com/covid-19-protocols> for information on safety protocols.

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Collins, King Announce More Than \$2.8 Million for Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

Washington, D.C. (February 10, 2022) – U.S. Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Angus King (I-ME) announced that Maine will receive a total of \$2,856,158 through the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program to support the state's efforts to expand the network of electric vehicle (EV) chargers.

This funding was authorized through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and provided

through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Senator Collins, the Ranking Member of the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee, was part of the core group of 10 Senators who negotiated the text of the bipartisan infrastructure law.

"Electric vehicles provide many benefits, including a smaller carbon footprint, but the lack of available charging stations

in a large, rural state like Maine has been a barrier to their adoption," said Senator Collins. "This investment in Maine's charging network will continue the momentum toward cleaner transportation and help reduce harmful transportation emissions, which produce more than half of Maine's carbon pollution and threaten our public health, natural resources, and economy."

"With transportation producing more carbon di-

oxide than any other sector of the U.S. economy, electric vehicles offer a promising opportunity to cut emissions, improve air quality, and help consumers save on fuel costs," said Senator King. "The opportunity is right in front of us – but in order for electric vehicles to meet their potential we need strong, widely available charging infrastructure, especially in a rural, spread-out state like Maine. This funding from the Bi-

partisan Infrastructure Bill will help put more charging stations in our communities and allow more Maine people to seriously consider the possibility of making their next car an electric vehicle. As carmakers do their part and start making more electric cars and trucks, I'm pleased to see this significant investment in Maine's infrastructure needs to support that transition, and look forward to this legislation's continued support for Maine

communities and our air quality."

The bipartisan infrastructure law includes a total of up to \$7.5 billion in dedicated funding to help make EV chargers available to all Americans for local to long-distance trips. These historic investments are part of an initiative to build a national network of 500,000 EV chargers by 2030 and ensure a convenient, reliable, and affordable charging experience for all users.

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Auburn Concert Band Invites New Members



AUBURN, ME (February 14, 2022) – The Auburn Community Concert Band has announced that rehearsals in preparation for the group’s 2022 Summer concert season will begin on Wednesday, March 2nd.

This is an ideal opportunity for former high school and college band

members to again experience the enjoyment of making music and performing in front of large audiences. Membership is open to all wind instrument players and percussionists who can read music.

Band members must have their own instruments and be able to commit to the group’s weekly sched-

ule of Wednesday evening rehearsals and concerts.

For the 2022 season, participants are also required to be fully vaccinated for Covid-19.

Weekly rehearsals take place every Wednesday evening, from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the High Street Congregational Church, located between

High and Pleasant Streets, in Auburn.

Every summer, starting by early July, the band presents weekly Wednesday evening concerts at Festival Plaza in downtown Auburn, weather permitting. A different program of music is performed each week, with songs appealing to audiences both

young and old. According to Band Director Milt Simon, it is not unusual for prospective members to feel a bit reluctant about joining the group.

“We understand that, for some, it may have been 20 or more years since they last touched their instrument.” Simon added that most people regain their musical skills relatively quickly. “It’s like riding a bicycle. Once you have learned, you never forget. You just may have to do some practicing.”

This summer will mark the organization’s 41st anniversary season since being formed by Simon back in 1981.

Current concert band members range in age from

their late teens to early 80’s, and represent a dozen central Maine towns.

Interested musicians are asked to email their intentions to Director Simon at auburncommunityband@gmail.com prior to attending their first rehearsal. Additional information about the group is posted on the band’s web site: www.auburncommunityband.com.

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

Black History Month: Lewiston Employees Making History



LEWISTON, ME (February 15, 2022) – The City of Lewiston interviewed several employees for Black History Month. These interviews included: 2/15/22 Lewiston Intern Irina Ndembo 2/17/22 Lewiston

Grants Accountant Luis Diaz

2/22/22 Lewiston Economic Development Specialist Kon Maiwan

2/24/22 Lewiston Police Officer Xavier Roman

Interviews can be accessed at: www.lewiston-

maine.gov/employeesmakinghistory

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