



# TWIN CITY TIMES

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Out and About with Rachel Morin

## Elvis Returns to Schooner!



“Are you lonesome tonight?” (Rachel Morin Photo)

By Rachel Morin

A large enthusiastic audience packed the Village Green at Schooner Estates in Auburn to welcome the return of Elvis Presley to one of the several stages Elvis has performed at for the residents of the Senior Living Community.

Don Boudreau of Sidney, Maine is a solo Elvis Tribute Artist who has made several long-time friends at Schooner from his many concerts and is well loved for staying long after he has finished singing, to talk and catch up with his ardent fans.



Wesley Danforth and Elvis Presley (Don Bildeau). (Rachel Morin Photo)



Pauline Gotto and Elvis Presley (Don Bildeau) Pauline says, “It made my night to have my picture taken with Elvis.” (Rachel Morin Photo)



Rachel Morin and Elvis Presley (Don Bildeau) Rachel enjoyed catching up with Don since the last concert at Sconer. (Joanne Kramlich Photo)

Don entered the Village Green, smiling and waving to everyone and acknowledged the applause, with an arm outstretched to his fans and friends in the audience. He was carrying a small bag and slipped into a small room near the stage.

When Don reentered the stage, minutes later, as a good-looking svelte, dark-haired Elvis Presley, with the familiar sideburns, and wearing a creamy white costume with red accents, featuring a deep vee neck, open to a jeweled cross nestled on his chest, and when Elvis strutted on stage, the audience burst into spontaneous applause. Elvis was the King.

Don, as Elvis, had the audience. Don had the style, the moves, the repartee, the connection with the audience, but mostly it was his voice. He sounded like Elvis and sung like Elvis. The fans settled in to enjoy the many songs he sang.

At the conclusion of the concert, Don sung his favorite Elvis hymn, sung just as only Elvis sung it, “The Battle Hymn of the Republic” (Glory, Glory Hallelujah)

And true to form, Don remained over an hour, after the concert with friends who remained to talk with him.

Don has performed throughout Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts and Canada thrilling audiences everywhere with his excellent renditions of Elvis Presley performances.

Don has recorded over 200 Elvis songs. He is an experienced guitar player, teacher and music director of a contemporary praise group.

He does all eras and genres of Elvis music from 50’s to 60’s to 70’s including the early rockabilly Sun years and gospel recordings. He is a regular competitor at many of the most prestigious Elvis Tribute Competitions in the Northeast.



“Don’t you step on my blue suede shoes.” (Rachel Morin Photo)

## Ensuring Mainers Have Access to Vital Medication

Guest Column by Sen. Nate Libby  
AUGUSTA, ME (February 18, 2022)

The rising costs of prescription drugs in Maine can place an unwelcome burden on any of us. Unfortunately, all too often I hear from folks in our community who are struggling to pay for their life-improving and life-saving medications. This is a system that is not currently sustainable. My colleagues and I in the Legislature are keenly aware of this crisis and are doing all we can to address this issue. For instance, just last year Maine lawmakers created a life-saving program that allows eligible Mainers to access an emergency 30-day supply of insulin at any pharmacy for less than \$35. We also created the Office of Affordable Health Care, which is dedicated to analyzing what’s driving high health care costs in Maine and making recommendations for how we can deliver meaningful relief in our state. While this progress has been encouraging, we still have to take action to address this complex issue in other ways. This year, two of my colleagues in the Legislature, Sen. Heather Sanborn, D-Portland, and Rep. Amy Roeder, D-Bangor, have introduced two bills that intend to build on the good work we’ve done to help lower prescription drug costs and protect Mainers from shady practices carried out by some insurance providers.

Sen. Sanborn’s bill aims to eliminate double-billing practices that many Mainers face when they visit their pharmacy. For those who may not know, double-billing occurs when a patient’s insurance company uses a “co-pay accumulator program” that stops manufacturer copay assistance coupons from counting toward both the patient’s deductible and maximum out-of-pocket spending, usually without the consumer even knowing. A copay assistance card (also known as a copay savings program, copay coupon, or simply a copay card) is essentially a coupon that makes a medication less expensive for the consumer. For those who qualify, instead of paying a high copay, you pay substantially less for the same medicine and in some cases can pay nothing out of pocket for your copay. The drug-manufacturer then covers the difference.

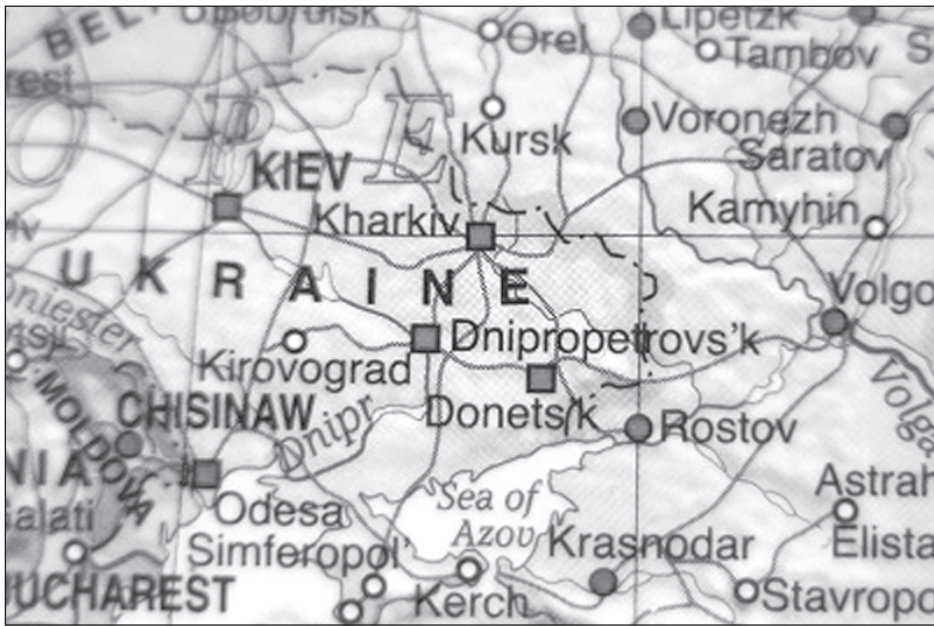
For example, let’s say your doctor has prescribed Xeljanz to treat your rheumatoid arthritis. The next time you go to the pharmacy to pick-up your prescription, given that your insurance company covers this drug and you meet the eligibility criteria for the Xeljanz copay assistance program (those with private health insurance likely will), you could end up paying as little as \$0 out-of-pocket per month. Sadly, when insurance companies use “co-pay accumulator programs” the patient ends up actually paying more for the prescription drug than they would have without the co-pay assistance card. This is especially frustrating for patients who needed financial assistance to pay for the medicine to begin with.

As I mentioned above, Rep. Roeder has sponsored another potentially life-saving bill, LD 1776. This bill would allow pharmacists to dispense emergency supplies of medications to a patient when au-

See Medication, page 14

# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## Donating to Help Ukraine Relief Activities



**Better Business Bureau EASTERN MA, ME, RI & VT (February 24, 2022)** -- News reports of Russia's attack on Ukraine may encourage concerned individuals to reach out and help victims affected by the conflict.

Before giving, go to BBB's Give.org for tips on how to best help Ukraine relief activities. Among other things, it notes that not all relief or-

ganizations will be able to provide timely assistance unless they already have a presence in Ukraine. For additional advice as well as a list of BBB Accredited Charities (i.e., meet all 20 BBB Charity Standards) raising funds to help, visit tips for donating to Ukraine relief. (BELOW)

As the Russian invasion of Ukraine has begun, concerns grow

about current and potential emergency needs of the Ukraine people. Generous donors want to help by supporting charities that are raising funds for assistance. BBB Wise Giving Alliance offers the following tips for donors to consider along with a list of BBB Accredited Charities that have announced Ukraine-related activities or plans on their websites.

We certainly encourage generosity to help the people in Ukraine but caution donors to avoid questionable appeals by keeping the following tips in mind:

Can the charity get to the impacted area? Not all relief organizations will be positioned to provide relief quickly. See if the charity already has a presence in Ukraine.

Should you send clothing and food? Local drives to collect clothing and food to send overseas may not be practical as the logistics and timing to deliver and disperse such items will be challenging. Relief organizations are better equipped to obtain what is needed, distribute it effectively and avoid duplication of effort.

Does the relief charity meet BBB Charity Standards? You can verify a charity's trustworthiness by viewing an evaluative report completed by BBB Wise Giving Alliance. See the list provided below of charities

that that are soliciting for relief assistance for Ukraine and that also meet the BBB Standards for Charity Accountability.

Is the charity experienced in providing emergency relief? Experienced disaster relief charities are the best bet to help deliver aid as soon as possible. New entrants may have difficulty in following through even if they have the best of intentions.

Are you considering crowdfunding appeals? If engaging in crowdfunding, it is safest to give to someone you personally know and trust, and review the platform's policies regarding fees and distribution of collected funds. If the crowdfunding request is from a charity, check out the group by visiting Give.org. Keep in mind that some crowdfunding sites do very little vetting of individuals or organizations that decide to post for relief assistance. Sites that take security measures will usually

provide descriptions of these procedures.

Does the appeal make exaggerated financial claims such as "100% will be spent on relief." Charities have fundraising and administrative expenses. Any charity claiming otherwise is potentially misleading the donating public. Even a credit card donation will have a processing fee.

The following nationally-soliciting charities are BBB Accredited (i.e., they meet the 20 BBB Standards for Charity Accountability). Their respective websites indicate that they are either currently raising funds for assistance efforts in Ukraine or preparing for needs that could arise if conflict results in population displacement.

- Catholic Relief Services
- Direct Relief
- GlobalGiving
- International Rescue Committee
- Save the Children

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## New Ventures Maine Launches Mini-Grant Competition

**MAINE, STATE-WIDE (February 24, 2022)** — New Ventures Maine (NVME) has announced open applications for the Spring 2022 Marketing Mini-grant competition.

The NVME Marketing Mini-grant program aims to strengthen access to markets for micro-businesses by supporting the development of marketing tools, materials, and activities. NVME will award cash mini-grants—up to \$1,000 per region in six defined regions—to mi-

croenterprises for marketing projects through a competitive application process. Applications are due Friday, May 6, 2022.

Eligible applicants include individual micro-business owners, business partners, or groups of business owners. Businesses apply to the region in which they are based (see below for details).

Application criteria include: 1) Five or fewer full-time equivalent employees; 2) sales in the current calendar year; and 3) gross annual sales of no more than \$150,000.

New Ventures Maine's mini-grants support new or expanded business marketing and promotion. Winning

grants must be matched by a 25% contribution which can come from business profits, personal funds, or other sources.

Regions and contacts are defined for the NVME Mini-grant program as follows:

Aroostook County - Karin Petrin, 768.9468, [karin.petrin@maine.edu](mailto:karin.petrin@maine.edu)

Kennebec & Somerset Counties - Jean Dempster, 621.3434, [dempster@maine.edu](mailto:dempster@maine.edu)

Sagadahoc, Lincoln, Knox and Waldo Counties plus businesses located in the towns of Brunswick and Harpswell - Jenn Dobransky, 386.1664, [jenn.dobransky@maine.edu](mailto:jenn.dobransky@maine.edu)

Penobscot, Pis-

cataquis, Hancock and Washington Counties - Karin Petrin, 768.9468, [karin.petrin@maine.edu](mailto:karin.petrin@maine.edu)


Cumberland and York Counties - Gigi Guyton, 799.5025, [gigi.guyton@maine.edu](mailto:gigi.guyton@maine.edu)

Androscoggin, Oxford and Franklin Counties - Karleen Andrews, 557.1885, [karleen.andrews@maine.edu](mailto:karleen.andrews@maine.edu)

Marketing Mini Grants are sponsored in part by Norway Savings Bank, Katahdin Trust Company, and Kennebec Savings Bank.

For more information, contact the region representative listed above or visit the New Ventures Maine website.

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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces Foundation Announces 2022 Class of John T. Gorman Fellows



From top, left to right:  
Lisa Black, Stephanie Eglinton, Melissa Hue, Katherine Johnston, Kristen Miale, James Moorhead, Chet Randall, Charles Rudelitch, Megan Walton, Charlie Woodworth

**PORTLAND, ME (February 24, 2022)** – The John T. Gorman Foundation has announced the fourth class of the John T. Gorman

Fellowship, a group of 10 exceptional nonprofit and government leaders from across Maine. The Fellowship is designed to strengthen the capacity of

leaders and organizations to make changes that can improve the lives of vulnerable Maine people. “We’re honored to bring together such an

incredible group of leaders for this year’s John T. Gorman Fellowship. Each is already actively working to address the problems that most profoundly affect Maine people – and has demonstrated a commitment to making an even greater impact,” said Foundation President & CEO Nicole Witherbee. “This intensive Fellowship will offer them the tools to not only grow their own personal capacity, but ultimately improve the organizations, systems, and policies that serve Maine people and families.”

The 10 Fellows work on issues related to the Foundation’s mission and priorities: improving educational achievement for young children, promoting successful transitions to adulthood for vulnerable older youth, helping parents to support their families, and enabling more low-income seniors

to remain in their home communities as long as possible.

The 2022 Fellows are listed below.

Lisa Black, TRIO Student Support Services Director, Kennebec Valley Community College

Stephanie Eglinton, Executive Director, Maine Children’s Alliance

Melissa Hue, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, City of Lewiston

Katherine Johnston, Early Childhood Data and Policy Analyst, Governor’s Office of Policy Innovation and the Future

Kristen Miale, President, Good Shepherd Food Bank

James Moorhead, Aging Services Manager, Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Chet Randall, Deputy Director, Pine Tree Legal Assistance

Charles Rudelitch,

Executive Director, Sunrise County Economic Council

Megan Walton, Chief Executive Officer, Southern Maine Agency on Aging

Charles Woodworth, Executive Director, Greater Franklin Development Council

Through a series of intensive trainings starting in February, Fellows will learn more about their leadership practice in the context of personal strengths, organizational roles, and the complex systems in which they work. Discussions, exercises, and practice center on the framework of Results-Based Leadership – a model of leadership designed to make measurable, community-level changes. Fellows will apply these skills in their current positions and, ultimately, on a broader scale within their organizations, systems, and state.

## Committee Unanimously Supports Proposals from Sens. Claxton, Curry to Reform and Strengthen Maine’s Child Welfare System

**AUGUSTA, ME (February 24, 2022)** — On Thursday, the Legislature’s Health and Human Services Committee voted in favor of a bill from Sen. Ned Claxton, D-Auburn, to improve Maine’s child welfare system. LD 1960, “An Act To Make Changes to the Laws Governing the Child Welfare Services Ombudsman Program,” received bipartisan, unanimous support from members present. The committee also included in the bill a key provision and many other elements from a bill sponsored by Sen. Chip Curry, D-Belfast, LD 1755, “An Act To Enhance the Child Welfare Ombudsman Program.”

“Like so many parents across Maine, I’ve mourned the recent child deaths in our state. As a legislator, it’s been incred-

ibly frustrating to see our child protective services fail to protect so many children. With the passage of these provisions that further empower the ombudsman’s office, I believe we are taking significant steps to strengthen Maine’s child welfare system,” said Sen. Curry. “I am grateful for the committee’s strong support of these measures. Though our work certainly isn’t done yet, this is an important step forward in protecting all Maine children.”

“When a child dies, the whole state mourns. When a child dies from a preventable, violent event, the state must step in to ensure it never happens again,” said Sen. Claxton, who serves as chair of the Health and Human Services Committee. “Maine lawmakers rose to action, to help protect our kids.

I’m glad that we’re moving forward with these much-needed reforms.”

LD 1960 would make a variety of changes to strengthen the Child Welfare Services Ombudsman’s Program, including improved staffing, funding and employment benefits; ensuring the program can provide input and recommendations to the Department of Health and Human Services as well as the Legislature; and allowing the program to provide direct support to people and families involved with the state’s child welfare services. The bill also would require DHHS to give advance notice to the ombudsman of any policy changes affecting child

welfare services, and to notify the ombudsman of certain child deaths.

The key provision added to LD 1960 from LD 1755 would include the ombudsman as a member of the child death and serious injury review panel, to ensure the program can provide more informed and thorough oversight of child welfare services.

In 2021, 708 inquiries were reported to the Ombudsman Program, which is an increase of 91 from 2020, and 66 percent of those were for children 8 years old or younger. During 2021, the Ombudsman opened 95 cases, and of those 84 were closed by the end of 2021. Out of the 84 cases closed that year,

42 had substantial issues. Four Maine children, all younger than four years old, died between May 31 and June 20, 2021. This includes three-year-old Maddox Williams of Stockton Springs, who passed away after being brought to the hospital by his mother and grandmother. His mother, Jessica Williams, has

been charged with murder. Reporting has described Maddox’s injuries as well as shock by neighbors that he was left in his mother’s care. OCFS involvement has not been made public. This comes less than three years after the death of Marissa Kennedy, also of Stockton Springs, who died

*See Reform, page 14*

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# Remembering the 60th Anniversary of Flying Tiger Line Flight 739

**C O L U M B I A FALLS, ME (February 22, 2021)** — 60 years ago on March 16, 1962, Flying Tiger Line Flight 739 (FTLF 739) was on a secret mission sanctioned by President Kennedy, to fly to Vietnam. This secret Vietnam reconnaissance mission went missing and no trace of the plane or its passengers have ever been found. Onboard were 93 United States Army soldiers and 11 civilian crewmembers.

On Wed., March 16 at 12pm ET/9am PT, Wreaths Across America will be streaming a live event to remember and commemorate the 60th anniversary of Flying Tiger Line Flight 739. The event will be streamed LIVE on WAA's

Official FB page and on Wreaths Across America Radio which can also be heard via the iHeart Radio app, or by downloading it at the App Store or on Google!

Very little is known about what happened to FTLF 739 and its crew and passengers, and due to the circumstance surrounding this mission, the names of those lost have not yet been added to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. However, today many families and loved ones of these heroes still fight to have their loved ones recognized for their contributions to our freedom and our shared history.

Presently, the only monument that bears the names of these almost for-

gotten American heroes was erected by a private citizen, Wreaths Across America founder Morrill Worcester, on the tip land in Columbia Falls, Me., where the 60th anniversary commemoration event is being held.

"When I first heard the story about this mission, I was shocked to learn that nothing has been done for these families," said Morrill Worcester. "I said that day, that we would do something to make sure these people are honored and remembered, and to hopefully give some closure to these families."

The inscription on the monument reads:

"Missing in action; Presumed dead. Flying Tiger Line Flight 739 went

missing on March 16, 1962, with 93 U.S. Army soldiers on board. These men and their flight crew perished in what would become one of the biggest aviation mysteries out of the Vietnam War era.

THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES AND WHO REMAIN MISSING ARE INSCRIBED HERE SO THAT THEY WILL BE SAID ALOUD AND THEIR MEMORY WILL LIVE ON."

Presently, this private memorial is the only recognition that the heroes of FTLF 739 have ever received for their shared sacrifice to our nation. However, that can change. Senator Gary Peters (MI) introduced Senate Bill 2571

which is supported by Senators Blackburn (TN), Stabenow (MI), and Shaheen (NH). This bill which is presently sitting in the committee for Energy and Natural Resources seeks to have these long-forgotten heroes added to the list of names on the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington D.C.

"As an Army Veteran who has had the privilege of serving alongside so many amazing patriots serving in our special operations and intelligence communities I know we may never have the opportunity to share the full story of these men's sacrifice," said Joe Reagan, Director of Military and Veteran Outreach for Wreaths Across America. "This should not stop us

from providing their families, and all Americans the opportunity to honor their service by saying their names in our nation's Capital. Adding their names to the Vietnam wall alongside their 58,318 Brothers and sisters who made the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam War is a fitting tribute to these men and a reminder to all of us that our freedom is oftentimes secured by men and women who serve in silence."

If you support our nation's veterans and want to see American heroes recognized for their significant contributions to our freedom, please write your Senator and ask them to add the names associated with FTLF 739 to the Vietnam War Memorial.

## Pine Tree Camp Welcomes Back Overnight and Day Campers This Summer: Virtual Open Houses Scheduled in March

**ROME, ME (February 22, 2022)** – Pine Tree Camp's traditional summer overnight week-long camp sessions and summer day programming return this June, bringing

Maine kids and adults with disabilities back to camp for a much-needed time of friendship, fun, and freedom to explore.

Pine Tree Camp is Maine's only American

Camping Association-Accredited camp for people with disabilities. Tucked along the shore of picturesque North Pond in Rome, Pine Tree Camp's barrier-free setting and

professional staff ensure that outdoor activities like swimming, fishing, kayaking, boating, hiking, biking, archery, and even camping in a tent under the stars are completely accessible to all.

Parents and caregivers are invited to join a virtual open house to learn more about Pine Tree Camp's summer plans.

What: Pine Tree Camp Virtual Open House

Hosted by Dawn Willard-Robinson, Camp Director and Mary Schafhauser, Assistant Camp Director

When: 1) Returning Campers' Session, Friday, March 4 – Noon, Register at this link: <http://tiny.cc/March4>

2) New Campers' Session, Tuesday, March 8

– 7:00 PM, Register at this link: <http://tiny.cc/March8>

Why: Virtual Open House attendees will have the opportunity to learn about Pine Tree Camp's summer programming, including:

- Virtual tour
- Meet the team
- Activity highlights
- Covid-19 safety protocols: What to expect
- Live Q & A

Learn more about Pine Tree Camp's summer programming at this link: <https://www.pinetreesociety.org/children-and-families/pine-tree-camp/>

More about Pine Tree Camp: Every year, hundreds of Maine children and adults with disabilities arrive at Pine Tree Camp in Rome and their lives are transformed. Driving down the camp road,

campers enter a world that is barrier-free, leaving behind the confines of their disability thanks to the camp's 285-acre, fully accessible, year-round campus. Campers actively participate in all the activities for which Maine is famous – kayaking, boating, fishing, hiking and biking – experiencing freedom and independence. Since 1945, Pine Tree Camp has welcomed all who could benefit, regardless of their ability to pay.

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

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MICHAEL G.

# 20th Annual ‘State of Tobacco Control’ Report Highlights the Need to Restore Funding to Maine’s Tobacco Control Program and Protect Youth from Flavored Tobacco Products

**AUGUSTA, ME – (January 26, 2022)** – The American Lung Association’s 20th annual “State of Tobacco Control” report, released today, reveals significant progress in the work to end tobacco use, but products like e-cigarettes and other flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes, create concern for losing another generation to nicotine addiction. The report finds that although Maine earned mixed grades, it maintained one failing grade on flavored tobacco products.

The “State of Tobacco Control” report evaluates state and federal policymakers on actions taken to eliminate tobacco use, the nation’s leading cause of preventable death. The report recommends proven-effective tobacco control laws and policies to save lives. The 2022 “State of Tobacco Control” reveals that the country has made substantial progress in advancing tobacco control policies over the past 20 years, including comprehensive smoke-free laws in more states,

increased tobacco taxes across the nation and more Americans with access to treatments to help them quit smoking through state Medicaid programs.

Here in Maine in the last 20 years, lawmakers have made significant strides to reduce tobacco use, including a robust clean indoor air act that protects people from secondhand smoke and strong cessation benefit and services to help tobacco users make a quit attempt. However, there is more work to be done. The adult smoking rate is still 16.5%, and the high school tobacco use rate is 33%. Today, smoking costs the State over \$811 million and over 2,300 Maine lives annually.

“Over the last 2 decades, we have seen considerable progress in Maine. However, tobacco use remains our leading cause of preventable death and disease, taking an estimated 2,390 Maine lives each year,” said Lance Boucher, assistant vice president for state public policy for the American Lung Association in Maine. “Last year we saw

the budget for the Maine Tobacco Control program cut by \$5 million, which will have an enormous impact of Maine’s ability to address the youth e-cigarette epidemic. By restoring funding and removing all flavored tobacco products from the shelves, our legislators stand to make a real difference in the lives of our youth, by keeping them from a lifetime of nicotine addiction.”

### Maine’s Grades

“State of Tobacco Control” 2022 grades states and the District of Columbia in five areas that have been proven to prevent and reduce tobacco use and save lives. Maine received the following grades:

Funding for State Tobacco Prevention Programs – Grade C

Strength of Smoke-free Workplace Laws – Grade A

Level of State Tobacco Taxes – Grade C

Coverage and Access to Services to Quit Tobacco – Grade A

Ending the Sale of All Flavored Tobacco Products - Grade F

This year’s report

noted the need for Maine policymakers to restore funding for tobacco prevention and quit smoking programs. An investment in prevention is especially important given the ongoing youth vaping epidemic.

“Despite receiving over \$187 million from tobacco settlement payments and tobacco taxes, Maine only funds tobacco control efforts at 60% the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended level. The Lung Association believes the State’s tobacco related revenue should be used to support the health of our communities, and to prevent tobacco use and help people quit, and not switch to e-cigarettes. These programs are also critical for helping to end tobacco-related health disparities,” said Boucher.

In addition to tobacco program funding, the report also highlights the importance of refocusing on ending the sale of all flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes in the State of Maine. According to the 2021 National Youth

Tobacco Survey, more than two million high school and middle school students use e-cigarettes, and over 80% of those kids use flavored e-cigarettes. In addition, menthol cigarettes continue to be the major cause of tobacco-related death and disease in Black communities, with nearly 81% of Black Americans who smoke using them. Ending the sale of flavored tobacco products, including menthol, will not only help end youth vaping, but will also help address the disproportionate impact of menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars have on many communities, including Black Americans, LGBTQ+ Americans and youth.

“In Maine 1 out of every 3 High School Students is using tobacco – and we know that kids follow the flavors. Ending the sale of all flavored tobacco products in Maine is key to ending youth tobacco use. We call on Governor Mills and legislators in Augusta to prohibit the sale of all flavored tobacco products, including menthol.” said Boucher.

Federal Grades Over-

view  
“State of Tobacco Control” 2022 also grades the federal government in five areas:

Federal Government Regulation of Tobacco Products (2022 grade – D)

Federal Coverage of Quit Smoking Treatments (2022 grade – D)

Level of Federal Tobacco Taxes (2022 grade – F)

Federal Mass Media Campaigns to Prevent and Reduce Tobacco Use (2022 grade – A)

Federal Minimum Age of Sale for Tobacco Products to 21 (2022 grade – I\*)

\* The Incomplete grade is for the FDA being more than 18 months overdue in publishing the final Tobacco 21 regulations as required by statute.

Boucher concluded, “In 2022, Maine needs to redouble its efforts to pass the proven policies called for in ‘State of Tobacco Control’ to help end tobacco use. We cannot afford to wait 20 more years and allow another generation to suffer from tobacco-caused addiction, disease and death.”

## UMaine Research Connects Rising Temperatures With Browntail Moth Resurgence

**MAINE (February 18, 2022)** – Over the past few years, browntail moths have been an itchy scourge to Maine’s residents and visitors. New research shows that with climate change, the problem is only going to get worse.

The browntail moth is an invasive pest that feeds on the foliage of a variety of deciduous tree species and causes acute skin and lung irritation to the people who encounter them. Since it was introduced to Maine in 1904, browntail moth outbreaks have ebbed and flowed, but the recent outbreak of browntail moths that started around 2018 has reached a scale that Maine hasn’t experienced in over 70 years.

A team of researchers from the UMaine School of Biology and Ecology, and the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry set out to see whether warming temperatures caused by climate change could have played a role in the severe outbreak. Their study compared predictive statistical models of 23 years of annual browntail

moth defoliation estimates for Maine to the climate data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) over the course of that same time period.

According to their results, published in the journal Environmental Entomology, climatic factors — particularly rising late summer and early fall temperatures, and spring precipitation — are significant predictors of browntail moth population outbreaks. Warmer falls result in more mature populations going into and then coming out of their overwintering shelters in the spring.

The Maine Forest Service’s surveys over the past two years have also shown continued spread of the browntail moth into northern and western areas of Maine.

Eleanor Groden, UMaine professor emerita of entomology and principal investigator of the study, says that the researchers explored management strategies that target the caterpillars in their winter webs. Groden’s colleagues — in-

cluding Angela Mech and Philip Fanning at the School of Biology and Ecology, as well as Barbara Cole in the Department of Chemistry — continue to investigate promising techniques for management of this pest, like using synthetic pheromones to confuse moths during mating season and testing bioinsecticides that specifically target the browntail moth with reduced impacts on other species in the ecosystem.

The browntail moth isn’t the only invasive species in Maine that has benefited from the warming climate. In fact, some of the browntail moths competitors have also been expanding as a result of climate change, and the quality of the plants that they feed upon has been waning as well. Because of this, researchers say that it is difficult to predict what will happen with browntail moths in the future.

“These are important studies, as our current warming climate trends suggest that we will continue to be facing this menace at least in the near future if not longer,” Groden says.

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# Arts & Entertainment

## The Great Maine Bike Swap Returns—with Two Locations



**PORTLAND, ME (February 15, 2022)** -- The Bicycle Coalition of Maine has announced the dates for their Great Maine Bike Swap, which includes two separate locations—one in Lewiston and one in Gorham—in 2022.

“We are thrilled to introduce two new bike swaps in two new locations,” BCM Event Manager Emily Lozeau said of the consignment-style sales event. “And we are so pleased to bring back our partnership with the University of Southern

Maine.” The first 2022 Swap will be held on the USM campus in Lewiston on Sunday, April 24. The second Swap will be held on the USM campus in Gorham on Sunday, June 12.

The Bike Swap was traditionally held on the USM Portland campus, but ongoing renovations to the Sullivan Gym have necessitated a move elsewhere, the BCM says.

After a pandemic pause in 2020, the event temporarily moved to Kennedy Park in 2021.

“We hope the location changes will offer even more people a chance to buy and sell used bikes,” said Lozeau. “A lot of folks in Lewiston and Gorham commute to school and work by bike, and it’s been hard for them to find affordable bikes during the continuing bike boom and shortage.”

The Gorham event will also ensure people in the Greater Portland area will still have a nearby location to buy road and mountain bicycles, as well as gravel bikes, kids’

bikes, hybrids, tandems, and more.

As per the COVID policies of both USM and the BCM, all attendees age 12 and over must show proof of full vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test administered by a testing provider within the last 48 hours.

Additionally, all attendees are required to wear a mask inside USM buildings. Visit [bike-maine.org/events/bike-swap/](http://bike-maine.org/events/bike-swap/) for more details, to register a bike for sale, or to sign up as a volunteer.

## CLT Announces Production Team for *Disaster!*

**AUBURN, ME (February 22, 2022)** -- Director Brandon Chaloux has announced the production crew for the upcoming Community Little Theatre production of the musical comedy *Disaster!*, the second show of CLT’s 82nd season. The show opens at Great Fall Performing Arts Center in

Auburn on Thursday, April 7, and runs through Sunday, April 17.

*Disaster!* is a hilarious tribute to the unforgettable disaster movies of the 1970’s with many nostalgic 70’s hits such as “Knock on Wood,” “Hooked on a Feeling,” “Sky High,” “I Am Woman” and “Hot Stuff.” The

setting is the grand opening of a floating New York City casino and discotheque. The guest list includes some of New York’s top A-listers along with a faded disco star, a sexy nightclub singer, a disaster expert, a feminist reporter, an older couple with a secret, a couple young guys looking for ladies, and a nun

with a gambling addiction. The festive evening quickly turns terrifying as the partygoers face multiple disasters including earthquakes, tidal waves, and infernos.

The production team for *Disaster!* includes Brandon Chaloux, director, set design, and construction lead; Paul Caron, music director; Aaron Louque, stage manager/light board operator; Sarah Chaloux, producer, set construction and decor; Celeste Philippon, mentor; Renee Davis, backup mentor; Debby Mansur, costume design; Maria Groover, rehearsal and production assistant; Danny Gay, lighting design; Noah Keneborus, sound design;



Heading up the production crew for CLT’s musical comedy *Disaster!* are seated left to right: Aaron Louque, stage manager and light board operator; and Paul Caron, music director. Standing are Brandon Chaloux, director, set design, and construction lead; and Sarah Chaloux, producer, set construction and decor. *Disaster!* will open on April 7th.

Alex Miles, sound assistant; Britny Anderson and Melissa St. Pierre, set décor; Colleen Keith, props; Brock Rancourt, Jerome Gray, Maddie Dubois, Jacob Morin and Zachary Morin, stage crew; Dawn Rancourt, spot operator; John Nutting, Nancy Kenneally, Roger Philippon, and Danielle Eaton, publicity; Penny Drumm, program/poster.

The show will be performed April 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16 at 7:30 p.m., and April 10 and 17 at 2:00 p.m. Call 783-0958 or visit [LACLT.com](http://LACLT.com) for tickets or more information, including CLT’s COVID policies.

L/A Community Little Theater, located at 30 Academy Street in Auburn, has  
*See Disaster, page 14*

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# Educate Maine Releases Annual “Education Indicators” Report

**PORTLAND, Maine (Thursday, February 17, 2022)** – Educate Maine released its ninth annual “Education Indicators for Maine” report today. The annual report examines Maine’s education system in-depth, using indicators to measure access, participation, and performance of Maine students from early childhood through postsecondary education. The report provides data on what is working well and where investments in Maine’s education system are needed to ensure that every Maine person reaches their highest educational potential.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2021 called for a special version of Education Indicators. In addition to data reflecting the pandemic’s impact, the 2021 report added measures seeking a better understanding of the “whole student.” With a lesser focus on test scores, new indicators measured student well-being, and access and participation in postsecondary education oppor-

tunities beyond 2- and 4-year college, such as career and technical pathways and Adult Education.

“The pandemic has shined a light on what educators have known for a long time: there are many important factors that influence student success, such as mental health, nutrition, and high-speed internet access,” said Educate Maine Executive Director Jason Judd, Ed.D. “This year’s Education Indicators report helps us better understand the ‘whole student.’ The report also calls attention to important indicators related to the health of Maine’s early education and child care system, how Maine is serving different groups of students, and to additional higher learning pathways. Altogether, the data provide a more holistic look at the full education pipeline and the complex needs of all Maine learners within it to help guide where Maine may need to make additional investments.”

**Key data points in the 2021 Education Indi-**

**cators report include:**

**Enrollment, diversity, teacher shortages, and internet access:**

Maine public school enrollment increased by 684 students in 2021 after dropping by 7,862 students between 2019 and 2020.

Maine schools are more diverse than Maine’s population, comprising 13% students of color.

At least 14% of students had trouble accessing high-speed internet at home when the COVID-19 pandemic arrived in Maine, (more often related to cost than to infrastructure).

Roughly 6% of Maine students did not have a reliable device at home prior to the pandemic.

**Student well-being:**

1 in 5 Maine high school students reported experiencing four or more Adverse Childhood Experiences. The rate is higher for girls than for boys.

1 in 4 Maine middle school students and nearly 1 in 3 high school students reported feeling sad or hopeless for two weeks or more (2019 data).

59% of middle school students and 57% of high school students in Maine report feeling like they matter in their community (2019).

**Early learning:**

Maine pre-K enrollment dropped from 47% to 35.6% in the pandemic.

71% of Maine children under 6 have all available parents in the workforce.

22% of Maine children live in a childcare desert.

Approximately one third of Maine 4-year-olds are enrolled in public pre-K.

The average cost of full-time, center-based infant care in Maine is \$11,700 per year.

Maine childcare providers are struggling to retain qualified staff.

The median wage for kindergarten teachers in Maine (\$53,270) is more than twice the median wage of early childhood educators (\$24,030).

**Secondary, post-secondary, and adult education:**

There are 9,164 students participating in 27 career and technical education centers and regions across Maine.

The Maine high school graduation rate has been steady at 87% over the past five years.

79% of economically disadvantaged students graduate from high school on-time compared with 95% of their higher income peers.

College enrollment rates declined from 60% in 2019 to 55% in 2020 among Maine students as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

College persistence rates declined from 67% to 63% between 2019 and 2020.

The college completion rate was relatively steady between 2019 and 2020 (63% to 64%), as most students were able to finish out the school year in the Spring of 2020.

938 adults received a high school credential (diploma or HiSET) through Adult Education programs in the 2020-21 school year.

53% of Maine adults hold a degree or credential of value – a precursor to skilled employment with family-sustaining wages.

“Although we still do not know the full impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the data in the 2021 Education Indicators report help provide a clearer picture of Maine’s current education system challenges,” added Judd. “Maine schools, employers and policy makers are committed to addressing these challenges to improve and strengthen Maine’s education system and build a better future for all Maine people as we continue to navigate through the pandemic.”

This is the second year the Education Indicators report is available in a web format that allows for readily accessible data points on education in Maine, more timely updates to the indicators, and additional information on how readers can learn more and take action.

For the full 2021 report, please visit [educationindicators.me](http://educationindicators.me).

# Maine’s 2022 Fishing Laws Now Available

Being a responsible user of the Maine outdoors means staying informed of, and complying with, the current laws and rules.

It's easy, just visit [mefishwildlife.com/laws](http://mefishwildlife.com/laws), where you can find the laws and answers to frequently asked questions.

New Special Season Code “A” definition:

Starting on January 1, 2022 there is a new definition of the Special Season Code “A”: Open to ice fishing and open water fishing from Jan 1 – Dec 31. The purpose of this new definition is to clarify that waters containing Special Season Code “A” are open to year-round fishing. The old definition essentially allowed

the same thing, but the way it was described was cumbersome, and it used a combination of various special season codes and dates. This new definition is designed to be clearer and easier to understand. If the water you wish to fish has the Specials Season Code “A” – you can ice fish or open water fish year-round. You’ll find the “A” season code primarily in the North Zone and it is used on waters containing warm water fisheries (perch, pickerel, etc.) or on several put-and-take stocked brook trout waters. (Note – gear restrictions or special length and bag limits may still apply.)

Fishing Laws Online Angling Tool (FLOAT):

Check out the Fishing Laws Online Angling Tool (FLOAT), a map-based online tool to give you a quick and easy way to see which of Maine’s thousands of inland waters have special fishing laws.

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Just visit [mefishwildlife.com/laws](http://mefishwildlife.com/laws) and browse by activity. Before you head to the water, follow these instructions to save an offline law book or quick reference guide to your mobile device, save a copy to your computer or print the pages you need for reference.

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Fishing Responsibly with Live Baitfish

Anglers baiting their hooks are the last line

of defense stopping the spread of unwanted species. Therefore, educated anglers can play a large role in preventing the spread of unwanted species. Always check fishing regulations to ensure live baitfish/live smelts are allowed to be used in that water. At the end of the day or if putting on fresh bait, never put old bait in the water body. Dispose of it on land or in the trash. Never dump your bait bucket where fish could get into the water. Always dispose of unwanted baitfish on land or in the trash.

Ice Safety

Remember to always use extreme caution when venturing onto Maine’s waterways. Accessing

lakes and ponds should be avoided unless you can be certain of ice conditions by checking ice thickness. Before stepping out, use a chisel or auger to test ice thickness in several places. Remember that ice seldom freezes uniformly and conditions are always changing and can vary from one location to the next. Ice that forms over flowing water and currents, especially near streams, bridges and culverts, can be particularly dangerous. Before you head for a day of ice fishing, ALWAYS tell someone where you are going and when you will return.

Please enjoy the Maine outdoors safely and responsibly!




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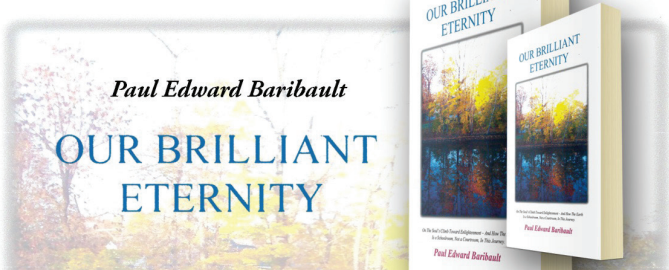
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# Central Maine Healthcare Cardiologist Says Healthy Lifestyles, Maintenance Key to Preventing Heart Disease

**LEWISTON, ME (February 17, 2022)** -- Just like a vehicle, the human heart needs proper maintenance to run properly and understanding that is key to preventing heart disease, according to Adam Karpman, DO, FACC, FACOI, section chief of non-invasive cardiology at Central Maine Medical Center.

February is American Heart Month, an ideal time to focus on cardiovascular disease, which remains the leading cause of death in the United States.

Dr. Karpman says

factors such as genetics put some people at increased risk of heart disease, but that behavior also plays a major role. Lack of exercise and sedentary lifestyles are contributors. Americans' eating habits, which lead to obesity and diabetes, are particularly problematic.

"The American diet is not the healthiest compared to a lot of other countries. We eat a lot of processed foods, a lot of fast foods, a lot of fried food and red meats that probably do contribute to heart disease, both directly and indirectly," he

says.

In addition to eating healthier, Dr. Karpman says, there are other ways people can put themselves in the driver's seat in preventing heart disease. Among them are abstaining from tobacco use and monitoring blood pressure and cholesterol levels. He says our health behavior between the ages of 20 and 60 sets the stage for how healthy we are in our later years. Like a car, he says, the human heart needs maintenance.

"When you have a car and you get the oil changed every three

or five thousand miles, that's preventative maintenance. What people really need to do is think about the same thing for their body. You do require preventative maintenance to prevent a huge problem in the future," he says.

He also notes that sharing your family history of heart disease with your doctor is also crucial in addressing heart issues early, before they become big problems.

A common misconception about heart disease is that it affects mostly men. According to the U.S. Centers for Dis-

ease Control and Prevention, cardiovascular problems kill almost as many women as men every year. Dr. Karpman says heart problems among women often don't present in the same way as they do with men: while men feel a tremendous amount of chest pressure during a heart attack, for example, women may experience different issues, such as sharp chest pains that are not recognized as a heart attack, and too often go untreated.

Some minority communities are at a higher risk for heart disease,

according to Dr. Karpman. Some of the major contributing factors for this are limited access to healthcare and affordable high-quality food.

Technology has led to many positive developments in battling heart disease, according to Dr. Karpman. Examples include telehealth options that allow doctors to monitor patients remotely, which is especially advantageous in treating rural populations. Devices such as phones and smartwatches allow us to monitor our heart rhythms.

## Auburn Seeks Moratorium On Public Safety, Detention, and Correctional Facilities

**AUBURN, ME (February 18, 2022)** – In response to a recent announcement by Androscoggin County Commissioners regarding plans to acquire property within the City of Auburn for the Androscoggin County to expand or relocate the sheriff's department and county jail, city leadership is seeking a moratorium on public safety, detention, and correctional facilities. City leaders feel that a moratorium is needed due to concerns that Auburn's current ordinances governing land use, zoning, site plan review and special exception review do not

adequately or specifically address public safety facilities, detention facilities, or correctional facilities.

"There should be no doubt that public safety is among the city's highest priorities," said City Manager Phil Crowell. "The services provided by the county jail, sheriff's office and county 911 dispatch must meet the needs of the entire county, including Auburn."

The city's position is that the development of new or additional public safety facilities, detention facilities or correctional facilities could pose a serious threat

to the public health, safety and welfare of the residents and businesses abutting - or in close proximity - to such facilities without adequately planning for issues of public safety, health, land use compatibility, noise, visual degradation and environmental degradation.

At a meeting of the Auburn City Council on Tuesday, February 22, staff will ask the council to declare a moratorium on development proposals involving public safety, detention, or correctional facilities at a site on which one currently does not exist.



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# Chocolate Church Arts Center to Host “Headway” Exhibit, Featuring Spindleworks Artists of Southern Maine



Donald Freeman, Abstract in Green and Orange



Mitchell Pfeifle, Yellow Jacket



Kevin Babine, Classic Universal Monsters

**BATH, ME (February 23, 2022)**—The Chocolate Church Arts Center is delighted to present “Headway”, a group show featuring artists from the Independence Association program Spindleworks. The show opens March 4 and runs to April 9 at the

Chocolate Church Arts Gallery. Hours at the gallery are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday. There will be an Open House event at the CCAC on March 31st at 5:30 – 7:00 pm with Spindleworks rep-

resentatives attending.

The nonprofit Spindleworks organization provides self-taught and unique artists the tools necessary for self-expression and full inclusion in the artistic community. Over 15 artists will present their work in a variety of mediums, from painting to photography, in a show that promises just the kind of liveliness and color needed this time of year.

“We are a program of Independence Association, whose mission is to provide adults with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to live full and inclusive lives,” Senior Program Director Brian Braley explains. “We provide opportunity for artistic and professional growth in an experiential creative setting. Our artists sell and represent their work whenever possible, which serves as an important source of income.”

Artists often work collaboratively, on projects like murals, art installations and poetry books, but they also create their own work based on their per-

sonal desires and goals.

“Art gives us energy to super charge our self-esteem, explore self-identity, expand value, increase communication, form new friendships, nurture our spirits, build courage, dissolve boundaries, and enrich our imagination,” Braley said.

CCAC curator Kimberly Becker has long been a fan of Brunswick’s Spindleworks. “CCAC has done shows in the past with them, and I was so enchanted by the work then that I contacted Spindleworks when I became curator here to arrange a show,” she said. “This group of artists create art unencumbered by preconception, and the results are marvelous.”

Spindleworks supports 50 artists from the surrounding communities including Bath, Brunswick, Richmond, Topsham, Freeport, Sidney, Portland, Wiscasset, and beyond.

Braley named the show “Headway” in “the spirit of hope.”

“The pandemic has been a challenging time

for us and we have learned to adapt to the ever changing environment,” he said. “Regardless of restrictions,

we are finally feeling that we can move forward joyfully no matter what the world throws at us.”

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— George Smith, *Bangor Daily News*

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# Free Psychosis Detection Webinar Offered by UMaine Rural Integrated Behavioral Health In Primary Care

**MAINE (February 16, 2022)** -- The University of Maine Rural Integrated Behavioral Health in Primary Care (RIBHPC) Training Program will offer a free, live webinar about early detection of psychosis from 10:30 a.m.–noon on Friday, April 1.

The webinar is: “Screening for Early Emerging Mental Experi-

ences (SEE ME): A model for early detection of psychosis within integrated primary care.” Despite the prominence of primary care in the prevention of serious and chronic physical health conditions, its role in the early detection of and intervention in major mental health conditions has been peripheral, particularly in the

U.S. Screening for Early Emerging Mental Experiences (SEE ME) is a three-stage psychosis screening, triage and engagement model designed to address this in U.S. integrated care settings.

The webinar will be presented by Kristen Woodberry, faculty scientist at Maine Medical Center Research Institute and

research assistant professor at Tufts School of Medicine, and Whitney Taggart, behavioral health clinician at Midcoast Pediatrics. The workshop will cover the arguments for and against psychosis screening within integrated care; the stages of the SEE ME model; and the skills that mental health clinicians embedded in primary care can employ

to improve early detection and intervention in serious mental health conditions. It will also offer a chance to hear directly from individuals with lived experience of psychosis and a behavioral health clinician involved in the Maine feasibility project.

Register for the webinar online. A certificate of attendance will be pro-

vided to participants. For more information, contact Dyan Walsh, dyan.walsh@maine.edu.

This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$1.48 million.

# Maine Delegation Announces \$28 Million to Expand Broadband Services Across Rural Maine

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 25, 2022)** – U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King and Representatives Chellie Pingree and Jared Golden announced

that Maine will receive \$28 million to expand broadband services across the state. This funding was provided through the U.S. Department of Commerce’s National

Telecommunications and Information Administration’s (NTIA) Broadband Infrastructure Program and authorized through the bipartisan COVID-19 relief bill

that was signed into law in December 2020. The Maine Delegation wrote a letter in support of the project.

“As one of the most rural states in the na-

tion, Maine has unique challenges in providing high-speed, affordable broadband access to all citizens. The lack of broadband reliability that plagues Mainers restricts their ability to compete in a 21st century economy and to utilize educational, health, and other important public services,” said Senators Collins and King and Representatives Pingree and Golden. “This substantial funding to expand broadband access to nearly 15,000 Maine residents will help make rural communities a more viable place to live, work, and raise a family.”

The ConnectMaine Authority is a public instrumentality of Maine state government whose mission is to facilitate the universal availability of broadband to all Maine households and businesses and help them understand the valuable role it can play in enriching their lives and helping their communities thrive. Since its inception,

the partnership-based community broadband planning program has helped over 200 communities work to expand broadband access.

The ConnectMaine Authority Statewide Broadband Infrastructure Project will deploy last-mile qualifying broadband in rural Maine. This project will connect nearly 15,000 Mainers in 11,746 households across 24 rural, unserved Maine communities to high-speed Internet service and advance their economic competitiveness.

NTIA’s Broadband Infrastructure Program was established by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 to provide competitive grants to partnerships between a state, or one or more political subdivisions of a state, and providers of fixed broadband service to support broadband infrastructure deployment to areas lacking broadband, especially rural areas.



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## Local Residents Make Dean’s List at Wentworth Institute of Technology

**BOSTON, MA (February 15, 2022) Grassroots Newswire** -- The following local students have made the dean’s list at Wentworth Institute of Technology for the Fall 2021 semester.

Mikaela Estes of Auburn, ME

Brodi Farinas of Lewiston, ME

Thomas Worden of Minot, ME

Andrew Pulsifer of Topsham, ME

*Wentworth Institute of Technology: Founded in 1904, Wentworth Institute of Technology is a nationally ranked university offering career-fo-*

*cus education through bachelor’s and graduate degree programs in areas including engineering, architecture, computer and data science, life sciences, management, and design. Its 31 acres are situated in the Fenway neighborhood of Boston, Mass., within walking distance of several leading cultural, educational, sports, and medical hubs. Wentworth is known for its emphasis on career preparation for students through its leading co-op programs, hands-on learning approach, and alignment with 21st-century workforce needs.*

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# Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

**Mar 5.**  
GORHAM -- 4:30-5:30PM Bean Supper To Go; Pre-order Required; White Rock Community Clubhouse, 34 Wilson Road, Gorham

\$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-order by Wednesday, March 2. Call Fran at 892-9521.

**Mar. 7**  
GORHAM -- 6:30pm 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 -- Androscoggin Retired Educators will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at The Green Ladle in Lewiston. The Green Ladle is located at Lewiston High School's Regional Technical Center at 156 East Avenue in Lewiston. The cost of the meal is \$15.50 per person. The meal will be Chef's Choice. The speaker for this meeting will be Japheth Els, AARP Maine Outreach Director. He will talk about various AARP programs designed to assist our age 50+ community along with ways that AREA members can become involved in the local community. Dues are \$10 per person, \$6 for a non-educator spouse. Those members 85 years old and older do not need to pay dues. Send luncheon reservation to: Crystal Ward, 171 Montello Street, Lewiston, Maine 04240.

**Mar. 9, Ap. 6, Ap. 13**  
LEWISTON -- 3:30PM, Lewiston Public Library, MAKE ART WITH ARTVAN ArtVan 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 self-expression, personal growth, and fun. Free. All art supplies will be provided. 513-3133; [www.LPLonline.org](http://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 Sabattus 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](mailto: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 last) will include making comic strips, masks and capes, and posing in front of the cityscape backdrop for photos!

**Mar. 21**  
LEWISTON & AUBURN -- 5:30 PM - 6:00 PM, on Zoom, Lewiston Public Library & Auburn Public Library: TOUGH TIMES: FROM HAVING A

BAD DAY TO DYSTOPIAN APOCALYPSE Art has always helped get us through difficult times. In this presentation, the Museum of Bad Art explores some of the ways artists react to disasters small and large, real and imagined. Free. Registration is required. The Zoom link will be posted to the Library website and Facebook prior to the event. You can also register by contacting Donna Wallace at [dwallace@auburnpubliclibrary.org](mailto:dwallace@auburnpubliclibrary.org) or 207-333-6640 ext. 4. 513-3135; [www.LPLonline.org](http://www.LPLonline.org)

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

**Mar. 29**  
LEWISTON -- 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM, on Zoom, Lewiston Public Library: MAINE STATE MUSEUM LISTENING TOUR AT LPL The Maine State Museum is seeking community input to find the stories and broader themes that resonate with and reflect the many voices, interests, and identities of the people of Maine. There will be a series of discussions in different communities across the state from which the participants' responses will inform the museum's ongoing work. The Lewiston Public Library will be hosting one of these virtual discussions so that the people of Lewiston have an opportunity to weigh in. Free. Space is limited - registration is required. 513-3135; [www.LPLonline.org](http://www.LPLonline.org)

**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](mailto:lact-1) for tickets and information. Please visit at <https://www.lact.com/>

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covid-19-protocols for information on safety protocols.

**Medication**

*Continued from page 1*

thorization is unavailable, so long as the pharmacist has a record of a past prescription for the patient. What's more, this bill requires insurance companies cover the cost of the emergency medication supply. I am confident that this bill would change lives for those in an emergency situation in need of their medication.

If you have questions about health care and medication, please contact Consumers for Affordable Healthcare. Their Consumer Assistance Helpline is 1-800-965-7476. If you or your family need help finding resources, please visit [211maine.org](http://211maine.org), or reach out to my office at any time. You can email me at [Nathan.Libby@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Nathan.Libby@legislature.maine.gov) or call my office at (207) 287-1515.

**Reform**

*Continued from page 3*

from abuse and neglect in her family home after 25 reports from school employees, neighbors, and medical professionals with concerns for her wellbeing.

In July 2021, two long-serving members

of the Board of Directors of the Maine Child Welfare Services Ombudsman resigned their positions. Their resignation letter spelled out the reason for their resignations as a frustration in the lack of needed reform in Maine's child welfare systems, leaving children at risk of harm and abuse.

In its 2020 annual report, the Ombudsman's office details how the Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) continues to struggle to fully protect Maine children in two key areas. The Ombudsman found that OCFS struggles with determining the safety of a child in the home during initial investigations. The Office also struggles to make informed decisions about if it is safe to reunify the children with his or her parents.

LD 1960 now faces votes before the Senate and House.

**Disaster**

*Continued from page 6*

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**WASHINGTON, D.C. - APRIL 7 - 13, 2022**  
Trip includes 7 days and 6 nights - 10 meals - Two guided tours of Washington, D.C. memorials. Evening guided tour of Memorials and Monuments. Admission to New Bible Museum. Tram ride through Arlington National Cemetery, admission to George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and so much more. Price is \$749.00 per person double occupancy with a \$75.00 due upon signing.

**NASHVILLE SHOW TRIP - JUNE 11-19, 2022**

Trip includes 9 days and 8 nights -

14 meals - Grand Ole Opry Show - Nashville Nightlife Dinner Theater - Guided tours of Nashville and Belle Meade Historic Site & Winery. Admission to the Country Music Hall of Fame. Admission to the Grand Ole Opry behind the Scenes Tour. Admission to Madame Tussauds Wax Museum. Price is \$1,025. per person double occupancy with a \$75.00 deposit due upon signing.

**MACKINAC ISLAND - SEPTEMBER 10 - 18, 2022**

Trip includes 9 days and 8 nights - 14 meals - Guided tour of Mackinaw City - Visit to Mackinaw City. Visit to Mackinac Island including a guided Carriage Tour. Boat ride through the Soo Locks and free time and sightseeing in Sault Sainte Marie. Admission to Colonial Michillmackinac. Price is \$899.00 per person

double occupancy with a \$75.00 deposit due upon signing.

**WHITE MOUNTAIN HOTEL AND RESORT - DECEMBER 4 & 5, 2022 -**  
Trip includes 1 night lodging - 3 meals (Grand Sunday Brunch) - 2 different entertainment shows, Austrian Sleigh Ride through Jackson Village, Chocolate Tour, shopping and much more. \$100.00 deposit due upon signing. Total price not available at this time.

For questions and detailed information on these trips, please call: Claire - 207-784-0302 or Cindy- 207-345-9569.

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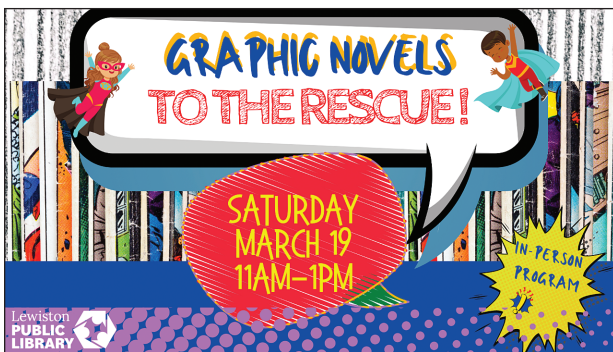
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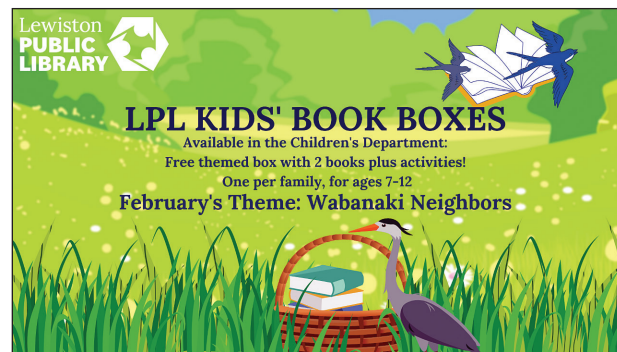
# Lewiston Public Library Offers Programming in March




**Make Art with ArtVan!**  
**Wednesday**  
**March 9 @ 3:30PM**  
 In-Person in the Library Children's Department  
 For more information call 513-3133 or email [LPLKids@LewistonMaine.gov](mailto:LPLKids@LewistonMaine.gov)

**GRAPHIC NOVELS TO THE RESCUE!**  
**SATURDAY MARCH 19 11AM-1PM**  
 IN-PERSON PROGRAM

**LPL KIDS' BOOK BOXES**  
 Available in the Children's Department.  
 Free themed box with 2 books plus activities!  
 One per family, for ages 7-12  
 February's Theme: Wabanaki Neighbors



**LEWISTON, ME (February 15, 2022)**

**MAKE ART WITH ARTVAN** For further information, contact: Sara Turner, 513-3004 ext. 3503 The Lewiston Public Library, in partnership with ArtVan, will be offering an in-person art program in the Children's Department for children ages 5-14 on Wednesday, March 9th at 3:30pm. Children aged 5-8 must be accompanied by an adult. ArtVan is a mobile art program that brings hands-on creative art opportunities for self-expression, personal growth, and fun. All of their projects aim to inspire art-making with a variety of materials to explore. ArtVan programs engage all age groups, encourage time outside and reduce screen time, help youth stay connected, diminish

stress, and provide release for unvented expressions of emotions, such as loss and confusion. ArtVan began in 2004 and has provided therapeutic art and strengths-based programs to under-resourced neighborhoods. Make Art with ArtVan is free, open to the public, and no registration is required. All art supplies will be provided. The Lewiston Public Library is located downtown at 200 Lisbon Street at the corner of Pine Street. More information on ArtVan programs is available by contacting the Lewiston Public Library at 513-3133 or [LPLKids@lewisistonmaine.gov](mailto:LPLKids@lewisistonmaine.gov).

**GRAPHIC NOVELS TO THE RESCUE!** For further information, contact: Ivy Moser, 513-3004, ext. 3504 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 will include (until supplies last):

- Making a comic strip
- Making a cape
- Coloring/making a mask
- Playing the "Make Your Own Graphic Novel Character or Superhero" game
- Coming in dressed as a superhero or graphic novel character (optional)
- Posing with a cityscape backdrop and props for photos

• Free graphic novel to take home. The Lewiston Public Library is located downtown at 200 Lisbon Street at the corner of Pine Street. More information on children's department programs is available by contacting the Lewiston Public Library at 513-3133 or [LPLKids@lewisistonmaine.gov](mailto:LPLKids@lewisistonmaine.gov).

**WABANAKI NEIGHBORS LPL KIDS' BOOK BOX** For further information, contact: Ivy Moser, 513-3004, ext. 3504 LPL Kids' Book Box is back for February 2022, and this month's theme is "Wabanaki Neighbors," a book box we have created to celebrate and bring awareness to the Wabanaki People living in vibrant communities throughout Maine. Each LPL Kids' Book Box contains:

- Two books
- An art project

Worksheets and coloring activities

- Stickers Book Boxes are free and will need to be picked up at Lewiston Public Library in the Children's Department or via LPL To Go (we cannot mail boxes). One

per family. Appropriate for ages 7-12. Please see a staff member in the Children's Department, or call or email: 207-513-3133 or [LPLKids@LewistonMaine.gov](mailto:LPLKids@LewistonMaine.gov) to reserve your book box.

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## Lewiston Celebrates Opening of Cricket Wireless with Ribbon Cutting

**LEWISTON, ME** — A ribbon cutting ceremony was held for the opening of Cricket Wireless in Lewiston at 12:00 PM on Wednesday, March 2, 2022. Lewiston Mayor

Carl Sheline was joined by President + CEO of the LA Metro Chamber Shanna Cox, and members of the public.

"Our goal is to give customers something to

smile about," said Andy Cook, market director for Cricket Wireless. "That's why we deliver a simple, smart wireless experience that people deserve."



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