



TWIN CITY TIMES

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Committee to Address Substance Use & Support Recovery



Mayor Sheline announces the Mayoral Order to establish an Ad Hoc Committee on Substance Use and Recovery.

LEWISTON, ME (March 18, 2022) -- On March 15, 2022, Mayor Carl L. Sheline--accompanied by Councilor Stephanie Gelinias, City Administrator Heather Hunter, Chief of Police Dave St. Pierre, and individuals within the recovery community--signed a Mayoral Order to establish an Ad hoc Committee on Substance Use and Recovery. He will co-chair the committee with Councilor Gelinias.

Mayor Sheline said the charge of the committee will be to "conduct a comprehensive assessment of the challenges and opportunities for cooperation to address substance use in Lewiston. We will also work to develop a framework to support people in recovery."

Councilor Gelinias made a plea to "increase awareness, decrease stigma, and most importantly develop more resources for our community to address substance use disorder."

Other speakers were Chantel St. Laurent of Recovery Connections; Dr. John Alexander, Chief Medical Officer at Central Maine Healthcare; and Gordon Smith, Maine Director of Opioid Response.



Councilor Gelinias being interviewed.



Mayor Sheline signing the order.



Maine State Director of Opioid Response, Gordon Smith.

UMaine Ext. 4-H Explores Maine's Changing Tidepools



Orono, ME (March 10, 2022) -- University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H will offer an online weekly club for youth ages 13-18 about Maine's tidepools and how to be citizen scientists, from 4-5 p.m. April 12-May 17. An optional field day will be held April 22, rain date April 21, at Southern Maine Community College, 2 Fort Road, South Portland.

The 4-H Tidepool Immersion Discovery Ecology Workshop Series will explore the intertidal zone while contributing to marine science research. Participants will learn about animals that might be seen during low tide and how to identify them using photos taken with a cell phone. Additional topics are invasive species, climate change, species identification and how to participate in research. UMaine Extension 4-H professional Sarah Sparks and University of New England graduate student Emily Pierce will lead the workshop.

The workshop is free; participation is limited to 15. Register by March 31 on the event webpage to receive the link and materials. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact 207.581.8206; sarah.sparks@maine.edu. This workshop is supported by the Maine Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) at the University of Maine.

Mayor Sheline Shares Support for Ukraine



LEWISTON, ME (February 25, 2022) -- STATEMENT FROM MAYOR CARL L. SHELIN: The clock tower of Lewiston City Hall glows blue and yellow tonight as we stand in solidarity with Ukraine against this baseless invasion by Russian military forces. We support the people of Kyiv and cities all across Ukraine as they defend their country's freedom.

Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Biddeford & Mechanic Savings Foundation Donates \$25,000

Westbrook, ME (January 20, 2022) – In response to the rising cost of home heating oil, the Biddeford and Mechanics Savings Charitable Foundation has donated \$25,000 to support the Keep ME Warm Fund, providing direct and immediate home heating assistance to financially vulnerable Mainers. “Making a contribution to the Keep ME Warm program will allow us to help our neighbors when Mainers need it most – during the winter months. No one should have to choose between paying for heat and other essentials like electricity and food. Our hope is that we can make the lives of individuals and families in the communities we serve a little easier this year,” says Jeanne Hulit, President and CEO of Maine Community Bank.

Although the coldest months are still ahead, the cost of home heating fuel in Maine has already increased significantly over last year and is expected to keep going up over the winter season. According



From Left to Right: Jeanne Hulit, President and CEO of Maine Community Bank (which includes the divisions; Biddeford Savings and Mechanics Savings); Liz Cotter Schlax, President and CEO of United Way of Southern Maine and Lead Administrator for the Keep ME Warm Fund; and Joe Everett, President and CEO of The Opportunity Alliance.

to The Governor’s Energy Office, the average cost of heating fuel is currently at \$3.14 per gallon, compared to \$2.11 per gallon one year ago. Thousands of Mainers are faced with choosing between heating their homes and basic needs like food and medicine. Donations to Keep ME Warm help to make the winter warmer and safer for Maine families. The Biddeford and Mechanic Savings Charitable Foundation donation to Keep ME

Warm Fund will help people across Maine, including the bank’s footprint in the Androscoggin, Cumberland, and York regions. Keep ME Warm Funds are distributed through 211 Maine, local United Ways, and community partners like The Opportunity Alliance (TOA) and others.

According to Liz Cotter Schlax, President and CEO of United Way of Southern Maine and Lead Administrator for Keep ME Warm Fund, a gift of

\$25,000 will help heat 80 Maine homes. “Keep ME Warm Fund is an emergency heating assistance resource to close the heating gap. When Mainers find themselves in an emergency heating crisis, they can access Keep ME Warm funds through our state’s 211 Maine hotline, their local United Way, or community action agency,” said Schlax. “These funds give our partners the flexibility and resources to help fill a tank or address repairs,

often in the same day.”

The Keep ME Warm Fund, in partnership with local community service organizations, relies heavily on donations and distributes assistance based on need. “This winter will be challenging to our vulnerable neighbors who were already most at risk, and these funds will be crucial to keeping individuals and families warm, safe, and healthy in their homes during the coldest months,” says Joe Everett, President & CEO of The Opportunity Alliance. “Maine Community Bank is a wonderful partner and we are grateful for their longstanding support of communities across Central and Southern Maine.”

This donation wraps up a year of giving for Maine Community Bank and the Biddeford and Mechanic Savings Charitable Foundation totaling over \$327,000 to 240 different organizations.

About Maine Community Bank: Biddeford Savings and Mechanics Savings have been financial partners

with the people of Central and Southern Maine for the past 150 years. To help carry out their commitment to the communities they serve, the two banks merged on January 1, 2020, becoming divisions of Maine Community Bank. The merger expands the lending capacity, product offerings, and branch service areas, while keeping all decision-making at the local level. They have branches in Auburn, Biddeford, Brunswick, Kennebunk, Lewiston, Scarborough, Waterboro, and Windham, with a new branch and operations center in Westbrook.

About the Biddeford and Mechanics Savings Charitable Foundation: The Biddeford and Mechanics Savings Charitable Foundation was created in July of 2020 and is structured to give back to the communities in a larger, more enduring way. The Foundation’s mission is to help individuals and families in the bank’s local communities meet their basic needs and achieve financial empowerment.

Portland Conservatory Announces Dimensions in Jazz Lineup

PORTLAND, ME (January 28, 2022) – The Dimensions in Jazz concert series, sponsored by the Portland Conservatory of Music, is bringing significant names in contemporary jazz to Portland this year! The winter/spring lineup includes seven concerts running from February through April.

The performances will be held at the Portland Conservatory’s new building at 28 Neal St. in Portland’s West End, unless otherwise noted.

The series kicked off on February 5th, at Cove Street Arts with “Nihco Gallo and the Bad-Year Society” for an evening of improvised music with influences from around the

world. Vibraphonist Nihco Gallo was joined by tap dancer Ayan Imai-Hall, drummer Zak King, and bassist Ross Gallagher.

On April 22nd, 2022 South African jazz musician McCoy Mrubata (Tenor Saxophone) returns to Portland, Maine in his fourth tour of the US and will be performing in quartet alongside his friend Gary Wittner (Guitar), Shakeel Curtis (Bass) and Lumanyano Mzi (Drums).

“I never studied music formally as we (black people) did not have music schools and music colleges before our independence in South Africa. I learned from family records, getting odd lessons from older musicians. Music always plays

a great role in our communities . . . music education is important,” says McCoy Mrubata. Today, he has been featured on NPR Live Sessions and also won the South African Music Award for Best Jazz Album.

Each year, PCM is proud to present the “Steve Grover Memorial Concert” celebrating jazz musician Steve Grover’s compositional brilliance and his many contributions to the cultural landscape of the state he loved.

Other exceptional performances include the “Brian Shankar Adler Band” presenting a new program of electro-acoustic music for improvisers, “Travels in the Electrosphere” with R.J. Miller on Drums and

Sampler and Jeremy Udden on Lyricon, the “Titus Abbott Collective” featuring PCM Jazz Studies director Titus Abbott performing original jazz compositions alongside percussionist Michael Sarin and bassist Sean Conly.

In addition to the Dimensions in Jazz Concert Series, PCM’s innovative Jazz Studies Division teaches students how to improvise and to understand contemporary and classic jazz.

Visiting jazz artists host workshops for students and the public that bring this American musical art form to life. Doors open at 7:30pm, show starts at 8:00pm.

Tickets are \$5 for students, \$15 for seniors, \$20 in advance, and \$25 at the door. Face masks and proof of vaccination, or negative COVID test within the last

PORTLAND CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

DIMENSIONS IN JAZZ WINTER & SPRING 2022



SAT, FEB 5
AT COVE STREET ARTS
71 COVE ST. PORTLAND
NIHCO GALLO AND THE BAD-YEAR SOCIETY
NIHCO GALLO, VIBRAPHONE | ROSS GALLAGHER, BASS
ZAK KING - DRUMS | AYAN IMAI-HALL - TAP DANCER

SAT FEB 26
STEVE GROVER MEMORIAL CONCERT
FEATURING A "FRIENDS OF JAZZ" REUNION
TONY CABOURY, GUITAR | TIM SESSIONS, TROMBONE
TOM BUCCI, BASS | R.J. MILLER, DRUMS | BRAD TERRY, CLARINET

FRI MAR 4
BRIAN SHANKAR ADLER BAND
FREE WORKSHOP: SAT MAR 5 @ 2PM
BRIAN SHANKAR ADLER, DRUMS | MIKE EFFENBERGER, PIANO
MATT HOLMAN, TRUMPET | FERNANDO HUERCO, BASS

SAT MAR 26
TRAVELS IN THE ELECTROSPHERE
JEREMY UDDEN, LYRICON | R.J. MILLER, DRUMS AND SAMPLER

SAT APR 2
TITUS ABBOTT COLLECTIVE
FREE WORKSHOP @ 4PM
TITUS ABBOTT, SAXOPHONES
MICHAEL SARIN, DRUMS | SEAN CONLY, BASS

FRI APR 22
MCCOY MRUBATA QUARTET WITH GARY WITTNER
FREE WORKSHOP @ 4PM
MCCOY MRUBATA, SAXOPHONE | GARY WITTNER, GUITAR
SHAKEEL CURTIS, BASS | LUMANYANO MZI, DRUMS

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48hrs, are required for all PCM concerts and events. To learn more visit: www.portlandconservatoryofmusic.org/dimensions-in-jazz/

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

“I Don’t Want to Talk About It” March 24 at the LHE/PAC

FRYEBURG, ME (March 16, 2022) — Fryeburg Academy Theater presents *I Don’t Want to Talk About It* at the Leura Hill Eastman Performing Arts Center on Thursday, March 24th at 7:00 pm. The one act play, written by Bradley Hayward, is a series of monologues and short company scenes dealing with everything a teenager faces.

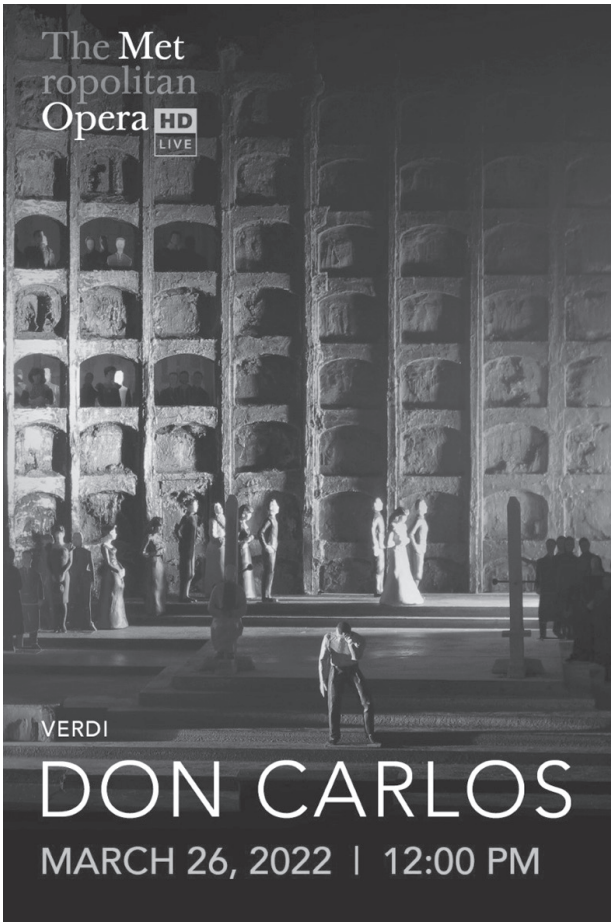
These characters confront the challenges they have growing up: rumors, bullying, illness, high school, parents, families, and death. This ‘dramedy’ will have you immersed in the

real world of what teens can’t, won’t, and don’t talk about. This show contains scenes around the topics of difficult subjects such as eating disorders, sexual abuse, bullying,

death, suicide, and illness. It is a recommended audience of older adolescents and adults. Admission is free. The LHE/PAC is located on the campus of

Fryeburg Academy at 18 Bradley Street in Fryeburg, Maine. Visit www.fryeburgacademy.org/pac, or call the box office at 207-544-9066 for more details.

“Don Carlos” Live in HD at the LHE/PAC



FRYEBURG, ME (March 18, 2022) — The Metropolitan Opera’s Live in HD season continues at the Leura Hill Eastman Performing Arts Center on Saturday, March 26th at 12:00 pm.

For the first time in company history, the Met presents the original five-

act French version of Verdi’s epic opera, *Don Carlos*. Yannick Nézet-Séguin leads a world-beating cast of opera’s leading lights in this March 26 performance, including tenor Matthew Polenzani in the title role, soprano Sonya Yoncheva as Elisabeth de Valois, and mezzo-sopra-

no Elīna Garanča as Eboli. Bass Günther Groissböck and bass-baritone John Relyea are Philippe II and the Grand Inquisitor, and baritone Étienne Dupuis rounds out the all-star principal cast as Rodrigue. Verdi’s masterpiece receives a monumental new staging by David McVicar that marks his 11th Met production, placing him among the most prolific and popular directors in recent Met memory. This live cinema transmission is part of the Met’s award-winning Live in HD series, bringing opera to movie theaters across the globe. Estimated Run Time: 4 hours, 55 minutes

Opera enthusiast Joe De Vito will host his Opera Lecture Series on Tuesday, March 22nd at 3:00 pm in the LHE/PAC seminar room. The lectures are free and open to the public. Live in HD tickets are \$28 for adults, \$25 for seniors (65+), and \$10 for students. Purchase tickets online at www.fryeburg-academy.org/pac, or call the box office at 207-544-9066. The LHE/PAC is located at 18 Bradley Street in Fryeburg, Maine on the campus of Fryeburg Academy.

Food For Thought: Meet One of CNN’s Top Ten Heroes of 2021



LEWISTON, ME (March 14, 2022) -- Lewiston/Auburn Senior College presents Lynda Doughty. She is the founding Executive Director for MOME since 2011. Born and raised in Maine, Lynda always knew she wanted to work with helping marine mammals. She has provided care for thousands of them, has opened Maine’s first seal triage center, and looks forward to providing more for marine mammals in Maine.

Her work has involved conducting whale necropsies, disentanglement, population studies, marine debris projects and sterning on lobster boats. Lynda was recognized by Portland Press Herald in 2014, as one of 10 Mainers to be thankful for. Lynda received her degree in marine science from Maine

Maritime Academy. She also serves on the board of directors for Phippsburg Land Trust.

Lynda is happy to talk with us about the work of this fast growing non-profit organization dedicated to marine mammal and sea turtle response, rescue, care, research and education. Annually, they respond to nearly 300 live and dead marine mammals and sea turtles across roughly 2,500 miles of

coastline (including islands), covering the geographic area of Kittery to Rockland. How do they do this and what does it mean for the health of the Maine coast?

To attend, email us at laseniorcollege@gmail.com by noon on March 29. Please include your name and the name of the program for which you are registering. We will send you an email with the link on the morning of the event

What do you think?

We strongly encourage Letters to the Editor, Op/Eds, columns or any other submissions from our readers. Agree with us or another columnist? Disagree? Write to us and let us know! Email all submissions, including name, address and phone number, to the editor.

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Flight Canceled? Tips for Handling Travel Delays



Eastern MA, ME, RI & VT -- Flights are continuing to be canceled as airlines struggle with pandemic-related staffing woes. Thousands of flights have been affected, and there is no end in sight to the disruptions. As airlines continue to try to accommodate stranded passengers, the Better Business Bureau® (BBB®) provides guidance to travelers who

may be seeking compensation and refunds for cancellations. When a consumer is flying domestically in the United States, rules regarding flight delays and cancellations are overseen by the US Department of Transportation. In Canada, complaints about flight delays are handled by the Canadian Transportation Agency. In general, there are no U.S.

federal laws requiring airlines to provide passengers with compensation for a delayed flight. In Canada, see the flights and delays cancellations guide. Airlines may have their own policies and may provide better benefits if a flight was canceled or significantly delayed within the airline's scope of control. Consumers may have additional benefits if they purchased the flight

with a credit card that offers additional travel protections. Check the cardholder agreement and with the airline. Consumers should keep receipts for extra purchases, like a hotel room, so they can submit them to their airline or credit card company for reimbursement later. Typically, nearly all domestic airlines will try to accommodate passengers on the next available flight, and sometimes on a different carrier.

When flights are canceled by the airline, consumers are always entitled to a full refund. This includes a refund of any bag fees or extras, such as additional legroom, for a seat. If the airline offers a voucher in lieu of a refund, ask about expiration and blackout dates. Airlines may also have additional restrictions on the use of vouchers. Consumers are not obligated to accept vouchers and may insist on a full refund instead. If the trip was canceled by the consumer, however, they may not be

entitled to a full refund.

BBB is asking consumers to keep the following tips in mind when handling travel disruptions:

Check delays - Travelers can check their latest flight information on their carrier's website or via the airline's telephone reservation system. Many times, delays don't occur until the day of the flight and the airline must update its flight information within 30 minutes of receiving a notice of a status change.

Check carrier and credit card terms - While federal regulations don't require airlines to reimburse expenses such as rooms or food in the event a flight is canceled or severely delayed, the carrier and credit card companies may have different policies. Purchase tickets with a credit card that offers trip protection or travelers insurance and check individual airline policies.

Keep documentation - Keep receipts and records for expenses incurred as

a result of a significantly delayed or canceled flight. These may be needed later to recover expenses.

Check the carrier's website - Most airlines allow consumers to initiate refunds directly on the carrier's website. Using a website may help a consumer obtain a refund or rebook a trip much faster than waiting for a consumer service agent in person or on the phone.

Rules are different for foreign flights - Flights that were canceled while in another country will be affected by the laws of that nation. Check with the local country's department of transportation while traveling internationally.

As the Omicron variant spreads, be wary of coronavirus cons. Read BBB's alert about COVID-19 testing scams.

Read BBB's tips to travel safely on your vacation.

For the latest information, BBB recommends consumers visit BBB.org.

Senator Collins Announces \$45 Million for Maine Bridges

Washington, D.C. (January 13, 2022) – U.S. Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) announced today that Maine will receive a total of \$45 million to maintain and reconstruct bridges across the state. 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. Under the law, Maine will receive \$225 million

over five years to fix bridges across the state.

This funding will help to address the backlog of repairs needed for Maine's transportation network. Maine currently has 315 bridges considered to be in poor condition.

"Bridges are essential pieces of our transportation network that connect Mainers to homes, jobs, schools, shopping, and health care; allow manufacturers to ship their goods to market; and link communities together. When bridges do not receive the proper maintenance and require closure, Mainers can be forced to endure lengthy detours, particularly in rural areas," said Senator Collins. "As

the Ranking Member of the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee, improving the safety and efficiency of Maine's transportation system is among my top priorities. This funding will help address Maine's substantial backlog of deteriorated bridges, preserve and create jobs, and benefit families and businesses across our state."

FHWA announced today that it is providing over \$27 billion to states and tribal transportation facilities over five years. The program represents the largest investment ever made in fixing bridges. Nationwide, the program is expected to help repair approximately 15,000 bridges.

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VA Serves Veterans in 2021

Many people would like to forget 2021. It was a tough year, but a lot of good happened, too, especially at VA. The department is committed to making 2022 even better, and to do that, we're taking a quick look back at what it accomplished and how it served Veterans in 2021.

Keeping Vets healthy

The COVID-19 pandemic entered year two. As the largest integrated health care system in the world, VA administered 8.9 million vaccine doses (including boosters) to more than 4.1 million people; administered 3.6 million COVID-19 tests; and conducted 12.7 million COVID-19 virtual screenings.

But it wasn't just the pandemic. VA conducted over 112 million clinical

encounters, including 6.1 million in-person appointments, while also submitting 2.3 million community care referrals.

How did we do? VA received over 1.9 million survey responses and 450,000+ text responses, and the verdict is clear: a 90.1% trust score in VA health care and an overall 76% trust score means that Veterans overwhelmingly support and use VA.

Delivering the goods

On the non-health benefits side, VA delivered. Dedicated employees (many of whom are Veterans themselves, or are related to Vets) worked through pandemic restrictions to complete 1.4 million compensation and pension claims; the Board of Veterans Appeals held over 27,000 hearings and made nearly 93,000 deci-

sions.

Veterans didn't stop buying homes in 2021, and they didn't let the pandemic stop them from using their hard-earned education benefits. VA guaranteed more than 1.2 million home loans, processed 3.3 million education claims, 73,000 insurance claims, and over 16,000 VR&E packets.

And when it came time for the final honor, VA interred more than 146,000 Veterans and family members.

Digitally

Veterans increasingly know where and how to find VA news and information. In 2021, there were 110 million email opens, and over 105 million visits to www.va.gov; 15 million visitors read daily news and stories and updates published on Vantage

Point, the official VA blog for Veterans, dependents and survivors.

And, the mission to provide even more benefits and care and services never ends. VA is the second largest federal employer of Veterans (behind DoD), and 2021 saw 115,000 new VA employees, among them many Veterans and their dependents.

2021 Highlights

Feb. 8: Denis McDonough sworn in as 11th Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Feb. 17: VA administered 1 million COVID-19 vaccination doses.

Feb. 18: VA extended suspension of debt collection from all Veteran benefit overpayments and medical copayments during the pandemic period.

Feb. 23: VA launched a health equity review of

all policies regarding care and services provided to LGBTQ+ Veterans.

March 13: SAVE LIVES Act became law, allowing VA to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to all Veterans, their spouses, and caregivers.

April 14: VA established 120-day task force on inclusion, diversity, equity, and access after ensuring Veteran organizations representing women, minority, and LGBTQ+ Veterans provided input on the 2022-28 VA strategic plan.

April 30: VA improved the management of suicide prevention efforts, ensuring 1,400+ employees and \$300M+ are focused on achieving better outcomes for Veterans and their families.

May 4: VA opened new rapid retraining pro-

gram for thousands of Veterans who lost jobs due to pandemic.

June 4: VA sees trust improve by 24% in five years.

July 26: VA issues vaccine mandate for health care workers, a first for a federal agency.

Sept. 8: VA annual report showed decrease in Veteran suicides.

Sept. 15: VA and DHS host COVID-19 vaccine clinic for deported Veterans at the San Ysidro Border Crossing.

Oct. 27: VA extends presumptive period for Persian Gulf War Veterans.

Nov. 23: VA and Indian Health Service broaden scope to serve American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans.

Dec. 27: VA Trust report shows majority of Veterans trust VA

Camden National Bank Celebrates Employee Volunteerism Efforts with \$50,000 in Special Donations to 87 Local Nonprofits

Camden, ME (February 2, 2022) – Camden National Bank announced a special community giving effort with a total of \$50,000 donated to 87 nonprofits where employees volunteered in 2021.

"Giving back is a significant part of our employee culture," said Greg Dufour, President & CEO of Camden National Bank. "Whether serving as board directors, organizing fundraisers, or mentoring children, our employees are actively participating and supporting our communities. We're proud to be able to make these donations to organizations they are passionate about on their

behalf."

Jane Merrill, Vice President, Sr. Retail Loan Officer at Camden National Bank, volunteers with the Coastal Mountains Land Trust. "Growing up in the Bronx, my father introduced me and my friends to hiking and camping outside of the city. He instilled a love of being outdoors in me," said Merrill. "The Coastal Mountains Land Trust is working to ensure that in Midcoast Maine, we have areas where everyone can enjoy being outdoors."

Joe Pollard, a Retail Analyst, has a passion for ice hockey that he's been able to nurture through

coaching at Mid-Coast Recreation Center. "The sport has given me lifelong friends, and taught me so many valuable lessons. Sports have the opportunity to bring people from all walks of life together, and make them a team," said Pollard. "I volunteer on the ice at the MRC because I always had amazing coaches who taught me so much about sportsmanship, leadership, hard work, and team work; volunteering is the least I can do to give back and continue the cycle. Seeing how much the kids have learned and grown over this year has been an extremely rewarding experience, and

I cannot wait to see them take their next steps."

Donna Ehrler, Senior Vice President, Director of Commercial Banking in New Hampshire, volunteers her time with the YWCA of New Hampshire. "Among the many vital things the YWCA does is provide a shelter

for battered women and men and their children, run a crisis center and partner with Southern NH University to run The Center for New Americans. It's everything I believe in."

In addition to a special donations effort in honor of 2021 employee volunteers, Camden Na-

tional Bank also provided charitable support to more than 150 nonprofit organizations in 2021. To learn more about the bank's community giving efforts, please visit:

<https://www.camdennational.com/about/our-story/community-commitment>

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Arts & Entertainment

Chocolate Church Arts Center Presents Tom Rush with Matt Nakoa



Tom Rush (Photo by Casey Bonilla)

BATH, ME (March 11, 2022) – The Chocolate Church Arts Center (CCAC), at 804 Washington Street in Bath, will present an evening with influential folk musician Tom Rush, accompanied by Matt

Nakoa, on Saturday March 26 at 7:30pm.

Tom Rush’s impact on American music been profound. Beginning in 1965, Rush made three albums for Elektra Records, culminating in *The Circle Game*,

which *Rolling Stone* has credited with ushering in the singer/songwriter era. Along with songs penned by Tom Rush, these early albums introduced the world to the work of Joni Mitchell, Jackson Browne and James Taylor, who has said, “Tom was not only one of my early heroes, but also one of my main influences.”

After a successful series of folk-rock albums and tours in the early 1970’s, Rush took a break to recharge his creative side. But the musician returned in 1981, selling out Boston’s prestigious Symphony Hall. Time off had not only rekindled Rush’s love of music, it had re-ignited audiences’ love of Rush. Today, Tom Rush’s voice has grown even richer and

more melodic, and his music has matured and ripened in the blending of traditional and modern influences. Many of Rush’s songs like “No Regrets” and “Child’s Song” have become American folk classics.

Tom Rush will be accompanied by award-winning songwriter, singer, and multi-instrumentalist Matt Nakoa. Born on a small goat farm in New York State, Nakoa trained to be a concert pianist before accepting a scholarship to attend Berklee College of Music as a vocalist. His first solo albums, released in 2012 and 2014, garnered multiple songwriting awards, including a win at Kerrville Folk Festival’s New Folk Competition.

Tickets for all events at the Chocolate Church



Matt Nakoa (Photo by Brian McCluskey)

Arts Center are available for purchase at www.chocolatechurcharts.org, or by calling the box office at 207-442-8455. All performances will be subject to CCAC’s current COVID-19 related policy,

which requires audience members age 12 and up to be fully vaccinated or have a negative COVID-19 test result within 48 hours prior to arriving at a performance, along with a matching photo ID.

Make Art With Artvan – Additional Dates Added

LEWISTON, ME (February 25, 2022) – The Lewiston Public Library, in partnership with ArtVan, will be offering in-person art programs in the Children’s Department for children ages 5-14 on Wednesday, 3:30pm on March 9, April 6, and April 13. 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 registra-

tion 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@lewiston-maine.gov.

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High Peaks Alliance Closes on Perham Stream Birding Trail

MADRID TWP, ME (February 10, 2022) -- High Peaks Alliance recently closed on an 80-acre parcel called the Perham-Stream Birding Trail in Madrid Township. The parcel, which includes half a mile of frontage on Perham Stream and spectacular views of Saddleback Mountain and Mount Abraham, is the first property held in conservation by the Alliance.

The Perham Stream Birding Trail is an increasingly popular nature trail that leads recreaters through a variety of habitats with incredible views. The trail, which is listed on Maine Trail Finder, experienced a 60 percent increase in views from 2020 to 2021. The trail is also listed on Maine by Foot. High Peaks Alliance plans to install an accessible trail to allow anyone at any ability level to enjoy the property in the future.

In addition to recre-



Photo of the land newly acquired by the High Peaks Alliance. Photo Credit Taylor Walker

ational opportunities, this parcel includes a half-mile of stream frontage where endangered Atlantic Salmon eggs are stocked by the State of Maine. Perham Stream is

listed as critical salmon and native brook trout habitat by the Maine Natural Areas Program, and endangered little brown bats have been located on this 80 acre parcel

by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Lloyd Griscom, board president of the High Peaks Alliance and longtime Per-

ham Stream Birding Trail recreator said, "We at HPA are incredibly grateful to Carson Hinkley for his desire to preserve the tradition of stewardship his family has championed for five generations with this land. There is no doubt that Mr. Hinkley could have sold this parcel for top dollar, but he instead prioritized his family's legacy, the local environment and public access. We would also like to thank the funders who made our maiden voyage into land stewardship possible."

Funders for this project include: the Arboretum Fund at the Maine Community Foundation, Davis Conservation Fund, Appalachian Trail Conservancy's Wild-east Action Fund, Kay Gibson, The Wilderness Society with special thanks to Pete McKinley and HPA board members Lloyd Griscom and Ginni Robie.

Brent West, the execu-

utive director of the High Peaks Alliance said, "Franklin County is an area with incredible wildlife resources and recreational potential, but most of the area is not currently served by a local land trust. The High Peaks Alliance has worked to conserve land and preserve all forms of recreational access in the high peaks region since 2007, and with this property, the organization is evolving to meet the unfulfilled regional need. We look forward to continuing to serve and grow in Franklin County. This property is just the beginning of what we can accomplish by uniting those people who care about our future together to serve the local area's conservation needs."

To learn more about the High Peaks Alliance, or to get involved, visit highpeaksalliance.org or email Brent West at brent@highpeaksalliance.org.

MaineHealth Named One of America's Best Large Employers by Forbes Magazine

PORTLAND, ME (February 15, 2022) – Forbes has named MaineHealth one of America's Best Large Employers in 2022. Forbes partnered with independent research firm Statista to survey 60,000 people working for businesses across all sectors with at least 1,000 employees.

Survey respondents

were asked to rate how likely they were to recommend their employer to friends and family, as well as other factors such as compensation, working conditions, reputation and development opportunities. The final list ranks the 500 large (5,000+) and midsize (1,000-5,000) employers that received the most recommendations.

MaineHealth neared

the top of the list at #13, and was one of only three large health systems in New England to be named, alongside Yale New Haven and Massachusetts General Hospital.

Scott Ballard, Chief People Officer at MaineHealth, stated, "We're thrilled to receive this recognition by Forbes and the survey participants who

rated us so highly. Being named to a best employer list begins with hiring the best people. Our 22,000 care team members are incredibly talented, compassionate and dedicated, and supporting them is fundamental to our vision of working together so our communities are the healthiest in America."

In 2021, MaineHealth

invested more than \$103 in compensation increases for employees, in addition to providing generous benefits, PTO, and work-life programs.

"Amid the many challenges posed by the pandemic over the past two years, MaineHealth care team members have remained true to our values – patient-centered, profes-

sional and kind," said CEO Andy Mueller, MD. "We recognize and value them and express our deepest gratitude for the exceptional care they provide every day."

Visit Forbes (<https://www.forbes.com/lists/best-large-employers/?sh=5973b2b07b66>) to learn about the survey and methodology.

Whitlock Promoted at Geiger



Lewiston, ME (February 22, 2022) -- Geiger announces the promotion of Trish Whitlock to Payroll and Benefits Specialist in Human Resources. She began her career with Geiger, in August of 2019, as an Administrative Support

Specialist in H.R./Office Services and then worked as a Payment Application/Administrative Support Specialist in Finance. In July Of 2021 she was promoted to Organizational Development/Wellness Coordinator in Human Resources. In

her new role, she will perform payroll and benefit administration, claims and recordkeeping duties in accordance with applicable policies and procedures and government regulations.

Whitlock is currently attending Southern New

Hampshire University working on a B.A. in Psychology with a concentration in Social Psychology. She is scheduled to graduate in October 2022. She lives in Lewiston with her husband Garey and daughter Alexis.

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

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Sudanese-American Artists Featured in Film & Conversation



PORTLAND, ME (March 18, 2022) – On Mon. April 4, *Revolution from Afar* will be available to stream virtually on the WORLD Channel, and will broadcast on Maine Public Television Thurs. April 7 at 9 p.m. and Sat. April 9 at 2 p.m. The program partners will then host a free community conversation virtually on Mon. April 11 at 8 p.m. with the film’s director, Bentley Brown, artist Khadega Mohammed and Portland based poet, Nyamuon “Moon” Nguany Machar. Moderator Hana Baba, of NPR’s KALW, will engage the panel with questions of identity, art, activism, and the work of individual and communal efficacy. To join the online discussion, sign up at MIFF.org/Revolution.

These events are produced by Black Public Media and WORLD Channel’s AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange, which is distributed and co-presented by American Public Television; Indigo Arts Alliance’s Indigo Picks series; the Maine Public Film Series; and the Maine Film Center.

Revolution from Afar

Not rated, 60 minutes, in English and in Arabic with English subtitles.

In 2019, after protests across Sudan led to the fall of 30-year dictator Omar al-Bashir, the military took over and shut down the Internet, leaving those abroad to voice a plea for peaceful transition to civilian government. An ocean away, Sudanese-American poets and musicians, whose families left Sudan for America in decades past, gathered in major American cities to perform in support of the revolution. At the heart of the film is a conversation around identity,

belonging, and the uncertain future of Sudan, from which they have been physically cut off.

“Sparking a Revolution from Within” Panelists

Documentary filmmaker Bentley Brown moved as a child with his family from the United States to Chad, where he began making films. His filmography, largely in Arabic and French, revolves around third culture identity, disidentification, and belonging, and includes *Oustaz* (Berlinale 2016), *First Feature* (IFFRotterdam 2019) and *Revolution From Afar* (Africa Movie Academy Awards nominee 2020).

Hana Baba is a radio journalist - the longtime host of *Crosscurrents* - the award-winning weeknight newsmagazine on NPR station KALW in San Francisco. She is also co-creator and co-host of *The Stoop* podcast from Radiotopia that tells stories from across the Black Diaspora. Her stories

also appear on NPR, PRI’s *The World*, BBC and more. A Sudanese American, Hana enjoys exploring cultural intersections, and diaspora life. She regularly speaks at audio and podcasting conferences and is passionate about teaching journalism in underrepresented communities.

Nyamuon “Moon” Nguany Machar is an advocate for disproportionate and minority youth in the mental health field. She works as a teacher for the Telling Room in Portland, Maine, a writing program that provides young people the space and skills needed to begin carving room for their voices. As a spoken word poet, she works to motivate others to find strength in their voices through creative means. She is the recipient of the Rising Advocate award from the Bazelon Center in Washington, DC and the Diaspora Award from the Luol Deng Foundation for her advocacy work around South Sudan.

Khadega Mohammed is a spoken word artist, community organizer, and Sudanese immigrant featured in *Revolution from Afar*. A prolific voice, she is the founder of the UNfiltered Discussion Series, a youth-led program aimed at fostering real, honest, and open discussions surrounding controversial topics in the community.

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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 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.

New Leadership at Auburn Recreation



AUBURN, ME (March 10, 2022) -- Auburn's Recreation Department has new leadership, and their wealth of experience and commitment make them a winning team.

In December of 2021, the city named Jeremy Gatcomb as Director and Dawna Daigle as Deputy Director of the Recreation Department.

"I am proud to have Jeremy and Dawna leading our recreation efforts," said City Manager Phil Crowell. "We have built some great momentum - and a strong reputation - for our events and programming in Auburn in recent years. These two

bring experience and enthusiasm to what they are doing, and residents should expect great things from Auburn Rec in the years to come."

Gatcomb, who began working for the city in 2010, has a bachelor's degree in Sports Management from Daniel Webster College. He was first hired as Auburn's recreation program leader, overseeing adult and youth sports, special events and facility rentals. When Ingersoll Turf Facility opened in 2015, he became general manager. In 2018, recreation superintendent was added to his title, and he took responsibility of day-to-day facility

operations and supervision of full-time recreation staff.

"I'm excited to lead this department and proud to serve this community," said Gatcomb, who has worked in the sport/recreation field professionally since 2006. "I have spent my entire professional life in the recreation world, and I love serving residents of all ages. From 1 to 100, seeing the smiles on their faces when they participate in our programs is one of the most rewarding things for me," he added.

Auburn's new deputy director of recreation shares Gatcomb's love of community. Dawna Daigle first joined the Auburn Recreation team in 2011, when she was hired - by Gatcomb - as a camp counselor. She spent six years working part-time at rec camp and on various sports programs and in 2017, she was hired as a full-time recreation specialist. Daigle holds a bachelor's degree in Exercise Science (with mi-

nors in Physical Education and Sports Management) from Florida Southern College, as well as a Master of Science from Northeastern University in Leadership in Social Change and Sport.

"I was born and raised in New Auburn, so my love for this city started at a young age," said Daigle. "Growing up in Auburn and participating in rec programs myself are the main reasons my dedication and loyalty to this community are so strong. I am super excited for this new leadership role."

Daigle says that her focus will be on improving part-time staffing, policy and procedure updates, and overall program improvements. "I want to hear from our patrons and get their insight on how we can do even better. I want Auburn to be the heart of recreation in Maine."

"Our staff here is amazing and they make it possible for us to offer a diverse variety of exceptional

programs and events, not only for Auburn residents, but surrounding communities as well," added Gatcomb. "There is a strong 'team' feeling here and a real passion for everything

that we do. That, combined with the investments Auburn has made - and continues to make - in facilities, fields, courts, and infrastructure will help make this city a recreation destination."

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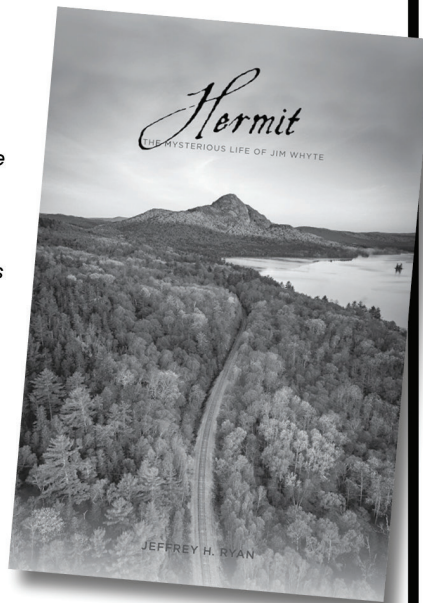
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— George Smith, Bangor Daily News

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Lakeside Norway Donates to Cancer Resource Center



NORWAY, ME (March 10, 2022) -- The Cancer Resource Center of Western Maine has received a \$1,000 donation from Lakeside Norway, the proceeds of the holiday tree auction and wreath sale they held in December.

Throughout November, the Cancer Resource Center sold personalized ornaments which were then hung on the large evergreen tree located on the CB Cummings Landing at Lakeside Norway for a special tree lighting. Over 50 people attended.

"We are grateful to Jason and the other partners of Lakeside Norway for this generous dona-

tion which brings the total amount raised from the Ornament & Tree Lighting Event to \$2600. Hanging ornaments gave people a way to honor a loved one, remember those who had passed, or express a bit of holiday cheer."

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Day's Jewelers Hires New VP of Finance



(February 24, 2022) -- Day's Jewelers is pleased to announce the addition of a new team member to their executive committee. David Gilman has recently joined the Day's Jewelers team as Vice President of Finance. Gilman holds a bachelor's degree in Accounting and Business Administration and brings an impressive history of finance management to the role.

Gilman's history in finance includes previously serving as the chief financial officer for Tempus Jets, where he financially restructured the private side of the company, successfully delivering it from the brink of bankruptcy. Additionally, Gilman has served as the CFO for Mainetoday Media, Inc. Mainetoday Media is the parent company for several local newspapers including the Portland Press Herald, Kennebec Journal, and the Morning Sentinel.

As the VP of Finance at Day's Jewelers, Gilman will oversee the information technology department and internal consumer credit department and will be responsible for Day's Jewelers' facility leasing and bank relationships, among a variety of other responsibilities.

In regards to his decision to join the Day's team, Gilman says, "After spending years away from

the family-owned atmosphere, meeting the Coreys reinvigorated my desire to work alongside people who are passionate about their product and their colleagues as opposed to 'making the quick buck'... There are many great things to come here, and I am honored to be a part of the team that will make it all happen. We have just scratched the surface of our impact on the industry, and I couldn't be more excited to continue the vision of building a company that stands the test of time."

In addition to Gilman's position as the VP of Finance, he will be serving as a trustee on the new board of trustees for Days' Employee Stock Ownership Plan. On November 1, 2021, Day's Jewelers became a 100% employee-owned company when Kathy and Jeff Corey sold all shares to Day's Jewelers Employee Stock Ownership Plan and Trust. Gilman, along with Richard Mendelson, Jeff Corey, and Kathy Corey will oversee the stock and represent the Day's employees.

Gilman's extensive experience, as well as his kind and considerate personality, have already made him a valuable asset and a wonderful member of the Day's family and Day's is thrilled to see what where his knowledge will be able to take the company.

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Mar. 24

L E W I S - TON—5-7pm The Lewiston High School Expansion Committee is pleased to invite you to the Opening Ceremony of Lewiston High School's new D wing, featuring new visual and performing arts classrooms. We are more than pleased to share the outcome of the hard work and efforts of so many people and hope you can join us Thursday, March 24th from 5-7 pm (Snow date March 31st) at Lewiston High School. The community open house and celebration will include light refreshments from The Green Ladle and live performances by our students as well as artwork from both students and alums. Tours of the new wing will also be available following a brief ceremony and ribbon cutting. We hope you can join us so we can show our appreciation for the community's support in making this all possible. We know you will be amazed at the improved facilities for our arts programs as well as the addition of several classrooms, a grand entrance and new administrative offices.

Mar. 26

AUBURN -- 4:30 - 6:30pm Public Supper, 6th Street Congregational Church, 109 6th Street, Auburn, ME 04210

2 kinds of beans, 2 kinds of hot dogs, coleslaw, mac and cheese, American chop suey, Chili, biscuits, brown bread, beverages, and deserts. Adults- \$9; Children (6-12)- \$5. Phone: 207-576-1331; 207-740-2741; 207-782-7517

Mar. 26

GRAY -- Takeout Bean Supper - First Congregational Church of Gray. You MUST order in advance. Contact Carol at 650-9093

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

and let her know your name, phone number, how many meals you want, and choice of pie. Cut off for reservations will be Wednesday, March 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 P. M. Please pay at time of pick up. Menu - Baked Pea Beans, 2 Red Hot Dogs, Coleslaw, Biscuit, and choice of Apple or Blueberry pie. Face masks and Social distancing required. Remember, Cut off for reservations will be Wednesday March 23!

Mar. 26

BUXTON -- Had-dock Supper Buffet - Saturday, March 26, 2022 - 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 takeout 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. 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

Ap. 2

GORHAM - 9am -noon Cressey Road Church has opened a Clothes Closet for those in need. Mission of Hope Clothes Closet, Cressey Road Church, 81 Cressey Road, Gorham.

Ap. 2

ZOOM - 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM. Keynote Address: "Developing Youth Leadership through Model United Nations: A Conversation with Yanina Nicless Facilitated by Bret Bergst." Yanina Nicless, a riveting speaker, is the former Maine Model UN Secretary General and USM graduate from Ukraine. This event is sponsored by the Maine Chapter of The United Nations Association of the United States of America during its annual meeting. FMI go to our website: unmaine.org.

Ap. 2

GORHAM -- Bean Supper To Go. Pre-order Required White Rock Community Clubhouse, 34 Wilson Road, Gorham. Saturday, April 2, 4:30-5:30pm. \$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 30. Call Fran at 892-9521.

Ap. 4

GORHAM -- 8:30am Gorham Village Alliance Meeting Conference Room A

Ap. 4

GORHAM -- 7pm Planning Board Meeting Council Chambers April 5 6:30pm Regular Town Council Meeting Council Chambers

Ap. 6

LEWISTON -6pm The Ladies of St Anne Sodality of Holy Family Parish are planning their Annual Card Party to be held on April 6, at 6 PM. at the Church Parish Hall 607 Sabattus St. Doors will be opened at 5:30 PM. Please use the back entrance. Tickets are \$5. and may be purchased by contacting any board member or calling Anita at 782-4516.

The deadline for tickets is April 1, 2022. There will be Gift Raffles, Door Prizes and 50/50. Refreshments will be served. Masking optional.

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

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

Community Little Theatre (CLT) presents Disaster!, a new musical comedy with hit songs from the

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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 | laclt-1 for tickets and information. Please visit at <https://www.laclt.com/covid-19-protocols> for information on safety protocols.

Ap. 9

GORHAM -- Spring Vendor/Craft Fair, White Rock Grange #380, 33 Wilson Road, Gorham. Saturday, April 9, 2022 9am -2pm

Over 2 dozen crafters and vendors are coming together offering items for Easter, Mother's Day, Hostess Gift, Just Because Gifts and more. Follow us on Facebook for more details: <https://www.facebook.com/whiterockgrange380/>

Ap. 9

GORHAM -- 9am - 2pm Town Council FY 2022-23 Budget Workshop with Department Managers Council Chambers

Ap. 12

GORHAM -- 7pm Conservation Commission Meeting Conference Room A April 13 7pm School Committee Meeting Council Chambers

Ap. 18

GORHAM -- 6pm Planning Board Meeting Council Chambers

Ap. 19

GORHAM -- 8am Ordinance Committee Meeting Conference Room A

Ap. 19

GORHAM -- 6:30pm Town Council Workshop Council Chambers

Ap. 20

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

Ap. 21

GORHAM -- 4pm Ecomaine Board of Directors Meeting TBD

Ap. 21

GORHAM -- 6:30pm Tentative Recurring Board of Appeals Meeting Council Chambers

Ap. 21

GORHAM -- 6:30pm Tentative Recurring CIP Meeting TBD May 2 7pm Planning Board Meeting Council Chambers

May 3

GORHAM -- 6:30pm Regular Town Council Meeting Council Chambers

May 10

GORHAM -- 6:30pm Town Council FY 2022-23 Budget Workshop with School Department Council Chambers

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Robotics Team Takes 1st at Pine Tree District FIRST Robotics Competition



Team LRTC 8023 with their robot. From left to right: Ahmed Hussein, Omar Osman, Jacob Willette and Chance Tuttle.

LEWISTON, ME (March 18, 2022) -- Lewiston Regional Technical Center's very own robotics team, LRTC 8023, went into the competition at Thomas College in Waterville as underdogs and came out as champions.

Team members from LRTC 8023 have been working tirelessly from the ground up and have spent hours among hours after school for months to get their robot ready for its first competition of the season. Their robot was coded

from scratch, can climb using mechanical advantages and no electrical, can move autonomously, and is strong and powerful enough to move other robots out of the way with ease.

The Pine Tree Dis-

trict FIRST Robotics Competition held at the Alford Athletic Center at Thomas College ran from March 11th until March 13th. There were 26 teams from all over New England competing. After competing in battles all day Saturday and with hard work and determination they made it to the finals. With two more hard fought battles on Sunday, LRTC 8023 and its alliance were crowned champions. "They worked hard, showed up and had what it took to show what a true underdog can do," LRTC Student Services Support Kelsey Poliquin said.

The LRTC 8023 team now ranked 21 in all of New England. LRTC Trade Works instructor Alan Graves and Lewiston High School Social Studies teacher Kathy County served as lead mentors for the team.

The full team consists of lead mentors, Kathy County and Alan Graves; mentors Jeremy Randall, Alex and Jacob Willette, and Toby Roy; team members Ahmed Hussein, Omar Osman, Chance Tuttle and Matthew Ashton.



Team LRTC 8023 from left to right: Alan Graves, Jacob Willette, Toby Roy, Omar Osman, Chance Tuttle, Ahmed Hussein, and Kathy County. Not pictured from the team: Alex Willette, Jeremy Randall and Matthew Ashton

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