



TWIN CITY TIMES

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Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1999

Thursday, March 31, 2022 • FREE

Home Show at the Norway Savings Bank Arena



Caleb Guigey and Derek Messenger of Premier Pools and Spas

Photos by Laurie A. Steele, Publisher of Twin City Times and Gorham Weekly

The Maine Home Show was held at the Norway Savings Bank Arena in Auburn on March 19 and 20. Over sixty different

exhibitors displayed their wares to homeowners and attendees. Exhibitors included companies offering solar and efficiency related products, stone patios, roofing, home wares, gutters and home improvement companies.

The Maine Home Show is in its eleventh year. It is an annual trade show held in the Lewiston Auburn Area by Travis Dow of Dow Media, LLC since 2011.

See Home Show, pages 8-9

United Celebrates CAAS and CAAHEP Accreditations

Lewiston, ME (March 11, 2022) – United Ambulance Service is proud to announce their accreditation approval from the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS). United has been Maine’s only nationally accredited ambulance service since 2006, maintaining compliance with national standards of excellence for over 15 years.

Every three years United completes a voluntary review process which includes completion of a comprehensive application and on-site review by national experts in emergency medical services (EMS).

CAAS is a non-profit organization which was established to encourage and promote quality patient care in America’s medical transportation system. The primary focus of the Commission’s standards is high-quality patient care. This is accomplished by establishing national standards which not only address the delivery of patient care, but also the ambulance service’s total operation and its relationships with other agencies, the general public, and the medical community.

In most instances the Commission’s standards exceed state and local licensing requirements.

Paul Gosselin, United’s Executive Director said, “Overcoming the challenges of COVID, our staff has been key to our successful completion of the process. We continuously strive to do our best and we view accreditation as another step toward excellence.” “Everyone has played a valuable role in our ability to meet the Commission’s high standards, including our instructors at UTC. Being able to recruit highly trained EMTs has helped United sustain its staffing levels through nationwide shortages.”

United Training Center, or UTC, is a state of the art facility located within United’s Lewiston station that offers an array of pre-hospital and occupational courses, as well as EMS licensure programs. The Center is authorized by Maine EMS and the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT).

Like United Ambulance, UTC has a recent reaccreditation to celebrate. The Commission on the Accreditation of Allied Health Programs (CAAHEP) is the only nationally recognized accreditation available for EMS programs and ensures they meet standards identified by the EMS profession.

UTC’s Paramedic Program is one of six CAAHEP accredited programs in the State, boasting a graduation rate of 95%. Graduates of UTC’s program have gone on to work in all areas of the nation, from Maine to California to Texas.

If you are interested in starting a career in EMS or would like more information about United Ambulance Service, visit them online at: www.unitedambulance.com.

CMCC Offers Free Credentialing with Employment Opportunity

AUBURN, ME (March 25, 2022) – The Center for Workforce and Professional Development at Central Maine Community College (CMCC) is partnering with area employers and service providers to recruit candidates interested in becoming a qualified early childhood educator with a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential. Successful candidates will be hired as Teachers/Teacher Assistants by employer-partners and take part in free training through CMCC.

Information to register for the program itself is available at: <https://cmconnect.cmcc.edu/ICS/Training/>

The free Child Development Associate Credential is a 12-week training program

that runs from April 25th through July 8th, and is provided in collaboration with CMCC, Maine Adult Education, Eastern Maine Development Corporation (EMDC), Promise Early Education Center and Southern Kennebec Child Development Corporation. Successful candidates will work up to 30 hours per week at an employer-partner’s worksite, receive 120 hours of free online instruction through CMCC, plus take part in 60 hours of WorkReady instruction led by Maine Adult Education that is delivered live over Zoom and one in-person session at CMCC in Auburn. Additional support services may be available to eligible candidates through EMDC and/or Community Concepts.

Participants in this no-cost training program and employment opportunity can choose between center-based infant and toddler care for ages birth to 36-months or center-based preschool for ages 3-5 years, depending on location. Successful completers of this certification program may have six credits applied toward an Associate in Applied Science degree in Early Childhood Education at Central Maine Community College and will receive funding for an additional course.

This program is funded by Maine Quality Centers (MQC). Participants must be at least 18 years of age, possess a high school diploma, GED, or HiSet, and be a U.S. citizen and/or authorized to work in the U.S. Criminal background check and current vaccination records will be required by employers. Additionally, candidates in MQC-funded programs must be a dislocated, unemployed, or underemployed worker, or someone whose job has been adversely affected by COVID-19. Underemployed can be considered as working part-time but looking for full-time work or working in an occupation below one’s skillset. Candidates are only eligible to participate in one MQC program being offered at any of the seven colleges in the Maine Community College System.

For more information or to register, please contact Central Maine Community College’s Center for Workforce & Professional Development at workforcedevelopment@cmcc.edu or 207-755-5280.

Central Maine Community College is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution and employer. For more information visit www.cmcc.edu/eeoc or contact Human Resources at (207) 755-5396.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Research Shows Exercises Help With Muscular Dystrophy

ORONO, ME (March 24, 2022) -- Muscular dystrophy is a debilitating disease that causes the weakness and breakdown of skeletal muscles that progressively worsens over time. According to a team of University of Maine researchers, certain activities may help strengthen muscles affected by muscular dystrophy — and they figured it out by stimulating zebrafish and watching them work out.

Zebrafish are an effective test model of muscular dystrophy because of the molecular similarities

between zebrafish and human muscles. Zebrafish can also be bred with a mutation that closely models Duchenne muscular dystrophy, a severe type of muscular dystrophy that affects young boys.

Zebrafish can't lift weights, though, so UMaine researchers used a process called neuromuscular electrical stimulation (NMES), which stimulates specific nerves to elicit muscle contraction. The researchers designed four NMES regimens and named them after four common weight lifting routines: power, strength,

hypertrophy and endurance. The zebrafish were then put into an underwater 3D printed "gym" made up of tunnels and electrodes, and the researchers analyzed their skeletal muscles to see how they had changed.

The study found that while each of the NMES weight lifting "routines" affected the zebrafish neuromuscular junction morphology, swimming and survival differently, only one — the endurance neuromuscular stimulation (eNMES) — improved all three, as long as it was accompanied by a certain

antioxidant, heme oxygenase, and a receptor called integrin alpha7.

"eNMES is defined by high-frequency, low-voltage pulses, which is similar to a high-repetition, low-weight workout that we would do in the gym. The longstanding consensus in the muscular dystrophy field is that minimizing resistance training preserves muscle strength and mass because it lowers the risk for muscle damage. However, our data suggest that a certain level of NMES-induced activity is actually beneficial for overall muscle health,"

says Elisabeth Kilroy, first author of the study who conducted the research for her Ph.D. at UMaine. Kilroy is now the director of the neuroMuscular Observational Research (MOVR) at the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

The study was published March 24, 2022, in the journal ELife.

The research suggests that the right type of resistance training might be beneficial to human patients with muscular dystrophy. There is also potential for NMES to improve mobility and strength in patients with muscular

dystrophy, though not much is known about applying the technology this way.

"I think the most exciting aspect is that we established a model for neuromuscular plasticity in healthy versus diseased muscle, and this model will allow us to elucidate mechanisms that could be the basis for potential therapeutics in the future," says Clarissa Henry, professor of biological sciences, director of Graduate School of Biomedical Science and Engineering, and principal director of the Henry Lab.

Scholarships Available for Students



Maine Community Foundation

Your partner in philanthropy

ELLSWORTH and PORTLAND, ME (March 25, 2022) — Applications are currently being accepted for the Maine Community Foundation's (MaineCF) Patriot Education Scholarship Fund.

This renewable scholarship supports graduates of a Maine high school who are enrolled part-time (minimum of nine credit hours) or full-time in pursuit of a business degree and entering their freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior year at a Maine college

or university. Preference is given to applicants who have a demonstrated interest in personal and commercial insurance professions. The deadline is June 1. To apply online, go to www.mainecef.org. For more information, contact Scholarship Coordinator Jackie Shannon, jshannon@mainecf.org or 207-412-2004.

MaineCF has worked with donors and educators since 1983 to provide Maine students access to educational opportunities. The community foundation manages more than 650 scholarship

funds.

The Maine Community Foundation (MaineCF) is accepting scholarship applications from Androscoggin County students for the Annette M. Brown Scholarship Fund. The scholarship helps support the education of students pursuing a post-secondary degree at a two- or four-year college.

Eligible applicants must demonstrate a level of academic achievement suitable for predicting success in college; strong character and family values; and financial need.

Preference will be given to first-generation college students and those attending accredited colleges in Androscoggin County, with secondary preference to those attending schools elsewhere in Maine. Applications from students attending school outside Maine will be given the lowest priority.

Annette M. Brown taught in the Lewiston-Auburn area in the early 1900s. In her 1916 will, she left \$16,000 to establish a scholarship fund to benefit students. Since then, the fund has given thousands of dollars to Androscoggin County students pursuing higher education. The selection process is handled by a subcommittee of MaineCF's Androscoggin County Committee.

Each year, the **Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA)** awards three scholarships in the amount of \$1,500, one in each of the following categories:

-MOFGA Journey-person program partici-

part (past or present).

-Maine high school senior planning to study sustainable or organic farming (with a preference for colleges in Maine).

-Kennebec Valley Community College student studying sustainable agriculture.

Awards are granted to honor the late Russell Libby, who led the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association for 17 years and dedicated his life to growing the organic food movement. Recognizing, more than 20 years ago, that Maine's farming population was aging and dwindling, Libby advocated for focusing significant MOFGA program resources on training the next generation of farmers. Through his vision, MOFGA has been instrumental in shifting the demographics of Maine's farming population. Now Maine is one of the leading U.S. states for creating successful new farmers.

These scholarships support the recipients in

their pursuits of agriculture education and projects. Funds have been used for schooling, infrastructure that improves access to programs, new gardens and much more. One of last year's award recipients, Emma Lovering, planned to use the funds to help expand her infrastructure and allow her to have more members in her CSA (Community Supported Agriculture program). As she wrote in her application, "Though it seems far off to me in some ways, there is so much of this dream I have already accomplished. I believe these funds will really help support my plan for expansion and to reach even more people in the years to come!"

Details about the scholarship program and a link to an online application are available on MOFGA's website. Applications are due on April 15, 2022. Winners will be notified in late April, and will be featured on the MOFGA website and in MOFGA's publications.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

LYAC Announces Field Naming Sponsorship for Mike McGraw Park



LEWISTON, ME (March 23, 2022) -- On the heels of a successful naming initiative for "Mike McGraw Park," Lewiston's newest park on Bartlett Street, the Lewiston Youth Advisory

Council (LYAC) is now offering a field naming sponsorship at the park.

LYAC member Emily Fournier notes, "A field sponsorship is important because we want to ensure that the field will have longevity for generations to come." Sponsorship will be \$5,000 annually for 10 years, with funding used for field maintenance, irrigation, signage, and other sustainability needs.

Viewed as a safe,

welcoming space for Lewiston youth, LYAC believes that sponsorship would also be beneficial for a sponsor, as naming would be prominently displayed in a well-used traffic area.

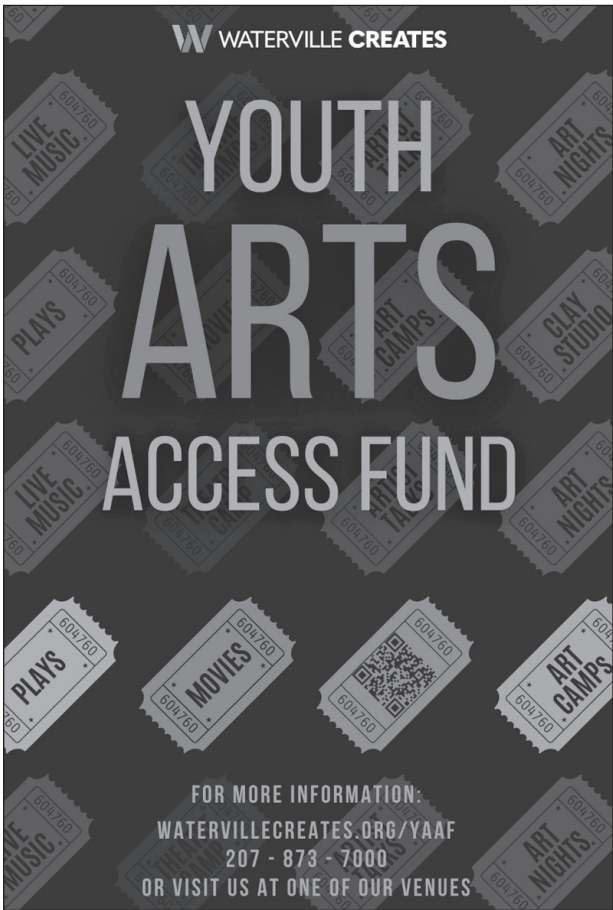
Those interested may submit an online form at www.lewistonmaine.gov/sponsor Hard copy submission forms will also be available at the Lewiston City Administrator's Office, 27 Pine Street,

Lewiston. The form requests reasoning for interest in sponsorship, and if a business, the reason why such an opportunity would be meaningful to the respective business.

Youth members will review submissions with municipal staff to select a field naming sponsor, with a goal of bringing additional energy to this area. The park itself was recently named "Mike McGraw Park" after a

long-time Lewiston High School teacher/coach who was the epitome of unity, collaboration, and encouraging others to reach their potential. The field naming sponsorship chosen will complement those attributes. The field naming sponsorship selected will be subject to Lewiston City Council approval and must be in compliance with City and School policies related to such opportunities.

Youth Art Month Exhibition & Launch of Youth Arts Access Fund



WATERVILLE, ME (February 24, 2022) – Waterville Creates, a non-profit supporting and promoting high-quality, accessible arts and cultural programs in central Maine, is excited to host the 8th Youth Art Month (YAM) exhibition at Ticonic Gallery and Railroad Square Cinema from March 1-31, 2022. Established in 1961, YAM is a national program designed to celebrate visual art education for grades K–12 with a goal to increase community understanding and interest in art and art education through active participation in exhibitions, workshops, and other creative ventures. This year's YAM theme is "Art Connects Us."

Sponsored by the Colby College Museum of Art

and the City of Waterville, this year's YAM exhibition will include the work of aspiring youth artists from 19 participating schools. Connecting to this year's theme, students were asked to create art on hexagonal wood panels in response to the questions "What do you love about where you live?" or "What do you love about your community?" Designed to be an interactive installation, the exhibition will have panels available for visitors to create their own artistic responses to these questions.

In conjunction with YAM, Waterville Creates is thrilled to announce the launch of the Youth Arts Access Fund (YAAF) on March 1. Established under the belief that all youth, re-

gardless of income, ability, or background, should have access to outstanding arts programming and arts education opportunities, YAAF is designed to support free admission for youth ages 18 and under to the full range of programming offered by Waterville Creates and its divisions, including art classes and camps, community theatre productions, live music, and film programming. The launch of YAAF also echoes another key goal of YAM—to increase community, business, and governmental support for art education. Formally established with an initial \$15,000 grant from the Raymond J. and Mary C. Reisert Foundation, YAAF has received additional support from the Margaret E. Burnham Charitable Trust and the Colby College Center for the Arts and Humanities.

"The Reisert Foundation is pleased to support the Youth Access Fund, and we encourage others to join us in the effort to broaden accessibility to the arts and art education in the Waterville area," said Susan Reisert, foundation board member and secretary. "We believe strongly in the significance of the arts and arts education for a thriving community. All children and young people should have access to quality arts programming."

"While Waterville Creates has offered scholarship support in the past as the budget has allowed, the launch of the Youth Arts Access Fund represents a commitment to sustained,

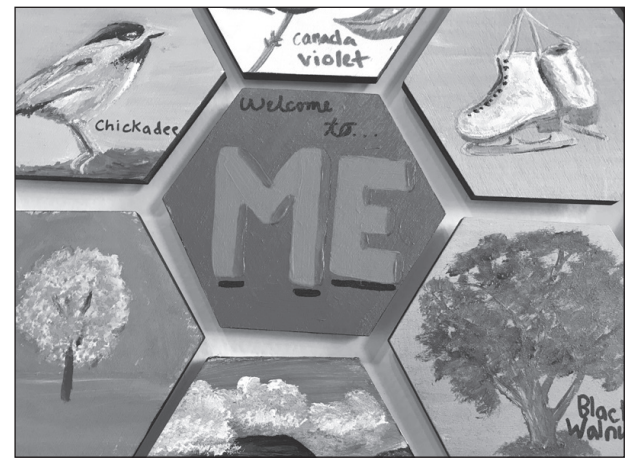
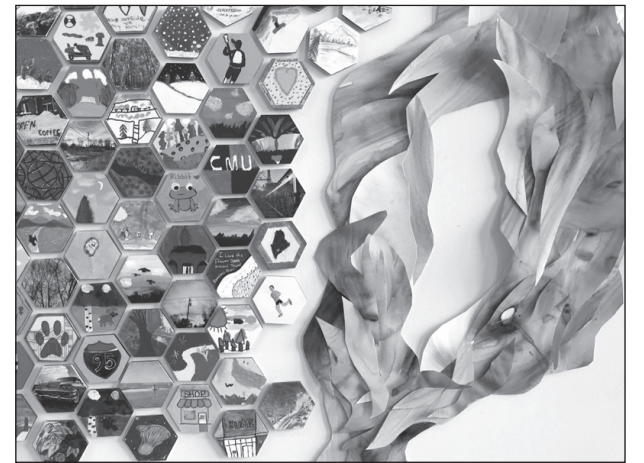
dedicated funding to remove cost as a barrier to participation," says Shannon Haines, president + CEO of Waterville Creates.

"This was my first time getting to see a professional play," said Hannah Nelson, a student at Waterville Alternative High School who received a free ticket to attend a performance of "Clue" at the Waterville Opera House after participating in a set design and scenic painting workshop for teens offered by Waterville Creates. "The play was incredible, and it was nice to have the chance to get dressed up and do something fun in Waterville." Nelson then returned to the Opera House to assist with painting the set of "The Mousetrap" through a pilot apprenticeship program offered by Waterville Creates.

For more information on YAM, please visit our website. Ticonic Gallery is free and open to the public Monday – Friday from 12 – 5 p.m. Railroad Square Cinema Lobby is free and open to the public Monday-Sunday from 2 – 9 p.m. All gallery visitors are required to wear masks.

More information about the Youth Arts Access Fund, including a link to donate to the fund, can be found on the Waterville Creates website.

YAM 2022 Participating schools: Albert S. Hall School, Bloomfield Elementary School, Canaan Elementary School, Carra- bec High School, George J. Mitchell School, Madison Elementary School, Mad-



ison Junior High School, Maine Academy of Natural Sciences, Maine Arts Academy, Messalonskee High School, Messalonskee Middle School, Mount Meric Academy, North Elementa-

ry School, Skowhegan High School, Warsaw Middle School, Waterville Alternative High School, Waterville High School, Winslow High School, Winslow Junior High School

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Seniors Not Acting Their Age

A Glorious Day on Mount Crawford

By Ron Chase

For several days, the weather had been a roller-coaster ride of rain, snow, sleet and wind accompanied by extreme temperature swings. The varying conditions made it difficult to identify adequate circumstances for a Nordic ski or mountain hike. Much of the snow base on the ski trails had washed away and accumulated snow on the hiking trails had fluctuated between hard and soft. In need of a mountain fix, I identified a short window of opportunity. Frigid temperatures had followed a rainstorm so it was reasonable to surmise that snow covered hiking trails in the White Mountains would harden to perfection for micro spikes. A substantial snowstorm was forecast to arrive the following day.

Announcing a proposed Penobscot Paddle & Chowder Society mountain hike in the Whites did the trick. Three of the usual suspects who like me benefit from the flexibility of retirement signed on. Since dangerously high wind chills were predicted for the high peaks, we limited our choices to lower

summits with exceptional views and minimal exposure to the elements. After exchanging emails and phone calls, we decided on 3,119 foot Mount Crawford. Located on the south side of the Presidential Range near Bartlett, New Hampshire, the five mile hike entailed 2,116 feet of elevation gain. Most of the trek would be sheltered from northwest winds while partially exposed higher elevations would provide exceptional views of surrounding mountains if skies were clear.

Driving north of Bartlett on Route 302 along the Saco River, I was surprised to observe that the water level was exceptionally high. A veteran of several whitewater outings on the Upper Saco, it appeared sufficient to paddle, a winter oddity. When I met my hiking companions at Davis Path Trailhead, they concurred that the river was higher than usual. Since there were a couple of significant stream crossings prior to beginning the steep ascent, we speculated that negotiating over them might be problematic.

No problems were

encountered traversing a lengthy well-built bridge over the Saco River. Once completed, most of us affixed micro spikes to facilitate hiking on the hard packed snow surface. A wide log spanned the first stream allowing for an easy crossing. However, the following partially open fast-moving freshet presented a challenge as there was no obvious safe passage. A slip into the icy water would end the day for the unfortunate victim. After some investigation, we found an attenuated section that could be successfully maneuvered on rocks and patchy ice.

Shortly beyond, we began climbing steadily in a mixed hardwood and conifer forest. Blue skies observed through the trees suggested splendid views awaited us at the top. While there were some sectors of ice that were difficult to surmount, a more significant problem was substantial post holing. Previous hikers had ascended without snowshoes when the snow was soft leaving deep holes spread throughout the trail. The continuous hindrances caused awkward unsteady

footing. Amazingly, the post holing continued to the summit which must have been an exhausting endeavor for the scofflaws.

After about two miles, we emerged onto a sloping bluff that offered exceptional views of the White Mountains in the south and west. Mount Chocorua's distinctive alpine peak provided a prominent landmark. Frosty winds forced four Chowderheads to add layers and warmer mitts. The probability of severe wind chills at the summit seemed likely.

We enjoyed sporadic views while climbing continuously for the remainder of our quest. The trail was temporarily lost in an area of barren rock. Another party of two was encountered when we relocated it. They were the only other hikers met until the trek was almost completed.

The views at the summit were phenomenal. From an overlook just below the highpoint, we could observe the entire majestic Presidential Range. Manageable wind chills were a welcome surprise. After locating a site shielded from moderate winds, four seniors not acting their ages embraced a leisurely lunch while soaking up the glorious panoramic vista.

Our return was largely uneventful except for a perpetual struggle to maintain stable footing due to the ubiquitous post holes which were more troublesome and hazardous while descending. Mount Crawford received several inches of snow the following day likely filling the undesirable cavities. Hopefully, the next team of hikers will adhere to good mountaineering etiquette when confronted with the fresh powder and wear snowshoes.

Ron Chase resides in



A hiker negotiates a partially open stream on Mount Crawford



Hikers enjoyed a phenomenal view of the Presidential Range from the summit of Mount Crawford



Postholes and patchy ice were problems on a recent climb of Mount Crawford

Topsham. His latest book, "Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine" is now available at <https://www.northcountrypress.com/maine-al-fresco.html>. His previous books are "The Great Mars Hill Bank Robbery" and "Mountains for Mortals - New England." Visit his website at <https://www.ronchaseoutdoors.com> or he can be reached at ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net.

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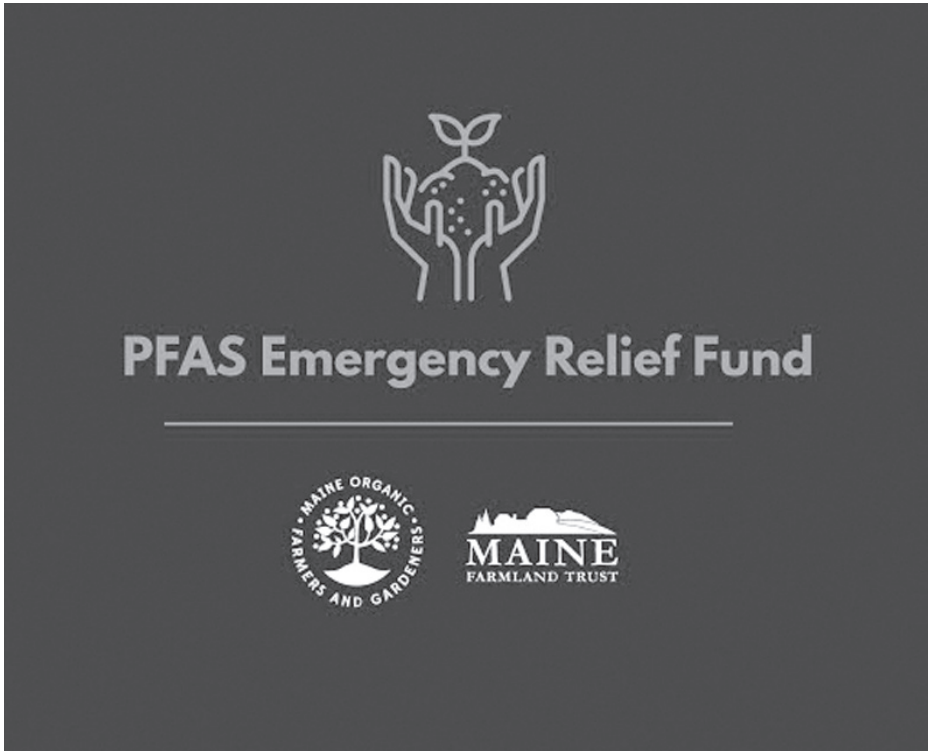
Waterville Creates Announces “The Farm Tools Project”

WATERVILLE, ME (March 23, 2022) – Waterville Creates is excited to announce “The Farm Tools Project” exhibition at Ticonic Gallery and the Railroad Square Cinema Lobby, opening Monday, April 11, and on view through June 17, 2022.

A visual exploration of the use of hand tools on small farms in Maine, this exhibition features cyanotypes, an old form of non-toxic photography that relies upon sunlight and water. To create these images, artist Michel Droge and archaeologist Sarah Loftus traveled around the state with a portable cyanotype kit and photographed tools with farmers in their fields. Droge and Loftus interviewed farmers regarding their practices, the significance of the tools they use, and how they engage with the earth to produce and harvest food.

“Visiting these small farms and making prints of hand tools gave me a deeper understanding of the vastly collaborative and interconnectedness of farmers, the land, and our communities,” said Droge. “I saw the creative process of farming through these hand tools, often passed down through generations, and the love, magic, and perseverance that farmers call up as they tend the land and nourish our communities.”

The tools depicted pose questions around innovation, as well as the resilience and resurgence of small farms in Maine. How can we connect and support our local farms?



What does it mean to practice sustainable farming in the 21st century? How can farms mitigate food insecurity in our community?

“We wanted to play with the way we view everyday tools and how they actively shape the ways we perceive and interact with the world,” said Loftus. “Tools are quiet, but far from silent partners. They reveal something of our collective capacity for invention and ingenuity, as well as our enormous power for devastation and destruction.”

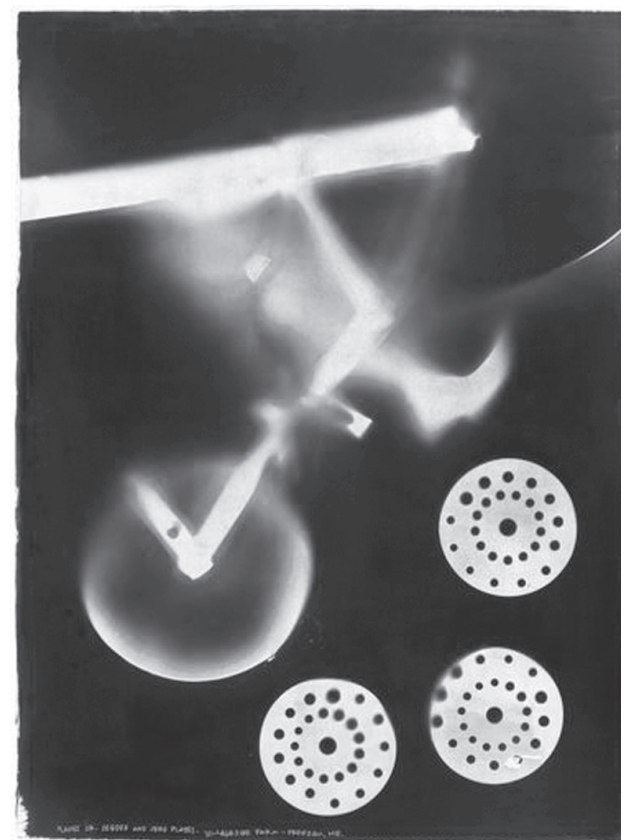
Farmers across the state are currently facing loss of livelihood and significant health impacts due to contamination from PFAS, the so-called “forever chemicals.” In recognition of the growing threat of PFAS to Maine’s farms, 100% of the art sale proceeds will be donated to the Maine Organic Farmers and Gar-

deners Association (MOFGA) and Maine Farmland Trust’s (MFT) PFAS Emergency Relief Fund. Jointly administered by MOFGA and MFT, the PFAS Emergency Relief Fund provides short-term income replacement for farms that the Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry has identified as having high PFAS contamination test results; helps pay for initial PFAS testing on farms that choose to do their own testing; and supports access to mental health services for impacted farmers.

“Farmers in Maine are facing devastating impacts to their land, their water, their livelihoods, their health, and their kids’ health because of PFAS dumping,” said Loftus. “It’s heartbreaking. Farmers are the backbone, and when they fall, we all fall. The state needs to pass

robust legislation to help farmers deal with PFAS contamination, and we thought this was one way to help raise awareness and contribute to MOFGA and MFT’s emergency fund.”

“The Farm Tools Project” is funded in part by a grant from the Maine Arts Commission and by the Kindling Fund, a grant program administered by SPACE as part of the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts Regranting Program. Additional exhibition support was provided by Kennebec Savings Bank and Johnny’s Select-



ed Seeds.

Participating farms included Black Kettle Farm, Lyman; Burke Hill Farm, Cherryfield; College of the Atlantic’s Peggy Rockefeller Farm, Mount Desert Island; Four Season Farm, Harborside; Frith Farm, Scarborough; Girard Farm, Lyman; Hurricane Valley Farm, West Falmouth; Ironwood Farm, Albion; and Village-side Farm, Freedom.

A reception will be held with the artists

on Thursday, April 21, from 5-7 p.m. at Ticonic Gallery at 10 Water Street, Suite #106. This event is free and open to the public.

“The Farm Tools Project” exhibition runs until Friday, June 17, 2022. Admission is free. Ticonic Gallery is open to the public Monday-Friday from 12-5 p.m. and the Railroad Square Cinema lobby is open to the public Monday-Sunday from 2-9 p.m.

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Arts & Entertainment

One Faith Quartet to Provide Palm Sunday Concert



Left to right: Ryan Bryant, Bob Manchester, Marc Laplante, and Mike Parkin.

AUBURN, ME One Faith Quartet will present a free concert at (March 21, 2022) -- The

the Court Street Baptist Church, 129 Court Street, Auburn, at 6:pm, April 10th.

The group features Ryan Bryant, Bob Manchester, Marc Laplante, and Mike Parkin. Ryan Bryant and Marc Laplante formerly sang with the regional, interdenominational cantata group, Delta Heart, and Bryant also is known for his distinctive tenor voice, featured while he was a member of The Delta Heart Trio gospel group. The Palm Sunday evening of gospel music will be followed by a social time in the church's vestry.

CCAC Presents The Mallett Brothers Band

BATH, ME (March 25, 2022) -- The Chocolate Church Arts Center (CCAC), at 804 Washington Street in Bath, will present an evening with The Mallett Brothers Band on Friday April 9 at 7:30pm.

The Mallett Brothers Band, formed in 2009, perform their own brand of independent rock, americana, and country, and have built a dedicated fanbase across the United States. The band's sound is influenced equally by the singer-songwriter tradition

and by harder rock, classic country, and psychedelic sounds.

The Mallett Brothers Band is fronted by Luke and Will Mallett, the sons of Maine folk legend David Mallett. Along with Wally Wenzel (guitar, dobro), Nick Leen (bass), Andrew Martelle (fiddle, mandolin, guitar), and Brian Higgins (drums), the band has performed dozens of top venues and festivals around the country. Highlights include Portland's State Theatre, Austin's famed Continental Club, and Nashville's

Bluebird Café.

Tickets for all events at the Chocolate Church 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.

Androscoggin Home Healthcare + Hospice Supports Community

LEWISTON, ME (March 4, 2022) – Androscoggin Home Healthcare + Hospice, Maine's largest, independent, nonprofit home healthcare organization, believes in building mutually beneficial and lasting relationships that strengthen the community while promoting health and living in meeting the community's healthcare needs. It is from these values, the AndroGIVES committee, comprised of employees throughout the

organization, was born.

"We are fortunate to receive financial support from so many individuals, corporations, sponsors, and foundations," said Tom Fogarty, Androscoggin's Community Engagement Officer. "As socially responsible stewards for health and living, we wish to collectively reciprocate our good fortune to the communities we serve."

Over the last five years, Androscoggin has an-

nually partnered with fellow nonprofit organizations with complementary missions including Trinity Jubilee Center, New Beginnings, Greater Androscoggin Human Society, and most recently, Good Shepherd Food Bank. Spearheaded by members of the AndroGIVES committee, Androscoggin has provided both financial and hands-on support to help each year's community partner organization further their success.

Spring Slow Flow Yoga

AUBURN, ME (March 23, 2022) -- The Auburn Public Library announces Spring Slow Flow Yoga, led by instructor Rachel Legendre. Classes will take place Tuesdays – April 5, 12, 19, 26; May 3, 10, 17, 24 – 4:30-5:30 p.m. Classes will be online via Zoom.

Take some time to slow down and dive deeper into the poses, while gaining strength, flexibility, and core balance. Use the power of your breath to slowly move through your practice with intention and introspection in this vinyasa style class. This is a

moderately challenging class where pose variations will be offered to help everyone find their unique level of success. Have a yoga mat, a yoga block or two, and wear comfortable clothes that will allow you to move well. Take some time for yourself to move and breathe with grace, poise and ease.

Learn more about our instructor, Rachel Legendre, at <https://www.innerlightwell.com/>.

This class will take place virtually via Zoom. To register or if you have any questions, email dwalace@auburnpubliclibrary.org.

org or call the Reference Desk at 207-333-6640, ext. 4. Registrants will be sent a link to the class prior to the first class for which they register.

For more information on these or other upcoming programs, visit our website (auburnpubliclibrary.org), call the Reference Desk or email Donna, as above.

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

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Mitchell Center to Host Talk on PFAS in Maine April 4



ORONO, ME (March 25, 2022) — The Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions at the University of Maine will host a talk on PFAS, also known as “forever chemicals,” and the PFAS crisis in Maine on Monday, April 4, 3–4 p.m.

PFAS, a group of thousands of chemicals with the ability to repel

both water and oil, have been used in commercial and consumer products for more than 60 years – yet research on their toxicity and persistence in the environment has only been published in the past two decades.

Today in Maine, PFAS contamination has closed multiple farms and contaminated soils, well water, food and wildlife.

The scope of the crisis continues to grow and the state is mounting a multimillion-dollar, ongoing response. In this talk, The Forever Chemicals: PFAS in Maine—What they are, where they come from and what can we do about them, members of the Mitchell Center’s PFAS Research Initiative will give a whirlwind tour of PFAS chemistry, the his-

tory of these chemicals in Maine, what Maine people know about them and the search for solutions.

The PFAS Research Initiative team brings together expertise in environmental engineering, wastewater management, data science, economics, communication and wildlife ecology to address PFAS in Maine. They work closely with diverse stakeholders from state agencies, the agricultural community, public health advocates, the wastewater treatment industry and other sectors. Their research has included an assessment of the environmental, economic and social aspects of management

options for PFAS-contaminated wastewater sludge.

Members of the team will also present a session on PFAS at the Maine Sustainability & Water Conference on March 31 at the Augusta Civic Center.

All talks in the Mitchell Center’s Sustainability Talks series are free and will be offered both remotely via Zoom and in person at 107 Norman Smith Hall on the UMaine campus in Orono. Registration is required to attend remotely via Zoom; to register and receive con-

nection information, see the event webpage.

Please note that face coverings are required for all persons—students, staff, faculty, visitors and others—when indoors at a University of Maine System facility. For the latest health and safety guidance, please see umaine.edu/re-turn.

Updates for this event will be posted to the event webpage. To request a reasonable accommodation, contact Ruth Hallsworth, 207.581.3196 or halls-worth@maine.edu.

HHRC Presents Problem Solving in a Divided America

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AWARDEE
Shaylyn Romney Garrett, Co-Author of *The Upswing-How We Came Together a Century Ago and How We Can Do It Again*

AWARDEE
Janet Dewart Bell, Founder, LEAD Intergenerational Solutions, Author of *Lighting the Fires of Freedom - African American Women in the Civil Rights Movement*

AUGUSTA, ME (March 25, 2022) -- The Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine (HHRC) is co-sponsor-

ing a panel discussion with the Francis Perkins Center on how to problem solve in a divided America. Join the forum panelists on Sun-

day, April 3rd at 5:00 as they provide data-driven insights on America’s history and share their optimism about how diverse,

collaborative, intergenerational problem solvers can once again shape an upswing in America’s trajectory. This is a conversation you won’t want to miss! Panelists are: Dr. Maya Rockey Moore Cummings, Robert Putnam, Shaylyn Romney Garrett, and Janet Dewart Bell. Register at <https://francesperkinscenter.org/events/upswing/>.

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Home Show at the Norway Savings Bank Arena



Danielle Bass of Better Business Bureau



Chrissy and Luke Wogan of Tastefully Simple



Amber Aucoin and Brianna Mannistro-Shuck of Fairway



Phelan Doyle, Riley Gilpatrick and Dani Haines of Collegiate Entrepreneurs



Erica Duval, Nick Bergeron, Shane Billington of Jr's Glass & Windows



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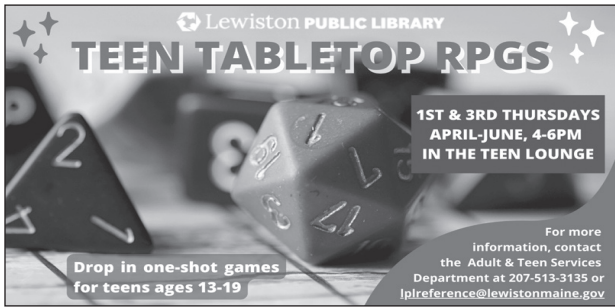
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Teen Tabletop Roleplaying at Lewiston Public Library



LEWISTON, ME (March 22, 2022) -- Lewiston Public Library's Teen Services department will host a series of tabletop roleplaying games, in person in the 2nd floor teen lounge, from 4-6pm on the first and third Thursdays

of the month from April-June.

Each session (April 7th, April 21st, May 5th, May 19th, June 2nd, June 16th) will feature a different one-shot tabletop RPG, run by game master Hallie and

LPL Teen staff. Supplies will be provided and no previous RPG experience is required. This program is intended for teens ages 13-19.

The Lewiston Public Library is located downtown at 200 Lisbon

Street at the corner of Pine Street. More information is available by contacting the Lewiston Public Library Adult & Teen Services Department at 513-3135 or LPL Reference@lewiston-maine.gov.

School Bus & Maintenance Operations Transition to City of Auburn

AUBURN, ME (February 23, 2022) -- Beginning Monday, February 28, the City of Auburn will become responsible for several key functions previously managed by the Auburn School Department. This includes transportation services, field maintenance, and facilities maintenance (school custodial services).

The Auburn City Council and School Committee fully support the transition, as they continue to seek cost savings and efficiencies for the taxpayers of Auburn. "This is a way for us to support the superintendent and her team," said City Manager Phil Crowell. "This change allows them to focus on doing what they do so well: educating the children of Auburn. Since Superintendent Brown's arrival here, the relationship between

the city & the school department has continued to strengthen as we collaborate and work to make decisions that will positively impact our residents."

"I look forward to collaborating with the City of Auburn to improve our transportation services to families," said School Superintendent Dr. Cornelia Brown. "I appreciate their patience as we have worked through some difficult challenges recently."

"Our goal is to provide the safest, most efficient transportation possible, and to ensure clean, well-maintained facilities and playing fields for the children and families of Auburn," said Public Works Director Denis D'Auteuil. "Staff and residents should know that we have full confidence that this will be a successful, positive change. We are

looking forward to these dedicated employees joining our exceptional team."

This is a great opportunity for everyone involved," added Deputy Public Works Director Scott Holland. "The APW team not only offers an impressive amount of experience and knowledge, but also the credibility and support of a nationally accredited organization."

Auburn's bus garage will remain in its current location on outer Minot Avenue, with the possible addition of some public works functions that will help serve residents in the area. "We are going to embrace this change as an opportunity for maximized efficiency of busing and maintenance operations," said D'Auteuil. "This just makes good sense for Auburn."

Hours for New SeniorsPlus Wilton Satellite Office Announced

LEWISTON, ME (March 2, 2022) -- SeniorsPlus announces office hours by appointment for its new satellite office location at 284 Main St., Suite 210 in Wilton. Visitors will need to call SeniorPlus at 1-207-795-4010 to schedule an appointment. Appointments are available Tuesdays between 8:30am and 12:30pm and Thursdays 1:30pm through 4:30pm. Staff can answer questions or concerns you may have about services and resources for older

adults and adults with disabilities and their families. These services are free and open to the public.

Established in 1972 and headquartered in Lewiston, SeniorsPlus is the Western Maine designated Area Agency on Aging covering Franklin, Oxford and Androscoggin counties. The overall program goal of SeniorsPlus is to assist older people and adults with disabilities in its tri-county area to remain safely at home for as long as possible. The mission of

SeniorsPlus is to enrich the lives of older people and adults with disabilities, their families and communities, and to support them to make informed choices. SeniorsPlus envisions a future where all older adults and individuals with disabilities are engaged and respected while living quality, independent lives in the communities of their choice. In 2021, SeniorPlus served a diverse population of almost 10,000 clients and fielded 185,000 phone inquiries.

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UMFK Students Named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List

FORT KENT, ME (February 23, 2022) -- The University of Maine at Fort Kent is proud to announce their Dean's List for the fall 2021 semester. This list includes full-time and part-time students.

"Congratulations to the students who have made the UMFK Dean's & Academic Recognition Lists," said UMFK's President Deb Hedeen. "The Dean's List includes

full-time students who have earned a 3.2 grade point average, while the Academic Recognition List acknowledges our part-time students who have also earned a 3.2 GPA. These students have demonstrated a level of resilience and academic excellence during the pandemic. Their accomplishments are to be acknowledged and celebrated. We are incredibly proud to

have these talented students as members of the UMFK community."

UMFK, situated at the center of Acadian history and culture in Maine, is a vital resource to the St. John Valley communities. The regional baccalaureate university within the University of Maine System serves more than 1,300 students.

The community of Fort Kent has a popula-

tion of more than 4,000 and is situated in the St. John River Valley. The people of the valley are largely descended from the French-Acadians and French-Canadians.

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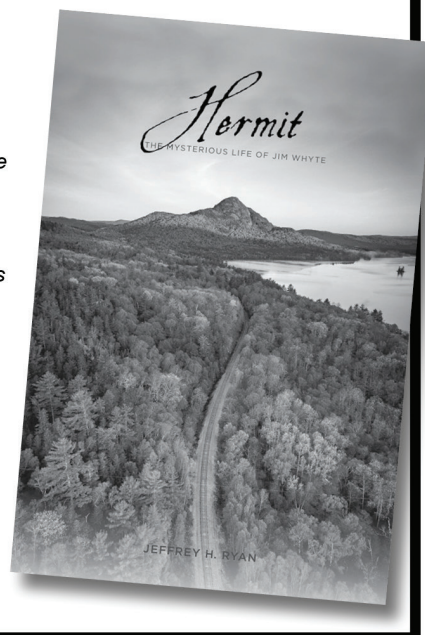
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— George Smith, Bangor Daily News

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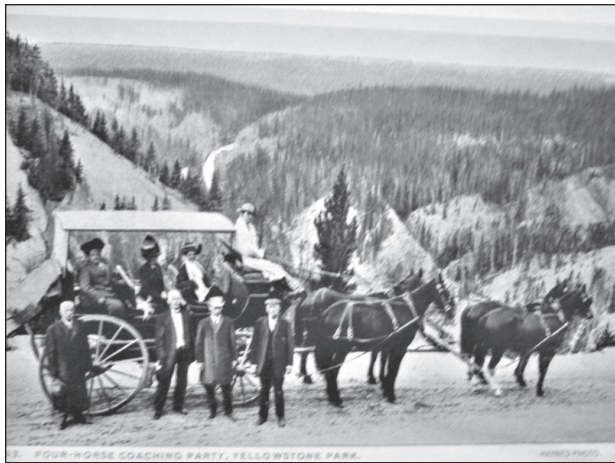


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Skyline Farm Hosts ‘Yellowstone From the Box Seat’ Presentation



NORTH YARMOUTH, ME (March 22, 2022) – On Sunday, April 10, 2-3 pm, Skyline Farm hosts a talk on ‘Yellowstone From the Box Seat’ by Greg Cuffey, past president and collections chair at Skyline Farm and president of New England Re-

gion/Carriage Association of America.

America’s first national park turns 150 years old this year. This presentation covers the park’s first 44 years, when horse-drawn transportation was king. Through old photos, glass plate slides, stereo-views

and vintage postcard images, you will hear rosy tales of tourist vacations as they traveled throughout the park. Not all trips were rosy due to hostiles, bad roads, robberies and run-aways to name a few.

Large hotels and private camping companies vied for the tourist dollar. Thousands of horses were used and an amazing amount of infrastructure created to move tourists and equines safely and happily throughout the park’s dusty, rutted roads. New Hampshire’s Abbott-Downing Company supplied thousands of coaches of various sizes to transport tourists. Bangor native George W. Wakefield owned and merged with several park transportation companies.

Amazingly some of the camping companies owned over one-hundred coaches and around five-hundred horses each!

Lastly, learn that you can still have a saddleback and/or horse-drawn adventure in Yellowstone National Park today.

Free admission; donations welcomed. Skyline Farm, a nonprofit organization, is located at 95 The Lane, North Yarmouth. For more information, please email info@skylinefarm.org.

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

Stewart Promoted at Geiger



LEWISTON, ME (January 27, 2022) -- Sam Stewart has recently been promoted to the Key Account Manager position in Corporate Programs. She began her career at Geiger in 2013 as a Mail/Sample Room Clerk, was promoted to Customer Relations Specialist in 2016, and again in 2019 to Key Customer Service Spe-

cialist. Most recently, in Dec. 2021, she had been promoted to Program Manager. In her new Key Account Manager role, her primary duty will be to serve as primary contact person for her assigned programs and to be responsible and accountable for their overall performance.

Sam lives in Auburn, Maine with her dog Lucy.

Registration is Open for Totally Trades!

MAINE STATE-WIDE (March 21, 2022) — Registration is now open for Totally Trades! Career sessions offered by New Ventures Maine (NVME) online this spring. Eleven sessions are offered at no cost and are designed to encourage girls* in grades 8-12 to consider careers in which women are traditionally underrepresented. The 15-minute video sessions focus on high-wage, high-demand nontraditional careers in trade and technical fields.

the future. In our state, where trade and technical careers are considered high-wage and high-demand, it’s a win-win for students to consider these job prospects that are also vital to the Maine economy. These same careers are also well supported by our community colleges and the University of Maine System,” said Suzanne Senechal-Jandreau, NVME workforce development manager and Totally Trades! organizer.

Automotive, Criminal Justice, Carpentry, Firefighting, Forestry, Software Engineering, Solar Installation and other trade careers are highlighted in the series as well as an ‘Earn While You Learn’ session on internships, apprenticeships and on-the-job training. *Workshops are for self-identifying girls and gender-expansive youth.

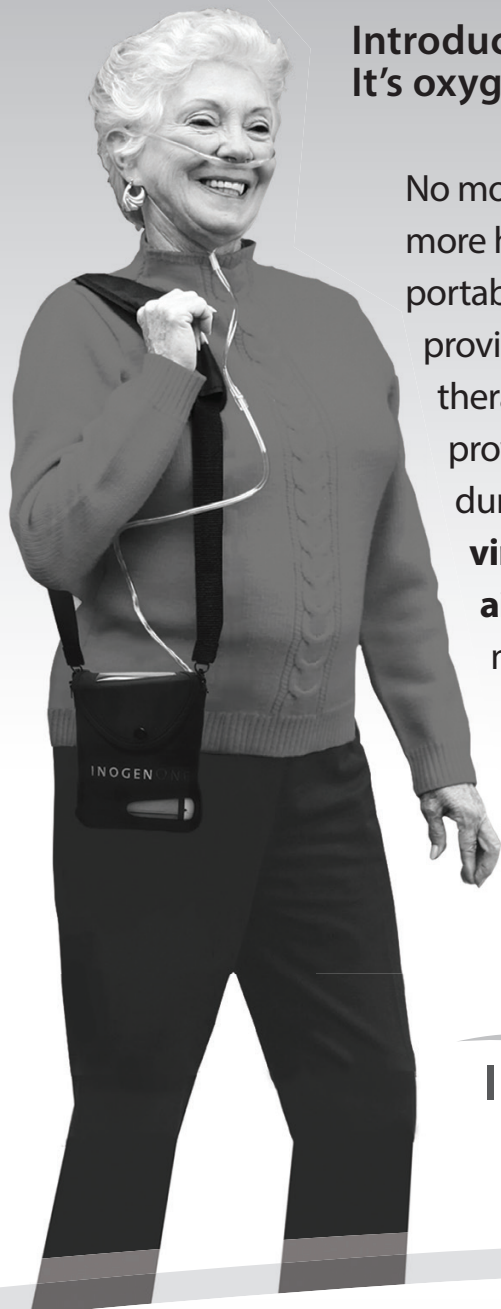
The sessions are free and open to girls in grades 8 through 12 who are exploring or considering employment in the featured career sectors. For more information visit the Totally Trades! website at totallytradesmaine.org or contact Suzanne Senechal-Jandreau at 207-768-9635 or senechal@maine.edu.

“Maine companies are looking for skilled tradeswomen and we want young women to have access to information that can lead them to well-paying and secure jobs in

Funding for Totally Trades! is provided by Maine Career and Technical Education/MaineDOE and the Maine Department of Transportation. Additional support and in-kind contributions are provided by businesses and community partners.

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Ap. 2
GORHAM -- 4:30-5:30 Almost the Last Supper, White Rock Community Clubhouse, 34 Wilson Road, Gorham

Get your homemade baked beans before they are gone for the season. Pre-order Required. \$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. All food is made from scratch! Please call 892-9521 by Thursday, March 31st to reserve your order. Last supper of the season is Saturday, May 7, 2022.

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-or-

der by Wednesday, March 30. Call Fran at 892-9521.

Ap. 4
GORHAM -- 8:30am Gorham Village Alliance Meeting Conference Room A

Ap. 4
AUBURN -- The Auburn Art Club will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, April 4, 2022 at the Park Avenue Methodist Church in Auburn. The program will be announced. All members are invited to attend.

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 Starting Ap. 7 and every 1st and 3rd Thursday through June

LEWISTON -- 1st & 3rd Thursdays from April-June, 4-6pm at the Lewiston Public Library: TEEN TABLETOP RPGS. Calling all adventurers and explorers! LPL Teen will be hosting a series of one-shot tabletop role-playing games, in person in the teen lounge on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month from 4-6pm, from April-June. Supplies will be provided -- just bring yourself and your creative mind! Each drop in session will feature a different one-shot tabletop RPG, run by game master Hallie. No previous RPG experience is required. This program is intended for teens ages 13-19. For more information, contact the Adult & Teen Services department at 207-513-3135 or lpreferece@lewistonmaine.gov, or go to lplonline.org/events/teen-tabletop-rpgs/ **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 | laclt-1 for tickets and information. Please visit at <https://www.laclt.com/covid-19-protocols> for information on safety protocols.

Ap. 9
MINOT -- 9am -- 1pm Craft and Bake Sale for Relief services for the People of Ukraine at Minot United

Methodist Church, Corner of Rt 121 and Empire Rd, Minot, Maine. All proceeds go to the United Methodist Committee to provide relief services for the people of Ukraine. Handmade crafts and Homecooked Baked Items.

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

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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

Collins, King Announce Over \$9 Million to Bolster Health Care

WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 25, 2022) -- U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King announced that seven organizations in the State of Maine have received a total of \$9,031,836 to strengthen health care services. This funding was awarded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Health Center Cluster Program.

"Access to affordable care is key to protecting the health and well-being of Mainers, particularly amid the ongoing pandemic," said Senators Collins and King in a joint statement. "We welcome this funding to support health centers across the state as they work to serve members of the local community. We will continue to advocate for necessary resources to help Mainers

stay healthy through this public health emergency and beyond."

The funding will be allocated as follows: York County Community Action Corporation will receive \$1,412,498; Eastport Health Care Inc. will receive \$1,044,250; Maine Mobile Health Program Inc. will receive \$1,173,651; Fish River Rural Health will receive \$1,525,550; St. Croix Regional Family Health Center will receive \$1,022,816; D.F.D. Russell Medical Center Inc. will receive \$1,154,242; and Bucksport Regional Health Center will receive \$1,698,829.

The health centers will use the funding to continue to assure access to comprehensive, culturally competent, high-quality primary health care services. The program targets the economic and medically vulnerable as well as the geographically isolated.

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double and queen - wicker 5 pieces - Bench with microfiber cushion. Two living room chairs. All plus more. All priced low for quick sale. (207) 883-0808

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LEWISTON SENIOR CITIZENS TRIPS FOR 2022 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 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 Grand Ole Opry behind the Scenes Tour. Price is \$1,025. per person double occupancy with a \$75.00 deposit due upon signing.
MACKINAC IS-

LAND - 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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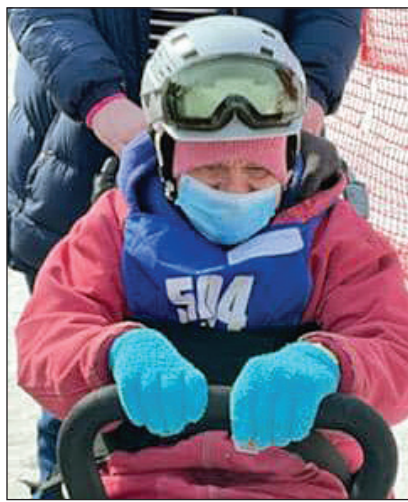
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Special Olympics Maine Wraps Up 2022 Winter Games



Senator Claxton Introduces Bills to Lower Prescription Medication Costs, Expand Access for Rural Communities

AUGUSTA, ME (February 15, 2022) – On Tuesday, Sen. Ned Claxton, D-Auburn, introduced two new bills that would lower prescription medication costs for Mainers and expand access to care for rural communities. The bills, LD 1636, “An Act to Reduce Prescription Drug Costs by Using International Pricing,” and LD 1938, “An Act To Prohibit Discriminatory Practices Related to the 340B Drug Pricing Program,” were both the subject of public hearings before the Legislature’s Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services.

“As a family physician, I always set out to ensure that everyone who walked through the doors of my practice got the care and medication they need,”

said Sen. Claxton. “Despite my best efforts, I often saw the high cost of a prescription get in the way of good treatment. This should never be the case – but it too often is. Nearly all of us know someone who has struggled to pay for a drug, gone into debt or had to sacrifice another part of their life just to fill a prescription. As Maine legislators, we need to continue doing all we can to ensure folks all over the state can get the medications they need. These two new bills will help us get there.”

LD 1636 would require the Maine Superintendent of Insurance to determine the 250 most costly prescription drugs and to establish a “referenced rate” for each drug, based on prices in the Canadian provinces of Ontario,

Quebec, British Columbia and Alberta. Health plans would then be prohibited from purchasing these drugs at a higher cost than the referenced rate, and be required to pass those savings along to consumers.

LD 1938 would prohibit certain discriminatory practices related to the federal 340B program. Established by Congress in 1992, the 340B program helps expand access to prescription drugs to vulnerable populations and rural communities by allowing “covered entities,” such as hospitals and clinics that serve low-income areas, to purchase drugs from manufacturers at a discounted cost. Those savings are then used to help patients receive care they need that they wouldn’t be able to afford otherwise. In recent

years, however, pharmaceutical companies and third-parties like pharmacy benefits managers have looked to benefit themselves financially by discriminating against pharmacies that participate in the program and using the benefit of the program for themselves. The bill would prohibit many of these common practices, which have negatively impacted health care providers and patients alike.

Both bills will receive further action in committee.

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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