



# TWIN CITY TIMES

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FREE • Vol. XXIII, No. 51

Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1999

Thursday, April 7, 2022 • FREE

## Lewiston Public Works Seeking Help for Citywide Litter Pick-up

LEWISTON, ME (March 31, 2022) -- Lewiston's spring "Citywide Litter Pick-up Day" is taking place on Saturday, April 16, 2022, and individuals and teams are being sought to join the effort. The 8 a.m. – noon event will commence at Kennedy Park, Lewiston, where Lewiston Public Works personnel will provide supplies such as bags, gloves, pickers, and buckets. Free online registration is available at [www.lewistonmaine.gov/litterevent](http://www.lewistonmaine.gov/litterevent), and participants can register individually or as a team member. One team already on board this year is the Lewiston Youth Advisory Council (LYAC) who is participating to help spruce up the city.

Ryleigh Emmert, LYAC Chair, is enthusiastic about LYAC's involvement, "The image of our city is not only affected by those who reside in it but also its appearance; the LYAC is proud to take steps in helping to beautify the City of Lewiston by participating in Citywide Litter Pick-up Day. Cleaning up litter helps Lewiston to act as a safe and enjoyable environment for all of its residents."

When registering, options are given for litter disposal: Kennedy Park; Public Works picking up at a site if listed on form or "called in" to Public Works Dispatch the morning of the event; or disposal through a person's weekly trash pick-up. Safety guidelines will also be provided and adhered to.

Public Works Director Mary Ann Brenchick notes, "We undertake this community wide litter pick-up effort with residents twice a year, and we are looking forward to another successful morning as we beautify our city. It's a simple, positive activity to do individually or as part of a team with friends, family, or co-workers."

Mayor Carl L. Sheline adds, "Beautifying Lewiston should be an important goal for everyone. How our city looks makes a difference."

## Lewiston/Auburn Community Read: *Front Desk*



LEWISTON/AUBURN, ME (March 29, 2022) -- From April 25 to May 25, The Lewiston and Auburn Public Libraries are inviting both communities to participate in a city-wide read program, The Lewiston/Auburn Read. This year's community book selection is *Front Desk* by Kelly Yang.

Both libraries are planning a variety of activities and programs for readers of all ages to engage with Kelly Yang's book *Front Desk*. In addition to reading the book, participants will be encouraged to post selfies reading the book on social media accounts with #TheLewistonRead and/or #TheAuburnRead. "Last year's community read," states Lewiston Public Library's Children's Librarian, Sara Turner, "was such a success with participation from all over the city! I am excited to partner with Auburn Public Library this year and connect more with our community through Mia's inspiring story."

The Lewiston/Auburn Read is a partnership between the Lewiston and Auburn Public Libraries, Lewiston and Auburn Public Schools, and the Cities of Lewiston. Print copies of the book are available for checkout at both libraries, as an ebook or audiobook on the statewide CloudLibrary app for those with library cards, and at public elementary school libraries. Lewiston Public School's Elementary Librarian notes, "I am super excited that all of our community libraries in Lewiston and Auburn are working together for this read."

*Front Desk* is about Mia Tang, who lives in a motel, not a big house. Every day, while her immigrant parents clean the rooms, ten-year-old Mia manages the



front desk of the Calivista Motel and tends to its guests. Her parents hide immigrants and if the mean motel owner, Mr. Yao, finds out they've been letting them stay in the empty rooms for free, the Tangs will be doomed. She wants to be a writer, but how can she, when her mom thinks she should stick to math because English is not her first language? It will take all of Mia's courage, kindness, and hard work to get through this year. Will she be able to hold on to her job, help the immigrants and guests, escape Mr. Yao, and go for her dreams?

The author of the book, Kelly Yang, immigrated to America when she was six years old and grew up in Southern California, where she and her parents worked in three different motels. She eventually left the motels and went to college at the age of 13 and law school at the age of 17. She is a graduate of UC Berkeley, where she majored in Political Science, and Harvard Law School. After law school, she gave up law to pursue her passion of writing and teaching children writing. She is the founder of The Kelly Yang Project ([kellyyang.edu.hk](http://kellyyang.edu.hk)), a leading writing and debating program for kids in Asia. As a writing teacher for 13 years, Kelly helped thousands of children find their voice and become better writers and more powerful speakers. Before turning to fiction, she

was also a columnist for the South China Morning Post for many years. Her writing has been published in The New York Times, The Washington Post, and The Atlantic. She has three children and lives in Los Angeles.

For updates on programs in Lewiston related to the Lewiston/Auburn Read visit: [lplonline.org/the-lewiston-read/](http://lplonline.org/the-lewiston-read/) and like the Children's Department Facebook page at LPLKids. For more information contact the Lewiston Public Library Children's Department at 513-3133 or [LPLKids@lewistonmaine.gov](mailto:LPLKids@lewistonmaine.gov). The Lewiston Public Library is located downtown at 200 Lisbon Street at the corner of Pine Street.

For updates on programs in Auburn related to the Lewiston/Auburn Read visit the online monthly calendar eventkeeper.com/mars/xpages/A/AUBURNME/EKP.cfm?zeeOrg=AUBURNME and like the Auburn Public Library Advocates Facebook Page. For more information contact the Auburn Public Library Children's Department at 333-6640 extension 3. The Auburn Public Library is located at 49 Spring Street Auburn, Maine.

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## Robert Jordan Exhibition Opening April 9

FRYEBURG, ME (March 28, 2022) — The Pace Galleries of Art presents the exhibition opening reception for Robert Jordan: Valley Landscapes in Light and Shadow on Saturday, April 9th from 2:00-5:00 pm at the Leura Hill Eastman Performing Arts Center. Light hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be provided by the Fryeburg Kitchen and Marketplace restaurant. Admission is free.

A quiet but important voice in the tradition of American masters, Jordan brought his own interpretation of the American landscape to life through his celebrated paintings, drawings and prints.

His love of New England, the White Mountains and the countryside surrounding his South Conway, NH home represent the majority of his work.

Following the opening reception, the exhibition will be open to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am-1 pm when Fryeburg Academy is in session. We welcome you at other times by appointment. Please email [boxoffice@fryeburgacademy.org](mailto:boxoffice@fryeburgacademy.org), or call 207-544-9066 to schedule a visit at another time. The LHE/PAC is located on the campus of Fryeburg Academy at 18 Bradley Street in Fryeburg, Maine.



# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife Offers Fishing Reminders

### MAINE STATE-WIDE (April 1, 2022)

Get your rod, lures, and flies ready! No matter how much you love fishing through the ice, the anticipation of your first open water cast is always enjoyable.

For many anglers, ice-out is a favorite time to fish for landlocked salmon and lake trout, while others wait for the streams and rivers to warm up before casting a line. The old saying that the trout bite when "the leaves on the alders are as big as a mouse's ear" is still several weeks away in most parts of the state, but for those who just can't wait any longer (and we don't blame you!), we have a few suggested places and tips to try in the April Fishing Report. In some parts of the state there is still opportunity to set a tip up and

enjoy the last days on the hardwater.

If you haven't already checked out the map-based display of Special Fishing Laws, you are missing out! The Fishing Laws Online Angling Tool (FLOAT) is a great way to see which waters are regulated under Special Fishing Law. Just don't forget to read the General Laws, too.

Remember that the water is extremely cold this time of year, and water levels are often high and fast - ALWAYS wear a lifejacket. If ice fishing, please use extreme caution on the ice.

### Early spring fishing tips

"Fish slowly! The very cold water makes fish sluggish and trolling too fast with either live bait or lures is a sure way to miss hook-ups. Take your time and your patience may be

rewarded." - From Fisheries Resource Biologist Nick Kalejs

"For anglers looking to fly fish in the month of April we suggest using a "dropper" fly or a tandem streamer rig. Whether you are trolling, nymphing, swinging or casting streamers, adding a dropper fly allows you to cover multiple depths, presentations, colors, and sizes all at once. Experiment using streamers, wet flies, and nymphs until you find a tandem rig that works, just make sure the smaller of the flies is the second one tied on." - Fisheries Resource Technician Jake Scoville and Fisheries Resource Biologist Colin Shankland

"If you're fishing in a river or stream let the current do most of the work. Let your bait or lure drift a bit. Fish are still a bit

lethargic due to the cold temps so a fast presentation could lead to striking out for the day." - From Fisheries Resource Supervisor Jason Seiders

### Reminder: Ice fishing season dates

Remember that most of Maine's lakes and ponds open to ice fishing, remain open through the month of April.

South Zone: Under General Law in the South Zone, lakes and ponds are open to ice fishing and open water fishing year-round (unless otherwise stated in the special fishing laws section).

North Zone: In the North Zone, lakes and ponds with special season code "A" are open to ice fishing and open water fishing year-round; lakes and ponds with season code "B" are open to

ice fishing through April 30. Search Maine's special fishing laws (Search "A (Open)" or "B (Open)" in the regulation column in the regulation column to find which waters are open to ice fishing) or use the map-based Fishing Laws Online Angling Tool (FLOAT). After April 1, once the ice disappears, you can open water fish on most lakes and ponds in the North Zone.

**Ice fishing shacks:** A person who owns any shack or temporary structure used for ice fishing must remove the shack or structure (1) In any area of the State in which there is a closed ice fishing season, by ice out or 3 days after the close of the ice fishing season, whichever is earlier; and (2) In any area of the State in which there is no close of the ice fishing season, by ice out or March

31st, whichever is earlier.

### Enjoy your time on the water, and remember:

Leave no trace - Carry out all that you carry in.

Park in public or designated areas - Don't block paths or other roads. Be mindful of muddy and soft roads.

Respect private property - Utilize public access sites or areas where you have permission to park or access.

Be prepared - Check the weather, bring what you need for the day, and let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return.

Take care of your catch - If you are practicing catch and release, do so quickly and responsibly. If you harvest your catch, please bring it home with you.

## Healthy Living for ME Announces April Workshop Schedule

### MAINE STATE-WIDE (March 29, 2022)

Adult Mainers of all ages are invited to register for Healthy Living for ME's free and low-cost workshops that begin in April. Four workshops are scheduled to launch in April: HealthMatters, Better Health Now with Pain, the National Diabetes Prevention Program, and Better Health Now with Diabetes.

"We're pleased to be able to bring a variety of workshops to Mainers in April. Every step someone makes towards improving their health and better managing health conditions is worthwhile, and our workshops can help people make the lifestyle changes needed to see those improvements," said Libby Matthews, Registered Dietician of Healthy Living for ME.

"If you have questions, or would like to learn about other workshops that may be available in the future, please get in touch with us."

The schedule and details for Healthy Living for ME's April workshops are as follows:

**HealthMatters (in-person)** - This workshop will be held in-person at the Muskie Community Center in Waterville on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays beginning April 4, 2022. It is designed to help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities live a healthy lifestyle. Through exercise, nutrition and health education activities, this workshop helps participants become stronger and healthier, improve self-advocacy skills and confidence, and connect with peers as they

gain the knowledge, motivation and skills needed to create healthy habits that last a lifetime. This workshop is provided in partnership with Bridges Home Services.

**Better Health Now with Pain (by phone)** - This workshop is designed for those who experience long-term pain and/or their caregivers. It is scheduled to begin on April 5, 2022. Participants in this workshop receive a toolkit in the mail and work with a leader either by themselves or in small groups. Topics covered include pacing and planning, medication management, and the Moving Easy Program. This workshop is provided in partnership with Maine-General's Peter Alfond Prevention & Healthy Living Center.

National Diabetes

**Prevention Program (online)** - This workshop is conducted virtually and will begin on April 23rd. This is not a diet or exercise class, but a program led by a certified lifestyle coach that provides free health coaching to reduce a person's risk of developing Type 2 diabetes. Participants will learn to apply practical strategies to stay motivated, manage stress, prepare food, and avoid negative thoughts. Participants attend 16 weekly sessions followed by every other week sessions for the remainder of the year-long program. Additionally, our Registered Dietician will be available to support participants of the program. This workshop is provided in partnership with Spectrum Generations.

Better Health Now with Diabetes (by phone) -

This workshop is designed for those who have or are at risk of diabetes and/or their caregivers. It is scheduled to begin on April 27, 2022. Participants in this workshop receive a toolkit in the mail and work with a leader either by themselves or in small groups. Topics covered include techniques to deal with the symptoms of diabetes, fatigue, pain, hyper/hypoglycemia, stress, depression, anger, fear and frustration; appropriate exercise for maintaining and improving strength and endurance; healthy eating, appropriate use of medication; and working with healthcare providers. This workshop is provided in partnership with SeniorsPlus.

For virtual workshops, participants who do not have the necessary technology may be eli-

gible to borrow an iPad from Healthy Living for ME in order to participate.

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

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

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

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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## Over 5,000 Lewiston Students to Receive Free Eye Exams, Eyewear

**LEWISTON, MAINE (April 1, 2022)** – With many preventative healthcare visits like eye exams declining during the pandemic, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Maine is partnering with the Maine Education Association (MEA) Benefits Trust to provide free vision screenings, eye exams, and eyewear to more than 5,000 students in Lewiston.

These services will be provided by Optical Academy to students in Lewiston Public Schools March 31 through April 8.

“Having regular eye exams and addressing vi-

sion problems as soon as possible is important to your overall health,” said Dr. Richard Hom, Optometric Director for Anthem. “Preventative care visits dropped during the pandemic, especially in underserved communities, which is why it’s important to us that, through this partnership with MEA Benefits Trust and the Lewiston Public Schools, we are able to provide quality vision care and eyewear to the students in Lewiston who need it most.”

Optical Academy’s mobile team of technicians and optometrists will be on

site at a different school in Lewiston each day, providing vision screenings as well as comprehensive eye exams and eyewear for students who do not pass the initial screening. Most students needing eyeglasses will receive their newly prescribed eyewear on-site the same day from Optical Academy’s full-service pop-up optical shop. The Anthem Blue View Vision business unit is covering the cost of the clinic and all services are provided to students free of charge.

According to the American Optometric Association, one in five pre-

schoolers have vision problems, and by the time they enter school, 25 percent will need or wear corrective lenses. More than 60 percent of children found to have eye problems through screenings never visit a doctor. This clinic bridges that gap by providing a follow-up comprehensive eye exam and corrective eyewear the same day.

“Good vision skills are critical to effective reading, learning, and development,” said Jennifer Kent, Executive Director of the MEA Benefits Trust. “This clinic will help address any unresolved vision

health needs for students in Lewiston who may otherwise lack access to vision care, and we’re pleased to work with the Lewiston Public Schools staff and Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield to make this happen.”

“So much of the work done at Lewiston Public Schools is about breaking down barriers that students have to access their education,” said Jake Langlais, Lewiston Public Schools Superintendent. “The idea that students will have the opportunity to see the world with clarity because of the support

of Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, MEA Benefits Trust, and Optical Academy is moving. I can only imagine how this can change a student’s life. Imagine going from struggling to see to taking in the visual beauty of the world around you.”

Anthem is committed to being a lifetime, trusted health partner that meets the whole health needs of those we serve. In addition to health benefits and other health services, Blue View Vision covers routine vision services for approximately 9 million people across the country.

## Addressing High Energy Rates in the Legislature

**Guest Column by Sen. Nate Libby**

**AUGUSTA, ME (March 18, 2022)** -- Allow me to cut to the chase: The drastic increase in energy costs has placed an unanticipated strain on family budgets. Whether it be oil, propane or electricity, the increase in costs has made it harder for Maine families to keep their lights on and their homes warm. To put it bluntly, it is not acceptable. As Maine lawmakers, it is our job to be doing all we can to sensibly lower energy costs to help Maine families and small businesses stay afloat during this time. As a result, my colleagues and I are taking action to provide short-term relief as well as implement long-term solutions to make sure that Mainers are not subject to

dramatic increases in their energy bills every time the price of natural gas spikes like we have been this winter.

In terms of long-term solutions, I want to share a good bill from my colleague, Senate Majority Leader Eloise Vitelli, D-Arrowsic. The bill, LD 1913, “An Act To Review Strategies for Improving Utility Rate Affordability and To Provide Utility Relief,” consists of two key pieces. First, the bill directs the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to create a program designed to provide relief for older Mainers and families who are struggling to pay their electricity bills. Additionally, the bill creates a commission of stakeholders who would be tasked with analyzing energy rates to

ensure price swings don’t hit Mainers like they have. I am keeping a close eye on this bill as it makes its way through the legislative process.

With that said, Mainers are also in need of relief right now. That’s why I am grateful that Senate President Troy Jackson, D-Allagash, introduced LD 2010, “An Act to Help Maine Residents with High Electricity Costs.” Like LD 1913, this bill is still moving through the legislative process. If it were to become law, it would provide a one-time \$1,000 tax rebate for residential ratepayers and \$2,500 tax rebate for businesses with high-energy burdens.

Another bill, LD 1966, “An Act To Facilitate Access to Heating Assistance,” from Sen. Chip

Curry, D-Belfast, directs the Maine Housing Authority to require local program operators and administrators to process applications for heating assistance through the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) online while also streamlining the process to get assistance to Maine people as fast as they can. Currently, too many people qualify for assistance but haven’t received relief because of long wait times for approval.

The last bill I want to mention is LD 2006, “An Act to Improve the Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program” from Rep. Reagan LaRochelle, D-Augusta. This bill also seeks to make improvements to the Home Energy Assistance Program. The proposal would direct the

Maine Housing Authority to establish the HEAP Administrative Efficiency Fund and to use these funds to hire more workers with the goal of lowering wait times for applications, which would be helpful to those that are applying for HEAP as well as the hard-working employees at Maine Housing.

I also want to be clear that, while the HEAP programs are in need of improvement, they can still provide you with quality assistance. If you or someone you know is struggling to pay their heating bills, I suggest reaching out to Maine Housing Authority to see if you are eligible for their Home Energy Assistance Programs. You

can call them at 1-877-544-3271 or send an email to [LIHEAP@mainehousing.org](mailto:LIHEAP@mainehousing.org). Similarly, if you find yourself in a situation where your fuel company does not respond to a request for service, you should contact the Consumer Protecting Division at the Maine Attorney General’s Office to file a complaint. You can call them at 207-626-8849 or send an email to [consumer.mediation@maine.gov](mailto:consumer.mediation@maine.gov).

As always, if you or your family need help finding resources, please visit [211maine.org](http://211maine.org), or reach out to my office at any time. You can email me at [Nathan.Libby@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Nathan.Libby@legislature.maine.gov) or call my office at (207) 287-1515.

## 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 donation 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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# Maine's Community Colleges Adopt Debt Forgiveness Program

**AUGUSTA, ME (March 30, 2022)** – Maine's community colleges are launching a new debt forgiveness program that eliminates up to \$2,000 in student debt for all former students.

The Maine Community College System (MCCS) Board of Trustees voted unanimously to approve the change at their meeting Wednesday at the Augusta Civic Center.

"It's time to come back and finish what you started," said Janet Sortor, chief academic officer and vice president of MCCS. "These students have already proven they can succeed academically. They just need a little help getting over the finish line."

The new program

takes effect immediately. "We want our students to succeed, and this is a great way to welcome them back and help them complete their degree or certificate without being burdened by student debt," MCCS President David Daigler said. "We do everything possible to make Maine's community college affordable. We have the lowest tuition in New England. We distribute more than \$50 million a year in grants and scholarships. We provide emergency funds to students when needed. This debt forgiveness program is one more chance to show our students we believe in them and support them."

Former MCCS students can take advantage

of the "Return, Resume, Reward" small debt forgiveness program if they owe no more than \$2,000, it has been at least two years since they attended a Maine community college, they enroll in at least six credits, and they maintain good academic standing.

A student's past debt is set aside during the program, and half of the past debt (up to \$1,000) is forgiven after the first semester. The second half is forgiven after the second semester.

Several of the system's seven colleges have had an unofficial debt forgiveness program in place, allowing a student to re-enroll or access college services despite a small debt. This formalizes the process

for all the colleges.

Tuition at Maine's community colleges is \$96 per credit, and the average cost of tuition and fees for a year of full-time study is \$3,700.

Since the pandemic began, the colleges have distributed \$24.5 million in federal pandemic relief funds directly to students for emergency aid, and the colleges have used almost \$1 million in institutional pandemic relief funds to clear debts incurred by students during the pandemic. In addition, The Foundation for Maine's Community Colleges distributed \$1 million in scholarships last fall.

Also Wednesday, the trustees were briefed on the details of \$8.5 million

in recent federal appropriations for Maine's community colleges:

\$4,000,000 for Eastern Maine Community College's Katahdin Region Economic, Community, and Family Development project, expanding child care for EMCC students.

\$1,000,000 for Northern Maine Community College's Mechanized Logging Operations Training Program.

\$988,000 for Northern Maine Community College's Expansion of Safety Training for Wind Turbine Technicians.

\$1,000,000 for Southern Maine Community College's Accelerated and Expanded Manufacturing Training.

\$977,000 for the

Maine Aquaculture Innovation Center's Building the Next Generation of Maine's Seafood Workforce at Washington County Community College and Southern Maine Community College.

\$567,000 for Northern Maine Community College's electrical construction and maintenance program.

"We will use these funds to add new tools for teaching logging, wind power and aquaculture, debut a new mobile lab to take our welding program on the road to where it's needed most, and increase access to child care in the Katahdin region," Daigler said. "This is an incredible investment that will pay off for decades."

# Pine Tree Society Offers Free Conference for Parents of Children with Disabilities

**ROME, ME (March 28, 2022)** – On Saturday, May 21 parents and guardians of children with disabilities will be welcomed to Pine Tree Camp for a free, day-long conference featuring leading experts in childhood development and disabilities.

For many, the Pine Tree Society Children's Conference will be the first opportunity they've had to connect with other parents and providers.

"The last two years have been hard for everyone, and if you're a parent of a child with a disability,

it's been even harder," said Noel Sullivan, president and CEO of Pine Tree Society. "Many of the supports parents relied on disappeared overnight and opportunities to network and connect with other parents became non-existent, leading to a sense of

isolation and loss of community."

Attendees will have the opportunity to network with presenters and other parents and will leave with a wealth of resources and actionable strategies and tips to immediately put into practice at home and school.

The final lineup of speakers and workshops are in the process of being confirmed.

Presenters will be leading experts in the fields of:

- Childhood disabilities and child development
- Children's behav-

ioral and mental health and language

- Communication
- Case management
- Occupational therapy

- Outdoor recreation
- Learning through play

Topics will include:

- Navigating periods of transition
- Building social skills and social lives
- Self-advocacy and supportive decision-making

- Supporting children's mental health through the pandemic

What: Pine Tree So-

ciety's Children's Conference

Where: Pine Tree Camp; 114 Pine Tree Camp Rd.; Rome, Maine

When: Saturday, May 21; 9:00AM – 4:00PM

Register: Space is limited and registration is required for this free, day-long conference. Register at this link: <https://pinetreesociety.wufoo.com/forms/z107qtv11cl1ual/>

For more information visit: <https://www.pinetreesociety.org/children-and-families/childrens-conference-2022/> or call 207-386-6956.

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## Seniors Not Acting Their Age

# A Final Winter Ski on Rangeley Lakes Trails



A large trail map on a kiosk at the Tote Road Junction helps skiers plan their itinerary



Skiers travel through the scenic Tote Road Trail at Rangeley Lakes Trails



A pair of classic skiers enter boulder-strewn Bridge Trail at Rangeley Lakes Trails

### By Ron Chase

Finding quality Nordic skiing opportunities in the Maine foothills and along the coastal plain this winter has been a challenge. A succession of mixed precipitation storms resulted in minimal snow pack and often icy surfaces.

Based on my experience, Rangeley Lakes Trails Center located on the north slope of the Saddleback Mountain Range usually has colder weather and receives more reliable snowfall. That has been generally true again this winter. However, they also had some rain and warm temperatures. I'd been watching their trail reports for an opportunity for a final ski before winter ended.

In mid-March, the Rangeley area received several inches of new snow. Emails were quickly exchanged between my wife, Nancy, and me and our retired friends, Diane and John Stokinger. Within a couple of hours, we'd cleared our calendars and made motel reservations for two days of skiing

and snowshoeing on the Rangeley Lakes Trails; proof that elderly folks can respond with alacrity when sufficiently motivated.

Rangeley Lakes Trails Center is operated by Rangeley Lakes Cross Country Ski Club, a non-profit organization. There are over 55 kilometers of trails available for Nordic skiing, snowshoeing, and fat tire biking. According to their website, they average 200 inches of snowfall annually!

Not surprisingly, it was snowing when we arrived at the Rangeley Trails distinctive yurt and parking area on Saddleback Mountain Road in Rangeley. The heated yurt is a focal point for activity where passes are purchased and hot soup and snacks served.

The expansive trail system provides a multitude of skiing choices. The trail map suggested several loop options that varied from under five kilometers to almost fifteen. The four of us decided to ski the straightforward Tote Road Trail to a major junction that connects

with more difficult distant routes before selecting our ultimate itinerary.

Although trails had been groomed, a layer of fresh snow covered surfaces. Classic tracks were packed by previous skiers, so we enjoyed an efficient kick and glide traveling in a conifer forest decorated with a colorful accumulation of clinging snow to the intended junction where there was a kiosk with a large map. After carefully studying the options, my companions chose a middle distance loop that included scenic View Trail. I decided on perimeter trails that ended with my favorite, Larry Hall Trail.

After an easy ski northwesterly on Lower Pipeline Trail, I ascended steadily northeast on Hoffman's Run to Lower Pump House Road on the northernmost extreme of the trail network. I continued on rolling terrain to prominent Junction Rock where Bridge Trail and Upper Pump House Road also converge.

A pair of passing skiers departed south next to

a succession of substantial boulders on Bridge Trail as I began climbing gradually on Upper Pump House. The trail steepened when entering an open area in an extensive stand of hardwoods with filtered views of Saddleback Mountain on my left and Saddleback Lake in the west. The sweeping vistas continued when I joined Nat's Alley on the lower shoulder of Saddleback.

Following a gradual descent on Nat's Alley, I crossed Upper Pipeline Trail and joined Larry Hall Trail. Tumbling down narrow twisting Larry Hall to the yurt was a thoroughly exhilarating endeavor. My companions had yet to return, so I embarked west on two-mile Geneva Loop. The entertaining course was a series of long descents and easy climbs

again ending at the yurt. This time, all of the seniors not acting their ages were present and accounted for. Everyone reported a most excellent day on the trails.

Light snow had fallen in the night so there was a coating of new powder on the trails to start day two. My fellow retirees elected to explore snowshoe paths instead of skiing.

Intent on skiing, I completed Geneva Loop and proceeded east on Tote Road. Recently groomed surfaces dictated the remainder of my course selection. At Tote Road junction, I turned right and scaled Upper Pipeline for about a mile to Nat's Alley. From that point, I reversed the prior day's route to the yurt arriving simultaneously with the snowshoers.

Rangeley Lakes Trails Center was a great

place to end our winter skiing and snowshoeing. If fates allow, we'll return next year.

A Rangeley Trails ski trip while searching for an elusive bobcat is the theme of a chapter in my latest book, *Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine* in Maine.

Ron Chase resides in 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](mailto:ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net)

## What do you think?

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# Arts & Entertainment

## CLT's *Disaster!* Opens April 7



Cast members for CLT's *Disaster!* are left to right Dan Kane, Ashleigh Meaghan St. Pierre, Sophie Messina, John Nutting, Justin Morin, Danielle Eaton, Gregory Judd, Jennifer Fox, Ainsley Watson

**AUBURN, ME (March 25, 2022)** -- L/A Community Little Theater's next production is bound to be a disaster - *Disaster! The Musical*, that is! Join CLT on a hilarious trip back to the disco era aboard an ill-fated floating casino as *Disaster!* opens April 7.

According to Director Brandon Chaloux, *Disaster!* pokes fun at all the disaster movies from the the 70's such as *The Poseidon Adventure* and *The Towering Inferno*. "If you've seen these movies and, if you grew up in the 70's, you'll get a lot of the references like Lite-Brite and shag carpets". Chaloux stated that *Disaster!* was chosen because it's light-hearted, fun, easy to watch, and family friendly. "That's

what we all need right now," he added.

Chaloux said he grew up watching disaster movies with his grandfather and he appreciates the humor in *Disaster!* "One of the funnest aspects of doing this show was to find the jokes and take them as far as they will go."

*Disaster!* is the story of the grand opening of New York's first floating casino. The casino's owner Tony Delveccio, played by Dan Kane, has had to cut corners on safety but has decided to ignore the many warnings. Gregory Judd plays Professor Ted Schneider, an expert who desperately tries to save the ship from impending disasters but is repeatedly thwarted by Delveccio.

As the casino sets sail we meet a waiter and his best friend (Alex Venturelli and Justin Morin), a lonely feminist reporter (Danielle Eaton), a lounge singer hoping for an engagement ring (Jennifer Fox), along with her 11-year old twins (Ainsley Watson), a faded disco star (Ashleigh Meaghan St. Pierre), a couple celebrating retirement (Renee Mahon Davis and John Nutting), and a nun addicted to gambling (Sophie Messina), all among the unique assortment of guests. The evening quickly goes from excitement to terror in a hilarious fashion as the party goes face earthquakes, tidal waves, infernos and even piranhas! All this with memorable disco tunes such as

*Saturday Night Fever*, *Hot Stuff* and *Sky High* along with the crazy fashions and flashy lights of the 70's!

*Disaster!* will be performed April 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16 at 7:30 p.m., and April 10 and 17 at 2:00 p.m. Call 783-0958 or visit [LACLt.com](http://LACLt.com) for tickets and information, including the theatre's new COVID policy.

L/A Community Little Theatre, located at 30 Academy Street in Auburn, has been producing live theatre since 1940. A volunteer, non-profit organization, our goal is to provide affordable and-quality entertainment in the performing arts as well as education, training, and experience in theatre for area youth. [www.laclt.com](http://www.laclt.com).

## WLU Prom Gown Giveaway



**AUBURN, ME (March 18, 2022)** -- Looking for a free dress for prom? The Woman's Literary Union Prom Gown Giveaway is back!

You can get a free dress at the WLU Fairy Godmother Gown Giveaway from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Apr. 9, at the Foss Mansion at 19 Elm St. in Auburn.

Do you want to help make a girl's dreams come true? You can donate new or clean formal dresses, gowns or accessories, such as shoes, purses, earrings, in good condition for the WLU to give away

to young women for free. Call Kathy Lawrence at 207-795-6134 or Doreen Jordan at 207-577-1784 for more information and for drop-off instructions.

The Woman's Literary Union was organized in 1892 with a mission of intellectual, cultural, and educational advancement of the community and to preserve the Foss Mansion which is on the National Registry of Historic Places. The WLU of Androscoggin County is a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organization. For more information check [womens-literaryunion.org](http://womens-literaryunion.org)

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# OSJL to Provide Supplies to Ukraine



An OSJL tractor trailer.

**North Kingstown, RI - (March 30, 2022)** – Ocean State Job Lot (OSJL) is pleased to announce that its “Relief for Ukraine” program has resulted in the donation to date of six tractor trailer loads of health and hygiene products, nutritious food, and warm clothing, as well as frontline medical supplies to Ukrainian refugee efforts. The desperately needed medical supplies were supplied in partnership with Partners for World Health, based in Portland, ME.

The “Relief for Ukraine” program, which began on March 1, is host-

ed at each of the closeout discount retailer’s 147 stores across the Northeast and asks customers to make monetary donations to support the Ukrainian refugee families that have been forced to leave their homes during the Russian invasion.

Additional supplies were distributed through OSJL’s partnership with Saint Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Boston, MA, and additional funding was provided to the Ocean State Job Lot Charitable Foundation by the New England Patriots and the Kraft Family Foundation.

OSJL tractor trailers are transporting supplies to Port Handy, NJ, where they are airlifted to Poland and subsequently distributed throughout Ukraine by the company’s European partners, including Razom, International Charitable Foundation, among others.

“OSJL is a nimble organization, and we pride ourselves on our ability to provide relief where it’s needed, when it’s needed, and to those who need it most - even in conflict

zones,” said David Sarlitto, Executive Director, Ocean State Job Lot Charitable Foundation. “It was important that we leveraged our connections and resources to immediately support Ukrainian refugees. Thanks to the generosity of our incredible customers, our business partners here in the U.S., as well as our distribution partners in Ukraine, we’ve been able to get these supplies to those suffering overseas in a timely and efficient manner.”



Representatives from Partners for World Health pose in front of an OSJL tractor trailer full of supplies for Ukraine.



An OSJL distribution center associate moving a pallet of supplies for Ukraine.

## Scholarships Available to Women Pursuing Science, Engineering Degrees

**ELLSWORTH & PORTLAND (March 28, 2022)**—Applications are currently being accepted at the Maine Community Foundation (MaineCF) for the Lydia R. Laurendeau Scholarship Fund.

Established in 2013, the Laurendeau Fund provides renewable scholarship support to young women who are graduating seniors from high schools in Maine pursuing post-secondary education in science or engineering at a four-year university. There is a preference for applicants demonstrating an interest and/or actively

participating in their Franco-American heritage.

The deadline for applications is June 1. Applications are available at [www.mainecef.org](http://www.mainecef.org).

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 has offices in Ellsworth and Portland with staff and volunteers throughout the state. It works with donors and other partners to provide

strong investments, personalized service, local expertise and strategic giving to improve the quality of life for all Maine people. To learn more about the community foundation, visit [www.mainecef.org](http://www.mainecef.org).

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

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# Take a Trip to 'Oz' With The Public Theatre

LEWISTON, ME and BOSTON, MA (March 25, 2022) -- The Broadway sensation 'Wicked' is coming to Boston and The Public Theatre has your ticket! On Sunday, July 10th, The Public Theatre will be filling a private coach to attend a matinee performance of 'Wicked' at the Citizens Bank Opera House in Boston. The private coach will depart The Public Theatre in Lewiston at 7:00 AM

and arrive at Quincy Market in time for shopping and lunch. Enjoy the 1:00 PM matinee followed by a sit-down dinner on the way back to Lewiston. Tickets cost \$210 per person and include round trip travel and a front mezzanine seat to 'Wicked.' Meals and gratuity are not included. For more information visit thepublictheatre.org or call (207) 782-3200. Space is limited and the bus is filling up fast so call and re-



serve your seat today. Reservations must be made prior to April 30th and are subject to availability.

Please note that all travelers must show proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test for qual-

ifying individuals. Masks must be worn on the bus and inside the theatre except when eating or drinking in designated areas. Proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test for qualifying individuals is also required to gain access to the Boston Opera House.

About the show: 'Wicked' looks at what happened in the Land of Oz...but from a different angle. Long before

Dorothy arrives, there is another girl, born with emerald-green skin – smart, fiery, misunderstood, and possessing an extraordinary talent. When she meets a bubbly blonde who is exceptionally popular, their initial rivalry turns into the unlikeliest of friendships...until the world decides to call one "good," and the other one "wicked." 'Wicked' is recommended for theatre enthusiasts ages 8 and up.

# Consent: A Poetry Reading & Conversation

AUBURN, ME (March 29, 2022) -- Join award winning poet, Lynne Schmidt, reading from their collection SexyTime, a poetry collection that explores themes of consent and intimacy. Afterward, participate in a conversation led by Bridget McAlonan, Prevention Education Coordinator from the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Services (SAPARS). This conversation will explore what consent looks like and how to communicate boundaries with a partner.

This program is offered in celebration of National Poetry Month and

in recognition of National Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Month.

This program will take place via Zoom; for our planning purposes, registration is required. To register, visit the events page of our website or email dwallace@auburnpubliclibrary.org. Registrants will be emailed the Zoom link on the day of the program.

For more information on this or other upcoming virtual programs offered by the Auburn Public Library, visit our website (auburnpubliclibrary.org), our Facebook page (Auburn Public Library Advocates), call the



Lynne Schmidt

Reference Desk at 207-333-6640, ext. 4, or email Donna, as above.

Consent: A Poetry Reading and Conversation with Poet Lynne Schmidt & Bridget McAlonan of SAPARS

When: Monday,

April 11, 2022 -- 6:00- 7:00 pm Zoom

Where: Online via Contact: Donna Wallace, 333-6640, ext. 4

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## Sabattus Running Group Continues Free Group Runs

SABATTUS, ME (March 29, 2022) -- The Sabattus Rec running group continues to hold free group runs every Wednesday night at 6 p.m. The group meets in front of Mixer's Nightclub on Sa-

battus Rd. each week. The runs/walks usually last between 30-45 minutes. With the later sunsets, the temps warming a bit, and the race season returning, it's time to get back out there and get some exercise, and

maybe make a few new friends in the process.

These runs are free, sociable, no-pressure runs, and are open to anyone at any level of ability, from walkers to racers. There are usually a few different options for distances, and for paces. There is usually someone to match up with, or you can bring a friend. We have several different routes to pick from, depending on the distance preferred. And there is plenty of support.

For more information, email running@sabattusrec.com, or find us on Facebook at Sabattus Rec Club Running Program.

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



# City of Lewiston Hires New Employees



Shelley Norton



Adam Jones



Jacqueline Cruet



Pauline Chouinard

**LEWISTON, ME (March 10, 2022)** -- Shelley Norton has been hired as a City Planner by the Code & Planning Department. She previously worked as a Land Use Planner for the Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments since 2017 and as a Planner for the Town of Malta, New York, for four years prior. She has a Master's in Landscape Architecture from Cornell University, has practiced as a Landscape Architect in New York, and became

a Certified Planner in 2020. Adam Jones has been hired as a Code Enforcement Officer in the Code and Planning Department. He graduated from Mesalonskee High School in 2002 and went on to attend Colby-Sawyer College. Post college, he obtained numerous certifications and licenses, which has allowed him to serve many industries starting in real estate after college to his most recent position as a Certified Occupancy Specialist/Property Manager

in the Central Maine area. He also has been an internationally published professional photographer and business owner for over 18 years. Adam is a member of the Lisbon Fire Department where he obtained his Firefighter I & II certifications in 2018 and is working towards his EMT-B license. Jacqueline Cruet has been hired as Lewiston's Neighborhood Development Planner. In this role, she coordinates the City's Choice Neighbor-

hood Implementation grant work and works with residents and community partners to support implementation of the City's Growing our Tree Streets Transformation Plan. Jacqueline comes to Lewiston from Miami, Florida, where she spent the past thirteen years leading community building efforts and community dialogue around public land and policy through her role as Assistant Director of the National Parks Conservation Association. She

holds a Master's in Public Administration from the Florida International University and Bachelor of Arts with High Honors in American Studies from Smith College. Pauline Chouinard is the new Administrative Assistant for Code & Planning and Community Development. Pauline is a Lewiston native, graduated from Lewiston High School, and has earned a variety of certificates from the University of Southern Maine and the University

of Maine. Previously, she had a 30-year career in local and regional banking, as well as most recently working at Concentric by Ginko.

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

## Botanical Bookmarks at LPL

**BOTANICAL BOOKMARKS**  
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Create your own personalized springtime bookmark with pressed flowers and herbs.

This free program is directed towards adults. To register, contact [lpreference@lewistonmaine.gov](mailto:lpreference@lewistonmaine.gov) or 513-3135

Lewiston PUBLIC LIBRARY

**LEWISTON, ME (March 23, 2022)** -- The Lewiston Public Library will be hosting a bookmark crafting program on Tuesday, April 19th at 5:30pm. The program involves creating a personalized spring themed bookmark using assorted pressed flowers and herbs, colorful paper, and

choice of tassel or decorative ribbon. Optional plastic coverings will be available to protect the bookmarks from wear and tear. This free program is directed toward adults. Register in advance by calling 513-3135 or emailing [lpreference@lewistonmaine.gov](mailto:lpreference@lewistonmaine.gov). Bo-

tomark Bookmarks is sponsored by the Lewiston Public Library. The Lewiston Public Library is located downtown at 200 Lisbon Street at the corner of Pine Street. For more information, contact the Lewiston Public Library at [lpreference@lewistonmaine.gov](mailto:lpreference@lewistonmaine.gov) or 513-3135.

**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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# Maine Farmers Will Need Our Support

**Guest Column by Ned Claxton**

**(April 1, 2022)** -- Farming has always been a tough way of life. Getting up each day at the crack of dawn, putting your body to work day in and day out, and working with your hands isn't easy. That's why Maine farmers are some of the hardest folks in our state. We rely on them on a daily basis. Since the pandemic first began two years ago, however, things have only gotten more challenging. From supply chain issues, to staffing difficulties to just dealing with the virus, tough work became even more difficult. Now, Maine farmers are facing a new challenge and they need our support.

PFAS, or "forever chemicals," have gotten a lot more attention in recent years. They are a group of

man-made chemicals commonly found in household cleaning products, food packaging, stain-resistant products and more. What's alarming is that these chemicals have been shown to be harmful to our health, especially with prolonged and repeated exposure. Health impacts can include reproductive issues, birth defects, developmental effects and delays for children, increased risk of cancer and more. While at this time we don't believe average Mainers need to be overly concerned with their own exposure to PFAS (though I would encourage everyone to be conscious of it), Maine farmers have been affected at a particularly high rate.

In large part, this is due to the practice of spreading sludge, derived from municipal waste-

water treatment plants, as fertilizer. This sludge was seen as an inexpensive way to fertilize fields and a good use of the remnants of the water treatment process. This has come at a cost, however, as PFAS chemicals that were washed down the drain or flushed down the toilet became concentrated in the sludge and have contaminated soil and water. As testing for PFAS has ramped up over the past year, it seems like each day another Maine farm is discovering that the PFAS levels in their land and water far exceed currently acceptable amounts of the chemicals. These folks are finding out that they can't sell their crops to the community anymore and can't even feed their own families. The stories are devastating. Being the upstanding Mainer that they are,

lots of Maine farms have voluntarily removed their products from the shelves in order to protect us. But now, they need our support.

In the Legislature, we're taking action to prevent further spreading of PFAS, and we're also considering measures that would provide direct relief to farmers who have been affected. Last year, we passed a new law that will prohibit the sale of products containing PFAS by 2030, exempting products where the chemicals are considered to be unavoidable. We also allocated millions in the biennial budget for PFAS remediation and testing, which has already begun.

Last month we passed LD 1875, which would require that leachate, which is the liquid that that originates from

dumpsites and landfills, be treated so as to prevent further contamination of surrounding land and water. We will also be taking up legislation that would prohibit land-based sludge application – the same practice that has contaminated so much of our farmland. In addition, the bill would end the sale of bagged sludge-based fertilizers in home and garden stores throughout the state. This is a critical and obvious step to take to prevent further spreading of these toxic chemicals. Finally, we are considering several bills to financially back farmers who have lost their businesses.

Maine is one of the first states to start to deal with PFAS, but other states are close behind. Though what we're learning is saddening and also frightening, I know we must con-

tinue pushing forward and doing all we can to protect our future generations and to support our farmers in the short-term. We can't afford to let our agricultural businesses go under. For more information on what the state is doing to address PFAS contamination, you can visit [www.maine.gov/dep/spills/topics/pfas/](http://www.maine.gov/dep/spills/topics/pfas/). For specific questions, you can email the Department of Environmental Protection at [pfas.dep@maine.gov](mailto:pfas.dep@maine.gov) or call (207) 287-5842. You can also view the UMaine Cooperative Extension's guide by visiting [extension.umaine.edu/agriculture/guide-to-investigating-pfas-risk-on-your-farm/](http://extension.umaine.edu/agriculture/guide-to-investigating-pfas-risk-on-your-farm/).

If you have any questions, comments or ideas, don't hesitate to contact me at [Ned.Claxton@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Ned.Claxton@legislature.maine.gov) or (207) 287-1515.

## Hon. Eric Brakey Announces Candidacy for Maine State Senate

**AUBURN, ME (March 21, 2022)** -- Hon. Eric Brakey has officially qualified for the Maine State Senate District 20 race. The former State Senator, a resident of Auburn, is seeking to return to the Senate to represent the people of Auburn, Durham, Poland and New Gloucester.

"I am running for State Senate to restore the freedom and paychecks of the Maine people," said Brakey. "Big spending politicians are robbing Mainers with high taxes and inflation, enriching the special interests while destroying our economy. They want to tell everyone how to live, but are out-of-touch with Mainers living outside of Portland. We need real change. I am grateful for the support I've received so far in the cam-

paign, and look forward to returning to Augusta to fight for the Maine people."

Brakey was twice elected to the Senate District 20 seat, representing the people of Auburn, New Gloucester, Poland, Minot, and Mechanic Falls from 2014 to 2018. During his two terms, he served as Chair of the Legislature's Health and Human Services Committee and was a key advocate for issues including welfare reform and constitutional carry.

In 2018, Brakey ran for U.S. Senate, and in 2020 he ran for U.S. Congress.

Previously employed by his family's business helping people reduce their electricity bills, Brakey most recently worked as the national spokesman for Young



Americans for Liberty. "Eric is incredibly hardworking and a strong advocate for personal liberties. I'm glad that he's running to once again

serve in the Maine Senate and look forward to having him back at the State House," said Senate Republican Leader Jeff Timberlake (R-Andros-

cogin).

Brakey will be holding an official campaign launch event at Rolly's Diner on March 31st. The event is open to anyone

who would like to attend and show their support for the campaign. Former Governor LePage and local officials are expected to be in attendance.

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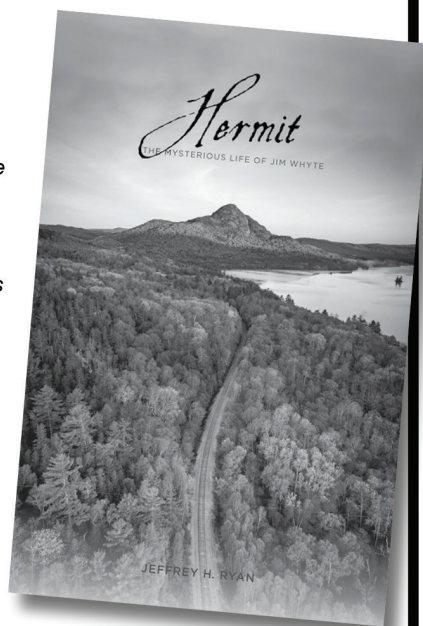
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— George Smith, Bangor Daily News

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# Portland Announces Monument(al) Market, Seeks Vendors

**PORTLAND, ME (March 29, 2022)** -- Portland Downtown in conjunction with Monument Square property and business owners is proud to announce the Monument(al) Market in the Square, a Thursday spring and summer market launching in Monument Square

on Thursday, May 19th. In a continued effort to program Monument Square and bring vibrancy to one of our city's most compelling plazas, Portland Downtown is teaming up with Monument Square business and property owners to recruit makers, artists, and other vendors to

offer their wares Thursdays throughout the spring and summer. "This Monument(al) Market in the Square will bring vibrancy to one of our premier locations in the city. It will help local entrepreneurs while at the same time being an active space that will entice tourists and

others. We hope folks will also buy lunch or a snack at nearby restaurants and eat outside. We're excited to continue to bring activity to our downtown," said Cary Tyson, executive director of Portland Downtown. "Despite the pandemic Monument Square has continued to reinvent

itself over the last few years: Revitalized historic buildings, new condos, and apartment buildings, and new restaurants and food establishments. The one thing that is still missing, the one thing that everyone has been asking for, is for a return of a market to the Square!" -Bill Stauffer,

owner 22 Monument Square & Vice Chair, Mechanics' Hall Interested vendors can complete an application available at portland-maine.com/Monumental-Market For more information email cary@portland-maine.com

# Portland Downtown Launches Clean-Up Initiative

**PORTLAND, ME (March 29, 2022)** — Portland Downtown's inaugural downtown clean-up initiative Green Gulls will launch on Earth Day (Friday, April 22nd, 2022). It will extend throughout the summer, ending on Friday, Sep. 30th. Named after Portland's seagulls, known for slurping food off of sidewalks and keeping down-

town Portland's streets clean of leftovers, Green Gulls takes that same idea, but makes it green. Participants are encouraged to dedicate 10 minutes — or less! — each morning to tidy their stoops — think of the easy stuff, like sweeping steps, picking up litter, and/or discarding cigarette butts! David Wood Cloth-

iers, a Commercial Street business in downtown Portland, has been doing this for some time. "At David Wood Clothiers, we begin every morning by tidying up the sidewalk and street facing our storefront. That simple, daily routine — taking only 5-10 minutes — expanded over the years, and has created the inspiration for a

local initiative. Partnering with Portland Downtown, we're launching Green Gulls to promote how we can all help in creating a cleaner Portland — block by block by block," said Sara Hutchinson Brown, David Wood Clothiers. This small, daily commitment will help downtown Portland start each day feeling and looking re-

freshed, while also stopping plastic and other trash from blowing into our beloved Casco Bay. Together, Green Gulls will help put our community's best — & webbed — foot forward! "While our downtown public works crew is constantly at work addressing downtown beautification, there's simply not enough person power to get everywhere fast. Like most other businesses, we're dealing with staffing shortages, as well. 10 minutes — or less — can go a long way," said Cary Tyson,

Portland Downtown executive director. Green Gulls participants will be provided materials (brooms, dustpans, gloves) and be regularly rewarded for doing their part to keep Portland clean. Want to join the Green Gulls flock? Interested downtown businesses, property owners, and/or residents can fill out our form here or email Portland Downtown Marketing & Events Coordinator McKenzie Delisle for more information.

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## The Auburn Lewiston Airport Board Announces New Airport Manager

**AUBURN / LEWISTON, ME (February 22, 2022)** -- The Auburn Lewiston Airport has named James H. Scheller, C.M. as the new Airport Manager.



In this role, Mr. Scheller will build upon the existing success of the Auburn Lewiston Airport (LEW) to strengthen operations, develop business opportunities, and ensure excellence in service to pilots, passengers, visitors and tenants.

working with stakeholders and community organizations to increase the utilization of the Auburn Lewiston Airport," said Mr. Scheller. "I am excited to be a vital part of the Auburn Lewiston community in the capacity of its Airport Manager. With the support of the Board and community leaders, together we can continue the development and continued success of the Airport!"

Mr. Scheller began his new position on January 14, 2022. Mr. Scheller brings twelve years of commercial airport business experience, most recently serving as the Landside Operations Supervisor for the Houston Airport System's — Houston Hobby Airport - North America's first and only 5-Star Airport.

Mr. Scheller earned his bachelor's degree in Aviation Management from the Southern Illinois University. He went on to earn master's degrees in Aviation Operations and Business Administration from Everglades University. He is a Certified Member (A.A.E.) of the American Association of Airport Executives.

Prior to his position as Properties/Advertising Administrator for the Sarasota Bradenton International Airport where he assisted the Properties Department in generating streams of revenue, and creating partnerships with the local community.

Mr. Scheller retired from the United States Marine Corps as a Captain. Mr. Scheller's twenty-six years of military service was in the area of aircraft maintenance, as well as aircrew/aircraft life support systems.

"I look forward to

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



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**Ap. 6, Ap. 13**  
LEWISTON --  
3:30PM, Lewiston Public Library, MAKE ART WITH ARTVAN ArtVan will be providing an in-person hands-on creative art program in the Children's Department of the Lewiston Public Library for children ages 5-14 (ages 5-8 must be accompanied by an adult) for self-expression, personal growth, and fun. Free. All art supplies will be provided. 513-3133; [www.LPLonline.org](http://www.LPLonline.org)

**Starting Ap. 7 and every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 [lprefere@lewistonmaine.gov](mailto:lprefere@lewistonmaine.gov), or go to [lplonline.org/events/teen-tabletop-rpgs/](http://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 | [lact-1](http://lact-1) for tick-

# Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

ets and information. Please visit at <https://www.lact.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. 13**  
TURNER -- Androscoggin Retired Educators will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 13, 2022 at The Highlands in Turner. The cost of the meal is \$18 per person. The High-

lands are located on Rt. 117 in Turner. The address is 40 Highland Ave. From Auburn follow Route 4 north to Turner, turn on to Route 117 and just follow the road to the restaurant. The speakers for this meeting will be the Clarks who own Clarks Greenhouse on Route 4. All retired educators are welcome to attend. You need not have taught in Androscoggin County, or even in the State of Maine. For a list of luncheon entrees and reservation contact Crystal at 786-7084.

**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

**Ap. 23**  
GRAY -- Dine-In as well as Take-Out Baked Bean Supper is now being offered by the First Con-

gregation Church of Gray. Saturday, April 23, 2022, at the Parish House, 5 Brown Street. Gray. Take-Out pick up is between 4:30 - 5:00 P.M., Dine In begins at 5:15 P.M. You must make reservations for both Dine-In or Take-Out.

Contact Carol 650-9093 and let her know your name, phone number, how many meals you would like, choice of pie, and whether you will be eating in or taking out. Cut off for Reservations is Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 2:00 P. M. Meals are single-sized and are \$10.00 each. Please pay at the door. The menu includes: Baked Pea Beans, 2 Red Hot Dogs, Coleslaw, Biscuit, and Apple or Blueberry Pie.

**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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## 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 rat-

ed 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, professional 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.

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# Letter to the Editor

## Gov. Mills Stands Up for the Middle Class

By Bob Jean

Governor Mills is standing up for the middle class and businesses when she uses the budget surplus to provide 850-dollar checks to about 800,000 Mainers. The effect on Maine's economy will be much more than that original 680-million-dollar boost, calculated using an economic multiplier effect model.

Governor Mills sends that 680 million dollars into the economy where the original recipients spend that money at Maine businesses. Then those businesses spend that money at other Maine businesses and presto, that 680 million dollars has been spent twice in the economy, for an economic boost of 1.36 billion. But! But! Our clever little Governor doesn't stop there. Then that 680 billion dollars is spent again, and taxed again, for an economic expansion of over 2 billion dollars.

Governor Mills is a hero to middle class entrepreneurs. She's sav-

ing Maine businesses one 850-dollar check at a time!

## Broadway is a Neighborhood

By Susan M. Clarke, Rockland, ME

Broadway is a residential street dividing a distinguished and historic collection of homes, a new privately sponsored park, two schools and two churches. Its current design is a wide, straight, State highway, Route One with a posted speed limit (often exceeded) of 30 mph.

Residents of Broadway and intersecting streets express great concern about safety after five serious accidents within approximately 18 months, three of which resulted in a vehicle crashing into a house. We are also concerned about the constant heavy, speeding truck traffic that literally shakes us in our beds at night, the inevitable damage to infrastructure under the street as well as the noise and air pollution our neighborhood is exposed to as a result of these conditions.

The Maine Department of Transportation has not seen the need to

reduce the speed limit to give relief from these conditions. However, they did suggest that a biking/parking lane drawn along the street might create some calming of traffic, and thus narrow the perception of a higher speed limit permissible on a highway, calming traffic respectful of a residential neighborhood.

Therefore, we are requesting that the City retain a qualified traffic engineer with a reputation respected for both imaginative intervention and enhancement of safety, to outline a design such as one in which a lane be drawn on the sidewalk side of the street with "bulbouts" at the corners of intersecting streets which will ultimately be planted with trees, shrubs and/or flowers to both beautify the street and provide some air and noise pollution buffers.

There are, no doubt, other cities in Maine who share some of these concerns and issues. We encourage those fellow citizens to create their own campaigns to make Maine truly reflect "the way life should be".

# Fontaine Family Team Celebrates Award Recipients



Kathy Lee Cook and Crystal St. Hilaire.

Deanna Lavoie and Rachel Grignon both received the Rookie of the Year Award. Amanda Hill, Erin Herrick, Teri Campbell, Mary Ellen Burgess and Tim Cyr received the 5-year milestone award. 10-year milestone awards were presented to Cindy Morin and Tammy Soucy. The recipient of the Brenda Fontaine award went to Sally Christner. This award recognizes the team member that is a great leader, always helping others, is passionate about continuous learning and loves helping others be as successful as they want to be.

AUBURN, ME (February 22, 2022) -- On February 10, 2022, Fontaine Family -- The Real Estate Leader held and celebrated their Annual Awards Banquet at the Hilton Garden Inn, Auburn. Fontaine Family Team helped 593 families who needed to buy and sell property in 2021.

Entertainment during the banquet included performances by team members Cindy Morin, David Foster & Steve Miller and there were also drawings for gift cards throughout the event.

The Platinum level producers include the Top 5 Clayton Laroche, Bill Bergeron, Kelly Webb, Maria Morrissette, Cindy Morin, and also includes Top Team Charmaine Raby and Michelle Gosselin-Ervin.

Teri Campbell was a Gold level producer. Silver level producers included Chad Doucette, Tim Cyr and Pat Long-Cressey. Bronze level producers were awarded to Diane Brule, Erin Herrick, Tiffany Poland, Paul Rondeau, Ashley Rondeau,

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