



# TWIN CITY TIMES

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## Museum and Park Passes Available at LPS

**LEWISTON, ME (May 6, 2022)** -- Museum and park passes are now available for reservation or checkout in the Children's Department at the Lewiston Public Library. Passes and tickets are available for the following destinations: Children's Museum + Theatre of Maine, Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, Maine Wildlife Park, and all Maine State Parks.

Children's Museum + Theatre of Maine: discount daily passes. This pass entitles the holder to a 50% discount to one play session for up to four people for one day. Pass holders must reserve their play session in advance via their website at [www.kitetails.org](http://www.kitetails.org) using the Pay at the Door option.

Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens: free tickets for one group per day, from May 1st through October 23rd. One group includes a maximum of two adults and children under age 18. Tickets must be reserved in advance for a date and time.

Maine Wildlife Park: a community discount pass is available for up to 7 people per day from April 15th through November 11th. Each member of the group (3 years old and up) using this pass will be charged a discounted admission fee of \$3.50 at the gatehouse. The discount pass must be reserved in advance.

Maine State Park: this pass provides free admission for one car-load to enter any State Park in Maine. Any person with an Auburn or Lewiston Library Card in good standing may check out a Maine State Park pass. The pass is available on first come/first served basis, must be returned within 24 hours after pick up, and cannot be reserved in advance.

To reserve or check out passes and tickets contact the Children's Department at 513-3133 or email [LPLKids@lewistonmaine.gov](mailto:LPLKids@lewistonmaine.gov). For more information on all museum and park passes visit: <https://lplonline.org/kids/things-to-borrow/museum-and-park-passes-2/> or contact the Lewiston Public Library Children's Department. The Lewiston Public Library is located downtown at 200 Lisbon Street at the corner of Pine Street.

## Tough Gator Challenge: Muddy Fun For Everyone!



**LEWISTON, ME (March 24, 2022)** —The Geiger Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization announces the return of the Tough Gator Challenge, an obstacle course and mud run for Lewiston-area elementary school children. This rain-or-shine event is scheduled for Saturday, June 4th, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Raymond A. Geiger Elementary School on College Street in Lewiston. Participants will start in waves every 15 minutes throughout the day.



Now in its 7th year, the Tough Gator Challenge is Maine's premier mud run for kids, drawing nearly 700 participants annually. Family members of all ages are encouraged to register and participate together. Show your spirit and enter the team costume contest!

The focus of the event is on being active, using teamwork, getting muddy and having fun! The race is not timed, but all YOUTH finishers will receive the honorary title of "Tough Gator" and a t-shirt. The first wave of Tough Gator



hopefuls start at 9:00 a.m. There will be raffles, concessions, and a photo contest.

The cost to register is \$10 per person. Participants can register online before June 2nd and in person on the day of the event. Proceeds will benefit the Geiger PTO. Registration and info at [www.toughgatorchallenge.com](http://www.toughgatorchallenge.com) or on our Facebook page. Please contact us for more info: [geigerpto@gmail.com](mailto:geigerpto@gmail.com).

The PTO thanks all its sponsors and tireless volunteers who make this event possible. Hope to see you there!

## Mayor Carl L. Sheline Urges Lewiston Forward

**LEWISTON, ME (May 9, 2022)** -- As the top municipal official elected to represent Lewiston people, I'm disheartened and disgusted with the amount of time and effort we spend on issues that not only don't move us forward, they hold us back. We need to do what we are elected to do, it needs to be done transparently, and must be on behalf of ALL Lewiston residents.

We should not find out about major policy issues from the local newspaper. We can't govern this way – not only because it's ineffective, but because it's unethical. Councilors should not have the expectation to work on council business in complete secrecy from the rest of the council and the public.

We must conduct the public's business transparently.

Lewiston's diversity is our strength. We have experienced challenges along the way, and, yet, we have done what Lewiston does: we've worked hard to create a community where all people are accepted and welcome.

Lewiston Public Schools are diverse, vibrant, and full of promise. We must celebrate the beautiful mosaic of our schools, our students, and our educators. Lewiston's families must be able to count on our schools to offer a well-rounded education. We need to focus on the needs of our kids, families, and communities – and not further di-

vide a city that has already been divided by racist and xenophobic rhetoric and actions many times.

We want people in our community, especially teachers and students of color, to know that officials at the highest level of city government have their back. We must have conversations that promote acceptance and compassion for everyone. We must commit to engaging in meaningful dialogue that leads to a greater understanding of who we are and where we come from. We encourage the Lewiston community to join us in continuing these tough conversations because that is the only way we move our community forward together.

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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## Efficiency Maine Holds Free Consults for Energy-Efficiency Projects

**AUGUSTA, ME (May 11, 2022)** – Efficiency Maine has been providing incentives to businesses and institutions around the state to upgrade their building systems and recently began offering free virtual consultations for businesses interested in learning more about how to get started on an energy-efficiency project.

“There’s never been a better time to switch from outdated oil and propane heating systems to heat pumps, as well as upgrade lighting systems to LEDs,” says Rick Meinking, senior program manager for commercial initiatives at Efficiency Maine. “To help businesses get started, we’re excited to offer customers a no cost, no obligation virtual consultation with a member of the Efficiency Maine team. We hope that these discussions will help customers define the solutions that will reduce their business’s energy use and costs.”

Commercial and in-

dustrial businesses interested in assessing their needs before starting a project can sign up for a virtual consultation on the Efficiency Maine website. Businesses ready to get started with a project can call 866-376-2463 or send an email to CIP@efficiencymaine.com.

Efficiency Maine offers a variety of incentives for businesses of all sizes. Many are already experiencing the money-saving benefits of updated systems.

Fryeburg Academy installed two heat-pump based variable refrigerant flow (VRF) systems with heat recovery in their campus student union and is now saving more than \$900 a year.

“It’s been a wonderful addition to campus,” said Dave Powers, facility manager at Fryeburg Academy. “It’s comfortable in the winter. Now in the summer, for the people who work year-round, they have an air-conditioned



space. During this winter’s cold snaps, the heat worked great. Prior to this project, I would’ve had all kinds of issues keeping up with the heat during this last cold spell.

“Every penny that we save on utility expenses, we can put into educating the students,” said Powers. “It’s really great to be able to put the money into programming and not into utilities.”

Mastway Development, the developer of the mixed-use campus Stevens Commons located in Hallowell, also upgraded to energy-efficient technology with the help of Efficiency Maine. Mastway Development installed three VRF systems in the newly constructed Cleve-

land Hall, a student residence for the University of Maine at Augusta located in Stevens Commons.

“The new VRF systems have been a game changer for us,” said Matt Morrill, chief executive officer of Mastway Development, which is currently working on the revitalization of Stevens Commons. “Switching from inefficient oil-fired steam systems to an all-in-one product that provides both heating and cooling makes a world of difference in comfort and savings. That, coupled with the Efficiency Maine rebates, have allowed us to make the numbers work on redevelopment projects that otherwise would not have been feasible. The team at Effi-

ciency Maine was very accommodating and helped us gather early estimates that resulted in the project being completed on time and on budget.”

Some of Maine’s smaller businesses also are benefiting from Efficiency Maine’s incentives. For instance, Wheelers Insurance in South Paris upgraded their heating system from an oil boiler to two high-efficiency heat pumps, saving approximately \$200 a year.

“We have noticed that it is more cost efficient, the rooms are more comfortable, and we’re doing our part to help the environment,” said Leanna Bowie, marketing manager of Wheelers Insurance. “The process of working with Efficiency Maine was super smooth. It was a matter of filling out an application and arranging for the work to be complete.”

“Overall, the experience was convenient and it added value to our business,” added Wheelers

Insurance Chief Executive Officer Michael Newsom.

Humble Comfort Food and Spirits in Brewer worked with Efficiency Maine to upgrade the restaurant’s heating, cooling, and lighting. Humble installed two heat pumps that both heat and cool, and also upgraded from fluorescent lighting to LEDs. With the upgrades, the business has reduced energy costs by about \$200 a year.

“The restaurant is much brighter and warmer since the new lighting was installed,” said restaurant owner, Meghan Black. “I remember the first day I walked past the heat pump and it blew warm air in my face. It was the best feeling in the world.”

“I have definitely seen a decrease in my electricity bill since the new lights went in,” Black continued. “It was a hard year at the restaurant, and the lights and the heat pump made me excited to get back to work.”

## Bike to Work Day Coming to Congress Square Park in Portland

**PORTLAND, ME (May 13, 2022)** – Nearly a dozen organizations and businesses are teaming up to host a Bike to Work Day celebration in Congress Square Park on May 20, the Bicycle Coalition of Maine announced Friday.

The festivities will take place from 8 - 10 a.m., and will include bike mechanic demos, safe-cycling tips, safety gear giveaways, music, and free coffee, bagels, and donuts.

“We want to encourage Mainers to bike to

work in honor of both Bike to Work Day and National Bike Month,” said Bicycle Coalition of Maine Mission Advancement Director Mariah Healy. “And we want to celebrate the ones who do!”

The organizations involved include the Portland Public Library; Friends of Congress Square Park; the Portland Gear Hub; Portland Bike Party; City of Portland Maine Parks, Recreation & Facilities Department; the Portland Bicycle and Pedestrian

Advisory Committee; CyclingSavvy; and the Bicycle Coalition of Maine.

The free coffee, bagels, and donuts are being generously donated by Tandem Coffee Roasters, Rose Foods, and HiFi Donuts, respectively.

Bike to Work Day was launched by the League of American Bicyclists in 1956, and has since become a worldwide event that promotes the bicycle as a healthy, sustainable, and fun way to commute to work.

## Job Corps Launches Recruitment Drive in Maine

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 9, 2022)** – The U.S. Department of Labor’s Job Corps program has launched a recruitment drive in Maine, offering immediate openings and free career training for low-income students ages 16–24 in the nation’s leading industries.

“This is a great opportunity for young adults in Maine who are trying to leverage a strong job market,” said National Director of Job Corps Rachel Torres. “We are a gateway to skills, credentials and opportunity. Our students need Job Corps, and the workforce needs our students.”

There are two

Job Corps campuses in Maine: Loring (in Limestone) and Penobscot (in Bangor). They offer career skills training in high-growth industry sectors, including Advanced Manufacturing, Automotive and Machine Repair, Construction, Health Care, Hospitality, Information Technology, and Transportation.

Job Corps is free for ages 16–24 from low-income households who meet the eligibility requirements, and students can apply and enroll at any time. Job Corps provides hands-on career skills training, on-campus housing, meals, health care and job search assistance. Applicants may

qualify if they receive SNAP, TANF, or free or reduced school lunch, or if they are experiencing homelessness or are a foster youth.

The recruitment drive in Maine is part of a national effort to restore Job Corps campuses to full capacity after pandemic safety measures had restricted enrollments, due to the residential aspects of the program. Job Corps has restored pre-pandemic admission standards nationwide and has immediate openings in Maine.

For more information about Job Corps, or to begin the enrollment process, visit [jobcorps.gov](http://jobcorps.gov) or call 800-733-JOBS (5627).

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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## Volunteers Needed for Annual Cemetery Flag Project/Veteran's Graves

**LEWISTON, ME (May 13, 2022)** -- As you may remember from previous years, the City of Lewiston helps to recruit volunteers to place almost 7,500 flags at the individual veterans gravestones within the cemeteries around the City. Volunteers are needed for this large project. If you belong to any groups (church groups, community service groups, business groups, etc) please feel free to pass along this information to help spread the word.

**Brief Background:** The State passed a law in 2001 that requires municipalities to purchase and place individual American flags at the gravestone of every veteran buried in

each cemetery located in that town. The flags must be in place for Memorial Day each year. Lewiston has 13 cemeteries and places almost 7,500 flags. All work is done by community volunteers. For many of the smaller cemeteries, the abutting neighbors usually place the flags each year. For the two largest cemeteries – Riverside and St. Peters – there are service organizations which have adopted these cemeteries over the years and take care of placing the flags for the City.

These groups welcome volunteers to assist them at the following locations:

**ST. PETERS CEMETERY,** Switzerland Road,

Lewiston  
Saturday, May 21, 2022 (rain or shine)  
10:00am

Meet at the Mausoleum, St. Peter's Cemetery, Switzerland Road, Lewiston

Jerry Dewitt (576-0376) is the contact person for that day and the L/A Veterans Council are the coordinators for this location.

There are approximately 4000 flags for this location.

**RIVERSIDE CEMETERY,** 192 Summer Street, Lewiston

Saturday, May 21, 2022, 9:00am

Rain date: Saturday, May 28, 9:00am

The Knights of Co-

lumbus are the coordinators for this location. Contact is Leo Baillargeon at 577-7424

There are approximately 1600 flags for this location.

The plan is to assign teams of 5-10 volunteers to an area of the cemetery and to cover the cemetery in a grid fashion in order to not miss any stone. There is no master list of veterans buried at the cemetery, so volunteers will need to walk each row of stones and read the inscription on each gravesite. If military service is listed on the stone, a flag will be placed there. This is a fairly time consuming process so many volunteers are appreciated.

Logistics:

1) Face masks are optional based upon the comfort level of the individual volunteer

2) Work gloves are optional but encouraged; volunteers should bring their own hand sanitizer

3) Social distancing will be encouraged to accommodate the comfort level of volunteers

4) Wear sneakers or boots in case the grass is wet

5) Bring a screwdriver to use to poke a hole in the grass. It makes it much easier to place the wooden dowel of the flag into the ground if you make the hole first

6) Plan to bring a water bottle if it is a hot day

7) Bring bug spray, hat and sunscreen. Be mindful of ticks!

8) Children/youth are encouraged to participate but must be accompanied by an adult

9) Wearing company or organization t-shirts is welcome

Jerry Dewitt, on behalf of the L/A Veterans Council, expresses their appreciation to the volunteers for their efforts: "Thank you for your support of veterans without families to remember their service on this Memorial Day."

If you have any questions about the process in general, please reach out to the event coordinators directly.

## Choice Neighborhood Initiative Topic of Lewiston Forum

**LEWISTON, ME (May 6, 2022)** -- Lewiston's Choice Neighborhood Initiative will be the subject of a May 25th "Investing in a Neighborhood & Transforming Our City" forum at the Lewiston Public Library – Callahan Hall, 200 Lisbon Street, from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. It will focus on a \$30 million Choice Implementation Grant from the Department of Housing & Urban Development awarded in May 2021 to the Lewiston Housing Authority and

the City of Lewiston—the smallest city to ever receive this funding. The forum is free and open to the public.

Mayor Carl L. Sheline notes, "The Choice Neighborhood grant is a game changer for downtown Lewiston and our entire city. The impact of this investment is transformational for a city our size."

Panelists participating in the forum will Chris Kilmurry, Executive Director of Lewiston Housing and lead grantee of the

Choice Neighborhood Implementation Grant; Catherine Elliott, Senior Development Officer at Avesta Housing and development partner to Lewiston Housing; and Misty Parker, Lewiston's Assistant Director of Economic & Community Development, co-grantee of the Choice Neighborhood Implementation Grant.

Parker notes, "The Choice grant will support locally led, strategic investments, which will render positive change

and strengthen the City of Lewiston."

The Choice Initiative will partially fund 185 new, safe, energy-efficient, mixed-income apartments that Lewiston people can afford to call home. These developments will be a catalyst for new investment throughout the neighborhood and beyond downtown. Parker adds, "The Choice Initiative isn't just about housing; it will invest in people and the neighborhood, sparking continued economic growth of the

city."

Prior to the forum, a walking tour of the future housing sites will be offered; the tour will depart the front of the Lewiston Public Library, 200 Lisbon Street, at 4:30 p.m.

"This is the result of the hard work and tenacity that Lewiston is known for. What continues to evolve through this grant will bring hope and change for Lewiston's future," states

Mayor Sheline.

This forum is part of a monthly community forum series hosted by the City of Lewiston Mayoral Ad Hoc Committee on Economic Development. The committee was established in January 2022 for the purpose of advising and making recommendations to the Lewiston City Council on the challenges and opportunities for economic development in Lewiston.

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## Auburn Mayor Levesque Makes Statement on Lake Auburn Water

**AUBURN, ME (May 12, 2022)** -- Every member of the Auburn City Council and the Auburn Water District Board of Trustees, as well as staff from both organizations, not to mention local businesses, residents and water quality experts are deeply committed to ensuring that our community has the safest, highest quality

drinking water...water that will not just meet - but will exceed - state and federal water quality standards.

We all have a responsibility to protect Lake Auburn. For too many years, the practice of the City of Lewiston and others was to "do nothing and hope for the best." That practice leads to failure. Water standards are not to be "negoti-

ated." Water standards are to be determined by science. Our job is to enforce those standards.

It is unfortunate that the City of Lewiston has embraced this shortsighted approach to eliminating opportunity, while at the same

time, refusing to address our most pressing need: remediating the harmful impacts that already exist in the watershed. As mayor, I will continue to encourage our city council to support the efforts of our dedicated Water District trustees.

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## Seniors Not Acting Their Age

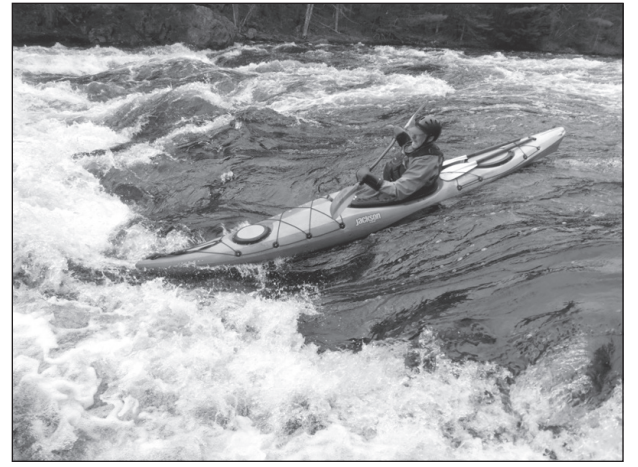
# Navigating the Iconic Machias River



A kayaker maneuvers around an obstruction at Long Falls on the Machias River



Big waves are encountered at Carrick Rips on the Machias River



A kayaker plunges down Little Falls on the Machias River

### Part One: Third Lake to Little Falls By Ron Chase (May 13, 2022) --

Planning a spring paddling trip on the Machias River in Washington County requires evaluating a combination of factors. Weather, ice-out, road access, water levels, and blackflies are all issues that need to be investigated. After about thirty trips, I've become discriminating about my expectations. Experience suggests a trip beginning in late April and ending in early May is usually the ideal timeframe so that's when I scheduled a Penobscot Paddle & Chowder Society club trip this year.

As anticipated, all the necessary components fell into place. The water level was moderately high, most of the roads were open, a quality five day weather forecast predicted, ice was out on the lakes, and the dreaded blackflies had yet to appear. My long-time friend and frequent outdoor accomplice, Ken Gordon, enthusiastically agreed with the planned schedule. Unfortunately, several other interested club members were unable to participate during the narrow window of opportunity. Time flexibility is one of the few benefits of being old and retired.

Selecting the segment

of river to paddle was the next step. The Machias has several access points providing a variety of options. Trips can be from one to seven days in length and begin at various points between Fifth Machias Lake and the village of Machias. Since the road to Fifth Lake was closed, we chose a five day trip from Third Machias Lake to Machias. Our fifty-five mile itinerary entailed traversing two lakes, portaging a major waterfall, and navigating eight challenging whitewater rapids plus many easier ones.

The means of river travel has changed for Ken and me. We no longer use tripping canoes. Instead, we've migrated to expedition kayaks. The primary reason is to avoid physical

discomfort. After a knee replacement, I can no longer kneel in a canoe without pain. Expedition kayaks have other advantages besides comfort. They're quicker, drier, and more maneuverable. The primary disadvantage is less space for gear.

After leaving my vehicle in Machias, we transported kayaks and gear in Ken's car to Third Lake. Fortunately, the dirt roads were in good condition. The weather was cool, windy, and gray when we launched at the outlet.

The scenic sector of river between Third and Second Lakes is a succession of narrow technical rapids interspersed with flatwater. The most significant rapid, Long Falls, consisted of three pitches that warranted careful attention. After thoroughly scouting the twisting descent, we set up safety with a throw bag for the first pitch and then continued to an eddy on the right above the second where a fallen tree blocked part of our preferred route. Following careful inspection, we negotiated around the obstruction, ferried out into large waves that plummeted through the third pitch, and successfully dodged numerous rocks and a strainer during the extended runout. My latest book, *Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor*

Adventures in Maine relates tales of two substantial misadventures on Long Falls.

A delightful series of technical Class II rapids followed to Second Lake. A strong tail wind quickly propelled us south to the outlet adjacent to a sandy beach that has been a campsite during trips past. A large eagle provided entertainment and methodically scrutinized us during much of the two mile stretch of calm water to First Lake. The welcome tail wind again assisted our traverse to the southern end of the lake and a convenient campsite.

The weather improved on day two with warmer temperatures and partly sunny skies, but pesky northwest winds persisted. Our first challenge was Class III Carrick Rips. We again set up safety before proceeding tight right, ferrying left around a menacing boulder, and finishing in a substantial wave train.

Shortly after, the West Branch entered on our right. Several exhilarating rapids followed as we paddled through an expansive stand of tall pines to complex Airline Rapid just below Route Nine. We maneuvered through breaking waves and around several potentially hazard-

ous obstacles to a lunch spot at the bottom.

Flatwater continued for a few miles to Little Falls, which is not little. We carried our gear to what I consider the most picturesque campsite on the river at the foot of the falls and navigated the demanding rapid along the left shore in empty kayaks before settling in for a relaxing evening.

Many more adventures awaited us during the remaining three days of our trip. The exciting Wigwam Rapids were on the agenda for day three.

Ron Chase resides in Topsham. His latest book, *"Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine"* is 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 [www.ronchaseoutdoors.com](http://www.ronchaseoutdoors.com) or he can be reached at [ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net](mailto:ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net).

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

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# Letters to the Editor

## Biden's Deferral Of Student Loan Repayment Is Sound Fiscal Policy

There is a false belief that Americans who have gone to college are all members of the economic elite. While student loans have been essential for millions of low-income Americans to escape poverty, about 40 percent of student loan borrowers never finish their education. Too many had dreams of graduating from college, but didn't realize that their life circumstances would later make it impossible for them to finish their education. It might be difficult for members of the upper-middle-class to understand how difficult remaining in school can be for young people from poor families with unstable incomes. Others finished college, but selected jobs in forestry, social work, special education, journalism or some other occupation which provided financial rewards much smaller than they expected. Way too many worked very hard in high school to earn college admission, but took out student loans in their late teenage years only to become victims of the false promises of a college education.

The Covid-19 pandemic presented a national emergency. In response to the worldwide outbreak of disease that resulted in mortality not seen since World War II, President Biden appropriately suspended repayment of qualifying federal student loans. In the name of protecting tax payers and in a blatant attempt to appeal to the majority of Americans who do not have a college degree, Republican U.S. Senators have introduced a bill to prevent President Biden and his Secretary of Education from further suspending the accrual of interest or deferring repayment of Federal student loans. The Republican sponsors of this Senate bill are without any empathy

for young people who will be struggling to make timely student loan payments. For opponents of continued student loan deferrals to describe President Biden's suspension of repayments as "a massive handout to doctors and lawyers" is an extreme exaggeration. The continued student debt forbearance relief provided by the Biden administration will not only stave off countless student loan delinquencies and defaults, but also allow thousands of hardworking young Americans to actively participate in our economy and avoid other financial stressors such as prolonged delays in homebuying.

James M. Moore, Esq.\*

Bangor, ME

\*James Moore relied on Federal student loans to pay for part of his college and law school educations. He is a legal aid lawyer in Bangor, Maine.

## The Christian Civic League of Maine Responds to the Leaked Draft of the U.S. Supreme Court Decision in Dobbs

The Christian Civic League of Maine has always been committed to the basic belief that every human life is sacred and worth protecting, from conception to natural death. Because human choices cannot morally infringe upon a human life, the Christian Civic League has consistently fought for providing alternatives to women who are faced with the heartbreaking choice between their future and the life of another.

It is true that in the age of Roe v. Wade these alternatives may not have been so obvious. Today, however, it is becoming increasingly difficult to ignore the growing number of pregnancy centers and couples waiting to adopt. The existence of these resources make the choice to kill a child one that need not even be considered.

This is why the Christian Civic League is tenta-

tively optimistic about the upcoming Supreme Court decision in Dobbs v. Jackson. Even though the overturning of Roe v. Wade (as indicated in the leaked draft) would not immediately affect the rights of the unborn in Maine, it will create a platform to begin a conversation over whether those rights ought to be protected. In the words of Policy Director Mike McClellan, "While this would end the Federal presence in the abortion fight, the battle would simply now fall to the states."

As the debate over the rights of the unborn continues, the Christian Civic League plans to continue to support and promote ways to help women in crisis other than abortion. Our hope is that the willingness of churches and communities to assist women in crisis will make it obvious that every child can be guaranteed a loving family from conception to natural death.

Christian Civic League of Maine

## Reliance on Russian Oil and A Transition to Renewable Energy

The recent war in Ukraine has highlighted a dire issue for the U.S.: reliance on Russian oil. Energy prices have surged after President Biden's ban on Russian oil. This dependence on oil has burdened civilians and exacerbated the climate crisis. A transition to renewable energy would not only lessen this burden, but would also decrease greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to Biden's goal of fifty percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 2005 levels by 2030. In order to support this transition, please ask Representative Pingree, Representative Golden, Senator Collins, and Senator King to support strong climate legislation such as the Energy Innovation (HR 2307).

Violet Apodaca Brunswick, ME

# Skyline Farm Carriage Museum Exhibit Opens in North Yarmouth



This rather large vehicle combines the best of a Brougham and a Victoria. The Landau's double-hooded roof arrangement was great for summer or winter travel. Also on display are a lovely sleigh by J.F. Hall, Rockland, Maine, circa 1890, a Buxton oil delivery vehicle that once delivered to homes and businesses via horse, a double seat Albany, a heating contractor sleigh, and a postal delivery sleigh.

The museum, located at 95 The Lane, North Yarmouth, is open to the public on Sundays, from May 15 through June 26, 1-4 p.m. or by appointment. Free admission; donations are appreciated.

For more information, contact Greg Cuffey at (207) 892-0188 or info@skylinefarm.org. Skyline Farm is a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization.

**NORTH YARMOUTH, ME (May 9, 2022)** – Skyline Farm Carriage Museum's current exhibit "Town & Country: Rocking & Rolling Down The Lane" showcases approximately forty unique business and personal horse-drawn carriages and sleighs that would have been used in New England.

When summer arrived in New England, various cold weather horse-drawn vehicles were put in the barn loft. Down came the wheeled vehicles for country and city. Country vehicles were much simpler in design than city vehicles. Come see examples of both.

Skyline was recently loaned a Brewster & Co. Cee Spring Landau.

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



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# Arts & Entertainment

## Lewiston Recreation Launches “All-In Mentoring”

**LEWISTON, ME (May 11, 2022)** -- Lewiston Recreation is proud to launch AIM: All-In Mentoring, connecting Lewiston at-risk youth with positive community members, while exposing them to new experiences and supporting healthy interests. Both mentees and mentors will participate in monthly group events, open program time at the Lewiston Armory, and special trips and programs. The program's logo is attached.

Recreation Director Nicole Welch notes, “We are excited to begin promoting

our recreation-meets-mentoring style program. AIM experiences are youth driven, and AIM staff and mentors support students' interests and help them navigate the journey towards meeting their goals.”

The mentoring initiative began to take shape in 2021 at Lewiston Recreation after input from city leaders, police, school department, coaches, non-profit leaders, and other community partners.

Mayor Carl L. Sheline adds, “I'm excited about this novel blend of events and opportunities for men-



torship, and I look forward to hearing about the many meaningful relationships that will develop through the AIM program.”

The grant for this endeavor was made possible through the support of the US Department of Jus-

tice, Office of Juvenile and Delinquency Prevention supporting youth impacted by the opioid crisis in New England and Appalachia. Planning has utilized the National Recreation & Park Association's youth mentoring framework, and

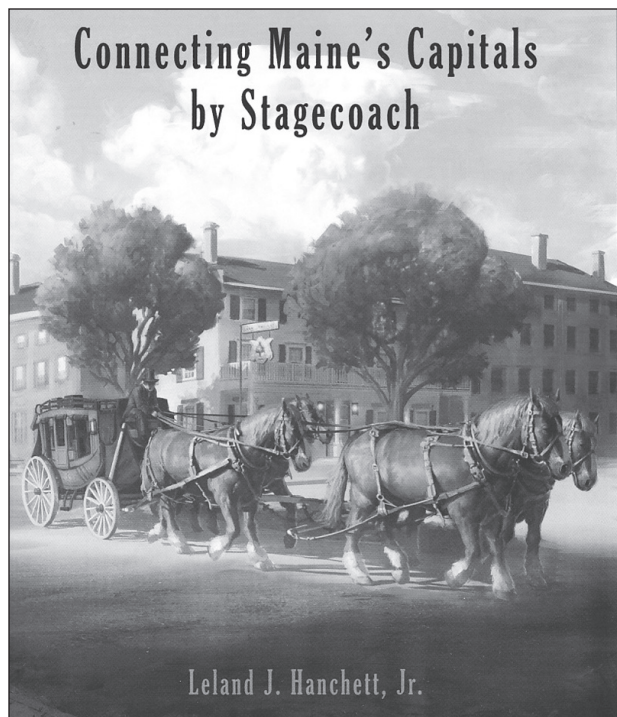
funds will assist with program costs related to advertising and kick-off programs; staffing and mentor training & development; activities and initiatives for both mentors and youth; and creating an exciting in-house space. Lewiston Recreation also looks forward to mentors and mentees sharing what they have in common amidst the promotion of safe and healthy lifestyles.

Welch adds, “The grant is a good fit with Recreation's focus to diversify recreation opportunities. AIM focuses on promoting

a positive, supportive environment for kids to explore their personal interests, while also working on goal setting and trying new activities.”

AIM mentors and mentees can expect to meet one to two hours per week over the course of a year, while also participating in group programs. For those interested in participating in AIM as a mentor or mentee, individuals may visit [www.lewistonrecreation.com](http://www.lewistonrecreation.com) and print either the mentee or mentor application or call Lewiston Recreation at 513-3005.

## Skyline Farm Hosts Book Talk



**NORTH YARMOUTH, ME (May 2, 2022)** – On Sunday, May 22, 3 pm, Skyline Farm hosts a book talk on ‘Connecting Maine's Capitals by Stagecoach’ by author Leland Hanchett, a retired electronic engineer and entrepreneur who has written fourteen books about Arizona, Montana, and Maine. Lee's knowledge and descriptions of stagecoach travel in Maine complements Skyline Farm Carriage Museum's exhibit, “Town and Country: Rocking and Rolling Down The Lane”. Attendees will enjoy listening to Lee's colorful presentation and be able to tour Skyline's cur-

rent exhibit, while imagining the exciting adventures of traveling dirt roads in 19th century Maine.

Admission is free; donations are welcomed. The museum exhibit opens at 1 p.m. Skyline Farm, a nonprofit organization, is located at 95 The Lane, North Yarmouth. For more information, please email [info@skylinefarm.org](mailto:info@skylinefarm.org) or visit our Facebook page.

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

## Composting Opportunity at Lewiston Solid Waste Facility

**LEWISTON, ME (May 13, 2022)** -- The City of Lewiston has established a food waste composting partnership with Agri-Cycle, a food waste hauler. Lewiston residents may drop off their food waste/scrap in a bin located at the 420 River Road Solid Waste Facility. Agri-Cycle will pick up

the food waste/scrap and transition them into organic fertilizer that can be used by farmers to enhance land and gardens. Also, on a first-come, first-serve basis, there will be 100 kitchen recycle pails to give away. A printable “what goes in” list can be accessed at [www.lewistonmaine.gov/compost](http://www.lewistonmaine.gov/compost)

### What do you think?

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# Musicians Bring Fiddle, Dance, & Banjo to Saco River Theatre

**SACO, ME (May 12, 2022)** -- To listen to April Verch and Cody Walters is to be immersed in tradition. To watch them perform is to be transported. Be it regional Canadian roots, American old-time, 50's Country, Scandinavian folk music, or something original that sounds as though it's been around for a century—the one common thread is their love and reverence for the music and traditions that have been passed down to them.

Husband and wife duo April Verch & Cody Walters is a true partnership of kindred musical spirits, each a world-class musician in their own right. Combining their unique backgrounds from Verch's native Ottawa Valley and Walters' heartland roots in Kansas, their music showcases endless creativity and

versatility—transitioning effortlessly from traditional Ottawa Valley step dancing and fiddle tunes, to old-time fiddle-banjo duets with tight-knit vocal harmonies, to innovative sandpaper foot percussion, all contrasted against Verch's sweet soprano voice.

Verch and Walters began playing together in 2007 when Walters joined the April Verch Band as their bassist. Initially formed as a pickup band centered around Verch's own fiddle and dance stylings in 2000, the band grew and blossomed into an established trio of world-class musicians, spanning several musical traditions and backgrounds, yet all united in their mission to share the music they love. Together they have traveled to four continents, performed in fourteen countries, and

played everywhere from tiny pubs and dusty festival workshops all the way to legendary stages such as the Kennedy Center and the Ryman Auditorium. In 2018—fittingly amidst their ever-busy tour schedule—April and Cody were married.

During the heart of COVID lockdowns in 2020, the couple began performing as a duo out of necessity, and learned firsthand that sometimes, art born of necessity can yield unexpectedly beautiful results. They developed new material, arrangements and a concert performance that hum with the ease and playfulness that can only be cultivated through deep understanding and trust—as musicians and as partners.

The duo's diverse repertoire and unbridled passion come to life on stage with a presence

that is versatile, robust, and masterfully executed. Audiences remark at their sincerity in sharing stories between tunes. Verch's delicate voice, energetic footwork, sand paper foot percussion and stunning playing (sometimes combined all at once!) are jaw-dropping. Walters' melodic banjo stylings, solid rhythm guitar accompaniment and tasteful vocal harmonies are at once understated and brilliant, dueting with Verch's skills in glorious harmony. Their ability to preserve the authentic folk traditions of the past and reintroduce them into the musical landscape of the present is a testament to their masterful musicianship and widespread appeal.

Even now, after more than two decades

leading her own band and with 14 albums in her name (two of which were nominated for JUNO Awards, among other honors), there is nothing that fulfills Verch or gives her more joy than playing and sharing her music with the world. "It's like the reward for everything else," she says. Together, she and Walters are exemplary tradition-bearing performers: never forgetting the roots of the music, that connection to the people out there in the audience or on the dance floor, to the community sparked by a good song. "It's about joining together to celebrate everyday life,

through music. We're all in this together." And so together they press onward: diving deep into musical tradition, bringing people together and forging connections, and sharing their insight and genuine love for the music they play so well.

Verch & Walters are looking forward to returning to New England this spring, a favorite tour destination of theirs since the beginning of their career! They are no stranger to Saco River Theatre, having performed there as "The April Verch Band." This will be their first duo performance for their audience and they can't wait!

## Movie News This Week



**LEWISTON/AUBURN and GORHAM, ME (May 13, 2022)** -- Downton Abbey returns to the big screen! In a world full of superhero movies,

some may yearn for the dramas of yesteryear, reminders of simpler times. Downton Abbey: A New Era is just that— a refreshing offering of drama, a

hint of comedy, gorgeous production design all with the characters you know and love from the original show. In this new film the Crawley Family embarks on a grand journey to the South of France to uncover the mystery of the dowager countess's newly inherited villa.

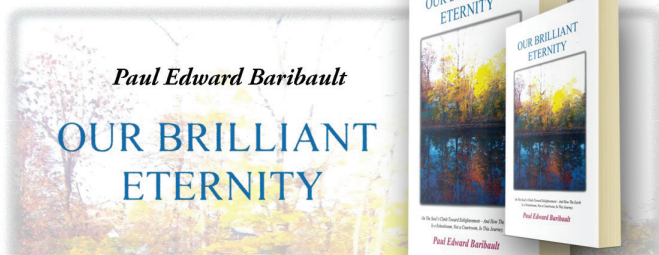
Not your thing— don't worry. Top Gun: Maverick opens May 27th for those of you craving action and nostalgia.



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*Paul Edward Baribault*  
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**WHERE:** Outdoor Learning and Education Center at 151 Stetson Rd. Auburn

**COST:** \$50 per team (2 players)

A round-robin, single elimination Event. Professionally organized by Wicked Cornhole. All teams are guaranteed 4 games.

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For more information, please contact Marcie Hird at [mhird@alymca.org](mailto:mhird@alymca.org)

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[app.scoreholio.com](http://app.scoreholio.com)

Search for "YMCA Kids to Camp Cornhole Tournament"

\* This app is simply for day-of updates. You must ALSO register with the YMCA to be entered into the tournament.

YMCA of Auburn-Lewiston | 207-795-4095 | [www.alymca.org](http://www.alymca.org) | 62 Turner St. Auburn, ME 04210



# Maine Soldier Makes Top Ten in National Marathon Qualifier

LINCOLN, NE (May 06, 2022) (readMedia) -- The All National Guard Marathon Team ran their annual qualifying race on May 2, concurrent with the 45th running of the Lincoln Marathon. Among the participants, and eager to improve on his scores from last year, was Maine's 1st Lt. Lucas Bourget, coming in 10th out of 308 competitors after finishing 75th just last year.

Bourget qualified for the national team in 2021, coming in at three hours, eight minutes, nine seconds with an overall average of seven minutes, ten seconds per mile. While team members retain their spot for two years without mandating requalifying, Bourget has been diligent-

ly training to improve his time, finishing this year at two hours, 51 minutes, 19 seconds with an overall average mile of six minutes, 30 seconds.

"I'm overall really happy with my performance," said Bourget. "This past year I increased my weekly mileage, long run frequency, and dropped about eight pounds. That extra weight makes a big difference over 26 miles. My plan was to run the first 16 miles conservatively and push the final 10. I felt phenomenal from start to finish."

A native of Auburn, Bourget works full time for the Maine National Guard in Augusta as a security specialist overseeing physical security, operations security, and antiterrorism



programs. During drill weekends, he is assigned as a human resources officer for the 133rd Engineer Battalion in Brunswick.

The All Guard Marathon Team is but one part of the National Guard's Competitive Events Program. Other events within the program include the All Guard marksmanship team, endurance team, and biathlon team.

Bourget is already looking ahead to make further improvement.

"The spectator support was awesome and I felt incredibly proud to represent Maine," Bourget added. "I'm excited to start my build up again in preparation for next year's trials. I'd encourage anyone currently in the National Guard or those who plan to

join to explore the Competitive Events Program. It's a great opportunity to travel the country and compete in a variety of sports."

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## Lewiston Continues to Focus on Pedestrian Safety

LEWISTON, ME (May 10, 2022) -- The City of Lewiston, along with the City of Auburn, is continuing its work to improve pedestrian safety. This is a continuation of an effort from October 2021 to educate Mainers about walking and driving safely in order to reduce the number of pedestrians hit, with a particular focus on high-crash locations.

Mayor Carl L. Shelton notes, "I'm proud that Lewiston is a walkable city, and I fully support efforts to increase pedestrian safety."

As part of a "High



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Visibility Education" effort, Lewiston is working with a team of stakeholders, including the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Maine Department of Transportation, Maine Bureau of Highway Safety, the Bicycle Coalition of Maine, and other state and local organizations to increase awareness of pedestrian safety issues through social media campaigns, banners, signs, sidewalk stencils, demonstration projects, and more. Reflective high visibility accessories and informational materials will also be distributed.

To improve pedestrian safety, Lewiston's demonstration projects include temporary signage and two temporary traffic calming installations at Central/Vale and Pine/Brackett Street. On May 6th, Lewiston Middle School students assisted with the Central/Vale Street "Gateway Treatment" installation.

Public Works Director Mary Ann Brechick adds, "Our goal is to educate the students on pedestrian safety and then they educate their peers and parents. The 127 middle school students we worked

with are also future drivers, so we felt 8th grade was the perfect age group!"

The Bicycle Coalition of Maine & city staff installed the other location on the same day. The temporary installations will be uninstalled by November 5th in preparation for winter operations. Pre and post data collection will assist in the decision-making process for repeat temporary installations or permanent repairs.

Social media outreach has also begun with Lewiston's multi-platform posting of the attached graphic earlier this week.



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# Lewiston-Auburn Kiwanis Club to Celebrate 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**LEWISTON AND AUBURN (April 25, 2022)** — Kids in Lewiston, Auburn and surrounding towns have benefitted from the Kiwanis Club of Lewiston-Auburn for 100 years with infant safety kits, scholarships, books, classroom supplies, and in many other ways. The club will celebrate its 100th anniversary with a big Celebration on May 21, 2022, at the VFW Hall, 588 Minot Avenue, Auburn, from 5 until 9 PM.

“This is the year of a huge milestone... our 100th Anniversary! Our Club was chartered on May 19, 1922, and we plan a celebratory dinner on May 21. We hope to provide a celebratory dinner and share the history of our club, with a focus on the literally hundreds of lives that have felt a positive impact from the Club’s efforts,” said Sarah Glynn, head coordinator for the event. “Our club also sponsors four Key Clubs, at Leavitt Area



**Kiwanis Club Planning for the big celebration.**

High School, Lewiston High School, Lisbon High School and St. Dominic Academy, all to help our community’s kids thrive, prosper and grow.”

“Kids in our community need Kiwanis. We step in and provide support when no one else is doing so, or when other funding sources may not be available,” said Sarah.

The 100th Anniversary Celebration event is open to the public and is a way for the club to show-

case its projects and attract new members. Tickets are now available for \$25 per person. The deadline to order tickets is May 12, 2022. You may send your payment and return address to Andy Choate, 70 Rachel Boulevard, Lewiston, ME 04240.

Information about the Kiwanis Club of Lewiston-Auburn is on Facebook as Kiwanis Club of Lewiston-Auburn, Maine, or call Andy Choate at 207-754-2807 for more information.

# National Safety Watchdog Group Gives CMMC an “A” Grade

**LEWISTON, ME (May 11, 2022)** — Central Maine Medical Center (CMMC) received its eighth consecutive “A” – the highest grade possible - for hospital safety from The Leapfrog Group. This national distinction recognizes CMMC’s success with protecting patients from harm and errors in the hospital.

“This is a remarkable achievement for CMMC, but should come as no surprise,” said Steve Littleton, DBA, FACHE, president and CEO of Central Maine Healthcare. “It is a validation of the extraordinary work our team members do every day on behalf of our patients. Getting eight consecutive “A” grades is im-

pressive enough. But to be recognized for maintaining these high standards throughout the pandemic and other challenges facing the entire healthcare industry speaks volumes about the quality of care we provide at CMMC.”

“The Leapfrog Group, an independent national watchdog organization, assigns an “A,” “B,” “C,” “D,” or “F” grade to general hospitals across the country based on over thirty national performance measures reflecting errors, injuries, accidents and infections, as well as systems hospitals have in place to prevent harm.

Only about half of Maine hospitals receive a Leapfrog hospital safety

grade.

“I could not be prouder of our entire team,” said Central Maine Healthcare Chief Medical Officer John L. Alexander, MD, MHCM, FACEP. “Patient safety is the main consideration in everything that happens here, so it is very encouraging to be recognized once again by the Leapfrog Group.”


In late 2021, the Leapfrog Group announced Bridgton Hospital and Rumford Hospital, both part of the Central Maine Healthcare system, were among the group’s Top Rural Hospitals.

Developed under the guidance of a national expert panel, the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade uses up to 27 measures

of publicly available hospital safety data to assign grades to more than 2,700

U.S. acute-care hospitals twice a year. The Hospital Safety Grade’s methodol-

ogy is peer-reviewed and fully transparent. The results are free to the public.



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# BCM Hosts Variety of Free Events for Global Road Safety Week



**PORTLAND, ME (May 9, 2022)** -- The Bicycle Coalition of Maine (BCM) has planned a variety of free events to honor and celebrate Global Road Safety Week from May 15-21.

"Keeping cyclists and pedestrians safe is the cornerstone of the BCM's mission," said BCM Executive Director Jean Sideris. "This is a chance for Main-

ers across the state to learn something new, attend a ride, honor fallen cyclists, and celebrate the joy of biking."

The week kicks off on Sunday, May 15, with a free "Fix-A-Bike" workshop at Maine Beer Company that will cover routine maintenance, roadside repairs, and how to perform a basic tuneup.

Sunday's schedule



also includes a free bike rodeo in Augusta that teaches kids how to ride in a closed, mock traffic course. Additional free rodeos are scheduled on Saturday, May 21 in Lincoln and Naples.

The first virtual event—a free spring biking webinar entitled "We're Bringing Safety Back"—will be held on Monday at

noon.

Global Road Safety Week will also mark the return of the BCM's Urban Riding Classes, which help cyclists feel more comfortable riding in traffic in a city setting. This on-bike education opportunity will include how to safely take the lane, make left turns on busy streets, and avoid being "right-hooked" by drivers. These free classes will be held in Portland and Lewiston on Tuesday, May 17, as well as Portland and Orono on Thursday, May 19.

The annual Ride of Silence is held around the world on the third Wednesday of May to honor those who have been injured or killed while cycling on public roadways. The BCM is once again the statewide coordinator for this silent slow ride. The Coalition will be holding their own free event in Portland on May 19, but also encourag-



es folks in Andover, Lewiston, Saco, and Yarmouth to join rides being held locally.

Mainers looking to become local bicycle and pedestrian advocates can sign up for a "Community Spokes" training, which will be a two-part virtual session on Wednesday, May 18 and Thursday, May 19. Through training, education, and ongoing technical support, Spokes across the state can help improve biking and walking conditions in their communities, the BCM says.

The final weekday event will be a Bike to Work Day extravaganza. The Portland Public Library; Friends of Congress Square Park; Portland Gear Hub; Portland Bike Party; City of Portland Maine Parks, Recreation & Facilities Department; Portland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee; CyclingSavvy; and the Bicycle Coalition of Maine are all teaming up to throw one

big celebration in Congress Square Park on Friday, May 20 from 8 - 10 a.m. People who bike to work on Friday are encouraged to stop by the park for free coffee, donuts, and bagels donated by Tandem Coffee Roasters, HiFi Donuts, and Rose Foods, as well as bike mechanic demos, safe-cycling tips, safety gear giveaways, music, and more.

More information about the BCM's Global Road Safety Week plans can be found at [bikemaine.org/global-road-safety-week-events/](http://bikemaine.org/global-road-safety-week-events/) or [bikemaine.org/events](http://bikemaine.org/events).

Global Road Safety Week and its campaigns are coordinated by the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration (UNRSC) and chaired by the World Health Organization. All stakeholders—national and local governments, international agencies, civil society organizations, private companies, and the public generally—are invited to plan and host events.



## Joseph W. Mayo ALS Scholarship Applications Open

**MAINE (May 8, 2022)** -- Applications for the 20th year of Joseph W. Mayo ALS Scholarships are open till June 1, 2022. Available to Maine high school and GED graduates who have experienced ALS in their family, this scholarship was created by friends of the late Joe Mayo, Clerk of the Maine House of Representatives, a state house member from Thomaston, husband and parent, UMO graduate, organizer of special programs at the State House for ALS patients and their

families, and a nationally known author of a revision for managing state legislatures, "Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedures." Each year scholarships totaling \$5000 can be awarded to Maine high school and GED graduates to advance their higher education, either through traditional or non-traditional programs. Scholarship award winners may also compete for yearly renewals including for graduate school. Applications are available through the Maine

Community Foundation, at [www.mainecef.org](http://www.mainecef.org) and can be submitted online by June 1, 2022, to the scholarship committee via [joepietroski@gmail.com](mailto:joepietroski@gmail.com). Any questions can be directed to a member of the Mayo ALS Scholarship Committee: Joseph Pietroski, Chair, [joepietroski@gmail.com](mailto:joepietroski@gmail.com); Jane Figoli, [jane.figoli@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:jane.figoli@legislature.maine.gov); Mark Walker, esq. [mwalker.hallowell@gmail.com](mailto:mwalker.hallowell@gmail.com)

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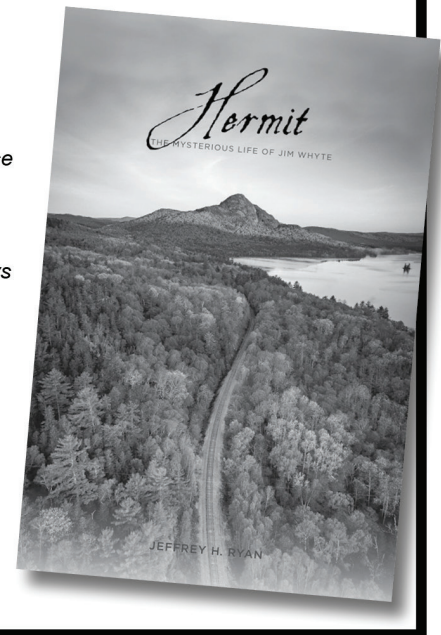
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— George Smith, *Bangor Daily News*

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New Bill will Support a Critical Lifeline for Maine Seniors

Guest Column by Sen. Ned Claxton

AUGUSTA, ME (May 6, 2022) -- Since I first began serving in the Maine Senate...

for them, while also getting the chance to evaluate what's working for Maine seniors and what might need improvement.

For those who may not know, the Meals on Wheels program gets pre-made food, both hot and frozen, to seniors who may have trouble preparing their own meals or leaving their homes.

on Wheels has been a staple in communities for a long time, and it's been a stable source of assistance that folks could rely on as well.

The value that this program provides is clear,

and we as lawmakers need to do all we can to ensure they can continue to operate and thrive. That's why I introduced a bill, LD 485, "An Act To Continue Funding for Home-delivered Meals for Homebound Seniors and To Address Growing Demand,"

seem like a lot compared to other programs we help fund, I am confident that this bill will allow Meals on Wheels programs to continue to thrive all over Maine.

If you or someone you know is interested in signing up for Meals on Wheels, you can contact SeniorsPlus, our local Area Agency on Aging.

If you have any other questions, comments or

need assistance, you can always reach me by email at Ned.Claxton@legislature.maine.gov or by phone at (207) 287-1515.

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French Mass and Bean Supper in Lewiston Set for May 21

LEWISTON, ME (May 9, 2022)---To remember the faith and sacrifice of generations of French Canadians in the Lewiston area...

life. Under the guidance of the Church, virtually every spiritual, social, recreational, and educational need was taken care of for the faithful.

The community initially met at a small wooden building on Lincoln Street. Since 1938, the Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul has stood as an architectural wonder and a testament to the hard work and dedication of the French-Canadian immigrants who ensured its completion.

For more information about the Mass and supper, call the parish at (207) 777-1200.

CMMC Prepared for Increased Women's Services

LEWISTON, ME (May 11, 2022) -- Senior leadership at Central Maine Medical Center said preparations are underway to accommodate higher patient volume for women's health services at CMMC following today's announcement by Lewiston's other hospital, St. Mary's Health System...

CMMC is currently working with St. Mary's to create a seamless transition of OB/GYN services to CMMC. This effort will include working to transition the doctors and midwives at St. Mary's practice into our Central Maine Healthcare practice.

"Our hope is that members of St. Mary's women's health staff will join us here at CMMC," said Jennifer Weiner-Smith, MD, OB/GYN department chief at CMMC. "We have the unique opportunity to consolidate maternal care in the Lewiston-Auburn area and create a single center of excellence for women's health care."

Earlier this year, U.S. News & World Report gave CMMC's maternity ward a "high performing" rating in its "Best Hospitals for Maternity" listing.

City of Auburn Permit Report PERMITS ISSUED BETWEEN 4/01/2022 AND 4/30/2022

Table with 11 columns: Permit Number, Work Class, PID, Address, Description, Issue Date, Owner Name, Contractor Name, Fee Total, Estimated Cost of Construction, Sq Ft, CODE. It lists various permits such as Commercial Building, I & 2 Family, Electrical, Plumbing, and Swimming Pool.

Summary table for the permit report: Grand total number of permits: 105, Grand Total of Fees Collected: \$14,824, Grand Total Est. Cost of Construction: \$2,574,428. Includes categories for Veteran - Fee waived and City Project - Fee waived.



# 'Lucia Di Lammermoor' Live In HD May 21

**FRYEBURG, ME (May 10, 2022)** — The Metropolitan Opera's Live in HD season continues at the Leura Hill Eastman Performing Arts Center on Saturday, May 21st at 1:00 pm.

Soprano Nadine Sierra takes on one of the repertory's most formidable and storied roles, the haunted heroine of Lucia di Lammermoor, in an electrifying new staging by in-demand Australian theater and film director Simon Stone, conducted by Riccardo Frizza. Show-stopping tenor Javier Camarena adds to the bel canto fireworks as Lucia's beloved, Edgardo, with baritone Artur Ruciński as her overbearing brother, Enrico, and bass Matthew Rose as her tutor, Raimondo. This live cinema transmission is part of the Met's award-winning Live in HD series, bringing opera to movie theaters across the globe.

Opera enthusiast Joe De Vito will be hosting his Opera Lecture Series on Thursday, May 19th at 3:00 pm in the LHE/PAC Seminar Room. The lec-



tures, which are free and open to the public, are designed to prepare attendees for the upcoming Live in HD simulcast.

Live in HD tickets are \$28 for adults, \$25 for seniors, and \$10 for students.

Order online at [www.fryeburgacademy.org/pac](http://www.fryeburgacademy.org/pac), or call the box office at 207-544-9066. The LHE/PAC is located on the campus of Fryeburg Academy at 18 Bradley Street in Fryeburg, Maine.



Send all items for Names & Faces to the editor. Deadline is Friday by five pm.

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# Maine's 2022 County Teachers of the Year Announced



**Cumberland:** Matthew Bernstein, Casco Bay High School, Portland



**Androscoggin:** Kelsey Boucher, Robert V. Connors Elementary School, Lewiston

**AUGUSTA, ME (May 12, 2022)**—Sixteen Maine teachers were announced as 2022 County Teachers of the Year today at a ceremony in the Hall of Flags at the Maine State Capitol Building. Governor Janet Mills joined Education Commissioner Pender Makin, Educate Maine Executive Director Jason Judd, State Board of Education Chair Fern Desjardins, 2022 Maine Teacher of the Year Kelsey Stoyanova, and Maine County and State Teachers of the Year Association Co-President Heather Whitaker to announce the new class of County Teachers of the Year.

As part of the Maine Teacher of the Year Program, hundreds of teachers across Maine are nominated by a member of their school community. Through a rigorous application process, one teacher from each county is selected as a County Teacher of the Year by a panel of teachers, principals, and business community members within the county.

"It is a privilege to congratulate Maine's 2022 County Teachers of the Year," said Governor Janet Mills. "As the daughter of a long-time public school teacher, I know how hard

each of these teachers works every day to make sure our kids have the best shot at success. I am so grateful for all they do for our students, our communities, and our state, and I promise that my Administration will do all we can to support them."

"It's such an honor to celebrate these extraordinary teachers and elevate them as true ambassadors for all Maine teachers and the teaching profession," said Education Commissioner Pender Makin. "These teachers were nominated by students, colleagues, and parents for the difference they make every day in the lives of their students, for their innovation and leadership, and for their commitment to their schools and communities. You are all true heroes, and the Maine Department of Education is so grateful for all you do."

"We are so proud of the 2022 County Teacher of the Year cohort. They are truly remarkable teachers and we look forward to working with them throughout their year of recognition," said Educate Maine Executive Director Jason Judd.

Maine County Teachers of the Year serve as ambassadors for teachers,

students, and quality education state-wide throughout the year. The Maine County Teachers of the Year are available to make presentations to local and regional organizations. Throughout the summer, they will continue to participate in an intensive Maine State Teacher of the Year selection process.

The Maine Department of Education's Teacher of the Year Program is administered through a collaborative partnership with Educate Maine. To learn more about the Teacher of the Year Program visit: <https://www.mainetoy.org/>. The event was also broadcast live on the Maine Department of Education's YouTube page.

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**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 [lpref@lewistonmaine.gov](mailto:lpref@lewistonmaine.gov), or go to [lplonline.org/events/teen-tabletop-rpgs/](http://lplonline.org/events/teen-tabletop-rpgs/)

**May 4 and every Wednesday**

**GORHAM** – 10:00am Weekly story time has resumed at the North Gorham Public Library! Storytime

# Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

is open to children & their caregivers. Join us weekly for stories, songs and crafts every Wednesday at 10am. 2 Standish Neck Rd, Gorham ME.

**May 20**

**GREENE** -- Alan Elze presents "Lincoln Highway" on Friday, May 20th at 2 & 7 PM. The Araxine Wilkins Sawyer Memorial, 371 Sawyer Road, Greene. Free admission! FMI call 946-5311, visit [sawyer-foundation.com](http://sawyer-foundation.com) or [www.facebook.com/sawyer.foundation1937](http://www.facebook.com/sawyer.foundation1937)

**May 21**

**LEWISTON** -- Saturday May 21, 2022, 7PM: The Midcoast Symphony Orchestra presents "Conductors Galore" with conductors Jinwook Park, Rohan Smith, and a special guest. Saturday, May 21 at 7:00 p.m. at The Gendron Franco Center, 46 Cedar St., Lewiston. Tickets \$22 (advance) \$25 (cash or check) at the door, 207-

846-5378, or <http://www.midcoastsymphony.org> for details. Under 18 and college students are free.

**May 25-28**

**Buck A Bag Book Sale** at the Auburn Public Library Bookstore. Huge clearance sale May 25-28, Wed-Fri 10:00-4:00, Sat 9:30-12:30. Thousands of books, new ones added each day. \$1 a bag - bring your own bag, any size (as long as you can lift it). Androscoggin Room, Auburn Public Library, 49 Spring Street, Auburn.

**May 28**

**GRAY** -- Dine In Supper - First Congregational Church of Gray, Saturday, May 28, 5:00 at the Parish House, 5 Brown Street, Gray. Handicapped accessible. You MUST make reservations in advance. Contact Carol at 650-9093 and let her know your name, phone number, and how many in your party. We are

accepting only 50 Reservations! Cut off for reservations will be Wednesday, May 25 at 2:00 P. M. The Menu includes: Baked Pea Beans, 2 Red Hot Dogs, Biscuit, Limited Casseroles and Salads, Assortment of Desserts, and Beverages. Meals are single-sized and are \$10.00. Please pay at the door.

**June 1**

**AUBURN** -- Grand Opening of a second An Angel's Wing - Second Chance Thrift Shop Boutique, located in the Auburn Mall ( across from Bath & Body Works, in the old leather shop) on June 1. An Angel's Wing is a 501(c)3 - We earn money to help those who are ready for detox, rehab, sober living, for their families, and for anyone who is affected by Substance Use Disorder. An Angel's Wing believe that everyone deserves the chance to Live, Learn and Recover. Deb York began An Angel's Wing in 2017 and has been helping our community since.

**June 4**

**AUBURN** -- The Maine Iris Society announces its upcoming Iris

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& Spring Flower Show being held on Saturday, June 4th from 130pm to 4pm at the Auburn Middle School, 38 Falcon Dr, Auburn. Admission is free and will feature a sale of Potted Perennials and Irises. Bare-Root Iris Rhizomes will also be available for \$1 each.

**June 4-26**

**FREEPORT** -- CARAVAN OF DREAMS, written and directed by Stephen Legawiec; presented by Ziggurat Theatre Ensemble and the Desert of Maine Center for Arts and Ecology. Opens: June 4 and continues through June 26. Held at Desert of Maine; 95 Desert Road; Freeport, ME 04843. Parking is available

in the Desert of Maine lot. For tickets, see <https://caravanofdreams.eventbrite.com> or call (207) 854-8882. General Admission: \$25.00; Seniors/Students/veterans \$20.00; Kids 17 or under: \$5.00.

**June 16-19, 23-26**

**AUBURN** -- The L/A Community Little Theatre presents the classic comedy You Can't Take It With You, one of the most popular and successful plays of modern times. Show dates are June 16-18, 23-25 at 7:30 p.m., and June 19 and 26 at 2:00 p.m. Visit the website at ([laclt.com](http://laclt.com)) for more information or to purchase tickets.

## Universities, Coalitions Assess Status of Wolves in Maine

**MAINE (May 9, 2022)** -- John M. Glowa, Sr., president of The Maine Wolf Coalition, Inc., (MWC) a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to wolf recovery in Maine through research, education and protection, is pleased to announce a new collaboration with Princeton University and Michigan Technological University. This collaboration will include the collection, preservation and analysis of wild canid scats, primarily from Maine, and is the latest development in a citizen science project to assess the status of wolves in Maine begun by MWC in 2019.

Wolves were documented to have been killed in Maine in 1993 and 1996. Since then, other than MWC's efforts, little has been done to assess the status of wolves in Maine and the northeast. Given their similarity of appearance to eastern coyotes, it is likely that additional wolves have been killed in Maine, and in fact, since 1993, no less than nine wolves have been documented killed south of the St. Lawrence River from Massachusetts to New Brunswick. Canada's wolf range in Ontario and Quebec is just sixty miles from New York and seventy-five miles from Maine.

In fact, an 85 pound probable wolf was killed this past winter in central New York. Wolves have been documented to travel more than 1,000 miles during dispersal, making the northeast U.S. well within range for natural wolf recolonization. Furthermore, the northeast U.S. and maritime Canada contain tens of thousands of square miles of potential wolf habitat and abundant prey, making the region suitable for the natural return of wolves.

In 2019, MWC volunteers found scat from the first live Eastern wolf ever documented in Maine. The Eastern wolf is a smaller

wolf found in southern Ontario and Quebec, which typically averages approximately 60 pounds. It is similar in appearance and size to the eastern coyote (aka coywolf) with which it can interbreed. Maine may also be home to larger gray wolves dispersing south from central Canada and the Great Lakes region. To date, MWC has collected more than one hundred wild canid scats, primarily in a 3.3 million acre region of Maine called the North Maine Woods. The assistance from Princeton and Michigan Technological Universities will help to assess the status of wolves

in Maine by analyzing the scats and interpreting the results. Eventually, our hope is to have one or more graduate students in the woods of northern Maine monitoring radio-collared wolves.

Any wolves in the northeast are currently protected under the federal Endangered Species Act, although the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has claimed that their populations have recovered in most of the U.S. They have not recovered in the northeast, despite abundant habitat and prey, and the region's proximity to wolf range in Ontario and Que-

bec. MWC hopes to gather information to support the continued listing of wolves in the region under the Endangered Species Act and to promote natural wolf recolonization through research, education, and protection.

For more information, contact the following: The Maine Wolf Coalition, Inc. John Glowa [jglowa@roadrunner.com](mailto:jglowa@roadrunner.com); Eastern Coyote/Coywolf Research Jon Way, PhD. [jon@easterncoyoteresearch.com](mailto:jon@easterncoyoteresearch.com); Princeton University Bridgett vonHoldt, PhD. [vonholdt@princeton.edu](mailto:vonholdt@princeton.edu); Michigan Technological University Kristin E. Brzeski, PhD. [kbrzeski@mtu.edu](mailto:kbrzeski@mtu.edu)

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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 ISLAND - SEPTEMBER 10-18, 2022**  
Trip includes 9 days and 8 nights - 14 meals - Guided tour of Mackinaw City - Visit to Mackinaw City. Visit to Mackinac Island including a guided Carriage Tour. Boat ride through the Soo Locks and free time and sightseeing in Sault Sainte Marie. Admission to Colonial Michillmackinac. Price is \$899.00 per person double occupancy with

a \$75.00 deposit due upon signing.

**WHITE MOUNTAIN HOTEL AND RESORT - DECEMBER 4 & 5, 2022**  
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For questions and detailed information on these trips, please call: Claire - 207-784-0302 or Cindy- 207-345-9569.

## SPRING DANCE

May 14, 2022 at VFW on Minot Avenue, Auburn. 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Open to all. Arron C live DJ. Money raffle, snacks.

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

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# Lewiston City Council and Mayor Give Statement on Lake Auburn

**LEWISTON, ME (May 12, 2022)** -- Today, the City of Lewiston filed a lawsuit against the Auburn Water District in order to protect and preserve the quality of the water of Lake Auburn. Lake Auburn is the source for drinking water for thousands of residents of Lewiston, the City of Auburn and the Town of Poland.

The stakes of this dispute to the area's residents are high. In the early 1990s, a newly-enacted federal

law required that all drinking water be filtered. A filtration plant for Lake Auburn was then estimated to cost between \$20,000,000 and \$24,000,000 with annual operating costs projected at \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000. Now, costs of filtration are likely double that amount.

Government regulators gave Lewiston and the Auburn Water District a waiver from a requirement to build a water filtration plant, on the condition

that it enter an agreement to maintain the high water quality of Lake Auburn. For thirty years, Lewiston and the Auburn Water District have worked together to preserve the pure water of Lake Auburn.

Now with anticipated development in the watershed, the City of Lewiston requested that the Auburn Water District continue to honor its commitment under its contract with the City of Lewiston. On March 31, 2022, Lewiston

asked the Auburn Water District to adopt a moratorium on future development in the Lake Auburn watershed, unless and until a study showed that there would be no adverse effects on the quality of the region's drinking water. To date, Auburn Water District has not responded to the request and has refused to discuss or negotiate the matter with Lewiston. So, in order to ensure its voice, and that of Lake Auburn's, is heard, the City of Lewis-

ton filed this lawsuit.

As Mayor Carl Shelton put it: "The City of Lewiston and the Auburn Water District have a long partnership to provide clean drinking water from Lake Auburn. I hope that this dispute can be resolved in that spirit. Until then, Lewiston will fight to ensure that all of us who get our drinking water from Lake Auburn will continue to get clean water."

The sentiment was echoed by City Council

President Lee Clement: "The Lewiston City Council is united in its purpose to protect the water of Lake Auburn for all who drink it. The Auburn Water District shared that purpose when it entered into several legal agreements to protect the water in the past thirty years. We hope that the Auburn Water District comes forward now to continue to protect our water per its commitments to do so. We look forward to its response."

# New Beginnings Receives \$10,000 Grant for Homeless Youth Services

**LEWISTON, ME (April 21, 2022)** – Avangrid Foundation in partnership with Central Maine Power has gifted \$10,000 in grant funding to New Beginnings, Inc., a

Lewiston-based nonprofit serving homeless and at-risk youth.

Avangrid Foundation funding is helping New Beginnings promote the safety, connections,

and growth that runaway and homeless youth need to thrive in 2021-22, especially as they continue to face challenges exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The Avangrid Foundation and Central Maine Power are proud to support the great work being done at New Beginnings with this grant," said CMP President and CEO, Joe Purington. "We are living through some tough times right now. I am hopeful that this partnership will help Maine youth who may be struggling with homelessness connect to services that can help."

New Beginnings operates Marian's Place – the only youth shelter in Maine licensed for 24-

hour care – along with a full spectrum of supportive housing, counseling, educational support, prevention, and outreach services for teens and young adults in Androscoggin, Franklin, and Kennebec counties.

"New Beginnings is grateful to have received continued support from the Avangrid Foundation for our work to address youth homelessness in Maine," said Executive Director Chris Bicknell. "Avangrid's ongoing assistance and generosity is helping meet the basic needs of Maine's vulnerable youth living on the streets or facing food and housing insecurity. Young people need our help more than ever to find safety,

stay healthy, connect to caring adults, and increase stability as they transition to adulthood."

New Beginnings' workers reach out to youth on the streets and at schools, libraries, corner stores, and parks to offer emergency supplies, a listening ear, and information about how to get food and shelter. Staff welcome and build trust with youth, encouraging them to engage in services when they are ready. Family mediation helps youth return home or reunify with relatives; when that isn't possible, New Beginnings provides Transitional Living apartments where older youth can learn the skills they need to live independently.

Youth and young adults up to age 21 come to New Beginnings' Youth Outreach Drop-in Center in Lewiston for help finding housing, emergency food and supplies, or simply a safe place to get warm off the streets and eat a much-needed meal.

All of New Beginnings' residential and outreach programs offer comprehensive case management to help young people pursue their goals and access and maintain stable housing. Avangrid Foundation has identified youth homelessness as a top priority for their philanthropy and is partnering with multiple organizations working to end youth homelessness in Maine.

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