



TWIN CITY TIMES

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Lewiston Celebrates Opening of Obscura Café & Drinkery



LEWISTON, ME (August 5, 2022) — A ribbon cutting ceremony was held for the opening of Obscura Café & Drinkery in Lewiston on Thursday, August 4, 2022. Lewiston Mayor Carl Sheline was joined by John Rice, Director of Operations at Schooner Estate Senior Living Center and Board Chair of the Board for LA Metro Chamber, Senator Susan Collin's Office Representative Carlene Trembly, Congressman Jared Golden's Office District Representative Katherine Drummond, Maine State Representative Kristen Cloutier, City of Lewiston City Council President Lee Clement, Ward 2 Lewiston City Councilor Robert McCarthy, and members of the public.

Obscura Café & Drinkery is a 1920's reminiscent eatery, drinkery, and entertainment venue that aims to bring an all inclusive experience to Downtown Lewiston's

Arts District.

"The decor and ambiance are amazing. Between the large projection screen and speakeasy style lounge and period posters, you are transported into a different place and time. I am so pleased to be at another celebration of growth and entrepreneurship within our community," said Mayor Sheline.

Serving an American style menu of paninis, salads, flatbreads, specialty waffles and charcuterie, Obscura provides a creative menu that is also accessible for guests with gluten sensitivity and vegan diets. The bar features a large selection of craft beers, canned cocktails, and wine. The space boasts a large projection theater screen above the bar that shows silent films and speakeasy style lounge downstairs for performances and events that will be opening soon. You can learn more at ObscuraMaine.com.

"We've always had the vision to give the iconic Lamey-Wellehan building a second life while preserving the history of the space and of the Wellehan family legacy. With the full support and belief of Jim Wellehan, we made that happen", said co-owner and Lewiston native, Corey DuFour.

"As a company that is owned and operated by several artists, we wanted to create a space that creatives could gather and be represented. From fine artists, to musicians, artisans and other performers of the arts, we will have opportunities to hold events and displays that will showcase the talents of our local art community", said co-owner and local artist, Angie Lafrance.

Balloon Festival Photo Spread
Pages 6-11

28th Great Falls Balloon Festival
RETURNING FROM THE WILD!
AUGUST 19-21, 2022

Museum L-A to Host Conversation on History of Farmers' Almanac

LEWISTON, ME (August 17, 2022) — From farming and gardening lore, to the best times to stargaze and plant, to its uncanny weather forecasts, the Farmers' Almanac has been informing and entertaining for over 200 years – from right here in Lewiston.

At this next in the series of Made in Maine events at Museum L-A, publisher Peter Geiger and funnyman emcee Dennis Price will regale the crowd with the inside scoop on the history and evolution of this unique publication that keeps on spinning its brand of homegrown tips and Maine-based wisdom. This event will be held on Wednesday, September 7 at 5:30pm.

Throughout the evening, attendees will have the chance to win gifts provided by an array of area gardening, farming,

and agriculture-related businesses.

Come join us for a night celebrating a storied Maine publication and all the local farmers, gardeners, and businesses in Maine who are part of our farming and gardening tradition. The event is sponsored by Ann's Flower Shop.

The evening is the second in the Made In Maine series offered by Museum L-A. Made in Maine spotlights businesses making an impact locally, regionally, nationally and globally that continue the long tradition of exceptional craftsmanship and industry in our region.

For more information about Museum L-A and its events and exhibits, visit www.museumla.org or call 207-333-3881. The museum is located at 35 Canal Street in Lewiston.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

DHHS Accepts Applications for Construction of Child Care Centers

AUGUSTA, ME (August 18, 2022) – The Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) announced today that the Child Care Infrastructure Grant Program, part of Governor Janet Mills’ Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan, has launched the second phase of grantmaking for costs associated with new construction of child care centers and expansion of existing child care providers. The grant program, announced by Governor Janet Mills in July, will provide a total \$15 million investment to help child care businesses launch or expand, and could support more than 4,700 new child care slots across Maine, enabling over 2,700 parents to work or take classes while their children receive quality care.

The Child Care Infrastructure Grant Program, which utilizes Federal funding through the Amer-

ican Rescue Plan, is part of a \$25 million child care initiative in the Governor’s Jobs Plan that includes \$15 million for early childhood education. The grant program will help Maine people open child care businesses in their homes, transform existing buildings into quality child care spaces, and construct new child care facilities. Existing child care providers can also use the funding to expand the number of children they serve. Priority is given to sites in rural areas, that care for infants and toddlers, and participate in the child care subsidy program.

“We are excited to open this grant opportunity to child care facilities, which play a vital role in Maine’s child care infrastructure” said Health and Human Services Commissioner Jeanne Lambrew and OCFS Director Todd Landry. “Expanding these programs will not only support Maine families by providing high-quality,

affordable child care options, but will also increase employment opportunities in early childhood education.”

OCFS is administering the Child Care Infrastructure Grant Program through a partnership with Brunswick-based Coastal Enterprises, Inc. The funding may be used for new construction, renovations, outdoor spaces, indoor furniture and fixtures, educational materials and working capital.

Applications are open to those building or expanding a child care facility (a child care business outside a home environment). Sole proprietors, partnerships, cooperatives, nonprofit organizations, and employers are eligible to apply for a grant covering up to 50 percent of their start-up costs. Existing child care providers seeking an additional license are also eligible to apply. Applicants renovating an existing building may request up to 50 percent of

their start-up costs up to \$80,000. Those constructing a new building are eligible for up to 50 percent of their start-up costs, up to \$250,000. First round applications are being accepted through September 30, 2022.

The first phase of grantmaking to support new family or home-based child care businesses opened July 6 to encourage new providers in Maine’s rural areas. To date, 63 providers have applied for grants. Applications for this program are being accepted through May 2023. Home-based child care businesses may apply for 75 percent of their start-up costs, up to \$8,500. New family child care businesses licensed by September 30, 2023, are also eligible for a one-time \$2,000 stipend.

Governor Mills is making these and other historic investments in accessible child care in Maine as part of the first-ever Child Care Plan for Maine

(PDF) developed by OCFS that invests approximately \$120 million in American Rescue Plan funds to help Maine’s child care system recover and to improve quality, accessibility, and affordability over the long-term. Maine was one of the first 12 states to release American Rescue Plan funds, with more than 1,500 providers receiving the payments to date. This investment also includes helping low-income parents who receive subsidies by waiving their contribution to child care fees.

Additionally, Governor Mills included in her supplemental budget, signed into law in April, State funding to continue \$200 monthly stipends to more than 7,000 child care workers, continuing stipends that the Department began providing last year as part of a larger effort to attract and retain people to work in this valuable profession.

As a result of these investments totaling more

than \$100 million to date, child care providers have been able to maintain and build capacity despite the pandemic – from 47,819 licensed slots in February 2020 to over 48,500 licensed slots in July 2022.

OCFS additionally maintains the Child Care Choices website, which allows families to locate and connect with providers in their area.

The Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan is the Governor’s plan, approved by the Legislature, to invest nearly \$1 billion in Federal American Rescue Plan funds to improve the lives of Maine people and families, help businesses, create good-paying jobs, and build an economy poised for future prosperity. It draws heavily on recommendations from the Governor’s Economic Recovery Committee and the State’s 10-Year Economic Development Strategy. For more about Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan, visit maine.gov/jobsplan.

AARP Thanks Sen. King for Relief on Prescription Drug Pricing

PORTLAND, ME (August 8, 2022) (Press Release by AARP MAINE) – Earlier today the Senate voted to pass the Inflation Reduction

Act of 2022, a bill that includes several key provisions to lower the prices of prescription drugs. AARP Maine thanks Senator Angus King for supporting

this critical legislation and moving one step closer to real relief for seniors.

The Inflation Reduction Act includes key AARP priorities that will

go a long way to lower drug prices and out-of-pocket costs. AARP fought for provisions in the bill that will:

Finally allow Medicare to negotiate the price of drugs

Cap annual out-of-pocket prescription drug costs in Medicare Part D at \$2,000

Hold drug companies accountable when they increase drug prices faster than the rate of inflation, and

Cap co-pays for insulin to no more than \$35 per month in Part D.

Jo Ann Jenkins, AARP Chief Executive Officer, issued a statement reacting to the Senate vote.

“Since AARP’s founding we have fought for older adults to have access to affordable health care – including prescription drugs. And we have been working for nearly two decades to allow Medicare to negotiate the price it pays for medications. Thanks to today’s historic vote in the Senate, millions of Americans 50+ are one step closer to real relief from out-of-pocket prescription drug prices. This bill will save Medicare hundreds of billions of dollars and give seniors peace of mind knowing there is an annual limit on what they must pay out-of-pocket for medications. Lowering prescription drug prices is a top priority

for Americans, with more than 80% of people across political parties supporting the measure. We thank all the senators who voted today to lower drug prices.

“We are also pleased that the bill will keep health insurance affordable for millions of Americans who purchase their coverage in the marketplace, especially consumers aged 50-64 – more than one million of whom have gained more affordable options.

“We urge the House to move quickly and enact this momentous reform. AARP fought hard for this victory, and we will keep fighting to get Americans relief from the high price of prescription drugs.”



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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Maine OCP Launches Portal for Municipal Reimbursement Funds

AUGUSTA, ME (August 8, 2022) – Today, the Office of Cannabis Policy (OCP), a part of the Maine Department of Administrative and Financial Services (DAFS), announced the launch of its online portal for submissions by Maine municipalities to be reimbursed up to \$20,000 for costs associated with opting in to Maine’s Adult Use Cannabis Program.

As a result of the 130th Legislature’s second session, Maine cities and towns that have opted in to

the state’s adult use cannabis market will be eligible for reimbursement of qualifying expenses, provided by the OCP from the Adult Use Cannabis Public Health and Safety and Municipal Opt-in Fund, which is funded by excise and sales tax revenues generated by the transfer and sale of adult use cannabis.

“Maine’s launch of the Adult Use Cannabis Program has been strong,” said OCP Director Erik Gundersen. “But the benefits are still only being

realized by about 7% of Maine’s cities and towns. From a recent report commissioned by the OCP, we know that the presence of adult use retail stores and other facilities is the most responsible way to continue to eradicate the illicit market, while driving down negative public health and safety impacts.”

Qualifying expenses must have occurred in the previous three years, and must be associated directly with a municipality’s process of opting in to the

adult use cannabis market. Such expenses may include (but may not be limited to), attorneys’ fees and/or staff time to research, draft and revise cannabis ordinances, fees associated with providing notice of election and public meetings, staff time and other associated expenses, for the conduct of town meetings and elections and the tabulation and publication of results. Reimbursements will be considered on a first come, first served basis.

The form for reim-

bursement requests, as well as more information on the program, can be found at maine.gov/dafs/ocp/resources/municipal-resources.

“The reality is, no matter if a town has opted in or not,” continued Gundersen, “there is cannabis being bought, sold, and consumed there. The most important thing we can do is to try and ensure that Mainers who choose to use cannabis can do so in a well-regulated environment that safeguards public health and safety

in the best way possible. Taking this next, big step to incentivize Maine cities and towns to engage in the regulated adult use market is the most effective way to do just that.”

About the OCP: The Mills Administration created OCP within DAFS in February 2019. The Office is responsible for the oversight of all aspects of legalized cannabis, including Maine’s Medical Use of Cannabis Program and the Adult Use Cannabis Program.

Sen. Collins Announces \$2M for BSOOB Transit

WASHINGTON, D.C. (August 11, 2022) — U.S. Senator Susan Collins, the Ranking Member of the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee, announced that Biddeford-Saco-Old Orchard Beach (BSOOB) Transit has received a total of \$2,047,407 to purchase two electric buses to replace two diesel buses that have reached the end of their useful lives. This grant was awarded through the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Low and No Emission (Low-No) Vehicle Grant Program. The funding was provided through the bipartisan infrastructure law, which Senator Collins negotiated with nine of her colleagues.

“Meeting the transportation needs of Biddeford, Saco, Old Orchard Beach, and Scarborough residents as well as their many summer visitors requires a public transit sys-

tem that is safe, reliable, and eco-friendly,” said Senator Collins. “As the Ranking Member of the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee, I have strongly advocated for funding to launch BSOOB Transit’s electric bus fleet and install charging infrastructure. This investment will build on that effort by allowing BSOOB Transit to take two more diesel buses off the road and replace them with battery-powered, carbon-neutral, and 100% sustainable buses.”

“This is a very exciting announcement of transportation funding to the Biddeford, Saco, and Old Orchard Beach communities. This grant award will propel our agency closer to the state’s emission reduction goals,” said Chad Heid, Executive Director of BSOOB Transit. “We’re very thankful for the advocacy of Senator Collins

and our federal delegation to secure this grant award, as well as the funding support from Maine DOT. We look forward to operating a fleet of four battery electric buses and leveraging the on-route charging infrastructure that was funded through previous grant awards. The zero-emission fleet will be operated through the BSOOB Transit service area, which includes Biddeford, Saco, Old Orchard Beach, Scarborough, South Portland, and Portland.”

In 2019, Senator Collins announced that BSOOB Transit was awarded \$880,000 to replace two diesel buses with two electric buses replacing. In 2021, she secured an additional \$1.2 million to allow BSOOB Transit to purchase depot and on-route charging equipment, which allows the new electric buses to remain on the road for a full 16-hour service day.

UMaine Launches Online Farmers Market Price Report



Courtesy of University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

ORONO, ME (August 10, 2022) — Maine farmers can now access a new online tool to search for current market-specific price data to help refine their business plans, apply

for financing or manage day-to-day operations.

The Maine Farmers Market Price Report provides updated price data by commodity, commercial or organic, and is searchable

by region or statewide using an interactive map tool. Reports can be customized and downloaded.

The project is made possible with funding through the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry, and support of the Maine Federation of Farmers Markets, Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, Maine Farmland Trust, University of Maine and University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

For more information contact Tori Jackson, 207.581.8201; tori.jackson@maine.edu.

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Names & Faces to the editor.
Deadline is
Friday by five pm.**

Please help us in welcoming Fran Gagne to the Champoux Insurance Agency family.

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In her free time, Fran enjoys spending time with her family & friends and her pride & joy is her grandson, Caiden.



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Seniors Not Acting Their Age

Little Whaleboat by Land and Sea

By Ron Chase

Little Whaleboat Island in northern Casco Bay is a special place. Actually a trio of small islands and ledges named Little Whaleboat (West), Nate, and Tuck, they're connected at low tide. I've been visiting them since I began sea kayaking a couple of decades ago. The reason is simple; it's a beautiful location easily reached by launching from Mere Point in Brunswick or Lookout Point and Mitchell Field in Harpswell.

During my many visits, I never realized Little Whaleboat was privately owned and access was due to the generosity of the landowner. When the island was placed up for sale, Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) led an effort to raise 1.3 million dollars to buy and conserve the island for the public for perpetuity. In December 2021, MCHT announced they had successfully purchased the island.

Recently, my retired friend, Bob Rowe, and I decided it was time to resume our relationship with Little Whaleboat by thoroughly exploring the newly acquired island. We elected to depart from the closest boat launch, Mitch-

ell Field, about three miles from Little Whaleboat.

This was my first experience departing from Mitchell Field. I found it to be an exceptional facility. The complex offers opportunities to walk, bike, swim, and picnic. Hand-carry boats can be launched from two beaches. The proximity to islands in northern Casco Bay is another benefit.

We carried our kayaks down to the shore at North Beach. Little Whaleboat could be seen in the distance about a mile west of much larger Whaleboat Island. We traveled southwest in gentle swells and a light headwind towards Whaleboat. Carefully avoiding lobster boats and pleasure crafts in the busy bay was a necessity throughout our voyage.

From Whaleboat, we navigated west to the eastern shore of Little Whaleboat. The tide was low when we arrived at a substantial gravel beach on the north side. This is an excellent location to land kayaks at any tidal level. Two pleasure crafts were moored offshore and several occupants were swimming from their boats. While walking onto the beach, a noisy osprey cir-

cled above quickly capturing our attention.

Adjacent to the beach is a large MCHT campsite. After completing an inspection, Bob and I continued our land exploration. Low tide and a rocky shoreline allowed for fairly easy foot travel proceeding clockwise. We stopped to reconnoiter a smaller MCHT campsite on the east side of the island. The narrow channel that separates Little Whaleboat and Nate Island was impassable at that tidal level.

Large boulders and extensive ledges were more prevalent on the south side of the island providing for a stimulating scramble. The densely forested interior discouraged any inclination to shorten the journey. Rounding the bend and turning north, we encountered a veritable muddy highway between the western shore of Little Whaleboat and Tuck Island.

Surmounting a substantial ledge, we returned to the northern beach completing a trek around the exterior of the island. In addition to the ubiquitous osprey, bird sightings were plentiful throughout our trek. While enjoying views of the islands of Merepoint



A hiker begins an exploration of the eastern shore of Little Whaleboat Island



A kayaker approaches Little Whaleboat Island in Casco Bay



A paddler hauls his kayak ashore at low tide

and Middle Bays in the north, we were impressed with the remarkable peacefulness of the location.

Embarking in our kayaks, we concluded a circumnavigation of the archipelago. The numerous inlets, coves, and ledges provided for a stimulating investigation of the rugged shoreline by water.

After running off

the north end of Whaleboat, we encountered stronger winds and bigger seas during our crossing to Mitchell Field. A continuum of outgoing sailboats delayed our traverse. While bobbing in swells, we exchanged greetings with the exuberant occupants as they passed.

North Beach at

Mitchell Field was a much

busier place when we returned. Hot weather had attracted a multitude of beachgoers. Despite the crowd, there was adequate space to land and carry our kayaks to the loading zone.

For me, Little Whaleboat Island has been an exceptional destination since I began sea kayaking. MCHT's successful effort to protect it for the public is a substantial achievement. As a result of our visit, we left the island with a heightened sense of the magnitude of their accomplishment.

Read about eight more exciting sea kayak trips along the Maine coast in my book, *Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine*. Upcoming book signings will be held at Sherman's Maine Coast Book Shops in Topsham on August 20th between 11-1 and Freeport on August 27th between 1-3.

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> or in bookstores and through online distributors. His previous books are "The Great Mars Hill Bank Robbery" and "Mountains for Mortals - New England." Visit his website at www.ronchaseoutdoors.com or he can be reached at ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net

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The BikeMaine Weekend Arrives in Lincoln on August 26



PORTLAND, ME (August 18, 2022) -- The BikeMaine Weekend—a road cycling event with three days of riding and a full slate of programming designed to highlight the lively culture and astounding geography of the Katahdin Region—will take place in Lincoln from August 26-28, according to the Bicycle Coalition of Maine (BCM).

“We’re beyond excited to bring the BikeMaine Weekend to Lincoln,” said BCM Event Director Colleen Donohoe.

The event features both long and short route options every day, each fully supported and carefully curated to include points of interest, a well-stocked rest stop, and additional food options along the way.

The Coalition urges Lincoln locals to be on the lookout for riders on the

roads throughout the weekend, and advises motorists to allow plenty of space when passing cyclists.

The 2022 BikeMaine Weekend also marks the return of the “BikeMaine Village,” the event’s home base that offers four catered meals, camping, a Maine Beer Company beer garden, a wine tent, evening entertainment, and indoor bathroom and shower facilities. The Village will encompass both Cobb Field—the waterfront greenspace belonging to Mattanawcook Junior High School—and nearby Prince Thomas Park.

An assortment of post-ride daily local activities featuring the culture, community and history of the region will also be offered. This includes BCM-led gravel rides and “Fix-A-Bike” mechanic workshops, as well as farmer & artisan markets, local



tours, and kayak and paddleboard rentals. While the daily rides and catered meals are for registered BikeMaine riders, the Coalition is hoping that local residents and visitors alike will enjoy the additional programming.

Group rides and workshops are free but space is limited, so interested parties can visit bikemaine.org to register.

Three-day registration is now closed, but single-day registration for riding on Saturday or Sunday

is \$85 and can be purchased the morning of the ride at the Information Tent at Cobb Field.

All riders, guests, volunteers, and staff at the BikeMaine Weekend must show proof of full vacci-

nation or proof of a negative COVID-19 test, with a matching photo ID, according to the Coalition’s current COVID-19 policy.

Visit bikemaine.org/the-bikemaine-weekend for more information.

Ocean State Job Lot to Donate 34,000 Backpacks



OSJL team members get directions from David Sarlitto, Executive Director, Ocean State Job Lot Charitable Foundation. Photo courtesy of Ocean State Job Lot.

NORTH KINGSTOWN, RI - (August 16, 2022) – Ocean State Job Lot (OSJL), the region’s premier discount retail chain with stores across

the Northeast, is pleased to announce the success of its “Buy-Give-Get” backpack program to help students in need prepare for the upcoming school year.

OSJL’s “Buy-Give-Get” backpack program kicked off on Monday, July 25th. Customers were encouraged to buy a select backpack at OSJL for \$15.00 and give it back to the store as a donation to a child in need. Each customer who participated received a \$15.00 “Crazy Deal” Gift Card per backpack, for use on a future purchase. OSJL “sold out” of the 34,000 backpacks that were earmarked for the program in just over two weeks.

“We are fortunate to have some of the most

generous and loyal customers out there,” said David Sarlitto, Executive Director, Ocean State Charitable Foundation. “Despite supply-chain issues that delayed our shipment of backpacks, our customers stepped up to the plate and we accumulated more donated backpacks in a shorter window this year than we did over the four weeks of last year’s program. We are so proud of this effort and look forward to helping more than 30,000 kids in need head back to the See **Backpacks**, page 12



OSJL team members stuff thousands of backpacks for students in need across the region at OSJL’s corporate headquarters in North Kingstown, RI. Photo courtesy of Ocean State Job Lot.

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Raising awareness and funds to help individuals suffering with Substance Use Disorder.



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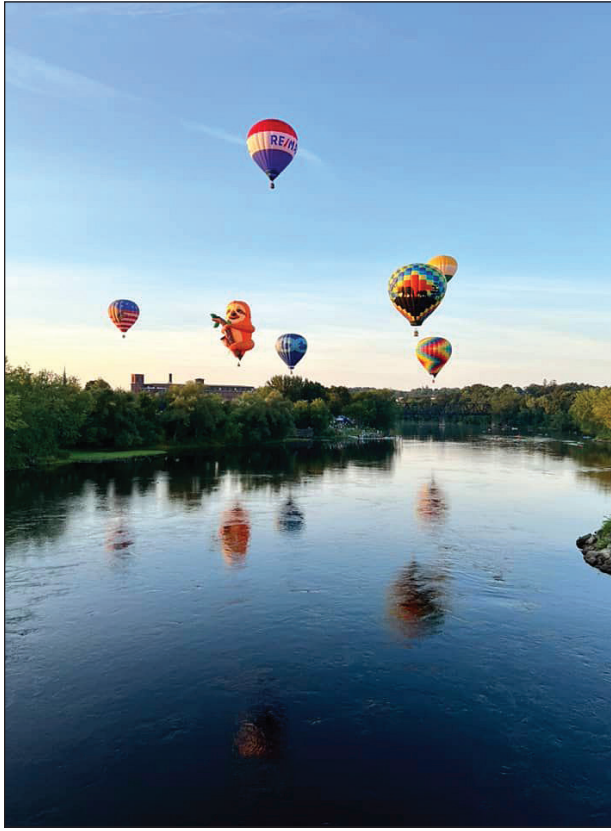


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I want to THANK all my customers for all of their loyalty, support and patience throughout my battle with Leukemia this last year. My family, friends and employees helped keep the shirts rolling and the store open. My treatments were a success so we will fly high yet again!



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Breakin' Strings (Photo credit: Suzanne Murray)



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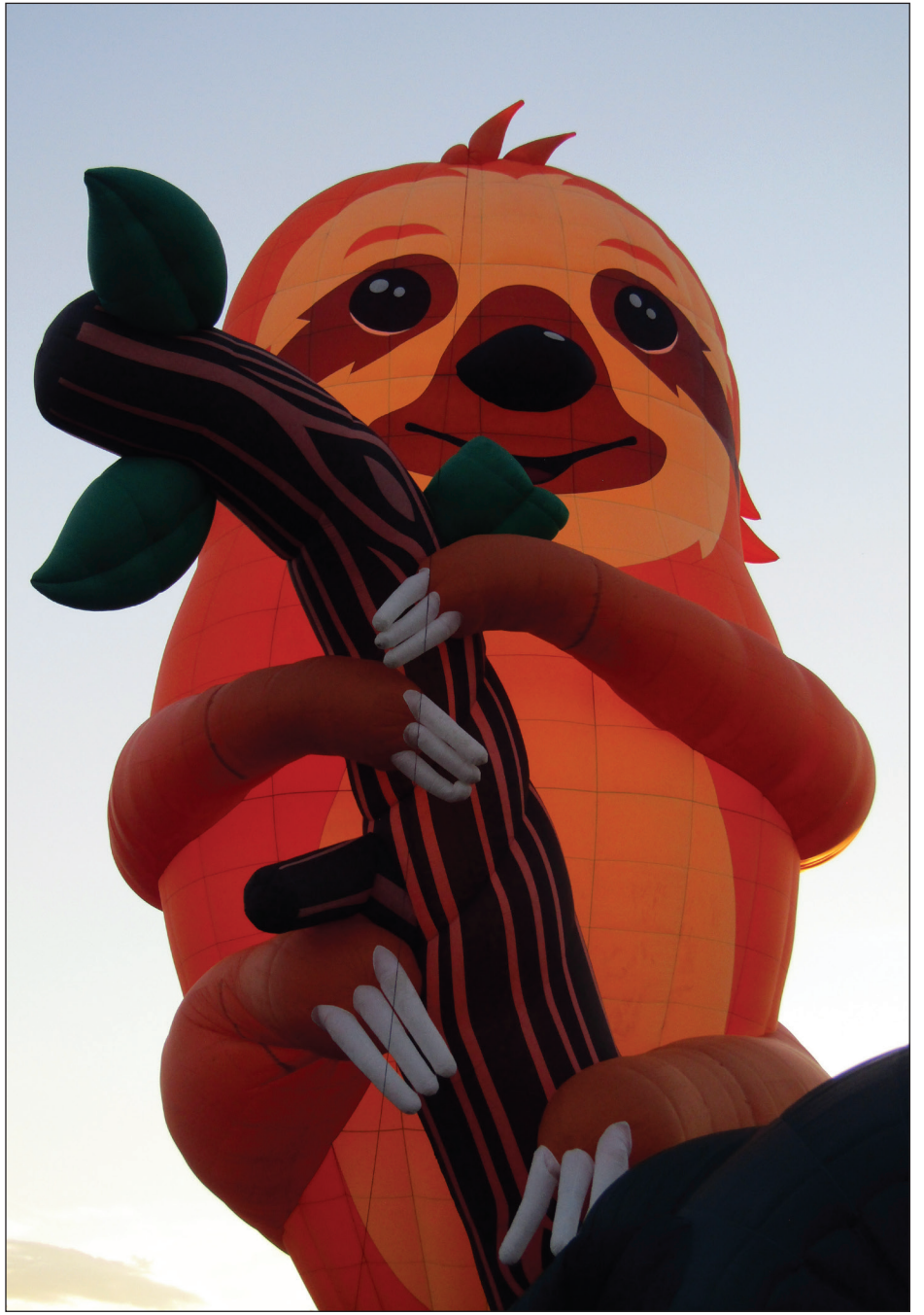


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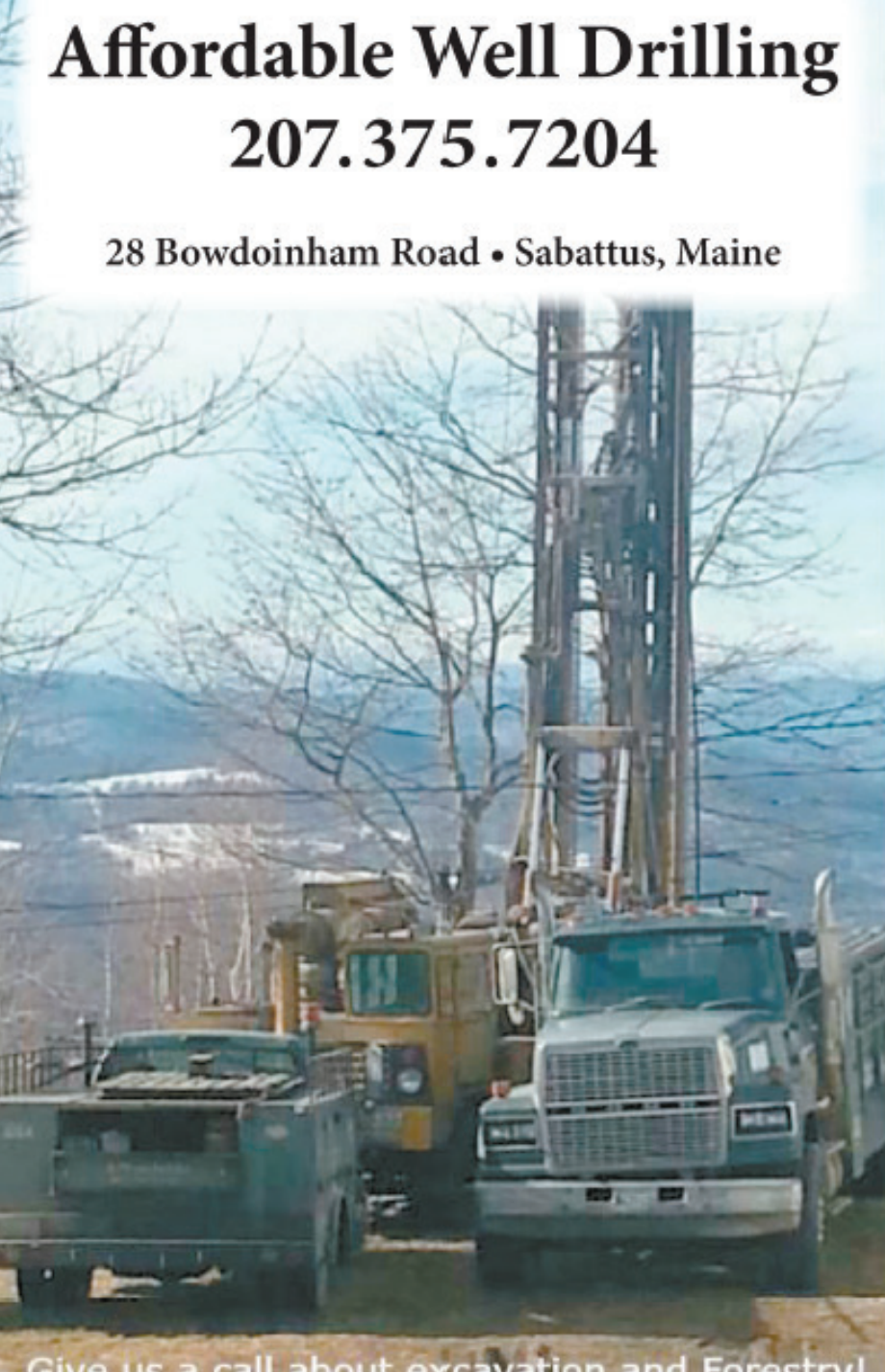
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Right Amount of Wrong (Photo credit: Suzanne Murray)

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Funding to Expand Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

AUGUSTA, ME (August 18, 2022) – A new initiative from Efficiency Maine will further expand the coverage of the state’s electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure by supporting installation of public EV chargers in rural communities. This is the first of a series of planned EV charging infrastructure incentives from Efficiency Maine using \$8 million allocated by Governor Mills’ Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan.

Level 2 EV chargers add 20 to 40 miles of range per hour, and are suitable for hotels, restaurants, retail stores, and public parking lots where the vehicle can recharge for an hour or longer. Eligible projects under the funding opportunity being announced today by Efficiency Maine can receive 80 percent of installation costs, up to a maximum of \$5,000 per Level 2 plug for networked chargers or a maximum of \$2,000 for non-networked chargers. Thanks to the generosity of The Nature Conservancy, projects at local government-owned properties and public libraries in rural areas will be eligible for a bonus incentive of \$2,000 per networked plug, with the total combined incentives covering up to 90 percent of the total project cost.

To be eligible for funding, proposed projects must be in a publicly accessible location in a rural community as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Projects in York and Cumberland counties, and the cities of Lewiston, Auburn and Bangor, are ineligible for this round, but future funding opportunities from Efficiency Maine are intended for areas not covered by this opportunity. To learn more about this funding opportunity, please visit the Efficiency Maine website. The deadline to apply is November 15, 2022.

“One of our goals is to extend public EV charging throughout the state, so we are pleased to focus this round of funding on parts of the map that currently have fewer chargers,” said Michael Stoddard, executive director of the Efficiency Maine Trust. “We appreciate the financial support from the Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan and The Nature Conservancy to make EV charging more accessible and affordable for rural businesses, nonprofits, towns, and tribal governments.”

“A true statewide transition to clean transportation that meets Maine’s climate goals has to include

rural communities,” said Kate Dempsey, state director for The Nature Conservancy in Maine. “We’re pleased to collaborate with Efficiency Maine to make it a little easier for Maine’s municipalities, tribal governments and public libraries to install publicly accessible EV charging infrastructure.”

“With increasing consumer demand putting more EVs on the road in Maine, expanding EV charging infrastructure for rural communities just makes sense,” said Dan Burgess, Director of the Governor’s Energy Office. “We look forward to working with Efficiency Maine to use this funding from the Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan to help make EVs a reality for more Maine people.”

Projects must be pre-approved and if they meet the eligibility criteria will be offered an incentive payable upon completion of the project. This opportunity is offered on a first-come, first-served basis until the budget for this round of \$695,000 is exhausted. Efficiency Maine expects this initial funding opportunity to help defray the cost of approximately 150 new plugs. Projects must be completed by May 31, 2023.

Ineligible locations include private homes, multi-unit dwellings, Airbnb properties, vacation properties (e.g. camps, cabins, and cottages), non-permanent structures, K-12 schools, new and used car dealerships, and sites that intend to use the chargers for fleet vehicles of the property owner or tenant. Some of these locations may qualify for other incentives offered through Efficiency Maine and interested individuals should visit efficiencymaine.com for more information.

To date, Efficiency Maine has helped fund 236 new plugs in Maine’s public EV charging network. A total of 613 Level 2 “community” plugs and 151 DC high-speed charging

plugs are publicly available in Maine. Consumers can find these charger locations using the charging station locator on the quasi-state agency’s website. Efficiency Maine’s website provides a one-stop shop for information about EVs, rebates, and charging infrastructure to help Maine consumers become more comfortable with EVs. The website maintains an online EV educational video library. One video series specifically targets the considerations and decisions of business owners, municipal officials, and other property owners who are assessing whether, where, and how to locate an EV charger at their business, school, apartment complex, or other public location. These videos also cover practical issues, such as reasons to install a public EV charger, choosing an appropriate charging site, sizing the electrical panels, and how to find equipment and installers.

Maine drivers also can learn more about EVs and EV charging through a series of 2- to 4-minute EV educational videos featuring Maine humorist and car enthusiast Tim Sample. The instructional videos featuring Sample cover a variety of topics: where and how to find EV chargers, how to use a public charger, home charging installation tips, how to maximize a home charge, how to recognize the different types of public charger plugs, ways to pay for public EV charging, and “one-pedal driving,” which enables drivers to come to a full stop without using the brake pedal. In addition to the Efficiency Maine website, the video library also can be found on the Efficiency Maine YouTube Channel. Mainers also can find extensive written materials on the agency’s EV web pages, including a guidebook on “How to Select and Install a Home Electric Vehicle Charger,” which provides useful information and tips for current and prospective EV owners.

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Reliability, Cost Savings Among Top EV Benefits

AUGUSTA, ME (August 17, 2022) – A new survey of electric vehicle owners in all 16 of Maine’s counties shows that Maine people value electric vehicles (EVs) for their reliability, performance, and the cost savings they provide.

The survey conducted by the Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM) in April 2022 by mail and online found that 98% of EV owners would personally recommend them to their neighbors, in part because EVs are quiet, help them avoid the high price of gas, and are better for Maine’s environment. Seventy-nine percent of those surveyed save \$25 or more a month on gas, and 56% save \$50 or more.

“It’s hard for me to say one thing that I like most about our electric vehicle. It’s ultra-quiet, there are very few moving parts, it has incredible pick up, it’s so reliable, and it’s fun to drive. Then, it costs me so little to operate. I just can’t believe I haven’t done this before,” said Gale White, owner of the Lubec Brewing Company.

There are now more than five times as many electric vehicles on the road in Maine than in 2018, the last time NRCM conducted an EV survey. Nearly 100% (99%) of those surveyed say their EV is



reliable, and 97% said their EV is affordable and easy to maintain.

“We heard directly from Mainers across the state that electric cars are improving their lives by helping them get around more easily for less money,” said Jack Shapiro, NRCM Climate & Clean Energy Director. “There’s no question as more models come to market and we continue to expand our network of charging stations, more and more Mainers will find electric cars and trucks an attractive and affordable option.”

The survey also found that electric vehicle charging is becoming more convenient. Ninety percent of EV owners primarily charge their cars at home, and the use of public charging stations has increased substantially over the past four years – two out of three of drivers in this year’s survey have used public charging stations, up from one half in 2018 and one third in 2014. Concerns about the costs of charging prior to purchase dropped by 73% after EV owners began driving their EVs.

“I decided to go elec-

tric because it just made a lot of sense to me. The downside was I was a little timid, so at first I bought a plug-in hybrid. But my next car is going to be purely electric. It’s just reached the point of reliability that it’s a no brainer for me,” said Old Town resident Jim Mitchell.

There is now a wide selection of electric vehicles on the road in Maine, with more coming on the market each model year. Of all EV owners in the state, 44% own a fully electric vehicle that does not use any gasoline (up from 30% in 2018), while 56% own a plug-in hybrid vehicle that relies on electric and gas power. The top 5 EV car manufacturers for Maine drivers are, in order of popularity: Toyota, Tesla, Chevrolet, Ford, and Nissan.

Maine’s Climate Action Plan identified EVs, combined with investments in active transportation and public transit along with smarter land use planning, as a key recommendation for helping the state transition away from fossil fuels and toward a clean energy economy.

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

Backpacks

Continued from page 5

classroom well equipped this year.”

The purchased and donated backpacks have been stuffed with back-to-school items and will be distributed in partnership with the USA Veterans and Military Support Foundation, as well as various support agencies and state police departments across the region. Since its inception five

years ago, the Buy-Give-Get backpack program has supplied over 100,000

backpacks to students in need, including children of military families.



OSJL team members with thousands of stuffed backpacks for students in need across the region. Photo courtesy of Ocean State Job Lot.



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GORHAM – 10:00am
Weekly story time has resumed at the North Gorham Public Library! Storytime is open to children & their caregivers. Join us weekly for stories, songs and crafts every Wednesday at 10am. 2 Standish Neck Rd, Gorham ME.

August 13 – 27

ACROSS MAINE
-- DaPonte String Quartet Concerts in August: Thompson "Alleluia", Beethoven Quartet in C Minor, Op. 18 no 4 & Schubert Quartet in A Minor, "Rosamunde" with guest Alexander Romanul, violin

Thursday, August 25, 7:30 pm Union Church, South Bristol *

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

Friday, August 26, 7:30 pm St. Paul's Union Chapel, Waldoboro *

Saturday, August 27, 7:30 pm Meetinghouse Arts, Freeport *

<https://dapontequartet.org/>

August 27

GRAY -- First Congregational Church of Gray, Saturday Night Bean Supper held on Saturday, August 27, 2022, 5:00 PM at the Parish House, 5 Brown Street. Handicapped Accessible; Reservations Required; Accepting Only 50

Reservations. Contact Carol at 650-9093 and let her know your name, phone number, and how many in your party.

Cut off for reservations is Wednesday August 24, 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, Red Hot Dogs, Biscuits, Variety of Casseroles and Salads, Assortment of Desserts, Cold Drinks and Hot Coffee.

September 9-18

All Aboard! Next stop, River City! For the CCAC/Studio Theatre of Bath co-production of this 1957 Meredith Willson Broadway musical hit, **THE MUSIC MAN**.

This offbeat romantic comedy is a true classic of American musical theatre. A treasured gem for all ages. This is a non-traditional, stylized version in staged and choreographed scenes.

The Music Man (Theatre); \$18 ADV | \$22 DOS; Show Run: September 9-18 Thursday, Friday, and Saturday: 7:30-9:30 pm; Sunday: 2-4 pm.

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September 10
Indoor Yard Sale Fundraiser, 34 Wilson Road, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. White Rock Friendship club is sponsoring an indoor yard-sale. All money raised will go toward a scholarship for a Gorham High School

senior! If you have any items you'd like to donate, please message us on Facebook. We will schedule a drop off at the Community Clubhouse Building. <https://www.facebook.com/events/744288096679010>

Preserving The Harvest: Canning & Freezing Basics

AUBURN, ME (August 17, 2022) -- Ever wonder how to preserve all those great garden vegetables? This home food preservation demonstration will teach you the basic steps for canning and freezing. Participants will receive home food preservation fact sheets, and will learn recommended methods for preserving foods, the latest and safest recipes, about equipment to ensure safety, and how to check for properly sealed

jars. Participants may bring their own pressure canner dial gauge to class for a free accuracy test!

Kate McCarty has been the Food Systems Professional at UMaine Extension since 2009, after serving in the AmeriCorps VISTA program. She has completed the Master Food Preserver program, an intensive, hands-on training in all aspects of home food preservation. Kate manages the volunteer efforts of the 60+ Master

Food Preserver volunteers statewide and teaches food preservation programs in York, Cumberland, Oxford, Androscoggin, Sagadahoc, and Franklin counties.

This program will take place in the Androscoggin Community Room; for planning purposes, registration is required. To register, visit the Events page of the APL website – www.auburnpubliclibrary.org – or call the Reference Desk at 207-333-6640, ext. 4.

For more information on this or other upcoming programs offered by the Auburn Public Library, visit their website or contact the Reference Desk, or go to their Facebook page (Auburn Public Library Advocates).

When: Tuesday, August 30, 2022; 4-5 p.m.

Where: Auburn Public Library, Androscoggin Community Room

Contact: Donna Wallace, 333-6640, ext. 4

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LEWISTON SENIOR CITIZENS TRIPS FOR 2022

Hobo Train - Meredith, NH - September 21, 2022 - Enjoyable 2 hour ride on the Winnepesaukee Scenic Railroad. While on board, enjoy a turkey dinner from Hart's Turkey Farm with all the fixings. Price is \$85.00 and includes bus, train ride, turkey dinner and bus driver tip. Deadline to sign up is August 12,

2022. Purchase tickets at the Lewiston Senior Citizens' office at 65 Central Avenue.

Flag Hill Distillery and Winery in Lee, NH - October 11, 2022 - Lunch at Warren's Lobster House in Kittery and an afternoon tour and tasting at Flag Hill Winery. Time for shopping after the tour. Price is \$83.00 per person which includes the bus and tip for the driver, lunch, and tour and tasting at the winery. Purchase tickets at the Lewiston Senior Citizens Office at 65 Central Avenue, Lewiston.

Ogunquit Playhouse for the play "CLUE" - October 16, 2022 - Clue is a fast paced hilarious whodunit comedy. After the show we will go to Cracker Barrel in South Portland for dinner on your own.

The price is \$90.00 and includes bus, show and driver tip. Purchase tickets at the Lewiston Senior Citizens' office at 65 Central Avenue.

Mackinac Island Trip - September 10-18, 2022 - Trip includes 9 days and 8 nights - 14 meals - Guided tour of Mackinaw City - Guided Carriage Tour in Mackinac Island. Boat ride through the Soo Locks with free time and sight-seeing in Sault Saint Marie, visit to Mackinaw Crossing and "Michigan's Little Bavaria" and much more. A \$75. deposit is due upon signing up. Price is \$899. pp double occupancy. Make checks out to Diamond Tours and mail to Claire Bilodeau.

White Mountain Hotel & Resort - December 4 - 5, 2022 - Trip includes 1 night lodging - 3 meals including the

Grand Sunday Brunch. Two different entertainment shows, Austrian Sleigh Ride through Jackson Village with a Jingle Bell Chocolate Tour. Stop at the Christmas Tree Shop and Lunch at Polly's Pancake Parlor. A \$100 deposit is due upon signing. Price is \$369. pp double occupancy which includes tips.

For more information about any of our trips, please contact Claire Bilodeau (207)784-0302 or Cindy Boyd (207-345-9569.

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Bryan Bielanski Performs at Saint George River Café in Warren

WARREN, ME (August 1, 2022) -- Imagine Nirvana and the Beatles had a kid together who became an acoustic rock singer-songwriter: that's Bryan Bielanski!

Although he is inspired by some of the rock greats like Tom Petty and

REM, he has a distinct musical style and lyrics that make you think deep thoughts and feel like you're really alive! This critically acclaimed globe-trotting singer-songwriter has been touring the US and the world for the last 10 years. During that time,

Bryan Bielanski has performed in Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Austria, Belgium, California, Canada, China, Colorado, Connecticut, Costa Rica, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Idaho, Illinois,

Indiana, Iowa, Italy, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Luxembourg, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mexico, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Netherlands, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Da-

kota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Poland, Russia, South Carolina, South Dakota, Switzerland, Tennessee, Texas, Thailand, United Kingdom, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

Bryan Bielanski is full

of fun energy and catchy songs and he is ready to entertain you! He will be performing August 30th, 2022 at Saint George River Cafe in Warren, Maine.

See more information at <https://bryanssuperhappyfuntime.bandcamp.com/> - singer

Gaslight Theater Performs "The Whales of August"

HALLOWELL, ME (August 10, 2022) -- "The Whales of August" is wistful and autumnal in mood... and filled with the bittersweet recognition that life, despite the alterations of time, must continue as best it can. This show is perfect for the end of summer and a recollection that no matter how old you are it is never too late to live.

"The Whales of August" by Dave Berry is set at a beach house on an island off the coast of Maine where two widowed sisters have been summering for many years. The sisters, played by Margaret Matheson and Linda Duarte, are joined by an old friend, the island handyman, and an old rougue who may or may not be deposed royalty, played by Lisa Copenhaver, Gregor Smith, and William Haley.

This summer Gaslight Theater proudly presents six performances of

"The Whales of August" directed by Rebecca Singer and Joseph Maranda. The show will be presented over two weekends Friday and Saturday, August 26, 27 and September 2 and 3 at 7:30pm with Sunday matinee performances on August 28 and September 3 at 2:00pm. For more information check www.gaslighttheater.org or call 207-626-3698.

Cost is \$15.00 for adults and \$13.00 for seniors and students. All proceeds support the nonprofit Gaslight Theater, to continue our mission of community theater.

Founded in 1937 as the Augusta Players, and since doing business as Gaslight Theater, we are the oldest continuously operating community theater in Maine. Productions have taken place in Hallowell City Hall since the late 1970s (until COVID intervened). We hope to return

to our regular schedule in 2023 which is normally four shows a year, usually in late winter, early summer, late summer, and the fall, featuring a balance among musicals, mysteries, comedies, classics and new or experimental plays.

For each show, we have at least six performances over two weekends, including Sunday matinees.

If you go: What: Gaslight Theater presents "The Whales of August"

Cost: \$15 adults; \$13 seniors and students

Where and when: Hallowell City Hall: 1 Winthrop St, Hallowell

August 26 & 27 @ 7:30pm; August 28 @ 2:00pm September 2 & 3 @ 7:30pm; September 4 @ 2:00pm

For more information visit Gaslight Theater online at www.gaslighttheater.org or call 207-626-3698



A dinner party at a recent rehearsal of Gaslight Theater's "The Whales of August." Pictured left to right are cast members Margaret Matheson (as Sarah), William Haley (as Mr. Maranov) and Linda Duarte (as Libby). Photo credit: Joseph Maranda

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