



TWIN CITY TIMES

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Central Maine Heart and Vascular Institute Celebrates 20 Years



LEWISTON, ME (May 12, 2023) – The Central Maine Heart and Vascular Institute (CMHVI) opened in May of 2003 at the Central Maine Medical Center (CMMC) campus, to bring skilled medical specialists and innovative treatments to the people of central Maine and beyond, including rural areas where residents previously had limited access to high-quality care.

The motto for the institute, when it opened, was “For the heart, from the heart,” and with its focus on individualized care for each patient, that same spirit prevails today.

Services range from conservative medical care and rehabilitation to surgery for common, and sometimes complex, heart and vascular conditions. The institute also focuses heavily on educating the community and preventing dis-

ease before it develops. Outpatient care is delivered from CMHVI’s Lewiston offices and at other locations throughout central and western Maine.

“The skill set among our surgeons and interventionalists is on par with top cardiovascular programs in the country,” said Michael Berlowitz, MD, MBA, FACC, chief of Cardiology, Central Maine Healthcare. “We have outstanding doctors who chose to come to Maine to live and work and have found a home right here at CMHVI.”

CMHVI was recently reaccredited for its stroke treatment and prevention programs. It has also been recognized by The American College of Cardiology Chest Pain Center Accreditation with Primary PCI for its demonstrated expertise and commitment in treating patients with chest pain, the Intersoci-



Felecia Jinwala, MD, performs vascular surgery at Central Maine Heart and Vascular Institute.

tal Accreditation Commission for echo lab and vascular lab. The department has also been accredited by the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation and Administration.

Camp for Kids, Adults with Disabilities to Hold Open House

ROME, ME (May 9, 2023) – Pine Tree Camp’s traditional summer overnight week-long camp sessions and summer day programming return to full capacity this June, bringing Maine kids and adults with disabilities back to camp for a much-needed time of friendship, fun and freedom to explore.

Parents, caregivers and families are invited to an open house on Saturday, May 20 to meet the team and experience Pine Tree Camp first hand. Tours will be offered throughout the day and families will have the chance to check out cabins, see the dining hall, explore campus and experience fully accessible activities, including: biking, archery, hiking and a special scavenger hunt.

Tucked along the shore of picturesque North Pond in Rome, Pine Tree Camp’s barrier-free setting and professional staff ensure that outdoor activities like swimming, fishing, kayaking, boating, hiking, biking, archery, and even camping in a tent under the stars are completely accessible to all. Full tuition assistance is available.

Register at this link: <https://pinetreesociety.wufoo.com/forms/z6vrgr4135fyml/>
Open House is Saturday, May 20 from 10:00am to 4:00pm at Pine Tree Camp, 114 Pine Tree Camp Road in Rome, Maine 04963

More About Pine Tree Camp: Established in 1945, Pine Tree Camp is Maine’s only American Camp Association-accredited camp for people with disabilities. Every year, hundreds of Maine children and adults with disabilities arrive at Pine Tree Camp in Rome and their lives are transformed. Year-round, campers experience freedom and independence by actively participating in outdoor activities like kayaking, boating, swimming, fishing, hiking, biking, archery, snowshoeing and even ice-fishing thanks to Pine Tree Camp’s 285-acre, fully-accessible campus on North Pond. Full tuition assistance is available. No camper has ever been turned away due to their ability to pay. <https://pinetreesociety.org/camp-home/>

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

UMaine Extension Announces Interactive Plant Sales Map



Cumberland Plant Sale in Portland

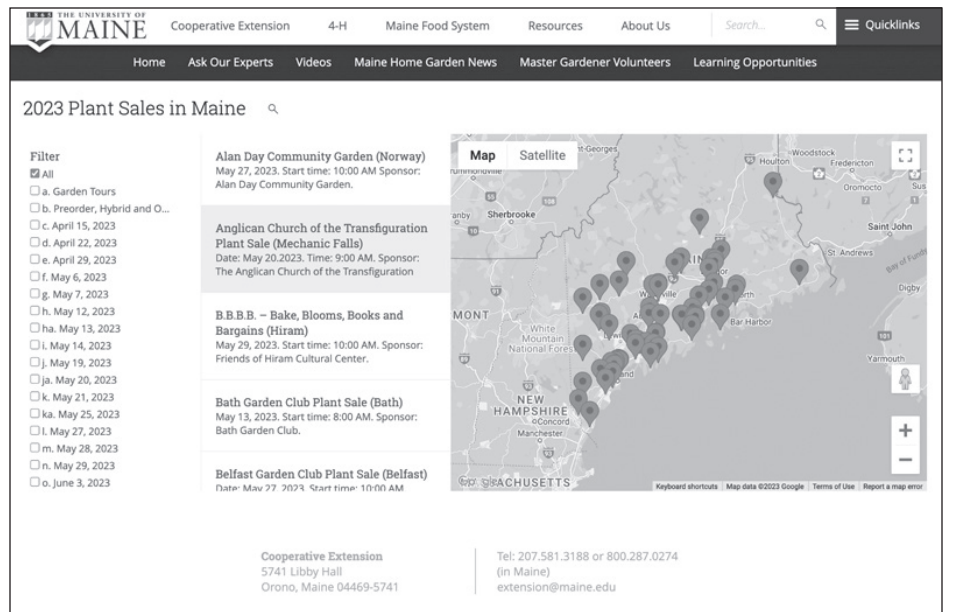
ORONO, ME (May 14, 2023) — The University of Maine Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Volunteer program’s interactive plant sales map has been updated just in time for planting season.

The “2023 Spring Plant Sale Fundraisers in Maine” map allows us-

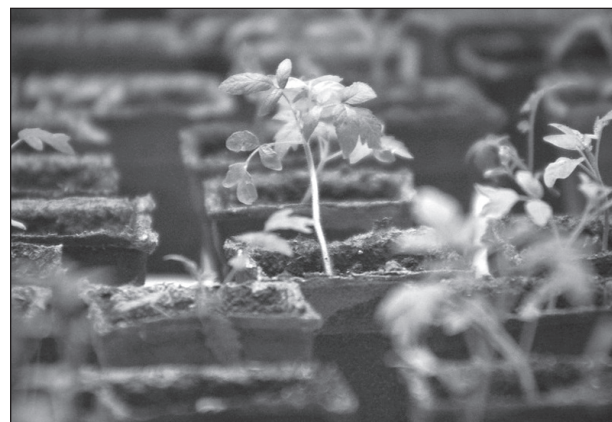
ers to search for plant sales throughout the state by location, date or name in alphabetical order. The listings also include garden tours. Find more information about the map and how to add a plant sale on the UMaine Extension website.

Another timely re-

source is the UMaine Extension free downloadable publication “Best Practices for Plant Sale Donors and Buyers in Maine.” Being an informed plant sale donor or buyer reduces the chance of spreading invasive pests and helps raise funds for organizations running sales like garden



A screenshot of the website which shows locations of Plant Sale locations



Many seedlings and plants are for sale across the state of Maine; check out this handy resource to find them

clubs, land trusts and conservation groups.

More information is available on the Extension Garden and Yard website, or by contacting 207.353.5550; isabella.viselli@maine.edu.

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

Collins Calls for Support to Combat Maine Opioid Epidemic

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 11, 2023) — At a hearing to review the fiscal year 2024 budget request for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), U.S. Senator Susan Collins, Vice Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, urged FBI Director Christopher Wray and DEA Administrator Anne Milgram to provide support for the Southern Maine Gang Task Force and the New England Prescription Opioid Task Force.

Senator Collins said: Last month, em-

ployees of a restaurant in Auburn, Maine, were shocked when they opened a box that they expected to contain mugs that they had ordered, and instead, they found 14 kilograms of fentanyl. That’s an amount that is sufficient to kill the entire population of Maine, five times over. Fortunately, the employees immediately called the local police, who are now working with federal partners on what is clearly a major interstate trafficking network.

The FBI and the DEA play a key role, in working with state and

local law enforcement partners, in combating drug smuggling, violent crime, and gangs in local communities. Director Wray, we’ve had the opportunity to discuss the importance of these relationships during your visit to Maine last year, which was very much appreciated. In particular, I’m hoping for continued collaboration and support for the Southern Maine Gang Task Force and the New England Prescription Opioid Task Force, which launched last June to address the illegal opioid prescriptions in Maine and in New Hampshire.

Director Wray and Administrator Milgram, as you implement the budget, will you ensure that these programs receive as much support as possible?

Director Wray:

Certainly, on my end, these are both team efforts that are very important to me. And I know that, as you may recall from my visit, I guess last August, we are working more closely than ever with our state and local partners in Maine. It meant a lot to me when one of our longtime state law enforcement partners said he’d seen the

FBI move from what he called, ‘promise to presence,’ meaning, instead of just talking about being there for them, we were just there and we could be counted on. And that’s the kind of thing that I’m very grateful for. And that’s the goal that I’m shooting for, with all of our offices.

Administrator Milgram:

Senator, for us, we are incredibly fortunate to have more than 3,000 taskforce officers across the United States, and we also have incredible partnerships with state and local law enforcement. So, in the example from

the restaurant that you just gave in Maine, our agents responded, and are actively working that investigation right now in partnership with the local police. The work that we did for Operation Last Mile, those 300 arrests, all of those were done in partnerships with local police, police chiefs, police departments, and sheriffs. We could not do the work that we’re doing across our communities without them. And so, we are incredibly supportive of that work and of anything that brings us together, sharing information and working with them.



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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Community Partners Show Support for Action Plan



(from left to right): Elise Johansen of Safe Voices, Jennifer Hogan of Community Credit Union, Patrice Currier of SeniorsPlus, John Hodge of Housing Resources for Youth, Heather Davis of SeniorsPlus, Michelle Worthley of Rumford Group Homes, Sasha Anastasoff of the Auburn School Department, Amy Hatter of Auburn Community Development, Kathryn Saunders of Auburn Adult Education, Fatuma Hussein of Immigrant Resource Center of Maine and Jeff Tardif of Rumford Group Homes.

AUBURN, ME (May 12, 2023) – On Monday night, the Auburn City Council heard from various community service providers in support of the CDBG/HOME annual action plan as funded by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development. Testimony highlighted the importance of the city's continued financial support and how their partnerships with Auburn's Community Development office have assisted these organizations address unmet needs within the community. The presentation, facilitated by Amy Hatter, Auburn's Community Development Manager, included Safe Voices, SeniorsPlus, Immigrant Resource Center of Maine, Rumford

Group Homes, Housing Resources for Youth, Auburn School Department's McKinney-Vento liaison, Auburn Adult Education, and Community Credit Union.

The full presentation can be viewed at timestamp 1:29 by following this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c_RWEB0ttwQ&list=PL8ustjJZ3Nvg-f5BewLlePuiT_TICZy3i9

COMMUNITY PARTNERS:
Safe Voices: Elise Johansen CDBG provided program funds to expand the impact of SafeVoices operations which serve Auburn residents.

SeniorsPlus: Heather Davis & Patrice Currier CDBG provided program funds to expand Meals on Wheels and Information



Amy Hatter - Community Development

& Assistance for Auburn residents.

IRC of Maine: Fatuma Hussein (Unfunded Partner) Provided partnership and space within Community Development office to expand available housing navigation services.

Rumford Group Homes: Melissa McEntee, Michelle Worthley & Jeff Tardif HOME-ARP provided program funds and office space within Community Development to expand available case management services for homeless families and individuals.

Housing Resources for Youth: John Hodge HOME-ARP provided program funds and space within the Community Development office to expand host family facilitation and case management for homeless youth in Auburn school system.

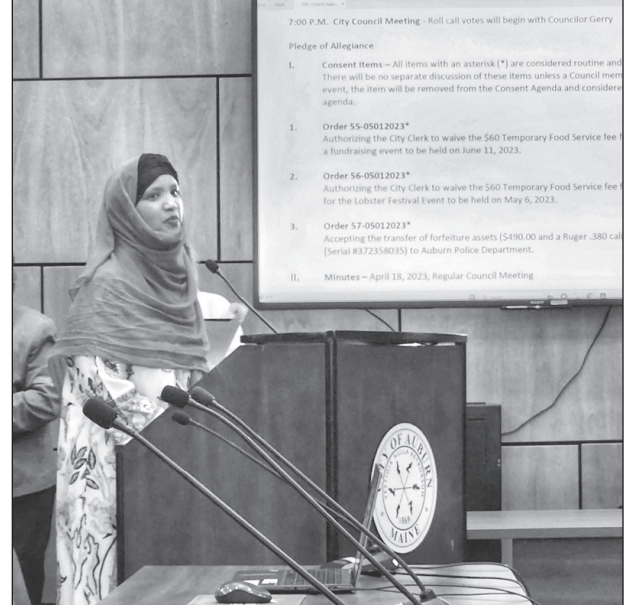
Auburn McKinney-Vento Liaison: Sasha Anastasoff (unfunded partner) Expanding partnership with Community Development staff and contracted service providers to respond to the unmet needs of homeless youth in Auburn school system.

Auburn Adult Education: Kathryn Saunders CDBG-CV provided program funds to expand transportation services and connectivity resources for students completing high school requirements and certifications.

Community Credit Union: Jennifer Hogan staff to provide services to homeless and underserved Auburn residents.



Elise Johansen - Safe Voices



Fatuma Hussein - IRC of Maine

(unfunded partner) Expanding partnership with Community Development staff to provide services to homeless and underserved Auburn residents.

Committee Advances Cloutier Bill to Address Lead in Homes

AUGUSTA, ME (April 22, 2023) – The Legislature's Joint Select Committee on Housing voted unanimously, of those present, on Tuesday to advance LD 470 sponsored by Rep. Kristen Cloutier, D-Lewiston, that would appropriate \$1 million for the Maine State Housing Authority's lead abatement program.

Using a combination of state and federal funding, the program currently provides low- and no-cost assistance to homeowners and landlords for lead remediation. Priority for assistance is granted to abatement

projects where a child with elevated blood lead levels is present. All of the program's existing funding has now been allocated, and additional funding is necessary for its continuation.

"Lewiston has consistently had the highest estimated numbers of children with lead poisoning in the state," said Cloutier. "But as a result of the crucial work we've done at the state and local level to address lead hazards, the estimated percentage of children in Lewiston under three years of age with elevated blood lead levels now matches the average state level. With ad-

ditional funding, the Maine State Housing Authority will have the means to continue its important work to protect the health of children and families."

The bill faces further votes in the House and Senate in the coming weeks.

Cloutier is the assistant House majority leader and is currently serving her third term in the Maine House of Representatives. She represents House District 94, which includes part of her hometown of Lewiston.

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Seniors Not Acting Their Age

Weaving the Webb



Paddlers carry to the Webb River put-in



A canoeist challenges the waves



A kayaker descends a rapid

By Ron Chase

Hidden away in the rural community of Carthage, except for locals, Webb River is relatively unknown. Whitewater boaters are an exception.

Each spring, scores of enthusiastic paddlers converge on the Webb as soon as ice is out for some excellent Class II/III whitewater. A free-flowing river, it's unique in that a comparatively large watershed keeps water levels elevated longer than other mountain freshets.

I first "discovered" the Webb in the spring of 1989. The late Terry Tzovarras and I were returning from paddling exploits on the Sandy River. Traveling south from Weld on Route 142, we crossed a bridge

over an engaging stretch of whitewater. Shortly after, two more appealing rapids appeared beside the road. Promptly halting our journey, we completed a shuttle and our first descent was accomplished. I've been hooked ever since.

The Webb is also a favorite of my outdoor club, the Penobscot Paddle and Chowder Society. We frequently schedule spring trips on the Webb and when the water level is sufficient, I often announce impromptu club outings.

Determining the actual water level is problematic. Several years ago, two club members painted a gauge on a bridge abutment at the bottom of Schoolhouse Rapid in the tiny hamlet of Berry Mills.

Unfortunately, it's often difficult to find someone to check the gauge and I live 75 miles away.

The U.S. Geological Survey maintains gauges on many rivers and streams throughout the country and the information is available online. Apparently unaware of the Webb's significance, they've omitted that important waterway. However, I have a system. If the online gauges for nearby Sandy and Swift Rivers are high, history tells me the Webb will be runnable. Since extrapolating gauge readings is an imperfect science, I often follow-up with a call to a friend who lives much closer than I.

As usual, I began checking the Sandy and Swift River gauges in late March. After several days of exceptionally warm weather an early April

snowmelt caused the gauge levels to rise dramatically. A call to my friend confirmed the Webb was running at a juicy flow.

My club email proposing a trip for the following day received positive responses from two enthusiastic Chowderheads. We were on for the first rousing Webb outing of the year.

The three of us were greeted with bluebird skies and temperatures in the seventies when we met at the traditional takeout on Route 142 next to the last significant rapid. This was the same spot where Terry and I left a vehicle 34 years ago. A check of the gauge at Berry Mills indicated the level was a feisty 1.2. Two kayakers and a solo canoeist, we drove a few miles north and carried through the woods for about 200 yards to a steep attenuated rapid.

That's where the entertainment began. The Webb is a continuum of fun rapids separated by short stretches of quick water.

Attempts to surf a wave on the first falls failed. The water was too pushy.

Navigating stimulating wave trains, dodging rocks, and surfing waves, we cruised through a series of narrow Class II/III rapids while carefully watching for a downed tree that had blocked most of the river in this section last year. The river gods smiled on us as the hazardous obstruction had partially washed away.

Below the Route 142 Bridge, we encountered easier whitewater and quick water for a short distance. Just downriver of a small bridge, we angled right over a ledge drop followed by another pitch that required avoiding a large boulder midstream. Soon after, where the river flows under a canopy of hardwoods, the most entertaining wave surfing of the day ensued.

After traversing through a long falls and enjoying more play spots, we arrived at the beginning of four closely connected rapids that are collectively the most difficult whitewater on the river. The second necessitated maneuvering through a maze of boul-

ders ending with an abrupt right turn; and the fourth, Schoolhouse Rapid, required negotiating around several pour-overs before we passed under the bridge at Berry Mills. Easier rapids followed to the final falls, a technical Class III.

Our first successful descent of the Webb was completed. Several more will undoubtedly follow before whitewater paddling ends in the fall.

My book, *Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine* narrates trips on the Webb and eight more exciting Maine whitewater rivers.

Ron Chase resides in Topsham. His latest book, "Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine" is available at www.northcountrypress.com/maine-al-fresco or in bookstores and through online retailers. 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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MaineDOT Finalizes Statewide Active Transportation Plan

PORTLAND, ME (April 28, 2023) -- The Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) has released the final version of the first-ever Statewide Active Transportation Plan. This is an important step in making Maine safer for people biking, walking, and rolling. It sets a path forward for investments, programs, and policies for active transportation. The Bicycle Coalition of Maine (BCM) plans to carefully monitor progress on all the deliverables mentioned in the plan.

The Bicycle Coalition of Maine was part of the team that created the plan. We are proud to have led the public outreach and meeting facilitation for the plan process, which involved hundreds of people at dozens of meetings and thousands of Mainers leaving comments. During this process, the public resoundingly asked for more, better, and safer bicycle

and pedestrian accommodations in the transportation system.

As with any new initiative, there are things that are great about this plan, and things that still need some improvement.

Things the BCM likes and applauds about this plan include that:

This is a first for Maine, and it will help guide the build out of active transportation facilities for years to come.

It makes a strong statement on the importance of active transportation in the state

It had a robust stakeholder and public input process, and captures specific desires on the part of the public

It covers a good mix of infrastructure, policies and programs, and educational efforts, and offers a well-rounded approach to improving active transportation in Maine.

Areas where the BCM feels more work is needed include:

The development of a timeline. The majority of the Implementation Strategies in the plan have no target dates or milestones identified to assess progress. Without a schedule and performance targets, it risks being only aspirational.

The development of specific performance measures. The plan should set targets linked to the timeframe for policy reviews, and for specific infrastructure improvements.

The development of a funding plan. While the plan names current funding sources and the need to identify more funding sources, it doesn't set new funding targets or outline when or how this will happen. The plan needs to include funding targets as well as a calendar and plans for hitting them.

BCM looks forward to continuing to work with the MaineDOT, partners, stakeholders, and the public on making the plan a reality.

Auburn Celebrating Its First Lobster Festival on Saturday, May 6



Exchange Club Volunteers Karen Mathieu and Tim Rucker with Michelle Gosselin Ervin of Hearth & Key Realty



Jeff & Jennifer Carleton with son Ben & friend enjoying the photo props



Camdan Poisson applying Temporary Tattoos at the Hearth & Key Realty Booth



Hearth & Key Photo Booth Table with Festive volunteers: Tiana Lacombe, Tim Ervin, Accalia Jackson and Sue Emert



Lobster Buoys painted by community members



Simones/Landy Family all smiles



Hearth & Key Realty Agents volunteered their day checking IDS at the registration table: Brooke Lacombe, Amy Borland, Hailey Lebel

What do you think?

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Arts & Entertainment

Polkadots: The Cool Kids Musical- ONE WEEKEND ONLY!



From left to right: Allison Briner Dardenne as Ms. Square, Yale Langworthy as Sky Square, Annell Moya as Lily Polkadot, and Mia Goodman as Penelope Square.

LEWISTON, ME (May 12, 2023) -- The Public Theatre presents entertaining family fun for ages 4 and up with their production of Polkadots: The Cool Kids Musical playing May 20 and 21. This delightful musical featuring Broadway veterans, combines catchy songs with the humor of a Pixar film to tell the empowering story of 8-year-old Lily Polkadot. When

Lily moves to a new town, she faces the challenge of being the first Polkadot in an all Square school and shows everyone how our differences make us awesome, not outcasts. Aside from its catchy songs and choreography that will leave you dancing in the aisles, the show also has a perfect message for anyone who has ever felt like an outsider.

Polkadots: The Cool

Kids Musical is playing at The Public Theatre, Lewiston/Auburn's Professional Theatre, May 20th and 21st with two performances each day at 1:00 and 4:00 PM. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for anyone 4-18. Tickets can be purchased online at thepublictheatre.org or by calling 782-3200. The Public Theatre is located at 31 Maple Street in Lewiston.

Ziggurat Theatre Ensemble Presents The Sand Princess



Campbell "Cami" Gibson and Mel Angelo. Photo Credit: Sarah Gagnon

FREEPORT, ME (May 13, 2023) — Following the success of last year's spectacle "Caravan of Dreams," Ziggurat Theatre Ensemble will present a world premiere fantasy for all ages, THE SAND PRINCESS, set within the captivating landscape of the Desert of Maine in Freeport. It will open on Saturday, June 3 and run Saturdays and Sundays through Sunday, June 25.

THE SAND PRINCESS blends high drama and low comedy as a clever scoundrel threatens the future of an empire in the sand. The show contains magic, masked creatures, and evocative music performed live. The show is produced in conjunction with the Desert of Maine

Center for Arts & Ecology. "We are thrilled to once again create original, outdoor theater against the backdrop of the spectacular Desert of Maine," says writer/director Stephen Legawiec. "Last year, many of our audience remarked how the desert itself was like a character in the play." Mela Heestand, Executive Director of Desert of Maine Center for Arts & Ecology, called last year's event "the highlight of our summer 2022 arts series."

The ensemble of Maine-based actors includes Mel Angelo, Campbell "Cami" Gibson, Emily Grotz, Dana Legawiec, Dashiell Legawiec, Lyra Legawiec, Rita Micklus, Kathleen Nation, Nate Stephenson and Madelyn

Sweet. The show is written and directed by Stephen Legawiec, with original music by Dashiell Legawiec. Movement director is Dana Legawiec. Costumes are by Anne Collins and Robert Velasquez. Masks are by Beckie Kravetz.

THE SAND PRINCESS will be presented outdoors in the Desert of Maine at 6pm on these dates: June 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25.

This is an outdoor-show only. Audience is welcome to bring their own chairs or bring a blanket to sit in the sand. Please check our website if rain is forecast. ZigguratTheatre.org

More information is available at ZigguratTheatre.org

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Senate Republicans Discuss State's Looming Net-Energy Billing Crisis

AUGUSTA, ME (April 22, 2023) – During a press briefing on Tuesday, Senate Republicans discussed the recent testimony by Maine Public Advocate William Harwood that alarmed some lawmakers when he disclosed Maine ratepayers were on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars per year in solar subsidies.

According to Harwood, who testified before the Legislature's Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee last Thursday, Maine ratepayers will have to shoulder the burden of about \$220 million per year in stranded costs due to the state's net-en-

ergy billing program. The cost recovery, which will be passed on to Maine ratepayers through the state's power distribution and transmission companies, begins in July when the Maine Public Utilities Commission is set to raise electricity rates.

The recovery method is essentially how the state is paying what some call exorbitant solar subsidies that Harwood now says is unsustainable. He first warned the public about the issue back in January; but according to Sen. Matt Harrington, R-York, the EUT Committee hasn't revisited the topic since then.

"There has not been



Sen. Matt Harrington, R-York, talks about the need for the Legislature to address an issue that Maine Public Advocate William Harwood brought up months ago – the looming crisis of net-energy billing. (photo courtesy of Senate Republican Office/Mike Fern)

a whole lot of interest in truly addressing this issue, despite the Public Advocate time and time

again testifying before the committee to address [it]," Harrington said during the briefing. "We've seen bills

from the majority party to add electric bicycles, electric vehicle rate rebate programs, electric school buses – these seem to be the priority of the majority party. We're not in the driver's seat – Democrats are – but we hope they will heed the advice of the public advocate."

When Senate Republicans first covered the topic during a press briefing in January, some estimates by the energy industry had speculated that the costs could go as high as \$400 million per year. Since then, Harwood estimated the costs around the \$220 million/year figure. Still, Sen. Trey Stewart, R-Aroostook, said the

problem dates back years and Maine Democrats have refused to solve the looming crisis.

"The other side cares about all kinds of other things. We care about lowering the cost of energy for Maine people and figuring out what makes sense to do it. We're not opposed to solar; we're opposed to solar that increase costs to ratepayers," said Stewart. "Until we are addressing costs, we need to be prioritizing these people because if you increase the cost of energy in Maine, then the person who is on a fixed income has to make a really tough choice – do I keep the lights on or do I buy prescription drugs?"

Know Your Machine this Spring

ALEXANDRIA, VA (April 10, 2023) -- Spring is here and as we get out our lawn mowers and other outdoor power equipment out from storage to work in our yards, businesses and other green spaces, it's important to keep safety in mind.

"Think safety first," says Kris Kiser, President

and CEO of the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI), an international trade association representing outdoor power equipment, small engine, utility vehicle, golf car and personal transport vehicle manufacturers and suppliers.

"I can't stress enough to review manufacturer's

safety guidance before starting up any equipment—especially your lawn mower. Review your owner's manual and do maintenance on your equipment," said Kiser.

OPEI offers these tips for readying and using your outdoor power equipment:

- Know not all

lawn mowers are the same. Whether your mower is a garden tractor, zero turn mower or other, it has a unique design, requirements, weight classification, and other differences that impact how to use it safely. The newest machines have the latest safety standards.

- Know your specif-

ic machine. Many mowers may look similar but the technology is ever evolving with evolving safety systems. They vary in design, power supply, performance, operating parameters, and more. Your manufacturer-supplied owner's manual will guide you in these differences. Read your owner's manu-

al.

- When using mowers on slopes follow the manufacturer's guidance to the letter.

- Do not disable or alter manufacturer-installed safety equipment.

- Walk your yard before mowing. Slopes, wet grass and weather may

See **Spring**, page 12

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Little Mermaid Auditions at CLT



AUBURN, ME (May 8, 2023) -- Director Becca Tinkham has announced that auditions for the Community Little Theatre (CLT) production of *The Little Mermaid* will be held Sunday, May 21 at 4:00 p.m. and Monday, May 22 at 6:30 p.m. With Music by Alan Menken, Lyrics by Howard Ashman & Glenn Slater, Book by Doug Wright, *The Little Mermaid* musical is based on the well-known Hans Christian Anderson story and the Disney animated film. Songs include *Under the Sea*, *"Kiss the Girl"* and *"Part of Your World."*

fore May 19 and to include on the form (or bring to rehearsal) a list of all possible schedule conflicts. Rehearsals will begin Sunday, May 28th.

Each person auditioning will be asked to sing a song from the show and—time permitting—read from the script and learn a bit of choreography. All audition details and character descriptions can be found online at laclt.com/auditions.

Auditions will be held at the theater at 30 Academy Street in Auburn. The performance dates for *Little Mermaid* are August 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, and 19 at 7:30 p.m. and August 13 and 20 at 2:00 p.m.

Anyone who wishes to audition is asked to fill out the online audition form be-

Eagle Scout Award Presented

AUBURN, ME (May 9, 2023) -- Noah John Robert Girardin, age 18 of Auburn, has earned the Eagle Scout Award, the highest advancement rank within the Boy Scouts of America.

Girardin was recognized at a Ceremony on March 11, 2023 at the United Methodist Church in Auburn. Surrounded by family, fellow scouts, leaders, teachers and

friends, he presented a grandparent pin to his Memere: Pauline Morissette of Auburn. He presented his father with a pocket knife engraved "thank you for keeping me sharp". He presented an engraved lighter with the inscription "keep lighting the way" to Mr. Matt Dubois, a leader and committee chair. He also presented Mr. Dubois with a mentor pin for all his help and guidance over

the years. Girardin presented his second mentor pin to Mr. Jeremy McElfresh, who was scoutmaster when Girardin crossed over from Cub Scouts and introduced him to the scouting community.

A member of Troop 111 of Auburn, Girardin is one of approximately 4 percent of all Boy Scouts who attain the Eagle rank.

Each candidate must earn 21 merit badges and

successfully complete a significant service project benefitting his community, faith organization or school demonstrating leadership to earn his Eagle. Noah chose to work with the Western Foothills Land Trust and Mr. Carl Costanzi and committed to helping clear 1000 feet of trail off of the Packard Trail in Buckfield. With the help of Mr. Costanzi, Mr. Matt Dubois, fellow scouts and their parents, his sister Grace and his parents, Girardin exceeded his goal by clearing 5,280 feet on one of the warmest weekends in June of 2022. Noah wishes to extend his appreciation to all that helped and hopes that everyone has the opportunity to hike the Humble Trail which is now open.

Girardin has served as Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader and Outdoor Ethics Guide. He also attended the National Youth Leadership Training and was a Counselor in Training at Camp Hinds. He is an ordeal



member of the Order of the Arrow, the Honor Society for Scouting. Girardin joins other outstanding American Citizens who have become Eagle Scouts, among them former President Gerald R. Ford, astronaut Neil A. Armstrong, and cinema-

tographer Steven Spielberg.

Girardin is a member of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish and attends Saint Dominic Academy, where he is a senior.

He is the son of John Girardin and Claire Morissette Girardin of Auburn.

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Lewiston Seeking Volunteers to Honor Deceased Veterans



Nate Cheever, Lewiston building maintenance employee, helping to store flags at Lewiston City Hall in anticipation of placement.

LEWISTON, ME -- The City of Lewiston annually helps to recruit volunteers to place nearly 7,500 flags at individual veterans' gravestones within Lewiston cemeter-

ies. As Memorial Day approaches, volunteers are again being sought.

A 2001 Maine State law requires municipalities to purchase and place individual American flags at the gravestone of every veteran buried in respective town/city cemeteries for Memorial Day each year. Lewiston has 13 cemeteries, and community volunteers annually place nearly 7,500 flags.

For many of the smaller cemeteries, abutting neighbors usually handle the annual flag placement. For the two largest cemeteries, Riverside and St. Peters, service organizations have historically adopted these cemeteries and undertake flag placement for the City of Lewiston.

As such, for 2023, flag placement will occur as outlined below at Riverside Cemetery and St. Peters Cemetery, and the organizing groups welcome volunteers to assist them:



Riverside Cemetery, 192 Summer Street, Lewiston Saturday, May 20, 2023, 9:00AM (rain or shine)

The Knights of Columbus are the coordinators for this location. Contact is Leo Baillargeon at (207) 577-7424

There are approximately 1,600 flags for this location.

St. Peters Cemetery, 217 Switzerland Road, Lewiston Sunday, May 21, 2023, 10 AM (rain or shine)

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

The L/A Veterans Council are the coordi-

nators for this location. Contact is Jerry Dewitt at (207) 576-0376

There are approximately 4,000 flags for this location. The plan is to assign teams of 5-10 volunteers to an area of each cemetery and to cover the cemetery in a grid fashion in order to not miss any stone. If military service is listed on the stone, a flag will be placed there.

Volunteers do not need to sign up in advance; they are welcome to show up on the date/time of the event and will be provided instructions by the on-site coordinator. The City of Lewiston is also noting the following helpful logistics for volunteers who participate.

- 1) Work gloves are optional but encouraged.
- 2) Volunteers may bring their own hand sanitizer.
- 3) Wear sneakers or boots in case the grass is wet.

4) Bring a screwdriver to poke a hole in the grass; it is much easier to place a flag's wooden dowel into the ground if a hole is first made.

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

6) Bring bug spray, hat, and sunscreen.

7) 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 appreciation to volunteers for their efforts, "Thank you for your support of veterans to remember their service on Memorial Day." Questions about the process may be directed to the Lewiston City Clerk's Office (207) 513-3124, or volunteers may directly reach out to event coordinators.

Bailey Library to Host Journalist Kathryn Miles



WINTHROP, ME (May 8, 2023) – Kathryn Miles, an award-winning journalist and science writer, will talk about her new book "Trailed: One Woman's Quest to Solve the Shenandoah Murders," at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 24, at the Bailey Library in downtown Winthrop.

The discussion, which is free and open to the public, is part of the ongoing Lakes Regions Forum series started by the Bailey Library in 2010.

Miles, who earned her doctorate in English at the University of Delaware in 2001, is the author of five books. In "Trailed" Miles details the unsolved murder of two young women who were camping in the wilderness of Virginia's Shenandoah National Park.

Her essays and articles have appeared in publications including Best American Essays, The Boston Globe, Down East, Ecotone, History, The New

York Times, Outside, Pacific Standard, Popular Mechanics and Time.

She is writer in residence at Green Mountain College and a scholar in

residence for the Maine Humanities Council.

For more information, call the Bailey Library at 377-8673, or visit: www.baileylibrary.org.

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Scouting Training Round-Up



Trainers. Walter Fails of Farmington, Chris Fox of Mechanic Falls, and Scott St.Amand of Gardiner were three of the trainers at Camp Bomazeen on May 5-7 for 20 Scout leaders who were training in the outdoor programs. Fails is the Trainer for Scout Troop leaders in Kennebec Valley. Fox is the Training Chairman in Abnaki District and St.Amand is the Kennebec Valley District Cub Leader Trainer.

MAINE (May 12, 2023) — Leaders from Cub Packs and Scout Troops around the area recently completed a variety of training programs. “It is encouraging to see so many Scout leaders coming out to learn new skills,” said Walter Fails of Farmington who is the Chair of Training for Scout Troops in Kennebec Valley District. “Every Scout deserves a trained leader because trained leaders deliver better and safer Scouting programs.”

At Camp Bomazeen in Belgrade, twenty Scouting leaders from across Pine Tree Council completed the Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO) Training for Cub Scout leaders and the Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS) Training for leaders in Scout Troops. The training courses were held over

the weekend of May 5-7. Both programs provide an opportunity for leaders to learn how to offer Scouting’s outdoor programs safely. “We all had a great time sharing experiences and knowledge,” said Scott St. Amand of Gardiner who heads up Cub Scout Leader Training for Kennebec Valley District and was one of the trainers for the weekend. “It was great to see the comradery, and willingness to jump in and help each other learn new skills.”

The following leaders completed IOLS Training: Christopher Bishop of Whitefield who is a leader in Troop 609 B(Boys) in Windsor, Christopher Winkley of Troop 73 B in Portland, Ethan Olsen of Troop 58 B in North Yarmouth, Stephanie Charron of Troop 333 G (Girls) in Acton, Emily Hinman of Troop 93 B in Falmouth,



Rope Work: Adam Wright of Lewiston, Doug Woodbury of Rockport, and Jon Martin of Augusta demonstrate round lashings. They learn the skill so that they can then instruct their Scouts on the skill.

Jon Martin of Troop 603 B in Augusta, Danielle Morse of Troop 403 B in St. Albans, Doug Woodbury who lives in Rockport and is a member of Camden Pack 200, Daniel Mason of Troop 110 B in Sabattus, Adam Wright of Lewiston Troop 116 B, Eben Mann of Troop 110 B from Litchfield, Stephen Polley is a leader in Vassalboro Troop 410, Shawn Hayden of Skowhegan Troop 485 B. Those completing requirements for the BALOO Training: Frederick Pullen of Pack 445 in Winslow, Tom Ancona of Pack 36 in Falmouth, Jeffrey Hartley of Pack 306 in Shapleigh, Ian Feldman of Pack 36 in Falmouth, Jason Middleton of Pack 36 in Falmouth, Matt Tepelmann of Pack 200 in Camden, and Christopher Santiago of Pack 410 in Vassalboro. Santiago also recently completed more than five hundred hours of online training to complete the District Committee functions. Chris Fox

of Mechnic Falls is the Abnaki District Training Chair and help with the training at Camp Bomazeen. “My favorite part of training is how collaborative the discussions can be,” Fox said. “Everyone’s an expert in something and we all learn as much or more from each other as we do from the ‘trainers.’”

Shelley Connolly of Pittsfield completed Short Term Camp Administrator training with Western Los Angeles County Council on April 29. Shelley is going to be running the Summer Camporee at Camden Hills State Park July 30-August 1 and she will be helping set up the schedule, program, etc for the Scouts BSA Weekend at Bomazeen. “This was an online course,” Connolly said. “Favorite part of the course was having four trainers who are professionals within that Council. They complimented each other well and were very knowledgeable. The



Riddle: Drew Riddle of Randolph received his Wood Badge beads and certificate during the annual Pack and Troop 672 campfire. His son Webelos Cub Joshua, his wife Christina who is also the Webelos Leader for Pack 672, and his son 2nd Class Scout Connor look on after Karen Norton, the Wood Badge Course director, has finished the presentation. Karen is wearing the mask.

resource folder they sent was immense. I have eighteen official documents to use as resources. Secondly, we had to think through the risk management components of a particular event. That was helpful and everyone in the course worked collaboratively.”

Drew Riddle of Randolph received his Wood Badge Beads on May 7 held at the West Gardiner Nature Trail during the annual campfire for Pack and Troop 672 based in Gardiner. Riddle is a leader in both programs. Wood Badge is an advanced, national leadership course open only to Scouting volunteers and professionals. The training is designed for all Scout leaders in BSA, including Cub Scout, Scouts BSA, and Venturing leaders, as well as District and Council leaders. The focus of Wood Badge is leadership skills. In fact, the leadership skills

learned in a Wood Badge course are the same skills that Fortune 500 companies send their executives to learn at multi-week seminars. “I recommend Wood Badge training,” Riddle said. As part of his Wood Badge ticket, he developed a binder of resources for other leaders and will be completing various training courses such as Waterfront and Shooting Sports in order to allow the Pack and Troop more program opportunities and he became a Merit Badge counselor. “I really enjoyed meeting the other Scouting leaders in the Wood Badge Training program. I liked learning how things function and how things get done in Scouting.” The next Wood Badge course will be held at Camp Hinds in Raymond on September 2-4 and October 7 & 8- they must complete both weekends to qualify.

King Co-Sponsors Legislation to Help Small Businesses

WASHINGTON, D.C. (April 27, 2023) — U.S. Senators Angus King (I-Maine) and Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) today introduced the Providing Resources for Emergency Preparedness and Resilient Enterprises (PREPARE) Act to help small businesses prepare for future natural disasters. The legislation reauthorizes the Small Business Administration’s (SBA) Pre-Disaster Mitigation Pilot Program so that small businesses can use low-interest loans to pro-

tect their property from future disaster-related damage. The legislation is also cosponsored by Senator Susan Collins (R-Maine).

“From coastal floods to brutal ice storms, Maine has seen an increasing number of natural disasters that throw communities into chaos and wreak havoc on local economies,” said Senator King. “These crises are not going to stop and it’s absolutely essential that we help Main Street family businesses take the

necessary steps to prepare. The most cost-effective approach is to take proactive action before disaster strikes. The PREPARE Act prevents costly repairs by helping vital small businesses make protective improvements to weather whatever storms may come. As the effects of climate change continue to alter our nation, this bipartisan effort will only become more necessary; let’s pass it now, so small Maine businesses can prepare for the next crisis.”

“Small businesses in America should be able to prepare for unplanned disasters. The PREPARE Act would allow small businesses the opportunity to invest in mitigation before a disaster strikes, saving businesses and taxpayers money, as well as reducing potential property damage,” Rubio said.

“Small businesses are the engine of our economy, but one disaster could quickly wipe out a small business that a family spent years

or even generations to build,” said Senator Collins. “This bipartisan bill would provide low-interest loans to allow small businesses to protect their property from future disasters, limiting potential damage and helping them to recover more quickly when catastrophes strike.”

“Thank you to Sen. Angus King and co-sponsors including Sen. Susan Collins for championing the PREPARE Act. Maine is a small business state, and this pro-active, forward-thinking legislation will help keep Maine’s economy strong in the face of foreseeable disasters,” said Julia Munsey, president and CEO, Maine State Chamber of Commerce.

Specifically, the PREPARE Act would: Create an updated Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program for small business concerns

to proactively take out a low-interest loan (up to \$500,000) for the purpose of implementing mitigation measures to protect their property from future disaster related damage.

Authorize \$25 million annually (FY2024 to FY2028) for the program

Task SBA with establishing and carrying out an advertising and outreach program related to pre-disaster mitigation.

Task SBA with issuing guidance to ensure borrowers purchase and maintain insurance coverage over the duration of the loan.

Require SBA to conduct initial reporting and a program evaluation annually thereafter.

Increase, from 20 to 30 percent, the limit on existing SBA Physical Business Disaster Loans a borrower may use towards post-disaster mitigation.

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\$7.5M to Strengthen Northeast Climate Resilience, Economies

WASHINGTON D.C. (April 22, 2023) — The Department of the Interior today announced a \$35 million investment in fiscal year 2023 funding from President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for 39 projects in 22 states that will address outdated or obsolete dams, culverts, levees and other barriers fragmenting our nation’s rivers and streams. Today’s announcement is part of the Department’s five-year \$200 million commitment to restore free-flowing waters, allowing fish migration and protecting communities from flooding rivers and streams. It is also part of an over \$3 billion investment in fish passage and aquatic connectivity projects under the Investing in America agenda, which includes funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act.

“President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our nation’s rivers, streams and communities and help restore habitat connectivity for aquatic species around the country,” said Secretary Deb Haaland. “As the effects of climate change continue to intensify, Tribal Nations in particular are facing unique climate-related challenges that threaten resources vital to Indigenous communities. These fish passage investments will support community-led transitions and facilitate long-term conservation and economic growth in these areas.”

Each of the funded projects was developed collaboratively by local partners and selected through a competitive process led by an interdisciplinary panel of experts from multiple federal agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service and National Marine Fisheries Service. Nine of the projects receiving investments will be led by Tribal partners, and many will help with conservation efforts for threatened or endangered species.

“Across the country there are millions of barriers that block viable corridors for fish and other aquatic wildlife to access spawning grounds, food sources and safe water. This historic law is giving these aquatic species a chance,” said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Martha Williams. “Funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law bolsters our efforts to improve fish passage that ultimately conserves freshwater and migratory fish and wildlife, promotes safer community

infrastructure, and encourages climate resiliency.”

Projects will be funded in Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Washington, West Virginia and Wyoming. Details are available on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s website.

This investment delivers on one of the America the Beautiful initiative’s six early focus areas (supporting collaborative conservation of fish and wildlife habitat and corridors) and is consistent with the Administration’s Corridors and Connectivity Guid-

ance.

The rivers, streams and coastal systems of North America once supported vast annual runs of fish such as Atlantic salmon, American shad, Pacific salmon and steelhead. These species and many others, including some at-risk and listed species, depend on connected streams and high-quality habitat to survive. During the past 200 years, many of these populations have decreased drastically, in large part due to the proliferation of barriers like dams and undersized culverts, and watershed development that blocks fish from their natural migrations.

The Service’s National Fish Passage Program is a leader in pulling

partners together to restore connectivity to fragmented rivers. The program provides financial, engineering and planning assistance to communities, Tribes, states and landowners to support barrier removal and river restoration projects. Since 1999, the program has worked with over 2,000 partners to remove or bypass over 3,400 barriers to fish passage and re-open access to over 61,000 miles of upstream habitat for fish and other animals.

Today’s announcement comes as the Endangered Species Act turns 50 years old in 2023. Throughout the year, the Department is celebrating the ESA’s importance in preventing imperiled species’ extinction, promoting

the recovery of wildlife and conserving the habitats upon which they depend. The ESA has been highly effective and credited with saving 99% of listed species from extinction. Thus far, more than 100 species of plants and animals have been delisted based on recovery or reclassified from endangered to threatened based on improved conservation status, and hundreds more species are stable or improving due to the collaborative actions of Tribes, federal agencies, state and local governments, conservation organizations and private citizens.

A multi-agency interactive map featuring Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funded fish passage

projects can be viewed on the newly launched Fish Passage Portal.

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Student Loan Borrowers in Maine Approved for Loan Forgiveness

MAINE (May 8, 2023) -- Today, to mark Public Service Recognition Week, the U.S. Department of Education (Department) announced it has approved nearly 616,000 borrowers nationwide for approximately \$42 billion in Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) since October 2021.

PSLF covers public employees—such as teachers, firefighters, and members of law enforcement, as well as those who work for a non-profit organization—in a variety of fields by forgiving the remaining federal student loan balance for those who make the required 120 qualifying monthly payments.

In fact, PSLF is making an incredible difference for public servants in Maine:

Between October 2021 and May 2023, the Department has approved approximately 3,000 borrowers in Maine for more than \$184 million in loan forgiveness under temporary changes the Biden-Harris Administration made to the PSLF Program. That's more than \$61,000 per borrower!

While hundreds of thousands of Maine borrowers already have benefited from PSLF, more will benefit as the program continues.

The Department is announcing the implementation of improvements to the PSLF Help Tool, which borrowers use to apply for the program. These updates will, for the first time, let borrowers complete the entire PSLF application process online, and borrowers will no longer need

to fax or mail in their application with a wet signature. Allowing borrowers to submit e-signatures for themselves and request e-signatures from their employers will significantly decrease processing time. In addition, borrowers can now digitally track the status of their PSLF form in the My Activity section of their StudentAid.gov account, where they can see updates such as whether their employer has digitally signed their PSLF form and when their form has been processed. This upgrade is in addition to the Biden-Harris Administration's long-term improvements to the PSLF program, slated to take effect in July 2023, which will provide lasting benefits for borrowers.

"Since Day One, the Biden-Harris Administration has worked relentlessly to fix a broken student loan system, including by making sure we fulfill the promise of Public Service Loan Forgiveness for those who have spent a decade or more serving our communities and our country," said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. "To date, the Biden-Harris team has kept that promise for more than 615,000 teachers, nurses, social workers, servicemembers, and other public servants by approving a combined \$42 billion in student loan debt forgiveness. The difference that Public Service Loan Forgiveness is making in the lives of hundreds of thousands of Americans reminds us why we must continue doing everything we can to fight for borrowers and why families cannot afford to have progress derailed by partisan politi-

cians. During Public Service Recognition Week—and every week—we thank all those who serve our communities."

The targeted debt relief announced today is part of the Department's ongoing efforts to ensure that the PSLF program fulfills the promise made to Americans who enter public service and that they receive the debt forgiveness they have earned by serving their communities and the country. Public Service Recognition Week celebrates individuals who serve the United States and local communities as an employee of Federal, state, local, or tribal government.

PSLF is one of several student loan forgiveness programs established by law. It supports public employees—such as teachers, firefighters, and members of law enforcement, as well as those who work for a non-profit organization in a variety of fields—by forgiving the remaining federal student loan balance for those who work in public service and make the required 120 qualifying monthly payments.

Borrowers across the country have benefited from the Department's efforts to ensure that all public servants can more easily access this targeted debt relief. Of the nearly 616,000 borrowers whose loans have been approved for forgiveness, nearly 610,000 borrowers have already seen their loans discharged, and the rest will soon follow.

In addition to the borrowers who have been approved for forgiveness, more than two million borrowers now have an approved PSLF Form and are

on the path to forgiveness. More public service employees around the country continue to apply as they become aware of the PSLF Program.

Continuously Improving the PSLF Help Tool

The Department remains committed to making it easier for borrowers to know if they are eligible for PSLF, certify their employment, apply for forgiveness, and track their progress. For the first time since the program began, borrowers can now sign and submit their PSLF form digitally and track its status throughout the process.

"FSA is making the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program as easy as possible so all public servants can finally get the loan forgiveness they have earned," said Federal Student Aid Chief Operating Officer Richard Cordray. "The improved PSLF Help Tool is another step forward to modernize and simplify the process for people who rely on us to carry out the law effectively."

In the past, borrowers had to take multiple steps to complete and submit their PSLF Form. In most cases, they had to print and sign their form, obtain signatures on the printed form from one or more employers, then submit the completed form and related documents by mail or fax. Now, borrowers can complete the entire process digitally on StudentAid.gov via the PSLF Help Tool.

The newly updated PSLF Help Tool enables borrowers to sign and submit their PSLF form digi-

tally; identify employers that need to sign the form and request an e-signature; and track the status of their form. These major changes to the PSLF application process are improving the experience both for public servants and for the employers who need to certify their employment.

Long-term Improvements to PSLF Program Through Regulations

In October 2022, the Department announced final regulations for the PSLF Program that will deliver lasting improvements for borrowers. These improvements will go into effect July 1, 2023, and are detailed in this fact sheet. The improvements include:

- helping borrowers earn progress toward PSLF,

- simplifying criteria to help borrowers certify qualifying employment, and

- providing opportunities for borrowers to get help correcting PSLF account problems.

Borrowers with Direct Loans who work in public service are also likely to benefit from the one-time account adjustment announced by the Department last year. Borrowers with other types of federal loans have until the end of 2023 to consolidate into the Direct Loan program to receive credit for qualifying payments under this adjustment.

In addition to this one-time account adjustment, the Department also announced earlier this year new proposed regulations that would transform income-driven repayment (IDR) plans to better serve borrowers. The regulations

would create the most affordable IDR plan that has ever been available to student loan borrowers, allowing those with incomes under \$30,500, or under \$62,400 in a family of four, to qualify for \$0 monthly payments. They will also simplify the program and eliminate common pitfalls that delay borrowers' progress toward forgiveness.

Historic Progress on Targeted Loan Relief

The PSLF approvals announced today are part of the Biden-Harris Administration's broad efforts to support students and provide more than \$66 billion in targeted loan relief to nearly 2.2 million borrowers so far, with more on the way. Actions include:

- Establishing a fair and accessible bankruptcy discharge process to help struggling borrowers discharge their federal student loans.

- Providing \$9.1 billion in relief for 425,000 borrowers who have a total and permanent disability.

- Approving \$14.5 billion in borrower defense claims to nearly 1.1 million borrowers whose schools were found to have cheated them out of their promised education, including extending full relief to approved claims and approving new types of claims.

- Providing \$1.26 billion in closed school discharges to 107,000 borrowers who attended the now-defunct ITT Technical Institute, which failed to deliver on the promises it made to students.

- Restoring eligibility for federal student aid to almost 7.5 million borrowers to help them get back on track to complete their credential or degree.

Spring

Continued from page 7

impact equipment performance, as well as safe handling procedures. Pick up sticks and limbs that may have fallen to the ground

over the winter and any loose objects that could be hit by a mower. Inspect trees for damaged limbs that may get in your way when mowing.

- Look over equip-

ment before use. Check the air filter, oil level and gasoline tank. Watch for loose belts and missing or damaged parts. Replace any parts needed or take your equipment to a quali-

fied service representative.

- Protect your power. Use only E10 or less fuel in gasoline-powered outdoor power equipment if it is not designed for higher ethanol blends. Add a fuel stabilizer if you don't use up all the fuel in the tank right away. Burn off any fuel before storing the mower more than 30 days. For battery-powered equipment, only use

battery packs specified by the manufacturer. Follow all charging instructions as outlined in the owner's manual. Be sure to store fuel and batteries safely. Keep batteries away from other metal objects, store them in a climate-controlled area, and never stack batteries.

- Keep children and pets away from machines during operation.

- Keep your mower clean. It will run more efficiently and last longer. Always remove dirt, oil or grass before using and storing. Store equipment in a dry place, avoiding damp or wet environments.

For information on safe fueling, go to www.LookBeforeYouPump.com For more safety information visit www.opei.org



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Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

May 18
 LEWISTON -- 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM, Callahan Hall, Lewiston Public Library: GREAT FALLS FORUM WITH MARGIE PATLAK

For author and photographer Margie Patlak, exploring the unique nature of the Maine coast opens a door to deeper ties and insights, as revealed in her memoir *More Than Meets the Eye: Exploring Nature and Loss on the Coast of Maine*. In her Great Falls Forum talk, Margie will describe how she came to write her book and read a few excerpts that illustrate how many facets of the natural world speak a hidden language that can be translated by scientific knowledge and reflection.

Free. In person or virtual. Bring your bag lunch. Book sale and signing to follow. The Zoom link will be posted to the Library website and Facebook prior to the event. 513-3135; www.LPLonline.org

May 19
 LEWISTON -- 2pm at the Lewiston Public Library: SMALL OFF THINGS WITH SUZANNE FARRELL SMITH

Suzanne Farrell Smith will read and discuss her book *Small Off Things*. Followed by a talk from Dave Bilodeau about Lewiston's Project Support You.

May 19
 ROCKPORT -- DaPonte String Quartet Concert Series 3, Program: Beethoven String Trio in G Major, Op. 9, no. 1 & Brahms Piano Quartet in C Minor, Op. 60 with pianist Laura Kargul at 7:00 pm, Union Hall, Rockport. Information and tickets available at dapontequartet.org

May 20
 MINOT -- Baked Bean & Casserole Supper (with pie for dessert) at Minot United Methodist Church, Corner of Rt. 11 and Empire Rd. Minot. Saturday May 20th 2023 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for adults, children under 12 are free. Please come and join us!

May 20
 LEWISTON -- Concert: The Midcoast Symphony Orchestra presents "French Impressions" with guest conductor Hiroya Miura. The performance, featuring French composers, is on May 20 at 7:00 p.m. at the Franco Center, 46 Cedar St., Lewiston. For info and tickets visit <https://www.midcoast-symphony.org/tickets> or call 207-481-0790. Tickets \$24.50 (advance) \$25

(cash or check) at the door. Under 18 and college students with ID are free.

May 21
 SANFORD -- DaPonte String Quartet Concert Series 3, Program: Beethoven String Trio in G Major, Op. 9, no. 1 & Brahms Piano Quartet in C Minor, Op. 60 with pianist Laura Kargul at 3:00 pm, Sanford Performing Arts Center, Sanford. Information and tickets available at dapontequartet.org

May 26
 PORTLAND -- DaPonte String Quartet Concert Series 3, Program: Beethoven String Trio in G Major, Op. 9, no. 1 & Brahms Piano Quartet in C Minor, Op. 60 with pianist Laura Kargul at 7:00 pm, St. Lukes Cathedral, Portland. Information and tickets available at dapontequartet.org

May 27
 AUBURN -- The Maine Iris Society will hold its 2023 Median Iris & Spring Flower Show on Saturday, May 27th, from 1:30pm to 4pm at the Auburn Middle School, 38 Falcon Dr, Auburn. Admission is free. Please note that bare-root iris rhizomes will not be

available this year; however, there will be a sale of potted perennials.

May 27
 PORTLAND -- DaPonte String Quartet Concert Series 3, Program: Beethoven String Trio in G Major, Op. 9, no. 1 & Brahms Piano Quartet in C Minor, Op. 60 with pianist Laura Kargul at 4:00 pm, Meetinghouse Arts, Freeport. Information and tickets available at dapontequartet.org

May 27
 GRAY -- First Congregational Church of Gray Saturday Night Church Supper @ 5:00 at the Parish House, 5 Brown Street, Gray. Handicapped accessible. Meals are single-sized and are \$10.00 each. Please pay at the door.

The Menu includes: Variety of Casseroles & Salads, Baked Pea Beans, Red Hot Dogs, Breads, Assortment of Desserts & Beverages

June 3
 AUBURN -- The West Auburn Congregational Church will be holding a Homemade Dinner on June 3 from 4:30 to 6 pm at 811 West Auburn Road, Auburn Maine. We will be serving Chicken Pot Pie, Macaroni and Cheese, Salads, Rolls, Beverage and Dessert. Tickets are available at the door for \$10.00, (Children 5 to 10 \$5.00 and under 5 free). We have to

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Location: West Auburn Congregational Church – 811 West Auburn Road, Auburn Maine

Topic: Homemade Dinner

Date: Saturday, June 3, 2023

Time: 4:30 to 6 pm

Food: Chicken Pot Pie, Macaroni and Cheese, Salads, Rolls, Beverage and Dessert

Cost: Tickets are available at the Door \$10.00 (Children 5 to 10 \$ 5.00; under 5 free)

Every 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Monday

LEWISTON -- PROGRAMS FOR HOMESCHOOL FAMILIES, held the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Monday 11:15am-12:30pm starting March 6th, 2023 at the Lewiston Public Library Children's Department

Homeschool families, are you looking for opportunities to have fun

and socialize with other homeschool families? LPL will be offering activities for homeschool families in the Children's Department the first three Mondays of each month from 11:15am-12:30pm. The activities will be a Homeschool Video Game Social on March 6th, a Homeschool Lego Club and Curriculum Swap on March 13th, and a Homeschool Storytime and Craft on March 20th.

This program is free and recommended for homeschool families with children of all ages. No registration is required. Contact info. 513-3133, LPLKids@lewistonmaine.gov

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



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LEWISTON SENIOR CITIZENS TRIPS FOR 2023

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 Trip includes 5 days, 4 nights lodging, 3 breakfasts and 2 dinners, visit to two UNESCO world heritage sites, visit to the Mission San Jose, visit to the ALAMO, boat ride along the Paseo del Rio known as the River Walk, National Museum of the Pacific War and so much more.

Reflections of Italy - October 9 - 18, 2023
 Trip includes 10 days, 9 nights lodging, and 12 meals, including Rome, Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel, St. Peter's Basilica, Assisi, Perugia, Cortona,

Florence, Michelangelo's DAVID, Chianti Winery & Cooking Class, Venice, St. Mark's square, boat ride to Murano Island, Milan and much more.

Virginia Beach, Colonial Williamsburg & Historic Norfolk - May 22 - 27, 2023

Trip includes 5 nights lodging and 8 meals, guided tour of Colonial Williamsburg, narrated Norfolk Naval Base Harbor Cruise, admission to the Nauticus & Battleship Wisconsin, visit to Mariner's Museum and Park, admission to Virginia Beach Aquarium & Marine Science Center and free time on Virginia Beach and the Virginia Beach Boardwalk. A \$75 deposit pp is due when signing up. Price is \$809 pp double occupancy and includes bus driver's tip. For more information on any of our trips, please contact Claire Bilodeau (207)784-0302 or Cindy Boyd (207)345-9569.

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Bates College Student Wins 2023 Truman Scholarship

LEWISTON, ME (May 8, 2023) -- Aaliyah Moore, a junior at Bates College and graduate of Central High in Phoenix, has won a prestigious Truman Scholarship. In announcing the award, Bates College said Moore will pursue graduate studies to build her skills in advocacy, research, and education, then tackle systematic disparities within the U.S. legal and foster-care systems.

Federally funded Truman Scholarships, which are awarded to students with demonstrated leadership potential and a commitment to public service, are considered among the most important U.S. graduate fellowships.

Moore is one of 62

recipients of a Truman Scholarship from more than 700 applicants this year. The scholarships provide up to \$30,000 for graduate study as well as leadership training, career and graduate school counseling, and federal government internship opportunities.

"We have confidence that these 62 new Trumans will meet their generation's challenges together," said Dr. Terry Babcock-Lumish, the foundation's executive secretary. "Selected from across America, the 2023 Truman Scholars reflect our country as innovative, purposeful, patriotic problem-solvers, never shying away from a challenge."

Bates College Presi-

dent Clayton Spencer said she is thrilled for Moore. "I have worked with Aaliyah on several projects since her first year at Bates, and she has proven herself to be a leader, a problem-solver, and an exceptionally talented and determined student. Aaliyah is trustworthy and intuitive."

Spencer added, "She brings a powerful mind, a strong sense of purpose, and great self-awareness to the tasks at hand, and her already-impressive commitment to public service is both deep and personal. The Truman Scholarship is a wonderful recognition for Aaliyah and a tribute to the many members of the Bates community who have worked with her here, and who look forward to

cheering her on in this next chapter."

Moore intends to pursue graduate degrees in both law and African American studies, with the intent to use her voice to challenge U.S. institutions that violate civil rights, including the rights of people in foster care and people who are incarcerated. "I hope to help the poor, incarcerated, and condemned, protecting basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society," Moore said.

Moore said that her "upbringing as an African American woman living in subsidized housing and foster care shaped my determination to use advocacy, scholarship, and education to combat systematic disparities within our legal and foster care systems. I want to address the lack of reintegration support for foster children and formerly incarcerated individuals and defend the wrongfully convicted from prison."

She pointed to the "direct correlation" between youth leaving foster care and homelessness, sex trafficking, and incarceration rates. The U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics estimates that 23,000 foster youth will exit the

foster care system each year. Of those, 46 percent will be homeless and 70 percent will have been arrested at least once by age 26. "More alarmingly," Moore said, "60 percent of the child sex-trafficking victims recovered in a 70-city FBI raid were children from foster care or group homes."

Moore, a double major in politics and Africana who is currently in South Africa studying multiculturalism and human rights during a semester abroad, is an important and effective student leader at Bates and in the broader community. She has been extensively involved with the Lewiston-Auburn and Maine communities focusing on issues of social justice and, specifically, incarceration.

After Bates, Moore intends to pursue both J.D. and Ph.D. graduate degrees. For her Ph.D., she seeks a program in African American studies that offers the "opportunity to critically analyze the issues faced by African-descent people in the U.S."

Through her legal studies, Moore hopes to gain the skill to "fight for the release of wrongly incarcerated persons, challenge institutions violating

one's civil rights through discriminatory practices, and become a pioneer in civil rights advocacy, scholarship, and teaching."

In her Truman application, Moore was asked to look ahead past her graduate studies. Where does she see herself? The answer, Moore said, is written on the walls of her Bates College dorm room.

"I made my walls into vision boards. On one wall, there is a cluster of images depicting Harriet Tubman, Angela Davis, Ida B. Wells, Sojourner Truth, and others. In the middle, I intentionally left an empty space" - a place for her future self. Inspired by those forebears, Moore hopes to be similarly inspirational and influential - to be among thinkers and problem-solvers who "strive to expand our understanding of race, legal ethics, and systemic injustices."

This year's Truman Scholars were nominated by 275 colleges and universities, and in turn were recommended by 17 independent selection panels based on the finalists' academic success and leadership accomplishments, as well as their likelihood of becoming public service leaders.

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