



TWIN CITY TIMES

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Central Maine Healthcare Shows its Pride, Raises Flags at Hospitals



Pictured left to right: Pride flag raising ceremonies at Bridgton Hospital, CMMC and Rumford Hospital

BRIDGTON, LEWISTON, RUMFORD, ME (June 7, 2023) -- Central Maine Healthcare displayed its commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging (DEIB) on June 1 by raising the Pride flag at all three of its hospital campuses: Bridgton Hospital, Central Maine Medical Center and Rumford Hospital.

The flag raising coincided with the start of Pride Month, which is celebrated annually in June.

Each year, the LGBTQ+ community and allies reflect on the Stonewall Riots of 1968 and the progress made—and yet to be made—for LGBTQ+ people everywhere. Pride Month is a time when

the LGBTQ+ community and those who support them come together to celebrate the acceptance of sexual diversity. It is a time for each individual to be proud of who they are and the unique offerings they have to bring to the world.

“Here at Central Maine Healthcare, we believe it’s important to show our pride and commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging,” said Dick Kropp, chief people officer, Central Maine Healthcare. “This commitment is reflected in our team members gathering, at each hospital, to raise the Pride flag together in a show of unity. It’s one of many steps Central Maine Healthcare is taking in its



DEIB journey.”

The history of the Pride flag dates back to the 1970s, and the design has changed numerous times over the years.

City of Lewiston Overhauls Zoning Ordinances

LEWISTON, ME (June 9, 2023) – After several months of public dialogue, the City of Lewiston announced today it has completed an extensive update to its zoning ordinances. The upgraded ordinances reflect a fresh approach to zoning ordinances that have largely gone untouched for decades. The amended ordinances are now more efficient, user-friendly and clear -- helping to pave the way for developers, businesses, and homeowners. Every ward in Lewiston will benefit from these new zoning ordinance improvements.

“By updating our current zoning ordinances, we are working to remove obstacles to economic development and create more housing attainability,” said Lewiston City Councilor Rick LaChapelle, Ward 4. “Before adopting these zoning improvements, many requirements not only hindered development but also, some may

argue, actively worked against it.”

“Updating the city’s zoning has been a top priority of this City Council,” said City Administrator Heather Hunter. “I applaud the Planning staff as they jumped through hoops and literally scoured through thousands of detailed changes and dozens of substantive changes to bring our outdated zoning ordinances up-to-date.”

“Our objective is to foster and support reform of inefficient and outdated ordinance language,” said Shelley Norton, Lewiston City Planner. “With these changes, ordinances are more reflective of today’s environment. Many of the current zoning provisions were adopted in the late

1980’s. Zoning and land use practices have since evolved and so should the ordinances to help the city continue moving forward.” City Planning and Code Enforcement staff have worked aggressively over the last 12 months to make these sweeping changes and City Council approved the changes over a period of months, the most recent will take effect on June 16.

These changes allow for a greater mix of commercial use, encourage more housing and gearing up for upcoming changes to state housing laws. As the second largest city in Maine, Lewiston’s former ordinances did not put the city in a

See Ordinances, page 11

Maine DHHS Reopens Lewiston District Office

AUGUSTA, ME (June 9, 2023)

— The Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) announced today that its district office located at 200 Main St. in Lewiston reopened and resumed normal operations on June 1, 2023. DHHS closed the office in February to allow for repair of significant water and electrical damage resulting from extreme cold weather.

The Lewiston District Office is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. All in-person services provided by the DHHS Offices for Family Independence (OFI), Child and Family Services (OCFS), and Aging and Disability Services (OADS) are available during business hours.

Visitors to the Lewiston office should be aware that while most repairs are complete, some areas of the building remain closed as repair work continues over the coming weeks.

While the Lewiston office was closed, DHHS services were temporarily relocated to the Maine Department of Labor (DOL) CareerCenter located at 5 Mollison Way. This collaboration ensured that DHHS was able to continue providing critical in-person services to residents of Lewiston and surrounding communities.

In addition to in-person services, information about DHHS programs is available online or can be accessed by phone by calling 211. Individuals interested in applying for benefits may visit MyMaine-Connection or contact the DHHS Office for Family Independence Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 1-855-797-4357.

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

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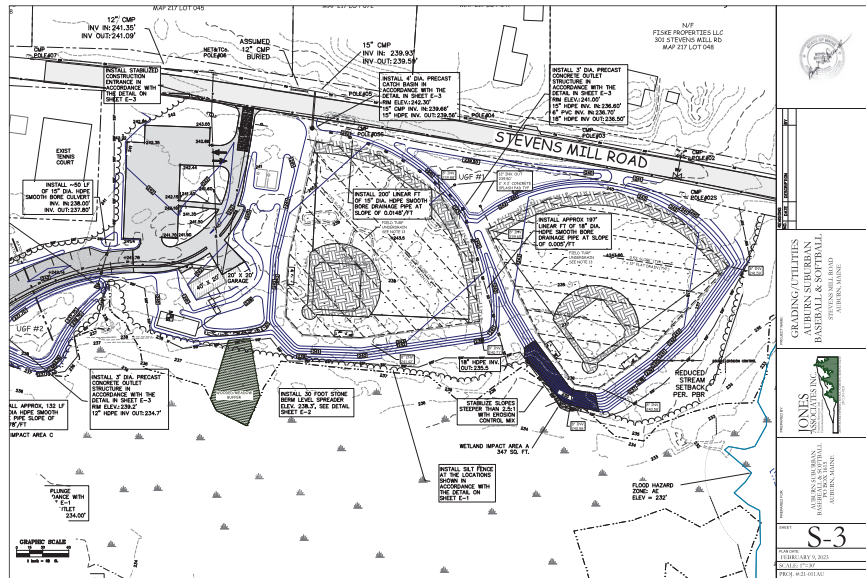
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Stunning Auburn Home 25 minutes from Portland and Augusta. This is an immaculate four-bedroom, 2.5 bath custom-built colonial home located in a highly desirable Auburn neighborhood. The property boasts beautiful curb appeal, with a welcoming porch and a large, landscaped yard spanning 2.86 acres. The home features hardwood floors, granite countertops, and an open concept kitchen leading to a formal dining room and an oversized deck. The living room area is filled with warmth from a large gas fireplace and a wall of windows and doors offering lots of natural light. The cozy den is ready for relaxation or quiet media enjoyment. The primary suite with jet tub and three additional bedrooms are located on the second level. The finished daylight basement includes plenty of space for recreation with a large office and extra storage. The double sliding doors lead to a private backyard oasis perfect for entertaining on your patio with an 18 x 36 heated pool. Attached two-car garage with direct entry into the home and two sheds for additional storage. This property is conveniently located near I-95, schools, shopping, outdoor recreation, and more. Don't miss out on this rare opportunity to own a beautiful home in a fantastic location. Be sure to schedule your private showing today by calling 207-754-4998. Listed by Michelle Gosselin Ervin and Elizabeth Splane of Hearth and Key Realty.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

National Guard Summer Outreach Project Comes to Auburn



AUBURN, ME (June 9, 2023) – The Maine Army National Guard is here in Auburn, and they are working on a community outreach project that will impact Auburn youth for generations. According to a media release from the Maine National Guard regarding

their summer “Innovative Readiness Training” projects (included at the end of this advisory), units under the 133rd Engineer Battalion, including the 136th Engineer Vertical Construction Company and the 262nd Engineer Construction Company, are in Auburn and they are clearing,

grubbing, and grading a property at the intersection of Hotel Road and Stevens Mill Road.

This work is being done to help prepare the parcel for the construction of the beautiful new Auburn Suburban Baseball & Softball youth sports complex.

Maine House Enacts Cloutier Bill, Expands Healthcare Workforce

AUGUSTA, ME (June 9, 2023) – The Maine House of Representatives voted last week to enact legislation sponsored by Rep. Kristen Cloutier, D-Lewiston, that would expand Maine’s health care workforce.

LD 937, which received unanimous support in the Legislature’s Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee, would create a 13-member commission to examine the existing skills and training of foreign-trained physicians, with a focus on those with refugee or asylum-seeker status, and determine how best to utilize their talents in Maine’s health care workforce.

“For years, Maine has had to grapple with a shrinking workforce, including within our health care industry,” said Cloutier. “LD 937 would establish a commission that engages a wide range of stakeholders, including health care employers, immigrant advocates, workforce development professionals, those who serve on licensing boards, members of the Legislature, representatives from the Governor’s Office and of course, foreign-trained physicians. If we hope to fill gaps in our workforce, we must explore how to best utilize the unique skills, training and talents of foreign-trained physicians who wish to live and

practice in Maine.”

The bill has been placed on the special study table and is now pending final passage.

Cloutier is the Assistant House Majority Leader and is currently serving her third consecutive term in the Maine House of Representatives. She represents House District 94, which includes part of her hometown of Lewiston.

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

Sen. Rotundo Welcomes Maine Recovery Connections



Sen. Peggy Rotundo, Brandy Hiltz, Jeremy Hiltz and Michael Connors in the Senate Chamber.

AUGUSTA, ME (June 9, 2023) – On Tuesday, June 6, Sen. Peggy Rotundo, D-Lewiston, and other members of the Legislature welcomed staff members from Recovery Connections of Maine to present them with a legislative sentiment for receiving a Spirit of America Foundation Award.

“Now more than ever, with two Mainers per day succumbing to opioid addiction, we need to shine a spotlight on the good people who work hard to turn these numbers around,”

said Sen. Rotundo. “Maine Recovery Connections treats patients with respect and understanding, getting to know them in order to prescribe the best method of treatment. I am proud of them for representing Lewiston in the very best light and grateful for their important work.”

Recovery Connections of Maine employs a holistic approach to treating addiction. Services include assessments, intensive outpatient care, individual and group counseling and even driver education. Attending

the Senate session on Tuesday were Founder and CEO Jeremy Hiltz, Co-Founder and Director of Administration Brandy Hiltz and Residential Program Manager Michael Connors.

A legislative sentiment acknowledges and recognizes academic, athletic, civic, professional or service-related accomplishments. It is approved by the full Legislature and signed by the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House.

Maine CASA to Hold Training on August 15–18, 2023

MAINE (June 9, 2023) -- Interested in advocating for the best interests of a child? The Maine Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program is holding its next training for volunteer advocates on August 15-18, 2023.

This free, four-day training is designed to prepare attendees for certification as volunteer guardians ad litem (GALs) in Maine child protection cases. Trainees may participate virtually or in person. For those who wish to partici-

pate in person, the training will be held in Augusta. Accommodations may be available.

The foundation of a CASA’s work is learning about the case and then advising the court what the CASA believes is in the child’s best interest. CASAs come from a wide variety of professional and personal backgrounds and are guided throughout the process by CASA program staff.

If you are willing to advocate for a child’s best interests, we encourage

you to apply to become a CASA volunteer. Those interested in the training must complete an application and, if invited to participate, must also complete criminal and child protection services background checks.

Are you ready to advocate for a child’s best interests? If so, we hope you can join us for our August 15-18, 2023 training. For more information about becoming a volunteer, please contact Maine CASA at 213-2865 or e-mail us at casa@courts.maine.gov.



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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Bates College Student Aaliyah Moore wins Truman Scholarship

LEWISTON, ME (May 15, 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 President 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 former-



Aaliyah Moore, member of the Bates College class of '24 and the recipient of a 2023 Truman Scholarship, helps to recruit students to volunteer locally to support legal reform and social justice organizations during the 2022 Volunteer Fair, sponsored by the Harvard Center for Community Partnerships. (Phyllis Graber Jensen/Bates College). Photo courtesy of Aaliyah Moore/Bates.

ly 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 African American studies, 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 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.

-endit-
Located in Lewiston, Maine, Bates is internationally recognized as a leading liberal arts college, attracting 2,000 students from across the U.S. and around the world. Since 1855, Bates has been dedicated to educating the whole person through creative and rigorous scholarship in a collaborative residential community. Committed to opportunity and excellence, Bates has always admitted students without regard to gender, race, religion, or national origin. Cultivating intellectual discovery and informed civic action, Bates prepares leaders sustained by a love of learning and zeal for responsible stewardship of the wider world.

Center for Health & Rehabilitation Donates to CRCofWM



NORWAY, ME (June 9, 2023) -- Heather Jackson and Falishia Ward of Norway Center for Health & Rehabilitation presented the Cancer Resource Center of Western Maine with proceeds from the raffle of a Mother's Day Basket containing candles, hair products, mugs, and Scentsy products.

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Continuing Adventures on Sebeois River Part II: Snowshoe Lodge to Hay Brook Landing



Ken Gordon paddles an expedition kayak on the Sebeois River



Eggman DeCoster launches his canoe from Snowshoe Lodge



Paddlers look for Whetstone Falls on the East Branch of the Penobscot

By Ron Chase

On the second day of a three-day Sebeois and East Branch of the Penobscot River canoe/kayak trip, three of us awoke at Snowshoe Lodge on the Sebeois River. Built by Butler Conservation Trust (BCT) in conjunction with the Sebeois Riverside Trail, the exceptional cabin provides unusually elaborate accommodations in a remote river setting. Riverside Trail begins at Grand Lake Road and the lodge is located about two miles downriver. The wilderness path continues south for another five miles to Wipiti Road where Philpot Bridge crosses the river.

The cozy lodge is available to hikers and paddlers on a first-come-first-serve basis. The interior contains four wooden cots with comfortable mattresses, a table with four stools, and a woodstove in one corner. A toilet and woodshed are nearby. Fortuitously, it was unoccupied when we arrived the previous afternoon and we thoroughly enjoyed our stay.

Our paddling goal for the day was to complete the remaining fifteen-miles on Sebeois River and find a campsite after joining the East Branch of the Penobscot. There would be nothing comparable to Snowshoe Lodge downriver.

Although sunny and seasonably warm, the defining weather feature of the day was wind. We experienced gusty winds throughout. Fortunately, it was the rarest of all paddling winds, a tailwind. An added benefit, the blustery conditions kept the blackflies in hiding.

We soon passed prominent Sugarloaf Mountain on the left. The Riverside Trail could be seen in several locations as we progressed downriver. Easy rapids and quick water continued to Philpot Bridge. The tailwind helped propel us swiftly along to a noteworthy narrows with sheer cliffs on the right. The impressive escarpment consti-

tutes the lower eastern face of Peaked Mountain.

About three miles of additional paddling brought us to the Sherman Lumber Company Road Bridge where a campsite is located on the right. We found refuge from the wind below an embankment on the left and stopped for lunch. An isolated location, we were surprised to encounter two parties gathering fiddleheads.

More quick water continued for three miles to the confluence with the East Branch. There, we transitioned to big water paddling as an estimated 4,000 cubic feet per second was flowing.

After some exploration, we located a suitable campsite. A topic of concern during our evening conversations was what to expect at Whetstone Falls the next day. The river was almost three times higher than any of us had experienced and the Class III falls would be a challenge. Proceeding with caution would be the strategy when we arrived at the beginning of the falls.

The blustery northwest winds ushered in very cold overnight temperatures. Two of us wore camp clothes inside of our sleeping bags to stay warm. All

of us slept late waiting for the sun to warm the morning chill.

When the sun climbed in the sky, the temperature quickly rose to a comfortable level. Our boats were carefully packed in anticipation of big waves and turbulent conditions at the falls. Although winds had diminished from the previous day, we still enjoyed a feisty tailwind.

Large waves were observed as we approached the first Whetstone rapid. Unable to boat scout a safe passage, we paddled to the right shore to investigate. From that vantage point, descending on the right side of a robust wave train appeared to be the safest strategy. We navigated through the substantial waves without difficulty.

Around the next bend, the river narrowed and Whetstone Falls Bridge was sighted looming high over river-wide breaking waves. Scrutiny from the shore was essential. We eddied right and scrambled over rugged terrain to the top of the bridge. Careful inspection revealed dangerous obstacles on both sides of the river. The preferable route appeared to be a narrow channel between cascading

waves in the center.

The river was so wide that setting up rope safety on shore was not practical. We elected to run close together in case someone had difficulty. Successfully navigating through the menacing waves without mishap, ours was a problem-free descent.

The pleasant remaining nine miles of quick water to the BCT Hay Brook Kayak/Canoe Facility in Grindstone passed too quickly. Thanks to a Matagamon Campground shuttle, our vehicles were waiting at the landing.

My book, *Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine* narrates six more exciting Maine canoe trips.

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

Outdoor Experiential Ed Program Bill Advances

AUGUSTA, ME (June 9, 2023) – The Maine House of Representatives voted unanimously Tuesday to advance a measure from Rep. Kathy Shaw, D-Auburn, that would help Maine schools create outdoor experiential education programs.

LD 1682 would establish the Maine Experiential Education Program Fund, which would support grants to facilitate new staff positions within participating public schools dedicated to providing hands-on, experiential learning opportunities related to gar-

dens, food and agriculture. The fund would improve healthy academic, physical and emotional development for students and would be housed within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

"Experiential learning is an impactful way to engage students who might otherwise have a difficult time in the classroom," said Shaw. "Giving schools an opportunity to provide hands-on learning experiences for students without mandating a curriculum change opens up new potential for deepening

connections to the land while also equipping the next generation with the fundamental skills needed to feed and fend for themselves."

The bill faces further votes in the House and Senate.

Shaw is serving her first term in the Maine House, representing part of Auburn. A lifelong farmer and president of the Cumberland and Falmouth farmers markets, Shaw serves on the Legislature's Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

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Safety Advisory: ALA's Trek Across Maine Is This Weekend

BRUNSWICK, ME (June 9, 2023) – For nearly four decades, the American Lung Association's (ALA) "Trek Across Maine" has drawn in hundreds of cyclists to ride 180 miles over three days through Maine communities. This year, the Trek will bring more than 600 cyclists to Maine in-person (with a virtual option), setting the same goal of raising \$1 million as last year. Taking place from Friday, June 16th to Sunday, June 18th this year, the Trek has already raised \$500,000 to date.

Trekkers aim to raise the \$1 million to support the ALA's mission to research, educate, and advocate to prevent lung disease and promote lung health. The ALA is asking local drivers and residents for their support, patience, and extra care as the cyclists make their way through

Brunswick, Freeport, Durham, Auburn, Lewiston, Naples, Standish, and surrounding cities and towns. The Trek attracts cyclists ranging in skill and age, support vehicles, medical vehicles and police escorts through small towns, often causing traffic delays and congestion on the roads — rain or shine. With that in mind, extreme caution is required.

Safety is always the first priority with Trek Across Maine, and cooperation with municipalities is the key.

The Trek schedule can be found below:

Friday, June 16, participants ride from 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Starting line is at Thomas Point Beach and Campground in Brunswick

Day 1 finish line at Bates College in Lewiston

Saturday, June 17,

participants ride from 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Day 2 start line is at Bates College in Lewiston

Day 2 finish line is at St. Joseph's College in Standish

Sunday, June 18, participants ride between 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Day 3 start line is St. Joseph's College in Standish

Finish line at Thomas Point Beach and Campground in Brunswick

Along the route, some areas can experience more traffic slowdowns than others. Law enforcement officers will be positioned at all major intersections where cyclists need to pass through traffic. Motorcycle officers and state police vehicles will also drive the Trek route to ensure the safety of motorists and Trek cyclists alike. Local drivers play a



key role in making the Trek safe and fun for everyone. Please slow down and

share the road with families, friends and neighbors. Once again, your patience

and care are greatly appreciated for this important event.

Leadership Transition at Southern Maine Community College

AUGUSTA, ME (June 9, 2023) – Joe Cassidy will be stepping down as president of Southern Maine Community College (SMCC) effective August 1, to become the president of Saint Joseph's College of Maine.

Cassidy has served as SMCC's president for six years and was previously president of Washington County Community College (WCCC) for five years.

"Joe has been an exceptionally engaged and intentional leader at our colleges, and we are sad to see him go," said Joyce Maker, Chair of the Maine Community College System (MCCS) Board of Trustees. "He made deep, meaningful connections to the students, colleagues, and many partners and friends of the colleges. We wish him well in his new role."

"My fondness for SMCC and the entire MCCS has not diminished

in the least," Cassidy said.

"I continue to be proud of the work that we do to educate and uplift Mainers and to support the Maine economy. I know I step away from SMCC leaving it in the very capable hands of its world-class leaders, teachers, and staff members. For my family and I, we are excited for our next adventure in higher education at Saint Joseph's College of Maine in Standish."

A nationwide search for the next SMCC president will begin immediately. MCCS President David Daigler will appoint an interim president by June 15 to serve from August 1 until a new president is seated, which will likely be in spring 2024.

"Joe has become a trusted colleague and a good friend. His calm, open style, warmth and humility are the characteristics that made him the right kind of leader for the college and helped us all weather the

pandemic with agility and fortitude. I am very grateful to Joe for his strong leadership and deep commitment to our colleges over the last dozen-plus years," Daigler said.

"I appreciate his commitment to our students, growing our colleges, and deepening our ties to local communities," Daigler continued. "Fortunately, through his leadership, the college has the depth and strength to sustain its trajectory during this transitional period. It is with both gratitude and sadness that I have come to accept his departure from SMCC. I will miss working with Joe and I wish him well at Saint Joe's."

In addition to serving as president at SMCC and WCCC, Cassidy simultaneously served as interim president at Eastern Maine Community College in Bangor for the 2015-16 academic year. Cassidy began his career at WCCC as a faculty member. He once

served as president of the WCCC Faculty Association and as mayor of the City of Calais.

At SMCC, Cassidy always remained focused on the college's goal of transforming lives and communities through education and training. Among his key accomplishments:

Leading a strategic plan process reorganizing SMCC around academic pathways that save students time and money while improving student outcomes.

Expanding short-term workforce training programs.

Developing the SMCC campus in Brunswick.

Leading the college community through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Instituting a culture of respect and learning for a diverse community and adding resources such as an Intercultural Student Center.

Adding courses and programs to address im-



mediate workforce needs, including the doubling of nursing students, expanding the Construction Institute, and adding e-vehicle battery repair.

Expanding partnerships with organizations such as Greater Portland Immigrant Welcome Center, Prosperity Maine, and In Her Presence, among

others.

Southern Maine Community College is the system's oldest, largest, and most diverse college, with more than 6,000 students and offering 40-plus programs of study at the Portland and Brunswick campuses, online, and at satellite locations across southern Maine.

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Arts & Entertainment

Fashion Design Students Sew Comfort Items for Cancer Patients



(Left to right) Lori Millett, OHTS Fashion Design Instructor; Emily Thibodeau; Nanami Daggett; Absent: Jaxton Stein

NORWAY, ME (June 9, 2023) -- The Cancer Resource Center of Western Maine recently received a variety of comfort items for cancer patients, which were designed and sewn by Oxford Hills Technical School students in the Fashion Design Program, led by instructor Lori Millett. The students participated in this after-school endeavor, which also helped them earn community service points towards their graduation requirement.

Spurr Seeks to Assist with Career Planning

LEWISTON, ME (April 6, 2023) -- People in Androscoggin and Oxford Counties in need of career and college planning can contact Frank Spurr, Career Navigator, for free assistance.

Spurr is one of eight Career Advancement Navigators and College and Career Success Coordinators working throughout the state for the Maine Department of Education.

Students who access navigation services are directed to local resources. Spurr has visited Trivas Collins House for Recovery in Lewiston, helping clients learn about time management and conflict resolution to prepare them for the job market; he has also met with staff at the Fedcap Inc. office in Oxford to explain the career navigation help he provides. Fedcap provides services to individuals receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) benefits in Maine.

Other navigators in Maine have helped unemployed people with job searches as well as assisted with housing searches, said Lana Sawyer, state education representative for the Maine Department of Education.

"The key thing I want people to know is that they're out there to help their local community," she said.

Along with answering questions, navigators



Frank Spurr works as Career Navigator for Androscoggin and Oxford counties, helping to make connections between students, adult education programs and employers.

have shared information about apprenticeship and workforce training opportunities in several sectors, including manufacturing and healthcare.

"And what's great about them is they're on the job and they're paid," Sawyer said.

Funding for the program comes from the Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan. It has committed \$6 million dollars to address the workforce development needs of those impacted by COVID-19.

Spurr can be reached at fspurr@lewistonpublicschools.org.

For more information about Career Navigators & College and Success Coordinators in Maine, go to this link: <https://www.maine.gov/doe/jobsandrecovery/successnavigators>

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Maine Military Community Network to Hold Conference

BANGOR, ME (June 9, 2023) -- The Maine Military Community Network is excited to announce the 11th Annual Statewide Conference, Thursday, June 29th, 2023, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at Bangor High School, 885 Broadway, Bangor, Maine. Maine veterans, veteran service providers, health-care professionals, and others who would like to

learn more about the veteran experience and the needs of veterans once they leave active service are invited to attend.

The theme for this year's conference is Life After Military, and the conference will include a keynote address on Post-Traumatic Growth by Suzanne Rancourt, veteran, poet and counselor for Traumatic Brain Injury. Registration is

required and is available at <https://cvent.me/kX5VRz>. The deadline to register is Thursday, June 20th, 2023. The cost of general attendance is \$40, and \$25 for veterans. The cost includes a continental breakfast and lunch.

The conference will also include presentations by Maine's Congressional Delegation, annual awards, and breakout sessions on

Expressive Arts Therapy, Vicarious Trauma in the Family Unit, Voices from the Field, Military 101, and columnist and author Sarah Smiley. The attached agenda for the conference fully demonstrates the conference's scope and breadth.

For veterans, the conference will include a briefing on federal and state benefits, and a resource fair featuring providers of vet-

eran benefits and services throughout the state. For clinicians, the conference offers 6 CEUs sponsored by AdCare Educational Institute of Maine, Inc.

For over a decade, The Maine Military & Community Network Annual Conference has grown to be a well-attended and important event in the Veteran and Veteran service provider community alike. The con-

ference serves to strengthen connections between communities, military members, and their families. Our objectives are to engage civilian communities in the reintegration of veterans and service members and to increase awareness among service members, veterans and providers of the issues and opportunities related to the wellbeing of those who have served in the military.

4-H Offers Workshops During Summer Learning Series



Photo courtesy University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

ORONO, ME (June 9, 2023) — University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H will offer its hands-on virtual

summer learning series July 5–Aug. 5.

The series presents more than 20 workshops on a wide variety of top-

ics. Originally launched in 2020 to provide additional educational opportunities for youth during the pandemic, it contin-



ues to play an important role in helping to alleviate some of the learning loss that occurs each summer.

The series features engagement-building activities in the fields of arts and crafts, food and nutrition, STEM, marine science and aquaculture, animal science and agriculture, and more. Participants logon and learn from a diverse range of knowledgeable UMaine staff and volunteers. The workshops also provide opportunities to learn

more about the 4-H program and to connect with other youth from across Maine. All materials needed to complete the hands-on activities will be mailed to participants at no cost.

Workshops are free with optional sliding scale fee and open to all youth ages 5–18. Registration is required, and can be done on the UMaine Extension 4-H Summer Learning Series webpage. For additional information or to request

a reasonable accommodation, contact [Jessy Brainerd](mailto:jessica.brainerd@maine.edu), 207.581.3877; jessica.brainerd@maine.edu.

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

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Construction Begins on Lewiston's Continental Mill Complex

LEWISTON, ME (June 9, 2023) – The Szanton Company, a Portland-based housing developer, is breaking ground on redevelopment of Continental Mill's historic picker house as Picker House Lofts, a 72-unit mixed income apartment project. This marks the beginning of a larger redevelopment of the complex, adding momentum to the revitalization of downtown Lewiston.

Built in 1858 and located at 2 Cedar St on east bank of the Androscoggin River, the Picker House is the part of the Continental Mill complex where impurities were picked out of cotton before it was run through textile-making machines elsewhere in the complex. Across the river is the Auburn Riverwalk, soon to be joined by Lewiston's Riverwalk,

to which this project has given rights to along its 560 feet of river frontage. Picker House Lofts joins such other redevelopment projects in downtown Lewiston as Tree Street's revitalization and adaptive re-use projects along lower Lisbon Street.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held June 9 at 10 a.m. in the Continental Mill inner courtyard. Speakers included Lewiston Mayor Carl Sheline; Maine Housing Director Dan Brennan; TD Bank Maine Market President Larry Wold; Evernorth President Nancy Owens; CEI Chief Investment Officer Daniel Wallace; and Chinburg V.P. Geoff Spitzer.

"We are thrilled to be giving a new birth of life to this historic complex that's played such a huge role in the history of Lewiston's economy and people," said Szanton Company President Nathan Szanton. "It's been sitting largely empty for decades, waiting for people to imagine something different for it."

Lewiston Mayor Carl Sheline said "Increasing affordable housing is such a crucial initiative right now for our city and our state. The new Picker House development at the



LEWISTON ME

Continental Mill is an essential step to addressing this issue while also repurposing empty mill space. I am proud of the Szanton Company for their vision and hard work developing the plans for this building, and I look forward to seeing the positive difference this will make in our community."

The project will include one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments. Residents will enjoy a fitness center, roof deck, community room, laundry room, secure indoor bike storage, and off-street parking.

The Picker House is a 79,000 square foot build-



ing built in the center of the Continental Mill complex, the rest of which is owned by New Hampshire-based Chinburg Properties. Rents for the workforce units will range from approximately \$700-\$1,100, while the market rents are expected to range from \$1,050-\$1,450. Heat and hot water,

off-street parking, and wi-fi will be included in the rent.

The Szanton Company also built the 48-unit Lofts at Bates Mill, which opened in 2012, and the mixed-use, 63-unit Hartley Block, which opened in 2019. Picker House Lofts is expected to open in early 2025.

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WHA Art Gallery at CMMC Announces June Exhibit

(June 9, 2023) -- The Woman's Hospital Association (WHA) Rotating Art Gallery at Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston is proud to display the paint-

ings of Anita Poulin and Cathy Chappell.

Poulin is a long-time local artist who comes from three generations of artists who have painted scenes of

Maine for nearly a century. The owner of GreenWood Gallery, which she founded in 2013, she loves living in a state where "the north light we experience brings out the



"A Drop in a Yellow Bucket" by Cathy Chappell



"Neurographic #1" painting by Anita Poulin

rich colors" of the natural world. As an artist, she continues to grow and explore new means of expression, focusing on neurographic art as a way to highlight her versatility as an artist.

Cathy Chappell, a retired CPA is a student of Poulin's who enjoys the

inspiration of the outdoors on her daily treks exploring roads, trails and seashore. Her love of photography over the years has evolved into a love of drawing and painting.

The works on display may be purchased through the WHA Gift Shop located

adjacent to the main lobby at Central Maine Medical Center. The works on display may be purchased through the WHA Gift Shop located adjacent to the main lobby at Central Maine Medical Center. A percentage of sale proceeds benefits patients of CMMC.

What do you think?

We strongly encourage Letters to the Editor, Op/Eds, columns or any other submissions from our readers. Agree with us or another columnist? Disagree? Write to us and let us know! Email all submissions, including name, address and phone number, to the editor.

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Journey Through Time this Summer with TAM

MONMOUTH, ME (June 9, 2023) – TAM celebrates 54 years of producing classic theatre in Maine. Join us for Theater at Monmouth's Brave New Worlds Season. From the Divine Right of Kings to the awkward banter of young love, TAM's 54th season explores Shakespeare's flawed rulers in Richard II and forest-dwelling lovers in As You Like It; Peterson and O'Hare's modern take on the repercussions of war in An Iliad, Wilde's effervescent wit & wisdom in The Importance of Being Earnest, and Bartram & Hill's exploration on the reach of the bonds of friendship in The Story of My Life. TAM's Brave New Worlds Season is a lesson in humanity that will tickle your funny bone with one hand and pluck your heartstrings with the other.

"It's been TAM's mission to foster a more diverse, more inclusive, more welcoming environment for audiences and artists alike," says producing artistic director Dawn McAndrews, "to educate young minds, engage patrons with new and differing points of view, and to program seasons that represent a range of perspec-

tives, beliefs, and circumstances."

Season Sponsor: The Shakespeare Fund of Theater League of Kansas City
Season Co-Sponsor: Main Street Psychotherapy Acting Company
Co-Sponsor: Kennebec Savings Bank

SUMMER REPERTORY SEASON

Performances take place in Cumston Hall, a 250-seat Victorian opera house designed by Harry Cochrane. Since its founding TAM has rehearsed and performed in rotating repertory, inviting audiences to see the actors in different roles in different shows in one weekend. Each of this season's seven productions features artists "From Away" and "Made in Maine" both newcomers and TAM favorites.

The Story of My Life | July 1 - August 12

Music & Lyrics by Neil Bartram, Book by Brian Hill | directed by Adam P. Blais

The Story of My Life Follows the friendship of Alvin and Thomas, two men from a small town. These lifelong friends are reunited after Alvin's mysterious death. In the abstract world of his mind, Thomas struggles to write

Alvin's eulogy while recounting the many turns that their lives have taken since meeting as children. Alvin searches through manuscripts and stories in Thomas's mind to lead him on a journey of remembrance.

An Iliad | July 8 - August 12

by Lisa Peterson & Denis O'Hare | Originally directed by Bill Van Horn | Directed by Dawn McAndrews

An Iliad is a modern-day retelling of Homer's classic. Poetry and humor, the ancient tale of the Trojan War and the modern world collide in this captivating theatrical experience. The setting is simple: the empty theater. The time is now: the present moment. The lone figure onstage is a storyteller—possibly Homer, possibly one of the many bards who followed in his footsteps. He is fated to tell this story throughout history.

Richard II | July 8 - August 11

by William Shakespeare | directed by Kathryn Walsh

Richard II is dangerously out of touch with his kingdom. He wastes money, raises taxes to support

his lavish

lifestyle, plays favorites and cares more about his vanity than the common good. When Henry Bolingbroke—father of the future Henry V—challenges Richard for the throne, it's a fight the king can't win. But in losing his crown he gains far greater things: his humanity and his soul. Shakespeare's luminous, poetic masterpiece is the first of four plays that chronicle the House of Lancaster's rise and the beginning of the Wars of the Roses.

The Importance of Being Earnest | July 20 - August 11

by Oscar Wilde | directed by Nathan Winkelstein

Jack and Algernon have chosen to lead double lives to evade the tedium of polite society. However, when they attempt to win the love of two women who declare they will only love a man called Ernest – chaos reigns. The Importance of Being Earnest is a tale of mistaken identities, rapid-fire wit, and cucumber sandwiches. There may not be a funnier, more socially insightful play chock-full of eccentric characters than this masterpiece by Oscar Wilde.

As You Like It | July 27- August 13

by William Shakespeare | directed by Dawn McAndrews

Welcome to Arden. This is the story of Rosalind. Oppressed and exiled from Court under threat of death, she escapes with her cousin, cross-dressed and gartered, into the wild and unpredictable Forest of Arden. Disguised as a boy, she creates a world of her choosing, revelling in her newfound agency and self-discovery. But chance encounters with the love-struck Orlando complicate her new adventure. All the world's a stage in As You Like It, Shakespeare's gender-bending comedy, where poetry, mistaken identities, and true loves lost and found abound.

TICKETS, AND GROUP SALES

A TAM subscription offers savings and exclusive benefits like priority seating and ticket exchanges. Gold, Flex, General, or Senior Passes are available for purchase, so whether you want a ticket for each show or five tickets to one show, there's an option for you. Single tickets for the Summer Repertory and Fall Show are \$40 for adults, \$35 for senior citi-

zens, and \$25 for students (18 and under). Family Show tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for children. Masking is not required but strongly encouraged.

Opening Nights are Educator Nights. Educators receive 20% off tickets with a photo ID at the Box Office.

Under 30 Rush Tickets: For patrons under 30, \$10 Rush Tickets are available at each performance for up to twenty patrons. Sign up by contacting the Box Office, either by emailing boxoffice@theateratmonmouth.org or calling 207.933.9999 the morning of the performance. Requests made before the Box Office opens will not be processed. Tickets can be picked up 30 minutes before curtain.

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Expert Grilling Safety Tips to Help Prevent Accidents, Injuries

BATH, ME (June 9, 2023) – There's nothing like a backyard barbecue on a beautiful summer day, but it's important to remember that grills can also cause serious damage and injuries if not used safely. According to the National Fire Protection Association, U.S. fire departments respond to an average of 10,600 fires involving grills each year, and nearly 20,000 people

seek medical care annually because of grill-related injuries, about half of which are burns. The experts at Rocky's Ace Hardware stress the importance of grill safety, especially as we enter the most popular months for grilling.

"We are big fans of the grilling lifestyle, but it's only fun if it's safe," said Rocky's Ace Hardware President Rocco Falcone. "This starts with



having a working fire extinguisher on hand every time you grill. Hopefully, you'll never need it, but you'll be glad it's there if you do. Remember, water doesn't work on a grease fire, so a nearby hose is not enough."

Falcone said ongoing grill maintenance is a key safety factor. He recommends doing a thorough grill inspection at the start of the season to look for rust, cracks or damage to the fuel line and other parts.

"Address any issues you find before you fire up the grill," he said. "That may mean buying replace-

ment parts or a whole new grill, depending on the extent of the problem."

A deep clean at the start of the season, and then regular cleaning after every use, is also advisable.

"Not only will your food taste better on a clean grill, but you'll head off potential hazards as well," said Falcone. "Based on the type of grill you have, empty ashes and unburnt coal, check for clogs on burners and in tubes and thoroughly clean the grease pan. Depending on how often you use the grill, check these items periodically throughout the year."

When it comes to the grates, Falcone advised cleaning them before and

after each use.

"There are a variety of tools designed for this, including wire brushes and scrapers," he said. "If you opt for a wire brush, be sure to inspect the grill carefully afterward to ensure none of the wire bristles remain on the grill, as they can be very harmful if they attach to food and are swallowed."

To prevent flare-ups, Falcone noted that best practices include trimming excess fat from meats, keeping the lid open when searing high-fat foods, leaving space on the grill to move food away from a flareup and avoiding grilling in windy areas.

In terms of grill placement, Falcone said to choose a flat, open area at least 10 feet from the home or other structures.

"Never grill in your garage, even with the door open, or on a covered pa-

tio," he said. "Also, never leave a grill unattended, and make sure children and pets stay at least 10 feet away."

In closing, Falcone reminded area grillers to familiarize themselves with their grills and follow the instructions for each model as well as any safety recommendations. The experts at Rocky's Ace Hardware are available to answer questions and offer advice when needed.

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Ordinances

Continued from page 1

position to grow. Yet, with the new ordinances, the city addresses a wide range of topics from parking requirements to redefining accessory dwelling units (ADUs) to housing density to rezoning the three main commercial arterials, Sabattus Street, Lisbon Street and Main Street, to increase business and housing opportunities:

The city has modified the zoning of nearly 375 properties within Sabattus Street, Lisbon Street and Main Street corridors. These modifications include increasing the depth of commercial zoning districts, reducing setbacks providing more space for development to occur on properties, and providing more opportunities for multi-family development.

Additionally, in these three corridors, the highway business zone now permits multi-family development. This has been done to increase housing supply, make more efficient use of the land, enhance neighborhood and urban vitality, and improve access to amenities.

Within the greater downtown area, where properties are closer to public transportation, sidewalks, and municipal parking facilities, parking standards have been significantly reduced providing more opportunity for lots to be developed and redeveloped; for example, new commercial businesses will likely not have to provide parking on site in much of the downtown.

In some neighborhoods, the city now permits small retail stores and food establishments to increase neighborhood vibrancy and quality of life.

Previously the city required open space and passive recreational areas in the downtown, however given the downtown development pattern this is difficult and cost prohibitive. Additionally, how and where people recreate has changed over the years. Zoning updates provide for creative recreation solutions more likely to use in the downtown, such as indoor recreation spaces, balconies, and rooftop decks.

Recognizing that the cost to build a city accepted street is expensive, private right-of-way provisions have been developed where backlot development for up to six residential lots or two non-residential lots may now occur. This option provides more opportunities for development at a cost significantly less than that of a city accepted street.

Previous regulations dictated permits for stor-

age and tool sheds. Now, the city no longer requires building permits for residential one-story detached accessory structures under 200 square feet and commercial one-story detached accessory structures under 120 square feet. For the homeowner who wants a small tool shed, a city permit is no longer required.

In many older, developed neighborhoods, the established building setbacks did not conform to the current zoning setback requirements, which restricted the ability of property owners to expand or add structures like decks. Instead of requiring new or redeveloped structures in these neighborhoods to comply with the standard setbacks, existing structures that do not meet the setbacks are permitted

to be expanded, provided that the existing conditions are not worsened.

About 13 percent of Americans have backyard chickens and 100,000 Americans keep bees. Now, more Lewiston homeowners will have the opportunity for keeping bees and chickens with reductions in setbacks for bees and lot sizes for chicken keeping, while maintaining some restrictions to help address concerns of neighbors.

According to the US Small Business Association, 50 percent of all small businesses begin at home. Lewiston has expanded its home occupation rules in recognition that the work environment has changed. More types of businesses may be started in the home, however

permits and rules may still apply to preserve residential neighborhoods.

Part of the expansions now allow one employee to work at a home business further supporting economic growth and job opportunities within the community. As such, the city has altered zoning rules related to home occupations to provide more opportunities for home business and entrepreneurs to operate in residential areas. For example, the city now permits if the home business has an employee; operates where the public comes on-site and which manages one client at a time by appointment only, even allowing uses like farm stands, small engine repair, automotive detailing; woodworking shops; food sales handling,

or processing while insuring a process remains to consider possible impacts to neighbors.

The city's new Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) language not only helps ease the housing crunch but also provides opportunity for additional income and expands greater flexibility to homeowners. Previously, ADUs had to be attached to the home and occupied by a family member, but with these updates, ADUs can also be detached from the primary structure and may be rented out also offering an option for the home owner to gain rental income.

"With the support of the Planning Board and City Council, the city has adopted many changes consistent with the Comprehensive Plan

- Legacy Lewiston, the Riverfront Island Master Plan and its recent update, and the Choice Neighborhood Transformation Plan-Growing Our Tree Streets. The amendments were needed as zoning and land use practices have evolved, as well as changing economic and development approaches. With more changes to come, these initiatives will help Lewiston progress and grow in a sustainable and meaningful direction" said Director of Planning and Code Enforcement David Hediger.

For more about the zoning modifications, visit www.lewistonmaine.gov/planningandcode or contact the City's Planning and Code Enforcement Department at (207) 513-3125.

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Maine CDC Warns of Increase in Rabid Animal Cases

AUGUSTA, ME (June 9, 2023) — Following a rise in animals testing positive for rabies in the state since the start of this year, the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) urges Maine people and visitors to take steps to prevent rabies.

Between January and May of 2023, the Maine CDC confirmed 30 cases of rabies in raccoons, skunks, bats, a fox, and a woodchuck. Cumberland

County recorded 12 of the 30 cases. Rabies activity was significantly lower in 2022, with a total of 35 cases for the year.

Rabies is a virus that infects the nervous system of humans and other mammals. Rabies spreads when infected animals bite, and in some cases scratch, other animals or humans. All mammals can get rabies, but raccoons, skunks, foxes, and bats are the most common animals to test positive for rabies

in Maine. The rabies virus does not spread in blood, urine, feces, skunk spray, or dried saliva.

A rabid animal may show a variety of symptoms or no symptoms at all. Once symptoms develop, rabies is almost always fatal. Timely post-exposure treatment can prevent disease in people; a rabies vaccination is required for all pet cats and dogs of a certain age in Maine and offers the best protection against rabies.

The Maine CDC urges everyone to take precautions around animals that you do not know and to take steps to protect yourself and your animals against rabies.

To help protect yourself and your pet against rabies:

Keep your pet's rabies vaccination up to date.

Feed pets indoors.

Keep garbage cans or other sources of food tightly secured.

Do not feed, touch, or

adopt wild animals.

Be cautious of stray dogs and cats. If you spot a stray cat or dog, contact your local animal control officer.

Do not move wildlife. This can spread rabies into new areas.

Wash bite or scratch wounds thoroughly with soap and water for 10-15 minutes and contact your health care provider.

Who to contact:

If an animal bites or scratches you, contact your

health care provider.

If an animal bites or scratches your pet or livestock, contact your veterinarian.

If you want to report a dead or suspicious-looking raccoon, skunk, fox, or coyote in Maine, contact a game warden with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Maine CDC disease reporting & consultation line: 1-800-821-5821 (Available 24/7)

Letters to the Editor

We need reliable and affordable energy

I remember Jim. You know the one. "No line is safe to touch...evah" He was someone I respected because he was concerned for the people of Maine. Seeing Jim plug for CMP now is not as endearing. Iberdrola (Spain) is greedily gobbling up our energy companies all over the U.S. and sadly CMP was one of them.

A majority of Maine voters rejected CMP/Avan-grid's "Clean Energy Connect". People obviously

saw the lies being peddled and smartly saw through the millions of dollars in advertising. I hope they realize that nothing has changed since last November. CMP is dictated to directly from Spain. Look up employee reviews. Even those who gave good ratings say Spain makes all the decisions. It's time to take back control of our electricity.

We need reliable and affordable energy. Our hard-earned money should

be invested in our future, not a Spanish company's. We need a company that puts the grid before the investors. We need a company that puts Maine before Massachusetts. We need a company that's straight with us, not misrepresenting facts on behalf of its parent company in Europe.

I miss CMP that was the local company I knew and I trusted. Let's get back to that model.

Jennifer Harmon
Windham, ME

Let's rebuild trust in our democracy

Hello, I write to you today as a concerned citizen who believes deeply in the power of our democracy and the strength of our republic. I am aware of the growing disillusionment and doubt that many American citizens feel towards our political system.

Both the Democratic and Republican parties have contributed to the trauma experienced by the average citizen, leading us to question the true impact of our voices and the state of our democracy. Partisan politics have fueled divisions and polarization, prioritizing winning over the needs of ordinary Americans. As a result, many of us have lost faith in our government's ability to effectively represent and serve us.

But I want to assure you that it doesn't have to be this way. We, the people, hold the power to reclaim our democracy and restore trust. It is time for a new approach, one that transcends party lines and prioritizes unity, collaboration, and the common good.

As a candidate for the presidency, I offer an alternative. I am not a product of the existing political establishment, but a concerned citizen who understands the frustrations and doubts that many of us share. I believe in listening to everyday Americans, respecting their diverse perspectives, and working together to find common-sense solutions that benefit all.

I am committed to healing the wounds caused by partisan politics and restoring faith in our democracy. Let us break free from the constraints of party loyalty and embrace a new era of collaboration and cooperation. Together, we can reject divisive rhetoric and fear-driven politics. Instead, let us unite around our shared values of fairness, justice, and equality.

To learn more about my platform and my vision for our nation, I have embraced my personal Facebook Page as the primary platform for public interaction. I have shared a Manifesto on this page, highlighting the strengths

and weaknesses of our Republic, and presenting solutions to the divisive issues that have fragmented our nation. These include privacy and personal information rights, the complex debates surrounding Pro-Choice and Pro-Life, and the highly contentious topic of gun control. Visit my Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/daniel.slack.75/> to delve deeper into my political, social, and existential views and engage in ongoing conversations.

In the upcoming election, I humbly ask for your support and vote. Together, let us rebuild trust in our democracy and restore the power to the people.

Common Sense, Common Knowledge, and Common Wisdom for Uncommon Action. Daniel Slack for President

Thank you for considering my candidacy and for your commitment to a stronger, more inclusive America.

Sincerely,
Daniel Slack
Lincolntonville, ME

Old senators hurt us

To the Editor: Angus King is Maine's very elderly US Senator. If re-elected, he'll be 86 when he finishes his term. That's only 4 years younger than California's 90-year-old Diane Feinstein. She's too old to even show up to important judicial appointment meetings. The Courts are at war with women over their Healthcare. Old

Senators hurt us! Now ultra-rich Angus King even wants to take away Social Security benefits rather than tax rich people, and he brags about giving corporations, making billions per year, a loophole with a lower tax rate than a middle-class worker making 40,525. King creates extra corporate profits that often go to foreign investors, out

of the country, rather than give lower rates to working people, who mostly keep their money in this country. Voters need to reject old and reduced functioning Presidents and US Senators - from ALL Parties - who are clearly too old to do their jobs!

Sincerely,
Bob Jean
Lubec, ME

A Shameful Denial of Protection

Asylum seekers are men, women and children fleeing violence, persecution and political upheaval who have crossed borders

to seek safety in another country. Most eventually return home when it's safe, some stay in temporary refugee settlements,

and a small fraction resettle in a third country. The Department of Homeland Security implemented a rule in May which

disqualifies people from seeking asylum in the United States if they did not first apply in countries they crossed earlier in their journeys.

Most who seek asylum in the United States travel through Mexico but Mexico is far from equipped to process large

numbers of asylum applications. Those who become trapped in Mexican border encampments often become victims of crimes, including kidnapping, sexual assault and robbery. The Biden administration should be ashamed of pursuing Trump-era policies that unjustly deny

protection to people seeking safety in the United States and return them to danger. The United States has once again turned its back on its long tradition of offering refuge to those who are fleeing persecution and violence.

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June 15-25

AUBURN -- Community Little Theatre presents the Steve Martin comedy Picasso at the Lapin Agile. Young men Albert Einstein and Pablo Picasso meet and discuss art, the universe, and everything in between along with some colorful characters who add wit, humor, and wry perspectives. Show dates are June 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, & 24 at 7:30 p.m., and June 18 & 25 at 2:00 p.m. All performances at CLT on 30 Academy Street in Auburn. Tickets and more information at www.laclt.com/picasso-at-lapin-agile-2023

June 17

MINOT -- Church Auction at Minot United Methodist Church, 142

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

Minot Ave, Minot, Maine 04258

Our church will be holding an Auction on June 17th 2023 at 6 p.m. This is a Benefit for our Kitchen Renovation Project. Admission is free

June 20

LEWISTON -- Outdoor Hiring Event on Tuesday, June 20th from 10:00am-noon at the Lewiston CareerCenter, 5 Mollison Way, Lewiston. Bring your best self and speak with multiple employers all offering great job opportunities! The event is free, open to the public and will be held

rain or shine. For a list of participating employers, visit: <https://www.mainecareercenter.com/locations/jobfair.shtml?id=10945557>

June 24

GRAY -- First Congregational Church of Gray Saturday Night Church Supper on Saturday June 24, 2023 @ 5 P. M. at the Parish House, 5 Brown Street, Gray. Handicapped Accessible. Meals are Singled-sized and are \$10.00 each. Please pay at the Door.

The Menu includes: A variety of Casseroles and Salads, Baked Pea

Beans, Red Hot Dogs, Breads. Assortment of Desserts, and Beverages. Phone # day of the supper - 657-4279.

June 24

AUGUSTA -- The Maine Hosta Society will hold its Annual Plant Auction on Saturday, June 24th at Viles Arboretum located at 153 Hospital Street in Augusta. A silent auction of plants donated from members' gardens will take place at 10:00 am. The live auction of some of the latest hostas available begins at 1:00 pm. Admission is free and open to the public.

June 24

BUXTON -- Had-dock Supper Buffet - Saturday, June 24, 2023 - 5:00 pm at Living Waters Church, Parker Farm Road, Buxton. Suggested donation: \$10 Adult, \$5 Child, \$20 Family. Please note: We will offer the option of takeout containers for those who do not want to come inside for seating. Wearing of face masks for those who are not vaccinated is suggested. Hand sanitizer is available for those who wish to use it.

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 Depart-

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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@lewiston-maine.gov

Second and fourth Thursdays
LEWISTON -- YOUTH TRADING CARD GAME CLUB

held from 4 PM to 5 PM at the Lewiston Public Library. Join the Youth Trading Card Game Club to play, learn, trade, and compete with your peers! Games include Pokémon, Magic: the Gathering, and more. All skill levels are welcome. Library staff and volunteers will be available to teach new players and coach developing ones. Free. For kids & teens ages 8-18. 513-3135; www.LPLonline.org

Send all items for Newsmakers, Names and Faces to the Editor. Deadline is Friday by five.

Volunteer or Enroll in Money Minders at SeniorsPlus

LEWISTON, ME (June 9, 2023) -- Senior-Plus, the designated Area Agency on Aging serving Androscoggin, Franklin, and Oxford counties, seeks volunteers for many positions, including its Money Minders program.

Money Minders helps individuals with managing control of their finances, which can be challenging for some older adults. Money Minders pairs well-trained, highly-skilled vol-

unteers with clients who need help getting their monthly bills paid in a timely manner. All is done with discretion.

Volunteers are needed to assist clients who need assistance in managing their monthly bill payments in Franklin and Oxford counties, particularly at this time. Schedules are based on volunteer availability. Mileage reimbursement is provided.

If you're interested in

becoming a Money Minders client, call 207 795-4010.

If you would like more information about becoming a Money Minders volunteer or to receive more general information about volunteering at SeniorsPlus, including Meals on Wheels delivery and prep, visit www.seniorsplus.org/volunteers, email volunteerservices@seniorsplus.org, or call 207 753-6148.



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Steve Martin's *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* opens this weekend at CLT



Gathered around the bar at the Lapin Agile are from left Roger Philippon (Sagot), Sarah Duncan (Germaine), Brian Pfohl (Picasso), and Bryce Smith (Suzanne). The Steve Martin comedy *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* opens June 15 at CLT.

AUBURN, ME (June 9, 2023) -- The year is 1904. No one seems impressed by the young man with messy hair, sitting alone at a bar in Montmartre. He claims to be a scientist, but none of his work has ever been published, and he actually spends his days in a menial job at the patent office. Much like a waiter calling himself an actor although he has never been cast in anything.

But the audience knows that this man is Albert Einstein, who is every bit as brilliant as he says he is. He is not, however, the only genius at the Lapin Agile (a real Paris establishment, whose name means "Nimble Rabbit") that night. For Einstein and the other patrons of the bar are soon joined by the young Pablo Picasso!

In *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, an absurd comedy

of historical fiction, actor/comedian Steve Martin has Einstein and Picasso meet in this bar the year before Einstein will publish his special theory of relativity and three years before Picasso will paint *Les Femmes d'Alger* in 1907.

"Having performed in this play as Einstein many years ago, I have a great appreciation for the show," says director

John Blanchette. "And I love Steve Martin's comedy. It's high-brow and low-brow comedy and everything in between. He makes you think while you laugh – and that's a rare combination," Blanchette adds.

The talented and experienced cast assembled for this show includes some CLT favorites and some new faces. Brian Pfohl plays the titular role of Picasso and sparring with him as Einstein is CLT newcomer Tony Roy. Jason Pelletier portrays the bar owner Freddy, a seemingly simple man, and Sarah Duncan plays his thoughtful and passionate girlfriend and coworker Germaine. Chris Kuhlthau, another new face at CLT, appears as Gaston, the Lapin Agile regular who suffers from prostate problems. In the role of Suzanne, the comely young woman infatuated by Picasso, is Sophie Messina during the first weekend and Bryce Smith in the second weekend. Roger Philippon plays Sagot, the confident art dealer and Picasso enthusiast, and Dan Kane portrays the zany inventor Schmendiman. Finally, the mysterious (or not so mysterious!) visitor is played by Gerry Therrien.

"This cast has committed not just to the characters, but to the accents and the time period as well. They have embraced

the challenge – and I love the depth it brings to the production," notes Blanchette.

Blanchette has been assisted by an experienced crew led by assistant director/stage manager Danielle Eaton, producer/lighting designer Matthew Conklin, sound designer/operator Joshua Conklin, light board operator Rudy Ponder, costumer Jen Fox, hair and wig stylist Sara Labrecque, and prompter Mark Hazard. Kate Sicotte managed properties and set décor and Blanchette led the set design and construction. Photos for the show were done by DNA Photography.

Blanchette points out that the crew had to tackle some difficult challenges, such as a very angular and surreal set, special lighting effects, and period costuming. "There is a lot of work in creating the subtleties – and I think the audience will enjoy the show more

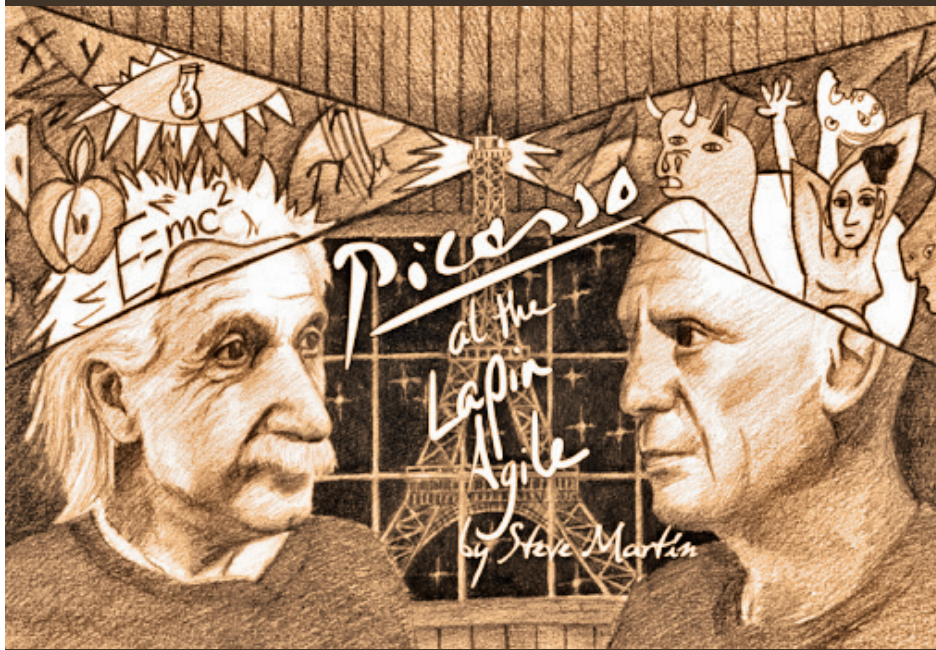
for it," he says.

"The laughs come fast – great one-liners and some longer set ups. In addition, there is a surprise character who will turn the show on its ear. It is also performed without an intermission – but the 90 minutes move quickly!"

Picasso at the Lapin Agile will be performed at CLT at 30 Academy Street in Auburn at 7:30 p.m. on June 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, and 24 and at 2:00 p.m. on June 18 and 25. Ticket prices (including all fees) are \$22.00 for adults, \$19.00 for seniors, and \$14.00 for students. Tickets are available online at www.lact.com/box-office or by calling 207-783-0958.

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

L/A Community Little Theatre presents **PICASSO AT THE LAPIN AGILE**



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