

Machias Valley News Observer

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In memory of Ruth Leubecker

Since 1852 • Vol. 169 • No. 30

Machias, Maine • March 2, 2022



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\$1.50

Officials implore board to keep Machias veterans' home open

by Sarah Craighead Dedmon

News that veteran homes in Machias and Caribou will close later this spring has drawn criticism and pressure from Washington County to Augusta to Washington D.C.

The official announcement that Maine Veterans' Homes Machias would close on April 15 and Caribou on May 1 came Thursday, Feb. 24, but the news broke unofficially the day before after employees and families spread the word of the closures on social media.

The Machias home currently cares for 23 residents and employs 49 staff members.

Washington County Commissioners Chairman Chris Gardner says he is outraged by the sudden news of the closures, and that the commissioners will fight to keep both homes open.

"Right now the best thing we can do to stand up for these veterans is to demand a much more transparent conversation around this decision," said Gardner, adding concerned citizens reach out to their state and federal officials.

"As a society, we made a promise to these veterans and that means all veterans not just those in the greater Bangor and Augusta area," said Gardner.

Maine Veterans' Homes is a private nonprofit, certified by but not operated by the Veterans Administration, and is overseen by a governor-appointed board of 11 trustees, all veterans. In total, MVH operates six Maine facilities in Bangor, Augusta, Saco, South Paris, Machias, and Caribou, each with a different focus of care.

The Machias home is dedicated

(MVH cont. pg. 15)



Machias Bulldogs earn Class D Runner Up

Putting the 2021-22 season on the books with a 17-1 record, the Machias Bulldogs boys varsity basketball team last weekend posed for this photo with their Class D North Runner Up award. "They had a wonderful season," said coach Jim Getchell. To see photos of their game against So. Aroostook, turn to pages 19, 28. Photo by Jason Overby

Jonesport is 80% 'against' rockets

by Nancy Beal

One hundred thirty-eight Jonesporters collected, completed and returned a survey on a proposed aerospace project that a committee charged with writing an ordinance on the subject asked its citizens to take part in. The survey was prompted by a proposal put forth by bluShift Aerospace, a small Brunswick company, to erect a rocket launch site on the town's Water Island. The island is located at the ocean entrance to Eastern Bay next to Mistake Island where Moosepeak Lighthouse is located.

Survey takers were asked to choose between three options: commercial rocket launches of any type should be allowed, no

such launches should be allowed, or launches should be allowed if the ordinance governing them "ensures [that] a tolerable impact on commercial fishing reinforces compliance with environmental regulations."

Eighty percent, or 111, of responders declared that no rocket launching should be allowed in Jonesport. Four individuals (three percent) said launches of any type should be permitted. The other 23 participants opted for the middle ground of qualified, controlled launches. Those who chose the latter were asked to describe what they considered a "tolerable impact" on commercial fishing. A

(Jonesport cont. pg. 3)

Florida family writes letters to find a home Downeast

by Sarah Craighead Dedmon

When Nick Gustafson, his wife, and two children last summer visited Maine, they fell in love with the coast and resolved to buy a home Downeast. But a tight

housing market meant they went home empty-handed.

Gustafson decided to get creative with their house-hunting strategy. A licensed real estate broker in both Florida and Maine, he

mailed letters directly to dozens of homeowners, asking if they were willing to sell.

"I was trying to think a little outside of the box," he said.

(Florida family cont. pg. 5)

Maine hard hat discovered on beach in northern Europe

by Jayna Smith

Beachcombing can yield neat and interesting items of all kinds, but for one man about 3,300 miles away, his beach find originated from the great State of Maine.

Back in August, Sigbjørn Eide,

who resides in the Nordic country of Norway in Northern Europe, was working his first day as a beach cleaner. On the beach, he discovered a hard hat with markings indicating it belonged to the Maine Department of

Transportation (DOT).

"I found the hard hat at a tide in Harangsfjord, in a seaweed bed," he said. "I contacted Maine DOT to ask [if this was really their helmet] and was surprised that it

(Hard hat cont. pg. 2)

Eastport Health Care opens pediatric clinic on UMaine Machias campus



"Alf [Wakeman] has been in Machias for many years and is beloved in Washington County, where he has been one of only a few pediatric providers," says Eastport Health Care CEO Ellen Krajewski. Photo by Greta Rybus

Beloved local pediatric provider Alf Wakeman will soon be seeing patients through Eastport Health Care in a new medical facility on the campus of the University of Maine at Machias. Eastport Health Care Inc., now has two locations in Machias, including a new pediatric clinic located on the first floor of Sennett Hall.

EHC UMM Pediatrics opened Feb. 28 with hundreds of new patients, newborn to age 18, and a clinical support staff led by Alfred Wakeman, a certified physician assistant specializing in general pediatrics and a member of the Washington County community for decades. EHC UMM Pediatrics is open from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday–Friday, and can be reached by calling 255-0980.

EHC, with locations in Eastport,

Machias, and Calais, is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), providing comprehensive medical, dental, and behavioral health care to residents of Washington County and beyond. EHC provides chronic illness management, health education and prevention programs, and support in connecting patients to community resources, and also offers eligible patients a sliding fee discount program. EHC is a nonprofit entity that receives a portion of its funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

In the new location, EHC anticipates providing 5,000 childhood vaccinations a year, including those for COVID-19, and

(EHC cont. pg. 15)

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Mastectomy fitting March 24

by Nancy Beal

Women looking for post-mastectomy breast forms and/or bras are invited to visit the Beth C. Wright Cancer Resource Center in Ellsworth on Thursday, March 24. At that time, Cheryl Pritchard, owner of the Portland-based A Special Place, will offer

service for post-mastectomy clients in a relaxed, private setting.

Everyone is welcome, regardless of length of time from surgery, but appointments are required. For more information and to book an appointment, contact the Center at (207) 664-0339.

Upcoming Machias meetings

The Machias Board of Selectmen will hold its next regular bi-monthly meeting at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 9, at the Machias Telebusiness Center, Stackpole Road. The board meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month.

The Machias Planning Board will hold its April meeting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 6, at the

Machias Town Office.

The Machias Budget Committee will begin meeting to begin discussion of the 2022-23 fiscal year budget in March from 4 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 16.

More information is available at www.machiasme.org, including the minutes of past meetings. The town office can be reached by calling 255-6621.

Hard hat Continued from page 1

really was.”

All of the Maine DOT hard hats are stamped with a date showing when the hat was manufactured. This was one August 2016.

Just how exactly the hard hat from Maine ended up on a Norway beach is unknown. Some followers of the Maine DOT Facebook page suggested the hat may have fallen from a workers head during a bridge project.

Sigbjørn said over the years on

the beach, he has found bigger and smaller items, mostly plastic and cut-off ropes. As for this find, however, “this is the one I’ve gotten the most exposure for sure,” he said.

He added, “It’s been fun being a small celebrity for a little while.”

A spokesperson for MDOT said they are happy to have had the new pen pal from Norway and have plans to send him a Maine DOT shirt, a baseball cap, and some traffic sign magnets.



Sigbjørn Eide, who resides in the Nordic country of Norway in Northern Europe, is shown wearing the Maine DOT hat he discovered there. Photo courtesy Maine DOT photo



The Machias Milk Sleigh, 1939

Dolly the horse pulls the E.S. Hill milk sleigh down Main Street in Machias when snow was still thick on the ground, March 14, 1939. Here, you see the sleigh and its drivers parked in front of the building once occupied by Bags of Rags, across from Machias Savings Bank. Donna Dow Walker, a descendent of Hill, shared the photo on the Machias Memories Facebook page, where many recalled Mr. Hill’s hard work ethic and speedy deliveries, stopping to chat but never for long. Photo courtesy Donna Dow Walker

If you are in need of COVID testing, use this website to locate free testing sites near you:



<https://get-tested-covid19.org>



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Jonesport Continued from page 1

fourth question invited participants to voice other concerns or questions that the committee should consider in the developing the ordinance.

Respondents were asked to declare their profession. Over half (57) were fishermen and 26 entered “retired.” In single digits from one to six, other entries included education, homemaker, medical, real estate, marine service, mechanic, administrative, office management and property management. Five each entered no occupation or labeled themselves “resident.”

‘Tolerable impact’ on fishing

As responses to the question seeking characteristics of “tolerable impact on commercial fishing,” many wrote that prior announcement of launches, through clear communication channels, was essential. Several suggested restricting launches to evening hours when fishermen would have completed their day’s work, and to summer Sundays when lobstermen are barred from fishing by a law intended to discourage part-timers with regular weekly jobs from “double dipping” into lobstering on the weekends.

Many fishermen called for payment to replace damaged fishing gear and for lost wages/compensation (“at least \$2000/day”) when they had to stop fishing and stand by waiting for the ocean to be clear and safe. (For small rockets, a one-mile radius clear zone around the launch site is

required, for larger rockets, many miles of ocean will be off limits during launch.)

“Why should I lose money when the rocket company will be making money at our expense?” one fisherman wrote, expressing the sentiments of many. Shellfish harvesters (wrinklers, wormers and clammers), who work by the tide and not by the clock, were brought into the mix. “This town was founded on Commercial Fishing. Let’s keep it that way,” wrote one.

Environment and economy

Many respondents were concerned with the environment and called for an environmental impact study. Others, including those who use the waters for recreation, expressed concern about water quality being polluted by returning rocket parts and animals both in and out of the water being affected by noise and space junk. “I’d rather hear loons, the hush of forests and church bells, not the boom of rockets,” wrote one survey participant.

Inland noise, lighting, and traffic were other concerns. One respondent asked who would ensure/monitor compliance with an aerospace activity ordinance. Throughout the comments, there was a thread of needed cooperation with commercial fishermen. Also expressed was the concern that restrictive measures imposed on aerospace activities regarding noise, emission levels, and endangering wildlife habitat “could easily turn against our fisheries.” (Several

years ago, Jonesporters rejected a proposed noise ordinance, fearing that it would be used against lobstermen firing up their engines early in the morning.)

The survey section inviting general comments prompted concerns with a monetary theme. Respondents asked how the introduction of aerospace activity would affect property values and suggested that any installation should be at least 10 miles from the nearest dwelling. Others questioned increased pressure on town services and worried that the town would be liable if a rocket went astray and destroyed property within its borders.

What would be the economic impact? Would jobs offered to area youngsters be good enough to keep them from moving away? How would rocketry affect tourism, arguably the area’s second most lucrative industry? A couple of responders even cited the threat of a terrorist takeover of the launch site. “Any promise made by any aerospace company doesn’t necessarily mean that they will keep the promise,” wrote another.

While some responders commented that “commercial fishing doesn’t have the sole use of the waters around Jonesport” and worried about “a \$1B company going elsewhere,” others expressed concern that “the ordinance will be written to prevent rocket launches rather than [to] provide a means to make it happen.” Others wrote that



Jonesport fisherman and Aerospace Ordinance Committee member Rock Alley. Photo by Nancy Beal

aerospace activities “would only be detrimental to our peace and tranquility.”

Mistake Island has two owners: The Nature Conservancy owns the northern part jutting into Eastern Bay, and private individuals own the rocky area around the lighthouse. “We have restoration plans for the lighthouse and plan to one day live on the island. What happens if there is damage to the lighthouse?”

Straw poll at town meeting

In a letter accompanying the release of the survey results, the aerospace ordinance committee — calling itself the “AC” — explained that the survey was designed “to gather information to develop the ordinance which will regulate commercial rocket launch activities

in Jonesport.”

The letter went on to say that a yes/no vote on the matter would come before voters at this month’s annual town meeting (March 14). The vote “is not legally binding on the AC action,” they wrote, but is rather “an appropriate mechanism to secure feedback from the voters.” The AC would use both the straw vote at town meeting and feedback from the survey to inform their crafting of the ordinance.

Members of the Aerospace Ordinance Committee include Rock Alley, Logan Alley, Holly Finkle, Al Grignon, Buddy Mills, Bill Munan, and Carrie Peabody. The ordinance that they create will be voted upon at a future special town meeting.

DOWNEAST TIDE TABLE FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY

Eastport												
DATE		HIGH				LOW				☀	☾	
2	Wed	10:23	20.6	10:50	19.7	4:20	-0.5	4:49	-1.6	6:01	5:18	●
3	Thu	11:11	20.7	11:36	20.0	5:09	-1.0	5:35	-1.6	6:00	5:19	●
4	Fri	11:57	20.5			5:55	-1.1	6:19	-1.3	5:58	5:20	●
5	Sat	12:20	19.9	12:42	19.9	6:40	-0.9	7:02	-0.7	5:56	5:22	●
6	Sun	1:03	19.6	1:26	19.1	7:24	-0.4	7:44	0.2	5:54	5:23	●
7	Mon	1:46	19.1	2:11	18.1	8:08	0.3	8:27	1.2	5:53	5:24	●
8	Tue	2:30	18.4	2:57	17.2	8:54	1.1	9:12	2.2	5:51	5:26	●

Lubec												
DATE		HIGH				LOW				☀	☾	
2	Wed	10:23	20.6	10:50	19.7	4:20	-0.5	4:49	-1.6	6:01	5:18	●
3	Thu	11:11	20.7	11:36	20.0	5:09	-1.0	5:35	-1.6	6:00	5:19	●
4	Fri	11:57	20.5			5:55	-1.1	6:19	-1.3	5:58	5:20	●
5	Sat	12:20	19.9	12:42	19.9	6:40	-0.9	7:02	-0.7	5:56	5:22	●
6	Sun	1:03	19.6	1:26	19.1	7:24	-0.4	7:44	0.2	5:54	5:23	●
7	Mon	1:46	19.1	2:11	18.1	8:08	0.3	8:27	1.2	5:53	5:24	●
8	Tue	2:30	18.4	2:57	17.2	8:54	1.1	9:12	2.2	5:51	5:26	●

Cutler												
DATE		HIGH				LOW				☀	☾	
2	Wed	10:16	15.8	10:46	14.9	4:06	-0.3	4:37	-1.2	6:02	5:19	●
3	Thu	11:04	15.8	11:31	15.1	4:55	-0.7	5:22	-1.2	6:00	5:20	●
4	Fri	11:50	15.5			5:42	-0.8	6:06	-0.9	5:59	5:21	●
5	Sat	12:14	15.1	12:35	15.0	6:27	-0.6	6:48	-0.4	5:57	5:23	●
6	Sun	12:56	14.8	1:19	14.3	7:11	-0.3	7:30	0.3	5:55	5:24	●
7	Mon	1:38	14.4	2:05	13.5	7:56	0.2	8:14	1.0	5:53	5:25	●
8	Tue	2:22	13.8	2:52	12.7	8:43	0.8	9:00	1.8	5:51	5:27	●

Machiasport												
DATE		HIGH				LOW				☀	☾	
2	Wed	10:24	14.2	10:51	13.6	4:11	-0.4	4:40	-1.1	6:01	5:18	●
3	Thu	11:12	14.3	11:37	13.8	5:00	-0.7	5:26	-1.1	6:00	5:19	●
4	Fri	11:58	14.1			5:46	-0.8	6:10	-0.9	5:58	5:20	●
5	Sat	12:21	13.8	12:43	13.7	6:31	-0.6	6:53	-0.5	5:56	5:22	●
6	Sun	1:04	13.5	1:27	13.2	7:15	-0.3	7:35	0.1	5:54	5:23	●
7	Mon	1:47	13.2	2:12	12.5	7:59	0.2	8:18	0.8	5:53	5:24	●
8	Tue	2:31	12.7	2:58	11.8	8:45	0.8	9:03	1.5	5:51	5:26	●

Jonesport												
DATE		HIGH				LOW				☀	☾	
2	Wed	10:09	13.7	10:42	12.6	4:00	-0.5	4:37	-1.4	6:13	5:32	●
3	Thu	10:58	13.7	11:27	12.8	4:51	-0.8	5:21	-1.4	6:12	5:33	●
4	Fri	11:44	13.3			5:38	-0.9	6:04	-1.0	6:10	5:34	●
5	Sat	12:09	12.8	12:29	12.8	6:24	-0.7	6:44	-0.5	6:08	5:36	●
6	Sun	12:50	12.6	1:14	12.1	7:09	-0.4	7:25	0.2	6:07	5:37	●
7	Mon	1:31	12.3	2:00	11.3	7:55	0.1	8:08	1.0	6:05	5:38	●
8	Tue	2:14	11.8	2:50	10.6	8:43	0.6	8:53	1.7	6:03	5:39	●

Milbridge												
DATE		HIGH				LOW				☀	☾	
2	Wed	10:22	12.9	10:53	12.0	4:22	0.0	4:54	-0.9	6:05	5:21	●
3	Thu	11:10	12.8	11:37	12.3	5:11	-0.3	5:39	-0.8	6:03	5:23	●
4	Fri	11:56	12.6			5:58	-0.4	6:23	-0.5	6:01	5:24	●
5	Sat	12:19	12.3	12:40	12.3	6:44	-0.3	7:06	-0.1	5:59	5:25	●
6	Sun	1:01	12.2	1:25	11.8	7:30	-0.1	7:50	0.4	5:58	5:27	●
7	Mon	1:43	12.0	2:10	11.2	8:17	0.2	8:35	1.0	5:56	5:28	●
8	Tue	2:27	11.7	2:57	10.7	9:06	0.6	9:22	1.5	5:54	5:29	●

DECH Births

To Stepanie Albee and Daniel Ruiz, of East Machias, Maine, a girl Maria Rose Albee Ruiz born on February 21, 2022 weighing 7 lbs., 10 oz., 20 inches long.

To Desiree L. Armstrong and Christopher C. Cox, of Machias, Maine, a girl Adelaide Marie Cox born on February 22, 2022 weighing 6 lbs., 2 oz., 19 inches long.

To Alexander Finlay and Sirona Carifio, of Machiasport, Maine, a boy Thomas Anthony Finlay born on February 27, 2022 weighing 6 lbs., 7 oz., 20 inches long.

To Shaylin Foss and Kenneth Frisbee Jr., of Columbia, Maine, a boy Colson Loren Hylman Frisbee born on February 27, 2022 weighing 7 lbs., 1 oz., 20 inches long.



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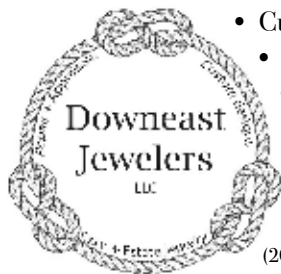
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Jonesport marina building needs repair

by Nancy Beal

At their February 23 meeting, Jonesport selectmen turned their attention to the storage-type building at the marina. One local contractor wrote them that it needed a lot of repair work and would be “completely gone in five year.”

The Jonesport marina is owned and was built by the state as a facility for recreational watercraft. The little building on the western end of the parking area was originally designed to house a harbormaster's office and showers and laundry facilities serviced by a 75,000-gallon water tank located by nearby Harbor House. When it failed to be used by recreational



The Jonesport marina building, with the Dan Sawyer home in background. Photo by Nancy Beal

boaters, the water system was shut down.

Subsequently, the town got permission to install surveillance cameras in the structure. To date,

that is the only use made of the building. Since is state-owned, selectmen elected to contact the Bureau of Parks and Lands about the building's future.

Strout seeks Republican nod for House District 11

Harrington native and MSAD 37 School Board member Tiffany Strout has announced her candidacy for House District 11, which includes most of Western Washington County as well as Machias, Roque Bluffs, and Jonesboro. Strout, who graduated from Narraguagus High School in 1997, left Washington County to go to college and came back to the area to raise a family.

“I want to work together with people in my community and Augusta to find solutions and make sure my son and all our children get to grow up in a safe and loving community with opportunities,” Strout said, adding that her family loves the area where generations of their families have lived and because of all the outdoor recreational opportunities most take for granted. “We are an avid outdoor family who loves to hunt and fish. My son Konner harvested his first deer when he was 9. At age 12 he was drawn for a moose permit and by the time he was 13 he had achieved his Grand Slam.”

Strout said that as a member of the school board and the “Guagus parent/teacher support group, she has seen just how important a strong family and community support system can be for preserving Down East Maine's traditional way of life.

“I believe family values need to be able to be brought back. People need to be able to enjoy time with their kids and the kids can learn from their parents how to work hard and be proud of what you accomplish. People need a purpose and reason to get out of bed every day. They need to feel a part of something and be valued,” she said, adding that her own family is no stranger to hard work. “My husband is self-employed and owns a blueberry harvester, has contracts for plowing snow, and makes use of his Diesel Mechanic Degree from Eastern Maine Technical College to maintain his equipment. My son wants to be a lobster fisherman and has already purchased his own boat. Since we are not a fishing family, he is lucky to be able to work with so many great fishermen and women who are helping to



Harrington native and MSAD 37 School Board member Tiffany Strout has announced her candidacy for House District 11, which includes most of Western Washington County as well as Machias, Roque Bluffs, and Jonesboro. Submitted photo

teach him the workings of the water and the lobster sustainability that has allowed this industry to continue for generations. These are the people that need to be heard in Augusta, the hardworking people of District 11.”

Strout graduated from the University of Maine Augusta with a Criminal Justice degree, worked for Jackson Lab, has worked in childcare, and waited tables. In addition to her volunteer activities for area schools, she works as an events coordinator for Wreaths Across America and as a Business Development Manager for GenoTyping Center of America.

“When you live in Washington County you have to wear many hats to make ends meet,” she said. “I am blessed to have wonderful, caring, supportive family and friends. Growing up we did not have the finer things in life, but I was lucky to always have love and people who

wanted me to succeed. Everybody worked hard for what they had. I think we need people like that representing us in Augusta, people who know how life works for those of us who chose to live in small towns.”

Strout said that she has received a lot of feedback from people wanting to know how they could help her campaign. She is a Clean Election candidate, meaning that she needs at least 60 \$5 donations from any registered voter in the district in order to qualify for funding.

House District 11 includes the towns of Addison, Beals, Columbia, Columbia Falls, Harrington, Jonesboro, Jonesport, Machias, Milbridge, Roque Bluffs and Whitneyville. For more information about Strout, or to get involved with her campaign, contact her at tiffany.strout@yahoo.com or by phone at 598-7043.

Florida family Continued from page 1

The letters were received in towns from Steuben to Machiasport to Eastport.

“We’re a young family that would really like to enjoy the benefits of raising our two kids in the great state of Maine while teaching them to appreciate nature and enjoy Maine’s natural beauty,” read the letter. “If you’re interested in selling or know of anyone in the neighborhood who is, please give me a call or send me an email.”

It wasn’t long before the letters became a subject of discussion on local Facebook pages. When the tight-knit Downeast community realized many had received the same letter, some wondered if it could be a scam.

To investigate that concern, we spoke to Gustafson, and we called Florida Realty Investments, the company Nicholas Gustafson’s business website, <http://www.nrgfl.com/>, states he is affiliated with.

Florida Realty Investments Director of Sales Ryan Langley confirmed that Gustafson is a broker with his firm, and that he knew of Gustafson’s search to find a family home in Maine.

“I have 900 agents, he’s one of our top brokers,” said Langley.

The Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation also shows that Gustafson is a licensed broker, license number BK3321106. The Maine Department of Professional and Financial Regulation shows Gustafson is a licensed associate broker in Maine, license number BA925458.

Gustafson said as a result of the letter, he’s had many pleasant conversations with locals.

“I talked to so many friendly people just from the letters alone, they’ve been the sweetest people,” he said. “Everybody seems super nice up there.”

Though many homeowners have responded, the Gustafsons have not yet found a home to purchase. They’re hoping to find a three bedroom, two bath home on the ocean, or with ocean views.

“We’re open to fixer uppers,” said Gustafson, whose letter states the family is pre-approved for a mortgage, and could close in less than 30 days, or pay cash, depending on the price.



Nicholas and Olivia Gustafson of Florida love Maine and hope to move Downeast this year with their two young children. Photo courtesy Gustafson family



During a trip up the east coast last summer, Nicholas and Olivia Gustafson decided they would like to raise their children, ages 2 and 4, in Maine. Now they’re seeking a home in Washington County. Photo courtesy Gustafson family

“With these properties, we would go through a very reputable title company in the area and make sure it is all handled professionally,” said Gustafson.

If possible, they’d like to move to Maine by April or May, sooner if possible. Gustafson, his wife Olivia, and two children, ages 2 and 4, currently live in a rural part of Florida outside of Orlando.

“Where we are is outside of the touristy areas, we just love being out in nature,” said Gustafson.

“That’s what drew us to Maine, too. When we visited, it was clear that Maine was a place we definitely wanted to call home.”

Selling a home Downeast that might meet the Gustafson family’s needs? Send an email to nrgust89@gmail.com, or call 573-2922.

Friends raise money for youth who has spent years raising money for charity

Cooper Robicheau, now a high school sophomore, has been raising money for local charity organizations since he was a small child. Now, friends of his family are taking donations to assist with expenses for medical treatments Robicheau is receiving as a result of a recurring bone infection, which has been treated with multiple surgeries and rounds of antibiotics.

To deal with the infection, Robicheau has taken a leave of absence from the Maine School for Mathematics and Science in Limestone and returned home to the Machias area to heal.

Robicheau will this week travel to be seen at the Boston Children’s Hospital.

Over the years, Robicheau has been seen at area festivals and community events, selling lemonade and hot chocolate behind the banner “Cooper’s Pledge; Give Back” to benefit multiple local charities. Most recently he raised \$580 for the Community Christmas Giving Tree.

Cash or check donations may be dropped off at Bella Vita Salon, Route 1, Machias, or at Machias Savings Bank, where an account has been set up in Robicheau’s name.



Seen here in 2019 at one of the many, many fundraisers he has held for community organizations, friends of the Robicheau family are now raising money as Cooper fights a recurring bone infection. Photo by Sarah Craighead Dedmon

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GUEST VOICES

What do we have to lose? Plenty

by Colon S. Alley

The opposition to Kingfish in the Moosabec community is strong and growing. A public-opinion letter that highlights the concerns of many with a stake in Chandler Bay is adding signatures every day with more than 150 signing on at this moment. I signed the letter because I love my home and my job. I love getting up at the crack of dawn and seeing what the sea has brought me and my loved ones.

What could happen to those jobs and the revenue from commercial fisheries if Kingfish gets permission to come to our community? First, there has been no cost-benefit analysis to address this question and the related concerns. One major concern is the potential impact on our commercially valuable marine. Kingfish is proposing to use 28 million gallons of intake water. It's a significant amount of water and what will be sucked in with it. At a public meeting in January,

Kingfish admitted that the facility would kill all marine animals that were brought in with the water. The water would be "sterilized." Finfish eggs, shellfish spat, and lobster larvae are smaller than the proposed one-inch outer-mesh filtration. All would be sterilized or killed. Considering that it takes a lobster seven years to reach harvestable size, what would this mean for our fisheries on a multi-generational level?

Second, we don't really know how the discharge from Kingfish will impact the water. We know that the proposal is substantially greater than what the entire city of Portland discharges on a daily basis. Portland discharges 975 pounds of nitrogen, Kingfish is proposing 1580 pounds of nitrogen daily. Another concern is how Kingfish would affect the receiving water's pH levels. Kingfish is proposing to discharge at a pH of 6-9. The

(Alley voice cont. pg. 14)

I'm fighting for progress

by Governor Janet Mills

Maine's economy, like that of the rest of the nation, is making a comeback.

Our Gross Domestic Product, which is a key measure of growth, has not only fully bounced back from the pandemic, it has surpassed pre-pandemic projections.

Our unemployment rate, 4.7 percent – still too high – has fallen by nearly half what it was during the pandemic when it was at a high of 9.1 percent. Jobless rates in Bangor have fallen to 3.8 percent, to 4 percent in Lewiston and Auburn, and to 3.4 percent in the Portland area.

Only about 6,000 people are actually receiving unemployment benefits, which is comparable to the number before the pandemic.

Our auto mobile, building supply, lodging, retail and restaurant sales all were up this past summer.

Our international exports are up

and on track to be the best since 2012. Our tourism industry had a banner summer season. And the ski slopes are seeing a lot of snow this year which is great for our winter economy.

Our population is growing at the second highest rate in New England. Finally people are coming to Maine. We have the 7th highest rate of net migration in the nation.

Our Rainy Day Fund has more than doubled under my Administration and it's now nearly \$500 million – the highest it has ever been.

And, after passing strong, balanced budgets we are reporting a record budget surplus.

We have done all this without raising taxes.

All of this is progress.

At the same time, we're not immune from the impact of pandemic-driven inflation, from higher energy prices caused by a

(Mills voice cont. pg. 14)

Opinion: A dog-whistle in a Maine Republican senate ad

by Ethan Strimling

The state senator from District 14 is named Craig Hickman. He served eight years in the Maine House and is now serving his first term in the state Senate after having won a special election last year.

He's a farmer. A small business owner. Son of an activist mother and a father who served in WWII. He's a college graduate from one of our nation's most prestigious schools who always puts his constituents first.

He even works in a bipartisan manner with his colleagues from the other side of the aisle. Last year, as a progressive Democrat, he co-sponsored, with a conservative Republican, the food sovereignty amendment to our Constitution that received 61% support from Maine people at the ballot box in November.

He's non-controversial in almost every way and has consistently won

easily in rural districts that usually vote Republican.

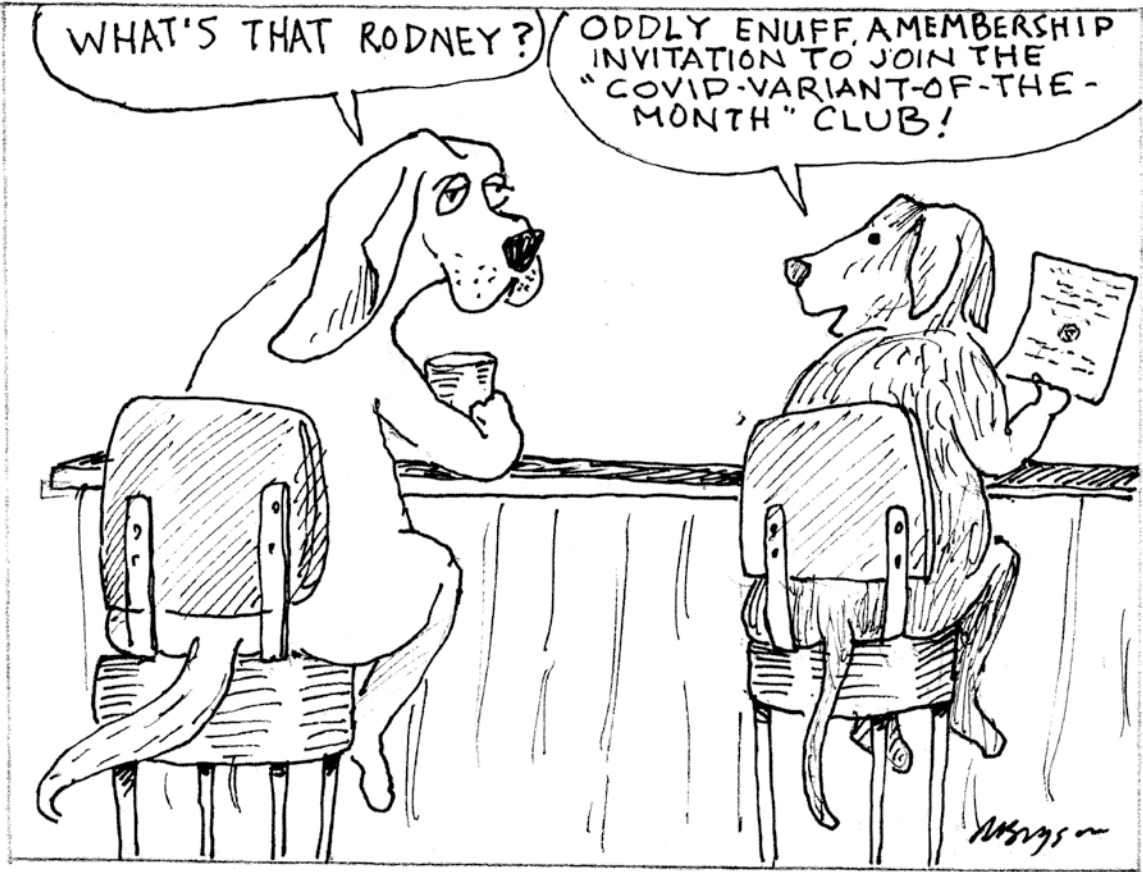
He's a prime example of what a solid Democratic legislator looks like. He just goes about doing his job serving his constituents.

So it was kind of weird when his face, one of only three Democrats, flashed by in a recent attack ad by Maine Senate Republicans.

The video, rolling out Republican candidates for 2022, includes a montage about 30 seconds in with the usual absurd claims that Democrats are ruining the economy (I guess a lower unemployment rate than former Gov. Paul LePage had at this point in his first term isn't good enough for them).

As you would expect, there's a grainy picture of Senate President Troy Jackson (one of the GOP's poster boys for signaling our party is too pro-worker), followed shortly thereafter by an even grainier

(Strimling voice cont. pg. 14)



THE EDITOR'S DESK

Sarah Craighead Dedmon

Newspaperwoman Ruth Leubecker was a journalist's journalist. Born and raised in the Machias area, she went on to create and run a magazine in Singapore, edit multiple daily and weekly newspapers abroad and at home, especially in Maryland, lunching annually with part-owner Walter Cronkite, and to create and host a cable news program, before returning Downeast and into the pages of the *Machias Valley News Observer* where she has been the backbone of this newspaper for decades.

I knew her best as a passionate lifelong journalist, but I also know that above all, Ruth was devoted to her close and loving family, and her friends.

I first met Ruth when I took over the role of MVNO editor, but her journalism impressed me long before my family relocated to Downeast Maine.

Visiting from our then-home, near Dallas, Texas, I would pick up the Downeast papers and shake my head in wonder at the width and breadth of coverage to be found in little Machias. I was especially impressed by this newspaper, with Karen Hinson's and Ruth's bylines all over the front page, and the weighty, far-reaching stories they would cover. Then, I would go back to my Texas city of 125,000 and make do with exactly four fluffy pages wedged into the Dallas Morning News' Thursday edition.

What is it about this remarkable place, I wondered, that takes its reporting so seriously?

When you find good things in small towns, they often come down to a handful of dedicated people working hard, and in the case of this newspaper, a lot of it has come down to Ruth. Over the course of decades, she switched hats as needed — now reporter, now advertising sales, now editor, now columnist to keep this, one of Maine's oldest newspapers and Machias' longest-running business in business.

A newspaperwoman to the core, there was nothing Ruth did not know about how a paper works, and nothing she could not do.

This week's top story involves Maine's Congressional delegation, so when Senator Angus King called me this morning, I supposed it was to give a comment, but no. Word had reached him about Ruth, who he remembers fondly from decades of interviews. He was calling to share his condolences.

"I talked to her less than a month ago, she called me about something and I always returned her calls. I've been answering her questions for 20 years," said King. "Put me down as one of her fans."

You can put me down as one of her fans, too.

Ruth Leubecker published her first story in this newspaper at the age of 14, and her last story, also in this newspaper, last week at the age of 80. She died February 27, 2022.

She will be missed.

Dems continue masks, but remove for photo op

Last week, members of the Maine House of Representatives were allowed to remove their masks briefly for the official 130th Legislature's photo. Members were then required to put them back on following a Roll Call vote demanded by Republicans. That measure failed by a margin of 77-58, with Republicans supporting

the measure and Democrats opposing it.

"It is unacceptable that with Maine communities removing their mandatory mask requirements in public places, that the people's house still requires them," said House Republican Leader Kathleen Dillingham. "School districts across Maine are following suit

and large public gatherings, without masks, are held every day. Most legislators have been either vaccinated, had covid, or exhibited natural immunity over the past three years. At this point, it is a matter of science, personal choice, and being allowed the same responsibilities and freedoms as our constituents."



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THE VIEW DOWNEAST

BY RUTH LEUBECKER



Ruth Gaddis Leubecker

1942 - 2022
-30-



Letters to the Editor

Nothing bad here

We've had the pleasure of dining in Machias's newest eatery a few times since its opening in early February. When we entered the cozy confines of the dining room for the first time we were greeted with warm and friendly smiles from the owners. I felt like I had come to dinner at a close friend or dear relative's home. We immediately felt at ease and comfortable. So much

so that; if the restaurant wasn't full and the owners weren't working like crazy to take care of everyone, I would have asked them to join us at our table. That was our first impression. Next came the food, which was prepared perfectly and absolutely delicious. I highly recommend the homemade fresh pasta with shaved beef. The wine offerings are vast and perfect

when paired with the right dish. Overall, a wonderful dining experience right down to the wait staff who are just as friendly and welcoming as the owners. So grab a few old friends and head over to BLB and prepare to make some new ones.

Mark Raiford
Machias

FREEDOM STUDIES

BY JONATHAN REISMAN

Freedom quotes and notes

Freedom's just another word for nothing left to lose- Kris Kristofferson

Freedom, oh Freedom...that's just some people talking- Glenn Frey, Desperado

Freedom is Slavery- George Orwell, 1984

Freedom is a key component of White supremacy- Taylor Dysart, a PhD candidate in the department of history and sociology of science at the University of Pennsylvania, where her research examines the intertwined worlds of healing, science, indigeneity and settler colonialism in the Amazon in *Washington Post* op-ed attacking the Canadian Freedom Truckers as racist white supremacists.

The Statue of Liberty—a gift from France to the United States and perhaps the most famous symbol of freedom on Earth- promised both freedom and whiteness to European immigrants- Tyler Stovall, *White Freedom: the Racial History of an Idea.*

(The Freedom Truckers are a) “fringe minority” holding “unacceptable opinions”.... Freedom of expression, assembly,

and association, are cornerstones of democracy. But Nazi symbolism, racist imagery, and desecration of war memorials are not. It's an insult to memory and truth- Canadian Dictator Justin Trudeau smears the Freedom Truckers prior to declaring martial law in Canada and suspending civil rights and due process for his political opponents.

I chose “Freedom Studies” as the overall title for my weekly columns for two reasons. First, Freedom is my central organizing value (I did not know it was racist white supremacy at the time). Second, I could not resist tweaking my left of center academic colleagues who are heavily invested in gender, women's, colonial, LGBTQ and other assorted victim/quasi-Marxist/social justice/ America sucks/ woke “Studies” disciplines. They and their student disciples are free to study whatever they please, and to contemplate the student debt and employment prospects associated with extensive immersion in critical theory and Diversity, Equity and

(Freedom Studies cont. pg. 26)

GUEST VOICE

When you have questions about your electric service, we're right here

by Judy Long

Shortly after joining Versant Power five years ago, I had the pleasure of meeting the crew of line workers in our Machias field office. I was struck by their care for their work and our customers, as well as their knowledge of the unique geography of coastal Maine. These men work day and night to make sure their friends, family and neighbors in Washington County have safe, reliable electricity service. They may be called out in the very worst weather conditions to make repairs if a motorist strikes a pole, if a fire breaks out in someone's home, or high winds damage the electrical system. Versant Power's corporate parent is a Calgary, Alberta-based company called ENMAX, but our 440-plus employees in northern and eastern Maine are the individuals who get up in the night to make repairs if a storm strikes.

Our customer service representatives in Greater Bangor and Presque Isle answer the phone if you call with a problem. The men and women who inspect the electrical system, check your meter, and lead our work to interconnect renewable energy systems to the

grid all live and work here in Maine. And the managers who make decisions about how we can continually and cost-effectively improve service also are fellow Mainers who care about the quality of the work they do. We understand that the recent increase in electricity supply prices is a hardship for many. And although Versant Power is not allowed to own electricity generation plants, does not control supply price increases, and does not benefit in any way from price changes involving those third-party electricity suppliers, we are working to try to help those who have trouble affording their bill. We have partnered with state agencies to distribute additional aid to low-income customers. We are encouraging customers to sign up for budget billing, which levels your monthly payments by averaging the amount you pay and can help you avoid spikes in your bill caused by seasonal changes in your energy use. We are reminding customers that they can access tools to help you understand your energy use, including comparison to similar homes, bill forecast and tips on how to save energy through our Online

(Long voice cont. pg. 14)

Letters Policy

Letters to the Editor: We reserve the right to publish or not publish a letter. We may edit for taste, clarity, and length. Letters that are potentially libelous, slanderous or written with harmful intent will be rejected. We do not publish form letters, petitions, quotations, or anonymous letters. Please limit letters to roughly 300 words, and send by email to editor@machiasnews.com, by fax 207-255-4058, by mail to Machias Valley News Observer, 41 Broadway, Machias, Maine, 04654. We prefer letters that beget letters — that offer sound opinions on current events, editorials on the community, city, state and federal matters.



Arts & Entertainment



BSO spotlights composer Meyer, mtn. dulcimer March 6

It's a busy week at the Bangor Symphony Orchestra! On Sunday, March 6, at 3 p.m., the BSO presents From Firebird to the Future, featuring Stravinsky's iconic *Firebird Suite* alongside a world premiere by composer Jessica Meyer and a unique concerto written for the mountain dulcimer. Maine-based dulcimer player Pam Weeks is the featured soloist. Leading up to Sunday's performance, Meyer

presents a variety of community performances and workshops, showcasing the Award-winning composer's diverse talents. Meyer's appearance in Bangor stems from the BSO's partnership with the Rockland-based Ellis-Beauregard Foundation; Meyer is the recipient of the 2nd Annual Ellis-Beauregard Foundation Composer Award. Tickets and information can be found at bangorsymphony.org.

Online Irish music concert March 15

A *Ceilidh* is a celebration of traditional Irish songs and tunes. Irish culture has greatly enriched the United States and Canada, and Pembroke, Maine is no exception. Large numbers of Irish immigrants worked in Pembroke's iron works and shipyards, as craftsmen and in business, and in the professions. To honor Irish contributions in music, the Pembroke Historical Society will present a ZOOM *Ceilidh* starting at 7 p.m. Eastern Daylight Savings Time. Partly performed "live," and partly from an earlier recording, this celebration will bring together nearly two dozen outstanding performers of Irish music

from New England, New York, Virginia, Nova Scotia and Alberta, singing, telling stories, and performing on harp, mandola, fiddle, concertina, and guitar. For additional information on performers and songs, please send an email to: programs@pembrokemainehistoricalsociety.org. This Zoom event is Free, and is open to everyone, everywhere. To register, go to www.pembrokemainehistoricalsociety.org. Click on Events, scroll down to the registration link following the event description, click on the link, fill out the form, and click on Submit. The entry link email will be sent the day before the event.

SSC presents class on ancient Greek drama

by Anne Archie

The Ancient Greeks took their entertainment very seriously and used drama as a way of investigating the world they lived in, and what it meant to be human. Dramas were performed for special occasions such as festivals and they were competitive. Prizes were awarded for the best show. Choral singing was a large part of drama, and the chorus was all men. One type of Greek drama was Tragedy. Tragedy dealt with the big themes of love, loss, pride, the abuse of power and the fraught relationships between men and gods. Typically, the main protagonist of a tragedy commits some terrible crime without realizing how foolish and arrogant he has been. Then, as he slowly realizes his error,

the world crumbles around him. The three great playwrights of tragedy were Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides. Sunrise Senior College offers a 6-class course on the drama of ancient Greece that reflects the character and will of the women of the era. Though we often think of women of ancient times as being subservient to men, Greek drama shows us that this is not always true. In two of the most remarkable plays ever created, Sophocles' *Antigone* and Aristophanes' *Lysistrata*, we witness the strength, character, and creativity of the women of the age. Sunrise Senior College is proud to present Dr. Gerard NeCastro who will instruct the course. Dr. NeCastro is a former Professor of English at the University

of Maine-Machias and taught many classes for many years for Sunrise Senior College on Shakespeare's plays, English poetry, Dante's *Inferno* among many others. This is a Zoom class which will begin on Monday, March 14th and run to April 18th, 2022. The class will start at 2 p.m. and end at 4 p.m. Members of Sunrise Senior College and other Maine Senior Colleges are eligible to enroll. The cost of the course is \$15 for Sunrise Senior College members and \$5 for other Maine Senior College members. Get more information about the class on the Sunrise Senior College website at maine.edu/ssc. You can also enroll as a new member of Sunrise Senior College at that website. Membership is \$25 per year.

EAC to offer dance classes for youth and adults

Eastport Arts Center's intern, L. Elwood, will offer sessions of four types of dance this winter. There will be two classes geared for children, and two for older teens and adults. Classes will be held on a drop-in basis, with a suggested sliding scale donation. No previous dance experience is needed, and no dress code is required. "Wear what you can move in," says Elwood. For children ages 5-10 is 'Move!', a class aimed at playfully demonstrating the mind-body connection for young ones with oodles of energy. This class is not based in any one style of dance, notes Elwood. "We'll run, stretch, spin, skip, yell, crawl, roar, make-believe, and whoosh all around the first floor of the Arts Center." 'Move!' will be held Wednesdays from 3:30-4:30 p.m., starting February 23 and running through April 13. For youth ages 8-15, Elwood will offer 'Ballet!', a series of lively sessions exploring the foundational elements of the dance style, starting at barre, moving to center stage, and ending with combinations across the floor. "Pirouettes and grand jetés will abound," says Elwood. 'Ballet!' Will be held Thursdays from 3:30-4:45 p.m. Thursdays, starting February 23 and running through April 14.



L. Elwood will teach four types of dance, with classes geared for children, teens and adults, at Eastport Arts Center. Submitted photo

For older teens (16 and up) and adults is 'Contemporary!', a lyrical approach to movement. A catch-all term in the dance community, contemporary usually reflects the instructor's dance background. Elwood's sessions will combine elements of modern, jazz, and ballet in a centering flow to start the week. "We're aiming to stretch, build heat, and connect to our breath and the floor," notes Elwood. 'Contemporary!' will be held Mondays from 5:30-6:30 p.m., starting March 7 and running through April 11. Also for older teens (16 and up) and adults is 'Tap!', an exuberant introduction to the percussive art form. Those who've been curious about this


rhythmic expression will enjoy the sessions with or without tap shoes. "It's surprisingly fun to stamp and stomp and ball change your cares away," says Elwood. 'Tap!' will be offered on Saturdays from 3:30-4:30 pm, starting March 12 and running through April 16. L. Elwood recently graduated from Oberlin College with a BA in Dance and Theater and has been teaching and choreographing dance since 2016. She serves as EAC's intern, focusing on co-leading the Children's Theater Workshop and giving the Center a vibrant social media presence. Questions about any of the classes may be addressed to Elwood at elwood@eastportartscenter.org. Eastport Arts Center is at 36 Washington Street, Eastport and eastportartscenter.org, and is handicapped-accessible. EAC abides by State of Maine CDC COVID guidelines. Additionally, at this time, patrons are required to wear masks when in the EAC building.



UMaine Jazz Ensemble to perform in Machias Friday March 4

The UMaine Jazz Ensemble will present a concert of big band music on Friday, March 4 at 6:30 p.m. in Powers Hall at the UMaine-Machias Performing Arts Center. The UMaine Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Dr. Dan Barrett, is UMaine's premiere auditioned big band, and performs often on the UMaine campus and other venues throughout the state. The March 4 concert will feature music by Marian McPartland, Roy Hargrove, Tom Kubis, Woody Shaw, Bob Brookmeyer, Sammy Nestico, and other great jazz composers and arrangers. Admission is free. Photo courtesy Pixabay

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Arts & Entertainment



Acrylics are next EAC workshop

Artist Anne Black will lead a workshop, Joy of Acrylics, from 1-4 p.m., Saturday, March 5, at Eastport Arts Center. Black will take attendees on an exhilarating journey into the magic world of acrylic paints and mediums. "We will explore the incredible versatility of these materials with quick, playful warm-up pieces," notes Black, who will then guide participants in creating a series of three small paintings using different techniques and combinations of acrylics and mixed media materials. The workshop, designed for participants age 12 and up, is intended for both those new to acrylics and artists already using them. "The fun and flexible projects will spark new ideas to incorporate into your art!"

A \$20 registration fee covers all materials; to register, please email Alison Brennan at alison@eastportartscenter.org. Space is very limited, so please register early to save your space. A sliding fee scale is available by request. At this time, patrons are required to wear masks inside the EAC building.

Anne Black enjoys an active career in the Boston area as both a visual artist and classical musician. After her first Eastport visit in September 2003 to photograph Eastport Strings, she returned in July 2018 to perform at the inauguration of the new organ at



Artist Anne Black, who'll lead a 'Joy of Acrylics' session on March 5 at Eastport Arts Center, is shown working with students. Photo by L. Elwood

North Church. Smitten for good, she and her husband joined the Eastport community in August 2018. She joined the Eastport Gallery in 2020, where she had a successful solo show, "Flights of Fancy," to close the gallery's in person season. She divides her time year-round between Boston and her new residence in Eastport.

Black's visual work spans multiple media, including photography, painting, printmaking, digital art, book art, and wearable art. She maintains a studio in Concord, MA, and teaches Acrylics, Mixed Media, and Printmaking without a Press for Arlington Community Education in Arlington, MA.

EAC presented her signature "Art Romp" Printmaking and Art Journal workshop via Zoom in September 2020, as well as an initial session of 'Joy of Acrylics' in October 2021.

As a musician, she is Principal Viola of the Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra of Boston and Violist with the Handel + Haydn Society. She also performs with the Boston Symphony, Boston Pops, and many other groups in the Boston area. More information about Black may be found at www.CapriccioArts.com.

Support for this workshop has been provided by Belvedere Traditional Handcrafts Fund of the Maine Community Foundation.

Passamaquoddy Bay Symphony Orchestra 2022 season announced

The Passamaquoddy Bay Symphony Orchestra Board is delighted to announce the opening of its 2022 season with the first rehearsal on Monday, March 7, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. and performances on June 3 in Eastport, June 4 in Machias, and June 5 in Calais. The PBSO will rehearse in Sunrise Hall, formerly the Calais Congregational Church, 21 Calais Avenue in Calais. Musicians will be required to be fully vaccinated.

The upcoming program includes a Tchaikovsky symphony and a new violin concerto composed and performed by PBSO's conductor and

music director, Trond Saeverud.

A multi-age, international orchestra, comprised primarily of volunteer musicians, PBSO is a constituent member of the Eastport Arts Center. Musicians work hard on difficult pieces and simultaneously have fun together. New members are always welcome. Players are encouraged and inspired by Trond Saeverud, the Music Director and Conductor, and Assistant Conductor Gregory Biss.

For more information or questions, please contact June Gregory at June.gregory@gmail.com or 207/213-9145.

Dining with Diane



This recipe is from the internet. It's a nice, moist, classic carrot cake. The frosting is very good but maybe half the recipe would be enough. Notice that this recipe does not include any raisins, but I definitely want raisins and coconut in my carrot cake, so they are some additions that I use.

CARROT CAKE

- 1 (8oz) can crushed pineapple, drained and reserve the juice
- 2 c. shredded carrots (about 3-4 large carrots)
- 4 eggs
- 1 c. sugar
- 1 c. brown sugar
- 1 c. vegetable oil
- 2 c. flour
- 2 t. baking soda
- 2 t. ground cinnamon
- ¼ t. salt
- ½ - ¾ c. chopped walnuts

FROSTING:

- 2 (8 oz) pkgs. cream cheese, softened
- ¼ c. butter, softened
- 2 t. vanilla
- 1 ½ c. powdered sugar (10X)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease & flour a 9 X 13 baking pan. Drain the pineapple, reserving 2 T. of the juice and set aside. In a large bowl, beat the eggs, sugars, oil. Add the carrots, pineapple and reserved 2 T. pineapple juice. Beat until well blended. In a small bowl, combine the flour, baking soda, cinnamon and salt. Gradually beat the flour mixture into the pineapple mixture and then stir in the walnuts. Bake the cake at 350 degrees for 35-40 minutes. Cool.

Make frosting by creaming the cheese & butter. Add vanilla and beat in the powdered sugar until smooth. Gently spread on cooled cake.

ADD IN SUGGESTIONS:

Raisins, coconut & orange rind
Add maple flavoring to the frosting instead of vanilla for a change.

Special events at Porter Memorial Library for March

Porter Memorial Library book sales will spring to life in March after a brief winter hibernation. Every Friday during the month of March the library will offer a Pop-Up Book Sale (& Popcorn!) event from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The pop-up sale is designed to fit on top of one 6-foot folding table. Expect to find a different assortment of hardcover and paperback books on display each Friday. Did we mention that there will be free popcorn for visitors? Dates for Pop-Up Book Sales (& Popcorn!) are March 4, 11, 18 and 25.

Grow away the winter blues with a House Plant Sale & Swap at the library on Saturday, March 12 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Do you have houseplants you can split and share? Potted slips can be donated for sale, and clippings can be set out to exchange and share with your fellow indoor gardeners.

March is National Quilting Month. To celebrate, the library



will host a sewing and quilting demonstration by members of the Down East Quilters Guild on Saturday, March 19 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Down East Quilters is affiliated with the state-wide guild, Pine Tree Quilters. In addition to the demo, we'll have quilts on display, including one very special antique quilt donated to the library by Rebecca Blackmon of Rockport, Maine.

Don't forget that the library also offers regularly-scheduled events. Every Tuesday, Story Time & Craft

is offered for children at 10:30 a.m., and again at 3 p.m. On Saturdays, we host a Chess Club from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please call 255-3933 for more details.

Porter Memorial Library is located at 92 Court Street in Machias, and is home to The Last Page Honesty Bookstore. The bookstore will re-open for the season on April 1 this year. For more information email librarian@porter.lib.me.us or call 255-3933. Library hours are Tuesday to Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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TOWNS

COMMUNITY

SCHOOLS

Tigers claw their way into Bangor

by Wayne Smith

The Sumner girls basketball team of Steuben last week found themselves in the bright lights of the Bangor Tournament under second-year head coach Andrea Alley. Follow Alley’s journey right from the prelims to the Cross Center in Bangor. Alley showed a passion for her team whose goal was to get to the tournament in the first place. Alley worked hard in practice and all her work paid off in the games. The community came together on a magical journey that



Sumner Tiger Taylor Newenham makes a foul shot Stearns beat Sumner in the quarterfinals Class C North 61 to 27 in Bangor last week.



Coach Alley settings up her defense in Bangor Tournament last week



The student section of Sumner Tigers is ready to make some noise in Bangor.

took place in Hancock County and Washington County playing teams like Narraguagus and beyond. This is Alley’s story in her own words about a team, a dream, a town, and a purpose. Alley truly loves coaching as she grew up in Milbridge, herself, living the simple life. She has always loved sports.

The Sumner Tigers went in at number eight and played Stearns which was number one in quarterfinals action in Class C North. Sumner lost the game, yet didn’t go down without a fight. They played hard all night. The nerves went away fast and they clawed their way like the Tigers that they were. They brought pride to the game and a crowd that mostly was decked out in their school colors- blue and white. The fans really showed up for a game in Bangor like they had for the entire season..Alley not only put the Sumner Tigers on the map this year but for years to come.

Alley spoke about the overall experience of playing and coaching at the tournament. “It was great. I was proud of my girls for setting a goal and working hard all season to get there,” said Alley, “It’s a whole different environment at the tournament. The girls got a feeling for it this year and we will be back next year, working hard to get there. Stearns was a great team with a lot of great players. I’m proud of my girls for not giving up and continuing to push themselves. Coaching these girls is like having a family because these girls are best friends and hang out everywhere,” she said.

Alley mentioned to me that she played at the tournament in her senior year for Narraguagus where

she also played volleyball and softball. Alley’s most memorable game that she had personally played haunted her today. She recalled losing to Dexter on the last shot that should have counted. “I loved playing basketball, but I have to say- I love coaching more. Especially with the group of girls I have. It’s more of a family than a team,” said Alley.

Alley talked about her coaching style and the fans. “It’s really learning as you go,” said Alley, who is in her second year coaching at Sumner and she likes to study tapes. She wants her team to always play hard as anything can happen in Bangor. “The community has been great throughout the whole season, standing behind us and pushing us to be the best. Getting the win in the prelim just to get to Bangor in a nail-biter...leaves me speechless and emotional. It’s all they have been thinking since the start of the season is going to Bangor. I told my team it was exciting to go and be there. That’s what high school basketball was all about,” she said.

Alley herself scored 1,000 points as did her brother at ‘Guagus [Narraguagus Jr/Sr High School]. “It took a lot of hard work and determination and playing a lot of games.” Alley graduated from Narraguagus in 2010. She coached at Millbridge Elementary before taking the girls’ basketball coaching job at Sumner. As a kid, she went lobster fishing with her grandfather, hung out at the movie theater as every kid did, and she hung out with her friends. Today she likes time with her family.

Alley talked about the prelim and why she took the coaching job. “We knew tonight was possibly going to be the last game in this gym forever. The girls were hyped up from the beginning,” said Alley. “And just wanted to get the win in front of a great home crowd. The crowd has been great. They are the big reason we get some of our wins. These girls don’t want to let anyone down, especially themselves if they lose. The team takes it pretty hard. They are always trying to be better than the game before. I always had a passion for basketball and I saw all the potential in the girls. They just needed someone to push them..”

Alley puts a lot of pride in her coaching. “ I think I go over everything that could have happened in a game situation,” said Alley. “I put a lot of pressure on myself. I stay up late and watch tapes, reply to the games in my head on what we could have done better and differently. If we lose, it’s on me. I didn’t teach them right in practice,” she said, remarking that she’s going to be at Sumner for the long haul.

Alley has a good group of girls to coach. “The beginning of the season we had nine girls out because of COVID,” said Alley. “Some of them missed three games. It hurt us but made us stronger as a team. We are learning to move our feet more and play better defense. They all get along. They all hang out



The Sumner Tigers Girls ready to hit the floor at The Cross Center in Bangor last week.



Coach Alley takes a picture after the Sumner Tigers beat the Central Aroostook 48 to 42 in the prelims to go to Bangor.



The Sumner Tiger Mascot warns the crowd at the Cross Center in Bangor Tournament last week.

together almost every day. It’s more of a family than a team.”

I caught up with senior, Rachel Colby, of the Tigers. “The crowds have been awesome,” said the point guard. “We have many supporters that come out to all of our games. Our goal this season was to get to the tournament and play a game. We knew if we put in a hundred percent that we were going far. The Cross Center is big. I think when we get on the court that we will put up a fight. Mrs. Alley is an amazing coach. We are so lucky to have her. She is great for this program and she taught us a lot about basketball.”

Colby told me that it was an amazing feeling beating Central Aroostook in the prelim just to make it to Bangor. This was the last game in the old Sumner gym as a new school is being built. She wanted to make sure that the last game in that gym was going to be a win. “I’m a little nervous now, but I think I will be good when I get out on the court,” said Colby. “I’m pretty excited to have this experience. I try to make

smart passes as a point guard. Our team works together well. High school basketball has been a whole new experience. It’s some of my favorite memories.” She mentioned that playing in Bangor at the tournament didn’t seem real at times.

Alley reflected one more time on the season. “It wasn’t the outcome that we wanted, but I can be proud of this team. The hard work, the determination, and the drive this group has was unbelievable. High school basketball is tough. It’s different from night to night but these girls have the right to hold their heads high. They set a goal to make it to Bangor and that was what they did. It’s been a team that was fun to watch. In just two years they have become a group of girls that wanted to win and work hard. When we stepped out on the court last night [in Bangor] it was a dream come true for many of you. There is no doubt that these girls will be back, no matter what. So watch out Bangor- you haven’t heard the last from the Sumner Tigers.”

Out and About in Columbia

by Ronie Strout

February School Vacation has come to an end. I really think I need another week to rest up or get more done around the homestead. Alas, that won't happen as school will be in session on Monday the 28th.

One of the things that I wanted to get done was to clean the Front Room where my husband has his bedroom. I decided to Spring clean the room, which meant, walls, woodwork, windows, floor washed, and lots of items organized; took me four days but it is done. Now if I had only got a couple more rooms done, I would be happy. Spring cleaning has begun.

As usual, I had to make a trip to Ellsworth on Wednesday the 23rd for another doctor appointment. That is an all-day trip to get errands done for another month.

Another day once it warmed up, I got my bus cleaned. Thank goodness I found a day that the sun was out to help warm the bus up.

I found a book that I had started in 2012 on a kindle app that I had started and decided I would finish it. I don't usually read on my iPad as I like a real book to hold and read. Of course, with it snowing on Friday and keeping the wood fire burning all day, it was a good day to read as on Saturday it was clean off the deck, ramp, car, and bus of the snow that came, plus get my genealogy class stuff together for my class and go to the dump with a quick stop for a visit with friends before the afternoon went by.

On Monday, Presidents Day, I made a quick trip to Elmer's Discount to pick up some supplies that I needed and found that one of the workers Sonya Grant had dressed up as President Theodore Roosevelt for the day. What an awesome person she is, everyone enjoyed shopping that day! Way to go Sonya!

The Selectmen meeting on Tuesday evening had twenty-one out, including the selectmen and office help. Lots of items were discussed.

The Clam Shop was discussed as the owner did not sign the certified letter that he received from the town; the lawyer recommends putting a two weeks notice in the local paper to be on the safe side so that the Shop can be removed.

A discussion on placing an ad for accepting bids on the cleaning



Sonya Grant as Theodore Roosevelt on President Day at Elmer's Discount Store, Columbia. Photo courtesy Courtesy Donna Emerson

position for the town hall will also be put in the paper.

A letter from David Wardrop concerning Elliot Batson on cleaning up some junk along the McMann Road. Elliot Batson has been reported that he is working on that. Mr. Wardrop is planning on putting in a campground in that area and does not want a junkyard to be seen from his property.

On May 21, 2022, the Beth C Wright Walk has permission to shut off Pleasant Street during the Walk but is open to the two homes on that street.

Lots of discussion on who shovels the snow at the hall for Beano.

Discussion on a bathroom complaint was taken care of.

The Planning Board Ordinance updates proposal was turned down and will have them come back when they get information from some other towns.

Discussion on who is responsible for maintaining mooring records was verified.

Discussion on what to use on the Town Reports cover this year. It was voted to use a 1978 picture of the Clam Shop when it was in business.

Discussion held on getting info on the new Town of Addison website. The office will contact Monroe

Hart who designed the website to show them how to work site.

The Road Commissioner Marcus Norton reported he would be working on potholes on the West Side on Wednesday as the weather promises to be a warm day and that he hired Danny Perry to trim the trees on the Narrow Road.

The Fire Chief gave his report that they think the source was found that caused the leak at the station.

Payroll Warrants 3, 4 & 5 were signed, and February 7th meeting was signed.

Upcoming events
Indoor Yard Sale Jonesboro/ Roque Bluffs Volunteer Fire Dept & Jonesboro Grange #357 are having an indoor yard sale on March 12-13 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Proceeds to be split between two organizations. The sale will take place in March at the Jonesboro Grange, Route 1, Jonesboro. Contact LouAnn & Norm Cox 207-434-2131 to bring donations to them before the sale.

Cherryfield Free Library is starting up its "Drive-Thru" dinners at the library on Saturday, March 19 at 4 p.m. Cost \$10 a meal. "Luck o' the Irish" dinner featuring Cottage Pie (Shepard's Pie made with hamburger instead of lamb,) a Roll, and Guinness Gingerbread.

Looking Back in History

by Ronie Strout

Excerpts from the column YESTERDAY from Machias Union of 1866, extracted by M. Myers.

26 June 1877

Many of our villagers (Harrington) are drinking the water from the Addison Mineral Spring and it is performing wonderful cures. In some cases, chronic diseases have yielded to this simple remedy.

17 July 1977

Harrington Grammar School Report, Ada B. Dinsmore, teacher.

Honor Roll: Gertrude Coffin, Alta Cole, Rena Eaton, Mary

Nash, Lottie Dorman, Bessie Wass, Lizzie Davis, Effie Tabbut, Nellie Rumball, Charley Carter, Daniel Small, Carrie Coffin, Grace Eaton, Nettie Hall, Earnest Nash, Asenath Plummer, Goodwin Nash, Minnie Perry, Helen Emery, Grace Nash, George Nash, Clinton Small, Ella Leighton, Alice Cates, Ida Coffin, Theresa Nash, Abby Webb, Eddie Coffin, Alice Tupper, Cora Nash, Frank Hamlin, Irving Ray, Henry Cole, Sophie Wilson, Ella Davis, Elma Cates, Bryon Small, Lizzie Coffin, Lena Perry, Mabel V. Nash, Mabel E. Nash, Eddy Ramsdell, Clayton Plummer.

17 Jan. 1882

The Baptist Church burned late in Dec. 1880. The new church was dedicated Dec. 28, 1881. The house is 42 x 56 with tower and spire on the corner. The inside finish and pews are brown ash and walnut. Pews are arranged on an angle facing the pulpit. W.C. Bowker of Machias was the architect. Allen & Small of Cherryfield did the outside work. C.M. Curtis of Addison did the inside. Pews were made by Eaton & Guptill of Cherryfield. The building includes cellar, furnace, bell, carpet, etc. The house is free of debt. The sum of \$4,600 was provided before the dedication.

Whitneyville Library News

The Whitneyville Library would send its deepest condolences to the family and friends of Sandra Priest who recently passed away. Sandra Priest was a gifted painter who was one of our first crafters when we opened the Whatnot Craft Shop for the very first time in 1996. Sandra reconnected with the library a year ago to sell her paintings in the Whatnot Craft Shop.

Librarian Director Patricia Brightly who also wears another hat, Town Clerk of Whitneyville, had the opportunity to provide her town clerk services to a young couple by helping them obtain a marriage license. At the library, a private ceremony was performed as the young couple exchanged marriage vows. "I was so happy to help this young couple by providing my services as Town Clerk at the library." explained Brightly.


This week Living Innovations and their clients were at the library to enjoy not only the Wi-Fi access for Zoom but played board games and Bingo. Candy Land, Skip Bo, and Jenga were some of the games that were played at the library.

Things are picking up in the Whatnot Gift Shop as more people are getting out and about. Looks

like spring fever has hit as everyone is so ready for the smell of flowers and fresh-cut grass. The Whatnot Gift Shop which features 42 local crafters is open during library hours Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Plans for the library expansion which will add 2,700 sq. ft. to the building have been finalized and soon the Board of Trustees along with the Friends of the Whitneyville Library will launch their capital campaign to raise the funds needed for this exciting expansion. It has been estimated that we will need to raise \$300,000 for this expansion and the library will be looking into grants as well as local donations to get this next phase started.


Since 1966 the library has never charged a fee for a library card and has never had fines for overdue materials. Any book that is not owned by the library can be requested through interlibrary loan. Open daily Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. the library welcomes readers from surrounding towns. You can visit the library's webpage at www.whitneyville.lib.me.us or visit our library craft shop pages on Facebook.




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Church Directory

St. Aidan’s Episcopal Church, 36 Dublin St., 255-4995. Sunday services at 9:30 a.m. in person and on Zoom.

Reach Wesleyan Church, 207-497-2225 or 207-512-6718

Bucks Harbor Baptist Church - facebook.com/Bucks-Harbor-Baptist-Church-142168602475898/.

Machias Christian Fellowship meets on Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Prayer meeting held Thursday night from 7-8 p.m. We offer a Wednesday evening service at 6:30 p.m. 3 Davis Road, Machias. FMI call 255-8287.

Centre Street Congregational Church, UCC - www.centrestreetchurch.org/. 10 a.m. Sunday, online. Email

centrestreetworship@gmail.com for Zoom link. Include your name, as well as a cell number if you’ll be using it. 255-6665.

Cherryfield First Baptist Church - facebook.com/First-Baptist-Church-Cherryfield-Maine-427258604284349/.

Cherryfield First Congregational Church, 207-843-5656.

Christian Science Society of Calais. 207-454-3409 or 207-454-2295.

Christian Temple Church, 207-733-2887

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 207-483-8055.

Cobscook Friends meeting, 207-733-2068

Columbia Falls United Methodist Church, 207-483-4094.

Community of Christ - 497-5723.

Comunidad de Cristo, 207-497-2618.

Cutler United Methodist Church, 207-454-0142 or the church at 259-2097

Dennysville/Edmunds Congregational Church - FMI call 726-3905.

Downeast Baptist Church: Sunday

Morning Worship Service at 11 a.m., Wednesday Evening Prayer Meeting and Bible Study at 7 p.m. The church is located at 393 Dublin St, Machias, ME 04654. Call 255-5822 FMI.

Downeast Christian Church (Harrington) - facebook.com/decc.maine/

Faith United Methodist Church, 207-483-4094

First Congregational Church 259-2101

Holmes Bay Baptist Church, 255-

8227
Holy Trinity Chapel, 207-726-5129.

Jacksonville United Methodist Church, 9:00 am Sunday Worship Services & 10:00 am Wednesday Bible Study. 325 Jacksonville Rd/Rt 191, East Machias. Pastor Sharon Grant. 207-255-6282 or 207-454-0142.

Jonesboro Union Church - FMI call 902-3314.

Lifespring Chapel Church of God, 207-460-1392.

Machias Valley Baptist Church- FMI call 255-4476.

Machiasport Congregational Church, See us on Facebook

Marshfield Congregational Church, 23 Church Lane, Marshfield. Pastor John Sprague. 8 am Sunday service. Tel. 271-0759.

Milbridge Congregational Church, 207-664-4861.

Milbridge/Wyman United Methodist Churches, 207-866-2144

New Dawn Pentecostal Church, 207-546-7069 or 207-255-8621.

New Dawn Fellowship, 207-255-8621.

Pentecostal Lighthouse, 207-255-3577.

Perry Congregational Church

Roque Bluffs Community Chapel,

River of God, 207-255-6369.

St. Peter the Fisherman’s Parish, 207-255-3731.

Sawyer Memorial Congregational Church, 207-497-5985 or 207-497-2294.

Steuben Union Church, 207-546-2656.

Three Angels Seventh-Day Adventist Community Church, 207-259-4400.

Unionville Church of God, 207-546-2668.

United Pentecostal Church

Wesley Community Church (508)450-9672

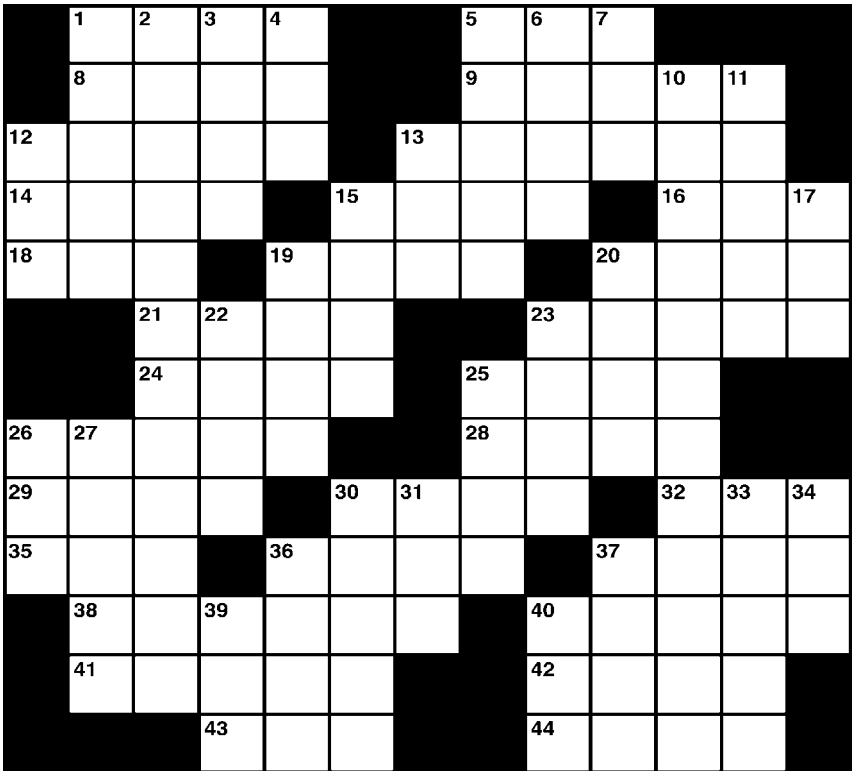
West Lubec United Methodist Church, 853-4603; 207-733-2426; 207-483-4052.

Whitneyville Congregational Church, 207-255-8640.

Catholic services: www.portlanddiocese.org/online-Mass

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

3/6/22

ACROSS

- 1 ___ Savcic; actress on “Big Sky”
5 ___ Lim; role on “FBI”
8 “___ Wolf”; popular 2011-17 MTV series
9 Trudy ___; “Chicago P.D.” role
12 Kelly of “The O.C.”
13 Role on “Fantasy Island”
14 “Two and Half Men” role
15 Airhead
16 Steiger or Stewart
18 “A Nightmare on ___ Street”
19 Allen & Daly
20 Athletic shoe brand
21 “Beat it!”
23 Role on “Ghosts”
24 Where Graceland is located: abbr.
25 Sitcom for Sherman Hemsley
26 “Men in ___” (2006-08)
28 Beyond risqué
29 “___ Copy” (1989-99)
30 Canter or gallop
32 List-shortening abbr.
35 “Pirates of the Caribbean: At World’s ___”

- 36 Author Leon
37 “___ Man”; movie for Robert Downey Jr.
38 Actor James ___
40 Lee or Alexander
41 Shed crocodile tears
42 “___ the Sun in the Morning”; Irving Berlin song
43 Stir-fry dish
44 Nights we watch “Ordinary Joe”: abbr.

DOWN

- 1 Coral island
2 Series for Ryan Eggold
3 Stapleton or Smart
4 Ms. Jillian
5 Apple tablets
6 Singing voice
7 “The ___ King Cole Show”
10 Actress on “NCIS: Hawai’i”
11 ___ fancy to; liked from the git-go
12 Charlotte ___
13 Role on “Home Economics”
15 Singer Celine
17 Busiest mo. at the mall
19 Great quantity
20 Vane letters
22 Pay attention to
23 “How ___ Your Mother”
25 MacGraw & Larter
26 “___ West Wing”
27 “Home on the ___”
30 “My Big Fat ___ Wedding”
31 “The Fresh Prince of Bel-___”
33 Sounds from a ferry’s horn
34 “The Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer” network
36 “Do ___ others...”
37 Villain in “Othello”
39 “Pretty Maids All in a ___”; Rock Hudson film
40 Belushi or Carrey

Solution to Last Week’s Puzzle



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SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level 1 2 3 4

1				4		3	6
3							
7		9			5		
			8	2		7	5
4	1		7	6			
		4				1	7
				7			2
6	2		1			9	3

Solution to Wednesday’s puzzle

3/4/21

2	6	1	8	5	7	3	4	9
7	8	5	4	9	3	6	2	1
4	3	9	6	2	1	8	7	5
9	5	4	3	1	6	2	8	7
3	2	8	7	4	9	1	5	6
1	7	6	2	8	5	4	9	3
8	1	7	5	3	2	9	6	4
6	4	3	9	7	8	5	1	2
5	9	2	1	6	4	7	3	8

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Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit sudoku.org.uk

Boggle® BrainBusters!

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.



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Answers to Friday’s Boggle® BrainBusters: BABY MOLAR WISDOM INCISOR

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Community Calendar

Upcoming events

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Community Calendar

Milbridge Farmers' Market 2022 Vendor Meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, **March 5**. We are meeting at the Cherryfield Public Library to discuss the beginning and ending dates, dues, and set-up fees. If you are interested in setting up at the Milbridge Farmers Market you are welcome to attend. The library is located at 35 Main Street, Milbridge.

Overdose response training: The Community Caring Collaborative (CCC) and Maine Access Points (MAP) invite you to join us for a free virtual lunch and learn event on **March 11: Be A Life Saver: Overdose Response & Naloxone Training**. This educational event will be held on Zoom from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Register at www.cccmaine.org. For more information or to connect with our Washington County Program email chasing@maineaccesspoints.org or call/text 207-370-1042. Our website is maineaccesspoints.org.

The Porter Memorial Library House Plant Sale and Clipping Swap will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, **March 12**. Have clippings to share or donate? Start them now in water so they'll be ready for the big day! Join us at the library, located at 92 Court Street, Machias. FMI Call 255-3933.

Fire Department / Grange fundraiser: The Jonesboro/Roque Bluffs Volunteer Fire Dept & Jonesboro Grange #357 are having an indoor yard sale on **March 12-13** from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Proceeds to be split between two organizations. The sale will take place in March at the Jonesboro Grange, Route 1, Jonesboro. Contact LouAnn & Norm Cox 207-434-2131 to bring donations to them before the sale.

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day, **March 19** from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Down East Quilters is affiliated with the state-wide guild, Pine Tree Quilters. In addition to the demo, we'll have quilts on display, including one very special antique quilt donated to the library by Rebecca Blackmon of Rockport, Maine. The library is located at 92 Court Street, Machias. FMI call 255-3933.

Drive-Thru Dinner at the Library: Cherryfield Free Library is starting up its "Drive-Thru" dinners at the library. The first will be held at 4 p.m. on Saturday, **March 19**, \$10 a meal. "Luck o' the Irish" dinner featuring Cottage Pie (Shepard's Pie made with hamburger instead of lamb,) a Roll, and Guinness Gingerbread.

Mastectomy fitting session: The Beth C. Wright Cancer Resource Center is offering a free bra fitting for any women that are in need post-mastectomy breast forms and/or bras at the Center at 23 Commerce Park in Ellsworth on Thursday, **March 24**. Space is limited, call the center at 207-664-0339 FMI or to make an appointment.

Public supper at Whitneyville Public Library, 5 p.m. Saturday, **April 2**. Turkey and fixings on the menu. Cost \$10 for adults, \$4 for children under 12. Held at the Hillgrove Community Building in Whitneyville across from the library, 42 South Main Street, Whitneyville. FMI call 255-4662.

Recurring events

Children's Storytime and Crafts: Porter Memorial Library's Children's Storytime and Crafts take place **weekly at 10:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. each Tuesday**. FMI call 255-3933. PML is located at 92 Court Street, Machias.

Porter Memorial Library Board of Trustees meets online and in-person on the **third Wednesday of each month**. For

more information, call 478-4378. The library is located at 92 Court Street, Machias.

Machias Board of Selectmen meets **bi-monthly at 6 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month**. The meetings are held at the Machias Telebusiness Center, Stackpole Road, Machias. FMI visit www.machiasme.org, or call 255-6621.

Machias Planning Board meets at **7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month**, at the Machias Town Office, Court Street, Machias. FMI visit www.machiasme.org, or call 255-6621.

Free community dinner: **Every Tuesday night**, the public is invited to enjoy a free community dinner at Machias Christian Fellowship, 3 Davis Road, Machias. The meals run from 5 - 6:30 p.m. All of the meals are provided by community members, and the church does not assume responsibility for any foodborne illnesses that may occur. For the most up-to-date information, and weather cancellations, visit the MCF Community Dinner Facebook page, www.facebook.com/groups/mcfcommunity. For more information, call 598-0583.

Story Time & Craft at Porter Memorial Library, **every Tuesday** at 10:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the library, 92 Court Street, Machias. FMI Call 255-3933.

Machias Rotary Club meetings are held at 5:30 p.m. on the **first and third Wednesday of each month** at Pat's Pizza Machias. New members and visitors are welcome. FMI call President Mike Hinerman, 263-5990.

Machias Food Pantry--**Mondays**, at Centre Street Congregational Church, 9 Center Street, Machias; 1-6 p.m. For more information, call the church at 255-6665.

Good News Club will meet in Addison at the Church Hill Community Center **Mondays from 3:30 to 5:00 P.M.** Children from ages 2 - 12 are invited to attend. For more information call Cathy at 483-4655 or Carol at 615-1602.

Support groups

Arise Addiction Recovery meetings — Monday 7 p.m. at Machias Christian Fellowship, 3 Davis Rd, Machias, ME. Tuesday 7pm, at Christian Temple Church in Lubec. Friday night meeting at the Church of the Open Bible, 559 Milbridge Road, Cherryfield.

Downeast Sexual Assault Services — 1-800-492-5550, ext. 258.

Intimate Partner- Violence/abuse 24/7 hotline 800-315-5579.

Machias Community REIKI Clinic, New phone contact # 256-0408 with voice mail Gillyin Gatto bobcatpath@myfairpoint.net

Recovery Meetings: Paul Maxie, 903-371-1502, John Dunn, 207-669-5520; Paul Trovarello, 207-271-7060, paul.trovarello.1978@gmail.com Lindsay Trovarello, 207-631-8382, lindsaytrovarello@gmail.com- Facebook: ARISE Addiction Recovery- Website: www.ariseaddictionrecovery.com

Recovery Wellness Group will meet at the Downeast Recovery Center in Machias on the first Friday of every month, March through November 5:30 - 6:45. Pizza is provided. Topics include alcohol use, opioid use, smoking, marijuana, and managing anxiety and depression in recovery.

Road to Recovery — FMI: 1-800-227-2345.

Monthly cancer support and resource meetings — FMI: 207-726-5087 or 207-664-0339.

Circle of Hope — FMI: 207-255-3530.

NAMI Maine - FMI: Amy 207-726-0608 or 207-263-7889.

Quoddy Al-Anon meetings — FMI: 207-733-2068.

Arise Addiction Recovery - FMI: 255 5011.

Sunrise Opportunities Prevention Council: Parenting in Recovery Support Group. Every Monday at 11:30AM -12:30PM via ZOOM. To register or for more information please call/text (207) 263-5270

Sunrise Opportunities Prevention Council: Parents of Children with Special Needs Support Group. The 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 5:00PM - 6:00 PM via ZOOM. To register or for more information please call/text (207) 263-5270

Sunrise Opportunities Prevention Council: General Parent Support Group. 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 4:30PM - 5:30PM via ZOOM. To register or for more information please call/text (207) 263-5270

Sunrise Opportunities Prevention Council: Machias Area Virtual Playgroup. Every Wednesday at 10:00-11:00AM via ZOOM. To register or for more information please call/text (207) 263-5270

Sunrise Opportunities Prevention Council: Calais Area Virtual Playgroup. Every Tuesday at 10:00-11:00AM via ZOOM. To register or for more information please call/text (207) 263-5270



Jim Miller

How to convince an elderly parent to stop driving

Dear Savvy Senior,
What is the best way to deal with older drivers who probably shouldn't be driving anymore? My dad, who's 86, is bound and determined to keep driving as long as he's alive.

Backseat Daughter

Dear Backseat,
For many families, talking to an elderly parent about giving up the car keys can be a very difficult and sensitive topic. While there's no one way to handle this issue, here are a few suggestions that can help you evaluate your dad's driving and ease him out from behind the wheel when the time is right.

Take a ride

To get a clear picture of your dad's driving abilities, a good first step, if you haven't already done so, is to take a ride with him and watch for problem areas. For example: Does he have difficulty

seeing, backing up or changing lanes? Does he react slowly, get confused easily or make poor driving decisions? Does he drive at inappropriate speeds, tailgate or drift between lanes? Also, has your dad had any fender benders or tickets lately, or have you noticed any dents or scrapes on his vehicle? These, too, are red flags.

If you need some help and your dad is willing, consider hiring a driver rehabilitation specialist who's trained to evaluate elderly drivers and provide safety suggestions. This type of assessment typically costs between \$200 and \$400. To locate a professional in your area, visit AOTA.org/older-driver or ADED.net.

Transitioning and talking

After your assessment, if you think it's still safe for your dad to drive, see if he would be willing to take an older driver refresher

course.

These courses will show him how aging affects driving skills and offers tips and adjustments to help keep him safe. Taking a class may also earn your dad a discount on his auto insurance. To locate a class, contact your local AAA (AAA.com) or AARP (AARPDiversafety.org, 888-227-7669). Most courses cost around \$20 to \$30 and can be taken online.

If, however, your assessment shows that your dad really does need to stop driving, you need to have a talk with him, but don't get carried away. If you begin with a dramatic outburst like "Dad, you're going to kill someone!" you're likely to trigger resistance. Start by simply expressing your concern for his safety.

For more tips on how to talk to your dad about this and evaluate

his driving skills, the Hartford Financial Services Group and MIT AgeLab offers a variety of resources to assist you. Visit TheHartford.com/lifetime and click on "Publications" on the menu bar, then on the "We Need to Talk" guidebook.

Refuses to quit

If your dad refuses to quit, you have several options. One possible solution is to suggest a visit to his doctor who can give him a medical evaluation, and if warranted, "prescribe" that he stops driving. Older people will often listen to their doctor before they will listen to their own family.

If he still refuses, contact your local Department of Motor Vehicles to see if they can help. Or call in an attorney to discuss with your dad the potential financial and legal consequences of a crash or injury. If all else fails, you may just have

to take away his keys.

Alternative transportation

Once your dad stops driving, he's going to need other ways to get around, so help him create a list of names and phone numbers of family, friends and local transportation services that he can call on.

To find out what transportation services are available in your dad's area contact Rides in Sight (RidesInSight.org, 855-607-4337), and the Eldercare Locator (800-677-1116), which will direct you to his area agency on aging for assistance.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC *Today* show and author of "*The Savvy Senior*" book.

OBITUARIES

Ruth Gaddis Leubecker
January 31, 1942 - February 27, 2022

Ruth G. Leubecker died on February 27, 2022 at Machias, Maine. She was born in Machias, on January 31, 1942, the daughter of J. Francis Gaddis and Nell (Hanscom) Gaddis. Educated in East Machias schools, she was a member of the class of 1960 at Washington Academy, and graduated from the University of Maryland at College Park.

She was editor of several weekly newspapers in the Baltimore area before becoming Baltimore's first female editor of a daily newspaper, The Daily Record, the city's legal/business newspaper. She became the producer and on-camera personality of Baltimore County's first cable television show, The MacLauchlan Report, in 1979. For five years she lived in Singapore, where she started a Chinese magazine and did research and writing for the Singapore government. She was a foreign correspondent for Far East Health, a London-based monthly magazine covering health issues pertinent to the ASEAN nations of Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia and Brunei.

After returning to East Machias to live, she worked at Machias Savings Bank, retiring in 2003. From then until her death, she worked as a reporter at the Machias Valley News Observer. Ruth was a member of the First Congregational Church of East Machias, of Ephraim Johnson Post 9 Auxiliary, and a corporator of Down East Community Hospital. After many years of hard work to attain its gift shop, it finally opened under her tenure as president of the DECH Auxiliary.

She is survived by two sons, Jeffrey MacLauchlan and his wife Fontelle of Darnestown, Maryland, and Scott MacLauchlan of Antigua, Guatemala; a third son by heart, Eric Klipp and his wife Kate, of Westminster, Maryland. Six much-loved grandchildren also survive her: Colin MacLauchlan and his wife Christina; Bennett MacLauchlan and his wife, Meredith Eileen; Meredith MacLauchlan; Jesse Klipp and his wife Sasha; Laura Klipp; and Sarah Klipp. Five very special great-grandchildren, Emerson, Mollie, Karter, Georgina and Owen also survive her. She also leaves her sister, Margaret Gardner, and her brother Dr. John Gaddis; brother-in-law Richard Gardner, and sister-in-law Mary Beth Gaddis, all of East Machias. She is survived by her former husband, Donald MacLauchlan.

She was predeceased by her parents, her brother, George Gaddis, and her former husband, Milton Leubecker. At her request, there will be no service, but a celebration of her life at Hadley's Lake on a later date. For those who wish, in lieu of flowers, please make a donation in her memory to the Wesley Keeton Foundation.

Terrence Lee McInnes
2022



Terrence Lee "Mac" Terry" McInnes, beloved brother, friend and mentor, 66, left this world on February 14, 2022 following surgery for heart failure. He was predeceased by his mother, Betty, his father, A. E. "Mac", his sister, Elaine White and brothers Allen and Eddie. He was born in California

and grew up in several states from Maine to Tennessee to Florida. As a young man he settled in Connecticut and worked as a pipefitter on nuclear submarines for 20 years. He eventually relocated to Maine where he lived for the rest of his life in Machiasport. He was highly intelligent and creative. If you could imagine it, he could fabricate it. If you could break it, he could fix it. He was always available to lend a hand to anyone in need.

He leaves behind his sisters in Florida, Vickie Melvin and husband Billy, Teresa Ross and husband Howard, Sandra Wilkerson and husband Jerry, Rose McKnight and husband Ray, brother-in-law, Bill "Whitey" White, Judy Lewis, companion of many years and her sisters, Dale Miller and Sharen Eaton and her mate, Mark Fetzer (Terry's adopted family), his dear neighbors, Mary Ann and Ben Crocker, longtime close friends, Steve and Mikki Van Hoose, and very special friends, Wally and Rachel Conlin. His beloved dog Annie, will stay with Judy.

A memorial service is planned for the coming spring. Date, time and details will be announced.

MVNO000010304

Weekly Ad Deadline

Please forward all advertisements by email before Monday at noon to advertising@machiasnews.com or order by phone at 255-6561

Strimling voice Continued from page 6

picture of Gov. Janet Mills. With Mills' photo, they even do the classic "60 Minutes" close-up to make her seem creepy.

But squeezed in the middle of those two prominent and identifiable leaders is not the Democratic Speaker of the House. It's not either of our Democratic members of Congress. It's not the Senate Democratic Majority Leader or Whip, or even one of the most liberal members from the "People's Republic of Portland" who want to do such crazy things as giving women equal rights under the law.

Long voice Continued from page 7

Services.

Online Services customers also are eligible for weekly emails designed to provide updates about your energy use so you can plan ahead, make informed choices, and save money. You can also sign up for High Bill Alerts via email or text, which provide an early warning if your usage is greater than the previous year, giving you the opportunity to take steps to reduce your energy consumption before your bill arrives.

We know that a price increase in the winter, when your energy use may be greater because of cold weather and more frequent use of your furnace or heat pump, is

No, it's Senator Craig Hickman. This first-term state senator from a rural district in the middle of the state all of a sudden, out of nowhere, flashes across our screen.

Why? Oh, did I forget to mention he is Black?

As Republicans try to win control of the state Senate with their all-white, mostly male, slate of candidates; and as Republicans try to win back the governorship with a gubernatorial candidate who told the NAACP to "Kiss My Butt" and said people of color coming to

particularly difficult. And while higher energy use on the coldest days is a fact of life, that doesn't mean that you can't take steps to save. You can learn about programs that may benefit you and your family by visiting versantpower.com or exploring the great resources offered by Efficiency Maine.

If you still have concerns about your bill or other questions about your service, please call our Customer Contact Center at (207) 973-2000 or email info@versantpower.com. Our team will work to help you understand your energy use and can refer you to a number of programs. And regardless of your income, we can

Alley voice Continued from page 6

background pH is 8.

Even small changes in pH can have drastic impacts on commercially valuable marine life. Kingfish has openly admitted that the proposed discharge would acidify the water. Acidification can degrade minerals that lobsters and shellfish need to build shells. Maine's commercial fisheries are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of acidification: "In 2015, the first nationwide study showing the vulnerability of the \$1 billion U.S. shellfish industry to ocean acidification revealed a number of hotspots: the Pacific Northwest, Long Island Sound, Narragansett Bay, Chesapeake Bay, the Gulf of Mexico, and areas off Maine and Massachusetts (NOAA)."

Kingfish managed to get its discharge permit provisionally with

the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). It was interesting that DECD wrote a letter of support that indicated it was okay to degrade the water because of the economic challenges facing Washington County. I would argue that the short-term approach and lack of protection of our oceans in the long term will cost us much more than this foreign company will ever give to the state of Maine. Kingfish is not here to "help" Washington county – Kingfish is here to make money.

And what about the indirect economic impacts of commercial fisheries? For example, the Maine tourism industry relies on a robust working waterfront. The lobster industry and the tourism industry are inextricably linked. According to Tom Peaco, the executive director

Mills voice Continued from page 6

reliance on fossil fuels, to supply chain issues that contribute to higher prices for everything from potato chips to plastic ware, to ramen noodles and cat food, and even a scarcity of chocolate milk in Houlton and Moxie in Lisbon.

Through good, bipartisan work, we have already returned \$371 million of our surplus income to Maine people and Maine businesses. We sent checks of \$285 each to more than 500,000 working men and women in Maine. We provided millions more in tax relief for people and businesses in Maine.

But we have to do more for Maine people who are struggling with exorbitant electric bills and with inflation at the pump and at the grocery store and the uncertainty of the global economy.

Now many Republicans called for a return of half the new surplus

to Maine people through direct checks. I think they're right. And that's why I proposed sending half of our surplus back to the people of Maine.

These direct checks to the people, which would amount to about \$500 per person, would be distributed to an estimated 800,000 taxpayers in Maine to help them offset added costs, beginning as soon as July.

We're not going to wait for next year's tax returns. People need that money now.

As the Legislature considers my proposal, we're also delivering relief in other important ways.

For example, the Public Utilities Commission just approved a proposal from the Public Advocate and my energy office that will give a direct \$90 credit on electric bills for low-income Maine people.

Electricity prices are going up this winter because of a significant

Maine are the enemy; I guess it is no surprise that they would blow another racist dog whistle to fire up a portion of their base.

Republicans have been playing this game across the country for decades. From Ronald Reagan's race-baiting "welfare queens," to George Bush Sr.'s Willie Horton ads, to Donald Trump—who didn't even have to whistle, he just said the quiet stuff out loud.

The Maine Senate Republicans have picked up that scent in their desperation for power.

help you find a payment plan so your bill does not get out of your control.

The delivery of safe, reliable electricity is critical to the lives and livelihoods of Mainers, and an important part of our state's transition to a brighter energy future. We've heard from our neighbors that reliable electrical service matters more now than ever, and we're working to be a trusted partner in powering your possibilities.

Judy Long, a lifelong Mainer and Orrington resident, is Versant Power's communications manager.

of the Penobscot Regional Chamber of Commerce, "The Maine tourism office understands this connection well...Not an issue goes by without an article referencing Maine's commercial fisheries—the people, the harbors, the boats, and the traditions. The Coast of Maine sells, and a recognized part of that allure is the lobster fishery."

At the end of the day, Kingfish only started operation in the Netherlands in 2018, and the Maine proposal is 4 times bigger. Kingfish has not operated at the scale it is proposing for Maine according to their own spokesperson. Considering this uncertainty and the lack of a costs-benefits analysis. Do you want our home and the water that sustains us to be a science experiment for massive industrial aquaculture?

spike in global fossil fuel prices, especially natural gas. Maine, unfortunately, is far too reliant on natural gas to generate electricity.

Importantly, these credits will be paid for with federal funding — not by Maine taxpayers and ratepayers.

This is a welcome step forward, but we will continue to evaluate other ways to provide relief to more people as we all grapple with increased electricity costs and inflation at the pump and at the grocery store.

Well, I may not be able to control the impact of COVID-19 on global markets, but I can make sure that we help Maine people grapple with inflation as we build a stronger and more resilient economy.

That's what I'm fighting for — progress. Progress for Maine people and a better future for all.

EHC Continued from page 1

disseminating at-home COVID test kits for patients and their families. The pediatrics clinic with four patient rooms, including a procedure room, occupies more than 3,500 square feet on the first floor of Sennett Hall, a residence hall that has been unoccupied on campus since fall 2019. EHC has signed a lease with the University of Maine System to locate the new clinic in the building until all EHC Machias-based services relocate in the next 24 months to a larger facility in the community, possibly a now empty, 10,000-square-foot former retail store. EHC also has primary care and behavioral health

services at 53 Fremont St., Machias, all of which will join pediatrics in the future setting. EHC UMM Pediatrics is planning a grand opening in the coming weeks. “We needed to open quickly, in order to offer a continuum of care for children here in Washington County, and we needed to find the right place,” says Ellen Krajewski, MPH, CEO of Eastport Health Care, Inc. “UMaine Machias was very welcoming and receptive. EHC has had an ongoing partnership with UMaine Machias, partnering on COVID vaccination clinics for students, employees, and the public,

and previously collaborating on health professions education. This was the next step and an important collaboration for our community.” UMaine Machias has a strong commitment to engagement and has long collaborated with community partners such as EHC to contribute to the quality of life in Washington County, says Daniel Qualls, UMaine Machias vice president for academic affairs and head of campus. “We welcome EHC UMM Pediatrics to campus and look forward to exploring possible learning opportunities for our students with the growth of Eastport Health Care in Downeast

Maine.” Through an advertisement in local newspapers, EHC announced that it was expanding its services and welcomed new pediatric patients. The response was overwhelming, says Krajewski, with the first of the many new patients scheduled for appointments on the clinic’s opening day. Some have known Wakeman throughout their childhood. “Alf has been in Machias for many years and is beloved in Washington County, where he has been one of only a few pediatric providers,” she says. “He goes the extra mile to care for young patients and he is extremely popular. Expanding the

face of EHC is an investment in our future. Taking care of our children’s health now means a healthier future for Washington County.” The EHC Board of Directors is very pleased to offer local quality pediatric primary care to our families, says board chair Marilú Scott. “The expansion at (UMaine Machias) will allow Eastport Health Care to strengthen full-service primary care for the entire age spectrum in easily accessed locations. The EHC Board of Directors is also excited about this collaborative effort with (UMaine Machias). They share our commitment to the community.”

MVH Continued from page 1

to dementia care for veterans. In 2019, MVH announced plans to build a 138-bed residential care facility in Augusta, then estimated to cost \$90 million. Though a ribbon-cutting event was held there last August, current reports estimate it will not open until spring. Machias Town Manager Bill Kitchen says the town is concerned about the many hardships a closure would create, but also about the emotional toll of losing the Machias veterans’ home.

“This veterans’ home is actually a big part of this community’s identity, veterans are a big part of this community’s identity,” said Kitchen. “There’s a reason you see road signs in Machias that say we’re ‘A Military Friendly Community.’ It’s not just a sign, we all feel a sense of pride and responsibility toward our vets.”

A ‘drastic move’ Already aware of the board’s desire to close Caribou and Machias, more than two weeks ago Governor Janet Mills wrote asking them to reconsider “this drastic move.” In a statement issued today, Feb. 25, Mills reiterated her position, saying she remains “deeply concerned.”

“All of this is why earlier this month I wrote to the Board of Trustees to express my concerns, to ask them to reconsider their decision, and to inform them that I have instructed my Administration to be prepared to help them consider potential options other than closure. This offer still stands,” wrote Mills.

In her letter dated Feb. 9, Mills restated two of the MVH board’s primary concerns — a shortage of qualified staff, and a steady decrease in the number of veterans served in Machias and Caribou, noting their closure would leave Maine with no veteran facilities Downeast or north of Bangor and would displace roughly 70 vets.

Urging the board to reconsider the closures in their entirety, Mills asked the board, at a minimum, to consider delaying closure for two years “...to provide ample time for continued dialogue and to plan for the future of the facilities and for the continued care of the many veterans who call them home.”

The Machias veterans’ home is attached to Down East Community

Hospital. In a written release, MVH says they are in ongoing discussions with parties that might have an interest in their facilities, but “no decisions have been reached at this point.”

Declining populations In a written response to the governor dated Feb. 14, MVH Board Chairman James Settele told the governor the homes would close, citing a decrease in the number of Maine’s vets “by as much as two-thirds in Aroostook and Washington Counties, according to VA demographic projections from 2010-2040.”

Projections from the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs for Maine veteran populations do show a downward trend. The VA forecast available today runs from 2018-2048, and for the years 2022-2032 shows a decline of 20 percent statewide and 28 percent in Washington County. Looking out 20 years to 2042, the overall decline in Washington County comes to 48 percent, from 3,067 veterans to 1,608.

In Aroostook County, the 2022-2032 decline comes in at 32 percent, and the 20-year decline at 53 percent.

The finances Settele’s letter also said the Caribou and Machias homes are draining resources from MVH’s other four facilities. “And now their combined deficits are \$3 million annually and seriously threaten the economic viability of the entire system.”

The most current financial data available for MVH, which as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit files public 990 tax forms, show revenues less expenses (in the business sector known as gross profits) of roughly \$25 million for fiscal year 2019-20, and \$19 million for fiscal year 2018-19.

An earlier tax form for fiscal year 2016 shows net losses of -\$61,597, with narrow revenues less expenses of \$736,209 the year prior.

Rep. Will Tuell (R-E. Machias) said he was disappointed in MVH’s decision to close, but believes it is a financial necessity.

“It is devastating for the families and workers at the facility. At the same time, I don’t think they have any other alternative but to close,” said Tuell. “The Machias and Caribou homes have been

losing money hand-over-fist for years despite our attempts in the legislature to try to plug that hole.”

In a printed release, MVH says the problems leading to the closures “will not be solved by administrative action or legislation.”

“Our Machias and Caribou Homes are not self-sustaining and have always relied heavily on financial support from the larger Homes,” read the release.

Gardner says he does not believe profitability should even enter into care decisions for veterans.

“We made a promise to these veterans, we’re going to take care of you, except not in Caribou and Machias, because the only way we can do it is if we break even or make money,” said Gardner. “What else do we have to break even on? Do we break even on SNAP? Jail costs? Law enforcement? No, we don’t break even on any of those things. Those are services, those are the things people want to spend money on.”

Former Maine governor and gubernatorial candidate Paul LePage last week issued a statement saying Mills should “step up and save” the two homes.

“Protecting our most vulnerable populations and honoring our servicemen and women must be the absolute number ONE priority of any administration,” wrote LePage.

On the same day news broke of



News that Maine Veterans’ Homes plans to shutter its Machias and Caribou locations was last week met with shock, and calls to action, including a request for a meeting between the MVH Board, Maine’s Congressional delegation, and other leaders. “Our community is sad,” said Machias Town Manager Bill Kitchen. “There’s a lot of anger here over how quickly this has been sprung on us, and the short timeframe.” Photo by Sarah Craighead Dedmon

Russia’s invasion into Ukraine, a letter to the MVH board from Maine’s congressional delegation Thursday expressed “significant disappointment and deep concern” regarding the closures and asked the MVH board to reconsider its decision.

“The closure of these homes will have a devastating impact on the 82 veterans and spouses of veterans who reside in these facilities...and have rendered honorable service to our Nation, often during times of war.” The letter was signed by Congressman Jared Golden, Sen. Susans Collins, Sen. Angus King, and Congresswoman Chellie Pingree.

The unofficial news broke on the same day a bill by Maine Senate President Troy Jackson (D-Aroostook) was referred to the committee on veteran and legal affairs. LD 2001, “An Act To Fund and Support the Veterans’ Homes in Caribou and Machias and Require Legislative Approval for the Establishment and Closure of Veterans’ Homes” would send one-time emergency payments to MVH in the sum of \$414,020 this fiscal year, and the same amount in 2022-23. It would also require the legislature to approve the closure of any facility managed by the MVH board of trustees.

Maine delegation urges Maine Veterans’ Homes Board to keep Machias and Caribou homes open

U.S. Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Angus King (I-ME) and Representatives Chellie Pingree (ME-01) and Jared Golden (ME-02) opposed recently announced plans to close the Maine Veterans’ Homes (MVH) in Machias and Caribou. In a letter to the MVH Board, the Members of Congress urged the board to engage with the congressional delegation, the governor, and state lawmakers to identify other options that would allow the facilities to remain open.

“The closure of these homes will have a devastating impact on the 82 veterans and spouses of veterans who reside in these facilities,” wrote Senators Collins

and King and Representatives Pingree and Golden. “Their families, the 123 staff members who currently provide care to these veterans, as well as the surrounding communities and local hospitals will also be adversely affected by these unexpected closures.”

“Furthermore, given the strong support for Maine Veterans Homes from the Governor, the Maine Legislature, as well as its congressional delegation,” continued the lawmakers, “We request that the Board meet with the delegation and Governor Mills, along with leadership from relevant state agencies, to discuss all options to maintain the

Machias and Caribou homes.” The Maine Congressional Delegation has shown continued support for Maine veterans and Maine Veterans’ Homes. Most recently, this support has included securing emergency COVID-19 funding for MVH from the CARES Act and working to pass the bipartisan State Veterans Homes Domiciliary Care Flexibility Act, which would allow more veterans, particularly those with early onset dementia, to receive affordable residential care at veterans homes across the country, including in Maine. A copy of the letter can be found <https://tinyurl.com/2p8788yd>.

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SPORTS

McDonald's All-Stars selected

by Jayna Smith

Five Washington County student-athletes were selected as 2022 Maine McDonald's High School All-Stars: Sage Phillips, Calais High School; Lauren Beal, Jonesport-Beals High School; Wyatt MacArthur, Woodland High School; and Kashman Feeney and Kyle Anderson, Machias High School.

This distinct honor provides the grade 12 athletes the opportunity to play in the annual all-star games held at Newman Gymnasium on the campus of Husson University in Bangor. Funds raised through the all-star games are for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Maine programs across the state.

On Friday evening, March 11, a virtual Awards Ceremony will recognize the 120+ award recipients

from across Maine. Then, on Saturday, March 12, the athletes representing their respective high schools will compete in a head-to-head competition between North and South.

The McDonald's High School All-Stars were selected based upon ballot returns in a statewide high school basketball coaches' vote conducted by the MABC in January and February.

Six-player Royals take it all the way to Bangor

by Sarah Craighead Dedmon

A trophy case inside the Jonesport-Beals High School holds 13 championship gold balls — three won by the girls' basketball teams, and 10 won by the boys. The collection won't expand this year, but boys' basketball coach Skipper Alley says this team has a lot to be proud of. For one thing, there are only six of them, and they made it all the way to the regional playoffs.

J-BHS alumni would join in the team's practices, so they had enough players to scrimmage.

"I'm pretty close to the kids I've coached the last few years," said Alley. "Some of them would come in nights and practice with us so we could do things. They're very involved with the program they want to see it do well."

This year's Royals team was made of up two freshmen, a sophomore, two juniors, and a senior. As if a six-man team weren't strenuous enough, the team played two of their games with only five players, due to sickness. Alley feels confident that most of his players will return next year and is optimistic about some incoming eighth-graders from the two local elementary schools.

On their way to Bangor, the Royals defeated Easton 60-44. At the regional Class D North quarterfinals game, played Feb. 21

at Bangor's Cross Insurance Center, #8 seed J-BHS was defeated 85-40 by #1 seed Machias.

"We didn't play really well last night, we struggled in areas, but it was their first trip for most of them," said Alley, who thinks playing in something on the scale of Cross Insurance Center takes some getting used to. "They didn't give up, they played hard for 32 minutes, and Machias is really good."

Overall, the Royals ended the season with a 9-11 record, including four games that were extremely close.

"As a coach, I'm extremely proud of them, they're a resilient bunch," said Alley, who coaches the boys with his own son, Matt Alley. "I think they're overachievers, I think they exceeded everyone's expectations this year. They're a good group of boys, they're good to coach, they're easy to get along with."

Seven prelim survivors

by Phil Stuart

Washington County is down to eight high schools that currently have both boys and girls varsity basketball teams stretching from East Grand High School in Danforth next to the Aroostook County line to Narraguagus on the far western end of the county.

This year all sixteen teams due to the pandemic were eligible for postseason play rather than the normal 60 percent.

Out of those 16 teams, only one advanced to the quarterfinals without a playoff and that was the Machias boys who finished as the top seed in Class D with a 15-0 record.

The preliminary playoffs are held at the highest seeded school which sometimes means teams have to travel up to 200 miles one way to play during the week.

The Narraguagus boys had to get through a play in-game in order to make the preliminary round. Vinnie McLeans Knights finished at 8-10 in Class C which has 19 teams in that class. The knights hosted 19th seeded PCHS of Guilford and defeated the Pirates 48-44 which sent the Knights down to Baileyville to face the third-seeded 14-3 Woodland Dragons. The Dragons would win that game 55-35 and the opportunity to play Stearns of Millinocket the number 6 seed in the quarterfinals.

The East Grand boys had a winless season and 0-16 but elected to play number 3 Van Buren who defeated the Vikings 58-20.

Sometimes county schools eliminate another from the same

area and that will happen when the East Grand girls' number 6 seed faces Machias in the quarterfinals. The lady Vikings improved to 11-7 by defeating the 11th seeded Van Buren Crusader 49-15 in the prelim. Machias on the other hand the 3 seed at 12-4 defeated the 14 seeded Patriots of Bangor Christian 78-16.

The Woodland Dragons fell short this year finishing 12th at 6-10 before losing 58-26 to the 5th seeded Hodgdon Hawks.

The Washington Academy girls posted an 8-9 record and finished 11th before losing to the number 6 seed Ellsworth 65-34.

The 10th seeded Royalettes of Jonesport Belas had to make a long road trip at 4-14 to face the Cougars of Katahdin and would fall to the Cougars 45-29.

The Lady Knights of Narraguagus ended at number 10 after finishing 8-10 which meant a trip to Dexter before losing to the Tigers 58-21.

The Lady Blue Devils kept a multidecade streak alive of going to the Elite 8 by defeating Penquis Valley of Milo 58-21. Calais went in as the number two seed while Penquis finished 15th.

Shed High School pulled off a mild upset after a long grueling trip to Ashland to face the number 8 Hornets. The number 9 Tigerettes improved to 7-11 with a 42-38 win and will have the awesome task of facing potential state champion Southern Aroostook of Dyer Brook in the quarterfinals.

The Jonesport-Beals boys and their 6 man squad finished eight at 8-10 and hosted the 9th ranked

Easton Bears which resulted in a 60-44 Royal win. The Royals will meet top-seeded Machias in the quarterfinals and unfortunately, one Washington County team will eliminate another in order to advance.

The Shedd boys at 3-13 and the 12th seed journeyed on up to Veazie for a matchup with 5th seeded Bangor Christian.

The Patriots eliminated Paul Theriault's Tigers 71-22.

The Calais Blue Devils, the most improved team since the start of the season, finished 8th at 9-8 and defeated number nine Hodgdon 67-56 and will be matched up with top-seeded Fort Kent in the quarterfinals.

The Washington Academy/Old Town boys game got postponed a day. The 13th-seeded Raiders at 5-13 fell to the fourth-ranked Coyotes 55-39 which completed 15 prelim games for Washington County teams.

Unfortunately, only five of those seven teams that qualified for the quarterfinal round will advance because East Grand and Machias girls will play and so will the Jonesport Beals boys and Machias boys.

These situations eliminate the chances of local teams advancing so that means that a maximum of five Downeast teams have a chance of advancing to the semifinals and a guarantee of only two.

It is great to see the tournament come back. This is a special week for all of Maine and a great way to spend part of all of a week watching your favorite team play.

SPORTS

Bulldog squads advance

by Phil Stuart

Editor's note: Last week, the Machias Lady Bulldogs made it to the Class D semifinals and lost to Wisdom by a score of 61-25. The Machias Bulldogs made it to the Class D finals and lost to Southern Aroostook by a score of 44-37.

The third-ranked Machias Lady Bulldogs and top seeded Machias Bulldogs both advanced to the Northern Maine Class D Semifinals with wins over East Grand and Jonesport-Beals.

On Saturday, Feb. 19, the Lady Bulldogs coached by Matt Johnson played on the Cross Insurance Center Court for the first time since the Tate Dolley era ended in 2016.

Coach Matt Johnson is starting to reap some of the rewards after going through a couple of dismal seasons.

This year the Lady Bulldogs finished the regular season playing 16 games out of the normal 18 game slate.

The Lady Bulldogs finished 12-4 and it got them a number three seed which put them in a different bracket from overwhelming favorite

Southern Aroostook.

The Lady Bulldogs got there thanks to a couple of late-season victories over Schenck of East Millinocket and Deer Isle Stonington.

Machias had to play Bangor Christian in a preliminary round and the Bulldogs dominated the Patriots in a 78-16 blowout.

The third-seeded Lady Bulldogs went to the Cross Center to face the sixth-seeded Lady Vikings of East Grand who also returned to the tournament after a long drought. East Grand defeated 11th seeded Van Buren 49-15.

Machias and East Grand didn't meet during the regular season but the Bulldogs were the favorite going in.

Things started out very well for the Bulldogs despite their inability to convert any outside shots.

The Bulldogs racked up 13 first-quarter points while holding the Lady Vikings scoreless.

East Grand would go scoreless for another minute and a half and then they would play the Bulldogs even for the rest of the game.

The Lady Vikings would cut the Machias margin down to six a couple of times but would get no closer.

Jaydin Anderson picked up her game and would be the difference as she literally carried the Bulldogs over the last three quarters.

Machias held a 24-12 halftime edge after getting outscored 12-9. East Grand couldn't make up much ground in the 3rd outsourcing the Bulldogs 12-10. The Bulldogs led 34-24 after three and would come away with a 47-36 win.

Anderson scored a game-high 18 for the 14-4 Bulldogs. Skyler Tinker and Kristin Grant both scored 11 points. Jaida Case and Summer Sizemore who played some quality minutes off the bench finished with 4 and 3.

Isabella Cowger scored 12 for the 11-8 Lady Vikings. Phebe Foss, Maddie Cowger, and Victoria Gilman all scored 6 points.

On Monday evening the Bulldogs boys, the number one seed, played the 8th seeded Jonesport Beals Royals who defeated Easton 60-44 in a prelim game.

Damon Beal scored a game-high 24 for the Royals while Garrett Libby and Brevan Kenney scored 14 and 12.

The Royals and Bulldogs met twice during the season with Machias winning rather easily on both occasions. Two years ago the roles were reversed and the third time Machias pulled off a stunning upset which was a shock to all.

The Royals hoped to do the same but with only a six-man squad and the physical presence of the Bulldogs made an upset highly unlikely.

The Bulldogs weren't going to be denied as they raced out to a 9-0 lead and never looked back.

Machias racked up 26 first-quarter points while the Royals who had to work hard for every shot ended with it.

The size and athleticism of the Bulldogs enabled them to keep pulling away as the Royals had no answer.

By the half, the Bulldogs lead had grown to 23 points 46-23.

The Royals lost Brevan Kenney to fouls in the 3rd which left Skip

Alley's club without one of their key scorers. By the end of the 3rd, the Bulldogs were up 68-28. Machias would coast into the semifinals with an 85-40 win.

Shane Feeney and Kash Feeney each scored 18 for the 16-0 Bulldogs. Kyle Anderson came alive in the second half and scored 13 points and grabbed 10 rebounds.

Ethan Foss and J.J. Rhodes rounded out the Bulldogs scoring with 11 and 9.

Damon Beal scored a game-high 23 for the Royals and had 11 rebounds. Robbie Robinson and Garrett Libby both finished with 6 points.

The Royals close out the season with a 9-10 record. They had a great season for what they had to work with.

With only six players they played really well except against the more athletic teams like Calais and Machias.

The Royals will return all of their key players and will welcome some new additions from the Junior High system and should be much better.

1940 and before hoop highlights

by Phil Stuart

1940 was the year that a Washington County team officially won a state basketball championship when the Shead High School Tigers defeated the Livermore Falls Andies 30-28.

A lot of good things happened to Washington County teams prior to 1940.

In 1925 the Jonesport Seahawks had a powerhouse team that had been a dominant force Downeast for several years.

Ken Woodbury was the Seahawks coach and his roster included Herb Farnsworth, Donnie Mitchell, James Woodward, Almer Carver, Ken Mansfield, Elmer Farnsworth, and Clyde Lamson.

State championships in Maine started in 1922 when South Portland defeated Bangor.

The only way to have the opportunity to win a gold ball was to qualify to play in the Eastern Maine tournament at the University of Maine at Orono. Qualifications changed from year to year but in 1925 you had to win the county championship.

Jonesport represented Washington County while the other seven schools were Bangor and Mattanawcook from Penobscot, Winslow from Kennebec, Houlton from Aroostook, Searsport from Waldo, Pemetic from Hancock, and Sangerville from Piscataquis.

If a team won three games to capture the Eastern Maine crown, they would play the winner of a similar tournament held at Bates College in Lewiston each year for the Western Maine schools.

In the quarterfinals, Jonesport squeezed by Houlton 17-16, while Sangerville edged Bangor 39-22 and Searsport edged the Black Raiders of Winslow 22-18.

In the semifinals, Jonesport defeated the Sangerville Knights 21-17 while Pemetic topped the

Vikings of Searsport 43-34.

Jonesport and Pemetic played a real competitive contest that was tied 24-24 after 3 quarters. The Seahawks outscored the Indians 6-2 over the final eight minutes to pull out a 30-26 win.

James Woodward and Clyde Lamson were selected to the all-tourney team.

Jonesport was scheduled to play Western Maine Champ Westbrook for the state title, but both schools were selected to play in the New England High School championship at Tufts University in Medford Mass so the state title game was never played.

Six years later the YMCA in Bangor sponsored a 16 team tournament for teams with an enrollment of under 200 students.

Loring Additons' Bulldogs of Machias were the only Downeast entry. They were joined by Gilman of Northeast Harbor, Winterport, Brooklin, Carmel, Winthrop, Hollowell, Franklin, Eastern Maine Institute of Springfield, Corrine Union Academy, Searsport, Oakland, Phillips, Hermon, Orono, and Monroe.

Machias got by round one action with a 25-19 win over the Blue Streaks of Gilman.

The Bulldogs made it through the quarterfinal round with a 47-24 win over the Wintersport Rivermen.

Machias met their stiffest test in the semifinals but got by the Winthrop Ramblers to gain a berth in the finals.

The Bulldogs would dominate the title game with a 47-26 win over the Hollowell Bulldogs.

Ernest Miller, Dwight Sternberg, and Don Lowell made the all-tourney first team while Gil Hudson received second-team honor.

Calais would win the Eastern Washington County Championship in 1931 by defeating the Hornets of Lubec 31-28. Machias would

win the West County Title by defeating Beals 29-22 in the semifinals and then toppled the Trojans of Columbia Falls 29-17 in the championship game.

Machias then defeated the Calais Academy Blue Devils 28-20 for the County Crown.

Calais would play in the Class A tourney at UMO and would lose 42-24 to the Wildcats of Presque Isle in the quarterfinals.

In 1932 Washington Academy would go to the finals of the Bangor YMCA tourney.

The Raiders defeated the East Corinth Academy Red Devils 30-9 in the preliminary round before advancing to the semifinals with a 29-26 victory over the Hollowell Bulldogs in the quarterfinals.

WA moved into the championship game against the Monson Slaters by overwhelming the Howland Howlers 40-27 in the semifinals.

The Raiders did not match up well against the Slaters and had to settle for the Eastern Maine runner-up trophy after dropping a 37-26 decision.

Irving Scoville of Cutler, the father of Dolores "Dozy" Hanson of East Machias and Clark Scoville of Rogue Bluffs was named to the all-tourney team.

In 1937 the Raiders would go into the postseason once again at the YMCA small school tourney.

The Raiders defeated the Thomaston Clippers 49-40 in the quarterfinals before beating the Eagles of Patten Academy 42-34 in the semis.

The Mustangs of Mt. Desert proved to be too strong and easily defeated the Raiders 44-24 in the championship game.

Bill Talbot Sr. father of William Deke Talbot of Gun House Hill was selected to the All-Tourney team.

A year later the Raiders were back in the thick of things once again.

Gardner Pope's club defeated

the Patten Academy Eagles 46-44 in the quarterfinals in overtime. In the semifinals, Lee Academy's Pandas fell to the Raiders, but for the 3rd time in seven years, the championship eluded them as Mt. Desert repeated as champs with a 37-36 win.

Arthur "Tart" Gardner a 1,000 plus point career scorer unheard of back in the thirties was a unanimous all-tourney pick. Tart is the father of Richard "Dick" Gardner and grandfather of Kevin Gardner both of Hadley Lake.

1938 marked the end of the YMCA small school tournaments. In 1939, the MPA sanctioned a state-wide tournament for small schools.

Shead High School made it to the Eastern Maine title contest after defeating Washburn in the semifinals. The Tigers would lose in overtime 30-28 to the Lynx of Mattanawcook Academy.

A year later Shead took it a couple of steps further by defeating Mattanawcook in the East Final and then became the first Washington County team to win a gold ball by defeating Livermore Falls 30-28.

The Maine Principals Association started sponsoring tournaments for girls in 1975.

Prior to that different schools around the state would claim to be state champs even though no official tournaments were ever held.

In 1931 Livermore Falls hosted what was claimed to be the first-

ever state high school basketball tournament.

Calais Academy for years had strong girls basketball teams and in 1931 they were undefeated under Coach Bernard Cough.

Back then guards were not allowed to cross the mid-court line which was a rule that was not changed until 1958.

Cough's Calais Academy team had a roster that included Gail Eye, Elizabeth Rutherford, Marion Norwood, Dorothy Frazer, Phyllis Pike, Thelma Barnard, and Irene Hall.

Calais entered the Livermore Falls tourney and their only way of arriving there was in the coach's car.

The car could only hold seven players and they traveled for two days to make the 200 plus mile trip in a snowstorm.

Calais played Stratton High School in game one and defeated the Indians 31-4.

In the semifinals, Calais defeated the Jay Tigers 37-17 which enabled them to play Oxford High School in the Championship contest.

Calais held a 21-17 lead after three quarters before dominating fourth quarter action to win going away 37-21.

Elizabeth Rutherford led the winners with 15. Irene Hall added 12 more while Gail Eye chipped in with 10.

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UMaine produces world's largest 3D-printed logistics vessel for U.S. Department of Defense

The University of Maine Advanced Structures and Composites Center has achieved a groundbreaking milestone in composite manufacturing with the production of two 3D-printed prototype logistics vessels for the U.S. Department of Defense.

Marine Corps Systems Command's Advanced Manufacturing Operations Cell (AMOC), in collaboration with the UMaine Composites Center, used advanced manufacturing techniques to successfully develop the expendable polymeric composite ship-to-shore vessels. The longer of the two vessels, the largest ever 3D-printed, simulates ship-to-shore movement of 20-foot containers representing equipment and supplies. The second vessel can transport a Marine rifle-squad with organic equipment and three days of supplies. The prototypes can be connected, maximizing the transport capability of a single-tow vehicle.

The ship-to-shore logistics vessels align with the 38th Commandant of Marine Corps Gen. David Berger's vision to "seek the affordable and plentiful at the expense of the exquisite and few when conceiving of the future amphibious portion of the fleet," due to relatively low-cost, speed and ease of production.

"Our national security and economic security depend on an innovative and robust American manufacturing base," said Barbara K. McQuiston, director of Defense Research and Engineering for Research and Technology, Office of the Secretary of Defense. "I applaud the University of Maine's Advanced Structures and Composites Center for their pioneering work in the

field of additive manufacturing. The advancements made here will bolster domestic manufacturing and ultimately support our warfighters in the field."

Joining McQuiston for the unveiling Feb. 25 at the UMaine Composites Center were U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King, U.S. Department of Defense leadership and University of Maine officials.

"In 2019, UMaine unveiled the world's largest 3D-printed object — a 25-foot patrol boat. Today, we celebrated the creation of 3D-printed vessels that will be more than twice as large and represent the next remarkable leap in innovation by UMaine," said Senators Susan Collins and Angus King and Representative Jared Golden. "This accomplishment is a prime example of how UMaine is leading the nation in large-scale additive manufacturing technology. These new boats continue the Composite Center's contributions to our national defense and will help fuel new breakthroughs in advanced manufacturing that will create good jobs here in Maine."

Using traditional materials and methods, landing craft utility vessels can take over one year to produce. The UMaine Composites Center printed and assembled one of the two vessels in a month. The vessels were produced using the world's largest polymer 3D printer, which the center commissioned on Oct. 10, 2019, earning three Guinness World Records.

To demonstrate the printer's capabilities, the Composites Center 3D-printed a 5,000-pound boat, 3Dirigo, in 72 hours, and printed a U.S. Army communications shelter

in 48 hours. The printer, with both additive and precise subtractive manufacturing capabilities, enables rapid prototyping for both defense and civilian applications.

The latest project to create the two 3D-printed logistics vessels is a significant milestone toward demonstrating advanced manufacturing techniques to rapidly constitute critical DOD assets closer to the point of need. The previously successful prototype was 3D printed in 2020, made from 25% aluminum. The vessels manufactured by the UMaine Composites Center are multimaterial composites with engineering polymer and fiber reinforcement.

"The leadership, vision and innovation of the Advanced Structures and Composites Center continue to make a difference in Maine and worldwide," said UMaine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy, vice chancellor for research and innovation for the University of Maine System. "The center's research and development capacity in collaboration with partners in Maine and beyond, its problem-solving capabilities and focus on workforce development are an important part of our Carnegie R1 top-tier research institution."

"Two years ago, we demonstrated that it was possible to 3D print a 25-foot patrol vessel in three days. Since then, partnering with the DOD, we have been improving material properties, speeding up the printing process and connecting our printer with high-performance computers that can monitor the print. With these tools in place, we have now printed a prototype vessel that will be tested by the U.S. Marine



Two 3D-printed vessels made at the University of Maine are capable of transporting two shipping containers and a Marine rifle squad with three days of supplies mark a groundbreaking composite manufacturing milestone. For security purposes, no images of the actual vessels have been released. Here, the UMaine team stands with Sens. Angus King (l-Maine) and Susan Collins (r-Maine). Submitted photo

Corps (USMC). The Advanced Structures and Composites Center is at the cutting edge of advanced manufacturing research and development, advancing state-of-the-art technologies like large-scale additive manufacturing and high-performance computing to develop practical, rapidly deployable and cost-effective solutions for defense and civilian applications," said Habib Dagher, executive director of the UMaine Composites Center. "We thank our partners at the DOD, USMC, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) and our Congressional delegation for their continued support. Today's groundbreaking achievement couldn't have been possible if not for the tremendous effort of our dedicated team of 260 ASCC faculty researchers, staff and students."

The Advanced Structures and Composites Center is a world-leading interdisciplinary center for

research, education and economic development, encompassing material sciences, advanced manufacturing and engineering of composites and structures. Housed in a 100,000-square-foot ISO-17025-accredited facility, the center has been recognized nationally and internationally for cutting-edge research programs leading and impacting new industries, including offshore wind and marine energy, civil infrastructure, biobased composites, large-scale 3D printing, soldier protection systems and innovative defense-related applications.

The Marine Corps' AMOC, established in 2019, conducts testing, experimentation and analysis to source innovative techniques and leverage advanced manufacturing technology. AMOC also provides 24/7 3D printing help desk support for the Fleet Marine Force and all equipment program offices.

'Dark store' theory: Walmart, large retailers push to cut millions in property taxes statewide

by Kate Cough, Maine Monitor

It's Wednesday afternoon at Walmart in Thomaston, and shoppers are rushing around — grabbing dog food, picking up prescriptions, perusing the towel aisle. It's clear that the store, less than a decade old, is busy if not thriving.

That's not the case according to attorneys representing Walmart, who have filed appeals arguing that the Thomaston location, and a number of other stores around Maine and the country, should, for the purposes of property tax assessment, be compared to a shuttered warehouse rather than an open store.

"They say we should be valuing their store equivalent to a store that's been closed and sold with restrictions on it," said Dave Martucci, the Thomaston assessor who called the situation "absurd."

Known as the "dark store" theory, the argument being made by retailers is that their open, bustling stores are equivalent

to ones that failed and closed. Companies argue that the stores are so specially designed that they are functionally obsolete nearly as soon as they are built, and will lose much of their value as soon as the retailer leaves. Corporate attorneys are deploying the strategy in an effort to slash property taxes, often by hundreds of thousands of dollars, in communities around the country.

Despite an outcry over the problem several years ago, and a vow by Maine lawmakers to help towns fight the appeals, the onslaught of requests has continued around the state. They are overwhelming assessors and creating a years-long backlog at a state board that hears the cases, as well as costing taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars in lost tax revenue and legal fees.

Since 2015, according to data collected by The Maine Monitor, large retailers have succeeded in lowering the valuation of their properties by more than \$16

million in communities from Biddeford to Bangor, resulting in hundreds of thousands of dollars in tax reductions. Hundreds of millions of dollars in abatement requests are still outstanding around the state.

Take Thomaston. Looking to expand beyond its successful Rockland location just a few miles away, Walmart opened a Supercenter there in 2013, complete with a pharmacy, grocery store, garden center, hair salon, and vision center. The 150,000-square-foot building cost roughly \$28 million to construct.

Thomaston officials gave a warm reception to the company, which promised to employ 300 people. "Welcome Wal-Mart," shouted then-Thomaston Town Manager Valmore Blastow to a crowd that gathered on opening day, according to the Bangor Daily News. "We have been pursuing this day for 13 years." The town even spent \$3 million on a sewer extension to reach that section of Route 1, in an effort to

entice Walmart and other large retailers to locate there.

Then, five years after the store opened, attorneys representing Walmart filed an appeal with the town's assessing department. They argued that the Supercenter was worth \$8.9 million, \$7 million less than the \$15.89 million that Martucci, the assessor, had come up with. The proposed valuation would cut the company's annual tax bill nearly in half, by \$172,354, meaning less money for schools, government, roadwork, and police and fire departments, and more profit for Walmart.

The company has filed nearly identical appeals every year since.

"This is all a strategy to wear down the town," said Martucci.

Retailers, assessors disagree on approach

Assessors determine property value in a number of ways. They take into account the cost to replace the facility, subtracting value for depreciation and adding improvements that have been

made. For retail properties, they might also look at the revenue the property generates, or at sales of comparable properties on the market. All of those factors are considered and reconciled to arrive at a final figure.

Companies, however, say depreciation is a much bigger factor than assessors take into account, and the revenue a business generates is not meaningful in valuing a property. They also argue that it's hard to get someone to rent or buy a defunct big box store and when stores do sell, it's for much less than the original owners paid to get the place up and running.

That's often true. The former Walmart site in Rockland, which closed when the Thomaston store opened down the street, was valued at \$10.1 million when it was open, but sold to Ocean State Job Lot for just \$3.13 million in 2013. A shuttered Walmart in Ellsworth sold for \$3.6 million in 2009, \$1.6 million less than the company paid a

(‘Dark store’ cont. pg. 20)

SPORTS

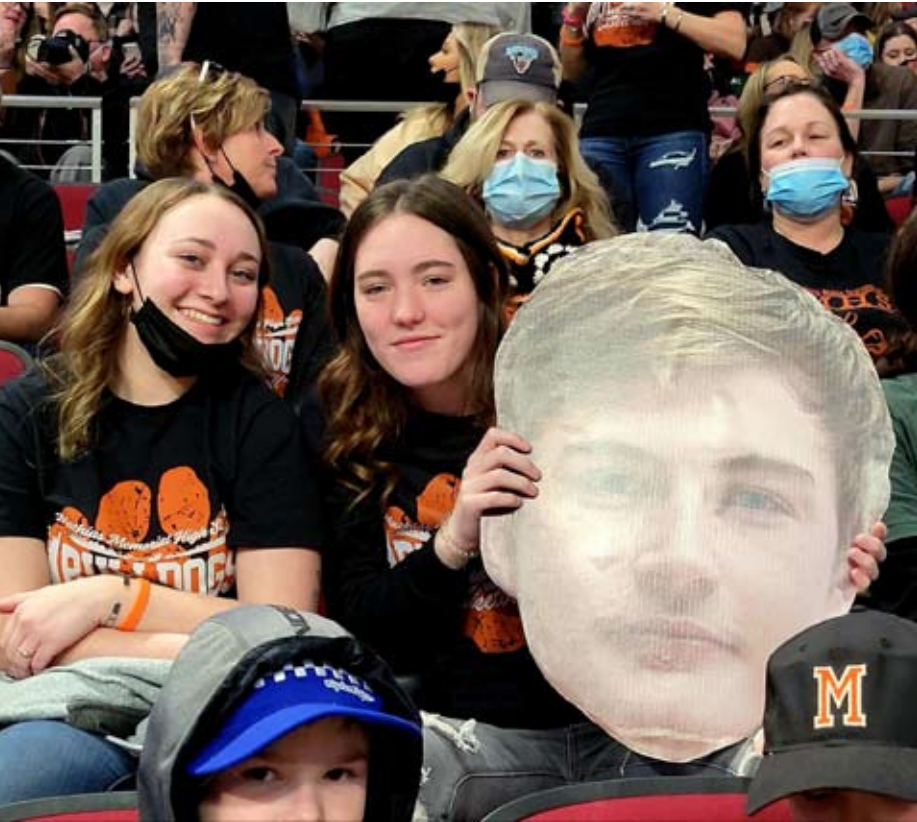
Bulldog fans are serious fans



Led by teacher Nadine Baker, left, the Machias Pep Band played their hearts out at all of the Bulldog and Lady Bulldogs games this tournament season. Photo by Sarah Craighead Dedmon



The Machias stands were packed at the Feb. 26 Class D North Regional Finals game between Machias and So. Aroostook, held at the Cross Insurance Center in Bangor. The Bulldogs lost 44-37, leaving them with an impressive 2021-22 record of 17-1. Photo by Sarah Craighead Dedmon



These Machias fans were BIG fans of Jayden "JJ" Rhodes. Photo by Sarah Craighead Dedmon



Royal Bulldogs (Jonesport-Beals, Machias) Cross Country Coach and Superfan Cindy Rossi came to the game in a custom-made hat and scarf, featuring paws in Machias Memorial High School colors. Photo by Sarah Craighead Dedmon

Canada eases entry requirements for fully-vaxxed

by Jayna Smith

As of last Monday, February 28, those wishing to enter Canada may do so with fewer restrictions. Now, for those fully vaccinated, a negative result from a rapid test will be accepted for entry, pending that test was administered by a health care entity, laboratory, or telehealth service. At-home test

results will not be accepted. Molecular tests, commonly known as PCR tests, will still be accepted as they have been when taken within 72 hours of arrival. According to the Canadian government, randomly chosen, fully-vaccinated travelers who get tested at the border no longer have to quarantine while waiting for the return of their test results. The Public Health Agency of

Canada said in its press release that the growing availability of rapid tests, coupled with Canada's high vaccination rate, were both major factors in the decision to loosen restrictions. As well, the peak of the omicron has passed, the press release noted. All travelers will continue to be required to submit their information via the ArriveCAN app or website.

According to Calais City Manager Mike Ellis, rapid testing that is allowable to enter Canada "could happen any time now" at the Calais testing site. The site, managed by Curative Labs, offers testing on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 7 a.m. to noon at the Calais Recreation Center, 11 Academy Street. There are no out-of-pocket costs to anyone using the site.

"I'm fairly certain the days and hours of operation will remain, and clinic duration is completely dependent on volume and community need," Ellis said. The regional manager for Curative Labs, Rich Wendel, did not respond to this publication's numerous attempts for additional information on the testing available.

Bird flu cases reported in Maine

by Natalie Boomer

On Feb. 20 and 23 cases of the Bird Flu were reported to the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry. "Cases have been reported in Knox County only. The backyard and commercial flock owners throughout the state are asked to practice protective security measures to help prevent disease," said director of communications Jim Britt. According to DACF, these birds have been placed properly under quarantine and affected birds have been euthanized humanely.

Symptoms to look for in your birds may include, decreased appetite, lethargy, decreased egg production, discoloration of legs, feet, combs, or wattles, respiratory symptoms such as cough or discharge from the eyes, or nose in your birds, and even death. There are various steps bird owners can take to try and prevent the Avian Flu. First, always practice structural and operational biosecurity. "Biosecurity refers to everything people do to keep diseases – and the viruses, bacteria, fungi, parasites, and other microorganisms that cause disease – away from

birds, property, and people," mentioned Britt. "Biosecurity is a team effort. Everyone involved in raising poultry must use structural and operational biosecurity to prepare for and prevent disease outbreaks throughout the United States. Put simply: we have to work together to protect our flocks." Make sure you're keeping up with the physical construction and maintenance of coops, pens, poultry houses, family farms, commercial farms, and other facilities. Keep visitors to a minimum and always wash your hands before coming in contact with live poultry. You can also use disposable boot

covers, change your clothes before entering an existing living quarters, and make sure your tools and equipment are disinfected before moving them to a new facility. "You can practice biosecurity each and every day. By practicing good biosecurity, you can reduce the risk of people, animals, equipment, or vehicles carrying infectious diseases onto your property – either accidentally or on purpose. You will also help protect other flocks by preventing the spread of disease," he said. Always look for signs of illness and report sick birds to a local veterinarian, cooperative extension

service, or state veterinarian. Call USDA toll-free at 1-800-536-7593. DACF is working with the US Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to prevent the spread of the H5N1 strain. At this time, there is no food safety risk. Poultry and eggs are safe to eat when handled and cooked properly. There are no cases detected in humans in the United States. More information can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/avianflu/avian-flu-transmission.pdf>.

‘Dark store’ Continued from page 18

decade earlier, not including improvements. The building now houses a Marden’s and a Tractor Supply.

But assessors say comparing sales of former big box stores to thriving open stores doesn’t make much sense for the purposes of property valuation. Location is everything in real estate, and those stores may have closed because their location was less desirable. Assessing rules require property to be valued as it exists on the date of valuation, not what it might look like at some future date. And the market for second-generation big box stores is different, meaning they may have a different “highest and best use” than when they were built.

Also, stores may close because they don’t meet certain benchmarks or a company wants to expand, which Martucci pointed out is “purely a business decision and does not necessarily reflect any market condition that affects value.” Plus, most former big box stores are encumbered by deed restrictions that prevent other companies from operating anything similar in that space, a common tactic for large retailers when they vacate a property.

Deed restrictions put in place by Walmart on the former Rockland store, for instance, prohibit anyone from using the facility as a grocery store, a discount department store, a wholesale club, a pharmacy or a recreational facility, among others.

That makes it almost impossible to tell what the property would have sold for without limitations.

“It’s understandable that they don’t want competition,” said Rep. Ann Matlack, D-St. George, who has sponsored legislation that aims to help assessors fight the requests. But because of the deed restrictions, Walmart placed on the property, “what the city of Rockland eventually got was a building that was of a lesser value,” said Matlack.

“Then the Super Walmart of Thomaston said, ‘This is what our building will look like in the future. We think this is comparable and we want our assessment lowered because we may be wonderful right now, but eventually we’re going to look like that.’”

‘Either way the taxpayer is going to lose’

At first, New Jersey-based tax firm Stavitsky & Associates, representing Walmart, offered little reasoning on why it felt the Thomaston store was overvalued. When the town said it would deny the request without more information, Stavitsky provided an analysis that compared the Thomaston Walmart to six

stores that recently sold or were for sale, only one in Maine.

Asked about the Thomaston case, Bruce Stavitsky said he was not authorized to speak on behalf of Walmart. Walmart and Lowe’s did not return requests for comment.

Most stores used for comparison were decades old. None had a supermarket, as the Thomaston building does. Some properties being offered as comparisons for assessing purposes were vacant, with deed restrictions intentionally limiting how the properties could be used.

The Stavitsky filing also claimed, according to the Thomaston Board of Assessors, that “the real estate has expenses but no income attributable to it,” an assertion the board called “astonishing.” The local board denied the appeal.

Walmart’s attorneys pressed on. The company took the matter to the State Board of Property Tax Review, which nearly four years later has yet to hear the case. Every year since, Walmart has filed nearly identical abatement requests, costing the town tens of thousands of dollars in staff time and legal fees. All are pending review by the state board.

If the town loses, said Martucci, “We’ve got almost \$900,000 in tax rebates we’d have to make, plus another \$71,000 in interest. That’s real money.” That doesn’t include the loss in taxes going forward.

Martucci estimated that Thomaston taxpayers have spent \$30,000 in legal fees alone in the past few years to deal with the requests. Other assessors said it was difficult to estimate their costs but that they were often “significant.”

“If we stick to our guns,” said Martucci, “we incur tremendous amounts of cost. If we don’t, then we lose a tremendous amount of tax value. Then everybody else in town has to pick up that slack. That tax money has to come from somewhere.”

The tactic of regularly appealing abatements is common and growing. Since 2015, retailers including Shaw’s, Walmart, Home Depot, Lowe’s, Walgreens, Sam’s Club and BJ’s have filed at least 66 abatement requests in 17 communities around the state, according to records compiled by The Maine Monitor.

In some cases they’ve prevailed, at least in part. In 2018, Bangor agreed to a \$2.19 million reduction in value for Walmart; the next year it reduced the value further, an additional \$1.33 million. Scarborough, faced with requests from Walmart, Lowe’s and Sam’s Club, agreed to a \$2.7 million reduction in Walmart’s value in 2018 and a \$1.76 million

reduction for Lowe’s in 2021.

Martucci understands why towns want to settle, but he worries that doing so may not actually be legal. It may also set a precedent that would make it easier for others to make a similar case, shifting more and more property tax burden onto residents.

“If we arbitrarily reduce the value to settle with them, we’re not basing that on any of the facts we’re supposed to use,” said Martucci. “If we don’t settle with them, the taxpayer is funding the bill for the legal process. Either way the taxpayer is going to lose.”

State board that hears cases is ‘non-existent’

Complicating matters in Maine is that the State Board of Property Tax Review, which hears requests that have been denied at the local level, has not heard a case in at least two years, according to several assessors.

Tens of millions of dollars in abatement requests and more than 30 cases dating to 2018 are still pending review and have not been scheduled for a hearing, according to documents obtained by The Maine Monitor.

The board, which has 15 members serving three-year terms, was created in 1986 to hear appeals from denials of tax abatements by assessors or local boards of assessment review. The state board deals only with non-residential property with a valuation of at least \$1 million, as well as cases related to tree growth, farmland, open space, mine site and working waterfront classified property.

Assessors around the state are frustrated with the backlog.

“The state board has been dysfunctional for many years,” said Martucci. Several assessors said they thought staffing issues, underfunding, board vacancies and the pandemic contributed to the problem.

Thomaston is still waiting to have the 2018 Walmart case heard by the state board. While it waits, Walmart continues to file abatement requests — one each year since 2018, all pending review.

Had the board heard the 2018 case in a timely fashion, it likely would have prevented those subsequent appeals, said Martucci, by providing a clear answer for assessors not just in Thomaston but around Maine. That could have saved taxpayers a lot of time and money in staff time and legal fees.

Rep. Matlack said that cases before the board, which was conceived to deal primarily with land use issues, had become increasingly technical and complex.

“It’s morphed over time to deal



Large retailers have succeeded in lowering the valuation of their properties by more than \$16 million since 2015. Walmart is responsible for 31 of the 66 abatement requests filed since 2015. Photo by Kate Cough



Lowe's has filed 13 abatement requests in eight communities since 2015, records reviewed by The Maine Monitor found. Photo by Kate Cough

with other tax implications, so it’s more difficult for them, although they’re very smart people. They don’t really have the staff. They don’t have anybody that can really help them.”

There is funding in the 2022-23 state budget for two positions, a supervisor to oversee the board’s process and clerical staffing, said Matlack. That will hopefully help alleviate some pressure.

When asked about the backlog, vacancies and the Thomaston case, spokesperson for the Department of Administrative and Financial Services Kelsey Goldsmith told The Maine Monitor in an email the board “will not be able to comment about this ongoing legal matter.”

Legislation aims to help assessors

Assessors hope legislation carried over from last session will provide some relief to communities. LD 1129, which recently passed out of committee, would require assessors to “consider age, condition, use, type of construction, location, design, physical features and economic characteristics” when valuing a property. It would apply to all property assessments, not just retail facilities, and would also bar companies from making the argument that restricted properties (such as the former Rockland Walmart) are comparable for assessing purposes to those that aren’t under such limitations.

The bill would allow assessors to “have another weapon in our arsenal to say you can’t take a thriving store or retail store

that’s doing well, that was built to do what it’s doing, and is still operating, and then tell me that the value of that should be the same as a store that failed or a store that’s old and no longer functional,” said the Rockland assessor, Kerry Leichtman, during a work session on the legislation earlier this month.

That would be nothing new. It would codify what assessors already do, said Leichtman, “but put it into statute rather than common practice.”

The legislation wouldn’t prevent anyone from appealing the assessment of their property, but would save municipalities a lot of money in court proceedings and staff time, said Leichtman, by giving assessors something to point to if a company makes an argument that it’s open business is equivalent to a vacant store.

Towns shouldn’t expect the legislation to prevent all big box abatement requests, however, said Peter Lacy, an attorney with Maine Revenue Services, during a committee hearing.

“Municipalities not being able to have the time or the wherewithal to go head to head against a Fortune 500 company is not necessarily something that you could solve statutorily,” said Lacy.

Adding statutory language may even be a setback because it means new language that hasn’t been interpreted by the courts, Lacy added.

“It’s not clear that there is a silver bullet for this issue.”

This article is reprinted with permission of the Maine Monitor.

STUDENT NEWS

4-H Nature Spin Club offered to Washington County Youth

by Natalie Boomer

This year, 10 lucky kids from Washington County will be able to participate in a new 4-H Spin club called "Nature in Focus".

This free program, hosted by the UMaine Cooperative Extension, will take these kids all over Washington County to places such as Pike Lands Preserve in Lubec, Ingersoll Point Preserve in South Addison, Pigeon Hill Preserve in Steuben, Middle River Park in Machias, and more.

"Participants will explore the outdoors through photography, environmental education, outdoor

recreation, and creative expression!" mentioned instructor and 4-H volunteer, Cathy Lookabaugh. "Each week we'll work to develop a deeper connection to nature by capturing photo moments and learning basic photography skills. We'll start with a short photography lesson then set off on a hike with a new photography challenge in hand."

The first adventure will take place on Saturday, March 5th and the last is set for Wednesday, October 26th.

"The photography lessons just cover the basics so it is perfect for anyone who may be a beginner just

interested in learning more about photography," she said.

There will be a photo showcase for those who would like to share their favorite photographs with members of the community at the end of the year.

Children from Washington County who are within the age range of 9 and 18 can pre-register at <https://extension.umaine.edu/washington/4-h-nature-in-focus-spin-club/>.

For more information contact 4-H Youth Development Professional Brittany Foster at brittany.foster@maine.edu, or call (207) 255-3345.

Washington County teens shine at national leadership forum

A group of local teens made their voices heard at the national level earlier this month. Eight high school students from Washington County were chosen to present at the 2022 CADCA National Leadership Forum, a four-day workshop that connects a nationwide network of youth leaders and allies from across the U.S.

CADCA's Forum is the premier and largest training event for community-based substance use and misuse prevention leaders in the country, and provides innovative tools and strategies to support participants and inspire youth in their prevention and leadership work at the local level. This year's event, which ran from January 31 to February 3, 2022, took place at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland, located just outside of Washington, D.C.

The youth representing Washington County were invited to facilitate a leadership workshop and share their experiences with Gateway to Opportunity (G2O), a work-based learning program offered through the The Opportunity Alliance and Maine Youth Action Network (MYAN) that helps youth ages 16-18 gain critical career readiness skills and competencies during the summer months through paid internships with community-serving organizations selected by MYAN to serve as partner host sites. The youth also shared highlights from their additional experience serving as student staff at Healthy Acadia's 2021 DownEast Teen Leadership Camp.

Healthy Acadia's Sara McConnell, Partnerships for Success Coordinator and Corrie Hunkler, Youth Engagement Coordinator, who serve as Downeast Teen Leadership Camp's Directors and mentored the group during their G20 experience, accompanied the youth, and were continuously wowed by their individual and collective passion and poise.

This was the first time that a group of youth from Washington County attended the Forum, now in its 32nd year. The eight teens worked alongside Healthy Acadia throughout late fall and early winter of 2021 to raise funds in their local communities in order to cover the costs to attend the Forum.

Throughout the event, the youth took full advantage of the various interactive workshops focused on substance prevention and community leadership skill-building.



Eight high school students from Washington County were chosen to present at the 2022 CADCA National Leadership Forum, a four-day workshop that connects a nationwide network of youth leaders and allies from across the U.S. Front row: MacKenzie Schors, Roy Duffy, Joey McLaughlin, and Ari Spencer. Second row: Ellie Claverie, Chloe Mankin, Edge Venuti, Landen Farrell. Top: Corrie Hunkler. Photo by Sara McConnell

"I met so many incredible people my age from around the country with similar values and goals as me which was truly inspiring," said Ellie Claverie, a junior at Washington Academy. "My favorite part of the conference was when we presented about the Gateway 2 Opportunity program that I was a part of over the summer."

After the presentation, many of the adults who had attended the workshop approached us and asked how they could create a similar program in their own cities or communities. This for me was super rewarding because by presenting my story I may have helped create more paid job opportunities for youth in different parts of the country!"

On Capitol Hill day, the youth had an opportunity to talk with Maine Senators Angus King and Susan Collins, as well as Representative Jared Golden, and share their thoughts and concerns about public health issues important to them, including climate change, gender equality, and other key public health issues impacting our communities and our state.

"We...brought up important issues," said Edgelynn Venuti, an 11th-grade student at Washington Academy. "This was a unique experience because, 1) It is pretty rare for people my age to be able to do that, and 2) Feel accomplished and actually make a difference. The conversations we had were worthwhile and I'm so glad I got to participate."

"I am so grateful to have had the privilege to join such inspiring and courageous young leaders at the CADCA youth leadership forum this year," said 18-year-old Chloe

Mankin of Cherryfield, who served as G20 Youth Team Leader. "I am leaving this experience feeling incredibly inspired, motivated, and pushed to continue this great work. The memories I have made during this trip will stay with me forever, and I know the same is true for the other members of my team as well!"

"The presentation that we did about G2O was a huge success," said Venuti. "I feel as though we truly inspired the people who attended and we definitely made a lot more connections."

The group didn't miss the opportunity to spend a full day exploring downtown Washington, D.C., to take in some incredible and inspiring exhibits at the Smithsonian, enjoy great food, and visit several of our national monuments.

Healthy Acadia joins this group of youth in sending a huge thank you to the Washington County community for helping to raise the funds needed to attend the CADCA Youth Leadership Forum. "We are extremely grateful for this unforgettable experience and for the opportunity to witness these inspiring youth who are making a real and positive impact at the local and national level," said McConnell.

Healthy Acadia is a 501(C)(3) community health organization building vibrant communities and making it easier for all people to lead healthy lives throughout Washington and Hancock counties. For more information about Healthy Acadia's youth engagement initiatives, and other health and wellness programs and services, visit healthyacadia.org.

Maine leaders release statement on Russia's attack on Ukraine

Last week, Maine Legislative leaders joined together to condemn Russia's attack on Ukraine. Senate President Troy Jackson, Senate Republican Leader Jeff Timberlake, Speaker Ryan Fecteau and House Republican Leader Kathleen Dillingham released this statement:

"Maine legislative leaders join in condemning Russia's invasion of the sovereign nation of Ukraine. We strongly condemn the assault, and support

an independent, democratic Ukraine. This violation of international law will result in the continued, senseless loss of human life and an international humanitarian crisis. It is vital that the world take appropriate action in support of Ukraine. We urge Russia to withdraw its forces, then engage in peaceful dialogue leading to an acceptable outcome that restores the territorial integrity of Ukraine and prevents further loss of life."

Healthy Living for ME recognizes March as Brain Injury Awareness Month

This March, Healthy Living for ME joins in recognizing March as Brain Injury Awareness Month. According to the Brain Injury Association of America, more than 3.6 million people sustain an acquired brain injury each year.

Acquired brain injuries fall into two categories, traumatic and non-traumatic. Traumatic brain injuries include contact injuries, such as those caused by falls or car accidents. Non-traumatic brain injuries are caused by occurrences such as strokes and infection.

"Brain Injury Awareness Month is a great time to let people know about the resources available to help them, including Healthy Living for ME. We offer several workshops that are beneficial for those with brain injuries and their caregivers, and we're also pleased to work closely with organizations like the Brain Injury Association of America," said Maija Dyke, Contract and Business Manager of Healthy Living for ME.

"Brain injuries are serious and challenging, but they don't need to define a person. Through our close work with Healthy Living for ME, we've been able to connect many people with education and support to help them and their loved ones improve their overall wellness as they deal with brain injuries," said Sarah Gaffney, Program Coordinator of the Brain Injury Association of America's Maine Chapter (BIAA-ME). Gaffney also encourages anyone affected by brain injury in Maine to

connect with BIAA-ME's Maine Brain Injury Resource Center for brain injury information, resources, and support.

Among the workshops Healthy Living for ME offers, some that may be of particular help for those with brain injuries and their caregivers are HealthMatters and Building Better Caregivers. With nearly 50% of acquired brain injuries caused by falls, the Falls Prevention workshop offered by Healthy Living for ME is a resource that can help people reduce their risk of falling and sustaining a brain injury.

For more information on these, as well as other workshops and resources available through Healthy Living for ME, visit www.healthylivingforme.org, call 1-800-620-6036, or email info@healthylivingforme.org.

For more information about the Brain Injury Association of America and their Maine Chapter, as well as Brain Injury Awareness Month events and activities, visit www.biausa.org/maine, call 1-800-444-6443, or email MaineBrainInjuryInfo@biausa.org.

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NOTICES / LEGALS

PUBLIC NOTICE
Town of Columbia Falls

The Town of Columbia Falls will hold its Annual Town Meeting at 7:00PM on Tuesday, March 15th, 2022 in the Wreaths Across America gymnasium.

MVNO000010298

NOTICE

VB Edge, LLC would like to place on notice the proposed construction of one or more 20-30' (including appurtenances) communication structures tower known as Edmunds #2 BGR501 (Whiting, ME) located at 44°44'59.72" north latitude and -67°15'22.81" west longitude at the approximate vicinity of at near South River Road, Whiting, Washington County, Maine 04691. If you have any concerns regarding historic properties that may be affected by this proposed undertaking, please contact: Miles Walz-Salvador, Lotis Environmental, LLC, at NEPA.NHPA@TheLotisGroup.com or (716)276-8707. In your response, please include the proposed undertaking's location and a list of the historic resources that you believe to be affected along with their respective addresses or approximate locations.

MVNO000010301

STATE OF MAINE
WASHINGTON COUNTY
PROBATE COURT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
18-C M.R.S. §3-801 (1)

The following Personal Representatives have been appointed in the Estates noted. The first publication date of this notice is **February 23, 2022**. If you are a creditor of an Estate listed below, you must present your claim within four months of the first publication date of this Notice to Creditors or be forever barred.

You may present your claim by filing a written statement of your claim on a proper form with the Register of Probate of this Court or by delivering or mailing to the Personal Representative listed below at the address published by the Personal Representative's name a written statement of the claim indicating the basis therefore, the name and address of the claimant and the amount claimed or in such other manner as the law may provide. See 18-C M.R.S. §3-804.

ESTATE OF WENDELL T. ALLEY, LATE OF BEALS, DECEASED. Joyce C. Alley, P.O. Box 217, Beals, ME 04611 appointed Personal Representative. Docket #2022-028

ESTATE OF ANTHONY AMMENDOLIA, JR., LATE OF ABINGTON, MA, DECEASED. Anthony Ammendolia, Sr. and Meridith Ammendolia, 1098 Fairbanks Road, Farmington, ME 04938 appointed Co-Personal Representatives. Docket #2022-035

ESTATE OF WILFRED JOSEPH DOUCETTE, JR., LATE OF WHITNEYVILLE, DECEASED. Brenda L. Donaghy, 266 Smith Ridge Road, Dennysville, ME 04628 appointed Personal Representative. Docket #2022-029

ESTATE OF JOHN A. GIANNETTI, SR., LATE OF JONESPORT, DECEASED. John A. Giannetti, Jr., 30 Juniper Lane, Saugerties, NY 12477 appointed Personal Representative. Docket #2022-031

ESTATE OF ELIZABETH MARIE HATTON, LATE OF CALAIS, DECEASED. Brenda L. Robb, 34 Mahar Street, Calais, ME 04619 appointed Personal Representative. Docket #2022-033

ESTATE OF GERALDINE A. LIBBEY, LATE OF MACHIAS, DECEASED. Belinda J. Polk, 80 Port Road, Machiasport, ME 04655 appointed Personal Representative. Docket #2022-030

Date: February 18, 2022
Publish on February 23 & March 2, 2022

/s/ Carlene M. Holmes
Register of Probate

MVNO000010289

STATE OF MAINE
WASHINGTON COUNTY
PROBATE COURT
PROBATE NOTICES

TO ALL PERSONS
INTERESTED IN ANY OF
THE ESTATES LISTED
BELOW:

Notice is hereby given by the respective Petitioners that they have filed the following proceedings. These matters will be heard at **10:00 a.m.** or as soon thereafter as they may be on **March 15, 2022**. The requested actions may be taken on or after the hearing date if no sufficient objection be heard. This notice complies with the requirements of 18-C M.R.S. § 3-403 and Probate Rule 4.

ESTATE OF NANCY LYNN DeANGELO, OF CUTLER. Petition of Nancy Lynn DeAngelo, requesting that that person's name may be changed to NANCY LYNN MOLINSKI. Nancy Lynn DeAngelo, Petitioner, 131 Ackley Road, Cutler, ME 04626. Docket #2022-038

ESTATE OF SHELBY NICOLE FULLER, OF LUBEC. Petition of Shelby Nicole Fuller, requesting that that person's name may be changed to SHELBY NICOLE PECK. Shelby Nicole Fuller, Petitioner, 103 Main Street, Apt. 13, Lubec, ME 04652. Docket #2019-033-02

Date: February 18, 2022
Publish on February 23 & March 2, 2022

/s/ Carlene M. Holmes
Register of Probate

MVNO000010290



NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
14 M.R.S. § 6323

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale dated January 18, 2022 which judgment was entered on January 25, 2022, by the Superior Court for Washington County at Machias, Maine, in an action brought by **Machias Savings Bank** against **Penelope P. Foss**, Docket No. MACSC-RE-2021-13, and wherein the Court adjudged a foreclosure of a Mortgage Deed granted by Penelope P. Foss dated April 22, 2018, and recorded in the Washington County Registry of Deeds in Book 4549, Page 116, the period of redemption from said judgment having expired, all of the following described property will be sold at a public sale at 1:00 p.m. on March 31, 2022, at 25 Center Street in Machias, Maine. The property to be sold is further described on the Town of Machias Tax Maps at Map 15, Lot 44, together with and subject to the rights, covenants, easements, and encumbrances affecting the property. Reference should be had to said mortgage deed for a more complete legal description of the property to be conveyed.

TERMS OF SALE

THE PROPERTY HEREINABOVE DESCRIBED IS BEING SOLD ON AN "AS IS" "WHERE IS" BASIS, WITHOUT ANY WARRANTY WHATSOEVER AS TO THE CONDITION, FITNESS, SIZE, OR LOCATION OF THE PROPERTY OR THE STATE OF TITLE TO THE PROPERTY.

The bidder to whom the property is sold must, at the time and place of sale, make a deposit of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) by cash or certified check, and must sign a Purchase and Sale Agreement with Machias Savings Bank, which agreement shall provide in part (i) that the purchaser will be responsible for all real estate and/or personal property taxes and other municipal charges attributable to the respective property unpaid and in arrears and for all subsequent tax years as assessed by the Town of Machias, and (ii) that a closing of the sale shall be held within thirty (30) days of the public sale where the remaining balance of the purchase price will be paid in cash or certified funds. The conveyance will be by Release Deed. Machias Savings Bank expressly reserves the right to bid, to modify the terms of the sale set forth above, to add additional terms as it so wishes, and to authorize the mortgagor to sell the property prior to the sale date. All other terms and conditions of sale, including any modification or additions to the terms set forth above, will be announced by the auctioneer at the time of the sale.

For further information, contact Central Maine Auction Center, 44 Concord Road, Hermon, Maine 04401 ■ (207) 848-7027 ■ www.cmauctioncenter.com.

MVNO000010291

NOTICE OF INTENT TO DEMOLISH
DANGEROUS BUILDING
(Pursuant to 17 M.R.S. §§ 2851-2859)

&
NOTICE INSTRUCTING REMOVAL OF
ABANDONED PROPERTY
(Pursuant to 30-A M.R.S. § 3106)

TO:
**Richard C. Kelsey Jr. and/or
Current or Former Owners of
Map 1, Lot 105**

You are hereby notified that the Town of Addison, Maine, no sooner than 21 days from receipt of this notice, intends to take action to remove the building known as the "Old Clam Shop" located in the Town of Addison, on Map 1, Lot 105, and revegetate the area of this property impacted by this building.

This action is taken pursuant to the following authority: 17 M.R.S. §§ 2851-2859; *Town of Addison v. Richard Kelsey*, CV-2018-08 (Me. Super. Ct., Was. Cnty., Oct. 2, 2018; *Richard Kelsey v. Town of Addison*, AP-17-03 (Me. Super. Ct., Was. Cnty., Oct. 2, 2018; Findings and Order-Amended 8/24/2017 Pursuant to 17 M.R.S.A. §§ 2851-2859 (Dangerous Buildings). Municipal Officers of the Town of Addison, Maine (August 24, 2017); and Article 3 of the September 20, 2021, Special Town Meeting of the Town of Addison.

You are further hereby notified that you have 21 days after receipt of this notice to remove any "covered property," as that term is defined by 30-A M.R.S. § 3106(1)(A). If this property is not claimed within 21 days after receipt of this notice or if you have claimed the property within the 21 days but failed to take possession of the property within 10 days of claiming it, the Town will see to its sale or disposal. Any proceeds from any such sale will be deposited in accordance with 30-A M.R.S. § 3106(5).

Dated: 2/22/2022, Municipal Officers of the Town of Addison, Maine


/s/ Verlan R. Lenfestey Jr.

/s/ William R. Gray


/s/ Joshua L. Stubbs

MVNO000010302

HELP WANTED



Eastport Health Care, Inc.

Our Specialty is YOU!

Certified Medical Assistant

Machias Office

People are the key to success of our health center and we rely on our staff to make our patient-focused vision come to life. If you are a Certified Medical Assistant interested in joining our team, we would love to hear from you!

Eastport Health Care has an opening for a Full-Time CMA in our Machias offices. The position requires excellent people skills and the ability to provide coverage as a Medical Assistant. Must have proficient computer skills and possess excellent communication skills, and a positive attitude. Electronic medical record experience is required.

Please submit cover letter and resume to:
Eastport Health Care, Inc.
Attn: Elaine Curtis, H.R. Manager
30 Boynton St.
Eastport, ME 04631
ecurtis@eastporthealthcare.org

*Eastport Health Care is an
equal opportunity employer & provider*

CA000009639



**BETH C. WRIGHT CANCER
RESOURCE CENTER**

**seeks
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**For more information & application visit
www.bethwrightcancercenter.org**

Application Deadline: April 1, 2022

**The Beth Wright Center offers hope, knowledge &
support for people affected by cancer**

MVNO000010308

NOTICES / LEGALS

**Notice to Jonesboro
Residents**

There will be a public hearing on Thursday, March 24th, at 6 P.M.
The location will be the Town Office
Topics are: Changes to the Shellfish Ord.
New Com. and resid., wind turbines
New com. and resid. communication towers.

MVNO000010307

**Machiasport Town Notice
Nomination Papers**

Nomination papers are available at the Machiasport Town Office
for the following elected offices:

One (1) Selectman for a three (3) year term

One (1) School Board Member for a three (3) year term

Papers must be returned to the Town Clerk no later than 4 PM,
Friday, April 22, 2022.

MVNO000010307

**Town of Marshfield
Special Town Meeting**

**March 7, 2022
7:00 pm**

At the Marshfield Town Office to vote on the proposed Shoreland
Zoning Ordinance.
Registrar of Voters will be available before the meeting for those
who need to register to vote.

Marshfield residents are encouraged to attend.

MVNO000010303

**Position Opening
AOS 96**

**Jonesboro Elementary School
Grades 5/6 Classroom Teacher**

Applications may be obtained at the Office of the Superintendent

SCOTT K. PORTER
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
AOS 96
291 COURT STREET
MACHIAS, ME 04654
255-6585

Position will be filled when a suitable candidate is found.

EOE

MVNO000010300



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FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

The V.L. Tammaro Oil Co. Inc., one of Eastern Maine's largest family owned retail heating oil, propane gas, havac, petroleum transportation companies, in business for over 65 years is currently accepting applications for an experienced financial controller.

Responsibilities include: Cash flow management, hands on day-to-day accounting tasks and operations including billing A/R and alp, state and federal tax preparations and returns, monthly financial statements, payroll, federal and state licenses and registrations, human resources functions including employee health insurance applications, unemployment claims, 401K applications and reports, new employee hire files.

Requirements include: Prior working experience as a financial controller, minimum 3 years of overall combined accounting and finance experience, advanced degree in accounting, thorough knowledge of accounting principals and procedures, experience with creating financial statements, excellent accounting software knowledge including quick books, excel and word.

Benefits include: sign on bonus, paid holidays and vacations, paid health, dental and vision insurance, 401K, life insurance and discounts on employee purchase of heating oil, propane and equipment.

Please email resume to vtammaro@vtammaro.com or by mail to V.I. Tammaro Oil Co. Inc.
P.O. Box 279 Baileyville, ME 04694, Attention Mike Tammaro

CA000009581

HELP WANTED



St. Croix Regional Family Health Center
Dental Hygienist

SCRFHC is a Federally Qualified Health Center providing medical, dental and behavioral health. SCRFHC is growing. We want to expand our team. This position will be responsible for providing appropriate oral health information to individuals and groups and work closely with and under the supervision of dentists. This position could be full-time or part-time.

- Requirements include:**

 - Unrestricted license to practice Oral Hygiene in the State of Maine
 - Current CPR (BLS) certification
 - Graduation from an accredited school of dental hygiene.
- Please submit resume to:
**Corinne LaPlant,
Executive Director
SCRFHC, 136 Mill Street,
Princeton, ME 04668**

See full job descriptions at
www.mystcroix.org

SCRFHC is an equal opportunity provider and employer CA000009430

TOWN OF MACHIASPORT

PO Box 267, Machiasport, ME 04655
255-4516

Planning Board Members

Do you love our community? Do you have a desire to serve in a worthwhile capacity? Do you long to see responsible growth and prosperity? The Town of Machiasport is seeking interested persons willing to serve on our Planning Board. The Planning Board meets monthly and approves building permits according to laws and ordinances which regulate them. If you have expertise in related fields or have a desire to serve, we'd like to hear from you! Please contact the Town Office to complete an application. Applicants must be 18 years of age and a voting resident of Machiasport. All applications should be submitted to the Town Office on or before March 25, 2022 at 4:00PM.

MVNO00010285



Plant Operations Worker

Look's Gourmet Food Company / Bar Harbor® Foods is one of the fastest growing seafood companies in the United States and producer of authentic, Maine, premium and specialty food products. Due to rapid expansion we are looking for additional team members who like to be challenged, and value the opportunity to make a difference. Duties include palletizing orders, preparing food for cans and placing finished product in trays. Must be able to lift 25lbs. A professional demeanor, good organizational skills and basic math are needed. Typical work week consists of Monday - Friday with mandatory overtime.

Plant/Shuttle Driver

We are also in immediate need of a shuttle driver. Duties will include shuttling product from Whiting to Cutler Warehouse and performing other duties under the direction of the Plant Manager. Must have a clean driving record. No CDL required. Pay commensurate with experience. Typical work week consists of Monday - Friday.

Look's Gourmet Food Company / Bar Harbor® Foods provides an excellent competitive compensation for qualified candidates and a benefits package including: Exceptional medical/dental/vision/disability insurance, paid vacations, bonuses, paid holidays, generous matching 401(k) plan, PTO, and employee incentives.

Interested applicants are directed to fill out an application.
Facility located on Rte 191 in Whiting.
Look's Gourmet Food Company, 1112 Cutler Road, Whiting, ME 04691

MVNO000010246



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Eastport Health Care aspires to meet a full spectrum of health needs in rural Maine with innovative, affordable treatment. If you are interested in joining our team, we would love to hear from you! Please visit our website for career opportunities at <https://www.eastporthealth.org/jobs/>.

- Current open positions:**
- Bookkeeper – Eastport Office
 - Full-time Medical Assistant in Machias
 - Full-time Medical Assistant – Calais Behavioral Health
 - Patient Services Representative/Floater – Eastport Medical

For more information or to submit a resume,
please contact Elaine Curtis, HR Manager at
207-853-0181 or ecurtis@eastporthealth.org.

CA000009638



First Atlantic Corporation

Fulltime Director of Nursing –
Long Term Care/Skilled Nursing

Objectives: The Director of Nursing (DON) manages the nursing care of all residents/patients and coordinates nursing services with all other departments to ensure proper and quality care. He or she must provide leadership, implementation, oversight, consultation, direction, monitoring and training for all Nursing and Nursing related operations including; clinical management of geriatric and other long term care and skilled patients/residents, customer satisfaction, census development, regulatory compliance with state and federal regulations, quality improvement and outcomes, policy and procedure development, and achieving operating plan goals in areas of profitability and nursing personnel. With an extremely busy skilled nursing facility environment and diverse levels of care, the DON is tasked with ensuring a minimum of a 4 Star quality setting for all residents, staff, and visitors of the facility.

Qualifications: Must possess, as a minimum, a State of Maine RN License and demonstrated knowledge and experience sufficient to perform all Director duties with excellence.

Application Information: Siana Schoppee, OTR/L & Administrator-In-Training
Phone: (207) 255-3387 Ext. 210
Email: aitmarshalls@firstatlantic.com
Facebook page: Marshall Healthcare

MVNO000009868



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Downeast Community Partners, serving Washington and Hancock counties, is seeking part-time drivers to join its transportation team in the **Machias/Milbridge** area. We provide transportation to individuals in need of rides for medical, and other necessary appointments. Extensive training is provided to all drivers in order to provide safe and timely transportation as required by our transportation contracts.

No Commercial driver's license required but candidates must have clean driving record, pass criminal and child protective background checks and meet drug and alcohol testing requirements.

Apply today to join our team assisting your neighbors overcome the challenge of finding safe, reliable transportation when they need it most.

Applications may be obtained from Downeast Community Partners, 248 Bucksport Road, Ellsworth, ME 04605; telephone: 207-664-2424; or download on our website at www.downeastcommunitypartners.org.

Send resumes to: resumes@downeastcommunitypartners.org

Downeast Community Partners is an Equal Opportunity Employer

MVNO00010293

HELP WANTED

WANTED

Administrative Assistant

Town of Whiting Town Office
Approximately 24-30 hours per week

Job description call 733-2027 M-W-F
or email whiting@roadrunner.com

Send letter/resume to:

Town of Whiting
PO Box 101
Whiting Maine 04691

EOE

MVNO000010309

New Office Opening
T&B Title of Ellsworth, LLC,
d/b/a Caisleán Title - FT Processor

We are expanding our team, are you the right fit for us?
Sign on Bonus after 60 days.

Duties will include processing, answering phones, and obtaining real estate information for closing services.
You must have attention to detail and be a self-starter.

We are a closing and title insurance business, with competitive pay and offer generous employer benefits.

Please submit your resume and cover letter to Matt Goodwin
at 209 High Street, Ellsworth, Maine 04605 or
matt@citadellandtitle.com, responses will be kept confidential.

MVNO000010296

CLASS A & B TRUCK
DRIVERS WANTED

Currently seeking Class A & B truck drivers with a clean driving record to transport forest products, tree length wood as well as chips, within state lines. Little manual labor required. Knowledge of drivers log book rules and regulations are helpful. This job is five days a week during the summer months and six days a week during the winter months. No previous off road experience required but is very helpful. For more information please contact:

Guptill's Logging
Lyle or Erik Guptill
P.O. Box 226
East Machias, ME 04630
(207)255-4130
erik@twinlakes.me

MVNO000009518



Overnight Sanitation
Technician

True North Maine Inc., a division of Cooke Aquaculture Inc., has an immediate opening for an Overnight Sanitation Technician at our Machiasport, ME facility.

Position offers full-time year-round employment, competitive hourly rates, and a competitive benefit package.

Please forward your resume to:

True North Maine, 133 Smalls Point Rd, Machiasport, Me 04454
Attn: Human Resources or email patty.ferguson@cookeaqua.com
or call 207-255-6714 ext 2419

MVNO000010294



Fish Processing Technicians

NEW HOURLY RATES!!!!

True North Maine Inc., a division of
Cooke Aquaculture Inc., has immediate openings for
Plant Production Workers at our
Machiasport, ME facility.

Positions offer full-time year-round employment, competitive hourly rates
and a competitive benefit package for full-time positions.

Employee only medical insurance plans start at no cost to the employee.

Please forward your resume, in confidence to:
True North Maine, Inc. Attn: Human Resources, patty.ferguson@cookeaqua.com
or call 207-255-6714 ext 2419

True North Maine Inc. appreciates all resumes; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.
Equal Opportunity Employer

CA000008376



Cooke Aquaculture has immediate openings for:

Marine Site Technicians
NEW HOURLY RATES!!!!

Primary duties include monitoring and operating the feeding systems, net-washing and general site maintenance. This is a labor-intensive position and applicants must be comfortable working outside and on the water. Must be willing to work flexible hours and have reliable transportation.

Service Vessel Deckhands
NEW HOURLY RATES!!!!

Primary duties of this role include performing watch keeping duties, fire and security rounds, general maintenance and hygiene duties as directed, including painting, cleaning, and maintenance work

Health, dental, and vision benefit packages available and matching 401K.
Employee only medical insurance plans start at no cost to the employee.

Please forward your resume, in confidence to: Cooke Aquaculture USA, Attn: Human Resources 133
Smalls Point Rd., Machiasport, ME 04655 patty.ferguson@cookeaqua.com or call 207-255-6714 ext. 2419

Equal Opportunity Employer

MVNO000009813



Eastport Memorial Nursing Home

Open Position
Director of Nursing

Due to the retirement of the incumbent DON, we are seeking a dynamic and committed Director of Nursing to join our team. The DON has the administrative authority, responsibility and accountability necessary for carrying out assigned duties and assumes the role of Administrator in her absence.

The ideal candidate will have a history of working in long-term care; excellent communication, organizational, and customer service skills; management experience; the ability to plan, organize, develop, implement, and interpret program goals and outcomes; and proficient computer skills.

Must possess a State of Maine RN License and be fully COVID-19 immunized.

Market competitive salary, health insurance premium reimbursement, dental insurance, life insurance, PTO, sick time.

For a complete job description, request an application, or submit resume contact:

Camela Deschene, Administrator
23 Boynton St., Eastport, ME 04631
(207) 853-2531, ext. 11
administrator@emnh.org
Facebook page: Eastport Memorial Nursing Home

EMNH is an equal opportunity employer

CA000009654



Classifieds



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MVNO00000311



Freedom Studies

Continued from page 7

Inclusion Studies. To be fair, there are plenty of jobs in the various woke sectors of the economy that generously reward virtue signaling, whining, and grievance mongering, while offering ample opportunity to bash heterosexual white males, capitalism and freedom. Glen Frey was right-Freedom? That is just some (racist white supremacist homophobic) people talking.

I never imagined that three British Commonwealth countries, cultural inheritors on the Magna Carta, would willingly toss away their freedoms to fear and Fauci, but Australia, New Zealand and Canada have done exactly that. It is not surprising that leftist politicians would seize and abuse power (David Horowitz famously

stated, "Inside every liberal is a Totalitarian screaming to get out"), but the speed at which Canada went from democracy to fascism under "Mooselini" Trudeau is amazing, and with the support and apparent approval of a majority of the populace. The late Charles Krauthammer compared his native Canada to his adopted America as follows: "In America the national motto is "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness," and in Canada it is "Peace, Order, and Good Government." I very much doubt our neighbors will have any under their dictator, although the trucks may run on time if they can do so with robot drivers, as the truckers are placed in financial prisons and reeducation camps.

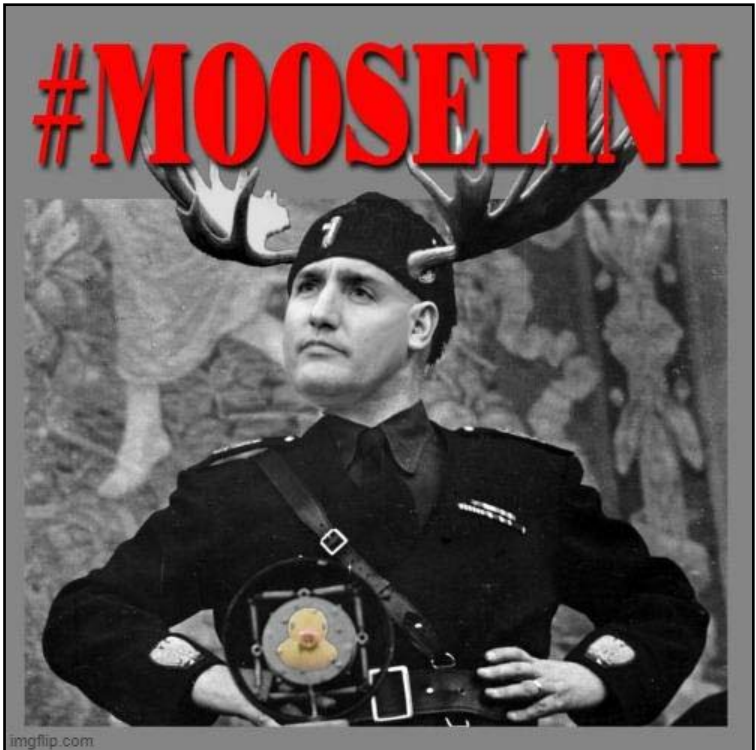
Justin Trudeau: Equal Opportunity Racist/Cultural Appropriator/Woke Leftist Fascist



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GENERAC

MVNO000010206

Eastport Health Care and Maine CDC Public Health Nursing COVID Vaccine Clinic

Dates: Mondays—January 31, February 7, February 14, February 28, and March 7

Time: 12:00 – 6:00 pm

Location of Clinic: Sennett Hall, University of Maine Machias (116 O'Brien Avenue, Machias)

Vaccine Available: All presentations and doses (Pfizer Ages 12+, Pfizer Ages 5 – 11, Moderna, and Janssen/J & J)

No pre-registration needed.



OUTDOORS IN MAINE



Round one: deer yard protection

by V. Paul Reynolds

Reversing the precipitous decline in Maine's traditional deer-wintering areas will help restore our North Woods deer numbers. Deer yards used to comprise about 12 percent of our big woods. Today that figure is a dismal three percent.

For a number of reasons, state regulation and cooperative protection agreements with timberland owners over the years have proved marginal at best in protecting deer yards.

Thankfully, action at the legislative level has the potential to reverse this trend. A recently

enacted law, LD 404, An Act to Preserve deer Habitat, allocates part of \$40 million for the outright purchase of critical deer wintering areas. In coordination with the DIF&W and the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, the Land for Maine's Future (LMF) will secure matching funds and negotiate purchases of deer yard habitat from private landowners.

The new initiative has already begun to bear fruit.

LMF has recently announced the contractual agreement to purchase 930 acres of traditional deer wintering areas, including 170 acres of wetlands, in the Caribou

Stream tract near Washburn in Aroostook County. According to LMF, the land is under contract with the seller for a purchase price of \$347,000. Matching Federal funds have been secured for the purchase. Although the property has many other ecological attributes, including a major trout stream, the property will become a new Wildlife Management Area (WMA) for the state. MDIF&W will manage the property primarily to protect longstanding deer wintering areas.

This is a long haul project that cannot be accomplished overnight.

The Washburn acquisition is a beginning in the annals of deer-yard recovery.

The challenge for the various stakeholders is to properly identify significant deer wintering habitat, negotiate a fair purchase price with timberland owners, and ultimately manage these areas, which will include coyote control programs to reduce deer yard predation upon weakened whitetails.

A spokesman for LMF says that more deer-yard purchase arrangements will be revealed in May.

This winter's prolonged cold and deep snow in the North

Woods reminds us that, climate change indices notwithstanding, our wintering whitetails still need all the help that they can get in order to make it to spring thaw.

The author is editor of the "Northwoods Sporting Journal." He is also a Maine guide and host of a weekly radio program — "Maine Outdoors" — heard Sundays at 7 p.m. on "The Voice of Maine News - Talk Network." He has authored three books; online purchase information is available at www.maineoutdoorpublications.com or www.sportingjournal.com. Contact email — vpaulr@tds.net.



The Nature of Phenology

A weekly feature on the timing of outdoor occurrences

By Hazel Stark and Joe Horn

Common Redpolls

by Joseph Horn

For several years, I lived alongside the quiet backwater of a small Downeast river. In summer I would swim or canoe its tannin-stained waters, but it was in winter when this sinuous stretch of water came into its own. Most years, the liquid water of the river would transform into a crystalline highway for bobcats, coyotes, deer, and, of course, me. By ice skate, ski, or snowshoe, I could traverse 10 or so miles stretching between a small dam to the south and a small waterfall to the north. Across the river were public lands so I could feel free to follow tracks, investigate small frozen creeks, and generally soak up the winter splendor. On one such outing on skis, my partner in crime and I decided to follow a small feeder creek which chained together beaver ponds like so many pearls on a necklace. Three ponds in, we were overcome by a dense flock of birds whirling all around us from birch tree to birch tree hanging arched over the landscape as a relic of ice storms past. Upon closer inspection by camera and binoculars, we realized that this was an iconic flock of small winter finches: the common redpoll.

Redpolls are small finches with diminutive pointed beaks made expressly for consuming the small winter seeds of birches, alders, willows, spruces, and various grasses, sedges, and rushes. They are streaky cream and brown with a characteristic forked tail and red splotch on the top of their little heads. Some individuals will have a pink wash over their breast feathers. They comb through the landscape from seed-bearing tree to seed-bearing tree only stopping long enough to eat as many seeds as they efficiently can before moving on to the next.

Redpolls are sporadic visitors to our neck of the woods. While

technically part of their winter range, redpolls are decidedly polar in their preferences and only travel south seeking abundant food and warmer, sunnier haunts for the winter. If Maine's seed-bearing trees aren't particularly prosperous on a given year, the redpolls might go to Nova Scotia, Vermont, or perhaps Montana. Redpolls are far-ranging birds that care little about distance and care not at all for our human-imposed political borders.

In fact, the phrase "far-ranging" almost doesn't capture just how far these flocks will travel. Redpolls summer in the arctic tundra and, much like so many arctic species, they are a "ring species." That is to say that if you look down at the globe with the north pole in the center, redpolls live all across the northern reaches of North America, Europe, and Asia in a donut-shaped distribution. Because there are few human communities in the tundra, most people only find them in the winter when they migrate southwards, but only when food in their locality is abundant. As a result, this common species, whose global breeding population is estimated at around 160 million is only seen fairly sporadically. Individuals will travel so far throughout this range that a redpoll banded in Michigan was recovered in later years in

Siberia; others banded in Alaska showed up in the eastern US, and yet another banded in Belgium later turned up in China.

Surviving deep winter requires some specific adaptations. For one, when nighttime temperatures plummet, so do these little birds. Rather than perching in trees where they are exposed to the full brunt of a subarctic winter night, the birds instead will burrow up to a foot deep in fresh, powdery snow where they are insulated from the cold and protected from the wind. While this protection is helpful, no home stays warm without stoking the furnace and they sure know how to keep it stoked. A common redpoll will consume almost half their weight in protein- and fat-rich seeds each day and can store around a third of this cache—about two grams—in a modified portion of their esophagus that serves as a pouch. This allows them to load up on food while exposed to harsh weather and hungry predators, then retreat to the safety and warmth of cover to dine in peace and safety, much like a chipmunk.

So this weekend, what aspect of a redpoll will you most embody? Will you travel far with your friends in search of suitable winter haunts? Will you frantically gather, prepare, and store food to ensure you have enough food to make it



Redpolls are small finches with diminutive pointed beaks made expressly for consuming the small winter seeds of birches, alders, willows, spruces, and various grasses, sedges, and rushes. Photo courtesy Pixabay

through the next cold spell? Or will you simply crash and burrow under a warm blanket to wait out the worst? Whatever path you choose, you might poke your head outside to see if you can catch a glimpse of one of these marvelous winter songbirds.

The author lives year-round in Downeast Maine, is Co-Founder of Maine Outdoor School, L3C, and is a Registered Maine Guide. He volunteers to co-produce The Nature of Phenology for WERU-

FM with Hazel Stark. This piece is an excerpt from that weekly 5-minute radio program, which airs on 89.9FM near Blue Hill or streaming at weru.org at 9:30am on Saturdays. To learn more, listen to episodes, submit observations, or subscribe as a podcast, visit thenatureofphenology.wordpress.com. Joseph can be reached by emailing naturephenology@gmail.com.



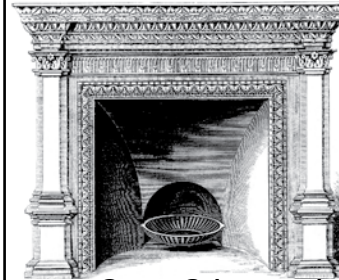
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Bulldogs take it to Bangor, leave Class D North Runner Ups

by Sarah Craighead Dedmon

The Machias Memorial High School boys varsity basketball team have hung up their jerseys for the 2021-22 season with an impressive 17-1 record. In last Saturday's Class D North finals game against Southern Aroostook, Machias was defeated 44-37, giving them the region's runner-up award. Coach Jim Getchell is proud of his team.

"We had a great season and we played well all year," said Getchell. "We just came up a little bit short at the end."
Of the 14-man Bulldogs, five seniors will graduate this year, including seniors Kashman Feeney, Kyle Anderson, Brady Hatt, Ryse Moholland, and Jayden Rhodes.
"This group has been together all the way up through, starting in peewee ball," said Getchell.

"They've had a lot of success, they were a tight-knit group, very committed."
In total, the Bulldogs have been in championship games three out of the past five years, including a 2020 Class D North Regional Championship.
We're going to be okay, we'll be a tournament team next year," said Getchell, "There's a lot of athleticism and skill with this group."



Junior Shane Feeney.



Team captains Kyle Anderson, Jayden Rhodes, and Kashman Feeney hold the Class D North Runner-Ups award. Photos by Jason Overby



Senior Kyle Anderson.



Senior Jayden Rhodes.



Junior Ethan Foss.



Senior Kashman Feeney.



Bulldogs coach Jim Getchell, who coaches with his son, Dustin Getchell. The Bulldogs are managed by Angie Scribner.

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