

The Cape Courier

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In the Spirit of Community

CEHS Debate Team wins state championship

By Kevin St. Jarre



Contributed photo

The CEHS Speech and Debate Team made a terrific showing at the recent Maine State Speech & Debate Tournament, and the debate team won its first state championship in several years.

At the Maine State Speech & Debate Tournament, the Cape Elizabeth High School Debate team, reestablished in 2011 with the help of a \$1,500 Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation grant, won its first state championship.

The CEHS Speech and Debate Team is

comprised of Speech, Lincoln Douglas debate, Public Forum debate and Congressional Debate. The Speech team placed third in its sweepstakes ranking.

Among the team members, there were

-see DEBATE page 3

Two-time past president provides insight into Purpoodock landscape changes

By Kevin St. Jarre



Photo by Nylah Lyman

Residents of Cape Elizabeth have noticed some changes at Purpoodock Golf Course, and have been asking questions as to why so many trees have been removed. The decisions, according to a club past-president, were in line with recommendation about the health of both the trees and the course.

Residents of Cape Elizabeth have noticed some changes at Purpoodock Golf Course, and have been asking questions as to why so many trees have been removed, and what the decision-making process might have been.

Jonathan Brogan is a two-time past president of the Purpoodock Golf Club, and has been club champion 15 times. He participated in the planning for the recent landscape changes, and therefore has a firm grasp on the purpose, the process and the plans, and can provide answers for the community.

Brogan said, "We had a consultant come in from the United States Golf Association, and that consultant looked at the health of the golf course, and the health of our trees, and he said that this was not a healthy situation for either the trees or the golf course."

Next, according to Brogan, the club

brought in other experts. "We then reached out to a Maine-based forest management company who came in and looked at the trees only...and they said that we had a lot of blown-over trees, and dead trees, and trees that were not thriving because for years and years there had been no one paying attention to them. So, they suggested a plan to us about taking care of the trees, and cutting down some of them and leaving some of them, which would improve air circulation and sun to all the rest of the trees, as well as the golf course, and that's what's been going on the last few months."

He said he understands that "it does look jarring to everyone, especially when there are no leaves" this time of year. Brogan said

-see PURPOODOCK page 5

Cape sports play on thanks to athletes, parents, staff, admin

By Kevin St. Jarre

Athletic competition has long been part of Cape Elizabeth High School's long and proud heritage, as the children of state champions are contenders for state championships of their own. Of course, during a pandemic, what is usually a lot of work with many moving parts, has become that much more complicated for athletes, their parents, Athletic Director Jeff Thoreck, his administrative assistant Sue Ray and his coaching staff.

The winter sports season continues. The season began but then came to a halt because the region went to a condition "yellow" with regards to COVID-19 risk, and then restarted with a couple weeks of practice before games could be played.

Many feel fortunate that students have had the opportunity to play, with basketball and hockey teams playing both home and away, but the swim program is conducting things a bit differently. All swim teams swim in their home pools, even when competing against other teams in a meet. Times

are recorded and shared. One swim team is designated as the home team, and the other is away, even though both teams are swimming in their home pools, and the designated home team submits all the times for both teams. Indoor track has been limited to practices only, simply because the teams are too large to manage those types of numbers indoors at a meet. The CEHS indoor track team has approximately 50 student athletes, which is the policy limit for the number of people who can be in an indoor space safely.

The spring sports season historically begins the last Monday in March, except for pitchers and catchers who typically start the week before. So far, that hasn't changed and that would be the call of the Maine Principal's Association, and not a local decision. There is some speculation around southern Maine that the season may be delayed for a week or two.

For volleyball, normally a fall sport, a decision was made to move the start of a trun-

-see SCHOOL SPORTS page 6

Music returns to Fort Williams Park this summer on July 5

By Cape Elizabeth Community Services

Pack a picnic, spread out a blanket, and gather with family and friends at Fort Williams Park to listen to the sounds of the sea and some great music.

The town of Cape Elizabeth, Cape Elizabeth Community Services and Fort Williams Park are excited to announce the inaugural season of Sounds by the Sea. "Based on input from the Fort Williams Park Committee and the Fort Williams Park Master Plan Questionnaire, we are working to bring back a lost tradition of musical performances at Fort Williams Park," said Jim Kerney, Fort Williams Park Committee Chair.

This free family-friendly six-week summer concert series will begin on Monday, July 5 starting at 6:00 p.m. and ending at sunset. Performance locations will rotate between Battery Knoll, The Bandstand and the Picnic Shelter.

"We are mindful of the challenges which may lie ahead in bringing the community together this summer, however, we are optimistic that we can do so safely," assured Director Kathy Raftice.

Front Porch Blues, Always Sometimes, Travis Humphrey, and Maine Marimba Ensemble have been slated to perform. CECS staffer Linda Strunk has been busy in search of local talent who will offer a variety of experiences for all to enjoy.

Meanwhile, CECS staffer Jane Anderson is working to secure six corporate sponsors to underwrite the cost of per-

formers. Interested in being the spark that helps ignite our inaugural season? Contact her at 207-799-2868 or jane.anderson@capeelizabeth.org to find out more about becoming a Beacon, Shining Light or Lantern sponsor.

Park Coordinator Chris Cutter reminds us to observe park rules when visiting. In particular that there are no trash receptacles so whatever you bring in with you, please take home with you. Additionally, the use of tobacco, alcohol

and/or other drugs on the grounds is prohibited.

We look forward to enjoying each other, the park and the performers at the Sounds by the Sea.



Contributed photo

The inaugural season of Sounds by the Sea will kick off this summer at Fort Williams on Monday, July 5.



Daylight saving time 2021 in Maine will start at 2:00 a.m. Sunday, March 14



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Best wishes to John Greene on his retirement

Numerous groups and town initiatives have benefited from John Greene's expertise and guidance over many years, and the Cape Farm Alliance wants to thank him for his countless contributions to Cape Elizabeth's farm community. John has been a guide, a resource, mentor and friend to all in our town's agricultural community.

John is a charter member of the Cape Farm Alliance. He was instrumental in crafting the farm-preserving ordinance changes that the town requested and tasked the Alliance with drafting. Deftly sifting through all our complex regulations, he was able to foresee problems within and suggest reasonable changes to minimize future roadblocks to our farms' successes. The Alliance's proposed changes were adopted, essentially verbatim, by the Planning Board and Council over five years

ago; a testament to both John's expertise and Cape Elizabeth's deep commitment to agriculture.

Additionally, as manager of the Sprague Corporation, John has been an invaluable resource and advocate for agriculture, coordinating with the Sprague families and local farmers to facilitate food production on Sprague lands. John was always willing to provide help and advice on a moment's notice.

Most of all, John is a great guy and a good friend. We have been blessed to have him with us as the town grows and as we work to successfully merge an expanding suburbia with our long heritage of farms and fisheries.

**With gratitude,
 The Cape Farm Alliance**

'Major reservations' about proposal and council's course

This letter is in reference to some zoning amendments being proposed by the Town Council to accommodate the construction of a multifamily affordable housing building on property abutting the Town Hall. Details of the project are found in the developer's presentation at Szanton_Company_Presentation_2.1.2021_Workshop.pdf. A zoning rewrite will more than double footprint size, add a story to building's height and change

its use. Additionally, \$750,000 in TIF funding will be required.

We strongly support the provision of affordable housing in town, but have some major reservations regarding both the proposal and the course the council has chosen to address it. The latter issue first: It is highly inappropriate and an extremely bad precedent to make several changes in a town ordinance to suit the specific needs of a single developer. This property has already been blemished by the destruction of an RP2 wetland previously protected by the town's wetland ordinance. What faith can we have in any town ordinance?

We also seriously doubt the financial viability of 49 single bedroom apartments and have concerns about the multiple and complex arrangements for the operation's support. The developer seeks relaxation of the previous age restriction, hence it's hard to tell if enough parking spaces have been provided. Surely, traffic around the Town Hall and at the frequently chaotic intersection of Ocean House, Shore and Scott Dyer roads will increase.

Finally, we do not think the campus of the town hall is an appropriate setting for such an imposing structure.

Peter and Alice Rand

-see more Letters to the Editor on page 4

THANK YOU!

Your donations and other contributions help keep this community newspaper coming to your mailbox.

Thank you to this recent generous contributor:

Daniel Spratt & Patricia Maddoff

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In a Valentine's Day memory of Edward H. Robinson

Lee Schroeder & Jules Tortolani

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Let us hear from you! 

We love feedback!

editor@capecourier.com

'Our family remains hopeful'

Dear CE School Board members:

In four short months, school will be finishing up for the year, yet Cape families are still unaware of any plan for our students to return to full-time, in-person learning. While we appreciate the FAQ document recently published on social media, we are left wondering when CE schools will begin to offer solutions and start to operate on facts versus fear. Documents such as this continue to give the impression that Cape does not want to open full-time.

We have seen some amazing, phased re-opening plans from other public schools in the state that have involved collaborative input and communication with community members.

Unfortunately, we have been left wondering if and when Cape will offer the same opportunities and feel as though the lines of communication from the board have been closed off. Does the board have intentions to actively engage with families on how we can work together so that our children are receiving the opportunities that they need and deserve?

Our family remains hopeful that you will be the voice that we elected and will begin to actively communicate the work and progress being done to reopen Cape schools for full-time learning.

The Pfeifferberger's

Ice fishing: 'the best new winter activity'

Dear Scott Shea (Maine Guide and Owner of Seaspray Kayaking and Paddleboarding, and CEHS PE Adventure teacher):

We loved our amazing mornings on Great Pond with you. This winter you introduced us to ice fishing. It is the best new winter activity we have ever done and now all we want to do is ice fish. We liked ice fishing because we could put the trap in, use the minnows as bait, and then play hockey or just talk with our friends and hope for the flag to go up. If we catch a fish, great! If we don't? Still great!

We want to thank you for your time with us on Great Pond, teaching us how to ice fish, and showing us a fun way to be outside together. And thank you to Cape Community Services for organizing such a cool activity.

We should do it again soon!

Finn Connolly, Henry Griffin, Charlie and Leo Lampman, and Kip Reynolds



Then and Now: When the saints went marching in

By Jim Rowe



Photo courtesy of Jim Rowe

A few of the Saints checking over an arrangement (left to right): John Fowler, Jim Peabables, Mike Campbell, Marty Hartford, Pete Gross and Jim(me) Rowe.

It was 1964. The Beatles were riding herd on a burgeoning counterculture.

Here in town, it was the Cape Elizabeth High School Saints who formed a “counter-counterculture” of sorts, rebelling against the outrageousness of rock and roll while resuscitating the dance music of our parents’ generation. I was a seventh grade saxophonist at the time. But a group of CEHS musicians invited me to join their band, the Saints. It’s not every day that one is invited into Sainthood (especially when you’re still alive and have not done anything particularly remarkable in the 13 years you’ve been on the planet). So I became a Saint.

Glenn Miller, Duke Ellington, the Dorseys, Benny Goodman, Les Brown, Artie Shaw, etc. were our heroes. We played at senior centers and nursing homes, for church social groups and service organizations, and at the occasional variety/talent show. Most of our gigs were performed gratis, but occasionally we would receive a modest honorarium. I think our biggest payday was probably when we received \$150 or so (split eight ways). We used the money to grow our repertoire by ordering sheet music at Starbird Music in Portland.

There were usually about 8-10 Saints. Guys would come and go. We typically had a piano player, two or three trumpets, three saxes (one who doubled on clarinet), a drummer and one or two trombones. At gigs, we looked quite professional in our white shirts, dark ties and slacks, and signature red vests, perched behind our big-band-style music stands. Each stand was adorned with a painted comet blazing across the firmament, with “Saints” scrawled across the tail. I never did figure out the connection between comets and



Photo courtesy of Jim Rowe

Jimmy Rowe ready for “The Copa.”

saints, but was too timid to expose my naïveté.

The leader of the Saints, Marty Hartford, signed us up to compete in a Battle of the Bands one spring evening at UMPG in Gorham. We arrived to set up at the end of the gym with three or four other bands—all of them rock and rollers. A spaghetti of electrical cords and a large village of amplifiers and microphones cluttered the floor. One of the event organizers asked Marty where our equipment was. Our instruments, comet-emblazoned stands and folding chairs were pretty much it. But could we please roll out the upright piano that was tucked over in the corner? Otherwise, John Fowler, our incredible pianist, would have been relegated to kazoo.

After each of the rock bands had played their four-song sets, the Saints unloaded with “Night Train,” “In the Mood,” “Pennsylvania 6-5000,” and “Begin the Beguine.” To say that we shocked the panel of judges would be a gross understatement. We had created a problem for them. The crowd was there to hear R&R. But we were clearly the better musicians. So, on the spot, they huddled and invented an “honorable mention” award just for us.

We laughed all the way back to Cape Elizabeth.

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The gift of gratitude

By Elise Bridge

One evening, after a day at the home office ran late, I took my dog for a walk in the woods. This seems like a simple chore, but became so much more as I delighted in seeing the sheer enthusiasm of my pup Izzy.

Along the connector path abutting a neighbor’s backyard, I appreciated the tree fort they had built for their children to create so many fun memories, and enjoyed listening to the wind chimes set into motion by the ocean breeze. We continued on through the crunch of the snow along the trail, breathing in the fresh, crisp air; it felt invigorating. And in the middle of the woods on a small evergreen, were faintly colored pastel twinkle lights. It was magical and just made me breathe slow and deep, while I took it all in.

This short walk in the woods rejuvenated

me. By taking the time to savor the moment and be present, I became thankful for so many things. For where we live, affording us a walk in the woods and the smells of the ocean. For our dog, whose galloping down the path and wagging of her tail demonstrates such pure delight. For CELT, providing and maintaining great trails. For the person/people who shared the light in the heart of the forest.

The pandemic has impacted us all differently, but nonetheless we are all struggling to cope and find our way through. Taking a pause and thinking about the things that I am truly grateful for has helped me find some happiness. I hope it inspires you to notice your ‘gift moments’ and I invite you to share the joy by emailing me at CapeGratitude@gmail.com.

Debate

Continued from page 1

individual state champions, including Swetha Palaniappan and Kyla Christie for Public Forum Debate, Ben Stone for Storytelling and Sonia Wold for Dramatic Interpretation.

In addition, Debate team captain Jinya Fisher LaPlante was awarded the Jane Laughlin Excellence in Debate Scholarship by the Maine Forensic Association, voted on by the league’s coaches. The citation for the award noted Fisher-LaPlante’s leadership of the team for the past two years, her nimbleness as a competitor—excelling first in Lincoln Douglas and then in Public Forum—and her service to the community, including continuing the team’s partnership with the Portland Boys and Girls Club middle school debate program.

CEHS Principal Jeff Shedd congratulated Lisa Melanson, Ph.D., the faculty advisor, saying she “championed debate and supported students who wished to see CEHS sponsor a team. They have come a

long way, and it has always been with her leadership.”

Dr. Melanson said, “I was pleased that all three teams within the larger team had success yesterday. I like to remind students that it’s a team, not a club; that is, you don’t just show up for yourself but for your teammates. That commitment lifts you up; you’re buoyed by each other’s presence and energy. I am proud of the way seniors led by example: on the Speech side, Devan Newell and Marco Hansel; on the Debate side, Jinya Fisher-LaPlante, Kyla Christie, Swetha Palaniappan, Nicoletta Coupe and Cecily Trout; and Joey Labrie, leading a young Congress team of freshmen and sophomores. I encourage students interested in joining the team to contact me.”

Dave Register, a 2006 Cape Elizabeth High School graduate and CEHS theatre alumnus, served as the assistant Speech coach and provided incisive feedback in weekly practices.

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‘One wasted year is enough’

Our family no longer has students in the Cape Elizabeth school system, but it is the duty of all citizens to stay active in ensuring that all children of our town are provided with an excellent education.

I listened to the February 9 School Board meeting and was shocked to hear the lack of urgency from the administration and board members to return our students to full time in house education as soon as possible.

The great majority of parents and interested others understand that remote learning is an abject failure, particularly for elementary students. During the public comment portion of the meeting, one student’s parent described how she and her spouse have both been work-

ing in the health care sector since the start of the pandemic, while minimizing risk to themselves. Many thousands of essential workers (as are teachers) have found a way to show up every day and do their job well.

The Cape Elizabeth School Board should insist upon and plan for a return to full time in house education without delay. For one whole year now, students have had, at best, a third rate experience.

Be guided by science, not unfounded fears. It is past time for citizens to be silent while the students’ needs have the lowest priority. Get our kids back to school! One wasted year is enough!

Frances Haywood

Let’s ‘work together’

Our school superintendent and high school principal are about to retire. We are in the midst of a pandemic and as plans are pursued to get our children back in school, a clear exit strategy remains somewhat elusive. But we are in this together.

We are genuinely afraid. We see the toll that isolation and lack of schooling has on our children. Their love of learning has been replaced by moodiness and apathy. Our concerns over academic deficits are real, and grow each day. Our children are socially and emotionally hurting. And our community’s most precious resource - our teachers - are extremely stressed as they work tirelessly to educate within a model that is failing both them and the children they love.

We acknowledge and are extremely appreciative of the positive steps that the school board and administration have made around communication over these last several weeks. In that light, we sincerely and respectfully ask for the creation of a school board subcommittee or an advisory committee dedicated specifically to these issues - and for a forum conducive to the type of interactive dialogue our community so desperately needs right now.

Foremost though, we are committed to work together to be part of the solution and to find a path to safely get our children back in school as soon as possible. Thank you.

Cape Elizabeth Parent Committee for Education (CEPCE)

Thoughts on Then and Now article from Feb. 17 issue

I read Jim Rowe’s article, “Then and Now: Early Race Relations in Cape Elizabeth” with interest and appreciated his closing sentence, “Hopefully we are better today than we were 400 years ago.”

One way for us to do better is to recognize how dehumanizing and offensive some of the language Rowe quotes in the article is. How would a descendant of the Wakanaki people who populated these lands when it was colonized feel when reading the words, “Jordan was an aggressive sort and was openly known as ‘Indian Killer’”? When we do not acknowledge the insensitivity of a characterization like this, we perpetuate its harm.

Similarly, when Rowe himself talks about “the demise of the local native population” and writes that warfare and disease “redefined the local Wabanakis as a dwindling minority... who died off or drifted to other more stable tribal units,” he could consider how his words fall short of accurately articulating the truth. The Wabanaki had lived on the land now called Cape Elizabeth for over 10,000 years prior to settler colonization. They were decimated by the genocide perpetrated by the white Europeans who took this land and built their farms and settlements here.

Martha Sutro

Proposed project ‘not the answer’

Creating a vibrant town center including affordable housing is an admirable goal. The proposed Dunham Court project next to Town Hall is not the answer.

The developer, Szanton Company, is asking for variance on four zoning ordinances. Building height, density, maximum footprint and building use are being considered. Are we really interested in mimicking the development that is happening in Portland? Creating 49 units, assuming at least one car per unit, will increase traffic in an already busy area. Will we need another traffic light? The traffic light issue at the center of town has been debated often with no resolution.

The original approval to develop this site specified creating new retail or restaurant space on the first floor of the buildings. The proposed project allows no commercial activity. The described “lively town center” re-

quires this.

While I applaud the creation of affordable housing, one-bedroom apartments leave no room for families. Don’t we want to encourage more families with school age children to join our aging town? We should prioritize housing for our town workers, teachers, police and firemen.

In rushing to permit this development, much is being overlooked. The drawings of the development do not show enough parking for 49 units. If more businesses and living units are built, where will everyone park?

The majority of Cape residents want to retain the rural character of our town. We should be able to retain what makes Cape great and provide affordable family housing.

June Farrow

‘Enough wilting and fading’

If you’ve ever locked a plant that requires sunlight in a dim room for, say, a year, you have some idea of what’s happening to our kids after a year of partial schooling that is long on screen time and short on in-person interaction.

We know many of our fine Cape teachers empathize. They embody enthusiasm, excellence and dedication to our children, but their superpowers are, alas, scant protection against the static model of hybrid learning we’ve endured for a year. We laud the efforts of our educators—they work tirelessly, without complaint.

But the fact of this sunless room and lack of an exit bears examination. Our kids have less and less appetite and enthusiasm for school; they are lost. And so we say, enough wilting and fading. What is the plan for re-

opening our schools? Why are Cape parents asking this question? Biddeford proposed a novel plan for a phased, full reopening beginning March 1. Massachusetts will reopen schools in April. Vermont and New Hampshire schools are open. Neighboring private schools have been open all year. And Cape? That sound you hear? It’s the stasis of the closed, sunless room. It’s the sound of wilting children and educators.

With the onset of the pandemic, our schools adjusted, admirably. It is time to readjust. If ever there were a district with the resources, culture and flexibility to overcome such adversity, it is CESD. The future appears dim, and growth unlikely, unless we act now and together. For our children.

Alexander and Aimee Parsons

Project ‘jettisons decades of planning’

I believe we all want affordable housing in our town, but the new multiplex proposal breaks five existing laws, requesting to: increase the building height from three to four stories, increase the maximum footprint size from 5,000 to 12,000 square feet, change the required multi-use buildings (retail+residential) to residential only, reduce parking requirements, and give \$750,000 of our TIF funds to meet his financial needs.

Because spot zoning is illegal, to greenlight this project would require that new ordinances apply to the entire TC district. This jettisons decades of planning by thousands of citizens.

In 1993 a town center plan was created, then revised and updated several times, most recently 2014. Comprehensive plans were created in 1981, 1993, 2007 and 2019. These all required extensive preparation, lengthy

meetings, costly surveys, multiple public hearings, and hundreds of emails to arrive at a consensus: citizens want a vibrant, small-scale town center with attractive buildings that offer mixed commercial and residential spaces.

To abruptly change all of this history at the behest of one developer feels astonishingly disrespectful—to current and future business owners, members of prior committees, elected officials, and most of all our citizens. Is approving one building really worth reversing so much work and trust? I think not. The planning board must to ask Mr. Szanton to come back with a proposal that follows our community’s existing laws. If he is unable to do so, the town council should reject his proposal.

Sara Lennon

Note from Jim Rowe

I wish to thank Ms. Sutro for her letter to the editor. Her points are well taken. I am happy that she acknowledged the last words in the article, because therein lies the sum-

mary message that I hoped to impart- that we ALL need to do better (including me).

Jim Rowe



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News from the superintendent

By Dr. Donna H. Wolfrom

In order to keep the community more informed we are working to increase the avenues of communication with which information is distributed. Here are the ways we will increase the visibility of the work being done:

We have created an FAQ that is available on our website. We will be adding to it as we receive questions.

We will add a Covid-19 update to the regular business meeting. Each month there will be a focus, such as the plan to reopen full time, when we are notified that the MDOE guidelines change, what it will take to open full time and what is holding us back. Topics for additional meetings will be identified.

Every Friday I will write a Covid-19 Newsletter Update. The update will include some basic information in bullet point style (such as guidelines, color designation, planning progress for full time in CE, for example) regarding any changes or recent planning information.

Right now administrators are in the planning stage for the Return to School Full Time plan, for when the MDOE social distancing requirements are revised. There are many unknowns when working with the plan such as what will the revisions outline. This will impact transportation, lunch, schedules, arrivals and departures, and classroom size. We are planning that the return will be similar to pre-COVID procedures, however social distancing revisions will impact our reality.

Progress in plans will be shared as our effort continues. I strongly encourage community members to contact Governor Mills and their Senators and Representatives to advocate for the vaccination of teachers and school staff.

With the retirement of Jeff Shedd, Principal at Cape Elizabeth High School, efforts are underway to secure a new principal. In December I met with CEHS staff to discuss what they were looking for in a principal. Advertisements went out for the position in late December and a Search Committee was formed consisting of high school teachers, two School Board members who are also parents, and several school and district administrators. Two students were also involved in the second round of interviews.

We had many applicants, and in January members of the Committee reviewed the applications and selected qualified candidates for interviews. In late January we interviewed eight candidates and a result of those interviews called back three candidates for further interviews. The Committee continues to meet to discuss the selection of a finalist for this important position and we hope to make a decision in the near future.

The Search Committee for the selection of an architectural firm to design a new Pond Cove Elementary and Cape Elizabeth Middle School facility advertised for a request for qualifications in late January. Nine architectural firms submitted applications. Applications were reviewed by the Committee and five were selected for interviews which were held on February 25.

The Committee is in the review process for this important selection and finalists will be re-interviewed in the near future.

The Cape Elizabeth School Department held a workshop on February 23 for the purpose of moving forward with the development of the FY22 School Budget. The meeting was held via Zoom. There was an opportunity for citizens to comment on the budget at the start of the meeting as in every budget meeting. Questions, based on administrators' presentations of budget requests at the last meeting had been forwarded from School Board members to the appropriate administrators.

Answers to those questions were provided at this meeting and are available on the website: https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/1138658/School_Board_Workshop.pdf.

The FY22 School Budget increase over FY21 currently stands at 7.15 % The increase originally was 7.4%. This reduction has resulted from several factors including the reduction of the required retirement contribution for the district, and a reduction of requested course reimbursements from staff. We will continue to work to reduce the increase on the FY22 budget.

We are waiting for notification of our increase in the percentage of increase in

our health insurance benefits which will be available in early April. In addition, we are awaiting word on the status of the Maine Learning Technology Initiative (MLTI) funding from Augusta.

The next FY22 School Budget Workshop was held on March 2 via Zoom. The meeting focused on answering additional questions based on administrators' responses to the previous questions, a review of the ED279 document, and a discussion of the use of the fund balance.

I encourage all Cape Elizabeth citizens to attend the budget development workshops. An opportunity for citizen comment on the budget will be held at each meeting. In addition, videos of the meetings are available on our website by clicking the CETV icon at the bottom of the page, in order to keep the public up-to-date on the budget process.

This is an extremely busy and important time in our school department calendar with the development of the budget for the following year, hiring to fill positions for those who are leaving or retiring, the selection of an architectural firm to design a safe and educationally supportive school building, providing ventilation projects that will enable us to have more students in our buildings, addressing the various challenges that contact tracing and impacted staff present, and planning for a return to a somewhat normal school schedule as soon as possible. I would like to assure the public that I am committed to working as hard as possible for the remainder of my career to provide the best education possible to our Cape Elizabeth students.

Purpoodock

Continued from page 3

that this portion of the project, which is the most visible to the public, is nearly completed and they expect it will be finished "within a couple of weeks."

The hope, Brogan said, is that the remaining trees will thrive. He said that for now the aim is for increased airflow, so they will not be planting trees, but the club plans to add flowers and other growth. "We plan on overseeding many of the areas with wildflowers, and we hope it's more beautiful than it was before," Brogan said.

Greenbelt Gazette

By Maureen O'Meara

The Town of Cape Elizabeth is testing a monthly e-newsletter on Greenbelt trail news and updates. Response to this pilot issue will be evaluated to determine its appeal and usefulness to trail users.

We hear from greenbelt trail users all the time that the town's 18+ miles of trails are treasured by Cape residents. In an effort to improve the trail experience, we are experimenting with a monthly newsletter to share news and promote best practices.

Multi-user Mantras

- Epod litter. Please do not drop cigarette litter. The spent pods contain chemicals harmful to environment and to pet and wildlife that may consume them.
- Dog waste bags. Thank you for picking up after your pet. Please do not leave the doggie waste bag behind, but rather dispose of it similar to household trash.
- Frisky pet=leash. Most town trails are available for off-leash walks, however your dog must be under voice and sight control at all times. If your dog's joy of the outdoors overwhelms its ability to keep some distance between people and other dogs, then a leash should be used.

What's New?

Town Farm Trail improvements. The Conservation Committee is planning to install new boardwalk on the Town Farm Trail after years of efforts to stabilize the often muddy surface. Permitting is in the works. In order to stretch greenbelt trail funding, the committee will be calling for volunteers to install board walk this spring/early summer.

Featured Trail of the Month

For the next Gazette, this section will include a description of the delights of a Town trail submitted by a reader. Send your mini-essay, including the trail location, and your name to maureen.omeara@capeelizabeth.org. We look forward to hearing from you.




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Keeping Cape hopeful

By Cape Elizabeth Community Services



Contributed photo

Yoga Instructor Sharon Wilke at Fort Williams Park.

Exciting news! In just a few days, The Cape Explorer will again be delivered to your door.

Resident registration opens online at www.capecommunityservices.com on Sunday, March 28 and opens in person or over the phone (207-799-2868) on Monday, March 29.

All of us here at Community Services continue to work with each other, our instructors, and our program participants and their families to safely offer in-person programming. "Making in-person programming would not be possible without

the dedication of the staff and the support of the community for which we are very grateful," said Kathleen Raftice, Director.

Our forthcoming spring/summer brochure includes nearly 100 youth, adult and senior opportunities to be active and engaged.

With the end of the swim season in sight, Pool and Fitness Center Coordinator Andrew Kemp is reintroducing upper-level group swim lessons after school this spring. Jane Anderson, Senior Program Coordinator, has lined up weekly guided walking tours, cruises and lunches to

keep our aging residents active. Most of these programs will take place outdoors and participation will be limited to seven to maintain proper social distancing on-board our 14-passenger van.

Since Covid, we have had to be creative on the use of and repurposing of space available to us. Fort Williams Park Coordinator Chris Cutter has been eager to have more Community Services programs at the park. He has been collaborating with co-workers to determine which programs are suitable and at which site they would be most successful. So again, Linda Strunk, Adult Program Coordinator, is offering Fitness at the Fort. Sign up to increase your flexibility and mobility with Instructor Sharon Wilke's yoga and Instructor Sarah MacColl's Es-sentric® classes. Additionally, a youth soccer camp and dance camp will also be located at Fort Williams Park.

Fun Chefs' Stacey Stolman promises to take the fear out of cooking and replace it with fun by working with both Linda and Youth Program Coordinator Susan Frost to offer virtual and in-person cooking classes for middle schoolers and adults, as well as a Master Chef Junior camp. Susan has also been creatively working to schedule classes and camps for the aspiring chef, performer, athlete, scientist and artist that also help bridge the needs for working parents. She has enlisted popular instructors like Julie Wilkes (Brio Dance Studio), Barry Brinker and Mairead Still-

son (Stillson Irish Dance) to offer dance and theater; recruited committed coaches and volunteers to introduce and improve the skills of runners, ballplayers and stick handlers; and secured the return of Mad Science of Maine, Seaspray, Dragon Fire Martial Arts, St. Peter's Grand Slam Tennis, Seacoast United Soccer to keep kid's bodies and minds in motion.

And then there is Summer Rec Camp... all outdoors! Camp Coordinator Kelly Phinney continues to work her magic for seven glorious summer weeks from June 21 - August 9. Counselors and campers return year after year just to be with her and each other. Camp is offered from preschool thru 9th grade. The days are filled with fun activities, themes and always some surprises. As with all Community Services programs, we will continue to follow CDC guidelines. For camp this includes the implementation of social distancing strategies, intensifying cleaning and disinfecting efforts, and modifying drop-off and pick-up procedures. We will again be spread across four campuses, screen staff and campers upon arrival, wear masks and enforce hand hygiene to keep staff and campers safe.

So set your clocks for 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 28, especially for those popular programs that fill fast like Lighthouse Masters, group swim lessons, musical theater, fishing and paddling camp. Your safety is our number one priority while keeping you active.

School sports

Continued from page 1

cated season to the last week of February, running to mid-April. Normally in the fall, volleyball programs have the gymnasium to themselves, since the other fall sports are outside, but now with basketball still running it requires more creative scheduling.

As for spectators, indoor spaces have been limited to 50 people but there has also been live-streaming of games. As spring approaches, the feeling is that the limit of 100 spectators for outdoor events may persist for events like lacrosse games.

The entire experience, starting in the spring of 2020, has been difficult for everyone. Parents and students, looking forward to a senior sport season, have had to endure some challenges they never would have imagined. As limiting as this spring season may be, one must keep in mind what last season was like when it simply and abruptly ended, and it was especially disappointing for last year's seniors and their families. Many rites of passage were taken away by the pandemic.

Athletic Director Thoreck said, "Things have been going well with the winter sports. I think the students have bought into it, the coaches certainly have. The live-steam component has been great, so that families can watch."

As for spring sports, Thoreck said, "I think spring will look similar to what we did in the fall." He said the goal is, as of right now, to have a complete spring sports schedule including playoffs. "I would assume playoffs

would be similar to what we're doing with live-streaming, I'm not sure how the spectating piece would work with a state championship. Obviously, that would [normally] draw well over 100 people. I would envision it being live-streamed through the National Federation of High Schools," he said.

Of the effort everyone had made to ensure athletics could go on, Thoreck said, "Everyone has bought into trying to do the right thing, and doing what's best for the kids. I've been impressed. I was a little nervous about winter sports, and how that was going to work, but once we started into it, I thought the way we transitioned by starting with skills and drills, it was a nice way to get everyone comfortable with all the restrictions."

Even indoor track, which cannot compete against other schools, is at least spending time practicing together, and coaches such as Doug Worthley, are coming up with creative ways to engage athletes. "Doug did a fun Olympic type of thing at the end of the season," Thoreck said of Worthley.

Thoreck said it's been fun to watch everyone adapt and play, and he said, "Now, it seems almost kind of normal. Swim meets are definitely different, not having the opposing team in there, it's quiet and a little strange, but the fact that they can still compete, and swim for school records and personal bests and things like that, I think that's a nice opportunity" along with basketball, hockey, alpine skiing and other sports.



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Cape author writes thriller, first novel in a trilogy

By Kevin St. Jarre



Contributed photo

Cape Elizabeth resident and author Chip Brewer enjoys writing, and camping, and his new thriller "Questions of Iron and Blood" is available for order from Amazon.com.

Chip Brewer recently completed his first novel, titled "Questions of Iron and Blood," which is the first book in the Finn Koenen trilogy. The subsequent books are titled, "Swatting at Wasps with a Crowbar" and "This World of Dust and Matter."

Asked about his style of writing, Brewer said, "I try to write in a style that I would want to read, and I tend to like books that have believable and realistic characters- dialogue that rings true and contains some humor and/or snark, and a story that propels the reader forward with every page. I also like to keep readers guessing and to reveal more and more about each character as the story progresses."

In addition, he said he once had some advice from a former CIA officer who used to write the daily presidential security briefings for President Clinton. Brewer said, "In that role, his challenge was to fit all of the crazy important things - and their implications for the United States - onto one side of one sheet of paper. His advice was, 'Every word must do work.' While I do not always succeed in this goal, I do attempt to make sure that everything I put into a chapter, or a description, or into a character's mouth does some work - ideally in more than one way."

Brewer said this ties in with something he learned while performing and teaching improv professionally- that details matter. "On stage or on the page, a character should never just 'eat a candy bar.' They should eat a Three Musketeers, or a Bit O' Honey, because the choices a character makes are also opportunities to tell the audience something more about them. Each and every detail should therefore serve multiple purposes- the tactical needs of the scene, like a meal at a restaurant, to provide insight into the characters involved, and perhaps to leave a bread crumb for use later on in the story."

Brewer said his writing has changed due to the act and practice of writing. "I have spent the last five and a half years working nights and weekends on this book. My writing has improved tremendously over this time, as have my editing skills. I believe that our brains have 'writing muscles' that - like physical muscles - need to be consistently ex-

ercised in order to perform at their best. One wouldn't walk into a gym for the first time and try to lift 300lbs at one go- rather, you work your way up to that," he said.

It's the same for him with writing, he said. He began with 15 minutes of writing per day, even when he had no idea what he was going to write. "[T]hat quickly turned into 30 minutes, one hour, several hours of writing. I found I couldn't stop thinking about the story and all the possibilities, and many nights I literally could not get the words out of my head fast enough. That was one of my favorite parts of the process- the rush and tumble of words and ideas that every once in a while coalesced into an idea, a sentence or even just a phrase that I really loved," Brewer said.

That process not only improved his writing, he said, but also made him "ruthless about editing myself, and excising bits that don't serve the overall story, regardless of how much I might love that chapter, sentence or phrase."

Brewer said he has wanted to be a professional writer since he was eight years old, but it wasn't until about seven or eight years ago that he really committed himself to making it happen. He said, "A good friend and hockey teammate, Sean Becker, and I co-wrote a screenplay together over the course of a couple years called 'Men's League,' about a 40+ hockey team here in Portland. That experience was a blast and when we were finished I really missed the writing process."

He said he decided it was time to try to write a book, and he knew he wanted to write a commercial fiction thriller, so he did some research and tried to identify an under-served area in the space so that his book would stand out. "As a lover of history, I quickly realized that, while the U.S. and Iran have been engaged in a simmering conflict since 1979, there were very few books with an Iranian antagonist- mostly you find that the bad guys are Saudi, Chinese, Russian or North Korean, for example. I also felt like most protagonists were superhuman type tough guys in their early 30's, and- much like the Cormoran Strike character created by Robert Galbraith (a pen name used by J.K. Rowling)- I wanted someone who was older, in their late 40's or early 50's. I thought there would be a market for a character who solved problems more with his head than with his fists, if you know what I mean," Brewer said.

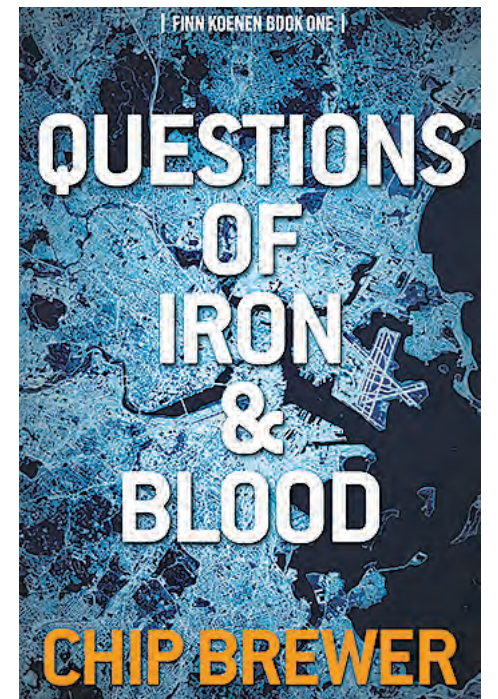
As for those who have encouraged him, he starts at home. "My wife Biz for sure. Her support and encouragement over the past five and a half years have been impressive to say the least, especially on those days when I questioned myself and whether all this effort was ever really going to get me anywhere. Her belief in me and my writing, and her willingness to point out when and where I could do better, gave me the confidence to push through the difficult bits," said Brewer.

If he could go on a retreat and focus on solely on his writing for a while, Brewer said he would choose New Zealand. "It is number 1 on my list of places to visit and I have no doubt I would find inspiration for a lot of writing there," he said.

When it comes to favorite places to create, Brewer has found a few a bit closer by. "So, I have been lucky enough that my day job in research and consulting has allowed me to work from home for the past 18 years. Since much of my writing came after work and on

weekends, I found I needed to get out of my basement office and spend some time in public. As such, for years I would head out to either The Bird Dog Road House or Elsmere BBQ with my laptop to sit at the bar, have a beer and crank out some pages. I loved the background noise, the opportunity to bounce ideas off of people, and the support I got from the staff at both restaurants- they were really very supportive and enthusiastic about what I was attempting," he said.

Those who would like to purchase a copy of "Questions of Iron and Blood" will find it available on Amazon in either the Kindle or Paperback formats: <https://www.amazon.com/Questions-Iron-Blood-Finn-Koenen/dp/1736679414>.



Contributed photo

The cover design of Chip Brewer's new book "Questions of Iron and Blood" is by Cape Elizabeth artist Megan McConagha, owner of 360Uncoated.

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CEEF and CELT bring snowshoes to CEMS: Snow much fun



Contributed photo

Thanks to the generous support of the Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation and the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust, 8th Grade Experiential Learning Teacher Morgan Kerr was able to purchase 25 sets of snowshoes for Cape Elizabeth Middle School.

Like many educators, 8th Grade Experiential Learning Teacher Morgan Kerr has had to be creative to keep his students engaged and safe during the pandemic. Cape’s chilly winter temperatures and the snowy terrain make it harder for outdoor learning opportunities.

Kerr crafted an innovative solution to expand nature-based education for his middle-schoolers: snowshoes. “Winter is a very unique time to really explore the world around us. The snow and loss of foliage allows us to explore areas where we might not be able to in the summer, spring, or fall. For the experiential program in particular, we will use [snowshoes] to further expand our study of the importance of salt marshes and its importance to Cape Elizabeth’s and Maine’s coastal ecology.”

Thanks to the generous support of the Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation (CEEF) and the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust (CELT), Kerr was able to purchase 25 sets of snowshoes for Cape Elizabeth Middle School. With small cohort classes, two-three classes of students are able to use them at a time. Long term, Kerr is hoping teachers will take advantage of the new equipment and incorporate snowshoe excursions into their winter curriculum.

“Students in the experiential learning class explored the frozen marsh, which

would be unreachable during any other season, and bushwhacked their way to the Gull Crest trails. The remote learning team and other classes have also been able to take advantage of the snow. We can only hope that winter decides to last a little longer!”

CEEF Grants Co-Chair Sheri Bragg hopes word of Kerr’s outside-the-box thinking will inspire more grant applications. “CEEF is so excited by the creative ideas we’ve been receiving from Cape teachers, staff and students during this challenging school year. We specialize in funding innovative grants that fall outside the school budget and the CEMS Snowshoe Grant is a wonderful example of the positive impact these grants can have on Cape students.”

CELT Education Coordinator Philip Mathieu echoed that sentiment. “The pandemic has really amplified the importance of outdoor and environmental education. We are thankful for the opportunity to collaborate with the 8th-grade program and glad that we could partner with CEEF to fund the full cost of this project.”

Both CEEF and CELT rely on the generous support of community members to fund their grant programs.

To learn more or donate, visit ceef.us and capelandtrust.org.

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CEHS grad is online influencer with millions of followers, raises huge amounts for charities

By Kevin St. Jarre



Contributed photo

CEHS grad Ethan Nestor began producing videos at home in 2012 and by 2019 he was ranked as the “Number One Influencer” in the gaming sector by OMD.

Three years after he had become a YouTube creator, Ethan Nestor graduated from Cape Elizabeth High School in 2015. He began producing videos in his father’s Cape Elizabeth basement in 2012, and by the time he departed Maine for Los Angeles in late fall of 2016, he had grown his audience to 5,000 subscribers for a channel that primarily covered gaming.

Known online as CrankGameplays, Nestor has since accumulated more than two million subscribers and has become one of the most highly-regarded influencers in his sector.

In fact, in 2019 he was ranked as the “Number One Influencer” in the gaming sec-

tor by OMD.

Nestor next spent a year collaborating with friend and creator, Mark Fishbach aka Markiplier, to create a second wildly successful channel, this one called Unus Annus, focused on entertainment. He continues to work not only his own channel, but on one of his main passions- giving back.

Nestor has made it his mission to connect with his followers in a genuine, caring and compassionate way—and his audience has responded by joining him in fundraising for the many causes Nestor cares deeply about.

In 2020 alone, Nestor and his online community raised a whopping \$751,559.31 for four charities: World Wildlife Fund-Austra-

lia, United Nations Foundation, Hope From Hope and Thanksmas 2020.

This level of success for Nestor was recognized by Tiltify, who ranked him 5th among fundraisers of 2020, moving him up from the 29th spot in 2019. In Tiltify’s announcement of their annual list, they said of Nestor, “You are stunning Ethan, simply stunning.”

Of being raised in Cape Elizabeth, Nestor said, “Growing up in Cape definitely helped me on my YouTube journey. I was constantly surrounded by other people who loved to

create. Even before starting my own channel, I was always making weird videos and home movies with kids from school and my close friends. Without my best friend Andrew, who I met in second grade, CrankGameplays wouldn’t have ever existed!”

Those wishing to learn more about CrankGameplays can explore these links:

<https://tiltify.com/@crankgameplays/profile>

<https://twitter.com/CrankGameplays>

<https://www.twitch.tv/CrankGameplays>

<https://www.youtube.com/c/crankgame>

Capetoon: I think she’s trying to tell us something

By Jeff Mandell




Drawn by Jeff Mandell

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March naturalist's corner

By Erika Carlson Rhile
 CELT Education Committee Chair



Contributed photo

An American Woodcock photographed in Erika Carlson Rhile's backyard. In the spring, males perform courtship display flights at dawn and dusk, giving a buzzy peent call, then launch into the air. They then descend zigzagging while singing a distinctive, twittering flight sound.

Must be March: Defrosting frogs, a plant that acts like a mammal, and timberdoodles.

March 20, 5:37 a.m. Vernal Equinox: Day and night are of equal length.

March 28, 2:50 p.m. Full Worm Moon: (Also known as the Full Sap Moon)

It's a sure sign of spring when you hear Red Winged Blackbirds and American Woodcocks. The woodcock is known by a number of names: Labrador twister, mudsnipe, bogsucker and timberdoodle. I love walking past Dun Roamin Farm at dusk and listening to the birds' nasal peent call along with the twittering wing sound it makes during nuptial flight displays.

Look for Maine's first spring wild-

flower somewhere between mid-March and early April. The early bloom catches the pollinators? Skunk cabbage has the unique ability to self-generate heat, often melting ice around it. Known as thermogenesis, this is what allows skunk cabbage to bloom in the snow, attracting any pollinators. On a cold day, I dare you to stick your finger inside the flower's hood-it can be as warm as 70°F! You'll be safe from the stench as long as you don't crush the leaves.

Wood frogs are able to partially freeze over the winter. They are the only frog species found in the Arctic Circle. After a warm soaking rain, wood frogs will emerge to migrate to vernal pools for breeding. Last year, we heard wood frogs for the first time on March 27.

CELT awarded Casco Bay Community Grant for citizen science project



Photo courtesy of CELT

A student testing turbidity as part of a 2018 CBEP funded Cape Elizabeth Land Trust project: Great Pond and Alewife Brook Water Quality Monitoring.

Casco Bay Estuary Partnership (CBEP) has announced its 2021 Casco Bay Community Grants awards. The Community Grants Program supports new partnerships and innovative projects that engage communities with Casco Bay and its watershed. Supporting new and existing partnerships centered on protecting our coastal resources has a ripple effect throughout Casco Bay. CBEP awarded nearly \$5,500 to three recipients, for projects in Cape Elizabeth and Harpswell. CBEP is providing \$550 to Cape

Elizabeth Land Trust (CELT) for "Picture Posts for Community-Focused Climate Change Education," a citizen science project in partnership with Cape Elizabeth schools.

CELT staff, working with Cape Elizabeth schools, the town of Cape Elizabeth Conservation Committee, and other volunteers, will create and install four "picture posts" at Pond Cove, Spurwink Marsh and other locations. Picture posts are simple installations where citizen scientists with a camera or smartphone monitor and document changes in local ecosystems, particularly as it pertains to climate change impacts. A significant portion of this project will be carried out by Cape Elizabeth High School student Zofia Leary-Forrey as part of a spring internship.

According to Philip Mathieu, CELT's Education Coordinator, the project will "create opportunities for community members to learn about local ecosystems, participate in citizen science and examine the material effects of climate change." CELT will also provide a project template for other communities interested in starting a picture post project.

To find out more about the work of CBEP and its partners to protect and restore Casco Bay, go to cascobayestuary.org.

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Cape Elizabeth birding report

By E. Brooks Bornhoff

Although March can be unpredictable and unpleasant, for me this late winter month also brings a unique anticipation along with a re-kindled sense of hope and possibility for spotting the unexpected in the days ahead. February's siege of cold and snow down south has definitely impacted the spring migration. On the last day of February in the two prior years Cape had already started to see Common Grackles announcing their arrival with croak-like whistles and iridescent bluish hoods and Woodcocks were sounding off deep within the Gull Crest Marsh.

February 2021 yielded reasonable numbers of winter wanderers along our coastline including reports of a starling-sized seabird that almost looks like a miniature penguin – a penguin that can fly as well as dive deep. The Dovekie or Little Auk as it is also referred to breeds in immense colonies in the High-Arctic. Also, Thick-billed Murre's along with Razorbills were visible under the right conditions from Dyer and Trundy Point.

Another member of the auk family, the Black Guillemot is a medium-sized seabird with striking bright red legs, feet and mouth. In reading Peter D. Vickery's "Birds of Maine," I learned that the Black Guillemot's are abundant and common residents along the Maine coast and breed "in crevices on about 150 islands in Maine." Higher concentrated populations can be found from Pemaquid Point east to Lubec and ranging down to the latitudes of the Isles of Shoals. This time of year (nonbreeding/immature) Guillemot's can be tricky to identify because younger seabirds have mostly whitish heads, neck and underparts.

On the windy bluebird day of February 21 my wife, son and I were exploring the far-most fringes of a frozen over Great Pond and spotted an immature light-phased Rough-legged Hawk. The Latin name for this large hawk means "rabbit-footed" as its legs down to the feet are covered with soft white feathers. When compared to a Red-tailed Hawk, the Rough-legged Hawks wingbeats are visibly more pliable and not rigid. The hawk flew the length of the Pond, and directly over us, allowing the sun to illuminate the black patches at the wrist and all white tail except for the dark tip. The Rough-legged breeds

in the Arctic and is a sporadic winter visitor (snowbird) for Cape.

On the snow squally afternoon of February 24, I watched two immature female Goldeneye Ducks dive along the tidal Spurwink river. Despite being able to observe these two ducks quite closely and for several minutes I left thinking I really did not know whether they were Common or Barrow's Goldeneye ducks. I read as much as I could find on the challenges associated with identifying the subtle, subjective and inconsistent differences between female Barrow's and Common Goldeneyes.

Probably the best source of information on this subject comes from David Sibley who writes, "watch the bird as it moves around for a good period of time, pay special attention to details of head shape and bill. Identification will be based on the sum of many small features." In a nutshell I clearly still have work to do in order to identify this species with confidence.

Other noteworthy mentionings in February: a Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, a male and female Carolina Wren, and a solitary Pine Siskin all in the same old Crab apple tree in my yard on February 24. Later that same day on Trundy Point I spotted three Common Goldeneyes, the aforementioned Black Guillemot, two Harlequin Ducks, Common Eiders, a Common Loon, Black and Surf Scoters (aka skunk-headed coots) and nineteen Purple Sandpipers. This particular Sandpiper has the northernmost winter range of any shorebird and is considered a specialist when it comes to rocky, wave-battered coastlines. Two days later on February 26 on Trundy Point I found a single Barrow's Goldeneye duck diving for mussels. Lastly, on February 28 a Northern Flicker, Red-bellied and Pileated Woodpecker patiently waited turns at the suet cage.

In other bird related news, on a nearby island in Casco Bay the whinny trill of an Eastern Screech Owl has been reported. A Species of Special Concern in Maine, this robin-sized nightbird has seen a population decline in the northern range limit (chiefly southern Maine). Another owl that is a rare breeder in Maine is the Short-eared Owl. Interestingly, Short-eared Owls have been spotted with greater frequency this winter across Maine than in the last several.



Photo by Martha Agan

An American Robin. These birds can be seen in Maine year-round, but their frequency does dip below 10% during the months of December and January.



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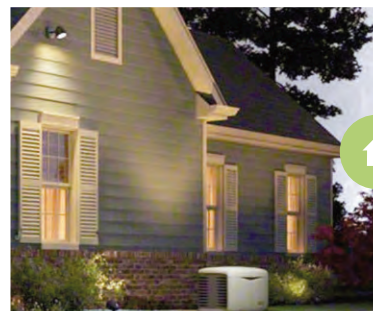


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Officers respond to report of van following a girl on foot, snowmobile accident at Gull Crest, damage to lighting at ice rink

Reported by Marta Girouard

COMPLAINTS

- 2-4 Two officers responded to a residence in the Fowler Road area regarding a harassment complaint.
- 2-4 An officer responded to a residence in the Fowler Road area for a well-being check.
- 2-5 Two officers responded to the area of Woodland near Cottage for report of a white van following a girl on foot who was yelling for help. The girl was located and further described the van as an older white van with rust on the wheels and was occupied by a heavy set male driver and a male passenger.
- 2-6 Two officers responded to a residence in the Ocean House Road area for report of the homeowner confronting someone in the basement and the subject had left. The suspect was located, issued a trespass notice and advised not to return to that residence.
- 2-6 Two officers responded to a residence in the Starboard Drive area for well-being check.
- 2-9 Two officers responded to a residence in the Woodland Road area for a domestic disturbance.
- 2-19 Two officers responded to a residence in the Spurwink Avenue area for a domestic disturbance.
- 2-13 Two officers responded to a residence in the Shore Road area for a domestic disturbance.
- 2-14 Two officers responded to a residence in the Shore Road area for a well-being check.
- 2-15 While on routine patrol, an officer observed a dog running on the soccer field at Fort Williams. The owner was advised that even with snow on the field, dogs are still not allowed on the field. An ordinance violation card was issued.

- 2-15 An officer met with a subject who turned over a found license plate. The owner was contacted.
- 2-16 An officer met with a resident of the Shore Road area regarding a trespass complaint.
- 2-16 Two officers responded to a residence in the Mitchell Road area for a domestic disturbance.
- 2-17 An officer spoke with a resident of the Scott Dyer Road area regarding an unemployment fraud complaint.
- 2-18 An officer met with a resident of the Spurwink Avenue area who had been scammed. The victim had received a call from a person claiming to be from Publisher's Clearing House and stated the victim had won 4.5 million dollars but the victim would need to transfer money to them for tax purposes before the prize money could be awarded. The victim complied with their request.
- 2-18 An officer met with a resident of the Woodland Road area regarding a possible burglary as some property was missing. He later contacted the officer and advised that the items had not been stolen and had simply been misplaced.
- 2-19 An officer spoke with a subject concerning a fraud complaint as well as some missing jewelry.
- 2-19 Two officers responded to a residence in the Shore Road area for a domestic disturbance.
- 2-20 An officer met with a resident of the Oakhurst area who reported his mailbox and stopsign had been damaged by a hit and run accident. A short time later the officer received a call from the subject who had caused the damage. He had slid off the road the previous night during the snowstorm. He had also contacted the owner of the mailbox.
- 2-20 An officer met with a group of high

- school students at the ice rink behind town hall who reported possible criminal mischief to the extension cord for the the lighting system. Upon close inspection of the damage it appeared as though it may have been caused by a snowblower. An extension cord was borrowed from the fire department so the kids could finish their hockey game.
- 2-21 An officer responded to Gull Crest field for report of a snowmobile accident with injuries. Cape Elizabeth Fire and EMS responded as well.

- 02-16 Hany Ramadan, Wells Road
- 02-19 Melanie Vangel, Ocean House Road
- 02-20 Caleb Snyder, Paul Royer, Longfellow Drive

ARRESTS

- 2-19 Portland resident, operating under the influence, Cape Elizabeth

FIRE/RESCUE CALLS

There were 16 fire calls and 23 EMS calls from February 2 through February 22.

SUMMONSES

- 2-4 Cape Elizabeth resident, harassment by phone, Gladys Road
- 2-5 Idaho resident, uninspected motor vehicle, Mitchell Road, \$148
- 2-6 Poland resident, uninspected motor vehicle, Route 77, \$148
- 2-20 Cape Elizabeth resident, failure to produce insurance, Longfellow Drive, \$186

ACCIDENTS

- 02-04 Wesley Strobel, Fowler Road
- 02-14 Julia Torre, Kerry Gross Ocean House Road

Judy's Pantry- a community feeding itself

Please note that our hours of operation have changed. We are now operating a curbside distribution at the Cape Elizabeth Methodist Church on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 3-4 p.m.

Prior registration is necessary. Please contact Beth Owens: bethowens1@gmail.com.

Scam alert bulletin board

By Jessica D. Simpson

Money Mules

We know that criminal scammers steal billions of dollars every year. But how do they avoid law enforcement tracing all that money? Enter the money mule. A money mule transfers illegally acquired money or packages. The unfortunate reality is that many money mules have no idea they are involved in criminal activity.

Using money mules helps criminals launder money stolen through scams and fraud or other crimes like human and drug trafficking. They add layers of distance between criminals and their victims, making it hard for law enforcement to follow the money.

The Department of Justice has seen an increase in victims becoming involved in money laundering schemes without knowing they were committing a crime. These money mules respond to fake job ads or social media

posts promising easy money for little effort. They think they're making a fast buck legally but don't know they are helping international criminals launder billions.

If anyone tries to get you to move money in any way – by opening accounts, sending you checks to disperse with a money app, by purchasing gift cards and sharing the information off the back, or sending and receiving cash – walk away.

Unemployment Scams & Tax Time

It's tax filing season, which means sorting through forms and paperwork. This year, preparing to file may take an unexpected twist for people who suddenly discover they have a Form 1099-G listing the unemployment benefits they received – only they never applied for or received the benefit.

The number of fraudulent unemployment claims have spiked as states have rushed to send out legitimate unemployment benefits since the pandemic took hold. One estimate puts losses at \$36 billion.

If you find that someone claimed unemployment benefits in your name, inform your employer and contact your state unemployment agency immediately. Then, visit www.identitytheft.gov and follow the guidance specific to your situation. And make a plan to monitor your credit report moving forward – for free – via www.annualcreditreport.com.

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Library offers programs on squirrels, St. Patrick's Day event for teens

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

AKME Chats, with the Anchorage Public Library

Wednesdays, 3:00-4:30 p.m.
We're collaborating with the Anchorage Public Library for this new virtual conversation series. Each week throughout the winter, we'll be meeting up virtually to share afternoon coffee and conversation with the library staff, patrons and residents of Anchorage, Alaska.

Though separated by 4,500 miles, Alaskans and Mainers all share the experience of persevering through long, cold, dark winters. So rather than go it alone during this difficult season and this year of extreme isolation, we're joining forces, making friends and bridging the physical divide that separates us.

Each Wednesday our libraries will be co-hosting lively conversations with kind, interesting and thoughtful people we might never have had the chance to meet if not for this strange year. And you need not fear the usual conversational pitfalls of boring small talk or uncomfortable subjects: Our librarians will be facilitating these discussions around fun and interesting themes as well as occasional outside materials. And since this year has been hard enough already, all talk of politics and the pandemic are off the table.

Come warm your heart and widen your social circle in a friendly, curious atmosphere as we enjoy this rare opportunity to connect from afar. Let's explore the idea of just how big a community can be.

Hibernating in Harmony: Deepening Your Relationship with Nature during a Pandemic Winter, with Corie Washow

Thursdays, 3:00-4:00 p.m., through March 18

It's cold. And dark. We're tired. And so many things remain wildly uncertain and unpredictable. A few sure things...the sun rises and sets, the first day of spring is less than two months away, and humans can learn so much from the natural world about how to get through dark and cold times.

Join Freeport-based eco-therapist Corie Washow for reflection, practice and conversation around how to deepen your relationship with nature in a way that supports you and the planet through the last weeks of winter hibernation. We will meet together weekly, leading up to the Spring Equinox.

Anthology

Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00 p.m. (runs weekly through March)

Join us Tuesday evenings throughout February and March for an hour of listening to an assortment of stories, essays, poetry and other short works on the week's chosen theme.

You'll hear a wide variety of different writing, styles and voices ranging from well-known authors to hidden gems.

Anthology is a friendly gathering space in which adults can collectively listen to great short works read aloud in a fun, lively environment. Each reading will be followed by an opportunity for casual discussion and conversation.

Bring your dinner, bring your knitting, bring a friend. This program is a collaboration between Thomas Memorial, South Portland Public and Scarborough Public Libraries.

Squirrels Just Want to Have Fun: Squirrels and Nesting Season, with the Center for Wildlife

Tuesday, March 23, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Are you noticing more squirrel activity this time of year? Maybe you're seeing them chasing each other up and down trees, or darting across the roads? Most of this activity is due to the start of breeding and nesting season for our mammals.

Join Thomas Memorial Library and Center for Wildlife via Zoom to learn about one of our most overlooked wild neighbors, the gray squirrel. Meet "Skeeter," the Center for Wildlife's non-releasable gray squirrel education ambassador and prepare to have your heart won over.

Chair Yoga (with Martha Williams)

Second Wednesday of the month, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Next date: March 10

No prior experience needed for this class featuring gentle, mindful movement and deep breathing to calm the nervous system and focus the mind.

ONGOING VIRTUAL PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Daily Fika (Coffee Break)

Mondays-Saturdays, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Guerilla Poetry Whoop

Second Wednesday of the month, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Next meeting: March 10

E-ldering Conversation Group

Wednesdays
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Cultivating Mindfulness, with Anne Gosling

Fridays, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Songwriting Workshop (with Jud Caswell)

First Tuesday of the month, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Check out the Children and Families page on TML's website for the latest information on virtual programming.

TEENS

Luck of the Irish Event

Feeling lucky? Request a teen book bundle during the month of March for a chance to win a fun St. Patrick's Day prize bag. Alyssa will be placing gold token bookmarks in random bundles. If you find a golden token, you get a prize bag. It's that simple!

Please email Alyssa at alapierre@thomas.lib.me.us to claim your prize. The more bundles you request, the more chances you have to win. Prize bags are limited and only available for the month of March. Open to tweens and teens ages 11 and up. For more information, please visit the Teen Page at thomasmemoriallibrary.org. May the odds be ever in your favor.

Middle School Book Club- The Last Pineapples on Earth

For members of our book club, our next meeting on Monday, March 1. Interested in joining? Email Youth Services Librarian Megan Smith to be put on the waitlist. Open to kids in grades 5-8. For more information, please contact Megan at msmith@thomas.lib.me.us.

Home Learning Support

Looking for resources or connections to help navigate the school year and keeping students engaged at home? Contact Youth Services Librarian Megan Smith at msmith@thomas.lib.me.us for ideas or to discuss how we can help support you.



Contributed photo

Caper Priscilla Harrison regularly participates in the library's FIKA zoom with a virtual background and others often laugh and ask questions about her "island life." Here she is pictured with a copy of the Cape Courier on her latest "tropical destination," reminiscent of the travel photos regularly featured in the Courier pre-pandemic.

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CAPE CALENDAR

By Wendy Derzawiec

Instructions for joining videoconference meetings listed below will be posted on the town website, www.capeelizabeth.com.

Wednesday, March 10

Community Services Committee 5:30 p.m.

Monday, March 15

Town Council Workshop Budget Review Session 6 p.m.

Tuesday, March 16

Planning Board 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 18

Town Council Workshop Budget Review Session 6 pm

Fort Williams Park Committee 6 p.m.

Tuesday, March 23

School Board Workshop 6:30 p.m.

School Board Workshop 6:30 p.m.

Board of Zoning Appeals 7 p.m.

Ongoing each week

Al-Anon, Regular meeting 7 p.m. Thursdays, at United Methodist Church, 280 Ocean House Road. Regular meeting 7 p.m. Fridays at St. Alban's Church.

Alcoholics Anonymous, 2 p.m. Saturdays, First Congregational Church, 301 Cottage Road, South Portland; 7 p.m. Wednesdays, St. Bartholomew Church; 7 p.m. Fridays, St. Alban's Church.

Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society, 9 a.m.-noon Thursdays, Public Safety Building - suspended until further notice.

Cape Elizabeth Lions Club, 6:39 p.m., first and third Tuesdays at the Bowery Beach Schoolhouse (except July and August), Two Lights Road

Cape Farm Alliance, third Tuesday, 7 p.m., Community Center

South Portland/Cape Elizabeth Rotary Club, each Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. Purpoodock Country Club, Spurwink Avenue. 767-7388.

Codependents Anonymous (CODA) group at Cape Elizabeth United Methodist Church Regular meeting weekly on Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. Call 799-4599 FMI.

SERVICES

Cape Elizabeth Church of the Nazarene

499 Ocean House Road (Route 77)
747-1113

www.capenazarene.org

Sunday School for all ages: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship Celebration: 10:45 a.m.
Services streamed live or on demand:
watch.capenazarene.org

Cape Elizabeth United Methodist Church

280 Ocean House Road
799-8396

www.ceumc.org

Sanctuary Service: 10 a.m.
Child Care & Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Adult Sunday School: 9 a.m.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

29 Ocean House Road
799-4321

Sacrament Meeting:
Sunday, 10 - 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School/Primary: 11:10 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

The Church of the Second Chance

Greater Portland Christian School
1338 Broadway, South Portland
641-3253

Sunday: 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Church of the Holy Spirit

1047 Congress Street, Portland
874-9779

www.HolySpiritPortland.org

Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Adult Bible Study: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School for children: 10:00 a.m.
Services streamed live on Facebook
Potluck dinner every third Sunday

Congregation Bet Ha'am

81 Westbrook St., South Portland
879-0028

www.bethaam.org

Worship: Friday, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, 10:30 a.m.
Family Shabbat Services:
Second Friday, 6:00 p.m.

Hope Community Church

879 Sawyer Street South Portland

799-4565

www.hopesopo.com

www.facebook.com/hopesopo

Sunday Morning Worship at 10 a.m.
Kid's Church for ages 4 through grade 5
Sunday School is at 11:15 a.m.
Sermon audio is available on our website

Promised Land World Reach Center

536 Cottage Road, South Portland
799-3152

Sunday Prayer & Intercession: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
Family Bible Studies: Wednesday, 7 p.m.
Sermon recordings available to download

Saint Alban's Episcopal Church

885 Shore Road
799-4014

www.stalbansmaine.org

Sundays: 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m.
Celtic Service: Sunday, 5:30 p.m.
Nursery & Children's Programs
Sundays, 9:30 a.m.
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Saint Bartholomew Roman Catholic Church

8 Two Lights Road
799-5528

www.saintbarts.com

Sunday Mass: 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Monday & Tuesday Masses: 8 a.m.

First Congregational Church United Church of Christ

301 Cottage Road, South Portland
799-3361

www.fccucc.org

Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Preschool Child Care: 10:00 a.m.
Game Room

First Congregational Church of Scarborough

167 Black Point Road, Scarborough
883-2342

www.fccscarborough.com

Sunday Morning Worship: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School & Nursery Care

CABLE GUIDE

CEHS Boys Basketball First Team v. GNG

March 12, 2021
March 12 - 3:15 p.m.

CEHS Boys Basketball JV v. Lake Region

March 12, 2021
March 12 - 5:05 p.m.

CEHS Boys Varsity Basketball v. Lake Region

March 12, 2021
March 12 - 6:55 p.m.

Cape Elizabeth Church of the Nazarene

March 13, 14, 20 & 21 - 9 a.m.

Planning Board replay

March 17 - 9 a.m., 5 p.m.
March 18 - 9 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m.

CETV CHANNEL 1302

March 19 - 12 p.m.
March 20 - 1 p.m.

School Board replay

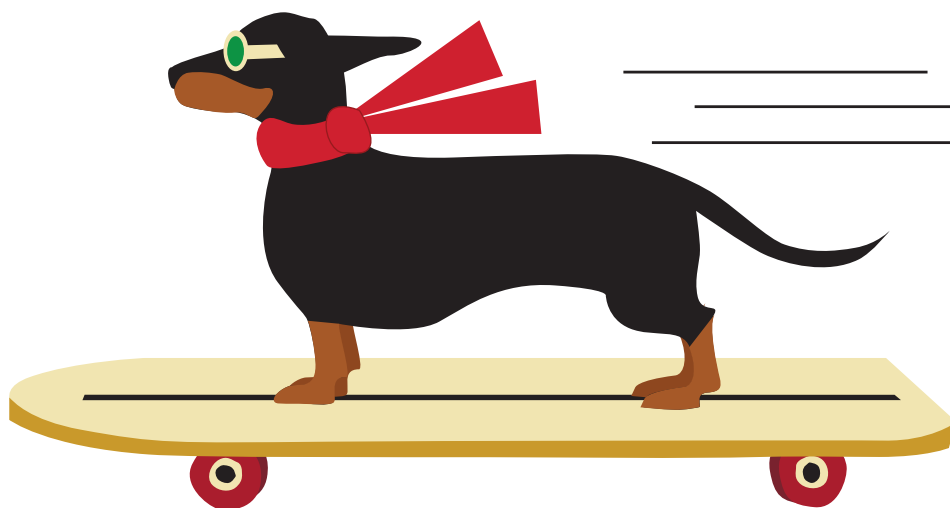
March 10 - 5 p.m.
March 11 - 12 p.m., 8 p.m.
March 12 - 9 a.m., 9:10 p.m.
March 13 - 1 p.m.

Town Council replay

March 10 - 9 a.m., 8 p.m.
March 11 - 9 a.m., 5 p.m.
March 12 - 12 p.m.
March 13 - 11 a.m.

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Dean's list announcements

The following students from Cape Elizabeth were named to the University of Maine dean's list for the fall 2020 semester: **Laura Arsenault, Brian Ellsmore, Matthew Fishbein, Sierra Galgano, Ethan Gillespie, Brenden Goss, Nathaniel Holmes, Jack O'Kelly, Sara Taylor, Mary Isabelle Wisell.**

Sophie Chase of Cape Elizabeth, a member of the class of 22 majoring in Chemical Engineering, was named to the university's dean's list for academic excellence for the fall 2020 semester at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Noah Olsen, a 2020 graduate of Maine Science and Mathematics, earned dean's list status for the fall semester at Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York, where he is a Game Design and Development major.

The following students from Cape Elizabeth have been named to the dean's honor list for the fall 2020 semester at Gettysburg College in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania: **Sylvia Brock, Michael Buckley, Rose Zappia.**

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Guitar Lessons: All ages and abilities. Travel to you. Call Richard Corson: 207-400-0484

FOR SALE /RENT

Enjoy Cape Elizabeth photo note cards by naturalist Martha Agan magan@maine.rr.com. Card assortments available at Ocean House Gallery near the library parking area.

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HELP WANTED

Cape Elizabeth. Live in- Caregiver wanted. Looking for an experienced and compassionate live-in, caregiver. Duties would include, but not limited to, assistance with personal care, meal prep., light housekeeping, transport to appointments and errands, vehicle provided, and general companionship for wonderful elderly lady. References required, salary and room provided. **Fmi email Rangeleycamps@yahoo.com, or text 207-670-5429.**

Ocean House at the Farm is looking for **Assistant Teachers.** Part Time and Full Time positions available. AM shift 7-9 or 7 - 8:30; mid-day shift 11-2:30 or 11 - 3:30 or PM shift 3-5:30 or 3:30-5:30 available as well as full time (35 - 40 hour) options. Work with children who range in age from infant to school-age. **Contact Laurie at 799-4350 for an application or email oceanhousecdc@hotmail.com.**

Dean's list announcements

Kalie Manning of Cape Elizabeth was named to the dean's list at Fairfield University's Dolan School of Business in Fairfield, Connecticut for the fall 2020 semester. Kalie also received honors for the completion of the fall 2020 Leadership Academy. She is a member of the Fairfield University Class of 2023.

The University of Hartford in West Hartford, Connecticut is pleased to announce **Sean Raupe** of Cape Elizabeth has been named to its dean's list for fall 2020.

Cape resident among new appointments at R.M. Davis



Contributed photo

Michael Wood, a resident of Cape Elizabeth, is among four new appointments at R. M. Davis, Northern New England's leading wealth management firm. Wood, Vice President and Portfolio Manager, is now also a shareholder and a member of the Board of Directors.

A native of New York and Massachusetts, Wood holds the Chartered Financial Analyst® designation and is a member of the firm's Investment Committee. A graduate of Boston College, with an M.B.A. from New Hampshire College, Wood worked at The Boston Company, Peoples Heritage Bank, CMH Wealth Management and Ram Trust, before joining R.M. Davis. He is active in the community, serving on various non-profit boards.

OBITUARIES



Contributed photo

Sharon B. Merrill 1943 – 2021 HARP-SWELL – Sharon B. Merrill died on Feb. 6, 2021, from Covid -19 at the Governor King memory care wing of Catagan Lodge, The Highlands, in Topsham. A beautiful, gracious, gifted and talented lady, she will be sorely missed by all of us that knew and loved her.

Sharon was born on March 10, 1943 in Freedom, to Clyde and Carolyn Briggs, the fifth of six Briggs children. She attended Uni-free High School and the University of Maine – Orono, where she carried a double major in English and French. After graduating with honors in 1965, she was a graduate assistant in the UMO English Department for the following year. In 1966 she moved to Springfield, Mass., to teach French at the John F. Kennedy Middle School. The following year (1967) she was a graduate assistant in the English Department at the University of New Hampshire in Durham. Her next move was to Somersworth High School in Somersworth, N.H., where for three years she was a guidance counselor and taught French. From 1971 to 1982 Sharon was director of guidance for the Raymond Consolidated School District (SAU 33), Raymond, N.H.

In 1982 Sharon moved to Cape Elizabeth High School in Cape Elizabeth, to become director of guidance. This was a position she would hold for the next 27 years. She retired

in 2010. Between 1971 and 1983, Sharon earned three master's degrees from the University of New Hampshire in: Comparative English Literature; Counseling Education; and Educational Administration. During her time at Cape Elizabeth Sharon was recognized for her outstanding contributions to the counseling profession. She received the Maine Distinguished Counselor of the Year (1993) from the Maine Association of Counseling and Development. She served as president on the Maine School Counselor's Association in 1988. She was treasurer of the Maine Association of Counseling and Development (1989-1991) and the Maine Representative to the New England Regional Assembly of the College Board (1986-1988). She was on the Board of Governors of the New England Association of College Admissions Counselors and a National Assembly Delegate (1989-1997). She served on accreditation visiting teams of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (1988-1992). Sharon assisted in writing the College Board handbook Beyond High School and also assisted in writing the Maine Department of Education's Comprehensive Guidance Curriculum Guide. A full list of all of the professional associations, committees, boards of directors and educational teams that Sharon served on is far too long to be listed here. From 1992 to 2013 Sharon had her own private college planning business, Merrill College Planning. It was a complete one-person operation, she was both owner and staff. It was a lot of hard work, but she found great satisfaction in helping several hundred students successfully gain acceptance to the college/university of their choice.

Sharon was briefly married to Jeffrey Griffith in 1966. Following their divorce in 1967 she moved to Dover, N.H. In 1971 she married M. Heinie Merrill and over the next 28 years they had many adventures traveling, skiing, tuna fishing, golfing and fishing for Atlantic salmon. They built homes in Dover, N.H.; in Bethel; on the Carrabassett River in Bigelow; in Cape Elizabeth; and finally, in Harpswell. Following Heinie's death in 1999, Sharon continued to live in Harpswell and commuted to Cape Elizabeth High School every school day until she retired. Sharon loved to travel. Before Heinie's death they travel to Scandinavia, Austria and the Rocky Mountains. After Heinie's death she traveled to England, Scotland, France, Switzerland, Portugal, Costa Rica and Cuba. Every winter

she would spend a week or more skiing the U.S. and Canadian Rockies with her sisters and their husbands.

Sharon was a voracious reader and planned her summer schedule around area book sales. She built a substantial home library. In addition, she loved art galleries, art shows and antique shops. Over the years she collected wood block prints, paintings, bird carvings, abstract sculpture, Navaho art and baskets.

Sharon volunteered for numerous local organizations in the Brunswick area. She was part of the Brunswick-Trinidad Sister City Association and was a member of the Brunswick delegation that made the first visit to Trinidad, Cuba. She was active in the local chapter of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). She served on the Board of Directors of the Brunswick Golf Course. She volunteered at the Curtis Memorial Library and at the Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program food pantry. In 2006 Sharon married William T. Utley. Even though they lived only two and a half miles apart, they never would have met without the help of the internet. They had a number of great years together traveling and playing golf until a long-term illness and a severe skiing accident made it impossible for Sharon to continue her normal life.

Sharon was predeceased by her parents; her brother, Robert C. Briggs and her sister, Diana B. Lee. She is survived by her husband, William T. Utley of Harpswell; sister Virginia Moody of Saco and her sons; sister Barbara Higgins of Unity and her children; sister-in-law Audrey Briggs of Vassalboro and her children; brother-in-law Ronald H. Lee of Palermo and his children; and sister Cheryl Harmon of South Berwick with her husband Thomas Harmon and their children. The family would like to thank the staff of Governor King and the Highlands for the care they provided Sharon over the last 16 months of her life. They were always there for both Sharon's needs and reaching out to her family members. They have made a very difficult period manageable.

No service is planned at this time due to Covid considerations. The family will celebrate her life at some point in the future. Arrangements are under the care of Funeral Alternatives, 46 Bath Rd., Brunswick, ME 04011. Memorial donations in Sharon's honor can be made to: Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program 12 Tenney Way Brunswick, ME 04011.

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Photo by Laurie de Paolo

Cape Elizabeth resident Laurie de Paolo took this photo recently of a sailboat behind a lobster boat and an impressive wave while on a walk at Crescent Beach.



Photo by Martha Agan

Caper Martha Agan captured this photo of a Bluebird during the Great Backyard Bird Count held February 12-15. Bluebirds have blue, or blue and rose beige plumage.



Photo by Martha Agan

A red-breasted nuthatch. Smaller than the white-breasted nuthatch, these birds have very short tails; the body is plump or barrel-chested, and the short wings are very broad.



Photo by Martha Agan

A Downy woodpecker, also captured on camera by Martha Agan during the Great Backyard Bird Count. Seven homes in Agan's neighborhood participated in the event.

Registration for the 2021 Cape Elizabeth Little League season is open at www.cape-ll.com through Friday, April 2nd.

CELL provides T-ball, softball and baseball opportunities to Cape children, ages 4-14.



Assessments are planned for late March, and team practices begin in April. The season will run through June. Go to www.cape-ll.com or email: president@cape-ll.com for more information.

Volunteer coaches and team administrators are needed for the season. If you're interested, please indicate it on the registration.