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**ERIK VROOM**, operations manager and flight instructor at Maine Coastal Flight at Brunswick Executive Airport, had his pilot's license before he had a driver's license. "As operations manager, I oversee the day-to-day flight operations and ensure all required inspections and maintenance are done on time," Erik said. "As a flight instructor, I help people achieve their goals and dreams of becoming a pilot in both the Cessna and Cirrus aircraft we have."

## Taking wing in Brunswick

### Maine Coastal Flight offers variety of services

BY PATRICK GABRION  
Times Record Business Editor

#### BRUNSWICK

Though they aren't as big as the departed Navy's P-3s, there are airplanes using the long, 8,000-foot runway at the newly named Brunswick Executive Airport.

And one of the new companies providing services at the civilian airfield is Maine Coastal Flight, with David Vroom and his son, Erik, at the controls.

"We are here to provide the flying services of the community, from scenic flights, learning to fly and getting your pilot certificate or just taking a flight with an instructor to see what it is like to fly an airplane, and to provide training for pilots in the area," said David, who is also a commercial airline pilot.

The Times Record recently chatted with David and Erik to learn, among other things, why they decided to expand their business presence in Brunswick, what it is like flying small planes at the former Navy base, and how one begins the process of obtaining a pilot's license.

#### Q. First of all, give us a little history of Maine Coastal Flight and its beginnings in Bar Harbor.

A. Just about six years ago, a friend of mine, my family and I started Maine Coastal Flight from the Bar Harbor Airport in Trenton. We took on the challenge when asked by Columbia Air if we would be interested in starting a flight school and operating the scenic flights from the airport.

Columbia Air had recently taken over the ownership of the fixed base operation at the Bar Harbor Airport and the flight school had stopped running. The airport was in need of a flight school and an operator of the scenic flights. That was the start of Maine Coastal Flight.

Since then, we have grown the flight school by offering ground schools, flight training, aircraft rental and, in 2009, we became a factory authorized Cirrus Aircraft Training Center, providing flight training and renting of this new high-performance airplane. This has now become our specialty, however, we also offer flight training and rent several Cessna 172 airplanes, which is a more affordable airplane to train in for your pilot's certificate.

#### Q. David, you are the president of Maine Coastal Flight. Talk about your role in the company.

A. In 2006, Maine Coastal Flight, Inc. was started by Dennis M. Ouimette and myself. We had worked at the Bar Harbor Airport before as we both flew for Bar Harbor Air-

lines when it was based in Trenton. As a matter of fact, my first flying job was flying scenic flights from the same location we fly the flights from now.

I have tried to make Maine Coastal Flight a good place to work and we strive to provide our customers a safe, personal and affordable experience when they take our scenic flights or learn to fly. I primarily work with the scenic flights and the flight instructors who work here, providing the training and oversight needed for them to be safe and professional pilots and teachers.

#### Q. You are also a commercial pilot with a major airline. Please describe that job, and when you first became interested in flying. Did you go to school with the thought of becoming a pilot?

A. I went to Northeastern University, which at that time had a campus and aviation program at the Norwood (Mass.) Airport. My intentions when going there was to become a commercial pilot.

My first flying job was in 1979, flying scenic flights from the Bar Harbor Airport for Bar Harbor Airlines. It was there that I met my wife Vicki, who also worked at the scenic flights selling tickets at the time.

Little did we know then that we would be the company that owned and operated the scenic flights almost 27 years later. Our son Erik's first flying job was also flying scenic flights from the same location.

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## Business briefs

### Patten Free Library to host workshop

BATH — Patten Free Library will host a "Successful Job Search Workshop" on Feb. 17, from 1 to 4 p.m., in its second-floor Community Room.

According to a news release, the workshop will be led by Patrick Therrien, a training specialist from the Maine State Library. Therrien will teach participants about technologies that have changed the job seeking process, resume building, and interview-

ing skills.

"We have found that an increasing number of people are using the library and our reference department to access online applications, and to update and print resumes and cover letters," said Leslie Mortimer, head of Reference and Information Services. "We hope that by offering this workshop with our partners at the Maine State Library, we will help these patrons jump-start their job search process."

The workshop is free and open to the public; attendance is limited to 35 people and pre-registration is required. Participants may sign up for the class online at [www.maine.gov/msl/commons/](http://www.maine.gov/msl/commons/) by clicking on the green "Training" button and navigating to Friday, Feb. 17 on the events calendar, or by contacting Roberta Jordan at Patten Free Library at 443-5141, ext. 25 or email [rjordan@patten.lib.me.us](mailto:rjordan@patten.lib.me.us).

### Martin's Point doctor passes examination

PORTLAND — Martin's Point

Health Care recently announced that Dr. Peter Shaw has successfully completed the examination of special competence in adult echocardiography given by the National Board of Echocardiography.

According to a news release, an echocardiogram allows doctors to see the heart beating and to see the heart valves and other structures of the heart.

Shaw, who practices at the Martin's Point Portland Health Care Center, is board certified in both internal medicine and cardiology. He joined Martin's Point in 2010.

### DeLorme picks Shay for new position

YARMOUTH — DeLorme, a leader in navigation technology, recently announced the appointment of Patrick Shay to the newly created position of vice president and general manager, Connected Solutions.

In his new role, Shay will spearhead DeLorme's global strategy for the development of new consumer, enterprise and govern-

ment markets for the company's award-winning inReach family of two-way personal satellite communication products.

"We see tremendous potential for DeLorme's two-way messaging and SOS alert devices in emerging markets such as marine, aviation, land, government, security and other industries worldwide," said Shay.

**Woolwich's NEMT earns Inc. 5,000 spot — again**

WOOLWICH — As 2012 begins, the medical transcription firm NEMT is preparing its documentation to become an Inc. 5,000 fastest-growing company for the sixth year in a row.

Toward the end of 2011, NEMT achieved this business honor for the fifth straight year. According to a news release, Inc. magazine ranked NEMT number 2,322 on the list with a three-year growth rate of 104 percent.

The company has grown from four employees in 2008 to 40 employees in 2011, in addition to

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## Strange joins audiology staff at Mid Coast

BRUNSWICK — Mid Coast Hospital recently announced the addition of Anna Strange, AuD, to its Rehabilitation Services staff.

Strange is a clinical and dispensing audiologist, and joins the Audiology Department at 310 Bath Road. She received her clinical doctorate from Bloomsburg University in Bloomsburg, Pa.

"Anna's arrival truly complements the mission of our department," Dory Holmes, director of Rehabilitation Services, said in a news release. "Our goal is to maximize or restore people to their highest level of functioning and to support healthy living."

"Without optimal hearing, an individual cannot fully function in the community," Holmes continued.

Strange grew up in northern Maine and received her bachelor of arts degree from the University of Maine at Orono.

She maintains certifications through the American Speech-Language Hearing Associa-

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### Note to readers

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