

Out & About with Rachel Morin The Auburn Community Concert Band's annual Holiday Concert



The 54-member band is made up of volunteer musicians ranging in age from 14 to 89 and hailing from 16 Central Maine communities.

Story and photos by Rachel Morin

As always, we look forward to the Auburn Community Concert Band's annual Holiday Concert. This year, the ACCB presented its 37th annual concert on Wednesday, December 19 at the Gendron Franco Center for Heritage and the Performing Arts in Lewiston.

Large pots of lush, home-grown poinsettias in vibrant Christmas colors donated by Roak the Florist of Lewiston, who make this flower their specialty at Christmas time, decorated the stage, making an attractive setting for the event.

The 54-member concert band, under the direction of Milt Simon, is made up of volunteer musicians hailing from 16 central Maine communities and ranging in age from 14 to 89.

Mitchell Clyde Thomas, Executive Director of the Franco Center, welcomed the full-house audience, expressing his delight in having the band return to play their beautiful music in the large concert hall once again.

Milt Simon also welcomed the crowd and expressed his pleasure at returning to the Franco Center for the event. The program was comprised of the fol-

lowing selections: Christmas Declaration, Overture to a Winter Festival, Go Tell It on the Mountain, Chanukah Collage, A Nutcracker Spectacular, A Holiday Gallop, Christmas on Broadway, Christmas Sing-Along, A Christmas Festival, and All I Want for Christmas Is You.

The free 75-minute performance began at 7 p.m. The music soared and filled the large concert hall. The applause following each selection was long and appreciative. A good old-fashioned holiday sing-along was enjoyed by the audience. It included the holiday favorites Santa Claus Is Coming to Town, Silver Bells, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, and Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas.

A brief interlude featured Captains Chris and Deanna Street of the local Salvation Army, along with their daughter, Rachel. Deanna spoke about the Salvation Army's work and activities benefiting the Lewiston-Auburn communities and beyond.

Following an over three decades-old tradition, the audience had an opportunity to purchase a beautiful poinsettia plant for \$10, with all money collected going directly to our local

Salvation Army. Over the past six years, each full-house audience has contributing over \$1,000 following the band's performances. This year's concert garnered close to \$1200 for the local Salvation Army.

In closing, a personal note as I look back on the beginnings of the Auburn Community Band, as it was known then, close to four decades ago. When I read that the 54-member concert band now comes from 16 central Maine communities and ranges in age from 14 to 89, I was impressed. My, how they have expanded!

The band has come a long way from its humble beginnings. I fondly remember when Milt started the band with a dozen or

See Concert, page 8

Adult ed programs offer shared Winter-Spring brochure



Rebecca Schoen will teach "Cooking Matters" during the Winter-Spring 2019 semester.

Two local adult education programs will team up again for the Winter-Spring 2019 semester. The joint brochure for Lewiston

Adult Education and Auburn Adult & Community Education will go out to Lewiston and Auburn mailboxes in early January.

Readers will have to look at one side of the booklet and then turn it over to see both sides.

Auburn's offerings for the semester include new classes on "Tiny Houses," "Container Gardening" and an "Introduction to Golden Prospecting." Returning favorites include Mary Dempsey's "Laughter Yoga" along with another wellness class, "Pound Fit."

New Lewiston classes include "Basic Car Repairs," "Perennials," and "Portuguese." Comedian Dawn Hartill will return to teach a "Standup Comedy Workshop" and Rebecca Schoen will be the instructor for "Cooking Matters," which shows students how to prepare healthy meals on a limited budget.

Lewiston's workforce training section has information on two Certified Nursing Assistant programs and two welding classes, while a separate page in the Auburn section provides information on their construction program.

For more information about the classes, call Lewiston Adult Education at 795-4141 or Auburn Adult Education at 333-6661 or visit their websites.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Guest Column: Of Pendulums, Power, and the People

By Andy Torbett
A system of checks and balances. This is our Republic. A government for the people, by the people.

While the musical strands of Schoolhouse Rock dance through our memories, it's easy to forget that all the participants within the republic are subject to these checks and balances, including the people by and for whom the government derives its power. Yes, even the citizen cannot have liberty without responsibility.

The citizenry without checks upon its will, or more specifically, its whim, face the tendency to regress toward anarchy. Not willing to inhibit the individual liberty of any free citizen, but keenly aware to guard

against mob rule, the founders rejected pure or direct democracy in favor of a republic. Benjamin Franklin warned in our national infancy that we were "A Republic, if we can keep it."

The "keep it" is the diligence to the responsibilities and burdens of liberty. The maintaining of checks and balances. For its dual purpose, a balance and check is clearly reflected in the Electoral College.

Without the Electoral College, elections would be decided by heavily populated urban areas and rural America would be ignored. By design, this electoral system insures that all geographical areas of the republic would be represented equally. The Founding

Fathers also knew, by their careful study of history, that the cities were more susceptible to the frequent popular swings of the political pendulum.

Those who can conjure the grievance, inflame the crowds, and ride the populace swell of emotion hold the power in a direct democracy. This is why those in political power wish to abolish the Electoral College. Like with the gerrymandered voting system of Ranked Choice Voting, it is a thinly veiled attempt to silence the vote and voice of rural America.

Andy Torbett (meconservativevoice@gmail.com) writes from Atkinson, Maine.

Androscoggin Home Healthcare and Hospice welcomes new leadership

Androscoggin Home Healthcare and Hospice has announced the addition of three new hires to its leadership team: Kristin Melville as Director of Marketing and Development, Katherine Sperl as Chief Administrative Officer, and Dottie Sargent Carroll as Director of Compliance and Performance Improvement.

Kristin Melville is a graduate of Jamestown Community College and State University College at Fredonia, where she earned degrees in Humanities and English-Journalism. She is an experienced fundraising professional who has worked in non-profit fundraising and community relations for more than 20 years.



Kristin Melville

Katy Sperl most recently served as Director of Human Resources at Health Affiliates Maine. She is a graduate of Valparaiso University, where she earned a degree in Merchandising and Business, and New England College, where she received her Master's in Healthcare Administration. She has worked in Human Resources and educational roles for healthcare organizations for more than 20 years.

Dottie Sargent Carroll, R.N. is a graduate of Central Maine Medical School of Nursing. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration-Management from the University of Maine and a Master's Degree in Business with a concentration in Healthcare Administration from Southern New Hampshire University. She has spent her career in numerous healthcare administration and management roles, most recently serving as Manager of Healthcare Quality at Maine General Medical Center in Augusta.



Katy Sperl

"I am extremely pleased to welcome these three individuals to our team," said Ken Albert, President and CEO of Androscoggin Home Healthcare and Hospice. "They bring energy, ideas, and strong leadership skills to our organization, helping us continue to grow and improve quality of life for Maine people and their families."

Letter to the Editor: Remembering Our Veterans

Placing wreaths on the graves at the beautiful Togus National Cemetery for veterans in Augusta must have been a wonderful and emotionally moving experience. I appreciated the front page report (December 27, 2018) about the meaningfulness of the excellent tribute and ceremony of laying wreaths on the graves of veterans. Yet I noticed that the Franco-American veterans who are so much a part of the military history of Maine and the greater Lewiston-Auburn communities were not mentioned in the pictures or the article.

In fact, the National Endowment for the Humanities has recognized the contribution of Franco-American veterans with a grant awarded to the Franco-American Collection, housed at the University of Southern Maine's Lewiston-Auburn campus. The purpose of this grant was to collect the data and document the stories of Franco-American veterans. This project is ongoing.

As the wife of a retired Franco-American Navy veteran, I have been honored to participate in over a half dozen tribute

programs highlighting Franco-American veterans and their military histories, including one at the Senior College that sponsored the Wreaths Across America tribute. Hopefully next year representatives from the Franco-American communities, including the USM LAC Franco-American Collection and other groups, can receive notification about this tribute and join in the honor of placing wreaths on the graves at Togus National Cemetery.

Thank you for remembering our veterans.

Juliana L'Heureux
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Governor's Address: To the People of Maine, "Welcome Home"

Dear Readers,

On Wednesday night, standing with my grandchildren and my niece and with my hand raised above my heart, I swore to support the constitution of the United States and of our great state, and to faithfully discharge my duties as governor of the State of Maine.

It was the highest honor of my life to take the oath of office to become Maine's 75th governor. I am so proud to have joined with thousands of you in reaffirming our shared love for our great state and our commitment to building a brighter future together.

There are many in this state who are "the unsung," as poet Wes McNair has called them. They are the firefighters and teachers, the techies and hotel workers, the farmers and fishermen, the waiters and loggers, and the barbers and millworkers of our towns.

They are our friends, our neighbors. They are immigrants. Laborers. Veterans. People with disabilities. People from away. People we rely on every day. And many who rely on us. This governorship is about them, it is about you - the men and women of Maine.

Many days I awake to see the mist rising from the Sandy River as it steers its course to the Kennebec, the



Governor Janet Mills

winter's breath unveiling a new day in my hometown, a new day in this state. Then I hear the familiar sounds of chickadees, church chimes and Jake brakes. This is home in Maine. We are all in this together.

We all want Maine to have a beautiful environment, happy people, and prosperous communities.

And though we all agree on the goal, we differ about how to get there. We are Republicans, Greens, Democrats, Libertarians, Independents, and many more besides. Our diversity is a virtue - one that we should harness to advance good public debate and good public policy.

We welcome the voices of newcomers as well to the public conversation - the young as well as the old, immigrants as well as Native Americans and people who have been here a while, people of color, people of different cultures, people of different orientations. All are important members of the Maine family.

Now our state must find its own common ground, expand our horizons, and become one Maine again. From the tree streets of Lewiston to the rolling fields of The County, from the Bold Coast to the Height of Land, from Cross Rock in Allagash to Portland's Promenades, our people will once again find unity of purpose.

It is the bond we all share for our state, for our children longing for security, for newcomers seeking to belong, for those who feel left behind and who long for respect and dignity. One thing we all love is our great state. And when a family, a community, a state believe in each other, help each other, love each other, great things can happen.

Maine people have greatness within them. Maine is our home. We are connected by the rivers and the land, the forests and the mountains. We are connected by love. We are one Maine, undivided, one family, from Calais to Bethel, from York to Fort Kent.

So now we rise - like the mist over the Sandy River - to seek adventure, with hope in our hearts and love in our souls for the brand-new day. To you, the people of Maine, I say, welcome home. Welcome Home.

*Thank You,
Janet Mills
Governor*

About the Governor

Janet Trafton Mills was sworn in as the 75th Governor of Maine on Wednesday, January 2, 2019.

Mills ran for governor because she believed it was time for change - a new direction for the state based on bold ideas and courageous, independent-minded leadership. As governor, she is fighting to see that every Maine person has affordable, high-quality health care, that Maine has a strong economy with good-paying jobs in every part of the state, that every Maine child has access to a world-class education, and that Maine is a place where families can put down roots and raise their kids.

Mills was born and raised in Farmington, Maine, where she still proudly lives today. The granddaughter of Aroostook County potato farmers and the daughter of a long-time high school English teacher and the U.S. Attorney for Maine, she learned the value of hard-work at an early age, venturing out early every morning to deliver newspapers along her route and serving meals in the evening at the local diner. She graduated from Mt. Blue High School in Farmington, the University of Massachusetts at

Boston, and the University of Maine School of Law.

Mills first entered public service as an Assistant Attorney General, where she prosecuted homicides and other major crimes. After a few years, she was elected District Attorney for Androscoggin, Franklin and Oxford Counties, making her the first woman to be elected as a DA in New England.

In that role, Mills saw firsthand how the criminal justice system frequently failed victims of domestic violence. Frustrated by the legislature's failure to take action, she co-founded the Maine Women's Lobby to advocate for battered and abused women, and won election to the Maine House of Representatives herself in 2002.

In 1985, she met and married the love of her life, her husband, Stan Kuklinski, a widower with five young daughters ages four to sixteen. She and Stan moved back to Farmington, and she became a full-time mom to five daughters who she helped raise while working full-time herself. She is now the proud grandmother to three grandsons and two granddaughters.

After a devastating stroke, Stan passed away in 2014. In the last year of his life, Mills learned firsthand what thousands of Maine families go through every

year - a complex and confusing health care system, rejection letters from insurance companies, and unaffordable prescription drugs, even for those lucky enough to have coverage. This is one of the reasons why she is so determined to ensure that every Maine person and every Maine family has access to affordable, high-quality health care.

Prior to becoming governor, Mills served as the Attorney General of Maine - the first and only woman to hold the job. As Attorney General, she made it her mission to stand up to those who have tried to exploit Maine people - from fighting dishonest mortgage lending companies to help keep Maine people in their homes, to fighting big Pharma for their role in creating the opioid crisis and then using that money to purchase overdose-reversal kits that have saved more than 500 lives, to fighting to protect health care coverage for young adults.

Governor Mills is the first woman governor of Maine. In her historic victory, she earned more votes than any governor in state history and is first governor since 1966 to win a majority of the vote for her first term.

Auburn appoints Deputy Fire Chief

Auburn's Fire Chief, Robert Chase, has announced the appointment of Matt Fifield of Poland, Maine, to fill the role of Deputy Fire Chief, effective January 7.

Fifield, who is currently a Fire Captain for the City of Auburn, has worked for the Auburn Fire Department for 17 years. He has demonstrated outstanding commitment to the fire service profession and to the field of emergency medicine through his educational achievements and his career experience. He graduated from Edward Little High School and later earned an Associate's Degree in Fire Science from SMTC. He's completed Fire Officer 1

and 2 training and has an Advanced EMT license.

Additionally, Fifield has worked at the Windham and Oxford Fire Departments and United Ambulance. He's currently a member of the Androscoggin County HAZMAT Team and has over 20 years of experience working for the Mechanic Falls Fire Department, where he's currently the Deputy Fire Chief and Fire Inspector. In addition to his current role at Auburn Fire, since 2016 he has also been responsible for facilities management of all three Auburn fire stations.


"I'm very pleased with Matt Fifield's promotion to Deputy Fire Chief," said Auburn City Manager Peter Crichton. "Under the exceptional leadership of Chief Bob Chase and DC Fifield, and with the strong team we have in place at the Auburn Fire Department, the future of the AFD is stronger and brighter than ever."

Aside from spending time with his wife and three children, Fifield also enjoys volunteering in his community, where he has coached youth football and other sports for the past ten years.

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Dr. Myra Ross joins Androscoggin Home Healthcare and Hospice



Myra Ross, DO

Androscoggin Home Healthcare and Hospice has welcomed Myra Ross, DO as staff physician for their hospice and palliative care program. Dr. Ross most recently served as Medical Director of Hospice and Palliative Medicine for the VA Maine Healthcare System, where she oversaw their

state-wide program. She is also the Site Director for the Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship at Togus, a shared program with Maine Medical Center.

“Dr. Ross is an extraordinary person and outstanding Hospice and Palliative physician,” said Dr. Elizabeth Hart, Direc-

tor of Medical Services at Androscoggin HHH. “We have been struck by her wise insights, warmth, intelligence, and compassionate, grounded presence. We are so fortunate to have her on our team and in our community.”

Ross has experience in home hospice, general inpatient hospice, outpatient and inpatient palliative care, and is Board Certified in Hospice and Palliative Medicine. She was one of the pioneer Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellows in Maine, having graduated as one of the first two fellows in the Maine Medical Center/VA Maine Fellowship program’s inaugural year in 2014. She completed her Internship and Residency in Internal Medicine at Maine Medical Center, where she also served as Chief Resident. She is a graduate of the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Ross is originally from Van Buren in Aroostook County and expressed a “long treasured kinship with the Franco-American community,” growing up speaking Franglais within her family.

WinterKids annual Downhill 24 reaches \$1 Million milestone

As of December 2018, the WinterKids Downhill 24, presented by Darling’s Auto Group and Kittery Trading Post, has raised over \$1,000,000 for WinterKids since its inception in 2013. The past six Downhill 24 events raised a total of \$974,000. Fundraising for the seventh annual Downhill 24, slated for March 1, 2019, kicked off earlier this year and has already surpassed the \$26,000 needed to meet WinterKids’ million dollar mark. All funds raised provide resources that further WinterKids’ mission to help

children develop healthy lifelong habits through education and fun, outdoor winter activity.

Each year at Sugarloaf, the WinterKids Downhill 24 invites skiers and snowboarders of all ages and abilities to compete to see who can stay on the mountain for 24 hours, all while raising funds and awareness for WinterKids. This is the one night of the year Sugarloaf’s trails are lit up for night skiing. Registered teams and individuals are fundraising to reach WinterKids’ goal of \$315,000. As of press

time, this year’s teams have already raised \$35,795.

Registration for the Downhill 24 is open. To sign up, visit crowdrise.com/2019downhill24.

WinterKids has helped over 100,000 Maine children to be active outdoors in the winter through unique programs statewide. In addition to in-school programs and events, the new WinterKids App provides Maine and New Hampshire families with affordable access to wintertime activities. Learn more at www.winterkids.org.

Mechanics, Biddeford Savings jointly raise minimum wage

Maine Community Bancorp, the mutual holding company that owns Mechanics Savings Bank and Biddeford Savings Bank, has announced that the minimum wage for its full-time employees will increase to \$15 per hour.

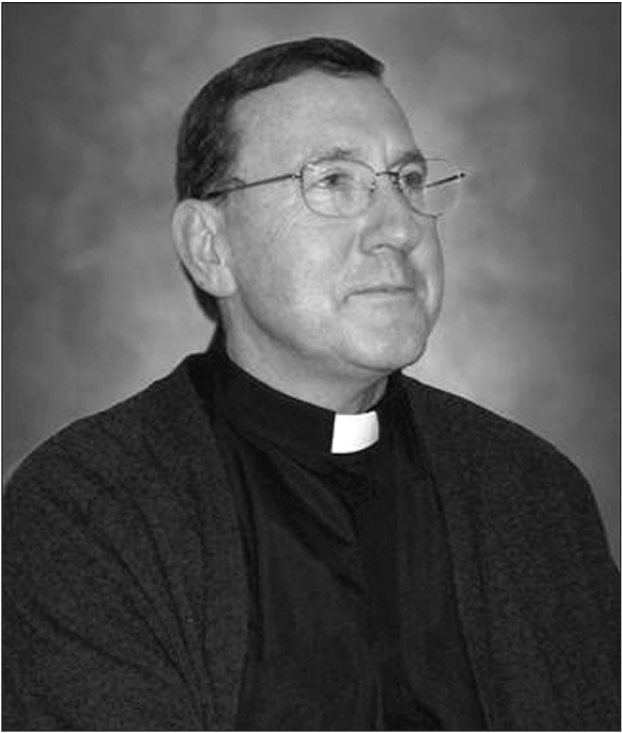
The increase, which took effect January 1, is part of Maine Community Bancorp’s commitment to being an employer of choice in the State of Maine. The wage increase affects sixty-seven percent of the organization’s 77 hourly employees and is

\$4 per hour higher than the State of Maine’s minimum wage.

“The wage increase recognizes the value of everyone’s service to Maine Community Bancorp, especially our hard-working customer service and operations staff that make us so successful,” said Jeanne Hulit, president and CEO of Maine Community Bancorp. “It also further demonstrates our commitment to attracting and retaining talented employees who can help us grow stronger together.”

“The minimum wage increase is more than just an investment in our employees; it’s an investment in our communities,” said Jon Oxman, chairman of the Maine Community Bancorp board of directors. “By increasing the living wage, we’re helping build solid financial foundations for our staff, allowing them to save and to reinvest their money by spending at local businesses. Our employees deserve the same level of financial security that we strive to provide our customers.”

Bishop announces priest assignments



Fr. Anthony F. Kuzia, CM



Fr. Matthew J. Gregory



Fr. Johnson Sacreties Panneer Selvam (“Fr. John”), HGN



Fr. Anthony Kanagaraj Chinnaiyan (“Fr. Tony”), HGN

Bishop Robert P. Deeley of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland has announced the following priest assignments, which are all effective on Wednesday, January 9.

Fr. Anthony F. Kuzia, CM, has been named temporary administrator of Prince of Peace Parish (Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, Holy Cross Church, and Holy Family Church, all in Lewiston), Holy Trinity Parish in Lisbon Falls, and Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Sabattus, which also includes St. Francis Church in Greene. Fr. Kuzia previously served as pastor of Holy Trinity Parish in Lisbon Falls in the late 1990s.

A native of Ansonia, Connecticut, Fr. Kuzia was received into the Vincentian community in 1969. He earned a bachelor’s degree in philosophy from Niagara University in Lewiston, New York, and a master of divinity degree from Mary Immaculate Seminary in Northampton, Pennsylvania, before making his final vows on June 13, 1974. Fr. Kuzia was ordained to the priesthood in the Mary Immaculate Seminary chapel on May 29, 1976.

Since his ordination, Fr. Kuzia has served as a parochial vicar at St. Michael Church in Derby; faculty member at St. John Kanty Prep in Erie, Pennsylvania; superior, consultor, vocations director, and treasurer for the New England province of the Vincentian Order; pastor of Holy Trinity Parish in Lisbon; vicar for priests for the Diocese of Portland; pastor of St. Peter and Sacred Heart Parishes in Concord, New Hampshire; pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Pelham, New Hampshire; and parochial vicar of St. Stanislaus Parish in New Haven, Connecticut. In addition, Fr. Kuzia was responsible for supervising the construction of the DePaul Provincial Residence in Manchester, Connecticut and the current Holy Trinity Church in Lisbon.

Fr. Matthew J. Gregory is resuming his assignment as parochial vicar of Prince of Peace Parish, Holy Trinity Parish in Lisbon Falls, and Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Sabattus. Fr. Gregory had served as temporary administrator of the parishes since late October.

A South Portland native, Fr. Gregory was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Robert P. Deeley on May 28, 2016, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Portland. His first assignment was as parochial vicar for Corpus Christi Parish in Waterville, where he served until being named parochial vicar at the

See **Priest**, next page

Statement by House Republican Leader Kathleen Dillingham: “We will be everywhere”

The November elections brought major changes to Maine’s political landscape. For the first time in over a decade, Democrats control the Governorship and both the Senate and House by sizeable majorities.

Republicans, whose hard-won economic reforms and polices have transformed Maine for the better, now find themselves in the minority. Maine is currently experiencing record-setting economic growth and the annual budget shortfalls Governor LePage inherited (\$800 million) have been replaced by a healthy budget surplus.

This was all made possible by the fiscal policies pursued by Governor Paul R. LePage and Republican legislators. Maine currently has record-high private sector jobs, record low unemployment, a record number of employers, and not surprisingly, record-high revenues. Wages are rising

faster than any other state in New England, more than 4 percent in three of the past four years.

As a mother, I know what lower taxes mean for my family and others with pressing needs when the cost of living is increasing. As a former realtor, I know what a strong economy means for communities and the small businesses that employ more people when there is increased economic activity. As a legislator, I know that what we do in Augusta impacts families across Maine.

Recently, I was elected House Republican Leader by my colleagues - only the second time in Maine history a woman has served in this capacity. My friends have asked why I would want to be Leader with 56 members in a 151 member House of Representatives? Why be Leader when the deck is stacked?

I ran for Leader because I know first-hand how

important hard-work and opportunity are to average Maine families. When the economy is strong, we all benefit. If the economy continues to grow, more of our children will stay in Maine or return home to raise their families here.

Republicans can and will play a vital role in the coming months and year ahead. Although we are not in control, we will be the eyes and ears of Maine taxpayers, families, businesses, and our most vulnerable citizens seeking a better life.

We will be everywhere. If there is a proposed law, rule, or policy that will benefit Maine as a whole, we will be there. If we can lend a hand to a constituent, family, or job creator, we will be there. We will be open, responsible, and caring in our approach. And if anyone attempts something underhanded without a hearing, or in the dead of night, we will be there too, shining a light for all to see.

New House Republican Leader hails from Oxford

Representative Kathleen Dillingham of Oxford has been elected House Republican Leader for the 129th Maine Legislature. Beginning her third term, Kathleen represents House District 72, which is comprised of Mechanic Falls, Otisfield, and Oxford.

While serving in the Legislature, Dillingham continues to work with her father, aunts, and uncles on the family farm. She is also working toward a degree in Public Administration.

Dillingham began working in the Maine House in 2001 as an administrative assistant and quickly moved through the ranks to serve as the Legislative Aide to House Leadership. Her humble beginnings guide her inclusive, results-driven approach.

Her introduction to politics didn’t start there, however. Her father served as a Selectman and Representative from Oxford. Her uncle, Philip Jackson, served in the Maine House and Senate; her uncle, Caldwell Jackson,



Kathleen Dillingham

served as an Oxford County Commissioner and Selectman; one aunt managed the Blaine House through four Governors; and another aunt served as a District Representative for U.S. Senator Olympia Snowe.

Representative Dillingham takes pride in being the first Hispanic Maine Republican leader. Her father

met her mother in Puerto Rico while he was stationed there in the Army. The youngest of three children, Dillingham spent time living in different places in the U.S. and Europe before settling back in the Oxford Hills area when her father returned to finish his military career.

Priest

Continued from previous page

Lewiston, Lisbon Falls, and Sabattus parishes in June of this year.

Fr. Johnson Sacreties Panneer Selvam, HGN, (“Fr. John”) has been appointed parochial vicar of Prince of Peace Parish in Lewiston, Holy Trinity Parish in Lisbon Falls, and Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Sabattus. As part of his orientation program since arriving in the United States earlier this year, Fr. John has assisted at Nativity of the Blessed Mary Church in Presque Isle. A native of Gangapattu, India, Fr. John earned a bachelor’s degree in English from Annamalai University in Tamil Nadu, India. In 2014, he completed his theological studies at St. Joseph Major Seminary in Khammam, India, and was ordained to the priesthood on May 10, 2014, in Vellore, India. Since his ordination, Fr. John has served as assistant parish priest at Assumption Church in Puliyal, India, and St. Antony Church in Marambadi, India. Prior to receiving his assignment in Maine, he served at the Shrine of Apostle St. Thomas and Our Lady of Health in Little Mount (Chinnamalai), India. The shrine, one of the most famous in India, is said to be one of the places where St. Thomas, an apostle of Jesus, lived and preached.

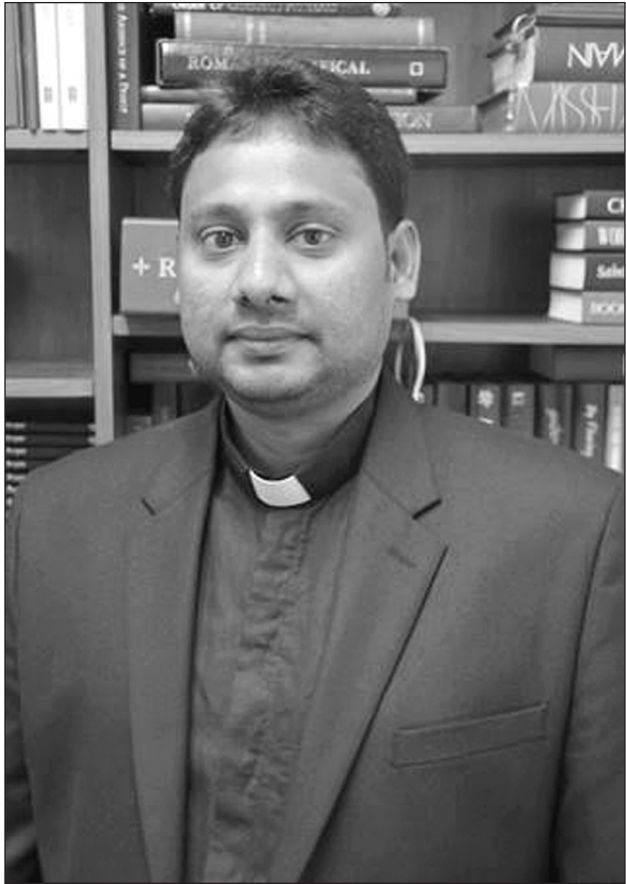
Fr. Anthony Kanagaraj Chinnaiyan, HGN, (“Fr. Tony”) has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Paul the Apostle Parish (St. John Church, Bangor; St. Mary Church, Bangor; St. Joseph Church, Brewer; St. Teresa Church, Brewer; St. Mat-

thew Church, Hampden; St. Gabriel Church, Winterport). Since March of 2018, he has served as parochial vicar of Prince of Peace Parish, Holy Trinity Parish in Lisbon Falls, and Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Sabattus.

Fr. Nehru Stephen Savayaria, HGN, is resuming his assignment as parochial vicar of Parish of the Precious Blood (Holy Rosary Church, Caribou; Sacred Heart Church, Caribou; Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Presque Isle; Our Lady of the Lake Church, Portage; St. Catherine Church, Washburn; St. Denis Church, Fort Fairfield; St. Joseph Church, Mars Hill; St. Lou-

is Church, Limestone; St. Mark Church, Ashland; St. Theresa Church, Stockholm). Fr. Nehru Stephen had served as parochial vicar of Parish of the Precious Blood before accepting a temporary assignment as parochial vicar at Prince of Peace Parish in Lewiston in November of 2018.

Fr. Kuzia is a member of the Congregation of the Mission (CM), a Catholic society of apostolic life founded by St. Vincent de Paul. Fr. John, Fr. Tony, and Fr. Nehru Stephen are members of the Heralds of Good News (HGN), a missionary society of apostolic life in India that specializes in the promotion of vocations to the priesthood.



Fr. Nehru Stephen Savayaria, HGN

Local business offers online tea subscriptions

Tea aficionados can start the new year with a constant supply of premium hand-blended teas, curated and packaged by a Maine mother-daughter team. Jacqueline’s Teas is a new online subscription tea service with over 80 varieties of fresh loose-leaf artisan teas sustainably sourced from around the world and delivered by mail each month.

Barbara Soley, owner of Jacqueline’s Teas, grew up above Jacqueline’s Tea Room, the British-style tea restaurant in Freeport that her mother, Jacqueline, opened in 2005 and operated until her retirement this past July.

“Jacqueline’s Tea Room was a magical place where time stood still and loved ones listened to each

other’s stories over delicious tea,” said Barbara. “Everything was designed so guests could relax and be fully present with friends and family. The menu was pre-selected and my ‘tea intuitive’ Mom let customers know which teas they’d like best. I wanted to preserve this experience by translating it into an at-home tea ritual.”

To that end, Jacqueline and Barbara have designed five subscription tea offerings that capture the Tea Room’s greatest qualities: unique loose-leaf tea blends, a curated menu, delectable treats, and lessons about tea.

The Tea Sommelier Subscription is designed to educate tea lovers about the different genres of tea; the Jacqueline’s Teas Sub-

scription features seasonal tea blends paired with Jacqueline’s most popular recipes; and the Black Tea, Light Tea, and Caffeine-Free Subscriptions can be customized according to flavor preferences. Developed based on interviews with dozens of Tea Room customers, these subscriptions give recipients an opportunity to experience Maine hospitality from home while seeped in the calming tradition of tea.

Subscribers will have access to an exclusive catalog of over 80 bespoke teas. Jacqueline’s flavored and unflavored varieties include a well-balanced collection of white, green, oolong, black, rooibos, tisane, and herbal teas, only available at www.JacquelinesTeas.com.

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What's Going On

Big Brothers Big Sisters calls for volunteer mentors



Big Brother Art and Little Brother Aiden (photo courtesy of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bath Brunswick)

January is National Mentoring Month, and this year Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bath-Brunswick is hoping the campaign aimed at expanding quality mentoring opportunities will connect more of the community's young people with caring adults.

In the Bath-Brunswick community, there are currently 40 youth waiting to benefit from having a mentor outside their family.

"National Mentoring Month not only offers us a chance to celebrate the many active mentoring relationships creating sustainable futures for our youth, but also provides a platform

to recruit more adults in our communities to ensure every young person has a caring adult in their life," says Lindsay MacDonald, Executive Director of BBBS Bath-Brunswick.

Research shows that mentors play a powerful role in providing young people with the tools to strive and thrive, to attend and engage in school, and to reduce or avoid risky behavior like drug use. In turn, these young people are: 55% more likely to be enrolled in college; 81% more likely to report participating regularly in sports or extracurricular activities; and 78% more likely to volunteer regularly

in their communities.

Yet, the same research shows that one in three young people in our country will grow up without a mentor.

National Mentoring Month is the time of year where engagement from community members interested in becoming a mentor is highest. Mentors can participate in BBBS in two ways: as a Community-Based Big or a School-Based Big.

Community-Based Bigs offer friendship, companionship, and one-to-one attention on their own time, outside of school, for a few hours a month.

School-Based Bigs typically meet for one hour the same day and time once per week at the Little's school. Bigs and Littles in this program do not have contact outside of the school setting where programs take place.

To learn more about mentoring for BBBS of Bath-Brunswick, call 729-7736 or see www.bbbsbath-brunswick.org.

To see photos of local Bigs sharing why they mentor and Littles sharing why they are thankful for their mentor, visit their Facebook and Instagram pages.

Minimum wage increase will boost pay for 143,000 Mainers in 2019

Thanks to this year's \$1 increase to the Maine's minimum wage, workers with low wages will receive pay raises totaling more than \$111 million in 2019, according to the Maine Center for Economic Policy.

Over the course of the year, one in four Mainers is expected to receive a direct or indirect boost to their paychecks as a result of the minimum wage increasing from \$10 per hour to \$11 per hour on January 1.

"This voter-approved minimum wage law continues to pay dividends for Maine," said Sarah Austin, a policy analyst at the Maine Center for Economic Policy, or MERCER. "When workers with low incomes see their paychecks increase, the benefits ripple throughout the economy. Those workers tend to spend their additional wages to cover the basics - things like food, clothing, child care, or utility bills. That kind of consumer spending is good for the economy. It supports local jobs, which in turn spurs further growth."

Thanks to a 2016 referendum approved by Maine voters, the minimum wage will increase for the third time in three years on January 1. In addition to the increase to the regular minimum wage, the minimum wage for tipped workers will increase by 50 cents,

from \$5 per hour to \$5.50 per hour.

15.2 percent of all workers in the state - roughly 87,200 Mainers - will benefit directly from raises on January 1 as a result of the minimum wage increase, according to state wage analysis conducted by the Economic Policy Institute, or PEI. Those Mainers' average wage increase adds up to about \$1,040 in additional earnings per year. All told, these low-wage workers will take home \$90.76 million more in wages in 2019.

The minimum wage increase also will bring indirect raises to other Maine workers, according to PEI.

"Over the course of the year, Maine can also expect to see nearly 56,000 additional workers benefit indirectly from this increase to the minimum wage, as employers boost pay for employees whose hourly wage was already at or just above the new \$11 minimum," said David Cooper, a senior economic analyst at PEI. "With direct and indirect raises factored, one in four Mainers will benefit from 2019's minimum wage increase."

Those workers expected to benefit indirectly from the minimum wage increase make up 9.8 percent of Maine's workforce and are forecasted to take home an additional \$20.3 million next year.

Prior analyses reveal the success of Maine's minimum wage law: the increase in 2017 brought low-income Mainers the fastest wage increase in a decade and helped lift 10,000 Maine children out of poverty - the biggest single-year reduction in child poverty since current tracking began. Meanwhile, none of the referendum's opponents' dire predictions have come to pass: job growth has remained steady since the law took effect and employees hours have held stable.

Maine is one of 20 states that will raise their minimum wages in 2019, and one of just six states to do so as a result of a ballot measure. MERCER endorsed and supported the 2016 minimum wage referendum.

The law will increase the minimum wage again, to \$12 per hour, in January 2020. After that, the minimum wage will be indexed to inflation, providing annual cost-of-living adjustments to workers with the lowest wages in Maine.

MECEP is a nonpartisan policy research organization that provides citizens, policymakers, advocates, and media with credible and rigorous economic analysis that advances economic justice and prosperity for all Maine people. For more information about MECEP, see www.mecep.org.

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BTLT kicks off series with indoor gardening workshop

Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust's Winter Garden Workshops are coming back for Winter 2019. The first of the five-workshop series will be "Indoor Gardening for Year Round Salad" on Sunday, January 13, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 27 Pleasant Street in Brunswick.

This workshop will teach a simple method for raising salad greens year-round, without grow lights, greenhouses, or fancy equipment. Based on Peter Burke's excellent book "Year-Round Indoor Salad Gardening," the program will teach participants how to grow nutrient-dense, soil-sprouted greens in less than ten days, even in January! A \$5 suggested donation will be collected at the door.

Auburn breaks ground on new apartment community

The City of Auburn recently broke ground for a 36-unit apartment community being constructed next to Fairview Elementary School and across the street from Clover Healthcare and Pre-School. Auburn Mayor Jason Levesque, City Manager Peter Crichton, Auburn City Councilors, city staff, and various community leaders were on hand for the event.

The new apartment community, a project of Developers Collaborative, will be located at 477 Minot Avenue and will include 18 one-bedroom units, 10 two-bedroom units, and 8 three-bedroom units. Amenities will include a community building with laundry and kitchen facilities, as well as an on-site trail through the woods.

477 Minot was designed by Archetype Architects and is currently under construction by Benchmark Construction. DC Management will manage the property. Lease-up will begin in the summer of 2019. Units will be available to households earning 60% of area median income or less.

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January programs for job seekers at the Lewiston CareerCenter

The Lewiston Career-Center continues its no-cost workshop programs for job seekers and those considering training to upgrade their skills and increase their employability. CareerCenters can also assist businesses by offering workshops on location, at local businesses, or at other organizations at no cost.

All workshops are free of charge and, unless otherwise noted, take place at the Lewiston CareerCenter, located at 5 Mollison Way in Lewiston,

Introduction to Self-Employment Workshop. Thursday, January 10, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. This introductory workshop will help you decide whether self-employment is right for you. The class covers the pros and cons of owning your own business, the elements of a business plan, and the many resources available to help you succeed. Register at 753-9001.

New Mainers Workshop. Thursday, January 17, 9 to 11 a.m. Covers how to complete paper and online job applications. A Somali interpreter will be on hand; if other language interpreters are needed, request by January 10. Register at 753-9001.

CareerCenter Services Orientation. Tuesday, Janu-

ary 18, 9 to 11 a.m. Usually held on the first Tuesday of every month, this overview of programs at the Career-Center covers eligibility requirements and information on accessing services. Register at 753-9001.

Orientation for People with Disabilities. Wednesday, January 24, 9 to 11 a.m. Held on the fourth Wednesday of every month, this session is for people with disabilities who are considering vocational rehabilitation services. Service providers are also welcome to attend. Registration not required.

First Impressions Count: Resume and Interview Preparation. Thursday, January 24, 9 to 11:30 a.m. This workshop offers you current tools, resources, and guidance to write an effective resume and to prepare you for a successful interview. Register at 753-6531.

Résumé Assistance. By appointment; call 753-9001 to schedule. Leave a résumé for review or complete a draft résumé from the Maine Job Link with staff assistance. You will need to bring in your past work history and you must be able to type your own résumé.

Interview Assistance. By appointment; call 753-9001 to schedule. Preparing for a job interview? Call to

schedule a mock interview or to talk to CareerCenter staff about how to best answer those tough questions.

Essentials of College Planning for Adults. By appointment; call 1-800-281-3703 to schedule. Basic steps for successful college enrollment: learn about college and trade schools, entrance requirements, readiness and transitional issues of adult students, admissions procedures, and financial aid. Bring last year's income tax forms to the appointment.

Part of the Maine Department of Labor, CareerCenters offer a variety of services to help people find employment or upgrade skills. Each center provides several public-access computer workstations with Microsoft Office software, resume writing and cover letter software, Internet access, and O'Net software for skills assessment. All CareerCenter services are free of charge.

The Lewiston Career-Center, located at 5 Mollison way in Lewiston, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and can be reached at 753-9005 (TTY users should dial Maine Relay 711). For more information, see <http://www.mainecareercenter.gov>.

What's Going On

Agencies partner to offer welding program



Pictured here (l. to r.) are Tina Christophersen of Oxford Hills-Nezinscot Adult Education, Patti Saarinen of Western Maine Community Action, Heidi Durgin of Oxford Hills-Nezinscot Adult Education, and Kyle Lamb of Bancroft Contracting Corporation. (photo by Monica Millhime)

Western Maine Community Action and Oxford Hills-Nezinscot Adult Education are partnering with Bancroft Contracting Corporation to offer a new professional welding program. The 92 hour-long program will teach students welding processes used by Bancroft Contracting Corporation and other local employers. Students will learn how to produce high quality welds. The program will include 72 hours of hands-on welding and safety instruction and 20 hours of math for welders and job-readiness skills training.

Hands-on instruction will take place Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 9 p.m. at Bancroft Contracting Corporation, located at 29 Phillips Road in South Paris. Classroom instruction will take place on Wednesdays from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School, located at 256 Main Street in South Paris.

Orientation is planned for the last week of January. Classes are tentatively scheduled to start on Tuesday, February 5. Testing on acquired skills will be conducted at the conclusion of the program.

Preregistration is required and includes a formal student intake and assessment. The cost of the 12-week program is \$1,955, which includes tuition, test and assessment fees, consumables and equipment, and student personal protective equipment. Income-eligible candidates may qualify for Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act funding available through Western Maine Community Action. For more information, contact Oxford Hills-Nezinscot Adult Education at 743-8842 or adulthood@msad17.org.

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What's Going On

Concert

Continued from page 1

more parents of his band students at Webster School in Auburn. My daughter, Liz, played the flute, and my son Gerry, played the trumpet. They were in the Webster School Band under Milt Simon and later played in the Edward Little High School Band.

We parents were strong supporters of the school band, participating in fund raisers, volunteering on band trips, attending all concerts, and ferrying our children to band rehearsals and band related activities. We became a tight group known as "the band parents."

Milt saw the enthusiasm and dedication of these parents and thought it would be great to organize them and have them play as well. Some had played in their school bands, but a few had never played an instrument or even picked one up! I was one of those, taking up the flute for the first time at age 45, never having read a note on a music sheet!

And so Milt had about a dozen or more of these parents bring their flutes, trumpets, trombones, clari-



Off to the concert on board the Schooner Shuttle are (l. to r., from front) Gail Quigley, Susi Warschauer, Deanna Fickett, Joyce Richard, Pauline Gotto, and Art Turner.



Captains Chris and Deanna Street of the Salvation Army, with their daughter Rachel



Susi Warschauer and Gail Quigley

nets, and drums to rehearse nights at Webster. He taught the different sections on different nights. We all hung in there to learn, some as newbies and some who just needed brush-ups, and then - practice, practice, practice! Somehow we thrived (somewhat) and eventually presented a concert of our

own to supportive family and friends.

The fledgling Auburn Community Band played for quite a few years. Thankfully, new members who were more proficient joined. Little by little, some of the original parent members faded into the background. More new members came forward

and an improved Auburn Community Concert Band was the result.

And so it is with great pride that I follow the Auburn Community Concert Band to its events and marvel at how it has risen to high standards of professionalism in its presentation, music, uniforms, and conduct. Milt has certainly achieved a professional sounding and smart looking concert band with a large following. All concerts are widely attended by staunch supporters from many communities. Kudos to Milt and the Auburn Community Concert Band!

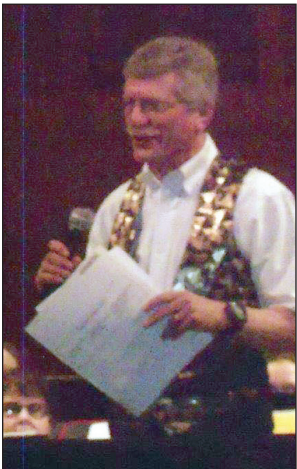
The Auburn Community Concert Band will start its 38th season in January of 2019. Open membership takes place January 9 through January 23. For more information, contact them at 782-3917 or see www.auburncommunity-band.com.



Joanne Kramlich and Pauline Gotto



The Franco Center was beautifully decorated for the holidays.



Milt Simon is the founder and director of the Auburn Community Concert Band.



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College Transition Program has January start in Lewiston



College Transition Program instructor Amy Hatch poses with program graduate Bright Lukusa during a recent graduation celebration.

Those looking to prepare for college and scholarship help can sign up for the Winter-Spring 2019 session of the College Transition Program at Lewiston Adult Education. The free program reviews reading, writing, and math skills in a college-style setting. It will also include an expanded focus on time management and finding and applying for scholarships.

The program begins January 15 at Lewiston Adult Education's suite at the B Street Community

Center at 57 Birch Street in Lewiston. The 14-week session will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Students will visit the University of Southern Maine's Lewiston-Auburn College and Central Maine Community College during the semester. Representatives from Northeast Technical Institute, the Maine Educational Opportunity Center, and the Finance Authority of Maine will make classroom appearances to help students consider a number of education options.

The session will end with a graduation celebration where previous CTP graduates will offer advice about going to college or technical college. Bright Lukusa was one of four former CTP students to talk about topics including classes and financial aid at the graduation celebration for recent program participants.

To start the application process, schedule a CASAS assessment, or learn more about the program, call Lewiston Adult Education at 795-4141.

LPD accepting applications for Citizens' Police Academy

The next session of the Lewiston Police Department's Citizens' Police Academy will begin on Wednesday January 30. This ten-week program will meet each Wednesday from 6 to 8 p.m. at the police department, except for two classes. Participants will need to arrange their own transportation to the offsite classes.

The program provides insight on the various operations of the Lewiston Police Department. The instructors, sworn officers and representatives from non-police agencies, will present information on various aspects of the profession. The curriculum is frequently updated to stay current and to offer a unique perspective on current issues.

This is an opportunity for applicants to learn about the department and for the department to learn about the concerns of community members. Participants should understand that this is not a police officer training school or an open forum to discuss previous law enforcement contacts or grievances. All discussions will be limited to the class-time schedule.

Class size will be limited to 30 people and preference will be given to Lewiston residents. Only those able to make full a commitment to the class should apply. An 80% attendance rate is required to successfully complete the academy and to receive a certificate of completion.

A background check will be conducted on all applicants; those with felony convictions or extensive criminal backgrounds will not be accepted. Classes may include adult content material, so applicants should be at least 18 years of age. Certain exceptions may be considered with parental permission.

Applications are available in the department's lobby or can be emailed. They should be completed and returned by January 24. All applicants will receive a response concerning their application prior to the start of the class. For more information, contact Officer Joe Philippon at 513-3010 or (preferred) jphilippon@lewistonmaine.gov.

What's Going On

Mechanics Savings sponsors annual Remembrance Ornament

Mechanics Savings Bank has returned as the sponsor for Androscoggin Home Healthcare and Hospice's annual Remembrance Ornament fundraiser. Thanks to Mechanics' support, proceeds from the ornament sales will directly impact patient care for the home health and hospice organization.

"We never turn away a qualified patient because of an inability to pay," said Ken Albert, president and CEO of Androscoggin Home Healthcare and Hospice. "Because of this, we end up giving away over a million dollars of free care every year." Fundraisers like the sales of the Remembrance Ornament help to cover those costs.

"We're proud to support the work Androscoggin does in caring for our friends, family, and neighbors when they are most in need," said Jeff Gosselin, Senior Vice President of Mechanics Savings Bank.

Androscoggin HHH will make available the 2018



Kristin Melville, Director of Marketing and Development for Androscoggin Home Healthcare and Hospice, and Jeff Gosselin, Senior Vice President of Mechanics Savings Bank

Remembrance Ornament for purchase through January 30. The 2018 design features a pewter dove. Each ornament comes with a tag with your loved one's name on it. Ornaments are \$25 each and can be purchased by calling 795-9407 or at www.androscoggin.org.

Androscoggin Home

Healthcare and Hospice is the largest non-profit independent home health and hospice organization in the state. To learn more about employment and volunteer opportunities, call the Marketing and Development Office at 777-7740, ext. 1311 or see www.androscoggin.org.

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TWIN CITY NIGHTS

Weekly Arts & Entertainment

Chocolate Church holds auditions for variety show

The Chocolate Church Arts Center in Bath will hold auditions for its Hot Chocolate Jubilee X ("As Time Goes By") variety show on Saturday, January 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The auditions will take place in the Center's annex at 804 Washington Street. The show will be pre-

sented on Thursday, April 4.

Potential acts should fit the theme "As Time Goes By." Group acts are preferred over solo acts. All acts must take less than five minutes to set up, perform, and exit the stage. Costumes and props are not needed for the audition. No audition is

necessary to participate in the Hot Chocolate Jubilee X chorus, which will perform "Everything's Coming Up Roses," "Rock Around the Clock," and "As Time Goes By." For more information, contact Alison Freeman at 371-2404 or HJC@HotChocolateJubilee.com.

New Ventures offers free workshops to build your wallet

Starting again in January 2019, New Ventures Maine will offer free workshops and classes designed to help you reach your money goals on your current income or to land a new job that offers better income.

"First Impressions Matter: Resume and Interview Preparation" is an experiential workshop for people who are ready to create or update a solid resume and learn about what makes you a solid candidate during the interview process. Current tools, resources, and guidance to write an effective resume and prepare you for a successful interview will be offered. The workshop will be offered at several times of

day and at various locations, the first on Thursday, January 24, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at Lewiston's Career Center.

"Your Money Personality" is a workshop that uses a card-sort activity to identify your personal money style, helping you understand how your habits and attitudes towards money affect your decisions and actions. You will use the results as a starting point for thinking about how to become more confident in managing your money. This workshop will be offered at different times, the first on Thursday, January 31, from 6 to 8 p.m. through Lewiston's Adult Education office

These classes are

unique, informed, and open to people of all stages and backgrounds. To register, call Chris Davis at 753-6531. For a list of workshops, classes, and locations, visit the New Ventures Maine website at newventuresmaine.org.

New Ventures Maine helps people find success in their jobs, businesses, and communities through tuition-free classes and workshops (in-person and online) and one-on-one coaching in building a career, starting a business, and managing money. They are administered by the University of Maine at Augusta and operate out of 10 offices statewide.

Flynn and Hay perform at La Rencontre



Popular local musical theater artists Emily Flynn and Jordan Payne Hay, both of whom have appeared in recent Community Little Theater productions, will present a program of show tunes at today's La Rencontre ("The Gathering") at the Gendron Franco Center in Lewiston. They will be accompanied by Paul G. Caron. The cost for the program and meal, which starts at 11:25 a.m., is \$12. For more information, call the box office at 783-1585.



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Community Little Theatre plans auditions for “Avenue Q”

Community Little Theatre will hold open auditions for its upcoming production of the hit musical comedy “Avenue Q” on Sunday and Monday, January 20 and 21, at 6 p.m. The auditions will take place at Great Falls Performing Arts Center, located at 30 Academy Street in Auburn.

The theatre will present the Tony Award-winning show April 5 through 14. Dr. Paul G. Caron will direct, with musical direction by Rebecca Caron and choreography by Jake Boyce.

Winner of the Tony “Triple Crown” for Best Musical, Best Score, and Best Book, “Avenue Q” tells the timeless story of a recent college grad (named Princeton) who moves into a shabby New York apartment on low-rent Avenue Q. He soon discovers that, although the residents seem nice, it’s clear that this is not your ordinary neighborhood. Together, Princeton and his new-found friends struggle to find jobs, dates, and their ever-elusive purpose in life.

Filled with gut-busting humor and a delightfully catchy score (not to mention puppets), “Avenue Q” is a truly unique show that has quickly become a favorite of audiences everywhere. While the show comically addresses adult issues, it is much like a beloved children’s show: a place where puppets are friends, monsters are good, and life lessons are learned.

For vocal auditions, participants are asked to prepare and sing 16 bars of a song. Copies of the music will be available for anyone singing a song from the show. Those singing numbers from a different show need to bring the sheet music. No a cappella auditions will be allowed. Due to adult themes and adult language, only actors ages 18 and above will be cast. For more information, email pcaron003@road-runner.com.

Character Breakdown: Princeton (puppet, male, age 20 to 25), a fresh-faced kid just out of college and the protagonist; Kate Mon-

ster (puppet, female, age 25 to 30), a Kindergarten teaching assistant who is a bit older than Princeton; Nicky (puppet, male, age 20 to 30), a slacker who lives with Rod; Rod (puppet, male, age 25 to 30), a Republican investment banker and closeted homosexual; Trekkie Monster (puppet, male, age 30 to 40), a reclusive creature obsessed with the internet and all it has to offer; Lucy (puppet, female, age 25 to 30), a vixen-like vamp with a dangerous edge; the Bad-Idea Bears (puppets, females, ages 20 to 40), two snuggly, cute teddy-bear types; Mrs. T (puppet, female, age 50 to 65), crabby and ancient - Kate’s boss; Brian (male, age 30 to 45), a laid-back guy married to Christmas Eve (female, Asian, age 30 to 45), a therapist who recently moved to Avenue Q from Japan; Gary Coleman (female, African-American, age 30 to 40), yes, that Gary Coleman - lives on the Avenue and is superintendent of the apartment buildings.

LPL presents free screening of “Documented”

When his grandparents brought him to the United States from the Philippines as a child, Jose Antonio Vargas didn’t realize his life was supposed to be a quiet one, lived under the radar. But after growing up to become a successful journalist, Vargas took the unusual and risky step of revealing his own undocumented status in an essay for The New York Times Magazine in 2011.

He then made a documentary that not only told his own story, but also explored the issue of children like him who were illegally brought to the United States.

That movie, “Documented,” will be shown at a free public event on Tuesday, January 15 at 6 p.m. in the Lewiston Public

Library’s Callahan Hall. The screening, co-sponsored by Lewiston Public Library and Youth Journalism International, will be followed by a discussion and refreshments.

“This compelling movie is about the life of one journalist who wants to tell the truth about himself, but it also addresses the widespread issue of young undocumented Americans,” said Jackie Majerus, executive director of Youth Journalism International, an educational non-profit based in Lewiston-Auburn. “We’re excited to be working with the library and hope the community will come and hear this story for themselves.”

Vargas, who is still

grappling with his undocumented status and hasn’t seen his mother since he left the Philippines at age 12, recently had a new book published on immigration, “Dear America, Notes of an Undocumented Citizen.”

Youth Journalism International works with student writers, artists and photographers worldwide and here in Maine. The organization teaches journalism, connects young people around the globe, fosters cross-cultural understanding, and promotes and defends a free youth press.

For more information about the film event or YJI, please contact Jackie Majerus at jmajerus@youth-journalism.org or call 207-241-2607.

Chamber hosts Blood Drive

The LA Metro Chamber of Commerce will host an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Monday, January 14, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at their offices at 415 Lisbon Street in Lewiston. The need for blood donors is now critical.

To register and choose an appointment time, enter LAMETRO in the blue box (top right) at <http://www.redcrossblood.org>.

For more information, call the Chamber at 783-2249 or see www.LAMetroChamber.com.



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Twin City Nights

Nominations sought for 2020 Teacher of the Year

As part of the Maine Department of Education’s ongoing efforts to highlight Maine’s outstanding teachers, nominations are now open for the 2019 County Teachers of the Year and 2020 Teacher of the Year. Members of the public are encouraged to nominate educators who demonstrate a commitment to excellence and nurturing the achievement of all students.

Nominations can be made through the Maine Teacher of the Year website through February 4.

To be considered, a teacher must: hold the appropriate professional certification for the position; be employed by a Maine public school - including a public charter school or publicly-supported secondary school; be actively teaching students at least 50% of full-time at the time of nomination and during the year of recognition; and have a minimum of five years teaching, three of which

have been in Maine.

The eventual winner serves as an advocate for teachers, students, and the efforts underway in Maine’s public schools to prepare students for success in college, career, and civic life.

Maine’s recently named 2019 Teacher of the Year, Joseph Hennessey, an English teacher at Piscataquis Community High School in Guilford, was selected from over 300 entries and included recognition as the 2018 Piscataquis County Teacher of the Year. In addition to Hennessey, the other 2019 state finalists include Connie Russell, a teacher at Mabel I. Wilson School and 2018 Cumberland County Teacher of the Year; and Shana Goodall, a teacher at Orono High School and the 2018 Penobscot County Teacher of the Year.

The 2020 Maine Teacher of the Year will be selected from the 16 county honorees. The field will be

narrowed to eight semi-finalists and then three state finalists before the ultimate winner is announced by Maine’s Education Commissioner at a surprise school assembly in the fall.

The Maine Teacher of the Year program is administered by Educate Maine, a business-led organization whose mission is to champion college, career readiness, and increased education attainment.

The Teacher of the Year program is no cost to taxpayers. Bangor Savings Bank reimburses the winning educator’s school district for the cost of substitutes while the Teacher of the Year is out of the classroom on their official duties, which includes travel throughout the state, a week at NASA Space Camp, and a visit to the White House.

For more information about the Maine Teacher of the Year program, visit the Maine Department of Education website.

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Maine Office of Tourism awards Enterprise Grants

The Maine Office of Tourism has awarded over \$46,000 in the Fall 2018 cycle of Tourism Enterprise Grants. The grants are designed to fund smaller or focused tourism marketing projects of permanent, non-profit organizations whose primary purpose is to promote and expand tourism in Maine.

“The Office of Tourism is focused on elevating Maine’s brand and marketing the state as a destination, but we are also charged with supporting the growth of the industry in our state,” said Steve Lyons, director of the Maine Office of Tourism. “By boosting the efforts of our industry partners on the ground through these grants, we are strengthening the assets of Maine’s tourism industry overall.”

The Fall 2018 grant awards support a range of tourism marketing efforts.

The Bates Dance Festival received \$10,000 in funding to support efforts

to build cultural tourism in Lewiston-Auburn.

Visit Freeport received \$8,250 to promote the Maine Pumpkin Trail, joining forces with Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens and the trail’s founding members, Maine Maritime Museum and Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta. The partners plan to leverage each other’s assets to increase new visitors, visitor spending, and encourage longer stays.

The William A. Farnsworth Library and Art Museum received \$9,250 in support of efforts to brand Rockland as a major art destination for travelers to Maine, with unique “Rockland - Art Capital of Maine”-branded activities and sites.

Abbe Museum received \$10,000 to expand the reach of the Abbe Museum Indian Market - both before and after the May event - contributing to the wider tourism goals of the region. Projects include a

podcast and online press room.

The Wesserunett Arts Council received \$3,877.50 to support the Somerset County Rural Cultural Plan. The 2019 Cheese, Brews, and Bread event will expand from an afternoon of sampling cheese to a full day of local food experiences, demonstrations, and workshops that will culminate in a festival in downtown Skowhegan.

The Northern Forest Center received \$2,450. In partnership with the Moosehead Event Marketing Committee, the center will coordinate and support the cooperative marketing of 10 events that attract visitors and boost visitor spending to the Moosehead Lake region.

Main Street Bucksport received \$2,500 in funding to promote the fourth annual International Maritime Film Festival, scheduled for September 27-29. The goal of this project is to grow the festival audience and financial stability.

“The award recipients were selected based on the potential of the project to increase tourism in Maine beyond the immediate region, project sustainability, and the organizations’ ability to execute successfully,” said MOT grant manager Hannah Collins.

The Spring 2019 Tourism Enterprise Grant cycle will open in April. At that time, online application forms will be posted at MOTpartners.com, with grant requests due by mid-May. For more information regarding MOT’s marketing grants program, contact Hannah.Collins@Maine.



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Maine was U-Haul’s No. 10 Growth State for 2018

Maine jumped 16 spots to become U-Haul’s No. 10 Growth State in America for 2018, according to U-Haul data analyzing U.S. migration trends for the recently completed calendar year.

The company tracks “Growth States” by the net gain of one-way U-Haul trucks entering a state versus leaving that state during the year. Migration trends data is compiled from more than 2 million one-way U-Haul truck-sharing transactions that occur annually.

Maine arrivals of one-way U-Haul trucks were up 3 percent, while departures held steady from the state’s 2017 numbers. Arrivals accounted for 50.5 percent of all one-way U-Haul traffic in Maine, making it the No. 10 state for netting do-it-yourself movers.

Maine was a virtual break-even state in 2017, registering in the middle of the pack at No. 26, but it returned to being a net-gain state in 2018. Maine was also a top-10 growth state in 2016 (No. 6) and 2015 (No. 9).

Within the state, Ellsworth, Augusta, and Auburn paced Maine’s net gain of one-way U-Haul trucks. Other cities with notable net gains were Rockland, Rumford, and Brunswick.

Texas and Florida remain Nos. 1 and 2, respectively, for the third year in a row. South Carolina, Utah and Idaho round out the top five states for growth in 2018.

Illinois ranks 50th for the third time in four years, with the most net departures of U-Haul trucks, outpacing No. 48 California and No. 49 Michigan among out-migration states.

To view the complete

state rankings, as well as the top U-Haul U.S. Growth Cities and Canadian Growth Cities for 2018, visit myuhaulstory.com.

While migration trends do not correlate directly to population or economic growth, U-Haul growth data is an effective gauge of how well states and cities are attracting and maintaining residents.

U-Haul is the authority on migration trends thanks to its expansive network that blankets all 50 states and 10 Canadian provinces. The geographical coverage from more than 21,000 U-Haul truck and trailer sharing locations provides a comprehensive overview of where people are moving like no one else in the industry. Find U-Haul stores and neighborhood dealers in Maine at uhaul.com/locations.

Resolve to give blood in January

The American Red Cross encourages people to help meet the urgent need for blood and platelets by resolving to give blood this January - National Blood Donor Month.

The critical role of blood and platelet donors has been celebrated each January for nearly 50 years during National Blood Donor Month, which coincides with one of the most difficult times to maintain a sufficient blood supply for patients. Busy holiday schedules, extreme winter weather, and seasonal illnesses often impact donor turnout this time of year.

The Red Cross encourages eligible donors to resolve to give blood or platelets regularly, beginning in January. All donors who give blood or platelets during National Blood Donor Month in January at Red Cross blood drives in Maine will receive a \$5 Dunkin’ Gift Card via email as a thank you for helping save lives during National Blood Donor Month. A valid email address must be on file at the time of donation.

Eligible donors can find a blood or platelet donation opportunity and schedule an appointment to donate by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767), using the free Blood Donor App, or visiting RedCrossBlood.org.

Donation appointments and the completion of a RapidPass are encouraged to help speed up the donation process. RapidPass lets donors complete the pre-donation reading and answer the health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, from the convenience of a mobile device or computer or through the Blood Donor App.

Those interested in hosting a blood drive can learn more and sign up to sponsor a drive this winter by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/HostADrive.

Upcoming local opportunities to donate blood include:

Freeport: 1/26, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wilburs of Maine, 174 Lower Maine Street; 1/29, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., L.L. Bean Retail Store, 95 Main Street.

Lewiston: 1/10, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Lewiston Career Center, 5 Mollison Way; 1/12, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Lewiston-Auburn Harley-Davidson, 839 Main Street; 1/14, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Lewiston

Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, 415 Lisbon Street; 1/15, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Androscoggin Bank Colisee, 190 Birch Street.

Livermore Falls: 1/26, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Livermore Falls Fire Department, 15 Park Street.

Norway: 1/11, 12 to 5 p.m., Walgreens Norway, 53 Paris Street.

Oxford: 1/24, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Oxford Casino, 777 Casino Way; 1/5, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 315 Skeetfield Road.

Poland: 1/19, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Poland Town Hall, 1223 Maine Street, Rt. 26.

Raymond: 1/25, 2 to 7 p.m., Public Safety Building, 1443 Roosevelt Trail.

Sabattus: 1/17, 1 to 6 p.m., Oak Hill Middle School, 40 Ball Park Road.

South Paris: 1/9, 1 to 6 p.m., Paris Fire Dept, 137 Western Ave.

Standish: 1/25, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saint Joseph’s College - Alford Center, 278 Whites Bridge Road.

Windham: 1/28, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Windham Weaponry, 999 Roosevelt Trail.

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Thursday, Jan. 10
Chamber Breakfast Meeting. 7 a.m. Hilton Garden Inn, 14 Great Falls Plaza, Auburn. Craig Zurhorst of Western Maine Transportation Services discusses “Planned and Proposed Changes Coming to Public Transportation in the Region.” \$22 (members \$35). Register at www.LAMetroChamber.com.

La Rencontre. 11:25 a.m. Franco Center, 46 Cedar St., Lewiston. Following a meal of pot roast and all the fixings, Emily Flynn and Jordan Payne Hay present a program of show tunes. \$12. Reserve at 783-1585 or box-office@francocenter.org.

Friday, Jan. 11
Senior College Luncheon. 12 p.m. Room 170, Lewiston-Auburn College. Fred Jordan, former Chief Medical Examiner for the State of Oklahoma, speaks about the historic origins of his profession. Optional lunch is \$8; reserve by noon on 11/9 at 753-6510.

Theater: “Lend Me a Tenor.” 7:30 p.m. Great Falls Performing Arts Center, Auburn. Community Little Theatre presents this fast-paced comedy classic involving the greatest tenor of his time, an outrageous bellhop, and mistaken identities. Again Jan. 12-13, 17-20 (Suns. at 2 p.m.). \$18/15/12. 783-0958; LACLTL.com.

Sunday, Jan. 12
Bean Supper. 4:45 p.m. Calvary United Methodist Church, 59 Sabattus St., Lewiston (please use garden entrance on Bartlett St.). Two kinds of beans, hot dogs, casseroles, salads, pies, beverages. \$8/3. 782-3221.

Concert: Midcoast Symphony Orchestra. 7 p.m. Franco Center, 46 Cedar St., Lewiston. The program features the world premiere of Rich Shemaria’s “Concerto for Trumpet and Orchestra” with guest soloist Wayne du Maine.

Students free; others \$20 (cash or check) at door, by calling 846-5378, or at www.midcoastsymphony.org.

Sunday, Jan. 13
Lewiston Winter Farmer’s Market. 10 a.m. to noon. YWCA, 130 East Ave., Lewiston. Vendors sell locally grown and produced goods. Harvest Bucks, Market Rewards; credit, debit, cash, and SNAP/EBT accepted. 513-3848; www.lewistonfarmersmarket.com.
“Indoor Gardening for Year Round Salad.” 2 to 3:30 p.m. St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 27 Pleasant St., Brunswick. Learn a simple method for raising salad greens year-round without grow lights, greenhouses, or fancy equipment. \$5 donation. Pres. by Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust.

Monday, Jan. 14
American Red Cross Blood Drive. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. LA Metro Chamber of Commerce, 415 Lisbon St., Lewiston. The need for blood donors is now critical; to register and choose an appointment time, enter LAMETRO in the blue box (top right) at <http://www.redcrossblood.org>.

Tuesday, Jan. 15
Film Screening. 6 p.m. Callahan Hall, Lewiston Public Library. Jose Antonio Vargas’ film “Undocumented” explores the lives of children who were illegally brought to the United States; discussion, refreshments follow. Free. 241-2607.

Wednesday, Jan. 16
Work for Yourself@50+. 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. SeniorsPlus, 8 Falcon Road, Lewiston. New Ventures Maine presents this AARP Foundation workshop. Free. 557-1885. Register at <http://bit.ly/WFY50Lewiston-Jan16>.

Thursday, Jan. 17
Great Falls Forum. Noon to 1 p.m. Callahan Hall, Lewiston Public Library. Best-selling Maine novelist Paul Doiron discusses “Telling Maine Stories.” Free. Bring your bag lunch. 513-3135; LPLReference@Gmail.com.

Book Discussion. 2 p.m. Morse Memorial Library, 105 Main St., Greene. This month’s selection is 2016 National Book Award finalist “News of the World” by Paulette Jiles. Multiple copies avail. to borrow. 946-5544; www.morse.lib.me.us.

Theater: “Lend Me a Tenor.” 7:30 p.m. Great Falls Performing Arts Center, Auburn. Community Little Theatre presents this fast-paced comedy classic involving the greatest tenor of his time, an outrageous bellhop, and mistaken identities. Again Jan. 18-20 (Sun. at 2 p.m.). \$18/15/12. 783-0958; LACLTL.com.

Sunday, Jan. 20
Lewiston Winter Farmer’s Market. 10 a.m. to noon. YWCA, 130 East Ave., Lewiston. Vendors sell locally grown and produced goods. Harvest Bucks, Market Rewards; credit, debit, cash, and SNAP/EBT accepted. 513-3848; www.lewistonfarmersmarket.com.

Thursday, Jan. 24
“Resume and Interview Preparation.” 9 to 11:30 a.m. Lewiston Career Center. Pres. by New Ventures Maine, this experiential workshop offers current tools, resources, and guidance for writing an effective resume and preparing for a successful interview. Free. Register at 753-6531.

Annual Dinner & Awards. 5 to 9 p.m. Ramada Hotel & Conference Center, Lewiston. Following

a social hour, the LA Metro Chamber of Commerce presents its annual awards. \$50. 783-2249; www.LAMetroChamber.com.

Saturday, Jan. 26
Baked Bean Supper. 5 p.m. First Congregational Church, Rte. 115, Gray. Baked beans, casseroles, salads, homemade breads and desserts, beverages. \$8/4. Wheelchair accessible. 657-4279 (day of supper 657-3279).

Sunday, Jan. 27
Lewiston Winter Farmer’s Market. 10 a.m. to noon. YWCA, 130 East Ave., Lewiston. Vendors sell locally grown and produced goods. Harvest Bucks, Market Rewards; credit, debit, cash, and SNAP/EBT accepted. 513-3848; www.lewistonfarmersmarket.com.

Comedian Bob Marley. 6 p.m. Orion Theatre, Topsham. The well-known comedian presents a teen-friendly comedy show to benefit Mt. Ararat High School’s Project Graduation. \$25/20. 798-0404, sirois1988@comcast.net.

Monday, Jan. 28
Film Screening. 6:30 p.m. Franco Center, 46 Cedar St., Lewiston. The center screens the comedy “Super Lola,” a 2013 made-for-TV movie from France; in French w. English subtitles. Free; donations accepted. www.francocenter.org.

Thursday, Jan. 31
“Your Money Personality.” 6 to 8 p.m. Lewiston Adult Education. Pres. by New Ventures Maine, this workshop uses a card-sort activity to help you understand how your habits and attitudes towards money affect your decisions and actions. Free. Register at 753-6531.

Sunday, Feb. 3
Lewiston Winter Farmer’s Market. 10 a.m. to noon. YWCA, 130 East Ave., Lewiston. Vendors sell locally grown and produced goods. Harvest Bucks, Market Rewards; credit, debit, cash, and SNAP/EBT accepted. 513-3848; www.lewistonfarmersmarket.com.

Super Bowl Sunday Table Tour. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Viles Arboretum, 153 Hospital St., Augusta. Prepare for the big game by getting some outdoor activity on

the groomed trails while sampling foods from area eateries. \$20 (\$5 ages 10-); toddlers free. 626-7989; www.vilesarboretum.org.

Monday, Feb. 4
Book Discussion. 12:30 p.m. Local History Room, Auburn Public Library. The Auburn Page Turners discuss “Future Home of the Living God,” by Louise Erdrich. Open to all; copies avail. through the library. Free. 333-6640, ext. 4.

Sunday, Feb. 10
Lewiston Winter Farmer’s Market. 10 a.m. to noon. YWCA, 130 East Ave., Lewiston. Vendors sell locally grown and produced goods. Harvest Bucks, Market Rewards; credit, debit, cash, and SNAP/EBT accepted. 513-3848; www.lewistonfarmersmarket.com.

Sunday, Feb. 17
Lewiston Winter Farmer’s Market. 10 a.m. to noon. YWCA, 130 East Ave., Lewiston. Vendors sell

Cooperative Extension offers free webinar on crop insurance program

University of Maine Cooperative Extension invites farmers to learn about the Whole Farm Revenue Protection crop insurance program prior to the March 15 enrollment deadline with a free webinar on Thursday, January 24 from noon to 1 p.m.

The webinar will provide an overview of the gross

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Escape Room (PG-13)	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:50
Bumblebee (PG-13)	1:00	4:00	7:05	9:45
Mary Poppins Returns (PG)	12:45	3:45	6:45	9:35
The Mule (R)	1:15	4:15	6:55	9:30
A Dog's Way Home (PG)	12:40	3:40	6:40	9:40
Aquaman (PG-13)	12:30	3:30	6:30	9:15
Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse (PG)	12:50	6:50	9:30	
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locally grown and produced goods. Harvest Bucks, Market Rewards; credit, debit, cash, and SNAP/EBT accepted. 513-3848; www.lewistonfarmersmarket.com.

Sunday, Feb. 24
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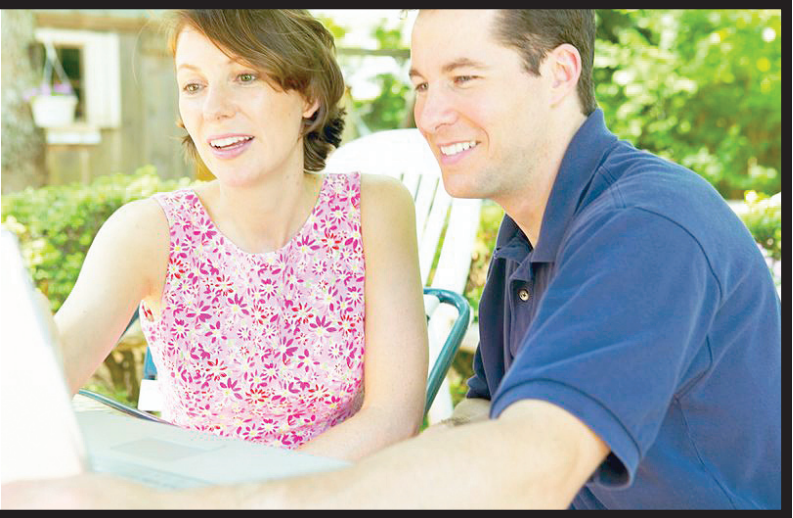
Monday, Mar. 4
Book Discussion. 12:30 p.m. Local History Room, Auburn Public Library. The Auburn Page Turners discuss “Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City,” by Matthew Desmond. Open to all; copies avail. through the library. Free. 333-6640, ext. 4.



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