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Out & About with Rachel Morin L-A Senior College looks at personal side of immigration



Presenter Heritier Nossos (on African Immigrants), center, talks to students (from l.) Cynthia Williams, Delores Wetter, Penny Jessop, and Donna Kilkelly during break.

Story and photos by **Rachel Morin**

We are a nation of immigrants. -- John F. Kennedy

Everywhere immigrants have enriched and strengthened the fabric of American life. -- John F. Kennedy

Immigration! There has been so much publicity on immigration the past several years, across the nation and globally, in the press and on radio and television. Immigration was the topic See Immigration, page 8

"Fiddle-icious" founder plans weekend event for traditional musicians



Don Roy, founding member of Maine's largest fiddle orchestra, Fiddle-icious, has created a unique weekend event where participants will explore many facets of traditional music. "Fiddle-icious Traditions" will take place April 12 through 14 on the campus of USM's Lewiston-Auburn College.

Although the word "fiddle" is part of the name, players of all traditional contra dance instruments are welcome and will find an enriching experience regardless of their instrument of choice.

Led by Troy MacGillivray, Wendy MacIsaac, Andrea Beaton, and other leading New England musicians, classes will be offered in step dancing, rhythm instrument accompaniment, Cape Breton piano style, calling contra dances, the history of traditional music, caring for stringed instruments, and more.

Organizers say the event will equip participants with the tools and enthusiasm to create local musical experiences, such as group instruction for children, bringing music to elders and the disabled, establishing open playing opportunities for those wanting to share or improve their gifts, and using music to inform and celebrate ethnic heritage in Maine

The weekend will start with a chance to meet, min-

Sea40me.com

gle, and jam with the instructors, followed by classes and panel discussions, a contra dance on Saturday night, and a concert finale on Sunday afternoon.

The registration fee for the weekend is \$250 per person, which includes a continental breakfast and lunch on Saturday and Sunday. For more information about the event or to register, see https://fiddleicioustraditions.com.

Known as Maine's Dean of Franco-American fiddling. Don Rov was named a 2018 National Heritage Fellow by the National Foundation for the Arts.

Since it was founded by Roy and friends in 2000, Fiddle-icious has grown into a 140 plus-member, all-volunteer non-profit organization with 501(c)(3)status. The group records an annual CD, performs concerts throughout Maine each fall, and will perform at the Stirling Bridge Festival in Scotland in 2020. For more information, see https:// fiddleicious.com.



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by five.

Craft & Vendor Fair to Benefit Kayden Kitchen Food Pantry at Mixers Nightclub & Lounge, 16 Sabattus Road, Sabattus, Maine. Saturday, January 26, 2019 from 9am to 2 pm. Will be having a raffle and 50/50. For more information contact Emma Dudley at emmadudley40@gmail.com

Movie Listings Every Week! Only in TCT. See page 13. www.FlagshipCinemas.com

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Auburn Ski Assoc. awards scholarship



Evelyn Bilodeau

The Auburn Ski Association recently presented a \$500 scholarship to 2018 Edward Little High School graduate Evelyn Bilodeau, who is currently attending Rochester Institute of Technology. Bilodeau graduated fourth in her class at ELHS, where she was also a committed member of the soccer and ski teams and the concert, marching, jazz, and pep bands. She helped lead her Odyssey of the Mind

team to the World Finals during her sophomore year, was selected as a delegate to the Olympia Snowe Women's Leadership Institute, and was a member of the National Honor Society.



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Unintended Consequences

By Sen. Jeff Timberlake

They say elections have consequences, and in the case of the minimum wage law that passed by referendum in 2016, the unintended consequences are harming our most vulnerable citizens.

A few weeks ago, as part of that sweeping minimum-wage referendum that passed in 2016, the minimum wage increased for the third time in three years.

As predicted by Republicans, certain sectors of the economy are struggling to keep up with the rapid wage inflation. Those who are most impacted are our elderly, those living on fixed incomes, and rural Mainers.

In our own community, a beloved breakfast establishment, On the Way Café, had to close their doors on January 1 because they couldn't absorb yet another wage increase. And there are more increases yet to come.

In only three years' time, the minimum wage has gone up by \$3.50 an hour. That's a lot for any business to handle. Next year, it will increase by another dollar, resulting in a 60 percent increase in the minimum wage spread out over only four years.

To compensate for wage inflation, the cost of living in Maine has increased for everyone. From the cost of daycare for working families to the cost of groceries, eating a meal at a restaurant to buying an ice cream cone at the local ice cream parlor, everyone is beginning to feel the pinch.

But some have not been able to increase prices to compensate for the added cost of doing business.

Last session, the legislature passed emergency legislation to provide an increase in the Medicaid reimbursement rate for companies that provide critical home-based and community-based care. These services that cover some of Maine's most vulnerable citizens were in jeopardy as the inflation of minimum wage outpaced the rate that providers were reimbursed by the state.

We also passed emergency funding to help nursing homes cover their increasing overhead costs. These emergency funds, while necessary, were only a Band-Aid, as these needs will arise each year with the increasing wage.

Maine's population is the oldest in the country. It's critical that we take care of our elderly, allowing them to age with dignity and remain in their own homes for as long as possible. That's why I am sponsoring legislation to index the MaineCare reimbursement rate paid to nursing homes and other adult care facilities to the minimum wage.

We can't allow our elderly on fixed incomes and disabled to be harmed by an unreasonable minimum wage law.

Also suffering are bottle redemption centers, as the increased overhead has proved to be too high of a burden for some. The reimbursement rate for bottle returns is set by statute and is not responsive to the minimum wage law, making it increasingly difficult for businesses to recoup the cost of wage increases.

Recently, a bottle re-



demption center in Bangor that has been in operation for 36 years announced that they are closing their doors because they can't afford \$11 an hour. In addition to helping keep our roadways and transfer stations free of recyclable bottles, this business once created 17 jobs for area residents. I am sure the people of that community will feel this loss as these jobs will no longer exist and they will now have to travel further to recycle bottles.

To help the bottle redemption centers that have managed to hold on, I have submitted legislation to investigate how we can help these businesses survive. They provide an important service for our state, and we need to be sure that they have every opportunity to stay afloat.

These are only a couple of the minimum wage-related bills that I have submitted this session. I look forward to continuing this important discussion with my colleagues in Augusta.

Senator Jeff Timberlake (R - Androscoggin) represents Maine Senate District 22, which includes Durham, Greene, Leeds, Lisbon, Litchfield, Sabattus, Turner, Wales, and Wayne.

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Governor's Address: It's Time to Move Forward on Affordable Senior Housing

For one thousand, one hundred and sixty-nine days, Mainers who voted in support of affordable senior housing have waited for their voices to matter. They comprise almost 70 percent of those who went to the polls three years ago who voted for the senior housing bond.

No longer will we wait. Earlier this week, I signed a financial order to internally transfer some of the voter-approved \$15 million senior housing bond to immediately pay for weatherization and home improvement projects so Maine seniors can live safely in their own homes.

I also notified Treasurer Henry Beck that I will authorize the sale of the bond when Maine goes to market in June to fund projects that are ready to be completed. It's time to build



Governor Janet Mills

more affordable housing for Maine seniors, just as the voters intended.

While the people of Maine authorized this bond nearly three years ago, we can now move proudly forward in our goal of ensuring that all Maine seniors can live safely, with dignity and comfort, in the communities they love.

The release of the senior housing bonds would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of the Maine Affordable Housing Coalition, the Maine Council on Aging, AARP, and countless others who never stopped believing in the power of advocacy to create

Although this is an important step, we still need your voices. While these bonds will help build more than 200 affordable units and fund weatherization improvements for another 100 homes, we still have more work to do to ensure affordable housing for our

seniors. More than 9,000 Maine seniors remain on a waitlist for safe, affordable housing.

I look forward to continuing this work with Maine's advocates, seniors, and all of you in the coming years.

Let's get going.

Thank You, Janet Mills Governor

CCU donates 6,124 diapers to Promise Early Educ. Center



Pictured here (l. to r.) with students of the Early Head Start Classroom at Coburn are Amber Dawn Doiron (PEEC), Jennifer Hogan (CCU), Betsy Sibley (CCU), Jen Leonard (PEEC), Betsy Norcross Plourde (PEEC), Tiffany Mathon (CCU), Lorraine Foster (CCU), and Andrew Lunn (CCU).

Community Credit Union recently capped off its 11th annual Diaper Drive by delivering over 6,124 diapers to the staff and children of Promise Early Education Center, formerly known as Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care. CCU board members, staff, and members raised \$1,100 to purchase the diapers.

"Here at Promise, we meet all the needs of children in our care, which includes diapers," said Betsy Norcross Plourde, Executive Director of Promise Early Education Center. "Community Credit Union's donation of 6,124 diapers provides almost 20% of the diapers needed by our program in a year. In addition, their donation is also eligible for a funding match, so every dollar in diapers provided brings \$4 in federal funding to support Head Start services in Androscoggin County."

As the Head Start Program for Androscoggin County, Promise Early Education Center provides a safe, engaging, and empowering place for children to learn and grow; offers a results-driven educational curriculum taught by degreed, licensed teachers; and supports the engagement of parents and caregivers in their child's learning through

partnership, communication, and a commitment to parents and caregivers as primary educators. For more information, call them at 795-4040 or see www. PromiseEarlyEducation.

With branches at 144 Pine Street in Lewiston, 40 Stanley Street in Auburn, and 1025 Auburn Road in Turner, Community Credit Union is a member-owned, full-service financial institution that has been serving its members and the community since 1945. For more information, see www. communitycreditunion.com.

Rotary Breakfast Club meeting

The next meeting of the Auburn-Lewiston Rotary Breakfast Club will feature guest speaker Erik Mitchell of ReVision Energy on Wednesday, January 30 at 7 a.m. Mitchell is a Solar Design Specialist with the Portland company, where he helps homeowners reduce their dependence on fossil fuels and understand the many benefits of going solar. He started with Re-Vision Energy as an installer and project manager in 2008, focusing mainly on solar thermal and heat pump installations.

Mitchell graduated from the University of

Maine at Farmington with a degree in business administration. After graduating, he spent time living (and skiing) in Lake Tahoe, CA and living (and working) on a tugboat in New York City. In his free time, he can be found spending time outdoors with his wife, Mercedes, and chocolate lab, Fozzie, and tending to the never-ending list of projects around the house.

The club meets every Wednesday at the United Methodist Church, located at 439 Park Avenue in Auburn. The cost for breakfast is \$15. All are welcome to attend

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Rotary Club plans annual auction



Organizing the event are club members Tom MacDonald (president), Celeste Yakawonis, Stephanie Gelinas, Ed Plourde, and Monica and Jim Millhime. Absent from the photo are Lorraine Bard and Joelle MacDonald.

Members of the Lewiston-Auburn Rotary Lunch Club invite business partners and community members to attend the annual Club Auction on Saturday, February 16, from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Carriage House at 1119 Lisbon Street in Lewiston

Following the preview at 5 p.m., there will be a buffet dinner at 6:00. A cash bar will be available. Entertainment will be provided by the Arnott Fiddlers. The live auction will begin at 8 p.m. Thousands of dollars' worth of auction items and raffle prizes will be up for grabs, including tickets to the New England Patriots and Boston Red Sox.

Tickets are \$20 each. Raffle tickets will be available at the door at \$10 for 15 tickets or \$20 for 40 tickets. Online reservations are available now by visiting https://www.eventbrite.

serve tickets is Saturday, February 9. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Rotary's local projects and charities. For more information, call 713-7045 or email millhime@myfair-

Rep. Bickford to serve on Taxation Committee

State Representative Bruce A. Bickford (R-Auburn) has been appointed to the 129th Maine Legislature's Joint Standing Committees on Taxation. He will serve as the lead Republican on a committee that is responsible for state and local

taxes, tax credits and exemptions, taxpayer relief programs, and other tax issues.

"Low taxes create jobs and economic activity," said Bickford. "Lower taxes, pro-growth policies, and responsible budgeting have resulted in a strong Maine economy that is growing to benefit more people. I want to continue to support Maine families and businesses and let them invest in Maine's future by opposing new taxes."

Rep. Bickford, who is retired, was recently reelected to his fifth, nonconsecutive term representing District 63. In addition to prior service on the Taxation Committee, he has served on the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and the Joint Select Committee on Marijuana Legalization Implementation.

The deadline to re-

King adds Andro. County Rep to state offices

U.S. Senator Angus King (I-Maine) has announced that Marge Kilkelly, a senior advisor serving in his Washington, D.C. office since 2013, will assume duties representing Androscoggin County as a Regional Representative in his state offices.

Kilkelly has advised King on a wide range of policy issues since he was first elected to the Senate, from health care and opioids to agricultural issues. In her new position, she will focus her efforts on the people of Androscoggin County, supporting King's work to help the region's prosperity and the people who live there.

"Marge has dedicated her career to helping Maine people, and I know she will be a fierce advocate for men, women, and families in Androscoggin County as Regional Representative," said King. "Her hard work in my office over the last six years has brought clarity to difficult issues, and I am a better public servant because of her counsel. As my eyes and ears in Androscoggin County, Marge will further

our important work in the region and continue to build relationships that help local people and the local econ-

Kilkelly has decades of experience in public service. A resident of Dresden, she served in the Maine House of Representatives for ten years and in the Maine Senate for six years, where she chaired the Agriculture Committee and Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee.

She has also served in leadership roles with a number of non-profit organizations, including as President of the New England Famers Union and as Deputy Director of the Council of State Government's Eastern Region. She and her husband, Joe Murray, own and operate a direct-to-consumer diversified livestock farm in Dresden.

With Kilkelly as his primary representative in Androscoggin County, King plans to open a Lewiston-Auburn office in the coming months. He currently has state offices located in Scarborough, Augusta, Bangor, and Presque Isle.

Power Lunch seminar

On Wednesday, January 30, from 12 to 1 p.m., the LA Metro Chamber of Commerce will present a Power Lunch seminar on "How to Participate in the 2019 Central Maine Heart Walk." Speakers Shelly Afthim and Brittany Whalen of the American Heart Association invite individuals and businesses who support a heart-healthy workplace to come learn how to participate in this year's Heart Walk on April 28.

The event is free and will take place in the chamber's conference room at 415 Lisbon Street in Lewiston. Lunch will not be provided. For more information, call 783-2249. Those planning to attend are asked to register at www.LAMetroChamber.com.

Maine CASA to hold Spring **Training March 19-22**

Are you interested in speaking up for a Maine foster child? The Maine Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program will hold its spring training for volunteer advocates March 19 through 22 in the Augusta area. Those attending will learn about all aspects of child advocacy work in order to be certified as a volunteer guardian ad litem in the Maine District Courts. The four-day training program is free.

Maine CASAs are community volunteers appointed to serve as guardians ad litem (GALs) for children whose parents are involved in a child protection case. The foundation of the CASA's work is to learn about the case and then advise the judge in writing of what he/she believes is in the child's best interest.

CASAs come from a wide variety of professional and personal backgrounds and bring their own unique perspectives to their work as volunteers. They are guided throughout the process by

staff attorneys.

Last year, hundreds of children involved in child protection cases had volunteer CASAs serving as their voices in court. Right now, there are more foster children than CASA volunteers. If you have a big heart and are willing to speak up for a Maine child, apply to become a CASA volunteer. To apply, you must be over 21 and have a high school diploma or GED equivalent, but no special training or background is required. Along with the application, you will need to provide three references and must complete a background check that includes disclosing any criminal or child protection history.

For more information about becoming a volunteer, contact Maine CASA Legal Services Advisor Darren Defoe, Esq. at 213-2864 or darren.defoe@courts. maine.gov.

For more about the Maine CASA Program or to access the application, see www.casaofmaine.org.

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LAE hosts info session on **Construction Training Program**



Participants in the 2018 program build a shed.

Lewiston Adult Education is encouraging adults interested in starting a career in the construction industry to attend an information session about the upcoming Lewiston Construction Training Program on Tuesday, February 5 at the Lewiston CareerCenter.

The Construction Training Program provides hands-on and classroom instruction that equips students with the work readiness and construction skills necessary to gain an entry-level position in the industry. Employer partners provide on-the job-training and are ready to hire successful graduates of the program. The course will run this spring and is free to qualified candidates.

Students who complete the course will earn a Work Ready credential, OSHA 10 certification, and RRP certification. To qualify, participants must pass the CASAS test in reading and math, have the ability to work in the United States,

and successfully complete an eligibility screening. To register for the information session, call Lewiston Adult Education at 795-4141 or email workforce@community-concepts.org.

The program is made possible through a partnership of Lewiston Adult Education, the Lewiston CareerCenter, Western Maine Community Action, the John T. Gorman Foundation, Community Concepts, the City of Lewiston, Take2/ Goodwill, and Fedcap.

CMMC plans open house for new Sacred Space

The Spiritual Care Department at Central Maine Medical Center will host the grand opening of its new Sacred Space: A Room for Prayer and Meditation on Tuesday, January 29, from 12 to 2 p.m. The new space is located on the third-floor Young Wing at 60 High Street in Lewiston.

Welcoming the rich religious and spiritual diversity of the community, the space will serve as a spiritual refuge for patients and visitors seeking solace amid the crisis of illness or injury. Its central location in the beautiful Young Wing atrium reflects the hospital's strong commitment to the spiritual dimension of healing and provides easy access for patients' families, friends, and community clergy. Patients and visitors will also have access to a variety of religious, spiritual, and bereavement resources.

The event is free and open to the public; if you plan to attend, please send an RSVP to rsvp@cmmc.

Lewiston legislators schedule public office hours

provide residents a chance

Lewiston's delegates to the Maine Legislature will hold public office hours on Saturday, January 26, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Couture Room at Lewiston Public Library. The delegation includes Senate Majority Leader Nate Libby and Reps. Heidi Brooks, Kristen Cloutier, Margaret Craven, and Jim Handy, all of whom will be in attendance.

to meet with their elected officials, ask questions, and get help with legislative or state government matters. The delegation will also give updates on its work on various policy committees and will provide a preview of the legislative session to come. All are welcome to attend, ask questions, and get answers.

Public office hours Public office hours will be held throughout the year on the fourth Saturday of each month. Exceptions will be May, when they will be held on the third Saturday to allow for observance of Memorial Day, and December, when the fourth Saturday falls in the middle of the holiday season. The dates are as follows: January 26, February 23, March 23, April 27, May 18, June 22, July 27, August 24, September 28, October 26, and November 23.

MaineCF has grants for Andro. County nonprofits

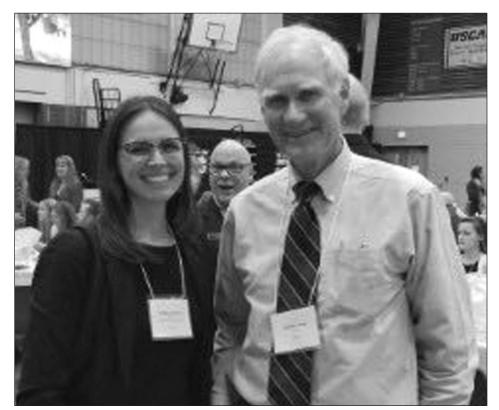
Nonprofit and public organizations seeking funding for projects that strengthen communities in Androscoggin County are encouraged to apply to the Maine Community Foundation's Community Building Grant Program. The deadline is February 15. The application, guidelines, and a list of grant opportuni-

ties are available at www. mainecf.org.

The Androscoggin County Fund was launched in 1999 with a matching gift from Androscoggin Savings Bank. A volunteer committee of Androscoggin County residents and business leaders reviews grants and makes recommendations for funding. In 2018, the committee awarded \$35,000 in grants to six nonprofits; since 1999, the committee has awarded more than \$270,000 in grants.

The Maine Community Foundation works with donors and other partners to improve the quality of life for all Maine people. To learn more about the foundation, visit www.mainecf.org.

CMCC hosts state legislators



CMCC Director of Communications Heather Seymour and State Senator Brownie Carson of Harpswell in the Kirk Hall Gymnasium

Central Maine Community College welcomed over 70 state legislators to the campus recently as part of a bus tour that brought them to the Lewiston-Auburn area. In addition to CMCC, the group visited the downtown area, Bates Mill developments, the Good Shepherd Food Bank, and Baxter Brewing.

The Maine Development Foundation organizes the bus tours through its

Policy Leaders Academy, a program that enables participants to learn more about the Maine economy and how public policy decisions affect the growth and investment strategies of Maine businesses and organizations.

The legislators enjoyed a buffet dinner in the gym and a virtual tour of the campus presented by CMCC President Scott Knapp. Speakers included

State Senate President Troy Jackson, Maine Development Foundation President Yellow Light Breen, and new Maine Community College System President Dave Daigler.

Daigler, who previously served as the system's chief financial officer, recently succeeded Derek Langhauser, who is now serving as chief legal counsel to Governor Janet Mills.

MSAD 52 offers Nursing Assistant training

Are you seeking a challenging yet rewarding career in the medical field? If so, MSAD 52 Adult and Community Education is offering a course that will provide participants with the skills and experiences needed to become Maine State certified as a Nursing Assistant.

Thanks to a regional collaboration of Androscoggin County Adult Education programs, the training is being offered at a reduced rate of \$400.

Skills will be introduced in an interactive classroom setting with a twoweek clinical experience to follow. The focus will be on nursing theory and application, basic anatomy and physiology, and clinical performance. Those who complete the course will be introduced to several employers within the region.

Only completed applications can be considered.

The regional program will meet Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 4 to 8:30 p.m. starting February 5; the Genesis Healthcare Partnership program will meet Thursdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. starting March 7. For more information, call 225-1010 or see http://www.msad52. maineadulted.org.

Send all submissions for the Calendar listing to Editor@TwinCityTimes.com Deadline is Friday by five.



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What's Going On

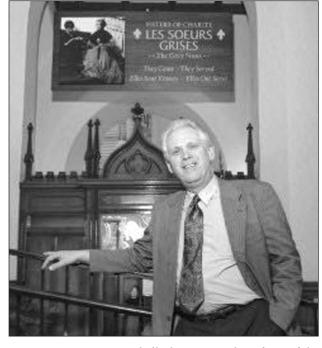
Performing arts, Franco culture find home in former St. Mary's Church

Story and photos by Nathan Tsukroff

What's old is new again at the Gendron Franco Center on the corner of Oxford and Cedar Streets in Lewiston. Much as the mills in Lewiston are seeing a rebirth as companies use them for office space and restaurants, this historically significant building was reborn in 2000 as a notfor-profit organization that houses a museum of Lewiston-Auburn history while catering to local groups for concerts and events.

The building where the Gendron Franco Center for Heritage and the Performing Arts resides began life in 1907 as St. Mary's Church. Workers at the local mills wanted a place of worship within walking distance of their "Little Canada" neighborhood, so-named because of the numerous immigrants from Canada who made their homes there.

Designed by Boston architects O'Connell and Shaw, the building is a Norman gothic-style church of Maine granite. Completed in 1927, it features nearly two-dozen stained glasses windows that soar above the seating area, drawing the viewer's eye to the ornate architecture of the ceiling 75 feet above. Most of those



Executive Director Mitchell Thomas stands in front of the room on the main floor that displays a history of the Grey Nuns (Les Soeurs Grises), who founded St. Mary's Hospital in Lewiston in 1888.

windows portray a scene featuring the Virgin Mary. The church served Catholic worshippers until nearly the turn of the century.

Honoring the heritage of the Franco-Americans who founded the church, a small room at the side of the center's magnificent performance hall houses a permanent exhibit on the history of the Sisters of Charity of Montreal, a religious order of Roman Catholic women founded

in 1737 by Saint Marguerite d'Youville. Part of the order eventually founded a community in the rural farming community of Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec, where they established a health care ministry and became a separate pontifical congregation.

Known locally as the Grey Nuns (Les Soeurs Grises), the Sisters of Charity served and supported the Franco community in the Lewiston-Auburn area long before the creation of the



Thomas examines an admission book from St. Mary's Hospital that is on view in the display.

social safety net that is taken for granted today. When they arrived in Lewiston, the nuns taught children to read and write while soliciting blankets for the poor, food for the hungry, and medicine for the sick.

They founded St. Mary's Hospital in 1888. Under the auspices of Covenant Health, St. Mary's still serves families throughout the greater Lewiston-Auburn region today in the form of St. Mary's Regional Medical Center, St. Mary's d'Youville Pavilion, and St. Mary's Residences

For the last half-century, Lewiston has maintained a population of about 40,000, with demographics that have gradually shifted as immigrant families were absorbed into American society. About 23% of Mainers identify as Franco-Americans. Eight of 10 of them live within 50 miles of L-A. Many are still fluent in French.

Speaking French was discouraged in public schools, says Franco Center Executive Director Mitch Thomas, so many children grew up without being allowed to acknowledge that part of their identity. The center is now a place where local and visiting Francophones can meet weekly to converse in French.

Adding a new element to the local Francophone community are more recent immigrants from French-speaking countries in Africa. Half the members of the French Club are



Overlooking the display is this ornate, hand-painted stained glass window.

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Congo, and Rwanda.

On the second Thursday of each month, the center hosts a luncheon with entertainment called La Rencontre, French for "The Gathering" The event is

Rencontre, French for "The Gathering." The event is open not only to Francophones but to those of all ages and backgrounds.

immigrants who fled from

oppression and violence in

countries such as Burundi,

the Democratic Republic of

While preserving the history of the area, the center has also become a focal point for classical and modern music concerts, comedy shows and musicals, as well as a popular event facility for hosting private business meetings, weddings, baby showers, funerals, and birthday parties.

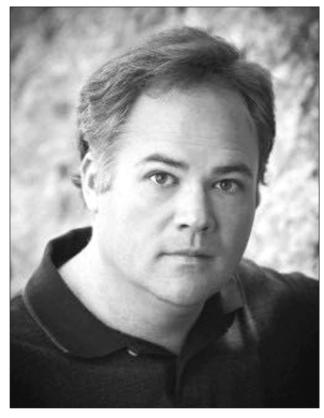
From his office in the basement area, Thomas

oversees it all, from shows on the weekends, to business meetings during the week, to catered events that can take place on almost any day. He says the center supports itself through the various concerts and events that it hosts throughout the year. And, with an eye toward meeting new needs as the community evolves, it recently earned a grant to install audio-visual equipment that will enable it to host virtual meetings for local companies.

Upcoming events at the Gendron Franco Center include "F.A.B. - A Dance Showcase" on February 2, "AudioBody" on February 9, and the next gathering of La Recontre on February 14. For more information about the center, upcoming events, or to buy tickets, see www. francocenter.org.



Local author to discuss new Rock Hudson bio at LPL, APL



Author Mark Griffin is a resident of Lewiston. (Photo by Keary Nichols)

Lewiston resident Mark Griffin will celebrate the release of his ground-breaking new book, "All That Heaven Allows: A Biography of Rock Hudson," at upcoming events at Lewiston and Auburn Public Libraries. The book, published by HarperCollins in December, has received enthusiastic critical reviews for being perceptive, em-

PERSONALIZED

pathetic, and exhaustively researched.

Griffin will be at Lewiston Public Library on Thursday, January 31 at 6 p.m. for a discussion of the book, followed by a Q&A session and the screening of a 35-minute documentary he produced that pays tribute to Hudson's career. The film features audio highlights from interviews Griffin conbiography.

On Thursday, February 14 at 2 p.m., Griffin will also discuss the book and answer questions at Auburn Public Library.

ducted while researching the

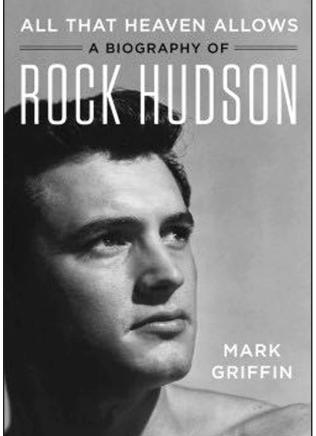
Free and open to the public, both events will have books available for purchase and signing. Proceeds from the LPL event will benefit the Friends of Lewiston Public Library.

"All That Heaven Allows" illuminates an alltoo-human superstar whose life and legacy have significantly influenced American culture. Drawing on more than 100 interviews with costars, family members, and former companions, along with unprecedented access to private journals, personal correspondence, and production files, Griffin's comprehensive biography finally produces a multidimensional portrait of one of the most compelling figures in film history.

Griffin offers the first in-depth analysis of Hudson's entire body of work, from his early bit parts, to his collaborations with visionary director Douglas Sirk, to his cheekily subversive bedroom farces with Doris Day, to his transition to the small screen in the hit series "McMillan & Wife."

The book also provides fresh insights into Hudson's controversial marriage to Phyllis Gates and his contentious dealings with boyfriend Marc Christian, providing answers to questions the late actor consistently evaded. Along the way, this riveting account features memorable appearances from an A-list cast of characters, including Elizabeth Taylor, James Dean, John Wayne, Judy Garland, Marilyn Monroe, and many other luminaries.

Mark Griffin is the author of "A Hundred or More Hidden Things: The Life and Films of Vincente Minnelli." His interviews, reviews, and essays have appeared in scores of publications, including the Boston Globe, Premiere, and MovieMaker. He recently appeared in the documentary "Gene Kelly: To Live and Dance."



LYME RELIEF

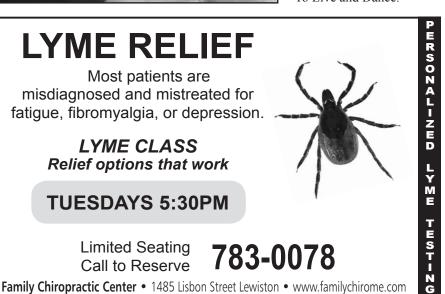
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What's Going On

MCP hosts auditions for "Annie: The musical"

Monmouth Community Players has scheduled auditions for its final show of the 2018-19 season, "Annie: The Musical." Auditions for Annie, the Orphan Girls, and other chorus kids will take place on Saturday, February 2, from 5 to 8 p.m. Auditions for adult and teen roles will take place on Sunday and Monday, February 3 and 4, from 6 to 8 p.m. All those auditioning will start with a closed singing audition, followed by a mini choreography audition, and ending with cold reads.

The director is Josie French of Lewiston, the assistant director is Tim MacLeod of Auburn, and the producer is Cindy Dunham of Windham. Show dates are April 26 through May 5. Rehearsals will take place every Monday and Wednesday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m. Please come to the auditions with all known conflicts.

The production won seven Tony Awards in 1977, including Best Musical, and three different film versions have been produced. The play features Broadway

classics like "Tomorrow," "You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile," and "I Don't Need Anything but You."

Cast of characters:

Annie (10-12), a streetwise orphan who is eventually taken in by Oliver Warbucks. Spunky, friendly, big-voiced.

Oliver Warbucks (40-55), a successful businessman with a warm heart. Rich, stiff-collared, bullish.

Grace Farrell (20-35), faithful secretary to Oliver Warbucks. Poised, sweet, gentle.

The other girls in the orphanage with Annie. These girls are gritty, neglected, and vulnerable, yet basically honest and potentially loveable. Includes Molly, the littlest (6); Kate, the second littlest (7); Tessie, the cry-baby (10); Pepper, the toughest (11); July, the quietest (13); and Duffy, the biggest (13). Orphans will be double-cast.

Miss Hannigan (35-55), the orphanage matron who hates children but is fond of liquor. Disillusioned, bitter, and cold; a dark comedienne tour-de-force

Rooster Hannigan (30-50), Miss Hannigan's nogood brother looking for a quick buck. A sleazy, slick con man.

Lily St. Regis (20-35), Rooster's girlfriend, a floozy and bimbo also out for a quick buck. Comedic skills a plus.

Bert Healy, the ultimate 1930s era radio personality. He helps Annie by broadcasting about the search for her birth parents. May double as other characters

Franklin Delano Roosevelt (40+), the 32nd President of the United States. A Democrat and friend of Warbucks.

Servants at the Warbucks mansion (various ages 15+), including Drake, Mrs. Pugh, Mrs. Greer, Cecille, and Annette. Will double as other characters in the show, such as Boylan Sisters, Cabinet members, Hooverville citizens, and people of New

For more information, email the director at storytwist@yahoo.com or the assistant director at timbrains@gmail.com.



What's Going On

Immigration Continued from page 1

of many local events, films, exhibits, presentations and group discussions this past year, many well-attended.

Cynthia J. Peters, historian and former board member of USM's Lewiston-Auburn Senior College, saw the interest and thought it would be a good subject for the Fall 2018 semester. In early 2017, she brought her idea to the senior college curriculum committee and they immediately accepted.

She became the facilitator for the class and began putting her idea into action, recruiting people who would be interested in telling the stories of how and why their parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, or even ancestors going further back came to America.

She found people were willing, even eager, to tell the stories of how and why their ancestors immigrated to this country. They worked on their stories, ferreting out as much information and as many anecdotes as they could.

They already had family stories and memories handed down, of course, but wanted even more information to impart to the classes. They gathered albums, pictures, religious relics from family members, and lots of printed information from schools, churches, and fraternal organizations.

USM's Lewiston-Auburn Senior College presented the eight-week course "The Immigrants of Androscoggin County" during its Fall 2018 semester, listing the following groups of local immigrants as subjects: Jews, French, Irish, Italians, Greeks, Slovaks, Hungarians, Lithuanians, Germans, and Africans. The class filled immediately and a waiting list was started.

It was not surprising how well prepared, enthusiastic, and articulate the presenters were. A common theme shared by all - along with their ancestors' love of their new home in America - was their strong love and pride in their heritage and an eagerness to share it with the class.

Most immigrants were eager to learn the ways of the new country, including its language and customs, and most of all to become citizens and proudly carry home that souvenir American flag presented at the U.S. citizenship ceremony.

Family stories, anecdotes, photos, traditions, customs, and even recipes were shared. Copious handouts were distributed. Many presenters even brought delicious dishes of their national or ethnic cuisine, which we all enjoyed at break.

The presenters duly noted how these immigrants

contributed greatly to the communities where they settled, be it as hourly factory workers or in the areas of medicine, education, journalism, banking, the

case" there might be an



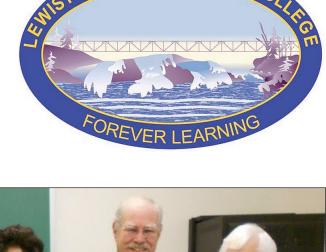
arts, politics, restaurants, or establishing their own businesses. Many of these family names are still wellknown in our community today.

When word about how interesting this course was began to spread across campus, each week a few more unregistered students began to drop by "just in

empty chair they could slip into. Members and descendants of the different immigrant groups represented came by to hear as well.

The class was so enthusiastically received by the students that there is hope that it will be repeated. Any one of these immigrant groups could stand alone as the subject of a presentation with one of our program collaborators, Auburn Public Library and SeniorsPlus.

Cynthia is currently organizing local people of Portuguese, Spanish, Chinese, and other national origin for future classes. Interest is active and she is receiving an enthusiastic response.





Presenters John Rozos, Georgia Chomas, and John "Jack" Clifford IV (on Greek and English immigrants) are flanked here by student Sue Tymoczko (l.) and Bonnie Ross (r.).



Richard Shultz, Dolores Bergeron, presenter John Henderson (on Irish immigrants), Bob Boilard, and class facilitator Cynthia Peters

Ruth Straehle, presenters Charles Plummer and Merton Ricker (on Slovak, Lithuanian, Hungarian, and German immigrants in Lisbon and Lisbon Falls), Rachel Morin, and Winnie McMorrow (Photo by Cynthia Peters)

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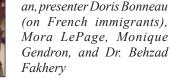
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What's Going On





Lou Giard, Lynn Derderi-

Presenters Paula Masselli and Gina Luchini Fuller (on Italian immigrants), Sharon McGilvery, Martha Bryant,

Shirley Sanders, and Bertha Bodenheimer

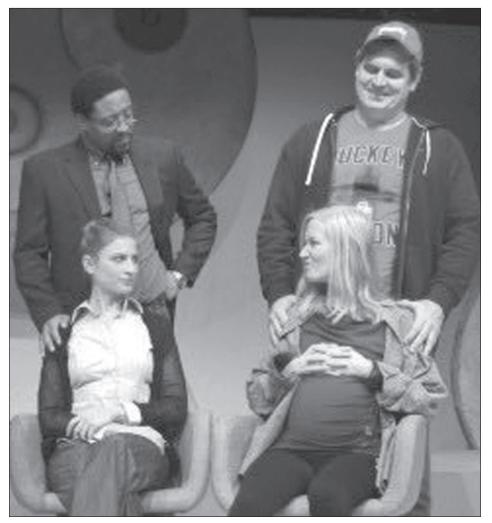


Italian relatives came to hear the stories. Seated here (l. to r., from front) are Carol Mitchell, Tina Giberti Vanasse, Loretta Alvino Hamann, Grace Piscelli Keene, Dan Cifelli, presenters Paula Masselli and Gina Luchini Fuller, Sam Colella, and Mary Bennett Curtis.



TWIN-CITY CITY CITY CITY CITY Weekly Arts & Entertainment

"Human Error" opens Friday at Public Theatre



The East Coast premiere of this timely new comedy opens at the Public Theatre in Lewiston on Friday, January 25. The play, which explores the consequences when a blundering fertility doctor mistakenly implants the embryo of a latte-sipping liberal couple into the womb of an NRA-cardholding conservative family, runs through February 3. Showtimes are Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m., with an added Saturday matinee on February 2 at 3 p.m. For tickets, call 782-3200 or see thepublictheatre.org.

Orthopaedic Institute presents "Fit to a T"

The Orthopaedic Institute of Central Maine will present "Fit to a T," a free public program providing education on bone health, osteoporosis, and fracture prevention on

Thursday, January 31, from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Conference Center at 12 High Street in Lewiston. The goal of the program is to educate both men and women on how to assess

their risk for, and thereby prevent, osteoporosis and fragility fractures, particularly secondary fractures. If you plan to attend, please RSVP by calling or texting 520-8387.



St. Dom's Winter Carnival expected to draw hundreds to Auburn campus

All are welcome to join the Saint Dominic Academy community for a day of family, fellowship, and fun at the school's third annual Winter Carnival on Sunday, January 27, from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is free of charge.

"It's a wonderful event for our school and an opportunity to show the community that Saint Dominic Academy is a big family," said principal Don Fournier. "The turnout that we've had the last two years, including prospective families who want to experience the special environment at St. Dom's, has been really overwhelming."

Taking place at the academy's Auburn campus at 121 Gracelawn Road, the carnival features exciting indoor and outdoor activities, including a fire pit, snowman building, cardboard sled racing, snowshoeing, s'mores and other snacks, a Maine Army National Guard obstacle course in the gym, campus tours, games

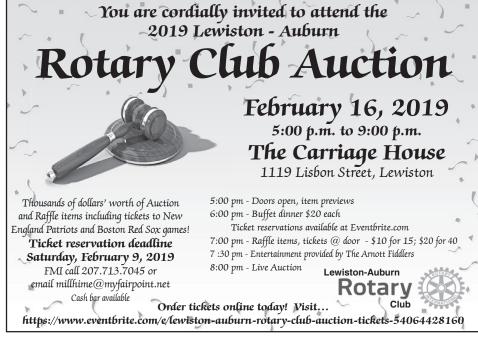
and activities for kids of all ages, and more.

This year's event will also feature giveaways, including a new iPad, an ice hockey clinic conducted by the Saint Dominic Academy teams and coaches, and a free skate at Norway Savings Bank Arena from 3:10 to 4:40 p.m. The arena is located just minutes from the academy at 985 Turner Street in Auburn. For more information about the event, call the school at 782-6911.

Franco Center screens "Super Lola"



The next film in the Franco Center's ongoing French film series will be "Super Lola" on Monday, January 28 at 6:30 p.m. This 2013 made-for-TV comedy from France is about a painfully shy nurse who, through a series of circumstances, is transformed into a masked heroine. Complications arise when this bold new character catches the attention of Laurent, a modest freelancer who happens to be Lola's husband. The film will be screened in French with English subtitles. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 783-1585 or see FrancoCenter.org.



Land Trust presents "Gardening Without Aches and Pains"

The next Winter Garden Workshop presented by the Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust will be "Gardening Without Aches and Pains" on Sunday, January 27, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, located at 27 Pleasant Street in Brunswick.

From repetitive work to arthritis and aging, gardening can be hard on your body. This presentation will show how small changes in your routine can help you avoid joint, muscle and back pain while you garden. A suggested \$5 donation will be collected at the door. For

more information about the program, call 729-7694 or email info@btlt.org.

The series is a wonderful opportunity to learn from master gardeners through practical lectures and handson training. For the complete workshop schedule, visit https://www.btlt.org/events.

Max Ater and Friends play Chocolate Church



Ater is currently working on the CD "Small Town," soon to be released by the Michigan-based Prudential Records label.

Max Ater, upcoming pop, soul, and country music sensation from Bath, will return to his hometown stage for an intimate concert with several talented musical friends in the Annex at the Chocolate Church Arts Center on Saturday, January 26 at 7:30 p.m.

Ater will perform an eclectic mix of contemporary alternative music with a dream lineup of local artists, including lyrically poetic singer-songwriter Kate Miller, country singer-songwriter Isaiah Bennet, and soulful singer-guitarist Aaron Nadeau.

ing on the CD "Small Town," soon to be released by the Michigan-based Prudential Records label. The record is produced by Karl Anderson and features drummer Jason Hartless (Ted Nugent, Joe Lynn Turner, and Mitch Ryder) and bassist Greg Smith (Billy Joel, Alice Cooper, and Ted Nugent).

"These incredible artists' tasteful and precise ideas have rounded out my tunes," says Ater. "Having such powerful minds collaborating... towards success is a huge reason my tunes have taken the shape they have." Many of the tracks were recorded at Anchour

recording studios here in Maine and at the world-renowned Pearl Sound recording studio in Michigan.

Ater is inspired by such artists as Jamie Cullum, Norah Jones, John Mayer, and Elton John. In 2016, he won the Independent Music Awards "Vox Populi" honor at age

Chocolate Church Arts Center is located at 804 Washington Street in Bath. Tickets for Max Ater and Friends are \$18 in advance and \$20 at the door. To purchase, call the box office at 442-8455 or see www.chocolatechurcharts.org.



Solo paddler to speak at Bailey Library



Laurie Apgar Chandler

Bailey Library in downtown Winthrop will host forester and writer Laurie Apgar Chandler on Tuesday, January 29 at 6:30 p.m. Chandler will read from and discuss her new book "Upwards," which tells the story of how she became the first woman to solo paddle New England's 740-mile Northern Forest Canoe Trail.

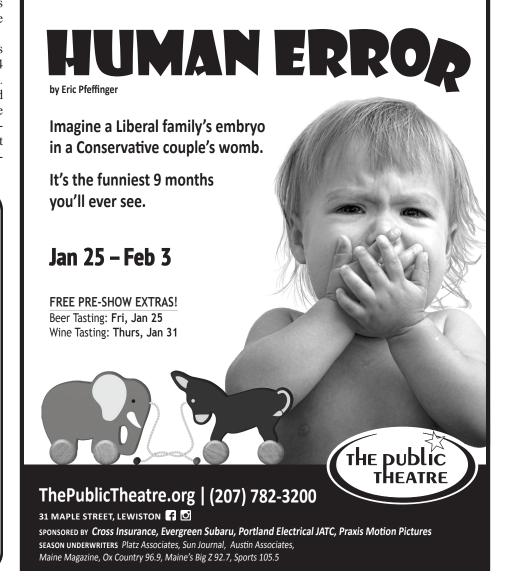
The memoir, which provides a comprehensive

look at the country's longest mapped inland paddling trail, has been described by Northwoods Sporting Journal as a "personal and mesmerizing account of a transformative paddling journey."

Chandler holds degrees in biology and forestry and worked for many years as a research forester. She is the author of numerous scientific publications. She lives year-round in Maine, shares her parents' log cabin in Bremen, and enjoys swimming, canoeing, hiking, and snowshoeing.

Free and open to the public, the event is part of the ongoing Winthrop Lakes Region Forum and is sponsored by the Winthrop Public Library Foundation. For more information, call 377-8673 or see www.baileylibrary.





Twin City Nights

Monmouth Players names cast of kids' production



Pictured here (l. to r., from front) are cast members Riley Fyfe, Brady Black, Cole Montgomery, Juliann Fylstra, Greta Barnes-Bukher, Amara Beganny, Brock Rancourt, Mila Barnes-Bukher, Hannah McAdam, Caroline Corgan, and Anna Whitestone.

Monmouth Community Players has named the cast of the first play to be produced by its new Kids Program, "The Great American Talent Show," which will be staged at Cumston Hall on Friday, February 22 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, February 23 at 2 p.m. Tickets will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for students.

The cast includes Brady Black of North Mon-

call/text:

1-800-871-7741

chat:

sapars.org

mouth; Caroline Corgan, Riley Fyfe, Cole Montgomery, and Anna Whitestone of Winthrop; Juliann Fylstra of Wayne; Nicholas Harper, Hannah McAdam, and Greer Slater of Kent's Hill; Josie Charland of Fayette; Brock Rancourt of Lewiston; Mila Barnes-Bukher and Greta Barnes-Bukher of Vienna; and Amara Beganny of Litchfield.

The production will be

directed Danny Gay, who has appeared in Monmouth Community Players' productions of "The Foreigner" and "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee." This inaugural show was a chance for the company to gauge area interest in a children's theater program. With the positive response it has received, MCP plans to continue the program in future seasons.

Send all items for Deadline is Friday by five.

What's Going On to Editor@Twin CityTimes.com.



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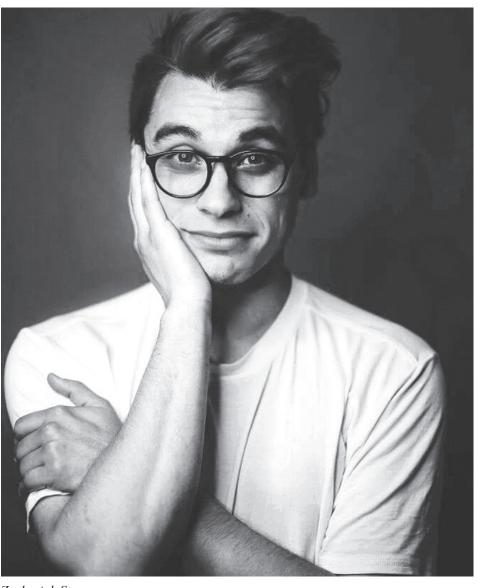
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Schoolhouse Arts Center presents "King of Keys"



Zachariah Stearn

Schoolhouse Arts Center in Standish will present the world premiere of Zachariah Stearn's new one man show, "The King of Keys," on Friday, January 25 at 7 p.m. Stearn is the company's new Artistic Director. Proceeds from the show will support the purchase of new sound systems at the Schoolhouse theater.

"The King of Keys" combines stories from Stearn's childhood, monologues performed with depth, and original new songs created with local

lyricist Neil Ruecker in a raw performance by an entertainer who gives the audience a piece of his heart through his art.

Stearn grew up in Augusta and began performing as a professional stand-up comedian at age 10. He has performed as a standup comedian across the country. He thrilled local audiences last year with an exciting stand-up comedy benefit for Schoolhouse Arts Center and his illuminating performance of Luminaire, the candlestick, in Schoolhouse's 2016 production of "Beauty and the Beast." He directed Schoolhouse productions of "Peter Pan" and "Seussical: The Musical" in 2018.

General admission tickets for the performance are \$12. Schoolhouse Arts Center is located at 16 Richville Road (Route 114) in Standish, seven miles northwest of Gorham Center or North Windham near the western shore of Sebago Lake. Tickets may be reserved in advance at www. schoolhousearts.org.

ConnectME asks Mainers to test for areas in need of faster broadband

The ConnectME Authority has set up an easy and straightforward way for Maine people to help identify specific areas in

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need of faster broadband service. Improving access to broadband is a key component of Governor Mills' plan to strengthen the foundation for sustained economic growth in every corner of Maine. While the state has some information regarding the accessible infrastructure, the existing data isn't as accurate as it needs to be.

"Evaluating our broadband needs is the first step to solving them," said Heather Johnson, Acting Commissioner of the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development. "We believe that reaching out to communities can be one of the most effective ways for us to learn what capacity homes and businesses have access to. We hope that residents, businesses, and providers will help us update this list to ensure that we have captured all of the areas that do not have access to effective broadband service."

ConnectME will use the data as leverage to help Maine improve its chances of accessing a portion of the more than \$600 million the federal government has dedicated to broadband expansion efforts in the U.S. To help test your internet speed and map your area for potentially faster service in the future, follow the instructions at www.maine. gov/connectme/communities-resources/Broadbandmapping

The ConnectME Authority is a public instrumentality of Maine state government whose mission is to facilitate the universal availability of broadband to all Maine households and businesses and help them understand the valuable role it can play in enriching their lives and helping their communities thrive. For more information, see https://www. maine.gov/connectme.

Thursday, Jan. 24

"Resume and Interview Preparation." 9 to 11:30 a.m. Lewiston Career Center. This workshop offers current tools, resources, and guidance for writing an effective resume and preparing for a successful interview; pres. by New Ventures Maine. Free. Register at 753-6531.

Rotary Club Lunch Meeting. Noon to 1 p.m. Village Inn, 165 High St., Auburn. The guest speaker is Jesse Harvey of Journey House Recovery, which offers recovery housing at five locations in Maine. Free; no reservation required. 333-4588; www.lewistonauburnrotary.org.

HR Thursdays Workshop. Noon to 1:30 p.m. Chamber of Commerce, 415 Lisbon St., Lewiston. The topic is "Recruitment Strategy: Organizational Culture and a Strong Leadership Team." \$50 (Chamber members \$25; CMHRA members free). 783-2249. Register at www.LAMetroChamber. com

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.

Friday, Jan. 25

"The King of Keys." 7 p.m. Schoolhouse Arts Center, 16 Richville Rd. (Rte. 114), Standish. Zac Stearn's new one-man show combines comedy, theatrics, and music; proceeds benefit the center. \$12. www. schoolhousearts.org.

Theater: "Human Error." 7:30 p.m. The Public Theatre 31 Maple St., Lewiston. A blundering fertility doctor mistakenly implants the embryo of a latte-sipping liberal couple into the womb of an NRA-cardholding conservative family. Again 1/26-27, 1/31-2/3 (Suns. at 2 p.m.). \$20/5. 782-3200; thepublictheatre.org

Saturday, Jan. 26

Craft & Vendor Fair. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mixers, 16 Sabattus Rd., Sabattus. There will also be a raffle and 50/50; proceeds benefit Kaydenz Kitchen Food Pantry in Lewiston. 330-5330; emmadudley40@gmail.com.

Public Office Hours. 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Couture Room, Lewiston Public Library. Lewiston's delegates to the Maine Legislature answer questions and provide a preview of the upcoming legislative session. All welcome.

Bean Supper. 4:30 to 6 p.m. Sixth St. Congregational Church, 109 Sixth St., Auburn. Two kinds of beans, brown bread, coleslaw, red and brown hot dogs, American chop suey, assorted desserts and beverages. \$6/3 (ages 4- free). Take-out available.

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).

Bean Supper. 5 p.m. United Methodist Church, 439 Park Ave., Auburn. Baked beans, casseroles, hot dogs, coleslaw, bread, beverages and pies; entertainment by the Park Avenue Pickers begins at 4:30 p.m. \$8/4 (kids ages 4- free). 782-3972.

Concert: Max Ater and Friends. 7:30 p.m. Annex, Chocolate Church Arts Center, 804 Washington St., Bath. The upcoming pop, soul, and country music sensation performs songs from his forthcoming CD "Small Town." \$20 (\$18 in adv.). 442-8455; www. chocolatechurcharts.org.

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.

Winter Carnival. 1 to 4 p.m. St. Dominic Academy, 121 Gracelawn Rd., Auburn. This annual event features indoor and outdoor activities for kids and teens of all ages. All welcome. Free. 782-6911.

"Gardening Without Aches and Pains." 2 to 3:30 p.m. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 27 Pleasant St., Brunswick. Learn how small changes can help you avoid joint, muscle and back pain while you garden; pres. by Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust. Suggested donation \$5. 729-7694.

Comedian Bob Marley. 6 p.m. Orion Theatre, Topsham. The popular 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.
This month's film is "Super
Lola," a 2013 made-forTV movie from France; in
French w. English subtitles.
Free; donations accepted.
www.francocenter.org.

Tuesday, Jan. 29

Open House. 12 to 2 p.m. Young Wing Atrium, third floor, 60 High St., Lewiston. Central Maine Medical Center hosts an open house for its new Sacred Space. Send RSVP to rsvp@cmmc.org.

Author Visit. 6:30 p.m. Bailey Public Library, 38 Bowdoin St., Winthrop. Forester and writer Laurie Apgar Chandler discusses her book "Upwards," about her solo paddle of the 740mile Northern Forest Canoe Trail. Free. 377-8673; www. baileylibrary.org.

Wednesday, Jan. 30

Rotary Breakfast Club Meeting. 7 a.m. United Methodist Church, 439 Park Ave., Auburn. The guest speaker is Solar Design Specialist Erik Mitchell of ReVision Energy. All welcome; breakfast \$15.

Power Lunch Seminar. Noon to 1 p.m. Chamber of Commerce, 415 Lisbon St., Lewiston. Reps. from the American Heart Assoc. discuss how to participate in this year's Central Maine Heart Walk on April 28. 783-2249. Free, but pls. register at www.LAMetro-Chamber.com.

Thursday, Jan. 31

"Fit to a T." 10 to 11 a.m. Central Maine Medical Center, Conference Center, 12 High St., Lewiston. This program for both men and women provides education on bone health, osteoporosis, and fracture prevention. Free. RSVP at 520-8387.

Author Visit. 6 p.m. Callahan Room, Lewiston Public Library. Author Mark Griffin discusses his groundbreaking new biography of Rock Hudson, "All that Heaven Allows," and screens a 35-minute documentary based on the book. Copies avail. for purchase and signing. Free.

"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 attitudes towards money affect your decisions and actions. Free. Register at 753-6531.

Marine Corps League Meeting. 6 p.m. Lewiston Armory, 65 Central Ave. Central ME Detachment 810 needs members: they will pay for your first-year membership. All Marines, FMF Corpsman, Navy Chaplains, and anyone interested in helping local veterans are invited.

Theater: "Human Error." 7:30 p.m. The Public Theatre 31 Maple St., Lewiston. A blundering fertility doctor mistakenly implants the embryo of a latte-sipping liberal couple into the womb of an NRA-cardholding conservative family. Again 2/1-3 (Sun. at 2 p.m.). \$20/5. 782-3200; thepublictheatre. org.

Saturday, Feb. 2

Big Nite O' Blues. 7:30 p.m. Village Coffee-house, First Congregational Church, 19 Gloucester Hill Rd., New Gloucester. Jere "Lunch Pail" Diwaters, Jeff Christiansen, Chad Sirois, and Rob Babson perform acoustic and electric blues. Coffee and snacks provided. \$10.

Sunday, Feb. 3

Community Breakfast. 7:30 to 10 a.m. American

Legion Post 135, 40 Island Rd., Sabattus. Eggs to order, French toast, chipped beef, pancakes, sausage, ham, baked beans, country fries, toast, muffins, orange juice, coffee, tea and milk. \$8 (\$3 kids ages 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.

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

Tuesday, Feb. 12

Exit Planning for Business Owners. 12 to 1:30 p.m. Chamber of Commerce, 415 Lisbon St., Lewiston. Part 2 of this three-part series is "Know Your Options: Open Market Sale, Family Transitions, and Selling to Employees." Free. Register at www.LAMetroChamber. com.

Thursday, Feb. 14

Author Visit. 2 p.m. Andro. Community Room, Auburn Public Library. Local author Mark Griffin discusses his groundbreaking new biography of Rock Hudson, "All that Heaven Allows." Copies avail. for purchase and signing. Free.

Saturday, Feb. 16

Rotary Club Auction. 5 to 9 p.m. Carriage House, 1119 Lisbon St., Lewiston. Preview, buffet dinner, cash bar, entertainment, raffles; live auction starts at 8:00; proceeds benefit local Rotary projects and charities. \$20. Reserve tix by 2/9 at www.eventbrite.com.

Sunday, Feb. 17

Lewiston Winter Farmer's Market. 10 a.m. to noon. YWCA, 130 East Ave., Lewiston. Vendors sell locally grown and produced goods. Harvest Bucks, Mar-

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ket Rewards; credit, debit, cash, and SNAP/EBT accepted. 513-3848; www. lewistonfarmersmarket.

A Dog's Way Home (PG)

Aquaman (PG-13) ...

Sunday, Feb. 24

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.

Tuesday, Feb. 26 Exit Planning for Busi-

Exit Planning for Business Owners. 12 to 1:30 p.m.

Chamber of Commerce, 415 Lisbon St., Lewiston. Part 3 of this three-part series is "Achieve Your Goals: Understanding the Financial, Tax and Legal Issues." Free. Register at www.LAMetro-Chamber.com.

3:40

6:40 9:30

...3:30 6:30...

.12:40

.12:30.

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.

RSU 16 Student of the Month



Ben Cushman, with Tri-Town Optimist Club President Jeff Gagnon

The Mechanic Falls, Minot, and Poland Tri-Town Optimist Club has named Ben Cushman, an eighth grader at Bruce Whittier Middle School, its RSU 16 Student of the Month. Cushman is described as a student who exemplifies on a daily basis the school's core

values of Empathy, Integrity, Perseverance, Loyalty, Compassion, and Responsibility. Always considerate of those around him, he strives for academic excellence and participates in his school community through student council, cross country, and guitar club.

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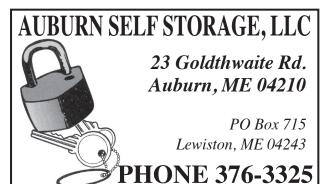
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