

Auburn couple wins Real Maine Wedding of the Year contest



Katie McConnell and Colby Laflamme will now plan a dream wedding celebration valued at \$100,000. (Photo by Kivalo Photography)

Katie McConnell and Colby Laflamme of Auburn are the winners of the 2019 Real Maine Wedding of the Year contest. The couple will start planning their \$100,000 dream wedding event, which will take place in Portland and Watford, Maine, on October 16, 17, and 18.

McConnell and Laflamme were one of 15 couples who created a two-minute entry video on why they wanted to get married in

Maine. They were one of two finalists who gathered at the Maine Wedding Association Freeport Wedding Show on Sunday, March 24 for the announcement of the winners.

"The announcement of the winning couple is always exhilarating," said Reuben Bell, editor of Real Maine Weddings Magazine. "We look forward to introducing Katie and Colby to our incredibly talented Maine wedding partners and

start planning their dream wedding!"

"I instantly fell in love with Katie and Colby!" says Fausto Pifferrer of BE Events in Saco. "Their excitement over winning and love for their fellow contestants was remarkable. That is what winning is truly about. I look forward to getting started with their planning!"

This is the ninth year that Real Maine Weddings has given away a \$100,000 wedding package. Past winners have held their weddings in Freeport (2011), Portland (2012), Kennebunkport (2013), Bethel (2014), the Midcoast communities of Camden, Rockland, Rockport, and Lincolnville (2015), York (2016), Portland and Peaks Island (2017), and Ogunquit (2018).

Now that the winning couple has been revealed, planning for the three-day event will begin. The public will be given the opportunity to vote on certain aspects of the couple's wedding, including the wedding gown, rings, and more. You can follow the couple's journey on the Real Maine Weddings contest blog at www.realmaineweddings.com.

Spring Dance Concert puts student choreography in the spotlight

Showcasing the work of 13 students and one faculty member, Bates College's annual Spring Dance Concert will present original choreography in four performances this weekend at the college's Schaeffer Theatre, located at 329 College Street in Lewiston.

"The programs are diverse, and everybody's pieces have a unique look," said Carol Dilley, professor of dance and head of the dance program. The students' works explore themes of "alienation, home, identity, and belonging," themes that arise as college students come into themselves as members of the wider, adult world.

The student creators are "directed people with somewhere to go," added Dilley. "They often go to sleep thinking about their dance piece and wake up thinking about their piece, so it's a pretty obsessive process."

Representing all walks of life, students from courses in dance composition and advanced composition, advanced jazz dance, computer music and the arts, and lighting design have collaborated to make the performances a reality.



Many of the students' works explore themes of "alienation, home, identity, and belonging," themes that arise as college students come into themselves as members of the wider, adult world. (Photo by Phyllis Graber Jensen/Bates College)

The concerts will present 14 pieces involving more than 30 performers. A member of the applied dance faculty, Katherine Marchessault, has a piece on the program, as do Maine students Esme Goldfinger of Portland, Amanda Sobotka of York, and Liza May of Brunswick. Culminating their dance majors by presenting their thesis works will be Sara Hollenberg of Stamford, Conn.; Yesul Lee of Yonginsu, South Korea; and Claire Sickinger of Simsbury, Conn.

The performances will take place on Friday, March 29 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, March 30 at 5 p.m.; Sunday, March 31 at 2 p.m.; and Monday, April 1 at 7:30 p.m. Two different programs will be

presented on alternate days. Program A will be shown on March 29 and 31, and Program B on March 30 and April 1. Each performance will last about 90 minutes.

The concerts are open to the public at no cost, but donations are appreciated. Reservations are available at batestheateranddance.eventbrite.com. For more information, contact the box office at 786-6161.

The March 29 performance will coincide with the Mount David Summit, the college's annual campus-wide celebration of academic achievement, where many student choreographers will present research related to performance and dance pedagogy as well as other fields.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Miss Maine 2018 visits State House



Rep. Bettyann Sheats (D-Auburn) welcomes Olivia Mayo of Minot, who is serving as Miss Maine 2018, to the State House recently. An advocate for domestic violence prevention, Mayo sang the National Anthem to open the day's session for the House of Representatives.

MDIFW to host info sessions on game warden careers



Have you ever thought about becoming a Maine game warden? If so, you might want to attend one of several information sessions the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife will host across the state in April to discuss and answer questions about

career opportunities in the department.

Game wardens will be on hand to help prepare applicants by covering the necessary skills required, detailing the hiring process, and explaining the educational, law enforcement, and search and rescue mission of the Maine Warden Service. Those interested in attending are encouraged to contact Corporal John MacDonald by email at john.macdonald@maine.gov.

Local session will take place on Monday, April 1, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the MDIFW Regional Headquarters at 270 Lyons Road

in Sidney; Tuesday, April 2, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the MDIFW Regional Headquarters at 15 Game Farm Road in Gray; and Sunday, April 7, from 10 a.m. to noon at Cabela's, 100 Cabela's Blvd. in Scarborough.

What do you think?

We strongly encourage Letters to the Editor, Op/Eds, columns or any other submissions from our readers.

Agree with us or another columnist? Disagree? Write to us and let us know!

Email all submissions, including name, address and phone number, to Editor@TwinCityTimes.com.

Saint Dom's student named Amirault Scholarship winner

The Catholic Foundation of Maine has announced that Vanessa Bussiere, a senior at Saint Dominic Academy in Auburn, is one of two recipients of the 2019 Lila Grace Sullivan Amirault Scholarships. The awards were presented recently by Bishop Robert P. Deeley in Portland.

The scholarship fund, which helps Maine Catholic high school students with college tuition costs, was established in 2013 by the late Patrick Amirault in memory of his wife. Amirault, who grew up as one of nine children in a poor family in Malden, Mass., created the fund to show his appreciation for the care and quality education he received at a Catholic school there. To be eligible for the scholarship, students must be accepted at an accredited college or university and must plan to work while attending college. Each recipient will receive \$4,000.

"His generosity makes it a little bit easier for you to get a college education," the bishop told the winners, their families, and school officials at the presentation. "We're very grateful for Mr. Amirault, and it reminds us of the importance of that kind of generosity as we move forward through life."

Bussiere is an "A" student who will choose to attend either the University of Maine at Orono or Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Massachusetts. She hopes to major in architectural engineering.

In high school, she has spent her time building relationships as a St. Dom's student ambassador, through the robotics team,



Vanessa Bussiere, with Bishop Robert P. Deeley

and as an assistant chaplain, a role that allows her to help increase the role of students in liturgical preparations, service projects, and peer outreach. She also serves as the secretary for the St. Dom's Key Club, which is committed to performing community service while building bonds of friendship among the participants.

In addition, she is involved in the school's Mission for Mississippi program, which provides St. Dom's students with the opportunity to take a mission trip to struggling areas in Mississippi and offer assistance through landscaping, painting houses, and visiting the elderly.

"My dad is a role model of mine, and since I was a little girl, he has always reminded me to take pride in my work," said Bussiere, a

Lisbon Falls native. "If you are happy and proud with what you accomplish, that's the goal. What you do will have an impact on someone or something if it is done from the heart. Work ethic is wanting to help for the common good, not benefit yourself."

The Amirault Scholarship Endowment was established through the Catholic Foundation of Maine, which provides opportunities for people to create or contribute to charitable funds that will enhance the work of the Church in Maine. The foundation manages the funds to ensure the long-term viability of the endowments so that the charitable wishes of the donors are carried out. For more information, visit the foundation's website at www.catholicfoundation-maine.org.

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Governor's Address: Whatever happens outside our state, you will not be denied health coverage here in Maine

Last December, a federal district court judge in Texas issued a decision that would strike down the entire Affordable Care Act.

The Trump Administration's Department of Justice didn't defend key parts of the law - those that guarantee that no one should be denied coverage or charged more because of a pre-existing condition.

If that decision is upheld, about 52 million Americans with pre-existing conditions could be denied life-saving health insurance coverage.

Also, insurance companies might go back to excluding essential health benefits, like coverage for mental health, maternity, and newborn care, to all the small businesses and individuals

who buy insurance on their own.

I will not leave critical health care protections for Maine people to the whims of Congress or the courts. Earlier this year, I joined Senate President Troy Jackson and Speaker of the House Sara Gideon in support of LD 1, "An Act To Protect Health Care Coverage for Maine Families." With bipartisan support in both houses, the Legislature enacted the bill and, this week, I was proud to sign LD 1 into law.

This new law protects Maine people with pre-existing conditions, regardless of what happens to key insurance reforms in the courts or in Congress.

Maine is the first state in the nation to pass such legislation since the federal court decision in December.

Before the Afford-



Governor Janet Mills

able Care Act was enacted in 2008, the number of uninsured Americans and the cost of health care was skyrocketing. Insurance companies would routinely refuse to cover those with pre-existing conditions or whom they deemed to be "high risk" or just too costly to cover. As a result, too many of our loved ones, neighbors, and friends went without care. People like my friend, Patty.

Patty was a vibrant, intelligent, charitable wom-

an, an athlete, a mother of three wise children. She was loved by all... and she was uninsured. She died needlessly from breast cancer, a disease that could have been diagnosed earlier, treated, and probably cured.

Patty's story is not unique. Many of you have friends like Patty. Their fate is simply unacceptable.

By 2016, because of the Affordable Care Act, the percentage of Americans who had health insurance coverage reached an all-time high of 91 percent and the growth in health care prices slowed to historic lows. We cannot afford to go back.

In addition to ensuring that no Maine person living with pre-existing conditions is denied coverage by commercial insurers, LD 1 prohibits charging seniors substantially higher rates because of their age.

LD 1 limits the prices people pay for their health care by restricting so called "cost-sharing" measures like co-insurance and deductibles - the kinds of things that come out of your pocket - and by banning lifetime and annual caps on coverage that don't make sense if you're sick.

LD 1 allows young adults up to age 26 to remain on their parents' insurance, and it requires coverage of ten essential health benefits, including emergency services, ambulance services, prescription drug coverage, and maternity and pediatric care.

Health care is for everyone, not just for the well-to-do. It is for the small businesses struggling to pay high health insurance bills; it is for the family on the brink of bankruptcy because of one illness, accident, or

medical mishap; and it is for the community that takes up collections in a jar at the corner store to pay for a good neighbor's medical costs. It is for Patty. It is for every Mainer.

As emergency legislation, LD 1 took effect immediately upon my signature this week. I am so proud that our state has taken the important step of strengthening the laws that protect critical coverage for people with pre-existing conditions and so many other essential, basic health benefits.

Maine people can rest assured that, regardless of what happens outside our state, they will not be denied coverage here in Maine.

Thank You,
Janet Mills
Governor

CMCC to host Spring Open House



Students may complete an admissions application at the April 6 event and have their \$20 application fee waived.

Central Maine Community College will host its annual Spring Open House for prospective students and their families on Saturday, April 6, from 9 a.m. to noon at its lakeside campus at 1250 Turner Street in Auburn.

In addition to having all academic programs, student organizations, and athletics represented, staff members and students will be ready to assist with the admissions and financial aid application processes. Students can take guided tours, tour the campus on their own, or simply visit with representatives of certain programs, sports, or activities.

Information will be available on the new academic programs the College

is starting in the fall: Plumbing and Heating Technology; HVAC/R (Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration) Technology; and e-Sports Management.

The open house will also feature the grand opening of the college's new e-Sports Arena, in which CMCC's new e-Sports teams will begin competing in the fall.

Students who complete an admissions application at the open house will have their \$20 application fee waived. Refreshments prepared by students of the Culinary Arts program will be served.

CMCC offers more than 40 degree programs and certificates that prepare graduates for immediate

employment or transfer to a four-year institution. In addition to on-campus housing and a large number of student clubs and activities, the College offers competitive athletic teams, including varsity and JV basketball, soccer, softball, volleyball, and cross-country for women; and varsity and JV basketball, baseball, soccer, cross-country, and ice hockey for men.

For more information about CMCC, the open house, or for directions to the campus, call 755-5273, email enroll@cmcc.edu, or see www.cmcc.edu.

For updates or to RSVP for the open house, prospective students and their families are encouraged to visit <https://www.cmcc.edu/admissions-aid>.

Rotary Breakfast Club meeting

The next meeting of the Auburn-Lewiston Rotary Breakfast Club will feature Jessica Ireland, who will discuss her "Learning with Fun!" initiative on Wednesday, April 3 at 7 p.m.

Ireland started "Learning with Fun" in 2012 because she believes in personalized learning and loves helping young minds learn and grow. As a teacher at both public and private schools, she found that she was not able to make the difference she wanted with her students, so she set out on her own in 2015.

With a BA in Social work and a Master's in Education from St. Josephs College, Ireland is also licensed in ABA therapy and spent many years working with students who have behavioral or developmental learning delays. She applies these methods in her teaching in Lindamood-Bell and Orton-Gillingham based learning settings.

Ireland's teaching philosophy takes a student-centered approach toward learning. She builds an individualized curriculum for each student based on his or her learning style, which she discovers by applying her BAINES method, based on Behaviors, Aspirations, Interests, Nutrition,



Jessica Ireland

Exercise, and Sleep. Her approach is effective and is proven to work, allowing for positive long-term change, including personal growth and development within her students.

When she is not teaching, she spends time at home on a Casco Bay Island with

her four daughters and wonderful fiancé, skiing, boating and just being a mom.

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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Republican Address: Budget Picture Worsens

By Rep. Amy Arata

Governor Mills has proposed an \$8.04 billion General Fund budget. That is an 11% increase over the current \$7.2 billion budget.

Governor Mills promises that this tremendous budget increase will be “sustainable” and that the massive expansion of Medicaid for able-bodied, childless adults would be paid for without new taxes. I wish that this were possible, but the evidence says otherwise. I can think of six reasons why this budget is unsustainable.

First, the Governor’s budget spends 99.995% of all available funds, leaving a cushion of just one nickel for every \$1000 spent. This leaves no margin for error, but emergencies happen. For example, fields have recently been found to be contaminated by carcinogenic perfluoroalkyl substances, and we don’t yet know the extent of the problem, how much clean-up will cost, or the impact it will have on Maine’s agricultural economy. This is an issue we couldn’t have imagined a few years ago. Natural and man-made disasters are things we won’t be able to afford with such a tight budget.

Second, in fiscal year 2021, the budget will be in the red by over \$62 million because all of the surplus accumulated under Governor LePage’s last budget will be spent in fiscal year 2020. The proposed budget spends this one-time surplus to pay for expenses that will be ongoing, such as new state employees.

Third, this budget relies on an optimistic economic forecast that is starting to fall short. So far this year, actual revenue is less than projected by over \$20 million. Economies operate in a cycle, and we are currently in the growth phase. This means that a recession should be expected in the near future, and we need to be prepared. Maine’s top economists report that if we



Rep. Amy Arata (R-New Gloucester) represents District 65 (New Gloucester; part of Poland) in the Maine House of Representatives.

have just a mild recession, we will be forced to use our rainy day fund, which will be empty in 2021.

This leads me to the fourth reason that the proposed budget is unsustainable. We should be adding to the rainy day fund right now, while we still can. Maine owes the Federal government \$72 million associated with the Riverview Psychiatric Facility. At any time, they can demand payment on that debt, which would drastically reduce the balance in the rainy day fund.

Fifth, legislators typically pass bills that add more expenses to the governor’s budget. In fact, they have already proposed almost \$2 billion in bonds. Where will this money come from?

And the sixth and most important reason this budget is unsustainable is the uncertainty surrounding Medicaid expansion. We simply don’t know how many people will sign up or what their medical needs will be. Different experts have given us different expense numbers. Other states that have expanded Medicaid, such as Virginia,

Ohio, and California, greatly underestimated the expense.

Also, the federal share of Medicaid varies from year to year, depending on national economic factors that we can’t control. In fact, the federal share for existing Maine Medicaid recipients just went down by \$14.1 million. I’m glad that the governor set aside an additional \$29 million to help cover a shortfall, but based on the experiences of other states, we believe that this will not be enough to be sustainable.

It’s often said that those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it. When Maine previously expanded Medicaid, the cost was far underestimated, which led to yearly budget shortfalls, increased taxes, and unpaid debt. State employees had to endure unpaid layoffs, budget curtailments, and wage stagnation.

Governor Mills promised a sustainable source of funding for Medicaid, but this budget does not provide one. Once the one-time monies are spent, and See **Budget**, page 13

Guest Column: Mainers are counting on us to lower the cost of prescription drugs

By Sen. Nate Libby

One out of every four Americans struggles to afford their medication. One in 10 Americans skips doses because they can’t afford the cost. Those numbers are staggering and unacceptable. Far too often, I have heard stories of Mainers who have had to choose between paying for their medication or paying for groceries, utility bills, or their mortgage. I have heard stories about people selling their possessions so they can afford the medicine they need to stay healthy. As an elected official, I can’t sit around and do nothing while my friends and neighbors struggle.

The price tags on even the most commonly used prescriptions just keep growing and growing. Not so long ago, insulin cost \$35 per dose. Today, the cost has skyrocketed to \$300 per dose, with the price doubling in the last five years. But in Canada, that cost remains a reasonable \$30 per dose. Why? It’s the same medication, used to treat the same illness. Why must the 137,000 Maine adults with diabetes be forced to pay such an outrageous price for the medicine they need to live, while people with the same condition who live just over the border enjoy a stable, affordable price?

The answer is found in the deliberately tangled, complicated web of the pharmaceutical industry. We all remember seeing the headlines about Big Pharma execs like Martin Shkreli in-

entionally raising the prices of common medications, all in the name of benefitting already wealthy investors. But the problem goes deeper than that. I was given two different charts that try to explain the flow of money in the pharmaceutical industry. Your prescriptions must go through the drug manufacturer, drug wholesaler, a third-party payer, pharmacy benefit managers, and, finally, your pharmacy before getting to you. At each step along the way, another company takes a bite of the action, and your bill goes up. I don’t think that’s right, and neither do my colleagues in the Senate. That’s why we’re working hard to make sure Maine puts patients before profits.

This problem is complicated, and there is no silver bullet or one-shot solution. That’s why we’ve put forward a series of bills that would come at the problem from multiple angles to make sure you get the fair prices you deserve.

Sen. Heather Sanborn (D-Portland) has submitted a bill that would regulate pharmacy benefit managers. This legislation would give the state better oversight over these middlemen and make sure that any discounts they receive from pharmaceutical companies are passed on to consumers. It only seems fair that if they’re saving money, you should be saving money.

Two bills from Senate President Troy Jackson (D-Allagash) would make it easier to import high-quality medications from Canada

at the cheapest prices available. We know that Big Pharma can afford to sell medication to Canadian residents at reasonable prices; Mainers should be able to access those same reasonable prices. Sen. Jackson has also proposed creating a state Prescription Drug Affordability Board to explore smart, strategic ways to keep your drug prices low.

Building off the success of a law that went into effect last year, Assistant Senate Majority Leader Eloise Vitelli (D-Arrowsic) has submitted a bill to increase transparency in prescription drug costs. Sen. Vitelli’s proposal would require pharmaceutical companies to reveal the costs associated with prescriptions that have seen the greatest price hike. Are prices going up because of better investment in research and development, or because drug companies are just spending more and more money on commercials and advertising? If the cost of your medication goes up, you deserve to know why.

Your health and well-being should not depend on how comprehensive your insurance is or how much money you make. I’m committed to supporting sensible, smart changes to make sure you, your family, your friends, and your neighbors can afford the medication you need. It’s just the right thing to do.

Sen. Nate Libby (D-Androscoggin) represents Maine Senate District 21, which comprises the City of Lewiston.

Local students earn NESCAC All-Academic honors at Bates

Forty-eight students from Bates College’s winter sports teams, including three local students, have received All-Academic honors from the New England Small College Athletic Conference.

To be honored, a student-athlete must have reached sophomore academic standing, be a varsity letter winner, and have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.50 (raised from 3.40 a year ago).

Samantha Pierce of New Gloucester is a member of the Nordic Skiing team. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel K. Pierce of New Gloucester, she is a 2015 graduate of Maine Coast Waldorf School. She is majoring in environmental studies and minoring in education.

Ashley Pratt of Greene is a member of the Women’s Track & Field team. The daughter of Mr. and Ms.

Kenneth Pratt of Greene, she is a 2016 graduate of Leavitt Area High School. She is majoring in neuroscience and minoring in chemistry.

Jeremy Bennett of Windham is a member of the Men’s Track & Field team. The son of Mr. Nathaniel L. Bennett and Ms. Nini Chang of Windham, he is a 2017 graduate of Windham High School. He is majoring in biology.

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Bird Club speaker to discuss tree responses to pests, climate change

The Stanton Bird Club of Lewiston and Auburn will hold its next meeting on Monday, April 1 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 285 at USM's Lewiston-Auburn College. The speaker will be Brent Huggett, Bates Professor of Biology, who will discuss his research studying trees and their adaptation to climate change and destructive insects. This meeting is free and open to the public.

Brent Huggett first became interested in trees while hiking the Appalachian Trail. He has served as a teacher and naturalist for the Massachusetts Audubon Society and as a curatorial and lab assistant at the Harvard University Herbaria. He enjoys involving his students at Bates in hands-on research, collecting tissue from leaf, trunk, and roots to measure changes in carbon allocation in response to environmental stress. Another area of his research concerns the hemlock woolly adelgid, which threatens the hemlock, the third-most valuable harvested tree species in Maine.

The Stanton Bird Club manages the Thorncrag Nature Sanctuary and the



The Trillium, also called wake-robin, is a perennial spring flower eagerly searched for by many, but it should not be picked as it may not return the following year. (Photo by Dan Marquis)

Woodbury Nature Sanctuary in Monmouth and Litchfield. For more information, including a complete schedule of events, as well

as results and photos from various trips, find them on Facebook or visit their website at www.StantonBirdClub.org.

Harlow gallery seeks executive director

The Harlow is seeking an independent and creative Executive Director to lead the member-driven, community-based nonprofit and advance their mission to connect and celebrate art, artists, and community in Central Maine.

The Harlow is owned by the Kennebec Valley Art Association, a membership-based 501(c)3 nonprofit organization founded in Augusta in 1958. The KVAA established The Harlow in downtown historic Hallowell in 1963. Over the past five decades, the Harlow has shown the work of thousands of Maine artists. Today, the Harlow serves the community as an arts and cultural center and as a destination spot for art lovers and cultural tourists from across the state and beyond. In 2015, The Harlow was voted "Best Gallery in Maine" by readers of Down East Magazine.

The Harlow is a small organization governed by a seven-member board of directors. Current staffing (full- and part-time) includes an Executive Director, a Gallery Manager, and a Marketing Manager. Working with the board and existing staff, the new Executive Director will have the opportunity to review existing job duties to ensure optimal benefit to both gallery and staff.

The Harlow is supported by the City of Hallowell, Dirigo Capital Advisors, Kennebec Savings Bank, the Roxanne Quimby Foundation, and by its members. The 2019 Season Sponsors are Camden National Bank, Capitol Dental Care, Chris Walters Productions, Great Gatherings, Doug and Melinda Jennings, Eaton Peabody Attorneys at Law, and Scummy Afters Candy Shoppe. Programming is funded in part by the Maine Community Foundation,

the Margaret E. Burnham Charitable Trust, and by a Partnership Grant from the Maine Arts Commission, an independent state agency supported by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Ideal candidates will have a demonstrated commitment to art, artists, and community and will bring a variety of experiences and attributes. A Bachelor of Arts degree in art, nonprofit management, arts administration, or a related field is preferred; a Master's degree in nonprofit management, arts administration, or a related field would be a plus.

Resumes will be considered until the position is filled. Interviews will begin in early April. The Harlow is an equal opportunity employer. For more information about the position, including a full description of responsibilities and desired qualifications, see <http://harlowgallery.org>.

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What's Going On

St. Anne Sodality plans Card Party



Organizing the event are (l. to r.) Claudette Jalbert, Anita Grenier (president), Rachel Simard, Flo Marquis, Pauline Plourde, Jeanne Pacheco, Jeannine Berube, Rita Lajoie, Sherryl Porter, and Rita Gagnon.

The Ladies of St. Anne Sodality of Holy Family, Prince of Peace Parish will host their annual Card Party on Wednesday, April 10 at 6 p.m. There will be gift raffles, door prizes, and a 50/50. Refreshments will be served. Tickets are \$3, available by contacting any board members or by calling Anita at 782-4516. They will also be available at the door. Please use the entrance at the rear of the church. Doors will open at 5:50.

World Pro Ski Tour coming to Sunday River



The World Pro Ski Tour comes to Sunday River this weekend for the Visit Maine Pro Ski Championships on Friday and Saturday, March 29 and 30. With a field of Olympians and National and NCAA Alpine Ski Champions, the event will provide a great opportunity to watch a group of world-class athletes as they face off head-to-head in dual super slalom action with jumps. CBS Sports Network is the television partner of the World Pro Ski Tour.

This is the fourth and final stop of this year's Tour, which is awarding over \$150,000 in prize money over the course of the season. The pro qualifications and Mountain View at Trail's End Jr. Pro Challenge will begin on Friday, March 29. The main event, the Dual Super Slalom and the Jr. Pro Challenge finals, will be held on Saturday, March 30

on Monday Morning Run at the base of Barker Lodge.

The Maine Office of Tourism is the title sponsor of the Visit Maine Pro Ski Championships finale at Sunday River. The tour has already made stops this year at Beaver Creek, Colorado; Waterville Valley, New Hampshire; and Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

Leading the standings for the overall tour championship title is Phil Brown of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, with 101 points; in second place is Garrett Driller of Lake Tahoe, California, with 61; and following in third is Michael Ankeny of Park City, Utah, with 50. Brown and Driller are not only fighting for the overall title, but for the Tito's Rookie of the Year title as well.

In 2019, a new event, called the Junior Pro Challenge, was introduced to the tour schedule. Utilizing the WPST pros as mentors, 16

junior-seeded U14 racers from local ski clubs experienced the pro format firsthand. These young racers ran the pro course from start to finish, learning the challenges of horse-style start gates, identical side-by-side courses, and over four-foot-high pro jumps. The top four winners were awarded scholarships of \$1,000 for first place, \$500 for second, \$300 for third, and \$200 for fourth. Mountain View at Trail's End is hosting the Sunday River junior event.

"The World Pro Ski Tour is dedicated to the growth of the ski community, and there are plans to continue the development of this program at each event in 2020," said Ed Rogers, president and CEO of the World Pro Ski Tour.

For more information about the Visit Maine Pro Ski Championships, see www.worldproskitour.com.

www.TwinCityTimes.com

MEMIC scholarship for families of injured workers now taking applications

The MEMIC Group is now accepting applications for its Harvey Picker Horizon Scholarship Program for children and spouses of workers who have been seriously injured on the job. MEMIC has awarded \$170,000 in scholarships to 34 young scholars since 2001.

As one of the fastest growing workers' compen-

sation insurers, with eight offices along the Eastern Seaboard, MEMIC recognizes that workers' compensation insurance, while covering medical treatment and replacing a percentage of lost wages, cannot entirely eliminate the strain that workplace injury can cause a family.

"Our mission at MEMIC is to help prevent workplace injuries, and to get injured workers back on the job," said MEMIC President and CEO Michael Bourque. "With this scholarship, we aim to help family members of those impacted by significant workplace injuries pursue their academic ambitions."

The scholarship is named after former Camden resident Harvey Picker, a renowned physicist, educator, philanthropist, and advocate for education. In 1992, Picker was appointed by then Governor John R. McKernan as a member of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Workers' Compensation, which led to the

formation of MEMIC 26 years ago. Picker also served as a member of the Board of Directors at MEMIC.

Potential winners must complete the application by May 3 to be considered for a scholarship of up to \$5,000. To be eligible for the scholarship, the related injured worker must have been working for a MEMIC policyholder at the time of injury. Applicants will be judged on academic transcripts, citizenship, and future promise. Students must be attending or planning to attend an accredited college or university. For more information and to request a copy of the application, call 1-800-660-1306 and say "Horizon Scholarship" at the prompt, or visit memic.com/horizon.

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Deadline is **Friday by five.**

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Maine author's new book explores early colonial Maine



Carol Gardner, who has published fiction and nonfiction in a wide variety of books and periodicals, resides in Alna.

Maine author Carol Gardner's new narrative history, "The Involuntary American: A Scottish Prisoner's Journey to the New World," chronicles the life and times of Thomas Doughty, an illiterate Scottish foot soldier who was captured and shipped to the New World against his will. Tens of thousands of immigrants came to New England during the 1600s, but few histories have detailed the lives of those who came by force.

Gardner, who holds a Ph.D. in English from Johns Hopkins University, will speak at the Maine Histor-

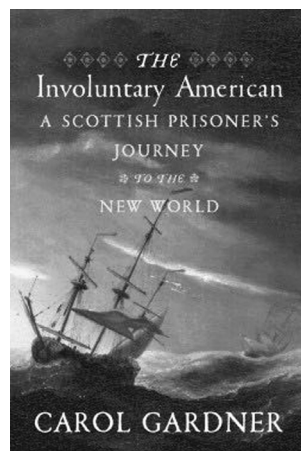
ical Society in Portland on May 23 and at other venues throughout New England during 2019.

In "The Involuntary American," Gardner explores what life was like for the seventeenth-century servants and slaves who were so vitally important to the Massachusetts Bay Colony society in the earliest days of New England's colonization. The narrative follows Scottish foot soldier Thomas Doughty through the Wars of the Three Kingdoms in Scotland, captivity in England, a difficult transatlantic journey, seven years' servitude in New Hampshire,

and his subsequent efforts to build a life and livelihood on the Maine frontier.

"The Involuntary American" combines Doughty's working class experiences with first-hand accounts of his contemporaries to present an expanded view of colonial servitude, a colorful portrayal of society in early Maine and New Hampshire, and a fresh perspective on seventeenth-century life.

Gardner has published fiction and nonfiction pieces in a wide variety of books and periodicals, including Baltimore Review, Potomac Review, the Portland Press Herald, and the Washington Post. She is a past winner of a Maryland Individual Artists Award. She lives in Alna.



What's Going On

New website helps students connect with charities

Zoe Siegel and Parker Harnett, sophomores at Yarmouth High School, have published a new database-driven website called "How to Help in Maine" (www.howtohelpinmaine.org). They started developing the website in November of 2018 because they realized they had a lot of friends who wanted to help out in their community but were having trouble knowing how to get started.

The website's mission is to raise awareness of all the places students (and adults) of any age can donate their time, goods, and money to charities who need them most.

Siegel and Harnett wanted to create an engaging space where students can learn about the benefits of volunteering and then link to charities which reflect their specific interests. They hope to see the website become a self-sustaining community to which charities and students are drawn. On the website, there are currently twenty charities that one can peruse to look for ways to

volunteer, donate money, or donate material goods.

If one has a specific material good they want to donate, they can search for a charity that needs that particular item. If one wants to volunteer in an area close to them, they can search by regions throughout Maine. If one wants to donate money, they can search via an organization type, such as shelter, animal, youth enrichment, etc.

Their goal is to grow the website so it eventually covers all charities in all regions of Maine. To that end, the website includes a simple way to "Add Your Charity!" by filling out a Google form linked to the page. They encourage organizations to share their information and needs to connect with students.

The duo hopes to encourage students to step out of their comfort zone and help whenever and however possible. The site also includes an event calendar with fund-raisers and projects for charities throughout Maine. The calendar pro-

vides easy access to things like charity fundraising 5Ks, walks, or winter plunges that students might not hear about otherwise.

Siegel and Harnett hope visitors to the site will become inspired and empowered with ideas on how to take action and make real change in their communities. A final component of the site is a blog page of volunteering stories. Students are encouraged to send in their stories of volunteering. The articles range from tips to awkward encounters to inspirational moments.

To find the volunteer opportunity you are looking for or to add your organization to the website, see howtohelpinmaine.org.

Send all items for **What's Going On** to **Editor@TwinCityTimes.com**.
Deadline is **Friday by five.**

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- CMMC's "A" Leapfrog Grade
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- Three-year reaccreditation as a Level 2 trauma center
- Reaccreditation as an acute rehab facility by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities
- Zero occurrence rate of a Central-line acquired bloodstream infection for over a year
- Dramatic reduction in incidence of bedsores or pressure ulcers at CMMC, in part through an innovative training program that is unique in the state of Maine.

We are committed to continually advancing our quality of care and will never stop looking for opportunities to improve. It is a privilege to serve our community and we thank you for trusting us to be your partner in health and wellness.



HUD Chief Ben Carson visits housing and youth programs in Lewiston



Secretary Carson and Senator Collins with Auburn Mayor Jason Levesque

U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson visited Lewiston recently to meet a local family who benefitted from several federal grant programs to purchase and renovate their home, tour the Tree Street Youth Center to discuss their work to promote health and academic achievement among local students, and visit New Beginnings to learn more about their efforts to serve runaway and homeless youth. He was hosted on the trip by U.S. Senator Susan Collins, who serves as Chair of the Senate Housing Appropriations Subcommittee.

Carson and Collins began their visit by meeting with Auburn Mayor Jason Levesque and City Administrator Peter Crichton to discuss Auburn's Opportunity Zone. Last May, Auburn and Lewiston were among the 32 Maine communities selected to participate in the federal Opportunity Zones program, an economic development program established under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 that provides a federal tax incentive for taxpayers who invest and create jobs in the designated area.

Senator Collins and Secretary Carson then stopped by the residence of Robert and Christina Edwards to see how their family has directly benefited from programs offered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Edwards recently became first-time homebuyers with the help of the HOME Program, which provided down payment assistance, and they used a LIHEAP grant for weatherization projects that improved their house's energy efficiency. The Edwards also increased the safety of their home for their five-year-old daughter by using grant funding to remove lead paint hazards and a Healthy Homes grant to install an exterior handrail and update the electrical system.

Next, Carson and Collins toured the Tree Street Youth Center and spoke with various stakeholders about how the Choice Neighborhoods Grant pro-



Carson and Collins visit the Edwards' home in Lewiston.

gram will help revitalize the Tree Street neighborhood. Lewiston, in partnership with Community Concepts, received a \$1.3 million grant through this program last year, which will be used to plan the transformation of the Tree Streets neighborhood by revitalizing HUD-assisted housing and catalyzing critical improvements in the neighborhood, including vacant properties, housing, businesses, services and schools.

Senator Collins and Secretary Carson also learned about Tree Street Youth Center's work to create a safe space that encourages healthy physical, social, emotional, and academic development for young people in the community. Due to increased demand, their facility is currently undergoing an expansion with assistance from the Community Development Block Grant program, which will entail the construction of a 2,900-square-foot addition and the renovation of 1,400 square feet.

Finally, Senator Collins and Secretary Carson visited the New Beginnings Drop-In Center to speak with staff and program participants about the various services offered by the organization.

The Center can accommodate up to 30 youth ages 14 to 21 who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless throughout Androscoggin, Kennebec, and Franklin Counties. Participants are provided with comprehensive case management, referrals to local and state agencies, assistance with housing needs and access

to shelter, and connection to local educational and employment programs. Street-based services are provided to run-away, homeless, and street youth who have been subjected to, or are at risk of being subjected to, sexual abuse or sexual exploitation. The Center also helps youth and young adults to obtain housing, food, and hygiene supplies.

Founded in 1980, New Beginnings provides an essential safety net for 700 children, teens, and adults and receives important funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Continuum of Care program.

"I appreciate Senator Collins' invitation to see first-hand how HUD programs are helping Mainers climb the ladder of opportunity," said Secretary Carson. "From combatting homelessness, to promoting sustainable homeownership, to making homes healthier, the evidence-based practices and services supported by HUD transform lives and improve communities."

"I was delighted to host Secretary Carson in Lewiston today, where we had the opportunity to see first-hand how federal housing programs are improving the health, safety, and overall wellbeing of Mainers and strengthening our communities," said Senator Collins. "We enjoyed meeting the Edwards, who achieved their dream of homeownership and removed lead hazards from their home with the assistance of several federal grant programs, as well as the hardworking staff and volunteers at Tree Street Youth Center and

See HUD, page 13

What's Going On

Outdoor writers to discuss process at Maine Authors Publishing forum



Called "Writing the Wilderness," the program will feature Maine authors Laurie Apgar Chandler, Thomas Jamrog, Kim Camery Millick, and Jake Morrel.

In honor of their 10th anniversary, Maine Authors Publishing will present a program featuring four local wilderness authors on Saturday, March 30, from 1 to 4:30 p.m. in Portland Public Library's Rines Auditorium.

Called "Writing the Wilderness," the program will feature Maine authors Laurie Apgar Chandler, Thomas Jamrog, Kim Camery Millick, and Jake Morrel. At 1:30 p.m., they will engage in a panel discussion about the process of writing about their wilderness experiences and then taking the next steps to publish their work. Following the discussion, the authors will be available until 4:30 to answer questions and sign copies of their books, which will be available for purchase.

Following the panel discussion, Maine Authors Publishing will present a brief program at 2:45 p.m. about independent, cooperative-style publishing. Their goal is to support local, independent authors throughout the publishing process with affordable editing, design, printing, distribution, and marketing services. A company representative will be on hand to provide information and answer questions about publishing with Maine Authors Publishing until 4:30 p.m.

The program is free and open to the public, and attendees are welcome to come for all or part of the

event. Refreshments will be provided. Portland Public Library is located at 5 Monument Square. Park on the street or in the Elm Street Parking Garage or Midtown Parking Garage.

Laurie Apgar Chandler is the first woman to solo thru-paddle the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, completing the 740-mile trip in 53 days. Her adventure memoir, "Upwards," relates the uplifting story of her journey, set amid the rich tapestry of the history, wildlife, landscapes, and people of New England.

Thomas Jamrog, Maine Guide and past president of the Maine Association of School Psychology, has been backpacking and exploring the outdoors for 50 years. His book, "In the Path of Young Bulls," details a team's daily challenges during a five-months-long hike of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, one of the USA's toughest long-distance journeys.

Kim Camery Millick

was hired as one of the first women to be a game warden in 1976. Events in the author's career, as a warden and later as a forester in the Great North Woods of Maine, come to life in her first novel, "Rookie Warden."

Jake Morrel has been a passionate pilot for decades. It only seemed natural to share with readers his own stories as well as the incredible adventures of some of his favorite Maine bush pilots. Morrel is the author of "Hardscrabble Lodge," "Dick Folsom: Bush Pilot," and "Gary Dumond Remembers: Maine Warden Pilots."

Located in Thomaston, Maine Authors Publishing is a cooperative-style press that has joyously been ushering books into print since 2009. In celebration of their 10th anniversary, they will host special events throughout 2019. For more information, call 594-0091 or visit www.maineauthorpublishing.com.



TWIN CITY NIGHTS

Weekly Arts & Entertainment

Franco Center hosts Adult Prom Night



Sean Wallace and Mitch Thomas, as the principal and assistant principal of fictitious L-A High School, lead the cast of characters presenting this year's Adult Prom.

"Bring your friends and join in for the most fun you've had since high school - maybe the most fun you've ever had," says Executive Director Mitch Thomas, who invites anyone and everyone to come out for the Gendron Franco Center's fourth annual Adult Prom ("Just like high school, only better") on Saturday, April 13 at 7 p.m.

Played by Thomas and Sean Wallace, the principal and assistant principal of fictitious L-A High School will once again serve as hosts for the evening of fun. The com-

ical dinner-theater program will also include a dance contest, the coronation of the Prom King and Queen, a photo booth, and much more.

The theme for this year's Prom is "It's a Jungle Out There." The doors and bar will open at 6 p.m. A delicious buffet dinner prepared by the Franco Center staff will be served from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. After that, prom-goers will dance until 11:30 p.m. to tunes from across the second half of the 20th century. D.J. Eric Lunt of Big Entertainment

will return to play "Wolfman Jack."

Guests are encouraged to come in prom attire, animal print attire, or both. Attendees may call Ann's at 782-3457 to order corsages and boutonnieres to be held at will-call for the event. The ticket price of \$40 includes dinner, dancing, entertainment, on-site parking, and other surprises. Seating is reserved and booking ahead is advised. For full tables or larger parties, call 783-1585. To reserve an individual seat, visit francocenter.org.

On display at LA Arts



LA Arts Gallery is now displaying "A Walk in the Mountains," an exhibit of works by Auburn resident John R. Wiley that were inspired by his years exploring the mountains of the Northeast, the western United States, and Alaska. Here above is the 18 x 28 work in colored pencil "Mountain Majesty." The exhibit is on view through April 28 at 221 Lisbon Street in Lewiston. For more information, including gallery hours, see www.laarts.org.

Curious Minds series continues at Auburn Public Library

The Curious Minds lecture series presented by Auburn Public Library and Lewiston-Auburn Senior College will continue in April with programs featuring home renovation, local history, and overseas travel. The programs will take place on Tuesdays at 2 p.m. in the library's Androscoggin Community Room.

On April 2, Mike Brakey will review his ten-year attempt to achieve a Net Zero Energy home, which produces the same amount of energy that it

uses. Elements necessary to shrink the energy footprint of any home include sufficient insulation to make the home air-tight, efficient lighting and appliances, and efficient HVAC systems that take advantage of natural resources.

On April 9, Doug Hodgkin will explore the visits of presidents and presidential candidates to Lewiston and Auburn, from Garfield to Trump (although the latter actually visited Lisbon). He will examine how these visits illustrate how changes in campaigning, technology,

and election laws affect presidential travel and encourage presidential hopefuls to appear in relatively small cities.

On April 16, Senior College instructor Lucy Bisson will lead an arm-chair voyage to France. In a program called "Paris is Always a Good Idea," she will describe the sights and sounds of Paris, Versailles, and the Champagne region.

The programs are free and open to the public. For more information about the series, see <https://usm.maine.edu/seniorcollege>.



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City seeks artists for Art in the Park



The City of Auburn is seeking local and Maine-based artists to showcase their work at the city's first-ever Art in the Park, taking place on Memorial Day, May 27, in the park in front of Community Little Theater. Part of the City's 150th anniversary celebra-

tion, the event will be held in conjunction with a city-wide parade and other Memorial Day festivities. Art in the Park will include a juried art exhibition with generous prizes, a youth art exhibit, and a vendor area where the public will be invited to browse and buy art, crafts,

and related items. Questions may be directed to show organizer Anita Poulin at 782-5118 or agraphicsme@gmail.com.

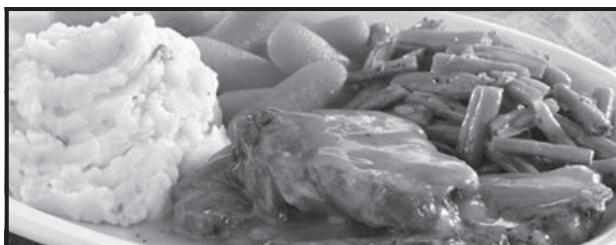
Artists should register their interest via an online registration system available at <https://www.auburn150.com/artshow>.

Speaker to discuss hydroponics and urban food justice



In a program seeking to reimagine a more just food system, Yemi Amu, co-founder of Oko Farms in Brooklyn, New York, will visit Bates College to discuss "Urban Agriculture, Aquaponics, and the Future of Food Justice in the City" on Monday, April 1 at 7 p.m. Free and open to the public, the program will take place in Room G65 of Pettengill Hall, located at 4 Andrews Road (Alumni Walk) in Lewiston. For more information, email feanes@bates.edu or imoise@bates.edu.

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Twin City Nights

"Puppetry in Motion" at CLT



Cast members Michael J. Litchfield (with "Rod"), Jordan Payne Hay (with "Kate Monster"), and Michael Pullen (with "Princeton") enjoy some light conversation during a recent rehearsal.

Community Little Theatre's upcoming production of "Avenue Q" will be performed on April 5, 6, 11, 12, and 13 at 7:30 p.m. and April 7 and 14 at 2 p.m. A triple Tony Award-winner in 2004, this puppet-filled musical comedy about a group of 20-somethings seeking

their life's purpose in the big city features catchy songs and a Sesame Street vibe. But with its satirical edge, some profanity, and themes including racism, substance abuse, and sexuality, the play is geared for an adult audience and may not be appropriate for young-

sters.

All performances will take place at Great Falls Performing Arts Center, 30 Academy Street in Auburn. Tickets are \$18, or \$15 for seniors and \$12 for students. For more information, call 783-0958 or visit LACLT.com.

L/A Community Little Theatre Presents April 5-14, 2019

Avenue Q



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AVENUE Q is presented through special arrangement with (MTI) Music Theatre International.

Twin City Nights

Noted writer-naturalist to speak at Maine State Museum



Berndt Heinrich is the author of over twenty books, including "Ravens in Winter," "A Year in the Maine Woods," and "Why We Run." (Photo by Kevin Blanc)

Distinguished writer and naturalist Bernd Heinrich will reflect on his varied and fascinating areas of expertise - including bird behavior, insect physiology, patterns in nature, and the pleasures of running and the outdoors - in a program on Wednesday, April 3 at 6:45 p.m. at the Maine State Museum.

Professor Emeritus of Biology at the University of Vermont, Heinrich has published more than twenty books, including "Ravens in Winter" (Summit, 1989), "A Year in the Maine Woods" (Addison-Wesley, 1994),

"Why We Run" (Harper Perennial, 2002), and "The Naturalist's Notebook: Tracking Changes in the Natural World Around You" (Storey, 2017).

Called "An Uncommon Curiosity: At Home and In Nature with Bernd Heinrich," the April 3 lecture borrows its title from a documentary film about Heinrich that was released in 2011. The film follows its subject over the course of a year as he reflects on his past and shares his ideas about nature, science, art, beauty, writing, and running.

Running has been cen-

tral to Heinrich's life. He has won numerous long distance events and he set a number of ultramarathon and masters records in the 1980s. Combining his knowledge as a physiologist, comparative animal biologist, and runner, he has theorized that the unique human capacity for long-distance running, which requires endurance, intelligence, and the desire to win, is a human adaptation similar to running adaptations in other animals.

Free and open to the public, the event will begin with a reception at 6 p.m. The Maine State Museum is located within the Cultural Facilities Building, adjacent to the Maine State House, at 230 State Street in Augusta. For more information, call 287-2304.

First Parish Choirs present "Songs of the Soul"

The choirs of First Parish Church in Brunswick, under the direction of Dr. Jane Hagness, will present their spring concert, "Spirituals: Songs of the Soul," on Sunday, March 31 at 3 p.m. The concert will feature renowned soprano Dr. Angelique Clay Everett, Metropolitan Opera tenor Michael Forest, and internationally acclaimed baritone Michael Preacely. A free will offering will support the anti-human trafficking services of Preble Street.

Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door; students enter free of charge. The church is located at 217 Maine Street in Brunswick. For more information or to buy tickets, call 729-7331.

Monmouth Community Players announce cast of "Annie"



At the center of the large cast is Anna Whitestone of Winthrop, in the role of Annie.

The Monmouth Community Players have announced the cast for the final show of their 27th season, "Annie: The Musical." The production is directed by Josie French of Lewiston, with assistant director Tim MacLeod of Auburn, musical director Colleen Mahan of Greene, and producer Cindy Dunham of Windham.

The production won seven Tony Awards in 1977, including Best Musical, and three different film versions have been produced. It tells the story of Annie (Anna Whitestone of Winthrop), an irrepressible young orphan who, in the midst of the Great Depression, lives in a miserable orphanage run by the tyrannical Miss Hannigan. Annie's situation changes dramatically when she is selected by Grace Farrell to spend a short time at the residence of the wealthy munitions industrialist Oliver Warbucks.

The cast includes many zany characters that will tug at your heartstrings and leave you singing as you leave the theater. Playing key roles are Colleen Mahan of Greene (Miss Hannigan), Ruth Choate of

Lewiston (Grace Farrell), David Marshall of Monmouth (Oliver Warbucks), Danny Gay of Monmouth (Miss Hannigan's slimy brother, Rooster), and Megan Record of Monmouth (Rooster's twisted girlfriend, Lily St. Regis).

The orphans are double cast: Molly is played by Jackie Senft of Hallowell and Ava Degen of Monmouth; Kate is played by Ilanna Gray of North Monmouth and Leah Charland of Fayette; Tessie is played by Ayla Gungor of Lisbon and Evelyn Smith of South Portland; Pepper is played by Greer Slater of Kents Hill and Amara Beganny of Litchfield; July is played by Riley Fyfe of Lisbon and Josie Charland of Fayette; and Duffy is played by Maeve Burgess of Monmouth and Hannah McAdam of Kents Hill. Other orphans are played by Avery Hamlin of Wales, Kya Robitaille of Monmouth, Mackenzie Barton of Mechanic Falls, Lena Hannon of Kents Hill, and Lydia Griswold of Winthrop.

Playing the multi-faceted characters that round out the large ensemble cast are Kathryn Ross of Chel-

sea; Heather Pape of Wayne; Zachary Hodge of Manchester; Henry Quintal, Maya Veilleux and Alexa Gallant of Augusta; Tim Ryan of Lisbon; Cindy McAdam of Kents Hill; Alec Lyons of Leeds; Dayla Davis of Chesterville; Oliver and Amy Hamlin of Wales; Jocelyn Gray of North Monmouth; Nancy Kenneally of Lewiston; Jim Wright of Fayette; Cindy Dunham, Ginger Smith, Pheobe Armillotti, Sinead Callahan, and Amy Griswold of Winthrop; Joseph Cothen and Rebecca Singer of Hallowell; and Andy Tolman of Readfield. Finally, what production would be complete without Annie's canine companion Sandy, played by Macy Lemieux of Brunswick.

Show dates run April 26 through May 5, with four shows each weekend, on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. The Theater at Monmouth is at 796 Main Street. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 370-9566, email monmouthcommunityplayersmaine@gmail.com, or see www.monmouthcommunityplayers.org.

Curious Minds series continues at Auburn Public Library

The Curious Minds lecture series presented by Auburn Public Library and Lewiston-Auburn Senior College will continue in April with programs featuring home renovation, local history, and overseas travel. The programs will take place on Tuesdays at 2 p.m. in the library's Androscoggin Community Room.

On April 2, Mike Brakey will review his ten-year attempt to achieve a Net Zero Energy home, which produces the same amount of energy that it uses. Elements necessary to

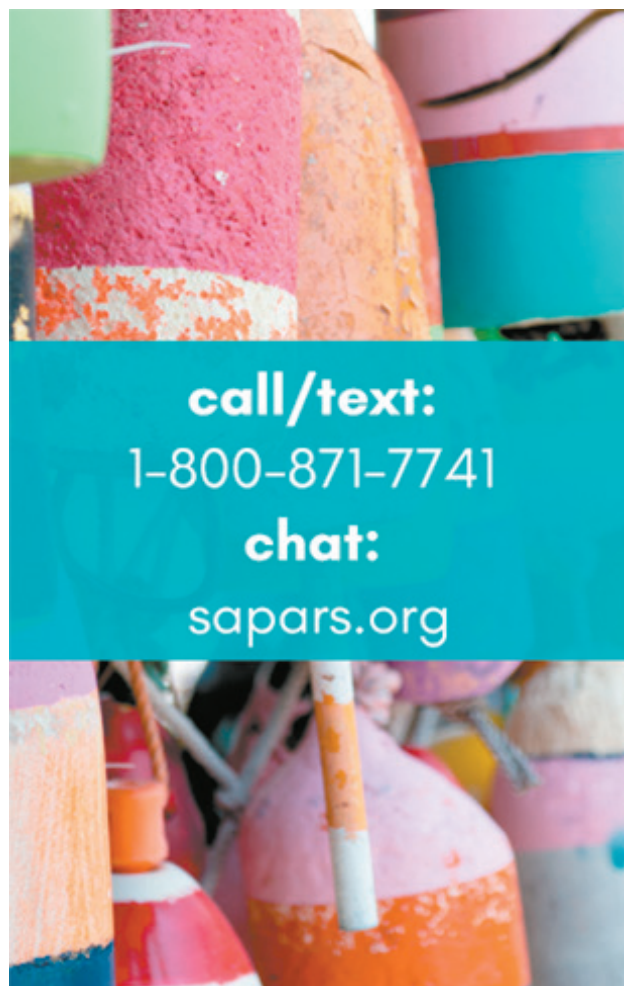
shrink the energy footprint of any home include sufficient insulation to make the home air-tight, efficient lighting and appliances, and efficient HVAC systems that take advantage of natural resources.

On April 9, Doug Hodgkin will explore the visits of presidents and presidential candidates to Lewiston and Auburn, from Garfield to Trump (although the latter actually visited Lisbon). He will examine how these visits illustrate how changes in campaigning, technology, and election laws affect

presidential travel and encourage presidential hopefuls to appear in relatively small cities.

On April 16, Senior College instructor Lucy Bisson will lead an armchair voyage to France. In a program called "Paris is Always a Good Idea," she will describe the sights and sounds of Paris, Versailles, and the Champagne region.

The programs are free and open to the public. For more information about the series, see <https://usm.maine.edu/seniorcollege>.



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Thursday, Mar. 28

Rotary Club Lunch Meeting. Noon to 1 p.m. Village Inn, 165 High St., Auburn. The guest speaker is Jeanne Hult, president and CEO of Maine Community Bancorp. Lunch avail. at the restaurant. 333-4588; www.lewistonauburnrotary.org.

HR Thursdays Workshop. Noon to 1:30 p.m. Chamber of Commerce, 415 Lisbon St., Lewiston. Steve Dorsey of Cross Insurance discusses “Insurance Ins and Out for Your Organization or Business.” \$50 (Chamber members \$25; CMHRA members free). 783-2249. Register at www.LAMetro-Chamber.com.

Film Screening. 3:30 p.m. Franco Center, 46 Cedar St., Lewiston. Canadian documentary “God Save Justin Trudeau” explores the rise of a young politician in an age of modern media politics; in French, w. English subtitles. Free; donations accepted. www.francocenter.org.

Community Conversation Series. 5:30 p.m. Auburn Public Library. Reps of Catholic Charities’ Refugee and Immigration Services speak about their cultural orientation programs, sharing accounts of what newcomers to America ask about navigating daily life in the U.S. Free.

Bricks & Bridges Comedy Fest. 6 p.m. 84 Court, Auburn. This clean comedy showcase features Maine favorite Johnny Ater, along with Debbie Ennis, Al Ghanekar, Nick Gordon, Jay Hunter, Kara Kilian, Leonard Kimble, and David McLaughlin. All ages; pay what you can. maineevent-comedy.com.

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 is invited.

Concert: Momenta Quartet. 7:30 p.m. Olin Arts Center, 75 Russell St., Bates College, Lewiston. The Quartet performs works by composer William Matthews, Esty Professor of Music at Bates College. Free, but tix required from batesconcerts.eventbrite.com.

Bricks & Bridges Comedy Fest. 8 p.m., Cowbell Grill & Tap, 49 Lisbon St., Lewiston. Los Angeles comedian-actress Mary Kennedy headlines; also sets by Jed Bloom, Nic Dufault, Mike Gray, Johanna Medranda, Mark Reilly, and Chris Thomas. Ages 21-plus; pay what you can. maineeventcomedy.com.

Friday, Mar. 29

Magnetize Maine Summit. Hilton Garden Inn, Auburn. Speakers and a panel discussion start a

Calendar

See more Calendar at www.TwinCityTimes.com

conversation about how to increase collaboration, creativity, and connectivity in the workplace to keep younger employees actively engaged; pres. by Uplift LA. \$25. 783-2249; www.upliftmaine.com.

Emergency Preparedness Workshop. 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Central Maine Community College. Participants will learn how to actively protect their business or organization against the threat of an emergency situation. Free. Pres. by the Center for Workforce & Professional Development. Register by 3/27 at 755-5280.

National Vietnam War Veterans Day Observance. 1 to 4 p.m. Hall of Flags, Maine State House, 210 State St., Augusta. Open to the public. Free.

Mount David Summit. 1:30 p.m. Pettingill Hall, Bates College, Lewiston. In concurrent sessions throughout the afternoon, Bates students present their creative and scholarly work, some focused on Lewiston-Auburn; all welcome. Free. 753-6952; bates.edu/summit.

Opening Reception. 6 to 8 p.m. Museum L-A, 35 Canal St., Lewiston. Meet guest curator Christine McDowell and see the Museum’s new exhibit celebrating the history of Auburn’s shoe industry, “Footwear: From Function to Fashion.” Light refreshments. Free. 333-3881.

Bricks & Bridges Comedy Fest. 7 p.m. Bear Bones Beer, 43 Lisbon St., Lewiston. Rhode Island’s E.J. Edmonds headlines, with sets by Danny Bullis, Joe Flynn, Jake Jacobson, Connor McGrath, Ali Simpson, John Sucich, and Bert Walpack. Ages 21-plus; pay what you can. maineevent-comedy.com.

Concert: Momenta Quartet. 7:30 p.m. Olin Arts Center, 75 Russell St., Bates College, Lewiston. The Quartet performs works by Beethoven and contemporary composers Shawn Jaeger and Ileana Perez-Velazquez. \$25 at batesconcerts.eventbrite.com.

Bricks & Bridges Comedy Fest. 9 p.m. Baxter Brewing, 120 Mill St., Lewiston. “Maine’s Best Comedian” winner Brian Brinegar headlines, with sets by Greg Boggis, Paul Cyphers, Ralph Joyal, Mark Moccia, Julie Poulin, Ben Roberts, and Jamie Roux. Ages 21-plus; pay what you can. maineeventcomedy.com.

Saturday, Mar. 30

Fairy Godmother Gown Giveaway. 9 a.m. to 3

p.m. Foss Mansion, 19 Elm St., Auburn. The Women’s Literary Union gives away free prom gowns. For more information or to donate your extra gowns, call 783-6450 or 713-5888.

Bricks & Bridges Comedy Fest. 12 p.m. Fitts’ Bar & Grill, 150 Center St., Auburn. Comedian Mark Turcotte leads a stand-up workshop for those looking to network and sharpen their skills. \$25 (incl. all-you-can-eat pizza). maineevent-comedy.com.

Writing the Wilderness. 1 to 4:30 p.m. Rines Auditorium, Portland Public Library. Maine outdoor writers discuss the writing and publishing process at 1:30, followed by a program on Maine Authors Publishing at 2:45. Free. 594-0091; www.maineauthorspublishing.com.

Concert: Maine Music Soc. Chorale & Orchestra. 7:30 p.m. Franco Center, 46 Cedar St., Lewiston. Joined by professional soloists, the group performs Handel’s oratorio “Judas Maccabaeus.” Again 3/31 at 3 p.m. \$25/22/10 (add \$2 at door). 333-3386; www.mainemusicsociety.org.

Bricks & Bridges Comedy Fest. 7:30 p.m. Sapphire, 150 Center St., Auburn. The Fest culminates with this performance by two-time Las Vegas Entertainer of the Year Joe Trammel. Ages 21-plus; \$15 (\$12 in adv.). maineevent-comedy.com.

Sunday, Mar. 31

Concert: First Parish Church Choirs. 3 p.m. First Parish Church, 217 Maine St., Brunswick. The program, “Spirituals: Songs of the Soul,” features renowned soprano Dr. Angelique Clay Everett, Metropolitan Opera tenor Michael Forest, and acclaimed baritone Michael Preacely. \$20 (\$15 in adv.); students free. 729-7331.

Concert: Carrie Newcomer. 4 p.m. Congregational Church, 10 Church Lane (at Parker Head Rd.), Phippsburg. The acclaimed singer-songwriter has been described as a “prairie mystic” by the Boston Globe and “rapturously tuneful” by Rolling Stone. \$25. 389-1770; BrownPaperTickets.com.

Monday, Apr. 1

Book Discussion. 12:30 p.m. Auburn Public Library. The Auburn Page Turners discuss Kristin Hannah’s novel “The Great Alone.” All welcome; copies avail. through the library’s interlibrary loan process. 333-6640, ext. 4.

Auburn Art Club Meeting. 2 p.m. Methodist

Church, Park Ave., Auburn. Shelley Lance-Fulk and Jacklyn Amtower of Compass Rose Images discuss their wildlife photography. All Art Club members invited.

Book Discussion. 6 p.m. Auburn Public Library. The Speak Your Mind book group discusses “Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City,” by Princeton sociologist Matthew Desmond. All welcome; copies avail. through the library’s interlibrary loan process. 333-6640, ext. 4.

Stanton Bird Club Meeting. 6:30 p.m. Room 285, L-A College, 55 Westminster St., Lewiston. Bates College Professor of Biology Brent Huggett discusses his research studying trees and their adaptation to climate change and destructive insects. Free. www.Stanton-BirdClub.org.

Lecture-Discussion. 7 p.m. Room G65, Pettingill Hall, 4 Andrews Road (Alumni Walk), Bates College, Lewiston. Yemi Amu, co-founder of Oko Farms in Brooklyn, discusses “Urban Agriculture, Aquaponics, and the Future of Food Justice in the City.” Free. feanes@bates.edu.

Tuesday, Apr. 2

Curious Minds Series. 2 p.m. Auburn Public Library. Mike Brakey reviews his ten-year attempt to achieve a Net Zero Energy home in Maine. Free. Pres. with L-A Senior College. <https://usm.maine.edu/seniorcollege>.

Wednesday, Apr. 3

Author Visit. 6:45 p.m. Maine State Museum, 230 State St., Augusta. Writer-naturalist Bernd Heinrich reflects on his various personal and professional interests, including bird behavior, insect physiology, patterns in nature, and the pleasures of running and the outdoors; reception at 6 p.m. Free. 287-2304.

Thursday, Apr. 4

Building Confidence. 5:30 to 8 p.m. UMA-So. Paris Center, 256 Main St., So. Paris. This three-week class is presented by New Ventures Maine. Free. Register at 753-6531 or www.newventuresmaine.org.

Author Visit. 6:30 p.m. Muskie Archives, Bates College, 70 Campus Ave., Lewiston. Emily Bernard, Prof. of English at UVM, reads from her collection of autobiographical essays, “Black Is the Body: Stories from My Grandmother’s Time, My Mother’s Time, & Mine.” Free. 753-6963.

Hot Chocolate Jubilee. 7 p.m. Chocolate Church Arts Center, 804 Washington St., Bath. This community variety show-fundraiser has the theme “As Time Goes By.” Again 4/5-7 (Sun. at 2 p.m.). \$18 (\$15 in adv.). 442-8455; www.chocolate-church.org.

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March 29th through April 3rd

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Wonder Park (PG)	1:25	4:25	7:05	9:10
Captain Marvel (PG-13)	12:30	1:00	3:30	4:00
	6:30	7:00	9:20	9:45
How To Train Your Dragon: Hidden World (PG)	12:35	3:35	6:35	9:05
Dumbo 3D (PG)		4:10		9:45
Dumbo (PG)	12:40	1:10	3:40	6:40
			7:10	9:15

Public Breakfast

The Leeds Volunteer Fire Department will hold a public French Toast and Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, April 13, from 6:30 to 10 a.m. at the fire station on Ridge Road (Route 106). The menu will include pancakes, French toast, eggs,

bacon, sausage, home fries, ham, homemade muffins, coffee and juice. The cost is \$6 for adults and \$4 for children ages 4 through 10. Funds raised will support the purchase of personnel structure firefighting equipment.

HUD

Continued from page 9

New Beginnings, who are making a real difference in the lives of countless Maine youth.

“I look forward to continuing to work with Secretary Carson to ensure our nation’s housing programs have the resources they need to replicate success stories like these in Lewiston across the country.”

As Chair of the Housing Appropriations Subcommittee, Senator Collins has worked to secure robust funding to strengthen communities and meet the housing needs of the most vulnerable Americans. Earlier this year, legislation she co-authored to make critical investments in housing

assistance and economic development was signed into law.

Highlights of that legislation included \$279 million (\$49 million above last year’s level) to combat lead hazards in homes where families with young children reside; \$80 million to support comprehensive efforts to end youth homelessness in urban and rural areas, as well as \$20 million for new Family Unification vouchers targeted to youth exiting foster care and at risk of homelessness; and \$3.3 billion for the Community Development Block Grant program, which helps state and local governments promote economic development and job creation.

Budget

Continued from page 4

if enrollment turns out to be higher than anticipated, Maine will run out of money once again. This will mean a return to the annual budget shortfalls that were eliminated under Republican management, setting up Maine for future tax increases.

Republicans want a sustainable budget that ensures we can afford to take care of our most vulnerable citizens and that existing state employees and programs are taken care of before we add more employees and programs. However, some Democrats and their special interest allies believe that the 11% budget increase is not enough and are already pressuring the party to raise taxes.

Republican leadership put Maine on a prosperous path, where debts were paid, unemployment went down, wages and workforce participation went up, and 70,000 low-income earners no longer had to pay income tax. Maine individuals and families were allowed to

keep more of their hard-earned money.

Republicans will continue to work for a responsible, sustainable budget by working collaboratively with our colleagues across the aisle. However, we are now living under one-party rule, with Democrats holding comfortable majorities in both houses. Unfortunately, Governor Mills and the new Democratic majorities could undo all the good things that Republicans and Governor LePage did for Maine over the last eight years.

I sincerely hope that the Democrats will work with us to create a budget with proper priorities that prepares us for an unpredictable future and continues the prosperity we now enjoy. Creating a responsible budget is hard work and takes strength and maturity, because it’s impossible to give everybody everything they want. My goal is to work with Democrats to craft a budget that is sustainable and responsible, not merely political.

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Pysanky! Learn the art of Ukrainian egg decorating



Workshop leader Lesia Sochor, who learned the ancient spring tradition from her mother, has shared the craft in workshops across the state.

The Bates College Museum of Art will host two Ukrainian egg decorating workshops with artist Lesia Sochor at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Friday, March 29 in the Benjamin Mays Center at 95 Russell Street in Lewiston.

Each workshop will last two hours. Space is limited and registration is required. The fee for the workshop is \$10 per person. Children under 10 must be

accompanied by an adult. To register, call 786-8212.

The workshop will be led by Lesia Sochor, an artist of Ukrainian descent who lives in Brooks, Maine. She learned the ancient spring tradition of decorating Pysanky from her mother and has shared this craft in numerous workshops throughout the state.

Common among Slav-ic peoples as far back as

5,000 B.C., the Pysanka, a decorated egg, was deeply important in spring rituals, symbolizing nature's re-birth. To decorate eggs in the Ukrainian style, designs are drawn on the egg with melted beeswax, flowed onto the shell from a tool called a "kystka." The eggs are then dipped in a series of dyes until the wax is removed and the final pattern is revealed.

Carrie Newcomer to perform at Phippsburg Congregational Church



Named one of the "50 most influential folk musicians of the past 50 years" by Chicago's WFMT radio, the celebrated singer-songwriter has been described as a "prairie mystic" by the Boston Globe and "rapturously tuneful" by Rolling Stone.

Celebrated singer-songwriter Carrie Newcomer will perform on Sunday, March 31 at 4 p.m. at Phippsburg Congregational Church. Described as "a soaring songstress" by Billboard, a "prairie mystic" by the Boston Globe, and "rapturously tuneful" by Rolling Stone, Newcomer has attracted a devoted following with her warm voice, melodic songs, and an irreverent yet spiritual view of the world. She has recorded 16 solo albums,

toured extensively throughout the U.S. and Europe, and recorded with Alison Krauss and Mary Chapin Carpenter. Her 2017 PBS special, "An Evening with Carrie Newcomer," has been broadcast in 200 markets across the USA.

Newcomer was listed as one of the "50 most influential folk musicians of the past 50 years" by Chicago's WFMT radio and has twice been honored by Folk Wax for artist and album of the year. Boston's

WUMB radio station included her on their list of the Top Most Influential Artists of the past 25 years. She is also widely admired by her musical peers. Her song "I Should've Known Better" was recorded by Nickel Creek on their gold-selling, Grammy-winning 2003 album "This Side."

In addition to her music, Newcomer has become a prominent voice for progressive spirituality, social justice, and interfaith dialogue. Her collaboration with the Quaker author Parker J. Palmer, "Healing the Heart of Democracy: A Gathering of Spirits for the Common Good," was filmed for public television in 2015. She also collaborated with acclaimed neuroscientist and author Jill Bolte Taylor in presenting "Transformative Stories." She has written two books of poetry and essays and was recently featured on Krista Tippett's NPR show "On Being."

The Phippsburg Congregational Church is located at 10 Church Lane (at Parker Head Road) in Phippsburg. Doors will open at 3:30 p.m. For more information, call 389-1770. Tickets are \$25 and are available via BrownPaperTickets.com.



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