

Lewiston-Auburn's Weekly Newspaper!

TWIN CITY TIMES

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Canine companion joins volunteer ski patrol



Bentley and Dr. McLean ride the lift back to the top of the ridge. (Photo by Nathan Tsukroff, Bell Studios)

The skier swishes down the slopes, followed by a bouncing bundle of golden fur wearing a red vest and the biggest canine smile ever seen. If you're on the slopes at Lost Valley Ski Area on a Friday afternoon or Saturday morning, you'll often find Bentley, a two-year-old Golden Retriever, chasing alongside his owner, Dr. Philip McLean, one of 38 members who form the all-volunteer ski patrol at the historic Auburn facility.

McLean, a chiropractor in Lewiston, has been part of the ski patrol for almost seven years; Bentley,

who has been coming to McLean's office since he joined the doctor's family, is joining him on the ski patrol for the first time this year. With his red ski patrol vest loaded with doggy "emergency treats," Bentley is ready to play with any of the children or adults at the ski area. Although well-trained to sit and stay on command, he loves the attention of the guests when he has permission to visit with them.

Bentley can generally be found at McLean's side at Lost Valley on Fridays from 2 to 6 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon. "He's

usually at the top of the hill or skiing, so people can just stop by and see him," McLean says. "He's got his regulars who come over to visit!" Bentley has a friendly approach to everyone he meets, which helps skiers who might be a little scared at the top of the mountain. When he rolls onto his back for a tummy rub, "It kind of breaks the ice for them a little bit."

Getting up the slope is easy, because Bentley rides the ski lift with his master. When they step into the loading area, the lift operator stops the lift for Bentley to hop onto the chair beside McLean. With the safety bar pulled into place, the lift starts up again and the two sail to the top of the mountain. Minutes later, McLean weaves down the

See Canine, page 6

Grand opening for Aero Air Park in Lewiston



Pictured here are Aero Air Park General Manager Marissa Green, Matt Leonard of the LA Metro Chamber, Aero Air Park owner Fei Lu, Lewiston Mayor Bob MacDonald, Ali Rudzinski of Senator Susan Collins' Office, Paul Tarr of Aero Air Park and Michelle Gosselin of Dow Media.

Local business professionals and dignitaries converged on Aero Air Park recently for a ribbon cutting ceremony to commemorate the Grand Opening of the unique and fun new attraction at 40 East Avenue in Lewiston. An indoor trampoline park located in the Lewiston Mall next to Sea 40

Japanese Cuisine, Aero Air Park features wall-to-wall trampolines that include an open jump arena, trampoline dodge ball, a basketball dunk station and a "trick" zone. The facility also includes an arcade, frozen yogurt bar and private party room.

Lewiston Mayor Bob Macdonald addressed the

crowd, remarking about how surprised he was to see how big Aero Air Park was inside compared to what he had perceived from the parking lot. He emphasized how excited he is to see such a unique business making its home here in L-A. "I am truly happy to have you here," See Aero, page 4

Mechanics donates \$1000 to Jubilee Center



Mortgage Loan Officer and Charitable Contributions Committee Member Mariah Robinson of Mechanics Savings Bank presents a \$1,000 check to Erin Reed of Trinity Jubilee Center.

Mechanics Savings Bank has donated \$1,000 to support Trinity Jubilee Center's Sponsor a Meal Project. The donation will fund the soup kitchen's operation for ten days, making possible the preparation and distribution of over 1,000 meals. Since its inception in 1991, Trinity Jubilee Center has assisted thousands of Maine families through five programs that run seven days per week: a Meals Program, Food Pantry, Day Shelter, Resource Center, and Refugee Integration Program. Mechanics Savings Bank has been a consistent supporter

of the Center, whose focus areas are community education, food security, youth development and public health.

"We are so grateful for the support of Mechanics Savings Bank," said Trinity Jubilee Center Executive Director Erin Reed. "All programs at our community center run on such a small budget; this donation goes a long way toward helping to feed families in Lewiston-Auburn."

Mechanics Savings Bank is a full-service community bank with branches in Auburn, Brunswick, Lewiston, and

See MSB, page 4

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Principals to assume new roles at St. Dom's



Donald Bilodeau



Joline Girouard

Saint Dominic Academy has announced that, due to a retirement and the establishment of a new role as part of a reorganization of responsibilities for current administrators, two new principals will be hired for the school's Auburn and Lewiston campuses prior to the 2016-17 school year.

Donald Bilodeau, the principal of the Lewiston (Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 6) campus, will retire as a full-time administrator at the end of the current school year. He is expected to remain at the school in a part-time capacity.

"When we were fortunate enough to get Mr. Bilodeau on board, he said he could give us five years," said Donald Fournier, president of the academy. "Well, that was six years ago. His dedication to strengthening the academy and preserving the Catholic identity of the school are well known throughout our community. We are thrilled that he

Mrs. Girouard has spent her entire professional career ensuring that the students at our school become well-rounded, value-centered individuals," said Fournier. "In her new position, she will be able to oversee the academy's efforts to enhance our current curriculum and student life while also helping to assess possible avenues we should pursue to grow as an institution."

Both Bilodeau and Girouard assumed their current roles as principals in *See St. Dom's, page 6*

Cornerstone Wealth Planning adds new staff

Cornerstone Wealth Planning, a financial services firm located in Auburn and serving the financial needs of clients in Maine and beyond, has added two new members to its staff. Wes Davis has been hired as a financial advisor, and Lisa Davis has been hired as Director of Client Service.

According to Cornerstone founder Mindy Davis, who began the business in Auburn seven years ago, "Wes will participate in client meetings and provide planning advice, with his focus at the firm being research and establishing investment policy, while Lisa will oversee and coordinate appointment calendars, assist with the new account process, maintain client records, handle office management activities, and facilitate communication between Cornerstone's clientele and its financial advisors."

Wes David graduated from Bentley University in 2009 with a bachelor's degree in management and a minor in finance. He subsequently earned the Charter Financial Analyst designation in 2013. His background is in investment research, portfolio management and analysis.

Before joining Cornerstone, he was an investment analyst and portfolio manager for more than five years at Lake Street Advisors, LLC, a multi-family office in Portsmouth, N.H., where he advised ultra-high net worth families with assets totaling more than \$500 million. He plans to apply many of the principals he used in his experience advising the



Wes Davis



Lisa Davis

ultra-wealthy back where he grew up.

"I'm really excited to join Cornerstone," said Wes, who grew up in Auburn and now lives in Westbrook. "I was very interested in the prospect of working in my home community, taking what I learned assisting ultra-high net worth families and using that knowledge to serve the financial needs of people in Lewiston-Auburn," he said. "Plus, what's better than working with family?"

"Having Wes on board will further enhance our level of client service," said Mindy. "He has an impressive background that will be put to good use and will allow other staff members to spend more time focused on pursuing the financial needs of our clients."

Prior to joining Cornerstone, Lisa Davis worked in customer service with Bedard Pharmacy for over 17 years, where she was a sought after resource for the company's clients, many of whom followed her as she changed positions within the organization over the course of her career.

"I'm looking forward to this next stage in my profes-

only one goal in mind: providing clients with sound financial advice tailored to their situation.

Their team has a diverse background with a broad array of wealth management experience, including both a Chartered Financial Analyst and Certified Financial Planner on staff. They use a team approach in serving their clients in the areas of investment management, wealth planning, risk management, and insurance analysis. Securities are offered through LPL Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC.

Cornerstone Wealth Planning's new location is at 79 Main Street in downtown Auburn. They can be reached by calling 376-3160 or emailing contactus@cornerstonewp.com. More information is also available at www.cornerstonewp.com.

CENTURY 21 Advantage welcomes Don White

CENTURY 21 Advantage has welcomed Don White to its Lewiston office. White has 16 years of experience in the field, most recently working for Keller Williams. He specializes in residential, multi-family and commercial properties and land.

Born and raised in Auburn, White knows the area. He spent 30 years running Andy Valley Gymnastics, coaching beginners to elite-level gymnasts. As an avid outdoorsman, he has spent a significant amount of time in Acadia national park.

"I'm very excited to join the CENTURY 21

Advantage office," he said. "I look forward to sharing all of the great resources CENTURY 21 provides with my clients."

As local market experts, CENTURY 21 Advantage sales professionals are uniquely qualified to help consumers navigate the opportunities that exist in the local real estate market and provide current sellers with an excellent opportunity to gain additional exposure for their properties. For Open House listings in Lewiston-Auburn, consumers can visit the CENTURY 21

Advantage Web site at www.century21-advantage.com.

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Governor's Address: Increasing the Minimum Wage Could be Disastrous if Done Wrong

The socialists at the Maine Peoples' Alliance are leading the effort to raise the minimum wage to \$12. This would be disastrous for small businesses, entry-level employees and the elderly.

Dear Maine Taxpayer,

If you increase the cost of doing business, one of two things will happen—maybe both. First, business owners will have to lay off workers to make up for the significantly higher wages they now have to pay. This will hurt inexperienced teenagers and other low-skill workers seeking part-time jobs. If employers have to pay high wages for a worker, they will hire someone with more skill and ex-

perience.

Second, business owners will have to raise their prices to cover the costs of the higher wages. This hurts the elderly and others on fixed incomes. They will suddenly have to pay higher prices, even though their income has not gone up.

Even worse, the Maine Peoples' Alliance proposal would automatically raise the minimum wage every year, even during downturns in the economy. Automatically raising wages while revenue is going down would put some companies out of business.

Furthermore, this proposal will be devastating for restaurants. Wait staffs would be paid the minimum wage, which means they



Governor Paul R. LePage

would get much smaller tips, if any. Restaurants would have to pay tens of thousands of dollars more in wages—some may have to pay hundreds of thousands.

This would raise prices on the menu by 20 percent, which means you

would pay more sales tax. Workers' comp and payroll taxes would also increase. These massive increases could put some of your favorite restaurants out of business for good.

The Maine Peoples' Alliance proposal will go to the voters as a ballot question in November. It would destroy jobs and inflict terrible damage on Maine businesses, especially in the retail, hospitality and tourism industries.

That's why a coalition representing the retail, hospitality and tourism industries, as well as the business community, strongly opposes the proposal. This coalition is supporting a bill that would raise the minimum wage to \$10 by 2020,

allowing businesses time to absorb the additional cost.

The Legislature can put this proposal on the ballot as a competing measure. Mainers could then choose between the catastrophic proposal from the Maine Peoples' Alliance or the approach from the coalition that would increase costs more slowly.

The socialists at the Maine Peoples' Alliance think all business owners are wealthy and can afford to pay workers higher wages. Mainers know this is not true. Our state is made up of small, mom-and-pop businesses that operate on very thin margins.

The Maine Peoples' Alliance proposal will obliterate those margins

and put your corner store and your favorite restaurant out of business. Price increases will also hurt the elderly on fixed incomes who will be forced to pay more for goods, services and food.

The Maine people deserve a more thoughtful alternative. I urge you to call your legislators and tell them to support a bill for the common-sense competing measure. If Maine is going to raise the minimum wage, it should be done in a rational and business-like manner—not by social activists who don't understand simple economics.

*Thank You,
Paul R. LePage
Governor*

Letter to the Editor

Hope Haven Gospel Mission is not cutting services

To the Editor:

I'm honored to have been granted a small and quiet opportunity to serve the firefighting team of our Lewiston Fire Department as their chaplain. Their quick, efficient and professional actions save both lives and property.

I have been near fire scenes to watch as control of the area is established and equipment is staged. Then the work of tracking down the trouble's source and remedying it begins. One of the most striking qualities, from my view, is the teamwork that is displayed, whether one piece of equipment and its crew is involved or the situation requires multiple units and associated teams. I'm certain that a word of gratitude for their selfless service would

not be refused.

I wish such qualities were as common in our community in other areas.

Take for instance the whirlwind of half-truth, rumor and gossip that has spun around town regarding Hope Haven Gospel Mission, Lewiston's emergency shelter—none of which should be happening. Some information concerning Hope Haven's recent loss of

MSHA funding was shared in what was considered to be a private conversation. That incomplete information was then disseminated.

What happened next can only be characterized as resembling a scene from the old Keystone Cops clips. Pandemonium broke out, and rather than any one of the ill-informed simply spending time with a Hope Haven representative, others

were then inflamed by what has morphed into baseless rumor. Enter the local news

media and the ensuing article a few Sundays ago. We now have Lewiston residents calling and visiting to see if we're closing down.

Fact One: Hope Haven did lose MSHA funding

due to delinquent filing.
Fact Two: Hope Haven will neither be reducing nor cutting services.

Fact Three: Hope Haven will not be closing
See Letter, page 5

Chuck Zucker

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Only Steps Forward

We need to support and retain students, neighborhoods

By Jonathan P. LaBonte
MAYOR OF AUBURN

Auburn's School Committee and City Council met in a lengthy work session last week to discuss in more detail what was learned during the neighborhood conversations. Most importantly, the discussion was centered on how we might take what we learned to better inform both the budget process and our budget priorities.

Over the next couple months, we will be talking a lot about how to keep Auburn com-

petitive for attracting families and businesses and how we support and retain our existing families and businesses. The challenge? Our already high tax burden.

As the two elected bodies sat together, it was refreshing to hear less talk about the size of the total budget and more about priorities and shared challenges to tackle. That doesn't mean we won't get to that, but if we can't set priorities, we shouldn't be creating a budget and asking for your tax dollars to fund it.

What emerged as I lis-

tened on Wednesday was the real challenge of poverty in Auburn. It has led to a continued decline in our housing stock, in particular in certain neighborhoods. Children are coming to school hungry, and that makes learning difficult to impossible. Teachers and support staff are responding as best they can.

The recognition that Auburn's population levels are flat creates a difficult environment for existing businesses to find skilled workers or for businesses looking at expan-



Mayor Jonathan P. LaBonte
sion to see Auburn as viable.

In many of our schools, we see relatively high rates of

mobility, or students starting or ending the academic year in a different school. While this could be driven by upward mobility, like parents buying a home and changing districts, anecdotal evidence seems to suggest it's more likely struggles with rent, apartments that may not be up to standard and young people growing up in broken homes.

Studies have shown, and our own teachers have confirmed, that if a student can start and end the year in the same school their performance will improve and overall the schools will improve. One option that could be looked at in the budget process would involve more robust "case management" on housing issues and supporting those struggling with rent with financial literacy training and other assistance.

Matt Leonard of the Lewiston-Auburn Metropolitan Chamber also addressed Lu and the other attendees. "We are so proud and glad to have Aero join us and to become a part of our Lewiston-Auburn community," he said.

Aero Air Park is already attracting people from all around Central Maine, as Michelle Gosselin, a representative for Aero, told the crowd.

"In just the first two months since we've been open, we've already hosted thousands of jumpers from Lewiston-Auburn and the surrounding communities, including nearly 100 birthday parties," she said. "We're so proud to be a part of the positive growth and increased traffic to the Lewiston-Auburn Area and to give residents a safe, fun, family play environment."

For example, we have loan pools available now to support apartment rehab with low-interest loans. What if investors had access to no-interest or even forgivable loans if Auburn students lived in those units? The basis for these loan programs is an annual federal grant to the City of Auburn. Which is more important, trying to sustain these programs 20 years from now by charging interest on loans or having Auburn kids stay in their schools to improve the neighborhoods today?

Knowing that some of these challenges have led real estate agents to limit showings or discourage families from searching in certain neighborhoods—in turn driving down property values—should be reason enough to move away from the status quo model.

As we continue our discussions, more work will be forthcoming on how we might better support young people having access to healthy foods,

an active environment to grow up in and programs that could support them pursuing additional education and training to start their careers.

Aero

Continued from page 1

he said, addressing Aero Air Park owner Fei Lu. "This is really something else, and I'm so glad you decided to join us on this side of the river. I wish you a lot of success!"

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For more information about Aero Air Park, hop into their 40 East Ave Lewiston location, like them on Facebook, or see AeroAirPark.com.

MSB

Continued from page 1

ton, and Windham. Over the past decade, Mechanics has donated more than \$1 million to local causes. Non-profits seeking funding should submit written requests to: Charitable Contributions Committee, Mechanics Savings Bank, 3 Drive In Lane, Windham, ME 04062. Mechanics Savings Bank is an Equal Housing Lender and Member FDIC.

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Enough is Enough

"Imagine there's no countries. It isn't hard to do."

By Robert E. Macdonald
MAYOR OF LEWISTON

Was the late John Lennon a modern day Nostradamus? Viewing today's world, paying special attention to our country, it appears that the first two lines of the second stanza of his song "Imagine" are slowly advancing to fruition: "Imagine there's no countries. It isn't hard to do."

Twenty-plus years ago, these were just lyrics to a popular song. Today they are on a path to reality. While President Obama opts to visit as many countries around the world that he can, take on the lifestyle and persona of a rock star and, most importantly, fill out his March Madness basketball picks, our country,



Mayor Bob Macdonald

including Maine, is being overrun by illegal and criminal elements. Why? Because he refuses to carry out his Constitutional duties and enforce the immigration laws.

Today, throughout our country the landscape is dotted with sanctuary cities—cities that openly flaunt and defy federal law without any fear of consequence by the federal government. Some of these cities are now pushing to allow non-citizens the right to vote in local elections.

They may not be citizens, but in keeping with the Progressive Democratic doctrine of "fairness," this makes perfect sense. Many of these foreign tourists enter the country using a visa, then

overstay the time allowed under its terms, thus breaking federal law and making them illegal immigrants without any fear of federal prosecution. They become homesteaders in the community in

which they plant their roots. Saying they are destitute, they look for help. The federal and state government refused to take care of them. They receive little to no help from religious and charitable organizations. However, the property taxpayer of the community in which these homesteaders choose to settle is expected, under the duress of a lawsuit being filed by certain unelected progressive Democrat organizations, to meet all their needs.

Now in November a question will appear on the Portland, Maine ballot in which voters will be asked to allow non-citizens the right to vote in local elections. Talk about opening

a Pandora's Box in Maine. Maine's progressive Democrats apparently don't want to take a backseat in this movement. Chicago already allows it (that's a big surprise). New York City, San Francisco and several other cities are considering implementing similar policies.

In Maine, one of the most vocal leaders of this movement is former mayoral candidate Ben Chin. Chin and his unelected, non-profit cohorts will soon be hitting the campaign trail in an effort to assure passage of this question. Passage will allow non-citizens, most of whom are unfamiliar with our nation's history and customs,

the opportunity to redefine our nation and its values.

Passage of this question along with the ranked-choice question appearing on the November ballot will put progressive Democrats in a position to radically alter Maine and its cities. The question now becomes, will you, the voter, sit by and let this happen? Or will you fight?

Will you deliver blows to the opposition with your fists, like Donald Trump, Governor Paul LePage and New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, or soft blows delivered by a European travel bag (purse) and wielded with a weak and hesitant wrist?

If the fighting and disorder now occurring overseas comes here, where will you flee to?

Letter

Continued from page 3

as a result of this temporary deficit.

Fact Four: The loss of MSHA funding does not remove our ability to operate, nor does it deny us our right to exist.

Hope Haven Gospel Mission was founded as and remains, first and foremost, a ministry. As such, our dependence for support ultimately rests in the God we serve through this ministry. It is

our belief that our God moves on the hearts of those in our community to support this work. We also believe that His touching hearts on our behalf will continue. We anticipate this is will be demonstrated again very shortly as we are advancing with our plan to expand our operation.

As the Lewiston Fire Department exercises professionalism and teamwork in carrying out its duties, so too should those in our community who voice concern about the plight of the homeless.

Attempting to badger or bully people into surrendering information is counterproductive to the cause at hand.

The team of Hope Haven Gospel Mission is grateful for every bit of support provided whether material, financial or prayerful. We are anticipating another spectacular year with your help without which little could be done, MSHA funding notwithstanding.

Pastor John Robbins
Director, Hope Haven
Gospel Mission

work and photography is influenced by the natural beauty of the state. A graduate of Edward Little High School and the Auburn Maine School of Commerce, she was a graphic artist for the Sun Journal for fifteen years and is now the owner of AP Graphics and Fine Arts. She has received numerous awards for her work, including a

Auburn Art Club hosts artist Anita Poulin

The Auburn Art Club will meet on Monday, March 7 at 2 p.m. at the United Methodist Church of Auburn. The guest speaker for the meeting will be Anita Poulin. The artist states that she is a proud Franco-American who was born into a family of self-taught artists. She has lived in Maine all her life and loves everything about Maine. Her art-

Purchase Prize Award from the Portland Sidewalk Art Show and three such awards from the Androscoggin Valley Art Association Sidewalk Art Show.

The hostess for the meeting will be Judith Johnson, who will be assisted by Lorraine Desjardin, Marjorie Hansen, Grace Keene, Barbara Mitchell and Elaine Sylvester. The United Methodist Church is located at 439 Park Avenue in Auburn.

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What's Going On

Canine

Continued from page 1

mountainside with Bentley running beside him. It takes five or six runs before Bentley starts to get tired. At the bottom, he usually spends some time playing with newfound friends before heading up the hill for another run.

And what to do when nature calls? The dog has been trained to use the woods for toilet breaks "so the slopes stay nice and clean," McLean says.

McLean patrols under the watchful eye of Gerry Desjardins, the director of the all-volunteer ski patrol. While Desjardins has been part of the patrol for about 36 years, another member,



Off for another run on the slopes!

Ron LaPointe, has been volunteering for 38 years. The ski patrol office is located at the base of the mountain in a small building that also houses a first aid facility with a hospital bed and safety equipment.

Lost Valley Ski Area is under the new ownership of Scott Shanaman, who purchased the facility in November 2015 from Lincoln Hayes and Connie King. Shanaman is the founder and owner of



Bentley's owner, volunteer ski patrol member Dr. Philip McLean of Lewiston, pulls doggy "emergency treats" from Bentley's vest.

Aerial NDT Inspection, a New Hampshire company that specializes in testing and inspecting ski lifts. He quickly installed new snow guns at Lost Valley and has been busy revamping the ski lodge and facilities. He plans



Hobie Sobieraj, 11, of Easton, MA, plays with ski patrol dog Bentley at Lost Valley Ski Area in Auburn.

to build a tube park and possibly install a skating rink.

Lost Valley was the first ski area in Maine to make artificial snow. It has two chairlifts to bring skiers to the top of the ridge several hundred feet above the lodge. With a vertical drop of about 240 feet, Lost Valley offers 15 trails and a terrain park that are great for family skiing. Most of the facility's trails are rated easiest and intermediate, with a few difficult trails to



A two-year-old Golden Retriever, Bentley helps ease the fears of skiers facing the slopes for the first time.

challenge more expert skiers. The trails all come together a short distance from the lodge.

What might the future hold for a snow-loving dog like Bentley? In the coming years, McLean says he plans to train him as an avalanche dog, although "that's not something we have to worry about here!"

St. Dom's

Continued from page 2

August of 2014, when Saint Dominic Academy adopted a president-principal model of school administration.

"Mrs. Girouard's new position and additional organizational shifts will allow us to build on the great work already done by these team members," said Jim King, superintendent of Maine Catholic Schools. "They've laid the foundation for us to move into the next phase of building Saint Dominic Academy. With the exception of filling the two principal roles, the goal will be to utilize the skills of our current personnel without adding to the overall number of staff members. The school's focus on integrity, community and academic excellence will always remain unchanged."

A national search will begin immediately to fill the two principal vacancies. For more information, contact Dave Guthro, Communications Director for the Diocese of Portland, at 321-7810 or dave.guthro@portlanddiocese.org.

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Olive Branch Café New Grand Opening Date

Tucked away at 791 Lisbon Street on the south side of Lewiston is a hidden oasis of health, healing and sustenance. In 2013, a small vegan café called The Ark opened in the former Pizza Hut building there with a mission to provide delicious, wholesome and affordable meals to a population craving a healthier dining experience. In the next two years, word spread and people from across New England came to visit the restaurant on its three open days each week to sample its healthy and delicious offerings.

Now under a new management team, the restaurant will celebrate its new name and expanded weekly schedule with a Grand Opening on Thursday, March 10, 12 pm. While the building and menu have received a facelift, the restaurant's mission has remained the same: "We are a faith-based, grass roots movement dedicated to enriching the lives of others through building communities that are healthy and whole - physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually," said new Director, Tony Cuffori.

The Olive Branch Café is open Sunday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. On Sundays, both breakfast and lunch are served, with breakfast pizzas, burritos, waffles, and oatmeal cited as customer favorites. Each dish on the menu, whether the cheezecake, quesadilla, soup, or Chickless, is free from GMO's and served with love. The restaurant's lunchtime hours leave the building free in the evenings to host health lectures, cooking classes, Bible studies and herbal remedy workshops.

"The restaurant is a non-profit, and the money it makes, along with donations from generous supporters, allows us to provide most of

our classes free of charge," added Cuffori. "Educating the community to make more informed choices is a big part of why we are here. We want to feed the whole person."

The entire staff is committed to serving wholesome food in a positive environment that nourishes the whole body. They believe that lifestyle changes, such as eating a whole-food, plant-based diet, can help remedy a host of health problems ranging from Diabetes to heart disease. Each member of the staff has undergone a personal health journey and is eager to help others embark on their own. "You're more than a customer to me," said Kitchen Manager Gina Knowles. "You're a new friend."

Restaurant customer Pamela Jewett's 16-year-old grandson, Connor, loves the Haystack - organic corn chips piled high with chili, cashew cheez, lettuce, tomato, guacamole and salsa. Besides visiting the restaurant to feed her grandson, Jewett is also a frequent attender of the cooking and herb classes. She feels that she has found a new family in the Café's staff and volunteers.

"My daughter died from diabetes," she said, "and I'm determined that my grandson isn't going to suffer the same fate."

The Olive Branch Café is located in the former Pizza Hut building at 791 Lisbon Street in Lewiston. For more information, call them at 333-3668 or see <http://lewistonark.com>.

What's Going On

CLT sets audition dates for "August: Osage County"

L/A Community Little Theatre will hold auditions for its June production of Tracy Letts' "August: Osage County" on Sunday and Monday, March 13 and 14, at 6 p.m. at 30 Academy Street in Auburn. Directed by Adam P. Blais, the show will be staged June 3 through 12.

"August: Osage County" was the winner of the 2008 Tony Award for Best Play and was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. When the large Weston family unexpectedly reunites after Dad disappears, their Oklahoman family homestead explodes in a maelstrom of repressed truths and unsettling secrets. Mix in Violet, the drugged-up, scathingly acidic matriarch, and you've got a show that unflinchingly and uproariously exposes the dark side of the Midwestern American family.

Those auditioning will be asked to take part in cold readings from the script. Script cuttings will be made available 30 minutes prior to the start of the auditions. Those auditioning should also bring a list of rehearsal conflicts. The available roles are:

Violet Weston (55-65) is a strong and sarcastic pill-popper whose humor borders on vulgar. The actress in this role must be comfortable with swearing and smoking and must be physically fit.

Beverly Weston (60-70) is very literate and intelligent. This actor must have a sly

sense of humor and an easygoing and honest air about him.

Johnna Monevata (28-35) is an earthy, practical, straightforward and pretty Native American.

Barbara Fordham (mid 40s) is tough, funny, smart, and in the middle of an emotional roller coaster.

Bill Fordham (late 40s), Barbara's husband, is intellectual and frustrated because his marriage is falling apart.

Jean Fordham (14-16), though she appears to be a "typical" American teenager in that she is awkward, self-absorbed, insecure and a bit of a pothead, has a fierce intellect and a sharp wit. (Seeking an actress who is 18+ to play this teen role.)

Ivy Weston (mid 40s), the daughter who stayed home, is resentful and a loner.

Karen Weston (early 40s) is a bit scattered but high energy.

Steve Heidebrecht (mid-late 40s) has fading good looks, is used to being an outsider, and is very glib. This actor cannot be afraid of playing an unlikable character.

Mattie Fae Aiken (55-65), Violet's sister, is blowzy, loud, funny and self-deprecating.

See CLT, page 8

Bob Marley performs at St. Dom's this weekend



The senior class of St. Dominic Academy will present a night of laughs with comedian Bob Marley on Sunday, March 6 at 6 p.m. Doors for the event will open at 5 p.m. Proceeds will support Project Graduation. Tickets are \$20 per person and may be purchased at the school's Auburn campus at 121 Gracelawn Road prior to or on the day of the event. For more information, call St. Dom's at 782-6911. Pictured here (l. to r.) are seniors Mia Comis, Courtney Desmarais and Lexi Tremblay.

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A three-day training presented by Nationally Recognized Trainer Consultants that will prepare participants to facilitate Nurturing Parenting Programs in one's community. NPPs are evidence-based programs built on increasing protective factors in families.

March 16, 17 and 18, 8:30-4 pm

@ Kaplan University in Lewiston

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Call 783-3990 for more information

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The Raising America series is a multi-part documentary series that explores why so many children in America are faring so poorly. What are the consequences for the nation's future? How might we, as a nation do better?

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March 17, 6:00 pm: Wounded Places and DNA is Not Destiny

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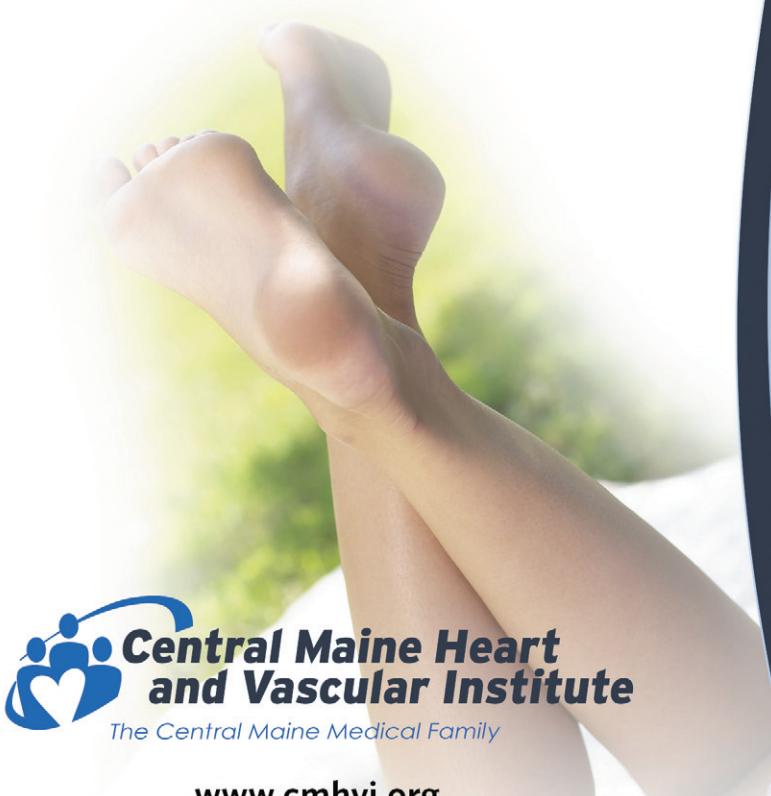
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GOP Presidential caucuses are March 5

The Maine GOP has announced caucus sites and schedules on Saturday, March 5 for 14 of Maine's 16 counties, including Androscoggin County. Sites and schedules for all counties, with a listing of all municipalities participating at each site, is available at mainegop.com/caucus.

There will be one Caucus Site in Androscoggin County on Saturday, March 5: Lewiston Middle School, 75 Central Avenue, Lewiston. The caucus includes Republicans from all municipalities in Androscoggin County: Auburn, Durham, Greene, Leeds, Lewiston, Lisbon, Livermore, Livermore Falls, Mechanic Falls, Minot, Poland, Sabattus,

Turner and Wales.

Doors open at noon, when registration begins for new voters and those who wish to change their enrollment.

Municipal organizational caucuses begin and Presidential Vote opens at 1 p.m. Presidential Speakers begin at 2 p.m.

Other speakers will begin at 3 p.m., and caucuses will complete any unfinished business. The Presidential vote closes at 4 p.m., when the ballot count begins.

Voters must present a photo ID to vote in the Presidential Nominating Caucus. All attendees will have their names checked to the current voter rolls.

The caucus site will have a one-hour voter registration/enrollment period for voters who are currently registered as "unenrolled." Those who are not registered to vote will have an opportunity to join the Republican party and vote.

Registered independents (known as "unenrolled" voters), who believe in economic growth, individual freedom, peace through strength, welfare reform and common-sense values, are encouraged to become a Republican and participate.

The Maine Republican Party strongly encourages all participants to listen to speeches given for Presidential candidates before casting a Presidential ballot. If voters cannot attend for the speech portion of the caucus, but must cast a ballot and leave, they will be allowed to do so.

Municipal organizing caucuses will also take place. These caucuses will allow all Republicans to organize at the municipal level and help develop a robust Republican presence for the 2016 Elections.

Active duty, dependents, National Guard members and disabled veterans are allowed to cast an absentee ballot for the caucus: <http://www.mainegop.com/vetsvote/>.

For full details on the caucus, please visit the website www.mainegop.com/caucus.

CLT

Continued from page 7

Charles Aiken (50s), Mattie Fae's husband, is easy-going, patient and honest.

"Little" Charles Aiken (mid-late 30s), Charles and Mattie Fae's son, is a big lug who is at a loss about how the world around him works.

Sheriff Deon Gilbeau (early-mid 40s) is a small-town cop who used to date Barbara.

For more information about "August: Osage County," including available roles and a rehearsal schedule, see www.laclt.com. If you have further questions, contact Director Adam P. Blais at adam.p.blais@gmail.com.

MCHP gets grants for new x-ray equipment



Pictured here (l. to r.) are Melanie Wright, Walmart store manager, Oxford; Sarah Shink, Walmart market manager assistant; Evan Bourassa, Chelsey Walker, and Morgan Vellaro, first-year radiologic technology students; and Judy Ripley, medical imaging programs director, Maine College of Health Professions.

The Maine College of Health Professions has received \$80,000 in grant funding for the purchase of new x-ray equipment for its Radiology Simulation Lab. Some \$45,000 of the funds, provided by the Walmart Foundation and the Maine State Giving Advisory Council, will essentially serve as a matching grant to an earlier commitment for \$35,000 from the Davis Family Foundation. The combined \$80,000 in funding will be applied towards the purchase and installation of a new GE Proteus radiographic unit.

The college's Radiologic Technology Program will use this x-ray equipment as part of its Associate Degree Radiologic Technology Program. Without any risk to patients, students will be able to practice their skills in the lab's controlled setting to improve quality of care through the reduction of errors and the study of how and why errors occur. The goal is to educate students who will provide excellent patient care, pass the national certification examination, become employed in medical imaging and remain in Maine to practice their profession.

The Radiation Simulation Lab is an essential component of MCHP's educational program, where clinical education is provided through an integrated approach that provides students with context-based learning through actual professional healthcare interactions and opportunities to experience actual work in the clinical practice setting. Simulated learning in the Radiology Simulation Lab provides a bridge between theory and practice, enabling students to apply concepts in a hands-on laboratory environment.

The Walmart Foundation's State Giving Program awards grants ranging from \$25,000 to \$250,000 to charitable organizations in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico. The Foundation has a State Advisory Council in each state, made up of Walmart associates representing local communities. Each council identifies needs within its state, reviews grant applications, and makes fund-

Honorary Pages

Martel Elementary School students Cody Hensler and Rylee Dufour recently served as Honorary Pages in the Maine Senate for a day as guests of Sen.

Nate Libby of Lewiston. The Honorary Page program gives students an opportunity to see what it's like to work on the floor of the Senate and be part of



Cody Hensler, his parents, Beth Wood and Travis Greeley, and Sen. Nate Libby



Rylee Dufour, with Sen. Nate Libby

a legislative session. Pages perform such duties as delivering messages to Senators and distributing Amendments and Supplements in the Chamber. Students from grade three through high school are invited to serve in the Senate Chamber as Honorary Pages when the Senate is in Session. For more information or to schedule a visit, call Sen. Nate Libby at 287-1515.

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TWIN CITY NIGHTS

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Off-Broadway hit to get N.E. premier at Public Theatre



The Public Theatre's production of the humorous and touching play "What Rhymes with America" opens Friday, March 11.

The Public Theatre will present the New England premiere of the humorous, touching and thought-provoking Off-Broadway hit "What Rhymes with America" March 11 through 20. This poignant and funny play explores the lives, hearts and heartbreak of a recently divorced dad, his estranged teenage daughter, a struggling actress and an endearing middle-aged virgin as

they each try to figure out how to move forward in their lives.

A writer for the popular television series "House of Cards," playwright Melissa James Gibson's emotionally penetrating wit and compassionate insight makes her one of the most unique voices in theater today. Hank is a down-on-his luck father moonlighting as an "extra" at the Metropolitan Opera to pay his bills. Still pining for his almost-ex wife, he must confront his desire to retrieve the life he lost and the knowledge that he must move on. Adjusting to life on his own after 22 years of marriage, he attempts to repair his relationship with his estranged teenage daughter while dipping his toe in the dating scene with an endearingly awkward 40-year-old virgin.

When asked to describe the story, Director Christopher Schario refers to a line from the play: "People pretend to like different, but really they only like marginally different. What people really love is the same in disguise."

Continuing the high quality of acting regularly seen at The Public Theatre, the cast of professional actors includes Kyle Knauf as Hank, Lindsey Gates as his endearing date Lydia, Carolyn Faye Kramer as his daughter Marlene, and Janet Mitchko as his opera co-worker Sheryl. All four actors have performed extensively Off-Broadway and at various regional theatres, and Kyle can soon be seen in the upcoming "Untitled Woody Allen Project."

A free pre-show wine-tasting hosted by Rails Restaurant will take place in the theater lobby on Thursday, March 17 beginning at 6:30 p.m.

What Rhymes with America will be performed at The Public Theatre, Lewiston/Auburn's Professional Theatre, March 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19 and 20. Show times are Thursdays and Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m., with an added matinee performance on Saturday, March 19 at 3 p.m. For more information or to buy tickets, call 782-3200 or see www.thepublictheatre.org.

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Steve Grover is a jazz drummer and composer.

composer Steve Grover in a performance of "The Monk Variations," a long-form piece

that Grover created as a musical setting for poems by Anthony Walton about jazz pianist Thelonious Monk. Walton, Bowdoin College writer-in-residence, will begin the event by reading from his work.

Finally, a Carlberg-organized tribute to one of music's truly unique figures, composer and bandleader Sun Ra, will take place on Monday, March 21 at 7 p.m. Titled "Space Is the Place / The World of Sun Ra," the concert will feature performances by students and faculty in music and dance, supported by lighting and costume design provided by the theater department.

The three concerts will take place in the College's Olin Arts Center Concert Hall at 75 Russell Street. All are open to the public at no cost, but tickets are required, available at batesconcerts.eventbrite.com. For more information, call 786-6135 or email olinarts@bates.edu.

Steve Grover, a musician and teacher at Bates, among other institutions, was born in Lewiston and has made his career in Maine, but enjoys a reputation stretching far beyond the state's borders. Established as a drummer by the late 1970s, he broke into composition with 1985's acclaimed "Blackbird Suite," based on a poem by Wallace Stevens.

Thirty years later, Grover completed "The Monk Variations," a long-form setting for Walton's poems about Monk, whose brilliant, unorthodox musicality made him a pivotal jazz player. Grover will perform "The Monk Variations" with an ensemble comprised of Carlberg; singer Christine Correa; trumpeter Chris Klaxton; Duncan Hardy on alto sax; and bassist Chris Van Voorst Van Beest.

A prolific, versatile performer and collaborator, Frank Carlberg himself is known for his compositions of musical settings for poetry. He has loved jazz since he was a youth in Finland. His interest in merging poetry and jazz coincided, more or less, with his move to America 30 years ago. Jazz brought him to the U.S., and jazz was much of what he knew about this country when he arrived.

"My knowledge of American culture was based on jazz, film, and - I don't know - cocktails," he says. "When I came here, I learned about a lot of other things that had been happening for a long time, and one of them was American literature."

Carlberg estimates that he has composed around 200 settings for poems. Of See Jazz, page 12

Rugs exhibit opens at Viles Arboretum



Artist Bill Bellows at work on his Harrisville loom.

The Visitors Center at Viles Arboretum in Augusta will host an opening reception for a new exhibit of hand woven rugs by artist Bill Bellows called "Nature's

Patterns - Natural Fibers" on Friday, March 4 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. The event is free and open to the public.

The rugs, ranging in size from six to eight feet long and 40 inches wide, are woven on a Harrisville rug loom. The warp of each rug is linen, while the weft, which creates the visible design, is wool. The rugs are thick, durable, comfortable, and fully reversible. Those on display will be available for immediate purchase or may serve as inspiration for new designs which can be developed on commission. The exhibit will run through March 18.

Viles Arboretum is located at 153 Hospital Street in Augusta. For more information, call 626-7989.

String quartet to perform all-Czech program



Praised for their "clarity of structure... beautiful tonal palette and purity of intonation," the Bennewitz Quartet will play works by Dussek, Bartók and Dvořák at Bates College on Saturday, March 5 at 7:30 p.m. The program will take place at Olin Arts Center, located at 75 Russell Street. Tickets are \$15 and available at bit.ly/oacbates. For more information, call 786-6135 or email olinarts@bates.edu.

Send all items for
What's Going On
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Twin City Nights

2015 NEMA winners to play Chocolate Church



Hilton Park bring their musical skills and three-part harmonies to Bath on March 5.

The Chocolate Church Arts Center will showcase the earthy, expressive and superbly crafted Americana, Folk and Blues music of Hilton Park on Saturday, March 5 as part of its Kill the Chill winter concert series. The show will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Center's intimate and informal Curtis Room venue.

Hilton Park showcases the father-son team of Bruce and Conor Hilton and family friend Gregg Pannier, who together explore intimate musical textures to create a sound that is authentic and endearingly classic, yet with enough modern grit to captivate today's audiences.

The group has a reputation for emotionally en-

gaging live performances. Along with their varied instrumentation and confident three-part vocal harmonies, their music recalls the "blood harmony" of family acts from the Everly Brothers to the Avett Brothers, with melodic skills often compared to Crosby, Stills and Nash.

In 2015, Hilton Park won the New England Music Award for "Best In State: Maine," an award which spans all musical genres. On the strength of their first release, "Greener Grass," the band was nominated for a New England Music Award for "Americana-Roots Act of the Year" and a Seacoast Spotlight Award for "Best Americana-Roots-Folk Group." In January, Hilton Park was nominated for "Roots Act of the Year," their third NEMA nomination in as many years.

Seating is limited. Tickets are \$10 and available by calling the box office 442-8455 or online at www.chocolatechurchcharts.org. The Curtis Room is located in the Chocolate Church Arts Center's annex at 804 Washington Street in Bath.

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Twin City Nights

Tree Street Youth founder at Food for Thought



Julia Sleeper Founder Executive Director Tree Street Youth Center

Julia Sleeper, Founder and Executive Director of Tree Street Youth Center, will be the presenter at the USM Lewiston-Auburn Senior College "Food for Thought" 11:30 luncheon on Friday, March 11, at 11:30 a.m. The public is

cordially invited.

Julia has a wealth of knowledge and material to share about the Center located in the heart of downtown Lewiston and the youth it serves. She is passionate about the youth and will detail the daily happenings at the Center as well as highlighting some of the leadership and enrichment programming. She will discuss the power these programs have in supporting at risk youth as they aspire for higher education and positive future opportunities for themselves and others in the community. Each day 120-150 youth grades K-12 are served.

The youth of Lewiston-Auburn are supported

and guided in their personal, school, family and peers living through academics, the arts and athletics. The youth have a safe place for the programs that encourage healthy physical, social, emotional and academic development while building unity across lines of difference. Nearly all youth at the Center live at or below the poverty level with approximately 65% of the youth served being recent immigrant and refugee arrivals.

A Bangor native, Julia initially moved to the Lewiston Auburn area as an undergraduate at Bates College. During her time as a student, she began connecting to the Downtown Lewiston Community

Youth through service learning opportunities afforded to her as a Psychology and Education major.

After completing her Masters in Leadership and Organizational Studies at USM-LAC she began what is now Tree Street Youth Center. For the past 10 years Julia has continued to build on these relationships providing after school programming for the at risk youth living in the Downtown Tree Street neighborhood.

Senior College, now in its 18th year, presents the monthly 11:30 luncheon program in the Function Room 170 at USM LAC, 51 Westminster St. The cost, which includes lunch, is \$7 with advance reservation or \$8 at the door. To obtain an accurate food tally, reservations must be made by noon on Wednesday, March 9, by calling 753-6510. Any late callers will be considered "at the door."

Jazz

Continued from page 10

the 17 recordings on which he has served as bandleader, nine feature settings of poetry. Writers represented in his répertoire include Anna Akhmatova, Wallace Stevens, Jack Kerouac, Kenneth Rexroth, and Robert Creeley. AllAboutJazz.com described "The American Dream," Carlberg's 2009 song cycle based on Creeley poems, as "a masterful feast of music... joyous, reflective, plaintive, hopeful, and always radiating with great humanity."

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compositions as well as arrangements and re-compositions of standards and folk materials.

Lewiston Calvary United Methodist Church Bean Supper

The monthly bean and dog supper will be Sat. March 12, 4:45 pm at the Bartlett St. Garden entrance. The Menu consists of baked

beans, hot dogs, casseroles (vegetarian included), salads, biscuits and homemade pie. The cost is \$7.50 for adults and \$3 for children.

Take Out Bean Supper

The Holy Cross Knights of Columbus will host their monthly "Take Out Bean Supper" on Saturday, March 5 from 2 to 5:30 p.m. at the Holy Cross church hall, located at 1080 Lisbon Street in Lewiston. Available for purchase, either as packaged specials ranging from \$8 to \$10 or "a la carte," will be their famous baked beans and coleslaw, buns, ham, bologna and desserts. To meet the recent high demand, they ordered extra coleslaw this month! Phone orders may be placed by calling 212-5163 after noon on the day of the event.



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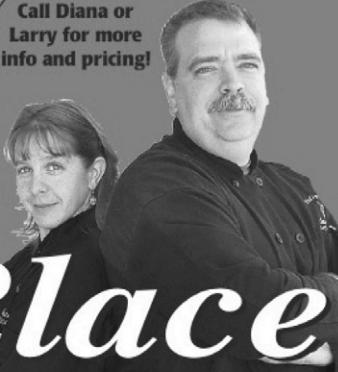
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Nikki Hunt Band returns to Franco Center



The group serves up an entertaining mix of classic and modern rock - and even a colorful hula hoop act.

After a much raved about show last summer, the Nikki Hunt Band will make a return appearance at the Franco Center on Friday, March 4 at 8:30 p.m. Performing in the Heritage Hall Clubhouse, the group will play an eclectic and entertaining mix of classic rock, '80s and '90s hits and even more recent covers. The doors and bar will open at 7:30.

Nikki Hunt and the three talented musicians who back her are a pop-rock band covering such artists as Sheryl Crow, Joan Jett, Bruce Springsteen, Sublime, No Doubt, the

Church plans youth trampoline outing

The United Methodist Church of Auburn will lead a youth trampoline outing on Sunday, March 13 from noon to 1 p.m. A pizza lunch for those attending will take place at the church, located at 439 Park Avenue, at 11:15 a.m. Youth will pay \$10 toward the cost of the outing, while adults attending will pay full price. Prior to the event, those attending will need to sign a waiver at aeroairpark.com. If you have trampoline socks, please bring them. The deadline to register is March 6. For more information, call 998-7111 or call the church office at 782-3972.

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Thursday, March 3

Jazz Concert. 7 p.m. Olin Arts Center, Bates College, 75 Russell St., Lewiston. Visiting jazz pianist-composer Frank Carlberg presents students playing works by jazz great Billy Strayhorn. Free, but tix required from batesconcerts.eventbrite.com. 786-6135.

Jazz Concert. 8:30 p.m. Olin Arts Center, Bates College, 75 Russell St., Lewiston. Visiting jazz pianist-composer Frank Carlberg, Maine drummer-composer Steve Grover and an ensemble perform Grover's long-form piece "The Monk Variations." Free, but tix required from batesconcerts.eventbrite.com. 786-6135.

Friday, March 4

Opening Reception. 5 to 6:30 p.m. Visitor's Center, Viles Arboretum, 153 Hospital St., Augusta. "Nature's Patterns - Natural Fibers," a new exhibit of hand woven rugs by artist Bill Bellows, opens for viewing. Rugs avail. for purchase. Light refreshments. Free. 626-7989.

Concert: Nikki Hunt Band. 8:30 p.m. Franco Center, 46 Cedar Street in Lewiston. Back by popular demand, this energetic four-piece unit serves up an entertaining mix of classic and modern rock - and even a colorful hula hoop act. \$10. 689-2000; fran-

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lege, 55 Westminster St., Lewiston. Photographer Dan Marquis discusses his trip last summer to view "Gannets of the Gaspe Peninsula." Free.

Tuesday, March 8

Legal Advisory Workshop. Noon to 1:30 p.m. Chamber of Commerce, 415 Lisbon St., Lewiston. Reps. from Brann & Isaacson discuss "Trademarks." \$50 (members \$25). Register at www.androscoggincounty.com.

Wednesday, March 9

AREA Meeting. 10:30 a.m. Ramada Inn, Lewiston. The Androscoggin Retired Educators Assoc. hosts speaker Josh Kosinski of the Maine Education Assoc. \$11, includes meal. Send checks to Crystal Ward, 171 Montello St., Lewiston, by March 3.

Maine Women's Network Meeting. 11:30 a.m. Hilton Garden Inn, Auburn. A guest panel discusses "Business Tips for Business Owners." \$21 (members \$17). Register by 3/7 at www.mainewomensnetwork.com.

Finance Matters Workshop. Noon to 1:30 p.m. Chamber of Commerce, 415 Lisbon St., Lewiston. Jennifer Breton and Josh Chase of Lebel & Harriman, LLP, discuss "Best Practices for Retirement Plan Sponsors." \$50

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The Witch (R)	1:30		7:10	
Triple Nine (R)		3:40	9:15	
Kung Fu Panda 3 (PG)	12:40			
Star Wars: The Force Awakens (PG-13)	3:20	6:40	9:35	

(members \$25). Register at www.LAMetroChamber.com. 795-4050; nbornstein@ywcamaine.org.

Friday, March 11

Food for Thought Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. Room 170, L-A College. Founder and director Julia Sleeper discusses the Tree Street Youth Foundation. \$7 in adv., \$8 at door (incl. lunch). For adv. rate, register by noon on 3/9. 753-6510.

Theater: "What

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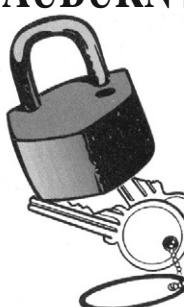
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