



TWIN CITY TIMES

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Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1999

Thursday, December 16, 2021 • FREE

YAC & Museum L-A Partner for December 19th “Seasons of Giving”

Both the Lewiston Youth Advisory Council (LYAC) and Museum L-A wanted to hold an event for the 2021 holidays—one focusing on giving to others and one focusing on Lewiston’s diversity. When they joined forces, a “Seasons of Giving” event was born!

It will be held at Museum L-A, 35 Canal Street, Lewiston, on December 19th from 1:30 – 4:00 p.m. with both themes celebrated. Canned goods and toiletries may also be brought to the event for distribution to Safe Voices and other neighbors in need, with the historic Bates Mill bell to be rung at every 10th donation.

LYAC Chair Ryleigh Emmert noted, “In a community as culturally diverse as Lewiston, I feel it is vital that the children here immerse themselves in knowledge about traditions that differ from their own so that they can appreciate and respect them. The holiday season has presented the LYAC with a grand opportunity to aid this process with a fun and educational event in a partnership with our friends at Museum L-A, who graciously lent us their

See Seasons, page 14

DONATE YOUR Non-Parishables and Toiletries TO OUR SEASONS Of Giving

Kwanzaa Hanukkah Christmas

World Map to pin where you're from!!

- Interactive Holiday Activities!
- Holiday Food Samples
- Note Board To Post 'What you love about Lewiston during the Holidays!'
- Four \$50 Gift Card Drawing
- Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa basket drawing!!

@35 Canal St. December 19th 1:30-4:00pm

Out and About with Rachel Morin First Snowfall December 9, 2021



The Schooner snowplow made quick work of clearing the roadway for cars to travel through.

Our first snowfall of the year, December 9, 2021, brought more snow than we had anticipated. We saw a slight dusting of snow when we woke up early that morning.

A vague dusting and tiny flakes, not even a full flake, just little white dots were dropping on the bare ground as I looked out my window at Schooner Estates Retirement Community in Auburn.

But as the morning wore on, it was clear. This was no ordinary first snowfall of the winter season. By mid-afternoon, I decided to put on my boots, winter jacket and hat, take my camera and set out to see

what kind of snow pictures I could capture.

I saw no one about as I walked the campus covered with a white blanket. Even at mid-afternoon, no one was around, although I did see a Schooner snowplow clearing the way for possible traffic coming through. But there was no traffic about, anywhere.

It was a pleasant walk, fresh clean air, everything covered with new snow piled on car rooftops, and trucks filled with snow in the back. I saw no animals nor birds, no footprints in the snow, not a solitary person afoot.

It was cold, but not too cold, and I

really enjoyed taking the photos. After a couple hours I came in and stopped by the Camden Living Room where I saw residents gathered near the fireplace, relishing their winter comfort of a blazing fire and relaxing with friends.

The living room was full of many tenants. I couldn't get everyone in the picture with everyone spread out. But I did get a picture of two residents, Jean DiPalma, left, and Erwin Berg, enjoying the comfort of the fireplace. The Camden Living Room is a favorite gathering place for residents.

See Snowfall, page 9 for more photos

Androscoggin Historical Society offers Victorian Christmas Tours of Auburn’s Robinson House

AUBURN -- The Androscoggin Historical Society is pleased to sponsor a visit to Victorian Christmas at the 19th century Robinson House in Auburn on Saturday, December 18th from 12:30 to 4:30 pm. The private home’s owner has lovingly adorned

each room in the historic mansion with ornate decorative items collected from around the world.

Tours are limited to six people (masks required) and will begin every half hour, with light refreshments to be enjoyed afterward. An \$8.00 charge per person will help fund repainting the Society’s West Auburn Schoolhouse. Pre-register for a specific time slot by leaving a message with the AHS at

784-0586 or online at info@Androhist.org. Someone will respond with confirmation and directions.

AHS was founded by the DAR in 1923 and its purpose is promoting the study of the history of Androscoggin County and its citizens and preserving in its archives, records, relics and mementoes of that history. AHS is located on the third floor of the Androscoggin Court House at 2 Turner St. in Auburn.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Red Cross: Donors Needed Now to Address Historically Low Blood Supply

PORTLAND, Maine (December 7, 2021) – Nearly two years into the pandemic, everyone has earned a holiday break with their family and friends. But as the nation gathers again for celebrations this season, the American Red Cross, which provides 40% of the country's blood, is facing historically low blood supply levels.

Busy holiday schedules, breaks from school and winter weather all contribute to a drop in blood and platelet donations this time of year. Those factors, combined with the ongoing challenges of COVID-19, make it vital for donors to make an appointment to give as soon as possible. If more donors don't come forward to give blood, some patients requiring a transfusion may potentially face delays in care. Donors are urged to schedule an appointment now by using the Red Cross Blood

Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). There is no blood donation waiting period for those who have received a flu shot or a Moderna, Pfizer or Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine or booster, so long as they are symptom-free. To encourage donors to help address the historically low blood supply this holiday season, all who come to give Dec. 17-Jan. 2 will receive an exclusive Red Cross long-sleeved T-shirt, while supplies last.

Blood drive safety

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions – including face masks for donors and staff, regardless of vaccination status – have been implemented to help protect the health of all those in attendance. Do-

nors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities Dec. 17-Jan. 2

Androscoggin

Auburn
12/28/2021: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., East Auburn Baptist Church, 560 Park Ave
Lewiston
12/23/2021: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, 415 Lisbon St

Cumberland

Bridgton
12/21/2021: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Masonic Hall, 166 Harrison Road, Route 117
Brunswick
12/18/2021: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Midcoast-Parkview Health, 329 Maine Street

12/21/2021: 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Morong Brunswick, 314 Bath Road

12/22/2021: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., United Masonic Lodge #8, 65 Baribeau Dr

Cape Elizabeth
12/30/2021: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Saint Bartholomew Church, 8 Two Lights

Casco
12/27/2021: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Casco Village Church, 941 Meadow Road

Falmouth
12/30/2021: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., The Episcopal Church of St. Mary, 43 Foreside Rd

Freeport
12/22/2021: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Hilton Garden Inn Freeport, 5 Park Street

Scarborough
12/29/2021: 2 p.m. - 7 p.m., Public Safety Building, 275 US-1

12/29/2021: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Public Safety Building, 275 US-1

South Portland
12/20/2021: 9 a.m.

- 1:30 p.m., American Legion Post #35, 413 Broadway

12/22/2021: 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Eastpoint Christian Church, 345 Clarks Pond Pkwy

12/22/2021: 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Portland Sheraton at Sable Oaks, 200 Sable Oaks Drive

12/28/2021: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Maine Mall, 366 Maine Mall Road

Standish
12/18/2021: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Living Stone Community Church, 711 Osipee Trail W

Westbrook
12/30/2021: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Westbrook Community Center, 426 Bridge Street

Windham
12/22/2021: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., North Windham Veterans Center, 35 Veterans Memorial Drive

Yarmouth
12/30/2021: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., Yarmouth Town Hall, 200 Main Street

Franklin
Farmington
12/30/2021: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church, 612 Farmington Falls Rd.

Oxford
Norway
12/29/2021: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Stephens Memorial Hospital, Ripley Medical Building, 193 Main St

Oxford
12/27/2021: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., American Legion Post 112, 169 King Street, P.O. Box 712

Sagadahoc
Bath
12/29/2021: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., YMCA, 303 Centre Street

Topsham
12/20/2021: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., ARC Mid Coast Chapter, 16 Community Way

12/21/2021: 11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., American Legion Post 202, 79 Foreside Road

12/27/2021: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., ARC Mid Coast Chapter, 16 Community Way

12/21/2021: 12 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Saint Marthas Church, 34 Portland Rd.

12/28/2021: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., American Legion, 102 Main Street

Lebanon
12/18/2021: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Lebanon Fire and EMS, 3 Upper Cross Road

Ocean Park
12/29/2021: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Oceanwood, 17 Royal Street

Saco
12/20/2021: 12 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Central Fire Station, 271 North Street

Sanford
12/27/2021: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., North Parish Church, 893 Main Street

12/27/2021: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., ARC Mid Coast Chapter, 16 Community Way

York
Alfred
12/22/2021: 1 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Masonic Hall, 165 Waterboro Road

Kennebunk
12/21/2021: 12 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Saint Marthas Church, 34 Portland Rd.

Kennebunkport
12/28/2021: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., American Legion, 102 Main Street

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Save time during donation
Donors can also save up to 15 minutes at the blood drive by completing a RapidPass®.

With RapidPass®, donors complete the pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of donation, from a mobile device or computer. To complete a RapidPass®, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Red Cross Blood Donor App. To donate blood, individuals need to bring a blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification that are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eli-

gible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also must meet certain height and weight requirements.

Health insights for donors

At a time when health information has never been more important, the Red Cross is screening all blood, platelet and plasma donations from self-identified African American donors for the sickle cell trait. This additional screening will provide Black donors with an additional health insight and help the Red Cross identify compatible blood types more quickly to help patients with sickle cell disease who require trait-negative blood. Blood transfusion is an essential treatment for those with sickle cell disease, and blood donations from individuals of the same race, ethnicity and blood type have a unique ability to help patients fighting sickle cell disease.

Donors can expect to receive sickle cell trait screening results, if applicable, within one to two weeks through the Red Cross Blood Donor App and the online donor portal at RedCrossBlood.org.

About the American Red Cross -- The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or cruzrojaamericana.org, or visit us on Twitter at @RedCross.

Donors can expect to receive sickle cell trait screening results, if applicable, within one to two weeks through the Red Cross Blood Donor App and the online donor portal at RedCrossBlood.org.

Donors can also save up to 15 minutes at the blood drive by completing a RapidPass®.

With RapidPass®, donors complete the pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of donation, from a mobile device or computer. To complete a RapidPass®, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Red Cross Blood Donor App. To donate blood, individuals need to bring a blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification that are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eli-

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

CLT Announces Production Team for 'Let It Be'

Director Jennifer Groover has announced the production crew for the upcoming Community Little Theatre production of 'Let It Be.' The first show of CLT's current season opens at Great Fall Performing Arts Center in Auburn on Thursday, January 13, 2022 and runs through Sunday, January 23, 2022.

Let It Be is a celebration of the music of The

Beatles. The story is set during the civil unrest of the 1960's. It follows the journey of two families, long-time next-door neighbors, the Martins and the Joneses. Bill Martin is at odds with his three daughters as they grieve the passing of their wife/mother and learn how to be a new family unit. Loretta rebels, Rita begins a romance with the Jones' son Jude, and Lucy

has completely stopped speaking. When Jude is drafted, the Jones family is torn apart and struggles in the wake of his loss. As the two fractured families lean on each other more and more, in the end, they begin to find peace and rediscover love.

The crew of Let It Be includes Jennifer Groover, director and Set Designer; Steve Barter, Music Direc-

tor; Paul Menezes, Stage Director; Eileen Messina, Choreographer/Mentor to the Director; John Blanchette, Producer; Glen Thi-beault, Set Construction Lead; Chip Groover, Ari Weisman, Phil Vampetella, Gerry Therrian, Set Construction; Britny Anderson, Set Decor Chair; Danny Gay, Lighting Design; Ali-ah French, Light Board Operator; Penny Drumm, Pro-

gram; Isaiah Davis, Special Effects Projections; Alex Miles, Sound Design; Jane Mitchell, Costume Lead; Ken Mansur, Properties; John B Nutting, Website; and Nancy Kenneally, Print Publicity.

The show will be performed January 13, 14, 15, 20, 21 and 22 at 7:30 p.m., and January 16 and 23 at 2:00 p.m. Call 783-0958 or visit LACLCT.com for tick-

ets and information.

L/A Community Little Theatre, located at 30 Academy Street in Auburn, has been producing live theatre since 1940. A volunteer, non-profit organization, our goal is to provide affordable and quality entertainment in the performing arts as well as education, training, and experience in theatre for area youth. Visit www.laclt.com for more information.

Lewiston Citizen Committee Vacancies

LEWISTON – Lewiston Mayor-Elect Carl Sheline is seeking citizen volunteers to serve as members of the City's various boards and committees. Lewiston residents who are interested in applying can contact the City Clerk's Department to complete a committee volunteer application. Application forms are also available on the City's website at www.lewiston-maine.gov. Committee descriptions, meeting times and other information about committee service are also available on the City's website. Applications are requested to be submitted no later than 4pm, Friday, December 17.

The following city

boards and committees have current openings: 911 Committee, Board of Appeals, Board of Assessment Review, Cable TV Committee, Community Development Block Grant Review Committee, Complete Streets Committee, Finance Committee, Historical Preservation Review Board, Housing Committee, L/A Community Forestry Board, Lewiston Area Public Health Committee, Library Board of Trustees and Planning Board. Please see below for a complete listing of the number of positions and the terms of appointment.

Due to residency requirements in the City Charter, neither the Board of Appeals nor the Plan-

ning Board may have more than two members serving simultaneously from the same wards. This provision is to ensure adequate and balanced representation from all sections of the city.

Residents are welcome to contact the City Clerk's Department at 513-3124 with any questions they may have regarding the committee appointment process. Completed applications shall be submitted to the City Clerk's Office for processing. Office hours are Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 4:00pm.

CITIZEN OPENINGS ON CITY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES -- JANUARY 2022

Applications due by

4pm, Friday, December 17, 2021

911 Committee:

1 full member position – 3-year term

Board of Appeals:

2 full member positions – 3-year terms

Note – Due to ward limits, cannot be from Wards 4, 6 or 7.

Board of Assessment Review:

1 full member position – 2-year term

Cable TV Committee:

2 full member positions – 2-year terms

Community Development Block Grant Review Committee for Homeless Advocate:

1 full member position – 1-year term

Complete Streets

Committee:

1 full member – 3-year term

1 full member – 1 year term

Finance Committee:

1 full member position – 3-year term

Historic Preservation Review Board:

3 full member positions- 3-year terms

1 full member position – 3-year term

Housing Committee:

1 full member position – Lewiston Homeowner – 3-year term

1 full member position – Tenant of Lewiston Multi-Unit property – 3-year term

1 full member position – Owner of Lewis-

ton Multi-Unit property – 3-year term

L/A Community Forestry Board:

1 full member position – 3-year term

Lewiston Area Public Health Committee:

1 full member position – community organization representative – 3-year term

2 full member positions – public health experts or practitioners – 3-year terms

Library Board of Trustees:

3 full member positions – 3-year terms

Planning Board:

3 full member positions – 3-year terms

Note – Due to ward limits, cannot be from Wards 1, 4, 6 or 7.

Guest Column: Shop Small and Shop Local

By Ned Claxton

It's hard to believe the year is winding down to a close. After all we've been through with the pandemic and its related challenges, time has both flown by and felt like it was standing still at times. Despite all this, I hope you are able to enjoy a healthy, peaceful holiday season with family, friends and loved ones.

Though much has changed in our lives over the last couple of years, one constant that remains is doing some shopping this time of year, whether you're looking for gifts for others or yourself. Before you head out and about, there's something I would ask you to keep in mind:

When possible, shop small and shop local.

Spending your hard-earned money at our local, small businesses is the smart thing to do for many reasons. For starters, our neighbors and community members are the people who own and work at these businesses. Buying the items they sell means helping out folks here at home, unlike big box stores where profits are spent and invested elsewhere. Shopping local also helps keep our communities unique. I know I love the variety of places we have close to home; from buying a growler of locally brewed beer to buying Maine-made gifts and

getting a bite to eat, these businesses are a big part of what makes living in our community such a pleasure.

Another benefit to shopping local is that money stays circulating in our community. You don't just have to take my word for it though; the proof is in the data. Studies have shown that for every \$100 spent at a locally owned business, \$68 of that stays in our local community. That's compared with just \$43 that stays in our community when the money is spent at a national re-

tailer. Owners and employees who benefit from your business return the favor by going out and frequenting other local shops. This cycle continues, and helps all sorts of stores and restaurants thrive.

Shopping certainly isn't the only way to benefit your community this time of year if you're looking to make a positive impact. Our food banks and other local organizations are always looking for volunteers or donations, especially around the holidays. One great option we have here in Auburn is Good

Shepherd Food Bank, which coordinates with many other local agencies around the state to make sure folks can access nutritious food. Thousands of volunteers help Good

Shepherd each and every year. To learn more or get started, you can visit their website at www.gsfb.org.

As you're planning any purchases you will

See Local, page 14

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Camden National Bank Recognizes Six 2021 Leaders & Luminaries Awardees with \$25,000 in Nonprofit Grants

Camden, Maine, December 10, 2021 –Camden National Bank announced its 2021 Leaders & Luminaries Awardees and provided \$25,000 in grants for their respective organizations. The 2021 honorees include: Kim Pittman from Maine Volunteer Lawyers Project, Shannon Richards from Maine Crafts Association, Pam Dyer Stewart from Women for Healthy Rural Living, and Barbara Wirth from Maine Boys to Men.

Camden National Bank aims to shine a light on board members who demonstrate innovative thinking and outstanding board governance. Since 2011, Camden National Bank has donated \$200,000 to 54 Maine nonprofits, with Leaders & Luminaries Awards presented to board directors who have gone above and beyond to make an impact on our communities.

“Over the last couple of years, nonprofits have been forced to rethink, restructure and adapt in order to address the unexpected circumstances that came their way as a result of the pandemic. It’s during these trying times



Desiree Tyrrell

that effective board governance is imperative,” said Greg Dufour, President & CEO of Camden National Bank. “It’s with great privilege that we get to honor and recognize these dedicated board directors who continue to drive positive change in our communities.”

Camden National Bank’s independent selection committee narrowed the pool of nominations

down to four Leaders & Luminaries Award Winners, each receiving \$5,000 grants. This year, Camden National Bank will also be recognizing two additional winners: Spotlight Award and an Emerging Leader Award, each receiving \$2,500 grants. Donations were funded through the bank’s private charitable foundation, The Bank of Maine Foundation

2021 Leaders &



Kaylee Wolfe

Luminaries Award Winners:

Kim Pittman, Board Chair, Maine Volunteer Lawyers Project (Portland, ME): Kim Pittman was a pro bono volunteer lawyer for years, so when the Maine Volunteer Lawyers Project became an independent organization, Kim was a natural choice for the board, bringing both litigation experience and a positive, can-do attitude. She became Board Chair in 2020, and early into her new position, Kim rose to the challenge after unexpectedly losing their Executive Director in the middle of the pandemic. She made sure operations ran smoothly, attended to and supported staff, and thanks to her leadership, the board was mobilized to help. “During this time, she remained a steadfast volunteer for our legal clinics, and was always a reliable, positive, energetic force for all of the staff at the organization,” according to the interim Executive Director, Elizabeth Stout. Kim’s dedi-

cation and efforts resulted in an organization that has emerged stronger and better equipped to meet the needs of Mainers for access to legal assistance.

Shannon Richards, Board President, Maine Crafts Association (Gardiner, ME): Shannon Richards, a business owner who serves as Board President, an active committee member, donor, attendee, customer and volunteer of Maine Crafts Association (MCA), originally joined the board in 2018. Her passion for the MCA mission dovetails with her belief in artists and arts organizations as economic drivers, the glue of communities and leaders of positive change. Shannon has a passion for bringing what she loves – Maine, craftspeople, craft traditions, and world-renowned craftsmanship – together and sharing them with others. In response to the pandemic, Shannon used her problem-solving skills to find new income streams for MCA, and developed East End Vend in the summer



Barbara Wirth

of 2020. The bi-weekly event allows artists, farmers, and foodies to have an outdoor market to safely sell their goods directly to a large number of people. As the organization strives to become a more diverse, equitable and inclusive organization, Shannon has begun the process of recruiting board members who support this diversity work. As Board President, Shannon is deeply dedicated to MCA’s mission, while supporting the organization viability, sustainability, and DEI work.

Pam Dyer Stewart, Board Member, Women for Healthy Rural Living (Milbridge, ME): Being a home-birth midwife, Pam Dyer Stewart has been committed to helping women and families in Downeast Maine for many years. It was fitting when Pam joined the Women for Healthy Rural Living’s board in 2009, which allows her to extend her reach to impact an even greater community of women in all age groups. Thanks to Pam’s vision, passion and commitment, the organization established its most successful project, Incredible Edible Milbridge (IEM), which is a series of public vegetable gardens and education initiatives designed to create

See Leaders, next page

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Leaders

Continued from previous page

a community that is stronger, healthier, and more food independent. Pam saw the need and importance to involve children in IEM, so she worked closely with the schools to fully integrate IEM into their curriculum. In addition to growing programs, Pam has taken a thoughtful approach to diversify the organization's board membership, bringing on members of a younger demographic and from different ethnicities. It is because of Pam's guidance, wisdom and commitment that Women for Healthy Rural Living is growing and thriving.

Barbara Wirth, Board Member, Maine Boys to Men (Portland, ME): Barbara was inspired by Maine Boys to Men's mission to engage youth and youth-serving adults and raise their awareness of gender bias and violence using engagement, education and prevention strategies. She joined the Board after a career first as a pediatrician and then as a health policy director working with multiple states and the federal government to better support families and children with special needs. Soon after joining, Barbara was asked to Chair the Programming Committee and, under her leadership, the committee is leading an important process to more effectively collect data and measure the impact of Maine Boys to Men's multiple programs. These evaluation and research processes are instrumental for strategically modifying existing and future programs. She also stepped up to Chair the Hiring Committee when searching for their current Executive Director. She built out procedures, including interviewing protocols and scoring criteria, to ensure it was an effective process. Barbara's exceptional commit-



Kim Pittman

ment and significant contributions will continue to have a positive impact on the success of Maine Boys to Men.

2021 Spotlight Award:

Desiree Tyrrell, Board Chair, Wabanaki Women's Coalition (Orono, ME): As Board Chair, Desiree Tyrrell serves as a visionary for the Wabanaki Women's Coalition (WWC), which strives to increase the capacity of tribal communities to respond to domestic and sexual violence, and influence tribal, national and regional systems to increase awareness, safety, justice, and healing for all our relations. Desiree, a member of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Indian Township, is dedicated to ending gender-based violence, as demonstrated by her position as Director of the Indian Township Passamaquoddy Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center. She works tirelessly to ensure WWC has the right platforms on a regional and national level to speak on behalf of the Wabanaki Tribes about issues such as domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, sex trafficking, and most recently Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). Desiree is a valuable role model for other advocates, staff and community members, and inspires others by fos-

tering a work environment based on safety, cultural relevance, trustworthiness, collaboration and empowerment.

2021 Emerging Leader Award:

Kaylee Wolfe, Executive Director, Speak About It (Portland, ME): Kaylee Wolfe began with Speak About It as its first employee, and has been an educator, a program coordinator, and is now serving as a board member. Kaylee is Chair of the Development Committee as Board Vice President, and is responsible for developing and implementing a Board Fundraising Plan to help the organization grow sustainably and equitably. In her role as Vice President, she is co-leading the Executive Director's first ever review with the Board President, which is vital to developing the leadership at the organization. As a former employee, Kaylee works hard through her service on the Executive Committee to make sure the staff is heard, collaboratively developing, and has listening channels in place. It's apparent through all of Kaylee's work that she is committed to and focused on systems that support equity, centers staff voices, and sets Speak It Up for long-term success.

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Pam Dyer Stewart

pany in Northern New England with \$5.2 billion in assets and approximately 600 employees. Camden National Bank, its subsidiary, is a full-service community bank founded in 1875 in Camden, Maine. Dedicated to customers at every stage of their financial journey, the bank offers the latest in digital banking, complemented by personalized service with 58 banking centers, 24/7 live phone support, 68 ATMs, and additional lending offices in New

Hampshire and Massachusetts. For the past three years, Camden National Bank was named a Customer Experience (CX) Leader by independent research firm, Greenwich Associates. In 2021, it received awards in two CX categories: U.S. Retail Banking and U.S. Commercial Small Business. The Finance Authority of Maine has awarded Camden National Bank as Lender at Work for Maine for eleven years, and the bank was included in the 2021 list of Best Places to Work in Maine. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender.

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Arts & Entertainment

Gendron Franco Center Holiday Event to Feature Light Show, Dance, and Music



The Gendron Franco Center will be the source of holiday entertainment in December including the return of a holiday-themed La Rencontre on Dec. 9, and The Franco Winter Extravaganza on Dec. 17 and 18. Joe Strout, production manager at the Center, tests the audio equipment that will be used for the Extravaganza light show. (GFC photo)

LEWISTON—The Gendron Franco Center will host its Franco Winter Extravaganza fundraiser on Dec. 17 and 18, in its upstairs Performance Hall, complete with a holiday light show, live music, and performance dance.

The lineup of musical superstars features Sierra Harris, a 19-year-old performer from Newburyport, Massachusetts, who is the lead singer in the band Clockwork. Other song performers include Anthony Cavallaro and Julia Hamilton.

Dance/tumbler performers include Payton Harris, Natalie Seed, Jacey Joyce, Violet Harris, and Lyla Harris.

“We appreciate the support for this event from Diane at Champoux Insur-

ance,” said Penny Drumm, GFC administrator. “Community members looking for exciting holiday entertainment reap the benefits of this support, too.”

Extravaganza patrons will get to experience the holiday-themed light show, complete with immersive state-of-the-art technology from the comfort of cushioned seats in the former St. Mary’s Church that the Gendron Franco Center calls its home. Joe Strout, production manager, is the technician behind the events at the performing arts center.

“The best way for me to describe The Franco Winter Extravaganza is that it is similar to a Trans-Siberian Orchestra light show, with video map-

ping, mixed with a traditional Christmas show,” said Strout.

The Franco Winter Extravaganza will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17 and Saturday, Dec. 18, in the upstairs Performance Hall. Reserved seating. Advance tickets: \$25 per adult; \$15 per kid 12/under. Tickets at the door: \$30 per adult; \$20 per kid 12/under.

Order tickets at www.francocenter.org or 207-689-2000. Proceeds from ticket sales will benefit the Gendron Franco Center and its mission to preserve its home in the former St. Mary’s Church and to bring the best in arts and entertainment to the community. The Gendron Franco Center is at 46 Cedar St. in Lewiston.



Sierra Harris, a 19-year-old performer from Newburyport, Massachusetts, will be the singing superstar at The Franco Winter Extravaganza on Dec. 17 and 18. (Chloe O. Photography)

Fryeburg Academy Candlelight Concerts -- Sold Out!

FRYEBURG — The Fryeburg Academy Band and Chorus will present two sold out annual Candlelight Concerts on Sunday, December 12th at 4:00 and 7:00 at the Leura Hill Eastman Performing Arts Center.

The LHE/PAC is located at 18 Bradley Street in Fryeburg, Maine on the campus of Fryeburg Academy.

What do you think?

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Dempsey Center Announces Cara Valentino as Next CEO

The Dempsey Center Board of Directors announced Cara Valentino as the new CEO + President of the Dempsey Center, which focuses on making life better for people impacted by cancer.

Valentino is a certified executive coach and organizational development consultant, with more than 25 years of experience across the public, private, and social sectors. Her expertise includes partnering with teams to shape and bring their visions into reality. Most recently, Valentino served as Director of Consulting at The Clearing in Washington DC where she was integral in setting the vision and conditions to grow the consulting staff; building inclusive, diverse, and equitable teams that achieve high-performance and resilience; and providing strategic thought partnership and people-inspired solutions to a diverse client set. "I appreciate the board's confidence in me, and I am honored to have the opportunity to lead such an inspiring organization," said Valentino. She noted her desire to be part of the meaningful work happening at the Center, providing a haven of sup-

port to people impacted by cancer, and looks forward to guiding the organization through this next phase of growth. "I'm especially grateful to Wendy Tardif for her leadership. The Dempsey Center is strong today because of her tireless work over the past 13 years."

Patrick Dempsey, Center Founder, echoed Valentino's gratitude. "I want to thank Wendy for all her time and dedication over the years. Since the beginning she has been an instrumental part in the growth and development of the Center. We would not be where we are today without her."

Board Chair Tim Griffin said this is a watershed moment for the organization. "Cara will be a wonderful asset for the Center," said Griffin. "Her extensive experience coaching individuals and teams, her passion for the work, and her deep curiosity and nuanced understanding of the human experience of change make her an exceptional next leader for the Dempsey Center."

Wendy Tardif, who has served as CEO + President for the Center for the last 11 years and 2 years

as Dempsey Challenge Event Manager, said she is confident Cara is the right person, at the right time, to lead the Center. "It has been an honor to serve as the Executive Director, and work with an incredible staff, passionate volunteers, dedicated board, and committed community partners and donors," said Tardif, whose service laid the foundation for the Center's current success and readied the organization for this next phase of growth. "There is still much work to do," said Tardif, "and I am excited for what's next under Cara's leadership."

About the Dempsey Center - The Dempsey Center makes life better for people impacted by cancer. With locations in South Portland, Lewiston, and now through a third, virtual center Dempsey Connects, Dempsey Center services help individuals and families maintain physical and emotional wellness as they deal with a cancer diagnosis. Understanding that cancer impacts the whole family, the Dempsey Center also provides specialized services for children, teens and their families. All services are provided at no cost.

Flooding Can Happen at any time: Where it can Rain, It can Flood

Taking steps to prepare your home, business, and car for flood damage can save you large amounts of money when it comes time to assess the flooding's impact.

According to FEMA, flooding has the most potential of any natural disaster to cause major damage worldwide. Information released by the organization in February of 2020 notes that for the last ten years, "floods alone have cost over \$155 billion in property damages".

Tips:

Know your local flood zones. Local government will often have flood maps that show which areas are prone to flooding. Knowing if your house or business is located in flood zones will help you best prepare and know what kind of damage to expect.

Renovate your basement and its wiring. For those looking to prepare with plenty of time in advance, consider hiring a professional (see tips below) to waterproof your basement and raise your electrical systems and appliances high enough to avoid the average flood levels of your area. A sump pump can remove standing water— make sure it has a

battery back up.

Check your plumbing. During floods, the rising water can push sewage the wrong direction through your plumbing, causing wastewater to come through your drains, toilets, and sinks. Make sure your house or business has backwater (or backflow) valves to stop sewer back ups. Stay proactive to keep your pipes clear to avoid blockage.

Install a water alarm. Water alarms can alert you to flooding in lower levels of your house or business, especially useful during flash floods or nighttime flooding.

Regularly clean your drains and gutters. If your drainage systems are blocked, water can cause extra damage as it accumulates. Making sure your drainage systems are clean will help keep rain and floodwater from rising at your home.

Secure your outdoor belongings. When your weather service alerts you to the potential of flooding, secure indoors your porch and backyard belongings that could be washed away during a flood before evacuation.

Elevate your indoor belongings. Besides taking irreplaceable and vital

information with you, other valuables or expensive items should be elevated as much as possible. Move furniture, valuables, and appliances above the expected flood level, like to the upper floors of your house.

Learn to turn off your utilities and water safely. Water, gas, and electricity don't mix in flooding, and can cause devastating and unsafe conditions for your home. Learning how to safely turn off your gas, water, and electricity can save you from major damage to your home and business. In the case of a flood warning, shut off your breakers, gas, and water, and unplug everything from the walls if you can do so safely. Never try to turn off or use electricity if you have to stand in water to do so. Never walk into a flooded room if you believe there may be live outlets, appliances, wires, or cords, and avoid touching items connected to live electricity when you're wet.

Visit <http://BBB.org/flood> to get access to resources for individuals and businesses regarding flooding. They have resources to help you prepare for flooding, dealing with any damages, finding a trusted professional, and much more.

Apply Today to be a Deputy Game Warden this Summer

The Maine Warden Service is now hiring seasonal Deputy Game Wardens. These positions are part time positions, from May 9, 2022 to the end of August. Deputy Game Wardens are assigned to specific bodies of water to enforce recreational boating rules and regulations.

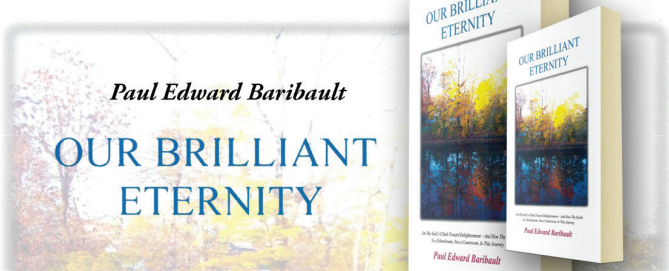
Deputies will be assigned to the Sebago Lakes Region, Belgrade Lakes Region, or Moosehead

Lake Region depending on operational need. It will be expected that these Deputy Game Wardens will work in state issued watercraft, patrolling specific bodies of water. The Deputy's primary mission will include educating the boating public, handing out department-sponsored literature, issuing warnings and summonses for boating violations. This is certified, uniformed

law enforcement work as a member of the Maine Warden Service.

The hiring process is open until December 20, 2021.

Send all items for What's Going On to the Editor. Deadline is Friday by five.



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Here are Jean DiPalma, left, and Erwin Berg, residents enjoying the comfort and ambiance of a cozy fireplace in the Camden Living Room at Schooner Estates. It is a favorite gathering place for the residents at Schooner.



The Schooner Fleet was idle a short while as no one was going anywhere.



One of the buildings at Schooner Estates had its front yard garden shrubs covered with snow.



Here is the entrance to the Schooner Estates Retirement Community off Stetson Road in Auburn in a pretty winter setting.



Tenants' cars were covered in snow in one of the parking lots at Schooner Estates Retirement Community. Soon, maintenance workers were clearing the cars of snow.



These two snow covered trees overlook the enclosed wooden garden plots that residents have for gardening in the summer time. The garden plots have beautiful spring, summer and autumn flowers every year.

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You Don't Need to wait until Spring or Fall to go Hunting Again...



There are several open hunting seasons through the fall and winter months! Targeting a new species is an exciting challenge to learn something new, an opportunity to spend more time outside, create memories with friends and family, and to secure delicious table fare. You may even find a shed deer or moose antler. Here are a few hunting opportunities to try:

Ruffed grouse

When people think of ruffed grouse season, they often think of peak fall foliage and warm fall days, but this season is open until December 31st. Ruffed grouse is a great target species for beginner hunters, and there are fewer hunters in the month of December, providing plenty of opportunity and snowy views. Try walking brushy trail edges near beech scrub or softwoods, or along streams.

Ruffed grouse and bobwhite quail season is September 25th - December 31st, 2021.

Muzzleloader hunting for deer

Muzzleloader season increases harvest opportunity if you haven't tagged out already. As the snow falls and there are fewer hunters in the woods, hunters can

feel as if they have a hunting paradise to themselves. This is also usually a great way to practice tracking skills. Before you go, remember to purchase a muzzleloader permit.

Muzzleloader statewide: November 29th - December 4th, 2021.

Muzzleloader in WMDs 12, 13, 15-18, 20-26, 29: December 6th -11th, 2021.

Gray squirrel

For new, young, and food-motivated hunters, gray squirrel is an excellent opportunity and (surprisingly) good table fare. It's a high-speed hunt and good practice for improving shooting skills. Gray squirrels are common and plentiful, so it's a great way to build confidence as a hunter.

Gray squirrel season is September 25th - December 31st, 2021.

Snowshoe Hare

One of the enjoyable aspects of hunting in the winter is the ability to easily see fresh animal tracks in the snow! Grab a pair of snowshoes and hire a guide, who may have a trained dog, for an enjoyable winter hunt, or try to find hare located in brushy areas and softwoods stands.

Snowshoe hare season is September 25th, 2021 - March 31st, 2022 in all Wildlife Management Districts with the exception of Vinalhaven Island, Knox County which has a season end date of February 28th, 2022.

Predators

Maine predator seasons are long, providing hunters ample opportunity. Calling is a popular tactic for luring in wary predators. Many seek the help from a registered Maine guide where bobcats are typically hunted using hounds.

Bobcat: December 1st, 2021 - February 21st, 2022

Fox: October 18th, 2021 - February 28th, 2022

Coyote Night Hunt: December 16th, 2021 - August 31st, 2022

Coyote: Year-round

Other season dates:

Migratory game birds: various dates

Pheasant: September 25th - December 31st, 2021

Raccoon: October 1st - December 31st, 2021

Skunk, Opossum: October 18th - December 31st, 2021

Coyote, Woodchuck, Porcupine, Red Squirrel: No Closed Season for Hunting

Not sure where to start? Consider hiring a registered Maine guide. Maine guides are happy to hunt with hunters of all backgrounds, experience levels, and ages. There are tons of great blogs and videos online; never be afraid to ask questions, or ask to join a friend.



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— George Smith, Bangor Daily News

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Camden National Bank Announces \$5,000 Grand Prize Winner



Camden, ME, December 8, 2021 – Camden National Bank recently announced the Grand Prize winner of its eight-week fall “Choose It. Use It. Win It.” sweepstakes. Briana Bartlett, from Vinalhaven, Maine, won \$5,000 in November for using her debit card during the sweepstakes’ promotional period.

In addition to the grand prize, Camden National Bank awarded forty \$100 prizes to customers over an eight-week period, totaling \$9,000 in prizes.

“The sweepstakes is a fun and exciting way to engage with our consumer customers and reward them simply for making everyday purchases with their debit card,” said Renée Smyth, Chief Experience and Marketing Officer at Camden National Bank. “We congratulate all of our winners, and we’re especially happy for Briana, our Grand Prize winner. The sweepstakes was a huge success for all.”

Camden National Bank’s Vinalhaven banking center hosted a celebration for Briana where she accepted her prize from

Banking Center Manager Juanita Paparello. “I am very excited. My husband and I are going through an adoption for our son, so we put money towards that, as well as towards a new car,” Briana said. She was incredibly thankful for the surprising win.

As a community bank, Camden National Bank takes pride in opportunities to give back to its loyal customers. Camden National Bank offers a comprehensive array of financial products and services, complemented by personal service and the latest in digital banking technology. Their unique checking account offerings are known for providing cash-back rewards on everyday consumer debit card purchases.

American Heroes Cup Campaign Launched for 2021

Wreaths Across America (WAA) and Mission BBQ announced the start of the “American Heroes Cup” campaign to raise funds to sponsor veterans’ wreaths to be placed on National Wreaths Across America Day in December of 2022.

Through the end of 2021, for every American Heroes Cup purchased at any of the restaurant’s 110 locations, \$2 will be donated to WAA. In 2020, Mission BBQ customers raised \$362,320 for WAA through its American Heroes Cup campaign, sponsoring the placement of more than 36,000 veterans’ wreaths in memory of our nation’s veterans – these wreaths will be placed by volunteers at more than 90 participat-

ing cemeteries this year on National Wreaths Across America Day on Saturday, December 18th, 2021.

“We owe everything to our nation’s veterans, who have risked all that a person can to defend and protect this country,” said Bill Kraus, co-founder of Mission BBQ. “It’s an honor to provide support to Wreaths Across America in remembering the fallen and thanking military families for their sacrifices.”

Bill Kraus and Steve Newton opened the first Mission BBQ restaurant in a Baltimore suburb in 2011, on the 10th anniversary of the September 11th terror attacks. In opening the restaurant, they sought to Serve, Honor and Thank American heroes for their sacrifices and service by donating a significant portion of the restaurant’s profits to the community’s military non-profit groups and charity organizations that support police officers and firefighters. Since its founding in 2011, Mission BBQ has opened 109 additional locations in 17 states.

WAA began in 1992 in Harrington, Maine, when the Worcester Wreath Company sought to turn a surplus of 5,000 holiday wreaths into an opportunity to pay tribute to our country’s veterans. With the help of then Maine Senator Olympia Snowe, the company’s owner, Morrill Worcester, arranged for the surplus wreaths to be placed at Arlington National Cemetery as a tribute to our country’s veterans. The tradition has continued and over the last 30 years, the event has grown in scope, touching the lives

of thousands of veterans’ families and volunteers. In 2020 alone, Wreaths Across America and its national network of volunteers laid over 1.7 million veterans’ wreaths at more than 2,500 participating locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea, and abroad.

“Remember the fallen, Honor those who serve and teach our children about the cost and value of freedom — that is our year-long mission,” said Karen Worcester, Executive Director of Wreaths Across America. “Mission BBQ demonstrates this mission in how they conduct business in the communities they serve. Sharing stories of American heroes, treating our nation’s veterans with the dignity and respect they deserve, while teaching the next generation, every day. We are honored to be a program worthy of their support and grateful for their customers who also support this mission.”

American Heroes Cups are available year-round, currently retailing at \$3.99 with \$2 of every cup purchased donated to a charity supporting veterans and first-responders. Now through December 31st, 2021, proceeds from the American Heroes Cups will be donated to WAA. Customers are encouraged to bring back their American Heroes Cup on return visits to the restaurant to receive \$.99 refills. To find a Mission BBQ location near you visit: <https://mission-bbq.com/locations>. National Wreaths Across America Day is a free event and open to all people. For more information, visit www.wreathscrossamerica.org.

Build a Better Winter with the WinterKids App

The annual WinterKids App membership is now available. Families who purchase a membership and download the app will have access to offers on lift tickets, equipment rentals, gear, special family days, and much more at over 80 recreational areas and retailers across Maine. New offers are added to the app regularly throughout the winter and in the off-season.

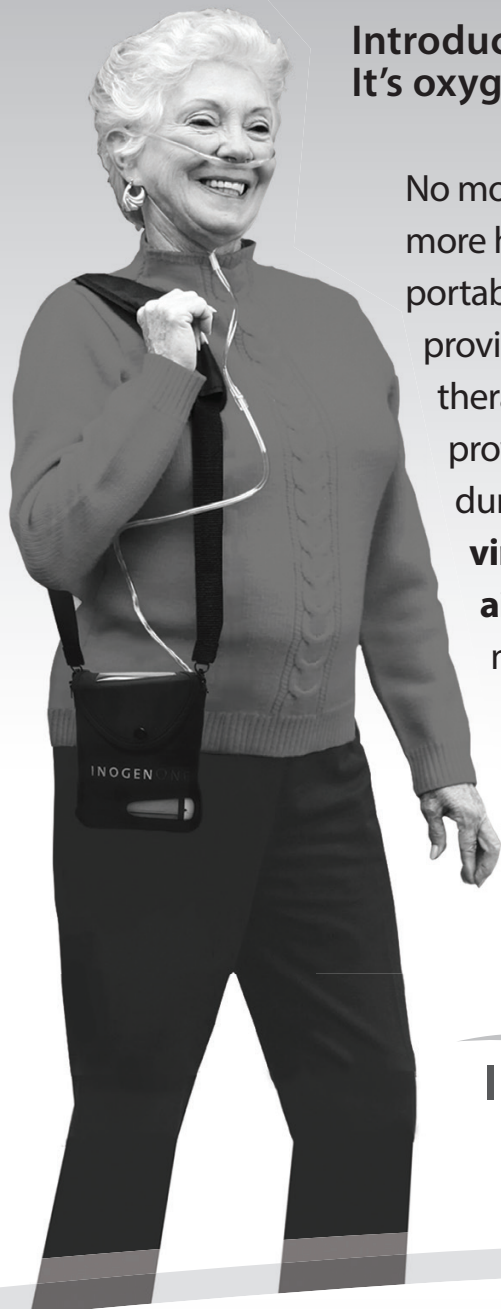
This is the fourth year of the WinterKids App, which replaced the Passport paper booklet. Users can register up to five family members for \$40. The app is available for all kids 17 and younger. Offers vary within the app, and new of-

fers are available regularly. “The WinterKids App membership is an incredible opportunity for Maine families to get outside and be active together this winter,” says WinterKids Executive Director Julie Mulhern.

There are three steps to gaining access to these wintertime deals: First, interested families can view a list of app partner areas and purchase their membership online at winterkids.org/winterkids-app. Next, they can create family profiles for their account, which can include up to four children and/or other family members. Last, they can download the app onto a mobile device.

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p.m.

Thursday, December 16
GORHAM –Ten-
tative Board of Appeals
Meeting Council Chambers
at 6:30 p.m.

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

Tuesday, December 21
GORHAM –Ten-
tative Recurring Town
Council Workshop Council
Chambers at 6:30 p.m.

Friday, December 24
GORHAM –Municipal
Center, Administrative
Offices & Library closed in
observance of Christmas.

Wednesday, December 29
GREENE – “What
Do Animals do in Winter?”
program from 10:00 a.m.-
12:00 p.m. at 303 South
River Road, Greene.

Friday, December 31
GORHAM –Municipal
Center, Administrative Of-
fices & Library closed in ob-
servance of New Year’s Day.

AARP Maine Announces Winners of Annual Andrus Award for Community Service

PORTLAND - AARP Maine announced today that Greene residents, Joyce and Carl Bucciantini, are the winners of the 2021 Andrus Award named in honor of AARP’s founder Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus. The Andrus Award celebrates and honors those who make a difference in the lives of others, and it is the most prestigious and visible award AARP presents each year.

The Bucciantini’s extraordinary public service actively embodies Dr. Andrus’ motto “To Serve, Not To be Served.”

Noël Bonam, AARP Maine State Director, stated, “The AARP Maine Andrus Award acts as a symbol to our members and to the public that we can all work together for positive social change. We are deeply proud to be presenting this year’s award to Joyce and Carl Bucciantini, whose record of achievement, service and commitment provides an excellent example of the power of giving back to others.”

The AARP Maine Andrus Award Committee received multiple nominations for the Bucciantinis, all of which noted their positive influence among their fellow volunteers:

“Being around Carl and Joyce is being around two people who inspire



you to do your best. They set a high bar for volunteering and it pushes you to meet their standard or at least consider doing something yourself. They are the embodiment of the values in the Andrus Award.”

“They have a ‘can do’ spirit and willingness to try new things. They have inspired me to attempt to get more involved in areas that are out of my comfort zone.”

“Carl’s and Joyce’s work has supported other Mainers 50+ to participate in social activities in spite of pandemic barriers, and their support of bills such as ‘Work and Save’ has been instrumental in advancing ways to provide a more secure future for fellow Mainers, regardless of age. They have helped citizens and legislators to interact and understand what

is important to the community, and they have articulated the needs effectively, helping to pass key bills.”

Both Carl and Joyce have a deep history in education. Carl taught grades three and four in the Maine School Administrative Districts of Dexter, Garland and Exeter for ten years. He also served as an elementary and middle school counselor in the Auburn School Department for 21 years. Currently, Carl serves on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of Maine Education Association Retired (MEA-Retired) and is a member of the AARP Maine Volunteer Executive Council.

Joyce served as an elementary enrichment volunteer coordinator for six years in Seward Alaska and was a middle school

language arts teacher in Auburn for 20 years. She is a tutor and tutor trainer for the Androscoggin Literacy Volunteers and Chairs the Delta Kappa Gamma Read to Me program in the Lewiston-Auburn Community.

Joyce and Carl met at the Auburn Middle School and were married in 2007. Their blended families consist of four adult children and four grandchildren. They are dedicated volunteers with AARP Maine, hosting Lewiston-Auburn coffee “klatches,” virtual On-Taps, legislative roundtable discussions, and they serve as vibrant members of the all-volunteer AARP Maine Tuesdays at the State House corps.

AARP Maine staff, volunteers and local members celebrated the Bucciantinis during the annual volunteer recognition celebration, held as a virtual event this year.

AARP has long valued the spirit of volunteerism and the important contributions AARP volunteers make to their communities, neighbors and the programs they serve. The AARP welcomes new volunteers to serve in a variety of roles with AARP Maine and hopes you will visit their website, or call their office at 1-866-554-5380 if you would like to join the volunteer team.

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FOR SHOWTIMES

Seasons

Continued from page 1

space for the event on December 19th. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about the origins, foods, and games associated with Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa through interactive activities with LYAC members. It is my hope that the event will spread some holiday cheer and be enjoyed by Lewiston community members of all ages.”

At the event, LYAC will host informational and interactive displays highlighting Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa as a sampling of observances celebrated during this time of year, to include observance food samples. Attendees may put their name in a drawing for a gift basket from each of the tables, and LYAC will also provide a drawing for four \$50 gift cards.

In addition, a world map will be on site with pins for attendees to place as to where they or their families are originally from to visually highlight Lewiston’s diversity. A post-it board will also be available for folks to write what they love about the holidays in Lewiston.

Museum L-A Executive Director Rachel Ferrante added, “One of our key goals at Museum L-A

is to celebrate the history and culture of our area in all of its richness, from 19th century traditions to today. We are, thus, especially delighted to partner with our friends at LYAC and to share the joy of all of our holidays and the obligations to each other that all of our traditions value. We hope everyone will join us at the Museum this holiday season.”

Local

Continued from page 3

make this holiday season, I do hope you will consider shopping at our locally owned small business. These businesses – and those who own them – have taken the brunt of the pandemic since it began. Between all the measures taken to protect public health, folks staying home, and now the difficulty of hiring new employees, it hasn’t been easy. At the end of the day, when you shop local, you’re helping friends and neighbors, and benefitting our community as a whole.

If you have a question, comment or idea, don’t hesitate to reach out to me. You can send me and email at Ned.Claxton@legislature.maine.gov or call my office 287-1515.

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NASHVILLE SHOW TRIP - JUNE 11-19, 2022

Trip includes 9 days and 8 nights - 14 meals - Grand Ole Opry Show - Nashville Nightlife Dinner Theater - Guided tours of Nashville and Belle Meade Historic Site & Winery. Admission to the Country Music Hall of Fame. Admission to the Grand

Ole Opry behind the Scenes Tour. Admission to Madame Tussauds Wax Museum. Price is \$1,025. per person double occupancy with a \$75.00 deposit due upon signing.

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Trip includes 9 days and 8 nights - 14 meals - Guided tour of Mackinaw City - Visit to Mackinaw City. Visit to Mackinac Island including a guided Carriage Tour. Boat ride through the Soo Locks and free time and sightseeing in Sault Sainte Marie. Admission to Colonial Michillmackinac. Price is \$899.00 per person double occupancy with a \$75.00 deposit due upon signing.

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Trip includes 1 night lodging - 3 meals (Grand Sunday Brunch) - 2 different entertainment shows, Austrian Sleigh Ride through Jackson Village, Chocolate Tour, shopping and much more. \$100.00 deposit due upon signing. Total price not available at this time.

For questions and detailed information on these trips, please call: Claire - 207-784-0302 or Cindy - 207-345-9569.

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The LA Metro Chamber and WIGY Team Up for a Stuff the Bus Radiothon Event



The Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and WIGY teamed up Friday, December 10th, from 7AM - 1PM for a Stuff the Bus Radiothon. Radiohost Mark Turcotte and Chamber President + CEO were joined in the studio by representatives from the nonprofits who help distribute the gifts to local families. Listeners who tuned in heard more about Stuff the Bus, which supported more than 1,000 local families, teens,

and seniors this year. The Lewiston Auburn Chamber of Commerce, Walmart Auburn, and Walmart Distribution Center Lewiston joined forces once again to help those in need during the holidays. This year the annual "Stuff the Bus" event has our business community excited to participate, helping those who are still feeling the impact of the pandemic.

Friday's radiothon introduced you to the events'

distribution partners: Community Concepts, YWCA, Sandcastle Clinical & Educational Services, Promise Early Education Center, Safe Voices, New Beginnings, Trinity Jubilee Center, MAINE Community Integration, Her Safety Net, Tri-County Mental Health Services, and Kaydenz Kitchen.

The "Stuff the Bus" event invited anyone who would like to donate new toys and clothing to drop off their items by Decem-

ber 13th at the LA Metro Chamber office or at one of the partner drop-off locations: Bangor Savings Bank (Auburn), Champoux Insurance (Lewiston), Hampton by Hilton Lewiston-Auburn (Lewiston), Mechanics Savings (Auburn), Ouellette & Associates (Lewiston), Walmart (Auburn), Community Credit Union (Lewiston), the Auburn Lewiston Airport (Auburn), and WIGY Radio Station (Auburn). On December 14th, the LA Metro Chamber Team traveled around LA on a Northeast Charter bus, collected all of the donated gifts from the public drop-off locations and participating businesses, sorted the items, and distributed them to LA's non-profit partner organizations.

"Last year the residents and businesses of this region really stepped up with donations, helping hundreds of families have a warm and happy holiday. This year, as we partner

with more organizations to support more families, we are counting on the generosity again. We are hopeful that this final week will get us to our goal!" said Chamber President + CEO Shanna Cox.

This year's Stuff the Bus will wrap up on December 16th at The Colisee Club with a Business After Hours that is free and open to the public from 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM. Stuff the Bus businesses, bus stops, and nonprofit partners will be on hand, as well as members of the Chamber Board of Directors and staff.

To learn more and

find out how you can participate, visit LAMetroCC.com/bus

An organization of community-minded businesses that serves Lewiston, Auburn, and surrounding communities, the Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce is an engine for economic vitality and enhanced quality of life. Through issues advocacy, workforce development, and professional networking, the LA Metro Chamber helps business and community build, lead, and thrive. (lametrochamber.com)

UMaine Extension Offers Virtual 4-H Dog SPIN Club

Orono — University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H is offering a Virtual 4-H Dog SPIN (SPecial INterest) Club. This will be a short-term, special interest club that will meet virtually once a month from January until June. The first meeting is at 9 a.m. on January 22nd.

The club, which will focus on all things dogs, is open to Maine youth who are between the ages of 9 and 18 by December 31st, 2021. Participants do not need to own a dog; they just need to be enthusiastic about learning more about them. The club also is looking for adult volunteers who would be inter-

ested in helping plan activities. Participants do not need to be knowledgeable about dogs, just willing to help out.

The registration deadline is January 7th. For more information on the club or to register, visit the Virtual 4-H Dog SPIN Club page. For more information or to request a

reasonable accommodation, contact 207-942-7396 or email sheila.norman@maine.edu.

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