

CMMC renames building after former CEO



Peter Chalke, former president of CMMC and former president/CEO of Central Maine Healthcare, served the CMMC community for over 30 years.

The Central Maine Healthcare Board of Directors and Central Maine Medical Center Board of Trustees have renamed the Memorial Wing at Central Maine Medical Center the Peter E. Chalke Wing, in honor of the former presi-

dent and CEO who served the CMMC/CMH community for more than 30 years.

During a ceremony at Central Maine Medical Center, Central Maine Healthcare Board Chair Deborah Dunlap

Avasthi praised Chalke for his innovative approach and commitment to the community, and hospital president Tina Legere unveiled a portrait of Chalke and presented him with a plaque commemorating the renaming of the wing.

Mitch Thomas and Friends present "Holiday in Lights"



The cast includes (l. to r.) Dan Burgess, Caroline Young Coffin, Kristen Thomas, Hayden Thomas, Maddy Leslie and Mia-Angelina Leslie.

Mitch Thomas and Friends will present their annual "Holiday in Lights" concert on Saturday, December 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Gendron Franco Center in Lewiston. Doors will open at 6:15 for a pre-show re-

ception.

Thomas, a local pianist-singer-songwriter who performs at Community Little Theatre and is the Franco Center's executive director, will present several seasonal favorites, including some of his own composi-

tions and arrangements, such as "Light a Candle for Peace".

Local artists scheduled to perform include guitarist and singer Tony Morin; soprano Kristen J. Thomas; Maddy See **Holiday**, page 4

Sparkle Sunday brings holiday shopping downtown

Downtown Lewiston's Lisbon Street will be alive with holiday activities for last-minute shoppers on the second annual Sparkle Sunday, taking place December

18 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Twenty-one participating venues located between Poise Yoga Studio and J. Dostie Jewelers will open their doors to offer local shoppers artisan gifts, face painting and art activities for kids, gift certificates, beer, wine and food tastings, and old fashioned holiday joie de vivre.

Organizers seek to create a flash of the retail excitement that once brought thousands of holiday shoppers to Lisbon Street in prior decades. While the area is experiencing a renaissance in office, residential and restaurant development, local and brick-and-mortar retailers face severe challenges posed by the growth of online shopping. This one-day pop-up retail event aims to recreate the experience of meeting one's neighbors on the street while holiday shopping.

Sandwich boards and balloons will mark the par-

ticipating venues, where more than 55 artists and artisans will offer their works. Gift items available for purchase will include Ayurvedic oils, skin care products, walking sticks, hand bags, jewelry, paintings, photography, pottery, clothing, note cards, books, stuffed animals, yarn, gift baskets, knit and hand sewn gifts, and various specialty foods, such as chocolate, cupcakes, scones, pretzels, breads, muffins and more. Regular Lisbon Street merchants will have gift certificates available, and downtown eateries Marché, Orchid, Fuel, Mother India, Forage Market, Avant Gard, and Baraka Market will offer Sparkle Sunday food and drink specials.

Free parking will be available in the Oak Street and Canal Street garages. For more information, see www.facebook.com/sparklesundaylewis-tonmaine.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Caribbean island honors Auburn dive shop



For 14 years, Barclay's Skindivers Paradise of Auburn has led scuba divers, windsurfers and those just seeking a break from the cold on excursions to the beautiful Caribbean island of Bonaire.

At a ceremony at the Plaza Resort's Toucan Diving on the Caribbean island of Bonaire, family members from Auburn, Maine's only dive shop, Barclay's Skindivers Paradise, were recognized recently as Ambassadors of the Island of Bonaire.

Receiving the honor for their sustained efforts to help tourists experience the island's unsurpassed diving were Claire Barclay, Tim Barclay, Dennis Poirier, and Chris Barclay.

For 14 years, Skindivers Paradise has taken doz-

ens of scuba divers, windsurfers and those seeking a break from the cold to this Southern Caribbean island nation for underwater adventures, sight-seeing, and windsurfing. In 2016, the group totaled 38 divers and a few non-divers from around Maine, New England, and as far away as Montana and Colorado.

"We have tried many other tropical locations in the Western Hemisphere, but we just keep coming back to Bonaire because it offers the most convenient scuba diving in the world," said scuba instructor Dennis Poirier. For more information about Barclay's Skindivers Paradise, see www.skindiversparadise.com.

Soccer team supports Breast Care Center



Representatives of Lewiston High School's girls' soccer team recently presented a \$300 donation to the Bennett Breast Care Center at Central Maine Medical Center. The team raised the funds by hosting a "Kick Cancer in the Grass" event.

St. Dominic Academy Honor Roll - Auburn Campus

The following students have achieved a 4.25 average or above in all

courses and are on the Principal's List: Grade 12 - Ella Brown, Megan D'Alessandro, Emily Dionne, Elliot Hachey, Clare Kramer, Kyle Welsh; Grade 11 - Amelie Crowe, Hunter Emery, Taylor Jorgensen, Kaiyao Ke, Qingwei Meng; Grade 10 - Kristina Cornelio, Isabelle Frenette; Grade 9 - Andrew Dionne, Avery Greco, Skye Rogers; Grade 8 - Grace Skelton, Molly Skelton, Elijah Smith, Meighan Strout, Lauren Theriault; Grade 7 - Kathleen Dean, Julia Gregory, Chase McKeen.

The following students have achieved a 3.80 average overall, with no grade below 2.70, and have attained First Honors: Grade 12 - Michela Avondetto, Matthew Boulet, Antoinette Carman, Camden Jalbert, Justin Keaney, Alexa Kesaris, Rachel Kurtz, Matthew Maguire, Sydney Sirois, Kassandra Stacy, Allie Veinote, Shuyao Zhang; Grade 11 - Janelle Bryant, Victoria Chase, Lindsay Cook, Joshua Fortin, Caroline Gastonguay, Margaret Kase, Eisa Lee, Elizabeth Perkins, Rileigh Stebbins, Hannah Trottier-Braun,

Sophia Velasquez; Grade 10 - Vanessa Bussiere, Abigail Castonguay, Paige Cote, Emily Gerencer, Alexandra Hammerton, Avery Lutrzykowski, Dominique Michaud, Mary Milligan, Cameron Palmer, Filippa Piazzolo, Mary Suckow, Emma Theriault; Grade 9 - Paige-Jackalynn Errico, Mark D'Alessandro, Emily French, Simone Long, Evan Rivard, Karitha St. Jean, Rebecca Zimmerman; Grade 8 - Alec Beaudin, Sarah Brown, Dominic Brunetti, Sean Connelly, Anna Cote, Catherine Dove-Blakebrough, Amelia Fortin, Lucy Frenette, Charlotte Gastonguay, Martha Geyer-Shaheen, Grace Girardin, Matthew Gosselin, Benjamin Kase, Gisele Ouellette, Ethan Rombalski, Elliana Smith, Keenan St. Pierre, Matthew Trischler, Madison Tyus, Derek Wolverton, Emma Wolverton; Grade 7 - Bryana Archer, Carlo Cabrera, Julianne Cook, Noah Cyr, Sydney Dick, Aidan Gonzalez, Caitlin Hunnefield, McKenzie Lagerson, Patrick Manson, Isabella McMillen, Leandro Naous, Eleanor Russell, Thomas Suckow, See Honor Roll, page 3

Optimist Club guest speakers



Guest speakers Melissa M. Collins and Kathy Phillips of Whiting Farm receive a copy of the Optimist Creed from club member Lisa Davis (r.). Collins and Phillips spoke to the club about programs and changes on the farm since it was acquired by John F. Murphy Homes, Inc. The farm has hundreds of poinsettias and Christmas trees now available for the holiday season.

Liberty Rebekah Lodge supports Salvation Army



Noble Grand Kenny DerBoghosian of Liberty Rebekah Lodge #94 recently volunteered his services to ring the bell for two of the Salvation Army's eight-hour shifts this season. Here, with Supporter of the Noble Grand Margaret Dix, he presents a \$50 donation check from the lodge to Salvation Army Lt. Dan Johnson (r.). (Photo by Cathy Hunnewell)

SeniorsPlus
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Governor's Address: Despite Democrats' Roadblock, Mental Health Unit will be Built

Sometimes when you hit a road block, you have to find a detour.

Dear Maine Taxpayer,

I was appalled when Democrats recently voted—twice—to block the approval of plans to construct a secure mental health unit in Augusta. While Riverview has been a political pawn for Democrats for years, it needs to stop.

This new facility is

needed for individuals who are not criminally responsible and who no longer require a hospital level of care. This facility would ensure these forensic patients receive the right treatment in the right setting.

Moving individuals who no longer need a hospital level of care will significantly improve Riverview's ability to meet the statewide demand for inpatient psychiatric capacity for civil patients, and become certi-



Governor Paul R. LePage

fied as a state mental health hospital. Many of them are

stuck in local emergency rooms waiting for a bed.

Plans for the new facility have been in the works for two years. In May, the Capitol Planning Commission approved the same plans, as did the City of Augusta Planning Board.

Let me be clear: patients are my priority. With or without the Democrats' approval, a new mental health unit will be built.

I have agreed to work with new legislators should

they have questions. However, I expect elected officials to do their homework before the first day of school.

The State plan has been online and will continue to be. I encourage lawmakers to read the more than 200 pages we have made available to the public.

Democrats claim to be the party of the people—but they refuse to provide care or compassion for the elderly and the physically and mentally disabled.

It is unconscionable that Democrats are being obstructionists just to score political points. They must demonstrate real compassion for the truly needy patients we are treating in this facility today and into the future. Democrats on the Legislative Council can choose to do what's right and I hope they do.

*Thank You,
Paul R. LePage
Governor*

Honor Roll

Continued from page 2

Aaron Thibault, Jessica Zimmerman.

The following students have achieved a 3.25 average overall, with no grade below 2.70, and have attained Second Honors: Grade 12 - Andrew Craft, Connor Samson; Grade 11 - Taylor Banks, Markella Gammaitoni, MacKenzie Pelletier, Matthew Roeser, Xuting Zhao; Grade 10 - Dasha Fons, Joseph Frederick, Hunter Hughes, Caroline Johnson, Zhaocheng Pan, Shannon Sehestedt, Jose Torres, Abbie Zanon; Grade 9 - Isaac Banks, McKenzie Boucher, Zachary Davis, Andrea Dolci, Jasmine Gagnon, Demetrios Gammaitoni, Raegan Hachey, Mia-Angelina Leslie, Jacques Ouellette, Tyler Stewart, Ambrose Ward, Jaden Webster; Grade 8 - Madison Conley, Seth Crowe, Victoria Cyr, Autumn Gonzales, James Gould, Abigail Heutz, Miranda Heutz, Nathan Jones, Lauren Jorgensen, Brian Lac, William Levasseur, Owen Mitchell, Sydney Stebbins, Emily Wallingford, Erin White; Grade 7 - Tara Nash.

The following students have achieved a 3.0 average overall, with no grade below 2.70, and have attained Honorable Mention: Grade 11 - Julia Masters; Grade 10 - Carson Armstrong; Grade 9 - Jacob Clark, William Laflamme, Abigail Pilot.

Evergreen Subaru, SeniorsPlus to hold food drive



SeniorsPlus President and CEO Betsy Sawyer-Manter and members of the Evergreen Subaru team prepare for a food drive to support seniors in need on Friday, December 16.

Evergreen Subaru will partner with SeniorsPlus to hold a "Share the Love Food Drive" for local seniors in need on Friday,

December 16. The event will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Evergreen Sub-

aru, located at 774 Center Street in Auburn. The food drive is part of the national Subaru Share the Love program, which raises funds for four pre-selected national charities, one of which is Meals on Wheels America. Locally administered by SeniorsPlus, Meals on Wheels Maine serves more than 96,000 meals to almost 800 individuals each year.

Food items collected will be used to create emergency food packs of non-perishable foods for distribution to people in need suffering from hunger. Items on the food drive wish list include non-perishable foods (dry goods, canned foods, etc.) suitable for snacks, breakfast, lunch

and dinner. These may include meals in a can (soup, stew, chili), canned tuna or chicken, peanut butter, low-sodium canned vegetables, low-sugar whole grain cereals, and healthy snacks. Soda, candy, items packaged in glass, and bulk quantities of rice, flour, or sugar are discouraged.

"These Emergency Food Packs enable us to divert crisis hunger situations while longer-term solutions are found," said Betsy Sawyer-Manter, President and CEO of SeniorsPlus. She added that the agency expects the demand for Meals on Wheels this winter to exceed its budget and force the reinstatement of a wait list. More than 200,000 Mainers struggle with food insecurity.

In addition to the Food Drive, Evergreen Subaru is partnering with Meals on Wheels America on a national Share the Love philanthropic campaign. Through January 3, 2017, Subaru will donate \$250 for every new Subaru vehicle purchased or leased to the customer's choice of four national charities, including Meals on Wheels America, with a minimum guarantee of \$250,000. In addition to these partners, Subaru retailers have selected more than 660 hometown charities for their customers to support. By the end of this year's event, Subaru hopes to exceed a grand total of \$90 million donated since the creation of Share the Love.



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Only Steps Forward

Community's response during holidays is heartwarming

By Jonathan P. LaBonté
MAYOR OF AUBURN

As we approach the end of the calendar year, the practice of many is to reflect on the year that has past and think about the goals of the year ahead. For many families, looking back and looking ahead is filled with stress and uncertainty.

Just as I shared a few weeks ago, the holiday season, while meant to be one filled with thanksgiving and hope, often feels dark and hopeless for some local families.

It's this community's response to those challenges that gives me hope for the future and what we could accomplish if we worked together, neighbor

to neighbor, and what I have seen the last week around our city has reaffirmed that.

First, it was seeing the dozens of pictures of our Auburn firefighters, members of the IAFF Local No. 797 completing their annual Truckload of Christmas. Every year, the men and women of our fire department fundraise through the year, culminating in the purchasing, wrapping and delivery by fire truck of presents to families throughout our community.

Whether it's responding to an apartment fire, completing residential inspections or treating a patient on an EMS call, our



Mayor Jonathan P. LaBonté

firefighters see firsthand the struggles community members and their families face. A hardworking mom or dad can keep a roof over your head and food on the table, but struggling to put a few small gifts under a tree can really weigh on them.

Just seeing the first

of many pictures the Local 797 shared on social media, with the big smiles not just on the faces of the kids but of the parents too, warmed my heart

Not long after seeing the work of our firefighters, I saw a post from a local resident and community volunteer/cheerleader extraordinaire Gisele Guerrette. I've come to know Gisele over the last couple of years, and her community spirit and activism is more than contagious. And I saw that front and center this past week.

She shared a series of stories on Facebook about the real-life struggles of a number of families in the neighborhood. She kept the

identities private, but felt compelled to share what she sees as many people living on the edge, where just one financial hiccup (like a furnace going bad or an unexpected layoff) to put a family in a tight spot.

Not long after sharing, she posted an update. It appears many of those connected with her on social media were moved by the stories and asked how they could help. She quickly coordinated everything from a local business adopting a family for Christmas to another person offering to help fill someone's oil tank.

For all the negative energy associated with social media, it was moving to see how it was used to quickly

connect community in a meaningful, heartfelt way.

And in so many other places around Auburn and Lewiston, there are churches and community groups collecting dry goods for food baskets or soliciting gifts for young children by posting tags on Christmas trees in entryways.

If you find yourself feeling blessed this Christmas season, I hope you'll consider reaching out to one of the many groups that can connect you with a family in need. Or you can take a lead from Gisele in building up Auburn by keeping a watchful eye on your neighbors and being an ear they can speak to when they are in need.

LifeFlight blood drive honors Auburn's Kinzie Frey

On Friday, December 16 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., LifeFlight of Maine and the American Red Cross will host a blood drive at Central Maine Medical Center in honor of Kinzie Frey of Auburn. A six-year-old who is dependent upon blood therapy for an acute treatment related to Neu-

roblastoma, a cancer that starts in early nerve cells, Frey inspires those around her through her determination and bravery in the face of illness.

"During her treatment in Boston, there was a period when Kinzie received blood and blood products almost every day," said Lori



A six-year-old who lives with her family in Auburn, Frey relies upon blood therapy for treatment of severe Neuroblastoma.

Metayer of LifeFlight of Maine. "People feel so helpless when a little one is sick, but those blood products were crucial. She is the inspiration for this drive, whose theme is 'Give the Gift of Life this Holiday Season'."

The blood drive will take place in Conference rooms A, B and C in the CMMC Conference Center at 12 High Street in Lewiston. Walk-ins are welcome. Those who would like to donate may also make appointments online by enter-

ing the sponsor code "LifeFlight" at redcrossblood.org.

All blood types are encouraged to donate, but event coordinators are encouraging those with blood types O-, O+, A- or B- to consider a "Power Red" donation to support LifeFlight

trauma patients. LifeFlight of Maine carries two units of blood at all times, and a "Power Red" donation by qualifying donors collects two units of blood, ultimately helping more people who may be in need.

"We believe some patients would not have survived if not for the administration of blood in the helicopter," said Metayer, stressing the gravity of the need for donations.

Holiday

Continued from page 1

Leslie, who has performed in many Community Little Theatre productions; her sister, Mia-Angelina Leslie; and Nakesha (Kay) Warren, who has starred in CLT productions of "Hairspray" and "Into the Woods."

Also performing will be vocalists Caroline Young Coffin, Hayden Thomas and George Doiron; violinists Aya Wakita, Ryan Spooner and Josh White; bassist Jeff Munson; guitarist Neil James; organist Jon Whitmore; pianist Dan Burgess; and drummer Jeff Mayerson.

Tickets are \$15 each or \$12 for seniors; all students will be admitted for free. To buy tickets, call 689-2000, visit the box office Monday through Friday from noon to 4 p.m., or see FrancoCenter.org.

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Enough is Enough

Hunger for federal money drives changes to the city

By Robert E. Macdonald
MAYOR OF LEWISTON

"Well they passed a law in '64 to give those who ain't got a little more." Thus sang Bruce Hornsby in his song "The Way It Is."

The song hailed President Lyndon Johnson's signing on July 2, 1964 of The Civil Rights Act of 1964. What was hailed as a triumph has turned out to be a disaster.

There is nothing wrong with helping the poor. In fact, most religions expect their faithful to help those in need. However, when need turns into enabling, major problems are created that have an adverse effect on society.

What was intended

to help needy people break the cycle of poverty served only to strengthen that cycle and open a deep abyss that made escape virtually impossible. But does this surprise anyone? When the federal government comes to say they are here to help you—you got real problems.

Of course, they come with good intentions. Unfortunately, intentions do not necessarily equate to reality. If the Presidential election brought one thing to the forefront, it was our national leaders, policy wonks and the press have no idea of the problems faced by everyday working Americans. Their stunned astonishment over the



Mayor Bob Macdonald

depths of their detachment from average Americans was like a sledgehammer blow to their heads.

Johnson's Civil Right Act has created an aggressive Stage 3 societal cancer—a cancer that is

proceeding steadily towards Stage 4. The growing tumor consists of a variety of fatal social maladies collectively referred to as community organizations.

When I first arrived in Lewiston in 1977, 13 years after the Civil Rights legislation was enacted, I was assigned to patrol the Little Canada district of Lewiston. During the hey-days of the mill, this section had served as the site of mill worker housing (key word: "worker"). But in 1977 the area was changing.

The stable, older French population was being pushed out. Today, throughout our country, what once were neighborhoods populated by

middle-class, white- and blue-collar workers have been replaced and taken over by educated young professionals sending real estate prices north.

But 39 years ago was a much different time. The hard-working mill workers, many of them who had never known any other neighborhood—a neighborhood filled with many happy unforgettable memories—were now being forced out, not because of outrageous rents, but because of drugs and crime brought to the neighborhood by a new population that had no pride. They began changing a clean, robust neighborhood into a dump.

Lewiston's leaders and their liberal allies failed to show a scintilla of leadership and sat by silently, allowing our new neighbors to destroy the neighborhood. According to these leaders, the new residents were poor and societally stigmatized because of the choices they made.

The federal money kept rolling into our cash-strapped city. When the money comes rolling in, it causes those in charge

to overlook things—don't kill the Golden Goose. They failed to address these problems, fearing the federal spigot might be turned off. This led to the resurrection of an old extinct cottage industry: the modern-day carpetbagger.

Federal money, with its rules and regulations, along with elected officials partnering with unelected community organizers, are responsible for bringing Lewiston to our current state.

This year we have a chance for radical change in favor of those who pay taxes, not those who take taxes. You, Dear Reader, are the key. Pay attention to what's going on. Make sure your elected officials are representing your interests, not those of unelected community organizers.

You have the power to right wrongs. The question is: will you?



Lewiston parking tickets now payable online

The City of Lewiston has announced that parking tickets issued within the city may now be paid on the city's website. Tickets will be available for online payment within two business days of their issue. The site is searchable by ticket number or license plate number and payment

may be made as a VISA or Mastercard credit or debit charge. Moving violations are not payable online, and residents are reminded that parking ticket fines double after 15 days of non-payment. For more information or to pay a fine, see www.lewistonmaine.gov/pay-lewistonparkingtickets.

Warrior Project offers pain, suicide survivor groups

The Warrior Project of Lewiston currently offers two evening support/self-help groups, one for survivors of suicide and the other for those living with emotional, psychological, and/or physical pain. Both groups are free of charge, non-religious-based and facilitated by a loss survivor-social worker. The Warrior Project also expects to offer grief groups for children and teens soon.

The Suicide Survivors Grief Group is for those grieving the loss of a loved one by suicide, whether re-

cently or years ago. It is a place to share one's grief and learn how to live again by learning from others who have been through a similar experience. The group meets most

Tuesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

The Living with Emotional, Psychological and/or Physical Pain Group is for those who are sick and tired of feeling sick and tired of their emotional and/or physical pain. A typical member would be someone who, for all intents and purposes, is considered "high functioning," is not part of the state's mental health system, and about whom nearly everyone would say "I had no idea s/he was in such a world of hurt." The group meets most Saturdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Both groups meet at the Warrior Project, located at 189 B Main Street in Lewiston. Please enter through the back door off the alley on the Park Street side, right after Heritage Books & Maps, which is located at 5 Park Street. There will be a sign

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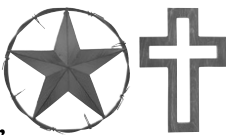
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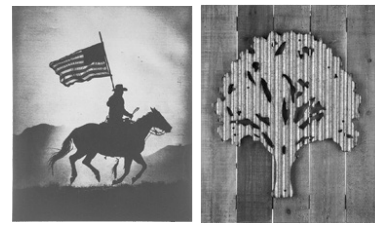
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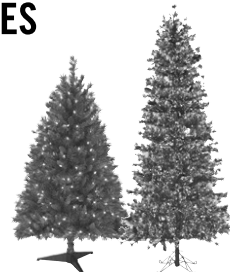
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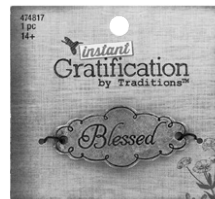
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Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at Basilica

The Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul in Lewiston will present a Service of Nine Lessons and Carols on Thursday, December 22 at 7 p.m. The service tells the story of the promise of the Messiah, as told in nine short Bible readings from the prophetic books and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Advent and Christmas carols, hymns and choir music.

Along with traditional carols, the service will include music by Arvo Pärt, Adolphe Adam, Urmas Siskak, and others. The music will be provided by the Saint Cecilia Schola Cantorum, the Prince of Peace Children's Choir, and the Prince of Peace Handbell Choir.

The format is based on an order drawn up by Edward White Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, for use on Christmas Eve, 1880. Tradition says that he organized a 10 p.m. service on Christmas Eve in a temporary wooden shed serving as his cathedral and that a key purpose of the service was to keep men out of pubs on Christmas Eve.

FAME launches online tool for student loan borrowers

The Finance Authority of Maine has launched a new online tool to help private student loan borrowers manage their loan payments and improve financial well-being.

FAME's Private Loan Repayment Counseling Tool is the first of its kind and provides borrowers with important strategies for tracking their loans and managing payments, as well as important tips on budgeting and saving. The tool stresses the importance of communicating with loan servicers, particularly during times of financial hardship.

"This free resource will be available to all private loan borrowers, regardless of where they attended college or which private loan they borrowed," said FAME Financial Education Officer Mary Dyer. "Borrowers who utilize the tool will also have access to additional financial education modules on topics such as smart spending, credit cards, identity theft and investing."

The tool is one of several new resources that FAME has developed to encourage Maine students to borrow responsibly and to take control of their student loan payments. FAME recently created Leaving See FAME, page 7

Boy Scouts improves Montello School Nature Trail



Led by Dylan Latham of Boy Scout Troop 007, volunteers removed trash, replaced bollards, filled in holes, and built an arch.

Dylan Latham of Boy Scout Troop 007 recently led a group of volunteers to work on the Montello School Nature Trail in Lewiston as part of his Eagle Scout Project. The trail is located

on a small city lot behind the school where the city previously conducted a wood harvest and then established a short loop trail. The work consisted of removing trash, replacing two bollards, filling in holes,

and creating an arch at one end of the trail.

"I'm happy to bring some positive attention to this trail and to the fact that area youth volunteered their time to work on it," said City of Lewiston Arborist



The site is located on a small city lot behind Montello School



The new arch marks one end of the trail

Steve Murch, who worked with Latham on the project.

According to the Boy Scouts of America, ever since Arthur Eldred

became the first Eagle Scout in 1912, the rank has represented a milestone of accomplishment that is recognized across the

country and the world. Those who earn the Eagle Scout rank count it among their most treasured possessions.

FAME

Continued from page 6

College, a publication that focuses on borrowers who are withdrawing from school or graduating, encouraging them to take the necessary steps to avoid student loan delinquency and default. FAME has also developed an online module as part of a new refinance-consolidation program offered by Maine lenders and guaranteed by FAME. The module is required of all borrowers before they can apply for the loan, and educates them on the pros and cons of loan refinance. FAME also recently launched TheLoanforME.com to help students and families make informed borrowing decisions and to help them navigate the complex world of student loans.

Private loan borrowing for higher education purposes is increasing in the United States. Almost 1.4 million undergraduates borrowed private loans in 2011-12, the last academic year for which such information was available. FAME cautions students and families to exhaust all their federal aid options before considering private loans. Private loans are not eligible for income-based repayment or loan forgiveness options that are featured with federal student loans.

FAME is a quasi-independent state agency that provides innovative financial solutions to help Maine people and businesses pursue educational and business opportunities. FAME helps in the creation of good paying jobs for Maine citizens by working at the nexus between economic and workforce development. To learn more about FAME and its resources, see www.famemaine.com.



Auburn Savings Bank unveils new logo, website

Auburn Savings Bank has unveiled a fresh, new logo, clean, responsive website, and heightened brand identity. The 128-year-old Lewiston-Auburn bank serves personal and business customers throughout Androscoggin County with tailored financial solutions. The rebranding is both eye catching and modern, but the core messaging reflects values long-held by the

financial institution.

"Every employee here makes a difference in the bottom line, so they treat all of our valued banking customers with respect and professionalism, knowing those are the qualities that matter," said Auburn Savings' Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Martha Adams. "We felt we needed a refreshed logo and identity that not only spoke to who we are

and the values we hold, but also communicated a contemporary look that would resonate with our existing customers as well as a new generation. We are so excited to bring the tradition and quality of Auburn Savings to the forefront with this rebranding."

At the core of the bank's mission is a steadfast dedication to its customers, regularly going above and beyond to meet their financial needs. The bank strives to nurture relation-

ships, foster ambition, and put the unique needs of each customer first. This togetherness is reflected in the rebranding with a refreshed logo that calls out "US" and a revised motto of "Bank on Us."

The new logo, website, and emphasized identity is the culmination of several months of in-depth market research, focus group interviews, and feedback from bank staff, banking customers, the Board of Directors, and the Lewis-

ton-Auburn community at large. The rebranding efforts were executed by The Brand Collective, an Auburn-based branding and marketing agency. To see the new website, visit auburnsavings.com.

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

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The Holiday Rush

The holiday season is a time of joy, but many parents feel pressure and stress. The stress not only affects us as parents, but our children as well. How do we put the joy back in the holiday season? Focus on what children really want.

• **Relaxed and loving time with family.**

When the stress of holiday events, visitors, and activities gets to be too much, take a moment to step back and remember what's important about this season.

• **Realistic expectations about gifts.**

For example, let your child know they will receive one large gift, like a bike, and one smaller gift, like a board game. It's not the toys that will be remembered years from now, but the memories of time together.

• **An evenly paced holiday season.** The excitement seems to begin earlier each year. Try holding off on important family traditions until a few weeks before the holidays, like playing festive music and putting up the tree.

• **Celebration enriched with family traditions.** Traditions give children cherished memories and something to look forward to each year. They can include songs that are sung, recipes made, decorations, and so much more.



Join us for Infant Playgroup!

Parents and infants (0-12 months) can participate in fun activities to help support infant brain development, share tips, resources and meet other parents. Siblings up to 3 years old welcome. **Each Friday, 10-11:00am, at AFC.**

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FOR Children



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What's Going On

Rotary Club plans Christmas gathering

Lewiston Auburn Rotary Club past-president Mac McPeake will continue his annual tradition of narrating "Twas the

Night Before Christmas" at the club's Christmas gathering on Thursday, December 22, from noon to 1 p.m. at the Ram-



Past-president Mac McPeake will continue his annual tradition by narrating "Twas the Night Before Christmas."

ada Inn of Lewiston. This special holiday celebration is open to the public, including friends and family members of all ages. Lunch is available at the Ramada's Fusion Restaurant for \$10. No reservations are required. For more information about this or other Rotary programs, contact Monica Millhime at 753-9040 or monica.millhime@maine.gov.



First Universalist presents holiday pageant



Young performers rehearse a program called "Opening Doors, Opening Hearts," about famous refugees in history, including Joseph and Mary, the Wise Men, the Dalai Lama, and Anne Frank.



First Universalist Church of Auburn will present a holiday pageant called "Opening Doors, Opening Hearts" on Sunday, December 18 at 10 a.m.

Performed by children in the church's Religious Exploration program, the pageant will explore the stories of famous refugees in history, including Joseph and Mary, the Wise Men, the Dalai Lama, Anne Frank, the Von Trapp Fam-

ily, and poet Warsan Shire. Will they find welcome or walls? Written by Maine author Cynthia Grimm, the storyline reflects some aspects of the current political atmosphere in our country.

The program is open to all. First Universalist Church is located at 169 Pleasant Street, across from Dairy Joy. For more information, see 783-0461 or www.auburnuu.org.

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Red Cross offers home heating safety tips

As temperatures drop, we begin using our home heating sources more frequently, causing the number of home fires to go up. Last month alone, the American Red Cross in Maine responded to 24 home fires throughout the state, helping dozens of families with lodging, food, clothing and other essentials.

"It's important to take steps to get your home ready for winter," said Dave Sheehan, Regional Disaster Program Officer for the Red Cross in Maine. "Each year, we respond to hundreds of disasters in the state, and most of them are home fires. We urge people to follow our home heating safety steps to be ready for winter."

To prepare for winter weather, start by having furnaces, chimneys, fireplaces, and wood and coal stoves inspected and cleaned each year; testing batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors; and developing a fire escape plan and practicing it with everyone who lives in the home.

It's a good idea to prepare a disaster supply kit to have ready should winter storms hit. The kit should include a three-day supply of food and water per person, a flashlight, a battery-powered or hand-crank radio, and ex-

tra batteries. Other things to have on hand for the winter include sand, rock salt or kitty litter to make walkways and steps less slippery, and warm coats, gloves or mittens, hats, boots and warm clothing for all household members, as well as extra blankets.

Nearly half of the households in this country use alternative heating sources, such as space heaters, fireplaces, or wood or coal stoves to stay warm. Fixed and portable space heaters, including wood stoves, are involved in 74 percent of fire-related deaths. If using a space heater, the Red Cross recommends looking for a model that shuts off automatically if the heater falls over. Space heaters should only be placed on a level, hard and nonflammable surface.

Other safety tips include keeping all potential sources of fuel, such as paper, clothing, bedding, curtains or rugs, at least three feet away from space heaters, stoves, or fireplaces; never leaving portable heaters and fireplaces left unattended; and keeping children and pets away from space heaters.

Finally, to receive free smoke alarms installed in your home, schedule an appointment by calling 874-1192, ext. 113 or visiting www.redcross.org.

What's Going On

Good Citizenship Award



Eagle Scout Corey Adam Hess

Marine Corps League Central Maine Detachment 810 has selected Eagle Scouts Corey Adam Hess and Alexander Michael Burns, both of Troop 109, as recipients of their Good Citizenship Award. The presentations were made by Commandant Charlie Paul



Eagle Scout Alexander Michael Burns

at the Holy Trinity Church in Lisbon Falls.



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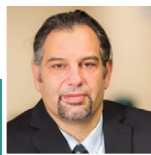
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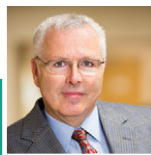
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UU Theater presents "Ho Ho Holiday Drag Show"



Among this year's featured performers will be the fabulous Miss Jacinda.

UU Theater will present its fifth annual "Ho Ho Holiday Drag Show" on Saturday, December 17 at 8 p.m. at the Elks Lodge at 1675 Lisbon Road in Lewiston. Producer-director Christopher Dufour will emcee the show, featuring performances by such fabulous stars as Jacinda, Miss E'on, Shauna Rai, She-needa Diet, and Jersey Dior; drag queens Leanna Love, Lucille, Ophelia Johnson, Delia Rose, Bianca York, and Regan White; drag kings Jack Hardness and Lyreck; and entertainer Angelo Gilberti. Whether you've been naughty or nice, this holiday-themed show to benefit First Universalist Church of Auburn, a welcoming congregation, will surely lift your spirits.

Tickets are \$10. Doors will open at 7 p.m. for a chance to meet and greet the cast. Drinks, pub-style food and tickets for a 50/50 raffle will be sold. Dancing and karaoke will follow the show. For more information, see www.auburnuu.org.

Theater Project presents holiday programs

The Theater Project at 14 School Street in Brunswick will present several seasonal offerings this month, including "The Snowy Day and other Holiday Tales," running Friday through Sunday, December 16, 17 and 18, and "Wales and Tales," on stage Wednesday, December 21.

Both programs are collections of seasonal short scenes, stories and music appropriate for the whole family. "The Snowy Day" will be presented by elementary and middle school actors, a company of young dancers, and mem-

bers of the community. Selections will include several scenes from Ezra Jack Keats' "The Snowy Day," and new retellings of "The 12 Days of Christmas" and "The Night Before Christmas."

The centerpiece of "Wales and Tales" is Al Miller's annual retelling of the Dylan Thomas short story "A Child's Christmas in Wales." This sensitive, funny and poetic piece has become an essential holiday tradition for countless people around the world, including many in mid-coast Maine who return

year after year to enjoy Miller's version.

"The Snowy Day" will be performed on Friday, December 16 and Saturday, December 17 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 18 at 2 p.m. "Wales and Tales" will take place on Wednesday, December 21 at 7 p.m. Proceeds from "Wales and Tales" will benefit the Mid-Coast Hunger Prevention Program; food donations will also be collected.

Tickets for all performances are available by calling the box office at 729-8584 or at theaterproject.com.

Maine Event Comedy at Bear Bones Beer tonight

Maine Event Comedy's Third Thursday Showcase returns to Lewiston's Bear Bones Beer on December 15 with a new 7 p.m. start time. The show will feature New Hampshire's Michele Mortensen, along with Tom Clark, Nick Gordon, Jamie Roux and Kevin Ryan. Mark Turcotte will host.

An accomplished actress, writer, and musician, Michele Mortensen recently competed in New York City's She-Devil Comedy Festival. She performs throughout New England and has also appeared at Carolina Comedy Club in Myrtle Beach, Side Splitters in Tampa, and Coconuts in St. Petersburg.

Tom Clark has been in the spotlight for three de-



Michele Mortensen

acades as a comedian, singer, dancer, actor, and writer. He's appeared nationwide on A&E's "An Evening at the Improv" and numer-

ous television commercials. Gordon, Roux, and Ryan perform regularly throughout Portland and beyond.

The show is free and open to those ages 21 and older. Bear Bones Beer is located at 43 Lisbon Street in Lewiston. For more information, call 513-0742 or e-mail maineeventcomedy@gmail.com.

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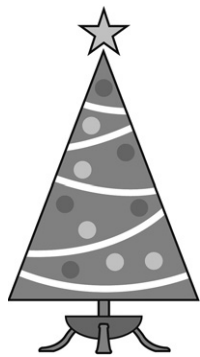
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Your Hometown Paper!

Franco Center plans New Year's Eve bash

The Gendron Franco Center will ring in 2017 with their New Year's Eve Dinner, Dance, Drop and Draw on Saturday, December 31. The doors and bar for this fun and elegant evening, which sold out last year, will open at 7 p.m. An elegant meal prepared by the Franco Center staff will be served from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., and then guests will dance to songs from across the decades performed by hot new band Every Other Sunday from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m.



Hot new band Every Other Sunday will play songs from across the decades.

Just before midnight, all guests will walk up to the Center's Performance Hall, where they will view the Times Square countdown to 2017 on the big screen and experience the Center's own balloon drop,

champagne toast at midnight, and the drawing of the evening's grand prize, worth over \$1000.

Tickets are \$50 per guest, which includes entry into the grand prize draw-

ing and overnight parking, if needed. Seating is limited, so reserving early is recommended. For tickets, call 783-1585, visit the box office at 46 Cedar Street, or see FrancoCenter.org.

Sportsmen's Club hosts New Year's Eve Dance

The Litchfield Sportsmen's Club will host a New Year's Eve Dance on Saturday, December 31 from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Dance the night away to classic rock, old-

ies and country by the award-winning Lost & Found Band. There will be contests, party favors, finger foods, and champagne at midnight. This is a BYOB, ages 21+ event.

Tickets are \$18 per person with prepaid reservations or \$25 per person at the door. For more information or to reserve your space, call Connie at 536-9647.

Holly, Jolly Recipes for Merry Mornings

This holiday season, make your mornings merry and savor time with loved ones visiting from near and far with festive recipes like Christmas Tree Waffles and Overnight Cinnamon Roll Casserole.

"You don't have to get up early to impress guests with a holiday breakfast," said Chef Kevan Vetter of the McCormick Kitchens. "Take waffles, simply add green food color to the batter then dust with powdered sugar 'snow' to resemble Christmas trees."

Or prepare a cinnamon roll casserole the night before. Soak cut-up challah bread in milk and cinnamon overnight, bake until golden in the morning. Finish off with a drizzle of cream cheese frosting."

For more Christmas tips and recipes, find McCormick on Pinterest and Facebook, and visit McCormick.com.

Overnight Cinnamon Roll Casserole

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 25 minutes
Servings: 12
12 eggs
1 1/2 cups plus 3 tablespoons milk, divided
2 tablespoons McCormick Ground Cinnamon, divided
5 teaspoons McCormick Pure Vanilla Extract, divided
1/4 teaspoon baking powder
1 loaf challah or brioche bread, cubed
1/4 up butter, melted
1/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar



Overnight Cinnamon Roll Casserole

1/2 cup whipped cream cheese

3 tablespoons confectioners' sugar

Mix eggs, 1 1/2 cups of milk, 1 tablespoon of cinnamon, 3 teaspoons of vanilla and baking powder in large bowl with wire whisk until well blended. Add bread cubes; toss to coat well. Pour into 13x9-inch baking dish sprayed with no stick cooking spray. Cover. Refrigerate at least 4 hours or overnight.

Preheat oven to 350°F. Remove casserole from refrigerator. Mix melted

butter, brown sugar and remaining 1 tablespoon cinnamon in small bowl until well blended. Drizzle over casserole. Let stand 10 to 15 minutes.

Bake 20 to 25 minutes or until golden brown. Let stand 5 minutes before serving. Meanwhile, mix cream cheese, confectioners' sugar and remaining 2 teaspoons vanilla in small bowl until smooth. Slowly stir in remaining 3 tablespoons milk. Drizzle over casserole before serving.

See Recipes, page 13

Luigi's Pizzeria 782-0701

DAILY SPECIALS

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Twin City Nights

Maine-ly Harmony presents "Winter Wonderland"



The group sings beloved carols and pop tunes highlighting the season on Saturday, December 17.

The Maine-ly Harmony women's barbershop chorus will present a program called "Winter Wonderland" on Saturday, December 17 at 2 p.m. at the Salvation Army, 36 Eastern Avenue in Augusta. The

program will feature beloved carols and pop tunes highlighting the beauty of the season we experience living in Maine, all sung in four-part a cappella harmony. A free will offering to benefit

the Salvation Army will be collected and raffle baskets and refreshments will be available. For more information, call Donna Ryder at 582-5523 or email her at aryder3@roadrunner.com.



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FRANCO CENTER EVENTS

207 783-1585

Holidays at the FrancoCenter.org

HOLIDAY IN LIGHTS

Mitch Thomas & Friends Present: Songs of Joy & Cheer



Saturday, December 17, 7:30 p.m.

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Twin City Nights

Chocolate Church stages live “It’s a Wonderful Life”



Actors Walter Gregg, Mike Millet, Nate Levesque and Rick Grover in a scene from the live production, running December 15 through 18.

The Chocolate Church Arts Center will celebrate the 70th anniversary of Frank Capra’s classic film “It’s a Wonderful Life” by staging a live theater production of the beloved holiday favorite

from Thursday through Sunday, December 15 through 18, on its main stage at 804 Washington Street in Bath. Adapted from Philip Van Doren Stern’s 1939 short story “The Greatest

Gift,” Frank Capra’s beloved 1946 film is at once a holiday classic, a love story, a portrait of the Greatest Generation, and a powerful meditation on what makes a life meaningful. Directed by Wayne Otto, Chocolate Church’s live production will feature Walter Gregg in the role of George Bailey. In an innovative casting move, the role of Mary will be split between two actors, Phoebe Hansen and Letia Fowlie, as will the role of Angel 2nd Class Clarence Odbody, played by Sararose Willey and Olivia Cunningham. The rest of the family will be played by Nina Ryan (Zuzu Bailey), Kenneth Jensen (Tommy Bailey), and Racey Gregg (Janie Bailey), with Rick Grover as Uncle Billy and Michael Millett in the role of the notorious Henry Potter.

Show times are 7 p.m. on December 15, 16 and 17 and 2 p.m. on December 17 and 18. Tickets are \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door and are available by calling the box office at 442-8455 or online at www.chocolatechurcharts.org.

WinterKids Passports available for 2016-17 season

The 2016-17 WinterKids Passport, Maine’s original outdoor winter activity discount book, is now available at WinterKids.org. The Passport is a great way for Maine families to try new winter activities, including downhill and cross country skiing, snowboarding, ice skating, snow tubing, snowshoeing, and even dog sledding. Every 5th, 6th, and 7th grader in Maine is eligible for a Passport, which contains free and discounted tickets, lessons, and rentals at 50 outdoor recreational areas all over the state.

This year, WinterKids has announced two

new Passport Partners: The Rink at Thompson’s Point in Portland, featuring ice skating; and Quarry Road Trails in Waterville, featuring cross country skiing and snowshoeing.

WinterKids Passport holders can also take advantage of Passport Perks and WinterKids Family Days. Passport Perks include deals and discounts at select Maine retailers and organizations. WinterKids Family Days are a way for Passport holders and their families to take advantage of deeply discounted tickets on select dates throughout the winter. Family Days are scheduled for

Shawnee Peak, Mt. Abram, Lost Valley, Camden Snow Bowl, the Rink at Thompson’s Point, Smiling Hill Farm, and Midcoast Recreation Center.

WinterKids Passports are available for \$25 at WinterKids.org. Each WinterKids Passport includes an estimated savings value of \$3,000. WinterKids is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to help children develop healthy lifelong habits through education and fun outdoor winter activity. For more information about WinterKids or the WinterKids Passport, see www.winterkids.org.

Christmas sing-along at Chocolate Church

Chocolate Church Arts Center in Bath will be festively decorated for the occasion when families from around the region gather on Monday, December 19 at 7 p.m. for “Sing! It’s Christmas,” a public sing-along that has been creating holiday spirit in the community for over two

decades. Specialty acts and individual performers will add to the musical presentation, while children will await the arrival of a special guest who never fails to add a final Christmas touch to the event.

Organized by Martha Mayo, Lucy Ingraham, Alison Freeman and stage

managed by Joanne Marco, the event is free and open to the public. Donations are welcome. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for open seating. Chocolate Church Arts Center is located at 804 Washington Street in Bath. For more information, call 442-8455 or see www.chocolatechurcharts.org.

Simplify Last-Minute Holiday Shopping

Few things elicit panic like getting caught shopping for gifts at the last minute with the holidays just around the corner. If you’ve waited until the last few weeks before Christmas to get started, you’re not alone.

With shopping left to do and such a short amount of time to do it, snagging exactly what everyone on your list (assuming you’ve already started your list, at least) wants at a price that won’t break the bank will require some serious creativity and resourcefulness. Before you resort to panic mode, take advantage of these tips to help you wrap up your holiday shopping.

Create or Refine Your List ~ Put a list together of whom you still have to buy for, what you plan to get for them, how much you plan to spend on each person and any gifts already purchased, so as not to overbuy. By setting a budget when creating your list, you can monitor overall spending, especially as deals may be harder to find the closer you get to Christmas. Go to stores with your list in hand and budget in mind, and stick to it. Wandering through stores or the mall without a plan can lead to impulse purchases and cost you precious time.

Set a Time Limit ~ Once you’ve made your list and set a time to go shopping – perhaps right as stores are opening or closer to closing time to avoid other last-minute shoppers during peak hours – set a time limit to make each purchase.

Shopping with time limits decreases the chances of making impulse purchases or going over budget. When shopping online, limit yourself to 20 minutes or less to research, identify the best deal and make the purchase.

Shop Online ~ Shopping online is fast, easy and allows you to comparison shop all at once. Make sure to research gifts before you purchase, as online retailers outside of your favorites may be offering special incentives, coupon codes or free shipping. If you can’t find free shipping, some stores offer free in-store pickup or free shipping for spending over a certain amount. Ordering online also allows you to avoid the stress of crowds, impulse buy items near the register and other shopping pitfalls, such as dining out, that can muddle your shopping budget. You can also often ship the gift directly to your intended recipient.

Opt for Gift Cards ~ If you can’t find the right size or color in the gift you’re looking for, it won’t ship in time for the holidays or you’ve completely run out of time, consider giving gift cards instead. While it can seem impersonal, giving a gift card to a favorite retailer, restaurant or to partake in an activity is often better than the alternative.

Retail sites and wholesalers even offer discounted gift cards you can pay less than face value for. To dress it up a little, add a personal touch, like accompanying a coffee shop gift card with a new mug, or give the illusion of a larger gift by wrapping it in a larger box.

With these tips, you can mark everyone off your list with time to spare, and nobody will even know you procrastinated. Find more holiday shopping tips at elivingtoday.com.

5 Tips for Easy Holiday Shipping ~ It’s the most wonderful time of the year, and holiday gift-giving and receiving is at the top of everyone’s to-do list. There are several simple steps you can take to make those deliveries a little easier.

Here are five ways you can keep the holidays merry and bright, and experience the excitement of making (and receiving) special de-

liveries this holiday season.

1. Pack like a pro (or rely on one). Be sure your packages arrive intact by using the proper materials. Use sturdy, corrugated boxes as well as foam packaging peanuts and bubble cushioning to protect your gifts. Allow at least 2 inches on all sides of the items being packed, including the top and bottom. If you’re uncertain or need assistance, The UPS Store Certified Packing Experts are trained in packaging techniques to conquer any gift – whether it’s oddly shaped, freshly baked, wrapped or unwrapped.

2. Secure delivery locations. If you’re expecting deliveries of online purchases or gifts, you may hesitate to leave the house and enjoy holiday outings and family activities. Some companies allow you to redirect packages to a neighbor or a nearby business so you can rest assured your packages are in good hands.

3. Ask for a guarantee. After spending precious time selecting each gift, you need assurance and peace of mind that your efforts won’t be for naught. For example, The UPS Store offers the Pack and Ship Guarantee, a service that covers lost or damaged items. Some providers even offer coverage for the cost of packing materials, service and shipping.

4. Use tracking tools. The holiday season is no time to wonder when or if your package will arrive. Using a trackable delivery service helps ensure you can monitor your package’s progress and receive an alert when it is successfully delivered.

5. Ensure gifts arrive before Santa. Timing is key when it comes to holiday shipping. Mark the calendar with these shipping deadlines so all gifts arrive just in time.

For domestic delivery for Christmas by Friday, Dec. 23, ship:

UPS Next Day Air by Thursday, Dec. 22

UPS 2nd Day Air by Wednesday, Dec. 21

UPS 3 Day Select by Monday, Dec. 19

To find a shipping location near you, visit theupsstore.com and find The UPS Store on YouTube for additional holiday tips.

(Family Features)



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Thursday, December 15
 HR Thursdays Workshop. Noon to 2 p.m. Chamber of Commerce, 415 Lisbon St., Lewiston. This month's topic is "Creative Strategies for Attracting Employees from Various Talent Pools." \$50 (Chamber members \$25; Central ME Human Resource Assoc. members free). 783-2249. Register at www.LAMetroChamber.com.
 Rotary Club Meeting. Noon to 1 p.m. Ramada Inn, Lewiston. Cheryl McKeone, third-generation florist and president of Ann's Flower Shop, discusses the business's history. Guests welcome. 753-9040; monica.millhime@maine.gov.

Marine Corps League Meeting. 6 p.m. Lewiston Armory, 65 Central Avenue. Central ME Detachment 810 holds its monthly meeting. All Marines, FMF Corpsman and FMF Chaplains invited, as is anyone interested in joining as an assoc. member.

Maine Event Comedy. 7 p.m. Bear Bones Beer, 43 Lisbon St., Lewiston. This Third Thursday Showcase features New Hampshire's Michele Mortensen, along with Tom Clark, Nick Gordon, Jamie Roux, Kevin Ryan and host Mark Turcotte. Free. Ages 21+.

Theater: "It's a Wonderful Life." 7 p.m. Chocolate Church Arts Center, 804 Washington St., Bath. Frank Capra's classic holiday film is staged in a live theater production. Again 12/16-18. \$12/15. For show times, ticket info, call 442-8455 or see www.chocolatechurcharts.org.

Friday, December 16
 Share the Love Food Drive. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Evergreen Subaru, 774 Center St., Auburn. Evergreen and SeniorsPLUS team up to collect non-perishable food items to support local seniors in need.

Blood Drive. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Conf. Rooms A, B and C, CMMC Conf. Center, 12 High St., Lewiston. LifeFlight of Maine sponsors this blood drive honoring Kinzie Frey of Au-

Calendar

See more Calendar at www.TwinCityTimes.com

burn. Walk in, or make appt. by entering "LifeFlight" at redcrossblood.org.

"The Snowy Day and other Holiday Tales." 7:30 p.m. The Theater Project, 14 School St., Brunswick. Elementary and middle school actors, young dancers, and community members present a program of holiday scenes, stories, and music. Again 12/17-18 (Sun. at 2 p.m.). For ticket info, see theaterproject.com.

Saturday, December 17
 Christmas Bird Count. 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Stanton Bird Club members and volunteers work with an assigned leader in one of six sectors to count species as part of a larger No. American survey. www.StantonBirdClub.org.

Holiday Bake Sale & Bottle Drive. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Chapter 11, Main St. (across from Burger King), Lewiston. Proceeds support Tommy's Feral Felines, which works to support local feral cats. Again 12/18. FMI or to donate, call 240-8767 or email normblais@yahoo.com.

Concert: Maine-ly Harmony. 2 p.m. Salvation Army, 36 Eastern Ave., Augusta. The women's barbershop chorus presents a program called "Winter Wonderland." A free will offering for the Salvation Army will be collected.

Holiday in Lights. 7:30 p.m. Franco Center, 46 Cedar St., Lewiston. Mitch Thomas and Friends, incl. performers from Community Little Theatre, sing and play holiday favorites. Doors open for reception at 6:15. \$15/12 (students free). 689-2000; FrancoCenter.org.

Ho Ho Holiday Drag Show. 8 p.m. Elks Lodge, 1675 Lisbon Rd., Lewiston. A variety of fabulous drag performers present a holi-

day-themed show to benefit First Universalist Church of Auburn; dancing, karaoke follow. Concessions; 50/50 raffle. Doors at 7:00. \$10. www.auburnuu.org.

Sunday, December 18
 Holiday Pageant. 10 a.m. First Universalist Church, 169 Pleasant St., Auburn. Children in the church's Religious Exploration program present "Opening Doors, Opening Hearts," which explores stories of famous refugees in history. All welcome.

Sparkle Sunday. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Twenty-one venues between Poise Yoga Studio and J. Dostie Jewelers open their doors to offer holiday specials, kids activities, tasting events, and gift items by local artists and artisans. Free parking in Oak & Canal St. garages.

Monday, December 19
 Sing! It's Christmas. 7 p.m. Chocolate Church Arts Center, 804 Washington St., Bath. Specialty acts and performers add to this community sing-along, where children await the arrival of a special Christmas guest. Free. 442-8455; www.chocolatechurcharts.org.

Wednesday, December 21
 "Wales and Tales. 7 p.m. The Theater Project, 14 School St., Brunswick. Al Miller presents his popular annual retelling of the Dylan Thomas short story "A Child's Christmas in Wales." For ticket info, see theaterproject.com.

Thursday, December 22
 Rotary Club Meeting. Noon to 1 p.m. Ramada Inn, Lewiston. Past-president Mac McPeake continues his annual tradition of narrating "Twas the Night Before Christmas" for a Rotary Club audience. Guests welcome. 753-9040; monica.millhime@maine.gov.

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. 7 p.m. Basilica of Saints Peter &

Paul, Ash St., Lewiston. With music provided by the Saint Cecilia Schola Cantorum, the Prince of Peace Children's Choir, and the Prince of Peace Handbell Choir.

Saturday, December 31
 New Year's Eve Dinner, Dance, Drop and Draw. 7:30 p.m. Franco Center, 46 Cedar St., Lewiston. Enjoy an elegant dinner, dance to music by Every Other Sunday, and countdown to 2017. Cash bar; grand prize. Space limited. \$50 pp. 783-1585; FrancoCenter.org.

New Year's Eve Dance. 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Litchfield Sportsmen's Club. Contests, party favors, finger foods, champagne at midnight; music by the Lost & Found Band. Ages 21+. BYOB. \$18 pp. in adv., \$25 pp at door. 536-9647.

Tuesday, January 10
 Multi-Faith Roundtable Discussion. 12:30 p.m. Auburn Public Library. In this series, a panel of area clergy discuss various topics from the perspectives of different faith traditions. Concludes 2/7. Free. For topics, call 333-6640, ext. 4.

Tuesday, February 7
 Multi-Faith Roundtable Discussion. 12:30 p.m. Auburn Public Library. A panel of area clergy discuss various topics from the perspectives of different faith traditions. Free. For topics, call 333-6640, ext. 4.

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Rogue One: A Star Wars Story (PG-13)	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Rogue One: A Star Wars Story 3D (PG-13)	2:00	5:00	8:00	
Collateral Beauty (PG-13)	11:50	2:15		
		4:35	7:10	9:30
Manchester By The Sea (R)	12:40	3:40	6:45	9:45
Office Christmas Party (R)	1:10	4:10	7:15	9:50
Allied (R)	12:50	3:50	6:50	9:30
Allied will not play on 12/18 at 3:50 or 6:50				
Fantastic Beasts (PG-13)	12:15	3:15	6:55	9:50
Moana (PG)	1:20	4:20	7:05	9:35
Trolls (PG)	12:05	2:20		
			4:30	
Miss Sloane (R)			6:40	9:40

Recipes

Continued from page 11

Christmas Tree Waffles

Prep time: 5 minutes

Cook time: 20 minutes

Servings: 4

2 cups waffle mix

1 1/3 cups milk

1 egg

2 tablespoons vegetable oil

2 teaspoons McCormick Pure Vanilla Extract

15 drops McCormick Green Food Color

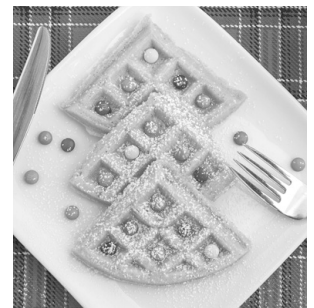
confectioners' sugar

mini candy-coated chocolate pieces

Preheat round waffle iron. Spray with no stick cooking spray. Mix waffle mix, milk, egg, vegetable oil, vanilla and food coloring until blended.

Pour about 1/3 cup of batter onto center of hot waffle iron. Close lid. Cook about 5 minutes or until no longer steaming. Carefully remove waffle. Repeat with remaining batter.

Break each waffle into 4 triangles. Layer 3 triangles on a serving plate to resemble a Christmas tree. Sprinkle with confectioners' sugar. Use candy-coated pieces to decorate tree as ornaments. (Family Features)



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S O L U T I O N S

Lewiston Launches Fundraising for Accessible Playground



GoFundME Address

The Lewiston City Council Chambers was filled with energy the morning of December 13th as a fundraising video for the first-in-Maine universally accessible playground was launched along with a GoFundME page (both at: <https://www.gofundme.com/lewiston-inclusive-playground>). Design, development, and educational programming donated by Shane's Inspiration have made this project possible. Now funds are needed for equipment to make the playground operational.

Senator Nate Libby, Project Chair, explained

that the universally accessible playground is designed to serve children and families, regardless of physical, sensory, or developmental challenges, in an environment that supports compassion, inclusiveness, and mutual understanding--barrier free from transport to park use with surfacing and equipment accessible to all. Libby also thanked donors to date and praised project committee members for their hard work in building awareness.

Mayor Robert E. Macdonald added, "This first-in-Maine universally accessible playground will enable children and families to play together without

worrying about what each family member can actually do. The announcement for today's event included a picture of a little girl running alongside another little girl in a wheelchair—both smiling and clearly happy. You can't beat that! That's what you're going to see in this playground—children being children... no differences, no barriers, and no one watching from the sideline."

Rob Little of Sublime House Media, who filmed the video, spoke to the experience of hearing people's stories and understanding the need for such a resource in the community. Lewiston Council President Kristen

Cloutier, echoed his sentiments, "This playground will encourage interaction and enrich the lives of Lewiston's residents by offering children of varying abilities the opportunity to play together without barriers, and to learn social skills in an integrated, more natural, stimulating and motivating environment."

The video launch rendered applause, excitement about what the playground will provide for families, a \$100 donation from an attendee, and a commitment to spread the news about the GoFundME page. Attendees were also pleased to hear that within minutes of the GoFundMe page being launched, L.L. Bean made a \$2,500 donation!

Cloutier continued, "As the City Council representative to the Lewiston School Committee, I am also excited



Council President Kristen Cloutier

about the prospect of combining classroom lessons with interactive field trips to the playground, which will provide our students with hand-on opportunities to discover common ground; deepen social-emotional learning; enhance communication, observation, and empathy; and to develop an understanding of the value of diversity."

Dottie Perham-Whittier, Lewiston's Community Relations Coordinator who is working closely with Libby on the project, wrapped up the press event by praising community interest and involvement, adding that the playground will provide all children with an equal

playing field and a place to be themselves, as well as expressed pride that Lewiston is once again going to be stand-out with the first such playground in the State of Maine.

Shane's Inspiration has assisted with the establishment of 63 inclusive playgrounds throughout the world, with another 75 in development with a vision to foster a bias-free world for children with disabilities and a mission to create inclusive playgrounds and programs that unite children of all abilities. For additional info on the Lewiston, Maine, project go to www.lewistonmaine.gov/playground.



Audience group



Nate highlighting project



Mayor Bob Macdonald speaking to audience

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