

City readies for weekend Winter Fest

Final preparations are underway for Auburn's annual Winter Festival, taking place Friday, Saturday and Sunday, January 27 through 29. This annual event features fun outdoor and indoor activities for all ages at various venues across the city. The festival kicks off Friday evening with skiing and sledding at Lost Valley, some exploring of Auburn's trail system, food and live jazz from L/A

Arts, and a "Tiara Tea" at the Woman's Literary Union.

Festivities continue throughout the day on Saturday with a petting zoo and snow playground, a family movie, a duathlon, metal forging and ice carving, and more. The day's featured event, taking place at the WinterFest Ice Bar, will be live music by the popular band SKOSH. Tickets for the performance are \$10 in advance. The night will conclude with a fireworks

display over the Androscoggin River.

The festival wraps up on Sunday with a "Fat Bike Poker Run," a jazz brunch, arts and crafts activities for the kids, "Pet a Pony" and a concert by Larry Gowell at the Foss Mansion. While most festival activities are free, a few will require tickets or a small fee. For details, along with the complete listing of events, see www.auburnmaine.gov.

O'Malley named Lewiston Police Chief

City Administrator Ed Barrett has announced the appointment of Brian O'Malley as Chief of the Lewiston Police Department. For the last six months, O'Malley has served as Interim Police Chief following former Chief Michael Bussiere's retirement.

The City undertook a nationwide search for a new Chief. "Brian O'Malley was the consensus choice of a diverse hiring panel that evaluated over twenty qualified applicants for the position," said Barrett. "Through that process, it became clear that he is strongly committed, not only to continuing and building upon the success the department has achieved, but to the



Brian O'Malley is a 27-year veteran of the department and has held a variety of positions within the agency.

community it serves. I look forward to working closely with Brian as he takes up this new challenge."

"I am thankful for the confidence shown in me by the Mayor, City Council, and City Administrator," said O'Malley. "I look for-

ward to continuing to serve the City of Lewiston and leading what I consider to be the finest police department in the State of Maine."

O'Malley is a 27-year veteran of the Lewiston Police Department and has held a variety of positions within the agency, including Patrol Officer, Detective, Patrol Sergeant, Sergeant of Detectives in the Criminal Investigations Division, and Deputy Police Chief. He has a B.A. in Political Science from Providence College and attended the Command Training Program at Roger Williams University. He has advanced training certifications in Crisis Negotiation and Practical Homicide. See **O'Malley**, page 4

Skyline Farm hosts annual Sleigh Day

Skyline Farm, located at 95 The Lane in North Yarmouth, will hold its 18th annual Sleigh Day on Saturday, February 4, from 12 to 3 p.m. in conjunction with the Skyline Farm Carriage Museum's new exhibit, "Recollections: Horse & Sleigh Days." Admission to the museum is free. Please dress warmly.

Starting at noon, Ben Lapointe and his pair of miniature horses will give mini sleigh rides for children up to age 12 for a \$5 donation per child, while John Sczymecki of Hideaway Farm in Topsham and his team of draft horses will provide sleigh rides around the field for a donation of \$8 per person or \$25 per family.

At 12:30 p.m. there will be a narrated demonstration of horses and drivers using 19th-century skills and vintage sleighs in the outdoor arena. Bring your snowshoes for a 2 p.m. guided tour of Skyline's trails through the woods. Hot refreshments will be sold in the heated Visitor Center.

The museum exhibit, featuring a variety of rare sleighs and wheeled vehicles, illustrated by quotes from real people who recall living the wintry horse-drawn life in New England, is also open Sundays, February 5 through March



John Sczymecki of Topsham and his team of draft horses carry a sleigh full of happy passengers. (Photo by Sarah Walsh)

26, from 1 to 4 p.m. or by appointment.

Skyline Farm is a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization. For more information, contact Pam at 829-5708 or info@skyline-farm.org.

Grants available for local nonprofits

Nonprofit and public organizations in Androscoggin County seeking funding for projects that will foster collaboration and draw on the strengths of the community are encouraged to apply to the Androscoggin County Fund through the Community Building Grant Program of the Maine Community Foundation.

A volunteer committee of Androscoggin County residents and business leaders will review applications and make recommendations for funding. The deadline to apply is February 15. Ap-

plication and guidelines are available at www.mainecef.org.

In 2016, the committee awarded over \$30,000 in grants to six nonprofits. These included \$3,300 to the Lewiston-Auburn Area Housing Development Corporation to expand its Aspirations enrichment program with the addition of a food business project for teens and a summer literacy program for students in kindergarten through fourth grade; \$8,000 to the New Mainer's Public Health Initiative to educate immigrant. See **Grants**, page 4

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

College for ME bids farewell to director



Maggie Davis

Maggie Davis, Executive Director of College for ME-Androscoggin, has accepted the position of Director of Early Learning & Youth Programs with the YWCA of Lewiston, effective February 1.

The mission of College for ME-Androscoggin is to awaken college aspirations, support successful college experiences, and celebrate educational attainment. During her tenure, Davis has assisted youth and adults in reaching their higher educational goals through partnerships with Androscoggin County's school districts, adult education centers, businesses, community organizations, and various institutions of higher

education in the region.

"Maggie has been a stellar champion for College for ME-Androscoggin," said Board Chair Hillary Verrill. "She has led this organization to new heights during her time with us and provided a solid foundation when C4ME's two founders retired. She will be greatly missed."

"Maggie has given 110 percent of herself to the mission of C4ME, and we wish her all the best," said immediate past Board Chair Mary LaFontaine. "The connections she's made within the community on behalf of C4ME and the lives she's touched have brought continued pride to and awareness of the work we do. The YWCA is fortunate to gain such a dedicated individual as part of their team."

Davis came to C4ME in June 2015 with extensive experience in the field of college access. She served as Director of the Future Center in Lynchburg, Virginia, providing college exploration and career guidance to almost 3,500 middle and

Fire Chief tapped as new 9-1-1 Director



Chief Paul M. LeClair has been a member of the Lewiston Fire Department for 36 years.

A search committee has selected Lewiston Fire Chief Paul M. LeClair as the new director of the LA 9-1-1 Communication Center, effective March 1. LeClair has been a member of the Lewiston Fire Department for 36 years, serving as a Lieutenant and Assistant Fire Chief before being appointed Fire Chief in 2006. He will continue his public safety career with an agency he has been engaged with since its formation in 1996, most recently serving as its Interim Director since November.

"I wish to thank and acknowledge all those who

have positively impacted my professional career and personal development," said LeClair. "I especially wish to recognize my wife, Terri, and my family for their support of my career as a firefighter. I have all the confidence in the world in the members of the Lewiston Fire Department as they go forward. They do an amazing job in an ever-changing world and serve the community proudly. I am proud to continue to serve as a leader of a public safety agency in a community that we call home, and I look forward to this challenging opportunity and to working with the staff, dispatchers, and agencies of LA 9-1-1."

"Paul has been a terrific Fire Chief and key member of our management team," said City Administrator Edward A. Barrett. "His strong leadership, teamwork, and positive approach to the department will be missed. We look forward to continuing to work closely with him as he assumes his new responsibilities at LA 9-1-1."

Jubilee Center director to address Rotary Club



Erin Reed

Erin Reed, Executive Director of the Trinity Jubilee Center, will be the guest speaker at the next meeting of the Lewiston Auburn Rotary Club on Thursday, February 2 from noon to 1 p.m. at the Ramada Inn of Lewiston. The public is invited to attend.

Located in the heart of downtown Lewiston, the Trinity Jubilee Center provides food and hope to Lewiston-Auburn residents struggling to make ends meet. The center is open six days a week and operates five programs: the Meals Program serves 80 to 100 hot lunches each day; the Food Pantry distributes groceries to 300 families each week; the Day Shelter pro-

vides warmth and rest to the homeless; the Resource Center offers a free weekly medical clinic, access to a phone, fax, and internet, a mailing address for the homeless, donated clothing, household goods, and toiletries, and opportunities for partner agencies to meet with clients or present community workshops; and the Refugee Integration Program helps families from more than a dozen countries access employment, housing, and education.

These services help more than 1,000 people each week, not only feeding people when they are hungry but also helping them to address the reasons why they are hungry and to become healthier, more stable, and more self-sufficient. In 2016, the Center celebrated its 25th anniversary.

For more information on this or other Rotary programs and events, contact Program Chair and President-Elect Monica Millhime at 753-9040 or monica.millhime@maine.gov.

King appointed to Campobello Park Commission

Before leaving office, President Barack Obama last week appointed U.S. Senator Angus King to serve on the Roosevelt Campobello International Park Commission. The Commission is tasked with administering the park as a memorial and preserving it as closely to its condition when occupied by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Senator King is one of six Commissioners.

"Campobello Park is a treasure, both for Maine and for our nation, which has been admired by generations of Americans, including myself," said Senator King. "Not only does Campobello bind us to our cherished history, but, as the only park in the world to be owned and administered jointly by two countries, it also continues to serve as a symbol of our valued relationship with our Canadian neighbors. I am honored by this appointment and pledge to work to protect Campobello so that it may continue to inspire Americans and Canadians alike for many years to come."

Located on Campobello Island in New Brunswick, Can-

ada, Roosevelt Campobello International Park preserves the house and surrounding area of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt's summer retreat on the island. The park is accessible from the mainland by the Roosevelt Memorial Bridge in Lubec, Maine.

The Park was created in 1964 by a treaty signed by President Lyndon Johnson and Canadian Prime Minister Lester Pearson. That same treaty established the Roosevelt Campobello International Park Commission, which is tasked with administering the park as a memorial and keeping the Roosevelt home as closely as possible to its condition when President Roosevelt was there. The Commission is comprised of six members, with three Commissioners from each country and six alternate members. The U.S. Commissioners and alternates are appointed by the President.

The treaty that created the park specifies that the United States and Canada equally share the costs of development, operation, and maintenance. The day-to-day management of the park is overseen by a superintendent, who is appointed by the Commission.

Senator King replaces former U.S. Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) on the Park Commission. Former U.S. Senator Edmund Muskie of Maine also served on the Commission. Senator King and his wife, Mary Herman, were most recently at the park in 2014 for the 50th Anniversary celebration.

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Governor's Address: Experts recognize that lowering taxes would make Maine more competitive

Legislators may not understand how taxes work, but experts recognize the tax reforms in my budget would make Maine more competitive and more prosperous.

Dear Maine Taxpayer,

The non-partisan Tax Foundation has reviewed the tax changes in my budget, which reduces individual income taxes, lowers corporate taxes, broadens the sales tax and eliminates the death tax. They called my plan “a recipe for a more competitive state.”

They also liked my effort to simplify the income tax and reduce it to a flat tax of 5.75% in 2020. We have also proposed lowering the top corporate rate from 8.93% to 8.33%, which would still be relatively high compared to the national average.

But the Tax Foundation said this reduction would make Maine more competitive with its neighboring states.

The Tax Foundation also knows the death tax is harmful to economic growth, so they are pleased to see my proposal to eliminate it. Only 14 states and Washington, D.C. still impose a death tax. Most states are moving away from death taxes.

They are especially harmful to many of Maine’s families who own small businesses. They usually do not have the resources to spend on estate tax planning, which can make it difficult to pass the business on to family members.

The Tax Foundation is also in favor of our effort to broaden Maine’s sales tax base to include some services. The state’s 5.5% sales tax rate would not increase. But it would be applied to amusement and recreation services, some installation and maintenance services and personal services.

Services such as carpentry, plumbing and electrical work, as well as motor vehicle repairs, will remain exempt from sales tax.

Decades ago, the United States economy consisted mostly of goods. But now, services comprise about two-thirds of the economy. Maine’s sales tax is already low compared to the national average. By exempting all services, our sales tax base is increasingly narrow, which leads to a reliance on other taxes, such as the income tax.

One of the most transparent ways to collect tax revenue is through the sales tax. Complicated tax codes, graduated income tax rates and tax brackets are confusing. But the sales tax is easier to understand. Mainers can see how much tax they are paying because it is printed right on their receipt.

The Tax Foundation said our proposal to broaden Maine’s sales tax base is the “correct call for modernizing a state’s sales tax code.”

Although our proposals are far-reaching, the Tax Foundation said policymakers should seriously consider them. Our efforts to broaden tax bases and lower rates overall will make Maine more competitive and improve our economy.

Now it is up to you to let your legislator know how you feel about taxes and where your dollars are best spent.

Thank You,
Paul R. LePage
Governor

Advocates for Children to exhibit at Nonprofit Day

Advocates for Children is one of several local nonprofit organizations selected to participate in the 14th annual Maine Nonprofit Day, taking place on February 7 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the State House’s Hall of Flags in Augusta. Sponsored and hosted by the Maine Association of Nonprofits, Nonprofit Day provides an opportunity to showcase the work of the state’s diverse nonprofit agencies and to educate lawmakers about a sector that comprises a critical piece of the state’s economy.

“Maine’s nonprofits are complex and strategic organizations,” said Jennifer Hutchins, Executive Director of MANP. “They create jobs, develop community leaders, and invest significant financial and human resources across the State, and we are thrilled to highlight this diverse sector at the State House.” The nonprofit sector is a major economic engine in the state, employing 1 out of every 6 Mainers. Maine’s nonprofit sector paid over \$4.3 billion in wages in 2015, or 17.5% of the state’s total payroll. These wages resulted in an estimated \$264 million in personal income tax revenue for Maine’s state and local governments.

Advocates for Children is a community-based organization dedicated to fostering programs to both

Machining instructors visit CMCC to learn new skills

Precision machining instructors from Nebraska, Massachusetts and Connecticut recently completed teacher-training programs at Central Maine Community College in Auburn.

Troy Davis of Central Community College in Nebraska and Jeffrey McCall of Tri-County Regional Technical Center in Massachusetts completed a course in 4-Axis Milling designed for computer numeric control

machining instructors who already have an operational understanding of a Haas 3-Axis CNC Mill. Davis and Daniel Coffin of Asnuntuck Community College in Connecticut completed an Intermediate Spindle Probing course. Led by CMCC Precision Machining Technology program chair Richard Bolding, each four-day course provided the participants with an opportunity to learn new skills in advanced precision machining through both theory and hands-on lab time.

The PMT program at CMCC, one of the largest in the Northeastern U.S., offers a two-year associate in applied science degree and a one-year certificate. Graduates of the program are employed as machine operators, CNC machinists,



Earning certificates in advanced precision machining at CMCC recently were machining instructors (l. to r.) Daniel Coffin of Asnuntuck Community College in Enfield, CT, Jeffrey McCall of Tri-County Regional Technical Center in Franklin, MA, and Troy Davis of Central Community College in Grand Island, Nebraska.

First Center (Portland), the Maine Indoor Air Quality Council (Augusta), the Maine Jewish Film Festival (Portland), the Multilingual & Multicultural Center (Portland), Penquis CAP (Bangor), and Silent Sidekicks (Lincoln).

For more information about the event, call the Maine Association of Nonprofits at 871-1885 or see www.nonprofitmaine.org/nonprofitday. For more information about Advocates for Children, see www.advocatesforchildren.net.

quality control inspectors, machine assemblers, machine tool designers, CNC programmers or field service representatives.

Named the Northeast CNC Teacher Training Center for the Haas Technical Education Center Network, the College also provides high-level CNC training classes for teachers through the National Science Foundation ATE program. In addition, CMCC offers customized training in basic to advanced CNC programming and inspection to companies in New England.

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Only Steps Forward

Auburn’s city budget depends on citizens’ priorities

By Jonathan P. LaBonté
MAYOR OF AUBURN

If you take the time to read this weekly report, odds are you aren’t just doing it out of boredom. Perhaps you are from Auburn and catching up on local issues. Or, most likely, you are an Auburn resident, business owner or taxpayer and you want to ensure you know more about what’s happening with your tax dollars.

While citizens elect a city council, and that council

adopts a budget, your input as the investors paying those bills is essential for two reasons. Are the goals of the Auburn City Council and city manager ones that you support; if not, how do we align them? And if they are, how much should we ask of you in tax money to implement them?

The city charter, or local version of a constitution that sets up rules for how the government operates, lays out a fairly rigid process for hearing a proposed city bud-



Mayor Jonathan P. LaBonté

get and acting on it. There are set public hearings and a set number of votes, and all of that must happen on the

timeline the charter lays out before the end of the fiscal year on June 30.

On top of that are state laws for the adoption of a school budget by the school committee, then city council and ultimately the voters.

All of those steps, however, outline the required minimum. The charter gives broad flexibility for how the city council and management solicit input on goals and how much in taxes is enough.

So this week, I’m writing to ask each of you how to best get your input. And I want to take your ideas to the city council and management to ensure that this year’s budget is yours as much as it is the city council’s.

Per past practice, the Auburn City Council meets on Monday evenings, and public hearings on financial matters occur in the same way, on a Monday night. Are evening meetings convenient? Or is there a better day of the week or time that would make it possible to appear in person?

In previous years, ward or neighborhood schools have hosted forums to discuss city or school issues. Would coming to a conversation in a neighbor’s home or at your local school be more inviting and more casual than coming to Auburn Hall downtown?

Rather than being divided up by neighborhood, or perhaps in addition to, is there interest in a city-wide meeting somewhere for residents to come together and talk about what they see as the biggest challenges or opportunities and how the city budget may help address

them?

I can imagine that for many citizens, the luxury of getting out to a couple-hour-long meeting just isn’t possible. With the 21st century offering so many tools to electronically interact and get input, would a survey available to submit input and ask questions garner enough responses to add value to the process?

These are some of the ideas I’ve heard from residents recently. The five-month budget process provides enough time to get input on city direction and priorities to influence the city manager’s first draft budget, and then further input on what the right spending priorities are in the final budget.

If you have ideas on how we can best get your input, or perhaps you want to get right to the point and communicate what’s most important for this year’s budget, please contact me. I can be reached at jlabonte@auburnmaine.gov or 333-6601 ext. 1216.

I will provide your input to the full Auburn City Council and city manager during my regular meeting reports. Thank you in advance for being an active citizen!

O’Malley

Continued from page 1

Investigations and is a certified Civil Rights Officer.

Active in the community, O’Malley has supported Special Olympics of Maine for over 20 years and was inducted as a volunteer into the Special Olympics Hall of Fame. He has received numerous departmental commendations and citations and has received the Colonel Award from the Maine State Police, the New Hampshire Congressional Law Enforcement Award, and the Community Advocate Award from Androscoggin County Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Services.

Grants

Continued from page 1

and refugee parents about developmental disabilities; and \$8,147 to the YWCA of Central Maine to support the Positive Ethnic and Cultural Exchange initiative to develop a multi-cultural community around skill sharing and mobilizing for social change.

With offices in Ellsworth and Portland, the Maine Community Foundation works with donors and other partners to improve the quality of life for all Maine people. To learn more about the foundation, visit www.maineccf.org.

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Enough is Enough

Those who commit violent criminal behavior should stay in prison

By Robert E. Macdonald
MAYOR OF LEWISTON

Imagine having to caution and remind your children, as they leave your house for the playground, to drop to the ground if they hear a gunshot. Further, you remind them to remain on the ground, in place, until told by an adult to get up.

Imagine being in your apartment hosting a family get-together when suddenly a bullet comes crashing through a window, killing one of your relatives. This happened in the Bronx on New Year's Eve.

In a 12th-floor apartment, Luis Diego was hugging his niece and welcoming in the New Year. Suddenly a bullet came

through the window, killing him. He now goes down as New York City's first 2017 homicide victim.

Imagine your child leaving the house heading for school, the store or choir practice. Shortly after leaving, the police knock on your door, notifying you that your child was killed after getting caught in the crossfire of two feuding gangs.

Lastly, imagine your child is home from college break. He/she decides to get together with other neighborhood friends, also home from college on break. They walk down to the local park where they used to hang out and are senselessly gunned down because they chose a path of success, not the life of a gangbanger.



Mayor Bob Macdonald

Unfortunately in many neighborhoods throughout our country, parents don't have to imagine: it's reality and it has to stop.

Yet this slaughter of innocence occurring throughout many neighborhoods in our major

cities goes on basically unchecked. The perpetrators of these crimes have successfully created a wall of silence through fear, intimidation and a reality-check murder or two of snitches and rats, which proves very effective.

Unfortunately, we have politicians on both sides of the aisle who lack the intestinal fortitude to address the plight of those living in our inner cities. They are silent enablers, bearing an equal share of the misery caused by local gangbangers.

In our war on drugs, one of the most successful tools in law enforcement's arsenal is federal prosecution of society's dealers of death, a.k.a. drug dealers. This prosecution targets major vi-

olent drug dealers, enabling the federal government to ensure these dealers receive long prison sentences in the federal prison system.

Also factoring into whether a person will be prosecuted in the federal justice system is a pertinent question: did they possess a gun while engaged in illegal behavior? If so, this will elevate the sentence.

These major offenders prosecuted in the federal system have long histories of violent criminal behavior. Their conduct demands they be removed from society. They are criminals, not victims of "systematic injustice."

In his last weeks in office, former President Barack Obama commuted

the sentences or pardoned 1,715 criminals, placing them back in their old neighborhoods where they will terrorize and resume their old line of work.

Defending these releases, Mr. Obama came up with a mumbo-jumbo academic phrase, "systematic injustice." Even academia would have a hard time explaining what that means.

Days later, he left Washington retiring to a safe and luxurious life while condemning the good, struggling hard-working people living in our country's inner cities to experience what the definition of "systematic injustice" really means. Hint: it won't be comforting.

New Ventures offers "Intro to Self-Employment"

Whether you are transitioning from school to work, have lost one job and are looking for another, or are interested in a new career altogether, preparing for work in today's ever-changing world can be a challenge. New Ventures Maine has been helping individuals find a job, go back to school or start a business for 37 years.

For instance, their "Intro to Self-Employment Workshop" can help you decide if self-employment is the right choice for you. The class covers the pros and cons of owning your own business, the steps needed to get started, the major elements of a business plan, and the many resources available to help you succeed. The class is free of

charge and will be offered on Tuesday, February 7 from 6 to 8 p.m. at RSU 16 Adult Education, Elm Street School in Mechanic Falls, and again on Thursday, February 9, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Lewiston CareerCenter, 5 Mollison Way in Lewiston. To register or for more information, call Karleen Andrews at 557-1885.

Formerly known as Maine Centers for Women, Work, and Community, New Ventures Maine has changed its name to better reflect the service it provides and welcome a broad range of people with varying needs. The name is new, but the programs remain the same: New Ventures helps Maine people find success

in their jobs, businesses and communities through tuition-free classes and workshops, on-site and online, and one-on-one coaching in four program areas: Build a Career, Start a Business, Manage your Money, and Become a Leader.

"Our purpose is to empower those thinking about change to take the next step towards a new career, a new business, a new approach, a new life," said Gilda Nar-done, Executive Director. "We wanted a name that would help us reach people in today's fast-paced, Internet-oriented times." New Ventures Maine is administered by the University of Maine at Augusta and operates out of 10 offices statewide. For more information or to find classes, see newventure-smaine.org or call, toll free in-state, 1-800-442-2092.

Poliquin refuses Congressional health benefits

Congressman Bruce Poliquin recently announced that, since he was sworn-in for his first term in office in January 2015, he has chosen not to accept the special congressional health care benefits afforded to members of Congress.

"From day one in office, I chose not to accept the special congressional health care benefits and the Thrift Savings retirement benefits offered to members of Congress that cost our taxpayers," said Poliquin. "While other taxpaying citizens in Maine were being forced to make health care decisions for their families under ObamaCare, there is no way I could have accepted these exclusive perks.

"I have long pushed for free market solutions to parts of ObamaCare to be included in an alternative plan. In addition, I support common sense ObamaCare relief to include a ready transition to more affordable and accessible health insur-

ance plans for those who have purchased ObamaCare policies in good faith."

Poliquin says he will not support a repeal of the Affordable Care Act that eliminates pre-existing coverage, ends the ability of

young adults to remain on their parents' plans until age 26, or that immediately ends ACA exchange policies, and will vote for a repeal and replacement only if the new plan conforms to these principles.

AHCH seeks grief support volunteers

Androscoggin Home Care & Hospice is offering a four-session training session at no cost to those interested in volunteering to support patients and families through the loss of a loved one. The classes will take place on February 6, 9, 13 and 17 from 1 to 4 p.m. at AHCH's Lewiston Office at 15 Strawberry Avenue.

Key topics covered in the training will include ac-

tive listening, the difference between grief and depression, establishing appropriate boundaries and choosing the right words when someone is grieving. Once trained, volunteers may assist AHCH patients, meet with family members, help with bereavement reassurance calls and participate in special events that support people through the grieving process. If interested, call

795-9468 to register.

Over the past 50 years, Androscoggin Home Care & Hospice has become one of Maine's most respected home health and hospice care agencies. To learn more about AHCH, including employment and volunteer opportunities, call the Marketing and Development Office at 777-7740, ext. 1407 or see www.ahch.org.



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What's Going On

Bean Supper

There will be a baked bean supper at Sixth St. Congregational Church at 109 Sixth St. in Auburn on Saturday, January 28, from 4:30 until 6 p.m. The menu will consist of two kinds of beans, brown bread, coleslaw, red and brown hot dogs, American chop suey, assorted desserts and beverage. The cost of the meal is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children 5 to 12, and free for children under age 5. All are welcome.

Accountability Essential for Successful Weight Loss

By Marie L. Veselsky, RD, LD, BC-ADM

Having a licensed, credentialed health care provider weigh you on a consistent basis can help you be successful in achieving weight loss in 2017. But to be successful, you need more than just one visit; you need ongoing accountability through weigh-ins, education, reinforcement and support!

Recent research indicates that 1/3 of Americans are considered obese. Being significantly overweight can increase your risk for many chronic diseases and some cancers. The American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association guidelines indicate that even a 3% weight loss among overweight and obese individuals can improve risk factors for chronic diseases, such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, coronary artery disease, stroke, osteoarthritis, sleep apnea and diabetes type 2.

As a Registered Dietitian that practices a more holistic approach, I advocate for a healthy but specialized diet, individualized exercise, lifestyle changes and accountability to help you lose the weight you need. Gastric bypass surgery is only for the right candidate. That said, there have been a lot of good studies that have come from data on gastric bypass patients. The American Medical Association Analysis of 136 gastric bypass studies where the patients lost significant weight indicates that 77% of participants eliminated their elevated blood sugars, 62% eliminated their high blood pressure, 70% eliminated their high cholesterol and 86% eliminated their sleep apnea. This shows weight loss is key in improving outcomes of many chronic illnesses.

The most successful weight loss treatments include elements of monitoring as a means to increase self-awareness. Especially powerful is having a li-

Community garden offers organic seed sale



The Alan Day Community Garden offers plots for rent, free workshops and events, and a 4H Youth Leadership Program for those ages 13 and older.

For a limited time, the Alan Day Community Garden of Norway is offering an opportunity to order high-quality organic seeds from the High Mowing Organic Seeds company at deep discounts. Start planning your vegetable garden while supporting the Alan Day Community Garden. Seed order forms are available at Cafe Nomad, Fare Share Coop and the Norway and Paris public libraries. You can also go online to print an order form and then send your completed

order and payment to the Alan Day Community Garden at 26 Whitman Street, Norway, ME 04268. The deadline to place an order is February 15. The order form is available at www.alandaygarden.wordpress.com.

Open to the public, the Alan Day Community Garden offers plots for rent, free workshops and events, and 4H Youth Leadership Program open to those ages 13 and above. For more information, see the website above or call 346-0708.

censed, credentialed health care professional weigh you on a consistent basis and provide reinforcement of healthy choices.

Integrated Optimal Health's Choice Center for Nutrition and Choice Center for Diabetes and Weight will help you achieve your weight loss goals through education, reinforcement and ongoing support, as well as group and individual exercise programs. It is easier than most people think. There is no "magic bullet" for weight loss, but knowing your individualized carb number for weight loss, which we determine for you, and getting the education and support you need is pretty close!

Many people do not realize that their health insurances cover preventative care. It is Your Health and Your Choice. Choose Health! Call 888-444-1204 to find out about the individual programs and group programs. 871 Court Street, Auburn, Maine @ Cornerstone Wellness Center. Most insurance accepted! www.choice-centerfordiabetes.com, www.integratedoptimalhealth.com.

Marie L. Veselsky is a Licensed Registered Dietitian (RD, LD), a Board Certified Advanced Diabetes Educator (BC-ADM), and has a Master's degree in Education/Nutrition.



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Hammond Tractor supports GAHS



The staff of Hammond Tractor Company in Auburn recently presented the Greater Androscoggin Humane Society with a donation of \$1,200. Years ago, the company's employees and owners decided that, in lieu of Christmas gifts for the employees, a donation would be made each year to a local non-profit. Each Hammond Tractor location is responsible for choosing the designated nonprofit in their community. Pictured here (l. to r.) are Hammond Tractor Product Support Manager Dave Ponsant, Steven Dostie and Donna Kincer of GAHS, and Hammond Tractor-Auburn Manager Marie Herrick.

Bean Supper features Park Ave. Pickers



The group holds a jam session open to all musicians on the second Tuesday of each month.

The Park Avenue Pickers Gospel and Blue Grass Band will perform at the United Methodist Church of Auburn's monthly Public Bean Supper on Saturday, January 28. The music will begin at 4:15 p.m. and the supper will begin at 5:00. The menu will include baked beans, casseroles, potato salad, hot dogs, coleslaw, breads, beverages and pies. The cost

is \$8 for adults, \$4 for kids ages 6 to 12, and free for kids ages 5 and under. Come early for the best selection of pies.

The Park Avenue Pickers hold a jam session open to all musicians at the church, located at 439 Park Avenue in Auburn, at 6:15 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. For more information, call the church office at 782-3972.

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APL program series
examines global migration



Colby College Professor Catharine Besteman is the author of "Making Refuge: Somali Bantu Refugees and Lewiston, Maine."

In preparation for the 2017 Camden Conference, titled "Refugees and Global Migration: Humanity's Crisis," Auburn Public Library will present three in-depth programs examining the issue of global migration.

The first program will be a presentation by Colby College Bartlett Professor of Anthropology Catharine Besteman on Thursday, February 2 at 6 p.m. In her

book, "Making Refuge: Somali Bantu Refugees and Lewiston, Maine," Besteman follows the trajectory of Somali Bantus from their homes in Somalia before the onset of the country's civil war in 1991, to their displacement to Kenyan refugee camps, to their settlement in Lewiston, which since 2003 has become home to thousands of Somali and Somali Bantu refugees, some of whom come from the village in Somalia where Besteman conducted fieldwork in 1987-88.

Besteman has taught Anthropology and African Studies at Colby since 1994. Her teaching and research interests focus on analyzing power dynamics that produce and maintain inequality, racism and violence, as well as activist and community efforts for social change. She has studied these issues in southern Somalia, South Africa, and the U.S. Her work has been supported by grants from the Rockefeller Foun-

dation, Guggenheim Foundation, American Council of Learned Societies, the Wenner-Gren Foundation, the School of Advanced Research, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The second program in the series, a discussion of the book "City of Thorns: Nine Lives in the World's Largest Refugee Camp" by reporter Ben Rawlence, will take place on Monday, February 6 at 12:30 p.m. Situated hundreds of miles from any other settlement, deep within the inhospitable desert of northern Kenya where only thorn bushes grow, Dadaab is a city like no other. Its buildings are made from mud, sticks or plastic, its entire economy is grey, and its citizens survive on rations and luck. Over the course of four years, Rawlence became a first-hand witness

to a strange and desperate limbo-land, getting to know many of those who have come there seeking sanctuary.

The series will conclude on Thursday, February 9 at 6 p.m. with a showing of the film "Hotel Rwanda." In Rwanda, a million members of the Tutsi tribe were killed by members of the Hutu tribe in a country-wide massacre that took place in 1994 while the world looked away. "Hotel Rwanda" is the story of a hotel manager who saved the lives of 1,200 people by being, essentially, a very good hotel manager. A brief discussion will follow the showing of this film.

Free and open to the public, these events will take place in the Community Room on the Library's lower level at 49 Spring Street. For more information, call 333-6640 or see www.auburnpubliclibrary.org.

Made in the USA: Providing Our Soldiers with
Top-Quality, American-made Footwear

By Sen. Susan M. Collins

The men and women of America's armed forces exemplify the very best of our nation's values - courage, devotion to duty, and a commitment to freedom. The men and women of New Balance exemplify the very best of our nation's manufacturing heritage - a strong work ethic and unsurpassed skills. A provision the Maine Delegation fought to include in the new 2017 National Defense Authorization Act ensures that those who step forward to serve our country have top-quality American-made athletic footwear during their training.

On December 14, I was delighted to join Senator Angus King and Representative Bruce Poliquin at the New Balance factory in Skowhegan to celebrate our success working together to incorporate our "Made in America" component of the crucial defense bill. The legislation passed the Senate and House by overwhelming margins and was signed into law. This is a significant victory for American jobs and manufacturers like New Balance, a 110-year-old company with three factories and

some 900 workers here in Maine. Like their colleagues at New Balance factories in Massachusetts, the skilled Maine workers cherish their status as one of the only companies still making athletic shoes in the USA.

Our provision, which survived strong opposition from special-interest groups, mandates that the Department of Defense treat athletic footwear issued to military recruits as subject to the Berry Amendment, as it does other uniform items. The Berry amendment, passed in 1941, requires the U.S. military to provide its personnel with American-made and sourced clothing and other essential military items. Despite this long-standing law, and despite the fact that it issues American-made items such as combat boots and service uniforms, the Department of Defense has not previously provided new recruits with athletic footwear that is compliant with the Berry Amendment, instead issuing them vouchers that could be used for foreign-made shoes.

I have long sought to require the Department of Defense to comply with the

law and allow domestic manufacturers like New Balance to compete for contracts to provide domestically produced athletic footwear to our servicemen and women. In 2013, I hand-delivered a letter I authored with Senator King to then-Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, urging him to treat athletic footwear like nearly every other clothing item and procure it from American manufacturers. More than two years ago, Senator King and I joined together to author legislation to ensure that the Pentagon provide American-made athletic footwear just as it does American-made combat boots and service shoes. In addition, at my request, senior Defense officials visited New Balance to see firsthand that America produces high-quality athletic shoes.

In April of 2015, the Defense Department announced it would require recruits to use their vouchers for "Made in the USA" athletic shoes. More than a year later, however, the Defense Department had not purchased a single pair of American-made athletic shoes, despite significant

What's Going On

Community Credit Union
sponsors Poker Run

In partnership with area snowmobile clubs, Community Credit Union is sponsoring its 4th annual Community Poker Run to raise funds for the Maine Credit Union League's Campaign for Ending Hunger. Participants will travel by vehicle or snowmobile to local businesses that are noted as "Poker Stops" to get their card stamped. Then, based on the number of stops visited, they will be dealt a poker hand at the awards dinner, which will take place on Saturday, February 11, from 4 to 6 p.m. at Reggie's Kawasaki Ski-Doo, 225 US Hwy 202, in Leeds.

A cash prize of \$500 will go to the first-place winner, \$350 will go to the second-place winner, \$250 will go to the third-place winner, and \$250 each will be awarded for the worst hand and to a participating snowmobile club in recognition of their support. To see full details or to register, see www.communitycreditunion.com.

The cost of \$20 for snowmobile club members and \$25 for non-members includes a poker hand, a beans and franks dinner and a fireworks show. Those who would like to support the cause by attending the dinner and fireworks show only may attend for \$5 per person.

Since 1990, Maine's credit unions have raised and distributed more than \$6.5 million to help end hunger in Maine. One hundred percent of all money raised by stays in Maine and goes directly to hunger organizations and local food pantries.

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

looming, the Berry Amendment was passed to ensure that the military doesn't have to rely on foreign producers any more than necessary. The more the military buys products made in the United States, the more likely it is that our troops will continue to receive the supplies they need in wartime.

Throughout my service in the Senate, I have

advocated for policies and trade agreements that support the manufacturing industries that are such an integral part of Maine's history and bright future. Our "Buy American" provision in the National Defense Authorization Act is a significant victory for American jobs and respected American manufacturers like New Balance.

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What's Going On

Poland Spring takes part in Wreaths Across America convoy



Tanker driver Jesse Pelletier of Lewiston participated in the annual convoy with his 15-year-old son, Branden.

For the fourth consecutive year, the company that brings you Poland Spring water was one of ten companies that transported more than 200,000 Maine-made wreaths to decorate the tombstones of fallen soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia as part of

the annual “Wreaths Across America” tribute to the nation’s veterans. On behalf of the company, Poland Spring tanker driver Jesse Pelletier of Lewiston participated in the annual convoy, accompanied by his 15-year-old son, Branden.

“Participation in Wreaths Across America is a great source of pride for all Poland Spring employees, but particularly for our tanker drivers and military veteran employees,” said

Tom Hathaway, Regional Inside Fleet Manager, Poland Spring. “We know there is a waiting list to participate as a carrier, so our company is grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this meaningful effort.”

The Wreaths Across America convoy traveled the I-95 Northeast corridor, making stops at schools and military cemeteries along the way. The week-long journey concluded on December 17 in Arlington, Virginia, where 44,000 volunteers helped lay the wreaths.

“I can’t even begin to describe what it meant to me and my family to participate in this event,” said tanker driver Jesse Pelletier. “And it was even more special because I was able to share this experience with my son.

“The brave men and women buried in Arlington National Cemetery made the ultimate sacrifice for our country,” added Pelletier. “This was just one small way to honor their service.”

Local realtor to discuss new business memoir at APL

Brenda Fontaine, owner of Fontaine Family - The Real Estate Leader, will discuss her new business memoir “The Limitless Real Estate Leader” on Thursday, January 26 at 6:30 p.m. at Auburn Public Library. Doors will open at 6:00 and copies of the book will be available for sale, with a portion of the proceeds to be donated to Auburn Public Library. In the event of a snowstorm, the event will be re-scheduled to Monday,

January 30.

Well-known in the Lewiston-Auburn area, Fontaine started her real estate team with her husband and daughter twenty years ago; within five years, it had become a seven-member family team. In 2016, the company, which now has locations in Auburn and Scarborough, had its most successful year to date, concluded 551 closings worth nearly \$75 million in sales. Inspired by her family

and personal history, Fontaine wrote the memoir to motivate those who are letting fear stop them from pursuing their dream. In telling her story and providing bits of wisdom from her career, she is fulfilling one of her bucket list items and her desire to give back to her community. The event is free and open to the public. It will be presented in the Community Room on the library’s lower level at 49 Spring Street. Door prize drawings will be offered. For more information, call 333-6640 or see www.auburnpubliclibrary.org.

Yarmouth student named to Senate Youth Program

Katie Waeldner of Yarmouth and Lily Tedford of South Portland have been selected as Maine’s delegates to the 55th annual United States Senate Youth Program. Waeldner and Tedford will join 102 other students from across the country in spending a week in the nation’s capital, where they will have an opportunity to study the American political process first-hand.

“Lily and Katie are outstanding students who will represent Maine well as delegates to the U.S. Senate Youth Program,” said Senator Susan Collins. “I have the honor and privilege of being the first delegate to the U.S. Senate Youth Program to have been elected to the U.S. Senate. As a senior in high school, this incredible program strengthened my commitment to public service. I am pleased that Lily and Katie will have this invaluable opportunity to develop their leadership skills and learn more about our legislative process.”

“The Senate Youth

Program is a great way to recognize talented young people from Maine and all across the country,” said Senator Angus King. “Lily and Katie have demonstrated remarkable leadership and dedication to their communities, and I look forward to congratulating them in person when they visit Washington in March.”

Katie Waeldner attends Yarmouth High School and serves as a representative in the Student Senate for the Class of 2017. She serves on both the Student Senate and board of directors of Yarmouth Cares About Neighbors, a nonprofit organization that works to connect resources with those in need. Dedicated to community service, she founded a voucher program at her town’s farmers’ market for those in need, wrote a grant for weekend food bags for food-insecure elementary students and coordinated her town’s summer meals program. She leads numerous clubs with missions promoting anti-bullying, mentoring and the inclusiveness of

students with intellectual disabilities. She is a multiple sport athlete who has achieved state championships and personal awards.

Lily Tedford attends Maine School of Science and Mathematics and serves as a senator in the Student Senate. She is editor-in-chief of her high school’s literary magazine, secretary of the prom committee, and treasurer of the French and soccer clubs. She is an admissions ambassador, peer tutor, and varsity athlete in soccer, volleyball and track and field. She hopes to major in English and creative writing and minor in history or political science in college. Along with becoming a writer and public servant, she plans to return to her home state of Maine after college to work toward bettering the communities in which she grew up through local government.

The USSYP, founded in 1962, is fully funded by the Hearst Foundations with the goal of raising awareness among young Americans about the role of the federal government and the im-

See **Delegates**, page 12

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Down East launches Maine Homes website

Down East magazine this month officially launched its reimaged “Maine Homes” website. As resource for design enthusiasts, homeowners, and those dreaming of owning a home in Maine, the site offers inspiration, advice from local experts, and highlights from the Maine real estate world.

The project has been spearheaded by Down East special projects editor Sarah Stebbins, who has fifteen years of experience covering architecture and design for national and local magazines. “I believe there’s an appetite in Maine not only for aspirational home content, but also for high-quality information and resources readers can use when building, improving, greening, or decorating their property,” says Stebbins. “I’m excited to call upon my experience in service journalism, shelter, and feature writing to help fill this niche in the marketplace.”

Maine Homes has partnered with Houzz, a national website and on-line community dedicated to home remodeling and design. Houzz will contribute content specific to Maine. “We’re excited to dive into the shelter category,” said Houzz director of advertising Lawrence Hollins. “As a web-based product, we will experiment with new trends in advertising that can take our clients beyond the confines of regular display advertising and offer them space to tell their story about their business.”

Visit their website at mainehomes.com and connect with them on Facebook and Instagram at @mainehomesmagazine.

Easy Ways to Warm Up This Winter



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

(Family Features) As the cold weather settles in, staying snuggled up in your comfortable house around the clock may be tempting, but it’s not very realistic. So when you come back inside from work, running errands or a quick snowball war with the kids, you’ll need some easy ways to warm up.

Heat yourself from the inside out with these ideas:

Take a bath with warm water to help you relax and return your body to a comfortable temperature. Add a hint of lavender or another favorite scent for some aromatherapy. Start with a moderate temperature and gradually add more hot water as needed to avoid shocking your system.

Toss blankets in the dryer before you head outside to play in the snow, get the mail or shovel the driveway. When you get back inside, you’ll have a cozy, warm blanket to wrap yourself in and chase away the bone-deep chill.

Stick with soup, especially one that you can prepare and be ready to enjoy quickly, such as Idahoan

See *Winter*, page 12



Dan Walsh

Norway Savings Bank has announced the recent promotion of five employees: Dan Walsh, to Executive Vice President, Commercial Banking; Janice deLima, to Vice President, Community Reinvestment Officer; Ian Pullen, to Vice President, Commercial Lending; Elysia Avery, to Assistant Vice President and Gray Branch Manager; and Donny Hinkley, to Assistant Vice President, Commercial Lending.

Dan Walsh joined Coastal Bank (which later merged with Norway Savings Bank in 2001) in 1997 as Vice President, Commercial Lending. In 2011, he was promoted to Senior Vice President, Commercial Banking, where he assumed overall leadership responsibilities for the commercial area of the bank. He has been an engaged member of the Senior Management team since 2011, when he joined various bank committees. A graduate of the American Bankers Association National Graduate School of Banking, he is active in the community, including service to the Greater Portland Council of Government and Maine Audubon.

Janice deLima joined Norway Savings Bank in 2014 and transitioned to Community Reinvestment Officer in April 2015 after being a member of the commercial team. She has established numerous relationships with community-based organizations through Norway Savings Bank’s branch footprint and is a strong advocate for bank employees who donate their time to non-profit organizations and initiatives. She is active in the community and currently serves on the advisory council of New Ventures Maine.



Janice deLima



Elysia Avery

Donny Hinkley joined the Commercial Lending Department at Norway Savings Bank in September 2015, serving in both the Norway-South Paris and Lewiston-Auburn regions. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Finance from the University of Southern Maine and currently serves as board chair of the Trinity Jubilee Center.



Ian Pullen



Donny Hinkley

He is an active member in the community, serving on various non-profit boards, finance committees and economic development organizations. For the past seven years, he has been involved with the Maine Chapter of the Risk Management Association and is currently president of the board.

Elysia Avery joined Norway Savings Bank as Branch Manager of the Gray Branch in November 2014 after 9 years of banking experience. She is active in the Sebago Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce and currently serves as President of the Gray Optimist Club. She has forged great relationships within the Gray New Gloucester schools by providing financial literacy education to a variety of students.

Donny Hinkley joined the Commercial Lending Department at Norway Savings Bank in September 2015, serving in both the Norway-South Paris and Lewiston-Auburn regions. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Finance from the University of Southern Maine and currently serves as board chair of the Trinity Jubilee Center.

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TWIN CITY NIGHTS

Weekly Arts & Entertainment

St. Dom's Winter Carnival set for Sunday

On Sunday, January 29, Saint Dominic Academy will host a Winter Carnival from 2 to 4:30 p.m. at its Auburn campus and continuing from 4:40 to 6 p.m. at Norway Savings Bank Arena. St. Dom's is at 121 Gracelawn Road and Norway Savings Bank Arena is at 985 Turner Street, both in Auburn.

Open to the public, this fun event will mark the beginning of Catholic Schools Week. Outdoor activities will include snowman building, a cardboard sled compe-

titition where students will compete with sleds they've created, cross country skiing, and snowshoeing. An outdoor fire pit providing hot cocoa and s'mores will be a good place for warm-up breaks.

If it's too cold or there's not enough snow, indoor activities planned include the Maine Army National Guard's inflatable obstacle course, sports clinics led by the school's coaches, games, live music, movies, and light refreshments. Starting at 4:40, the arena will host an ice hockey clinic led by the school's teams and coaches, along with free skate time.

Saint Dominic Academy is a Catholic college preparatory day school for boys and girls, grades Pre-K to 12. The school offers a rigorous academic program that combines a traditional liberal arts education with cutting-edge teaching and technology. Students learn to think, reflect, analyze, and apply in an environment infused with Christian values yet open to every perspective.

For more information, call 782-6911 or see www.StDomsMaine.org.

Arboretum presents annual Table Tour Feb. 5

Viles Arboretum of Augusta will present its annual Table Tour on Sunday, February 5. This popular event provides an opportunity to snowshoe, ski or hike the Arboretum's groomed trails while sampling culinary delights from some of the area's finest restaurants

and food purveyors, generally ranging from hearty chowder to fresh baked breads, American barbecue, and steaming hot turkey with all the fixings. No one leaves hungry, especially after a final treat and a cup of freshly brewed coffee or other hot beverage at the

desert table.

Trails open at 11 a.m. and trail food will be served until 1:00. Desserts, coffee and hot beverages will be served until 2 p.m. at the main building located at the end of the course. The event ends in plenty of time to get home for the big game.

"This is the only event of its kind that I know of, and it offers a healthy and fun opportunity to meet people, get outdoors, enjoy some terrific food, and support the many new programs and initiatives being developed at the Arboretum," said Executive Director Mark DesMeules. "The course is made even more interesting by the dozens of beautiful stone sculptures

Public Theatre preps for "Under the Skin"



Pictured here are Doug Rees as Lous Ziegler, Melissa Maxwell as Marlene Hayes, Annie Grier as Raina Lamott, and Jon Hudson Odom as Jarrell Hayes in a rehearsal for "Under the Skin," which runs at the Public Theatre January 27 through February 5. For show times and ticket information, call 782-3200 or see thepublictheatre.org.

UU Theater presents "Beet Poets of Wayne"

UU Theater will present "The Beet Poets of Wayne, Maine," a folksy variety show featuring spoken word and music, on Sunday, January 29 at 12:30 p.m. Beet Poets fervently believe in poetry that won't put people off poetry!

selection of hands-on educational programs for the general public and schools. For more information about the Arboretum or how you can become involved, call 626-7989 or see www.vilesarboretum.org.

Performers will include David Moreau, Jay Franzel, Claire Hersom, Steve Cowperthwaite, and musical poet Stan "Big Cat" Davis. Admission is via a \$5 donation.

The home of UU Theater is First Universalist Church, located at 169 Pleasant Street (across from Dairy Joy) in Auburn. Abundant free parking is available and the building is wheelchair accessible.

For more information, call 783-0461 or email auburnuu.org.

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Food for Thought features humor columnist

Portland-based writer, performer and educator Elizabeth Peavey and Maine Senior College Network Program Director Anne Cardale will be the presenters at the University of Southern Maine's Lewiston-Auburn Senior College Food for Thought luncheon on Friday, February 10. Their session, called "We ZOOM - How About You?", will demonstrate how Peavey taught an online memoir writing class for seniors, who used the ZOOM videoconference platform and their computers and iPads to participate from their home locations.

The session will include a live demonstration of the ZOOM technology, as well as comments from class participants from Presque Isle, Machias, and Lewiston-Auburn. Cardale will share how this class originated and Peavey will




Elizabeth Peavey

discuss the importance of memoir writing as well as her experiences as an instructor via ZOOM versus the classroom setting. Elizabeth Peavey's one-woman show, "My Mother's Clothes Are Not

Twin City Nights

My Mother," has played to sold-out houses since 2011 and won the Maine Literary Award for Best Drama. She is the author of three books, including "Glorious Slow Going: Maine Stories of Art, Adventure and Friendship," which was a Maine Literary Awards finalist. She has written a humor column for 20 years, and her writing has been featured in Down East magazine since 1993. She teaches public speaking at the University of Southern Maine.

Anne Cardale was born in the Lake District in the UK, the daughter of a Church of England Vicar. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Graphic Design and a Master's degree in Photography from the Royal College of Art in London. She worked as a



Anne Cardale

freelance photojournalist in the UK for 15 years while teaching photography at different art schools in London, eventually moving to Maine to attend the Adult & Higher Education Master's Program. She has worked for Women, Work and Community and the National Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Net-

work. She became the MSCN Program Director in 2014, working with the boards and staff of the 17 senior colleges throughout Maine. Her office is on the USM Portland Campus.

Senior College presents this monthly luncheon program that is open to the public in Function Room 170 at USM LAC. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. and the program begins promptly at noon. The cost, which includes lunch, is \$7 with an advance reservation or \$8 at the door. To make your advance reservation, call Senior College at 753-6510 by noon on Wednesday, February 8. Reservation calls received after this time will be considered "at the door."

Annual Maine's Got Talent contest holds audition

Maine's Got Talent will hold the second of two open auditions for musicians on Saturday, January 28 from 1 to 4 p.m. at Great Falls Performing Arts Center in Auburn. The auditions aim to secure 10 musical performers and two alternates who will compete for cash prizes of \$750, \$500, and \$250 at the sixth annual Maine's Got Talent competition on Saturday, March 4 at the Franco Center in Lewiston.

An annual fundraising event for local non-profit Sandcastle Clinical & Educational Services and LA Hearing Center, Maine's Got Talent has showcased musicians ranging from eight-person house bands to lone acoustic singer-songwriters, large-scale collegiate a capella groups and teen singers with ambition. Modeled after popular shows American Idol and

America's Got Talent, the competition relies upon a panel of three judges and audience feedback to determine winners of first-, second- and third-place cash prizes in front of a live audience.

Any Maine musicians over 16 years-old, including non-winning past performers, are welcome to attend this open audition. No appointment is necessary. The home of Community Little Theater, Great Falls Performing Arts Center is located at 30 Academy Street in Auburn. For more information, call 782-2150.

"We are always amazed at the incredible talent this community showcases at our fundraising event," said Sandcastle CEO Stephanie Gelinias. "The performers not only compete in hopes of winning cash prizes and getting amazing exposure in

Harlow Gallery lists Second Sunday workshops

The Harlow Gallery of Hallowell has announced its schedule of art-related Second Sunday workshops through June 2017 and plans to continue the series through the year. Free and open to the public, the events take place on the second Sunday of every month from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Harlow Gallery, located at 160 Water Street in Hallowell. Some materials are provided, but participants are encouraged to bring their own as well.

Open to everyone, from beginners to professional artists and those in between, the workshops are opportunities to try something new or to sharpen old skills, with the intent of bringing artists and art lovers together to enjoy the process of making art. Most events are perfect for families, and all ages are welcome. Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call the gallery at 622-3813

Donations and sponsors to support gallery programs like Second Sundays are welcome. The Harlow Gallery is a 501(c)3, membership-based nonprofit. If you have an idea for a future Second Sunday event, email them at kvaa@harlowgallery.org.

Sunday, February 12, 2 to 4 p.m. Wire Sculpture, led by Don and Eileen Kerr. (This workshop is limited to 12 participants.) In this workshop for those ages 10 and up, participants will use

See Harlow, page 12

Cabin Fever Book Café

The Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Augusta will host its first annual Cabin Fever Book Café on Saturday, January 28, from noon to 3 p.m. This fundraiser will offer hardcover books for one dollar and paperbacks and children's books for 50 cents. Beverages and desserts will be available.

The public may drop off donated books in small boxes on Friday, January 27, from 4 to 7 p.m. No magazines, old textbooks or encyclopedias, please. The church is located at 69 Winthrop Street. For more information, call 622-3232.



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THE PUBLIC THEATRE

Twin City Nights

Desperate Man’s Blues Explosion at Chocolate Church

The Chocolate Church Arts Center of Bath will continue its tradition of showcasing local musicians during its 2017 Kill The Chill Concert Series in its Curtis Room. The special series will begin with a performance by Papa Tim & the Desperate Man’s Blues Explosion on Saturday, January 28 at 7:30 p.m.

“Showcasing local talent is the cornerstone of our programming at the Chocolate Church,” said Jennifer DeChant, executive director of the 40-year-old organization. “During the winter months, we produce a variety of shows in the black box format of our Curtis Room. This space lends itself to a variety of uses, including as

an intimate concert venue for a night of incredible music.” The group is led by vocal powerhouse Tim Goad as “Papa Tim,” a wildly enthusiastic entertainer and soulful balladeer with a voice described as “equal parts Baptist Preacher and Bluesman.” He is backed by a “virtual

super group” of local musicians, including members of Shy Green, the Worktrucks, and Crushed By Amps, who together become “the Desperate Man’s Blues Explosion.” The audience will be clapping, dancing, moving and grooving along to the group’s original jams and some twists on a few popular favorites.

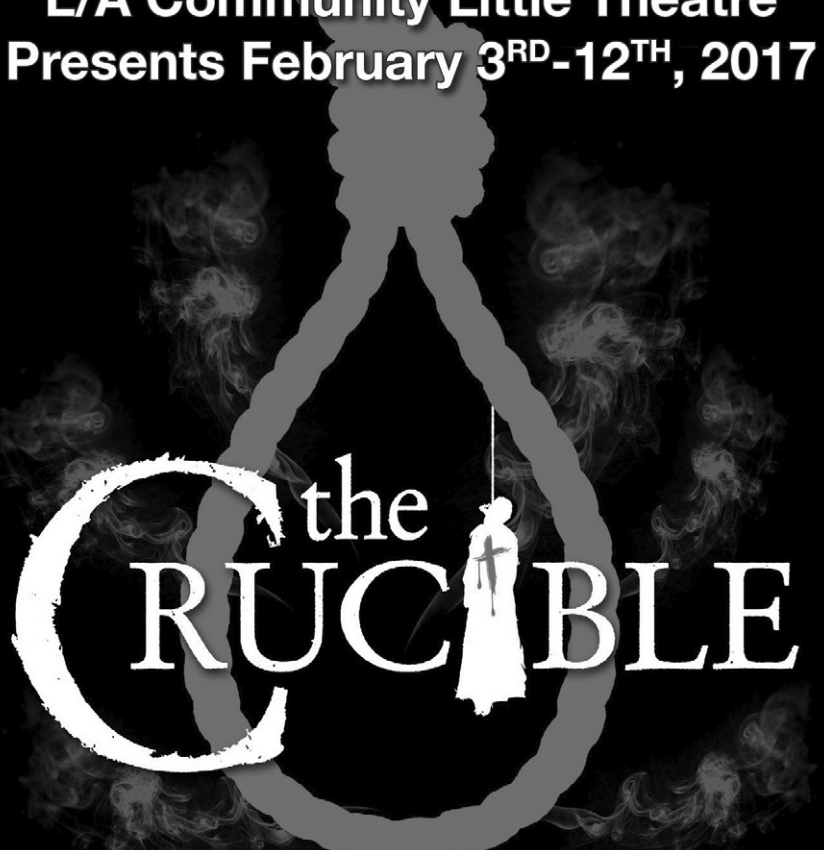
The Curtis Room is located in the Chocolate Church Arts Center’s annex at 804 Washington Street in downtown Bath.

Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 at door and may be purchased by calling the box office at 442-8455 or online at www.chocolatechurcharts.org.



The group is led by vocal powerhouse Tim Goad, aka “Papa Tim”

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Winter

Continued from page 9

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Add a layer. Nothing says comfort like a favorite sweatshirt that has been worn and washed so many times it’s practically a second skin. When you come in from outdoors, dress in cozy layers and ditch the extras as your body temperature returns to normal.

Rely on smart technol-



ogy. While you’re outdoors or on the way home, access your smart thermostat remotely and give the indoor temps a nudge so you walk in the door to some toasty warmth. Just remember to program a reset to your normal climate so you don’t get steamed when you get the bill later.

Bake your way warm. If you rarely make time to indulge a hobby like baking, the heat from a busy kitchen

may be all the excuse you need. Crank up the oven and get busy mixing up your favorite treats.

Soak up the sun. Once indoors, away from the biting wind and cold, the sun’s rays can boost your spirits and warm your body. Take a note from the family cat and make yourself comfy in a ray of sunlight.

Find more ways to keep warm this winter at Idahoan.com.

Harlow

Continued from page 11

simple tools and wire to create a wire figure, suitable for mounting on a base, to bring home. The wire provided will be thin gauge plastic coated wire, easily worked with fingers and only a few tools, which will be provided. If you have some beads or electrical components to share, bring them along and discover how they can be incorporated

into your pieces. Don and Eileen Kerr are practicing artists with many years of experience working with children and adults.

Sunday, March 12, 2 to 4 p.m. Collage, led by Robin Brooks. “Drawing with Torn-Paper Shapes” comes right out of the Silberstein-Storfer Jones book titled “Doing Art Together: Discovering the Joys of Appreciating and Creating Art as Taught at the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s Famous Parent-Child Workshop.” “I love the idea of parents and children having the chance to work in the same room,” Robin states. “Ideally, there will be a parent table and a children’s table, so there can be both proximity and independence.”

Sunday, April 9, 2 to 4 p.m. Pinhole Photography, led by Johanna Moore. In celebration of Worldwide Pinhole Photography Day on April 30, learn about the rudiments of pinhole photography and build your own camera so you can jump-start your adventures in analog photography.

Sunday, May 21, 2 to 4 p.m. Extraordinary

Embroidery, led by Maggie Muth. Learn how to make embroidery in unexpected ways by playing with needle and thread, using cloth and unconventional materials. Maggie Muth is the founder and director of Stitch HIVE in Portland, an itinerant open maker space.

Sunday, June 11, 2 to 4 p.m. Watercolor, led by Kay Morris. Through demonstrations and hands on experience, this event will touch on basics for both drawing and watercolor. To become familiar with watercolor and how it reacts on paper, participants will focus on doing a simple still life.

Delegates

Continued from page 8

portance of our democratic process. During their week in Washington, from March 4 through 11, the students will attend meetings and briefings with Senators, Congressmen, the President, a Justice of the Supreme Court, leaders of cabinet agencies, and an Ambassador to the United States, among others. Delegates also receive a \$10,000 college scholarship to help them pursue their future endeavors.



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Thursday, January 26
Rotary Club Meeting. Noon to 1 p.m. Rolandeau's Restaurant, 775 Washington St., Auburn. The guest speaker is Maine Department of Health and Human Services Commissioner Mary Mayhew. Guests welcome; reservations recommended. 753-9040; monica.millhime@maine.gov.

Artist Visit. 6 p.m. Lewiston Public Library. (Rescheduled from Tuesday.) Director-choreographer Stephan Koplowitz presents a video program about his site-specific projects, including the upcoming 2017 Bates Dance Festival project "Mill Town." Free. 513-3004; 786-6381.
Author Visit. 6:30 p.m. Community Room, Auburn Public Library. Local realtor Brenda Fontaine discusses her new memoir "The Limitless Real Estate Leader." Copies avail. for purchase. 333-6640; www.auburnpubliclibrary.org.

Friday, January 27
Auburn Winter Festival. Running Friday eve. through Sunday, this annual event features fun outdoor and indoor activities for all ages at venues across the city. Most activities free. For complete listing, see www.auburnmaine.gov.
"Globalocal" Show. 7 p.m. Auditorium, Oxford Hills H.S., So. Paris. Cottage Street Creative Exchange presents a program featuring local Maine teen and adult dance groups. Free. Tix avail. at Books N Things in Norway. 743-5569.

Theater: Under the Skin. 7:30 p.m. Public Theatre, 31 Maple St., Lewiston. Raina's ailing father needs her kidney, but he's been a lousy dad, so is he "kidney worthy"? Again Jan. 28-29, Feb. 2-5 (Suns. at 2 p.m.). \$20 (\$5 ages 18-). 782-3200; www.thepublictheatre.org.

Saturday, January 28
Auburn Winter Festival. This annual event features fun outdoor and indoor activities for all ages at venues across the city. Most activities free. Cont. Sun. For complete listing, see www.auburnmaine.gov.

Cabin Fever Book Café. Noon to 3 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Community Church, 69 Winthrop

Calendar

See more Calendar at www.TwinCityTimes.com

St., Augusta. Hardcover \$1, paperbacks, children's books 50 cents; beverages, desserts avail. 622-3232.
Bunco Games. 2 to 4 p.m. Foss Mansion, 19 Elm St., Auburn. The Women's Literary Union hosts a social afternoon of this historic dice game; no experience required. Suggested donation \$10. Reserve by Jan. 27 at 713-5888.

Bean Supper. United Methodist Church, 439 Park Ave., Auburn. The Park Avenue Pickers play Gospel and Blue Grass at 4:15 p.m.; supper begins at 5:00. \$8/4 (free kids ages 5-). 782-3972.

Bean Supper. 4:30 to 6 p.m. Sixth St. Congregational Church, 109 Sixth St., Auburn. Two kinds of beans, red and brown hot dogs, coleslaw, American chop suey, assorted desserts and beverages. \$6/3 (kids 4- free). 782-7517.

Concert: David Mallet. 7:30 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Middle St., Brunswick. The acclaimed singer-songwriter performs works from his 14 albums. Pres. by UUCB Concerts for a Cause. \$25 (\$22 in adv.). 729-8515; <http://davidmallett.brownpapertickets.com>.
Concert: Papa Tim and the Desperate Mans Blues Explosion. 7:30 p.m. Curtis Room, Chocolate Church Arts Center annex, 804 Washington St. Bath. \$10 advance, \$12 at door. 442-8455; www.chocolatechurcharts.org.

Sunday, January 29
Auburn Winter Festival. This annual event features fun outdoor and indoor activities for all ages at venues across the city. Most activities free. For complete listing, see www.auburnmaine.gov.

"Jump Start your Journaling Practice." 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Harlow Gallery, 160 Water St., Hallowell. Artist Ingrid Ellison leads this hands-on workshop; no experience required. \$75 tuition, plus \$10 supplies. Adv. registration required.

622-3813; www.harlowgallery.org.

Beet Poets of Wayne, Maine. 12:30 p.m. First Universalist Church, 169 Pleasant St., Auburn.

This spoken word and music variety show features performances by David Moreau, Jay Franzel, Claire Hersom, Steve Cowperthwaite, and musical poet Stan "Big Cat" Davis. \$5. 783-0461; auburnuu.org.

St. Dominic Academy Winter Carnival. 2 to 4:30 p.m. on campus (121 Gracelawn Road), 4:40 to 6 p.m. at Norway Savings Bank Arena (985 Turner St.), both in Auburn. Indoor and outdoor family activities. All welcome. 782-6911; www.StDomsMaine.org.

Winter Gardening Workshop. 2 to 3:30 p.m. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, corner Pleasant, Union Sts., Brunswick. Jesse Watson of Midcoast Permaculture Design discusses "Permaculture"; pres. by Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust. \$5 suggested donation. 798-5899; www.bdl.org/gardening-workshops.

Concert: Larry Gowell. 2:15 p.m. Foss Mansion, 19 Elm St., Auburn. The Women's Literary Union hosts Gowell and guest singer Linne Perry for a cabaret-style performance of the standards. Suggested donation \$10. Buy tickets at 713-5888.

Tuesday, January 31
Volunteer Info Session. 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Washburn-Norlands Living History Center, 290 Norlands Rd., Livermore. Learn more about the many volunteer opportunities avail. at Norlands. Register by 1/26 at 897-4366 or norlands@norlands.org.

Thursday, February 2
Rotary Club Meeting. Noon to 1 p.m. Ramada Inn, Lewiston. The guest speaker is Trinity Jubilee Center Executive Director Erin Reed. Guests welcome, no reservation required. 753-9040; monica.millhime@maine.gov.

Global Migration Series. 6 p.m. Community Room, Auburn Public Library. This three-part series begins with Colby College Professor Catherine Besteman, who discusses her book "Making Refuge: Somali Bantu Refugees and Lewiston, Maine." Free. 333-6640.

Health Program. 6 to 7 p.m. Conf. Room ABC, lower level, medical office building, 12 High St., Lewiston. Orthopaedic surgeon Lauren Adey of Central Maine Orthopaedics discusses the causes, symptoms, and treatments of Carpal Tunnel Syndrome. Free. Register at 835-2860; amy.jose@spectrummg.com.

Theater: Under the Skin. 7:30 p.m. Public Theatre, 31 Maple St., Lewiston. Raina's ailing father needs her kidney, but he's been a lousy dad, so is he "kidney worthy"? Again Feb. 3-5 (Sun. 2 p.m.). \$20 (\$5 ages 18-). 782-3200; www.thepublictheatre.org.

Saturday, February 4
Sleigh Day. 12 to 3 p.m. Skyline Farm, 95 The Lane, No. Yarmouth. This annual event features sleigh rides (\$8/5 per person), vintage sleigh demonstrations and a museum exhibit. Concessions avail. 829-5708

Sunday, February 5
Table Tour. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Viles Arboretum, 153 Hospital St., Augusta. Snowshoe, ski or hike the Arboretum's groomed trails while sampling culinary delights from some of the area's finest restaurants. \$20/5 (toddlers free). Buy tix at 626-7989. www.vilesarboretum.org.

Monday, February 6
Global Migration Series. 6 p.m. Community Room, Auburn Public Library. This three-part series continues with a discussion of the book "City of Thorns: Nine Lives in the World's Largest Refugee Camp" by Ben Rawlence. Free. 333-6640.

Tuesday, February 7
Multi-Faith Roundtable Discussion. 12:30 p.m. Auburn Public Library. A panel of area clergy discuss various topics from the per-

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		Tue	6:50	
A Dog's Purpose (PG)		11:55	2:20	
			4:40	7:05..9:25
Gold (R)		1:00	4:00	6:55..9:45
Split (PG-13)		1:50	4:30	7:10..9:50
Patriots Day (R)		12:50	3:50	6:45..9:40
La La Land (PG-13)		12:40	3:40	6:35..9:25
		**no show Tue eve		
Hidden Figures (PG)		12:20	3:20	6:50* 9:35
Resident Evil: The Final Chapter (R)		1:20	7:20	
Resident Evil: The Final Chapter 3D (R)		4:20	9:55	
xXx: The Return Of Xander Cage (PG-13)		1:10	7:00	
xXx: The Return Of Xander Cage 3D (PG-13)		4:10	9:30	
Moana (Sing-Along) (PG)		12:30		
Rogue One: A Star Wars Story (PG-13)		3:30	6:40	9:35
Sing (PG)		11:45	4:45	7:15
Monster Trucks (PG)		2:15	9:45	

spectives of different faith traditions. Free. For topics, call 333-6640, ext. 4.

Intro to Self-Employment. 6 to 8 p.m. RSU 16 Adult Education, Elm St. School, Mechanic Falls. Learn about pros and cons of owning a business, steps needed to get started, the elements of a business plan, and resources avail. to help. Free. To register, call Karleen Andrews at 557-1885.

Thursday, February 9
Intro to Self-Employment. 10 a.m. to noon. Lewiston CareerCenter, 5 Mollison Way, Lewiston. Learn about pros and cons of owning a business, steps needed to get started, the elements of a business plan, and resources avail. to help. Free. To register, call Karleen Andrews at 557-1885.

Global Migration Series. 6 p.m. Community Room, Auburn Public Library. This three-part series concludes with a screening of the film "Hotel Rwanda," about of the genocide of members of the Tutsi tribe by members of the Hutu tribe in 1994. Free. 333-6640.

Friday, February 10
Food for Thought Luncheon. Noon. Room 170, Lewiston-Auburn College. Portland-based writer and educator Elizabeth Peavy and Maine Senior Col-

lege Network Program Director Anne Cardale present "We ZOOM - How About You?" \$7/8, incl. lunch. For adv. price, register by noon on 2/8 by calling 753-6510.

Celtic Music Series. 7:30 p.m. Chocolate Church Arts Center 804 Washington St., Bath. This winter concert series continues with Cape Breton Island guitarist Scott MacMillan, with fiddler Colin Grant. \$15. 442-8455; www.chocolatechurcharts.org.

Saturday, February 11
Poker Run Awards Dinner. 4 to 6 p.m. Reggie's Kawasaki Ski-Doo, 225 US Hwy 202, Leeds. Community Credit Union deals hands and makes awards for its annual Poker Run to support the Campaign for Ending Hunger. Poker hand and meal \$25/20; meal only \$5. For contest details, see www.communitycreditunion.com.

Sunday, February 12
Winter Gardening Workshop. 2 to 3:30 p.m. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, corner Pleasant, Union Sts., Brunswick. Eric Sideman, Crop Specialist, Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Assoc., discusses "Pest and Disease Control"; pres. by Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust. \$5 suggested donation. 798-5899; www.btl.org/gardening-workshops.

Survey Unmasks the Peculiar Behaviors of Pet Owners

(StatePoint) Do you share a playlist with your poodle? Take a bath with your turtle? It might seem far-fetched, but since many people treat pets like family, they often let them do surprising things.

A recent survey, commissioned by Moen, conducted online by Harris Poll, finds that, among other things, 43 percent of Americans who have ever owned a pet have let their pet lick their plate before washing them. From bathing with pets to letting them sit at

the dinner table, pet owners do peculiar things.

"Almost all of us have had at least one furry friend in our lifetime," says Andrea Maher, senior marketing communications specialist, Moen. "What's different about today's pets, however, is that we truly treat them like family. Sometimes, even better."

To make pets feel like someone is with them at all times, some people leave the TV on for them. And some do a bit more. Indeed, the average amount Americans

who have ever owned a pet spend on their pet per month is \$55, outside of medical expenses.

"We've heard from customers who have installed Pot Filler faucets to fill dog water bowls, those who've created pet bathing stations with our powerful handshowers, and even some who have bathtubs dedicated solely to washing pets," adds Maher. "It's no longer a 'man's world' these days. It's a 'pet's world,' and we're just living in it."

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March 28 Cabane A Pierre Quebec Sugar Shack in Frampton, Quebec lunch, tour, see how maple syrup is made, shopping. Trip includes bus all tips and meals. Must have passport or travel card \$84 pp. April 6-12th Washington D.C. Cherry Blossom trip includes 6 nights 4 consecutive nights in Washington D.C. 10 meals, guided tour of Washington including WWII Memorial, Capitol Hill, Vietnam Memorials, Smithsonian and more, evening guided memorial and monument tours, admission to George Washington's Mt. Vernon estate, \$75pp due upon signing. May 5-9th New York City and the Statue of Liberty, trip includes 4 nights lodging,

8 meals, guided tour also includes a ferry to Ellis and Liberty Island \$75pp deposit due upon signing. Sept 15-22nd America's Cowboy Country, trip includes 8 days, 11 meals. From Jacksonhole Wyoming to South Dakota, highlights grand te tons, Yellow Stone National Park, Deadwood, Crazy Horse Memorial, Mt. Rushmore, Badlands National Park and more. \$250 deposit due upon signing. Oct. 27-Nov6th 2017 New Orleans, trip includes 10 nights lodging, 18 meals, guided tour of Louisiana Plantation, river boat cruise on the Mississippi River, guided tour of New Orleans, visit to National WWII Museum and more, \$75 deposit due upon signing. For more info contact Claire 784-0302 or Cindy 345-9569

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What’s Going On

City, Community Concepts team to help finance local businesses

The City of Auburn and Community Concepts Finance Corp have finalized an agreement which will provide new financing options for Auburn-based businesses. The result is a new loan pool funded equally by CCFC and the City of Auburn that is earmarked for businesses based in the city, with a concentration of effort placed on TIF district #10, which extends from Union Street to the Androscoggin River and as far south as Academy Street.

This loan pool will compliment other lending programs offered by the city, including the Storefront Traffic Accelerates Revitalization program. “To grow our tax base, Auburn recognizes the need to have a thriving private sector,” said Auburn Mayor Jonathan Labonte. “One tool available to the city is the establishment of loan pools to provide access to capital along with our area banks. We are proud to partner with CCFC to manage

this economic development program, given their recognition as the Top Performing Microlender for the second year in a row by the U.S. Small Business Administration.” CCFC manages a number of other federal, state and locally funded loan pools used to assist businesses throughout Western Maine. “Some of these pools are geographically specific, some focus on types of industries, while others focus on job growth,” says Zakk



Zakk Maher (L.), Loan Officer at Community Concepts Finance Corp, with Auburn Mayor Jonathan LaBonte

Maher, Loan Officer for CCFC. “This fund simply provides another mechanism for us to better serve Auburn-based businesses.”

Qualifying businesses can request more information online at www.MaineBusinessLending.com.

the standard deduction amount must be subtracted from the annualized wage amount to determine the net wages before the tax rate schedules are applied. “As the first payrolls for 2017 are being processed and released, MRS has received dozens of calls inquiring why withholding has increased for 2017,” said David Heidrich, director of communications for DAFS. “In the majority of cases, the employer is not subtracting the standard deduction. As a result, some Maine families are incorrectly having additional income tax withheld from their paychecks.” Despite the change in the percentage method calculation from 2016 to 2017, the amount of withholding for low- and middle-income taxpayers on similar wage amounts is the same. MRS is reaching out to vendors and employers to confirm the correct withholding calculation is being used. The 2017 withholding schedules and the percentage method instructions can be found online. Click on “Employment taxes” at www.maine.gov/revenue/forms. Taxpayers who have noticed an unexpected increase in their State of Maine income tax withholding should contact their human resources office. Employers that have questions about the calculation should contact the MRS Withholding Tax Unit at 626-8475 (select option 1, then option 4).

MRS clarifies Income Tax withholding for 2017

Maine Revenue Services, a bureau of the Maine Department of Administrative and Financial Services, is clarifying the calculation of 2017 Maine income tax withholding for certain wage earners in response to questions it has received from the public. The amount of tax withheld, on similar wage amounts, should not increase from 2016 to 2017 for a single taxpayer earning \$70,000 or less or a

married taxpayer earning \$140,000 or less annually. Prior to 2017, the Maine standard deduction amount was included in the withholding tax rate schedules. Due to feedback received from taxpayers and software developers regarding the phase-out of this deduction, MRS adopted an approach to income tax withholding that is similar to methods employed by other states. When calculating income tax withholding for 2017,

Maine Revenue Services reminds filers about changes

Maine Revenue Services is now accepting paper or electronically filed 2016 Maine income tax returns. The filing deadline to submit 2016 Maine individual income tax returns is Tuesday, April 18. Tax filers should be aware of these significant changes that became effective for the 2016 tax year:

- Beginning on January 1, 2016, military retirement plan benefits, including survivor benefits, are exempt from Maine income tax.
- A refundable Sales Tax Fairness Credit is now available for Maine resi-

dents whose income does not exceed \$28,500 for single filers; \$38,250 for head of household filers; and \$48,000 for married filing jointly or qualifying widow(er) filers.

- Maine’s Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is now refundable to Maine residents. Previously, the Maine EITC could only be used to reduce an income tax liability to zero.
- The credit for educational opportunity, commonly referred to as the Opportunity Maine Tax Credit, has been expanded to extend the credit to certain graduates of non-Maine colleges and universities, to individuals obtaining a graduate degree from a Maine college or university after 2015, and to individuals serving on a vessel at sea. In addition, the credit is refundable for individuals earning an associate degree. See the Educational Opportunity Tax Credit Worksheet for details.

Additionally, the refundable Property Tax Fairness Credit continues to be available for Maine residents who owned or rented their principal residence during the year, and whose income did not

exceed \$26,667 for married filing separately filers; \$33,333 for single filers; and \$53,333 for head of household, married filing jointly, or qualifying widow(er) filers. The amount of credit received by a homeowner is based on any property tax amount that is more than 6 percent of an individual or family’s total income. For renters, the PTFC assumes 15 percent of an individual’s rent constitutes property tax, and their rent must consume more than 40 percent of their total income.

Maine Revenue Services also warns taxpayers, as the new tax season begins, to be wary of fraudsters who may target taxpayers by email, by phone, and on-line. If you believe you are a victim of identity theft or if you are an employer and you believe that a breach of personally identifiable information has occurred, contact MRS at (207) 626-8475 or fraudalert.mrs@maine.gov as soon as possible. Timely notification assists MRS in preventing fraud.

Maine income tax forms are available on the MRS website at www.maine.gov/revenue/forms.

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