

## Chamber holds Annual Meeting at Ramada



The Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce held their Annual Meeting at Ramada Conference Center in Lewiston on January 26. The Ray Geiger Award - Chamber Champion was presented to Peter Chalke by Dr. Rosemarie Sheline and Robin Robbins. See more photos on pages 7-10. (TCT photo by Nathan Tsukroff, PortraitEFX of Maine)

## Franco Center hosts Super Bowl Party



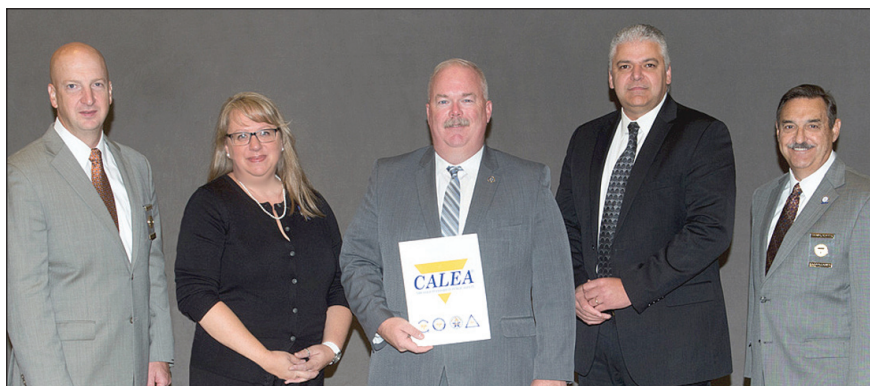
The game will be shown on a 10-foot-tall screen and Aaron's will lend sofas and easy chairs for the event.

The Dolard and Priscilla Gendron Franco Center will host its third annual Super Bowl Party on Sunday, February 5. All are welcome to come watch the Patriots take on the Falcons at this family-friendly event.

The doors, bar and café will open at 4:30 p.m. for "tailgate" munchies both before and during the game. There is no admission fee, but donations will be accepted.

See **Party**, page 2

## Auburn P.D. earns "Gold Standard" for excellence



Pictured here (l. to r.) are CALEA Executive Director Craig Hartley, Jr., APD Accreditation Manager Liz Allen, Deputy Chief Jason Moen, Chief Phil Crowell, and Newport News, VA Police Chief Richard Myers.

The Auburn Police Department has been awarded national re-accreditation "With Excellence," considered the highest level of quality and professionalism in law enforcement, as determined by a Gold Standard process administered by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.

In August 2016, a team of assessors from CALEA

examined all aspects of the APD's policies and procedures, management, operations and support services. While on-site to ensure the agency's compliance with 484 core standards, assessors also interviewed citizens, community partners, elected officials, and agency personnel. Residents provided comments and feedback to the assessors during public infor-

mation and call-in sessions.

The assessors submitted a comprehensive report to CALEA, which was reviewed by the Commission. During a hearing before the Commission in Charleston, South Carolina last November, the Auburn PD was required to defend the report and discuss future issues and challenges facing the agency.

See **APD**, page 3

## Bird Club plans February events

The Stanton Bird Club of Lewiston and Auburn will hold two field trips and its monthly meeting in February. All three events are free and open to the public. For more information, find them on Facebook or see [www.StantonBirdClub.org](http://www.StantonBirdClub.org).

The first field trip will



Moose sightings are part of the Allagash Waterway slide show that photojournalist Michael Perry will present at the club's meeting on Feb. 6. (Photo by Michael Perry)

be a Leader's Choice on Saturday, February 4. The group will meet at 8 a.m. in the Staples parking lot at 855 Lisbon Street in Lewiston for carpooling to the destination. Trip leader Dan Marquis will stay abreast of interesting

bird activity in the area as he decides on a destination. The trip will return to Lewiston at about noon. Call him with any questions at 513-8213.

If the trip goes to the coast, the group may see

See **Bird Club**, page 6

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# News-makers, Names & Faces

## Lewiston H.S. Class of '77 plans 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion

The date for the 40th Reunion of Lewiston High School's Class of 1977 has been set for September 8 through 10, 2017. The Reunion Committee is working on the details of what is sure to be a memorable weekend. Plans are being made for a mixer on Friday night, dinner and dancing on Saturday and perhaps even a farewell brunch on Sunday. A golf event is also being considered. The reunion committee invites all class members to visit the class website below to fill out a profile so they can be reached with the details: <http://classreport.org/usa/me/lewiston/lhs/1977/>

Reunion Announcements will be posted on the class website first and all communication regarding the reunion will be sent from the website. A current email address must be provided in order to receive details regarding the upcoming reunion. The website also lists over 100 classmates who are considered "missing,"

## Party

Continued from page 1

There will be a cash bar and the menu at the Clubhouse Café will include hot wings, burgers and hotdogs, nachos, pizza and fries. There will be fun activities for kids, a 50/50 drawing, and other raffle prizes donated by local businesses, including Baxter Brewing, Rainbow Bicycle, Dube's Flower-Gift Shop, Roopers, and Aaron's. The game will be shown on a 10-foot-tall screen.

meaning that the class does not have a phone number, mailing address or email address for them. If you know the whereabouts of or have contact information for any of these classmates, please email Susan Fales Daniels at [sdaniels50@gmail.com](mailto:sdaniels50@gmail.com).

This Class-Based Reunion Website is hosted by Classreport.org. For a refreshing change from the large commercial alumni directories, Classreport.org provides non-commercial class reunion websites for every graduating class of every high school and extends full access to all class members without regard to financial ability. There are no registration fees required to join in the fun and every class member has full participation privileges. Classreport.org has no advertising, pop-ups, or spam and pledges never to sell names and addresses to third parties and to let the website be administered exclusively by Lewiston High School Alumni.

Aaron's will lend sofas and easy chairs for the event and guests of all ages are encouraged to get comfortable by bringing a favorite chair (beanbag, folding, or camp) and/or blankets. Some guests are planning to wear Patriots Pajamas and other favorite wardrobe items. Bringing along décor and memorabilia items is also encouraged.

For more information, visit the Box Office, call 783-1585 or see visit [www.francocenter.org](http://www.francocenter.org).

## League of Women Voters member to address Rotary Club

The next meeting of the Lewiston-Auburn Rotary Club on Thursday, February 9, from noon to 1 p.m. at the Ramada Inn of Lewiston will feature guest speaker Regina Coppens of the League of Women Voters of Maine. The public is invited to attend and no reservation is required. Lunch will be available in the Ramada's Fusion Restaurant for \$10.

Coppens, who lives in Belgrade, serves on the board of the LWVME Education Fund and is a member of the League's all-volunteer Lobby Corp and Voter Services Committee. The League of Women Voters of Maine is a nonpartisan political organization committed to promoting the informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League's Lobby Corp is active in the Maine Legislature, monitoring and testifying on bills that impact voter rights, voter participation, and elections. The Voter Services Committee publishes the "Voting in Maine" voter guides and the annual, non-partisan "Easy-to-Read



Regina Coppens serves on the board of the LWVME Education Fund and is a member the League's all-volunteer Lobby Corp and Voter Services Committee.

Voter Guide," which features information about candidates and ballot questions. The committee also participates in voter registration drives around the state, including Naturalization Ceremonies for new U.S. citizens. Last November, the LWVME was a lead endorser of Question 5, the citizen initiative to enact Ranked Choice Voting in Maine.

For more information on the program, contact Program Chair and President-Elect Monica Millhime at 753-9040 or [monica.millhime@maine.gov](mailto:monica.millhime@maine.gov).

## Take-Out Bean Supper supports Project Hope

The next Holy Cross Knights of Columbus "Take-Out Bean Supper" on Saturday, February 4, from 3 to 5:30 p.m. will support "Project Hope," which was founded in 1998 by Fr. Marc Boisvert of Lewiston to "Free the Kids" of Haiti from poverty, hunger, and homelessness. The people of Haiti are still struggling from the devastation caused

by Hurricane Matthew of last October.

Prices range from \$3 for a pint of beans to \$10 for "The Works" with a quart of beans. Order ahead on the day of the event by calling 212-5163 or just stop in.

There will be a 50/50 raffle and donations are welcomed. Holy Cross church hall is located at 1080 Lisbon Street in Lewiston.

## Central Maine Healthcare hires new CFO

David C. Thompson has joined Central Maine Healthcare as the system's new Chief Financial Officer. Thompson comes to CMH from Centura Health in Englewood, CO, where he's served as Chief Financial Officer since 2003. During his tenure at Centura, he also worked alongside Jeff Brickman, CMH's new President and Chief Executive Officer.

"Central Maine Healthcare has a long history of providing top-quality care for residents of Central and Western Maine," said Thompson of his new role. "With the ongoing changes to healthcare in the United States, systems such as CMH face many challenges and opportunities. I'm looking forward to working again with Jeff to ensure that CMH's finances and operations are ready to



David C. Thompson

move the system forward."

Prior to Centura Health, Thompson worked in various finance leadership roles with Tenet Healthcare in Texas. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX.

Thompson replaces Phil Morissette, who will now serve as CMH's Vice President of Finance and Controller.

## Colisee manager addresses Optimist Club



Past President Shane Wright (l.) of the Lewiston-Auburn Optimist Club presents guest speaker Jim Mercier, Box Office Manager of the Androscoggin Bank Colisee, with a copy of the Optimist Creed at the club's monthly meeting, held at Chopsticks Restaurant in Lewiston. Mercier updated the club on the many events happening at the Colisee, including the successful youth hockey and figure skating programs and the L/A Fighting Spirit. For more information about the Colisee and its programs, see [www.thecolisee.com](http://www.thecolisee.com).

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# Governor's Address: Marijuana bill reveals politics at its worst

While politicians were scrambling to pass a moratorium on marijuana legalization, their credibility went up in smoke.

Dear Maine Taxpayer,

As usual, politicians in Augusta waited until the last minute to pass legislation on a very important issue. They approved a bill allowing Mainers to possess and grow marijuana, but they put a moratorium on buying and selling it until rules are developed to regulate retail sales.

The original legislation directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to implement the regulations and enforcement of recreational marijuana. But ACF does not have the manpower or expertise to create and enforce these regulations. It would cost several million dollars for ACF to do this.

We have been saying since November that oversight should be transferred from ACF to the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations (BABLO). BABLO already has the expertise to create the rules and manage licensing and enforcement. It would cost \$1.5 million for BABLO to do this.

Both Republicans and Democrats agreed this was the right thing to do. So we proposed amendments to



Governor Paul R. LePage

make it happen. Then politics-as-usual kicked in.

Democratic Speaker of the House Sara Gideon convinced Democrats to kill the amendments. Then she turned around and put the

exact same language in a bill she sponsored.

This is why the average person is turned off to politics. Although they were presented with the right thing to do, political leaders from both sides of the aisle jumped in to derail it. Rather than simply agree to the common-sense amendments being proposed, they defeated the proposal so they can take credit for themselves. We should not care who gets credit for good policy, we should simply do our job for the people.

I signed their bill to enact a moratorium because the original legislation was flawed and may have allowed children to smoke marijuana.

Politicians now say they will approve a bill to move rulemaking to BABLO and allocate money for it. I'm not holding my breath on this, though. I'm still waiting for action on plans for a mental health forensic unit Speaker Gideon promised we would have by Christmas.

They have broken their promises in the past. So I signed an Executive Order on Monday directing rule-making authority to the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations. The Executive Order also stipulates that no employee or department of the Executive Branch may spend any money to implement the legalization of marijuana until the Leg-

islature allocates adequate funding for that purpose.

The legalization of marijuana is a major issue for our state. We must ensure the appropriate agency creates the rules to regulate it and has the expertise and the ability to enforce it. Sadly, this all could have been done last week.

Politicians in Augusta must stop putting their self-serving interests over the good of the people. Meanwhile, as they continue to play politics, our administration will focus on good policy that is best for Maine people.

*Thank You,*  
*Paul R. LePage*  
*Governor*

## APD

*Continued from page 1*

The APD received the "With Excellence" designation by unanimous vote when the agency was recommended through a motion on the floor during the hearing. This added distinction allows the APD to be further recognized for the effective use of accreditation as a model for the delivery of enhanced public safety services and management professionalism.

"Only 5% of municipal law enforcement agencies in the United States are fully accredited, and far fewer have received the 'With Excellence' designation under the Gold Standard process of review," said APD Accreditation Manager Liz Allen. "We received our first full accreditation in 2007, and it has been part of our culture ever since; it is just how we do business."

Auburn is one of only a handful of law enforcement agencies in Maine to receive national accreditation. In 2013, APD became the first agency in Maine to achieve the Gold Standard level of accreditation. Assessors will reevaluate the Auburn PD in August of 2020.

"Credit for this accomplishment goes to the men and women of the Department," said Deputy Chief Jason Moen. "They are the best of the best, and they deliver

exceptional services to our residents, businesses, and visitors. I am proud to help oversee a Police Department that is in-line with the best practices of law enforcement in the country."

During an Auburn City Council Meeting held on Monday, January 23, Karen Shepard, Assessment Manager for CALEA, presented Chief Phil Crowell and his staff with their official certificate of "Gold Standard Accreditation, With Excellence."

"I am so proud of my team," said Chief Crowell. "Each of them worked tirelessly to earn the highest recognition of law enforcement professional excellence. That is really something to be proud of." The APD's assessment report is available on the agency's website at [www.auburnpd.com](http://www.auburnpd.com).

## Chocolate Church Art Show opens Feb. 9



"Eagle Lake Carriage Road," by Chris Gray

The Chocolate Church Arts Center will debut its 2017 Membership Art Show on Thursday, February 9, with a reception from 4:30 to 6 p.m. The art gallery is in the annex building located on 804 Washington Street in Bath.

As a community arts center, the Chocolate Church maintains a full art gallery along with its performance venues. The membership show is an opportunity to showcase the creative work of dozens of local artists. Known for its diversity,

this annual event features a rare combination of works

by established artists who regularly display in galleries along with works by lesser-known artists who may be exhibiting for the first time. Guests will view works in a diverse collection of media, including photography, sculpture, textiles, and paintings in pastel, oil, and acrylic.

The CCAC Membership Arts Show may be viewed through April 4 during gallery hours, which are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from noon to 4 p.m. and Thursdays from noon to 6 p.m. For more information call 442-8455 or see [www.chocolatechurcharts.org](http://www.chocolatechurcharts.org).

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**Laurie A. Steele**  
Publisher/CEO  
[Laurie@TwinCityTimes.com](mailto:Laurie@TwinCityTimes.com)




**Ashley Bailey**  
Office Manager  
[Ashley@TwinCityTimes.com](mailto:Ashley@TwinCityTimes.com)



**Steve Bouchard**  
Copy Editor  
[Editor@TwinCityTimes.com](mailto:Editor@TwinCityTimes.com)



**Laurie A. Hiscock**  
Ad Designer  
[Ads@TwinCityTimes.com](mailto:Ads@TwinCityTimes.com)



**Katrina Ray-Saulis**  
Proofreader  
[Info@TwinCityTimes.com](mailto:Info@TwinCityTimes.com)

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Only Steps Forward

Commission charged with merging L-A still has a lot work to do

By Jonathan P. LaBonte  
MAYOR OF AUBURN

Last week, a meeting was held by the charter commission, which was established to propose a merger of Auburn and Lewiston. The primary focus of the meeting was to deliver a report on operational savings the commission projects might be possible and to explain how a new city, created out of Auburn and Lewiston, would function. While there will be plenty of time to get into

each detail of what problem a proposed merger may be attempting to solve and the pros and cons of how the commission proposed doing that, it might be valuable to highlight what the law states must be put forward by a merger commission. Keep in mind, the merger commission has been meeting for about two-and-a-half years to work on these items. First, the names of the municipalities. This is pretty straight forward.



Mayor Jonathan P. LaBonte

Second, the name under which it is proposed to consolidate. As of last Wednesday,

there was still not a proposed name for a merged Auburn and Lewiston. Given the politics of a name, it's understandable that there's hesitancy to put one forward. We will see. Third, the property, real and personal, belonging to each municipality, and its fair value. A summary report was issued in June of 2016 that showed the value of assets owned by both cities as of June, 2015. The state statute seems pretty clear that a full

list will be required, not a summary. It will be interesting to see the full documentation at some point, as this will help us to understand the state of repair of those assets and potential hidden and on-going costs that would be extended to the other city's taxpayers under a merger. Fourth, the indebtedness, bonded and otherwise, of each municipality needs to be outlined. It's unclear what state statute intends to have documented by stating "and otherwise," but the existing debt of each city is outlined in the June 2016 report. Lewiston current has about \$135.7 million and Auburn owes about \$68.8 million. The debt outstanding does raise questions about the state of repair for the roads, water and sewer lines in both cities, and that should be understood going in to any vote. Fifth, the commission was to propose a name and location of the municipal office. From my review of documents, along with not proposing a name, this has not been done either. Will city hall be on the east or west side of the river and what will the rationale be for doing so? One might predict the commission would propose two municipal offices, to avoid the political fallout of one over the other. But if the intent of their work is to create one city and streamline it, state law is specific in calling for "the" singular municipal office. Sixth, the merger commission has to put forward a proposed charter. This is the document that will determine what happens after any vote. The proposed charter continues with the practice of having a hired administrator to run the city, except that administrator would now

have a city council of 11 attempting to manage his or her work, rather than the seven councilors in each city that do that currently. The combined city would have five wards, as Auburn does now. Rather than Auburn ward councilors representing about 5,000 residents each, that number would rise to 12,000 citizens per councilor. The seventh item is the terms for apportioning tax rates to service the existing bonded indebtedness of the respective municipalities. The merger commission recommended each city would retire the debt it had already taken on. Once the merger is complete, all new debt would be paid by all residents. It will be important to understand any obligations either city has that could force substantial new debt early in the merger. And last, but not least, the merger commission can offer, as state law says, any other necessary and proper facts and terms. It appears this broad language is the basis for the dozens of workgroups assembled over the last year to suggest how the combined cities would save money or change how they provide services. The merger commission has a website with some of the documents they have created to date. You can find that at <http://newlacharter.ning.com/>. If you use Facebook, there are two groups where debate on this topic has played out; "Lewiston Rocks" and "Civility & Respect in Auburn Politics." I encourage you to read up on this topic and join the debate. As my review of these documents as mayor continues, I will share with you what I believe the impacts are for not only our taxpayers, but the broader region.

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# Enough is Enough

## Local taxpayer funding for asylum seekers continues to increase

By Robert E. Macdonald  
MAYOR OF LEWISTON

Nightly, I find myself thanking God for a combat role in Vietnam, sparing me combat service in the Pacific during World War II or Korea.

In my capacity as Lewiston's mayor, had I served in either of the aforementioned combat theaters, I would probably be locked up at the Veteran's Hospital at Togus confined to the Crisis Unit and clad in red pajamas, experiencing flashbacks of hordes of Japanese and Chinese/Korean soldiers, blowing bugles trying to overrun my position.

This is what it is like daily at Lewiston City Hall

with asylum seekers overrunning the second floor General Assistance Office. They are seeking relief on the backs of Lewiston residents, also referred to as property taxpayers.

Two weeks ago, an SUV on Park Street pulled into our clearly marked city administrator's parking space. I went to the van, knocked on the window and informed the driver he would have to move. Before pulling out, seven or eight passengers got out of the van and headed for the welfare office in City Hall.

Contacting Lewiston Welfare Director Sue Charon, she reported they had been receiving an average of 30 asylum seekers a month.



Mayor Bob Macdonald

She then told me that in February, she was expecting an additional 60 asylum seekers to be processed.

The following day I called and spoke with Governor Paul R. LePage, advis-

ing him of the fiscal strain being placed on Lewiston's taxpayers by non-citizens flocking to our city. Possible solutions were discussed and would be addressed at later date.

The following Friday, I met with the Governor at a local coffee shop to discuss Lewiston's situation. In his biennial budget, the Governor has a proposal to reverse legislation passed by the previous Legislature, which is the cause of the current predicament that Lewiston finds itself in.

Last Session, Senator Eric Brakey introduced a bill at the behest of Lewiston to prohibit taxpayer funding going towards the support of non-citizens. But Senator Amy Volk of Scarborough gutted and rewrote our bill in order to meet federal requirements, which would allow the State of Maine to provide monetary help to asylum seekers.

Prior to the passing of Volk's bill, Governor LePage had refused to reimburse any city or town that had given General Assistance money to these non-citizens, stating it was a clear violation of federal law. And it was! Like the emperor's new clothes,

the law stood there in plain sight for all to see.

Yet, nothing came down from the Attorney General's Office backing up the Governor's position. Suddenly every community activist group threatened to sue Lewiston if it did not provide help for these non-citizens. With no guidance coming from the Attorney General's Office and the threats of costly lawsuits hanging over our heads, the Lewiston City Council weighed their fiduciary responsibility and correctly adopted a wait-and-see attitude.

When the Governor won the lawsuit, city council talk turned to ceasing the funding. But our progressive legislators put a stop to what they considered an inhumane action by passing a state law forcing Maine taxpayers to continue helping these non-citizens.

It is time for our state legislators to focus on the business needed to run Maine. Our Legislature is not an extension of the United Nations. Too many Maine citizens lack the basic necessities afforded to our non-citizen population. It's well past time voters start holding our Legislators responsible for their action/inaction.

Here are the welfare numbers for 2016 and the first half of 2017:

In 2016, immigrants were 60 percent of all traffic in the General Assistance office. Fifty-four percent of this 60 percent were asylum seekers. Our total expenditures for the last fiscal year were \$777,779.

Of that number, 55 percent or \$422,401 went to all immigrants. Fifty-two percent of the 55 percent totaling \$399,959 went to asylum seekers.

The following figures represent the first six months of Fiscal Year 2017:

Thus far, 73 percent of all GA office traffic represents immigrants. When those seeking welfare were vetted, the total number of immigrants served thus far is 62 percent of our total welfare clients.

Of this 62 percent, 58 percent are asylum seekers. The total paid to all immigrants thus far is \$267,714. Of this, \$260,370 was doled out to asylum seekers.

Thus, this week there is no good news for taxpayers, but our non-citizen asylum seekers have literally found Lewiston to be the Land of Plenty.

### AHCH offers Volunteer Training in February

Androscoggin Home Care & Hospice is seeking volunteers who can commit at least two hours per week for the next year to help with a variety of important tasks that impact the quality of life for its patients and support the agency's work.

Volunteer duties include transporting patients to medical appointments,

picking up medications or groceries, assisting with meal preparation at the Hospice House, welcoming visitors to the Hospice House, making phone calls to home care patients, and assorted office tasks such as filing, word processing and data entry. Volunteer opportunities are available across the agency's service area, which includes

all of Androscoggin, Franklin and Oxford Counties, Northern Cumberland County, and parts of Kennebec, Sagadahoc and Somerset Counties.

"We hear every day about the difference that volunteers make in the lives of our patients, their families and our staff, but we also hear about the positive impact this work has on those who choose to volunteer for our agency," said Kristen McEvoy, Manager of Volunteer Resources. "We are fortunate to have many skilled and dedicated volunteers, but we are always in need of more volunteers to keep pace with the growing demands."

AHCH provides training, a background check and TB testing at no cost to volunteers. In addition, mileage reimbursement is available for some services. If interested in any of the above-mentioned tasks, call 795-9580 or 1-800-482-7412, ext. 1280, to schedule a brief phone conversation to discuss your interests no later than February 16. If it looks like the opportunity is a good fit, you will be invited to attend volunteer training later in the month.


### Rotary Breakfast Club spotlights Children's Advocacy Center

The next meeting of the Auburn-Lewiston Rotary Breakfast Club will take place on Wednesday, February 8 at 7 a.m. at the United Methodist Church, 439 Park Avenue in Auburn. The guest speaker will be Kat Perry, Program Manager of the Children's Advocacy Center of Androscoggin, Franklin and Oxford Counties, which is a program of Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Services. For more details about the program, contact Jeffrey "Pete" Preble at 751-6281.

A resident of Androscoggin County for over 20 years, Kat Perry has committed the last 25 years of her professional life to supporting vic-

tims of violence in various capacities. Part of the initial multi-disciplinary team that spearheaded the Children's Advocacy Center movement in the State of Maine in 2004, she has since worked tirelessly to ensure that this collaborative effort with community partner organizations strives for quality assurance and best practices when responding to cases of child abuse in our communities.

In the past year, Perry has recruited over 70 volunteers and raised over \$53,000 in donations in support of a free-standing new child-centered space where young victims of violence can come to tell their stories and begin their journey of healing.



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# What's Going On

## “Becoming American” tonight at Franco Center

The African American quest for citizenship, equality and justice will be the focus of a University of Southern Maine event on Thursday, February 2 at the Franco Center in Lewiston. The production, comprised of historical reflections, poetry and singing, is called “Becoming American: W.E.B. Du Bois and the Meaning of Race and Citizenship in the Jim Crow Era.” Free and open to the public, the event will begin with a

reception at 5 p.m., followed by the program at 6:00. Joyce Gibson, dean of USM’s Lewiston-Auburn College, will provide an introduction and talk about her personal experiences living in Mississippi during the Jim Crow Era. Leroy Rowe, an assistant professor of African American History and Politics at USM, will follow with a discussion of the African American struggle for inclusion into American democratic society,

from Reconstruction through to the Civil Rights era. Interspersed with the discussions will be poetry readings from USM students and performances by the USM Chamber Singers. Songs and readings will reference the work of legendary historian and author W.E.B. Du Bois, with a special focus on his 1903 book, “The Souls of Black Folk.” The Franco Center is located at 46 Cedar Street in Lewiston.

## Bird Club

*Continued from page 1*  
such birds as the Common Eider, Bufflehead, Black Guillemot, and a variety of gulls. If it goes to a woodland site, birds seen could include the Evening Grosbeak, the Pine Grosbeak, and even the Snowy Owl, which has been sighted in the Brunswick area recently. It is not unusual to see more than thirty different species on a club field trip. The second field trip will be Winter Tracking at Woodbury Nature Sanctuary in Monmouth on Saturday, February 18 from 8 to 11 a.m. The group will meet at the Staples parking lot in Lewiston for carpooling to Woodbury, where it will walk the trails to discover tracks left by resident animals. This is a good opportunity for a winter hike in a beautiful set-

ting. Dress warmly and bring snowshoes or winter boots. The trip leader, Steve Reed, can be reached at 319-6630. The club’s February meeting will be on Monday, February 6 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 285 at USM’s Lewiston-Auburn campus, 55 Westminster Street in Lewiston. Guest speaker Michael Perry, photojournalist and founder-director of Dreams Unlimited, will present “Summer on a River: Maine’s Allagash Wilderness Waterway.” A graduate of Bowdoin College, Perry founded and managed the L.L. Bean Outdoor Discovery Program, which offers instruction in outdoor sports for L.L. Bean customers. An experienced and accomplished outdoorsman, he has climbed Mount McKinley (now called Mt. Denali) and paddled his sea kayak from Maine to New York City. His

latest venture, Dreams Unlimited, specializes in multimedia programs about the outdoors. His presentation will offer a vicarious approach to experiencing the run of the river. This slide show journey along the Allagash will begin in the shadow of Mt. Katahdin and end at Allagash Village, at the junction with the St. John River. Along the way, travelers will pass an abandoned locomotive, steamboat, log haulers, and lumbering operation, all signs of a bygone era. Also highlighted will be the Allagash Falls as they thunder over a series of drops, churning and twisting through a narrow cut in the bedrock. With sightings of beautiful summer sunsets, brilliant wildflowers and majestic moose, the event will remind viewers that our current Maine winter will not last forever.

## Out & About with Rachel Morin A Bean Supper at Auburn Methodist Church

**Story and photos by Rachel Morin**  
I heard the Auburn Methodist Church was having its first Bean Supper of the New Year on Saturday, January 28. I knew how famous they are for the bountiful spread they serve and the huge crowd that arrives early. I arrived early myself and was not disappointed to see family members and many friends already seated and enjoying the rousing tunes coming from the Park Avenue Pickers.

The band continued playing, song after song, with great enthusiasm, for most of the evening. Included in their large repertoire were favorites, “You Are My Sunshine,” “She’ll Be Coming ‘Round the Mountain,” “This Land is My Land,” “When the Saints Come Marching In” and an original song written by band member George Mathews, “Jesus Blues.”

Soon the buffet was ready. Each table, in rotation, was invited to the buffet line to serve themselves from a variety of baked beans, breads, and a selection of other dishes—pasta and meatballs, chop suey, cheesy vegetables, mashed potatoes, coleslaw, hot dogs and to top it off, a large selection of homemade pies prepared by the pie baking women of the church.

Servers brought beverages to the table and checked if anything was needed. Patrons enjoyed the meal, exchanging news of the day and family activities and were looking forward to the next bean supper.



Nancy and Tim Lander cut large slices of pies and laid them out for people to select from the variety of pies home baked by the women of the church.



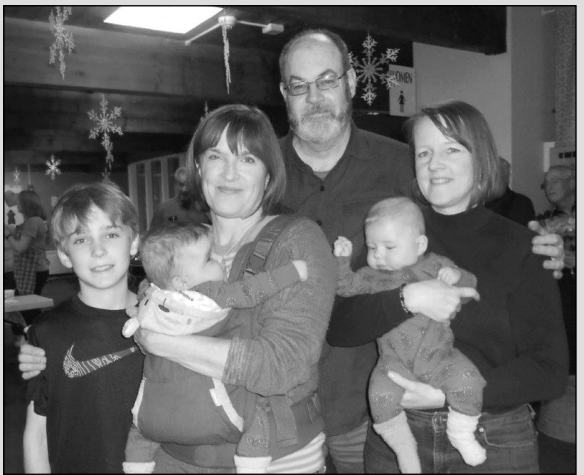
The Daigle Family came early and little Lyon Daigle brought his favorite coloring book and crayons to work on before the meal started. L to R, Anita Daigle, Lyon Daigle, John Daigle and Ellen Jankowski.



Park Avenue Pickers Jodey Goding, front; L to r, in back, Larry Daigle, Scott Kenison, Conrad Begin, George Mathews and Gordon Sweet.



Robert and Allison Franklin, Cindy and Mason Brousseau, Jan Wilkinson and Nancy Wilkins are ready to serve beverages to the crowd.



Carol Despres, center, is holding her twin daughter, Kate Spady, with son Lucas Despres, left; friends, Ed Fournier and Kristin Fournier, who is holding twin Lauren Spady. They were swaying to the Park Avenue Pickers and paused briefly for the photo.

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# Chamber Awards Night



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Betsy Libby, Cyndi Robbins, Robin Robbins



Ken Additon – Small Business Advocacy ~ Michael Dostie: Mike Dostie,  
Jen Hogan, Robin Robbins

(TCT photos by  
Nathan Tsukroff,  
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Dr. Rosemarie and Carl Sheline



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# Chamber Awards Night



*Business Leadership Award ~ Geiger: Jeff Geiger, Gene Geiger, Nicole Lajoie, Peter Geiger, Robin Robbins*

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# Chamber Awards Night

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Joleen Bedard, Betsy Libby and Heather Printup



Lauryn Hottinger and Jeff Geiger

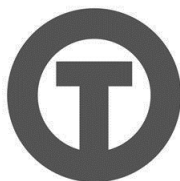


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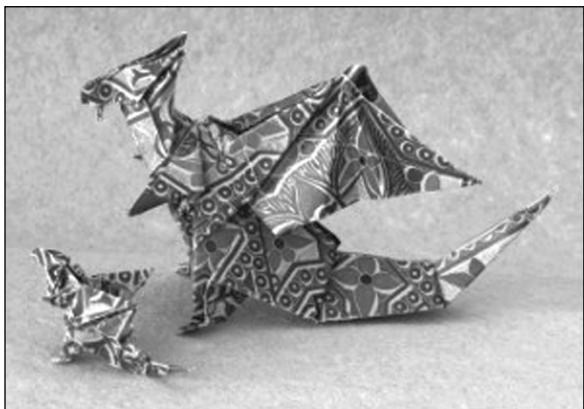
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# TWIN CITY NIGHTS

## Weekly Arts & Entertainment

### APL hosts "Origami by Children"



The traveling exhibit is on display in the library's Children's Department through March 15.

Auburn Public Library is currently hosting a traveling exhibit of outstanding works of origami created by children from around the world. Called "Origami by Children," the exhibit is

sponsored by OrigamiUSA and may be viewed in the library's Children's Department through March 15.

Each year, Origami USA invites children to submit their best folded models.

Experience is not necessary and every child is welcome to participate. Most models are made from directions in origami books available in libraries, bookstores, and online, but original creations are especially encouraged. The finest submissions are then selected for the Origami by Children exhibit, which travels to the communities of the various participants, where it is displayed in local schools and libraries. Since 1978, the exhibit has provided inspiration for children of all ages to explore their own creative potential and to enjoy the creativity of other children. For more information, call the library at 333-6640, ext. 3.

### Tricky Britches plays Village Coffeehouse

The Village Coffeehouse of New Gloucester will present a performance by Tricky Britches on Saturday, February 4 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 at the door.

Raised in Maine and cured on street corners and next to woodstoves, string band Tricky Britches plays a unique combination of country, contra-dance, bluegrass, and rock. Comprised of band members Jed Bresette (guitar, bass, vocals), Seth Doyle (mandolin, guitar, harmonica, vocals), Tyler Lienhardt (fiddle, washboard, vocals), and Richard Bicknell (five-string banjo), the group formed in 2009 when these four friends in Portland, Maine took their fiddle tunes



String band Tricky Britches plays a unique combination of country, contra-dance, bluegrass, and rock.

and country songs on the road across the U.S. They've played festivals and concerts across the U.S., Europe, and Hawaii, have been shaped by

those places, and use those experiences to inspire their original music. But at the end of the day, their favorite show See **Coffeehouse**, page 15

### Community Players schedule auditions for "Oklahoma!"

The Monmouth Community Players will hold open auditions for Rodger's and Hammerstein's "Oklahoma!" on Sunday, February 5 and Monday, February 6 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the historic Cumston Hall in downtown Monmouth. The plot of this classic musical revolves around the question of who will take Laurey Williams to the box social - the decent Curly McLain or the sinister Jud Fry. "Oklahoma!" also provides a depiction of pioneering men and women of the American Southwest.

The auditions are open to all ages from high school students through mature adults. Performers should enjoy acting, singing and dancing. The theater group also welcomes residents who enjoy helping behind the scenes. Rehearsals will take place Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. and Sundays from 2 to 5 p.m. Directed by Josie French of Lewiston and produced by Cindy Dunham of Winthrop, the production will run April 21 through 30.

Those auditioning should prepare approximately 16 bars to perform with accompaniment. Songs from outside the show are acceptable as long as sheet music is provided for the accompanist. There will also be script readings at auditions, with possible choreography. Please wear comfortable clothes. If you cannot make either audition, make alternate arrangements by contacting the director at storytwist@yahoo.com.

"Oklahoma!" will run at Cumston Hall in 7:30 p.m. performances on April 21, 22, 28, and 29 and 2 p.m. matinee performances on April 23 and 30. Tickets are \$14 for General Admission and \$12

for students and seniors. For more information about the production or the auditions, including a complete list of the characters, call (800) 838-3006 or see [www.monmouth-communityplayers.org](http://www.monmouth-communityplayers.org).

### Student creativity shines in Bates College Arts Crawl



Every winter, in a lively smorgasbord of creativity and skill, the Bates College Arts Crawl showcases student achievement in the visual, literary and performing arts. This year's free event takes place Friday, February 3 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in the college's Chase Hall at 56 Campus Avenue; from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in Olin Arts Center at 75 Russell Street; and at 5 p.m. in Commons Fireplace Lounge at 136 Central Avenue, where there will be a cappella singing. For more information, call 786-8294. (Photo by Phyllis Graber Jensen/Bates College)

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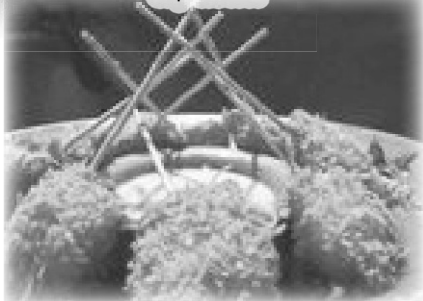
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# Twin City Nights

## Public Supper & Music Jam

The Litchfield Sportsmen's Club will host its monthly Public Supper & Music Jam on Saturday, February 4. The meal will be baked beans, hot dogs, casseroles, all the fixin's and desserts. Doors will open at 4:30 p.m., dinner will be served from 5 to 6 p.m. and the music jam will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. Admission is \$7 per person. Located on the Hallowell Road in Litchfield, the club has plenty of free parking and is wheelchair accessible. For more information, call Tom at 268-9271 or Mike at 331-4719.

## Country Sunday

Country Fest Maine will present its next Country Sunday on February 5 from noon to 4:30 p.m. at the Litchfield Sportsmen's Club. The event will feature an afternoon of dancing to live country music provided by The Friends Band, Jim Sutter, Cameron Thayer, Burt Truman, Barry Wood, and others. Concessions will be available and there will be door prizes and a 50/50 drawing.

## "An Evening with the Aters" at Chocolate Church



Comedian Johnny Ater has been making audiences laugh since 2003.

The Chocolate Church Arts Center will showcase the talents of father and son performers John and Max Ater with "An Evening of Comedy and Music with the Aters" on Saturday, February 4 at 7:30 p.m.

Opening the show will Admission is \$5; children under 12 will enter for free. Doors will open at 11 a.m. Located on the Hallowell Road in Litchfield, the club is wheelchair accessible and has plenty of free parking. For more information, call 536-9647.



Pop and Soul sensation Max Ater is a past winner of Maine's Got Talent!

be up-and-coming Pop and Soul sensation Max Ater. Combining lyrics expressing deep truths with a soulful voice and contemporary sound to create songs that resonate with audiences, the 23-year-old singer-songwriter is best known as a past winner of the Maine's Got Talent! competition. Featuring a fresh new take on his music, his new five-track EP "Little Victories" will be released in June.

The fun will continue with a comedy set by Johnny Ater, who as one of Maine's favorite standup comics has

## Poet reads at Bates College tonight

Poet Erica Dawson, author of the collections "The Small Blades Hurt" and "Big-Eyed Afraid," will read from and discuss her work in a Bates College Literary Arts Live event on Thursday, February 2 at 7:30 p.m. in the college's Skelton Lounge, located in Chase Hall at 56 Campus Avenue.

The program is free and open to the public, and a book sale and signing will follow. Of her work, Slate magazine has said "[Dawson] generates great energy by pulling at the impossible and sometimes pleasurable



Erica Dawson will read from her work on Thursday, February 2 at 7:30 p.m. in the college's Skelton Lounge.

tangles of what is constant in us, and what is disposable in the world." For more information, call 753-6963 or email lwardwel@bates.edu.

## Harlow Gallery offers block printing workshop

In February and March, Harlow Gallery will present a two-part printmaking workshop called "Fast, Cheap and Easy: An Unorthodox Block Printing Primer." Split into two sessions of four weeks each, the workshop, lead by printmaker Scott Minzy, will take place on Tuesdays from



been making audiences laugh since 2003. It's no wonder he's in demand to perform across Maine and New England: among Maine's funniest professional comedians, Ater entertains audiences with light-hearted observations about himself and his fellow Mainers. He may remind you of your goofy brother, dorky Dad, or silly Grandpa, but by the end of the show, he'll feel like your funny best friend.

Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$18 at the door. They may be purchased by calling 442-8455 or at www.chocolatechurcharts.org. The Chocolate Church Arts Center is located at 804 Washington Street in Bath.

7 to 9 p.m. at Harlow Gallery, located at 160 Water Street in Hallowell.

The first four-week session will take place February 7, 14, 21, and 28, and the second four-week session will take place March 7, 14, 21, and 28. Tuition for each four-week session is \$50 for KVAA-Harlow Gallery members or \$60 for non-members (paid to Harlow Gallery), plus a \$25 supplies fee (paid directly to the instructor on the day of the event). Participants are welcome to sign up for one or both sessions.

The workshop will instill a technique for creating bold and striking prints in a format

suitable for all levels of experience. Participants will explore design principles of relief images, carving techniques, inking, and printing while working with blocks of various materials, including foam, rubber, wood and linoleum. Most importantly, the class will teach participants how to print at home without a press, using easily printed blocks that make great postcards, propaganda posters, subversive illustrations and, of course, fine art prints.

For more information about the workshop or to register, contact: Marketing Manager Allison McKeen at 622-2813 or kvaa@harlow-gallery.org.

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Thursday, February 2

Rotary Club Lunch 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.

Becoming American. 6 p.m. Franco Center, 46 Cedar St., Lewiston. This USM program celebrates the work of W.E.B. Du Bois and the African American quest for equality through discussion, poetry and song. A reception precedes at 5:00. Free.

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.

Author Visit. 7:30 p.m. Skelton Lounge, Chase Hall, 56 Campus Ave., Bates College campus, Lewiston. Poet Erica Dawson reads from and discusses her collections “The Small Blades Hurt” and “Big-Eyed Afraid.” Free. 753-6963; lwardwel@bates.edu.

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

Field Trip. 8 a.m. to noon. The destination of this Stanton Bird Club excursion will be selected by trip leader Dan Marquis. Meet at Staples parking lot in Lewiston for carpooling. All welcome. Free. 513-8213.

# Calendar

See more Calendar at [www.TwinCityTimes.com](http://www.TwinCityTimes.com)

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. Dress warmly. Concessions avail. 829-5708.

Take-Out Bean Supper. 3 to 5:30 p.m. Holy Cross Church Hall, 1080 Lisbon St., Lewiston. This month’s event benefits “Project Hope” for the children of Haiti. Items may be purchased singly or in combo specials; stop in or call ahead at 212-5163.

Public Supper & Music Jam. Litchfield Sportsmen’s Club, Hallowell Rd., Litchfield. Doors at 4:30 p.m., dinner (baked beans, hot dogs, casseroles) 5 to 6 p.m., music 6 to 8 p.m. \$7. 268-9271.

An Evening with the Aters. 7:30 p.m. Chocolate Church Arts Center, 804 Washington St., Bath. Singer-songwriter Max Ater performs original songs, comedian Johnny Ater makes you laugh. \$15/18. 442-8455; www.chocolatechurcharts.org.

Concert: Tricky Britches. 7:30 p.m. Village Coffeehouse, First Congregational Church, 19 Gloucester Hill Rd., New Gloucester. This string band plays a unique combination of country, contra-dance, bluegrass, and rock. \$10 at door. 653-4823.

Sunday, February 5

Community Breakfast. 7:30 to 10 a.m. American Legion Post 135, 40 Island Rd., Sabattus. Eggs to order, French toast, chipped beef, pancakes, sausage, ham, baked beans, country fries, toast, muffins, orange juice, coffee, tea and milk. \$7 (\$3 kids ages 10-).

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 eateries. \$20/5 (toddlers

free). Buy tix at 626-7989. [www.vilesarboretum.org](http://www.vilesarboretum.org).

Country Sunday. Noon to 4:30 p.m. Litchfield Sportsmen’s Club, Hallowell Rd., Litchfield. Enjoy dancing to live country music by The Friends Band, Jim Sutter, Cameron Thayer, Burt Truman, Barry Wood, and others. Concessions; door prizes. \$5; Kids ages 11- free. 536-9647.

Super Bowl Party. 4:30 p.m. Franco Center, 46 Cedar St., Lewiston. This family-friendly event features a cash bar, food items for sale, raffles and a 10-foot-tall screen; wear your favorite Patriots attire. Free. 783-1585; [www.franccenter.org](http://www.franccenter.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.

Stanton Bird Club Meeting. 6:30 p.m. Room 285, Lewiston-Auburn College, 55 Westminster St., Lewiston. Michael Perry, founder-director of Dreams Unlimited, presents “Summer on a River: Maine’s Allagash Wilderness Waterway.” Free.

Tuesday, February 7

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

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, and resources available to help. Free. To register, call Karleen Andrews at 557-1885.

Wednesday, February 8

Rotary Club Breakfast Meeting. 7 a.m. United Methodist Church, 439 Park Ave.,

Auburn. The guest speaker is Kat Perry, Program Manager of the Children’s Advocacy Center. 751-6281.

Thursday, February 9

Chamber Breakfast Meeting. 7 a.m. Hilton Garden Inn Auburn Riverwatch. Christopher Schario of The Public Theatre discusses the arts scene in Lewiston-Auburn. \$30 (members \$20). [www.LAMetroChamber.com](http://www.LAMetroChamber.com).

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, and resources available to help. Free. To register, call Karleen Andrews at 557-1885.

Rotary Club Lunch Meeting. Noon to 1 p.m. Ramada Inn, Lewiston. The guest speaker is Regina Copens of the League of Women Voters of Maine. Guests welcome; no reservation required; lunch avail. at Fusion Restaurant for \$10. 753-9040; monica.millhime@maine.gov.

Opening Reception. 4:30 to 6 p.m. Art gallery, Chocolate Church annex building, 804 Washington St., Bath. The Chocolate Church Arts Center’s annual Membership Arts Show opens today and runs through April 4. 442-8455; [www.chocolatechurcharts.org](http://www.chocolatechurcharts.org).

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	Sat	Wed
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Rings (PG-13) ..	1:40	4:40 7:15 9:55
The Space Between Us (PG-13) ..	1:00	4:00 7:00 9:45
A Dog’s Purpose (PG) ..	11:55	2:25
.....	4:50	7:05 9:25
Split (PG-13) ..	1:30	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 Wed eve
Hidden Figures (PG) ..	12:20	3:20 6:50** 9:35
Sunday 2/5/17 Hidden Figures will not play at 6:50 and 9:35		
Resident Evil: The Final Chapter (R) ..	1:20	7:25
Resident Evil: The Final Chapter 3D (R) ..	4:20	9:55
.....		*no show Sat
Gold (R) ..	12:30*	9:30
Rogue One: A Star Wars Story (PG-13) ..	3:30	6:40
Sing (PG) ..	11:45	2:15 7:20
xXx: The Return Of Xander Cage (PG-13) ..	4:45	9:45

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.

Androscoggin County Republican Committee Meeting. 7 p.m. Sabattus Town Hall, Route 9, Sabattus. 212-7300.

Friday, February 10

Food for Thought Luncheon. Noon. Room 170, Lewiston-Auburn College.

Portland-based writer and educator Elizabeth Peavey and Maine Senior College 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 and fiddler Colin Grant. \$15. 442-8455; [www.chocolatechurcharts.org](http://www.chocolatechurcharts.org).

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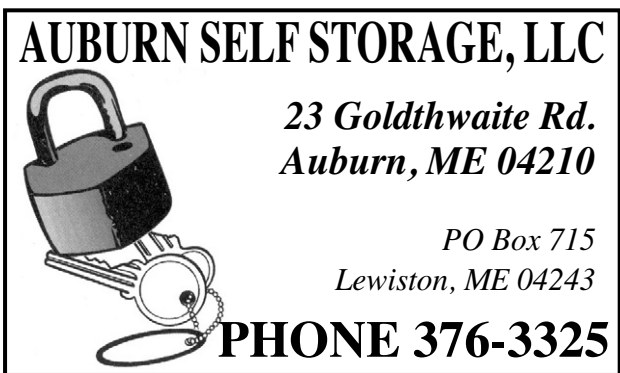
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March 28 Cabane A Pierre Quebec Sugar Shack in Frampton, Quebec lunch, tour, see how maple syrup is made, shopping. Trip includes bus all tips and meals. Must have passport or travel card \$84 pp. April 6-12th Washington D.C. Cherry Blossom trip includes 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. July 27th cruise on Ms. Mt. Washington on Lake Winnepesaukee, includes lunch, bus ride and tips \$74 pp. Aug. 15th Foster's Downeast Clambake, includes bus, meal and tips \$67 pp 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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Coffeehouse

Continued from page 11  
is still on a crowded street corner at midnight. The group has released three albums of original material, “Comin’ in Hot” (2016), “Good Company” (2013), and “Hard Fought Day” (2011). Village Coffeehouse is located at the First Congregational-Christian Church, 19 Gloucester Hill Road, just a few hundred yards up from the Intersection of Intervale Road (Route 231) and Cobb’s Bridge Road, in New Gloucester. For more information, contact Julie Fralich at 653-4823.

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