

"Wrong For Each Other" opens this weekend



Do opposites really attract? Find out this weekend as *The Public Theatre* stages this clever romantic comedy by the author of last season's box office hit, *"The Ladies Foursome."* Performances take place March 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25, and 26. Show times are 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Sundays, with an added matinee at 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 25. For tickets, call 782-3200 or see www.thepublictheatre.org.

SeniorsPlus seeks volunteers

SeniorsPlus is seeking volunteers to help with several of its programs. Available volunteer positions are listed below. For more information, contact Vol-

unteer Coordinator Heather Chandel by phone at 513-3710 or by email hchandel@seniorsplus.org.

Medicare Advocates provide confidential as-

sistance to individuals in reviewing and understanding options and choices with Medicare coverages. Volunteers for this position See *Seniors*, page 5

CCU Diaper Drive supports Head Start



Pictured here with children enrolled at the Promise Early Education Center are Center Executive Director Betsy Norcross Plourde (front) and (l. to r.) Gabriel Lacasse, Jennifer Leonard, Christina Carter (CCU), Lorraine Foster (CCU), Mary Ratsavong, Matthew Shaw (CCU) and Amelia Moon.

Community Credit Union recently conducted its ninth annual Diaper Drive to benefit Promise Early Education Center, formerly known as Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care. The drive raised nearly \$2,000, allowing the credit union to donate 53 boxes of diapers to the center. To raise the funds, managers and employees of CCU made personal contributions and held a 50/50 Raffle during the month of December.

Promise Early Education Center is the foremost early learning program in Central Maine that is dedicated to educating the whole

child and preparing that child for success in school and opportunities beyond. As

the Head Start Program for Androscoggin County, Prom- See *Diapers*, page 5

Concert at the Basilica



Renowned organist Loreto Aramendi will perform on Tuesday, March 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul on Ash Street in Lewiston. Admission is free, but donations to restore the basilica's Casavant Organ will be appreciated. For more information about Loreto Aramendi, see loretoaramendi.com/en.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

L-A College to stream one-day conference on French Canadian migrations to New England



Mary Rice-DeFosse, professor of French and Francophone Studies at Bates College, will be a panelist at the event.

On Monday, March 20, Mary Rice-DeFosse, professor of French and Francophone Studies at Bates College, will speak at a conference called “French Connections: Franconnexions.” While the event will take place at the University of Vermont, those who want to see her speak need only travel as far as USM’s Lewiston-Auburn College, where the Franco-American Collection will stream all three sessions live via Facebook for viewing in Room 283.

The conference will highlight the historical, cultural and economic contributions of the French Canadians who migrated from Québec to Vermont and the rest of New England. Close

to one million immigrants from Québec came into New England between 1830 to 1930, and the history of the Lewiston-Auburn area was forever changed by this migration. The conference will look at the past, present and future of these cross-border migrations and relationships.

In three consecutive panel discussions, the event will examine these fundamental questions: Past: How and why were Vermont and other New England state populated by so many French Canadians in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries? When, how and why did this massive influx assimilate? How were they received? Present: How do cross-border connections with Québec, in tourism and in trade, continue to shape the culture and economy of Northern New England? And Future: How does the French-Canadian wave of immigration relate to current immigration trends? What can we learn from the past as we think about the future?

The conference will take place from 9 a.m. to 3:15 p.m., with breaks between the three sessions. Prof. DeFosse will speak during the last segment of the day. The public is invited

Auburn Superintendent to address Rotary Breakfast Club



Katy Grondin

The guest speaker at the next meeting of the L-A Rotary’s Breakfast Club on Wednesday, March 22 from 7 to 8 a.m. will be Katy Grondin, Superintendent of Schools for the City of Auburn. The event will take place at the United Methodist Church at 439 Park Avenue in Auburn.

Grondin moved from Connecticut to Maine with her family in 1979 and graduated from Edward Little High School in 1982. She started her career in education following her graduation from the University of Southern Maine in 1986. Since then, she has attained a Certificate of Advanced Study from the University of Maine. As an educator, Grondin taught first and second grade for 10 years, was a building administrator at Sherwood Heights School for 11 years, and has been a part of Central Office for nine and a half years. This is her sixth year as Superintendent. In 2007, she was named National Distinguished Principal of the Year for the State of Maine. She has been married to a handsome Blue Devil for 29 years and has two adult children, Daisy, 27, and Richard, 23.

Guests are welcome to attend. Reservations are not required. Breakfast is \$10. For more information, contact Pete Preble at jeff.preble@wright-pierce.com.

Lewiston’s legislative delegation will hold constituent office hours on Saturday, March 18, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Couture Room at Lewiston Public Library. Sen. Nate Libby and Reps. Heidi Brooks, Roger Fuller, Jared Golden, and Jim Handy will be on hand to answer questions, give updates on their work on various policy areas, and discuss state government matters with Lewiston residents. Office hours are typically held at Lewiston Public Library on the third Saturday of the month while the Legislature is in session.

Legislative delegation to host public office hours

Legislative delegation to host public office hours

Ms. Amy Robinson’s 4th grade class from Elm Street School in Mechanic Falls recently visited the Maine State House to observe the session and serve as honorary pages in the House of Representatives. During their visit, pages met with their local delegates, including Sen. Eric Brakey (R-Androscoggin) and Rep. Kathleen R.J. Dillingham (R-Oxford). “I had a great time meeting with Ms. Robinson’s 4th graders,” said Sen. Brakey. “I hope they got a lot out of the trip and enjoyed their time here in Augusta.”

Optimist Club guest speaker




Optimist Club member Lisa Davis (l.) presents a copy of the Optimist Creed to guest speaker Klara Tammany, Executive Director of the Center for Wisdom’s Women. Tammany spoke to the Club about the center’s various programs and its plan to create an interfaith community house offering housing and recovery services for women survivors of traumatic life experiences. For more information on the center, see www.wisdomswomen.org.

Elm Street School 4th graders visit Capitol



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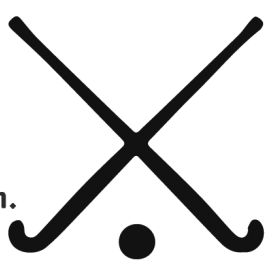
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Governor's Address: Congress should stick to its promises on ObamaCare

After saying for eight years they would repeal and replace ObamaCare, many politicians in Congress are now focused on doing just that

Dear Maine Taxpayer,

I went to Washington for one reason: to advocate for the Maine people. Unfortunately, an element of the highly paid career politicians down there are focused more on getting re-elected than truly reforming our health care system.

My goal is not to increase government spending on entitlements. I am fighting for an accountable and affordable Medicaid program that provides a strong safety net for our elderly, disabled, women and children and those who are unable to buy insurance.

Over the last six years, we have made significant reforms to rein in out-of-control Medicaid spending and ensure we are caring for our most needy. We reduced the size of our waitlists for severely disabled people, increased funding for Maine's nursing homes and cut taxes. But all that could change.

Republicans in Congress have been telling the American people for years that they will repeal and replace ObamaCare with a conservative, free-market alternative. However, the early signs do not look promising.

The only voice who can influence the outcome



Governor Paul R. LePage

is yours. I am asking you to contact Maine's Congressional Delegation—Senators Susan Collins and Angus King and Representatives Bruce Poliquin and Chellie Pingree.

First, the bill should freeze ObamaCare's welfare expansion. Maine ex-

panded its Medicaid program 15 years ago, and we paid a hefty price. It doubled the size and cost of our Medicaid program, but we saw no improvement to our state's uninsured rate, uncompensated care for hospitals or the emergency room utilization. The only thing we got was a \$750 million debt to our hospitals.

The proposed health-care bill allows states to expand Medicaid until 2020. In Maine, it would mean that an estimated 100,000 people would get essentially "free" health care. Expanding this entitlement to people who do not have children and have the ability to work would mean large tax increases and cuts at the expense of our most vulnerable elderly and disabled citizens.

"Free" is not free; it is always very expensive to somebody.

Second, we must be firm in our commitment to help those who want to become more financially stable and independent. If individuals want to receive these taxpayer-funded benefits, they must have some skin in the game.

It should be mandatory that Medicaid programs include work requirements, asset tests, copays, premium contributions and fees for missed appointments. This type of accountability will teach recipients how to contribute to their health care, and it will reduce waste and abuse of the program.

It is vital that our Maine delegation hear from you. If you want a

strong safety net for our most needy and vulnerable people, tell them you want Medicaid prioritized for our elderly, disabled, women and children. Tell them the federal government should not force expansion on states that are already making strides in welfare reform, and encourage them to support a work requirement for able-bodied people on Medicaid.

Politicians will only consider what is best for Mainers if they hear directly from you. I will continue to fight on your behalf as your Governor, but it is you, the people, who have the real power.

Thank You,
Paul R. LePage
Governor

Op-Ed Fate of Auburn Senior Community Center in the hands of City Council

By Belinda Gerry

The Auburn City Council through the years has given some money to help fund activities for Auburn seniors.

It wasn't until the last couple of years that the Auburn City Council/City Manager took a greater interest in senior-aged citizens and their need to have more time to interact together and participate in activities through the Auburn Recreation Department.

It was former Auburn city manager Howard Kroll who really recognized this need and was instrumental in giving one-third of the Recreation Department's underutilized three-bay garage for our proposed Auburn's Senior Community Center.

On Monday, March 6 the Auburn City Council had the first of two readings on whether or not to reallocate \$42,000 from the unspent money left over from the City of Auburn's general obligation bonds to be used towards the renovation of a section of the former Parks Department Garage for a Senior Community Center.

This money is necessary to be added to the \$95,000 the city council had kindly given previously towards this project. We need the additional funding from the city so the contractor can start and finish the renovations in a couple of months. (It could easily be open this June 2017.)

On the first reading and vote, it passed with five votes yes, one excused absence and one vacant council seat.

The second reading and public hearing will be held on March 20 during the Auburn City Council's regular meeting starting at 7 p.m. in the City Council's Chambers.

It will need again at least five City Councilors to vote for it for it to pass and for the money to be given.

The vision of the Auburn Senior Community Center is to provide a safe place for all seniors in our area and the various senior groups to meet and socialize, have their monthly meetings, do activities, grab a cup of coffee or a light lunch, possibly take a class, play cards or games and beano. It is all ground-level

space, making it easier to enter or exit the building.

When there are no senior activities scheduled, it will be open to the community or neighborhood to hold meetings, events, possibly dances and suppers. The Recreation Dept./Senior Center will also rent out this space for sport banquets, birthday parties, etc. to help defray some of the Senior Community Center's operation costs.

Fundraising activities are also going on to raise money for the Senior Community Center renovation project for other things needed not covered from the money the city allocates and to be used to help offset the cost of some of the programs to be offered.


This Senior Community Center adds to the Recreation Complex in Pettengil Park and helps expand the recreational and community opportunities that can potentially be offered to all Auburn residents and help attract visitors to our area.

Please contact your Auburn City Councilors/Mayor by letter or email and thank them for their support for senior citizens and for this project and ask them to please continue to support it after their public hearing and then second reading for it on March 20, sometime after 7 p.m.

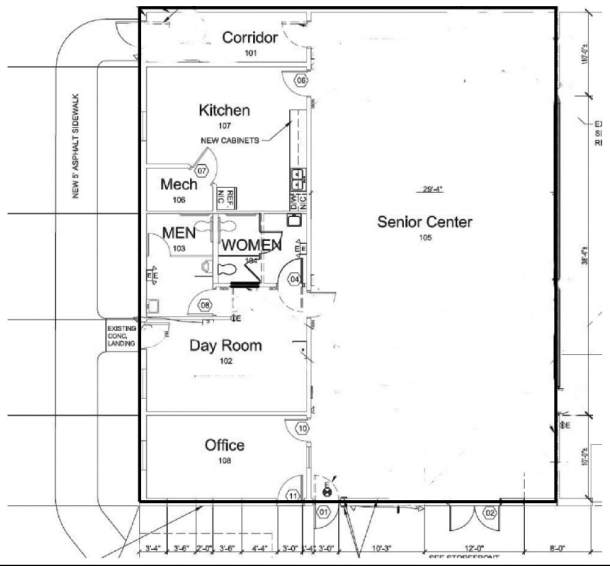
Residents are also asked to attend this meeting. If you can, please attend and let Auburn's City Councilors/Mayor know you are there in support of this project. Thank you.

Belinda Gerry is chairperson of the Auburn Senior Center sub-committee.

Auburn's Senior Community Center



A conceptual rendering of how the building will look after the renovation.



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Only Steps Forward

Those profiting from our rivers should help with L-A's redevelopment

By Jonathan P. LaBonte
MAYOR OF AUBURN

Last week, the LA Metro Chamber hosted its monthly breakfast at the Franco Center in Lewiston highlighting the topic of the Androscoggin River.

I was pleased to be able to share the floor with Ed Barrett, City Administrator of Lewiston, and Shelley Kruszewski and Jim Pross from the Androscoggin Land Trust to provide

an update on progress being made to reconnect the community with the river and the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

While many in Auburn have heard my pitch before about how the rivers, both the Androscoggin and often-forgotten Little Androscoggin, could be recreational and environmental assets that would attract people to visit and want to live in our neighborhoods, it seemed like this



Mayor Jonathan P. LaBonte might be a chance to check in again as we enter spring.

For longtime residents, the saying “too thick to paddle, too thin to plow” may ring a bell. In the earliest days of Auburn and Lewiston, and while the economy was strong with thousands and thousands of manufacturing jobs, the riverwater quality, quantity of water and access to the river was controlled by the industrialists that owned the mills and dams.

Today, we can all

agree that effort to improve the water quality has made tremendous strides. The rivers downtown are rated swimmable and fishable. During major community events, families can be seen walking the riverwalks or paddling or fishing along the banks.

And the era of jobs-versus-a-clean river has given way to major local employers, and even small businesses, seeing the river and the trails and parks around it as a source of volunteer opportunities for clean-up and stewardship and even as a means to promote wellness among their staff. Some companies even promote these outdoor assets as they seek to attract talent to work for them.

But while improvements have been made to water quality, the quantity of water in the river and access to it is still controlled predominantly by the multi-national corporations that own the dams on the Androscoggin and Little Androscoggin Rivers.

Both cities have laid out ambitious plans over the last two decades to attract private investment and people into the core of the city. Areas that once couldn't hold paint on the sides of buildings now sit along miles of waterfront.

When access to the water, for paddling, fishing or walking is limited, when views are restricted and when so little water flows that fish restoration, recreational access and even the aesthetic value of the Great Falls are limited, the community should be seeking to use the tools available to address that challenge.

Both the Great Falls (or Lewiston Falls as it's known for hydroelectric power) and the Little Androscoggin Falls (Barker Dams in New Auburn) are

the subject of filings with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. FERC ensures that the parameters of the Federal Power Act and other federal rules are followed for allowing private corporations to profit from a public resource. In this case, it's allowing KEI and Brookfield to profit from use of the Little Androscoggin and Androscoggin Rivers.

Those public-benefit requirements include supporting fish restoration, providing for recreational access by investing their financial resources in it, ensuring flows to support fisheries and recreation and protecting aesthetic and cultural assets.

The key is to balance the economics of private profit with the public benefits a local community should receive. When both cities find themselves taking more time than we'd hope to implement riverfront development plans since we are relying so heavily on local property taxpayers, it's time we organize to rebalance the scales.

The major drop in the rivers as they flow through Lewiston-Auburn does set the stage for major hydroelectric power production. This is part of the heritage of this community, and we should continue to support it. There have been minor investments 20 to 30 years ago in river access, though the cost of maintenance was shifted from the hydro company to the property taxpayer.

The federal decisions on the Lewiston Falls/Great Falls and the Little Androscoggin River will set the stage for what the next 30 to 50 years could look like. It's time we demanded more from those profiting from our rivers by asking for their partnership in our redevelopment.

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Enough is Enough

Bad behavior putting stress on neighborhoods of longtime residents

By Robert E. Macdonald
MAYOR OF LEWISTON

One of the most pressing problems facing Lewiston today is a chemical so powerful that just a slight elevation in one's body causes crazy and destructive behavior.

At this point federal, state and local governments have not invested one penny towards research in order to bring elevated body levels of this chemical down. This failure to act is causing financial and emotional distress among the residents of several Lewiston neighborhoods.

No, I'm not talking about opioids, but a chemical found in abundance in adolescent and often thoughtless young men: testosterone.

This condition rarely manifests itself while young Junior, often his parents' pride and joy, is kept close to the nest. But once out of Mommy and Daddy's

sphere of control—bah, boom!—the testosterone flows. Junior's brain suddenly loses the ability to distinguish between right and wrong.

The years of parental domination suddenly explodes throughout the body, changing sweet, polite, cute little boy into explosive, naughty young man, ready and waiting to release his newfound energy on the community.

Research has shown that in order for the testosterone level in the human body to maintain a normal level, the body must receive a sufficient amount of sleep. This is worrisome. Researchers wonder if the hours of study time combined with the hours of Animal House-type behavior clearly goes against what was thought to be the lifestyle needed to sustain a normal testosterone level in the human body.

In order to provide



Mayor Bob Macdonald

peace and tranquility to the elderly, the working people, the school children and infants residing in these neighborhoods and a successful future for our testosterone-driven college students, a plan must be developed by Lewiston leaders. Perhaps we could look at the following.

First, since they are college students, we could attempt to educate and instill in them the stress they are putting on their neighbors

by their unacceptable and childish behavior. At the first sign of naughty behavior, they could be counseled by Bates Dean of Students.

Perhaps they could write a theme addressing the question, "Would you carry on in a similar fashion in the neighborhood that your Mommies and Daddies lived in?" This could then be forwarded to Mom and Dad so they could see what they're getting for their tuition money

We could also speak with the owners of these off-campus boarding units and explain to them the stress they are putting on the neighborhood's longtime residents. These landlords would then be asked to come up with a plan to prevent the immature, childlike behavior being displayed by their tenants.

The bottom line is that both the landlords and the tenants must police themselves so that the hooligan-

ism will come to an end.

In my old neighborhood, we had a saying, "Youse gotta do what youse gotta do, and we (the city) gotta do what we gotta do."

What is happening in these neighborhoods mirrors what has happened in our downtown, only these are not "gimme" transient people—they are transient affluent people. Both groups are just passing through, having no stake in nor caring about our community. This behavior is devaluing neighborhood properties. Perhaps it is time to institute some draconian policies that will impress upon those responsible how serious this is being taken.

At this point, we have passed a moratorium stopping any additional lodging houses from springing up in the neighborhood for the next six months. This includes:

Stepping up code and fire inspections to make sure

the structures are safe and livable;

Re-examining and strengthening our disorderly house ordinance;

Issuing parking permits limiting on-street parking to neighborhood residents only. Non-residential cars will be cited and towed;

Police cracking down on parties, including checking for and citing any underage drinkers and those providing them with alcohol.

Further, notification will be sent to the arrested or cited person's local home newspaper detailing their arrest.

Youse gotta do what youse gotta do, and we gotta do what we gotta do.

Congratulations to the repeating Class A Champion Lewiston Boys Hockey Team for their impressive win over Falmouth. Thank you for your hard work on the ice and reinforcing that, "Lewiston is a city of champions."

Seniors

Continued from page 1

are needed throughout Androscoggin, Franklin and Oxford Counties. Experience in Microsoft Office products, Internet research and keyboarding skills is required. Advocates must attend a certification training program, currently scheduled for May 10, 17, and 23, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the SeniorsPlus office in Lewiston. Additional training is provided upon completion of the certification program.

Dining Site Volunteers provide healthy meal assistance, including set up, serving, cleanup and donation collection. Positions are available in Farmington on Mondays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and at Meadowview and Heritage Court in Lewiston on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. No experience is necessary and all training is provided.

Meals on Wheels Driver-Deliverers deliver nutritious meals and social contact one or more days per week from the Lewiston production kitchen to homebound residents of Androscoggin, Franklin and Oxford counties. Most routes take about 90 minutes, between the hours of 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Monday through Thursday mornings. This position requires a valid Maine driver's license.

Kitchen Helper-Packers assist with preparation of meals or packing of delivered meals at the Lewiston production kitchen, one or more days per week, Monday through Thursday mornings from 8:30 to 11 a.m.

Established in 1972 and headquartered in Lewiston, SeniorsPlus is the Western Maine designated Agency on Aging covering Franklin, Oxford and Androscoggin counties. Its mission is to en-

rich the lives of older adults and adults with disabilities and to assist them to remain safely at home for as long as possible. Its Meals on Wheels program alone serves almost 100,000 meals annually to almost 800 people.

Diapers

Continued from page 1

ise Early Education Center provides a safe, engaging and empowering place for children to learn and grow; offers a results-driven educational curriculum taught by degreed, licensed teachers; and supports the engagement of parents and caregivers in their child's learning through partnership, communication, and a commitment to parents and caregivers as primary educators. For more information, call Promise Early Education Center at 795-4040 or see www.PromiseEarlyEducation.org.

Food pantry needs staple items

The High Street Food Pantry has ongoing needs for the following staple items: peanut butter, dry cereal, baking ingredients (mixes, sugar, flour), crackers, toilet paper and canned goods (including vegetables, fruits, soups, pastas and meats). Donations should be dropped off at the Auburn United Methodist Church at 439 Park Avenue. For more information, call the church office at 782-3972.

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Spring Home Improvement Guide



3 tips to make your bathroom remodel a breeze



If you're thinking about remodeling your bathroom, you're not alone. Bathrooms are the most common remodeling project people will undertake in 2017, according to the National Association of Home Builders. So what's the best way to begin? Here are three expert tips to help you get started:

1. Identify the "pain points" of your current bathroom. Even if you've been dreaming about a new bathroom for years, the exercise of writing out goals for your remodel is an important first step in taking the dream to reality. Start with the pain points of your current bathroom, whether it's the fixtures, the tile, the vanity, the lighting or other functional and style issues, and then move on to your wish list. Determining your "must-haves" in advance is key to prioritizing your action list and budget.

2. Budget like a pro. Accurate budgeting can help take the emotion out of the financial aspects of your project and put it where it belongs - in the excitement of seeing your new room come to life. The average bathroom remodel was approximately \$18,000 in 2016 for a mid-range bathroom remodel, according to Remodeling Magazine. When budgeting your own project, be sure to factor in labor costs as well as material costs, and set aside contingency dollars for the unexpected. If you only look at costs on an item-by-item basis, you won't get an accurate picture. Working with a designer or contractor can also help you to best choose where and how to invest your budget within your space.

3. Explore the new

world of affordable, professional design services. The internet has changed everything, and bathroom remodeling is no exception. Professional design experts are now available to the public in an affordable way, thanks to the advent of "virtual" personal design services. For instance, the Online Design Service from Kohler Co. offers homeowners up to three hours of collaboration with a Kohler Professional Bathroom Designer over interactive online meetings (such as FaceTime or Webex), email or phone. After an in-depth consultation with a Kohler Designer, each homeowner receives a personalized design package containing photo-realistic 3-D image of their new design concept, as well as mood boards, a sample box of finishes and color swatches, and a shopping list of product selections. Priced at an affordable \$399, Kohler also gives rebates on the company's products for online design customers purchases. More details can be found at www.kohler.com/designservice. For those who may desire a more traditional customized in-home design process, working with a National Kitchen & Bath designer is also a great option.

A nation of remodelers, the U.S. boasts a home improvement industry valued at more than \$192 billion today, according to the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University. With new resources like online design services, it becomes easier for people to move from merely thinking about remodeling a bathroom to doing it. (BPT)

Playroom upgrade: A wall-mount 'barn door' makes more room for fun



Your children will love their playroom upgrade with Johnson's 2610SC Soft-Close Wall Mount Sliding Door Hardware. Now you can open and close the door with just a touch of a fingertip. (Chalkboard door not included.)

With spring fast approaching and the kids at school, there's no better time to upgrade the playroom.

Why not swap out a traditional swinging door for a playful chalkboard wall-mounted sliding door? Your little artists can draw for hours on the chalkboard, plus the sliding door can add up to 14 square feet of floor space which means more room for spreading out toys, games and building forts. There's also more flexibility in furniture arrangements. This means even the smallest nook in your house could turn into a cozy play space.

It's easy to do with Johnson's 2610SC Soft-Close Wall Mount Sliding Door Hardware. You can use it with virtually any metal or wood door from 1-inch to 1 3/4-inch thick, up to 60-inches wide, and

weighing up to 200 pounds. The 2610SC Wall Mount includes hardware that gently slows the door's travel speed to softly pull it into the fully open or fully closed position. The hardware works like a cabinet door closer, enabling doors to open and close quietly and securely. It also prevents door slamming and pinched fingers, as well as significantly reducing door operational noise.

The built-in satin finish fascia gives a warm decorative detail to the room (also available with bronze fascia). There are also adjustable door guides and smooth rolling tricycle hangers. You can set the adjustable track stops to control the door travel as well. The jump-proof aluminum box track is available in lengths up to 96-inches for single doors, and up to 192-inches for double doors.

The smooth rolling door hardware and track exceed ANSI standards, which means it can successfully complete 100,000 opening and closing cycles. Made in the USA. This is an easy project for an experienced handyman to complete. Check out the installation video for guidance: www.johnsonhardware.com/video.htm.

For more information, visit www.johnsonhardware.com/2610f.htm or call (800) 837-5664. Follow the Company on Twitter: @JohnsonHrdware, Pinterest: www.pinterest.com/johnsonhardware/ Instagram: [johnsonhardware](https://www.instagram.com/johnsonhardware/) or Facebook: www.facebook.com/johnsonhardware1958. (BPT)



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The home design trend you need to know about



Mix and layer materials used for surfaces at home to create dramatic, beautiful spaces - this kitchen features High Pressure Laminate on tabletop and cabinets, as well as Solid Surface and Quartz on countertops, island and backsplashes.

With the new year underway, the housing world is buzzing about the next transformative trend in home design and remodeling. This year it seems certain the growing trend of mixing and

layering materials, something many designers and architects noticed was growing in popularity over the past few years, will dominate the remodeling and design scene.

When it comes to mix-

ing materials, there's no rule book; all you should do is find a combination to match your personality. This might be one of the biggest reasons why people have taken to mixing materials, as it truly allows you to create a home that is uniquely yours.

Bold and innovative

The most immediate effect of mixing materials is that it opens new possibilities and new ways of expression. An example of this can be likened to how hard stone surfaces in a room can be complemented by soft carpet and furniture, or how the highly textured wood on a ceiling can stand in stark contrast to polished stone. Some of the hottest looks today, such as the blending of unfinished industrial materials with modern floors and cabinets, would have been considered outlandish



Spring Home Improvement Guide

only a few years ago. Mixing materials gives you greater freedom to create a space that represents your style.

Style on a budget

Of all the rooms in a home, kitchens and bathrooms still get the most attention. Unfortunately, getting that dream kitchen or perfect bathroom isn't always inexpensive.

For those who have uncompromising taste, but are on a budget, mixing materials is the ideal solution. For instance, say you had your heart set on a marble island and surrounding countertops, but just can't afford marble. Instead, you can choose from a variety of Wilsonart(R)

Quartz for the island. Engineered to showcase the erratic veins and patterns prized in marble, quartz also has the advantage of being non-porous, so it won't stain and requires virtually no maintenance. A timeless look that continues to win the popularity contest are nature's neutrals in white, grey and black, offering flexibility to play with bold or demure colorful accents.

You can complement the quartz island by mixing in an even more affordable material like Wilsonart(R) Laminate for the perimeter countertops and vertical applications such as backsplashes and walls. With numerous styles to choose from, you'll be able to create a stunning contrast and dimensionality that will make your room pop. With today's innovation in

laminate manufacturing and fabrication, adding affordable luxury to your kitchen or bath has never been easier.

Utility meets style

Parents, in particular, face a constant dilemma: They want a home with rooms that can stand up to all the abuse toddlers and teenagers can throw at it, but still have it look good. The answer lies in Wilsonart(R) Solid Surface. This material is tough, non-porous, seamless and repairable without sacrificing beauty. With a wide variety of styles replicating stone, you can easily mix it with other material looks to make an intriguing statement.

To explore hundreds of options, visit www.wilsonart.com and start mixing materials to see what's possible in your home. (BPT)

7 home improvements to tackle before you move in

You found the perfect home, so it's not surprising that you want to move in as quickly as possible. However, there are some projects that are best done when the house is still empty. So, consider completing the following seven items before the moving trucks arrive.

Painting. A fresh coat of paint can instantly update a room, and it's common to buy a home knowing you will need to paint several rooms or the entire house after the sale. However, painting is best done while every wall is accessible and there are no worries about getting paint on furniture or rugs.

Changing locks. Now is the time to change the locks on your new home to eliminate the risk of any former keyholders accessing your new space. Do this even if you know the former keyholders because you never know who they shared keys with. This fix is quick, inexpensive and it provides you with peace of mind.

Flooring updates. Redoing a floor is always easier when the floor is empty. Whether you're choosing to redo wood floors or lay tile

before you move in, tackling this process now also allows you to keep wood and tile dust off of furniture and collectables.

Roof repairs. Roof repairs are a must. If the home inspection revealed any damage to the roof, make the necessary repairs before moving in. Choose a contractor experienced with the type of shingles your home requires. Several of the largest shingle manufacturers have programs for contractors who meet certain qualifications, like TAMKO Building Products' Pro Certified Contractor program. Homeowners can easily locate a TAMKO Pro at www.TAMKO.com/find-a-pro to get their project started.

Removing popcorn ceilings. No one likes these.

We're not sure anyone ever did, but alas, they are a common sight, especially in older homes. Popcorn ceilings (and walls) are easy to remove, but messy. Use a spray bottle to moisten an area, then scrape the texture off with a towel. Clean-up will be much easier if you complete this project before introducing your furniture to the space.

Fix leaks. If left untreated, water leaks can do serious damage to furniture, rugs, flooring and other valuables. Leaks can also lead to secondary problems like rotting wood, mold and mildew. And let's be honest, no one wants to live in a house where you can't use the water, so address plumbing issues before you move in.

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Out & About with Rachel Morin
 Charles Plummer on Abe Lincoln at Schooner Retirement



Dr. Charles Plummer, long time instructor at USM’s Lewiston Auburn Senior College, employed a little whimsy on President Lincoln’s birthday month and wore his top hat and dark suit to his presentation on Lincoln at Schooner Retirement Community.

Story and photos
 BY RACHEL MORIN
 Dr. Charles Plummer, long time instructor at USM’s Lewiston Auburn Senior College, employed a little whimsy mid-February when he arrived at Schooner Retirement Community for his presentation, Abraham Lincoln: The Man, Humorist, Story-Teller and Poet. He wore a top hat and dark suit, much to the delight of his students.
 The morning started with a handout of the Course Syllabus with a picture of Abraham Lincoln and this poem: “A bronze lank man! His suit of ancient black/ A famous high-top hat and plain worn shawl/ Make him the quaint great figure that men love./ The prairie lawyer and master of us all.” (Vachel Linday from “Abraham Lincoln Walks at Midnight”)
 Dr. Plummer spoke of Lincoln’s early life, losing his mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, at age nine and a decade later, his sister, Sarah. There was much sadness in Lincoln’s life and he was prone to depression, but made a great effort to carry on and

did so admirably.
 Lincoln’s mother saw the potential in her young Abe and encouraged his interest in books. He would read anything he could get. Following Lincoln’s mother death, his father, Thomas Lincoln, married Sarah Bush Johnston, a widow with three children. A welcomed, structured routine returned to the Lincoln household.
 Lincoln’s step-mother immediately saw the young boy’s pursuit of books and his wanting to learn more. She fostered his interest in reading and pursuing more education. Lincoln called her Mother and they had a very close relationship throughout their life. It is said that Lincoln’s biological mother and his stepmother nurtured and molded him and set him on the path to the White House.

Lincoln’s father, on the other hand, was more interested that his son be working with the tools out in the fields rather than sitting at home reading. What he did receive from his father, however, was the great art of storytelling. His father was an apt storyteller and would regale people with his tales. Lincoln was a quick study and used this skill throughout his life to his great advantage.

We learned Lincoln had a quick wit and used humor or told a story to illustrate his point of view or line of reasoning. This skill served him in good stead where he won many cases as a lawyer. It also benefitted him during his tenure as President and as Commander-in-Chief during the Civil War.
 He also never criticized or disagreed in discussions, but would use humor or a story to dispel arguments and avoid hurt feelings, but getting his point across in a relaxed and



Charmaine Andrews, left, and Beverley Heath at the coffee station.



Claire Gamache and Tookie Clifford enjoying a coffee break.



June Spear and Maureen Tibbetts never miss a Plummer Presentation.

favorable manner.
 Lincoln had a great memory and could relate a sermon, word for word, later in the day. He was a self-controlled private man, yet could be gregarious and outgoing, but private and not self-revealing, even to his friends. He was an enigma in many ways.
 Plummer on Lincoln’s personality, “He had an overwhelming inventory of anecdotes, jokes and stories, as well as an amazing memory, thus he possessed the ability to pull out of his hat, so-to-speak, just the right one to deal with any unexpected situation that might arise.”
 We heard many examples of his humor and stories and his skill as a great orator. Most of us did not know that Lincoln wrote poetry. He also enjoyed reading poetry by many famous poets. We read excerpts from Lincoln’s poem, “My Childhood Home”.
 This one day class from the Winter Series was offered free as a perk in membership at Senior College. Other free classes in the Winter Series were

See Charles, page 9



Phil Vampatella, Jackie Bate, Bob Thompson and Gail Martel.



Clyde and Marilyn Larochelle, left, and Claudette and Gerry Martel were the first arrivals.

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Charles

Continued from page 8

offered at the Westminster campus. Also two other classes were offered at Schooner and three classes at SeniorsPlus.

Lewiston Auburn Senior College has four collaborations: Schooner Estates, Auburn Public Library, Lewiston Public Library and SeniorsPlus. The spring catalogue offers two courses at Schooner with Hugh Keene, Instructor, on Solving Everyday Problems by Physics and Charles Plummer, Instructor, on Why People Behave the Way They Do. Cynthia Larock, Instructor, will teach Introduction to Folk Guitar at the Auburn Public Library. John Stass, Instructor, Is It Art, an exploration of modern and contemporary art over the last 100 years will be offered at SeniorsPlus. All remaining courses are held at the Westminster campus.

Participation in these courses requires an annual \$25 membership fee from the academic year September 1, 2016 through August 31, 2017. Courses are \$25 each which include most books and material. Registration for the spring classes has closed.

FMI on Senior College please call 753-6610 and leave your name and number. Your call will be returned. The website is usm.maine.edu/seniorcollege.

HR Thursday session to focus on retention efforts

The LA Metro Chamber of Commerce will host the next HR Thursday session, “Retention Efforts: Now That You Hired Them, How Do You Keep Them?”, on Thursday, March 23 from noon to 1:30 p.m. in their conference room at 415 Lisbon Street in Lewiston. The program is presented in partnership with the Central Maine Human Resource Association and the Lewiston CareerCenter.

You’ve had a successful marketing campaign, you’ve gotten great applicants, and you are fully staffed; now, what are you doing to retain your tal-

ent? We know that the best retention effort is a good recruitment process; however, we still need to pay attention to retention efforts. Join us to learn what you can do to ensure an effective on-boarding, performance management and training process to keep the talent you need and worked hard to attract.

The cost of the workshop is \$25 for Chamber members and \$50 for non-members. CMHRA members attend free of charge. For more information, call 783-2249. To register, see www.LAMetroChamber.com.

First Universalist offers Adoption & Hosting Info Session

The First Universalist Church of Auburn will host an Adoption and Hosting Information Session with Adoption Partners of Maine on Saturday, March 18, from 1 to 3 p.m. Considering opening your family to a child through hosting, student exchange, or adoption can be both exciting and overwhelming. This educational question and answer session with Penny Collins, Adoption Director at Adoption Partners of Maine, will cover adoption, the differences between adoption and hosting, and the factors families should consider before undertaking a hosting program or adoption process. Collins will provide Maine-related resources.

Tricia McBride of Greenheart International,

locally known as the Center for Cultural Interchange, will also be available to speak with those interested in student exchange programs and to answer questions regarding the challenges of hosting students from other cultures. She works to recruit families to host students for an academic school year.

This is a family friendly event: kids can enjoy a Ukrainian craft project. First Universalist Church of Auburn is located at 169 Pleasant Street For more information, contact Peter at pffloyd@gmail.com.

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

What’s Going On

Vacationland RV & Camping Show coming to NSB Arena

Norway Savings Bank Arena in Auburn will partner with the Maine Campground Owners Association to present the largest RV and camping show ever produced under one roof in the State of Maine. Taking place Saturday and Sunday, April 8 and 9, the 13th annual Vacationland RV and Camping Show will feature many of Maine’s largest RV dealers and the very latest RV models and camping options of all sizes. Those who attend will also be able to check out the latest camping equipment while visiting over 60 campgrounds exhibitors

and local businesses.

The Maine Campground Owners Association is the premier resource for supporting campground owners and promoting camping in Maine. MECOA represents over 200 of Maine’s licensed campgrounds and participates in the Maine Hospitality and Tourism Alliance.

“The Maine Campground Owners Association is looking forward to holding its 13th annual Vacationland RV and Camping Show at the Norway Savings Bank Arena,” says MECOA Ex-

ecutive Director Kathy Dyer. “The Arena is an absolutely fabulous venue for an RV show, and our campgrounds and RV dealers are excited about being more centrally located and reaching out to a broader northern market, including Augusta, Bangor, Farmington, and Oxford, while still being accessible to the Portland market.”

Show tickets are \$8; children ages 8 and under will be admitted free of charge. Those who bring two or more non-perishable food items to benefit the Good Shepherd Food Bank will receive a \$2 discount on admission. Show hours are 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

CMHRA program will discuss LGBTQ issues in the workplace

The Central Maine Human Resources Association will present a program discussing the law, regulations, and practical advice and guidance on handling LGBTQ issues in the workplace on Tuesday, March 21 at the Carriage House in Lewiston. The presenters, Amy Sneirson, executive director of the Maine Human Rights Commission,

and Bridget McAlonan of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Services, will also discuss how to integrate and accommodate LGBTQ employees in the workplace. Because the Maine Human Rights Act does require accommodation, having tools, suggestions, and guidance in this area should prove particularly helpful to anyone with employees. Those

planning to attend should feel free to submit questions in advance to CMHRA President Rebecca Webber at rwebber@sta-law.com.

Sign-in will begin at 7:30 a.m. There will be time to network before and after the program. Registration online is preferred and available at www.cmhra.org.

Questions about membership should be directed to Cindy Letourneau or Lori McRae at membership-chair@cmhra.org.

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TWIN CITY NIGHTS

Weekly Arts & Entertainment

Bates Orchestra to perform Saturday



Directing the orchestra will be composer and Associate Professor of Music Hiroya Miura. (Photo by Phyllis Graber Jensen/Bates College)

Hiroya Miura will direct the Bates College Orchestra in a performance of five works by four composers on Saturday, March 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the Olin Arts Center Concert Hall at 75 Russell Street in Lewiston. Performing in pieces

by Mendelssohn and Bach will be two winners of this year's Bates Student Concerto Competition. Also on the program are Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 5 ("Reformation"), Chabrier's "España, Rhapsody for Orchestra," and

Villa-Lobos' "Bachianas Brasileiras" No. 1. Admission is free, but tickets are required.

For more information, call 786-6135 or email olinarts@bates.edu. For tickets, see bit.ly/bates-orchestra.

ELHS to host signing of new Edward Little biography

Local author and historian Douglas Hodgkin will visit Edward Little High School in Auburn on Friday, March 17 from 12:30 to 2:30 to p.m. to answer questions about the school's namesake and sign copies of his new book, "Dear Parent: A Biography and Letters of Edward Little." The event will take place in the school library, where copies of the book will be available for purchase for \$20 plus tax.

Edward Little was the founder in the 1830s of the private Lewiston Falls



Douglas Hodgkin began working on the book in 2015.

Academy, which for several years was the only sec-

ondary school in the area. Toward the construction of the first building, he donated funds and a plot of land, some of which is still notable as the park on the corner of Academy and Main Streets in Auburn. In 1866, the school was renamed Edward Little Institute. When the City of Auburn decided to establish a public school, the academy trustees transferred the property on several conditions, one being that the new school be named Edward Little High School.

CLT assembles crew to stage "Gypsy"

Community Little Theatre has assembled a talented and experienced directorial team to stage the musical tour de force "Gypsy." Written in 1959 by Arthur Laurents, with music by Jule Styne and Stephen Sondheim, Gypsy tells the story of famous striptease artist Gypsy Rose Lee. Told from the perspective of Mama Rose, Gypsy's hard charging stage mother, the show takes us from Gypsy's early days in vaudeville to her career as a headliner in burlesque.

The director for this production will be Paul G. Caron. Known to CLT audiences primarily for his work directing music (just recently for "Chicago," as well as for CLT's production of Gypsy in 1992), Caron "crosses over" every few years to direct. Serving as the music director for this production will be established CLT music director (and Paul's niece) Rebecca Caron. Bringing the "bump and grind" front and center will be choreographer Adam Blais. Serving as assistant director will be Brandon Chaloux, and completing the directorial team in the role of producer will be CLT Executive Producer Kay Warren.

It takes an array of

Hodgkin, president of the Androscoggin Historical Society, began working on the book in 2015. "We are pleased to provide this opportunity for people to obtain the book," said ELHS Librarian Heidi McCurdy. "It's appropriate that we help members of the community learn more about the man whose name graces our school." Edward Little High School is located at 77 Harris Street in Auburn. For more information, call 333-6652.



The directorial team includes (l. to r.) music director Rebecca Caron, director Paul Caron, and producer Kay Warren.

people to stage a production this size, and working to coordinate the group will be stage manager Jackie McDonald and assistant stage manager Stephen Brakey. They will assemble a team, including Ashley Gallagher and Kim Gagne, to ensure that set changes happen quickly and fluidly, keeping the audience in the moment as the show progresses from location to location. CLT Executive Director Karen Mayo will costume the cast, which means managing a team to find, adapt or make over 100 period costumes, ranging from suits to stripper outfits. Sound and lights will be designed by CLT's capable technical team of Tom Anderson and Richard

Martin. Anderson will also run the sound board while David Marshall runs the lighting board and Sophie Wood handles the spotlight.

Producer Kay Warren, assisted by Sue Caron, will wear an extra hat in finding and organizing the props. Local architect and CLT board member Bill Hamilton will design the many and unique sets, ranging from interior apartments to burlesque theaters. The sets will be decorated by Jessica Henson. Rounding out the crew will be CLT Artistic Director John Blanchette, who will manage the print publicity, and CLT Marketing & PR Chair Danielle Eaton, who will manage the digital media.

Paper Crafting & Scrapbooking Day

The Knights of Columbus Rev. Louis J. Fortier Council 106 will present a Paper Crafting & Scrapbooking Day on Saturday, April 1, from 8 a.m. to 4

p.m. at the Holy Family Church Hall on Sabattus Street in Lewiston. Park and enter at the rear of the church. The event will be hosted by Corinne Saindon, independent demonstrator for Stampin' Up!

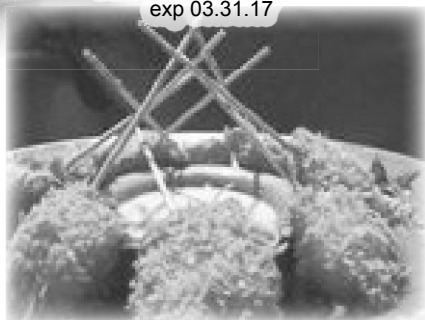
New and seasoned crafters are welcome. There will be snacks, drawings and two make-and-takes. The cost will be \$35 in advance or \$40 at the door and will include lunch. Proceeds will benefit Coats for Kids.

For more information or to register, call 784-5307 or 784-0389.



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Spots still available for Franco Center maple sugar trip



The trip includes a noontime feast and live local music.



The menu of offerings at the Cabane à Sucre

There are still spots remaining for the Gendron Franco Center’s upcoming Maple Sugar Day Trip to Lac-Mégantic, Québec on Saturday, April 1. The public is invited to join those already signed up for the 12-hour tour.

“This is a great trip for all ages, and families are encouraged to attend,” said executive director Mitch Thomas, who will be leading the trip. Coffee and breakfast snacks will be offered starting at 6:15 a.m. Departure by bus from the Franco Center will be at 6:45 a.m., and return time is expected to be by 6:45 p.m. on the same day. There will be a brief stop for shopping before returning to Maine.

The cost of the trip, which includes transportation, a home-cooked noontime feast and live local music at the Cabane à Sucre, and all-day parking at the Franco Center, is \$62 per person. A valid U.S. Passport is needed for travel to Canada.

To reserve and pay for a spot on the trip, visit the Franco Center at 46 Cedar Street in Lewiston, call them at 783-1585, or email boxoffice@franco-center.org.

Twin City Nights

Local events mark “La Semaine de la Francophonie”



The Gendron Franco Center in Lewiston will present a slate of events on Thursday, March 16 to mark “La Semaine de la Francophonie,” an international celebration of the French language and those around the world who speak it.

The center’s monthly La Rencontre (The Gathering), which normally takes place on the second Thursday of each month, will begin at 11:25 a.m. Doors will open at 10:00 and the cost of the meal is \$10 per person. To make reservations, contact the Center at 783-1585.

The program after the meal will be the North American premiere of the opera “Le Musiciens de Brême,” presented by

students from L’Ecole Française du Maine in Freeport. Staged in the center’s performance hall, the event will feature 80 students in pre-school through grade five, directed by Joëlle Morris and other teaching faculty of the school. L’Ecole Française du Maine is approved by the Maine Department of Education and is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, the French Ministry of Education, and la Mission Laïque Française. The performance is free and open to the public.

Following La Rencontre at 1:30 p.m., the center will screen the Quebec French-language film, “La Passion d’Augustine,” also in the Performance Hall.

The event is also free and open to the public. More information about the film can be found at FrancoCenter.org.

Other local events marking “La Semaine de la Francophonie” this week include “Tea with Franco-American Artist Mercedes Gastonguay” on Friday, March 17 at 1 p.m. at the Franco-American Collection at USM’s Lewiston-Auburn College, followed by a French Sing-Along with Les Troubadours at 2 p.m.; and a “French Connections” conference on French Canadian migrations to New England, taking place at the University of Vermont on Monday, March 20, from 9 a.m. to 3:15 p.m., which may be viewed as a live stream in Room 238 at Lewiston-Auburn College. The conference will feature local presenters from Bates College, the Gendron Franco Center, and the Franco-American Collection at L-A College. Both programs are free and open to the public.

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MARCH 31-APRIL 9, 2017

Gypsy

CLT

COMMUNITY LITTLE THEATRE

Great Falls Performing Arts Center

30 Academy St., Auburn, ME

Book by Arthur Laurents

Music by Jule Styne • Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Directed by Paul G. Caron

Music Direction by Rebecca Caron

Fri. & Sat., March. 31, Apr.1, 7 & 8 @ 7:30 p.m.

Thur., Apr. 6 @ 7:30 p.m. • Sun., Apr. 2 & 9 @ 2 p.m.

Tickets \$18 • Seniors (60+) \$15 • Children (12 and under) \$12

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Twin City Nights

Chocolate Church presents “Tommy: A Bluegrass Opry”



With virtuoso musicianship and rock star vocals, the Springfield, Missouri-based HillBenders bring Pete Townshend’s original vision to life in an inspired new way.

The Chocolate Church Arts Center in Bath will present a unique and exciting interpretation of The Who’s “Tommy” on Sunday, March 19 at 7:30 p.m. when the HillBenders perform “Tommy: A Bluegrass Opry.”

“Ever since I was a young boy, I played the silver ball” may not be your standard bluegrass lyric, but as a line from the biggest rock opera of all time, it’s well-known around the world. Forty-five years after its original release, The Who’s Tommy has now been fully realized as a

full-length bluegrass tribute by the Springfield, Missouri-based HillBenders. Inspired by their varied influences, the group actively seeks to bridge the gap between popular music and bluegrass by creating bluegrass music that unifies.

With virtuoso musicianship and rock star vocals, the HillBenders bring Pete Townshend’s original vision to life in a dynamic and inspired new way. Their combined banjo, dobro, mandolin, bass, and guitar attack bring the same energy and vision to Tommy as The Who did with

a full rock band and orchestra. One of the challenges of re-interpreting Tommy for a bluegrass band included the general lack of a drummer in most bluegrass outfits, but the sheer vibrancy of the group’s playing provides audiences with a satisfying, full-bodied experience.

The Who’s Tommy was originally composed by guitarist Pete Townshend as a rock opera that tells the story about a “deaf, dumb, and blind kid [who] sure plays a mean pinball.” The story includes his experiences with life and his



Self-portraits by Shukri Abdirahman, Jarod Norcross, Plourde, Taylor Richards, Makayla Moore, Caleb Gorey and Chandler Burke

In celebration of Youth Art Month, the Kennebec Valley Art Association will unveil its 11th annual exhibit of artwork by students from area high schools, called “Higher Forms of Art,” at an opening reception on Sunday, March 19 from 3 to 5 p.m. Free and open to the public, the event will take place at the Danforth Gallery, located at Jewett Hall, 46 University Drive, on the campus of the University of Maine at Augusta.

Higher Forms of Art

gives young artists an opportunity to show their work in a professional gallery space while offering students the experience of organizing and installing a major art exhibition. Schools participating in the program are Cony High School (Augusta), Edward Little High School (Auburn), Gardiner High School, Hall-Dale High School (Farmington), Kents Hill School, Monmouth Academy, and Richmond High School. The exhibit will be on view

through March 31. Open hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m., and Sunday, April 2, from 1 to 4 p.m. Also opening on Sunday, March 19 is KVAA’s Young at Art K-8 Exhibition, which highlights student artwork from area elementary schools. This event takes place from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Harlow Gallery at 160 Water Street in Hallowell.

Martin Swinger at Chocolate Church



Singer-songwriter Martin Swinger will bring his heartfelt melodies and

songwriting gifts to the Chocolate Church Arts Center Annex in Bath on Saturday, March 18 at 7:30 p.m. A stalwart performer whose lyrics use metaphors to bring understanding to varied and whimsical subjects in a pure folk style, Swinger has won awards for both his performing and songwriting. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. Seating is limited. The center is located at 804 Washington Street in Bath. For tickets, call 442-8455 or see www.chocolatechurcharts.org.

Maine Music Society to present Bach’s Mass in B Minor



Imagine the sound of 66 blended voices, six soloists, and 26 musicians performing this timeless piece with the center’s stained glass windows providing the ambience.

Under the direction of Artistic Director John Corrie, the Maine Music Society Choral and Orchestra will present Johann Sebastian Bach’s incomparable Mass in B Minor on Saturday, March 25 at 7:30 p.m. and again on Sunday, March 26 at 3 p.m. at the Gendron Franco Center in Lewiston.

The most celebrated composer of the 18th century, Bach spent decades composing this magnum opus, finally assembling it near the end of his life. Imagine the sound of 66 blended voices, six soloists, and 26 musicians performing this timeless piece, widely hailed as one of the

greatest compositions of all time, with the center’s stained glass windows providing the perfect ambience. Professional soloists lending their voices to this special presentation will be Elisabeth Marshall, Sarah Bailey, Teresa Harold, Martin Lescault, Carl Steidel, and John Corrie.

Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$22 for seniors and \$10 for students. Children under 12 will be admitted for free when accompanied by an adult. There is a special rate of 20% off for groups of 10 or more. For tickets, call L/A Arts at 782-7228 or see www.mainemusicsociety.org.

KVAA seeks submissions for juried art show



This year’s juror is Corey Daniels, curator and owner of the Corey Daniels Gallery in Wells.

The Kennebec Valley Art Association invites artists to submit artwork for its 22nd annual juried show, Art2017, which will be on view at the Harlow Gallery in Hallowell from May 12 through June 24. The opening reception on Friday, May 12 from 5 to 7 p.m. will feature an awards ceremony at 6 p.m. Art2017 is open to all Maine artists and any artist with a strong connection to Maine.

This year’s juror is Corey Daniels, curator and owner of the Corey Daniels Gallery in Wells. The Corey Daniels Gallery exhibits a synthesis of found objects and art, with a focus on contemporary artwork by emerging and mid-career artists working in diverse practices. Drawn to objects with intrinsically compelling qualities, Daniels collects and presents paintings, drawings, sculpture, photography and utilitarian objects with a refined eye for patina, texture, and form.

Original fine art in any media may be submitted, including hand pulled prints, photography, sculpture and fine crafts, including ceramics, glass and fiberart. Jewelry and clothing are not eligible. Each artist may submit up to three works of art, which must be the artist’s own original work, created within the last three years. The deadline for electronic submissions is 11 p.m. on April 1.

For more information, call 622-3813 or email kvaa@harlowgallery.org. Complete entry rules with instructions for submitting your work are available at <http://harlowgallery.org>.

Located at 160 Water Street in historic downtown Hallowell, the Harlow Gallery is the home of the Kennebec Valley Art Association, a membership-based 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to connecting and celebrating art, artists and community since 1963.

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Thursday, March 16
Great Falls Forum.
Noon to 1 p.m. Callahan Hall, Lewiston Public Library. Maine Wabanaki REACH co-director Penthea Burns and community organizer Barbara Kates discuss “Why Maine Needed a Truth and Reconciliation Commission.” Free. Bring a bag lunch. 513-3135.

Rotary Club Lunch Meeting. Noon to 1 p.m. Ramada Inn, Lewiston. The guest speaker is Donald Grant of Grant’s Bakery in Lewiston. Guests welcome; no reservation required; lunch avail. at Fusion Restaurant for \$10. 753-9040; monica.millhime@maine.gov.

Concert: L’Ecole Française du Maine. 12:25 p.m. Franco Center, 46 Cedar St., Lewiston. Students in pre-school through grade 5 present the North American premiere of the French-language opera “Le Musiciens de Brême.” Free. 783-1585.

Film Screening. 1:30 p.m. Franco Center, 46 Cedar St., Lewiston. The center screens the Quebec French-language film “La Passion d’Augustine.” Free. 783-1585.

Author Visit. 6:30 p.m. Auburn Public Library. Newspaper reporter and novelist Paul Betit discusses his new book, “Let Me Tell a Story,” inspired by his experiences during the Vietnam War and its aftermath. Free. 333-6640, ext. 4.

Friday, March 17
Author Visit. 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Library, Edward Little High School, 77 Harris St., Auburn. Local author-historian Douglas Hodgkin signs copies of his new book, “Dear Parent: A Biography and Letters of Edward Little.” Copies avail. for \$20, plus tax. 333-6652.

Artist Visit. 1 to 2 p.m. Franco-American Collection, L-A College, 51 Westminster St., Lewiston. Local artist Mercedes Gastonguay discusses her historical tableau “A la mémoire de nos ancêtres” honoring the Canadians who immigrated to the Lewiston-Auburn area. Free. 753-6545.

French Sing-Along. 2 p.m. Rm. 170, L-A College, 51 Westminster St., Lewiston. Les Troubadours lead the singing of local Franco favorites at this free monthly event. All are welcome; songbooks provided. Free. 576-4109.

Theater: Wrong for Each Other. 7:30 p.m. Public Theatre, 31 Maple St., Lewiston. In Norm Foster’s play, sparks ignite when a previously

Calendar

See more Calendar at www.TwinCityTimes.com

mismatched couple meet by chance and review the highs and lows of their prior relationship. Again Mar. 18, 19, 23-26 (Suns. 2 p.m.). For tix, call 782-3200 or www.thepublictheatre.org.

Saturday, March 18
Office Hours. 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Couture Room, Lewiston Public Library. Members of Lewiston’s state legislative delegation answer questions and discuss state government matters with Lewiston residents.

Ancestors in the Attic. Noon to 3 p.m. Freeport Historical Society, 45 Main St. After a light buffet lunch, participants will take turns presenting a historical object or photograph they’ve brought along for the event. All welcome. RSVP for lunch by 3/16 to 865-3170. www.HistoricFreeport.org.

Adoption & Hosting Info Session. 1 to 3 p.m. First Universalist Church, 169 Pleasant St., Auburn. Penny Collins of Adoption Partners of ME and Tricia McBride of Greanheart Intl. discuss issues related to adoption and hosting. Free. pfloyd@gmail.com.

Dance and Raffle. 6 to 10 p.m. VFW Post 1603, 588 Minot Ave., Auburn. Proceeds support Shayna Newton and her medical treatment for Rasmussen encephalitis; music by DJ Brain C., raffles, refreshments. Singles \$10, couples \$15 at door. 345-3124.

Concert: Midcoast Symphony Orchestra. 7:30 p.m. Franco Center, 46 Cedar St., Lewiston. This “Pops at the Opera” program features light and familiar music from operas. Students through college enter free; others \$20 (cash

or check) at door, or call 846-5378, see www.midcoastsymphony.org.

Concert: Bates College Orchestra. 7:30 p.m. Olin Arts Center, 75 Russell St., Lewiston. Directed by assoc. professor of music Hiroya Miura, the orchestra performs works by Mendelssohn, Villa Lobos, Bach and Chabrier. Free. 786-6135. Tix required from bit.ly/bates-orchestra.

Concert: Martin Swinger. 7:30 p.m. Chocolate Church Arts Center Annex, 804 Washington St., Bath. This folk singer-songwriter uses song to bring understanding to varied and whimsical subjects. Seating limited. \$10 advance, \$12 at door. 442-8455; www.chocolatechurcharts.org.

Sunday, March 19
Opening Reception. 3 to 5 p.m. Danforth Gallery, Jewett Hall, 46 University Dr., UMaine-Augusta. The Kennebec Valley Art Assoc.’s annual “Higher Forms of Art” exhibit features artwork by students from area high schools. Free.

Concert: “Tommy: A Bluegrass Opry.” 7:30 p.m. Chocolate Church Arts Center, 804 Washington St., Bath. With a mix of virtuoso musicianship and rock star vocals, the Springfield, Missouri-based HillBenders bring Pete Townshend’s original vision to life in a dynamic new way. \$22 advance, \$25 at door. 442-8455; www.chocolatechurcharts.org.

Monday, March 20
“French Connections” Conference. 9 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Room 283, Lewiston-Auburn College. Come view a live stream of this three-session conference on French Canadian migrations to New England, taking place today at the University of Vermont. Free. 753-6545; <http://usm.maine.edu/franco>.

Tuesday, March 21
Central Maine Human Resources Assoc. Meeting. 7:30 a.m. Carriage House, 1119 Lisbon St., Lewiston. This month’s program discusses the law and presents practical advice on handling LGBTQ issues in the workplace. Register at www.cmhra.org.

Home Weatherization Program. 6:30 p.m. Bailey Public Library, 39 Bowdoin St., Winthrop. Bo Jespersen, owner of the Breathable Home, discusses the philosophy and science of home performance and weatherization. Free. 377-8673; www.baileylibrary.org.

Organ Concert. 7:30 p.m. Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul, Ash St., Lewiston. Renowned organist Loreto Aramendi performs. Free, but donations to restore the basilica’s Casavant Organ appreciated.

Wednesday, March 22
Rotary Club Breakfast Meeting. 7 a.m. United Methodist Church, 439 Park Ave., Auburn. The guest speaker is Katy Grondin, Superintendent of Schools for the City of Auburn. Guests welcome; no reservations required. \$10. 751-6281.

Thursday, March 23
Rotary Club Lunch Meeting. Noon to 1 p.m. Ramada Inn, Lewiston. Hydrogeologist Peter Garrett discusses his work as Northern New England Coordinator of Citizens Climate Lobby. Guests welcome; no reservation required; lunch avail. at Fusion Restaurant for \$10. 753-9040; monica.millhime@maine.gov.

HR Thursdays Workshop. Noon to 1:30 p.m. Chamber of Commerce, 415 Lisbon St., Lewis-

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Logan (R)	12:20	3:30	6:40	9:45					
The Shack (PG-13)	12:30	3:50	6:55	9:50					
Get Out (R)	1:20	4:00	7:10	9:35					
The Lego Batman Movie (PG)	11:50	2:15				4:40	7:05	9:25	
Beauty And The Beast (PG)	12:00	1:10				4:10	6:50	7:20	
Beauty And The Beast 3D (PG)		3:20						9:40	
Kong: Skull Island (PG-13)	1:30				7:00				
Kong: Skull Island 3D (PG-13)	4:20				9:50				
Lion (PG-13)	1:00				6:45				
Before I Fall (PG-13)		4:30						9:15	
Rock Dog (PG)	12:10	2:10							
		4:25							
Fifty Shades Darker (R)		7:15	9:55						

ton. This month’s topic is “Retention Efforts.” \$50 (Chamber members \$25; Central ME Human Resource Assoc. members free). 783-2249. Register at www.LAMetroChamber.com.

Theater: Wrong for Each Other. 7:30 p.m. Public Theatre, 31 Maple St., Lewiston. In Norm Foster’s play, sparks ignite when a previously mismatched couple meet by chance and review the highs and lows of their prior relationship. Again Mar. 24-26 (Sun. 2 p.m.). For tix, call 782-3200 or www.thepublictheatre.org.

Saturday, March 25
Field Trip. 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Steve Reed leads this Stanton Bird Club Trip to Plum Island National Wildlife Refuge in Mass. Meet at Staples parking lot in Lewiston for carpooling. Dress warmly and bring a lunch. All welcome. Free. 319-6630.

Concert: Maine Music Society Chorale and Orchestra. 7:30 p.m. Franco Center, 46 Cedar St., Lewiston. Under the direction of Artistic Director John Corrie, this ensemble presents Bach’s incomparable Mass in B Minor. Again 3/26 at 3 p.m. \$25/22/10. 782-7228; [\[musicsociety.org\]\(http://musicsociety.org\).](http://www.maine</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Sunday, March 26
Winter Gardening Workshop. 2 to 3:30 p.m. St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, corner Pleasant, Union Sts., Brunswick. Arborist Tim Vail demonstrates “Basic Pruning Techniques”; presented by Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust. \$5 suggested donation. 798-5899; www.btl.org/gardening-workshops.

Saturday, April 1
Paper Crafting & Scrapbooking Day. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Holy Family Church Hall, Sabattus St., Lewiston. Snacks, drawings and two make-and-takes. \$35 advance, \$40 at door (incl. lunch). Register at 784-5307 or 784-0389.

Saturday, April 8
Fabric & Craft Supply Fair. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. High Street Congregational Church, 106 Pleasant St., Auburn. Proceeds from this annual event support church projects and missions. 784-1306.

Vacationland RV and Camping Show. 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Norway Savings Bank Arena, Auburn. This annual event features the very latest RV models and camping options of all sizes, as well as the latest camping equipment. Again 4/9 (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.). \$8 (kids ages 8- free).

SPRING WEDDING GUIDE

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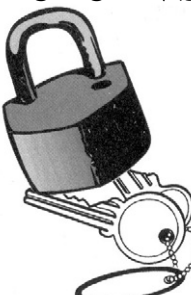
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Wyoming to South Dakota, highlights Grand Tetons, Yellow Stone National Park, Deadwood, Crazy Horse Memorial, Mt. Rushmore, Badlands National Park and more. \$250 deposit due upon signing. Oct. 27-Nov6th 2017 New Orleans, trip includes 10 nights lodging, 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

APL receives grant to provide "Great Stories Club" to at-risk teens

Auburn Public Library has been selected to receive a competitive grant from the American Library Association to host a reading and discussion program for at-risk youth about teen violence and suicide.

As one of 75 Great Stories Club grant recipients selected from across the country, the library will work with a group of teens to read and discuss three books in which protagonists deal with issues surrounding teen violence, bullying and suicide. This is the third such grant that APL has received, having been chosen last year for "Hack the Feed: Media, Resistance and Revolution" and "The Art of Change: Creation, Growth and Transformation."

A requirement for participation in and selection for this grant is that the library partner with a local organization that would benefit from such a partnership. For this series, the library has partnered with Outright L/A.

The book titles, under the program theme "Structures of Suffering: Origins of Teen Violence and Suicide," include: "Thirteen Reasons Why," by Jay Asher; "It's Kind of a Funny Story," by Ned Vizzini; and "Romeo and Juliet" (No Fear Shakespeare Graphic Novels), illustrated by Matt Weigle. The titles, selected by librarian advisors and humanities scholars, were chosen to resonate with reluctant readers who struggle with complex issues in their young lives.

"So many teens in our community struggle with issues of violence and suicide, and much of the time, adults are painfully unaware of what they are going through," said teen librarian and project director Donna Wallace. "We're thrilled to be able to use literature to start these important conversations with our young people." In addition to book discussions, participants will engage in activities that relate to their reading. For example, Heather Carter, Director of Prevention and Youth Programs at NAMI Maine, will join them for their meeting on May 12.

The library has received 11 copies of each of

the three books, which will be gifted to the book club participants. The project director has also received training and resources to assist in leading the book group.

Meetings of the Great Stories Club will begin in late March and continue through mid-June. More information can be found at www.auburnpubliclibrary.org. Interested teens should contact Donna Wallace by calling 333-6640, ext. 4. or via email at dwallace@auburnpubliclibrary.org.

Since its inception in 2006, ALA's Great Stories Club has reached 670 libraries in 49 states and more than 30,000 young adults ages 13 to 21. The grant is administered by ALA's Public Programs Office in partnership with the Association for Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies, including the Library Services for Youth in Custody and Library Services to the Incarcerated and Detained interest groups. The Great Stories Club is made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Viles Arboretum has volunteer opportunities



Many projects are especially well-suited for lovers of the outdoors.

In the heart of Augusta and easy to get to and find, Viles Arboretum has numerous volunteer opportunities available that could make a difference in promoting this non-profit nature, conservation and arts resource to its public visitors.

Here is a list of areas

they currently need help with: organizing and assembling bulk mailings, food prep and serving for various events throughout the year, event set up and prep, painting (several rooms and walls need a fresh coat), spackling (walls need holed puttied, sanded and

painted), watering plants in the Visitors Center "forest," recycling-related projects involving scrap metal, cardboard, etc., pruning, trail work, carpentry, re-positioning granite benches, landscaping, updating kiosk contents, laying out community gardens, garden care and dog sledding support.

The Arboretum is a great place to spend time any time of the year, and this only a partial list; there are many other projects and efforts that could benefit from your gift of time and skill. For more information about volunteer opportunities, call them at 626-7989. For more information about Viles Arboretum, see www.vilesarboretum.org.

Registration open for Hospice House 5K & Remembrance Walk



Participants leave the starting line at the 2016 event in Auburn.

While winter may seem never-ending, it's not too early to think about spring and to register for Androscoggin Home Care & Hospice's annual Hospice House 5K & Remembrance Walks. This year's events will take place on Sunday, May 7 at the Franklin County Court House on Main Street in Farmington and on Sunday, May 21 at Central Maine Community College in Auburn. Collectively, these races are the largest fundraiser for AHCH's Hospice House, with all proceeds benefitting patient care and support. This year's goal is to raise \$90,000.

"These family-friendly events continue to grow, and

while we know that many teams return year after year, we're thrilled that some new teams have already registered to join us," said AHCH President and CEO Kenneth Albert. "The generosity of those who participate and of our sponsors helps us continue to stay true to our mission of never turning away a person who needs care due to an inability to pay."

Race-day registration begins at 7:30 a.m. with the race starting at 9 a.m. Registration is \$25 in advance or \$35 on race day. Children under age 12 can participate at no charge and a free kids' fun run is also planned. Live music and other surprises are part of the fun, and awards will be

given to the top performers in each division. Those who register before April 2 will receive a free T-shirt.

Since teams often create their own shirts in memory of a loved one, the best team T-shirt at each location will be chosen via online voting. Once again, recognition opportunities for teams and individuals reaching specific fundraising levels are available. These include team names engraved on a plaque, engraved walkway pavers and a family bench at the Hospice House. The top individual and team fundraisers will also be recognized.

For more information or to register, call 795-9407 or see www.hhrunwalk.org.

Maine SBDC helps clients secure record capital in 2016

2016 was a record year for small businesses in Maine securing capital to start and grow their companies with the help of the Maine Small Business Development Centers. Fourteen certified SBDC business advisors across Maine helped clients secure an unprecedented \$47.1 million in capital to start and grow their businesses in 2016, more than in any other year in the Maine SBDC's 39-year history. In addition, the Maine SBDC helped these clients create and save 1,006 jobs and start 120 new businesses.

"This is a significant indicator of the value of the business advisor-client relationship, and the confidence lenders and investors have

with Maine SBDC clients," commented Maine SBDC State Director Mark Delisle. "Even more impactful is what this capital means for the future of small business in Maine - new jobs and a growing economy."

Part of a national network of nearly 1,000 centers funded in part by the U.S. Small Business Administration, the Maine SBDC helps build and strengthen

small business through no-cost business advising, training and educational resources. Maine SBDC provided no-cost business advising to 1,583 entrepreneurs and small business owners throughout Maine in 2016.

For more information on Maine Small Business Development Centers, or to find a location near you, go to www.mainesbdc.org.

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