

YMCA and CMMC formalize fitness center partnership

The YMCA board of directors voted unanimously recently to partner with the Central Maine Medical Center Fitness and Wellness Center at 12 High Street. Under Y management, the center will be rebranded as The Y at CMMC. Five current fitness center staff will stay on as part of the transition.

The vote makes official the collaboration between the Y and Central Maine Healthcare that was announced in February.

Steve Wallace, CEO at the Y, emphasized the broad community benefit

of the move. "The Y at CMMC will retain its identity as a center for wellness seekers of all abilities," he said. "But now it's more than 1,000 members will have access to all Y programs and facilities, including the fitness center at 62 Turner Street in Auburn and YMCAs throughout New England."

"We are pleased that our continued work with the YMCA will provide an optimum health and wellness opportunity for our employees and the community," said Jeff Brickman, CEO and President for Central

Maine Healthcare. "This partnership helps each of us grow our shared commitment to serving the needs of the region and build upon our record of success."

Rick Jalbert will continue to serve as director of the CMMC location, along with health and fitness specialists Abbey Goulet and Eric Vattaso, Personal Health Counselor Sue Driscoll and Wellness Director Heather Young.

"We have a distinct community and culture at

See *Fitness*, page 5

Multiple Sclerosis Walk set for April 29



The organizing committee includes (l. to r., from front) Ann Gosselin, Katie Roy, Marcia Humason Akers, Gloria Dooley, Louise Martel, co-chair Tracey Roy and Mike Roy. Not pictured are co-chair Debra Humason-Fulgham, Eileen Ferrante, and Ryan Beisaw.

The Androscoggin County Multiple Sclerosis Walk will take place on Saturday, April 29 at Lewiston High School. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. in the school gymnasium and the walk will start promptly,

excited to see a new beaver in her pond in the furbearer exhibit.

A variety of new and returning weekend events are planned for the season, beginning Saturday, May 6, with a "Creatures of the Night" display associated with the Park's newest exhibit featuring nocturnal animals. As the season

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rain or shine, at 10 a.m. Please note that this is a later start time than in years past.

The five-mile course extends through the Bates College area of Lewiston and shorter walk routes are available. Thanks to generous donations from local businesses, donuts and a light lunch, as well as refreshments along the walk route, will be provided to all participants. Door and raffle prizes will be awarded.

A chronic disease which effects the central nervous system, Multiple Sclerosis affects over 400 families in Androscoggin County and 3,000 families in the State of Maine. There is currently no known cause

or cure, and symptoms vary from person to person, which makes the disease difficult for physicians to diagnose.

All monies raised help with research, client services and advocacy for those affected by this disease. Several support groups are available across the state to assist MS patients and their families. For more information about the support groups, see www.msmaine.org.

For more information about the Walk, to donate, or register to be a walker or a volunteer at the event, contact the Greater New England Chapter at 1-800-526-8890 or www.msmaine.org.

Wildlife Park opens Saturday



Close to 30,000 followers have kept up with park happenings during the off-season, "liking" and commenting on photos of park wildlife posted on Facebook.

The Maine Wildlife Park in Gray, will open for the 2017 season on Saturday, April 15 at 9:30 a.m., just in time for the long Patriots Day weekend and school vacation week. Park staff have been working diligently to remove enough snow so paths will be clear, most wildlife exhibits will be open, and the parking lot and access road will be passable. While the turtle ponds may still be frozen over and the nature trails may not yet be walkable, visitors will be

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

CCU vice president to address Rotary Club



Betsy Sibley

On Thursday, April 20 at the Ramada Inn of Lewiston, Betsy Sibley of Community Credit Union will be the guest speaker at the LA Rotary Club's lunch meeting from noon to 1 p.m. Sibley is Vice President of Marketing and Business Development at Community Credit Union, where she oversees sales, marketing, advertising, community outreach, internal staff training and event planning. She has been with CCU for five years.

Sibley serves as the Public Relations Committee Chair for the L-A Rotary Club, Secretary for the

Turner Ridge Riders Snowmobile Club, President of the Turner Parent Teacher Committee, a member of the Statewide Awareness Committee for the Maine Credit Union League, and an Ambassador and committee member for the Androscoggin Chamber of Commerce. She has a passion for youth sports and also volunteers as a coach for the Turner Athletic Association.

She earned the designation of Certified Insurance Counselor in 2008, was named by Rotary as a Paul Harris Fellow in 2015, and was a 2015 graduate of the Androscoggin Leadership Development Institute. She was recently nominated in the "Creative Genius" category for Uplift LA's 40 under 40.

Guests are welcome and reservations are not required. Lunch is available for \$10 in the Ramada's Fusion Restaurant. For information about future speakers, contact Program Chair and President-Elect Monica Millhime at 753-9040 or mmillhime@wmca.org.

AHCH welcomes new Marketing & Development Dir.

Androscoggin Home Care & Hospice has hired Sonya Purington as its new Marketing and Development Director. Purington brings 13 years of broad experience in brand development, communications strategy, fundraising and leadership to AHCH. Most recently, she served as the Director of Marketing and Communications for Make-A-Wish Maine, where she led all communications initiatives and played a pivotal role in the implementation of an annual fundraising plan. Prior to joining Make-A-Wish in 2014, she spent a decade at Acorn Footwear, beginning as the Marketing Coordinator before being promoted to Marketing and Brand Manager.

"We are very impressed with Sonya's skills,



Sonya Purington

experience, energy and authenticity," said AHCH President and CEO Kenneth Albert. "She clearly desires to work for an organization that makes a difference in people's lives and is a very good fit for our agency." Purington earned her B.S. in Business Marketing at Thomas College, where she graduated with high honors. She resides in Greene.

Susan Collins receives National PTA's Congressional Voice for Children Award



Presenting the award to Sen. Collins (c.) in her Washington, D.C. office were Maine PTA President Tracy Walker (l.) and Maine PTA Vice President Haley Tripp.

The National Parent Teacher Association has honored U.S. Senator Susan Collins with its 2017 Congressional Voice for Children Award. Collins was cited for her "outstanding leadership and commitment to improving education and advancing issues impacting children's health and well-being." Maine PTA President Tracy Walker and Maine PTA Vice President Haley Tripp presented the award to Senator Collins in her Washington, D.C., office. Senator Collins was the only U.S. Senator to receive this award this year.

"I am honored to receive this recognition from the National PTA for my work on behalf of our na-

tion's schools," said Senator Collins, a member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. "In my more than 200 visits to Maine schools, I have seen firsthand an inspiring commitment to excellence. I am proud to support legislation that supports our schools and ensures every child receives a quality education and has the opportunity to succeed."

"Senator Collins is leading the charge to strengthen public education, ensure children have a healthy environment in which to thrive and learn, and make sure every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential," said Laura Bay, president of National PTA. "We commend her for her leadership and commitment to improving education and being a champion of change for our nation's youth. We are thrilled to honor her with our 2017 Congressional Voice for Children Award."

The National PTA recognized Senator Collins for introducing a number of bills to improve education, including serving as the lead sponsor of the School Food Modernization Act, a bipartisan and bicameral bill that would provide grants for improvements to school lunch facilities.

The Congressional Voice for Children Award is given to one U.S. Senator and one U.S. Representative each year. Congressional award winners are nominated and selected by the National PTA Legislation Committee and National PTA President.

For 120 years, the National PTA has brought educators and parents together in the great cause of ensuring opportunity for all American children. The organization is comprised of millions of families, students, teachers, administrators, and business and community leaders, and membership is open to anyone who wants to be involved and make a difference for the education, health, and welfare of children and youth.

Local artisan named a 2017 Small Business Champion

Local business Arthlin Jewelry LLC has been named a winner of the 2017 American Small Business Championship

hosted by SCORE, the nation's largest network of volunteer, expert business mentors. SCORE awarded the title to 102 entrepreneurs for their dedication to the success of their small businesses. The American Small Business Champions will each receive a \$1,000

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Governor's Address: Democrats' budget is one page of talking points

Democrat politicians in Augusta will take every opportunity to spend more of your money, and most Mainers simply can't afford it.

Dear Maine Taxpayer,

Last week, Speaker of the House Sara Gideon announced something we already knew: Democrats in Augusta are ready to raise your taxes and spend more of your money.

Democrats claim to represent the little guy, but their actions do the opposite. They increase taxes and grow big government. This doesn't help the working people of Maine.

The Maine media applauded the Democrats'

proposal as an alternative budget. But they failed to report the most important fact: it isn't a real budget.

The Democrats submitted a single page that offers few specifics and even fewer price tags. That is a set of talking points—it's not a budget.

My balanced budget is well over 800 pages and accounts for every single penny. Shame on the media for once again printing the Democrats' propaganda and giving the plan absolutely no scrutiny whatsoever. It's just more fake news.

I vetoed the last state budget, but the Legislature passed it anyway. They increased spending to \$6.7 billion—that's \$300 million more over the biennium



Governor Paul R. LePage

than I had submitted. Now Democrats are on track to increase the budget over \$7 billion and maybe over \$8 billion.

The 128th Legislature is preparing to enact the largest government spending increase in Maine his-

tory. That is a legacy our families and businesses simply cannot afford.

As your Governor, I will do everything possible to confront the big-government, tax-and-spend Democratic mentality. I will ask Republicans in the Legislature to stand with me for fiscal responsibility and smaller government.

Speaker Gideon, Senator Jackson and their Democratic colleagues want Maine to have the highest income tax in the country. In total disregard for our economy, they are forcing working families and small businesses to finance their special-interest spending spree in Augusta.

These Democratic leaders fully support a

10.15% state income tax rate and will fight to maintain the 3% additional tax on small businesses championed by the special interests that control them.

Towns like Medway, Greenville and Cumberland soundly rejected Question 2, yet many Democrats now embrace this extreme tax hike against the wishes of the constituents who elected them.

In Freeport, Question 2 was also defeated, but their Democratic legislator is now demanding to raise their taxes. Scarborough and Cape Elizabeth voted against Question 2, but their Democratic Senator was front and center at this fake budget announcement, lobbying for Maine to have the country's highest in-

come tax.

Make no mistake, the Democrats' budget favors special interests over the Maine people. If Speaker Gideon and Senator Jackson really want to do a budget that works for the Maine people, they should come meet with me.

I've already done the work for them. We can merge their one page into my 800-page budget. It doesn't take much effort for them to meet with me. They just have to come down a flight of stairs to my office.

If that is too difficult for them, they can always take the elevator.

Thank You,
Paul R. LePage
Governor

OpEd

Maine Family Planning will continue supporting Planned Parenthood despite Senate action

By Maine Family Planning

Vice President Mike Pence recently made the following statement at the White House Panel on Women's Empowerment: "President Trump and our administration are going to work tirelessly to empower women to climb the ladder

of opportunity and contribute even more to America's success in the years ahead. And I know, under President Trump's leadership, the future for our country and the future for American women is brighter than ever before."

Less than 24 hours later, the Vice President took his seat as the Presi-

dent of the Senate and cast the tie-breaking vote to allow states to discriminate against abortion providers in distributing federal family planning funds.

With Republicans holding a 52-48 majority in the Senate, why was the vote so close? Because two Republicans, Maine's Sena-

tor Susan Collins and Alaska's Lisa Murkowski, broke ranks "to empower women to climb the ladder of opportunity" by making it possible for women to control their reproductive lives by choosing their reproductive health provider of choice.

The pressure to vote the party line on this matter must have been extraordinary, and Maine Family Planning thanks Senator Collins for her principled vote. We are equally grateful to Senator Angus King and Representative Chellie

Pingree for their votes in support of Maine women and teens.

What does this mean for Maine? With this vote, Congress has allowed states that administer the federal family planning program to discriminate against family planning providers that also provide abortion services. However, in Maine, state government does not play a role in deciding how federal family planning funds are distributed.

Instead, these funds are granted directly to Maine

Family Planning, a private not-for-profit organization, for the maintenance of a statewide family planning system. As the statewide administrator of the federal Title X family planning program, Maine Family Planning will continue to use those funds to provide high quality family planning services, and to support providers who meet the rigorous federal standards for delivery of such services - including our colleagues at Planned Parenthood of Northern New England.

Wildlife

Continued from page 1

continues, weekend visitors will have opportunities to practice archery and laser rifle target shooting, meet Game Wardens and Warden authors on Warden Service Day, experience Mr. Drew & His Animals, Too, learn about Portland's famous International Cryptozology Museum, and enjoy a night visit with Northern Stars Planetarium. Returning favorites this season will include the Bug Man, New England Mineral Association, Wildlife Encounters, Enchanted Forests, the annual Open House, the annual Pow Wow, chainsaw artists, and popular children's entertainer Rick Charette. The October Har-

vest-Fest will be expanded for this season to two full weekend days.

Many Maine families are eager to visit their favorite animals after the long winter, but close to 30,000 followers have "kept in touch" with park happenings during the off-season, "liking" and commenting on photos of park wildlife posted on Facebook.

Owned and operated by the Maine Department of

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the Maine Wildlife Park is located at 56 Game Farm Road in Gray. The park is open for admittance daily April 15 through November 11 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Visitors may stay until 6 p.m.

Admission is \$7.50 for adults and \$5.50 for seniors and kids ages 4 through 12. For more information, call 657-4977 or see www.mainewildlifepark.com.

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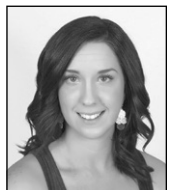
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Laurie A. Steele
Publisher/CEO
Laurie@TwinCityTimes.com



Ashley Bailey
Office Manager
Ashley@TwinCityTimes.com



Steve Bouchard
Copy Editor
Editor@TwinCityTimes.com



Katrina Ray-Saulis
Proofreader
Info@TwinCityTimes.com

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Only Steps Forward

Merger of L-A is still hypothetical until commission finishes its work

By Jonathan P. LaBonte
MAYOR OF AUBURN
"Do your job."

Those three simple words have come to take on so much more meaning after they left the mouth of Coach Bill Belichick of the New England Patriots. It was the rallying cry for the team, and it signified how important it was for each player and coach to focus on their responsibility and that task only.

And so, as we are now

four years removed from the start of the petition drive for the commission to merge Auburn and Lewiston, we have to wonder what has taken so long to complete the process of a proposal.

In fact, after taking a year to collect signatures in both cities to force the creation of a merger commission, the group has met for nearly three years to complete the requirements under state law for a proposal to be submitted to the



Mayor Jonathan P. LaBonte

city councils. And we still wait for the work to be done. Furthermore, the com-

mission hosted a meeting three months ago to roll out a report that is not part of the requirements under state law for a merger commission, and it has not publicly offered further reports on their progress.

As the Mayor of Auburn watching this process, it's becoming very concerning that the commission has yet to "do its job" and complete the document the Auburn City Council must receive before any pub-

lic hearings of votes by our citizens are set. It has become confusing for the average voter as members of the commission have regularly, over the last three years, promised a set voting date for the merger, only to have those dates continue to slip by.

Of particular concern, in terms of roles and responsibilities, is that it isn't the job of the merger commission to set the voting date. The only job assigned to them under state law is to provide documentation for the eight items listed in statute that I've highlighted in previous reports.

Why is it a concern? Well, for anyone not living under a rock, we now have two very active campaigns about the merger; one strongly for it and one strongly against it. Unfortunately, the for-and-against campaigns have nothing to be for or against because the commission has yet to finish its work.

As people opine in the daily newspaper and social media, it has turned into a host of hypotheticals because there is no final document that will be the basis for a referendum.

State law doesn't set a time limitation for the merger commission to complete its work. If the commission wishes to take four years, five years, or 10 years, it is free to. What it can't do is host the public hearings for the final documents or set the voting date.

Perhaps by attempting to influence outcomes of a vote by trying to choose the

date, the group lost its focus on its core job. No time like the present to refocus.

With both cities fully into their budget processes, the merger documents will be unlikely to receive time for a public hearing this spring, which brings us to summer. There's a reason that most budget processes strive to be finished by June. It is hard with summer schedules and vacations to keep everyone's attention and bring people out to meetings on beautiful summer nights.

And without hearings in the summer, we are into fall. Unless there's no intent, following a series of public hearings hosted by either city council, to consider changes to the documents, a vote this fall is highly improbable.

There will be much to say about the implications of a merger, but only once we actually see the documents that will be the basis for the vote. The commission is still free to alter where it believes city hall should be; it still needs to decide what name the new city will take on; and it must determine which changes can still be made to the city charter, or governing documents, that would guide and limit future councils and city managers.

Maybe we should encourage the commission to embrace another of Coach Belichick's mantras, until its statutory obligations have been fulfilled, so we can finally move on to the public hearing process. "No days off."

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By Robert E. Macdonald
MAYOR OF LEWISTON

Every once in a while, a movie may come out that you're dying to see. You wait with great anticipation for the movie's premiere date to arrive.

When the release date finally comes, you and your friends make plans to go to the local theater and enjoy the movie. Weeks of continuous advertisement at the local theater, on TV and the newspaper has continued to whet your appetite to view the film.

You and your friends go to the theater, park your car and get in line to purchase your tickets. Sales are brisk. Just before getting to the window, from out of nowhere comes a group of people who are allowed by management to cut into line

and purchase the remaining tickets, shutting you and your friends out.

This is similar to what is happening today along our border and in our country.

This begs an answer from liberal politicians and snowflakes: Is this fair? (say this with a whine). Apparently it is, if you are an asylum seeker.

Non-citizens coming into the United States fall into four categories: immigrants, refugees, economic migrants and asylum seekers. At present, those on the left have succeeded in homogenizing these groups into one blend: immigrants. This leads to a false characterization of many of our non-citizen guests. In the following paragraphs, I will try to simplify definitions of



Mayor Bob Macdonald

the various groups so that even I can understand them.

First up are immigrants. These are people who leave their country of origin to permanently settle in another country. They are vigorously vetted prior to being allowed into the country.

In order to immigrate,

they must show that they have the means to independently support themselves. Usually, this is accomplished by a job.

They are not allowed to collect any government assistance. At some point, they eventually become productive citizens.

Next we have refugees. These are people who have been forced to leave their country of origin to escape war, persecution or natural disaster. Many flee with just the clothes on their backs. They seek safety in bordering countries in order to enter the hell of refugee camps.

Many spend years in these camps; they are continuously vetted; and at some point are settled in one of the many countries throughout the world. In

Maine, they receive federal, state and local assistance, which is needed in order for them to effectively assimilate into our culture.

Next are the economic migrants. These are people who go from country to country looking for work. If there is no work, they move on to another country.

Then we have asylum seekers. Most arrive in our country carrying visas. These visas give the holder the right to stay for a limited time in the United States. This may be to attend college, visit relatives or just plain tourism. When the time runs out on the visa, they are supposed to return to their country of origin.

However, many stay and apply for asylum, stating they will be harmed if they go home. It takes

six months to two years in order to vet these people. Meanwhile in Maine, they become the guests of Maine and local property taxpayers.

This week is a Holy Week for both Christians and Jews. Our Jewish neighbors celebrate Passover, while Christians celebrate The Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Every year the parishioners of East Auburn Baptist Church put on a play known as "The Event." It briefly chronicles Christ's days on Earth. The play is exceptionally well done and puts those who see it into a state of the true meaning of the Resurrection. I think I can speak for all who attended this play: thank you.

Happy Easter and Happy Passover.

Fitness

Continued from page 1

our center, so, understandably, our members were initially nervous about the Y coming in and changing everything," says Jalbert. "But that just hasn't been the case. Over the last month, as we've started to transition our operations, members have seen that the Y is adding value rather than taking something away."

Likewise, Y members who frequent the Auburn location are welcome to make use of the CMMC facility, which offers medically-oriented programs and additional opportunities for personal training.

"The Y at CMMC is part of the larger YMCA of the Auburn-Lewiston family," says Wallace. "We're not bound by the four walls of 62 Turner Street."

Other Y-run programs and facilities include Daisy Garden Childcare on the St. Mary's hospital campus, Camp Connor in Poland, after-school care at Geiger Elementary and the Y's Outdoor Learning & Education Center in Auburn. For more information, contact the YMCA at 795-4095 or visit www.alyanca.org.

Champion

Continued from page 2

Sam's Club gift card, an all-expense-paid trip to a training and networking event, SCORE mentoring, and publicity throughout the year.

Arthlin Jewelry LLC is owned and operated by Lincey Viel, who is originally from Quebec but now lives in Auburn with her American husband. Growing up in an artistic family, she recounts how her mother's house was filled with so much artwork that you could barely see the color

of the paint on the walls. She experimented with painting, sewing, sculpting and other crafts, eventually settling on jewelry as her favorite way to create.

She first became serious about making jewelry as a way to pay for her education. Her necklaces were sold online and at a local store. When she married her husband and they moved to an Army base in Louisiana, there weren't many job openings in the area, so she saw it as an opportunity to take a shot at her dream of becoming a full-time artisan. It wasn't long before the small operation was noticed by the fashion industry.

"We were still based out of a living room when we caught the attention of Vogue, Seventeen, Glamour and Redbook magazines," says Viel. "When Kendall Jenner wore one of our pieces and featured it on her website next to a Givenchy sweater, that was the beginning of our serious growth."

Arthlin Jewelry LLC earned the title of American Small Business Champion by submitting an online application describing the most unique aspect of their small business that has contributed to their success, their positive impact on the community, and their plans to use the prizes to grow their business. Nominations which garnered at least 100 votes were then presented to a judging panel of small business experts that selected

the 102 winners.

"We are honored to have been chosen for this award," she says. "To be honest, this isn't something that I would have thought possible at the humble beginnings of our company. We have come such a long way in the last couple of years, and we hope to serve the community by creating more jobs in a fun, creative environment that provides original jewelry designs manufactured by hand in the United States. Thank you to all, both locally and online, who have supported us and helped us succeed. This would not have been possible without you." Arthlin Jewelry LLC's products are available online on Amazon, Etsy and at www.arthlin.com.

As a Championship winner, Arthlin Jewelry LLC is also eligible to win an additional \$25,000 prize by being named one of three Grand Champions to be selected this summer by a judging panel of small business experts. Selection is based on how effectively Champions utilize the Sam's Club gift card and the SCORE regional training events to grow business revenue, as well as how effectively the winners promoted the Championship in the media and social media.

To learn more about the American Small Business Championship and to view the complete list of Champions, see www.championship.score.org.

Chamber offers scholarships to member employees

The L-A Metro Chamber of Commerce's Member Employee Scholarship Program will recognize employees of L-A Metro Chamber members who have shown effort in advancing their education at the college level.

Scholarships of \$1000 each will be awarded annually. The scholarships will be awarded directly to the recipient. One award will

be made per individual, although the award may be divided to apply to two semesters of college work.

Applicants must be employed 20 or more hours by a member in good standing of the Lewiston-Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce; begin course(s) within six months of receiving an award; be matriculated in college-level coursework applicable toward an As-

sociates, Bachelor's or Master's degree; have a high school diploma or equivalent; and be at least 18 years old.

The completed application and employer verification form must be received by May 5. Recipients will be notified in early June. To receive an application, call 783-2249, email Jenny@LAMetroChamber.com, or see www.LAMetroChamber.com.

Church hosts program on sexual exploitation

On Tuesday, April 18 at 7 p.m., Nichole DaRosa will speak at Court Street Baptist Church in Auburn about THRIVE New England, a seedling organization that strives to prevent the sexual exploitation and trafficking of children and provides restorative whole-person care for teen survivors.

The event is sponsored by the Women's Ministries of the church to raise awareness of the issue and how to help young teenagers, boys and girls alike, who have been victims of a heinous crime that is happening even in

Auburn and Lewiston. The program is free, but those attending are encouraged to bring a gift card that the organization can provide to a teenager who has been trafficked to help him or her purchase personal items.

After over a decade of teaching children, DaRosa became aware of the threat of sexual exploitation, and has since been working to generate awareness. Her

passion for empowering and educating children led her to join the THRIVE New England executive team in 2014, with whom she works to grow strategic partnerships that protect kids and combat exploitation.

The church is located at 129 Court Street. For more information, call David or Allison VanderLinden at 926-5062 or see thrivenewengland.org.

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Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Services

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We listen. We Believe. We Care.

Volunteer Advocates Needed For Helpline

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Services (SAPARS) is looking for volunteer advocates to respond to its 24-hour crisis and support line, and make a difference in the lives of people affected by sexual assault, childhood sexual abuse, stalking or sexual harassment.

Volunteer advocates listen and provide support, information, and referrals to people calling for assistance. Calls can require supporting someone through a difficult memory of childhood sexual abuse, providing support and education about available resources,

or accompanying a caller to a local hospital or police station.

Volunteer advocates receive extensive training and support to prepare them for effectively responding to callers. The 40+ hour training provides insight and information in the areas of sexual harassment, stalking, child sexual abuse, sexual assault and the challenges faced by survivors and concerned others. Volunteers are taught the various options and resources available in our communities and learn crisis intervention and advocacy skills with special emphasis placed on

the importance of self-care. Trainings are typically held a couple times each week in the evening and/or on weekends.

Volunteer advocates are notified of calls through their cell phones from an answering service, allowing them to be on-call from their homes and choose from a variety of scheduling options. A stipend is available for volunteer advocates who cover evening, weekend and holiday shifts.

Volunteer advocates must be over the age of 18, empathetic and dependable with access to reliable transportation. All potential volunteers must complete the training and a screening process which includes criminal and DHHS back-

ground checks. No prior experience is necessary.

SAPARS serves Androscoggin, Oxford and Franklin counties. Services include the 24-hour helpline; accompaniment to local hospitals, law enforcement and court proceedings; individual advocacy; and support groups. SAPARS also provides prevention education to local schools on a variety of topics including technology safety, healthy relationships, sexual assault, and sexual abuse prevention. To learn more about our services, visit our website at www.sapars.org.

To learn more about becoming a Volunteer Helpline Advocate, please contact Kayce Hunton at 784-5272 ext. 111.

Support Groups

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Services (SAPARS) provides support groups for people affected by sexual assault (recently or in the past) and for significant others of those survivors. The groups are an opportunity for people to come together and

help one another manage the impact of the assault on their lives, share and develop coping strategies among group members, and learn information that will be helpful to them in protecting themselves and others. The groups are facilitated by two trained support group facilitators from SAPARS and are provided free of charge.

The available groups are: Adult survivors. SAPARS offers two different groups—one for female survivors and one for male survivors. These groups bring together males or females who have experienced a sexual assault, whether the assault occurred when they were a child or as an adult. The group for male survivors is co-facilitated by a male.

Adolescent survivors. These groups are for teenagers who have been sexually assaulted, either recently or in prior years.

Trauma Informed Yoga: This 6 week group is a yoga group especially created for women who have

24-hour Helpline:
1-800-871-7741
 TTY: 1-888-458-5599
 ◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆

In Androscoggin County:
 182 Webster St., Lewiston
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 ◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆

In Oxford County:
 1 E. Main St., S. Paris
 743-9777
 ◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆

In Franklin County:
 227 Main St., Farmington
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 ◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆

Children's Advocacy Center
 of Androscoggin, Franklin
 and Oxford Counties
 56 Lafayette St., Lewiston, ME
 784-0436

been sexually assaulted. The yoga is adjusted to meet the needs of the group participants, to help them gain strength and resiliency without triggering traumatic memories.

Art therapy for LG-BTQ+ youth: This group is an art based group for young people who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or Queer. The group uses different art media to help young people express their feelings and help one another in their healing journey.

Non-offending caregivers: This group is for parents or caregivers whose child has been sexually assaulted, and who are believing/supporting/protecting their child. The group provides a safe space for the caregivers to deal with their own feelings about the

abuse as well as learn ways to effectively support their child through the process.

Parents in the Know: This 4 week group helps parents to understand how to better protect their children from sexual abuse. The groups teaches parents how to evaluate the relationships of their children to older children or adults, and to understand the warning signs that there may be potential for abuse in that relationship. It also provides parents tools to talk with their children about healthy sexuality and about sexual abuse prevention.

Groups are typically scheduled when there are enough participants to begin. For more information or to register for a group, call the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Services office at 784-5272

Staff

- Marty McIntyre, Executive Director
 Meagan Davis, Site Coordinator
 Androscoggin: Jaime Ricker, SART Coordinator
 Jamie Demers, Outreach Coordinator
 Bridget McAlonan, Educator Advocate
 Molly Nelson, Educator Advocate
 Hannah Johnson, College Advocate
 Jeb Enoch, Office Manager
 Kayce Hunton, Client Services Coordinator
 Susan Koch, Office Coordinator
 Franklin: Mandy Damon, Communications/ & Outreach Coord.
 Cindy McNeil, SART Coordinator
 Jennifer Bell, Educator Advocate
 Danielle Wilbur, Rural Educator Advocate
 Oxford: Janet Dillingham, Educator Advocate
 Sarah Dailey, Educator Advocate
 Ami-Jo Arsenault, Educator Advocate
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 Kat Perry, Coordinator
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FOR A BETTER US. FOR A BETTER ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY

Out & About with Rachel Morin

Civil War poetry at the Auburn Art Club

Story and photos by Rachel Morin

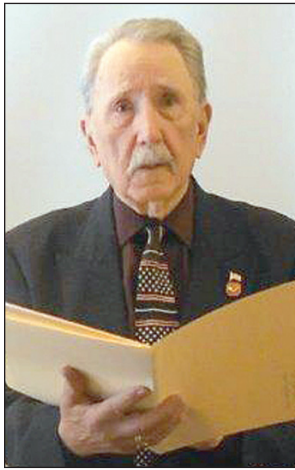
I was delighted to receive an invitation to the Civil War Poetry presentation at the Auburn Art Club on April 3 held at the Auburn Methodist Church on Park Ave. The speaker was Charles Plummer Ph.D., a noted Civil War historian and renowned for his living history portrayals of Joshua L. Chamberlain, Ulysses S. Grant, Stonewall Jackson, William T. Sherman, Oliver Otis Howard and Abraham Lincoln. I have attended several of Charlie's presentations, lectures and classes and was looking forward to this event. His lecture depicted the importance of poetry during the Civil War and recounted many stories associated with it.

Plummer holds a B.S. Degree in Education, a Master's Degree in Administration and Supervision, and a Doctorate in Religious Studies. He served as a naval aviator during the Korean War and is a retired elementary

school principal and family counselor.

A long time instructor for LA Senior College and Mid-Coast Senior College, Plummer has taught courses in Civil War history, sociology, psychology, biology of human behavior, natural law and human nature. He is teaching Understanding Why Humans Behave the Way They Do at Schooner Estates this spring semester. LA Senior College collaborates with Schooner Estates in providing an instructor for the spring and fall semesters for its members who are residents at the retirement community.

Dr. Plummer told us "From the time of the Civil War to the present, the Civil War has become an integral part of the collective memory of millions of Americans and inspired a vast array of poetic sentiments from Union and Confederate soldiers, as well as from some of America's most famous poets, including Walt Whitman, Ralph Waldo Emerson,



Dr. Charles Plummer addresses the Auburn Art Club on the importance of poetry during the Civil War. His recitation of Walt Whitman's "O Captain My Captain!" on the death of Abraham Lincoln held everyone's undivided attention.

Herman Melville and Julia Ward Howe, to name a few."

The instructor is a firm believer that it is important to understand that poetry is a literary art form that can be associated with a vast array of ideas and emotions and

that many poets throughout history have incorporated their political views and their personal thoughts through the use of poetry. The Civil War poems that he chose to share with us clearly revealed this fact.

His presentation included many of the poets during that era and included pictures of the drummer boys who served in this war. We were struck by the photo of The Drummer Boy of Shiloh, John L. Clem, only 10 years old. Clad in his Union Uniform with matching cap, another picture showed him holding a musket trimmed down for his small size. It gave many a mother and grandmother in the audience a pang to see these young innocents engaged in war. But, sadly, this is what is happening now, in other places, in our world.

Plummer divided the poems into the following categories: The Horrors of War, Moral Fervor, Snapshots of War, Pantheon, Lincoln Aftermath, and Stillness. Plummer recounted many poems, but it was his recitation of Walt Whitman's "O Captain My Captain" on the death of Abraham Lincoln that held the audience's unwavering attention to every word.

Following Plummer's presentation, Kathryn Cutter, Auburn Art Club's president, delivered a short report on the current month's Woman of History, Messannie Wilkins, adding her to the women in history featured at the previous meetings this past year.

Many club members recognized the iconic woman as "Jackass Annie" who made the 7,000 mile odyssey from Maine to California with her travel companions—her horses, Tarzan and Rex, and her dog, "Depeche Toi" (Hurry Up). Wilkins wrote a book on her journey "The Last of the Saddle Tramps." Years later, the author's final years were in her beloved, native Minot. A Street bears her name in the town.

The women of history featured in previous meetings included Mother Ann Lee who brought the Shaker Sect from England to the American Colonies; Esther Wheelwright, missionary and Mother Superior of Ur-



Hostesses for the April meeting of the Auburn Art Club L to R, Rachel Robinov, Genevieve Dussault, Jill Jones, Melanie Ness, Lorraine Desjardin. Absent, Dorothy Murray

suline Convent in Quebec; Ellen Gould White, Seventh Day Adventist Church; Cornelia "Flyrod" Crosby, Maine's First Registered Guide; and Martha Benjamin Washburn of The Washburn Family at Norlands in Livermore.

The afternoon closed with members enjoying a table set with home baked

delicacies and vegetable platters prepared by the hostesses, Lorraine Desjardin, Genevieve Dussault, Jill Jones, Melanie Ness and Rachel Robinov. An early spring bouquet of yellow daffodils added to the festive look of the table. Piping hot tea poured by Melanie Ness was a welcomed ending to a lovely afternoon.



Kathryn Cutter, Auburn Art Club President, highlighted the current woman of history for April, Messannie Wilkins, better known as "Jackass Annie." Wilkins wrote a book about her journey on horseback from Maine to California in "The Last of the Saddle Tramps." Her final years were in her beloved, native Minot. A Street is named after her in the town.



Greeting and welcoming close to 40 attendees were Jan Sullivan, Beth Bell and Joyce Campbell, members of the Auburn Art Club.



Display Board with photos of the women in history presented at the Auburn Art Club meetings this past year: L. to R. starting at the top are Mother Ann Lee, Esther Wheelwright, Ellen Gould White, Cornelia "Flyrod" Crosby, Martha Benjamin Washburn and Messannie "Jackass Annie" Wilkins. Bottom row, center, is a photo of Wilkins' memoir, "The Last of the Saddle Tramps."

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1 Peter 1:3

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TWIN CITY NIGHTS

Weekly Arts & Entertainment

"Textile Translations of Maine" opens at Monkintree



"Acadia Rocks," art quilt by Catherine Worthington

On display at Monkintree, a gallery in historic downtown Gardiner, during April and May will be an exhibit of art quilts by Catherine Worthington called

"Textile Translations of Maine." The exhibit will open with an Artist's Reception on Friday, April 14 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. and will be featured with an Artwalk

Reception on Friday, May 5, also from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Worthington, who lives in Brunswick, has a BFA in textile design from the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth. Her studio practice consists of painting cloth, composing art quilts, and designing and creating textiles. Whether sailing the coast or hiking in the woods, "taking in Maine's natural beauty with my eyes and heart gives me inspiration to create," she says.

Her textile art quilts represent real places, and she strives to capture the essence of Maine as she paints, cuts, pieces, and stitches. She finds her process adds abstraction to familiar locations. "As I explore the

See **Monkintree**, page 11

Author to discuss

"Franco-American Family Odyssey"

On Tuesday, April 18, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at USM's Lewiston-Auburn College, the Franco-American Collection will present Catherine Bergeron-Bergeron, who will speak about her book "Our Place in Line: A Franco-American Family Odyssey."

Building on her family's history, the book explores French immigration to North America and the subsequent history of French Canada and Franco-American immigration to Maine and the other New England states. This event will focus on the North American portion of that journey, including the history of the author's family, who settled in the manufacturing and farming communities of greater Lewiston-Auburn. The book includes many ancestral photos and anecdotal lore.

Bergeron-Bergeron was a reporter for the Lewiston Daily Sun and the Evening Journal during her college years in the 1970s. She earned a bachelor of arts degree from Northeastern University College of Journalism while also taking as many history courses as she possibly could.

This is one of several events scheduled throughout the week as part of the partially rescheduled "La Semaine de la Francopho-



Our Place in Line

A Franco-American Family Odyssey



nie" - a week celebrating the French language and those who speak it. The next event at the Collection will be an open house on Wednesday, when people are welcome to stop by during the afternoon. The events are free and open to the public.

One of the largest repositories in the Northeast

for the culture of French Canadian immigrants to the United States, the Franco-American Collection is located at the University of Southern Maine's Lewiston-Auburn College at 51 Westminster Street in Lewiston. For more information, call 753-6545 or see <http://usm.maine.edu/franco>.

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Thread Theater

WEDNESDAY

APRIL 19

AT 7:30 P.M.

DOORS OPEN AT 6:30

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This national event is free and open to the public.

YMCA of Auburn-Lewiston
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Curious Minds series explores Beatles songbook

The Curious Minds Series, presented by Lewiston-Auburn Senior College and Auburn Public Library, will continue with a lecture by David Bernier on the musical genius of The Beatles on Tuesday, April 18 at 2 p.m. Bernier will take a closer look at some of the Beatles songs and share insight into the Lennon

-McCartney song writing process. Free and open to the public, the program will take place in the library's Androscoggin Community Room.

Rolling Stone magazine says that no band has influenced pop culture the way the Beatles have. During the week of April 4, 1964, the band held the first

five slots on the Billboard Singles chart. They went on to sell more than a billion records and made writing one's own material expected, rather than exceptional. For more information, call 333-6640. Upcoming programs in the series can be found by visiting the library's website at www.auburnpubliclibrary.org.

Thread Theater celebrates spring

The next installment of the Thread Theater at the Gendron Franco Center will take place in the center's Heritage Hall Clubhouse on Wednesday, April 19. The doors and bar will open at 6:30 p.m. for Happy Hour, with the show starting at 7:30. There will be a \$5 entrance fee for everyone, including playwrights, actors, and spectators.

This month's theme, added to the lineup for the rescheduled La Semaine de la Francophonie 2017 (Francophone Week), is "Spring" ("Printemps"). For more information on how the program is presented, call or visit the center's website. The event often presents adult themes that are not appropriate for minors, who

should be accompanied by a responsible adult (or have permission) if they attend.

Located at 46 Cedar Street in Lewiston, the Franco Center is wheelchair accessible. For more information, visit the Franco Center Box Office Monday through Friday from noon to 4 p.m., call 783-1585, or see FrancoCenter.org.

Francophone Week events rescheduled

Local events celebrating Francophone Week, which were snowed-out in March, have been rescheduled for next week. Unless otherwise noted, all events are free and open to the public.

On Tuesday, April 18 at 3:30 p.m., the Franco-American Collection at USM's Lewiston-Auburn College will present author Catherine Bergeron-Bergeron, who will discuss her book about her exploration of her family's history, "Our Place in Line: A Franco-American Family Odyssey." The event will take place in Room 170 at L-A College, located at 51 Westminster Street in Lewiston.

On Tuesday at 5 p.m., a ceremony will take place in the Performance Hall of the Gendron Franco Center, where the Franco-American Color Guard will present the flags of the U.S.A., Canada and

France as those gathered join in singing the national anthems of the three countries. Greetings will be brought by Marie-Claude Francoeur, the Head of the Delegation of Québec in Boston; Valéry Freland, the Counsel General of France in Boston; representatives of the Franco Center and Franco-American Collection, and other special guests.

Following the ceremony, the public is invited to a reception with hors d'oeuvres in the center's Heritage Hall, where selected items from the Franco-American Collection will be on display. Guests may R.S.V.P. by calling 783-1585. The Franco Center is located at 46 Cedar Street in Lewiston.

The rescheduled "Franco-American Day" at the Maine State House in Augusta will take place on Wednesday, April 19.

Festivities will include the Induction Ceremony for the Franco-American Hall of Fame. Among the 2017 inductees will be longtime Franco Center volunteer and local musician Lionel Meservier of Lewiston.

Wednesday afternoon, the public is invited to visit the Franco-American Collection at Lewiston-Auburn College for an Open House. The collection is the largest repository of Franco-American culture in the Northeast. Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m., "Printemps" ("Spring") will be the theme for the monthly Thread Theater, a live and original performance forum held in the Franco Center's Heritage Hall. There will be a \$5 cover charge at the door.

The celebration will continue Friday, April 21, when a French Sing-Along with Les Troubadours will take place at 1:30 p.m.

Bookey Readings kick off at Harlow Gallery

The Bookey Readings at the Harlow Gallery will kick off for 2017 with two of Maine's most distinguished performance poets, Martin Steingesser and David Moreau, on Friday, April 14 at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served and a suggested \$3 donation will help support operating costs. The Harlow Gallery is located at 160 Water Street in Hallowell.

Monkitree

Continued from page 10
medium of textile painting, I am often discovering the balance between abstraction and representation." The show will be on view through May 31. Monkitree is located at 263 Water Street. For more information, contact Clare Marron at 512-4679 or clare@monkitree.com.

Steingesser and Moreau engage audiences with their wit, honesty, and moving performances. Combine their different poetry and performance styles and one might conjure an evening with the flare of slam poetry and a touch of Shakespearian theater.

Steingesser is the author of three books of poems, "Yellow Horses," "Brothers of Morning," and "The Thinking Heart: The

Life & Loves of Etty Hillesum," the latter based on Hillesum's journal and letters. As a performance poet, he has appeared at diverse venues, from the Poetry and Jazz Festival in Portsmouth, New Hampshire to the Maine State House.

He served as Portland, Maine's first Poet Laureate from 2007-09, was awarded a Stonecoast Pierre Menard Poetry Scholarship in 2000, See [Harlow](#), page 12

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Twin City Nights

Rotary Club 100th Anniv. Gala



Lewiston-Auburn Rotary Club members (l. to r.) Monica Millhime, Sylvia Plourde, Tom MacDonald and Jan Barrett finalize plans for the club's 100th Anniversary Gala on Saturday, April 22 at the Hilton Garden Inn of Auburn. A reception and social hour will take place starting at 5:30 p.m., a seated dinner will be served at 6:45 p.m., and entertainment will follow at 9 p.m. Entrée selections include lobster stuffed haddock, filet mignon and stuffed chicken breast. Tickets are \$50 each, with an RSVP deadline of April 14. For more information or to buy tickets, contact Monica Millhime at 753-9040 or mmillhime@wmca.org. (Photo courtesy of Brett Bisson)

at the Franco-American Collection. At 7:30 p.m., North Carolina pianist Kevin Ayesch will present a recital at the Franco Center featuring works by composers from the Classical, Ro-

mantic, and Contemporary periods - Mozart, Chopin, Brahms, and Fauré - and closing with a performance of Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue." A pre-concert reception will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$15, or \$10 for seniors. Admission is free for students.

For more information about any of these events, call the Franco Center at 783-1585.



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“Jesus Christ Superstar” cast reunites for CCAC event

Back in May of 1997, the Chocolate Church Arts Center produced “Jesus Christ Superstar” to sellout audiences. Now, twenty years later, CCAC has assembled the original cast for a 20th anniversary concert on Friday and Saturday, April 14 and 15, at 7:30 p.m., plus a 2 p.m. performance on April 15. The center is located at 804 Washington Street in Bath.

Jesus Christ Superstar is a rock opera by Andrew Lloyd Webber, with lyrics by Tim Rice. The musical is based very loosely on the Gospels’ accounts of the last week of Jesus’ life, beginning with the preparation for his arrival with his disciples in Jerusalem and ending with his crucifixion. It highlights political and interpersonal struggles between Judas Iscariot and Jesus that are not in the Bible.

“I have to admit that I was a little intimidated when I got the script and

found it contains absolutely no stage direction,” said Thom Watson, who returns as the director. “But the story tells itself, in beautiful music, and that’s why this musical has withstood the test of time.”

According to Watson, he was approached by original cast member Marc Rodriguez and Mark McNeil, who returns as the Music Director, with the idea of getting the group back together. “My first thought was that we’d never find all the original cast, but I was wrong,” he says. “Word got out quickly, and with very few exceptions, the entire 1997 cast came on board right away.”

Original cast members reprising their 1997 roles include Ron Bouffard of Boothbay as Jesus, Gregory Charette of Portland as Judas, Teresa Henderson of Gardiner as Mary Magdalene, John York of South Portland as Pontius Pilate, Sheldon Bird of Bath as

Caliph, Sumner Richards of Damariscotta as Annas, Marc Rodriguez of Bath as Peter, and Dennis Doiron of Phippsburg as Simon Zealots. Ben Proctor of Brunswick joins the cast as King Herod.

“There are times in the of history this organization - when a cast and crew and material and music all align - when magic happens,” said executive director Jennifer DeChant. “This collaboration is an example of that.” This concert version of Jesus Christ Superstar will focus on the music and storytelling. Audiences will appreciate the contemporary attitudes and sensibilities, as well as the lyrics and ironic allusions to modern life, that are scattered throughout the depiction of political events.

Tickets are \$12 advance or \$15 at the door and are available by calling 442-8455 or online at www.chocolatechurcharts.org.

Grant’s Bakery, WMCA partner in job training program



Grant’s Bakery’s newest baker, Kierstyn O’Donnell, is congratulated by Don Grant on successfully completing her on-the-job training program, funded by Western Maine Community Action at the Lewiston CareerCenter. The program makes on-the-job training affordable for employers in various business sectors by providing grant funding to qualified candidates while they train. For more information about the program, call 753-9040 or email mmillhime@wmca. (Photo by Monica Millhime)

Harlow

Continued from page 11

and received the Maine Alliance for Arts Education’s 2006 Bill Bonyun Award “for exemplified talent and professionalism as an artist and for contributions to arts education.” He has been

teaching poetry workshops in Maine artist-in-residence programs for 35 years.

Despite fierce competition, David Moreau’s 2007 chapbook “You Can Still Go to Hell and Other Truths about Being a Helping Professional” remains Moon Pie Press’s all-time best seller. His other books

of poetry include “Sex, Death and Baseball” and “Children Are Ugly Little Monsters (But You Have to Love Them Anyway).” His poems have been read three times by Garrison Keillor on The Writer’s Almanac. In 2013, his poem “Salt to the Brain (In Praise of Poets)” was included by Maine’s

CMHRA meeting spotlights Family Medical Leave Act

On Tuesday, April 18 at 8 a.m. at the Carriage House in Lewiston, representatives of the U.S. Department of Labor will attend the monthly meeting of the Central Maine Human Resources Association to provide instruction on the Family Medical Leave Act.

The presentation will begin with a brief overview by Steven McKinney, the Community Outreach and Resource Planning Specialist for the Northern New En-

gland District Office of the Wage and Hour Division. McKinney will briefly explain coverage and eligibility requirements under the FMLA, qualifying reasons for taking FMLA leave, and rights and responsibilities both employees and employers have under the law.

This introduction will be followed by a more in-depth presentation by Kendra Reed, Regional Enforcement Coordinator for the Wage and Hour Division’s Northeast Region. Reed will discuss common violations

and more complex issues under the FMLA. Questions for the presenters may be submitted in advance to CMHRA President Rebecca Webber at rwebber@sta-law.com.

There will be time to network before and after the program. Sign in begins at 7:30 a.m. Registration online is preferred and available at www.cmhra.org. Questions about membership should be directed to Cindy Letourneau or Lori McRae at membership@cmhra.org.

Lewiston Spring Clean-Up Week coming Apr. 24-28

The City of Lewiston’s 2017 Spring Clean-Up Assistance Week will take place April 24 through April 28. During that week, Lewiston’s Public Works Department will collect brush from residential properties. Quantities are limited to no more than one standard pick-up truck load per residence and butt ends should be placed toward the street. All brush to be removed must be placed at curbside no later than Sunday, April 23. Once city staff have collected brush from a given street, they will not return to that street. City staff will not collect tree stumps, wood greater than 12 inches in diameter, or any demolition wood, such as fencing, old decking, or wood from construction or demolition projects.

Residents should note that the city’s former practice of waiving tip fees at the Solid Waste Facility during Spring Clean-Up Assistance Week has been modified. The new program allows residential property owners to set up an ePass account for this service.

Poet Laureate Wes McNair in the “Take Heart” anthology. He is a proud member of the Beet Poets of Wayne, Maine.

For more information about the Harlow Gallery or this event, call 622-3813 or see www.harlowgallery.org.

There is no charge to establish the account, which can be done at the City Treasurer’s Office (second floor, Lewiston City Hall, 27 Pine Street) or the Scale House at the City’s Solid Waste Facility, 424 River Road. Tenants of rental property may also obtain an ePass account, but will be required to pay \$20 for the service. The ePass account is good for one year from the date of issue.

When the account has been set up, the resident may dispose of up to 1,000 pounds of household waste, including construction and demolition waste, waste refrigerated appliances, old furniture, yard debris, waste tires, electronic waste items, etc., at no cost. Once the

1,000-pound limit has been exceeded, residents will be charged the nominal disposal fee of \$93 per ton (or \$95 per ton for construction and demo waste) for any overage.

Residents can dispose of their household waste at the Solid Waste Facility during normal business hours, which are 7:15 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. on weekdays and 8 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. on Saturdays. The gates are closed at the listed closing times, so be sure to arrive 15 minutes before closing to assure that you have adequate time to dispose of your waste items. For more information about Lewiston’s Clean-Up Assistance Week, call the Solid Waste Facility at 513-3006 (TTY/TDD: 513-3007).

College for ME-Androscoggin charts new direction

After much reflection by its Board of Directors, College for ME-Androscoggin has announced that its “First Class Scholarship” will now be its primary focus. The First Class Scholarship is designed to assist adults taking either their first college course or their first course following a significant gap in college enrollment. Scholarship recipients also become part of an ongoing peer-to-peer support group.

College for ME’s mission is to awaken college aspirations, support successful college experiences, and celebrate educational attainment. The Board believes that providing a financial boost to those wanting to “never stop learning” goes hand in hand with awakening, supporting, and celebrating educational attainment.

“I am thrilled that our Board came to this decision to narrow our focus of services in Androscoggin County,” said Board Chair Hillary Verrill. “Over the past 11 years, we have worked with and brought

community partners together to achieve the goals of our mission and expand college aspirations in the community. As we move forward, it is exciting to be able to continue providing support to help reduce fears and break down barriers towards further education. I am personally looking forward to seeing the growth of our scholarship program and the impact we are able to make on the lives of individuals and their families by giving them a jump start to education.”

Celebrations of success will also continue. Testimonials and success stories of First Class Scholarship recipients will be the highlight of the organization’s annual “College Day Luncheon,” a fundraiser to support the scholarship fund. This year’s luncheon will occur on December 1. For more information about the First Class Scholarship, contact College for ME-Androscoggin at P.O. Box 2071, Lewiston, ME 04240 or contact@collegeformeanandroscoggin.org.

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Thursday, April 13

L-A Metro Chamber Breakfast. 7 a.m. Ramada Conference Center, Lewiston. Employment lawyer Peter Lowe discusses workplace safety issues related to the legalization of marijuana. \$20/30. www.LAMetroChamber.com.

La Rencontre. 11:25 a.m. Franco Center, 46 Cedar St., Lewiston. Les Troubadours perform after the meal of spaghetti and meatballs, tossed salad, garlic bread and cheesecake with strawberries. \$10, incl. lunch. Reserve at 783-1585 or boxoffice@francocenter.org.

Rotary Club Lunch Meeting. Noon to 1 p.m. Ramada Inn, Lewiston. The guest speaker is Christopher Chekouras, President and CEO of St. Mary's Health System. Guests welcome; no reservation required; lunch avail. at Fusion Restaurant for \$10. 753-9040; monica.millhime@maine.gov.

Author Visit. 2 p.m. Andro. Community Room, Auburn Public Library. Author Douglas Hodgkin discusses his new autobiography of Edward Little. Free. Books avail. for purchase. 333-6640, ext. 4.

Teen Author Visit. 3 p.m. Teen Space, Auburn Public Library. Maine author Maria Padian discusses her young adult novel "Wrecked," which explores issues of sexual assault on campus. Open to teens and young adults ages 12 to 21. Free. 333-6640, ext. 4; dwallace@auburnpubliclibrary.org.

Friday, April 14

Food for Thought Luncheon. Noon. Room 170, Lewiston-Auburn College. Kevin Hancock of Hancock Lumber discusses his experiences with spasmodic dysphonia and his book "Not for Sale: Finding Center in the Land of Crazy Horse." Books avail. for sale. \$7/8, incl. lunch. For adv. price, register by noon on 4/12 by calling 753-6510.

Calendar

See more Calendar at www.TwinCityTimes.com

Bookey Readings. 7 p.m. Harlow Gallery, 160 Water St., Hallowell. Performance poets Martin Steingesser and David Moreau read from their work. Sugg. \$3 donation. 622-3813; www.harlow-gallery.org.

"Jesus Christ Superstar" Concert. 7:30 p.m. Chocolate Church Arts Center, 804 Washington St., Bath. The cast of the center's 1997 production reunites for a 20th anniversary concert. Again 4/15 at 2 and 7:30 p.m. \$12 adv., \$15 at door. 442-8455; www.chocolatechurcharts.org.

Saturday, April 15

Stanton Bird Club Field Trip. 8:30 to 11 a.m. Dan Marquis leads a birding walk along the Riverwalk in Downtown Lewiston. Meet at Staples parking lot in Lewiston for carpooling. All welcome. 513-8213.

Community Recycle Day. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Community Credit Union, 40 Stanley St, Auburn. CCU teams up with local organizations to take your used items for recycling. Some restrictions may apply; for list of eligible items, see www.communitycreditunion.com.

Bake Sale. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. United Methodist Church, corner Rte.121 and Empire Rd., Minot. There will be a wide variety of homemade goods to choose from, including breads, cookies, bars, brownies and Easter-themed desserts. Free coffee.

Office Hours. 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Couture Room, Lewiston Public Library. Lewiston's state legislative delegation, Sen. Nate Libby and Reps. Jared Golden, Heidi Brooks,

James Handy and Roger Fuller, answer questions and discuss state government matters with Lewiston residents.

Tuesday, April 18

Central Maine Human Resources Assoc. Meeting. 7:30 a.m. Carriage House, 1119 Lisbon St., Lewiston. Reps from the U.S. Department of Labor discuss the Family Medical Leave Act. Register at www.cmhra.org.

Curious Minds Series. 2 p.m. Andro. Community Room, Auburn Public Library. David Bernier discusses the musical genius of The Beatles. Pres. w. L-A Senior College. Free. 333-6640; www.auburnpubliclibrary.org.

Author Visit. 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Franco-American Collection, L-A College, 51 Westminster St., Lewiston. Catherine Bergeron-Bergeron discusses her book "Our Place in Line: A Franco-American Family Odyssey." Free. 753-6545; <http://usm.maine.edu/franco>.

Francophone Week Ceremony. 5 p.m. Franco Center, 46 Cedar St., Lewiston. The Franco-American Color Guard will present the flags of the U.S.A., Canada and France; a reception with hors d'oeuvres follows. Free. R.S.V.P. by calling 783-1585.

Informational Program. 7 p.m. Court St. Baptist Church, 129 Court St., Auburn. Nichole DaRosa of THRIVE New England discusses the sexual exploitation and trafficking of children in New England. Free. 926-5062; thrivenewengland.org.

Wednesday, April 19

4-H Fun Day. 9:30 a.m. to noon. MTM Cen-

ter, 18 School St., Lisbon Falls. During two one-hour sessions, Maine 4-H members facilitate workshops, activities and crafts for youth ages 5 to 12. Free. Register at 353-5550, maisy.cyr@maine.edu.

Open House. All afternoon. Franco-American Collection, L-A College, 51 Westminster St., Lewiston. In honor of Francophone Week, the largest repository of Franco-American culture in the Northeast invites the public to visit. Free. 753-6545; <http://usm.maine.edu/franco>.

Thread Theatre. 7:30 p.m. Franco Center, 46 Cedar Street, Lewiston. Actors (drawn at random) perform 10-minute scenes (drawn at random) on tonight's theme, "Spring." Adult themes. Happy hour at 6:30. \$5. 783-1585; www.francocenter.org.

Thursday, April 20

Rotary Club Lunch Meeting. Noon to 1 p.m. Ramada Inn, Lewiston. The guest speaker is Betsy Sibley, VP of Marketing & Business Devel. at Comm. Credit Union. Guests welcome; no reservation required; lunch avail. at Fusion Restaurant for \$10. 753-9040; monica.millhime@maine.gov.

Friday, April 21

French Sing-Along. 1:30 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.

Concert: Kevin Aycher. 7:30 p.m. Franco Center, 46 Cedar St., Lewiston. The pianist performs works by Mozart, Chopin, Brahms, Fauré, and Gershwin. Reception at 6:30. \$15 (seniors \$10, students free). 783-1585; FrancoCenter.org.

Saturday, April 22

eARTh Day Celebration. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Local artists, businesses and volunteers present

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| The Boss Baby (PG) | 11:50 | 2:15 | |
| | 4:40 | 7:05 | 9:25 |
| Power Rangers (PG-13) | 12:40 | 3:40 | 6:55 9:40 |
| Beauty And The Beast (PG) | 12:00 | 3:10 | 6:40 9:35 |
| Kong: Skull Island (PG-13) | 1:30 | 4:10 | 7:20 9:55 |
| Logan (R) | 12:20 | 3:30 | 6:45 9:45 |
| The Shack (PG-13) | 12:30 | 3:50 | 7:00 9:50 |

various activities along Lisbon St. in Lewiston, incl. historic and studio tours. For schedule, find the Downtown Lewiston Art District on Facebook.

Bean Supper. United Methodist Church, 439 Park Ave., Auburn. Entertainment by the Park Avenue Pickers at 4:15 p.m., supper at 5:00. Adults \$8, kids ages 6-12 \$4, kids 5-free. 782-3972.

Baked Bean Supper. 4:30 to 6 p.m. Sixth St. Congregational Church, 109 Sixth St., Auburn. Two kinds of beans, brown bread, coleslaw, red and brown hot dogs, American Chop Suey, assorted desserts, beverages. All are welcome. Take-out avail. \$6 adults, \$3 kids 5-12, under 5 free.

Sunday, April 23

Scrabble Fest. 12:30 to 4 p.m. The Carriage House, 1119 Lisbon St., Lewiston. In this popular fundraiser for Literacy Volunteers, four-person teams compete in timed thirty-minute rounds. Prizes, refreshments. Register by 4/18 at 333-4785 or scrabble@literacyvolunteersandro.org.

Monday, April 24

Information Session. 6:30 p.m. Residence Inn by Marriott, 670 Turner St., Auburn. Reps. from Maine Connections Academy, Maine's first tuition-free, virtual public charter

school for grades 7-12, discuss the school and application process.

Tuesday, April 25

Stanton Bird Club Field Trip. 6 to 8:30 a.m. This first of five scheduled early morning birding walks from Bates College starts at Hathorn Hall and proceeds to the river and back. All welcome. 319-6630.

Saturday, April 29

Andro. County Multiple Sclerosis Walk. 10 a.m. Lewiston High School. The five-mile course extends through the Bates College area of Lewiston; shorter routes are avail. Rain or shine. Sign in starts at 9:00. 1-800-526-8890; www.msmaine.org.

Sunday, April 30

Sunday Art Workshop. 1 to 5 p.m. Harlow Gallery, 160 Water St., Hallowell. Leslie Miller leads "Paper Cutting Around the World." Open to all experience levels, ages 10+. \$60/55 (\$20 off for members). Register at 622-3813, <http://harlow-gallery.org>.

Sunday, May 28

Sunday Art Workshop. 2 to 4 p.m. Harlow Gallery, 160 Water St., Hallowell. Heather Rose leads "Art of the Harvest." Open to all experience levels, ages 10+. \$30 (members \$25), plus \$10 materials fee. Register at 622-3813, <http://harlow-gallery.org>.

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What's Going On

CNA Training Program graduates six

Six graduates of the MSAD 52 Adult Education CNA Training Program recently received their certificates of completion and CNA pins, marking the completion of their training to become registered CNAs. The students completed their clinical training at Marshwood Center in Lewiston.

The welcome address at the ceremony was presented by Adult Education Director Razell Ward, the student speakers were Val-edictorian Tracey Olnik and Salutarian Gabrielle Therriault, and congratulatory remarks were made by Instructor Susan Hamann. The winner of the Nightingale Award, voted by the class as the member they would most want to have as their own caregiver,



Pictured here (l. to r., from front) are Kaylee Libby, Vivian Manguerra, Lindsey Godbout, MSAD 52 Adult Education Director Razell Ward, Gabrielle Therriault, RN Instructor Susan Hamann, and Tracey Olnik.

was Kaylee Libby.

As part of the pinning ceremony, each student selected someone from the

audience who represented the personal support they received while training to place the CNA pin on their lapel. At the conclusion of the ceremony, family and friends enjoyed a potluck buffet.

MSAD 52 is currently taking applications for the next CNA Training session, which will begin in late spring. For more information, call them at 225-1010.

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



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