

At Togus National Cemetery on Wreaths Across America Day



Members of the Lewiston-Auburn Senior College Outdoor Adventures Club, including (l. to r., from front) Irene Marshall, Anna Boyce, Joyce Berg, Charlotte and Les Bosworth, Cindy Boyd, Patricia Vampatella, Susan Matthews, David Marshall, Sandie Crossley and Elaine McDonald. (Photo by Rachel Morin) See story and more photos on pages 8-9.

“Ugly Sweater Day” launches School Spirit Challenge at St. Dom’s



Students at Saint Dominic Academy recently participated in an “Ugly Sweater Dress Down Day” to kick off their participation in the WGME Channel 13 and Fox News School Spirit Challenge to benefit the Good Shepherd Food Bank. See more photos on page 6.

The Ugly Sweater event garnered more than \$700 in donations, translating to more than \$5,600 of food for those in need, for the eight-week food drive that serves as a friendly competition between schools to show school pride and spirit, all while helping the community.

The challenge will culminate in an event at the school’s Auburn campus on February 6.



Lost Valley hosts Chamber After Hours



Kevin Mitchell of Rinck Advertising, Erik Moody and Cecilia Conroy, Dr. Rosemarie and Carl Sheline of Center Street Dental.



Melanie LaMore-Gagnon, Noelle Coyne, Amy Kivus-Rouleau, Staci Beal and Jane Morrison of Safe Voices.



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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Bishop announces new Lewiston assignments



Rev. Paul H. Dumais

Bishop Robert P. Deely of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland has announced the following upcoming priest assignments and a retirement for Lewiston.

Effective December 28, Rev. Paul H. Dumais has been appointed as chaplain at St. Mary's Regional Medical Center, St. Mary's d'Youville Pavilion and St. Mary's Residence, all located in Lewiston. He currently serves as a three quarter-time chaplain at Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston and a quarter-time parochial vicar at Prince of Peace Parish in Lewiston. To ensure that adequate pastoral care is provided to patients at CMMC, Dumais, along



Rev. D. Joseph Manship

with priests from local parishes, will continue to provide chaplaincy services at the hospital until a successor can be named.

Born on February 5, 1972, in Fort Kent, Dumais attended Madawaska Middle and High Schools before moving on to the Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio, from which he graduated with a B.A. in theology. His graduation from Franciscan University of Steubenville was delayed until 1997 after he spent three years working on a farm in Kansas.

Dumais earned an M.A. in philosophy from Boston College and entered St. John's Seminary in Brighton, Massachusetts, in 1999, where he completed

his academic preparation for ordination with a M.Div. and M.A. in theology. Dumais was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Richard J. Malone on May 29, 2004, at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Madawaska.

Since his ordination, he has served at parishes in Waterville, Winslow, Oakland, Fairfield, Vassalboro, Bridgton, Fryeburg, Windham, Gorham and Westbrook. Dumais has also been active in campus ministry as a chaplain at Bates College and Saint Joseph College and in prison ministry as a chaplain at the Maine Correctional Center in Windham.

Also effective December 28, Jonathan Hoffman, a lay chaplain who assists Dumais at CMMC, will increase his weekly work hours from 12 to 32 to help assess and triage patients, enabling priests to best meet the patients' pastoral needs. Hoffman studied theology at St. Mary's Seminary & University in Baltimore and has also completed a yearlong assignment of supervised ministry in a hospital setting.

Effective January 1, Rev. D. Joseph Manship will retire from active ministry.

Berman & Simmons names new Managing Director



Craig Bramley

Attorney Craig Bramley of Cumberland has been named managing director at Berman & Simmons in Lewiston. Bramley specializes in representing patients in medical malpractice cases. He has teamed with attorney Julian Sweet for the past 15 years. Together they have won the two largest medical negligence awards in the history of Maine courts. Bramley is an integral part of the firm's medical malpractice group and a leader in the use of computer technology for case preparation. He joined the firm in 1996 and has been a partner since 2007.

As managing director, Bramley oversees business strategy, hiring, marketing and other key aspects of operations for Berman & Simmons. The growing firm employs 18 attorneys and more than 50 staff members in offices in Lewiston, Portland and Bangor.

Founded in 1914, the firm celebrates its 100th anniversary this year.

"I'm honored that my partners have confidence in me to lead Berman & Simmons," Bramley said. "This is an exciting time at our firm, and I look forward to the challenge. Our continued success is the result of decades of effort by great lawyers and staff members. I draw on that history for inspiration and rely on the experience of our senior attorneys. We have a talented and energetic group

of professionals who are determined to stand up for the people of Maine, no matter the odds."

Bramley has served as acting managing director since January 2014, when previous Managing Director John Sedgewick took a leave of absence due to health issues. Sedgewick served in that post since 1988.

"I'm happy that the firm had Craig Bramley in a position to step forward when he did," Sedgewick said. "He has been a great addition to the practice, and when we needed him most, Craig took control of the most difficult issues and has done an excellent job. The firm is in great hands."

Bramley is a graduate of Trinity College and the University of Minnesota Law School. He and his wife, Kim Simmons, have two daughters.

Berman & Simmons has been listed under all litigation headings in Best Lawyers in America since its first publication and has been cited in Chambers USA as "the best plaintiffs' personal injury and medical malpractice firm in Maine."

Poland Spring marks holidays with community giving

Poland Spring Brand Water is providing assistance to needy families in its host communities during this season of giving through various employee and company contributions of time, gifts, food and funds.

"We believe in giving back to the communities where we live and work," said Heather Printup, Poland Spring's community relations manager. "We focus on being a good neighbor and giving back all year, but especially during the holidays. All of us feel strongly about helping neighbors in need and find it rewarding to know that we can make a difference in someone's life."

The company's original plant in Poland works closely with the Poland Community School and Town of Poland each year to identify children and parents who can't afford Christmas gifts. "It means so much to the families and the school to have the support of Poland Spring," said Poland Community School counselor Lexie Triggiani. "We look forward to the arrival of these gifts each year." Plant employees also donated 170 turkeys and \$1,500 to the Poland Food Bank for



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Governor, First Lady place wreaths in Arlington National Cemetery

Governor Paul R. LePage and first lady Ann M. LePage joined nearly 30,000 volunteers on December 13 to participate in the annual Wreaths Across America remembrance ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. Paying tribute to the men and women who served our nation with dignity and honor, more than 230,000 remembrance wreaths were placed on their graves.

This national event has Maine roots. Since 1992, Morrill and Karen Worcester, founders of Worcester Wreath Company in Harrington, Maine, have organized a group of volunteers to place wreaths in Arlington. This is the project's 23rd year laying wreaths at the cemetery and signifies the largest amount of wreaths ever delivered. Across the country, 540,000 remembrance wreaths at more than 900 locations this year in honor of the nation's veterans.

The laying of the wreaths has become an annual tradition for the governor and first lady. For the past four years, first lady LePage has traveled with the Wreaths Across America convoy - referred to as "The Arlington Project" - from Maine to Arlington National Cemetery. This year's convoy began on Sunday, December 7. "The support this project has received is overwhelming," said Mrs. LePage. "The effort of these volunteers

and everybody who has donated to make this happen is amazing. The men and women we pay tribute to deserve this recognition for their service, and they make me proud to be an American."

Along with various members of Maine law enforcement, including officers from the Portland Police Department, Governor LePage and Mrs. LePage also placed a wreath at the mast of the USS. Maine. The mast was removed from the ship in 1905 shortly before the ship was taken out to sea and sunk with military honors. The mast was then installed above a memorial in Arlington National Cemetery in honor of those who lost their lives when the ship sank in Havana Harbor, Cuba, in 1898. The sinking was the event that started the Spanish-American War.

The prior evening, the governor and first lady attended a rally in College Park Maryland to welcome and thank Wreaths Across America volunteers.

"Mainers are generous and humble people who understand that freedom is not free," said Governor LePage. "It is a true honor to stand beside my lovely wife and be a part of this tribute to honor and remember America's

heroes. I'm so very proud that this tradition began in Maine. Ann and I have had the privilege over the years to get to know Karen and Morrill, who have selflessly dedicated themselves to their project's mission: to remember the fallen, honor those who serve and their families and teach our children the value of freedom."

For many years, the Arlington Project had been the quiet mission of Morrill Worcester and his family. In 2006, internet stories fueled attention for his annual tribute, and Worcester was contacted by the Patriot Guard Riders, who generously offered their help with the project. Since then, the Patriot Guard Riders have escorted the wreath trucks down the East Coast, taking several days to make the trip. This allows stops at schools, monuments, veterans' homes and communities and gives the group an opportunity to promote it's mission: Remember, Honor and Teach. This "parade" of truckers, supporters and well-wishers has become an annual event and teaching opportunity for Wreaths Across America and a valued part of the Arlington Project.

Sterling announces top rating for Auburn Savings

At the bank's annual meeting on November 26, Auburn Savings Bank President Allen Sterling shared with Auburn Bancorp investors news of the "Outstanding" rating awarded to the bank following a 2014 examination of the institution's lending practices as required by the Community Reinvestment Act. Auburn Savings is the only bank headquartered in Androscoggin County to achieve this rating.

Sterling also shared with investors that the Independent Community Banker's Association placed Auburn Savings as the 84th community bank overall, nationwide, in a new measure of lending success based on a ratio of the amount of originated loans versus the total assets of the institution. He

noted that due to the steady and effective recovery tactics in place in 2015, Auburn Savings will be able to focus attention on further expansion of its commercial and residential loan portfolio, as well as an expansion of services and deposit products, citing a supportive board and management team with an "expanded vision" for growth.

He closed by welcoming new board members Anne Torregrossa of the law firm Brann & Isaacson and City of Lewiston Finance Director Heather Hunter while thanking retiring board members Kelly Matzen and Peter Chalke for their years of dedicated service.

Auburn Savings Bank was established in 1887 as a mutual savings & loan association and has proudly

served the Lewiston-Auburn area for over 125 years. It now operates as a federal savings bank from its current locations at 256 Court Street in Auburn and 325 Sabattus Street in Lewiston. For more information about Auburn Savings, call the Auburn branch at 782-6871, the Lewiston branch at 782-0400, or see www.auburnsavings.com.

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What's Going On

UW seeks applications for food, shelter funds

The United Way of Androscoggin County has been selected to administer a grant from the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program to aid in the fight against homelessness and hunger. The grant will be administered by a local board comprised of representatives from area nonprofits, local municipalities and the local faith community. An individual who has successfully overcome homelessness also serves on the board.

Under the terms of the grant, local organizations are eligible to apply if they are a private voluntary nonprofit organization or unit of government; have an accounting system; practice nondiscrimination; have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter; and, for private voluntary organizations, have a voluntary board of directors.

All qualifying organizations are encouraged to apply. The application deadline is January 2. For more information or to obtain an application, contact Larry Marcoux at United Way by calling 795-4000 or via e-mail at lmarcoux@unitedwayandro.org.

The United Way of Androscoggin County is part of a worldwide movement of nearly 1,800 community-based United Ways in 41 countries and territories that advances the common good by focusing upon education, income and health - the building blocks for a good quality of life.

The United Way movement mobilizes millions to give, advocate and volunteer to improve conditions in their local community. For more information, see www.UnitedWayAndro.org.

CMCC offers Microsoft certification "Boot Camps"

Information technology professionals will have an opportunity to brush up on their skills in three intensive 10-hour review classes to be offered at Central Maine Community College starting this week. These training courses are a condensed version of the regularly

scheduled Microsoft IT Academy 32-hour classes. Designed for professionals needing a short test-prep review before sitting for the certification exam, these courses are focused and intense. Each course leverages the same content found in the Microsoft Official Academic Course

Auburn trash pickup

The city's Department of Public Services has announced that there will be no waste or recycling collection for Auburn residents on Thursday, December 25. For residents who normally have Thursday pickup, a special waste collection will take place on Saturday, December 27. There will be no special recycling pickup.

There will also be no waste or recycling collection on Thursday, January 1. There will be

no special collection for this date. For those who normally have Thursday pickup, normal waste collection will resume on Thursday, January 8 and normal recycling collection will resume on Thursday, January 15.

Trash and recycling can also be dropped off at Mid Maine Waste Action Corporation (783-8805) at 110 Goldwaite Road in Auburn Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon.

for the exam.

Microsoft Networking Fundamentals Boot Camp will run on Mondays, December 29 and January 5, from 4 to 9 p.m.

This course prepares students for the Microsoft Technology Associate Exam 98-366 and focuses on network infrastructures, network hardware and protocols and services.

Microsoft Server Administration Fundamentals Boot Camp will meet on Tuesdays, December 30 and January 6, from 4 to 9 p.m. A preparation for MTA Exam 98-365, this course concentrates on server installation, server roles, active directory, storage, server performance management and server maintenance.

Microsoft Security Fundamentals Boot Camp will meet on Wednesdays, January 7 and 14, from 4 to 9 p.m. This course prepares students for MTA Exam 98-367 and focuses on security layers, authentication, authorization and accounting, security policies, operating system security, network security and security software.

The cost for each course is \$169. This includes all course materials, six-month access to the practice exam and one test voucher for the corresponding Microsoft certification exam. Space is limited and registration is open through the start of the classes. For more information, contact CMCC's Corporate & Community Services Department at 755-5280 or training@cmcc.edu. To register, see www.cmcc.edu/ccs.

CMCC's Corporate and Community Services Department provides customized industry training programs to business, government, nonprofit and other organizations throughout Androscoggin, Oxford, Franklin and Lincoln counties.

The department promotes economic development by offering the highest quality training and professional development courses to business and industry along with access to training grants for new and expanding businesses.

Joint Commission names CMMC 2013 Top Performer

The Joint Commission, the leading accreditor of health care organizations in the United States, has recognized Central Maine Medical Center as a 2013 Top Performer on Key Quality Measures.

One of 1,224 hospitals in the United States to achieve the 2013 Top Performer distinction, CMMC was recognized in the Joint Commission's 2014 annual report, "America's Hospitals: Improving Quality and Safety," for attaining and sustaining excellence in accountability measure performance for the areas of heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia and surgical care.

The Top Performer program recognizes hospitals for improving performance on evidence-based interventions that increase the chances of healthy outcomes for patients with certain conditions, including heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia, surgical care, children's asthma, stroke, venous thromboembolism and perinatal care, as well as for inpatient psychiatric services and immunizations.

PS giving

Continued from page 2

Thanksgiving and holiday dinners and 222 pounds of non-perishable items to the MANNAFED Backpack Program. To help local families stay warm, a \$5,000 donation was awarded to the Winter Wellness Heating Assistance Fund through the Poland Town Office.

Additionally, a \$5,000 donation to the Community Giving Tree, a Fryeburg-area charity, will help provide winter jackets, snow pants and boots to families in the MSAD 72 communities of Fryeburg, Denmark, Lovell, Stow, Sweden, Brownfield and Stoneham.

In southern Maine, the Hollis factory donated 84 turkeys to the Hollis Baptist Food Pantry for Thanksgiving and employees worked with Hollis Town officials to provide gifts to 30 local families in need through the Town of Hollis Christmas Fund. Additionally, a \$6,000 donation was made to York County Food Rescue in support of hunger prevention and holiday meals.

At the Kingfield factory, employees worked with staff at Kingfield Elementary School to provide eight students with gifts for Christmas through the plant's Holiday Gift Giving Program. Plant employees choose "ornaments" from a giving tree that contain gift wishes from members of local families. Employees purchased and wrapped their wish list presents, which were then delivered to the school for distribution.

Poland Spring operates bottling plants in Poland Spring, Hollis and Kingfield. The Kingfield facility, which officially opened in January 2009, represents a \$60 million investment and dozens of jobs in rural western Maine.

Poland Spring operates additional spring sources in Fryeburg, Poland, Dallas Plantation, Pierce Pond Township, Denmark and St. Albans. Most recently, the company invested \$4.1 million in a spring water station project in Fryeburg.

Since 2008, Poland Spring has invested more than \$5.5 million in community giving to support schools, fire and rescue, environmental conservation and other local and statewide causes.



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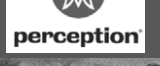
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Enough is Enough

Law-abiding public must demand a return to civility

By Robert E. Macdonald
MAYOR OF LEWISTON

If you're a practicing Christian, this time of year is special to you. It is a time of peace, hope and good will brought to men and women of good will by the Christ child.

If you are a disciple of Barack Obama, Eric Holder, Al Sharpton and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, it is a time to declare war on society and the police. These men have used their bully pulpit to inflame, rather than to calm.

Their rhetoric has so inflamed the underclass of New York City and our nation that, along with rioting and the physical confrontation of authority, one has now graduated to the assassination of police officers.

While the majority of the U.S. population awaits with anticipation with joys of a family Christmas, the families of law enforcement officers await with anxiety the return of a parent, spouse, son, daughter or

siblings from their daily tour of duty. Until a strong leader emerges to restore societal order, the daily worries of police families over the safety of their loved ones will continue.

Unfortunately, the families of NYPD officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu will no longer worry about their loved ones returning home from their tour of duty. The officers were assassinated by a cowardly thug, who snuck up on them from behind and killed them, then ran into a subway station.

He was pursued by police, and a gun battle erupted. At that point, he chose the coward's way out by committing suicide.

Officer Ramos leaves behind a wife and two sons. Officer Liu leaves behind his newly wedded wife. May they rest in peace.

Have you ever heard of a demonstration on the streets of New York protesting the death of Alain Schabarger? The answer



Mayor Bob Macdonald

is: No.

Schabarger, 42, was an NYPD officer who, along with his partner and two other officers, responded to a domestic violence call occurring at a Brooklyn home at 4:30 a.m. When officers arrived, they were confronted by a man at the top of the building stoop. The man told the officers he had done nothing and was innocent.

However, because of the nature of the crime, they had to arrest him.

Proceeding to the

top of the stoop, Officer Schabarger approached the man from the side to place him in handcuffs. At that point, the suspect turned toward Schabarger and struck him in the chest with both fists. This sent Schabarger over the stoop railing. The fall broke his neck and killed him. So much for the rhetoric that unarmed subjects present no danger to police officers and should be handled with kid gloves.

It is time for the law-abiding public to show some outrage over what is currently happening on the streets of our cities. It is time for the public to show its anger towards the pandering politicians who care more about the next election than the city they were elected to represent.

It is time to show outrage when it is suggested that the most highly trained police department in the world needs to be retrained so that they know how to better deal with their communities. This is an insult

to every officer that carries a badge.

The only retraining needed does not involve the police. It is needed in homes, schools and neighborhoods.

When our children are allowed—sometimes encouraged—to challenge the authority of parents, teachers and adults, it causes a breakdown in society. It is

time to stop shunning our duties as adults and get back on the road to civility.

The restful sleep that you will experience tonight is made possible by area law enforcement officers patrolling our cities and towns, watching over you and making sure you are safe. Let us hope a guardian angel is watching over them.

Community Credit Union promotes Lunn

Community Credit Union has promoted Andrew Lunn to the position of Vice President of Lending. Lunn has worked within credit unions for eight years, previously at Sabattus Regional Credit Union, serving at CCU in the position of Accounting Supervisor for the past three years. He has his bachelor's degree in business administration with concentrations in finance and management.

Lunn serves on various committees at Community Credit Union, including the



Andrew Lunn

Ending Hunger Committee, the Employee Health and Wellness Committee, the See Lunn, page 6

Saint Joseph's College recognized for community service

For the second year in a row, Saint Joseph's College has been named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the highest designation a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service learning and civic engagement.

"We are very pleased to have once again made the Community Service Honor Roll," said President Jim Dlugos. "This speaks highly of the community-oriented education Saint Joseph's College provides to students, and it demonstrates the significance community service has in our society."

Saint Joseph's College has a long-standing history of community engagement, and in recent years both the community service and community-based learning programs have grown exponentially. In the application for this award, data tracked by the Community-Based Learning Office showed that 971 students engaged in service over the course of the year, with a total of 19,420 service hours provided.

"Community engage-

ment continues to grow both in and out of the classroom," said Community-based Learning Director Kimberly Post. "We believe that colleges and communities can work together to improve the health and vitality of their regions, and both students and faculty have embraced the many opportunities to both learn and serve in their local, regional, and international communities."

Inspired by the thousands of college students who traveled across the country to support relief efforts along the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina, the Corporation for National and Community Service has administered the award since 2006 and manages the program in collaboration

with the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, as well as the American Council on Education and Campus Compact.

In addition to the community service category that recognizes more than 700 other institutions for their exemplary community service, three new categories (Interfaith Community Service, Education and Economic Opportunity) were added this year. These categories give institutions even more opportunities to highlight their community engagement. This year, Saint Joseph's College earned an additional distinction in the Economic Opportunity category.

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The Economic Opportunity category recognizes institutions with service programs that build economic independence, increase family stability and create more sustainable and resilient communities. Institutions applying in this category were engaged in service that improves the financial well-being and security of economically disadvantaged individuals.

Saint Joseph's place

on the Economic Opportunity Honor Roll highlights the college's relevant and meaningful service and measurable impact in the community.

"These honors reflect our dedication to the College's mission and core values," said President Dlugos. "Congratulations to our entire community."

Saint Joseph's College is Maine's only Catholic college, providing a

supportive, personalized and career-focused education for more than 100 years. From its 430-acre campus on the shore of Sebago Lake, the college offers undergraduate degrees to on-campus students, as well as certificates, undergraduate and advanced degrees for working adults through online programs.

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What's Going On

H.S. juniors writing contest offers \$2,500 prize

Maine high school juniors are invited to submit entries for "A Journey Into Writing," the Maine Community College System's statewide writing contest. Entries will be accepted from December 29 through January 28.

Students are encouraged to submit an original poem, short story or essay of up to 1,500 words. Up to three winners may be selected by the contest judges and honored with the designation of "2015 Governor's Young Writer of the Year," an award that includes a \$2,500 cash prize.

The contest judges are award-winning Maine authors Susan Kenney, Lewis Robinson and Bill Roorbach. Kenney is the author of five novels and taught fiction for 25 years at Colby College. Robin-

son is the author of two novels and teaches in the Stonecoast MFA program at the University of Southern Maine. Roorbach's newest novel, "The Remedy for Love," was one of six finalists for the 2014 Kirkus Prize in Fiction. The 10th anniversary edition of his craft book, "Writing Life Stories," is used in writing programs around the world.

A Journey Into Writing was created in 2004 as a way to encourage creativity and inspire young writers to develop their craft. The contest is sponsored by the MCCS with financial support from U.S. Cellular. Since its inception, the contest has garnered over 2,200 entries from 160 high schools throughout Maine. The contest rules and entry form are available online at www.mccs.me.edu/writing.

Lunn

Continued from page 5

Scholarship Committee, the Asset-Liability Committee and Technology Goals and Implementation Committee. He also serves as a board member with Advocates for Children, as a breakfast club member with Androscoggin County Chamber of Commerce, as treasurer of the Hillside Family Riders Snowmobile Club in Lewiston and as secretary of the Norm Nolette Chapter of Credit Unions.

Lunn enjoys skiing,

snowmobiling and spending time with his family and friends. He resides in Brunswick with his wife, Brianna.

With branches located at 144 Pine Street in Lewiston, 40 Stanley Street in Auburn and a new branch opening soon on Route 4 in Turner, Community Credit Union is a member-owned, full-service financial institution that has been serving its members and Androscoggin County since 1945. For more information, see www.communitycreditunion.com.

Boy Scouts offer Christmas tree pick-up



Members of Boy Scout Troop 121 of Auburn will pick up discarded Christmas trees on January 10 and 11 for a minimum donation of \$5.

For the third year, Boy Scout Troop 121 of Auburn will collect discarded Christmas trees and deliver them to local recycling centers in Auburn and Lewiston. While the cities of Auburn and Lewiston provide locations for free tree disposal, they no longer collect trees at curbside. For a minimum donation of \$5, the scouts will pick up Christmas trees on the weekend of January 10 and 11. Trees must be at curbside for pick-up by the morning of January 10.

To make a pick-up request, send your donation to Troop

121, United Methodist Church, 439 Park Avenue, Auburn, ME 04210. The Troop will then send you a tag to place on your tree when you place it at curbside. Tree tags can also be picked up at Auburn-Lewiston tree sale locations. For more information, call 783-0790.

Troop 121 was created to give youth with special physical, mental and emotional challenges opportunities for success in a safe Scouting environment that builds character, encourages citizenship, teaches life skills and develops personal fitness.

A Holiday Message from the Auburn Police

Trees are being trimmed, snow has been falling and shopping is in full swing - all signs that the holiday season is on us. The Auburn Police Department wishes to remind motorists during this holiday season to slow down, buckle up and focus upon their driving.

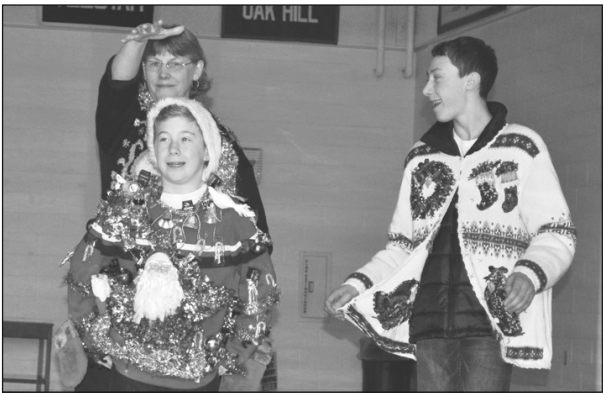
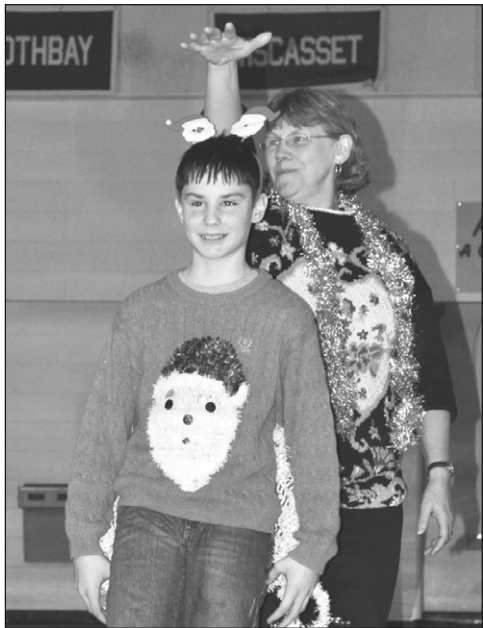
"We want everyone to have a safe and happy holiday," said Chief Phil

Crowell.

"Motorists should pay extra attention to their driving by reducing speed, increasing hands-free cell phone usage (if cell phones must be used while driving) and reporting aggressive and/or impaired driving."

Motorists can expect high visibility speed, OUI and seatbelt enforcement during this busy holiday

"Ugly Sweater Day" launches School Spirit Challenge at St. Dom's



Students at Saint Dominic Academy recently participated in an "Ugly Sweater Dress Down Day" to kick off their participation in the WGME Channel 13 and Fox News School Spirit Challenge to benefit the Good Shepherd Food Bank.

season. "Don't be in a hurry and don't lose your patience," added Crowell. "Designate a sober and well-rested driver."

The men and women of the APD would also like to remind shoppers to take the following precautions in securing their vehicles in order to prevent thefts: lock your vehicle and make sure windows are completely up and secured (in almost every case of theft from a motor vehicle that APD handles, the vehicle was unlocked); lock the passenger compartments of your vehicle, including the

glove box and center console; never leave packages or valuable items in plain view - remove them from the vehicle or secure them in the trunk; and know your surroundings, park in well-lit areas and report suspicious activity.

In case of an emergency, call 911. For non-emergencies, call 784-7331. Police reports can also be filed online using the APD's Citizen Online Reporting System at www.auburnpd.com.

The Auburn Police Department wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season.



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January programs
at SeniorsPlus

SeniorsPlus has announced its schedule of programs for January. Unless otherwise noted, all classes are free and take place at the SeniorsPlus Education Center, located at 8 Falcon Road in Lewiston. The facility is fully accessible and hearing assistive equipment is available. For more information or to register for a class, call 795-4010.

“Researching Your Family History.” Date choices: Tuesdays, January 6, 13, 20 or 27. Time choices: 9, 10:15 or 11:30 a.m. Instructor: Carroll N. Holmes, researcher. In this one hour, one-on-one class, the instructor will use several genealogical web sites to find people on your family tree. Bring your curiosity and whatever information (names, dates, places) you may have.

“Helping with Vision Challenges.” Date: Tuesday, January 13. Time: 10 to 11 a.m. Instructor: Chris Boynton, regional librarian, outreach services, Maine State Library. Learn about and see demonstrations of reading devices and services, including talking books, Braille and audio reading downloads, large print collections, currency readers, books by mail and a newslines service, available through the Maine State Library for those with vision challenges.

“Handmade Paper Earrings.” Date: Wednesday, January 14. Time: Noon to 4 p.m. Instructor: Deborah Moran. Come learn how to make jewelry from items you already own.

“Leg Pain.” Date: Thursday, January 15. Time: 1 to 2:30 p.m. Instructor: Dr. Derek Mittleider, interventional radiologist, St. Mary’s Hospital. Peripheral Artery Disease is a reduced blood flow in your legs caused by a blockage or narrowing of the arteries. If you experience mild to severe pain or cramping in your legs during physical activity that goes away soon after resting, you may be interested in learning more.

“Investment Basics: What You Should Know about Investments, Annuities and Brokerage Accounts.” Date: Friday, January 16. Time: 1 to 2:30 p.m. Instructor: Lindsay J. Laxon, Esq., investor education manager, Maine Office of Securities, State of Maine. Learn from the state agency responsible

for securities regulation the basic functions and risks associated with some common investment products. Whether your nest egg is \$10,000 or \$10M, this class will teach you what questions you should ask your financial professional.

“Health and Hearing.” Date: Wednesday, January 21. Time: 1 to 3 p.m. Instructor: Ashlee Harrington Vandiver, Au.D., CCC-A, FAAA, Doctor of Audiology. This will be a discussion of current research on various diseases, disorders and illnesses that may cause hearing loss or that hearing loss may trigger. Topics will include heart disease, diabetes, depression and anxiety.

“Legacy Writers Group: Let Us Help You Tell Your Life Story.” Date: Thursday, January 22. Time: 3 to 5 p.m. This class helps those living with Alzheimer’s Disease or related dementias and their care partners to document their life stories. Please register for this class through the Alzheimer’s Association at 772-0115.

“Home Fire Safety: Being Prepared.” Date: Friday, January 23. Time: 10 to 11:30 a.m. Instructor: Paul Ouellette, NFPA - certified fire inspector / IAAI, certified fire investigator, Lewiston Fire Department, Fire Prevention Bureau.

In this discussion on how to make your home safer, topics will include: Fire safety for older adults; Extinguishers - How many should I have, how do I make them work and how long do they last?; How to escape from fire; Fire safety in the kitchen; and Smoke detectors and where to place them.

“Sea Glass Pendant.” Date: Friday, January 23. Time: 1 to 4 p.m. Instructor: Lisa MacDonald, artisan. Cost for supplies: \$12.

Come create a pendant using sea glass and beads. Materials provided.

“Creating a Safer Home.” Date: Tuesday, January 27. Time: 10 to 11 a.m. Instructor: Samantha Massey, AAS/CP/EMT-P, prevention & wellness coordinator, United Ambulance Service. Learn what EMTs and ambulance staff see every day as the most common causes of falls in people’s homes. Bring your questions.

“How to Get Up If You Fall and How to Stay Limber When You Have Knee and Hip Replacements.” Date: Wednesday, January 28. Time: 1 to 2:30 p.m. Instructor: Gayle Houston, physical therapist assistant CKTP, Huber Associates. See demonstrations and practice (if you’d like) on how to get up if you fall and what to do to stay limber after you’ve had joint a replacement.

“Healthy Aging Series: Arthritis.” Date: Thursday, January 29. Time: 1 to 2:30 p.m. Instructor: Dr. Alan Verrill. This will be a discussion on how to handle the challenges that may come with arthritis and other aches and pains.

A private, non-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation whose mission is to support independent living and healthy aging, SeniorsPlus serves as the local Area Agency on Aging and Aging and Disability Resource Center for Androscoggin, Franklin and Oxford Counties and provides a network of support, information, services and resources for older adults and adults with disabilities and their families.

For more information, call 795-4010 or 1-800-427-1241 or see www.seniorsplus.org.

What’s Going On

Lewiston to benefit from funding
to expand preschool access

The Maine Department of Education has been awarded \$14.8 million to expand public preschool opportunities in 10 counties. Over the next four years, the department will pass 95 percent of the funds awarded by the U.S. Department of Education on to 13 school districts with high percentages of low-income students so they can establish or expand preschool programs in partnership with local early childhood program providers.

In total, 33 new classrooms will be created by the funding. Most will open next September, adding to Maine’s existing 205 classrooms serving 4-year-old students. Another 23 classrooms already in operation will be expanded so that students can attend five days per week for the full day. With up to 16 students per preschool classroom, the award will potentially allow access to early childhood education for more than 500 additional Maine children.

Participating districts include Lewiston, Millicocket, Sanford, Westbrook, SAD 58 (Phillips, Strong and Kingfield) and RSU 3 (Brooks, Liberty, Monroe and Unity), RSU 12 (Chelsea and Somerville), RSU 13 (Rockland), RSU 37 (Addison, Harrington and Milbridge), RSU 39 (Limestone), RSU 49 (Albion and Clinton), RSU 53 (Pittsfield) and RSU 74 (Anson, North Anson and Solon).

All have more than 50 percent of students at the elementary level who qualify for free or reduced priced lunch and either have no existing public preschool or are unable to meet community demand

for student seats.

“Quality early childhood education - whether provided by parents or private or public programs - can set students up for future success,” said Governor Paul R. LePage. “Parents are a child’s first and most important teacher, but the classrooms created with this funding will give parents in these 13 districts additional access to opportunities that can help their children overcome challenges and develop the strong foundation they need to reach their full potential.”

Maine has been a leader in expanding access to early childhood education, providing \$13.8 million in state funding this year, matched by \$17 million in local funding, to support such programs. Enrollment is entirely voluntarily. There are currently more than 5,000 4-year-olds participating in public preschool programs in the state, more than double the number enrolled just a decade ago.

While districts are not required to offer public preschool, the Maine DOE has been working to ensure that districts that choose to do so provide high-quality programs. The department is currently in the midst of developing quality standards that public schools would be required to meet

for the state to approve their preschool program.

“As access to public preschool increases, it’s critical that we continue to focus upon ensuring the quality of new and existing programs,” said Maine DOE Acting Commissioner Rachelle Tome. “To give kids the strong start they need for success in kindergarten and beyond, preschool programs must be high quality and provide instruction that is intentional and grounded in research-based learning standards and best practices. Setting high expectations early on does not compromise the fun that children that age deserve.

As those of us who have been fortunate enough to work with young children know, it’s impossible not to have fun with 4-year-olds, and learning activities can be rigorous while promoting play to foster social, emotional, physical and intellectual development.”

The Maine DOE’s grant application earned the second highest number of points among the 36 states who applied for the federal funding, with 18 states ultimately receiving awards.

For more information about public preschool in Maine, see www.maine.gov/doe/publicpreschool/.

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- Dec. 27th Saturday 9am-8pm
- Dec. 28th Sunday 10am-5pm

NEXT WEEK:

- Dec. 29th Mon thru Dec. 31st Wed. 9am-8pm
- Jan. 1st Thursday New Years Eve 9am-5pm
- Jan. 2nd Friday and Jan. 3rd Sat. 9am-8pm
- Jan. 4th Sunday 10am-5pm

Out & About with Rachel Morin

At Togus National Cemetery on Wreaths Across America Day

Story and photos by Rachel Morin



Michael Edgecombe of Spruce Head, coordinator of volunteers and wreath distribution, directs the volunteers to the section of the cemetery for the wreath laying.

The Outdoor Adventure Club of USM's Lewiston-Auburn Senior College, led by co-chairs Patricia Vampatella and Cindy Boyd, participated in National Wreaths Across America Day by serving among the 100 volunteers who turned out on December 13 to lay wreaths on veterans' graves at the Togus Na-

tional Cemetery. Michael Edgecombe of Spruce Head, coordinator of volunteers and wreath distribution for the day, greeted everyone from the back of a huge truck filled with cardboard cartons of wreaths, donated for the 23rd year by the Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington in Washington County.



The gravesite of Landsman John Preston, a recipient of the Medal of Honor who served on board the USS Oneida during the Civil War.



The entrance to Togus National Cemetery.

Edgecomb thanked the volunteers for their enthusiasm and dedication and directed them to the section of the cemetery chosen for this year's wreath laying. It is hoped that one day all graves will be so honored with a wreath. Within half an hour of receiving the wreaths, volunteers had

decorated 1,400 veterans' graves in the designated section at Togus.

With the noontime ceremony, held simultaneously with ceremonies across the country, including the one at Arlington National Cemetery, still a half hour away, we had time to talk to Jim Doherty of Brunswick,



Dave and Irene Marshall



Susan Matthews, Patricia Vampatella and Charlotte and Les Bosworth

a historian and the longtime employee in charge of the cemetery.

He gave us many interesting facts about the cemetery and took us to see the grave sites of two Medal of Honor recipients: Landsman John Preston, who served in the Union Navy

onboard the USS Oneida during the Civil War; and Pvt. David John Scannell, who served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Boxer Rebellion in China. Both men remained in battle after being seriously wounded.

We then attended



Regional representative Elizabeth M.S. MacTaggart spoke on behalf of U.S. Senator Angus King.

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the noontime ceremony. Representatives from all branches of the U.S. Armed Services laid a commemorative wreath at the base of the flagpole. As he was detained in Washington, Senator Angus King sent regional representative Elizabeth M.S. MacTaggart to

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Cindy Boyd



Anna Boyce

speaking on his behalf. A Three Gun Salute was fired, followed by a bugler playing “Taps” to conclude the ceremony.

Senior College members were honored

to participate in Wreaths Across America and found the experience of participating in the nationwide event to be moving and gratifying. It was their first time, but it will not be the last.



The ceremony concluded in the snow with a Three Gun Salute, followed by a bugler playing “Taps.”



Senior College members laying the wreaths.



The noontime ceremony was held simultaneously across the country on National Wreaths Across America Day.

common during this period. Of the Androscoggin County high school students who reported using alcohol in the past 30 days, 41percent reported that someone gave them the alcohol.

Help keep teens safe, healthy and drug-free this holiday season by remembering to Talk...Know...Do: Talk to your teens about the risks of alcohol and other drugs; Know where your teens are and with whom, and Do provide fun and healthy opportunities to celebrate the holidays.

If you know or suspect underage drinking or any criminal activity which may be occurring, you can use AndroTip. AndroTip allows concerned citizens, parents, and teens to anonymously submit information they might normally feel uncomfortable reporting. To report a tip, text “AndroTip” with your tip to 27463. Your text will be sent to a server in Canada and stripped of any personal information. It is then sent to the L-A 911 communication center. This service is not for emergencies.

Healthy Androscoggin and the Androscoggin AET would like to remind you to plan ahead. If you plan to drink, have a plan, such as a designated driver or the number for a taxi service, to get home safely. Following these tips can help everyone have a safe and healthy holiday season.

December is National Impaired Driving Prevention Month

With the holiday season in full swing, Healthy Androscoggin and the Androscoggin Alcohol Enforcement Team would like to remind people of the risks and consequences of driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs and underage drinking.

This is a month where many people will be planning or attending holiday parties where alcohol will be served. These parties can be an enjoyable part of the holiday season. Many attending these gatherings

will make healthy choices and not drive under the influence. Unfortunately, others will make risky choices and chance driving while impaired. Countless times this has led to tragedy and loss of life.

Nationally, more than 1.4 million drivers were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or narcotics in 2010. That's one percent of the 112 million self-reported episodes of alcohol-impaired driving among U.S. adults each year. More than 10,000 people

were killed in alcohol-impaired driving crashes, accounting for nearly one-third of all traffic-related deaths in the United States. Sadly, in this same year, more than 200 children lost their lives in a traffic accident involving alcohol; half of those were riding in the vehicle being driven by someone under the influence.

Many students are returning home for the holidays and winter break. A mix of 21-year-olds and younger students is not un-

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TWIN CITY NIGHTS

Weekly Arts & Entertainment

"LegoLandia" event to benefit Pettingill Park



The Lego creations of 13-year-old twins Emma and John Auer will be on display at a LegoLandia event to benefit the new Pettingill School Park on December 30 and 31.

Thirteen-year-old twins Emma and John Auer have been Lego enthusiasts for as long as they can remember, so when they moved to Lewiston with their parents recently, they brought their Lego city

creations - completely intact - with them. Now they are rallying their young friends to help raise money for the new Pettingill School Park by organizing Lewiston's first "LegoLandia" on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 30 and 31, at Lewiston Public Library.

The event will feature a self-guided tour of their creations, including intricate cityscapes and vehicles, townhouses, medieval houses, haunted houses, lighthouses, a Hagrid's hut and their most recent design, a replica of Pettingill School Park. Those attending are invited to bring along their own creations. There will be

a Lego building space for fun and play, tasty refreshments available for purchase and screenings of "The Lego Movie" and "Love of the Brick," a documentary about adult fans of Lego.

In conjunction with the event, young Lego fans are encouraged to help raise donations for the park. A unique exhibit piece, a Lego-built Maine camp, will be awarded at the conclusion of the event to the child whose family and friends raise the most money over \$100. Funds raised can be donated to the park by visiting the "GoFundMe" web site at www.gofundme.com/i5d098. Please indicate which young person receives credit for the donation.

John and Emma's mother, Anne Auer, a new member of the Friends of Pettingill steering committee, is helping to direct the "LegoLandia" extravaganza. Any Friends of Pettingill who would like to volunteer may contact her at halfauer@gmail.com.

Admission is by a



suggested donation of \$5 or more per person; additional donations are welcome. The event will take place each day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the third floor of the library in Callahan Hall. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

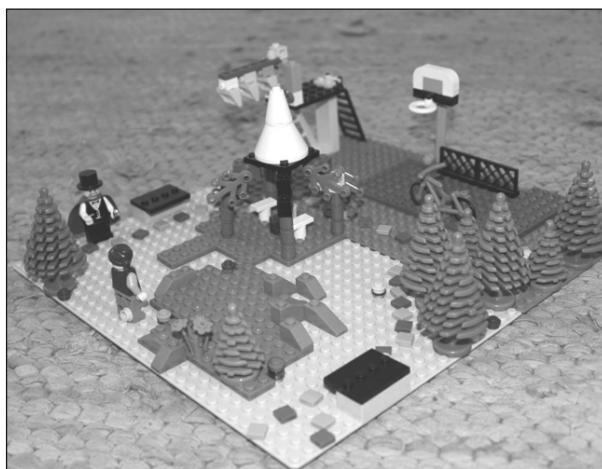
In the meantime, those planning to attend may wish

to brush up on their Lego Lingo:

AFOL: Adult Fan of Lego. The most common term used to refer to Lego fans who are adults.

Brick-Built: A LEGO creation or portion of a larger creation that is composed of multiple Lego

See **Lego**, page 11



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Teen Board Games Marathon at APL

Auburn Public Library will host a free Board Games Marathon for teens ages 12 to 18 on Tuesday, December 30 from 2 to 5 p.m. in the Library's Androscoggin Community Room. Many board games will be available to choose from, including Monopoly, Scrabble, Apples to Apples and Battleship, and card games will be available also.

If you you have a favorite game, feel free to bring it along. Snacks will be provided.

Participants are welcome to drop in any time or to stay for the afternoon.

For more information, call 333-6640 ext. 4.

Comedy Fix supports Humane Society



Comedy Fix XVII raised \$810 recently for the Greater Androscoggin Humane Society. Performing for a sold out crowd at the Auburn Fireside Inn were comedians (l. to r.) Mark Turcotte, Dee Turcotte, Josh Day, Paul Landwehr, Bill Picard, Kyron Hobdy and Ian Stuart. The next Comedy Fix will take place on Friday, January 9. For more information, visit www.comedyfixlive.com.

Lego

Continued from page 10

elements even when a larger, pre-fabricated Lego element or custom accessory may be available.

BURP: Big Ugly Rock Piece. A large, pre-fabricated Lego element generally available in gray and frequently included in Lego castle sets.

Dark Ages: That period in a Lego fan's life when he or she sets aside Lego in favor of school, dating, motor vehicles and other non-Lego pursuits.

Draft: An activity common at Lego club meetings, in which Lego fans each bring a copy of a Lego set, sort out all of the Lego elements and take turns picking the parts they want.

KFOL: Kid Fan of Lego. The Lego Group's primary target demographic.

MOC: My Own Creation. Any Lego creation designed and built by a Lego fan without instructions.

Purist: A Lego creation that does not include any customizations, such as decals, modified parts or custom accessories from third-party vendors.

SHIP: Significantly Huge Investment in Parts. A very large Lego creation - particularly a Lego space creation.

Swooshable: A quality that allows a Lego creation to be picked up and flown around a room as the builder makes flying noises.

TBB: The Brothers Brick. You are here.

Humane Society announces raffle winners

The Greater Androscoggin Humane Society has announced the winners of its annual "Cold Paws, Warm Heart" raffle, which this year garnered over \$10,000 in ticket sales.

All proceeds from the raffle will directly benefit the Humane Society.

Anne Csplikas of Auburn won \$600 in home heating oil, Bruce Wilson of Hanover, Mass. won \$300 in home heating oil, Pamela Rietschel won \$200 in home heating oil and Peter Murphy of Lewiston won \$100 in home heating oil.

Located at 55 Strawberry Avenue in Lewiston, the Greater Androscoggin Humane Society provides a safe haven for more than 4,000 sick, homeless and abused animals in the greater Androscoggin area each year.

The primary support for the shelter comes from fundraising events and donations of concerned citizens.

For more information, call 783-2311 or see www.SavingPetsIn-Maine.org.

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Twin City Nights

Fiddle-icious seeks musicians

Fiddle-icious, Maine's largest fiddle orchestra of traditional Celtic music, will hold the first rehearsal of its new season on Monday, January 12 at 7 p.m. at the Falmouth Congregational Church on Falmouth Road, next to the Falmouth Town Hall.

The group seeks new musicians to join its leader, Master Fiddler Don Roy, and its 80-plus-member orchestra. Dust off your neglected fiddle, mandolin, guitar or harp and get ready to tune it up. Fiddle-icious is comprised of musicians from all walks of life and levels of experience, from beginners to professional players.

For more information, send an email to info@fiddleicious.com or visit www.fiddleicious.com.

Library new furniture campaign extended

The Friends of Lewiston Public Library are making one last plea for LPL's GoFundMe campaign to replace the library's old, stained and tattered first floor furniture with new café-style furniture that will feature electrical outlets to keep those smartphones, tablets and laptops charged.

The campaign has been extended through early January, so there is still a chance to support this effort. To make a quick and secure online donation, go to www.GoFundMe.com/ekx288.

Those who would rather not make their donation online may drop off a check, made out to "Friends of LPL," at the library or mail it to: Friends Furniture Campaign, Lewiston Public Library, 200 Lisbon Street, Lewiston, ME 04240. In addition to being tax deductible, a donation will automatically sign one up for a year as a member of the Friends of LPL or will renew one's existing membership.



The Friends of Lewiston Public Library are seeking donations to replace the library's worn first floor furniture with new café-style furniture equipped with built in electrical outlets.

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What's Going On

MCHO elects Board of Directors

More than 3,8000 members of Maine Community Health Options recently voted to elect nine of its own to serve on the health plan's inaugural member-led board of directors.

As a consumer operated and oriented health insurance plan, MCHO is led by a board of member-led directors who provide oversight and governance for the CO-OP. "Our CO-OP structure allows our members to have a strong voice in the direction and development of the plan," said board president Jim Davis. "We enter a new phase as our member-led board begins its work in January 2015."

"With more than 83 percent of Maine people choosing our insurance plans on the healthcare marketplace in 2014, and the possibility that many more Maine and New Hampshire people will choose MCHO during this open enrollment period, we look forward to having member voices at the table."

Over the summer, MCHO invited its mem-

bers to apply to become candidates for its board of directors. Once the final roster of candidates was selected, all eligible MCHO members had the opportunity vote for directors from among the candidates. "Our newly elected directors are a diverse and talented group of individuals," said MCHO Chief Executive Officer Kevin Lewis. "I'm confident that they will help further our mission to provide affordable, high-quality health benefits."

The newly elected directors were announced during MCHO's first annual meeting at the Augusta Civic Center. They are:

Dana Baldwin. Baldwin is a graphic designer from Brunswick. She has years of experience in varying corporate, academic and government environments, which has given her insight into the challenges faced by large organizations.

Peter Hayes. Hayes is a healthcare consultant from Scarborough. He has been appointed by two different Maine governors to serve on health care reform

commissions and has held leadership roles for several national entities focused upon improving patient safety and quality of care.

Sarah C. Hines. Hines is the owner and technical lead at Shines & Jecker Laboratories. As a small business owner, she has been empowered by MCHO to provide quality health insurance benefits to her employees at a manageable cost. She resides in Portland.

Peter Phair. Phair is a senior trainer for mental health first aid with NAMI Maine. As a member of the board, he hopes to have the opportunity to contribute to the incorporation of behavioral health concerns as they relate to health care. He resides in Wayne.

Trish Riley. Riley is a senior fellow at the Muskie School for Public Service at USM and former director of the Governor's Office of Health Policy and Finance. A national health policy expert, she has spent her career advancing efforts to ensure all of us have access to affordable, quality health coverage. She resides in Brunswick.

Laura Ronan. Ronan is an independent consul-

tant to public and private organizations for the review, development, implementation and evaluation of health-related programs and services at the state, systems and practice levels. She resides in Dresden.

W. Douglas Smith. Smith is a healthcare management consultant. He has worked for more than 30 years in health plan and provider organizations in operations, finance, and information systems. He resides in Windham.

Douglas Wilson. Wilson is a self-employed healthcare management consultant. He has more than 30 years of healthcare management experience and has worked with a wide range of healthcare provider organizations in strategic, clinical product line and capital asset planning. He resides in West Bath.

Mike Woodard. Woodard works in real estate sales. As a member of the board, he hopes to help MCHO bring affordable, quality health insurance to many more people in Maine and New Hampshire. He resides in Bar Harbor.

In addition to the election of its board of directors, the plan's members approved MCHO's bylaws and amended articles of incorporation at the meeting.

Maine Community Health Options is the Consumer Operated and Oriented Plan providing comprehensive, member-focused and member-led health insurance benefits for individuals, families and businesses. Licensed in both Maine and New Hampshire, MCHO is dedicated to providing affordable, high-quality health benefits through productive partnerships with its members and a broad network of healthcare providers throughout its service areas. For more information, see www.maineoptions.org.

Pine Tree Legal tech. initiative to help veterans

Officials from Pine Tree Legal Assistance and the Legal Services Corporation recently announced a new technology initiative to improve access to civil legal aid for veterans, particularly underserved female veterans. The initiative, led by PTLA and supported by a 36-month grant from LSC, will expand StatesideLegal.org, a national legal assistance website for military members, veterans and their families. It will also help develop new user-friendly tools tailored specifically for female veterans needing civil legal assistance.

"Every American deserves the benefit of high-quality, affordable legal services, especially those

who have served to defend a country founded upon the rule of law," said Sen. Angus King. "Through this initiative, Pine Tree Legal Assistance will further expand its reach to provide critical legal assistance to veterans, particularly women veterans, in Maine who may otherwise have had a difficult time locating or affording the counsel and advice they need."

PTLA was recently awarded a grant of \$138,139 through LSC to fund the initiative. LSC, an independent corporation founded by Congress, is the country's single largest funder of civil legal aid for low-income Americans. This initiative is one of 38 projects nationwide that will receive funding in 2014.

Joint Commission names St. Mary's a 2013 Top Performer

St. Mary's Regional Medical Center has been recognized as a 2013 Top Performer on Key Quality Measures by The Joint Commission, the leading accreditor of health care organizations in the United States. St. Mary's was recognized in The Joint Commission's 2014 annual report, "America's Hospitals: Improving Quality and Safety," for attaining and sustaining excellence in accountability measure performance for heart attack, pneumonia and surgical care. St. Mary's was one of 1,224 hospitals in the United States to achieve the 2013 Top Performer distinction.

"This recognition is a testament to the dedication of our staff," said Lee Myles, president and CEO of St. Mary's Regional Medical Center. "From clinical to housekeeping, registrants to security, our staff is committed to providing high quality services. This award is a reflection of all of their efforts."

The Top Performer program recognizes hospitals for improving performance on evidence-based interventions that increase the chances of healthy outcomes for patients with certain conditions, including heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia, surgical care, children's asthma, stroke, venous thromboembolism and perinatal care, as well as for inpatient psychiatric services and immunizations.

To be a 2013 Top Performer, hospitals had to meet three performance criteria based on 2013 accountability measure data. These were: 1) achieving a cumulative performance of 95 percent or above across all reported accountability measures; 2) achieving a performance of 95 percent or above on every reported accountability measure where there were at least 30 denominator cases; and 3) having at least one core measure set with a composite rate of

See St. Mary's, page 13

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Tuesday, December 30
LegoLandia. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Callahan Hall, Lewiston Public Library. This celebration of all things Lego to benefit Lewiston's new Pettingill Park features exhibits, activities, concessions and "Lego Movie" screenings. Again 12/31. \$5.

Board Games Marathon. 2 to 5 p.m. Androscoggin room, Auburn Public Library. This event for teens ages 12-18 features different games to choose from or you can bring your own. Drop in any time or stay for the whole event; refreshments served. Free. 333-6640 ext. 4.

Saturday, January 3
Take-Out Bean Supper. 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Holy Cross Church Hall, 1080 Lisbon St., Lewiston. The Holy Cross K. of C. serves up its famous bean supper in various combo packages and a la carte offerings for take-out

Calendar

See more Calendar at www.TwinCityTimes.com

service only. \$3-10. 212-5163.
Monday, January 5
Auburn Community Development Mtg. 5:45 p.m. Rm. 206, Auburn Hall. The public is invited to provide input on the City's next 5-year plan; tonight's topics: finalize priorities and strategies. 333-6601 ext. 1330; rmynahan@auburn-maine.gov.

Monday, January 12
Fiddle-icious First Rehearsal. 7 p.m. Falmouth Congregational Church, Falmouth Rd. (next to Falmouth Town Hall). Maine's largest (80+) fiddle orchestra of traditional Celtic music invites fiddlers, mandolin players, guitarists and harp-

ists of all experience levels to join the group. www.fiddleicious.com.

Friday, January 16
Great Falls Forum. Noon to 1 p.m. Callahan Hall, Lewiston Public Library. Economist and former Maine State Senator Dick Woodbury discusses "The Policy and Politics of Reforming Maine's Tax System." Free. Bring a bag lunch. 513-3135.

Saturday, January 31
Theater: "Grey Gardens." 7:30 p.m. Cumston Hall, 796 Main St., Monmouth. Monmouth Comm. Players presents the Tony Award-winning musical about a high society moth-

er-daughter pair who become East Hampton's most notorious recluses. Again Feb 1, 6-8 (Suns. at 2 p.m.) \$14/12. www.monmouth-communityplayers.com.

Friday, February 6
Artists' Visit. 6 p.m. Room 104, Olin Arts Center, Bates College campus, 75 Russell St., Lewiston. Artist Dawn Clements and sculptor Marc Leuthold discuss their collaborative works, now on display at the Bates College Art Museum. Free. 786-6158.

Theater: "Grey Gardens." 7:30 p.m. Cumston Hall, 796 Main St., Monmouth. Monmouth Comm. Players presents the Tony Award-winning musical about a high society moth-

Send Calendar listings to Editor@TwinCityTimes.com

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Unbroken (PG-13)	12:50	3:40	6:45
Penguins Of Madagascar (PG)	1:50	4:25	7:10
Horrible Bosses 2 (R)	1:10	3:55	7:40
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1 (PG-13)	1:25	4:10	7:25
Interstellar (PG-13)	1:55		6:40
Big Hero 6 (PG)	1:05	3:35	7:45
Fury (R)	12:55	3:50	6:55
Annie (PG)	1:40	4:35	7:30
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG-13)	1:20	4:20	7:15
Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG)	1:35	4:05	7:00

DECEMBER 26TH THROUGH JANUARY 1ST

AUBURN

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Auburn Movie Hotline — 786-8605

Unbroken (PG-13)	12:30	3:40	6:50	9:45
Into The Woods (PG)	12:50	4:00	6:55	9:40
The Gambler (R)	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:50
Wild (R)	1:00	4:15	7:05	9:35
Night At The Museum: Secret Of The Tomb (PG)	2:20	4:40	7:10	9:25
Annie (PG)	12:40	3:50	6:45	9:20
The Hobbit: Battle Of The Five Armies (PG-13)	1:30	3:30	7:15	9:00
The Hobbit: Battle Of The Five Armies 3D (PG-13)	4:30			
Penguins Of Madagascar (PG)	12:10			
Exodus: Gods and Kings (PG-13)	3:20	7:25	xxx	
Big Hero 6 (PG)	1:10			

Big Hero 6 will not show at 1:10 on Sunday 12/28/14
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1 (PG-13) ... 4:10 7:00 9:55
Mockingjay will not show at 4:10 on Sunday 12/28/14
Free Patriots vs. Bills @ 1pm (12-28) 35 Foot Screen Hi-Def *Free*
Free Early Bird Classic Film "Polar Express" Tuesday @ 10AM *Free*

Wreaths Across America: A Proud Maine Tradition

By Sen. Angus King
Twenty-three years ago, Washington County's own Morrill and Karen Worcester started a quiet tribute that has grown into one of the greatest honors paid to our nation's veterans coast to coast: Wreaths Across America. Every December, donated balsam fir wreaths travel from Harrington, Maine to veterans' cemeteries around the country and are placed

on the graves of our fallen heroes. And thanks to truckers and the Patriot Guard Riders who escort the tractor-trailers on their motorcycles, the wreaths travel as part of a Veterans Honor Parade. This powerful initiative is guided by a mission to "Remember, Honor, Teach," and sends a message to our veterans, active duty service members and their families that their sacrifice and commitment to freedom has not gone unnoticed.

Wreaths Across America traces its roots to the end of the holiday season in 1992, when the Worcester Wreath Company had a surplus of unused wreaths. Recalling a boyhood visit to Arlington National Cemetery, Morrill Worcester realized that he could use those extra wreaths to honor those who have and continue to serve. So with the help of then-Sen. Olympia Snowe and plenty of Maine ingenuity, the Worcesters arranged to have the wreaths placed in one of the older sections of Arlington National Cemetery.

Like any great project, this required collective effort and teamwork. Building on the Worcester family's vision, other folks stepped up to help out. James Prout, the owner of a Maine trucking company, made sure the wreaths got down to Arlington. And the Maine State Society of Washington, D.C. - a group of people from Maine living and working in the nation's capital - helped organize the wreath laying at the cemetery.

And so it went for several years - wreaths were quietly assembled and sent to Arlington National

Cemetery to honor our country's veterans. It wasn't until 2005, when a photo of the wreaths in Arlington went viral, that the tradition gained widespread attention. The powerful image of the snow-covered wreaths laying on the graves of the fallen transformed what was once a quiet act of kindness to a national sensation, inspiring thousands to volunteer to help in Arlington or to bring the project to their home states.

It really is astounding to think about how much Wreaths Across America has grown over the years. This December, more than 1,700,000 wreaths will go out to national cemeteries, veteran memorials and other locations in every state in the Union. Some even go overseas.

In recognition of this wonderful work, Sen. Susan Collins and I sponsored a resolution in the U.S. Senate designating December 13th, 2014 as "Wreaths Across America Day." The day provides an opportunity to reflect on the history of this country and the relationship that we have with our veterans.

Wreaths Across America is a Maine-lead initiative, and it's an amazing accomplishment to prepare and place so many wreaths - 230,000 just in Arlington National Cemetery alone. It means a great deal to our country, to our veterans and to their families. And it brings honor to the state of Maine.

We can all walk a little taller this time of year, knowing that our state plays an important role in such a meaningful tribute.

New plaque marks original CMCC location



Originally a Buick dealership, the medical office building at 287 Main Street in Lewiston served from 1964-66 as the first home of Central Maine Community College.

President Scott Knapp of Central Maine Community College and President Tina Legere of Central Maine Medical Center unveiled a commemorative plaque recently in the lobby of the medical office building at 287 Main

Street in Lewiston. Originally a Buick dealership, the building served as the college's first home for two years. Known as the Androscoggin State Vocational Institute when it opened to approximately 100 students in September of 1964, the college was renamed

Central Maine Vocational Technical Institute in 1965 and moved to its present location on Turner Street in Auburn a year later. Today, Central Maine Community College enrolls more than 3,100 students in 24 different programs.

St. Pierre supports Humane Society



Vanessa and Jennifer St. Pierre

Vanessa St. Pierre of Lisbon recently presented the Greater Androscoggin Humane Society with donations collected at her 7th birthday party. A second-grade student at Lisbon Community School, Vanessa

asked for donations for the shelter's animals in lieu of birthday gifts. Party guests generously donated cat food, litter, dog bones and toys, all of which will help support the thousands of unwanted animals the Humane

Society cares for each year. The Humane Society is located at 55 Strawberry Avenue in Lewiston. To learn more about volunteering or adopting an animal, call 783-2311 or see www.SavingPetsInMaine.org.

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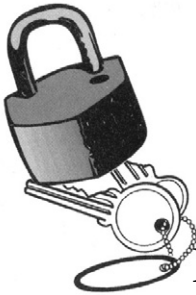
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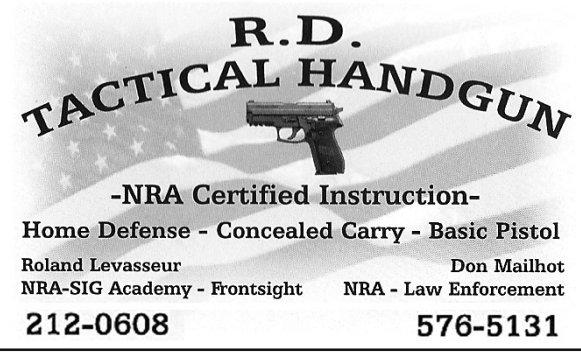
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