

## MMS Annual Christmas Concert



Led by Artistic Director John Corrie, the MMS Chorale rehearses for their annual concert with accompanist Bridget Convey.

The Maine Music Society will present its annual Christmas Concert on Saturday, December 9 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 10 at 3 p.m. at the Gendron Franco Center in Lewiston. New this year, the program will also include music from the traditions of Chanukah, the Jewish celebration of light.

The 60-member Chorale will focus on Christmas music from the United States, including heartwarming arrangements of such favorites as "White Christmas," "I'll Be Home for Christmas," and "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!" Special guests Rabbi Sruli Dresdner and his wife, Lisa Mayer, of Auburn's Temple Shalom will join the chorale for memorable Chanukah songs like "O, ir kleyne likhtelekh," "Hanukah, O Hanukah," and "I Have a Little Dreidel." Dresdner and Mayer will also perform traditional Klezmer, the joyous and soulful music of the

Eastern European Jews. In keeping with tradition, the concert will end with everyone joining in to sing a round of Christmas carols.

For more information about the program, listen in as Maine Music Society Artistic Director John Corrie, Susan Trask, and Rabbi Dresdner join 105.5's Breakfast Club on Tuesday, December 5 at 8 a.m. or visit [www.mainemusicsociety.org](http://www.mainemusicsociety.org).

The Franco Center is located at 46 Cedar Street in Lewiston. Advance tickets are \$22 for adults, \$20 for seniors, and \$10 for students. Children ages 11 and under will enter free of charge when accompanied by an adult. Tickets may be purchased at the door for an additional \$2. A special rate of 20% off is available for groups of 10 or more. To buy tickets, call 333-3386, visit the box office on the second floor of the Franco Center Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., or see [www.mainemusicsociety.org](http://www.mainemusicsociety.org).

## Holiday season kicks off in Twin Cities



A float from the Parade of Lights

People of all ages turned out to line the decorated streets of Lewiston, Auburn, and New Auburn for the Twin Cities Holiday Celebration on Saturday, November 25. The Parade of Lights, led by event sponsor

Maple Way Dental, featured colorful floats, municipal vehicles, bicycles, walking units, Mayor Bob Macdonald of Lewiston, Mayor Jonathan LaBonte of Auburn, and costumed characters. See **Christmas**, page 9

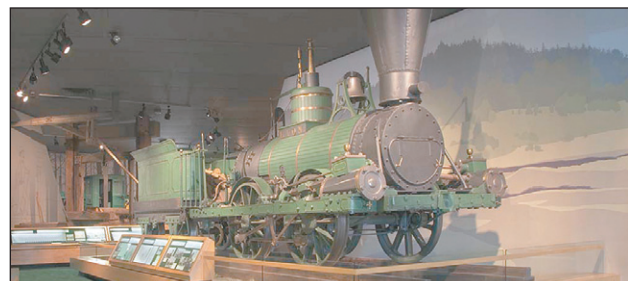
## CMCC offers course on identity theft protection

The Center for Workforce & Professional Development at Central Maine Community College will offer a course on "Identity Theft and Protecting Your Money" on Thursday, December 7, from 5:45 to 7:45 p.m. Recommended for those who utilize mobile devices for financial and sensitive information transfers, use credit or debit cards at retail establishments, have been notified of a data breach, or want to be proactive in securing their financial identity, the course will instruct partic-

ipants on how to protect their names, money, and assets from identity thieves. Course topics will include types of identity theft, how personal information is obtained and used by identity thieves, real life scenarios of the impact of identity theft, and alternative investment vehicles for income producing assets.

The course fee is \$20. Registration is restricted to those over the age of 18. The deadline for registration is December 1. For more information or to register, contact See **CMCC**, page 16

## State Museum hosts Model Railroad Celebration



Trains figure prominently in the museum's collections: this 1846 Lion, one of America's earliest surviving steam locomotives, greets visitors at the museum entrance.

Whether making a first-time discovery of model trains or revisiting memories of days gone by, family members of all ages will delight in the sights and sounds of the annual Model Railroad Celebration at the Maine State Museum in Augusta. This two-day event will take place on Friday, December 1, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday,

December 2, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission to the museum will be free of charge on both days.

The Model Railroad Celebration will feature the efforts of the Maine 3-Railers Club, an O-gauge model railroad club with over 60 members from around the state. The club's winter scene layout See **Railroad**, page 16

## Auburn Public Library hosts Family Coding Night

Auburn Public Library will host a Family Coding Night on Thursday, December 7 at 6 p.m. in the Androscoggin Community Room. This is a whole-family event where kids in grades K-5 and their parents will experience their first hour of computer programming - together! At this evening of learning and fun, participants will play in parent-child teams to complete fun Code.org puzzles and

challenges at their own pace, learning core concepts of coding along the way. Afterwards, they'll go home with a special "Code on at Home" guide. No coding experience is needed, but please bring one device for each two attendees; while the library has a limited supply of laptops, it is best if you can bring your own. To register, call 333-6640, ext. 3 or see [www.auburnpubliclibrary.org](http://www.auburnpubliclibrary.org).

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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## 4-H presents annual awards

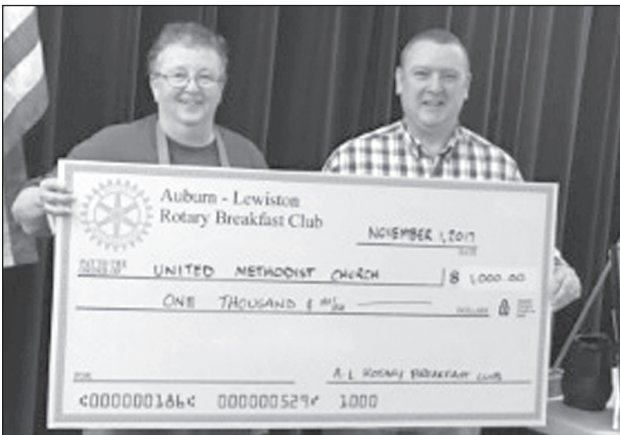


Receiving the 2017 Exceptional Accomplishment Award was Jordyn Maloy of Lisbon Falls.

University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H in Androscoggin and Sagadahoc Counties held its 2017 4-H Awards Banquet recently at the Bowling Bowl in Brunswick. More than 45 youth and their families attended the event, where the 2017 Exceptional Accomplishment Through 4-H Award was presented

to Jordyn Maloy of Lisbon Falls. This award is the highest honor conveyed to an Androscoggin-Sagadahoc 4-H member. Nominees must be 14 years or older with at least three years of active 4-H membership. They must have excelled in 4-H by completing projects, See 4-H, page 4

## Rotary Breakfast Club donates over \$4,000



On behalf of Pam MacDonald, Gladys of the United Methodist Church accepts a check for the Family Christmas project from club president Pete Preble.

The Auburn-Lewiston Rotary Breakfast Club recently distributed \$4,478.50 in donations to the Auburn-Lewiston community. These included \$1,000 to the United Methodist Church's Family Christmas project, \$500 to Advocates for Children's Holiday Festival, \$2,500 to the Boys and Girls Club's Afternoon Snack

Program, and \$478.50 to the Rotary's Polio Plus Foundation. The Auburn-Lewiston Rotary Club supports local nonprofits that serve kids and seniors in the local community. In October, the club held a "Pints for Polio" event at Gritty's in Auburn. The \$478.50 raised by the club at the event will be



Advocates for Children Executive Director Gillian Roy accepts a check for their annual Holiday Festival.

matched two-to-one by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. In 2017, the only three countries where polio has not been eradicated are Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Nigeria. Rotary International has been instrumental in eradicating polio worldwide by investing over 3 billion dollars since the 1980s.

The Auburn-Lewiston Rotary Club was founded in 1991. Since then, the club has made over \$500,000 in charitable contributions. The club meets every Wednesday morning at 7:15 at the United Methodist Church in Auburn. Guests are always welcome to attend. For more information about the club, see [www.auburn-lewistonrotary.org](http://www.auburn-lewistonrotary.org).

## SeniorsPlus receives Workplace Wellness Mini-Grant

of mind, body, and wellness programs and coaching for its staff. The award was presented at Healthy Androscoggin's Annual Meeting recently at Auburn Public Library. In line with their agency

missions to promote healthier communities and enhance quality of life, Healthy Androscoggin and the Chamber offered businesses and organizations in Androscoggin County the opportunity to apply for a mini-grant in the

amount of \$200 to \$500 to support their workplace wellness initiatives. Applications were evaluated on program description and structure, program successes, future goals, sustainability, and how the funding would be used.

## Augusta firms respond to storm with local food drive



Following one of the most powerful wind storms in Maine's history earlier this fall, staffers from Lipman & Katz, the Finance Authority of Maine, Voya Financial, and Manpower teamed up to hold a local food drive. Located in the same building at 5 Community Drive in Augusta, the four agencies collected more than 100 non-perishable food

items for the Augusta Food Bank. The drive was led by Kris Baron, legal assistant at Lipman & Katz, who helped the staff at the law firm organize the food drive after hearing about the thousands of people in Kennebec County who were impacted by power outages and needed food. The Augusta Food Bank

was helpful to many after the storm, including those whose foods originally purchased with food stamps spoiled during the power outage. The Augusta Food Bank provides eligible residents of Augusta and Manchester with groceries to help bridge the gap between their current circumstance and adequate nutrition.

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# Governor's Address: Let's Make Sure Gun Control Laws Already on the Books are Working

The federal government must do a better job to provide adequate resources for background checks on people purchasing firearms.

Dear Maine Taxpayer,

Horrific mass killings remind us of how fragile life is. When killers have a history of violence or mental illness, they should not be able to buy a gun.

The vast majority of Maine's people are responsible gun owners, and our outdoor traditions have instilled in us a healthy respect for weapons. Homicides in Maine are few. Unfortunately, they almost always have a relationship to either drugs, domestic violence or mental illness.

Many people are already prohibited from buying a firearm, and the national background check system is supposed to catch them. These include people with a domestic violence convictions; illegal immigrants; fugitives from justice; drug traffickers; individuals with a dishonorable discharge from the Armed Forces; and those with a restraining order.

We must ensure the background check system is working. The National Instant Criminal Background Check System holds more than 13 million records from local, state and federal law enforcement officials—but it has not always worked.

The killer in Texas should have been prohibited from buying firearms because of his dishonorable discharge from the Air Force, as well as his domestic violence charge for beating his ex-wife and her child. This was more than enough reason to deny him a firearm, but the Air Force failed to report it.

Laws are useless if agencies fail to comply with them and authorities fail to enforce them. More importantly, the limited data on mental illness that is allowed under HIPAA must be reported.

HIPPA does not require mandatory reporting. Instead, it creates an exception so only specific, limited information can be reported. This includes the name, sex, date of birth, Social Security number and documentation that an individual has been involuntarily committed or disqualified from using firearms due to mental illness.

An individual who seeks help for mental health conditions is not automatically prohibited from having a firearm. But some states have strict privacy laws that block reporting of mental illness data.


Another problem with our federal background check system is lack of staff and funding. A background check that is initially inconclusive can be extended for three business days for further investigation. This is not a waiting period—it is simply more time to ensure the background check is thorough.

But if three days lapse without the FBI completing the review, a buyer can purchase a gun. This is how Dylan Roof, the Charleston shooter, legally purchased his weapon before his murderous attack on a church.

We need adequate funding for background checks, and we need strict enforcement of the laws already on the books. We also need to ensure all mandatory reporters are submitting mental illness data.

We already have the system in place now. Let's use it before our country suffers another unspeakable tragedy.

Thank You,  
Paul R. LePage  
Governor



Governor Paul R. LePage

## Teen programs at Auburn Public Library

The following programs for teens will take place at Auburn Public Library during the month of December. For more information about a program, call 333-6640, ext. 4 or see [www.auburnpubliclibrary.org](http://www.auburnpubliclibrary.org)

Tweens in the Teen Space. Wednesdays, December 6 and 13, from noon to 2 p.m. in the Teen Space. On half-day Wednesdays, sixth graders are invited to join us in the Teen Space on the second floor! Come by and get a head start on your homework, enjoy crafts or board games, or just hang out!

Teen Anime Club. Wednesday, December 6, from 4 to 5 p.m. in the Androscoggin Community Room. Get animated over anime! Teens ages 12 to 18, drop in to talk about your favorite (or least favorite) manga, watch this week's selection of anime, and try your hand at drawing your own characters. This program is made possible by a gift of the P&G Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation. Snacks will be provided.

Homework Help for Teens. Thursdays, December 7 and 14, from 2:30 to 4 p.m. in the Teen Space. Teens! Homework Help is back again this year! Stop by the Teen Space on Thursdays between 2:30 and 4 p.m. for help in any subject giving you difficulty. This program is just for teens in grades 7 through 12 and will include a healthy snack. Please note that during this time the Teen Space is reserved for those getting a start on their homework or seeking help from the available tutor. Teens coming to hang out are asked to come after 4 p.m.

Tech Talk Tuesday. Tuesday, December 12, from 4 to 5 p.m. in the Teen Space. Join us in the Teen Space on a selected Tuesday each month to enjoy a healthy after school snack and share some conversation about technology. Has having a device made your life easier? Has it changed the way you interact with your friends? Do you have an app that has made your life easier? Come share

See APL, page 4

## Museum L-A receives grant for storage unit



Museum L-A has received a \$1,000 grant from Historic New England of Boston to purchase a storage unit that will expand its ability to preserve artwork created by the workers of Bates Mill. Pictured here at the awards presentation are (l. to r.) Emma Sieh, Collections & Exhibits Coordinator of Museum L-A; Carl Nold, President & CEO of Historic New England; and Rachel Desgrosseilliers, Executive Director of Museum L-A.

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## 4-H

Continued from page 2

maintaining the 4-H spirit, and serving in their community or school through extracurricular activities and volunteering.

Maine 4-H is the youth development program of UMaine Extension. For more information about 4-H opportunities in Androscoggin and Sagadahoc counties, contact Extension educator Kristy Ouellette at 353-5550, [extension.andsag@maine.edu](mailto:extension.andsag@maine.edu), or see <https://extension.umaine.edu>.

## APL

Continued from page 3

your thoughts on all things technology. This program is for teens ages 12 through 18.

Gaming Hour. Wednesdays, December 13 and 27, from 4 to 5 p.m. in the Androscoggin Community Room. Take a break from studying and stop by the Androscoggin Room on the lower level for video games and snacks. We have Xbox and Wii and a small collection of games. Teens are welcome to bring their favorites, but only those rated T and E. Just for teens ages 12 through 18, this program was made possible by donations from the P&G Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation and the law firm of Norman, Hanson & DeTroy.

Matinee Movie: A Christmas Story (PG). Friday, December 15, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Androscoggin Community Room. Teens! Join us in the Community Room one afternoon a month for a movie. With the holiday season approaching, this month's feature is a Christmas classic. This program will include a snack and is just for teens ages 12 through 18.

Safe Voices. Tuesday, December 26, from 3 to 4 p.m. in the Teen Space. Come meet Whitney from Safe Voices! Each month, she will visit the Teen Space to chat about relationships and work on projects. Just for teens ages 12 through 18.

Maine Job Corps. Teens and New Adults ages 16 through 24, if you had the opportunity to take part in a life-changing experience that gave you the skills you need to succeed in today's job market, and it didn't cost anything, would you be interested? If so, the Job Corps may be for you! Contact Cathie Gavett of the Maine Job Corps (458-5369) to find out more about this program and who is eligible. She will then arrange a mutually convenient time to meet with you at Auburn Public Library.

Follow the APL Teen Space on Pinterest and on Facebook at "APLTeenSpace".



Enough is Enough

A society of lawlessness and fat cat Hollywood progressives

By Robert E. Macdonald  
MAYOR OF LEWISTON

“And there we were all in one place. A generation lost in space with no time left to start again.” (“American Pie,” by Don McLean).  
Yes. There they were in one place. A place where sex, drugs and rock and roll was the mantra they religiously followed. Many dropped out, creating their own society through communal living. Others eventually returned to the fold. Some became lost in our vast universe and continued to drift further from the mother planet.  
I wonder how those 1960s radicals feel about the society of lawlessness they created. A society with young people who burn and destroy property and assault those expressing different

views.  
I wonder how they feel about forking over tuition required to send their little snowflakes to a first-rate academic institution. They claim to seek academic excellence but instead flee find safe spaces, stuffed animals, cocoa and shelter from words that could upset them.  
Brooklyn College, a state college in New York City, recently notified the New York Police Department that they were no longer welcome to use the bathroom facilities on campus. They did allow the PD to use a toilet area located on the fringe of the campus.  
Enough is enough.  
In the 1970s, the late President of Boston University, John Silber, described BU as a bunch of mediocre professors and radical



Mayor Bob Macdonald  
students. This sounds like many of our current institutions. It’s time for a crackdown.  
Children should be seen and not heard. The fact that a kid is a student at an institution doesn’t mean he or she knows everything. In fact, these students have a lot to learn; so be quiet, pay attention and keep your

mindless, uneducated opinions to yourself.  
In many institutions, it appears that the students are running the school. It’s time to reverse this by firing inept administrators and replacing them with those who will not kowtow to either faculty or students. Speech, lauding the opinions of either the Left or the Right, should be welcome on campus. We learn by sharing and debating different points of view.  
Those who get upset over counterinterviews should be asked to leave until such time that they achieve adulthood.  
Changing gears. The allure of Congress, a mystery that has produced a cornucopia of theories, is finally solved. For many years, public speculation was that it was money and

power. Now we find that it was nothing more than boys being boys, living out their evil fantasies by turning them into reality.  
Then we have the fat cat Hollywood progressive Democrats. Producers, studio heads, actors and directors who supply the lavish funds to the feeding troughs shared by the likes of Hillary Clinton, Nancy Pelosi and Elizabeth Warren. They are appalled (wink, wink) by this degenerative behavior. They say they are shocked—even though this behavior has been known for many years.  
Hey Hillary, can these rich fat cats be found in your basket of deplorables?  
Last week the Lewiston City Council approved and passed a city ordinance that will restrict convicted sexual predators from living

in certain parts of Lewiston. During several public comment periods, those against the ordinance brought up study after study, each concluding that these predators were no longer a threat to society.  
During my time on the Lewiston Police Department, reoffenders were not that uncommon. Lewiston will not be a destination for sexual predators from outside Lewiston, Androscoggin County, Maine and definitely not for any congressional predators currently residing in Washington, D.C.  
Lastly, I want to thank the doctors, nurses and staff of M2 at CMMC. I appreciate the excellent care I was given. Your aggressive treatment and professionalism enabled me to enjoy Thanksgiving at home.

Commemorating Veterans Day in Freedom, Maine

By Sen. Susan M. Collins

Veterans Day is one of the most sacred days on our national calendar. This year, it was a special pleasure to spend that day of remembrance and gratitude in Freedom, Maine, a town whose very name celebrates the great gift we have been given by our veterans and those who serve today.  
Freedom is more than the name of that lovely Waldo County community; it is its heritage. The first settler in 1794 was Stephen Smith, a patriot who fought for freedom in the Revolutionary War. The town was incorporated during the War of 1812, the first challenge to our young nation’s freedom. In 1863, with the Civil War raging, a young man from Freedom named Daniel Davis left school and joined the 1st Maine Cavalry Regiment so that the blessing of freedom would be extended to all Americans. In 1880, he became Maine’s 37th Governor.

On Veterans Day 2017, the people of Freedom paid tribute to their family members, friends, and neighbors who served in our time. The celebration coincided with the 98<sup>th</sup> birthday of Roy Ward, the town’s oldest citizen, whose courageous Navy service during World War II inspires us today.  
While Freedom’s history is unique, the virtues it describes unite our great nation. It is estimated that some 48 million Americans have served in uniform since the founding of our nation. Today, more than 20 million veterans live among us, more than 116,000 right here in Maine. To put that in perspective, Maine has more veterans per capita than all but two of the other states in the country. We are proud of our state’s contributions to protecting our nation.  
Those numbers are impressive not only because of their sheer size, but also because they describe the history of a people united by

the highest ideals of humanity. Those numbers are not cold statistics. Each one tells a story of courage, sacrifice, and devotion to duty.  
On Veterans Day, we honor those who paid the ultimate price, whether they lie at rest in foreign lands or in their hometowns. We honor those who lived beyond their years of military service but who have since passed on. We honor those who remain missing and pledge that they never will be forgotten. And we honor those veterans who are with us today. We owe them all a great debt.  
We also honor the

parents, the wives and husbands, the children and other loved ones of our veterans and our troops. The families left behind face the challenges of daily living as they endure separation and worry. Their sacrifices are great, and we owe them much as well.  
It is the American character to answer the call of duty. It also is the American character to be grateful to those who answer that call. One has only to look at the Maine Troop Greeters, who have greeted some 1.5 million troops at the Bangor Airport, to know how much the people of our state value

our service members. They treat our veterans with similar generosity and a spirit of caring.  
We owe our veterans so much, and repay that debt in part, but only in part, with the gratitude we express on Veterans Day. As a nation, we must also repay our debt with the health care, rehabilitation services, and educational and employment opportunities our veterans have earned through their service to our country.  
I am committed to ensuring that the government keeps that sacred obligation. Initiatives I have undertaken in the Senate

this year to help ensure that veterans receive the quality, accessible health care and other benefits they earned through their service include the bipartisan “Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act” that would expand a successful program that helps those who care for wounded, ill, or injured veterans at home.  
Being in the Town of Freedom on Veterans Day brought to mind one of my earliest childhood memories - going with my father, a World War II veteran, to the patriotic parades in my hometown of Caribou. He

See Collins, page 7

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Sabattus, Turner, Wales



Corey Cummings (left), CMP Arborist, reviews tree trimming plans with a licensed Tree Care specialist.





# What's Going On

## Optimist Club inducts new officers



The Lewiston-Auburn Optimist Club inducted new officers at a recent meeting. Here (l. to r.) are new Club President Sabrina Best, First Vice President Mamie Ney, Second Vice President Angela Snow, Secretary Sheryl Mathews, and Treasurer Joan Godbout. The club meets at Chopsticks Restaurant in Lewiston for lunch and conducts community projects focusing on youth of the L-A area. For more information, call 783-5269 or visit their Facebook page.

## UMaine Extension awarded funds to provide crop insurance education

University of Maine Cooperative Extension has been selected as a recipient of one of 24 cooperative agreements totaling approximately \$5 million that were awarded recently under the USDA Risk Management Agency's "Crop Insurance Education in Targeted States" program. The agency provides funding for organizations in the form of cooperative agreements to provide education and training nationwide. Under this agreement, UMaine Extension will receive \$214,007 to provide

crop insurance education to Maine farmers at commodity meetings and workshops throughout the state using Extension newsletters, videos, and the Maine Crop Insurance Education website.

"RMA is pleased to provide this type of educational support to farmers and rural America to help mitigate risk," says Heather Manzano, RMA acting administrator. "These programs will provide information on Crop Insurance 101, Whole-Farm Revenue Protection, and Rainfall Index Insurance."

According to one of the principal investigators on the project, UMaine Extension vegetable and small fruit specialist David Handley, the aim of the educational program is to help Maine farmers know how to use crop insurance to protect from disasters that could bring financial hardship or ruin to their businesses. The outreach effort will keep farmers current on available policies, updates, and deadlines while connecting them to resources.

## Coalition seeks to address Maine's workforce challenges

The Maine Workforce & Education Coalition recently launched "MaineSpark," a collaborative initiative with specific strategies to address Maine's shortage of qualified workers by expanding the state's workforce and ensuring that 60 percent of that workforce achieves a post-secondary degree or credential by 2025.

The Maine Workforce & Education Coalition is a diverse collaboration of education, business, philanthropy, non-profit, and government leaders who have organized over the last year around a shared commitment to developing goals and strategies to ensure Maine's workforce is productive and competitive. The announcement of the initiative took place in Bangor at the "Attract Build Retain: Talent for Maine" summit hosted by the coalition, the Maine Philanthropy Center, and the Maine Development Foundation.

MaineSpark's four strategic tracks are: 1) "Strong Foundations" - to ensure that all Maine children begin life with good educational opportunities to help build the foundation they need to improve outcomes throughout school; 2) "Future Success" - to prepare Maine's youth, beginning in middle school, for college, training, and career options so they are ready to launch successful adult lives; 3) "Adult Promise" - to increase adult learner educational attainment by offering information, support, and resources for those looking to start or finish a degree or certificate, change careers, or learn a new trade or skill; and "New Opportunities" - to support graduates of Maine colleges and other programs who would like to stay in Maine and build their careers here, and to connect new and potential residents looking to begin a new chapter of their life in Maine. For more information, see [www.maine-spark.me](http://www.maine-spark.me).

MaineSpark.me.

"Working together over the last year, we've identified a long-term goal of '60 percent by 2025' and specific strategies to achieve that goal," said Yellow Light Breen, president and CEO of the Maine Development Foundation and member of the Maine Workforce & Education Coalition. "We view the MaineSpark initiative as both an important call to action and a plan for all coalition members and interested parties to work together to resolve Maine's workforce challenges to meet the needs of Maine employers, resulting in more prosperity and a stronger Maine economy."

"All members of the coalition, which we aim to grow, are committed to the long-term work necessary to achieve the goals of the MaineSpark initiative," said coalition member and Educate Maine Executive Director Ed Cervone, who thanked the Maine State Legislature for adopting the coalition's goal this past summer. "Many organizations are already doing the work, but by better organizing, coordinating, and aligning that work around our larger goal and the four strategic tracks to get there, we believe we will successfully address Maine's pressing work-

force challenges and avert the potential workforce crisis we see on Maine's horizon."

At the summit's luncheon, Bates College graduate and board member Jamie Merisotis, president and CEO of the Lumina Foundation and author of "America Needs Talent: Attracting, Educating, and Deploying the 21st Century Workforce," provided the national perspective on addressing the country's workforce challenges. He also emphasized the Lumina Foundation's commitment to and investment in MaineSpark.

"The Lumina Foundation congratulates the collaboration and mission of this impressive and diverse group of Maine organizations and leaders," said Merisotis. "We are committed to the 2025 goals of MaineSpark and to making opportunities for learning beyond high school available to all so we can better achieve a shared objective of meeting Maine's and the nation's need for talent."

The Lumina Foundation is supporting MaineSpark with a \$750,000 grant for the initiative's Adult Promise track to help send Maine adults back to college to finish their degrees over the next three years.

## Optimist Club speaker



Guest speaker Lisa Rodrigue (r.), Director of the Share Center, receives a copy of the Optimist Creed from club president Sabrina Best. Rodrigue described how the Share Center recycles school supplies, materials, and furniture items from area businesses, individuals, and organizations and then offers them free of charge to its members, including local schools. For more information about the Share Center or to donate, call 336-6671 or find them on Facebook at "Auburn Share Center."

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Two arrested for Park Ave. Burglary-Robbery



The victim's Ford Explorer was recovered on October 15 after it was set ablaze.

Auburn Police have made two arrests for the October 12 Burglary-Robbery that took place on Park Avenue. During the investigation, detectives identified 49-year-old John Michaud and his son, 19-year-old John Michaud, Jr., both of Lewiston, as primary suspects in the case.

Detectives developed enough evidence and probable cause to charge both suspects with Robbery (Class A Felony), Burglary (Class A Felony), Criminal Threatening with a Dangerous Weapon (Class C Felony), Theft (Class B Felony), Theft-Unauthorized Use of Property (Class C Felony),

and Obstructing the Report of a Crime (Class D Misdemeanor).

The victim's Ford Explorer was recovered on October 15 in New Gloucester after it was set ablaze on Torrey Road. Upon learning that both suspects fled the state together shortly after the incident, detectives applied for arrest warrants. Partnering with the U.S. Marshals Services Maine Fugitive Task Force, investigators began looking for the suspects.

Michaud Jr. was arrested by the Jacksonville County Sheriff's Department in Jacksonville, FL on November 5 on Auburn's

arrest warrants and for the Florida charges of Carrying a Concealed Weapon, Possessing a Firearm with an Altered or Removed Serial Number, and Loitering. He was being held at the Jacksonville County Jail awaiting trial on the Florida charges and extradition to Maine for the Auburn charges.

Michaud Sr. was arrested on November 21 in Eureka, IL by the U.S. Marshals Service Fugitive Task Force as a Fugitive from Justice and for the Auburn charges. He was being held at the Woodford County Jail in Eureka, IL awaiting extradition to Maine.

"I expect that more arrests will be made in this case and that additional charges will be brought against both Michauds once they are returned to Maine," said Deputy Chief Jason Moen. The Androscoggin County District Attorney's Office is working on extraditing both men.

On display at Holocaust and Human Rights Center: "America Now: A Dialog"

The Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine is now displaying an exhibit curated by Bruce Brown, curator emeritus of the Center for Maine Contemporary Art in Rockland, called "America Now: A Dialog."

"We are delighted to have worked with Bruce Brown, Leonard Meiselman, Kenneth Eason, and other artists throughout the state to create this unique and timely display," says HHRC Program Director Dave Greenham. "Taken together, these contemporary and relevant works create an overview of the state of our country and thoughtfully capture - in sometimes stark and disturbing ways - the current mood of our America."

On view through December 20, the exhibit features recent art works by 28 Maine visual artists, includ-

ing paintings, photography, and other work by Judith Allen-Efstathiou, Joanne Arnold, Brendan Bullock, Nancy Davison, Kenneth Eason, Nick Gervin, Judy Glickman-Lauder, Derek Jackson, Alan Magee, George Mason, Natasha Mayers, Ed McCartan, Leonard Meiselman, Jack Montgomery, Hans Nielsen, Mathew O'Donnell, Claire Seidl, Abigail Shahn, Robert Shetterly, Gail Skudera, Susan Smith, Roland Salazar Rose, Dave Wade, Mary Becker Weiss, Deanna M. Witman, and Edward Zelinsky.

In addition to "America Now," the HHRC hosts other ongoing and rotating historical and arts exhibits, events, meetings for Maine social and school groups, and workshops for students and teachers that raise awareness of civil rights and human rights

issues in Maine and beyond. The HHRC brings free educational programming to Maine high school students across the state with materials from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Facing History and Ourselves, and other organizations.

Located in the Michael Klahr Center at the University of Maine at Augusta, the HHRC is open to the public free of charge Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on weekends and evenings by appointment. For more information, call 621-3530 or visit hhrcmaine.org.

Send all items for **Names & Faces** to **Editor@TwinCityTimes.com**. Deadline is **Friday by five.**

What's Going On

Grandparents' Day at St. Dominic Academy



Row after row of smiling students ranging from pre-kindergarteners to high school seniors held hands, exchanged hugs, and shared indelible moments with the special guests standing next to them in a packed Callahan Family Memorial Gym at Saint Dominic Academy on Wednesday, November 22.

The students had invited their grandparents to school for the academy's annual Grandparents' Day and a Mass of Thanksgiving, celebrated by Bishop Robert P. Deeley in advance of the long holiday weekend.

"Now I know every word I say separates you from your Thanksgiving dinners," the bishop said to the laughing crowd of over 1,200 people. "But what a wonderful celebration this is. While you are here, I hope you see what a wonderful formation your grandchildren and children are getting here at Saint Dominic Academy. The formation here is not just of the mind, but also nourishing the spirit of our children."

Bishop Deeley told the gathering that he was amazed at the list of colleges that have already accepted Saint Dominic Academy seniors. "It shows the caliber of education being offered here," he said. "I want to



thank the grandparents for all the help you give to make this education and this school possible and so successful."

Concelebrants at the Mass included Fr. Timothy Nadeau, pastor of Prince of Peace Parish in Lewiston, and Fr. Seamus Griesbach, chaplain at Saint Dominic Academy and the diocese's director of vocations.

Grandparents' Day included a coffee and tea reception for the special guests prior to the Mass. The assistant chaplains, a group comprised of students at the academy who assist with ministry, also hosted a "PiePalooza," which featured homemade pies made by students, parents, and other family members.

Prior to his departure, the bishop helped "taste test" some of the creations.

Collins

Continued from page 5

hoisted me high on his shoulders, and from the best vantage point along the route, I saw hats go off and hands go over hearts as Caribou paid its respects to our flag and honored our veterans for their service to our country.

Our veterans provide all of us with an inspiring view from strong shoulders. From that vantage point, we see that the burden of service must be borne willingly and with modesty. We see that challenges must be met and that threats must be confronted. And we see that we have an obligation to always respect, honor, and support those who make that view possible.

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# Students present Greater Androscoggin Humane Society with Donations



Mackenzie Johndro, a kindergarten student at Poland Community School, presented the society with donations that she asked for in place of birthday gifts for her fifth birthday.

The following students recently presented the Greater Androscoggin Humane Society with donations of pet food, treats, toys, litter, blankets or other supplies to help the shelter care for the thousands of unwanted animals it helps each year. For more information about the shelter, including how to volunteer or adopt an animal, call 783-2311 or see [www.SavingPetsIn-Maine.org](http://www.SavingPetsIn-Maine.org).



Isabella Gendron, an eighth-grade student at St. Dominic's Academy in Auburn, presented the society with the donations from her community service project, a donation drive to collect pet food, which was a component of the Miss Holly Pageant held in Kennebunk.



Cole Ridley, a student at the Geiger Elementary School, presented the society with 1,034 pounds of donations and \$252.80 for his fundraising project toward becoming a Junior Black Belt.



Ella Purcell, a third-grade student at Park Avenue Elementary School of Auburn, presented the society with a \$26 donation, which she saved up from her allowance.



Emma Nailor, a seventh-grade student at Auburn Middle School, expressed her passion for animals by presenting the society with a number of special donations, including pet food, toys, hay, and cleaning supplies.

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Christmas

Continued from page 1



A ballet move from “The Nutcracker”

Minnie and Mickey Mouse, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, and Cuppy of Dunkin Donuts.

In Lewiston’s Kennedy Park and Auburn’s Festival Plaza, families

took free photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus before watching the lighting of each city’s Christmas tree and, in Auburn, Temple Shalom’s Menorah. Youth Pastor Craig Fortin of East Auburn Baptist Church and David Allen of Temple Shalom were present to speak about the meaning of Christmas and Hanukkah.

Children also received free toys and candy canes from Santa and Mrs. Claus; free mittens, compliments of the Auburn Business Association and Rinck Advertising; and free dental bags from Maple Way Dental.

Dionne Entertainment supplied holiday music and refreshments were provided by the Auburn Business Association (handing out goodies from Dunkin Donuts), Lt. Dan and Holly John-

son of the Salvation Army Canteen, the East Auburn Baptist Church youth group THRIVE, and Hood. Horse-drawn wagon rides were provided by Stillbrook Acres.

This year’s float winners were Community Credit Union in first place

and LA Harley in second. Grayling Cunningham of the Union of Maine Visual Artists-LA Chapter announced the winners of the annual LA Window Decorating Contest, with Photo Finish taking first place, the Lewiston Public Library



All smiles with Santa and Mrs. Claus



Jonathan P. LaBonte, Mayor of Auburn and Bob McDonald, Mayor of Lewiston


in second, and Aqua-Max Maine in third.

In pre-parade activities, the Dance Center performed scenes from “The Nutcracker” ballet at Lewiston Public Library and a screening of the movie “Elf” and a story time were presented at Auburn Public Library.

This annual event is organized by the Twin Cities Holiday Celebration Committee, the Downtown Lewiston Holiday Celebration Committee, the Auburn Business Association, and the Union of Maine Visual Artists-LA Chapter, along with assistance from the Cities of Lewiston and Auburn.



The Mitten Table



Stillbrook Acres provided horse-drawn wagon rides.



Francis taking photos



Sheline Family Handing Out Maple Way Dental Bags

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# TWIN CITY NIGHTS

## Weekly Arts & Entertainment

### "Discover Love" pet adoption event at Petco



A special adopt one kitten, get one kitten free deal will be available, and adopters of adult cats or dogs will name their own adoption fee.

If you've ever shared your life with a pet, you know that love changes everything. It changes your mornings, your routines,

and your perspective. And it doesn't just change your life, it changes theirs, too, which is why the Petco Foundation and the Greater Androscoggin Humane Society are inviting the public to "Discover Love" this weekend at Petco.

The Greater Androscoggin Humane Society will have pets available for adoption at the Auburn Petco, located at 105 Mount Auburn Avenue, on Saturday, December 2, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday, December 3, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

All pets will be spayed or neutered, micro-chipped, and up-to-date on their vaccinations before going to their new homes. A special adopt one kitten, get one kitten free deal will be available, and those who adopt adult cats or dogs will be able to name their own adoption fees.

For more information about the Greater Androscoggin Humane Society or the Petco Foundation, visit [www.SavingPetsInMaine.org](http://www.SavingPetsInMaine.org) or [www.petcofoundation.org](http://www.petcofoundation.org).

### Bates College annual dance concert



The event has been renamed this year in honor of the late Bates dance program founder Marcy Plavin, shown here at right during a dance alumni reunion concert in 2011. (Photo by Phyllis Graber Jensen/Bates College)

Bates College's annual Fall Dance Concert, renamed this year in memory of Bates dance program founder Marcy Plavin, will take place in performances on Saturday, December 2 at 5 p.m.; Sunday, December 3 at 2 p.m.; and Monday, December 4 at 7:30 p.m. Happening in the college's Schaeffer Theatre at 329 College Street in Lewiston, the program will feature a tribute to Marcy Plavin by Bates faculty members, thesis works presented by students, and pieces by visiting artists, including Marlies Yearby ("Rent") and New York choreographer Vanessa Justice. Admission is free, but a suggested \$5 donation is encouraged. Tickets are required from [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com). For more information, call 786-6161.

### Pianists make return appearance at Franco Center



Matthew Graybil

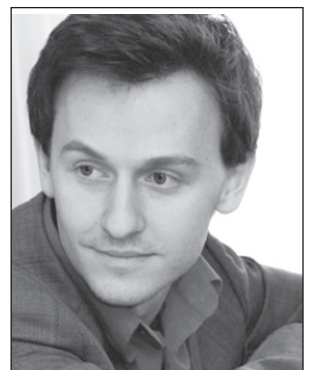
Concert pianists Igor Lovchinsky and Matthew Graybil will perform two-piano pieces by Maurice Ravel, Anton Arensky, and Darius Milhaud on Friday, December 1 at 7 p.m. at the Gendron Franco Center in Lewiston. The third program in the center's 12th Piano Series season will also feature solo works by Chopin, Stravinsky, Bach/Busoni, and Earl Wild's Concert Etude on a Theme of Gershwin.

Patrons of the center's Piano Series will remember these artists from their September 2015 performance that featured the New England premiere of the Concerto for Two Pianos Solis by Maine native Walter Piston. This season,

they will present the original piano four-hands version of Ravel's Mother Goose Suite, later orchestrated and revised as a ballet. They will also perform Anton Arensky's waltz from Suite for Two Pianos, Op. 15 and Darius Milhaud's original two-piano version of Scar-mouche.

The two pianists met as undergraduates at the Juilliard School, where they were students of Jerome Lowenthal. While their graduate studies took them to different cities, they stayed in touch and have continued their collaboration as performers of two-piano compositions.

Igor Lovchinsky showed extraordinary prom-



Igor Lovchinsky is early on; by age four he was giving recitals for family and friends in his native city of Kazan, Russia. His family settled in Columbus, Ohio when he was ten. After his undergraduate study at the Juilliard School, he obtained his Master's Degree at the New England Conservatory, where his teachers were Patricia Zander and Wha-Kyung Byun. He has since performed with orchestras in Europe and the United States and presented recitals in Eastern Europe, Asia, and North and South America. His debut CD, released in 2008, was voted one of the top five classical recordings of that year by Time Out International.

Following his study at the New England Conservatory, Lovchinsky enrolled

See *Thoughts*, page 16

### "An Afternoon of Christmas" in Durham

The First Congregational Church at 773 Royalsborough Road in Durham will present "An Afternoon of Christmas" on Friday, December 10 at 2 p.m. The program will feature the mu-

sic of Larissa Smith, Jeff and Valerie Chipman, and the First Congregational Church Choir. Making their annual appearance will be the hilarious Jill Litchfield and Tina Broomhall-Snow. There will

be a reading, a story for children, and the program will end with a Christmas carol sing-a-long followed by refreshments. Free-will donations will benefit Lisbon Area Community Outreach.

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“Christmas Is Magic” show at Chocolate Church



Magician Scot Grassette will tell Christmas themed stories and perform tricks like Tinsel Trouble, tangled scarfs, and misty illusions.

If you believe in Santa and the magic of the season, don’t miss the all-ages “Christmas Is Magic” show at the Chocolate Church Arts Center in Bath. Performances will take place on Saturday, December 2 at 2 and 7 p.m. Magician Scot Grassette, who has developed his Christmas show over the past 30 years, will tell Christmas-themed stories and perform tricks like

Tinsel Trouble, tangled scarfs, and misty illusions, while Christmas tunes and seasonal props help create a show full of holiday laughs, wonder, and excitement for the whole family. Chocolate Church Arts Center is located at 804 Washington Street in Bath. Tickets are \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door. To buy tickets, call 442-8455 or see [www.chocolatechurcharts.org](http://www.chocolatechurcharts.org).

GAHS offers kitten adoption deal

The Greater Androscoggin Humane Society is seeking adopters for the dozens of kittens they are now sheltering. To help match these adorable felines with loving homes, the have announced a BOGO promotion, where adopters of one kitten may also take a second kitten home with no adoption fee.

Now through December 6, adoption fees for the first kitten are \$229 for kittens under four months and \$169 for kittens four to six months old. Adopters of any cats ages six months or older may name their own adoption fees. All kittens and cats will be spayed or neutered, micro-chipped,

and up-to-date on their vaccinations before going to their new homes.

The Greater Androscoggin Humane Society is located at 55 Strawberry Avenue in Lewiston. For more information about adopting an animal or volunteering at the shelter, call 783-2311 or see [www.SavingPetsInMaine.org](http://www.SavingPetsInMaine.org).

Franco-American Collection celebrates “les fêtes”

The Board of Directors of the Franco-American Collection will host a program celebrating “les fêtes” (the holidays) on Friday, December 8, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. This entertaining event will celebrate Franco-American holiday traditions through the singing of Christmas carols led by Les Troubadours and readings and stories recalling memories of “Un Vieus Noël” and “D’un Bon Vieus Temps.”

Free and open to the public, the event will take place at USM’s Lewiston-Auburn College at 50 Westminster Street in Lewiston.

“Our volunteers and board invite the community to learn more about the resources available in the Franco-American Collection at USM LAC,” said board president Doris Bonnaeu. “We support outreach opportunities to educate the public about the French

culture, language, religious traditions, and history as we share our pride in being Franco-Americans. Our activities celebrate the important contributions brought to the Lewiston and Auburn communities by newly arrived French speaking immigrants.”

The archives of the Franco-American Collection are open to those researching the history, genealogy, language, culture, traditions, art, religion, and literature of the area’s Franco-American population and other Francophone cultures. To schedule an appointment, call 753-6545; for more information, see <https://usm.maine.edu/franco>.

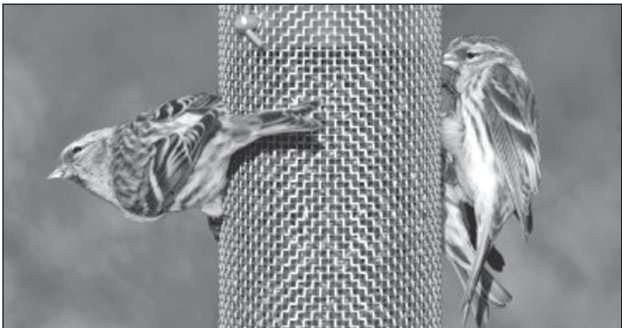
Twin City Nights

Bird Club plans annual Christmas Count

At the next meeting of the Stanton Bird Club on Monday, December 4 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 285 at USM’s Lewiston-Auburn College, long time club members Tom Hayward and Stan DeOrsey will discuss “A History of the Stanton Bird Club’s Lewiston-Auburn Christmas Bird Count.”

Sponsored by the club for the last 37 years, the annual Christmas Bird Count is a part of a larger international event begun in 1900 to count birds across North America. The first Lewiston Bird Count was held in 1911, with others taking place in the 1920s, ’40s, and ’50s. Speaker Tom Hayward and others relaunched the annual effort in 1980 and it has been held every year since.

This year’s Christmas Bird Count will take place on Saturday, December 16. Starting at about 7 a.m. and running until about 4 p.m., the event occurs within a fifteen-mile diameter “count circle” centered on the Bates College campus. The circle is divided into three sectors each in Lewiston and Auburn. In each sector, an assigned leader helps identify birds seen and records the findings. Most of the birding is done by driving between known locations and then jumping out of the car to locate birds and count them. Having more participants leads to more birds sighted and counted. At the end of the day, the entire group meets to tally up the findings from the six sectors.



Common Redpolls on a thistle feeder (Photo by Dan Marquis)

The results are reported and correlated with the larger international project, which then publishes the findings.

The meeting and Christmas Bird Count are free and open to everyone. Anyone interested in participating in the count who is unable to attend the meeting on December 4

may contact Linda Seamans at [seamans.linda@gmail.com](mailto:seamans.linda@gmail.com) or by leaving a phone message or text at 240-1380.

In this annual event, the Stanton group sights about 50 species on average, with the total number of birds seen last year num-

See Bird, page 16

Maine-ly Harmony plans Open House



The Maine-ly Harmony women’s barbershop chorus invites women and girls who love to sing to visit them for an Open House on Wednesday, December 6 at 6:30 p.m. at their rehearsal site, the Salvation Army Church at 36 Eastern Avenue in Augusta. Guests will have an opportunity to learn about the barbershop style of singing and to try it out with some holiday songs. Refreshments and fellowship will follow.

Salvation Army needs bell ringers

Volunteers Gladys and Maynard Chapman of United Methodist Church of Auburn ring the Salvation Army bells at the Auburn Kmart on Black Friday. The Salvation Army needs volunteer bell ringers. If you or your group would like to join other local organizations, including the Optimist Club, Rotary Club, Minot Fire Department, Lewiston Fire Department, and Moody’s Collision Center, as volunteer bell ringers for the Salvation



Army’s holiday campaign, contact Salvation Army Lt. Dan Johnson at 402-8632.



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# Twin City Nights

## Swingin' Bears present annual Teddy Bear Dance



Over 200 stuffed toys were collected at last year's event.

The Swingin' Bears Square Dance Club will host their annual Teddy Bear Dance on Saturday, December 9, from 7 to 10 p.m. in the Oxford Hills Middle School cafeteria at 100 Pine Street in South Paris. All area clubs are invited to bring their class

members to this fun-filled evening featuring three levels of dancing. The club's yodeling caller Ray Hilton will alternate between class and mainstream levels and will offer one tip of plus level dancing during intermission. Carol Arsenault will cue the

round dancing. In the spirit of Christmas, toy teddy bears and other stuffed toys will be collected for distribution to children in the Oxford Hills area through Right Start for Kids, a project of Community Concepts. Over 200 stuffed toys were collected at last year's event. Admission is \$7 per person; non-dancers are invited to come and watch at no charge. There will be a 50-50 raffle and door prizes; refreshments will be served. For more information, call Bob or Eleanor Herrick at 782-4050 or find pictures of club activities and information about their dances at [swinginbears.squaredanceme.us](http://swinginbears.squaredanceme.us).

## Arsenault to address Rotary Club



Peter Arsenault

The next meeting of the Lewiston-Auburn Rotary Club will feature guest speaker Peter Arsenault on Thursday, December 7, from noon to 1 p.m. at the Village Inn at

165 High Street in Auburn. Arsenault is a licensed funeral director with Fortin Group Funeral Homes of Lewiston and Auburn, affiliates of the Dignity Memorial Network of funeral and cremation service providers in North America and Canada. Raised in Auburn, he is a 1982 graduate of Edward Little High School and a 1984 graduate of the New England Institute of Mortuary Science, formerly located in Boston. He has served the company as a staff director,

embalmer, and location manager. He has been a volunteer with the Great Falls Balloon Festival, local hospice, and local Humane Society. He was recently inducted as a member of the Lewiston-Auburn Rotary Club, sponsored by long-time Rotarian Cheryl McKeone. Guests are welcome and no reservations are required. Lunch is available at the restaurant. For more information, call 713-7045 or see [www.lewistonauburn-rotary.org](http://www.lewistonauburn-rotary.org).

## Veterans' agencies to host suicide prevention summit

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has released its findings from the most current and comprehensive analysis of veteran suicide rates in the United States to-date, including overall suicide rates by age, gender, and state for FY 2014. The results for Maine are sobering.

To help address this epidemic, the VA Maine Healthcare System, Maine Vet Centers, and Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services will host a Military Veterans Suicide Prevention Symposium on Tuesday, December 12, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the University of Southern Maine's Abromson Community Education Center at 88 Bedford Street in Portland. The event is free and open to the public.

Recognizing the urgency of solving the complex issue of veteran suicide, the symposium will bring together federal, state, and local resources to focus on strategies to reduce risk. The symposium will feature a keynote address by VA Deputy Secretary Thomas G. Bowman, as well as panel discussions on "Personal Stories," "Cultural Competency," and "Community Resources." The event will conclude with a working group focused on addressing

barriers to care.

"Ending veteran suicide is my number one clinical priority for VA Maine," said Ryan Lilly, Director of the VA Maine Healthcare System. "Through this important symposium, we will bring together the best public and private sector minds, veterans, families, and other stakeholders with one important goal: preventing veteran suicide in Maine."

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, only six of the estimated 20 veterans who commit suicide each day were enrolled in and using VA healthcare. For this reason, VA Secretary David J. Shulkin, M.D. has made suicide prevention his top clinical priority. The VA has established memoranda of agreements with numerous agencies to enhance outreach, education, care-coordination, and research, with the goal of eliminating barriers to care.

"This symposium will be the first of its kind in Maine," said Adria Horn, Director of the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services. "The prevalence of veteran suicide in our communities highlights the need for meaningful collaboration that will provide true pathways to care and prevention."

Last year, the Maine

Legislature passed LD 1231, which supports a pilot program providing mental health case management and services to veterans. "I'm optimistic that we as a state are taking the necessary steps to help our veteran population, and I look forward to the outcome of this program," Horn added.

"There are many veterans who may not show a single sign of wanting to cause harm to themselves before committing suicide," said Amy Marcotte, Team Leader for one of Maine's five Vet Centers. "Our veterans are self-reliant, and it is up to the service community to focus on the injuries, both visible and invisible."

Continuing Education Credits and Certificates of Attendance will be issued by AdCare. To register for the symposium, visit [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com).

For more information about suicide prevention, call VA Maine Healthcare System Suicide Prevention Coordinator Tracy Charette at 623-8411, ext. 5017. For more information about resources available to veterans and their families, contact the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services at 430-6035 or see [www.maine.gov/veterans](http://www.maine.gov/veterans).

## New Beginnings selected to join 100-Day Challenge to end rural youth homelessness

New Beginnings, Inc., an organization dedicated to serving runaway and homeless youth and Maine families in crisis, has been chosen as one of only ten sites nationally to join the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's 100-Day Challenge on Youth Homelessness.

The 100-Day Challenge is designed to foster community collaboration to accelerate efforts to end youth homelessness. With just 100 days to identify and implement changes that significantly reduce the number of young people without a safe place to go each night, everyone from community leaders to front-line workers are challenged to do their work differently, change systems, and inno-

vate. The compressed time frame, high visibility, and support from coaches, peers, and federal leaders help create rapid progress.

Earlier this year, Senator Susan Collins, Chairman of the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee, authored the FY18 Transportation and Housing Act, which includes \$55 million for grants and technical assistance to test comprehensive efforts to end youth homelessness in urban and rural areas, and \$20 million for new family unification vouchers to prevent youth exiting foster care from becoming homeless. This bipartisan bill unanimously passed the Appropriations Committee in July.

"For nearly four decades, the dedicated staff and volunteers at New Beginnings have served runaway and homeless youth, improving lives and creating brighter futures," said Collins. "I am

pleased that this organization has been chosen to participate in the 100-Day Challenge, which will help accelerate their successful outreach to at-risk populations in Western Maine. I look forward to continuing to work with them to address our shared priority to prevent and end youth homelessness."

Since 1980, New Beginnings has helped homeless youth and Maine families in crisis gain the sense of safety and security of having a place to call home while providing them with other resources needed to succeed. New Beginnings offers a wide array of programs, from assistance with college applications to learning independent living skills.

In addition to New Beginnings, HUD has chosen agencies in Gulfport, Mississippi, Mendocino County, California, Marion County, Oregon, and Sioux Falls, South Dakota to join the 100-Day Challenge.

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**Thursday, November 30**  
Rotary Club Lunch Meeting. Noon to 1 p.m. Village Inn, 165 High St., Auburn. The guest speaker is Victoria Stanton, Director of Development and Engagement at Safe Voices. No reservation required. 753-9040; monica.millhime@maine.gov.

HR Thursdays Workshop. Noon to 1:30 p.m. Chamber of Commerce, 415 Lisbon St., Lewiston. Mary LaFontaine of the ME Dept. of Labor discusses “Five Generations in the Workplace: Making Them All Work for You.” \$50 (Chamber members \$25; CMHRA members free). 783-2249. Register at [www.LAMetroChamber.com](http://www.LAMetroChamber.com).

Marine Corps League Meeting. 6 p.m. Armory, 65 Central Ave., Lewiston. Central ME Detachment 810 holds its monthly meeting; all Marines, FMF corpsman, Navy chaplains, and those interested in Marines Helping Veterans are invited.

Wreath Making Class. 6 p.m. Lodge, Beaver Park, 37 Cotton Rd., Lisbon. The cost of \$15 includes all materials. Space limited; advance registration required. 353-2289.

Literary Arts Live. 7:30 p.m. Edmund S. Muskie Archives, Bates College, 70 Campus Ave., Lewiston. Poet, rapper, and teacher Nate Marshall reads from and discusses his work. Free. [lwardwel@bates.edu](mailto:lwardwel@bates.edu).

Friday, December 1  
Model Railroad Celebration. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Maine State Museum, 230 State St., Augusta. Come enjoy layouts created by the Maine 3-Railers Club. Again 12/2 (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.). Free museum admission both days. 287-2301; [www.mainestatemuseum.org](http://www.mainestatemuseum.org).

Concert: Pianists Igor Lovchinsky and Matthew Graybil. 7 p.m. Gendron Franco Center, 46 Cedar St., Lewiston. This talented duo perform works for two pianos by Maurice Ravel, Antonio Arensky, and Darius Milhaud. Social hour at 6 p.m. \$15/10 (students free). 783-1585; [FranoCenter.org](http://FranoCenter.org).

Concerts for Cause. 7:30 p.m. First Universalist Church, 169 Pleasant St. (across from Dairy Joy), Auburn. The Heather Pierson Jazz Trio performs Vince Guaraldi’s “A Charlie Brown Christmas” in its entirety. \$15 (cash or credit) at door. 783-0461; [uuconcerts.org](http://uuconcerts.org).

Theater: “Santaland Diaries.” 7:30 p.m. Theater at Monmouth, 796 Main St., Monmouth. This cult holiday hit was adapted from David Sedaris’ best-selling book; for mature elves only. \$25. Again 12/2 and 3. For show times, tix, call 933-9999 or see [www.theateratmonmouth.org](http://www.theateratmonmouth.org).

Saturday, December 2  
Boston Bus Trip. Departs from Park & Ride lot,

# Calendar

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

Lewiston Turnpike Exit 80, at 7 a.m.; arrives back in Lewiston c. 9 p.m. \$40 round trip. Pres. by LA Rotary Club. For tix, email [gbagushinski@hotmail.com](mailto:gbagushinski@hotmail.com).

Cash & Bottle Drive. 8:30 a.m. to noon. Members of the Leavitt Area H.S. Nordic and Alpine ski teams fan out across the district to collect cash and bottle donations.

Christmas Fair. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sixth St. Congregational Church, 109 Sixth St., Auburn. Baked goods, white elephants, crafts, and books; raffles; and lunch items from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Vendor-Craft Noel Gala. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Parish Hall, Holy family Church, 607 Sabattus St., Lewiston (park, enter at rear of church). Bake sale, raffles, light lunch. 782-8125.

Holiday Craft Fair. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Minot Consolidated School, 23 Shaw Hill Rd., Minot. Vendor craft tables, free kids’ Fancy Clothing Boutique, raffles, concessions. 266-5033; email [Russella3@gmail.com](mailto:Russella3@gmail.com).

Christmas Fair. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church, 396 Gilman Rd., Yarmouth. Wreaths, handcrafts, attic treasures, baked goods, gourmet soups, pet toys, books, DVDs, music, silent auction, light lunch.

Pet Adoption Event. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Petco, 105 Mount Auburn Ave., Auburn. A special adopt one kitten, get one free deal will be available; adopters of adult cats or dogs will name their own adoption fees.

[www.SavingPetsInMaine.org](http://www.SavingPetsInMaine.org).

Meals & Memories. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Chamber of Commerce, 415 Lisbon St., Lewiston. Andro. Home Care & Hospice invites kids, teens, and their families to remember a loved one by sharing that person’s favorite food item. Space limited; register by 11/27 at 795-9468.

Winter Wonderland Concert. 2 p.m. Emmanuel Lutheran Episcopal Church, 209 Eastern Ave., Augusta. Women’s a cappella chorus Maine-ly Harmony performs favorite holiday songs; refreshments. A free-will offering will be collected.

Christmas Magic Show. 2 p.m. Chocolate Church Arts Center, 804 Washington St., Bath. Magician Scot Grassetto presents this Christmas-themed show for all ages. Again at 7 p.m. \$12 (\$15 at door). 442-8455; [www.chocolatechurcharts.org](http://www.chocolatechurcharts.org).

Public Supper. 5 p.m. Paris Fire Station, 137 Western Ave., So. Paris. The

Paris F.D. Auxiliary serves up a meal of ham, potatoes, vegetables, bread, mac & cheese, and homemade desserts. \$8/4 (ages 3- free).

Plavin Memorial Dance Concert. 5 p.m. Schaeffer Theatre, 329 College St., Bates College, Lewiston. Student thesis works, pieces by visiting artists, and a tribute to Bates dance program founder Marcy Plavin. Again 12/3 (2 p.m.), 12/4 (7:30 p.m.). Free (\$5 donation sugg.). Tix required from [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com). 786-6161.

Sunday, December 3  
Community Breakfast.

7:30 to 10 a.m. American Legion Post 135, 40 Island Rd., Sabattus. Eggs to order, French toast, chipped beef, pancakes, sausage, ham, baked beans, country fries, toast, muffins, orange juice, coffee, tea and milk. \$8 (\$3 kids ages 10-).

Country Sunday. Noon to 4:30 p.m. Litchfield Sportsmen’s Club, 2261 Hallowell Rd., Litchfield. Country Fest Maine presents an afternoon of live country music.; raffles, concessions. \$5; kids 12 and under free. 536-9647.

Monday, December 4  
Auburn Art Club Meeting. 2 p.m. Methodist Church, Park Avenue, Auburn. Mona Ervin presents a program demonstrating Christmas crafts.

Stanton Bird Club Meeting. 6:30 p.m. Room 285, L-A College, 55 Westminster St., Lewiston. Club members Tom Hayward and Stan DeOrsey discuss “A History of the Stanton Bird Club’s Lewiston-Auburn Christmas Bird Count.” Free. [www.StantonBirdClub.org](http://www.StantonBirdClub.org).

Tuesday, December 5  
Multi-Faith Discussion Series. 12:30 p.m. Auburn Public Library. Local clergy discuss perspectives of their respective faiths on pressing issues of the day. Refreshments. Free. 333-6649, ext. 4.

Wednesday, December 6

Christmas Dinner. 6 p.m. Green Ladle, 156 East Ave., Lewiston. A buffet dinner will be followed by entertainment by the Lorraine Ouellette Trio; door prizes, raffles. \$18. To buy tix, call 782-4516 by 11/30.

Open House. 6:30 p.m. Salvation Army Church, 36 Eastern Ave., Augusta. The Maine-ly Harmony women’s barbershop chorus invites women and girls who love to sing to visit them to learn about singing barber-shop style. Free.

Thursday, December 7  
Rotary Club Lunch Meeting. Noon to 1 p.m. Village Inn, 165 High St.,

Auburn. The guest speaker is Peter Arsenault, licensed funeral director with Fortin Group Funeral Homes. No reservation required. 713-7045; [monica.millhime@maine.gov](mailto:monica.millhime@maine.gov).

“Identity Theft and Protecting Your Money.” 5:45 to 7:45 p.m. Center for Workforce & Professional Development, Central Maine Community College. \$20. Must be 18-plus. Register by 12/1 at 755-5280 or [www.cmcc.edu/ccs](http://www.cmcc.edu/ccs).

Family Coding Night. 6 p.m. Andro. Community Room, Auburn Public Library. Kids in grades K-5 team with their parents to complete fun Code.org puzzles and challenges at their own pace. No experience needed. Free. Register at 333-6640, ext. 3 or [www.auburnpubliclibrary.org](http://www.auburnpubliclibrary.org).

Friday, December 8  
Noel Celebration. 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. L-A College, 50 Westminster St., Lewiston. The Franco-American Collection celebrates Franco-American holiday traditions with readings, stories, and carols. Free. 753-6545; <https://usm.maine.edu/franco>.

Saturday, December 9  
Baked Bean & Casserole Supper. 4:45 to 6 p.m. Parish hall, Holy Trinity Church, 67 Frost Hill Ave., Lisbon Falls. Includes dessert and beverage. Pres. by Knights of Columbus. \$8 adults, \$4 children 11-, \$18 family with children.

Teddy Bear Dance. 7 to 10 p.m. Cafeteria, Oxford Hills Middle School, 100 Pine St., So. Paris. The Swingin’ Bears invite other area square dance clubs to

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Auburn Movie Hotline — 786-8605				
Coco (PG)	.....	12:45	3:45	6:55 9:40
Coco (PG)	.....	1:20	4:20	7:30
Justice League (PG-13)	.....	12:40	3:30	6:45 9:25
Justice League (PG-13)	.....	1:25	4:25	7:10 9:50
The Star (PG)	.....	12:35	2:40	4:45 7:05
.....	.....	.....	.....	9:10
Wonder (PG)	.....	1:00	4:00	7:15 9:45
Daddy's Home 2 (PG-13)	.....	1:30	4:15	7:25 9:50
Murder On The Orient Express (PG-13)	.....	1:15	4:10	7:00 9:35
Thor: Ragnarok (PG-13)	.....	12:30	3:40	6:50 9:40
A Bad Moms Christmas (R)	.....	12:50	3:50	7:20 9:55

join them for this annual event; bring a stuffed toy. Refreshments; door prizes. \$7. 782-4050.

Christmas Concert. 7:30 p.m. Franco Center, 46 Cedar St., Lewiston. The Maine Music Society presents its annual holiday program of Christmas and, this year, some Chanukah songs. Again 12/10 at 3 p.m. \$22/20/10 in adv., extra \$2 at door (free for kids 11-). 333-3386; [www.mainemusicsociety.org](http://www.mainemusicsociety.org).

Sunday, December 10  
An Afternoon of Christmas. 2 p.m. First Congregational Church, 773 Royalsborough Rd., Durham. Music, comedy, readings, and a Christmas carol sing-a-long. Free-will donations will benefit Lisbon Area Community Outreach.

Second Sundays Art Workshop. 2 to 4 p.m. Harlow Gallery, 160 Water St., Hallowell. Participants will use beads bequeathed to work on a project or make gifts. Open to all ages, expe-

rience levels; no registration required. Free. 622-3813.

Tuesday, December 12  
Veterans **Suicide Prevention** Symposium. Abromson Community Educ. Center, USM, Portland. Pres. by the VA Maine Healthcare System, Maine Vet Centers, and Maine Bureau of Veterans’ Services. Free and open to the public. To register, call 623-8411, ext. 5017; for program schedule, see [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com).

Friday, December 15  
Art Walk L/A. 5 to 8 p.m. Happening every third Friday through Dec., this event converts over 20 downtown L-A businesses and storefronts into public arts spaces. For more info., call 782-7228; for event details, see [laarts.org](http://laarts.org).

Benefit Hockey Game. 6 p.m. Androscoggin Bank Colisee, Lewiston. The Boston Bruins Alumni Team plays the Police All-Stars to benefit the Lewiston Police Athletic League. For tickets, call 219-9003.

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# What's Going On

## Pianists

Continued from page 10

in the graduate physics program at Harvard University and received his Ph.D. last January, reflecting his other long-standing passion for mathematics and science. He finds his dual interests in the classical piano repertoire and scientific research to be compatible and complementary.

A native of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Matthew Graybil began his piano studies at age 6 and gave his first recital within a year. He made his orchestral debut at age 14 with a performance of the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto

No. 1. During master's degree study at Juilliard, he continued to work with Jerome Lowenthal as well as Matti Raekallio. A prizewinner in national and international competitions, he has given solo recitals and performed with orchestras and in chamber groups in the United States, Canada, Mexico, and France.

Graybil stands out among the new generation of American classical pianists. The Southampton Press has praised his playing as "hypnotic and compelling" and, following the release of his debut album in 2012 featuring works by Brahms and Schubert, Fanfare Magazine called him "one of the

most sensitive, poetic young pianists to debut on record in recent memory." The Chopin Project recently released his recording of Chopin's Études, Op. 10 and he will collaborate in the world premiere recording of the Piston Concerto for Two Pianos Solis for Steinway & Sons' Spirio high-definition player piano system.

The Dolard and Priscilla Gendron Franco Center is located at 46 Cedar Street in Lewiston. A preconcert social hour will begin when the doors open at 6 p.m. Admission is \$15, or \$10 for seniors and free for students. To buy tickets, call 783-1585, visit the box office, or see FrancoCenter.org.

## CMCC

Continued from page 1

the center at 755-5280, email [workforcedevelopment@cmcc.edu](mailto:workforcedevelopment@cmcc.edu), or see [www.cmcc.edu/ccs](http://www.cmcc.edu/ccs).

The Center for Workforce & Professional Development at Central Maine Community College provides customized training programs for businesses, government agencies, nonprofits, and other organizations throughout Androscoggin, Oxford, Franklin, and Lincoln counties. In addition, they offer both non-credit classes and certification programs on a wide range of subject matter. Their mission is to support community and promote economic development by offering the highest quality training and professional development courses to business and industry, coupled with access to training grants for new and expanding businesses.

## Railroad

Continued from page 1

this year will include a special model sawmill in operation.

The link between model trains and the holidays has an historic connection. The first regularly scheduled passenger train in the United States began in 1830 on Christmas Day. As railroads came into regular use, toy trains appeared soon after. Long before electricity was a mainstay in homes, children and adults constructed model motorized trains that ran on steam power.

Trains figure prominently in the museum's collections. Most notably, one of America's earliest surviving steam locomotives, the 1846 Lion, continues to be a popular attraction as it greets visitors at the museum entrance.

The Maine State Museum is located at 230 State Street in Augusta. For more information, call 287-2301 or see [www.maine-statemuseum.org](http://www.maine-statemuseum.org).

## Bird

Continued from page 11

bering about 5000. Several of the more common birds are seen in large numbers, but unexpected sightings lend a sense of adventure to the activity. For instance, last year's more surprising findings included the Merlin, Turkey Vulture, Eastern Bluebird, Red-bellied Woodpecker, and a new high of 82 Horned Larks.

The Stanton Bird Club is made up of people from a wide range of ages and backgrounds, but they all share a love of nature in general and birds in particular. Today there are some 300 club members, including 20 Junior Naturalists. The club manages the Thorncrag Nature Sanctuary in Lewiston and the Woodbury Nature Sanctuary in Monmouth and Litchfield. For more information, see [www.StantonBirdClub.org](http://www.StantonBirdClub.org).



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