

## Ramada hosts L/A Metro Chamber Breakfast



President of the Chamber Beckie Conrad pictured with Santa Claus. (TCT Photo by Millie Kidd) See page 9 for more photos.

## Chocolate Church plans "Newfie-Style" New Year's Eve



The event will ring in the New Year at midnight-Newfoundland Time, which is 10:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, leaving plenty of time for revelers to start their resolutions at home when the clock strikes midnight.

## CompTIA options at CMCC

IT professionals who need a short test prep review for the CompTIA Network+ exam (N10-006) or who want to study for CompTIA A+ certification have opportunities to do so in the coming weeks at Central Maine Community College.

The deadline to register for either course is

January 1. For more information or to register, contact CMCC's Center for Workforce & Professional Development at 755-5280 or visit [www.cmcc.edu/training](http://www.cmcc.edu/training).

The Center for Workforce & Professional Development at CMCC will offer a one-week CompTIA Network+ Boot

Camp course Monday, January 8 through Friday, January 12, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. (There will be no class on Wednesday, January 10.)

Designed for IT professionals who simply need a short test prep review, this 20-hour training course is a condensed version of the regularly scheduled CompTIA Network+ Boot

The Chocolate Church Arts Center of Bath will host a "Newfoundland-Style" New Year's Eve Party featuring Pat Colwell & the Soul Sensations on Sunday, December 31 at 8 p.m. In a unique twist to New Year's Eve celebrations, the event will ring in the New Year at midnight-Newfoundland Time, which is 10:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time,

leaving plenty of time for revelers to start their resolutions at home when the clock strikes midnight EST.

"During the Christmas season in Newfoundland, there is a long and varied history of home-visiting by 'mumming,' 'mumming,' or 'janneying,' as it is commonly known today, typically involving a group of friends or family," said Jennifer De-

chant, Executive Director of the Chocolate Church Arts Center. "It will be a fun evening, because our 'mummers' will be led by this high-energy, 100% old school R&B revue, complete with female backup singers, a full horn section, and a show that that will knock your socks off."

Pat Colwell & the Soul Sensations bring down

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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## Attorney joins Berman & Simmons



Elizabeth Kayatta

Attorney Elizabeth Kayatta, a Maine native who has spent the past five years in Boston representing plaintiffs in medical malpractice cases and other civil disputes, has joined the Berman & Simmons law firm. She will represent

plaintiffs in medical malpractice, personal injury, wrongful death, and other civil litigation matters from the firm's central office in Lewiston.

Kayatta, who grew up in Cape Elizabeth, attended Princeton University, and graduated magna cum laude from Boston College Law School, says she is excited to return to Maine and looks forward to working with the other lawyers and staff members at Berman & Simmons.

"It's rare to have a group of top-notch trial attorneys who are performing at the highest level but see themselves as part of a true team," Kayatta said. "They care deeply about their clients and carry out

their jobs with dignity, respect, and a high level of professionalism. It's a great opportunity to become part of that group."

Berman & Simmons, P.A. is a law firm of 18 attorneys with offices in Lewiston, Portland, and Bangor. The firm has represented injured Maine people for more than 100 years. Chambers USA has described Berman & Simmons as "the best plaintiffs' personal injury and medical malpractice firm in Maine."

The firm has also appeared twice in the National Law Journal's "Top 100 Verdicts," which ranks the largest jury awards in the nation. For more information, see [www.bermansimmons.com](http://www.bermansimmons.com).

## On duty this holiday season



Ensign Ethan Allred of Freeport, assigned to the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Carney (DDG 64), signals to the coxswain of a rigid-hull inflatable boat during a recent visit, board, search and seizure exercise with the Armed Forces of Malta Maritime Squadron in the Mediterranean Sea. Forward-deployed to Rota, Spain, Carney is on his fourth patrol in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations in support of regional allies and partners and U.S. national security interests in Europe. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class James R. Turner/Released)

## Fascination Station & Slot Car Junction now open at Merrymeeting Plaza



Community members, old and new customers, and members of the Brunswick Downtown Association helped owners Jeff Cooper and Cathy Piffath cut the ribbon at their new location.

At a ribbon cutting ceremony attended by community members, old and new customers, and board and staff members of the Brunswick Downtown Association, Fascination Station & Slot Car Junction recently celebrated its grand-reopening at their

new Merrymeeting Plaza location at 147 Bath Road in Brunswick.

Visitors of all ages were invited to enjoy a free 10-minute sampler on each of the store's new Ninco, Scalextric, and Carrera slot car tracks, while children ages 4 through 9 were also

invited to try the store's new Pony Cycle.

Slot Car Junction originally opened in the basement of the Tontine Mall in 2009. When Wilbur's Chocolates moved out of a space on the main floor, Slot Car Junction moved upstairs and expanded

through the addition of toy store Fascination Station.

When looking for a new space, owners Jeff Cooper and Cathy Piffath spoke with Linda Smith, Business Development Manager for the Town of Brunswick, who shared information about programs that made them like feel part of the community and helped them stay in Brunswick. When they found the space at Merrymeeting Plaza - previously Coldwater Creek - they knew it was right.

Both owners have extensive experience in the outdoor industry through work at L.L. Bean, REI, and Perception Kayak, a focus they plan to emphasize at their new location. "Our Get Outdoors initiative is designed to encourage kids and their families to get outside and enjoy all that the outdoors has to offer, from snowshoeing and winter camping to biking, hiking, and kayaking during the warmer months," said Cooper. "Most of these activities will be free, so be sure to inquire about upcoming events."

## Androscoggin Bank adds VP, Commercial Loan Officer



Robert Westhoven

Robert Westhoven has joined the commercial lending team of Androscoggin Bank in the role of Vice President, Commercial Loan Officer. He will be based in the Bank's Lewiston office.

Prior to joining Androscoggin Bank, Westhoven served as Vice President, Commercial Relationship Manager and Vice President, Small Business Relationship Manager for TD Bank. In his most recent position, he managed a portfolio of over \$20 million. His career has also included time working for Peoples Heritage Bank in Scarborough and South Portland and serving as

the Branch Supervisor for Banknorth in Portland.

"I am pleased to have a talented manager and loan officer like Rob join our smarter banking team at Androscoggin Bank," said Androscoggin Bank President and CEO Paul Andersen. "Rob brings valuable experience that will undoubtedly prove beneficial to our goal of helping Maine businesses grow and succeed."

"I've been working in Maine's banking community for nearly two decades, and I am excited about the future of Androscoggin Bank," said Westhoven. "I'm pleased to be joining a team that is community-minded and dedicated to the success of Maine's small businesses and Maine's economy overall."

Westhoven is a graduate of the University of Southern Maine and a resident of Auburn.

Send all items for **Names & Faces** to [Editor@TwinCityTimes.com](mailto:Editor@TwinCityTimes.com).  
Deadline is **Friday by five.**

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# Governor's Address: A Christmas Message from Governor LePage

At this time of year, we gather with loved ones to celebrate Christmas, count our blessings, remember the past year and look forward to next year.

Dear Maine Taxpayer, This holiday season, I ask that we reflect on where we are. Our state has reached an all-time high in private-sector job growth, and our unemployment rate is hitting record lows.

Wages are rising at the fastest rate in decades, and I am told we have one

of the highest percentages of our population working than ever.

For the past seven years, my goal has been to make our state prosperous, and I hope you are seeing the benefits of this economic growth in your community and in your wallet. Growth means opportunity, and that opportunity will encourage our children to stay here—living, working and prospering in Maine.

Despite this progress, we must always remember that some of our fellow cit-



Governor Paul R. LePage

izens are struggling. I know how difficult it is to fall on

hard times. You are not alone, and we are constantly aware of what needs improving.

Mainers are generous people, and there are many organizations that can provide the financial, emotional and mental health support that you or your loved ones may need to regain hope and a sense of well-being as you face life's challenges.

As I enter the last year of my administration, I will continue to fight for the future of Maine. Together, we will keep working to make Maine a better place for our

families and the generations to follow.

Each year, as Ann and I gather with our children, relatives and friends to celebrate the holidays, we pause to remember the many families who are apart. The First Lady and I ask all Mainers to keep our military service members in your thoughts.

Ann and I thank you for your dedication and courage as you defend our nation and the freedoms we hold dear. To your families, we thank you for the everyday sacrifices you make

while your loved ones serve our nation.

This time of year is truly magical with sparkling snow, colorful lights, festive foods and outdoor fun. We hope you take time to create lifelong memories with those you love.

Ann and I wish you and your families, near and far, a safe and Merry Christmas and happy holidays to all.

Thank You,  
Paul R. LePage  
Governor

## Sen. Libby invites local students to participate in Honorary Page program

With the Legislature set to reconvene in January, Sen. Nate Libby (D-Lewiston) is reminding local schools and students about the Senate Honorary Page program at the State House in Augusta. The daylong program gives students a unique opportunity not only to observe the state's legislative process, but to be a part of it. Students from third grade through high school are encouraged to participate.

"Serving as an Honorary Page is a great way for students who excel in the classroom to take a day off from school to get firsthand knowledge of their state government," said Sen. Libby. "I hope they leave the State House inspired towards a career in public service and maybe even to run for office someday."

Honorary pages help deliver messages, distribute documents within the

Senate Chamber, interact with the senators and, most importantly, take part in a real-world, interactive legislative learning experience.

The Legislature will begin meeting on January 3 and is scheduled to end on April 18. Honorary pages are needed throughout the session, so scheduling is flexible. For more information or to schedule a visit, contact Sen. Libby at 287-1515 or nathan.libby@legislature.maine.gov.

## Charlie's Motor Mall to sponsor 2018 Trek Across Maine

Charlie's Motor Mall of Augusta will be the presenting sponsor of the American Lung Association's 34th annual Trek Across Maine, taking place June 15 through 17. The three-day, 180-mile bike ride aims to raise over \$1.5 million annually to support research for lung disease, advocate for clear air, and educate the public about the importance of lung health.

Maine native Charlie Shuman, President of Char-

lie's Family of Dealerships, is a well-known advocate for health care and wellness organizations, frequently supporting MaineGeneral Medical Center, the United Way, the Alford Center for Cancer Care, and the Military Family Assistance Center. Charlie's Motor Mall has made investing in public health a priority to support the broader community and the company's 240 employees and their families.

"All of us here at Charlie's Motor Mall are excited to be the presenting sponsor for this year's event," said Steve Shuman, Vice President of Charlie's Family of Dealerships and Charlie's son. "We try to help as many organizations as we can throughout the year, but are especially passionate about causes that help raise money and awareness for health care and research. A major partnership with the American Lung Association seemed like one of the best ways our organization could

help. We are so happy to be able to give back to the communities, causes, and people that have been so good to us."

Charlie's Family of Dealerships will be featured at the starting line at Sunday River and at each day's finish line. The dealership will be offering special incentives to participants who go above and beyond the minimum requirement for their fundraising efforts.

"Charlie's sponsorship of the Trek Across Maine will enable the American Lung Association to expand our presence in Maine and the Northeast region, reaching more families struggling with lung disease," said Jeff Seyler, Executive Vice President, Northeast Region, American Lung Association. "With the support of community leaders like Charlie's, we can continue our fight for clean air, public education, and increased research so that one day we

## New VA positions to address Maine veterans' mental health, substance abuse, and homelessness issues

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has announced that it will fund three new positions in Maine to better serve the needs of justice-involved Maine veterans confronting homelessness, mental health, or substance abuse issues. The funding will support a Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist, a Health Care for

Re-entry Veterans coordinator, and a specialist focused on veteran suicide prevention. VA Deputy Secretary Thomas Bowman made the announcement during the first annual Military Veteran Symposium held recently in Portland.

"Maine veterans answered the call to uphold our freedoms, and those

struggling with mental health issues, substance abuse, or homelessness deserve our comprehensive support," said Senator Angus King. "These new positions in Maine provide veterans with expanded access to specialists so they can get the treatments and services they need. Maine is a community - we care for

our neighbors and for each other - and with the VA's announcement today, we have taken an important step to strengthen our community and better care for veterans across the state."

"As our population of veterans has grown, aged, and diversified, the Togus VA Medical Center has

See New VA, page 6

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## CMCC

Continued from page 1

TIA Network+ 48-hour course. This course prepares students to sit for the Network+ exam (N10-006) and will cover the following topics: features, functions, and how to install networking components; and configuring and troubleshooting basic networking hardware, protocols, and services.

The cost for this course is \$800 and includes all course materials and the following: six-month access to a practice exam; TestOut Network Pro access for 18 months; and an exam voucher. The total retail value of this instructional materials package is \$695. It is highly recommended that students schedule their exam at CMCC's Center for Testing and Assessment within one month of instruction.

The Center for Workforce & Professional Development will also offer a CompTIA A+ course on Tuesdays and Thursdays, January 9 to March 8, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. CompTIA A+ certification validates understanding of the most common hardware and software technologies in business and skills necessary to jumpstart a career in the information technology field.

The cost for this course is \$2,000 and includes 63 hours of expert guided instruction and all course materials, including six-month access to a practice exam; Tool Kit, TestOut PC Pro access for 18 months; and two exam vouchers. The total retail value of these materials is over \$1,000. CMCC has a testing center on campus, and it is highly recommended that participants schedule their exams within a month of instruction to ensure greater knowledge retention.

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Twin City Times wishes you a Merry Christmas!

# Enough is Enough

## Winning an election takes more than getting your name on the ballot

By **Robert E. Macdonald**  
MAYOR OF LEWISTON

You win some, you lose some. For now, mayoral candidate Ben Chin, is a 0-for-2 in his quest to bring a Berne Sanders/Bill DiBlasio style of socialism to Lewiston.

Two years ago in 2015 I had decided not to seek a third term as mayor. I was content to fade into Lewiston political history. Then Ben Chin, Bates College graduate and political director of Maine People's Alliance, stepped to the podium and announced he was running for mayor.

The crowd, consisting of Bates College students and professors, local activists and many of the great unwashed, cheered wildly.

Chin laid out his plan

to win the election. First, he had raised \$90,000 from all over the country and portions of Maine. He had a cadre of Bates College students and Maine People's Alliance activists ready to knock on neighborhood doors, pass out campaign literature and make calls to Lewistonians in support of his candidacy. This was the largest amount of campaign volunteers Lewiston had ever experienced.

The well-conceived plan should have easily won him the election. But something went wrong. Those Bates social science courses failed to enlighten him about Lewiston's electorate. He soon found out, much to MPA's chagrin, that what resonated in Califor-



Mayor Bob Macdonald

nia, New York and on the Bates campus was foreign and repulsive to Lewiston voters.

I bring up the aforementioned to enlighten the reader what it takes to win an election. There is much more to it than just getting your name on the ballot.

It is necessary to not only build up a large contingent of followers dedicated to you, but ones that are also willing to do the mundane things needed to run a successful winning campaign. Chin, through his position in the MPA, has the ability of instantly mobilizing an unlimited amount of people to help launch a successful campaign.

Chin and the MPA have become a power player when it comes to progressive causes and legislation. This power gives them the ability to pour money and resources into campaigns sympathetic to their organization's mission statement. They also have the ability to produce a well-funded opposition opponent, should the current officeholder go

against them.

This brings me to the second part of this column: Where were the voices of condemnation from Lewiston's elected state officials over the derogatory comments made by mayoral candidate Chin about segments of Lewiston voters? To my knowledge, not one of them stood up and condemned Chin's remarks.

Come next November, voters should be questioning our elected state officials why they were silent.

Over the past six years we have submitted welfare bill after welfare bill trying to rein in the fraud and abuse committed within our city. Year after year, bill after bill, our submitted legislation is consistently defeated by

progressive Democrats in the legislature. And always in the mix is Ben Chin and MPA.

Part of our frustration is due to the lack of support by our local legislators. They repeatedly side with Chin and the MPA against the will of the majority of Lewiston voters. Why?

Due to the lack of news coverage, you, the voter and taxpayer, have no independent way of knowing what your legislators are accomplishing in Augusta.

Starting in January we will track bills being opposed by the MPA and their cronies. Thus, when you go to the polls next November, you will be able to answer this question: Who is my legislator voting to support—me or the MPA?

### State seeks public input on Energy Planning Roadmap

The Governor's Energy Office is asking Mainers for their input as they develop an Energy Planning Roadmap that advances the state's energy, economic development, and environmental goals. The roadmap uses the state's 2015 Comprehensive Energy Plan update as a starting point and has the following objectives: to achieve energy and cost savings in the residential, commercial, industrial, and transportation sectors; to reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions; and to support the growth of a robust state and regional energy market and workforce. The 2015 Comprehensive Energy Plan update may be viewed at <http://maine.gov/energy>.

The GEO has the guidance of an experienced

steering committee in setting the overall direction of this project. The state has also sought information and recommendations from issue expert task forces and interagency discussions in the areas of energy innovation, heating and energy efficiency, and transportation. With assistance from project partner E2Tech, the GEO will facilitate a series of public meetings over the next couple of weeks to obtain input from private, public, and non-profit stakeholders on how to develop more targeted and successful strategies to meet these objectives.

Energy Office Director Steve McGrath highlights the importance of public participation in this process. "We want everyone's best ideas so we can lower

energy costs and be friendly to the environment." Jeff Marks, Executive Director of E2Tech, agrees. "Input from Maine's energy stakeholders is a critical component of this project. In addition to engaging businesses, municipalities, nonprofits, policymakers, and other energy professionals, we want to ensure that the public has the opportunity to contribute to the Maine Energy Roadmap and its potential direction for the state's citizens and businesses."

The public meeting for this area will take place on Friday, December 29, from 10 a.m. to noon in the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee Room (Room 211) at 111 Sewall Street in Augusta. Public meetings have also been scheduled in Portland and Presque Isle.

### Broadcast update for Lewiston government meetings

The City of Lewiston reports that Great Falls TV has established a dedicated new TV channel for the broadcasting of Lewis-

ton government meetings, which will now be shown on Channel 1301 and will no longer be available on Channel 7. Public meetings

may also be viewed "live" on the city's YouTube channel, where they are archived for later viewing.



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### January programs for teens at Auburn Public Library

The following programs for teens will take place at Auburn Public Library in January. For more information about a program, call 333-6640, ext. 4 or see [www.auburn-publiclibrary.org](http://www.auburn-publiclibrary.org)

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 skills needed 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 the Au- See APL, page 9

WINTER IS HERE!

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# What's Going On

## Monmouth Community Players schedule auditions for "When Radio was King"



The cast members of MCP's first annual radio variety show in February 2017 were (l. to r., from front) Cindy Dunham, Ginger Smith, Brittany Bazinet, Megan Record, Josie French, Elaine Hanish, Karen Lipovsky, David Marshall, Jeff Fairfield, Henry Quintal, Andy Tolman, and Ray Fletcher.

The Monmouth Community Players are in search of talented acts to perform in their second annual original 1940's-style radio variety show, "When Radio was King." The production will be directed by Linda Duarte of Lewiston, with musical direction by Bob Gilbert of Farmingdale. The show's producer is Cindy Dunham of Winthrop. Auditions will take place Wednesday, January 3 and Thursday, January 4 from 6:30 to 8

p.m. at Cumston Hall in Monmouth.

Those interested in auditioning should prepare 16 bars of a song to be performed with accompaniment. The production is looking for actors, musicians, singers, and more to make this a truly unique experience for everyone involved. Please attend auditions if you are interested in being a part of this show. If you are unable to attend, contact Linda Duarte directly to make alternative

arrangements.

The show will be performed February 16 through 18 at the historic Cumston Hall in downtown Monmouth. Show times will be 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, with 2 p.m. matinees on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$14 for General Admission and \$12 for students and seniors. For more information, call (800) 838-3006 or see [www.monmouthcommunityplayers.org](http://www.monmouthcommunityplayers.org).

## Students read work from Senior College Poetry Workshop



The poets were (l. to r.) Linda DeSantis, Nancy Orr, Harolyn Zaldumbide, instructor Bill Frayer, Diane Clay, Darlene Glover, and Eloise O'Neill.

Ten members of the Poetry Workshop at USM LAC's Senior College recently invited friends and family to listen to their work. Before they read, each poet summed up their feelings about poetry. "People evolved," said Nancy Orr, who had taken the course before. "We had to dig deeply to get across images we conceived," observed Eloise O'Neil. "Poetry channels life experience in a positive direction," noted Linda DeSantis.

### Charlie's

*Continued from page 3*

may have a world without lung disease."

Founded in 1986 as a single franchise employing 17 people, Charlie's Motor Mall has since grown to become one of the largest new car dealer groups in Maine, now employing 240 people at eight franchise companies that sell nearly 10,000 vehicles annually. Widely known for its efforts to give back, the company supports a variety of organizations and causes, including public education, Jewish cultural institutions, veteran's health, and childhood hunger.

The Trek Across Maine is a three-day, 180-mile, fully supported cycling event from the mountains of Sunday River to the sea in Belfast. To encourage a broader range of partici-

things to the poem," noted instructor Bill Frayer, who explained that trying different forms of poetry, such as haiku, sonnet, rhyming, or free form, the poets embraced the varied "music of language." In class, each member was given 10 minutes to read their poem of the week and receive suggestions from their peers.

The subjects were diverse. Images of summer, woodlands, kitchens, and early childhood are familiar to us all, yet every poem brought new insight. They

did not duck difficult issues: getting rid of "life's artifacts," death "...like a handsome man at a bar, think twice before inviting him home." Other poems were from an unusual point of view. How does a nasturtium, captured in a painting, feel? Does the wind animate the world? Can your brain get full of too much stuff? Though some poems brought a tear to the listener's eye, the audience had wide smiles and hearty rounds of applause for all. During the reception that followed, the poets spoke of their fears, frustrations, and exhilaration as they worked on their creations.

This is the third year the Poetry Workshop has been offered by Senior College. If you are looking for something new to explore, join Senior College to take advantage of the one-day winter classes beginning in January and the Spring courses beginning in March. For membership information, call 780-5960 or see [www.usm.maine.edu/seniorcollege](http://www.usm.maine.edu/seniorcollege).

pants, the event also offers one- and two-day route options with shorter mileage and lower fundraising requirements. As the largest fundraising event of its kind in the nation for the American Lung Association, the Trek has raised more than \$25 million over the past 33 years.

Online registration is now open. To register for the Trek Across Maine, or to support the event by making a donation, call 624-0312, email [TrekAcrossMaine@LungNE.org](mailto:TrekAcrossMaine@LungNE.org), or see [biketreknewengland.org](http://biketreknewengland.org).

### New VA

*Continued from page 3*

adapted to these changes to meet the needs of patients," said Senator Susan Collins. "Today's announcement that the VA is fund-

ing three critical positions at Togus to help promote suicide prevention, assist veterans returning to society, and prevent unnecessary criminalization of those with mental illness will enhance the hospital's work to provide high-quality care for veterans. I applaud the VA for making this important investment."

The Veterans Justice Program aims to avoid the unnecessary criminalization of mental illness and extended incarceration of veterans by ensuring that they have timely access to VA services. VJO specialists provide direct outreach, assessment, and case management for justice-involved Veterans in local courts and jails, while acting as a liaison with local justice system partners, and re-entry coordinators provide critical casework to veterans returning to society.

### Lewiston-Auburn CA\$H Coalition Volunteer This Tax Season!

Join CA\$H Maine as a community volunteer and make a difference!

Give back to your community as a CA\$H Maine volunteer:

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MORE INFORMATION

To Volunteer for LA CA\$H Contact

City of Lewiston  
Dottie Perham-Whittier  
[dottie@lewistonmaine.gov](mailto:dottie@lewistonmaine.gov)  
513-3000 ext 3205

CA\$H Maine is a statewide collaboration of ten coalitions, comprised of 50 non- and for-profit partners, working together to help empower Maine individuals and families to achieve long-term financial stability.



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## Senator Collins announces support for GOP tax bill; outlines her position in written statement

In remarks from the Senate floor this week, U.S. Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) announced her support for the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, the first major overhaul of the nation's tax code since 1986.

"This bill puts money back in the pockets of the American public with tax cuts beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>," said Collins. "As soon as the IRS updates withholding tables this winter, taxpayers will see the benefit of this bill in higher take-home-pay. Over time, Americans will continue to benefit from this legislation in the form of higher wages. Businesses, small and large, will make the investments that create more jobs.

"While this legislation is by no means perfect, on balance, it will provide much-needed tax relief," she continued. "It will benefit lower- and middle-income families, while spurring the creation of good jobs and greater economic growth for our nation."

In a written statement further detailing the reasons for her support, Collins made the following points:

### Most Maine Households Will See Their Taxes Lowered:

The legislation nearly doubles the standard deduction to \$12,000 for single filers and \$24,000 for joint filers.

The child tax credit will also be doubled, from \$1,000 to \$2,000, and up to \$1,400 of that tax credit will be refundable to benefit low-income families.

The 72 percent of Mainers who already use the standard deduction will have their taxes reduced. A family with \$24,000 in income will pay no federal income

tax. A single mother earning \$35,000 with one child will see her taxes drop by nearly 4,000 percent. Instead of paying money to Washington, she will be getting back nearly \$1,100 to help her make ends meet.

A couple with no children, earning \$60,000, will see their taxes fall by more than \$900. And a couple with two children earning \$60,000 will get a tax cut of about \$1,700 - a reduction of more than 100 percent. The bottom line is that most Maine households will see their taxes lowered.

### Bill Will Help Maine Businesses Grow and Create Jobs:

Over the past month, numerous Maine businesses and organizations have spoken in support of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, noting the significant impact it will have on their ability to grow and create jobs.

New Balance, which has about 900 workers manufacturing sneakers in Maine, said: "Companies like New Balance, which already has a strong domestic manufacturing presence, will be able to increase investments in their facilities and be more globally competitive while remaining a U.S. company hiring U.S. workers."

The general manager of the Pratt & Whitney plant in North Berwick said: "The reforms... will allow companies like ours to bring home earnings from abroad to invest in research and development, advanced manufacturing, energy efficiency, and workforce initiatives... Pratt & Whitney plans to hire thousands of people over the next several years across our U.S. operations, and this tax reform will further support

our efforts to help keep the U.S. a global leader in manufacturing and technology."

Other Maine business leaders, companies, and organizations that have endorsed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act include the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, the Manufacturers Association of Maine, Pottle's Transportation in Bangor, the plant manager of GE Power in Bangor, the owner of Windham Millwork in Windham, the innkeeper of the Nonantum Resort in Kennebunkport, and the Augusta-based Retail Association of Maine.

### The Legislation Includes Her Amendments to Benefit Working Families:

The legislation includes three amendments Senator Collins authored that will further reduce the tax burden on hardworking middle-income Americans, enhance retirement security, and help families who are struggling to afford high medical costs. Specifically, her provisions will:

1) Allow taxpayers to deduct up to \$10,000 for state and local taxes (This is especially important to Maine, which has the 13th highest state and local tax burden in the nation.);

2) Retain and reduce the income threshold for deducting medical expenses, which will help people with high medical costs, particularly seniors and people with chronic conditions (Approximately 8.8 million Americans use this deduction, nearly half of whom have incomes of \$50,000 or less.);

3) Reverse the original Senate language eliminating the ability of public employees like firefighters, school teachers, and police officers, as well as clergy and those employed by charities and non-profit organizations, to make "catch-up" contributions to their retirement accounts (These employees are generally paid less than their counterparts employed by for-profit companies and are thus less able to save for

## Emergency Physicians Offer Tips for a Safe and Healthy Holiday Season

Nobody wants to spend the holiday season in the emergency room, but the nation's emergency physicians will be there when you need them, anytime.

"There is typically an uptick of visits to the ER during the holidays related to flu, pneumonia, falls or hypothermia, particularly among children and seniors," said Paul Kivela, MD, MBA, FACEP, President of the American College of Emergency Physicians. "A little bit of planning and preparation can help you avoid spending the most wonderful time of the year in the ER."

**Prepare for cold weather.** The chill in the air can add to health risks whether you are inside or outside. If you are enjoying an outdoor activity or playing in the snow, it is important to dress appropriately for the weather and to monitor the amount of time spent outside. Early signs of frostbite can include numbness, burning, or cold skin that turns hard and pale.

Hypothermia or dehydration risks increase the longer you spend exposed to the elements, particularly at altitude. If you are

driving, make sure your car is equipped with a full emergency kit that includes a warm blanket, roadside flares, and other necessities.

For those who stay inside more frequently in inclement weather, check to make sure smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors are working properly. Respiratory issues are among the leading causes of winter ER visits. While a normal cough or cold is likely better addressed by a primary care physician, if an illness comes with complications, such as difficulty breathing, it could be appropriate to go to the emergency room.

**Get a flu shot.** Experts note that this flu season could be particularly severe and say that a flu vaccine is the best way to reduce your risk of getting sick. Vaccines are important and so are annual check-ups. Pinning an annual check-up to a calendar event such as a holiday or birthday is an easy way to make it part of your health routine.

Beyond winter weather, preventable accidents or health emergencies can happen during holiday preparation and celebration, too.

**Indulge in moderation.** Rich holiday meals and snacks are delicious, but typically are high in salt, sugar, cholesterol, or fat content. Too much of any festive food or drink can complicate existing health conditions like diabetes. Eating slowly is one way to avoid choking, and it is important to make smart choices, such as monitoring or limiting your alcohol intake.

"One important safety tip is pretty simple and could save your life: don't drink and drive," said Dr. Kivela. "Arrange for a designated driver in advance or call a taxi. Far too many accidents happen when people are inebriated and decide to get behind the wheel."

**Go slowly, go safely.** Accidents and back injuries are common around the holidays and can result from lifting heavy objects and decorations to hanging lights or slipping on ice. Around 2.8 million people go to the ER annually from falls and, among seniors, falling is the leading cause of injury. Slow down to avoid slipping or falling in snow, ice, or wet conditions.

Make a schedule to tackle your holiday shopping, entertaining, commuting, or other tasks methodically to avoid the last-minute holiday scramble. "Holiday heart," cardiac issues that arise in otherwise healthy individuals, is a condition that can arise from the added pressures of holiday duties. Planning, entertaining, family stress, or any number of other holiday-related factors can contribute to the depression or anxiety associated with emergency room visits seen this time of year.

"To reduce your risk, reduce your stress," said Dr. Kivela. "One of the best gifts you can give yourself this holiday season is to commit to taking better care of your physical and mental health all year round."

retirement. Senator Collins' provision will allow them to continue making these important investments toward a secure retirement.)

### She Secured Commitments to Stabilize Health Care, Protect Medicare:

Senator Collins secured the commitment of Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to pass two important bills before the end of the year to mitigate health insurance premium increases caused by the repeal of the individual mandate. Senator McConnell promised to support passage of both Alexander-Murray, a proposal to help low-income families afford insurance, and Senator Collins' bipartisan bill to protect people with pre-existing conditions

through use of high-risk pools. An analysis released last week by Oliver Wyman found that the passage of these two bills will more than offset the impact of the repeal of the individual mandate.

Moreover, in response to a letter sent by Senator Collins, Senator McConnell committed to preventing an automatic \$25 billion cut to Medicare that could be triggered unintentionally by the passage of tax reform legislation under the Pay-Go law. That pledge was joined by Speaker of the House Paul Ryan. Although Congress has acted 16 times since 2010 to avert such cuts, Senator Collins wanted to ensure that this critical issue would be addressed.

## Mr. Drew and His Animals Too at Auburn Public Library



Mr. Drew and His Animals Too will visit Auburn Public Library for the first time on Thursday, December 28, from 6 to 7:15 p.m. Come learn about animal rehabilitation and a variety of different animals with Mr. Drew. This family-friendly program is free and open to the public. For more information, call the library at 333-6640, ext. 3.

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## Androscoggin Readers Theater



The group includes members (l. to r.) Joanne Sabourin, Faith Towle, Joel Goodman, Judy Webber, Nancy Daniels, and Curt Webber. Absent from the photo are Bob Gardner, Linda Jackson-Washburn, Chris Lansley, and director Naomi York. (Photo by Rachel Morin)

Members of Androscoggin Readers Theater enjoyed a Christmas Luncheon at DaVinci's in Lewiston recently. The group visits local retirement communities in the spring and fall to present performances of their original, humorous scripts that explore the quirks, peculiarities, and idiosyncrasies of senior life, all in good fun.

## Senators Collins and King participate in Wreaths Across America ceremony at U.S. Capitol



Based in Columbia Falls, Maine, Wreaths Across America has placed a Remembrance Wreath at the U.S. Capitol Building each December since 2007.

U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King participated in the Wreaths Across America's annual Capitol wreath laying ceremony recently in Washington, D.C. Based in Columbia Falls, Maine, Wreaths Across America has placed a Remembrance Wreath at the U.S. Capitol Building each December since 2007. The wreath laid at the U.S. Capitol is decorated with a red bow and adorned with flags representing each branch of the U.S. Armed Forces and

POWs-MIAs.

During the ceremony, which coincided with similar ceremonies at all 50 state capitols across the country, Senators Collins and King delivered remarks and joined in a moment of silence to reflect on the holiday season and to honor and remember our nation's veterans and their families for their service and sacrifices.

"Wreaths Across America is a powerful demonstration of respect and appreciation for our veterans

- both those that we've lost and those still with us," said Senators Collins and King in a joint statement. "In this season of giving, the thoughts of all Americans turn to those who have given us the most precious gift of all: our freedom. All Mainers should be proud that Wreaths Across America, this heartfelt expression of America's gratitude, began in our State."

A convoy of volunteers and thousands of Maine-made balsam wreaths departed from Maine on December 10 and arrived at Arlington National Cemetery on December 16. Thousands of volunteers helped to lay the wreaths at the graves of each American veteran. In addition to Arlington National Cemetery, volunteers placed approximately 1.2 million wreaths at over 1,200 locations in all 50 states and numerous national veteran cemeteries on foreign soil.

## Sazerac announces \$1 million expansion of Lewiston bottling plant

Company and government officials recently announced that Boston Brands of Maine, a division of Sazerac Company, is moving forward with a planned \$1 million expansion of its Lewiston bottling plant. The plant currently employs 130 people and, with the new expansion, plans to create at least 30 more full-time jobs. The new positions will pay from \$16 to \$18 per hour.

"Sazerac moved into the Lewiston plant in 2013, when another bottler decided to leave the state," said Gerry Reid of Sazerac. "That has turned out to be an excellent decision, and we are now happy to be expanding and investing further in Maine's economy."

"I am thrilled that we have an American company that does business globally choosing to invest right here in Lewiston, Maine," said Congressman Bruce Poliquin. "Sazerac provides good jobs for Mainers and is the type of company we want to see locating in and expanding here in our state. This expansion is beneficial for Lewiston and beneficial for Maine."

Sazerac's products are popular in Maine, with their Fireball whiskey 50 mL making up 50% of all products sold of that size in the state. In addition to Fireball, the company's whiskey portfolio includes Pappy Van Winkle, Buffalo Trace, Eagle Rare, and Sazerac Rye. They also make Southern Comfort,

Platinum Vodka, and Mr. Boston.

Sazerac is active in the local community, contributing to local organizations and encouraging community involvement through its Eagle Rare Life Award. Ruth Libby, founder of Ruth's Reusable Resources in Portland, was a 2017 recipient of this national award.

One of America's oldest family-owned, privately held distillers, Sazerac has U.S. operations in Louisiana, Kentucky, Virginia, Tennessee, Maine, New Hampshire, South Carolina, Maryland, and California and global operations in the United Kingdom, Ireland, France, India, Australia, and Canada. For more information, see [www.sazerac.com](http://www.sazerac.com).

## NSB Arena partners with new food vendor

The City of Auburn and Norway Savings Bank Arena have announced the grand opening of their new concessions vendor, "Upper Level Pizza & Grille." The city celebrated this new partnership with local resident Mike Violette at a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, December 15 at Norway Savings Bank Arena, located at 985 Turn-

er Street.

"We are looking forward to hand-cut French fries, fresh-dough pizza, and even poutine," said Jason Paquin, General Manager of NSBA. "This is a fresh new beginning in food services at NSBA, with a great new partner, very reasonable prices, and a terrific selection of food items."

Upper Level Pizza &

Grille will be open Monday through Friday from 4 to 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., and during all high school hockey events.

"Partnering with someone who is passionate about their business and about hockey improves and adds to what we are building here at Norway Savings Bank Arena," said Paquin.

## MCCS to train workers for Bath Iron Works positions

The Maine Community College System will partner with General Dynamics' Bath Iron Works to deliver technical training to up to 90 trainees, providing BIW with the skilled workers it needs to help fill hundreds of critical jobs.

The new training, a partnership between the MCCS's Maine Quality Centers program, Southern Maine Community College, and BIW will provide training for up to 60 manufacturing technicians and up to 30 welders. Participants who successfully complete the training will then be interviewed for positions at BIW. Those who are hired will receive additional, job-specific training in the shipyard's Trades Learning Center.

Bath Iron Works, a business unit of General Dynamics, is among the largest private employers in Maine, with about 5,700 employees. With many of its most experienced workers nearing retirement, BIW needs employees trained in specific skills in demand at the shipyard. The company's training partnerships with SMCC

and other Maine community colleges have played a vital role in addressing its workforce needs.

"Our training partnership with BIW helps the company address its ongoing need for skilled workers and helps prepare more Maine people for high-paying careers," said MCCS President Derek Langhauser. "This is an excellent example of the kinds of workforce training that Maine's community colleges are providing across the state to help businesses build a skilled workforce and a stronger Maine economy."

The training is scheduled to begin in January and will take place at SMCC's Midcoast Campus in Brunswick. A 120-hour manufacturing technician training program, which serves as an introduction to shipfitting, pipefitting, and general laborer trades and covers topics from blueprint reading and power tool operation to tool safety and math, will be offered to three groups of 15 to 20 trainees in each group. Also, a 120-hour class covering welding

fundamentals and safety will be offered to three groups of up to 10 trainees per group.

SMCC's Workforce Development Department will oversee the training. Last year, the college provided customized skills training to more than 1,350 Maine workers.

The Maine Quality Centers program is part of the Maine Community College System and provides customized workforce training grants to Maine employers, with training delivered through its seven community colleges at locations and workplaces across the state.

Those interested in learning more about the new training program can contact SMCC's Workforce Development Department at 741-5951 or [workforceregistration@smccme.edu](mailto:workforceregistration@smccme.edu).

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# TCT on the Town: L/A Metropolitan Chamber Breakfast



L/A Metro Chamber President Beckie Conrad pictured with Sam Shekhar, Operations Manager of Ramada



Laura Brown pictured with Sue Joncas



Santa Claus pictured with Matthew Shaw



Pictured l. to r. Anita Poulin, Greenwood Gallery, Tiffany Tripp, Muddy Toes Pottery, and Ella Raibert, Ella's Chocolates.



Festively-dressed group photo with Santa Claus.



Folks enjoyed shopping and eating at this month's chamber breakfast

TCT Photos by Millie Kidd  
More photos can be found at  
[facebook.com/twincitytimes.com](https://www.facebook.com/twincitytimes.com)

## APL

Continued from page 5

burn Public Library.

**Teen Anime Club.** Wednesday, January 3 4 to 5 p.m., Androscoggin Community Room. Get animated over anime! Teens ages 12 through 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. Snacks will be provided.

**Homework Help for Teens.** Thursdays, January 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2:30 to 4 p.m., Teen Space. Teens! Homework Help is here! Stop by the Teen Space to get help with time management, schedule planning, goal setting, and learn how to be successful with your homework! This program is just for teens in grades 7 through 12 and will include a healthy snack.

**SAPARS.** Tuesday, January 9, 3 to 4 p.m., Teen Space. Teens! Come and visit with Julia, an Advocate from Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Services. Each month, Julia will meet with teens to discuss the issues important to them, including consent, bullying, sexual assault and harassment, bystander intervention, and internet safety. Visits may include question and answer, educational videos, or activities. All teens (ages 12 through 18) are welcome to drop in. This event takes place

the second Tuesday of each month in the Teen Space and will include a snack!

**Teen Life Skills 2018: Healthy Eating - Ten Tips for Teens.** Tuesdays, January 9, 16, 23 and 30, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., Androscoggin Community Room. The monthly Teen Life Skills series returns in 2018, starting with healthy eating! A series of four classes called "Ten Tips for Teens" is where teens will learn how to add more fruits and veggies to their day while learning basic cooking skills. We will make and EAT a recipe each class and play games (with prizes)! Join Missy from Healthy Androscoggin for this series, which is just for teens ages 12 through 18. For planning purposes, registration is requested; you can either give us a call at 333-6640, ext. 4, or visit the Events calendar on our website.

**Tweens in the Teen Space.** Wednesdays, January 10, 24 and 31, noon to 2 p.m., Teen Space. Tweens who are in sixth grade are invited to join us in the Teen Space on the second floor on half-day Wednesdays. We'll have crafts or board games available. Get a head start on your homework, or stop by to simply hang out!

**Gaming Hour.** Wednesdays, January 10 and 31, 4 to 5 p.m., Androscoggin Community Room. Teens ages 12 through 18 are invited to

take a break from studying and stop by the Androscoggin Room on the library's lower level for video games and snacks. We have Xbox 360 and Wii and a small collection of board games. Teens are welcome to bring their favorites, but only those rated T and E.

**Exam Week Stress Reliever.** Wednesday, January 17, 3 to 4 p.m., Teen Space. We are working on something special for teens during exam week as a stress reliever. Check our website and TeenSpace Facebook page for updates!

**Safe Voices Drop-In Visit.** Tuesday, January 23, 3 to 5 p.m., Teen Space. Come meet Whitney from Safe Voices! Each month, she will visit the Teen Space to chat about relationships and work on projects! Have a topic you'd like us to discuss? Let us know! This program is just for teens ages 12 through 18.

**Teens! DIY Takeover: Paper Crafts.** Wednesday, January 24, 4 to 5 p.m., Teen Space. Teens! Join us in the Teen Space for this month's DIY. We'll have items on hand to make your own bookmarks and we'll use old books to make art journals and other paper crafts. Materials will be supplied, but feel free to bring any items (like photos) you'd like to use to decorate your art journal. Just for teens ages 12 through 18, this program will include a snack.

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# TWIN CITY NIGHTS

## Weekly Arts & Entertainment

### New Year's L-A features annual "dinner, dance, drop, and draw"



Critics have called Portland-based band *The Substitutes* "5-pieces of pure rock 'n' roll charisma that people seem to dig."

The Gendron Franco Center in Lewiston will host its annual New Year's L-A on Sunday, December 31. This fun and elegant evening will feature a buffet dinner, including appetizers, two main course choices, and assorted desserts, prepared by the center's staff and served from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. After that, guests will dance to the music of Port-

land-based rock 'n' roll band "The Substitutes" from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. The doors and bar will open for the evening at 7 p.m.

Just before midnight, all guests will ascend to the center's magnificent Performance Hall for the Times Square countdown to 2018 on the big screen, a champagne toast at midnight, and the grand prize

drawing. Purchase of a raffle ticket will include entry into the grand prize drawing, worth over \$1,000, plus overnight parking if needed.

Tickets are \$50 per guest and include everything. Seating is limited, so reserve early. To buy tickets, drop by the box office at 46 Cedar Street, call 783-1585, or see FrancoCenter.org.

### Officer Joseph Philippon to address Rotary Club

The next meeting of the Lewiston-Auburn Rotary Club will feature an address by Lewiston Police Officer Joseph Philippon on Thurs-

day, December 28, from noon to 1 p.m. at the Village Inn at 165 High Street in Auburn.

Philippon will discuss the local response to

the opioid addiction epidemic. A 2005 graduate of the University of Maine at Augusta with a bachelor's degree in Administration of Justice, he joined the Lewiston Police Department in 2005. He currently serves as the department's Community Resource Officer, a role that entails strengthening community partnerships, identifying ways to improve service, promoting recruitment, and overseeing several enforcement and outreach programs. He represents the

See *Rotary Club*, page 12

### Swingin' Bears offer winter square dancing class

The Swingin' Bears Square Dance Club invites singles, couples, and families to try square dancing. A new class for beginners will be offered during the winter-spring semester through Oxford Hills Adult Education. The class will meet in the cafeteria of Oxford Hills Middle School at 100 Pine Street in South Paris beginning on Wednesday, January

3, from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m.

The club hopes to have a large group of beginners who will commit to attending every Wednesday, skipping holidays, school vacation weeks, and snow days, for the fifteen-week session. The price is \$60 per person, or only \$5 a week. Club caller Ray Hilton of Saco will lead the class and club members will be there

to help the beginners and fill out the square.

Square dancing is for all ages. It is a great way to relax, have fun, meet people, make new friends, and exercise during the long, cold winter months. For more information, call club co-presidents Bob and Eleanor Herrick at 782-4050 or see [swinginbears.square-danceme.us](http://swinginbears.square-danceme.us).

### Next HR Thursdays workshop tackles "Religious Accommodation Solutions for Businesses"

The next HR Thursdays workshop, presented by the LA Metro Chamber of Commerce, Central Maine Human Resource Association, and Lewiston CareerCenter, will explore "Religious Accommodation Solutions for Businesses of All Sizes" on Thursday, December 28, from noon to 1:30 p.m. The presenters will be Rebecca Webber and Deb Whitworth.

The workshop will provide practical approaches to issues including requests to pray at work, re-

quests not to work on certain shifts or to perform certain types of work, requests for time off for certain events, fasting, proselytizing, preparations for prayer such as cleansing, and religious garb, hairstyles, or other forms of dress.

The event will take place in the chamber's conference room at 415 Lisbon Street in Lewiston. The cost is \$25 for chamber members and \$50 for non-members; CMHRA members attend free of charge. For more information, call 783-2249. To

register, see [www.LAMetro-Chamber.com](http://www.LAMetro-Chamber.com).

Rebecca S. Webber is a 1980 graduate of Williams College, cum laude, and a 1989 graduate of Boston College Law School, magna cum laude. Her areas of practice include employment law, employment litigation, civil litigation, and employment counseling, compliance, and training. She has been a speaker at seminars and business gatherings on the topic of employment law, including for the Maine Human Rights

See *Next HR*, page 12

### American Cancer Society seeks Road to Recovery drivers

This holiday season, and all year long, if you have a car and few hours to spare, you can make a difference in the life of a cancer patient as a Road to Recovery driver. The American Cancer Society is now recruiting volunteers throughout Maine to ensure that all cancer patients have transportation to and from their treatments. Whether

See *Recovery*, page 12



Road to Recovery volunteer coordinators convened recently for a holiday lunch and meeting at the Harold Alfond Center for Cancer Care in Augusta. Pictured here (l. to r., from front) are Traci Stone (Presque Isle), Mary Logan (Augusta), Nancy Damiani (Brunswick), Elisa Madore (Program Manager), Lynne Carlisle (Brewer), Andrea Sparrow (Pittston), Dan Bahr (Patient Navigator; HACCC), and Terry Beal (Jefferson). Absent from the photo are Michael Reisman (Ellsworth) and Vickie Morgan (Norway).

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## Harlow Gallery says goodbye to current location with Members' Holiday Art Exhibition & Sale

The Harlow Gallery of Hallowell will present its final Members' Art Exhibition & Sale at its 160 Water Street location

from December 22, 2017 through January 20, 2018. Beginning in 2018, this twice-annual event will take place at the gallery's

new home at 100 Water Street. This holiday edition of the event will open with a public reception on Friday, December 22, from 5 to 7 p.m.

A holiday tradition dating back to the founding of the Harlow Gallery in 1963, this exhibition celebrates the diverse styles of Harlow Gallery's member artists. During the show, work by Maine artists in a wide range of media can be purchased off the wall and taken home the same day. The public is invited to visit the gallery to support local artists by choosing unique and handcrafted gifts this holiday season.

Programs at the Harlow Gallery are funded in part by a Partnership Grant from the Maine Arts Commission, an independent state agency supported by the National Endowment for the Arts. Exhibitions are always free and open to the public; gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday from noon to 6 p.m.

Located in historic downtown Hallowell, the Harlow Gallery is home to the Kennebec Valley Art Association, a membership-based 501(c)3 non-profit dedicated to connecting and celebrating art, artists and community in Central Maine since 1963. For more information, call 622-3813 or see harlow-gallery.org.



"Push," mixed media on paper by Liz McGhee of Portland, is one of the many original artworks available.



This is the last event at the gallery's current location before they move to 100 Water Street. (Photo by Allison McKeen.)

Send all **Letters and Op/Ed** pieces to **Editor@TwinCityTimes.com**.  
Deadline is **Friday by five.**

# Twin City Nights

**Tightest Five comedy contest starts tonight at Bear Bones Beer**



Maine Event Comedy will present the Tightest Five comedy contest at Bear Bones Beer on Thursday, December 21 at 7 p.m. Any stand-up comedian will tell you they have a tight five minutes, but who has the tightest five? Twenty of New England's rising comedy stars will give it their best shot.

In the first preliminary round, Mark Turcotte will host 10 hopefuls as they perform their best five minutes of original material. Along with bragging rights, the winner's prize package includes paid work, professional headshots, and craft beer. This prelim will include AJ O'Connell (East Greenwich, RI), Ben Roberts (Leeds), Brendan Williams (Portland), Cindi Brown (Portland); Daniel McRobbie (Cambridge, MA), Dawn Hartill (Lewiston), Jed See **Bear Bones**, page 12



New Hampshire's Ian Clark will be the evening's featured comedian.

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## Entertainment

**Fri:** Dec. 22 - Chad Porter 8-11pm  
Dec. 29 - Christie Ray 8-11pm  
**Sat:** Dec. 23 - Dave Perlman 8-11pm  
Dec. 30 - Chris Floyd 8-11pm

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# Twin City Nights

## Next HR

*Continued from page 10*

Commission. Webber was awarded the preeminent AV rating by Martindale-Hubbell, which is determined by extensive peer review by members of the Bar and Judiciary. She is President of the Central Maine Human Resources Association, a local branch of the Society of Human Resource Management.

Webber's approach to employment law issues is to reduce risk to the client while accounting for the bottom line. In the land of human resources, this

means not only keeping fees low but also considering the costs of turnover, morale, onboarding, and training.

Deb Whitworth, SPHR, SHRM-SCP is owner and CEO of HR Studio Group, LLC. Throughout her 30 years of human resources management and leadership experience, she has helped a variety of nonprofit and for-profit services and industries build and maintain compliant cultures of excellence. In 2011, she was appointed by the Governor of Maine as Commissioner with the

Maine Human Rights Commission to complete an unexpired term and was reappointed to a full five-year term in 2012. Named Maine's HR Leader of the Year in 2012, she is a frequent presenter on human resources and compliance topics at conferences and business functions. She is also an instructor in the HR Certificate Program at the University of Southern Maine, an adjunct faculty member at Thomas College, and a guest lecturer at the University of New England.

## Bear Bones

*Continued from page 11*

Bloom (Saco), Jeff Madoff (Boston, MA), Jim Martin (Portland), and Nikki Martin (Portland).

New Hampshire's Ian Clark will be the evening's featured comedian. Clark was voted New Hampshire's Best New Comic in 2015 and has performed at Improv Boston, The Comedy Studio, and Dick Doherty's Comedy Den. An open-mic, available to jokesmiths

of all levels, will follow the show.

The second preliminary round will be January 18, followed by the semifinals on February 15, and the finals on March 15.

The event is free and open to those ages 21 and older. Bear Bones Beer is located at 43 Lisbon Street in Lewiston. For more information, call 513-0742 or e-mail [maineevent-comedy@gmail.com](mailto:maineevent-comedy@gmail.com).

## What do you think?

We strongly encourage Letters to the Editor, Op/Eds, columns or any other submissions from our readers.

Agree with us or another columnist? Disagree? Write to us and let us know!

Email all submissions, including name, address and phone number, to [Editor@TwinCityTimes.com](mailto:Editor@TwinCityTimes.com).

## Newfie

*Continued from page 1*

the house with a powerful mix of Motown and Memphis Soul music that's sure to get the party started. The band covers classic songs from Sam and Dave, the Supremes, Wilson Pickett,

Marvin Gaye, the Temptations, Prince, and Bruno Mars.

Tickets are \$50 each in advance (\$60 at the door) and include catered refreshments, a choice of party favor or noise maker, and a beverage to toast the New Year at 10:30 p.m. There will be

a designated dance floor and cash bar. Snappy-casual, Newfie-style attire is encouraged. The Chocolate Church Arts Center is located at 804 Washington Street in Bath. For more information or to buy tickets, call the box office at 442-8455 or see [www.chocolatechurcharts.org](http://www.chocolatechurcharts.org).



Complete with female backup singers and a full horn section, Pat Colwell & the Soul Sensations play a high-energy mix of Motown and Memphis Soul classics.

## Rotary Club

*Continued from page 10*

department in court cases as warranted, attends community events, serves as a member of the bicycle patrol, and assists in the management of the Project Safe Neighborhood "Hot Spot" grant.

Guests are welcome and no reservations are required. Lunch is available at the restaurant. For more information, call 713-7045 or see [www.lewistonau-burnrotary.org](http://www.lewistonau-burnrotary.org).

of six weeks. A patient receiving chemotherapy may need weekly treatment for up to a year."

Many cancer patients don't own a vehicle, can't afford the extra gasoline, or don't have access to public transportation. Some patients may be elderly and unable to drive, too ill to drive, or have no family members or friends who are able to provide regular assistance with transportation. Even the best treatment can't work if a patient can't get there.

"Some patients don't have access to transportation at all, and public transportation is not ideal for those who are in treatment and who are fatigued, sick, and often at risk of infection," said Madore. "Access to care is a big problem in our country, with low-income and minority persons and those living in outlying communities suffering the most from disparities. Transportation programs are vital for these patients to get the treatments they need and deserve. But the program not only helps patients, it's also rewarding for the volunteers."

The Road to Recovery program provides transpor-

tation options for patients in these situations and is currently in need of volunteer drivers in Maine, especially Kennebec, Cumberland, Penobscot, and Aroostook counties. Volunteer drivers donate their time and the use of their vehicles so patients can receive the cancer-related treatments they need. Drivers also provide encouragement and support.

To volunteer, you must have a valid driver's license, a safe and reliable vehicle, and proof of automobile insurance. Drivers must be at least 18 years old and have a good driving history. They arrange their own schedules and can commit as many or as few hours as their schedule allows. The American Cancer Society provides free training to drivers and conducts criminal background and driving record checks. For information about the Road to Recovery program, call 1-800-227-2345 or visit [cancer.org](http://cancer.org).

Send all items for **What's Going On** to [Editor@TwinCityTimes.com](mailto:Editor@TwinCityTimes.com). Deadline is **Friday by five.**

## Recovery

*Continued from page 10*

you are available once a month or once a week, even for an hour, you can be a Road to Recovery volunteer.

"Every driver has what it takes to help save lives," said Elisa Madore, Mission Delivery Program Manager for the American Cancer Society. "We're urgently asking drivers to donate their passenger seat and volunteer to take cancer patients to treatment. One cancer patient requiring radiation therapy could need between 20 to 30 trips to treatment over the course

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**Thursday, December 21**

Rotary Club Lunch Meeting. Noon to 1 p.m. Village Inn, 165 High St., Auburn. Guest speakers Mac McPeake and Stephanie Gelinas present the holiday classic “Twas the Night Before Christmas.” No reservation required. 713-7045; monica.millhime@maine.gov.

Maine Event Comedy. 7 p.m. Baxter Brewing, 130 Mill St., Lewiston. Tonight’s show features the first preliminary round of the Tightest Five comedy contest; an open mic follows. Ages 21-plus. Free. 513-0742; maineeventcomedy@gmail.com.

**Friday, December 22**

Opening Reception.

# Calendar

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

5 to 7 p.m. Harlow Gallery, 160 Water St., Harlowell. The gallery opens its annual Members’ Holiday Art Exhibition & Sale, which runs through Jan. 20. 622-3813; harlowgallery.org.

**Saturday, December 23**

Jingle Jog II. 11 a.m. Mixer’s Nightclub, Sabattus Road, Sabattus. Join the Sabattus Rec Club Running Program for the second of two holiday-season runs; all ages, abilities welcome; wear your favorite festive attire.

**Wednesday, December 27**

St. Dom’s Christmas Classic. Norway Savings Bank Arena, Auburn. Boys high school hockey teams from around New England convene for this invitational hockey tournament; first-round games take place today at 1, 3, 5, and 7 p.m. Cont. 12/28, 29.

**Thursday, December 28**

HR Thursdays Workshop. Noon to 1:30 p.m. Chamber of Commerce, 415 Lisbon St., Lewiston. This month’s topic is “Religious Accommodation Solutions for Businesses of All Sizes.” \$50 (chamber members \$25; CMHRA members free). 783-2249. Register at [www.LAMetroChamber.com](http://www.LAMetroChamber.com).

Rotary Club Lunch Meeting. Noon to 1 p.m. Village Inn, 165 High St., Auburn. Lewiston Police Officer Joseph Philippon discusses the local response to the opioid addiction epidemic. No reservation required. 713-7045; monica.millhime@maine.gov.

St. Dom’s Christmas Classic. Norway Savings Bank Arena, Auburn. Second-round games for this high school boys’ invitational hockey tournament take place today at 1, 3, 5, and 7 p.m. Concludes 12/29.

Mr. Drew and His Animals Too. 6 to 7:15 p.m. Auburn Public Library. Come learn about animal rehabilitation and meet a variety of different animals with Mr. Drew. Free. 333-6640, ext. 3.

**Friday, December 29**

St. Dom’s Christmas Classic Invitational Hockey Tournament. Norway Savings Bank Arena, Auburn. Championship and consolation games take place on both rinks today at 10 a.m. and noon.

**Sunday, December 31**

New Year’s L-A. 7:30 p.m. Franco Center, 46 Cedar St., Lewiston. Ring in the New Year with the center’s annual “dinner, dance, drop, and draw” holiday party. Doors, bar open at 7:00. \$50 per guest. 783-

1585; [FrancoCenter.org](http://FrancoCenter.org).

“Newfie-Style” New Year’s Eve Party. 8 p.m. Chocolate Church Arts Center, 804 Washington St., Bath. Ring in the New Year at 10:30 p.m. with classic R&B revue Pat Colwell & the Soul Sensations; dedicated dance floor. \$50 (\$60 at door, incl. refreshments, toast. 442-8455; [www.chocolatechurcharts.org](http://www.chocolatechurcharts.org)).

**Saturday, January 13**

Concert: Midcoast Symphony Orchestra. 7 p.m. Franco Center, 46 Cedar St., Lewiston. This “Orchestra on Display” program spotlights different sections of the orchestra. Students free, others \$20 (cash or check) at door. 846-5378; [www.midcoast-symphony.org](http://www.midcoast-symphony.org).

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