

# Festival

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cal illusions. Events geared to ward kids and teens will have them writing computer code, stepping into virtual reality, exploring the human brain and dissecting owl pellets.

Meeting rooms at the Cross Insurance Center will host dozens of smaller break-out demonstrations and talks throughout the weekend. Those sessions include some fruitful panel discussions about topics ranging from aquaculture to Maine's role in space exploration.

Representatives of Jackson Laboratory, Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Science and MDI Biological Laboratory will discuss recent voter-approved bonds and show exactly what scientific research and findings resulted from that taxpayer funding.

Ed Bilsky of the University of New England and other panelists will discuss opioid addiction and the toll it is taking on Mainers. They'll cover the science behind addiction, treatment and take questions from the audience. That is at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 19.

"I don't think people recognize the vast scope of the organizations that are sending us their experts so we can hear about the cool, cutting-edge work they do," Dickerson said.

A short drive on Main Street will bring attendees to more offerings downtown. For some of these venues, the scientific focus comes naturally.

The Rock & Art Shop sells artwork, decorations and toys with a focus on the natural sciences. It also will host "What Rhymes with Science," a series of science-focused poetry readings, at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, March 20.

"Last year, we saw an influx of people who had never even been to downtown Bangor before," said Annette Sohns, who co-owns The Rock & Art Shop with family members. "They're walking on these streets, exploring while they're trying to find venues. The fact that they bring [the festival] throughout downtown, really helps to bring to focus the fact that there's a lot going on downtown."

The Central Street Farmhouse will host a winemaking demonstration, running attendees through the science behind why wine becomes wine. The company did the same thing last year with beer.

"We're already talking about the science of wine-making every day, so this is a natural fit for us," owner Zeth Lundy said.

Another session at the Central Street offices of WBRC Architects and Engineers will focus on "targeted" manufacturing in Maine, and how the successes of some companies around the state — Texas Instruments, Baker Company, FHC and Corning — are disproving the myth that manufacturing is dead in the Pine Tree State.

Dickerson said that she didn't want to rely on Bangor businesses for financial support, because the event is meant to serve the entire state. This year's festival has an "incredibly shoe-string" budget of \$120,000, funded largely by sponsors from across the state and grants, Dickerson said.

Thanks to those contributions, all events are being offered for free, with the exception of a presentation by headlining author and statistician Nate Silver, who speaks at Hampden Academy at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 19. Tickets are \$10 for students and \$15 for adults in advance via the website and Eventbrite, and \$15 for students and \$20 for adults at the door.

## Lary Funeral Home expands to Guilford

DOVER-FOXCROFT — The Lary Funeral Home, located in Dover-Foxcroft and Milo, has announced its expansion to the Guilford and Greenville areas with the purchase of the Neal Funeral Home and Neal Monument Co. effective March 1.

Peter B. Neal has moved away from the area and is retiring. Neal, continuing in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, served the area for many years.

The Lary Funeral Home Inc. is owned and operated by Eric L. Annis and his son Ethan L. Annis. This longstanding family business, which has served Piscataquis County since 1934, will continue to serve families in all of Piscataquis County in the future by providing services from simple cremation to traditional funerals.

## Madison area job fair rescheduled

MADISON — The Skowhegan CareerCenter, Backyard Farms, KVCAP, Somerset Abbey and Madison Business Alliance's Madison-area job fair with 18 employers, originally scheduled for Feb. 24 at Somerset Abbey, 98 Main St., has been rescheduled to 3-6 p.m. Wednesday, March 2, due to inclement weather.

Several local businesses will be on hand, including: Addison Point Agency, Assistance Plus, Backyard Farms, Care and Comfort, Fine Line Paving, Genesis HCC, Cedar Ridge, Hannaford Supermarkets,

Hearth & Home Realty, Kennebec Behavioral Health, Kennebec Valley Community College, Maine Behavioral Health Organization, Maine Elder Care, Riverview Psychiatric Center, Securitas Inc., Spurwink, U.S. Border Patrol, U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Service Center and Collaborative Waterville!

CareerCenters, part of the Maine Department of Labor, offer services to help people find employment or upgrade skills. Each center provides public-access computer workstations with Microsoft Office software, resume writing and cover letter software, Internet access and O'Net software for skills assessment. All CareerCenter services are free of charge.

Call 474-4950 (TTY users call Maine Relay 711). Information is available on the CareerCenter website, mainecareercenter.com.

## Nonprofit to hold Board Boot Camp

AUBURN — The Maine Association of Nonprofits will hold a Board Boot Camp 8 a.m.-4 p.m. May 18 at Hilton Garden Inn, 14 Great Falls Plaza in Auburn.

The group's Board Boot Camps offer new and experienced board members practical information, resources and tools that they can use to further their organizations' missions.

Basic and advanced sessions are offered.

There are a limited number of scholarships available. Email Learn@NonprofitMaine.org no later than Wednesday, May 4, to apply for a scholarship.

## On the Job

**Keriann Roman** has become a shareholder at Drummond Woodsum, with offices in Portland and New Hampshire, effective Jan. 1. Roman joined the firm in 2012 and practices in the firm's Municipal and Trial Services Groups. Keriann works with municipalities on issues including land use, municipal finance, tax abatements, town warrants and employment. She also represents individuals and entities before municipal boards in connection with site plan and subdivision applications, variance requests and zoning changes. As a member of the Trial Services Group, she practices in all areas of civil litigation, including appeals. Roman has argued before the New Hampshire Supreme Court, conducted trials and argued numerous motions before the state trial courts, and has appeared before the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

**Christopher G. Stevenson** has become a shareholder at Drummond Woodsum, with offices in Portland and New Hampshire, effective Jan. 1. Stevenson joined the firm in 2008 and practices with the firm's Business Services and Public Sector Groups. He specializes in the areas of tax and employee benefits law. He is a certified public accountant and, before attending law school, spent four years in public accounting. He regularly advises employers on the tax aspects of general business transactions, as well as the establishment and administration of employee benefit plans. Stevenson also has experience

helping employers comply with the Affordable Care Act.

Farmington Police Department chose **Officer Michael Lyman** as its Employee of the Year for 2015. The letter notifying Lyman of the honor noted his work ethic, dedication and professionalism, and his willingness to take on added responsibility of helping to manage the evidence room and writing, applying for and administering an OUI grant. Lyman also attended two training sessions: "Investigating Drug Trafficking" and the "Field Training Officer Program," one of which aided him in the investigation of a complex drug case that resulted in an arrest of a person for trafficking in a drug-free zone. He also was cited for his exceptional traffic enforcement efforts, with more than 1,300 motor vehicle stops resulting in getting 22 drivers off the roads who were operating while under the influence, plus more than 100 arrests and criminal summonses.



Lyman



Jermyn

**Eric Jermyn**, who will be based in Portland, has been hired as vice president of business development for Cross Employee Benefits at Cross Insurance, a subsidiary of Cross Financial Corp. He will lead Cross Employee Benefits' sales efforts. Jermyn joins Cross

Employee Benefits from Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Maine, where he worked in sales positions for more than two decades, most recently as the company's director of large group sales. For most of his insurance career, Jermyn worked in partnership with Cross and other brokers in the state. Jermyn has served on the Kennebec Valley Chamber board since 2010, elected chairman for 2016. He serves as vice chairman and finance committee chairman for Maine School Administrative District 11, serving Gardiner, Pittston, Randolph and West Gardiner. He volunteers as an umpire for Gardiner Area Cal Ripken baseball and has coached his children's sports teams. Jermyn is a graduate of UMass/Dartmouth, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in humanities and social science. He lives in Gardiner with his wife, Kathie, and their two children.

To submit items for On the Job, please visit bangordailynews.com. Fill out the "News and Photos" form under the "Post News" button at the top of the home page and click "Publish" at the bottom when finished. Questions? Call Community Editor Julie Harris at 990-8285.

## Gas

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"I again encourage FERC to carefully consider whether the potential negative impacts of the project would disproportionately outweigh the benefits, particularly for the New Hampshire residents and communities that would bear the burden of hosting the project," Hassan wrote.

LePage urged regulators in the Feb. 3 letter, filed with FERC on Wednesday, to consider the public good of a new pipeline project against opposition driven by "not-in-my-backyard" sentiment, otherwise called NIMBYism.

"I urge you to review the applications before you in a timely manner, paying sufficient attention to local concerns while fully understanding of the nature of public goods like infrastructure projects that provide enormous but dispersed benefits to society at large but often struggle to aggregate support in the face of "not-in-my-backyard" sentiment," LePage wrote.

As part of the application process, Kinder Morgan has already lined up local distribution companies who would buy capacity from the new line, which would deliver about 1.3 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day into New England and Canada, according to the company's website.

A decision on the company's request is still pending review before FERC.

## Potato

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But "there's isn't a seed supplier that I know of that's willing to sign a guarantee that they don't have Dickeya in their crop."

The potato board is asking the Department of Agriculture to note Blackleg symptoms again this year and to do three readings during the summer. Dickeya symptoms include non-emergence of potatoes, blackened stems and wilting plants. But sometimes Dickeya and other diseases can be difficult to detect or dormant, Hobbs said. "Depending on who you are, you might say, 'Well, when did they go and how hard did they look?'"

The potato board also is offering seed growers free dormant and storage potato tests — to expose a potential "Typhoid Mary," or a hidden source of the bacteria, according to executive director Don Flannery at the board's last meeting.

Seed growers, including the board's Porter Seed Farm, a supplier of early-generation potatoes to a lot of farmers, will have to pay more attention to overall sanitation, Johnson said.

"If growers start with seed free from Blackleg contamination," Johnson said, "the disease can be kept at very low levels." Seed potatoes can be treated with fungicides, planted in soil that is not too wet and in fields that are regularly rotated between potatoes and other crops.

The Maine Potato Board also is considering the possibility of setting a tolerance threshold for its presence in seed certification, as is done for viruses. "We don't want to set it too high or too low," Hobbs said.

The trouble with Dickeya is it may not be symptomatic in Maine's cooler climate, but when the potatoes are planted in the Mid-Atlantic fields, the environment may let the bacteria thrive and disrupt farmers' rotation

plans, Hobbs said.

Dickeya can only survive in the soil three months, but it can survive for more than a year on debris from corn — a common rotation crop with potatoes in the Mid-Atlantic — as well as on brassicas, the family of cruciferous vegetables and canola, Hobbs said.

"That's something that our customers are asking about, because a lot of the places we're selling to use corn as a rotation," he said. "How do we get rid of this bacteria? Can you rotate out

of it? Well, it depends."

While the emergence of Dickeya has put a lot of pressure on the Maine Potato Board to help protect the quality of a key agricultural export, Hobbs said they are lucky no potato growers in North America are dealing with Dickeya solani, the more active species of the bacteria found in Europe that causes huge crop losses and is grounds for a quarantine.

"But we're not under any illusion that it could never get here," Hobbs said.

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