

Topsham celebrates Oktoberfest

TOPSHAM — German beers and games will be on tap when Oktoberfest Maine returns to the Topsham Fairgrounds Saturday, Sept. 19.

The third annual event, presented by the Southern Midcoast Maine Chamber, will run from noon-7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per person in advance, or \$15 at the gate. Parking at the 21-and-older event is free, and no pets are allowed.

A portion of the proceeds will go to the Mid-Coast Veterans Council.

Regional craft beers will be offered, along with a German concoction created by Lively Brewing Co. for this event. Those who want to give the stein a rest can dance to the Oktoberfest German Band, Up Stream Live and the Sweatin' Bullets Band.

Competitions include keg throwing, stein hoisting, the best-dressed man and woman (Lederhosen and dirndl skirts recommended), and the longest facial hair.

Knox Police Office Academy to be held

ROCKLAND — Residents interested in participating in the first Knox County Sheriff's Office Citizen's Police Academy are reminded that space is limited and applications should be submitted no later than Sept. 28.

Chief Deputy Tim Carroll said the program, which the department expects to offer each year, is aimed at improving public relations and showing citizens what police work is like.

Participants in the program will attend a three-hour class one night per week for eight weeks beginning on Sept. 30. Applications are available online at knoxso.com/community/cpa or at the sheriff's office on Park Street in Rockland. Completed applications should be returned to the sheriff's office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. They will be reviewed, and all attendees will be selected by the sheriff and command staff.

The lead instructor of the academy will be Sgt. Lance Mitchell. Classes will be taught by Knox County deputies. The department also will have guest speakers from the Knox County district attorney's office, the Knox County Regional Communications Center, the Maine State Marine Patrol and the Maine Warden Service, among other organizations.

The curriculum will cover such areas as history of policing, Maine law, patrol procedures, criminal investigative techniques, evidence recovery, K-9 program, and the drug recognition expert program. Each academy participant also will receive basic hands-on training in arrest control and hand-to-hand combat techniques. Role playing also will be an important component of the program.

Breakfast buffet at Bucksport church

BUCKSPORT — A breakfast buffet will be held 6:30-9:30 a.m. Saturday, April 11, at Franklin Street United Methodist Church, 71 Franklin St.

This all-you-care-to-eat meal will include beverages and homemade baked goods. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children and \$25 for a family of four or more.

For information, call the church office at 469-3622 or Ed Petravicz at 469-9979.

Farnsworth to close galleries temporarily

ROCKLAND — Farnsworth Museum has secured funding through the New Markets Tax Credit Program to begin major capital improvements to its Rockland and Cushing properties.

This Farnsworth will close to the public April 13 through May 15. The museum will reopen to the public on Saturday, May 16, and resume regular hours.

While undergoing structural upgrades, the Olson House in Cushing will remain closed throughout the 2015 season, and will reopen to the public on Memorial Day weekend 2016.



TROY R. BENNETT | BDN

Circus Conservatory of America technical director Joshua Oliver performs an aerial routine for Casco Bay High School students in Portland in January. After-school recreation classes have been cut to build a college program.

Maine circus group flips focus

After-school programs cut to work on state accreditation to grant degrees

BY DARREN FISHELL
BDN STAFF

PORTLAND — The Circus Conservatory of America has ended a lease at Thompson's Point where it led after-school classes in circus arts.

The conservatory's president said the move will allow the organization to focus on fundraising and state accreditation to grant degrees.

"We've been doing an after-school recreational program, and we've determined that diluted our mission and our primary focus," said Peter Nielsen, the conservatory's president. "We wanted to focus entirely on that, and that's a decision we reached with our whole board [of directors]."

Nielsen said the lease for a renovated space at Thompson's Point ended earlier

The conservatory is still seeking approval from the Maine Board of Education to grant degrees in circus arts — think Cirque du Soleil, not Barnum and Bailey

this month, a location where he said none of the staff tasked with building the college work.

The conservatory is still seeking approval from the Maine Board of Education to grant degrees in circus arts — think Cirque du Soleil, not Barnum and Bailey.

Nielsen said that application is still being considered by state education regulators, and he hopes the board will have a recommendation to pass on to the Legislature by the end of December, in time for the next legislative session.

The immediate focus, he said, is fundraising toward a goal of \$5 million to launch

the operations of the college. The campaign has amassed about \$1 million so far, he said.

The next step is fundraising for a new building constructed specifically for the college that would be the first degree-granting circus arts school in the country. Nielsen estimates the building will cost about \$25 million, which is a rough goal for the phase of fundraising to come after getting certification.

"We're focused on degree-granting authority first and then we would use that goal to work on fundraising for the facilities," he said.

The group also plans to

apply for a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, he said, that would cover costs for getting full architectural sketches of the building's interior and overall concept, which could then be used in the facilities fundraising campaign.

He said that the end of the after-school programs serves the larger goal of getting that college up and running. In 2013, Nielsen said he hoped the college would welcome its first class this fall.

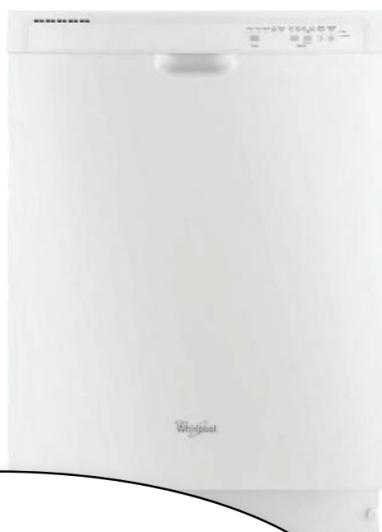
"We remain 100 percent committed to building a circus college in Portland, Maine, on Thompson's Point," Nielsen said. "That was our first goal, and we have every intention of continuing along the track."

The more than \$100 million development project at Thompson's Point announced a variety of new and potential tenants this summer.

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