

# Frenzy

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When Toryn Bennoch (AJ Mooney), Tina's old friend and fellow stylist, returns to town, chaos ensues. Clara — which Varney estimates lies somewhere in between Bangor and Ellsworth — is Baker's version of Lake Wobegon, or Cicely, Alaska from "Northern Exposure." With a set by Orono designer Chez Cherry and costumes by Mainer Kevin Koski, the show is truly an all-Maine affair.

"It's a world we all know, of course. These are people we grew up with," said Varney. "I think that even though there are specific Maine references in the show — there's Moxie and whoopie pies and all that kind of stuff — what comes through is more the sense of community that towns in Maine have. Everyone is there for one another, and they'll help out if someone's in trouble. That's what comes through for me."

Though "One Blue Tarp," Baker's previous play, also took place in Clara, "Hair Frenzy" features an entirely new cast of characters. Instead of the gruff but tender-hearted family at the center of his previous Clara story, "Hair Frenzy" takes place inside the gossipy, colorful hair salon that sets the scene for the play's central

conflict: when a Mainer who lives "away" comes home, and must contend with their identity, their sense of belonging, and with the people that still live in Maine who may eye them with more than a bit of skepticism.

Creating this cast of characters from nothing more than a script comes easy to a number of the cast members, considering many of them have extensive backgrounds in improv comedy. Amanda Sinko, a Dexter native and University of Maine graduate now living in Wisconsin, studied at the Second City in Chicago, both Bradley LaBree and Jason Preble are in local sketch and improv comedy groups Her Majesty's Cabaret and The Focus Group, respectively, and Shepherd, a renowned improviser, is co-director of Improv Acadia in Bar Harbor.

"When you're constantly changing things and coming up with new elements of a character or a scene on the fly, that improv background helps immensely," said Varney. "Plus, they're all just incredibly funny."

"Hair Frenzy" has two preview performances on Jan. 28 and 29, with opening night set for Jan 30. Performances run Wednesdays-Sundays through Feb. 14. For tickets, visit [penobscottheatre.org](http://penobscottheatre.org), call 942-3333, or visit the Bangor Opera House in person.

# New Bangor businesses cater to special tastes, events

BY EMILY BURNHAM  
OF THE WEEKLY STAFF

Two new businesses that have opened in Bangor in the past month each cater to women looking for something special — be it that unique little gift for a loved one, or the perfect thing to wear on her special day.

In December, the clothing, home decor and vintage shop Ivy & Lace opened at 173 Park St., across the street from One Lupine Fiber Arts. Billing itself as a "feminine boutique," Ivy & Lace offers both vintage and new items, including furniture, glassware, linens, books and clothing.

Located just up the hill from City Hall, next to One Lupine Fiber Arts, Ivy & Lace is owned by the mother-daughter team of Kathy Reeves and Victoria Roy. Reeves is a longtime area teacher and nurse, and Roy is currently a nursing student at the University of Maine. After initially opening their shop last year in Brewer, the pair decided in the fall to expand to a larger space and move to the Park Street location. It's open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Reeves says their store is inspired by upscale women's clothing and home decor chain Anthropologie — though where Anthropologie offers brand new things that look vintage, Ivy & Lace offers vintage-looking things that actually are vintage.



PHOTO COURTESY IVY & LACE

The interior of Ivy & Lace, a new clothing and furniture shop that has opened on Park Street in Bangor.

"We have a unique kind of shop that I don't think anyone else in the area is doing," said Reeves. "Our big thing is taking old furniture and home decor, and fixing it up and repurposing it... we go to estate sales and yard sales and look online all the time and find pieces and give them new life. And in our case, that vintage chest you're looking it is actually vintage. It's actually from the 30s. And it's affordable."

Just a few weeks after Ivy & Lace opened, another new Bangor boutique is also offering special products for During the first week of January, Blush Bridal & Formal opened at 15 State

St. in downtown Bangor, near the corner of State and Exchange streets. Blush is the sister store to Pancosfar's Bridal Boutique in Presque Isle, in operation for more than 40 years.

The business, housed in the historic 1912 stone building that also houses women's clothing store Sea of Cotton, offers high-end but affordable bridal and formal wear in a comfortable, chic environment. An eye-catching window display has been up since the New Year, showcasing jewel-toned dresses and clouds of white tulle and little white lights.

Proprietor Courtney

Wetzel offers a wide array of bridal and formal fashions for young women. Bridal lines include Maggie Sottero, Allure, Emmaline, Stella York and more, while bridesmaid lines include Allure and Sorella Vita. There are also an array of prom and pageant dresses and dresses for other formal occasions. Blush offers one-on-one sessions for brides-to-be, bridesmaids and prom-goers, and also offers tuxedo registries for groom's parties. Appointments are strongly encouraged for brides and bridal parties; to set up a time, call 573-1647. Blush Bridal is also on Facebook.

## C&L Aerospace looks for new expansion

An aircraft servicing and maintenance company that has been growing since its 2010 move to Bangor is pushing for another expansion.

C&L Aerospace leases a trio of hangars at Bangor International Airport and now wants to lease and renovate a fourth vacant hangar in the same area.

The city's economic development staff outlined the proposal during a Business and Economic Development Committee meeting last week. They plan to work with C&L to apply for a federal Economic Development Administration grant to help cover some costs associated with the renovations that would be needed at that hangar.

C&L CEO Chris Kilgour declined to say this early in the process what purpose the new hangar space would serve.

The company and its 140 employees handle plane maintenance — everything from painting and seat upholstery to engine overhauls — for small commercial, charter and corporate aircraft from around the globe.

In 2010, C&L purchased the aircraft maintenance portion of the struggling Telford Aviation Services. Kilgour, a New Zealand native, moved his family and his company headquarters from Australia to the United States. C&L started off with just 20 employees. It has grown steadily since.

The company's expansion efforts have received boosts from the EDA in the past.

In 2014, C&L unveiled its newly renovated \$5 million headquarters at Bangor International Airport. That project, as well as an aircraft painting facility that opened later in 2014, were partly funded by a \$580,000 EDA grant.

## Stories sought for living history book

Hometown Memories Publishing Company intends to save a big slice of local history before it's lost forever. Senior editor Karen Garvey invites anyone with stories about the "good old days" in Northern and Down East Maine to write them down and mail them to her for possible publication in a living history book. The hardcover book will contain tales of bygone years from people who actually lived them.

Garvey is offering a \$250 award for the most appealing story. There will also be two \$100 runner-up awards and a cash award for best picture.

"I'm not looking for genealogy," says Garvey. "What we want to save are true stories about things that once were commonplace but are virtually unknown to today's generation. The contributor's descen-

## Pine Tree Inn to reopen after development

A Bangor property developer says he plans on keeping the name the same when he reopens the old Pine Tree Inn property, formerly part of Dow Air Force Base.

John Kearns of R&K Construction shared a few renderings and designs for the 25,000-square-foot property during a Business and Economic Development Committee meeting Tuesday night.

"We thought [keeping the name] was important and had some significance" because of the name's familiarity with members of the military who used to stay there when it was part of the base.

The two-story building at 22 Cleveland St. will be renovated and updated to serve as a 42-unit extended stay hotel. The rooms will include kitchenettes and full baths. It will offer a "medium-term" rental option meant to attract visiting doctors, traveling nurses and other professionals looking for a place to stay during extended visits to Bangor.

Kearns said R&K also does property management and regularly receives inquiries from people looking for a place to stay for two to four weeks. Before this, he didn't have anything to offer them, he told the committee.

The city issued a request for proposals in late 2014 looking for a developer to take on the project. As a result of that search, the city drafted a development agreement with R&K Construction.

Kearns will pay \$10,000 for the property and invest at least \$900,000 in the project, according to his agreement with the city.

The facility was on base property in the 1950s as living quarters for military

personnel. When the base was decommissioned in 1969, it was passed on to the Maine Army National Guard and Army Reserve.

More recently, the building housed military retirees, guard and reserve personnel, according to city officials. The city acquired the property in 2012 from the University of Maine System, which had taken over the deed from the federal government.

As part of the deal with the city, Kearns was supposed to open for business by the end of March, but he requested that be pushed back after a series of delays. Now, he said he plans to complete the renovations by October, if not sooner. The City Council is likely to approve that request for an extension during its next meeting.

## Red Cross urgently needs blood donors

The American Red Cross urgently needs blood donors to make an appointment to give this winter. Eligible blood donors of all types are needed, especially those with O, AB, B negative and A negative.

Blood is needed to respond to emergencies large and small, across the country every day. For Heather Von Glahn, it was a personal emergency — her 8-year-old daughter's leukemia diagnosis — that inspired her to make the commitment to give blood regularly.

"I've seen blood save her life at least 10 times," said Von Glahn. "When friends and family ask what they can do for my daughter, I tell them to donate blood. It matters so much!"

Blood donations are urgently needed now and throughout the winter to maintain a sufficient blood supply for patients in need.

Make an appointment to donate blood by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Upcoming blood donation opportunities in the Bangor region include from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 9 and 10, at the Collins Center for the Arts at the University of Maine, and from 1 to 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 12 at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church on Franklin Street in Buckport. Additionally, the Bangor Blood Donation Center is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays at 900B Hammond Street.

## Robinson Ballet announces new schools program

Robinson Ballet is proud to announce the addition of ACHIEVE Programs, a series of educational outreach programs designed to bring dance education into area schools, into the organization. The addition of ACHIEVE, or Arts Can Help Inspire Everyone to Excel, further continues the Robinson Ballet mission to engage the community through dance by offering education for people of all ages, abilities and aspirations.

The program was formerly housed under Community Health & Counseling Services and has served over 8,000 students in the past nineteen years. It was absorbed by Robinson Ballet after the program was in danger of being discontinued due to lack of funding. Robinson staff and board members saw an opportunity to combine the programs with their own education-

al outreach initiatives.

ACHIEVE consists of several programs including Dance in Schools; a non-competitive introduction to dance for students with little to no experience, Arts 'N' Kids; an after school musical theater program for children ages 7-11 and Hip To Be Fit; an after school program that combines nutritional education and movement based activities. These, combined with Robinson's in school performance and lecture-demos, make up the heart of the ACHIEVE initiative. Various ACHIEVE programs are currently run in schools across Central Maine including Carmel, Levant, Dedham, Hermon, Brewer, Hampden, Hancock, Sullivan and Franklin.

School performances, lecture demonstrations and master classes have always been an integral part of Robinson Ballet's commitment to increasing dance awareness. Since 1985 the Company has reached thousands of children with its educational programs. This growing in-school presence touches children who might not otherwise have the opportunity to experience dance. These programs help build future audiences and encourage an appreciation of dance as an art form. For more information, visit [robinsonballet.org/achieve](http://robinsonballet.org/achieve).

## New EMCC president named

The Maine Community College System Board of Trustees announced Friday that a technical college administrator from Minnesota will take the helm of Eastern Maine Community College.

Lisa Larson, vice president for academic and stu-

dent affairs at Hennepin Technical College in Minnesota, will take her new post at the Bangor college in the spring, according to a Friday news release. She was picked from a field of 30 applicants following a national search.

"I am extremely honored to have been selected to serve as president of Eastern Maine Community College," Larson said in a news release that announced her appointment. "I looked forward to working with the faculty, staff and students to make EMCC the best it can be. My family and I are excited to become involved in Bangor and the surrounding communities."

From 2013-2015, Larson served as interim president of North Hennepin Community College in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota. Altogether, she has 20 years of experience at community and technical colleges. She started her higher education career as a communication faculty member at Hennepin Tech.

Her annual salary will be \$125,000, according to the system.

"Her expertise in academic and student affairs, her classroom experience, and her deep knowledge of both technical and transfer education will help ensure that EMCC continues to meet the needs of its students and area employers," board Chairman Robert Clark said of Larson.

Larson takes over for former EMCC President Lawrence Barrett, who left in mid-July to take a position at Florida Gateway College in Lake City, Florida.

Joseph Cassidy, president of Washington County Community College in Calais, filled in as interim president at EMCC during the search for a permanent replacement.

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