

SAD 63 teacher's association awards scholarships

The SAD # 63 Teachers Association recently announced the recipients of two \$500 scholarships made possible by the association members. The recipients are Hannah Laskey and Emma Reynolds, both 2016 graduates of Brewer High School. Laskey is the daughter of Harold and Peggy Laskey of Eddington, and has been accepted at The University of New England and will major in nursing. Reynolds is the daughter of Dale and Jill Reynolds of Eddington, and has been accepted at the University of Maine, Fort Kent, Maine, where she will major in nursing. Any high school senior who graduated from grade eight at the Holbrook School in Holden is eligible for the scholarships.

Hope House Health & Living Center Employee of Promise receives Scholarship

As a Next Step Maine Employer engaged in Maine Development Foundation's statewide Employers' Initiative working to advance the skills and education of

Maine's workforce, Hope House Health & Living Center participated in the fourth annual Next Step Maine Employees of Promise Scholarship Program nominating their employees for scholarship awards to support the completion of a degree or certificate. Bruce Hews Jr., campus manager, was nominated by Director Ann Giggey, and received a 2016 Next Step Maine Employee of Promise Scholarship to support his pursuit of a Substance Abuse certificate from Beal College. Hews, joined by Giggey, was honored during Maine Development Foundation's Annual Next Step Maine Scholarship Recognition event on Friday, June 10, in Augusta. Next Step Maine Employees of Promise Scholarship is part of the Maine Development Foundation (MDF), a private, non-partisan membership organization that drives sustainable, long-term economic growth for the state of Maine. MDF's strategic focus is a productive workforce. The program is a free statewide initiative that awards funds to Maine employees who are currently pursuing a bachelor's degree, associate's degree or certificate program. This year's recipients were select-

ed from 40 employer nominations from a variety of Maine companies and many educational institutions. "We are extremely pleased with the progress the Next Step Maine program is making to help Maine's workforce continue with their education and training," said Yellow Breen, president of Maine Development Foundation. "There were double the number of applicants compared to last year and we raised \$35,600 for scholarship funds, which is double from last year, as well." Maine Development Foundation announced earlier this month that \$35,600 has been awarded to 28 Maine employees for a 2016 Next Step Maine Employee of Promise Scholarship. The 28 awardees, their employers and family members, were honored this past Friday, June 10th at the Annual Next Step Maine Scholarship Recognition event in Augusta. Next Step Maine received donations and grant support from the Bangor Savings Bank, Cianbro, Maine Chapter Association for Talent Development, Maine Community Foundation, Nellie Mae Education Foundation, Pratt & Whitney, Renys, Saint Joseph's College, and SHRM Maine State Council.

Hampden student among winners of statewide essay contest

Middle school students from Cumberland, Hampden and Madison emerged as winners in Maine Municipal Association's fifth annual statewide essay contest, which carried the theme: "If I Led My Community..." Part of MMA's Citizen Education program, the contest asked students to demonstrate how they would improve their hometowns and cities if they held positions of local leadership. Some 172 essays were submitted from seventh-grade students across the state. Essays were judged based on: knowledge of municipal government; writing quality and clarity; and, originality. The winners are: Abigail Jean Steinberg, of Greely Middle School in Cumberland; Meghan Ireland, of Reeds Brook Middle School in Hampden; and, Jeffrey Daniels of Madison Junior High School. Each student will receive a certificate and a \$250 prize to be used for educational purposes. The awards will be bestowed by municipal officials in their hometowns. MMA's Citizen Education program aims to educate citizens of all ages

about the importance, accessibility and effectiveness of municipal government. The essay contest, and high school curriculum developed in 2011 with Jobs for Maine's Graduates, have the dual purpose of educating young people about local government and encouraging them to get involved as future elected or appointed officials, or as municipal employees.

Penobscot Theatre Company offers week-long improv program

BANGOR — Penobscot Theatre Company is offering a week-long improv intensive 6-8 p.m. July 18-22, led by Dennis Price, founder and director of Capital City Improv. Amy Roeder, the theatre's director of education and an experienced improvisational performer and trainer, said the course was developed in response to growing interest in a craft that "trains the brain" to engage and adapt. It is open to adults and teens aged 15 and over, and novices are welcome to register along with veteran performers. All classes will be at the Bangor Opera House, 131 Main St., Bangor. The cost is \$125. "Anyone who has attended an improv show knows

it's great fun," said Roeder, "but it's exciting to see the light go on for non-performers who realize they can use improvisational techniques in their work or family lives to get better results. Improv is an effective tool for developing strong communication and public speaking skills, encouraging innovation, and becoming more nimble. And all that strengthening will happen here in a playful, relaxed context. It's summer! Why should the kids have all the fun?" Having studied in Chicago with ImprovOlympic (currently The iO Theater) and The Second City, Price has been performing for more than 15 years, most recently in the Augusta area and during the summer at ImprovAcadia in Bar Harbor. He also teaches theater and drama at Winthrop High School. Price's acting credits include Penobscot Theatre Company's productions of "The Crucible" (2004) and "A Christmas Carol" (2004, 2005). He performed last spring in the theatre's All-Star Improv Cabaret. Individuals may register online at penobscottheatre.org under the Education tab, by calling (207) 947-6618, or emailing education@penobscottheatre.org.

Dolly makes dreams come true for Bangor man during concert stop



Bangor resident and businessman Orlando Frati meets country music star Dolly Parton backstage before her performance at Darling's Waterfront Pavilion on Saturday, June 18.

BY MEG HASKELL
BDN STAFF

Forty-seven years after he snapped a compelling photograph of 23-year-old Dolly Parton making her

debut performance in Bangor, city resident and pawn shop owner Orlando Frati finally had a chance last weekend to meet the now-famous country-music superstar.

Frati, 84, had less than a minute backstage with Parton — just time enough to pose for a few quick photos before she stepped onstage for her full-house performance at the Darling's Waterfront Pavilion on Saturday. "She was beautiful," Frati said. "She had on a beautiful dress, and she was all glittered up." After the meet-up, Parton's managers escorted him back to his seat. Frati thoroughly enjoyed the concert with his daughter, who accompanied him to the event. "The show was great," he said. "She sang so many songs and told a lot of stories about her family and her childhood. She made everyone feel at home." But Frati has a more lasting memento of Parton's recent visit. At the beginning of June, Frati contacted the Bangor Daily News to suggest a story about a collection of photos he'd taken in the past, including shots of a number of big-name country music performers who performed in Bangor in the 1960s and 1970s. In particular, he said, he had a nice photo of country newcomer Dolly Parton taken in the mid-1960s, when she opened a Bangor

show for country star Porter Wagoner. Now that Parton was finally returning to Bangor, Frati suggested, perhaps readers would enjoy seeing that old photo and reliving memories of old-time country music's heyday in Maine. The BDN story and photos attracted the attention of Waterfront Concerts, the organization that books concerts at Darling's Waterfront Pavilion and other sites throughout the state. Frati was contacted and offered the opportunity to meet Parton backstage and have her sign the old photograph. He understood he would have to buy a ticket for the show, which he did. He arrived early Satur-

day evening, carrying his photo of Parton. "When I went to the security area, I found there was a ticket waiting for me," he said. But he already had a ticket and one for his daughter, too, so he didn't say anything about it. Someone from Waterfront Concerts took the old photo from him and carried it over to Parton's tour bus. When he got it back, the photograph was signed. A little while later, Frati went backstage to meet Parton in person. After being checked by security staff, Frati was brought over to meet Parton. It was just a few minutes before she would step out on the giant stage in

front of a ramped-up, adoring crowd. "She was very nice," he said. "She said, 'So, you're Orlando.' And I said, 'I can't believe I've waited 47 years to see you again.'" No one but Parton's photographer was allowed to take pictures, he said, and Parton was not signing autographs. For Frati, she'd made an exception. It was just a few seconds, and then Frati was back in the audience, holding his precious, newly signed photograph. "I'm going to have it framed and hang it in my house," he said. "She wrote, 'To Orlando, love, Dolly Parton.' That's awfully nice, don't you think?"



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