

Full lineup for Waterfront Concerts Country Megaticket announced; eight major artists set for Bangor



BDN FILE PHOTO

Dierks Bentley played on the Bangor Waterfront in 2013; a large crowd came to see him. He's part of the eight-concert Country Megaticket at Darling's Waterfront Pavilion this year.

Waterfront Concerts announced its full lineup for its annual Country Megaticket at the Darling's Waterfront Pavilion, with a whopping eight major country artists filling out the bill — more than double years past.

The Country Megaticket is a one-price all inclusive admission ticket to multiple tours featuring country artists. This year is the largest megaticket Waterfront Concerts has ever announced, adding to an already packed lineup for the concert promotion agency.

The bands and artists featured include:

Saturday, June 4
Dierks Bentley, Randy Houser, Cam and Tucker Beathard

Thursday, June 23

Florida Georgia Line, Cole Swindell, The Cadillac Three and Kane Brown

Saturday, July 9
Kenny Chesney, Old Dominion and TBD

Sunday, July 17
Luke Bryan, Little Big Town and Dustin Lynch

Thursday, July 21
Toby Keith

Friday, July 29
Darius Rucker, Dan + Shay and Michael Ray

Sunday, Aug. 21
Miranda Lambert, Kip Moore and Brothers Osborne

Sunday, Sept. 4
Rascal Flatts, Kelsea Ballerini and TBD

There are four ticket prices for admission to all eight shows. For \$225, one person can receive general admission lawn for all shows. For \$415, one per-

son can receive a seat in ticket areas 10 and 11. For \$505, one person can receive a seat in ticket areas 6 and 7. And for \$580, one person can receive general admission pit tickets — right up front.

Other Waterfront Concerts set for this summer include Dave Matthews Band June 8, the Dixie Chicks June 16, Journey and the Doobie Brothers June 22, and Bryan Adams June 28. More concert announcements are coming in February.

Country Megatickets are currently on sale via Ticketmaster, either online or by calling 1-800-745-3000, or in person at Mark's Music in Brewer. For more information, visit waterfrontconcerts.com.

Project Canopy awards grants to local groups

Project Canopy, a cooperative partnership between the Maine Forest Service and GrowSmart Maine, announced last week the recipients of the 2015 Project Canopy Assistance Grants.

The review team selected twelve Planning and Education grants and seven Tree planting and Maintenance Grants, totaling \$134,916.00 in awards. Planning grants were awarded to several area organizations in Bangor, Brewer, Orono and the Penobscot Nation.

Project Canopy Assistance Grants are available to state, county, and municipal governments, educational institutions, as well as non-profit organizations for developing and implementing community forestry projects and programs. Planting projects increase the health and livability of communities through sound tree planting and maintenance, while planning and education projects support sustainable community forestry management, and efforts to increase awareness of the benefits of trees and forests.

Kindergarten registration set for Brewer, Milford

Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten registration will take place at Brewer Community School, 92 Pendleton Street, on March 4th from 8 am to 4 pm.

Pre-k is a half day program. The morning session runs from 8 to 11:30 am and the afternoon session runs from 11:30 to 3 p.m. Students should be four years old on or before Oct. 15, 2016. Kindergarten is for students who are five years old on or before Oct. 15, 2016. If your child attended and completed pre-k at Brewer Community School, they do not need to be registered again for kindergarten.

The following items should be brought with you at the time of registration: Your child's original birth certificate, immunization record and 2 documents showing proof of residency in Brewer.

Children should not accompany their parents at this time. Orientation/screening will occur at a later date.

For more information, call Student Services at Brewer Community School, 404-5702.

Kindergarten registration and screening at the Dr. Lewis S. Libby School in Milford for the 2016-2017 school year will be held Wednesday, March 16. This is for children residing in Milford or

Greenfield who will attend kindergarten in the fall.

In order to be eligible for kindergarten, a child must be 5 years old on or before Oct. 15. In order to meet state requirements parents must bring to the registration session their child's official birth certificate and record of immunization.

For information, call the school at 827-2252, ext. 103, to schedule an appointment.

Expera sells Old Town mill

A limited liability corporation that shares an address with a Connecticut-based asset liquidator purchased the shuttered Expera Specialty Solutions pulp mill last week, according to property records and a spokeswoman for the seller.

"Expera Specialty Solutions has sold the Old Town pulp mill to MFGR LLC," Expera spokeswoman Addie Teeters said in an email.

Teeters declined to identify the people or business who formed the limited liability corporation, saying the group would issue a news release about the purchase.

According to county property records, the company shares a mailing address -- 1654 King St., Enfield, Connecticut -- with the Connecticut-based Capital Recovery Group LLC. That company was part of the joint venture group that bought the equipment of Lincoln Paper and Tissue in November and

EMCC's new Public Safety Training Facility opens



GABOR DEGRE/BDN

Maine Community College System trustees toured the new Public Safety Training Center on the campus of Eastern Maine Community College in Bangor. The facility has several classrooms, and an ambulance box is set up in the building to aid training students.

BY NICK MCCREA
OF THE BDN STAFF

Eastern Maine Community College last week opened a new space to train future firefighters, EMTs and law enforcement personnel for the first time under the same roof.

The Maine Community College System board of trustees toured the new Public Safety Training Center last week, before its meeting in Bangor.

The 12,000-square-foot facility on Hogan Road is the former home to The Maine Jump and, before that, World Over Imports. After The Maine Jump, an indoor inflatable play place, shut down in late 2013, the building sat vacant for more than a year until EMCC approached the city about buying the building, which is close to the main campus.

EMCC bought the build-

ing for \$1 million, according to EMCC Director of Administrative Services Dan Belyea, and used about \$2.4 million in bond funds to renovate and convert the large, open space into classrooms, labs and offices.

"They're going to be able to practice in a controlled environment that will help give them a taste of the real thing," Belyea told the trustees.

The new building features four classrooms, a simulation lab, meeting spaces and brings the offices of school officials responsible for the fire science, EMS and criminal justice programs under the same roof. Before this, those programs were scattered in locations across the campus.

This will help build collaboration among the programs in a field where cooperation is key, according to Chris Beaumont, chairman of the fire science program at the college. Many fire de-

partments also expect their firefighters to be trained as EMTs, for example, and some municipalities are hiring public safety directors, rather than having separate police and fire chiefs.

"Now we all share this space together," Beaumont said.

EMCC has 80 students between the three programs, according to the school.

One room features a simulator lab, where students training for law enforcement can practice situations in which they have to decide whether to use force and how to react to stressful situations.

Another room features the back of an ambulance, which was donated by Sugarloaf Ambulance/Rescue Vehicles. There, students can practice working on a patient in the confines of an ambulance. The lab is dedicated to Allan Parsons of Wilton, a paramedic who was killed in 2007.

also bid on the assets of Great Northern Paper Co.

Records show MFGR was incorporated in Delaware on Dec. 22, 2015. A message left for National Corp., which represents the entity, was not immediately returned. Nobody was immediately available for comment after business hours at Capital Recovery Group's headquarters in Connecticut.

Capital Recovery Group was one of four asset liquidators in a joint venture led by Boston-based Gordon Brothers Commercial & Industrial LLC to purchase the Lincoln equipment for \$5.95 million. The other companies in the group are PPL Group LLC of Illinois and Rabin Worldwide of California. The equipment in the Lincoln mill is expected to be auctioned off in April, making it unlikely that papermaking will continue at the site.

Capital Recovery Group's president, who was listed as a principal backer of GNP Acquisition, submitted the stalking horse bid of \$2.6 million for the East Millinocket mill during its 2014 bankruptcy sale. The mill ultimately was purchased by Hackman Capital Partners of Los Angeles for \$5.4 million.

Duane Lugdon, United Steelworkers Union international representative for Maine, said Wednesday in an email that union members are "engaged in finding out more about the sale of the

[Old Town] mill assets."

"Expera has been extremely secretive about its dealings and at this time we frankly know very little," Lugdon said. "We don't know if they considered the well-being of employees, the city of Old Town or indeed the state of Maine in their consideration. One might think they would have some desire to care about the region but perhaps we hope for too much when it comes to the corporate ethics in America today."

Expera Specialty Solutions of Kaukauna, Wisconsin, acquired the assets of the former Old Town Fuel and Fiber pulp mill for \$10.5 million on Dec. 5, 2014, during bankruptcy proceedings in U.S. District Court in Bangor.

It was announced in late September that Expera would close the facility at the end of 2015, affecting 195 workers. The mill had provided pulp for the parent company's four mills in Wisconsin.

Expera blamed the closure on the declining value of the Canadian dollar, excess pulp supply in the marketplace and relatively expensive wood costs in Maine.

Expera's closure announcement came less than a day after Lincoln Paper and Tissue LLC announced it had filed for bankruptcy and would be sold at auction, affecting 179 workers.

Expera Specialty Solutions was formed last year when KPS Capital Partners

purchased Thilmany Papers and Wausau Specialty Paper. The company makes bags for microwave popcorn, wine labels, candy wrappers and other specialty papers.

Expera bought the buildings in Old Town, the mill equipment and personal property, such as trucks and office equipment; and the land on which the mill is located after creditors forced Old Town Fuel and Fiber into bankruptcy.

Teeters declined to say what would happen to the University of Maine's Technology Research Center, which opened about five years ago and is located on the mill site.

Researchers within UMaine's Forest Bioproducts Research Institute are working on campus to create and commercialize new wood-based bioproducts that they test on a larger scale at the Technology Research Center. The center is currently renting month to month, Jake Ward, UMaine's vice president of innovation and economic development, said in December.

The deed notes the university's tenancy at the property in the exceptions to MFGR's rights to the property.

City Manager Bill Mayo said in an email that the mill's fiscal year 2015-16 taxes have not been paid. Prior taxes for the 40-acre riverfront property amounted to around \$1 million annually.



NOW OPEN

668 BROADWAY, BANGOR



Order now for Valentine's Day

HOW TO REACH US

TheWeekly

207-990-8000 or
1-800-432-7964

Published Thursdays by
Bangor Publishing Company
1 Merchants Plaza, Bangor, Maine 04401

EDITORIAL

weekly@bangordailynews.com

Aimee Thibodeau, Editor 990-8130

Emily Burnham, Staff Writer 990-8270

Fax 1-207-941-0885

Editorial deadline is one week before publication date

ADVERTISING

advertising@bangordailynews.com

Todd McLeod, Client Advocate Manager 990-8105

Fax 1-207-941-0885

Advertising notice: The Weekly reserves the right to edit or reject any and all advertising. The Weekly assumes no liability for any printing error in advertising, other than to publish a correction of that portion which was in error.