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Gus La Casse plays music on his fiddle. Many of the tunes he played were described as "kitchen party music" – because, he says, "you know where you start but don't know where it will end." Coastal Chronicle photo.

Outdoor Concert Season Ends with Acadian & Scottish Music

Two groups performed on the Milbridge outdoor stage on Friday, Sept. 14. The evening began with the St. Andrew's Pipe & Drums group members playing Scottish tunes as well as other music on bagpipes. They were followed by fiddle player Gus La Casse and guitarist Peter Lindquist, who played Acadian music. The evening was the last of the summer's musical performances on the outdoor stage. The remaining event at the stage will be the movie "Coco" on Sept. 21.

The St. Andrew's Pipe & Drums group that performed onstage is composed of five women and six men. Eight members of the group played bagpipes. The remaining three played drums: a side drum, tenor drum and bass drum. According to information on the group's website there are additional members.

The group began its performance with what is perhaps the most famous bagpipe tune, "Scotland the Brave." It went on to perform a number of other tunes including "Amazing Grace," "Teribus," "Wings," "Killiecrankie," "Mansions of the Lord" and "The Green Hills of Tyrol."

St. Andrew's Pipe and Drums is based in Ells-

worth. They perform all over the region in concerts and marching in parades and in competitions. They are led by Pipe Major Scott Heney.

La Casse and Lindquist performed during the second half of the concert. Most of the songs they played were fast-paced, with the fiddle taking the lead. La Casse described their songs as "kitchen party music," saying "you know where you start but don't know where it will end." Before the performance, La Casse said his music was characteristic of the Cape Breton region of Nova Scotia.

La Casse and Lindquist began their performance with a tune popularized by Chris Stapleton, called "Angel of the Night." They then moved on to play several songs on their new CD, "Windstorm," as well as on a 2017 CD called "Forgotten Dream." Among the songs they performed were "Tidal Falls after 8:00," "Soggy Tree," "Googly Eyes," "Slap Leather" and "Hangman's Reel." The "Tidal Falls" song was inspired by experiences of being mobbed by flies during the early evening.

During several of the tunes, the audience kept beat with vigorous clap-

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9-11 Remembrance Held in Cherryfield

A ceremony was held on Sept. 11 at the Maine American Legion Post #8 in Cherryfield in remembrance of the people killed during the terrorist attacks 17 years ago. Other remembrances were held throughout the region and country.

Originally scheduled to be an outdoor ceremony, heavy rains during the morning forced activities indoors. The ceremony started just before 8:45 am, the time the first plane, commandeered by hijackers hit one of the towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. A member of the group assembled in the Legion hall read a short religious passage and then Peter Duston played "Taps." The ceremony continued at each of the remaining three times planes crashed: 9:03, 9:37 and 10:03.

The Sept. 11, 2001, attacks resulted in the deaths of just about 3,000 people and the total destruction of the World Trade Center.

The Milbridge and Steuben fire departments had outdoor displays of boots, helmets and fire trucks in remembrance of the attacks and the lives of firefighters that were lost in the aftermath.



Peter Duston plays "Taps" as part of the 9-11 remembrance held at the Maine American Legion Post #8 in Cherryfield. Coastal Chronicle photo.



The Steuben Fire Department displays a silent remembrance of lives that were lost by emergency responders to the 9-11 terrorist attacks. Coastal Chronicle photo.

Look for our
next issue on
Wednesday, October 3 in Mailboxes
and Selected Locations

We Welcome a New Family Member: But from Afar

By Johanna S. Billings
There have been prison riots in my garage.

In early summer, our three indoor cats became interested in something outside that we could not detect. Finally, we laid eyes on it — a young brownish-gray cat with black stripes.

Because we live near Petit Manan Point, my husband, Sean, said we should name the cat Kilgore after the businessman who wanted to turn the point into something akin to Bar Harbor.

We began putting food out, gradually moving the dish closer to the house. Once, when the cat was about 10 yards away, I opened the screen door, put canned food out and went back inside.

He crouched down really low. Then he stood

up, stretched and looked around as if he wanted me to think he was going to discover that food by accident. He wasn't brave enough to come eat, though, until after I left the room. But he saw me put the food out. That was a start.

We placed a humane trap outside so he could get used to seeing it. Then we fed him in the trap without setting it. As a result, we caught him on the first try.

Imagine his surprise when he wandered in for his afternoon meal only to have the door close behind him. He freaked. He literally shredded the plastic dish in which we had placed the food.

Sean took the trap into the garage, put one end into a cage and opened the door of the trap. Kilgore shot out like a cannon, crashing into

the back wall of the cage.

Experience has taught me that feral cats who freak out will often calm down if you put a blanket, towel or sheet over the trap or cage. We did this and Kilgore was actually rather calm in our presence.

Once we left, though, the riots began. We could hear him hollering and banging around as he dumped over his litter box, spilled his water and tried to drag the blanket into the cage. What a mess!

Surprisingly he never swatted at us. He allowed me to reach my hand all the way in to get the food dish so I could refill it. He even allowed Sean and me to touch him a few times.

Some people think the best way to control the population of feral cats is to kill



Kilgore sits in the grass near our picnic table as he begins to get used to us. Johanna S. Billings photo

them. The problem with this — in addition to being inhumane — is that killing them doesn't work. For each cat killed, another takes its place as the remaining ones continue to breed.

What does work is TNR, or trap, neuter, return. When the cats in a given colony

are neutered, they stop breeding and become less aggressive, meaning fewer fights and less noise. The population stabilizes.

Kilgore is no longer a prisoner, having been neutered and released. And he knows where the food is. It looks like we've got a new friend.



Amity and Monica Chipman serve lobster mac-and-cheese and fish chowder at the outdoor stage concert. The movie "Coco" will be shown on Friday, Sept. 21. Coastal Chronicle photo.



The St. Andrews Pipe and Drum band plays at the Milbridge Theatre Outdoor Stage. The group, based in Ellsworth, performs concerts, marches in parades and participates in competitions throughout the region.

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ping. Several children were animated by the music, dancing, jumping and running in the area in front of the stage. At the close of their performance, the musicians were encouraged by the audience to play additional tunes, which they did. Somewhat remarkable is that La Casse, the fiddle player, is 17 years old. So far this year he has given 50 performances in addition to cutting a CD. He begins his senior year in high school this fall.

The evening of Scottish and Acadian music at the outdoor stage attracted the largest crowd of the year — approximately 400 people. Those who came early were served lobster mac-and-cheese and fish chowder, compliments of Chipman's Wharf.