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WASHINGTON ACADEMY

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CLASS OF 2020 p. 12-13

\$1.50



## Rest by the river

Rachael Carter's face is illuminated by the warm glow of her tablet as she rests alongside the East Machias River after a hike with her father, photographer Wayde Carter. Rachael paused near the East Machias smoking shed on a deacon's bench placed there by Bucket Davis and typically occupied by alewife enthusiasts. Wayde shot this using a Canon EOS T6i. Photo by Wayde Carter

## Domestic violence awareness exhibit comes to Machias

by Nancy Beal

The storefronts of Machias and Calais will become showcases this week for a project that grew out of a life experience and is intended to improve the lives of others who share a similar experience: domestic violence. Finding Our Voices advocates and friends are using the windows of participating businesses to hang two-by-four-foot

banners with headshots of abuse survivors and the phone number of a local help-line. The goal is to heighten awareness of domestic violence and suggest how someone trapped in an abusive relationship can reach out for help.

Finding Our Voices (FOV) was founded by Patrisha McLean of Camden, who introduced the initiative on Valentine's Day,

2019 at her local library through a month-long exhibit of the "Women in Windows" banners. Prior to receiving tax-exempt status, FOV got help from the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence. With backing from local banks and businesses, she took the exhibit to Rockland, Rockport, Islesboro, Vinalhaven, and North Haven. Most

(Exhibit cont. pg. 9)

## Gateway Milbridge summer project will celebrate Maine

by Ruth Leubecker

After last year's resounding success story, Gateway Milbridge is announcing this season's fundraising efforts for bringing back the Milbridge Theatre.

"Last year's lighthouse art project auction raised \$9,640 for us, and the

Friday Night Live Concerts raised another \$6,835," says Richard Bondurant, Gateway Milbridge chair. "The building campaign for the exterior of the building is now complete. We're now focusing on the campaign for the interior of the building -- stage, seats, lighting,

sound equipment."

An ambitious undertaking from the very beginning, the seven-phase renovation of the 80-year-old theatre has met with strong community backing. The small landmark structure has been woven tightly

(Project cont. pg. 17)

## Washington Academy graduation will honor 'tenacious' Class of 2020

by Sarah Craighead Dedmon

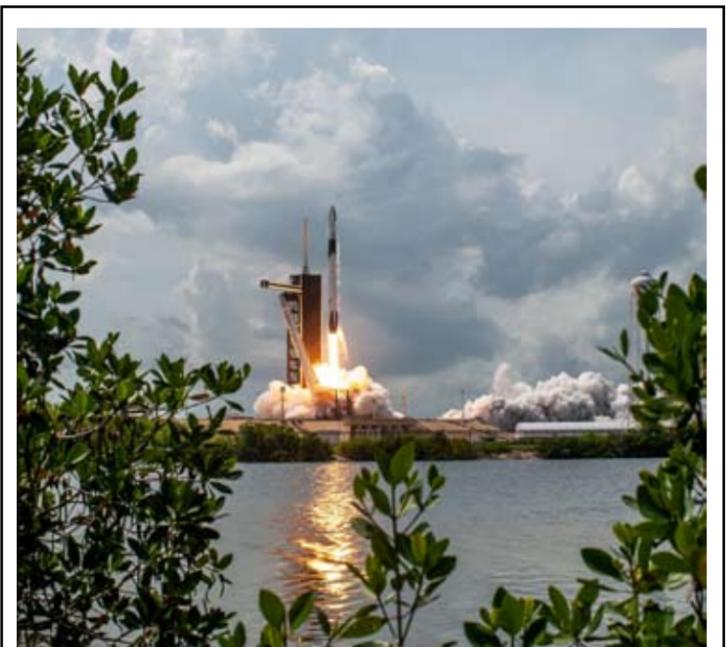
Modern technology and lots of safety precautions will make possible the Washington Academy Class of 2020 graduation ceremony, to be held on June 13 in East Machias. With more than 80 graduating seniors, the school batted around ideas for how to honor the graduating class and still abide by state coronavirus guidelines, especially the one that caps public gatherings at 50 people or less.

"In the end, we're not going to have the traditional march

into Gardner Gymnasium that has happened since 1995," said Washington Academy (WA) Head of School Judson McBrine. "But we're going to do something even more memorable."

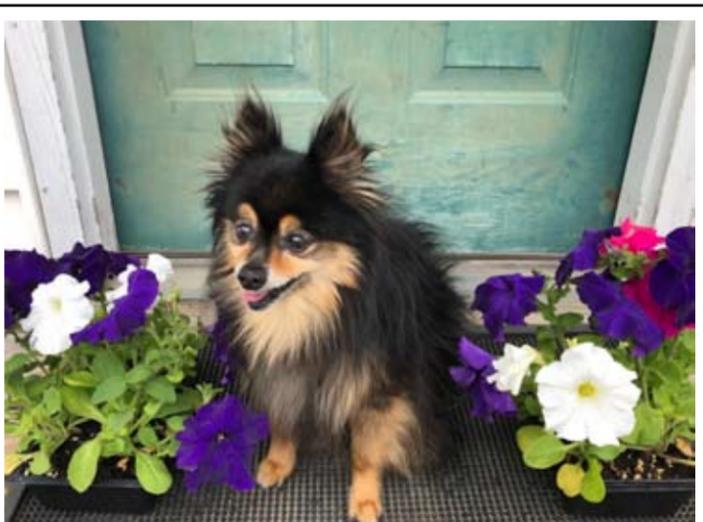
School officials initially suggested a driving graduation, where each student would receive a visit from their teachers and a diploma presentation in their own dooryard. But Washington Academy (WA) seniors lobbied to reverse that plan and drive into the school, instead.

"This way we can be with our classmates, even if you're separated (WA 2020 cont. pg. 9)



## Historic space launch from Florida

It's rare that we veer from local news, but this historic event deserves a place on every front page. NASA astronauts on May 30 launched from American soil for the first time in nine years, bound for the International Space Station. Astronauts Robert Behnken and Douglas Hurley traveled in a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket and Crew Dragon spacecraft, which they later christened Endeavour in honor of their previous travels on the space shuttle by the same name. Want to watch the ISS pass overhead? Visit [spotthestation.nasa.gov/sightings/](http://spotthestation.nasa.gov/sightings/) to find out when it is visible from your location. Photo courtesy NASA



## A seat with a view

Pomping, our office pooch, loves to see people walking by our office at 41 Broadway. Photo by Wendy Little

## Two safely pulled from St. Croix River

by Jayna Smith

On Tuesday, May 26, rescue personnel received reports of two people in the St. Croix River and in need of aid.

According to Cpl. Jullie Rogers-Marsh from New Brunswick RCMP, the two Canadian residents were fishing "at a location where it's known for good fishing," when the inflatable raft they were on flipped over.

Cpl. Rogers-Marsh said, "Both individuals were able to swim to a rock where they were rescued." She added that St. Stephen Fire

Department was on the scene for the rescue.

The rescue took place in close proximity to the Milltown border crossing.

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**Project** Continued from page 1

into the fabric of the community, but Gateway Milbridge and a host of supporters now seek to develop it as a regional entertainment center.

In these challenging days of COVID-19, plans are nonetheless taking shape. Milbridge Days and the popular Friday Night Live events have been canceled for this summer, but the Maine Bicentennial Art Project for Downtown Milbridge is taking off.

“With all the negative news as a result of COVID-19, we decided it’s time for something fun to look forward to this summer,” explains Bondurant. “So we’re announcing a new downtown art project for July and August! The project will help honor the Maine Bicentennial, and will be modeled after the Lighthouse Art Project we hosted last summer.”

Twenty intricately detailed cutouts created in the shape of the State of Maine will be adopted by 20 area artists. (These will include the 10 artists from the lighthouse project last year.)

“They will use their amazing creative talents to transform them into beautiful pieces of art, based on the theme ‘All Things Maine,’” says Bondurant. “The artwork with bios of each artist will be displayed along Main Street in Milbridge for several weeks this summer.”

He envisions a high-impact display, celebrating Maine’s statehood while drawing visitors and residents to see the cutouts, which, as last year, will have an economic benefit to local businesses.

“Like last year, community voting will take place online to select the favorites from the designs,” says

Bondurant. “Because we have 20 artists, we will do a top-three selection of Fan Favorites, with cash prizes for those three. An auction of the art pieces will be held with proceeds going toward the rebuilding of the Milbridge Theatre.”

The Maine cutouts are 36 inches tall and 24 inches wide. They all are envisioned eventually as being beautiful wall hangings. Participating artists are Janie Snider, Maeve Perry, Karen Schevenius, Heidi Beal, Ora Aselton, Joanne Hapin, Anthony Surratt, Reneen Freeman, Ken Graslie, Francie Shepherd, Jean Driscoll, Heidi Huckins, Dawn Rachael Dow, Jennifer Kearns, Alahna Roach, Hazel Carter, Helga Frenner, Kayla Pinkham and Casey Openshaw.

The absence of Milbridge Days has been a major disappointment in this summer of 2020. “We had a large kick-off dance celebration scheduled for the opening night with the Allison Ames Band at the outdoor stage,” says Bondurant, “so, while it’s disappointing, the decision was not unexpected.” (The Milbridge Board of Selectmen recently canceled Milbridge Days due to the coronavirus.)

However, several organizations are working on events that can be held for smaller crowds with an eye to following COVID guidelines while still doing something positive for the community.

Four years ago Gateway Milbridge commissioned the building of 20 industrial-sized flower planters. The group has continued to maintain the planters and fill them each season. “They’ve been very

popular and have done very well,” says Bondurant. “This week our volunteers are getting the flowers and planting them for the summer. This year we also bought small-sized Maine flags to place in each planter. The flowers brighten up the town during these difficult times.”

Other projects planned include a sidewalk chalk art contest for kids, and the Milbridge town banners replaced and donated by Gateway Milbridge. Many had been damaged due to weather conditions, so the group has replaced 10 of the banners with funds from a generous donor. They were installed last week.

The drafts of the building plans of the theatre are in the process of being approved by the state. “Once we have the approvals, we can get through the completion of this phase,” explains Bondurant. “But the COVID situation has impacted the process quite a bit due to government offices being closed for in-person visits.”

Enough money has been raised to start construction, according to Bondurant, and the board looks forward to moving ahead as soon as the state gives its approval. However, so much of future progress remains tenuous at best as summer game plans loom through these months of uncertainty. The outdoor stage was moved to its new waterfront location this past winter so that groundbreaking preparation at the theatre site could begin this year.

“After discussing the situation with other communities facing these same decisions, as well as the performers, residents and board members, we decided to cancel the Friday Night Live performances,”



Four years ago Gateway Milbridge commissioned 20 of these industrial-size planters. This year, in honor of the state’s bicentennial, they have commissioned 20 artists to paint two-by-three foot cutouts of Maine. Photo courtesy Gateway Milbridge

said Bondurant. “We had a great concert schedule lined up, and hope to reschedule most of those performers for summer 2021.”

reflecting, “It is possible, if things improve tremendously by August, that we might try to have some type of performance late in the summer.”

He holds out hope, however,

**HELP WANTED**



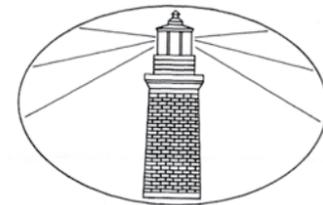
**Director of Social Services**

Marshall Healthcare Facility is seeking a Director of Social Services. MHC is a 64 bed skilled/long-term care facility that also provides hospice and respite care services. This key leadership position is the liaison with residents, families and outside providers assisting residents with admission and discharges and all social and emotional issues throughout their stay. This position performs periodic assessments to determine their status and needs. The candidate must be currently licensed as a Social Worker in the State of Maine: experience in long term care is preferred and as well as knowledge of the Medicare/Mainecare systems. Excellent assessment, communication, computer and counseling skills necessary.

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**NOTICES / LEGALS**

**RSU/SAD #37 VACANCIES**

RSU/SAD 37 is accepting applications for the following:

- Special Education Ed Tech II or III at DW Merritt Elementary (requires 60-90 post-secondary credit hours to be eligible for certification)
- Elementary Guidance Counselor
- Math Teacher at Narraguagus
- Teacher for CTE Automotive program
- Evening Custodian at Harrington Elementary
- Custodian for CTE building in Columbia
- School Secretary at Milbridge Elementary

For information/application, contact:  
**Superintendent of Schools**  
1020 Sacarap Rd.  
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Email: dfickett@msad37.org

Applications will close on Tuesday, June 16, 2020.

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