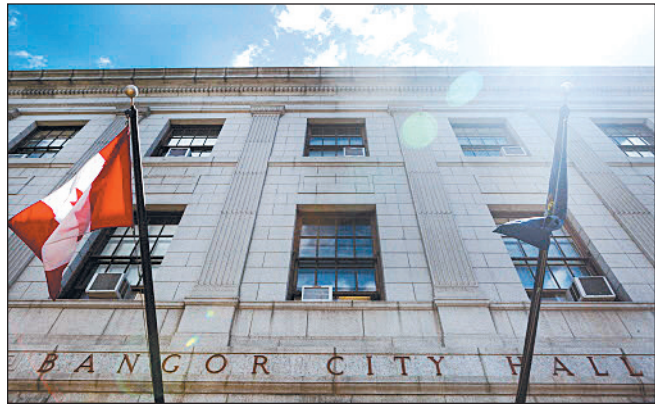


Bangor plans domestic violence training



BY ALEX ACQUISTO
BDN STAFF

The city of Bangor is planning to overhaul its approach to training about domestic violence so that employees can better recognize the signs, and provide help and support to those affected by it.

At a City Council workshop April 23, Bangor Human Resources Officer Richard Cromwell told councilors training for new employees will soon include

a separate policy that supports those affected by domestic violence, and also teaches how to respond if a coworker is in a violent relationship.

Councilors decided to reinvigorate city policies last summer, with the help of Casey Faulkingham of Bangor-based Partners for Peace. However, recent events with Waterfront Concerts brought to light the need to expedite these changes, Faulkingham said. "I think it's the least we

can do. Obviously it will never be enough, but having something in place going forward is vital," Councilor Gibran Graham said.

Waterfront Concerts owner and Bangor contract holder Alex Gray pleaded guilty to domestic violence assault last October, a month after the city signed a 10-year contract with his company. Gray also holds a contract with the city of Portland, whose officials were, until recently, negotiating a separate contract re-

newal with the prominent concert promoter.

But earlier this month, Gray's ex-girlfriend, Erica Cole, who brought the charge against him after she said he choked her and repeatedly hit her head against the floor last winter, implored Portland officials to stop doing business with Gray. Last week, the Portland city council unanimously made that decision.

Cromwell and Faulkingham, Partner for Peace's *See Training, Page B2*

Maine Border Patrol agent indicted on porn charge

BY CALLIE FERGUSON
BDN STAFF

A U.S. Border Patrol agent in Houlton faces a federal child pornography charge.

Larry O'Neal, 44, was indicted on Feb. 15 for one felony count of possession of child pornography, according to documents filed in federal court.

He is accused of having amassed a large collection of sexually explicit images of children, some of them violent in nature, on his personal computer, according to documents.

He pleaded not guilty in U.S. District Court in Bangor on Feb. 22.

CBP spokeswoman Stephanie Malin declined to comment on the case, but said the agency "is fully cooperating with the FBI and [Department of Homeland Security] Office of the Inspector General regarding this investigation."

Homeland Security agents started investigating O'Neal in early January when they traced a downloaded file of suspected child pornography to an IP address at his house in Houlton, according to an arrest affidavit. The agency frequently investigates child pornography cases because the material often crosses international borders via the internet, as in O'Neal's case, according to a criminal complaint.

He was arrested on Jan. 19, the day agents obtained a warrant and searched his Pearce Avenue home and Subaru.

They found a computer and an external drive that contained both child and adult pornography, including images of girls between the ages of about 12 and 14 performing sex acts and posing naked in sexually explicit positions, according to the affidavit.

See O'Neal, Page B2



TROY R. BENNETT | BDN

Allan Monga of Deering High School.

Westbrook teen does not advance to finals in poetry competition

BY EMILY BURNHAM
BDN STAFF

A Westbrook teen who went to court last month for the right to participate in a national poetry competition competed in Washington D.C. Tuesday in the semifinals, but did not advance to the final round.

Allan Monga, 19, recited "Song of the Smoke" by W.E.B. DuBois, and "She Walks In Beauty" by Lord Byron during the semifinal rounds in the national Poetry Out Loud contest. He was not chosen as one of the eight students who advanced to the semi-final round of the regional competition. Nine students will compete in the finals, to be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Lisner Auditorium at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

"Just being here, and experiencing this was like heaven to me," Monga told the Portland Press Herald. "I did not feel bad or feel any sorrow. I did my best but I guess it was not what the judges were looking for."

U.S. Rep. Chellie Pingree congratulated Monga in a press release issued Tuesday afternoon.

See Monga, Page B2



TROY R. BENNETT | BDN

William Hessian touches Jessica Lauren Lipton with hands dipped in powdered charcoal during her performance art event at Flask Lounge in Portland on Tuesday. In Lipton's piece, called "My Body Is Your Body Is Everybody Is Nobody," she invites strangers to touch her and leave the charcoal behind.

Portland artist explores need of physical connections

BY TROY R. BENNETT
BDN STAFF

Pop artist Jessica Lauren Lipton stood on the dance floor at Flask Lounge in Portland on April 17, clad only in her underwear. Lipton stayed silent but her voice looped on a sound system. It invited strangers to dip their fingers in powdered charcoal and caress her body. She asked them to leave soot-stained fingerprints on her pale skin, blackened evidence of where their hands had roamed.

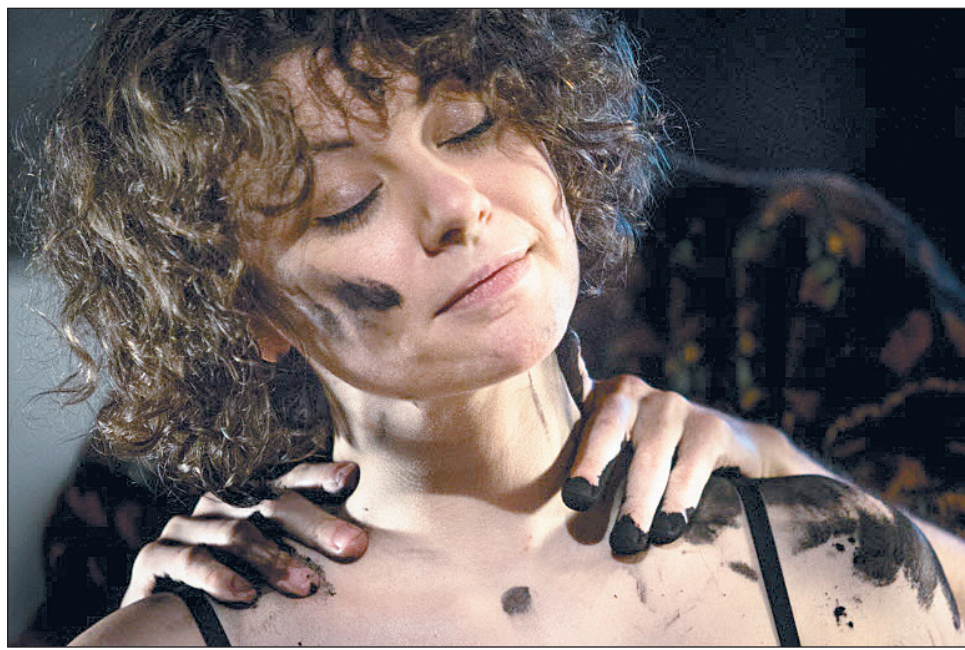
Half a dozen people did just that. Some were quick, others lingered, but everyone left their mark.

By the end of Lipton's happy hour art performance, her neck, face, hands and belly bore smudges. Beaming, she then put on her clothes and celebrated her success with a beer at the bar.

Lipton calls her exploration of human touch "My Body is Your Body is Everybody is Nobody." She's not finished, either. Moving on from the caress, over the next three Tuesdays, she will ask people to squeeze, slap and kiss her — all for the sake of art.

No stranger to the city's art scene, Lipton used to oversee the First Friday Art Walk for Creative Portland. She's also been involved with the Dooryard artist collective, Creative Portland Corporation and the Portland Public Art Committee.

Lipton moved to Maine from New Jersey more than a decade ago. Besides per-



TROY R. BENNETT | BDN

Jessica Lauren Lipton closes her eyes as someone touches her with charcoaled fingers while standing on the dance floor at Flask Lounge in Portland on Tuesday.

formance art, she is known for her installation work, video and sculptures made from thousands of plastic six-pack rings. Lipton's been developing her current performance piece since 2011.

Q: Given that most of the people who will see this story in Maine are not artists, just what are you trying to prove, here?

A: I'm trying to prove that people need human contact, that we need touch and we're a very touch-starved society. Maybe they need it more than they're saying, more than they can vocalize — that they need that physical connection for their well-being.

See Touch, Page B2

Victim's life could have been saved

BY NICK MCCREA
BDN STAFF

BELFAST — Edwin Littlefield's life could have been saved by basic first aid — keeping him still and putting pressure on his stab wounds — or a prompt 911 call, the state medical examiner testified Tuesday during the manslaughter trial of Victoria Scott.

Scott is accused of stabbing Littlefield repeatedly in the driveway of a mutual friend's home in Waldo in February 2017. Scott claims Littlefield was straddling her, pinning her to the ground while striking

and choking her, and that she pulled a switchblade out of her pocket and used it in self-defense.

Mark Flomenbaum, Maine's chief medical examiner, conducted the autopsy on Littlefield's body.

He testified that he found 11 "sharp injuries" — cuts and stab wounds — on Littlefield's body.

There were five stab wounds on his left thigh, including four that were "clustered" together and at the same angle, indicating they happened in rapid succession. There were two more in his left calf.

See Scott, Page B2



GABOR DEGRE | BDN

Victoria Scott at the Waldo County Superior Court on the first day of her trial Monday. Scott is charged with manslaughter in the stabbing death of Edwin Littlefield in February 2017 in Waldo.

Charges dismissed against driver in fatal crash

BY JUDY HARRISON
BDN STAFF

A Bangor man accused of causing the death of a tourist in Bar Harbor more than two years ago was sentenced Tuesday to time served after pleading no contest to reckless conduct with a dangerous weapon.

Miguel A. Garcia, 43, was released Tuesday after spending nine months and a day at the Hancock County Jail while awaiting trial, according to his attorney, Steven Juskewitch of Ellsworth.

Garcia entered his plea at the Hancock County Courthouse on the day his jury

trial was set to begin.

Charges of manslaughter, aggravated criminal operating a motor vehicle under the influence of intoxicants and aggravated assault were dismissed, according to Hancock County District Attorney Matthew Foster.



Garcia

Juskewitch said Tuesday that Garcia showed no signs of being impaired at the scene or the hospital in Bar Harbor on the day of the accident, Sept. 15, 2015.

But Garcia was not feeling well that day, Juskewitch said.

"There never should have been a criminal prosecution in this case," he said. "Miguel and his family were devastated and remorseful from the day of the accident. He did not want the widow to have to go through any more trauma, so did not go to trial. He completely believed he was innocent."

The plea agreement was struck after Superior Court Justice Bruce Mallonee ruled that the results of a blood test could not be presented to the jury, Foster said.

"After considering evidence, including competing opinions of toxicologists for the state and for the defense, the judge ruled that the danger of unfair prejudice to Mr. Garcia outweighed the probative value of the test results as they related to whether or not Mr. Garcia was affected by narcotics at the time of the crash," Foster said.

Garcia was driving a box truck on Route 3 between the village of Hulls Cove and downtown Bar Harbor when the truck drifted across the road, Bar Harbor police have said.

Just moments before, Roger Beghtol, 79, of Hen-

dersonville, North Carolina, had pulled over to the side of the road in his 2010 Buick Lacrosse along a section of the highway known as "The Bluffs," which overlooks Frenchman Bay. Beghtol was standing by the Buick when the truck struck him and the car.

Beghtol died a short time later at Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor from injuries he suffered in the collision. His wife, Sally Beghtol, 76, was a passenger in the Buick and was still in the vehicle when the collision occurred. She was taken to the Mount Desert Island Hospital in Bar Harbor with injuries that were

not life-threatening, police have said.

The maximum penalty for reckless conduct with a dangerous weapon is five years in prison and a fine of up to \$5,000.

Garcia had been held without bail since late July, when his bail on the Hancock County charges, issued in April 2016, was revoked after unrelated charges were filed in Penobscot County. Garcia pleaded guilty to misdemeanor charges of driving an unregistered vehicle and criminal mischief after he allegedly struck a utility pole and mailboxes in Bangor.

Scott

Continued from Page B1

"Those were the injuries responsible for his death, they cut deep arteries and caused an enormous amount of bleeding," Florenbaum told jurors, adding that two major arteries were severed in Littlefield's leg.

Littlefield also suffered a cut on his index finger, possibly a defensive wound, a cut on his scalp, a stab wound to his arm and another to his abdomen, Florenbaum said. Another cut above his right eye was likely caused by a blunt force impact.

As images of Littlefield's body and wounds were displayed on courtroom screens, Scott stared down at the table.

The medical examiner said the types of injuries Littlefield suffered typically aren't fatal if treated quickly. A tourniquet, or quick response by anyone in the house, an EMT, or Littlefield himself could have slowed the bleeding enough to save his life. Had Littlefield stayed still, the bleeding also might have slowed to the point where it did not imperil his life.

Instead, Littlefield limped down the driveway, and entered the basement of the house as he continued to bleed out. Prosecutors say he likely didn't realize how serious his injuries were. Defense attorneys say he went into the basement looking to fight.

He was found dead in the homeowner's truck parked in the driveway by a family member of the homeowner, who called 911.

The stabbing happened after Scott overheard Littlefield tell the homeowner that she shouldn't trust Scott, whom he called a "junkie" and several obscene terms, according to court testimony. Prosecutors say Littlefield was leaving, walking down the driveway, and Scott pursued him into the driveway and provoked the fight.

An emergency room physician at Waldo County General Hospital and a Belfast paramedic, both of whom treated and examined Scott on the night of the stabbing, also testified Tuesday.

They said they didn't find significant injuries on Scott, and didn't note any bruising or cuts to her face, neck, back or torso that would be consistent with being beaten on the ground. CAT scans also didn't reveal anything abnormal.

Scott suffered a wound to her thigh, likely caused by a knife, which was closed with seven stitches.

Questions are swirling in the trial about what happened not only in the driveway, but also what happened afterward when Littlefield entered the basement of the house and met Josh Dorman.

Dorman and Scott were staying at the Waldo home as guests of the homeowner, Rose Newton. Newton gave Dorman rides in exchange for helping out around the house. Dorman and Scott also purchased prescription medications from Newton and allegedly abused them, Dorman testified Tuesday.

Littlefield was also a friend of Newton's, and stayed at the home periodically. Dorman said neither he nor Scott had argued with Littlefield before that night.

Dorman admitted on the stand that he lied repeatedly to police investigators

and attorneys about what he saw and did that night. Dorman changed his story multiple times during police interviews. He now says that his claims that he saw the struggle in the driveway, the specifics of where he saw Littlefield after the stabbing, his outline of the sequence of events, among other details, weren't true.

Dorman said much of what he told police that night was a "bunch of bullcrap," and that his drug use likely affected his observations and memories of that night.

He maintains that he walked into the basement and Littlefield moved toward him with his hands raised as if he was going to choke him. Dorman said he pushed Littlefield down and Littlefield hit his head. Dorman claims he helped Littlefield stand up and walk out of the basement and to the truck. He denied under questioning that he had a knife, or that he assaulted Littlefield in the basement.

Police doubted his story because there were two large pools of blood on the floor with a streak of blood between them, as if Littlefield had been dragged across the basement floor. Dorman said he couldn't explain the blood patterns. He said he didn't notice the amount of blood on the ground and didn't believe Littlefield was that severely injured.

Scott allegedly told investigators that Dorman claimed to have "beat up" Littlefield in the basement. Dorman said that was a lie he told in hopes it would impress Scott, who he had strong, unreciprocated, feelings for.

Scott's defense attorneys have speculated an altercation in the basement could have sped up Littlefield's blood loss.

Dorman agreed to testify in exchange for immunity from any prosecution for drug crimes based on what he said on the stand, and said it was his understanding that he also wouldn't be charged with manslaughter. It's unclear whether he might face future charges for lying to police.

Prosecutors expect to call a few more witnesses Wednesday. The trial is expected to last through Friday.

Follow Nick McCrea on Twitter at @nmcrcree213.

Touch

Continued from Page B1

Q: You're doing these performances in your underwear, in a Portland bar, during happy hour. Are you just trying to be provocative?

A: I think it comes off as provocative. Doing this work in a gallery setting has its own boundaries too — it's not as accessible. There's something about doing it in a space that's really inclusive. Flask Lounge is very inclusive. Then, purposefully doing it at happy hour on a Tuesday is because a lot of my fellow creatives work in the service industry and (this way)

they can attend something that's experimental and different. You're on your way home from work, you're thinking about maybe grabbing a drink, or you're walking by. (You can) pop in and see something different. I always want to reach a broader audience.

Q: How will these performances play out?

A: The first one was the caress. That's the best way to break the ice. It's just a soft way to touch somebody and think about what it is to brush against their skin. The April 24 performance will be the squeeze, which brings pressure. You can squeeze somebody, like giving a message, versus you can squeeze somebody to

hurt them. You can squeeze somebody to stop them. Somebody might come up and try to squeeze my throat — as long as they're not really going to hurt me. That's where I can learn more about people, the more they interact with me. How you choose to touch me tells me more about you than it says about me. The third week goes into the slap. I think it will be less (worrisome) than everyone perceives. I don't think it's going to be really aggressive. But we'll see. And then the final week is ending with a kiss.

Q: Are you ready to get judged for doing this in public? The comments under this story alone are

bound to be pretty harsh.

A: I think the people who are going to make the most negative comments, they need a hug. They might need this kind of interaction with somebody. To actively go out to belittle and hurt people, it shows more about what they're lacking, what they're missing. I get the comment from friends and supporters, "This work is very brave." I don't feel brave doing this. I feel I have to do it. I recognize there's a very political statement in being a female body — in the context of what's happening in the world right now — saying I'm here, I'm standing in a bar, in my underwear, saying, "You can touch me."

Monga

Continued from Page B1

"Allan's performance was incredible — you could tell he put his whole heart into it," she said. "I'm so glad he was able to represent Maine and add his distinct voice to this national competition. He may not have made it to the finals today, but he should be very proud of what he has accomplished both on and off the stage."

Pingree, a Democrat who represents southern Maine,

is scheduled to meet with Monga on Wednesday morning at her office in Washington, D.C.

Monga told the Press Herald he still plans to attend the finals before returning to Maine later in the week.

He won the state Poetry Out Loud contest, sponsored in Maine by the Maine Arts Commission and nationally by the National Endowment for the Arts. The poetry recital contest rules require participants at the state and national levels to be citizens of the U.S. or permanent resident aliens.

Monga, who moved to Maine from Zambia last year, has applied for asylum but has not yet received a green card. He and the school district sued the NEA in U.S. District Court earlier this month for not allowing him to compete at the national level.

U.S. District Judge John Woodcock said in his 39-page order that Monga would be harmed by being excluded from this one-time opportunity to compete on a national level. The judge left open the possibility that with more time for legal briefs and arguments, he

might not order the NEA to change its rules going forward.

The case is expected to go forward but no dates for filings or hearings have been set.

Last month, the Maine Arts Commission ignored the citizenship eligibility rule and allowed Monga to compete, according to court filings. The commission also did not replace Monga with the runner-up as the NEA instructed.

The commission declined to comment on Monga's showing Tuesday citing the pending litigation.

Training

Continued from Page B1

community response team leader, are working together to draft the changes, which will become part of the training for city employees and city councilors.

This will hopefully represent the first phase of a longer-term partnership that includes setting standards not

only for city employees, but anyone who contracts with the city, Faulkingham said.

The goal is to ensure employees are equipped to properly address a victims' needs, should the situation arise, Cromwell said. Being able to respond to any situation is key, like, "what do you do when someone comes to you with an issue and you need to help them?" he said.

"We need to create a comfort zone for the employee in the workplace ... and then,

conversely, [provide] some training for them and for their supervisors, as well," said Cromwell.

Cromwell told councilors Monday night that the current domestic violence training for supervisors and employees is inadequate.

"It's something we really aren't prepared for right now, and it's something we need to prepare for soon," he said.

Councilors were in favor

of the changes. Implementing the new standards will not require a council vote, but the new changes will likely be reviewed by the council beforehand.

Faulkingham agreed. "We believe that by sending messages of fairness and equality, [and] by supporting survivors and [holding] offenders accountable, we're doing our part to end domestic violence in our communities."

O'Neal

Continued from Page B1

While the search was taking place, Special Agent Edward Ainsworth interviewed O'Neal at his workplace.

O'Neal told the agent that he downloaded the pornography from the internet and that he searched for it using terms such as "young," "rape," and "teen hardcore," according to the affidavit.

Investigators found no evidence that O'Neal ever

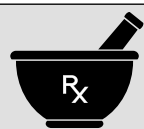
stored the pornography on his work computer or used government property, according to the documents.

O'Neal hung up on a BDN reporter when called at his home.

He was released on bail conditions several days after his arrest and is next set to appear in U.S. District Court in Bangor on June 6 to begin trial proceedings.

If convicted, he faces up to 10 years in prison and fine of up to \$250,000, and would be required to register as a sex offender.

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