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10 PAGES

PRICE 75 CENTS

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### Upcoming summer events



## SPORTS PAGE 6

### State track and field Championships



## RSU 68 passes budget

### Moved to June 14 referendum

By Stuart Hedstrom  
Staff Writer

DOVER-FOXCROFT — A proposed \$10,515,086 RSU 68 budget for the 2016-17 academic year was approved at the annual district budget meeting on May 31 at the Se-DoMoCha School. The spending package will now go to a referendum in the towns of Charleston, Dover-Foxcroft, Monson and Sebec on Tuesday, June 14 with residents of the four communities voting either “yes” or “no” to make a district-wide decision.

“We have what we think is a fiscally responsible budget to the communities that RSU 68 serves, that also meets the needs of our school system and supports our goals,” Superintendent Robert Lucy said.

The approximate \$10.5 million figure approved at the district budget meeting across the 22 articles by the 20 voters in attendance represents an increase of over \$393,300 (about 3.89 percent) from the current year’s budget. The total is made up of over \$5,282,700 in state contributions (about 3 percent more than in 2015-16) and another \$5,232,300 in local revenues, with the four district towns having a combined local assessment of \$4,546,663.

The local contribution total of a little less than \$4.1 million is down by \$8,640 from 2015-16 and the \$388,852 in local additional monies is up by \$240,884. Another \$59,000-plus assessed to the four communities is for adult education.

Lucy said the approximate 5.5 percent rise in assessments is a little less than the rate of assessment increases for the towns from the year before. The four total proposed assessments are \$2,720,387 for Dover-Foxcroft, \$642,666 for Sebec, \$615,797 for Charleston and \$567,812 for Monson.

“I can tell you over the last six months we have really scrutinized every line carefully,” Lucy said. “Since January we have cut \$400,000 in expenditures off of the first budget.”

Please see Page 2, RSU 68

## Annual Arts Alive Event



Observer photo/Stuart Hedstrom

**HAPPY 200TH BIRTHDAY GUILFORD!** — The annual Arts Alive event at Piscataquis Community Elementary School, held on Friday, June 3, began with the K-6 student body posing in the numbers of 200 on the side of the hill behind the building in Guilford. The students posed for a photo to be given to the town of Guilford in recognition of the community’s bicentennial. Arts Alive, which for nearly a quarter century has featured a day of activities outside of the normal classroom curriculum, had over 100 volunteers from the community take part this year.

## John Simko will be departing at summer’s end

GREENVILLE — Town Manager John Simko plans to resign after the end of his current three-year contract at the beginning of September. Simko’s resignation was accepted with regret by the selectmen during a June 1 meeting.

“As you will see from the meeting minutes of the June 1, 2016 selectmen’s meeting, I have resigned my post as town manager, effective Sept. 2, 2016, which is the end of my current employment contract,” Simko wrote in thank-you letter to recipients on an email mailing list. “I have been hired by Androscog-

Please see Page 2, SIMKO

## SAD 41 postponing school construction plan indefinitely

### Directors still working on 2017 budget

By Stuart Hedstrom  
Staff Writer

MILO — For much of 2016, the SAD 41 school board, district faculty and staff and others have been working on a construction project based on the concept of a 25-year plan to address the facility needs in the district with pre-kindergarten through grade 12 all being housed at the Penquis Valley School campus in Milo.

During a June 1 school board meeting, a motion to delay the school construction project was passed with no timetable set to resume. The first public meeting on

the project, which would have included architect Steven Blatt, was scheduled for Wednesday, June 8 and a possible referendum had been considered in September.

School board member Bob Ade of Milo brought up the possibility of delaying the project — first making a motion to place the item on the board’s agenda — citing the construction costs. “These communities and towns can’t afford this plan,” Ade said. “I want the new school but it’s not fiscally responsible.”

Ade suggested more time be given for SAD 41 officials to meet with the selectboards

of Atkinson, Brownville, La-Grange and Milo. He said the towns can then develop multiple-year plans to help budget for the school construction project.

“Milo’s going to control what happens in this district,” Ade said, saying this is another reason to delay the project. He explained with Milo’s population being greater than the other three SAD 41 towns combined, these residents would have to pay the construction costs regardless of the outcome

Please see Page 2, SAD 41



Observer photo/Jeanette Hughes

**A RETURN HOME** — Mrs. Maine America 2016 Jessica Snowdeal, who grew up in Milo and is a 2000 graduate of Penquis Valley High School, was back in town for the 2016 Black Fly Festival on Saturday morning. Snowdeal now lives in Sullivan with her husband and three sons. Snowdeal is scheduled to take part in the Mrs. America 2016 national competition Aug. 27 in Las Vegas.

## PCES principal finds silver lining in brain injury

### Minor ‘bump’ in the hallway forces school leader to take concussions more seriously

By Stuart Hedstrom  
Staff Writer

GUILFORD — What was at first thought to have been “just a bump”

between the heads of Piscataquis Community Elementary School Principal Anita Wright and a student turned out to be much more for the admin-



PCES Principal Anita Wright

istrator. To her surprise, the contact resulted in Wright being diagnosed with a concussion and still be recovering two months later.

“I bumped heads with a student and, this is the important thing to know, it wasn’t like some major hit,” Wright, 51, said Friday in her office after the conclusion of the school day. Wright said, with her own head turned, the girl accidentally walked into her on the way to leaving for a field trip when their heads

Please see Page 10, BRAIN INJURY

## Foxcroft’s championship track stars specialize in versatility

Foxcroft Academy’s Class B state championship boys track team reflects a throwback accomplishment of sorts in today’s Facebook vernacular.

Not that single-sport specialization is readily rampant among young Maine athletes, but at the heart of the coach Rob Weber’s championship squad were several standouts who seemingly know no limit in accepting athletic challenges — much like their predecessors from generations ago.

Take Hunter Smith, the senior who led the way with two firsts and two seconds during the state meet on Mount Desert Island last Saturday. Smith has thrived athletically in football, basketball and track for Foxcroft, and as a result will continue his competitive career as a scholarship football player at the University of Maine in the fall.

Teammate Zach Caron also has stood out in multiple arenas, including the wrestling mat where he is



Contributed photo

**STATE CHAMPS!** — The Foxcroft Academy boys are the 2016 Class B state outdoor track and field champions. The Ponies finished the meet on June 4 in Bar Harbor with a score of 71 points, edging York High School by seven points. The state crown is the second in program history for Foxcroft, joining the Class C title won in 2013 when the seniors were freshmen. For more from the meet, please see page 6.

a three-time state champion. And after he transferred from Dexter to Foxcroft for his senior year, he took up the pole vault for the first time — and finished third in that event at States with a best of 12 feet to go with another third in the triple jump and a seventh in the high jump.

Another Foxcroft senior, Nate Church, has balanced his efforts as one of the state’s top sprinters — he was third in both the 100 and 200 at states — with his role as ace of the

Please see Page 6, TRACK

## Painting honors WWII Brownville soldier who gave his life for his country

By Stuart Hedstrom  
Staff Writer

BROWNVILLE — Students, teachers and visitors to the Brownville Elementary School will now have a continual reminder of the life of a resident killed during a German U-boat attack off the coast of France during World War II. A painting by Allen Monroe and given to the school by benefactor local historian and author Bill Sawtell was unveiled on June 2 during the school’s end-of-the-year awards assembly.

“Today we have a very special honor, I am going to present a painting to you done by an artist from Milo, Allen Monroe,” Sawtell told the assembly audience. “That is Pfc. Edward Stone who gave his life for this country,” Sawtell said after Monroe removed the sheet to unveil the portrait. “Imagine that, he grew up right down the road from this school and worked at the mill right down the road from this school.”

On Christmas Eve, 1944 Stone, who was 23, and over 2,200 other U.S. Army infantrymen were cross-



Observer photo/Stuart Hedstrom

**REMEMBER SOMEONE WHO GAVE ALL** — A painting of U.S. Army Pfc. Edward F. Stone will now be on display at Brownville Elementary thanks to portrait benefactor Bill Sawtell and artist Allen Monroe. Stone, who was a resident of Brownville, was killed during a German U-boat torpedo attack on the S.S. Leopoldville off the coast of France on Christmas Eve, 1944. Stone, 23 at the time of his death, was survived by a wife and four children.

ing the English channel to France on the S.S. Leopoldville to join the Battle of the Bulge. Five miles off the coast the ship was struck by a U-boat torpedo. The S.S. Leopoldville sank, with nearly 800 on board losing their lives, including Stone whose body was among 500 never recovered.

“That painting’s going to hang here in the school so you will have that in the school to remind you,”

Please see Page 2, PAINTING

FIND THE WHOOPIE PIE CONTEST  
LOOK IN THIS ISSUE FOR DETAILS!



# PCHS honors parts

GUILFORD — Piscataquis Community High School is proud to announce Jordyne Davis Littlefield as the Class of 2016 valedictorian. Littlefield is the daughter of William and Kathy Littlefield of Guilford, and she is the great-granddaughter of Leona Davis of Guilford.

Littlefield is a three-sport captain and varsity athlete, receiving the honor of being a 2016 Maine McDonald's basketball senior all-star. She has held numerous student council offices, is a member of the National Honor Society, part of the Envirothon team and is a member of the honor roll. In the fall Littlefield will be attending the University of

Maine as part of the biology program.

Hailey Ann Bergeron is the salutatorian of the Class of 2016. Bergeon is the daughter of Michelle Dutremble of Parkman and the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don Dutremble of Parkman.



Bergeron

During her time at PCHS, Bergeron has been an active member of the Drama Club and she has taken part in numerous productions at the Center Theatre in Dover-Foxcroft. Bergeron has maintained high honors and she is also a member of the National Honor Society. In the fall she will be attending the University of Maine as part of the liberal arts program.



Littlefield

# Sen. Davis posts perfect voting record during recent legislative term

AUGUSTA — According to statistics recently released by the Secretary of the Senate, Sen. Paul Davis (R-Sangerville) did not miss a single vote during the 127th Maine Legislature.

“Our representative form of government is based in the idea that elected officials are speaking as the voice of their constituents,” Davis said. “That is why being in the Senate Chamber to vote is of such importance to me. My vote is my constituents’ voice at the Statehouse, and they should be represented

on the many crucial issues that lawmakers take up each year.”

Over the course of the two years of the 127th Maine Legislature, lawmakers dealt with nearly 2,000 pieces of legislation. Of the bills that came before the Legislature, 622 were enacted as law.

In 2016, lawmakers dealt with matters as varied as education funding, tax policy, Maine’s drug crisis, welfare reform and energy policy.

During the 127th Legislature, Davis serves as the chair of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Committee as well as a member of the taxation committee.

During the 2016 legislative session, he successfully advocated for a measure to exempt commercial agriculture and wood harvesting businesses from sales tax. The exemption will go into effect on Jan. 1.



Sen. Davis

# RSU 68

Continued from Page 1

“We have added an additional fourth-grade teacher and this is because of a projected enrollment of 82 students,” the superintendent said with the total for regular instruction up by \$197,100 to just over \$6,011,100. He said the elementary art position has been increased from 20 to 32 hours per week and next year all elementary pupils will receive art instruction.

Lucy explained the special education budget is up by just over \$119,000 to a total of a little less than \$1,364,500. He

said three department positions are no longer being covered by MaineCare and now fall under the regular budget.

“We really have a need to have that ed tech-to-student ratio,” the superintendent said. “We can’t rely on MaineCare as we have in the past.”

The district budget meeting included the approval of appropriating \$125,000 from the ending balance of 2015-16 school general operating funds to establish a reserve for education needs, as well as those present voting in favor of authorizing the school board to expend these funds

during the next academic year.

“We are putting \$125,000 into that tuition line at Foxcroft Academy to lower the tuition cost,” Lucy said about the purpose of the reserve account. “We are projecting 323 students at Foxcroft Academy and we are projecting a 5 percent increase in tuition but we won’t know that until December. We felt we needed some additional money in there to lower the tuition rate.”

Full financial information is available on the RSU 68 home page at <http://www.se-domocha.org/>.

# Sangerville economic group meets Monday

SANGERVILLE — The Economic Development Committee of Sangerville will meet on Monday, June 13 in the Town Hall Community Room as 6:30 p.m. Andrew H. Hinkley, chief executive officer of Cornerstone Communications, will be the featured speaker.

The committee at its last meeting on May 9 discussed the assets and challenges facing Sangerville’s future economic development. The lack of widespread access to high speed Internet service was cited as a major hurdle. Hinkley has been at the forefront in bringing internet service to Piscataquis County. The committee is anxious to learn how the community can improve upon its internet access.

Other notable assets of the town are its recreation program, access to several bodies of water, health care access and the quality of life. The challenges were also enumerated and suggestions

were made as to how the town can overcome, minimize and eliminate these obstacles through community action.

All meetings of the Economic Development Committee are open to everyone as there is no regular or appointed membership. Residents are urged to attend one, many, any or all meetings to informally discuss the future direction for the growth and development of the town to guide the Board of Selectmen over the next five years. Christian Rowell serves as chair and Diana Bowley serves as vice chair.

Future meetings will focus on the Piscataquis Chamber of Commerce and the Piscataquis County Economic Development Council and how they can work with Sangerville to strengthen its economy and business climate. Anyone with questions can call Sangerville Town Manager Ken Woodbury at 876-2808.

# SAD 41

Continued from Page 1

of the referendum in their towns.

The board also tabled a decision on the 2016-17 budget. The directors are scheduled to meet on June 8 at 5:30 p.m. (when the public meeting on the construction meeting would have been held) to discuss the spending plan.

The annual district budget meeting is being considered for the early evening of Tuesday, June 21 at Penquis Valley, with the referendum taking place a week later, but the school board did not formally approve these dates during the June 8 session.

“I’m kind of hearing you would like to peruse the information you got tonight,”

Superintendent Michael Wright said, with details on new options being brought to the next meeting.

Wright said in recent years \$200,000 from the fund balance has been put toward the budget, but this account would total \$300,000 — which he said is too low to provide for a sufficient cash flow — in 2017 between \$150,000 carried forward and an additional \$150,000. He said different possibilities are being considered to make up the \$200,000.

One idea proposed is creating multiple-grade classrooms at Brownville Elementary, with a grade K-1 class and another with grades 2-3. The homerooms would have

one teacher and an ed tech.

Wright said some positions could not be re-staffed following retirements and resignations, with these duties moved around. He said the Academy Program could be moved from the Marion C. Cook School in LaGrange to a portable at Milo Elementary for the elementary and middle school levels to be in the same location.

In other business, the nomination of Kristina Dumond as Milo Elementary principal was approved. Dumond is currently the teaching principal at Bradford Elementary, and she will succeed Julie Royal who will become the AOS 43 reading recovery leader.

# Simko

Continued from Page 1

gin Bank to be their municipal loan officer and vice president. I will begin my duties there in mid-September.

“I wish to thank the townspeople for having me serve as their town manager for the past three years. In total I have worked for the town for the past 16 years, both as town manager and/or as a firefighter, even as fire chief. I have enjoyed this job, and the people I serve, as well as those I work with. Many, many of you I consider friends, and for that I am most grateful. As my friends, I ask that you support my move to this new position as I believe it will be good for me and my family.

“My family and I have no immediate plans to leave the community,” Simko, who lives in Greenville with his wife Amanda and children Ashley and Samuel, wrote. “We are thankful for the support we’ve received from so many of you over the years.”

Simko began his second stint as town manager on Sept. 3, 2013 following nearly three years in the private sector at the Greenville-based technology company Pepin Associates, Inc. Simko previously served as town manager from 2000-10.

The board will hold its first workshop meeting on Wednesday, June 8 at 6:30 p.m. to start the process to hire the next Greenville town manager. The selectmen have requested and Simko has offered to assist in the effort over the ensuing three months.

# Painting

Continued from Page 1

Sawtell said. The Stone portrait will join two other pieces of art provided by Sawtell and painted by Monroe. One is of Sawtell’s grandfather Will Roberts, the last Welsh quarryman in Brownville, and the other features resident and U.S. Army nurse Alice Zwicker, who was a prisoner of war in the Philippines during second World War.

Sawtell introduced a son and daughter of Stone, who was married with four children at the time of his death, to the audience. “They too made a great sacrifice for our country,” he said.

Principal Carol Smith thanked Sawtell and Monroe and all veterans and their family members present for their service. “We will treasure that painting,” she said.

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# FA Key Club helps out at Sebec Village Cemetery

SEBEC — Students from Foxcroft Academy's Key Club were on hand May 22 in Sebec Village for the second year in a row to help paint the large fence that surrounds the old cemetery. Co-presidents of the Sebec Village Cemetery Association Thomas Nason and Shirley Wright were thrilled to have help painting the fence.

"I spent all afternoon repairing some rough spots on the fence," Nason explained. "Just in time for the kids to show up and paint. We were very glad to have the help."

Wright added, "It was so great of the Key Club and their adviser George Rolleston to come out on a Sunday afternoon and help us get ready for Memorial Day. That fence is huge and it was nice to have several hands to help out."

Last year, Key Club members rolled up their sleeves and helped clean stones in the new cemetery across the road. Resident and Cemetery Association trustee Helga Nason let the group use her hose and lawn to fill buckets. The crew used bleach, brushes and lots of buckets of water to clean the stones which had accumulated moss and dirt from the nearby road.

This year, when student showed up to paint and clean stones, they were told that the work they did last year was so good that the stones were still clean. All of the work this year was devoted



Contributed photo

**A HAND FROM THE KEY CLUB** — Several members of the Foxcroft Academy Key Club recently helped paint the fence at the Sebec Village Cemetery. From left are Avery Carroll, Charlotte Jolin, Avery Nelson, Maya Hagelin and Adviser George Rolleston.

to painting the old fence. According to Wright, the fence looks great after the students and their advisor spent the afternoon working on it.

"It is such a great service to our little town to have the Key Club students available to help out," said Wright. "They did it all with a smile on their faces, and when we gave them cold drinks and encouraged them to take a break, we talked about community service. Some of them had over 150 hours of community service in this school year alone. That is fantastic. We talked about communities and their needs for service. We were all able to name community groups we volunteered with and the

importance of doing that." "We hope to continue to clean up the cemetery," Nason added. "It is in need of some brush cutting and removal next. We'll have to find a way to raise money."

Association Vice President Louisa Finnemore said, "We are going to find a fundraiser to get this work done. We all have loved ones in the cemetery and it's up to us to raise the money to keep the area looking nice. We will continue to work on projects over the next few years."

Key Club students were asked to put the association on their calendar for next year. All felt that this work should continue into the future for as long as possible.

# Service will honor two Civil War veterans

ATKINSON — On Saturday, June 18 at 2 p.m. at the Sweet Cemetery, the Sons and Daughters of Union Veterans will hold a Flag Day memorial service for two Atkinson Civil War veterans. Honored will be Cpl. Cyrus Garey and Pvt. William Witham.

The Sweet Cemetery is located on the Doore Road, on the left across from the Dyer Road. For more information or questions, please call the Bennetts at 876-3073.

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# McDermott earns UVermont degree

BURLINGTON, Vt. — Lucy E. McDermott graduated on May 22 from the University of Vermont at the 215th commencement.

She was awarded a bachelors of arts degree in economics with a minor in political science and McDermott was named to the dean's list at the time of her graduation. The focus for her research in her senior



Lucy McDermott

year was on the impact of the Affordable Care Act on farmers in Vermont and 11 other states.

McDermott is a 2012 graduate of Foxcroft Academy. She will be relocating to Portland where she will start as a community manager for the Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement (NRHI). NRHI is a national organization headquartered in Portland that is focused on promoting meaningful improvements in healthcare quality and cost containment.

McDermott is the daughter of Ellen and David McDermott of Dover-Foxcroft.

# Colley graduates from UMPI

PRESQUE ISLE — Lauren Colley of Dover-Foxcroft was among the 156 students who graduated from the University of Maine at Presque Isle on May 14. Colley graduated magna cum laude.

# Morrison named to Bucknell dean's list

LEWISBURG, Pa. — Elizabeth Morrison, a resident of Dover-Foxcroft, has been named to the dean's list at Bucknell University for the spring semester of the 2015-16 academic year. Morrison is a 2015 graduate of Foxcroft Academy.

# Unity College graduates

UNITY — Two residents from the region were among this year's graduates of Unity College. Brandon J. Cross of Guilford received his bachelor of science degree in wildlife and fisheries management. Co-

rey A. Thompson of Charleston received his BS in conservation law enforcement.

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All weekly winners will be entered into a final drawing to be held Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> for the Grand Whoopie Prize! Good luck!

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*This week's Find the Whoopie Pie Winner is...*

# Shannen Rhoda of Dover-Foxcroft

The Whoopie Pie was hiding in Spring Street Greenhouse & Floral Shop ad.

Thank you to all who entered.  
 Look for the Whoopie Pie in this week's edition for your chance to win!



## Why I'm running for Greenville school board

To the Editor:  
I am running for a position on the Greenville School Committee. I was a member of the budget committee during development of the proposed 2016-17 town and school budgets. My primary focus was (and is) to encourage full disclosure and complete transparency so that each citizen can make an informed decision regarding the tax burden we are being asked to shoulder.

I have owned The Lodge at Moosehead Lake in Greenville for nine years and was a practicing attorney specializing in individual compensation and benefit plans and corporate and individual income tax planning. I am also a certified public accountant.

Past school budgets presentations have offered up seemingly endless numbers without any meaningful explanation. During the 2016-17 budget process, our school committee seemed open-minded about my sug-

gestions to include some additional analysis but the lack of any meaningful explanation continues. I would like to call attention to some key points not discussed by our school committee in its budget presentation.

Our school committee presents the 2016-17 budget total as a "decrease" of \$19,500 compared to the prior budget. That is true; but misleading. In fact, our superintendent projects that last year's budget will generate a surplus of approximately \$200,000 at the end of the current fiscal year. In other words, our school committee is actually asking for an increase of approximately \$180,500 or 5.2 percent more than they expect to spend in the current fiscal year.

The most recently available state wide data indicates that, on average, Maine schools allocate Nearly 60 percent of budget expenditures are to "Instruction", "Special Education" and "Career & Tech".

These are the three major categories that capture dollars (including teacher salaries and benefits) spent on classroom instruction. Our school committee's proposed budget indicates that they will spend only 52.1 percent on these critical categories. This means that approximately \$230,000 is being spent elsewhere. Where ... and on what?

Perhaps the answer can be found in the categories of "Student/Staff", "System Admin", and "School Admin". On average, Maine schools spend 16.25 percent of their budgets on these categories. Our school committee projects that they will spend 22.7 percent (approximately \$235,000) more than the statewide average on these categories. Is it a coincidence that the amount not spent in the classroom is almost exactly equal to the "additional" amount spent on administration?

It is important to verify the

financial condition of our school system by having an annual audit conducted by an independent professional accountant. The audit does not deal with "budgets". It focuses on actual cash in the bank. When our school committee presented the budget for the 2014-15 year, they assumed a "Carry Forward" fund balance of \$289,000. The independent auditor's report, however, showed a Fund Balance (i.e., actual cash in the bank) of \$639,214 as of 6/30/2015. Why was the audited Fund Balance so much greater than indicated by our school committee's budget presentation?

Fast forward to today. Our school committee projects that as of 6/30/17 the Fund Balance will be \$114,089 because they are "using" \$200,000 of the existing Fund Balance to help "balance" the 2016-17 budget.

Please see Page 9, GREENVILLE

## Message sometimes lost in budget debate

To the Editor:  
There was much said at the recent SAD 4 school budget meeting. There is also much that could be said about that meeting. However, I would offer just one short and simple observation that might easily go unnoticed.

As I looked around the crowded cafeteria, I noticed more than a few students at the meeting. I couldn't help but smile. First, because many I know and recognize due to my association with Piscataquis Community Elementary School as a volunteer and substitute teacher over the past decade. Second, at the realization these kids are interested in their education and concerned about their future. They deserve applause.

Their presence suggests "we must be doing something right" and challenges us to not lose sight of the ultimate consumers for the education we provide. Our communities face some difficult times and we are called

upon to make some difficult decisions. In our concerns and debates over things like federal and state mandates, contractual obligations, and "where does the money come from," please let's not forget that ultimately we have not only a responsibility to our children but we also have an opportunity.

I have never been a fan of the rationale, "It's for the children," because it seems divisive and one dimensional. There are many stakeholders in the discussion of funding education. My plea is that we not forget any of them — not only in the decisions we make but in the process we use in making them. More than ever, we need to model good and reasonable thinking, civil responsibility, and positive problem-solving skills. We are being tested this year. Simply passing a budget doesn't determine our success or failure.

**Walter Boomsma**  
Abbott

## Now is the time for a hard, cold realty check in SAD 4

To the Editor:  
The SAD 4 district budget meeting that was held on May 26 in Guilford was a donnybrook — an all-out fight between the teachers and their relatives and associates versus the school committee and administration. The teachers in the crowd were protesting the cutting of teaching positions and the giving of raises to all the non-master contract staff while the board was holding out for a budget that already exceeded last year's budget by assessment increases of 14 to 19.5 percent for each of the towns in the district in just one year.

The net result was that, after many votes on just one ar-

ticle, the pro-teachers' group added back over \$78,000 to the instructional line with the clear hope of returning the cut positions and later voted to offset this with a significant cut of \$100,000 to the system's administration, the intent of getting even being clear. Later they also cut the amount needed for the Director of Instruction position. This all ultimately served the taxpayers by decreasing their assessment increases on average 3 percentage points, leaving the new assessment increases still at an astronomical range of 11 to 16.4 percent — way above any amount that the taxpayers can afford.

There are important points to be made on the actions of the voters who showed up. First of all, the voters cannot make the board either create or cut positions. It is the school committee's call and it needs to make it. It is the board's responsibility to clean up the budget that the voters to this point have decreased. If the school committee truly cut the positions because the system does not have the student population to support it, then it needs to hang to the cuts. The teachers are protected by their own master contract that

Please see Page 9, SAD 4

## Accept national monument gift

To the Editor:  
Maine has been offered a generous gift of nearly 88,000 acres for a national monument in the Katahdin region, and I've heard so much spitting and spite about why we should refuse this gift, offered in good faith, for the public to enjoy.

I support designating Ellitsville Plantation Inc.'s land as a "treasured landscape." As our woodlands come under new ownership, access isn't guaranteed. Foresight is needed to maintain Maine's history, heritage and future. Monument status would protect wildlife and wild land on which Mainers depend for clean, clear water and a natural, diverse forest.

Let's not look a gift horse in the mouth.

Jayne Lello Sebec

## Let's pledge to curb distracted driving this summer

By Matthew Dunlap and Owen Smith

Distracted driving is a growing public safety problem with each passing year. This problem doesn't discriminate based on age or race or geography; it affects mothers, fathers, children and grandparents. But the good news is we can prevent it.

As we approach the busy summer travel season, it's a good time to reflect on what we can do to prevent distracted driving this summer and throughout the year — and what we're already doing here in Maine to raise awareness of this important issue.

Together, AT&T and the State of Maine have collaborated to bring the It Can Wait campaign to eight schools this school year alone. With the campaign's simple message to keep your eyes on the road and not on your phone, drivers are being alerted to the dangers of activities like

posting, texting or emailing behind the wheel.

Today, all but a handful of states have anti-texting laws on the books and the research shows that the rate of texting while driving is declining, but we still have a long way to go.

The problem is no longer as simple as texting and driving. Think of all of the ways we use our smartphones each and every day — to send an email, check the weather, snap a picture of our children, even to shoot a quick video. Shockingly, these are exactly the behaviors that are now happening behind the wheel. In fact, seven in 10 people admit to engaging in smartphone activity while driving. This is an issue that affects all of us.

Recent research by AT&T data scientists revealed that

Please see Page 9, DRIVING

## Grateful for leaders who fight fraud

To the Editor:  
AARP Maine hosted a "Scam Jam" in Bangor on June 1st and we were pleased to welcome over 200 participants to the event. Scams and frauds in Maine are unfortunately on the rise and we hope through events like these to raise awareness and help Maine residents become great fraud fighters.

On behalf of all of us at AARP Maine, I want to thank our keynote speaker, Senator Susan Collins, whose leadership as chair of the Senate Spe-

cial Committee on Aging has helped propel the fight against these crimes across the country and right here in Maine. We also wish to thank Penobscot County Sheriff Troy Morton, Sergeant Kyle Willette of the Maine State Police Computer Crimes Unit, Superintendent Will Lund of the Maine Bureau of Consumer Credit Protection, and Sergeant Pat Hood of the Maine State Police for delivering speeches and scam awareness workshops at the event.

As they did at our Scam Jam

last year, MPBN broadcast "Maine Calling" live from the event featuring panelists Judith Shaw of the Maine Office of Securities, David Leach of the Maine Bureau of Consumer Credit Protection and Jane Margesson of AARP Maine.

Crimes related to scams and frauds have reached numbers that are out of control. Literally millions of Americans are losing billions of dollars to scammers every year and many of these crimes go unreported. As residents of Maine, we must become

a united army of fraud fighters.

Scammers are relentless individuals who thrive on stealing any way they can. It is up to us to raise awareness about these crimes through proactive community awareness initiatives.

We hope that the Bangor Scam Jam can be one of those very initiatives and thank our community and state partners for making it such a success.

Rich Livingston  
AARP Maine volunteer  
president  
Biddeford

## A letter to SAD 4 residents

To the Editor:  
I am writing as a concerned parent of two students attending SAD 4. They have been fortunate to have highly qualified teachers and many educational opportunities in our local schools, and I urge all our residents to vote "Yes" on the proposed budget June 14th.

I have come to see the current budget as the best option for our students, as well as for our taxpayers. For months I attended Budget Committee meetings and urged its members to consider cuts in areas not directly impacting the classroom. Instead, I questioned if a district our size needed a curriculum coordinator. I believe that dedicated staff working directly with students will achieve the best results;

I did not feel that a district as small as ours could afford a curriculum coordinator. I also questioned the wisdom of a 2 percent raise after last year's budget difficulties. My concerns had little impact, and the Budget Committee unanimously passed the recommended budget, which the School Board also passed on May 9th.

However, at the May 26th public meeting, voters seemed to share my sentiments. Additional money was added to the Regular Education Cost Center; its intent was to restore two PCSS positions in Health and PE back to full-time for the fall of 2016. The voters were supporting dedicated faculty who work directly with our kids. The two educators impacted

by that budget cut are also coaches, and their loss would be felt by soccer players, basketball teams, and all track athletes.

Despite this vote, the district will still lose the equivalent of a full-time teacher to budget cuts; Foreign Language has been cut to half-time, and the Alternative Ed program, Learning-4-Life will also be half-time.

At that same public meeting, voters cut money from the cost centers that covered the curriculum coordinator and system administration. The end result is a reduced tax increase to the towns, yet a priority established to protect staff who work directly with our students. Those were exactly the reasons I attended so many meet-

ings this spring, so I will vote for this budget, and I urge others to support it as well.

Please contact your school board members and the superintendent to encourage how these dollar amounts are spent in each cost center. Your communication and presence will be vital to see this funding spent as voters have expressed.

We still have a lot of work to do as a district. Our long-serving board members have been challenged in recent years to fill every admin position, as well as two guidance positions. Currently, we have not had a Special Education

Please see Page 9, RESIDENTS

## Almost a perfect town (Except for our roads)

To the Editor:  
I am proud to live in a place where so many investments are being made to keep our community up to date. A glance at the schools, the hospital, well kept homes and the many downtown improvements gives the visitor an impression that this is a community that is willing to invest in the future. Any major business considering locating here would be impressed with the investments we have in our water and sewer systems. Times may be tough but this town is going to thrive and prosper.

The one area that we need to work on is the roads. Who would ever want to live in a town where all of the roads look like the supposedly paved parts of Grove Street or Spring Street behind the Bear's Den? Well that's what almost all of our town roads will look like in just a few years if we don't commit now to spend some money to keep them in decent repairs.

At the Budget Review Committee's request, the town had a professional road engineering

firm, Gorrill Palmer do an in-depth study of our 34 miles of paved roads. You can find the complete study on the town's website (search for "Gorrill").

The whole report is interesting reading, but here are the major points:

Takeaway number 1: If you don't do regular, relatively inexpensive, maintenance on a road (e.g. \$10,000-\$20,000 per mile every few years), pretty soon the road is ruined and you need to spend a ton of money (e.g. \$200,000 per mile) to rebuild the road. There is a "Cliff" — if you haven't kept the road up, it falls off the cliff and the only choice is to rebuild the road (or, I suppose, turn it into gravel — but who would want to move here then?).

Takeaway number 2: We have a lot of roads that are dangerously close to "falling off the cliff." If we don't start spending money now to keep these roads in decent repair, we will lose them.

Please see Page 10, TOWN

# The Piscataquis Observer GUIDE

### CONTACT US

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Keri Foster



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# CENTRAL MAINE Vacation Guide

## Moose Maine events set for this weekend

GREENVILLE — This year's Moose Maine features events across the weekend in the Moosehead Lake region.

On Saturday, June 11 there will be a "Moosterpiece Craft Fair" in downtown Greenville, showcasing many local artisans, as well as a town-wide yard sale sponsored by the Greenville Recreation Department.

Also on June 11 will be the Moose River Canoe & Kayak Race from Brassua Lake to Moosehead Lake. Registration is from 8-10:15 a.m. at the Rockwood Community Center on Route 15.

Participants — classes include racing, recreational, wooden ca-

noe, kayak, corporate challenge and junior — will paddle Brasura Lake, portage around the dam, travel down the Moose River and finish in Moosehead Lake. The course is mostly flat-water, with some Class 1 rapids, and is 7.5 miles in length. The route is subject to change in the event of high winds.

Awards will be given to the top three finishers in all classes, with the Fred Reckards Memorial Trophy being presented to the fastest open canoe.

The first annual Moose Maine 5K walk/run will be held on Sunday, June 12 at 9 a.m. in Greenville, starting and finishing by the school. Pack-

ets should be picked up Saturday between 1 and 4 p.m. at the Moosehead Lake Visitor Center, 480 Moosehead Lake Road in Greenville, or on race day at the race location prior to 8:30 a.m. Race day registrations close at 8:30 sharp.

This professionally-timed race will be held on a road course over Pritham Avenue and nearby side streets and trails, with some mild hills. The first 80 finishers will receive a Moose Maine 5K

custom medal.

Proceeds from the Moose Maine 5K and other Moosehead Lake Region Chamber of Commerce events benefit the region through marketing, programming and community enrichment.

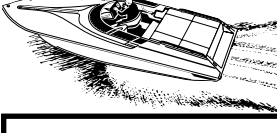
For more information on Moose Maine 2016, please go to <http://www.mooseheadlake.org> or see the Moosehead Lake Region Chamber of Commerce Facebook page.



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## Guilford plans bicentennial events

GUILFORD — On Saturday, June 11 the town of Guilford will be a hubbub of activity during the community's bicentennial as the Maine Highlands Federal Credit Union, Guilford Memorial Library and Fresh Air Dogs provide events throughout the day.

Starting out the day at 8 a.m. Maine Highlands Federal Credit Union will be hosting "Breakfast by the Bridge" in celebration of its 50th birthday. Over \$16,000 will be donated to local food cupboards during a 9 a.m. presentation.

Moving to the athletic field area at 10 a.m., Fresh Air Dog will sponsor a "Pet Fair" with a wide variety of animal-related

activities until 4 p.m.

At noon children under 18 may receive a free lunch courtesy of The Dynamic Event and Learning Center. The Darling's Ice Cream Truck is scheduled to visit from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

For the readers in the family, the Guilford Memorial Library is hosting a Maine Authors Meet & Greet throughout the library from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. At last count 18 Maine authors will be selling and signing their books.

Save the date. On Saturday, July 30 the annual Riverfest Celebration will be better than ever with more bicentennial activities and a fabulous parade and spectacular fireworks plus a few surprises.

## MHFCU participates in Bicentennial Celebration with a 'Breakfast by the Bridge'

GUILFORD — To celebrate its 50th anniversary, employees of the Maine Highlands Federal Credit Union (MHFCU) will be cooking breakfast near the Guilford Memorial Bridge for all who stop by. Scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, homefries, English muffins, juice and coffee are on the menu which will run from 8-10 a.m. Saturday, June 11.

During the breakfast, MHFCU has invited representatives from local food organizations to attend and receive a donation. "The donations are made possible as a result of fundraisers the credit union

held in 2015 for Maine Credit Unions' Campaign for Ending Hunger," said Rhonda Taylor, president and CEO. "The total amount we raised was over \$16,700. With an additional \$1,100 grant, we have over \$17,800 to distribute."

The breakfast will be just one of the events going on Saturday. The town has organized a Maine Author Day at the library and a Pet Fair at the baseball field.

## Three Rivers Kiwanis auction/yard sale

MILO — The dates for the Three Rivers Kiwanis' annual auction/yard sale have been set for June 23 and 24. The yard sale will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day and the auction will start each evening at 5 and run until 9 p.m. The food window will be open during the auction and Kiwanians will be selling red dogs, hamburgers, homemade fries, dough boys and beverages.

Donations are greatly appreciated for the Three Rivers Kiwanis' largest annual fundraiser. It's time to clean out barns, garages, attics and call Bobby Ellison at 943-2317 or 279-0481 to come pick up the items to be donated.

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## FA boys win 'B' track state championship

BAR HARBOR — The Foxcroft Academy boys track team continued with its flair for the dramatic Saturday — and was rewarded with a state title.

Hunter Smith's victory in the high jump with just one event remaining gave the Ponies the cushion they needed in outlasting York for the Class B championship at Mount Desert Island High School.

Coach Rob Weber's Ponies tallied 71 points, edging the defending state champions (64) by simply finishing the 4x400 relay to secure the program's second state title in outdoor track overall and first in Class B.

Foxcroft won the Class C state championship in 2013.

"We've had some great competition in Class C and to come up here and win it in Class B is pretty insane," said Smith, whose team was reclassified to Class B by enrollment in outdoor track this year. "All these guys have worked super hard."

York and Foxcroft — which finished 1-2 at the Class B indoor state meet last winter — were tied 60-60 before Smith won the high jump with a best of 6-2 and teammate Zach Caron added a seventh-place finish in the event at 5-08.

That gave the Ponies a 71-62 lead — York's Jake Martin finished sixth in the high jump — and while Foxcroft didn't score in the final relay (3:43.53), the Wildcats' sixth-place finish wasn't enough to erase the deficit.

The victory came just one week after the Ponies' outlasted Class A Brewer in the final event to win the Penobscot Valley Conference large-school championship.

"Last week was an emotional win for us and I was worried it would take a lot out of us," said Weber.

Smith, who won four events at the PVC, also won the 110 hurdles at States in 15.35 seconds while adding second-place finishes in the long and triple jumps (20-11.25 and 41-03.5 respectively).

It was quite a conclusion to Smith's senior year at Foxcroft, which began with a dislocated hip suffered during a preseason football game that sidelined him throughout the fall.

He came back in time to compete in basketball and indoor track during the winter as well as play in a national-level high school football all-star game in January before returning to outdoor track this spring.

"It's a great way to finish it," said Smith, who will attend the University of Maine this fall on a football scholarship.

Caron, a senior, added third-place finishes in the triple jump (41-03) and pole vault (12-00) to his point in the high jump, while classmate Nate Church was third in both the 100 and 200 dashes (11.42 and 23.20 seconds) and teamed with Evan Chadbourne, Blaine Robinson and Paul Birtwistle to finish fifth in the 4x100 relay (46.34 seconds).



BDN photo/Pete Warner

**THREE STATE HIGH JUMP CROWNS** — Foxcroft Academy senior Hunter Smith cleared 6 feet, 2 inches at the Class B state championship on Saturday to win the title in the high jump, giving him three overall in his career after Smith won the event at the Class C finals in 2014 and 2015. On June 4 Smith also earned top honors in the 110 hurdles at 15.35 seconds and placed second in both the long and triple jumps to help the Ponies win the state championship.

Senior Cooper Nelson added key points in the distance events, placing fourth in the 1,600 (4:34.77) and sixth in the 800 (2:03.53), while senior Brandon Brock finished seventh in the shot put (41-03.75).

"As terrific as our top guys are, they guys that are grinding out those seconds and third really mattered a lot this year," Weber said.

In the girls meet, Foxcroft junior Emily Mikoud was crowned state champion in the discus with a best of 118 feet, 9 inches.

Mikoud had finished second in that event at the PVC's, but topped her best at that meet (112-8) by more than 6 feet at States.

Mikoud also placed fifth in the shot put at 34-2¼.

## Tickets available for Maine basketball hall inductions

BANGOR — Tickets are now available for the third annual Maine Basketball Hall of Fame induction ceremony, scheduled for Aug. 21 at the Cross Insurance Center.

The event begins at 11:30 a.m., and tickets are \$55 each.

To purchase tickets, go to [www.mainebasketballhalloffame.com](http://www.mainebasketballhalloffame.com), click on "Events"

and then "2016 Induction Ceremony."

Among the scheduled inductees this year are former Dexter Regional High School basketball coach Ed Guisaki, former Penquis Valley of Milo player and coach Tony Hamlin and former Foxcroft Academy standouts Kevin Nelson and Dean Smith.

## Heal Point standings

- final*
- Class B North baseball**  
7. Foxcroft 12-4  
*(top 12 qualify for playoffs)*
- Class C North baseball**  
9. Dexter 8-8  
10. Penquis 5-9  
16. PCHS 2-14  
*(top 11 qualify for playoffs)*
- Class D South baseball**  
4. Greenville 11-5  
*(top 8 qualify for the playoffs)*
- Class B North softball**  
9. Foxcroft 8-8  
*(top 12 qualify for playoffs)*
- Class C North softball**  
8. PCHS 9-7  
10. Dexter 8-8  
16. Penquis 0-14  
*(top 11 qualify for playoffs)*
- Class D South softball**  
4. Greenville 14-2  
*(top 6 qualify for playoffs)*

## Jacked Up Coffee Run results

DOVER-FOXCROFT — The Center Coffee House held its second annual Jacked Up Coffee Run on the morning of June 4 along the sidewalks and trails in town over 3.1-plus miles with a dozen participants. The race results are as follows: 1. Stuart Hedstrom 23 minutes, 40 seconds (men's winner); 2. Morgan Praty 26:54 (women's winner); 3. Robert Bickmore 29:51 (men's second finisher); 4. Jessica Inch 29:52 (women's second finisher); 5. Elissa Moore 30:22 (women's third finisher); 6. Paige Hobbs 30:30 (women's fourth finisher); 7. Laura Loguerocio Dellaire 31:36; tie-8. Karen Jankunas, Katti Webb Simpson and Michelle Novak 33:22; 11. Nancy Rotkowitz 36:17; and 12. Kirsty Praty 36:21.

## Area track standouts place at 'C' state meet

DOVER-FOXCROFT — Joshua Martin of Penquis Valley High School in Milo turned in the top individual finish among local performers at Saturday's Class C state championship track and field meet held at Oakes Field on the campus of Foxcroft Academy.

Martin, a senior, finished third in the boys javelin with a best throw of 151 feet, 7 inches.

Martin secured that mark during the preliminary round of the competition and led all throwers entering the finals. Freshman Giovanni Tavares of Washburn surpassed that effort with a throw of 153-2 during the final rounds, while Abel Bryer of Boothbay also topped Martin's throw by one inch.

Jordan Durant, a junior from Penquis Valley, placed fourth in the girls triple jump with a best of 32-2. That came during the finals and topped her best preliminary-round effort by two inches.

Junior Brandon Allen of Dexter finished fourth in the boys high jump and seventh in the triple jump.

His best high jump of 5-8 actually tied Austin Brown of Houlton for third place but Brown won the tiebreaker between the two based on fewer misses.

Allen wasn't among the top seven after the triple jump prelims but used a leap of 39-8½ in the finals to edge Brandon Stevens of Maine Central Institute of Pittsfield by one inch for the last scoring position.

Dexter freshman Danielle Cummings also had a solid day, placing fifth in the 100 dash, tying for fifth in the 200 dash and anchoring the Tigers' sixth-place 4x100 relay.

Cummings was timed in 13.48 seconds in the 100, and her time of 27.81 in the 200 tied her for fifth place with Emily Billings of Mountain Valley of Rumford.

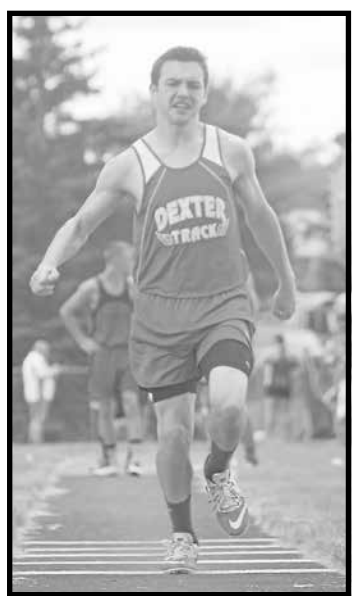
Cummings then teamed with freshman Autumn Irwin, sophomore Lily Cummings and senior Katie Batron to finish the 4x100 relay in 54.22 seconds.

Orono High School swept the Class C team titles, with the Red Riot girls winning for the fifth consecutive year and the boys earning their second straight crown.



Observer photo/Stuart Hedstrom

**LEAN IN** — From left, Dexter Regional High School freshman Danielle Cummings, Caribou High School sophomore JoJo Fields and senior Katie Batron of Dexter cross the finish line during a preliminary heat of the 100 meters during the Class C championship on June 4 in Dover-Foxcroft. Cummings and Fields both qualified for the finals, placing fifth and eighth respectively at 13.48 and 14.37 seconds. Cummings also tied for fifth in the 200 and she anchored the Tigers' sixth-place 4x100 relay team which included freshman Autumn Irwin, sophomore Lily Cummings and Batron.



Observer photo/Stuart Hedstrom

**TOP 10 THROW** — (right) Junior Kayla Harmon of Penquis Valley High School finished in 10th place in the javelin at the state championship meet on Saturday. Harmon had a top throw of 83 feet, 4 inches.

Observer photo/Stuart Hedstrom

**ALL FIVE TIGER POINTS** — Dexter Regional High School junior Brandon Allen picked up his team's five points on Saturday.

Allen came in fourth in the high jump by clearing 5 feet, 8 inches and he placed seventh in the triple jump (pictured) at a distance of 39 feet, 8.5 inches.



Observer photo/Stuart Hedstrom

**GIVING IT HER BEST SHOT** — PCHS senior Haylee Patterson placed eighth in the shot put at the 2016 Class C Girls Outdoor Track and Field Championship Saturday at Foxcroft Academy. Patterson had a top throw of 29 feet, 8.5 inches, and she was also 16th in the javelin at a distance of 75 feet, 6 inches.



## PVC frosh track championship results

BANGOR — A number of Dexter Regional High School and Foxcroft Academy track and field athletes placed in the top 10 at the Penobscot Valley Conference Freshman Championships on May 31 at Cameron Stadium.

The Foxcroft 4x100 team — comprised of Jacob Diamond, Chandler Dow, Hyatt Smith and Dustin Simmons — had the day's fastest time at 51.21 seconds.

Dow finished as the 110 hurdle runner-up with a time of 18.53 seconds. He also was seventh in the 200 at 27.22 seconds and he placed 10th in the long jump with a distance of 14 feet, 3.25 inches.

Diamond finished third in the 800 at 2:18.48. He also was sixth in the high jump and pole vault at respective heights of 4-08 and 8-00.

Smith had a trio of third-place performances, in the high jump at

5-04; the pole vault at 9-06; and the triple jump at 37-03.50.

Simmons placed fifth in the 100 with a time of 12.82 seconds. He also was fifth in the triple jump at 35-02.50 and he was seventh in the long jump with a distance of 15-10.50.

Dexter's Christopher Roderka was the meet runner-up in the 3,200 at 11:27.03.

Isaiah Hesseltine came in sixth in the 400 with a time of 65.19 seconds. David Kirshkalm came in sixth in the shot put at 31-03.

Dillion Allen placed sixth in the 200 at 26.89 seconds. He also was eighth in both the 100 and long jump at 12.86 seconds and with a top jump of 15-02.50.

In the girls' meet, Danielle Cummings of Dexter won both the 100 and the 200. Cummings' winning sprint times were 13.37 and 27.63

seconds.

Dexter's Autumn Irwin was seventh in the 100 at 14.74 seconds and she placed 10th in the javelin at 52-01.

Shannon O'Roak of Dexter came in seventh in the long jump at 10-06.25 and she was eighth in the 200 in a time of 33.31 seconds.

With a time of 3:43.40, Janette Patterson of Dexter came in seventh in the 800.

Foxcroft Academy's Jacalyn Pelletier and Brigid Casey finished in the top 10 in the three sprints. Pelletier was ninth in the 100 at 15.27 seconds, ninth in the 200 at 33.31 seconds and eighth in the 400 at 1:16.69. Casey came in 10th in the 100 at 15.38 seconds, 10th in the 200 at 33.54 seconds and she was ninth in the 400 at 1:22.55.

Abigail Henderson added a 10th-place discus throw for Foxcroft, as she picked up a distance of 55-08.

## SPORTS ON TAP schedule subject to change

**Thursday, June 9—BASEBALL:** Class B North quarterfinal 2. Winslow vs. 7. Foxcroft-10. Nokomis. Class C North quarterfinal 1. George Stevens vs. 8. Orono-9. Dexter; Class C North quarterfinal 2. Houlton vs. 7. Washington-10. Penquis. Class D South quarterfinal 4. Greenville vs. 5. Rangeley 4 p.m. **SOFTBALL:** Class B quarterfinal 1. Hermon vs. 8. Foxcroft-9. Presque Isle. Class C quarterfinal 1. Narraguagus vs. 8. PCHS-9. Washington; 2. Bucksport vs. 7. George Stevens-10. Dexter. Class D South quarterfinal 4. Greenville vs. 5. Rangeley 4 p.m.

**Saturday, June 11—BASEBALL:** Class B and C North, D South semifinals. **CANOE RACE:** Moose River Canoe and Kayak Race 11 a.m. (Brassura Lake to Moosehead Lake with registration at Rockwood Community Center). **GOLF:** 2016 Golf Open for Pine Tree Hospice 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. (Foxcroft Golf Club). **ROAD RACE:** Amy, Coty, Monica Memorial 5K and 10K Run/Walk 8 a.m. (Dexter Regional High School). **SOFTBALL:** Class B and C North, D South semifinals. **TRACK:** New England Interscholastic Championship (New Britain, Conn.).

**Sunday, June 12—ROAD RACE:** Moosehead Marina Moose Maine 5K 9 a.m. (Greenville High School).

**Tuesday, June 14—BASEBALL:** Class C North championship 3 p.m. (Mansfield Stadium-Bangor). **SOFTBALL:** Class C North championship 6:30 p.m. (Brewer HS).

**Wednesday, June 15—BASEBALL:** Class B North championship 6:30 p.m. (Mansfield Stadium-Bangor); Class

D South championship 3 p.m. St. Joseph's College (Standish). **SOFTBALL:** Class B North championship 3 p.m. (Brewer HS); Class D South championship 7 p.m. St. Joseph's College (Standish).

**Saturday, June 18—BASEBALL:** Class B championship 11 a.m. (Mansfield Stadium-Bangor); Class C championship 4:30 p.m. St. Joseph's College (Standish); Class D championship 3 p.m. (Mansfield Stadium-Bangor). **SOFTBALL:** Class B championship 4 p.m. (Brewer HS); Class C championship 12:30 p.m. St. Joseph's College (Standish); Class D championship 4 p.m. (Brewer HS).

**Saturday, June 25—ROAD RACE:** PRYMCA Earn Your Whoopie Pie 1K Fun Run 8 a.m. and 3K 8:30 a.m. (downtown Dover-Foxcroft).

D South championship 3 p.m. St. Joseph's College (Standish). **SOFTBALL:** Class B North championship 3 p.m. (Brewer HS); Class D South championship 7 p.m. St. Joseph's College (Standish).

**Saturday, June 18—BASEBALL:** Class B championship 11 a.m. (Mansfield Stadium-Bangor); Class C championship 4:30 p.m. St. Joseph's College (Standish); Class D championship 3 p.m. (Mansfield Stadium-Bangor). **SOFTBALL:** Class B championship 4 p.m. (Brewer HS); Class C championship 12:30 p.m. St. Joseph's College (Standish); Class D championship 4 p.m. (Brewer HS).

**Saturday, June 25—ROAD RACE:** PRYMCA Earn Your Whoopie Pie 1K Fun Run 8 a.m. and 3K 8:30 a.m. (downtown Dover-Foxcroft).



# Kickboxing events support area's vets

By Ernie Clark  
Staff Writer

BREWER — Twenty-eight mixed martial artists sacrificed part of their Memorial Day weekend to bring their sport back to the area for the first time in nearly two years and support the region's veterans community.

"All-American Kickboxing" was held at Jeff's Catering that Saturday night, with fighters representing six different Maine gyms participating in non-judged sparring exhibitions.

Approximately 400 fans turned out to watch, and after expenses nearly \$1,400 in donated admissions was presented to the Maine Veterans Project, a year-old nonprofit that provides support for local veterans, particularly with an eye toward reducing the number of veteran suicides. "We knew they put out 400 seats and there weren't more than 20 that didn't have someone in them, and there were probably that many more walking around," said event organizer and top local MMA prospect Josh Harvey — a graduate of Dexter Regional High School. "We had a great turnout."

Harvey and Bruce "Pretty Boy" Boyington were among the fighters who took part in the kickboxing exhibitions. Boyington, who is scheduled to fight on the World Series of

Fighting's WSOF 31 card in Mashantucket, Connecticut, on June 17, had his sparring exhibition against Shawn "Doc" Goodwin, founder and president of the Maine Veterans Project.

"We had 14 [exhibitions] and every one went the distance," said Harvey, who battled Young's MMA teammate Aaron Lacey. "They were evenly, evenly matched and everyone said they had a good experience."

This marked the first time a combat sports event has been held in Bangor or Brewer since Hermon High School graduate and Ultimate Fighting Championship president Dana White brought a UFC card featuring top light heavyweight contenders Ryan Bader and Ovince Saint Preux and Lincolnville native Tim Boetsch to the Cross Insurance Center in August 2014.

But it was the second such benefit exhibition held in the last two months regionally.

Harvey, in conjunction with MaineNightOut.com, held a similar sparring event at Factory One in Dexter in early April.

Between the two kickboxing events nearly \$2,000 has been raised for the Maine Veterans Project, and Harvey has scheduled another night of exhibitions for July 16 at the Dexter locale.

# High school roundup

**May 30:** Dexter baseball lost at Orono 10-0. Michael Pratt recorded a pair of singles.

Dexter softball lost at Orono 12-0. Megan Peach and Abby Webber both had two hits.

**May 31:** Foxcroft baseball lost vs. Hermon 12-0. Greenville baseball won vs. Stearns 6-3.

Foxcroft softball lost vs. Hermon 12-2. Avery Carroll homered.

Greenville softball lost 12-1 vs. Stearns. Shelby Cowin singled and scored a run.

Tenth-seeded Foxcroft boys tennis lost at No. 7 Old Town 5-0 in a Class B North prelim.

No. 9 PCHS boys tennis won against eighth seed Penobscot 3-2 in a Class C North prelim, played at Foxcroft Academy. Jarrod White won at No. 2 singles, 7-5 (7-5), and Jason Willard won in No. 3 singles, 3-6, 6-3, 7-5. In No. 2 doubles Adam Bagley and Bachi Gushvili won 6-1, 6-1.

Tenth seed Dexter boys tennis lost at No. 7 Sumner 3-2 in a Class C North prelim. William Strauch won his No. 1 singles match 6-1, 6-1. In No. 2 dou-

bles Hunter Speed and Tyler Levesque won 6-2, 6-0.

No. 4 PCHS girls tennis won vs. 13th-seeded Washington Academy 3-2 in a Class C North prelim. The Pirates swept singles play behind No. 1 Lucinda Wingert 6-0, 6-0; No. 2 Alanna Whitney 6-1, 6-0; and No. 3 Miriah Chapman 6-2, 6-1.

**June 1:** Dexter baseball won at PCHS 17-7.

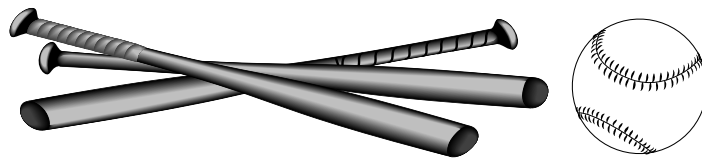
Greenville baseball lost at Valley 3-1.

PCHS softball won vs. Dexter 10-4. Delani Bennett and Lena Downes both drove in a pair of runs. Alyssa Brasier doubled and had two RBIs for Dexter.

Ninth-seeded PCHS boys tennis lost at No. 1 George Stevens 5-0 in a Class C North quarterfinal.

**June 2:** No. 4 PCHS girls tennis won vs. fifth seed Lee 3-2 in a Class C North quarterfinal.

June 4: Fourth-seeded PCHS girls tennis lost at No. 1 Mattanawcook 4-1. Lucinda Wingert had a victory in No. 1 singles, 6-2, 6-1.



# Postseason scoreboard

<p><b>Class B North baseball Prelims</b></p> <p>5. Oceanside vs. 12. Presque Isle</p> <p>6. Waterville vs. 11. MDI</p> <p>7. Foxcroft vs. 10. Nokomis</p> <p>8. Gardiner vs. 9. Belfast</p> <p><b>Quarterfinals</b></p> <p>1. Old Town vs. 8. Gardiner-9. Belfast</p> <p>2. Winslow vs. 7. Foxcroft-9. Nokomis</p> <p>3. Hermon vs. 6. Waterville-11. MDI</p> <p>4. Erskine vs. 5. Oceanside-12. Presque Isle</p> <p><b>Class C North baseball Prelims</b></p> <p>6. Bucksport vs. 11. Limestone/MSSM</p> <p>7. Washington vs. 10. Penquis</p> <p>8. Orono vs. 9. Dexter</p> <p><b>Quarterfinals</b></p> <p>1. George Stevens vs. 8. Orono-9. Dexter</p> <p>2. Houlton vs. 7. Washington-10. Penquis</p> <p>3. Central vs. 6. Bucksport-11. Limestone/MSSM</p> <p>4. Mattanawcook vs. 5. Ft. Kent</p> <p><b>Class D South baseball Quarterfinals</b></p> <p>1. Searsport vs. 8. Buckfield</p> <p>2. Valley vs. 7. Vinalhaven/North Haven</p> <p>3. Richmond vs. 6. North Yarmouth</p> <p>4. Greenville vs. 5. Rangeley</p> <p><b>Class B North softball Prelims</b></p> <p>5. Nokomis vs. 12. John Bapst</p> <p>6. Ellsworth vs. 11. Gardiner</p> <p>7. Medomak vs. 10. Erskine</p> <p>8. Presque Isle vs. 9. Foxcroft</p> <p><b>Quarterfinals</b></p> <p>1. Hermon vs. 8. Presque Isle-9. Foxcroft</p> <p>2. Oceanside vs. 7. Medomak-10. Erskine</p> <p>3. Winslow vs. 6. Ellsworth-11. Gardiner</p> <p>4. Old Town vs. 5. Nokomis</p> <p><b>Class C North softball Prelims</b></p> <p>6. Orono vs. 11. Calais</p> <p>7. George Stevens vs. 10. Dexter</p> <p>8. PCHS vs. 9. Washington</p> <p><b>Quarterfinals</b></p> <p>1. Narraguagus vs. 8. PCHS-9. Washington</p> <p>2. Bucksport vs. 7. George Stevens-10. Dexter</p> <p>3. Limestone/MSSM vs. 6. Orono-11. Calais</p> <p>4. Mattanawcook vs. 5. Houlton</p>	<p><b>Class D South softball Quarterfinals</b></p> <p>3. Buckfield vs. 6. Temple</p> <p>4. Greenville vs. 5. Rangeley</p> <p><b>Semifinals</b></p> <p>1. Richmond vs. 4. Greenville-5. Rangeley</p> <p>2. Vinalhaven/North Haven vs. 3. Buckfield-6. Temple</p> <p><b>Class B North boys tennis Prelims</b></p> <p>6. Hermon 4 11 Medomak 1</p> <p>7. Old Town 5 10. Foxcroft 0</p> <p>8. MDI 5 9. Presque Isle 0</p> <p><b>Quarterfinals</b></p> <p>1. John Bapst 5. 8. MDI 0</p> <p>2. Camden Hills 5 7. Old Town 0</p> <p>6. Hermon 3 3. Waterville 2</p> <p>4. Caribou 5 5. Winslow 0</p> <p><b>Semifinals</b></p> <p>4. Caribou 3 1. John Bapst 2</p> <p>2. Camden Hills 5 6. Hermon 0</p> <p><b>Final</b></p> <p>2. Camden Hills vs. 4. Caribou</p> <p><b>Class C North boys tennis Prelims</b></p> <p>13. Washington 5 4. Deer Isle-Stonington 0</p> <p>5. Ft. Kent 3 12. Sheard 0</p> <p>11. Van Buren 4 6. Lee 1</p> <p>7. Sumner 3 10. Dexter 2</p> <p>9. PCHS 3 8. Penobscot 2</p> <p><b>Quarterfinals</b></p> <p>1. George Stevens 5 9. PCHS 0</p> <p>2. Orono 5 7. Sumner 0</p> <p>3. Mattanawcook 3. 11. Van Buren 2</p> <p>5. Ft. Kent 4 13. Washington 1</p> <p><b>Semifinals</b></p> <p>1. George Stevens 3 5. Ft. Kent 2</p> <p>2. Orono 3 3. Mattanawcook 2</p> <p><b>Final</b></p> <p>1. George Stevens vs. 2. Orono</p> <p><b>Class C North girls tennis Prelims</b></p> <p>4. PCHS 3 13. Washington 2</p> <p>5. Lee 4 12. Woodland 1</p> <p>6. Houlton 4 11. Calais 1</p> <p>7. Orono 5 10. Deer Isle-Stonington 0</p> <p>8. Ft. Kent 4 9. Van Buren 1</p> <p><b>Quarterfinals</b></p> <p>1. Mattanawcook 4 8. Ft. Kent 1</p> <p>2. George Stevens 3 7. Orono 2</p> <p>3. Penobscot 4 6. Houlton 1</p> <p>4. PCHS 3 5. Lee 2</p> <p><b>Semifinals</b></p> <p>1. Mattanawcook 4 4. PCHS 1</p> <p>2. George Stevens 3 3. Penobscot 2</p> <p><b>Final</b></p> <p>1. Mattanawcook vs. 2. George Stevens</p>
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# Food, fun and great deals at PR YMCA

DOVER-FOXCROFT — The Piscataquis Regional YMCA would like to announce that tickets are still available for the annual Dinner, Dance, Auction being held on Saturday, June 18 at 5 p.m. The event, which takes place at the Y at 48 Park Street, is one of the Y's biggest fundraisers of the year with all proceeds supporting the Y's Annual Campaign, to benefit children and families with financial need.

"We're excited to be getting close to this year's event!" said Rod Willey, executive director of the PR YMCA. "The Dinner, Dance, Auction is an important event for our organization and is also a great chance to get out for a fun night."

As the name suggests this is a three-part event — each one worth the price of admission. First, event-goers will enjoy a delicious dinner prepared by Spruce Mill Farm, and a cash bar will be available. Performing during the event will be the versatile band *Canned*

*Bread* from Portland, featuring Dover-Foxcroft's own Robbie Neeb.

Because of the items that are up for bid, many people attend the event just for the live and silent auction. "We have a wide range of items this year. There are vacation getaways, gift baskets, food and wine, sports tickets, and much, much more," Willey said. "I'm personally excited about our football signed by Patriots star Julian Edelman." Another reason to come to the event is the auctioneer, Ron Miles. "Ron makes the auction very entertaining! It's fun — he knows how to make it a great time for everyone."

According to Willey, sponsors are an important part of making the event a success. "We are so grateful for the generous support of our major corporate sponsors. Over

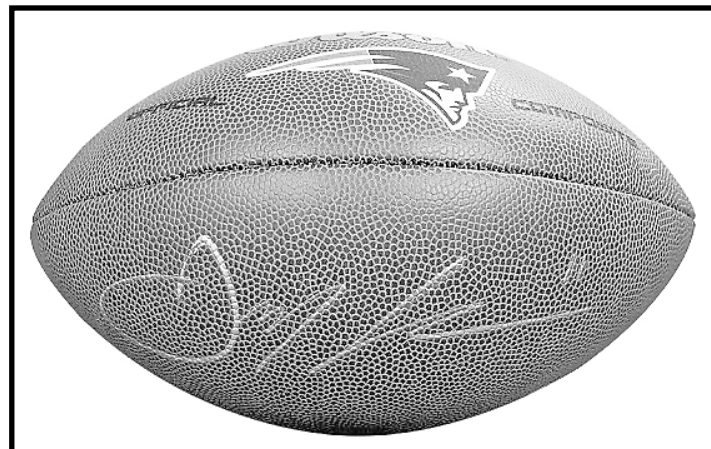


Photo courtesy of PRYMCA

**HOPING FOR AN INFLATED BID** — One of the many items up for auction at the Y's Dinner, Dance, Auction is a football signed by the New England Patriots' own Julian Edelman. The event starts at 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 18.

a hundred other businesses contribute in sponsorships and gifts as well — and we

thank them all." Tickets can be purchased at the Y or by calling 564-7111.

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**SAD #46**  
**District Budget Validation Referendum**

All citizens of Maine School Administrative District No. 46 are invited to participate in the Budget Validation Referendum Vote to be held on Tuesday, June 14, 2016, at:

Dexter.....8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ....Dexter Town Hall  
Exeter.....8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ....Exeter Town Office  
Garland.....8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ....Garland Town Office  
Ripley.....10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ....Courser Memorial School

All legally registered voters in Dexter, Exeter, Garland and Ripley can vote on the school budget for 2016-2017.

**PUBLIC NOTICE: MAINE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS CHARLESTON, MAINE**

The Board of Visitors of the Mountain View Youth Development Center/Charleston Correctional Facility will hold a public meeting on **Tuesday, June 14, 2016 from 4:00-5:30 p.m.** in the **M.V.Y.D.C. Administration Conference Room, 1182 Dover Road, Charleston, Maine.**

**Norm Higgins**  
**State Representative**  
**District 120**

(Atkinson, Brownville, Dover-Foxcroft, Medford, Milo, Lakeview Plantation and Unorganized Township of Orville)

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Exeter.....8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ....Exeter Town Office  
Garland.....8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ....Garland Town Office  
Ripley.....10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ....Courser Memorial School

All legally registered voters in Dexter, Exeter, Garland and Ripley can vote on the school budget for 2016-2017.



# REAL ESTATE

CALL 564-8355 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

# Low-cost insulating window inserts stretch heating dollars

After last year's successful Dover-Foxcroft Window Dressers community build, volunteers in the Dover-Foxcroft region are again making appointments to measure windows for cost-saving insulating window inserts.

"If you live in a home with windows that are older than 15 years, you can benefit," says Steve Jackson, local builder and strong advocate for the program.

Last year's build involved 54 volunteers who measured and built over 250 inserts for 27 people/families. Reports from satisfied customers confirm that the inserts provided reduction in draft through old windows making it more comfortable to sit nearby, reduced heat loss and reduced road noise for some customers whose homes are on busy roads. Many are requesting more inserts this year.

Window Dressers is a 5-year-old nonprofit supporting barn-raiser-like Community Builds in local communities in Maine,

gathering neighbors to help neighbors build the inserts. The local group, organized under the leadership of the Maine Highland Senior Center area and the Charlotte White Center-Thriving in Place Project, is eager to help local families reap the benefits of this fabulous community project.

"This is a project that not only helps our friends and neighbors save money in the heating season, but it is an opportunity to build community and reduce CO2 generation" says Dr. Lesley Fernow, organizer and volunteer for the local effort.

"The biggest lesson from the first year's build was that people really had a good time and many have said they would love to help again this year! Now that we know how to do it, things should be even better this year."

Residents in Dover-Foxcroft, Dexter, Sangerville Milo or Guilford can sign up to have their windows measured by local volunteers and then help make the inserts at the Community Build in Dover-Foxcroft. WindowDressers inserts can lower heating bills by as much as 25 percent and help the environment by lowering CO2 emissions levels by the same amount.

Inserts are custom measured and cut, then wrapped with clear polyolefin film and shrunk

drum-tight on both sides to create clear views through an insulating dead-air space. Foam weather stripping around the outer edges stops drafts and gives the insert a clean custom fit. Window experts have said that, when combined with a good storm window, this is more effective than replacing old windows with new, expensive, double-pane windows, and is a fraction of the cost. Each step of the assembly is done by local volunteers who can be taught at the time to perform their individual task.

Inserts cost an average of \$2.21 per square foot, and are available in white or natural pine finish (white finish is an additional \$4 per unit). Homeowners can usually recoup their investment in the first year with savings on heating fuel. Special pricing is also offered to low-income residents.

The group is also interested in recruiting people who will help with the community build scheduled for the week of, November 14-18 at Central Hall in Dover-Foxcroft. We will need help with the build itself, calling volunteers, providing food and snacks for the work teams. Everyone can help in some small way.

Please see Page 10, WINDOW

## ELDERLY AND FAMILY RENTAL APARTMENTS

### SUBSIDIZED

- OAK RIDGE APARTMENTS - Guilford
- HEBRON HEIGHTS APARTMENTS - Monson
- DEAN PARK APARTMENTS - Greenville

### NOT SUBSIDIZED

- FAIRWAY KNOLLS - Dexter On Golf Course
- 1 bedroom \$475 to \$485 • 2 bedroom \$515 to \$525

Elderly applicants must be 62 years of age or older. Handicap/disabled applicants may be under 62.

### TO APPLY

Call Toll Free 1-888-244-7072 or 534-7379  
Dial 711 TTD/TTY

### Therault Property Management

P.O. Box 215, Rockwood, ME 04478

We are an Equal Opportunity Provider & Employer



PO Box 1, Brownville, ME  
207-965-2291

Now taking applications for 1 & 2 bedroom subsidized housing. 62 years of age or older, handicapped or disabled regardless of age.

Please only people that do not smoke!

TDD 1-800-437-1220  
We are an E.O.

Contact **Keri Foster** to place your ad Call **564-8355**

Senior Matters  
By Lesley Fernow, M.D.



USE THE CLASSIFIEDS TO BUY, SELL AND TRADE...

# THE CLASSIFIEDS

"All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act and the Maine Human Rights Act, which make it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, national origin or sexual orientation. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis."

DEADLINE  
FRIDAY AT 12:00 P.M.  
CALL 564-8355  
FAX 564-7056



Please leave a message on the answering machine if you call after business hours. We'll return your call as soon as possible.

### Antiques

Union Square Antiques and Violet's Everything Shop, 8 and 10 E. Main Street, DOVER-FOX-CROFT. 564-7013. Are open for the season. June thru September. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Daily. Closed Sundays.

### Cleaning Services

Find me on Facebook @ Penquis Residential Cleaning Homes, Camps, Offices, Weekly, Bi-Weekly, Monthly, Reliable, Efficient, Affordable. Michele 207-404-6710.

### Apartments For Rent

SANGERVILLE - 1 BDRM. 1st floor, handicap accessible. Heat and utilities included. \$650/month. Section 8 and HUD vouchers accepted. 207-356-4626.

### Competition

Action Pistol Shooting Competition - Big Pine Gun Club, Rt. 150 N. GUILFORD. June 11th, 8:30 a.m. Shooting Fee: \$20. Eye and Ear Protection Required. Additional 3 gun match to be held. Public invited. Call Kerry 564-0721.

### Camps For Rent

Lakefront Camp at SOUTH TWIN LAKE. Rt. 11. 5 Miles South of Millinocket toward Brownville. Sandy beach. \$400 per week. 508-326-7000.

### Garage/Yard/Moving Sales

Barn Sale: Saturday, June 11th, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. 16 Elm Street, GUILFORD. Some antiques.

Ken's Thrift Gift  
Open for the season  
Thursday, Friday, Saturday  
69 Pleasant Ave.  
SANGERVILLE

Saturday, June 11, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
101 Foxcroft Ctr. Road, DOVER-FOX-CROFT. Lots of horse stuff, old tools, dolly, hedge trimmer, fishing poles, pet crate, kids stuff, household, John Deere lawn tractor. Garage if Rain.

### Miscellaneous

Switch to DIRECTV and get a \$100 Gift Card. FREE Whole-Home Genie HD/DVR upgrade. Starting at \$19.99/mo. New Customers Only. Don't settle for cable. Call Now 1-800-610-8157.

### Miscellaneous F/S

SAWMILLS from only \$4397.00-MAKE & SAVE MONEY with your own bandmill-Cut lumber any dimension. In stock ready to ship! FREE Info/DVD: www.NorwoodSawmills.com 1-800-578-1363Ext.300N.

## Hibbard Skilled Nursing Center

Immediate Opening  
**CNA-M, Evening Shift**

Our 93-bed facility has an immediate opening for a Certified Nurse Aide Med Tech. This is a full time position on the day shift. Excellent benefit package.

Qualified applicants should apply at:  
1037 West Main Street Dover-Foxcroft, ME  
EOE

## HELP WANTED

**Full Time in our Lumber Yard**  
Must be able to lift and clean driving record.

APPLY IN PERSON  
Dover True Value  
69 East Main St., Dover-Foxcroft

## Full Time Accountant

An exciting full time position is available for an Accountant to join a progressive, fast paced company. The ideal candidate has a strong background in accounting (Bachelor's degree or combination of lower degree and experience), with experience in general and manufacturing cost accounting preferred. This role provides assistance to the Financial Officer in providing quality financial statements, and provides support to Sales, Logistics, and Operation's Team ensuring the effective & smooth running of the day to day operations.

This challenging position will suit a candidate with a can do attitude, self-motivated with great communications skills, an eye for detail, well organized, and a willingness to learn. The company's culture is one that is welcoming, supportive, and focused, and we are looking for a like-minded individual to join our small, efficient team.

Send resume by June 15 th to:  
Pleasant River Lumber Company  
Attention: Human Resource Department  
P.O. Box 68  
Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426

## Hibbard Skilled Nursing Center

RNS & LPNS  
FULL AND PART-TIME

We are a 93-bed, multi-level facility with several openings in our Nursing Department. We are looking for motivated and energetic nurses to work with our post-acute patients as well as our long term care residents.

We are offering a sign-on bonus of up to **\$5,000.00** for full time employment.

Interested applicants may visit for an application, or send resume to:  
Hibbard Skilled Nursing Center  
1037 West Main Street  
Dover-Foxcroft, Maine 04426  
e-mail: [angelajones@firstatlantic.com](mailto:angelajones@firstatlantic.com)

EOE

## Hibbard Skilled Nursing Center

### SUMMER AND/OR FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT

We are currently accepting applications for work in our dietary department. Must work every other weekend and be flexible with schedule. No experience necessary. Excellent benefits for full time employment

Applications may be picked up at:  
Hibbard Skilled Nursing Center  
1037 West Main Street  
Dover-Foxcroft, Maine 04426  
EOE

## Now Hiring Greenville

Northwoods Outfitters is seeking a year round Full or Part Time Customer Service Associate. Candidate should be friendly, self-motivated, and able to work weekends. Apply in person. No calls please

## TOWN OF BROWNVILLE

The Town of Brownville is accepting applications for a full time driver/laborer/equipment operator position in the Public Works Dept. This position does include snowplowing in the winter months. A valid class B driver's license is required for this position. Preemployment physical and drug testing are required. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older. Applications are available at the Brownville Town Office during normal business hrs.

Deadline for applications is Aug. 3 2016 @ 2pm.  
The Town of Brownville is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

## Katahdin Valley Health Center

### On-Call/Per-Diem Opening Patient Service Representative

Katahdin Valley Health Center (KVHC) is now hiring for an on-call/per-diem Patient Service Representative. The person in this role will provide administrative support to our clinical team, schedule follow up appointments, and complete all general patient registration and scheduling duties.

Minimum Qualifications Required: Excellent customer service skills, experience in an office setting, proficiency in Microsoft Office products, as well as the ability to work in a busy health care setting. Previous experience in a healthcare office setting a plus. This entry level, full-time position comes with a comprehensive benefits package including health, dental and life insurance along with vacation time.

KVHC has a competitive Salary and Benefits package including a generous amount of paid time off. Candidates are encouraged to submit resumes with references to Katahdin Valley Health Center via USPS at the address on the right, or email to [michelle.lefay@kvhc.org](mailto:michelle.lefay@kvhc.org).

Katahdin Valley Health Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer

## CHARLOTTE WHITE CENTER

### NEW OPENINGS!

Paid Training Provided

Staff needed to work with adults in our residential programs located in: Abbot, Dexter, Dover-Foxcroft, and Corinth. Immediate openings for weekend Live-in positions Saturday through Sunday, as well as evenings and overnights. Must have a HS diploma or equivalent and a valid ME driver's license in good standing.

\$9.25 per hour, no experience necessary.

Please apply online:  
[www.charlottewhitecenter.org](http://www.charlottewhitecenter.org)

E.O.E

# ORDER FORM

You can run a CLASSIFIED AD For as little as **\$3.00** Per Week/ 15 Words Single Paper (\$1.00 for an additional 5 words)

COMMERCIAL AD RATES:  
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City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Weeks \_\_\_\_\_  
Classification \_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed order form w/payment to:  
**The Piscataquis Observer**  
P.O. Box 30, Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426 • Fax: 564-7056  
**564-8355**



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Wednesday, June 8**  
**ABBOT:** The Abbot Historical Society meets at 6:30 p.m. at the K of P Hall/Abbot Historical Society Museum. FMI call 876-3073.

**Thursday, June 9**  
**DEXTER:** The SAD 46 public budget meeting starts at 6 p.m. in the Ridge View Community School cafeteria.

**DOVER-FOXCROFT:** The Widows and Widowers Group meets at 11:30 a.m. at the Bear's Den. FMI call 924-5351.

**DOVER-FOXCROFT:** The Thompson Free Library hosts Jackie Robinson of Leaves and Blooms Greenhouse as part of the Brown Bag Lunch Series from 12:30-1:30 p.m. FMI call 564-3350.

**DOVER-FOXCROFT:** A free session of the Essentials of College Planning will be offered at PHEC at 1 p.m. To register call 1-800-281-3703 or go to <http://meoc.maine.edu>.

**Friday, June 10**  
**DOVER-FOXCROFT:** The Living Word Assembly of God holds a yard sale today from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and June 11 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. (rain dates are June 17-18). FMI call 564-2586.

**DOVER-FOXCROFT:** The Piscataquis County Republican Committee meets at 7 p.m. in the Piscatauis Room at Mayo

Regional Hospital. FMI call 717-7619.

**GARLAND:** The Garland Grange serves a chicken pie supper from 5-7 p.m. FMI call 924-6954.

**GARLAND:** The Garland Grange hosts a contra dance from 7-10 p.m. FMI call 924-3925 or 277-3961.

**Saturday, June 11**  
**DEXTER:** The Wayside Grange serves a bean-hole bean and ham supper from 5-6:30 p.m., with live music. FMI call 924-5711.

**DOVER-FOXCROFT:** The 2016 Golf Open, to benefit Pine Tree Hospice, takes place at the Foxcroft Golf Club with shotgun starts at 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. To register call 564-8887.

**DOVER-FOXCROFT:** The Piscataquis County Democratic Committee meets at the town office from 10 a.m.-noon with guest speaker David Boyer. FMI call 564-0139.

**DOVER-FOXCROFT:** A youth Hooked on Fishing event takes place during the morning at the Kiwanis Park pond. FMI call 343-0503.

**GUILFORD:** The Maine Highlands Federal Credit Union hosts "Breakfast by the Bridge" from 8-10 a.m. by the Guilford Memorial Bridge over the Piscataquis River.

**GUILFORD:** A Guilford Bicentennial Pet Fair will be held from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the athletic fields on Water St.

**GUILFORD:** The Guilford Memorial Library hosts a Maine Author Day from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. FMI call 876-4547.

**MILO:** The American Legion serves a baked bean and pulled pork supper from 4:30-6 p.m., with delivery and takeout available.

**Sunday, June 12**  
**DOVER-FOXCROFT:** Foxcroft Academy graduation starts at 1:30 p.m. with Baccalaureate at noon.

**Monday, June 13**  
**DOVER-FOXCROFT:** The Dover and Foxcroft Water District monthly trustees meeting takes place at 5 p.m. at the district office, 48 Morton Ave. Suite B.

**SANGERVILLE:** The Economic Development Committee of Sangerville meets at 6:30 p.m. at the town hall. FMI call 876-2808.

**Tuesday, June 14**  
**MILO:** The Milo Garden Club gathers for a picnic at the Gazebo at noon.

**Thursday, June 16**  
**DOVER-FOXCROFT:** Medicare 101 will be held at 6 p.m. in the Sebec Room at Mayo Regional Hospital. To register

call 564-7346 or 1-800-432-7812.

**Friday, June 17**  
**DEXTER:** A 200th anniversary celebration of Dexter's incorporation starts at 2 p.m. at the town hall.

**Saturday, June 18**  
**ATKINSON:** The Sons and Daughters of Union Veterans will conduct a Flag Day memorial service for two Civil War veterans at 2 p.m. at the Sweet Cemetery. FMI call 876-3073.

**DEXTER:** The Dexter Sunrise Kiwanis and Knights of Columbus serve a pancake breakfast from 6-9 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

**DOVER-FOXCROFT:** The PRYMCA holds its eighth annual Dinner Dance Auction from 5-10 p.m. FMI call 564-7111.

**MONSON:** A New England contra dance will be held at the Finn Hall from 7:30-10:30 a.m. FMI call 997-3639.

**Sunday, June 19**  
**HARMONY:** A cribbage tourney, to benefit building repairs, starts at 1 p.m. at the Harmony Community Center with sign-ups at 12:30 p.m. FMI call 683-5237 or 683-5621.

**Monday, June 20**  
**GREENVILLE JCT:** The PCECDC holds its quarterly meeting at 4 p.m. at Kelly's Landing. FMI go to [www.pcecdc.org](http://www.pcecdc.org).

## Greenville

Continued from Page 4

This again is misleading. Remember the superintendent's projection of a \$200,000 surplus from the 2015-16 budget year? Those dollars stay in the bank because they won't be spent.

So the expected Fund Balance as of 6/30/2017 will be \$314,089 rather than \$114,089. Again, that is a much higher Fund Balance than suggested by our school committee. If the school committee collects more tax dollars than are spent, shouldn't they disclose to the community how many "extra" tax dollars are "needed" and what they intend to spend the "extra" tax dollars on? Am I suggesting foul play? No.

I am suggesting that our school committee can do a much better job in explaining the true amount of "extra" tax dollars that have been collected but not spent. With "extra" tax dollars already in the bank why is any increase in tax dollars needed in this budget?

And finally, the elephant in the room that everyone wants to continue ignoring. Teachers' compensation is by far the largest expense in any school budget. It comprises the lion's share of the approximately \$2,728,175 in total employee compensation (the superintendent's office estimates that 75 percent of the total budget consists of employee compensation and benefits) that our school committee has included in the proposed budget.

Our teachers are compensated through a collectively bargained (union) contract. This is a public document and a copy can be obtained by visiting the superintendent's office. The current 3-year contract expires at the end of August 2017. The renegotiated terms that will be agreed to by our school committee next year will be "cast in stone" until the year 2020. The key

financial elements of this contract are the negotiated annual increases to base salaries and the provisions for health insurance benefits. Annual base salary increases are limited to a negotiated percentage. However, health insurance benefit increases each year are not limited. A teacher with individual coverage bears no increase in personal cost regardless of whether annual insurance rates rise by 1 percent or 20 percent. A teacher with family coverage pays only 25 percent of any increase.

Under terms of the current contract, our school committee cannot "shop" for a less expensive source even if the coverage terms remain exactly the same.

The budget presentation reports each year that the costs of teachers' salaries and benefits have increased. Want more details? You will have to go to the Internet and do your own research. That's what I have done. Teachers' salaries are part of the public information that each Maine school system publishes annually. Pick a school and compare it to Greenville.

My personal research indicates that total compensation for our teachers is, on average, at least 20 percent higher than surrounding school systems. I hope that many of you will challenge my conclusion. I look forward to participating in a dialogue between the community and our school committee on this critical topic.

If true, my conclusion indicates that our community is providing "additional" compensation of over \$300,000 annually. I think our school committee should be able to explain to the community why that "additional" compensation is appropriate and the impact it will have on future tax dollar requests if it is not addressed.

Dennis D. Bortis  
 Greenville

## Track

Continued from Page 6

and their parents pursue athletic scholarships in the face of otherwise considerable college debt or simply in the quest for more playing time.

Such specialization isn't always without a cost.

Mark Rerick, athletic director for the Grand Forks, North Dakota, Public Schools since 2012, cited several negative consequences related to specialization in an article published recently on NFHS.com, the website for the National Foundation of State High School Associations.

Among the risks faced more frequently by student-athletes who specialize in a single sport, he said, are burnout, lack of free time, increased pressure to succeed in a specific sport, and, perhaps most significantly, injuries caused by overuse.

Preliminary findings of a recent study of Wisconsin high school student-athletes also suggested that participating in a specific sport for eight months a year or more appeared to be a significant factor in increased injury risk.

Of the more than 1,000 athletes studied, the report found 49 percent of specialized athletes suffered an injury compared to 23 percent of multi-sport athletes.

Injuries are inevitable among anyone who participates in athletics but the prevailing notion is that specialization leads to repetitive injuries to the same areas of the body -- as reflected in one example by an increase in the number of young baseball pitchers requiring Tommy John surgery.

All of those factors have led to criticism of sports specialization by younger athletes from the likes of Hall of Fame baseball pitcher John Smoltz and Ohio State football coach Urban Meyer.

The number of eastern Maine high school student-athletes opting to specialize in one sport seems relatively modest, and when you consider the success of some of the state's current crop of elite multi-sport athletes it's easy to understand why -- both fun and rewards can be earned through such versatility.

Foxcroft's Smith is just one example of an athlete who has thrived in multiple athletic venues and still earned a Division I athletic scholarship.

So, too, has Trevor DeLaitte of Bangor High School, bound for UMaine on a baseball scholarship next season. Not only is the pitcher a top contender for the state's Mr. Baseball Award this spring, he was a finalist last winter for the Travis Roy Award symbolic of the state's top Class A hockey player.

Another University of Maine-bound scholarship baseball player, Matt Pushard of Brewer, not only stars for the Witches on the diamond but was an All-Maine basketball player last winter.

And Orono junior Jake Koffman, whose discus throw of 189 feet, 9 inches at Foxcroft Academy during last Saturday's Class C meet was the longest in Maine high school history, is also a key contributor for both the Red Riots' soccer and basketball programs.

Perhaps the most significant common denominator that quartet shares beyond being among the 7 percent of high school athletes who undoubtedly will get to compete at the collegiate level is the chance to pursue both fun and excellence on multiple stages.

Similarly members of the senior-laden Foxcroft Academy boys track team shared one last adventure on their athletic stage of the moment Saturday. It was both fun and excellent.

## Driving

Continued from Page 9

states with statewide anti-texting laws have lower rates of texting while driving -- at a statistically significant level. More specifically, the AT&T data scientists believe that the 4 states without a full statewide ban have a roughly 17 percent higher rate of texting while driving than the 46 states with statewide bans. Fortunately, Maine has a statewide anti-texting law in place, which has helped to drastically reduce the number of distracted driving-related incidents over the last year.

As we approach the busy

spring and summer driving months -- with proms, graduations and vacations on their way -- we are renewing our commitment to stay safe behind the wheel, and we encourage all Mainers to pledge to do the same. Please join us and sign the pledge to keep your eyes on the road, not on your phone by visiting [www.ItCanWait.com](http://www.ItCanWait.com). Your text or email can wait, but this effort to save lives cannot. Together, we can make our roads a safer place.

Matthew Dunlap is Maine's secretary of state. Owen Smith, of Maine, is AT&T's regional vice president.

## Residents

Continued from Page 4

Director for the past year. Our current admin team did the extra work and covered that vacancy; in a better budget climate they may deserve the 2 percent raise that was apparently voted down on May 26th.

In the current budget crisis, they have already proven the district could operate with one less administrator. Urge your board members to move forward with the new numbers that voters gave us; perhaps the current Curriculum Coordinator could fill the long-vacant Special Education position? Could the Curriculum Coordinator's duties of oversee-

ing the many standardized tests be covered with a less-expensive, stipended position? With only 600 students, could we reduce our Superintendent to part-time? Proposals to share that position with SAD 68 would have created that exact situation.

While I do not want to lose good administrators in this budget cycle, I do see similar budget struggles in our future due to declining enrollment, and the tough decisions begin now. The public vote on May 26th started to do that difficult work, and we should all support it with our votes on June 14th.

Sue Griffith  
 Parkman

## SAD 4

Continued from Page 4

has what is known as reduction-in-force language and if the school committee has met it clearly and cleanly then, surely, even the teachers would have to admit there is a direct need to reduce employees as student numbers continue to decrease. If the school committee should end up with the money, it should just acknowledge and track its presence and save it for next year to roll forward as fund balance, for I fear that next year will be worse than this.

Secondly, the teachers have the capacity to help with the financial crisis. They have a master contract that they could reopen and offer savings. The teachers, while complaining about other raises, are getting their own of 2.5 percent-plus step increases plus 85 percent of the 8.5 percent increase in their health insurance, which is a very good one. If the association (which is a union) declines to help, then it can stop whining about position cuts and raises for other people. Fair is fair. The point is that both entities assumed the taxpayers had deep pockets when these raises were either negotiated or given.

There are other savings within the current year's budget. One citizen hit on that point. The board knows there is practically a whole special ed director's salary and insurance that is unexpended; there is the \$30K built in for a spec ed outside placement; there is money left in contingency, despite the statement that the administration is covering the breakfast program with it. Find these pockets of money that create positive fund balance and use them.

Given that most of the budget is tied up in people, then there has to be a reckoning of fewer staff. Positions of head of transportation and head of maintenance can be cut down and creatively redesigned to cover peak times of coverage. We are dealing with two buildings where there used to be eight. Granted there is a size difference, but some of that has to be offset somehow.

Look at not buying a new bus this year. We will feel it next year, but do we really need a new bus every year? Redesign some bus routes.

Cut back in technology. Ne-

gotiate hard with the current classified staff in their currently open contract. Move forward and cut the position of Director of Instruction. Get a grip on how serious the problem is.

The problem here is that for a number of years now the school board and administration have carried on a position of arrogance and unconcern in building a budget. I sat on the board for four budget cycles and always voted against a budget that I thought was out of control; and they were less desperate than the current one. Not once in those four budget cycles did I see relevant evidence of the improvement of instruction and I haven't seen it since then.

The bottom line is the taxpayers can no longer afford these increases and the system can make no claim of improvement that would warrant the taxpayers' support. I urge the taxpayers to vote 'No' on the school budget on June 14. It is time for a hard, cold reality check for the school system. It is time for a hard, cold reality check for the citizens of the district as their taxes shoot up in unheard-of percentages.

A crisis has been a number of years coming, but it is here. Another several hundred thousand needs to be cut off the assessments for FY 2017. We must not and cannot continue to pay for increases that are not backed by real systemic improvement. Make your vote count.

Ann B. Bridge  
 Parkman

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with the Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered May 2, 2016 in the action entitled Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. v. Irene M. Bonsey, by the Maine District Court, Dover-Foxcroft, Docket No. DOVDC-RE-14-56, wherein the Court adjudged the foreclosure of a mortgage granted by Irene M. Bonsey to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. dated February 20, 2008 and recorded in the Piscataquis County Registry of Deeds in Book 1906, Page 82, the period of redemption having expired, a public sale of the property described in the mortgage will be conducted on Thursday, July 14, 2016, commencing at 11:30 AM, at the Law Office of Shapiro & Morley, LLC, 707 Sable Oaks Dr., Suite 250, South Portland, Maine 04106.

The property is located at 69 North Street, Dover-Foxcroft, Maine.

The sale will be by public auction. All bidders for the property will be required to make a deposit of \$5,000.00 in cash, certified or bank check at the time of the public sale made payable to Shapiro & Morley, LLC, which deposit is non-refundable as to the highest bidder. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days of the public sale. In the event a representative of the mortgagee is not present at the time and place stated in this notice, no sale shall be deemed to have occurred and all rights to reschedule a subsequent sale are reserved. Additional terms will be announced at the public sale.

Shapiro & Morley, LLC, 707 Sable Oaks Dr., Suite 250, South Portland, Maine 04106, (207) 775-6223.

14-021532

*Jim Chase*

*Love of my life and best friend.*

*I miss you so much, our rides in the woods with the truck and ATV's.*

*The trips to Alaska, and the way you kept our grounds looking so good.*

*I will always be so proud to be your wife.*

*~ Donna*

[www.observer-me.com](http://www.observer-me.com)

## OBITUARIES

### Obituary Notices

**ACKER, Madeline**, 86, Sebec, at Fort Wayne, IN, June 3, 2016. Funeral services will be held 11 a.m., Saturday, June 11, at the Funeral Home. Arrangements are in the care of the Lary Funeral Home, Dover-Foxcroft.

**MEHOLIK, Anna May**, 93, Dover-Foxcroft, ME and Seymour, CT, at Dover-Foxcroft, May 27, 2016. A graveside memorial service will be held 11 a.m., Friday, June 10, in the family lot at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Dexter. Arrangements are in the care of the Lary Funeral Home, Dover-Foxcroft.

### Anna May Meholik

DOVER-FOXCROFT, ME & SEYMOUR, CT -- Anna May (Russell) Meholik, 93, wife of the late Stanley M. Meholik, Sr., passed away, May 27, 2016, at Hibbard Nursing Home in Dover-Foxcroft. She was born on July 29, 1922, in Beacon Falls, CT, the daughter of William H. and Edith (Wersik) Russell. Anna was a homemaker and worked in factories. She and her husband, later in life, owned and operated Dairy Queen in Ansonia, CT.

She is survived by her son, Stanley Jr. and his wife, Gloria, of Seymour, CT; her daughter, Carol Ann Dionne and her husband, Joe, of ME; brothers, Nate Russell of CT, Leonard Russell of AR; grandchildren: Michael and his wife, Pam, John and Megan, of CT; Berinadete and Victoria of ME; great-grandchildren: Christopher, Michael Jr., and Kyle Meholik of CT; Benisam Gould of ME; one great-great-granddaughter, Samantha

Gould, of ME; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her loving husband of nearly sixty years, Anna was predeceased by her siblings, Frank, Henry, Fred, Jim, Dora, Beulah "Boots" Betty, Viola, Eleanor, Edith; grandson, Stanley III; great-grandson, Keith Meholik; great-granddaughter, Christina Preble; and grandson-in-law, Eugene Gould.

A graveside memorial service will be held 11 a.m., Friday, June 10, 2016, in the family lot at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Dexter, ME. Arrangements are in the care of Lary Funeral Home, Dover-Foxcroft. Messages of condolence may be expressed at [www.laryfuneralhome.com](http://www.laryfuneralhome.com).



### Madeline Acker

SEBEC -- Madeline Acker, 86, was born April 25, 1930, and died in Fort Wayne, Indiana, on Friday, June 3, 2016.

She is survived by her husband, Aubrey; and their three daughters and their husbands, Starr and Verl Gillespie of Mission, TX, Twila and Rody Palmer of Westford, MA, and Joan and Buddy Baird of Sebec. She is also survived by seven grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; multiple nieces and nephews; and an AFS daughter and her husband, Kirs and Joke Sell of Finland. Madeline will be missed by family and friends all across the United States and Canada.

Funeral services will be

held 11 a.m., Saturday, June 11, 2016, at the Lary Funeral Home, Dover-Foxcroft.

A reception will be held directly after the service at the Sebec Four Corners Bridge Church. In lieu of flowers, a contribution to the Dover-Foxcroft Congregational Church, The Bridge Church of Sebec, or the Sebec Reading Room in her name would be appreciated. Condolences may be expressed at [www.laryfuneralhome.com](http://www.laryfuneralhome.com).







Observer photo/Jeanette Hughes

**AUXILIARY COLOR GUARD** – Little Miss Poppy Giavanna Farley of Brownville and the Joseph P. Chaisson Unit 41 Jr. Auxiliary leads the Auxiliary Color Guard during the Memorial Day parade in Milo on May 30.



Observer photo/Jeanette Hughes

**ONE WAY TO KEEP THE BLACK FLIES AWAY** – Members of the Milo Fire Department proceed with the hand pumper during the parade on June 4 as part of the annual Black Fly Festival.

## Town

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Instead of \$20,000 per mile for maintenance, we'll need to spend \$200,000 per mile to rebuild them (or turn them into gravel). For a relatively modest investment we can keep most of these "at risk" roads from falling off the cliff.

Takeaway number 3: If we don't do this now, in five years, we will be spending more than double to keep any semblance of decent roads in our town. I would be ashamed to foist this problem off on our children?

Takeaway number 4: To keep decent roads, we have to vote on June 14th "Yes" on articles 6 and 7 for road work. Yes, it will increase our taxes, but better to face up to this now than to make our kids do it five years from now — or, make this a town that nobody will want to live in.

Take a look at the Gorrill report, it lists improvements for almost every street in town. Find your street and know that help is on the way — if you vote "Yes" on articles 6 and 7.

**Chris Maas  
Dover-Foxcroft**

## Window

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You can sign up for window measurements or to volunteer by calling (207) 596-3073, on our website, [www.windowdressers.org](http://www.windowdressers.org), or by email at [info.windowdressers@gmail.com](mailto:info.windowdressers@gmail.com), or call me. We will also have a table at the Whoopie Pie Festival (at the Historical Society building) if you want to see a sample window and sign up there. There

will be a limit of 300 inserts for this year's build, so it is essential to get your name in soon if you don't want to be "left in the cold." A local measuring team will contact you to make an appointment.

Readers are invited to offer feedback about this column and to suggest topics for future articles. You may do so by contacting Lesley Fernow at (207) 992-6822 and [lmfernow@rcn.com](mailto:lmfernow@rcn.com).

## Brain Injury

Continued from Page 1

made contact. "She looked back and said 'sorry Mrs. Wright' and she was on her way."

Wright, who is in her second year at PCES, said immediately after the April 6 incident, she felt as if her stomach did a somersault. "It really hurt but I thought it's just a hit to the head, a banging of heads, it's not anything. I remember going to talk about a student who was struggling with the guidance counselor and I realized then that I couldn't concentrate because I felt nauseous.

"So I said I needed to go and I walked halfway down the stairs and stopped and realized I felt terrible," Wright said. She said on the way back to her desk the office staff suggested that Wright may have a concussion "and I said no that's ridiculous, it's just a little bump to the head."

Wright would end up making a return trip to the hospital two days later to fully realize the extent of the concussion she suffered, which would require several weeks to fully recover from.

The principal said that she then had a chance on her lunch break, within a half hour of bumping heads, to check a text message from her mother saying her father was ill. "I read it and I just wanted to respond and my fingers I couldn't coordinate them. It was really, really hard to make my fingers hit so it was then I realized something may be wrong."

Wright said a suggestion was made to go to the emergency room. "I thought no I just need to rest for a few minutes and I don't need to go

and the nurse was kind of insistent." Wright said SAD 4 Superintendent Ann Kirkpatrick drove her the eight miles to Mayo Regional Hospital in Dover-Foxcroft.

"I did not take it as seriously as I should have," Wright said.

She said she saw Mayo Regional Hospital Rehabilitation Department Leader Fran Moore. "Right away he knew it sounded like a vestibular effect," she said as she was diagnosed with a concussion, affecting the part of the brain that provides a sense of balance and spatial orientation. "I was sensitive to noise and the riding made me somewhat nauseous."

After the visit to the hospital, Wright went home and rested for the remainder of the day and the day after, believing that she was ready to head back to school. "I thought this is ridiculous so up I got," Wright said.

"That's the problem with this, you are good until you move because the vestibular is the movement and the noise," she said. "I hadn't realized it that morning but in the shower there's a lot of noise and there is movement and then of course there's a blow dryer and by the time I'm really getting ready I'm exhausted," Wright said with a chuckle, adding she thought "that's what you get for laying in bed all day."

Driving to the school from her home in Pittsfield Wright said she reached Corinna when "I thought wow, should I turn around and go home or should I keep going and I thought it's the same distance now I might as well go and maybe I'll feel better — not a good choice.

"So I landed here but apparent-

ly when I walked in I didn't walk straight, my eyes apparently looked bad," Wright said. She said school staff knew right away something was not right with the principal and for the second time in three days she was taken to the hospital.

"The doctor said 'you need to stay home, you need to do nothing', so I went home and rested," Wright said, explaining she wore earplugs to stop headache-causing sounds.

At the end of the following week she saw her primary care doctor for a checkup. "I said I was fine and he gave me this test and I still remember this test because I've taken it 100 times, I had to follow an H with my eyes," Wright said, joking she has never failed a test so many times in her life. "I just couldn't do it, I couldn't make my eyes follow that H. I couldn't stand and close my eyes without falling over because I guess I had no, I guess, sense of ... balance," Wright said after a moment of trying to find the word she was looking for.

She said she wanted to come back to work, but waited another week to try to pass the tests. Again Wright failed, despite practicing as much as she could.

"What was amazing to me was I could push my way through a lot of headaches and the previous year I had twisted my ankle," but the principal continued to do her job. "With a concussion you really, no matter how much you want to, you cannot fight your way through it. You will not be able to function."

For six weeks Wright was unable to drive, but she was permitted to come back to work on a reduced schedule by the end of April. Even-

tually doctors allowed Wright to get behind the wheel again.

"The paperwork says two to three months for a complete recovery for just a bump to the head," Wright said, repeating "it was just a bump" several times for emphasis.

Since returning to school, Wright said she's had issues with word retrieval. "That part's getting better but I still, at times, struggle to find a word I'm looking for," she said, mentioning how during the interview she spent several moments trying to recall the word balance. "I can't come up with the details very quickly, I can over time."

She said her doctor has assured her in two to three months "it will be 100 percent, it just takes that long for everything to totally recover and I think that's what I didn't know."

"I should never have come to school that Friday, but how do you know?" Wright said. "I still don't know if I would know. If I hit my head hard on a rock or ice I would have expected something but not just a bump. I guess that's the thing people are learning about concussions. It doesn't have to be something drastic."

"You can't fight your way through it ... you have to have that patience with yourself. I guess that's not my virtue, I can have patience with kids but not with myself."

"I tried to find a silver lining ... I think I'll be a better principal because of it. Because students struggle with noises and distractibility and perhaps word retrieval issues and I can really relate to how frustrating that is," Wright said. "That's what I've tried to be a little more aware of."

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