

Machias Valley News Observer



COUNTY SEAT WEEKLY

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Since 1852 • Vol. 157 • No. 15

MACHIAS, MAINE • WEDNESDAY • DECEMBER 2, 2009

\$1.00

First Wind Begins Construction on Stetson Wind Expansion



First Wind, an independent wind power company, recently announced that it has begun construction of the 25.5 MW expansion of its Stetson Wind project. This expansion builds on the success of the Stetson Wind project and will offer both economic and environmental benefits to the State of Maine.

"This second phase of the Stetson Wind project continues Maine's aggressive leadership

in pursuing energy independence and developing clean, renewable sources of energy," said Governor John Baldacci. "By harnessing these sources of energy locally, we keep money in our State and we create green jobs in Maine, all while improving our environment and our national security."

To inaugurate the expansion, First Wind hosted a ground-

See *First Wind*, page 4.

Hearing Set on Dike Project

A public hearing on December 16 will be the first invitation to gain citizen input into the replacement of the Machias causeway bridge.

The Maine Department of Transportation presentation will be held at 6 p.m. in Science Building Room 102 at the University of Maine at Machias. All concerned parties are urged to attend.

Although years down the road, the options of repairing/replacing the existing system or returning to a tidal river are spurring arguments for both.

The first option would replace tidal valves and construct a new bridge closely resembling the existing structure.

However, the proposed second option would flood the area, installing a traditional bridge and returning the marshland to the tidal river that previously existed in the 1800s before rail came to Machias. This proposal is presently estimated at \$5 million and, with all necessary approvals, permits and sanctions, would not likely happen before 2015.



Gates House Christmas Party Dec. 6th

The Machiasport Historical Society invites everyone to their annual Christmas Party on December 6th from 3-5 p.m. Come and kick off the holiday season 1800's style and enjoy delicious holiday fare and caroling accompanied by the society's antique parlor organ. Additional music will be provided on mountain dulcimer and guitar. The Gates House is located at 344 Port Rd. (Rt. 92) in Machiasport.

Celeste Sherman photo



Jonesport Flotilla Held Sunday

On Sunday, November 29, Christmas carols were playing from the lead boat and cheers from the shore were heard across the water as the 2009 Christmas Flotilla slowly made its way through Moosabec Reach, under the Jonesport-Beals bridge.

Photo by Karen Varian

Leader Fosters Balanced Political Arena

Emerge Maine Director Plowing New Ground for Women

by Ruth Leubecker

Katie Mae Simpson is not the norm for a young Maine college graduate, because she's found her ideal job and she can do it right here where she wants to be.

"Growing up in downeast Maine was such a good experience, but (in the beginning) I couldn't stay and do my profession," explains the Columbia Falls native. "Emerge Maine is the perfect confluence of everything I want - living here and my dream job."

Simpson, whose first day as *Emerge Maine* director was October 2, brings a wealth of experience to her trailblazing position. After three years as senior organizer with Planned Parenthood, she worked as a polling and field strategist for eight winning Massachusetts House and Senate candidates. She has advocated for gay marriage and workplace health and safety.

But her most strenuous and eye-opening experience was signing on as a campaign staffer with the Howard Dean presidential campaign. "It was an intense time. You don't sleep much and you eat a lot of pizza," reflected the Middlebury College graduate, "and what I learned from it was that I didn't want to do it for the rest of my life. The 80-hour work week and the intensity of the experience just takes over your life."

"*Emerge Maine* is the perfect balance of working on an issue I'm passionate about and living where I want to be," she explains. "Politics in Maine doesn't move at the same pace. I like the geographic cross-section, although we have no women north of Bangor. My goal is to eventually provide this opportunity for women in Houlton

and Presque Isle."

The opportunity of *Emerge Maine* is ambitious, albeit partisan. The local non-profit is dedicated to training Democratic women leaders for public office at any level. It's Democratic because it was founded by two female Democrats and statistically, according to Simpson, Democratic women are more attuned to social action and aggressively making things happen in a public arena.

"*Emerge* is growing on a national level. *Emerge California* was the first one in 2002. *Emerge Maine* was founded in 2006," says Simpson. "This 2010 class will be our fourth one, and we have two Washington County women in this class of 19 - Jeanne Guisinger and Allison Ouellette." (With a goal

See *Leader*, page 4.

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Katie Mae Simpson spearheads a vision for women leaders in Maine.

Ruth Leubecker photo