

Machias Valley News Observer



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\$1.00



Bill Ceckler, president of the Sunrise Trail Coalition, listens as Betsy Fitzgerald, Machias town manager, welcomes an attentive audience to the Pellon Center for the grand opening of the trail.

Ruth Leubecker photo

Sunrise Trail Officially Opens Downeast

by Ruth Leubecker

Many trail occasions converged in a milestone event on Thursday when a variety of stakeholders convened in Machias to celebrate the official opening of the Down East Sunrise Trail.

"This is a great hurrah that's taken almost 20 years to realize," said a beaming Sally Jacobs, a trails enthusiast since the very beginning. "Thanks

to so many behind the scenes. The turning point was Gov. Baldacci and David Cole and Pat McGowan figuring out how to make the Sunrise Coalition."

With all the rails and ties removed, 16 bridges refurbished and 30 miles completed from Machias to Pembroke, the Down East Sunrise Trail is a source of great community pride. "But I will say the beaver See *Trail*, page 4.

UMM Students Aid Local Families

by Lacie Pottle

Last Friday kicked off the second year of a new tradition at the University of Maine at Machias (UMM). A collaboration between members of Centre Street Church and the college organized together to help winterize low income homes in Washington County. Friday afternoon UMM students split into two groups and loaded vehicles with wood, plastic sheeting and tools, alongside President Cindy Huggins. That day they were set to work on houses in Cutler and East Machias. Church members and Huggins had another line-up of houses to go to the very next day. These are the first of many endeavors this diverse group will venture on through the fall/winter season. "Last year, we kept this operation ongoing through the snow," Huggins said.

Volunteers are doing anything asked of them within their capabilities. They give away insulation packets containing CFL Bulbs, smoke detectors and other useful items to keep these Washington County families safe through winter. Student Lauren Cousins stated, "We want to help people; it would be awful to spend all winter in inadequate housing".

This is the second year that UMM has been a part of this project also along with UMaine Extension. Huggins said, "A lot of people see the many hands willing to help here. We're thrilled to match students with this kind of experience." ■



Age 0-4 winners: 1st place - Jacey Barabe (middle), 2nd place - Kaylin Pitty (left), 3rd place - Katriana Hickman (right).

Post 9 photos



Age 5-7 winners, L-R: 1st place - Connor Fenton, 2nd place - Kierstin Harmon, 3rd place - Emily Harmon.



Age 8-10 winners, L-R: 1st place - Josiah Brown, 2nd place - Willow Garrison, 3rd place - Dexter Moody.



Sara McConnell and Jon Ramsdell of WCOE present the turkey certificates allotted to the Jonesport Food Pantry to Linda and Stephen Nelson.

Ruth Leubecker photo

Holiday Turkey Drive Exceeds Goal

Washington County's Turkey-A-Thon 2009 was a record-breaker, outselling last season's total of turkeys sold and exceeding this year's goal of 1,025.

According to Jon Ramsdell of Washington County: One Community, 1,111 turkeys will go to needy area families this

year, courtesy of the community rallying to buy \$12 turkey certificates at five locations. Dunkin Donuts in Machias, Downeast Credit Union in Baileyville, Unobskey College in Calais, Bayside Shop 'n Save in Milbridge and the R&M IGA in Eastport See *Turkey*, page 4.

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Post 9 Announces Costume Winners

On Saturday, October 24th, American Legion Post 9 held a children's Halloween party at the East Machias Municipal Building.

The winners of the Halloween Costume Contest are shown above.

Four UMM students helped Post 9 with the party. Kayla Greenleaf and Megan Bogoarth came for their special population class and brought Debbie Watkins and Meghan Dunham along for more help, which was appreciated. ■

REMEMBER OUR VETERANS