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WA Headed to Augusta

Getting up and over the defense, Justin Morren of Washington Academy launches the ball for two points during the Eastern Maine Class C tourney in Bangor. The Raiders defeated the Foxcroft Academy Ponies, 68-50, in the semi-finals and Calais, 54-49, to take the regional title.

Phil Roberts photo

— See Story on Sports Pages —

Hannah Weston Chapter, DAR Honored at State House

The Hannah Weston Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution of Machias was honored during a presentation by Secretary of State Matthew Dunlap in the Hall of Flags at the State Capitol. The occasion was the presentation of a certificate recognizing that the chapter had been a corporation in the State of Maine for 100 years.

A letter and certificate received from Matthew Dunlap; Maine Secretary of State conveyed the following: "Of the thousands of businesses and nonprofit corporations in Maine, very few reach this milestone each year. I wish to congratulate you and your organization for this achievement. I wish you continued success in your next 100 years." Furthermore, I certify, that the following Corporation, Hannah Weston Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution has been duly incorporated as a corporation for 100 years.

"On December 18, 2009, and is rightly commended for demonstrating those qualities required to achieve this honorable distinction of duration and longevity. Therefore, having striven for and accomplished this tremendous achievement, let it be known to all so this company may now, and always make further contributions to the wealth and prosperity of the great State of Maine. Matthew Dunlap, Maine Secretary of State."

The need for the DAR chapter to become incorporated began when in 1909 the group was preparing to take over the



Left to Right: Ruth Ahrens, Sen. Kevin Raye (R-Perry), Rep. Diane Tilton (R-Harrington), Rep. Howard McFadden (R-Dennysville), Valdine Atwood, and Rep. David Burns (R-Whiting). Rep. Everett McLeod (R-Lee) is partially obscured.

Photo courtesy of Sen. Raye's office

responsibilities of owning, by a trust deed, and maintaining as a museum, the then 138 year old historic Burnham Tavern. Meetings were held in preparation for

the chapter to become a corporation in the State of Maine.

The final piece of the project came to a conclusion on See *DAR*, page 26.

Crucial Funding to Expand Infrastructure

by Ruth Leubecker

Designated for health network infrastructure and training, information technology, three ports and energy, these four categories represent the first round of federal stimulus money for Maine.

None of the expected grant monies are broken down by counties, but will be presented to Maine for disbursement to individual jurisdictions.

"This federal funding is a critical step in national health reform," said Gov. John Baldacci. "Investing in our health technology will lay the foundation for a more efficient system that serves patients better at less cost."

Maine will eventually receive \$11.5 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds earmarked for health-care technology and to enhance the state's health-care work force. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius has also announced that Maine will receive another \$6.5 million to implement a health-information technology plan.

"Besides this federal health funding, we have \$2 million in stimulus funds going to the port in Eastport," said David Farmer, spokesman for Baldacci. "This is part of a \$14-million stimulus package going to three ports in Maine — Eastport, Portland and Searsport."

An automated conveyor system and a five-acre outdoor cargo storage complex are integral to the project aimed at diversifying the Eastport facility. An estimated \$4.5 million approved by voters last November in a trans-



Gov. John Baldacci

portation bond will combine with the federal stimulus funds to help upgrade the Eastport terminal.

"The first round of the energy grant has been completed," said Farmer, who says further information should be available soon. "The second round will happen later in the spring. These grants are competitive. The energy money refers to conversion funds for public buildings. It's all about putting energy-efficient systems in, for instance, schools. If Machias, for example, wanted to put in a wood-boiler system, they could apply. It's somewhat based on school districts."

Maine will also receive \$4.9 million to expand opportunities in the state's health-care work force. These funds are designated as critical to accelerate credentialing and employment in high-demand occupations. Maine's Dept. Of Labor Comm. Laura Fortman has predicted that 400 Maine health-care workers will receive credentialing through this program. ■

Cannery Closing Spurs Domino Effect

by Ruth Leubecker

While transitioning laid-off workers remains paramount, other adverse connected aftershocks of the closing of Stinson Seafood are occurring in tandem.

"It's going to be a big blow. We don't have anything to replace it," says David Seward, Gouldsboro store owner, contemplating the closure of the 100-year-old sardine cannery. "What's really bad is it's the little people that are getting hurt. The corporate people just move on."

In the wake of the shutdown announcement a variety of area businesses are anticipating a trickle-down effect, predicting mortal blows to their economic well-being. From child day care to grocery stores, from bait sellers to area eateries, these owners say they'll experience the domino effect of Prospect Harbor's Bumble Bee Foods facility closing.

For generations, the sardine cannery has not just represented jobs, but an ever-present stabil-

ity, a cultural community fixture and a backdrop to this coastal way of life. Young women have followed in the steps of their mothers and grandmothers in packing sardines, with the cannery a dependable workplace enabling them to remain in Downeast Maine.

Back in an easier, simpler time when the Machiasport cannery closed, many of these sardine packers relocated to Prospect Harbor. Gas was 25 cents a gallon, fish was plentiful, and the move was affordable. Today, with an older work force and a plummeting economy, 2010 is another story, unpromising if not downright ominous.

"The state's talking about retraining, but everyone's saying — rightfully so — what are you going to re-train us for? A lot of older ladies don't even have a driver's license," says Seward. "And the cannery was always so much more than a cannery. It was a part of the community. A meeting place. It was always more than just about a job."

The former Stinson Seafood

plant, acquired by Bumble Bee Foods in 2004, will leave 130 workers without jobs in April. The company has said that federal limits on the annual herring catch are responsible for its corporate decision to close the Prospect Harbor facility. The announcement is a devastating blow to local history, an already crippled job market and a coastal ribbon of Maine See *Cannery*, page 26.

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