COUNTY SEAT WEEKLY

Machias Valley News Observer

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In this issue

COASTAL news

Annual holiday project kicks off new season

by Ruth Leubecker

Born of a desire to bring Christmas to needy children and lend a helping hand to less fortunate families, the Christmas Giving Tree 2016 is readying to start a new season.

"There's a group of about 12 women who work throughout the year. Each handles something," said Kathy Land, who is one of the volunteers. "Our meetings are at the Centre Street church. Whatever we have donated is our inventory."

It's doable, because each does handle a separate segment, from data management to organizing volunteers. Because of its sharing of the workload, the program has grown steadily over the years, expanding its reach in the community.

Now 15 years old, the giving tree is a true community coming together of many partners. Holy Name Parish Hall donates the space where the women assemble the packages of clothing and toys, setting up shortly before Thanksgiving. The Maine Seacoast Mission, always ready to help, picks up any slack. The Machias Food Pantry is a conduit for expressing needs and funneling presents and information. And, over the years, the holiday effort has expanded to more than 600 volunteer hours and a program that brings Christmas to 650 families.

In 2001, Helen Vose, Janelle Look and Betty Palmer founded the giving tree. Volunteer matriarch Vose was among the first to recognize that when times get tough, joining forces is the only way to maximize resources. Three or four community groups

(Holiday project pg 2)

Salmon released as part of ongoing project

by Johanna S. Billings

Thousands of juvenile Atlantic salmon got the ride of their lives last week.

Workers with the Peter Gray Hatchery in East Machias moved about 200,000 of the young fish — called parr — from the hatchery to the East Machias River between Oct. 18 and Oct. 20.

"Today we'll probably do 50,000 throughout the course of the day," Kyle Winslow, biologist and hatchery manager, said Thursday.

Winslow and a small group of others used nets to gather fish, which are about 10 months old, from the specialized tanks in which they were raised. They put the fish into different tanks mounted on a truck for the approximately one-hour ride to the stocking site.

"We're starting a lot of fish, trying to saturate the river with juveniles with the hopes that we won't have to continue," Winslow said.

Last week's activity is part of the Parr Project, launched in 2011. At that time, the North Atlantic Salmon Fund, an international conservation organization based in Iceland, contacted the Downeast Salmon Federation and proposed the project in Maine.

"We've been going 100 miles per hour ever since," Winslow said.

The project involves growing young salmon in an environment that closely resembles their natural habitat — the river. The hatchery uses local river water and allows the temperature to vary, just as it would in the wild. The tanks in which the fish grow pump water to resemble the river current and velocities are increased every three weeks to make the fish stronger, says DSF literature on the project.

This type of hatchery was first developed by a man named Peter Gray in the 1970s and 80s. Working in the UK, Gray successfully restored the salmon

(Salmon released pg 3)

Juvenile Atlantic salmon raised in East Machias fall into the tank on a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service truck for transportation to two stocking sites Oct. 19. Photos by Johanna S. Billings

Paving the way for winter

Crews have begun paving the way for winter as an extensive resurfacing project is underway in Machias. County Concrete of Columbia Falls won the official bid, for which approximately $238,000 had been set aside. Elliot Street, Prescott Drive, Berry Avenue, Bowker Street and the north end of Bruce Street are some of the slated arteries. Here the County Concrete crew lays steaming black asphalt against the backdrop of Center Street's brilliant fall foliage.

Photo by Bill Kitchen

Vehicles damaged outside Trump rally

by Johanna S. Billings

Machias native Paul Foster came home from a rally in Bangor with a little something extra on his car.

Foster, who now lives in Ellsworth, attended a rally for presidential candidate Donald Trump Oct. 15. When the rally was over, he returned to his 2003 Chrysler Town and Country van.

"Someone, I don't know who had come in and spray painted a bunch of cars," he said.

A white stripe had been sprayed across the hood and down the one side of it. Foster's was one of about 20 vehicles vandalized this way.

"Once I saw that my tires were good to go, I felt fine," said Foster, who stopped by the Machias Valley News Observer office Oct. 12 with his granddaughter, Brooke King, 9.

Foster said he decided "on a whim" to drive to Bangor and see if he could get into the rally. He didn't have a ticket but met a candidate for a state office, who gave him one.

"I was in my paint clothes and he was in a nice suit," quipped Foster, owner of the Gentleman Painter.

(Trump rally pg 13)

When Swamp Yankee BBQ opens in Jonesboro Dec. 1, it will sell bottles of its two sauces — swamp and yankee.

Photo by Johanna S. Billings

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Holiday project continued from page 1

and several agencies were all trying to do the same thing. After joining hands in 2009, according to Vose, the program went from helping 700 children to 804 children and special-needs adults the next year.

"We're always in need of sports balls — like basketballs — baby toys and Legos," said Look, who remains a moving force in the program. "Those who want to help should go to the food pantry for an application, and items may also be left there. Gifts may also be left at Bar Harbor Bank and Trust."

Following Vose's death in November 2012, those 40 dedicated volunteers began calling themselves Helen's Elves, and the name has stuck.

"We have an application process," said Land. "This is all available through the food pantry. Basically we need clothing for infants through 18, the disabled and the elderly. And toys for children."

Volunteers will start setting up in the parish hall the Monday before Thanksgiving.

"Last-minute needs can come through the food pantry. We always welcome more volunteers and more toys. Boys' things seem to be what we need most this year," said Land, adding the most need is for boys ages 8-16.

Those who would like to volunteer, or desire further information, can call Land at 207-259-3671.

Let's All Have a Merrier Christmas, headed by longtime stalwart volunteer Rhonda French, is another county organization that compatibly interfaces with the giving tree. Founded in 1984 by a handful of concerned citizens representing area churches, it has flourished and grown steadily over its 32 years.

Its goal, "a new toy and a warm outfit" for each child, is bolstered by fliers mailed out each season. Volunteers are lined up early on and French's tireless marketing talents are employed full tilt.

Last year Christmas was made merrier for more than 500 children with the program bringing in over $14,000 worth of toys and clothing.

Down East Community Hospital, Machias Savings Bank and Machias Dental are among the dozen or so businesses sponsoring this effort. To learn more, French can be reached at 207-497-5490, or visit www.facebook.com/MerrierChristmas.

Starting early and covering all bases is tantamount to success in this holiday effort. To help bring holiday joy to a needy child, donating time, dollars or a gift of a toy or clothing (unwrapped) would contribute greatly to this seasonal effort.

French advises visiting the merrier christmas web page, www.merrierchristmas.com, for more information.

"You can also fill out an application online, or donate securely," she said.

French, who has been involved with the program since its beginning, has no plans for stepping down. She said bringing the wonders of Christmas to hundreds of Downeast children over these past decades brings its just rewards each season.

Above are some items seized in the recent drug bust. *Submitted photo*

Two charged with drug offenses

Two people have been charged with drug offenses following the execution of a search warrant in Lubec.

Sharley Fitzsimmons, 51, and Jennifer Wallace, 35, both of Lubec, have each been charged with aggravated trafficking in schedule W drugs (heroin and cocaine), a Class A felony, according to a joint news release from the Washington County Sheriff's Department and the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency.

Due to his declining health, Fitzsimmons was charged by way of summons and had not been arrested. Wallace was taken to the Washington County Jail where bail was set at $1,000 cash, says the release.

In the early evening of Oct. 12, agents from MDEA's Downeast Task Force, Washington County sheriff's deputies, Maine state troopers and Pleasant Point police officers executed a search warrant at 50 Dixie Road in Lubec. They found eight people inside the home. A woman, later identified as Jennifer Wallace, allegedly fled out the back door and was immediately apprehended with a bag of alleged drugs, according to the release.

As a result of the warrant, investigators seized approximately 50 grams of heroin, 40 grams of powdered cocaine, 8 grams of crack cocaine and $4,750 in suspected drug proceeds. The street value of the drugs seized is estimated at $15,000.

The arrests were made as part of joint investigation into the growing influx of heroin in Washington County. The search warrant was executed following an investigation that took several months.

A hard-working, forthright, dedicated and respected Downeaster working to champion Maine's way of life.

- Worked hand-in-hand with both sides of the aisle on marine resource issues and the area's coastal heritage.
- His bill for a 50% cut in the state's youth clamming fee was passed unanimously last year by the Republican Senate and Democratic House.
- Earned a legislative service award in 2015 from the Maine Primary Care Association for pushing for rural healthcare services.
- Opposes efforts to cut services for the elderly and those with disabilities.
- Strongly supports better drug enforcement, treatment and prevention laws.

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DMR opens more areas for shellfish harvesting

The state Department of Marine Resources announced Friday it has opened more areas that had been previously closed to shellfish harvesting.

The Cobscook Bay was reopened along with the area between Schoodic Point and the Canadian border with the exception of Dyer Bay in Steuben and between Roque Bluffs and Cutler, according to a DMR email sent to legislators and shellfish harvesters Friday.

The entire coast of Washington County had been closed for clams and mussels due to a bloom of Pseudo-nitzschia, which produces the biotoxin domoic acid, which causes Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning in humans.

Portions of the coast were also reopened last week.

Despite the reopening of certain areas, closures were expanded in the western portion of the impacted area to include most of Frenchman's Bay where high phytoplankton counts and increasing toxicity levels are present, the email says.

"DMR is continuing to collect phytoplankton from the Canadian border to the New Hampshire border at least weekly," the email says. "The Pseudo-nitzschia bloom has not spread further west than Penobscot Bay and is not currently producing toxin west of Frenchman's Bay."

For more information, visit www.maine.gov/dmr/shellfish-sanitation-management/closures/hotline.html.

Salmon released continued from page 1

population in the River Tyne, Winslow said, adding the DSF named its East Machias hatchery after Gray.

The Atlantic salmon population was listed as an endangered species in the U.S. in 2000. Since then, a reduction in commercial fishing, improved water quality and dam removals have resulted in habitat improvements. However, the numbers of salmon had not improved, according to DSF literature.

The Parr Project has made a difference, however.

"Our results have shown that the Parr Project has boosted the success of stocking to a degree not seen since the early 1990s," says DSF literature.

The DSF also has been working with the Atlantic Salmon Federation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Maine Department of Marine Resources, Winslow said. For example, the fish and wildlife service loaned the truck used to transport the fish to the river, Winslow said.

"[Without that truck], it would take us eight trips to stock as much as we're going to stock today," he said.

This year, the DSF is releasing approximately 200,000 parr. Winslow said staff started off releasing only about 50,000 five years ago and hope to eventually increase the numbers to about 400,000.

"We've been increasing the number we've been stocking each year," he said. "We're seeing positive numbers of fish leaving the river. Hopefully, this will mean more fish coming back to the river."

Eventually, DSF hope the fish will be able to breed and survive on their own.

"Ideally we're going to see this. It's not going to be tomorrow. But that's the goal," Winslow said. "It took a couple hundred years for our habitat to get to the shape it's in. It's going to take a couple years." Winslow said.

As part of the project, volunteers clipped off the adipose fins of every fish, said Zach Sheller, biologist and assistant hatchery manager.

"It doesn't grow back so it's a mark," he said.

The mark allows hatchery personnel to identify whether a particular fish had come from the hatchery.

"It's a huge outreach tool," said Sheller, adding fin clipping brings in members of the community and schools who might not even realize salmon can be found in the river.

Fred Yost of Green Lake National Fish Hatchery in Ellsworth dumps juvenile Atlantic salmon into a tank on the hatchery's truck Oct. 19. Later that afternoon, they were transported to a site and released. *Photo by Johanna S. Billings*

"We need to make salmon cuddly," he quipped.

Sheller said clipping is cheaper than tagging and less labor intensive than other forms of marking.

Those who helped Winslow and Sheller last week include Fred Yost of Green Lake National Fish Hatchery in Ellsworth; Heather Andrews, DSF membership and development coordinator; intern Lindsey Carle; and James McLellan, part-time seasonal worker at the hatchery.

DOWNEAST TIDE TABLE FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY

Eastport

DATE		HIGH				LOW				☀	☾
26	Wed	8:25	18.3	8:49	18.5	2:16	0.7	2:45	1.0	6:58	5:25
27	Thu	9:16	18.7	9:39	18.7	3:10	0.5	3:37	0.6	6:59	5:23
28	Fri	10:01	19.1	10:24	18.8	3:58	0.4	4:23	0.2	7:01	5:22
29	Sat	10:43	19.4	11:05	18.9	4:41	0.3	5:04	-0.1	7:02	5:20
30	Sun	11:21	19.5	11:44	18.8	5:21	0.3	5:43	-0.2	7:03	5:19
31	Mon	11:59	19.5			5:59	0.5	6:21	-0.1	7:05	5:17
1	Tue	12:22	18.6	12:36	19.4	6:36	0.8	6:59	0.0	7:06	5:16

Lubec

DATE		HIGH				LOW				☀	☾
26	Wed	8:56	17.2	9:20	17.3	2:49	0.5	3:18	0.8	6:58	5:25
27	Thu	9:47	17.6	10:10	17.5	3:43	0.4	4:10	0.5	7:00	5:24
28	Fri	10:32	18.0	10:55	17.7	4:31	0.3	4:56	0.2	7:01	5:22
29	Sat	11:14	18.2	11:36	17.8	5:14	0.2	5:37	-0.0	7:02	5:21
30	Sun	11:52	18.4			5:54	0.3	6:16	-0.1	7:04	5:19
31	Mon	12:15	17.7	12:30	18.4	6:32	0.4	6:54	-0.1	7:05	5:18
1	Tue	12:53	17.5	1:07	18.2	7:09	0.6	7:32	0.0	7:06	5:17

Cutler

DATE		HIGH				LOW				☀	☾
26	Wed	8:15	13.5	8:39	13.7	1:57	0.5	2:26	0.8	6:58	5:26
27	Thu	9:06	13.8	9:29	13.8	2:51	0.4	3:18	0.4	7:00	5:25
28	Fri	9:51	14.1	10:14	13.9	3:39	0.3	4:04	0.2	7:01	5:23
29	Sat	10:33	14.3	10:55	14.0	4:22	0.2	4:45	-0.0	7:02	5:22
30	Sun	11:11	14.5	11:34	13.9	5:02	0.3	5:24	-0.1	7:04	5:20
31	Mon	11:49	14.5			5:40	0.4	6:02	-0.1	7:05	5:19
1	Tue	12:12	13.8	12:26	14.3	6:17	0.6	6:40	0.0	7:06	5:17

Machiasport

DATE		HIGH				LOW				☀	☾
26	Wed	8:26	12.6	8:50	12.7	2:07	0.5	2:36	0.7	6:59	5:27
27	Thu	9:17	12.9	9:40	12.9	3:01	0.4	3:28	0.4	7:00	5:25
28	Fri	10:02	13.2	10:25	13.0	3:49	0.3	4:14	0.1	7:02	5:24
29	Sat	10:44	13.4	11:06	13.0	4:32	0.2	4:55	-0.0	7:03	5:22
30	Sun	11:22	13.5	11:45	13.0	5:12	0.2	5:34	-0.1	7:04	5:21
31	Mon			12:00	13.5	5:50	0.4	6:12	-0.1	7:06	5:19
1	Tue	12:23	12.9	12:37	13.4	6:27	0.5	6:50	0.0	7:07	5:18

Jonesport

DATE		HIGH				LOW				☀	☾
26	Wed	8:25	11.9	8:47	12.0	2:15	0.5	2:41	0.8	6:59	5:28
27	Thu	9:14	12.1	9:37	12.0	3:07	0.5	3:32	0.5	7:01	5:26
28	Fri	9:58	12.3	10:21	12.0	3:52	0.5	4:17	0.3	7:02	5:25
29	Sat	10:37	12.4	11:01	11.9	4:33	0.6	4:58	0.1	7:03	5:23
30	Sun	11:12	12.5	11:38	11.8	5:10	0.7	5:35	0.1	7:05	5:22
31	Mon	11:45	12.5			5:44	0.9	6:11	0.1	7:06	5:20
1	Tue	12:14	11.6	12:18	12.4	6:17	1.1	6:45	0.2	7:07	5:19

Milbridge

DATE		HIGH				LOW				☀	☾
26	Wed	8:38	11.5	9:00	11.6	2:40	0.4	3:06	0.7	7:01	5:29
27	Thu	9:27	11.7	9:50	11.6	3:32	0.4	3:57	0.5	7:02	5:27
28	Fri	10:11	11.9	10:34	11.6	4:17	0.5	4:42	0.2	7:03	5:26
29	Sat	10:50	12.0	11:14	11.6	4:58	0.5	5:23	0.1	7:05	5:25
30	Sun	11:25	12.1	11:51	11.4	5:35	0.6	6:00	0.1	7:06	5:23
31	Mon	11:58	12.1			6:09	0.8	6:36	0.1	7:07	5:22
1	Tue	12:27	11.2	12:31	12.0	6:42	1.0	7:10	0.2	7:09	5:20

DECH Births

Baby Boy
Jacob George Ingrish
Parents: Crystal & George Ingrish
Birth Date: October 18, 2016
Weight: 7 lb 2 oz
Length: 21¾ inches
Machias & Jonesport

Baby Boy
Forest Eli Merchant
Parents: Kristine Stanwood & Jeremy Merchant
Birth Date: October 19, 2016
Weight: 8 lb 5 oz.
Length: 21½ inches
Harrington

Baby Girl
Maria Claire Blake
Parents: Meghan & Bobby Blake
Birth Date: October 23, 2016
Weight: 8 lb
Length: 20½ inches
Lubec

Congratulations

MVNO
255-6561