

Two men arrested by Biddeford police plead guilty to fraud

By ANGELO J. VERZONI
Staff Writer

Two men pleaded guilty Thursday in U.S. District Court to conspiracy to commit access device fraud, a Class C felony.

Between Sept. 5, 2013 and Jan. 24, 2014, Jervis A. Hillaire, also known as Jerome Leslie, 25, of

Menifee, California, and Gyadeen P. Ramdihall, 27, of Rosedale, New York, knowingly used counterfeit access devices – in other words, counterfeit credit, debit and gift cards – and conspired to do so, according to court documents.

After traveling from New York to Maine in September

of 2013, the pair started making fraudulent purchases throughout the state, including a purchase of \$3,175.05 from the Maine Mall Apple Store in South Portland, according to court documents.

But their streak ended in January of 2014, thanks in part to the work of

the Biddeford Police Department.

On Jan. 24, 2014, an employee at Walmart in Biddeford told police an unidentified man had used four different credit cards to buy a \$300 gift card, presenting a different card each time one was declined. The man also used a separate card to

buy baby formula and sundries totaling \$95.46, and three more cards to buy two iPod Touches for \$622.46.

Biddeford police caught up with and pulled over the vehicle in which the man had exited the Walmart parking lot, finding Hillaire and Ramdihall inside. Ramdihall was arrested for

driving with a suspended license, and Hillaire was arrested for providing a false identity.

Police also found eight credit cards inside one of Hillaire's boots. Special Agent Matthew B. Fasulo of the U.S. Secret Service was

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Man accused of burglary to appear in court today

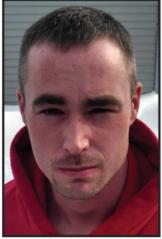
From Staff Reports

HOLLIS — A Saco man charged with stealing \$10,000 worth of antique jewelry and coins from a home in Hollis last week has been arrested and is scheduled to make his first appearance at Maine District Court in Biddeford this afternoon.

Cory Richards, 31, was arrested by Maine State Police and taken to York County Jail, where he was held without bail because he was on probation in connection with a prior robbery conviction, police said.

Maine Public Safety spokesman Steve McCausland said police allege Richards broke into a home on old Alfred Road

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Richards



St. Thomas School teacher Melissa Watson reads a story to students on Enrichment Day, which took place Thursday and was part of the Sanford parochial school's Catholic Schools Week.

St. Thomas School marks Catholic Schools Week with 'Enrichment Day'

By TAMMY WELLS
Senior Staff Writer

SANFORD — One young girl's hair sported several colors – purple, white and more – the different bands of color perfectly applied to her perfectly combed hair.

Another young lad's burgundy-purple locks were standing straight up.

A blond youth said it was

his turn next; he planned a mohawk – color to be determined.

What's the story with this?

Well, it was the Crazy Hair portion of St. Thomas School's Enrichment Day program, held at the school on Thursday as part of Catholic Schools Week.

But it wasn't all crazy hair.

The kids matched fun activities with service projects, designed to make days brighter for others.

Students at the school made paper Valentines they'll later distribute to Sanford nursing homes and to the Maine Veterans' Home in Scarborough.

They collected cans and

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Red Cross helping displaced OOB fire victims

By LIZ GOTTHELF
Staff Writer

OLD ORCHARD BEACH — The Red Cross is providing temporary assistance for about 25 people displaced after a fire early Thursday morning at a School Street apartment building.

The fire was reported Thursday at 1 a.m. at Centennial Plaza apartments, located at 6 School St.

Authorities say the fire was caused by a cooking accident, and it began in the kitchen of a first-floor unit, and spread to the hallway and the second floor. The third floor suffered smoke damage. Some residents had to jump out of windows to safety.

The building provides income-based rentals to people 62 years old and older and those with dis-

abilities, according to information from the Maine State Housing Authority's website.

A representative from Alpha Management, the company that manages the building, was unavailable for comment this morning.

American Red Cross of Maine spokesman John Lamb said the Red Cross was putting up 25 to 30 people in a local hotel. He said the Red Cross would provide housing at the hotel for a few days, and will assist people with the recovery process.

He said a health service team was working with residents to make sure people had access to medication.

There were also people on hand to provide emotional support, said Lamb.

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UNE rolls out its 1st entrepreneurship contest

By ANGELO J. VERZONI
Staff Writer

BIDDEFORD — Got an idea for a business? If you're a student at the University of New England, you're in luck.

The school has launched its first-ever entrepreneurship contest for the Spring 2015 semester. The contest, which is open to all full- and part-time undergraduate, graduate and online students, will award up to \$10,000 in start-up funding to two winning entrants.

Beth Richardson, associate professor and chair of the Department of Business, said Thursday that the contest was born out of a desire from students to have more entrepreneurial opportunities. It was also inspired by similar programs at other schools, such as Boston College, she said.

The contest is being sponsored by the Partners in Business student club, said Richardson, and the prize money is being provided by an anonymous donor.

Initial applications are due by Feb. 16, she said, and a panel of judges will eventually whittle the pool of applicants down to two winners – one with an idea for a non-profit business and one with an idea for a for-profit business.

The winners will be awarded \$2,500 each in start-up funding. They will also receive guidance from mentors over the summer to further develop their ideas, and at the end of that time, they will each be eligible for an additional

\$2,500 in funding.

Richardson said she wants the contest to open students' eyes to the many meanings of being an entrepreneur. It's not about coming up with the next get-rich-quick scheme. For example, she said, students can pursue sustainable or social entrepreneurship, in which businesses aim to solve issues related to social and environmental sustainability.

With the contest open to so many students, there's no telling what sort of ideas will come of it, said Richardson.

"There are students interested in food products, environmental ideas, marine-science-based services," she said. "A lot of people have a lot of different ideas. ... We've got quite a breadth of potential applicants – from a freshman in UNE's College of Arts and Sciences to a medical student."

Richardson said two proposals have already been submitted, and she knows more are on the way.

Shamus Higginbottom, a senior studying sports management and member of Partners in Business, said Thursday that he hopes to see 10-12 proposals by the February application deadline.

"The more the merrier," he said, adding, "I'd like to see the contest continue to grow from here."

Higginbottom noted that many prominent business schools offer similar contests, and he hopes this

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In this 2014 photo, two women walk next to a stream, "Arroyo Sal," in Oaxaca state, Mexico.

US-backed Mexico dam project triggered protest, rare defeat

By PETER ORSI
and RONNIE GREENE
Associated Press

SANTA URSULA, Mexico — People in the hamlet of Santa Ursula began to worry when the logging started. In a few short weeks, more than a mile of densely forested riverbank was stripped from the Arroyo Sal to make way for heavy dredging equipment.

Work was just beginning

in late 2010 on an ambitious, three-year, \$30 million project to build a 15-megawatt hydroelectric plant directly adjacent to the Cerro de Oro dam, with support from a U.S. government agency in Washington.

Next came dynamite explosions as crews blasted through rock to create a

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Saco enjoys low car insurance rates

By LIZ GOTTHELF
Staff Writer

SACO — A study conducted by CarInsurance.com found Saco to be among the locations with the lowest car insurance rate.

Michelle Megna, managing editor of the website and a car insurance expert, calculated average car insurance rates for a 2014 Honda Accord at 33,401 locations across the country.

Megna ran the calculations for a single, 40-year-old man who commutes 12 miles to work each way with

policy limits of \$100,000 for injury liability for one person, \$300,000 for all injuries and \$50,000 for property damage in an accident. The hypothetical driver also had a clean record, good credit, and carried uninsured motorist coverage and a \$500 deductible on collision and comprehensive coverage.

The national average insurance rate for this fictitious person was \$1,231, according to Megna's findings.

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Library offers Obamacare enrollment before Feb. 15 deadline

By Tracey Collins
Special to the Journal Tribune

WELLS — The Wells Library has been busy helping local residents sign up for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act before the Feb. 15 deadline.

Also known as Obamacare, the Affordable Care Act was signed into law in 2010 with the goal of providing more affordable and accessible health care to consumers, especially previously uninsured or underinsured individuals and families.

"When the law changed,

(the library) started to offer information sessions to help people get their heads around the changes in health insurance. When the open enrollment period commenced in November, we began scheduling appointments for people to meet with health care navigators who can guide people through the enrollment process," said Kristi Bryant, research librarian at the Wells Library.

York County has two health care navigators,

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