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Looking for work? You're in luck

York County Regional Job Fair set for Friday

By TAMMY WELLS

Senior Staff Writer SPRINGVALE — Ninety employers are ready to hire now, and they'll all be looking for workers at the York County Regional Job Fair, set for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday at Nasson Community Center, 457 Main St.

Whether you're interested in building roof trusses,

roads or Navy ships, looking to enter the health care or senior care fields, or working on nuclear submarines, there are jobs available.

"These are immediate openings," said Allen Blackstone, manager of the Springvale CareerCenter. How many jobs are avail-

able?

"There are a ton of

openings," said Blackstone in a telephone interview Tuesday. He pointed out that Boise Cascade, in the Biddeford-Saco area, is attempting to establish a second shift because it is so busy. And Tom's of Maine, a manufacturer of toothpaste, deodorants and other personal care products in Sanford, is trying to ramp up its third shift.

General Dynamics' Bath Iron Works will be on hand, looking to hire general laborers at a starting wage of \$16 to \$17 an hour. BIW will help those employees find their niche in the company, where they'll be able to earn an even better wage, he said. BIW is also looking for 10 supervisors.

Locally, the employers are too numerous to mention them all. There are careers in health care and banking, the service industry, manufacturing and many more.

The demand for workers is not surprising. In February, York County's overall unemployment rate was 4.1 percent. Sanford's rate was higher, at 5.7 percent, but Biddeford, Saco, Waterboro, Limerick, Hollis, Old Orchard Beach and the Kennebunks all fall in the Portland-South Portland Labor Market Area, where the unemployment rate in January, the latest month available, was 2.9 percent.

"Maine's labor market is tightening. Our falling unemployment rate indicates that businesses are hiring, and the increased competition for workers means that wages are rising", Maine Labor Commissioner Jeanne Paquette said in a statement. "Workers or people thinking about going back to work should take advantage of this employees' market." Blackstone said folks attending the job fair should bring a resume, "dress for success" and be ready to ask and answer questions.

For a complete listing of employers scheduled to be at the job fair, go to: mainecareercenter.com/locations/ region4/springvale/index. shtml and click on 'workshops and events'.

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UNE expands transfer credit program

Program enables early graduations, cost savings

FROM STAFF REPORTS

BIDDEFORD — The University of New England has signed two agreements with Maine schools that will allow qualifying students who matriculate at UNE to earn college transfer credits, enabling the students to abbreviate their time in college and reduce their costs. An agreement Thursday

at Maine School of Science and Mathematics in Limestone will provide two pathways for students at the high school to receive course credit in UNE's College of Arts and Sciences and potentially earn enough credit to enter the university as a sophomore. First, MSSM students who demonstrate mastery of advanced placement work in one or more subject areas will qualify for transfer credit at UNE. Secondly, through a memorandum of understanding with the University of Maine-Presque Isle, MSSM students who successfully complete one or more designated courses can receive transfer credit at UNE as well. Luke C. Shorty, executive director of the Maine School of Science and Mathematics, called the UNE-MSSM

agreement "yet another wonderful example of how public secondary schools can leverage partnerships with both public and private universities to further assist young students in achieving their educational dreams right here in Maine."

UNE was also scheduled to sign an agreement on Friday with Washington County Community College in Calais. This agreement will allow students who complete their associate degrees at WCCC to seamlessly transfer to more than a dozen bachelor's degree programs at UNE, including Sport and Recreation Management/Outdoor Recreation Management, Elementary-Middle



The inaugural American Cancer Society Fire and Ice fundraiser, which combined a polar plunge with a hot wing challenge, raised more than \$4,200 to support the lifesaving work of the American Cancer Society. The March 5 event was sponsored and hosted by The Brunswick on Old Orchard Beach and emceed by FM radio station 103.7's Dave Winsor. More than 150 people

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"The agreements that UNE is making with MSSM and with WCCC take us one step closer to our goal of making higher education more affordable while attracting high-caliber students to the university. These aren't just transfer pathways; they are transfer partnerships that have positive outcomes for the students as well as the educational institutions involved on both sides of the agreement," said UNE President Danielle Ripich.

UNE currently has transfer agreements with Thornton Academy, Biddeford High School, Catherine McAuley High School, Southern Maine Community College, Central Maine Community College and Great Bay Community College. took part and taste-tested wings from local eateries, including The Brunswick, The Porthole, Jimmy the Greek's, the Great Lost Bear, Champions Sports Bar and Buffalo Wild Wings.

TV stars stop in OOB for surprise visit

Old Orchard Beach Town Hall License Administrator, Kathy Smith was recently surprised by a visit from members of North Woods Law, one of her favorite television programs. Standing with Smith are, from left, Eric Blanchard, Tim Spahr and Code Lounder.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



