Women's flying event to be hosted in Sanford

By TAMMY WELLS
SANFORD — Amelia Earhart was one of the most famous female aviators in the early days of aviation, and she wasn’t the only female flyer.

In 1929, four women aviators arrived in Sanford to trail the aviators to the 117 other construction companies in the United States, asking them if they wished to form an organization to advance the cause of women in aviation. Eventually, 99 of them responded. They formed an organization that became known as The Ninety-Nines, Inc.

The Ninety-Nines, Inc. has a chapter in Maine, called the Katahdin Wings, and in keeping with the original mission, they’re hosting the event 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 7 at Sanford Seacoast Regional Airport.

Women and girls are invited to drop by the airport for a hands-on-learning experience about aviation, exploring topics like women in aviation history, careers in aviation, open cockpits and an opportunity to display our school station, women aviation professionals, how to communicate into our world today and more — including free airplane rides on a first come, first served, weather permitting basis.

The event is sponsored by the Katahdin Wings and the airport’s fixed-base operator, Southern Maine Aviation.

Joe Filling, chairman of the Katahdin Wings, said the group has had similar events in the Fryeburg, Municipal Airport, but chose Sanford Seacoast Regional Airport this time around because they wanted to reach out to a wider portion of the area, and she said, Sanford airport is a friendly airport.

As to flying, Filling is licensed to fly single engine aircraft as a private pilot and said it is something she’s always wanted to do, but was unable to do so until her mid 30s.

Pilots in the group range from age 17 to 97, she said.

Hannah Spirdle is one of the flight instructors at Southern Maine Aviation.

Flying for five years, she was working at the desk at the fixed-base operation when she got the bug. She began taking lessons, and worked her way up through several licenses, from private to commercial to flight instructor.

"You feel so free," when you fly, she said. "And if you get it off your mind, you could start thinking about other things while you're up in the sky."

Volunteers and others say the closure has left a significant gap.

Waterboro — Back in November, a local business owner offered to build a food pantry, in keeping with the original mission, to serve the community.

When some other construction companies heard about it, they offered to pitch in too.

Two pairs and on such the moment and the offers are on hold, for now, said Douglas Fogus, who, along with his family, was behind the original project.

“We have not shut the door. We are not saying we would not build a food pantry, he said, Friday the 13th.

But with contractors anxious to move on to other community projects, now to is Friday the 13th.

Food pantry open, but on hold for now

By TAMMY WELLS

Local Region A3

Opales A5

Arundel A6

Saco B3

Biddeford B5

Clifton B5

Cornish/Plympton C3-4

North Yarmouth/Willow C3-4

Color Comics D1-4

Fitness bands: A pocket-sized personal trainer or a fleeting fad?

By LIZ GOTTHELF

RSU 21 planning new high school renovation project, vote in June

He said it was "an organic process," and he would have a final number for the proposed project at the March 1 school board meeting.

In a unanimous vote, the School Board voted to put the school renovations out to a June vote.

Under the new proposal, the size of suggested remediated buildings has been scaled down. Other adjustments to the proposal include using composite material instead of brick for an outside courtyard, toning down high school cafeteria renovations, and not replacing an elevator, said Crowley.

School Board member Matthew Fudman of Kennebunk said bond rates are at "a historic low" and should the vote pass, it would be cheaper to start after a June vote than wait until November a vote.

School Board member Amy Johnson of Kennebunkport said her three children are in