Bone marrow donor needed

BY LORI GIBBON

SACO — Twelve year-old Hayley Dejardins is fighting for her life.

After a more than five year remission from aplastic anemia, the Saco Middle School student had a recent relapse.

Aplastic anemia is a condition that occurs when the body stops producing enough new blood cells. Aplastic anemia leaves one feeling fatigued and with a higher risk of infections and uncontrolled bleeding, according to a press release from the Saco River Kiwanis.

Hayley had several blood and platelet transfusions from the Saco River Kiwanis.

The teams will be made up of University of New England students who play in the school’s intramural broomball league, as well as former local broomball players, Patricia Williams, her coordinator of intramural and recreational sports at UNE, said in an email on Tuesday.

Two drives to find potential donors will be held on Feb. 7 in hopes of finding a match.

One drive will be held at Kelly’s Bakery in Biddeford.

A sweeping success at Winterfest

BY ANGELO J. VERZONI

BIDDEFORD — When players take the ice at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, at the Biddeford Ice Arena, it won’t be to play hockey. It won’t be for a game of curling either.

Instead, as part of the city’s Winterfest celebration, two teams will be facing each other in a game of broomball.

Broomball is similar to hockey, except that it’s played on skaters instead of skates, with a triangular ended stick instead of an L-shaped one and with a ball instead of a puck.

The teams will be made up of University of New England students who play in the school’s intramural broomball league, as well as former local broomball players, Patricia Williams, the coordinator of intramural and recreational sports at UNE, said in an email on Tuesday.

Two drives to find potential donors will be held on Feb. 7 in hopes of finding a match.

One drive will be held at Kelly’s Bakery in Biddeford.

Death, taxes a certainty. Scammers needn’t be!

BY TAMMY WELLS

BIDDEFORD — Benjamin Franklin is the fellow credited with saying “there’s nothing surer than death and taxes.” And it is that time of year when the tax folks are looking for an accounting.

And so are those ready to rip you off. Maine Attorney General Janet Mills says scammers are posing as IRS agents, calling people and demanding payment for what they claim are overdue taxes.

They’re imposters, said Mills.

And, in a statement, she described how the scam works: Scammers posing as IRS officials call and say you owe taxes. They threaten to arrest you, or deport you,

Working up a storm in a winter wonderland

On Wednesday, on Alfred Street in Biddeford, people were clearing up after Tuesday’s storm. Picture is one of the many snow plow trucks that were traveling the roads that day.
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2015

LOCAL

No government agency or legitimate business will demand an immediate payment to prepaid debit card.

— Maine Attorney General Janet Mills

Incentives, Entertainment, Sports, News, Food, and more! Enjoy and connect with more fans and followers. Just another reason to look forward to the weekend.

Call 282-1535 for great rates. We look forward to hearing from you.

———

Dopesters, From 8 p.m. on Feb. 7 from 8 a.m. to noon, neighbors will receive a free cup of coffee and doughnuts.

“Testing is fast and completely painless,” said Elizabeth Hussey, co-organizer of the event. “Finding a match is like needle in a haystack so enlisting as many people as possible in the search is critical.”

The Saco River Valley Kiwanis is hosting a bone marrow drive and dance at the Biddeford-Saco Elks Lodge on Feb. 7 from 6:30-10 p.m. Tickets for the dance are $10 a person or $25 for the family. For more information, call Christine Paul at 281-362 or Donna Roberts at 488-3396.

— Staff Writer Liz Gottlieb can be contacted at 282-1335, ext. 325 or lgottlieb@journal-tribune.com

Basketball, From 8 p.m. on Feb. 7 from 8 a.m. to noon, a basketball as an intramural sport in 2010. It started outdoors and was moved inside to the Harold Alfond Forum ice arena in 2012.

“We started with about four teams the first year but as the word spread our numbers have grown each year since,” she said.

Currently, UNE has 14 basketball teams with more than 130 players, making it one of the school’s most popular intramural sports, said Williams.

Although the sport is only in its fifth year as an official intramural sport at UNE, it’s something new to the students.

“Basketball was a popular sport in the early 1970s,” Cassavant said. “And some other players are now more popular and women’s league, called the World Basketball Association, which eventually hosted a women’s division, too.”

Basketball was bigger than hockey, said Cassavant, and I think one of the things that created the popularity of the sport was that younger players could ski, while many of the older basketball players could not, and they wanted to play hockey. So hockey leagues expanded, taking up more ice time.”

Cassavant said that despite the sports’ differences, he found that hockey players brought an excellent skill set to the table when it came to playing basketball. But, as Williams pointed out, there is no experience or particular skill set necessary for playing the sport.

Cassavant said he has players of all athletic backgrounds on his VBA team — from former Biddeford High School hockey players to former BHS football and basketball players.

Although Cassavant promised his love for the former well-known sport on Thursday, whether the mayor will strap on his old basketball shoes and take the ice alongside his former teammates during WinterFest remains to be seen.

— Staff Writer Angela J. Verham can be contacted at 282-1335, ext. 329 or aver- zmj@journaltribune.com

The insurance industry has released a new report that 50% of business owners do not have a plan in place to protect their company from cyber threats.

— Senior Staff Reporter Tammy Wells can be contacted at 282-1335, ext. 327 or twells@journaltribune.com

More features...