

GRCC gymnasts compete



The Greater Rumford Community Center recreational 5-6 p.m. gymnastics class competed at a mock meet at the GRCC on March 7th. The young gymnasts shows their excitement of their meet! They did a very good job representing the GRCC. Recreational classes go from age 6 months to 18 years of age. Sign ups can be made anytime at 357-3636. FMI: call the GRCC at 369-9906, and join into classes on Tuesday and Thursday for gymnastics and tumbling on both days.

Dirigo Winter sports awards



Wrestling States participants for Dirigo were, from left Keadan Swan, Leighton Waite, Isaiah Bradeen, Elijah Lindus, Caiden Skidgell, Hudson Lufkin, Ethan Olsen, Amelia Maillet and Vincent Chapman.



Wrestling All-Conference recipients from Dirigo were, from left, Hudson Lufkin, Caiden Skidgell and Amelia Maillet.

Mountain Valley Recreation basketball finalists set

RUMFORD — The number 1 and 3 seeds, Hotel Rumford and A & G Custom Carpentry squared off Sunday in the finals of the Mountain Valley Rec Basketball League.

Hotel Rumford (14-2) faced Mt Blue (10-5) in the first game of the day. Mt Blue actually held a lead

through a lot of the first half, but ended up trailing 34-31 at the half. Hotel Rumford then got hot and clamped down on their defense and made easy work for themselves in the second half, while then cruising to a 90-66 victory.

Owen Jones led the way with 23 points (7 threes, 4

in the second half). Also helping in the scoring column were JT Taylor 19 points, Zach New 16, Tom Danylik 13 (3 threes) and Bryan Canwell 11. Mt Blue, who missed a couple of inside players, were led by Eric Berry with 23 (5 threes) points and Justin Evens with 16.

In the next semifinal game, A&G Custom Cabinets and Smart Care PT, Inc, who had equal records during the season, had a dog fight, Smart Care (12-4) took an early double digit lead only to see A & G (13-3) wipe it out by the end of the first half, tied at 53 a piece.

A&G then went out to a double digit lead only to see it erode to 2 points with seconds left. But a length of the court inbound pass off a back screen for a layup sealed the victory, 100-96.

The winners placed 4 players in double figures, paced by Malik Farley

with 32 points (14 free throws). Kalen Chase added 28 points (4 threes), Mateo Lapointe 19 and Keagan Pitcher 11. Smart Care also had 4 double digit scorers, Cody St. Germain 38, Dakota Tompkins 19 (3 threes), Ben Holmes 17 and Clay Swett 10.

FRV donates to Larry Labonte Recovery Center



The Friends of the River Valley (<https://friendsofrivervalley.org/>) recently made a \$4,000 donation to the Larry Labonte Recovery Center, 412 Waldo St., Rumford. Director Kathleen Williams said much of those monies will be used to upgrade technology at the recovery center. From left are Matt Kaubris of FRV, Kathleen Williams of LLRC, LLRC Recovery Coach Mikaela Moss and Ed Paterson of FRV. The FRV mission is for every child, adult and family in Western Maine's Androscoggin River Valley to access food, essential needs, educational enrichment, and physical and mental wellness opportunities. FRV is a centralized resource for funding, support and partnership with existing programs and organizations to provide these needs and promote economic development opportunities. *Bruce Farrin/Rumford Falls Times*

MILL

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to follow the terms of the labor contract."

According to George O'Keefe, Rumford's Economic Development Director, roughly 80 positions will be affected by the current changes at the mill and between 30 and 40 workers will be laid off.

"These are temporary layoffs," O'Keefe said. "This is a market-related downtime with temporary layoffs. The company has also indicated to us that this is industrywide across the country right now. It's really just related to pricing."

O'Keefe said the town will work alongside the Maine Department of Labor

to assist the affected workers.

The changes are centered on the conversion of the R15 paper machine back to bleached grades of linerboard and pulp. An employee at the mill posted what he said was a text he received from a supervisor.

It reads, in part: "R12 will be shut down indefinitely on Monday, R9 idled during lack of fiber. 17 salary employees have been cut, 69 hourly employees will be affected with the associated equipment shutting down for the machines. The mill is not profitable in current state due to declining market conditions and sales

price on brown paper."

In December 2023, Gov. Janet Mills announced an award of \$1 million from the final round of the Forest Recovery Initiative of her Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan to ND Paper for R15 packaging paper machine enhancement.

ND Paper issued the following comment regarding the award from the governor's office: "We made several key improvements to R15 last fall, and the machine will continue to operate moving forward."

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FNL

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writing, including several contributions this year. Another sister, Mary, was in the show last year, but can't make it this year. She has written several skits including two this year. Brother Carlo was the first person to host FNL when he was acting town manager in Rumford in 2011.

Tom is excited to be the host and is looking forward to

delivering his own monologue that he has written, as well as play in a few sketches.

Musical guest this year will be local musician Jesse Heath, who will be performing solo as a departure from his band Aunt Hannah. Jesse has a nice voice and has good chops on the guitar which makes him a great pick for FNL.

Doors open at 6 p.m. for social, seating, and a full pub

menu as well as a cash bar. 49 Franklin is a cash-only venue. Enter at the right side of the building and go to the upper level for the show.

Tickets are available downtown Rumford at All That Jazz and online at www.49franklin.com

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See what's brewing in the River Valley

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