

Special Supplement • Morning Sentinel

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Working together local groups are making Skowhegan area a place for family fun in 2016

BY CORY KING

Executive Director
Skowhegan Area Chamber
of Commerce
Special to Greater Skowhegan

This past 2015 was a landmark year for the Skowhegan region with dozens of successful events, activities and business start-ups and expansions.

Many local businesses had leading years and much of the success of the region can be attributed to the sense of cross-community collaboration that has led to many organizational partnerships and cooperation on events and activities. This cooperation allows for more to be done, from promotion to the execution of activities — and that spirit is continuing in the early planning stages of 2016.

The following is a list of events planned so far for the Skowhegan area in 2016. Not all dates are specific at this point, so for more information, contact the Skowhegan Area Chamber of Commerce at 474-3621 or visit exdir@skowheganareachamber.com.

Maple Festival & Maine Maple Sunday, March 25-27: A little known fact is that Somerset County produces the most maple syrup in the United States. Main Street Skowhegan annually holds Maple Fest leading up to Maine Maple Sunday, making the weekend a three-day event of family activities. Popular events include the Saturday morning maple breakfast, a talent show Saturday night and, of course, sugar shack tours on Maine Maple Sunday. For more information check out www.mainstreet-skowhegan.org

The SACC Awards Dinner April/May 2016: The Skowhegan Area Chamber awards dinner is a night to celebrate some of the most successful business leaders and their companies from around the state. Expanded in 2015 to include up to seven honorees, the night has become a grand celebration of community successes. This event does not have a date yet, but will occur in April/May depending on site availability.

33rd 10+-Mile-Yard Sale, May 2016: Always popular, the 10+ Mile Yard Sale now spans communities, connecting Cornville and Skowhegan, and draws thousands of people. This event is organized by the citizens who live on that stretch of road, so this date is not 100



Contributed photos

From a Fireman's demonstration at Riverfest, to Antique cars on parade and the Farmers Market, there's always something happening in Skowhegan.



percent confirmed. However, it usually has been the weekend between Mother's Day (May 8 this year) and Memorial Day weekend (May 28-30 this year). This year, the calendar falls oddly so there are actually two weekends in between. Our best guess at this time is May 14 and 15, though May 21 and 22 is a possibility. There are literally hundreds of participating vendors.

Memorial Day Parade, May 30 This day is as special for the Skowhegan citizens as it is for the veterans who live in the area. Hundreds of families line the streets at 10 a.m. and attend the ceremony that follows at the Skowhegan Memorial Park in Skowhegan. Similar parades have happened in Norridgewock and Madison in years past.

Lakewood Theater, May - September: Entering its 116th season, the oldest summer theater in the country produces an 18-week, nine-show season beginning on opening

night May 26. The season is full of musicals, comedies and dramas with reprisals of past favorites, such as "Confessions of a Dirty Blonde," "Always, Patsy Cline" and "Hello Dolly!" with new shows for the theater such as "Baskerville!," "Of Mice & Men" and "The Full Monty." For more information, log on to www.lakewoodtheater.org.

10th Kneading Conference & Bread Fair- July 28-30: This ever-growing fair for bakers, bread artisans and millers is extremely popular for all types of bread enthusiasts, as well as organic food lovers. The bread fair, on July 30, draws about 1,500 people annually. For more information look at www.kneadingconference.com.

RiverFest 2016 - Aug. 2 - 6: This giant multi-day festival in Skowhegan, will open on Aug. 2 with the Skowhegan Lion's Club Chicken Barbecue and go straight through Saturday night Aug. 6 with a live concert in the beer garden with

fireworks to follow. In between, there is Bingo Night provided by Hospice Volunteers of Somerset County and the Skowhegan American Legion; the RiverFest Pub Crawl, Moonlight Madness with the legendary Bed Races produced by the SACC and the Skowhegan Parks and Recreation Department; the Skowhegan Rotary Club Lobster Bake, the RiverFest Duffers & Drivers

Golf Classic; the Main Street Skowhegan Craft Fair; and the River Run Glow Stick Paddle presented by the Run of River Committee.

Free raft rides during Riv-

erFest Saturday are presented by Skowhegan Parks & Rec. and annually Moxie Outdoor Adventures, the New Balance

More EVENTS, PAGE 4

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The Maine Barkery wins \$20,000 entrepreneur challenge

Runners up also reap rewards

Amanda Clark, owner of The Maine Barkery, is the winner of the Main Street, Skowhegan Savings Entrepreneur Challenge. Clark will receive a \$20,000 incentive package to expand her business to 134 Water Street in Skowhegan.

The Entrepreneur Challenge, developed by Main Street's Business Enhancement Committee to spur economic development in the region, spanned six months and included several educational seminars.

Through the support of its contestants and their businesses, the committee hopes that the program will strengthen entrepreneurial leadership in the community and inspire others to join the economic revitalization happening in Skowhegan.

Clark will expand her business to her new downtown home this spring.

The Maine Barkery makes all-natural dog treats from locally-sourced ingredients and sells them wholesale to more than a dozen businesses across the state. Moving to a larger location will enable her to increase production and add retail space to sell treats and other locally-made, healthy dog products.

As a winner, Clark will receive the \$20,000 start-up package that includes:

- \$10,000 forgivable loan and additional account services from Skowhegan Savings Bank
- Bookkeeping services from Tax Pro Inc.
- Carpentry services from Dionne & Son Builders
- One-year free membership with the Skowhegan Area Chamber of Commerce
- Legal consulting from Perkins, Townsend, Shay & Talbot, Public Attorneys
- Three months of Internet access and up to two phone lines from Bee Line Cable
- One-hour photo session with Knight Vision Photography
- Reduced rent at 134 Water Street offered by B&J Properties
- Four hours of marketing and public relations consulting from Nuf Sed Communications
- Press release and Facebook promotion
- Grant fiscal sponsorship
- Quickbooks educational seminar



Photo contributed by Knightvision Photography

Amanda Clark, owner of The Maine Barkery receives her \$10,000 check for a forgivable loan from Skowhegan Savings Bank. With her in the photo, from left to right: John Witherspoon, President and CEO of Skowhegan Savings Bank, Ed Goff, owner of Butlers Car Wash and Fast Eddie's Car wash in Augusta and member of the Main Street Business Enhancement Committee, Vicki Alward, Senior Vice President of Skowhegan Savings Bank and member of the Main Street Business Enhancement Committee, Patrick Dore of Franklin Savings Bank and the Old Mill Pub and member of the Main Street Business Enhancement Committee, Amanda Clark, owner of The Maine Barkery and winner of the Main Street Skowhegan Savings Entrepreneur Challenge, Sam Hight, owner of Hight Ford and Chair of the Main Street Business Enhancement Committee, Kristina Cannon, Executive Director of Main Street Skowhegan, Matt Clark, Amanda's husband (and their dog Jayce).



Runner up, Virginia Jewel, is planning to expand her health foods store, Ginny's Natural Corner. Concerned about Somerset County health statistics, Jewel intends to offer services to the community, including cooking courses to show families how to prepare healthy foods, and other educational, informational and networking opportunities. Jewel also plans to expand sales to include healthy soups, sandwiches and wraps.

Jewel will receive: two hours of consulting from H&R Block of Skowhegan; five hours of consulting from Kyes-Carpenter Insurance, a new laptop from Computer Improvements, on site review of profit margin, and other recommendations from selection committee consultants.



Runner Up, Nancy Blaisdell Baxter, has started MeshEarth, an independent film company that celebrates rural Maine living and community connections through video portraits of people teaching life skills and lost arts.

Baxter is passionate about promoting Maine and wants to use her films to engage local people and attract visitors to the Skowhegan region.

Watch for Baxter's first film, "Sox and the Country," scheduled to be released this summer.

Baxter will receive website design and development by Your Designs Unlimited.



Runner Up, Justin Richard, is preparing to launch Downtown-Delivery.ME, an affordable restaurant delivery service with a secure web-based ordering platform and built-in marketing tool. Richard will present his delivery service and marketing capabilities to Skowhegan restaurant owners to build future partnerships.

He will receive legal consulting services from Perkins, Townsend, Shay & Talbot, Public Attorneys, and business consulting from Sam Hight, Hight Family of Dealerships.

- All runners up will receive:
- Press release and Facebook promotion from Main Street Skowhegan
 - Grant fiscal sponsorship
 - Free Quickbooks educational seminar
 - Consulting from the committee

Skowhegan's Annual Maple Festival is a rite of spring

Main Street Skowhegan volunteers are preparing for Skowhegan's 10th Annual Maple Festival, scheduled for Friday, March 25 through Sunday, March 27.

Celebrating Somerset County's status as the top maple-producing county in the United States, this three-day festival will welcome Spring's arrival by offering fun activities and events for all ages.

Friday from 3 to 4 p.m., the Skowhegan Free Public Library will host an ice cream social.

The popular pancake breakfast, featuring locally-sourced foods and Somerset County maple syrup, will be held from 7 to 10 a.m. at Tewksbury Hall on Saturday.

Activities scheduled throughout the day will include a maple leaf hunt, maple marshmallow roasting, the Sugar Dash 5K, maple snow-cone making, and the Skowhegan Rotary food, beer and wine tasting.

And don't miss the Main Street talent show at 7:30 p.m. Saturday. Held in the historic Skowhegan Opera House, the show features local entertainment from stand-up comedy routines to musical acts.

The festival leads to Maine Maple Sunday, a day when Sugar-houses around the state open their doors to the public and offer free syrup samples and demonstrations.

Visit www.MainStreetSkowhegan.org or call 612-2571 to learn more about Skowhegan's Maple Festival.



The popular pancake breakfast, featuring locally-sourced foods and Somerset County maple syrup, will be held from 7 to 10 a.m. on Saturday March 26 at Tewksbury Hall. The Main Street talent show at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in the historic Skowhegan Opera House, the show features local entertainment from stand-up comedy routines to musical acts.

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TNT Glass continues to offer top-of-the-line glass service

New owners add auto accessories to the inventory

BY VALERIE TUCKER
Correspondent

TNT Glass can make any vehicle or home more comfortable, energy efficient and fun to be in, according to owners, Marc and Angel Paradis.

The company has a long history in the area, starting with previous owners Tim and Tammy Rines, who operated the business for 22 years.

Meanwhile, Marc Paradis operated Paradis Windows and a successful auto accessories business. When the Rines decided to retire, Marc and Angel Paradis saw an opportunity to expand their business and their services.

The Rines' previous glass technician, Craig Coro, agreed to stay with the new business, bringing 32 years of experience to the team. The combination of the two businesses brought all services under one roof.

"We do sell almost anything you want for auto accessories," said Angel Paradis. "People might come in looking for windows or windshield replacements and they're sometimes surprised by the huge inventory of automotive accessories we carry."

Seat covers, winches, plow lights, WeatherTech floor mats, mud flaps and tonneau covers are among the many product lines.

So why is the company called TNT? The couple say they get that question a lot.

"Our service is dynamite," Angel Paradis said with a laugh.

Their line of replacement windows have been a big part of their success.

"We sell and install Harvey Windows, which are made in New England for our cold winters," Angel Paradis said. "We sell and install the windows with a lifetime warranty on the window mechanisms and a 20-year warranty on the glass."

TNT Glass also orders and installs replacement panes for other manufacturers' windows. Homeowners also want glass shower enclosures, and the glass technicians can install either the rimless glass doors or the entire unit.

UV damage from direct sunlight, road salt and years of dust, dirt and insects can make headlights look older than they should.

"There's heat from the bulbs inside, heat from the engine, and of course, heat and humidity from the atmosphere, depending on climate and season," Angel Paradis said. "Cloudy headlights can be improved dramatically."

Lots of elements can transform clear auto headlights into distorted foggy headlights, which create dangerous night vision driving conditions. TNT's headlight restoration process will return the cloudy headlight to almost new condition, providing better visibility and increased safety when driving at night, she said.

"We also do window tinting to reduce glare from the sun and lights, which is a problem for a lot of older people," she said. "It also provides protection from ultraviolet rays, which are bad for both the drivers and their automobile interiors."

From the automotive accessories selection, one very popular purchase has been the American-made WeatherTech floor liner. Digitally-measured mats fit perfectly in any vehicle to completely line the existing interior carpet, according to Paradis.

"The liners cover the interior carpet up the front, back and even up the sides of the vehicle's footwell," she said. "Laser measurements of interior surfaces offer an exact fit."

The liner material offers a rigid core for strength and surface friction, but the surface is very comfortable underfoot.

"Channels carry water, mud and debris to a reservoir, away from shoes and clothing without any muss or fuss," Paradis said.

"We offer warranties for peace of mind," she added. "We still service our people with a simple hand-shake."

Customers can depend on quality windshield repair and replacement, nearly always with original equipment, safety glass, mirrors, window glass, Plexiglas, Lexan, RV and motor home glass, construction equipment glass, commercial work and commercial entrances.

"We offer free local pick-up when we work on a customer's vehicle," she said.

During these messy winter months, people dread the visit to a car wash every few weeks. Angel Paradis suggested that someone looking for the perfect personalized present for any occasion could present that special someone with a car detailing gift certificate.

"If there's no time in your schedule to perform a deep clean yourself, bring it to us," she said. "We'll make it sparkle in less time than you think."

TNT Glass is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 10 Somerset Business Parkway off U.S. Route 201. Call 474-0688 or email tntautoglass@beeline-online.net.

"We do sell almost anything you want for auto accessories. People might come in looking for windows or windshield replacements, and they're sometimes surprised by the huge inventory of automotive accessories we carry."

ANGEL PARADIS, CO-OWNER WITH MARC PARADIS, TNT GLASS, SKOWHEGAN



Staff photos by Lisa Hood

TNT Glass can make any vehicle or home more comfortable, energy efficient and fun to be in, according to owners, Marc and Angel Paradis. Pictured left to right, Roy Chamberland, Craig Coro, Marc Paradis and Angel Paradis.



Staff photos by Lisa Hood

Seat covers, winches, plow lights, WeatherTech floor mats, mud flaps and tonneau covers are among the many product lines that TNT carries.

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FDIC

Maine Center for Dental Medicine provides a holistic approach

Connection between oral health, body is part of the philosophy

BY VALERIE TUCKER
Correspondent

The holistic concept at Maine Center for Dental Medicine involves an awareness of dental care as it relates to the whole person. Today's medical advancements recognize the critical connection between oral health and the rest of the body. For 50 years, the Center has shared with each patient the philosophy of holistic biological dentistry.

"We don't practice a separate specialty of dentistry," said Dr. Mohammed Imam, DDS. "This is a thought process, an attitude that can apply to all facets of dental practice, and to health care in general."

For example, he explained, bacteria in the mouth can travel to other parts of the body, including the heart. Also, pregnant women should understand that bacteria from the mouth can affect the unborn child, decreasing its birth weight or causing other problems critical to a newborn's start in the world. Holistic dentistry seeks to emphasize those individual connections, and patient safety is paramount.

"We always seek the safest, least toxic way to accomplish the goals of modern dentistry," Imam said.

All dental amalgam, or "silver," fillings contain approximately 50 percent mercury, according to Imam. He said these fillings release mercury vapors that can be harmful to humans. The level of mercury emitted from these fillings can increase due to chewing, brushing, cleaning or clenching of teeth.

The Center's doctors strictly follow the protocol of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology when removing amalgam fillings. The office is mercury-safe and mercury-free.

"We believe in practicing dentistry in a way that not only promotes healthy teeth and gums, but overall health," Imam said. "We use materials and techniques that teach patients to care for their oral health and avoid disease."

The dental practice also does not recommend the use of fluoride products.

"Years ago, it was thought that fluoride could protect tooth enamel," Imam said. "Research suggests that this is not the case."

There are alternatives to the antiquated treatment, including xylitol, ozone, and nutritional counseling, he said.

Nutritional counseling also is a vital component to the practice's holistic philosophy. Foods and beverages either promote or inhibit oral and systemic health. Most people are aware of this, but they may not understand the complex issues related to diet, Imam said.

"Our nutritionist helps patients form a personalized program to help attain and maintain a healthy mouth," he said.

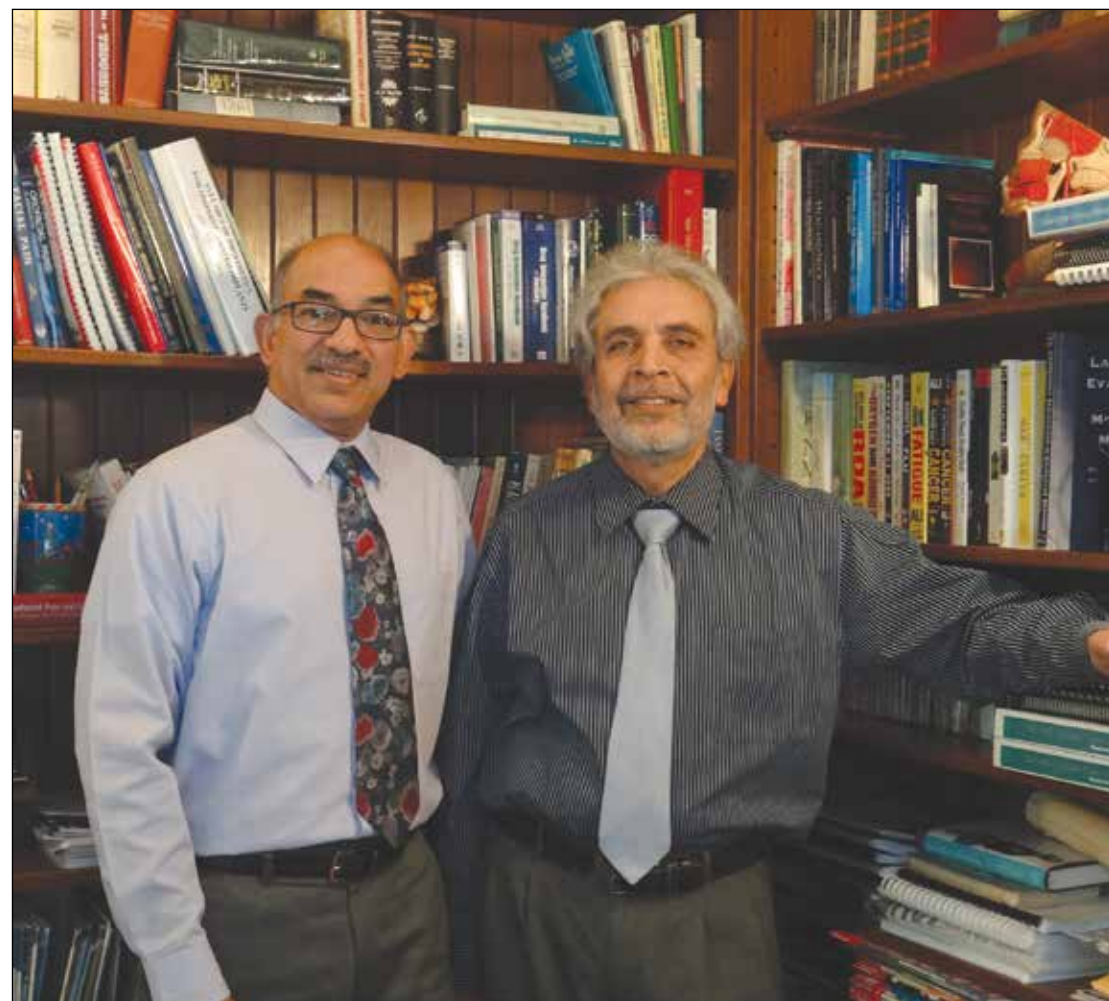
The Center for Dental Medicine has treated generations of families and enthusiastically supports the positive influence of parents on the next generation. Early dental care and early detection of problems provide children and their parents an opportunity to make a lifetime commitment to overall health care. The staff performs "knee-to-knee" appointments with parents and infants, with the child on a parent's lap and the seated dentist or hygienist facing them.

"How do we see what we want to see in a baby's mouth?" Imam asked. "We make him or her smile, of course!"

Individual health issues vary with each patient, and the Center's trained staff understands the importance of even small details and changes in a patient's medical history. For example, research suggests a link between diabetes and gum disease, and diabetics are more likely to have periodontal problems. In fact, periodontal disease is often considered one of the major complications of diabetes, according to Imam.

"We always seek the safest, least toxic way to accomplish the goals of modern dentistry,"

DR. MOHAMMED IMAM WHO, WITH DR. SHAFIULLA KHAN,
OPERATE THE MAINE CENTER FOR DENTAL MEDICINE IN SKOWHEGAN



Contributed photo

Both Dr. Mohammed Imam and Dr. Shafiulla Khan with the Maine Center for Dental Medicine in Skowhegan have more than 30 years each in the practice of holistic dentistry. Dr. Imam also served as a clinical assistant professor at NYU College of Dentistry for 15 years and is a member of the Academy of General Dentistry. Dr. Kahn is a member of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology, the American Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine and the International Association of Orthodontics.

"The relationship between the two conditions goes both ways," he said.

From children to teens to adults and seniors, the Center for Dental Medicine provides care to meet the needs of each patient. Services include professional cleanings, periodontal therapy, functional orthodontics and Invisalign®, cosmetic services and tooth replacement with dentures and implants. Home sleep studies can be done for diagnosis of obstructive

sleep apnea (OSA). Continuous Positive Airway Pressure, or CPAP is a treatment that uses mild air pressure to keep the airways open.

CPAP typically is used by people who have breathing problems. The Center for Dental Medicine also can fabricate alternative equipment for patients not able to tolerate CPAP equipment. Dentures have been a viable solution when natural teeth have failed or fallen out. Well-

made dentures can restore confidence and chewing ability and, today, patients have the option of stabilizing dentures with a few dental implants.

"Whatever your dental needs, we address them with compassion and the intent of longevity," Imam said.

For additional information about the practice or to schedule an appointment, call 474-9503, email info@mainecdm.com or visit www.dental-holistic.com.



Contributed photo

The Hog Rally was a popular event last year in Skowhegan. This annual event alternates locations every year.

Events

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Foundation's Move More Kids Day organized by Somerset Public Health and the Bloomfield's Beer Garden and Pig Roast, which last year featured a live concert by the Rustic Overtones.

Last year shattered the overall attendance record for the week as a whole, with each individual event either meeting or greatly exceeding previous attendance figures. In 2016 the event is expected to be even bigger as new events and activities are being considered and even more community organizations are looking to partner up and bring additional activities. Residents don't want to miss this week — something for everyone.

Skowhegan State Fair - Aug. 11-20: Celebrating 198 years in the summer of 2016, the Skowhegan State Fair is the largest single event draw in the region, welcoming tens of thousands annually. The nation's oldest, consecutively running agricultural fair features: livestock events, horse racing, demolition derby, live bands and a thriving midway. Several other local events occur during the same period to capitalize on the increased traffic including the New Balance Tent Sale.

3rd COTA - Sept.: The 3rd Celebration of the Arts will be held in September at a date that is to be announced, but will likely be a Saturday. This arts festival features handmade artisans, painters, and live en-

tertainment including theater performances and music performers. Though brutally cold last year when held in October, the turnout was positive, and it became very clear that Coburn Park is the best location to hold this event for years to come. Spaces are free for the artists and stage performances are available and only need to be pre-registered for obvious scheduling reasons.

Haunted Hayrides - Oct. 28 & 29: The premier haunted happening of the season is the Haunted Hayrides at the Skowhegan Fairgrounds. With 1,056 people, the 2015 edition broke records and more are expected in 2016, as some groups have already begun building their scenes for this year. Still at only \$5, there is no better value for family fun than this event, which is designed to be scary. Last year, there were nearly two dozen walk-offs from those being too scared. Some people waited over an hour so get there early.

And there is so much more to do: Chamber Business After Hours, Skow-Pendous Family Fun Night, summer concerts in Coburn Park in July and August, Madison-Anson Days, Skowhegan Opera House concerts, the Holiday Stroll and the list goes on.

With so many groups listed above, it easy to see that the communities that work together, grow together.

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Staff photos by Lisa Hood

Griffin's carries several work clothing and footwear lines, including Dickies, Muck, Carolina, Lacrosse and Johnson Woolen. Many are brand names that have been around for several generations. The Chippewa boot line started over a century ago, with workers in mind. The American-made Super Logger boot, which is waterproof, insulated, with rugged steel toes, is a popular favorite.

Griffin's is committed to selling durable Maine outerwear

Company celebrates 40 years of growth and success

BY VALERIE TUCKER
Correspondent

Griffin's started its family-owned business in 1976, so this year the company is celebrating 40 years of growth and success. "Seven days a week, customers can come to the store and find a family member behind the counter," said Paula Griffin, who helps manage the Skowhegan location.

Visitors may also meet Griffin's dog-in-residence, Piper, a 3-year-old Cavachon, a cross between a Cavalier King Charles spaniel and a Bichon Frise.

"She's spoiled rotten," she said with a laugh. "She thinks everyone comes here just to visit her, and sometimes they bring her home-baked treats!"

Griffin posts information regularly about new inventory, sales and specials on all the shoes, boots and clothing. Her entire inventory reflects the company's commitment to durability and the ability to withstand all kinds of Maine weather challenges.

"We have prided ourselves on selling very high quality merchandise for 40 years," she said.

Griffin's carries several work clothing and footwear lines, including Dickies, Muck, Carolina, Lacrosse and Johnson Woolen. Many are brand names that have been around for several generations. The Chippewa boot line started over a century ago, with workers in mind. The American-made Super Logger boot, which is waterproof, insulated, with rugged steel toes, is a popular favorite.

"These boots are made for people who do the kinds of hard work that made this country what it is today," Griffin said. "They're a good choice for the working outdoor person looking for a solid piece of footwear."

Also at the turn of the century, a Red Wing, Minnesota shoe merchant named Charles Beckman started selling quality footwear for the working man, she said. He saw the need for shoes specifically designed for the demanding work of industries such as mining, logging and farming. Today's Red Wing footwear styles include choices of width, height and even extra toe room. Their safety boots offer steel, aluminum or non-metal reinforcements. Griffin said she also can order, with a small deposit, the metatarsal guards that protect the top of the boot from the heaviest materials in the most unpredictable environments.

"We also carry a nice selection of the fun, colorful, easy pull-on Boggs boots, starting with a tots' size seven, in girls' and boys' color choices, as well as ladies' boots and men's boots up to size 15," Griffin said.

Griffin's carries line of legendary quality work wear. The Carhartt clothing line started 128 years ago and has lasted four generations. Founder Hamilton Carhartt started as a horse and wagon salesman but decided to start his own business. The legendary Carhartt Chore Coat was introduced in 1923 and is much the same as it

"We have prided ourselves on selling very high quality merchandise for 40 years."

PAULA GRIFFIN, MANAGER,
GRIFFIN'S IN SKOWHEGAN



was a century ago.

"Carhartt's canvas jackets and double-layered bib overalls are practically indestructible, according to our customers," Griffin said.

For 172 years, Johnson Woolen Mills has been making fine woolen outerwear in Vermont. They still make the same woolen shirts, jackets and the famous ice-man's pants that have been best sellers for decades, according to Griffin. Today, they also make clothing for women and children. The distinctive black and red or green checked outerwear makes a statement, and Griffin's customer's appreciate the quality feel of the soft and durable wool, she said.

Griffin's also operate two other stores.

"The one on Main Street in Guilford is much like our Skowhegan store," she said. "The Belmont store on the Augusta Road is much larger and carries a different inventory, including grain and shavings, hardware and a bit of yarn and fabric."

The Skowhegan store is open from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday. Call 474-2625 for more information or visit Griffin's Facebook page.

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Bee Line Cable provides decades of service

Company retains its local presence

BY SUSAN VARNEY
Correspondent

Bee Line Cable is a local, family-owned company in central Maine. It offers High Speed Internet, Digital Phone, Digital Cable and provides a connection to the world for communication and entertainment, according to its president Paul Hannigan.

For more than 60 years, Bee Line Cable has provided cable television service. It now has more than 300 miles of fiber optic cable, connecting customers to high-speed Internet service and digital phone service that features unlimited long distance calling throughout the United States and Canada.

The company, based in Madison, serves the central Maine communities of Anson, Madison, Skowhegan, Farmington, Industry, Wilton, East Millinocket and Millinocket.

Paul Hannigan said his father, Owen Hannigan, began his cable TV career in 1954 in Houlton with three channels. He credits the continued growth of the company over the years to his father's tenacity and hard work.

"It was pretty impressive," Paul Hannigan said.

He said he remembers his father going around to banks trying to get financing for the cable company before anyone even knew what a cable company was.

Owen Hannigan had a vision and was persistent, his son recalls, finally getting financial help from Economy Finance in Indiana.

"Now we do business with many Maine banks. It keeps the money local and helps the Maine economy," Paul Hannigan said in a phone conversation on his way to the airport in Bangor. He was headed to a national cable convention in Phoenix, Arizona, where he will get a look at all the latest innovations, equipment and technology for the cable industry.

Owen Hannigan began branching out in the early 60s.

In 1965, the Houlton cable system was sold and Owen Hannigan used his share of the sale to buy out other existing stockholders of Bee Line Cable, which owned a franchise to provide cable TV service to



Contributed photo

Bee Line Cable office and garage at 131 Lakewood Road, Madison.

Millinocket.

He built the cable system serving Millinocket and expanded it to serve East Millinocket in 1968. In 1975, Bee Line acquired cable systems in Anson, Farmington, Madison and Skowhegan, adding Wilton in 1977 and Industry in 1998.

In 1980, Bee Line was one of the first cable systems in Maine to erect a satellite dish, which enabled Bee Line to provide additional programming.

In 1990, Owen Hannigan and Ted Turner were inducted into the Cable TV Pioneer's Club, in Atlanta Georgia, for their contributions to the industry. His son, Paul Hannigan, was with him and is now the president of Bee Line Cable, offering residential, commercial and Industrial service.

"It's all about getting the fastest speed for the lowest cost," Hannigan said.

Fiber optics provide the greatest speed, he said. There are nodes that serve neighborhoods providing low-cost transmission and high-

speed, he said.

"I enjoy the business," Hannigan said. After college he did financial projections for a Pennsylvania company, working in New Mexico and Oklahoma. He decided to go back to college and got his MS in business from Boston College, returning to Maine to work with his father in the mid-70s.

The Bee Line Cable website states that the company's "friendly, knowledgeable customer support personnel are ready to help . . . with any customer service questions." The company values customer questions and comments because it gives them an opportunity to improve Bee Line products and services, according to Hannigan.

Products and services include cable television, call waiting, caller ID, digital cable television, digital music channels, digital phone, DVR, email, HDTV, high speed Internet, technical support, telephones and voice mail. Service brands available are Cinemax, Encore, HBO, SHOW-TIME, and STARZ.



"Now we do business with many Maine banks. It keeps the money local and helps the Maine economy."

PAUL HANNIGAN, PRESIDENT, BEE LINE CABLE

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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