

# Ski

Continued from Page C1

“We are all struggling to make snow, we just don’t have that many opportunities,” said Fake, whose coastal location and weather allowed him to open last year on Jan. 1.

“If we are lucky, we will do half a week of business this week,” Getman said.

Fake expects to have four trails open when his season starts on Friday. As of Wednesday, Fake’s crews had been in snow production for 36 hours and were beginning to distribute it.

Manmade or natural, the lack of snow hurts the economies of the communities around ski areas, which are large part-time employers in wintertime. Most employ 60 to 70 ski instructors, snowmakers, mechanics, concessionaires, ski patrolers, medics, clerks and ticket takers — once the

“I can’t control the weather. I just have to worry about the things I can control. I just tighten up the purse strings and I ride it out.”

BILL WHITCOMB, HERMON MOUNTAIN SKI AREA OWNER

mountain is open.

Good weather, or the lack of it, is something ski area workers learn to live with. Shanaman busied himself for most of the month repairing terrain and buildings at his ski area. Whitcomb endures the warm spells philosophically.

“I can’t control the weather. I just have to worry about the things I can control,” Whitcomb said. “I just tighten up the purse strings and I ride it out.”

“If you get upset about the weather in this business,” Shanaman said, “you can’t be in this business.”



GABOR DEGRE | BDN

Skiers and snowboarders make their way down the trail at New Hermon Mountain ski area Monday afternoon.

# Holyoke

Continued from Page C1

Many others lose parents far too early, and we’re fortunate to have so many memories to fall back on.

But his memory, tragically, is another story.

My dad has Alzheimer’s disease, you see. And for the past several years, we’ve watched as the disease slowly, inexorably, robbed him of the things that were so dear to him.

Not money, nor fame. Those things never mattered much to him.

Instead, he has lost his stories. And his memories.

Most days, he still remembers us, though he might not use our names. But when we visit, we don’t hear those funny tales about childhood pals with comical names such as “Bughouse.”

We talk about his past races — he was the toughest runner I ever saw, and he qualified for the Boston Marathon twice on an ankle that a surgeon later told him he shouldn’t have been able to walk on — but to him, we’re

describing someone else.

And like thousands of families, as he struggles with this nasty disease, we struggle, too.

Dad always lit up a room. He always had the best story, often one he shared despite the fact that most poked fun at the teller himself. He almost drowned in a manure lagoon, or crashed while waterskiing and nearly cracked his head open, or mistakenly called a woman’s portly dog a pig while running a road race in Camden.

Last year, Dad didn’t join us here at Sugarloaf. Mom and he stayed home, and she wished us well on our annual trip. Over the summer, she made the difficult choice that she dreaded more than anyone: Dad needed to stay in a facility where he could be monitored 24 hours a day and remain safe.

We miss him here, but remember that for several years, the relative unfamiliarity of the condo, and being away from home, made this annual trip difficult for him.

Mom is with us this year, bustling around the kitchen, watching over us all with

the same firm hand we’ve always expected.

But it’s not easy for her, nor for the rest of us.

I suspect that this column might resonate with many readers. That’s why I chose to share it today, during one of our family’s most treasured traditions.

Already tonight, I’ve shed a few tears while trying to pen this column. I remember those old stories — ones he told dozens of times over the years — and wish he did, too.

So as we prepare to turn the page and greet another new year, I hope you’ll do me a little favor.

Maybe you’ve got a person in your life who likes to talk. And maybe you think you’re just too busy to hear another tale.

You’re not. Stop. Listen.

Eventually — maybe some day at your own version of “Snow Camp” — you’ll be glad you did.

John Holyoke can be reached at [jholyoke@bangordailynews.com](mailto:jholyoke@bangordailynews.com) or 990-8214. Follow him on Twitter: @JohnHolyoke.

## Things to Do Outdoors

AUGUSTA — Six-part nature writing workshop with instructor Andrea Lani, 6-8 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 19 and 26, and Feb. 2, 9, 16 and 23, Viles Arboretum, 153 Hospital St. \$45, including a membership to the Arboretum; \$10 for members. Space limited. 626-7989 or [www.vilesarboretum.org](http://www.vilesarboretum.org).

BREWER — Penobscot Fly Fishers annual eight-week basic fly tying class, 6-8 p.m. Mondays, beginning Jan. 4, Penobscot County Conservation Association, 570 North Main St. \$40 and includes all the necessary materials and the use of fly tying tools during class time. All students under age 17 must be accompanied by an adult. Class limited to 30 students. 907-9008 or [treasurer@penobscotflyfishers.com](mailto:treasurer@penobscotflyfishers.com). [www.penobscotflyfishers.com/fly-tying-classes.htm](http://www.penobscotflyfishers.com/fly-tying-classes.htm).

BREWER — Author and retired Maine Warden John Ford and retired Maine State Trooper Mark Nickerson to tell tales of law enforcement in Maine “back in the day,” 5:30-7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 7, Brewer Public Library, 100 South Main St. 989-7943.

FREEPORT — “Local Rowing Inside Out” with members of the Merry-meeting Community Rowing Association, 7-8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8, L.L. Bean, 95 Main St. 877-755-2326.

GRAND LAKE STREAM — Snowshoeing adventure led by Downeast Lakes Land Trust education and outreach manager Colin Brown, 2-4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 15, meet at Grand Lake Stream School Building. Bring snowshoes and water, dress warmly. 796-2100 or [cbrown@downeast-lakes.org](mailto:cbrown@downeast-lakes.org).

GRAND LAKE STREAM — Downeast Lakes Land Trust sponsors “Allagash

Tails and Tales,” narrated by author and former ranger supervisor Tim Caverly, 6-7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 25, Grand Lake Stream School Building, 15 Water St. 796-2100 or [cbrown@downeast-lakes.org](mailto:cbrown@downeast-lakes.org).

GRAND LAKE STREAM — Winter Birding Weekend, 8-11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 13, with Downeast Lakes Land Trust and the Fundy Chapter of Maine Audubon Society, in Grand Lake Stream as part of Great Backyard Bird Count. People of all ages and skill levels welcome. Meet at Grand Lake Stream School building, 15 Water St. For information, call the Downeast Lakes Land Trust at 796-2100 or email [cbrown@downeast-lakes.org](mailto:cbrown@downeast-lakes.org).

MAINE — Annual Maine Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. through Tuesday, Jan. 5. For dates, visit <http://maineaudubon.org/birding/christmas-bird-count/>.



**The Furniture Gallery**  
Augusta and Bangor

# NEW YEAR CLEARANCE SALE!

 <p><b>COASTER</b> Fine Furniture <b>Snack Table</b> LIMITED QUANTITIES  Compare \$79.95 <b>Now \$28</b></p>	 <p><b>Cherry Cheval Mirror</b> BERNARDS LIMITED QUANTITIES Compare \$99.95 <b>Now \$38</b></p>	 <p><b>COASTER</b> Fine Furniture <b>Folding Screen</b> LIMITED QUANTITIES  Compare \$99.95 <b>Now \$48</b></p>	 <p><b>COASTER</b> Fine Furniture <b>Storage Accent Chair</b> LIMITED QUANTITIES  Compare \$199.00 <b>Now \$88</b></p>	 <p><b>ASHLEY</b> Furniture Industries, Inc. <b>Contemporary Accent Chair</b> LIMITED QUANTITIES  Compare \$179.00 <b>Now \$98</b></p>
 <p><b>Oak Finish Cedar Chest</b> BERNARDS LIMITED QUANTITIES Compare \$189.00 <b>Now \$98</b></p>	 <p><b>Jewelry Armoire</b> BERNARDS LIMITED QUANTITIES Compare \$198.00 <b>Now \$124</b></p>	 <p><b>Wood Rocking Chair</b> Amesbury Furniture Gallery LIMITED QUANTITIES Compare \$199.00 <b>Now \$128</b></p>	 <p><b>COASTER</b> Fine Furniture <b>Sofa Bed</b> LIMITED QUANTITIES  Compare \$219.00 <b>Now \$148</b></p>	 <p><b>ASHLEY</b> Furniture Industries, Inc. <b>Zero Wall Recliner</b> LIMITED QUANTITIES Compare \$379.00 <b>Now \$168</b></p>
 <p><b>ASHLEY</b> Furniture Industries, Inc. <b>Java Rocker Recliner</b> LIMITED QUANTITIES Compare \$379.00 <b>Now \$228</b></p>	 <p><b>ASHLEY</b> Furniture Industries, Inc. <b>Soft Microfiber Sofa</b> LIMITED QUANTITIES Compare \$399.00 <b>Now \$248</b></p>	 <p><b>Kingston Lavish Futon</b> w/ 8" coil mattress PRIMO INTERNATIONAL LIMITED QUANTITIES Compare \$399.00 <b>Now \$268</b></p>	 <p><b>Simmons</b> <b>Bonded Leather Sofa</b> ORDERS ONLY! Compare \$499.00 <b>Now \$298</b></p>	 <p><b>ASHLEY</b> Furniture Industries, Inc. <b>Stylish 7pc Dining Set</b> LIMITED QUANTITIES Compare \$599.00 <b>Now \$388</b></p>

**Maine's #1 Serta Dealer**  
**BUDGET VALUES**

**America's MATTRESS** By **Serta**

**Twin Mattress \$99**  
**\$149 Full Mattress**

**YOUR CHOICE DOORBUSTER!**

**\$289**

Serta perfect sleeper

OR

Perfect Sleeper or Memory Foam Queen Mattress Only

**ONLY WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!**

**INVENTORY REDUCTION SALE!**

**Serta**

**SPECIAL PURCHASE**

	Compare to	Our Price
Twin Set.....	\$999	\$399
Full Set.....	\$1,173	\$469
Queen Set .....	\$1,248	\$499
King Set .....	\$1,748	\$799

**YOUR CHOICE PLUSH OR FIRM**



**The Furniture Gallery**

614 Broadway  
(next to Tim Horton's)  
**BANGOR**  
**992-2310**

402 Civic Center Drive  
(corner of Leighton Rd)  
**AUGUSTA**  
**620-8420**

*Better Brand Names • Bigger Selection • Lower Prices = Your Best Value!*

SHOP LOCAL. SAVE MONEY. SLEEP BETTER. MAINE'S LARGEST SERTA DEALER.

[WWW.THEFURNITUREGALLERYMAINE.COM](http://WWW.THEFURNITUREGALLERYMAINE.COM)

MasterCard Visa American Express

**Open:**  
**Mon - Sat**  
**10 AM - 6 PM**  
.....  
**Sunday**  
**11 AM - 4 PM**