Holyoke

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are abundant right now in those areas."

But like Whitegiver, Cross expects the supply of berries to dwindle quickly. The beneficiaries: Hunters waiting for bears to throw caution to the wind and approach their bait sites during daylight hours.

Northern Maine hunters may already be seeing better-than-average success, Cross said.

"I would say the blackberry has less influence over much of the range of bears in Maine," he wrote, explaining that north of Millinocket and the Golden Road, the berries are pretty scarce, save for around farms in Aroostook County.

But down Route 9, where Whitegiver's hunters are spending their time, there are still some dietary options for foraging bears. "The abundant blackber-

berries ... especially in Down East Maine, is slowing the activity on many of the bear baits right now but it won't last long," Cross wrote. "Both of these fruits are ripening a little later this year than normal. The end result when all is taken into account will be a very successful bait hunting season compared with most years."

The catch: Those who are hoping to encounter a bear during the traditional firearms season on deer in November probably won't have that opportunity.

Again, it all comes down to food. When the bears decide it's costing them more energy to find food than they'll gain if they eat it, they'll decide to take a long winter nap

"Most of the bears in Maine will be entering their dens earlier this year, which will hamper late-season hunters, especially deer hunters," Cross wrote. But that will vary across the state.

"A decent acorn and apple

ries and bristly sarsparilla crop will keep some bears out of the den longer in many of the same areas where blackberries are abundant," he wrote.

Here's hoping hunters start seeing more bears.

And if you end up with a great bear tale, send it along and I'll try to fit it into a future blog or column.

Any-deer lottery today

If you're among the hopeful hunters who applied for an any-deer permit this year, your wait is nearly over.

The state will announce the 45,625 winners of this year's any-deer permit lottery today.

Those who do earn permits will be allowed to target does or fawns; the rest of us will be hunting for bucks.

You can find the results of this year's lottery at bangordailynews.com after 5 p.m. today.

John Holyoke can be reached at jholyoke@ bangordailynews.com or 990-8214.

Things to Do Outdoors

BANGOR -- Downeast

Chapter of Ducks Unlimited's 45th annual fundraising banquet and auction to support wetlands conservation, 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 15, Bangor Banquet and Conference Center, 713 Hogan Road. Tickets \$55 single, \$75 couple, which includes dinner and \$35 Ducks Unlimited membership. Live and silent auction to include limited edition wildlife prints, decoys, guns, knives, jewelry, furniture, hunting equipment and apparel and more. Raffles and games. Limited seating. Reservations required. David Poll, 745-1936, or Tom Duff at 989-6082.

BANGOR -- Bangor Land Trust's Pedal the Penobscot celebrates cycling and supports Bangor's wild backyard, offering five distance options, 6:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 11, from Bangor

Waterfront and High Tide Restaurant in Brewer. Riders of all ages and abilities welcome. Ride solo, with a friend or register a team. Riders receive an annual membership to Bangor Land Trust and are entered into a raffle for prizes donated by area businesses. The first 150 to register also receive a 10th anniversary shirt.

HOMECOMING 2016 The L Tickets \$25-\$37 **Husson Homecoming events are open** GRACIE to the public, please join us!



SEPTEMBER 23 | 7:30 PM Paroline Rhea

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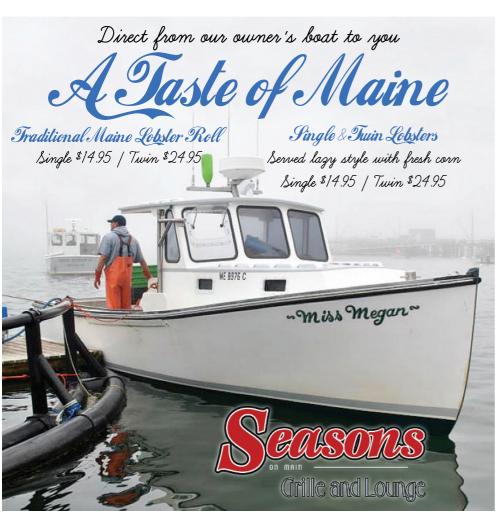
SEPTEMBER 24 | 7:30 PM

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