JOHANNA S. BILLINGS | BDN

Rose M. Gaffney One Voice students Ryan Conley (left) and McKenna Harriman check out a large metal anti-smoking sign from the Partnership for a Tobacco-Free Maine on Friday in Machias.

Machias students work to curb tobacco use on school campus

BY JOHANNA S. BILLINGS
BDN STAFF

MACHIAS — A group of five Rose M. Gaffney students was tired of finding cigarette butts on the playground of its elementary school.

So the members of the Rose M. Gaffney One Voice group — Ryan Conley, McKenna Harriman, Alex Marker, Leif McKenna and Rita Micklus — decided to do something about it.

Among other things, they presented an interactive tobacco prevention workshop for the entire student body. They made anti-tobacco presentations at leadership summits in 2014 and 2015, and they are planning information sessions for parents and community members regarding the school's tobacco-free campus policies.

And they soon will be posting signs on campus designating the campus tobacco free.

As a result of their efforts, the five youngsters were selected as the Anti-Tobacco Youth Group of the Year by the Partnership for a Tobacco-Free Maine.

The award, presented during the Maine Youth Action Network Leadership Summit in Augusta this fall, recognizes Maine youth age 12 to 18 who have influenced a positive, lasting change in their communities.

The award was announced Nov. 30 by Healthy Acadia, a Healthy Maine Partnership and nonprofit community health coalition working to build healthier communities across Washington and Hancock counties.

The students were "really surprised and excited" by news of the award, said the school's One Voice adviser, Shannon Micklus.

"It's proof that we're actually accomplishing stuff," said eighth-grade student Rita Micklus, the adviser's daughter.

Eighth-grader Harriman said she hopes the effect they have will last long after they've graduated.

"Keep the legacy living," agreed eighth-grader Conley.

The first step in their project to address the issue was to find out what the school policy was for tobacco use on campus, said Shannon Micklus.

"We looked at the school policy, and we found out our entire campus … is supposed to be tobacco free — not just smoke free but free of all tobacco products," she said.

The Partnership for a Tobacco-Free Maine provides anti-tobacco use signs for schools whose policies meet their standards. The students sent a copy of the school's policy and received two packages of signs — enough to post both at Rose M. Gaffney and the adjacent Machias Memorial High School.

Working with their advisor, the One Voice students will come up with a plan on where the signs should be posted. They will then take that plan to administrators for approval, Micklus said.

She hopes to have the plan ready by Christmas and the signs installed in January, weather permitting, she said.

"[The project] is totally driven by them. It's their project. … The kids are really into this," Micklus said. "I think the work they're doing is really important."

"I am very proud of our seventh- and eighth-grade One Voice students," said Principal Joyce Fragale. "The Anti Tobacco Youth Group of the Year Award is very well deserved. … The students' plan for the installation of signs will greatly enhance our ability to inform community members that we are a tobacco-free campus."

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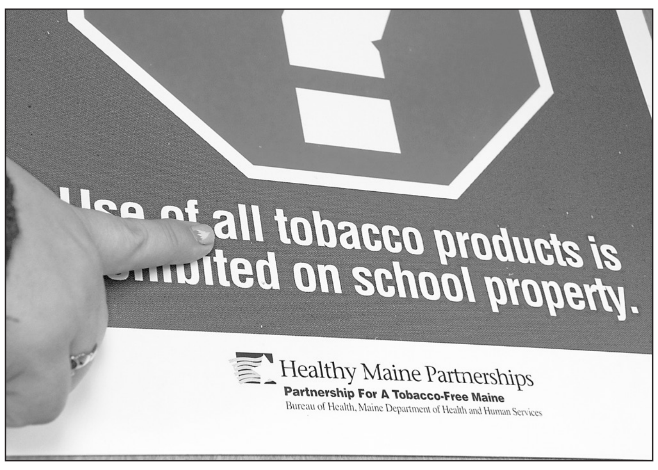
Rose M. Gaffney One Voice adviser Shannon Micklus (second from left) and students Leif McKenna (left), Ryan Conley (right) and McKenna Harriman check out a package of anti-smoking signs from the Partnership for a Tobacco-Free Maine on Friday in Machias.



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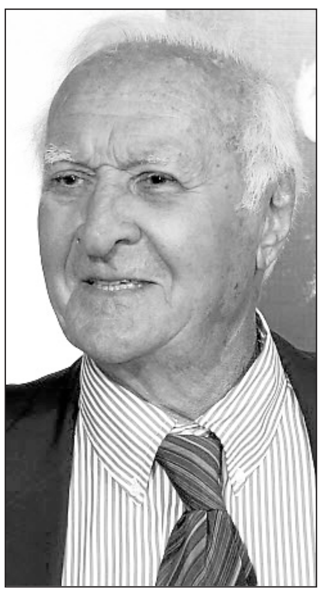
Rose M. Gaffney One Voice adviser Shannon Micklus points to the words "all tobacco" on a sign from the Partnership for a Tobacco-Free Maine on Friday in Machias.

Robert Loggia, 'Scarface' and 'Big' actor, dies at 85

BY WILL DUNHAM
REUTERS



Robert Loggia

Robert Loggia, the gravelly voiced character actor who danced with Tom Hanks on a giant floor keyboard in "Big," fought aliens in "Independence Day" and trafficked in drugs in "Scarface," died on Friday at age 85, his widow said.

Loggia, who was nominated for an Academy Award for his role in the 1985 thriller "Jagged Edge," died at his home in Los Angeles after battling Alzheimer's disease for five years, Audrey O'Brien Loggia told Reuters.

"He loved being an actor — he was a wonderful actor — and loved his profession and his life," she said, adding that he died with her and their two daughters at his side. "We've been together 41 years. He is going be terribly missed."

Loggia had been a journeyman actor on stage, TV and films until he made an impression playing Richard Gere's abusive and alcoholic father in the 1982 blockbuster "An Officer and a Gentleman." That performance led to meaty roles in other box-office hits.

In director Brian De Palma's hit 1983 crime drama "Scarface," Loggia played drug lord Frank Lopez alongside Al Pacino in the violent tale of Miami mobsters.

Two years later, Loggia was a seedy private detective in "Jagged Edge," starring Jeff Bridges and Glenn Close. He lost the best supporting actor Oscar to Don Ameche of "Cocoon."

Also in 1985, he starred alongside Jack Nicholson in director John Huston's black comedy "Prizzi's Honor," which was nominated for a best picture Oscar.

His most famous role was in director Penny Marshall's bittersweet comedy "Big" (1988) starring Hanks as a boy whose wish to become an adult magically comes true. Hanks' character — a boy in an adult body — ends up working for a toy company headed by Loggia.

Together they danced to the songs "Heart and Soul" and "Chopsticks" on the jumbo floor keyboard at New York's fabled FAO Schwarz toy store in what was one of the famous cinematic scenes of the 1980s.

Loggia said Marshall allowed him and Hanks a lot of freedom in deciding how the scene would unfold, giving them a cardboard mock-up of the keyboard a few weeks before the scene was shot.

"She very cleverly said, 'I don't want you to look like trained dancers, but you do the melody and you … and Tom, you work it out for yourself. There will be no rehearsal and we'll be at FAO Schwarz about a month down the line and we're going to do it, and let's see what happens,'" Loggia told the Miami Herald in 2006.

"And that's why it's a movie-magic scene," Loggia said.

"Big" became one of the year's top-grossing films, earned Hanks his first Oscar nomination, and was the first movie directed by a woman to top $100 million at the box office.

Loggia also had a key supporting role in "Independence Day," the top-grossing film of 1996. He played a general who advises the president of the United States, played by Bill Pullman, as tentacled aliens in huge spaceships devastate cities worldwide.

The Italian-American actor was born as Salvatore Loggia on Jan. 3, 1930, in New York City. He set aside his plans for a journalism career to go into acting.

Keurig acquired in $13.9 billion deal

BY SRUTHI RAMAKRISHNAN AND MARTINNE GELLER
REUTERS

REUTERS FILE

A worker cleans glass doors in preparation for the grand opening of the first Keurig retail store in Burlington, Massachusetts in 2013. Keurig announced Monday it was bought in a $13.9 billion deal with a German firm.

Keurig Green Mountain Inc., the maker of K-Cup single-serve coffee pods, said Monday it would be bought by an investor group led by Germany's JAB Holding Co. for about $13.9 billion, creating a global coffee giant.

The deal, pitched at a rich 78 percent premium to Keurig's Friday close, is the latest by JAB Holding as it seeks to become a formidable competitor to world coffee market leader Nestle SA.

The acquisition will make JAB the leader in the $6.1 billion North American single-serve coffee market, in which Nestle has a small presence.

JAB formed a joint venture in July called Jacobs Douwe Egberts — now the largest pure-play coffee company — by combining its D.E. Master Blenders 1753 business with the coffee business of Mondelez International Inc.

JAB, the investment vehicle of the billionaire Reimann family of Germany, bought U.S. coffee companies Caribou Coffee Co. and Peet's Coffee & Tea in 2012.

Shares of Keurig, which until Monday had dropped more than 60 percent this year, were trading at $89.89 shortly after the opening, below the offer price of $92 per share.

The stock, which last traded at $92 in May, is heavily shorted, with nearly 13 percent of the total float held by investors who had bet that the stock would fall.

As of Oct. 21, those holding short positions included David Einhorn's Greenlight Capital.

"The 78 percent premium should keep other bidders at bay," SunTrust Robinson Humphrey analyst William Chappell wrote in a client note.

Coca-Cola Co., Keurig's biggest single shareholder, said it would receive cash for its 17.4 percent stake in the Vermont-based company. The stake is valued at about $2.4 billion at the offer price. Coke's shares were little changed.

Many analysts had thought Coke would eventually buy the company after it bought a 10 percent stake in Keurig last year and added to its holding this year.

"It's a demanding valuation," said Vontobel analyst Jean-Philippe Bertschy, who estimates the deal price represents a multiple of about 15 times earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization. The stock was trading around eight times earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization last week, he said.

Bertschy, however, said the deal would have a minimal impact on Nestle as its Nespresso and Dolce Gusto brands are small in the U.S. single-serve coffee market.

The North American single-serve coffee market accounts for about 40 percent of the $15 billion global market, according to market research firm Euromonitor International. Keurig is the leader in North America, with a 61 percent market share.

The company, however, has struggled with declining sales of its single-serve coffee pods and brewers due to intense competition. Its stock had lost more than 60 percent of its market value this year up to Friday's close.

Canada, Mexico win sanctions against US in meat-labeling spat

BY TOM MILES AND ROD NICKEL
REUTERS

GENEVA — Canada and Mexico prepared to target $1 billion worth of U.S. exports after the World Trade Organization authorized the countries on Monday to retaliate against the United States' meat-labeling rules.

A WTO panel set the annual retaliation level at C$1.055 billion ($780 million) for Canada and $228 million for Mexico, considerably less than the C$3.068 billion and $713 million the two countries had sought.

The dispute stems from a 2009 U.S. requirement that retail outlets label food with information about its origin.

Canada and Mexico have argued that country of origin labeling, known as COOL, has led to fewer of their cattle and pigs being slaughtered in the United States.

Canada will retaliate if the U.S. Senate does not take "immediate action" to repeal COOL for beef and pork, Canadian International Trade Minister Chrystia Freeland and Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay said in a statement.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill in June to repeal COOL, but the Senate has not yet voted on it.

Mexico's economy ministry said it has started internal procedures to strip benefits from some imports of U.S. apples, dairy, alcoholic drinks and personal hygiene products.

"We are disappointed with this decision and its potential impact on trade among vital North American partners," said Tim Reif, general counsel for the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. "We will continue to consult with members of Congress as they consider options to replace the current COOL law and additional next steps."

The amount is big enough to get U.S. legislators' attention, said John Masswohl, director of government and international relations for the Canadian Cattlemen's Association.

"What we want is for the U.S. Senate to be motivated to repeal COOL," he said.

COOL has been costly for the U.S. farm sector, said the North American Meat Institute, which represents meatpackers. Chicago live cattle contracts fell by their daily price limit following the WTO's announcement.

But R-CALF, a group of U.S. cattle producers, said the "absurd" decision overstated the damage.

It was unclear which products Canada might target.

The previous Conservative government in Canada had drafted a lengthy list of possible targets, ranging from beef and pork to wines and cherries.

Only in six of the previous 18 cases in which the WTO has authorized sanctions did countries actually apply them, since most cases were settled first.

The latest ruling cannot be appealed.