

community news

United Way names campaign chairs, new development director

United Way of Eastern Maine announced new appointments to volunteer and staff leadership as it readies its 2015 fundraising campaign.

UWEM raises close to \$2 million annually to support efforts that provide critical services and support for individuals in need. The 2015 campaign goal will be announced at the campaign kickoff, set for 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18, at Mansfield Stadium in Bangor.

Elizabeth Sutherland and Ric Tyler have accepted the appointment as 2015 Campaign co-chairs. Sutherland, a principle at Sutherland Weston Marketing Communications, and Tyler, a media professional with Blueberry Broadcasting, share a deep commitment to the community and an ethic of service.

“United Way of Eastern Maine supports so much amazing work in the community; even more than I realized,” said Sutherland. “Ric and I are truly honored to be heading up the 2015 campaign efforts. And we look forward to working with a stellar team of volunteers and staff in order to help the United Way and its partner agencies successfully make a difference in the lives of Eastern Maine residents.”

Jesse Moriarity has been appointed to the position of Vice President of Resource Development and Commu-

nications. Moriarity most recently worked for the University of Maine as Coordinator of the Foster Center for Student Innovation and Co-Director of the Target Technology Incubator.

Moriarity has a professional history with nonprofits and a strong connection to United Way as a Leaders’ Circle Donor and past Employee Campaign Manager for Emera/Bangor Hydro Electric Company. Moriarity comes to UWEM with more than a decade of experience in marketing, public relations and business development.

“I am excited to be joining the United Way of Eastern Maine and supporting a mission that touches the lives of tens of thousands throughout Eastern Maine. We have ambitious fundraising goals and I am looking forward to working with our partners and volunteers to implement new strategies that will advance our efforts,” said Moriarty.

Dennis Marble to step down as Bangor Homeless Shelter director

The Bangor Area Homeless Shelter will be under new leadership in a few months when longtime executive director Dennis Marble retires and program manager Rowena Griffin steps into the top role.

Officials with the shelter announced the change Tuesday after a year of tran-

sition planning by the facility’s board of directors.

“I don’t foresee anything changing,” said Griffin, who takes over for Marble on Jan. 1, 2016. “Dennis has set this place up to run at a certain standard, and that’s just going to carry on as far as I’m concerned.”

The board is seeking a shelter manager to replace Griffin’s former position with plans to hire someone by October. Marble, 66, will retire after nearly 20 years with the shelter where he began his career in January 1996.

An announcement released by the board credits Marble with helping to increase fundraising contributions by 500 percent, bolstering transitional housing opportunities and fortifying lobbying efforts to engender statewide awareness and sensitivity for people experiencing homelessness and increase state funding.

According to Marble, the shelter ran on an annual budget of about \$220,000 with eight employees in order to provide emergency shelter services when he joined in 1996. Today, it runs on a total budget of about \$700,000, operates 38 beds and has a day program that offers a soup kitchen, a food pantry and other support services for those experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

It also offers transitional housing options through the Cedarview Efficiency apartments located above the shelter as well as through partnerships with housing development agencies, including Community Housing of Maine.

BDN Maine Chef Challenge set for Sept. 25

Area chefs will put their skills to the test as the Bangor Daily News in partnership with the Eastern Maine Community College Foundation offers the Maine Chef Challenge, set for 5:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25 at the Gracie Theatre at Husson University. The event pits three eastern Maine chefs against each other in a three-round competition judged by a panel of area culinary experts, including celebrity chef Sam Talbot, a semi-finalist on Bravo’s “Top Chef,” a cookbook author, one of People Magazine’s Sexiest Men Alive in 2012, and current executive chef at the Pig & Poet in Camden.

The three featured chefs at the event include the masterminds behind the food at Blaze Restaurants in Bangor and Bar Harbor, 11 Central in Bangor and Woodman’s in Orono. They include:

- Mark Horton, Old Town native, chef and co-owner of Woodman’s in Orono. The popular Orono eatery in 2005, with a menu boasting classic American dishes, some with a Southwestern twist, as well as pub favorites and an extensive cocktail menu. In 2014, Horton opened Orono Brewing Company with business partners Abe and Heather Furth.
- Duncan Gunn, chef at Blaze Restaurant in Bar Harbor. Since 2011, Blaze has offered wood-fired cuisine, satisfying both carnivores and vegetarians. Gunn is an Orono native that formerly cooked at Kosta’s in Brewer and Penobscot Valley Country Club in Orono.
- Joseph Smith, chef at 11 Central in Bangor. Smith is a newcomer to the Maine culinary scene, having cooked at Carmen Verandah in Bar Harbor before moving to 11 Central in Bangor, where patrons have been enjoying casual fine dining since 2011. Smith is a 2005 graduate of Penquis Valley High School in Milo.

The event will begin with an hour-long reception featuring appetizers and a cash bar, as well as a silent auction to benefit the Eastern Maine Community College Foundation. At 6:30 p.m., the competition begins, with Talbot and two other judges making their decisions on the three courses -- appetizer, entree and dessert -- each chef will be asked to make from supplied ingredients. Local actor Bob Potts will host. Bidders on the silent auction can bid on a chance to be the fourth judge on the panel for the evening.

Tickets for the BDN Maine Chef Challenge are \$30, with a \$40 VIP ticket that includes parking and a reception with Sam Talbot. Tickets are available via eventbrite.com. Sponsors for the event include the BDN and Bangor Metro Magazine, Eastern Maine Community College Foundation, Maine Shellfish, Fiore Artisan Olive Oils & Vinegars, Dunnett’s Appliance & Mattress, Dennis Paper & Food Service, LaJoie Growers, Williams-Sonoma, Unifirst and Brown Family Farms. For more information, visit bdn-maineevents.com.



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