BLANKETED IN LIGHT

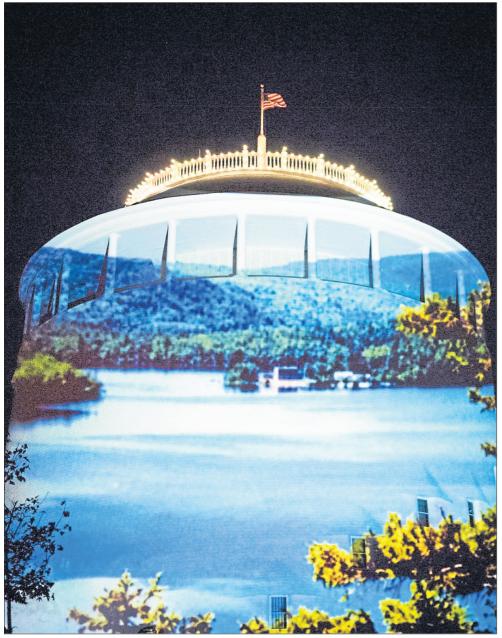


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

The Coaction Lab at the University of Maine, invites Bangor area residents to attend a free event that is a partnership between the Intermedia MFA program at UMaine, the Coaction Lab and the Bangor Water District. This multimedia event takes place during the annual Spring tour of the Thomas Hill Standpipe, beginning at 5:30 p.m. and going until 9:30 on May 4. Faculty and students will wrap the Thomas Hill Standpipe in a blanket of light and moving imagery, using advanced projection technology, inspired by the rich history and daily functions of this unique feature of the Bangor water infrastructure. For more details on the open house and on this unique arts event, visit the Bangor Water District website or call 947-4516.

Poker players raise money for charity at Hampden Kiwanis

BY JUDY HARRISON **BDN STAFF**

HAMPDEN, Maine -Playing poker for Ron Mansell is like going hunting.

"You're out in the woods and you hear a rustling sound. Now, you might wind up shooting at a par-tridge or a big ol' bear and you might take one of them down but, you might not," the Hampden resident said Saturday. "In poker, you never know what the next hand's gonna be.

Mansell of Hampden said that over the years he's won as much as he's lost playing poker.

He was one of 21 players who played Texas Hold'em poker Saturday at an hourlong game sponsored by the Hampden Kiwanis Club. It has been holding the tournaments since 2009.

The club holds a game once a month September through May as a fundraiser to support its work in the community, said Keith Ociepka, chairman of the Tournament Committee for the Kiwanis Club.

"We make a whole lot more than we would holding a bake sale or a yard sale," he said.

Maine law allows these kinds of games to be sponsored by charitable organizations provided it costs no more than \$100 per player to buy in and the group holds just two games per month. The charity may charge a small additional fee to help cover the cost of the state license fee.

It costs \$103 — cash only, no checks, no credit, no IOUs — to buy into the Kiwanis Club's game. The \$3 goes toward the \$75 state license fee, issued by the Maine State Police, and \$100 buys a stack of colored poker chips.

Of that \$100, the charity keeps \$25. The other \$75 goes into the pot. At the end of the competition, the player with the most chips gets 50 percent of the pot. The player placing second gets 30 percent and the third-place winner takes home 20 percent.

Players may choose to throw \$5 into the "high hand" pot. Whoever has the highest hand that day takes the pot home.

The players on Saturday were mostly regulars that included local business owners and a few Kiwanians. The majority were baby boomers but Ociepka said that players as old as 90 and young as 20 have bought into the game.

Corinth Fire Chief Scott Bragdon plays in Hampden nearly every week because some of those players also come to the poker game sponsored by the Corinth Fire Department.

"I like to see how the other organizations handle their tournaments," Bragdon said. "We've sponsored a game for about eight years and raised about \$40,000 for scholarships we give to graduates of Central High School."

Bragdon said that unlike Mansell, he has not broken even playing poker, and neither man was a winner Saturday.

"I look at it as entertainment," he said. "I can come here and play for the price of dinner and a movie."

The prize pool on Saturday was \$1,575, according to Ociepka. The Kiwanis Club took in \$488 once the cost of the licensing fee not covered by the \$3 entry fee was subtracted.

Ociepka said that revenue has fallen since Hollywood Casino in Bangor added table games, including poker, to its slot machines four years ago.

'We used to have twice as many players and make twice as much before the casino [allowed table games]," he said.

Despite the drop in revenue, the \$4,000 or so the game brings in annually to support the club's charity work is worth the effort it takes to put on the game nine times a year, Ociepka, a regular player, said.

The number of licenses issued to charity groups rose from 357 in 2010 to 669 in 2015 after the law was changed to allow two rather than just one game a month, according to James Gass, a gaming inspector with the Maine State Police in Augusta. During that same time period, however, the number of organizations obtaining licenses fell from 52 to 42.

One advantage of being a regular at charity games is that players don't worry about anyone dealing from the bottom of the deck, Mansell said.

"You never have to worry about anybody cheating here," he said.

The Hampden Kiwanis Club's next tournament will be held at 11 a.m. May 14 at the clubhouse, 55 Main Road North.

First National Bank gives \$50,000 to EMMC

First National Bank announced recently that it has given a gift of \$50,000 to support the Eastern Maine Medical Center Remarkable Begins with You capital campaign. This gift recently was recognized during a ceremony at EMMC.

"We are truly grateful for the generosity of the First for supporting healthcare in

Maine through Eastern Maine Medical Center's capital fundraising campaign Remarkable Begins With You," said Michael Crowley, EMMC Foundation president and chief philanthropy officer. "First National Bank has a long tradition of community service and this gift is another example of their dedication to local people."

The EMMC Remarkable Begins with You capital campaign benefits EMMC's Modernization Project which will provide state-of-the-art operating rooms, consolidated heart care, updated space for laboring mothers and their babies, new neonatal intensive care space, and increased private rooms for patients receiving care at EMMC. The first phase of the new facility will open later this year.

"First National Bank is grateful for the hard work of the doctors, nurses and staff at EMMC," said Tony C. McKim, president and CEO. "We are honored to contribute to the improvements of this facility that serves so many Maine communities."

For information, call 800-564-3195 or visit thefirst.com.

Brewer student wins big at UMaine National **History Day event**

At Maine National History Day April 9 at the University of Maine, Alec Jansujwicz of James F. Doughty School won the Special Maritime History Award, Junior; and first place in the Junior Paper category.

For the third consecutive year, UMaine hosted hundreds of students and teachers from around the state for the Maine National History Day competition.

About 340 students from 35 middle and high schools were accompanied by their teachers, friends, and families to showcase exhibits, papers, websites, documentaries and performances based on original student research at several locations on campus April 9.

Maine National History Day is a partnership between the University of Maine Humanities Center and the Margaret Chase Smith Library, with support from the Maine Humanities Council and the Maine Historical Society. This year's theme was "Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History.



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