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FREE



Pictured is Hayley Desjardins of Saco who urgently needs a bone marrow donor.

Bone marrow donor needed

By LIZ GOTTHELF
Staff Writer

SACO — Twelve year-old Hayley Desjardins is fighting for her life.

After a more than five year remission from aplastic anemia, the Saco Middle School student had a recent relapse.

Aplastic anemia is a condition that occurs when the body stops producing enough new blood cells. Aplastic anemia leaves one feeling fatigued and with a higher risk of infections and uncontrolled bleeding, according to a press release

from the Saco River Kiwanis.

Hayley had several blood and platelet transfusions when she was younger and went through immunosuppressant therapy, which suppresses active immune cells that were attacking her bone marrow, giving her bone marrow a chance to recover and generate new blood cells. In 2008, the then 6-year-old was in remission.

Hayley hasn't attended school since the relapse was discovered in October, and her father, Mike Desjardins, said she's been in and out of hospitals in Maine and

Massachusetts. Dejadins is self-employed; his wife Allison, is a teacher. The couple has taken time off from their jobs to take care of Hayley which includes administering her medicine and giving her intravenous treatment.

Hayley is seeking a bone marrow transplant, in hopes of being cured of the disease.

Two drives to find potential donors will be held on Feb. 7 in hopes of finding a match.

One drive will be held at Reilly's Bakery in Biddeford

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A sweeping success at Winterfest

By ANGELO J. VERZONI
Staff Writer

BIDDEFORD — When players take the ice at 2:30

p.m. on Saturday, at the Biddeford Ice Arena, it won't be to play hockey. It won't be for a game of curling either.

Instead, as part of the city's WinterFest celebration, two teams will be facing each other in a game of broom-

ball. Broomball is similar to hockey, except that it's played on sneakers instead of skates, with a triangular-ended stick instead of an L-shaped one and with a ball instead of a puck.

The teams will be made up of University of New England students who play in the school's intramural broomball league, as well as former local broomball players, Patricia Williams, the

coordinator of intramural and recreational sports at UNE, said in an email on Tuesday.

Williams explained that UNE started offering

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Death, taxes a certainty. Scammers needn't be!

By TAMMY WELLS
Senior Staff Writer

Benjamin Franklin is the fellow credited with saying "there's nothing surer than death and taxes." And it is that time of year when the tax folks are looking for an accounting.

And so are those ready to rip you off. Maine Attorney General Janet Mills says scammers are posing as IRS agents, calling people and demanding payment for what they claim are overdue taxes.

They're impostors, said Mills.

And, in a statement, she described how the scam works: Scammers posing as IRS officials call and say you owe taxes. They threaten to arrest you, or deport you,

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Dina Mendros/JOURNAL TRIBUNE

Working up a storm in a winter wonderland

On Wednesday, on Alfred Street in Biddeford, people were cleaning up after Tuesday's storm. Pictured is one of the many snow plow trucks that were traveling the roads that day.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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By Jim Davis

SPORTS

WINDY BLOWS

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FOOD

AND THE WINNER IS...

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 on Feb. 7 from 8 a.m. to noon. Participants will receive a free cup of coffee and donut.
 "Testing is fast and completely painless," said Elizabeth Hussey, co-organizer of the event. "Finding a match is like a needle in

a haystack so enlisting as many people as possible in the search is critical."
 The Saco River Valley Kiwanis is hosting a bone marrow drive and dance at the Biddeford-Saco Elks Lodge on Feb. 7 from 6:30-10 p.m. Tickets for the dance

are \$10 a person or \$25 for the family. For more information, call Christine Paul at 281-3622 or Donna Roberts at 468-3396.
 — Staff Writer Liz Gotthelf can be contacted at 282-1535, ext. 325 or egotthelf@journaltribune.com.

• Broomball, From Page 1
 broomball as an intramural sport in 2010. It started outdoors and was moved inside to the Harold Alfond Forum ice arena in 2012.
 "We started with about four teams the first year but as the word spread our numbers have grown each year since," she said.

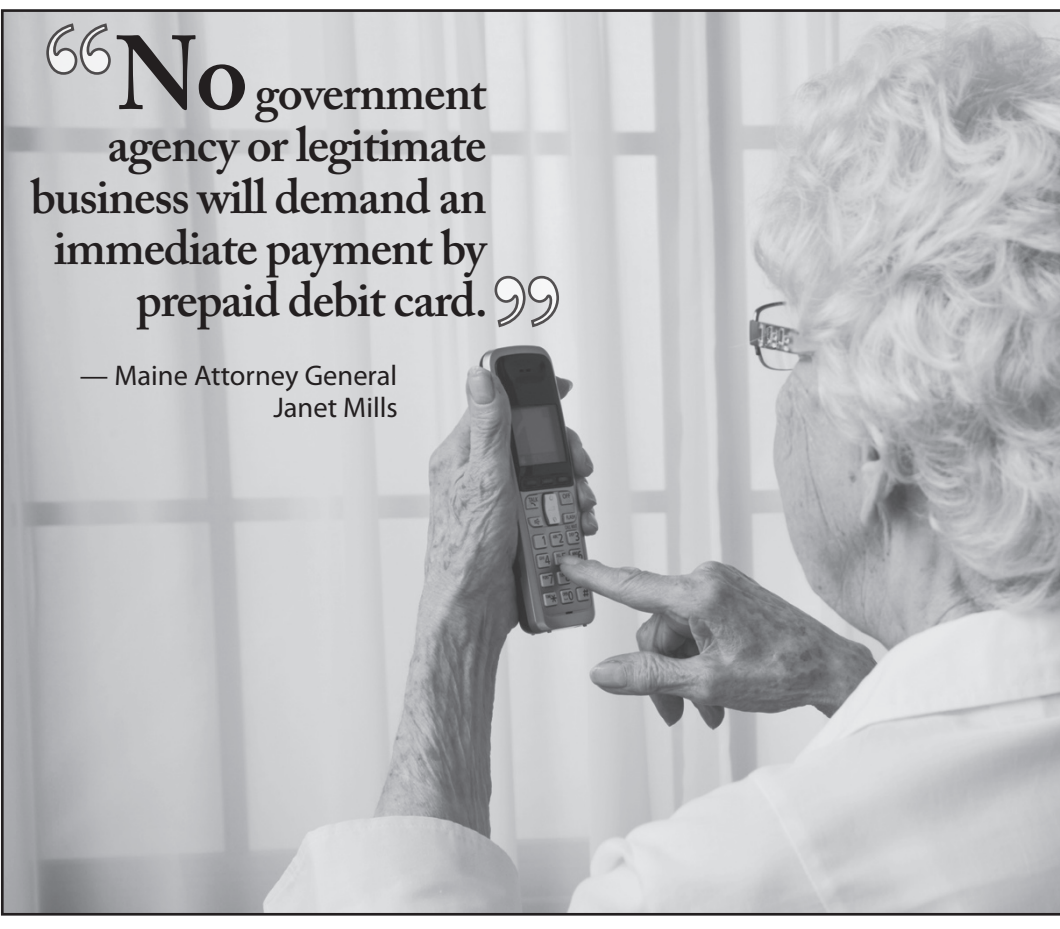
first watching a game on an outdoor rink on UNE's campus in the early 1970s. Casavant eventually became a broomball player himself. In its heyday, the sport was "huge," he said, and there were multiple leagues in Biddeford and across the state.

not, and they wanted to play hockey. So hockey leagues expanded, taking up more and more ice time."
 Casavant said that despite the sports' differences, he found that hockey players brought an excellent skill set to the table when it came to playing broomball. But, as Williams pointed out, there is no experience or particular skill set necessary for playing the sport.

Currently, UNE has 14 broomball teams with more than 130 players, making it one of the school's most popular intramural sports, said Williams.
 Although the sport is only in its fifth year as an official intramural sport at UNE, it's anything but new. The sport originated in Canada in the early 1900s, where streetcar workers first played it using a small soccer ball and corn brooms.
 In Biddeford, the sport has a decades-long history of popularity and even started on UNE's campus, Mayor Alan Casavant said in an email on Tuesday.
 He said he remembers

"Broomball was as much a social event as it was an athletic event," said Casavant. Games were played on Sundays, he explained, but as the sport became more popular, games were played on Friday and Saturday nights, as well. Casavant said he and some other players even formed their own league, called the World Broomball Association, which eventually hosted a women's division, too.
 "Broomball was bigger than hockey," said Casavant, "and I think one of the things that eroded the popularity of the sport was that younger players could skate, while many of the older broomball players could

Casavant said he had players of all athletic backgrounds on his WBA team — from former Biddeford High School hockey players to former BHS football and basketball players.
 Although Casavant professed his love for the formerly well-known sport on Tuesday, whether the mayor will strap on his old broomball shoes and take the ice alongside his former teammates during WinterFest remains to be seen.
 — Staff Writer Angelo J. Verzoni can be contacted at 282-1535, ext. 329 or averzoni@journaltribune.com.



“No government agency or legitimate business will demand an immediate payment by prepaid debit card.”

— Maine Attorney General Janet Mills

• Scammers, From Page 1
 or revoke your license, or even shut down your business if you don't pay right away. They may know your Social Security number— or at least the last four digits of it— making you think it really is the IRS calling. They also can rig caller ID to make it look like the call is coming from Washington, D.C. You are instructed to put the money on a prepaid debit card and tell them the number— something no government agency would ask you to do. Once you do it, you find out it was a scam, and the money is gone.
 "This scam has become one of the most commonly reported phone scams that our office has received. No governmental agency or legitimate business will call you up and demand an immediate payment by prepaid debit card," said Mills. "If you receive one of these calls, do not answer any of their questions. Hang up the phone immediately."
 If you owe— or think you owe— federal taxes, Mills advises a call to the IRS at 800-829-1040 or logging on to irs.gov. IRS workers can help you with payment questions. Mills noted the

IRS doesn't ask people to pay with prepaid debit cards or wire transfers, and doesn't ask for credit card numbers over the phone. When the IRS contacts people about unpaid taxes, it usually does by mail, not by phone. She asks that people report IRS impostor scams to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) online or at 800-366-4484, and to the FTC at ftc.gov/complaint.
 "Last year we also heard about a number of Mainers, who, when they filed with the IRS, discovered someone had fraudulently claimed their tax refund already," said Mills. "People should file early, always take steps to protect their private information and review their credit report yearly to see if there has been any unusual activity."
 Meanwhile, the Better Business Bureau has launched a new website to assist consumers and businesses with their taxes. The bureau's website provides a list of BBB-accredited tax preparers the agency deems trustworthy, as well as helpful tips and important resources.
 BBB has provided infor-

mation for both individuals and businesses in need of a tax preparer or accountant, and has provided resources for those who are filing taxes on their own.
 "Filing taxes is a major financial transaction for not only consumers, but businesses as well," said Paula Fleming, spokesperson for the BBB of Eastern Massachusetts, Maine, Rhode Island and Vermont. "To help ease the process, BBB has created a website full of trustworthy BBB-accredited tax preparers and accountants, and important information and resources."
 The 2015 tax season comes with new tax laws, updated tax credits and changes all taxpayers should be aware of, she said. This year especially, it's crucial to find a reliable tax business that will safeguard taxpayers' confidential information, while filing taxes accurately.
 The website is at: <http://www.bbb.org/boston/tax-tips>.
 — Senior Staff Writer Tammy Wells can be contacted at 324-4444 (local call in Sanford) or 282-1535, ext. 327 or twells@journaltribune.com.

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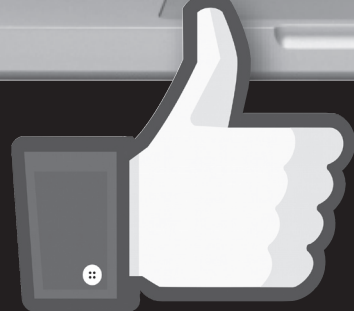
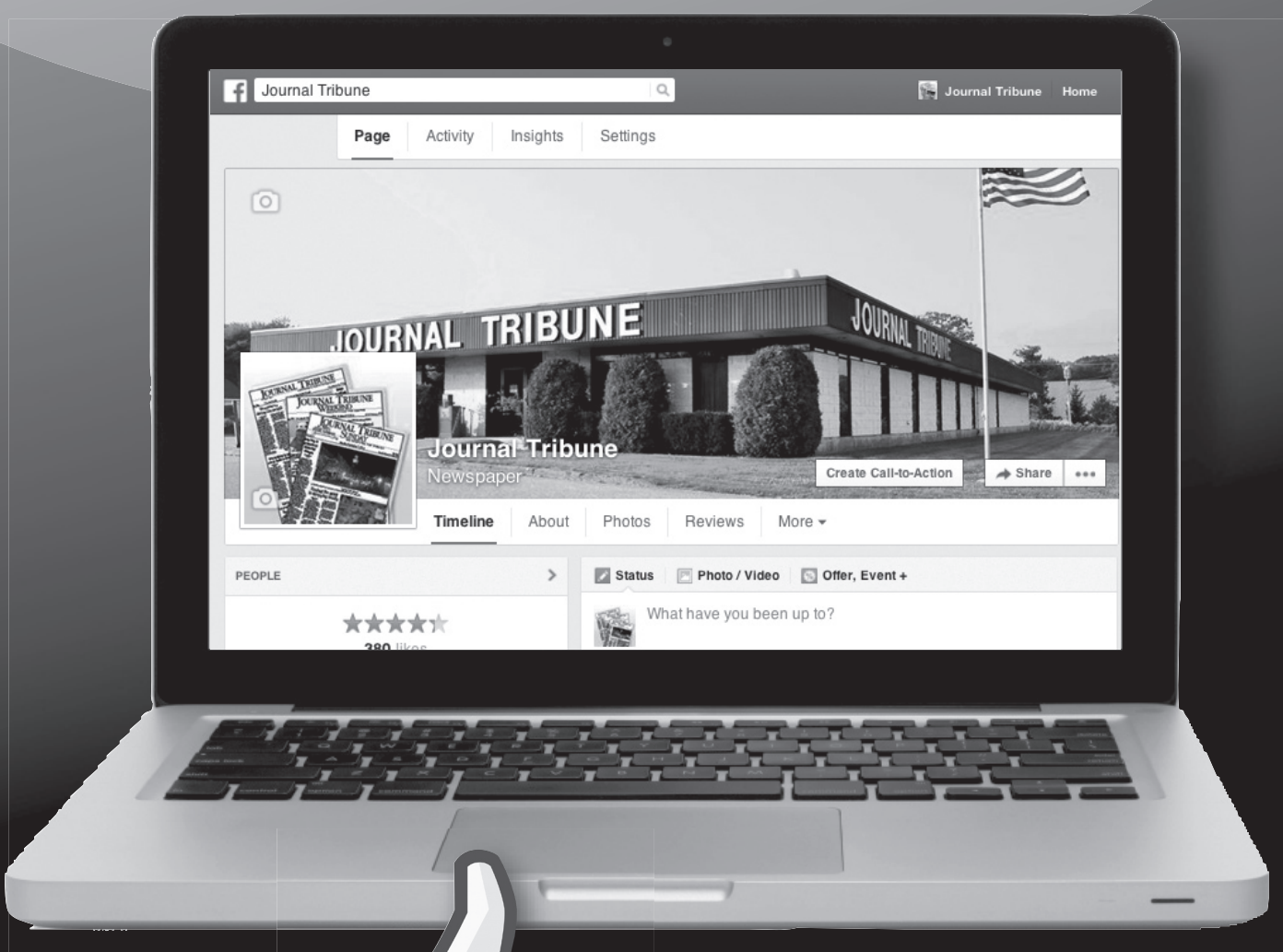
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