

2006

## 2006 Archive of Governor Baldacci's Press Releases

Office of Governor John E. Baldacci

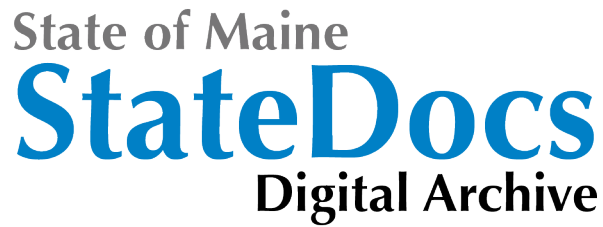
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## 2006 Archive of **Governor Baldacci's Press Releases**

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## Governor Confirms Fallen Soldier with Maine Ties

January 1, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci today noted the loss of Sergeant First Class Shawn Christopher Dostie, an active duty member from Fort Campbell, Kentucky. SFC Dostie has family in Maine. He died on December 30 from an IED attack in Baghdad, Iraq. SFC Dostie's family has been notified of his death.

"This loss, during the holiday season, is especially hard to bear," said Governor Baldacci. "The citizens of Maine join in extending our prayers and respect to Shawn's family, and we remember all those serving their state and country away from home."

No other information is available at this time.

## Governor to Request Federal Assistance for Aroostook County

January 2, 2006

AUGUSTA - Governor John Baldacci will tomorrow submit a request to the federal government for a snow emergency declaration for Aroostook County. The storm that hit the county broke records for snowfall in the area and has left communities with large snow removal costs.

"Mainers are hardy and work well together helping each other in times like these, but this particular storm was extraordinary and has had a major impact on Aroostook County communities," said the Governor. "Federal assistance will greatly aid these municipalities. We believe our application will be well within eligibility requirements."

If the assistance is granted, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) would reimburse 75% of eligible costs related to snow removal incurred by local communities. In order to be eligible, a county must have received record or near record snowfall, and have encountered other extreme conditions such as blowing and drifting snow.

The recent snowfall experienced by Aroostook County was followed by another storm that brought rain and ice on top of the record snowfalls. State and county offices and businesses were closed as a result of the storms. Snow totals exceeded three feet in towns such as Madawaska and Fort Kent.

## Governor Baldacci nominates David Littell as Commissioner of the DEP

January 4, 2006

Governor's Office

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci has appointed David Littell of Portland to be the Commissioner of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

Littell is a 1989 graduate of Princeton University and Harvard Law School in 1992. Littell has most recently served as the Deputy Commissioner of the DEP since December of 2003.

Governor Baldacci says, "The strength of our Government is found, to a great degree, in the willingness of our citizens to contribute their time and abilities in serving on various boards and commissions. I thank Mr. Littell for offering his energies to this position."

As Deputy Commissioner of the DEP, Littell has noted several accomplishments including spearheading the adoption of the Zero Emission and vehicle Greenhouse Gas standards for new vehicles.

Littell's nomination will require review by the Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources, followed by Maine Senate confirmation.

## Governor and Legislature Join to Help Maine's Most Vulnerable Receive Critical Heating Assistance

January 5, 2006

AUGUSTA – In a Cabinet Room ceremony, Governor John Baldacci today signed LD 1891, An Act to Provide Funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. Joined by bipartisan Legislative Leadership, members of the 122nd Legislature, and citizens currently relying on Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP), the Governor noted that this assistance comes at a crucial time for Maine people.

"I thank the Legislature – especially the leadership of Senate President Beth Edmonds, Senate Minority Leader Paul Davis, House Speaker John Richardson, and House Republican Leader David Bowles - for acting swiftly to ensure that this \$5 million will be available to Maine people who rely on LIHEAP," said the Governor. "This was my number one priority – to help our Maine citizens remain warm and safe through this winter season. This was a necessary step because federal funding is not keeping pace with the rising costs of heating oil and the great need that exists."

"I am gratified we can provide immediate assistance to Mainers who need it most," said Senate President Beth Edmonds. "This truly shows we can set aside partisan positions when primary needs of Mainers are at stake."

"There are many elderly people out there and they need to know that help is on the way, and the Maine Legislature, in a bipartisan way, is responding to their needs and we will not forget them," said House Speaker John Richardson. "These supplemental funds for the LIHEAP program will contribute to other efforts being made in the state to protect people from winter's cold."

"We are talking about funds that many Maine people need simply to survive and to stay healthy," said Representative Cummings. "The lack of federal funds was a disgrace, but the Governor's leadership, and the bipartisan effort to provide state funds, is a great tribute to how we take care of our friends and neighbors in Maine."

Governor Baldacci said that people who have applied for LIHEAP assistance do not need to call to access the funds. If citizens believe they qualify for LIHEAP but have not already done so, they should call their local community action program to apply.

The Governor noted that Maine people can also contribute to the health and welfare of their neighbors through the Keep Maine Warm Charitable Fuel Fund. The Governor launched a charitable fuel fund to raise an additional \$5 million in individual, corporate and foundation donations, with funds being used to provide emergency fuel assistance to households ineligible for LIHEAP. Those interested in donating to the fund can do so by calling 1-800-698-4959 or by logging on to [www.mainecommunityaction.org](http://www.mainecommunityaction.org).

## Governor Directs Flags to be Flown at Half Staff

January 10, 2006

AUGUSTA – In remembrance and honor of Sergeant First Class Shawn Dostie, whose funeral will be held tomorrow, Wednesday, Governor John E. Baldacci has directed that the United States flag and the State of Maine flag be flown at half staff from sunrise to sunset Wednesday, January 11, 2006. SFC Dostie, who grew up in Maine, died from injuries suffered in an IED attack in Iraq on December 30, 2005. His funeral will be held at Arlington National Cemetery.

## Governor's Remarks on Tribal Leader Melvin Francis' Death

January 13, 2006

GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GOVERNOR MOURNS THE PASSING OF TRIBAL LEADER

AUGUSTA--- Governor John Baldacci extended his sympathies this morning to the widow of Tribal Governor Melvin Francis. The leader of the Passamaquoddy Tribe died Thursday night when the vehicle he was in collided with a tractor trailer truck.

In speaking with family this morning Governor Baldacci said: "We will do everything we need to make this a statewide remembrance."

Governor Baldacci added: "He did so much for his people. He understood that improving the conditions of his people would improve the conditions for all Mainers. He will be sorely missed. We will be lowering the flags around the state to half staff in remembrance."

## State of the State Postponed for Tribal Leader's Memorial Service

January 14, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci has announced the State of the State Address, scheduled for Tuesday, January 17th, will be delayed until the following evening, Wednesday, January 18th.

The Governor made the announcement in conjunction with leadership this afternoon. The decision to delay the speech was made after funeral arrangements for Passamaquoddy leader Melvin Francis were announced. Francis was killed earlier this week while driving to his home at Pleasant Point. A memorial service will be held Tuesday morning.

Governor Baldacci said: "I will be joining many others to attend the service for Passamaquoddy Governor Francis. It's important to allow people time to travel to the service and pay their respects. Governor Francis meant a great deal not only to his people but many in this state. This is the least the State can do in honoring him."

The State of the State has historically been broadcast on Maine Public Broadcasting Network. MPBN agreed to change its schedule to accommodate the Governor and will do a statewide broadcast on Wednesday evening from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

In remembrance and honor of Governor Francis, Governor Baldacci has also directed that the United States flag and the State of Maine flag be flown at half staff from sunrise to sunset Tuesday, January 17, 2006.

## Governor Receives Report Highlighting Maine For Budget Growth

January 17, 2006

Contact: Crystal Canney – Press Secretary, 287-2531

Dan Cashman – Asst. Press Secretary, 287-2531

For Immediate Release

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci has received a report from the National Governor's Association (NGA) and the National Association of State Budget Officers (NASBO) on the Fiscal Survey of States. The report ranks Maine 8th nationally for responsible budget growth.

"This is just another example of Maine getting credit for the job we're doing from an outside source," said Governor Baldacci. "Continuing to consolidate statewide services and cracking down on state spending will assure that Maine is fiscally responsible for years to come."

The report – which is published twice annually – quotes Maine's spending growth rate at 0.9 percent. That is 2nd lowest in New England and 8th lowest overall. By comparison, the average spending growth rate across the country for Fiscal Year 2006 is 6.3 percent.

The report cited certain strains on state budgeting – specifically Medicaid costs due to federal shortfalls.

"We continue to put Maine people first. Maine people's interests and needs are our top priority," said Governor Baldacci.

To view the complete report, visit <http://www.nasbo.org/>

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## Governor Baldacci Adds Name To List Of Governors Urging President To Fix New Medicare Prescription Drug Program

January 17, 2006

Contact: Crystal Canney – Press Secretary, 287-2531

Dan Cashman – Asst. Press Secretary, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci continues to lead the way on the prescription drug program by adding his name to a list of Governors urging President Bush to fix the new Medicare Prescription Drug Program.

14 Governors signed their name to the letter which demanded reimbursement for costs they have incurred providing emergency drug coverage for low income seniors.

In their letter to the President, the Governors offered to help solve transition problems, writing, “As fellow chief executives, we understand the challenge you face, and we are willing to meet with you to discuss how we can cooperate to get seniors the drugs they need in an efficient and affordable fashion. The time for all levels of government to act is now.”

The Governors noted the problems they have been hearing about in their states, writing, “While well-intended, the new Medicare drug benefit has caused confusion, mismanagement, and a bureaucratic nightmare.” The Governors continued, “The horror stories surrounding this new federal program have been widely reported. Since January 1, hundreds of thousands of low-income seniors have had difficulty getting the medicines they need.”

Governor Baldacci spearheaded Maine’s efforts to take proactive steps to protect the state’s seniors and disabled. After the January 1st implementation of the Part D program, other states followed suit.

Others who have signed the letter include the Governors from Arizona, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

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## Governor receives donation from Telstar Middle School students for Keep ME Warm Charitable Fuel Fund

January 11, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci accepted a check this morning from the Telstar Middle School Student Council to benefit the Keep ME Warm Charitable Fuel Fund.

Twelve Student Council members and their advisor Leslie Bonney from the Bethel school presented the \$1500 check to the Governor at a ceremony in his office.

“I am proud of the work that you have done,” the Governor told the students. “This (money) will help our seniors and our disabled stay warm this winter.”

Joel Putnam and Megan Bonney – both Student Council members at Telstar Middle School – told the Governor that it is extremely important to them to keep Maine citizens warm throughout the cold months. For that reason, they decided to donate the money that has been raised over the past year to the Keep ME Warm Charitable Fuel Fund.

The students indicated that the money was raised through school dances, fund raisers and “Spirit Week” at Telstar Middle School.

The check from the students is the latest towards the Keep ME Warm Charitable Fuel Fund. Yesterday, two checks were presented from DIRIGO Electric. The total amount of money raised to date is over \$400,000 with more expected in the coming days.

The money from the Keep ME Warm Charitable Fuel Fund will be used to assist those who are not eligible for LIHEAP, but still need help with the high costs of heating through the winter.

Those interested in donating to the fund can do so by calling 1-800-698-4959 or by logging on to [www.mainecommunityaction.org](http://www.mainecommunityaction.org).

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## Governor Baldacci Gives 2006 State Of The State Address

January 18, 2006

Governor Baldacci delivered his 2006 State Of The State Address on Wednesday, January 18th. The text follows:

Madam President, Mr. Speaker, Madam Chief Justice, members of the Legislature and distinguished guests.

Good evening my fellow citizens.

Tonight, I am proud to report that the state of this State is strong, secure and healthy.

\*More people are working than ever before.

\*More of our children are going to college.

\*More families are healthier and have health care.

\*More families are getting tax relief.

And – Empire Falls won two Golden Globes.

That's some of the good news.

But this past year, in fact the past three years, have not been short on challenges.

\*When I took office, we inherited a \$1.2 billion revenue shortfall ---that's 20 percent of the state budget.

\*The rainy day fund had a zero balance.

\*When I came into office, we were borrowing \$275 million to pay bills from one year to the next.

And on top of that, several paper companies announced they were going to foreclose ---and that my friends, was the first day.

I recalled what my mother used to say about hard work growing up in a small business family. She said "It never hurt any of us to work hard and it instilled good values."

When Mainers face challenges, we work hard together to get it done. We balanced the budget without raising a broad-based sales or income tax, and we've continued to do this every year since.

We've reduced our borrowing by more than half.

Today, with my proposed supplemental budget we save another \$35 million to put in the rainy day fund, growing our reserves from zero to over 100 million dollars in just three years.

During my Administration, we have cut the size of State Government by more than 600 positions.

I want to thank State workers who went without a pay raise for two years to help balance the budget. It helped us move the state in the right direction. I want to thank them for their high quality work and dedication to the people of Maine.

In Penobscot County more than 1,400 Mainers whose jobs were threatened by bankruptcy are still working at paper mills in Lincoln, Millinocket and Old Town. That's \$75 million in direct payroll - with a ripple effect that reaches across central and northern Maine. And for the mill that didn't re-open in Brewer, this budget appropriates 500 thousand dollars to redevelop that site to make it a job generator once again.

Together we successfully took on the Department of Defense when they tried to close our three military bases. We saved 4,800 jobs in Kittery and almost doubled the jobs in Limestone.

Joining us tonight in the gallery are representatives from these two places, Paul O'Connor and Dave Schofield from the Kittery Metal Trades Union and Carl Flora representing Limestone workers. I ask that they please rise and accept the greetings of the chamber.

I stand before you tonight to let you know that Maine's finances are healthier.

In fact, over the past four years State Government spending has grown at just over three percent. That's the lowest increase in spending in over thirty years.

In fact, the Maine state budget growth is the eighth lowest of all fifty states according to a survey by the National Governor's Association.

In addition, we put spending caps at the local, county and state level. LD 1 increased direct property tax payments to Maine residents; 225,000 people are now eligible for direct property tax rebates.

While keeping spending down, we were able to invest almost \$300 million additional dollars in local education.

Evidence shows that in many towns LD 1's increased education funding resulted in property tax relief.

Over the next three years, millions of additional state dollars will flow to schools and towns. But there is even more progress to make.

I will support legislation to provide property tax relief as LD1 is fully implemented to require that 90 percent of that full funding be returned directly to Maine taxpayers in the form of lower property taxes. We can do this while continuing our tradition of excellence in education.

We must do more. Tax rates are only part of the problem. The other is the assessed value of your property. I don't think anybody should be taxed out of their home because someone paid an outrageous price for the house next door. That's why I've proposed a constitutional amendment that will put in place a fair and workable way to value property and keep taxes low.

Maine's economy is healthy. And that is because of Maine people.

Increasing every Mainer's opportunity for a good paying job continues to be my top priority.

People are the most important resource in my economic plan. We are moving toward a knowledge-based economy. In that economy, Maine people are our new economic engines. Today we have more people in our community colleges, more investments in research and development, and more technology for businesses and people. We are getting our children ready for school with early child care, increasing the number of students in college with loans, and training our adult workers with new skills and creativity.

Maine will triumph in global competition if we continue to invest in our citizens. We need to give people the tools to maximize their full potential and realize their dreams. Every young person should have the option to stay in Maine to build a career and a family.

We kept our mills and bases open because of the quality of our people – the quality of our workers. Chairman Principi of the BRAC Commission called Maine workers the “gold standard”.

We must do more to train our workers and upgrade their skills. We must to more to reward work and workers. Maine men and women should be able to earn a living wage so they can support their families. There is no safety net better than a job with benefits and training.

Our minimum wage should not lag behind other states in our region. I ask for your support to increase Maine's minimum wage over the next two years to keep pace with the cost of living.

The Milken Institute, a non-partisan research organization, says Maine was one of five states last year who did the most to reduce the cost of doing business. In fact, it now costs less to do business in Maine than any state in the northeast.

Maine's unemployment taxes are among the lowest in the nation.

And, Maine's workers' compensation costs have gone from among the highest in the nation in the 1990's to within the national average today.

When we compete nationally we can win and attract Fortune 100 companies.

In a Pine Tree Zone in Oakland, T-Mobile is hiring nearly 800 new workers with health care benefits.

T.D. BankNorth just last week announced the addition of more than 100 new jobs in Lewiston at the Bates Mill Complex bringing their total in Maine to over 2,700. They could have grown anywhere in the Northeast, but they chose Maine.

Over the past three years, over fourteen hundred new small businesses were launched in Maine and small businesses created nearly five thousand new jobs.

In Patten, Maine, Anderson Hardwood Flooring is opening a plant that will employ forty to fifty people.

The Jackson Labs in Bar Harbor is announcing that they will be adding several hundred new jobs over the next five years.

Tomorrow I will announce that Idexx Laboratories in Westbrook will begin a multi-million dollar expansion resulting in several hundred new jobs over the next few years.

While our economic plan is working, the rising tide of our economy must reach every corner of the state. If we stay the course of our plan with investments and hard work, we will grow 25,000 new jobs in Maine in the next five years.

As part of my economic plan, last fall I presented the State Science and Technology Plan that calls for Maine's annual investment in research and development, including both private and public funding, to reach \$1 billion by 2010. Maine currently ranks tenth in the nation in non-profit R&D activity, but we need to do more to compete. My budget includes a down-payment – matching money for marine research in the Gulf of Maine and for new businesses launched by the University of Maine.

Now more than ever, we must continue strategic investments in research & development and infrastructure. After today, I'll be proposing additional investment tools.

My Pine Tree Zone economic program is creating more than 3,000 jobs throughout the state.

Tonight I ask for your support in expanding Pine Tree Zone eligibility in Washington County, and designating Pine Tree Zones in the Midcoast to redevelop Brunswick Naval Air Station once it's closed.

My budget also provides a military retirement tax exemption. This exemption will benefit the military men and women of the Brunswick Naval Air Station who want to stay in Maine, and will attract other high skilled military retirees returning from overseas.

Thank you Speaker Richardson and President Edmonds for your leadership in Midcoast redevelopment efforts.

In the Gallery are other leaders helping us in the Midcoast -- Bill Babin, union President a member of my Advisory Council. They are excited about the future of the Midcoast. They have accepted the challenge of leadership. I ask that they please rise and accept the greetings of the Chamber.

In Skowhegan and Waterville, novelist Richard Russo and the award winning film "Empire Falls" brought \$34 million to our economy. We have a growing number of media production firms in studios all across Maine. My budget fully funds the "Maine Attraction" Film Tax Incentive.

To further support the creative economy, I am also proposing an investment one-half million dollars in community grants to preserve and grow our cultural heritage.

Job growth also depends upon sound tax policy. It is time now to eliminate the personal property tax on new business investments. It is time. I appreciate the bipartisan leadership effort to make it happen.

Last year I came to you with a bold proposal to "Connect Maine" – to serve 100% of Maine communities with cell phone coverage by 2008, and 90% of Maine homes and businesses with broadband by 2010.

We're ahead of schedule on both and will meet the broadband goal later this year. We've made a lot of progress, but there is more to do.

Later this month, I will submit "Connect Maine" legislation to further expand the availability and quality of broadband and wireless phone service throughout the state.

Speaking of infrastructure, I ask for your support as we rebuild our roads and bridges. Facing reduced federal funds and inflation, the Department of Transportation was forced to postpone \$130 million in road and bridge projects which would support more than 1000 construction jobs. Thank you Senators Damon and Savage and others for your hard work on a task force to restore these projects.

Maine's educational system is healthy.

We know that the success of each Maine person matters. Skills and knowledge will define our ability to compete in the new economy.

If you want to succeed – if you want your children to succeed - education is the foundation of that success.

Maine's schools and teachers are truly exceptional.

\*Our reading and science scores are among the nation's best.

\*Our math scores are up and more of our students are going to college.

\*In February, the College Board will recognize Maine's success for increasing the number of high school students taking college level placement courses.

With the help of educators and Legislators, we've done much over the last three years to support education at all levels.

We've adopted new early childhood education standards to focus young children in all parts of Maine.

People who have quality early childcare and education have a better shot succeeding.

Many people have worked long and hard to promote care and education during early childhood. Tonight, I want to recognize two people for their contributions.

The First Lady is a champion for youngsters. I want to thank her for her work on behalf of children, Steve Rowe, our Attorney General also knows from his job, in the courts, what a difference early quality childcare can have in a youngster's life.

I ask that they accept the greetings of the chamber.

I'm further directing the addition of a child care development expert to the Brunswick Naval Air Station re-use planning groups.

Quality care requires qualified caretakers. That's why my budget will include \$1.5 million of increased scholarship funding for students who enter child care professions.

As any working parent will tell you...finding quality, affordable child care is one of the biggest obstacles they face. Tonight I'm asking the Legislature to join me in supporting an expansion of the Child Care Tax Credit. This half-million dollar investment will provide immediate relief for Maine's working families.

I support bringing together child care, Head Start, health, counseling, adult education and other services into one location. I commend Bucksport for its model, the Bay Area Early Childhood Network.

I want to give all places in Maine, especially in rural Maine, opportunities to make schools centers of their communities in new ways. Tonight, I am directing the Commissioner of Education to recommend school construction that includes these regional resource hubs.

I understand that sustaining small schools is vital to many communities. That's why I am including in my budget an additional \$3 million to support high performing small schools.

Right now we're leading the nation in investing education dollars in the classroom. Only two states --- Maine and New York -- put more than 65% of their education budgets into instruction. We need to continue that effort.

It's already happening in Maine with the Western Maine Collaborative, The Penobscot River Partnership, The Sebago Alliance and The Casco Bay Alliance.

To help further that, I am restoring \$1 million for the Fund for Efficient Delivery of Educational Services and \$1 million for the similar Fund for Local and Regional Services to help our schools and towns.

Quality education also requires excellent teachers. Teachers are our students' most valuable resource. I appreciate the outstanding job these dedicated hard-working professionals do every day to teach the next generation of Maine citizens.

We ask, and expect, a lot from our teachers. In return, we must support their work.

The average teacher salary in Maine is under \$27,000. For our students, we must recruit and retain the best and the brightest. My budget proposes raising starting teacher salaries to \$30,000 starting next year.

We must also be careful that emphasis on testing doesn't overwhelm teachers' time and ability to educate and giving teachers time to teach. We must be accountable and report on student achievement, but we can meet that obligation in new ways.

The Commissioner of Education has modified the Maine Educational Assessment to reporting requirements at all levels. This will reduce the need for more testing at the local level.



Therefore, I've directed the Commissioner to submit to the Legislature a moratorium on our current local assessment.

Three years ago we transformed higher education in Maine by establishing the Maine Community College System. It has been a great success.

Enrollment has increased 42%.

The Early College for ME program has helped many first generation college students make the transition to a community college. One parent said this program: "Gave our daughter the chance her father and I never had." Tonight I'm proposing to add another \$500,000 for college level courses for high school students.

Saving for college has also been a barrier for too many Maine families. I'm pleased to announce tonight that the Next Generation Program is going to give every baby born in Maine this year a \$50 grant to open that first college savings account.

And to make college more affordable, I am also proposing we expand the student loan deduction.

And it will open the doors of education wider than ever before.

Learning never ends. Maine must support the educational aspirations of our seniors. The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Southern Maine provides educational opportunities for nearly 5,000 Maine adults, ages 50 and older. The Foundation named the Institute as a "National Center" for 73 such programs throughout the country. My budget provides financial assistance for USM to take on this new role.

From early childhood to our senior years, Maine people want and need educational opportunities. I'm pleased with all we've done. Maine must not only be prepared, but with these initiatives, we will be prepared.

Maine people are healthier.

Accessible, affordable, quality healthcare is critical to the health of our citizens and health of our economy. That's why I brought forward a comprehensive package in Dirigo Health Reform.

Dirigo is more than just an insurance product it's about improving the quality of our health. It's about reducing healthcare costs and making Maine the healthiest State in the nation.

Despite budget challenges we faced early on, we have retained our commitment to our tobacco settlement funds, spending them for critical preventive services. We also supported grassroots efforts through our Healthy Maine Partnerships and Community Health Coalitions.

Our investments in tobacco prevention are showing results. Last week, Maine was named number one in the country and received straight A's from the national lung association for our success in reducing teenage smoking. We've cut smoking by teenagers in half since 1997.

This will pay huge dividends, not just for the teens themselves, but in lower health care costs down the road. That's why I'll ask the Legislature to provide \$4.6 million to the Fund for a Healthy Maine to assure our ability to continue important prevention services critical to our efforts.

We have made great strides in other areas of healthcare as well.

Accessing critical health and social services in the communities we live in is about to become a whole lot easier. Maine will become the 15th state to offer statewide 2-1-1 services.

By just dialing 2-1-1 or going online you will be connected to over 5,500 local crisis centers, employment support, and other health and social services. A pilot program will start next month in Washington and Cumberland Counties.

The State of Maine recently joined Maine's ten United Ways and various non-profit and corporate supporters, to provide the resources necessary to take 2-1-1 Statewide by July of this year.

And I just want to take a moment and recognize the incredible and demanding work performed by those in the healthcare field. These are not easy times whether you are a State trying to meet costs or whether you are on the frontlines of providing health care.

We recognize there is a high demand for health care professional education in Maine. My budget provides \$750,000 to educate more nurses at both the University of Maine and the Community College System.

Healthcare continues to push itself to the forefront. Recently, we stepped in to assure that all Maine seniors are protected and they get the drugs they need during the difficult transition to the Federal Medicare Part D drug program. Maine was the first state in the nation to take action and today over 20 states have joined us.

The problems have been very real for our seniors.

Within hours of this new program taking effect, my phone rang and on the other end was a woman who couldn't get her medication for kidney dialysis because the Feds had signed her up for the wrong plan. With our help she got what she needed. But she and the thousands of other Mainers who were in similar situations should never have to face that crisis to begin with.

We are going to make sure the Federal Government meets its obligations to all Maine people.

But no matter how much we invest in public health and prevention the simple fact remain--without health coverage people wait too long to get care, show up too late in costly emergency rooms, and pay the highest price for that care. The cost of being uninsured in human terms is great—people end up suffering from illnesses and disabilities that could have been avoided, and the financial cost is real and paid by all of us.

Each year we spend over \$175 million on bad debt and charity care—that means each of us who has health insurance is picking up the cost.

That's something we could avoid if all of us had health insurance. And that is the goal of Dirigo.

A recent report by the Kaiser Family Foundation tells us that Maine is one of only 11 states, and the only one in New England – that reduced the rate of people without insurance in the last four years.

Our answer is two fold ---Dirigo works and Dirigo saves money.

Today over 10,000 Maine people and 2,000 businesses across the state have enrolled in Dirigo Health. We're expanding to cover more Maine families.

Dirigo saves money. Rate increases for small business are half what they cost last year.

The Superintendent of Insurance identified nearly \$44 million in savings in the healthcare system because of Dirigo. Those are real savings that belong in your pocket, not in the pocket of an insurance company. Therefore, I intend to support legislation to require insurance companies to pass those savings back.

But that is not enough. We need to create transparency in the health insurance market so you know what you are paying for.

Health reform is really hard work, and it takes time. But, already we are seeing success not only in the DirigoChoice product, but in the broader Dirigo reforms.

Dirigo is about innovation – doing whatever needs to be done to expand coverage to more working families. We will build on our success and take the next important step.

We were successful a decade ago in creating a new solution to deliver workers' compensation—The Maine Employers Mutual Insurance Company. Tonight I am starting the process to make sure Dirigo can expand affordable coverage for more Maine citizens.

I have asked Steve Tringale, a nationally respected health insurance expert, to work with my health care team. They will be going to examine if and how Dirigo can build a new model to deliver health insurance in Maine – a model of Maine, by Maine, for Maine.

When it comes to affordable healthcare for Maine families and businesses, I will leave no stone unturned.

When it comes to the health and wellbeing of our people, our economy and our state, we must also protect and preserve our natural resources.

We are working towards cleaner air for all Mainers. We have placed stringent standards on vehicle emissions.

We are in the forefront of state and regional efforts to reverse global warming through reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

And we are taking toxic materials out of our environment through the nation's first program to recycle old computers and televisions, and through new measures to reduce the amount of toxic mercury and lead in our land, air and water.

Maine leads in conserving and protecting land for our children and for future generations. In the last three years, we completed land conservation projects totaling more than 700,000 acres.

Maine is a leader in sustainable forestry. More than 7 million acres, or 40 percent of our working forest is certified as sustainably managed.....and that's good for the environment and the economy.

When I took office the subject of energy wasn't a hot button issue. Even so, I created the Office of Energy Independence and Security. I knew that increasing our independence and efficiency along with tapping into our renewable energy resources would be good for Maine.

Today energy costs are on everyone's mind. As the first order of business in 2006, this Legislature in a bipartisan effort joined with me to provide \$5 million to help people who needed help paying their fuel bills. My Administration negotiated with Citgo so that millions of gallons of heating oil, at a discounted rate, could be delivered quickly and efficiently to those most in need.

My goal is to keep people safe, warm and secure.

The people of Maine have stepped up, too. School children, small businesses and volunteers have winterized seniors' homes throughout Maine. Those same people are contributing to the fuel fund. The Eastern Maine Funders Initiative alone has raised over one-half million dollars in charitable contributions. I say thank you, to the United Way and Maine people for making a difference.

Maine State Government is leading by example. We reduced travel, tripled the number of hybrid vehicles in the State fleet, and expanded the State's vanpool program. By instituting these measures early – before the current energy price crisis---the State has been able to save 300,000 gallons of fuel, and putting our electricity purchase out to bid will save us \$4 million by June of this year.

Over the past three years I have advanced policies and programs to make the entire state more energy independent: we now have a solar rebate program, natural gas conservation program, a wind program in Mars Hill and a tax exemption for those producing biofuels in Maine.

This year I will be introducing a comprehensive energy bill to expand the use of renewable energy, stabilize electric costs, and adopt statewide efficiency standards for appliances.

Before I close, we welcome this evening those who represent proud Wabanaki nations. We mourn the passing of Passamaquoddy Governor Melvin Francis. To his wife and children and people, we send our thoughts and prayers.

Finally, in 2005, the Soldiers and Airmen of the Maine National Guard served both the State of Maine and our great nation with pride and distinction.

The Maine National Guard deployed over four hundred men and women throughout the world.

Their distinguished service has not come without cost. Four Soldiers from the 133rd did not return to Maine. Twenty-two other Maine Soldiers, Airmen, Marines, and Seaman from active and reserve forces also made the ultimate sacrifice for their nation. Tonight I am pleased to announce that I will support legislation to provide life insurance for servicemen and women who are put in harm's way.

Joining us tonight is the Commander of the 133rd Engineer Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel John Jansen. Also joining us tonight is Mrs. Lori Jones, wife of First Sergeant Michael Jones of the 133rd who died in March in New York upon returning home. He embodied the ideal of a true U.S. Soldier. These three represent the Battalion and all of the Soldiers, Airmen, and families who serve and sacrifice. I ask them to rise and accept the appreciation of all gathered here.

These brave soldiers risk their lives each day for a better America. I ask each of us to reflect on their sacrifice and consider our own pledge to public service....to our duty to help create a better Maine. Some things divide us. But much more joins us together.

My father used to ask me, what have you done for the people today? I hope in the year ahead we can ask ourselves the same question and pledge to work together to make Maine's families and communities stronger for an even brighter future for Maine.

I am proud and confident about Maine's future.

The state of our State is indeed strong, secure and healthy.

Thank you. And good night.

## Governor Declares Emergency to Restore Power

January 19, 2006

AUGUSTA — Governor John Baldacci today signed a procedural proclamation to respond to the need to restore power to thousands of people. As of this afternoon, power companies report that there are 26,000 households that do not have electricity.

The state of emergency proclamation will facilitate the granting of a waiver from the Federal Department of Transportation to allow electrical repair line personnel to stay on the road longer to restore power.

Power outages remain scattered throughout Augusta, Brunswick, Fairfield, Lewiston, Rockland/Belfast, Lincoln, Bangor and Ellsworth.

The text of the declaration follows:

WHEREAS, the State of Maine has experienced a severe wind storm that has left thousands of Maine homes out of power; and

WHEREAS, work crews will have to work many hours to restore power; and

WHEREAS, federal rules determine the number of hours the driver of an electrical line repair vehicle may operate; and

WHEREAS, drivers of such vehicles must cease operations when they reach the federal limit on hours of operation, and therefore would have to cease power restoration; and

WHEREAS, these conditions threaten public health and safety and endanger public property if power cannot be restored to Maine homes and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the declaration of a State of Emergency will facilitate the granting of a waiver from the Federal Department of Transportation to allow these drivers to operate additional hours and otherwise operate effectively in this situation,

NOW THEREFORE, I, John Elias Baldacci, Governor of the State of Maine, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of Maine, find that these conditions constitute a civil emergency under 37-B M.R.S.A. section 742, and for the purpose of facilitating a waiver to Federal Department of Transportation Rules do hereby declare that a State of Emergency exists as of January 19, 2006.

## Governor Directs Flags to Be Flown at Half-Staff in Mexico

January 26, 2006

AUGUSTA – In remembrance and honor of Donald O'Leary Sr., whose funeral will be held today, Thursday, Governor John E. Baldacci has directed that the United States flag and the State of Maine flag be flown at half staff from sunrise to sunset today, January 26, 2006, in the Town of Mexico. O'Leary served in 101st House, and Senate in the 107th, 108th, and 109th Legislatures.

## Maine's Past Governors Unite For Governor Baldacci's Charitable Fuel Fund

January 31, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA –Maine's past three Governors – Governor King, Governor McKernan and Governor Brennan – have come together to further build the Charitable Fuel Fund.

The three past Maine Governors recently recorded a Public Service Announcement to air on radio stations throughout the state.

"As Governors, we have put all differences aside and come together to help Mainers in need," the Governor said. "The money generated from the Public Service Announcements will help our seniors and our disabled stay warm this winter."

In the Public Service Announcement, Governors King, McKernan and Brennan tell the listeners that they have set aside their differences in hopes that Maine residents can set aside a few dollars to help keep Maine warm.

The Public Service Announcements have been airing since Friday. The PSAs will be running on 42 radio stations around Maine including stations in Presque Isle, Portland, Houlton, Augusta, Winter Harbor and Bangor. More stations are expected to make commitments to run the Public Service Announcement in the next few days.

The money from the Keep ME Warm Charitable Fuel Fund will be used to assist those who are not eligible for LIHEAP, but still need help with the high costs of heating through the winter.

Those interested in donating to the fund can do so by calling 1-800-698-4959 or by logging on to [www.mainecommunityaction.org](http://www.mainecommunityaction.org).

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## Governor Baldacci on the passing of Coretta Scott King

January 31, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA –Governor John Baldacci learned this morning about the death of Coretta Scott King.

“Coretta Scott King was and will remain an Icon of American life,” said Governor Baldacci. “She was among the giants of the civil rights movement on whose shoulders we still stand. Through tragedy and triumph she embodied integrity, courage and a commitment to justice. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family and loved ones. We’ve lost a great leader.”

Coretta Scott King – widow of Martin Luther King – passed away in her sleep at approximately 1 a.m. this morning at the age of 78.

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## Baldacci Opposes Pay Raise For Governor

February 7, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci has reiterated his opposition to a proposed bill to raise the Governor's salary.

The bill – LD1908 – is being sponsored by Rep. Gary Moore, a Republican Legislator from Standish.

The State and Local Government Committee voted Monday to link the Governor's salary to the median family income in Maine.

"Let me make myself clear that I will veto any pay increase," Governor Baldacci said. "Until teachers salaries, healthcare and roadways have been taken care of, the Governor will not receive a pay increase."

If passed, the bill would make the Governor of Maine's annual salary about \$150,000. Currently, Maine's Governor is the lowest paid head of state in the nation with an annual salary of \$70,000 plus benefits.

Even if passed, Governor Baldacci would not be eligible for the raise. By Maine Constitution, the sitting Governor cannot approve his or her own pay increase.

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## Governor Baldacci on the passing of Lucien Dutremble

February 8, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA –Governor John Baldacci commented this morning on the death of Lucien “Babe” Dutremble.

“The State of Maine has lost one of its finest public servants with the passing of York County Commissioner Lucien "Babe" Dutremble,” said Governor Baldacci. “Whether as the long-serving Mayor of Biddeford, as a State Representative in Augusta, a city councilor, or as a County Commissioner for York County, Lucien Dutremble won the respect and affection of the people he worked for.”

Dutremble passed away yesterday in his home at the age of 83.

Governor Baldacci continued, “I was privileged to serve in the Maine Legislature with Lucien Dutremble, along with his son, Senator Dennis Dutremble. I extend my condolences to the Dutremble family, and join the countless people who knew and respected Lucien Dutremble in mourning his death.”

The Governor has directed flags to fly at half-staff on Friday in York County in honor of Dutremble.

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## Governor Baldacci Unveils Energy Bill

February 8, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – In a press conference held this morning at the State House, Governor Baldacci unveiled the actions that will be taken to address energy issues.

The Governor's first proposal is to increase the amount of cost-competitive renewable energy from by 10 percent by 2017. The Governor acknowledged Rep. Ken Fletcher of Winslow in his remarks, noting that he is championing this goal. This proposal will make use of renewable energy resources such as wind, tidal, biomass, certain hydroelectric, geothermal, and solar power.

Governor Baldacci has also proposed that the Maine Public Utilities Commission be authorized to acquire energy conservation and energy efficiency measures.

Governor Baldacci also proposes using a long-term contract approach to help stabilize energy prices, increase fuel diversity, and to secure power from energy resources that emit no greenhouse gases.

Governor Baldacci furthered his commitment to addressing the issues regarding energy by announcing his intent to issue an Executive Order convening a task force regarding the New England Power Pool – or "NEPOOL." The task force will do an in-depth review of the advantages and disadvantages of membership in "NEPOOL" and the federally-created overseer of the New England wholesale electricity market known as ISO New England. If the task force concludes that the disadvantages exceed the advantages, Governor Baldacci will ask the task force to determine Maine's options other than "NEPOOL".

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## Maine Leads In Online Government Services

February 9, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – Governor Baldacci has learned that Maine is near the top regarding online government services.

For the second consecutive year, Maine ranks second according to the sixth annual e-government analysis conducted by researchers at Brown University. Utah ranks first in 2005.

Researchers evaluated Web sites for the presence of various electronic features, such as online publications, online databases, audio clips, video clips, foreign language or language translation, advertisements, premium fees, user payments or fees. They also evaluated sites with regard to disability access, privacy policy, security policy, online services, digital signatures, credit card payments, e-mail addresses, comment forms, automatic e-mail updates, Web site personalization, PDA accessibility, quality control, and readability.

The next highest ranking New England state was Massachusetts, coming in 8th place. Wyoming was ranked 50th in the survey.

The complete survey is available online at <http://www.insidepolitics.org/egovt05us.pdf>

## Maine to Receive \$300,000 to Address Youth Suicide

February 13, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci learned this afternoon that Maine will receive \$300,000 from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Maine is one of three states receiving the grant – Tennessee and Oregon are the others. The state will receive \$100,000 per year over the next three years to help implement the Maine Youth Suicide Prevention Program.

Governor John Baldacci was happy about the news, saying, “Our efforts are leading the country in reaching out to prevent teen suicide in Maine.”

First Lady Karen Baldacci, who chairs the Children’s Cabinet which will oversee the grant says, “This grant will help implement the Maine Youth Suicide Prevention Program’s recommendations and get it into the communities where prevention is needed most.”

Maine will use the money to assess the impact of two types of youth suicide prevention programs, a school-based suicide prevention program with and without a broader community-based component.

The CDC is actively involved in conducting evidence-based research on how to prevent suicide. For additional information about CDC’s suicide prevention efforts you can go to [www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/suifacts.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/suifacts.htm).

## Governor's Keep ME Warm Charitable Fuel Fund Continues to Grow

February 14, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci will be in Kennebunk Wednesday morning to accept a check for the Keep ME Warm Charitable Fuel Fund.

The check will be presented to the Governor at 11:30 at Bartley's Restaurant – 4 Western Avenue in Kennebunk.

The money is coming from a fund raiser called "The Art of Kindness."

Maine artists volunteered their time and skills to paint different scenes and buildings from the Kennebunks. Each scene was set in the wintertime – a reminder of how pretty Maine can be in the winter, but also a reminder of how vulnerable Mainers can be to it.

30-plus pieces of art were created, which were printed free of charge from a local photographer.

Art galleries, businesses, inns and restaurants displayed and sold the prints to benefit Governor Baldacci's Keep ME Warm Charitable Fuel Fund.

The prints will be removed from circulation on March 20th, and re-issued next winter for the same purpose.

The result of all of this hard work will be a check presentation Wednesday morning at 11:30 to Governor Baldacci for the Keep ME Warm Charitable Fuel Fund.

Business owners and the local artists are expected to be on hand for the presentation.

The money from the Keep ME Warm Charitable Fuel Fund will be used to assist those who are not eligible for LIHEAP, but still need help with the high costs of heating through the winter.

Those interested in donating to the fund can do so by calling 1-800-698-4959 or by logging on to [www.mainecommunityaction.org](http://www.mainecommunityaction.org).

## Medicare Extension Filed – Costs Continue To Grow

February 15, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci has filed an extension request for Medicare Part D recipients with the Department of Health and Human Services. While the request has been filed, Maine and several other states are waiting for word on whether the request will be granted by the federal government. Maine has been told the federal government will consider the requests on a case by case basis.

Jude Walsh, State Pharmacy Director, testified before Maine's Health and Human Services Department that to date Maine is owed 5 million dollars from the federal government. Walsh testified before the Appropriations Committee this morning that the figure could rise to 10 million before the federal government fixes the glitches created when all states were required to implement Medicare Part D.

Medicare Part D is the new federal prescription drug program. As of today, at least 15 thousand Mainers are still having problems getting their prescription filled with the correct co-pays under the federal program.



## Maine Economic Development Positive

February 15, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – State Economist Catherine Reilly said today, “Since 2003, the Maine economy has produced 4600 net new jobs. More than ever before, Maine’s economy is affected by regional, national and global factors. The recent Consensus Economic Forecasting Commission report reflects that fact.”

The CEFC report provides the context for a revision of last year’s job numbers:

- Oil prices have been persistently high. New England, and particularly Maine, is more affected by energy costs than other parts of the country.
- On the day of the CEFC meeting, the federal government announced that 2005 fourth quarter U.S. gross domestic product grew only 1.1%, well below forecasts.
- All states need to secure a larger share of growing industries. Nationally, growth sectors include health care and social services, sectors in which Maine is adding jobs.
- Personal income is forecasted to GROW by 5% in 2005 and 2006. Personal income growth in Maine is affected by retirements among the Maine population, currently the oldest in the nation.

State Planning Director Martha Freeman noted a number of positive economic indicators – most recently Maine’s gross state product GREW by over 3 percent, which in November ranked Maine 19th among the 50 states. “The Governor is moving the economy in the right direction in so many ways in addition he supports the minimum wage and increasing minimum teacher salaries to boost Maine income levels. In 2005, property tax growth dipped below the rate of inflation for the first time in a decade.

In responding to a release from the House Republican Office, the Governor’s Spokeswoman, Crystal Canney said:” Once again you see politics playing a big part as Republican Leadership tries to paint a doom and gloom picture about the state of Maine. It’s too bad they can’t see what a great place this is to live and raise a family and that the picture is quite good especially when compared to the rest of New England.”

## Governor Signs Executive Order to Make Maine a Cleaner, Safer, Healthier Place

February 22, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci signed an Executive Order this morning in a Cabinet Room ceremony to promote safer chemicals in consumer products and services.

Governor Baldacci says that the Executive Order commits the Government of the State of Maine to phase out its use of long-lasting toxic chemicals while making information available to the public about safer alternatives to those chemicals.

The Executive Order further looks to the future by spelling out the next steps that Maine will take against chemicals that have already been identified as priorities such as mercury, lead and pesticides.

The Governor also announced the creation of a task force designed to identify safer alternatives to hazardous chemicals and promote the use and development of the alternatives. The task force will be made up of representatives of environmental groups, people from the business and labor communities, members of the University system, state government and the general public.

“We are all at risk – our children especially – from hazardous chemicals,” Governor Baldacci said. “When there are toxic materials in the house, kids will find them. I am proud that Maine is continuing to be a leader in making this state one of the healthiest states in the nation.”

Governor Baldacci worked with the Alliance for a Clean and Healthy Maine on the Executive Order. The Alliance is made up of representatives from The Learning Disabilities Association of Maine; The Maine Labor Group on Health; The Maine Environmental Health Strategy Center; The Maine Organic Farmers and Growers Association; The Maine People’s Alliance; The Maine Public Health Association; Maine Physicians for Social Responsibility; The Natural Resources Council of Maine; and The Toxic Action Coalition.

## Governor Recognizes Wardens for Unselfish Work At Reception

February 22, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

Augusta - Governor John Baldacci and Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Commissioner Roland D. Martin praised twelve Wardens on Friday, February 17, for their participation in two recent public service functions that really brought forth the unique and specialized work that the Warden Service provides to the public in times of need. The Wardens and members of their family were recognized at a reception held at the home office of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife on State Street, in Augusta.

Two wardens were recognized for their efforts following Hurricane Katrina. Maine sent Game Warden Sergeant Roger Guay, Game Warden Wade Carter, and their K-9s to aid rescue personnel in their efforts. Wardens Guay and Carter searched one of the hardest hit areas of New Orleans, an area directly behind the breached levee. The wardens and their dogs searched through wreckage; they search through debris; they searched through houses that were completely underwater and they searched through many dangerous areas. Through their efforts, they recovered the remains of many victims, giving closure to many families who had been stricken by grief. They impressed officials so much that both have been asked to return to New Orleans and are set to leave again on February 26 for approximately three more weeks of recovery work.

The Governor also recognized a group of Wardens for efforts here in Maine. The Warden Service is charged with the rescue and recovery of those lost in the woods and waters of our state. This task is under the direction of the Maine Warden Service's Incident Command Team, and on a cold January night, two parents abandoned their children in the woods of Palermo necessitating the mobilization of the unit.

Through a methodical search using GPS units and laptop computers to plot out search areas and keep track of where searchers were and had been and with the help of warden pilots acting as eyes in the sky, the two girls were ultimately located. The young girls, ages 16 months and nearly three years old, had spent the night in the woods before being spotted by Warden Pilot Charlie Later huddled next to a stonewall in the woods. After relaying the information to ground searchers, a volunteer searcher was able to reach the pair and soon game wardens were on the scene to extract the girls from the woods to safety. Emergency medical personnel attended to the girls who had mild frostbite on their fingers, noses and toes. Any more time in the woods, and their injuries could have been much more severe.

The Governor expressed his heart felt thanks to all who have dedicated their lives to helping those in our state and beyond for providing these much needed services.

## Governor Announces 22,000 More Mainers are Working

February 24, 2006

Contact: Crystal Canney , 287-2531 Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci received updated Department of Labor figures showing robust growth. Updated figures reveal that more Mainers are working from years 2003 to 2005.

In 2003, the Total Resident Employment stood at 655,000---That figure rose to 677,000 for 2005. From 2003 to 2005, therefore, 22,000 more people are working. Resident employment includes nonfarm wage and salary workers, farm wage and salary workers, the self-employed, and unpaid family members. Maine residents employed by out-of-state companies are also included.

“ These figures confirm that the Administration’s economic plan is building a strong future for the people of this state. Maine is part of a "new economy" which is being built on telecommuters, people who chose to live in Maine for the quality of life but work out of state, and people working in what are considered non-traditional jobs. Maine is headed in the right direction for the 21st century."

“Despite the challenges of coming in to office with more than \$1 billion shortfall and continually filling gaps left to us by the Federal Government, our economy is healthy and growing, and we can all take pride in these accomplishments,” continued the Governor. “With a comprehensive strategy to give all Maine people the opportunity to succeed – including Pine Tree Zones, Dirigo Health, the Community College System, sound environmental and energy policies, and investments in research and development – we are making steady progress.”

## Governor Baldacci to Proclaim Saturday "Seth Wescott Day" Throughout Maine

February 24, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci said today, "Seth Wescott got an Olympic Gold Medal, so now we're giving him a day in Maine."

Governor Baldacci plans to proclaim Saturday "Seth Wescott Day" throughout the state of Maine in honor of the Farmington resident's recent gold medal.

"Seth has proven that he is a true champion winning the first Olympic Gold Medal in Snowboard Cross," said Governor Baldacci. "He has also proven that he is a champion because he won it with class, dignity and honor. Seth has represented the State of Maine with pride and I am proud to proclaim Saturday as 'Seth Wescott Day' in Maine."

The proclamation will be issued during the celebration of Seth Wescott's gold medal performance Saturday at Sugarloaf. The celebration will start at noon and is expected to include remarks from Seth Wescott as well as Governor Baldacci, a Snowboard Cross course set up for Seth to demonstrate his skills and autograph signings.

Seth Wescott won Maine's first Winter Olympics Gold Medal on February 16th in Snowboard Cross.

## Governor Baldacci and Congressional Delegation to be Honored by Southern Midcoast Maine

February 27, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci along with the members of Maine's Congressional Delegation have been named to collectively receive the Southern Midcoast Maine Chamber Chairman's Award.

The Governor and the Congressional Delegation were chosen by the Past-Chair for the Chamber, Jeff Peters. The efforts from the elected officials during the BRAC process and dealing with the aftermath played a large part in the decision.

"This year in particular with the BRAC decision, it was a profound year," said Catherine Glover, President and CEO of the Southern Midcoast Maine Chamber. "It was no contest who should receive this. It seemed most appropriate to give this to the Governor and the Congressional Delegation. These people who are receiving the Chairman's Award have gone above and beyond in so many ways."

Governor Baldacci and the Congressional Delegation have been invited to receive the award during the 3rd Annual Chamber Recognition and Award Ceremony. The ceremony is set to take place March 9th at 5:30 at the Harraseeket Inn, Freeport. At the ceremony, awards will also be handed out for Small Business of the Year, Business of the Year, Citizen of the Year, Volunteer of the Year and a Lifetime Achievement Award.

## Maine Chosen for International Study on Economic and Workforce Development

March 1, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – The Organization for Economic Opportunity has selected Maine as one of the sites for a major international study examining the links between economic and workforce development. Among the reasons for Maine being selected is innovations introduced by Governor Baldacci such as the establishment of a Workforce Cabinet.

The project on “Integrating Employment, Skills and Economic Development” has been in the works since March, 2003. In general, the study will look to co-ordinate labor market policy and economic development strategies designed at local and regional levels.

“I’m proud to have Maine selected to take part in this study,” said Governor Baldacci. “As a leader in New England, Maine can use this opportunity to be a model for strong economic development for the rest of the world.”

Research teams will be in Maine throughout the spring to interview Governor Baldacci as well as the Commissioners of the Department of Economic and Community Development and the Department of Labor. The researchers will also be reviewing how Maine is progressing with policy innovations.

## Governor Baldacci on the passing of Peter Wiley

March 6, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 Dan Cashman, 287-2531

Governor Baldacci on the passing of Peter Wiley

AUGUSTA –Governor John Baldacci commented this afternoon on the death of Tom Allen's Chief of Staff, Peter Wiley.

"He was among the finest gentlemen to ever participate in public service," said Governor Baldacci. "He was a real gentleman."

Wiley, who has been Allen's Chief of Staff for the past year, passed away this morning at the age of 58 of an apparent heart attack while visiting family in Florida.

In addition to working for Tom Allen currently and on his 1994 gubernatorial campaign, Wiley has worked for the National Governor's Association, served on the Board of Environmental Protection under Governor Joe Brennan, and was the chief operating officer under Governor Angus King.

Details on any services or memorials for Peter Wiley will be announced at a later time.



## Governor Baldacci Named One of Top 25 by Government Technology Magazine

March 8, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci has been named one of the top 25 Doers, Dreamers and Drivers by Government Technology Magazine.

Governor Baldacci was chosen because of his Information Technology accomplishments during his administration.

Among those accomplishments, the magazine cites his creation of the Office of Information Technology; pushing for broader standards to make data integration across agencies more feasible; and supporting the creation of a project management office.

The magazine also notes the awards that have come to the state thanks to Governor Baldacci's initiatives. Maine has ranked second for two years in a row in the Brown University annual e-government survey; and Maine won the Center for Digital Government "Best of the Web" competition in 2005. The magazine says that Governor Baldacci's IT accomplishments "sparks envy in Governors of states twice Maine's size."

"Maine is once again proving itself to be a leader," says Governor Baldacci. "The global economy is fueled by further technology and the state of Maine is leading the way for our own agencies and our citizens."

Baldacci was one of only two Governors chosen for the list, the other being Governor Mike Huckabee of Arkansas.

Government Technology has honored individuals who "are redefining and advancing technology's role in government and society," in the March issue since 2002. In addition to Governor Baldacci and Governor Huckabee, this year's list also includes four mayors and a Secretary of State.

The complete story is available at <http://www.govtech.net/magazine/story.php?id=98589>

## Governor Baldacci Presents Findings of Working Group on Transportation

March 9, 2006

Governor Baldacci reported the findings of the Capital Transportation Funding Working Group at a Cabinet Room Press Conference on the morning of Thursday, March 9. His speech at the press conference follows:

The Safety of Maine people is first and foremost in my mind. The safety of the school children who ride buses, the families who drive to and from work and events must be protected.

And that's why last fall we were gravely concerned by the need to delay almost 130 million dollars worth of highway and bridge products statewide.

That's why I am here today to let you know that I am submitting legislation for a 25 million dollar general fund general obligation bond for the November ballot as the first installment toward the goals recommended by a working group I put together over the holidays.

This group rolled up its sleeves – found the engineer savings and with Yankee ingenuity found ways to do more with less. Everyone at the table compromised and united around some difficult decisions.

My thanks to Senator Dennis Damon for his leadership of the funding group effort that turned this report in less than six weeks.

I would also like to thank Representative Boyd Marley, Senator Christine Savage, and Representative Terry McKenney for their leadership in this bipartisan effort to address significant transportation funding challenges.

But what we are talking about here today is making Maine roads safer.

Maine people driving to Rangley deserve a safe Route 4 as pulp trucks, ambulances, school buses and skiers climb through the mountains.

People driving across bridges in Leeds and Turner deserve safety as they cross a seventy year old bridge that is narrow and unsafe.

We will restore these projects.

The highway projects that we will restore are not only critical to safety, but will also be critical to economic development in Maine communities.

The projects that will be built are the backbone of Maine business and industry. Together we will restore a highway project on Route 1 in Thomaston and Rockland that is the lifeblood of tourism and commercial development in the midcoast.

Together we will restore projects in Monmouth and Lisbon that serve commuters and businesses on the outskirts of Lewiston. Together we will restore bridge projects in Milbridge that continue the goal of full reconstruction of coastal US Route 1 in Washington County.

Let me talk for a minute about Maine's recent record on investment.

\*As a state, we have authorized significantly less general obligation debt this biennium than at any time in recent history.

Our state debt per capita, even when adjusted for income remains well below the New England and national averages.

Our debt to revenue ratio remains far below the conservative 5% guideline.

By every measure we have the fiscal capacity to invest in Maine...and we have the leadership obligation to invest in our future.

The bipartisan working group estimates that the deferred projects would support between one thousand and twenty-five hundred jobs.

According to the Federal Highway Administration, each million dollars in highway spending supports about 31 jobs. A 25 million dollar investment will support more than 700 well paying jobs that support working Maine families.

We can not delay, we must move forward. It's the right thing to do for Maine people.

## State Seeks New Buyer for Georgia-Pacific Mill in Old Town

March 16, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci and Economic and Community Development Commissioner Jack Cashman were joined by Georgia-Pacific officials this morning to announce a joint effort to sell the mill in Old Town.

Georgia-Pacific Vice-President Ted Sapoznik says the company is actively working with the state to find a new buyer. Governor John E. Baldacci said: “While the Old Town mill may not fit into future plans for GP we have been working to make a transition. We are anticipating finding a buyer who is ready to work with us and expand this business in Old Town. I know these are uncertain times for employees who have counted on these jobs but let me make it clear we will leave no stone unturned in finding a new buyer. I am aware how much these jobs mean in this community and we are committed to helping out the employees.”

Commissioner Jack Cashman said, “I am confident we can sell this mill. I have already talked with interested parties. There are a number of business owners who see this facility as a real opportunity.”

Georgia-Pacific began notifying employees Thursday morning.

DECD Commissioner Jack Cashman will meet with potential buyers on Friday and interested parties will begin viewing the mill next week.

## Governor Baldacci Announces Assistance from FAME to Maine Businesses Impacted by Lack of Snow

March 16, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – Governor Baldacci announced this afternoon that FAME will help assist some Maine businesses that were impacted by the lack of snowfall this winter. The Governor made the announcement during a cabinet room press conference on Thursday afternoon.

At their monthly board meeting Thursday morning, the Board of Directors of The Finance Authority of Maine voted to go forward with a program to help businesses that have been impacted by this season's lack of snowfall. FAME is offering below market rate loans for working capital purposes to those Maine businesses from heavily snow dependent regions that have seen a loss of business this winter.

In announcing this special assistance, Governor John Baldacci said, "When business from Greenville and Millinocket asked for help, I asked FAME to step to the plate with new tools. I appreciate FAME's leadership responding quickly to the needs of small businesses and tourism in rural Maine. Let there be no doubt that Maine's tourism industry is strong, and thanks to FAME we will make it even stronger."

FAME is reducing its interest rate from 9.5% to 5.5% (current Prime Rate minus 2%) on one-year Economic Recovery Loans of \$75,000 or less. The assistance will provide these businesses access to capital necessary to get through this difficult season and provide sufficient time for the business to determine the full impact of the current situation and plan for the future. Eligible businesses must demonstrate a direct impact from this season's unusually low snowfall levels. Understanding how low snowfall has affected these regions; borrowers will be allowed to make interest only payments for one year to minimize the impact on the cash flow.

FAME CEO John Witherspoon said, "This one year time frame will give borrowers time to work with FAME and their own financial institutions to develop longer range solutions."

Interested parties should contact FAME at (800) 228-3734 or visit their website at [www.famemaine.com](http://www.famemaine.com).

## Governor Praises Bill to Divest from Sudan

March 17, 2006

Contact: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci today praised the Senate's adoption on first reading of LD 1758, "An Act to Require the Maine State Retirement System To Divest itself of Certain Holdings." The bill, if enacted, would direct the Maine State Retirement System to divest its holdings from companies that do business in the Darfur region of Sudan.

The Governor praised Senator Ethan Strimling, the sponsor of the bill, and said he hopes that the full Legislature will stand strongly behind the legislation.

"I hope to see the bill on my desk in the very near future," said the Governor. "It can represent a principled and humane action repudiating the atrocities occurring in Sudan today. Maine is home to many people who once lived in that region, but have had to flee in fear for their lives. What's happening in Sudan is not just a story of people in a far distant land, it is about our neighbors."

The Governor noted that many U.S. public investment entities have moved toward divestiture and evaluations business ties to Sudan.

"Some may ask, why are you asking us, the state of Maine, to deal with an issue that affects people over 10,000 miles away when we have so many problems here at home?" said Senator Strimling. "Well, beyond the fact that genocide must be confronted from every corner possible, I introduced this bill because it is our Maine residents who are losing their loved ones every day."

Governor Baldacci added, "The genocide occurring in Sudan is one of the great human rights tragedies in history. We should act now and be part of the efforts to end the atrocities taking place in Darfur."

## Governor Baldacci Congratulates Maine's First LEED Certified Building

March 20, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – Governor Baldacci visited the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf this morning.

The school is the home of Maine's first "Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design," or LEED certified building, Brewster Hall. Buildings that are LEED certified reduce energy bills, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote use of recycled and sustainable building materials and therefore will provide building occupants with healthier work standards.

Governor Baldacci presented an award commemorating the event this morning in a room with about 40 students and faculty members attending.

"Just like you recycle your soda cans and bottles at home," Governor Baldacci explained to the students, "the workers that were building the buildings here recycled some of the waste instead of just throwing it away."

Following the speech and award presentation, Governor Baldacci took a tour of the building with faculty members. Brewster Hall at The Governor Baxter School for the Deaf is the first Maine building that is LEED certified. Governor Baldacci has also noted that the state is moving forward with renovations of the AMHI buildings in Augusta that will incorporate LEED standards.

## Dirigo Health Named a Top 50 Government Innovation for 2006

March 22, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci today announced that Dirigo Health - Maine's landmark health care reform addressing affordability, accessibility and quality of health care for Maine citizens – has been named one of the Top 50 Government Innovations for 2006. The honor, bestowed by the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government – in partnership with the Council for Excellence in Government - recognizes the comprehensive Dirigo Health program's reach and effectiveness.

"I am pleased that Dirigo Health has earned the acclaim of the prestigious Ash Institute and has again been recognized as a national model for health reform," said Governor Baldacci. "Dirigo is providing Maine people access to affordable, available, high quality health care, and this reform effort will continue to evolve to better meet the needs of Maine people.

"This honor is also a testament to the collaborative effort that made Dirigo Health Reform possible – from the stakeholders who sat at the table to bring together the legislation, to the volunteers serving on the Dirigo Health Agency Board of Directors, to the numerous advisory councils and groups. All this work was critical to achieve Dirigo, to implement Dirigo, and to continuously improve Dirigo."

The Ash Institute and CEG, in the announcement of the Top 50 Government Innovations for 2006, named Dirigo Health among "the most innovative, creative and results-oriented efforts in American government today." Being chosen for this distinction, Dirigo and the other programs cited "are making a real and significant difference in the lives of countless Americans." The innovations are selected from local, county, state, federal and tribal levels of government.

Dirigo Health is saving money and costs are being controlled. Thousands of Maine people have insurance, and \$43.7 million of savings has been achieved in the Maine health care system. Maine is one of only seven states in the nation that has seen a decrease in the number of uninsured. Maine's health ranking improved from 10th to 8th in the nation in just one year.

Governor Baldacci stressed the importance of continuing Dirigo Health's mission. "Ultimately, health care is a matter of fairness. Quality health care must be available to everyone in Maine," said the Governor. "We must continue to expand Dirigo so that more Maine working families have health insurance coverage."

Governor Baldacci noted that one of the key facets of Dirigo is and will continue to be its ability to grow and adapt. Earlier this week, the Insurance and Financial Services Committee heard LD 1845, which increases the ability of Dirigo to expand health coverage.

"More needs to be done," said the Governor. "We need to continue our work with providers to make our health care system even more efficient, to find savings and to return those savings to hard working Maine families and businesses. I am committed to the goal of coverage for all Maine people."



## Governor's Statement on the Funeral of Sergeant Dan

March 24, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci urged calm today as the State mourns the loss of Army Sergeant Corey A. Dan, whose funeral will be held tomorrow in South Paris.

Saying he was responding to an outpouring of phone calls and e-mails his office received regarding the Westboro Baptist Church's planned protest during the services, the Governor assured the people of Maine, "The State has taken the necessary precautions to provide Sgt. Dan's family with a safe, secure, dignified funeral."

The Governor has directed State Police to coordinate with local law enforcement to provide security at the funeral. "This effort aims to provide security and dignity for the family of Sergeant Dan."

"Make no mistake," said Governor Baldacci, "the Westboro Baptist Church's planned actions at this time of grief are reprehensible. I am asking Maine citizens to remember that we only serve the protesters' offensive and despicable cause if we become involved with confrontation with any of their members. It is unfortunate that the protesters do not understand the Maine Way, which is to treat each other with respect and dignity."

In remembrance and honor of Army Sergeant Corey A. Dan, Governor John E. Baldacci has directed that the United States flag and the State of Maine flag be flown at half staff from sunrise to sunset tomorrow, March 25, 2006.

## Governor Recognizes Wilton Company's Expansion

March 24, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci today congratulated the owners and employees of Nichols Trailers of Wilton for their expansion plans. Nichols Trailers, a 45 year old company that manufactures custom built trailers, has been awarded a federal Department of Defense contract. The \$3 million contract is for the manufacturing of 216 fuel trailers that will attach to military tanks.

“This contract is wonderful news for the company and community,” said Governor Baldacci. “The immediate hiring of 10 to 12 new employees is a boost to the area economy, and there is promising potential for additional growth.”

According to Nichols Trailers’ officials, the Department of Defense contract may result in \$13 million total over two years. The trailers will be built at the old Bass Shoe factory in Wilton.

The Finance Authority of Maine and the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development have been working with Nichols Trailers for years, poised for the expansion.

“Gil Reed bought the Bass building with a vision,” said Governor Baldacci. “His vision is becoming a reality. I congratulate Gil and this quality Maine company for their achievement. This good news shows us again that Maine people and businesses can and do compete strongly in this global 21st Century Economy.”

## Governor Baldacci Congratulates Three Maine Counties on National Recognition

March 28, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci congratulates Lincoln County, Knox County and Hancock County for making the Progressive Farmer list of the Top 200 Best Places to live in rural America.

Lincoln County was ranked 49th, with Knox County 105th and Hancock County at 196th place.

“Maine is a beautiful, safe state to live and raise a family,” said Governor Baldacci. “Congratulations to Lincoln, Knox and Hancock Counties for being recognized as leaders when it comes to finding a place to live.”

Lincoln County is one of only six New England counties recognized in the top 50.

In other good news for Maine, Morgan Quitno Press has named the Pine Tree State as the 4th healthiest state in the country and the 2nd safest state for 2006.

“Maine leads in many different areas and I’m proud to congratulate the people and public servants of this state for the positive recognition that we receive on a daily basis,” said Governor Baldacci.

Morgan Quitno Press is a state and city ranking publication located in Lawrence, Kansas. The company specializes in reference books that compare states and cities in several different subject areas.

## Governor Baldacci Congratulates University of Maine on EPSCoR Grant

March 28, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci congratulated the University of Maine this morning for being awarded a \$6.9 million research infrastructure improvement grant from the National Science Foundation's Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research.

The grant will not only add educational opportunities for students, but will create immediate openings for roughly 45 people, including three new faculty members to be recruited to the University of Maine.

"The university benefits from this collaboration, creating new research and educational opportunities for faculty and students," said Governor Baldacci.

The University of Maine's 50 percent match through the Maine Economic Improvement Fund, the state's appropriation for university research and development, brings the total investment to \$10.35 million.

"Land owners will benefit from increased demand for their product and a new market for low- and poor-quality trees," said Governor Baldacci.

Governor Baldacci also highlighted the importance this grant will have on the mills, keeping high paying jobs in tact for years to come, saying, "It helps...by adding new, higher-valued product lines while preserving their current operations."

## Governor Conducts Teacher Forums

March 29, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci completed his first of four teacher forums, engaging educators in the issues impacting the preparation of Maine's future workforce. Conducted with teachers from K-12 and post-secondary education, and sponsored by the Maine Education Association, the Governor and Education Commissioner Susan Gendron met with more than fifty teachers on Monday evening.

"Nothing is more important than preparing our children for the future," said Governor Baldacci. "It's vital that I get outside the State House to discuss the issues important to you, our valued educators. As the State continues to cover more of the costs of local education, we have more responsibility to ensure that the foundation is laid for each student to learn at his or her highest potential."

Topics covered at the Auburn event included the Governor's proposal to raise the minimum starting teacher pay, suspending local assessments, revising Learning Results, funding for higher education, and ways to continue to obtain feedback from teachers as the State continues to refine education policies.

The schedule for the three remaining teacher forums is as follows:

Portland - Tuesday, April 4, 4:30 – 6:30 pm – Keeley The Katerer – 178 Warren Avenue

Presque Isle – Monday, April 10, 4:30 – 6:30 pm – Allagash Room, Culinary Arts Building, University of Maine at Presque Isle

Brewer – Wednesday, April 12, 4:30 – 6:30 pm – Jeff's Catering, 15 Littlefield Way

## Governor Baldacci Proclaims Today Maine Tradeswomen's Day

March 29, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci proclaimed today Maine Tradeswomen's Day throughout the State of Maine. The Governor signed the proclamation this morning during a ceremony in the Hall of Flags in front of roughly 45 people.

"Thanks to all of you for what you're doing," remarked Governor Baldacci. "You're passing your trade on to others."

The Governor's proclamation states that women comprise 51% of Maine's population and 47.6% of the state's workforce, a number that is increasing with time. The proclamation also points out that the Maine Department of Labor and Department of Transportation have both actively supported the employment and training of tradeswomen. Commissioner of the Department of Transportation, David Cole; and Commissioner of the Department of Labor, Laura Fortman; were both on hand for the ceremony.

Maine tradeswomen worked on the Casco Bay Bridge Project for a total of 9.4% of the total hours, exceeding the federal goal of 6.9% participation by women and minorities. As a result of this, the Casco Bay Bridge project is recognized as a national model for the participation of tradeswomen on a public road and highway construction project. Governor Baldacci included those figures in his proclamation as well.

Governor Baldacci also presented Ricky Fleming of Brewer High School and United Technology Center in Bangor with a special award. Fleming entered a statewide co-ed ad competition and was chosen as the winner for his work on logo design. Fleming was presented with a tool belt from the Governor and from Valerie Pratt of UTC during the ceremony.

## Governor Baldacci's Supplemental Budget Passes with Ease

March 29, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – Governor Baldacci's supplemental budget passed with strong bipartisan support today in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Governor Baldacci joined bipartisan leadership from the House and the Senate in the Cabinet Room this afternoon, announcing this achievement.

"I commend Leadership and the members of the Appropriations Committee for their diligence and determination in crafting this final product, which meets the needs of Maine people, continues vital investments to increase economic opportunities for our citizens, and maintains fiscal responsibility," said Governor Baldacci.

The 2006-2007 supplemental budget includes \$48 million in additional aid to education programs; more than \$75 million in funding for vital health care services; \$16.9 million for hospital settlement funds to pay off previous debts; \$29 million to state reserves creating a \$100 million total in the Rainy Day Fund; and \$15 million for improvements to Maine's transportation infrastructure.

The budget passed on a 131-8 vote in the House and a 34-1 vote in the Senate.

"It's rare indeed to have a budget pass this swiftly and with such strong bi-partisan support," said the Governor. "But it's a testament to what can occur in Maine when the good of the people is goal number one."

The Governor's supplemental budget went through a round of compromises in the Appropriations Committee before being passed on to the House of Representatives.

"This budget is a true compromise," said Governor Baldacci. "We have again met our obligation to the People of Maine: investing in the economy, education and health care; strengthening our communities; balancing Maine's budget; saving money for the State's rainy day fund; streamlining State Government; and improving government services."

## Governor Baldacci Speaks to Bangor Breakfast Kiwanis

March 30, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

BANGOR – Governor Baldacci spoke to a group of Kiwanis members in Bangor this morning, outlining his plans for jobs, healthcare and education.

The Governor spoke to the crowd of roughly 40 Kiwanis members for approximately 20 minutes.

Governor Baldacci gave a brief update on the status of the Old Town mill, telling the crowd that eight potential buyers have toured the mill thus far, with another going through tomorrow.

“When people are working, their families are secure,” said the Governor. “And that makes a lot of other problems go away.”

Governor Baldacci also spoke of the budget that was passed yesterday, and some of its highlights.

“When I took office, there had been no hospital payments since 1993. Now, with the passing of yesterday’s budget, we are paid up through half of 2004,” said Governor Baldacci. “We still have work to do, but that’s a lot better than 13 years of back debt.”

Governor Baldacci continued with healthcare, talking briefly about his Dirigo Health program, saying, “Maine tackles these problems. We’re not just sweeping them under the carpet, and we don’t take no for an answer.”

Taking time to congratulate the University of Maine hockey team, Governor Baldacci noted that the Black Bears’ appearance in the Frozen Four is something that gives the entire state a “shot in the arm,” boosting everyone’s motivation.



## Governor Baldacci Attends Celebration for Cesar Chavez

March 30, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – Governor Baldacci joined Representative Larry Bliss, Representative Ross Paradis and others this afternoon honoring the late Cesar Chavez.

Cesar Chavez was a Mexican-American farm worker, labor leader and activist who founded what eventually became the United Farm Workers. Cesar Chavez passed away in 1993, and would have turned 79 years old tomorrow.

“His values, words and actions continue to serve as a guide to effective participation in public life,” said Governor Baldacci.

The 3rd Annual celebration drew a crowd of roughly 50 people to the Welcome Center in the State House Thursday afternoon, including the Mexican Consul General de Boston, Porfirio T. Munoz Ledo; Juan Perez from the Maine Department of Labor; John Connors, President of the LULAC Council 31000; and Doctor Gabriela D. Lemus, LULAC's National Director of Policy and Legislation.

“As Governor, I am proud that so many people in State Service are here and many are being recognized,” said Governor Baldacci.

12 awards of recognition were handed out at the ceremony to people from various areas of the state.

## Governor Baldacci Helps Honor Kay Lebowitz and Troop Greeters

March 30, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci joined Kay Lebowitz of Bangor on a radio program Thursday morning at Bangor International Airport.

“The Mike and Mike Show” of Kiss 94.5 was doing a live broadcast from BIA to honor Lebowitz for her years of public service including the past several years as a troop greeter. Governor Baldacci was on hand to congratulate her personally.

“Bangor International Airport has received national recognition as a result of troop greeters like Kay being here all hours of the night to honor our soldiers,” said Governor Baldacci. “Congratulations to Kay for having her trademark sunglasses retired.”

“The Mike and Mike Show” planned to retire Kay’s sunglasses and shoes to the troop greeter display at the airport as a part of the celebration.

Governor Baldacci also proclaimed March 30, 2006 as Kay Lebowitz Day throughout the State of Maine during the broadcast, congratulating her on celebrating her 90th birthday a couple of years ago and for being so involved and active as a troop greeter.

## Governor Nominates Brenda Harvey to Lead Department of Health and Human Services

March 31, 2006

AUGUSTA -- Governor John E. Baldacci today nominated Brenda Harvey to be Commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

"Brenda has demonstrated a high level of commitment to improving the services and financial accountability of this department," said Governor Baldacci. "She has been instrumental in promoting the voice of consumers and providers throughout the complex process of organizational transformation. Her leadership has promoted a cooperative model focusing department goals on the whole needs of the person and the family. I am pleased to nominate Brenda so that she can continue to move DHHS in the right direction."

Harvey currently serves as Acting Commissioner of the department. Once confirmed, in her capacity as Commissioner, Harvey will oversee the continued implementation of major structural and financial reorganization, resulting in better service and financial accountability for health and human service functions of the State of Maine.

Harvey was named Acting Commissioner for the Department of Human Services in January of this year. Prior to this experience, she served as the Deputy Commissioner for Integrated Services at the department, and had served as Acting Commissioner of the Department of Behavioral and Developmental Services. Before working for the State, Harvey had worked as a manager at Maine Medical Center for twelve years.

Harvey earned a B.A. in sociology and social work from the University of Maine Orono and a M.S. Ed. in rehabilitation counseling from the University of Southern Maine. She is also a certified rehabilitation counselor.

"My goal is to continue to build a system of health and human services that is cost effective, of the highest quality and responsive to the needs of Maine people," said Governor Baldacci. "I know there are challenges ahead at DHHS and I am confident Brenda Harvey is the person to lead us through these challenges and ensure that together we continue on the path of creating a culture of quality, performance and responsiveness."

## Governor Baldacci Proclaims “Peace Corps Month” in Maine

March 31, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci declared the month of March “Peace Corps Month” throughout Maine this morning. In honor of the celebration, the Governor called Jaye Gilmore.

Gilmore is from Maine and is serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Thailand.

“You’re our ambassador to the world,” Governor Baldacci told Gilmore from the Governor’s Office. “I want you to know how proud we are of you.”

Governor Baldacci was joined by Gilmore’s mother, Jocelyn Perry, as well as roughly 14 other Maine Returned Peace Corps Volunteers.

“Maine must have something in the air or the water,” said the Governor. “Mainers have this desire to help out in any way possible all over the world.”

## Governor Unveils State Health Plan

April 3, 2006

AUGUSTA - Kicking off National Public Health Week, Governor John Baldacci today released the first biennial State Health Plan. The State Health Plan reaffirms the importance of Dirigo Health Reform's comprehensive reach to reduce costs, improve quality and increase access for all Maine citizens.

"The State Health Plan is our roadmap for making Maine the healthiest state in the nation," said the Governor. "It calls upon each of us -- individuals, families, communities, business, government, and health care providers and professionals -- to work together to make sure we reduce the need for costly health care whenever possible and make sure all of us have the healthiest and happiest future possible.

"The plan is an integral part of Dirigo health reform and includes the tasks we all need to work on to reduce costs, improve quality, and achieve universal access. Health reform is more than providing an insurance card. To truly restrain the cost of health care and keep our premiums affordable means we need to do a better job in all areas of health care. The sobering fact is that 40 percent of our premium increase is due to four diseases that are largely preventable."

In presenting the final State Health Plan, Governor Baldacci noted that it has been developed over the last year through community forums, a listening tour, public hearings and input from volunteers across the State.

The plan lays out an ambitious agenda that includes:

- Creation of a more organized system to deliver prevention and public health building on strong bonds with community coalitions operating across the state, neighborhoods and towns.
- Seeks innovations in telemedicine to assure our most rural citizens have access to a full array of health care choices and that the system of care reaches every part of Maine and strengthens rural health capacity. A rural health workgroup will be appointed to assure this goal is met.
- Seeks a culture of health in the state asking each citizen to sign a "Be Fit for Maine" contract taking appropriate steps to move closer to better health.
- Establishes a "Wellness Star" program through the Maine Quality Forum to recognize business innovation in keeping employees healthy and assure that best practices are shared with other businesses.
- The Maine Quality Forum will launch a new initiative statewide to improve the treatment of heart attacks.
- Improve services to people with mental illness by better integrating primary care and behavioral health services and by establishing policies for depression screening to assure early detection and treatment.

"This State Health Plan is not a document to sit on a shelf. It was crafted with extraordinary input from citizens across the State and reflects the guidance of our Advisory Council on Health Systems Development who will report on our progress in meeting goals throughout the year," said Governor Baldacci.

The Plan also calls for the creation of a Health Policy Leadership Forum representing business, insurers, providers, consumers and government to assure an on-going dialogue about how best to make Maine the healthiest state and achieve universal access.

According to Trish Riley, Director of the Governor's Office of Health Policy and Finance, the State Health Plan builds in accountability to assure it is a working document. "The Plan includes benchmarks identifying states that do better than Maine in the care and treatment of cancer, heart disease, diabetes and mental health. We've set forth long and short-range goals in the plan and the Advisory Council on Health Systems Development will report regularly to the Governor, the Joint Committee on Health and Human Services and the public on our progress. Each year the Council will issue a status report to assess our progress. The initiatives in the State Health Plan will take time to achieve; however, as we have seen with our remarkable success in reducing the rate of tobacco use, when we work together in Maine, we can and will make Maine the healthiest state."

Copies of the State Health Plan's "Roadmap to Better Health" are available at [www.dirigohealth.maine.gov](http://www.dirigohealth.maine.gov)

## Governor Announces WIRED Grant at University of Maine

April 3, 2006

ORONO – Governor John Baldacci announced the state's \$15 million Workforce Innovation Regional Economic Development (WIRED) Grant this morning at the University of Maine.

The Governor was joined by University of Maine President, Robert Kennedy; the Director of the AEWCC Center, Habib Dagher; Chairman of Maine Built Boats, Steve Von Vogt; and the President of Harbor Technologies, Martin Grimnes.

The University of Maine will receive \$1.8 million from the grant, or roughly 12% of the grant's total. Governor Baldacci says that the grant shows the state's commitment to expanding Maine's research and development fields and to providing economic opportunities to all of Maine's residents.

"Boatbuilding is an industry that goes back to before we were organized as a state," said the Governor. "We are leaders in boatbuilding and composites and through innovation and research and development, we will continue to be."

The WIRED Grant is intended to benefit the University of Maine as well as business owners and boat builders throughout the state.

"This grant is a great opportunity from Jonesboro from Kittery," said Governor Baldacci. "It is funding for the future of Maine."

## Maine's State Tax Ranking Falls

April 3, 2006

AUGUSTA –Maine's state tax ranking fell in 2005 according to two independent sources: the U.S. Census Bureau and the Federation of Tax Administrators. According to the Census Bureau's 2005 Survey of State Government Tax Collections, Maine's state government collected \$2,323 in taxes per Maine resident during the 2005 fiscal year. This ranked Maine 19th among the 50 states.

In recent years, Maine's state tax ranking has steadily fallen. Maine ranked 14th in 2002, 15th in 2003, and 16th in 2004. Among the six New England states, Maine now ranks 5th lowest in per capita state government tax collections.

Using the new Census Bureau data, the Federation of Tax Administrators released its ranking of 2005 state tax burden.

Maine ranked 13th in state tax revenue as a percentage of personal income, down from 11th in 2004.

Both reports are based on fiscal year tax revenues collected by all 50 state governments. Taxes collected by local governments are not included.

The Census Bureau's 2005 Annual Survey of State Government Tax Collections is available at: <http://www.census.gov/govs/www/statetax05.html>.

The Federation of Tax Administrators' report is available at: <http://www.taxadmin.org/fta/rate/burden.html#tax>.



## Governor Baldacci Receives News on Federal Adjustment Assistance

April 3, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci received word today that three grants of assistance totaling more than \$1.24 million will be awarded as a result of the closing of Brunswick Naval Air Station.

The money is coming from the Department of Defense's Office of Economic Adjustment as a result of an grant applications submitted by Governor Baldacci's Office of Redevelopment, Re-Employment and Business Support, the Town of Brunswick and the Town of Topsham.

"There is a lot of work that needs to be done," said Governor Baldacci. "This money will give the communities of Brunswick, Topsham, and the State the resources to fully develop a responsible and comprehensive reuse plan in timely manner."

Brunswick was awarded \$856,132; Topsham was awarded \$185,445; and the State of Maine was awarded \$202,791. The state plans to use the money to staff the Governor's Office of Redevelopment, Re-Employment and Business Development. Brunswick and Topsham are using their money for staffing and consulting services for the Local Redevelopment Authority.

Governor Baldacci's Department of Economic and Community Development has also provided funding to Brunswick and Topsham to meet the 10% match required by this grant.

## Governor Baldacci on the passing of Dr. Patricia Ryan

April 4, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA –Governor John Baldacci commented this afternoon on the death of Dr. Patricia Ryan, president of York County Community College.

“Dr. Patricia Ryan was a woman of vision who worked tirelessly to create opportunities for Maine people,” said Governor Baldacci. “Her loss will be deeply felt.”

Dr. Ryan recently passed away after a battle with cancer.

Dr. Ryan was the president of York County Community College from 2002 – 2006. Prior to that, she was the president of Harcum College in Pennsylvania for 7 years.

Dr. Ryan had spearheaded efforts to fundraise for York County Community College’s nursing program. In the last budget, Governor Baldacci funded that program, which would have brought her vision full circle.

Dr. Patricia Ryan was 59 years old.

## Governor Baldacci Announces Small Business Grants

April 4, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci joined a Small Business Day Press Conference this afternoon to announce \$315,000 in Maine Microenterprise Initiative grants from the Department of Economic and Community Development.

“Maine continues to foster innovation and entrepreneurship and support small business development,” said Governor Baldacci just prior to announcing the grants.

\$159,550 is going to the Maine Small Business Development Centers; \$75,000 is going to the Maine Centers for Women, Work and Community; \$34,500 is going to Waterville Main Street; and \$45,950 is going to the Sunrise County Economic Council.

The grants will be used to provide business skills training, coaching and peer-to-peer learning opportunities to Maine’s microenterprise community.

“Small businesses are vital to Maine’s economic health and job growth,” said the Governor. “As a small businessman myself, I can tell you that promoting small businesses is a high priority of my administration.”

Governor Baldacci was joined at the press conference by Speaker of the House John Richardson; Senate President Beth Edmonds; various other state representatives and senators; Eloise Vitelli of Women, Work and Communities; and the SBA Small Businessperson of the Year, Susan Giguere.

## Governor Baldacci Proclaims Today Equal Pay Day

April 4, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci has proclaimed April 4, 2006 as “Equal Pay Day” throughout the state of Maine.

Governor Baldacci spoke at the ceremony at the Blaine House, saying, “There is a persistent gender wage gap and we feel very strongly about this issue as a state.”

Before Governor Baldacci presented the proclamation, it was announced that 32 wage clubs have been formed throughout the state. Lewiston and Portland’s YWCA have started nine wage clubs since December alone.

Governor Baldacci fondly recalled moments of when his mother operated the family restaurant, saying, “She told us, ‘The name of the restaurant will always be Momma Baldacci’s...no matter how far you go in your political career.’”

First Lady Karen Baldacci and former Deputy Governor of Massachusetts, Evelyn Murphy also spoke during this morning’s ceremony.

## Governor Says Seniors Won't be Abandoned

April 4, 2006

Contact: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA –Governor John E. Baldacci says he won't allow Maine's seniors and disabled who are dependent on Medicare part D to fall through the cracks. In anticipation of the most recent Medicare waiver extension request being denied, the Governor said the state will maintain the safety net used by thousands of Maine's seniors and disabled for prescription drugs. The governor has asked Special Assistant Jude Walsh to convene a task force group to assess what options are available to the state.

The federal Medicare part D prescription drug program was implemented January 1, 2006 and within hours it was clear thousands of people were not enrolled in the proper programs to get the drugs or subsidies that they needed. The state asked for an extension which was granted through March 30th in which the federal government agreed to reimburse the state for its costs in enrolling people in the Medicare part D program. Walsh says some 500 calls a day come in from seniors and disabled people who can't get their claims processed. The Governor said:" We will once again take care of our people in this state and ensure that every senior and disabled person receives the medication they need. While the federal government may not be looking out for the people of Maine, we are."

The Governor's Task Force will hold its first work session Friday at 1:00 in the Cabinet Room.

## Governor Baldacci Presents Lifetime Achievement Award to Father John Civiello

April 5, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci spoke this morning at the 4th Annual Remember ME Ceremony in the Hall of Flags. The Governor was introduced by the man who presented him with his First Communion – Father John Civiello.

“He was a bright little guy,” recalled Father Civiello of the Governor. “I used to go out and shoot baskets with Governor Baldacci and he wanted to take a bite out of the rim, but he was having trouble getting to the rim.”

Father Civiello also took time to thank the Governor at the ceremony, put on by the Maine Health Care Association.

“Without his compassion and care, people in this state would be hurting,” said Father Civiello. “I want to take this opportunity to thank Governor Baldacci for his compassion.”

Governor Baldacci gave a biography of Father Civeillo to the crowd of over 150 seniors, and presented him with a Lifetime Achievement Award from Remember ME. Governor Baldacci also addressed the crowd, promising to continue his assistance with the federally implemented Medicare Part D.

“I want to assure you that we are going to continue the safety net of Medicare Part D, despite what is going on in Washington,” said Governor Baldacci.

“I used to do the Medicare forms for my grandmother and I’d get frustrated filling them out,” recalled the Governor. “She’d say, ‘Don’t get frustrated. Someday you’ll get old and you’ll need help filling them out too.’”

Governor Baldacci continued, saying, “Our commitment is to stand together, to work together and to look out for everyone’s interests.”

Governor Baldacci continued his morning at the award ceremony, handing out awards to another dozen or so recipients.

## Governor Baldacci Honors Five Businesses with Governor's Award for Business Excellence

April 5, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci attended the 55th Annual Colby Institute for Leadership this afternoon at Colby College in Waterville.

Governor Baldacci spoke to the crowd of roughly 175 small business owners and employees for about fifteen minutes. The Governor first spoke of his work on Connect ME.

“You want to make sure that you can connect with everyone all over the world from right here in Maine, the best place on earth.”

Governor Baldacci continued speaking specifically on the theme of the day – the creative economy.

“They recognize that we have a creative talent pool in our region,” said the Governor. “The creative talent pool is higher in Maine and New England than anywhere else in the country.”

Governor Baldacci outlined many of the creative economy-specific items in the supplemental budget, which was passed last week and ceremonially signed this afternoon, throughout his speech. The Governor noted the “Maine Attraction” film incentive program which attracts film productions to Maine; projects that are going on in the mid-coast, Brewer and Augusta to rehabilitate downtowns, old mills and old factories; another \$400,000 to the New Centuries Communities Program, which are community-based grants for museums, artists, historic preservation and libraries; and the support for the modernization of the Maine Center for the Arts in Orono.

Governor Baldacci also congratulated and handed out awards to the five winners of the Governor's Awards for Business Excellence. The winners are G&E Roofing of Augusta; Good Shepherd Food Bank of Auburn; Lincolnville Telephone Company; Mercy Hospital of Portland and Couleur Collection of Falmouth.

“The Governor's Awards for Business Excellence recognize Maine businesses for their extraordinary commitments to their employees, their communities and to manufacturing and/or customer service excellence,” said Governor Baldacci.

## Wisconsin and Maine Governors Announce Friendly Wager on Badgers-Black Bears Frozen Four Semifinal Hockey Game

April 5, 2006

Contact: Anne Lupardus, Governor Doyle's Office, 608-261-2162

Crystal Canney, Governor Baldacci's Office, 207-287-5086

Governor Doyle Wagers Award-Winning Cheese Against Governor Baldacci's Maine Lobster

MADISON and AUGUSTA – Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle and Maine Governor John Baldacci today made a friendly wager on Thursday's NCAA Men's Hockey semifinal showdown between the Wisconsin Badgers and the Maine Black Bears at the Bradley Center in Milwaukee.

"Wisconsin is once again at the pinnacle of college hockey," Governor Doyle said. "Governor Baldacci can count on Maine being the fourth straight shut out for the Badgers. Our boys are too quick and too tough, and Brian Elliot is simply impenetrable in goal."

"The Badgers have been absent from the Frozen Four for too long, and won't handle the pressure we'll be bringing," Governor Baldacci said. "The Maine Black Bears and their coach represent all that is good about Maine."

Riding on Thursday's game is Wisconsin Farmers Union Gorgonzola Cheese, judged the world's best Gorgonzola at the 2006 World Championship Cheese Contest. Governor Baldacci brings to the table fresh Atlantic lobsters, considered the best in the world according to shellfish rating scales used by gourmet chefs and seafood buyers, as well as a gallon of Maine milk.

"Wisconsin cheese is unbeatable," Governor Doyle said. "Unfortunately for Governor Baldacci, so is Wisconsin hockey. I can already taste that lobster."

"I am willing to wager four of the freshest, finest Atlantic Lobsters and a gallon of wholesome Maine milk," Governor Baldacci said. "However, I think I will be enjoying some Wisconsin cheese very soon."

After a win over Minnesota for third place in the WCHA tournament, the Wisconsin Badgers haven't given up a goal in three straight games, including a triple overtime win over Cornell in the Midwest Regional final. The Badgers finished 28-10-3 overall and 17-8-3 in the WCHA, and are currently ranked first in the USA Today/USA Hockey Magazine, second in the final USCHO/CSTV poll. This is the first trip to the Frozen Four since 1992 for the two-time national champions.



## Governor Confirms Loss of Active Duty Soldier in Iraq

April 7, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci this afternoon confirmed that a member of the 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, Fort Wainwright, Alaska of the U.S. Army died yesterday in Bayji, Iraq. The notification of the family was completed last evening.

Specialist Dustin James Harris was killed on Thursday from an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) while on patrol.

Specialist Harris is from Patten, Maine.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with Specialist Harris’ family during this difficult time,” said Governor Baldacci. “Dustin served his state and his nation honorably and all of Maine mourns his loss.”

Flags will be ordered to be flown at half-staff on the day of Specialist Harris’ funeral.

No further information is available at this time.

## Governor Baldacci Welcomes Science Wiz Kids – and Robots - to Augusta

April 7, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci welcomed students from South Portland and Belfast to the Hall of Flags Friday morning. The students were in town to show off their robot creations.

Governor Baldacci started things off with students from South Portland High School's Riot Crew. The team is part of the national FIRST competition. Along with the students came their robot, "Sir Launch-A-Lot." The robot is designed to gather nerf balls from the ground and then shoot them at a target. Governor Baldacci was greeted in his office this morning by the robot. He then directed the robot to the Hall of Flags by use of a joystick.

"For the first time in almost four years, I got to drive a vehicle this morning," quipped the Governor.

Governor Baldacci then witnessed a display by the Belfast LOGO Lions – a Maine Robotics elementary/middle school team. The team put on a display for Governor Baldacci to witness, having a pre-programmed robot perform a series of tasks for points. The students will be competing against other schools in a competition in Georgia later this month.

Governor Baldacci spoke to the students, stressing the importance of studying math and science.

"I know from experience that we tend to shy away from math and science... some of us get into politics," said Governor Baldacci. "You need math to balance the books and science is important to the future of all of our industries."

State Representative Jane Eberle of South Portland put the visit together, and was on hand this morning. Representative Walter Ash of Belfast was also on hand.

## Governor Baldacci Signs First in the Nation Legislation to Protect Homeless

April 6, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci has signed landmark legislation which adds protections for homeless people who are attacked.

LD 2046 will ensure attacks on the homeless are prosecuted just as severely as attacks on people because of their age, race or sexual orientation. The Governor signed the bill into law at the Preble Street Resource Center in Portland this morning.

The Governor said: “We in Maine need to make sure that all of Maine’s citizens who are homeless are not living in fear on the streets. I am signing this legislation and once again putting Maine on the map as a leader.”

The Governor also noted the progress the Preble Street Resource Center has made in ending chronic homelessness. The Governor applauded the efforts of Preble Street and Avesta Housing who built 30 supportive housing units named Logan Place.

Since Logan Place opened, Preble Street Director Mark Swann says there have been fewer calls for Police and Fire services involving homeless people who now reside at Logan Place. Governor Baldacci noted: “Ending chronic homelessness through supportive housing is cost effective, but more importantly, it saves people’s lives and it changes people’s lives.”

## Governor Baldacci Speaks at Anthem Health Care Leadership Conference

April 6, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci led off a health care conference talking about his battles with weight as a young teen.

The Governor was asked to speak at the conference hosted by Anthem along with national leaders on the issues of childhood obesity. Governor Baldacci said: "I grew up around a restaurant and my grandmother used to love to pinch my cheeks but our favorite dish was clam sauce. Some people can eat all they want but I have always had to work at keeping my weight down and and I still work at it today. It didn't hurt that I married a dietician."

The Governor also spoke about the efforts his administration has made to encourage healthy lifestyles for children and adults. The Governor established the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Health, Sport and Wellness which is chaired by Joan Benoit Samuelson and Dr. Erik Steele. The Governor's Council on Fitness was just chosen as the most outstanding Governor's Council in the country and the Governor will receive that ward later this month.

## Governor Baldacci Speaks on the Importance of Adult Education

April 10, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – “Adult Education Day” was held today in the Hall of Flags at the State House in Augusta, and Governor Baldacci stopped in to say a few words.

“I don’t need remarks,” said the Governor as he put down his prepared speech. “I know the importance of adult education.”

Governor Baldacci spoke to the group of roughly 60 adult education teachers, students, graduates and supporters for about ten minutes, after meeting with several of them personally.

“I, myself, was a non-traditional student...I dropped out of college,” said Governor Baldacci. “Then I realized the importance of education. After working long hard hours in my family’s restaurant, I realized there might be other ways that I could serve people.”

The Governor continued to speak on the importance of education for all ages, saying, “I want to thank all of you who are graduates of adult education. You show a great amount of courage.”

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## Demand for Change Grows Nationally for Better High Schools

April 10, 2006

"Oprah" to Report on American Schools in Crisis on Tuesday, April 11 and Wednesday, April 12, 2006

Contact: Commissioner's Office, 624-6620

America is facing a crisis: Too many young people do not graduate from high school. Too many students graduate unprepared for college and work.

"The Oprah Winfrey Show" has an exclusive joint TV interview with Bill and Melinda Gates, founders and co-chairs of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The foundation has invested more than one billion dollars to support the creation of more than 1600 high-quality high schools. Next week, a new national campaign will be announced to build awareness and support for improvements in high schools so all students can graduate prepared for success.

"This week Maine is launching its own version of this national campaign, called the Maine Readiness Campaign," said Susan Gendron, Commissioner of the Maine Department of Education. "The national attention being given to the task of educating our students for the challenges of the 21st century couldn't come at a better time to support Maine's own efforts," she said.

Maine has been recognized as a leader in high school reform. In 2002, Maine received a \$10 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to support high school redesign. In 2005, through a competitive process the National Governor's Association selected Maine's proposal to build public support for high school reform. In addition, Maine was chosen by the Successful Schools Network to focus on rigor and relevance at the secondary level.

According to Gendron, only 37% of Maine adults have a college degree, compared with 46% in New England. Enrolling in a 2 or 4 year college program immediately after high school graduation is less common in Maine than in New England and workers in Maine without a college degree earn 43% less than their counterparts in the work force with a Bachelor's Degree.

"This week," Gendron said, "invitations to participate in the Maine Readiness Program are being mailed to every school board, superintendent, high school principal, and local education association in the State, as well as to community and business leaders in every municipality."

Commissioner Gendron noted that Governor Baldacci has provided leadership and commitment to preparing Maine's workforce for the jobs of the 21st Century. A key goal of the Governor has been to increase the rate of Maine people seeking higher education and workforce training opportunities. "Governor Baldacci understands that education is the foundation of success for Maine citizens," said Commissioner Gendron.

Governor Baldacci said, "In Maine we are building on our impressive high school graduation rate. The focus and resources of the Maine Readiness Campaign we will enable us to further expand

improvements to our high schools and ensure more Maine people have access to quality higher education in Maine.”

The Governor stated that Maine already leads the nation in investing education dollars in the classroom. The recently signed supplemental budget adds another \$42 million on top of school funding already appropriated for fiscal year 2007.

Additionally, the Community College System the Governor created three years ago continues to see increased enrollment. In the three years from the establishment of the Community College System, enrollment has increased 42%. Now, 11,000 students are attending community colleges in Maine. Since 2003, enrollment of students directly from high school to Community Colleges in Maine has jumped by 50%. Through the cooperation of the Community Colleges and University of Maine System, students can now move seamlessly from earning an Associate degree to earning a Bachelor degree.

“To really launch the Campaign,” Gendron announced, “we’ve scheduled three Student Forums to begin with the very people that the campaign is intended to benefit. The Forums will be on May 9, 10 and 11 in Bangor, Augusta and Portland and invitations to the forums are also being mailed to schools this week. I’m personally excited about starting the Campaign with students and learning directly from them what the barriers are to getting the skills they need to graduate ready and how to eliminate those barriers.”

The Maine Readiness Campaign is funded over two years with a \$719,500 grant from the National Governor’s Association, also sponsored by the Gates Foundation. That grant will be augmented with revenue from the Great Maine Schools Project at the Mitchell Institute and from donations raised from corporate and community sponsors. The Maine Readiness Campaign is a three-pronged strategy that will include a creative media campaign, a community leadership and engagement program with 50 Readiness Partnerships and a statewide engagement program with organizations that share the agenda that all students should graduate ready for college, career and citizenship. All three strategies are geared toward successfully supporting school and community collaborations that launch locally designed actions that support Maine’s high schools as they make the necessary changes to better prepare students for college, career and citizenship.

“The Department of Education and the Readiness Partners hope to engage with Maine’s young people and their future,” Gendron said, “doing so will prepare Maine for a brighter future.”



## Governor Preparing to Grow Maine's Boatbuilding Workforce

April 11, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

ARUNDEL – Governor Baldacci announced today that providing the workforce to strengthen Maine's 400-year-old boatbuilding industry and ensure its success in the global economy will be a main area of focus for a federal grant.

Governor Baldacci shared his plans for using funds from the \$15 million federal Workforce Innovation Regional Economic Development (WIRED) grant towards marine-related educational programs and employee training during his visit to The Landing School in Arundel.

"When I look at opportunities, I don't want pie in the sky mirages. I want something that will produce results," said Baldacci. "The WIRED grant will help expand the educational and training opportunities for those who pursue careers in marine trades and create high-quality jobs."

Maine's marine-related educational facilities include Maine Maritime Academy, the Marine Technology Center at Washington County Community College and The Landing School.

Governor Baldacci formed The North Star Alliance, which includes the Department of Labor, the Department of Economic and Community Development and the University of Maine. The alliance will oversee the administration of the WIRED grant with input from the boatbuilding, composite and marine industries. The purpose of the grant is to create jobs, strengthen the state's economy and ensure Maine maintains its competitive edge in the boatbuilding, composite and marine sectors. Maine was one of only 13 national regions in 12 states to receive the competitive WIRED grant, which is awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor.

The grant will target Maine's coastal region with special attention given to the Midcoast area in anticipation of the closure of the Brunswick Naval Air Station.

## Maine's Composites Industry Set to Benefit from WIRED Grant

April 11, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

BATH – Governor Baldacci announced today that Maine's composites industry will continue to grow with the help of federal support, and will be a vital component to the future of the state's economy.

Governor Baldacci shared his plans for earmarking a portion of the \$15 million federal Workforce Innovation Regional Economic Development (WIRED) grant for the composites industry during his visit to Custom Composite Technologies, Inc. (CCT), a high-tech composites manufacturer in Bath.

"My goal has always been to spread economic prosperity throughout the state of Maine," said Governor Baldacci. "The oldest industry in the state of Maine, before we were even organized, was boatbuilding."

Baldacci added that the WIRED grant also will support the state's focus on expanding its technology sector and research and development.

High-tech composites have become an integral part of the boatbuilding industry within the last 10 years, leading to lighter, faster and more durable boats. Maine boatbuilders have infused composite materials into traditional designs so that the end result is a classic boat made with modern technology.

CCT has been making custom-built, original high-tech composite parts for boatbuilding clients, including Hodgdon Yachts and Lyman Morse Boatbuilders, since 1999.

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The grant will target Maine's coastal region with special attention given to the Midcoast area in anticipation of the closure of the Brunswick Naval Air Station.

Maine's boatbuilding industry spans nearly 400 years and generates approximately \$650 million annually. Maine Built Boats (MBB), a partnership between state and federal governments to promote Maine's boatbuilding industry, plans to increase annual productivity to more than \$1 billion over the next 10 years. Nearly 450 companies make up Maine's boatbuilding industry, with products and services ranging from custom-made luxury yachts and workboats to interior design and navigational software. For more information on MBB, please visit [www.mainebuiltboats.com](http://www.mainebuiltboats.com).

## Governor Baldacci Signs Minimum Wage Bill

April 13, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci signed LD 235 this afternoon, giving everyone earning minimum wage a pay raise, effective in October of this year.

The bill, “An Act to Increase the Minimum Wage,” will raise Maine’s minimum wage to \$6.75 an hour in October of 2006, and \$7.00 an hour in October of 2007.

“Workers making minimum wage are not getting overpaid by any stretch of the imagination,” said the Governor. “Now, we are making it more of a livable wage.”

Governor Baldacci outlined his goal to increase the minimum wage during his State of the State Address in January. “Today, we have seen that goal come to fruition,” said the Governor as the legislators, supporters and advocates erupted in applause.

“While Governor Baldacci and the Legislature stood tall to see that workers are paid fairly for a fair days work, we still have work to do,” said House Speaker John Richardson (D-Brunswick). “The success and safety of Maine families remains our first priority, and guaranteeing fairness for all Maine workers is at the core of moving us in that direction.”

LD 235 was passed in the House and Senate on Tuesday and has been endorsed by the Governor from the beginning.

“Increasing every Mainer’s opportunity for a good paying job continues to be my number one priority,” said Governor Baldacci. “People are the most important resource in my economic plan.”

## Governor Baldacci Proclaims “TRiO Day” Throughout the State of Maine

April 13, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci issued a proclamation, naming April 13, 2006 as “TRiO Day” throughout the state of Maine.

According to the TRiO website, “TRiO Programs are educational opportunity outreach programs designed to motivate and support students from disadvantaged backgrounds. TRiO includes six outreach and support programs targeted to serve and assist low-income, first-generation college students, and students with disabilities to progress from middle school to post-baccalaureate programs.”

The proclamation was issued during a ceremony in the Hall of Flags, where the Governor was introduced by an Upward Bound Alum, Genet Gebrewahd. Gebrewahd spoke of the importance of TRiO to her while attending the University of Southern Maine.

“It is my pleasure to introduce to you someone who fully supports the TRiO Programs,” said Gebrewahd.

Governor Baldacci reiterated his support of the TRiO Programs, while speaking to the 40 some-odd students, teachers and supporters.

“When I was in Washington in 1994, they were going to eliminate the program,” said Governor Baldacci. “There is such a ripple benefit to this program.”

Governor Baldacci continued to show his support by proclaiming April 13, 2006 as “TRiO Day” throughout the state of Maine.

“TRiO serves and assists low-income, first-generation college students, and students with disabilities to progress through the academic pipeline,” read Governor Baldacci from the proclamation.

“Congratulations. This is your day in the state of Maine,” said the Governor.

## Governor Baldacci Ceremonially Signs LD 1758

April 18, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci did a ceremonial signing for LD 1758 this morning, An Act to Require the Maine State Retirement System To Divest Itself of Certain Holdings.

Governor Baldacci did the signing during a ceremony at Portland City Hall. Senator Ethan Strimling was on hand along with several representatives from the Sudanese population.

The bill requires the Maine State Retirement System to divest itself of any holdings in the nation of Sudan due to its extreme human rights violation. Darfur is the location of what one United Nations official characterized as "the worst humanitarian crisis in the world today." President Bush and Secretary General of the United Nations Kofi Annan have called the ethnic cleansing of the Fur, Masaleit, Zagawa and other tribal peoples of Darfur genocide. In an effort to oppose the government of Sudan's mass killings in Darfur, many states, universities and colleges have started the process of divesting from companies which do business with the government of Sudan. Maine is now one of eight states, including New Jersey, Delaware and California, as well as three colleges and universities, to take these actions.

The bill was passed in the House and Senate during the last week in March.

During the signing ceremony Governor Baldacci was presented with a plaque for his work on this bill.

"I thank you for this honor," said Governor Baldacci while looking at the plaque. "It's an honor for me to sign LD 1758 into law to continue to protect the citizens of this state."

## Governor Baldacci Announces Poet Laureate for State of Maine

April 19, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci announced Maine's new Poet Laureate at the Blaine House this morning.

Betsy Sholl of Portland takes the reigns from the outgoing Poet Laureate, Baron Wormser of Hallowell.

"Being the Poet Laureate for Maine means that you not only write poems for the state," said Governor Baldacci, "but also that you spread goodwill about poetry throughout the state to everyone...young and old."

Governor Baldacci has long supported the creative economy and took time during the announcement to comment.

"It is about people, and Maine has the best people," said Governor Baldacci. "We've begun to put those plans forward with our creative economy initiative, with our film incentive tax credit that we now have established."

Governor Baldacci also took time to recognize Riva Dumont of Erskine Academy. Dumont was on hand because she will represent Maine at the Poetry Out Loud Competition in Washington D.C. Dumont recited a poem for the group of approximately fifty poets and supporters of poetry that were at the announcement ceremony.

## Governor Baldacci Ceremonially Signs LD 637

April 19, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci had a ceremonial signing for LD 637 this afternoon in the Governor's Office.

The bill, An Act To Allow Qualified Health Centers To Obtain Telecommunications Education Access Funding, was passed in the House and Senate in late March.

The bill defines “qualified health center” and adds qualified health centers to the list of entities eligible to receive funding from the telecommunications access fund.

“This is a bill that continues to use technology to the benefit of Maine people,” said Governor Baldacci. “Rural areas exist throughout Maine and with the further use of technology people in those areas will not have to worry about a lack of accessible healthcare.”

The bill “deals with technology and medical care for the people who most need medical care in our state,” according to the Chair of the Utilities Committee, Representative Larry Bliss (D-South Portland).

Governor Baldacci did the ceremonial signing with representatives from the Maine Primary Care Association, DFD Russell Medical Center, and Katahdin Valley Health Center on hand.

## Maine Reverses Loss of Residents

April 20, 2006

AUGUSTA – Maine now gains more new residents than it losses according to a report by the US Census Bureau. From 2000 to 2004, the average number of people moving into Maine each year exceeded the number of Maine residents leaving. This is a reversal of the 1990's, when the number of Mainers leaving exceeded the number of people entering.

Governor Baldacci stated, "We've long known that Maine is an attractive place to live and work. The number of people moving here reinforces that fact. It shows that we're moving in the right direction. Preserving our quality of life while creating new opportunities for residents and businesses will ensure a healthy and vibrant future for Maine."

According the Census Bureau, Maine is one of only four states to turn an annual loss of residents during the 1990's into an annual gain in more recent years (the other states are Rhode Island, Maryland, and Wyoming).

The annual rate of migration into Maine during 2000-2004 exceeded that of all other New England states. From 2000 to 2004, Maine gained on average 6.3 net new residents per year for every 1,000 established residents (equivalent to 8,159 new residents annually).

New England as a whole lost residents during 2000-2004 and the 1990's. Most of the migration was out of Connecticut and Massachusetts.

The full Census Bureau report is available at: <http://www.census.gov/newonsite/>



## More Than \$4 Million Awarded to Maine Towns through CDBG Grants

April 20, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci awarded sixteen Maine communities throughout the state Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) totaling \$4,200,585 today as part of Community Development Day at the State House.

The awards contribute to the funding of eighteen Downtown Revitalization, Community Enterprise, Nonprofit Development Grant and Economic Development Programs. They were distributed through the Office of Community Development (OCD), which oversees the CDBG program.

“The Office of Community Development and the Community Development Block Grant program provide much needed flexible funding that keep Maine communities economically competitive,” said Governor Baldacci. “The funds from the CDBG program will create jobs, enrich downtowns and improve the business environments within these communities.”

The towns chosen for the awards represent eleven of Maine’s sixteen counties.

Bridgeton and Skowhegan will receive a total of \$740,000 for the Downtown Revitalization Program for major enhancement projects to improve community and economic conditions and promote private investment. Skowhegan will also receive \$250,000 for the Nonprofit Development Grant program to assist in the rehabilitation and reuse of a vacant building in the downtown district.

A total of \$840,585 was awarded to Dover-Foxcroft, Farmington, Grand Isle, Mars Hill, Rockland, Rumford and Waterville for the Community Enterprise Program to establish façade improvement programs, to complete small-scale streetscape improvements and to establish microenterprise grant/loan programs.

Finally, a total of \$2,370,000 will go to Hiram, Limerick, Madawaska, Millinocket, Patten, Perry, Rockland and Sanford for the Economic Development Program to provide assistance to businesses for expansion activities, which should lead to the creation of 151 new jobs.

“One of the greatest pleasures of distributing these awards is the fact that you get to see real results,” said Orman Whitcomb, OCD director. “When you visit these towns, you see the progress and improvements they have been able to make because of CDBG funding.”

Whitcomb’s office fielded 44 applications for these programs this year. The OCD oversees the distribution of the federal HUD-funded CDBG program, which provides funding for community development projects throughout the state, with the exceptions of Portland, South Portland, Biddeford, Lewiston, Auburn and Bangor, which receive annual allocations directly from HUD.

“The CDBG program provides a valuable service to Maine’s communities,” said Jack Cashman, Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development. “I congratulate the

communities that received CDBG grants this year and I look forward to seeing the positive results that are generated from the awards.”

CDBG grants can be used towards public infrastructure, public facilities, community housing, economic development, downtown revitalization and planning projects. Whitcomb said grants can range from \$10,000 to \$400,000.

The CDBG program and the Office of Community Development are under the Department of Economic and Community Development. Since the state took over the administration of the CDBG program in 1982, more than \$335,000,000 has been invested in Maine communities. For more information on the CDBG program, visit [www.meocd.org](http://www.meocd.org).

Project details follow:

2006 CDBG Community Enterprise Program

Dover-Foxcroft, Micro-enterprise grant/loan program, \$100,000

Farmington, Streetscape improvements, \$150,000

Grand Isle, Micro-enterprise grant/loan program, \$77,500

Mars Hill, Streetscape improvements, \$60,085

Rockland, Façade Grant program, \$150,000

Rumford, Façade Grant program, \$150,000

Waterville, Streetscape improvements, \$150,000

TOTAL \$840,585

2006 CDBG Downtown Revitalization Program

Bridgeton, Downtown improvements, \$340,000

Skowhegan, Downtown improvements, \$400,000

TOTAL \$740,000

2006 CDBG Economic Development Program

Round One

Hiram, New England Castings, \$400,000

Limerick, Max Torque, LLC, \$150,000

Madawaska, FND, Inc., \$400,000

## 2006 Archive of Governor Baldacci's Press Releases

Millinocket, Bantam Boiler, LLC, \$400,000

Patten, Katahdin Wood Products, \$400,000

Perry, Quoddy Footwear, LLC, \$120,000

Rockland, Oak Island Seaford, \$100,000

Sanford, DM Technologies, \$400,000

Total \$2,370,000

2006 CDBG Non-Profit Development Grant Program

Skowhegan, Access and address S/B issues, \$250,000

## Governor Baldacci Speaks to Washington County Business Community

April 22, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

CALAIS – Governor John E. Baldacci spoke to the Washington County Business Conference Saturday morning, addressing everything from education to Pine Tree Zones. The conference was held at Washington County Community College in Calais and was the inaugural Regional Governor's Conference on small business.

"The best social service program is a good paying job with benefits," said the Governor. "The days of getting into a job after high school and staying in it until you retire are over."

Governor Baldacci noted the success of the community college system, which he started three years ago.

"Enrollment has increased by 42 percent," said Governor Baldacci.

The Governor continued by noting much of the attention that his administration has given to Washington County starting with Pine Tree Zones.

"We have created the Pine Tree Zone economic initiative that developed over 3,000 jobs across Maine," said Baldacci. "Pine Tree Zones are available if you're expanding for one job, or 101 jobs."

"We're creating Pine Tree tax incentives for seasonal businesses and seasonal workers," said Governor Baldacci. "We're right-sizing the Pine Tree Zones for Washington County businesses."

Governor Baldacci also detailed money that has been given to Washington County through grants and his supplemental budget, including more than 19 million dollars in Community Development Grants between 1998-2005; \$10,000 to the Downeast Institute from the Maine Technology Institute; \$21,5000 to keep the Downeast Heritage Museum open; and \$15 million through the US Department of Labor's WIRED grant over the next three years to help boatbuilding.

"Boatbuilding is an industry that has existed since before we were a state," said Governor Baldacci. "We got this grant because all the regions, including Washington County, were a critical part of this plan."

The Governor also remarked that he asked the Appropriations Committee to support a bond package including investments for Washington County. The money would be for a new vocational center in Jonesboro, Marine Research, highways and bridges, sewer projects and business development. "Today, I ask the legislators in this room to support bond investments in Washington County," said the Governor.

Before leaving, Governor Baldacci looked at the exhibits from area businesses and was also presented checks for his Keep Maine Warm Charitable Fuel Fund from fundraisers from Washington County Community College and the TRiO Program.

## Governor Baldacci Celebrates Earth Day by Presenting Solar Rebate Check

April 22, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

BANGOR – Governor John Baldacci visited the home of John and Elizabeth Sherblom this morning to celebrate Earth Day. The reason for the visit to the quiet Bangor neighborhood was to present a solar rebate check as a part of the Maine Solar Rebate Program. The Sherbloms installed a solar water heat system in August and received a check from Governor Baldacci today for over twelve-hundred dollars.

“Our energy lies in the power of the sun, the wind, our forests and our tides,” said Governor Baldacci. “It lies in the vast renewable power and fuel resources that we have and can grow right here in Maine.”

Governor Baldacci visited the home on Earth Day, along with Department of Energy Commissioner, Beth Nagusky, and Efficiency Maine Director, Denis Bergeron.

“On a weekend where gas prices are rising over three dollars a gallon,” said the Governor, “it’s especially important that we tackle the serious issues of energy.”

The Maine Solar Rebate Program has already helped to fund the installation of 23 solar electric systems, 33 solar hot water systems and three solar hot air systems. Together, the systems funded in year one will save 5,500 gallons of oil and over 10,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity.

The solar hot water system the Sherbloms installed will save over 80 gallons of oil per year alone.

“The Sherbloms are doing it right. They’re saving energy, saving money and saving the planet,” said the Governor.

## Governor Baldacci Attends Maine Wing Conference

April 22, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

BANGOR – Governor John E. Baldacci stressed the importance of volunteering Saturday afternoon at the Maine Wing Conference in Bangor.

Governor Baldacci spoke to the crowd of approximately 100 volunteers of the United States Air Force Auxiliary/Civil Air Patrol.

"28% of Americans volunteer," said Governor Baldacci. "I am proud to say that Maine has a much higher rate, at 64%." Governor Baldacci gave a brief look at his past three years in office to the audience. He talked about the budget deficit that he was faced with, paper mill closings, job numbers decreasing and health care costs rising. Governor Baldacci also gave hope and words of wisdom to the young volunteers.

"I am one of those kids who was brought up on the street that I live on now," said Governor Baldacci. "And I want my son to have opportunities to do the same thing."

Governor Baldacci left the crowd with one of his favorite stories that President John F. Kennedy used to recall concerning reaching for new heights. The story was about two Irish boys who wanted to try to make it over a fence. "The fence seemed too high and too long for the boys to make it over," said Governor Baldacci. "So one of them took off their hat and threw it over the fence. Now, they had no choice except making it over that fence."

## Governor Baldacci Visits Maine Snowmobile Association

April 22, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

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ORONO – Governor John E. Baldacci addressed the Maine Snowmobile Association about low-interest loans through the Finance Authority of Maine Saturday afternoon at their annual meeting.

Governor Baldacci attended the meeting at the Black Bear Inn, Orono, speaking to the audience of approximately 65 people.

"It's appropriate that I come to you on Earth Day," said Governor Baldacci, "because this part of the earth was a little warmer this winter than we would have liked." Governor Baldacci talked about the number of Winter tourism based businesses who called his office telling him their business was hurt badly due to the lack of snow. He said that the state of Maine once again stepped in to help with the Finance Authority of Maine's "No Snow Dough."

"Low-interest loans were made available to businesses that were hurt by the lack of snow this past winter," said the Governor. "By noon on day one, we fielded thirteen phone calls about these loans."

Governor Baldacci said that many applications were sent out for the loan and several of the returned applications have been approved. Others are still out for consideration.



## Governor Baldacci Announces Winners of 2006 Governor's Service Awards

April 24, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci handed out eight awards for volunteer efforts at the 2006 Governor's Service Awards.

"What we do from nine to five or eight to five is very important," said Governor Baldacci. "But also what's a passion for the people of Maine is what we do after work, or in between work, or on weekends because they're volunteering in their communities."

The awards were presented as follows:

Volunteer of the Year: Edward Girvin of Islesboro

Youth Volunteer of the Year: Peter Christensen of Bangor National Service Volunteer Award: Alfred Brooks of Robbinston

Outstanding Public Sector Volunteer: Thomas Elliot Jr. of West Bath

Small Business Volunteerism Award: Newland Nursery & Florist of Ellsworth

Corporate Volunteerism Award: Hannaford of Gardiner

Outstanding Non Profit Volunteer Award (tie): Youthlinks of Rockland

United Mid-Coast Charities of Camden

Governor Baldacci also commented on the impressive numbers of Mainers volunteering.

"Nationally, people contributing and volunteering is estimated to be about 28% of the population," said the Governor. "In Maine, the figure is 64% of Mainers spending time and helping causes in their communities."

This is the 18th year of the Governor's Service Awards. They were created in an effort to celebrate and recognize the exemplary work of Maine's volunteer community.

## Governor Baldacci Does Ceremonial Signing of LD 1988

April 24, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci ceremonially signed LD 1988 today, An Act to Raise the Debt Limit of the City of Brewer High School District.

Representative Dusty Fisher (D-Brewer) joined Governor Baldacci for the signing, as well as Brewer School District Superintendent Brad Fox.

“This is a great day for Brewer,” said Governor Baldacci. “This is great legislation.”

LD 1988 amends the private and special law that established the City of Brewer High School District to increase the debt limit of the district from \$5,000,000 to 7.5% of the most recent state valuation of the City of Brewer. The bill also clarifies the authority of the City of Brewer to convey property to the district and authorizes the district to enter into agreements with the Federal Government, the Maine Municipal Bond Bank and others to help finance school construction projects in the City of Brewer. The bill also clarifies the authority of the district to renovate and repair its school buildings.

## Governor Baldacci Signs Katahdin Lake Land Transfer Bill

April 24, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci today, in a State House ceremony in front of the bust of Governor Percival Baxter in the Hall of Flags signed LD 2015, a Governor's bill sponsored by Rep. Josh Tardy known as the "Katahdin Lake Land Transfer Bill." Governor Baldacci was joined by Representative Rod Carr, Representative John Piotti, Senator John Nutting and other legislative leaders for the ceremony. After nearly two months of deliberation and debate in the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (ACF), LD2015 passed both the Maine House of Representatives and Senate with greater than the 2/3's support it needed to get enacted. Approval had nearly 90% support in both houses.

"This remarkable endorsement by Maine's legislators represents an important step forward in the effort to conserve Katahdin Lake," said Governor John Baldacci. "Through the votes of the elected representatives in the Legislature, we have heard the voices of the citizens of Maine and they have told us that Katahdin Lake belongs in Baxter State Park."

The effort to conserve the 6,015 acre Katahdin Lake parcel bordering 7 miles of the eastern boundary of Baxter State Park was announced on January 25 of 2006 and has been at center stage of the public debate in the State ever since. The final bill, signed by the Governor today, completes Baxter's vision for 4,019 acres surrounding Katahdin Lake, which will be owned and managed by Baxter State Park, while allowing hunting on the northern 2,000 acres that were outside of Baxter's original vision, to be owned by the people of Maine and managed by the Maine Department of Conservation. Now the task of raising the additional \$11.5 million in private funds remains as the Trust for Public Land, the DOC and the Baxter Park Authority move forward towards the completion of this project.

"By signing this bill, we move one step closer to the completion of Governor Percival Baxter's vision of what he called Mount Katahdin State Park," said Governor Baldacci.

"This current opportunity will never surface again," said Patrick McGowan, Commissioner of the Maine Department of Conservation. "This is the most important conservation project in Maine since Governor Baxter purchased the lands around Mt. Katahdin. I applaud the Legislature for their support of this project"

The complex transaction now also includes the possible conservation of 8,000 acres immediately to the east Katahdin Lake known as "the valley." The DOC through its partner the Trust for Public Land, will secure an option with the Gardner Land Company for the acquisition of the valley and will seek public funds over the next two years for the purchase. This land includes more than 6 miles of frontage on the west bank of Wassataquoik Stream, all of Barnard Mountain, and several ponds and streams of ecological importance.

"Now there's still work to be done, the Trust for Public Land still has to raise eleven-and-a-half million to complete the project," said the Governor. "But nobody said that it hasn't been worth the effort."

The Trust for Public Land is a national non-profit organization dedicated to conserving land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens, and natural areas, ensuring livable communities for generations to come. Since its founding in 1972, TPL has helped protect more than 2 million acres of land in 46 states, including more than 330,000 acres in New England and 94,500 acres in the State of Maine. TPL depends on the support and generosity of individuals, foundations, and businesses to achieve our land for people mission.

TPL-protected properties in Maine include Tumbledown Mountain, Scarborough Beach, Meserve Farm, Portland's Eastern Promenade, the ongoing Katahdin Iron Works project in partnership with the AMC and the Maine Department of Conservation, and many more. For more information, visit [www.tpl.org](http://www.tpl.org).

The Department of Conservation is a natural resource agency whose bureaus oversee the management and stewardship of some of Maine's most special places: 17 million acres of forestland, 10.4 million acres of unorganized territory, 49 parks and historic sites and more than 569,000 acres of public reserved land. Created in 1973, the Department of Conservation's mission is to benefit the citizens, landowners, and users of the state's natural resources by promoting stewardship and ensuring responsible balanced use of Maine's land, forest, water, and mineral resources.

The Baxter State Park Authority is the governing body of the Park. The Authority is guided by the provisions of the trust created by Governor Percival P. Baxter. These provisions include ensuring that the Park "Shall forever be kept and remain in the Natural Wild State," to provide recreational opportunities in accordance with trust provisions and to operate and maintain the Park for the use and enjoyment of Maine's people. According to the donor's wishes, most of the Park is managed as a sanctuary for beasts and birds and "Katahdin in all its glory forever shall remain the mountain of the People of Maine."

## Governor Baldacci and Federal Officials Set Groundwork for WIRED Grant

April 24, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Giving a boost to educational and training programs, marketing and research and development within Maine's boatbuilding, composites and marine industries will be the main focus of the \$15 million federal Workforce Innovation Regional Economic Development (WIRED) grant, Governor John Baldacci and representatives from the U.S. Department of Labor announced today.

Governor Baldacci said strengthening and expanding the educational and R&D programs would provide the groundwork needed to grow Maine's marine-related workforce.

"In order to help our boatbuilding, composites and marine industries expand and success, we must have a trained and educated workforce in place," said Governor Baldacci. "The WIRED grant is going to create a win-win situation for Maine. It will create quality jobs and keep the state's marine industries competitive in the global economy."

Emily Stover, DeRocco, assistant secretary in the Employment and Training Administration for the U.S. Department of Labor, joined Governor Baldacci in the Hall of Flags at the state house to announce the framework for the WIRED grant.

"Maine's proposal for the WIRED grant demonstrated ingenuity and a unique approach to using federal funds to support a 400-year-old industry and continue to grow an emerging industry," said DeRocco. "Maine's boatbuilding, composites and marine industries play vital roles in the state's economy, and the U.S. Department of Labor looks forward to a productive partnership that addresses the critical need to keep our nation competitive in the global economy."

U.S. Representative Mike Michaud also attended the event, along with representatives from the offices of U.S. Senator Olympia Snowe, U.S. Senator Susan Collins, and U.S. Representative Tom Allen. Maine's Congressional Delegation collectively supported Maine's pursuit of the WIRED grant and contacted federal officials on behalf of the state.

The purpose of the grant is to create jobs, strengthen the state's economy and ensure Maine maintains its competitive edge in the boatbuilding, composite and marine sectors. Maine was one of only 13 national regions in 12 states to take part in the \$195 million WIRED initiative, which is awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor as a complement to the President's American Competitiveness Initiative. Participating regions will be awarded \$15 million over three years.

"The WIRED grant will provide numerous opportunities to Maine residents through job creation and economic growth," said Laura Fortman, commissioner of the Maine Department of Labor. "We

appreciate the U.S. Department of Labor for recognizing the state's potential to support and grow our marine-based industries."

The North Star Alliance, a partnership formed by Governor Baldacci that includes the Department of Labor, the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) and the University of Maine, will oversee the administration of the WIRED grant with input from the boatbuilding, composites and marine industries, including Maine Marine Trade Association, Maine Built Boats and Maine Composites Alliance. The purpose of the grant is to create jobs, strengthen the state's economy and ensure Maine maintains its competitive edge in the boatbuilding, composite and marine sectors.

The grant will target Maine's coastal region with special attention given to the Midcoast area in anticipation of the closure of the Brunswick Naval Air Station.

For more information, please visit the following Web sites: [www.mainebuiltboats.com](http://www.mainebuiltboats.com), [www.mmtaonline.com](http://www.mmtaonline.com), [www.aewc.umaine.edu](http://www.aewc.umaine.edu), [www.businessinmaine.com](http://www.businessinmaine.com) and [www.maine.gov/labor](http://www.maine.gov/labor).

## Governor's Statement on the Allagash Wilderness Waterway

April 26, 2006

Contact: Crystal Canney, Communications Director

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The future of the Allagash is vitally important to all of us. As with most things of this importance, there are a number of different perspectives on what is best. Therefore, I am forming an Executive Task Force to examine options for a better governance structure to manage the waterway.

The waterway is a legacy of Senator Edmund Muskie, who had an enduring love of the Allagash. I can think of no one more appropriate to head the task force than Don Nicoll, former Chief of Staff to Senator Edmund Muskie and a user since 1955. I have asked Nicoll to chair the committee and take input from Senator Martin along with Senate and House leadership regarding who might serve on the task force. I am asking them to report back to me concerning recommendations on how best to manage the Allagash. This will allow people on all sides of this issue to come back to the table and move forward in a way that is best for the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. The late Senator Edmund Muskie understood the importance of this conservation effort decades ago, I will bring his efforts full circle once again.

That's why I have decided to allow LD – 2077 to go into law without my signature.

I respect Senator Martin's insight and leadership on this issue. His overriding concept, which I wholeheartedly support, is to guarantee that Mainers who want to enjoy the Allagash continue to do so. But, this is a work in progress and not the final chapter in the management of this precious Maine resource.

## Governor to Swear In Brenda Harvey as Commissioner of the Department of Health & Human Services

April 26, 2006

AUGUSTA -- Governor John E. Baldacci praised the Maine Senate this afternoon after they voted unanimously to accept the nomination of Brenda M. Harvey, of Gardner, to the position of Commissioner of the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

"I am pleased that the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services and the full Senate have affirmed Brenda's nomination as Commissioner," said Governor Baldacci. "Since January, she has served ably and diligently as Acting Commissioner of the department. She had demonstrated an unwavering commitment to providing the best service to Maine people through her capable leadership. Brenda has already taken actions that will improve the services offered as we continue on the path of creating a culture of quality, performance and responsiveness."

The Governor noted that he will officially swear in Harvey in his office tomorrow, Thursday, April 27 at 11:15 am.

Upon her swearing in, Harvey will oversee the continued implementation of major structural and financial reorganization, resulting in better service and financial accountability for health and human service functions of the State of Maine.



## Governor Baldacci Congratulates Lewiston – Auburn Growth Council

April 26, 2006

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(cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci stopped by Bates College Wednesday evening to congratulate the Lewiston – Auburn Growth Council on their 25th Anniversary.

“You had a region that came together over 25 years ago,” the Governor told an estimated 200 people in attendance, “which recognized that if it worked together that it could promote each other and that it would be a benefit to each other.”

Governor Baldacci attended the celebration, along with former Governor Angus King, former Senator George Mitchell, Lewiston Mayor Lionel Guay, Auburn Mayor Norm Guay and a host of other Lewiston – Auburn dignitaries.

Governor Baldacci noted many of the projects in the L-A area, including the new gateway projects on Lisbon Street and Court Street; the newly renovated Colisee; the Wal Mart Distribution Center, which is nearing completion; 12 new restaurants in the past 12 months; and newly renovated libraries in both Lewiston and Auburn.

“Over 500 million dollars in new investment has been made in this region since 2000,” said Governor Baldacci. “Businesses that want to do business in Maine, they recognize how aggressive you are. The plans and possibilities that you all are coming up with are exciting, because frankly it reflects well on the entire state of Maine.”

Later in the evening, a video retrospective of the 25 years of economic development in Lewiston-Auburn was expected to be shown, as well as remarks from former Governor King and former Senator Mitchell.

## Governor Baldacci Swears In Brenda Harvey as Commissioner of the Department of Health & Human Services

April 27, 2006

Contact: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

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AUGUSTA -- Governor John E. Baldacci has sworn in the new commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services, Brenda M. Harvey, of Gardiner.

"We are very honored to have not only nominated, but to be able to swear in Brenda as the Commissioner of this department," said Governor Baldacci. "She has exhibited leadership from day one when I took office. She has been a person who helps, who reaches out to people and who brings people together."

Governor Baldacci did the swearing-in ceremony in the Governor's Office Thursday morning with roughly 40 of Harvey's family members on hand, including her parents and her husband, David M. Lawlor.

Upon her swearing in, Commissioner Harvey will now oversee the continued implementation of major structural and financial reorganization, resulting in better service and financial accountability for health and human service functions of the State of Maine.

## Governor Baldacci Does Ceremonial Signing for LD 1682

April 28, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

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AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci ceremonially signed LD 1682 this morning, An Act to Support Sibling Rights in Child Welfare Custody Matters.

Governor Baldacci held the ceremony in the Governor's Office with Kala Clark, the high school senior who helped push the legislation through.

"This is important," said Governor Baldacci to Kala. "It's going to be important to other kids."

The bill allows for visitation between siblings who have been separated through adoption. Clark is an adoptee who has been pushing for this legislation since her freshman year.

"I want you to know that no matter how hard I worked on this," said Clark to the Governor, "it was the letter from you that kept me working harder."

The bill will go into effect in 90 days.

## Governor Baldacci Signs “Tina’s Law”

April 28, 2006

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AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci has officially put “Tina’s Law” on the books.

Governor Baldacci signed LD 1906, An Act to Safeguard Maine’s Highways, into law in the Governor’s Office Friday afternoon, surrounded by legislators, family members of Tina Turcotte and other supporters of the bill.

“We do not know how Tina’s family feels,” said Governor Baldacci. “But I can say that your loss is felt by all of us.”

The bill was sponsored by Representative Darlene Curley (R-Scarborough) and Senator Bill Diamond (D-Windham).

The bill is named for Tina Turcotte of Scarborough, who was killed on the Maine Turnpike last summer. The bill is an attempt to keep drivers with a history motor-vehicle offenses, like the one who killed Tina, off the roads of Maine.

“Drive safe, drive sober, buckle up, and drive with a license,” said the Governor. “It’s that simple.”

## Governor Baldacci Cuts Ribbon on Portland METRO's New Natural Gas Fueling Station

May 1, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci joined Congressman Tom Allen Monday morning, cutting the ribbon for Portland METRO's (Greater Portland Transit District) new Natural Gas Fueling Station. In addition to the fueling station, 13 new compressed natural gas buses joined the METRO fleet.

"We're going to get cleaner burning vehicles," said Governor Baldacci. "Global warming has been taking place and Maine again is showing leadership in that regard."

In addition to the Governor and Congressman Allen, Portland Mayor James Cohen and Westbrook Mayor Bruce Chuluda were at the celebration.

"Currently, public transportation saves 45 million barrels of oil a year in the United States," said the Governor. "If we used public transportation in this country at the same rate it is used in Canada, we could cut our dependence on Saudi oil in half."

The new compressed natural gas buses and fueling station are the first of their kind in Maine. To celebrate, METRO provided free rides on all routes throughout the day Monday.

## Governor Baldacci Ceremonially Signs LD 2017 and LD 1835

May 2, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci signed two bills this morning which are intended to protect consumers.

LD 2017, An Act to Amend the Notice of Risk to Personal Data Act; and LD 1835, Resolve, To Ensure That Consumers Are Informed of a Debit Card Hold at the Point of Sale were both ceremonially signed in the Governor's Office Tuesday morning.

LD 1835, sponsored by Representative Walter Ash (D-Belfast), will aid in educating people and provides for notice of debit card hold. The resolve also calls on the Bureau of Financial Institutions to develop a consumer awareness brochure explaining debit card holds.

LD 2017, sponsored by Representative Anne Perry (D-Calais), addresses the protection of personal data.

"This bill extends these requirements beyond information brokers," said Governor Baldacci. "...to banks, credit unions and other financial, retail and securities firms, and colleges and universities."

Governor Baldacci signed the bills surrounded by representatives from the Maine Bankers Association, the Maine Association of Community Banks, the Maine Credit Union League and staff from the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation.

## Governor Baldacci Discusses Importance of Healthcare with Students

May 3, 2006

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ORONO – Governor John E. Baldacci spoke at the University of Maine on the importance of healthcare coverage this afternoon.

Governor Baldacci delivered the remarks at a healthcare forum designed to give students and other citizens the opportunity to learn more about the Governor's Dirigo Health initiative.

"Citizens want us to address universal healthcare, they want us to figure it out," said Governor Baldacci. "They recognize that the answers aren't coming from Washington, but that doesn't stop Maine people. The challenges here is to get this done in our state."

About 100 students packed the Bangor Room at the Memorial Union to listen to Governor Baldacci's thoughts.

The Governor also spoke with the group about his efforts in preventive health.

"From 1997 'til today, we've reduced teenage smoking by fifty percent," said Governor Baldacci. "Maine got straight A's, the only state in the nation, from the American Lung Association."

The panel discussion, moderated by University of Maine graduate Charles Urquhart, featured panelists Representative Anne Perry, (D-Calais); Eric Odier-Fink of Justice Clothing, a Dirigo business; Joe Ditre of Consumers for Affordable Healthcare; Dennis Chinoy, a healthcare provider; Dr. Janice Pelletier of Orono; Adam Thompson from the Governor's Office of Health Policy and Finance; Kara Soule, a University of Maine student who spoke on the need for healthcare; and David White, the president of MDI Imported Car Service, another Dirigo business.

The forum was preceded by a rally in the Memorial Union where students showed their support of Dirigo Health and their hopes for having a version for graduating students.

## Governor Baldacci Proclaims Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month

May 3, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci proclaimed the month of May as Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month. The Governor made the proclamation during an annual ceremony at the Blaine House this morning with about 50 bikers on hand.

“I actually think you’re a better driver by taking a motorcycle and safety course,” said the Governor.

Governor Baldacci also commended the motorcyclists on their charity work.

“I love the way we work together, you raise money for charities,” said Governor Baldacci. “It’s not just the Christmas charity work, but you’re doing it on a monthly basis.”

The proclamation issued by the Governor urges motorcyclists to use extra caution when riding, and urges other motorists to be aware of those riding motorcycles on the roads throughout the summer.



## Governor Baldacci Walks with Children for Fitness

May 3, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

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AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci took a walk this morning with students from Farrington Elementary School in Augusta.

Governor Baldacci's walk with the children was a part of "ACES Day", or All Children Exercise Simultaneously.

"We want Maine to be the healthiest state in the country," said Governor Baldacci. "Getting into good habits like walking, jogging and playing sports is important."

Governor Baldacci went for a fifteen minute walk around the school with the kids, signing autographs and talking casually with the children along the way.

"Are you a Red Sox fan?" Governor Baldacci asked one student wearing a shirt and hat with the team logo on them.

"Yes sir," the student replied back with a smile.

"ACES Day" is sponsored by the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Sports, Health and Wellness and is a day that encourages students in schools around the country to all exercise sometime in the same hour.

## Governor Baldacci Celebrates Day of Prayer

May 4, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci celebrated the National Day of Prayer by attending an Interfaith Prayer Breakfast with members of Maine's Army National Guard Thursday morning in Augusta.

Governor Baldacci joined about 120 others, as well as members of the Skowhegan Area High School band for the breakfast, held at the Augusta Armory.

"With the tragedy and loss of lives overseas and the heartbreaking funerals that go along with it," said the Governor, "our chaplains and support services over here are the best to support these families."

Chaplain Andrea Thompson McCall was the morning's guest speaker. McCall is the Assistant Dean of Students and the Interfaith Chaplain at the University of Southern Maine.

Governor Baldacci read the text of the proclamation for the Day of Prayer in Maine as well as an Irish blessing for the crowd. The Governor also spoke of diversity and respect for diversity in the state of Maine.

"Diversity in opinion, diversity in faiths, diversity in politics and diversity in general exist throughout Maine," said the Governor. "These diversities are not only welcomed, but respected."

## Dirigo Health Recognized for Excellence in Government

May 4, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci announced that Dirigo Health Reform has today been recognized as one of the top eighteen government innovations for 2006. As a finalist for the Innovation in American Government Awards, Dirigo Health was celebrated in a full page ad in USA Today. The ad, sponsored by GEICO, USA Today and the Public Employees Roundtable at the Council for Excellence in Government, notes that Dirigo Health and the other finalists are “uniquely smart, creative, and effective” and that they “have created better, results-oriented efforts that improve the lives of countless people across the USA.”

“I am pleased that the prestigious Ash Institute continues to recognize Dirigo Health as a national model for health reform,” said Governor Baldacci. “The announcement is especially timely as this week is Cover the Uninsured Week. Health care concerns are on the minds of people and businesses in Maine and across the country. We have taken a bold first step with Dirigo to address those concerns.”

Maine’s landmark health care program addresses affordability, accessibility and quality of health care for Maine citizens. Dirigo was named a Top 50 Government Innovation for 2006 in March. The Innovation in American Government Awards are bestowed by the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government, in partnership with the Council for Excellence in Government.

The Ash Institute and Council for Excellence in Government named Dirigo Health and the other finalists as among the “best and brightest” government programs. In order to be selected for this distinction, each program “takes a creative approach to a significant problem and demonstrates that their solution works.” The innovations are selected from all levels of American government – local, county, state, federal and tribal. Only one other health program was recognized today as a finalist.

Dirigo Health saves money and controls costs. More than 16,700 Maine people have received coverage, and \$43.7 million of savings has been achieved in the Maine health care system. Maine is one of only seven states in the nation that has seen a decrease in the number of uninsured. The state’s health ranking improved from 10th to 8th in the nation in just one year.

Governor Baldacci stressed the importance of continuing Dirigo Health’s mission. “Health care is a matter of fairness. Quality health care must be available to everyone in Maine,” said the Governor. “Dirigo is providing Maine people and businesses with access to affordable, high quality health care. We must continue to thoughtfully move Dirigo forward to better meet the needs of all Maine people and businesses.”

For more information on the Award and the Council for Excellence in Government, go to [www.excelgov.org](http://www.excelgov.org).

## Maine Surpasses Nation in Long-Term Income Growth

May 4, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Income growth in Maine over the last five years exceeded the national average according to analysis by the newspaper USA TODAY.

According to the analysis, per capita income in Maine grew 6.1% from 2000 to 2005 after adjusting for inflation. The national average was 2.2%. Maine's income growth ranked 17th among the 50 states and was third highest in New England after Rhode Island and Vermont.

USA TODAY recognized the contributions of the State's long-term economic efforts, saying "[Maine] has worked to reduce higher-than-average business costs for taxes, health care, and workers' compensation."

Governor Baldacci stated, "It's gratifying to see national recognition that our hard work is paying off. Reducing the tax burden on Maine people and businesses and providing high-quality, affordable health care will ensure that this trend continues."

Portions of the analysis, released today, are available

at: [http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/energy/2006-05-03-energy-states\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/energy/2006-05-03-energy-states_x.htm)

## Governor's Statement on TABOR Decision

May 4, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci today reiterated his opposition for the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR). The Maine Supreme Judicial Court this afternoon vacated the judgment of the Superior Court. The decision sends the case back to the Superior Court with an order affirming the admissibility of late signatures in favor of a TABOR referendum initiative.

“TABOR is bad for Maine,” said the Governor. “We know that it has not worked in Colorado. I trust that the people of Maine will make the right decision if this proposal goes on the November ballot.”

## Governor Baldacci Ceremonially Signs LD 1735

May 4, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci ceremonially signed LD 1735 this afternoon, An Act to Authorize Chebeague Island to Secede from the Town of Cumberland.

About 35 residents of Chebeague Island traveled to the Hall of Flags at the State House in Augusta for the ceremony. “I’m proud of the effort and the way everybody conducted themselves,” said Governor Baldacci. “I’m also proud of how they articulated the issues and worked together to bring this result about.”

The residents of Chebeague Island collected signatures, held meetings and successfully petitioned the Legislature to let the island cut its 185-year-old ties with the town of Cumberland. About 85 percent of the 350 year round residents voted for the secession.

Governor Baldacci officially signed the legislation on April 5 and it will take effect 90 days after the end of the legislative session.

## Governor Baldacci Honored by Coalition of Maine Nursing Organizations

May 4, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci was honored Thursday for his leadership and advocacy for nurses. The Coalition of Maine Nursing Organizations presented Governor Baldacci with the award at the Blaine House during a ceremony where the Governor also proclaimed May 6 – 12, 2006 as Nurses Week throughout Maine.

“We addressed the demand for healthcare education in my supplemental budget,” said Governor Baldacci. “We designated \$750,000 to educate more nurses at both the University of Maine and at the Maine Community Colleges.”

The Governor’s proclamation for Nurses Week highlighted the importance of nurses, the need for nurses and the compassion of nurses.

“Whereas, the cost-effective, safe and quality health care services provided by registered nurses will be an ever more important component of the Maine health care delivery system in the future,” read Governor Baldacci from the proclamation.

Also honored at the ceremony at the Blaine House were Senator John Martin, (D-Aroostook County) and Representative Darlene Curley, (R-Scarborough) for their leadership and advocacy during the 122nd Maine Legislative Session.

## Forbes Ranks Portland among Top 50 Best Places for Business

May 5, 2006

AUGUSTA – Forbes magazine named Portland among the top 50 Best Places for Business and Careers in the US. The ranking combines nine factors including the cost-of-doing business, crime rates, educational attainment, income growth, and job growth. Portland ranked 45th among 200 large metropolitan areas studied.

Governor Baldacci stated, “This measure considers the true array of factors that contribute to business success. In Maine, our people and quality-of-life make the difference. Investing in education and continuing to ease the tax burden will bring even more prosperity to our state.”

Among 200 small metropolitan areas, Bangor ranked among the top 100 Best Places for Business and Careers. Bangor ranked 74th overall and was among the top 50 for income growth, cost-of-living, and college presence. Lewiston ranked 130th overall and was among the top 50 for income growth, crime rate, and college presence.

Forbes rankings are based on information from Economy.com, Sperling's Best Places, and the FBI Index of Crime. They are available at: <http://www.forbes.com/home/lists/2006/05/03/06bestplacesbest-places-for-businessland.html>



## Governor Baldacci Congratulates Habitat for Humanity

May 5, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci stopped by a Habitat for Humanity construction site in Portland late Friday afternoon, congratulating the volunteers for a job well done.

“Maine is once again leading the way,” the Governor told about 25 volunteers at the site, “people helping people, and from the heart.”

The volunteers began working at 11:30 Friday morning to build one house package that will be reconstructed in Mississippi. The volunteers will build another house package Saturday, once again starting at 11:30 in the morning. The second house package will also be sent to Mississippi for reconstruction. The houses will benefit 2 Habitat Families displaced by Hurricanes Rita and Katrina.

“That’s how Maine people are,” said the Governor. “If somebody’s in need, Mainers are there.”

There are currently more than 100 homes under construction in all four hurricane affected states. These two homes are part of the Habitat for Humanity organized effort, Operation Home Delivery.

## Governor Baldacci Addresses State YMCA of Maine Youth in Government Program

May 5, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci this evening addressed high school students participating in the 2006 YMCA Youth in Government Program. The weekend-long program, held each year, instills civic responsibility and education through model state government. Students from across the state learn the legislative and executive roles of state government through practice.

“I am pleased to join you tonight,” the Governor told the assembly in the House Chamber. “I see in you the future of Maine and it’s a very bright future indeed.”

The Governor outlined a number of recent challenges and accomplishments of the 122nd Legislature. Portland has recently been named one of the top 50 Best Places for Business and Careers in the U.S., and USA Today noted income growth in Maine exceeded the national average over the last five years. The Governor specifically addressed education issues, highlighting efforts of his Administration to plant the seeds of future growth through creating opportunities for young people in Maine.

“The key is education,” said Governor Baldacci. “The doors to opportunity are open wider than ever before for you, enabling you to reach your full potential.”

## Governor Mourns Loss of Maine Guardsmen

May 8, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci today confirmed that two members of B Company, 3-172 Infantry Battalion, Maine Army National Guard died in an attack in Iraq on May 6, 2006. The notification of their families has been completed. A third soldier from the same unit was seriously injured.

Staff Sergeant Dale James Kelly Jr. of Richmond, Maine and Staff Sergeant David Michael Veverka, a student from the University of Maine, Orono and hometown of Jamestown, Pennsylvania were killed.

The third soldier, Private Christopher Fraser, of Windsor, Maine from the 1136th Transportation Company and attached to B Company, was seriously injured in the attack and has been transferred to medical facilities in Landstuhl, Germany. The Governor has talked to Private Fraser and his mother and understands that his injuries are not life threatening.

“The thoughts and prayers of the people of Maine are with the families of these three brave soldiers,” said Governor Baldacci. “We share in their grief. This tragic event reminds us of the constant sacrifices made by the men and women of the National Guard and Armed Forces, and of their families.”

Governor Baldacci will order flags to be flown at half-staff on the day(s) of the two soldiers’ funerals.

“During this difficult time, I offer my respect and gratitude to all those serving overseas and their families,” said the Governor. “The State government is here to assist in whatever fashion we can.”

The Governor will provide more information and make a statement on this tragedy at 3:30 pm at his previously-scheduled bill signing event at Hedin Hall at the Dorothea Dix Mental Health Center in Bangor.

## Electric Power Research Institute Study of Maine Tidal Resource Positive

May 9, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – In a one year study of Maine's tidal power resource, the Electric Power Research Institute concluded that it is excellent and can produce electricity that is competitively priced with wind and natural gas, and less expensive than clean coal and solar. And, like wind and solar, capturing energy from the tides emits no greenhouse gases. Tides may also be able to generate electricity more hours of the day on average than wind and solar. According to Roger Bedard, the EPRI study project leader, "Maine has a world class tidal resource that will produce electricity at a cost of 4.2 to 6.5 cents per kilowatt-hour. This resource is better than many we studied and will produce lower cost electricity as a result."

The Governor's Energy Bill, which received strong bipartisan support, creates a goal of 10% new renewable power generation resources in Maine by 2017.

Supported by funding from the Maine Technology Institute, EPRI analyzed the technological and economic feasibility of the tidal resources in seven states and provinces, including: Maine, Massachusetts, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. In Maine, the study focused on Western Passage in Quoddy Bay. The study characterized eight different tidal in-stream energy conversion devices. Tidal energy turbines harness the energy of tides without the need for dams or impoundments. They have been compared to "upside down wind turbines." Preliminary tests of the impact of these turbines on fish in the United States and United Kingdom show no adverse impacts.

In addition to the Maine Technology Institute, the Department of Marine Resources, the State Energy Program division of the Public Utilities Commission and the Governor's Office of Energy Independence & Security have participated in the study. "We are excited about the results of this study. Harnessing the energy from Maine's big tides in an environmentally friendly manner will reduce our dependence on imported fossil fuels and will create jobs in the state," said Beth Nagusky, Director of the Office of Energy Independence.

Two preliminary permits have been filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission while potential developers study the tidal resource in the Penobscot and Kennebec Rivers. Interest in the tidal energy resource in the Cutler area has also been expressed.

## Governor Baldacci Honors Department of Conservation Personnel

May 9, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci presented certificates to a group of 13 employees of the Department of Conservation Tuesday morning at the Blaine House in Augusta. The 13 honorees were part of hurricane relief efforts and fire fighting efforts in Canada and out west.

“It’s a tribute to you and a great reflection on the entire state,” said the Governor.

Governor Baldacci was shaking hands with each honoree as they told their individual stories about their experiences helping others.

The personnel honored were Mike Ricci of Old Town; Alan Johnston of Augusta-Bolton Hill; Bill Greaves and George Harris of Island Falls; Claudette Desautels of Gray; Steve Day of Greenville; Matt Gomes and Sprague Wise of Cupsuptic; Mike Daigle and Lance Martin of Portage; Darcy Labbe, regional ranger from Northern Maine; Greg Miller from the Maine Forest Service; and Sandy Botka from the Department of Conservation.

Commissioner of the Department of Conservation, Pat McGowan joined the Governor. Representative Patrick Flood, (R-Winthrop) was also at the ceremony.

## Governor Baldacci Unveils Influenza Website

May 9, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci unveiled a first of its kind website Tuesday afternoon regarding influenza. Governor Baldacci joined Dr. Dora Mills to reveal [www.maineflu.gov](http://www.maineflu.gov)

“This one website will provide information on pandemic influenza, avian flu or bird flu,” said Governor Baldacci. “This means that no matter what your questions or concerns are about flu, or whether you are a physician, parent or pandemic preparedness planner, this one website will provide a place for getting that information.”

The website is a private public partnership between five Maine state agencies and over 20 diverse private sector organizations and associations, including the American Lung Association of Maine, the Sportsmen Alliance of Maine, the Maine Medical Association, the Maine Hospital Association, the Audubon Society, the Maine Business Chambers and the Maine Farm Bureau.

“People are concerned about it,” said the Governor. “They want to know answers, and they want to be able to get those answers to questions they have.”

Dr. Mills gave a brief presentation on the website's benefits during the Hall of Flags unveiling ceremony Tuesday afternoon.

“When you get on the homepage, there are three doors,” said Dr. Mills. “There is an avian influenza door, pandemic influenza door and seasonal influenza door.”

Dr. Mills further explained the details of the website, which is now officially online at [www.maineflu.gov](http://www.maineflu.gov)

## Governor Baldacci Congratulates Small Business Owners

May 9, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci congratulated eleven of the twenty-five graduates of the Calculated Risk Course Tuesday afternoon at the Blaine House.

“Being a small business owner means that you’re working all day, thinking about it all night and not always being able to sleep,” said the Governor. “So it means even more that you invested so much time and effort into this course and that you are here today.”

The Calculated Risk Course is a 12-week course teaching business skills that are designed to increase profits and opportunities for businesses in Maine’s food industry. The courses were held in Bangor, Augusta and Portland.

Governor Baldacci also spoke to the group about the importance of healthcare for small businesses, and that his own DirigoHealth initiative is succeeding for small businesses.

“There are 2,000 small businesses who are swearing by it,” said the Governor. “Helping small businesses with 50 or fewer employees is one of the reasons we started Dirigo.” The recipients of the certificates in attendance Tuesday afternoon were Barbara Brooks of Seal Cove Farm, Mount Desert; Philip Cheverie of CPK, LLC, Alfred; Theresa Hyatt of La Cuisine, Turner; Pam and Walt Longfellow of Fuller’s Market, Gardiner; Waite Maclan of Pastor Chuck Orchards, Portland; Alison Prince of Prince Specialty Seafood, Orr’s Island; Alvin Theriault of Theriault Family Farm, Sherman Station; Mary Thompson of Beans Corner Farm, Freedom; Elaine Varney of Groundhog Gums, Georgetown; and Jayne Whiteside of Augusta.

## Governor Expresses Continued Concern with Federal Medicare Part D Implementation

May 9, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci has written to President George W. Bush to express his continued concerns with implementation of the federal Medicare Part D prescription drug program. The Governor noted that problems with the program still exist, costing the State more money and leaving vulnerable seniors at risk. He asked that the President share with the State a plan of correction for problems currently being experienced and assurances that Maine and other states will be fully reimbursed by the federal government for the costs incurred in ensuring citizens retain critical benefits to which they are entitled.

The text of the letter the Governor sent to the President follows.

President George W. Bush

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.

Washington, D.C., 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to you to express serious concerns regarding the operations of the Medicare Drug Benefit. More than four months after the start-up of this benefit, many low-income Maine residents remain unable to obtain their drugs through Medicare Part D. This problem, which arises from difficulties in the Medicare Part D system, is imposing a growing financial and administrative burden on Maine and other states which have found that they must step into the breach to meet the needs of low-income residents who require prescription medications.

I met with Secretary Leavitt earlier this year about some of these difficulties and felt that we had a productive meeting. While I appreciated our meeting, many systems issues remain unresolved. I have included some examples below of the types of problems that persist:

Enrollment of members by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is not timely. In many cases, full enrollment can take from 6 to 8 weeks. Although Medicare may deem these members eligible within 2 weeks, their eligibility for the Low Income Subsidy typically is not recognized until weeks later. The result is that low-income members are charged deductibles and high co-pays that they cannot afford.

Maine has stepped in to provide a safety net for this situation by covering the costs of drugs during these periods. However, CMS has refused to reimburse for these costs incurred after March 31, 2006, despite the fact that these costs should be borne by Medicare Part D.



Lack of LIS information is a basic system problem that needs to be corrected by CMS, and the states need to continue to be reimbursed until this problem is resolved.

Additional problems result when a member becomes disenrolled from one plan and enrolled in a new plan. In such cases, enrollment does not occur as readily as disenrollment, and the result is a significant gap in coverage. Maine has needed to pay for Medicare Part D members' drugs when this happens. This problem occurs frequently, particularly for dual eligible members who are permitted to switch plans monthly. The cost to Maine is significant. Again, CMS has refused reimbursement for costs incurred after March 31, 2006.

When members switch among plans, Medicare Part D is not properly tracking the true out of pocket costs of members. As you are aware, a significant benefit of Medicare Part D is to cover 95 % of the cost of members' prescription drug needs once the member has paid \$3,600 out of pocket. Because of poor tracking when members switch plans, the payments made by the State or the member for prescription drugs are not being counted toward accessing this catastrophic coverage. This also means that the State or the member may be charged two annual deductibles instead of one.

Enrollment problems also loom because of the May 15, 2006, enrollment deadline. Maine has tried since February to enroll 6,000 residents who are members of Maine's Pharmacy Assistance Program (SPAP). As of this date, Maine still has not received confirmation from CMS that it has validated these enrollments with the relevant Part D plans.

If confirmation does not occur by May 15, it will be too late to enroll these residents in Part D for this year, and they will be without Medicare Part D coverage until January 2007. Maine also will be charged a 1% premium penalty per month, despite our attempts for months to enroll these members. In addition, providing prescription drugs to this population until the 2007 enrollment in Medicare Part D will be a cost incurred by Maine, which Maine could not have anticipated.

Since eligibility for reimbursement from CMS to Maine ended on March 31, Maine has continued to spend more than \$100,000 per week for Maine residents who cannot access their Medicare Part D benefits. Effective May 1, CMS actually disenrolled from plans more than one million people nationally who were enrolled in more than one Medicare Part D plan. Unfortunately, some members were disenrolled from the plan that provided the better benefits. Maine had approximately 20,000 residents enrolled in more than one plan, and we have witnessed a significantly increased need for State assistance since these disenrollments and have received numerous calls from members about this problem as well.

On a positive note, Maine appreciates the commitment of CMS, under a granted waiver, to reimburse the State for its administrative costs incurred from these problems through June 30, 2006. However, Maine has not received any indication when it may expect to receive that reimbursement.

I appreciate the hard work of Secretary Leavitt and the staff at CMS. We have been working collaboratively to assist them with identifying and resolving problems. However, a plan of correction for

these problems with specific timelines urgently needs to be developed and shared, and implemented within the next 30 to 60 days.

Indeed, Maine and other states deserve continued full reimbursement from CMS for meeting the needs of Medicare Part D members that the program itself should be providing. The State of Maine cannot continue to absorb a financial burden due to continued federal system glitches within Medicare Part D.

I look forward to hearing from you on this important matter. Thank you.

Sincerely,

John E. Baldacci, Governor

State of Maine

Cc: Michael O. Leavitt, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Steven Rowe, Attorney General, State of Maine

Mark McClellan, M.D., Director, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Dennis Smith

Charlotte Yeh, M.D.

U.S. Senator Olympia Snowe

U.S. Senator Susan Collins

U.S. Representative Thomas Allen

U.S. Representative Michael Michaud

Trish Riley, Director, Governor's Office of Health Policy and Finance

Jude Walsh, Special Assistant, Governor's Office of Health Policy and Finance

Brenda Harvey, Commissioner, Maine Department of Health and Human Services

## Governor Baldacci Announces Funding for Bethel Area Creative Economy Pilot Program

May 9, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci announced that he is offering \$10,000 to the Bethel Area Chamber of Commerce for the Bethel Area Nexus. Governor Baldacci sent a letter to the executive director of the Chamber, Robin Zinchuk and Senator Bruce Bryant, (D-Oxford County) Tuesday afternoon.

“Our economic plan recognizes that Maine must invest in Maine people and Maine’s cultural heritage,” wrote Governor Baldacci in the letter. “The economic engines that create opportunity are our youth, our creative workers, and our creative entrepreneurs.”

The Bethel Area Nexus is a strategic partnership of community institutions working together to advance creative economy development in rural Western Maine. The partnership is comprised of the Bethel Area Chamber of Commerce, the Mahoosuc Arts Council and MSAD #44 Adult & Community Education.

The purpose of the partnership is to insure a strong, yet flexible fabric of economic, cultural and community development activities using education as a central tool.

Governor Baldacci met with Jean Waite, MSAD #44 Adult & Community Director; and Lucia Colombara, community organizer, in July of 2005. During that meeting, Governor Baldacci cited the Midcoast Magnet and committed to supporting the Bethel-area effort. Tuesday afternoon’s letter solidified that commitment with a \$10,000 pledge, to match available or expected local funds.

“Local pilot programs and local initiatives have been key to informing the statewide dialogue,” wrote the Governor in Tuesday’s letter. “I am impressed by the work of Bethel area leaders – bringing together schools, businesses, artisans, and others for the common goal of sustainable economic growth.”

The Bethel area model has been shared with a team from Houlton, which sees applicability of the model for their area.

## Governor Baldacci Ceremonially Signs LD 2038

May 9, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci ceremonially signed LD 2038 Tuesday afternoon, An Act To Protect the Privacy of Cellular Telephone Customers.

The legislation was sponsored by Representative John Brautigam, (D-Falmouth), who was on hand for the ceremonial signing.

“This is important because there are a number of people who don’t realize that their cell phone records are accessible to just about anyone,” said Governor Baldacci.

The bill protects the private records and data of cell phone users by making it illegal for data brokers to sell the information in Maine. Records from land-line use are already protected by federal law.

The bill passed as emergency legislation, meaning that the new law will have already gone into effect when Governor Baldacci officially signed the bill last month.

“This emergency legislation is especially important because the sale and disclosure of this information is happening on a daily basis and it needs to stop,” said Governor Baldacci.

## Governor Baldacci's Dog Murphy Passes Away

May 10, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci along with First Lady Karen Baldacci and son Jack said today that their family dog, loved by many who came through the Blaine House, passed away after a battle with cancer. Murphy originally belonged to the Governor's Mother, Rosemary Baldacci, who passed away four years ago.

Murphy would greet visitors at the Blaine house, tail wagging. Commenting on Murphy's passing the Governor said, "Murphy lived a good life. She was well loved and loved everyone. She was the unofficial first dog."

Over the years, Murphy received mail from children around the state asking what it was like to live in the Blaine House. Children also sent pictures of their dogs to share with Murphy.

Murphy is survived by her Springer Spaniel companion Sam. If you would like to honor Murphy please contribute to your local Animal Humane Society.

## Governor Baldacci Outlines Maine's Energy Plan to Conference

May 10, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

PORTLAND – Governor John E. Baldacci spoke to a conference on energy Wednesday morning put on by Maine Global Climate Change, LLC. The conference, titled “Climate Change in Maine – Reducing Risks, Reducing Costs and Planning for the Future,” was held at the Abromson Community Education Center at the University of Southern Maine in Portland. Governor Baldacci spoke of the ways that Maine has led the charge in energy conservation.

“In just two short years, we have adopted the California automobile tailpipe standards for greenhouse gas emissions, we have joined the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, we have adopted a model residential energy code, we have adopted natural gas conservation programs, we have a solar rebate program where we rebate twenty-five percent of installation of solar electric and solar hot water systems, and this fall we will have a pilot whole house weatherization program,” outlined Governor Baldacci.

The Governor also spoke of plans that he has already set in motion. Baldacci noted his omnibus energy bill, making major strides forward for energy independence and reduced emissions.

“Biodiesel blended motor fuel will receive an eight cent per gallon excise tax reduction,” said Governor Baldacci. “The bill sets a goal of ten percent new renewable power in Maine by 2017.”

Governor Baldacci touted the results of his Executive Order intending to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the state's vehicle fleet.

“We now have 57 hybrids, with 10 more on the way; we have put preferential parking for car and vanpools and hybrids at many state buildings and we are adding twelve new vans to Go Maine this fall,” said Governor Baldacci. “As a result, the state has saved nearly 300,000 gallons of fuel since Fiscal Year 2003.”

Governor Baldacci touched on the topics of wind power and tidal power as well, saying that the two forms of energy are great ways to conserve.

The Governor's speech to the audience of nearly 200 people was to be followed by a panel and open forum moderated by Beth Nagusky, and breakout discussions on a variety of topics on energy efficiency.

Prior to the conference, Governor Baldacci sat in on a student presentation at USM from the Social Marketing Practicum course. The students shared the results of a campaign to reduce energy use on campus as part of the Governor's Carbon Challenge.

“One girl even said how she convinced her roommates to follow some of her suggestions,” Governor Baldacci told the conference. “Their energy bill was reduced from about \$180 to about \$140, which is significant.”

## Governor Baldacci Helps Open the Jane DeFrees Health Center

May 10, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

RUMFORD – Governor John E. Baldacci toured and participated in the official opening of the Jane DeFrees Health Center Wednesday afternoon in Rumford. The new health center is part of \$200,000 in renovations by Oxford County Mental Health Services. Some of the financial support came from the Finance Authority of Maine and the Department of Health and Human Services, in addition to other donations and fund raising.

“Improved health care for the people of Maine has always been a top priority for my administration,” said the Governor. “Being here today in this place of healing is a great pleasure for me personally.”

The Jane DeFrees Health Center is located in downtown Rumford, and Governor Baldacci heard about other improvements in the downtown area including a new restaurant.

“It’s especially important to me that these things are happening in downtown,” said Governor Baldacci. “To me, downtowns are what defines a community and gives the town its unique flavor.”

Senator Bruce Bryant and Representative John Patrick were also at the opening, as well as DHHS Commissioner, Brenda Harvey, and the DeFrees family.

“Jane was a wonderful woman who meant a great deal to the town of Rumford,” said the Governor. “She would be very proud.”



## Governor Baldacci Awards Philip C. Hastings Award to Efficiency Maine Program Manager

May 11, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

Denis Bergeron - Program Director (207) 287-7327

Linda Frechette - Public Relations Director (207) 846 3714

AUGUSTA – Governor Baldacci presented the second annual Philip C. Hastings award to Linda Viens, program manager of the Maine Public Utility Commission's Efficiency Maine Business Program, at a ceremony in the State House Hall of Flags today.

The award recognizes a group or individual that has advanced the mission and principles of Efficiency Maine and has provided superior service or support to Maine's energy efficiency community. It was established last year in remembrance of the program's founding director, the late Philip C. Hastings.

Ms. Viens, a resident of Oakland, received the award for her exemplary leadership in launching and developing the Commission's Efficiency Maine Program and for her efforts to further the goals of energy efficiency and environmental enhancement in Maine. Under her guidance, the Efficiency Maine Business Program has assisted 642 businesses across the state with 958 projects, resulting in a reduction of 35,649,298 kilowatt hours annually -- a combined cost savings of \$4.6 million for the participating businesses.

Governor Baldacci commended Viens for advancing the mission and principles of the Efficiency Maine business program, and for providing outstanding service and support to Maine's energy efficiency community. "Linda Viens has been instrumental in the success of Efficiency Maine, and the tremendously positive impact it has had on our business community," stated the Governor.

As the first employee hired by Hastings, Viens diligently worked through multiple PUC rulemaking procedures to create the programs now in operation under Efficiency Maine.

The Maine Public Utilities Commission recognized Viens for her dedication to the businesses and citizens of Maine. "Linda has been tireless in her efforts to save money for Maine's electricity consumers," stated Denis Bergeron, the director of the PUC's energy division which includes the Efficiency Maine Business Program.

Viens is known to colleagues and contractors alike for her tenacity and professional commitment, and for treating others with fairness. "Her passion and enthusiasm have contributed not only to the success of the Efficiency Maine Business Program, but also to a strong team spirit in the energy division of the PUC," added Bergeron.

Efficiency Maine is a statewide effort to promote the wise use of electricity, help lower overall electricity costs for Maine ratepayers, and improve Maine's environment. The program is administered by the Maine Public Utilities Commission and funded by electricity consumers.

Viens will be leaving her post with Efficiency Maine Program in early June.

## Governor Highlights State of Maine's Leadership in Energy Independence

May 11, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci opened the NorthEast Combined Heat and Power Initiative's annual conference this morning, highlighting the numerous efforts undertaken by the State to increase Maine's energy independence. Held at the University of Southern Maine, the theme of this year's conference was Combined Heat and Power: Reducing Energy Costs Through Recycled Energy.

Asking, "If we can do this in Maine, then why not other states," Governor Baldacci detailed the many ways in which Maine leads in energy conservation and renewable technologies.

"Our future is in highly energy efficient technology systems represented by combined heat and power and renewable technologies like solar, wind, geothermal, small hydropower, and others," said the Governor. "We have made Maine state government a leader by example with our own energy practices."

"We have put forward programs and policies to make the entire state more energy independent and secure, including: tax credits for production of biofuels in Maine; rebates for purchasing and installing solar electric, hot air and hot water systems; energy conservation programs for natural gas users; a model residential energy building code; and incentives for oil dealers to offer low income customers lower fuel prices."

Maine has also led the way in terms of state policy that encourages combined heat and power (CHP) systems.

"CHP can operate at efficiency levels of up to 80 and 90 percent," noted the Governor. "For a long time, Maine has recognized the value of rewarding the reuse of the thermal energy from the pulp and paper industry. Maine was the first and only state to do this for many years. More recently Maine revamped its clean distributed generation regulations and we give credit for thermal energy as part of the environmental permitting process. This is a significant improvement in the overall process required to install a CHP system and – again - Maine has led the way. I hope that we all come away from this conference with a renewed sense of the possibilities before us." The day-long conference included presentations by equipment manufacturers, technology options, and updates on CHP policies.

## Governor Participates in Groundbreaking of Portland's Ronald McDonald House Expansion

May 11, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci this morning participated in the groundbreaking ceremony of a major expansion to Portland's Ronald McDonald House. The launching of the Gateway to Giving Campaign seeks to raise \$1.5 million for an expansion that includes ten additional bedrooms at the current facility.

The Governor praised the broad group of supporters involved in the Gateway to Giving Campaign. "Maine is a state that prides itself on its sense of community," said the Governor. "It's part of the unique quality of life that makes people want to live here and stay here. People are involved in helping others, and this event today highlights some of the best of that spirit here in Portland."

Governor Baldacci said that the current Ronald McDonald House, which opened in May of 1995, has provided critical assistance to more than 3,350 families. "This house, which serves truly as a welcoming temporary home for those families in need, keeping families together, needs to grow. Neighbor helping neighbor, the challenge is to help raise \$1.5 million for this effort. Working together, as Mainers do, I'm sure we'll be able to accomplish this goal."

## Governor Wishes A Happy Mother's Day

May 11, 2006

CONTACT: CRYSTAL CANNEY 287-2531

DAN CASHMAN 287-2531

Happy Mother's Day 2006

I wanted to take a second and let all the mothers in Maine know I am thinking about how important their contribution is to their children on this special day and every day.

I want to say thank you to every mother who took the time to ask their child, "How was your day at school?"

This is for the mom who worked hard to help provide for her children. This is for the mom who stayed home because that was where she was needed most. This is for the mom who took the time to read to their child at bedtime when she didn't think she could stay awake one more second. This is for the many mothers who have sacrificed in ways both big and small to bring a smile to their child's face.

No card has ever been able to capture what my mother means to me. My mother was my anchor, my grounding. I am one of eight children and she instilled values of honesty, integrity and hard work in all of us. She passed away 4 years ago and there is nothing I wouldn't do to have my mother here today.

I say hug your mother with all your might, because you will never have anyone that will love you as much.

God Bless all Mothers,

Governor John E. Baldacci

## Governor Baldacci Ceremonially Signs LD 1981

May 11, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci ceremonially signed LD 1981 Thursday, Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 335: Significant Wildlife Habitat, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Environmental Protection. The Governor did the ceremonial signing at the Pine Tree State Arboretum in Augusta.

“These habitats are vitally important to these animals,” said Governor Baldacci. “They are quite literally their grocery stores and gas stations where they feed and forage at critical portions of their lifecycles.”

Governor Baldacci was joined at the signing by Representative Ted Koffman, (D-Bar Harbor) and Senator Scott Cowger, (D-Augusta). DEP Commissioner, David Littell and IF&W Commissioner, Danny Martin were also at the ceremony.

The law balances protection and development and allows for the sensible use of private property with solid protections and reasonable standards for landowners that they rely upon.

The law takes effect immediately, as the bill was passed in the Legislature as emergency legislation.

## Governor Tours Flooded Areas

May 15, 2006

YORK – Governor John E. Baldacci walked through knee-deep waters this morning along York Beach, looking at the damage caused by excessive rainfall.

The Governor, along with MEMA Director, Art Cleaves; and DOT Commissioner, David Cole visited York Beach and met with business owners whose businesses have been affected by the flooding.

Governor Baldacci spoke with local business owners who told stories ranging from ice cream coolers being flipped on their side due to the force of the flood water; to those who just wished to chat about the restaurant business over coffee as they looked out at the more than one foot of standing water outside the windows.

One restaurant pledged to the Governor that they would be open for breakfast on Memorial Day. “And I will be one of your customers,” said the Governor.

On Sunday, Governor Baldacci declared a State of Emergency in York County because of the excessive flooding.

## Governor Baldacci Ceremonially Signs BETR Bill

May 16, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

SOUTH PORTLAND – Governor John E. Baldacci ceremonially signed LD 2056 Tuesday morning, An Act To Replace Municipal Revenues Subject to Business Equipment Property Tax Exemption.

The Governor was joined by supporters of the bill, business owners and Speaker of the House John Richardson during the ceremony, held at National Semiconductor in South Portland. Governor Baldacci praised the bi-partisan efforts of the Legislature and leadership for getting the BETR bill passed.

“This is one of those things that is huge for the state of Maine, it’s been something that we’ve been carrying around on our back for a long time,” said the Governor. “Under my administration and working with the legislature on both sides of the aisle, we are promoting Maine for more business opportunity and expanded business opportunity.”

Governor Baldacci told the crowd of about 65 people about success stories of businesses in Maine, including the recent expansion of Oxford Aviation in Sanford and T-Mobile’s call center with 800 employees in Maine.

“We have to talk about this more,” said Governor Baldacci. “We want more and more business opportunities and job opportunities in our state and I think this is a wonderful advertisement for Maine.”

In addition to Governor Baldacci, other speakers at the ceremony were Senator Lynn Bromley, (D-South Portland); Speaker of the House, John Richardson, (D-Brunswick); bill sponsor, Representative David Bowles, (R-Sanford); Senator Joe Perry, (D-Bangor); and two representatives from the business community.

Steve Linne from Blacksmith’s Winery in Casco thanked the Governor, saying, “This tax was a significant burden to small business. Cash is king and when we have to tie up tax for eighteen months and go through all of the paperwork and returns involved in doing this, it is a major problem.” Linne continued, saying that he currently has 90% of his annual revenues tied up in equipment.

“In the businesses I talked to of my size, this is not going into the owner’s pocket,” said Linne. “This money is going to directly come back in employee raises, employee benefits, hiring more people, investing in more equipment and I think that is how you really build and economy.”

Also speaking at the ceremony was Dennis Rogers from Tambrands in Auburn, a manufacturer of Tampax tampons in North America. Rogers talked about the results of what has amounted to \$275,000,000 of investments that Tambrands has made, starting six years ago. Among those results



include doubling productivity, new product developments, additional support to local charities and non-profits, and the usage of Maine vendors to retool their facilities.

## Governor Baldacci Looks At Flooded Areas From Above

May 16, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci spent Monday walking through knee-deep waters along York Beach, looking at the damage caused by excessive rainfall. Tuesday afternoon, Governor Baldacci looked at the damage from above.

Three officials from the Department of Transportation and the head of the United States Coast Guard Region 1, Admiral Pekoske, joined Governor Baldacci for the flyover. The purpose of the trip was to see the existing damage to roads and bridges from the air as well as the potential for further damage as rainfall continues throughout southern Maine and New England.

“The damage is excessive,” said Governor Baldacci. “The state is doing everything it can to be ready to repair the roads and bridges as quickly as possible once the waters recede.”

Governor Baldacci continued, saying, “There are several businesses affected by the flooding, and we intend on helping them through this. I have also seen many York County businesses that are still open and staying dry.” According to MEMA, waters levels are starting to go down at the dams. Spaulding Dam has gone down 11 inches, and Milton Dam has also dropped significantly. The National Weather Service is predicting rain through the weekend for southern Maine, but the only chance of heavy rain in York County will be late Thursday into early Friday, when about one inch is possible.

Tuesday afternoon, Governor Baldacci's group flew over Salmon River Falls and various dams to examine the damage. Assessment teams from FEMA will be in Maine on Friday.

## Governor Baldacci Credits Maine's Laptop Program for Providing a Competitive Edge for State's Business and Educational Communities

May 16, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

PORTLAND – Governor John E. Baldacci announced Tuesday morning that Maine's laptop learning initiative is producing a generation of technology savvy residents that makes the state marketable to companies looking to expand and relocate. The Governor made this announcement during an event celebrating the Maine Learning Technology Initiative.

The Maine Learning Technology Initiative (MLTI), which provides new laptops, tools and resources for seventh- and eighth-grade public school students and their teachers, is providing the state's students with access to digital technology, which will help develop their learning and technology skills and keep Maine's workforce at the front of the pack, Governor Baldacci said, making the state a competitive choice for attracting businesses, and positioning Maine as a technology leader on a national and international level.

"Investing in our children and their education is a key component to maintaining our 'gold standard' workforce," said Governor Baldacci. "Maine's laptop program goes beyond the classroom. It includes strengthening math, science and technology skills that will prepare students to thrive and succeed in the 21st century global economy. By providing the next generation of workers with technology education, our workforce will continue to make Maine the place of choice to live and do business."

Governor Baldacci heralded Maine's laptop program while visiting the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) today. Seymour Papert, an internationally recognized mathematician and technology innovator who was involved in developing Maine's laptop program, joined the Governor, Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Jack Cashman, Department of Education Special Projects Director, Bette Manchester and representatives from GMRI in lauding MLTI and the world recognition it has garnered from the state.

Governor Baldacci praised the state legislature for continuing to support MLTI by approving funds in the current budget to enter a new four-year contract with Apple Computers, Inc. He added that the laptop program is a unique, positive addition to the state that also serves as a crucial step in helping the state meet its goal of expanding research and development- and technology-driven industries, and providing quality employment opportunities for Maine residents.

"We are competing on national and global levels to attract businesses to the state and having a tech-savvy workforce gives Maine a competitive advantage in bringing in high-wage, quality jobs," Governor

Baldacci said. "Our kids are the future of Maine and providing them with a top-notch education will prepare them for high-tech jobs while benefiting our economy."

## Governor and Administration Officials Continue Positive Negotiations with Georgia-Pacific

May 17, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci and top Administration officials today met at the State House with nine G-P officials who flew in to Augusta from their headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia. The continuing discussions on the future of the Old Town mill and the potential to attract a buyer have been productive. Both parties acknowledge that conversations are moving forward, but that more work needs to be done.

“I am pleased with the quality and progress of discussions today,” said Governor Baldacci. “Preserving jobs remains my primary focus. I am hopeful that we are approaching a solution that gives opportunities to the quality workforce of the mill, their families, and the community around the Old Town mill.”

Georgia-Pacific officials noted the positive tone of the meeting. “It was a good meeting and productive discussion,” said Robert Burns, Senior Manager, Communications, Georgia-Pacific Corporation. “Each side has a better understanding of the issues and both parties are working toward a win-win solution. Gaps have narrowed, but there is still work to do.”

Communications will continue between Administration and company officials in the near future.

## Governor Directs Flags to be Flown at Half-Staff Saturday, May 20

May 18, 2006

AUGUSTA – In remembrance and honor of Staff Sergeant Dale James Kelly Jr. Governor John E. Baldacci has directed that the United States flag and the State of Maine flag be flown at half staff from sunrise to sunset Saturday, May 20, 2006. Staff Sergeant Kelly of Richmond, Maine, a member of B Company, 3-172 Infantry Battalion, Maine Army National Guard, died from injuries suffered in an IED attack in Iraq on May 6. A military funeral will be held on Saturday at 2:00 pm at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 27 Pleasant Street, Brunswick, with internment to follow at the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery in Augusta.

## Governor Baldacci Speaks on Importance of Smoke-Free Housing

May 18, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

BANGOR – Governor John E. Baldacci was in Bangor Thursday morning, speaking on the importance of living in a smoke-free environment. Governor Baldacci spoke at the Smoke-Free Housing Conference at Spectacular Events Center in Bangor.

The conference is designed to bring together landlords, tenants and policymakers to learn more about smoke-free housing opportunities that will help reduce involuntary exposure to secondhand cigarette smoke.

“What you folks are doing is highly unusual,” said Governor Baldacci. “To see so many different organizations and community interests working together under one umbrella and not going at it with each other and fighting over limited resources.”

The Governor spoke to about 40 people to open the conference, with more attendees expected throughout the day. During his speech, Governor Baldacci reiterated his commitment to quality healthcare, a commitment he made while running for the office.

“I got very involved in healthcare during the campaign because Maine was in one of these death spirals where we had fewer and fewer insurance companies, higher and higher costs, more and more deductibles, catastrophic coverage where it’s like paying for no coverage at all, and people wanted a real solution,” said the Governor.

Governor Baldacci pointed out that teenage smoking has been cut in half, due in large part to his Dirigo Health initiative. Baldacci has encouraged prevention through the program, which is a good way to keep healthcare costs down.

“40 percent of your premium payments is what we do to ourselves,” said Governor Baldacci. “Smoking, eating, lack of physical fitness are all things that make our healthcare costs rise.”

A Smoke-Free Housing Conference was also held in Portland on Wednesday. Both conferences were hosted by the Smoke-Free Housing Coalition of Maine. More details about the coalition can be found at [www.smokefreeforme.org](http://www.smokefreeforme.org).

## Governor Baldacci Proclaims Nursing Home Week in Maine

May 18, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

BANGOR – Governor John E. Baldacci visited the home of several Bangor residents Thursday morning to celebrate Nursing Home Week. The Governor proclaimed May 14 – 20 as Nursing Home Week throughout Maine and presented the proclamation to the staff and residents at Ross Manor in Bangor.

“My father always told me that life is like a glass,” said Governor Baldacci. “You’re going to get out of it what you put into it.”

The Governor told the residents of Ross Manor that they are responsible for much of the history of the state of Maine. “You represent what this state is all about,” said Governor Baldacci. “For all of those years and all of your contributions, I want to thank you very much.”

The Governor was presented with a couple of gifts for being at the nursing home from the residents. He was also treated to 5 songs from the residents of Ross Manor who sing in a choir, including “You Are My Sunshine,” and “God Bless America.”

State Representatives Pat Blanchette, (D-Bangor); Jackie Norton, (D-Bangor); and Mike Dunn, (D-Bangor) were also at Ross Manor with Governor Baldacci.



## Governor Baldacci Delivers Keynote Address at Law Enforcement Officers Memorial

May 18, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor Baldacci honored all Law Enforcement Officers Thursday morning during a ceremony in Augusta to pay tribute to Maine's fallen officers.

"The work of Police Officers is never easy," said Governor Baldacci. "The risks are many and high."

About 300 people were at the annual service, held on the State Street side of the State House grounds in Augusta.

"As we remember these fallen heroes, let us thank them not only for their sacrifice, but also for being part of a profession that steadfastly protects our freedoms and our way of life," said Baldacci. "Let us never take their sacrifice, or our rights, for granted."

## Governor Requests Presidential Disaster Declaration

May 19, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci has formally requested expedited federal assistance to assist the State in responding to the major disaster resulting from the record breaking rainfall and flooding in York County and surrounding areas. The letter to the President and FEMA, notes that the severe conditions began on May 13 and continue.

“This continues to be an extraordinary storm that is creating severe conditions in the southern part of the state, coming at a time when businesses are preparing for the busy kick-off to the summer season,” said Governor Baldacci. “The forecast for the region is for rainy conditions to persist throughout the weekend, complicating debris removal. MEMA and York County officials will continue to closely monitor the situation. They do not expect the same level of severity of conditions as was experienced last weekend and the early part of this week, but it is important that we remain vigilant to protect the safety of people and property.”

The Governor visited York Beach again this morning to tour the area with Chief Doug Bracy. Federal officials are joining MEMA officials today to tour York County to conduct a Preliminary Damage Assessment.

The Governor noted that most businesses in the effected area will be open.

The text of the letter of request follows.

May 18, 2006

The Honorable George W. Bush

President of the United States

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20500

Through: Mr. Kenneth Horak, Acting Regional Director

FEMA Region One

99 High Street, 6th Floor

Boston, MA, 02110

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5206 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36, I respectfully request that you declare a major disaster for the State of Maine as a result of record breaking rainfall and flooding, beginning May 13, 2006 and continuing. York County, Maine and surrounding areas have been severely impacted by the storm.

In response to the situation, I have taken appropriate action under State law and directed the execution of the State Emergency Plan on May 14th in accordance with Section 401 of the Stafford Act. A State of Emergency has been declared in York County as of 2:30 pm on May 14th.

A Preliminary Damage Assessment has been requested and will begin on Friday May 19, 2006 to assess both public and private damages across York County. I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected local governments and that supplementary Federal assistance is necessary. I am specifically requesting: Individual Assistance, including the Individuals and Households Program (IHP), Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Crisis Counseling, Legal Assistance, Tax Relief, Public Assistance, Hazard Mitigation, and Small Business Administration disaster loans. For each program I am requesting this assistance for York County and its communities.

I am requesting that the above assistance programs be immediately expedited to ensure the essential needs of the residents and businesses in the affected areas. The flood event poses an immediate health and safety threat to thousands of residents and significant numbers of small businesses.

York County experienced record rainfall amounts not seen in decades. For example Cape Neddick received nearly sixteen inches over the period of the storm. The Town of Kennebunkport received over ten inches with other rainfall amounts in excess of twelve inches reported across the County. The impacts to residents and the business community have been extensive. Thousands of gallons of partially treated sewage were flushed directly through a treatment facility as a result of overwhelming water flowage. Rivers and streams rising to levels far above flood stage, as well as an elevated water table away from waterfront areas resulted in damage to more than 1,000 homes spread across all 29 communities of the County. More than 500 homes were evacuated, and three shelters were opened.

In addition, a large number of businesses, having just stocked up for the summer tourist season, were flooded and forced to close for an extended period of time. Additionally, the Southern Maine fishing industry was severely impacted as a result of shellfish bed closures and closed fishing grounds. Notably, a number of lobster vessels remain trapped in their home ports as the Shore Road Bridge in York was knocked from its pilings by the water levels. This bridge has been closed by the Department of Transportation indefinitely, meaning the boats trapped in harbor cannot leave to harvest lobsters.

The following information is furnished on the nature and amount of State and local resources that have been or will be used to alleviate the conditions of this disaster:

- York County EOC activated 24 hours daily since 5:00 pm Saturday May 13th

- State EOC activated on extended hours since 6:00 am Sunday May 14th
- Activation of State Emergency Response Team (ERT) as of Sunday May 14th
- Public Safety agencies across York County mobilized to close roads, evacuate citizens from threatened homes, operate shelters, etc.
- State EMA staff on scene in York County, including State Dam Inspector
- Non-impacted County Emergency Management Directors and other mutual aid resources mobilized to York County to provide assistance
- State DOT mobilized to close roads, inspect damaged roads and bridges, and pre-position sandbags at dams threatened by overtopping water
- Maine National Guard resources mobilized to York County performing variety of tasks
- Schools closed for 2-3 days county-wide
- Activation of State Disaster Assistance Team (DAT) on Tuesday May 16th

The immediate needs of the residents and businesses require an expedited response. I respectfully request that assistance for Individual Assistance and SBA loan programs be expedited as quickly as possible. Furthermore, I am requesting Public Assistance for the towns of York County. We are continuing to gather damage and cost information for public damages and will be keeping our partners at FEMA Region I informed of our findings.

I certify that for this major disaster, the State and local governments will assume all applicable non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act. I request direct Federal assistance for work and services to save lives and protect property.

The "standard" State of Maine Mitigation Plan was approved by FEMA on October 28, 2005. Additionally, the "standard" York County Mitigation Plan was approved by FEMA on October 20, 2005.

In accordance with 44 CFR § 206.208, the State of Maine agrees that it will, with respect to direct Federal assistance:

Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements and rights-of-ways necessary to accomplish the approved work;

Hold and save the United States free from damages due to the requested work, and shall indemnify the Federal Government against any claims arising from such work;

Provide reimbursement to FEMA for the non-Federal share of the cost of such work in accordance with the provisions of the FEMA-State Agreement; and

Assist the performing Federal agency in all support and local jurisdictional matters.

In addition, I anticipate the need for debris removal, which poses an immediate threat to lives, public health, and safety.

Pursuant to Sections 403 and 407 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170b & 5173, the State agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the United States of America for any claims arising from the removal of debris or wreckage for this disaster. The State agrees that debris removal from public and private property will not occur until the landowner signs an unconditional authorization for the removal of debris.

I have designated Art Cleaves, Director of the Maine Emergency Management Agency as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. He will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency in damage assessment and may provide further information or justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,

John Elias Baldacci

Governor

Cc: MG Bill Libby, Commissioner, Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management

Art Cleaves, Director, Maine Emergency Management Agency

Robert Bohlmann, Director, York County Emergency Management Agency

## First Lady to Visit High School Serving Healthy Food

May 19, 2006

The First Lady has been invited to visit Camden Hills Regional High School on Monday, May 22 at 10:00am. She will meet with Mark Vogt who is the food service manager and Susan Boivin who is the kitchen manager.

Vogt and Boivin are trained chefs committed to serving healthy food that tastes good.

The pair uses locally grown produce in their recipes to provide the freshest food in the cafeteria.

In accepting the invitation, the First Lady said: " I am excited about this program which will provide students with healthy choices and could possibly carry over to their own dinner tables at home. Healthy food can lead to reductions in childhood obesity. That's a problem across the country. I am interested to see how Camden Hills High School put this program together."

Students have feasted on Tarragon Chicken, Empenadas and Thai peanut shrimp.

First Lady Karen Baldacci will meet with Vogt and Boivin to recognize their work in the kitchen which is promoting healthy and nutritious foods for students.

Where: Camden Hills High School

When: May 22, 2006 (Monday)

Time: 10:00 a.m.

## Governor Announces Changes at MEMA

May 19, 2006

AUGUSTA - Governor John Baldacci today announced that Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) Director Art Cleaves has resigned from his position. Cleaves is leaving MEMA to become the Director of Region One of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"Art has served Maine admirably through some of the most trying times we have faced in recent years, including this most recent emergency in York County" said Governor Baldacci. "I have valued Art's ability and leadership, and while we will certainly miss him in Maine, I am proud that he will continue to serve our state, as well as the other New England states, in his new role with FEMA."

Governor Baldacci and Major General Libby have asked Charles Jacobs to serve as Interim Director of MEMA. For the past three years, Mr. Jacobs has served as Assistant Director for Homeland Security and prior to that he served as Deputy Commissioner of Department of Administrative and Financial Services under the Governor King administration. He has played a pivotal role in the Emergency Operations Center during the past several emergencies here in Maine, including the Canton flooding event in December, 2004 and Maine's response to Hurricane Katrina.

Governor Baldacci praised MEMA's coordination during this current York County major emergency. "The successful response, recovery and coordination efforts for this disaster are a direct result of a very well trained and responsive State Emergency Operations Center of which Art Cleaves has led so admirably. The people of Maine have been well served by Art, and will continue to be well served under the leadership of Charlie Jacobs. Additionally, I want to thank all MEMA employees as they perform such critical roles in emergencies and in preparedness efforts."

## Governor Announces Immediate Help for Businesses Impacted by Flooding

May 23, 2006

AUGUSTA - Governor John Baldacci today announced that the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME) has tailored two loan programs to meet immediate needs of businesses impacted by recent flooding in southern Maine. Beginning today, businesses that suffered damage as a result of the floods can access expanded and new recovery loans.

"These two loan programs help bridge the gap between immediate needs for funding and the time when Federal Disaster Funds become available," said Governor Baldacci. "I anticipate that my request to the President for expedited assistance will be granted, and this assistance will compliment the federal resources from the SBA that will then go into effect. Our business community can use this type of assistance now to quickly make repairs and otherwise recover from the disaster conditions.

"I thank FAME Chief Executive Officer John Witherspoon and the Board for quickly pulling together these resources for impacted businesses. I also want to recognize the state-federal partnership that is making a difference for the people and businesses of York County," noted the Governor.

One of the FAME programs is an expansion of the Loan Insurance Program. FAME will expand the loan insurance available through its On Line Answer (OLA) program to 75% (from 60%) of the loan amount and reduce the fee for borrowers to ½% (from 1%). Eligible businesses can access this program through their financial institution. OLA is an automated application and loan approval system that provides banks answers to their loan insurance request within 30 minutes. To take advantage of these special features applications must be received by June 30, 2006. Other qualifications for this program are:

- Maximum loan \$100,000
- 75% maximum FAME exposure
- ½% fee
- Term of up to six months.
- Monthly payments may be interest only
- Certification of eligibility for flood loan
- Assignment of all applicable insurance
- Funds received from SBA must be used to pay this loan down
- Loan request meets OnLine Answer underwriting criteria



The other program beginning today is the Economic Recovery Loan Program. FAME has set aside up to \$1 million in Economic Recovery Loan Funds at a reduced interest rate of 2% below Prime for a one year term. Applications will be accepted through June 30, 2006. Other terms and conditions for these loans are:

- Maximum Loan Amount \$75,000
- Monthly payments may be interest only
- Certification of eligibility for flood loan
- Assignment of all applicable insurance
- Any funds received from SBA must be used to pay this loan down

Eligible businesses are encouraged to work through their financial institution to access these and other programs available at FAME.

## Governor Announces Green Home Design Contest Winners

May 24, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci announced today the three winning entries in the MaineStream Green Home Design Contest organized by the Maine State Housing Authority (MaineHousing).

“I am pleased to announce the winning designs, and proud that Maine is again taking the lead in addressing energy issues,” Governor Baldacci said. “I hope that others in Maine will use these designs, or parts of them, to make new homes more energy efficient and more compatible with the environment. Anything we can do to reduce energy expenses now will pay dividends in the future.”

The contest awarded prizes of \$2,000, \$1,000, and \$500 to the top three entries. A panel of five judges selected the three winning entries from among 23 submissions.

First place was awarded to John Gordon of Gordon|Stanley Architecture of Southwest Harbor. John has been designing and constructing buildings since 1982, including public schools, university and municipal buildings, performing arts facilities, and homes. He has been an active member of the Maine Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) since 1991, has served on Maine’s AIA Executive Committee since 2003, and is the 2005-06 President. John is a founding member of Maine AIA’s Committee on the Environment. He is a graduate of Cornell University with a degree in Design and Environmental Analysis.

Second place went to Ryan Senator, who has been with TFH Architects of Portland since 2002, the same year he received his Bachelor of Architecture from Roger Williams University of Rhode Island. He is taking an internship program in preparation for his architect’s license. Ryan has had an interest in environmentally responsible design since his undergraduate days, and has designed and built an energy-efficient home in Kingfield.

Chris Briley, founder of the new Green Design Studio in Yarmouth, received the third place award. Chris is a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Accredited Professional. He formerly worked for TFH Architects where he was project architect for several projects, such as the manufacturing facility for Tom’s of Maine. He is a founding member of the Maine Chapter of the Green Building Council and a member of its Board of Directors. He holds a degree in architecture from Ball State University and a degree in Environmental Design from State University College of Architecture and Planning.

Applicants were challenged to submit designs for homes of 1,000 square feet that met the requirements of MaineHousing’s Green Design Standards, adopted by the agency last year for new multi-family developments it finances.

“The green home contest is a way to increase interest in green housing construction and expand the use of the green building designs from multi-family housing to single family homes,” explained MaineHousing Director Dale McCormick.

“We have estimated that the green standards in multi-family housing will increase energy efficiency by 30 percent. We think applying the same principles to new single family homes will result in substantial

energy savings for new home builders as well, in addition to developing homes that fit well with the environment and the neighborhood.”

In addition to the three winning entries, the judges selected two other entries for honorable mention, and singled out seven others for specific notable green design features.

The winning designs will be featured in public displays throughout the state, starting in June at the University of Southern Maine. More details on the date and location of this and other displays will be available on MaineHousing's website at [www.mainehousing.org](http://www.mainehousing.org) as soon as the information is available.

MaineHousing is developing a publication and CD featuring the winning designs that will be available later this year.

## Governor Baldacci Signs LD 1021

May 24, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (Cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (Cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA - Governor John E. Baldacci signed LD 1021 this evening, as the session continues to wind down to a close.

The bill, An Act To Implement Task Force Recommendations Relating to Parity and Portability of Benefits for Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters, was signed by Governor Baldacci as he was surrounded by firefighters and local police officers, members of the House and Senate, the Speaker of the House and the Senate President. The bill signing was done in the Cabinet Room with about 60 people in attendance.

LD 1021 requires that the state contribute toward the cost of health insurance for retired local police officers and firefighters.

"This bill is important to all of us," said Governor Baldacci, "because we should be doing everything we can to protect those who protect everyone in this state so well. Health insurance for working families is one of my highest priorities."

"This bill...is now a law," said Governor Baldacci as the room erupted in applause. The law will take effect in 90 days.

## Governor Signs Executive Order on Dirigo Health Reform

May 24, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci today issued an Executive Order on Dirigo Health Reform.

“A lot of very good work has been done on Dirigo,” said the Governor. “The Legislature made strong efforts to keep Dirigo intact and protect consumers. We need to build on these efforts.”

Governor Baldacci noted that currently more than 10,000 individuals and small businesses have access to affordable health insurance because of Dirigo. Dirigo Health Reform produced \$44 million in cost savings in the Maine health care system in the last year.

“We have to remember that Dirigo Health is a first-in-the-nation universal access to health coverage program,” said the Governor. “We will work hard to ensure that more people get the care and coverage they need. It is not right that people work hard, play by the rules and pay their taxes do not have the health coverage they need.

“That is why I am issuing an Executive Order to build upon the success of Dirigo and provide more individuals and small businesses with the health coverage they need and deserve. With the valuable experience gained in the first year of Dirigo, we need to continue our work with all of the stakeholders to make our health care system even more efficient, find savings and return the savings to hard working Mainers.”

The text of the Executive Order follows.

### AN ORDER REGARDING DIRIGO HEALTH REFORM

WHEREAS, Dirigo Health Reform promotes the efforts of the State of Maine to achieve universal health care coverage, improving the affordability and accessibility of all Maine people; and

WHEREAS, health care is a matter of fairness; quality health care must be available to everyone in Maine; and

WHEREAS, DirigoChoice, the subsidized insurance product, is an essential element that is working for Maine families and small businesses; and

WHEREAS, Dirigo Health Reform is working for Maine families, achieving \$43.7 million in savings in the first year of DirigoChoice and having covered more than 16,000 people in the first 15 months; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to continue the promise of DirigoChoice in achieving these goals; and

WHEREAS, we must continue to expand Dirigo so that more Maine working families have health insurance coverage

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John E. Baldacci, Governor of the state of Maine, by the authority vested in me, do hereby order the creation of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Dirigo Health:

I. Purpose

The Blue Ribbon Commission on Dirigo Health will make recommendations with respect to long-term funding and cost containment methods to continue the efforts of Dirigo Health in increasing the affordability, accessibility and quality of health care for the people of Maine.

II. Duties

The Blue Ribbon Commission on Dirigo Health shall undertake the following duties:

- Review and make recommendations for alternatives for funding, which may include the savings offset payment, the Dirigo Health Program and subsidies under the program in a fair, equitable and broadly distributed manner.
- Review and make recommendations on methods proven effective in reducing and controlling health care costs and create savings in Maine's health care market, including how such methods may be incorporated in the DirigoChoice health insurance product

III. Responsibilities

The Blue Ribbon Commission on Dirigo Health shall submit a report with recommendations to the Governor by December 15, 2006.

IV. Membership

- The Blue Ribbon Commission on Dirigo Health shall consist of no more than fifteen (15) members. The Governor shall appoint the members by June 15, 2006. Members shall include representatives of the Legislature, consumers, labor, business, providers, insurers, Dirigo Health Agency and enrolled businesses and the Governor's Office of Health Policy and Finance.

Effective Date

The effective date of this Executive Order is May 24, 2006.

John E. Baldacci, Governor

## Governor Addresses Legislature on End of Session

May 24, 2006

AUGUSTA - Governor John E. Baldacci addressed the Maine State Legislature as the session wound to an end late Wednesday night. The Governor complimented legislators about the accomplishments made on behalf of all Maine people.

The Governor stated:

"We made great strides in improving our economy, health care, education and environment.

In one of the last acts of the session, I signed into law LD 1021 a bill which will aid law enforcement officers and firefighters in paying their health insurance. This will help the people who put their lives on the line every day for each one of us.

We continued to increase – to historic levels – state funding of local education.

We successfully added 5.8 million dollars to higher education.

We have made great strides in supporting our teachers in a meaningful way that will bring new teachers to the table with increasing minimum salaries for starting teachers to 30-thousand dollars a year.

At the same time we were able to increase payments to hospitals.

Together, and with impressive bipartisanship, we passed a 2/3 budget – one that again did not raise broad based taxes and that put \$100 million in the rainy day fund.

We have met challenges hoisted upon us by federal budget shortfalls and unfunded mandates. We took care of Maine citizens, putting their needs above party politics. This is what the people of Maine have come to expect, and you have again delivered.

Our first order of business was to expedite \$5 million in fuel assistance to take care of some of our neighbors in greatest need – supplementing inadequate federal LIHEAP funds.

When the federal government program Medicare Part D failed thousands of seniors, the State stepped in to ensure no one left a pharmacy without their lifesaving medications.

We have built a stronger, more competitive Maine, continuing to ensure that our fiscal house is in order, and investing in our greatest resource – our people.

We reformed the business equipment tax to provide incentives for business growth and expansion. And it helped in reducing the state tax burden.

We expanded Pine Tree Zones.

We passed a comprehensive energy package to help increase our energy independence and promote a healthy environment for future generations.

We increased access to broadband technology across the reaches of the state.

We expanded our creative economy with the Maine Attraction film incentive.

We preserved Dirigo Health because all Maine people need and deserve affordable, quality health care that we can depend on.

And, importantly, we made sure we reward hard work and workers by increasing the minimum wage, and by increasing the minimum teacher pay.

I wish you well on a job well done, an enjoyable summer with your family and friends. It is well deserved."



## Governor Signs Three Bills Benefiting Washington County

May 24, 2006

AUGUSTA - Governor John E. Baldacci signed LD 1944, LD 228, and LD 1948 into law Wednesday night as the session came to a close. These three bills will bring added resources to Washington County through Pine Tree Zones, investments in local business development, and support of marine research & development. In signing the Washington County bills Governor Baldacci stated: "Washington County and its bold coast have tremendous potential. Supporting locally driven priorities will allow Washington County to grow. I am happy to be able to support the efforts of these fine, hard working people."

LD 1944 implements recommendations of the Washington County Economic Development Task Force. The bill appropriates \$75,000 for local economic development priorities as well as creating a Pine Tree Zone pilot programs for seasonal businesses as well as tourism and resort development in Cutler.

LD 228 provides \$15,000 dollars for the operations of the Downeast Institute for Marine Research on Beals Island.

LD 1948 appropriates \$25,000 to study the future of the Marine Technology Center, known as the Boat School in Eastport.

These laws will take effect in 90 days.

## Maine To Take Part in National Project Aimed at Protecting Privacy of Patient Information

May 25, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci announced that Maine has been selected to take part in an extensive national endeavor aimed at protecting patient privacy. As efforts are underway to improve the quality of health care and reduce medical errors, more medical records are computerized and then shared electronically among doctors, hospitals and other healthcare providers. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced this week that Maine and 21 other states and territories have entered subcontracts with RTI International, Inc. (RTI), a not-for-profit research firm, to address privacy and security policy questions affecting electronic clinical information-sharing.

“Maine has been a leader in providing quality health care,” said Governor Baldacci. “Through the State Health Plan, a critical part of Dirigo Health, Maine has been in the forefront of building public-private partnerships such as the Maine Health Information Network Technology project. This project focuses on allowing data from existing systems within practices, hospitals, pharmacies and others to interconnect and transmit data across sites.”

Maine’s statewide electronic information-sharing system, HealthInfoNet, has been under development for the past two years. HealthInfoNet was designated by the Governor to submit Maine’s proposal for this contract. The establishment of a statewide information-sharing system is an important element of the State Health Plan that the Governor unveiled earlier this year.

HealthInfoNet, an independent nonprofit organization is expected to be one of the nation’s first statewide electronic information-sharing system giving authorized health care professionals and treatment centers immediate, secure access to a patient’s health records. Once the system is in place, with patients’ consent, health providers will be able to instantly access critical information. The system will include rigorous protections to ensure the highest level of patient privacy and overall security.

Consumer advocacy groups from across Maine have been involved in the development of HealthInfoNet. Consumer representatives sit on the HealthInfoNet Board of Directors and will be invited to serve on a standing committee made up of consumers.

Under the contract announced by HHS, Maine will join other states in identifying variations in current privacy and security practices and laws affecting electronic clinical information-sharing. This work will lead to the development of best practices and proposed solutions that will allow information-sharing to take place. It also is expected to build expertise about health information privacy and security protection in communities across the state. Solutions that will be crafted on identification of privacy and security issues will provide a foundation for future work by the federal government and facilitate health information exchange across states.

“States and territories have a critical role in working with the health care industry and consumers so that health information continues to be appropriately protected as we move forward into the digital era of

medicine,” said HHS Acting Deputy National Coordinator for Health Information Technology Dr. Karen Bell, who played a key role in launching the HealthInfoNet process while working in Maine in 2004. “This effort to partner with states and territories will ensure that the health care system serves consumers’ needs and meets the President’s goal for health information technology.”

The HHS Office of the National Coordinator of Health Information Technology (ONC) is tasked with coordinating federal health IT programs across executive branch agencies, as well as coordinating with the private sector on its health IT efforts. Information about the ONC is available at [www.hhs.gov/healthit](http://www.hhs.gov/healthit). Information about Maine’s HealthInfoNet can be found at the web site [www.hinfonet.org](http://www.hinfonet.org).

## Governor Baldacci's Request for Disaster Relief Granted

May 25, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

### GOVERNOR BALDACCI'S REQUEST FOR DISASTER RELIEF GRANTED

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci received word today that President Bush has signed a major disaster declaration for York County. This follows flooding in that area from May 13, 2006 forward. The Governor was notified late this afternoon that the request had been granted. The declaration makes residents of York County eligible for temporary disaster housing assistance, U.S. Small Business Administration low interest loans for individuals and businesses to repair or replace damaged property, grants for serious disaster-related needs, and expenses not covered by insurance or other assistance programs, and disaster unemployment assistance.

Upon receiving word about the disaster declaration, Governor Baldacci said: "I am pleased that this request is going forward and the people of York County will get the help they need to get back on their feet."

People needing to register for assistance should call FEMA at 1-800-621-FEMA.

You will need current information regarding:

- phone number
- address at time of the disaster
- address where you are now staying
- social security number if available
- list of damages and losses suffered
- if insured, the name of your company or agent and your policy number
- general financial information
- bank account coding for direct deposit

## Governor Directs Flags to be Flown at Half Staff on Memorial Day

May 26, 2006

Contact: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (Cell) 557-5968 Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (Cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – In observance of Memorial Day, Governor John Baldacci has directed that the United States flag and the State of Maine flag be flown at half staff from sunrise to noon Monday, May 29, 2006. At noon, flags are to be raised to full staff.

Said the Governor, “As Memorial Day approaches, we remember all those in the Armed Forces, National Guard, and Reserves who gave their lives for the protection of our freedom and liberty, as well as those who continue to serve our country. Their sacrifices are not in vain, nor are they ever forgotten.

“Time and time again, our soldiers have answered the call and stood ready to support the defense of our families, communities, and country. All in Maine owe them a debt of gratitude – on Memorial Day, and every day.”

## Governor Baldacci Helps Launch Maiden Voyage of The CAT From Portland

May 26, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

PORTLAND – Governor John E. Baldacci threw the first line from The CAT Friday afternoon, helping launch the vessel's maiden voyage from Portland.

"The CAT adds to the quality of life and the economy of Maine," said Governor Baldacci. "It has already been an important facet of Bar Harbor, and today it begins service from Portland to Yarmouth, Nova Scotia."

Governor Baldacci was joined by Portland Mayor, Hon. James Cohen; Canadian Consul General, Hon. Stan Keyes; Mayor of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, His Worship Charles Crosby; and the CEO and President of Bay Ferries, Mark McDonald.

"Today's maiden voyage of the CAT from this great city marks a move towards stronger economic growth and an international cooperation and bond with our brothers to the north," said the Governor.

Friday's vessel launch marks the most recent of many Portland transportation events that Governor Baldacci has attended. The Governor started the month congratulating Portland on their new fleet of METRO Compressed Natural Gas buses, he proclaimed May as Transportation Month in Maine during the Regional Bus Transportation Seminar on May 16 and flew into Portland from New York on the first JetBlue flight into Maine on May 23.

The Governor praised the accessibility of Maine, which is especially important to the tourism industry.

"An increase in tourism means an increase in job opportunities and an increase in our standard of living," said the Governor. "Portland and all of Maine is poised for exciting growth, and thanks to The Cat we will become a bigger travel destination."

## Governor Baldacci Congratulates State Police Award Recipients

May 30, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci congratulated recipients of the 2005 State Police Awards at a ceremony held Tuesday afternoon in Augusta.

Governor Baldacci noted that it has been a priority for him to attend the annual ceremony every year that he has been Governor, saying, “every time I come here, I leave impressed with the dedication of the State Troopers who have been honored; and the commitment of those not on the State Police, who have also been singled out for extraordinary contributions.”

Governor Baldacci singled out Harry Bailey, the recipient of the Legendary Trooper Award. Bailey is also a former Maine State Legislator with whom Governor Baldacci served. The 2005 Trooper of the Year Award was given to Trooper Scott Stevens of Coplin Plantation and Troop C of the Maine State Police.

“Maine continues to be one of the safest states in the country,” said the Governor. “That accomplishment is a credit to many here in this room.”

## Governor Signs Legislation to Benefit Midcoast

May 30, 2006

AUGUSTA - Governor John Baldacci today joined House Speaker John Richardson and Senate President Beth Edmonds, and Midcoast area Legislators, businesspeople and economic development directors to sign two pieces of legislation that promote economic and job growth in the Midcoast region. The bills signed – LD 1955, “An Act To Provide Emergency Regional Economic Development Assistance for Brunswick Naval Air Station” and LD 1957, “An Act To Establish the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority” - create a path to new opportunities as region redevelopment efforts continue.

“As we move forward with the planning for the base re-use, it is important that we utilize every resource available to encourage new business creation in this region to mitigate the effects of the closure,” said Governor Baldacci. “The redevelopment of the Midcoast is a crucial part of my economic development plan. These kinds of strategic planning and investments – such as expanding the Pine Tree Development program – serve to expand the ability of this region and all of Maine to realize the promise of economic and job growth.”

Patterned after the successful Loring Development Authority, LD 1957, which had been signed as emergency legislation, creates the structure and function of the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority. The bill established the legal entity required by the Federal Government to accept the assets of the facility and manage a locally driven process for its readjustment and reuse. The authority is entrusted with acquiring and managing the properties within the geographic boundaries of Brunswick Naval Air Station.

The bill LD 1955 establishes the Midcoast region as a Pine Tree Zone-eligible area. The new area will be called the Military Redevelopment Zone. Qualified business that develop or expand to create good paying jobs will see their tax burden reduced through a host of exemptions, reimbursements and credits. Since the Pine Tree Zone legislation became effective in 2003, 3,000 jobs across the state have been created in qualified businesses.

“The Military Redevelopment Zone will be the cornerstone of the economic redevelopment effort,” said Governor Baldacci. “With the leadership of Speaker Richardson and President Edmonds, and the support of all those gathered here, we were able to successfully pass legislation creating Military Redevelopment Zones.”



## Governor Celebrates with Law Enforcement and Firefighters

May 30, 2006

AUGUSTA - Governor John Baldacci was joined this evening by Legislators and law enforcement officers and firefighters to celebrate last week's signing of LD 1021, "An Act To Implement Task Force Recommendations Relating to Parity and Portability of Benefits for Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters."

"Our county and local law enforcement officers and firefighters protect the health and safety of Maine people, putting their lives on the line for us, each and every day they go to work," said Governor Baldacci. "Providing them with access to affordable health insurance in their retirement is the fair and right thing to do."

The bill LD 1021, signed by the Governor last Wednesday, provides for a 45% subsidy for health insurance coverage for eligible county and municipal law enforcement officers and firefighters. Among the eligibility requirements, a retiree must be between the ages of 50 and 65, and must be eligible for a defined contribution retirement benefit (other than Social Security) sponsored by his/her employer.

"This is an important issue to ensure Maine has continued access to high quality emergency and law enforcement personnel," continued the Governor. "The legislation I signed into law was crafted with our valued local law enforcement officers and firefighters and struck the right balance to achieve our shared important goals."

The program is financed through a mix of funds including contributions from active and retired employees and General Fund monies. Coverage will be available beginning July 1, 2007, although enrollment will begin prior to that time.

## Governor Baldacci Reassures Veterans Regarding Data Breach

May 24, 2006

(Augusta) In the wake of news that personal data on 26.5 million U.S. veterans was stolen from the Veterans Administration, Governor John Baldacci today reminded Maine consumers that state and federal laws provide tools to prevent identity theft or minimize its impact. He recommended that any veterans concerned about identity theft place fraud alerts on their credit reports.

"This is a serious breach of security, and we will demand to know how such a data theft could occur," said the Governor. "However, while actual identity theft, in which a person's identity is used to apply for credit, is very rare, a fraud alert will warn creditors not to extend credit to anyone using your name, without ensuring the proper identity of the applicant."

Consumers can place fraud alerts in their files by calling any one of the three nationwide consumer credit reporting networks, said Baldacci. The network you notify will in turn notify the other two credit reporting agencies, and alerts will then be placed on credit reports with all three networks.

Maine consumers can contact any of the following:

Equifax: 1-877-576-5734; [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)

Experian: 1-888-397-3742; [www.experian.com/fraud](http://www.experian.com/fraud)

TransUnion: 1-800-680-7289; [www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)

An "initial fraud alert" will be imposed, and will remain on a consumer's file for at least 90 days. If a consumer experiences actual credit fraud, the consumer can impose an "extended alert" by filing a complaint with a law enforcement agency, and providing a copy of that complaint to any of the credit reporting agencies.

A new Maine law that became effective this January provides an additional level of protection against misuses of personal data, especially for victims of ID theft. Called "file freeze", it completely blocks access to a consumer's credit report. It is available free of charge to a victim of ID theft, and requires only that a copy of a police report be sent to each credit reporting agency. This is used less frequently than a fraud alert, because it must be "unlocked" in order for the consumer to obtain extensions of credit.

Consumers can also check their credit reports on line for free once each year, using the website [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com). If consumers find themselves subject to identity theft or credit fraud, they are permitted access to additional copies without charge, until any erroneous information is deleted.

Consumers with questions can contact the Maine Office of Consumer Credit Regulation at 1-800-DEBT-LAW (1-800-332-8529), The federal government has also established a special website to answer questions about the VA file breach, [www.firstgov.gov/veteransinfo.shtml](http://www.firstgov.gov/veteransinfo.shtml), and a special telephone

number, 1-800-FED-INFO (1-800-333-4636). The Department of Veterans Affairs has indicated that they will be notifying each veteran whose information was included in the security breach. After that notification, individuals from the Department of Professional and Financial Affairs will be available to counsel individual veterans on additional steps that they can take to further secure their personal information. Should demand warrant, the Department is ready to host forums statewide in conjunctions with the Maine Bureaus of Veteran Services and State's Veterans Services and State's Veteran Service Organizaton.

## Governor Baldacci Signs 3 bills benefiting Washington County

May 24, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (Cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (Cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA - Governor John E. Baldacci signed LD 1944, LD 228, and LD 1948 into law Wednesday night as the session came to a close. These three bills will bring added resources to Washington County through Pine Tree Zones, investments in local business development, and support of marine research & development. In signing the Washington County bills Governor Baldacci stated: "Washington County and its bold coast have tremendous potential. Supporting locally driven priorities will allow Washington County to grow. I am happy to be able to support the efforts of these fine, hard working people."

LD 1944 implements recommendations of the Washington County Economic Development Task Force. The bill appropriates \$75,000 for local economic development priorities as well as creating a Pine Tree Zone pilot programs for seasonal businesses as well as tourism and resort development in Cutler.

LD 228 provides \$15,000 dollars for the operations of the Downeast Institute for Marine Research on Beals Island. LD 1948 appropriates \$25,000 to study the future of the Marine Techonology Center, known as the Boat School in Eastport.

These laws will take effect in 90 days.

## Governor Baldacci Announces Additional Money For Washington County

May 25, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (Cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (Cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA - Governor John E. Baldacci announced today there will be additional monies for Washington County in two vital areas.

The Governor is providing 300-thousand dollars in emergency funding to prevent a foreclosure of the Downeast Heritage Museum in Calais.

In addition, he will use 210-thousand dollars to help the Boat Building school remain in Eastport during the next academic year.

Both these requests for additional funds were made by Rep. Anne Perry (D)-Calais.

In making these award Governor Baldacci note: "The museum is an anchor for tourism in Washington County. The boat building is also a vital resource to the area. I am pleased to be able to add this money to this area of the state."

## Governor Baldacci Comments on the Passing of Broadcast Legend Dick Johnson

May 25, 2005

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (Cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (Cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA - Governor John E. Baldacci said he was saddened to learn of the passing of WGAN Radio News Reporter Dick Johnson.

Johnson was a journalist for 40 years and covered everything from major political elections to the smaller everyday stories.

In commenting on his passing Governor Baldacci said: "I know from Dick's colleagues how much he was respected and that he was one of the hardest working guys out there. He will be missed." Johnson was inducted into the Maine Association of Broadcasters' Hall of Fame in 2003. He leaves behind three sons and several grandchildren. Dick Johnson was 69 years old.

## Governor Baldacci Cites Good Bond Rating Report

May 28, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

PORTLAND – Governor John E. Baldacci is pleased to have learned that Maine's Aa3 general obligation bond rating shows Maine's efforts to improve the state's fiscal situation since 2002 continues to improve.

Moody's noted: "After several years of narrow financial operations, Maine's fiscal position has improved as indicated by growing reserve levels reflecting management effort to control spending and rebuild balances depleted during the recession," the report stated.

Since Governor Baldacci took office the rainy day fund has grown from zero to 100 million dollars in reserves. According to the report, rating strengths include: growing reserve balances.

For a full copy of the report please go to [www.moodys.com](http://www.moodys.com)

## Governor Announces Community Development Block Grants

May 31, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci today announced the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) has awarded \$80,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Community Planning Grants. Eight communities will receive a total of up to \$10,000 for their planning projects.

“These critical grants promote projects in municipalities across the State,” said Governor Baldacci. “The program is an important tool used by the State and local communities to meet development objectives and together build a thriving economy and infrastructure for all Maine citizens.”

Funding for the program originates with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and is administered by the Office of Community Development. This year, HUD allocated \$14.1 million down from almost \$15.7 million the Maine program received last year.

The successful applicants will be using the funds for a variety of activities including studies involving downtown revitalization, assessment of housing conditions, wastewater system improvements, public building reuse, recreation facility planning and the feasibility of developing a business park.

This is the first round of this program. All applicants in this round will be invited to proceed in the application process. Applications for the last round of this program are due on August 4, 2006.

### 2006 CDBG Community Planning Grant Program

Bath, Sagadahoc, Business park feasibility study, \$10,000

Fort Fairfield, Aroostook, Public building reuse plan, \$10,000

Lubec, Washington, Recreation planning, \$10,000

Madawaska, Aroostook, Housing assessment, \$10,000

Mechanic Falls, Androscoggin, Multi-family housing study, \$10,000

Parsonsfield, York, Wastewater treatment upgrades, \$10,000

Stockholm, Aroostook, Public building reuse plan, \$10,000

Van Buren, Aroostook, Downtown plan, \$10,000



## Governor Baldacci Congratulates Student Writers

May 31, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci congratulated the winners of the 2006 Governor's Young Writer of the Year Awards this afternoon at Maple Hill Farm in Hallowell.

The 2006 contest generated 214 entries, with 8 semi-finalists being chosen by the judges to attend the awards luncheon. The semi finalists were:

- o Emma Albright of Freeport High School
- o Siobhan Anderson of North Yarmouth Academy
- o Cassandra Jensen of Lewiston High School
- o Lauren Landry of Lewiston High School
- o Lauren Rodrigue of Lewiston High School
- o Emily Shinay of Scarborough High School
- o Kinsey Tarbell of Cape Elizabeth High School
- o Erin Watson of the Maine School of Science & Mathematics

The eight semi-finalists all received a \$100 check, a plaque and a copy of their submission, signed by Governor Baldacci.

"This program was designed to focus on writing talents, in high school ages with common interests," said Governor Baldacci. "I think you win just by being selected, participating and being here today."

Dr. John Fitzsimmons, President of the Maine Community College System, who sponsors the contest, introduced the Governor. "When I approached Governor Baldacci about the idea for this contest, he said, 'If it's good for students, count me in,'" said Fitzsimmons.

The three winners of the Governor's Young Writer of the Year Awards all receive a framed certificate and a check for \$2,500 for their accomplishment. The winners were Emma Albright of Freeport High School, Siobhan Anderson of North Yarmouth Academy, and Cassandra Jensen of Lewiston High School.

All three judges were at the event to present the awards. Richard Russo, Linda Greenlaw and Wesley McNair have also all agreed to be judges for next year's entries.

About 60 people attended this afternoon's luncheon. In addition to Governor Baldacci and the judges, First Lady Karen Baldacci; Commissioner of Education, Sue Gendron; sponsors, families and teachers were all present at the ceremony.

## Governor Announces Opening of Disaster Recovery Center for York County

May 31, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci today announced that a Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) to aid York County residents and businesses affected by the severe storms and flooding will be opening tomorrow, Thursday, June 1. The center will be located at the York County Community College, 112 College Drive, Wells. The office, which will be staffed by state and federal officials, will open at 10:00 am.

"The continuing State-Federal partnership in this effort is critical so that residents and businesses impacted by the storms have access to needed assistance," said Governor Baldacci. "I have been impressed with state, local and regional efforts and applaud all those involved in the recovery for moving expeditiously and effectively to ensure that this area successfully rebounds. Visitors to southern Maine this weekend were able to enjoy a wonderful holiday with a minimum of disruptions because of many long hours and hard work."

Anyone who has suffered losses or damages as a result of the storms may go the Disaster Recovery Center to follow up on their registration. Those affected by the disaster are urged to register for assistance first by calling toll-free 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired. Registration can also be done online at [www.fema.gov/assistance](http://www.fema.gov/assistance). Those who have questions may visit the center to meet with recovery specialists in person.

Representatives of state, federal, and voluntary agencies, including customer service representatives from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), will be on hand to answer questions and provide recovery information. Written materials about various assistance programs are also available to individuals and business owners. Hours of the center will be Monday through Saturday from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm.

York County residents have been able to register for disaster assistance since last Friday morning.

"I urge all citizens and business owners to register for disaster assistance," the Governor said. "This is a critical first step on the road to recovery. And I'm pleased that FEMA, MEMA and York County Emergency Management and the York County Community College have worked together to open this Disaster Recovery Center so quickly."

## Governor Baldacci Addresses Bangor Breakfast Rotarians

June 1, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

BANGOR – Governor John E. Baldacci presented his Pine Tree Economic Development Plan to the Bangor Area Breakfast Rotary Thursday morning at Eastern Maine Community College.

The Governor started by telling the group about several accolades the state of Maine has received from outside sources, such as Bangor being named one of the Top 100 small metropolitan Best Places for Business and Careers by Forbes Magazine. The Governor also pointed out good news about Maine as reported by USA Today (income growth, May 4), the US Census Bureau (more Mainers staying than leaving, April 20), the Federation of Tax Administrators (Maine's state Tax Ranking fell, April 3), and Progressive Farmer (3 Maine Counties among the Top 200 Best Places to Live in Rural America, March 28).

"The point of all of this is that Maine is a great place to live and do business," said Governor Baldacci. "As Governor, if you don't tell people that, nobody else will."

Governor Baldacci spoke to the crowd of about 70 people for 20 minutes, outlining his Pine Tree Economic Development Plan's five points: Education, Job Growth and Business Development, Strengthening Maine's Infrastructure, Expanding Affordable Health Care, and Protecting our Resources.

"Standing here in Rangeley Hall at Eastern Maine Community College, I'm proud to tell you that we established the Community College System," said the Governor. "Enrollment is up 40% and Southern Maine Community College is the fastest growing community college in the country." The Governor stressed the importance of investing in education, both at K-12 levels and higher education, to continue to strengthen Maine's economy.

Governor Baldacci highlighted his administration's Pine Tree Zones as a major job growth and business development, saying, "Jim Horowitz of Oxford Aviation asked New Hampshire if they had heard of Maine's Pine Tree Zones and they said there was no way they could compete with our incentive package."

"We have used Pine Tree Zones with Lincoln's new tissue machines and to bring T-Mobile's 700-800 jobs with benefits to Maine," said Governor Baldacci. "We still have work to do. We need to expand these Pine Tree Zones to more areas of Maine and invest in more research and development."

After touching on Maine's infrastructure and the expansion of the Downeaster rail service, Governor Baldacci spoke on the expansion of affordable health care.

"DirigoChoice is just one part of our plan," said the Governor. "We initiated comprehensive health reform and we kept tobacco funds off the budget. It was important to me once we had the money not to put it in the budget, but to reduce our long-term health care costs."

The fifth point of the Governor's plan is to protect Maine's resources. The Governor praised the Legislature's passing of the bill to complete Governor Baxter's vision during the most recent session. He also added that Maine has added 1 million acres of conserved land to preserve Maine's way of life for the future over the past four years.

The Governor also took the opportunity for questions and answers, and to update the group on the state of the state's finances. Governor Baldacci reminded the group of the \$1.2 billion shortfall, the lack of a rainy day fund and the \$275 million loan when he took office.

"We now have over \$100 million in reserves, no furlough days and the \$275 million loan is down to \$55 million," said Governor Baldacci. "Your state is in good shape and I'm working hard to make it better."

## Governor Baldacci Ceremonially Signs Water Bills

June 1, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci ceremonially signed two bills on Thursday morning, aimed to responsibly manage the state's water. LD 2070, Resolve, To Ensure the Availability of Public Drinking Water Supplies; and LD1776, An Act To Establish the Maine Agricultural Water Management Board and the Sustainable Agricultural Water Source Program were both ceremonially signed in the Governor's Office.

The Governor was joined by supporters of the bill, including Jeff McNealy of MWVA; Jon Zieger of the Bath-Brunswick Regional Water District; Brian Tarbeck of the Augusta Water District; Norm Labbee of the Kennebunk-Wells Water District and Jeff Reardon of Trout Unlimited.

"These 2 bills reflect input from all stakeholders who worked hard to meet the goal of protecting our public water resources," said Governor Baldacci. "I want to see more irrigated crop land in Maine, I want to see our communities grow, and I want to see our fisheries improved. We can do all of these, as long as you continue to work together."

Governor Baldacci continued, "These bills will help the State achieve the important balance of protecting aquatic life, public health, and a sound economy."

## Governor Baldacci Signs Energy Bill

June 1, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

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AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci signed LD 2041 Thursday morning, An Act To Enhance Maine's Energy Independence and Security.

The Governor signed the bill surrounded by bill supporters and bill sponsor, Representative Ken Fletcher, (R-Winslow). "Energy has been a very important issue since I came to office, which is why I established the Office of Energy Independence and Security," said Governor Baldacci. "I did this to show that energy, the environment and the economy are intricately connected. We are establishing policies and procedures to make State Government a laboratory for other nonprofit, public and private entities." The Governor pointed out examples like green building standards, hybrid vehicles and van pools. He said that the goal has always been to build on that foundation. Governor Baldacci said that this legislation will put Maine further in the direction of recognizing all of the state's energy initiatives.

"Today, we are signing the most comprehensive, progressive energy legislation that Maine has enacted in well over a decade," said Governor Baldacci. "The bill will make Maine more energy independent, it will help to stabilize and reduce Maine homeowner's and businesses energy bills, and it will help to address the looming threat of catastrophic global climate change.

Among other things, the legislation will provide an 8 cent per gallon state excise tax reduction for diesel motor fuel containing at least 2 percent biodiesel.

"I am proud to be signing this bill because it steers us toward an energy future that will be lower cost, less dependent on imported fossil fuels, cleaner, and better for the state's economy," said Governor Baldacci.

## Governor Baldacci on the Passing of Ed Dahlgren

June 1, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci extends his deepest sympathy to the family of Edward C. Dahlgren upon hearing of his passing. Dahlgren was the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient who was a full-year resident of the State of Maine. The Medal of Honor is the highest award given in the United States for military service, bestowed for valor in combat. There are just over 100 recipients of the Medal of Honor still living.

“Ed Dahlgren was a hero in every sense of the word,” said Governor Baldacci. “He will be remembered by many for his great contributions to Maine and to this country in his service during World War II, but he will also be remembered by his community as someone who had the greatest heart and spirit – a true Mainer.”

In World War II, Dahlgren led a mission that saved an Army unit that had been surrounded by German troops in Oberhoffen, France. His amazing story of bravery and valor has been recounted a number of times both statewide and nationally. He was presented the Medal of Honor by President Harry Truman more than sixty years ago. In addition to the Medal of Honor, Dahlgren won a Silver Star, three Bronze Stars and the French Croix de Guerre.

Dahlgren grew up in Woodland and later lived in Blaine, Maine. He served as a potato inspector for nearly forty years in Aroostook County. He was well known in the community, having served on the local school board and in other capacities. A street in Caribou is named after him, as well as a building at the Loring Air Force Base. Dahlgren is a member of the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The Governor recalled one of his last meetings with Dahlgren a month ago, when Dahlgren recounted his surprise about the great emotion displayed by President Truman when he presented the Medal of Honor. “Ed was a humble man,” said Governor Baldacci. “Even after all these years he found it hard to believe someone like the President of the United States would give him such praise and honor. That’s just the kind of man Ed Dahlgren was, honest and hard working, and helping people because it was the right thing to do, not expecting anything in return.”

Noting Dahlgren’s unique status as a Medal of Honor recipient, Governor Baldacci will order flags to be flown at half staff throughout the State of Maine on the day of Ed Dahlgren’s internment.



## Maine Receives Second Stable Credit Rating

June 1, 2006

AUGUSTA – For the second time in a week, the State of Maine has received a stable bond rating, maintaining Maine's current credit position. Today's report from Fitch Ratings shows Maine's General Obligation bond rating stable at AA. The report notes that Maine has weathered successfully a number of challenges and shows credit strength.

"We have worked hard in Maine to improve our economy and financial situation," said Governor Baldacci. "When I came into office the State faced a \$1.2 billion structural gap and had depleted its reserves. We enacted spending caps and with strong fiscal management we reduced our structural gap and increased Maine's rainy day fund from zero to \$100 million. I am pleased that our combined efforts to provide services in a cost-efficient manner are showing results."

Last week, Moody's kept Maine's bond level stable at Aa3. In its report, Moody's noted that they expect the State of Maine will continue to manage challenges and continue to improve its bottom line.

## Governor Baldacci Signs Law Enforcement Bills

June 1, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

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AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci signed two bills Thursday afternoon designed to maintain Maine's status one of the safest states in the nation to live in and raise a family.

LD 1717, An Act Regarding the Sentencing of Persons Convicted of Gross Sexual Assault against Victims under 12 Years of Age; and LD 2028, An Act To Establish a Computer Crimes Unit within the Maine State Police Crime Laboratory, were both signed by the Governor with members of the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Maine State Police, Department of Corrections and Legislators in attendance.

LD 2028 establishes a Computer Crimes Unit within the Maine State Police. This law will create two positions within the State Police to download hard evidence of child pornography from existing computers in possession of the State Police. This will allow the evidence to be brought forth and child pornography offenders be prosecuted.

LD 1717 cracks down on child sex abusers -- those convicted of gross sexual assault against a child under age twelve -- by providing sentencing benchmarks of twenty years-to-life and lifetime probation. The law gives victims and their families the knowledge that the accused will be brought in front of the justice system and if convicted, the state will keep them in prison or on probation for the rest of their lives.

"Both pieces of legislation will be very powerful weapons," said Governor Baldacci, "in terms of investigation, prosecution and incarceration of people who are perpetrating crimes against children."

LD 2028 was emergency legislation, taking effect immediately; and LD 1717 will take effect on August 23.

## Governor Directs Flags to be Flown at Half-Staff

June 2, 2006

AUGUSTA – In remembrance and honor of Edward C. Dahlgren, Governor John E. Baldacci has directed that the United States flag and the State of Maine flag be flown at half staff from sunrise to sunset Monday, June 5, 2006. Dahlgren, of Blaine, was the only surviving Medal of Honor recipient who was a full-year resident of Maine. He was awarded the Medal of Honor, the highest military honor, by President Truman in 1945. Dahlgren led an attack in World War II that saved an Army platoon. Ed Dahlgren's funeral will be held in Presque Isle on Monday.

## Governor Declines to Sign LD 1481

June 2, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci announced today that he will not sign the bill LD 1481, “An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Enactment Procedures for Ordinances.” The Governor said that while he listened carefully to both sides of this issue and found merit in the intent of the legislation, he felt ultimately he could not sign the bill.

“This bill, as presented to me, does not strike an acceptable balance between the legitimate goal of providing more certainty in the regulatory process and the long standing traditions of home rule and citizen’s initiative in Maine,” said Governor Baldacci. “I respect the developer community in Maine, but I also recognize that many communities face tremendous development pressure. Our cities and towns – not the State – have the right and responsibility to accept or reject such development. The State does, however, have the duty to ensure that citizen rights are protected and not in any way diminished.

“I recognize and appreciate the fact that businesses and developers need certainty in the permitting process,” continued the Governor. “In light of the Attorney General’s opinion questioning the enforceability of the legislation, it is not clear that this bill brings that certainty to the process desired by the business community. It is clear however, that it creates new restrictions on the citizen initiative process.

“With neither side having adequate assurances that their concerns are addressed by this legislation, I find the bill unacceptable for signature. I have asked my general counsel to work with interested stakeholders from both sides in order to achieve a balanced approach that meets the needs of both sides of this critical issue.”

## Governor Declines to Sign LD 1943

June 2, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci announced today that he will not sign the bill LD 1943, “An Act Regarding Preferences in Bidding on Maine State Housing Authority Contracts.” The Governor expressed his disappointment with the legislation, which would have prevented the adoption of a rule by the Board of Directors of Maine State Housing Authority (MSHA) from being implemented. The rule provides an incentive for housing contractors using MSHA financing to provide health insurance for their employees.

“Maine people need and deserve affordable, quality health care that we can depend upon,” said Governor Baldacci. “It’s unacceptable to undermine the decision of the Board of Maine State Housing Authority to provide an incentive for employers to offer health care coverage.

“Most of us get our healthcare through the workplace but all across the country employers are dropping coverage. Here in Maine we are doing all we can to bring down rising health care costs to assure employers can afford to cover their workers. MSHA's action is a step in the right direction - removing the disincentive now in place in MSHA contracting. Today, a bidder who doesn't meet the obligation to provide coverage for workers has an unfair advantage over those who do. We need to right this wrong.”

The rule adopted by Maine State Housing Authority does not require any contractor to provide health insurance. It provides a small incentive to those contractors who do provide it by giving them 4 extra points (out of a possible 119 points) in the scoring system for selecting contractors.

The first action of the Governor upon taking office was to establish the Governor’s Office of Health Policy and Finance. With overwhelming support in his first year in office, the Legislature passed the Dirigo Health Reform legislation, which continues to improve Mainer’s access to affordable, accessible, quality health care. Maine is one of only seven states in the nation that has seen a decrease in the number of uninsured, has received national attention for reducing the rate of smoking, and Maine’s health ranking has improved since Governor Baldacci came into office three years ago.

## Governor Baldacci Signs LD 1785

June 2, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci officially signed LD 1785 Friday morning, An Act to Promote Economic Development by Enhancing Educational Opportunities.

The Governor was joined by supporters of the bill during the ceremony in his office in Augusta.

Governor Baldacci spoke of his support for adult education and the need for programs that teach adults, especially for those workers displaced from their jobs they have held for years.

“They’ve got to have adult education, literacy volunteers and community colleges working seamlessly along with universities,” said Governor Baldacci.

The law will continue the college transition pilot projects that are in place in 7 adult education programs. 30 new college transition programs in adult education settings will be added over the next five years.

The bill was sponsored by Senator Elizabeth Mitchell, (D-Kennebec) and was passed during the final week of the session as Emergency Legislation, allowing the new law to take effect immediately.

## Governor Baldacci Delivers Keynote Address at Maine Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

June 5, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

BANGOR – Governor John E. Baldacci stressed loyalty, good sportsmanship and devotion as three major qualities for inductees to the Maine Sports Hall of Fame during his keynote address Sunday evening.

Seven newcomers were inducted into the Hall and 10 student athletes were honored for their success. A President's Award was also given out, to Wayne Lawton of Bangor.

Governor Baldacci told the crowd a story of athletes coming through his family's restaurant in Bangor, The Baltimore. He also took time to recognize the student athletes who were being honored.

"Looking at these youngsters and talking with them and our teachers," said Governor Baldacci, "it is obvious to me that the future of our state is strong."

The Governor emphasized the importance of an education to the students, as did one of the inductees, Mike Bordick. Bordick told the crowd that he had just finished college a few weeks ago, after leaving the University of Maine to play Major League Baseball for the Oakland Athletics.

The Governor said a few words about each inductee, including Bordick, calling him, "arguably the greatest Major League Baseball player to come out of the state of Maine." Governor Baldacci reminded the crowd that Mike Bordick is the player who replaced Cal Ripken Jr. at shortstop for the Baltimore Orioles.

Other inductees were Dick Barstow, James "Chico" Hernandez, Brian Higgins, Irving Kagan (posthumously), Roger Reed, and Peter Webb.

The 2006 High School Scholar-Athletes being honored were: Samantha Allen of Lake Region High School; Sabrina Cote of Dexter High School; Taryn Flagg of Livermore Falls High School; Kelly Johnson of Bonny Eagle High School; Traci Underhill of Central High School; Max Bass of Gorham High School; James Ecker of Brewer High School; Ryan Knight of Massabesic High School; Benjamin Roy of Bonny Eagle High School; and Matthew Sherburne of Windham High School.

## Governor Baldacci Opens Conference on Preparedness

June 6, 2006

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BANGOR – Governor John E. Baldacci opened a conference for first responders and members of the media Tuesday morning by thanking them for working together ahead of a crisis for the first time.

“You all individually do a great job and I’m sure working together will bring about a very high level of quality that will make Mainers feel safe in any condition,” said Governor Baldacci.

The governor relayed personal stories to the crowd, of experiences he has had in times of crisis.

“I was in Washington on nine-eleven,” said the governor. “You could feel the ground tremor when the plane struck the Pentagon. It was going 500 miles an hour. You could feel the ground shake when it struck from across the Potomac.”

Governor Baldacci also spoke of his experiences closer to home with the ice storm of 1998 and more recently in York County dealing with the floods.

“The first responders were extremely helpful once we got word that there was a disastrous situation due to the flooding,” said Baldacci. “The media also did a terrific job alerting the public to the damage and potential for damage.”

Governor Baldacci told the crowd that the state is taking steps to prepare for a possible Avian Influenza outbreak. The state has developed a website, [www.maineflu.gov](http://www.maineflu.gov), which is a public/private partnership between the state and about 20 organizations designed to inform Mainers about the Avian Flu.

The conference was attended by more than 200 people, including members of the media and first responders. Other speakers throughout the day included Thomas Fitzpatrick, former Deputy Commissioner of the New York City Fire Department; Dr. Dora Mills; and Richard Lewis, Regional Vice President of Clear Channel Radio, Gulf Coast.



## Governor Baldacci Ceremonially Signs Working Waterfront Bills

June 7, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci ceremonially signed two bills Wednesday morning, both centered around the working waterfront. The bills were LD 1972, An Act To Preserve Maine's Working Waterfront; and LD 1930, An Act Regarding Working Waterfront Covenants.

"This is landmark and historic on both fronts," said Governor Baldacci. "Working waterfronts define the soul and character of Maine's coast for residents and visitors alike, and are critical to our heritage and our economy."

Governor Baldacci was joined at the signing by Representative Jane Eberle, (D-South Portland); Representative Leila Percy, (D-Phippsburg); Representative Ed Mazurek, (D-Rockland); Senator Dennis Damon, (D-Trenton) and several supporters of both bills.

"When you look at the state seal and you realize the importance of the fishing community, the waterfront, the shoreline," said Baldacci, "all of the families related to those industries are huge and interrelated into local credit unions, hardware stores and feed markets."

LD 1972 implements the Constitutional amendment approved by voters in November of 2005 to provide for current use valuation for property tax purposes of waterfront land used for commercial fishing activities or to support such activities.

LD 1930 implements authority given to the Land for Maine's Future Board to be a party to working waterfront covenants. It provides definitions and provisions for creation, conveyance, acceptance and duration of working waterfront covenants. It also adds provisions for the scope and validity of such covenants, as well as applicability provisions.

## Governor Baldacci Helps Dedicate New Maine State Troopers Association Building

June 8, 2006

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Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci assisted in the dedication process for the new Maine State Troopers Association building in Augusta Thursday morning. The building is being dedicated to, and named for, Al Hendsbee. Hendsbee is currently suffering from Lou Gerhig's disease. Speakers during the dedication noted that the disease had nothing to do with the choice to dedicate the building to Hendsbee.

"When you name a building after somebody, it takes over the building itself," said Governor Baldacci to Hendsbee. "It's a testament to your career. You're somebody who young people look up to because even after you got done, you were there mentoring and helping with the academy."

The MSTA building is a project that was 20 years in the making and a project that was started in part by the new building's namesake, Al Hendsbee. Hendsbee was honored by his peers as a man who cared deeply about the Maine State Troopers Association as well as the men and women of the Maine State Police.

"You've always been a trooper, whether you're drawing a paycheck or not, it's in your blood," said Baldacci. "There couldn't be a better name on this building when you think about honesty, integrity and values."

Speaker of the House, John Richardson, (D-Brunswick) and Senator Elizabeth Mitchell, (D-Kennebec) were also at the ceremony.

## Governor Baldacci Congratulates 2006 Clean Water Week Poster Contest Winners

June 8, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci congratulated three students from Central Middle School in Corinth Thursday morning for being selected as the winners of the 2006 Clean Water Week Poster Contest. The 2006 theme was “What Clean Water Means to Me.”

The contest generated more than 80 entries from schools throughout the state of Maine. Governor Baldacci congratulated the students and the administration for having all three finalists come from Central Middle School. “You should be proud that you have helped create awareness of this by creating your posters,” said Governor Baldacci, “and you should be proud that you did it so well.”

First place went to Sarah Jacobs of Corinth; second place went to Katrina Poole of Kenduskeag; and third place went to Christina Fowler of Kenduskeag. All three finalists are in the 8th grade.

Governor Baldacci was presented with a framed copy of the first place poster by Sarah Jacobs for the Governor’s Office. Governor Baldacci also autographed each finalist’s entry for them to take home.

## Governor Baldacci Honors Bangor as First “Well Region” in the Country

June 7, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

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BANGOR – Governor John E. Baldacci was the keynote speaker Wednesday evening at a celebration honoring the Bangor Region as the first “Well Region” in the country.

“There’s a lot of talk about reducing our health care costs,” said Governor Baldacci. “40 percent of our health care premiums is what we do to ourselves and that’s why being declared a ‘Well Region’ is so vitally important on so many different levels.”

Governor Baldacci recalled the days when he was “big boned,” as his grandmother called him. He said that when he was a child, that was seen as being healthy.

“Times have changed,” said Baldacci. “Now we know what it means to be healthy and how our lives can be that much better by living a healthy lifestyle.”

Awards were given out to participating businesses in the Bangor Region who achieved certain levels of wellness. About 250 people attended the dinner, which was held at Jeff’s Catering in Brewer.

## Governor Baldacci Receives News of Maine Bond Sale

June 8, 2006

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AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci received news on Maine's strong showing in regards to the current \$53 million bond sale.

"This is wonderful news," said Baldacci. "The sale combined with low borrowing costs are resulting in budget savings for the coming fiscal year, which is always good to hear."

State Treasurer, David Lemoine was also happy with the news, saying, "We were particularly impressed with the participation of Maine investors in this offering. Nearly all of the \$40 million tax-exempt bonds were sold to retail investors on the first day of availability, representing a very rare occurrence in the market and an 18% increase over last year's retail purchase volume," he added.

This bond sale raised \$53,048,995.80 at a true interest cost of only 4.37% while maintaining the state's conservative 10 year amortization policy. The sale was for \$3 million more than the \$50 million anticipated in the State's budget, but the low borrowing costs will result in budget savings of \$185,000.00 in the coming fiscal year. The 4.37% interest rate is less than 1% (0.90%) higher than the 3.47% incurred last year, while the Federal Reserve Rate increased by 2.0% during the same period.

The bond proceeds will be used to repay bond anticipation notes (BANs) issued quarterly since July 2005. BANs are short-term notes issued each quarter and used to fund projects authorized by voters. "Our approach to debt management is to borrow no more than is needed, no sooner than necessary," said Lemoine.

Maine has \$97,138,101.00 remaining in authorized but unissued bonds following this recent issue.

## Governor Baldacci Statement on the Passing of Charlene Rydell

June 8, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci today expressed his deepest sympathy to the family of Charlene Rydell upon learning of her passing. Rydell of Brunswick was a long time advocate for low-income families and for health care for Mainers. She served in the Legislature for over a decade.

Said Governor Baldacci, "Today, Maine lost a national treasure. Charlene Rydell dedicated her life to helping people less fortunate than herself. I had the pleasure of serving with her in the Maine State Legislature where she served honorably for over a decade. Charlene Chaired the Banking and Insurance Committee and served on the Appropriations Committee before becoming Congressman Tom Allen's health policy advisor. The breadth of her influence in policy was as big as the compassion in her heart."

Governor Baldacci noted the Rydell family will be establishing The Charlene B. Rydell Fund at the Maine Community Foundation in her memory designed to develop and promote public policy to increase access to health care and promote equal justice for Maine citizens. Governor Baldacci noted, "This is just like Charlene. Right until her dying day she was thinking about how to make life better for Maine citizens, establishing this fund with her family." It is a wonderful legacy to a life of distinguished public service.

The Governor sent his deepest sympathies to Charlene's husband, Lars, of Brunswick, her son, Dr. David Rydell of Bangor, and her grandchildren, Katie and David.

## Governor Baldacci Helps Open New Bath Supported Housing Project

June 9, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

BATH – Governor John E. Baldacci was thanked by many for establishing the state Office to End Homelessness Friday afternoon. The praises came during a ceremony to open the Bath Supported Housing Project, a joint effort of the Tedford Shelter and Sweetser.

“This affects people like Frank,” said Governor Baldacci, referring to the new resident who greeted him upon arrival. “He told me that he has lived out of a car for 14 years and now he has four walls and a roof.”

The project is a five-unit permanent supportive housing project, serving adults with mental illness who have been homeless. The project has been named Gilbert Place, bearing the name of the late David Gilbert, a long-term and beloved former Tedford Shelter employee.

“We are celebrating because of all of you and your efforts, but we know that more work needs to be done,” said Baldacci. “We cannot rest until homelessness is a thing of the past.”

Commissioner Brenda Harvey of the Department of Health and Human Services and Dale McCormick, director of Maine Housing, were among the guests at the ceremony.

“Thank you to Governor Baldacci,” said McCormick. “There is no other governor in the country who has made homelessness such a priority and put this many resources behind it.”

## Governor Baldacci Calls on ISO New England to Listen to Consumers

June 12, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

ROCKPORT – Governor John E. Baldacci told the New England Conference of Public Utilities Commissioners (NECPUC) Monday that the region, and ISO New England, the regional grid operator, must be more sensitive to the impact of rising electricity prices on consumers.

Governor Baldacci said, “We have worked hard to find ways to make Maine more energy independent, and to stabilize and lower energy costs for Maine people and businesses. However, we are finding that [ISO New England] is insensitive to the effect its policies and practices have on the people and businesses in Maine and others states in our region.”

Governor Baldacci said that “Maine’s vast resources for the production of electricity – water, wood, wind, solar and tides – could serve the needs of the New England market.”

Governor Baldacci continued that “Maine must have its needs met as well,” by a regional grid operator that understands the impact of rising electricity prices on consumers.

Governor Baldacci spoke to NECPUC in advance of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s order on “LICAP,” which is due to be issued on Thursday. The expected order will approve or disapprove a rate scheme that will increase electricity rates in Maine by more than \$300 million over the next four years. Governor Baldacci opposes the rate hike, which is supported by ISO New England and New England’s power generating companies.

“An adverse ruling by FERC on LICAP will send a clear message to Maine that it cannot rely on the federal government to rein in the huge profits being generated by the nation’s largest power companies,” Governor Baldacci said.



## Governor Baldacci Welcomes Broadband to Swanville

June 12, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

SWANVILLE – Governor John E. Baldacci pledged during his State of the State address in 2004 to strengthen Maine by advancing the deployment of broadband services throughout the state. Governor Baldacci continued with that pledge Monday afternoon by welcoming broadband connections to Swanville through Mainely Wired.

Mainely Wired is a relatively new business, offering broadband internet service to residents of Swanville. Peter Petersen, CEO of Mainely Wired, says that Governor Baldacci's strong support of the Connect ME initiative convinced him, and others now employed by him, to stay in the state of Maine.

Governor Baldacci attended the official opening of the rural broadband link Monday afternoon at the Swanville Town Offices. While there, the Governor ceremonially signed LD 2080, An Act to Accelerate Private Investment in Maine's Wireless and Broadband Infrastructure.

"This is about not just me and you having opportunities to work in rural Maine," said Governor Baldacci, "but also our children and grandchildren having those same opportunities for years to come."

The Connect ME Authority will accelerate entrepreneurial investment through the legislation, which was passed with strong bi-partisan support. Tax reimbursements will be available for infrastructure investments made in areas that are presently un-served; the Connect ME Authority will receive \$500,000 from the Universal Service Fund to assist Maine people in expanding broadband services; the Authority will obtain USDA rural development money to advance broadband deployment in Maine; and it will track investments made in Maine and continually assess the availability of services in the state.

Governor Baldacci ceremonially signed the legislation and sent an e-mail using his new e-mail account through Mainely Wired: [john.baldacci@mainelywired.net](mailto:john.baldacci@mainelywired.net)

## Governor Mourns Loss of Maine Guardsman

June 15, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci today confirmed that a member of the 240th Engineer Group of the Maine Army National Guard died in Bagram, Afghanistan. Captain Patrick Damon suffered an apparent fatal heart attack, non-hostile related earlier today, June 15, 2006. In addition to being a dedicated member of the Maine Army National Guard, Damon served in State Government, having taken leave from his job as Administrative Director with the Maine Public Utilities Commission to serve his country overseas.

The Governor called Damon's wife this morning after hearing of Captain Damon's passing. Damon was from Falmouth, and had two young children.

"It is a devastating loss for Pat's family and friends," said Governor Baldacci. "He was well loved. I told his family this morning there weren't enough nice words to capture the essence of Pat Damon. Our hearts, thoughts and prayers go out to the family at this very difficult time."

"Each loss of a brave Mainer is wrenching to me and my family personally and to the community that is our state," said Governor Baldacci. "Pat was someone I valued personally and professionally. Everyone who came into contact with Pat knew him to be extremely talented. He dedicated his life to serving the people of Maine. I know we are joined in our sorrow by the men and women who were part of this military family."

The Governor will order flags to be flown at half-staff on the day of Captain Damon's funeral.

No further details are available at this time.

## Governor Baldacci Addresses Summit on Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease

June 15, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUBURN – Governor John E. Baldacci spoke about the importance of health care and preventive care Thursday morning to a crowd gathered for the Maine Governor's Ninth Cardiovascular Health Summit at the Hilton Garden in Auburn.

Governor Baldacci pointed out the successes of his administration and his landmark Dirigo Health initiative. He told the crowd that teenage smoking has been reduced by fifty percent and the American Lung Association gave the state of Maine straight A's on their report card. Maine was the only state to receive such high grades.

"We took the tobacco money and we kept it off budget," Governor Baldacci told the crowd. "Thanks to the fact that we have balanced our budget and now have a surplus to work with, we were actually able to use that tobacco money and put it towards prevention."

Governor Baldacci was one of the first speakers at the summit, which continued with seminars and speakers from around the country through the morning and early parts of the afternoon.

## Governor Baldacci Declares Elder Abuse Awareness Day

June 15, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci has declared June 15, 2006 as Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Maine. Governor Baldacci presented the proclamation during a Thursday afternoon press conference in the Hall of Flags at the State House in Augusta.

Governor Baldacci encouraged those at the press conference to get involved, saying, “Learn about the facts of elder abuse; report the abuse to the adult protective services or law enforcement; participate in organizations in your community that are addressing the problem; and support the enactment of the Elder Justice Act.”

Governor Baldacci quoted numbers provided by the United States Senate Special Committee on Aging, saying “Approximately 84% of all incidents of elder abuse are never reported and approximately five million seniors are abused annually.” The governor further explained that older adults who are abused or mistreated are three times more likely to die within the next decade.

“There is hope on the horizon for an improved and heightened awareness of elder abuse and Maine is taking a stand,” said Governor Baldacci. “To further that awareness, I am proclaiming today as Elder Abuse Awareness Day in the state of Maine.”

Governor Baldacci was joined at the press conference by DHHS Commissioner, Brenda Harvey; and state director of AARP, Jud Dolphin.

## Governor Baldacci Emphasizes Physical Activity and Nutrition

June 19, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci opened the Physical Activity and Nutrition Summit in Augusta Monday morning with an emphasis on Mainers understanding the importance of physical activity and nutrition.

“We all share responsibility for improving the health of our citizens,” said Governor Baldacci.

“Overweight and obesity pose complicated issues that require a comprehensive approach - one that involves public, private and community partnerships.”

The governor gave the attendees of the summit the sobering statistics about Maine’s health. Nearly 2/3 of Maine’s adults are overweight or obese and over 1/3 of Maine’s kindergartners are overweight or are seriously at risk for becoming overweight.

Governor Baldacci said that his involvement was important because it wasn’t just about having a healthy Maine, but also having a Maine with lower health insurance costs. “40 percent of your health care premiums come from what you do to yourself. That’s why the focus of physical education and nutrition is so important.”

## Governor Signs Executive Order Establishing the Allagash Wilderness Waterway Working Group

June 19, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci today signed an Executive Order establishing the Allagash Wilderness Waterway Working Group. The group will first meet on Monday, June 26 at a location to be determined in Augusta.

The Governor also today announced one of his appointments to a Study Commission formed by the Legislature to study issues surrounding Henderson Brook Bridge on the Allagash River. The Governor appointed Gary Pelletier to represent the Friends of the Allagash on the Henderson Brook Bridge Commission.

The details of the Allagash working group, its membership, and other information follow in the text of the Executive Order.

### AN ORDER ESTABLISHING THE ALLAGASH WILDERNESS WATERWAY WORKING GROUP

WHEREAS, the year 2006 marks the 40th anniversary of the creation by the Maine Legislature of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway Act;

WHEREAS, the Allagash Wilderness Waterway is one of the great natural resources of the people of Maine and the nation;

WHEREAS, the people of the Allagash have a rich history and culture tied to the river that includes recreational use and enjoyment of the river and job opportunities in the region;

WHEREAS, the citizens of Maine, in creating the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, committed themselves to preserve, protect and develop the maximum wilderness character of the watercourse in the midst of a working forest; and

WHEREAS, the river has been designated a wild river under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act; and

WHEREAS, the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway Act marks an appropriate time to consider the governance, management, and oversight structure established for this resource, and whether this structure will best secure its qualities for the indefinite future.

NOW THEREFORE, I, John E. Baldacci, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby establish the Allagash Wilderness Waterway Working Group (“the Working Group”) for the purpose of providing advice and guidance pertaining to the best governance, management, and oversight structure that will assure:

effective communication and compatibility between the goals and objectives of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway Act and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and the goals of recreational and commercial users and neighboring landowners;

the continuing protection and preservation of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway and enhancement of its ecosystems;

the continuing and effective expression of the history and culture of the region in which the river exists; and

the sound, effective, and efficient management of all its resources;

#### Duties

The Working Group is to offer its best guidance and advice to the Governor respecting the long-term governance, management, and oversight structure for the Allagash Wilderness Waterway.

#### Membership

The Allagash Working Group shall consist of 7 members:

Don Nicoll (as Chair)

Senator John Martin

Phyllis Jalbert

Richard Barringer

Don Hudson

Brownie Carson

Anthony Hourihan

#### Meetings

Meetings of the Allagash Working Group shall take place as follows:

June 26th in Augusta

July 17th in Augusta

August 13th, 14th or 15th in the St. John Valley

September 11th in Bangor

October 23rd in Augusta

November 28th in Augusta

Notice of the times and locations of the meetings will be given in advance of all meetings. All meetings shall be open to the public. To the extent possible, the Working Group shall arrange for

videoconferencing or online audio streaming of all meetings so that people can observe and participate or listen from remote locations. A draft of the Working Group's report will be made available prior to the meeting of November 28th. The November 28th meeting shall include a public hearing.

The Working Group, through its Chair, may schedule additional meetings if the Chair determines it is necessary for the Working Group to complete its charge. Any such meeting shall be preceded by public notice and shall be open to the public.

#### Staffing

Staffing for the Working Group will be provided by the Governor's Office and the Attorney General's Office. Additionally, the State Planning Office will provide resources as needed to the Working Group.

#### Report

The Working Group shall report to the Governor not later than December 15, 2006, presenting its advice and guidance respecting the best governance, management, and oversight structure for the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, together with proposals for change, if any, and suggested means to implement them.

#### Effective Date

The effective date of this Executive Order is June 19, 2006.



## Governor Announces Tax Relief to York County Flood Victims

June 19, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci announced Maine Tax Relief for those located in the Presidential Disaster Area of York County that were affected by severe storms and flooding beginning May 13, 2006.

“Families and businesses in York County have made great strides in rebounding from last month’s flooding, and this relief will provide further time for recovery,” said Governor Baldacci. “I continue to be impressed with the way residents and local, regional, state and federal partners have worked together to ensure that those impacted recover quickly.”

Maine tax paying businesses, individuals and those whose tax records are located in York County will have until July 25, 2006 to file tax returns, submit tax payments and perform other time-sensitive acts that were required on or after May 13, 2006 and on or before July 25, 2006. The relief applies to all taxes administered by Maine Revenue Services, including Sales and Use Taxes, Individual and Corporate Income Taxes, and the Financial Institution Franchise Tax.

For affected taxpayers, Maine Revenue Services will abate interest and any late filing or late payment penalty that would otherwise apply during this period. This relief is limited to any tax and/or tax return with a due date that falls on or after May 13, 2006 and on or before July 25, 2006.

To qualify for relief, affected taxpayers should write “YORK COUNTY FLOOD” across the top of their return. Taxpayers covered by this relief who receive penalties and interest for filing returns or paying taxes late during the relief period should contact Maine Revenue Services at 207-626-8475 (Income Tax programs) or 207-626-9693 (Sales Tax programs) for a waiver of the penalties and interest.

Taxpayers with questions about Federal tax relief associated with York County flooding should contact the IRS at 800-829-1040 or go to the IRS web site at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) for posted information. Taxpayers with questions about their Maine taxes are encouraged to contact Maine Revenue Services at 207-626-8475 (Income Tax programs) or 207-626-9693 (Sales Tax programs), or visit the Maine Revenue Services web site at [www.maine.gov/revenue](http://www.maine.gov/revenue).

Anyone who has suffered losses or damages as a result of the storms who have not already registered with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) should do so by calling toll-free 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired. Registration can also be done online at [www.fema.gov/assistance](http://www.fema.gov/assistance). Those who have questions should call the above toll free number.

## Governor Baldacci Ceremonially Signs LD 1991 and LD 1934

June 19, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci ceremonially signed LD 1991 and LD 1934 Monday morning in the Governor's Office in Augusta.

LD 1991, Resolve, To Ensure the Availability of Consumer-directed Personal Assistance Services; and LD 1934, Resolve, To Improve Retention, Quality and Benefits for Direct Care Health Workers were both ceremonially signed with about 20 people joining the governor in his office.

LD 1934 requires DHHS to study options for, and costs of, increasing wages and providing health coverage for direct care workers in state-funded and MaineCare-funded long-term care programs.

LD 1991 directs the Commissioner of DHHS and the Commissioner of Labor to adopt rules to increase rates of reimbursement for providers of consumer-directed personal care assistance services.

Additionally, it directs the two commissioners to initiate a competitive bidding process to solicit bids from prospective providers of consumer-directed personal care assistance services.

"As our population ages, these workers play an ever-important role in our health care system," said Governor Baldacci. "It's important that we provide the right long-term care support so that more people can live in their homes in Maine."

The bills were sponsored by Senate President, Beth Edmonds, (D-Cumberland) who was thanked by the governor for her leadership.

"I want to thank Senate President Edmonds for her leadership in sponsoring these two bills, which address wage issues critical to keeping highly motivated and qualified personal care assistants and direct care workers," said Baldacci.

## Governor Baldacci Ceremonially Signs LD 1899

June 19, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci ceremonially signed LD 1899 Monday afternoon in the Governor's Office in Augusta.

The bill, An Act to Require the Display of POW-MIA Flags at Courthouses, will require courthouses throughout the state of Maine to begin flying POW-MIA flags near immediately.

"It's just a small, but not insignificant way we can continue to show our appreciation to our brave service men and women," said Governor Baldacci.

The bill was sponsored by Representative David Bowles, (R-Sanford), who said that courthouses not owned by the state of Maine had been resistant to flying the POW-MIA flags. This legislation will require the flags to be displayed whenever the United States flag is flown at courthouses in Maine.

Representative Bowles joined Governor Baldacci for the ceremonial signing, as well as bill supporters.

## Governor Directs Flags to be Flown at Half-Staff

June 20, 2006

AUGUSTA – In remembrance and honor of Captain Pat Damon, Governor John E. Baldacci has directed that the United States flag and the State of Maine flag be flown at half staff from sunrise to sunset Friday, June 23, 2006. Captain Damon of Falmouth, Maine, a member of the 240th Engineer Group of the Maine Army National Guard, died in Bagram, Afghanistan from an apparent heart attack on June 15. His funeral will be held Friday at 2:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 309 Congress St., Portland.

## Governor Baldacci Welcomes Expansion of High-Tech Greenhouse Business into Maine

June 20, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

MADISON – Governor John E. Baldacci credits Pine Tree Zone incentives, low utility costs and cooperation from the town of Madison for helping to bring US Functional Foods LLC to the state of Maine. US Functional Foods will bring a new, high-tech, state-of-the-art greenhouse to Madison, which will allow fully vine-ripened tomatoes to be shipped throughout New England by November.

“Being in the restaurant business, I know that you can never get good tomatoes in the off season in New England,” said Governor Baldacci. “Thanks to this project, fresh tomatoes from Madison, Maine will make their way throughout New England.”

Governor Baldacci thanked US Functional Foods (USFF), based in Carlisle, Mass., for expanding their business in Madison while presenting USFF officials with Pine Tree Zone certification today at the future site of USFF on River Road in Madison. More than 200 acres were designated as a Pine Tree Development Zone, making the facility eligible for the tax incentive program, and a \$400,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) was awarded to the town of Madison for public infrastructure support of economic development in preparation of USFF’s opening.

“Attracting USFF and its business to the state was the result of a successful collaboration between local, state and private entities and we look forward to the positive benefits that will result from this partnership,” said Governor Baldacci. “The addition of USFF and its high-tech greenhouse will strengthen Maine’s reputation as a leader in the agricultural industry.”

USFF is building a 24-acre, high-tech greenhouse facility that will be completed in September. The first phase of the project will create more than 60 new, full-time jobs and represent a capital investment in central Maine of more than \$20 million.

## Governor Baldacci Addresses Girls State

June 21, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

BANGOR – Governor John E. Baldacci stressed leadership and community service in his speech to the participants of the 60th annual Girls State at Husson College in Bangor Tuesday night. Governor Baldacci spoke to the more than 300 girls, followed by questions and answers for a total of about 45 minutes.

“When I was running for governor of Boys State,” Governor Baldacci told the students, “my platform was to build a tunnel connecting Boys State and Girls State. It was extremely popular!”

Governor Baldacci covered a variety of other subjects with the students, ranging from his teenage son Jack to his experience in community service.

“It’s about people...it’s all about people,” said the governor. “If you can go to bed at night knowing that you’re doing what you think is right to help the people of Maine, then you’re doing a good job.”

Governor Baldacci told the students that they would make relationships during the week-long camp that could last a lifetime.

“People that I went to Boys State with...they ended up helping me in some of my campaigns for State Senate and Congress,” said Governor Baldacci.

Governor Baldacci spent about 30 minutes in a question and answer session with the students. Questions from the Girls State delegates included serious topics like health care, LNG, Plum Creek, jobs and No Child Left Behind.

“This is a Federal act that drains teachers and has no flexibility,” Governor Baldacci explained. “They aren’t paying for it, but will pull funding if we don’t do it. We will fight it,” the governor said as the crowd erupted in applause. “This is great that you are all so well educated on this stuff,” responded the governor.

Other questions asked by the students included asking the governor how he uses criticism productively, what his thoughts would be of a female governor and who he would list as his greatest influences.

“My mom and dad,” responded the governor quickly.

Governor Baldacci is scheduled to speak to Boys State this evening at 7:15 at Hill Gymnasium on the USM campus in Gorham.

## Governor Baldacci Opens Base Redevelopment Conference

June 22, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

BRUNSWICK – Governor John E. Baldacci commended attendees of the Governor's Conference on Base Redevelopment for actively participating in the redevelopment process. 60-70 people attended the day-long conference, held at Bowdoin College on Thursday.

The governor cited examples of Loring Air Force Base, and previous paper mill closings as examples of how communities can bounce back from apparent hardships.

Governor Baldacci said that he is even more excited about the Brunswick region because of the people and resources available to work on the redevelopment.

"More people are moving to Maine than ever before," said Governor Baldacci. "Those people who are moving in are people who have an education and the financial where-with-all that they want to do things. They don't just want to retire in Maine."

Among those attending the conference were members of the Brunswick and Topsham Local Redevelopment Authorities, Governor's Advisory Council, regional legislators, regional local officials, workforce and economic development policy specialists.

One member of the Governor's Advisory Council was particularly optimistic, saying, "I was concerned, but now I'm beginning to see the glass as half full rather than half empty." Karen Mills, who introduced the governor at the conference continued, "The state's future is not going to be defined by base closings or by plant closings. We are growing."

Governor Baldacci agreed, emphasizing how his Pine Tree Zone Economic Plan will specifically help the Brunswick area once the base does close. He thanked Speaker of the House, John Richardson and members of the legislative delegation for their work and leadership on the Pine Tree Economic Development Zones and Military Development Zones.

"There are people that have ideas and strategies in this state and we shouldn't be limiting ourselves at how we look at this," said Governor Baldacci.

Thursday's conference was organized by the Governor's Office of Base Realignment and Closures. The focus of the conference was to bring together panelists from other military installations that closed under previous BRAC rounds to discuss their lessons learned and best practices from their experience.

## Governor Baldacci Visits Bayside Neighborhood Open House

June 22, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

PORTLAND – Governor John E. Baldacci visited the new home of Margaret Widmer in the Bayside neighborhood of Portland Thursday afternoon. Widmer is a first-time homebuyer who purchased the home using a number of HUD programs.

“Margaret is a hard working Portland resident who works at the Maine College of Art and took advantage of these programs so that she could become a homeowner in the city she loves,” said Governor Baldacci. “I’m proud of these programs and I’m proud of her.”

Widmer, who is single with no children, was chosen by lottery in April and paid \$190,000 for the six-room house after going through homeownership training at Maine Home Works. She received a \$30,000 loan through the City of Portland’s HomePort program, which she does not have to pay back until she sells the house. She also received a \$135,000 30-year Maine State Housing Authority mortgage through KeyBank.

“Here is a woman who never thought this could happen a few months ago,” said Governor Baldacci. “Now she is going to be a homeowner. She is living the American dream.”



## Governor Baldacci Congratulates Phippsburg Resort on New Suites

June 22, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

PHIPPSBURG – Governor John E. Baldacci visited the Sebasco Harbor Resort in Phippsburg Thursday afternoon to congratulate the owners on the grand opening of the new Harbor Village Suites.

“Even though it’s raining a little bit here,” Governor Baldacci told the umbrella-filled crowd, “it’s sunny at Sebasco.”

Sebasco Harbor Resort is the largest business and tax payer in Phippsburg. Governor Baldacci noted that the expansion of the resort is providing the town with not only an increase in potential tourism, but an increase in jobs as well.

Governor Baldacci was joined at the grand opening by Speaker of the House, John Richardson, Representative Stan Gerzovski, and Representative Tom Watson.

Vaughn Stinson, the president and CEO of the Maine Tourism Association spoke at the celebration; as did Greg Dugal, Executive Director of the Maine Innkeepers Association, saying that Governor Baldacci, “really understands the hospitality and tourism industry.”

Dugal announced that \$5,500 would be going to Habitat for Humanity through the Maine Innkeepers Association’s “Hospitality for Habitat” campaign. Governor Baldacci applauded Mainer’s efforts with the cause.

“The Southern Maine chapter of Habitat for Humanity was the first chapter to send houses to the Gulf Coast after the hurricanes,” said the governor. “It didn’t surprise me though, that’s the way that Mainers are.”

Governor Baldacci congratulated the Sebasco Harbor Resort and said that tourism is just the beginning of things that are moving forward in Maine.

“More people are moving to Maine than ever before, we’ve come out of a huge deficit that existed when I took office and enrollment is exploding in higher education,” said Baldacci. “Maine is moving forward.”

## Governor Baldacci Helps To Cut Ribbon for Shoreline Explorer

June 22, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

WELLS – Governor John E. Baldacci praised the work being done in York County to conserve energy and help avoid traffic congestion at the Ribbon Cutting for the Shoreline Explorer, a unique public-private partnership transportation venture, involving 3 for-profit trolley companies and York County Community Action's Transportation program.

"This is going to be a great thing," said Governor Baldacci. "It's very useful and efficient...and it's smart." Governor Baldacci was joined Thursday morning for the ribbon cutting in Wells by Commissioner of Transportation, David Cole; Connie Garber and FTA Regional Administrator Richard Doyle.

"Maine is a transportation leader," said Doyle. "I want to commend [Governor Baldacci and Commissioner Cole] for their transportation leadership." Doyle went on to say that Maine is used as a national model in regards to transportation.

The Shoreline Explorer joins the Mountain Explorer in Bethel and the Island Explorer in the Acadia region as the third "explorer" system. The Shoreline Explorer will serve the communities of Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, Wells, Ogunquit, York and Sanford. The Shoreline Explorer is expected to reduce disruptive traffic congestion along the seacoast, which will make transportation easier and reduce air pollution.

"The fact that they are working towards conserving energy is extremely important to me," said the governor following the celebration. "I am proud of the work that everyone involved in this project has done and I look forward to hearing about the success of the Explorer."

The Shoreline Explorer will run throughout the summer until Labor Day.

## Governor Directs Flags to be Flown at Half-Staff

June 26, 2006

Contact: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968 Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA- Governor John E. Baldacci has directed the United States flag and the State of Maine flag be flown at half staff from Wednesday, June 28th through Saturday, July 1st, at Lewiston High School from sunrise to sunset. Three students and a pilot were killed in a plane crash last week. The students were ROTC cadets. Funerals for the three students will be held separately beginning on Wednesday and ending Saturday.

## Governor Baldacci Statement on the Passing of Harry Vose

June 26, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968 Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA- Governor John E. Baldacci today expressed his deepest sympathy to the family of Harry Vose upon learning of his passing this weekend. Vose was a former state representative and senator as well as a personal friend of the Governor.

Vose, a Democrat from Eastport, served in the Maine Legislature from 1979-1988. He served in the House of Representatives for the 109th,110th, 111th,112th and 113th sessions.

He was a state senator during the 115th and 116th sessions. Governor Baldacci served with Vose during their time together in the Maine Senate.

The Governor commented today: "There never was a better advocate for Washington County than Harry Vose, nor one who got better results for his constituents. Harry worked tirelessly and had a statewide vision. He was a good friend with an excellent sense of humor. I will miss him dearly."

Among the many accomplishments, Vose was most recently noted for his work in 2005 in garnering support for a new Veteran's home in Machias.

Vose was 78 years old. The family says there will be no service.

## Governor Baldacci Statement on the Passing of Eugene Mawhinney

June 27, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968 Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA- Governor John E. Baldacci today expressed his deepest sympathy on the passing of Eugene Mawhinney.

Mawhinney passed away this weekend at the Maine Veterans' Home in Bangor. Mawhinney taught Political Science at the

University of Maine as well as pre-law and was an advisor to more than 800 students who went through the law program.

Among those students were the brothers and sisters of Governor John E. Baldacci. On learning about Mawhinney's passing

Governor Baldacci stated: "Eugene was wonderful with his students. He was a real leader on legal issues and he was someone who could be called upon during difficult times. He had a unique way of looking at problems and offering solutions."

In 1982, Mawhinney was awarded the Distinguished Maine Professor Award and in 1987 he was awarded the Distinguished Service Award from the Maine Bar Association.

Mawhinney was 84 years old. A memorial service will be held at 11:00 Friday, July 21, at the Church of Universal Fellowship in Orono.

## Governor Baldacci to Introduce Next Step in Expanding Maine's Creative Economy

June 27, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968 Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

WHO: Governor John E. Baldacci

John Rohman, Creative Economy Council Co-Chair, and Maine Arts Commission Chair

Jeff Sosnaud, Creative Economy Council, Co-Chair, Creative Economy Steering Committee Chair, and Deputy Commissioner, Department of Economic and Community Development

Lewiston-Auburn area business and cultural leaders.

WHAT: In his latest efforts to support, strengthen and expand Maine's creative economy statewide, Governor Baldacci will introduce the Creative Economy Handbook, which guides communities looking to cultivate the creative economy on the local level.

He will also receive the Creative Economy Council's Report, which highlights the valuable impact the industry's businesses have on the state's economy and offers policy recommendations to enhance the creative sector.

Creative economy development strategies have benefited communities across the state, including Bangor, Bethel, Madawaska, Rockland, Eastport, Lewiston-Auburn, and Portland.

WHERE: Bates Mill complex 32 Chestnut Street Lewiston, ME 04240 (The event will be held outside at Mill #3, weather permitting. In inclement weather, the event will be held at Mill #6)

WHEN: Thursday, June 29, 2006, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

WHY: The Creative Economy includes artists, artisans, performers, architects, software engineers, entrepreneurs, researchers and financiers and is a vital part of the state's economy and the overall economic development strategy for Maine.

Since The Blaine House Conference on the Creative Economy in 2004, the Governor's office has signed legislation to support creative economy initiatives, created a Creative Economy Council and Steering Committee, funded a number of local initiatives, and approved tax incentives that will grow the film industry in Maine.

## Governor Baldacci Touts Maine's Smoke-Free Status

June 28, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

YARMOUTH – Governor John E. Baldacci today joined nine legislators – past and present – who have sponsored anti-tobacco legislation to unveil a sign at a high-traffic tourist area promoting Maine's smoke-free status.

Governor Baldacci revealed the sign, along with Dr. Dora Mills, Director of the Maine Center for Disease Control, and Kay Mills, a 89 year-old asthmatic, which reads, "Breathe easy, you're in Maine."

Kay Mills introduced the Governor, praising his anti-tobacco efforts in his first term, saying that "his support of recent smoke free legislation is in line with his goal, which is now our goal, the goal of making Maine the healthiest state in the nation."

Governor Baldacci emphasized the importance of prevention as opposed to people dealing with health problems at an emergency stage. Tobacco Settlement Funds allow promotion of preventions efforts, the money for which is kept off budget by Baldacci. The State has been recognized by the American Lung Association for its dedication to Tobacco Settlement funds for prevention purposes. Earlier this year, the national association honored Maine for its status as the first state in the nation to receive all A's on its "report card" on tobacco prevention.

"Since 1996 until the present, we have reduced teenage smoking by sixty percent," said the Governor. "That is a huge accomplishment and I am really proud of the effort."

The sign at the Yarmouth Visitor's Center is one of five being placed around the state, advertising Maine's smoke-free status. Representatives were on hand from various anti-tobacco organizations, including the American Lung Association, American Heart Association, American Cancer Society and the Maine Center for Public Health.

"Being in the restaurant business," Governor Baldacci recalled, "when it was first coming about, the non-smoking section was way in the back behind the smoking section and there were only a few tables. After you got done coughing you'd get there. Now, people think it's completely unusual to be smoking anywhere indoors."

The Governor noted that Maine is a model to the rest of the nation in health care and recognized that our success is in large part due to the coordinated efforts of many private and public sector groups working together to protect the health of Maine people and promote public health in the State of Maine.

## Governor, Legislators Announce Tax Breaks on Student Loans and More Funding for Higher Education

June 28, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

David Connerty-Marin, 287-1307 (cell) 831-3313

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Maine is moving in the direction of making college more affordable with tax breaks on student loans and more funding for higher education. Governor John E. Baldacci, Rep. Tim Driscoll, D-Westbrook, and State Treasurer David Lemoine outlined recent changes to make it easier to save for and pay for college at a press conference at the University of Maine, Augusta campus on Wednesday.

The event was held just three days before the federal interest rate on student loans is set to jump from around 3 percent to more than 8 percent for many students.

The Governor pointed out that July 1 is coming soon and “while that normally means that we’re excited about the bulk of the beautiful Maine summer that is still ahead of us, this year it’s a little more stressful for college students and their families.” Governor Baldacci continued, “It’s a bad day for students trying to save for college because they know that federal changes are going to take effect on that day, changes that are going to result in making it more difficult financially for higher educational opportunities.”

The Governor highlighted three initiatives to help students that will begin in the fiscal year starting July 1. The first initiative is a new state tax deduction for contributions to Section 529 College Savings programs (such as Maine’s NextGen plan).

These breaks were implemented as part of the Supplemental Budget passed by the Legislature in March and will save Maine families almost \$300,000 during the second half of the fiscal year (the tax deduction goes into effect Jan. 1, 2007) and nearly double that in the following fiscal year.

Individuals earning less than \$100,000 and families earning up to \$200,000 that save for college using a 529 plan, such as NextGen, will be eligible for a \$250 deduction for each 529 account on their taxes.

Maine is the first state in the nation to offer such a deduction, even on 529 plans that are based out of state. This is an important first step and we hope to increase the deduction in future years.

“Up until last month, no other state in the nation offered this,” Representative Driscoll said. “It allows Mainers to enhance their options with respect to investments they want to make... That, along with the interest income savings, and the increased revenue to the university system to help keep tuition costs down, I think as a package, it’s a great win for families and students in Maine.”

In addition, the supplemental budget passed in March also extends the tax deduction on student loan interest from five years to the full life of the loan. That conforms with the federal tax deduction on



student loan interest and will save Maine students and their families \$489,000 in the coming year. The provision is retroactive to January 1, 2006.

"As the Governor has repeatedly pointed out, the jobs of the future require education today," said David Lemoine, who sits on the board of the Finance Authority of Maine, and is chair of the NextGen investment advisory committee. "He and the legislature have stepped up to the plate repeatedly over the last two years to make that happen even in the face of serious budget constraints."

Kari Leighton, a traditional student at University of Maine – Augusta, spoke at the press conference about the need for programs like these to help students save for and pay for college.

"I do want to thank everybody for doing what they're doing because it's time that we do help students and it's time that they have the opportunities that everybody should have," Leighton said.

The third and final initiative outlined by the Governor was the \$5.8 million in additional funding for higher education, passed by the Legislature in the final days of the recently-ended session. While the money is not earmarked for any specific purpose, its intent was to slow down projected tuition increases at the University of Maine and Maine Community College systems, and is having that effect. Of that amount, \$1.6 million went to the community colleges, and \$4.2 million to the university system.

## Governor Baldacci Ceremonially Signs LD 2111, Announces New Website for Freedom of Access Information

June 28, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci ceremonially signed LD 2111 Wednesday afternoon, An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Freedom of Access Advisory Committee.

Senator Barry Hobbins, (D-Saco), Senate Chair of the Judiciary Committee joined the Governor for the ceremonial signing.

“It’s important that there is, and will continue to be, a clear understanding of the Freedom of Access Act,” said Governor Baldacci. “It’s important that what we do as public officials is transparent and can be seen by the public.”

The legislation establishes the Right to Know Advisory Committee. Among the duties of the committee, it will ensure that access to public records and proceedings will be up to date and will advise the legislature on issues pertaining to public access.

Representatives from InforME were also in the Governor’s Office for the ceremonial signing. InforME operates the Maine state website and has designed a site for the Maine Freedom of Access Act. Among the features of the site are information on how to make a request, Frequently Asked Questions, state contacts for Freedom of Access and related websites. The new site can be found at [www.maine.gov/foaa](http://www.maine.gov/foaa)

## Governor Baldacci Introduces Next Steps in Expanding Maine's Creative Economy

June 29, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

LEWISTON - Governor John E. Baldacci is again moving forward with his plans to grow and strengthen Maine's creative economy by spurring action on the local level and laying the groundwork for his creative economy development strategy.

Governor Baldacci unveiled Maine's Creative Economy Community Handbook: Maine State Government Resources for Communities and Maine's Creative Economy: Connecting Creativity, Commerce & Community today with members of the Creative Economy Council and the Creative Economy Steering Committee at the Bates Mill Complex in Lewiston. The handbook and the report were produced as part of the Governor's initiative to expand the state's creative industries, create jobs and strengthen Maine's economy.

"My economic plan recognizes that we must invest in Maine people and Maine's cultural heritage," said Baldacci. "The economic engines that create opportunity are our people – our youth, our creative workers and our creative entrepreneurs – and we must provide them with the resources and support to be able to succeed."

The creative economy includes artists, artisans, performers, architects, software engineers, entrepreneurs, researchers and financiers, and comprises 8.3 percent of Maine's workforce, or 67,446 people. They earn an average of \$48,557, which is 33 percent higher than the state average of \$32,661, according to the Council, and in 2003, Maine's arts and cultural sectors generated \$1.5 billion in sales.

"Our creative industries enrich our quality of life and significantly contribute to our economy," said Governor Baldacci. "Investing in Maine's natural resources and cultural heritage will strengthen Maine's brand as a great state to live and do business."

The handbook, developed by the Creative Economy Steering Committee under the direction of the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) with help from the Maine Office of Tourism, will serve as a guide for communities and groups looking to cultivate the creative sector in their area. It highlights the three Ts of creative economic development – talented workers, state-of-the-art technologies that keep the industry competitive and tolerant communities that embrace diversity.

It also provides case studies and creative economy success stories, and outlines the Ten Building Blocks of the Creative Economy, developed by the University of Southern Maine's Muskie School of Public Policy. The building blocks serve as tools to organize creative assets for economic and community development and include the creative workforce, business and community support, infrastructure and funding resources.

"We wanted to provide all of the tools and knowledge necessary for communities to start or expand the creative economy at the local or grassroots level," said Jeff Sosnaud, DECD deputy commissioner, as well as co-chair of the Creative Economy Council and chair of the Creative Economy Steering Committee.

"The benefits the creative economy has on the state and our communities are numerous and the creative industries are going to keep Maine competitive on a global level."

Governor Baldacci kicked off his plans to expand Maine's creative economy with The Blaine House Conference on the Creative Economy in 2004. Since then, the Governor's office has signed legislation to support creative economy initiatives, created a Creative Economy Council and a Steering Committee, funded a number of local initiatives and approved tax incentives aimed at expanding Maine's film industry.

"We've seen substantial progress across the state already but there still is more to be done," said Governor Baldacci. "With the release of the handbook and the report, we have established a clear path to continue Maine's growth in the creative industries."

The report outlines the valuable impact the industry's businesses have on the state's economy, and offers policy recommendations to enhance the creative sector. It was produced by the Creative Economy Council in partnership with the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center.

According to the report, from 2000 to 2004, Maine's creative workforce added 5,474 jobs to the economy and grew by nine percent, compared to the state's overall job growth rate of seven percent. The report's recommendations for sustaining creative job and economic growth include expanding the industry by 20 percent by 2015, following the Office of Innovation's 2005 Science and Technology Action Plan for Maine to grow the state's research and development activity to \$1 billion per year by 2010, double the arts and cultural sector by 2020, improve infrastructure, invest in the creative workforce and support art education, downtowns and creative partnerships.

"The creative economy has strongly resonated with both artists and economic developers. Clearly the value of the creative economy is playing out in communities from Fort Kent to Portland and Rumford to Rockland with local support growing from both public and private resources," said John Rohman, chair of the Maine Arts Commission.

Creative economy development strategies have benefited communities across the state, including Bangor, Bethel, Eastport, Lewiston-Auburn, Madawaska, Portland and Rockland.

## Governor Encourages Conservation to Cut Down on Home Energy Costs

June 30, 2006

AUGUSTA – As the state prepares for the holiday weekend, Governor Baldacci reminds citizens that energy conservation is the first line of defense to combat high energy costs. Even in the throes of summer, this is a good time to review some actions your household can take to cut down on energy costs, including reducing energy consumption.

The Governor took the opportunity today to address energy costs while visiting the home of Michael and Sandra Dyer of Northport. The Dyers were one of the many families helped last winter season by Operation Keep ME Warm (OKMW), a program established by the Governor to match volunteers with Maine people and families in need of household weatherization. A survey released recently about OKMW in Waldo County reveals that 92% of those who had their homes winterized through the program were satisfied with the program to the extent that they would recommend OKMW to others.

Governor Baldacci visited the Dyers' home and heard about their experience with Operation Keep ME Warm and the difference it made in their ability to keep warm in their home this past winter. The Governor also recognized Sara Fricke, a Vista Volunteer. Sara ran the region's Keep Me Warm program.

"Even though we are in the summer season, it's important to remember that energy conservation is a year-round goal," said the Governor. "We hope that people consciously reduce their energy consumption by reminding them about it early and often."

For energy saving tips, visit [www.energymaine.com](http://www.energymaine.com)

## Governor Opposes Federal Legislation to Allow Offshore Drilling

June 30, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor Baldacci today expressed deep concerns with federal legislation that passed the U.S. House of Representatives yesterday. The bill, H.R. 4761, lifts the moratorium on offshore drilling. The Governor, expressing his concern about the bill as it moves through the legislative process, continues to communicate to the Maine Congressional Delegation about the harmful impact of offshore drilling on the State of Maine.

“Maine’s natural resources are valuable assets to the state’s economy and to thousands of families who make their livelihood from fishing and lobstering,” said Governor Baldacci. “The legislation that has passed in the United States House of Representatives yesterday is another example of the flawed energy policy coming from Washington, D.C. This bill in its current form would have a significant negative impact on Maine’s economy.”

Governor Baldacci reiterated that federal energy policy should focus on renewability. “As we have shown in Maine through a comprehensive plan to gain energy independence, beneficial energy policies focus on making economic sense, protecting the environment, and encouraging renewable energy resources and technology. The goal to energy independence is enhanced when all these pieces are working together. This bill in Washington does not achieve the balance that we in Maine need. As the bill moves to the Senate, I will continue to work with the Maine Delegation to ensure Maine’s concerns are heard.

One of the Governor’s first actions upon taking office was to create the Governor’s Office of Energy Independence. The Administration has led by example, reducing travel, tripling the number of hybrid vehicles in the state fleet, establishing green building standards, and expanding the state’s vanpool program.

The Baldacci Administration has also put forward programs and policies to make the entire state more energy independent and secure, including instituting tax credits for productions of bio-fuels in Maine, rebates for purchasing and installing solar electric, hot air and hot water systems, and a model residential energy building code. Most recently, the Governor signed his comprehensive energy legislation that will help to stabilize and reduce Maine’s homeowners and businesses energy bills.

“It’s these kinds of measures together,” said the Governor, “that steers us toward an energy future that will be lower cost, less dependent on imported fossil fuels, cleaner, and better for the state’s economy.” The text of the letter Governor Baldacci sent to Senators Snowe and Collins is attached below:

Dear Senators Snowe and Collins:

As Governor, I have a profound interest in maintaining strong federal protections for Maine’s and our nation’s coastal environments, as well as the economic and social benefits they support. I am deeply

concerned that proposals currently pending before Congress, including H.R.4761 as approved in the House of Representatives on June 29th, would effectively overturn nearly a quarter century of bipartisan protection for this critical resource.

Maine's coastal zone is very important economically, to both our fishing and tourism industries, and as a defining characteristic of what we are as a state. The proposals before Congress pose a threat to these values, while pursuing an energy policy that is misdirected towards continued dependence on fossil fuels.

I am a strong proponent of the United States becoming more energy independent, but such independence must not come at the cost of the fragile ecosystems and vital economies of our coastal waters and shores. Before we sanction further exploration and drilling off our shores, we need to aggressively pursue strategies to reduce demand for oil and natural gas, regardless of where it is produced, and to pursue renewable sources of fuel using domestic resources. This is the only reliable long-term strategy for achieving energy independence. There are also other options for increasing supply that should be examined prior to having the federal government expend limited resources to encourage expanded oil and gas production of our coast.

With regard to H.R. 4761, although the bill approved yesterday by the House would allow states some continued protection from offshore drilling, a ban on offshore drilling in Maine's waters would not protect our coastal areas from harm caused by drilling-related incidents in nearby waters. Any pollution associated with offshore drilling incidents could easily spread from one state to adjacent states that have chosen to ban coastal exploration and production. This would expose Maine's coastal ecosystem and economy to unacceptable levels of risk from potential drilling and associated accidents over which we would have no control. While the states of New Hampshire and Massachusetts favor continuing the moratorium on drilling, who can know the views of future Governors in those states.

Drilling in our ocean waters should be a last resort, not a first step toward achieving energy independence. I urge you to vigorously oppose any proposal that undermines or removes the legislative and administrative moratoria that have protected our shores from the risks of drilling since 1984.

Sincerely,

John E. Baldacci

Governor

## Governor Baldacci Cuts Ribbon on Rockland Train Station

June 30, 2006

ROCKLAND – Officially opening the 3rd consecutive season of passenger rail service between Brunswick and Rockland, Governor John E. Baldacci arrived at the renovated Rockland Train Station Friday afternoon – appropriately enough – by rail. The trip was part of the inaugural ride of Maine Eastern Railroad's excursion service.

Governor Baldacci was joined by Commissioner of the Department of Transportation, David Cole; Eastern Maine Railroad COO, Gordon Fuller; General Manager John Shute; City Manager Tom Hall; and Chamber of Commerce President Bob Hastings for the ceremonial ribbon cutting. The Governor boarded the train in Thomaston, joining the passengers already en route to Rockland from Brunswick. Upon arriving at the train station, the Governor and other passengers were treated to the music of a bagpipe player as hundreds of people filled the station for the grand opening celebration.

"Congratulations to all of you," said Governor Baldacci. "I think what you're seeing is the continuation of a vision."

The Governor has been forward thinking when it comes to transportation, and has taken a number of opportunities to promote a variety of transportation options for residents and tourists alike. At his recent visits in support of the Shoreline Explorer in York County, The Cat's arrival to Portland, and now the rail service from Brunswick to Rockland, the Governor has remarked that Maine is viewed as a leader nationally when it comes to transportation options throughout the state.

"This is a smart way to enjoy our state and protect our natural resources," said the Governor.

With rail service from Boston to Portland and Brunswick to Rockland, the Governor hopes to connect the two for continuous service between Boston and Rockland.

"This is another way for tourists and residents alike to see every corner of this beautiful state," said Governor Baldacci. "I am happy with the progress we are making with transportation in this state."



## Governor Ceremonially Signs Prescription Drug Awareness Bill

June 30, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci ceremonially signed LD 1987 Friday morning, An Act To Increase Awareness of Prescription Drug Pricing.

“A lot of hard work and a lot of research went into this legislation,” said Governor Baldacci. “I am happy to sign this bill that provides consumers easy access to price comparisons for needed medicines.”

The bill, sponsored by Representative Elaine Makas, (D-Lewiston), will increase awareness of drug prices at different pharmacies throughout the state. Prices for prescription drugs vary from pharmacy to pharmacy. This legislation will give consumers more information about where they can purchase prescription medications at the lowest price.

“We have been working through Dirigo Health Reform to inform consumers about health care quality and costs so that they can make educated choices about their health,” said Governor Baldacci. “This effort on prescription drugs is in line with the Administration’s goals. I thank Representative Makas, who worked and fought hard for the interests of the people of Maine.”

## Governor Unveils 9/11 Memorial at Bath Fire Department

July 1, 2006

BATH – Governor John E. Baldacci joined Congressman Tom Allen, state legislators and Bath Fire Department officials to dedicate the World Trade Center Memorial, made with a section of a girder recovered from the Trade Center in New York City. The memorial commemorating those lost in the tragedy was the brainchild of Bath Fire Department Captain Michael Clarke, who served as a member of a rescue task force in New York City immediately following the 9/11 attack. Captain Clarke's request to the New York City Fire Department for a piece of the debris was one of only 25 honored in the country. The metal was incorporated into a larger memorial to honor all those who lost their lives in 9/11, as well as to recognize all emergency personnel who aided then and still serve to keep their communities safe. A mobile piece, the memorial will travel to municipal and school facilities.

"Each of us felt the impact of 9/11, and this memorial serves to remind us of those we lost, and of those who lost their loved ones," said Governor Baldacci. "The creation of this transportable memorial was the result of many people in this community – from the Bath Fire Department, BIW, and many others. The memorial serves as a lasting testament to the memories of those who perished, and especially to those public safety and emergency personnel who risked their lives then – and still do ever day – to protect all of us. Americans remain united, not only in our collective loss of those who perished in the 9/11 attacks, but in our resolve to preserve freedom and democracy, and our way of life."

The Governor praised the continued vigilance of local, state and federal officials - including valued Guard, Reserve, and active duty military members - who serve and protect their communities and their nation, here and abroad. "As the 4th of July approaches, this is an appropriate time to reflect upon all the sacrifices made in the past, and to honor our heroes serving in our communities and overseas. As we look upon this memorial, we will always remember that the freedom and liberty enjoyed in America are great blessings, and must never be taken for granted."

## Governor Names Members of Blue Ribbon Commission on Dirigo Health

July 5, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci today announced the names of the members of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Dirigo Health. The Governor created the commission by Executive Order on May 24 as the legislative session drew to a close.

“DirigoChoice is working for over 15,400 Maine workers and families, and 2,000 businesses,” said Governor Baldacci. “Maine is one of only seven states in the country that saw a decrease in the rate of uninsured. We can do more.

“It is not right that people work hard, play by the rules and pay their taxes do not have the health coverage they need. With the valuable experience gained in the first year of Dirigo, we need to continue our work together with the Legislature, to build on the foundation we have laid. Maine people need and deserve affordable, quality health care that we can depend upon.”

The commission will be chaired by Dr. Sandra Featherman, who served as president of the University of New England, in Biddeford, from 1995 until last week.

The commission’s other members represent a cross section of Maine life, coming from backgrounds of business, industry, education, and consumer activism. The members are listed below with their affiliation:

David Brenerman, Assistant Vice President of Government & Public Affairs, UnumProvident Corporation, Portland

Joe Ditre, Executive Director, Consumers for Affordable Health Care, Augusta

Joan Donahue, owner, Hummingbird Home Care, Warren

Carol Epstein, owner, Epstein Commercial Real Estate, Bangor

Kevin Gildart, Vice President, Bath Iron Works, Bath

Tammy Greaton, Director, Maine People’s Alliance, Portland

Merton Henry, Attorney, Jensen, Baird, Gardner and Henry, Portland

Mike Keenan, President, Local S6, Bath

Dr. Robert McAfee, Chairman, Dirigo Health Board of Directors, Portland

Steven Michaud, President, Maine Hospital Association, Augusta

Chip Morrison, President, Androscoggin County Chamber of Commerce, Lewiston and member, Advisory Council, Maine Quality Forum

Katherine Pelletreau, Executive Director, Maine Association of Health Plans, Yarmouth

Ed Pineau, President, Pineau Policy Associates, Inc., Manchester

Keith Small, Director, Down East Business Alliance, Milbridge

Gordon Smith, Executive Vice President, Maine Medical Association, Manchester

Dr. Peter Toussaint, physician, New Canada

Barbara Trafton, realtor, Keller Williams Realty, Auburn

Mary Anne Turowski, SEIU Field Representative, Maine State Employees Association, Augusta

Trish Riley, Director, Governor's Office of Health Policy and Finance, Augusta, ex officio

The Governor said that he will work with legislators to explore their concerns fully and hear their ideas. "We will report to Leadership and the Insurance and Financial Services, Health and Human Services and Appropriations Committees to get their feedback and ensure legislators are engaged in the Commission's work," he said.

The Governor expects the commission to hold its first meeting in August and to report back to him by December 15.

## Governor Baldacci Congratulates Hancock Lumber as First FSC Certified Maine Lumberyard

July 5, 2006

CONTACT: Joy Leach, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4885

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

BRUNSWICK – Governor John E. Baldacci congratulated Hancock Lumber Wednesday afternoon as the first Maine company to receive Forest Stewardship Council certification for a lumberyard. The Governor congratulated them during a ceremony at the lumberyard in Brunswick.

“Consumers are demanding more products from certified wood,” said Governor Baldacci. “As I talk to paper mills, they are telling me that places like Nike and Time Magazine will not buy their paper for advertising unless it is made from certified wood.”

The Maine Forest Certification Initiative was launched three years ago with the goal of making Maine the national leader in certification. In that time, consumers have made it known that certified wood is preferred, which drives businesses like Hancock Lumber to take steps to respond to their customers.

Commissioner of the Department of Conservation, Patrick McGowan said, “If this were our midterm grade on forest certification, we would have been given an ‘A’.” McGowan continued, “This is not a self-grade, this is a grade that has been given by speaking with industry leaders.”

Industry leader, Kevin Hancock of Hancock Lumber said that certification is a very important part of what they are doing. “We’re really excited about the hard work in this area and the leadership the Governor has provided.” Hancock said that the certified wood sells at about a 15 percent premium compared to non-certified wood.

Alec Giffen, Director of the Maine Forest Service, called Governor Baldacci a “powerhouse” behind the effort of forest certification and congratulated Hancock Lumber. “With the opening of this yard, it makes it very convenient for consumers to adhere to Maine State Housing Green Building standards,” said Giffen.

About 35 employees of Hancock Lumber and representatives of the forest products industry were at the ceremony as well as Tom Howard of Domtar Industries and Dale McCormick of Maine Housing.

For more information on forest certification, visit [www.maine.gov/doc/mfs](http://www.maine.gov/doc/mfs).

## Governor Baldacci Awards Four Students With State Police Memorial Scholarships

July 6, 2006

CONTACT: Joy Leach, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4885

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci congratulated four students from around Maine for being awarded with State Police Memorial Scholarships. The Governor presented the students with their checks Thursday morning in the Governor's Office.

"I appreciate these ceremonies because it's affording young people an opportunity to get a good solid foundation through education," said Governor Baldacci. "My parents raised eight kids and we were fortunate where seven out of eight were able to go to the University of Maine." The Governor told the students and their families that the Baldacci siblings established a scholarship fund in their parent's names because they understood the importance of education to their mom and dad.

Receiving the scholarships were Alyson Byron of North Yarmouth, who will attend the University of Maine in Orono; Kristi Hatch of Morrill, who will attend Florida Southern College; Kayla McAlister of South Paris who will attend the University of Southern Maine's College of Nursing; and Derek Pelletier of Eagle Lake who will attend the University of Maine at Fort Kent.

The scholarships were awarded to students of an active, retired or deceased State Trooper and must be going into their first year of college.

## Governor Baldacci Helps Launch Statewide 2-1-1 Service

July 6, 2006

CONTACT: Joy Leach, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4885

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci joined Congressman Tom Allen, members of the 2-1-1 Board and representatives from the United Way today to celebrate the launch of the statewide 2-1-1 service.

“What does 2-1-1 mean for Maine?” Governor Baldacci asked the crowd at the Senator Inn, Augusta. “It means that individuals will have an easy and efficient link to health and social services; it means that we have an effective statewide planning toll, to better track gaps in service; and it means that we have the infrastructure in place to support and communicate with our state in times of local, state and national emergencies.”

Governor Baldacci demonstrated the use of 2-1-1 by placing the first statewide call for help, asking the operator about after school activities for his son and about volunteer efforts in and around the Augusta area.

Maine is the 15th state to offer 2-1-1 service to the entire state and the 7th state to offer that service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

2-1-1 was launched in Cumberland and Washington Counties in February. Maine's 2-1-1 is a public, private partnership with the State of Maine, the United Way and various other non-profit and community partners.

## FDIC Reports Positive Economic Growth

July 7, 2006

AUGUSTA – Citing the Summer 2006 State Profile the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) released yesterday, Governor Baldacci today said that Maine's economic forecast is positive and that his economic plan will continue to grow the economy into the future. The report notes that Maine is expected to see growth in jobs and the economy over the next two years.

"This independent source reports a positive outlook for Maine's economy and jobs for years 2006 and 2007," said Governor Baldacci. "This growth is expected despite the challenges Maine continues to face regarding rising energy costs and a cooling of the housing market.

"Maine's economy is growing," said the Governor. "And while our work isn't done, the FDIC report confirms that we are moving in the right direction. My Administration has over the past three years balanced the State budget without raising income and sales taxes, just as I had promised. It hasn't been easy, but we accomplished this while protecting the vital safety net for Maine people and making crucial investments to grow the economy. We've kept spending down, having the lowest increase in the state budget of any previous administration in thirty years."

In addition to the positive economic and job growth predicted, the FDIC report notes that Maine's population growth is among the fastest in New England, reflecting that Maine is a great state with a lot to offer. Maine's unemployment rate remains below the national average.

"I am pleased with this report, but recognize that our work is not finished. We have more work to do to ensure that opportunities are available to all people in all areas of the state. I will continue to build on my economic plan, including investing in higher education; expanding research and development; expanding the reach of investments and incentives; enhancing renewable and alternative energy sources; and continuing tax relief efforts."

This spring three separate bond rating agencies gave high ratings to the state based on the sound management of state finances. The state will experience a surplus this year. Since taking office the Governor has increased state reserves from zero to over \$100 million. Maine's state tax ranking dropped in 2005 according to two independent sources: the U.S. Census Bureau and the Federation of Tax Administrators. Inc. Magazine recently ranked the City of Portland 20th in the list of Best Midsize Cities for Business.

"Creating opportunity for all Maine citizens continues to be my top priority," said the Governor.



## Governor Announces New Multicultural Office

July 10, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci today announced the creation of the state Office of Multicultural Affairs. Speaking at an event at the Abromson Center at the University of Southern Maine in Portland, the Governor introduced Noel Bonam, the director of the new office. The Governor addressed a group that included twenty-four visiting foreign journalists who have been in Maine to learn about Maine's approach to multicultural communities, especially in regards to successfully integrating refugees and immigrants.

"We in Maine remember that the immigrant story is our story," said the Governor. "My Italian roots are still very much a part of my family. Maine was built on the labor of immigrants. Our economic past and future are tied to immigrants, and Maine's communities are richer because of these links."

The Governor addressed the recent incident in Lewiston at the Islamic Center that is now being investigated by federal officials as a possible hate crime. "This despicable incident does not reflect Maine values and Maine attitudes. An event like the one in the Islamic Center is clearly inconsistent with this spirit. As we did in 2002, our community again joins to stand together against intolerance in any form."

The Governor reiterated the importance of creating an office that coordinates efforts and programs around the growing immigrant and multicultural communities throughout Maine. "Going forward, here in Maine, our challenge is to build pathways to prosperity that everyone can travel on. In Maine, we cannot afford to leave anyone behind.

"We need improved connection and strategic coordination with our multicultural communities. This is why I've established a new Office of Multicultural Services, to work with local government as well as multicultural community stakeholders to better set priorities and policy strategies to improve the way we do business. Creating the Multicultural Office, with Director Bonam, the State makes a commitment to a strategic and long-term approach to a supporting and working with multicultural communities who make Maine home. We need to take advantage of this opportunity on behalf of everyone in our state."

The Governor has directed collaboration between state agencies including the Maine State Housing Authority and Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Economic and Community Development, Department of Labor, and the Department of Public Safety to develop enhanced policies reaching the immigrant and multicultural communities. Earlier this year the Governor created the Office of Minority Health within DHHS.

## Major Conservation Projects Completed; DOC Assumes Management Responsibilities

July 11, 2006

CONTACT: Joy Leach, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4885

Jim Crocker (DOC) (207) 287-3156

AUGUSTA – The Maine Department of Conservation (DOC), The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and The Conservation Fund (TCF) today completed two major conservation projects in central and downeast Maine. TNC finalized its Katahdin Forest Project, begun in September 2002, ceding an easement for 195,000 acres to DOC — along with funds to manage the easement in the future. TCF recently closed on its purchase of 7,700 acres in Washington County, and presented the deed to DOC.

"These two projects are unique, but carry similar weight for the people of Maine," said Governor John Baldacci. "The Katahdin Forest is a working forest, supplying mills in the Penobscot River Valley, and providing good-paying jobs. The Machias River watershed offers some of the finest paddling in the eastern United States, and is critical habitat for the Atlantic Salmon."

The Katahdin Forest easement, which buffers much of the western boundary of Baxter State Park, calls for sustainable forest management, traditional public access and protection of special natural areas. Today's announcement coincides with release of \$4.4 million in federal Forest Legacy funds awarded the project in 2005. The Land for Maine's Future Program also contributed \$2 million.

"We have always seen the Katahdin Forest Project as an effort to protect both trees and jobs," said Tom Rumpf, Associate Director of The Nature Conservancy in Maine. "Through purchase of this easement and some extraordinary additional financing, the Conservancy helped maintain jobs in the region and the flow of timber to the Millinocket and East Millinocket mills – all while protecting the natural resources northern Maine so famously provides."

The Conservation Fund, working with a coalition of state and local partners and Maine's congressional delegation, purchased the Machias River Project property from International Paper last year and held it until more than \$7 million in public and private funding could be secured. The newly-protected network of lands will preserve critical habitat for wild Atlantic salmon, enhance public recreation areas and ensure a portion of the forest will remain a sustainable working forest.

"The remarkable wilderness of the Machias River represents the essence of Maine's Downeast rivers and lakes," said Larry Selzer, president of The Conservation Fund. "Thanks to the leadership and vision of Governor Baldacci, Maine's congressional delegation and a broad-based coalition of foundations, individuals and other nonprofit organizations, future generations will enjoy the wonders of the Machias for years to come."

"We recognize the importance of these parcels to Maine's economy," said Patrick K. McGowan, Commissioner of DOC. "The Katahdin Forest will continue to provide jobs and timber for the \$10 billion

forest products industry. We want to thank TNC for their dedication to this project, and for the foresight of providing management funds for what will be the Department's largest holding. Phase II of the Machias River Project is now complete. These 7,700 acres at the river's headwaters will become a key piece of the outdoor recreation economy in Washington County. We thank TCF for stepping up and completing this project so quickly."

## Governor Baldacci Congratulates Award Winning Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Sports, Health and Wellness

July 11, 2006

CONTACT: Joy Leach, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4885

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci congratulated the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Sports, Health and Wellness Tuesday during a special luncheon at the Blaine House.

"I believe that's how you make lifestyle changes," said Governor Baldacci. "To prevent health problems and create healthier communities Maine's citizens must be encouraged to stay physically active and to keep a healthy diet. Since coming into office in 2003 it has been my goal to see Maine become the healthiest state in the nation."

The Governor's Council won the Gold Star award Council of the Year from the National Association on Health and Fitness on April 24. Governor Baldacci invited the council to the Blaine House for lunch to celebrate the honor and to present the award. About 20 members of the council were at the luncheon, including chairs Joan Benoit Samuelson and Dr. Erik Steele.

"I have appreciated Joan's leadership, Erik's leadership and your membership," the Governor told the group. "This council has worked hard to educate Maine citizens about their health through exercise and information programs and by providing necessary resources for disease prevention."

The award is given to a state council who has show exceptional leadership, program development, is actively promoting health and fitness and the mission of the National Association on Health and Fitness. Each year, the state chosen becomes a model of other states to mentor for their creative programming and service to their state residents.

## Governor Joins Lewiston Community Rally

July 12, 2006

LEWISTON – Governor John Baldacci today joined religious, civic and other community leaders and the public to rally for unity in the Lewiston-Auburn area. The event follows the arrest of a man last week who is being charged with desecrating a place of worship.

“I thank the community for standing as one,” said Governor Baldacci. “Maine has always been a place of hope and prosperity for immigrants. Our success as a nation is tied to the immigrant experience and values: commitment to hard work, community, family and faith. We must work continuously to ensure that all members of our communities feel appreciated and respected.”

Last night the Governor met with members of the Lewiston Auburn Muslim Center. He stated that the meeting was productive and noted that the elders said they appreciate the support of the community.

Today’s rally at Kennedy Park served to remind all people that acts of discrimination do not reflect the values of the state.

“A fundamental right in America and a founding principal of our state is that people feel free and secure in the homes, communities and places of worship,” said the Governor. “An act of intolerance against one of us is an act against all of us, and we will not stand aside and allow intolerance to infiltrate our communities. In the coming days and weeks, we will be working with Lewiston city officials, community leaders, and organizations in the area to make sure that every member of this community feels safe and respected.”

## Governor Baldacci Attends MEMA Briefing for Hurricane Preparedness

July 13, 2006

CONTACT: Joy Leach, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4885

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci attended a briefing at MEMA Thursday morning to further prepare the state for the upcoming hurricane season.

“Preparedness is our best defense as we approach hurricane season,” said Governor Baldacci. “This is true of our local, county, state and federal officials as well as the public. Today’s meeting will help us coordinate our efforts even more to be prepared for the eventuality of a hurricane hitting the state. Hopefully we won’t need it.”

The Governor was one of a number of officials at the briefing, including representatives from the National Weather Service and county and Maine Emergency Agencies. According to the National Weather Service, above normal activity is predicted for this season. They anticipate 13-16 named storms for the 2006 north Atlantic hurricane season, with 8-10 of those storms possibly reaching hurricane strength. Four to six of those hurricanes have the potential to become classified “major” hurricanes. The National Weather Service says that it is too early to tell weather or not any of these hurricanes will impact Maine.

Representatives from county Emergency Management Agencies briefed the group on their preparedness going into the 2006 hurricane season. Among the work being done, Lincoln County is having a tabletop demonstration on September 6; Waldo County is in talks with schools for shelters and transportation; and Washington County is in the midst of updating their emergency management list, and working with fire departments to notify residents about approaching storms and following up with residents after the storm.

Governor Baldacci also proclaimed July 10 – 14, 2006 as “Hurricane Awareness Week” throughout the state of Maine to encourage preparing for the potential of a rough hurricane season.

## Governor Baldacci Thanks Four Businesses for Signing STEP-UP Agreement

July 13, 2006

CONTACT: Joy Leach, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4885

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci was joined by DEP Commissioner, David Littell Thursday morning as four businesses signed STEP-UP agreements. STEP-UP, or “Smart Tracks for Exceptional Performers and Upward Performers” has just under 20 businesses involved in the program. Thursday morning’s ceremony saw one new business get involved, and three other businesses re-up their agreements.

“You have exhibited a commitment to go beyond compliance goals related to energy, water and other natural resources use,” said Governor Baldacci. “I commend you for your leadership and success in meeting the goals of pollutant reduction and elimination of hazardous materials, toxic releases and greenhouse gases.”

Pratt & Whitney of North Berwick is the one business who is signing the STEP-UP agreement for the first time. The three businesses re-upping their agreements are Fairchild Semiconductor of South Portland, NorDx Laboratory of Scarborough and Poland Spring Bottling of Poland Spring.

Each business commits to various goals in their STEP-UP agreements that include reducing hazardous waste, fuel and energy consumption.

“By doing this, each of you – Fairchild Semiconductor, NorDx, Poland Spring and Pratt & Whitney are securing a better future not only for your business, but also for Maine’s environment,” said Governor Baldacci.

## Governor Announces Fiscal Year 2006 Surplus

July 17, 2006

### Maine's Financial House in Good Order

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci announced today that Fiscal Year 2006 ended with a \$74.1 million revenue surplus, leaving Maine in a strong financial position. Along with \$14 million in lapsed balances and other adjustments, this means more than \$48 million will be saved and deposited in reserves and \$30.6 million to address future long-term liabilities.

"I came into office in a challenging financial situation, with paper mills closing and our reserves depleted to zero," said the Governor. "I promised then not to raise income and sales taxes to put Maine on sound financial footing, and while it was difficult, I kept my promise. In addition, we created spending caps and reduced the State's overall tax burden."

With his economic plan, the Governor has succeeded in building reserves since he took office, raising reserves from zero to \$149 million. Short term borrowing has been reduced, with the Tax Anticipation Note going from \$275 million to zero. Cash on hand has improved by over \$222 million.

"We have balanced the State budget, accomplishing this while protecting the vital safety net for Maine people and making crucial investments to grow the economy," said the Governor. "We've kept spending down, having the lowest increase in the state budget of any previous administration in thirty years.

"There's more work to be done, but the foundation has been laid to grow jobs, invest in Maine's future, provide affordable health care and protect our natural resources while increasing our energy independence. We need to continue to grow the economy so that more people across the state have access to opportunities to succeed. I am pleased with this year end report, and look forward to continuing to implement and build upon my economic plan."

The distribution of the \$88 million breaks down to the following End Year Cascade.

#### To Rebuild our Reserves

Budget Stabilization Fund \$30.6 million

Working Capital Reserve 17.5 million

Total \$48.1 million

#### To Buy Down Long-Term Liabilities

Unfunded Liability of the Retirement System \$17.5 million

Retiree Health Fund 13.1 million\*

Total \$30.6 million



For Other Priorities

Capital Construction Reserve \$ 8.7 million

FAME Loan Reserve 1.0 million

Emergency Contingent Account .3 million

Total \$10.0 million

GRAND TOTAL \$88.7 million

\*NOTE: This \$13.1M combines with \$53M already set aside, for a total headstart of \$66.1M towards our future liability for post-retirement health benefits under the new accounting rule GASB 45, which takes effect in FY08.

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## Governor Lodges Opposition to Congressional Nuclear Waste Storage Proposal

July 18, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci today sent a letter to United States Senate Senator Pete Domenici, Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Energy & Water Development, to express his strong opposition to a proposal moving through the Senate that may lead to long term storage of high-level radioactive waste materials at the Maine Yankee site in Wiscasset.

"I find this proposal very troubling for the health and safety of Maine citizens," said Governor Baldacci. "If passed as drafted by the Subcommittee, the federal government would have the ability to place such dangerous materials in Maine without state input and keep them here for twenty-five years. I believe the federal government would serve Maine people and the nation better if they were to follow through on the promise of the permanent long-term national nuclear waste storage facility."

The text of the full letter from the Governor follows.

July 17, 2006

Honorable Pete V. Domenici, Chair

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy & Water Development

United States Senate

Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Domenici:

While I understand and respect your long term leadership and support for nuclear power, and your willingness to address the high-level radioactive nuclear waste storage issue, I must record my strongest opposition to your most recent proposal to hold commercial nuclear waste at reactor sites in the several states.

The viability of the existing national nuclear waste disposal program can only be achieved with your leadership and support in the U.S. Congress. However, the potential of high-level radioactive nuclear waste storage sites in thirty-one States, or possibly a lesser number of regional sites, does not advance a solution, nor respond adequately to the American public's questioning of the Federal government's ability to keep a long-standing commitment to permanent nuclear waste storage. I strongly believe your proposal creates a very high potential for indefinite delays in achieving a safe and permanent nuclear waste repository, and will feed a growing lack of confidence in government in general. The American people deserve better!

In today's world, the security concerns of Americans are not well served by having thousands of metric tons of nuclear waste left in facilities in thirty-one states, including Maine. Our best interests will be

served by consolidating these dangerous materials in a facility selected for its remoteness and for its ability to be secured. Yucca Mountain has been selected from a number of sites because it best meets the several evaluation criteria. Now the Federal government must move forward to complete this project.

As Governor of Maine, I urged the New England Governors' Conference to reaffirm the region's support of a national nuclear waste solution, and to press for resolving the funding issues that kept the millions of dollars paid by electric ratepayers from Maine and other states from being applied to the completion of the Congressional-designated national repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada; a project which I had supported and voted for during my eight years in Congress.

In our letter, the New England Governors Conference advocated the following five points:

- Full utilization of the funds collected annually for the development and completion of the congressionally-designated Repository;
- Expeditious completion of the review of the nation's permanent repository site at Yucca Mountain;
- Establishment of a national Independent Spent Fuel Aging Storage installation;
- That spent nuclear fuel, "Greater Than Class 'C' waste", and high-level waste should be stored at a facility with the specific experience, expertise, and capacity for innovation to handle and manage those materials most effectively for extended periods; and,
- Spent nuclear fuel and high-level nuclear waste should be stored where there is a comprehensive security infrastructure:

These five points are as important today as when the New England Governors wrote to Energy Secretary Bodman last year.

The full and proper utilization of the billions of dollars paid by our citizens into the Nuclear Waste Fund is essential, and use of these funds would allow the Department of Energy, with Nuclear Regulatory Commission approval, to complete the remaining scientific analysis and to construct a safe and permanent nuclear waste repository. Congress will have the appropriate oversight authority to assure the American people that their paid-in assessments for this critically-important project are properly spent and accounted. An extended delay of twenty-five years, as you have proposed, is not an acceptable answer to the nation's nuclear waste problem. Neither is your proposed designation, within 270 days of passage, of a Consolidation and Preparation (CAP) site in each state containing (or which previously contained) a civilian reactor.

I am vigorously opposed to your proposal because of its intention to leave high-level nuclear waste in thirty-one states, in storage facilities never designed, intended or evaluated for this purpose, or in regional collection sites, while at the same time the assessments taken from electric customers to pay for a single, safe and permanent storage repository are not being used as intended.

If the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, which you chair, desires public input on this ill-conceived idea, I am prepared to present my case against this legislation.

Sincerely,

John E. Baldacci

Governor

## Governor Announces Rail Transportation Grants

July 20, 2006

AUBURN – Governor John Baldacci today announced the five recipients of this round of Industrial Rail Access Program (IRAP) grants. Joined by local and state officials, and representatives from Safe Handling Inc and the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad, the Governor presented a \$150,000 check to Safe Handling for its innovative Municipal Track project.

“The IRAP program is a win-win-win for Maine people,” said Governor Baldacci. “These grants support project designed to bring more economic opportunities to the state, and they reduce the number of big trucks on our highways and roads, increasing safety while reducing dangerous emissions in the environment.”

An important piece of Maine’s economic development plan, IRAP supports and enhances transportation in Maine and stimulates the economy by benefiting both railroads and shippers. The projects selected will create new jobs, improve safety on highways and roads, reduce truck emissions, and improve the productivity of businesses that employ thousands of people.

Safe Handling Inc., a Pine Tree Zone company that has been recognized before by the Governor as an innovative business, will construct a Municipal/Community Team Track. Safe Handling and the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad will use 2000 feet of new track to offer low intensity services to lower volume group of customers. Small businesses will gain the ability to ship low volumes of commodities, cutting shipping costs and increasing their competitiveness.

The other four other IRAP grants include:

- o Lane Construction Corporation in Hermon: \$257,854
- o Lane Construction in Stockton Springs: \$156,552.50
- o Dead River Oil Co. in Millinocket: \$68,851
- o Maine Eastern Railroad in Rockland: \$97,680

These projects, in total, will receive from the State more than \$730,900. A 50/50 match is required for the projects. With the 50/50 match, this brings the total program funding to \$1.47 million.

“As a state we must invest in rail infrastructure that allows Maine manufacturers to keep transportation costs down,” said Governor Baldacci. “My Administration is continuing to use such investments as a key strategy to sustain the economy of Maine. The grants we are announcing today are part of the strategy to rebuild our freight rail infrastructure, building a partnership between the state, railroads, and manufacturers in Maine.”

For more information on the IRAP program, please visit <http://www.maine.gov/mdot/freight/irap.php>

## Governor Congratulates Robbins Lumber on Anniversary and Safety Record

July 21, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci today joined Robbins Lumber president Jim Robbins and other officials and staff to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the company. The Governor also recognized the sawmill for its outstanding workplace safety program.

“For 125 years this company has been a leader in the wood products industry, providing good jobs in this community and responsibly managing thousands of acres of forests in Maine,” said Governor Baldacci. “Though production has changed significantly through the years, Robbins has continued to remain competitive through innovation and a forward-thinking investment strategy.”

The Governor presented the business with the Department of Labor’s SHARP safety award. The certificate is granted to employers who have demonstrated exemplary achievement in workplace safety. Only a handful of Maine employers have met this standard.

“This award recognizes Robbins Lumber’s high standards and employee involvement in improving safety in the workplace,” said the Governor. “In achieving SHARP certification, Robbins Lumber brought together management and employees to develop and stand behind a comprehensive workplace safety strategy. They have made significant improvements in job safety and made this company a better place to work.”

The sawmill recently underwent a major expansion, and is one of the most efficient on the East Coast. Additionally, the 30,000 plus acres of company forest land is harvested using the responsible forestry management practices, including replanting for future growth.

“It’s this kind of thinking that will move Maine’s traditional natural resource based industries forward,” said the Governor.

## Governor Announces No Discharge Area for Casco Bay

July 21, 2006

PORTLAND – Governor John Baldacci today joined U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region I Administrator Robert Varney, Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner David Littell, and area officials and legislators at the Maine State Pier to declare Casco Bay a No Discharge Area.

“Casco Bay is a vital economic resource for Maine,” said Governor Baldacci. “By protecting the bay, we help protect our economic future as well as the health and safety of our Maine citizens. I am proud to add this initiative to a long list of acts which will protect one of Maine’s finest natural resources.”

The designation protects over 229 square miles of marine habitat and over 197,000 acres of shellfish harvesting areas. “This is complemented by a law I signed, and the DEP implemented, instituting the nation’s first permitting program for cruise ship vessel discharges along our entire coast,” said the Governor. “This action protects Maine’s waters from discharges of bacteria- laden wastes from cruise ships.”

Pollution into Casco Bay also comes from non-point sources such as land development, road runoff, malfunctioning septic systems, surface runoff, and even domestic animals. Maine’s DEP’s non-point source program goals are to protect Maine’s waters from pollution by promoting the use of best management practice, supporting local watershed stewardship, and educating the public on compliance.

“The No Discharge Area announced today and the cruise vessel discharge program have strengthened and enhanced the protections for the State’s waters and natural resources,” noted the Governor. “We all must remain vigilant to continue to protect this valuable bay.”

## **Dirigo Health Saves \$34.3 Million More In Second Year; \$78 Million Saved Over Two Years**

July 21, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci today said that he was pleased that Bureau of Insurance Superintendent Alessandro Iuppa declared that there were \$34.3 million in savings to Maine's healthcare system attributed to Dirigo Health in the second year.

"This independent assessment by the Bureau of Insurance attests that Dirigo Health is working," said Governor Baldacci. "In two years, Dirigo has saved the health care system more than \$78 million. We have made a good start; more needs to be done to make health insurance affordable for all Mainers."

The Governor stressed the importance of bringing health care savings to Maine so that all Maine people have access to affordable healthcare.

"We are working with Anthem to develop a lower cost product to meet the needs of more hard working Maine families," said the Governor. "Additionally, I created the Blue Ribbon Commission to build on the foundation of Dirigo. The commission will propose options to ensure Dirigo can continue to reach more of Maine's uninsured and underinsured and continue the work of the Maine Quality Forum."

The Governor said he will continue to fight for affordable, quality health care for all Maine people. "Health care is a matter of fairness. Dirigo Health helps all Maine people. It helps the uninsured and those who feel stuck in the middle, struggling to maintain coverage."

As of June, Dirigo is responsible for providing health care to over 15,400 Maine people, including 2,300 small businesses, with more joining each month.



## Governor and Richard Russo Close Maine International Film Festival

July 24, 2006

Augusta – Governor John Baldacci last night joined Maine author Richard Russo at the closing ceremonies of the 9th Maine International Film Festival (MIFF). Before watching a film written by Russo, the Governor spoke about recent initiatives his administration has undertaken to promote film production in the state.

“The Festival is an important event highlighting the growing impact of the Creative Economy on the State of Maine,” said Governor Baldacci. “That’s why I’ve made it a priority to do what I can to grow opportunities for filming here in Maine.

“My economic plan recognizes that we must invest in Maine people and Maine’s cultural heritage. The economic engines that create opportunity are our people – our youth, our creative workers and our creative entrepreneurs – and we must provide them with the resources and support to be able to succeed.”

The Maine International Film Festival was a lead applicant to the Maine Office of Tourism, receiving a \$50,000 grant from the State to promote film events in Maine.

The Governor credited Richard Russo for his leadership in promoting the Maine Incentive Plan. A vital piece of the Governor’s economic plan, the Film Incentive passed this legislative session. The financial incentives are designed to bring more film, television and media projects like "Empire Falls" to Maine.

“Richard Russo is one of our state's most important and influential creative voices, and his leadership was crucial in garnering support for the legislation,” said the Governor. “These incentives are important because they increase Maine’s ability to compete for projects.”

Since the passage of the Maine Attraction Film Incentive Plan this spring, the Maine Film Office has received many calls from potential future films, commercials, television and other media projects.

“The Maine Attraction Film Incentive Plan is only the first step in our state's efforts to expand our creative economy,” said the Governor. “Promoting the creative economy supports the natural talent and entrepreneurship that exists in Maine people, creating new educational opportunities and jobs; keys to our future economy.”

## Governor and Maine DEP Announce Next Phase of HoltraChem Clean Up

July 24, 2006

BANGOR – Governor John Baldacci joined Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner David Littell and citizen groups to announce the next phase of the mercury clean up at the HoltraChem site in Orrington.

“I am here today with DEP Commissioner David Littell to reaffirm my commitment to what continues to be my Administration’s highest priority environmental cleanup site,” said Governor Baldacci. “Part of that commitment has been to ensure that the public is informed about our plan and the State’s progress. Successful cleanup has required a number of complex actions over many years to reach the ultimate goal of eliminating the risk this mercury poses to the environment and the health of those living along the Penobscot River.”

Cleanup of the long standing toxic contamination of the HoltraChem site began in 2003. The DEP is currently completing Phase III of cleanup of the site. This portion of the dismantling includes cleaning tanks and removing debris. During this process in May and June, more than 1,400 pounds of metallic mercury were recovered.

Phase IV includes the removal of seven buildings which are contaminated to the point that the debris would be considered a hazardous waste for mercury. It involves demolition of tanks and buildings, including the contaminated cell building itself.

“We are move forward deliberately and prudently to protect the Penobscot River and the people living on it,” said Commissioner Littell. “We are making real progress. The cleanup to date has involved a great deal of planning, collaboration and follow-through to advance our protection of the public health and the environment. I am proud of both the strong commitment and the effort that we have described today.”

For more information on HoltraChem cleanup, please visit: <http://www.maine.gov/dep/rwm/holtrachem/>

## Governor Baldacci Informs Seniors of Maine's Commitment to Combat Future Problems with Medicare Part D

July 26, 2006

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Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci visited the Cushnoc Club in Augusta Wednesday afternoon for a town meeting based around the federal Medicare Part D prescription drug plan. Governor Baldacci was joined by representatives from Maine's Congressional Delegation's offices and Jude Walsh from the Governor's Office of Health Policy and Finance.

"My grandmother told me that I had better make sure to take care of these types of programs," explained the Governor, "because someday I'll get older and I'll need these programs too." It was advice like that from his grandmother that has made Maine a leader in the nation when it comes to protecting seniors from the flawed federal drug program.

"What we've just gone through...we will have to go through it every year," said Governor Baldacci. "Prices are going to change and some plans will not be around any longer." The Governor explained to the group that Maine has paid roughly \$7.1 million (dollars) in efforts to protect the state's seniors throughout the transition from January – March and the federal government has reimbursed \$5.9 million so far. However, some plans will change and drug coverage will change once again, effective January 1, 2007. Lists of plans will become available in September, drugs that those plans cover will be listed in October, and seniors will have 45 days – down from 6 months last year – to choose a plan in which to enroll in November and December.

"45 days is not long enough for people to go through all of this information," said Governor Baldacci. "6 months wasn't enough time last year, so why do the Feds think that 45 days will make things any better this year?"

The Governor, Walsh and the delegation fielded a variety of questions from those in attendance, including one person who was signed up through two different companies and neither could give her information about how to simplify; and one attendant who simply asked, "What were you thinking?" when it came to enacting Medicare Part D.

The town meeting was put on by the Maine People's Alliance. Both Governor Baldacci and Jude Walsh indicated that they would welcome involvement in future town meetings throughout the state on the topic.

## Governor Baldacci Assists in Ground Breaking for Point East Development

July 27, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4885

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

WISCASSET – Governor John E. Baldacci joined officials from Wiscasset, Point East Maritime Village and contributing partners Thursday morning for the ground breaking ceremonies at the former Mason Station Power Plant.

“I am pleased to be here,” the Governor told about 100 people gathered on the lawn for the ceremonies. “I am especially pleased that our existing plan of Pine Tree Economic Zones was a part of this project.”

The site of the Mason Station Power Plant is a Pine Tree Zone, which was instrumental in attracting the Hinckley Company to the Maritime Village.

The new full service 239 slip marina will be complimented with a new 9000 sq ft retro-fit and yacht repair facility. In addition, Hinckley anticipates building over 100,000 sq feet of heated indoor boat storage at their sister property, the i.Park-Wiscasset Marine Technology Park (also a Pine Tree Zone).

The Maritime Village will also include 80 custom cottages, 160 waterfront condominiums, upscale retail stores, gourmet markets, multiple fine dining establishments, shops, high end galleries, and a fitness center all connected to miles of pristine walking trails along the shores of the Sheepscot River. The design emphasizes pedestrian uses, hiking, biking, boating, neighbor interaction, natural beauty and a strong sense of community.

“This development will provide good jobs and boost the local economy through the construction of the site and the businesses and families it will bring,” said Governor Baldacci. “The synergy of these new businesses and jobs will become the economic engine that helps generate additional growth and thoughtful development in the midcoast region.”

Upon completion, the Maritime Village is expected to provide over 1 million dollars in tax revenues. The Maritime Village will also create lasting jobs through the residence maintenance, retail businesses, restaurants, art galleries and markets.

## Governor Baldacci Cuts Ribbon on 2006 Bangor State Fair

July 28, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

BANGOR – Governor John E. Baldacci officially cut the ribbon on the Bangor State Fair Friday afternoon at Bass Park.

“The Bangor State Fair is a tradition in Bangor,” said the Governor. “I have fond memories of this fair...the rides, the food, the entertainment and the agriculture are all staples of this Eastern Maine tradition.”

Governor Baldacci put a special emphasis on the importance of agriculture at the fair, saying, “Throughout all the years, the Bangor State Fair has never lost sight of how agriculture-friendly the state is.” Governor Baldacci continued, “Our natural resources and our agricultural base remains strong, and it can and will remain a vibrant part of our economy.”

“In the 21st Century economy, we recognize the importance of good paying jobs with benefits, while preserving our quality of life,” said the Governor. “We can do both and that’s what we see here in Bangor today.”

Governor Baldacci told fair-goers that the state must continue to support our technical industries, as well as providing incentives to tech-based businesses and investing in R&D and higher education. Baldacci has worked hard both while on the Agriculture Committee while in Congress and in his first term as Governor to continue to help agriculture thrive throughout Maine long into the future.

Following the ribbon cutting, the Governor took a tour of the fairgrounds with Bass Park Director Mike Dyer. The Bangor State Fair runs now through Sunday, August 6.

## Governor's Health Office Awarded Grant to Develop Worksite Wellness Program

July 28, 2006

AUGUSTA - The Governor's Office of Health Policy and Finance has been awarded a \$93,000 grant from the National Governors' Association (NGA) to develop and implement a worksite wellness program for small businesses. Maine is one of 13 states to receive a grant, which is part of the NGA's Healthy America initiative.

Governor Baldacci accepted the award noting, "One of the best ways to promote the health and wellness of Maine people is to do it in the workplace. A priority of my administration is helping Maine businesses, of which 96% are small and micro establishments, gain access to quality health care. We've made great strides with Dirigo Health to increase access to coverage and this wellness program will improve on what we've accomplished so far."

Specifically, the program will develop a wellness toolkit tailored to the unique needs of small businesses, which typically do not have the resources in time and money to promote employee health and wellness in the workplace, according to a recent study by the University of Southern Maine. The toolkit will provide education, technical assistance, peer support and links to on-going resources for employers to easily engage their employees in a practical approach to long-term health behavior improvements.

Partners involved in the program include the Dirigo Health Agency and its Maine Quality Forum, the Maine Cardiovascular Health Program out of the Department of Health and Human Services/Center for Disease Control, the Maine Council for Worksite Wellness, including the award-winning Bangor Wellness Council, and the Dirigo Small Business Advisory Group.

Once the toolkit is developed, DirigoChoice businesses will participate in a pilot project to ensure the toolkit's effectiveness at enabling small businesses to implement wellness programs and measure success.

Trish Riley, Director of the Governor's Office of Health Policy and Finance, noted, "Increasing access to coverage is step one and we are doing that with DirigoChoice. Promoting health and wellness in the workplace goes hand in hand with increasing access. With this project we will build on the incredible work already underway in Maine and develop a user-friendly and effective wellness toolkit, designed especially for very small businesses. A healthier workforce is a more productive and energized workforce."

This grant supports the State Health Plan and its goal to make Maine the healthiest state. The toolkit will be developed and tested over the next year.

## Governor Baldacci Tags First “Certified Maine Lobster”

July 31, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

PORTLAND – Governor Baldacci tagged the first “Certified Maine Lobster” Monday morning at the Portland Pier. The Maine Lobster Promotions Council created the brand and logo designed to definitively tell consumers that their lobster came from the waters of Maine.

“Maine’s identity is so closely associated with lobsters that when you tell someone from out of state where you’re from, the next words out of their mouth usually will include the word ‘lobster,’” said Governor Baldacci. “And then of course they ask if you can get them some, wholesale.”

Governor Baldacci was joined by Bob Putnam, a harvester from Chabeague Island; Pete McAleney, a Portland lobster dealer; and Kristin Millar of the Maine Lobster Promotions Council. Millar explained the need for the lobster certification, saying that there are “imposter lobsters,” or lobsters that were not caught in Maine, but sold as though they are Maine lobsters. Through research, the Maine Lobster Promotions Council determined that consumers prefer Maine lobster. Consumers are now being instructed to look for the certified Maine lobster tag and logo to ensure that their lobster came from Maine.

“The certified Maine lobster program is aimed at protecting our reputation as having the best tasting lobster in the world,” said the Governor. “We’re protecting the jobs of the lobstermen, their families and the people that depend on them for industry and commerce, because we’re making sure that the lobsters being consumed are certified Maine lobsters,” said Governor Baldacci. “Maine means value. By putting it together with lobsters, we are enhancing the value and protection of that resource. It’s about protecting a traditional Maine industry, a way of life.”

## Governor Baldacci Awards Lewiston-Auburn Economic Growth Council with \$10,000

July 31, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUBURN – Governor John E. Baldacci presented the Lewiston-Auburn Economic Growth Council with a \$10,000 check Monday night, to help fund implementation of the joint services report between the two cities. Governor Baldacci was in Auburn to attend a forum on regionalization efforts with the Lewiston and Auburn City Councils and Mayors.

"I applaud your twin goals of providing excellent and cost-effective services," said Governor Baldacci. "Your current efforts – and your history of working closely together – model the regional approach I want to encourage throughout Maine."

"The regionalization that I have encouraged doesn't come from the top down," continued Governor Baldacci. "In the Maine tradition, we need cost-cutting examples to come from the grassroots. In Maine, we want to maintain community, provide good government service, and be fiscally responsible."

Governor Baldacci has said in the past that regionalization is an important part of several efforts, including lowering property taxes. The Governor pointed out that his 2005 budget including one million dollars in local and regional efficiency grants. Lewiston and Auburn have already received \$45,000 to fund their joint services study. In addition, four Androscoggin County emergency communications agencies received \$100,000 to consolidate functions.

Governor Baldacci was looking to the future, saying, "The 2007 state budget added another \$500,000 to the efficiency fund. Next month we will once again be seeking grant proposals from municipalities and counties. I hope that Lewiston and Auburn will ask for additional funding to continue cooperation."

Governor Baldacci gave encouragement to the members of the Economic Growth Council, saying that Lewiston-Auburn is a shining example for how other towns, cities and councils can move forward.

"I want to support and tell the story of your hard work. Your work will reduce property taxes and keep good services," said Governor Baldacci. "Complicated measures such as TABOR aren't the answer for Maine. We don't want education ruined in our state and we don't want crucial safety and transportation services destroyed."

Governor Baldacci presented the Lewiston-Auburn Economic Growth Council with the \$10,000 check to challenge the two cities to keep up the good work and apply for another efficiency grant. "I want you to demonstrate that Maine is a creative, frugal and cooperative state," said Governor Baldacci.



## Governor Baldacci Tours Maine Mutual Expansion Site

August 1, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

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PRESQUE ISLE – Governor John E. Baldacci visited Aroostook County Tuesday morning for a walking tour of the site of the Maine Mutual expansion. The Presque Isle based company is planning a \$5 million expansion, with an additional 50 jobs to be created as a result.

“The Maine Mutual Group is another example of a Maine business with hard workers that continues to grow,” said Governor Baldacci. “With broadband internet and a paperless workflow, Maine Mutual has the ability to seamlessly integrate with their branch office and their customers. Maine Mutual is proving to the east coast and the country what new businesses are learning everyday – Maine is open for business.”

Governor Baldacci's Connect Maine initiative has been an important part to his economic development plan, encouraging broadband internet access throughout the state. Maine Mutual's home office is in Presque Isle, with a branch office in Concord, New Hampshire covering the New Hampshire market. Maine Mutual also plans to begin writing business in Pennsylvania by the end of 2006.

“I am proud that Maine Mutual will be expanding and I am proud that my Pine Tree Zone initiative had something to do with that,” said Governor Baldacci. “Through Pine Tree Zones, the state of Maine is one of the most competitive places in the country to do business.”

The expansion plans are to add 20,000 square feet to the Presque Isle facility, as well as renovating the existing building. Maine Mutual also plans a new parking lot, furniture and fixture replacements and technology upgrades with an expected completion date of September, 2007.

Maine Mutual Group has been offering insurance services in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont from its Presque Isle headquarters for more than 100 years. The recent expansion will strengthen Aroostook County's economic base and provide quality jobs to Northern Maine residents. Maine Mutual Group currently employs 126 at its Presque Isle site and 145 overall.

## Governor Speaks at Unveiling of Maine Army National Guard's 152nd Engineering Support Company

August 1, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968 Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA—Governor John Baldacci today attended the unveiling of the Maine Army National Guard's 152nd Engineering Support Company, a newly formed unit comprised of about 147 soldiers who will perform maintenance and construction of airfields, landing zones and supply routes. The event marked the symbolic transformation of the 152nd Field Artillery Battalion into the 152nd Engineer Support Company. The former 152nd Artillery Battalion had an extensive history dating back to WWI and served the state of Maine as a trained defense unit, from Fort Kent to Waterville.

The Governor spoke about the Maine National Guard's honorable history and service to the state. He also described the new Company's importance in Maine, and especially in Aroostook County, where, he said, it will perform vital maintenance and provide much needed support to the region.

"As you know, Maine's National Guard has provided the knowledge, experience, and on the ground support in helping our communities in times of emergencies," Governor Baldacci said. "The new unit we celebrate today will possess a variety of engineering capabilities that will have a positive impact in Aroostook County and the State of Maine."

The Governor also discussed the Maine National Guard's service abroad, recognizing that these men and women serve not only their state, but their nation.

"The Maine National Guard continues to support the 'Army of One' concept as a reserve component, actively conducting and participating as a full partner in worldwide deployments and operations," Governor Baldacci said. "Approximately 1700 soldiers from the Maine Army National Guard and over 750 airmen from the Maine Air Guard have supported this national effort since September 11, 2001."

The Governor was joined by members of the Maine National Guard, Congressman Mike Michaud, and Brigadier General Brent Boyles. The engineering equipment to be used by the Company was on display at the event and will be displayed to the public at the Northern Maine Fair, from Aug. 2-5.

## Governor Praises Louisiana-Pacific's Growth in Maine

August 1, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968 Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA — Governor John E. Baldacci today toured the facilities of Louisiana-Pacific, in New Limerick. The company is planning a major expansion of its facilities to convert the mill into a high-tech manufacturer of Oriented Strand Lumber (OSL), an engineered wood product.

The Governor's economic plan has promoted such use of technology to transform Maine's natural resource based industries. "This new technology implemented by Louisiana-Pacific will advance the wood-products industry in Maine and make these mills stronger and better able to compete in the global economy," said the Governor.

The new, high-tech engineered wood product that Louisiana-Pacific plans to produce in Maine offers increased design flexibility and lowers labor costs for builders. It also cuts back on old-growth deforestation, as it can utilize warped and smaller second and third growth timber to create a strong and durable product that is both easy to manufacture and use.

"The company's expansion will allow this industry to grow and prosper while also helping to preserve Maine's natural legacy, leading to industrial practices that are better for the environment, Louisiana Pacific could have chosen to expand at any one of their plants, but they chose Maine...and we are proud of that fact."

Louisiana-Pacific is a global building products supply corporation with 29 mills in the U.S., Canada and Chile. The company's New Limerick site employs 124 workers. LP will invest \$100 million to implement the new technology at the company's site and says that it has chosen to expand in Maine because of the knowledgeable and experienced workforce at New Limerick as well as Maine's competitive business climate and their Pine Tree Zone status.

"The quality, dedicated and talented workers brought this new technology to Maine," said Governor Baldacci, as he was shown around New Limerick's current facilities. "I am always impressed by the strong workforce we have throughout our state."

In 2005, Louisiana-Pacific, New Limerick was recognized for its voluntary efforts to reduce waste and pollution, becoming the 33rd New England member of the EPA's innovative National Environmental Performance Track program.

Louisiana-Pacific has made New Limerick its landmark site for the production of this new innovative product, making the plant an integral part of the company's future success and growth.

"This investment by Louisiana-Pacific is great news for Maine," Governor Baldacci said. "It will make us a strong and responsible leader in this industry and will boost our economy. I am excited for the construction of this site to begin."

The Louisiana-Pacific, New Limerick plant is set to convert to manufacturing Oriented Strand Lumber products by late 2007.

## GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES THE FEDERAL APPROVAL OF STATE ADMINISTERED SUPPLEMENTAL DRUG REBATE POOL

August 2, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

ORONO – Governor John E. Baldacci today announced an innovative first-ever state lead supplemental drug rebate pool through Medicaid. The Governor made the announcement during a visit to Dirigo Pines, a retirement living facility in Orono.

Governors John Baldacci of Maine, Tom Vilsack of Iowa, and Jim Douglas of Vermont issued the following statement today regarding the Sovereign States Drug Consortium:

“The states of Iowa, Maine, and Vermont have collaborated to create the Sovereign States Drug Consortium (SSDC). The SSDC is the first in the nation, state administered Medicaid supplemental drug rebate pool. We are pleased to announce that on July 20, 2006, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) notified us that the SSDC has been approved for operation under the Medicaid program.

“Medicaid drug costs have grown dramatically in recent years. Medicaid Programs have been innovative in creating cost-saving strategies like Preferred Drugs Lists and appropriate drug utilization programs. The creation of the SSDC is the next step in the ongoing effort to control the increases in drug costs while maintaining a comprehensive drug benefit.

“Unlike the Medicare Drug Benefit States have control over what we cover under Medicaid and how much we pay for it. The preservation of the benefit we provide our citizens is a top priority. We must control spending to be able to afford that coverage. In the absence of federal strategies, it has been necessary for states to be creative in finding ways to contain costs.

“In a Medicaid drug rebate pool, states leverage their collective covered lives to negotiate for discounts in drug costs. States use Preferred Drug Lists to showcase high use, high cost drug classes. They promote clinically appropriate alternatives that are the most cost effective in the individual states. Preferred products may be generics, low cost brands, or higher cost brands where the drug manufacturers provide a financial incentive to have their products preferred. The incentive is provided through a negotiated rebate from the drug manufacturers based on actual utilization. The more states in a pool, the more utilization, and, thus, the greater the rebate negotiated. In Maine it is anticipated that this pool will save the Medicaid program nearly \$5 million in federal and state monies for the state fiscal year that began July 1.

“Two other Medicaid pools have been approved by CMS. One of the key components to the SSDC is that any state can participate regardless of how they administer their Medicaid pharmacy benefit, through

internal or contractual resources. Another distinction is that our process is completely transparent: all participating states have access to all bids by pharmaceutical manufacturers, and we collectively review the bids and independently decide which is appropriate for each of our states. Vendor administered pools are “owned” by the Vendor whereas SSDC is entirely owned by the participating states. Pool activities include; data compilation, rebate bid solicitation, bid review and clinical criteria development.

“We believe that Iowa, Maine, and Vermont have demonstrated the ability of states to accomplish things through their collective efforts. We will be encouraging other states to look to this model for the future.”

## Governor Baldacci Asks Maine People to Conserve Electricity High Temperatures Are Stressing New England Power Grid

August 2, 2006

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Governor Baldacci is asking Maine people to conserve energy this afternoon and evening as a precaution to ensure adequate power supplies and system reliability. The high temperatures and humidity throughout the Northeast are setting an all-time record high electricity loads on the New England Power Grid. The Independent System Operator of the New England power grid says that the region's electric demand is now at 28,000 megawatts. Last year's record was 26,885 MW, set on July 27, 2005. Because of high power demand in New England and in neighboring regions to our west and south, electric supplies are very tight.

"Energy conservation is always important, and it has been a fundamental building block of my Administration's energy policy. It will be even more important to conserve energy this afternoon to avoid not having enough generating capacity to run the power grid for the rest of today. We can all do our part to help keep the lights on throughout New England by taking a few simple steps to conserve energy," said Governor John E. Baldacci.

The Governor's Office of Energy Independence and the Maine Public Utilities Commission recommend that Maine people:

- Raise air conditioning thermostats by a few degrees, to 78 degrees F. if possible, and shut them off when leaving home for extended periods;
- Turn off any unneeded lights and appliances;
- Turn off unnecessary office equipment;
- Defer laundry and other chores that require electricity until after 8 p.m.

The Governor is also encouraging people to stay safe and to check on their neighbors, particularly the elderly, to ensure that they are all right.

In addition, the Department of Administrative & Financial Services has asked all state employees to conserve at state office buildings by reducing power consumption.

## Governor Recognizes R&D Grants as Key to Marine Industry

August 3, 2006

BIDDEFORD – Governor John E. Baldacci today joined officials from the University of New England, the Maine Technology Institute, and other institutions active in Maine marine research to recognize their efforts to strengthen the marine industry through research and development grants.

“Maine has strong historical, cultural and economic ties to the ocean based on centuries of tradition surrounding the sea,” said Governor Baldacci. “With investments such as the one celebrated here today, we will continue these rich traditions and build upon them for the future of the industry and our state’s economy. To ensure Maine remains a leader in this industry, we need to invest in marine research and development. Building a strong and vibrant innovation driven economy in Maine will generate business growth, better jobs, higher wages and a better of standard of living for us all.”

The University of New England (UNE) was one of ten recipients of the Maine Technology Institute’s (MTI) Maine Marine Research Fund grants. A total of \$4 million was awarded. UNE has received \$500,000 to study the impact of Saco River discharge on Maine’s southern coast. The Governor also recognized GoMOOS and the University of Maine who collaborated with UNE for their grant. A list of the other awardees and the amounts they received are listed below.

The Governor detailed how Maine’s R&D investments are transforming our economy. “We are building on the innovation, hard work, and entrepreneurial spirit of Maine people to generate new knowledge, build new companies, transform existing industries and create jobs,” said the Governor. “Currently R&D activity directly supports over 11,000 jobs. Over 500 companies have been assisted, mostly through the Maine Technology Institute, creating over 600 jobs in the past 3 years, paying an average wage of \$49,000 a year.”

The Governor recognized the support of the Legislators, whose support was crucial in passing the marine research bond last year. “This could not have been possible if not for their collective recognition that funding these innovations is a priority,” noted Governor Baldacci. “I appreciate their work on my bond proposal. Our working waterfront has proved a worthwhile investment. Research and development supported by that bond package is helping us better understand how to best utilize and protect this vital resource.”

In addition to the grant to UNE, nine other institutions received funding from this grant program, include:

- Bigelow Laboratory in West Boothbay Harbor: \$487,200
- Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System (GoMOOS) in Portland: \$500,000
- Gulf of Maine Research Institute in Portland: 486,819
- Maine Aquaculture Innovation Center in Orono: \$360,700



- Maine Department of Marine Resources in West Boothbay Harbor: \$167,235
- Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory in Salisbury Cove: \$362,770
- University of Maine in Orono: \$395,205
- University of Maine, Center for Cooperative Aquaculture Research in Franklin: \$485,000
- University of Maine in Machias: \$255,000.

## Governor Baldacci Visits with Seeds of Peace Campers

August 3, 2006

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OTISFIELD – Governor John E. Baldacci visited the Seeds of Peace International Camp in Otisfield Thursday morning. The Governor addressed the group of over 200 campers and counselors and thanked them for the commitment and leadership they were demonstrating through their work at the camp.

Teens from Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Egypt and the US are at the camp, with an additional 22 campers from Maine.

“It is impossible to put into words the importance of this camp,” said Governor Baldacci. “In this day and age, encouraging understanding and peace is something that needs to be done all over the world...and it is being done very well right here in Maine.”

Governor Baldacci also spent time with the Maine delegation of campers.

Daryl Fort, Director of Community Development and advisor to the Governor on youth initiatives said, “These young people are committed to doing the hard work of learning how to create and sustain communities where great diversity exists.”

Daryl Fort also spoke with Maine delegates about their future aspirations, saying, “What is important for Maine about the work of these campers is how much they are talking about making Maine into their home in their adult lives.” Fort continued, “We’re training the next generation of leaders – with skills to work internationally – and they remain committed to living and working in Maine.”

The Governor talked to the Maine delegation about the opportunities that exist in Maine for young adults.

“With the investments we’re making in research and development,” said Governor Baldacci, “our K-12 educational system and the portability of the new global economy, Maine is more attractive than it has ever been to start a business or career and raise a family.” The Governor continued, “More and more young people are choosing the opportunities in Maine and the quality of life here over other places.”

The Maine Seeds thanked the Governor for his support over the years for the camp and pledged to meet with him again to talk about their work on youth retention and attraction in Maine as well as increasing the state’s diversity.

The Seeds of Peace camp runs through August 15.

## Governor Baldacci Hosts Maine Readiness Campaign at Blaine House

August 3, 2006

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AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci welcomed about 50 educators and community leaders to the Blaine House this afternoon. They gathered in Augusta for a workshop aimed at high school reform. Maine was one of 10 states to receive funding from the NGA aimed at high school reform. The group, being overseen by Commissioner of Education Sue Gendron, is working with high schools on various custom-designed reform initiatives and launching a media campaign with a message targeting 8th graders to pursue a high school career that graduates them ready for college, career and citizenship.

"I'm very happy to see all of you here today, because your presence announces that you care deeply about the future of our people and economy, and that you understand that to prepare Maine's young people for what awaits them in the global economy they will need advanced skills to succeed," said Governor Baldacci.

The first 25 high schools that will work with the Maine Readiness Campaign have all chosen co-chairs – one is a high school principal and the other is a community leader. Thursday's workshop was the first time for all 50 co-chairs to convene and embark on their planning for a readiness initiative. Governor Baldacci thanked the group for participating while they were at the Blaine House.

"You have taken on the important task of serving as co-chairs for your community's participation in the Maine Readiness Program," said the Governor. "I am very grateful for your willingness to serve and help our people as we grow as a state."

Governor Baldacci's has a strong commitment to education. He has established the Community College System, worked to raise the starting teacher salary for the first time in two decades and put three initiatives in place to help students with the rising interest rates on federal student loans.

## Governor Baldacci Tours Site of Future Residential Care Facility

August 4, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

FORT KENT – Governor John E. Baldacci toured a construction site in Fort Kent that will eventually hold a \$1.8 million, 23-bed assisted living facility known as Crosswinds Residential Care. Governor Baldacci was there to present a \$120,000 check from the Municipal Investment Trust Fund to connect the residential facility to the town's public utilities system.

"Having a high-quality, attentive and caring facility that will provide senior care services here in Fort Kent fills a much-needed void in the demand for senior residential facilities," said Governor Baldacci. "The Roy family's commitment to the well-being of Aroostook County's elderly residents is evident in the \$1.8 million investment they are making in the community."

Crosswinds Residential Care, scheduled for completion by early 2007, will provide housing and services for the elderly residents in the St. John Valley, as well as 17 full-time jobs.

"These are quality employment opportunities for local residents," said the Governor. "I am proud that the state was able to support this project through a \$120,000 Municipal Investment Trust Fund grant that was awarded to the town to connect the new facility to Fort Kent's public utilities system."

Governor Baldacci has worked hard to protect seniors and their healthcare. The Governor set up a special Medicare Part D help line in 2005 to help senior citizens to enroll in the program. Most recently, he has worked with Governors in Iowa and Vermont to establish a supplemental drug rebate pool through Medicaid. Governor Baldacci also established Dirigo Health, which in two years has saved \$78 million, reduced the uninsured and given health coverage to over 15,400 individuals and 2,300 small businesses.

## Governor Baldacci Congratulates Aegis Bicycles for High-Tech Innovation

August 4, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

VAN BUREN – Governor John E. Baldacci visited Aegis Bicycles Friday afternoon to congratulate them on their accomplishments.

“Some of the greatest tri-athletes and bicyclists all over the world ride these bikes,” said the Governor. “They set the standard for bike racing and competition.”

Aegis Bicycles recently received two seed grants in the amount of \$10,000 each from the Maine Technology Institute. The grants helped to fund the development of two high-tech composite bicycle frames to be used for racing competitions and triathlons.

“This ingenuity and drive and craftsmanship are what set Maine apart from the rest of the world,” commented the Governor. “We offer superior quality products and we are perfecting those products with advanced technology, research and development.”

A large part of Governor Baldacci's economic plan is a strong emphasis on investment in research and development. “Currently, R&D activity directly supports over 11,000 jobs,” said Governor Baldacci. “Over 500 companies have been assisted, mostly through the Maine Technology Institute, creating over 600 jobs in the past 3 years, paying an average wage of \$49,000 a year. If companies like Aegis – and the state as a whole, for that matter – are not investing in R&D, it will become increasingly difficult to compete with the changing economy.”

## Governor Baldacci Thanks Professional Fire Fighters of New England

August 7, 2006

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PORTLAND – Governor John E. Baldacci visited the Fire Fighters Biennial New England Meeting Monday morning to say, “thank you” to the first responders in the room. Governor Baldacci was instrumental in legislation passed this year providing access to affordable health insurance in retirement for fire fighters. LD 1021 was passed and signed into law in May.

“Providing you with access to affordable health insurance in retirement is the fair and right thing to do,” said Governor Baldacci. “I have men and women working who should be retired but are not because of the high cost of health care. That puts people at risk and increases the risk for workers compensation claims. This policy was the right thing to do.”

Governor Baldacci praised the fire fighters for their first-responder efforts.

“This morning, driving to Portland I was informed of a chemical spill in Scarborough,” said the Governor. “The first responders were once again the fire and police departments, working to keep people safe.”

Governor Baldacci said that he looks forward to continuing work with the fire fighters on issues such as the TABOR referendum on the ballot this fall.

“At both the local and state level, TABOR would tie government hands,” said Governor Baldacci. “It would dramatically limit the state’s ability to respond to changes in the economy. Instead, we need to recognize that we have the foundation in LD 1.”

LD 1 is already in place in Maine, with spending caps on all levels of government, property tax refund programs and extra aid to education.

“An independent study showed that LD 1 is providing property tax relief while preserving the services and investments that Maine people want,” said Governor Baldacci. “We still have more work to do and I look forward to getting that work done.”

## Dirigo Health Wins Court Case: Savings Confirmed

August 7, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci welcomed the news today that Cumberland County Superior Court Justice Roland Cole unanimously ruled in favor of the Dirigo Health Agency on all three counts brought against it. Justice Cole's 11-page ruling confirms that Dirigo Health saved \$43.7 million in the health care system in its first year and that the Savings Offset Payment is both constitutional and "not a tax."

"This ruling is a victory for all Maine people who seek access to quality and affordable health care," said Governor Baldacci. "I have believed all along that the Superior Court would decide in Dirigo's favor. That is why, despite this case brought against Dirigo, I have resolved to move forward and continue to work to expand access to quality and affordable health care for all Maine people. The Blue Ribbon Commission on Dirigo Health that I established will meet for the first time this Wednesday to examine and propose long-term strategies to get us to the goal of universal insurance, using the model that we've established under Dirigo Health."

The case brought against Dirigo Health made three arguments: (1) that the Dirigo Health Reform Act was unconstitutional; (2) that the Savings Offset Payment was an unconstitutional delegation of the legislature's taxing powers; and (3) that both the methodology for determining the amount of savings to the health care system achieved by Dirigo Health Reform and the Superintendent of Insurance's ruling that Dirigo Health saved \$43.7 million were invalid. The case was brought by the Maine Association of Health Plans, the Maine Automobile Dealers, and the Maine State Chamber of Commerce. On all three accounts, Justice Cole ruled against the plaintiffs and for the Dirigo Health Agency.

Regarding the Savings Offset Payment, Justice Cole wrote, "savings offset payments are the means by which the Legislature redistributed savings in the health care system in order to make health insurance available to a greater percentage of Maine citizens...the savings offset payments are appropriately characterized as costs of administering a program under the police power of government, not a tax."

Concerning the \$43.7 million in savings achieved by Dirigo Health Reform, Justice Cole wrote, "The Court finds that the Superintendent's determination is supported by substantial evidence in the record." The same approach for determining the first year's savings were used to determine the second year's savings, which resulted in \$34.3 million.

"With over 15,000 Maine people covered by Dirigo Health and \$78 million in savings, Dirigo Health continues to move forward and make strides for all Mainers," said Governor Baldacci. "I look forward to the work of my Blue Ribbon Commission to help ensure we will continue down the path of expanded access to coverage and millions more in savings."

## Governor Baldacci Presents Gold Star Honorable Service Medals to Families of Fallen Maine Soldiers

August 7, 2006

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AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci joined Major General Bill Libby in the Hall of Flags Monday morning to present the first Gold Star Honorable Service Medals to families who have lost soldiers post-September 11, 2001. The Governor and General Libby also presented Silver Star medals to the Purple Heart recipient's families as well.

"Ever since the early days in this hallowed hall of Joshua Chamberlain, through all the way up to today, do we continue to have the exemplary service and patriotism of our young people who are willing to put their lives on the line and the ultimate sacrifices that their family makes," said the Governor.

Governor Baldacci and General Libby each signed a certificate for the 1st Gold Star Medal and the 1st Silver Star Medal which were presented at the ceremony. The 1st Gold Star Medal was presented in honor of all Mainers lost in Combat Operations since Maine became a state on March 15, 1820 until September 10, 2001. The medal will be displayed in memorial at Camp Keyes.

The 1st Silver Star Medal was presented in honor of all Mainers who have been wounded in Combat Operations and received a Purple Heart since Maine became a state on March 15, 1820 until September 10, 2001. That medal will also be displayed in memorial at Camp Keyes.

Total, 18 soldiers were honored with the Gold Stars, with 12 of them also receiving the Silver Star Medals. Families of the fallen soldiers that were at the Hall of Flags received the medals in honor of their family member's service.

"The people of Maine will never forget what our families, neighbors and friends have given so that we may continue to enjoy a life full of liberty and freedom," said Governor Baldacci. "May these medals shine eternally with these families in knowing that their deeds and actions will not be forgotten."



## Governor Baldacci Proclaims Maine Farmers Market Week

August 7, 2006

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Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci announced today that August 6 – 12, 2006 has been proclaimed as “Maine Farmers’ Market Week” in the state.

“Throughout the history of the state of Maine, agriculture has always been a very important staple to people’s livelihood,” said Governor Baldacci. “Supporting Farmers Markets’ is a great way to support local agriculture and get good, quality Maine fruits, vegetables, cheeses, flowers, baked goods and more, right here in Maine.”

Governor Baldacci served on the House Agriculture Committee while he was in the United States Congress. The Governor has supported local agriculture through trade missions, including internationally to France and Ireland; through his support of the Maine Lobster Promotion Council; and by supporting efforts such as the tomato greenhouse project in Madison.

“When you support local farmers, you are supporting your own economy,” said the Governor. “You are supporting your friends, your neighbors, your families and your fellow Mainers...and you are supporting yourself by purchasing quality products which are almost literally grown in your backyard.”

August 6 – 12 is National Farmers’ Market Week as proclaimed by the United States Secretary of Agriculture, Mike Johanns.

## Governor Baldacci Congratulates Maine's Federally Qualified Health Centers

August 7, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968 Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA — Governor John E. Baldacci attended the Faces of Maine's Safety Net Reception Monday night at the Maine State Museum. The Governor told the employees of the Federally Qualified Health Centers that their work is important and vital to the care of Maine citizens.

"Your work is so important because you provide the safety net that's critical to 130,000 patients throughout the state," said Governor Baldacci.

Maine's Primary Care Safety Net is comprised of Federally Qualified Health Centers throughout the state, from Fort Kent to Sanford, and from Eastport to Bethel.

Governor Baldacci also pointed out his work to ensure that quality, affordable health care reaches more hard working Mainers.

"Over the past two years, Maine has been one of only seven states to reduce it's uninsured," said the Governor. "Dirigo Choice has given health coverage to over 15,400 individuals and 2,300 small businesses, and it has saved \$78 million. And today, those Dirigo savings have been reinforced by the courts."

Governor Baldacci also spoke of the importance of the State Health Plan, another aspect of Dirigo Health.

"The State Health Plan calls upon each of us to work together to make sure we reduce the need for costly health care whenever possible and make sure that all of us have the healthiest and happiest future possible," said Governor Baldacci. "This is the roadmap for making Maine the healthiest state in the nation."

The plan is an integral part of Dirigo Health Reform and is a part of the Governor's plan to reduce costs, improve quality and achieve universal access.

## Governor Applauds Decision to Table Dirigo Savings Offset Payment

August 8, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci applauded yesterday's action by the Dirigo Health Agency Board of Directors to table any action to assess the second year Savings Offset Payment (SOP). By tabling the second year SOP, the Board made clear its expectation that the Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission will develop alternative funding for the DirigoChoice program and the Maine Quality Forum.

"I am very pleased that the Board decided to table the Savings Offset Payment," said Governor Baldacci. "This action allows the Blue Ribbon Commission to do its work and develop an alternative to the Savings Offset Payment while ensuring that health care premiums for the hard-working people of this state cannot be raised due to an assessment."

The SOP is the result of compromises that led to the bi-partisan enactment of Dirigo Health Reform in 2003. It is an assessment on paid claims and is used to help fund the DirigoChoice program, which provides subsidized health coverage to small businesses, sole proprietorships and individuals, and the Maine Quality Forum. The Dirigo Health Agency Board has the authority to levy the Savings Offset Payment only when savings in the health care system have been achieved by Dirigo Health Reform initiatives as determined by the Superintendent of Insurance.

The Superintendent of Insurance has ruled that Dirigo Health saved the health care system a total of \$78 Million over two years, \$43.7 million in its first year and \$34.3 million in its second year. Cumberland County Superior Court recently affirmed the Superintendent's decision regarding the \$43.7 million in savings.

Governor Baldacci established the Blue Ribbon Commission after the Legislature failed to enact legislation that would have made revisions to the SOP.

"Over 15,000 Maine people are covered by Dirigo Health and it has saved all of us \$78 million in our health care costs. Dirigo Health has proven its importance to the people of Maine," said Governor Baldacci. "I am confident that the Blue Ribbon Commission will come up with a real and workable alternative to the SOP."

Continued Governor Baldacci, "the Commission's membership is a distinguished group of Maine citizens, well equipped to take on the task of finding alternative funding approaches that work and that allow us to continue to make affordable, quality healthcare available to Maine people. The decision by the Dirigo Health Agency Board of Directors supports the Commission and allows them to take the next steps to find funding alternatives."

## Governor Baldacci Awards MITF Grant to Dover-Foxcroft

August 8, 2006

DOVER-FOXCROFT – Governor John E. Baldacci awarded Dover-Foxcroft with a \$34,000 Municipal Infrastructure Trust Fund grant Tuesday afternoon in the auditorium at the theater. The money is intended to be used on the Center Theatre restoration project.

“The Center Theatre is not just a place that provides arts and culture to the community but it also creates economic development,” said Governor Baldacci. “The Theatre has brought thousands of dollars into local businesses and has been used to attract professionals into the region.”

The \$34,000 MITF grant from the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) supplements an earlier \$166,000 DECD MITF award. Governor Baldacci highlighted Dover-Foxcroft and Piscataquis Counties as examples that his economic plan is working.

“Investments in research and development are creating new jobs, Pine Tree Zones are creating new jobs, the creation of the Community College System has provided opportunities for workers in transition and the creative economy is creating even more new jobs and cultural experiences,” said Governor Baldacci. “While we invest in downtowns, remember that the economic engines that create opportunity are our people – our youth, our creative workers and our creative entrepreneurs.”

Governor Baldacci brought copies of Maine’s Creative Economy Community Handbook to the theatre, encouraging more downtown revitalization and Creative Economy efforts by utilizing the handbook.

Governor Baldacci was encouraged by the theatre and the support it receives, saying, “The community support for the Center Theatre is a wonderful example of how Piscataquis County works together on projects that make a difference in the lives of its citizens.”

## Governor Recommends Michael P. Friedman to Ethics Panel

August 8, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci today recommended Michael P. Friedman to serve on the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices.

“Having been handed the names of three very qualified individuals, a thorough process was put into place,” said Governor Baldacci.

“The statute requires the candidate to demonstrate judgment, integrity and objectivity,” said Governor Baldacci. “These are qualities that Mike has demonstrated during his professional career. I am pleased that Mike has agreed to be the nominee to this important commission.”

Mr. Friedman currently works as Attorney and Managing Partner at Rudman & Winchell in Bangor, where he practices labor and employment law, specializing in workers’ compensation. He is a graduate of the University of Maine, and received his law degree from Northeastern University School of Law. Friedman is a native of Old Town.

Upon confirmation, Michael Friedman will serve as the fifth member and only independent member of the ethics commission. By statute, the commission is made up of two Democrats, two Republicans, and one independent member.

Mr. Friedman’s nomination will be reviewed by the Legal and Veterans Affairs Committee of the Legislature, and by the full Senate. A date for the Senate to reconvene has not yet been set by leadership.

## Governor Urges Release of Oil Reserves

August 8, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci today wrote to President Bush to urge the President to release oil reserves to counteract the impact of the closure of the British Petroleum (BP) oilfield in Prudhoe Bay. The shutting down of that oil field, which occurred earlier this week, has already had an impact on the price of oil nationwide. The Governor is concerned about the long term impact of Prudhoe Bay on prices in Maine.

“I’m recommending the President take the prudent action of releasing the amount of crude a day that is lost from Prudhoe Bay production,” said Governor Baldacci. “This is a step that will go a long way in offsetting the impact now and in the future of the loss of the oil supplied by BP. A solution is necessary to protect Maine and the nation against supply reduction and price increases.”

The text of the letter the Governor sent to the President follows. Copies were sent to Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman and the Maine Congressional Delegation.

August 8, 2006

President George Bush

White House

Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Bush:

The recent announcement by BP (British Petroleum) that they are shutting their Prudhoe Bay oilfield, the biggest oilfield in the United States, due to the detection of severe pipeline corrosion is expected to have a large impact on oil prices. Shortly after it was announced, oil jumped to more than \$77.00 per barrel on the spot market. The shutdown will reduce U.S. oil production by 400,000 barrels a day (or 8 percent), and BP officials don’t know how long it will be off line. This is an added burden in an already volatile market. This situation demands immediate attention and prompt action. I write to urge you to act swiftly to counter the price and supply problems.

I recommend you release at least 400,000 barrels of sweet (low sulfur) crude a day from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) into the oil markets to offset BP’s lost Prudhoe Bay production, and continue this daily release for as long as it takes for BP to fix their pipeline problems. As of August 4, 2006, SPR currently holds 687.4 million barrels of crude oil, including 273.6 million barrels of sweet crude. At a withdrawal rate of 400,000 barrels per day, the SPR can make releases for more than 22 months without exhausting the available supply of sweet crude. This step will assure that the BP problem is being offset both in terms of its impacts on price and supply.

The consequences of the shutdown of the Prudhoe Bay oilfield will have significant effects on the people and businesses in Maine and the rest of the nation in reduced supplies and increased cost for gasoline and other petroleum products. There is an increasing level of worry and concern felt by our citizens about whether gasoline and heating fuels will be available to them when needed. Your quick and strong response to this significant energy problem can go a long way to reassure our citizens that the US government can and will act decisively to prevent its consequences from harming our economy and our people.

Sincerely,

John E. Baldacci

Governor

cc: Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman

Maine Congressional delegation

## Governor Baldacci Cuts Ribbon on Old Town Health Center Expansion

August 9, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

OLD TOWN – Governor John E. Baldacci today cut the ribbon on a \$5.9 million expansion to Old Town Family Practice, in the former Helen Hunt School.

“We share a common goal,” said Governor Baldacci, “to ensure that all people have access to quality health care. You have been providing a safety net that is critical to people here in Old Town.”

The ribbon cutting was held as a kickoff to a day-long event, put on by Old Town Family Practice and its partner Penobscot Community Health Care, and the Penobscot County Transition Team. In addition to the ribbon cutting of the new facility, there was a community fair and BBQ for residents of Old Town and surrounding communities with activities for children and adults from the community.

“This community is resilient and close-knit,” the Governor said of Old Town. “This community and the state are moving forward to make sure that no one falls through the cracks.”

Governor Baldacci proclaimed this week “Community Health Centers Week” throughout Maine while at the Faces of Maine’s Safety Net Reception on Monday evening in Augusta. “The state has been working as a partner in your efforts,” said Governor Baldacci. “Through Dirigo Health Reform, we are addressing the cost, access and quality of care.”

Over the past two years, Dirigo Health has provided insurance for 15,000 Maine lives and has saved \$43.7 million in the health care system, a fact reaffirmed in a court ruling earlier this week. In addition, Maine is one of only seven states to reduce its number of uninsured.

“It’s important we continue to work together,” said the Governor. “Compromise and change brought us Dirigo Health and we need to continue to change to achieve its essential goals to reduce health care costs, improve its quality and make sure each of us has coverage.”



## Governor Statement on the Fifth Anniversary of Federal Stem Cell Research Ban

August 9, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci noted the importance of stem cell research today, which is the fifth anniversary of President Bush's ban on the research. The Governor said that stem cell research holds great promise for cures for diseases. He remarked that stem cell research got its start at The Jackson Laboratory in Maine.

"On the fifth anniversary of the President's executive order on stem cells, we are reminded how the President's actions stood in the path of scientific and medical progress," said Governor Baldacci. "Stem cell research holds the potential to be one of the most remarkable scientific advancements in medical history. This research could help millions of Americans who have Parkinson's disease, spinal cord injuries, Alzheimer's, and other medical conditions. During my time as Governor and Congressman, I have met so many Mainers and their families who suffer from these conditions and I share with them the desire that stem cell research may unlock the cures they need.

"Earlier this year, the House and the Senate both overwhelmingly approved federal funding for embryonic stem cell research. But President Bush stood in opposition to science and reason and made his mark in the history books by making his first and still only veto a rejection of this sound, ethical and vital scientific and medical research that has the potential to save thousands, if not millions of lives.

"With this promise, we must use every opportunity to take steps closer to saving lives. And we must respect the important ethical issues associated with the research.

"Here in Maine, we have dozens of the nation's top researchers in facilities like the Maine Medical Research Institute and The Jackson Laboratory. In fact, it was at Jackson Labs that stem cell research first got its start when Dr. Leroy Stevens discovered what turned out to be stem cells in mice. His scientific legacy has served as the foundation for the development of stem cell research. Today, Jackson Labs continues in its scientific mission and is currently performing important research on mice stem cells so that we may better understand the potential of this medical marvel. And the Labs have taken a leadership role in advancing the promising field of human embryonic stem cell research through conferences and trainings.

"We will do more to ensure that we remain at the forefront of these lifesaving discoveries. It is time to lift the President's restrictions that are holding back the hopes of many for a healthier future."

## Governor Unveils Fuel-Wise Driver Campaign

August 9, 2006

Joan Benoit Samuelson & humorist Gary Crocker help spread word about fuel conservation

AUGUSTA - The Governor today unveiled the Fuel-Wise driver campaign. The Governor's Office of Energy Independence & Security (OEIS) and the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) are launching this statewide campaign encouraging drivers to get "Fuel-Wise." Being Fuel-Wise will help reduce driving costs, as well as emission of pollutants causing global warming and unhealthy air.

"My Administration has been working to stabilize and reduce the energy bills of Maine homeowners and businesses and make Maine more energy independent through expanded energy conservation and efficiency programs and greater use of renewable energy sources," said Governor Baldacci. "We as consumers can take steps that reduce our energy bills."

"Gas prices are now predicted to hit the levels we saw last fall following Hurricane Katrina," said Governor Baldacci's Energy Director, Beth Nagusky. "We know that these high prices create hardship for the people of Maine. Simple vehicle maintenance and driving tips can reduce gas bills significantly."

The radio and web-based public awareness campaign was developed by the GO MAINE Commuter Assistance Program at the Greater Portland Council of Governments. The campaign features radio public service announcements by Olympic gold medalist Joan Benoit Samuelson and Maine humorist Gary Crocker. The 30- and 60-second spots offer tips to drivers that will cut their fuel costs, including: keeping cars tuned up (3% to 20% savings); carpooling (50% savings ); driving the speed limit (7% to 23% savings); and, avoiding sudden stops and starts and other smart driving measures that can double a vehicle's gas mileage.

"We are lucky to have Joan and Gary to help us to get the word out," said Carey Kish, Director of GO MAINE. The public service announcements also urge drivers to visit the [exploremaine.org](http://exploremaine.org) web site where they can fill out a brief survey and download a complete list of "21 Fuel-Wise Tips." Visitors to the site can also enter to win a fuel-efficient electric bike. The winner of the drawing will be announced this fall at the campaign's close.

The Fuel-Wise survey also will provide MaineDOT and OEIS with valuable data on how recent fuel price increases have altered driving habits in Maine. "We are very interested to find out how gas prices have affected driving habits and what strategies Mainers are currently using to reduce their energy costs related to driving. This survey should provide some good data that will help us as we continue to address this issue," said Carey Kish.

The radio campaign will continue through the end of September. For more information, please visit [www.exploremaine.org](http://www.exploremaine.org).

An information sheet on the Governor's energy initiatives follows.

ENERGY CONSERVATION, EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY INITIATIVES

GOVERNOR JOHN E. BALDACCI

2003-PRESENT

State Government "leading by example"

- Reduced the number of paid 'on-the-job' miles traveled by state employees by 3.4 million miles between 2002 and 2005
- Reduced state government gasoline consumption by more than 400,000 gallons between 2002 and 2005
- Increased the number of hybrid vehicles in the state fleet by 5-fold between 2002 and 2005
- Promoted car and vanpooling through GO Maine Commuter Connections
- Negotiated a competitive purchase contract for electricity for 700 state government buildings, saving the state more than \$4 million between 2003 and the present
- Governor, by Executive Order, required the construction or renovation of any new or expanded State buildings to incorporate the US Green Building Council's LEED design standards which will reduce energy consumption in the building by no less than 20% compared to a traditional building of similar size
- Increased the use of teleconferencing and video-conferencing by state employees to reduce vehicle miles traveled
- Increased the availability of on-line state services available through Maine's award-winning web portal ([www.Maine.gov](http://www.Maine.gov)) to allow Maine people to do more of their business with the state without traveling to Augusta
- Used biodiesel fuel to heat state office buildings

Energy Conservation and Energy Efficiency Programs

- Established "Operation Keep Maine Warm", a volunteer program to install energy conservation and energy efficiency improvements in more than 3000 residences of the elderly and low income families with young children
- Whole House Weatherization Program, to identify energy conservation and efficiency improvements in a participant's home and to provide access to low interest loans so the participant can make the highest priority conservation and efficiency improvements
- Developed a state website with energy conservation tips and information about how to save energy
- Maine State Housing Authority's low interest loan program (due in September) for income-eligible Households to weatherize, and to purchase new, energy-efficient heating equipment

- Initiated an effort by the six New England states to undertake a New England heating fuel and natural gas conservation program in the summer Of 2005 to reduce regional oil and natural gas consumption sufficient to avoid predicted rolling blackouts.

- Proposed and signed legislation requiring natural gas utilities to provide gas conservation programs

#### Renewable Energy Programs

- Proposed and signed a comprehensive energy bill that promotes cheaper and cleaner energy efficiency and conservation, and set a goal of increasing the amount of renewable power in Maine by 10% (from 30% to 40%) by 2017

- Proposed and signed a Solar Rebate program that reimburses buyers of solar thermal and solar photovoltaic energy systems for up to 25% of the cost of the system

- Provided tax incentives to produce biodiesel fuel in Maine, and a tax reduction for diesel fuel Containing at least 2% biodiesel content

- Made energy independence a priority four years ago, long before it became an issue in Maine

- Encouraged development of wind power on appropriate sites in Maine

- Supported companies looking to make ethanol and biodiesel from the cellulose in Maine's vast wood supply and other feedstocks

- Supported a study that found that Maine has a large and low cost tidal power potential, and helped prompt four preliminary permit applications to develop this potential

- EfficiencyMaine, the energy efficiency program at the Maine PUC, provides funding and support for Maine people, municipalities and businesses to reduce their energy consumption

## Governor Baldacci Briefs Maine Residents on Raised Terror Alert Level

August 10, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA –Governor John E. Baldacci informed Maine residents this morning of the increased terror alert level as a result of a foiled terrorist attack using US-bound airplanes from the U.K.

“There are no threats against the United States or the state of Maine at this time,” said Governor Baldacci. “The United States Department of Homeland Security has raised the national threat level to ‘code red’ for flights heading to the United States from Great Britain. The threat level has been raised to ‘code orange’ for all other commercial flights in - or coming to - the United States.”

Governor Baldacci held the press conference at the Maine Emergency Management Agency, joined by acting MEMA director, Charles Jacobs; and Commissioner of the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, General Bill Libby.

Governor Baldacci has been in touch with officials from airports in Portland and Bangor. Both airports are reporting that operations are running smoothly and that passengers should allow at least an extra half hour for themselves at the airports before boarding a plane. In addition, airports are not allowing most liquids on planes at this time, as reports have indicated that the suspected terrorists were going to use liquid explosives on the airplanes.

“There is a lot of overseas business, specifically with Bangor International Airport,” said the Governor. “I want to tell you that there is no need for alarm or worry at this time. But I would advise you to allow a little bit of extra time when you are going to the airport for air travel.”

In response to the raised terror level, the Governor convened the group at Maine Emergency Management, and has spoken with the airports in the state and Maine State Police. Governor Baldacci said that there has also been a conference call with the United States Department of Homeland Security.

“All of the pieces are working together. There is good coordination and there is good communication,” said Governor Baldacci. “My main priority in this job is the safety and well being of the people of this state.”

## Governor Comments on Maine Soldier Killed in Afghanistan

August 12, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci has confirmed that PFC Andrew Small of Wiscasset was killed during hostile fire in Afghanistan.

Governor Baldacci says he spoke with Small's family this morning to offer his condolences on their loss.

PFC Small was on routine platoon patrol when the attack happened. PFC Small was with the 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Drum, New York.

No other details about the incident have been released. Governor Baldacci says flags will be lowered during PFC Small's funeral. Details on the funeral are not available. PFC Small was 19 years old.

## Governor Baldacci Dedicates Plaque to WWII Veterans

August 14, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci dedicated a plaque to the veterans of World War II Monday morning in the Hall of Flags at the State House in Augusta.

“Maine has a proud heritage of men and women serving in the military,” said Governor Baldacci. “During World War II, 112,962 served, and 2,551 Maine soldiers lost their lives.”

Governor Baldacci and Major General John “Bill” Libby dedicated the plaque on the 61ST anniversary of the last day of all fighting, ending World War II. Between 50-75 veterans were in the Hall of Flags for the dedication. The World War II plaque joins plaques honoring Korean War veterans and Vietnam War veterans, also displayed in the Hall of Flags. The WWII plaque says, “Men and women, Veterans of Maine, Who Served in World War II,” with the dates 1941-1945. The plaque also features a display of pine needles and 16 small pine cones, representing the number of counties in the state of Maine. The pine cones are smaller than normal Maine pine cones to represent the youth that fought in the war. In the middle of the plaque, the three major WWII campaigns are highlighted – the European African Middle Eastern Campaign; the American Campaign; and the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign. The plaque was designed by Maine resident Gary Cooper.

“I hope that when the people of Maine and from all over the country come here to the Hall of Flags, they pay their respects to our World War II veterans – and all of our veterans, and remember the people who fought for our freedom that we still have today,” said the Governor.

The 120TH Legislature provided \$20,000 towards the cost of the plaque, with the remaining \$15,000 of the cost raised through fund raisers and donations by groups such as veteran’s organizations.

## Governor Baldacci Highlights Support of Stem Cell Research

August 11, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

SCARBOROUGH – Governor John E. Baldacci highlighted his support of stem-cell research Friday morning during a press conference held at the Maine Medical Center Research Institute in Scarborough.

“The research that is happening here and at The Jackson Lab in Bar Harbor can save the lives of those suffering from diseases such as Alzheimer’s Disease and Parkinson’s Disease,” said Governor Baldacci. “There was a time when polio was everywhere, but through research it’s now nearly non-existent.”

Today’s press conference comes just two days after the five-year anniversary of President Bush’s ban on stem cell research.

“Earlier this year, the House and the Senate both overwhelmingly approved federal funding for embryonic stem cell research. But President Bush stood in opposition to science and reason and made his mark in the history books by making his first and still only veto a rejection of this sound, ethical and vital scientific and medical research that has the potential to save thousands, if not millions of lives.”

Governor Baldacci’s support of stem cell research continues his overall support of research and development. Between 2003 and 2005, institutional personnel in research and development increased by 67%; faculty involved in R&D grew by 66% and institutional R&D space grew by 40%.

“Here in Scarborough, the state has invested almost \$3.5 million in buildings and equipment at this facility,” said Governor Baldacci of the Maine Medical Center Research Institute. “That has built a foundation to allow these doctors to compete for federal research dollars, bringing people and jobs and money and healthcare to Maine. An \$11 million stem cell grant from the National Institutes is just part of the return on investment to Maine taxpayers.”

Governor Baldacci told the researchers, employees and students gathered at the press conference that Maine’s finances are now sound and the state has the fiscal capacity to invest more into research and development.

“We are ranked 40th for total state supported debt – amongst the lowest in the United States,” said Governor Baldacci. “Public and private investments, together, will allow us to compete globally and reach our goal of \$1 billion in public and private R&D activity in Maine by 2010.”



## Governor Opposes Federal Medicaid Cuts

August 14, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci wrote today to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Michael O. Leavitt expressing his deep concerns regarding regulations the Bush Administration proposes that would cut federal funds to the Medicaid program. Medicaid is a joint federal-state financed health care safety net that covers more than 50 million Americans, more than 262,000 in Maine.

“The attempts by the Federal Government to reduce payments to states threatens our safety net health care system,” said Governor Baldacci, “and does nothing to address the national problem of health care in this country. That is why Maine and other states have led the way in finding innovative solutions to ensure our people have access to high quality affordable health care. The federal government must be a partner with Maine and the other states in these efforts. The actions which the Bush Administration proposed in the FY 2007 run counter to the kind of partnership we need from Washington, D.C.”

The National Governors’ Association and a large bipartisan group of members of the United States Congress have expressed their opposition to the Bush Administration’s Medicare proposal in recent weeks. The federal government’s proposed rules may be issued by the year’s end.

The Governor’s letter to Secretary follows.

August 14, 2006

The Honorable Michael O. Leavitt

Secretary

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

200 Independence Avenue, S.W.

Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Leavitt:

I write to express my deep concerns regarding the federal Administration’s proposals under the Fiscal Year 2007 budget that would cut federal dollars to Maine and other states across the country. Health care – its access, quality and affordability – remain a vital issue to be addressed at the national level. The President’s proposed budget regarding Medicaid runs counter to the goal shared by states and the federal government to reform health care in a way that preserves the valuable health care safety net in a more affordable way. In fact, the current proposal merely shifts the burden of care more to the states.

Absent a federal solution, Maine and many other states have taken the lead in implementing comprehensive plans to reform our health care system. I appreciate the past support of the Bush

Administration in approving changes Maine has sought to ensure that we find viable solutions to the health care crisis. Among the actions the federal government has undertaken to help Maine's reforms move forward is the approval of funding mechanisms for which the Administration now seeks to reduce its support. As you know, Maine is not alone in this regard. The impact of such cuts would create severe strain on already stretched state budgets, and would needlessly put our most vulnerable citizens at risk. I believe the Administration's proposal to be counterproductive and potentially harmful to those served by Medicaid.

I urge you to take into consideration the serious concerns and questions that I and the other Governors, many Members of Congress, and key health provider groups have expressed before this proposal moves forward. We all seek to provide the best care in the most efficient manner to our people.

Thank you for attention to this matter and for all your efforts working with the State of Maine.

Sincerely,

John E. Baldacci

Governor

## Governor Baldacci Honors Veterans by Welcoming “The Wall” to Maine

August 11, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

SOUTH PORTLAND – Governor John E. Baldacci welcomed “The Wall” – a  $\frac{3}{4}$  size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. – to South Portland Friday afternoon. The Wall will be on display, free of charge, around the clock through Sunday night.

“Never will there be an offering of thanks that is large or grand enough to honor these patriotic individuals,” said Governor Baldacci of the veterans. “Their sacrifice is immeasurable, their gift to us is too great.”

The Wall arrived in South Portland on Tuesday, escorted by a motorcycle brigade and a hero’s welcome. Friday afternoon’s festivities were the opening ceremonies for the traveling wall. The ceremonies featured the singing of the National Anthem and America the Beautiful, guest speakers, and a fly over of a P-3C Orion from VP-26 of Naval Air Station, Brunswick.

“Today and throughout the weekend, we are all invited to share in some pomp and circumstance at times, and personal moments of sorrow at other times,” said the Governor. “I hope that the people of Maine come to this wall, pay their respects to our Vietnam Veterans, and remember the people who fought for our freedoms that we still have today.”

During the ceremonies, Governor Baldacci also proclaimed August 11, 2006 as Veterans Recognition Day throughout the state of Maine, urging all citizens to recognize the observance.

## Governor Directs Flags to Be Flown at Half-Staff in Union

August 14, 2006

AUGUSTA – In remembrance and honor of Billy Joe Van Gaalen, Sr., a veteran of Vietnam who was a P.O.W. and was awarded the Bronze Star and three Purple Hearts for his service, Governor John E. Baldacci has directed that the United States flag and the State of Maine flag be flown at half-staff from sunrise to sunset, tomorrow, Tuesday, August 15, 2006 in the Town of Union. Funeral services for Mr. Van Gaalen will be held that day. State Senator Carol Weston made the request.

## Governor Baldacci Announces Connect ME Authority

August 16, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

HERMON – Governor John E. Baldacci announced the Connect ME Authority Wednesday morning. He made the announcement while in Hermon congratulating the town on providing internet access to its citizens.

“This authority, created under the Connect ME legislation, contains five members,” said Governor Baldacci. “All five members are highly qualified and representing a cross-section of business, education and the public sphere.” The five members on the Authority are: Jean Wilson of LL Bean; Mitch Davis of Bowdoin College; Dan Breton of Verizon; Kurt Adams, Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission; and Dick Thompson, Chief Information Officer for the State of Maine. The Authority’s first meeting will be held at the State House in Augusta near the end of the month.

The announcement of the Connect ME Authority is the next phase of the Governor’s Connect ME initiative.

“As you know, my Connect ME initiative has been instrumental in improving broadband and cell phone coverage across the state,” said Governor Baldacci. “I am pleased that the state is partnering with organizations, communities and people that are leading the way.”

Governor Baldacci also congratulated the town of Hermon for leading the way in providing internet access to its citizens.

“Hermon understands the importance of an economy that is founded on education and a creative community in which every member of it can be involved,” said the Governor. “Through technology, Hermon has done wonderful things to build a creative community – socially, educationally, culturally and economically.”

With technology connecting Maine with the world, Governor Baldacci said that people are taking notice of this and staying in Maine.

“We have reversed the trend of the 1990s where people were leaving the state,” said the Governor. “Youth are staying in Maine and others are moving to Maine because of our quality of life, our natural resources, our cultural heritage and our traditional New England downtowns. All of that is very good news for our state and for the people of our state.”

## Governor Baldacci Raises Flag for MS Harborfest Opening Ceremony

August 16, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

PORTLAND – Governor John E. Baldacci celebrated the opening ceremony of the 25th Anniversary of MS Harborfest in Portland Wednesday afternoon.

“I’m happy to be here this afternoon to celebrate such a wonderful festival in a city that has made great strides with regards to transportation,” said Governor Baldacci. “Maine is making great strides in expanding transportation opportunities across the state, and has been called a leader because of our implementation of innovative transportation options.”

Among those innovations are ferry service to Yarmouth, Nova Scotia from Portland and Bar Harbor; seasonal bus service through heavily populated tourist areas; increased air service to the state’s major airports; and a fleet of buses using Compressed Natural Gas.

“Maine is a large state and it requires Yankee Ingenuity to make transportation more efficient and easy,” said the Governor.

The MS Harborfest is the largest and oldest charity sailing event in New England, raising more than \$100,000 last year. The 2006 MS regatta will have about 100 boats participating, and will feature the 4th Annual Powerboat Poker Run, the MS Tugboat Muster and Shoreside Festival. The 25th Annual MS Harborfest runs through Sunday, August 20.

## Governor Baldacci Congratulates T-Mobile on New Call Center

August 17, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

OAKLAND – Governor John E. Baldacci congratulated T-Mobile Thursday morning and welcomed them to Maine. T-Mobile held the official grand opening of their new call center in Oakland with about 650 dignitaries, T-Mobile officials and employees.

“T-Mobile chose to make a large investment right here in Maine – an investment made largely possible because of the Pine Tree Zone benefits,” said Governor Baldacci. “T-Mobile joins 70 other Pine Tree Zone businesses, which combined are responsible for growing 3,000 jobs in Maine. The program makes Maine more attractive to business, growing the economy.”

T-Mobile’s investment in Maine is strong, with more than \$17 million already invested, and more than 600 employees in Oakland. It was stressed by Governor Baldacci that the driving forces behind T-Mobile’s decision to locate in Maine were not just the Governor’s Pine Tree Zones, but also the dedicated Maine workforce.

“Attracting businesses to Maine and helping established business thrive and grow is a main priority for moving our economy forward,” said the Governor. “We will work hard to ensure T-Mobile’s success and to help them stay competitive in the wireless communications industry.”

Governor Baldacci took a tour of the facility along with members of the Congressional Delegation before speaking. After speaking, Governor Baldacci helped serve a BBQ lunch to the more than 650 employees and guests at the grand opening.

## Governor Hails Community Development Block Grant Program

August 18, 2006

CDBG Program Working for Maine Communities

AUGUSTA - Governor John Baldacci today celebrated the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program at a public event in Augusta highlighting the program.

"The CDBG program is a vital tool the State uses to promote key economic, housing and infrastructure projects across the state," said Governor Baldacci. "Essential services and quality jobs are all made possible through this flexible funding source and the great efforts of the Department of Economic and Community Development and their partners."

Since its inception, more than \$340 million has been invested in Maine communities because of the CDBG program. Between 1998 and 2005, CDBG has provided more than \$29 million to assist Maine businesses. As a result, 4,140 Maine jobs have been created or retained. During this same eight year period, CDBG has provided over \$64 million dollars to Maine communities. These funds have benefited over 140,000 Maine residents - or one in every 9 Mainers.

"The CDBG program is one important piece of my economic plan," said Governor Baldacci, "We've built a solid economic foundation with this program and with Pine Tree Zones and investments in education and research and development. The Pine Tree Zone program, for example, has over 70 businesses throughout Maine and is responsible for growing 3,000 jobs. Both the Pine Tree Zones and Community Development Block Grants make Maine more attractive to business, which is growing our economy."

The Governor presented two awards at the event. The CDBG Project of the Year award was given to the Town of Wilton and Nichols Development, LLC. The partners have excelled in using \$108,000 in CDBG Economic Development Program funds to assist in the redevelopment of the former GH Bass complex. ICT Group is already occupying a portion of the facility and has created six new jobs, and more jobs will come from the redeveloped facility.

Governor Baldacci presented the CDBG Administrator of the Year to Al Smith, Community Development Director of the City of Bath. Al was honored for his on-going dedication to excellence and professionalism in administering several CDBG and MITF projects during the past year and for his commitment to the community and region.



## Governor Touts Latest Maine Tourism Numbers

August 18, 2006

### Celebrates Bangor Waterfront Development

BANGOR –Governor John Baldacci today joined officials from the City of Bangor, area state legislators, Chair and CEO of American Cruise Lines Charles Robertson, and members of the public to celebrate new state tourism data released for 2005. The Governor also feted the continued revitalization of the Bangor Waterfront. American Cruise Lines will be using a new dock on the waterfront to bring cruise ships to Bangor.

“State tourism numbers are healthier now than they have been in years,” said Governor Baldacci.

“Natural resources and tourism are vibrant elements of our State and our economy. They are priorities of my Administration. We celebrate that our extraordinary natural resources attract new residents, tourists, and the jobs that come with them.

“These numbers show that regionally we are competing strongly,” continued the Governor. “The State’s efforts to bolster tourism and economic development are making a difference.”

Maine’s overnight marketable trips in 2005 increased 12 percent compared to a two percent increase nationally. Overnight trips to Maine in gross expenditures increased by 15 percent compared to 2004. In New England, Maine showed the largest growth in market share of regional visitors, with Maine experiencing a 14 percent increase.

The Governor celebrated growing tourism opportunities in the Bangor area as the City unveiled a new dock at Bangor Landing. The new dock will be used by American Cruise Lines and other potential companies to bring visitors up the Penobscot River.

“Today we celebrate the continued expansion of the development of the Bangor waterfront, and with it, additional opportunities to revitalize downtown Bangor and expand regional tourism and business opportunities,” said Governor Baldacci. “We welcome American Cruise Lines’ expansion to Bangor’s port. The State, in partnership with the City, the Bangor area state legislative delegation, and the Maine Congressional Delegation, has made critical investments to revitalize the area, and this growth will have an impact not only on the City of Bangor, but on the entire region.”

The announcement by American Cruise Lines is good news for Maine. According to a study conducted by the University of Maine Department of Resource Economics and Policy and Center for Tourism Research and Outreach (CentRO), cruise ships visiting just two key ports (Bar Harbor and Portland) injected more than \$20 million in sales to the Maine economy.

“This is all great news for Maine,” continued the Governor, “but it only gives us cause to increase our efforts and investments. Through our downtown revitalization initiatives, the Creative Economy initiative, Pine Tree Zone program, and other targeted investments, Maine will continue to attract

people and businesses to the state. We will increase our ability to compete not only for tourism dollars, but for other Maine industries, as well.”

## Governor Directs Flags to be Flown at Half-Staff on Tuesday, August 22

August 18, 2006

AUGUSTA – In remembrance and honor of Private First Class Andrew Small, whose funeral will be Tuesday, Governor John E. Baldacci has directed that the United States flag and the State of Maine flag be flown at half staff from sunrise to sunset Tuesday, August 22, 2006. PFC Small, of Wiscasset, died from hostile fire in Afghanistan on August 11 while on routine patrol. PFC Small served with the 10th Mountain Division. His funeral will be held at 2:00 pm at the Wiscasset Community Center.

## Governor Congratulates The Jackson Laboratory on Expansion

August 18, 2006

BAR HARBOR - Governor John Baldacci today joined members of the Maine Congressional Delegation and officials and staff of The Jackson Laboratory for the ribbon cutting of a new \$26 million research facility.

"Supporting biomedical research and development encourages breakthrough opportunities in human health, saving the lives of Maine people," said Governor Baldacci. "Additionally, R&D investments create jobs in Maine.

"That's why my Administration has a focus on the key investment area of biomedical research. My economic development plan builds on the innovation, hard work and entrepreneurial spirit of Maine people to generate new knowledge, build new companies, transform existing industries and create jobs."

The new building, part of a five-year, \$61 million expansion, will enable The Jackson Laboratory to increase efforts to find breakthroughs in the areas of Alzheimer's, epilepsy, Parkinson's disease and others. The research will impact the health of people all over the world. At the end of the five-year expansion, The Jackson Laboratory estimates 125 year-round jobs will be added to Maine's economy.

"Mainers have long realized and appreciated the importance of having this institution here in Maine, and have continuously supported the facility and its work," said Governor Baldacci. Part of the expansion celebrated today is the result of bond funds approved by Maine people. The Governor's June 2003 jobs bond dedicated \$20 million for biomedical research and development across the state, and his November 2005 jobs bond dedicated another \$9 million for such funding. The Jackson Laboratory received a share of both monies.

"This type of investment is exactly the kind that my Administration has been working so hard to foster, and the benefits are real and tangible," said the Governor.

Currently, research and development activity directly supports more than 11,000 jobs in Maine. Through 2005, Maine has invested \$42 million into the Biomedical Research Fund which has gone to five biomedical research institutions. These funds are also important because they attract federal and private funds. In the past 5 years, The Jackson Laboratory alone has attracted \$187 million. In that same time frame, The Jackson Laboratory created 500 jobs.

## Governor Cycles for Cancer Fundraiser

August 19, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci today joined two dozen bicyclists for the kick off of CE Express, a team riding from Augusta, Maine to Denver, Colorado to raise funds for the Lance Armstrong Foundations' cancer support services, for cancer research, and for MaineGeneral's Harold Alfond Center for Cancer Care.

The organizer of the event, Ken Smith, of West Gardiner, will ride with one other Maine cyclist the entire 2,200 mile route over 22 days. Other bicyclists will join them along the route. Their fundraising goal is \$1 million.

"I just returned last night from an expansion announcement of The Jackson Laboratory," said Governor Baldacci. "And we are all hopeful for the continuing scientific breakthroughs that come from that institution.

"Today is about the community coming together to support our neighbors, because we all know someone who has battled cancer. I thank Ken for being such an inspiration and for leading this important effort to help those in Maine and across the nation fighting cancer."

Governor Baldacci joined the group on the first leg of the journey, from Augusta to Hallowell. For further information about CE Express and their fundraising effort, visit <http://weallknowsomeone.org/>

## Governor Welcomes Home Maine National Guard Troops

August 20, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci welcomed home the 129 members of the 152nd Maintenance Company, five soldiers from the Afghanistan National Army Mission, and seven members of the Task Force Sabre at a Freedom Salute ceremony at the Augusta Civic Center this morning. The Guard members, their families, friends and supporters also heard from Congressman Michael Michaud and Major General Bill Libby, the Adjutant General of the Maine National Guard.

“We honor those who served and their families,” said Governor Baldacci. “You all have made Maine proud through your service and your sacrifices. You were never alone while you were away. All of Maine stood with you in support of your work and in support of your families. We are of one mind and heart when it comes to our soldiers; one community.”

The Governor called the Maine National Guard members and their families real heroes who sacrificed much to protect their country. He reminded the crowd that the State of Maine has historically served their nation with the utmost bravery and performance. Nearly 2,500 Maine National Guard members have served in support of the national effort since September 11, 2001, among the highest proportion in the nation. There remain more than 560 Guard members from the state mobilized and/or deployed.

## Governor Urges Thinking Ahead on Energy Costs

August 21, 2006

AUGUSTA – As summer draws to a close, Governor John Baldacci today urged Mainers to think ahead to ways they can reduce energy costs. He also reminded citizens to remember that others in Maine may need help to take such precautions such as weatherizing their homes.

“Maine has little control over what is behind rising energy prices, but we do have some control over how much energy we need to heat our homes, keep our lights on, and operate our vehicles,” said Governor Baldacci. “Saving energy is not only good for our wallets. It is good for the health of our people and our planet.”

Governor Baldacci began his day in Winthrop unloading a truck full of weatherization materials for Operation Keep ME Warm. This marks the third year of the Governor’s Operation Keep ME Warm program, an important initiative to help some of Maine’s most vulnerable citizens prepare for the cold winter months. The program is the first of its kind public-private partnership that matches volunteers with Mainers who have pre-qualified for weatherization assistance.

Supply kits to be installed by volunteers include plastic, caulking, and other materials, supplied to the state at a discounted rate. The Governor thanked partners that include Home Depot and other private sponsors, the Maine Commission for Community Service, The Maine Housing Authority, Efficiency Maine, and the Maine Department of Transportation.

“Over the past two years hundreds of volunteers throughout the state have installed winterization kits in nearly 4,000 homes of Maine’s neediest seniors and persons with disabilities,” said the Governor. “This year the program will run from October 19TH through the 22ND. We will soon be looking for over 1,000 volunteers to help install the kits in 3,000 homes.”

For more information, you can visit [WWW.VOLUNTEERMAINE.ORG](http://WWW.VOLUNTEERMAINE.ORG)

A second event at the Maine Oil Dealers office in Brunswick this afternoon will highlight the “Maine Home Performance with Energy Star” pilot program. This program will provide Maine homeowners a “whole house” approach to reducing their energy bills.

The Governor will address a group of contractors participating in the program. “These energy improvements can reduce energy bills by as much as 50 percent. This week’s training will provide you with the tools to use green energy technology and building science to calculate a home’s energy consumption. Then, you can give homeowners the information they need to make cost-effective energy saving improvements to their homes.”

Sponsored by the Governor’s Office of Energy Independence and Security, the three-year pilot program will provide training and marketing support to contractors in York, Cumberland and Androscoggin Counties. Participating contractors are taught to use green energy technology and building science to

solve a wide range of problems. Customers will have access to financing options, including the Maine Housing Authority's low interest loan product for eligible households.

For more information, visit <http://mainehomeperformance.org/>

The Governor is committed to making Maine a leader in solving the energy challenges that confront us. These efforts include:

- The Governor's 2006 Omnibus Energy Bill provides an excise tax reduction for biodiesel, sets goals for renewable power in Maine and gives the Public Utilities Commission the tools to reduce and stabilize electricity prices.
- Adopted the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED standards for reduced energy consumption in state buildings and institutions of higher learning.
- Adopted a transportation executive order that has led to a five-fold increase in the number of hybrid vehicles in the state fleet, preferential parking for van- and carpools, and expanded ride-sharing. Since 2003, we saved 284,000 gallons of fuel.
- Created a program of rebates for installing solar energy systems that reduces the cost by up to 25% and provided tax incentives to manufacturers of biodiesel fuel in Maine.



## Governor Baldacci Highlights Farm Days

August 22, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

CLINTON – Governor John E. Baldacci met with farmers from all over Maine and New England Tuesday morning at the Wright Place Farm in Clinton for the first day of Farm Days.

“I recognize the importance of this industry to Maine and that’s why I’ve made support of dairy a key goal of my administration,” said Governor Baldacci. “In 2003 I created a task force to study the dairy industry in Maine and make recommendations to stabilize it. I signed legislation that was passed as a result of the task force recommendations. Over \$9 million has been returned to Maine’s dairy farmers since 2003.”

Maine has 352 dairy farmers and 48 dairy processors, which are a significant part of the more than 700 million dollars contributed to Maine’s economy each year by the dairy industry.

“In addition to what we’ve accomplished in stabilizing milk prices, the Maine Milk Commission has adopted premiums that contribute more than \$3 million annually to Maine farmers,” said the Governor. “The Department of Agriculture continues to work closely with Maine’s dairy industry by promoting the Maine Quality Seal that is used by all four of Maine’s major processing facilities. No other New England state has been able to stabilize their dairy industry to the extent that Maine has. Currently, Maine is the leader in this effort, not only in New England, but also in much of the Northeast.”

Governor Baldacci was joined at Farm Days by Agriculture Commissioner Seth Bradstreet, III. Farm Days continues through 4pm Wednesday.

## First Lady Addresses Youth Transition Retreat

August 22, 2006

AUGUSTA – Maine's First Lady Karen Baldacci participated today in Maine Transition Network's Interdepartmental Committee on Transition retreat in Searsport. The retreat brings committee members – including representatives from the state departments of Education, Health and Human Services, Labor and Corrections - together to promote successful transitions for youth with disabilities in Maine.

The First Lady delivered a speech during the lunch hour of the retreat. She spoke about her role as Chair of the Children's Cabinet and the importance of ensuring youth with disabilities have the tools necessary to successfully transition from school to the community. State agencies collaboratively support families and communities, keeping family and children at the heart of all decisions.

The First Lady noted, "The Governor and his Administration are committed to providing the opportunities for all Maine people to succeed. The Children's Cabinet, in coordination with stakeholders and local, county, state and federal partners, have been working to ensure that the right kinds of support systems are available for youth with disabilities."

Mrs. Baldacci highlighted the new Task Force to Engage Maine's Youth as another important step in bringing forward specific policy recommendations to improve systems response to youth in transition. The First Lady noted that Maine's efforts in support of youth with disabilities lead to comparatively better outcomes than the national average. For example, 61% of youth transiting from school as special education students in Maine currently have a paid job, compared to 44.7% nationally. "There is still more work to be done to ensure more opportunities are available to these youth," said the First Lady.

## Governor Baldacci Accepts Deed for Pickerel Pond

August 22, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968 Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

MILFORD — Governor John E. Baldacci today accepted the deed to Pickerel Pond Tuesday afternoon, in a ceremony at the fishery. The land – about 15 acres worth – was donated to Maine's Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife by International Paper, Co.

"It's been a top goal of my Administration to protect and preserve our natural environment, and to enable our citizens to continue to enjoy access to these wonders," said Governor Baldacci. "We must be the stewards of these resources and turn them over to our children in as good or better condition than when we received them to preserve Maine's quality of life for the future."

Governor Baldacci spoke of the mission that was completed earlier this year, adding Katahdin Lake to Baxter State Park, saying that preserving the land at Pickerel Pond for the youth of Maine is important as well.

"This generous donation will ensure that the facility will be able to continue to promote the highest standard of sportsmanship, sound conservation education and ethics for the youth of our state, who will become the stewards of our lands as they become adults," said Governor Baldacci. Pickerel Pond has been used as a youth-only fishery for 10 years. International Paper, Co. leased the land and the pond to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife for one dollar. Since 2001, a number of donations have allowed a cabin to be built on the land and children can experience a variety of outdoor activities at the club.

"The Association contributes a lot of it's time in teaching our youth, the highest of ethics and stewardship over all the great places we call Maine," said the Governor. "We again thank the Association and all of its volunteers for their dedication to this facility and all the young people who come here."

## Governor Directs All Independent State Authorities to Follow Code of Ethics

August 23, 2006

AUGUSTA – Under direction from Governor John Baldacci, Commissioner Rebecca Wyke of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services has issued a memo to all independent state authorities urging the authorities to adopt a code of ethics and conduct similar to the code of ethics that currently governs all agencies of the Baldacci Administration.

While statutorily the Governor does not have oversight over independent agencies (e.g. the Baxter State Park Authority, the Finance Authority of Maine, etc.), he felt strongly that all State government organizations must have clear codes of ethics, strengthening accountability to the people of Maine. The Governor has requested the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to develop legislation to ensure each non-executive authority will develop a code of ethics and conduct.

“All State executive branch agencies have been operating under a well established code of conduct,” said Governor Baldacci. “State government must remain a model of high standards and practices for all public and private sector entities. This direction to independent authorities not covered by the present code gives concise guidelines for the conduct we expect all of State government to follow. Many of the authorities have already adopted codes of ethics. I expect that all others will do so immediately. In order to be certain that all independent authorities abide by a code of ethics, I intend to submit legislation during the next legislative session.”

Commissioner Wyke submitted the following memo and sample code of ethics to the independent authorities in advance of legislation.

### MEMORANDUM

August 23, 2006

To: Component Units and Other Related Organizations of State Government

From: Rebecca M. Wyke, Commissioner, DAFS

Subject: Code of Ethics

The citizens of Maine have every right to expect that their government be accountable to them and that the officials they entrust to manage the affairs of government be guided by the highest standards of honor, personal integrity and fortitude in all of their activities.

For many years the officers and employees of the Executive Branch of State government have been guided in their duties by a strict code of ethics and conduct. The Governor is concerned that state agencies that do not fall under the Executive Branch may not have similar codes in place and has asked me to address this situation with you.

I am writing to inform you that the Governor has directed me to prepare legislation that will require each component unit or other related organization of State government to develop its own code of ethics and conduct. I have enclosed a sample code of ethics and conduct based on the code currently in place for the Executive Branch. If your agency does not currently have a similar code in place, we urge you to work with your governing board to adopt such a code in advance of any legislation requiring one.

If you should have any questions or require assistance, please feel welcome to contact me.

enclosure

#### Code of Ethics and Conduct

Be guided by the highest standards of honor, personal integrity, and fortitude in all public activities in order to merit the respect of other officials, employees and the public. Strive to inspire public confidence and trust in Maine State Government and its related institutions.

Serve the citizens of the State with respect, concern, courtesy, and responsiveness, recognizing that government service means service to the people of Maine; keep the Legislature and public informed on pertinent issues.

Strive for professional excellence and encourage the professional development of associates and those seeking to enter the field of public administration in order to provide effective and responsible government to the citizens of Maine. The primary role is to provide the best possible and most cost effective service to the citizens of Maine.

Approach organizational and operational duties with a positive attitude and constructively support open communication, cooperation, creativity, dedication and compassion.

Avoid any interest or activity which is in conflict with the conduct of official duties. Serve in a manner as to avoid inappropriate personal gain resulting from the performance of official duties.

Respect and protect the privileged information to which there is access in the course of official duties.

Use discretionary authority to promote the public interest.

Accept as a personal duty the responsibility to be informed of emerging issues and to administer the public's business with professional competence, fairness, impartiality, efficiency and effectiveness.

Support, implement, and promote programs of affirmative action to assure equal opportunity in the recruitment, selection, and advancement of qualified persons from all elements of society.

Respect and value the work done by the employees of Maine State Government and its related institutions.

## Governor Baldacci's Energy Bill Takes Effect

August 23, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

SOUTH CHINA – Governor John E. Baldacci announced that his energy bill is effective as of today. The Governor made the announcement at Frontier Oil in South China, a biodiesel provider and filling station. In part, the Governor's 2006 Omnibus Energy Bill provides an excise tax reduction for biodiesel.

"For the past 3 years we have used biodiesel to heat state buildings. We wanted to make Maine a leader and help create a market in Maine for this renewable fuel that is produced in the U.S. And, we have," said Governor Baldacci. "Biodiesel is good for our economy and it is good for the environment – a fuel that can be produced from waste vegetable oil, or from soybeans or other agricultural products."

The energy bill specifically states that the excise tax for motor fuel containing at least 2% biodiesel will be reduced by 7.9 cents. Additionally, it sets a goal of increasing new renewable power resources in Maine by 10 percent by 2017; it allows the Maine Public Utilities Commission to purchase energy conservation and efficiency resources just like it purchases energy supply resources from traditional power plants; and it establishes a means for the Maine PUC to sign long-term contracts with energy conservation providers, renewable energy providers and other generators, with preference for those who produce no greenhouse gases.

"Reducing the fuel excise tax on biodiesel will help create a market for a renewable fuel made in the United States," said Governor Baldacci. "I am confident that some day soon it will be produced in Maine."

Governor Baldacci created the Office of Energy Independence when he was elected Governor to address the rising energy concerns. When Baldacci was first elected, crude oil was just over \$20 a barrel. Today, it is trading at over \$70 a barrel.

"I recognized that we needed to depend more on energy conservation and renewable resources made in the USA, and depend less on politically unstable regions of the world for our energy," said the Governor. "I also recognized that we needed to address the serious threat of global warming."

The Governor is committed to making Maine a leader in solving the energy challenges that confront us. These efforts include:

- The Governor's 2006 Omnibus Energy Bill provides an excise tax reduction for biodiesel, sets goals for renewable power in Maine and gives the Public Utilities Commission the tools to reduce and stabilize electricity prices.

- Adopted the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED standards for reduced energy consumption in state buildings and institutions of higher learning.
- Adopted a transportation executive order that has led to a five-fold increase in the number of hybrid vehicles in the state fleet, preferential parking for van- and carpools, and expanded ride-sharing. Since 2003, we saved 284,000 gallons of fuel.
- Created a program of rebates for installing solar energy systems that reduces the cost by up to 25% and provided tax incentives to manufacturers of biodiesel fuel in Maine.

## Governor Baldacci Credits Workers and Community Members at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard

August 24, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE – Maine Governor John E. Baldacci received an award today from the Seacoast Shipyard Association for his efforts in keeping employees at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard working. Today is the one-year anniversary of the BRAC decision to keep the shipyard open.

"I am honored to be bestowed with this award today, but I have to tell you, it is really you, the people of this facility and community, that deserve the credit," said the Governor. "As Chair Anthony Principi of the BRAC Commission and the other commissioners said a year ago, you the workers proved your mettle. In fact, Chair Principi called the workers here the 'gold standard'."

Governor Baldacci along with New Hampshire Governor, John Lynch both received awards from the association. Awards were also presented to the surrounding communities, including the City of Portsmouth, represented by Mayor Steve Marchand, and the Town of Kittery, represented by Town Council Chair Ann Grinnell.

"I stood with you over a year ago at the Shipyard and vowed to you that this facility would not shut down," said Governor Baldacci. "Those were very trying months, but they really brought this community together. In the end, the quality of work done here, which reflects the quality of the people, made the crucial difference."

While speaking to the crowd of about 100 people at Prescott Park in Portsmouth, Governor Baldacci also declared today Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Day throughout the State of Maine.



## Governor Announces Receipt of Federal Grant to Protect Maine's Rarest Species

August 24, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci announced today that the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) and the Maine Department of Conservation (DOC), have been awarded a \$945,760 competitive grant from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to continue implementing Maine's Landowner Incentive Program (LIP). The program provides funds and technical assistance to private landowners for the conservation of habitat supporting the state's rare, threatened and endangered plants and animals. This was the maximum award available.

"Our natural resources draw many visitors and residents to our state, and make Maine one of the best places to live," said Governor Baldacci. "The combined efforts of the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife and the Department of Conservation in species preservation further my Administration's goal that the State be a leader in protecting this way of life. We must be the stewards of these resources so that we may turn this state over our children in as good or better condition than when we received them."

MDIFW and MNAP have combined their expertise to develop a nationally recognized program focusing conservation efforts on privately owned habitat that supports Maine's rarest species. This grant will support implementation of the state's ongoing, broad-scale habitat conservation planning effort, Beginning with Habitat. Specifically, LIP funds will be used to continue working with land trusts to acquire conservation easements and/or cooperative management agreements within 23 species-at-risk focus areas in southern and coastal Maine. These areas include assemblages of the best examples of rare species populations and high quality natural habitats in Maine.

"Maine's full award speaks highly of the collaborative efforts to partner with private landowners to fund conservation opportunities for critical habitats in the State and of the attention Maine's LIP program has garnered both regionally and nationally," said MDIFW's Commissioner Roland D. Martin.

A Steering Committee comprised of representatives from both governmental and non-governmental organizations assists MDIFW and MNAP in developing and implementing LIP. Since its inception in 2003, Maine has received more than \$3 million in LIP funds for the conservation of at-risk species and their habitats and is currently working on 12 projects that will conserve more than 4,300 acres of important habitat for rare, threatened, and endangered species in southern, western, central, and mid-coast Maine.

"Considering that Maine is primarily in private ownership (approximately 95%), private landowners are integral to the conservation of our wildlife heritage and natural resources. LIP is a valuable model for how government and private landowners can work together to protect and restore habitat for Maine's rarest plants and animals," stated DOC Commissioner Patrick McGowan.

The Landowner Incentive Program is administered by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and builds on the success of Beginning with Habitat, the state's broad-scale habitat conservation planning program. For more information on the State's Landowner Incentive Program, please visit: <<http://www.mainenaturalareas.org/docs/lip/>>

## Governor Applauds FDA Decision on Plan B

August 24, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci today applauded the decision of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to access the morning-after pill without a prescription for women 18 and older.

“This is an important victory for American women,” said Governor Baldacci. “While Washington stalled, I signed a law two years ago making Maine the sixth state to provide emergency contraception directly to women in pharmacies. This overdue decision by the FDA is real progress for the advancement of reproductive rights for millions of American women, promoting women's health, and help preventing unintended pregnancies.”

In March 2004, Governor Baldacci signed the bill LD 1152, allowing pharmacists in the state to dispense emergency contraception to women without a doctor's prescription. The Governor noted at that time that the new law marked another milepost in the advancement of reproductive rights for women in Maine.

"Too often the Bush Administration has put ideology before science. Though it took far too long for the FDA to end this long delay in approving Plan B, I welcome Acting FDA Commissioner Dr. von Eschenbach's decision to finally allow this emergency contraception to be accessed over-the-counter to women across the country.

"I hope that this marks a different trend in regulatory decisions by this Administration and that in the future they will make sure to put the health of the American people before politics.”

## Governor and First Lady Swear In VISTA Volunteers

August 25, 2006

Contact: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Chip Curry, 287-4341

AUGUSTA - Governor John Baldacci and First Lady Karen Baldacci today swore into service 38 AmeriCorps VISTAs (Volunteers in Service to America). The VISTA members will serve full time for one year on community-led anti-poverty initiatives across the state of Maine. Serving directly with local community organizations and agencies, these VISTA members will work on a variety of issues including: early childhood systems development at the local and regional level, positive youth development, senior financial literacy, and senior health access.

"Each of you will be fulfilling an important role, and I congratulate you for making the commitment to serve a year improving the communities of Maine," said Governor Baldacci. "As AmeriCorps VISTA members, you will be serving across the state – from Fort Kent to Calais to York - working to increase the capacity of communities and organizations to meet the needs of children, the elderly and families."

The First Lady said, "As chair of the Children's Cabinet, I am pleased that you are taking this responsibility to strengthen families across the state. I am sure it will be a rewarding experience for you, for the organizations and agencies you will be assisting, and for the Maine people who will ultimately benefit from your service."

Communities for Children and Youth, which is an initiative of Maine's Governor's Children's Cabinet since 1996, hosts one of the largest VISTA networks in the United States with a primary focus on building the capacity of child and youth-serving organizations and systems in improving outcomes for Maine's most underserved children and youth populations.

The four new senior-focused VISTA members will join a team of ten already serving with a project sponsored by the University of Maine Center on Aging.

VISTA, established in 1965 and incorporated in the AmeriCorps family of national service programs in 1993, is modeled after the Peace Corps. Throughout its 41 year history the mission has remained unchanged: to strengthen community efforts to alleviate and eliminate poverty in America.

More information on hosting an AmeriCorps\*VISTA or serving as a VISTA member can be found online at [www.mainevista.net](http://www.mainevista.net)

## Governor Offers Assistance as Plane is Diverted to Bangor International Airport

August 25, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci today received word that an American Airlines flight originating from Manchester, England bound for Chicago was being diverted to Bangor International Airport (BIA). Federal Aviation Administration officials have said the diversion was caused by security concerns.

The plane is now safely on the ground and has been evacuated.

Upon hearing of the diversion, about thirty minutes before the plane was to land, Governor Baldacci ordered the head of his Executive Protection Unit, Sergeant David Bowler to the airport.

“I want to ensure that every step is taken at the State level to ensure the safety of people on the plane and on the ground,” said Governor Baldacci. “We are ready to help at a moment’s notice and to work in conjunction with other authorities to respond to this situation.”

Sergeant Bowler joined State Police and Bangor City Police on the scene to assist the FBI. State Police provided bomb squad dogs and Bangor police provided additional bomb squad assistance.

## Governor Celebrates Maine's First Renewable Hydrogen Project

August 28, 2006

Contact: Dan Cashman, 287-2531

Beth Nagusky, 287-4315

WISCASSET – Governor John Baldacci today joined Congressman Mike Michaud, representatives of the other Maine Congressional Delegation offices, and leaders of Maine's energy and technology industries for the activation of the Chewonki Renewable Hydrogen Project. The Chewonki project is the first complete hydrogen energy system in Maine. The Governor said that he hopes further renewable hydrogen projects will be forthcoming in the state.

"Creating a more sustainable energy future for Maine has been a top priority of my Administration," said Governor Baldacci. "Some of Maine's greatest economic assets are the vast renewable energy resources we have right here at home. Using these clean resources to create hydrogen, which can be used as a fuel in the transportation sector directly or to power fuel cells that can provide energy for buildings, industry and transportation represents a giant step forward in solving the huge energy and environmental challenges facing us."

The Chewonki project is a collaborative effort of the Hydrogen Energy Center, Chewonki, the Maine Technology Institute and private donors.

The project unveiled today is designed to enable Maine people visit to learn more about hydrogen energy and its role in the state's energy future. The facility will also demonstrate use of environmental technologies to education institutions, research laboratories, and other organizations.

To further expand such opportunities in Maine, the Governor created by Executive Order a partnership to accelerate commercially viable hydrogen production and fuel cells.

"Hydrogen represents a huge growth industry, and the creation of this Partnership will put Maine on the leading edge as this industry expands," said the Governor. PriceWaterhouseCoopers projects that global demand for all fuel cell products will reach \$46 billion per year by 2011 and will grow to more than \$2.5 trillion per year in 2021.

"To expedite the transition to the hydrogen energy future I am signing today this Executive Order to create the Maine Hydrogen Energy Fuel Cell Partnership," continued the Governor. "The Partnership will speed the development and deployment of commercially viable hydrogen production, storage and distribution technologies; analyze opportunities to leverage federal research and development funds and other funding sources; and stimulate development of private firms that will build energy and fuel cell technology products at facilities located in Maine. This is an important step in moving Maine further down the path of energy independence and reducing our greenhouse gas emissions."

The text of the Executive Order Establishing the Maine Hydrogen Energy Fuel Cell Partnership follows.

AN ORDER ESTABLISHING THE MAINE HYDROGEN ENERGY FUEL CELL PARTNERSHIP WHEREAS, on June 1, 2006, I signed into law "An Act To Enhance Maine's Energy Independence and Security", which law adopts a goal of increasing renewable energy resources in Maine by 10 percent by 2017, and adopts a policy that favors new renewable power resources within this state and new capacity resources that emit no greenhouse gases on net; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, I signed into law "An Act to Provide Leadership in Addressing Climate Change", which law sets a goal for the State of Maine to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2010, to 10% below 1990 levels by 2020 and, in the long term, to levels sufficient to eliminate any dangerous threat to the climate; and

WHEREAS, I am committed to making Maine state government a leader by example with regard to sustainable energy practices that make Maine more energy independent and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and to adopting sustainable energy policies, practices, and programs statewide; and

WHEREAS, the chemical element 'hydrogen' can be used as a storage medium for electric energy made from renewable energy resources and from resources with no net emissions of greenhouse gases, and can be taken from storage and converted to electricity with no net emissions of greenhouse gases; and

WHEREAS, hydrogen can be manufactured in the State of Maine using Maine's vast renewable energy resources, including solar, wind, tidal, hydroelectric, and biomass, which will help Maine achieve goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase its energy independence; and

WHEREAS, the hydrogen manufactured from Maine's renewable resources could be used as fuel for fuel cells to power equipment, including electronic devices, buildings, trains, ships and highway vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the Maine Technology Institute and Maine Public Utilities Commission have helped fund projects to inform Maine businesses, tradespeople, government officials and consumers about renewable hydrogen technologies through demonstrations and workshops; and

WHEREAS, a more rapid dissemination of information regarding these renewable hydrogen technologies is important to achieving the goals of energy independence and greenhouse gas emission reductions:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John E. Baldacci, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby establish the Maine Hydrogen Energy Fuel Cell Partnership (hereinafter "Partnership").

#### Purpose and Duties

The purpose and duties of the Partnership are to:

Accelerate the development and deployment of commercially viable hydrogen production, storage and distribution technologies;

Accelerate the development and deployment of commercially viable fuel cells;

Support the growth and development of hydrogen energy and fuel cell-related businesses in the state;

Coordinate the dissemination of information regarding renewable hydrogen and initiatives for its manufacture and use;

Identify members of the hydrogen energy and fuel cell business cluster;

Identify and analyze the technical, scientific, financial, legal, and regulatory obstacles to the development of commercially viable hydrogen energy, fuel cell and related enabling technologies;

Analyze the opportunities to leverage federal research and development funding and improve the competitiveness of Maine entities to attract such federal and other funding sources and to work with the Maine Congressional delegation to that end;

Identify and develop the parameters, mission, and a pro forma budget for establishing and operating a hydrogen energy and fuel cell research and testing center which may be located at a qualified Maine institution of higher education;

Develop an action plan, including funding recommendations, to address the identified needs of Maine's hydrogen energy and fuel cell cluster and potential means to improve the global competitive position of the cluster; and

Stimulate development of private firms that will build hydrogen energy and fuel cell technology products at facilities located in Maine with Maine labor, giving special attention to the efficiencies and other benefits of co-locating such hydrogen energy and fuel cell cluster industries within economic development facilities where research and development, manufacturing, testing, display and production can happen in a mutually-supportive way for maximum expansion of this industry cluster in Maine.

#### Composition of the Partnership

The Maine Hydrogen Energy Fuel Cell Partnership shall be composed of thirteen members, who shall be appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the Governor, and will be comprised of the following:

The Director of the University of Maine's School of Engineering Technology, and the Chair of the University of Maine's Department of Chemistry, or their designees;

Two members nominated by the Maine Hydrogen Energy Center;

Two members nominated by the Chewonki Foundation;

Three for-profit Maine business entities;

Three entities, from Maine or elsewhere, with strong experience in hydrogen energy or fuel cell development, to be nominated by the other members of the Partnership; and

The chair of the Partnership.

The members of the Partnership will serve without compensation.



Chair of the Partnership

The chair of the Partnership shall be an individual appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Governor, who will preside at, set the agenda for, and schedule Partnership meetings. The Governor shall select as the chair a person who has strong technical and strategic background in hydrogen energy and fuel cell technology, experience in the development of technology businesses, or other knowledge or experience that will help advance the work of the Partnership. The Governor may also designate a member of the Partnership to serve as vice-chair of the Partnership.

Meetings, Reports and Recommendations

The Partnership shall meet as often as needed, and all their meetings shall be open to the public. The Partnership shall report annually to the Governor on the work of the Partnership, and may submit recommendations to the Governor for state action or legislation needed to advance the work of the Partnership or the development and use of hydrogen energy and fuel cells.

Effective date

The effective date of this Executive Order is August 28, 2006.

John E. Baldacci, Governor

## Governor and State Receive Accolades in Climate Change Action Scorecard

August 28, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci and Maine State government were recognized today by Environment Maine and the Natural Resources Council of Maine for efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Maine received a “B” grade for implementing policies called for in the regional Climate Change Action Plan, signed in 2001 by the New England Governors and five eastern Canadian Premiers.

Maine’s 2006 grade is the highest of any New England state, and the second highest of any state or province. Only Quebec’s “B+” was higher. Maine has improved since last year’s report, and was the only New England state to have shown an improved grade.

“Since taking office, I have set high goals for the State to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions,” said Governor Baldacci. “I am pleased our efforts to reduce these emissions have been recognized once again. It is important to meet the aggressive targets of Maine’s Climate Change Action Plan to avert a climate crisis. We must think globally but act locally.”

The Governor was specifically recognized for a number of initiatives that have led to the progress Maine has made in reaching the Climate Change Action Plan goals. The State, noted the report, is leading by example through increased use of hybrid vehicles, using LEED standards, reducing energy consumption and use of clean energy sources. The Governor’s Carbon Challenge was also cited as a way to encourage businesses to voluntarily reduce emissions. Governor Baldacci received a Climate Champion Award from Clean Air-Cool Planet in 2005.

Earlier today, the Governor attended the celebration of the Chewonki project in Wiscasset, the first complete hydrogen energy system in Maine. The Governor signed an Executive Order at the event to facilitate the growth of additional renewable hydrogen projects and technologies here in Maine. This renewable and clean resource is one of many areas of focus of the Governor in his goal in solving the huge energy and environmental challenges facing us.

Maine has adopted greenhouse gas tailpipe standards for passenger vehicles and is also one of seven Northeast states participating in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a multi-state program to reduce harmful climate-changing emissions from power plants. Earlier this month the participating states released a model set of regulations to implement the program.

The Governor’s energy bill, which took effect last week, put into place additional policies to further the Governor’s goal to make Maine’s air cleaner while increasing energy independence. An excise tax reduction for biodiesel, for example, is good for our economy and it is good for the environment as it promotes a fuel that can be produced from waste vegetable oil or other agricultural products. The bill also establishes a goal of increasing renewable power in Maine by 10% by 2017, and treats energy efficiency as an energy resource.

## 2006 Archive of Governor Baldacci's Press Releases

More information on the report card from Environment Maine and the Natural Resources Council of Maine can be found at: <http://environmentmaine.org/reports/Scorecard2006.pdf>

## Connect ME Authority Meets for First Time Today

August 29, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci announced that the Connect ME Authority will be meeting for the first time Tuesday afternoon. The meeting is scheduled to take place at 1pm in the Transportation Committee room on the 1st Floor of the State House Building.

“This authority, created under the Connect ME legislation, contains five members who are all highly qualified and represent both the public and private sphere,” said Governor Baldacci. “I am looking forward to seeing the progress in broadband deployment that this Authority will spearhead.”

The five members on the Authority are: Jean Wilson of LL Bean; Mitch Davis of Bowdoin College; Dan Breton of Verizon; Kurt Adams, Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission; and Dick Thompson, Chief Information Officer for the State of Maine.

The Governor’s ConnectME legislation which created the Authority was passed by the Legislature last spring. The legislation went into effect last week.

“The convening of the Authority this week marks a milestone in my ConnectME Initiative,” said the Governor. “We now have an agile Authority that can stay out ahead of technology and spur private investment in broadband and cellular service in Maine. Improved coverage is occurring throughout this state, but there’s still plenty of work to be done. This Connect ME Authority will help take us to the next level.”

## Governor Baldacci Joins First Lady in “Read With ME” Initiative

August 29, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci joined his wife, First Lady Karen Baldacci this morning to highlight the importance of early childhood reading during a book bag-assembling project for the literacy outreach program Read With ME. The First Lady, who is a former kindergarten teacher, spearheads Maine Reads, the umbrella organization for Read With ME.

Mrs. Baldacci joined the Governor, Maine author and illustrator Melissa Sweet and Verizon Maine President Ed Dinan this morning to help more than 50 volunteers prepare 18,000 book bags for every incoming kindergarten student in more than 400 schools throughout Maine.

“Giving kids the tools they need on their first day of school is important to me,” said Governor Baldacci. “Kids love reading and it’s our job to ensure that they are actively encouraged to read on a daily basis. This program is a wonderful tool for kindergarten students and their families and I’m happy to be here with the First Lady to do our part.”

Recently, Mrs. Baldacci sent letters to principals at each school in Maine that has kindergarten students and invited them to participate in the program. The students at those schools that do participate will receive book bags after school opens in September.

All of the books and information are provided at no cost to the participating schools and students, thanks to the generous underwriting of the Read With ME program by the Verizon Foundation. Local Maine members of the Verizon Volunteers team participated this morning and Verizon technicians will be making statewide deliveries of the book bags during the first weeks of the upcoming school year.

This year’s book bags will include the book *Schoolyard Rhymes*, edited by Judy Sierra and illustrated by Melissa Sweet of Rockport, Maine, as well as reading activity sheets, a resource guide, and a bookmark developed by the illustrator and the Maine Department of Education. Students are also guided to Sweet’s award-winning interactive Web site [www.melissasweet.net](http://www.melissasweet.net). DVDs about reading aloud have been produced by Maine Public Broadcasting and the Maine State Library and distributed to school libraries statewide.

Maine Reads is a 501c3 non profit aimed at improving literacy and reading skills in Maine and is part of the Verizon Reads national program. For more information about Read With ME. and Maine Reads, go to [www.mainereads.org](http://www.mainereads.org).

Verizon delivers technology that touches people’s lives. The Verizon Foundation uses that technology and its financial resources to improve literacy and K-12 education; support people who have experienced domestic violence; and improve the delivery of health care. In 2005, the foundation

awarded more than \$74 million in grants to charitable and nonprofit agencies in the United States and abroad. The foundation also supports Verizon Volunteers, one of the largest employee volunteer programs in the United States, responsible for 2 million hours of community service since 2000 and \$35.6 million in combined contributions to nonprofits in 2005 alone. For more information on the foundation, visit [www.verizon.com/foundation](http://www.verizon.com/foundation).

## Governor Confirms Fallen Soldier with Maine Ties

August 30, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci today noted the loss of Specialist Matthew Evan Schneider, an active duty soldier from Alpha Company, 141st Signal Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division. SPC Schneider, of Gorham, New Hampshire, has family in Maine. He died on August 28 from apparent cardiac arrest under non hostile circumstances. He was transported by Medevac to medical treatment facilities in Ramadi, Iraq, but could not be revived. SPC Schneider's family has been notified of his passing.

Governor Baldacci spoke to SPC Schneider's father to offer his condolences. "Mr. Schneider told me Matthew was proud of his service and planned on re-enlisting," said Governor Baldacci. "His loss is felt heavily on his family and friends. The citizens of Maine join in extending our prayers and respect to Matthew's family, and we remember all those serving their state and country away from home."

No other information is available at this time.

## Census Bureau Reports Maine Income Growth

August 30, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci today said his economic plan is working for Maine people after reviewing the U.S. Census Bureau data for 2004-2005 released yesterday. The report issued by the U.S. Census showed that Maine's median household income grew 5.5% from 2003-2004 to 2004-2005, even after adjustment for inflation.

"This is positive news for hard-working Maine people and families," said the Governor. "The U.S. Census numbers show that many people in Maine are finding opportunities to work and increase their earnings. We need to extend those opportunities to all Maine residents. This is why it's important to continue my economic plan, including investing in higher education; expanding research and development; expanding the reach of investments and incentives; enhancing renewable and alternative energy sources; and continuing tax relief efforts."

In addition, despite national increases in the uninsured, Maine's rate of uninsured has held steady at 10.4% from 2003-2005 and remains tied for the second lowest rate of uninsured in the country. The rate of uninsured in 38 other states and the District of Columbia also remained unchanged. The national average rate of uninsured is 15.7%.

Maine's rate of uninsured has held steady despite national trends and losing 10,000 Medicaid eligibles due to federal rules limiting Medicaid coverage for childless adults. The situation would have been worse without Dirigo Health, which has covered 18,000 people since it began in 2005.

Accompanying the news of income growth and the rate of uninsured was information on poverty. In all, 38 million Americans live in poverty, or 13.3% of the population. In Maine, 12.6% of the population live in poverty. Maine's poverty rate was 25th among the 50 states.

"There is more work left to do," said the Governor. "Access to stable, well-paying jobs remains my priority for all Maine residents. My Administration is building the foundation for realizing those opportunities. Continuing our investments in higher education, workforce development, and healthcare is essential to meeting this goal."

Results from the 2005 American Community Survey and Community Population Survey are available at:

[http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/news\\_conferences/007338.html](http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/news_conferences/007338.html)

Median household income data are available at:

<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/income/income05/statemhi2.html>



## Governor Highlights GEAR UP program, Importance of Education

August 30, 2006

AUBURN — Governor John E. Baldacci today met with students involved in GEAR UP, or “Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs,” at Central Maine Community College in Auburn. The students met with the Governor and with heads of the program to share their summer projects.

“I am so very impressed with the GEAR UP program and especially you, the students,” said Governor Baldacci. “GEAR UP has provided you with new and growing opportunities. Importantly, you’ve been focused on using technology, and increasing your aptitude in science and math.”

Governor Baldacci told the students from Jay Middle School that their enthusiasm for this program should relate well to the upcoming start of the school year. He noted that his Administration has been laying a solid foundation of education and job opportunities for their future.

“In Maine, we’re growing a 21st Century Economy – one where our state competes globally – for jobs and for business,” said the Governor. “Your skills will be in great demand. That’s why I’ve been working to increase access and affordability for you and other students to obtain quality post-secondary degrees right here in Maine. And that’s not enough. I’ve been working to increase infrastructure, research and development, workforce training and new technologies to build a better future for you.”

The GEAR UP program is meant to help youth from non-traditional settings learn skills in technology, math and science fields. Governor Baldacci told the kids in the program that he’s working now for them to have a place in Maine when they are finished with school.

“There are going to be many exciting places here in Maine for you to take your education and skills to realize your dreams,” said Governor Baldacci. “With your specialized knowledge and experience, there will be many open doors for you. Hopefully what everyone has learned from this experience is how important higher education is both to you, the student, and to the community and state as a whole.”

Governor Baldacci continues to emphasize the importance of education as students prepare to go back to school. Among the Governor’s accomplishments, he has established the Community College system; set up three major initiatives to help students with the rising interest rates on Federal Student Loans; appropriated \$180 million more towards schools in 2007 than was appropriated in 2005; and worked to raise teacher salaries for the first time in two decades.

## Governor Baldacci Gives Credit to Workers at DFAS Limestone

August 31, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

LIMESTONE – Governor John E. Baldacci visited DFAS Limestone today, one year after the BRAC decision to keep the Finance and Accounting Service center open. Governor Baldacci, along with Congressman Mike Michaud, Senator Susan Collins and Chairman Anthony Principi of the BRAC Commission toured the facility and met with some of the workers.

“The one-year anniversary of this announcement recognizes – again – that the workers at DFAS-Limestone set a standard that was seen by the independent commission as the gold standard,” said Governor Baldacci. “For the Defense Finance and Account Services to expand the office in Limestone recognizes that Maine workers are some of the best in the world.”

Today’s visit to DFAS-Limestone comes one week after Governor Baldacci stood with workers in Kittery to celebrate another one-year anniversary of the BRAC decision to keep the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard open. “I’m really proud of what these workers have done. It’s because of their work that they are bringing even more work to Limestone,” said the Governor. “This is 200 additional jobs, paying \$30,000 - \$40,000 each with benefits.”

When DFAS-Limestone was scheduled to shut down in 2005, it employed 353 people. The facility now employs 449 workers and is expected to employ 660 workers by the end of 2008. “The reason that we are all here to celebrate this anniversary today is because of the workers here in Limestone,” said Governor Baldacci. “It’s also because of the tremendous cooperation displayed by the people throughout Aroostook County, our Congressional Delegation and people throughout Maine as we all worked together keep this center open.”

## Governor Baldacci Honors State Employees for Longevity

September 1, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci thanked about 350 state employees today for their more than 25 years of service. Those state employees were treated to the Governor's Longevity Luncheon and Awards at the Augusta Civic Center.

"Together, it's about giving Maine people the best service, because these are our families, our friends, and our neighbors," said Governor Baldacci. "As state employees, you dedicate your time and considerable skills to enhance the health, welfare, and quality of life for the citizens of Maine."

Governor Baldacci attended the luncheon with two members of his staff with a total of 50 years of state service. Jane Lincoln, the Governor's Chief of Staff has worked in state government for 29 years; and Rose Smith, the Governor's Assistant has worked in state government for 21 years.

Governor Baldacci thanked the employees not only for their service to the state, but also to their individual communities. The Governor noted volunteer efforts such as Keep ME Warm that occupy the time of many state employees.

"You demonstrate deep professional and personal commitment to the people of Maine," said Governor Baldacci. "That is why it's important to me that you have the best working conditions possible."

When Governor Baldacci first took office, state employees had furlough days (un-paid work days) because the state's financial house was not in order. Over the past three and a half years, the Governor has worked to balance the state budget, eliminate furlough days for state employees, put money in the rainy day fund, and not raise any broad based taxes.

"You have made valuable contributions to these efforts, and I know that together, we will continue to move all of Maine forward," said the Governor.

Governor Baldacci took photos with many of the employees from various departments and thanked several of them individually for their commitment to the state.

## Governor Announces Next Steps in GP

September 1, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci announced today that a general understanding on the structure of a three-party deal on the GP mill in Old Town has been reached.

“I am pleased that this long and complicated process is moving forward,” said Governor Baldacci. “This is another positive step. While items remain to be finalized, none of them seem to be insurmountable. The most difficult obstacles have been overcome. We expect this deal will be very beneficial to the people of Old Town and the region.”

Once a deal is reached, details of the Agreement will be jointly announced in the weeks to come.

The Governor explained that the plan involves redevelopment of the site. Within the first couple of months of operation, a good portion of the workforce will be re-employed. Within a couple of years, the employment levels are projected to exceed the number of employees at the mill one year ago.

“The result is going to be a more diversified economic base for the City of Old Town and the Penobscot County region,” said Governor Baldacci. “I am encouraged by the continuing process, because these valued workers and their families mean so much to this community.”

In addition to the great amount of work that the State has put into negotiations, the Governor recognized the local state legislators for their unending support of the workers, including Senator Elizabeth Schneider, Representative Richard Blanchard, and Representative Robert Duchesne. He also pointed to the tireless work of union representatives and Town Manager Peggy Daigle, along with Old Town Council Chair Gary Sirois and the rest of the Council.

“Getting to this point is the result of the collaboration of many people,” noted the Governor. “I especially commend the people of Old Town. This has been a difficult time for the community, but they have remained steadfast in their support of the former Georgia-Pacific workers and their families.”

## Governor Announces More Affordable Health Care for Laid Off Workers

September 1, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci today announced that the federal government has certified DirigoChoice as an insurance product for purposes of federal Health Coverage Tax Credits (HCTC). The HCTC program is open to qualified employees who were laid off from their manufacturing jobs due to foreign trade and are eligible to receive trade readjustment assistance.

“The federal government’s certification of DirigoChoice will increase access to affordable health insurance for those in Maine who have been laid off through no fault of their own,” said Governor Baldacci. “I am pleased that DirigoChoice is now a certified HCTC program.”

Under the HCTC program, the federal government provides a 65% tax credit for qualified workers and their families for insurance premiums. The benefit can be accessed as a reduced monthly payment or claimed as an end of the year tax credit. DirigoChoice already offers discounts to individuals and families with incomes less than 300% of the Federal Eligibility Level, or \$28,700 for an individual; \$56,550 for a family of four. Discounts are on monthly payments, annual deductibles and out-of-pocket expenses. With the ability to access the additional HCTC benefits, DirigoChoice offers a very affordable product to many laid off workers, as the federal subsidy is applied after the DirigoChoice discounts are taken into account.

DirigoChoice, part of the comprehensive Dirigo Health Reform Act, provides coverage for small businesses, sole proprietors and individuals based on ability to pay. It is offered through a public/partnership between Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield and the Dirigo Health Agency. DirigoChoice offers more than traditional insurance. There is no waiting period for pre-existing conditions, and it covers preventive care at 100% and mental health parity. Its Healthy ME Rewards Program gives individuals and families \$100 to \$200 for completing a health risk assessment with their physician.

Dirigo Health has provided coverage for more than 18,000 people and more than 2,300 businesses since it started in 2005. Over the past two years, more than \$78 million of savings to the Maine healthcare system has been directly attributed to Dirigo.

The Governor has made protecting jobs and making work count priorities of his Administration. Among the actions he’s taken are:

- ♣ Successfully fought for passage of minimum wage increase;
- ♣ Expanded overtime coverage;
- ♣ Expanding unemployment compensation to part-time workers; and
- ♣ Improving prevailing wage enforcement.

For more information on DirigoChoice, visit <http://www.dirigohealth.maine.gov/>

For more information on HCTC call the Maine Department of Labor at 1-888-457-8883 or visit [www.mainecareercenter.com/job-seekers/HCTCinformational.pdf](http://www.mainecareercenter.com/job-seekers/HCTCinformational.pdf)

## **“Whole House” TV Program to Award Energy-Saving Makeover to One Lucky Maine Family**

September 5, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 28, 2006

Contact: Beth Nagusky, Director of Energy Independence, 207-287-4315

Augusta, Maine – Maine Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®, a pilot program developed by the Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security, is partnering with Maine's WB-TV, the Maine Public Utilities Commission's Efficiency Maine program, the national ENERGY STAR program, and other local businesses to present one lucky Maine family with a “Whole House” of energy-related home improvements.

The “Whole House” Contest is asking homeowners in Androscoggin, Cumberland, and York Counties to examine their energy bills to see if they are higher than their neighbors' bills and higher than those of others that they know. If so, they are an ideal contestant for a “Whole House” Energy Makeover. The home energy makeover will reduce energy bills by between ten and fifty percent, while improving the comfort, health, and durability of the home.

The home with the greatest potential to demonstrate home energy savings will receive a free “whole house” energy makeover. The winning home will be featured in a television show in which the Maine Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® program conducts an analysis of the home and recommends how to cut energy bills. The television show will also demonstrate the installation of the energy-saving measures.

“We will show how consumers can save dramatically on their energy bills when they make the right home improvements,” said Beth Nagusky, Director of the Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security. “Energy prices are climbing, and homeowners can benefit significantly by having trained professionals analyze their homes and make cost-effective improvements to reduce energy bills. We are excited about the overwhelming interest that this program has generated from the Maine businesses and organizations supporting this contest.”

Contest sponsors are donating the products and services featured in the television program. The sponsors include: the Maine Public Utilities Commission's Efficiency Maine program, Northern Utilities, Lee Toyota, WarmTECH Solutions, Energy Kinetics boilers, Paradigm Windows, and Carpet & Rug Depot.

The deadline for entries is Sunday, September 10, 2006. Contest entry forms are available online at <http://www.mainehomeperformance.org/> or <http://www.maineswb.com/>.

-end-

**About Maine Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®:**

The Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security is sponsoring development of a pilot a residential energy efficiency program, Maine Home Performance with ENERGY STAR? (Maine HP).

The MaineHP pilot program will emphasize a whole-house approach to reducing energy bills, improving comfort, reducing maintenance costs and improving the health of buildings. This three-year pilot program will provide training and marketing support to contractors in York, Cumberland, and Androscoggin counties. MaineHP is affiliated with the national Home Performance with ENERGY STAR? initiative.

Participating contractors and consultants will be taught to use green energy technology and building science to solve a wide range of problems, and will be instructed on the use of software to calculate the energy savings from a wide range of improvements.



## Governor Baldacci Praises Medical Mobile Training Lab

September 5, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968 Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

LEWISTON — Governor John E. Baldacci today toured the Mobile Training Lab that continues to make its way to every hospital in the state throughout the year as an educational tool for medical professionals.

"This mobile lab encourages a continuation of learning in some of the rural areas of our state where resources are not always readily available," said Governor Baldacci. "It also allows providers who might encounter critically ill or injured patients only once or twice a year – to work these cases several times over, with focused and direct feedback."

Governor Baldacci caught up with the Mobile Training Lab at Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston. The Governor emphasized the importance of education – during what is the first week of school for many throughout the state – for all ages, throughout life.

"When you're making your way through life, you never stop being a student, because you never stop learning," said the Governor. "When you get older, it's more apparent that it's up to you what you choose to learn."

The Governor's support of education has been a priority of his administration. Governor Baldacci has established the Maine Community College System; three major initiatives have been put in place to help students with the rising interest rates on Federal Student Loans; schools are receiving \$180 million more in state funds for 2007 than they received in 2005; and starting teacher salaries have been raised for the first time in two decades in the State of Maine.

"It's been important to me to give people easy access to education – we shouldn't be making it difficult for people who want to better themselves through learning," said Governor Baldacci. "That is why we have a mobile training unit visiting every hospital in the state to encourage education and make it available to those even in the most rural areas."

The Mobile Training Lab contains a state of the art, high-fidelity mannequin called a Human Patient Simulator. The mannequin simulates complex medical and traumatic problems repeatedly, offering medical personnel the opportunity to test and practice their reactions and skills leading to a high degree of familiarity and confidence. Each hospital in the state will have the Mobile Training Lab at their facility for at least one week, with scenarios available for 15 to 18 providers per day. The Human Patient Simulator technology is generally only found in medical schools.

"I am very proud that my administration has had a part in bringing this training lab to Maine for all of our hospitals," said Governor Baldacci. "Watching this education in action should make us all confident that the finest EMS system will be there when we call for help." The LifeFlight Foundation, in partnership with Maine EMS and the Department of Public Safety, and the Maine Health Access Foundation all had a hand in bringing the Mobile Training Lab to Maine.

## Governor Disappointed with Proposed Anthem Rate Increase

September 5, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor Baldacci today noted his disappointment with the recent filing of Anthem that would increase the rates on their HealthChoice product by an average of 20.5%. The Governor's statement on the filing follows.

"I am disappointed with Anthem's proposed rate increase of 20.5% for their individual insurance product. This is an unacceptable burden to individuals in Maine who do not have access to group health insurance. I have asked the Public Advocate to reach out to the Attorney General and the Bureau of Insurance and to report back to me on the Advocate's review of the rate increase proposal.

"Maine people need access to affordable quality health insurance. The issue of affordable, comprehensive coverage for individuals has been a problem all across the country, as states try to fill the policy vacuum left by a Republican Congress and President who have done nothing of substance on this issue while the number of uninsured has risen nationally, hitting a record 15%, or 466.6 million people nationally in 2005, according to the US Census Bureau.

"Fortunately, through our efforts to reform the healthcare system in the Maine, we have not experienced an increased rate in the uninsured. Maine's rate of uninsured remains substantially lower than the national rate. We are also seeing marked improvements in the state with larger groups experiencing very small premium increases in 2006. This has kept the cost of coverage down for thousands of Maine workers. I am committed to bringing this same level of rate stability to the individual market.

"I will continue to reform by working with the Blue Ribbon Commission and leading an effort for appropriate legislative and regulatory changes to the individual market as a key component of my 2007 legislative agenda. People in the individual market have disproportionately high claims. I want systems reforms that will reduce the growth of claims in the individual market – which covers 5% of the total market in Maine. Therefore, I am going to develop proposals to:

- Spread the existing individual membership across a larger risk pool.
- Propose reinsurance mechanisms to ensure that small group rates are not driven higher with the inclusion of the individual market
- Require that all carriers in the individual/small group market work with providers to include disease management, prevention and wellness components in their products
- Review all appropriate regulatory requirements in the individual market to foster innovation and accelerate creative product development and management.

"I will advocate for appropriate solutions that will improve the performance of the market, not just shift existing costs. The solutions should not segregate the market further, but will continue systemic

approaches to market reform. Recognizing that we have the largest insurers, private and non-profit, in the state, I will champion appropriate regulatory reform and continue to take action to reduce cost drivers in the healthcare system.”

## Governor Baldacci Applauds Harold Alfond for Donation of New Boys & Girls Club Library

September 5, 2006

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WATERVILLE – Governor John E. Baldacci joined Harold Alfond in Waterville Tuesday afternoon for the dedication of the new Harold Alfond Library at the Boys & Girls Club.

“He’s known across our state as someone who supports Maine’s present and future – and has given us so much to celebrate over the years,” said Governor Baldacci. “Here in Waterville, Mr. Alfond has contributed nearly \$7 million to the Boys & Girls Club and YMCA since 1994.”

Governor Baldacci praised Alfond for all of his generosity to help people from around the state, but Tuesday’s celebration was about the Boys & Girls Club of Waterville.

“Thanks to his recent \$1 million challenge grant, the Boys & Girls Club and YMCA at the Alfond Youth Center has an additional 14,000 square feet of space,” said the Governor. “That addition makes this Boys & Girls Club in Waterville one of the best in the country.”

The recently completed project includes: The Alfond Library & Museum; increased enrollment for the After School Program (will now be able to serve 300 children a day); The Edward Atkins Teen Center includes a computer lab, meeting room and billiards room; and the New Balance Foundation Youth Fitness Program geared towards 8 – 12 year olds which will begin operations this month and formally kick off the Healthy Weight Initiative.

“Thanks once again to Harold Alfond, Mainers will have a beautiful facility to call their own,” said Governor Baldacci.

## Governor Flies on New Northern Aroostook Charter Service

September 6, 2006

FRENCHVILLE — Governor John E. Baldacci was one of the first passengers to fly on the new charter service based at Northern Aroostook Regional Airport in Frenchville. He was a passenger on the plane, which took him to the ribbon cutting for the new service at the airport.

“Maine is seeing growth and expansion of business” said Governor Baldacci. “We’re not just talking about Portland, or Bangor or the coast – but we’re talking about the entire state, including here in Aroostook County.”

The ribbon cutting marked the first time Northern Aroostook Regional Airport has hosted a charter service in six years.

Governor Baldacci told the group at the airport that he has encouraged business growth and expansion through his Pine Tree Economic Zones, which have been responsible for the creation of more than 180 new jobs in Aroostook County from 2003 – 2005. The Governor also highlighted broadband internet use as another way people can live and work in Aroostook County – or anywhere in Maine – and be successful. In addition to the ribbon cutting, Governor Baldacci also flipped the switch on Northern Aroostook Regional Airport’s new runway lights, which are part of several major improvements being done at the airport.

The Governor is committed to growing new business and industry, thereby creating more opportunities for Maine families. Governor Baldacci’s economic plan includes targeted investments and tax incentives that help existing businesses expand, as well as attract new businesses to the state. The Pine Tree Zone program is creating more than 3,000 new jobs statewide. More people are working than ever before in Maine. The Governor’s economic plan has made Maine stronger and more competitive in the 21st century economy, creating a solid foundation for economic growth so that all Maine people and families have the tools to realize their goals.

## Governor Baldacci Applauds Louisiana Pacific's Expansion

September 6, 2006

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NEW LIMERICK – Governor John E. Baldacci congratulated Louisiana-Pacific Corporation (LP) on its plans to make an investment of more than \$100 million into its Houlton mill, with plans to convert the mill into a high-tech engineered wood manufacturer.

“LP chose the New Limerick facility as the site of its high-tech expansion because of the quality of the work force here in Maine,” said Governor Baldacci. “Maine’s workers are an extremely valuable asset to our economy and I thank LP for recognizing that we have the best work force in the nation here in Maine.”

The investment will convert the facility into a manufacturer of oriented strand lumber (OSL), an engineered wood product used in various home construction applications. The plant will be LP’s first facility to produce OSL and one of the few OSL plants in North America when it begins manufacturing OSL in late 2007. The facility currently manufactures oriented strand board (OSB).

The OSL investment includes new buildings and new equipment. In addition to new jobs to run the converted plant, more than 300 contractors will be employed during construction of the expanded facility. LP Houlton currently employs 124 workers.

“The future of Maine’s economy is in technology and research and development,” said the Governor. “Through R&D, Louisiana-Pacific in New Limerick is delving into an entirely new product line, expanding operations and growing in an industry that is important to this state.”

Governor Baldacci has lead the charge for Maine to strengthen its position in the global innovation driven economy through consistent and strategically focused investments. Between 2003 and 2005, institutional personnel in R&D increased 67%, faculty involved in R&D grew 66% and institutional R&D space grew 40%. The Governor stressed the importance of continuing to keep pace in the global economy by increasing investments in Maine’s current proven programs; expanding higher education to increase the state’s knowledge based work force; and growing and recruiting mid to large size innovation driven companies in Maine.

“Research and development is such a large part of Maine’s success in the wood composites industry, because it is such an ever-changing industry and new technologies are leading the way,” said Governor Baldacci. “These new technologies and growth like we’re seeing here in New Limerick at LP is the future of the forest products business.”

## Governor Welcomes First Students of Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

September 7, 2006

ORONO – Governor John Baldacci today joined University of Maine President Robert A. Kennedy in welcoming the twelve graduate students of the new biomedical program at the University of Maine. The biomedical school is a signature initiative of the Governor. He discussed the plan in his 2005 State of the State Address, and worked with the University to designate over \$350,000 in scholarship funds for students in the bio-medical graduate school.

The Governor noted that the school integrates two of his goals for growing Maine's economy: increasing opportunities for higher education and workforce training, and building the capacity in Maine for research and development, technology and innovation to thrive, attracting more good paying jobs to the state.

"Building our research and development capacity has been a cornerstone of my economic plan to grow good paying jobs in Maine and moving our economy into the 21st Century," said the Governor. "By creating this graduate school, we're better aligning our education system with Maine's research and development strengths. It's not enough anymore to have world class research institutions like Jackson Lab. We are driving Maine's innovation economy by combining cutting edge research with education, training, entrepreneurship, and finance."

The Governor told the students, "We have a system in place that will allow every student in this room today to become a business leader in Maine's economy. We have solid plans for your future here in Maine." Nine of the students have Maine roots.

The graduate school is a collaborative effort between a number of vibrant research institutions in the state: the University of Maine; the University of Southern Maine; the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine; the Jackson Laboratory; the Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory; Maine Medical Center Research Institute; and Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems.

Currently, research and development activity directly supports more than 11,000 jobs in Maine. The University of Maine's research activity has tripled in the past decade. In the period from 2003 to 2005 institutional personnel in R&D increased 67% in Maine; institutional R&D space grew 40%; and faculty involved in R&D grew 66%.

## Governor Orders Flags at Half Staff, Invites Public to September 11 Ceremony at State House

September 8, 2006

AUGUSTA - In accordance with President Bush's proclamation and with Federal Public law 107-89, designating September 11th each year as "Patriot Day", Governor John Baldacci has directed that the United States flag and the State of Maine flag be flown at half staff from sunrise to sunset Monday, September 11, 2006.

This year marks the fifth anniversary of the attacks on September 11, 2001.

The public is invited to a ceremony to mark this anniversary on Monday, September 11, 2006 at the State House at 12:00 noon. The location is the State House in Augusta, State Street entrance steps. Rain location is the Hall of Flags.

The ceremony will honor and remember those lost in the attacks as well as those who risked their lives to help in the response and recovery. First responders will be recognized for their continued service to protect the public.

Speaking at the ceremony will be the Governor, Senate President Beth Edmonds, Speaker of the House John Richardson, Senate Minority Leader Paul Davis, House Assistant Minority Leader Joshua Tardy, Senator Arthur Mayo and Bath Fire Fighter Captain Michael Clarke. The Bath Fire Department Color Guard will perform at the ceremony.

A September 11th memorial from the Bath Fire Department, constructed with a section of a girder from the World Trade Center, remains on display in the Hall of Flags and will remain at the State House until September 15.



## Governor Marks 9/11 Anniversary

September 11, 2006

AUGUSTA – On the fifth year anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks, Governor John Baldacci reflected on the loss felt by the nation. Five years ago the Governor – then a U.S. Congressman - was in Washington on the morning of those attacks. Today he recounted his personal experiences.

“Following the immediate chaos as Capitol Hill offices were evacuated, there grew a deep sense of national unity that crossed boundaries of party, ideology, and geography,” said the Governor. “We owe it to those who lost their lives and those who helped save lives to never forget. Our message to those here and abroad should be that we can overcome all obstacles when we are united as a nation.”

Speaking at a State House event this afternoon, Governor Baldacci thanked all first responders for their continued efforts to protect the people of Maine and the nation. Representatives from local fire departments and police units were joined on the State House steps with members of the State Police, National Guard, state legislators, and other public servants.

The Governor recognized Bath Fire Department Captain Michael Clarke, who assisted in the response and recovery efforts in New York City following the attacks, also spoke. A memorial created by the Bath Fire Department made from a section of a girder from the World Trade Center has been on display at the State House in Augusta and will remain there until Friday, September 15. Captain Clarke’s request to the New York City Fire Department for a piece of the debris was one of only 25 honored in the country.

“I hope that when we look upon this memorial and when we recall September 11th, we will always remember that the freedom and liberty enjoyed in America are great blessings that we must never take for granted,” said the Governor.

## Governor Baldacci Encourages Combined Economic Efforts Between Maine and New Hampshire

September 12, 2006

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PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE – Governor John E. Baldacci stressed once again this morning the importance of regionalization to give Maine and New Hampshire a powerful, new economic future for the two-state region. Governor Baldacci made that statement at an economic summit being held in Portsmouth, New Hampshire called “Looking Beyond the Shipyard: Finding Common Ground on Which to Advance Our Regional Economy.”

“York County in Maine, and Rockingham and Strafford Counties in New Hampshire have a combined population of over 600,000 and a labor force of over 350,000 workers,” said Governor Baldacci. “The region has low unemployment, a highly educated workforce, solid population gains and good job growth. We are planning the future from a position of strength.”

Governor Baldacci supported the summit through his administration, which was attended by commissioners, regional professionals and former Maine Governor Angus King.

“In today’s fast paced global economy, state and regional boundaries are no longer impediments to the flow of capital and labor,” said the Governor. “We must constantly strive to find comparative advantage and push the frontiers of economic development.”

Governor Baldacci reminded the participants of the summit that it was just over a year ago that the two states stood together to fight the BRAC decision to close the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. Because of the workforce from the two states and the efforts of Governor Baldacci and Governor Lynch, as well as the Congressional Delegations from the two states, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard remains open to this day. Governor Baldacci says that success will continue as the two states work together on projects such as expansion of the passenger rail system, broadband access, and R&D.

“In the area of research and development, we have three major collaborations ongoing between the University of New Hampshire and Maine-based universities and research groups,” said Governor Baldacci.

Current ongoing collaborations include The Green Chemistry Consortium with the University of Maine and the University of New Hampshire; The Center for Environmental Health & Toxicology with the University of Southern Maine and the University of New Hampshire; and the Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System with Portland field expertise combined with UNH academic expertise.

In Maine, Governor Baldacci has also backed the expansion of passenger rail, recently issuing an Executive Order to continue rail service into more northern areas of the state; as well as expanding

broadband access through his Connect ME initiative and the Connect ME Authority who had its first meeting last month.

Governor Baldacci has also launched the WIRED project to boost the growth of Maine's boat building industry, a Maine industry older than the state itself.

"We are breaking new ground here through an industry lead collaboration that will result in business, jobs and income growth," said Governor Baldacci. "That is something where Maine and New Hampshire should be proud to continue to work together."

## Governor Baldacci Says Maine's Paper Industry is Strong

September 12, 2006

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ROCKPORT – Governor John E. Baldacci told officials in the paper industry that his support of the industry remains strong and unwavering. The Governor said that the paper industry in this state is strong, as Maine is the 2nd leading producer of pulp and paper in the country, next to Wisconsin.

"Make no mistake about it, there are challenges facing the paper industry not only in this state, but throughout the country," said Governor Baldacci. "But with hard work, well thought out planning and some Yankee ingenuity, we pull together and we show the country that Maine workers are the gold standard."

Governor Baldacci reminded the attendees at the "Future of the Paper Industry Conference" at the Samoset in Rockport that Chairman Principi called Maine workers the gold standard when the BRAC Commission was talking about closing DFAS Limestone and the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery. Governor Baldacci said that success throughout the state is due in part to the hard working attitude of Mainers.

"Take a look at the success in Lincoln – there is a new \$36 million tissue machine that has become operational in the past couple of weeks and there are currently 400 employees working at that facility," said Governor Baldacci. "Take a look at the success in Aroostook County – when Louisiana Pacific was looking to expand, they did it in New Limerick, Maine at their Houlton facility – because of the gold standard of workers. L-P is a prime example of looking to the future of the industry through research and development."

Governor Baldacci's emphasis on R&D continues as the state strengthens its position in a global innovation driven economy through consistent and strategically focused investment. Between 2003 – 2005, institutional personnel in R&D increased 67% in Maine; faculty involved in R&D grew 66%; and institutional R&D space grew 40%. Governor Baldacci encouraged the innovation driven economy in Maine and said that he has worked hard to build it in Maine.

"That's why we held the Blaine House Conference on the Natural Resource Based industry; that's why we have worked hard to re-open four paper mills when they closed; that's why we repealed the Personal Property Tax; and that's why we're forging ahead with the initiatives that have been talked about at today's conference with regards to new technology," said the Governor. "All of this is why I have placed such an emphasis on the natural based economy within my administration – because I understand that this economy, including wood production, is the backbone of Northern and Western Maine."

## Governor Unveils New \$7 Million Energy Loan Program

September 13, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor Baldacci unveiled today another innovative program from his Administration to assist Maine families in meeting this winter's home heating bills. The new \$7 million Home Energy Loan Program (HELP) provides low interest rate energy improvement loans to Maine's working families.

"This is welcome news to Maine homeowners who are concerned about the high cost of heating their homes this winter, and in paying for their overall energy needs," Governor Baldacci said. "MaineHousing estimates that HELP may enable homeowners to cut their yearly energy consumption by up to 20 percent."

The MaineHousing (Maine State Housing Authority) program provides loans of up to \$15,000 at an interest rate as low as one percent to homeowners with incomes up to 115 percent of the area median income. Loans are used to invest in improvements. Loans are made at one percent interest to homeowners who make improvements suggested by a certified energy auditor, and at three percent interest to those who do not use an energy auditor. The cost of the energy audit may be included in the loan.

The HELP loans can finance energy improvements in one-four unit owner occupied homes and mobile homes less than 20 years old. Owners of those properties are eligible to apply if their incomes are within the following limits:

"We think this is an important and beneficial program for Maine's homeowners, and for the state of Maine," said MaineHousing Director Dale McCormick. "Governor Baldacci has encouraged us to make Maine more energy independent, and save some homeowners money. HELP is a step toward that goal."

McCormick said HELP loans can be used to fund a variety of energy conservation measures, including insulation and weather-stripping, heating system repair or replacement, storm doors and storm windows, purchase of Energy Star rated appliances and windows, and others.

The loans are available from the following lenders: Bath Savings Institution; Camden National Bank; Northeast Bank; Northeast Home Loan; Norway Savings Bank; Skowhegan Savings Bank; The First; and United Kingfield Bank.

The Governor was pleased by the decision from the federal government to release Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) emergency funds, \$7 million of which will come to Maine. In addition to the Baldacci Administration's efforts to have these LIHEAP funds released, the Governor initiated Operation Keep ME Warm, a volunteer program that provides and installs energy efficiency materials in certain LIHEAP-eligible homes. The Governor and the Legislature worked earlier this year to ensure that \$5 million was available to Maine people who rely on LIHEAP, and the Governor established a Keep Maine Warm Charitable Fuel Fund to raise money so that Maine people in need could obtain

further relief. Additionally, the Governor has made energy conservation and investments in renewable energy a priority of his Administration.

Program Details:

Objective: Statewide program to help homeowners reduce energy costs. Although results will vary, owners who make energy conservation improvements identified in an energy audit may realize reductions in energy consumption ranging from 15% to 20% annually.

Eligible Clients: Households that meet first time homebuyer income limits: Portland/So. Portland MSA (including Cumberland, Sagadahoc & York Counties): 1-2 person=\$65,350; 3 or more=\$75,150.

All Other Counties: 1-2 person=\$55,600; 3 or more=\$63,940.

Eligible Properties: 1 to 4 unite owner occupied homes and mobile homes up to and including those 20 years of age.

Eligible improvements:

Cost of energy Audit

Insulation, air sealing & weather-stripping

Heating system repair & replacement

Storm windows & doors

Energy Star rated windows & appliances

Ventilation & moisture controls

Roof repairs if attic insulated to R-38

Energy Auditors: Must be certified by one of the following: State of Maine; Building Performance Institute (BPI); Residential Energy Services Network; Northeast Home Energy Rating System Alliance.

Funds available: \$7 million

Loan Terms & Options:

Maximum loan amount: \$15,000

Maximum term: 15 years

1% interest loans if owner hires a certified energy auditor and implements recommendations of the energy audit

3% interest loans if owner chooses not to use a certified energy auditor.

Underwriting: Debt to Income Ratio up to 45%; Loan to Value up to 106% (100% for mobile homes)

3rd Party Fees: Paid by borrower; may be added to the loan amount.

Program Delivery: HELP approved lenders. Lenders earn origination fee of \$400/loan paid by MaineHousing.

Participating Lenders:

Bath Savings Institution

Norway Savings Bank

Camden National Bank

Skowhegan Savings Bank

Northeast Bank

Northeast Home Loan

The First

UnitedKingfield Bank

Lender Responsibilities: Submits loans to MaineHousing for purchase immediately after right of rescission expiration. Manages escrow account. Escrow funds must be disbursed within 6 months from date of closing. Upon final escrow disbursement, executes Completion Affidavit.

Loan Servicing: All loans must be service released to Financial Institution Services Corporation (FISC)

For more information, contact MaineHousing at 626-4600 or visit [www.mainehousing.org](http://www.mainehousing.org).

## Governor Delivers First LIHEAP Check

September 14, 2006

Program expects to serve 50,000 households this winter

PORTLAND – Governor John Baldacci today highlighted another way to keep Mainers warm this winter. The Governor and MaineHousing Director Dale McCormick delivered the first heating assistance payment of the 2006-07 heating season. The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is one way that many Maine families meet a portion of their winter season energy needs. The Governor has made it a priority of his Administration to ensure all Maine people are able to stay safe and warm in their homes.

Delivering the LIHEAP check to Giroux Oil Service Company, Inc., of Portland, and owners Steve, Bill, and Max Giroux, the Governor thanked them for their commitment to serve LIHEAP recipients. He noted the importance of the program to tens of thousands of Maine families.

“We expect home heating costs will be more expensive this year than last, presenting a challenge to many Mainers,” said Governor Baldacci. “My Administration is continuing efforts to stretch our LIHEAP dollars, and to promote innovative programs to assist Maine people meet their heating needs.”

This year the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) will help an estimated 50,000 Maine households with an estimated \$30 million in heating assistance payments.

“Even with the announcement Tuesday of the federal government’s release of \$7 million in emergency LIHEAP funds, the need remains great for Maine people,” said the Governor. “My Administration has advocated for additional LIHEAP funds, but we also are pursuing other initiatives.”

Yesterday the Governor unveiled a new \$7 million Home Energy Loan Program (HELP) to provides low interest rate energy improvement loans to Maine’s working families. In 2004, the Governor initiated Operation Keep ME Warm, a program that provides and with the help of volunteers installs energy efficiency materials in certain LIHEAP-eligible homes. Operation Keep ME Warm has set a goal of winterizing 3,000 homes between October 19th and 22nd.

The Governor and the Legislature worked earlier this year to ensure that \$5 million was available to Maine people who rely on LIHEAP. Governor Baldacci established a Keep Maine Warm Charitable Fuel Fund to raise additional funds for relief to Maine people in need. Additionally, the Governor has made energy conservation and investments in renewable energy a priority of his Administration.

Director McCormick noted that some help for customers will come from the new LIHEAP pricing system that MaineHousing adopted this year. Rather than pay oil dealers the cash price for oil for LIHEAP deliveries, MaineHousing is giving dealers the option of using either a discount off their normal retail price, or a set amount over their wholesale price.



"We estimate that the new pricing system will generate about 450,000 to 500,000 gallons of additional heating oil for LIHEAP customers," McCormick said.

McCormick said the actual LIHEAP funding for the 2006-07 season will not be known until Congress acts. Last year Congress did not settle the LIHEAP budget until February.

People interested in seeking LIHEAP assistance should apply for it at their regional Community Action Program (CAP) agency. This year the CAPs started taking applications in the summer.

MaineHousing anticipates that the CAP agencies will process about 90 percent of the applications by the end of December, generating up to \$20 million in benefits.

## Governor Urges Early Planning for College Savings

September 14, 2006

AUGUSTA - Governor John Baldacci today highlighted the NextGen First Step Grant Program as a way for more Maine people to plan children's post-secondary education. The First Step program is one of many unique college savings programs the Governor promotes as part of his education plan for Maine.

Proclaiming September as College Savings Month, the Governor noted the importance of higher education to Maine people and to the future economy of Maine. "Our children's future is Maine's future," said the Governor. "A vital workforce is the key to a successful economy in Maine. That's why a priority of my Administration has been to ensure all Maine people can access higher education and training opportunities.

"Among my initiatives," continued the Governor, "I have been working with the Finance Authority of Maine to make it easier for both parents and children to begin saving for the future. Saving for college is a great way for Maine families to prepare for the cost of college, and it's never too late to start," said Governor Baldacci, pointing to the NextGen College Investing Plan, Maine's "529" college savings plan, and the First Step Grant Program.

"With the recent launch of the First Step Grant Program, every Maine child born after January 1, 2006 is eligible for a \$50 grant," he said. "In addition, I'll be awarding a First Step recipient born in 2006 with a \$1,000 First Step Grant Scholarship in January of 2007."

The First Step Program is the latest in Governor Baldacci's initiative to help families plan for the costs of education. The Finance Authority of Maine (FAME), which administers the NextGen Plan, has launched an aggressive public relations campaign to let Mainers know that Programs like the First Step Grant are available. In addition to a mailing that is received by the family of every newborn in Maine, FAME will begin airing television commercials reminding families to participate which Governor Baldacci showed at today's press conference.

"The First Step Grant is just that: a first step," added John Witherspoon, Chief Executive Officer of the Finance Authority of Maine. "And NextGen accounts can be opened by parents, grandparents and even family friends, regardless of income, or residency. You can even open an account for yourself and pursue your own higher education."

Maine's NextGen Plan is the 6th largest section 529 plan in the nation. And, NextGen is committed to Maine, having invested more than \$14 million in Maine banks since its inception.

"Investing for college is about improving futures for our children and for our state," said State Treasurer Dave Lemoine. "Our NextGen Plan is one of the premier investment tools available in this effort.

Treasurer Lemoine, who provides investment oversight to FAME on its Maine's college savings program, added, "We're also proud to say that Maine is the first state in the nation to allow a tax-deduction to

those who contribute to any 529 plan, so eligible Maine 529 investors will receive a tax benefit for investing in the section 529 plan of their choice.”

Lemoine pointed out that, in addition to benefiting from the traditional NextGen accounts, families with an adjusted gross income of \$54,500 or less are eligible for a NextGen Matching Grant Program through which they would receive an additional \$200 grant upon opening a new NextGen account with only \$50.

FAME also recently partnered with the Maine Department of Labor to establish the Life Long Learning Accounts (Maine LiLA Program), which promotes employer-matched, employee-owned NextGen accounts so that Maine workers can upgrade their skills and education while meeting the demands of businesses for a skilled work force.

“It’s never too early or too late to save for college or to enhance your skills through continuing education for skill enhancement, and Maine is making it easy to do so with NextGen and the Maine LiLA Program,” said Witherspoon. “But what’s most important is that any amount Maine families are able to save today will enable them to leverage college debt with college savings in the future.”

For more information on NextGen, contact FAME at 1-800-228-3734 or visit <http://www.famemaine.com/html/education/nextgen.htm>.

## Governor Announces Expansion of Maine Home Performance Residential Energy Efficiency Program

September 15, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci wrapped up a series of home heating events this week with an announcement on the receipt of a federal Department of Energy grant. The Governor announced today that the grant will enable the expansion of residential energy efficiency assistance for Maine homeowners. The program, which the Governor unveiled last month, is the Maine Home Performance with Energy Star (Maine HP) pilot program. The program provides Maine homeowners a “whole house” approach to reducing their energy bills, improving comfort, reducing maintenance costs and improving the health of buildings.

The Governor said the pilot program was awarded a \$500,000 competitive grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). “I am pleased that the federal government has recognized the value of this innovative new way to increase the energy efficiency of Maine families’ homes,” said the Governor. “Many of these homeowners will be able to take advantage of the Maine Housing Authority’s low interest rate Home Energy Loan Program (HELP) that I announced two days ago. Maine HP home energy improvements can reduce energy use by up to 50 percent and can improve indoor air quality and the home’s comfort and durability.”

Under Maine HP, contractors are currently being trained to perform home energy audits and use green energy technology and building science to solve a wide range of typical problems experienced by Maine homeowners. The pilot program is currently available in York, Cumberland and Androscoggin Counties. The federal grant will enable the program to be extended geographically, with the eventual goal to have the benefits extended statewide.

“This grant will permit us to expand the geographic reach of this program,” commented Beth Nagusky, Governor Baldacci’s Director of Energy Independence. “We are hopeful that these funds will enable us to leverage additional funds to take the program statewide soon. Heating fuel prices have nearly doubled in the past two years, and Maine consumers are paying some of the highest electric rates in the country. Reducing our use of fossil fuels will not only save money and make Maine more energy independent, it will also help reduce greenhouse gas emissions responsible for global warming.”

The grant process was administered by the Maine Public Utilities Commission’s State Energy Program. Kurt Adams, Chairman of the Maine Public Utilities Commission (PUC), commented, “The PUC was pleased to partner with the Office of Energy Independence and secure this significant piece of funding from DOE for the Maine Home Performance with ENERGY STAR program. Maine has some of the oldest and most inefficient housing stock in the country. With our cold winters and rising energy costs, Maine’s low and middle income families are having a hard time keeping up. The DOE’s grant for the residential energy efficiency program will help thousands of people reduce their energy bills.”

Maine HP contractors will be trained and certified by mid-October in York, Cumberland, and Androscoggin counties. Maine's WB-TV, in partnership with Efficiency Maine, the Office of Energy Independence, and local businesses, is running a contest and will give away a whole house energy makeover to one lucky Maine family.

The program is receiving financial and in-kind support for this program from Northern Utilities (NiSource), Maine PUC's Efficiency Maine program, the Maine State Housing Authority (MSHA) and the Maine Oil Dealers Association. For more information on the Maine Home Performance with ENERGY STAR program visit [www.mainehomeperformance.org](http://www.mainehomeperformance.org)

or for tips on ways to save energy in your homes visit, [www efficiencymaine.com](http://www efficiencymaine.com).

## Governor Baldacci Leads Anti-Sweatshop Movement Among States

September 18, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci welcomed news that the governors of Pennsylvania and New Jersey have joined his initiative to end sweatshop exploitation. Governor Baldacci noted that Maine leads the way in this issue, ensuring that employees have fair working conditions and are paid fair wages, here and across the world.

"I am pleased that New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine and Pennsylvania Governor Edward Rendell have announced that their states will join Maine's new initiative to end sweatshop exploitation in apparel and other industries," said Governor Baldacci. The Governors' Coalition for Sweatfree Procurement and Workers' Rights will use state government procurement as a way to level the playing field for ethical businesses and advance justice for sweatshop workers.

"There's power in numbers," said Governor John E. Baldacci. "We've been doing great work on anti-sweatshop procurement in Maine, but as we team up with other states we'll have even more influence in the global marketplace. Workers around the world deserve any influence or leverage we can bring to the table."

The State of Maine adopted the nation's first sweatfree procurement law in 2001 to end taxpayer support for sweatshop abuses. The centerpiece of the law is a code of conduct requiring state contractors and subcontractors of apparel, textiles, and footwear to adhere to basic international fair labor standards. But "we can accomplish more together" Governor Baldacci noted in a letter he sent to the nation's governors on February 28. Governor Baldacci proposed a new collaborative effort to use state government procurement as a tool level the playing field for ethical businesses and advance justice for sweatshop workers.

"We must not encourage companies that use sweatshops by doing business with them," Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell said. "If companies know they will lose money by continuing to employ this industrial-age practice, they will stop. Businesses can still make money by treating their employees fairly."

The Governor's Coalition for Sweatfree Procurement and Workers' Rights will consider a variety of strategies to end sweatshop abuses including cost-effective and reliable independent monitoring mechanisms of contractor and subcontractor manufacturing facilities. The coalition will also consider forming a purchasing consortium to allow states to leverage purchasing power in support of sweatfree supplier factories.

Below is the text of the letter Governor Baldacci sent to the other governors.

February 28, 2006

Re: Formulation of a Governor's Coalition for Sweatfree Procurement

Dear Governor:

I am writing to invite you to join me in a new collaborative effort to level the playing field for ethical businesses and advance justice for workers laboring in substandard work environments - commonly known and referred to as "sweatshops" - worldwide.

Sweatshop conditions in apparel and other industries around the world and in the United States are well documented. Young women and children work long hours for poverty wages in inhumane conditions until they are worn out and unemployable. These abuses cause untold human suffering and economic and political volatility across the globe.

State government procurement is a tool which we can use responsibly to address this serious problem, as procurement laws and policies may be implemented to stop contractors and vendors that do business with State governments from relying on sweatshop labor as a tool to underbid responsible contractors or to maximize their profits inhumanely.

In 2001, for example, the State of Maine adopted a sweatfree procurement law to end unsuspecting taxpayer support for sweatshop abuses and to help create market demand for fair labor standards. The centerpiece of that law is a contractor- and subcontractor-binding code of conduct, which includes the requirement that contractors and subcontractors adhere to basic international standards of workplace fairness and safety.

Presently we are updating our statutes and our rules to keep them current with emerging best practices. Most significantly, we are taking steps to guarantee sweatfree procurement by examining protocols for independent monitoring and inspecting of supplier factories.

Yet we can accomplish more together. If we work together as States, we can both learn from each other and better leverage our resources.

I propose that we form a coalition of Governors and States - as an initial step to best align our common experience and interests and resources. Our coalition will explore and develop strategies soon after formation, including the possibility of joining existing coalitions of universities and emerging coalitions of cities already working together to put an end to procurement from sweatshops. Moreover, the coalition could consider the use or formation of a consortium - such as the Worker Rights Consortium, which has worked well for universities - to investigate complaints of States' contractors and subcontractors subjecting their workers to sweatshop conditions.

If you are interested in joining this new and important coalition I am proposing, please review the attached resolution, sign it and return it if possible, or contact my staff with any changes that might be necessary for you to come on board. My lead staff person on this initiative is Alan Stearns, who can be reached in my office at (207) 287-3531 (voice); (207) 287-1034 (fax); or alan.stearns@maine.gov (e-mail). Our goal is to have an initial conference call of signatory or interested coalition members by April 1, 2006. I hope you will come to the table with staff assignments, resources to support their leadership, and recognition that with focus and coordination we can make progress.

Please join me in standing up for good jobs and justice for workers in the United States and around the world. I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

John E. Baldacci

Governor



## Governor Baldacci Calls R&D the Future of Maine's Economy

September 18, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

SOUTH PORTLAND – Governor John E. Baldacci said that a large part of the future of the state's economy is dependant on research and development. The Governor emphasized the importance of R&D to the crowd at the annual Maine Technology Institute Mixer.

"As well positioned as we are as a state, the longer we stay idle, the quicker someone else will pass us by coming up with new ideas, new technology and new jobs," Governor Baldacci told the attendees at the mixer. "All of you understand this and you don't want to be passed by someone else."

The Governor praised the efforts by the Maine Technology Institute to continue to make investments in research and development. MTI has approved 824 projects for funding, totaling more than \$32 million and matched by over \$53 million since 1999.

"These investments are paying off for small businesses, larger companies, the textile industry, the boatbuilding industry," said the Governor, "they are all more competitive and creating more sustainable jobs while stimulating Maine's economy. This is helping your friends, neighbors and families right here in Maine."

The Governor said that research and development throughout the state has increased in the past three and a half years.

"Institutional personnel in R&D increased 67%, faculty involved in R&D grew by 66% and institutional R&D space grew 40%," said Governor Baldacci. "Innovation-based economic development is being achieved in your state."

Governor Baldacci congratulated the three Maine businesses who received North Star Alliance funding through MTI – Small Craft Engineering LLC in Portland; Bruce Schwab Rumbleseat Rigging LLC in Woolwich; and Duncan Design in Portland. The fund is intended to target boatbuilding, marine trade and composites industries.

"We are working in a global economy and MTI is fitting well into the state's plan for R&D and economic development by making it a priority for Mainers," said Governor Baldacci. "I support this institute because I know what benefits we will see as a state when you support R&D."

In Maine, R&D activity directly supports over 11,000 jobs; over 500 companies have been assisted, mostly through MTI, creating over 600 jobs in the past 3 years; the University's research activity has tripled in the past decade; and Maine's federal research funding ranks 22nd in the country.

Governor Baldacci is looking to continue the progress made in Maine on research and development by increasing investments in the state's current programs; expanding higher education; and growing and recruiting mid to large size innovation-driven companies.

"Clearly, an innovation driven economy is good for Maine and good for all of us," said Governor Baldacci. "Our plan will continue to bring prosperity, jobs and economic stability to this state for years to come."

## Governor Baldacci Celebrates LL Bean Book Tour Kickoff

September 18, 2006

FALMOUTH – Governor John E. Baldacci praised Leon Gorman for a well written book about a remarkable career at a celebrated Maine business. “L.L. Bean: The Making of an American Icon” is a first hand account from Gorman about his 40 years at L.L. Bean and the history of the Maine business.

“This is an important book that tells a great story of a homegrown company that has risen to world recognition as both a successful business and a brand,” said Governor Baldacci. “It is an interesting read not just for business entrepreneurs, but also for those interested in the mystique behind the company. The L.L. Bean story is one of which all Mainers can be proud.”

Governor Baldacci praised L.L. Bean workers – the recipients of the dedication of Gorman’s book – and Maine workers in general for being the “gold standard” of the work force.

“Maine workers are called the gold standard of workers because of their work ethic and ability to roll up our sleeves and get the job done,” said the Governor. “That’s been extremely important to the success of L.L. Bean.” Governor Baldacci also applauded Gorman for his personal ability to lead by example. The Governor said that Gorman has given back to the community in several ways, including serving on the Board of Land for Maine’s Future; serving on the Governor’s Community College Advisory Council; sending 22 immigrant teens to the YMCA Summer Camps for the past 10 years; and working the grill at the Preble Street Resource Center. Governor Baldacci said that Gorman should be thanked not just for giving through financial investments, but also for giving many investments of his own personal time to various causes.

“As always, Leon Gorman is helping to promote the State of Maine in the very best way,” said Governor Baldacci.

## Governor Baldacci Proclaims Day for Two Boys in Peru, Maine

September 19, 2006

PERU – Governor John E. Baldacci has proclaimed September 19, 2006 as Trevor & Travis Desmond Day throughout the State of Maine. The Governor made the announcement during a ceremony at Peru Elementary School honoring the two boys for saving their father's life.

"These boys are true heroes," said Governor Baldacci. "On July 3rd, they experienced a true life or death situation. They were cool, calm and collective and they saved their father's life."

The two boys – aged 11 and 9 - were preparing to go fishing with their father, Mark when the boat that he was working on slipped off a trailer and nearly crushed him. The two boys responded quickly by contacting paramedics and treating the wounds until authorities arrived, most likely saving their father's life.

"A situation like this shows us the importance of teaching our kids how to handle emergencies if they should occur," said the Governor. "We hope that these types of emergencies won't happen often in our lives, but when they do happen we would like to think that we will all act the same way that Trevor and Travis did a couple of months ago."

Trevor and Travis Desmond were at the ceremony at Peru Elementary School with their parents Mark and Tracy, as well as classmates, teachers, family members, first responders, and LifeFlight personnel. The Governor told the crowd of more than 100 people that the first responders, LifeFlight of Maine, Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston were also critical in saving Mark Desmond's life.

"Every link in this system worked on July 3rd in Peru, and that could be the main reason that Mark is around today," said the Governor. "This entire system was initiated by Trevor and Travis. Had they not performed so professionally, calmly and mature, we don't know – and don't want to think about – what the outcome may have been."

Governor Baldacci said that it was important to honor the two boys statewide as he presented the two boys with official state proclamations.

"Congratulations to the two of you for an amazing accomplishment," said Governor Baldacci, "and thank you for being a model for all Mainers to look to when we face an emergency."

## Governor Baldacci Congratulates Mercy Hospital

September 19, 2006

PORTLAND – Governor John E. Baldacci congratulated Mercy Hospital on the groundbreaking of the new Fore River Hospital.

“This represents the beginning of the next great step in Mercy’s healing mission that has served the Greater Portland community for nearly a century,” said Governor Baldacci. “The new hospital and this campus will provide a state of the art facility that will continue to attract and retain some of the finest clinicians throughout southern Maine.”

In March of this year, Mercy Hospital was honored with the Governor’s Award for Business Excellence. Governor Baldacci said that quality healthcare is typical throughout southern Maine.

“The new Mercy Hospital represents a continuation of tradition in excellence of healthcare as it will combine advanced technology and innovative treatments at this new site and in its new healing environment,” said the Governor.

The Fore River Hospital site is accessible via the I-295 connector, a project that Governor Baldacci worked on while he was in Congress. The Governor was recognized for his involvement in that project which opened in November of 2005.

The Governor was joined at the celebration by Maine Bishop Richard Malone, Portland Mayor Jim Cohen, and several other dignitaries, employees, board members, sisters and staff of the hospital.

## Governor Opens Pandemic and Avian Influenza Summit

September 20, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci today discussed the continuing process by the State to prepare for and respond to possible influenza outbreaks. The Governor welcomed the 1,100 participants of the Maine Center for Disease Control's Pandemic and Avian Influenza Preparedness Summit at the Augusta Civic Center.

"Mainers take pride in their communities and how we take care of each other," said Governor Baldacci. "My Administration has been working to ensure we have the information and tools accessible to citizens and public and private organizations so that we are best prepared for influenza and other emergencies."

The Governor noted the strong showing at the conference of state departments, health professionals, educators, businesses, and organizations that work daily to improve the health and welfare of Maine people. Following the Governor's remarks, discussions of a past pandemic influenza were detailed. Maine departments of Health and Human Services, Agriculture, Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Emergency Management Agency, and Emergency Medical Services were on hand to participate in breakout sessions regarding their preparedness efforts.

This spring, the Governor unveiled a new state website devoted to influenza. The website is another example of the strong private public partnership that has been established to address this public health and safety issue.

"I've been striving as Governor to constantly improve our preparedness and response capabilities," said Governor Baldacci. "We have an opportunity to make significant improvements in Maine's preparedness for our people and communities."

For more information on the summit, please visit <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh>

For more information about influenza, please visit [www.maineinflu.gov](http://www.maineinflu.gov)

## Governor Announces Commitment to Increase Funding for Biomedical and Stem Cell Research

September 20, 2006

SCARBOROUGH – Governor John Baldacci today announced that he intends to increase state funding for biomedical and stem cell research in the next biennium. The Governor joined spinal cord injury advocate Travis Roy at the Maine Medical Center Research Institute (MMCRI), a facility that has been working on groundbreaking biomedical research.

“I’m here today with a simple message,” said the Governor. “If we support biomedical research and development, we create jobs and save the lives of Maine people. Stem cell research holds the potential to lead to the most remarkable scientific advancements in medical history. We can’t risk the federal government dragging us backward on innovation.”

Governor Baldacci noted that collaboration with the private sector is needed to ensure research and development goals move forward. “Report after report on Maine’s economy says we must invest more. I’m here today to commit to increased funding for R&D in all technology sectors -- including biomedical research -- in the next biennium. I’ve asked DECD Commissioner Jack Cashman to prepare a specific plan for investments. In the next budget cycle, we must substantially increase our investment in innovation and our economy.”

The Governor pointed to important research currently underway in Maine, emphasizing the need to expand such research capabilities. “The research at labs like this one will help thousands if not millions of Americans who have Parkinson’s, spinal cord injuries, Alzheimer’s, and other medical conditions,” said the Governor. “Here in Scarborough, stem cell research is positioning us for breakthroughs in therapy for damaged kidneys, bones, blood and blood vessels.”

The state has invested almost \$3.5 million dollars in buildings and equipment at the MMCRI facility. That has built a foundation to allow doctors to compete for federal research dollars, bringing people and jobs and money and healthcare to Maine. An \$11 million dollar stem cell grant received from the National Institutes of Health is just part of the return on investment to Maine taxpayers.

“During my Administration to date, we have invested more in R&D in the last four years than during any other four year period in Maine’s history,” said Governor Baldacci. “When we talk about R&D, what we’re really talking about is high paying careers for Maine people, including our young college graduates, for our future. Our investments are paying off. We are transforming our economy. We are building on the innovation, hard work and entrepreneurial spirit of Maine people to generate new knowledge, build new companies, transform existing industries and create jobs. We need to increase investments our proven research strengths, expand higher education to increase our knowledge based work force; and grow and recruit mid to large size innovation driven companies.”

The Governor also today renewed his call on Congress to reverse the Bush Administration’s ban on new lines of stem cells for public health research. “During my time as Governor and Congressman, I have met

so many Mainers and their families who suffer from these conditions. I share with them the hope that stem cell research will unlock cures. We must respect the important ethical issues associated with all research, but we should not stay silent while some stand in the way of ethical and vital scientific and medical research.”



## Global Study Says Maine Brand Known World-Wide

September 20, 2006

AUGUSTA – The Anholt State Brands Index (SBI), a survey of over 21,000 respondents in 16 countries, ranks Maine second only to Vermont in New England states for branding success.

“This just-released survey shows Maine’s success in promoting our reputation and brand around the world,” said Governor Baldacci. “This major international study supports the work we’ve done to move Maine into the global economy of the 21st Century. We have more to do, but we’re on the right track.”

Maine ranks 21st among the 50 states in successful branding of its products, environment, people and culture. Among the New England states, the survey ranks Vermont 14th, Connecticut 26th, Massachusetts 29th, New Hampshire 30th, and Rhode Island 35th. The survey places California first among the states in promotional success and New Jersey last.

The SBI is a new study conducted by Simon Anholt, a world-renowned expert in marketing. Mr. Anholt, a citizen of the United Kingdom, has been called by The Economist magazine “one of the world’s leading consultants to corporations and governments who wish to build global brands.” He’s known for his previous work, the Anholt Nation Brands Index. The SBI brings his survey methodology, global data gathering, and marketing analysis to state brands.

The SBI asked those surveyed to respond to six areas that comprise a state’s brand:

- Presence: How much is known of the state? Have people visited?
- People: Are the residents of a state friendly, hospitable? Would you fit in?
- Place: The physical aspects and natural environment.
- Prerequisites: Is the housing affordable? Are there good public amenities?
- Pulse: Is the state vibrant and are there things to do?
- Potential: How are the business and education opportunities in the state?

Some of the underlying data to the SBI rankings show these positives about Maine’s place in the world. Respondents from countries that have a historical connection with Maine, and New England as a whole, give Maine a high ranking. Respondents from places that give them more of a personal familiarity with Maine also rank the state highly. Maine’s reputation as a safe place wins it higher rankings.

“This objective survey confirms my experience as I travel around Maine. At one of our parks, a tourist couple told me they come here because of our people,” the Governor said. “This study means we’re succeeding in promoting Maine people, our natural resources, and Maine-made products and services. We must keep investing in both our people and our places for an economy that works with our great brand.”

More information on the Anholt State Brand Index can be found at [www.statebrandindex.com](http://www.statebrandindex.com)

## Governor Meets with U.S. Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne

September 20, 2006

BREWER - Governor John Baldacci today met privately with the U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Dirk Kempthorne. The Governor used the opportunity to urge the Secretary to include funding for the Penobscot River Restoration Project (PRRP) in his Fiscal Year 2008-2009 budgets to help complete the critically important project. The Interior Department is a signatory to the agreement that established this project.

"I am encouraged by my conversation with Secretary Kempthorne," said Governor Baldacci. "He listened attentively to the case for funding for the Penobscot River Restoration Project to move it forward."

The Penobscot River Restoration Project, when completed, will open up five hundred miles of historic spawning habitat for Atlantic salmon and eleven other sea-run fish species by removing two dams and bypassing a third dam on the main stem of the Penobscot River between Veazie and Howland. The project will replace virtually all the lost electricity through enhancements to other dams in the region. The agreement, announced in 2003 by Governor Baldacci and Secretary Kempthorne's predecessor, Gale Norton, has been nationally recognized as a model for restoring fisheries access to historic spawning areas while maintaining energy generation.

The PRRP must raise \$25 million to acquire and remove two dams, and to construct a state-of-the-art fish bypass around the dam in Howland. They currently have \$8.5 million on hand. Private fundraising is under way, and the Governor pledged to raise \$3-\$5 million in state resources. Some federal funds have been committed, but addition federal dollars are needed to complete this important project.

"The project is particularly important to the restoration of the population of Atlantic salmon in the Penobscot, the only river in the United States with any significant population of this endangered species," the Governor told the Secretary. "The five hundred miles of reopened spawning areas will make it possible to produce many naturally raised salmon. This is the single most important action that can be taken in the United States to restore the run of Atlantic salmon."

The Governor has been a tireless advocate for the Penobscot River Restoration Project, and has worked closely with the Penobscot Nation, FPL (the owner of the hydroelectric dams along the Penobscot) and several environmental organizations to negotiate this historic agreement and to bring it to a successful conclusion.

The Governor was pleased that Secretary Kempthorne has come to hear from Maine people on conservation matters. "It's vital for our federal officials to hear from Maine people and organizations," noted the Governor. "This visit will enable the Secretary to learn about important conservation issues in our state. I appreciate the time the Secretary has given me and the people of Maine during this visit."

## Governor Baldacci Hosts Spaghetti Supper in Lincoln

September 20, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

LINCOLN – Governor John E. Baldacci hosted a spaghetti supper in Lincoln Wednesday evening to benefit the purchase of a new trophy case for the Ella P. Burr School. The trophy case will be named in memory of John Weatherbee, a longtime coach in Lincoln who recently passed away.

“The outpouring of support here for this trophy case is tremendous,” said Governor Baldacci. “John Weatherbee is respected by many in this community and missed by everyone. I was proud to host this dinner for such a worthy cause.”

Governor Baldacci was presented with a “Welcome to Lincoln” book upon arrival at the Ella P. Burr School. The book was created by the school’s 2nd graders and featured hand-made drawings and information about the town and its businesses and recreational activities.

About 150 people attended the dinner, where Governor Baldacci served spaghetti sauce from Baldacci’s restaurant; Speaker of the House John Richardson, (D-Brunswick) served pasta; and Senator Elizabeth Schneider, (D-Penobscot) served salad.

“We’re all proud to be here and I look forward to seeing the trophy case at the school very soon,” said the Governor.

## Governor Baldacci Says He Will Continue to Protect the Elderly

September 21, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968 Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA — Governor John E. Baldacci told senior citizens from around Maine that he will continue to work for them when it comes to affordable health care, prescription drugs, energy prices and increasing energy independence. He said this at the Blaine House Conference on Aging held at the Augusta Civic Center Thursday morning.

“As we know, the new Federal Medicare Part D program presented many seniors with difficult choices,” said Governor Baldacci. “Maine was the first state to implement a system so no seniors fell through the cracks and we made sure that all seniors were able to get their vital medications.”

Governor Baldacci told the group that he will continue to work for them and he will also continue to encourage research and development within the biomedical field.

“As you may have heard, yesterday I joined Travis Roy to announce that I will significantly increase funding for biomedical and stem cell research,” said the Governor. “This vital research will help us in treating and hopefully eliminating diseases such as Alzheimer’s and will improve the quality of life for thousands of other Mainers.”

Governor Baldacci recalled stories of his mother and grandmother, saying that the values that were instilled in him made him the person he is today.

“My mother used to tell me to help her with her tax forms and her medicine forms because they were long and confusing,” said the Governor. “I would help her and she would say to me, ‘someday you’ll get older and you’ll need help on this stuff too.’ Because of the values she – and the rest of my family – taught me, that’s why nursing homes, assisted living, Medicare part D and LIHEAP are important to me.”

## Governor Baldacci Continues Encouraging Research and Development to Strengthen Economy

September 21, 2006

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AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci welcomed attendees of the Future of Maine's Economy conference by encouraging investments through research and development.

"My Administration has expanded investments in R&D in the State of Maine," said Governor Baldacci. "If you're not investing in technology and increasing productivity, you'll be left of the sidelines. That's what's happening to some of the industries in Maine."

Governor Baldacci highlighted some of the investments that have made Maine's foundation stronger since he has been Governor. These include establishing the Community College system, transforming traditional industries so that they can better compete in the global marketplace, the creative economy, and biomedical research and development.

"We were recently awarded the WIRED Grant, \$15 million that will be used to grow 2,000 new jobs for Maine in the next five years," said the Governor. "Marine trades, boatbuilding and composite industries will all be helped with this grant."

The Governor also said that his Pine Tree Zones have been responsible for creating 3,200 jobs in the financial, technology and communications industries within 70 certified businesses.

Additionally, the Governor highlighted his Administration's actions to reduce the tax burden. "We've made real progress in bringing taxes into line," said Governor Baldacci. "We've balanced budgets without raising a broad-based tax. We've repealed the Business Equipment Tax. We've lowered property taxes for businesses and Maine residents through LD 1's budget caps and tax rebates. I want to ensure that the additional state education aid translates into more property tax relief. And I want to do more to help with high assessed property values. I proposed LD 2 to the last Legislature to cap valuations for Mainers. We didn't get the 2/3s vote needed, but I'll keep fighting for this additional property tax relief."

## Governor's Statement on Venezuelan President Chavez

September 21, 2006

AUGUSTA - Governor John Baldacci denounced Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez for the attack he made yesterday at the United Nations against President George Bush. "Chavez's words were unnecessary and offensive," said the Governor.

"My goal is to create an independent energy future for Maine people through my aggressive support of renewable power and alternative energy sources. Last year, because of the outrageous oil industry profits, we called upon all oil companies to voluntarily come forward and provide affordable fuel for some of Maine's most vulnerable.

"At the time, the federal government had held up the money for Low Income Home Energy Assistance which put many Mainers at risk. Based on current events, I am not pursuing a similar arrangement this year.

"We need to continue our efforts to raise money for the Charitable Fuel Fund and I call upon bipartisan leaders to join with me in this effort. Rather than bandying around the political rhetoric, I urge State Republican leadership to join in this effort with me in taking real actions to protect Maine people."

## Governor Baldacci Celebrates Launch of Fulbright Chapter in Maine

September 21, 2006

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Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

PORTLAND – Governor John E. Baldacci said that the Fulbright program in Maine represents a continuation of one of his key priorities throughout his administration - creating opportunities for all Maine people through higher education. Governor Baldacci attended a celebration for the new chapter at the University of Southern Maine on Thursday afternoon.

“The Fulbright program is one of our nation’s most distinguished international scholarship programs,” said the Governor. “Together in this partnership, our citizens are able to expand their intellectual horizons and experience cultural differences on a global level.”

The Fulbright program is an international educational exchange that was started by Senator William Fulbright from Arkansas at the end of WWII. The program was in response to what Senator Fulbright saw as the horrors of war, misunderstanding and ignorance about cultural differences around the world.

340 Fulbright alumni are currently living in Maine and 88 Fulbright grants have been awarded to residents of Maine over the past four years. According to an Institute of International Education report, international students studying in Maine contribute \$34.7 million to the state’s economy in tuition, living expenses, and related costs.

“An article in the Chronicle of Higher Education called education one of the most important contributors to a vibrant economy,” said Governor Baldacci. “I celebrate all of you who have taken time from your lives today to establish a Fulbright Alumni Chapter here in Maine. This chapter will help you celebrate international knowledge, help publicize the benefits of programs such as these and encourage more faculty and more students to apply and take advantage of these tremendous opportunities to expand their horizons.”



## Governor Baldacci Honors “Maine’s Best Places to Work”

September 21, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci handed out awards to 21 recipients of the Maine’s Best Places to Work Awards.

“These awards are especially important to me because it’s your employees who vote and ultimately decide the best places to work,” said Governor Baldacci. “The success of a business can partially be measured by the enthusiasm of the employees. I know that many employees have been enthusiastic about the businesses that are here tonight.”

Nine large companies in Maine (200 or more employees) received awards, as did 12 medium-sized companies (25-199 employees). One small company (15-24 employees) also received a special recognition/honorable mention.

The awards are determined by employees filling out a survey about their place of employment. The surveys are collected and awards are presented based on the responses of the workers. The awards dinner was part of a larger economic conference at the Augusta Civic Center, where Governor Baldacci spoke earlier in the day.

“I was here earlier today to open the Future of Maine’s Economy Conference,” said Governor Baldacci. “What I stressed the most – and what I continue to stress the most – is the need for research and development. Investing in R&D is investing in the people of Maine and the economy of Maine. R&D dollars translate into good paying jobs, a strong economy and a knowledgeable workforce.”

R&D currently directly supports over 11,000 jobs in Maine; over 500 companies have been assisted, creating over 600 jobs in the past 3 years; the University’s research activity has tripled in the past decade; and Maine’s federal research funding ranks 22nd in the country. Governor Baldacci told the attendees that they have laid the foundation in the state, and they are now working to build on that foundation.

“Our Pine Tree Zone program has been responsible for creating 3,200 jobs in the financial, technology and communications industries,” said the Governor. “And we have established the Community College System in Maine, with enrollment up 40% and Southern Maine Community College being the fastest growing community college in the country.”

The 2006 Best Places to Work in Maine List are:

Androscoggin Home Care & Hospice

ASK . . . for Home Care

Camden National Corporation

Clark Associates

CompuPay

Disability RMS

Diversified Business Communications

Edward Jones

Geiger

JobsInTheUS

Jøtul North America

MaineGeneral Health

Manpower

MEMIC

MMG Insurance Company

Oxford Networks

Pioneer Telephone

T-Mobile USA, Inc.

UnumProvident Corporation

Verrill Dana LLP

Wright Express

Youth Alternatives

## Governor Baldacci Honors State Employees of the Year

September 22, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci honored 21 state employees Friday morning during a reception at the Blaine House. Each employee was named as “Employee of the Year” within their respective departments.

“As State Employees, you are among our most valuable resources,” said Governor Baldacci. “On behalf of the state, I want to tell you how much I appreciate your public service.”

The “Employee of the Year” recipients were nominated by the heads of their departments or agencies for their distinguished service and accomplishments in the service to the State of Maine.

“We know that we cannot rest on our achievements, but we must renew every day our commitment to make a difference – to help those most in need and to promote more opportunities for all Maine people to reach their highest potential,” said the Governor. “Each of you has made valuable contributions to these efforts, and I know that together we will continue to move all of Maine forward.”

### 2006 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Department of Administrative and Financial Services- Jean Parlin, Data Entry Control Manager

Department of Agriculture - Gary Fish, Certification & Licensing Specialist

Department of the Attorney General - Michael Kearney, Assistant Attorney General

Department of Audit - Robert Rocheleau, Auditor III

Baxter State Park - S. Jean Howes, Clerk Typist III

Department of Conservation - Marcia Spencer-Famous, Senior Planner

Department of Corrections - Kenneth Sawyer, Correctional Officer

Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management - Everett Merchant, Body Repairer

Department of Economic and Community Development - Margo Fraser, Development Program Manager

Department of Education - Dan Hupp, Mathematics Specialist/SAT Coordinator

Department of Environmental Protection - Barry Mower, Section Leader, Rivers and Streams

Department of Health and Human Services - Beverly Van Horn, Medical Care Coordinator

## 2006 Archive of Governor Baldacci's Press Releases

Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife - Wendy Bolduc, Clerk IV

Department of Labor - Nancy Curran, Clerk IV

Department of Marine Resources - Ann Tarr, Clerk Typist III

Department of Professional & Financial Regulation - Linda Gomeau, Clerk IV

Department of Public Safety - Eric Parker, MCJA Training Coordinator

Department of Secretary of State - Andre Dubois, Store Keeper I

State Planning Office - Jim Connors, Senior Planner

Department of Transportation - Ike (Dwight) Moody, Building & Trades Apprentice

Worker's Compensation Board - Reta Turner, Clerical Supervisor/Legal Secretary

## Governor Baldacci Congratulates Sea Run Holdings of Eastport and Freeport on SBIR Grant

September 22, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968 Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA — Governor John E. Baldacci has congratulated Sea Run Holdings, Inc., of Eastport and Freeport on their receipt of a \$755,000 Phase II SBIR grant from the National Institutes of Health. The grant will be issued over two years.

"Investments in research and development are proven to be investments that will lead to medical breakthroughs, job growth and a solid economy," said Governor Baldacci. "I am excited that Sea Run has received this grant and am proud that they are looking to the future with R&D. It's exciting to see marine and aquaculture research in Eastport spin off into potentially high-profit biomedical advances."

The grant will be used to develop a fibrin gel from salmon plasma proteins that would be used for re-growth of the central nervous system neurons. The research is intended to potentially help those with spinal cord injuries. The grant will be directly responsible for a new employee at Sea Run Holdings' lab in Eastport, where some of the research will be taking place.

"The advances in technology make bio-medical R&D an obvious decision," said the Governor. "Research and development has become a necessity when talking about the future and Maine continues to lead the way. We will work to make Maine a magnet for innovation, scientific freedom and world-class health care."

Governor Baldacci said that biomedical research also creates jobs in Maine.

"Currently, R&D activity directly supports over 11,000 jobs in Maine and the University of Maine's research activity has tripled in the past decade," said the Governor. "Maine's federal research funding, lead by our non-profit research institutions, ranks 22nd in the country."

The Governor said that private and public investment, including those at Sea Run Holdings, will allow Maine to compete globally and reach the administration's goal of \$1 billion in public and private R&D activity in Maine by 2010.

"With companies like Sea Run Holdings working towards our vision of investments in research and development," said the Governor, "the future continues to look bright in Maine."

## Governor Presents Katahdin Lake Access Solution

September 22, 2006

MILLINOCKET – Governor John Baldacci and Department of Conservation officials met earlier today with municipal officials from Millinocket, East Millinocket, and Medway to discuss access issues regarding Katahdin Lake. He proposed a solution to continue to allow access to this area of the state.

“In Maine, we have a deep and abiding respect for the land and its traditional uses,” Governor Baldacci told town officials. “In the last six years, we have seen great changes in ownership of Maine’s forest, with more than six million acres changing hands. Private ownership has put pressure on traditional land uses.”

The Governor outlined action steps his Administration has undertaken to resolve current disagreements over land use for the property surrounding Katahdin Lake. “We have spoken with land owners – JM Huber, Prentice & Carlisle, Herbert C. Haynes, Inc. and William T. Gardner & Sons who have all agreed to continue their policies of public access for multiple recreational uses,” said the Governor. “Additionally, I have directed the Commissioner of Conservation to build a new road across BPL lands near Wassataquoik Stream. This road would connect the 8,000 acre Gardner parcel on which we hold an option to an existing network of logging roads.”

Governor Baldacci thanked land owners for their cooperation to reach this agreement. “None of this would have been possible without land owners who understand the importance of the traditional uses that are part of Maine’s heritage,” noted the Governor. “With the generosity of JM Huber, Prentice & Carlisle, Herbert C. Haynes Inc. and William T. Gardner & Sons comes our responsibility to treat the lands they are allowing us to use with the utmost respect.”

The Governor said questions remain before Maine citizens regarding how to address the broader issues related to access of land under private ownership. “Most important,” said the Governor “is that the State of Maine must be at the table when lands become available. That’s why I will be including money to buy land in a bond package in the next legislative session,” said the Governor. “It is our responsibility to maintain land – a limited natural resource - and access to it.”

## Governor Baldacci Announces the Future of the Old Town Mill

September 25, 2006

OLD TOWN – Governor John E. Baldacci announced this morning that the former Georgia-Pacific facility in Old Town will be transformed into a state of the art cellulose-based biofuel facility with a goal of having 4 or 5 different manufacturers employing 1000-plus workers.

“The reuse ties in with research being done at the University of Maine and our goal of energy independence,” said Governor Baldacci. “In addition, power generated on site will be sold behind the gate to other industries that will co-locate at the facility, and these companies will also add manufacturing jobs within this site. The outlook for the Old Town mill site is bright.”

Three of the companies that plan moving into the site were represented at the press conference. Tamarack Energy, a developer of renewable energy; Hallowell International, LLC, a maker of home heating and cooling products; and Lamtec Inc., a manufacturer of pressure sensitive labels, were all present to announce their plans to locate at the Old Town site.

“This marks the first time a closed pulp and paper mill in Maine has been reused for new state-of-the-art production that will transition employment opportunities, create new industry and stabilize the employment and tax base of the community,” said Governor Baldacci. “The employment and tax base will not only be stabilized, but it will be diversified and growing in new technologies.”

Governor Baldacci says that the state will work with the new companies to get people back to work as soon as possible. The state has committed to providing training money for the displaced former G.P. workers to prepare them for new careers. The Governor praised the workers for their patience throughout the process, as well as the union officials and peer support workers for their efforts. Governor Baldacci also thanked the Congressional Delegation – Senator Snowe, Senator Collins and Congressman Michaud – for their efforts; as well as the local delegation – Senator Elizabeth Schneider, Representative Richard Blanchard, Representative Robert Duchesne - Town Manager Peggy Daigle, the Old Town City Council and their president, Gary Sirois.

“They have all worked together extremely well and have been a tremendous help to the workers and union leaders to bring us to where we are today,” said Governor Baldacci.

## Governor Celebrates Bank of America Donation to University of Maine Fort Kent

September 25, 2006

FORT KENT – Governor John Baldacci applauded Bank of America for donating 14 acres of woodlands to the University of Maine at Fort Kent (UMFK). The land, which is adjacent to the University's campus, will be used for research and learning through the school's forestry department.

"One of my top priorities as Governor has been to increase opportunities for all Maine people," said Governor Baldacci. "To accomplish this goal, we need to prepare our workforce for the 21st century economy, providing access to quality higher education and workforce training. My Administration is committed to increasing research and development into technologies that transform our traditional industries to keep them vibrant into the future, and to grow new business and industry for new opportunities for Maine families. Bank of America's donation to the University of Fort Kent will help us further these goals."

The Governor thanked Bank of America for being a partner in expanding education opportunities in Maine. "Bank of America's support of our Maine communities is greatly appreciated – our students and our work force are benefiting from the bank's presence in Maine," said Governor Baldacci. "This generous gift will supplement the University's forestry program and allow students to enrich their learning experience outside the classroom."

The Forest Technology program at UMFK is a conservation-oriented program that focuses on the use of forests as renewable resources. "Maine's economy has been dependent on the state's trees and forests for centuries," said the Governor. "We look toward future UMFK forestry graduates to help sustain, conserve and grow this traditional industry in order to maintain its viability for the 21st century global economy."

"By achieving a high standard of academics, our state will continue to offer employers the best workforce in the nation, which in turn will attract business to the state and create quality jobs for our residents and future graduates. UMFK's forest technology program is among the top forestry programs in the northeast and Bank of America's donation will strengthen and support the academic program."

The Bank of America is a valued partner in many communities across Maine. The company donated the Hutchinson Center in Belfast to the University of Maine this past June. The 19,500 square-foot building was constructed in 2000 and was currently assessed at \$3.3 million, making it one of the most sizable gifts ever given to the University of Maine.



## Governor Applauds Autotronics on Expansion Plans

September 25, 2006

FRENCHVILLE – Governor John Baldacci today celebrated the expansion of Autotronics, an Aroostook County small business. At least 35 full time jobs will be created over the next three years in the St. John Valley as a result of the company's expansion plans. The Governor noted the growth of this family owned business provides another example of how Maine businesses are competing in the global marketplace.

"My Administration has been working to increase Maine's competitiveness, reduce our tax burden, increase investments, and enhance the ability for Maine workers to be educated and trained for jobs of the 21st Century," said Governor Baldacci. "Today I am pleased to congratulate Paul Daigle, his family and his employees on their business expansion. I thank them for making a commitment to Maine and Aroostook County. They show that Maine businesses are competing successfully in the global economy."

Autotronics is a Frenchville-based ambulance and public safety vehicle sales, service and manufacturing company, with operations in Maine, Massachusetts and Connecticut. Paul Daigle, president of Autotronics, announced that the small business will open a new facility in Madawaska. The company, which has operated for nearly fifty years, started as a one-person business and now has 27 employees.

The Governor noted that today, Autotronics is New England's largest retrofitter of ambulances. "Maine is a small-business state," said Governor Baldacci. "Much of Maine's work force is employed by small businesses, depending on companies like Autotronics for their livelihood. I will continue encourage the growth of small businesses, help them compete in a global economy and maintain Maine as a great place to live and do business."

Autotronics will begin constructing its new facility – a \$5 million investment in northern Maine - in Spring 2007.

## Governor Baldacci Honors State Managers of the Year

September 26, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci honored 23 state managers Tuesday morning during a reception at the Blaine House. Each employee was named as a “Manager of the Year” within their respective departments.

“As managers, you are coaching your staffs to bring out the best of their abilities,” said Governor Baldacci. “You are all leading by example – a good example – which is something that I appreciate and I’m sure that your staff and commissioner appreciate it as well.”

The “Manager of the Year” recipients were invited to attend the reception at the Blaine House along with the commissioners of their respective departments. Each recipient was honored individually by the Governor.

“You are all being honored for the commitments and sacrifices that you have made for the betterment of your state,” said the Governor. “I’m proud of the quality of service that you have provided to the citizens of Maine.”

### 2006 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Department of Administrative and Financial Services - Terry Brann, Deputy State Controller

Department of Agriculture - Robert Batteese, Acting Director

Department of the Attorney General - James Ferland, Administrator

Department of Audit - Gayle Knight, Business Manager

Baxter State Park - Bob Howes, Baxter State Park Ranger II

Department of Conservation - Carter Smith, Park Manager II

Department of Corrections - Ralph Nichols, Director of Inspections

Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management - Timothy Bowman, Superintendent of Building

Department of Economic and Community Development - Orman Whitcomb, Director, Office of Community Development

Department of Education - Katherine M. Wilbur, Director of Health Education and Coordinator of School Health Programs

Department of Environmental Protection - Edward Logue, Director, Eastern Maine Regional Office

Department of Health and Human Services - Tina Libby, Rehabilitative Services Director

Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife - Francis Brautigam, Regional Fishery Biologist, Sebago Region

Department of Labor - Virginia A. (Ginny) Carroll, Public Service Manager

Department of Marine Resources - Connie Devenger, Director of Finance and Administration

Department of Professional & Financial Regulation - Michael Colleran, Securities Administrator

Office of the Public Advocate - William (Bill) Black, Deputy Public Advocate

Department of Public Safety - Roy McKinney, Director

Department of Secretary of State - Linda Grant, Senior Section Manager, Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Drivers License Services Division

State Planning Office - Tim Glidden, Director, Land for Maine's Future

Department of Transportation - Todd Pelletier, Director, Contract Procurement Office

Office of the State Treasurer - Kristi Carlow, Director, Internal Operations

Worker's Compensation Board - Elizabeth Inman, Deputy Director, Medical/Rehabilitation Services

## Governor Announces Federal Funds for Combating Domestic Violence

September 27, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci today announced more than one million dollars in federal funds has been awarded to 29 Maine organizations to assist victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The Governor said the funding comes from the federal STOP Violence Against Women Act, which is administered by the Maine Department of Public Safety.

“From where we live to where we work to where we learn, the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault lower our quality of life, damage individuals and families and weaken our economy,” said Governor Baldacci. “These federal funds are vitally important dollars to help organizations that are on the front lines in addressing serious problems affecting our State.”

The receipt of the \$1,066,722 coincides with Domestic Violence Awareness Month which runs through the month of October. The groups receiving the funding include sexual assault and domestic violence organizations, prosecutors and law enforcement agencies. Maine Department of Public Safety Commissioner Michael Cantara said that in the past nine years nearly \$11 million dollars in federal funds have been distributed by the State under this program.

"The grants will promote community based programs to assist the victims of domestic violence and sexual assault which affect many Maine families and communities," said Governor Baldacci. "These programs will help combat these crimes, assist the victims and support the groups providing assistance and support at the local level."

Commissioner Cantara said during 2005, there were 5459 cases of domestic assaults reported to Maine police and 322 cases of rape and sexual assault. He also said domestic violence accounts for more than 50% Maine homicides. In 2005, there were 19 homicides in Maine and 10 of them were domestic related.

A list of the recipients follows.

Androscoggin County District Attorney's Office, \$53,431

Sexual Assault Crisis Center-Androscoggin County, \$34,281

Aroostook Mental Health Services, Inc, \$47,808

Biddeford Police Dept., \$20,280

Maine General Medical Center-Augusta-Waterville, \$22,857

Family Crisis Services-Cumberland County, \$17,105

Sexual Assault Response Svc of So Maine-Cumberland County, \$38,468

Sexual Assault Victims Emergency Services Franklin County, \$10,314

Hancock County District Attorney's Office, \$26,927

Somerset District Attorney's Office, \$40,000

Rape Crisis Assistance and Prevention-Kennebec & Somerset Counties, \$27,071

Kennebec County District Attorney's Office, \$55,413

Family Violence Project-Kennebec County, \$35,261

Lewiston Police Department, \$43,041

Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, \$57,269

Sexual Assault Support Services of Midcoast Maine, \$20,000

Oxford County Sheriff's Office, \$37,841

Womancare/Aegis Association-Piscataquis County, \$14,491

Pleasant Point Tribal Government, \$16,986

Portland Police Department, \$34,850

Catholic Charities of Maine-Portland Area, \$60,000

Presque Isle Police Dept., \$8,244

Rumford Police Dept.-Rumford, Mexico & Dixfield, \$22,872

Sagadahoc County District Attorney's Office, \$21,500

Maine Attorney General's Office, \$69,847

Maine Chiefs of Police Association, \$48,000

York County Sheriff's Dept., \$52,762

York County District Attorney's Office, \$101,624

Caring Unlimited-York County, \$28,179

## Governor Fetes Lobster Processing Facility

September 27, 2006

RICHMOND – Governor Baldacci today highlighted the work of his economic plan and the incentives offered to small businesses in Maine that are enabling more Maine products to be processed here in the state. He noted the success of these endeavors at a visit to Shucks Maine Lobster. Innovative technology at the plant enables Maine lobster to be processed for shipment in the state instead of being shipped to Canada for processing.

“Lobster is one of Maine’s most precious, sustainable resources, vital to our economy,” said the Governor. “Here at Shucks the purpose is to keep those lobsters – and the jobs that go with them – here in Maine. This is proof that Maine not only has the capability to prove itself as a leader in technological development, but that Mainers are taking the initiative to insure that the resources we have to offer are competitive in the marketplace.”

This event follows one two months ago at the Portland Pier at which the Governor tagged the first certified Maine lobster. The Maine Lobster Promotions Council created the brand and logo designed to definitively tell consumers that their lobster came from the waters of Maine, protecting our reputation as having the best tasting lobster in the world.

Shucks Maine Lobster received research and development grants from the state. The company also is a Pine Tree Zone certified business. The Governor congratulated entrepreneur John Hathaway for his success. In just the past few months, Shucks has diverted nearly 60 percent of the lobster that would have been processed in Canada right back here.

“Shucks Maine Lobster is one of the finest examples of how we have provided Maine businesses with the resources to expand and even revolutionize their market offering right here in Maine,” noted the Governor. “That is proof that Maine is on the right track.”

## Governor Applauds Naturally ME, Inc. on Expansion Plans

September 27, 2006

RICHMOND – Governor John Baldacci today celebrated the expansion plans of Naturally, ME, Inc., a specialty pie business that has operated in Richmond, Maine for two years. With an increase in production order, the growing Pine Tree Zone certified business is expected to double its workforce to six total employees.

The Governor noted this Maine based business succeeds using quality all-natural Maine produce, producing pies that fit a niche market. “People know the quality of Maine-made products and Naturally ME pies are strengthening the Maine-made brand,” he said. “It is no wonder that supermarkets such as Hannaford’s and Whole Foods have signed on to distribute Naturally ME pies.”

Naturally ME, Inc. has been able to expand production in part from a \$200,000 Community Development Block Grant. The company is also a certified Pine Tree Zone business. The Pine Tree Zone program is a catalyst for bringing jobs and new business to Maine. To date, the program is expected to create more than 3,000 jobs.

When Doug Roberts, president of Naturally ME and a Massachusetts native, wanted to start his business, he knew Maine was the place to be. He appreciated the quality of life Maine has to offer, the state’s skilled workforce, the quality of Maine’s agricultural products, and Maine’s business-friendly incentives for small businesses.

Naturally ME, Inc’s gourmet products are currently sold in more than 20 states nationwide. Hannaford’s already sells the company’s Natural Feast pies, as do many health food stores. Whole Foods supermarkets will soon be selling the pies, as well. Additional information on the company can be found at [www.naturalfeast.com](http://www.naturalfeast.com).

“We appreciate having your business here and for making the state’s business environment a little more naturally sweeter,” closed Governor Baldacci.

## Governor Baldacci Celebrates Success of His Community College System

September 27, 2006

AUBURN – Governor John E. Baldacci called investments in education a core and primary component of his economic plan today while at Central Maine Community College. The Governor was at CMMC to celebrate the 4.4% increase in enrollment in the Community College System this fall and a 48% increase over the last four years since Governor Baldacci established the Community College system.

“Almost four years ago, I created the Community College System to open the door of college to those who have been dissuaded by cost or by apprehension,” said Governor Baldacci. “Since then, enrollment in Community Colleges has exploded.”

95% of the Community College graduates are placed in jobs or end up continuing their education. Of those who are placed in jobs, 96% find jobs in Maine. At the press event, Governor Baldacci talked about a recent example of a business moving to Maine because of its pool of skilled labor.

“According to a newspaper story, the major tenant in a new building in Portland will be the Council on International Educational Exchange, which will bring 100 new jobs to Portland from Boston,” said the Governor. “The CEO said they were moving to Maine because they are able to attract talented people right here in Maine.”

The Governor told the group that the purpose for the Community College system was to give more Maine residents the opportunities they look for in the state.

“Higher education results in higher paying jobs, more job stability and a more stable economy,” said Governor Baldacci. “That is why I established the Maine Community College System, because I wanted to create these more opportunities for more ready, willing and able Mainers.”

Governor Baldacci congratulated the Community Colleges on the increased enrollment, and the Maine work force for being world renowned as a hard working group, but stressed that more work needs to be done.

“We must continue increasing the levels of enrollment at our Community Colleges and Universities throughout the state,” said Governor Baldacci. “By 2008, my plan is to have the Early College for ME program in every high school in Maine; and we must continue investing in research and development as well as higher education, which is an investment in our state.”

Governor Baldacci's investments in Maine have included private college savings accounts through NextGen; employer contributions through a pilot program with the Maine Department of Labor; as well as tax incentive programs including the Pine Tree Zone program. The Governor heralded the Pine Tree Zone program, saying that when investments are made in Maine youth, the program creates opportunities for them to stay in Maine.



Governor Baldacci has continually worked to provide opportunities for all Maine citizens - opportunity to protect our environment, pursue education, have health care and achieve a sustainable economy. Throughout his administration he has balanced budgets without raising broad-based taxes and lived within spending caps; provided health insurance to thousands of Maine citizens through Dirigo Health; preserved hundreds of thousands of acres of land in Maine; and provided 50% of the cost of K-12 education while providing property tax relief.

"State government cannot guarantee success, but we can guarantee opportunity," said Governor Baldacci. "We can continue making investments, and opening doors; which is exactly what we have accomplished with this Community College System and it is what we will continue to do."

## Governor Celebrates Amtrak's Downeaster Success

September 28, 2006

PORTLAND – Governor John Baldacci today celebrated the continued success of Amtrak's Downeaster at an event announcing the addition of a fifth round trip to the daily train schedule running from Portland to Boston. The Governor noted that the Downeaster breaks ridership records, and reiterated his support for further expansions of rail transportation in the state.

"Enhancing Maine's transportation network throughout the state is vital to growing Maine's economy," said the Governor. "These investments pay off, as we see today with the expansion of service on the Downeaster. Since service began five years ago, 1.2 million people have traveled on the Downeaster. Rail is an economic engine for growth and prosperity in our region."

The Governor recognized the many partnerships responsible for the success of the Downeaster, including the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority, Amtrak, Maine Department of Transportation, the Federal Transit Administration, PanAm Railways, MBTA, Concord Trailways, C&J Trailways, the City of Portland and officials from New Hampshire and Massachusetts, as well as Downeaster riders.

"This kind of strong partnership is necessary to build successful transportation options for our citizens," said the Governor. "I have asked many of these partners to join me in reviewing how we can expand rail service beyond Portland."

Earlier this month the Governor signed an Executive Order to facilitate the policy objective of rail expansion in the state. The Executive Order instructs planning and coordination of various public and private entities, including state departments, transportation groups, private business and municipalities to assess economic impact and development possibilities of expanded passenger rail. The order also calls a report of the planning of potential new corridors and service by December 1, 2006.

"We need to bring the promise of access to more affordable, cleaner transportation options to all Maine people," noted the Governor.

## Governor Remembers Larry Mahaney at Dedication

September 28, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531

Dan Cashman, 287-2531

PORTLAND – Governor John Baldacci today celebrated the memory of Larry Mahaney, the venerable Bangor businessman and philanthropist who passed away early this year. The Governor participated in the dedication of the Larry K. Mahaney Athletic Park at Catherine McAuley High School. The field was the last gift made by Mahaney before he died.

“Today we celebrate Larry Mahaney and the last of many gifts he made over his lifetime,” said Governor Baldacci. “Larry was a successful and forward-thinking businessman who believed in service to his community. He led many causes and made lasting contributions to the State of Maine. Larry’s life-long passion for giving prompted his to support many projects around the state that enhance the quality of life for Mainers – especially our children.”

Governor Baldacci, a long-time friend of Mahaney’s, thanked Larry’s many family members who joined in today’s dedication. The Governor read a proclamation marking today as “Mahaney Family Day”, a day to celebrate Larry Mahaney’s legacy, and the living legacy of his greatest gifts, his family. Larry’s cousin Sister Joyce Mahany and Larry’s son Kevin Mahaney are being honored at separate events in the state today for their contributions.

## Governor Directs Flags at Half Staff for Fallen Firefighters

September 29, 2006

AUGUSTA – In accordance with federal Public Law 107-51, the Sunday of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend in October is set aside to remember fallen firefighters throughout the nation. Accordingly, Governor John E. Baldacci has directed that the United States flag and the State of Maine flag be flown at half staff from sunrise to sunset Sunday, October 8, 2006 in remembrance and honor of law firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

“Our firefighters put their lives on the line daily for the people of Maine,” said the Governor. “We thank them and their families for their sacrifices and remember those we have lost. We can never repay their service, but should strive always to honor their commitment to protecting the public.”

## Governor Opposes Federal Funding Shortfalls to Children's Health Insurance

September 29, 2006

AUGUSTA – Today Governor John Baldacci asked President Bush to work with Congress to fully fund the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) for the upcoming fiscal year beginning on October 1. In federal FY 2007 alone Maine faces a projected federal shortfall of \$6.5 million, putting as many as 3,250 Maine children in jeopardy. In fact, federal financial support for the program will suffer additional cuts in the future. Governor Baldacci thanked Senators Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins for their cosponsorship of S. 3913, the bill offered by Senator Jay Rockefeller that would correct the shortfall. The Governor requested that the President work with Congress to solve the immediate problem of the FY 2007 funding.

Quality affordable health care for all Mainers – young and old – is a matter of fairness. Maine has led the way in addressing national issues such as health costs, access to insurance, and prescription drugs. The SCHIP program is a great success in Maine, reducing the number of uninsured children by more than half in less than ten years. Maine has experienced one of the largest declines in the rate of children uninsured in the nation.

"Coverage for children is a wise investment," said Governor Baldacci. "Without such coverage, children are more likely to go without immunizations, end up in emergency rooms when conditions are complicated due to lack of primary care, and miss school because of untreated illnesses. Maine's children – our future – are at risk of not reaching their full potential without proper physical and mental health care."

The Governor urged that the federal commitment to SCHIP funding be upheld. Attached is the text of the letter sent to President Bush.

September 28, 2007

The Honorable George W. Bush

The President

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am deeply concerned about the impact of federal funding shortfalls to the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) in Maine. With the federal fiscal year quickly approaching, Maine and sixteen other states face significant immediate challenges in maintaining this crucial safety net program. I urge

you to work with Congress in order to fill the shortfall and sustain the funding for SCHIP so that Maine and the other sixteen impacted states can continue to cover as many of our children as possible.

The United States is facing a health care crisis. Maine continues to lead the way in creating innovative programs to ensure more Maine people have access to affordable quality health care coverage. SCHIP has been a very successful state-federal partnership, providing vital coverage to more than 14,800 Maine children of hard working Maine families.

As a U.S. Congressman when SCHIP was created, and now as Governor, I have continued to support SCHIP and to ensure that outreach efforts to enroll children in the program are strengthened. From December 2003 to December 2004 alone, Maine successfully covered 10% more children through SCHIP. In this same timeframe, Maine's 6.1% rate of uninsurance for children was second lowest only to Vermont. Indeed, health care coverage is a centerpiece of my Administration. Funding for this program is one of the best investments we can make to ensure that our children grow and develop healthy, reduce chronic disease instances and costs, and attend school better equipped to learn.

Simply put, future success of Maine's efforts to provide quality affordable health care to Maine children depends on the federal government continuing to meet its funding responsibility to the SCHIP program. Without adequate funds this year, Maine stands to be short an estimated \$6.5 million, which could mean that 3250 children who would otherwise be eligible for the program would be unable to access this vital coverage. As Governor, I will do whatever I can to ensure all the children eligible can participate within state budget allowances.

I urge you to take into consideration the serious concerns and questions that I and many other Governors and Members of Congress, have expressed before harmful cuts to SCHIP take place. The immediate shortfall must be addressed expeditiously. We all seek to provide the best health care to our most valuable resource – our children.

Thank you for attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

John E. Baldacci

Governor

cc: Senator Olympia Snowe Senator Susan Collins Representative Tom Allen Representative Michael Michaud

## Governor Baldacci Calls Ice Age Trail Map Beneficial for Education and Tourism

October 2, 2006

ORONO – Governor John E. Baldacci heralded the Ice Age Trail Map as a benefit for both science education, and tourism. The Governor attended the rollout of the project chronicling Maine's geological past, especially in Washington County Monday morning at the University of Maine in Orono. The Governor endorsed the project when he served as a Member of Congress in 2001.

"This publication of the first Maine Downeast Ice Age Trail Map encourages science education," said Governor Baldacci. "We need to make sure that our students not only keep up with changes and advances in science, but lead the way to solving the environmental and energy challenges we face. This map will also help encourage the creative economy and eco-tourism in Washington County."

Governor Baldacci emphasized his commitment to a sustainable energy policy in Maine that improves the state's energy independence, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions through energy conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy.

"By learning about how different Maine looked during the ice ages, we get a sense of how much temperature impacts our landscape," said Governor Baldacci. "Through the excellent research underway at academic research establishments like the University of Maine's Climate Change Institute, understanding the past helps us understand the future."

Governor Baldacci linked the creation of the map to a positive display of research and development at the University of Maine.

"I have been committed to the advancement of research and development in this state," said Governor Baldacci. "I am proud of the research that has gone into this project, which will create advancement of eco-tourism opportunities as well."

Since 2003, Maine R&D institutions have secured \$492 million in R&D funding from government and private sources; published more than 3,100 scientific peer-reviewed journal articles; applied for 43 patents; and generated \$1.1 million in License income, including \$458,000 in 2005 which is an increase of 64% from 2003.

The map's publication has been supported by the Maine Department of Tourism as well as the National Science Foundation. The map is a self-guided tour of glacial Maine, produced by the Maine Climate Change Institute.

## Governor Celebrates New Minimum Wage Increase

October 2, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci on Saturday celebrated with Bangor-Brewer local legislators, workers' advocates, and others marking the start of the new minimum wage increase in Maine, which took effect Sunday, October 1.

"This is the second minimum wage increase I have signed into law," said the Governor. "This is important to me because Maine men and women should be able to earn a living wage so that they can support their families. There is no safety net better than a job with benefits and training."

On October 1, the first of two steps to raise the minimum wage in Maine went into effect. The first phase has raised the minimum wage from \$6.50 an hour to \$6.75 an hour. The second phase, which takes place in October 2007, will raise the minimum wage to \$7.00 an hour.

The Governor remarked that increasing opportunity for all Mainers to have a good paying job continues to be his number one priority.

"Together we are making progress toward the goal of increasing opportunity for all Maine people," said Governor Baldacci at the rally in Brewer. "My Administration is committed through action to protecting jobs, increasing access to health care, and ensuring that down the line, our policies reward workers for their hard labor."



## Governor Urges Maine Schools to Review Safety and Crisis Planning

October 3, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci issued the following statement today regarding safety in Maine schools.

“In the past two weeks there have been several unrelated incidents in schools across the country. Strangers have entered schools and terrorized children, and in some cases it has ended with the most tragic circumstances. In light of those events, I have asked law enforcement and schools to work together and review their safety plans. The Commissioner of Education will be sending out a letter to all superintendents today to ask for their cooperation.”

Last night, Governor Baldacci spoke with the heads of the Maine Emergency Management Agency, State Police, Commissioner of Education and Commissioner of Public Safety after the incident in Pennsylvania at an Amish school.

“As Governor and as a father, I am acutely aware of the impact these events have on families everywhere and the questions they raise,” said the Governor.

“Maine schools have been working on their safety measures to protect students and deal with emergency situations. This past June, Superintendents across the state met for their conference and worked on devising safety plans for emergency events. I want to recognize our superintendents, principals, teachers, and school staff for the good work that they’ve already put into efforts to protect our kids.

“I have asked a number of agencies in the state to coordinate their efforts and to work with superintendents, sheriffs, local schools, and local police to ensure that every school in Maine has safety procedures and emergency protocols in place. Maine’s Commissioner of Public Safety, Director of the Maine Emergency Management Agency, Chief of the State Police, and Commissioner of Education have been working to review resources that might assist schools and districts in reviewing individual crisis management plans.

“While there are no known threats to Maine schools, we have the opportunity to revisit, evaluate, and update current plans and procedures.

“Additionally, Commissioner of Education Sue Gendron will be issuing an informational letter today to Superintendents and private school administrators to impart additional information from the FBI and federal Department of Home Security that will aid in our vigilance to protect our schools and children. A list of resources to help families and superintendents prepare and update individual emergency plans is also attached to the letter.

“It goes without saying, we must do everything in our power in Maine to keep our children safe.”

Below is a list of the items covered in Commissioner Gendron's letter to schools.

- Short Term protective measures from DHS-FBI:
  - o Review of school emergency and crisis management plans
  - o Conducting exercises
  - o Raising awareness and conducting awareness training in the schools
  - o Raising community awareness
  - o Preparing school staff to act in crisis situations
  - o Considering limiting visitors inside schools
  - o Considering single entry points for students, staff and visitors
  - o Ensuring adequate emergency communications
- Long Term protective measures:
  - o Installation of secure locks for all external and internal doors and windows
  - o Considering establishment of a safety area within the school
  - o Additional information and suggestions as provided at [www.edfacilities.org](http://www.edfacilities.org)
- Resources Include:
  - o Emergency plan and crisis planning for schools, [www.ed.gov/emergencyplan](http://www.ed.gov/emergencyplan)
  - o Infrastructure protection, [www.edfacilities.org](http://www.edfacilities.org)
  - o Age-appropriate information for children on disasters, [www.fema.gov/kids](http://www.fema.gov/kids)
  - o Information on dealing with trauma, [www.nctsnet.org](http://www.nctsnet.org)

## Governor Baldacci Thanks Volunteers

October 3, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968 Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

BANGOR — Governor John E. Baldacci opened the 20th Blaine House Conference on Volunteerism Tuesday morning by thanking the volunteers for their work and dedication.

“Volunteers, whether they are volunteering through formal service or informal neighborly kindness will all tell you they get back at least as much as they give,” said Governor Baldacci. “They get satisfaction from using and honing their skills; a sense of usefulness that they do meaningful work that would not be done if they were not around; and a sense of connection to local people that only comes from direct involvement.”

In the United States, 28% of citizens volunteer. In Maine, 64% of the population spend or give their time to great causes in their community.

“I find myself traveling throughout the state to speak at fundraisers for different organizations,” said the Governor. “Between all of the charity walks and races; bake sales; talent shows and bean – or spaghetti – suppers around this state, we have tens of thousands of volunteers who come through to support causes on a daily basis.”

The keynote speaker for the conference is Marsha Meeks Kelly who is from Mississippi and spoke to the group about the disaster relief efforts in the Gulf Coast Region.

“As tragic a time as last September was for the Gulf Region, it certainly taught us a very important lesson about volunteer efforts,” said Governor Baldacci. “We always need to be prepared.”

## Governor Applauds U.S. Court of Federal Claims Decision Involving Maine Yankee

October 4, 2006

AUGUSTA - Governor John Baldacci expressed cautious optimism today regarding last weekend's sealed U.S. Court of Federal Claims decision finding in favor of suits brought by Yankee Atomic against the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), which includes the now closed and decommissioned Maine Yankee power plant in Wiscasset. The judge's decision supports optimism that Maine ratepayers would be able to see reduced rates in the future. The federal DOE, however, is expected to file an appeal of the decision handed down by the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

The federal court issued a ruling Saturday evening of \$75.8 million damages against the U.S. Department of Energy for its failure to meet the federally statutory and Department contract to initiate the removal of high-level radioactive spent nuclear fuel assemblies from the Maine Yankee plant as required by law beginning January 31, 1998. The seal on the decision was lifted today by the court.

The Governor said that this court action is a clear and strong message that the federal government needs to hold to its agreement to move nuclear waste from Maine and other states to a permanent national facility. In addition, the Governor stated that he hopes Maine ratepayers will experience reduced rates in the future from the court decision.

"This is a good first step in ensuring Maine ratepayers receive relief they deserve," said Governor Baldacci. "For years Mainers have been paying the cost of DOE's broken promise to accept for disposal all spent nuclear fuel at Maine Yankee and other nuclear units. I would hope that following a final appellate decision, Maine ratepayers will see their rates reduced in the future."

Maine Yankee originally sought \$78.1 million in damages due to the breach of contract by the federal Department of Energy. Half of Maine Yankee ratepayers are located in Maine (those customers of Central Maine Power, Bangor Hydro-Electric and Maine Public Service), with the remaining 50% paid by other New England states' consumers. The judge's decision concerns only damages Maine Yankee incurred through 2002. Maine Yankee is able to seek additional damages for the period after 2002 in the future.

Also involved in the suit were Connecticut Yankee and Yankee Atomic. Connecticut Yankee was awarded approximately \$34.1 million. Yankee Atomic was awarded \$32.9 million.

Governor Baldacci has called on Congress to fund and enact legislation that would direct the federal government to keep its long standing commitment to establish a national repository for the secure storage of spent nuclear fuels and high level radioactive waste. In a July letter sent by the Governor to United States Senate Senator Pete Domenici, Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Energy & Water Development, Governor Baldacci stated:

"In today's world, the security concerns of Americans are not well served by having thousands of metric tons of nuclear waste left in facilities in thirty-one states, including Maine. Our best interests will be served by consolidating these materials in a facility selected for its remoteness and for its ability to be secured. Yucca Mountain has been selected from a number of sites because it best meets the several evaluation criteria. Now the Federal government must move forward to complete this project."

## U-Haul Cites Maine as Top 2005 Growth State

October 4, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci today said that U-Haul, the do-it-yourself moving company, named Maine the 2005 top growth state in the country in the category of 5,000 to 20,000 families moving. These results marked the 4th year in a row that Maine achieved such distinction of in-migration. In 2005, Maine had a growth rate in U-Haul moves into the state of 14.64%, surpassing the next-highest state by more than six percentage points.

“This data released earlier by U-Haul confirms that Maine is a place where people want to be and to move to,” said Governor Baldacci. “Maine’s natural resources, industrious and friendly communities, and positive economic and jobs potential is attracting more people to our state. Maine’s reputation is growing nationwide, as this data shows.”

Between 2000 and 2005, Maine reversed the trend of out-migration experienced in the 1990’s, making us one of only four states to reverse a loss of residents.

U-Haul reported in a release earlier this year that their data reflects nationwide trends. The company determined growth by comparing the percentage of inbound to outbound moves across the country. The information used for the study was compiled over the calendar year 2005.

The Governor thanked U-Haul for being a good corporate citizen. This past Monday, Governor Baldacci celebrated the unveiling of the Ice Age Trail Map at the University of Maine. At that event, U-Haul exhibited for the first time a truck with the graphic of Maine’s Ice Age Trail.

“We appreciate U-Haul showcasing this unique history of Maine landscape,” said Governor Baldacci. “The truck graphics will bring much attention to Maine and this important project.”

## Governor Baldacci Announces Signing of Purchase and Sale Agreement for Old Town Mill Site

October 5, 2006

OLD TOWN — Governor John E. Baldacci today announced the signing of the purchase and sale agreement with Georgia-Pacific for the company's Old Town mill site. The agreement was signed during a ceremony at the Public Safety Building in Old Town.

"The future of this mill site is in good hands," said Governor Baldacci. "I want to thank Georgia-Pacific for all they have done to help get to this point. Tamarack Energy, Hallowell International, LLC/Red Shield Energy and Lamtec Inc. all have put forward plans for the future that will benefit the community and the state. We are witnessing a very exciting time for the City of Old Town."

Joseph W. Moeller, Georgia-Pacific's chairman and chief executive officer, said, "Georgia-Pacific is pleased to be here today with the Governor to successfully complete this deal. We and the State are working to complete closing by the end of this month. Georgia-Pacific's entire leadership team wants to thank the Governor, his team, and other state and local officials for their commitment and tireless efforts to work together to secure a winning future for the facility and community."

The three companies that the Governor referred to are the first three that plan on moving into the site: Tamarack Energy, a developer of renewable energy; Hallowell International, LLC, a maker of home heating and cooling products; and Lamtec Inc., a manufacturer of pressure sensitive labels.

"As I have said before, the outlook for this site and this town is bright," said the Governor. "When fully operational with the initial three companies, the site will employ 250 workers. The goal is to have four or five different manufacturers in the facility, employing more than 1,000 people."

"This is an exciting opportunity not just for the City of Old Town, but for the entire State of Maine," said Governor Baldacci. "Maine is in the beginning stages of new technology that holds great promise and it's being developed at the University of Maine."

Governor Baldacci and Georgia-Pacific thanked the Congressional Delegation – Senator Snowe, Senator Collins and Congressman Michaud – for their efforts; as well as the local delegation – Senator Elizabeth Schneider, Representative Richard Blanchard, Representative Robert Duchesne - Town Manager Peggy Daigle, the Old Town City Council and their president, Gary Sirois.

"They have all worked together extremely well and I look forward to working with everyone as we continue to move forward," said Governor Baldacci.

## Governor Encouraged By Brookings Institution Study

October 5, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci today said a report commissioned by GrowSmart gives clear evidence that Maine's economic foundation is solid, and that there is more work to be done. The non-partisan Brookings Institution study shows Maine is poised for more growth. The Governor noted that many of the recommendations made by Brookings are areas in which the Administration has taken strong action.

"I'm pleased the Brookings report speaks so favorably about Maine and our opportunities," said Governor Baldacci. "Every county is growing. People want to be in Maine and come to Maine to enjoy the high quality of life Maine offers and to take advantage of new job opportunities."

Among the findings, the Brookings study said that nationally Maine experienced the fifth biggest jump in people moving into the state, with growth occurring in every county of the state. Additionally, Maine's job creation has outperformed the nation. Per capita income is at the highest level ever experienced in the state. The economy is diversifying, with clusters of businesses relying on new technology – for both traditional industries like farming and forestry, and in new and growing sectors such as information technology and biotechnology.

The Governor said that the Brookings Institution recommendations follow closely along the lines of improvements he has promoted since taking office. These include streamlining state government, increasing government efficiencies, instituting a spending cap on all levels of government, incentivizing consolidation of school administrative functions, and reducing taxes. Additionally, the Governor has supported increased investment into research and development, expanded access to higher education through partnerships between the Community College System and the University System, and increased workforce training opportunities.

While the Governor is pleased with the direction of the state, he is not satisfied and said there is more to be done to grow Maine's economy, create good jobs with benefits, and create opportunity for Maine people. Governor Baldacci is directing his Cabinet to use recommendations in this report as a guide in preparing the next budget.

"Brookings recommended some forward thinking investments and they are in line with the strategy my Administration has followed," said the Governor. "As we look to move these initiatives forward, we must keep to these with three guidelines:

- ♣ We must not increase our state's tax burden ranking
- ♣ We must make government efficient and effective
- ♣ We must set priorities in education, health, and corrections at all levels of government



“As we move our economic development plan forward, we must continue to draw upon the good ideas of the Brookings Institution, GrowSmart, and others.”

## Governor Baldacci Proclaims October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October 5, 2006

CONTACT: Crystal Canney, 287-2531 (cell) 557-5968

Dan Cashman, 287-2531 (cell) 837-4821

AUGUSTA - Governor John E. Baldacci and First Lady Karen Baldacci hosted the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence Thursday afternoon for a reception at the Blaine House. The Governor has proclaimed the month of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the State of Maine.

"Domestic violence, as you know, does not just take place behind the closed doors of the victims' and abusers' doors," said Governor Baldacci, "but it happens in the workplace and elsewhere in our society."

At the reception at the Blaine House, the Projects and Coalition staff honored community members who have contributed to end domestic abuse in Maine.

"We have come a long way in just a few short years, much to your credit as a network of advocates," said the Governor. "Yet, we have a long way to go. Too many women and children are being victimized and each story is tragic and compelling."

At the reception, Governor Baldacci mentioned a new federal grant of \$1 million that will enable nearly 30 high quality domestic violence programs to expand their service.

"There is more we can do," said Governor Baldacci. "I appreciate your leadership and collaboration as we continue to do our best to eradicate domestic violence."

## Governor Baldacci Celebrates Mill's Success

October 6, 2006

LINCOLN – Governor John E. Baldacci celebrated the success of Lincoln Paper and Tissue Friday afternoon, with a ribbon cutting and dedication for the new #8 machine.

“Lincoln Paper and Tissue is a shining example of what hard work, a committed community, and tremendous teamwork can do,” said Governor Baldacci. “All of you will remember, it was a long and hard climb to get to this point.”

In January of 2004, Eastern Fine Paper announced they were closing the Lincoln paper mill. Governor Baldacci worked with his administration and town officials to find a buyer for the mill.

“I brought to bear all of the resources of my administration, especially the Department of Economic and Community Development and the Department of Environmental Protection, to ensure this facility remained open and the quality workers here remained employed,” said the Governor.

Governor Baldacci congratulated the owners, Keith Van Scotter and John Wissman, as well as the workers for the success they have had since the purchase, and for the new machine being dedicated at the ceremony.

“This tissue machine’s operation is a critical step in the continued success of Lincoln Paper and Tissue,” said Governor Baldacci.

The new tissue machine will give Lincoln Paper and Tissue the ability to double the capacity of the facility, from 50 to 100 tons of tissue per day. The machine has also allowed for the hiring of 40 additional full-time employees, which brings the total number of employees close to 400, with a \$21 million payroll.

## Governor Reaches Agreement with Hospitals

October 11, 2006

AUGUSTA - Governor John Baldacci and the Maine Hospital Association (MHA) announced a plan to resolve outstanding MaineCare debt owed to Maine hospitals and to increase MaineCare hospital payments.

"I am pleased that we have been able to move forward in assuring appropriate payment to Maine's hospitals in a timely fashion," said Governor Baldacci. "We have a shared commitment to the people covered under the MaineCare program and to the providers who care for them."

This agreement compliments previous work undertaken by Governor Baldacci where he settled a longstanding lawsuit filed against the state in 1993 regarding MaineCare reimbursement rates.

"As caregivers, hospitals know how important this program is to ensuring that the neediest Mainers, both children and adults, receive the care they need when they need it," said MHA President Steven R. Michaud. "MaineCare must be preserved to ensure the health of our most vulnerable citizens."

Importantly, because of the federal government's commitment to share in the costs of state Medicaid programs, this agreement will result in approximately \$347 million in federal Medicaid matching money flowing to Maine to support our healthcare system. With the State fulfilling its obligations under the MaineCare program through this agreement, it will improve the affordability of healthcare and health insurance for everyone.

The Baldacci Administration intends to pay the remaining state share of the debt of \$204 million in equal installments over the next four years. The State will look at any potential revenue surplus as a means of making payments early, in addition to budget funding.

Governor Baldacci added: "Hospitals have been working with us since I took office to continue to provide service for all Mainers. With this latest settlement, Maine's community hospitals along with other front line providers will be able to maintain their mission to provide the highest quality healthcare to all those in need."

In the agreement with MHA, the Governor's office has agreed to pay off the debt and avoid accumulation of debt in the future. According to the agreement:

- The state will raise hospitals' weekly PIP payments by including \$82 million in state funds (\$221 million state and federal) for hospitals in state fiscal years 2008 and 2009.
- Also during fiscal years 2008 and 2009, the state will include \$20 million in state funds (\$54 million state and federal) to pay for 2004 hospital settlements.
- A second \$102 million in state money (\$275 million state and federal) will be budgeted for fiscal years 2010 and 2011 to pay all remaining MaineCare hospital settlements.

"We applaud the Governor's hard work to come to this agreement with Maine's hospitals," Michaud said.

In addition, Governor Baldacci said he is pleased that the Maine Hospital Association has agreed to work collaboratively with the Administration to contain costs and overall expenditures related to providing service for MaineCare patients.

## Governor Baldacci Congratulates Brittany Ray – Maine's Teacher of the Year

October 13, 2006

HARRINGTON – Governor John E. Baldacci joined Education Commissioner Susan Gendron at Narraguagus High School Friday morning to surprise Brittany Ray with her award as Maine's Teacher of the Year. Ms. Ray is the first teacher to win the award who is based in Washington County.

"The Teacher of the Year Blue Ribbon Panel has a very difficult job in choosing the Teacher of the Year," said Governor Baldacci. "They have done a terrific job in selecting a great teacher who will represent all teachers throughout the State of Maine."

Ms. Ray is a graduate of Colby College and is currently enrolled in the Graduate Education Program to obtain a Master's in Counselor Education at the University of Maine. She has taught English at Narraguagus High School since 1995.

"I would like to thank Ms. Ray for doing her job so well and with such passion," said the Governor.

Governor Baldacci recalled stories of his college experience, as well as a story about one Sunday afternoon when he was attempting to watch a Patriots game with his son, when his wife asked him to help her set up her kindergarten classroom for the following week's lesson.

"I went to the school, and it wasn't just my wife there, but it was all of the teachers...and all of their spouses too," remarked the Governor. "Teachers are the backbone of our educational system and education is extremely important to the future of our state."

Governor Baldacci told the students and administrators gathered at Narraguagus High School that education is one of his top priorities because of the future effect it will have on economic development. The Governor heralded his creation of the Community College System – where enrollment is up 48% over the past 4 years – as well as the teacher pay raise.

"Beginning teachers have not had a pay raise in 20 years," said Governor Baldacci. "To put that in perspective – that would be like the minimum wage not increasing over the past 20 years. The minimum wage 20 years ago was a little more than half of what it is now. Picture doing your jobs for half of the money you're making now, and that is basically what teachers were experiencing."

Joining the Governor and Commissioner Gendron were the 2006, 2005 and 1995 Maine Teachers of the Year, Representative Edward Dugay, (D-Cherryfield), Senator Kevin Raye, (R-Washington), MSAD #37 School Board Members and other representatives and dignitaries.

## Office of Energy Independence Launches Maine Home Performance with Energy Star (Whole House) Residential Energy Efficiency Program

October 17, 2006

WESTBROOK - Governor Baldacci's Office of Energy Independence and Security officially launched the Maine Home Performance with Energy Star whole house efficiency program (Maine HP) today for York, Cumberland, Androscoggin and neighboring counties. Maine HP provides homeowners one stop shopping and access to certified contractors who will not only provide a state of the art energy audit, but also make the necessary recommended home improvements, and provide easy access to financing. These improvements can reduce energy bills by up to 50%, eliminate mold, solve moisture problems, and improve indoor air quality. Income eligible homeowners will be able to access the Maine Housing Authority's 1% HELP loan. In many cases monthly energy savings will exceed the monthly cost of the improvements. Maine HP will also provide mentoring for contractors and third party inspections to ensure quality performance.

Maine HP is featured in a half-hour home makeover show produced by the new Portland CW, to be aired for the next couple of months on WPXT-TV. "Whole House" features a Windham family that won an energy audit and home improvements donated by a number of area businesses. The improvements are estimated to cut the family's energy bills in half and vastly improve their home's comfort.

"Maine has some of the oldest housing stock in the nation, heavy reliance on heating oil, and cold winters. High heating prices are really hurting many Maine people. Maine HP gives homeowners a very easy way to take control of their energy bills, and at the same time reduce Maine's dependence on foreign oil and our greenhouse gas emissions," said Beth Nagusky, Director of the Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security. "Our plan is to expand this program statewide as soon as possible," said Nagusky.

At the press event, Maine HP demonstrated some of the advanced diagnostic techniques that will be used to solve the energy and performance problems of Maine's homes. Members of the press can also sign up for an educational assessment of their own home or a home of their choice. For more information about Maine Home Performance with Energy Star or to find a certified contractor, please visit [www.mainehomeperformance.org](http://www.mainehomeperformance.org) or call 1-800-695-1484.

## Governor Baldacci Pledges Continued Support for Veterans

October 19, 2006

BIDDEFORD – Governor John E. Baldacci told veterans that he would continue to work for them as he assisted in the grand opening of the Veterans' Career House in Biddeford Thursday morning.

"Today is an important day for our veterans as we establish yet another innovative service for those who have sacrificed greatly for Maine and for our nation," said Governor Baldacci. "Today we reach out to our homeless Veterans to tell them that we are a grateful state and nation."

The Veterans' Career House is Maine's first transitional housing facility designed exclusively for homeless Veterans. Governor Baldacci praised the facility for filling a void and helping transition Veterans to a better future.

"The Veterans Center House is one of two homeless facilities in Maine dedicated to serving Veterans and the only one providing transitional housing for homeless Veterans," said Governor Baldacci. "The facility includes housing and employment readiness – a comprehensive program to help this population achieve independent living."

Veterans at the center are provided with housing, vocational training and help addressing other issues that may contribute to being homeless, such as alcohol or drug dependency.

Governor Baldacci congratulated the group for the collaboration between Community Housing of Maine, the Training Resource Center and the Veterans Administration who all contributed to the project's success.

"I am pleased that the State was able to contribute to this project with grants from Maine Housing," said the Governor. "I have challenged state agencies to be efficient and innovative in using state tax dollars, and this is an outstanding example of that."



## Governor Announces Prescription Drug Savings

October 19, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci today announced promising results from the first months of operation of the Sovereign States Drug Consortium (SSDC), a first of its kind prescription drug rebate pool that Maine began with Iowa and Vermont earlier this year. Approved by the federal government for operation in July 2006, the SSDC enables partnering states to control increases in drug costs while maintaining a comprehensive drug benefit through Medicaid. In part due to the savings achieved from participation in SSDC, Maine is collecting an estimated \$12.2 million in supplemental rebates in calendar year 2006. The State is anticipating in calendar year 2007 an additional \$2.6 million in savings (above the FY 2006 \$12.2 million saved) – directly as a result of the SSDC.

“This innovative program is another successful effort by the State of Maine to reign in cost increases and preserve crucial prescription drug benefits to Maine people,” said Governor Baldacci. “Savings to the State will continue to ensure that we provide the best benefit possible at the lowest cost.”

The State of Maine has been a nationally recognized leader in prescription drug policy. Earlier this year, Governor Baldacci instituted a critical safety net to preserve medications for many of Maine’s seniors during the rollout of the federal Medicare Part D program. The Governor provided immediate help to ease the transition of Maine’s most vulnerable seniors to Part D program, and he covered the cost of incorrect charges to beneficiaries as a result of failures in the Part D system.

The Baldacci Administration, along with the other participating states’ governors, created the SSDC because of concerns about losing rebates when the federal Medicare Part D program began. With the creation of SSDC, Maine has not only not lost rebates, but has surpassed previous rebates. Maine is once again using its power to negotiate, at the same time when the Federal Part D program explicitly prohibits rate negotiations.

Maine uses prior authorization and preferred drug lists to substantially increase the percentage of the drug budget that is returned to the state in the way of rebates. These rebates have gone from 20% prior to state FY 2000, up to 33-35% presently. The combination of promoting the most cost-effective drugs and maximizing rebates has allowed the State to go well beyond mitigating annual drug price increases. These policies have actually reduced net drug expenditures per member every year since state FY 2002.

The SSDC enables partner states to build on current cost-saving strategies. Governor Baldacci joined Governor Tom Vilsack of Iowa and Jim Douglas of Vermont in August to announce the program, stating: “Unlike the Medicare Drug Benefit states have control over what we cover under Medicaid and how much we pay for it. The preservation of the benefit we provide our citizens is a top priority. We must control spending to be able to afford that coverage. In the absence of federal strategies, it has been necessary for states to be creative in finding ways to contain costs.”

The SSDC provides member states the ability to leverage their collective covered lives to negotiate for discounts in drug costs. This program allows transparency in drug costs. States have access to all bids by

pharmaceutical manufacturers, collectively review the bids and then independently decide which is appropriate for each state.

“This is a common sense collaborative approach Maine has undertaken with other states that is already yielding positive results,” said Governor Baldacci. “I encourage other states to partner with Maine, Iowa and Vermont, and by doing so, additional savings can be achieved for all.”

## Cato Report Ignores Critical Investments, Tax Changes

October 20, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci today said that the Cato Institute report on the nation's governors excludes critical evidence regarding Maine's economy and taxes, giving a significantly lower grade to Governor Baldacci's record on fiscal responsibility than is deserved.

This year the Governor led the repeal of the business equipment tax. He reduced local property taxes by providing the largest increase in state funding to local education in Maine's history. Governor Baldacci established budget caps at all levels of government, and doubled funding for tax relief from the Circuit Breaker program (for 170,000 eligible Mainers).

Ironically, Cato said in its report that they made adjustments in their methodology for states that have increased state level spending for the purpose of reducing local property taxes. They did not do that for Maine.

In addition to reducing taxes, the Governor has taken action to establish long-term fiscal responsibility, including:

- Balancing the State budget without raising broad based taxes;
- Increasing state reserves from zero to \$149 million;
- Keeping spending down, having the lowest average increase in the state budget of any previous administration in thirty years;
- Reducing short term borrowing from \$250 Million to zero; and
- Ending the state fiscal year on June 30 with a budget surplus of \$74 million.

The next phase of the Governor's plan is to cap valuation for the purposes of property taxes for year-round Maine residents. The Governor will also be proposing that 90% of increased state aid to local education be passed on in the form of property tax relief.

Governor Baldacci and his Administration have continued to invest in Maine people, including education, health care, workforce development, R&D and jobs for the 21st century. There's more work to be done, but the foundation has been laid to grow jobs, invest in Maine's future, provide affordable health care and protect our natural resources while increasing our energy independence.

## Governor Baldacci Lauds Eastman Industries for Bringing Tractor Business to Maine

October 23, 2006

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PORTLAND – Governor John E. Baldacci visited Eastman industries, maker of the HoverMower lawnmowers, as they rolled their first Ingersoll tractor off the production line Monday morning. The ceremony marked the official arrival of Ingersoll Tractor Company to Maine after Eastman industries purchased the company and moved it into Maine from Wisconsin.

“The purchase and move of Ingersoll tractors to Maine is the first hard manufacturing move into the state in several years,” said Governor Baldacci. “Not only is Eastman expanding Maine’s manufacturing industry, it is also creating quality jobs in the manufacturing sector and making an investment in the Portland community.”

Governor Baldacci was on hand to test out the new tractor and congratulate Eastman on its purchase. The Governor also toured Eastman’s new 40,000 square-foot manufacturing facility, which houses both the tractor and the lawnmower production lines. Eastman recently moved from a 7,000-square-foot facility into its new headquarters on Riverside Drive in Portland. Eastman invested in excess of \$3.5 million in purchasing and updating the building and preparing it for the manufacturing businesses.

“Eastman Industries is an innovative company that is playing an important role in expanding Maine’s manufacturing sector,” said Governor Baldacci. “We appreciated Eastman for bringing the established Ingersoll brand to Maine, making it one of the first hard manufacturers to move into the state in several years.”

Eastman President Nick Nikazmerad said he hopes to increase employment to 50 people over the next couple of years as the company modernizes and expands the Ingersoll line of garden tractors and compact loader backhoes. Eastman recently added seven employees, bringing the total to 12.

## Study Confirms Maine's Low Rate of Uninsured

October 24, 2006

AUGUSTA – In 2003 when Dirigo Health Reform was enacted into law, Maine had the highest rate of uninsured in New England. Today, we have the lowest rate, according to the independent study, the National Scorecard on U.S. Health System Performance, 2006, by The Commonwealth Fund, a private national healthcare foundation. In fact, Maine joins four other states in having the lowest rate of uninsured. This is contrary to the national increase in uninsured.

“Dirigo Health is clearly making a difference for hard working Maine families struggling to access affordable health insurance,” said Governor Baldacci. “The United States is facing a health care crisis. We are doing something about it in Maine. Dirigo Health has covered more than 20,000 lives. The reform program saves money and controls costs, and this helps every Maine citizen. More needs to be done to ensure that insurance is more affordable for Maine’s businesses and families.”

Dirigo Health is comprehensive health care reform; it’s more than an insurance card. Dirigo Reform created DirigoChoice, a subsidized insurance product designed to help small businesses and their employees as well as sole proprietors and individuals afford coverage. Dirigo builds and expands MaineCare to assure coverage for Maine’s lowest income families. Dirigo Health launched a wide array of actions designed to make health coverage more affordable for everyone. These combined strategies of Dirigo Health Reform are working as evidenced by Maine’s success in covering the uninsured.

The Commonwealth Fund report shows Maine has been the only state in New England to have reduced the rate of uninsured over recent years. In New England, only Maine improved its reach to insure its citizens from 1999-2000 to 2004-2005. In fact, the rest of New England experienced an increase in the uninsured.

While these numbers illustrate a positive trend, more work is needed to make health insurance and healthcare more affordable in Maine. Governor Baldacci created the Blue Ribbon Commission on Dirigo Health at the close of the last Legislative session to make Dirigo Health work for more Maine people. The commission will propose options for additional sources of funding for the DirigoChoice program.

The Commonwealth Fund chart can be found online from the latest Commonwealth Fund’s report, “Affordable Care” slide: <http://www.cmwf.org/usrdoc/Schoennatscorecardchartpack955.pdf>

## Governor Baldacci Lauds WIRED Grant and North Star Alliance

October 25, 2006

AUGUSTA — Governor John E. Baldacci said that the North Star Alliance, created by a \$15 million federal WIRED grant, helps build on the strengths of Maine's marine and composites industries. The Governor made the statement during a visit to the Kenway Corporation in Augusta — a company that is expanding to three new production lines, creating new jobs at the facility.

"The WIRED Grant we successfully pursued — that created the North Star Alliance — provided the state with \$15 million that will be used to grow 2,000 new jobs for Maine in the next five to seven years," said Governor Baldacci. "We see the fruits of this strategy today with the expansion plans of Kenway Corporation."

Maine's North Star Alliance is an industry-led collaboration between the Department of Labor, the Department of Economic and Community Development and the University of Maine working together to address industry needs on employee recruitment and training, research and development, expanding markets and capitalization and infrastructure development. Governor Baldacci said that the recent Brookings Institution report was proof that the WIRED grant will be a great benefit for Maine.

"Earlier this month, the Brookings Institution released a report that said that for Maine to reach its potential, we need to invest more in targeted industries," said the Governor, "and that's exactly what my Administration has done. We pursued the federal WIRED grant to help build our workforce, R&D and manufacturing workforce for the boatbuilding, composites and marine trades industries." Governor Baldacci has been responsible for other investments that have strengthened Maine's economic foundation, including establishing the Community College System; the Pine Tree Zone program — which has created 3,200 new jobs in Maine; the creative economy; and biomedical R&D.

The Governor placed specific importance on the boatbuilding industry because it is a Maine industry that is older than the state itself.

"The North Star Alliance helps us build on our strengths, creating quality jobs and keep the state's marine and composites industries competitive in the global economy," said Governor Baldacci. "This is promising, but there's more that we must do to expand Maine's research and development fields and to provide economic opportunities to all of Maine's residents."

## Governor Welcomes Home Marines from Maine

October 26, 2006

TOPSHAM – Governor John Baldacci joined family, friends and supporters of 56 members of the 1st Battalion 25th Marines at a welcome home ceremony this morning. The Marines are part of a 1,000 member contingent that recently returned from seven months serving their country in Fallujah, Iraq.

“We honor all those who return today to their families,” said Governor Baldacci. “You completed dangerous missions and we are proud of your service and your sacrifices.”

In Iraq the combat unit was responsible for uncovering weapons caches, countering the insurgency, and conducting humanitarian relief efforts.

“Finally, we also join today to remember the other Maine military members, Guardsmen and women – those who remain overseas, and those who made the supreme sacrifice to their nation,” said the Governor.

Governor Baldacci noted that the State of Maine has historically served the nation with the utmost bravery and performance. There remain 360 Guard members from the state mobilized and/or deployed.

## Governor Baldacci Declares Emergency to Restore Power

October 28, 2006

Augusta-- Governor John E. Baldacci signed a procedural proclamation tonight to respond to the need to restore power.

Currently, Maine Emergency Management Agency is reporting 30 thousand households served by Central Maine Power and

12 thousand households served by Bangor Hydro are without electricity.

Governor Baldacci was at MEMA at 7:30 tonight to be briefed on the situation. He was told wind gusts up to 70 miles an hour were documented in the Cape Elizabeth area.

The state of emergency proclamation will facilitate a waiver from the Federal Department of Transportation to allow electrical workers to stay on the job and restore power as well as bring in additional crews from Canada as needed.

The text of the declaration is as follows:

WHEREAS, the State of Maine is experiencing a severe wind storm that has left thousands of Maine homes out of power; and

WHEREAS, work crews will have to work many hours to restore power; and

WHEREAS, power restoration crews have been requested from Canada to assist in power restoration; and

WHEREAS, federal rules determine the number of hours the driver of an electrical line repair vehicle may operate; and

WHEREAS, drivers of such vehicles must cease operations when they reach the federal limit on hours of operation, and therefore would have to cease power restoration; and

WHEREAS, these conditions threaten public health and safety and endanger public property if power cannot be restored to Maine homes and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the declaration of a State of Emergency will facilitate the granting of a waiver from the Federal Department of Transportation to allow these drivers to operate additional hours and otherwise operate effectively in this situation,

NOW THEREFORE, I, John Elias Baldacci, Governor of the State of Maine, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of Maine, find that these conditions constitute a civil emergency under 37-B M.R.S.A. section 742, and for the purpose of facilitating a waiver to Federal



Department of Transportation Rules do hereby declare that a State of Emergency exists as of October 28, 2006.

## Governor Baldacci Touts R&D as Strong Economic Development in Maine

October 30, 2006

TRENTON – Governor John E. Baldacci called research and development extremely important to the future of Maine's economy. The Governor spoke about R&D at the opening of Bar Harbor Biotech – the first commercial enterprise to spin-off from The Jackson Laboratory.

"An important part of my economic plan for Maine is increasing funding in R&D – and projects like Bar Harbor Biotech is all that I need to see to let me know that research and development is vital to the future of Maine's economy," said Governor Baldacci. "We need to expand research and development to keep pace with the global economy."

Between 2003 and 2005, institutional personnel in R&D increased 67% in Maine. Faculty involved in R&D grew 66%, and institutional R&D space grew 40%. Last year, federal agencies made 25 awards available to 18 Maine companies for a total of \$6.6 million.

"The scientific research institutions in this area of Maine are strong and well respected," said the Governor, referring to The Jackson Lab, MDI Biological Laboratory, College of the Atlantic, Schoodic Education and Research Center, Center for Cooperative Aquaculture Research in Franklin and others within driving distance. "At Jackson Lab, Stem-cell research is already being done...right here in Maine."

Bar Harbor Biotech will conduct research with respect to advancing treatments for human diseases such as cancer, heart disease, Alzheimer's and diabetes. They will start with 4 employees, with a goal of reaching 10 employees by the end of the first year.

"The research being done at the Jackson Lab and now at Bar Harbor Biotechnology is a tool that will be useful in fighting chronic disease in not only Maine, but throughout the world," said the Governor. "Bar Harbor Biotech is bringing high paying jobs to Downeast Maine with the customers and investor dollars mostly coming from out of state, contributing to the strengthening economy of our state. I am proud of the work being done at these institutions and look forward to the future growth here at Bar Harbor Biotechnologies."

## Governor Baldacci Visits Sprague Energy to Increase Awareness of Biofuel Availability

October 31, 2006

SOUTH PORTLAND – Governor John E. Baldacci visited Sprague Energy Tuesday afternoon to congratulate them on the announcement that one of their tanks will be converted to biodiesel. Governor Baldacci praised the announcement, saying that energy independence has been one of his priorities for years.

“When I first took office, crude oil was selling for just over 20 dollars a barrel, and global warming was not front page news,” said Governor Baldacci. “I created the Office of Energy Independence because I wanted to make Maine a leader when it comes to energy conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy. Maine has become a leader in so many ways.”

Governor Baldacci listed a number of energy accomplishments since taking office, including heating state offices with biodiesel; adopting the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED building standards for new and renovated state buildings; increasing the number of hybrid vehicles in the state fleet; and reducing the number of miles that state employees travel.

“We are leading by example and we're not stopping,” said the Governor. “The Department of Transportation plans to start using biodiesel in some of their trucks next spring and we have enacted a solar rebate program, natural gas conservation programs and legislation to increase renewable power by 10 percent by 2017.”

Governor Baldacci said that his administration has enacted legislation encouraging more energy efficiency and renewable energy in Maine including a biofuel production tax credit and a biodiesel excise tax reduction.

The Governor thanked Sprague Energy for converting a tank to biodiesel, saying that it will make it easier for Maine oil dealers who wish to supply bioheat and biodiesel blended motor fuels to their customers.

“Biofuels are good for the environment, good for America and great for Maine,” said Governor Baldacci. “I thank Sprague Energy for what they are doing here today to increase the supply of biodiesel in our state.”

## Governor Baldacci's Pine Tree Zones Credited with Adding 200 Jobs in Sanford

November 1, 2006

SANFORD – Governor John E. Baldacci congratulated Oxford Aviation for expansion plans that will aim to bring 200 new jobs to Sanford.

“Jim Horowitz knows that his workers are the Gold Standard – and he has now invested in Maine to employ 200 more Gold Standard workers,” said the Governor.

Horowitz’ decision to remain in Maine was due in part to Governor Baldacci’s Pine Tree Zone program, the efforts of state and local leaders, and Maine’s quality and talented workforce.

“Thanks to Jim Horowitz for continuing to invest in the state of Maine,” said Governor Baldacci. “Oxford Aviation looked at a number of locations for its expansion project, but chose to stay – and expand – in Maine.”

Oxford Aviation started in 1989 with one employee. By 1999, Oxford Aviation was located in a 45,000 square foot facility with 50 employees. In 2006, Oxford Aviation employs 60 employees and plans for an additional 200 employees with the expansion. Horowitz plans to pull his new workforce from local community colleges and high schools.

“This expansion is important to Oxford Aviation, it’s important to the town of Sanford and it’s important to the State of Maine,” said Governor Baldacci. “Oxford Aviation has a business plan – and it’s a plan for success.”

Oxford Aviation was awarded a Community Development Block Grant for \$400,000 to aide in the expansion – an award that Governor Baldacci called an investment in the future.

“Through Pine Tree Zones, CDBG, increased emphasis on education and R&D, we are investing in Maine by investing in the people of Maine,” said the Governor, “and Jim Horowitz and Oxford Aviation are living proof that the future looks bright.”

## Governor Honors Bangor Troop Greeters as They Welcome 2000th Flight

November 1, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci today honored the special citizens from the Bangor area who have been welcoming back troops who have served overseas in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere. Today the 2,000th flight of returning soldiers landed at Bangor International Airport. Bangor troop greeters were there to warmly welcome the soldiers back – just as they have been for every such flight since May 2003.

Governor Baldacci issued the following Proclamation to recognize the contributions of the Bangor troop greeters.

WHEREAS, since May 2003, nearly 400,000 troops on 2,000 flights have deplaned at Bangor International Airport in transit to and from the Middle East conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, these troops – Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force – have been met by smiling faces, handed cell phones to call families, and provided with cookies, candy and reading material by grateful Maine citizens; and

WHEREAS, this is the first welcome these troops receive on U.S. soil when returning and a promise to be remembered when departing; and

WHEREAS, Bangor troop greeters are known throughout the military community and many request the Bangor stop-over; and

WHEREAS, Bangor troop greeters are on-call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, ready to greet American soldiers before they depart US soil, or when they first return; and

WHEREAS, troop greeters have brought credit to Maine through stories on national news and in articles in newspapers across the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Bangor troop greeters welcomed their 2,000th plane since 2003 on November 1 – standing proud, supporting the troops of the United States of America,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN E. BALDACCI, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim November 1, 2006 as

**BANGOR TROOP GREETERS APPRECIATION DAY**

throughout the State of Maine, and urge all citizens to recognize these generous and giving individuals for the care shown to our Nation's heroes.

## Child Magazine Ranks Maine High on Child Safety

November 2, 2006

AUGUSTA – Child magazine's latest issue ranks Maine 7th in the nation in its investigation of safest states. The national magazine hailed Maine for being among the top states in low violent crime rate and percentage of board-certified emergency medicine doctors, among other statistics, in its report.

"I am pleased that Maine has been singled out again for the way we take care of our children," said Governor Baldacci. "My Administration has made it a priority to ensure all citizens, especially our very young, have all the opportunities for a healthy successful life here in Maine. This study, along with others, confirms again that in Maine we have laid a solid foundation for our future."

Among specific highlights in the report, Child points to Maine's second-lowest violent-crime rate in the United States. The study also fetes Maine's record of patient safety, and strong requirements for use of booster seats for children up to age 8. Additionally, the magazine touts anti-bullying efforts in our schools.

## Governor Baldacci Discusses Plans for 300 New Jobs in Presque Isle's Former MBNA Facility

November 3, 2006

PRESQUE ISLE - Governor John E. Baldacci visited the former MBNA facility in Presque Isle this afternoon to welcome Connect North America to Maine. Connect North America is a Canadian company providing customized customer relationship management solutions that plans to expand into the former MBNA building.

"When MBNA announced that they were closing their doors, we looked forward to this day when more doors would open for workers here in Aroostook County," said Governor Baldacci. "That day is here and it's with a company that is already successful and expanding into our state."

Connect North America plans to hire approximately 300 employees at the facility, with about 60% of them being full time jobs. They also plan to provide the opportunity for the employees to participate in a group health insurance plan and a defined-contribution pension plan.

"The jobs that will be created here are the types of jobs that are good for Maine," said the Governor. "They are good paying jobs with benefits – healthcare options and pension options – for the gold standard workforce here in Northern Maine."

## Governor Announces Closure of Deal on GP Mill

November 3, 2006

OLD TOWN – Governor John Baldacci today announced the final closing of the deal on the GP mill. The Governor will appear tomorrow morning in Old Town at a press conference to introduce the new owners of the mill and to thank the community for their support throughout the process.

“After many long months, the successful sale of the mill to Red Shield LLC is completed,” said Governor Baldacci. “I am pleased that in this long complicated process to create good paying jobs we had the strong commitment from all parties – from the companies involved, the workers, local officials, our area state legislators, and of course the people of Old Town.”

Ed Paslawski, of Red Shield LLC, said: “We look forward to working in the community and beginning the hiring process. We appreciate the support Governor Baldacci and Department of Economic Development Director Jack Cashman. This deal would not have happened without them and strong collaboration of the union, Town Manager, Legislative Leadership and area Legislators. We are confident all our expectations will be realized. Our plans are for energy dependent businesses to be located on our campus. We are encouraged by the number of inquiries we have had this week by potential tenants.”

The evolution of the GP mill involves redevelopment of the site, diversifying the town and region’s economic base. The companies of Lamtec Inc., Tamarack Energy and Hallowell International, LLC will utilize the facility. The goal is that after full ramp up of additional operations at the mill, employment numbers will exceed that of a year ago.

“I made it a priority of my Administration to find a solution that is beneficial to the people of Old Town and the region,” said the Governor. “This sale meets these expectations. I want to recognize the tremendous support in the community for the mill workers. It’s a great day for the community and for the State.”



## Governor Announces Closure of Deal on GP Mill

November 4, 2006

OLD TOWN – Governor John Baldacci today announced the final closing of the deal on the GP mill. The Governor held a press conference in Old Town to introduce the new owners of the mill and to thank the community for its support throughout the process.

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Joe Moeller, Georgia-Pacific's chairman and chief executive officer, said, "Georgia-Pacific is very pleased to close this transaction. Our entire leadership team thanks the Governor and his office, as well as other state and local officials for working together to get to this point."

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## Governor Directs Flags to be Flown at Half Staff for Fallen Androscoggin County Deputy Sheriff

November 6, 2006

AUGUSTA – In remembrance and honor of David Rancourt, a deputy at the Androscoggin County Sheriff's Department and retired Army Reservist who served in both conflicts in Iraq, Governor John E. Baldacci has directed that the United States flag and the State of Maine flag be flown at half-staff from sunrise to sunset, Thursday, November 9, 2006 in Androscoggin County. Funeral services for Rancourt will be held that day.

Rancourt passed away Saturday in the line of duty. He served ten years with the Sheriff's Office. Rancourt served in the Gulf War and in the Iraq war with the Army Reserve.

"Dave engendered deep respect and great admiration through his dedication to his family, community, county and State," said Governor Baldacci. "His loss is deeply felt by all who knew him. Dave has left a great and lasting impact on the entire community."

## Governor Baldacci Thanks BIW Workers

November 8, 2006

BATH – Governor John E. Baldacci spent the first morning following the election at Bath Iron Works to thank the workers for electing him to a second term as the State's Chief Executive.

"Thank you, the workers, for giving me the chance to continue the job that I have started: to lead this state in the right direction," said Governor Baldacci. "I will continue to work for all Mainers from Madawaska to Kittery and everywhere in between and I thank them for the chance to do so."

The Governor greeted workers as they walked through the BIW gate for about two hours Wednesday morning. In addition, Governor Baldacci plans to visit with workers at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery Wednesday afternoon.

## Governor Baldacci Cuts Ribbon on Grocery Store

November 10, 2006

SOUTH CHINA – Governor John E. Baldacci cut the ribbon at the Grand Opening of Tobey's Grocery in South China Friday morning. The grocery store, located on Route 3, expanded their store by over 7,000 square feet to become a full service supermarket.

"The work that has been done here is impressive," said Governor Baldacci. "Residents of South China can be proud to have such a nice grocery store in their community, owned by such a nice family."

With the expansion, Tobey's Grocery has allowed their business to grow and better serve their customers in South China and the surrounding central Maine communities. The expansion has given the business more space and has given their customers more options.

"I had the chance to make a pizza at the deli here this morning," remarked the Governor. "The people here are very nice and extremely accommodating – which is an accurate snapshot of the workforce throughout the State of Maine."

Tobey's Grocery employs over 90 people, making them the number one employer in China. Thad Barber, owner of Tobey's Grocery, also owns The Market and Deli and Fieldstone's Quick Stop, both located in South China.

## Governor Baldacci Honors Veterans

November 11, 2006

BANGOR – Governor John E. Baldacci was the Honorary Grand Marshall of the Bangor Veterans' Day Parade Saturday morning. The Governor participated in the parade along with Veterans, local dignitaries, bands, supporters and other organizations.

Governor Baldacci spoke at the reviewing stand in downtown Bangor. His remarks follow.

- I am pleased to join you today, Veterans Day, for an important ceremony to recognize those who have served our nation so honorably.
- We also pause to remember those of the military, Reserves and National Guard who remain overseas serving our country.
- And to those family members and friends – of those who have served in the past and who are currently serving.
- To those who care for our veterans – at Togus and the clinics, at our State Veterans Homes, and at the benefits offices around the state.
- Thank you.
- Our communities across Maine join together today to show our deep appreciation of our veterans.
- They are true heroes.
- In these times of conflict and strife, it's ever more important that all Maine citizens come together and support their neighbors.
- Know that we will continue to do all we can as your neighbors and friends to support you – just as you supported and continue to support our communities.
- I urge all Maine citizens to remember today, as well as every day, those of our State who are called to duty away from home, and to remember those loved ones who wait eagerly for their return.
- Time and time again, our military and Guard members have answered the call, and stand ready ever to support in the defense of their families, communities, and country.
- We can never express enough our thanks to those of you who have served. We honor you not only today, but in our thoughts, prayers and hearts always.
- And we thank you for the deep abiding sense of duty and love for your country.

## Governor Baldacci Encourages More Work on Health Care

November 13, 2006

HALLOWELL – Governor John E. Baldacci said that a lot has been done to raise awareness of health care issues, but a lot more needs to be done to expand access and reduce costs. The Governor spoke to Consumers for Affordable Health Care Monday morning, opening their conference entitled “Winds of Change.”

“We continue to move towards guaranteed coverage for all Mainers – every man, woman and child,” said Governor Baldacci. “MaineCare is our foundation, assuring the lowest income citizens are covered. Dirigo enables small businesses to offer health insurance to their employees, and enables Mainers to make sliding scale payments based on their ability to pay. Dirigo has saved lives and continues to save lives.”

Governor Baldacci highlighted the successes of Dirigo – saving \$78 million in 2 years; according to October numbers, covering more than 17,000 people including 5,000 who are covered under the MaineCare expansion; and having covered more than 2,300 businesses. The Governor also looked to the future of Dirigo, talking about the Blue Ribbon Commission on Dirigo Health.

“The work of the Commission and the recommendations that will be presented to me next month are crucially important because we need to continue the good work already done on health care reform,” said the Governor. “We also need to expand Dirigo’s reach. Let me be clear – all Maine people deserve quality affordable health care.”

Governor Baldacci continued, “The United States is facing a health care crisis. We are doing something about it in Maine with Dirigo Health. Dirigo Health Reform saves money and controls costs, and this helps every Maine citizen.”

## Governor Mourns Loss of Soldier with Maine Ties

November 13, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci today confirmed that an active duty soldier with Maine ties died in an attack in Iraq on November 11, 2006. The notification of the soldier's family has been completed.

The soldier, Sergeant William Samuel Jackson II, was killed in Al Ramadi, Iraq by an IED explosion. Born in Maine, Jackson was 29 years old. His parents until recently had lived in Thomaston, Maine. A sister still resides in Maine. Jackson had a wife and young children.

The Governor has talked to Sergeant Jackson's parents and expressed his deep sorrow at their loss. "Mainers join together at these difficult times to support the family and friends of those who we have tragically lost overseas," said Governor Baldacci. "That this soldier died on Veterans' Day should serve to remind us how precious are the lives of all of those who are sacrificing for their country, and to keep in our thoughts always the valiant heroes that are our veterans."

No decisions regarding funeral services have been made public at this time, and no further information is currently available.

## Governor Baldacci Shares Home Safety Tips

November 14, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci today reminded Maine residents of the importance of taking the proper precautions with regards to safety around carbon monoxide (CO). The Governor issued the reminder in light of the CO tragedy that occurred over the weekend in Smithfield.

“I urge all Mainers and their families to take extra time to ensure safety throughout the winter,” said Governor Baldacci. “Different gases and chemicals that keep us warm can also be extremely dangerous, but paying attention to certain precautions can save lives.”

The dangers of CO exposure depend on a number of variables, including the victim’s health and activity level. Infants, pregnant women, and people with physical conditions that limit their body’s ability to use oxygen can be more severely affected by lower concentrations of CO than healthy adults would be.

State Fire Marshall John Dean issued a list of CO safety tips from the National Fire Protection Association.

### Safety tips in the home

- Install CO alarms (listed by an independent testing laboratory) inside your home to provide early warning of accumulating CO. CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each separate sleeping area. If bedrooms are spaced apart, each area will need a CO alarm.
- Call your local fire department's non-emergency number to find out what number to call if the CO alarm sounds. Post that number by your telephone(s). Make sure everyone in the household knows the difference between the fire emergency and CO emergency numbers (if there is a difference).
- Test CO alarms at least once a month and replace CO alarms according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- CO alarms are not substitutes for smoke alarms. Know the difference between the sound of smoke alarms and CO alarms.
- Have fuel-burning heating equipment (fireplaces, furnaces, water heaters, wood and coal stoves, space or portable heaters) and chimneys inspected by a professional every year before cold weather sets in.
- When purchasing new heating and cooking equipment, select products tested and labeled by an independent testing laboratory.
- When using a fireplace, open the flue for adequate ventilation.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.



- When buying an existing home, have a qualified technician evaluate the integrity of the heating and cooking systems, as well as the sealed spaces between the garage and house.

Safety tips outside the home

- If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle, generator, or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow.
- During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- Only use barbecue grills – which can produce CO – outside. Never use them in the home, garage or near building openings.
- When camping, remember to use battery-powered lights in tents trailers, and motor homes. If your CO alarm sounds
- Immediately move to a fresh air location and call for help. Remain at the fresh air location until emergency personnel say it is ok.
- If the audible trouble signal sounds, check for low batteries or other trouble indicators.

## Governor Baldacci Celebrates Franco-American Heritage

November 14, 2006

BRUNSWICK – Governor John E. Baldacci attended the Franco-American Celebration Tuesday evening at Bowdoin College. The celebration was a part of the three-day symposium entitled “Celebrating the Franco American Heritage of Maine.”

“The Franco American Culture is very important to the history of the State of Maine,” said Governor Baldacci. “Celebrating a heritage that means so much to the different areas of our state is an example of the pride that exists among Maine residents.”

The symposium is featuring three discussions as well as a documentary film. The three-day event will finish Wednesday afternoon at Daggett Lounge.

## Governor Baldacci Receives Maine Marine Trade Association's First Visionary Award

November 15, 2006

ROCKPORT – Governor John E. Baldacci was honored Wednesday afternoon for his leadership in helping the state obtain the \$15 million federal WIRED grant. The Governor was awarded with the first Visionary Award by the Maine Marine Trade Association.

“A few years ago, Maine was at a point where a lot of work needed to be done to stabilize our boatbuilding, composites and marine trade industries,” the Governor said during his keynote address. “We addressed the lack of funding that we faced by pursuing the \$15 million federal WIRED grant.”

Governor Baldacci said that the intended use of the grant was to help build the industry’s workforce, R&D, and manufacturing workforce for the boatbuilding, composites and marine trade industries.

“I have worked on providing opportunities and jobs for everyone in this state,” said the Governor, “and we are seeing great results.”

The Governor highlighted his work in increasing availability to quality education, his Pine Tree Zone program, and increased funding in biomedical R&D.

“All of these initiatives are working together to create a better Maine for the people of our state,” said Governor Baldacci. “Likewise, the North Star Alliance also requires everyone to work together to achieve an overall goal.”

The North Star Alliance was developed to administer the WIRED grant, working with state agencies, institutions and the industry.

“We were awarded this grant because of our creative thinking on how to use the grant, how to build toward the future and how to work together and realize that the whole is bigger than the sum of the parts,” said the Governor. “The investments that we are making right now will continue to pay off for generations to come.”

## Governor Opposes Proposed Interim Nuclear Waste Storage Plan

November 16, 2006

AUGUSTA - Governor John Baldacci today joined an effort by the Governors of New Jersey, Connecticut and other U.S. states to oppose a federal legislative initiative to establish interim nuclear waste storage sites across the country. The provision, Section 313 in the current version of the U.S. Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, is a step backward in the long-standing federal policy to establish a permanent disposal facility.

"Leaving high-level nuclear waste in thirty-one states is not a viable option," said Governor Baldacci. "Temporary nuclear waste storage facilities pose significant safety and security issues in Maine and other states that have or have had commercial nuclear power plants. This proposal takes away a state's ability to reject a storage site within its borders. Additionally, Maine ratepayers have been assessed payments for the federal Nuclear Waste Funds, and we expect the federal government to comply with its mandate to safely remove these dangerous materials; not to divert funds for the national repository for construction of interim facilities."

In July, Governor Baldacci wrote to Senator Pete Dominici, Chair of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development to oppose any such plan to temporarily store high-level radioactive nuclear waste on site at current and decommission nuclear facilities. The Governor requested expedition completion of the nation's permanent repository site at Yucca Mountain.

"In today's world, the security concerns of Americans are not well served by having thousands of metric tons of nuclear waste left in facilities in thirty-one states, including Maine," wrote the Governor in the July correspondence. "Our best interests will be served by consolidating these materials in a facility selected for its remoteness and for its ability to be secured."

In late September, the U.S. Court of Federal Claims found in favor of Yankee Atomic against the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for the federal department's failure to meet the statutory obligation to remove radioactive nuclear material from Maine Yankee and other facilities. In that decision, Yankee Atomic was awarded nearly \$76 million in damages. The federal DOE is expected to appeal the decision.

"The current federal mandate is clear," said Governor Baldacci. "The federal government needs to hold to its agreement to move nuclear waste from Maine and other states to a permanent national facility. The interim storage facility provision in the current Senate appropriations bill runs counter to that goal."

The text of the letter drafted signed by seventeen governors follows. The correspondence is addressed to the Chairs and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

Dear Chairman Cochran, Chairman Lewis, Ranking Member Byrd and Ranking Member Obey:

We write in strong opposition to language included in Section 313 of the Senate-reported version of the Fiscal Year 2007 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act that proposes to use ratepayer monies to create new federal interim storage sites throughout the United States.

We certainly appreciate Congress' longstanding bipartisan support for a permanent solution to our nation's nuclear waste problem. However, providing the Department of Energy with new, expansive authority to create numerous nuclear waste storage sites represents a stark retreat from the language and spirit of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act and its establishment of a centralized repository. Shifting the federal program's focus away from a repository to the construction, licensing and operation of many interim storage sites across the country could harm disposal efforts irreparably, resulting in such temporary facilities becoming de facto final resting places for nuclear waste.

Furthermore, Section 313 would direct the Department to establish new state and regional waste storage sites without the consent and over the potential objections of governors. This is wholly unacceptable to our constituents and us. A matter as important, complex, and inherently controversial as storage of the nation's nuclear waste deserves a thorough, open public debate. And, in order for any federal proposal addressing nuclear waste storage to succeed, states must be full and equal partners in the process. Unfortunately, Section 313 does not live up to this standard.

Finally, Section 313 appears to violate the standard contract our utilities entered into with the federal government for permanent disposal of nuclear waste. Section 313 proposes to use money deposited into the Nuclear Waste Fund by ratepayers in our states and others for the purpose of establishing and operating interim storage facilities. However, the Nuclear Waste Fund is both statutorily and contractually limited in its use to paying for activities related to the permanent disposal of nuclear waste. By seeking to use the Fund for interim storage activities that are authorized neither by statute or contract, this Section 313 raises the prospect of substantial litigation by stakeholders concerned about the diversion of ratepayer monies for unauthorized purposes.

Whatever the intention, Section 313 of the Senate Energy and Water Development legislation constitutes a giant step backward for ratepayers in our states and others who have contributed more than \$14 billion into the Nuclear Waste Fund. The language is not supported by the nuclear industry, and the US Department of Energy and Nuclear Regulatory Commission have stated publicly their serious concern with this proposal. They are rightly troubled that the safety, security, environmental, transportation, infrastructure and cost challenges associated with developing and maintaining multiple federal nuclear waste storage sites across the nation will undermine already lagging efforts to establish a permanent repository.

Thank you for your serious consideration of our views. We urge Congress to reject Section 313 of the Senate-reported version of the Fiscal Year 2007 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act.

Sincerely,

Governor Jon S. Corzine, New Jersey

Governor M. Jodi Rell, Connecticut

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, Michigan

Governor Jeb Bush, Florida

## 2006 Archive of Governor Baldacci's Press Releases

Governor Janet Napolitano, Arizona

Governor Rod Blagojevich, Illinois

Governor Kathleen Sebelius, Kansas

Governor John Baldacci, Maine

Governor Tim Pawlenty, Minnesota

Governor Haley Barbour, Mississippi

Governor John Lynch, New Hampshire

Governor George E. Pataki, New York

Governor Michael F. Easley, North Carolina

Governor Brad Henry, Oklahoma

Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski, Oregon

Governor Mark Sanford, South Carolina

Governor Dave Freudenthal, Wyoming

## Governor Baldacci Says More Work on Health Care Needed

November 16, 2006

FREEPORT – Governor John E. Baldacci spoke to the Maine Primary Care Association's annual conference Thursday morning, saying that he has tackled the issue of health care, but understands that more needs to be done.

"I want Maine to be the healthiest state in the nation, and together, with your continued help we will succeed," said Governor Baldacci. "As you know, I created the Blue Ribbon Commission on Dirigo Health in order to move us forward toward universal health care coverage, and to improve the affordability and accessibility of health care for all."

The Blue Ribbon Commission on Dirigo Health will be issuing their recommendations to the Governor next month. The Governor thanked the members at the conference for their work in partnering with the state to ensure that Maine's primary care safety net remains strong.

"I want to thank you for providing the critical safety net to the underserved in Maine," said Governor Baldacci. "You provide crucial comprehensive care: from top notch mental health care, to dental care; from managing chronic conditions, to enhancing preventive care including tobacco control. Simply put, you are saving lives."

Among the progress made in Maine with regards to health care, Maine is the only state in New England to have reduced the rate of uninsured in recent years; Maine's rate of uninsured is currently among the lowest in the nation; and Dirigo Health is responsible for covering more than 17,000 lives.

## Governor Baldacci Cuts Ribbon on Gray Bypass

November 16, 2006

GRAY – Governor John E. Baldacci officially cut the ribbon on the Gray Bypass Thursday afternoon – a project that was 40 years in the making.

“Building our infrastructure – whether it be our roads and highways, or our information highways – is vital to growing Maine’s economy, and along with it, good paying jobs for all our citizens,” said Governor Baldacci. “This route provides better access to the Turnpike and improves connectivity between four routes.”

The bypass, named Route 26A, is expected to reduce traffic in the village of Gray by about 40%, or 10,350 vehicles of day. This will improve safety in traffic at the 2 Gray Village intersections that are identified as high crash locations.

“With the outstanding partnership of the Maine Department of Transportation and the Maine Turnpike Association, as well as the officials and people of Gray, the project finished ahead of schedule and will have a significant impact on the people and businesses that travel in and through Gray,” said the Governor. “I commend all involved in this impressive project.”

In addition to dignitaries, officials and residents, Mr. Dick Wood was in attendance at the celebration. Mr. Wood is the only living member of the original Study Committee that, in 1965, first recommended the Bypass.



## Governor Baldacci Receives Report on Maine's Community College System

November 16, 2006

SOUTH PORTLAND – Governor John E. Baldacci was presented with a report outlining recommendations for Maine's Community College System. The Governor's Community College Advisory Council made the presentation during a press conference at Southern Maine Community College Thursday morning. The recommendation calls for expansion of community colleges, aiming to grow enrollment by 4,000 students to bring the total to 17,000. Within the next 10 years, the goal is to have enrollment reach 30,000 students.

"Now more than ever, it is critical for the people of Maine to understand the link between education and prosperity," said Governor Baldacci. "If all of us are going to compete in this global economy, we must acquire the skills necessary to move this state forward."

Governor Baldacci's initiative created the Community College System in 2003, converted Maine's former Technical College System. Since the transformation, enrollment has increased by 48%. According to studies released in the report, enrollment numbers could be higher.

"I cannot say this enough – education is the only real answer," said the Governor. "There is no question that we are living in a time where things are changing. We must look for ways to compete."

Governor Baldacci said that he will work with the Council to take steps towards finding the \$20.3 million they are asking for to begin the enrollment increases. The Council is also asking for a bond for major capital improvements to the seven-college system.

"This is about investing in our people and investing in education," said Governor Baldacci. "As any business owner will tell you, investing in your business is the only way to solidify your own economic outlook. By investing in higher education, we are investing in Maine and our state's economic outlook...which is looking very bright."

## Governor Directs Flags to be Flown at Half-Staff Sunday, November 26

November 22, 2006

AUGUSTA – In remembrance and honor of Sergeant William Samuel Jackson II, Governor John E. Baldacci has directed that the United States flag and the State of Maine flag be flown at half staff from sunrise to sunset Sunday, November 26, 2006. Sergeant Jackson served as a member of the Army and died in Al Ramadi, Iraq from an IED attack on November 11. His memorial service in Maine will be held Sunday at 2:00 p.m. at Georges Valley High School, 47 Valley Street, Thomaston.

## Governor Baldacci Proclaims November as Lung Cancer Awareness Month

November 22, 2006

AUGUSTA - Governor John E. Baldacci has proclaimed the month of November as Lung Cancer Awareness Month throughout the State of Maine. The Governor issued the proclamation during a ceremony held Wednesday morning in the Hall of Flags at the State House in Augusta.

"We know that we have made great strides," said Governor Baldacci. "We're dramatically cut the exposure to second-hand smoke and we have worked to reduce teenage smoking by fifty percent."

Joining Governor Baldacci at the ceremony were lung cancer survivors and their family members. Eileen Lewis and Debbie Violette, both lung cancer survivors, spoke at the event.

"As a result of my experience with this disease, I realized that more must be done to help Maine citizens," said Debbie Violette, an eight-year survivor of Stage III-A non-small cell lung cancer. "I set out to look for ways that I could help others inflicted by lung cancer."

According to the American Cancer Society, 1030 Maine citizens will be diagnosed with lung cancer this year and 960 of those diagnosed will die from the disease. Governor Baldacci said that he is proud of Maine's progress, but realizes there is still work to be done.

"We have a long way to go, but Maine is leading the way," said the Governor. "We see it in the reduction of tobacco use, to making prescription drugs more affordable for more Maine people, and now with Dirigo Health, to improve healthcare delivery and accessibility while holding down rising health care costs."

Governor Baldacci issued the proclamation for Lung Cancer Awareness Month during the ceremony. The text of the proclamation follows:

WHEREAS, lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in both men and women in the United States and the world; and

WHEREAS, Maine has one of the highest lung cancer rates in the Nation; and

WHEREAS, former smokers and people who have never smoked comprise 60% of the new cases of lung cancer; and

WHEREAS, there remains a great need for a standard screening for lung cancer, and for additional funding for lung cancer medical research,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN E. BALDACCI, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim November, 2006 as

**LUNG CANCER AWARENESS MONTH**

throughout the State of Maine, and urge all citizens to do all they can to increase awareness of lung cancer issues, and offer compassion to people with lung cancer.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this twenty-fifth day of August in the Year of our Lord Two Thousand and Six.

John E. Baldacci Governor

Matthew Dunlap Secretary of State

## Governor Baldacci Heralds Another Bio-Diesel Truck Fleet

November 28, 2006

PORTLAND – Governor John E. Baldacci congratulated Oakhurst Dairy Tuesday morning for making the decision to run its truck fleet on biodiesel. Oakhurst President Stan Bennett welcomed Governor Baldacci as they unveiled the first biofuel sticker on an Oakhurst truck in Portland.

“Biodiesel is good for Maine and our environment because it is a cleaner-burning, renewable fuel,” said Governor Baldacci. “It is produced domestically, even right here in Maine from waste vegetable oil. It reduces our need for, and our addiction to, foreign oil.”

Since the Governor took office, he has encouraged biodiesel use through incentives and by example. The Administration worked to enact a production tax credit for producers of biofuels; to enact an excise tax reduction for consumers of motor fuels containing at least two percent biodiesel; and Maine was one of the first states to use biodiesel to heat state buildings.

“An increased use of biodiesel and biofuels creates an increased likelihood that our children and grandchildren will enjoy a better, cleaner environment,” said the Governor. “We need to continue looking to the future of energy in Maine, just as we have been doing for the past four years.”

Governor Baldacci said that in addition to striving for energy independence, the State of Maine should also be taking steps to address global warming. The Governor issued the Governor’s Carbon Challenge, which invites private businesses and other institutions to reduce their carbon footprints voluntarily. Maine State Government has signed on to the challenge, as well as Oakhurst Dairy who was one of the first to sign on.

“Oakhurst’s switch to biodiesel will reduce carbon dioxide emissions as these trucks bring the ‘Natural Goodness of Maine’ to customers throughout Northern New England,” said Governor Baldacci. “I want to thank Oakhurst Dairy for its show of leadership in this switch to biodiesel to address the twin challenges of energy independence and global warming.”

## Governor Baldacci Highlights Creative Economy at Bangor Museum

November 30, 2006

BANGOR – Governor John E. Baldacci congratulated the Bangor Museum and Center for History on reaching the 25% mark for the capital campaign Thursday afternoon. The Governor said that their work adds to the creative economy efforts that are happening around the state.

“The creative economy is about the arts – music, fine arts and performance – and it’s about our theaters and museums and the unique structures and character that form our downtowns,” said Governor Baldacci. “It’s about our unique economy, our entrepreneurs and artists.”

The Governor highlighted efforts in downtown Bangor that are in sync with his creative economy outreach, including the Bangor Opera House being used for local theater; the former Freeses building now housing the Maine Discovery Museum; and the Bangor Museum’s new location on Broad Street in downtown Bangor. Governor Baldacci pledged to return to downtown Bangor once again for New Year’s Eve to “drop the ball” from the top of a building in West Market Square.

“What a terrific crowd that was gathered here last year, showing community spirit and pride, celebrating the New Year,” said the Governor. “It’s that kind of community spirit and pride that creates optimism and excitement.”

Governor Baldacci told the crowd of business leaders at the museum that while the state should be optimistic, people should also be reminded that there is hard work ahead of them with the upcoming budget. The Governor said his plan is to tackle property taxes with LD 2, continue investments in higher education and R&D, and cut administration at all levels.

“My budget, which will be released in January, will reflect all of those necessary decisions,” said the Governor. “They will be tough decisions, but we need to get the job done.”

## Reorganization of Governor's Office Announced

December 1, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci today unveiled changes in his inner office as he prepares for his second term. This reorganization was undertaken to better move Maine's economy forward as well as deal with changes in the budget and find ways to make key investments in Maine and its people. Following on the heels of the Brookings Report, the Governor is looking forward to building on his successes and creating greater economic opportunity throughout the state.

The Governor made his staffing changes public before the new Legislature is sworn in on Wednesday morning. "Working with the Legislature to meet our shared goals of providing opportunities for Maine people into the future is an essential function of my entire staff. I want my office to be a conduit to forward thinking ideas and to work with the Maine Legislature to promote policies to move this agenda forward."

The Governor's Office will add Ryan Low as Deputy Chief of Staff. He will be the administration's lead in moving key initiatives through the legislative process. Ryan Low has worked as the state budget officer and prior to that as associate commissioner for the Department of Administrative and Financial services. In naming Low to this position, Governor Baldacci said: "Ryan brings added experience to my office regarding the budget. He also will work hand in hand with my Chief of Staff on property tax relief and reform which is a priority this legislative session."

Jack Cashman will also join the Governor's Office as Senior Economic Advisor. Cashman worked in the Governor's Office during the first term of the Baldacci Administration and then was appointed Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development. Governor Baldacci said: "In naming Jack to this position, we bring one of the best cheerleaders for business in Maine into the Governor's office. Moving Jack back into the Governor's Office is in line with our increasing emphasis on economic development. Jack will work on a variety of projects which will include job growth and development."

Chief Legal Counsel Tom Federle will be leaving the Governor's office to return to private practice. Governor Baldacci is adding Michael Mahoney as Chief Legal Counsel. Mahoney has worked at Preti Flaherty since 2000. Prior to that he was associated with Hale and Dorr, LLP in Boston and served as a Law Clerk in Massachusetts.

In making the announcement, Governor Baldacci said: "While I will miss the working relationship I had with Tom, I am pleased to announce that Attorney Michael Mahoney will be joining the team. Michael comes from the private sector. He will be a great addition and has worked in the legislative and government services sector. He will head up our efforts on the expansion of broadband around the state. Increased access is crucial to moving Maine ahead. He will also provide a new focus on utilities."

As part of the Governor's restructuring effort, two Senior Policy Advisors will be leaving. Alan Stearns and Dick Davies will be leaving sometime in January. Stearns and Davies will be tapped for other positions within the administration.

Karin Tilberg will join the Governor's team as a Senior Policy Advisor replacing Dick Davies. Tilberg currently serves as the deputy commissioner of the Department of Conservation and prior to that as the Maine director of the Northern Forest Alliance. She is an attorney and has practiced in the area of conservation and environmental law for several years.

In speaking about Tilberg's appointment, the Governor said: "Karin brings a great sensibility to the table on issues surrounding conservation and the environment which will be a key factor in how Maine promotes its natural resources and promotes itself in the years ahead."

Policy issues currently handled by Alan Stearns will be redistributed among the Governor's staff.

Governor Baldacci will announce his plan for the next biennium budget and initiatives to streamline government functions, improve efficient delivery of services, and invest in critical sectors to grow the economy in his Inauguration on January 3, his State of the State Address (date to be determined) and in his budget submission to the Legislature on January 5. Additionally, the Governor will be providing an analysis of the budget process and his budget priorities in a television production which will air on local cable access stations in January.



## Governor Baldacci Honors Maine Organ Donor

December 3, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci honored Kenneth Sawtelle of Portland Sunday, issuing a proclamation naming December 3, 2006 as Organ Donor Awareness Day in the State of Maine. Sawtelle donated his kidney to a friend and colleague, Greg Gelinis on January 5, 1999.

“Ken Sawtelle selflessly donated a kidney to a friend, colleague and fellow Mainer who desperately needed his help,” said Governor Baldacci. “I am happy to honor Ken and all donors for Organ Donor Awareness Day and encourage Mainers to think about giving, if they can, to help save a life.”

According to state law, the Governor shall designate an organ donor, recipient or listed individual to be recognized each year on December 3rd. Organ Donor Awareness Day was put into place seven years ago to commemorate the life of Kate James, who was born on December 3rd, 1980. James passed away in 1999 while awaiting a double lung transplant.

The Organ Donor Awareness Day proclamation text follows:

WHEREAS, more than 100,000 men, women, and children were on the organ transplant waiting list as of October 20, 2006; and

WHEREAS, donation and transplantation save lives, but the need for organs far exceeds the number donated; and

WHEREAS, in Maine, more than 150 men, women and children are on the waiting list for kidney and pancreas transplants as of October 20, 2006; and

WHEREAS, in New England, more than 4,000 men, women, and children were on the organ transplant waiting list as of October 20, 2006

WHEREAS, more than 38,000 blood donors are needed each day in our nation, and thousands of Americans need corneal, other tissue transplants, and marrow; and

WHEREAS, those who donate organs, tissue, marrow and blood are life savers and life enhancers who share gifts beyond measure,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN E. BALDACCI, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim December 3, 2006 as

**ORGAN DONOR AWARENESS DAY**

throughout the State of Maine, and urge all citizens to mark this observance.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this twenty-ninth day of November in the Year of our Lord Two Thousand and Six.

## 2006 Archive of Governor Baldacci's Press Releases

John E. Baldacci Governor

Matthew Dunlap Secretary of State

## Maine's First Family Adopts New Dog

December 4, 2006

AUGUSTA — Governor John E. Baldacci has given First Lady Karen Baldacci an early Christmas present — a Rivendell English Springer Spaniel puppy. “Mia” is a black and white Springer who was born on September 9 at Appleton Farm in Litchfield. Mia’s mom and dad, Gracie Lou and Tuxedo, respectively, gave birth to Mia as a part of a litter with a sister and two brothers. Mia was chosen by the First Lady as a companion to the First Family’s existing Springer Spaniel, Sam, and as a friend to all who visit the Blaine House.

“Sam is going through a slight adjustment period with a new puppy in the house,” said the First Lady. “Mia is very active and excited to be here, and we are equally excited to welcome her into our family.”

Mia arrived at the Blaine House on the evening of November 30, 2006. The First Lady picked the name Mia because she thought of it as a strong woman’s name.

“I was thinking of Mia Hamm and ‘Momma Mia’, and it just stuck out at me as a name that fit this dog perfectly,” said the First Lady.

Mia and Sam are both field dogs, who enjoy the extended family and daily visitors and friends of the Blaine House.

The First Lady has been looking for a friend for Sam since Murphy, the family dog passed away in May of 2006. Mrs. Baldacci says that Sam and Mia are playing and getting along tremendously, and that Sam is very happy to have her as a friend. Sam has been living at the Blaine House since 2003.

## Governor Announces Council on Jobs, Innovation and the Economy

December 4, 2006

AUGUSTA - Governor John Baldacci today issued an Executive Order establishing a Council on Jobs, Innovation and the Economy. The council is charged with developing a set of recommendations related to the Brookings Institution report, "Charting Maine's Future: An Action Plan for Promoting Sustainable Prosperity and Quality Places". The report, commissioned by GrowSmart and released a month ago, provides a roadmap for savings and investments that will propel Maine's economy forward into the future. In establishing the Council Governor Baldacci said: "We are at a crossroads in this state. We have come far but must take the next steps to provide for opportunity in the years to come. The Brookings Report has offered us a road map to get there. The time is now for us to take action."

The group is charged with developing a recommended action plan for moving the state forward on the innovation-focused and cluster development activities that will define the state's investment strategies. Governor Baldacci said: "I am looking forward to the Council's recommendations. It will put in place the structures and entities which will take them from words on a page to a plan of action."

The group will be chaired by Karen Gordon Mills. Mills is the Managing Director of Solera, LLC, a venture capital fund. Mills says she was pleased to be asked to chair the council: "Maine has the potential to build on its core strengths in a number of growing sectors and create world competitive businesses and jobs. The tools are there-now the work begins to make it happen."

Mills was an instrumental partner in the 15 million Wired Grant which is an example of how the traditional Maine boat building business coupled with innovation can provide growth and opportunity.

The panel is a bipartisan group and will be comprised of active members of the business community who have a perspective on and strong interest in the economic growth and prosperity of the state.

In announcing the group, Governor Baldacci said: "Maine will focus its resources on investments in promising sectors which will drive future growth."

Many of the recommendations made by the Brookings Report are areas in which the Administration has already taken strong action, but the Governor noted more work is needed. While incomes and jobs are growing in Maine and Maine's economy is diversifying and strengthening, further improvements must be made to grow Maine's economy, create good jobs with benefits, and create opportunity for Maine people.

The challenges ahead for the Governor and the incoming Legislature include property tax relief and streamlining administration of government at all levels, while ensuring quality services. Additionally, Governor Baldacci pointed to the need to increase investments in research and development, expand access to higher education through partnerships between the Community College System and the

University System, and increase workforce training opportunities. The newly formed Council will meet for the first time on Wednesday at 2:30 in the Governor's Cabinet room.

The members of the Governor's Council on Jobs, Innovation and the Economy are Kevin Hancock of Hancock Lumber; Julia Brady of Via Group; John Oliver of L.L. Bean; Kevin Mahaney of Hilton Garden Inn, Portland; Miles Theeman of Affiliated Healthcare Systems; and Sarah Standiford of the Maine Women's Lobby.

The text of the Executive Order follows:

**AN ORDER ESTABLISHING THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON JOBS, INNOVATION AND THE ECONOMY**

WHEREAS, a recent study by the Brookings Institution concluded that the State of Maine "stands within reach of a new prosperity—if it takes bold action and focuses its limited resources on a few critical investments"; and

WHEREAS, Maine's future growth depends on increased investment in research and development, innovation hubs and the state's growth sectors that are promising but lack critical mass; and

WHEREAS, in order to grow the economy the state desires to invest in job creation activities that involve innovation and new cluster development; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John E. Baldacci, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby establish the Council on Jobs, Innovation and the Economy (hereinafter "Council").

**Purpose and Duties**

The purpose and duties of the Council are to:

Develop a recommended action plan for moving the state forward on the innovation-focused and cluster development activities that will define the state's investment strategies.

Propose structures, entities and activities that support the realization of these investments.

The Council shall collaborate with the Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development, the Commissioner of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, the Director of the State Planning Office, the State Budget Officer, the legislature, Maine's university and community college systems and other stakeholders to fulfill these duties.

**Membership**

In order to keep the Council small, practical and focused on developing action-oriented recommendations, the Council shall be composed of at least seven (7) but no more than fifteen (15) members, who shall be appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the Governor. The Governor shall appoint the Chair who will preside at, set the agenda for, and schedule Council meetings. The members of the Council will serve without compensation.

The Council shall be comprised of active members of the business community who have a perspective and strong interest in the economic growth and prosperity of the state. It will include bipartisan members knowledgeable about industry, workforce needs and development in all parts of Maine and should include representation from the younger up and coming business community.

**Effective Date**

The effective date of this Executive Order is December 4, 2006.

## Governor Directs Flags to be Flown at Half-Staff Wednesday, December 6

December 4, 2006

AUGUSTA – In remembrance and honor of Captain Benjamin D. Keating, Governor John E. Baldacci has directed that the United States flag and the State of Maine flag be flown at half staff from sunrise to sunset Wednesday, December 6, 2006. Captain Keating served as a member of the Army and died in Kamdesh, Afghanistan on November 26 from a vehicle accident. His memorial service will be held Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. in Springvale.

## Governor Baldacci Introduces IF&W Radio Station

December 5, 2006

AUGUSTA - Governor John E. Baldacci thanked state agencies for working together to create a new tool used to promote outdoor recreation in Maine. Maine's Inland Fisheries & Wildlife Department has created a radio station which will give tourists and residents season-specific information on outdoor recreation in the State of Maine. The Maine Turnpike Authority has created a sign which promotes the radio station and is located on the Turnpike in Kittery. The station was officially introduced Tuesday afternoon during a press conference at the State House in Augusta.

"There is a lot to be excited about in Maine, and that's what brings people here – winter, spring, summer and fall, year-in and year-out," said Governor Baldacci. "Fish and Wildlife Outdoor Radio will make outdoor recreation a better experience for everyone – hunters, fishermen or snowmobilers; tourists and residents throughout Maine."

The radio station, located at 1640 on the AM dial, will provide timely information on fishing, hunting, ice fishing, snowmobiling, wildlife and other outdoor information to listening motorists. The transmitter is housed at the State Police weight station site along the south bound lanes.

"Fish and Wildlife Outdoor Radio is sure to enhance Maine's outdoor future by creating a better experience for our outdoor sportsmen and women, as they enter our great state through the Kittery Gateway," said the Governor. "I am excited about this project and I am excited to hear about the success of it for years to come."



## Governor Baldacci Stresses Unity to Members of the 123rd Legislature

December 5, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci addressed incoming members of the 123rd Legislature Tuesday evening, calling for unity and asking them to work with him to make Maine the best it can be. The Governor addressed the group during the Pre-Legislative Conference Banquet at the Augusta Civic Center.

“We are all here for the same reason – because we love the State of Maine and want to work to make it the best Maine it can be,” said Governor Baldacci. “I feel the best thing that we can do right now, collectively, is to get excited about Maine.”

The Governor told the group - which included outgoing members of the 122nd Legislature - that Mainers have a lot to be proud of and that optimism and excitement can go a long way. He indicated that there must be a delicate balance between an optimistic outlook, and realizing that there is still work that needs to be done.

“We have more work to do to lower property taxes, we need to continue investing in higher education and R&D, and we need to continue our work on health care,” said Governor Baldacci. “With your help, we will make a lot of progress together in the next couple of years, but we must remain optimistic and keep in mind how great this state really is.”

Governor Baldacci has said that his first order of business during the upcoming session will be to work on property tax relief with LD 2. The bill would freeze property valuation for the purpose of taxation for permanent Maine residents. The Governor is scheduled to swear-in the incoming Legislature Wednesday morning at 10:30.

## Governor Directs Flags to be Flown at Half-Staff For National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

December 6, 2006

AUGUSTA – In accordance with President Bush's proclamation and in respect for the victims of Pearl Harbor, Governor John E. Baldacci has directed that the United States flag and the State of Maine flag be flown at half-staff from sunrise to sunset tomorrow, Thursday, December 7.

This year marks the sixty-fifth anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. More than 2,400 Americans died in the attack. National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day was established to honor those who died in the attack and those who fought in World War II to protect our freedom.

## Maine First in Nation in Protecting Children from Tobacco

December 6, 2006

AUGUSTA – Maine has been ranked first in the nation in funding tobacco prevention programs, according to a joint report released today by four of the nation's leading public health groups. Maine is one of only three states (Delaware and Colorado are the other two) that meet the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended funding levels for tobacco prevention.

The report, a collaborative effort of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, and American Cancer Society, finds that Maine funds programs to protect children from tobacco at 131% of the recommended minimum level by the CDC.

"I am pleased that Maine has again been recognized for leadership in protecting our children from the adverse effects of tobacco," said Governor Baldacci. "This is a shared commitment by government, schools, advocate groups, and communities across our state. We know that spending on prevention efforts reaps huge rewards both in terms of saving the lives of our citizens and saving money. Furthermore, Maine's comprehensive approach to addressing tobacco provides a wonderful model for what we need to do to make Maine the healthiest state in the nation, which is the goal of Dirigo Health Reform."

This is the fifth year in row that Maine has been recognized for being best at funding tobacco prevention programs. Over the past eight years, Maine's smoking rates among high school students has dropped 59%. Because of Maine's continued investment in tobacco control and prevention, 26,000 fewer Maine youth have become addicted to tobacco. This reduction has avoided an estimated \$416 million in future health care costs. Maine currently spends \$14.7 million on prevention efforts (FY 2007).

For more information on tobacco prevention funding and for a copy of the complete report and accompanying charts, please visit: <http://tobaccofreekids.org/reports/settlements>

## Governor's Council on Jobs, Innovation and the Economy Holds First Meeting

December 6, 2006

AUGUSTA - Governor John E. Baldacci today briefly met with the Council on Jobs, Innovation and the Economy, which he formed Monday by Executive Order. The council held their first meeting today in the Cabinet Room at the State House.

"I look forward to seeing your recommendations for moving the state forward," Governor Baldacci told the group. "Brookings released a very detailed report for the State of Maine and I am happy that we are able to use this as a tool to look toward the future for our state."

The report, "Charting Maine's Future: An Action Plan for Promoting Sustainable Prosperity and Quality Places" was commissioned by GrowSmart and released a month ago. The Brookings Report provides a roadmap for savings and investments that will propel Maine's economy forward into the future.

The Council is charged with developing a recommended action plan for moving the state forward on the innovation-focused and cluster development activities that will define the state's investment strategies.

The group is chaired by Karen Gordon Mills. Mills is the Managing Director of Solera, LLC, a venture capital fund. The panel is a bipartisan group, comprised of active members of the business community who have a perspective on and strong interest in the economic growth and prosperity of the state.

Many of the recommendations made by the Brookings Report are areas in which the Administration has already taken strong action, but the Governor noted more work is needed. While incomes and jobs are growing in Maine and Maine's economy is diversifying and strengthening, further improvements must be made to grow Maine's economy, create good jobs with benefits, and create opportunity for Maine people.

The members of the Governor's Council on Jobs, Innovation and the Economy are Kevin Hancock of Hancock Lumber; Julia Brady of Via Group; John Oliver of L.L. Bean; Kevin Mahaney of Hilton Garden Inn, Portland; Miles Theeman of Affiliated Healthcare Systems; and Sarah Standiford of the Maine Women's Lobby.

The Governor has asked for recommendations from the Council by mid-January.

## Governor Named Chair of Jobs for America's Graduates

December 7, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci today was named Chair of Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG), a national organization dedicated to preparing young people for high school graduation, work-based opportunities, and postsecondary education. The school-to-career program currently exists in more than 700 middle schools, high schools, alternative schools, and community colleges. Maine's program has been recognized as the "Best of the Best" of the thirty-state network. The JAG Board of Directors, of which the Governor has been a member for three years, voted this morning to accept his nomination as Chair.

"I am proud to serve as chair of this vital organization," said Governor Baldacci. "Jobs for America's Graduates' Maine program has been a tremendous success story, promoting educational and economic excellence and preparing our youth for the jobs of the 21st century. Preparing our youth – our future workforce – to better compete in this global economy is essential."

Earlier this year, Governor John E. Baldacci received an award on behalf of the Jobs for Maine's Graduates program, which has been recognized by JAG as being the top performing program in the country.

JAG Model Programs deliver a unique set of comprehensive services to targeted youth in high school. Following high school graduation, the students receive twelve months of additional services, tailored to ensure the student pursues a postsecondary education or enters the workforce in a job leading to a career of their choice.

"As it is in Maine, Jobs for America's Graduates is a true partnership – a collaboration with government, businesses, non-profit organizations and school administrators," said Governor Baldacci.

Governor Baldacci's leadership role in JAG is just one of the many actions he has taken to promote quality education and supportive programs to help children realize opportunities. Throughout his Administration the Governor has balanced budgets without raising broad-based taxes and lived within spending caps; is on the way to providing 55% of the cost of K-12 education while providing property tax relief; and provided investments in Maine students including private college savings accounts through NextGen, as well as working to raise teacher's salaries for the first time in two decades.

## Governor Baldacci Thanks State Employees for Generosity

December 8, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci thanked and congratulated volunteers of the 2006 Maine State Employees Combined Charitable Appeal Friday afternoon. State agencies combined to donate a total of nearly \$440,000 through this years appeal, which will benefit more than 500 charitable organizations in the State of Maine. The Governor joined the 2006 MSECCA Chairperson, Secretary of State Matthew Dunlap at a luncheon Friday afternoon to thank the volunteers.

“You all gave your time, rallied your troops and encouraged others to give,” said Governor Baldacci. “I am proud to say that more than 80% of participating state agencies – including the Governor’s Office – met their goal of contributions to the appeal, and that says a lot about your efforts.”

The state agencies that participate in the appeal each designate a volunteer to spearhead the agency’s efforts. Each agency sets a goal for contributions they would like to see from their department. Employees have the option to donate a lump sum, or a certain amount from each paycheck throughout the year. They are also given the choice of which charitable organization they would choose for their money to be given.

“It is the community ties and acts of giving that are part of what we were all brought up with,” said the Governor. “It’s great to see that those values that were instilled in us at an early age continue on in such a great fashion.”

Governor Baldacci recognized Commissioner Seth Bradstreet from the Department of Agriculture at the luncheon. The Department of Agriculture received more than 150% of their goal in contributions during the appeal. This year’s appeal was the 27th year the campaign has taken place.

## Governor Mourns Loss of Maine Soldier

December 9, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci today confirmed that a Marine from Presque Isle has been killed in Anbar province in Iraq. 22 year old Cpl. Dustin Libby was killed earlier this week. Upon hearing the news, Governor Baldacci reached out to the family placing calls to Libby's mother and father.

The Governor said: "Libby was a hero and a terrific young man. He will be sadly missed. I spoke with his family earlier today and our hearts and prayers go out to them and all who knew this man who died while serving his country. He represents the best in Maine."

This was Cpl. Libby's second tour of duty in Iraq.

Libby leaves behind his parents, a brother and fiancé. No funeral arrangements have been made yet.

## Governor Mourns Loss of Maine Soldier

December 10, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci learned another Maine person has lost his life in Iraq. According to Department of Defense reports, Staff Sgt. James Kristofer Ciraso, 26, of Bangor died December 7th. Those same reports indicate Ciraso was killed when an explosive device near his vehicle went off in Baghdad. Upon learning of the news Governor Baldacci said: “This is the second death of a Maine native that we have learned about this weekend. All our men and women who choose to serve can be called a hero. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Staff Sgt. Ciraso.”

No other information is available at this time.



## Governor Directs Flags to be Flown at Half-Staff Wednesday, December 13

December 11, 2006

AUGUSTA – In remembrance and honor of Corporal Dustin Libby, Governor John E. Baldacci has directed that the United States flag and the State of Maine flag be flown at half staff from sunrise to sunset Wednesday, December 13, 2006. Cpl. Libby served as a member of the Marines and died in Anbar province, Iraq, on December 6. His private funeral service will be held Wednesday in Presque Isle.

## Governor Applauds Steps to Build Advanced Technology Center

December 11, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci today congratulated Southern Maine Community College (SMCC) for taking steps to establish an Advanced Technology Center (ATC) in Brunswick. The critical project follows and builds upon on the successful state efforts to obtain a federal grant to create jobs in composite and marine industry sectors. The focus of the center, an outgrowth of the Maine Composite Technology Training Initiative, is the development and delivery of training in the composites industry at all levels.

“I am pleased that this training center is building on the early success of the WIRED grant that the state received from the U.S. Department of Labor,” said Governor Baldacci. “The initiative supports job training and creation efforts, focused on boatbuilding, composites and marine industries. Strengthening and expanding educational and R&D programs will provide the foundation needed to grow Maine’s skilled workforce. It will create quality jobs and keep the state’s industries competitive in the global economy.”

As part of the development of the center, the Town of Brunswick is leasing the former Brunswick Times Record building to SMCC temporarily, with the aim of the community college to move onto the former Brunswick Naval Air Station in the future. Additionally, a \$2.2 million grant has been awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor Community-Based Job Training Grant program.

The \$2.2 million funding award will leverage up to \$300,000 from Maine’s North Star Alliance Initiative to be used for the purchase of advanced composites training equipment. The ATC will be part of Southern Maine Community College who will own the equipment, but will be governed by industry in partnership with education and workforce development. The ATC partnership structure includes the Advanced Engineered Composites Center at the University of Maine at Orono, Maine Composites Alliance, Maine Marine Trades Association, Maine Built Boats, The Town of Brunswick, in addition to the Landing School and Maine’s North Star Alliance.

The initiative intends to establish the dedicated training center with labs, class room space and application shops for most composite manufacturing methods with the goals to produce a skilled labor force with a focus on short cycle, high intensity courses. The ATC will provide opportunities for advanced technology training and education that crosses sectors into other areas of advanced manufacturing.

Brunswick will serve as the “hub” with the ATC establishing access points and satellite sites throughout the state. The ATC will also be home to the industry associations who will define and guide the training curriculum. The first composites training class are targeted to become available by February 2007.

## Governor Baldacci Welcomes Notify MD and 100 New Jobs to Farmington

December 12, 2006

FARMINGTON – Governor John E. Baldacci welcomed Notify MD and 100 new jobs to Maine, saying it is further proof that Maine is a destination for businesses from around the world. The Governor made the statements during the announcement that Notify MD – a provider of after-hours messaging, business hour call management, automated patient-reminders and patient care compliance for physicians – has selected Farmington for its new national Care Coordination Center.

“We are happy to assist in bringing jobs back to the people of Farmington,” said Governor Baldacci. “Notify MD will be providing between 75-100 people with good paying jobs and benefits, which is great news for everyone.”

The Governor’s Pine Tree Zone program was one of the attractions that drew Notify MD to Maine, in addition to the state-of-the-art facility and quality workforce. Notify MD will occupy the Abbot Hill Business Center, a facility formerly housing the MBNA call center.

“Working together was essential,” said the Governor. “Coordination between Bank of America, Greater Franklin Development Corporation, Maine & Company and state agencies was critical in bringing Notify MD to Farmington.”

The company expects to be operational by March 1, 2007. Their client base currently consists of 18,000 physicians in more than 40 states. The Farmington site will be their sixth US contact center, joining others in Florida, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Missouri.

“This company’s presence here will not only affect 100 future employees, but it will affect their families and your community by having a good company here for the long haul that was attracted to Maine because of our people and our business environment,” said Governor Baldacci. “Thank you to Notify MD for choosing Maine and congratulations to Farmington for not only adding new jobs, but for adding them with a company that you can be proud to have in Maine and in your town.”

## Governor Baldacci Addresses Neighborhoods Conference

December 12, 2006

PORTLAND – Governor John E. Baldacci closed the Maine Neighborhoods Conference Tuesday afternoon by saying that his administration is working to provide opportunities for all Mainers. The Governor spoke on three key issues that had been addressed earlier in the day – global warming, tax reform and hate violence and harassment in schools.

“My job is to make sure that everyone has the same opportunities in this state,” said Governor Baldacci.

Governor Baldacci said that his work on global warming has included establishing the Office of Energy Independence in the State of Maine; increasing the number of Hybrid vehicles in the state’s auto fleet; using biofuel to heat state buildings and the Blaine House; and introducing and signing legislation to create a solar rebate program, natural gas conservation programs and tax incentives for renewable fuels.

“Global warming is real,” said the Governor. “The actions that we are taking will not only make a difference, but will make others take notice, hopefully follow suit, and ensure that we are doing everything we can to give our children and grandchildren the best Maine and the best world we can for their tomorrow.”

Governor Baldacci also talked to the group about his plans for tax reform, saying that his first order of business for the upcoming Legislative session will be to pass LD 2. LD 2 will freeze property valuation for the purpose of taxation for permanent Maine residents.

“There are a number of initiatives in place to help reduce the tax burden,” said Governor Baldacci. “The cost of doing business in Maine is lower, more money is being put into education than ever before and the Circuit Breaker program puts money back into tax payer’s pockets.”

Governor Baldacci praised the Children’s Cabinet, lead by First Lady Karen Baldacci, for addressing hate violence and harassment in schools. He said that a group has already been assigned to specifically work on bullying issues in schools. They have compiled and issued a handbook (Maine’s Best Practices in Bullying and Harassment Prevention – A Guide for Schools and Communities) to all schools, complete with training on bullying and harassment prevention.

“No matter how good your teacher is or how good the school is, if there is harassment, bullying or hate violence in the school, it will impede learning for any student,” said Governor Baldacci.

This is the 4th year of the Maine Neighborhoods Conference. Approximately 200 people from more than 40 cities and towns across Maine attended this year’s conference at the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland. Congressman Tom Allen opened the conference and DEP Commissioner David Littell delivered a luncheon address.

## Governor Baldacci Pledges Support for the Elderly

December 13, 2006

OLD TOWN – Governor John E. Baldacci told senior citizens in Old Town that he will continue to protect Maine families and Maine's elderly as he enters his second term in office. The Governor said that more work needs to be done in the areas of affordable health care and prescription drugs, affordable taxes, energy prices and ensuring that all Mainers have opportunities for success.

"These issues are more important now than ever to address here in Maine," said Governor Baldacci, "There remain many challenges ahead of us, but working together we will continue to protect our seniors."

Governor Baldacci spoke specifically with the group about the Medicare Part D program. The Governor said that Maine was the first state to implement a system so no seniors fell through the cracks.

"I will continue to fight for affordable health care and medications," said the Governor.

Governor Baldacci talked with the group of senior citizens, who were gathered for lunch at the Elks Club in Old Town, for about a half hour. In addition to health care, the Governor touched on stories about his parents and the family restaurant, his family's new puppy, and more serious issues such as property taxes with his plan to cap valuation for the purpose of taxation for full time Maine residents.

"My plan sets firm in the Maine Constitution the basic principle that the burden of property taxes must be reduced for our permanent Maine residents," said Governor Baldacci. "Capping increases in the value of property for Mainers provides the immediate relief Mainers have been demanding."

## Governor Baldacci Pleased with Next Step at Old Town Mill

December 15, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci said today that he was pleased that a recent Federal decision enables Red Shield to continue to expand operations at the Old Town mill. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has approved a waiver that allows Red Shield to sell all power it generates at the site to the electricity grid.

“This is great news for Red Shield and for Old Town as development continues at the former GP mill site,” said Governor Baldacci. “The FERC decision enables Red Shield to maximize energy production and sale, increasing economic activity and requiring more workers to be hired at the Old Town mill.”

The Governor said this step is one in a long process that will lead to a better future for the people of Old Town. The successful sale of the facility was finalized in early November.

Reuse of the mill enables state-of-the-art production that will transition employment opportunities, create new industry and stabilize the employment and tax base of the community. Diversified and growing technologies at the site will benefit the town's long-term economic and job prospects.

The FERC waiver was sought by Red Shield in order to remove prior restrictions for the sale of generated power. Previously, Red Shield had been limited in the amount of energy it could sell.

“My Administration has worked with the buyers, Maine's Congressional Delegation, local officials, union leaders and the people of Old Town to ensure the economic health of Old Town and the region,” said the Governor. “This step shows that our collaborative efforts continue to lead to a promising future for this community.”

## Governor Baldacci Announces Completion of Katahdin Lake Project

December 15, 2006

MILLINOCKET & PORTLAND — Governor John E. Baldacci today announced that Katahdin Lake, along with 4,000 acres that include old-growth forest, miles of pristine lake frontage, and spectacular views of Mount Katahdin, is now part of Baxter State Park. The land will be permanently preserved as a wilderness sanctuary, thereby fulfilling former Governor Percival P. Baxter's original vision for the park he donated to the people of Maine.

Yesterday, The Trust for Public Land, which negotiated the purchase agreement and led a \$14 million private fundraising campaign, completed the purchase of the land from Gardner Land Company, and transferred the deed to the Baxter State Park Authority. An additional 2,000 acres north of the lake was included in the purchase. That land will be managed by the Maine Department of Conservation.

Governor Baldacci said, "We could not think of a better holiday gift for the people of Maine. In a way it is a gift to ourselves, as so many Mainers helped to make this dream a reality. For decades many people have been working to complete Percival Baxter's vision, but to do so required an extraordinary effort. I am pleased that we have been able to deliver Katahdin Lake to the people of Maine, and to salute the conservation vision of Governor Baxter. May we continue to honor this vision, and regard today's achievement as not an end, but another milestone on our journey to keep the special places in Maine special."

Sam Hodder, Senior Project Manager at the Trust for Public Land, said, "This was a remarkable challenge and its completion is a credit to so many people. More than 1,000 individuals, foundations and corporations stepped forward to help complete Baxter's map for Maine's park in a remarkably short window of time. It has been inspiring to be a part of this project and to share this success with Governor Baldacci, Buzz Caverly, the Maine Legislature, the Baxter State Park Authority, The Friends of Baxter State Park, and all who care so much about this remarkable park."

Buzz Caverly, the former park superintendent who co-chaired the fundraising campaign, led numerous trips to the lake during the past year, showing potential donors what their investment might preserve. Caverly said, "The purchase of the Katahdin Lake lands is the most extraordinary event in park history since 1962, when Governor Baxter purchased his last 7,000 acres to bring the size of the park to over 200,000 acres. Until that time, and for the remainder of his life, he could not find a willing seller for the Katahdin Lake lands. Today, the final chapter of this book has been written, for his goal of 1921 has been achieved. This old ranger of 46 years is one happy camper. My sincere thanks and congratulations to all who participated in bringing this dream to reality."

Stephen Rowe, chairman of the Baxter Park Authority, said, "For decades, Maine people have enjoyed the great gift made to them by Percival Baxter. Today, Maine people and those who love Baxter State Park have given the former governor a gift in return, by completing his vision for a great state park. With

its great fishing and spectacular views of Mt. Katahdin, I'm sure Katahdin Lake will soon become a 'must-see' part of Baxter State Park."

Patrick McGowan, Commissioner of the Department of Conservation, said, "The \$14 million raised this past year is the largest amount of money raised in the shortest amount of time for any conservation acquisition in the state – we went from zero to \$14 million in 14 months. This success was made possible by a grassroots outpouring of support, and our heartfelt thanks go out to all those donors. We are also deeply grateful to the Trust for Public Land for their tireless efforts on behalf of Katahdin Lake, which had eluded the state for so many years. The leadership shown by Governor Baldacci, the Maine Legislature and folks like Buzz Caverly made this an easier fundraising campaign than could have been imagined."

In the final two weeks of the campaign, 200 new donors stepped forward with over \$2 million in contributions, bringing the total number of contributors to 1,022. Major corporate donors to the project included LL Bean, Tom's of Maine, Poland Spring/Nestle Waters, and the Camden National Corporation. Major foundation donors included the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation, the Sweet Water Trust, the Butler Conservation Fund, the Davis Conservation Foundation, the Horizon Foundation, the J.M. Hopwood Charitable Trust, the Newcastle Foundation, the Focus Foundation, the Merck Family Fund, and two anonymous foundations. In addition, a group of noted landscape artists donated the proceeds of Katahdin lake paintings to the preservation effort.

Hodder, of the Trust for Public Land, noted that hundreds of individual donors sent checks ranging from two to seven figures. Donations came from as far away as Alaska, but the bulk of the private money raised (57%) came from full time Maine residents.

Judy Cook, 58, of Brunswick, is a lifelong Maine resident who contributed \$100. She said, "I love camping and hiking at Baxter State Park. I think it's wonderful that soon I'll be able to hike in to Katahdin Lake and photograph that view of Mount Katahdin."



## Governor Directs Flags to Be Flown at Half-Staff in Kennebunk

December 15, 2006

AUGUSTA – In remembrance and honor of Ethelyn Stuart Marthia, the Town Clerk of Kennebunk, Governor John E. Baldacci has directed that the United States flag and the State of Maine flag be flown at half-staff from sunrise to sunset, Monday, December 18, 2006 in the Town of Kennebunk. Funeral services for Ethelyn Marthia will be held that day. The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Kennebunk made the request.

## Governor Baldacci Pleased with Federal EDA Grant Approval

December 15, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci reacted positively today to the news that a Federal Economic Development Authority grant has been approved for Oxford Aviation in Sanford. The \$1,175,000 grant will assist in the creation of approximately 200 jobs in the town.

“The cooperative effort between state and federal agencies has paid off for 200 people in the Sanford area and their families,” said Governor Baldacci. “Oxford Aviation and Jim Horowitz are leaders in the aviation field, and they have a proven track record in Maine. We are thrilled that they are continuing to invest in our state.”

The EDA grant for Oxford Aviation adds to a \$400,000 Community Development Block Grant obtained through DECD, and the company's Pine Tree Zone status.

“Through all of these efforts – Pine Tree Zones, CDBG grants, the EDA grant, increased R&D investments – we are investing in the future of Maine,” said the Governor, “Jim Horowitz and Oxford Aviation are living proof that the future of Maine is bright.”

## Governor Nominates John Richardson to Head Department of Economic and Community Development

December 18, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci today announced that he is nominating former Speaker of the Maine House of Representatives John Richardson to head the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). Upon confirmation, Richardson will lead the department charged with developing economic sectors, promoting new businesses, growing existing businesses, and creating economic opportunity for Maine citizens. The department works closely with the Governor, the Legislature, and the private sector to accomplish this mission.

“John Richardson is uniquely qualified to head this vital department,” said Governor Baldacci. “I am pleased that he will dedicate his significant knowledge, leadership, experience, and skills to the efforts to increase Maine’s competitiveness in the global economy. Maine people are the hardest working in the nation, and improving the business climate and creating opportunities for them to succeed is the top priority of my Administration. I am confident John Richardson will contribute greatly to these goals.”

Richardson recently concluded his fourth consecutive term in the Maine House, during which time he rose in the ranks to House Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Business and Economic Development in the 120th Legislature; to House Majority Leader in the 121st Legislature; and finally to Speaker of the House in the 122nd Legislature.

During his tenure in the State Legislature, Richardson led efforts to create a fair and stable business environment in the state. He strenuously promoted investments in people and technologies, including bond investments for economic development projects. He helped guide the phasing out of the business equipment tax. He has been actively engaged in the redevelopment of the Brunswick Naval Air Station. Most recently, Richardson has traveled across the state soliciting regional economic development solutions.

Richardson is a graduate of the University of Maryland and received his law degree from Creighton University. He has been a partner in the firm Trough and Heisler in Portland.

Governor Baldacci, during his first administration, developed the Pine Tree Economic Development Zone program, which is responsible for growing more than 3,200 jobs across the state. The Governor has worked to save jobs in the traditional natural resource based industries and is investing in innovation and businesses of the future. While incomes and jobs are growing in Maine and Maine’s economy is diversifying and strengthening, further improvements must be made to grow Maine’s economy, create good jobs with benefits, and create opportunity for Maine people. “With the leadership of John Richardson, we will continue to make strides toward providing opportunities for Maine people, now and into the future,” concluded the Governor.

Jack Cashman, the current Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development, is leaving his post to become the Senior Economic Advisor in the Governor’s Office. After approval by

the Business, Research and Economic Development Committee, John Richardson must be confirmed by the Senate.

## Governor Names Judicial Nominees

December 18, 2006

AUGUSTA - Governor John Baldacci today nominated five people for judgeships. Andrew Marcus Horton has been nominated to the Superior Court. The following people have been nominated by the Governor for District Court: Michael P. Cantara, Charles Allan Dow, MaryGay Kennedy, and Valerie Stanfil.

"These nominees have demonstrated outstanding leadership in their professional careers as well as in their communities," Governor Baldacci said. "I am confident that those I have named will serve the State with utmost integrity, contributing their talent and wisdom to Maine's citizens and courts."

Andrew Horton, of Falmouth, has been serving as a Judge on the District Court since 1999. Prior to his judgeship, Horton had been a trial lawyer for 21 years with the firm Verrill & Dana, where he was a partner. He was a former president of the Maine Trial Judges Association. He was involved with the Volunteer Lawyer's Project since its inception, and has participated in a wide variety of community and civic activities. Judge Horton received his undergraduate degree from Harvard and his J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center.

Michael Cantara, of Biddeford, has been serving as Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety for nearly four years. He has extensive trial experience, having served as District Attorney for York County from 1991 to 2003. Cantara served in a variety of other capacities in Biddeford, including the Planning Board, Chairman of the School Board, and Mayor. He has and is currently a member of a number of professional, civic and cultural organizations. Cantara received his B.A. from Colby College and was awarded his J.D. from the University of Maine School of Law.

Charles Dow, of Winthrop, currently serves at the Attorney General's Office in Augusta, where he is the Special Assistant to the Attorney General. Since 2001 in this capacity, Dow has been involved in policy and legislative development for the Attorney General, has advised Maine law enforcement on compliance issues, and has handled administrative hearings for the department. Prior to his tenure in the AG's Office, Dow served in several senior staff positions in the Maine House. Dow received his B.S. at University of Maine Fort Kent and his J.D. from the University of Maine School of Law.

MaryGay Kennedy, of Brunswick, is a partner at the firm Germani & Riggle, LLC, where she has specialized in family law. Kennedy has been a member of the Maine Bar since 1980. She was the founding Director of the Maine Court Appointed Special Advocate Program (CASA), which provides volunteer advocates to children involved in child protection proceedings. Kennedy received her B.A. from American University in Washington, D.C., and her J.D. from the University of Maine School of Law.

Valerie Stanfill, of Turner, is currently practicing as a trial law attorney with the firm Troubh & Heisler. Prior to her current position she was a Visiting Clinical Professor at the University of Maine School of Law. Concurrently she served as the Acting Director of the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic. Stanfill graduated from Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania with a B.A. degree, and received her J.D. from the University School of Law.

## Governor Nominates Vendean Vafiades to Public Utilities Commission

December 18, 2006

AUGUSTA - Governor John Baldacci today announced the nomination of Maine District Court Chief Judge Vendean Vafiades to serve as a member of the Maine Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The PUC's mission is to promote long term energy conservation and alternative energy solutions, regulation of utility rates and regulation of the telecommunications industry.

"Judge Vafiades will be a wonderful addition to the PUC," said Governor Baldacci. "She is a fair adjudicator and she possesses an agile intellect that will put her in good stead as a Commissioner. Much is changing in the energy and telecommunications industries. We are fortunate to be able to add Judge Vafiades to the Maine PUC now."

Prior to attending law school, Judge Vafiades worked for the Maine Women's Lobby as a public policy advisor. From 1985 to 1986, she served as the first Executive Director of the Maine Science and Technology Board, which is charged with implementation of the technology strategy in Maine.

After work in private practice, Judge Vafiades served as the chief legal counsel and policy advisor to the Attorney General of Maine. She has also served as counsel to the University of Maine System. Judge Vafiades has served on the District Court since 1997, rising to Chief Judge in 2002.

Judge Vafiades, a resident of Hallowell, is a graduate of the University of Southern Maine, received her Master's from the University of Maine, and her J.D. from the University of Maine School of Law.

Judge Vafiades' nomination must be taken up by the Utilities and Energy Committee and confirmed by the full Senate. Upon confirmation, Vafiades would fill the position left vacant by Stephen Diamond.

## Governor Pleased with Dirigo Blue Ribbon Commission Agreement

December 19, 2006

AUGUSTA – Following the final meeting of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Dirigo Health, Governor John Baldacci this evening called Chair Sandra Featherman to congratulate her and the commission for their work in reaching an agreement that will allow Dirigo Health to continue to serve the people of Maine.

“The Commission has reinforced the principles of Dirigo Health, protecting Maine families and businesses and ensuring that Maine is moving forward to providing quality, affordable, accessible health care to Maine people now and into the future,” said Governor Baldacci. “They have developed a set of proposals to affordably carry Dirigo Health forward. I am looking forward to receiving the report from the Commission, reviewing it in detail, and submitting legislation based on this important report.”

## Governor Baldacci Announces 35 New Jobs in South China

December 20, 2006

SOUTH CHINA – Governor John E. Baldacci congratulated the workers at Fairpoint Communications for adding 35 new jobs to the facility, saying it is further proof that Maine workers are known for their quality around the world.

“This company has chosen two locations for national call centers,” said Governor Baldacci. “One is Washington State – within an hour and a half of Seattle – and the other is Maine.”

The Governor’s Pine Tree Zone program was one of the factors in the decision to expand the South China Facility, in addition to the existing quality workforce.

“The people of this state are recognized around the country as being hard workers,” said the Governor, “and it’s a strong selling point when we talk to businesses about locating and expanding in Maine.”

Fairpoint Communications is a provider of communications services to rural communities across the country, offering services such as local and long distance telephone and broadband internet services. The expansion of the South China facility will double the existing workforce of 35 people.

“This expansion is yet another opportunity for us to recognize the many positive things that are going on in our communities across Maine,” said Governor Baldacci. “Fairpoint Communications’ announcement today is an investment in our people, our state, and the quality of their product.”



## Governor Mourns Passing of Former President Ford

December 27, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci released the following statement on the passing of Former President Gerald R. Ford.

"The people of Maine join the nation in mourning Former President Gerald Ford. We remember him for his dedication to family and country, and his leadership that successfully steered the course of the nation during a very difficult time. He dedicated many years of service to open and responsive government, restoring the nation's trust in the Presidency and in the democracy on which this country was built."

In accordance with U.S. and Maine State Law, U.S. and Maine State flags are directed to be flown at half-staff for 30 days following the death of a U.S. President.

## Governor Names New Chair of Board of Environmental Protection

December 27, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci has appointed Virginia Plummer as the new Chair of the Board of Environmental Protection (BEP). The previous Chair, Matthew Scott, resigned his chairmanship, but will remain on the Board.

“I want to thank Matthew Scott for his impeccable service to the State as Chair of the Board of Environmental Protection,” said Governor Baldacci. “He has greatly enhanced the BEP’s pursuit of ensuring good Department decisions and responsible public participation in those Department decisions.”

The Governor continued, “I am pleased that Virginia Plummer is eager to serve as the Chair of the Board. Her past service to the BEP along with her experience, knowledge and judgment of the issues before the Board have been invaluable. She will ably guide the Board over the next year as it considers a number of important decisions. Virginia’s leadership will help ensure that Maine’s valuable natural resources and environment are protected for future generations.”

Virginia Plummer has served as a member of the BEP for seven years. She will remain as Chair until her term expires. Plummer, of Turner, brings an array of experience to this position. She is currently self-employed, and has previously served in a variety of capacities with the Department of Human Services.

The Board of Environmental Protection, which was created by the Legislature, provides regulatory authority over environmental decisions through rulemaking, review of appeals from DEP decisions, and consideration of selected permit applications and licensing decisions.

## Governor Baldacci Names Judicial Nominee

December 29, 2006

AUGUSTA - Governor John E. Baldacci today nominated John H. O'Neil Jr. for a District Court judgeship.

"John O'Neil is a hard working man with an impressive resume and a good reputation within the legal community," said Governor Baldacci. "I have no doubt that John's experience, knowledge and enthusiasm will lead him to a successful career on the bench, serving Maine people."

John H. O'Neil, Jr., of Kennebunk, has been a trial lawyer and partner at Smith, Elliott, Smith & Garmey, P.A. in Portland and Saco since 1991 and was an associate at the firm for three years prior. O'Neil has also served as the Assistant District Attorney/Superior Court Prosecutor at the York County District Attorney's Office in Alfred. He was the Chair of the Superior Court Committee on Evidence Guidelines for Medical Malpractice Screening Panels and served on the Advisory Committee to the Maine Supreme Court on the Rules of Evidence. O'Neil received his undergraduate degree from Boston College and his J.D. from Suffolk University Law School.

Judicial nominees must be confirmed by the Judiciary Committee and the full Senate before being appointed.

## Maine Pauses to Remember President Ford

December 29, 2006

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci announced that State employees wishing to observe the funeral of former President Gerald R. Ford will have an opportunity to do so.

Governor Baldacci will lead the State of Maine in a remembrance ceremony for former President Gerald Ford on Tuesday at 12:30 pm in the Blaine House. The ceremony provides an opportunity for state employees and citizens of Maine to pay tribute to the former leader.

The brief ceremony, which is open to the public, will include participation by the Maine State Select Honor Guard and the Maine Army National Guard. The Governor will read a proclamation honoring former President Ford and will lead those gathered in a moment of silence.

Although federal offices will be closed on Tuesday, January 2, State services will continue to be provided to the citizens of Maine, and state agencies will remain open. State employees will be able to have flexible time between the hours of 10:00 am and 1:00 pm to watch the funeral services of President Ford and attend the remembrance ceremony.

The Governor directed state agencies and supervisors to maximize flexibility around employees' lunch schedules, subject to operational need, to allow for employees to observe the televised funeral in Washington. President Ford's remains are scheduled to be received with ceremony at the Washington National Cathedral at 10:00 am, with the national funeral service scheduled to begin at approximately 10:30 am.