

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

March 29, 2009 6:00 AM

Answering the challenge

St. Anne's Credit Union Community Activities Committee member Belinda Morrissette accepted the challenge to coordinate a team of employees to create and sell a cookbook, with proceeds to benefit area soup kitchens. Over several months, Morrissette and the committee collected recipes from fellow employees, credit union members and supporting vendors. The completed cookbook, "Recipes to Make A Difference" included 275 recipes.

Cookbooks were available for sale at all St. Anne's Credit Union branches and loan centers. In three weeks, more than 435 copies were sold.

Proceeds from the sale, along with a \$500 donation from the credit union, were split between the Fall River Food Pantry and Shepherd's Pantry in Acushnet.

Each organization received \$879 to assist in providing food to families in their communities.

The St. Anne's Credit Union Community Activities Committee thanks everyone who participated in this successful event, in particular Ethel Schwartz and Kathleen Bell, both St. Anne's members who contributed the most recipes of any credit union member.

Promoted to manager

Rosenfield Raymon Pielech PC, certified public accountants and business consultants, announces that Sandra M. daCosta has been promoted to manager in the assurance and advisory practice section. Ms. daCosta began her career here in December 2007 and has more than nine years of experience providing assurance, business consulting and tax services to area businesses.

DaCosta received a bachelor's degree in management science with a concentration in accounting/finance from Bridgewater State College. Before joining Rosenfield Raymon Pielech PC, She was employed by Hodgson Pratt & Associates PC in New Bedford and Clarke, Snow & Riley LLP in Quincy.

She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Massachusetts Society of CPAs.

She lives with her family in New Bedford.

Youth expo planned

NEW BEDFORD — The Youth Services Department of New Directions Southcoast Inc. and the

Greater New Bedford Career Center are hosting the fifth annual Youth Career Expo from 1 to 4 p.m. April 24 at the Greater New Bedford Career Center.

The goal is to provide youths ages 16 to 24 with employment opportunities.

Local businesses are encouraged to participate in the expo. New Directions and the Greater New Bedford Career Center are committed to successfully matching qualified youths with employers.

The expo will provide youths with one-stop access to a variety of employment opportunities.

They will be encouraged to attend job readiness workshops at the Career Center to help them prepare to meet employers.

The Career Center will provide pre-screening services to employers.

All employers are encouraged to participate, including those who hire only youths over age 18.

Marketing strategy includes high school graduates and college students.

joins firm

NEW BEDFORD — Rosenfield Raymon Pielech PC, certified public accountants and business consultants, announces that Christopher M. Jacobsen has joined the firm as a staff accountant in the Assurance and Advisory Department.

Jacobsen graduated from UMass Dartmouth with a bachelor's degree in accounting.

He is pursuing his master's in business administration at the school. Jacobsen previously interned with the firm. He resides in New Bedford.

training expo set

BROCKTON — The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has brought a new sense of urgency to the task of preparing workers for jobs in high-growth sectors and emerging industries. CareerWorks, the one-stop career center serving Greater Brockton, is responding to this demand with an event organized exclusively for the providers of training and educational services. The 2009 Training and Educational Expo will be held from 9 a.m. to noon April 14, at the Shaw's Center in Brockton.

Vendors can view a brochure about the event and get a copy of the registration form by going to www.careerworks.org. They also can contact senior employer services representative Andrea Kingman at akingman@careerworks.org or at (508) 513-3442.

Organizations that register by April 3 will be eligible for a fee of \$500, a \$50 savings on the regular fee of \$550. Vendors are encouraged to register early.

networking event

FALL RIVER — The Southern New England Entrepreneurs Forum will hold a networking event and speakers program on April 1 on the subject of "Building a Tech Company in Today's Challenging Environment."

The workshop will be held from 5:30 to 8 p.m., starting with networking and light dinner, followed by the presentation.

It will be held at the Advanced Technology Manufacturing Center at 151 Martine St.

Eric Stoermer, president and CEO of Environmental Operating Solutions of Bourne, will be the speaker. Environmental Operating Solutions, formed in 2001, develops and markets green chemicals for use in wastewater treatment.

Bob Crowley, an experienced venture capitalist investor and president of the Massachusetts Technology Development Corporation, will serve as the event moderator.

The workshop costs \$20 with prior registration and \$25 at the door. To RSVP online, go to www.sneef.umassd.edu/event or call Joanne Randall at (508) 910-9823. She also can be reached via e-mail at jrandall@umassd.edu.

agency wins recognition

WAREHAM — Rogers & Gray Insurance Agency announces that it is the only Cape-based insurance agency chosen to be a representative of the Selective Insurance Group.

Selective entered Massachusetts in July 2007 and is a super regional carrier operating in 22 states. It specializes in commercial insurance.

Rogers & Gray has locations in Canton, Falmouth, Hyannis, Orleans, Plymouth, South Dennis, South Sandwich and Wareham.

annual meeting

FAIRHAVEN — The Fairhaven Improvement Association will hold its 126th annual meeting at 6:30 p.m. April 7 at the Wamsutta Club in New Bedford.

Reservations are \$25 per person. Deadline for reservations is Wednesday.

The business meeting will include election of officers and members of the board of directors. The association will award its Property Beautification Awards to the Ice Chest, Capeway Veterinary Hospital and the Pasta House in recognition of improvements they have made at their properties.

It also will honor Police Chief Gary Souza, who will be retiring this year, and Bob Bosworth, posthumously, for their community service and dedication to Fairhaven.

The highlight of the evening will be a presentation by Gerald Rooney, who will speak about his book, "Hello Brother," recounting his adventures around the world in the 1960s.

Call Angela Dawicki for reservations at (508) 993-2175, or mail your request to the Fairhaven Improvement Association, Attn: Annual Dinner Reservations, Box 404, Fairhaven, MA 02719.

chairman named

The Southern New England Entrepreneurs Forum, affiliated with the UMass Dartmouth Advanced Technology and Manufacturing Center in Fall River announces that David Biggs, principal in Biggs-Partners & You Communications of Dartmouth, has been named chairman.

"This honor and responsibility is very much appreciated. While I am an active member of both the Fall River and New Bedford chambers of commerce, this role will allow me to make strategic alliances and connections for many more business people," Biggs said.

Norm Brust of NTB Associates in Brockton is vice chairman. Committee chairmen are David Sheehan of UMass Dartmouth, program; Jamie Leger of Sheppard Leger Nowak Inc. of Providence, sponsorship and publications; and Sherry Alpert of Sherry Alpert Corporate Communications of Canton, public relations.

The Southern New England Entrepreneurs Forum is dedicated to developing entrepreneurship and venture activity with programs that combine topical forums with networking opportunities.

For more information, please go to www.sneef.umassd.edu or call Joanne Randall at (508) 910-9823.

new board members

NEW BEDFORD — The board of directors of the Buttonwood Park Zoological Society recently elected two new members to three-year terms.

Geri Winterhalter Sullivan is a social studies teacher at Keith Middle School in New Bedford. Pattie Burke most recently served as interim executive director of the Zoological Society during its national search for a new executive director, and is one of the organizers of "Boo at the Zoo."

sales surpass \$1 million

DARTMOUTH — In its seventh year, Interstate All Battery Center of North Dartmouth announces that it has surpassed the \$1 million mark.

Located at 154G Faunce Corner Road, IABC franchisee Michael St. Don, manager Richard Furtado and team have a strong grip on the retail battery category.

Interstate All Battery Centers carry more than 16,000 types of batteries and power solutions for everything from laptops and cameras to boats and hearing aids. In keeping with the trend of portable products and power alternatives, IABC offers consumers cost-efficient power source solutions and convenient gadgets designed to keep pace with any on-the-go lifestyle. The company also offers battery recycling.

letting in the sun

FAIRHAVEN — The National Sunroom Association in Cleveland announced Stevens Home Improvement as first-place winner of its annual contractor sunroom contest during the annual convention in Las Vegas on March 5.

Stevens' award-winning sunroom nomination was built for Mr. & Mrs. Geir Tonnessen of 14 Gabriel Farm Road, Acushnet, and featured a model produced by Joyce Manufacturing. Steve Alves, president of Stevens, expressed his gratitude in receiving the coveted award. "We know the competition is keen and we appreciate being recognized for our quality work on a national basis."

The National Sunroom Association Design Awards Competition recognizes contractor excellence in the design and installation of sunrooms, solariums and patio covers.

speaker series

FALL RIVER — The Advanced Technology & Manufacturing Center announces its Entrepreneurship Speaker Series. The series is intended to provide current and future entrepreneurs with information that will help them succeed.

Scheduled for from noon to 1:30 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month, ATMC explores subjects of vital concern to startup companies.

The spring 2009 series includes "The ABCs of Term Sheets" by Kat Holliday of MINTZ LEVIN. The presentation will begin with a basic overview of term sheets; their purpose, their negotiation and a discussion of binding versus nonbinding obligations. Then there will be a walk through the National Venture Capital Association's model term sheet for an initial venture capital financing round, as well as a model venture debt term sheet. The presentation will be followed by a question-and-answer session. Please bring lots of questions, especially the ones pertinent to your current situation.

lifetime achievement

PROVIDENCE — Tools of the Trade magazine presented its first Lifetime Achievement Award to Marshall Burns of Fall River at the JLC Live Show in Providence on March 20.

Burns started working with his father in 1937, making saw blades, often traveling to remote sawmills in the Maine woods to set up the 5-foot-diameter circular blades used to rip huge logs into lumber. Even at 80 years of age, he was still making the same trips to hammer those huge blades flat so they would spin true, and he remains an outspoken advocate of hammer-tempered saw blades today.

Since its beginning in 1934, Burns Power Tools in Fall River has evolved and grown with the industry into one of the best-known tool stores in the country. It specializes in manufacturing custom saw blades and high-quality sharpening services. Burns is credited with inventing thin kerf blade technology, and years ago traveled to Japan to help Tenryu designers develop its first product. In 2005 he was inducted into the TOOLS Hall of Fame.

Now, at 90, Burns can be found every day at his shop, where he works alongside his sons and grandsons, developing new saw blades and ways to improve their performance. His passion and energy for innovation, quality and improvement have not diminished over the years.

homebuyer seminar

FAIRHAVEN — Rockland Trust is hosting a free first-time home buyer seminar from 6 to 8 p.m. April 30 at its Fairhaven branch, 75 Huttleston Ave.

Topics covered will be those relevant to buying a home for the first time, including financing in today's market, FHA and Mass Housing programs, and other pertinent issues. Jennifer Watson, senior loan officer for Rockland Trust, will host the event and speak about the first-time home buyer process with guest speakers attorney Peter Saulino and Realtor Kim Silva. Light refreshments will be served. The public is invited to this free, informational session, but must register by calling (508) 979-4921 by April 28.

business for breakfast

NEW BEDFORD — Millennium bcpbank invited Southcoast business customers to attend a "business for breakfast" event March 18 at the New Bedford Whaling Museum.

The keynote subject was "Economic Problems, Prospects and Policies: Impacts on the SouthCoast and Beyond," and it was moderated by Millennium President and CEO Pedro Belo.

William Hogan, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences and professor of economics at UMassDartmouth, was the invited speaker.

Hogan elaborated on the current macroeconomic climate and discussed its main differences with the Great Depression. "The Great Depression period was mainly characterized by policies of contraction on the fiscal and monetary levels and by protectionist trade policies. Today, we are experiencing the opposite scenario with expansionary monetary and fiscal policies but we again see pressures for protectionist trade policies," he said.

directory available

NEW BEDFORD — The New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce recently released its 2009 Membership Directory & Community Resource Guide for distribution.

The annual directory, which functions as a quick-reference resource guide, is distributed free to area residents and visitors in an effort to promote the chamber's member businesses and organizations. The directory also provides important area information, including town and city profiles and contacts, and updates on the community's economic growth, sustained prosperity and quality of life.

The 2009 Membership Directory & Community Resource Guide has been distributed to all chamber members and will be placed in local city and town halls, public libraries, visitor centers, hotels, and several business organizations and retail locations for free distribution to the public.

The publication highlights a vast array of places to work, live, dine, shop, stay and enjoy in New Bedford, Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Freetown, Marion, Mattapoisett, Rochester, Wareham and Westport. Hundreds of local chamber member businesses are listed with their addresses, contact information and brief descriptions.

program of the year

WATERBURY, Conn. — Webster Investment Services has been named the Regional Institution Program of the Year by the Bank Insurance Securities Association in recognition of its growth, commitment to service and placing client needs first.

During the recent market decline, WIS increased sales production by 7 percent and maintained a compound annual growth rate of nearly 10 percent over the past five years. This growth was fueled by exemplary customer service; a high-quality, tenured sales force with low turnover; comprehensive quarterly marketing campaigns that combine direct mail, print and in-branch merchandising; and a robust team planning process that provides a detailed roadmap to success for all employees.

"The success of this organization is rooted in its dedicated, knowledgeable employees," said Marc Vosen, president of BISA. "Fifteen of WIS's 46 financial consultants have been a part of the company for more than 10 years and its leaders, President Tom Howe and Senior Vice President John Olerio, have been a team for 11 years."

undefined