

The York Independent

The hometown voice of the greater York region

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Not budging further

YTA closes door to additional negotiation for school budget cuts, page 6



York Teachers Association president, Jeff Barry, speaks before the York school committee last Wednesday, April 1st, during which teachers argued against further cuts to the school budget.

The Inside Guide

5 THINK AGAIN

The fight to protect local residents from a plan to move the York Toll Booth is far from over.

6 SCHOOL NOTES

It has been a busy time for the local schools, from award-winning teams at the state Odyssey of the Mind Competition to ongoing budget discussions for the year ahead.

8 SOUTHERN MAINE CURRENTS

Find out what has been happening in the greater York region in recent weeks, and check out some coming events.

ON THE WEB...

For more features, news and photographs — and to read our full calendar of events — check out *The York Independent Online* at www.yorkindependent.net.

- Opinion/Letters, 10
- Obituaries, 11
- Arts and Leisure, 12
- Library Happenings, 14
- New at Old York, 16
- The Pet Connection, 17
- The Sports Report, 18
- The Puzzle Page, 19
- Calendar of Events, 20
- Bulletin Board, 21
- Classifieds, 22
- Real Estate, 23

2
Cyan
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Town Topics

Town sees a shortage of candidates for local boards and committees

By Jennifer L. Saunders

YORK — The town is looking at uncontested races for virtually every board and committee in town, with some at risk of having unfilled seats, if more residents do not come forward to run for key posts in the May election.

The deadline for returning nomination papers is April 14, and to be nominated requires a minimum of 25 signatures of registered York voters or a maximum of 100 such signatures.

However, town officials reported a lack a lack of interest so far in the positions that are open.

The town’s budget committee, which oversees which line items are presented to the voters each year, has three members with terms that expire in May, but had no candidates pulling papers for the seats held by Chairman Michael Quinn, Vice Chairman Greg Filias and Recording Secretary Dave Lincoln one week before the filing deadline.

On the Board of Selectmen, Vice Chairman Dave Marshall and Selectman Edward “Ted” Little both have terms ending at the town meeting in May.

Little and Tracy L. Jackson-McCarty had taken out nomination papers to run for the board but had not yet returned those papers at press time.

York School Committee Vice Chairman Tim Fitzgerald and member John D’Aquila are the only candidates who have taken out papers, both seeking reelection to the terms they currently hold on that board.

In other races that are uncontested so far, Rodney J. Lucas has taken out papers for the five-year term on the York Sewer District Board of Trustee and Town Clerk/Tax Collector Mary-Anne Szeniawski has also taken out papers to run for another three-year term in that position.

Dana W. Moulton III has returned papers to seek the five-year term avail-

able on the York Water District Board of Trustees and Dana C. Johnson has taken out papers for that board.

For more information on running for a town board or committee, call 363-1003 or visit www.yorkmaine.org.



SKUNKED! April Fool’s Day brought some new visitors to the town of York in the form of a collection of handmade skunks strategically positioned near speed zones, Town Hall and restricted parking areas, just to name a few. Local residents began wondering whether it was a joke created by the Town Hall staff, or if York had traded in the “Wildcat” as its mascot in favor of the skunk. As it turned out, Community Development Director Steve Burns said the origins were a mystery, but with the proximity of several to Town Hall, he was under the impression that the message was something akin to “code enforcement stinks” as each skunk was adorned with a yellow “enforcer” banner. At Town Hall, Burns said employees were enjoying the arrival of the skunks in the spirit of April Fool’s Day. And he had a message for whoever made them: “Thank you! I think they’re really pretty funny. We’re not giving them back.” Courtesy photos

York Hospital Oncology Care honored by American College of Surgeons

YORK — This past year was one of achievement and award for York Hospital Oncology Care.

A three-year design process geared toward the creation of a high-quality cancer program culminated in dual honors to the group for 2008.

The Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons recently announced that York Hospital has joined a select group of only 25 percent of all hospitals in the U.S. and Puerto Rico in having an American College of Surgeons-certified oncology program.

The necessary qualities include cancer committee leadership, cancer data management, clinical services, research, community outreach and quality improvement. This exclusive faction of programs treats and diagnoses 80 percent of all newly diagnosed cancer patients in the U.S. each year.

In addition to its induction into this select group, York Hospital’s Oncology Care Program was also honored with the commission’s 2008 Outstanding Achievement, which was created in 2004 to recognize cancer programs that strive for excellence

in providing quality care to patients.

Only five other hospitals in all of New England were honored with this distinction.

“We are all very proud of our efforts in providing high quality care to folks in York County who have cancer,” said Oncologist Jonathan Eneman, MD, who spearheaded the multiyear endeavor.

For more information about York Hospital Oncology Care, call 351-3777 or visit www.yorkhospital.com.

LifeFlight of Maine Helicopter arrives at York Hospital's new helipad

YORK — It recently became a whole lot easier for York Hospital to provide emergency air transport for its patients.

Thanks to program coordinated by the LifeFlight Foundation to utilize state bond funds for helipad construction, York Hospital received \$100,000 to build a new helipad dedicated to medical evacuations as one of hospital's For Every Patient Campaign projects.

York Hospital recently kicked off the For Every Patient Campaign to renovate and expand the Surgical Center, renovate and privatize patient rooms and build a dedicated helipad for emergency patient transport.

The helipad was put to good use on March 26 as a LifeFlight team arrived at the not-for-profit hospital for training purposes.

York Hospital utilizes helicopter air medical transport services to transfer seriously ill or injured patients from the hospital to a tertiary care facility when necessary.

Giving just such an example, York Hospital President Jud Knox explained, "When a patient arrives at York Hospital presenting with symptoms of stroke it is imperative

that we act quickly and decisively. Our neurologists and emergency room physicians often confer with stroke specialists from Massachusetts General Hospital through our TeleStroke program. If a patient needs highly specialized stroke treatment that is not available at York Hospital, we immediately transfer the patient."

While York Hospital provides advanced care for most situations, he noted, the need for air transports still proves vital and, in certain circumstances, necessary.

Thanking LifeFlight for its support, Knox pointed out that "because minutes can make the difference in their recovery, having a dedicated helipad for emergency transport is essential."

Prior to the construction of the new helipad, helicopters were landing in the general parking area outside the main entrance to the hospital, which meant moving cars at a moment's notice for medical evacuations.

LifeFlight Foundation Executive Director Tom Judge said that the goal is "all about ensuring safety and reliability. By building larger, dedicated helipads, hospitals in the state of Maine can better serve their patients."



LifeFlight lands at York Hospital's new helipad on March 26 as part of a training exercise at the hospital. Photo by *Tori Rasche*

The LifeFlight Foundation is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization that raises funds for aircraft, hospital helipads, state-wide aviation improvements and the many

training outreach programs offered by LifeFlight staff, including trauma and critical care, brain injury, ground safety and cardiac care.

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Selectmen approve budget, but raise concerns on library, town hall space, and windmills

By Melissa Wood

YORK—Bringing the town's 2010 budget one step closer to the May 29 public hearing, the Board of Selectmen voted to approve all items in both the finalized budget referendum and the special general referendum.

Though most of the 54 budget and 10 special general articles easily passed through this part of the process, selectmen did voice concerns over several issues, including the library budget, the town hall's request to lease additional office space, and the aesthetics of windmills in residential neighborhoods.

When discussing the budget referendum, selectman Cathy Goodwin said she would like to find a more permanent solution to town hall overcrowding instead of the town's temporary plan to rent additional office space from the First Parish Church for \$20,000 per year, as proposed in article seven. She did not question the need to alleviate some of the crowding in the town hall, but voted against the article while the rest of the board voted in favor.

"I'm certainly well aware of the need to find a solution to the town hall issues, but I would prefer to see money spent on finding an answer," said Goodwin.

Chairman Michael Estes acknowledged that the current town hall was not a very efficient use of space, but that he would be voting yes in favor of the temporary solution. "The voters have told us twice they don't want a town hall yet," he said.

Selectman Ted Little also voted in favor of renting additional office space for the town hall. "I hear what Cathy's saying but this is the best option we have at the moment so I'm voting for it," he said.

Though he noted that he is a strong supporter of the library, Little abstained from voting on the library's proposed operating budget of \$428,973, expressing a wish that library director Robert Waldman refuse a raise for the next year as other department heads in town have already done. Previously, Town Manager Rob Yandow had asked

that all York department heads join him in forgoing a cost of living increase for the next year, and they had readily agreed.

As the selectmen's representative on the Library's Board of Trustees, David Marshall praised the library for running a tight ship at a time when it has seen increased public usage, including people who have been using the library's computers to look for jobs online. Selectman Kinley Gregg also commended the library for withdrawing an earlier request for an additional staff person.

"The allocation (for the director's salary) isn't predetermined," said Marshall. "I hope you would vote to support [the library's budget] based on trusting the board to make the right allocation, and to ask one employee to stand up by himself... It's a tough thing to ask." The rest of the selectmen voted in favor of the library's budget while Little abstained.

The topic of wind power also came up during the discussion. The special general referendum includes an amendment to the zoning ordinance to allow small windmills (article four), and though all members of the board voted yes, Estes said that he worried about the impact the windmills would have on the town.

"My concern is not about wind power in the town," said Estes, who voted yes and said he supported the use of alternative energies. "My concern is about the aesthetics it's going to create in neighborhoods. I don't believe an 80-foot tower belongs in most neighborhoods."

Many town offices are also up for grabs in the May election. Yandow said that nomination papers were due in the Town Clerk's office by April 14, which require a minimum of 25 signatures to be entered onto the ballot. Currently, the town needs people to fill one three-year term for Town Clerk/Tax Collector, two three-year terms on the Board of Selectmen, three three-year terms on the Budget Committee, two three-year terms on the Superintending

School Committee, as well as one trustee each for the York Water District and the York Sewer District.

In other business, the board voted to approve July 3 fireworks from the Reading Room in York Harbor, though several members did express concern that the private event would draw a high volume of people into the harbor area.

The board also approved various operating licenses for a long list of businesses preparing for a busy summer season, includ-

ing the York Harbor Inn, Harbor Cliffs Bed and Breakfast, Harbor Hill Bed and Breakfast, Harbor Crest Inn, Mainiax Café, Country View Motel, York House of Piz-za, Arrows Restaurant, The Goldenrod, York Beach Grocery and Deli, Old York Historical Society, the Bittersweet Bed and Breakfast, Frankie and Johnny's, and Panda and Sakura.

Yandow announced the Workforce Housing Coalition of the Greater Seacoast will honor York for its municipal leadership.

Town awards bid for Sohier Park repairs; begins removal of ice storm debris

By Melissa Wood

YORK — Almost two years after the Patriot's Day storm pounded York's coast, the Board of Selectmen have approved a bid to begin repairs to begin at Sohier Park, where a rising ocean eroded the shoreline, damaged public walkways, and washed away landscaping. Work should begin immediately and will include the installation of the first ever water line to the Cape Neddick Lighthouse Station, which the park overlooks.

The damage to the park occurred almost two years ago during the Patriot's Day storm on April 16, 2007. After the meeting, Town Manager Rob Yandow explained that though it does take a while to get through the FEMA process, the town had a difficult time settling on the repairs to the boat ramp to the island because of the historic nature of the lighthouse and the island.

"We are just now able to finalize the bids for the rest of the repairs to Sohier Park now that the boat ramp issue is settled," he explained.

Director of Parks and Recreation Mike Sullivan said that the majority of the work would be done along the park's northeast perimeter, including shoreline stabilization and erosion control, the resetting or replacing of five granite benches, the reconstruction of eroded pathways along the bluff, various plantings and landscaping, and the installation of a seasonal water line to the lighthouse. Sullivan promised that the repairs would not alter the landscape of the popular park.

"Our plan is designed so that it looks very natural," Sullivan told the board at its meeting on Monday, April 6.

The selectmen awarded the contract to Shaw Brothers from Gorham, Maine, which had the lowest bid of the four companies competing for the contract. The town will pay 10 percent of the cost of \$98,505, plus \$20 per linear foot for the placement of shallow bedrock to anchor the water line, with funds coming out of

the Sohier Park maintenance and reserve account. The Federal Emergency Management Agency, which will pay the other 90 percent of project costs, requires that the repairs be completed by May 31 to avoid the busy summer season.

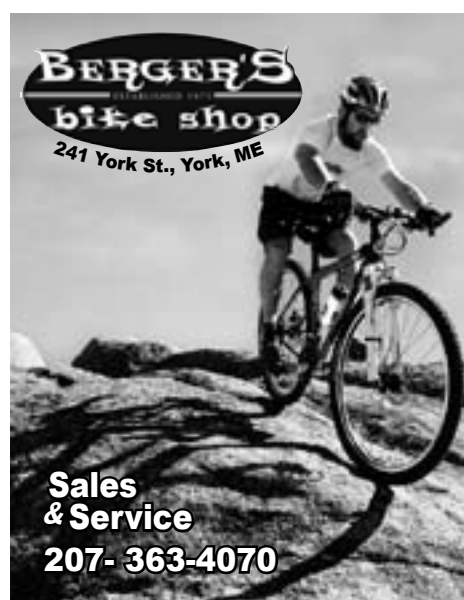
"We would like to get work started tomorrow," said Sullivan, who plans to meet right away with the contractors, whom he said believed that the work could be completed in two to three weeks. "They're well aware what the Nubble turns into as the season goes on," said Sullivan.

As part of the FEMA-funded project, the work will also include the installation of a 2-inch plastic sleeve in the ocean under bedrock, which will run from the park to the Nubble. In the future, Sullivan said the town plans to use the plastic sleeve to install a seasonal utility line to the lighthouse to assist with maintenance on the island property. Currently, the town water line ends near the parking lot.

The town is also busy cleaning up trees and branches from last winter's ice storm, which had been pushed off roadways but still needs to be picked up.

"Because of the volume of trees coming down the decision was made to plow them off the roads," said Dean Lessard, director of Public Works. "At that time the only means we had was to load heavy equipment into our trucks. After a couple of days of doing that, it quickly became apparent we were looking at an almost a year project for our crews.... If you drive around town you can see the enormous amounts of branches that are down."

To assist in the clean up, selectmen approved the Department of Public Work's request for a wood chipper. Lessard explained that the \$36,000 cost would also be funded by FEMA. The town will lease to own the equipment, and then bill FEMA by the hour for its use, allowing the town to acquire the chipper at no cost.



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Effort continues on MTA toll move battle

By Jennifer L. Saunders

YORK — The vote was unanimous.

Following an extensive discussion on the status of the Maine Turnpike Authority's proposal to relocate the York Toll Plaza to one of four potential sites that could result in the loss of local homes and lands, the Board of Selectmen agreed to appropriate \$13,000 to fund an engineering study on the viability of keeping the tollbooth right where it is. The funds were requested from an account set aside for use in the town's ongoing effort to protect residents from a potential move of the tollbooth, which was first announced publicly last year.

Members of the local grassroots organization Think Again appeared before the selectmen at their March 30 meeting with the request for funding a study to be conducted by Pennoni Associates of Pennsylvania.

Think Again representatives explained that Pennoni was selected after members of the organization determined the engineering firm had the expertise to handle the scope of the project and came following the review of multiple companies, many of which did not feel comfortable working on the project because of their own dealings with the turnpike authority.

Marshall Jarvis of Think Again addressed the selectmen, explaining the need for a firm with the technical expertise to refute the turnpike authority's arguments if the authority again begins moving forward with a plan for the plaza.

"We need that due diligence done because we don't have the technical understanding," Jarvis said.

The selectmen agreed.

"I know that we've all had a lot of problems with credibility of the MTA," said Ted Little, adding, "It's imperative that a recognized engineering firm handle this."

The only issue that came up with regard to the study was a concern raised by a local

resident who wrote a letter asking why the town's usual bid process had not been used.

The majority of selectmen agreed that, given the timeliness issue of the toll plaza plan, as well as the fact that the study proposal had been brought forward by a citizens' group rather than originated at town, it would not be an issue to proceed with the request as submitted.

Selectwoman Cathy Goodwin stressed that when it comes to addressing plans from the MTA, timeliness is essential.

"Late to the table is late to the table in terms of getting this moving." To delay would make more cumbersome for the town. If it wants to bid, there is already a price on the table. "I think you just take the action and move forward."

Selectmen Chairman Mike Estes noted that the board had received a letter from the turnpike authority that day stating the authority needed to revise its plans for the toll plaza based on recent studies showing reductions in the amount of traffic the plaza handles.

"They have to go back and recalculate that information because now they don't need to make the tollbooth as big as they projected," Estes said, adding the letter states that "as soon as they have the study we will be a part of the process."

Joan Jarvis of Think Again urged the board to be wary.

"It sounds like there's a study, but there not telling us the rest of what's going on," she told the selectmen. "We really need to be prepared. We don't know. They could call you on May 1 and tell you we're ready to roll."

In the meantime, Think Again and town officials are continuing the effort to advocate for a renovation of the plaza at its existing location. To learn more, visit www.thinkagain2008.com.



THANKS FROM THINKERS. Friends and supporters of York's Think Again group gathered on Monday, April 6 at their informal headquarters, Norma's Restaurant, to thank York Residents Marshall and Joan Jarvis for their untiring work on behalf of those affected by MTA threats to their homes and land. The surprise party honoring the two came on the one-year anniversary of last year's public meeting at which a crowd of more than 1,000 York residents first faced off with the MTA. Shown here are Marshall Jarvis, his lovely bride Joan, and chief party organizer and troublemaker Kari Prichard, who also serves as chair of the public relations committee for Think Again. Photo by *Tori Rasche*.

Senator presents bill seeking autism coverage

YORK — The state may one day require insurance coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders thanks to a bill sponsored by Sen. Peter Bowman, D-York County, on behalf of two local families.

Bowman recently presented Legislative Document 1198, "An Act to Reform Insurance Coverage to Include Diagnosis for Autism Spectrum Disorders," to the Maine Legislature's Joint Standing Committee on Insurance and Financial Services.

If the bill becomes law, it would to require insurance coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders for persons age 21 and under.

"All too often, parents of children with developmental disabilities find it difficult or impossible to afford the expensive tests needed to properly diagnose this disability and, after the diagnosis, to pro-

vide the treatment necessary to help the child," Bowman said. "Given the tendency of insurance companies to avoid covering expensive diagnosis and treatments, I believe that this mandate is necessary."

Bowman noted that he has an adult daughter with significant learning disabilities, including some autistic symptoms. Although she would not be helped by the bill, he said, his empathetic viewpoint on the issue has led him to sponsor the bill on behalf of two local couples, Kurt and Ellen Datsis and David and Janice Ott of York, who have autistic children.

Bowman also noted that successful mandated insurance coverage must first be subjected to a Bureau of Insurance study, and welcomed that action.

To learn more about this and other pending legislation, visit www.maine.gov.

York Hospital's Auxiliary is now accepting applications for 2009 scholarship awards.

The York Hospital Auxiliary is accepting applications from area high school seniors attending York, Wells, Kennebunk, Marshwood, Traip, Noble or Berwick Academy who, upon graduation, will attend an accredited school for study in a medical-related field.

The Auxiliary annually offers \$6,000 in scholarships to students (one \$3,000 and two \$1,500). Applications are available in the guidance office of the schools mentioned above as well as the Volunteer office at York Hospital or can be downloaded from our website in our "news and events" section at yorkhospital.com.

Application deadline is April 15, 2009. For more information, please contact the Volunteer office at York Hospital at 207 351-2224.



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School Notes

School Committee withdraws effort to zero-fund school increases

By Steve Rasche and
Jennifer L. Saunders

YORK — In what School Committee Chair Marilyn Zotos termed “one of the worst economic times of our lifetime” it will now be up to voters to decide whether the \$1.5 million in cuts made so far in the York School Department’s budget review process are enough.

The School Committee faced a packed house of teachers and a few parents at its April 1 meeting, where the board was scheduled to attempt to cut an additional \$155,000 from the proposed fiscal 2010 operating budget in an effort to reduce taxpayer impact given the current economy.

After a long hearing in which teacher after teacher came to the podium to plead against any further cuts, the School Committee relented and voted to send the budget forward as it stood.

The lone public voice in opposition, former School Committee chair Patty Hymanson, argued in favor of the adoption of a zero-fund budget for the year, warning that voter support for the schools would be in jeopardy absent presentation of a budget which reflected the present economy and its hardships.

The Budget Committee, which will review the budget at least one more time before it goes to a state-mandated town meeting vote on May 18, had recommended that the School Committee and the administration make the cut in an effort to zero-fund the budget. That request was due, in part, to loss of state funding and concerns about the economy’s impact on local taxpayers.

The original proposal came in at a 2.5 percent increase in operating costs, which resulted in a 4.9 percent increase in the impact on taxpayers due to more than \$1 million in state aid to education cuts within the past calendar year. Through the budget review process that began in January with the School Committee and Budget Committee, that was cut to a .6 percent increase in operating costs.

The School Committee had previously asked the York Teachers Association to reopen its contract to reconsider the cost of living adjustments for the fiscal year ahead. The teachers association turned down that request, and despite an initial indication that it was instead open to discuss other areas for cuts, including the possibility of flat-funding the coaching and activity stipends for the year ahead and giving up one professional day to save the department money, the association eventually backed away from these cuts as well.

A visibly frustrated School Committee Vice Chairman Tim Fitzgerald confirmed at the start of the meeting that the teachers association, as of March 30, had formal-



EDUCATION PROCESS A patient School committee chair Marilyn Zotos explains the changes to the budget process in response to questions from a packed audience at the School Budget hearings on April 1. Photo by *Tori Rasche*

ly decided not to open any discussion on the topic.

Fitzgerald then explained that once the teachers association decided not to open any areas related to their contract, the School Committee’s only option was to look at other cuts.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Henry Scipione, who stressed the department was only recommending the cuts in an effort to meet the zero-funding request, detailed the proposal, which included cutting several half-time positions, a full-time elementary school teacher, funding for professional development and improvements to the Coastal Ridge Elementary School roof to reach the \$155,000 in cuts on top of the prior \$1.5 million, which already included raise reductions for administrators as well as cuts in technology purchases, special education and library-media services administration, music supplies, assessment scoring, non-union athletic and activity stipends, cultural programs and maintenance projects, to name a few.

The hope, Scipione and members of the School Committee noted, is that federal stimulus funds will be available for some of those maintenance projects, as that has been the information shared with the administration by the Maine Department of Education.

With the additional cuts, the budget would be \$25,559,620 for no operating expenditure increase and a 1.2 percent increase in taxes.

The evolution of the current budget, and the attempt to cut it by another .6 percent, or \$155,000, was, in Scipione’s words, “probably the most difficult task that we’ve undertaken in quite a long time. It

ranks right up there with the consolidation process.”

Once the proposed cuts were detailed, Zotos opened the meeting up for public comment.

One of the first local residents to speak was Dr. Patty Hymanson, who served for many years on the York School Committee and as its chair.

“I think if this is not a zero budget on May 18, when we have an open town meeting, we will have a zero budget,” Hymanson warned, reminding local residents that after about 20 years of having secret-ballot votes on budget requests the state is forcing the school budget approval process to go “back to Dinosaurville” with a public meeting on a Monday night where residents will have the choice of changing the budget and voting each of 11 cost centers up or down.

In the current economy, she said, the School Department should be very concerned about the implications of that vote.

“I’m deeply disappointed that the York Teachers Association decided not to renegotiate their numbers,” she said, telling the School Committee, “I think you’ve done due diligence in knocking every number down... I understand that teachers need to be paid more than we’re paying them, but that’s just the way that it is right now. There’s a world of hurt out there right now.”

Hymanson, who negotiated the current Collective Bargaining Agreement with the York Teachers Association during her time as School Committee chair, said the issue is one where the agreement includes an annual cost of living adjustment based on what was expected to be a COLA of 2 to 4 percent per year. While the past year’s

COLA numbers were .2 percent, she said, York’s teachers are seeing an adjustment of 3.1 percent. Given the current economy, she said, she had hoped the teachers would consider adjusting that amount for one year.

York Middle School physical education teacher Kent Kilgore questioned why Hymanson would think she had the expertise to say what teachers should make and flatly stated that she was not qualified to give input, adding he was confused by her comments that teachers are not paid enough but she hold off on their raises.

“We feel that there are some places where cuts can be made — some top-heavy situations where cuts can be made,” he said.

Fitzgerald, Zotos and School Committee member John D’Aquila pointed out that the requests of cuts to teacher raises, their stipend increases or one professional development day came only after other cuts had been thoroughly explored.

“We had clearly indicated that we were willing to trade something for the money,” Fitzgerald noted, adding that each professional development day set aside for teachers while students are not in school costs the department \$50,000. “I was a teacher. Eight professional days we never had when I was a teacher.”

York High School teacher and coach Matt Convery told the committee, “I want to applaud you for the clear amount of work that you have done during the budget season.”

However, he explained that facing a pay cut or cuts to positions should not be the option.

“For somebody who had to work really hard to get back into this town after growing up here... it’s really hard to look at the town asking me to pay my coworkers or see them fired,” he said.

D’Aquila said the School Committee members, too, want to pay the staff well while continuing to improve school quality, but there are other factors that must be considered.

“We all understand exactly what you’re saying. We all struggled mightily with this decision,” he said, adding, “We had Budget Committee pressure, we had town pressure... and, quite honestly, for all the emails that you get that say don’t cut anything, we get emails telling us how bad things are in the economy.”

Former School Committee Chairman and Board of Selectmen member Dwight Bardwell, who in his last term as Selectmen had been a leading opponent to funding the YHS arts wing, now urged the committee not to zero-fund the budget, citing his positive experience with his children’s elementary school teachers.

School continued on page 20

Three local teams qualify for 'Odyssey' finals

By Jennifer L. Saunders

YORK — Eight local teams took part in the Maine Odyssey of the Mind Competition on March 28 and three of those teams have now qualified to take their creativity on the road, to the World Finals in Iowa this May.

The York Schools have a long tradition of sending teams to the World Finals, and this year a college team, a York Middle School team and a Coastal Ridge Elementary School team all qualified. Teams that earn first or second place in their division at the state level are able to attend the World Finals, which are held at different locations each year. This year, which marks the 30th Anniversary of Odyssey of the Mind, those teams that choose to attend the World Finals will be raising funds to travel to Iowa State University to compete against teams from across the country — as well as those from several other nations — on May 27-30.

In the meantime, though, York's teams have been focusing on the accomplishments achieved at the state level.

"I was very proud of all of our teams yesterday," said Michele Freitag, who coordinates Odyssey of the Mind on the local level, following the state competition.

The York Middle School Division I Superstitions team, coached by volunteer parents Julie Eneman and Dani Stevenson, took first place out of 15 teams in their division.

The team, which includes York Middle School students Sadie Arsenaault, Tressa Ellis, Abi Eneman, Emily Knoettner, Marina McCarthy and Rachel Stevenson, as well as elementary school student Chrissy Ellis, not only garnered top points for their short play — complete with a set and costumes they made themselves — but also caught the judge's attention in another way. The team won a coveted "OMer Award" for outstanding creativity in solving their Odyssey of the Mind problem.

The Division I Shock Waves team from

Coastal Ridge Elementary School, which was also coached by Julie Eneman, took second-place out of the 10 teams in their division, creating a comical play in combination with a balsa wood structure that held a total of 155 pounds.

The Shock Waves team members included Jesse Bettencourt of York Middle School and Ben Eneman, Elliott Gear, Emma DiMuzio, Mairead Murphy and Brooksie Kennedy, all from Coastal Ridge Elementary School.

Freitag, who is the Horizons teacher for York's two elementary schools, is actually a member of the third team that has qualified for worlds, the York County Community College Division IV team, which will be heading to the World Finals as the only college representative in its division at the state level.

The college team performed a problem entitled "The Lost Labor of Heracles" where Heracles had to achieve a challenge before the gods of ancient Rome. In addition to Michele Freitag, the team included her sons Michael and Thomas Freitag as well as Nicholas Trent and Allison Novak.

While the team coaches were all focusing on the work their students put into each problem — as contest requires each solution to be completely planned and executed by the students — parents and students alike had praise for the volunteer coaches. Freitag and several parents spoke of the many hours the coaches of all the teams dedicated to the process. For Eneman, however, their were special words of praise offered in recognition of her work with both of the World Final-qualifying teams from the York School Department.

As parent Beth Murphy put it, "There should be a coach of the year award for Odyssey of the Mind. She's so dedicated to the creative process in our schools."

Find out more about the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals at www.odysseyofthemind.org.



The Division 1 Superstition team, along with students in the Division I Shock Wave team, some members of whom are pictured here, have qualified for the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals in Iowa. Photo by Jennifer L. Saunders



Brothers Thomas and Michael Freitag act out a scene in their team's World Finals-qualifying Odyssey of the Mind play. Photo by Jennifer L. Saunders

Rock the Foundation 2009 rescheduled for April 26

YORK — Due to unforeseen circumstances, the York Education Foundation's "Rock the Foundation" benefit had to be postponed, but the event is back on and local residents now have a little extra time to "get ready to rock."

On April 26 from 1 to 4 p.m. the York Middle School Cafeteria will be the place for Rock the Foundation 2009, complete with food, fun, prizes and that favorite video game, Guitar Hero® World Tour,

all for the benefit of the York Education Foundation.

To see guitarists, who have registered in advance to be a part of this special event, spectators and "groupies" need pay only a dollar at the door to get in, and food, sweets and drinks will be on sale at low prices for the audience.

To learn more, visit www.yorkeducationfoundation.org.

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Southern Maine Currents

'U2Charist' to assist fight against poverty while honoring rector

YORK HARBOR — In response to the movement to Make Poverty History, and as part of the farewell activities planned to say goodbye to Rev. Paige Blair, St. George's Episcopal Church will celebrate a special U2charist on April 26.

The event is set for 5 p.m. at St. George's 407 York St. location in York Harbor and will feature music from U2's catalog, including such favorites as "Where the Streets Have No Name," "Pride (In the Name of Love)" and "One," as well as several songs from U2's latest album, "No Line on the Horizon."

Blair, an active member of Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation and the priest responsible in large part for the U2charist's current incarnation, shared some thoughts on her years with the church and on the U2charist events.

"It has been amazing what we have done as priest and congregation in the eight and a half years we've served together — and what we've done in partnership with other

churches around the country and around the world through the U2charist has been both amazing and humbling. And so important," she said. "This is the first time in human history that we have the opportunity, and therefore, the obligation, to make extreme poverty history; 30,000 children die every day due to extreme poverty and 8,000 people die of HIV/AIDS. That is the equivalent of 10 Sept. 11s a day, or a 2004 tsunami every week. We as people of faith are called by our Creator to embrace this call to do what we can to make poverty history."

Bono, the lead singer of U2, has been outspoken on issues of social justice and, since the Live Aid concert in 1985, has been involved in efforts to eradicate hunger. Bono founded Debt, AIDS and Trade for Africa to continue to address the realities of extreme poverty and global AIDS, and to educate and empower people to action. The climax of U2's Vertigo tour was Bono's invitation to the audience to sign the ONE Declaration, which was an effort to rally Americans

to use their voices together to bring about change, namely for an additional one percent of the federal budget to be dedicated to fighting extreme poverty and global AIDS.

Every nation in the world has endorsed the Millennium Development Goals, or MDG, to eradicate extreme poverty and global AIDS, and many churches, including the Episcopal Church, have endorsed

them as well.

The offering at the April 26 event will benefit AIDS Response Seacoast and other MDG efforts.

For more about Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation, visit www.e4gr.org. To learn more about the Millennium Development Goals, go to www.millenniumcampaign.org.

Yard sale prices attract local throngs as well as customers 'from away' to new area thrift store

By Rose Safran

YORK COUNTY — Now there are two thrift shops benefiting local residents.

There is, of course, the familiar YCSA Thrift Shop on Route 1 in Cape Neddick. It continues, as always, to receive donations and sell merchandise to benefit local charities such as the York Community Food Pantry.

The new thrift shop, called Leeward Landing, is also located on Route 1, but in a more southeasterly direction at the York/Kittery town line, and it, too, is functioning to benefit local charities.

On a recent Saturday, I noted first the big sign "Accepting Donations" and second, all the cars parked in front of Leeward Landing. I decided to investigate. I had already been told that it was an interesting shop. What I found inside was a spacious 2,500-square-foot store with the donated merchandise arranged on two floors to allow for easy shopping.

Downstairs, I noted jewelry, shoes, handbags, women's clothing on racks nicely arranged by sizes and type, gift cards, umbrellas, silk scarves, household furnishings — known in the resale trade as "smalls" — such as china, all sorts of dec-

orative bric-a-brac, glassware, kitchen utensils and appliances and framed works of art.

A bonus, certainly unusual to find in a thrift shop, was a small "behind-the-drapery" dressing area downstairs. At the time of my visit, a line had formed for this try-on section, which was sufficiently private for the ladies carrying their many selections to it; it was tucked away in a corner of the shop, and even had a chair, a mirror and a hook. Several of the buyers were from "away," some on cell phones explaining their purchases to friends and talking about the values they were finding.

Price was the enticement for all the activity I noted on the day of my visit. A "buy one get one free" notice was posted, applying to articles priced at \$5 or less. I couldn't resist a 100-percent Merino wool pullover and then began a hunt for another one, coming up with another Merino wool sweater, both in good condition, two for \$3.

Downstairs, outside the dressing room, I noted a large, square, glass-topped coffee table that seemed free of scratches priced at only \$50. Note cards, some blank, others with messages for birthdays and anniversaries, were marked 10 cents each. A fold-up umbrella was available for \$2. One woman was happy with her purchase of a microwave, in working order, for a mere pittance.

Upstairs was given over to more priced-to-sell home furnishings including chairs, end tables and lamps; fabrics including linen, curtains and draperies; paintings; men's and children's clothing, and books and electronics including televisions, computers and CDs. Among the books, with hard covers only \$1 each, were Robert Hughes' epic of Australia's founding, "The Fatal Shore" and John Fowles' classic, "The French Lieutenant's Woman."

Leeward Landing, owned by Leeward Industries, Inc., opened this thrift store, its first, on Valentine's Day. President Robert Werner reports that its early suc-

Yard Sale continued on page 9

York Hospital receives United Way grant

YORK — York Hospital has been awarded a one-year grant by the United Way of York County.

This investment is intended to further the mission of United Way of York County to strengthen community by bringing people together to affect long-lasting changes in community conditions that improve lives.

The United Way awarded grants totaling more than \$800,000 to 74 programs throughout York County to support the building blocks of a good life: education, income and health. The work of the United Way takes on special significance this year as more York County residents seek help, many for the first time in their lives, to meet the basic needs of their families.

This grant will support the Community Health Connection Prescription Assistance Program in assisting uninsured or underinsured patients in receiving free medications through the pharmaceutical companies.

The program is designed as a referral based program from the York Hospital-affiliated physicians who have agreed to partner with prescription program, called CHC Rx, which is partnering with more than 65 providers who are referring patients for medication assistance.

For more information about the Community Health Connection and the services it provide contact Kimberly Plaisted at 438-9167 or Betsy Kelly at 361-6988 or visit www.yorkhospital.com.

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Southern Maine Currents

Yard Sale *continued from page 8*

cess had enabled it to donate over \$2,000 to local food pantries after only 30 days in business.

"We are pleased to be able to make a contribution of this size so soon," he said, adding, "generous donors and dedicated volunteers have been the key to our early success."

Leeward's donation will help the York Community Food Pantry as well as Kittery's Footprints and Ethel's Tree of Life. Werner also pointed out that low-income families and those struggling financially in these difficult economic times can also benefit in finding household items and clothing for sale at Leeward Landing at extremely low prices.

Store hours are Wednesday through Monday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For further information, call Leeward Industries, Inc., at (978) 758-6456 or visit www.leewardindustries.org.

Competition BBQ comes to 2009 Celebrate MAINE Festival

YORK COUNTY — The Raitt Homestead Farm Museum will host the "Mainely Grillin' and Chillin' Country BBQ State Competition" in conjunction with the 2009 Celebrate MAINE Festival.

This year's festival is set for Aug. 8-9 at the farm from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the addition of this contest is expected to attract competition-level BBQ teams from throughout the region and across the country.

The competition has been sanctioned by the Kansas City Barbeque Society and the New England Barbecue Society and has been proclaimed the "Official State of Maine BBQ Competition" by Gov. John Baldacci. The Grand Champion will

qualify for the Jack Daniel's World Championship Invitational in Lynchburg, Tenn., and the American Royal Invitational in Kansas City, Mo.

"This really is a sport for anyone," said Carolyn Wells, executive director of the Kansas City Barbeque Society. "It reinforces the positive aspects of practice and perseverance - and it produces the ultimate comfort food. We're thrilled to add Maine to our Sanctioned Contest Network and I know Mainers can hold their BBQ up against anybody's!"

Professional barbeque competitions, often featured on the Food Network, have gained widespread popularity.

Phil Rizzardi, founder of the BBQ Brethren, who hosts an online forum at www.bbqbrethren.com with over 7,300 members from 102 countries, noted that "the competition BBQ circuit in New England has just about quadrupled in the past five years."

A major reason for the popularity of this sport is the camaraderie of BBQ aficionados.

"As long as you have passion, love and a bit cooking expertise, you will find BBQ enthusiasts who are interested in mentoring you. We're all invested in promoting BBQ at the grassroots," said Alex Caisse, NEBS Maine representative and owner of Buck's Naked BBQ in Freeport.

The festival will also highlight Maine BBQ products from Mainely Grilling Woods, Wicked Good Charcoal, Denny-Mike's 'Cue Stuff and Raye's Mustard.

Celebrate MAINE is an authentic family festival that honors the people, places and products that make Maine so attractive to visitors from around the world. Premium sponsors of the event are Prime Motor Group and J.P.'s Shellfish and supporting sponsors include The Greater York Region Chamber of Commerce, Shipyard Brew Pub, Jasper Wyman & Son and Cabot Creamery Cooperative.

The Raitt Homestead Farm Museum is dedicated to the restoration and preservation of farm equipment that keeps the valuable heritage of farming alive.

York County Clothesline Project unveiled

YORK COUNTY — As part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month activities in April, Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine and Caring Unlimited have unveiled "The York County Clothesline Project."

Over the last several months York County residents who wanted to speak out about their experiences of violence have decorated t-shirts as a symbol of their survival, hope and healing for an exhibit at the University of New England.

More than 75 shirts, representing people from across the county, are being displayed on a clothesline as a way to bear witness and to raise awareness to the extent of violence against women in York County.

The Clothesline Project started in Cape Cod, Mass., in 1990 as a way to bear wit-

ness to violence against women, to help with the healing process of survivors of violence and to raise awareness in society of the extent of violence against women.

Sexual Assault Response Services has collaborated with Caring Unlimited and other organizations with similar missions to organize this project.

If you or someone you know is a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault, please call the 24-hour, confidential hotline for help or more information for Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine at (800) 313-9900 or Caring Unlimited at (800) 293-7298.

For more information about the York County Clothesline Project, call 828-1035.

Easter Bunny at Clay Hill Farm on April 12

CAPE NEDDICK — After years of endless snow and egg-hunt cancellations, the Easter Bunny is scheduled to return to Clay Hill Farm on April 12.

This free Community Egg Hunt will be held at 4 p.m., rain or shine, hundreds of eggs to be hidden around the front lawn of Clay Hill Farm for children ages 10 and under.

The tradition that brought carloads of eager kids to Clay Hill Farm year after year hit a streak of bad weather as rain, mud and cold temperatures kept the egg hunt from taking place. Now, with Easter in April this year, the Bunny is back.

The eggs will be filled with candy, although several special eggs will also have "claim tickets" in them for fabulous

gifts and prizes generously donated by Revelations Gift Shop in Ogunquit.

The Easter Bunny will be giving out the prizes, with the help of some very special friends.

Clay Hill Farm's Free Community Egg Hunt is designed for children 10 and under. Children must bring their own baskets or bags to collect the eggs and parents must accompany their children.

Clay Hill Farm Restaurant will also be serving Easter Dinner on April 12 from noon to 5 p.m. and children visiting the restaurant for Easter Dinner will receive a special gift from the Easter Bunny.

For reservations or information, call 361-2272.

Earth Day Celebration at Laudholm Farm's Wells Reserve

WELLS — The Wells Reserve at Laudholm will host a low-key, family-friendly Earth Day Celebration on April 25.

This free event will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Take the Earth Day pledge, make recycled crafts, create a mural for the Wells Reserve barn classroom, clean up Laudholm Beach and plant seeds to take home for your garden at this year's Earth Day Celebration.

Scheduled activities for this special event include gardening activities and recycled crafts between 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; an interpretive nature walk at noon, and the

Laudholm Beach cleanup from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Plan a picnic with your family and friends and enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of spring at the Wells Reserve, a national treasure.

Fuel up for the day at the Nonantum Resort's \$9.95 breakfast buffet from 7:30 to 10 a.m. on April 25 and the Nonantum will contribute half of the proceeds to Laudholm Trust in support of the Wells Reserve.

For more information about Earth Day 2009 at the Wells Reserve, visit www.wellsreserve.org or call 646-1555.

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Politics And Other Mistakes

Do it to debt

By Al Diamon

A friend of mine — I'll protect her identity by calling her Timothia Geithner, because her style of communication bears more than a passing resemblance to that of the befuddled U.S. secretary of the treasury — walked into the local bar during a recent happy hour and announced, "I'm furious at IGA."

I'm normally furious at a host of institutions and people, which at any given moment might include the likes of Bernie Madoff, Time Warner Cable, Manny Ramirez, teenagers who insist on taking "Twilight" seriously, adults who insist on taking "Watchmen" seriously and anyone who offers you a beer but gives you a Michelob Ultra instead. The local IGA supermarket has never elicited the necessary level of outrage (limp lettuce! overpriced pastry! weak selection of tabloids at the checkout counter!) to make my list.

But I knew better than to challenge Timothia's pronouncements, because her tortured explanations (where's Amnesty International when you really need them) usually lead only to further imponderables. For example, she once told me she was going for a medical procedure called an "MIR."

"You're being examined by a defunct Russian space station?" I asked.

"I know what I'm being examined by," she said. "I have a photogenic memory."

And me without a camera.

But back to her fury at IGA. "They're paying those big bonuses to their executives," Timothia said. "It's just not right."

"Ah ha," I said, as the fog finally lifted. "You mean AIG."

"Gesundheit," she said.

I mention this conversation because it seems rooted in the same logic that's produced the Obama plan to spend a billion bucks buying "toxic assets" from failing banks, as well as the numerous proposals before the Maine Legislature to borrow so much money to spend on questionable projects as to make the state itself a toxic asset, thereby increasing our eligibility for a federal bailout.

"We are looking for where we can get the most return for our investment," state Senate President Libby (no relation to Edward Liddy, the CEO of IGA, I mean, AIG) Mitchell told the Portland Press Herald, referring to her bill to stimulate the economy by issuing \$27 million in bonds to improve depressed downtowns and fix up historic buildings.

We might get a better deal by buying \$27 million worth of stock in AIG. I mean, IGA.

"This has to be one of our prime steps to recovery," Mitchell (no relation to "Sunshine Charley" Mitchell, the president of National City Bank, whose question-

able antics were responsible in part for the stock market collapse of 1929 and the Great Depression) said in the Kennebec Journal about her plan to borrow \$200 million (without voter approval) to build affordable housing.

I could have sworn building housing was one of the "prime steps" that got us into this mess.

"Our economy depends on investing in our people, and giving them the tools they need to be successful," said Gov. John Baldacci (at best, a distant relative of best-selling author David Baldacci, who's still doing very well, even in this economy, thank you), in announcing a \$306-million bond package.

Apparently, the governor lacks a "photogenic" memory (but then, why should his memory be different from the rest of him) that might have enabled him to recall that his plan will boost the state's overall debt past the billion-dollar mark for the first time.

Among other things, Baldacci wants to use \$52 million in borrowed money for building improvements at University of Maine System and Maine Community College campuses. Of course, he also wants those same institutions to lay off teachers and reduce their course offerings, thereby leaving many of the improved buildings vacant.

Environmental groups are asking us to go in hock to the tune of \$87 million to buy more public lands. Meanwhile, the public lands the state already owns, namely its state parks, need maintenance and repairs costing an estimated \$40 million that nobody is talking about appropriating. Because, I mean, how would fixing up our current properties get us out of the recession?

In all, Mitchell, Baldacci, the enviros (no relation to Enron) and other assorted members of the don't-pay-as-you-go crowd want to borrow \$1.3 billion.

Debt payments on the more than \$900 million in bonds the state has already issued or approved will cost taxpayers over \$263 million in the next two years. The interest on these loans is a bigger part of the state budget than the entire judicial system, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Legislature. Combined.

If this collection of buttheads (no relation to Fannie Mae) gets its way, the financial burden from the state's debt would more than double.

If the prospect of all that wasted money has given you a headache, I suggest seeing a doctor about having an MIR — I mean an MRI. Or you could try some over-the-counter pain meds. I think they sell them at your local AIG.

Got a shovel-ready idea for a column? E-mail me at aldiamon@herniahill.net.

Friend from foe

For all the display of emotion and handclapping that surfaced later in the evening, the most important moment of the School Committee meeting last Wednesday, April 1, occurred early on, in a sober statement from the seemingly lone voice of former School Committee Chair Dr. Patty Hymanson.

Addressing the committee from the podium, Hymanson stated her disappointment at the York Teachers Association's unwillingness to open its contract for a one-time reduction in response to the economic disaster affecting so many in town. In support of her statement, she discussed the harsh reality of the current economy as she sees it in the lives of her patients. She discussed her substantial role in negotiating the current collective bargaining agreement under which the YTA now operates. She discussed the windfall accruing to teachers due to the disparity between the cost of living estimates included in the pay increases in the original agreement and the nearly flat cost of living increases now actually being seen.

She advised the committee that for the sake of preserving the broader public's support for school funding during these dreadful times, they had to zero-fund increases for the coming year's budget. She warned of the anger that is brewing amongst voters over the YTA's refusal to share in the pain that is being felt by the so many others in the community. She warned that the failure to acknowledge this growing anger will almost certainly result in a citizen revolt when the town returns to an open town meeting on May 18. She warned that the failure of the YTA to understand what the new state-mandated form of town meeting entails could lead to a complete rejection of the entire school budget. In short, she told the YTA, from whom by now she ought to have earned a very large reservoir of respect and gratitude, how to save themselves. To the objective observer, these were wise words from an honest friend.

In response, the next speaker, York Middle School physical education teacher Kent Kilgore, the first of many YTA members who would dominate the rest of the session, dismissed Hymanson's plea out of hand, called her out by name as being "not qualified" to speak on the subject, and openly questioned her right to enter an opinion on the matter.

And therein lies the entirety of the frustration now being felt by many of those in town whose past support of public education has been the foundation upon which our schools have thrived over the last decade.

Patty Hymanson is not only qualified to speak on this matter, she is highly qualified, even pre-eminently so. Placed in total, the hours she has dedicated to unpaid public service on behalf of the public schools of this town would be in excess of any 30 members of the YTA combined. Her knowledge of the letter

and the spirit of the terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreement at issue is equal to or greater than that of any of the YTA members who were present at the meeting. Her sensitivity to the overall tone of the wider electorate has been developed over years and years of work advocating on behalf of support for public education in this town. If public education in York has an honest friend anywhere, her name is Patty Hymanson.

But if any of the YTA members present at the meeting winced at the way in which Mr. Kilgore's disparagement of Hymanson might play to the viewing public and the media, they kept it to themselves. Instead, speaking in front of an audience stacked with their own members, they one after another convinced themselves of the injustices and hardships being inflicted upon them, brazenly named administration office employees whose jobs they felt could be eliminated, and left Hymanson undefended, unsupported and evidently disrespected. From our view, unconscionably so.

The YTA is crossing the Rubicon here, whether they understand it or not. Given the chance to make a show of solidarity with the rest of their townsfolk, they have gambled instead on their ability to convince the voters that they are somehow unique in deserving exemption from the hardships being borne by those who are being asked to pay their salaries. In doing so they are missing an opportunity to bank a tremendous amount of critical goodwill that will not come again. Our economy continues in a free fall from which no-one is exempt. The YTA may feel themselves historically oppressed, but in this fundamentally re-set world, that argument will no longer carry. It simply won't.

Meanwhile, the present collective bargaining agreement expires in 2010. Positioning for the next agreement is taking place in the story unfolding before us. One wonders where the solidarity of the YTA will be when the taxpaying public demands reservations of power in the new agreement that they conceded in the present one. Taxpayer advocates are certain to argue for the power to eliminate union-covered stipends, the power to eliminate programs and the power to tie salary increases to changes in economic factors, just for starters.

As for the YTA, they have their work cut out for them. Having assured the School Committee that they would go out and sell themselves, they will now have to enter the hard-edged business of actually doing so. In this the YTA needs to start remembering who its honest friends have been over the past decade and stop pegging them as foes simply for speaking the plain truth. This school budget is in deep trouble, and the YTA will need all the friends they can get soon enough.

Letters to the Editor

Send your Letters to the Editor via email to editor@yorkindependent.net. *The York Independent* welcomes letters and opinions on any subject. We do not accept anonymous letters. Letters should be 200 words or less. We reserve the rights to edit submissions for length, accuracy and/or legal reasons and to reject any material considered unsuitable for publication. The view expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the newspaper or its staff.

Earth Day Beach Cleanup

Dear Independent,

Earth Day is just around the corner and we want to make sure you put the date on your calendar — April 18.

Our planet is in desperate need of your assistance and what better way to spend Earth Day than on Long Sands Beach?

In celebration of our wonderful Earth and our beautiful beaches and ocean, my brother and I will host a Long Sands Beach Cleanup. We track the data for Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation and we will have small prizes for some of the most unusual items, heaviest weight and highest number of cigarette butts.

Meet at the Long Beach bathhouse, rain or shine. The event will be from 1 to 3 p.m.

Please help us to make Long Sands the cleanest and healthiest place for our ocean wildlife and our community!

Allie and Andrew Hayford
Adopt-A-Beach Hosts
York

Support LD 1181

Dear Independent,

As a Maine citizen, a 34-year business owner employing 10 people, a homeowner of an old farmhouse, member of the York and Kittery Energy Committees and a landlord of two older houses, I urge my fellow Maine citizens who want sensible solutions to our economic and energy crises to support LD 1181, the Green Jobs, Green Savings bill authored by Opportunity Maine and sponsored by Rep. Seth Berry.

This bill invests in energy efficiency, reducing the energy wasted by the old buildings that dominate Maine's housing, commercial and industrial sectors, with comprehensive technical and financial assistance. It will help Maine's workers gain the education and skills needed to get this job done. This bill lays out a bold, 10-year economic development plan that will cut energy bills by over \$10 billion and create over 10,000 good jobs. Over the next decade, the average middle-income resident would save over \$7,000 on energy costs at today's prices — we know they'll only go up.

This bill has no sex appeal, no advocacy for wind farms or expensive solar panels to heat water or generate electricity. I support these new technologies but, the sad fact is, few of the Maine's working people can afford them. The recent NOVA broadcast,

"The Energy Gamble," states explicitly that energy from wind, solar or geothermal will cost more than what we are paying now; therefore, doesn't it make sense to lower our energy needs by wasting less of the energy we are already paying for?

This proposed legislation would take Efficiency Maine out from under the umbrella of the Public Utilities Commission and expand its capacity to implement an economy-wide strategy funded by the savings realized through improved future efficiency.

This proposal is grounded in practices proven in other states and it consolidates the many existing efficiency programs strewn throughout state government into one comprehensive program.

A few months ago I learned that Efficiency Maine could help businesses lower their energy consumption; yet in a telephone review with their staff of our existing auto repair business practices, they said there was nothing we could do to lower our energy consumption. Given the advancements in technology I was discouraged and skeptical.

Some environmentally conscious folks get all excited when they see windmills and solar arrays because they signal a commitment to innovation and sustainability. However, it's much cheaper to save a gallon of oil by stopping air infiltration than importing a gallon to be wasted.

Unfortunately, Maine workers performing energy audits, insulating and air-sealing houses, and performing the other jobs entailed in comprehensive energy efficiency retrofitting won't capture the media and public's attention the way a large derrick departing Portland Harbor to install wind turbine platforms in deep water will.

But what gets the most bang for the buck? The amount of electricity consumed by 1,500 average Maine homes costs about \$1 million if purchased from conventional

Letters continued on page 18

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Born: March 1, 2009 **Leighton Marie Caramihalis**, baby daughter of: Sarah Caouette of South Berwick, Maine and Cory Caramihalis of York, Maine Proud Grandparents are: Bridget & Mike Caramihalis of York, Maine Liz Caramihalis of York, Maine Greg Caouette of Porter, Maine

Born: March 3, 2009 **Lauren Sophia Martin**, baby daughter of: Diana Correcha & Robert Martin of Wells, Maine Proud Grandparents are: Lorraine & Walter Locke of Andover, N.H. Cecilia Saavedra of Bogota, Columbia Jose Correcha of Bogota, Columbia Happy Siblings: Derek & Stephen

Born: March 8, 2009 **Rhys Kelly Sullivan**, baby son of: Karen & Jeff Sullivan of Wells, Maine Proud Grandparents are: David & Jacqueline Barbera of Chelmsford, Mass. Peter & Patricia Sullivan of Arlington, Mass Happy Sibling: Summer

Born: March 10, 2009 **Rorie Annabella Ford**, baby daughter of: Heather Thurlow & Philip Ford of Cape Neddick, Maine Proud Grandparents are: Terri Ann Thurlow of Kittery, Maine Patty & Philip Ford of Laconia, N.H.

Born: March 14, 2009 **Noah Jackson McDonough**, baby son of: Sean & Kristyn McDonough of Wells, Maine Proud Grandparents are: Kathy & Steve Henry of Springvale, Maine Tom & Linda McDonough of Wells, Maine

Born: March 24, 2009 **Earnest Corbin Butler**, baby son of: Lacey & Billy Earnest Butler of Portsmouth, N.H. Proud Grandparents are: J.C. & Jettie Butler of Abilene, Texas Shirley & Cecil Eldridge of Craigsville, West Virginia Danny & Bonnie Smith of St. Mary's, Georgia Happy Siblings: Trenten, Reed, Danny & Landen

Obituaries

Robert J. Hunter

YORK — Robert J. Hunter, 48, of 23 Mill Lane, died Tuesday, March 24, 2009, with his family by his side after a long battle with Huntington's disease.

Born Feb. 20, 1961, in Natick, Mass., he was the son of Paul and Frieda Hunter. Bob was a graduate of Worcester Polytechnic Institute and worked for many years as an electrical engineer before moving to Maine.

Bob loved life and enjoyed every moment to the fullest. He was an adventure seeker, animal lover, traveler and technology buff, as well as a true friend who could appreciate the best in everyone he knew. His gentle, caring spirit will be missed by all who knew him.

Bob volunteered at York Hospital for 10

years. While in Maine he raised llamas, which were in the South Berwick Christ-mas parade for 10 years.

He is survived by his beloved Debbie O'Leary and her sons Devin and Brendan; his mother Frieda Hunter of South Berwick, and his three sisters, Laura Hunter Brooks and sons Lenny, Michael and Chris of Framingham, Mass., Jennifer and John Ritz and daughters Natalie and Chloe of Norton, Mass., and Tori Hunter and Aric Rasmussen of Ashburnham, Mass. Bob recently became a great uncle to Michael Stephen Brooks. He is also survived by his many close friends and relatives who touched his life and embodied his "Life is Good" spirit.

Visiting hours and a memorial service for Bob were held March 29 in the Lucas & Eaton Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the New England Chapter of the Huntington's Disease Society of America (HDSA), 6 Courthouse Lane, Unit 12, Chelmsford, MA 01824.



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Arts and Leisure

Questions and answers with the director of 'Copenhagen' in York

YORK — Michael Frayn's Tony Award-winning play, "Copenhagen," will be performed by the York Readers Theater at the York Public Library this month.

The first performance is set for April 17 at 7:30 p.m. and the second will be April 18 at 1:30 p.m., with the second performance to be followed by a discussion at 4 p.m. with Jochen Heisenberg, son of one of the historical characters featured in the play. David Newman, director of the upcoming local production, recently shared his views on this not-to-be-missed play in the context of typical questions that are asked about "Copenhagen."

Q. How much physics do we need to know to understand what happens in "Copenhagen?"

A. None. Everything you need to know is explained in the play. It would be a good idea to brush up on your history though — to know that World War II began in 1939, for example, that America entered the war in December of 1941 and that the war in Europe ended in 1945.

Q. What actually happened in Copenhagen in 1941?

A. Nobody really knows. Werner Heisen-

berg, the Nobel-Prize-winning German atomic physicist, visited his old teacher, Niels Bohr, who was half Jewish, in Copenhagen — which was occupied by the Nazis at this time. They took a brief walk. But they never even agreed, later, on where they walked — much less on what they talked about. Heisenberg came back to Germany and spent the rest of the war not building the bomb. (He convinced Albert Speer it was "impractical.") Bohr escaped from Copenhagen in 1943, went to Los Alamos and helped build the American bomb.

Q. So what's at issue in the play?

A. The play is about why Heisenberg and Bohr could never agree on what happened in Copenhagen. They were very close friends before the meeting — almost like father and son — but they hardly spoke to one another after the war. So the play speculates about happened between them — and that's where it gets really interesting.

Q. Why "interesting?"

A. Because they had such respect, admiration — even love — for one another. But neither could understand what the other wanted from him. And being physicists, they knew exactly how each other



Actor Joe Dominguez and director David Newman are seen here during a recent rehearsal for the upcoming York Readers' Theater production of Michael Frayn's award-winning play "Copenhagen," set for April 17-18. *Courtesy photo.*



If your piggy bank could *still* use some mending... "10 to Spend" is extending!

Due to the extraordinary success of York Hospital's new "10 to Spend" program, we are **extending** the deadline by three months until **June 30, 2009**, along with increasing the deductible amount up to **\$5,000!** If you're not familiar with "10 to Spend", there's still time to take advantage! Here's how it works...

You can continue to receive your needed health care or have that test or procedure you've been putting off ~ without having to worry about how to pay your deductible up front or all at once. "10 to Spend" offers interest free payment options for all

hospital deductible charges, up to \$5,000 to be paid over a 10 month period. No difficult qualification guidelines...and no hidden fees. All we ask is that you call us to sign up for this service within 30 days of receiving your bill and make as many as 10 payments over 10 months!

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** 5.25% APR with automatic payment from any SIS Checking Account; 5.50% Annual Percentage Rate (APR) without automatic payment from any SIS Checking Account. Rates are effective as of April 1, 2009, and can be withdrawn at any time without notice, and are limited to a loan amount of \$25,000 or more. Rates are subject to change daily without notice. Hazard insurance, plus flood insurance if applicable, is required on all Home Equity Credit Loans. This offer assumes you have clear title to the property securing the loan and any additional cost associated with researching an unclear title will be at the borrower's expense. A 10-year loan of \$25,000 at 5.25% would require 120 monthly payments of \$268.29. A 10-year loan of \$25,000 at 5.50% would require 120 monthly payments of \$271.30. Rate shown is available for fixed rate Home Equity Loans for up to a maximum of 80% of the current market value of the property.
† Offer for both the Home Equity line and loan is good on owner-occupied 1-4 family residences and secondary homes up to 80% loan-to-value; mobile homes and seasonal cottages are excluded from this offer. Property insurance is required on the property that secures the line. Properties listed or to be listed for sale within six months are not eligible.

thought and operated; they had developed the “Copenhagen Interpretation” between them a few years earlier. They should have been able to help each other cope with their difficult and perilous times. How could Heisenberg survive in Germany if he wasn’t going to give Hitler the bomb? How was Bohr to survive in Copenhagen when the “race laws” began? But they failed, and never restored their friendship even though both lived for many years after the war.

Q. What is the “Copenhagen Interpretation?”

A. The play explains it. It’s the fundamental premise of quantum mechanics — the physics of subatomic particles. Vastly oversimplified, it says that there is no determinable objective universe; that the “laws” of science exist only as a series of

approximations that are determined by our relationship with them. In other words, the universe changes depending on how you look at it.

Q. What does that mean?

A. Well, for one thing, it means that we’ll never know why Heisenberg came to Copenhagen because his reasons for coming — even in his own mind — changed as he experienced his welcome, his memories of Bohr, his relationship with Bohr’s wife and his perception of his own situation. In other words, as Heisenberg himself said, the very act of examining anything in the universe, including human beings, changes them.

Q. In subatomic particles, maybe, but surely not when we’re talking about real-life dilemmas? We must be able to weigh

and judge our own motives.

A. So you’d think. But can you really see yourself — really, objectively understand what’s going on inside your own head — at the same time that you’re caught up in the middle of doing something important, something profoundly meaningful to you? That’s what “Copenhagen” tries to explore.

Q. Okay, some questions about the production: Michael Frayn, author of “Copenhagen,” is the guy who wrote “Democracy,” which you did here last fall. “Copenhagen” ran in London for more than 300 performances — almost five years — and for 326 performances on Broadway. Why do you think a play that has, at its core, the heady material of nuclear physics, is so compelling?

ics, is so compelling?

A. Because it’s not really about nuclear physics. It’s about a relationship, and how that relationship may have changed the fate of the world. Remember, Heisenberg didn’t, finally, build the bomb. The principles of quantum mechanics are used as metaphors to illustrate the mysteries of both the physical universe and the human psyche. Believe it or not, they help us understand why this meeting was such a failure, and why it may have saved us from nuclear Armageddon.

For more about the upcoming production of “Copenhagen,” visit www.yorkreaderstheater.org.

A bird’s eye view of Old York’s Decorator Show House at McIntire Farm



The McIntire Farm on Cider Hill Road, which is located adjacent to the historic 18th-century McIntire Garrison, will be the site of this year’s Old York Decorator Show House. Don’t miss a chance to tour this stunning home before it is transformed into the Show House during the Before Tours, set for May 2 and 3, and then return this summer for all the Show House festivities. *Photo courtesy of RE/MAX Realty One*

YORK — The Museums of Old York will host its 20th annual Decorator Show House at McIntire Farm on Cider Hill Road.

The natural beauty of this 1920s farmhouse will be showcased with help from some of the region’s leading interior designers, landscapers and artists. This annual event raises funds to support the museum’s education programs, exhibitions and preservation initiatives.

The charming farmhouse overlooks the York River and is located on the McIntire Homestead in the Scotland District of York. Dating back to the late 1600s, the homestead has been in the same family for over 300 years.

Adjacent to the farmhouse is the McIntire Garrison, which was built in 1707. The garrison is the oldest documented house in Maine and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Today, much of the surrounding property is protected by conservation easements held by the York Land Trust and the Museums of Old York.

Because the farmhouse was built on family land, there are no deeds to help identify the exact date of the original structure. By 1872, however, the York County Atlas identified a second house on the homestead property.

The style and exact location of the house

McIntire Farm *continued on page 14*

Editor’s Note: As announced in the March 27 edition of The York Independent, the Museums of Old York has selected an exemplary property for its 20th Anniversary Decorator Show House. Find out more about McIntire Farm in this special report from this year’s Show House Committee.

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McIntire Farm *continued from page 13* are unknown; it burned to the ground in 1922 and again caught fire in 1941. After the first fire, a Portsmouth architect was hired to build a house on the existing site. The result was McIntire Farm, an intriguing combination of Greek Revival architecture and 1920s stylistic flair. While the mantles surrounding the fireplaces are modeled after Greek columns, the interior woodwork was stained instead of painted, a stylish choice typical of a 1920s home.

The Annual Decorator Show House at McIntire Farm is presented by the Museums of Old York. The event is possible because of the work of many dedicated designers and visual artists, a corps of more than 300 volunteers, and the support of museum members and the community.

McIntire Farm, the 2009 Decorator Show House, will be open for a "Before Tour" the first weekend of May. See the house before it is transformed and return once it is completed in July see the work of this year's creative designers. The Before Tours will be offered May 2 and 3 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at McIntire Farm's 270 Cider Hill Road location in York. Onsite parking will be available and a donation of \$5 is requested.

This year's Show House will begin with the 20th Anniversary Preview Gala on July 17 from 6 to 9 p.m., featuring a live band, fabulous food and an open bar. Tickets are \$75 and may be purchased by calling 363-4974. Patrons who donate \$250 will receive two tickets to the event, reserved seating at the Patrons' Table and special recognition.

The 2009 Decorator Show House will be open to the public from July 18 through Aug. 15 with hours for tours scheduled every day but Tuesdays.

For more information, visit www.oldyork.org.

York Art Association Giclee Prints event set for April 28

YORK HARBOR — Artists and non-artists alike are invited to meet John Cooke from Barrington Editions, LLC, at a special event on April 28.

Cooke will be at the York Art Association at 394 York St. in York Harbor at 7 p.m. to present a 45-minute digital slide presentation on the making of giclee prints. Giclee is an invented name to represent any ink-jet-based digital print used as fine art.

The April 28 event will feature an interactive evening with Cooke taking questions from the audience throughout his presentation and after.

Refreshments will be served. For more information contact the YAA at 363-4049.

Library Happenings

Upcoming events at the York Public Library

YORK VILLAGE — There is sure to be something for everyone at the York Public Library during the month of April.

FOREIGN FILM FESTIVAL

"Water," a 2005 film made in India, will be shown April 19 at 3 p.m. The year is 1938 and India is ruled by the British. Set against Gandhi's rise to power, "Water" tells the moving story of Chuyia (Sara-la), an Indian girl married and widowed at eight years old. In Hindi with subtitles, the film is Rated PG-13 for mature thematic material involving sexual situations and for brief drug use. The running times is 117 minutes.

NATURE FILM

"Winged Migration," an awe-inspiring, critically acclaimed documentary of migrating birds through 40 countries and every continent, will be shown April 26 at 3 p.m. This film was created using planes, gliders, helicopters and balloons, allowing the filmmakers a spectacularly intimate look at their subjects. This 2002 Academy Award® Nominee for Best Documentary is sponsored by the York Land Trust.

BROWN BAG LUNCH

Jeffrey Thomson and James Hofford will read their poetry at this Brown Bag Lunch on April 21 at noon in celebration of National Poetry Month. Thomson is the author of four books of poems, including "Birdwatching in Wartime." Hofford's newest volume of poetry is "Here Upcountry: Poems of New Hampshire." This event is cosponsored with RiverRun Bookstore.

READER'S THEATER

"Copenhagen," the award-winning play by Michael Frayn about the meeting in wartime Denmark between Niels Bohr, Europe's leading quantum theorist, and Werner Heisenberg, his ex-colleague working on the German atomic bomb project, will be presented by York Readers Theater on April 17 at 7:30 p.m. and again on April 18 at 1:30 p.m., with a discussion to follow the second performance featuring Heisenberg's son, Prof. Jochen Heisenberg.

VIDEOGAMING FOR TEENS

Sponsored by the local group "Gamers Rock," the next events is set for April 23 from 2 to 5 p.m. "Teens" must be at least 12 years old and have a permission slip signed by a parent. Advance registration is required. Please contact janaleemoquin8@yahoo.com or the library at 363-2818.

POETRY READING

On April 24 at 7 p.m., the library's celebration of National Poetry Month will continue with poets Roger Finch and Tanya Contos reading from their newly published poetry collections, inspired by their world travels as well as their connections to the local seashore. They will also answer general questions about poetry.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

On April 25 at 7 p.m. see "Autumn

Hearts: A New Beginning," a Rated PG-13 film with a running time of 99 minutes. Susan Sarandon, Max von Sydow, Gabriel Byrne and Christopher Plummer give powerful performances in this lyrical, moving drama about the consequences of war. Old feelings and long-suppressed memories are stirred up and revealed at a climactic, life-changing feast. This film will be followed by a discussion led by Norman Abelson. This program is sponsored by the York Diversity Forum.

AUTHOR TALK

Mike Bonacorsi, CFP and author of "Retirement Readiness: Creating Your Vision, Knowing Your Position and Preparing for Your Future" will speak about preparing for retirement on April 28 at 7 p.m.

ART EXHIBITS

Artwork from all grade levels of the York Schools is featured in the Annual Student Art Exhibit through April.

York Neurologist Dr. Douglas Brown's photographs taken on a 2006 trip when he worked at a clinic in the hillside barrios of Guatemala City, and in the jungles and mountains of Guatemala where he worked with the Maya Indians, are now on display in the Kennebunk Room.

IN THE CHILDREN'S ROOM

Infant Lapsits for those up to two years old are held on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. with stories, songs, fingerplays and rhymes. Preschool Story Hours will be held on Thursdays and Fridays at 10:30 a.m. for stories, songs, fingerplays, crafts and science. The Thursday programs with Miss Julie are designed for three and four year olds and the Friday story hours with Miss Kathleen are designed for two and three year olds.

Music in Motion is held the first Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m., led by music teacher Lori Gundlach.

Tactile Toddler Time is offered the second Tuesday of each month from 10:15 to 10:45 a.m. Kimberly Whelan, preschool educator, brings her enthusiastic belief in the power of hands-on experiences to a monthly program designed to offer very young children a range of tactile experiences.

Art by the Pond is held the third Tuesday of the month from 10:15 to 10:45 a.m. Join graphic designer Jill Burke each month as she shares her love and knowledge of art through projects designed for children ages 3 to 6 and their caregivers.

After School is Cool, with master gardener and knitter Martha Donnell, offers a monthly program of knitting and Legos on the third Tuesday of each month from 4 to 5 p.m.

For all the details on what is happening at the York Public Library, visit www.york.lib.me.us or call 363-2818.

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Friday 24th
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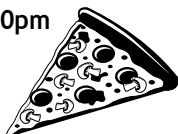
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House Committee - Last Thurs. of month 6pm
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Kittery's Rice Public Library offers programs for children and adults

KITTERY — There are many upcoming programs being offered at the Rice Public Library in the weeks ahead.

AN HOUR WITH ELISABETH OGILVIE

Those who love Elisabeth Ogilvie's books are invited to come to the Rice Public Library at 8 Wentworth St. in Kittery, for a special hour to honor Ogilvie's work on April 11 at 11 a.m. Call the Rice Public Library at 439-1553 to register, as seating is limited.

Elisabeth Ogilvie was one of Maine's most prolific and loved authors. Melissa Hayes, author of "A Mug Up with Elisabeth," will give a presentation about Ogilvie's development as a writer, her inspirations and her career. Hayes will also discuss some of Ogilvie's books and the themes within her work.

A mug-up is an old fishing term for a coffee break, and is also the name of a gathering that Hayes routinely held with Ogilvie and her fans during Ogilvie's later years. Through these meetings, and the friendship that developed, Hayes was able to explore Ogilvie's ancestry, childhood, education and life on Maine islands.

In addition, Barbara Mosher, Elisabeth Ogilvie's niece, will talk about Ogilvie's life and what it was like to grow up with "Aunt Elisabeth." She tells funny, touching anecdotes about their family life, and the times they shared on Criehaven and Gay's Island.

This event will provide an opportunity for Ogilvie's fans to become better immersed in both the writer and her work.

EFFECTIVE JOB SEARCHING IN A TIGHT ECONOMY

Changing jobs or careers? Worried about job security? Dissatisfied with your current career? Reentering the job market? Lost your job? Need to work in retirement? Join us for this free informa-

tion session on April 23 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Learn job search strategies to maximize your efforts in finding meaningful employment from Lorene Ulrich, Ph.D., who has 25 years of experience helping people in career transition and job search. She specializes in career transitions, reentry homemakers, older workers, recent college grads and people seeking federal government jobs. Ulrich will discuss proven job search approaches, such as identifying your skills and abilities, generating different job options, establishing a job search action plan and marketing yourself. At the end of the session she will take a look at resumes and see how they could be strengthened. To register for this program, call the Rice Public Library at 439-1553 to register for this program.

FAMILY READING NIGHT

Garden Fun is set for April 29 at 6 p.m. Let's welcome spring to the Rice Public Library and learn about gardening! We will be celebrating the end of winter with our Gardening Fun Family Reading Night and read stories about gardening, plant some flowers to take home and watch a short film. Snacks will be provided and all ages are welcome/ Registration is required and parents/caregivers must stay with their children during the entirety of program.

KILL A WATT!

Concerned about rising electric bills? Interested in how much electricity your appliances use? Let the Rice Public Library help you find out. Efficiency Maine has donated three Kill-A-Watt® electricity monitors to the Library. These monitors are easy to use — just plug one into an electrical outlet and you will get a readout on how much electricity an appliance uses; it's then easy to calculate how much money it's costing to run. Each Kill A-Watt kit can be checked out for a week; the calculator comes with a home energy savings tip brochure that is

yours to keep.

NEW IMAC FOR TEEN ROOM

The economic downturn may mean limited revenues for libraries but it doesn't mean that libraries aren't continuing to offer excellent services. Rice Public Library is pleased to announce that it has purchased, through a generous grant from the Rosamund Thaxter Foundation, a new iMac all-in-one one desktop for its Teen Room. Teens can now search for books, graphic novels, DVDs and more on their own within their own designated library area. Items can be more easily accessed that are provided by Rice, or to request them from one of the over eighty libraries that are participants in the Minerva consortium. Teens can use the iMac for any purpose, from homework needs to gaming. Unlike many other computers, the new iMac offers a better quality computer and software, which includes excellent graphics capabilities, website development tools and a multimedia studio.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Preschooler and Toddler Storytime takes place every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the Taylor Building Children's Room of

the Rice Public Library. All ages are welcome, and no registration is required. Our program features stories, a short film, a craft and snack. Everyone is welcome to stay after the program for playtime and a chance for parents/caregivers to socialize.

Preschooler French Classes have just begun in the Children's Room of the Rice Public Library on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. Please call 439-1553 or see the children's librarian for more information.

VOTE FOR THE RICE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Kennebunk Savings Bank donates money annually to local nonprofits based on the number of votes each non-profit group receives during the bank's Community Investment Ballot program. If you are a Kennebunk Savings Bank customer, please use the ballot you receive with your monthly statement to vote for the library. If you need another ballot or receive an e-statement, please go to the bank and ask for a ballot. The more votes we get, the bigger the donation. You can vote now through April 30. Thank you for your help.

Foreign Film Series concludes at the York Public Library

YORK VILLAGE — This season's Foreign Film Series will come to its end at the York Public Library on April 19.

The series will end with the showing of the film "Water," a 2005 film from India set in 1938 at a time when India was ruled by the British.

The film will be shown at 3 p.m.

Set against Gandhi's rise to power, "Water" tells the moving story of Chuyia, an Indian girl married and widowed at eight years old. Her head is shaved, her jewelry removed and she is sent to live in an ashram with other widows of all ages. She is befriended by a pretty widow named Kalyani, watched over by the devout and generous Shakuntula and often at odds with the ashram's callous matriarch, Madhumati, who pays the rent by prostituting Kalyani.

Filming of this movie in India in 2000 was shut down by violent protests by religious fundamentalists who believed the film was anti-Hindu. Director Deepa Meh-

ta's view is that a misinterpretation of religious texts has perpetuated the dreadful state of widows in Indian culture.

Driven by characters as much as by its cause, "Water" is breathtakingly beautiful. The film's score by Canadian Mychael Danna and songs by Indian composer A.R. Rahman are an ideal auditory accompaniment to its visual splendor.

Rated PG-13 for mature thematic material involving sexual situations and for brief drug use, the running time of this film is 117 minutes.

The Foreign Film Series is made possible by the Library Film Group, which is composed entirely of volunteers. Those interested in participating in the Library Film Group are encouraged to contact any group member at the screenings or to leave their name and phone number at the front desk of the library.

For more information, please call the library at 363-2818 or visit www.york.lib.me.us.

Award-winning author to discuss active retirement

YORK — 2008 Book Festival Award-winning Author and Certified Financial Planner Mike Bonacorsi will be the guest speaker at a special event on April 28.

Bonacorsi will share his book, "Retirement Readiness: A Guide to Creating Your Vision, Knowing Your Position, and Preparing for Your Future," at the York Public Library on April 28 at 7 p.m.

This interactive title is a precursor to, and tool for, successful retirement planning. Kirkus Reviews has called the book "a praiseworthy primer" and described it as a book that "meshes personal and financial gears to get retirement wheels rolling."

At the upcoming event, there will be an opportunity for questions and answers with the author.

A 2009 Reader Views Literary Award-winner, Bonacorsi also shares his expertise and insights with regard to building your retirement around lifestyle, wealth and health, as host of "The Mike Bonacorsi Show" on Nashua's WSMN 1590 on Tuesdays at noon.

For more about Bonacorsi, visit www.mikebonacorsi.com. For details on the April 28 event, visit www.york.lib.me.us.

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New at Old York

'Captive: The Story of Esther' on April 11 at Museums of Old York



By Richard Bowen
Program Specialist

"Wells girl abducted by Abenaki warriors."

Such might have been the headline had there been a local newspaper in August of 1703. In a raid by Abenakis, allies of the French in the continuing conflicts between English and French settlers, seven-year-old Esther Wheelwright was taken captive and marched from her home in Wells through the wilderness to an Abenaki village in Canada. There she was adopted and raised by an Abenaki family as a Catholic. Imagine the initial reaction this Protestant child, no doubt raised to regard Catholicism as evil, must have had to the ceremonies of a Roman Catholic Mass!

Although her family made valiant attempts to rescue Esther from the clutches of the French and Indians, it was four years before negotiations succeeded for her release. By then, Esther had converted to her new faith and chose to remain in the Ursuline convent where she was boarding. In 1714, Esther Wheelwright became Sister Esther-Marie Joseph de l'Enfant-Jesus. Sister Esther-Marie remained in the

convent for the rest of her life. She played a key role in French-Canadian history by helping to save the Ursuline order from English retaliation after the defeat of the French at the Plains of Abraham.

Those readers over the age of 50 who grew up in Maine, of either French-Canadian or English heritage, may recall the old days, before the "cultural revolution" of the late 1960s, when converting from Protestantism to Catholicism was, by many, considered a fate worse than death; when interfaith dating was frowned upon and ecumenical events were practically nonexistent; when "Frenchman" jokes were brazenly told and school playground taunts of "You're not going to heaven because Protestants aren't real Christians" were common. The story of Esther Wheelwright offers insights into the origins of some 20th-century prejudices, fears and con-

flicts between Catholics and Protestants in Maine.

The Museums of Old York will present "Captive: The Story of Esther" a 48-minute documentary, told by one of her present-day relatives, Canadian filmmaker Penny Wheelwright, on Saturday, April 11, at 1 p.m., at the Remick Barn Visitor Center on the corner of York Street and Lindsay Road in York Village.

Prof. Emerson "Tad" Baker will introduce the film and will lead a discussion of the history of French-Anglo relations and their impact on Maine culture into the present day.

Bring your own experiences and memories to join in the discussion. This event is made possible, in part, by a grant from The Maine Humanities Council.

For more information, visit www.oldyork.org.

Get ready for April events from the Museums of Old York

YORK VILLAGE — Enjoy coming events for all ages with the Museums of Old York in the weeks ahead.

KEEPING MEMORY ALIVE

On April 11, attend "Keeping Memory Alive: Writing Family Memoirs" as the Museums of Old York and York Public Library present Norman Abelson, author, lecturer, journalist and teacher, speaking on his own experiences writing memoirs to inspire you to write your own personal or family memoirs. The event is a preview for Abelson's memoir writing course, which will be offered by the museum later this spring, and will be held from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the York Public Library. This event is free for all, but donations are greatly appreciated.

THE ESTHER WHEELWRIGHT STORY

Join the Museums of Old York on April 11 for a showing of the 2005 Canadian documentary "Captive: The Story of Esther." Prof. Emerson "Tad" Baker, who served as a consultant for the film, will introduce the presentation and will lead a discussion of Esther's story following the 48-minute film, which will be shown at 1 p.m. at the Remick Barn Visitor Center on the corner of York Street and Lindsay Road. This event is free for Old York members; \$5 for nonmembers.

VACATION CAMP

Beginning April 21 local students can go "Under the Big Top" for April Vacation Camp with Old York. The circus reached its peak around 1900 with trains arriving all over America full of acrobats, clowns and large animals to perform under the big

top. Join Old York and create a late 19th-century "greatest show on earth." On April 21, clown around with circus games, juggling attempts and stilt walking. Make a clown hat and paint your face to with the act. On April 22, help recreate the circus midway with carnival booths and games to entertain circus patrons the following day and, on April 23, let the show begin! Choose your role in the circus, choreograph your act and create a costume. Parents and friends are invited to see the performance of a lifetime on April 23. The camp will be held April 21 to 23 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Remick Barn and is appropriate for ages 6 to 12. The cost is \$60 for members, \$65 for nonmembers, and reservations are required. To register or for more information, call 363-4974, Ext. 12, or email education@oldyork.org.

GALLERY EXHIBIT OPENING

On April 25 enjoy a favorite sign of spring, the George Marshall Store Gallery Exhibit Opening. The main level gallery will host Momentum VII, a group show featuring the winner of the 2008 New Hampshire Charitable Foundation's Piscataqua Region Artist Advancement Grant along with several finalists. In the dock level gallery, Amy Brnger will show recent paintings that draw from the natural world, home life and reflections about her studio and surrounding landscape. The opening reception will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. at the George Marshall Store Gallery, 140 Lindsay Road, and the show will run through May 31.

For more about the Museums of Old York, visit www.oldyork.org.

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May 1, 2009
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2nd Seating: 6:30PM
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The Pet Connection

THE DOGS



Bella

Meet Bella, an eight-year-old shepherd/pitbull mix. Bella can't wait to find that special someone to go home with. She is a sweet and gentle girl that will do just fine sharing her new home with other dogs, cats and respectful children. One thing that her new owners will have to give her is glucosamine, which is a joint supplement that is given to her daily. If you are interested in adopting sweet Bella please fill out an adoption application and bring your family including dogs in to meet her.



Gracie

This sweet girl is Gracie, a three-year-old pitbull. Gracie came to us because her owners were moving and she couldn't go along. She is now looking for a caring forever family to call her own. Gracie is a bit on the shy side at first, but once she knows you want to be her friend she is very outgoing and fun-loving. Squeaky dog toys are a sure way to win her over. They are her absolute favorite. Gracie is a smart girl who should do just fine sharing her new home with certain other dogs and cats. Gracie came to the shelter with a skin allergy that has caused her to lose some of her fur but has been treated at the AWS and is getting better. Please fill out an adoption application and bring your family in to meet this sweet girl.



Letterman

This gorgeous boy is Letterman, a four-year-old fawn-colored greyhound. Letterman has hung up his racing shoes for good and now is looking for the perfect forever home. He is a friendly guy that should do just fine sharing his new home with other dogs and older children. An interesting tidbit is that 85-percent of retired greyhounds can even share a home with a cat or two as most don't have the high prey drive that many people think they have. Come to the AWS and fill out an adoption application and bring your family in to meet him.

THE CATS



Cinda

This pretty princess is Cinda, a four-year-old with a short fluffy gray and white coat. Cinda came to the AWS as a stray and would love to have a forever home to call her own. She is a very independent girl who can also be very loving when she wants some attention. Cinda would prefer to be the only pet for her new owners to love and cherish. If Miss Cinda has sparked an interest please fill out an adoption application and stop by the Animal Welfare society to meet her.

Merlin

Stop by Ann-imals in York and meet Merlin, a four-year-old kitty with a nice short black and white coat. He came to the AWS as a stray and can't wait to find a forever home to call his own. Merlin is



a friendly guy who will do just fine sharing his new home with other cats. Visit Ann-imals and see if he is the boy for you!



Peaches

This little peach is Peaches, a six-year-old that has a beautiful medium-length orange tiger and white coat. She is an affectionate and outgoing girl who can't wait to find that special someone to go home with. If you are interested in adopting Peaches please fill out an adoption application and stop in to meet her.

OTHER PETS



Cavier

Here is Cavier, an adult lop bunny. Cavier came to us because his previous owner could no longer keep him. He is a friendly guy that would love to find a forever family as soon as he possibly can! If Cavier sounds like the bunny for you please bring your family to the AWS to meet him.



Lovey and Dovey

These two lovely birds are Lovey and Dovey! Lovey is green-colored and Dovey is yellow. They are both adult Love Birds that are looking for a forever family willing to take them both in. Lovey and Dovey are good friends, so it is important that they are adopted together. The adoption fee for the pair is \$100. If you are interested in adopting this lovely pair please fill out an adoption application and stop by the Animal Welfare Society to meet them. Lovey and Dovey can't wait to meet you!

If you are interested in adopting any of these animals or if you'd like to know who else is available for adoption, please visit the Animal Welfare Society at www.animalwelfaresociety.org or call 985-3244.



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The Sports Report

Former York resident to bring M-Power Hockey back to the Seacoast

YORK — Mandy Cronin did not know when she left town for school in her youth that her love for hockey would lead her to the career she loves, but that is just what happened.

Cronin, whose parents still reside in town, the owner of M-Power Hockey, which runs hockey schools in Ontario, Canada, and the New England area.

"I grew up playing in the area for the Sea-

coast Spartans and then the N.H. Women's Selects before playing for New Hampton School's Huskies and then getting a full athletic scholarship to play for the University of Maine Black Bears," she explained, adding she now plays for the Brampton Thunder of the Canadian Women's Hockey League.

Recently, Cronin, 29, was selected by USA Hockey to attend its Girls Select 16

Summer Camps as a goalie coach.

This summer, Cronin will once again be offering her expertise to local students when M-Power Hockey Camps returns to the Dover Ice Arena in Dover, N.H., in August.

Cronin's Dover-based camps will be offered from Aug. 17 to 21 and 24 to 28 and will have specialized training for goalies and players. There will be a coed group

for ages 7 to 11; a House League group for ages 12 to 18 and an Elite level for ages 12 to 18.

New for this summer, Cronin and M-Power we will also be offering two nights per week of Ladies' Night Hockey School.

To learn more about the camps, or to register for this summer's session, visit www.M-PowerHockey.com.

York High School baseball gets ready for spring season

YORK — The York High School Wildcats are facing off in scrimmages over the next 10 days, getting ready for the first varsity baseball game of the season on April 27 at home against Wells.

The varsity will be sporting new uniforms this year as they face a challenge after losing eight seniors to graduation last year.

The team lost six starters, three out-

fielders, two infielders, a starting pitcher and catcher plus their three top hitters, so the competition for filling the vacated positions has been stiff.

Head Coach Richard Sirois returns for a second year with the varsity team and York graduate Jeff Cole to join the team as soon as his college semester is over. Jim Kennedy Sr. will be back in the dug-out serving the team as assistant coach and statistician.

Headlining the returning players will be Senior RHP/CF Jimmy Kennedy, who had a 7-1 record for the Wildcats last year and went undefeated 9-0, with one save in the regular American Legion season. He had a combined ERA for both teams of 1.55. Kennedy was First Team All-Conference last year and played in the Maine All-Star game for underclassmen.

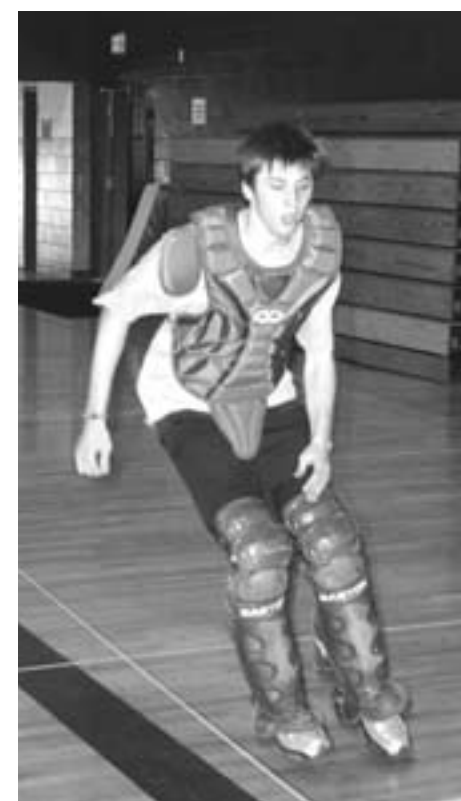
Kennedy is being heavily recruited for next year and said he likes St Joseph's College in Maine, Endicott College, Bates College, USM and McDaniel College of Maryland among the possibilities.

Joining Kennedy on the mound will be sophomore RHP Chris Cole, who has been coached by former Red Sox ace Bob Stanley over the winter.

In addition to Kennedy and Cole, others returning to the varsity team are seniors Alex Blasik, Jerry Ashley and



Sophomore RHP Chris Cole, left, throws off an indoor mound as pitchers and catchers week got underway last month, while freshman catcher Devin Merritt hops back and forth over a string as pitchers and catchers worked on conditioning and agility. Photos by Jim Kennedy Sr.



Patrick Seaward and juniors Paddy Murphy and Tanner Chase.

The Wildcats are hoping to head into the playoffs for a second straight year.

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Letters *continued from page 6*
or renewable sources. Alternatively, energy efficiency measures that can save that much energy only cost \$300,000.

When asked if we should we reduce our energy use or turn to alternative sources of energy that don't emit carbon, Secretary of Energy Dr. Steven Chu states in an interview with NOVA at www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/energy/chu.html, "You have to do both... But the lowest-hanging fruit for the next several decades will be in more efficient use of energy. That's where the biggest gains are going to be."

If we need less energy because we waste less, then we need fewer power plants and oil tankers. Then and only then should we

be spending money on the glamorous innovations, by which time designs will have improved and costs will have been lowered.

Reducing energy consumption by at least 30 percent through efficiency will put us in a position where we can afford to generate the rest with renewables. Even better, the work involved will create a huge market for Maine businesses, as well as thousands of jobs. Let's keep that money in Maine's economy by creating jobs here instead of sending it to the Middle East.

Please join with me in supporting this bill and make Maine a national leader in making our future safer and more affordable through quantifiable, sensible, energy efficiency.

Stephen Kosacz
Cape Neddick

Ads on airplanes?

Dear Independent,

I vow never fly US Airways anymore. After you hear why, I hope you join me in hopes to make some changes that will make for a better future.

As I was flying on a US airways flight from the Bahamas, where I had my most recent cherished honeymoon/wedding with

my lovely new husband, my ears experienced an unexpected and unreasonable form of noise. As I listened to the reasonable standard safety instructions over the loudspeaker, the airline decided to add on an unreasonable, MasterCard Frequent Flyer Miles, advertisement.

Yes, I do realize it is very hard to escape the overabundant amount of advertisements society places in our path, but we are always given the option to walk away from, look away, or turn off any ad we wish not to be bothered with. Being strapped in an airplane seat, under a loudspeaker rendering no mechanisms necessary to give the passenger the option to hear this blaring ad or not, is a violation of our rights.

US Airways exercised a clear example of a public and private nuisance. Wikipedia defines as, “an unreasonable interference with the public’s right to property”...“a violation of one’s use of quiet enjoyment.”

Using the loudspeaker during a flight to announce the safety instructions or weather conditions is a reasonable cause. Using the loudspeaker to announce, “How much I can save on my next flight by subscribing to MasterCard,” has no reasonable cause but just for the airline’s selfish attempt to try and gain an extra buck from their passengers.

The worst part after hearing this unreasonable advertisement is that I see these idiotic passengers taking the pamphlets being handed out by the stewardesses; negatively reinforcing their behavior. By taking the pamphlet, you are saying, ‘Your advertisement works! Advertising MasterCard and potentially other products in the future on flights really works and benefits your airline!’

This article is simply saying, please don’t take the bait. Infomercials exist because fools

buy into them... Don’t let “airline-mercials” be just as popular. It is not the producer that is corrupt, but those who buy into them that are. Speak up, for if they know they can get away with this act, they will take that next step — from, infomercials to airline-mercials, from airline-mercials, comes to maybe someday, “hospital-mercials.” Not too hard to imagine, laying in that hospital bed, similar to being strapped in that airline seat, hearing over the loudspeaker, with no option of turning it off, you have to lay there and hear the ad, “Hey, feeling stuck? Ask your doctor about ‘Regain-all!’ Regain-all helps you regain the vitamins and all you’ve lost while laying that hospital bed. Regain-all, regain-it- all!”

Please don’t ask your doctor about “Regain-all.

Speak up and say, “This is a private nuisance. This violates my right to quiet enjoyment.” Show them that you have a mind of your own. Show them that you cannot be easily manipulated by impulse buying, or sometimes referred to as eye candy. Save your right to the option of hearing a blaring ad or not; be aware to when it is reasonable or unreasonable; save yourself by not taking those pamphlets. By that you are telling them, “If I wish gain more info on the subject, I will do so on my own behalf, via researching a 1-800 number or on the internet. I will not inconvenience anybody’s quiet enjoyment nor reinforce anybody that does so in order to gain something out of it.”

Seek and ye shall find. Seek on your own. Don’t let anybody “help” you. Notice the quotes. You, and only you have the power. Trust in that only.

Sincerely,
Lori Paro
York

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3			4	5	6		7	8	9
10			11			12				13	
14					15				16		17
	18			19				20		21	
			22						23		
		24					25			26	
27	28				29	30	31				32
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37			38	39	40				41		42
		43							44	45	46
			47				48				
	49	50				51		52			53
55					56		57			58	59
60						61				62	
63						64				65	

Crossword Solution, page 23

CLUES ACROSS

1. 1st plant virus discovered
4. Doctors' group
7. Refers to a female
10. Type of avocado
12. Gilligan actor Denver
13. _____ater: raise up
14. Teyra genus
15. Cut wood with an instrument
17. "Don't Know Why" singer Jones
18. Cactiethes
20. Made lace
22. Tennis champion Arthur
23. Volt-ompre
24. Nomadic Lapps
25. Isaac's mother (Bib.)
27. Bowler or derby
29. Fiedler orchestra
34. Macaws
35. Express a supposition
36. Feel ill
37. A very tall building
42. Beam out
43. More lucid
44. Leer at
47. A partially opened flower
48. Pop
49. Stemmed
52. Rhizopods
55. Composed of men
56. Sodium chlorides
58. Abba __, Israeli politician
60. Plays a role
61. Quilt gathering
62. Draw through holes
63. Boxing decision
64. Contribute
65. Atmosphere seen from earth

CLUES DOWN

1. One and only
2. Seriously injure
3. Spanish unit of length
4. Lower in esteem
5. Cut the lawn
6. Assist in wrongdoing
7. Blackthorn fruit
8. Group of cattle
9. Argentinian dya Peron
11. Yemen capital
13. Lure into danger
15. Indian term of respect
16. Philippine seaport
19. Doctrine suffix
21. Small mountain lake
24. Lasts out
25. An infection of the eyelid gland
26. Sir Samuel John Gurney
27. Possesses
28. Built by Noah
30. R____y: prayer beads
31. Slowly deplete
32. Indian arrowroot
33. Skilled in deception
38. Marten furs
39. English king 991-1035
40. Interprets
41. Boards
45. Global Design 1-thon
46. Attached for identification
48. Surfitted
49. Chop irregularly
50. Highest male singing voice
51. Abba ____ Honeyman
53. Concert pianist Eliska ____
54. Bulk storage bag
55. Boulder for a picture
57. Snowed the way
59. Blar ____: Irish stone

SUDOKU

	8				6			4
7					4			5
			8	2	1			
5	1							
				4			3	
	9					2	7	
3	5	2				7		
6		1	7	3				

Sudoku Solution, page 23

Level: Intermediate

Calendar

EVENTS

The 2009 York Energy Efficiency Committee Rain Barrel Sale is now underway through the end of April. The York Energy Efficiency Committee is again offering rain barrels for sale at a savings. This year's price is \$75 for interested area residents, which is a 40 percent discount from the retail price. The committee is taking orders and will organize a bulk delivery on May 2 to the York Middle School parking lot. For more information or an order form, email dorothy.healy@gmail.com.

The Animal Welfare Society's coming events include honoring April as National First Aid Awareness Month as the Mobile Adoption Team will have information available to keep pets safe and healthy. The society's humane educator will be on hand with an adoptable animal at the Maine Children's Museum on Free Street in Portland for a program on animal care and handling from 1 to 2 p.m. on April 18. Also on April 18 the adoption team will be at PetSmart in Biddeford from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. On April 25 join staff and volunteers for the Annual Spring Clean Up at the shelter on Holland Road in West Kennebunk. Rakes and gardening tools will be appreciated.

The Catholic Charities Rachel's Vineyard Weekend offers "a place to turn to" on April 24-26. While many women and

men feel relief after choosing to have an abortion, many feel intense sorrow later on — often many years later. They often don't reveal to others the secret grief they feel over the abortion because they don't think others will understand. However, they need their grief to be acknowledged and validated. They need an opportunity to share their grief without being judged or condemned. Rachel's Vineyard is a place to turn for that understanding. The upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Weekend, will be sponsored by Project Rachel, a service of Catholic Charities Maine Family Life Institute. The organization does not judge or condemn, but strives to offer hope, understanding and healing to women and men whose

lives have been affected by abortion. For an understanding ear or to register, call 871-7464 or toll-free at (800) CARE-002, both at Ext. 2670, or email familylifeinstitute@ccmaine.org. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

Club A La Carte is exclusively for homeschooling and "unschooling" families where people can meet, socialize, hangout, have fun, take field trips and perform great community service projects together with other homeschoolers and "unschoolers" from the community. Video Gamers Day at the York Public Library will be April 23 from 2 to 5 p.m. featuring three stations set up with consoles; bring your own consoles, games and extra controllers to share.

Only "T" rated games or less, no "M" rated games. Pizza slices and beverages will be available to purchase really cheap. You must be at least 12 years old, have a signed permission slip and be preregistered to attend this event, which is open to everyone and is not an exclusive homeschooling-unschooling event. York Hospital "Balloon Brigade" is set for April 27 at 4 p.m. Meet inside at the Heart Health entrance, around the back of the hospital, and help share smiles by the miles. For more information or to be a part of any of these events, email janaleemoquin8@yahoo.com or call 361-2116 or 423-4281 and leave a message.

Calendar continued on page 22

School continued from page 6

Local parent Beth Walter added concern that "great teachers" will not stay in York if they have to face salary cuts and worry about working multiple jobs.

Carolyn Dupre, too, said that as a teacher and taxpayer the impact of the additional taxes would be worth it.

"For all of the people who are in the room who feel this way, there are equal amounts who don't," Zotos cautioned. "We are here to do everything we can to provide the best education. ... What we need to understand is that we are facing a perfect storm."

That storm, she said, is the reality that York will be voting on this budget in a public town meeting, rather than by secret ballot, at a time when the economy has been in a virtual freefall and Maine is registering a rising unemployment rate, currently over 8%.

"What may seem to be a reasonable increase to us may not be a reasonable increase," Zotos said, to those will be present at the town meeting and the one-question secret ballot vote that will follow on May 29, where local residents will be asked to accept or reject the number approved at the May 18 town meeting.

If that second vote fails, Zotos said, the School Committee must begin the budget review process all over again to come back with a smaller number to a second public vote and secret ballot ratification. And the process continues until a budget is approved.

"What we've done up to now may seem like nothing," she said.

Dupre told the School Committee, "it sounds like you're honoring one side, but you're doing the best you can to bring it down to where you think is fair. ... You have done a fair job, I feel, without going any further."

Kelly Renfrew, a fifth-grade teacher at York Middle School, spoke through tears, urging the School Committee not to make any cuts to classroom positions.

"I moved here for the schools because I know how awesome they are," she said, asking the board not to cut an elementary school position but instead, in a comment that startled many observers, to look for administrative cuts in the technology director and facilities manager positions,

specifically calling out the technology director's identity by name.

Zotos reiterated that the board has looked at each position and each cost center along the way, and that these final requests came only after other options had been exhausted.

York High School economics teacher Rick Paine told the committee members that while the current economic situation is neither the fault of the board nor the teachers, "history shows that the only way you get out of a recession is to spend money, but to spend money responsibly. The last thing you want to do is cut salaries and cut jobs, because that cuts spending. ... Education is the key to a prosperous economy. You start cutting it, the economy suffers."

In response to questions about the process, Zotos reiterated that the budget review has required cuts all along the way.

"We believe we have the best teachers in the state. We believe in maintaining small class sizes. ... We have done those things," she said. "Rest assured, it is not our intention to develop budgets on the backs of teachers."

Although he does not live in town, York Teachers Association President Jeff Barry spoke at the end of the public hearing to offer the association's perspective.

He explained that teachers did not feel comfortable considering reducing their salaries without the full information available on such issues as whether economic stimulus funding could be used to offset budget gaps.

He noted that the decision not to pursue cuts to staff development days and stipend raises was due, in part, to concerns that staff cuts would be likely regardless of those reductions.

Ultimately, he praised the School Committee for presenting a budget that he described as fiscally responsible and sensitive to the economic concerns many are facing, adding he wanted to "express our solidarity with you at present and moving forward."

When it came to the final discussion between the board members, the School Committee agreed to move forward without any of the \$155,000 in additional cuts.

Based on the response from the teachers, School Committee member Laurie Cof-

fenberry said she hopes the community at large will also approve of the decision.

"I hope maybe now this will get the ball rolling and that the town will support this budget," she said of the large turnout of teachers at the meeting.

School Committee member Mary-Jane Merrill, too, spoke of the "magnificent teaching" she has witnessed during her years of volunteering at Village Elementary School.

"Whatever way I can help you out, I hope I can do it," she said.

Zotos suggested cutting the \$25,000 CRES roof project and \$10,000 for professional development to "show the voters that we've cut every last damn thing we can cut except our teachers. ... 'That gives us every leg to stand on, every fight to fight... at that town meeting, to know that we've done everything but we refuse to cut our teachers that have the direct impact on our kids.'"

The majority of the board, however, felt that the cut to a .6 percent increase in spending over the current fiscal year was enough, and Zotos joined them in the end, voting to move forward to the Budget Committee with that number.

That decision was met with cheers and applause from the many teachers who packed the library for the meeting.

In a statement prepared on behalf of the YTA, Barry wrote, "At this point, teachers feel that a budget that maintains needed programs and services with only a 1.5 percent increase in spending strikes a fair balance between student needs and taxpayers' interest. We believe parents and the community will support our schools as they have in the past, because they are receiving an excellent return on their investment. Furthermore, we are committed to providing the best education possible for our students. To that end, we will continue to work with the School Committee to preserve the high quality of our schools."

Although changes in state law now leave the final budget decision with the School Committee, the Budget Committee will review the proposal one more time before the May 18 meeting and is expected to cast preference votes on the funding requests. The next Budget Committee meeting is set for April 16 at 7 p.m. at the York Public Library.



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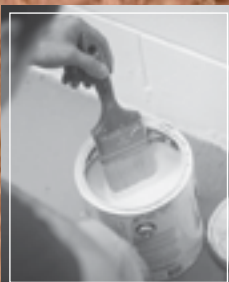
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South Portland is now home to a collection of military artifacts and uniforms honoring those Veterans from all wars and peacetime service. Lee Humiston, U.S. Air Force Veteran and founder and curator of the Maine Military Museum and Learning Center, has transformed the old engineering building located in Mill Creek Park into a community gallery celebrating and honoring Maine's veterans, the heart of which includes what has been described as the largest display of Vietnam POW items ever seen in the United States. The POW collection is comprised of actual uniforms and artifacts made in prison that were smuggled out at release. It includes items such as a small Christian Cross, a bamboo rosary, the Chinese lock and chain used to hold a prisoner in his cage, secret writing on toilet paper and cigarette wrappers, artwork done after homecoming and much more. The museum is always looking for donations of artifacts as well as monetary donations to assist in maintenance costs. In addition to its collection of military artifacts, the Maine Military Museum and Learning Center features a tranquil lawn sited away from the road on which visitors may relax and enjoy the grounds and, with the help of AMRAMP, the museum has recently been made accessible to all visitors and veterans with the addition of a steel wheelchair ramp. The Maine Military Museum is located at 513 Broadway, South Portland, and is now scheduled to be open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more, visit www.mainemilitary-museum.org or call 650-8651. *Courtesy photo*

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Calendar *continued from page 20*

Earth Day Beach Cleanup at Long Sands will be held April 18 from 1 to 3 p.m. Those interested should meet at the bathhouse and all supplies are provided. Support for the cleanup is provided from Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation, whose mission is to promote awareness and conservation of the marine environment through education and research in New England. For more information call Allie or Andrew Hayford at 361-1790.

Life After the Holocaust, a film and discussion program in commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day, will be offered by the York Diversity Forum on April 25 at 7 p.m. The event will feature "Autumn Hearts: A New Beginning," starring Susan Sarandon, Gabriel Byrne, Christopher Plummer and Max von Sydow. The film is a powerful drama about a group of survivors who reunite 35 years after their release from a Nazi camp. It explores the impact that holocaust survivors have on relationships with those around them. This film has adult content. Norman Abelson, author, will lead the discussion. Abelson married into a family of Holocaust survivors more than a half century ago. His latest book, in progress, is titled, "Marrying Into Memory: An American Jew Writes about the Holocaust." The event will be held at the York Public Library and admission is free. For more information: email yorkdiversityforum@gmail.com.

The Maine Fiber Frolic will be held at the Windsor Fairgrounds in Windsor on June 6-7 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Fiber Frolic is a family-oriented celebration of fiber animals and the fiber arts, including spinning, weaving, dyeing, felting and rug-hooking. Attractions include hundreds of animals, workshops, demonstrations, free lectures and products for all ages to enjoy. Special events include herding dog demonstrations, kids' activities throughout the weekend, the Maine Llama Drill Team Parade, youth goat, llama and sheep shows, fleece show, and the Maine Sheep Breeders' Association Wool Pool. This event is produced by the Maine Alpaca Association and admission is \$4, \$2 for seniors, and free for children under the age of 12. For more information: www.fiberfrolic.com 688-4208.

Ogunquit Library Book Sale is set for Patriot's Day Weekend on April 17-18 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Rainbarrel and Backyard Composter Sale includes Earth Machine composters for \$37.50 and Skyjuice rain barrels available for \$75 by sending in an order form available at www.schoolarounus.org or by contacting Julie at 457-1686. Preorder deadline is May 2. Pickup will be at the School Around Us annual Plant Sale and Garden Day held at the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church in Kennebunk on May 23 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Whisker Walk to benefit New England animal rescue organizations will be held at the Lancaster Fairground, home of the Bolton Fair in Lancaster, Mass., on June 7 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., with the walk itself set for noon. The Whisker Walk is a fun day for families and their dogs that includes a walk-a-thon fundraiser to benefit animal shelters and rescue groups throughout New England. The 2008 Whisker Walk brought over 100 animal rescue groups, pet-related vendors and manufacturers and sponsors together for the first of its kind event. The 2009 Whisker Walk will be held on 35 acres where animal lovers can walk and "lend a paw" for the animal shelters and pet rescues they love and support. Featured will be exhibits, demonstrations, educational programs, special attractions, product giveaways, entertainment, auctions/raffles, food, fun and things for adults and kids to see, do and buy — for both pets and people. At the end of the day there will be a walk, a one-mile stroll on shaded, flat, grassy trails with well-behaved dogs. Other pets must remain at home for this event. For more information: www.whiskerwalk.org.

Wilderness Heals Pledge Hike information sessions are set for April 30 at 6 p.m. at the Elizabeth Stone House, 8 Notre Dame St., Roxbury, Mass., and May 9 at 2 p.m. at the Cary Memorial Library in Lexington, Mass. The hike will be July 17-19 and is one of New England's most challenging all-female fundraising hikes. Join fellow women

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for a hike through New Hampshire's White Mountains and help raise money for the Elizabeth Stone House in Boston, Mass., which serves women and their children who have experienced domestic violence, mental illness, substance abuse and other forms of trauma. Choose from six trail options including a new Front Country option, which offers more manageable trails for those who are new to hiking. Five trail options offer hikers overnight accommodations in AMC huts and hikers who participate in the Back Country option sleep in tents. Each team will include an experienced team leader. Roundtrip transportation from Boston provided. The fundraising minimum is \$1,200, the hiker registration fee is \$50 and the registration deadline is June 19. For more information or to register, visit www.elizabethstone.org or call (617) 427-9801, ext. 415.

Woodcock Watch at Wells Reserve will feature the chance to watch the aerial courtship displays of the American woodcock. At 7 p.m. on April 16, Paul Dest will lead observers into the forest-edged fields of the Wells Reserve. These are the singing grounds for the woodcock, a woodland sandpiper also known as mudsucker or tim-

berdoodle. The fee for each program is \$5 for members of Laudholm Trust or York County Audubon Society and \$7 for nonmembers. Reservations are required and each walk is limited to 15 participants each. For more information call 646-1555 or visit www.wellsreserve.org.

York High School Class of 1979's 30th Reunion will be held on Aug. 14. This evening of dinner, dancing and reminiscing is scheduled from 6 p.m. to midnight at the Three Chimneys Inn in Durham, N.H. For more about the restaurant, visit www.threechimneysinn.com. For more information about the reunion, please contact Cindy Donnell at 363-6473 e-mail cindydonnell@masiello.com.

EXHIBITS, MUSIC, THEATRE, BOOKS AND MORE

April Readings and Events with RiverRun Bookstore include April 11 at 9 p.m., music with Subject Bias and Hateful Little Cakes for a suggested donation of \$5; April 13 at 7 p.m., *New York Times* Notable author Jeffrey Ford reads from his latest novel, "The Shadow Year;" April 14 at 7 p.m. at the Seacoast Repertory Theatre, *New York Times* bestselling author Kevin Phillips will speak as

part of RiverRun Bookstore and Seacoast Local's "Making the Connection" series, which claims that reckless finance, failed politics and the global crisis of American capitalism led to the current bad economy, and offers solutions; April 15 at 7 p.m., acclaimed author Jonah Lehrer reads from his latest work of nonfiction, "How We Decide," explaining how the latest research on the brain helps to better understand the decisions people make and may also help to make those decisions better; April 16 at 7 p.m. at the Portsmouth Public Library, Mary Trainor-Brigham gives a presentation and reading on her book, "Deep Cinema;" April 19 at 3:30 p.m. at the Community Church of Durham, N.H., RiverRun Bookstore and the Active Retirement Association at the Community Church of Durham will feature veteran nature writer John Hanson Mitchell giving a talk on his book "The Paradise of All These Parts: A Natural History of Boston;" April 20 at 7 p.m., Scrabble Night at SecondRun Bookstore; April 20 at 7 p.m. MFA thesis readings from the University of New Hampshire featuring Nathan Webster,

Mike Mangan, Becca Yuan and Sue Reynolds; April 21 at noon at the York Public Library, Jeffrey Thomson and James Holford will read their poetry at this Brown Bag Lunch Series in celebration of National Poetry Month; April 22 starting at 6 p.m., RiverRun Bookstore Book Group discusses "The Man Back There" with author David Crouse followed by a reading at 7 p.m.; April 23 from 4 to 5 p.m. at RiverRun, a youthful celebration of Shakespeare's birthday for all ages; featuring performances by several students of scenes and monologues from *Hamlet*, *As You Like It*, *Macbeth*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, organized by Libby Page; April 23 at 7 p.m. at RiverRun, a conversation on practice and performance in honor of Shakespeare's birthday with Dennis Britton, professor of English at the University of New Hampshire, and Christine Penney, director of *Julius Caesar* at the Player's Ring as well as several actors from this summer's performance with Nicola Imbraccio of UNH moderating the discussion;

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Crossword Solution
Puzzle on page 19

T	M	V				A	M	A				S	H	E	
H	A	A	S			B	O	B				E	L	E	V
E	I	R	A			S	A	W	E	D		N	O	R	A
	M	A	N	I	A	S		T	A	T	T	E	D		
			A	S	H	E			V	A	R				
		S	A	M	I			S	A	R	A	H			
H	A	T				B	O	S	T	O	N	P	O	P	S
A	R	A					S	A	Y				A	I	L
S	K	Y	S	C	R	A	P	E	R				R	A	Y
		S	A	N	E	R				O	G	L	E		
			B	U	D				S	O	D	A			
	H	A	L	T	E	D			A	M	E	B	A	S	
M	A	L	E			S	A	L	T	S		E	B	A	N
A	C	T	S				B	E	E			L	A	C	E
T	K	O				A	D	D				S	K	Y	

Sudoku Solution
Puzzle on page 19

1	8	9	5	7	6	3	2	4
7	2	6	3	9	4	8	1	5
4	3	5	8	2	1	6	9	7
5	1	3	2	8	7	4	6	9
2	6	7	1	4	9	5	3	8
8	9	4	6	5	3	2	7	1
3	5	2	9	1	8	7	4	6
6	4	1	7	3	5	9	8	2
9	7	8	4	6	2	1	5	3

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