

# Penguin Plunge Super Bowl

## Sixth annual SONH fundraiser is coming

SPECIAL TO THE ATLANTIC NEWS

HAMPTON | More than 800 people are expected to splash into the waters of Hampton Beach on Sunday, February 6, for the sixth annual Penguin Plunge to benefit Special Olympics New Hampshire (SONH).

"This event has survived through sleet, wind and sub-zero temperatures all because of the loyal dedication of the plungers, volunteers and media outlets like WMUR-TV and WOKQ radio," says Michael Quinn, president of SONH.

Plungers will be led into the ocean by Emperor Penguin Mike Haddad, chief meteorologist for WMUR-TV Channel 9. Playing the role of Master of Ceremonies for the sixth time is Chris Thomas, also a Channel 9 meteorologist. Motivating the "Plungers" are returning hosts, Mark Ericson and Danielle Carrier of WOKQ-FM's Morning Waking Crew.

To plunge, participants must be 15 years or older

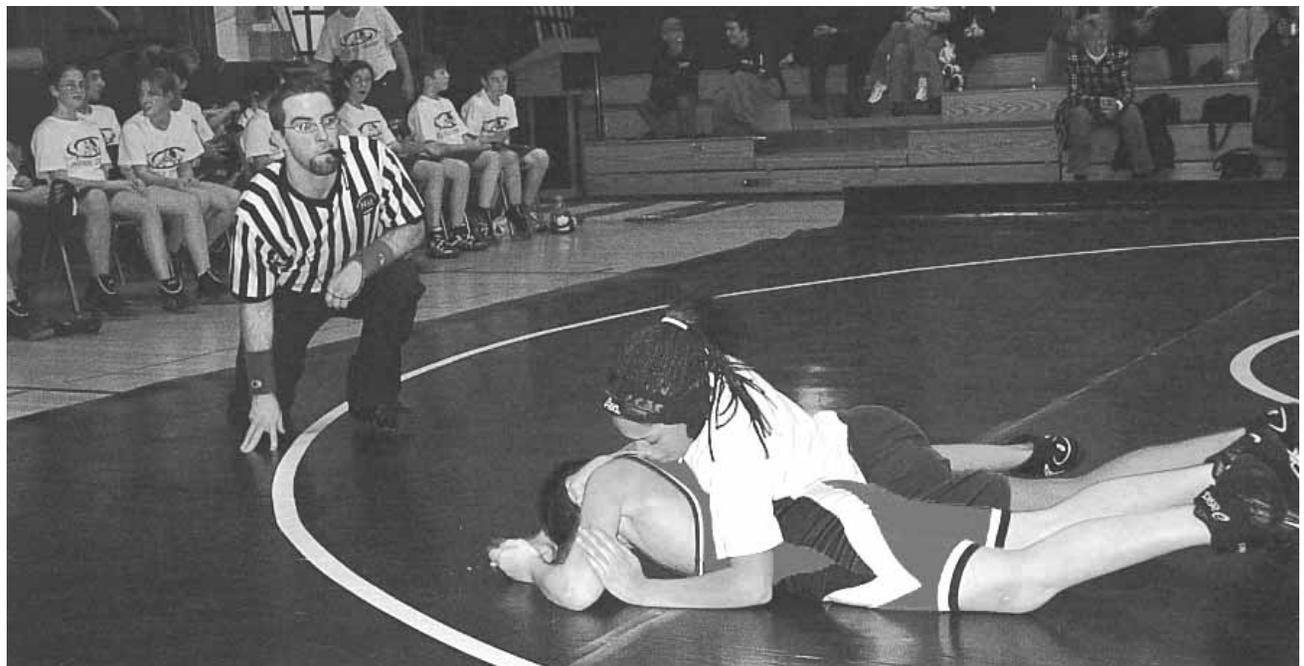
and raise a minimum of \$300 for Special Olympics New Hampshire. Plungers are judged on their costumes and awards are given to top fundraisers. This year's costume contest has the theme of "Super Bowl" and plungers are urged to dress accordingly.

Anyone who may be doubting their ability to brave a dip into the Atlantic Ocean but would still like to help can log onto [www.sonh.org](http://www.sonh.org) to see how to obtain a premium seat to view the Penguin Plunge in this year's, first ever "Chicken Coop."

"We encourage folks to come down to the beach and witness the event. It's quite a sight to see hundreds of people with crazy costumes and loads of enthusiasm dive into the Atlantic for the sake of their favorite charity," says Quinn.

For information, registration forms, registration locations or directions on how to make a donation, call the Penguin Plunge Cold Line at (800) 639-2608, ext. 29 or visit [www.sonh.org](http://www.sonh.org).

Special Olympics New Hampshire provides a year round program of sports training and athletic competition for more than 2,500 children and adults with mental challenges.



**ALL THE RIGHT MOVES** — Hampton Academy Junior High School wrestler Tyka Edwards (in white jersey) has the advantage over an opposing team member during the school's first-ever home meet held in the Eastman Gym. HAJH was victorious, scoring 125-24 against Rochester Middle School.

— Atlantic News Photo by Liz Premo

# HAJH wrestlers pin a victory at home

BY LIZ PREMO  
ATLANTIC NEWS STAFF WRITER

HAMPTON | History was made at Hampton Academy Junior High last week, when the school's wrestling team held its first-ever home meet in the Eastman Gym.

What made this premiere athletic event even sweeter was the victory savored by the HAJH team. The Indians won 28 out of 33 matches against Rochester Middle School, posting a triumphant 125-point team score over their opponent's 24 points.

The vigorous three-minute matches were punctuated with applause and shouts of encourage-

ment from the team members and coaches situated on opposite sides of the huge mat that had been brought in for the meet from Winnacunnet High School.

"Hook that ankle!" "Up! Up! Up!" "Control! Control!" and "On your toes!" were just a few of the directives the athletes heard as they faced one another in plenty of fast-paced wrestling action. Impressive skill was punctuated by good sportsmanship displayed by both sides throughout the meet.

"It was just absolutely phenomenal," said HAJH Assistant Coach Tom Linane, the school resource officer who was instrumental in starting the program at the junior high three years ago.

Interest in the standing-room-only event was phenomenal too, with many

families and friends of the wrestlers in attendance, as well as a number of HAJH staff members.

"It was nice seeing the turnout we had," said Linane, praising the amount of parent involvement he witnessed both on the bleachers and in team-related volunteer efforts. Linane also offered kudos for the meet's referee, who spent almost as much time scrambling around on the mat as the athletes over whom he officiated.

The 36-member HAJH co-ed team (there's about 10 girls on board) have devoted a generous amount of time practicing their wrestling skills under the watchful eyes of Linane, Head Coach Justin Wear, and Assistant Coach Mark Chooljian. The latter has two sons on the team.

Enthusiasm for the team sport is all-encompassing

both on and off the wrestling mat.

"We have an active roster, and no cuts are made," says Linane. This principle gives participating students (who may otherwise feel they don't fit into any particular athletic profile) an exciting opportunity to take part in a school sport. And, according to Linane, this "very disciplined" program helps to build self-respect — and respect for one another — among the team members.

It's a great formula for everyone involved, as far as Linane is concerned.

"It's nice to see all these kids wrestling," said Linane, who has heard much positive feedback from spectators (including retiring HAJH industrial arts teacher Tom Liddy who attended the meet). "It's a good sport; an incredible sport."

## HAIR FROM 1A

no time, so it was decided to put the \$1500 amount into play.

The response remained overwhelming, with parents, students and staff taking part in the drive in anticipation of seeing the team getting closely clipped.

That's exactly what everyone will witness at Friday's assembly, which is scheduled to include a Student Council presentation on the tsunami disaster in

southern Asia, as well as a performance by the HAJH jazz band and the presentation of a check to the local chapter of the American Red Cross.

Incidentally, the girls' basketball team at HAJH is also in on the action, even though it may not include any close encounters with barber shears. According to Hamilton, the girls team will provide an informative PowerPoint presentation at the assembly, and will also

assist in the post-haircut clean-up.

The enthusiasm exhibited by members of both basketball teams, the Student Council and the HAJH student body has been impressive, particularly as far as the coaching staff is concerned.

"They're all gung-ho about it," says Hamilton, who doesn't hesitate to note how proud he is of their efforts. "It was great how all the kids came together."

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## LOCAL NOTES

### SEE 'NEMO' ON ICE WITH SEABROOK REC

SEABROOK | The Seabrook Recreation Department and the Friends of Recreation Seabrook (FORS) are sponsoring a trip to the Fleet Center in Boston to attend the Disney on Ice event, "Finding Nemo," scheduled to take place on Sunday, February 20.

Tickets are now on sale and are available to Seabrook residents only at \$25 for loge seating (please reserve early). Bus transportation is free; the trip departs from the Seabrook Community Center on Route 1 at 9:30 a.m. for the 11 a.m. show.

Tickets must be paid in full before participants' names can be added to the list. No refunds will be available, unless the Fleet Center can sell the unused ticket prior to showtime.

For more information or to sign up for this trip, call the Seabrook Recreation Department at (603) 474-5746.

### SIGN UP NOW FOR SAILING COURSE

NEWBURYPORT | Registrations are currently being accepted for an introductory "Sailboating for Beginners" course to be taught in Newburyport. This annual course is open to the general public, sailors and powerboaters, and no previous boating experience is necessary.

The course will cover a number of topics, including sailboat theory and techniques; basic piloting and navigation; boating terminology; safe boat-handling skills, and many more. The course is scheduled to begin on April 25 and will meet Monday evenings, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., for four weeks. Classes will be conducted in the "Sail Loft" sections of the three co-sponsoring Newburyport restaurants: the Ten Center St. Restaurant (where the first session will meet), the GROG, the Black Cow, and the BluWater Cafe.

The course fee of \$79 is payable with registration, as limited seating will be on a "first-come" basis. Registration forms may be obtained at the restaurants, or calling (978) 502-9330, or e-mailing highseasjohn@yahoo.com.

### MUSICAL OPPORTUNITIES WITH SWE

SEACOAST | Instrumental musicians are invited to join the Seacoast Wind Ensemble (SWE) for a rewarding, educational and challenging musical experience.

An adult volunteer concert band, SWE welcomes adult and proficient high school musicians. Rehearsals are held on Tuesday evenings from 7-9:30 p.m. and are conducted in the Seacoast area.

Instrumentation includes trombones, euphonium, tuba, string bass, flute/ piccolo, oboe (English horn), bassoon, all clarinets and saxophones, trumpet/ cornet, French horn, percussion and harp.

For more information, contact Luanne at (603) 436-3966; e-mail luoreilly@comcast.net; or visit www.seacoastwindensemble.org.

COMPILED BY LIZ PREMO, ATLANTIC NEWS STAFF WRITER

## ENTERTAINMENT

# Strawbery Banke announces La Grande Fête fundraiser

### SPECIAL TO THE ATLANTIC NEWS

NEW CASTLE | Strawberry Banke Museum presents La Grande Fête, the museum's annual charity event and auction, taking place on Friday, February 11 at the Wentworth by the Sea in Rye.

A dazzling display designed to entertain, edify, and uplift, La Grande Fête will transport guests back to the turn of the century for a carnival of food, entertainment and fin-de-siècle fun — from the beginning of the evening to its culmination with the Museum's fundraising auction.

The event takes its inspiration from the spirit of the 1893 Chicago and 1900 Paris World's Fairs, with merri-

ment including a vaudeville show, mid-way games, ballroom dancing, games of chance, fortune telling, and belly dancing. Champagne and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

For this spectacular event, George Hosker will bring Vaudeville Theatre back to life with a show in the Went-

worth's historic grand ballroom. The show will be a 25-minute extravaganza inspired by the Moulin Rouge of 1880s Paris. Highlights include: the chanteuse singing "C'est Magnifique;" the Can-Can Girls (courtesy of the Seacoast Civic Dance Company); the Crooner (singing Edith Piaf's "Love Hymn"); the

Juggling Fool; and the Bawdy Wench, played by local talent Marian Marangelli.

La Grande Fête is Strawberry Banke's most important fundraising event. Mrs. Judd Gregg is honorary chairman of the gala and auction; Joe Shanley and Ronald Bourgeault will serve as guest auctioneers; and George Hosker of Carpe Diem will produce the entertainment portion of the show. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Museum's mission of historic preservation and education.

Tickets for La Grande Fête are \$125 per person. For more information, or to purchase tickets, please call (603) 422-7501.

### LA GRANDE FÊTE

**When**  
Fri., Feb. 11

**Where**  
Wentworth by the Sea  
Wentworth Road, New Castle

**Why**  
Annual charity event and auction for Strawberry Banke

**Who**  
Mrs. Judd Gregg  
Honorary chairman;  
Joe Shanley & Ronald Bourgeault  
Guest auctioneers;  
George Hosker  
Entertainment producer

**Admission**  
\$125 per person

**Phone**  
(603) 422-7501

## Upcoming awards event showcases NH theatre

### SPECIAL TO THE ATLANTIC NEWS

SEACOAST | The third annual NH Theatre Awards — a black tie event celebrating community and professional theatre — will be held at the historic Palace Theater on Friday, February 4 at 8 p.m.

The gala awards night, red carpet and all, will showcase performances from this past year's theatre season and will highlight award presentations to actors, directors and technicians.

Thirty-five theatre com-

panies from around the state participated in the year-long competition. Children's and youth theatres also took part, and will receive awards based on the excellence of their programs.

The awards were determined by a statewide network of adjudicators, overseen by the New Hampshire Theatre Awards committee and its liaisons from every participating group.

The NH Theatre Award's most prestigious honor, the Francis Grover Cleveland Lifetime Achievement

Award, will be presented this year to Carol Lucha-Burns, a beloved local performer, director, stage manager, costumer, producer and teacher.

According to NH Theatre Awards 2005 Director Scott Severance (once a student to the nominee), "It is impossible to estimate how many lives Carol Lucha Burns has touched through her life's work in New Hampshire theater. She is an advocate of excellence, a passionate teacher, creative director, and loyal friend."

NH Theatre Award's honor for "vision and tenacity," the Matty Award, will be presented to Ken Martin and Mark DeLancey, co-founder of M&D Productions, based in Conway. Other winners will be announced the night of the event.

The NH Theatre Awards were established to recognize theatre groups and individual achievements in a statewide forum and to raise awareness of local theatre.

AWARDS Continued on 33A

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