Saving grace and staying warm

By Mark Cilag Jr., Atlantic News Staff Writer

If you had a fish tank that was leaking water, would you try to stop the leak?

Of course.

Now imagine your home is a giant fish tank and it's leaking — not water but money. Because heat — no matter what form it's in — costs money, it's leaking out of our homes all the time.

That's money, gone with the wind. So, like a fish tank leaking water, if our homes are leaking money in the form of heat, why not try to stop that flow?

There is a way to do that, and it's simpler than you think. Having a fuel efficient home, even if that means tweaking a few little things about the house, can save countless dollars during the long New Hampshire winter months.

Like it or not, winter is finally upon us this week, having officially arrived last Sunday, December 21. If the past couple of weeks have been any prelude of what's to come, Old Man Winter has returned with a vengeance and we could all
Coalition assists Seacoast area Seniors

The Seacoast Senior Coalition, led by Compass Care and nine other agencies, will soon be able to help frail Seniors in the local community who would otherwise fall through the cracks.

The Seacoast Senior Coalition was one of two areas in the state awarded a two-year grant to replicate a successful program originating in Manchester in 2001. The grant from the Institute on Disability at the University of New Hampshire will bring community leaders together to identify, assess and most importantly, address the needs of isolated Seniors.

Other members of the coalition include the Foundation for Seacoast Health, Seacoast VNA, Senior Citizens Center, Rockingham ServiceLink, NH Bureau of Adult and Elderly Services, Families First, Rockingham Community Action, Seacoast Hospice, the United Way of the Greater Seacoast, Portsmouth Regional Hospital and Seacoast Mental Health Center.

Support for the Seniors Count project includes the Greater Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce, Portsmouth Neighborhood Association and Mayor Tom Ferrini.

All of the organizations involved will bring their leadership, knowledge and resources to the table becoming a catalyst for community-based outreach and action to redefine and ensure independence for older people. By identifying and removing barriers to service, convening additional business and individual partners, educating the public, and reaching out to home-based isolated Seniors, a sustainable plan can be created to improve the face of aging in the Seacoast.

According to a study by the National Council on Aging, the two biggest fears of Seniors in America are losing their independence. Through multiple initiatives, such as home maintenance, fall prevention, community awareness, flexible funding opportunities, transportation improvements, intergenerational partnering and more, frail Seniors will find support from caring members of the community. For more information about this effort, call Compass Care Executive Director, Julie Stone at (603) 430-0070.
State employees feel pay pinch

By Marc Gou! Jr.
ANATCHE W ART.WRTER
SEACOAST | Before he
became a cult-following Carib-
bean Soul music sensation, an
unknown singer and songwrit-
er named Jimmy Buffett penned
a ditty called, "There's Nothing
Soft About Hard Times."

That was back in 1970, but
the words hold true as much
today as they did nearly 40
years ago.

Currently, it is employees
of the State of New Hampshire
who are feeling the financial
pinch of hard times as officials
of the State of New Hampshire
years ago.

“Our nation is facing an
unprecedented economic
downturn, with serious ramifi-
cations for our state budget. We
have taken a number of steps,
including millions in cuts to
state programs and services to
help balance our budget, and
additional work is needed,” Gov-
er Lynch continued.

“Under the circumstances,
I believe it is reasonable and
responsible to defer the Janu-
ary 5.5 percent pay increase for
state employees.”

While urging a postpone-
ment of the pay increase, it was
not clear when the raises may
take place.

“By law, we cannot defer
the pay increase for employees
covered by collective bargaining
agreements without employee
consent. The executive branch
is engaged in ongoing budget
discussions with unions repre-
senting state employees, and
those talks will continue,” Gov-
er Lynch continued.

“As a matter of fairness, it
would be best if the deferral of
pay increases for all state
employees could take place at
the same time. But if that can-
not happen it would be fiscally
responsible and set an impor-
tant example to move forward
with legislation deferring the
pay increase for unclassified
and non-classified employees
before increases take effect
January 1.”

The proposed salary defer-
ment would have far-reaching
impact on the state budget, the
Governor explained.

“Deferring pay increases for
non-classified and unclassified
employees in the executive,
legislative and judicial branch-
es would result in nearly $2
million in savings,” Governor
Lynch said. “If these savings
do not happen, we will need to
make up for them with cuts in
other areas.”

Happy New Year
Ashworth by the Sea
Jack is Back...
Celebrate in style with Jack Knox and
the Continentals at the Ashworth by
the Sea’s New Year’s Eve Celebration.

Dinner Buffet
Main Dining Room
5:00-10:00pm
Reservations Suggested
603-926-6762

Dancing and Entertainment
Jack Knox and the Continentals in the Ballroom
and DJ Dan in the Breakers Café Lounge
Entertainment begins at 8pm
Cover Charge $25

Overnight Packages are still available!
For reservations call 800-345-6736 x 617

Happy Hour
Half price appetizers &
4-6pm
20% off Gift Card purchases

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Happy New Year
**Winterize for warmth**

By Mark Gage Jr.

**Atlantic News Staff Writer**

**SEACOAST** | Gas prices have deflated, at least for the moment. But with the economy such as it is, many folks may still be trying to find a way to pay for heat this winter.

There is help available, for those who qualify for the assistance. Rockingham County, which includes all of New Hampshire's Seacoast region, has a fuel assistance program with a number of different factors to help keep people warm this winter.

Applicants can call the Rockingham County Action Fuel Assistance office and schedule appointments to find out what sort of assistance is available to them personally.

Eligible households receive grants ranging from $120 to $975, depending on the household income and yearly heating costs. Applicants should be prepared to provide their heating fuel costs for the previous 12 months.

Households with the least amount of income and the highest heating fuel costs receive the greatest fuel assistance grant.

Eligible program customers may also earn an additional $75 incentive credit with their heating company in the spring, if funding permits, to help them purchase heating fuel after the Fuel Assistance Program has closed for the season.

Customers who participate in a budget planning project during the summer months may also receive money toward a furnace cleaning.

The Rockingham County Fuel Assistance Program offers assistance to pay past due heating and/or electric bills, and credit with a heating or electric company to pay for future deliveries or services. In addition, the program can assist in rent payments when fuel costs are included in the cost of rent.

Applications for the program are currently being accepted now through April 30, 2009. To learn more about the Fuel Assistance program, call the Rockingham County Action office in Portsmouth at (603) 436-3896, or toll free at (800) 679-3896.

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**Encompassing the Seacoast**

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**Deadlines:**

Letters to the editor, Calendar Notes and Public Notices are due by noon on Fridays.

Letters received after noon on a Friday will be held for the following week.

The Atlantic News welcomes ideas for articles, community news and special stories as well as photography submissions and requests. Call us at (603) 926-4531 if you have questions.

**Photos:**

Digital or scanned photos may be e-mailed to the Atlantic News in JPEG format to: production@AtlanticNews.com.

**Notice to Our Readers:**

All letters submitted for publication on these pages must contain a name, or providing the true exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

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**The First Amendment**

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”
'Ghost Hunters' reveals Port Harbor lighthouse findings

BY MARK CHAG
ATLANTIC NEWS STAFF WRITER

In the end, it appeared to be a case of "things that go bump in the night."

The hot cable reality television show "Ghost Hunters," which follows the spooky investigations of The Atlantic Paranormal Society (TAPS), recently broadcast an episode chronicling their findings at the Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse in New Castle.

Actually, the investigation which took place in October, covered not only the lighthouse but the nearby lighthouse keeper's home and adjacent post-Revolutionary War era Fort Constitution, both of which are now maintained by the US Coast Guard.


D'Entremont has had his own personal experiences at the lighthouse over the years, and has heard many more from others, including volunteers and visitors, who have heard unexplained sounds and even purported to have seen full-bodied apparitions. One of the theories that's sprouted is that Joshua Card, a man who served as the devoted lighthouse keeper for 35 years at the site, still remains to this day, long after his death, lurking within the round, towering walls.

So, did Card make an appearance while he was visited by the Ghost Hunters? Viewers likely weren't disappointed when they watched the episode which aired at 9 p.m., Wednesday, December 10, on the Sci-Fi Channel.

The episode, which marked the finale of the fourth season of the increasingly-popular show which draws millions of viewers nationally every week, began with scenic shots around Portsmouth as the team rolled into town with their signature fleet of black vans marked with large yellow letters reading "TAPS."

D'Entremont greeted the team at Fort Constitution where he proceeded to give them a tour of the grounds, including the lighthouse and keeper's house, explaining the array of mysterious happenings that have been reported at each.

Because the property is inhabited by the US Coast Guard, D'Entremont told the Ghost Hunters that much of what has been reported has come from Coast Guard officials, including ghostly footsteps and other unexplained noises — even a "lady in white" that has supposedly been seen roaming about.

As the investigation began, Hawes and Wilson explored the lighthouse where they attempted to communicate with Card's ghost, simply by talking to him.

When Hawes asked the question, "Can you do anything to let us know that you're here?" they immediately heard a loud "thud" come from below them. They proceeded down the stairs to ensure that there was nobody else there who could have made the noise, when they asked the entity if he could "do that again," and immediately heard another "thud," this time originating from above.

While on the stairs, Hawes and Wilson, for the third time, asked the entity to repeat this noise, and for the third time someone, or something, made a loud thud.

Next, investigators Amy Bruni and Kris Williams took over for Hawes and Wilson inside the lighthouse, and made their way to the small room near the top, just below the beacon.

The pair were discussing what they knew about the history of lighthouse keepers, with one discussing how many were known to become deeply depressed with their work due to being cooped up in such small quarters, when Bruni knocked three times on the wall and they suddenly heard a reply knock — also three taps in a row.

Bruni next used a simplistic yet common Ghost Hunter technique to communicate, when she tapped the "shave-and-a-hair-cut" tune. Immediately there was a two-tap "today" response to the melody, tapping from unknown source.

"Captain, can you please come up here?" Bruni called out, speaking to Card — who, in life, liked to be called "Captain" and always wore a letter "C" on his lighthouse keeper uniform. Suddenly, the girls heard footsteps, which were captured on the audio equipment, walking up the stairs.

The footsteps were so clear and distinctive, Bruni and Williams got up to go make absolutely sure there was no one else in the lighthouse. Halfway down the stairs, where they could see they were alone, they suddenly heard a thunderous "bang" which seemed to come from nowhere.

Later, TAPS investigators exploring the lighthouse keeper's house heard a door slam shut, but were unable to find the source of the noise, and with a digital voice recorder were able to capture what appeared to be, albeit extremely faint, a woman's laugh.

At the show's end, Hawes and Wilson sat down with D'Entremont to reveal their findings. They explained while there certainly unexplained happenings occurring, the evidence did not necessarily conclude that the site is haunted — and then quickly added that there was not enough evidence to conclude that it wasn't.

Hawes told D'Entremont that TAPS would like to pay another visit to the Portsmouth Harbor Light to investigate further, which D'Entremont welcomed.

Is the lighthouse haunted by the old Captain? Who knows for sure?

But the light keeps shining for maritime navigators. And something keeps going bump in the night.
Sweet Honey in the Rock at UNH

Special to the Atlantic News
DURHAM | The University of New Hampshire's Celebrity Series will present the Sweet Honey in the Rock on Monday, January 26 at 7 p.m. at the Paul Creative Arts Center's Johnson Theatre. The concert will be Sign interpreted.

Sweet Honey in the Rock is a Grammy Award-winning, all-female a cappella vocal ensemble committed to creating music out of the rich textures of the African American legacy and tradition.

Comprised of five singers and one sign-language interpreter, the group tours the world singing songs of hope, love, justice, peace, and resistance. The music they perform displays flavors of blues, spirituals, gospel, reggae, African chants, hip hop, ancient lullabies and jazz improvisation.

The name, Sweet Honey in the Rock, comes from Psalm 81:16 in the Bible, which describes a promise to a people to be fed by the honey from a rock. The group's repertoire speaks from the music of the black church, the calls of the civil rights movement, and songs of the struggle for justice everywhere.

Tickets, priced at $50 general admission and $20 for youth, may be purchased online at www.unh.edu/tickets, or by calling the Memorial Union Building box office at (603) 862-2290 Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
On Friday December 12 a 2007 silver Hyundai Elantra was stolen from the Fox Run Mall in Newington. The vehicle was located the next day at the Homestead Nursing Home in Kittery, Maine. The suspect is still at large.

You could be eligible for a cash reward up to $1,000 if you have information on unresolved crimes or under age alcohol parties. Please call Crime Stoppers if you wish to remain anonymous and have information on unsolved crimes or under age alcohol parties. You can also leave an anonymous tip by logging on to www.seacoastcrimestoppers.org.

If you see the vehicle, call 603-431-1199 or 207-439-1199.

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**SATURDAY EVENING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Program Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 PM</td>
<td>WBZ-4 College Basketball News (CBS) vs ESPN-2 College Basketball: St. Petersburg Bowl. Women's College Volleyball.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 PM</td>
<td>WCBS-8 (CBS) To Be Announced News (CBS) vs College Football: ESPN College Bowl.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>WCH7-CN (NBC) NFL: Green Bay Packers vs New Orleans Saints. Christmas Eve.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 PM</td>
<td>WHDH-1 (ABC) College Basketball: ESPN College Bowl.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 PM</td>
<td>WJAR-CN (Fox) College Basketball: ESPN College Bowl.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 PM</td>
<td>WJAR-CN (Fox) College Basketball: ESPN College Bowl.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 PM</td>
<td>WCBS-8 (CBS) Late Night News (CBS) vs College Basketball: ESPN College Bowl.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**HOLIDAYS AT MUSIC HALL**

- **PORTSMOUTH**
  - The Ghost Hunters will be back with more to reveal about Portsmouth, a city seemingly packed with paranormal surprises.
  - In an upcoming episode of season five of the Sci-Fi Channel hit show "Ghost Hunters," the Isles of Shoals Steamship Company's M/V "Thomas Laughton" was used as the vessel to take the ghost hunter investigators to and from Star Island in search of ghosts.
  - The episode was filmed on November 22, and will be aired sometime in March 2009.
  - The ghost hunter investigators were accompanied by the crew of the "Laughton" to sail in search of Star Island for the existence of life after death. "The Thomas Laughton" has been on many voyages, but this one may have been the most exciting and thrilling," said Jeremy Bell, the vessel's captain.
  - "The thought of paranormal activity accompanying our boat could provide some interesting future charters."

The Isles of Shoals Steamship Co. was responsible for dropping off and picking up the crew for the show. The charter was unusual as the M/V "Thomas Laughton" has not been docked at Star Island since 2004 when the ferry service was discontinued. Jeremy Bell and the crew of the M/V "Thomas Laughton" navigated the boat through the darkness and fog of Portsmouth Harbor and the Isles of Shoals and managed to dock along the shoreline of Star Island.

What the crew discovered during this charter is not known, but the possibility of paranormal activity on the M/V "Thomas Laughton" is still up in the air. Be sure to tune in.

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**CHRISTMAS TALE CAPS OFF HOLIDAYS AT MUSIC HALL**

- **PORTSMOUTH**
  - Looking for a way to avoid the post-holiday blues? Why not prolong them a week with a viewing of "Christmas Tale" at The Music Hall in Portsmouth? For some, Christmas means the joy of spending time with loved ones. But for not the Viulfand family in Arnaud Desplechyn's blackly comic film. Instead of eggnog, bile and venom flow at the family get-together when estranged son Henri (Mathieu Amalric) ("The Diving Bell and the Butterfly") ("Quantum of Solace") returns.
  - His mother (French legend Catherine Deneuve) has cancer, and Henri may be the bone marrow donor match that could save her life. Oldest daughter Elizabeth (Anne Consigny, "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly") is unhappy to see her brother; he has been an emotional and financial drain on the family, and she had him legally banished from the family six years ago. With his return, old wounds are freshly opened as the entire family gathers together for what could be their last holiday. Viewers may find something of their own family holidays in the film or possibly just the right prescription for lingering "holiday-itis."

The film is 150 minutes long, in French with English subtitles and will show for audiences nightly at 7 p.m. from January 1-8. For tickets, visit The Music Hall box office at 28 Chestnut Street in downtown Portsmouth, call (603) 436-2400 or visit www.themusichall.org.

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**ENTERTAINMENT**

**M/V THOMAS LAUGHTON NEXT ON GHOST HUNTERS**

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NHTP HOLDS A ‘CELEBRATION’

PORTSMOUTH | New Hampshire Theatre Project continues their 2008-09 20th anniversary season with “Celebration” by Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt, playing January 9-25.

Written by the same team that created “The Fantasticks,” this joyous musical (which premiered 40 years ago) presents an allegorical fable resplendent with masked revelers celebrating the triumph of innocence over evil.

The musical wraps its strongly contemporary themes in the wildness of a candy madwinter carnival. With tuneful music and powerful movement, “Celebration” combines wry comedy with pure passion, exploring the personal costs of environmental destruction when motivated by greed.

“Celebration” is directed by NHTP’s artistic director Genevieve Aichele. In his first role in a traditional musical, Blair Underwood heads up the ensemble cast of NHTP company members and talented newcomers. And, with music direction by Gail Adams, “Celebration” is one musical that’s not to be missed.

“Celebration” is recommended for ages 12 and up. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. General admission is $22; admission for students and Seniors is $15.

New Hampshire Theatre Project is located at 959 Market Street in Portsmouth. For information and reservations, call NHTP at (603) 431-6444 ext. 5, or email reservations@nhtheatrea.org.

In addition, a “Celebrate Sustainability” forum will be held after the performance on Sunday, January 18. Panelists include Tim Gaudreau, environmental artist; Andrew Kellar, businessman and founder of Simply Green; David Borden (D-New Castle), state representative active in environmental issues; and Heather Parker, a Portsmouth resident building a “green home.” Sherry Evans of the Portsmouth Public Library will provide audience members with a handout of sustainability resources. For more information call NHTP at the number above.

SUNDAY EVENING

12/21/08

| 5 PM | 5:30 | 6 PM | 6:30 | 7 PM | 7:30 | 8 PM | 8:30 | 9 PM | 9:30 | 10 PM | 10:30 | 11 PM | 11:30 | 12 AM | 1:30 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| WHCI-7 | (CBS) | 1545 | Go to the Heart of Championship Music: Anusha: Christmas Memories (N) (CC) | News (N) | NBC News | Football Night in America (CC) | Extreme Makerover: Home Edition (N) | (CC) | (CC) | The Unit “Switchblade” (N) (CC) | None |
| W5G | (Uni) | 1605 | Primer Impactos: Fin Lugar | CNN | Noticieros Univision | El Show de los Sueños: Amigos del Alma (Season Finale) | Don perdenientes deben competir | (CC) | (CC) | The Unit “Switchblade” (N) (CC) | None |
| WFMN-56 | (Fox) | 1635 | Tokyo Olympics 2020 | News (N) | ABC News | Tokyo Olympics 2020 | Don perdenientes deben competir | (CC) | (CC) | The Unit “Switchblade” (N) (CC) | None |
| W6ME-11 | (ABC) | 1655 | Performances: Charles Shireman | News (N) | ABC News | Tokyo Olympics 2020 | Don perdenientes deben competir | (CC) | (CC) | The Unit “Switchblade” (N) (CC) | None |
| WLCV-3 | (Fox) | 1725 | The Game Show | News (N) | ABC News | America’s Funniest Home Videos | Extreme Makerover: Home Edition | (CC) | (CC) | The Unit “Switchblade” (N) (CC) | None |
| WZWC-1 | (IND) | 1825 | At the Heart of Championship Music: Anusha: Christmas Memories (N) | News (N) | ABC News | America’s Funniest Home Videos | Extreme Makerover: Home Edition | (CC) | (CC) | The Unit “Switchblade” (N) (CC) | None |
| W3SK-38 | (Fox) | 1855 | American Idol | News (N) | ABC News | America’s Finest Home Videos | Extreme Makerover: Home Edition | (CC) | (CC) | The Unit “Switchblade” (N) (CC) | None |
| WBFN-17 | (Fox) | 1955 | In the Beginning... | News (N) | ABC News | America’s Finest Home Videos | Extreme Makerover: Home Edition | (CC) | (CC) | The Unit “Switchblade” (N) (CC) | None |
| WTVY-56 | (Fox) | 2055 | Fresh Prince of Bel Air | News (N) | ABC News | America’s Finest Home Videos | Extreme Makerover: Home Edition | (CC) | (CC) | The Unit “Switchblade” (N) (CC) | None |
| DSN | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
**Search is on for historic theater scenery**

Special to the Atlantic News
SEACOAST | Wanted: Historic theater scenery.

The New Hampshire Preservation Alliance has announced that a new statewide search for historically painted scenery traditionally used in public venues is now underway in the Granite State. These local treasures were created between 1890 and about 1940—the heyday of vaudeville—and still can be found in town halls, grand halls, opera houses and community theaters. They contain richly painted drapery, countryside, or street scenes. These are usually "roll drops" on wooden or metal rollers and they often feature advertisements for local businesses, such as dairies, piano movers, car dealers and beauty parlors.

With the arrival of movies and then television, the use of town halls and grand halls as cultural centers declined, and after World War II, the tradition of creating painted roll drops simply disappeared. However, much of the historic scenery remains either on stage or in storage, sometimes in good condition but more often neglected, torn and very dirty.

Many of the same trimmers, painters and scenic studios that created scenery in New Hampshire also sold scenery in Vermont, where 175 pieces have been found through a similar search. Thanks to a Vermont statewide conservation initiative, every one of them will be cleaned, mended, and either re-installed or put into safe storage. Currently, about 140 Vermont curtains have been conserved (learn more at www.vmga.org).

In New Hampshire, more than a dozen historic scenes have been stabilized by Curtains Without Borders, a team of conservators who have surveyed and conservation skills in Vermont. The Woodsville Opera House grand drape now hangs in the Haverhill Academy Arts Center, and Henniker Deering recently celebrated the restoration of their own scenery.

This search is a joint project of Curtains Without Borders and the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance, which supports local efforts to preserve and revive the buildings that house historic scenery. Funding has been provided by the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation.

Other partners in this effort are the New Hampshire State Grange, the New Hampshire Department of Cultural Resources, and the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. For more information and to contribute any information, call Christine Hadsell at (802) 238-2720 or email curtainswithoutborders@gmail.com.

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**MONDAY EVENING**

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<td>5:30</td>
<td>WCBS (CBS)</td>
<td>The Mentalist (CC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 PM</td>
<td>WABC (Fox)</td>
<td>2 Broke Girls</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WILM (My)</td>
<td>NCIS: Los Angeles</td>
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**SPORTS**

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First Night Portsmouth ready to ring in 2009

BY MARK CUNLIE
ATLANTIC NEWS STAFF WRITER
PORTSMOUTH | Should old acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind? But if the question thousands will be asking, or rather never brought to mind? Is the question thou-...
Phyzgig Festival is expanding
Chi the Muck) is a clown who
performances by festival per-
7 p.m. on Tickets are $18; for
uled for Saturday and Sunday,
will feature Leland Faulkner
and Michael Lane Trautman.
Trautman performs fabulous
pets with his hands, brings
formance styles. Michael Lane
with his original blend of per-
Amanda Crockett, Sarah Jane
clowning and object manipula-
Australia and Europe with her
Amanda has charmed and
brings sweetness and laughter
Moody and the YoYo People.
Amanda Crockett, Sarah Jane
favorite with audiences of all
ages.

The Saturday performances
will feature Leland Faulkner
and Michael Lane Trautman.
Leland conjures shadow pup-
pets with his hands, brings
origins to life, and amazes
audiences all over the world
with his original blend of perfor-
ence styles. Michael Lane
Trautman performs fabulous
pets with his hands, brings
formance styles. Michael Lane
with his original blend of per-
Amanda Crockett, Sarah Jane
clowning and object manipula-
Australia and Europe with her
Amanda has charmed and
brings sweetness and laughter
Moody and the YoYo People.
Amanda Crockett, Sarah Jane
favorite with audiences of all
ages.

On Sunday, Faulkner and
Trautman will be joined by
Amanda Crockett, Sarah Jane
and the YoYo People.
Amanda has charmed and
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audiences all over the world
with his original blend of perfor-
ence styles. Michael Lane
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Hands-on learning and precious memories

By Liz Premo
Editor, 21 Voices

What do memories, hands, and language arts have in common?

For eighth graders in Melissa Tobey's language arts class, they were all brought together as part of a study unit that revolved around Lois Lowry's Newbery Medal award-winning book, "The Giver," described as "a moral fable with political and social overtones."

Rich with futuristic and allegorical themes, euphemisms and allusions, the storyline in "The Giver" has the principle character, Jonas, transmitting memories through his hands.

Taking this to heart, students created outlines of their hands and wrote their very own "Precious Memories" within the hand-shaped outline. They also embellished their work, often depicting their words in pictures.

Among the precious memories that Tobey's students shared:

"I would like people to be able to know how I felt when my brother took me to the beach one night over the summer to go fishing" (Brielle).

"The first time I saw the white mountains" (Gianna).

"On August 26, 2008 I walked into eighth grade. I found out Mrs. Tobey was my favorite teacher. I better get an A!" (Nyles).

"Watching Twilight Trailers!" (Donna).

"I would like someone to feel the way I felt the first time I rode my bike without training wheels." (Hayley).

"One day, when I walked into eighth grade homework I saw the best teacher ever. She was very nice even though she made fun of [us] what complicated in nature. Tobey's students worked through it using a variety of assignments.

One task they mastered was learning to keep "Notes and Quotes" in their English notebooks, drawing the memories that Jonas received, making predictions, and as noted above, thinking about their own precious memories.

The eighth grade class also took time to discuss at length a number of questions about utopias (with their seemingly perfect socio-political-legal system) and their opposite, dystopias (a miserable society) which are touched upon in Lowry's book.

Students then were required to choose a final project. These could include writing a final reflection on the novel, class discussion, and connections to your real world; or play "director" and imagine a film version of the novel (including cast, location, musical score, and creating promotional posters)."
Reading is caring at SMS

Sousa’s class read 100 books at which point they were able to select a charity. In turn, Scholastic sends 100 new books to that charity.

Alayna reported that the class picked a charity for little children called “SAY San Diego, Start Smart.” The organization distributes books to pre-school children of needy families.

Sousa’s class also took the opportunity to name the top readers for this effort. They were Arnie Knowles, Taylor Welch, Joey Deshaies, Christopher Piche, Sarah DeMello, Alayna Tiffany, Shane Keur, and Ivy Walsh.

WE CARE! - Arnie Knowles, Taylor Welch, Joey Deshaies, Christopher Piche, Sarah DeMello, Alayna Tiffany, Shane Keur, and Ivy Walsh.

SMS ‘can’ help the needy

SEABROOK | Seaforth Middle School stepped up to help those in need by participating in their recent holiday food drive.

City Year and the SMS Student Leadership Team sponsored the food drive, which took place over the course of two weeks in November.

Students were encouraged to bring canned items to their homerooms. Each afternoon, the Student Leaders went from room to room collecting the non-perishables. An abundance of donations came in.

Those throughout the Seabrook Community were also encouraged to donate food items, dropping them off at the SMS front office. When the drive concluded, everything was organized, boxed up and shipped to the New Hampshire Food Bank for distribution to local food pantries in time for the holiday season.

When all was said and done — and counted — it was found that SMS had collected 1624 cans of food for this year’s food drive. A special thanks went to the top three donors. First place went to Mrs. Johnson’s homeroom with a total of 373 cans; second place went to Mrs. Sherbon’s homeroom with a total of 366 cans; and third place went to Mrs. Riese’s homeroom with a total of 234 cans.

Thanks and gratitude were extended to everyone that participated and made this year’s food drive such a success.

Here to help — SMS Student Leadership Team Kendra Dow, Kristi Ox, Megan Carter, fifth grader Jace Eaton and Katrin Gribok display some of the items which Jace brought in to school for the food drive.

Atlantic Classifieds

Health Blog at Expo

SEABROOK | Students at Seabrook Middle School got the season off to a healthy start by participating in a Family Fun Food and Fitness Expo, hosted by the Seabrook Rec Department and sponsored by the Lower Seacoast Youth and Family Coalition.

A large number of families enjoyed the evening of free fun, food and fitness. Activities included Rock Wall Climbing, Dance Dance Revolution, Guitar Hero, Rock Band, Tai Kwon Do demonstrations, face painting, and many other interactive exhibits presented by more than 20 local organizations.

Also enjoyed by all in attendance was the free pizza (courtesy of Exeter Hospital) and great door prizes donated by local businesses.

The Lower Seacoast Youth and Family Coalition aims to bring families together for a fun evening of activities while also learning about health and family related resources in the Seacoast area.

Also assisting with the event was Families First Health and Support Center and Seabrook Middle School Nurse, Helen Cataford.

SMS and SES students alike enjoyed munching on healthy apples, getting their faces painted, playing games and learning how to make healthy snacks at the Expo. Future Family Expos are in the process of being planned, so stay tuned.
Students send ‘Seasons Greetings’ to soldiers

It is anticipated that these cards and letters will help make the season bright for the recipients. In addition, students will be sending holiday greetings to local Seabrook Veterans, thanking them for their service to this country.

According to Butcher, “Not only does this project incorporate letter writing and literacy, but is also a global community service project.”

Making music with SMS students

Seabrook Middle School music teacher Matt Wooley has announced that the band and chorus students have been rehearsing and preparing diligently for their upcoming Winter Concert, scheduled for Wednesday, January 14 at 6:30 p.m. The community is invited to attend.

Things have been busy in the regular middle school music classes as well. Fifth grade general music students are working on reading and playing the song “Gliding” on the keyboard with the style of “legato.” Sixth graders are working on reading and playing the song “Harmonies,” a piece which utilizes multiple notes at one time.

Seventh graders are exploring an introductory drum set, learning what the basics of a drum set are, how to read drum notation, and playing beats with perfection.

The eighth graders are learning how drum sets are used, the sounds that come from them, what is preferred in live and studio settings, and reading drum music with perfection.

To say the least, music students at Seabrook Middle School can be heard even before they are seen.
320 Lafayette Road
(across from Hampton Cinema)
Route 1, Hampton
603-926-2314
www.FastEddiesDiner.com

2009
MULTI TABLE MONSTER OF A TOURNAMENT THURSDAY, JANUARY 1ST 12 PM (NOON) START TIME SATELLITES & SIT N GO'S START 11AM $200.00 BUY-IN 7,500 IN CHIPS 40-MINUTES BLIND LEVELS TO BENEFIT LOCAL CHARITIES SPONSORED BY SEACOAST HARLEY-DAVIDSON TEXAS HOLD-EM TOURNAMENT PLAYERS THROUGHOUT THE DAY WILL RECEIVE TICKETS, TEN LUCKY PLAYERS WILL GET A CHANCE TO PLAY THE ROYAL FLUSH GAME AND WIN (SEE GAME RULES AT THE FRONT DESK, FIRST WINNER GAME OVER)

NEW YEAR'S KICKOFF SEABROOK GREYHOUND PARK Route 107, New Zealand Road, Seabrook, NH 03874 (603)-474-3065 HIS & HERS HARLEY-DAVIDSON MOTORCYCLES $50,000.00 DOLLAR PRIZE PACKAGE COME AND SEE THE NEW 2009 HARLEY-DAVIDSON MOTORCYCLES FREE HORS D'OEUVRES AT FIRST TOURNAMENT BREAK Also available: Black Jack, Three Card Poker, Let-it-Ride & Roulette DRAWING THROUGHOUT THE DAY SPONSORED BY HEINEKEN & MONSTER ENERGY GIVEAWAYS COME SEE THE Heineken Girls at 2PM MONSTER GIRLS WILL BE IN AT 12 NOON

SEABROOK GREYHOUND PARK. Route 107 New Zealand Rd. Seabrook, NH
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