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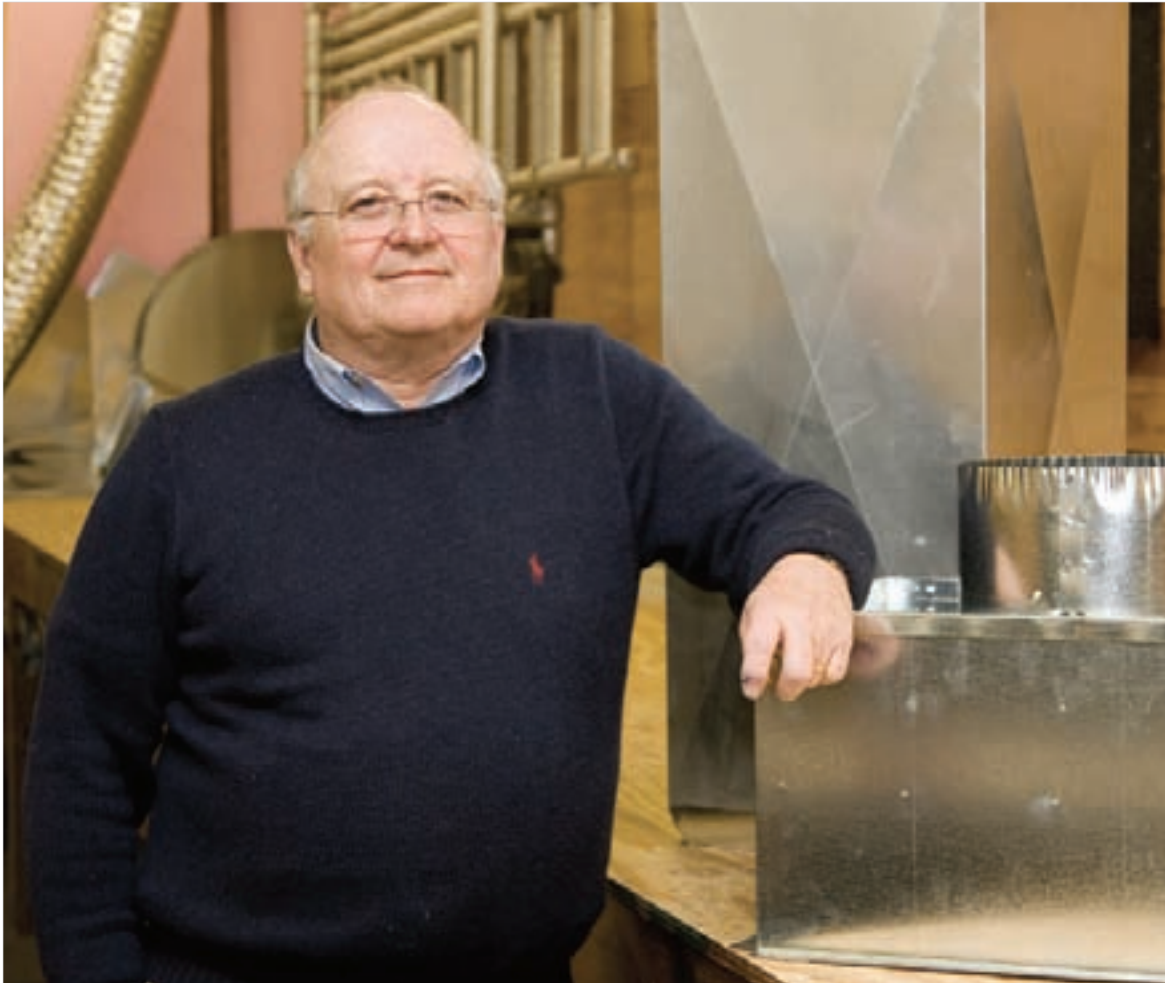
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Ed Holland in his shop on Hammett Court.

Photo by Jeff McDonough

Not just a sheet metal business

By Michaela Kennedy

Edward Holland sat in his office on Hammett Court this week with installation designs spread out before him. He smiled as he recalled a quote attributed to Mark Twain: "When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much he had learned in seven years."

Holland shared fond memories of his father, Howard, who was the founder and original owner of H.V. Holland Heating and Air Conditioning Contractors. "He opened a sheet metal shop," Holland noted. His father installed gutters and cornice molding, working with copper as well as other flat sheet metal. "Look at the roof on St. Joseph's Church in Newport. He did the copper dome," Holland said.

The elder Holland was a sheet metal worker at

Quonset Point in the 1950s. He moved his family to Jamestown in 1957, "so he could get up at 6 a.m. instead of 4 a.m. for his commute to work." The commute was shortened again when he started his own business.

Holland grew up at the end of Grinnell Street and learned about manufacturing sheet metal products by watching and helping his father.

As a young man, Holland wanted nothing to do with his father's business, however. He graduated from college with a psychology degree instead, and worked as a probation officer for ten years. Holland admitted his father was disappointed, but the older man accepted his son's decision. "When he said he was closing the business, I said, too bad,"

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Osprey return to Great Creek Marsh

By Sam Bari

The male and female osprey residing at Great Creek Marsh have finished their spring migration and returned to the North Main Road nest, Chris Powell, scientist at the Wildlife and Fisheries Division of the state Department of Environmental Management, reported.

The male arrived on Sunday, March 25, and the female followed several days later, arriving Wednesday, March 28, he said. The two can be seen online 24-hours a day at www.conanicutraptors.com/webcam. The camera has been moved closer to the nest for a better view of the birds, Powell reported.

Powell, who co-chairs the Conanicut Island Raptor Project (CIRP), also said that the two osprey poles donated by the Petrie

and O'Farrell families in the Beavertail area are up and ready for guests. Bill Munger erected the pole and platform on the O'Farrell property, while Archie Clarke donated the use of his backhoe and put up the pole on the Petrie property. Both families donated \$1,000 apiece to the CIRP to have the poles and platforms installed on their land. The money will be applied to transmitter time for the birds that have been fitted with transmitters for tracking purposes. Transmitter time costs about \$1,000 per month, Powell said.

"Poles and nests are in quite a few places throughout the island," Powell added. He listed the George Neal farm as having a new pole, and South Pond, Melrose school, the Fox Hill Farm at Dutch Harbor, and the old communica-

tions towers at Beavertail as having poles and platforms occupied by birds last year.

Dr. Rob Bierregaard, the biology professor from the University of North Carolina Charlotte, who fitted Conanicus and Comet, the male siblings from Jamestown, with transmitters, said that Conanicus will be returning to the area in about a month. Conanicus spent two years in the Zapata Swamp in Cuba after leaving the nest at Great Creek in 2005.

He also said that Conanicus' younger brother, Comet, hatched in 2006, migrated south and stopped in Cuba where Conanicus had settled. Comet then moved on to South America where his last transmission was in October of last

See "Osprey" on page 9

Wind energy study now under way

By Dotti Farrington

Town councilors last week held an election and chose by paper ballot seven members for two year terms on the town's new wind energy committee. The seven were chosen from among 16 applicants and one nominated member.

The council invited and urged applicants not named to the committee to attend and play active roles in the committee work.

Selected for the committee were; William "Bucky" Brennan and Robert Bowen, who independently and simultaneously urged the council to pursue study of wind

energy, and Clayton Carlisle, William W. Smith III, Don Wineberg, Abigail Anthony and Michael Larkin.

Public Works Director Steven Goslee and Town Engineer Michael Gray will serve as ex-officio members.

The Conservation Commission asked the council to name one of its members, Cathy Roheim, as a non-voting liaison member. Councilors said the position was not part of the committee charge, but she and any interested com-

See "Wind" on page 12

Options studied for failing Ft. Getty leach fields

By Dotti Farrington

Town Councilors were advised last week about some sewage disposal options at Fort Getty for seasonal visitors in recreational camping vehicles because existing leaching fields have failed or are otherwise inadequate. They asked the town administrator to gather more data before they decide what to do about the problem.

Councilors were advised that septic work is not part of the long-range master plan for improvements at Fort Getty Park. Councilors indicated that any septic solution probably could not be installed before the next camping season starts in May, and that work would have to be planned for the fall when camping ends in October. They did not specify if any changes or special rules would be put into effect for the coming sea-

son.

Meanwhile, the Fort Getty Master Plan Committee is set to meet today at 2 p.m. in the museum room at the town library. The agenda includes discussion of waste disposal at the park, and unspecified new business.

Options discussed by council members included connecting the park to the town sewer system at an estimated cost of \$200,000, but some officials said the chemical used for waste in the camp vehicles was such that it could not be processed by the town sewer treatment plant. Another possibility would be replacing the leaching fields, which would extend the life of the system by an unspecified but limited number of years.

Town Engineer Michael Gray was reported to be studying a large,

See "Ft. Getty" on page 12



Contest winner

Noah Simmons' poster design for the National AAA Safety poster contest won third place for the state of Rhode Island. Noah is a third grade student at the Melrose school. He designed his poster with the visual arts teacher, Jan Kraus, during the after school art club program. Photo by Jeff McDonough