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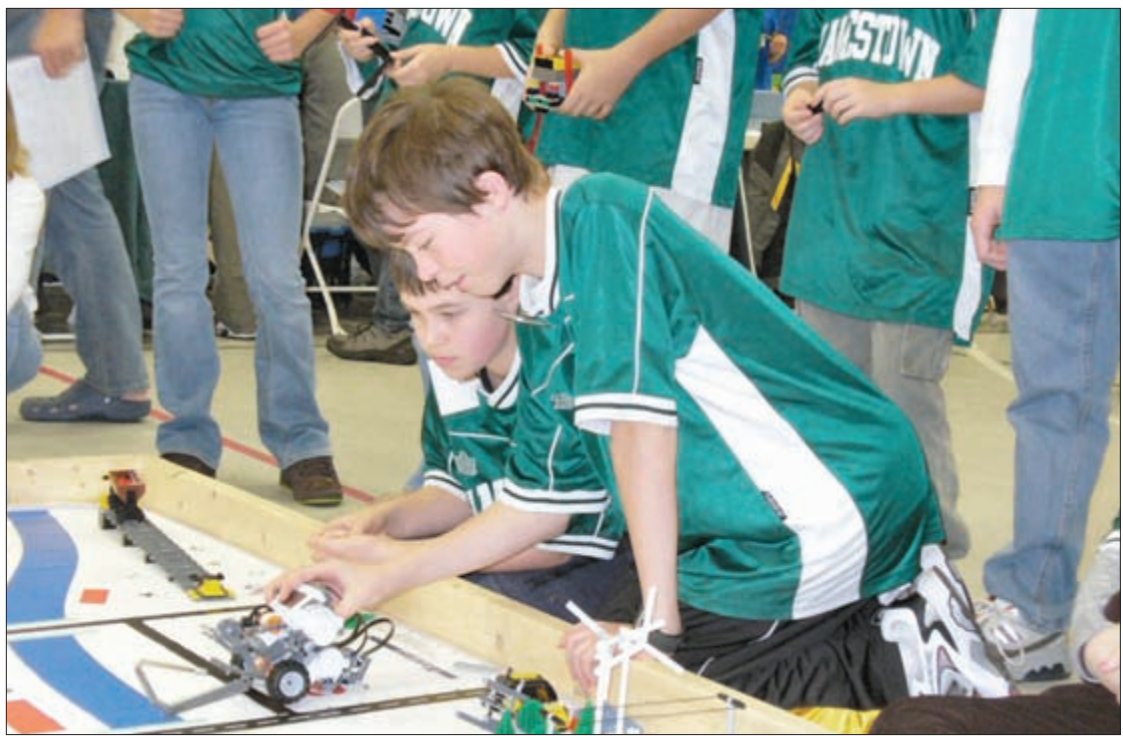
Thursday, January 24, 2008

## School hears about the effects of energy drinks



### Learning is fun!

The fourth grade art enrichment class at Melrose school focuses on a combination of math and art. Leighann Rodgers, above from left, Aliza Gomez, Megan Broomhead, Amanda Nolan, Catherine Caswell, and Emily Croft are putting the final touches on their most recent project. James Mastrostefano, below left, and Nathan Lambert, below right, troubleshoot their robot at a practice table during the First Lego League Competition.



### School may bar some beverages

By Michaela Kennedy

The School Committee learned that new lines of alcoholic beverages are packaged to look like energy drinks at its Jan. 17 meeting. The committee agreed to discuss adopting an energy drink policy next month.

Laura Hosley, coordinator of the Jamestown Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force, and Rep. Bruce Long (R-Jamestown, Middletown) educated the School Committee about the dangerous ingredients found in many energy drinks.

"The more I learned about these, the more amazed I was," Hosley said about the stimulant-filled drinks.

Energy drinks are not regulated through the FDA, so ingredients are not listed on the can, according to Hosley. Companies that make

energy drinks do not use traditional marketing. They use viral, or word-of-mouth, marketing techniques, through the Internet. Only four states do not sell beer in grocery stores, but some storeowners are fooled by the packaging. The alcoholic cans look similar to the non-alcoholic, and the ones containing alcohol are cheaper. "They have 6 to 8 percent alcohol, some of them higher," she noted.

Additionally, levels of sugar and caffeine are high, Hosley said. France, Denmark and Norway have banned energy drinks because of excessive amounts of caffeine that many contain. "They're not drinking it for the taste, they're drinking it for the high," according to Hosley. Adverse effects include dehydration, and a number of student athletes drink the beverages before or after exercise, she added. "Someday someone is going to die

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## Subdivision hearing airs road, wetland concerns

By Michaela Kennedy

A public hearing for a two-lot minor subdivision, which would include an extension of Prospect Street off Summit Avenue and Holly Street, was opened at the Jan. 17 Planning Commission meeting. After nearly two hours of at times heated discussion, the hearing was continued to Feb. 20.

The property, owned by Michael and Janice Dutton, is proposed to be separated into two separate parcels, each containing more than 80,000 sq. feet, according to Joseph Palumbo, attorney

representing the applicants. The lot sizes meet the requirements of the R80 zoning district. Two concerns brought up by the commission at a subdivision review last November were the required moving of Holly Street and wetlands flagged on the land. Joseph Palumbo, attorney representing applicants Michael and Janice Dutton, addressed both issues.

The attorney noted that Holly Street, to the south of the applicants' land, was built in the wrong

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## Town moves closer to approving highway barn water source

By Tom Shevlin

Sitting as the Water and Sewer Commission on Tuesday, town officials moved one step closer to gaining approval for water and sewer hookups for the town's planned highway barn facility at Taylor Point.

The site, which is located just beyond the reach of town's water infrastructure in the island's rural water district, must satisfy commission procedures and regulations before obtaining approval to join the water district.

Town Engineer Michael Gray reported to commissioners about a request from last month's meeting that he had contacted an abutting well owner to conduct a well test in order to determine the feasibility of installing a well under similar conditions at the town's site as required by ordinance. Gray reported that Bill Munger, the town's closest abutter, agreed to allow a well test on one of his three existing wells located approximately 150 feet away from the town's site.

Gray said that Munger has observed a flow rate of approximately .75 gallons per minute at a depth of 400 ft. Gray's test yielded similar results, although at a shallower depth. Gray reported that after an initially strong flow reading, the well had been pumped dry after approximately 28 minutes. Further testing over the course of several hours

yielded a recovery rate of .65 gallons per minute. "Typically you want four hours of constant pumping to get an accurate measurement," Gray said.

According to Gray, based on the recovery rate, while a well would likely not be able to meet the standard for residential use of 39,000 gallons per year, it may be able to meet the minimal needs of the highway barn's projected 12,000 gallons per year usage.

Because of the exceptional nature of the project, and the need to ensure a reliable source of water at the facility, Town Administrator Bruce Keiser recommended an alternative to going through the standard town procedures. "If this were an urban district, we'd be clearing these hurdles without any problems at all," he said. However, based on the terms and regulations imposed by the town, according to Keiser, "the easiest way of dealing with it, is to amend the regulations specifically for public buildings."

Asked to expound on his thought by Councilor Robert Sutton, Keiser replied, "We could create some language that is very specific that would state under what conditions a municipal facility can tap in to the water district."

Still, Sutton had more questions. When asked who he felt might object to the proposal, Keiser speculated that indi-

viduals who would oppose the highway barn would possibly object to amending the regulations, however he added that he did not believe island residents would object to municipal facilities in general being exempt from the standard regulations.

The reasoning, Keiser explained, was based in a desire not to set a precedent that would compromise the town's regulations for any individual party. Sutton recognized the town's concern, however, and stated that he didn't believe he would be out of line to approve a hookup under the current provisions.

"If this were a private concern...it wouldn't bother me at all to approve the hook up as it stands and leave the regulation alone," Sutton said.

Referring to Gray's determination that a well may be able to meet the town's need, Keiser responded, "It's a close call." Sutton disagreed. "I don't think it's a close call at all," he said. "You can't run a facility of that size on a well that runs dry in 28 minutes."

In the end, Sutton made a motion and it was passed to authorize the town administrator to move forward with an application to forego a further well test. "We've put ourselves

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