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Going green

The Hirsch sisters, Julia, left, Abigail and Madeline saved the environment some harmful emissions by riding their scooters to school on Wednesday morning.

Photo by Andrea von Hohenleiten

School committee studies teacher job fair

By Michaela Kennedy

Opinions and hints of emotion surfaced from teachers who offered input about the district's job fair policy at the school committee's regular meeting last Thursday.

Committee members expressed concerns about the job fair, which allows teachers, in order of seniority, to select from available vacancies for the following year.

At the April 3 work session, Superintendent Marcia Lukon addressed the advantages and disadvantages of holding a job fair for the teaching staff. She said the job fair was an established protocol. "The teachers know what to expect and how positions are filled," Lukon said. "Disadvantages are

that administrators are not included in the process. Although they have a strong part, they are accountable for school and teacher performance."

Lukon said that co-teaching was very successful, but dependent on a well-matched team. "The job fair does not guarantee a good match, so it's important to have teacher input," she said. She urged more dialogue between the staff and administration.

Committee Chairwoman Cathy Kaiser suggested that an interview process might work better.

Committee member Julia Held agreed administrators should take part and execute final authority

See "School" on page 12

Are pesticides killing Rhode Island lobsters?

By Sam Bari

Rhode Island lobstermen are worried that a pesticide used to control the development of mosquito larvae is killing young lobsters in Narragansett Bay and Rhode Island Sound.

The product, sold under the trade name Altosid, is deposited in storm drains to control the mosquito population. Many of the storm drains in Rhode Island's seaside communities

empty directly into the bay.

Altosid is made of methoprene, a larvicide, that when applied, reduces the number of adult mosquitoes and thus reduces human risk from mosquito borne diseases such as EEE and West Nile virus. Rhode Island lobstermen and many environmentalists oppose the use of methoprene because the chemical

See "Pesticide" on page 20

Town Council trudges through budget revisions

By Michaela Kennedy

Salaries and fuel costs continued to nip at the ongoing town budget discussion for the upcoming fiscal year. "We don't want people to work for less than what they're putting out," Town Administrator Bruce Keiser emphasized at the public hearing Monday, April 7.

The administrative team shaved some increases to municipal salaries, including cutting a requested \$5,000 increase to \$3,000 for the Emergency Medical Services director's stipend. Keiser addressed a jump in energy costs, due to higher heating costs and anticipated air conditioning expenses this summer related to the new building.

"We're looking at \$20,000 for heating due to the additional space and a sharp rise in heating oil prices. It's our first experience with the new building. It will be trial and error," he said.

Councilwoman Barbara Szepa-

towski noted inequities in administrative salaries across departments and asked how amounts were determined.

Finance Director Tina Collins said that clerical salaries were contractual and negotiated through the union.

Keiser added, "The union collects requests from individual members to prepare proposals for the negotiations. What the specifics are and why they come forward is of no interest to us on our side of the table. The union is a private organization."

Council President Julio DiGiano voiced concern about rising personnel costs, but also urged salary equity among departments.

Needle-hunting in a haystack of expenditures brought the total proposed expenditure increase for town and schools over the current fiscal

See "Council" on page 3

Islander tackles women's football

By Stephanie Heelan Cotsonas

When trying to get back into shape after having children, most women think about taking a walk or heading to the gym. Stacey Martin of Jamestown had another idea: to play football.

Martin is in her fourth season as an outside linebacker for the New England Intensity of the Independent Women's Football League (IWFL).

After having her third child in 2003, Martin felt she was not taking care of herself. "I was focused on taking care of the kids and was not doing anything else for me and felt like I was burning out. I felt like I had lost my identity and needed to reconnect myself with being an athlete," she said.

Her plan was to get back to the gym and then get back into sports once she was in shape. Around the same time, she got a flyer at the Newport St. Patrick's Day parade where the team was marching. "I didn't know anything about wom-



Stacey Martin, #52, goes for the tackle in her fourth season as an outside linebacker for the New England Intensity. The team is part of the Independent Women's Football League.

Photo courtesy of Stacey Martin

en's football prior to that, I didn't even know it existed," Martin said.

Martin grew up playing sports, most notably soccer, field hockey and softball. Ironically, she was approached by her high school's football coach. "The high school coach saw that I was the goalie on the field hockey team where I had to kick the ball to clear it. He wanted

me to be his kicker and I couldn't because field hockey is the same season," she said.

Intensity draws all types of women, and like Martin, most have a background in sports. "We have a lot of parents on the team, we have two lawyers, a physician's

See "Martin" on page 3