

# Machias Valley News Observer



COUNTY SEAT WEEKLY

ALL THE HOME NEWS

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Since 1852 • Vol. 157 • No. 28

MACHIAS, MAINE • WEDNESDAY • MARCH 3, 2010

\$1.00

## Tidal Project Tests Turbines Off Eastport

by Ruth Leubecker

Tapping the tides to harness energy is hardly a new idea for Eastport. But the most recent project aims to succeed in turning tides into energy via the nation's largest underwater turbine.

"What's important in developing this technology is in the water," said John Ferland, vice president of project development with Ocean Renewable Power. "Right now we have permitted sites on Western Passage and Cobscook Bay. But it's a pilot process, up to five megawatts. We would hope for up to 100."

Ferland is referring to an eventual expanded project with more modules, hence more output. Refining the technology to extract power from slower currents could mean gaining enough sites around Eastport to install units with a capacity of 100 megawatts. That could mean generating enough clean power at peak tides to light hundreds of homes.

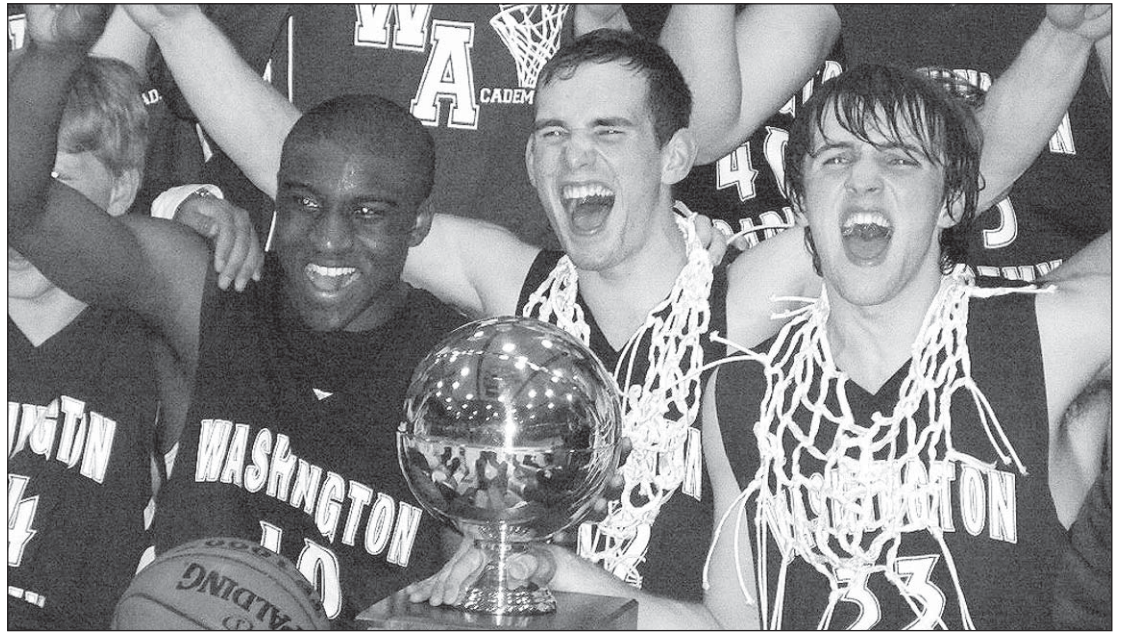
A 60-day testing period will

allow Ocean Renewable to check data and verify that the firm's design is sufficiently durable to produce other units. "We would hope to keep this prototype on the mooring and do pulley-testing for one year," says Ferland. "Evaluating the potential of the underwater turbine is a two-step process." This means confirming the validity of the design that hopefully, will increase the megawatts; and attracting the necessary financial investment to take the project further.

Ocean Renewable, with headquarters in Portland and an operating office in Eastport, has operating capital of \$13 million, as well as private investors. Its Eastport project is seen as a potentially profitable two-way street, offering the company a market to sell its pioneering technology, and providing an engine for jobs in Washington County.

Not that that hasn't happened already. "We're generating jobs now," says Ferland. "We've provided work for over

See *Turbines*, page 27. . . . .



## Gold Ball Comes to WA

Noah VonRotz, Ben Teer and Bryce Colbeth celebrate their victory in Augusta. See story on Page 23.

Photo courtesy of Laurie Schoppee

## THAW Gets \$20,000 More to Heat Homes

by Ruth Leubecker

On the heels of \$20,000 received from the Maine Community Foundation several weeks ago, a second \$20,000 has been given to The Heating and Warmth Fund.

Otherwise known as THAW, this WHCA program can now help an additional 100 heat-deprived families, according to Ellen Hathaway, WHCA resource developer. "For right now, we're good. And we're very grateful," Hathaway reported last week.

This latest donation was awarded to THAW via the Belvedere General Charitable Fund through the Maine Community Foundation. A leading resource partner for donors seeking to

strengthen Maine communities, since the MCF opened for business in 1983 it has given more than \$123 million in grants and scholarships.

"THAW helps fill the gap left by other funding sources," says Joe Perkins, WHCA director of Community and Family Services. "Tough economic times have made it exceedingly difficult for people to take care of basic needs. This shows that people understand and recognize that this need exists."

The reported number of communities in crisis has tripled from the previous winter season. As the unemployment rate escalates and business closures throughout Maine rise, this is

seen to also be a climbing statistic. WHCA receives daily calls from those with broken furnaces and empty oil tanks. The agency predicts that the recent layoffs at Stinson's Seafood in Prospect Harbor will cause the number of these requests to increase.

WHCA and the Maine Sea Coast Mission recently held a joint press conference describing the growing need and making a united plea for community assistance. Funding partners and individual donors have responded. For those interested in learning more about this concerted effort, please call WHCA, 546-7544, or the Sea Coast Mission, 546-4466. ■

## Republicans Caucus in East Machias



Chris Gardner addresses the caucus.

Ruth Leubecker photos

Washington Academy's cafeteria, overflowing with Republicans on Sunday afternoon (above), carried the message loud and clear that voters want change and action from their leaders.

Beginning with the pledge of allegiance and a hearty salute to the winning Class C Raiders, the afternoon progressed with a stream of candidates to the podium and a clutch of Primary Nomination Petitions being constantly circulated for signatures.

Six GOP candidates for governor either attended or sent a representative. County Commissioner Chris Gardner and Sen. Kevin Raye introduced candidates.

Five candidates for Governor addressed the crowd, including Steve Abbott, former chief of staff to U.S. Sen. Susan Collins;

former Husson University President Bill Beardsley; businessman Matt Jacobson; Waterville Mayor Paul LePage; and businessman Les Otten. Surrogates represented the remaining two candidates, businessman Bruce Poliquin and Sen. Peter Mills.

Pembroke, Cooper, Charlotte, Cutler, Jonesboro and Calais were among the many Washington County towns with tables and voters having a voice in the lively event. Jo Dwelley and Christine Small representing a table of East Machias Republicans, answered questions and directed people to appropriate tables.

After the speeches, 120 Republican voters participated in a straw poll in the Governor's race, with the following results: Paul LePage, of Waterville – 28 See *Caucus*, page 25. . . . .

## UMM Hires Director of Admissions

Arizona native to join Machias campus in mid-March

The University of Maine at Machias has announced that David Dollins of Tempe, Arizona, has been hired as the University's new director of admissions. Dollins will be responsible for managing and coordinating all aspects of UMM's admissions program and the achievement of the University's enrollment goals.

"I am very excited that David will be joining us at UMM," said University President Cynthia Huggins. "David

has a record of progressive experience and demonstrated success in higher education recruitment. With his collective experiences in data processing, staff management, territory building and management, and an exhibited use of technology in recruiting, David will bring a fresh perspective to our admissions team."

Dollins comes to UMaine-Machias from Arizona State University where he serves as an academic advisor in the W. P. Carey School of Business. Prior to his work in academic advising, he was an associate director of admissions at Northern Arizona State University and an assistant director in the Office of Admissions at Colorado State University. While in graduate school at the University of Central Missouri, Dollins served as a graduate assistant in the Campus Visit Office.

"I am excited about the opportunity to work with such a talented staff of admission professionals as we continue to recruit quality students to UMM from around Washington County, the State of Maine, New England, and throughout the country,"

said Dollins.

He also recognizes what makes UMM a perfect fit for so many students.

See *UMM* page 21. . . . .

## Packages for Troops Needs Your Help

Packages have been collected and are ready to go, with a kind and generous sponsor paying for the shipping, but there is one remaining BIG problem.

Packages must have a real live person to go to... no generic shipping allowed.

So, if you have a family member, friend or neighbor in a war zone, please contact Linda Albee with their name, address, and military number overseas so that the boxes can be sent. Call Linda at 255-4473 and leave a message on her answering machine, including how to contact you. She will get back to you for the information.

Please support our troops and those who are working to help them. ■

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