

INSIDE



HURRICANE DOLLY SLAMS SOUTHERN TEXAS

The first hurricane to make landfall in the United States since September lashes coast with 100 mph winds and heavy rain. Story, photos /A6

CAPE AND ISLANDS /A4

Police: Teen crashes truck after leaving vigil
Witnesses said 17-year-old girl drove like a "maniac" after leaving a roadside memorial to her friend, who was killed Saturday night crossing Route 28.

NEW ENGLAND /A8

Taunton woman facing foreclosure kills herself
Carlene Balderrama sent a fax to her mortgage company that said, in part, "By the time you foreclose on my house I'll be dead."

BUSINESS /A10

Assisted living facility planned in Brewster

Chatham developer Christopher Wise, who has built senior housing facilities in other Cape towns, has his sights on a parcel of land off Route 6A.

WEATHER



Cloudy, with scattered showers. Highs in the upper 70s, with winds 15 to 25 mph. /B6

FISHING AROUND

WORDS OF WISDOM

Times fishing columnist Rob Conery offers his impressions about a recently published New England fishing book. Sports /B6

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Nursing shortage presents opportunity
HEALTH C1

Sox close road trip on winning note
SPORTS B1



Tracey's new kitchen



Tracey Newhart realized a dream when she opened Tracey's Kitchen yesterday to sell her own prepared food.

Falmouth woman overcomes challenges to reach her dream of running a bake shop

BY HENRY ROME
CONTRIBUTING WRITER
EAST FALMOUTH — Five years ago, Tracey Newhart was at the center of the controversy over whether diplomas ought to be given to students who fail the state's MCAS exam.

Newhart, who has Down syndrome, was not allowed to graduate with her 2003 Falmouth High School classmates because she failed the high-stakes test, which meant she couldn't attend the college of her choice. But she never let go of her culinary dreams.

Yesterday, Newhart — now 25 — began a triumphant new chapter

"The bottom line is: The food is excellent. The proof is in the pudding."

JOHN FURNARI,
customer from East Falmouth

in her life, as she swung open the doors to her own business, Tracey's Kitchen.

Standing in front of a group of

about 30 friends, family members and visitors, Newhart clutched a short script and began to read. She got most of the way through before the magnitude of the moment caught up to her.

"I would like to thank my parents," Newhart said yesterday morning, stammering over the words and wiping tears from her eyes. They are always there for me and helped me put my store together."

After cutting the inaugural ribbon, her first customers began filing inside her baked goods business in Tatakot Square, which sells

see TRACEY, page 9

D-Y faces budget battle

Stakes high at district meeting set for Monday

BY HILARY RUSS
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The complex logistics that have consumed officials planning next week's mammoth Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District meeting are nearly resolved.

The meeting, which could draw thousands of people, will be Monday on the football field at the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School on Station Avenue. It starts at 7 p.m., but officials are urging registered voters from both towns to arrive early and take shuttle buses from other schools and nearby churches.

At stake are deep budget cuts at Yarmouth town offices or the school district. If school officials receive their full request for \$48.7 million, the town of Yarmouth has said it will likely slash staff and services. But if voters turn down the budget, the school district could see stiff teacher and program reductions. And if Monday night ends without voters and the district school committee reaching some agreement, the schools face temporary takeovers by the state Department of Education.

Logistical details are mostly settled, and the school district's attorney and the meeting moderator are finalizing procedural questions. But one issue isn't hard to miss: ill-will from funding changes made two years ago and, for some officials, memories of a divisive district meeting in 1993.

E. Suzanne McAuliffe, chair-

DEVIL IN THE DETAILS

Local officials are still working out all of the logistical and legal issues for Monday's D-Y school district meeting. Read about what's settled and what's up in the air. /A-16

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School chief in Falmouth takes early retirement

By STEPHANIE VOSK

FALMOUTH — After three years as the town's highest ranking school official, Supt. Dennis Richards is retiring.

Assistant Supt. Marc Dupuis was named to succeed him, through the next school year.

Richards, 59, presented the school committee a letter Tuesday night announcing his intention to leave at the end of September.

"I will be forever grateful to the Falmouth School Committee for their support of my leadership,"

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DENNIS RICHARDS
"I will be forever grateful to the school committee for their support of my leadership."

Tomalley raises red flag

Officials say lobsters' green innards are prone to red tide contamination.

By JAKE BERRY
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Cape seafood lovers have been on the red tide watch for weeks. Now state officials are saying that with lobsters, it's the green stuff that'll get ya.

This week, officials have been reopening local shellfish areas after dodging the threat of a widespread red tide outbreak this year. But they are warning consumers not to eat lobster tomalley, the soft, green substance found in the lobster's body cavity.

Red tide is an algae that produces a toxin that builds up in shellfish that feed on them. If



KATELYN HARDING/CAPE COD TIMES
Mac Hay scoops out the tomalley of a female lobster at Mac's Shack restaurant in Wellfleet yesterday.

humans ingest too much, it can cause paralytic shellfish poisoning including, among other symptoms, a respiratory reaction that can be fatal. Lobster meat itself is perfectly safe to eat, health officials say, but the tomalley, which some

capecodonline.com Find out how to prepare lobster so it is safe to eat, today at noon on CapeCast.

seafood lovers view as a delicacy, could contain high levels of toxins and pollutants.

"We've said for years to keep away from tomalley," Suzanne Condon, director of the state Bureau of Environmental Health, said yesterday. "But now's the point in time when ... people shouldn't be consuming any ... Consumers need to be aware of what might be in there."

The state health department's announcement comes a week after Maine health officials issued a similar warning when

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Tracey's new kitchen

Falmouth woman overcomes challenges to reach her dream of running a bake shop

By HENRY ROME

Published Jul. 24, 2008

EAST FALMOUTH, Mass. — Five years ago, Tracey Newhart was at the center of the controversy over whether diplomas ought to be given to students who fail the state's standardized graduation test. Newhart, who has Down syndrome, was not allowed to graduate with her Falmouth High School classmates because she failed the high-stakes test. That meant she couldn't attend a top culinary school, Johnson & Wales University in Rhode Island, to which she had already been accepted. But she never let go of her culinary dreams.

Yesterday, Newhart — now 25 — began a triumphant new chapter in her life, as she swung open the doors of her own business, Tracey's Kitchen. Standing in front of a group of about 30 friends, family members and visitors, Newhart clutched a short script and began to read. She got most of the way through before the magnitude of the moment caught up to her.

"I would like to thank my parents," Newhart said, stammering over the words and wiping tears from her eyes. "They are always there for me and helped me put my store together."

After cutting the inaugural ribbon, her first customers began filing inside her baked goods business in Tatakot Square, which sells everything from homemade carrot cake to corn muffins and candy bars. Newhart, who has been cooking since she was 5, makes her sweet treats at home and at the Shoreway Acres Inn in Falmouth, which lets her use their kitchen in the afternoon.

The store opening was especially powerful for one customer, John Furnari of East Falmouth, whose 2-year-old daughter Olivia has Down syndrome.

"It lets us know of what (Olivia) can achieve — that there are no ceilings," Furnari said. "Tracey has been a powerful inspiration to our family."

Donning a cotton candy-colored dress, Newhart spent part of the morning ringing up purchases at the register and schmoozing with customers, a plastic cup full of party punch in hand.

Perhaps the most exciting part for her was the arrival of her friends from Community Connections Inc., a group that provides opportunities for people with disabilities. When she saw the white van pull into the parking lot, the new shopkeeper jumped and screamed, and she ran outside to greet her friends with hugs.