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Seacoast Sunday

Sunday, May 8, 2016

SeacoastOnline.com

\$3

75 YEARS AS A MOM

Mother's Day at 108



Wanda Quesnette has celebrated the holiday for three-quarters of a century

By **Judi Currie**
jcurrie@fosters.com

Wanda Quesnette will celebrate Mother's Day with her daughter Claire Howe, something they have done more than 75 times. She is likely to get a lot of well wishes from her three children, seven grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren. Quesnette is 108.

She lives at Bellamy Fields, an assisted living facility in Dover. Claire, her eldest child, lives nearby. Originally from Massachusetts, Quesnette became a world traveler at a young age.

"I was 2 years old when they took me to Poland, my aunt took me so she could show me to her father (my grandfather) and while we were there World War I broke out and they wouldn't let anyone cross the ocean," Quesnette said. "My aunt met up with a young man,

they got married and I lived with them until I was 14." "When the Germans came they took our home, we had a big home — but we had to move into the mountains and the shells were flying up and down, back and forth," she said. "I was old enough to know what was going on. It

wasn't fun but, hey, you live through it all." Quesnette said her mother couldn't get her home to the United States until she got a permit from Washington. "I don't know how, but she got me across," Quesnette

SEE WANDA, A11

Above, 108-year-old Dover resident Wanda Quesnette recalls memories of childhood and family from her long life. PHOTO BY JOHN HUFF/FOSTERS.COM

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

Ex-Portsmouth fire chief arrested on arson charge

Police: Plummer set blaze fought by 100 firefighters

Associated Press and staff report

OLD ORCHARD BEACH, Maine — A fire chief accused of intentionally setting a



Plummer

grass and marsh blaze that was fought by more than 100 firefighters and led to evacuations was arrested Saturday on an arson charge.

Old Orchard Beach Fire Chief Ricky Plummer was taken into custody

at around 2 a.m. at his mother-in-law's house in Scarborough, state police said.

Plummer served as fire chief in Portsmouth from 1996 to 2001. He spent 19 years in total with the Portsmouth Fire Department.

Plummer was charged in connection to an April 15 fire that burned 42 acres at the Jones Creek Marsh in Old Orchard Beach, a coastal town of about 8,600 in southern Maine. Residents of a condominium were forced to evacuate from their homes.

About a dozen investigators from the State Fire

SEE PLUMMER, A7

OPIOID EPIDEMIC



Veterinarians are raising privacy concerns over New Hampshire's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY RICH BEAUCHESNE/SEACOASTONLINE

Pets snared in state's drug crisis?

By **Erik Hawkins**
ehawkins@seacoastonline.com

CONCORD — A recent tool in the state's fight against the drug crisis may have unintended consequences that link pet owners' private medical information with their pets' and some New Hampshire veterinarians are concerned.

"I'm frankly very frustrated," Sonnya Dennis, a veterinary practitioner from Newfields, said of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, or PDMP. "It feels like they went about this backwards ... the software simply wasn't written for vet patients."

New Hampshire was the 49th state to implement

SEE CRISIS, A8

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WEATHER & INDEX

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LOCAL



Sky high

Durham teen's self-made weather balloon captures images of the Earth from 95,000 feet during its maiden voyage. A2

LOCAL



Free comics!

Thousands descend on Rochester on Saturday, many donning superhero outfits, to celebrate National Free Comic Book Day. A3

FEATURES



Art in life

We catch up with Seacoast Artists Association scholarship winners to see where their art has taken them after graduation. D1