

“I don’t work for a party. I don’t work for a special interest. I don’t work for myself. I work for you.”

**MCCAIN ACCEPTS REPUBLICAN NOMINATION, LOCALS LAUD PALIN • PAGE A6**

# Portsmouth Herald

## DETAILS EMERGE IN YORK KILLING

Police say man was stabbed repeatedly in scuffle after suspect offered money for sex act

BY DEBORAH MCDERMOTT  
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**Y**ORK, Maine — While Richard Dalli’s motive for allegedly stabbing John Wheeler to death early Tuesday morning is unclear — awash as the night reportedly was in alcohol and possibly drugs — police said that, two hours before the attack, he offered his friend \$500 for oral sex.



These details were among information contained in an affidavit in support of the arrest warrant for Dalli, 50, of 90 Rogers Road, York, on a single count of murder. The affidavit was written by Maine State Police detective Mark A. Holmquist.

According to the affidavit, Wheeler, 39, of Wells was killed with a kitchen knife. He received a 2-inch deep wound on the left side of his chest and a 6-inch deep laceration in the abdomen. There were more shallow cuts on his body and between his eyes.

Dalli would later tell investigators, “I think I stabbed somebody. Is he dead? He must be dead; there was a lot of blood. I think I killed somebody.”

Later, at the York police station, he was telling a state trooper about an upcoming trip to North Carolina, “paused, and remarked, ‘Why do I get the feeling I’m f\*\*\*\*\*?’” the affidavit stated.

Much of the information about what occurred that night was procured from Wheeler’s girlfriend, Claire M. Cardin, 49. Cardin said she arrived at Dalli’s home around 11:30 p.m. on Monday night, where a party was in progress. According to the affidavit, “all subjects involved had been drinking heavily and possibly using drugs.”

In the early morning hours, Cardin later told investigators, she, Wheeler and Dalli were in Dalli’s living room when Dalli told them “he had killed two to three people in the past with a machete knife.

She also said Dalli was telling them about some local juveniles who had ripped him off and he was going to go after

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FRIDAY, SEPT. 5, 2008



## KICKING OFF A NEW SEASON

Weekend preview and high school football notes, B9

### N.H. budget forecast: Stormy

Think tank says state could be dealing with up to a \$495M shortfall in three years, A7



**Digital Dave**

Proud geek launches column on the gaming world. Trust us, he’s earned his stripes, B1

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#### THURSDAY LOTTERIES

Tri-State Daily:  
Day: 0-2-9 / 0-7-4-3  
Evening: 7-2-7 / 1-5-1-5  
Mass Daily: 7-3-9-7  
Cash Winfall: 14-21-24-37-43-44



75 CENTS

WEATHER, A11: Sunny to partly cloudy, HIGH 83

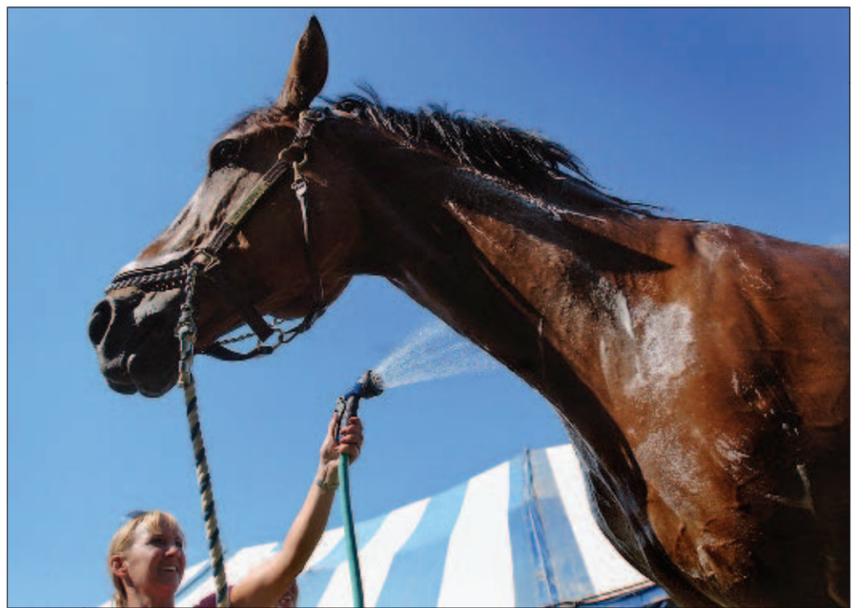
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## Equine entourage



Kim Bullock washes off Heliotrope, a 15-year-old horse owned by Lee Thornton.

### Full staff works to pamper competitors

BY LARA BRICKER  
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**H**AMPTON FALLS — Behind each top horse competing at the Fidelity Investments Jumper Classic horse show is a group of support staff that rivals those of professional athletes.

There are equine massage therapists, equine chiropractors, equine dentists and equine acupuncturists. Equine farriers keep the athletes’ hooves in top form. And then there are the horse show grooms and barn staff who do everything — feed, brush, bathe, exercise and generally pamper the athletes both before and after their show ring performances.

“These horses, they’re like NFL or NBA stars; they travel with their own entourage,” said Jeff Papows, chairman of the board for the show as well as an avid competitor.

Olympic rider Nona Garson

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Dr. Wendy Coren, a human/animal chiropractor, talks about working with horses, such as Languster, seen here.

## JUMPER CLASSIC

When: Through Sunday

Where: Silver Oak Equestrian Center, Hampton Falls

Admission: Free today, \$20 and up Saturday and Sunday

Event Web site: [www.jumperclassic.com](http://www.jumperclassic.com)

Photo gallery: [www.seacoastonline.com/multimedia](http://www.seacoastonline.com/multimedia)

## City moves on athletic fields

Bids sought for removal of old gun club to make way for softball, more

BY ADAM LEECH  
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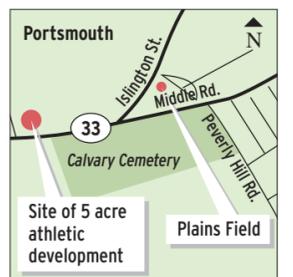
**P**ORTSMOUTH — The process is now under way to turn a former recreational gun club into recreational fields for the city.

The city is accepting bids to tear down the structure at 305 Greenland Road — the site of the former Piscataqua Rifle and Revolver Club, which ceased operations a decade ago, and the former city stump dump. The five-acre parcel is slated to become a softball field and a multi-purpose field.

The plan was initiated in 2003, but there has been little movement on the site since then. According to Dave Allen, the city’s deputy public works director, final plans for the site have not yet been developed, though it is clear athletic fields will be the focus.

“This is step one,” said Allen. “We want to make sure the site is flexible, and getting this building out of there allows us to grade the site and get it ready for whatever future use is deemed appropriate.”

The issue of athletic fields, or lack thereof, has been a



source of debate recently as the future of Portsmouth Middle School is decided. Few disagree that the city is in need of more fields for school and adult athletics, but the lack of viable, city-owned land

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