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# Portsmouth Herald

THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2014

SMUTTYNOSE OPENING ON TAP A8

VIDEO ONLINE See a video and photo gallery at www.seacoastonline.com.

## 'Breath play' defense

## PEASE WATER HEALTH RISK DOWNPLAYED

Concerned voices at meeting include day care operator

BY JEFF MCMENEMY jmcmenemy@seacoastonline.com

PORTSMOUTH — More than 50 people packed a meeting room at the Pease International Tradeport to ask questions about the potential health effects of being exposed to drinking water from a contaminated well.

Wendy Monroe, executive director of Great Bay Kids Co., which runs a popular day care facility at the tradeport, said families that bring their kids there are worried.

"We have a lot of families ... and they're concerned now that their children have been drinking this contaminated water for all the

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RICH BEAUCHESNE/RBEAUCHESNE@SEACOASTONLINE.COM



Prosecutor Peter Hinckley, above left, shows a map of Peirce Island in Portsmouth during the trial of Seth Mazzaglia, top right, in the death of Elizabeth "Lizzi" Marriott. Mazzaglia defense attorney Joachim Barth, above right, contended Wednesday in Strafford Superior Court that Marriott died during a sexual act called "breath play." See a photo gallery from the trial at www.seacoastonline.com.

## Prosecutor: Mazzaglia guilty of 'murder and nothing less'

Editor's note: This story contains graphic content.

BY ELIZABETH DINAN edinan@seacoastonline.com

DOVER — A jury seated for Seth Mazzaglia's trial on murder charges learned Wednesday that it will have to decide whether he killed Elizabeth "Lizzi" Marriott by strangulation, or whether his girlfriend smothered Marriott to death as part of a sex act.

Seated in Strafford Superior Court, the jury heard opening

arguments Wednesday from prosecutor Peter Hinckley, who said Mazzaglia strangled the University of New Hampshire student from behind, before raping her and plotting to dispose of her body, her belongings and evidence.

Mazzaglia's defense attorney, Joachim Barth, countered it was Mazzaglia's girlfriend — Katherine "Kat" McDonough of Portsmouth — who killed Marriott during a sex act she called "breath play."

McDonough, Barth told the jurors, placed her thighs around Marriott's head while Marriott was restrained and had "limited

ability" to resist.

The prosecutor began the first day of Mazzaglia's trial by describing Marriott as friendly and trusting when she agreed to go to Mazzaglia's apartment by invitation from McDonough. A teenager at the time, McDonough was Mazzaglia's live-in roommate, "sexually submissive slave" and had been following his orders to find him a new "play thing" when she lured Marriott to her ultimate death, Hinckley said.

Barth countered that it was McDonough who "drove" the couple's sexual and personal relationship,

that she boasted she was the dominant of the two and had advertised herself as "a switch" on S&M — or sadomasochism — Web sites, meaning she would engage as both a dominant and submissive sex partner.

"Seth didn't introduce Kat to S&M; she came that way," he told the jurors.

Barth also attacked McDonough's credibility by telling the jury she heard five voices "in her head," had named them all, and that she argued with them.

See MAZZAGLIA, Page A2

## MAYOR RESCINDS HDC NOMINATION

Becksted: No explanation for removal from consideration

BY JEFF MCMENEMY jmcmenemy@seacoastonline.com

PORTSMOUTH — Mayor Bob Lister has withdrawn former City Council candidate Rick Becksted Jr.'s name from nomination to serve on the city's Historic District Commission.

Becksted said he found out his name had been withdrawn during a brief conversation late Tuesday night after the City Council meeting.

"I attended the latter half of the budget meeting and was told by the mayor," Becksted said during an interview Wednesday.

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Becksted

# Poet, author Maya Angelou dies at 86

### Her stirring voice told an extraordinary life story

BY HILLEL ITALIE Associated Press

NEW YORK — Maya Angelou, a modern Renaissance woman who survived the harshest of childhoods to become a force on stage, screen, the printed page and the inaugural dais, died Wednesday, her son said. She was 86.

Angelou's son, Guy B. Johnson, said the writer died at her home in Winston-Salem,

N.C., where she had been a professor of American studies at Wake Forest University since 1982.

Tall and regal, with a deep, majestic voice, Angelou defied all probability and category, becoming one of the first black women to enjoy mainstream success as an author and thriving in virtually every artistic medium. The young single mother who worked at strip clubs to earn a living later wrote and recited the most popular presidential inau-

gural poem in history. The childhood victim of rape wrote a million-selling memoir, befriended Malcolm X, Nelson Mandela and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., and performed on stages around the world.

An actress, singer and dancer in the 1950s and 1960s, she broke through as an author in 1969 with "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," which became standard (and

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Poet Maya Angelou died Wednesday at age 86.

AP PHOTO

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~ Joyce, a customer, and Missy from Piscataqua Savings Bank since 1990

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