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LIZ GOTTHELF/Journal Tribune

Fran Girard, University of New England President Danielle Ripich and Arthur Girard stand outside the newly renamed Arthur P. Girard Marine Science Center at the college on Thursday. Last year, Girard and his family donated Ram Island in Saco Bay to the university, making UNE one of the few universities that can boast of having its own island. Girard recently announced another donation, one of the largest in UNE's history; the amount is not being released.

Young School ballot question may be repealed

Saco officials considering applying for state subsidy instead

By **LIZ GOTTHELF**
Staff Writer

SACO — With news the state may open up an opportunity for schools to apply for subsidy for construction projects, the city could consider to repeal its decision to put the Young School construction project on the November ballot.

The council may reconsider the issue on Monday.

Young School, located at the corner of Tasker and

North Streets, is one of two schools in the city that serves students from kindergarten through second grade. The current school is a modular building built in 2004 as a short-term replacement when the previous school was torn down due to mold infestation, and school officials say the building is in need of replacement.

The council voted Sept. 6 to put a question on the

November ballot asking voters whether to authorize the city to spend up to \$21.5 million. Most of the money would go toward building a new pre-kindergarten through second-grade school at the existing Young School site to accommodate 370 students.

The remainder of the funds would go toward ren-

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Sanford school projects laid out at city forum

By **TAMMY WELLS**
Senior Staff Writer

SANFORD — Imagine Margaret Chase Smith School with an addition that doubles its physical size. Currently a kindergarten through third-grade school with a capacity for 360 kids, it would expand to accommodate 500 pre-kindergarten through fourth-grade youngsters.

Imagine the current junior high school being transformed — with new paint, tile, playgrounds and more — into a central pre-K through fourth-grade elementary school.

Imagine the current high school being retrofitted to serve grades fifth through eighth. Along with fresh

paint and tile, the project would include a sprinkler system. Security upgrades would be added, including cameras inside and out, motion detectors and electronic locks on entry doors.

Sanford school officials are doing more than imagining. They're working on a plan to do all that, with the state Department of Education's approval. If all goes well as the 21-step process moves along, the projects could become reality.

No budget figures are available at present. However, the projects would be paid for with state funds through the DOE's school construction process, unless Sanford residents choose to add some features the state

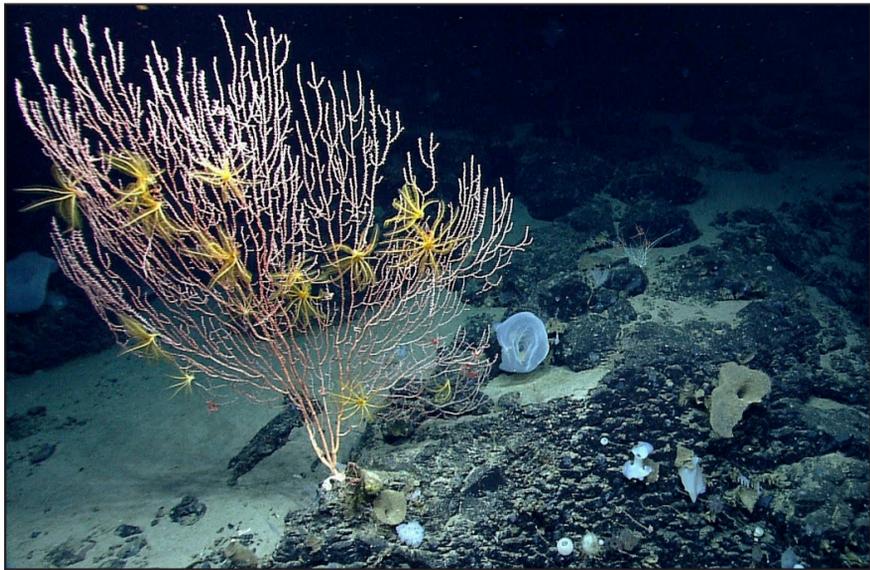
won't consider.

A handful of parents and others turned out for a forum on the proposals Thursday night at Margaret Chase Smith School. Further meetings, including a straw poll later this fall and a binding referendum — likely next spring — will be scheduled.

Dan Cecil of the architectural firm Harriman Associates outlined the basic plan at the forum. The projects would begin when work on the new high school and technical center winds down. That complex is scheduled to open for classes in September 2018.

Some of the conversions,

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AP WIREPHOTO

This undated file photo released by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, made during the Northeast U.S. Canyons Expedition 2013, shows corals on Mytilus Seamount off the coast of New England in the North Atlantic Ocean. President Barack Obama established the first national marine monument in the Atlantic Thursday.

President establishes first marine national monument

Obama: Oceans key to protecting planet from climate change

By **KEVIN FREKING**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Creating the Atlantic Ocean's first marine national monument is a needed response to dangerous climate change, oceanic dead zones and unsustainable fishing practices, President Barack Obama said Thursday.

The new Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument consists of nearly 5,000

square miles of underwater canyons and mountains off the New England coast. It's the 27th time that Obama has created or enlarged a national monument.

"If we're going to leave our children with oceans like the ones that were left to us, then we're going to have to act and we're going to have to act boldly," Obama said at a State Department conference. More than 20 countries represented at the meet-

ing were also announcing the creation of their own marine protected areas.

Monument designations come with restrictions on certain activities. The White House said the designation will lead to a ban on commercial fishing, mining and drilling, though a seven-year exception will occur for the lobster and red crab industries. Others, such as

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U.S. Senate passes bill to boost water projects in southern Maine

By **DINA MENDROS**
Associate Editor

WASHINGTON, D. C. — On Thursday, the U.S. Senate passed legislation that will improve the nation's drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, including two

projects in southern Maine. The Senate passed the Water Resources Development Act with overwhelming bipartisan support; the vote was 95-3. The legislation, with a price tag of \$10.6 billion, authorizes 29 Army Corps of Engineers projects including Portsmouth Harbor and the Piscataqua River Navigation Project, and reauthorizes the Cape Arundel Disposal Site off southern Maine's coast, according to a press release from U.S. Sen. Angus King, I-Maine.

"Maine's waters are a crucial resource for thousands of people across the state who rely on them for a livelihood, and that's why ensuring our state's water-related infrastructure is strong and safe is so critical," said King,

who voted for the legislation. "This legislation will help protect the public's health through improved water and wastewater management, and strengthen our state's commercial maritime economy by preserving access to critical funding for Maine's small harbors," King said. "And by authorizing important Army Corps projects like the Portsmouth Harbor and Piscataqua River Navigation Project and the use of the Cape Arundel Disposal Site, the bill will help Maine continue to manage its water resources so that future generations can continue to take advantage of one of our most vital resources."

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Sanford elections draw interest

By **TAMMY WELLS**
Senior Staff Writer

SANFORD — Incumbents, some former councilors and some newcomers to municipal politics are considering running for two City Council seats this November.

For the position of mayor, as of Wednesday only incumbent Mayor Tom Cote had taken out nomination papers for the two-year term.

The deadline for candidates to submit nomina-

tions with the required signatures of 50 Sanford registered voters is 4:30 p.m. Sept. 26.

So far, incumbents John Tuttle and Victor DiGregorio are looking to be returned to office. Also in the running for council are former councilor Dianne Connolly, former longtime School Committee member Robert Stackpole and newcomers Christopher Signore and Richard Terril. As of Wednesday, only Signore

had turned in his nominations and was certified for the ballot.

Those seeking the two School Committee seats, so far, are incumbents John Roux and Scott Sheppard.

Cote is Sanford's first elected mayor under the new charter that became effective in 2012. Maura Herlihy served one year as an appointed interim mayor before Cote was elected to

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