



JAMESTOWN PRESS

PRST STD
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 5
Jamestown, RI

Volume 18, Issue 18

A weekly newspaper serving Conanicut Island

Thursday, August 18, 2005



Two Fools' Rules Regatta boats battle for the finish Saturday at East Ferry.

Fools rule at East Ferry

By Sam Bari

Fools young and old again ruled at the 28th annual Jamestown Yacht Club Fools' Rules Regatta at the town beach at East Ferry this past Saturday.

"Another successful year. I'm really excited," Chris Powell, chief fool and commander in command of the floating flotilla of nautical fools, said Saturday morning.

"We have somewhere around 50 contestants, a fabulous crowd, and perfect weather," he added. "Things couldn't be better."

The Fools' Rules Regatta was so named because everything about the sailing race is foolish. All participating vessels must be constructed in two hours immediately before the race begins. Nautical materials are strictly prohibited.

Consequently, sailing craft have been fabricated from everything from bathtubs to bed frames. Popular sails have been old sheets, draperies, umbrellas, and plastic tarpaulins, and this year was no exception.

The day began early for participants. A caravan of pickup trucks, SUVs, vans, and cars pulling trailers lined Conanicus Avenue just north of the marina at East Ferry well before the 9 a.m. cannon sounded on Saturday morning. The firing of the first cannon signaled the beginning of the two-hour construction phase

See "Fools" on page 15



A young skipper (above) works to keep his boat on course. Chief Fool Chris Powell (below) emcees the show.

Photos by Jeff McDonough



Hot debate continues over highway barn

By Dotti Farrington

At odds over using the former north-end landfill as the site for a long-needed new highway barn, residents and town officials quarreled over some elements of the proposal at Monday's Town Council meeting.

The tension was increased in part by new rulings by the town solicitor on some aspects of presentations made during the meeting's open forum section.

North End Concerned Citizens, who are opposed to the barn being built on the former landfill area — because of concerns about possible groundwater con-

tamination — asked the councilors questions during the council's open forum. The forum is intended to allow the public to comment on town matters.

Town Solicitor Lauristan A. Parks said that a recent advisory by the state attorney general's office declares that officials may not comment on, answer questions, or otherwise engage in any discussion raised during open forum.

Rosemary Woodside and Ellen Windsor, two of the north ends, asked to give a computer-generat-

See "Barn" on page 16



Barbara Szepatowski, councilwoman and animal volunteer, discusses plans for the new animal shelter at the rear of the Town Offices on Southwest Avenue. Photo by Donna Drago

Town may soon have its own animal shelter

By Donna K. Drago

When most people look at the dilapidated, leaky-roofed building that now stores old town records and forgotten recreation department stuff behind the Town Offices on Southwest Avenue, they see a mess that probably should be destroyed.

But when Barbara Szepatowski looks at the very same building, she sees a future for all the homeless and unwanted animals on Jamestown.

"We did it in North Kingstown, and we can do it here," a confident Szepatowski says about the weeks of work that it will take to transform the building into a place where both animals and the humans who will care for them will feel comfortable.

For the past six years, Szepa-

towski, a town councilwoman and the owner of the pet supply shop Paws & Claws, has been a volunteer animal placement co-ordinator for the town. She says that often when a loose dog is found in town and the owner's cannot be contacted, "I'll end up driving around with it" for several hours until arrangements are made to reunite the dog with its family. When unwanted litters of kittens are born in town, it's Paws & Claws that usually gets the call to come get them, Szepatowski said.

Jamestown does not have its own animal shelter, so any pets that come in either are placed with families or sent to the animal shelter in North Kingstown.

Szepatowski produced a multi-

See "Shelter" on page 18