

Letters

Continued from page 6

Judy and Jack Heelan, Dureen Bryer, Vic Calabretta, Bob Kinder, and Annetta and Tom Weaver. Thanks to Jamestown Harbormaster Sam Patterson, Conanicut Marine Services, Jeff McDonough, Vic Calabretta, Mary Brennan, and Larry and Lauren Buckley for providing on-the-water support.

Thanks to the Jamestown Town Council for allowing us to use of the East Ferry beach, the Jamestown Youth Litter Corps, and the recreation department for cleaning and raking the beach before the event. Thanks to the Department of Public Works, especially Paul Vieira, for helping to set up the traffic control and picking up debris after the regatta.

A special thanks to Acting Police Chief Bill Donovan, and the officers and community service officers of the Jamestown Police Department for providing traffic control during the event. A special thanks to Joyce and Fred Bartlett and Isabel Coyle for coordinating the parking, a hot and thankless job! Thanks to Larry and Betty Buckley, Jill Anderson, and Judy Calabretta for managing the T-shirt sales. A big thank-you to Brooke Longval for designing the official 28th annual Fools' Rules Regatta T-shirt. Thank-you to the Conanicut Yacht Club for the loan of the starting cannon. And thank you Julie Kallfelz and Ed Doherty for help.

This event would not be possible without the continuing support of the Burgess, Wharton, Noble, Hubbard and Gaither families for allowing us to use the field above the Shoreby Hill Green for parking. Thank you!

A big hug and thank-you to my wife Candy for getting out the publicity, organizing the registration and awards, and putting up with the chief fool.

Most of all, thanks to Karl Smith for founding this crazy event!

Finally, I would like to thank all the participants and spectators who are able to laugh at themselves and others, and who continue to make the Fools' Rules Regatta one of Jamestown's most memorable events.

See you next year!

**Chris Powell, chief fool,
Fools' Rules Regatta**

LNG rebuttal

The following letter about the proposed LNG facility at Weaver Cove in Fall River from David A. Darlington of the Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority to Gordon Shearer, CEO of Weaver's Cove Energy, was copied to the Press.

I read, with interest, your comments before the Newport City Council on the evening of Aug. 3, 2005, as reported in the Newport Daily News on Thursday Aug. 4, 2005.

You are quoted saying your company is prepared to invest \$300 million to \$400 million to build a large LNG terminal in Fall River, which you are reported to have said, would cut natural gas prices in New England up to 10 percent, "a \$500 million benefit over 20 years."

I assume you have chosen your words in an informed manner. You say that the savings will be "up to 10 percent, a \$500 million benefit over 20 years." That means that it could be something less than 10 percent and less than \$500 million over 20 years. Let's assume, though, that New England saves the maximum amount that you referenced, which was \$500 million over 20 years. If I understand the math, this means that you are talking about "up to" \$25 million per year, on average, for 20 years. There are six New England states, so if we divide the \$25 million per year by 6, this means that each state should expect to save \$4,166,666 per year — on average. In Rhode Island, where the population is roughly 1.1 million citizens, this would mean an average annual savings per person of "less than" \$4 per person per year for 20 years or "less than" \$80 per Rhode Islander over 20 years. If you use other more populous states, like Massachusetts, for instance, the per person figure is even more insignificant.

Of course, we all know that not everyone uses LNG in every state in New England.

Therefore, those that do will see a significantly higher savings from your proposal, but, importantly, the majority of the balance of the population will see little or no savings whatsoever.

What is most interesting to me is that at no time are you quoted as telling the public how much money your company expects to make over that same 20-year period. If there is going to be "tip to" a 10 percent savings and that savings totals "up to" \$500 million then that means that your company's investment of \$200-\$300 million is going to bring you multiple billions of dollars in new revenue.

The truth, Mr. Shearer, and I am certain you are aware of this, is that the New England marketplace can probably absorb only one large LNG facility. So your claims of great savings must be intended to give your project "public appeal," while diverting focus from the dangers of the location of your facility. You are, by your position as chief executive officer of Weaver's Cove Energy, pitching this site as the most appropriate and most beneficial because it is your company's site.

Let me explain myself this way. The savings you speak of would be true, give or take a small margin, no matter which company's proposal eventually prevailed. Some of the issues of locating a large LNG facility in a highly populated area could be mitigated if an alternate site were selected, such as the offshore site in Gloucester, Mass., or any similar proposal. The predicament you are in is that in order to do your job as chief executive officer of Weaver's Cove Energy you cannot allow that another less densely populated site, by definition, creates less direct human peril, measured however you like, than the site owned by the company of which you are the CEO.

Very truly yours,

**David A. Darlington,
chairman,
Rhode Island Turnpike and
Bridge Authority**

Aquarium species

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Jamestown Press and specifically Michaela Kennedy for the wonderful article about our aquarium at Beavertail State Park. We have noticed a marked increase in attendance in the short time since this article was published. Thanks are also in order to all the visitors that bring the aquarium to life everyday.

However, there are two minor corrections. The 2-foot-long crab was a horseshoe crab, not a hermit crab, and we do not have a snow crab. Snow crabs are a northern species found in Alaska and Canada. We do have locally occurring species such as green, spider, rock, jonah, and Asian shore crabs.

Again, thank you for the supportive press. We can be contacted at 423-9941 for questions, or to schedule a tide pool walk or group field trips.

**Emily Winsor and
Sejal Harde,
park naturalists,
Beavertail Aquarium**

**Biddle work
on exhibit
at library**

An exhibit of the paintings of Ann Heath Biddle is being shown at the Jamestown library.

Biddle began painting in the 1960s, studying with several instructors, including Eve Engles and Robert Reed, both art professors at Yale University.

Biddle got her degree at Yale Divinity School and practiced pastoral counseling until 1997.

In 2002, Biddle was commissioned by the Fuji Bank to create a memorial to the 23 bank employees that were lost in the 9/11 attacks. The painting now hangs in the Fuji Bank headquarters in New York City.

The exhibit, called "The Sky's the Limit," can be viewed in the library's lobby through Sept. 14.

**Authors' event at
Barnes and Noble**

Barnes and Noble Booksellers will hold a first novel author's reception at their Middletown location.

Local authors included in the reception are Jan Evan Whitford of Jamestown, who wrote "Mystic Island;" Edward T. Duranty, author of "Newport," and Larry J. Gunter, who wrote "Pit."

The reception will be on Thursday, Aug. 25, beginning at 7 p.m.

Births

Washburn

A daughter, Elaine Madyson, was born June 28, 2005 at Newport Hospital to Natalie Washburn and Richard Pinto of Newport.

Grandparents are Art and Jan Washburn of Jamestown.

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LEGAL TIP

A homeowner's policy covers the claim of a driver who was shot and blinded by the insured's son when he fired a BB gun at passing motorists as a prank, the New Jersey Supreme Court has ruled in affirming judgment against the insurer.

On a dark and stormy night, the insured's 14-year-old son and two friends used a BB gun to "ding" cars that passed on a roadway approximately 25 yards away. One of the son's shots penetrated through the soft top of a passing jeep, blinding the driver in her right eye.

The victim sued the homeowner's policy of the boy and the insurer excluded it as an intentional act that wasn't covered. The court disagreed and ordered coverage as it was an "accident" within the meaning of the policy. The boy did not intend to blind anyone.



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