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**About Town**

**Foreign Film Series starts tonight at the library**

The Friends of the Jamestown Library have announced their 2006 Foreign Film Series, beginning tonight — Thursday, Jan. 5 — at 7 p.m. with the Norwegian film “Kitchen Stories.”

A bittersweet fable from writer-director Bent Hamer, “Kitchen Stories” charts the unlikely friendship which develops between two emotionally reticent men in '50s Norway. Middle-aged Swedish scientist Folke (Tomas Norström) arrives in the isolated town of Landstad, where he has been assigned to monitor the kitchen routines of elderly farmer Isak (Joachim Calmeyer).

Selected as Norway’s 2004 Oscar candidate, this shrewdly observed film may not boast star names but it will appeal to those who appreciate deadpan humor and emotional understatement, according to BBC-Films. The movie is 95 minutes long.

Refreshments will be served.

**Parents invited to information session**

The Jamestown School will hold a session on Tuesday, Jan. 11, to give parents a chance to meet the new student assistance counselor, Stephanie Wordell, and provide information on the recent community-needs assessment done by the Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force.

Required of each town by the state Department of Mental Health, Retardation and Hospitals, the task force recently completed a study in which it compared Jamestown to other municipalities in Rhode Island and the U.S. on substance abuse, particularly among middle school students.

Consultant Donna Levesque, has examined the local research and has prepared a report for Jamestown that recommends actions that parents can take to reduce the use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco by their children.

The session will take place at the Lawn Avenue School library at 7 p.m.

**Donate to collection for troops overseas**

The community is invited to join BankNewport in showing support for the brave men and women from Rhode Island who are far from home, serving with

the National Guard during this holiday season. BankNewport’s “Warming Hearts” Collection Drive for Rhode Island Troops continues at all BankNewport branch locations through Saturday, Jan. 14.

Stop by the nearest BankNewport branch to drop off everyday items such as shampoo, socks, music CDs, non-perishable snacks — all of the items have been requested by U.S. troops to make their days away from home just a bit easier. Donated items must be in original packaging.

A complete list of the items requested, along with collection receptacles, are on display at all BankNewport branches throughout Newport and Bristol Counties.

At the conclusion of the collection drive, BankNewport employees will pack all of the donated items and ship them to the Rhode Island troops overseas.

To learn more about the “Warming Hearts” Collection Drive for Rhode Island Troops, contact BankNewport Community Relations Department at 845-8673.

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- Jenny Hale Pulsipher (courtesy of Vetter & White)

It is enormously intriguing to hear songs sung with great passion in a language you don’t comprehend. Examples of this phenomenon may occur for you when listening to such performers as Yousou N’Dour, Rokia Traore, Manu Chao, and to the rhythmic mélange created by the superb Orchestra Baobab.

“Don’t worry about the world coming to an end today. It’s already tomorrow in Australia.”  
- Charles Shultz

And let’s not forget New Zealand, a place now particularly close to our hearts.

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**THE JAMESTOWN PRESS**  
Member of The New England Press Association & The Rhode Island Press Association

The Jamestown Press is printed on 100% Recycled Paper

An Independent Newspaper Published Every Thursday • Online at [www.JamestownPress.com](http://www.JamestownPress.com)

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Display Advertising..... 5 p.m. on Fridays for the following week’s issue  
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News/Press Releases..... 3 p.m. on Mondays

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Printed by Turley Publications of Palmer, Mass.