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## Deer control proposal sparks disagreement

By Sam Bari

The atmosphere was tense March 1 as Wildlife Committee Chairman Chris Savastano read aloud his committee's recommendations at the workshop with the Town Council.

A passionate audience was divided between hunting advocates and those who support culling the herd by non-lethal methods.

Town Council Vice Chairman Julio DiGiando along with council members Michael Schnack and Barbara Szepatowski listened to the recommendations, fielded questions, and discussed all possi-

bilities for controlling the island deer herd. Council President David Long and Councilman Bill Kelly were not present.

The state Department of Environmental Management's Lori Gibson, a supervising wildlife biologist, reported that the herd was only diminished by 74 deer this year, and only 48 were reported by hunters. She said 18 vehicular kills and nine deaths by other causes made the balance. The hunters took 13 by muzzleloaders, nine by shotgun, and 25 by bow and arrow. Dick

See "Deer" on page 12

## Island teens looking for 'place to call their own'

By Donna K. Drago

On March 14, a team of teens from grades 7 to 10, will make a presentation to the Town Council on why they need a meeting place of their own.

The teens currently meet at the Senior Center on Wednesday and Friday afternoons, but they cannot leave anything there, Melissa Minto, the town's teen co-ordinator, said. "We can't leave puzzles or games already started, and we can't leave food or unfinished art projects," Minto said. "It's all in my car, or at my house," she added.

Minto said the Jamestown teens have visited two dedicated

teen centers in Newport and "are really envious" of what they have seen there. She described facilities with 15 or more computers, a cafe, tutoring sessions after school, and even a "recording and performing studio" at the new teen center at the Newport Boys and Girls Club.

"They really want a place to call their own," Minto said.

The presentation to the council will include the successes the teen center has already had, the level of participation, and the "vision" the teens have for their own place.

Councilwoman Barbara

See "Teens" on page 14



### Sunny play

Four-year-old Peter Andres found the weather to his liking Tuesday afternoon at the community playground.

Photo by Andrea vonHohenleiten

## Polluted water wells found on north end

By Dotti Farrington

Four private water wells on North Main Road in the landfill area are polluted, according to reports on 16 wells tested by the town as mandated by the state Department of Environmental Protection. Discussions about suing the town have been started among affected landowners.

The four contaminated wells are being retested to confirm the results and eliminate possibilities of laboratory or clerical errors. The households of the four contaminated wells have been advised not to drink, cook, or bathe with the water. At least one family has moved temporarily, pending further test results or well treatment.

One test showed unusual high findings of cobalt in the well of Phil and Norma Willis, of North Main Road, leaders of the North End Concerned Citizens, who live directly across the road from the landfill site. They said they are prepared to sue the town if the cobalt findings are confirmed. (See related stories on pages 18-19.)

The three other wells were found to have high levels of lead, with one also having high levels of copper. Those can be treated to meet current safety standards,

See "Wells" on page 15

## DOT to outline bridge blasting plans at town workshop



Workers have been removing the decking from the old Jamestown Bridge in preparation for blasting the superstructure. Photo by Joe Logan

By Dotti Farrington

Specifications for demolition of the old Jamestown Bridge were filed late last week by Cashman Equipment Company of Boston. The details are being reviewed by the state Department of Transportation for a presentation to the public tentatively set for March 22.

The DOT expects to complete its review by tomorrow and confirm the date and details of making the information public. The Boston marine specialty company, which won the bid to take down the bridge for \$19.5 million and salvage rights, has been working on the bridge's dismantling since mid-January, after spending four months preparing for the task and assembling a project village of several office and supply trailers, heavy construction equipment, and one barge crane.

"It's coming down like Tinker

Toys," one worker said.

Townpeople are facing two concerns about the work: reverberations from the blast that might affect nearby homes that the DOT and Cashman will monitor extensively, and traffic on the new Jamestown Bridge that parallels the old bridge, with 220 feet between the two nearly 7,000-foot spans.

Details of the actual demolition have been limited so far to reports that a series of low-grade explosives would be used to separate iron beams for removal. Sections of the bridge will be dropped into the bay for removal later, and the concrete rubble will be dumped at three ocean locations to become artificial reefs.

Some 1,650 feet of the western end of the old bridge is not part of the demolition plan, pending deci-

See "Bridge" on page 15