

LETTERS

Solutions other than hunting

I have been following the controversy over the Jamestown deer population with some interest, and realized after reading the article in your March 9 edition that the Town Council may be near making some decision about this problem. I urge them not to make a mistake by authorizing violent culling of the deer.

Our family has been affected by Lyme disease, and we are well aware of the spread of this terribly debilitating disease by the deer and by the field mice which live everywhere. We are animal lovers, but we have allowed deer hunting on our small property. I guess you might say we fall in the middle of the spectrum of fiercely-held opinions on the island.

There is one thing which I do know for certain, however, given my study of biology and biological systems. That is, no amount of culling of the deer population by hunting will ever sufficiently reduce the deer on our island to an acceptable size. The

deer can reproduce faster than they can be culled, and even a severe and intrusive hunting operation would have to be repeated year after year in order to have any chance of holding the population in check. These are the facts of deer biology, and we must take them into account, rather than go forward with a firearm-based method of deer control. Do we want high-powered rifles to be discharged across our small island for months at a time, year after year? I think not.

The only long-term way to control the deer on our island is through either a chemical-based or a biological-based contraceptive program. Obviously, the \$1,000-per-deer price quoted in your March 9 article is prohibitive, and I question its accuracy.

I believe we must look further, to find methods which reduce the deers' fertility at a much lower cost. If we study the biology, habitat, and lifestyle of the deer, we will find a solution to this vexing problem.

William W. Smith III
Hull Cove Farm Rd.



Seniors receive gift

State legislators Sen. Teresa Paiva Weed and Rep. Bruce Long presented a legislative grant check for \$7,500 to the Friends of the Jamestown Seniors. Accepting for the seniors were Bruce Livingston and Charlotte Richardson.

Photo by Vic Richardson

Write a Letter to the Editor

LETTERS: We invite readers to share their views. Letters should be limited to 700 words.

By mail: Send your letters to Editor, The Jamestown Press, 42 Naragansett Ave., Jamestown RI 02835.

By fax: Our fax number is (401) 423-1661.

By the Internet: The Jamestown Press e-mail address is news@jamestownpress.com

Please include your name, address, and a daytime telephone number for verification. Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.

Last call for your old bridge memories

Time is running out for the old Jamestown Bridge and for your chance to share your memories of the old structure.

The Jamestown Historical Society is seeking anecdotes or family stories about the old Jamestown bridge.

Those who would like to share their reminiscences should send them to the Jamestown Historical Society,

PO Box 156, Jamestown, RI 02835.

You may also e-mail Sue Maden at SDMaden@aol.com. The first prize for the most special bridge memory submission will be a copy of the 1990 book, "The Jamestown Bridge, 1940-1990: From 'The Bridge to Nowhere' to Obsolescence." This book is out of print.

The news of 10 and 15 years ago is from the Jamestown Press. The news of 25, 50, 75, and 100 years ago from the Newport Daily News comes from the collection of the Newport Historical Society.

100 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, March 13, 1906:

Mr. and Mrs. C.E. Weeden have returned from Boston, where they have been to attend the automobile show.

The horses and wagons belonging to the late P.P. Brown are to be sold at public auction next week. A Newporter arrived in town this morning, to attend the sale, and when told that he was a week early, he took the next ferryboat for home, vowing he would read advertisements more carefully in the future.

From the Newport Daily News, March 14, 1906:

Mr. A.H. Peckham and Mr. Lewis Anthony left yesterday to visit their lumber camp in New Canaan, N.H.

Mr. A.L. Peckham has a carload of fertilizer in and is carting it to the island via ferry.

From the Newport Daily News, March 16, 1906:

Although the annual town meeting is less than a month away, very little political talk is heard and indications point to a quiet time. It is doubtful if any of the town officials are to be opposed, the tendency being toward improvements which will benefit the town rather than strife for control of the town's affairs. An effort will be made to secure the lighting of the streets by electricity and more macadam roads. The appropriation of \$6,000 for a building for the fire department will also be brought up.

75 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, March 13, 1931:

The communication (to the Town Council) from the Board of Trade in regard to a proposed building code was referred to a meeting of the town council to be held March 13 (sic).

Westall's ice cream parlors are to open for the season tomorrow.

From the Newport Daily News, March 14, 1931:

The Jamestown Home Demonstration group will meet . . . to learn the process of making patterns and covers for a three-piece living room set.

From the Newport Daily News, March 17, 1931:

Fire of an unexplained origin trapped five people in the mental ward at Dr. Bates Sanitarium in Jamestown, Monday evening, causing their death, while one other patient was injured when his rescue was attempted.

This week in Island history
Compiled by Sue Maden
Week of March 16

From the Newport Daily News, March 19, 1931:

Fire whistles blowing at noon today in Jamestown sent the two pieces of town apparatus to the Conanicut Park district, where a brush fire was rapidly spreading over a large area, which was affected by a similar fire approximately a year ago. Before the town apparatus arrived the blaze had swept over more than 50 acres and was menacing the residence of Maurice H. Stearns.

50 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, March 15, 1956:

The Jamestown Town Council, sitting as a budget committee, continued its work of cutting the town budget last night. On Monday night the recreation department was told to pare its request to the bone. Last night both the highway department and the school committee budgets for 1956-57 were turned back for revision downward. . . . (The highway department) had submitted a budget of \$31,500 which is \$6,700 above last year. . . . The budget of the School Committee was also rejected. Each item in the \$130,000 request, which is \$22,000 above last year, was explained by the committee.

From the Newport Daily News, March 16, 1956:

The leprechauns, fairies and all the "little" people of Erin will be about in Jamestown tonight and tomorrow night when the Rev. Augustine F. Burns, director, presents the annual St. Patrick's entertainment of St. Mark's Church at the Recreation Center.

From the Newport Daily News, March 17, 1956:

A howling St. Patrick's Eve blizzard lashed the Newport area with 70-mile an hour winds overnight and leaving four dead and the community crippled. It was the worst disaster since Hurricane Carol of 1954 and probably the worst winter storm since Valentine's Day, 1938. . . . In Jamestown, Route 138 was entirely blocked off with snow drifts higher than trucks. An emergency call was put in to the state for help to clear the highway. Big "detour" signs were put up at the ferry landing and the bridge, to channel traffic to other streets.

From the Newport Daily News, March 19, 1956:

An unprecedented repeat blizzard swooped down on the

Newport area today, burying a city already crippled by Friday night's howling snowstorm. . . . The Jamestown ferry made its last trip from Newport at 9:30 a.m. and then returned here to tie up during the storm. . . . A house trailer was stranded on the ferry wharf in Jamestown early today. The occupants chose to stay snug in their mobile home feeling they were better off than taking a boat to Newport and becoming stranded there.

25 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, March 17, 1981:

Newport and Mount Hope Bridge revenue was up considerably last month compared to February 1980, a report of the state Turnpike and Bridge Authority disclosed today. Newport Bridge revenue last month was \$381,204 — \$41,000 more than the previous February. . . . Traffic on the bridge increased about 4,000 vehicles to 261,648 vehicles.

Several scuba divers across the state Monday night objected to a proposed system of underwater trails and marine sanctuary at Sandy Beach Cove off Fort Wetherill State Park.

From the Newport Daily News, March 19, 1981:

The Planning Commission last night learned that the Department of Transportation has preliminary engineering plans for Interstate I-895 from the North Kingstown line through Jamestown to the Newport Bridge.

15 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, March 14, 1991:

An untended woodstove has been blamed for Monday's fire which destroyed the historic Jamestown landmark known as the Round House. Damage to the structure which overlooked the Dumplings was estimated at \$500,000 to \$750,000. Firefighters responded to the blaze at 104 Racquet Rd. at 8:42 a.m. Monday. A strong northeast wind fueled the fire and threatened neighboring homes. Blowing embers from the fire caused extensive damage to the Selfridge Estate, located one-quarter of a mile south of the Round House, fire officials said.

10 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, March 14, 1996:

The Town Council Monday passed a resolution that grants Veterans' Memorial Square at East Ferry to the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion in perpetuity. The resolution also stipulates that if the memorial ever has to be relocated, the town will do so only after consulting with veterans groups and holding public hearings.

Senior citizens petitioned the Town Council Monday to increase the tax exemption for property owners who are over age 65 and have limited incomes.