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Say goodbye to the old Jamestown Bridge

The center span will be demolished Tuesday morning

By Sam Bari

In just five days, on Tuesday, April 11, the center span of the old Jamestown Bridge will be dropped into Narragansett Bay sometime between 11 a.m. and noon.

On that morning, the new Jamestown Bridge will be closed at 10 a.m. for up to four hours, so the demolition, cleanup, and safety inspection can take place. The latest the bridge will be closed is

2 p.m. According to the state Department of Transportation, if all goes well, the bridge could be opened to traffic in less than the four hours scheduled for the event.

Local roads that will be closed on both sides of the bridge have been clearly marked by 40 fixed and portable electronic message boards as well as signs indicating the times, detour routes, and boundaries of restricted areas.

Mandatory evacuation is in effect for homes within the 1500-foot clear zone of the demolition site. Homeowners in the evacua-

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North enders seek sole-source aquifer designation

By Dotti Farrington

Members of the North End Concerned Citizens are petitioning the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to designate Conanicut Island a sole-source aquifer.

Town Administrator Bruce Keiser said the designation would have importance only in situations in which the town might seek federal funds for projects. He said the town has not applied for any federal funds for the town landfill closure and the related plan to build a town highway garage there.

The town's 10-year capital projects plan, released last month by Keiser, includes a notation that

the town may seek state and federal funds for the dual closure-highway barn work. That notation represents a carry-over from previous years and is not part of the town's current expectations about funding work at the landfill site, Keiser said.

Douglas Heath, co-ordinator in the New England EPA Region for Rhode Island for the wellhead protection and source water assessment programs, is processing the north enders' petition. Heath said the sole-source aquifer designation would have no bearing on work at the Jamestown landfill because the town has no

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Treasure hunters

Bob and Kiley Dutton enjoyed the beautiful spring weekend by searching for coins and other metal objects buried in the sand on the beach at Ft. Getty. Photo by Vic Richardson

Parents, teenagers hear life's lessons on underage drinking



Frank LaPere, center, owner of Grapes and Gourmet, talks about when one of his employees was caught selling alcohol to a minor. At left is Sgt. Jack Dube of the Jamestown Police Department and at right is Stephanie Wordell, the Lawn school's student assistance counselor. The three served as panelists at last week's forum on underage drinking. Photo by Andrea vonHohenleiten

Islanders share painful stories to raise awareness

By Donna K. Drago

Teens and parents sat last week quietly immersed in the stories of panelists as they described how underage drinking has directly impacted their personal and professional lives.

The March 28 forum on teen drinking was one of 1,200 held that night around the United States to illuminate the problems caused when young people consume alcohol.

Most gripping was the story of Pam Allen, a longtime health and physical education teacher in the Jamestown schools, who described the horror of losing a son to a drunk driving accident and

how that incident led to the eventual break-up of her marriage.

Allen told the audience, which included about 25 teens, "None of you want to be standing where I am," before delving into her painful story.

She described the day that her son Matthew Allen, recently out from being incarcerated at the Adult Correctional Institutions, consumed a large quantity of vodka, and then went to his job at Stop and Shop. He was in such an intoxicated state, a co-worker drove him home, Allen said. She said he was prohibited by law to drive a car, his car had no license plates, and still, despite his condition, he got into his car on that December afternoon and drove.

Matt Allen hit a patch of black ice on Old Baptist Road in North

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