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Hurricane 2006 — are you prepared?

By Sam Bari

In New England, the words “where” and “if” are no longer relevant when discussing hurricanes. The only question that is important to residents of the Northeast coastal areas is, “When?”

According to the hurricane experts at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Rhode Island has not suffered from a major hurricane since 1938, and meteorologists concur that we are due for a big one. Predictions for the season appear to favor this year as a strong contender for a significant storm.

Consequently, Jamestown residents must ask themselves the inevitable question: “Are we prepared?”

Director of Jamestown Emergency Management Agency Police Chief Thomas Tighe and Deputy Director Fred Pease say, “Yes. The town is prepared.”

“We have taken significant steps to improve our chances of avoiding disaster by using our resources to their best advantage,” said Pease. “By working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and implementing pro-

See “Prepared” on page 18

Narragansett Café back in business after 2005 fire

By Donna K. Drago

Are you ready for some rock ‘n’ roll?

After seven long months of Jamestown’s musical drought — without a place to let one’s hair down, grab a brew, and try out some dance steps — the Narragansett Café is back in action, and the regulars are back in their bar stools like nothing ever happened.

Last November, a few days before Thanksgiving, the Narragansett Café had a fire that began when an exhaust fan in the ladies’

room sparked, sending flames through the roof and causing heavy damage to the building that’s been an island watering hole since the 1940s.

Dan Alexander, the owner since 1987, has spent many months and about \$200,000 bringing the establishment back and making improvements that are sure to please regulars and new patrons alike.

“Everything’s new,” Alexander said Wednesday, but he noted that

See “Cafe” on page 17

Council takes up landfill, highway barn Monday

By Dotti Farrington

Town officials have been preparing an agenda for Monday’s Town Council meeting that will include the long-awaited state decision on what to do with the town’s former landfill and proposed new highway barn, according to Town Administrator Bruce Keiser.

Keiser is due to meet this afternoon with state Department of Environmental Management officials for a detailed discussion about ways the town can close the landfill and also use the site for a new public works garage.

The town has been awaiting a written report from the DEM since March. It was not clear if today’s meeting will include a written report.

The DEM recently alerted town officials about two concerns with the town’s plan for the site cleanup and development. One is the amount of solid waste that would have to be removed if the town highway were allowed on the landfill site, and other is the need for more storm drainage than is already in the design plans.

The DEM has had the latest landfill plans, drawn up by GZA GeoEnvironmental of Norwood, Mass., and representing 50 percent of the design work, since last winter. The DEM conducted a hearing on the plans in early February, and then received more than 400 letters from residents with arguments for and against the plan.

In recent weeks, the DEM has told town officials that it has talked with GZA representatives about some of the problems and possible solutions, but DEM officials have not released any details about those talks.

The former landfill has not been operated for about two decades. The site is now the location of the town trash-transfer station on North Main

See “Council” on page 17



Fourth of July spectacular

Fireworks illuminated the night sky Tuesday (top photo) at Mackerel Cove. The annual display, put on by the Rocket Dawgz on the Fourth of July, drew hundreds of islanders. Photo by Don Miller

The Jamestown Community Band entertained parade-goers Tuesday morning at the North End Fourth of July Parade. See the story and additional pictures on page 16.

Photo by Andrea von Hohenleiten

