

# No more major closings to blast old bridge

By Sam Bari

"If all goes as planned, the major closings of the Old Jamestown Bridge are over," said project engineer Patrick O'Malley of Cashman Equipment Company of Boston, the general contractor awarded the project.

"Weather permitting, we'll have a small blasting today and possibly two next week, but the bridge shouldn't be closed for more than half an hour at a time for any explosive event. Even then, the state police will hold rolling closures. A major shut-down won't be necessary. In total, we planned for six or seven small blasting events," he said.

On Tuesday, Aug. 22, piers 15W, 16W, 17W and 18W on the North Kingstown side were detonated in two separate blasts. The first detonation took place at approximately 10:30 a.m. when only one pier fell. The other three charges had to be reset. The second detonation took place around 11 a.m. when the remaining piers dropped without incident.

The blaster from DemTech, the demolition experts headquartered in Dubois, Wyo., who were subcontracted to set the explosives, also successfully dropped piers 19, 20, and 21 west. Those piers were also on the North Kingstown side. The event took place last Thursday, Aug. 31, at approximately 1 p.m.

"We held the previous blasting events earlier in the day," O'Malley said. "We did this one in the afternoon because of tidal considerations. We like to blast at high tide because it reduces the fish kill. Unfortunately, a few fish die in any explosive event where marine life is present. That can't be helped. However, we make every effort to minimize the adverse affects of any explosion, and blasting at high tide seems to dramatically reduce the kill. Consequently, we delayed the detonation until later in the day. Environmental concerns are a big priority, and we do our best to preserve and protect the areas where we work," he said.

"Now, we're in a major cleanup mode, clearing the debris from the bay bottom," O'Malley continued. "We'll continue removing the debris as we prepare to detonate the final explosives needed to drop the remaining piers. We still have three bays of trestle stand to remove on the west side. We'll dismantle the steel trestles and concrete roadway mechanically," he said.

All of the steel has been removed mechanically on the Jamestown side. A few trestle stands are still standing off the shoreline. Most were taken down to water level with the hoe ram, which performed well, meeting all expectations, according to O'Malley.



The Jamestown Gulls ladies' golf league presented a check for Autism research to Rose Marino, second from left. The golfers who raised the funds through their annual tournament are Glenda Labush, Mary Garrett, Lee Rodman, Emma Coupal, Barbara Greenberg, and Marilyn Greenberg.

Photo by Andrea von Hohenleiten

## Free trees for homeowners

Jamestown has a tree-planting program where homeowners can have a tree planted in front of their house for free.

The town tree warden will work with the homeowner to select a tree that will aesthetically enhance both the home and the street. The tree will be planted within the town's right-of-way, which is usually about 10 feet off the shoulder of the road. If there are overhead utility lines, a tree

that matures at a low height will be selected, or a large maturing tree may be placed further back on the homeowner's property. The highway department and the tree warden will plant the tree in either the spring or the fall planting program.

Click on Jamestown Tree Selection at the Jamestown tree committee's Web site to choose a species. Copies are also available at the town clerk's office.

The homeowner must accept responsibility to water and care for the tree. If interested, call or e-mail the tree warden David Nickerson 783-3112 or nicker-sontree@earthlink.net

## MURPHY'S LAW

It cannot be helpful to staff efforts to maintain discipline to have the Parole Board grant the privilege of parole to an inmate who commits serious rule infractions within a prison.

There are two major standards against which any government should be regularly measured: The first concerns the choice of policy. About this standard, it is likely that there shall always be considerable disagreement among citizens. The second is the competence (or lack thereof) with which the government carries out its policies and performs its basic functions. About this standard, there should be much less room for disagreement, assuming an honest and objective evaluation.

The Christine Amanpour documentary (CNN) entitled "In the Footsteps of Osama Bin Laden" was very well done, and its inescapable conclusions absolutely chilling. If you missed it, be sure to watch when it is re-run.

For a description of the "mechanics" involved in being a world-class tennis player, one cannot do better than David Foster Wallace's article on Roger Federer in the sports supplement to The New York Times Magazine published on Sunday, August 20, 2006.

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