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And they're off!

Cyclists huddled at the starting line of the 31st annual Jamestown Classic bike race. See story this page. Photo by Don Miller

No casino resolution coming from council

By Dotti Farrington

The Town Council Tuesday failed to adopt an anti-casino resolution that they had discussed last month. Several towns have registered their opposition to the casino question that will be on the Nov. 7 general-election ballot.

Councilors here could not agree on the wording of a resolution, on reasons to oppose the state ballot question or on any significance to any resolution that might adopt.

Councilmen William Kelly and Michael Schnack voted to adopt a resolution. Council President David Long, Council Vice President Julio DiGiando, and Councilwoman Barbara Szepatowski voted against the

measure.

Long noted that signs supporting the casino ballot question can be seen on residents' properties throughout the island. He said it was not the place of the council to tell people how they should vote. He said the issue being on the ballot made it available for all voters to register their own opinions.

Craig Amerigian, a former council president, provided the resolution wording. It was identified as the work of CCACG, presumably standing for Concerned Citizens Against Casino Gambling. There are several groups – national, Rhode Island and various states

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Beavertail Lighthouse tenant refuses to leave

By Sam Bari

The tenant and caretaker of the Beavertail Lighthouse, Richard Shutt, has refused to vacate the rent-free apartment even though his lease has expired and has filed a claim against the town.

According to Town Administrator Bruce Keiser, Shutt was scheduled to leave on April 30 of this year. However, "he informed the town that he couldn't find reasonable housing during the summer because the cost of seasonal accommodations rose during tourist season. The Town Council voted to allow him an extension until Aug. 31 at which

time Town Planner Lisa Bryer and I paid him a visit to see how he was progressing. At that point he informed me that he would not be leaving," Keiser said.

Since then, Shutt responded to the town's demand for eviction by filing a claim against the town in Newport District Court. A hearing is scheduled for Oct. 23.

"Shutt seems to believe that because he's indigent and basically unemployed, he has every right to stay because the last tenant was there for 25 years. He thinks that because the rules were changed while he was living there they

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School board, council hold joint session

By Michaela Kennedy

The School Committee met with the Town Council Oct. 5 to discuss ongoing activities and answer questions about the school district. The board reviewed topics ranging from the quality of public education to future budget costs.

Principal Kathleen Almanzor presented "Information Works!" Rhode Island's annual report on public education. Almanzor noted

that the School Improvement Team uses Infoworks for strategic planning purposes. Information about the local school district, as well as other districts in the state, is available on the state Department of Education's Web site.

When asked by Council Vice President Julio DiGiando if the school was comfortable with its level of performance, Almanzor said, "We are always trying to

improve ourselves."

The School Committee offered points of strength in the schools and where improvement was needed. The terms for assessment received by Jamestown Schools, high and improving, "are nice labels but tend to gloss over specifics," School Committee Vice Chairwoman Julie Kallfelz said.

Thanks to small class sizes, the staff and teachers know the

See "Joint session" on page 13

The 31st Classic, a bicycle race extraordinaire

By Sam Bari

A challenging course, blue skies, cool temperatures, an enthusiastic crowd, and 800 participants — all the ingredients needed for a fabulous day of bicycle racing. And a fantastic race it was. The Tour de France had nothing on the 31st running of the Jamestown Classic Annual Bike Race hosted by the Jamestown Rotary Club. The event delivered the excitement, the world-class athletes, and the finest display of high-tech cycles, gear, and attire as can be found anywhere on the planet.

Beginning at 8:30 a.m., novice children began the competition with a 3-mile race followed by a unicycle event. At 9:30 a.m., the BankNewport 'Round the Island Bike Race was under way with classes for novice women and men in age categories from 13 to 19 all the way to 70 and older.

There was an inspiring challenge cyclist event and a tandem category. Registrants also competed as teams in the Friends & Family or Rotary Team categories. At 11:30 a.m. in sequenced starts, some of the best racers from the Northeast and beyond competed in the United States Cycling Federation-sanctioned series with categories: Pro, Cat 1,2,3 Men, 3 Masters divisions, Cat 4 Men, 3 Cat 5 divisions, Pro, Cat 1,2,3 Women, Cat 4 Women and two Junior categories that qualify for the Lance Armstrong Junior Olympic Racer Series or LAJORS.

Chairman of the racing event for 10 years, Steve Mecca's voice boomed over the P.A. system, starting races, making announcements, clearing the track at the start/finish line, and welcoming participants and fans to the yearly

See "Bike race" on page 12



Cyclists had a gorgeous Columbus Day for the annual Jamestown Classic bike race. Photo by Don and Nate Bousquet