

Community band says 'bon voyage' to young veteran and French horn player

By Michaela Kennedy

In the wake of Veterans Day, Jamestown is saying farewell to U.S. Navy Officer Bethany Busch, who leaves this week for training before deployment to Iraq in December. Busch has contributed her musical talents to the Jamestown Community Band and made friends here in the last four years.

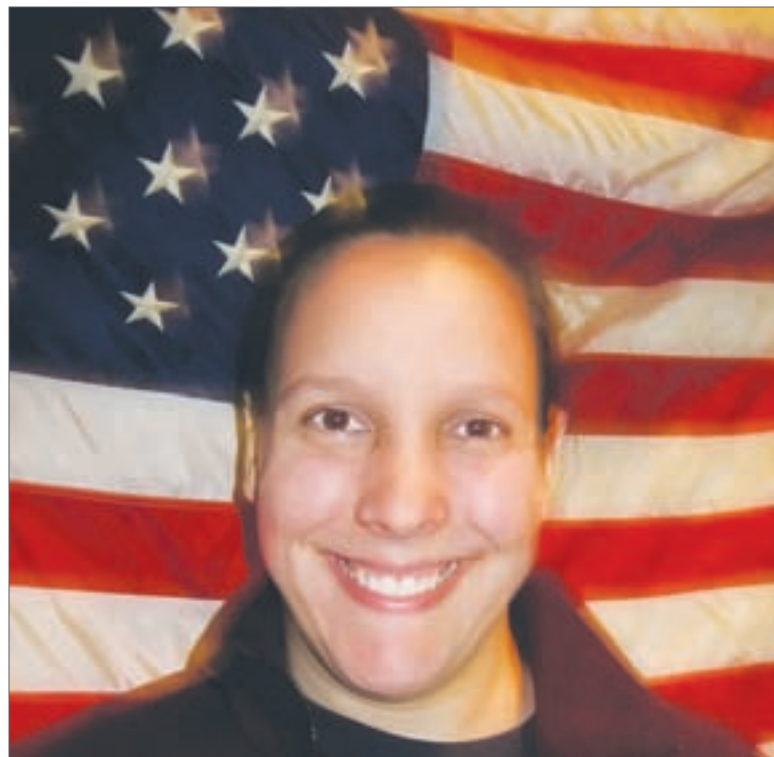
"I was stationed in Newport from January to July of 2002," Busch says, adding that she joined the Jamestown band and played trumpet during that time.

Busch was sent back to the Naval War College last year. "I love it here. It's so beautiful," she says. Busch hoped to return to the Newport area someday, and was happy to come back. "Now I play French horn in the band," she points out.

Busch thought her posting in Newport would last two or three years. She looked for a home to buy, knowing that the Narragansett Bay area was a great vacation spot where she could invite her family. A week after she bought a condominium last June. However, Busch received orders to go to Iraq.

The young officer is quick to note that she would rather go than watch as one of her shipmates leaves a spouse or children. "I don't think anyone is ever happy about it, but I am proud to serve while I am still single. Someone has to go. It may as well be me," she says. The upcoming tour will be her second stint in the Middle East. Busch has already served on two ships out of Norfolk, Va., and the last ship tour went to the Persian Gulf.

Born and raised in McHenry, Ill., Busch has had the notion to



Bethany Busch

serve her country since her teen years, following in the footsteps of her older brother. "I joined the Civil Air Patrol in high school," she recalls.

Graduating from the University of Illinois in 2001, Busch became a commissioned officer. Since then, she has served from operations and engineering to combat systems. "Now I teach international navy officers from all over the world at the Surface Warfare Officers School," she notes, adding that surface warfare is her specialty.

Busch confides that her mom will send her trumpet to Iraq for her. Not enough taps players are available at the memorial services in different parts of the world, so many must settle for a recording.

Although it is never a joyful event, "I am happy to have the honor to play taps for soldiers at their memorial," she says.

Busch shows deep gratitude to her family and friends "who are incredibly supportive." She reminds everyone that she is only one of thousands serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other areas throughout the world, and they all need support, especially with the holidays approaching. "You would be surprised what even a greetings card from a complete stranger can do for a lonely soldier or sailor serving overseas," she says. She has only one request, that people take the time to understand what she is talking about by going online to www.soldiersangels.org.

The Jamestown Community Band held a special dinner for Busch, and also threw a bon-voyage party for her after her last rehearsal. Busch hopes to be back playing in the band next summer.

Deer

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may damage trees is prohibited. Climbing tree stands are permitted and must be removed at the end of the season.

Proof of proficiency testing is required for permits, and hunters are asked to sign in at the Jamestown Police Station.

A maximum of 10 hunters per day, on a first-come basis has been set. Hunters may register for up to five slots per week. They may take a maximum of three deer at Beavertail park, and then may apply for gun permits to take a total of six additional deer elsewhere on the island.

Other hunts here

Limited deer hunting with shotguns or muzzleloaders took place between Oct. 28 and Nov. 3. A second round of hunting with guns is set for Dec. 22 to Dec. 31. Deer hunters must purchase separate permits for each type of firearm, and only one firearm may be carried at a time. Annual written permission is required for all deer

hunting on private land. Hunters must wear 500 square inches of fluorescent orange clothing during this combined season.

Regular deer hunting with muzzleloaders is open Nov. 4 through Nov. 26. Hunters are required to wear a minimum of 200 square inches of fluorescent orange during this portion of the muzzle-loader season.

Shotgun hunting on private land is open from Dec. 2 to Dec. 21.

Hunting hours

Deer hunting hours run from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. All deer taken must be tagged immediately, and checked within 24 hours at a vendor-operated, state-operated checking station, or by a authorized DEM representative.

Hunters should check DEM regulations for specifics about where hunting is allowed, and they should also check with local authorities for additional hunting restrictions.



Signs dedicated

Walter Schroder, a military historian, was instrumental in penning the language for the new interpretive signs at Ft. Wetherill, which were dedicated on Veterans Day. Photo by Andrea von Hohenleiten

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School to perform 'Arsenic'

Rocky Hill School will stage a production of "Arsenic and Old Lace" on Friday, Nov. 17, and Saturday, Nov. 18, at 7 p.m.,

This classic comedy will be held in the Campbell Center and is open to the public. Admission is free..

Rocky Hill School is located at 530 Ives Rd. in East Greenwich.

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