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A weekly newspaper serving Conanicut Island

Thursday, May 24, 2007



Intrepid gardener

Elaine Buchanan took away a flat of greenery at last weekend's annual plant sale, sponsored by the Quononoquott Garden Club.

Photo by Andrea von Hohenleiten

School bus company gets another three-year contract

By Donna K. Drago

First Student bus company, of Providence, was awarded the three-year contract to provide transportation to Jamestown students until June 30, 2010.

The company, the current incumbent, gave a price that was less than the amount budgeted in the spending plan to be finalized at the June 4 Financial Town Meeting.

First Student will charge the Jamestown district \$189.38 per day per bus for the first year of the contract and rates go up to \$196.01 for the second year and \$202.87 for the third year. According to business manager Maria Alfred, special education buses are charged at a higher rate. She said the schools would pay \$212.42 the first year, \$219.85 in year two and \$227.55 in the third year of the contract.

Alfred said that this year's rate for regular education buses is

\$182.10 per bus.

Alfred said that all field trips and sports transportation would be charged per trip based on a formula that combines driver time with mileage.

At the May 17 School Committee meeting, the panel voted 5-0 to give the contract to First Student.

Superintendent Robert Power said he recommended First Student for two reasons. "The cost," was under budget, he said. "And they have proposed new buses," Power added.

"It's a good thing," Power told the school panel.

John Brown of First Student bus responded to questions about the company's efforts to provide cleaner-burning fuels while transporting students. Brown said that some of the older buses have been

See "Buses" on page 9

Residents split on barn location

Town Council may make decision at May 29 session

By Tom Shevlin

Town Council members listened intently as residents voiced their concerns over the proposed sites of the town's controversial highway barn at a work session that drew a standing room crowd of over 70 island residents and public officials. While Town Administrator Bruce Keiser recommended that one of the sites be removed from consideration entirely.

Prior to the meeting, three po-

tential sites were being considered to locate the town's highway barn facility: Lots 47 and 48 at the town's transfer station property, and a parcel on Taylor Point partially owned by the Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority (RITBA). However, pointing to economic and environmental concerns, Keiser recommended that Lot 48, which had recently been added as a potential barn site be removed from consideration in favor

of the adjacent Lot 47 or the property at Taylor Point. Keiser said that costs associated with building at Lot 48 could amount to an estimated \$250,000 for construction of the foundation alone.

With Keiser's recommendation made, debate over the location turned to Lot 47 and the bridge authority property at Taylor Point. Citizen opinions were sharply di-

See "Barn" on page 14

Memorial day events scheduled

Parade down Narragansett Ave. steps off at 10 a.m., Monday

By Dotti Farrington

Next Monday's Memorial Day services will commemorate the lives of 28 Jamestown-related military veterans who died during the past year, who will be added to a list of approximately 400 deceased veterans on the rolls compiled over the years by the local posts of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Veterans themselves will prepare for the day's events Monday from 7 to 8 a.m. at the 10-year-old Veterans Memorial Square on the waterfront at East Ferry. Weather permitting, they will install the removable, 15-foot poles and raise approximately 85 casket flags,

each embossed on a border with the name of a local deceased veteran. Post members will return that afternoon to lower and remove the flags, and remove the poles.

The flags are provided by the veterans' families to the local Legion and VFW Posts. Any family who wishes to provide a casket flag is invited to contact officers of the posts, which meet monthly at the Grange/Senior Center Hall on West Street. The flags are stored there by the posts for use at veteran ceremonies.

Details of these activities were explained by Donald Richardson, committeeman for the Memorial Day morning ritual. He is a

member of both Posts, and was an infantryman who served with the Army during the Occupation of Japan, from 1946 to 1948. He was also responsible for proper disposal of the old grave flags, by burning them last week.

Graveside

James McLaughlin, Legion committeeman, reported he and comrades from both posts shared the annual replacement of all flags on local veteran graves several days ago in preparation for Memorial Day.

McLaughlin plans to read the roll of the veterans who died dur-

See "Events" on page 9.



Arts are alive at school

The opening of the annual Arts Alive student art show will be Thursday, May 31, at the Melrose Avenue School, with a reception from 7 to 8 p.m.

Students participating in the exhibit include, from left, Sophie Primiano, in grade 2; Nathan Pickett, kindergarten; Jaia Colognese, in grade 1 and Ernie Violet in grade 3.

Next week's newspaper deadlines

Monday, May 28 is Memorial Day. Here are the Jamestown Press deadlines for next week's newspaper, which will be published on Thursday, May 31.

Display Advertising: 5 p.m., Friday, May 25.

Classified Advertising: Noon, Tuesday, May 29.

News Items: Noon, Tuesday, May 29.

The Jamestown Press office at 42 Narragansett Ave. will be closed on Monday, May 28. Have a great holiday!