

Island Opinion

• EDITORIAL •

Take time to drive safe this school year

Another school year has begun, and our island streets are once again filled with cheerful youngsters on their way to and from school.

This is no time for drivers to be careless. Just one lapse in concentration — whether talking on the cell phone or reaching for a cup of coffee — is all it takes for a driver to miss seeing a child dart into the street or a bus driver raise the stop sign.

Don't let an accident happen to you. Remember to drive with caution in areas with school children and follow these important tips:

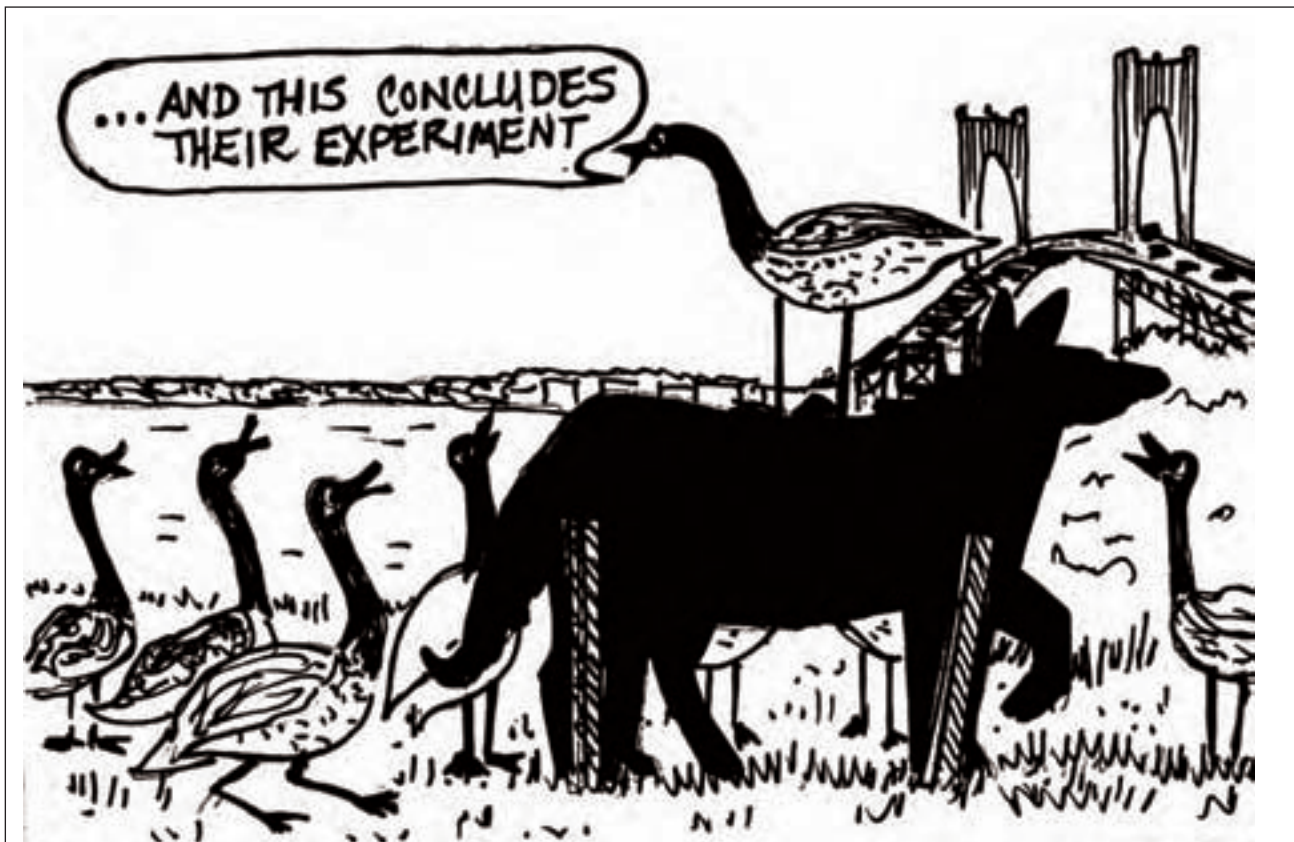
- Watch out for children walking and biking to and from school.
- Always give pedestrians the right of way.
- Observe the posted speed limit, especially in school zones.
- Learn and obey the traffic rules of school zones.
- Understand and heed all school bus lights and signs.
- Eliminate all distractions when driving in school zones — especially cell phones.
- Know and follow the drop-off and pick-up procedures at school.

Drivers, beware! Caution is the best rule of the road.

Write to us

LETTERS: Send your letters to: Editor, The Jamestown Press, 42 Narragansett Ave., Jamestown RI 02835. Our fax number is (401) 423-1661.

Our e-mail address is news@jamestownpress.com. Please include your name, address, and a daytime telephone number for verification. Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication. All letters must be limited to 700 words or less.



Get a library card this month

Today's kids are well outfitted. Parents make sure their kids have the gear they need for all of their activities—uniforms for soccer, safety helmets for bike riding and new backpacks and binders for a new school year—but they might have overlooked the most important supply of all.

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month, the perfect time to make sure kids are equipped with a library card. A library card can give kids access to free homework help, materials to do research for their papers

or information for their next book report. It can also help make life after school more fun, with free access to music, DVDs, the Internet and more.

Of course, library cards are not just for kids. According to a recent household survey by the American Library Association, 44 percent of parents report that they bring their children to the library because it gives them something to do together. Parents can help their children explore new interests and, at the same time, enjoy a family program or

pick out a best seller for themselves. Best of all, family time at the library won't break the bank. The library and all its resources are free with a library card.

This month, make sure your kids gear up for school by signing up for a library card. No matter how crammed the backpack, or your family's schedule, there's always room for the smartest card of all, a library card. Get it. Use it at your library.

Rowena Burke
Children's & Young
Adult Librarian

Bridge property deal smells bad

Now that the people have settled on the Taylor Point site for the new town barn, it's time to look at the proposed deal with the bridge authority. It doesn't smell good.

There are hundreds of bridges in Rhode Island, most of them maintained by the state. Only the Pell Bridge has a toll and only because there is an authority. Even with a discount, there is no question that the residents of Jamestown pay, per capita, a disproportionate share of the costs of the

Letters continued on page 8

The news of 10 and 15 years ago is from the Jamestown Press. The news of 100 years ago from the Newport Daily News came from the collection of the Newport Historical Society.

100 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, September 4, 1907

The stormy weather of the past three days has put a stop to all outdoor sports and recreation. This makes the town appear as if the season was over; although a few summer residents have left there are still a number of guests at the hotels.

From the Newport Daily News, September 5, 2007

The fourth rainy day in succession has caused the hotel guests, who were about to go, to leave several days sooner than if the weather had continued pleasant. This will tend to cut the season shorter than usual, some of the hotels closing before the middle of the month.

About 50 barrels of fish were shipped last evening by steamer Kennebec for New York.

From the Newport Daily News, September 6, 1907

One of the largest shipments of cattle to arrive on the island came today, when a herd of 30 was received from Vermont by Mr. Seth Pierce.

From the Newport Daily News, September 7, 1907

With the return of the pleasant weather, the automobile travel across the island has again resumed summer proportions.

The Seaside Cottage at Conanicut Park, at which the salesgirls of Providence are given outings, closed last evening for the season.

75 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, September 2, 1932

It is reported that blue fish in great quantities are being caught at Beavertail.

From the Newport Daily News, September 6, 1932

While fishing at Beavertail Monday morning, Leon Murphy of Howland avenue landed a 35-pound bass.

From the Newport Daily News, September 9, 1932



This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden
Week of September 6

The total enrollment of pupils at the Carr and Thomas H. Clarke schools was 262, with 115 at Clarke and 147 at Carr.

Those who will attend Kingston college the coming year are Misses Anne Drury, Barbara Masterson, Dorothy Kasper and Robert Bestoso.

50 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, September 4, 1957

Classes in swimming and water safety, under the auspices of the Jamestown Chapter Red Cross ended on Labor Day as 64 children were presented certificates and pins.

From the Newport Daily News, September 9, 1957

The Commerce Oil Corp. announced today that the Jamestown refinery will be build by Flour Corp., of Los Angeles. The task will take an estimated 21 months from the time it starts. ... The final formal contract will be drawn up in a week or 10 days.

More than 400 people attended the policemen's ball Saturday night at the Holy Ghost Society hall on Narragansett Avenue. Music was by Tony Abbott's orchestra of Providence.

25 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, September 7, 1982

The Jamestown School enrollment has 502 by Friday, with more pupils expected after Labor Day. ... In 1980 the enrollment figure was 460 and in 1981 about 480. ... Isle student figures were not available Friday from North Kings-town High School. In previous years, about 200 students from Jamestown have attended NKHS each school year.

From the Newport Daily News, September 8, 1982

Tax Assessor Gerald Woodbine Tuesday night explained the impending property revaluation facing Jamestown next year to the Town Council. By state law, each community must have a property revaluation every 10 years. ... Woodbine told the Council 5,300 isle lots would have to be revalued. He said he had been given a rough estimate of \$17 to \$24 as a cost figure. (A councilman noted that the cost would be between \$90,000 and \$127,000 for revaluation.)

15 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, September 3, 1992

Whether the chief of police should be under the direct command of the Town Council became the focus of a brief debate during a council work session Monday night. The work session was an opportunity for the council to meet with members of a committee that recently submitted a report that recommends making 25 changes to the town's home-rule charter.

It was just like the good old days at the Conanicut Yacht Club Sunday when, as part of its centennial celebration, the club held a water sports day, which was an annual event in earlier days.

The state and the contractor for the new Jamestown Bridge want to be paid back for the cost of inspections and repairs to the old and new Jamestown bridges after both were hit by a barge last week.

10 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, September 4, 1997

Local merchants practically gushed with enthusiasm when asked how their businesses fared this summer. In a random survey, many attributed their successes, in part, to beautiful weather.

Village Casuals, a woman's clothing store and fixture in Jamestown for 20 years, will be closing its doors for good at the end of September.

A famous America's Cup defender, Intrepid, is undergoing a complete restoration by local shipwright Louis Sauzedde, who, along with a crew of five, is turning the 30-year-old, 12-meter yacht into a "nearly" brand new vessel.