

About Town

Blood pressure clinic at the library

The Visiting Nurse Services of Newport and Bristol Counties hold free blood pressure clinics the first Thursday of each month from 1 to 2 p.m. at the Jamestown library, 26 North Main Rd.

The next clinic will be on Oct. 4 in the Sydney L. Wright Museum room.

These free clinics are provided by the Visiting Nurse Service as part of their effort to improve health outcomes in the community.

Presentation on stonecarver's work

The Friends of the Jamestown Library will host a special program tonight, September 27, at 7 p.m. in the Sydney L. Wright Museum. The program "John Howard Benson – the Artist, the Scholar and the Teacher, 1901 – 1956," is an illustrated talk given by Jo-

hannes H. von Gumpenberg.

In 1927, John Benson re-opened the John Stevens Shop at its 18th century site on Thames Street in Newport and won his chief renown as a carver of monument lettering. In addition to being a master carver, Benson was a distinguished teacher of the principles and the techniques of writing well – that is, of "Handwriting Reform" and as such, von Gumpenberg believes Benson made himself available to us all. John Benson's published works, by their thoroughness and clarity, will lead anyone who wishes to be his student, to understanding and skill. What von Gumpenberg has learned and what others may learn from John Benson, the accomplished artist-scholar, is the subject of this talk.

The presenter, von Gumpenberg, was born in Germany in 1931 and came to the United States the winter of 1949. He studied illustration at Rhode Island School of Design and painting in Munich and at Yale where he received an MFA in

1962. He has taught at the University of Illinois, for several years as head of Basic Design and as department chairman at Kalamazoo College in Michigan. The range of his work includes the rational emphasis of volume and space perception in pen and ink drawings. He was a summer research fellow during the Illinois years at the Center for Cognitive Studies at Harvard. Von Gumpenberg and his wife Janet have lived in Jamestown since 1996.

Refreshments will be served. For more information, call the library at 423-7280.

Schedule change for baby program

Mother Goose Time for Babies will not be held for the next two Monday mornings, Oct. 1 and Columbus Day, Oct. 8.

Mother Goose Time for Babies will resume Monday, Oct. 15. Registration is not required for this free program, which takes place in the children's room of the James-

town Philomenian Library at 10:30 a.m. on Monday mornings.

For more information about library programs, see the calendar of events on the library website, <http://www.jamestownri.com/library/> or visit the library at 26 North Main Rd.

Sign up now for dance classes

There are still some spaces left in the Jamestown Recreation Department's dance classes for children.

Creative Dance for 4-year-old pre-schoolers meets on Tuesday afternoons from 3:30 to 4:15 p.m. Pre-Ballet for kindergarten stu-

dents ages 5 and 6 is on Tuesdays from 4:15 to 5 p.m.

Classes are taught by Mary Beth Murphy, a dance educator and former professional dancer with extensive experience teaching children of all ages. Both groups will learn the basics of dance technique through age-specific movement games and an exploration of musical rhythms, combined with dancing stories. Imaginations are expanded while learning how to listen and work in groups. Registration forms are available at the community center. Call Murphy at 423-2691 for more information.

Mahoney up for scholar award

Keira Mahoney, of Jamestown, has been named a semifinalist in the 2008 National Merit Scholarship Program.

National Merit Scholarship Corporation officials announced the names of approximately 16,000 semifinalists in the 53rd annual National Merit Scholarship Program last week. These academically talented high school seniors have

an opportunity to continue in the competition by fulfilling several requirements. About 90 percent of the semifinalists are expected to attain finalist standing, and approximately half of the finalists will be selected as Merit Scholarship winners, earning the Merit Scholar title.

Keira Mahoney is the daughter of Michael and Sara Mahoney of Jamestown.

Kendra Smith reads up a storm

Citizens Bank, the Pawtucket Red Sox (Paw Sox), and Coca Cola have announced the winners of the "All-Star Reading Team," a program in conjunction with the Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services, which encouraged students from across the state to read during the summer.

Kendra McGuirl Smith, from Jamestown, was chosen as the local winner.

The contest was open to Rhode Island residents between the ages of 6 and 12 who completed their local public library's "Read up a Storm @ the library" summer reading program. To enter the contest, the students selected their favorite book and either wrote a paragraph, composed a poem or drew a picture to creatively explain why it was their favorite.

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