

Upcoming

Laughing is good for your lungs

Join the American Lung Association of Rhode Island on Saturday, Feb. 9 at the Warwick Crowne Plaza for the second annual Laugh Your Lungs Off Comedy Night. The evening will begin at 7 p.m. and will run until 10:45 p.m. with entertainment from two comedians and a silent auction. Tickets are now on sale through the American Lung Association's Web site at www.lungri.org, or by phone at 421-6487. Tickets are being sold for \$25 in advance, or \$30 at the door.

Shaping up through competition

Shape Up Rhode Island, a statewide non-profit exercise and weight loss challenge, will begin registration for its third annual wellness competition on Jan. 2. This annual health campaign encourages Rhode Islanders to improve their health and lifestyle by increasing their physical activity levels and developing smart eating practices. Through teamwork and group motivation, participants engage in competitions over a twelve week period to see who can lose the greatest percentage of collective team weight, log the most hours of physical activity, and walk the most number of pedometer steps.

The competition begins on Feb. 2. For more information, call Shape Up R.I. at 421-0608, or visit the Web site at www.shapeupri.org.

Ringers concert at the library

Beautiful music will fill the library when the Friends of the Jamestown Library present "The Shoreline Ringers" on Sunday, Jan. 6, at 3 p.m. in the library meeting hall. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call the library at 423-7280

Lunch with the Artist explores the artistry of Christmas

The Artistry of Christmas: Santa Claus and Christmas Decorations will be the topic of "Lunch with the Artist" on Tuesday, Jan. 15, at the Newport Art Museum. The informal noontime discussion will be facilitated by Richard Tyre

and is free for museum members, with a \$3 charge for non-members. Attendees are encouraged to bring in Christmas cards for the discussion. Participants may bring bag lunches. For more information about this and other Newport Art Museum programs, call the museum at 848-8200 or go to www.newportartmuseum.org.

Vegan buffet on the menu

Join Rhode Island Vegan Awareness (RIVA) for a New Year's Celebration on Saturday, Dec. 29, at noon, at Rasoi, 727 East Ave., Pawtucket.

The event will include a vegan buffet featuring over 8 items including salads, hot entrees, and dessert. A full cash bar will be available. The buffet is \$8.99, excluding tip and tax. Reservations are not required. Raffle tickets, as well as books and other merchandise will be for sale. Free information will be available. All event proceeds will directly support programs to promote and distribute a groundbreaking film, soon to be released, entitled, "Peaceable Kingdom."

Museum features tabletop displays

The Newport Art Museum, in association with The Newport Showhouse Guild, will be hosting a Holiday Open House on Sunday, Dec. 30 from 1 to 4 p.m., featuring festively designed tabletop displays. Community members are invited to go the museum and meet the designers of the holiday tabletops currently on display and learn more about the 2008 showhouse, which runs until Jan. 2.

A \$10 donation is suggested. For more information, visit www.newportartmuseum.org online, or call 848-8200.

Series kicks off with "The Italian"

The Friends of the Jamestown Library will be kicking off this year's 2008 Foreign Film Series on Thursday, Jan. 10, at 7 p.m. with a showing of the 2005 Russian film, "The Italian." The film's runtime is 90 minutes.

The second film of the series will be the 2000 Chinese film "Happy Times" on Thursday, Feb.

7, followed by "Once" on Thursday, March 7. All films are free and open to the public. For more information, contact the library at 423-7280. Refreshments will be served.

Exploring the art of Christmas

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Quest to hold school forum

Quest Montessori School invites members of the community, interested parents and educators to attend a Middle School Forum on Tuesday, Jan. 15, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. for a round-table discussion on adolescence and Montessori education.

Now in its sixth year of operation, Quest Montessori School has grown from over 30 students to 70 students in grades 1 through 8. The event will be held at the school, which is located at 54 Exeter Rd. in Exeter. For more information, and to RSVP, call 295-4012.

Theater to present Sleeping Beauty

The Newport Children's Theatre will present "Sleeping Beauty" by Frances Homer and directed by Linda Vars from Dec. 28 to 30.

Show times are today, Friday, Dec. 28, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 29, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 30, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Newport Congregational Church, located at Spring and Pelham Streets in Newport. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$6 for children under 12.

For more information, call 848-0266 or visit the web site at newportchildrenstheatre.org.

Saratoga Project gets federal help

Efforts by the USS Saratoga Museum Foundation to create a family attraction, educational center and memorial at Quonset/Davisville took another major step forward as Congressman Jim Langevin announced a federal appropriation of \$282,000 to support the project.

This funding was included in the \$485 billion Omnibus Appropriations bill passed by Congress this week. The bill funds important domestic programs for Fiscal Year 2008.

"These vocational training programs, which we can start almost immediately, should help provide youth with useful skills and experiences to help them become productive members of society," said John Gibbons, project manager for the restoration of the "Ted Williams Airplane".

Under the watchful eye of qualified instructors, students and trainees will be able to help volunteers and staff restore other important artifacts, such as a landing craft now on Prudence Island. Centerpiece of the restoration efforts is the 1938 Ford sedan driven to battle on December 7, 1941 by Saratoga veteran and Pearl Harbor Medal of Honor recipient LT John Finn.

Students will be able to learn about woodworking and Fiberglass when working on Paramount Pictures' 39-foot-long model of the USS Nevada, battleship of Pearl Harbor fame, used in "Winds of War" and other motion pictures.

Once the foundation takes ownership of Saratoga, funding would cover refurbishment and upgrading of existing machine tools and other equipment aboard, and the acquisition of additional tools, chucks, and computerized elements in order to create the most advanced job training facility in the state.

On the culinary training side, a relatively small investment in the existing, fully equipped institutional kitchens would result in the establishment of a low-cost training facility.

Providence Boat Show returns

The 15th Annual Providence Boat Show returns next week to the Rhode Island Convention Center from Thursday, Jan. 3 to Sunday, Jan. 6.

The first of the winter boat shows in New England, the Providence Boat Show boasts more than 140,000 sq. ft. of boats and equipment including 250 exhibitors and over 300 boats ranging from 8 to 40 feet.

The show will feature powerboats and small sailing crafts, as well as canoes, kayaks and inflatables, plus booths filled with equipment, seminars and giveaways. In addition, this year's show features a special "Small Craft Sailing Center" and a "Focus on Fishing" area featuring the "CastingKids Program" presented by the Rhode Island Bass Federation. Known throughout the United States, the program is a flip, pitch and cast competition open to young people in two age groups, ages 7 to 10 and 11 to 14.

Other highlights include a drawing to win an all-equipped boat and activities to benefit the show's charitable partner, the Community Boating Center of Providence. Boat owners will also be able to complete boat registrations and renewals at the show through the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM).

Hours for the event are Thursday from 12 to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for adults, and children 12 and under are free with an adult. Advance discount tickets are also available online for only \$10. A half-price military discount is also available with

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