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Gregg Zeek just wants to fish on the wood pile pier.
Photo by Jeff McDonough

Squid bear silent witness to fishing pier controversy

By Donna K. Drago

There are two sides to every story.

This one is about who started what on the wood pile pier last Saturday night.

To hear fisherman Greg Zeek's account is to hear a story of rude, unnecessarily loud and argumentative police officers harassing fishermen at the pier.

The police account is one of following orders and attempting to patrol docks where several complaints have recently been filed.

Zeek's side of the story

An island fisherman and bait shop owner, Zeek said that the of-

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Bridge authority might sell land to Jamestown for highway barn site

By Dotti Farrington

The Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority last week agreed to consider selling, subject to several conditions, land the town has requested to be part of a site for the highway barn. The authority specified it was agreeing to consider such a sale, but was not yet agreeing to the sale.

Authority officials said regulations to which they are subject require that a fair market value be charged for the land, and that value was yet to be determined. It was estimated an appraisal would be ready in about two weeks. One speculation was that the land would be appraised at less than \$100,000.

Bridge engineers have to make certain no part of the parcel needs to be retained for bridge maintenance, including room to set up scaffolding as may be needed. The authority also needs to assure itself that no bonding, financing and other documents, laws and regulations would be compromised by any sale. The final condition is that

the town must pay for all costs of studies needed for authority clearance to act.

The five authority members heard a 10-minute presentation by Town Administrator Bruce Keiser at their meeting May 2 at the Jamestown Police Headquarters conference room, about current options the Town Council is considering for the barn site. He said he expects the council to ask voters to choose between the bridge location and one of two parcels at or abutting the former town landfill in the north end. He said the long search for a site has been "highly contentious." Deputy Public Works Director and Town Engineer Michael Gray also made a presentation about barn design and related factors.

About Lot 48

Keiser revealed at that forum the town will need to get additional environmental clearances for Lot 48, only recently added as a barn site option. He explained that lot may have buried trash below the level where early tests

were made. He said he was reporting that problem on the basis of older maps recently brought to the town's attention.

Three residents were allowed to comment, mostly about aesthetics, and Darlington said the authority would act in response to council requests and not positions of individuals. He advised the residents to direct their remarks to the council.

Site issues

Before the authority voted, Authority Chairman David Darlington said he and his colleagues did not want to be part of any divisive situation that might be created by making the bridge land available to the town, if the town can put its barn elsewhere. Darlington observed that no options before the council seemed available without complications, such as need for a zoning change that is expected to trigger a court battle for Lot 47 near the landfill, or need for additional environmental clearance for Lot 48 at the landfill. It was af-

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Giant benefit yard sale this weekend

The School Improvement Team at the Melrose Avenue School is putting on such a big yard sale they are calling it an "Extravaganza."

The yard sale will serve multiple purposes, while offering great bargains to buyers on May 12, from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

Proceeds will help defray medical costs incurred by the family of 10-year-old Payton Watson, who is being treated for leukemia. Payton, a North Kingstown resident, is the daughter of Sgt. Frank Watson of the Jamestown Police Department and Elizabeth Goode Watson, both native Jamestowners.

There will also be raffles for both children and

adults, and a bake sale, sponsored by the PTO.

Donated items can be dropped off tonight between 6 and 8 p.m. at the Melrose school.

Baked goods of all sorts can be dropped off at the Melrose school the night before the event or prior to 8:30 a.m. on the morning of the sale. "We need cookies, brownies, cakes and pies," said Wendy Rafferty. Call her for bake sale information at 423-8080.

The sale will be in the Melrose multi-purpose room. For more information about the sale, call Nora Santamour at 423-3822 or Sally Schott at 423-2388.

Family operated gift shop and art gallery celebrates 35 years

By Michaela Kennedy

Jamestown Designs turns 35 this week, and all are invited to an open house on Saturday, May 12, to celebrate the event. The shop is famous to locals for its custom framing, art and gifts offered with warm, island hospitality.

Helen Anderson and her two daughters, Carol Anderson and Deborah Swistak, are the founders of the store. They spoke candidly about their odyssey as a stream of customers passed through, some buying presents and others looking for jewelry. One visitor, back from a winter trip, was so happy to see Helen that he swept her into his arms for a dance. Everyone who walks through the doors is instantly charmed.

The three women launched the

gift shop in 1972, just three years after the Newport Bridge opened. Their initial location was in the Hunt Block, the storefront row facing East Ferry, according to Deborah. With Helen's business knowledge and her daughters' ideas, they made a perfect team.

"Carol found a great showroom. It was like a mall, only everything was wholesale," Deborah said. In the first year, they bought pewter and wampum jewelry which is made from quahog shells. The women also sold plants, Virginia Mill crafted brass, and pottery. Children's books were a big seller, as they still are in the store today.

The family has stayed tight-knit through the years. "We got along wonderfully. They didn't want any

See "Hospitality" on page 11



Carol Anderson, Helen Anderson and Debbie Swistak have a lot to smile about with 35 years at Jamestown Designs.

Photo by Jeff McDonough