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EPA hearing next week on Sole Source Aquifer



Cooking for fun

Jackson Hawkins, at front, and Isaac Spivak learn about pizza making from Joy Vieira at Ace's pizza. The two boys were there with their Cub Scout den to complete a cooking badge.

Photo by Adrienne Downing

By Adrienne Downing

The federal Environmental Protection Agency will hold a hearing in Jamestown next week as the next step in the process to determine whether Conanicut Island should be designated a Sole Source Aquifer.

The meeting will be held at the Jamestown library on Wednesday, Feb. 13, from 7 to 9 p.m. and is open to the public.

A group of Jamestown residents, headed by Ellen Winsor, have petitioned the EPA for the designation in hopes of educating

islanders about the island's water supply.

"This is of interest to the entire town," Winsor said. "We have a prime opportunity to protect our island's water supply. It is a wonderful layer of protection that we would have."

The SSA program was provided for by the U.S. Congress under section 1424E of the Safe Water Drinking act in 1974. There are currently 77 SSA designations in the United States, with 15 of them

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Jamestown may lose in state's budget cuts

By Nick Pereira

Governor Donald Carcieri released two budgets late last week and the town of Jamestown stands to lose \$31,000 in the remaining fiscal year and the same amount in the upcoming fiscal year.

According to the Governor's budget summary, Rhode Island is facing one of the largest budget deficits in history of the state. The new budget proposes cuts in a wide variety of things, including nearly \$70 million in state funds towards subsidized health-

care programs. Reducing eligibility for the state's welfare system, increasing traffic violation fines, early release of prisoners, and the consolidation of several government offices are also included in the plan. Cuts to almost every government department in funding and personnel are also included, the summary stated.

The governor's plan would freeze state aid for education to towns and cities at the current

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Island Board of Canvassers prepares for March primary

By Adrienne Downing

The Jamestown Board of Canvassers is using the focus this week on the Super Tuesday primaries to highlight the local election process.

"There seems to be a lot of confusion about the Presidential Preference Primary and I want to clear up some of the misconceptions to make the voting process easier for everyone involved," Karen Montoya, canvassing clerk for the Board of Canvassers said.

The presidential primary, which will be held in Rhode Island on March 4, is a separate election from the state primary election held in September. "For the March primary, voters will only make their choice for a presidential candidate," Montoya said. "The September election is for any other office which requires a primary election."

Rhode Island is an open primary state for unaffiliated voters. Anyone who declared themselves as unaffiliated when they registered to vote may choose a candidate from any party in the primary. Those who registered as Repub-

lican, Democrat or Independent, however, must select from candidates in their declared party. "This is important because in Jamestown we have more unaffiliated voters than registered Republicans and Democrats combined," Montoya said.

The deadline, 90 days prior to the election, has passed for voters wishing to change their party affiliation, but Montoya said that anyone who would like to change before the September election should fill out a form after voting in the March election.

Another misconception, Montoya said, is that voters must re-register to vote for every election. "If they have already registered to vote in Jamestown, they do not need to register again to vote in this election," she said. Even if a registrant has been absent from the polls for a while, that does not necessarily mean they have to register again. "There is a process we have to go through before we are legally allowed to remove someone from the voter rolls," Montoya

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Music lessons

Jason Garlick, a senior at North Kingstown High School teaches music theory to Emma Vogel, a sixth grade student at Lawn Avenue School, to prepare her for an upcoming solo performance as part of the after school enrichment program.

Photo by Andrea von Hohenleiten