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Teen Center opens for business Friday

By Michaela Kennedy

Deliveries lined up at the community center last Monday morning. A television installation, a couch and other treasures filled a renovated corner of the recreation hall in preparation for the Jamestown Teen Center opening tomorrow Friday, Feb. 15.

Teen center coordinator Melissa Minto is all smiles this week in anticipation of the teen center's official opening at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Top place winners for the teen center logo competition will be announced. A ribbon cutting and speeches by public officials will herald the official establishment of a de-

cadec-long wish by generations of Jamestowners. The wish was for a place that aspiring adults could call their own.

Excitement barely describes the feeling that Minto, the teenagers, and involved community members have about the opening of the teen center. Yet Minto admits that the vision for a teen center started years before she came on board. "The idea has been around for years, but it was the eighth graders about five years ago that started it all," Minto explained.

Kate Moreau, who is now a

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NK school committee eyes athletic budget cuts

By Adrienne Downing

Cuts to the North Kingstown schools athletic budget are nothing new. The athletic departments have sustained cuts of up to 4.7 percent in the last three years, but the proposed cuts unveiled at that town's School Committee budget hearing on Monday night left some people scratching their heads. The cuts would impact over 200 Jamestown students attending NKHS, half of whom are student athletes.

The line item, which was originally proposed as part of the fiscal year 2009 cuts and then shifted

possible reductions for the following budget year, read, "Have one boy's and one girl's sport team for each season: fall, winter and spring, with the lowest cost per participant to be the only varsity sports offered. All other sports would be on a club basis funded by boosters, parents and participants."

The shift took place because a sub-committee determined that there was not enough time to look at the possible impact of the pro-

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Kids take science outside of the classroom

Jim Kaczynski's eighth grade science class built balloons and launched them on school grounds to learn about density, mass and volume. The class takes two to three class periods to make the balloons and then collects data during the launch. They return to class and make graphs and analyze their data. Kaczynski, above, releases Adam Page's balloon. Rachelle Reppe's balloon, at right, got a little too close to the fire during the launch, but it made for a spectacular descent.

Photos by Andrea von Hohenleiten



A family tradition

The fire department welcomed a new member and a trainee to the fire academy on Feb. 7. The new additions mark three generations of firefighters in the Tiexiera family. Shown here, from left, are grandfather Joe Tiexiera, Dan and Josh Page, and Christian, Kyle and Steve Tiexiera.

Photo by Andrea von Hohenleiten

Council doubts fishing pier harbors 'critical dangers'

By Tom Shevlin

Island conservationists are clearing a path toward realizing a longtime goal of creating a north-south connecting trail through the great salt marsh, while opponents to a proposed fishing pier at the site of the former Jamestown Bridge ran up against skepticism and consternation at Monday's meeting of the Town Council.

Addressing councilors during the open forum, North Kingstown residents representing the North Kingstown Coastal Preservation Association (NKCPA), presented a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Pretty. Costly. Lethal." outlining what they claim are "critical dangers" to the neighboring bridge and coastline. Pointing to images of Hurricane Katrina, opponents argued that Rhode Island was "living on borrowed time" and "the survival of the bridge is a matter of urgency."

According to NKPCA spokesman Donald Kern, constructing a fishing pier at the site of the old Jamestown Bridge will create an immediate danger to the new Jamestown Verrazano Bridge. Echoing concerns he brought before the council last fall, Kern claimed that storm surge heights amplified by the bay's shallow water near the bridge would transform the trestle structure into "a battering ram."

Kern, a retired marine and submarine engineer, said he brought his concerns to the state's Department of Transportation and Department of Environmental Management engineers in 2003, however wasn't satisfied by their response.

Neither was NKCPA President Anthony DeLuca. "RIDEM can't

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