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## Vision report suggests preservation avenues

By Michaela Kennedy

Donald Powers, team leader for the Jamestown Vision consultation project, gave a presentation Feb. 20 of results from last fall's charrette before the Planning Commission and other town officials at Town Hall. "It seems like yesterday that we were working here until three in the morning to finish this charrette for you. I encourage you to look at a hard copy," Powers said.

Powers warned that he met with "so many different groups that represented different constituencies that not everyone will be happy." He said the dominant message from citizens was, "We

want to do exactly what we need to do to keep the island from changing."

Part one of the document lays the issues addressed, which were current zoning, the island character, and SmartCode introduction as a template to implement form-based zoning. The section goes on to suggest how methods of affordable housing can be used, "how you keep the island affordable for our children and our parents who have to move because they can no longer afford to live here?" Powers said, adding that

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## Coast Guard denies lighthouse lease

By Sam Bari

Town Administrator Bruce Keiser announced in his report at the Monday Town Council meeting that the U. S. Coast Guard rejected the town's request to lease the Beavertail Lighthouse to a lighthouse keeper as a residence. The Coast Guard presently owns the property and the town is licensed to maintain the facility.

The Feb. 21 letter from G. E. Bockstael, real property team leader for the U. S. Coast Guard said, "The use of this property for residential purposes is outside the terms of the license." The letter went on to say that the license is currently in a

holdover status and must be signed within thirty days of receipt of the letter in accordance with the terms as stated in the license agreement or the Coast Guard must consider terminating the license.

Keiser said, "We must determine our long term interests in the lighthouse." He added, if we cannot use it as an affordable housing unit for maintenance personnel, we must decide what part the town wants to play in the future of the asset.

Town Council President Julio DiGiando said that it appears that the Coast Guard considers mainte-

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All those days of hard work in English class paid off for these three Lawn Avenue winners in the school spelling bee. Faith Chadwick, left, placed second in the contest. Sydney Keen, center, took first place and Andrew McCarthy, right, finished in third place. Photo by Andrea von Hohenleiten

## Keen wins lawn school spelling bee

By Michaela Kennedy

Tuesday night, top spellers from all grades at Lawn Avenue School sparred for the sole position of representing the island at the annual state spelling competition next month. The prize went to Sydney Keen, eighth grade participant and school-wide spelling champion for 2008.

Keen won the privilege to take the school to the Rhode Island Spelling Bee Championship at Lincoln Middle School on March 15. "Last year I was supposed to be here, but I had shingles," Keen said through her smiles. Her talent shined as she completed spelling of "expertise." She continued to triumph through the event, and succeeded in delivering spellings of the winning words, "irresponsible" and "counterfeit."

Faith Chadwick, in sixth grade, already known for her sleek spelling style displayed last year, was

named runner up. The final face-off between the two girls lasted three rounds, and Chadwick proved to be tough competition to beat. Chadwick, who came close to the final rounds last year, will be the alternate for the state play-offs.

Principal Kathy Almanzor introduced the 12 players and the officials of the evening. Three top spellers in grades five through eight sat facing the audience in rows on stage. Fifth grade contestants were Emily Brewer, who hung in the competition longer than most, Michael Pratt and Hayley Carlisle. Representing sixth grade were Samuel Hollister, Isabel Crabtree and runner-up Chadwick. Seventh grade participants were Nico Rienzo, John Ragland, reigning champ for the last two years, and Andrew McCarthy. Keen led the eighth grade contestants, with Nicholas Fay and Christian Ellerbe.

School committee chairwoman Cathy Kaiser officiated as word pronouncer. Co-principal Carole Melucci joined veteran official Elizabeth Weibust on the judges' panel. Almanzor promised all present that Weibust, who plans to retire in June, will continue to return as a judge official in the future.

As the students began a practice round, Almanzor warned the audience, "No gasps, and no grimaces." The principal explained the rules as some contestants clasped and unclasped their hands, and others rocked in their seat in anticipation.

All contestants survived round one, but began soon to fall. The first contestant to falter came in round two. As rounds gained momentum with more challenging words, students dropped off

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Robert Cournoyer took an unconventional approach to the fairway at the Jamestown golf course by cross-country skiing after last week's snow. Photo by Vic Richardson

## Every vote counts in state presidential primary

By Adrienne Downing

Usually by the time the Rhode Island presidential primary takes place on the first Tuesday in March, the nation has a fairly clear idea of who the front-runners are in each political party. This year, Rhode Island voters may have an opportunity to be a deciding factor in one of the closest races in recent history.

"The candidates are usually pretty much chosen by the time we get to vote," Jamestown Canvassing Clerk Karen Montoya said. "This year is historical because we may play a pivotal role, especially in the Democratic party."

Jamestowners will cast their vote at one polling station during Tuesday's election, a decision that was made before the close race made the idea of a high voter turnout a likelihood.

"The state mandates that we have all three polling places open for any election. The only exception to this is the primary election. We are allowed to combine polling places to save money based on what the state thinks the voter turnout will be," Montoya said. "For this election, we have been allowed to go down to one poll at the Community Center." She will keep more than the minimum number of poll workers, however, to minimize delays. Voters may cast their ballots between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m.

Anyone who has any unforeseen circumstances that may keep them from Tuesday's polls has until Monday to request an emergency ballot.

The open primary system in

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