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Yummy breakfast

Christopher Head enjoyed a donut from Allie's Donuts at the Jamestown Baseball opening day ceremonies on Saturday morning.

Photo by Andrea von Hohenleiten

Town budget ready for voters

\$20 Million spending plan ok'd by council

By Sam Bari

The Town Council unanimously approved the \$20 million proposed budget for fiscal year 2009 at its April 30 meeting. The school budget and proposed administrative structure however, continued to be contentious issues.

The proposed municipal 2009 budget is \$8,466,312, an increase of 3.9 percent over this year's \$8.14 million.

The current school department budget is \$11.1 million. The proposed fiscal 2009 budget is

\$11,722,584, an increase of 5.6 percent.

Before a motion was made to approve, Town Councilman William Kelly asked to separate the school budget from the municipal budget. Councilman Robert Sutton seconded Kelly's motion, but the vote failed by a 3-2 margin.

"We need to approve this budget. We don't have time to keep discussing it," Town Council Chairman Julio DiGiando said. "Bob (Sutton), you've made some valid points that should and will be addressed, but let's get

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Methoprene banned from Jamestown waters

By Sam Bari

The Town Council voted unanimously at the April 30 meeting to stop using methoprene and other toxic chemicals for the island-wide mosquito abatement program. However, the motion to ban the use of the larvicide was not without conditions.

Town Council Chairman Julio DiGiando said that he felt it was important to keep the resource of a larvicide available and accessible in case of a breakout of West Nile Virus. If that were to happen, he said, "It would be nice if we were

prepared." No cases of West Nile Virus have ever been reported in Jamestown according to the state's health department.

Department of Environmental Management mosquito abatement coordinator, Al Gettman said that he believed approximately seven cases of West Nile Virus have been reported in the last ten years in the state. He also said that might be because the current program is working.

Gettman said that many cases

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A mother for all generations

By Michaela Kennedy

Islander Charlotte Richardson marks her 59th Mother's Day this weekend. She observes 60 years of marriage to her husband Victor in the fall. Turning 80 next month, Charlotte has much to celebrate this year.

For those who know her, Charlotte holds top place as beloved matriarch on the island. A key community player, she has always stepped up as a local volunteer, from library helper at Lawn Avenue School to Brownie troop leader. "We were surrounded by kids," Charlotte remembers when her own four children were young. "You name it; we volunteered for it - the 4H Club, the Girl Scouts."

She remembers her husband being around to help. "Victor worked on the ferry," she said. His rotating schedule allowed him to be off as much as a week at a time. Victor's fun-loving nature has continued to attract the

children over the years, Charlotte recalls. "When we had our 50th wedding anniversary, Victor taught the grandkids how to make slingshots. They came back and told us all the trouble they got into with the slingshots," Charlotte said.

Charlotte moved to Jamestown in 1946, right after high school graduation. Her family had already moved down to the island, and she took the bus from Warren to Newport as soon as she graduated. "I got off the ferry thinking, what a rock!" Charlotte exclaimed. "I'm going to live here the rest of my life? I don't think so!" Not sure of the directions she had, Charlotte stood at the corner of Narragansett Avenue and stared up the street. Elm trees lined the main avenue, making a green tunnel effect. She heard a whistle blow, accenting the island's charm. Within five

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Sheep shearing

Zach Turillo, left, and Nicole Croft visit with Tipper, a lamb from Watson Farm, at Melrose school last week in preparation for Saturday's sheep shearing. Read all about the event on page 4.

Photo by Andrea von Hohenleiten