

# Island Opinion

## • EDITORIAL •

### Everyone loves sheep shearing day

Here's an event you won't want to miss: Watson Farm will host its annual Sheep Shearing Day this Saturday, May 10, from noon to 4 p.m.

Take the whole family to the farm. The kids will love it; so will the parents. Watson Farm is a wonderful place to explore. Meet the baby farm critters and hike the farm trails.

This is agriculture that can be shared by everyone.

Best of all, you can watch the annual shearing when the Watson Farm sheep receive their spring haircuts. Spinners will also be on hand to demonstrate how the wool is made into yarn.

Watson Farm is one of Jamestown's greatest treasures.

### Plans for LNG port not yet dead

Just when we thought we were safe, Jamestown is again threatened by developers. We learned recently from state Rep. Bruce Long that new plans have surfaced to build an LNG terminal here.

Developers now want to build an LNG port facility on Mount Hope Bay from where the LNG could be piped up the Taunton River to Fall River.

If you'll recall, such an LNG port would mean that at least one LNG ship per week would be sailing up the East Passage of Narragansett Bay.

Each time a massive LNG ship traverses the bay, the bay will be closed to all recreational boating activity. An LNG terminal will have a serious impact on our environment and local boating economy.

But, the most important factor in opposing an LNG terminal is our own safety. Each time an LNG ship passes between Jamestown and Newport all island residents will be exposed to possible incineration should an unthinkable accident occur.

No one would escape from the fireball. Do we want our children to be placed in that extreme danger on a weekly basis?

Given the state of the world, why should we allow such an attraction to terrorists to be placed at our front door?

We must maintain our staunch opposition to locating an LNG terminal here. Don't hesitate to write to the governor and your state legislators. Write to your congressman and U.S. senators.

Tell them to put the LNG terminal elsewhere. Be an LNG Nimby (not in my back yard).

— Jeff McDonough

## • LETTERS •

### Toll increases may happen in November

*Editor's note: The following letter was sent to Governor Donald Carcieri from the Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority and copied to the Jamestown Press.*

Dear Governor Carcieri,

I am writing today on behalf of my board of directors regarding your Blue Ribbon Panel for Transportation Funding. Please know that, as you have requested, we will postpone any consideration of toll increases until such time as the Panel issues its report on November 6, 2008.

Given our current situation, we trust that you will understand that it will be incumbent upon us to take some action at that time, subject to the findings of the Panel. Thank you for your understanding.

If I can be of any assistance to you, or the Panel, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,  
David A. Darlington  
Chairman



### National Drinking Water Week prompts reminder

On behalf of water works professionals throughout Rhode Island, I would like to remind the public during National Drinking Water Week (May 4 to 10) about the many vital, but often overlooked, benefits that only tap water delivers.

Each year, more than 3 million people worldwide die from preventable waterborne disease. But, consumers in this country can safely drink from virtually any public water tap because all public water supplies are regularly

monitored and tested for more than 100 potential contaminants, and are subject to rigorous federal and state public health standards.

In terms of fire protection and suppression, a well-maintained public water system that provides reliable water supplies and sufficient water pressure can mean the difference between a small fire and an urban inferno. Ample water for fire protection can also influence decisions about new-home construction, location of

businesses and industries, and insurance rates.

A safe, sustainable water supply is fundamental to economic growth and prosperity, which, in turn, creates new jobs and an expanding local tax base. In terms of existing businesses, tap water is often critical to day-to-day operations and production. Water is also the primary ingredient in thousands of everyday products: soup, soda, and toothpaste, to name a few.

Safe, reliable water supply and service support our

country's high standard of living and unprecedented quality of life. From brewing coffee to operating a washing machine, water is essential to so many modern conveniences that we often take for granted.

To continue benefiting from the tremendous value of safe, reliable tap water and service, I urge consumers to support your local utility in gaining financial support from the federal, state, and local governments to help fund much needed infrastructure improvements and enhancements, which will ensure the water keeps flow-

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### This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden

#### Week of May 8

*The news of 10 and 15 years ago is from the Jamestown Press. The news of 100 years ago came from the collection of the Newport Historical Society.*

#### 100 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News, May 5, 1908

The first catch of any amount of scup along the shore of the island was made yesterday when about 15 barrels were caught by the Northrup traps in the west bay.

##### From the Newport Daily News, May 6, 1908

The roller skating season ended here last evening. The dining room of the Gardner House which has been used for roller skating, will be put in order for the season.

##### From the Newport Daily News, May 8, 1908

Today being Arbor day, exercises were held in the public schools this morning. There were a number of visitors to listen to the little ones.

##### From the Newport Daily News, May 9, 1908

The Alexander cottage at Beavertail has been leased, and is to be used as a tea house during the coming season.

#### 75 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News, May 8, 1933

A unique parade was held Saturday evening, featuring "Henry's Wedding," which will be given at the Palace Theatre Thursday and Friday evening of this week. (The parade was led by the Chief of Police and included the Legion Drum and Bugle Corps, the entire Jamestown Fire apparatus, the firemen in

fire-fighting togs, and the actors playing the bride and groom in a high-seated 1880 open surrey drawn by a black and white horse.)

##### From the Newport Daily News, May 11, 1933

(Arthur B. Mitchell was awarded the contract by the town council for running the Mackerel Cove beach pavilion, "strictly on a 50-50 basis, the bidder to pay one half of operating expenses and the town one half.") ... Voted, that Lyons Market and the Jamestown Pharmacy be granted a temporary permit, to expire, May 31, for the purpose of selling light wines and beer.

#### 50 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News, May 7, 1958

Sen. Theodore Francis Green has come out in opposition to the construction of an oil refinery in Jamestown.

##### From the Newport Daily News, May 8, 1958

Jamestown Democrats rode the refinery issue to another decisive victory in the annual town election. The Democrats won every contested office by margins from 141 to 423 votes. A total of 1,324 of 1,732 voters turned out.

##### From the Newport Daily News, May 10, 1958

Grades 7 and 8 of the Jamestown Elementary School held ceremonies yesterday at the school grounds in connection with planting a dogwood tree, the gift to the class of 1958, by Isabel McNulty.

#### 25 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News, May 5, 1983

The Republicans captured four of the five Town Council seats Wednesday, maintaining the status quo of Republican control. ... About 50 percent of the 2,900 eligible voters turned out for Wednesday's election.

##### From the Newport Daily News, May 9, 1983

The fate of the Jamestown Ferry Boat is set for a Providence Superior Court hearing Friday. Judge Eugene Cochran will try to determine the owner of the boat. The boat — sold at auction Feb. 26 — has

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