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A weekly newspaper serving Conanicut Island

Thursday, May 22, 2008



Pilots in Training

Zachary Turillo, left, and Kevin McDermott climbed aboard the Channel 12 news helicopter when it landed at the Lawn Avenue School on Tuesday afternoon. Meteorologist Tony Petrarca visited the school and gave a weather lesson to the students, who were featured on the station's newscasts on Tuesday evening.

Photo by Andrea von Hohenleiten

Old bridge gets new life as reef

By Sam Bari

The debris from the old Jamestown Bridge has found a new career as two artificial reefs in Rhode Island Sound.

Half of the 24,000 cubic yards of concrete and rebar from the bridge demolition now lies in 60- to 65-foot of water south of Newport's Sheep's Point. The other half is in 80- to 90-foot of water just west of Gooseberry Island off Gooseberry Beach. The steel from the bridge superstructure was recycled.

See "Reef" on page 14

Legislation may zero fund schools

By Rudd Hall

Last Thursday, the House Finance Committee held lengthy testimony on a new piece of legislation, bill H-7957, which seeks to redistribute state school aid for the state's 36 districts, and if passed would result in a complete elimination of aid to Jamestown and eight other districts.

Jamestown Representative Bruce Long attended the hear-

See "Zero fund" on page 12

Dutch Harbor Boat Yard ownership on rough seas

Conanicut Marine bids \$1.8 million for boatyard

By Sam Bari

Dutch Harbor Boatyard partner Barbara Paterson gave the council a rose-colored update on the status of her marina at Monday night's Town Council meeting.

"We are going forward with re-

financing," Paterson said emphatically. "We dedicated our lives to Dutch Harbor. We have put everything we have into it. We're not going anywhere. We're waiting for a closing date from several institutions and time is of the essence," she said.

Paterson said that the company

See "Harbor" on page 12

Islanders hope sun will shine on Memorial Day parade

By Stephanie Heelan Cotsonas

Plans are underway for the annual Memorial Day parade through Jamestown. The parade and surrounding services will commemorate the lives of the 14 Jamestown-related military veterans who died during the past year. These will be added to the list of over 425 deceased veterans on the rolls compiled over the years by the local posts of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

Flag raising at Veterans Memorial Square

The day will begin at 7 a.m. when island veterans invite anyone interested in volunteering to help raise the casket flags at Veterans Memorial Square at East Ferry. Weather permitting, they will install the removable,

15-foot poles and raise approximately 100 casket flags, each embossed on a border with the name of a local deceased veteran. Post members will return at 3 p.m. to lower and remove the flags.

One new casket flag being raised on Monday will be in memory of Mary Newhall Maxwell who died earlier this year. Maxwell served as a Yeoman First Class in the Waves during World War II and was the mother of islander Anne Livingston.

The flags are provided by the veterans' families and any family who wishes to provide a casket flag may contact officers of the Legion and VFW. The flags are stored at the Grange/Senior Center on West Street for use at veterans' ceremonies.

The parade

The parade will start at the Lawn Avenue School where participants will line up at 9:30 a.m. Marchers will step off at 10 a.m. going south from the school to Narragansett Avenue. This year there will not be a traditionally scheduled stop at the Four Corners. The parade will bypass the cemetery and the graveside services held there due to the construction.

The parade will head east down Narragansett Avenue to the waterfront for a ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Square.

Ceremony at Veterans Memorial Square at East Ferry
American Legion committeeman and retired Army staff

See "Parade" on page 14

Next week's newspaper deadlines

Monday, May 26, is Memorial Day. Here are the Jamestown Press deadlines for next week's newspaper, which will be published on Thursday, May 29.

Display Advertising: 5 p.m., Friday, May 23.

Classified Advertising: Noon, Tuesday, May 27.

News Items: Noon, Tuesday, May 29.

The Jamestown Press office at 42 Narragansett Ave. will be closed on Monday, May 26. We'll see you at the parade!