

**MILESTONES**

**Donnelly graduates from Bates College**

Kathryn A. Donnelly of Jamestown, was among 440 graduates to receive a bachelor's degree May 25 from Bates College during the college's 142nd commencement exercises.

Donnelly graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology.

**Hamilton on dean's list of Roanoke**

Laura Hamilton of Jamestown was named to the dean's list of distinguished students for the spring 2008 semester at Roanoke College.

**Kouttab receives degree from Colby**

Kristen Kouttab, of Jamestown, graduated magna cum laude on May 25 from Colby College.

**Nadeau on Bentley president's list**

Andrew Nadeau of Jamestown was named to the president's list at Bentley College for the 2008 spring semester.

**Have a milestone you'd like to share?**

Email your information and pictures to: News@JamestownPress.com

Fax Services available at the Jamestown Press 42 Narragansett Ave.

**Jamestown business owners cautiously optimistic**

By Eileen M. Daly

A lagging economy and soaring gas prices are undoubtedly having an impact on local businesses, but most of the island's small business owners remain cautiously optimistic. The main impact, according to many, has been the increased cost of supplies and the now frequent gas surcharges that are being added to deliveries.

"Every single thing we are buying today has increased in cost since the first of the year," said Bill Munger, longtime owner of Conanicut Marine Services. Still, he remains optimistic about the future. "Though we've seen some contraction in gasoline usage, diesel usage has been about the same. People are still sailing, people are still fishing and much of our core business comes directly from Jamestowners." Munger also pointed out that Conanicut Marine Services has been in business for some 34 years and this is not the first time they have experienced a sluggish economy. "I believe the outlook for the future remains bright," Munger said.

Both David Urban, owner of the Secret Garden, and John Recca, owner of the Narragansett Café, have purchased their businesses in the last year. They share Munger's optimism.

"We've had a pretty good season. People are still buying flowers and plants. We've done a lot of weddings and funerals and people are still really good about sending sympathy gifts. Despite the economy, people are still taking care of one another," Urban said. He did agree that costs have increased. Everything from gas surcharges to the cost of the plastic pots that many of his plants are in, but overall, "business is good," he said.

Recca expressed similar optimism. "From my perspective, we're doing fine. It's true that product costs have risen and we're seeing gas surcharges along with everyone else, but business is still good. I can't really make a comparison to last year since this is my first year here, but there seems to be a good amount of tourism and overall I think business is still good."

Maurice Browning, general manager of McQuade's Marketplace, reported a slight decrease in business since last year. "The price of gas and the economy are definitely having an impact on spending. I think people are more cautious," Browning said. "We have seen a slight increase in the last few weeks, but there has still been a year-to-date decrease," he added.

People may well be more cautious about their spending, but according to Cathryn Jamieson,

owner of the Cathryn Jamieson Salon, people are still taking care of themselves. Her business, like Munger's, "is largely dependent on local customers," she said. "And although costs have certainly increased, we've added some new services and we are open seven days a week so business remains strong."

Deborah Swistak and Carol Anderson, co-owners of Jamestown Designs, agreed that business remains strong. "Jamestown is a destination," Swistak said. "We haven't seen a decrease in tourism and, though costs are increasing, we've had some advance notice so we are trying to place orders before the price increases occur. We are also trying to take advantage of any shipping or purchasing incentives in order to keep prices down," Swistak said.

One business that is definitely feeling the crunch is Slice of Heaven, a restaurant and café.

"We've seen across the board increases in every aspect of our business costs," said owner Steven Liebhauer. "On top of that, people are cutting back and eating out less. We're saving where we can and waiting for it to pass."

Despite the obvious challenges of a weakened economy, cost increases, and rocketing gas prices, Jamestown's business owners continue to be optimistic in their belief that a bright future remains for businesses here on the island.

**MURPHY'S LAW**

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Conservatism, as espoused by some contemporary alleged conservatives, is a strange beast, a weird combination in which some rights are fiercely asserted, while others are just as fiercely denied. Draconian coercion by government is derided in some instances, lionized in others.

...  
One wonders who decides which is which.

...  
One searches for a unifying philosophy, something to explain a seemingly irrational potpourri of dogma, asserted with great vituperation toward those who do not imbibe. One hopes that the unifying force is not simply self-interest and a clever masking of raw greed and/or lust for power.

...  
What is the rationale for simultaneously imposing a ban on trade with Cuba, while promoting trade with China? Send your attempt at an explanation for this contradictory policy to the e-mail address below. Rational (or humorous) submissions will win a prize.

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"There were always a lot of spares at McQuade's, and I don't mean ribs....."

*McQuade's market used to be a bowling alley and we loved to play a few frames at the duck pin lanes. Back then, a 'turkey' meant you bowled 3 strikes in a row – who knew that one day you'd be able to buy one there!*

- Archie Clarke, owner of AS Clarke III Excavating

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